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News and Views from WI Trout Unlimited

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Wisconsin Trout

January 2003

SIGNING UP FOR TOOLKIT COMPONENTS
WITU Vice Chair Jim Hlaban (left) of the Fox Valley Chapter and Stu Grimstad of the Hornberg Chapter review planned components of the State Council's polluted runoff toolkit due to be released Feb. 1 in Oshkosh.

Council producing polluted runoff kit

A group of TU volunteers from around Wisconsin are developing a polluted runoff "toolkit" to help chapters identify and correct suspected nonpoint pollution sites in their areas.

The toolkit will be introduced during a training session at the Feb. 1 State Council meeting in Oshkosh.

A meeting to determine the toolkit's contents was held August 25 at Jon Christiansen's cabin along the Pine River in Waushara County. In attendance were Jon Christiansen, Jack Bode, Jim Hlaban, Stu Grimstad, Lou Gauen, Todd Hanson, and Dale Druckrey.

The goals of the toolkit were set as "Protecting the source: a campaign to promote membership knowledge and action to reduce harmful surface runoff into Wisconsin coldwater streams."

Look for toolkit details in future issues of *Wisconsin Trout*.

DNR Secretary nominee Scott Hassett no stranger to trout

By Todd Hanson

In an interview with *Wisconsin Trout* following his Dec. 23 nomination by Governor-elect Jim Doyle to be Secretary of the WDNR, Madison attorney Scott Hassett, 52, says he has some things in common with former WITU State Council Chair John "Duke" Welter.

"I used to be a reporter for the Jefferson *Banner*, and I also wrote for the Madison newspapers. When the Madison newspaper strike happened in 1977, Duke and I decided it would be a good time to go to law school. If it weren't for that strike, both of us might still be newspaper men."

A musky fishing fanatic, Hassett jokes, "Trout are musky bait, aren't they?" Despite this musky fishers' desire to practice casting, Hassett is no stranger to trout fishing. He recently fished the Gallatin River out West with his daughter, and his office at the DNR will be graced with a big brown trout caught by his friend, John Lawton.

"That 30-inch brown is on a plaque that says it was caught June 20, 1950. It is an old-style mount with the fish lying on a lacquered board. The inscription says the trout was caught on the Waddy Creek here in Wisconsin, but I'm not sure where that is. Maybe they meant the Wedde Creek in the sand country where Lawton fished."

Hassett is receiving generally favorable reaction from interested parties across Wisconsin. He is the son of Paul Hassett, the former chief of staff to Republican Governor Warren Knowles.

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Water authorities Barlow, Glennon top WSN event

The Wisconsin Stewardship Network's (WSN) annual conference Feb. 14-15 in Stevens Point will feature two of North America's leading authorities on water issues — Council of Canadians' Chair Maude Barlow and *Water Follies* author Robert Glennon.

A "Wisconsin 2003 Year of Water" forum will take place Friday, Feb. 14, in the Alumni Room of the University Center at UW-SP.

The WSN water forum is co-sponsored by the UW-SP College of Natural Resources and the UW-SP Biology Department.

Friday forum headliners

Maude Barlow is chair of the Council of Canadians, a citizens' group with 100,000 members. She has been called the Joan of Arc of those opposed to the sale of Canadian water to an increasingly thirsty world.

"There is a common assumption that the world's water supply is huge and infinite," Barlow says. "This assumption is false. At some time in the near future, water bankruptcy will result."

Barlow cites a United Nations study that says by the year 2025 two-thirds of the world will be "water-poor."

"The wars of the future are going to be fought over water," Barlow declares.

Barlow endorses a 1999 paper from the Canadian Environmental Law Association that says, "Water is an essential need, a public trust, not a commodity. It belongs to everyone and to no one."

MAUDE BARLOW AND ROBERT GLENNON
International water rights advocate Maude Barlow and University of Arizona groundwater law expert Robert Glennon headline the WSN's "Wisconsin 2003 Year of Water Forum" Feb. 14 at UW-Stevens Point.

Robert Glennon is the Morris Udall Professor of Law and Public Policy at James E. Rogers College of Law at the University of Arizona. Glennon recently published *Water Follies: Groundwater Pumping and the Fate of America's Fresh Waters*.

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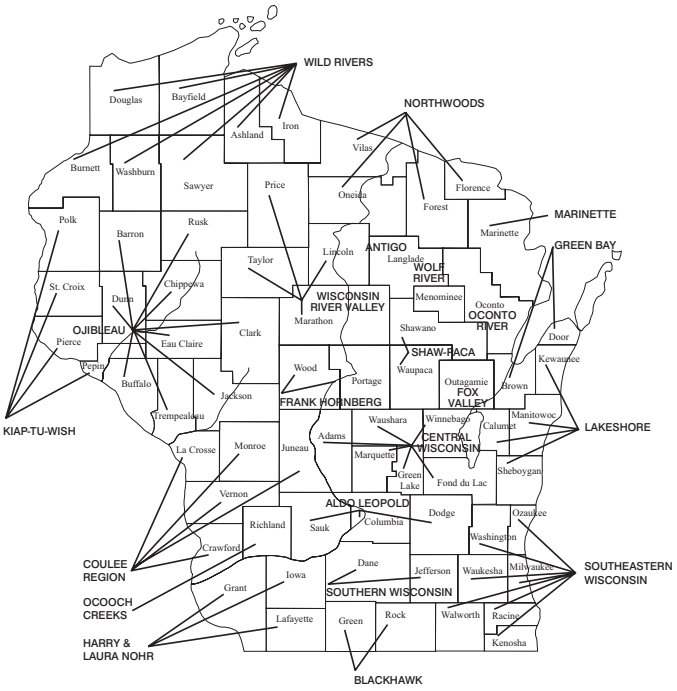
In this issue...

Wisconsin TU Chapters, Presidents, and Web Sites



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

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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

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

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TU National reorganizes staff and assignments

Over the past six months, outside consultants and TU's executive committee have been working to re-examine the organization's management structure.

Although TU has yet to fill several positions, the organization has largely completed reassigning responsibilities among existing staff and believe it will have huge benefits for revenue growth, TU's programs, and our mission.

Kenny Mendez will assume the title and responsibilities of executive vice president and chief operating officer. Kenny is responsible for all day-to-day operations of TU and will have all senior staff reporting directly to him.

The new controller, Hillary Coley, will assume more responsibility for TU's financial operations.

Steve Moyer is the vice president for government affairs and volunteer operations. Moyer re-assumes his role as TU's lobbyist-in-chief and takes over all of the volunteer operations responsibilities previously held by Sara Johnson.

Steve's direct report will be Duncan Blair, who has been promoted from youth education coordinator to director of volunteer operations.

Chris Wood assumes the title of vice president for conservation programs and is now responsible for the management of the conservation staff. Chris' direct reports include:

- Jeff Curtis, western conservation director,
- Leon Szeptycki, general counsel/ eastern conservation director,
- Laura Hewitt, watershed programs director, and
- Laura Ziemer, Western Water Project coordinator.

Whit Fosburgh becomes vice president for program development and continues as director of the Coldwater Conservation Fund. Whit's principal focus will be securing and maintaining our institutional funding base. He will also continue to help identify large individual donors for TU and CCF programs and to advise TU's conservation staff on policy matters.

TU is also in the process of looking for a vice president for marketing. This person will focus on individual giving as well as oversee membership services and media relations.

Changes for Wisconsin

Of particular note for Wisconsin TU is Laura Hewitt's shift to Watershed Programs Director, a position that will take effect this month. Hewitt, who is based in Madison, is currently the Upper Midwest Conservation Director.

The next year will be one of transition as Hewitt shifts from her regional responsibilities to overseeing all of TU's watershed programs, including:

- Home Rivers Initiative,
- Bring Back the Natives,
- Strategies for Native Trout, and
- Embrace-a-Stream.

Throughout 2003 Hewitt will continue to work on regional projects, specifically coaster brook trout issues and the "Sustainable TU" initiative funded by the C.S. Mott Foundation which has supported the trainings and work with the State Council on the polluted runoff toolkit and campaign.

Hewitt will work with other TU National staff and the state councils to develop a plan for seeing that the momentum from both those programs is maintained.

For more information, contact Laura Hewitt at (608) 250-3534 or lhewitt@tu.org.

Council's annual banquet to feature fun, demos, music

By John Welter

A revamped program promises more fun and action at Wisconsin TU's 18th Annual Banquet, set for February 1 at the Park Plaza Hotel and Oshkosh Convention Center.

Famed professional casting instructor Lou Jiricowiac, a member of our Southeast Wisconsin Chapter, will offer a casting demonstration from 4:30-6 p.m.

If you haven't seen Lou's casting yet, you've missed an outstanding performance. Rumor has it he can flick a fly off a volunteer's nose from 30 paces, if we can find a live fly that time of year. And a volunteer.

Live music this year

Our trout troubadours, Jason Moon and Dan Hundreiser, also TU members, will offer their own songs on trout and other topics during the evening, a lively and entertaining pair.

The banquet's cocktail hour will commence at 5:30 p.m., with dinner at 7 and a program to follow, emceed by the Southern Wisconsin Chapter's inimitable Topf Wells, author, raconteur, and auctioneer extraordinary.

Tickets are $35, and proceeds will support Wisconsin Trout Unlimited.

For ticket information, contact Larry Meicher at 5258 Salisbury Road, Rio, WI 53960. Or call Larry at (920) 992-6612.

The sooner you order for you and your friends, the more accurate our crowd estimate will be.

Donations to the banquet have been coming in, but if you have a donation to add, please bring it the day of the banquet or send it to Banquet Chair Duke Welter, 202 Eau Claire St., Eau Claire 54702.

Volunteers would be welcome for set up from 2 p.m. on and for various tasks during the banquet.

Let a banquet committee member know if you want to join our group of energetic banquet volunteers.

TU's annual meeting will take place during the day at the Convention Center, with a full set of issues and the annual election of council officers on the agenda.

A workshop for chapter leaders on pollution issues will also take place during the day.

Awards at Noon

A notable modification in the day's schedule will move the annual State Council Awards to a mid-day lunch. After they receive their awards at the luncheon, council award winners will be introduced during the evening at the banquet.

A block of rooms at a reduced rate of $84 for a double or king for January 31 and February 1 have been set aside at the Park Plaza Hotel through January 16. Call 800-670-7275 for reservations.

Letters

Keep pressure on trout stamp allocations

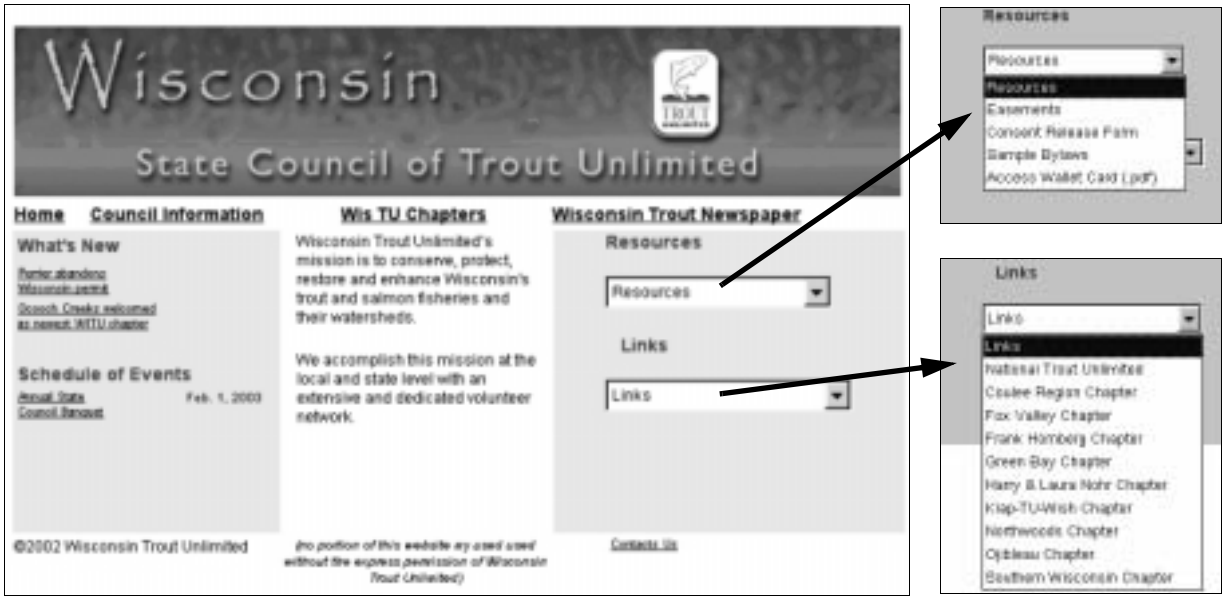
Congratulations on your 10/02 article on trout stamp fund use and the DNR fudging the amounts they allocate from Conservation Patron fees. I'll bet there are lots of Conservation Patrons who do little or nothing but trout fish! Maybe we can get the University of Wisconsin to do a survey for us to find out the numbers.

I'm sure you know that ever since I fought for the trout stamp back in '75 or'76 when I was on the Natural Resources Board, I've at least tried at each budget time to have the DNR give me the numbers for the trout stamp money and how they are spent as well as to show how much of the pre-trout stamp money was spent for coldwater fish management.

I'm sure my letters and calls have had some effect in keeping the department honest or relatively honest, but I've never had the resources to do anything comparable to an audit.

Keep it up. I'm sure that every budget time there are crunches and temptations to violate the agreement regarding habitat improvements only, despite the fact that the department "snuck" through the amendment to add trout stream surveys to the allowed use of trout stamp funds.

Daniel Flaherty
La Crosse



State Council registers new web domain

By Todd Hanson

The Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited has registered its own Internet domain as part of updating its web site. The new WITU site is at www.WisconsinTU.org.

With its new domain, chapters may now choose to have the Council "host" their chapter's web site rather than paying for this service by an outside host. The Council's site has 100 megabytes of storage, so chapters can simply use part of that allocation in creating and maintaining their sites.

If chapters are interested in pursuing either moving or linking to the new Wisconsin TU site, they should contact the Council's new webmaster, John Koch.

Koch, a member of the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter, has taken over maintaining the Council's site from Andy Lamberson, who created and maintained the Council's first site.

Site features

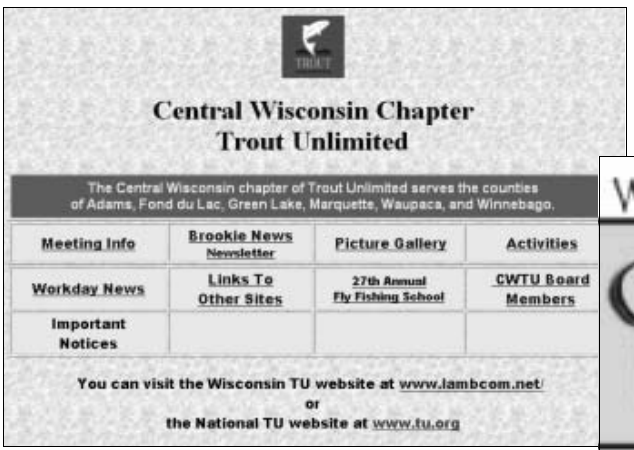
Besides allowing chapters to house their sites within the Council's site, the new site will have the following features:

- On-line resources for chapters such as streamside easement forms, consent release forms, sample chapter bylaws, stream access information, and other helpful items as they come along (see screen captures above),
- Links to the headline stories in the latest *Wisconsin Trout*, and
- The current and back issues of *Wisconsin Trout*.
- On-line contact information for Wisconsin TU chapters, including the map you see on p. 2 of Wisconsin Trout showing the counties belonging to each TU chapter.

Webmaster Koch may be reached at W4345 850 Ave., Spring Valley, WI 54767, (715) 684-2228, or by e-mail at wis_flyfishing@hotmail.com.

Coulee and Central start new chapter web sites

Wisconsin TU chapters continue to introduce their own Internet sites. The latest WITU chapters to start chapter web sites are the Coulee Region and Central Wisconsin chapters.



Central's Bob Haase of Fond du Lac spearheaded the creation of their new site. The site features meeting information, the *Brookie News* newsletter, a picture gallery, activities, workday news, links to other sites, information on the 27th Annual Fly Fishing School, important notices, and a list of CWTU Board Members.

Coulee's site is being maintained by Brian Larrington. The site features a downloadable Acrobat version of the chapter's newsletter, various links, and current news of chapter activities.

There are now nine Wisconsin TU chapters on line:

- Central Wisconsin at www.dotnet.com/~fishfun1/CWTU.htm.
- Coulee Region at www.couleeregiontu.org.
- Fox Valley at www.foxvalleytu.org.
- Green Bay at www.greenbaytu.org.
- Harry & Laura Nohr at www.members.tripod.com/nohrchapter.
- Hornberg at www.hornbergtu.org.
- Kiap-TU-Wish at www.lambcom.net/kiaptuwish.
- Northwoods at www.northwoodstu.org.
- Southern Wisconsin at www.swtu.org.

In addition, the State Council's web site is at www.WisconsinTU.org. The Council's site will be happy to host chapter sites.

Reflections on a new year

By Jon Christiansen

WITU Chair

About this time a year, trout fishermen have a tendency to get reflective. I mean, besides tying flies, what else is there to do but become reflective? Duck and grouse seasons are over and, although I have a new supply of wood duck flank (call me if you need some), what lies ahead for the next few months is just cold, short days. And the news is certainly enough to put your dobber down — terrorism, threats of war, CWD, and a budget deficit for Wisconsin that is surely here to stay.

Unfortunately, we can't do much about most of these things and, thank heavens, they haven't affected me or my family in a direct way. But as sportsmen and women, the inability of our state government to balance its checkbook will affect each and every one of us in the coming year. Rather than exercising some fiscal discipline, the last session of the legislature took the easy way out and mortgaged the tobacco settlement to pay for another year of deficit spending. Perhaps with the housecleaning of the Madison leadership, we can have public-spirited representatives who will agree to tackle the issue head-on.

On top of that, with the millions upon millions that are being spent to attack chronic wasting disease, you will see a DNR stretched near its breaking point. This will not be a matter of not having money to fund new programs. There will be broad and deep cuts across the DNR, parks, agriculture, and the rest.

As trout fishers, we may actually have it somewhat easier than our fellow sportsmen. Trout stamp revenues are dedicated funds and, by statute, can be used for limited purposes. Trout fishing, however, will have to do with less for its fair share of general revenues, and this is likely to hurt. Already we have seen the reduction of federally funded positions. A state that has consistently led the nation in trout policy and science will be sorely pressed to maintain its leadership position.

I wish I had an answer to the funding crisis. I don't, but I do have two thoughts. These are just personal and certainly do not reflect the opinions of all TU members or even the State Council.

First, I think that legislature should increase user fees, including license fees and the trout stamp. This is risky politics, and heaven knows there are lots of sportsmen and women on fixed incomes where every dollar counts. However, I think I know how most trout fishers think. If the choice were (and I think it is) sacrificing coldwater programs, trout personnel, and enforcement versus a fee increase, I suspect that the average trout fisher could find an extra $5 or $10 over the course of an entire year. The same is, no doubt, true for the bass fishermen, the duck hunters, and the trail users.

Now, I hate increased taxes probably more than the next person, and we all think we all pay more than our fair share. Wisconsin is ranked third among states in the extent to which it taxes its citizens. But general income and sales taxes are different than fee increases. Every sportsman I know would pay more if they could be assured that the extra payment went to a targeted expenditure instead of the black fiscal hole of general state government. Think about it, and if you agree, let me know. I won't advocate a position that our members oppose, but in this reflective time of year, I expect that we care enough about the trout resource to make the commitment.

Second, in addition to digging into our pockets, we are also going to need to roll up our sleeves. Trout Unlimited has always held an enviable position in the conservation community because of our reputation of getting things done — a hands-on approach to the resource. Well, if we thought that that approach was necessary in the past, it is going to be even more necessary in the future. We will not be seeing as many DNR work crews, survey crews, and, yes, hatchery trucks. Wild fish propagation — the genius of Wisconsin trout science — will be less and less visible. So we need to do our part by contributing more funds from our TU chapters to our projects and raising more funds to do what government is going to have an increasingly difficult time doing.

Do we like these new developments? Of course, not. But as a Norwegian, I have a firm belief in reality. (Norwegians believe that if everything is coming their way, they must be driving in the wrong lane.) So I ask that at your next chapter meeting you discuss how we can best address the new reality and see our way through until the good fiscal times come again. Then, tie up a few more flies while the snow blows and we'll meet on the streams opening day.

Jon Christiansen

Matthew Mitro assumes DNR trout researcher position

The Fisheries and Habitat Research Section of the WDNR has announced the hiring of Matthew Mitro to fill the position opened as a result of Ed Avery's retirement.

Matt will serve in the same capacity as Ed as the lead trout researcher with the Fisheries Research Section.

Mitro brings a solid academic and research background to meet the coldwater research needs of Wisconsin. Mitro earned a Ph.D in 1999 in Fisheries Biology at Montana State University where he worked on rainbow trout in the Henry's Fork of the Snake River.

Most recently, Mitro has worked for the Environmental Protection Agency developing population contaminant models for Great Lakes Lake Trout. Prior to working for the EPA, he did fisheries population modeling for the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

Mitro is an avid trout fisherman. He has a wife and two children.

Mark your calendar for Wisconsin TU's 18th annual

State Council Banquet

"A Celebration of Trout"

Sat., Feb. 1, 2003

Oshkosh Convention Center & Park Plaza Hotel, Oshkosh

FEATURING...

Casting demonstration by Lou Jirikowiac, professional casting instructor, 4:30-6 p.m.

Fly-tying demonstration by an expert

Plus live music by trout troubadours Jason Moon & Dan Hundreiser throughout the night!

CASTING DEMO	4:30
COCKTAILS	5:30
DINNER & PROGRAM	7:00

Make checks payable to *TROUT UNLIMITED* and mail to:

Larry Meicher
5258 Salisbury Rd.
Rio, WI 53960

YES! I want to attend Wisconsin TU's 18th annual

"A Celebration of Trout"

Enclosed is a check in the amount of $_____ for ___ tickets at $35 each.

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Oshkosh Park Plaza at a special rate of $84 for a double or king through January 16, 2003. Call for reservations now at 1-800-670-7275.

WDNR fisheries program restructured

Work finished this fall to restructure Wisconsin's DNR fisheries program to provide more direct accountability for traditional fish management activities and funding and to better groom the next generation of fish managers.

Previously, DNR fisheries staff were part of multi-disciplinary teams led by supervisors who bore responsibility for all water-related programs in a DNR geographical management unit, not just the fisheries program.

No new positions created

The supervisory positions are not new, nor have any new fisheries staff been added to create the 14 teams. The supervisory positions were created from a combination of multi-program supervisors converted to fisheries supervisors and fisheries staff promoted to supervisors.

These teams join three existing fisheries teams: a Lake Michigan team, Mississippi River team, and a treaty assessment team.

"These teams are intended to provide a higher level of technical oversight and accountability for fisheries programs, and better training and mentoring for new fisheries employees," says Mike Staggs, who directs the DNR Habitat and Management program. "They'll be directed by senior fisheries biologists who have collectively spent 300 years working directly on sustaining Wisconsin's fish populations and improving fishing opportunities."

The traditional fisheries program remains part of the Bureau of Fisheries Management and Habitat Protection, which includes a range of staff devoted to protecting the lakes, wetlands, rivers and shorelands that are the foundation for healthy fish populations and good fishing.

Moves to aid staff mentoring

Staggs says the organizational changes to strengthen traditional fisheries functions are particularly important to meeting looming staffing challenges, including retirements. By Jan. 1, 2006, 58 of 250 fisheries biologists and technicians, or 23 percent will be eligible to retire.

"We're looking at a lot of staff turnover, downsizing, retirements in coming years, so we have to make sure the next generation of fisheries biologists has the opportunity to benefit from the mentoring of the senior fisheries staff," he says.

Hiring, training, and mentoring new staff members will be top priorities for the 14 team supervisors, Staggs says. Other duties include:

- Planning the work their unit does,
- creating and managing its budget, and
- working with the fish expert in their DNR administrative region to coordinate activities across their region.

The team supervisors will continue to integrate fisheries work with other DNR programs, and work with outside public and private fisheries partners. Some supervisors will keep substantial field duties.

See below for a list of the fish supervisors and their river basins.

Origins of recent fishery fine-tuning

The reorganization of the traditional fisheries is one part of the fine-tuning DNR Secretary Darrell Bazzell initiated to the department field structure created in the 1990s when field staff were assigned to one of 22 river basins and placed on multi-disciplinary teams responsible for assessing natural resource and environmental needs from an interdisciplinary perspective.

Fish biologists and technicians were on 22 basin teams featuring wastewater control specialists, drinking water experts, and staff with other water-related expertise. External partnership teams were to help set goals and priorities at the local levels.

Some lawmakers, some external groups, and some DNR employees had expressed concerns in recent years that the traditional natural resources programs were losing their identity and focus. Fisheries staff should be supervised by a fish biologist, forestry staff by a forester, and wildlife staff by a wildlife biologist, some of them said.

In addition to the changes in the fisheries program, the forestry and wildlife field staff were reorganized to be on teams led by a longtime expert in their profession.

2003 DNR fishery supervisors and their backgrounds

Northeast Wisconsin Upper Fox and Wolf

Ron Bruch is a 25-year-plus veteran with the DNR fisheries program in Marinette, Milwaukee, Eagle and since 1986 in Oshkosh. He has a bachelor's in fisheries and aquatic ecology from University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and a master's in zoology from UW-Milwaukee. He is one of the world's leading lake sturgeon biologists. Bruch is stationed in Oshkosh.

Lower Fox and Upper Green Bay (combined basin)

Al Niebur became the fisheries biologist in Wautoma in 1991 after receiving his bachelor's from UW-Stevens Point with a double major in fisheries and biology. Before receiving his degree, Niebur worked as a fish technician and biologist for the U.S. Forest Service in Oregon and in Point's parasitology laboratory. Niebur is stationed in Peshtigo.

Lakeshore Basin

Mike Toneys is a former Great Lakes fisheries supervisor who has worked for DNR since 1980. He received a bachelor's in conservation biology from UW-Madison and a master's in fisheries from UW-Stevens Point. Between degrees, Toneys worked for Ichthyological Associates in Delaware.

Northern Wisconsin St. Croix

Terry Margenau has worked as a DNR research scientist since 1983, focusing on muskellunge and northern pike. He received a bachelor's in biology from Northland College in Ashland and a master's in fisheries science from South Dakota State University. He worked as a seasonal employee with DNR on Lake Superior from 1976 until 1983.

Lake Superior

This is a new unit that will focus on Lake Superior and tributaries only. **Steve Schram** is a 26-year veteran of the DNR fisheries program and former supervisor of the Lake Superior fisheries unit. He holds a bachelor's in biology from Northern Michigan University and a master's in outdoor education and field biology from Central Michigan University. Schram remains stationed in Bayfield.

Upper Chippewa

David Neuswanger comes to Wisconsin after 22 years as a fish biologist and supervisor with the Missouri Department of Conservation. He graduated from Northland College in Ashland with a bachelor's in biology and received a master's from the University of Missouri with a major in fisheries and an emphasis on statistics. Neuswanger is stationed in Hayward.

Treaty Assessment

This is a new, secondary supervisory position being created within the existing treaty assessment team. **Mike Keniry** has more than 15 years of fisheries experience. He received a bachelor's in zoology from Syracuse University and a master's in aquatic ecology from Michigan Tech University. He served in the Peace Corps in Cameroon assisting with aquaculture development and worked for the Massachusetts Cooperative Fisheries Research Unit. Keniry will be stationed in Ashland.

Headwaters

Mike Vogelsang, Jr. is a 12-year-plus veteran in the DNR fisheries program, including serving as fish biologist in first the Madison area and then Oneida County. He has a bachelor's in fisheries and water resources from UW-Stevens Point; in 1997, he received the DNR Fisheries and Habitat Professional of the Year award for pioneering work to evaluate the success of walleye stocking using a chemical marker. He is stationed in Woodruff.

South Central Wisconsin, Lower Wisconsin West

Tim Larson has nearly 28 years of experience as a fisheries biologist. Tim received a bachelor's degree in aquatic biology from the University of Montana and a master's in zoology from Southern Illinois University. He has spent the past 24 years as the fish manager in Poynette. He will remain stationed in Poynette.

Lower Rock Basin East

Don Bush has been a fisheries biologist in southern Wisconsin for the past 22 years. After receiving his bachelor's degree in zoology and aquatic biology from UW-Madison, Don became the fish manager stationed in Newville in 1979 and worked primarily in Rock, Jefferson and Green counties. He will be stationed in Janesville.

Southeast Wisconsin Inland Fisheries Team

This combined team will serve all SER basins and report directly to the SER water leader): **Randy Schumacher** has 22 years of supervisory fisheries experience with the DNR in southeastern Wisconsin. He received his bachelor's in fisheries management from UW-Stevens Point and has served, in addition to his fisheries supervisory work, as a creel clerk, a commercial fishing biologist on Lake Michigan, and a fish manager in southeastern Wisconsin. He is stationed in Waukesha.

West Central Region Lower Chippewa

Robert Hujik returns to Wisconsin after 14 years with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. After receiving a bachelor's degree from UW-Stevens Point with a double major in fisheries management and biology, Bob joined the Florida agency in 1988 as a fisheries biologist stationed variously at Gainesville and Kissimmee and worked on a variety of fisheries and habitat restoration projects. Hujik is stationed in Eau Claire.

Central Wisconsin

Al Hauber has been a fisheries biologist and manager for 30 years, for DNR for most of that but also for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in Raleigh, N.C. He received both a bachelor's in wildlife and fisheries science and a master's in fisheries biology from South Dakota State University. He is stationed in Wisconsin Rapids.

La Crosse/Bad Axe

Dave Vetrano has worked on restoring trout fisheries in southwest Wisconsin for the past 22 years. After serving as a staff sergeant in the U.S. Air Force, Dave opted for a career in fisheries. He received a bachelor's in fisheries biology and biology from UW-Stevens Point. Vetrano is credited with developing the LUNKER structure for trout habitat improvements and pioneering a wild broodstock trout propagation program. Vetrano remains stationed in La Crosse.

1-03

GET HIM, MARK!
Southern Wisconsin member Mark Rhinerson helps a young fisher land a big rainbow at a Boy Scout/Girl Scout Camporee at Savanna Springs near Monroe this fall. Also helping give scouts a lesson in fly fishing were Todd Hanson and Larry Meicher.

CONFERENCE: Barlow, Glennon at WSN event

Continued from p. 1

Water Follies includes a case study of Perrier's attempts to site a water bottling operation on the Mecan River and Big Spring in Wisconsin.

Glennon's book offers other examples of how water laws operate in the United States.

Governor Doyle invited

The WSN conference continues all day Saturday, Feb. 15, at UW-Stevens Point.

The WSN has invited Governor Jim Doyle to outline his administration's conservation and environmental agenda.

Also on Saturday, WSN member organizations will select the network's 2003 statewide priority issues in a unique, one-vote-per-group election.

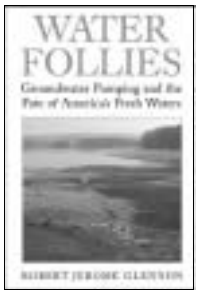
Saturday conference sessions

Saturday conference breakout sessions of interest to Trout Unlimited members include:

- Citizen enforcement actions under the Clean Water Act, outlining how TU members can pressure polluters by suits or the threat of them;
- How to speak with and influence your legislators, a session featuring former state legislators discussing what works and what doesn't when constituents want action from their legislators; and
- Motorboat gas tax adjustment activities underway in the state to revise the 17-year-old formula that returns gas taxes from motorboat sales to the DNR for use in lake and river programs.

Admission to the two-day WSN conference is $50 for individuals affiliated with WSN member organizations and $75 for the general public. These prices include two meals, the Friday forum, and the Saturday conference. Scholarships and financial aid are also available.

Registration information is available by calling the WSN office at (608) 268-1218 or by visiting the WSN's web site at www.wsn.org.



TU chapters may join the WSN

The WI Council of TU has a representative on the board of directors of the WSN, Gary Horvath of the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter.

Individual TU chapters may also join the WSN. As a benefit of joining, individuals affiliated with WSN member organizations may attend the WSN conference and other WSN activities at the "member" price.

By joining, TU chapters can also cast one vote at the WSN conference to select the network's 2003 priority issues.

Many of the issues up for adoption on the WSN member ballot deal with water and policy issues that are of prime interest to TU.

WSN 2003 statewide priority issues up for membership vote

The WSN member organizations will select eight of these 10 issues as the network's 2003 statewide priority issues. Once selected, the WSN will facilitate the formation of individual coalitions to work on each issue.

Arrowhead-Weston: "The WSN opposes the Arrowhead-to-Weston transmission line."

Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations: "The WSN supports full implementation of the Clean Water Act's goal of zero discharge of animal wastes and excess nutrients to ground and surface waters from livestock facilities."

DNR-PIO Restoration: "WSN supports restoration of the Office of the Public Intervenor in the Dept. of Justice with the legal powers and staff lost in 1995 and restoration of the independent DNR Secretary appointment by the Natural Resources Board."

Forest Fragmentation: "The WSN will promote public policies that prevent forest fragmentation by producing a database of critical private lands to help land trusts better target areas for conservation programs, defending the integrity of our last remaining natural areas in the forest plans for state and federal forests, urging our elected officials to support the Forest Legacy & Stewardship programs, and working with concerned citizens to protect our public forests from ATV abuse."

Groundwater and Water Protection: "The WSN supports celebrating 2003 as the 'Year of Water' by engaging in efforts to educate the public on the need for legislation to protect Wisconsin's waters."

Mercury Reduction: "The WSN supports a 90% reduction in mercury emissions from coal-burning power plants and other large industrial sources to help make fish from Wisconsin waters safe to eat for everyone in the future."

Metallic Mining: The WSN will work to protect Wisconsin's natural resources from unsafe mining practices, including opposing the Crandon mine as currently proposed, working to strengthen mining laws, being actively involved in the ongoing permit process, exploring options to purchase the mine site, and will maintaining mining as a statewide issue.

Motorboat Gas Tax: "The WSN supports adjustment of the motor gas tax allocation formula to reflect average annual consumption of 100 gallons gasoline per motorboat in the 2004-2005 biennial budget, with the allocation targeted primarily toward the traditional mix of activities funded by the Water Resources Account, including grants to local entities for lake, river, and wetland planning, protection, and restoration."

Polluted Runoff: "The Wisconsin Stewardship Network supports the effective implementation of the new state rules to control polluted runoff by the end of 2004."

Shoreland Zoning: "The WSN supports improving shoreland habitat protection at the statewide level by participating in the DNR rewrite of NR 115 and strengthening local shoreland ordinances."

Woods Creek Dam removal completed

On November 4, 2002, Bacco Construction Company of Iron Mountain, MI completed their final site stabilization and clean-up activities at the Woods Creek (Dooley) Dam removal project.

The project removed an 8-foot concrete barrier from the lower end of the Woods Creek, restoring one of Northeast Wisconsin's finest wild brook trout streams to a completely free flowing condition.

Feeds Popple River

The dam was located less than one half mile from Woods Creek's confluence with the Popple River. Elimination of this dam is expected to provide much needed temperature relief to the Popple.

The Pine River is just another mile and one half downstream of the junction of Woods Creek and the Popple River. Besides improving the temperature regime of all three streams, they will all be open for free migration of aquatic life.

The Dooley Dam was constructed around 1946. It was built over the top of an older log and rock crib dam that had been built at the turn of the last century. The federal government brought a foreclosure action against Michael Dooley, and on May 11, 1995, a foreclosure sale was conducted.

Wisconsin Electric Power Company (now We Energies) applied for a permit to have ownership of the dam transferred to them. Although several parties challenged the transfer of ownership, the permit was issued on March 15, 1996.

Safety deficiencies

As part of the transfer process, the Wisconsin DNR Dam Safety Program conducted an inspection of the dam on May 20, 1995. The inspection found that the dam's embankments were excessively steep to be considered stable and were overgrown with trees. Some deficiencies in the dam's concrete were also noted. Wave action had also eroded the embankments at the waterline.

Rather than undertake a full-scale rehabilitation project on the embankments, We Energies gradually removed the stop logs from the dam, effectively reducing its hydraulic height by about four feet. When the stop logs were removed, the concrete gravity dam — approximately eight feet in height — was left in place until the dam was removed

WOODS CREEK DAM
The Woods Creek Dam's eight-foot cement barrier is show before and during removal in November, 2002.

The removal of the Woods Creek Dam was stipulated in the February 10, 1997, Wilderness Shores Settlement Agreement. This agreement between We Energies, the Michigan DNR, WDNR, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, the Michigan Hydro Licensing Coalition, and the River Alliance of Wisconsin, stipulated the removal of several dams in Michigan and Wisconsin as part of the FERC relicensing negotiated settlement package for 11 dams in the Menominee River watershed.

On December 19, 2001, We Energies submitted an application for a permit to remove the Woods Creek Dam. The removal permit was issued on September 20, 2002.

On September 27, 2002, Bacco Construction Company, We Energies' contractor for the removal, partially breached the dam. The purpose of the breach was to get a better idea of the creek's course in preparation of creating a new opening in the embankment and to expose more of the former impoundment's bed to drying.

Cold and wet conditions, even seven inches of snow, delayed final removal until the week of October 22. The breach and the resulting draw down revealed that the original stream channel most likely went to the south of the 1946 concrete structure.

Bacco created a temporary crossing of the concrete dam, and on October 31 they opened a new channel through the south embankment. During excavation of the new opening, remnants of the old crib dam were found. The south bank of the new opening is now a bedrock outcropping. Burial of the 1946 dam in the new north embankment, rip rapping, erosion control, seeding, and mulching finished off the removal activities.

Expected fishery improvements

Bob Young, WDNR's Fisheries Biologist covering Florence County, anticipates a variety of improvements to Woods Creek and the Popple River from the dam's removal. According to Young, "a number of benefits to fish and other aquatic life forms are expected from this dam removal, including a return to normal water temperatures, removal of a migration barrier, and restoration of stream habitat.

Artificially high summer and low winter water temperatures that resulted from impounding Woods Creek are now restored to normal, both in the formerly impounded area and also downstream on Woods Creek. This temperature improvement for coldwater species will also be felt in the Popple River below the confluence with Woods Creek.

Removal of the dam also allows for free passage of fish and other aquatic species for spawning and other life cycle requirements. Stream structure in the formerly impounded area will be restored as the channel re-establishes and returns to a series of riffles, runs, and pools, providing habitat for native trout and other aquatic species."

The next step in the process will be to allow the stream to heal itself. Following the opening of the new channel, the creek actively cut through the sediment that had accumulated behind the former dam.

Sediment from the old impoundment was deposited in the creek downstream from the removal site. Sampling of this sediment revealed that it is very fine, and it is likely that it will be re-suspended with each new push of high water.

Sand has filled the void space between rocks in riffle areas, and has covered the bottom of some slower pools. It is anticipated that there will be a succession of channel cutting along with sediment deposition and re-suspension with each flood event.

Over time, the balance of each episode will shift toward carrying sediment away from the site as Woods Creek finds its ultimate path through the former impoundment.

Woods Creek one of area's better trout waters

The headwaters of Woods Creek begin in west central Florence County in the Nicolet National Forest. It flows in an easterly direction through the Nicolet, commercial forest croplands, and private tracts before joining the Popple River about one mile east of State Highway 101.

In *Wisconsin Trout Streams* (PUB-FH-806-202), Woods Creek is listed as having 16.0 miles of Class 1 water supporting natural reproduction of brook trout. It is generally considered to be one of the better streams in Florence County.

In 1981, Woods Creek received national recognition when it was featured as a prototype large stream (one size smaller than a small river) in Gary LaFontaine's book *Caddisflies.*

WILD ROSE TROUT HATCHERY IN WINTER
Snow covers the ground between the ponds at the Wild Rose trout hatchery. A weathered bird house next to the ponds is home to some British Soldier lichens.

Chapter News

MT. VERNON CREEK GETS MAKEOVER
Chuck Jacobson (top, left), Mike Grimes (right), and other members of the Southern Wisconsin Chapter work on removing a debris pile from Mt. Vernon Creek south of Madison in Dane County. The stream had been completely blocked by a fallen willow and other debris. There was a 10-inch head of water behind the obstruction, causing serious bank erosion on both sides, as well as creating deep sediment deposits in the stream. The dashed lines in the bottom picture show the approximate shoreline prior to the obstruction. Nearly 20 volunteers turned out for this workday on October 5th, the first of four workdays on Mt. Vernon Creek this fall. This work day was part of over 400 hours of stream improvement work conducted by the chapter in 2002.

Antigo Chapter

The Antigo Chapter will hold its spring **fund-raising banquet** on Sat., March 22 at **North Star Lanes**. We had a great success at last year's banquet with $20,000 profit.

The first Saturday in June we will host our annual **Kids Fishing Day** with 400-500 kids taking part. The event features a kids fishing tank, food prizes, and a DNR casting contest. There is a free fish mount for largest fish caught.

This past summer we got easements from three landowners downstream Hwy 45 to Hwy C for work on the East Branch of the **Eau Claire River**. Will work with DNR personnel to place instream boom covers and wing dams.

We will also be making donations to area **DNR personnel** to supplement beaver trapping and removal on area trout streams.
—Scott Henricks

Blackhawk Chapter

2002 was another successful year for the Blackhawk Chapter. **Jeff Hastings** was the speaker for July. **Pat Ehlers** presented a slide program on fly fishing in Wisconsin in August. **Boyd Richter**, our local warden, was the speaker for September. **Buzz Butters** gave an excellent program in November on fishing the hex and showed his many patterns.

Blackhawk donated $1,000 to the **Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter** for work on **Big Spring**.

Fly tying classes began in January. Classes are held at the **DNR Service Center** in Janesville. A $10 fee is required. Call **Don Studt** for information at (608) 752-4508.

The annual conservation fundraiser banquet will be held at the **Holiday Inn** in Janesville April 21. Call **Dick Elfors** for information at (608) 968-4102.
—Bill Karduck

Central Wisconsin Chapter

President **Bob Chamberlain** says, "During the last Board meeting, I noticed a good portion of time was spent on 'grassroots' things...on dam removal, a field drainage permit, and a statewide water conference in our watch dog role...on a library's request for a six-week exhibit on trout and TU as an organization and on scholarships assisting Master and Ph.D. candidates in ecology as part of our educational role...and finally on strengthening our membership through chapter programs on fly tying, 'where to go,' and "catch and release" fishing. And, because it's the 'off season,' we spent little time planning stream improvements, possibly our most important 'hands on' activity! Are we working for coldwater resources or what?"

Jack Wahlers reports that the Waushara County will remove a dam on **Magdanz Creek** which runs into the **Walla Walla Creek**. This is the **Clarks Mill dam**. The county will also reset a culvert related to the dam. Central Wisconsin Chapter helped pay the owner's legal fees to make the whole thing happen. This will create seven more miles of trout water for our state.

Ross Mueller presented an interesting and informative program on his favorite Wisconsin trout streams at the **Fin N Feather** in Winneconne on November 11. Forty people were in attendance. Ross started with the **Bois Brule** in the north and worked his way south through the **Wolf River**, the **Little Wolf**, the **Waupaca**, the **Mecan**, and finished with the **Timber Coulee** in Vernon County. His photographs were outstanding, with many featuring beautiful stream landscapes, close-ups of flies, and magnificent Wisconsin trout. His program underscored once again the wealth that Wisconsin has in its coldwater resources.

Upcoming programs: **Buzz Butters** will present a rod building program for our April 14 meeting. Buzz will also address the board about his youth and adult rod building programs in Ripon.

Jack Wahlers has made arrangements to have our December and February meetings held at the Berlin Library. Jack will also head the nominating committee. Anyone who would like to serve our chapter should contact him.

Member **Bob Haase** of Fond du Lac has produced our new web site. Our corrected web site is: *www.dotnet.com/~fishfun1/cwtu.htm*. On the site you'll find meeting information, the *Brookie News* newsletter, a picture gallery, activities, workday news, links to other sites, the 27th Annual Fly Fishing School, important notices, and CWTU Board Members. Great job, Bob!

Jan Moldenhauer discussed meetings she attended about the lower water levels in the Fox-Wolf chain and reported that the state has been given 160 acres on the **North Branch of the Little Wolf**.

Our 2003 Master's Fly Series will feature all new Master Tiers including:

- **Dr. John Gribb** of Mount Horeb, **Tim Landwehr** of Tight Lines Fly Shop in De Pere,
- **Rich Mlodzik** of Princeton,
- **Tom Young** of Waupaca, and
- **John Gremmer** of Winneconne.

The series will be held at **Winneconne High School** and will start February 13 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. This is a program for people who have had some experience tying flies. Eighteen people have already signed up for 2003, and there are two places left. If you would like to participate in this series, call John at (920) 582-7802 or e-mail at jhg@vbe.com.

CWTU's Trout Fishing Fun Day is scheduled for Saturday, March 8, and will be held at the **Algoma Town Hall** west of Oshkosh and will start at 12:00 Noon. This year's seminars will be presented by:

- **Dan Harmon** "Alaskan Fishing Adventure,"
- **John Gremmer** "Smallies On The Fly, and
- **Steve Winters** "Fly Tying With Power Tools."

For 2003 we will have many different exhibitors and tiers. The event will be held at the Algoma Town Hall on the west side of Oshkosh, WI (same as last year). Also we will have some very interesting raffles. If you would like to participate (tie flies, work with youth tying, exhibit, etc.) please contact **John Gremmer** at (920) 582-7802 or e-mail at jhg@vbe.com.

Member **Bob Hunt** will present a program titled *Trout Stream Ecology — What's There and What's Going on There* at **Peck's Plantation** in Wautoma on January 13. The program will start at 6:30. Hunt, now retired, was a leader of a DNR Trout Research Unit. He is the author of *Trout Stream Therapy*, a book about trout stream rehabilitation. Bob has also published more that 50 technical papers and often speaks to other TU chapters and environmental groups.
—John Gremmer

Fox Valley Chapter

Fox Valley Chapter scatter-planted 15,000 brown trout in the **Waupaca River** the first Saturday in October. These were **Timber Coulee strain** of wild brown trout, which have been found to have the best survival rate in the Waupaca River of the WDNR hatchery strains.

Thursday, October 17, the Fox Valley Chapter honored the cream of its crop. **Tom Deer**, President and resource protector, was awarded the **Pat Howlett Award** for his years of service to the Fox Valley Chapter and resource protection. **Tom Young** received the **Gale Crist Award** for furthering the art of Fly Tying. **Gordy Braun** was honored as the **Chapter Worker of the Year** with an award. Gordy not only received this award, but it was named after him. The awards committee felt Gordy was a model of what we would hope for from our members, new and old. Appreciation awards were given to:

- **Ryan Hagen** for doing such a great job on the chapter newsletter for a number of years,
- **Nancy Rose** for her years of supporting many of the Fox Valley Chapter events like the scatter-plant and chapter picnic,
- **Rick Fahrenkrug** for his efforts setting up a communications network,
- **Beth Spencer** for her efforts on the chapter brochure, website, and Cabin Fever promotion, and
- **Steve Heuser** for honchoing the Cabin Fever Days fundraiser.

After the awards, everyone was treated to a spectacular slide presentation on "Wildflowers you may encounter on a trout stream" by **Elward Engle**. Elward mixed beautiful pictures of flowers, a homespun land ethic — which he defines as "a belief or beliefs, affecting life's actions, that if carried out upon the earth will preserve and perpetuate the life of natural resources and man" — and quotes from Aldo Leopold.

All this, plus a great meal provided by **Germainia**, made for a very enjoyable evening. A special thank you to **Janie Peabody** for organizing this event.

The October meeting was a presentation on factory farms and No-

Chapter News

vember was **Ross Mueller** taking us fishing across Wisconsin.

In December there was a water monitoring training session in Waupaca County on the **Little Wolf River System**. **Phil Emmling** introduced **Jim Hlaban**, **Mark Peeremboom,** and **Tony Treml** to water monitoring on some cold (very cold) water. Phil has promised to come back in the spring for another session. It was very interesting day. It was amazing to see how many insects are so active in even this frigid water. Interested in monitoring your waters? Contact any of the folks involved.

Fox Valley TU is planning another even bigger **CABIN FEVER DAY** March 15 at **Waverly Beach** in Menasha. If you heard what a great time everyone had last year, this year will be even better. Please join us if you can.

—Jim Hlaban

Frank Hornberg Chapter

The Frank Hornberg Chapter spent the September and October work days installing overhead cover structures at our **Welton Road** work site on the **Tomorrow River** down stream from **Nelsonville**. The September work evening was spent adding brush to existing brushmats.

At all three work events we were joined by a group of urban forestry students from **Mid State Technical College** in Wisconsin Rapids.

Annual elections were held at the November meeting. Elected to officer positions are

Jim Henke — president,
Bob Juracka — vice president,
Mary Holtz — secretary, and
Don Ebbers — treasurer.

Also at the November meeting, the chapter presented an award of merit to **Al Niebur** of the WDNR for his years of working with the chapter. Al has been the fisheries biologist in Wautoma since 1991. He was recently promoted to a fisheries supervisor position in Peshtigo.

—Jim Henke

Green Bay Chapter

After a busy summer performing habitat improvement on area streams (about 300 hours worth) the Green Bay Chapter resumed monthly meetings in September. At these monthly meetings the chapter keeps an eye on legislative issues that affect the our coldwater resources, act on monetary requests that will aid trout habitat or otherwise further the mission of Trout Unlimited, and actively seeks other ways to be a force in the conservation arena.

So far, we have appropriated funds for beaver trapping, donated to the State Council's endowment fund (this donation is in response to the challenge gift by chapter member **Dale Druckrey**), and donated funds to maintain the USGS stream gauging station on the **Kickapoo River**.

The chapter has also begun planning for **Banquet 2003** to be held March 20, 2003 at the **Swan Club** in De Pere. It is expected that the event will again raise over $20,000 which will be used for the benefit of trout. As has been the custom for many years, the chapter designated the December meeting as its dinner and awards meeting. In addition to celebrating the holiday season, awards were handed out to members whose efforts on behalf of trout have been exemplary.

The **2002 Member of the Year** award was presented to **Paul Mongin.** During the past year, Mongin has been involved in all facets of the chapter activities. He is currently serving as Vice President, is a member of the banquet committee, and regularly attends work projects. Additionally, he is a chapter delegate to the **Brown County Conservation Alliance** and serves as one of Brown County's delegates to the **Conservation Congress**. In this capacity, he was the driving force behind a letter sent to all sitting legislators and challengers asking their stance on the proposals to restore the **Public Intervenor's Office** and return the DNR Secretary's position to being appointed by the Natural Resources Board. The chapter also awarded **Tom Buettner** the **Silver Trout Award.** Buettner is a longtime TU member who, even though he lives 60+ miles from Green Bay, has also been involved in many of our chapter's activities. He attends many meetings, often drives over two hours to spent time working on trout streams. He is also a consistent contributor and attendee at our banquets.

—Gary Stoychoff

Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter

The Nohr Chapter, under the leadership of **Ed Faherty**, has completed its first project on the **McPherson** between Platteville and Lancaster. We need to thank the **Blackhawk Chapter** for contributing their lunker-building skills and financial assistance to the project. **David Canny** is to be thanked for having the vision and energy to move this project along from an idea to reality. Initial indications are a huge increase in spawning activity. Good job everyone, and thank you all.

Pete Esser and **Jake Pluemer** are working to prepare our 2003 project, which will be held on **Big Spring** in Iowa County. We are excited about this project because **Roger Widner** from the **West Fork Sportsman's Club** will be doing the work in cooperation with **Gene VanDyck** from the DNR. Again, partnerships will prove to be very valuable. The Blackhawk Chapter and the **Southern Chapter** are two Wisconsin chapters that have offered their assistance with this project. We are thankful and look forward to the fellowship that comes by sharing a workday and a sandwich.

Our first conclave was lots of fun. We had about one hundred people that enjoyed excellent programs, great food, good fellowship, and, for those that stayed overnight, some of the best pancakes this side of the Mississippi.

The third annual **Water Celebration** proved to be another success. Our water monitoring program has produced over 250 sets of data on streams in Southwest Wisconsin. We are in the process of working with the DNR to supply monitors on some streams they would like more data on. All our data will be on the statewide database by the first of the year.

David Peterson is making school contacts and encouraging them to apply for our school grants. We have up to six grants of $500 each to be awarded to area schools that our education committee feels have merit.

We enjoyed hearing our intern share a stream survey of the Blue River. **Wendy** was a summer employee of the DNR and worked under the supervision of **Bradd Sims**, fisheries biologist. She is an environmental engineering student at UW-Platteville.

MONGIN AND BUETTNER HONORED BY GBTU
Paul Mongin (left) and Tom Buettner were among those given awards recently by the Green Bay Chapter. Mongin was named "member of the year" for his recent work with the Brown County Conservation Alliance to restore the Public Intervenor Office, while Buettner was thanked for his many years of involvement with GBTU.

Bill Wisler is arranging fly tying sessions on Wednesday nights in Dodgeville. They will be open to the public and casual. There is some talk of rod building and other crafts being offered.

Continued on p. 12

Chapter News

MORMON CREEK PROJECT
The Coulee Chapter continues to work on the Mormon Creek.

REPORTS: chapter news

Continued from p. 9

David Canny has arranged for us to tie flies and have a display at the **University of Wisconsin-Platteville** occasionally throughout the winter. We hope to gain student members and potential workers for our projects. **Kris Wright**, aquatic ecology instructor and chapter member, sponsors us. Thank you Kris and David.

In January our guest speaker will be **Ross Mueller**. We've enjoyed his books and look forward to hearing him speak.
—Dave Fritz

Lakeshore Chapter

The **Onion River** remains the focus of project work for the Lakeshore Chapter. Over the past summer significant improvements in stream flow and depth as well as trout habitat have been made. A portion of the river routed around a farmyard by the DNR was opened and rehabilitation work at its headwaters was completed.

Recently the Lakeshore Chapter has completed a ten-year project plan for the remaining sections of the river. The plan was the cooperative effort of Lakeshore Chapter, the DNR, and county government representatives.

We are also completing the production of the Onion River Project video documenting our mission, work, and future goals.
—Roger Berg

Marinette County Chapter

At the NE Region meeting on Saturday, Dec. 14, in Langlade, the Marinette County Chapter agreed to the following funding expenditures:

- $1,500 (of a total of $6,000): **National Forest Service Lakewood/Laona**
- **District** (**Tom Moris** Project Coordinator) for Summer/Seasonal Habitat projects on **Waupee Creek**, **Halley Creek,** and **Spencer Creek** in Oconto and Forest counties.
- $750 (of a total of $6,000) to the **Wisconsin DNR** (Florence office) for beaver control on the **Pine & Popple** rivers.
- $1,000 (of a total of $2,000) to the Wisconsin DNR (Peshtigo Office) for purchase of a total of 20 stream temperature monitors (Oconto Chapter picking up the other $1,000).
- $1,500 (of a total of $3,000) to the Wisconsin DNR (Peshtigo Office) for purchase of a Fish Shocker. (Green Bay picking up the other $1,500). Total for our chapter: $4,750.00.

The Marinette Chapter's **banquet** is planned for Monday, April 21 at **Schussler's** in Peshtigo.
—Steve Wilke

Northwoods Chapter

The Chapter concluded its last stream day on the **Bearskin River** on September 21. It's amazing to see the difference our work has made on the Bearskin. Where there was only six inches of water four years ago, it's now thigh deep. **Brian Leitinger** and **Terry Cummings** are working with the WDNR to develop a list of projects for the next couple of years.

The chapter began our fall and winter agenda on November 21 with **Dave Brum** and **Mike Vogelsang** from the WDNR discussing trout habitat projects in the Northwoods. Especially of interest was the status of the stream habitat work completed on the **Brule and Elvoy Creeks**. Old logging dams are being removed and restoration activities are gradually restoring these two feeder streams to the **Border Brule**. Dave Brum has also been busy with field work on the **North Otter Branch** and **Woods Creek** in Forest and Florence County.

There is also a movement to create a cooperative group that includes the Wisconsin and **Michigan DNR's** and Michigan and Wisconsin TU chapters to evaluate possible habitat work on the Border Brule. Wouldn't that be great!

The holiday spirit was present at our annual Christmas Party on December 12 at the **Rhinelander Café & Pub**. It's always great to get together with fellow TUers and spread Christmas joy and lies about the past fishing season.

The chapter has the following activities for the upcoming year:

January 16 — Open mike to share your recent fishing trip. Hopeful topics are **Terry Cummings** doing battle with the brook trout of **Hudson Bay**. Clairidge Inn, Rhinelander, 7:00 p.m.

February 15 — An eight-hour seminar with **Rich Osthoff** to learn and tie flies, with lunch for only $25. Maybe he'll share some secrets not detailed in his book *Fly-Fishing the Rocky Mountain Backcountry*. Check our web site in early January for the registration form. Claridge Inn.

March 15 — **Annual Chapter fly tying session**. An eight-hour session with pizza! Time and location TBA.

April 19 — **29th Annual Conservation Banquet**. *Yes, we've moved it back one whole month.* Rhinelander Café & Pub, 5:00 p.m.

July 12 — **The 10th Annual Youth Fly Fishing Conclave.** Free for boys and girls ages 10-16, the day includes fly casting, knot tying, fly tying, lunch, and 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. For more information call **Wayne Parmley** at (715) 479-1131 or the **We Tie It Fly Shop** at (715) 385-0171.

Officer and committee meetings are also scheduled for the following dates at 7:00 p.m., at MSA, 1835 N. Stevens St., Rhinelander: January 16, 6:00 p.m. before regular meeting, February 20, March 20, and April 17.

Check the web site out at www.northwoodstu.org for up-to-date meeting schedules. Do you want to receive updates on chapter activities before the newsletter? If so, send your e-mail to me at bhegge@newnorth.net.
—Brian Hegge

SURVEYING TROUT ON THE EIGHTEEN MILE CREEK
It takes a crew to shock a wider stream like the Eighteen Mile Creek, a tributary of the White River. This recent shocking effort included (left to right, far shoreline) Kathy Bartilson, DNR St. Croix basin leader, Cord Manz, DNR, and Cris Sand, WDNR. Along the near shoreline are Dick Berge, Wild River vice president and Scott Toshner, DNR fish manager.

Chapter News

Ocooch Creeks

The end of the trout fishing season allowed the Ocooch Creeks Chapter to enjoy some excellent presentations and to focus on projects and events for 2003.

Wisconsin DNR fisheries representative **Gene Van Dyke** presented the regulation changes for trout fishing Richland County waters beginning in 2003. The changes are welcomed and should ensure excellent fishing. Our board subsequently approved a request to assist the DNR in the installation and maintenance of fishing regulation signs throughout the county.

Ash Creek in the **Richland County Forest** was the site of the October meeting. **Ken Anderson** of the **Richland County Land Conservation Department** presented the stream rehabilitation project, which was completed jointly by his department and the DNR. Members were able to view before and after photographs, walk the banks, view the structural changes, and discuss the benefits of the project. It was an excellent presentation, which generated much interest in pursuing a 2003 rehabilitation project for the chapter.

Upcoming events for the chapter will be an introduction to fly fishing seminar this spring. Fly casting, fly tying, fishing strategies will be emphasized, and the event will allow the chapter the opportunity to expand our membership. **Dave Barron**, a local fishing guide (**Jaquish Hollow Angler**) and chapter member, spoke to the group about fly fishing in **Alaska**. In addition to viewing a slide presentation of the beautiful scenery and successful catches, we were able to discuss fishing opportunities not only in Alaska but also fly fishing for smallmouth bass on the **Lower Wisconsin River**.

Dave Vetrano will be our guest in January, and will discuss historical land use trends in the Driftless area.
—Al Bostwick

Shaw-Paca Chapter

Here's the scoop on Shaw-Paca TU's last quarterly activities. Our beaver trapping project is in action. We have three local trappers working on coldwater streams in Shawano and Waupaca counties.

We will once again offer scholarships to students at **UW-SP** majoring in fields related to coldwater fisheries. Either one $1,000 scholarship will be given to a student from our two-county area, or we will give two $500 scholarships to students from outlying areas.

As part of our commitment to preservation of our rivers, we have renewed our memberships in the **River Alliance of Wisconsin**, **The Kinnickinnic River Land Trust**, and the **Northeastern Wisconsin Land Trust**.

Our informal fly tying group continues to meet at **Prime Time** in Marion on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. We usually start early with lunch and refreshments. Members from other chapters and the general public are invited to join us.

Our annual chapter banquet is set for **The Gathering** in Shawano on Thursday, March 27.
—Lee Kersten

Wild Rivers Chapter

Our White River Raffle turned out very well. We sold a total of 830 tickets, so we made $4,150 to be used on the **White River**. The winner of the fly fishing combo was **John Adrihan** of Foxboro, WI. We want to thank **Tom Anderson**, and of course **Sage**, **Simms**, and **Umpqua** for donating all of the equipment for the raffle. We will put this money to good use for our White River projects. Also, thanks to everyone who purchased tickets.

In October we assisted **Scott Toshner**, **WDNR Fish Manager**, with the electro-shocking on the **Eighteen Mile Creek**. Five member of our chapter worked for a total of five days, shocking two half-mile stretches twice. All who worked had a great time, even though it was hard work. The numbers of fish was dramatically up from the spring shocking. We did see a number of big browns, but not what I would expect should be there during spawning. The brook trout numbers was also up from the spring shocking.

Dick Berge and I also spent a couple of days downloading the temperature monitors which we put into 10 places in the White River system including the **Eighteen Mile Creek**, **Twenty Mile Creek**, and the **Long Branch**. These monitors takes a water temperature reading every half hour for six months for us to download onto a computer. It was very interesting to see how the temperature vary throughout the summer months. It was evident that there were times that the temperature was much higher that what trout can withstand before being stressed. The monitors have now been re-deployed for another six months.

Our November meeting was a fly tying night, with chapter Vice President **Dick Berge** doing the instruction for about a dozen members. Dick showed the chapter how to tie the Griffith Gnat, Adams, Corey Special, and the Mickey Finn.

Scott Toshner was at our December meeting to discuss next years work on the White River. Scott expects the state budget to be very tight next year, and for him to get the needed funds for his projects next year, he will need letters of support from as many TU members in the state as possible. If you wish to write a letter in support of his projects, please sent the letter to Scott Toshner, 6250 Ranger Rd., Brule, WI 54820 or e-mail to toshns@dnr.state.wi.us**.** If you need any information on these projects, contact, **Bill Heart** wrtrout@cheqnet.net.
—Bill Heart

Wisconsin River Valley Chapter

This past summer was a busy one. The chapter lined up 18 easements covering an 80-acre section of land below Highway C on the **Prairie River** for work next summer, and we are working on another section in the same area for next year. A special thanks goes to chapter member **Jay Millenbah** for his tireless efforts contacting his neighbors to sign easements. Thanks again, Jay, for a great job.

This past summer the chapter held a work day on the **Plover River** at which time we planted 1,000 trees and reseeded a hillside that had become badly eroded by cattle going to and from the river for water. The cattle are now being watered in a pasture area away from the river with water from the well at the barn. The hillside bordered the stream bank of our 2001 year work project.

Our 2002 project on the Plover River covered about 100 acres and was funded by a grant from the **Besadny Conservation Fund**, **Marathon County Forestry Dept.**, **Trout Stamp** funds, and our local chapter.
—Herb Hintze

STRIKING BEFORE AND AFTER ON THE PLOVER RIVER
The Central Wisconsin Chapter of TU continues its stream improvement work on the Plover River. Work conducted this year was completed in part with funds from a Besadny Conservation Grant.

"Water Follies" book excerpt

Potato farms may impact trout on the Straight River

The following is an excerpt from Robert Glennon's new book "Water Follies: Groundwater Pumping and the Fate of America's Fresh Waters." Though this account is about the Straight River in Minnesota, there are parallels to the groundwater pumping taking place in Wisconsin's central sands potato-growing region...and to the impacts on trout waters there.

Glennon begins by outlining the needs of commercial potato growers for the "perfect" French fry potato. He then recounts efforts of Minnesota Trout Unlimited chapters and others to ensure that the groundwater needs of potato growers do not destroy one of that state's best trout streams.

USGS photo

STRAIGHT RIVER...NOT REALLY STRAIGHT
Minnesota's Straight River meanders. Note the center-pivot irrigation systems on either side of the river.

By Robert Glennon

Ray Kroc, the founder of McDonald's, revolutionized the French fry in the 1950s. It was not mere marketing prowess that allowed him to do so. It was science. He discovered that potatoes vary widely in their water content. A potato that contains too much water will become soggy when fried. Kroc actually sent employees armed with hydrometers into the potato fields of his suppliers to insure that the potatoes contained the optimum percentage of water. A freshly harvested potato typically consists of 80 percent water. The French frying process essentially removes most of that water and replaces it with fat. The high fat content makes French fries unhealthy, but it also makes them delicious.

Tons of fries per year

The typical American consumes thirty pounds of French fries a year, a 700 percent increase since the 1950s, when Ray Kroc began to mass-produce French fries. According to Eric Schlosser, author of *Fast Food Nation,* "French fries have become the most widely sold foodservice item in the United States." Frozen French fries have also nudged aside fresh potatoes, called "table stock" by the food industry, in the at-home diets of many Americans. Potato manufacturers have thoughtfully nurtured our enjoyment of convenience foods by packaging French fries to suit our every whim for a fry of a certain size, shape, or flavoring. The freezer section of a Safeway supermarket is likely to carry some twelve different types of Ore Ida French fries: shoestring, crinkles, twirls, crispers, fajita-seasoned, zesties, country style, Tater Tots, hash browns (country or southern style), potatoes O'Brien, and, of course, plain old French fries.

Any baking potato will suffice to make French fries, though the fast-food industry prefers Burbank Russet potatoes, a variety that is mealy or starchy, not waxy. When ready for processing, the potatoes are washed, steam-peeled, sliced, and blanched, all of which ensures that the inside will have a fluffy texture. After quick drying, the potatoes are deep-fried for thirty seconds to produce a crisp shell. These steps usually occur at a processing plant located close to the potato fields to save on transportation costs. The fries are then frozen and shipped to a warehouse, which delivers them to retail outlets as needed. The fries remain frozen until the moment of service. At this point, they are deep-fried again for approximately three minutes.

The same potato species that we cultivate today were gathered and cultivated in the Peruvian and Bolivian Andes of South America for thousands of years before the first European explorations. Potatoes first reached North America from England in the early 1600s. The Irish potato blight in the 1840s taught the lesson that cross-fertilization and new cultivars ward off insects and fungi that attack potatoes. In the United States, the intense cultivation of Burbank Russets has required growers to use large quantities of insecticides, pesticides, and herbicides to protect the single cultivar. One recent study found that babies in the Red River Valley in North Dakota, a major potato farming region, had low birth weights and a high incidence of birth defects, conditions attributable to the local use of herbicides and other agricultural chemicals.

Hard times for growers

The potato industry has recently fallen on hard times. To break even, a potato farmer must receive about $5.00 per hundred pounds. In 1996-97, potato prices fell to $1.50 per hundredweight. By 2001, the prices had declined to $1.00 per hundred pounds. Most small producers have left the business, and the process of consolidation has resulted in a small number of corporate farms, each growing thousands of acres of potatoes. As large as these farms are, the farmers are still beholden to the processors, who, in turn, must answer to the fast-food chains. In the business of potato farming, a very small number of buyers wield extraordinary power over a large number of sellers.

The advent of the fast-food industry and the converging technologies that made it possible have created American consumers who expect the same uniformity in their food products that they find in their vehicles, shoes, or notebook paper. In the past, fast-food French fries came in small waxed paper bags. The small bags would not stand up, so they often tipped over and spilled the fries, making a bit of a mess. For marketing reasons, in 1988, McDonald's began to offer consumers "super-sized" meals with larger portions of fries now served in rectangular boxes with flat bottoms. They were a huge hit.

French fries are a tremendously competitive component of the fast-food industry. The hook that keeps customers coming back to a particular franchise is not only the taste of the French fries but also their appearance. According to Dean John Gardner of the University of Missouri Agricultural Extension program, the fast-food industry decided that the French fry, to appeal aesthetically to consumers, had to be a certain length. It needed to jut out of the super-size box just the right amount.

In Minnesota, potato farmers irrigate their fields because the two big suppliers for fast-food restaurants — Frito Lay and Simplot — will contract only with potato growers who irrigate their fields in order to obtain potatoes with a uniform length, appearance, and color.

A family farm story

Ron Offutt grew up on his family's 240-acre farm in Moorhead, Minnesota. After graduation from college in 1964, he began to expand his family's potato growing operation. He recognized that the sandy soil of central Minnesota would provide an ideal medium for growing potatoes if the lands were irrigated. The R.D. Offutt Company now farms 200,000 acres of land in eleven states, with 66,000 acres in potatoes, making Ron the country's largest potato grower. His farms annually produce 2.9 billion pounds of potatoes.

Ron's farming operation expanded, he needed a lot of tractors, so he acquired a John Deere franchise. Soon, RDO Equipment Co. became the nation's largest John Deere agricultural retailer *and* its largest construction equipment dealer, with forty-six stores in ten states. Ron also realized, in the 1970s, that it would be useful to own a French fry processing plant. So he bought one. In 1980, he completed construction of another processing plant in Park Rapids, Minnesota. He has since added two more processing facilities. Today, R.D. Offutt Company serves as the umbrella for a vast, vertically integrated agribusiness enterprise. Dean Gardner describes R.D. Offutt Co. as "a classic, commercial success story for the production of an industrial potato for French fries." Industrial, he suggests, because the length and size of the potato is a critical part of the marketing. A uniform length fry requires a uniform potato, which requires irrigation.

Until rather recently, many farms in the United States were "dryland farmed," meaning that the farmers had no system of irrigation. Their fortunes varied with the precipitation that Mother Nature provided, from flood to drought, in any given growing season. Many farmers, especially in the Midwest and the East, have come to realize that an occasional supplemental irrigation produces greater yields per acre and larger crops. Irrigation also enables farmers to apply fertilizers or pesticides to their fields through water soluble solutions.

Americans' love affair with processed foods caused potato farmers to shift from dryland to irrigation farming. The problem with dryland potatoes is that their size, shape, and texture depend heavily on seasonal weather patterns. During the growing season, potatoes need constant moisture or they will have knobs and odd shapes. A misshapen or knobby potato is perfectly edible, but it is not an acceptable potato for the fast-food industry, at least in the United States. According to a potato processing executive, "American consumers were spoiled by the McDonald's of the world. They haven't made that mistake in Japan, where the specifications for potatoes are more reasonable. More of the potato gets used there than here." In Minnesota, potato farmers irrigate their fields because the two big suppliers for fast-food restaurants — Frito Lay and Simplot — will contract only with potato growers who irrigate their fields in order to obtain potatoes with a uniform length, appearance, and color.

The R.D. Offutt Co. farm near Park Rapids, Minnesota, in the Straight River basin, grows about 7,500 acres of Russet Burbank potatoes, mostly for French fries, though also for Tater Tots, hash browns, and potato wedges. During the four-week harvesting season, potatoes are sent to the Lamb Weston/RDO Frozen processing plant in Park Rapids, which is a joint venture be-

tween Lamb-Weston Foods Corp. (a major supplier to McDonald's) and R.D. Offutt Company. The plant immediately processes some potatoes but stores the rest for up to eleven months. Storing potatoes creates two problems for processors. Most American consumers understand the first problem: they occasionally purchase a bag of potatoes, which they store under the sink and promptly forget. When finally discovered, the potatoes have become soft and flabby through dehydration and are suitable only for a child's science project. Once harvested, a potato begins to lose moisture to the air. To combat this problem, growers and processors store potatoes in a 95 percent humidity environment to prevent the loss of weight, which can be as much as 30 percent, or nearly one-third of the cash value.

Minnesota potato growers and processors face an additional problem. Most of us have enjoyed a summertime glass of iced tea with moisture on the outside of the glass. As we may remember from our own science classes, the cold glass chills the air immediately around it, and because the chilled air cannot hold the same amount of moisture as warmer air elsewhere in the room, water vapor condenses on the outside of the glass. The differential in temperature that produces condensation poses a problem for potato storage. The moisture in the high-humidity storage facility eventually condenses, which usually occurs on the facility's inside walls in a place with winters as cold as Minnesota. As moisture forms on the walls and ceiling of the plant, it begins to drip onto the potatoes, which, if wet, will eventually rot.

The humidity and temperature of stored potatoes are not important to the typical consumer who buys a large bag of potatoes, stores them in the garage or attic during the wintertime, and eats them over a six- or eight-month period. But humidity and temperature *are* critical for the fast-food industry. When a potato is stored at a cool temperature, its carbohydrates naturally turn to sugars. When baked, the potato will be somewhat sweeter from the sugars that caramelize during baking. If this potato is used for French fries, the caramelized sugar produces a brown color that is aesthetically unacceptable. As Larry Monico, director of operations for the R.D. Offutt farm in Park Rapids has explained, "We as Americans, or somebody, has decided that French fries should be white in color and not brown. If you made French fries out of potatoes that have been stored at a cold temperature, they would be brown in color like shoe leather. Not that they would taste bad, or anything else, but they are undesirable to us as consumers." Consequently, processors must use water to store potatoes at a precise temperature and humidity.

The Lamb Weston/RDO Frozen storage facility in Park Rapids, Minnesota has a capacity of 26.5 million pounds of potatoes. They must store the entire crop so that there is not more than a one degree Fahrenheit difference between any two potatoes in the entire building. Otherwise, when fried, they might be slightly different colors. According to Larry Monico, "McDonald's won't accept French fries that aren't all white, and so, therefore, we have to keep the temperature constant so that they will all fry to the same color." To achieve the required uniform humidity and temperature, the inside walls are entirely separated from the exterior walls by an air space or cavity that creates an envelope separating the potato storage area from the exterior walls. A separate furnace heats the cavity to a certain temperature and prevents the outside air from affecting the temperature and the humidity at which the potatoes are stored. A computer-controlled system regulates the temperature and humidity in the storage area.

The Straight River

The Straight River in north-central Minnesota, about 180 miles northwest of the Twin Cities, is quite deep and meanders, contrary to its name, in a series of S turns. Typical of rivers and streams in the upper Midwest, the Straight River flows through glacial outwash. As a consequence of the sandy soil, the surface and groundwater are very closely connected hydrologically. At the end of Minnesota's legendary long winters, snowmelt rapidly recharges substantial quantities of water to shallow aquifers that, in turn, quickly transmit the water to the river.

In the past, local farmers eked out a living by dryland farming corn and small grains such as wheat, barley, and oats. The sandy soil made farming a marginal economic enterprise. The genius of Ron Offutt was to realize the region's potential for growing potatoes, if the lands were irrigated. The uniform texture of the sandy soils, aided by the application of water, provided an ideal medium for producing the uniform potatoes demanded by the fast-food industry. The threat to the Straight River comes from this shift from dryland to irrigated farming and from changes in the technology of irrigation.

Airplane passengers regularly query flight attendants about conspicuous green circles that dot the landscape of the Great Plains from North Dakota to Texas and which contrast dramatically with the arid land surrounding them. The circles are produced by center-pivot irrigation systems. In a center-pivot system, a well drilled in the center of a quarter-section (160 acres) attaches by a swivel to aluminum pipes suspended 6 or 8 feet off the ground, which are supported by A-frame towers with tandem wheels on the base. A hydraulic drive or a diesel or electric motor supplies power that slowly pivots the pipes and towers in a circle around the well. The resulting irrigation-water pattern produces a perfect circle easily seen from 35,000 feet. Unlike older forms of row irrigation, center-pivot systems allow farmers to tailor precisely the frequency and amount of water applied in order to achieve better yields. Modern center-point systems reduce evaporation loss by using low pressure with specially designed nozzles that produce larger droplets aimed toward the ground and can achieve an efficiency of 90 percent. Older systems relied on high pressure to spray fine mists of water into the air. Much of the water evaporated before it ever reached the ground.

Center-pivot irrigation has transformed the Straight River basin; in the 1940s, there were only five irrigation wells in the area. By 1998, farmers had drilled seventy center-pivot irrigation systems within two miles of the river, and they now pump almost three billion gallons of groundwater each growing season. Groundwater adjacent to the Straight River irrigates the potatoes and provides water for processing.

> For the moment, the Straight River trout population is in no danger. However, a tall stack of groundwater permit applications waits to be processed by DNR. A large increase in irrigation for potatoes, with new wells being drilled in the deeper aquifer, would change the equilibrium.

Beneath and immediately adjacent to the Straight River, the glacial outwash constitutes a shallow, quite permeable aquifer. Below this aquifer lies a confining layer of glacial till, a mixture of clay and other relatively impermeable sediments, and below that lies a deeper aquifer from deposits during earlier glacial periods. The confining layer retards but does not completely block water moving between the shallow and deep aquifers. Pumping from the deep aquifer will increase recharge from the shallow aquifer to the deep aquifer, and depending on the location of the well, may also reduce discharge from the shallow aquifer to the Straight River. One thing is certain: groundwater pumping from the *shallow* aquifer reduces discharge from the aquifer to the Straight River.

Hydrologists are confident about this conclusion for a quite surprising reason. All water bodies contain radioactive isotopes, the product of either natural geologic processes or atomic fallout from nuclear bomb tests that stopped in the 1950s. Because isotopes have differing half-lives, the law of radioactive decay allows hydrologists to calculate the length of time that it takes for precipitation to infiltrate the ground and to discharge to a stream. It turns out that 95 percent of the water in the Straight River comes from discharge from the shallow aquifer. As of 1988, about half the irrigation wells pumped water from the shallow aquifer and the other half from the deeper aquifer.

Continued on page 17

Ten things we bet you don't know about water

The following interesting water facts were developed in conjunction with this past fall's Waters of Wisconsin conference organized by the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters.

1. The number of units of bottled 'convenience water' sold in the United States has doubled since 1997, and we pay more than twice the price of gasoline per gallon for it.
   —Tom Yuill, Gaylord Nelson Inst. for Environmental Studies, UW-Madison
2. A recent study of the health history of more than 40,000 people showed that environmental causes, rather than hereditary, accounted for the overwhelming majority of cancers. Environmental causes included many factors, including drinking water.
   —William Sonzogni, Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene
3. Environmental releases due to the paper manufacturing process were down 63.4 percent from 1992 to 2000 as a result of voluntary agreements.
   —Jeff Schoepke, Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce
4. Almost 50 percent of the world's fresh water is polluted. About 25,000 people die each day from poor water quality.
   —Allen H. Miller, Gaylord Nelson Institute for Env. Studies, UW-Madison
5. Wisconsin in May 2001 became the first state in the nation to pass a wetland protection law in response to a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that would have allowed a huge number of wetlands to be destroyed by filling.
   —Charlie Luthin, Wisconsin Wetlands Association
6. The No. 1 source of oil pollution today is from people changing their car oil and disposing of it improperly — down the sink, in the storm drain, or on the ground.
   —Todd Ambs, River Alliance of Wisconsin
7. Even in water-rich Wisconsin, groundwater levels are dropping in the southeastern part of the state by an average 7 feet per year. We are pumping out water faster than nature can replace it.
   —Jim Krohelski, U.S. Geological Survey
8. Wisconsin's groundwater, if brought above ground, could cover the entire state in a depth of 30 feet.
   —George Kraft, Central Wisconsin Groundwater Survey
9. Eighty percent of breeding birds and more than 95 percent of commercially harvested fish and shellfish rely upon wetlands at some point in their life cycles. One-half of our threatened and endangered species are associated with wetlands even though wetlands comprise less than four percent of our landscape.
   —Randy Hunt, U.S. Geological Survey
10. While all water moves, it does not move at the same rate. Some shallow groundwater in the red clay areas of northern Wisconsin has been there since the time of the glaciers 10,000 years ago.
    —Randy Hunt, U.S. Geological Survey

New polluted runoff provisions now in effect in WI

The first of Wisconsin's new rules to control polluted runoff went into effect Oct. 1 in Wisconsin.

Rules requiring farmers, cities, construction sites, and roads to cut polluted runoff flowing from their land are making Wisconsin a front runner in tackling the diffuse pollution that's the biggest remaining threat to water quality in the state and the nation.

Wisconsin's passage of its nonpoint pollution rules came 30 years to the month after Congress passed the 1972 Clean Water Act. That landmark federal legislation significantly reduced and controlled pollution flowing from factories and municipal sewage treatment plants, but did not address pollution carried into lakes and rivers by rain and melting snow from farms, city streets, construction sites, and other sources.

"These rules are absolutely necessary for Wisconsin to continue cleaning up our lakes and rivers and to protect the gains we've made," says DNR Secretary Darrell Bazzell. "We hope they will allow Wisconsin to build on the significant progress in cleaning up our state's waterways as a result of controls on point sources."

Runoff state's last challenge

Pollution from point sources — pipes from factories and municipal wastewater treatment plants — have been largely controlled. Meanwhile, runoff pollution — known as nonpoint source pollution because it comes from diffuse sources — has been largely unchecked.

None of the more than 500 lakes and river segments on the DNR's proposed list of impaired waters is polluted primarily by end-of-the-pipe pollution from factories or wastewater treatment plants; nearly half of the 500 are impaired primarily by runoff pollution or a combination of runoff and end-of-the-pipe pollution.

The rules, which DNR staff, advisory committees, and others spent four years developing, are regarded as the most comprehensive in the nation, according to Russ Rasmussen, who leads the DNR runoff management section that developed the rules.

They set mandatory goals, or "performance standards," for farmers, municipalities, developers, golf course owners, and others to meet to reduce polluted runoff from their land, but give the different groups some flexibility in how they meet those standards.

Phase-in over years

The rules went into effect Oct. 1, but requirements for different groups phase in over time.

"We're looking at the next year as a transition year to work out all the details of getting these rules operational," Rasmussen says. "We're working with other state agencies and local governments to clearly spell out the roles and procedures for implementing them and on educating our staff and those people who will be affected by the rules."

County land conservation departments will take the lead in working with farmers to implement the rules. The state can't enforce the rules against small farming operations unless the state has provided at least 70 percent of the cost of the manure containment structure or other practice intended to reduce runoff. Rasmussen anticipates much of the work in coming years will be determining which farms already comply with the standards and which are eligible for cost-sharing.

In addition, DNR will be working with cities, developers, and others to develop technical standards for how those groups are to achieve the targets for reduction. Likewise, the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection will be working with farmers to develop the technical standards they will need to meet to reach the agricultural performance standards, Rasmussen says.

Provisions now in effect

The following provisions are now in effect in Wisconsin:

- State regulators have stronger tools to address serious manure runoff problems from smaller livestock operations.
- Owners of livestock operations that expect to have at least 1,000 animal units — roughly 710 dairy cows, 1,000 beef cattle, 2,500 hogs, or 200,000 broilers — must apply for a permit one year in advance instead of six months.
- Farmers with croplands or livestock who now meet the standards for controlling erosion — the "tolerable" or T soil erosion rate for that soil, which typically ranges from two to five tons per acre per year — are expected to continue meeting that standard, as are farmers meeting standards for handling manure and keeping it out of streams.
- Developers, builders, or others that may be responsible for new development or redevelopment construction on sites of 5 acres or more must implement a plan that identifies practices designed to reduce 80 percent of the sediment load that runs off the site. This requirement also applies to roads in new development or redevelopment, and starting in March, 2003, it applies to construction sites of one plus acres.

HORNBERG FLY FISHING SCHOOL IN ACTION

Tom Young (bottom, right) of Waupaca instructs Doug Gabel on the fine art of dry fly fishing. Meanwhile, lead casting instructor Dave Engebretson (top, foreground) leads a group of beginners.

Polluted runoff rules timeline

Oct. 1, 2002:

Runoff rules become effective including:

- Agricultural performance standards for reducing erosion, for handling manure, and prohibiting manure piles near waterways go into effect.
- Construction on sites of 5 acres or more are required to have an erosion control plan and reduce sediment by 80 percent.
- Municipalities have available to them model ordinances for construction erosion control and storm water management. These model ordinances are voluntary but municipalities that choose to use them will be assured that their ordinances meet the state's performance standards.

March 10, 2003:

Construction on sites of one acres or more are required to have an erosion control plan and reduce sediment by 80 percent.

Oct. 1, 2003:

Agricultural operations applying fertilizer and other nutrients to new croplands are required to start following a nutrient management plan.

Oct. 1, 2004:

Developers must start meeting performance standards for reducing runoff from new developments or redevelopment projects, including transportation projects.

Jan. 1, 2005:

Agricultural operations must follow a nutrient management plan to apply fertilizer and other nutrients in watersheds containing impaired, outstanding or exceptional resource waters, or source water protection areas.

Jan. 1, 2008:

Nutrient management plans must be followed on all existing croplands not covered under earlier deadlines.

March 10, 2008:

The following deadlines become effective:

- Deadline for municipalities with densities of 1,000 people per square mile to implement standards for information and education activities, for managing leaf/grass collection, for applying nutrients to public properties 5 acres and greater, to detect and stop illicit discharges to storm water sewers.
- Deadline for municipalities regulated under storm water permits to meet standards for implementing information and education activities, for managing leaf/grass collection, for applying nutrients to public properties of 5 acres or greater, to detect and stop illicit discharges to stormwater sewers, and to reduce by 20 percent total suspended solids carried in runoff.
- Deadline for nutrient application performance standard on non-municipal turf areas of 5 or more acres in size.

March 10, 2013:

Deadline for municipalities to meet standard requiring a 40 percent reduction in total particular matter through high efficiency street sweeping or other changes.

GLENNON: potato growing impacting Straight River

Continued from p. 15

Trout vs. potatoes?

One of Minnesota's most productive trout fishing streams, the Straight River contains brown trout that can weight up to nine pounds. Although brown trout are not as sensitive to high water temperatures as other trout species, they still require cold, clear water. Reduced flow in the Straight River produces higher ambient water temperatures that might threaten the brown trout. A 1994 U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) report identified three factors that threaten the Straight River's trout habitat: (1) a decrease in stream flow from groundwater withdrawals for irrigation that reduces discharge from the aquifer to the stream; (2) higher temperature irrigation water that percolates into the groundwater system and then discharges to the river; and (3) the introduction of agricultural chemicals to the river when irrigation water percolates into the ground and then discharges into the river. According to the USGS, the river's flow typically decreased during the summer, "possibly as a result of ground-water withdrawal for irrigation." Compared to farms in the West, Minnesota farmers use only a small amount of groundwater — approximately twelve inches per acre per year. Even this modest amount of pumping has the potential, according to the USGS, to reduce the Straight River's flow by as much as 34 percent during the irrigation season. This reduction in flow would increase the water temperature and might adversely affect the brown trout.

The USGS also found an increase in nitrate concentrations in the shallow aquifer along the Straight River.

Farmers typically apply 235 pounds per acre of nitrogen fertilizer to grow Burbank Russets. Biochemical processes convert organic nitrogen into inorganic nitrate that dissolves in water and leaches into the aquifer. Although the number of documented cases of human illness caused by nitrate-contaminated groundwater is small, the potential health hazards pose a significant environmental concern. A 1994 USGS study found that 6 percent of 600 groundwater samples had nitrate levels that exceeded the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) drinking water limit.

In the mid-1990s, Lamb Weston/RDO Frozen proposed a $60 million expansion of the potato processing plant at Park Rapids. The Minnesota chapter of Trout Unlimited, the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, and the Headwaters Chapter of the Audubon Society filed a lawsuit challenging the permits for the plant issued by the State of Minnesota. The environmental groups feared that the plant's increased groundwater pumping would reduce Straight River flows and that the plant's effluent would adversely affect water quality. The lawsuit ultimately was settled when Lamb Weston/RDO Frozen agreed to change its operations in significant ways. First, it funded monitoring and other data collection efforts. Lamb Weston/RDO Frozen donated in excess of $300,000 to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to help fund a comprehensive watershed study and a hydrologic model that could predict changes in river flow from groundwater pumping. Between 1996 and 1998, DNR placed a moratorium on issuing new water appropriation permits in order to conduct its study, but the resulting model was not precise enough to provide sufficiently accurate data to predict the impact of specific wells on the river. Lamb Weston/RDO Frozen also capped wells located at the processing plant and drilled two new ones, at a cost of $100,000, about a mile north of the plant in an area that hydrologists determined would not affect the Straight River. The company made these changes solely for the possible benefit of the Straight River. To get the water from the new wells to the processing plant, it built an $80,000 pipeline. Lamb Weston/RDO Frozen also upgraded the wastewater treatment facilities, at a cost of $14 million, and uses the effluent from the treatment plant to irrigate nearby crops.

No damage so far

For the moment, the Straight River trout population is in no danger. However, a tall stack of groundwater permit applications waits to be processed by DNR. A large increase in irrigation for potatoes, with new wells being drilled in the deeper aquifer, would change the equilibrium. A 1999 Minnesota DNR study concluded: "Potential expansion in potato farming and irrigation could put the Straight River trout population at further risk of thermal impact and eventually raise water temperatures beyond their threshold of survival." Increased pumping from the deeper aquifer would increase recharge from the shallow aquifer, thus reducing discharge from the shallow aquifer to the river. Lower flows would mean higher ambient water temperatures and less dilution of nitrates that contaminate the river. One long-term answer, of course, is for us, as American consumers, to accept French fries that have slightly different colors, or minor discolorations, or even ones that are not long enough to stick out from a super-size carton.

After DNR lifted its moratorium, Lamb Weston/RDO Frozen ultimately obtained the necessary permits and expanded the plant, which is an enormous operation. Each day, seventy-five semitrailer truckloads of potatoes arrive for processing. Each year, the plant receives almost one billion pounds of potatoes and produces approximately 540 million pounds of French fries. It takes two pounds of potatoes to make one pound of French fries that are acceptable to the plant's largest customer — McDonald's. The plant uses 600 million gallons per year of groundwater in its washing, peeling, and storing operations. It's a lot of water, but R.D. Offutt Co.'s potato farming and processing businesses employ approximately 600 people and generate $11 million in annual payroll, which has a huge impact in rural Minnesota.

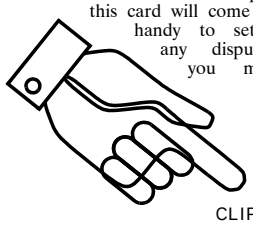
(Robert Glennon is the Morris Udall Professor of Law and Public Policy at James E. Rogers College of Law at the University of Arizona. He will be offering some possible solutions to groundwater depletion cases such as the one described here at the Wisconsin Stewardship Network conference Saturday, Feb. 15, at UW-Stevens Point. -Ed.)

WI stream access laws summarized in wallet card

By Todd Hanson

Having trouble remembering what the current Wisconsin laws are regarding stream access? We were, too, so the WI State Council of Trout Unlimited has created the "wallet card" you see below.

The card is two-sided. The side below gives a concise summary of your current rights and responsibilities regarding stream access, while the facing side has relevant excerpts from the state's statutes.



The State Council hopes this card will come in handy to settle any disputes you may have with landowners who feel you are trespassing.

Confusing recent change

Anglers and other stream users will remember that Wisconsin law was changed two years ago to allow people to walk the exposed banks of rivers up to the "normal high-water mark."

That expansion of rights has now been *reversed*, and anglers must once again follow the former "keep your feet wet" rule when fishing.

However, the new law still allows anglers to legally walk on private property whenever they encounter an "obstruction." The WDNR has interpreted an obstruction to include "deep water." This obstruction provision is not yet widely known, so this wallet card will help fishers and land owners understand the current law.

CLIP AND CARRY

WI Council of
Trout Unlimited

2003 Stream Access Wallet Card

Keep this handy stream access "wallet card" with you when you fish. It describes your rights and responsibilities when accessing public waters that flow through private property.

Can I fish streams that flow through private lands?

Yes, all trout streams are considered "navigable" and, therefore, are public property. Streams are public even though the land on both sides of them may be private. Without permission, you may not cross private lands to enter or leave a stream. Enter the water at bridge crossings, public lands, or private lands under public easement.

Do I have to stay in the water?

Yes, but there is one exception. Wisconsin law was amended in 2001 to say you may exit the water "to bypass an obstruction." *(See statute text on other side.)* Re-enter the water after the obstruction has been passed.

What counts as an obstruction?

According to the WDNR, "Obstructions could consist of trees or rocks, shallow water for boaters, or deep water for wading trout fishers. The bypass can involve areas up to the ordinary high water mark and should be by the shortest route possible."

Can I walk on the exposed shoreline up to the "ordinary high water mark"?

No, that short-lived provision in the statutes was changed in 2001. Anglers must now follow the previous "keep your feet wet" rule. But you may still leave the stream to bypass obstructions.

What if I come upon a fence across a stream?

Land owners may not obstruct navigable waters in a way that "impairs the free navigation thereof." If you can pass under or over a single strand of barbed wire, the stream remains navigable. However, if several strands of wire or some other intentional obstruction prevents passage, the land owner is in violation of the law. Do not cut the wire. Instead, contact the WDNR to investigate the illegal obstruction.

How does the "no interference" with hunting, fishing or trapping statute apply to my fishing?

Animal right activists have generally preferred to harass hunters and trappers instead of anglers. Nevertheless, fishing is included in a 1989 WI statute that makes it illegal for someone to "interfere or attempt to interfere with lawful hunting, fishing or trapping with the intent to prevent the taking of a wild animal...."

This statute protects not only you from physical interference, but it protects the animals as well — someone cannot interfere with your fishing by "harassing a wild animal." For fishers, this may be interpreted to mean that someone cannot interfere with your fishing by throwing rocks into water you are about to fish. Land owners blocking your legal access or preventing you from navigating around obstructions may also be violating this statute.

See WI statute text on other side

Central Wisconsin's Hornberg fly still drawing praise

By George Rogers

Frank Hornberg died in 1966, but more than a memory lingers on.

For one thing, the Trout Unlimited chapter in Portage and Wood counties is named

for him. For another, he created the Hornberg fly with its jungle cock "eye" for a cheek. It's still in use and has devoted fans.

Recent accolades have come from both coasts. Roger Aziz, an outdoor columnist for the Lawrence (MA) Eagle-Tribune, wrote about fishing with the Hornberg. The last couple times out, Aziz wrote that some of his favorite flies failed him, but not the Hornberg. "Brook trout struck the fly so often and so hard that I went through several flies through the course of two hours of fishing," he said.

Aziz added, "Fly fishermen and fly tiers will find that of all the fishing flies they may carry with them astream, the versatile Hornberg is the best of the lot. It can be fished high and dry or wet and deep. It can be tied very small on a No. 14 hook or as large as a size 4 hook. Imagination is all that is needed with this very special fly."

Aziz's comments were reprinted in the Portage County Gazette, a Stevens Point weekly newspaper, and brought a response from the West Coast.

John N. (Jack) Zei of Bellingham, WA, wrote, "I, too, can attest to the versatility and dependability of this trout fly, having used it regularly over a period of many years of fly fishing."

Zei, who grew in Stevens Point, said he had used it on the Tomorrow, the Little Wolf, the Comet, and other Wisconsin streams. He also found it to be "a most dependable" fly in Montana on the Madison, Firehole, and Beaverhead Rivers, "where rainbow and German brown trout cherish it." And, "When caddis flies or other popular lures fail on the mountain lakes of British Columbia, the Hornberg will usually come through for me. It truly is a most reliable trout fly, fished either dry or wet, depending on weather and hatch conditions."

His brother, his sons, and his cousin are also "ardent proponents" of the Hornberg, said Zei.

"The tradition of this marvelous fly was handed down to us by our fathers, who also fished the streams and rivers of Central Wisconsin many years ago," he wrote. "I had the privilege of knowing Frank Hornberg personally, while he served as game warden for the Portage County area. He was a real legend as a law enforcement officer, an outstanding gentleman and a great sportsman. His memory will live on in the unique fly he designed so long as we fly fishermen and women continue to cast it on waters in search of the crafty trout, which we intend to do."

Hornberg, a locomotive engineer as a young man, came down with tuberculosis and was advised to get a job that exposed him to a lot of fresh air, the standard treatment for TB in those pre-antibiotic days. So he became a warden and it evidently worked, for those who knew him don't remember Hornberg as anything but healthy.

Hornberg was a warden in Portage County from 1920 to 1950. When he retired he was 68, pretty old to be lying in snow banks waiting for poachers. A few years after retiring he moved to California, dying there at the age of 84.

(George Rogers is a member of the Hornberg Chapter and the former Editor of the Stevens Point Daily Journal*. -Ed.)*

Relevant Wisconsin Statutes

(Key portions underlined)

§30.134 Use of exposed shore areas along streams.
(1) DEFINITIONS. In this section:
(a) "Artificial ditch" means a ditch, channel, canal or other stream of water that has no prior history as a stream.
(b) "Exposed shore area" means the area of the bed of a navigable body of water that is between the ordinary high-water mark and the water's edge.
(c) "Highway" has the meaning given in s. 340.01 (22).
(d) "Riparian" means the owner, lessee or occupant of land that abuts a navigable body of water.
(2) AUTHORIZATION. Members of the public may use any exposed shore area of a stream without the permission of the riparian only if it is necessary to exit the body of water to bypass an obstruction.
(3) RESTRICTIONS; MEMBERS OF PUBLIC. (a) In using an exposed shore area of a stream, as authorized under sub. (2), a member of the public may not enter the exposed shore area except from the water, from a point of public access on the stream, or with the permission of the riparian.
(c) Use of an exposed shore area of a stream by members of the public does not grant an easement or other right to the exposed shore area that is greater than the right granted to the public under this section.
(4) RESTRICTIONS; RIPARIANS; OTHERS.
(a) No riparian may prohibit a member of the public from using, as authorized under this section, an exposed shore area of a stream.
(b) No riparian may charge a fee for the use, as authorized under this section, of an exposed shore area of a stream.
(c) No person may obstruct a highway with the intention to impede or prohibit access by the public to an exposed shore area of a stream.
(5) EXCEPTIONS. The right granted to the public under this section to use an exposed shore area of a stream does not apply to any of the following:
(a) An exposed shore area of an impoundment on a stream.
(b) Any artificial ditch.
(c) Any location on a stream where there is no surface water flowing in the stream.

§30.15 Penalty for unlawful obstruction of navigable waters.
(1) OBSTRUCTIONS PENALIZED. Any person who does any of the following shall forfeit not less than $10 nor more than $500 for each offense:
(a) Unlawfully obstructs any navigable waters and thereby impairs the free navigation thereof.
(b) Unlawfully places in navigable waters or in any tributary thereof any substance that may float into and obstruct any such waters or impede their free navigation.
(c) Constructs or maintains in navigable waters, or aids in the construction or maintenance therein, of any boom not authorized by law.
(d) Constructs or places any structure or deposits any material in navigable waters in violation of s. 30.12 or 30.13.
(3) EACH DAY A SEPARATE VIOLATION. Each day during which an obstruction, deposit or structure exists in violation of sub. (1) is a separate offense.

§29.083 Interference with hunting, fishing or trapping.
(1) DEFINITION. In this section, "activity associated with lawful hunting, fishing or trapping" means travel, camping or other acts that are preparatory to lawful hunting, fishing or trapping and that are done by a hunter, fisher or trapper or by a member of a hunting, fishing or trapping party.
(2) PROHIBITIONS (a) No person may interfere or attempt to interfere with lawful hunting, fishing or trapping with the intent to prevent the taking of a wild animal by doing any of the following:
1. Harassing a wild animal or engaging in an activity that tends to harass wild animals.
2. Impeding or obstructing a person who is engaged in lawful hunting, fishing or trapping.
3. Impeding or obstructing a person who is engaged in an activity associated with lawful hunting, fishing or trapping.
4. Disturbing the personal property of a person engaged in lawful hunting, fishing or trapping. *[Remaining portions of the statute deleted. -Ed.]*

WI Council of Trout Unlimited

Stream Access Wallet Card

(See other side for a summary of your stream access rights)

How to tie a Hornberg Special

By Stu Nelson

This is how I tie a Hornberg, but I've heard of some variations to this recipe. Maybe if you have a different version, you can pass it along.

Begin by tieing in the body tinsel one quarter way back from the eye of the hook. Wrap back to the bend of the hook and then forward to where you started. If you are going to use an underwing, tie that in at this point.

Select matching mallard flank feathers and strip the unwanted barbs from the feather shaft. Tie in, one feather at a time, on opposite sides of the hook shank.

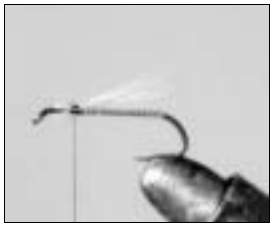
The butt ends of the mallard feathers should extend past the bend of the hook. I prefer to extend the feather no more than the length of the gap of the hook. This helps avoid short hits and having the wings wrap around the hook.

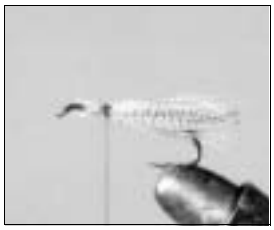
Finally, tie in the jungle cock nails, hackle, and finish.

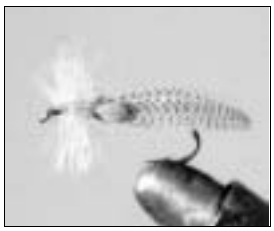
(Stu Nelson is a Hornberg Chapter member and one of their most accomplished fly tiers. -Ed.)

MATERIALS LIST
Hornberg Special

Hook: Standard nymph hook, 2x long. Mustad 9761 or similar.
Thread: Black mono.
Tail: None.
Body: Flat silver tinsel.
Underwing (optional): Tan hackle fibers.
Wing: Two matched, barred mallard flank feathers.
Eyes: Jungle cock nails.
Hackle: Soft to semi-soft grizzly hackle.







Consider Proper Release

The future of trout fishing is in your hands

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

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

Southern WI Ice Breaker Jan. 18 in McFarland

The Southern Wisconsin Chapter has announced plans for their newly renamed Nash Williams Memorial Banquet and this year's *Ice Breaker* featuring Dick Talleur and Shawn Perich.

The *Ice Breaker* will be held at the Park Ponderosa Ball Room in McFarland on Saturday, Jan. 18. Tickets for the *Ice Breaker* are available for $9.00 until the day of the event and are $10 at the door.

The Nash Williams Memorial Banquet — formerly the Trout Massacre dinner — will take place the night before the *Ice Breaker*. Reservations for both events may be made by calling John Schweiger at 238-8062.

Shawn Perich

The regional flavor for the 2003 Ice Breaker will be provided by Shawn Perich. Shawn is an avid hunter and angler who lives on the North Shore of Lake Superior near Hovland, MN. He is also a freelance outdoor writer. His books include:

- *Magic on the Rocks: Canoe Country Pictographs,*
- *The North Shore: A Four-Season Guide to Minnesota's Favorite Destination,*
- *Fishing Lake Superior: A Complete Guide to Stream, Shoreline, and Open-Water Angling, and*
- *Fly-Fishing the North Country.*

On Friday evening, Shawn will give a presentation entitled *North Shore Adventures.* This is a slide show about visiting the North Shore of Lake Superior including both the Minnesota and Ontario coast. This is one of the most beautiful places on earth, and this program will focus on activities other than fishing.

Dick Talleur

Dick Talleur lives in Manchester, NH. He spent many of his working years as an AT&T employee, but managed to make a second career out of his avocation.

Talleur retired from AT&T in 1989 and has worked as a freelance writer, photographer, speaker, and teacher of fly fishing and fly tying ever since.

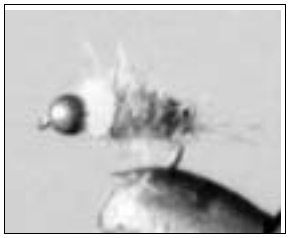
He has authored a number of fishing and fly tying books that have become standards of instructional excellence, including:

- *Talleur's Basic Fly Tying - A Beginner's Benchside Reference,*
- *Modern Fly Tying Materials,*
- *The L.L. Bean Beginner's Fly Tying Handbook,*
- *Pretty And Practical Salmon Flies,*
- *Guide To Fly Tying,*
- *The Versatile Fly Tyer,*
- *Fly Fishing for Trout,*
- *The Fly Tyer's Primer,*
- *Talleur's Dry Fly Handbook, and*
- *Mastering The Art Of Fly Tying.*

Pink Squirrel my all-around favorite fly

By John Bethke

While contemplating the writing of an article on my signature fly, the pink squirrel, I found myself with writer's block. So I went to my tying bench in the bat cave, aka the basement, and tied some up.



This November I made a trip to Cabellas to buy 200 3906 #12 Mustad hooks and a couple hundred 1/8" brass beads. I have a large pile of tiny puffs of coral pink chenille pills on my tying table. It's the scrap generated from stripping the fluff from the cotton core of chenille in order to tie it into the fly. The final step before I double whip finish and cement the head behind the bead. That pile represents a couple thousand pink squirrels tied in the past year — probably 2/3 of them given to friends, acquaintances, students, and donated with other flies to fundraisers for trout organizations or other groups. That leaves about 700 of them that I must have used myself. My present inventory consists of four containers with two dozen each of size 12s, plus a couple dozen in various fly boxes or vests.

I've always wished I had a peanut butter jar full of them, but fishing is my first priority, and I often find myself tying a half dozen pink squirrels before I head out the door to fish. The water based head cement I use is sometimes not even cured before the fly is in a fish's mouth. I can be on a quality trout stream from my house in 20 minutes or less in any direction you care to point.

> *"I always in the back of my mind wished for a fly and technique that would always be effective"*

Some people have a lot of money. I have a lot of trout streams. I've not sold 100 pink squirrels in the five or six years I've been tying them. It's not hard to figure where my priorities are.

So, why all the damned pink squirrels? I, like most people who fly fish, was overwhelmed with the variety of creatures fish eat, and even more so by the variety of flies made to imitate them. For season upon season I plied the waters of many places with countless varieties and techniques to try catching trout and panfish. I can't say I haven't enjoyed this experience, but I always in the back of my mind wished for a fly and technique that would always be effective. I suppose always is a little strong, so I'll settle for 90+ percent of the time. Eureka! Eureka! I have found it.

In spite of the volumes of books and articles that deal with selectivity, I have concluded from personal experience that selectivity is a relatively rare phenomenon. Don't get me wrong. I carry eight fly boxes in my vest, not including salmon, steelhead, and bass flies which I have for occasions when they are assembled for specialized trips. When I encounter a hatch or a steady riser, I have the knowledge and experience to know what to do. But day in and day out, I know trout and panfish will consistently take a well-presented pink squirrel. With this fly I've caught suckers, carp, bass, trout, steelhead, perch, crappie, sunfish, bluegill, and sheephead.

A few years ago, my friend, Hal Maier, invited me to fish his home water, Black Earth Creek. We drove from Black Earth to Cross Plains looking for an open stretch to fish, but found none until we were about ¼ mile downstream of the town of Cross Plains. This stretch runs from town through a small neighborhood of homes and up to what amounts to the junk yard of the local farm implement dealer at the edge of town. After putting on our gear and assembling our rods, Hal asked what I was going to fish with.

"A pink squirrel, size 14," I said.

"You'll have to go smaller than that on this stream."

"We'll see," I said.

There was no need to change my plan. We fished for over two hours and caught more than a dozen trout between us. In deference to delicacy, I added two feet of 5X to my usual 7 ½-foot 4X leader. There were few risers, but those that did rise took a pink squirrel cast slightly up stream and drifted through their lies. Sacrilege, I know, but I'm apparently not too bright and think I'm having a good time when I do that.

I have some friends who are not inclined to even tie a pink squirrel on their leaders, not to mention use a strike indicator. These people prefer to fish in a more dignified or sophisticated manner. On rare occasions, I feel that way myself, and I can play those games fairly well. But mostly, I fish to enjoy the travel along my streams. Simply making proper presentations in often challenging environs gives me satisfaction beyond what the application of my time and labor might produce in, say, more commercially profitable pursuits. I suppose that might make me a trout bum candidate, but I work a 40-hour week, and life is short, so I fish a lot.

If you want to make your own pink squirrels, I give the recipe at the conclusion of this article. Just having the fly will not make you catch fish. You still need to read the water, move with stealth, and make good presentations. People occasionally tell me they aren't catching fish with the pink squirrels I gave them. I'll bet they are failing in at least one of the three things mentioned above. Scared fish don't bite, period, and you won't catch fish where they ain't.

I can tie about 20 pink squirrels in an hour, but I have more experience tying this fly than anyone. Any good tier can do 10 per hour. If you're having trouble, call me and I'll try to help. I'm usually at home after dark or if the weather is nasty. Since I live within about one hour of northeast Iowa, my trout season never closes.

Yesterday after my visit to Cabellas, I went to Iowa and fished in a 25 mile per hour wind. I caught seven trout, browns and rainbows. There were some fish rising to something I didn't see, probably midges. Let's see — 10' leader, 6X leader, #20 fly, 20 mph wind. Guess I'll throw a squirrel.

(John Bethke is a member of the Coulee Chapter. John has taken a lot of ribbing over the years for using a pink squirrel under just about any condition. But it's hard to argue with success. If you've fished this pattern, you've caught fish. -Ed.)

MATERIALS LIST
Pink Squirrel

Hooks — My favorite is a #14 scud hook, but they are expensive, so I use Mustad 3906 #12.

Tail — Use ¼" V of crystal flash. I have used several colors, but rainbow #13 is good, as are yellow or light purple.

Rib — I use medium red copper salvaged from electronic fluorescent light ballasts. It's not a critical element. Medium gold, copper, or silver is fine.

Dubbing — Fox squirrel body hair off the back and sides. Shave them close to get the under fur which is gray to mix with the multi-hued guard hair. With this hair I blend amber antron chopped ¼- ½" in length. Lately I've been adding some chopped Ice dubbing to the blend, but go easy on this. You want to keep any flash subtle.

Collar — Use 1 ½ wrap of medium coral pink chenille. Sometimes I tie smaller and larger pink squirrels from #18 to #6. For these I use a smaller or larger bead and chenille. The smaller ones usually require a light dry fly hook.

Thread — I use navy blue 000 Cortichelli belding thread. I bought a ¼ pound spool of it 10 years ago at a garage sale for 50 cents. I like the way it handles so I use it. Pretty much any thread will do.

Dubbing wax — I make my own. There are all kinds of dubbing waxes on the market. Most of them don't work well for tying with hard hair dubbing. I mix toilet ring seal wax with bees wax and put it into Chapstick containers. It does the job.

Borger at Badger Flyfishers' event

The Badger Flyfishers of Madison will host their annual fundraiser, the Spring Fly Fishing Opener, Feb. 8 at the Marriott Hotel on the west beltline (Hwy. 12).

The featured speaker will be Wisconsin's best known fly fishing expert and author, Gary Borger.

It will be an expanded event this year, with fly tying demonstrations, fly tying lessons, commercial exhibitors, raffles, prizes, a lively auction, and an evening banquet.

In addition, representatives from various rod companies will be there with the latest examples of their finest rods available to be test cast indoors at our event.

Gary Borger's program will be his famous casting demonstration and clinic "Presenting the Fly."

Admission for the day is $10 at the door. For more information, contact Rich Ludt at (608) 833-7918 or visit www.badgerflyfishers.org.

HASSETT: new DNR head

Continued from p. 1

Hassett's father was also the head of Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce (WMC) business trade association.

If Hassett's family ties with WMC pleases the business community, Hassett has numerous experiences that endear him to the sporting, conservation, and environmental community.

An avid hunter and fisher, Hassett's work as an attorney for the Madison law firm of Lawton & Cates has found him doing what he called "cutting edge environmental law" litigating asbestos and pesticide overspray cases.

The last seven years he has done management relations and litigation across the state for the WI State Employees Union. He has also contributed legal services to Muskies, Inc. International.

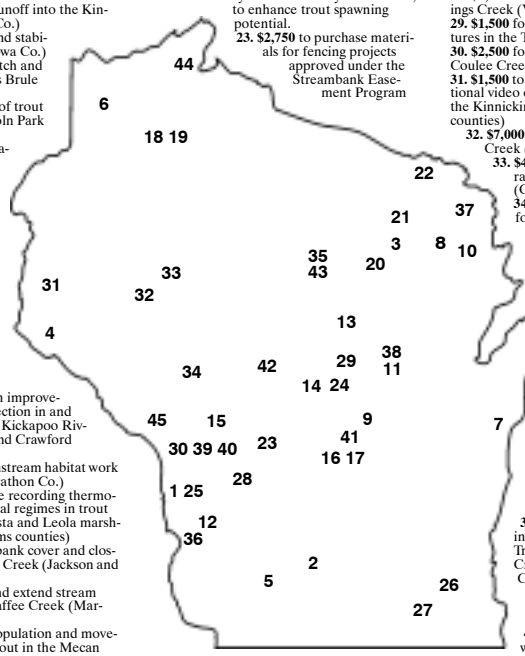
Hassett is a member of Wisconsin Bowhunters, Ducks Unlimited, Oak Ridge Rifle Club, and Bentshaft Bowhunters Club. He is also a former president of the Wisconsin River Sportsman Club.

Hassett preferred not to outline his approach to some of the pressing matters before the DNR over the coming years, but he did name the contentious areas.

"We're certainly going to deal with CWD in a big way. Another concern will be the Fox River cleanup. The third big issue will be the Crandon Mine."

As to his approach to making decisions, Hassett says, "I like to listen before I talk. I will be doing a lot of that over the first month I am secretary. I'm planning a big road trip across the state."

"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...

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Gary Gussel	Madison WI
Topf Wells	Madison WI
Robert Hackinson	Appleton WI
Sterling Strause	Wild Rose WI
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Mark Ratner	Glencoe IL
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Wisconsin TU Chapters:

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

Yes, I want to join the "Friends" of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited. Enclosed is my check for $100 or more.

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

Name

Address

City, State Zip Phone #