



Wisconsin Trout

July 2003

TU chapters file to sue WDNR over mining rules

By Dave Blouin

The Green Bay and Wolf River TU chapters have joined a large coalition of organizations and individuals in a complaint and formal notification

letter with the WDNR over the state's metallic mining laws and regulations.

The chapters are part of a coalition of 24 plaintiffs who have filed a 30-day notice of intent

to file a civil lawsuit over DNR's failure to develop administrative rules establishing minimum qualifications for mining permit applicants.

The complaint and notice also cites DNR's failure to determine whether the Nicolet Minerals Co. (NMC is owner of the proposed Crandon Mine) has complied with the Mining Moratorium Law passed in 1998 and strongly supported by TU for many years.

The complaint and notice were filed on June 18.

New owners ask for stay in permit review

This legal action comes at the end of a series of developments related to the proposed Crandon Mine that began in this spring. In April, NMC was acquired by Northern Wisconsin Resource Group (NWRG), which is owned by the Connor family. The Connor family logging company had sold much of the proposed Crandon Mine site land to mining companies during the 1970s.

NWRG has recently attempted to find an experienced mining company to join as a partner in the project. Unable so far to convince another company to join it, NWRG has asked the DNR to agree to "stay" the mining permit review process for the proposed mine by putting further DNR review of the supporting permit application information "on hold" for an undetermined amount of time while the company reconsiders its position.

If the DNR does not respond to the complaint and notification letter within 30 days, a lawsuit may be filed against the DNR by the coalition's members and their attorneys, Garvey & Stoddard, S.C., of Madison.

"We expect the DNR to fulfill its duty under the law to establish minimum qualifications for companies that apply for mining permits in Wisconsin, including NMC and NWRG," said Glenn Stoddard, attorney for the coalition.

The coalition would like the question of whether the company can comply with the Mining Moratorium Law settled now instead of at the very end of the mine permit process.

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Ron Johnson

New Brule River State Forest plan said to be 'good for trout'

By Jeremy Hecht

The new master plan for the Brule River State Forest prescribes what is needed to keep the Brule River a premier trout fishery and to help establish self-sustaining trout populations in the river, according to Dennis Pratt, the DNR's fish biologist for Douglas County.

The master plan, passed by the Natural Re-

sources Board last December, widens the buffer zone alongside the Brule River and its tributaries within the state forest, requires that tracts of forest be managed specifically to control runoff, improves water quality monitoring, and allows active management steps that will improve trout habitat.

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Lunda, WI Central fined for stream damage on rail projects

By John Welter

A citizen's complaint about damage to a Northwest Wisconsin trout stream led to criminal charges against one of the state's largest highway contractors and one of the

largest railroads operating in the state.

The damage occurred while Lunda Construction of Black River Falls built railroad bridges for Wisconsin Central Ltd. across trout streams in Washburn and Sawyer Counties.

As a result of civil and criminal lawsuits filed by the Wisconsin Department of Justice, the companies were convicted of misdemeanor charges and will pay fines and penalties of \$75,000, plus contribute \$75,000 worth of work or cash toward stream improvement or restoration projects.

Two employees fined

Two foremen were charged with crimes in the incidents. Each received deferred prosecution agreements under which their charges will be dismissed if they do not violate the agreements.

"Mistakes did happen," said Lunda corporate counsel Chris Fox in an interview with *Wisconsin Trout*. "We want to move forward, to be more careful, and to do the best we can in the future."

Fox said Lunda had adopted a protocol to work closer with the DNR in the future and would work

to make sure future projects are not "under-permitted." In these cases, he said, the permits did not cover "everything we wanted to do" on the projects.

Lunda also sent several employees to a DNR-sponsored workshop on Chapter 30 permits in 2002.

"We do 800 projects a year, and 99% of them are done well," Fox asserted.

Frog Creek rail bridge

Work done on railroad bridges across Frog Creek in Washburn County in the summer of 2000 concerned a citizen who contacted DNR wardens. The wardens investigated and found Lunda had violated conditions in its construction permit. The conditions had been made a part of the permit after discussions with the engineering firm hired by the railroad, Lunda, and the DNR.

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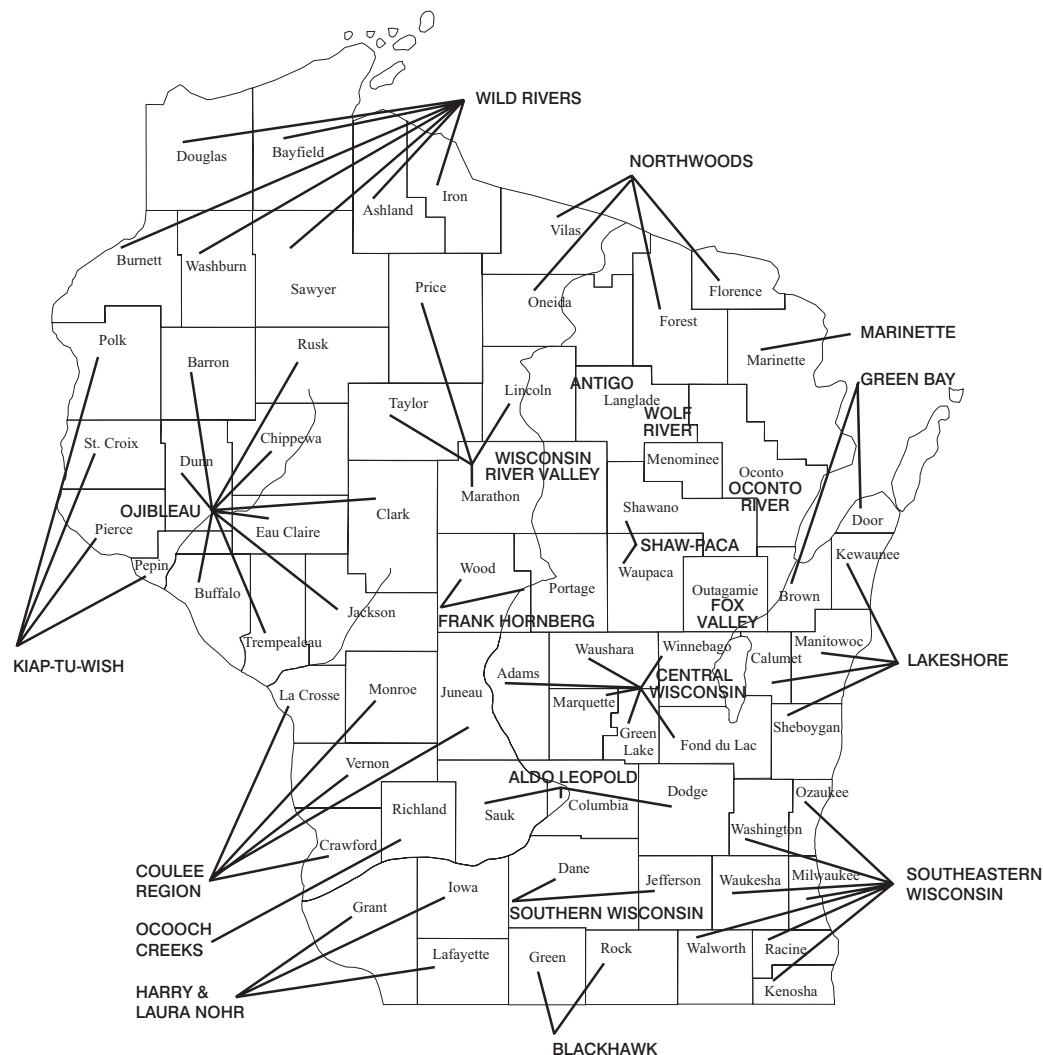
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- 1. Inform TU National.** Call, write, or e-mail TU National using the contact information below. (Only TU National keeps a membership database, so do not contact your local chapter, the state council, or *Wisconsin Trout*.)
- 2. Include your ID number.**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

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New shoreland development rules moving forward

The citizen advisory committee helping update Wisconsin's rules guiding development along state lakes and rivers agreed in June to proposed changes to existing, controversial limits on maintaining or repairing homes closer to the water than current rules allow.

The advisory committee plans to have one more meeting before it shares its recommendations with the public at statewide listening sessions later this summer and fall. The recommendations and feedback from the listening sessions will guide the WDNR in writing the proposed language revising the shoreland protection rules.

"We've made some good progress in tackling what we expected to be the group's biggest challenge — issues revolving around nonconforming structures," says Al Shea, the DNR watershed management official chairing the committee. "We think we can modernize the provisions to balance resource protection with increased flexibility for property owners."

Diverse group

Shea is particularly pleased that the citizen group advising on these rules is so diverse. The group has interests ranging from waterfront property owners, to developers, to property rights groups, to conservationists. — could agree in principle "because nonconforming issues are some of the most difficult to deal with but also the most important."

"Many property owners find the existing limitations on nonconforming structures frustrating and confusing, yet these potentially have the biggest impact on water quality, fish and wildlife and scenic beauty," Shea says.

Current state standards and most Wisconsin counties allow people to maintain and make unlimited nonstructural repairs to nonconforming structures but limit the amount of structural repairs, expansions and improvements they can do. In many counties, the costs cannot exceed 50 percent of the structure's current equalized assessed value or it must be moved back to meet the setback requirements.

Setting a primary buffer

During their March and May meetings, committee members agreed in principle that owners of nonconforming structures in the "primary buffer area" would be allowed to conduct unlimited maintenance and repairs regardless of the cost if they took steps to minimize the structures' impacts on water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, and natural beauty.

The primary buffer is the area between the building and the water's edge. This is the most critical shoreline area in terms of protecting water quality because it serves to filter runoff from rooftops, driveways, and other impermeable surfaces. This area also provides habitat and scenic beauty by screening structures from neighboring properties and lake users.

"Mitigation" measures in the primary buffer might include planting and maintaining a buffer of native plants and trees between the home and the water's edge, committee members said.

Structure replacement

Owners wanting to completely replace a nonconforming structure with a bigger one or pursue a major reconstruction would be required to move the

home back to a location that meets current setback standards. Such an approach would abide by court rulings that nonconforming structures must be regulated so that they eventually meet current setback standards but would allow the owner's desire and market forces to determine when the structure was moved back, committee members said.

Secondary buffer

Different principles would guide what property owners could do to nonconforming structures in the secondary buffer, the area next to the primary buffer. The secondary buffer is farther away from the water's edge and less critical in providing habitat, water quality protection and scenic beauty.

While no expansion of any structures would be allowed in the primary buffer, limited expansion of the primary structure would be allowed in the secondary buffer.

Other proposed rule provisions

In both the primary and secondary buffers:

- Unlimited ordinary maintenance and repairs would be allowed, including repair and replacement of existing structural components as long as the work does not constitute "major reconstruction."
- Pre-existing structures could continue to exist until the owner decides to undertake major reconstruction, which would require moving back to a location that complies with the setback standard.
- Ordinary maintenance or repair that does not require a permit would not require mitigation but any repair or modification that requires a permit would require mitigation measures.
- The primary buffer must be preserved or restored if a permit is required for work on an existing structure.
- The property owner could maintain as lawn a 15-foot wide area around the structure.

For more information on this rule and the NR 115 committee, contact the WDNR's Al Shea at (608) 267-2759 or Toni Herkert (608) 266-0161.

(This story was provided by the WDNR. -Ed.)

WI shoreline protections in place since '66

Shoreline protection rules were mandated by the Legislature's 1966 Water Resources Act and are found in Natural Resources Chapter NR 115 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code.

This rule includes:

- language protecting shoreline areas important for good water quality, fish habitat, wildlife needs, and scenic beauty;
- minimum "setback" standards in unincorporated areas for how far structures are set back from the water,
- language on lot sizes,
- limits on removing trees and other plants; and
- the requirement that counties adopt ordinances that meet these or more protective standards.

LUNDA: company fined for stream crossing violations

Continued from p. 1

Lunda was charged after its crew, led by foreman John Ostrowski of Rosholt, drove steel beams into the streambed and built a low-lying temporary bridge.

Little Wiergor Creek

In the Sawyer County incident, Lunda's crew, whose foreman was Loyd Holum of Eau Claire, also built a temporary bridge and drove steel beams into the bed of the Little Wiergor Creek, a Class I trout stream which flows out of the Blue Hills and into the Chippewa River two miles north of the hamlet of Imalone.

Lunda and Wisconsin Central were charged with violating numerous other permit conditions, including unlawful burning of wastes including rubber and plastic materials and trash, failing to clean up hazardous substances including various oils and waste corrosive materials.

Other charges included engaging in forbidden construction activities during the winter, illegal grading of the stream banks and failing to remove old pilings, which now obstruct navigation.

While Lunda's Fox claimed the wastes had been cleaned up and there was "no damage to the environment" as a result of the violations, he acknowledged he knew of no studies performed to assess such damage.

Other charges against Lunda and Wisconsin Central filed in Rusk

County were dismissed by the trial judge after a court trial there.

Company disciplinary measures

Asked whether the company disciplined or fired either of the super-

and Wisconsin Central will pay \$75,000 in criminal fines and penalties and \$75,000 in contributions to stream restoration or other projects in the northern part of the state. Lunda agreed to remove an existing

for that job against the required contribution to stream work.

As part of the settlements, Lunda may select a charitable organization to receive the funds to carry out wild trout habitat work and coldwater monitoring surveys of wetlands protection in northern Wisconsin. As an alternative, Lunda may perform environmental restoration or mitigation projects of comparable value, if approved by the DNR.

Previous Lunda violations

Lunda has been penalized in several smaller cases in the past. For example, the company carried out the demolition of the Deerskin Dam on the Deerskin River north of Eagle River as part of an earlier penalty worked out with the Environmental Protection Agency.

Rail and highway cases differ

Highway cases differ from railroad cases in that the DNR and State Department of Transportation have an agreement to work together on highway cases to cooperatively reduce environmental impacts of projects. There is no such agreement in railroad cases.

In rail projects, DNR fisheries managers review potential impacts of bridge projects and get to add permit conditions to protect fish populations and stream integrity. For example, one permit requirement is a ban on working in some stretches of streams from October 15 through April 15th to avoid some spawning runs.

Anglers can help spot problems

Anglers and other stream users can be valuable "eyes and ears" to aid in detection of stream-damaging activities, advises assistant attorney general Thomas Dosch, the prosecutor in the Lunda and Wisconsin Central cases.

"Be observant for unusual conditions, like unusual runoff or other things, and get in touch with your local warden if you see anything unusual," says Dosch. "We need more eyes and ears out there."

It would not hurt to inquire with prosecutors about the progress of a case against an alleged stream abuser. Letters to prosecutors and courts can also be effective. In some cases, letters from those who use our waters have had an impact when a convicted violator faces sentencing.

Stream anglers who observe an unusual number of dead fish should always report their observations to their local warden. In a New York case a number of years ago, stream anglers who reported a sudden absence of trout in a coldwater stream — where before there had been many fish — led to the discovery of a point-source polluter who had been poisoning the water.

visors charged in the incidents, Fox declined to disclose company personnel actions. However, he said neither supervisor's actions were "intentional violations."

According to the settlements approved by courts in the Washburn and Sawyer County cases, Lunda

barrier to fish migration at a Wisconsin Central bridge crossing on Spring Creek in Douglas County. A "fish riffle" will be constructed to allow migrating brook trout to get past a box culvert in place on the stream, Fox said. The company will receive a time-and-materials credit

State Council holds June 7 meeting in Avalanche

By Chuck Steudel
State Council Secretary

The WI State Council of Trout Unlimited met on June 7 in Avalanche, WI, at the West Fork Sportsmen's Club. Thanks were given to the Coulee Chapter and to the West Fork Sportsman's Club for their efforts and hospitality.

Chair Jon Christiansen's report centered on the reorganization of TU National. Jon took part in a strategic planning session in Washington, D.C. that included members of the national board, grassroots representation, and TU staff.

TU's aim is to double revenue in coming years and increase staff and membership with an emphasis on cooperation between national and local groups.

TU membership in 1992 was 50,000. In 2003 it stands at 130,000, and in 2008 TU would like to see membership of 190,000.

TU's mission statement was discussed and the phrase "enhance" was not added at the national level. There will be an emphasis on "established values" which include 1) healthy watersheds and clean water, 2) wild and native trout and salmon, 3) stewardship advocacy, 4) commitment to members, and 5) employing quality people.

The concept of strategic planning on the state level was discussed. Ideas forwarded included conducting this planning via small groups, e-mail, a special State Council meeting, and a select committee. The Executive Committee and Chair Christiansen will develop a plan for how to conduct a strategic planning session after agreement that strategic planning could help Wisconsin TU and local chapters.

The concept of having an executive director at the state level was discussed. Costs would probably run \$70,000 for a full-time and \$50-60,000 for a part-time director. While in good times there might be some funding from National, for the most part the cost of a state executive director would be borne by the State Council and maybe in part by the chapters. There are many positives and some negatives in the concept. Success has been had in Montana and Michigan, and the concept seems to have failed in Idaho and Colorado. A detailed handout from national on the subject was passed out.

A report on the Trout Unlimited 2003 Conservation and Volunteer Operations Agenda Status Report was circulated. It presents some of the changes ongoing in TU as well as the many projects and successes that TU has had. The financial report shows that national is very lean, with 75% of its revenue being spent on programs.

Leadership of the State Council was discussed. Current officers are due to change in February of 2004, and some new blood is desired. The Regional VPs will form a nomination committee and will report at the next State Council meeting.

Dan Holland spoke about the State Banquet, its successes, and its problems. Duke Welter has chaired the committee for the two years and has declined to serve as the chair again. There is a need to evaluate the banquet, improve on its successes, and make it more enjoyable and profitable. Volunteers to help with the banquet will be sought.

The Annual Meeting of Trout Unlimited will be in Denver in September of 2003.

Jeff Smith gave the Legislative Committee report. There are huge problems with the state budget, especially with the Joint Finance version. Gov.

Doyle's proposal contained substantial cuts for the DNR. Joint Finance Committee's version contains added cuts for the DNR.

The State Council proposal for increases in the trout stamp fee received support at Conservation Congress hearings, but was too late to be included in Governor Doyle's budget proposal. Trout stamp-funded positions will be cut from 17.7 now to 9.3 under Joint Finance's budget proposal.

The concern over the trout stamp fund receiving \$1.77 for every Conservation Patron license sold instead of \$7.50 for a stand-alone purchase was discussed. We will follow up with other "stamp" groups like the pheasant, turkey, waterfowl, and Great Lakes people.

Larry Claggett, head of the DNR trout program, spoke of fisheries being cut 33% by the Joint Finance proposal. A motion by Buettner and seconded by Meicher was made to authorize the legislative committee to press the issue as much as possible was passed. Smith mentioned that short written letters have the most impact, that calls are second, and e-mail is third in effectiveness.

After lunch Claggett gave his report. GIS county maps of all trout waters are ready to be printed and should be available soon. Welter is working on the concept of maps that show all areas of public easements and access.

Smith reported on the Stewardship Program battle. The cuts will be from \$60 million to \$15 million the first year and then \$10 million the second year of the budget.

There will be no savings on spending for this budget as the money involved will be borrowed. The cuts were termed strictly anti-environmental by Smith.

Efforts to get involved with legislators in a positive way were discussed. "Take a legislator fishing" with photo opportunities was discussed. There is a need to involve many members in the out-of-doors in hopes of fostering an understanding of how important our resources are.

The Membership Chair Bode noted that he is working with TU National to clean up the zip code situation and that improvement is expected.

The Polluted Runoff Toolkit was discussed. It is designed to be an educational tool for individuals and chapters to use in improving water quality and not an enforcement tool. All chapters are urged to have meetings on the toolkit and to try to incorporate it into their programs.

Jim Hlaban reported the Central Region was working on a water monitoring program training session, date undetermined yet, on the Wolf River. All TU'ers are invited to attend. Buettner reported that the Northeast Region will meet on June 21.

Christiansen reported on a request from fishery biologist of the DNR for financial support for them to attend a meeting of the American Fisheries Society in Canada. Next year the Wisconsin Chapter of the AFS will host the group's annual meeting in Wisconsin. The request was for \$3,500. It was noted that the cause is worthy and that the goals of the group are in harmony with our goals. A motion by Pielsticker, second by Hlaban, to donate \$500 passed on a vote of 8 to 4.

The Friends Committee met and voted to make the following distributions from the fund: \$500 to the Central Region, \$2,000 to the Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter, \$2,000 to the Lakeshore Chapter, \$1,750 to the WDNR c/o Heath Benicke for a project in Barron County, \$400 to UW-Oshkosh c/o Bob Stelzer, and \$500 to Independence High School.

State water quality improving, but state budget cuts will challenge DNR's water programs

Thirty years after passage of landmark federal legislation to clean up the nation's lakes, rivers and wetlands, Wisconsin's water quality has improved overall, but significant problems remain, according to the state's biennial report to Congress detailing progress in reaching the nation's Clean Water Act goals.

Many waters in the state do not meet minimum standards, fish and wildlife consumption advisories restrict human use of lakes and rivers, and beaches are still being closed to swimming because of bacterial contamination, according to the Wisconsin Water Quality Assessment Report to Congress 2002, now available online and in print.

In addition, some groundwater supplies are no longer clean enough to use as water supplies without significant treatment, and growing water demand in some communities is leading to depleted groundwater aquifers in some areas.

Runoff, wetlands, and impaired waters

"We're making some progress in improving water quality and going after some of the biggest remaining threats," says Todd Ambs, administrator of the WDNR's water programs. "Since our last report in 2000, we've put in place comprehensive rules to control polluted runoff, we've completed plans to remove 30 waters from the impaired waters list, and we've filled a gap in wetland protection. We've also identified land areas that communities need to protect to safeguard their water supplies from contamination.

"But it's not enough. The fabric of Wisconsin is woven in water — clean water for our environment, our economy and our quality of life."

The biennial report to Congress is required under the 1972 federal Clean Water Act that made it illegal for anybody to discharge pollutants to the nation's waters without a permit, and set a national goal of assuring that all waters were safe enough

to fish in and swim in. Wisconsin, as does other states, documents in its report the status of the state's water resources, identifies priority issues, summarizes current state programs and projects, and makes recommendations to Congress on legislative or administrative action needed to reach the Clean Water Act goals.

Many water resources to protect

Wisconsin has among the nation's most plentiful water resources:

- 55,000 miles of streams, including those that flow year-round and those that flow intermittently,
- 15,000 lakes,
- 5.3 million acres of wetlands,
- portions of the Great Lakes, and
- 1.2 quadrillion gallons of groundwater.

The state also has 12,000 public drinking water systems — the second largest number in the nation — has another 12,000 high-capacity wells serving farms, factories, brew-

eries, and other businesses, and has 750,000 families drawing water from private wells.

Report: status information needed

The report points out the need for more information on the status of these resources, but reports that none of the assessed lakes or rivers fully meet the Clean Water Act goals because mercury levels in some fish require general statewide advice to people to limit their fish meals from all state waters to limit their exposure to mercury.

Excluding mercury contamination, for which 44 other states also issue fish consumption advisories, about one-third of the assessed miles of streams or lake acres fully meet the beneficial uses for which they are designated. Specifically, 16,433 miles of streams, 792,301 lake acres, and all 1,017 miles of Great Lakes coastline do not fully meet the beneficial uses they are designated as capable of meeting.

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Keeping your eye on the ball

By Jon Christiansen
WITU Chair

A few weeks ago, we held our summer meeting of the State Council in Avalanche on the banks of the west fork of the Kickapoo. We had a very good meeting, and it was well attended, even though it was a long way to travel for many in attendance.

One of the things that we decided was to set aside some time in the next year to engage in a strategic planning process. We want to make sure that Wisconsin Trout Unlimited is headed in the right direction and that we have created a workable plan for doing so.

As most of you know, the business of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited has gotten distinctly more complicated in recent years. This is nowhere more true than in the legislative area where, by the time you read this, I hope we will have a state budget with fair cuts across the board. TU's legislative work is a prime example of how the State Council can undertake actions that directly benefit each member in our state.

The problem is that an organization like ours, staffed by part-time volunteers, many times just gets by, while other important initiatives lack sufficient attention due to the demands of every day life. And so the council determined that we should take a look at where we have been and where we want to be as an organization.

This undoubtedly will mean the continuation of many of the things that we have done so well for so long, but it may also involve a change in the kind of organization we are, perhaps through efforts to recruit an executive director. Having full-time administrative leadership has proven to be a remarkable plus for other councils, such as Michigan. At the same time, however, the cost of such an effort is enormous, and some councils have found that paying for staff is a rocky road.

I recently went through a strategic planning process on behalf of

TU National. I was one of two grassroots members of the committee, which was composed of members of the National Board of Trustees, the Cold Water Conservation Fund, and several TU National staff members. I thought the process was enormously valuable, but one thing I can say for sure is that I am very glad that I was able represent councils and chapters in that effort. From time to time it is necessary to remind TU's National leaders of Tip O'Neil's famous saying — "All politics is local." Perhaps, we could put a TU spin on the old phrase and say "all habitat concerns are local."

When approved by TU's National Board of Trustees, the National strategic plan will involve:

- a significant focus on increased efficiency of operation for councils and chapters,
- increased communication between TU National and the grassroots organization, and
- a focus on making it easier for us at the local level to get the job done.

The plan also proposes an ambitious increase in membership and revenues and proposes tactics on how to achieve these increases. I am hopeful that the committee has not reached too high, but I am confident that the unbelievably excellent National staff members I worked with can help pull it off.

As with the National TU strategic planning process, it is critically important that Wisconsin's chapters participate in our strategic planning process. *While the actual planning process will not begin for several more months, I would like each chapter president to begin thinking about who in the chapter organization might be able to contribute most meaningfully to the process.* This may involve current chapter leaders, or it may involve former chapter leaders who have a fine sense of the history of the organization. In any event, we will give you more details on the process as it unfolds.

After the Avalanche meeting broke up, most of the people in at-



Jon Christiansen

tendance headed for their favorite southwest Wisconsin stream. A few of us headed over to the north fork of the Bad Axe to try our luck. Our initial stop was at a farm just below the end of official trout water.

While there were some riffles and runs, a century of cows and neglect left the river in most places wide, shallow, and slow. Only in a few of the larger bends did we find trout holding. About 7 p.m. we left that section and went about a mile upstream to fish a place where there was stream improvement work in process. The bulldozer tracks were still readily in evidence, and we could almost smell the diesel fumes from recent work. At that particular spot, the effort was concentrated on a pool and plunge technique with in-stream obstacles, wing dams, and v-dams for the better part of a half mile.

Even though not completed, it was obvious that the stream work had transformed the place into a fish factory. A caddis hatch at dusk allowed Jack Bode to take several nice fish, while I fished a wooly bugger as a streamer and caught fish until it was too dark to cast.

On the way back to Jack's farm, I reflected on how the stream work

we saw so radically changed the nature of the water. The success of our efforts statewide in bringing about such changes is one of the great traditions of Wisconsin TU. It will undoubtedly carry us forward in the coming years. But there are other challenges that we must meet and that will be part of what we will examine in the strategic planning process. We invite your participation and ideas to make TU Wisconsin better for all of us.

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WATER QUALITY: improving

Continued from p. 4

Top trout stream threat runoff

The primary issues for streams continue to be degraded habitat and polluted runoff, while for lakes, it's mercury contamination from airborne pollutants, polluted runoff, hydrologic modifications, shoreline development, and exotic invasive species such as zebra mussels and Eurasian water-milfoil, according to Al Shea, director of the DNR Bureau of Watershed Management.

For the Great Lakes, priority issues include fish consumption advisories, the presence of toxic pollutants, runoff and habitat loss, and for wetlands, it's degradation and loss of wetlands through development. Groundwater, contaminants from agricultural activities, groundwater quantity issues, and storage and spills of contaminants are top concerns.

Challenges ahead

Ambs said the report lays out many of the challenges ahead for DNR, citizens, and the conservation and environmental groups that have

been so important to cleaning up and protecting Wisconsin waters.

"We owe the citizens of Wisconsin our leadership on this, our passion, and our dedication," Ambs says. "But we cannot — and should not — do this by ourselves. Wisconsin's natural resources are in the relatively good shape they're in because of the efforts of thousands of individuals and literally hundreds of groups working every day with the DNR and local governments. We all need to recommit ourselves to clean water and to assure the adequate funding and staffing Wisconsin needs to lead the fight."

Report available online

To read an electronic copy of *Wisconsin Water Quality Assessment Report to Congress 2002*, visit www.dnr.state.wi.us, then click on "Environmental Protection," "Water," "Watershed Management," and finally "Announcements."

Print copies can be ordered from Lisa Helmuth at (608) 266-7768.

(This story was furnished by the WDNR. -Ed.)

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Ed Avery's retirement marked the end of an era for WI trout research

By Dan Hansen

For more than three decades much of the trout research in Wisconsin was conducted by scientists based near Waupaca. Through most of the 1960s up to 1977, a team of trout researchers had their offices in the upper floors of an old three-story farm house at Hartman Creek State Park.

From 1978 through mid-July of 2002, the research unit was headquartered in buildings that were purchased by the DNR from a former Oshkosh real estate agent near the picturesque Emmons Creek trout stream, a few miles south of the park.

When Ed Avery retired last July 12, there will no longer be a trout research scientist based in central Wisconsin.

Avery grew up in Kansas and earned his bachelor's degree from Kansas State University, where he was trained basically in warm water species such as bass and catfish.

"I decided I wanted something different for graduate school, so I enrolled at Montana State University, where I studied trout management." Hired by Bob Hunt

About the time Avery had completed work on his master's degree, Bob Hunt, supervisor of the DNR's coldwater research group, was in Montana to attend a meeting and was also interviewing candidates to join Wisconsin's trout research team.

"Wisconsin was not a place I was considering, but I thought that since he was coming, I might as well interview. I interviewed with Bob, and within a week he called me and said I could have the job," said Avery. "That's why I came here and I've worked as a trout and research scientist my whole career here, over 33 years."

During his last official week as a DNR employee, Avery looked back to that day in June, 1969, when he joined the trout research unit.

"I was really fortunate to work with three excellent scientists — Oscar Brynildson, Bob Hunt, and Bob Carline — who were already here," recalled Avery. "Those three men all retired and I'm the last."

Avery felt the move to the Emmons Creek site helped to improve the efficiency of the research team.

"We had a lot more storage here and we were able to get away from the business of the park schedule."

Early years exciting

He says those early years were exciting times in Wisconsin's trout research program.

"In the days when we did have four biologists, it was exciting throughout the year because we got to work on a number of different

projects. Each scientist had anywhere from two to five projects, and we all worked with field crews. There was a lot of diversity (in the work) and we got to see a lot of the resources of Wisconsin."

Worked all over state

Although the researchers were based in the Waupaca area, Avery noted that they worked on projects all over the state. "I felt this was a big asset for us, compared to the fish managers who are responsible for all the warm water and coldwater fisheries in ponds, lakes, and streams in maybe a two- to four-county area," he said. "We work all

over the state on different problems that the manager has dealing with trout and salmon. Whether it be a regulatory problem or habitat problem, they would come to us and we would try to solve the problem."

Among the research projects that stand out in Avery's mind was his first one which lasted five years. "I came in right at the tail end of doing chemical treatment of trout streams, where we used chemicals to elimi-

nate rough fish which were primarily chubs and suckers. We'd put a barrier in the stream and we'd get tremendous growth and survival on our trout," he affirmed.

Despite the effectiveness and safety of the chemical treatment program, it was discontinued primarily because of public perception.

"There was a growing concern about the use of toxicants," Avery explained. "We still use them occasionally, but it's not like it used to be."

Coho salmon research

Shortly after his arrival in Wisconsin, Avery also became involved in a Coho salmon research project. He noted that back in the late 60s and early 70s Coho were helping control the alewife populations in Lake Michigan and other Great Lakes.

"We had problems in some of our inland lakes with stunted yellow perch populations, and we thought that salmon might solve the problem," said Avery. "So we conducted research on a lake or two in northern Wisconsin but found that salmon didn't solve the problem. The Coho salmon start off being plankton feeders. Unfortunately, so are the yellow perch and the salmon never grew big enough to switch over to the perch diet."

Over the years Avery also conducted several studies looking at the angler harvest and fishing pressures of brook and brown trout in central Wisconsin compared to the northern part of the state.

"This gave us a basis of things to come, and that provided really help-



New trout researcher Matt Mitro visits State Council

WDNR trout researcher Matt Mitro addressed the Wisconsin Council of TU at the June 7 meeting in Avalanche.

Mitro discussed his background and showed some slides of his research on various trout projects out West. Mitro is the lead trout researcher with the Fisheries Research Section, the position that opened as a result of the retirement of Ed Avery.

Mitro brings a solid academic and research background to meet the coldwater research needs of Wisconsin. He 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. Mitro also received an M.S. degree in statistics from MSU.

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

Mitro is also an avid trout fisherman. He will be based in Madison. He has a wife and two young children.



ED AVERY WITH AWARD

Ed Avery holds an award from the American Fisheries Society recognizing one of his many trout research studies.

ful baseline data that we did not have before," he asserted. "We also used that information to design our fishing regulations and harvests to better suit the productivity of the waters in different areas of the state."

Beaver study memorable

Of all the projects he's worked on during his 33 years with the DNR, Avery is proudest of a recently completed study on the impact of beaver on Wisconsin's trout streams.

"It's been a tough nut to crack because often we'd find ourselves at odds with wildlife managers who like beaver ponds from the standpoint of duck production," commented Avery. "But beaver ponds in the upper Midwest act just like heat sinks because they warm the water and they cause sedimentation problems in our trout streams."

The study began 18 years ago, focusing on a 10-mile stretch of a northern Wisconsin river and its tributaries that had over 500 beaver dams.

"We looked at it for a year and documented the trout population, other fish in the total community and the fishing pressure and harvest," said Avery. "Then we took all those dams out, we followed it for four years, and then we left it. We finally returned in 2000 and saw some phenomenal changes. The numbers of legal fish increased dramatically, the water temperatures dropped significantly in the tributaries, and the main river and the number of brook trout over 9 inches increased four- to fivefold."

Avery added that it takes a long time in the low-gradient streams for nature to correct all the damage caused by the beaver.

"Even when you blow that many dams you're sending a lot of silt that built up behind those dams downstream, and that has to all clear out, which takes a long time in a low-gradient stream. In the higher-gradient tributaries, we had almost immediate positive results. A dam on any stream or river is a negative for the fish population. You're fragmenting the environment in which these fish move. Even warm water species like catfish and sturgeon travel 20 to 30 miles and more to spawn."

Over the years new technologies have significantly altered the way Avery and the state's other trout researchers prepared their reports. He says the increased use of computers also has brought them increased responsibility and some additional tasks.

"They allow you to do things much quicker and to put the information in a database that you can pull up any time," he acknowledged. "But now we're also expected to edit our own reports and then send them down to an editor for publication. They don't really do a lot of changing because they're really not trained in that, whereas our old editors used to have biology backgrounds, but not anymore."

Another significant change, according to Avery, is the direction trout research has taken in recent years.

Continued on p. 7

List of WDNR trout-related research reports

The WDNR has a long history of engaging in basic field research on a wide range of trout-related

topics. WDNR trout reports are shown below. Note that many of these publi-

cations are now available only through inter-library loan since they are out of print.

An asterisk (*) marks out-of-print reports. Other reports may still be ordered.

Monitoring

186 — Field performance of wild and domestic brown trout strains in two Wisconsin rivers. 2001. Ed L. Avery, Al Niebur, and David Vetrano

170 — A survey of rare and endangered mayflies of selected rivers of Wisconsin. 1995. Richard A. Lillie [775K, .pdf file; Please note that this link will open in a new browser window]

Habitat

185 — Aquatic insects of the Bois Brule River system, Wisconsin. 1993. Robert B. DuBois

179 — Evaluation of trout habitat improvement structures in three high-gradient streams in Wisconsin. 1992. Robert L. Hunt

164 — Water quality and restoration of the lower Oconto River, Oconto County, Wisconsin. 1989. Richard A. Rost, Jon C. Brand, Ronald M. Bruch, David H. Crehore, Stanley I. Dodson, Ronald L. Fassbender, Laura J. m of 45 trout stream habitat development evaluations in Wisconsin during 1953-1985. 1988. Robert L. Hunt

*99 — Effects of destratification and aeration of a lake on the distribution of planktonic Crustacea, yellow perch, and trout. 1977. Oscar M. Brynildson and Steven L. Serns

98 — Effects of hydraulic dredging on the ecology of native trout populations in Wisconsin spring ponds. 1977. Robert F. Carline and Oscar M. Brynildson

86 — Characteristics of a northern pike spawning population. 1975. Gordon R. Priegel and David C. Krohn

*48 — Responses of a brook trout population to habitat development in Lawrence Creek. 1971. Robert L. Hunt

39 — Guidelines for management of trout stream habitat in Wisconsin. 1967. Reprinted 1979, 1986. Ray J. White and Oscar M. Brynildson

*25 — Relationship of beaver to forests, trout and wildlife in Wisconsin. 1962. George J. Knudsen

186 — Field performance of wild and domestic brown trout strains in two Wisconsin rivers. 2001. Ed L. Avery, Al Niebur, and David Vetrano

167 — Effects of streambank riprapping on physical features and brown trout standing stocks in Millville Creek. 1995. Ed L. Avery

157 — Salmonid population trends following stream-bank debrushing and beaver control on a Lake Superior tributary. 1993. Robert B. DuBois and Stephen T. Schram

*137 — A follow-up assessment of removing woody streambank vegetation along two Wisconsin trout streams. 1985. Robert L. Hunt

*116 — An evaluation of half-logs to improve brown trout habitat in Emmons Creek. 1982. Robert L. Hunt

*106 — Factors influencing reproduction of brown trout above and below a flood water detention dam on Trout Creek, Wisconsin. 1980. Eddie L. Avery

*70 — Effect of habitat alteration on brown trout in McKenzie Creek, Wisconsin. 1971. Gerald R. Lowry

*31 — Effects of habitat alteration on production, standing crops, and yield of brook trout in Lawrence Creek, Wisconsin. 1968. Robert L. Hunt

31 — Impact of beaver dam removal on brook trout populations and the sport fishery in a northeastern Wisconsin stream. 1991. Ed L. Avery [Also as a 257K .pdf file]

30 — Impact of beaver dam removal on summer water temperatures in a north-eastern Wisconsin trout stream. 1991. Ed L. Avery [265K .pdf file] Note: this link will open in a new

Management and regulation

173 — Evaluation of a catch and release fishery for brown trout regulated by an unprotected slot length. 1991. Robert L. Hunt

166 — Bibliography of fishery investigations on large salmonid river systems with special emphasis on the Bois Brule River, Douglas County, Wisconsin. 1989. Robert B. DuBois

154 — Sexual maturity and fecundity of brown trout in central and northern Wisconsin streams. 1985. Ed L. Avery

146 — Impacts of a floodwater-retarding structure on year class strength and production by wild brown trout in a Wisconsin coulee stream. 1984. Oscar M. Brynildson and Clifford L. Brynildson

142 — Assessment of a daily limit of two trout on the sport fishery at McGee Lake, Wisconsin. 1984. Robert L. Hunt

141 — Population dynamics of wild trout and associated sport fisheries in two northern Wisconsin streams. 1983. Ed L. Avery

137 — A bibliography of beaver, trout, wildlife, and forest relationships with special references to beaver and trout. 1983. Ed L. Avery

*121 — Population dynamics of wild brown trout and associated sport fisheries in four central Wisconsin streams. 1981. Ed L. Avery and Robert L. Hunt

119 — A successful application of catch and release regulations on a Wisconsin trout stream. 1981. Robert L. Hunt

115 — Removal of woody streambank vegetation to improve trout habitat. 1979. Robert L. Hunt

110 — The influence of chemical reclamation on a small brown trout stream in southwestern Wisconsin. 1978. Eddie L. Avery

82 — Annual production by brook trout in Lawrence Creek during eleven successive years. 1974. Robert L. Hunt

81 — Influence of organic pollution on the density and production of trout in a Wisconsin stream. 1975. Oscar M. Brynildson and John W. Mason

69 — An experimental introduction of coho salmon into a landlocked lake in northern Wisconsin. 1973. Eddie L. Avery

65 — Production, food and harvest of trout in Nebish Lake, Wisconsin. 1973. Oscar M. Brynildson and James J. Kempinger

*35 — Production and angler harvest of wild brook trout in Lawrence Creek, Wisconsin. 1966. Robert L. Hunt

*26 — Effects of angling regulations on a wild brook trout fishery. 1962. Robert L. Hunt, Oscar M. Brynildson, and James T. McFadden

186 — Field performance of wild and domestic brown trout strains in two Wisconsin rivers. 2001. Ed L. Avery, Al Niebur, and David Vetrano

180 — Site specific assessment of three sets of angling regulations designed to improve stream trout fisheries. 1999. Ed L. Avery

150 — The White River trout population and sport fishery: an exploratory study, 1984-1986. 1990. Ed L. Avery

*135 — Results and trout management implications of a 9-month creel census on Timber Coulee Creek in 1984. 1985. Robert L. Hunt

*125 — Food habits of brook trout in McGee Lake, 1980-82. 1984. Robert L. Hunt and Kent W. Niermeyer

*99 — Exploitation, growth, and survival of three strains of domestic brook trout. 1979. Robert L. Hunt

*98 — Distribution and density of sculpins in a Wisconsin coulee stream. 1978. Oscar M. Brynildson and Clifford L. Brynildson

*58 — Wild rivers fish populations (Pine, Popple and Pike rivers). 1970. John W. Mason and Gerald D. Wegner

*54 — A compendium of research on angling regulations for brook trout conducted at Lawrence Creek, Wisconsin. 1970. Robert L. Hunt

*10 — Evaluation of fly-fishing-only at Lawrence Creek: a three year progress report. 1964. Robert L. Hunt

*4 — Ability of anglers to identify species of trout. 1962. Ray J. White

*14 — Trout fishing in Milwaukee: the urban angling program. 1988. Ed Nelson and John Stevenson [Available as a 209K .pdf file]

Indicies of biotic integrity and resiliency

185 — Aquatic insects of the Bois Brule River system, Wisconsin. 1993. Robert B. DuBois

*132 — Using a biotic index to evaluate water quality in streams. 1982. William L. Hilsenhoff

*100 — Use of arthropods to evaluate water quality of streams. 1977. William L. Hilsenhoff

*89 — Aquatic insects of Wisconsin with generic keys and notes on biology, ecology and distribution. 1975. William L. Hilsenhoff

*54 — Aquatic insects of the Pine-Popple River, Wisconsin. 1972. William L. Hilsenhoff, Jerry L. Longridge, Richard P. Narf, Kenneth J. Tennesen, and Craig P. Walton

*67 — Key to genera of Wisconsin Plecoptera (stonefly) nymphs, Ephemeroptera (mayfly) nymphs, Trichoptera (caddisfly) larvae. 1970. William L. Hilsenhoff

Trout propagation

186 — Field performance of wild and domestic brown trout strains in two Wisconsin rivers. 2001. Ed L. Avery, Al Niebur, and David Vetrano

*85 — Growth and survival of trout stocked in a northern Wisconsin spring pond. 1976. Robert F. Carline, Oscar M. Brynildson, and Max O. Johnson

83 — An evaluation of stocking fingerling trout in a "two-story" trout lake. 1975. Eddie L. Avery

*26 — Dispersal of stocked trout in five Wisconsin streams. 1967. Oscar M. Brynildson

*18 — Survival, growth and yield of stocked domesticated brown and rainbow fingerlings in Black Earth Creek. 1966. Oscar M. Brynildson, Paul E. Degurse, and John W. Mason

*15 — Egg production and survival of progeny of trout reared on dry diets. 1965. John W. Mason, Paul E. Degurse, and Oscar M. Brynildson

*13 — Dry diets for trout: successful diets to rear trout in the hatchery. 1965. John W. Mason, Paul E. Degurse, and Oscar M. Brynildson

*3 — Survival, yield, growth and coefficient of condition of hatchery-reared trout stocked in Wisconsin waters. 1961. Oscar M. Brynildson and Lyle M. Christenson

An asterisk () indicates that the publication is currently out of print. To get copies of out-of-print publications via inter-library loan, contact your local library. For a copy of any other publications listed above, order online or contact Martin Griffin at:*

DNR Bureau of Integrated Science Services, 101 S. Webster St., PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921 (608) 266-0842.

TROUT RESEARCH: Avery retirement ends an era at WDNR

Continued from p. 6

Newer research multifaceted

"Of all the baseline problems of the last 30 to 35 years, we've done some excellent research and have solved a lot of problems. The problems we have today are multifaceted. They deal with land use, expansion of suburbs, and other plants and animals," he noted.

"Today the department has to consider a lot of different aspects of plants, animals, and people, more so than we ever had to do before. Anything that you can think of — from reptiles and turtles to butterflies — is a concern to people nowadays."

"Our whole fisheries and wild-life program used to be based on the

fisherman and the hunter. There has to be some more money brought in by other users now, and how we do that is a real struggle politically."

WI trout fishing in good shape

Avery says trout fishing in Wisconsin is much better today than it was three decades ago.

"The regulations we have today are working well. They allow us to manage according to the productivity of the waters across the state. The variety of coldwater streams we have in the state is just phenomenal. I've fished trout in a lot of places across the United States, including Alaska, as well as in the Yukon and British Columbia. Except for the scenery, I'll take trout fishing in Wisconsin over all of them."

With Avery's retirement it appears likely that the Emmons Creek field station southwest of Waupaca will close.

"Since my former supervisor, Bob Hunt, retired about 10 years ago, I've been the only biologist here with just two technicians, and now one of them also has retired. That's made it very difficult to maintain the place and also do the research because you no longer really have a good field group or even enough people for a survey crew."

"When I talked to my supervisor about my retirement, I told him I'd like him to refill my position, but we really need more bodies out here. If we can't have at least three full-time people, it might be best to consider

shutting the station down. Even though it's cheap to operate, it's not good for the biologist to be isolated. I would rather be in an office with the local fish manager or warden so you've got other bodies for field-work, but also to be able to bounce ideas off other scientists."

Now that he's retired, Avery and his wife, Kaye, plan to do some traveling, but he says they will continue to make their home in the Waupaca area.

"My son and his wife and the grandkids are here, and we wouldn't think of going anywhere else."

(Author Dan Hansen lives in Waupaca. This story originally appeared in The Picture Post. -Ed.)

MINE: TU chapters file to sue DNR over moratorium law

Continued from p. 1

The suit's plaintiffs feel that if NWRG can't meet the law now, there is no good reason for state and federal regulators, mine opponents, and even the mine applicant to continue to waste valuable time and resources analyzing the proposal. Millions have already been spent; why waste millions more?

Owner's qualifications an issue

"Our complaint and notification to DNR has been triggered largely because the new owner of the proposed Crandon Mine has stated publicly that it is unqualified to operate a mine and has been unable to attract a qualified mining company to join it as a partner," says Stoddard.

Stoddard continues, "The fact that we have filed this complaint and notification letter with the DNR doesn't necessarily mean we will sue the state, because it gives the DNR the opportunity to address these important issues by doing its duty under the law to ensure that unqualified applicants cannot obtain mining permits. It also provides the DNR with the opportunity to properly implement the 1998 Mining Moratorium Law, which has been largely ignored by the agency since it was enacted. But if the DNR does not act quickly to address these important concerns in a positive way during the next 30 days, we would then have the right to sue the DNR in state court over these issues."

List of plaintiffs

The coalition of 24 individuals and organizations are referred to in the complaint and notice letter as prospective "Plaintiffs." They include: Paul J.

Mongin, George Rock, Chuck Sleeter, Joanne Sleeter, Duane Marshall, Robert VanZile, Jan Olson, Tom Wilson, Anishinaabe Nijii, Brown County Conservation Alliance, Clean Wisconsin, Environmentally Concerned Citizens of the Lakeland Area, Mining Impact Coalition of Wisconsin, Northern Thunder, Protect Our Wolf River, Save Our Unique Lands, Sierra Club — John Muir Chapter, the Town of Nashville, Trout Unlimited's Green Bay and Wolf River Chapters, Wisconsin Resource Protection Council, Mining Committee of the Wisconsin Stewardship Network, Wolf River Watershed Alliance, and Wolf Watershed Educational Project of Midwest Treaty Network.

"Our complaint and notification to DNR has been triggered largely because the new owner of the proposed Crandon Mine has stated publicly that it is unqualified to operate a mine and has been unable to attract a qualified mining company to join it as a partner."

The complaint and notice of intent can be viewed at the Wisconsin Stewardship Network's web site, www.wsn.org. Point your browser to "Hot" or to "Issues" and then "Mining."

Citizen mining suits under Wisconsin law

Wis. Stat. § 293.89 was passed in 1977 and gives citizens the right to commence a civil action to enforce Wisconsin's metallic mining laws under Wis. Stat. Ch. 293. Citizens may commence a civil action against DNR when there is alleged to be a failure of the DNR to perform any act or duty under (Chapter 293) which is not discretionary with the DNR. Citizens may file suit 30 days after filing notice of intent to sue with the DNR.

New legislation would protect Wisconsin's groundwater

Legislation introduced in the State Assembly by Representative Spencer Black will strengthen protection for our state's groundwater supplies. The proposal (Assembly Bill 191), will close a major loophole in Wisconsin's groundwater law.

"Our current groundwater law does a reasonably good job protecting groundwater quality, but basically ignores groundwater quantity," Black said. "While Wisconsin is blessed with a plentiful supply of groundwater, the supply is not unlimited."

Black's proposal would add a criteria to the current law that requires permits for high-capacity wells — wells that can draw more than a hundred thousand gallons of groundwater a day. Current Wisconsin law allows the state to deny a high-capacity well permit only if it threatens a public water supply.

If a high capacity well threatens to harm streams, lakes or wetlands, the state lacks clear legal authority to deny the permit for the high capacity well.

The loophole in current law became evident when Perrier, a subsidiary of Swiss conglomerate Nestle Foods, submitted an application to withdraw 720,000 gallons of water a day from Big Springs in Adams County.

The DNR had no authority to deny the application because the well did not adversely affect a public water supply and issued the permit to Perrier even though the Perrier well threatened to affect local lake levels and wetlands.

The Perrier project was eventually stopped because local zoning permission was denied for a factory to bottle the water.

"Our current groundwater law is too weak. Wisconsin needs clear legal authority to make sure that our water resources are not harmed by Perrier or anyone else if their operation is found to endanger our streams, lakes, or wetlands," Black said. "Fortunately, strong local opposition helped persuade Perrier to drop its plan. But it was a wake-up call that Wisconsin is not equipped to protect our groundwater from the next Perrier that comes along," Black said.

"Other states have experienced major problems due to unrestrained groundwater withdrawal. Now is the time to set up a thoughtful system to prevent those problems from occurring here in Wisconsin," Black said.

Assembly Bill 191 has been referred to the Assembly Natural Resources Committee. Black has asked Rep. DuWayne Johnsrud, who chairs the committee, to hold a public hearing on the proposal but so

far, no hearing has been scheduled. "I encourage citizens who support stronger protection of our ground-

water to contact Rep. Johnsrud and urge him to schedule AB 191 for action," Black said.

Club, TU seek nominees for Joan and Lee Wulff conservation awards

By Nancy Winters

How do you reward someone who has worked tirelessly to promote conservation issues in your area? This is a person who has spent hours on streams collecting samples or improving habitat. Or perhaps it is a person who has made a special effort to teach our youth about the importance of clean water and has found ways for them to get hands-on experiences allowing them to work toward improving water quality.

Or maybe it the person who has worked diligently to pass regulations that will improve a fishery or enhance fishing opportunities.

The answer is to nominate that individual for one of the Lee and Joan Wulff Conservation Awards.

Created in 1995, these awards — one given through the FFF and one given through Trout Unlimited — were created by John Beth with the help of Joan Wulff soon after the passing of her husband.

John had been a regular correspondent with Lee, and when Lee died, John wanted to find a way to honor the memory of Lee's efforts, along with Joan's continuing efforts in conservation.

The awards are identical and consist of a framed picture of Joan and Lee Wulff crossing a stream. The awards also have a mounted fly that Lee tied without a vice as well as the emblem of the presenting organization.

In keeping with Lee's idea that a fish is too valuable to be caught only once, the recipient has possession of the award for one year when it is "released" to the next recipient.

The FFF award is given each year at the Spring Opener of the Badger Fly Fishers in Madison. The TU award is given at the TU State Council banquet in Oshkosh.

If you have a nomination for this award, please send a letter describing the qualifications to Larry Meicher at 5258 Salisbury Rd., Rio, WI 53960.

Gathering Waters conservation award nominations sought

Gathering Waters Conservancy is soliciting nominations to honor leaders in the private land conservation movement. They will recognize these individuals and groups at the organization's awards celebration September 25 in Madison.

To make a nomination, please fill in the form on the right. For multiple nominations, please fill out separate copies of the form.

All nominations must be post-marked by Wednesday, July 16.

Award categories

- Land Trust of the Year (\$1,000 award) — the land trust which has demonstrated leadership in protecting the natural resources of Wisconsin. Please specify if

the organization is volunteer or staffed.

- Conservationist of the Year — the individual who has shown a commitment to protecting the natural resources of Wisconsin through personal action.
- Policy Maker of the Year — the elected official who has demonstrated a commitment to protecting the natural resources of Wisconsin.

For more information about the awards program contact:

Beth Bier
Gathering Waters Conservancy
211 S. Paterson, Suite 270
Madison, WI 53703
(608) 251-9131

I would like to nominate an individual or organization for a Gathering Waters Conservancy Land Conservation Leadership Award. I will be contacted about the status of my nomination prior to the award presentation on September 25, 2003.

_____ Land Trust of the Year _____ Conservationist of the Year
£ Volunteer £ Staff _____ Policy Maker of the Year

Name of Nominee _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Person/Organization Submitting Nomination _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please include a brief description of the reasons for your nomination. Please limit your description to 1 page.

Please return this form to:
Gathering Waters Conservancy
211 S. Paterson St., Suite 270
Madison, WI 53703
Fax: (608) 663-5971 Or Email: bbier@gatheringwaters.org

Michigan UP citizens to meet July 26 on possible mine

A group of citizens in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan have set a meeting on July 26 at the Marinette High School to air concerns over a possible metallic mine along the Menominee River

In January, 2003, residents of an area in Upper Michigan along the Menominee

River and about 20 miles north of Marinette/Menominee became aware that a mining company was drilling throughout their area and right along the Michigan side of the Menominee River.

The residents became concerned because they had learned about the fight at Crandon over the years.

Several people from the Wisconsin fight were invited to talk to their small group about problems of mining in the Greenstone Belt. They learned that the company had

leased or bought up mineral rights in large areas north of Menominee, MI, and stretching westward into Marinette County in Wisconsin.

Concerned citizens in the area have scheduled a meeting for Saturday, July 26th at the Marinette High School Auditorium from 2-5 p.m. to discuss this issue with Native American communities, sport fishing groups, property owners, and people who recreate in the area.

Speakers from Wisconsin and Michigan will discuss problems associated with this type of mining development on the area's water resources.

Please be present or send representatives if you are concerned.

Contact Mary Nitkowski at menomineeriver@yahoo.com or (906) 753-4493 for more information.

Test drilling started in January along Menominee River.

TU, River Alliance release dam removal recommendations

Trout Unlimited and the River Alliance of Wisconsin have released the report *Restoring the Flow: Improving Selective Small Dam Removal Understanding and Practice in the Great Lakes States*. The report summarizes the dam removal policy and management recommendations of more than 40 river restoration experts from around the Great Lakes.



The report is the product of a unique gathering of resource professionals, conservationists, and academics with over 100 years of combined dam removal experience and involvement with more than 100 dam removals across the Great Lakes region.

These experts convened in 2001 for a small dam removal workshop and working meeting in Kohler, WI to share regional information, showcase several demonstration projects, and develop the recommendations detailed in this report.

Great Lakes removal expertise

"The Great Lakes region has been leading the nation in the removal of obsolete dams. This report captures some good thinking from the region's best and brightest on dam removal," said Laura Hewitt, director of watershed programs for Trout Unlimited National.

The recommendations in this report are intended to guide policies and initiatives and to improve the understanding and use of small dam removal as a fisheries and river restoration tool in the Great Lakes region.

Nationwide, more than 500 dams have been removed in the last cen-

tury, over half of these in the Great Lakes region alone. Selective small dam removal is recognized as one of the most effective and economical river restoration tools today.

Removals can be contentious

Dam removal can be a contentious issue within local communities, invoking concerns about economic impacts, public safety, and the loss of impoundments created by dams. While there is a wealth of dam removal experience in the Great Lakes region, there is a need to more effectively collect and share information, communicate, and inform affected communities about the potential benefits and impacts of small dam removal. This report is a first concrete step to begin meeting these needs.

"As we celebrate 2003 as Wisconsin's 'Year of Water,' it's a good time to take a hard look at whether our rivers can continue to withstand the cumulative damage of over 3,800 dams disrupting flows and altering habitat for fish and wildlife, especially if many of these dams no longer serve the purposes for which they were originally built," explains Helen Sarakinos, small dams program manager for the River Alliance of Wisconsin.

WI leads in dam removals

Wisconsin continues to lead the nation in removal of old, unsafe, and uneconomical dams from public waters, and recently made history with the Baraboo River dam removals. Four dams were removed, restoring the entire river — over 115 miles — to free-flowing and making this the largest river restoration through dam removal in US history.

More than 100 dams have been removed from Wisconsin waters in the last 50 years.

The *Restoring the Flow: Improving Selective Small Dam Removal Understanding and Practice in the Great Lakes States* report can be downloaded at TU's web site at www.tu.org/newsstand/library_pdfs/restoring.pdf.

For more information about dam removal in Wisconsin, contact Laura Hewitt at the Midwest Trout Unlimited office in Madison at (608) 250-3534 or Helen Sarakinos at the River Alliance of Wisconsin at (608) 257-2424.

Wisconsin TU scavenger hunt...



Do you have some of these old TU newsletters?

Wisconsin TU is engaged in a project to scan all back issues of council newsletters. We have all issues of *Wisconsin Trout* going back to the first one in the fall of 1989. We also have all issues of the earlier *Reflections* that was published from 1985-89.

What we need are quite a few of the council's first publication, the *WITU Quarterly Report*. Please check the table below for issues we still need (blank=needed). If you have some, contact Todd Hanson at (608) 268-1218 or twhanson@chorus.net.

Publication	Winter (Jan)	Spring (April)	Summer (July)	Fall (Oct)
<i>WITU Quarterly Report</i>				
1970				Have
1971		Have		
1972	Have	Have	Have	Have
1973	Have	Have	Have	Have
1974				
1975				
1976				Have
1977	Have			
1978				Have
1979	Have		Have	Have
1980			Have	Have
1981		Have	Have	
1982		Have	Have	Have
1983	Have	Have	Have	Have
1984	Have	Have	Have	
1985	Have			



Chapter News

Aldo Leopold Chapter

Spring has sprung in south-central Wisconsin! Like the tulips of spring, The Aldo Leopold Chapter, after a period of dormancy, is rising again. On March 28, the chapter held a meeting at which a new set of officers and a new board of directors was elected:

Mike Barniskis of Beaver Dam, president,

Mike Voelker of Columbus, vice-president, and

Jeremy Jongbloed of Beaver Dam, secretary/treasurer.

One of the exciting things was that out of the 10 attendees, only one had ever attended a previous chapter meeting. I think this points to the presence of a new group of active members within the chapter, a group we hope to expand in the future.

We held a second meeting on March 28, with four new attendees present. Our board was filled out, and we enjoyed a presentation from **Henry Haugley** on his recent fly fishing trip to Patagonia.

While the chapter membership is not large (around 75 members currently) a core group of 12-15 of us is dedicated to growing the chapter and expanding its activities. Right

now we are still very much in the organizing mode, and will be for much of this year. In the next year we hope to move into stream projects, educational activities, and new member outreach.

The chapter would like to take this opportunity to thank long-time member and past-president **Clint Byrnes** for all of his work for the chapter, not least of which was keeping the chapter going these last few years. Clint is a founding member of our chapter, and a 30-year TU member.

Our hope is that Clint will continue to offer us the benefit of his vast experience even while he enjoys his much earned retirement. To that end, Clint has been elected as a permanent representative to the State Council and will serve as our chapter historian.

Clint Byrnes and **Marlin Spindler** continue to install **CPR signs** at various locations around the state, most recently during a fishing trip through the Kickapoo valley. They make a point of always having a few in the trunk of the car, and if signs aren't present at an access point, they'll install one. This has been a multi-year effort for Clint



BLACKHAWK HELPS VERNON AND CRAWFORD TROUT STREAMS

Blackhawk Chapter President Dave Patrick (right) hands a check for \$5,000 to the WDNR's Dave Vetrano to help Vetrano's team on stream projects in Vernon and Crawford counties.

and Marlin, and we appreciate their work.

We've also been aided in our efforts by a lot of people, with the **Southern Chapter** earning special recognition. **Bill Pielsticker** and **Larry Meicher** have been generous with their time and advice; I don't know where we'd be without them.

We look forward to meeting and working with more TU members from around the state, and maintain high hopes that our chapter can once again become an active force in helping preserve our cold water resource.

—Mike Barniskis

Blackhawk Chapter

This year ranks as one of our most successful banquets. The money raised is being spent back into the streams. \$5,000 was donated to the work by the DNR. in **Vernon and Crawford county** streams. Nearly \$8,500 was earmarked for projects on the **West Fork**. Also \$1,500 has

been set aside for repairs of flood damage to old work.

At our May meeting we had a fly casting class to be followed in June by a program on streams of Green County and their needs by our local fish manager.

—Dave Patrick

Central Wisconsin Chapter

Central Wisconsin Trout Unlimited's **27th Annual Fly fishing School** was held May 30-June 1 at the **Nature's Edge Resort** near Waupaca. School Director **Dan Harmon III** was impressed with the quality, cooperation, and enthusiasm of the students and staff. Twenty-five students were involved in learning fly casting, reading the water, insect life cycles, selection of fly patterns, tackle selection, knot tying, etc.

The highlight of the weekend was the half-day one on one guiding experience for each student. Many students aught their first trout on flies.

Thanks go to instructors **Bob Hunt, Tom Poullette, Mark Brosseau, Rich Mlodzik, Jerry Strom, Dan Harmon III, Russ and Sue Bouck, Richard Osborn, and John Gremmer**. Anyone interested in next year's school should contact Dan Harmon III at danh3@ex-cpc.com or (920) 235-1761.

Our May 10 **1st Annual Trout Outing** was a success. Forty-six people participated in the event that was held at the **Mecan River Discovery Center** south of Wautoma. **Tom Young** of Waupaca and **Fox Valley TU** presented a program on fly casting, and then experienced fly fishers took the inexperienced out for a morning of fishing. Thanks go to **Jack Wahlers** for preparing and orchestrating the picnic lunch. So,

what did we accomplish? We introduced 25 people to TU and our beautiful Central Wisconsin trout streams. People learned about our mission and the fun that we have working on it. Plus, we all had a great time.

Workday Director **Rich Mlodzik** was delighted with the turnout for the April 26 session. Members installed CPR and DNR trout regulation signs as needed and performed area cleanup at the various access areas. Everyone met back at the starting site for a noon picnic.

Our June workdays will include a June 21 DNR electro-shock survey on the **Chaffee Creek** and a June 28 brushing session on the Chaffee. For more information about our workdays contact Rich at (920) 295-8772 or mjmrpm@dotnet.com.

Our longtime Treasurer **Ray Piehl**, of Wautoma, has announced that he will be spending more time in the south and would like to retire as financial chief. Ray has done an outstanding job and will be missed. Thanks, Ray, for all that you have done. The search is on for a replacement.

Our website guru, **Bob Haase**, has announced that our current website address of <http://www.dotnet.com/~fishfun1/CWTU.htm> will be changed to www.CWTU.org early in June. All of our newsletters, programs, activities, and schedules are

ALDER FORK JOURNAL

Newsletter of the Aldo Leopold Chapter of Trout Unlimited
Serving Columbia, Dodge, and Sauk Counties since 1982

Volume 1, Issue 1

May 2003

AWESOME Raffle to be held at June 26th Meeting in Portage!

Bill Brashear has put together a great set of raffle prizes for the Thursday, June 26th meeting, which will be held at the Ridge Motor Inn (located at the intersection of USH 51 and Northridge Drive, on the north side of Portage; tel: 608-742-5306) at 7:00 p.m. Some of the larger raffle items include flies tied by Henry Haugley and John Doucette; a copy of the recent edition of *A Sand County Almanac* by Aldo Leopold with photographs by Michael Sewell; a GL Loomis fly reel; and a day on the driftless area trout streams with Kevin Searock. The grand prize will be an heirloom quality BYRNESCRAFT Dry Fly Trout Net made by noted Beaver Dam angler and former ALCTU President Clint Byrnes.

Bill will certainly accept more donations to the raffle; e-mail Bill (blbrash@badgerinternet.com) to let him know how you can help us. You can't win unless you're there, so come on out to the June meeting and bring some friends along!

Conservation News

By Mike Barniskis

In this space I'll try to spread the word on legislation affecting our fishery, as well as events or groups with a similar approach to conservation as Trout Unlimited. In an effort to be brief, I'll mention only one group. The Aldo Leopold Foundation. Given that our chapter is named after Aldo, it seems appropriate to mention this foundation in our inaugural edition of *The Alder Fork Journal*. The foundation "strives to achieve Leopold's vision of a conservation ethic through programs in environmental education, land stewardship, and scientific research." Couldn't have said it better myself. Check out their website, www.aldoleopold.org, to learn more about their activities and upcoming events.

A few bills of note in the State Legislature:

AB-91 would prohibit the use of cyanide in mining in Wisconsin.
AB-30 would re-establish the appointment of the DNR Secretary by the Natural Resources Board.
AB-46 would re-establish the office of the Public Intervener.

Minutes of the April Meeting

The ALCTU met at the Ponderosa Restaurant in Beaver Dam at 7:00pm on Thursday, April 24th. After introductions, the first item of business was a call for any further nominees for the Board of Directors. Steve Hill and Kevin Searock were nominated, and then elected to the Board by voice vote. There was some discussion about volunteers for committees within the chapter, but it was agreed to continue these discussions at a later date. The Alder Fork Journal was formally adopted as the name for the Chapter newsletter on a voice vote. There was much discussion about streams in Columbia, Dodge, and Sauk Counties that should be considered for work projects. John Doucette suggested that Jennings Creek (Columbia Co.), especially since there is extensive public access to the stream. Mike Barniskis suggested that Rocky Run (Columbia Co.) would be worth looking into. Kevin Searock pointed out that Leech Creek (Sauk Co.) also has extensive public access and seems to have very few trout. Jeremy Jongbloed and Jack Saunders reminded Chapter members that one of our last work projects, on Crystal Creek

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AB-191 would require the DNR to disapprove the application for a high-capacity well or condition its approval to ensure that the waters of the state will be protected.

All of these bills will have a positive effect on our efforts to preserve our natural resources. I'll also mention that a call to the Governor supporting his stand on the Stewardship funding (he supports retaining the existing \$60 million/year level) is in order. Let him know we appreciate his support on this issue. On all of the bills above, call, write, or stop in to see, your Representative and Senator and let them know that we want these bills passed. Your action does matter.

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Aldo Leopold Chapter starts publishing member newsletter

The Aldo Leopold Chapter has begun publishing a chapter newsletter under the editorship of board member Kevin Searock of Baraboo. Kevin can be reached at:

S5583 Durwards Glen Rd.
Baraboo, WI, 53913
(608) 356-8519
ksearock@jvlnet.com

The *Alder Fork Journal* is also being converted to an electronic Acrobat Reader file by member Steve Hill, who owns Budgetprint of Watertown and has kindly donated his services to print the newsletter.

Chapter News



posted there. Also check out the picture galleries and links.

Program Director **John Feeney** has announced that we will have a full year of free-to-the-public programs again this year starting in September. Our first program will be presented by **Tim and Bart Landwehr** of **Tight Lines Fly Fishing Company** of De Pere.

Jerry Strom of Pickett is working on an environmental task force out

of Oshkosh that includes emphasis on nonpoint pollution. Our chapter is looking for someone who would like to head up a nonpoint pollution committee.

Our summer business meetings will be held June 9, July 14, and August 11 in Berlin. Call President Bob Chamberlain at 920-398-3721 for information on times, places, and agendas.

—*John Gremmer*

Green Bay Chapter

In spite of the economy and some not so hot weather, read ice storm, the Green Bay Chapter raised over \$18,000 a tour **27th Annual Conservation Banquet** in March. Since then, we have spent time deciding where to best place those funds to help our coldwater resources.

To date we have donated money to TU National, both for their **Shared Enterprise Fund** and for the **Coldwater Conservation Fund**. We have also aided in the stocking of rainbow trout in the **Lower Oconto River**. This helps provide a quality fishery in easy driving distance of Green Bay. We also hired a beaver trapper to work trout streams in Northeast Wisconsin on our behalf and donate money to the DNR for beaver control and to aid them in purchasing a backpack stream shocker to work on small trout streams.

Additionally, a donation was made to the **US Forest Service** for habitat work on streams in the **Nicolet National Forest**. The chapter also made donations to several other entities such as the **Kiap-Tu-Wish Chapter**, the **Cumberland Valley Chapter's Save The Letort Fund**, **The Friends of Wisconsin**, **The Oconto River Watershed Chapter** and others.

We also awarded the **Hank Bredael Memorial Scholarships** to area

students which allow them to attend conservation camps designed to make our young people more aware of our environment and the joys to be found in the outdoors.

The chapter staged its June picnic at the **Brown County Reforestation Camp** on the 6th. This event has proved to be wonderful way to involve new members in the affairs of the chapter and to bring together friends and spouses for a fine time.

We are also planning another active summer performing stream improvement on area trout streams. **Janet Smith**, work project chairperson, has scheduled five dates where we will work with both the DNR and Forest Service to make for better trout fishing.

We will also spend an evening sprucing up the **Walk Through Educational Trout Stream** at the **Reforestation Camp**.

Finally, the chapter will stage our **12th Annual Kid's Fishing Day** in August at the Reforestation Camp. Working with the **Green Bay Exchange Club** and the **Brown County Social Services PAL'S** program, chapter members **Lee Meyers** and **Pat Hill** arrange for disadvantaged kids to fish for bluegills stocked in the ponds and have snacks and beverages. The caught fish are cleaned and sent home with the kids.

—*Gary Stoychoff*

Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter

Our thanks to the banquet committee for all their hard work at this years banquet. Those that attended were treated to a very nice evening

with some great prizes. **Duke Welter** did a masterful job of bringing the message of Trout Unlimited and volunteerism to the audience. We



FFA STUDENTS BUILDING A NEW NOHR-MOBILE

A group of students from the Iowa-Grant FFA Chapter are helping the Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter build a new utility trailer. Assembling the frame are Andrew Campbell, Tyler Albers, and Jeff Speth. This same FFA group has also helped out with brushing projects and building lunger structures.

thank him very much for sharing the evening with us.

As this is being written **Dave Vetrano's** crew is working on **Big Spring Creek**. This project is unique for three reasons. First, the fact that Dave Vetrano is working south of the Wisconsin River is a milestone. One that we applaud, to be able to expand "best practices" beyond a limited area is a great outcome.

Second, the project is a result of cooperation between seven TU chapters — the **Southern** and **Blackhawk** from Wisconsin, and the **Elliot Donnelly**, **Lee Wolf**, **Gary Berger**, and **Oakbrook Chapters from Illinois** have offered support, labor or money toward this project.

Thirdly, the Big Spring project is a model project used as a part of a restoration workshop whose goal is to bring the SCS, NRCS, and DNR together as partners in future project work here in Southwest Wisconsin based on the model of cooperation that exists in Vernon County. Credit for these efforts must be given to **Gordon Stevenson**, **Bob Hansis**, and **Scott Stewart** from the DNR. We applaud and appreciate their leadership.

Plans are underway for a **Spring Creek Festival** to be held September 6 on the banks of **Castle Rock Creek**. The day will be devoted to fly fishing spring creeks and will be a fundraiser for future project work done in Southwest Wisconsin. For up to date information about the festival please check <http://spring-creekfest.tripod.com/>.

September will be a busy month, as we will also hold our **4th Annual Water Celebration**. This event culminates our citizen water monitoring season and is an opportunity for monitors to learn more about the coldwater resource. Our school grant recipients will also share things learned as a result of getting our grants. It's a great day and wonderful blend of young and old, plus good science for all ages.

Please check the chapter web site for the exact date and other details at <http://nohrchapter.tripod.com/>. Finally, our new officers include:

President, **Don Pluemer**
Vice Pres., **Barbara Ballard**
Secretary, **Jeff Ware**
Treasurer, **Mike Gingrich**
State Council rep, **Jeff Ware**

—*Dave Fritz*

Lakeshore Chapter

The **Onion River** in southwestern Sheboygan County and the Lakeshore Chapter of TU conducted a major stream restoration project on a portion of the Onion River from Cty. U upstream to **Winooski**. This

9-day session ran from June 20-29. **Roger Widner**, a river restoration contractor from the Coulee Region, was there, along with two other backhoe operators from the DNR.

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WHAT? THE NEW REGS SAY WE CAN KEEP 50 TROUT?

Central Wisconsin TU's April 26 workday consisted of installing CPR and DNR trout regulation signs and cleaning up around public access areas. Rich Mlodzik, workday chairman, demonstrates the proper way to install TU CPR and DNR trout regulation signs along the White River near Wautoma. Helping out (left to right) are Bob Chamberlain, Tom Poullette, Bob Haase, Tracy Moran, Dan Harmon III, Jim Danhauer, and Kristen Danhauer.



CENTRAL FLY FISHING SCHOOL

Pictured are some of the participants at the 27th Annual Central WI TU Fly Fishing School held May 30-June 1 at the Nature's Edge Resort south of Waupaca. The students had just finished their five-hour, one-on-one guided fly fishing experience. Pictured (left to right) are Paul Rosentreter of Wauconda, IL, guide Tom Young of Waupaca, Chris Whybrow of Wilmette, IL, and Ira Giese of Wautoma.



Chapter News

Continued from p. 11

Efforts undertaken included building at least 20 lunger structures, setting structures in the river,

clearing trees and brush, hauling materials, and planting and mulching.

—*Jerry Baumann*

Marinette County Chapter

Our chapter's 20th Annual Fund-raising Banquet was Monday, April 21, at **Schussler's Supper Club** in Peshtigo. It was a fun evening for everyone. All the bills are not in yet, but we should end up with a final net total of over \$16,000.

Our new officers include:

Steve Wilke, President

John Lemke, Vice President

John Lebeau, Sec.-Treas.

Our chapter thanks the many chapter members who work very hard at making this banquet the success that it is. They are: **Merrill Aderman, George Bereza, Jim Bereza, Patty Bereza, Jerry Chevalier, Charlie Dieckman, Donna Dieckman, Gerry Giese, Bernie Kowalski, Peter Kurtz, Dale Lange, Lloyd Lange,**

Lyle Lange, Dave Larson, John LeBeau, John Lemke, Marty Lund and Steve Wilke.

A big thank you also to the non-chapter members who help us. They are **Mitch Bent, Kelly Bereza, Donna Bergeson, Heather Larsen, Jenny Lazarski, Sharon Paitl, Leah Paulsen, Carma Tress and Sandy Walk.**

Jerry Chevalier has announced his intent to step back from banquet activities. The chapter owes him a very big debt of gratitude. Without his involvement in the early years, the whole banquet program would have folded. For all your insights, commitment, and hard work through all the years — **THANKS, JERRY.**

—*Jim Bereza*

Northwoods Chapter

What a fantastic banquet we had on April 29. We had 170 people attend, which is the largest turnout in several years. We raised approximately \$7,000 that will come in very handy funding projects. I can't say thanks enough to the volunteers that collected door prizes and organized this banquet. **Don Olcikas, Don Nelson, George Zichert, and Bill Kingsbury** collected the very demanding door prizes and did a great job. We had door prizes from businesses in Rhinelander, Minoc-

qua, Lake Tomahawk, Arbor Vitae, and Boulder Junction.

And finally, thanks to everyone that worked at the banquet — **Wayne Stevens, Brian Leitinger, Kevin Kelly, Tom and Nick Olcikas, John Kort, Al Brooks, and Victoria Houston. Bill Sherer** emceed the event and gave many fantastic fishing tips for the crowd.

The chapter held elections on May 15 and elected:

President, **Brian Hegge**

Vice Pres., **Victoria Houston**



OCOCH MEMBERS UPDATING REGULATION SIGNS

Nick Berres (left) and Jim Kaderavek lend a hand posting new regulation signs near Richland Center. The WDNR reduced the number of regulation categories for the 2003 trout season, so many signs were changed across the state.

Treasurer, **Brian Leitinger**

Board members include **Jon Kort** and **Wayne Stevens**. Thanks also to outgoing board member **Kevin Kelley** for his involvement with the chapter this past year. **Jon Kort** has also volunteered to be our webmaster and we all look forward to his new design.

We have the following events scheduled for this summer:

August 9, 2003 — Stream work-day on Bearskin River. We will be installing brush bundles or possibly habitat covers on the stretch below **Lakewood Road**. Work starts at 8:00 a.m. and finishes at Noon with a picnic afterwards. Call **Brian Leitinger** at (715) 282-7318 for more details.

July 12, 2003 — The 10th Annual Youth Fly Fishing Conclave. This is our chapter-sponsored free fly fishing event for boys and girls ages 10-16. Learn how to cast a fly rod and tie a fly. FFF fly casting instructors, great prizes, and just a great day to learn the basics about this method of catching fish. The location of this event is the **North Lakeland Discov-**

ery Center in Manitowish Waters. Call **Terry Cummings** at (715) 362-2187 for details.

June-July — Tour of the Brule Creek Dam Removal Project. The chapter funded the **US Forest Service** removal of an old logging dam on **Brule Creek**. As part of that removal, a small dredge will be used on the pool below to remove all the loon shit. We do not have a definite date, so if you want to go, send me your e-mail address and I will let you know when it happens. For those of you without e-mail, give me your phone number. I would prefer a mass announcement by e-mail if possible.

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

—*Brian Hegge*

Ocooch Creeks

Chapter members were busy assisting the WDNR with posting of new Category 5 regulation signs and the removal of obsolete signs on **Richland County** streams prior to the start of the regular season.

At the May meeting, the chapter endorsed a plan to assist local land-

owners who have requested help with stream improvement projects. The group will also assist a **Richland Center Eagle Scout** candidate with his planned habitat improvement project. Plans for a fall fund-raising raffle are in progress.

—*Allon Bostwick*

Shaw-Paca Chapter

Recently the Shaw-Paca Chapter donated \$1,000 to the Wisconsin DNR for habitat work in the La Crosse area.

We also donated toward a fund to send students from Shawano's Lincoln School to the **Timbertop Summer Camp** near Stevens Point. We also sponsored two students to the **Central Wisconsin Environmental Station** for the one-week **Careers in Natural Resources Camp**.

Beyond that, the banquet went well, although ticket sales and net profits were down somewhat. We also held a fly casting instruction session in place of our regular May meeting. **Peter Marquardt** of **Latitude North Orvis Shop** in Green Bay brought several fly casting systems for our temporary use. Afterward, all participants enjoyed lunch and refreshments.

—*Lee Kersten*

Wild Rivers Chapter

In April, the Wild River Chapter held our first **Fishing Expo and Auction**. The event was an overwhelming success. With a chili supper, bucket raffles, and live auction of donated angling "stuff," we were able take in a little over \$7,000. **Dr. Sausage (Larry Meicher)** and **Duke Welter** "acted" as our auctioneers and did a wonderful job. We also had about 12 area agencies and outdoor group set up tables and inform attendees of their activities.

The money from this event will be used for our **White River** projects including purchasing more temperature monitors, paying for some of the shocking expenses of the WDNR, and donating a water monitoring kit to the **Bad River Watershed Association**. We are planning to do another event next year.

Also in April, we had a slide show and talk by **Tom Andersen** on tackle and strategies for smallmouth bass with a fly rod. Tom always does a great job and the program was well attended.

WDNR Fish Manager **Scott Toshner** was at our May meeting discussing the shocking that was to be done on the **White River**. We set up four one-mile-long stations, one on the **Long Branch** and three on the main **White** in the **Bibon**

Swamp. We then used two boats with boom shockers to shock these stations twice on two different days.

The Long Branch was very disappointing, with very few trout recorded, although we did have some problems with the boom shockers. The main branch of the White was more encouraging. There seemed to be larger numbers of small fish from 4-9" than I expected. The largest brown recorded was 23" and quite a few over 17".

The numbers seem to be down from the last survey taken in the 1980s, but all of the results have not been tabulated. Chapter members **Chuck Campbell** and **Bill Heart** assisted with much of the shocking. The crew did shock a number of northern pike in each of the stations with the largest pike being 42".

Speaking of pike, we held our second annual **Whack-a-Northern Day** on May 31. It was a pretty bad fishing day with northeast winds, but we did manage to whack three northers, with the largest being 35" and weighting 10 lbs. The eight fishers then met at **Jeff Carlson's house** and our chapter chef, **John Casper-son**, fried up all of the filets. There was talk of how much these northers tasted like trout!

—*Bill Heart*

Back in Wisconsin: Steve Born reflects

By Steve Born

In September, 2002, I came “back home” — for the first time in a decade I was no longer officially involved in Trout Unlimited national affairs.

I remember the first national TU meeting I attended in Sun River, Oregon. Dick Wachowski and Rick Penn — both Wisconsin TU leaders and national directors — were my instructors regarding what was going on. It was not easy for a neophyte in such matters to see the disarray afflicting national in those days, but it became evident that the national Board was oversized, its mission and programs were poorly focused, and budgetary chaos was looming.

The National Board took action, initiating a strategic review of TU's functioning and ultimately hiring Charles Gauvin as president and CEO. It was my good fortune to be involved with National TU as Charles assembled a new management team and the Board provided great leadership in righting our troubled ship. TU reorganized at the national level, downsizing the Board of Trustees and establishing a grassroots National Resources Board to develop and help implement, working closely with staff, the National Conservation Agenda.

Early chapter involvement

Not so many years ago, like so many Wisconsin TUers, I was minding my own business in a chapter fly-tying class (taught by Dr. Sausage, — aka “The Pass Lake Kid”), when our chapter leadership persuaded me to become banquet chair. A few years later, spurred on by my predecessors, I became chapter president for four years, and soon thereafter State Council chair for four more.



CENTRAL WISCONSIN CHAPTER'S TROUT OUTING

Central Wisconsin's May 10th Trout Outing involved 40 people at the Mekan River Discovery Center near where Chaffee Creek dumps into the Mekan River south of Wautoma. The event introduced people of all ages to TU's mission, the Central WI Chapter, and the area's beautiful trout streams.

Along the way, I went from being a regional Council representative to the Great Lakes Region, where we tried to bring our major issues (such as Exxon's Wolf River mining plan) before the National Resources Board, to Regional Vice-President and NRB member.

Soon thereafter I became Secretary of the NRB and a member of the Board of Trustees' Executive

Committee, and within two years I was Chair of the NRB. I welcomed the opportunity to work with TU volunteers across the U.S. and what had become a truly amazing national conservation staff in shaping future directions for TU.

One of the most rewarding aspects of this work was building friendships with committed staff members like Steve Moyer, Kenny Mendez, and Whit Fosburgh, plus working with volunteer leaders like Colorado's Dave Taylor, South Carolina's Ray Mortenson (the namesake of TU National's highest volunteer leadership award), North Carolina's Kirk Otey (my very able and enthusiastic successor) and many others.

In the most stressful of TU times — and there were such occasions —

I only had to remind myself “it's the people, stupid!” In fact, my mantra at every level of TU that I've been associated with has always been that caring and committed people are our most valuable resource.

With terrific leadership from the national staff — and several key Trustees — TU flourished as membership grew dramatically, our budgets became businesslike, and several program initiatives (Western water, dam removals and river restoration, native fish, water quality, Home Rivers, TUTV, our web site, and many more) were successfully carried out.

Planning for change

While nobody joins TU to participate in financial and strategic planning, we could never have accomplished what we have done without a five-year cycle of strategic plans that guided Trout Unlimited. It was in the 1997-2002 strategic planning cycle that we began to really focus on organizational development (along with our many resource conservation programs) in an effort to strengthen our councils and chapters and capitalize on the combined resources and muscle of our grassroots and national capabilities.

The recent successful training here in Wisconsin by national staff to prepare volunteers to address polluted runoff issues is just one tangible outcome of working together collaboratively. As Charles noted in the Winter 2003 edition of *Trout*, we have seen the upside and downside of having separately emphasized grassroots development in the 1980s and national organizational growth in the 1990s; we now know that if we want to succeed in our mission, instead of choosing one way or the other, we must emphasize both.

National Leadership Council

That is what drove the national reorganization of TU, which was spawned in the final two years of my tenure as NRB Chair and is now underway. The centerpiece of the newly adopted changes includes the evolution of the NRB into a National Leadership Council and continuing efforts to strengthen state councils and foster collaborative conservation efforts.

Having watched our current State Council Chair Jon Christianson so capably explain national activities and budgets at Council meetings, demonstrating a genuine understanding of the inter-relationships and synergy between National TU and the grassroots (too often to some skeptical members overly worried about mailing label problems

and “what's-national-ever-done-for-us” rhetoric), I was very pleased to see him assume a major role in the just-started next round of national-level strategic planning.

I'm probably parochial, but what a splendid contribution Wisconsin folks have made to TU's coldwater stewardship efforts, helping to build the foundation for the next several years of TU programming across the country! Sara Johnson, Laura Hewitt, and other TU National Midwest office staffers have contributed mightily.

Wisconsin leadership

Wisconsin leadership over the years — from Trustee Dave Beckwith to volunteer leaders of the caliber of Duke Welter, Bill Sherer, Jon Christianson, and many others — has played a key role. Innovative programs like CPR, dam removal, and Trout Stamp funding for habitat work were launched here. The Kickapoo Home Rivers project, working with wonderful local TU and community volunteer support, was an early exemplar of community-based coldwater conservation.

And while we have had our internal issues from time to time, the Wisconsin State Council has been a national model in many ways as it took on major conservation issues in the badger state and beyond (coaster brook trout restoration, mining, Perrier and groundwater management, polluted runoff rules, “Friends of Wisconsin Trout” projects, and so much more).

Having watched the ebb and flow over the years of state councils across the US, I am so proud of the sustaining quality and functioning of our Wisconsin council.

I'm back in my home chapter these days, watching emerging new leaders continue the good work. Clearly one of the keys to TU's future is to continue to grow and develop new (and younger!) leaders who are committed to our environmental values and have the skills and support to lead the coldwater conservation effort.

As I think about the unstinting efforts and caring for trout and conservation exemplified over long periods of time by the likes of Dan Flaherty, Herb Buettner, Herb Hintze, and so many others — and legendary and passionate TUers young and old like Jeff Carlson and Nash Williams whose seasons have ended — I head out to the stream confident that future generations of trout fishers and other lovers of the outdoors will benefit from our stewardship. Now, where's that box of blue-wing olives?

...the Wisconsin State Council has been a national model in many ways as it took on major conservation issues...



BOUGHT A LOT OF TICKETS? OR WAS THE FIX IN?

Northwoods Chapter President Brian Hegge is pumped to learn he won a pontoon boat at the chapter's banquet this spring.



PRESIDENT COOLIDGE AT THE "SUMMER WHITE HOUSE"

This famous 1928 photo captures President Calvin Coolidge fly fishing near the Cedar Island Lodge on the Bois Brule. The lodge was later dubbed "The

Summer White House" because of the amount of time Coolidge spent there. Guiding Coolidge is a very dapper John LaRock.

Special *Wisconsin Trout* Bois Brule section

Featuring:



Steve Born, Jeff Mayers, Andy Morton, and Bill Sonzogni from *Exploring Wisconsin Trout Streams*,



John Motoviloff from the just-released *Fly Fisher's Guide to Wisconsin*, and



Jeremy Hecht reporting on the newly adopted *Brule River State Forest Plan*.

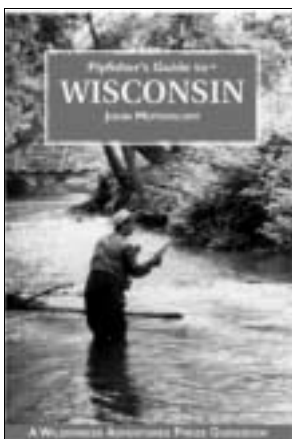
The Bois Brule: the best for good reason

By John Motoviloff

If you can't be happy trout fishing on the 44 miles of Wisconsin's Bois Brule River, you might as well give up the sport of fly fishing, because this river offers just about every kind of trout fishing experience an angler could ask for. Do you like tangling with big, wild Lake Superior steelhead and salmon? The lower sections of the Bois Brule offers some of the finest fishing for anadromous trout and salmon in the state. If you like pursuing wild brook trout in a remote setting, fishing small flies in clear water over a sandy bottom, you'll find that on the upper Brule. And if hatches are your thing, the Brule boasts everything from tiny Blue-Winged Olives to Giant Michigan Mayflies. And the Brule has tackle-busting browns, too, in the widening of the river known as Lucius Lake.

History buffs will delight in knowing that it has been an Ojibway, voyageur, and logger route between Lake Superior and the Mississippi River via the St. Croix

River. Ulysses S. Grant, Grover Cleveland, Herbert Hoover, Calvin Coolidge, and Dwight Eisenhower have all wet lines here.



In a far-sighted act of conservation, the state acquired some 50,000 acres of land along the river to form Brule River State Forest. Thus, anglers, paddlers, hunters, and wildlife enthusiasts will be able to enjoy the river's beauty and bounty for generations to come. Continuing the legacy of conservation, the DNR and Brule River Sportsman's Club continues to improve spawning redds by re-

moving silt and adding gravel. Gravel in the upper portions of the Brule, where smaller resident trout spawn, is pea-sized. Gravel in the lower portion of the Brule, where larger lake-run trout and salmon spawn, is golf ball-sized.

Two-tiered river

From an angling perspective, the Brule might be described as a two-tier fishery. Below Highway 2 the fishery is mainly for lake-run trout and salmon. Above Highway 2 the

river holds wild resident brook, brown, and rainbow trout. Highway 2 also serves as a rough line of geographic demarcation, according to Ron Johnson who owns and operates nearby Iron River Trout Haus. North of Highway 2, which basically encompasses the Bayfield Peninsula, soils are heavy red clay. South of Highway 2, the sandy loam of northern Wisconsin predominates.

It is not a coincidence that resident trout thrive above Highway 2, and this is only enhanced by the cold tributaries above the highway. But equally important is the fact that clay soil has bad effects on trout water. Especially during periods of heavy rain, it washes into the river and causes siltation, lowering the oxygen content and causing the water to warm. As can be seen in streams fed by the Central Sands Aquifer (like the Mecan), water seepage through sand is usually clear and cold.

Not only are the upper reaches of the Brule fed by cold tributaries, they are home to a wide variety of aquatic foods. Hatches here in the far northwest corner of the state occur about two weeks later than they do farther south. In fact, anglers sometimes find the mouth of the Brule River ice-choked on opening

day and spend the day picking ice from the guides on their fly rods. In other years they shed mackinaws and down vests and strip down to T-shirts in 80-degree heat.

The hatches

Stoneflies and caddis start hatching in April. While the river is technically open during the early March and April season, few anglers venture forth. March 21 may mark spring on the calendar, but it's likely to see two feet of snow and sub-freezing temperatures in Brule River country. Still, by the time the regular trout season opens on the first Saturday in May, caddis will still be active and there's a fair chance you'll see a stonefly or two. If there are no visible stonefly hatches, don't rule out stonefly nymphs, as they are common, particularly in rocky sections of the middle and lower Brule. Brule mayfly hatches, according to area fly tier Dick Berge, begin with Blue-Winged Olives and Hendricksons, which continue roughly into mid-May. Berge was careful to talk about all these hatches with the caveat "if the weather is right," meaning highs in 50s around opening day. Spring cold snaps can set hatches back, and heat spells can accelerate them.

Continued on p. 15

The storied Bois Brule River

By Steve Born, Jeff Mayers,
Andy Morton, and Bill Sonzogni

When we left the river the whip-poor-wills were in full cry, their repetitious yet haunting song casting a surreal mood over us as we walked up the path to the road. It was a little past 10 PM, and the intense starlight was enough to brighten the sky. Aurora borealis, the wonder of nature called the Northern Lights, was beginning to perform its night-time dance on the horizon. As we made our way up the trail and into a stand of balsam fir and spruce, we savored the refreshing aroma of these evergreens. The smell lingered with us for a few brief moments and then was gone — either the slight breeze carried the scent away or our senses had become accustomed to its barely dis-

cernible presence. Our reverent mood brought to mind what Gordon MacQuarrie said about the Bois Brule in *When the White-Throats Sing*, "Men who know me well...will tell you that I practically fall apart spiritually once I am within earshot of the Brule."

It had been a memorable evening on the Bois Brule — one that left us content and grateful for just being alive to take in the total experience of the river. We were very quiet as we continued up the path, each of us pondering the mystery of our shared experience. The quiet wouldn't continue; how could we keep silent about the excellent fishing we had just left in that wide part of the Bois Brule known as Big Lake?

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BRULE: considered the best for good reason

Continued from p. 14

Toward the middle and latter part of May, Hendricksons begin to hatch. Typically, they will be active until early June. While matching the hatch is great when there is a visible hatch, spinner, emergers, and nymphs should not be neglected at other times.

Brown Drakes typically come off around the second or third week in June and stick around until early July. This is Hex time on the Brule, and browns cast off their selective trout PhD's for a week of wanton carnage. If you find yourself in Brule Country during Hex time but can only fish during the day, by all means tie on a Hex nymph or emerger — even a strip leech. The flies that hatch at night have to come from somewhere, right? This is a neglected opportunity during the Hex and other hatches.

If you had to pick a date by the calendar to fish the Hex hatch on the Brule you wouldn't go too far wrong with the Fourth of July. You may be left wondering, was that a firework from the town of Brule or a five-pound brown slapping down in the water? Don't look for the Hex on the lower Brule, where red clay soils are not attractive to the nymphal stage of this mayfly. Instead, fish above Highway 2 over rock or sand bottom. Highway S is a good place to try nighttime Hex fishing, provided you've scouted out the area you plan to fish while there's still daylight.

During mid and late July, look for tan caddis and the smaller Blue-Winged Olives. You'll find Tricos hatching on the Brule throughout August and September. Terrestrial fishing on the Brule can be terrific. Crickets, green hoppers, ants falling from riverside tree limbs, Asian beetles, even moths make up this rich mix. There is nothing like a big, twitching hopper imitation to rouse an indolent brown from the dol-drum.

Late summer and early fall are pleasant times for floating rivers like the Brule. Look for long glides or water surrounded by meadow cover and float a Parachute Hopper tight to the bank. Big trout are taken every year on minnow and crawfish imitations. These are good flies to drift around obstructions like rocks and deadfalls, where larger trout are wont to hide.

Tactics for taking Brule steelhead, browns, and salmon differ little from fishing other Great Lakes tributaries. However, anglers should not hesitate to throw a nymph or minnow imitation at these fish. Spawning and over-wintering habitat — not to mention food supplies — on the Brule are among the best on the Great Lakes. Fish tend to enter the river a bit earlier and stay a

bit later because the digs are so good. Skamania strain steelhead and lake-run browns begin to enter to the river in early fall. (Again, as water temperatures are suitable for trout reproduction, they may be in the river earlier than they would be farther south.) Coho and Chinook salmon are also fall spawners, entering the river in September and October. Of an October afternoon, an angler might do battle with any or all of these species and still have time to hunt grouse in the aspens of Brule River State Forest.

Spring runs of steelhead begin as early as there is passage up the river mouth from the lake. The season framework is meant to allow angler the opportunity to take advantage of these runs without endangering spawning fish. Thus the season is open from March 30 through the first Saturday in May and then again from October 1 to November 15. Egg flies are always good choices for Great Lakes salmon and steelhead. Big nymphs or strip leeches are also a safe bet. Leave the 5-weight trout stream rod back in the motel and fish an 8-weight equipped with sinking line and a good amount of backing.

The Brule begins below the outlet of Upper St. Croix near the town of Solon Springs as a boggy brook trout stream. From the headwaters to the Highway S bridge, a distance of roughly six miles, the river is swampy and fed by numerous springs. This is a good area to fish for wild brook trout, and occasionally larger browns seeking cooler water later in the season. Highway S is the first access point to the river. Given its swampy margins, you'll probably want to float this stretch by putting in at S.

Five miles below S, you will encounter a series of natural lakes (Big Lake and then Lucius Lake) preceded by rapids. Resident browns and rainbows displace brook trout in this stretch. The next road crossing is Highway B at Winneboujou, six miles downstream from Big Lake. Look for fast pocket water from Highway B to Highway 2 at Brule, a distance of four miles. This stretch is more conducive to wading. Downstream from Highway 2, you will encounter a slower, grassy section known as The Meadows, a good area to fish during terrestrial time. Fast freestone water resumes after the Copper Range campground off Highway H and continues for the next 10 miles to the river mouth. Red clay soil is another notable characteristic of this stretch of the Brule.

While the last 10 miles support good runs of anadromous trout and salmon, there's too much silt and too little oxygen for resident fish to

reproduce here in any numbers. Below Highway 2, access to the river is at Copper Range Campground, the Highway FF bridge, the Highway 13 bridge, and along Brule River Road. Highway H and Highway 13 parallel the east shore of the river. Clevedon Road parallels the west shore.

(John Motoviloff's work appears in Gray's Sporting Journal, Ducks Unlimited, Sporting Tales, and other publications. In 2001, he published Driftless Stories, a collection of outdoor essays about Southwest Wisconsin. With his wife Kerry, his daughter Anne, and Labrador retriever Tasha, he splits his time between home in Madison, Wisconsin, and a dacha on the banks of the Kickapoo River. His latest book, Fly Fisher's Guide to Wisconsin, is published by Wilderness Adventure Press. -Ed)

When you visit

Regulations: Between Highway B and Highway S, category 5 (artificial only; 3 trout and salmon, only 2 of which may be brown trout and only one of which may be a rainbow trout; brook trout 10 inches and longer, brown trout 15 inches and longer; salmon 12 inches and longer; rainbow trout 26 inches and longer); all other portions, category 5 (5 trout and salmon may be kept, only 2 of which may be brown trout larger than 15 inches and only 1 of which may be a rainbow trout; brook trout 8 inches or longer, brown trout 10 inches and longer, salmon 12 inches and longer, rainbow trout 26 inches and longer)

Miles of trout water: 30

River miles: Headwaters to Lucius Lake, 6 miles; to Cty B/Winneboujou, 9 miles; Highway 2, 12.5 miles; mouth of Brule/Lake Superior, 30 miles


Stream Characteristics: Sand-bottomed and spring-fed in upper third (brook trout the main species); natural lakes and freestone water in middle third (resident browns and rainbows); mainly fast freestone water below Highway 2 (good steelhead, lake-run brown and salmon fishery)




Fly Shops: Anglers All (Ashland), Brule River Classics (Brule)



Maps: Wisconsin Atlas and Gazetteer, pages 93, 101

— John Motoviloff

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STORIED BRULE: famous fishers, fabled fishery

Continued from p. 15

Several areas of the large pool were dotted with the rings of rising fish. We had caught and released a number of very nice Brule trout. We couldn't help wonder if Calvin Coolidge had the same experience during his sojourn on the Bois Brule, back in the days when a president of the United States could spend the summer working out of a residence on the banks of a trout river.

The setting

The Bois Brule is Wisconsin's most famous river, and there are many reasons for its fame. It was first a prominent transportation route, used by the Indians and then European voyagers in their travel between Lake Superior and the Mississippi River drainage. The first tourists were the Ojibwa Indians (usually referred to as the Chippewas today), who came to Superior country hundreds of years ago from the St. Lawrence River valley, searching for better hunting grounds. Then came the French, looking for fur and potential converts to Catholicism. Some historians speculate that Etienne Brule may have been the first white man to visit the region, probably in the early 1620's. But the Bois Brule isn't named for him; *bois brule* means "burned wood" in French, and the river was so named because of the many lightning-sparked fires that marked the valley.

Other historians say the first white man in the region was Pierre Esprit Radisson, who is said to have spent the winter of 1659-60 in the company of the Lac Courte Oreilles Chippewas, near present-day Hayward. Still others say the first European visitor was French officer Daniel Greysolon, Sieur Du Lhut, a title which became the name for the settlement we call Duluth. He made peace between the Chippewas and

the Sioux in 1679, and then traveled to the Mississippi River valley via the water route — the Bois Brule to the St. Croix to the Mississippi. These and other explorers found that the Indians knew what they were talking about when they sometimes referred to the headwater of the Bois Brule as "Moschettoe country." A British explorer, Jonathan Carver, wrote: "I never saw or felt so many of those insects in my life."

While the explorers did not come for the fishing, many people have since. A wagon trail in the 1850s from St. Paul to Bayfield allowed people to discover the outstanding brook trout fishery of the river. In the late 1800s several more wagon trails provided access to the river; and finally, two railroad lines were built between Bayfield and Duluth, hastening the influx of people. Legions of anglers came on the railroads to fish for the coaster brook trout, even as it was on the decline because of aggressive timber cutting and overfishing. The coaster — a beautifully colored speckled trout commonly weighing 4 to 5 pounds — spends some of its life in Lake Superior, and some in the coldwater tributaries where it spawns. Fishermen each year ganged up on the fish as they prepared to run up the Bois Brule and other Lake Superior tributaries to spawn. One state conservation commissioner reported that in 1894 a single fisherman shipped more than 2,700 trout he had caught on the Bois Brule to three Superior restaurants.

"Years ago the decrease was noticed, but nevertheless the pools were visited by anglers in greater numbers than before, some fishermen taking in a single day a hundred pounds of sluggish and inactive fish, and often salting down the surplus for winter use," wrote George Shiras III for the National Geo-

graphic Society, in a report believed to have been written in 1927. Shiras made a plea to stop the killing of these spawning fish, for "it is the same as killing a bird on the nest." Shiras said that according to records covering 65 years, the largest speckled trout taken on the south shore of Lake Superior before 1890 weighed 5.25 pounds; a much larger number varied from 4 to 5 pounds; and the minimum weight was about a pound. "Including the indentations, the shore line of Lake Superior totals about 1,000 miles, and in former years speckled trout could be found around all the rocky points, reefs, and gravel and boulder beds. Today the story is a different one, for they have become relatively few in numbers and are much scattered."

Timbering was also a problem. In 1890 the timber harvesting began in earnest in the river valley, and most of the virgin timber was cut. The river was hurt by the installation of splash dams and by the actual movement of the logs down the river. The flooding and scouring of the river bed and the siltation caused by stripping the forest cover severely limited the migration of the coasters. It is ironic that at the same time the heavy logging was taking place, the river was becoming well known as a trout stream and as a place to build fashionable summer cottages. The last real runs of coaster brookies in the Bois Brule ended about 1940, but by then the Bois Brule's reputation as a great fishery was fixed in angler's minds. Smaller brookies still inhabited the far upstream portion of the river, as they had for eons; and later, introduced species, such as the steelhead, revived an annual migration run of trout. Native remnant populations of the coaster brookie remain elsewhere in Lake Superior, and researchers are trying to nurture the coaster back to a fishable population.

It was about the turn of the century that the elite made the Brule its playground. The Winnebougou Club, a group of wealthy Midwesterners from Milwaukee and St. Paul who joined in a landowners' association, was established, and the first buildings at the Cedar Island estate were erected. The estate, located on a Bois Brule island in the upper river, began as the personal hunting retreat of Frank J. Bowman, a notorious poacher, gambler, and lawyer from St. Louis. After Bowman died, the island was owned by Henry Clay Pierce, an associate of Bowman's who also hailed from St. Louis. Under Pierce's direction, the estate grew into the showplace it is today. It was at this time that Cedar Island saw the building of its own commercial fish hatchery (in its heyday, the estate had barns for livestock, its own power plant, and even a zoo). The spring ponds on the estate, which formed the basis for the hatchery, were cut off from the main river in 1905, contributing to the decline of the brook trout population. However, Cedar Island brook trout fry were shipped all over the country, and full-grown trout were sold to the Duluth hotels and restaurants.

The Bois Brule and the Cedar Island estate became known to the nation when Calvin Coolidge was the guest of Pierce in the summer of 1928 and the estate was referred to as the "summer White House." The president set up an office in a Superior school building, but he spent a lot of his time relaxing on the Bois

Brule. He took to the local customs, apparently. President Coolidge, according to a Duluth newspaper report, "has foresworn his customary fish bait by disdaining worms and using flies during his angling expeditions from the summer White House." Not all locals were enthralled with the Washington celebrity, who brought with him 60 soldiers, 14 servants and 10 Secret Service agents. Of course, the national press — about seventy-five in number — were in tow. One fisherman wrote that when he learned of "the threat to our traditional Brule peace and solitude" he took his family out of town. He also wrote that the local guides reported Coolidge's "predilection for the 'Barnyard Hackle' or 'Hum Dinger,'" as the lowly angle worm was called locally. Herbert Hoover, a fly fisher, later wrote of his predecessor: "Being a fundamentalist in religion, economics, and fishing, [Coolidge] began his fish career for common trout with worms. Ten million fly-fishermen at once evidenced disturbed minds. Then Mr. Coolidge took to a fly. He gave the Secret Service guards great excitement in dodging his backcast and rescuing flies from trees. There were many photographs. Soon after that he declared he did not choose to run again."

The Brule's management history

The Bois Brule originates on a high ridge in an area of conifer bogs known as the pine barrens, a large sandy glacial outwash plain. From there, the river twists and falls nearly 50 miles down the Superior escarpment to Lake Superior, a 420-foot drop in elevation. These geologic features have created an infiltration area responsible for providing the uniform spring flow that enters the upper part of the river, ensuring cool, stable flows throughout the year. This spring flow, with its moderating influence on the temperature, helps keep the river free of ice in the winter and improves spawning success. Preservation of this spring flow is essential, and that's why many say the greatest conservation event in Brule history was a lumber baron's gift. The Brule River State Forest was created in 1907 when the Weyerhaeuser family donated 4,320 acres of land to the state; the gift was conditioned on the state's banning dams on the Brule. Expansion over the years has brought public ownership in the forest to 40,000 acres. Today this state forest protects the riparian corridor of the Bois Brule.

River lovers have kept the Bois Brule a treasure. One of the most prominent preservationists in the Bois Brule's history is Joe Lucius, a guide and the inventor of the Brule River boat. This craft, which resembled a canoe with a square stern, was built in lengths up to 24 feet and had a live well and sliding seats for better weight distribution. It was more likely to be poled than paddled. In 1887, Joe first guided a party for a ten-day fishing trip. As testament to his importance in the history of the Bois Brule, one of its lakes is named after him. Lucius left the Bois Brule in 1911 to work in the state's forestry service, where he left his mark with the construction of the steel forestry towers still found in the state today, the first nursery, and many "log cabin" ranger stations throughout the state.

Continued on p. 17





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BRULE FOREST: new plan 'good for trout'

Continued from p. 1

Controlling runoff rates

Pratt is especially pleased with the emphasis in the master plan on controlling runoff rates into the Brule and its tributaries. Roughly 45 percent of the river's watershed lies within the state forest.

Quick runoff is primarily a problem in the state forest north of County FF, according to Pratt. This area is part of the Southern Lake Superior Clay Belt Region. These clay soils are far less permeable than the sandy soils throughout the rest of the state forest and can hasten the rate snowmelt and rain runs off into streams.

"The biggest problem for the fishery in this part of the state forest is not so much what is in the runoff, but too much of it at once," says Pratt. "Real simply, anything you can do to reduce peak runoff rates improves the watershed and protects the fishery. This master plan strongly embraces the understanding that the forest protects the watershed and the watershed protects the fishery," he added.

Increased forest cover

To help slow runoff rates into the Brule and its tributaries, the master plan stipulates that at least 40 percent of the forest cover in any watershed within the state forest be older than 15 years. This figure comes from research by Sandy Verry, a forest hydrologist with the U.S. Forest Service in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Verry is highly regarded in his field, says Steve Peterson, the Brule River State Forest Superintendent.

Verry measured the peak springtime runoff rate in several watersheds in a section of the Southern Lake Superior Clay Belt in Minnesota. He found that runoff was similar in watersheds with no more than 60 percent of their areas covered by either open forest, forest 15 years old or younger, or a combination of both. Once that figure exceeded 60 percent, however, Verry found that the runoff rate shot upward.

Looking beyond the boundary

This guideline — keeping at least 40 percent of a watershed covered by forest older than 15 years — applies to entire watersheds. Consequently, the master plan requires that the DNR consider what is happening in portions of wa-

tersheds that extend beyond the state forest boundary.

Most of the clay plain region of the state forest is surrounded by farmland. The state therefore can do very little cutting there, says Peterson, to abide by the guideline. No more than one percent of the clay plain area of the state forest can be exposed soil at any one time, according to the master plan.

Wider protected zones

The new master plan widens the protected riparian zone on each side of the Brule and its tributaries throughout the state forest from 400 feet to an average of 1,400 feet. The zone now extends to the slopecrest along the river and tributaries, says Peterson. The previous width was adequate, he says, but the DNR and public wanted to go an extra step.

As stated in the plan, widening the zone will:

- promote the growth of conifer cover in riparian forests,
- improve water quality, and
- allow more large woody debris to fall into streams.

Large woody debris increases cover and pools for trout and boosts aquatic insect production.

Biomonitoring to gauge health

Water quality has been and remains excellent in the Brule and its tributaries in the state forest, according to Pratt. Nevertheless, the master plan calls for the DNR to begin using biomonitoring to stay abreast of water quality in the state forest.

Instead of periodically measuring the levels of water chemicals in the Brule and tributaries, aquatic arthropods will be collected in the river and certain tributaries every three years to evaluate water quality using a method known as "The Hilsenhoff Biotic Index."

The index assigns a score from zero to 10 to species of aquatic arthropods based on their known tolerances to various amounts of organic pollution. An average score is calculated for a site to classify its water quality and suspected degree of organic pollution.

Samples collected in the Brule and tributaries in 1983 and 1984 and again in 2001 and 2002 and scored with the index indicated excellent water quality and no apparent organic pollution at each site.

Many advocated for tougher Brule plan components

A master forest plan is a compromise document created after public input from a wide range of stakeholders.

Some advocated for tougher restrictions against logging in the Brule River State Forest to better protect water quality and improve biodiversity within the forest.

To learn more about such management options, contact the Friends of the Brule River and Forest at www.FriendsOfTheBrule.com.

Bob DuBois, a DNR aquatic biologist stationed in Superior, conducted the two rounds of Hilsenhoff monitoring. Most scientists, he says, now believe biomonitoring is a much better way to keep a "finger on the pulse of a system" than periodically measuring concentrations of chemical pollutants. Biomonitoring gives a more direct and practical assessment, he says. "You may detect variations in concentrations of chemicals, but not know how much variation is needed to indicate significantly changing conditions and be biologically meaningful."

Pratt says it was important that the master plan assert the importance of active fisheries management within the state forest and let the public know that it will continue. Placing gravel and woody debris in the Brule and removing beaver dams from tributaries, he says, are examples of steps that need to continue to keep the fishery moving toward becoming self-sustaining.

"I thought it was important for the master plan to give us all of the tools available to work toward a self-sustaining fishery," Pratt says.

(Jeremy Hecht of Madison reports on the science end of trout and trout fishing for Wisconsin Trout. -Ed.)

STORIED BRULE: famous fishers, fabled fishery

Continued from p. 16

Today, private landowners and organizations such as Friends of the Brule River and Forest, Brule River Preservation, Inc., the Nature Conservancy, and the Brule River Sportsmen's Club play key roles in complementing the conservation activities of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. There are occasional differences in philosophy. The Friends of the Brule River and Forest, who convened in 1992 to protest WDNR-sanctioned clearcutting in the state forest, celebrated a victory in 1996 with the signing of a state law that demoted silviculture from its previous role as the primary purpose of the state forests. The "biodiversity bill," as it was called during the legislative debate, balances state forest uses. The law got its start in the mid-1980s, when the Lake Minnuesing Association objected to timber-harvesting practices in the state forest; now state forests throughout Wisconsin and all of us who use them benefit because "native biological diversity" has been made one of the purposes of state forests. Recreation and the long-term health of the resource finally are on equal footing with timbering.

But mostly there is cooperation, often spearheaded by WDNR fisheries biologist Dennis Pratt, a native of the area who was born in Ash-

land. Under Pratt's supervision, the Brule River Sportsmen's Club and other conservation organizations conducted an extensive project to enhance and actually create spawning habitat in various sections of the Bois Brule. The Wisconsin National Guard helped airlift gravel by helicopter to eight remote spawning sites, creating almost 5,000 square feet of spawning habitat. This kind of cooperative effort is an example of the joint efforts that have gone on for years as people have banded together to protect and improve the river.

These kinds of management efforts are necessary because of the decline of the brook trout fishery — a shadow of its former self, in part because of the elimination of the coarser brookie. The present-day brook trout fishery is largely confined to the upper river, where extensive spring flow exists. While the Brule has the largest population of brook trout of all the Wisconsin Streams that flow into Lake Superior, the brookie is nevertheless the least common of the salmonids residing in the river.

One of the Bois Brule's success stories has to do with steelhead, largely responsible for the Bois Brule's rebirth as a trout fishery. These lake-run rainbow trout were introduced in 1892, and today are the most abundant salmonid in the river. It appears that all the rainbow trout in the river

are migratory — that is, they are born in the river, where they spend a year or two, grow up in the lake, then return to the river to spawn. Even though the best areas of the river for spawning success are in the upper river above U.S. Highway 2, more spawning occurs in the rapids and rips of the lower river downstream of this highway. But the spawning area in the lower river is more susceptible to spring flooding, which can deci-

mate the eggs and fry of the rainbows. This accounts for wide variation in the number of young that survive the smolt period of their life, descend to the lake, and eventually return to the river as steelhead. There appear to be two distinct runs of steelhead — an autumn run and a spring run; the autumn fish overwinter in the river.

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Gearin' up

Basic equipment for the beginning fly fisher

By Jonathan Jacobs

You've been reading about it in the outdoor magazines. You've seen *A River Runs Through It*. You've seen anglers on the stream, and while they may or may not be out-fishing you, they seem to be having a better time than you are.

You would like to give fly fishing for trout a try, but you've been hesitating. Why? It can't be for lack of suitable water. According to a WD-NR publication, 67 of Wisconsin's 72 counties have trout streams. There are 2,674 of these streams, totaling 9,561 miles of trout water.

It can't, or shouldn't, be the expense. Good, serviceable equipment that should last a lifetime if given reasonable care (which primarily means avoiding that voracious *rodivore*, the common car door) is available at modest cost.

It can't be for lack of information on the subject. Over the centuries fly fishing has produced a remarkably large body of literature. Today there are fly fishing videos that, if placed end to end, would stretch from here to the Beaverville.

And it can't be that much of this information makes the sport seem too complicated and arcane. Well, then again, perhaps that's it. Exactly what is someone telling you when they write that they were using a nine-foot, four-weight overlined with a WF5 sink tip and a 5X leader to fish a Hex wiggle nymph? Further, should you care? Maybe, maybe not.

Learning to separate the informational grain from the confusing chaff could be the single most important fly fishing skill. In this article we will take a minimalist approach in an attempt to clarify matters and to set you on your way on a fly fishing odyssey.

One caveat before we begin: often we are told that one "compromise" outfit will allow us to fish for both trout and for other species of fish. That's true to a certain point, but you'll be a better and happier angler if you buy equipment specifically matched to the job at hand.

You will need, at a minimum, a line, rod, reel, leaders, some accessories, and, of course, flies (see the inset below for some thoughts on a basic fly selection).

Fly lines

Let's consider lines first, because even more than the long whippy rod, lines are the central element of fly fishing. Because flies are nearly weightless, a fly angler actually casts the line, not the fly. Fly lines are categorized by a system of numbers that represent the weight, in grains, of the first 30 feet of the line. This system makes a one weight the lightest and suitable for use with only tiny flies on calm days. A 13 weight is a ropelike thing suitable for flinging huge saltwater streamers. For angling on Wisconsin streams, I suggest a five weight floating line in a double taper.

Fly lines taper from a small diameter at the tip to a heavier belly section. This construction ensures that on the forward cast, heavier line is always "pulling" lighter line. There are also "weight forward" designs that "load" a rod more quickly, but they sacrifice easy line handling and "mending." Double taper lines are exactly that, which means that when one end becomes worn, the line can be turned around to provide fresh line to cast. Expect to spend from \$20 to \$50 on a line that will last at least three years.

Fly reels

Many sources suggest that a fly reel is simply a line storage device

and that you should purchase the simplest and least expensive model you can find. Neither assertion is true. Playing a nice fish well will require that you use the reel as a drag device and, as with any outdoor equipment, you should buy the best that you can afford. You have your choice of automatic, multiplying, and single-action reels.

Both automatic and multiplying reels are unnecessarily complex. Unless you have some physical limitation that makes the features of an automatic fly reel attractive, buy a direct drive single action fly reel. This means that one turn of the handle produces one turn of the spool. A simple click drag will do, especially if you purchase a reel with an exposed rim, against which you can apply hand pressure to slow a running fish.

Buy a reel that's large enough to hold your fly line and at least 50 yards of 20 lb. "backing," a thin, braided polyester line similar to bait casting line. The theory is that when a monster fish sets off on a long run, the backing will provide insurance behind the fly line, which is only 80 or 90 feet long. The fact is, 90 feet is an enormous distance on most Wisconsin streams, and you're not likely to see your backing ever. You want it on the reel to increase spool diameter, which provides faster retrieval of line and reduces curl in the fly line. Good, durable reels cost \$30 dollars and up.

Trout leaders

Leaders should be tapered monofilament at least .019" thick at the butt. The tippet end, to which the fly attaches, can be from .003" to .011" in diameter. Start with a leader nine feet long tapered to .007". Carry spare spools of tippet material in .005" (or "6X"), .006" ("5X") and .004" ("4X").

As you tie on and remove flies, the tippet section will be shortened. You can restore the leader to its original length and delicacy by adding a section of this replacement material. Knot the new tippet to the leader with a triple overhand knot.

You can adjust the tippet diameter on your basic leader to match fly size. Determine the correct diameter by dividing the fly hook size by three. The result is the "X" size of the tippet required.

Fly rods

Buy graphite, or more properly, a carbon fiber fly rod. Rods are commonly available in lengths from seven to 10 feet. The little rods can be fun for an experienced caster to fish, but unless you do your fishing in a culvert, a longer rod has strong advantages, the most important of which is increased control of the line as it lays on the water. The 10-footers are at the other extreme, with advantages when fishing in a stiff wind or from a belly boat, but they can be awkward to use in tight quarters.

Your first fly rod should be between eight and nine feet long and should be a match for a five-weight fly line. The perfect rod is THE Holy Grail of fly fishing. Thus, you may be stunned by the price tag of attached to a rod aimed at the high end of the market. We're talking about prices at the half a thousand mark.

A beginner should spend at least \$70 on a rod. Even that modest cost would buy a fairly expensive spinning rod, but there are simply too many materials and too much processing in the small number of fly rods sold to bring the cost of a serviceable rod below that figure.

You may wish to buy a complete package that includes all of the above items. All of the major manufacturers offer these packages, often at a substantial saving over the cost of the items when purchased separately. They are well worth considering.

The essential accessories

Accessories range from basic and indispensable to esoteric and indulgent. You'll certainly need wading gear. There are a myriad of choices here.

The choice between hip boots and chest waders is simple: Hip boots get you wet and chest waders keep you dry, so take your pick. If you have boot-foot, rubber-soled waders on hand, feel free to use them, but if you're starting from scratch, go with stocking-foot lightweight waders and separate wading shoes with felt soles.

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Your fly box Jonathan's take on a basic fly selection

NYPHHS: One classic pattern is the *Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear*. It can look like everything from a mayfly nymph to a caddis larva to a tiny minnow. You should carry these in sizes 10 through 16. Another highly effective pattern is the *Pheasant Tail Nymph*. It fishes best in smaller sizes, say from 14 on down.

A small styrofoam cylinder, called a "strike indicator" by the vain, but which nonetheless closely resembles a bobber, when affixed to your leader will help you detect subsurface takes on an upstream cast and will establish the depth at which your nymph travels.

MAYFLIES: These lovely creatures appear in a full spectrum of colors and sizes. The *Adams*, the



Dan Bailey Fly Shop photos

most nearly ubiquitous pattern in America, can effectively imitate most of the dark-bodied flies. The *Light Cahill* can cover for most of the light bodied flies. Carry both in sizes 12 through 20 and you'll come close to matching 90 percent of the hatches you'll encounter. "Parachute" patterns are



MAYFLY SPINNERS: These represent mayflies as they fall to the water's surface from mating swarms. The naturals' wings are sparkly and nearly transparent and the pre-



good floaters and are easily seen on the water.

dominant body colors are rust and tan. Imitations in sizes 14 through 22 will get you going.



CADDISFLIES: The standard here is the *Light Elk Hair Caddis*, a durable, high-floating pattern that will serve you well in sizes 12, 14 and 16. The more delicate *Henryville Caddis* is a better match for insects size 18 and smaller.

STREAMERS: These flies represent baitfish, crayfish, and larger forms of insect larvae. The *Woolly Bugger* is the most versatile pattern in this group. Carry them in olive and in black in sizes six, eight and 10. Remember; when fishing any subsurface fly, small split shot will help you get the imitation down to where the fish live.

STORIED BRULE: famous fishers, fabled fishery

Continued from p. 17

Some biologists, however, speculate that there is really only one continuous run, interrupted or slowed by the cold temperatures and low flows of winter.

In the late 1970s the steelhead fishery of Lake Superior tributary streams — including the Bois Brule — began to decline. Overharvest was the suspected culprit, both in the stream and in the lake. Protective regulations were enacted downstream of U.S. Highway 2, eliminating the open winter season and limiting the harvest of rainbow trout to one daily, with a minimum size of 26 inches. In addition, eggs gathered from wild steelhead are hatched artificially, and the young are released back into the river as smolts (7.5 inches long) to bolster the stock of wild fish. The goal calls for the annual release of at least 50,000 smolts. Fish managers in Minnesota and Wisconsin are closely watching the progress of these steelhead recovery efforts.

Brown trout weren't introduced to the Bois Brule until the 1920's, and stocking was discontinued in the mid-1970s.

They are common throughout the river, with two genetically distinct populations present — resident and migratory.

Even though they are theoretically able to spawn more than once, most migrating browns only make one spawning trip. It seems that either the actual spawning run or associated disease problems contribute to a high mortality rate among the migratory fish. The resident browns are the mainstay of the trout fishery in the upper river between the town of Brule and Stone's Bridge, and some huge resident browns are known to inhabit the lake stretches of the river.

Two species of Pacific salmon, the coho and the Chinook, have become established in the Bois Brule in quite fishable numbers. A small number of pink salmon have also been recorded, but biologists don't believe they will ever occur in any significant numbers. Interestingly, these salmon populations became established from releases in the province of Ontario and neighboring states, which show how closely linked the Bois Brule fishery is with the entire Lake Superior aquatic ecosystem. The first documented evidence of both coho and Chinook salmon occurred in 1973. Coho, although the number of spawners as-

ending the river from year to year varies, extensively utilize the smaller tributaries in the upper Bois Brule for spawning. Chinook have made a slow but steady increase in their use of the river for spawning and juvenile salmon development. At first their use of the river was confined to Blueberry and Nebagamon creeks and main stem riffles near where those tributaries enter the stream. As glorious as they are, these migrations may have a downside; some people believe the spawning salmon disrupt the habitat for resident trout.

Angling opportunities

We have found both variety and solitude on the Bois Brule. You can fish the upper reaches for brookies, the meandering reaches in the middle section for browns, or the lower river casting for steelhead among powerful rapids and pools. The solitude is everywhere. The river is generally talked about in two sections: the upper and lower, with U.S. Highway 2 as the dividing line. Upstream — or south — from Highway 2 (the river flows north to Lake Superior) are familiar landmarks such as the Brule Trout Hatchery, the Winneboujou Bridge, the three lakes, Cedar Island, and Stone's Bridge.

First, the migratory fish. The Bois Brule is highly valued among Wisconsin fisheries because it doesn't rely on artificial stocking to maintain the populations of brown, rainbow, and the salmon, and provides angling for migratory fish in both the spring and the fall. Steelhead are the most highly acclaimed, and the Bois Brule has the relatively uncommon fall run. Most steelhead anglers concentrate on the lower river. Although standard patterns such as the Spring Wiggler, egg patterns, Comets, and the like will work, steelhead regulars prefer using more subdued, natural patterns. Many fish are taken with a weighted imitation of the large Black Stonefly, common in our larger freestone rivers and streams. Fishing in the fall will also occasionally yield the trophy brown trout, Chinook, or coho that has returned to the river to spawn.

The lake-run fish attract many anglers, but the Brule also has a dedicated following of anglers who pursue the resident browns and brookies. You can still find relatively good brook trout fishing in the upper headwaters, but when it comes to fishing the hatches, most of us are

after the brown trout. We like to fish the water upstream of Hwy 2, considered the most productive water.

The first hatch of the season is the Hendrickson, which begins most years about the time the general fishing season opens on the first weekend in May. The hatch lasts for approximately two weeks. Patterns of choice are the standard Hendrickson, the Red Quill, and various emerger patterns. The next major hatch is the Sulphur, which generally starts during the last week in May. Sulphurs provide excellent action for a couple of weeks. Since these are usually known to hatch in the quieter areas and pools, we prefer to use less heavily hackled flies, such as a no-hackle and parachute patterns.

The Brown Drake hatch normally begins in the middle of June. It's one of the most spectacular hatches on the Bois Brule, especially in the wide and slow reaches of the river from Big Lake down to Winneboujou landing. For this hatch, and some of the others as well, it really pays to fish the river by canoe. The soft sediments of clay and marl provide excellent habitat for this burrowing mayfly, and patterns such as a Brown Drake Parachute and emerger imitations work well. The spinner fall in the evening can be colossal. We've waited patiently for the descent of thousands of spinners hovering scores of feet above the stream, knowing their fall would trigger a feeding frenzy.

The next major hatch, the Trico, occurs in late July and extends well into August. This is when the Brule takes on some of the angling character of a spring creek. The slower-moving reaches with abundant aquatic vegetation are the best habitats for this insect, and thus provide the best fishing to this hatch. Tiny flies and fine tippets are the norm for this kind of delicate angling. Be prepared to begin your fishing shortly after dawn. The most successful way to fish this hatch is to select a solidly rising trout and then, after approaching your quarry carefully, execute well-timed casts over and over. The secret is to keep your fly on the water. Many anglers will cast downstream, putting just enough slack line on the water so the fly will be the first thing to drift over the fish. Beware: the hatch can be suppressed by dark and cold weather. On the heels of The Brown Drake, Hexes begin their emergence in the slower, more placid reaches of the river. Again, the lake

areas have the most prolific Hex hatches. This hatch can be very perplexing, as a night with a heavy emergence frequently will be followed by one or even two light hatches on succeeding evenings. The spinner fall can occur simultaneously with a heavy hatch, or even when very few flies are hatching. Carry imitations of both the dun and the spinner, and consider stocking nymph and emerger patterns as well.

The Bois Brule also harbors abundant populations of caddis and stoneflies. Be alert for hatches of these insects, especially when you are between mayfly hatches. With its excellent water quality, the river contains several species of caddisflies, and they can hatch simultaneously. Most anglers use various sizes and colors of the Elk Hair Caddis (#12-18). However, be prepared to use more exact imitations of the natural in the slower sections of the river when the trout become more selective.

During nonhatch daytime periods, we've had success floating a #16 Royal Coachman or Pass Lake in the riffle sections leading to slower water. Ron Manz, a well-known guide on the river, likes to fish his March Brown soft hackle during these slack times. Casting far back under vegetation, Manz can lure out brookies and browns on even the slowest days.

The river harbors a variety of stoneflies, and while they do not provide reliable hatches to fish to, the angler should not be without several nymph imitations of these insects. If you're fishing riffle areas in a no-hatch situation, try a stonefly nymph, such as the Brooks Stone (#6-8), or local tier Dick Berge's stonefly imitation. Look for stonefly water downstream from the Winneboujou Bridge, especially in the lower river north of Highway 2, with its numerous rapids and runs.

One of the best ways to fish the Brule is by canoe, especially in the section between Stone's Bridge and Highway 2, where access from the road is limited as the river winds through many private estates. But don't canoe below Highway 2 unless your experienced; the river gets much tougher downstream.

(This piece was excerpted from Exploring Wisconsin Trout Streams: The Anglers Guide by Steve Born, Jeff Mayers, Andy Morton, and Bill Sonzogni, published by the University of Wisconsin Press. -Ed.)

GEARIN' UP: basic equipment choices for the new fly fisher

Continued from p. 18

You'll find this arrangement more comfortable than the heavier boot foot style, and felt soles are a godsend when wading on rock and cobble streambeds. Expect to spend a minimum of one hundred dollars for waders and boots.

You can get by without a vest, but you'll find a vest's pockets handy and user friendly. You don't need a model with enough pockets to make it the cloth equivalent of a roll around tool chest, but a basic vest should have at least four fly box pockets, two breast pockets and a compartment on the back large enough to hold a rain jacket or a streamside lunch. A padded collar is a nice touch.

Be certain that the vest you buy is large enough to fit over a heavy-weight shirt and sweater and that you're satisfied with the quality of the vest's zippers before you put

your money on the counter.

Equip your vest with a real angler's "nippers" — not a fingernail clippers — on a retractor spool and a pair of hemostats for smashing down hook barbs and retrieving flies from the recesses of a trout's jaw. You'll want some liquid fly floatant and some powder desiccant for "desliming" flies. Find a cap or hat with a sun-shielding brim, a pair of polarizing sunglasses (with brown lenses for best contrast) and load your fly boxes into your vest. Perhaps the best fly boxes are those of molded polyethylene with foam inserts. They're inexpensive and the foam grips the hook point well. If you've done your homework, the boxes will fit nicely into your vest's pockets.

What do you put into those boxes? Just today a friend said that the greatest things about fly fishing are that there is no one set way of doing things and that everyone's an ex-

pert. Truer words were never spoken. With that said, I'll attempt an answer.

Trout are predatory insect eaters, a fact known to anglers long before Izaak Walton first dapped a fly on the water. Thus, there were already a plethora of patterns before the semi-science of angling entomology developed in the last half of this century. Serious practitioners of this discipline are *imitationists*. They have created fly patterns to mimic the appearance of nearly every aquatic insect in every stage of its life.

The procession of insect emergences through a season has a beauty all its own, and while those who study this natural wonder are some of our brightest and best anglers, their view of the sport, with its heavy use of Latin taxonomic names and very specific flies for every angling situation can be overwhelming to a

beginner.

While any angler can greatly benefit from having a basic knowledge of the major insect orders (mayflies, caddisflies, stoneflies and midges), the relatively inexperienced should concentrate on learning to present effectively to feeding fish flies that suggest the various forms of trout foods. The following flies should get you going:

You'll expand your fly collection based on your experiences, and someday you may want to tie your own. For now, though, get out there and have at it. Learn to wade quietly, to cast carefully, to pay attention to your surroundings for clues to where the fish are and what they're eating, and, most importantly, to recognize what a rare and wonderful thing a trout stream is.

(Jon Jacobs is editor of the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter's RipRap newsletter.)

New 'Friends' projects adopted by State Council

TU's regional vice chairs awarded grants to six new projects under the Friend of WITU program at the June 7 State Council meeting (see numbers 46-51 in the list below).

Projects ranged from grants to TU chapters for local stream work to funding for school programs.

- The largest awards went to:
- the Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter for work on Big Spring Creek, a project that straddles Iowa and Grant counties, and
 - The Lakeshore Chapter for their Onion River restoration project.

You can support these and other important coldwater resource-oriented work by becoming a Friend of Wisconsin TU. Join today and see your name on this "honor list."

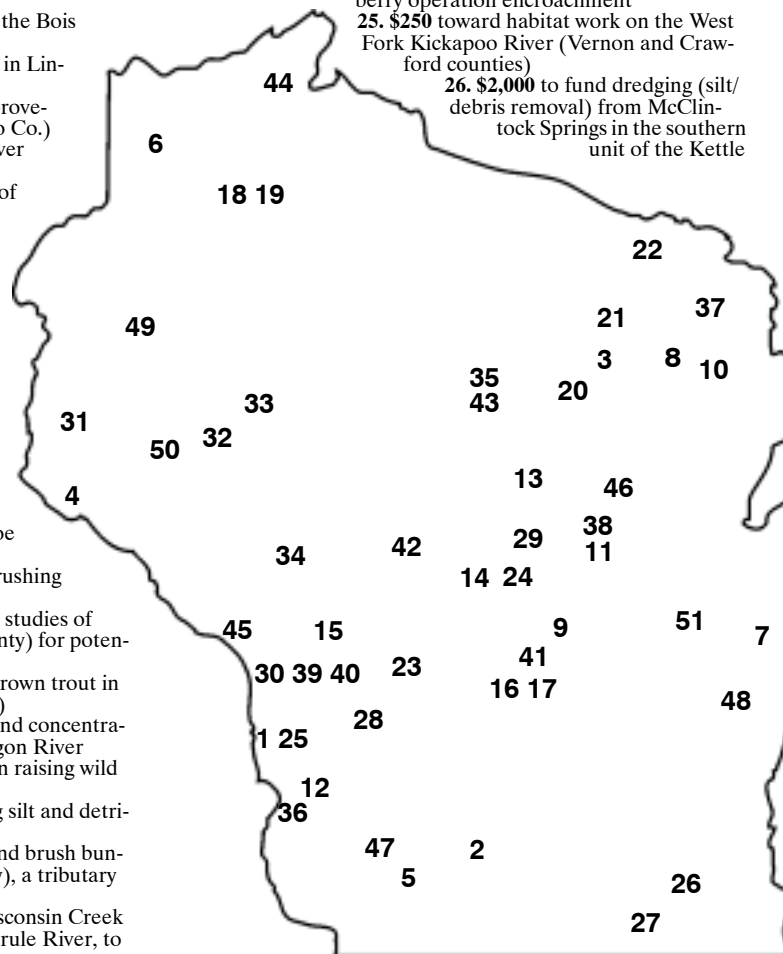
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"Friends" Project Locations

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 storm-water 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/Bayfield counties) for capture and use in raising wild trout for the river
20. \$1,000 to assist with the third year of dredging silt and detritus from Elton Springs (Langlade Co.)
21. \$1,000 for stream brushing, debris removal, and brush bundle installation in Swanson Creek (Forest County), a tributary to the Rat River
22. \$500 for building a sand/ sediment trap in Wisconsin Creek (Florence County), a tributary to the boundary Brule River, to

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 Tennile 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.)
46. \$500 to the Central Region of TU for stream monitoring on the Little Wolf watershed (Waupaca Co.)
47. \$2,000 to the Nohr Chapter for habitat work with the WDNR on Big Spring Creek (Iowa and Grant Co.)
48. \$2,000 to the Lakeshore Chapter for ongoing work on the Onion River restoration project (Sheboygan Co.)
49. \$1,750 to the WDNR for a project by Heath Benicke (Barren Co.)
50. \$500 to Independence High School (Trempealeau Co.)
51. \$400 to UW-Oshkosh for a research project (Winnebago Co.)



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John H. Cantwell
3725 Ken Ridge Ln.
Green Bay, WI 54313-8271

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