



# Wisconsin Trout

October 2003

## TU votes funds to challenge Polar water bottler

By Larry Kriese

The Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited voted to contribute \$5,000 toward the legal costs of challenging a high-capacity well permit issued by the WDNR to a water bottling plant being planned near Polar in Langlade County at the council's September 13 meeting in Amherst.

Dennis Hose, current operator of a coldwater fish hatchery in Polar, WI, applied for a high-capacity well permit from the DNR for the purposes of bottling water on a commercial basis.

While the hatchery operations of Hose involve pumping large amounts of groundwater for use in the hatchery, virtually all of that water is returned to the local watershed. The water that is intended to be used in the proposed bottling operation will be permanently removed from the watershed.

The wells currently on Hose's property — and those being proposed for installation — would have the potential to pump over one million gallons of water a day from the underground aquifer.

Trout Unlimited has been directly involved in protecting and enhancing the many coldwater resources in the watershed that the proposed bottling plan could negatively impact, including the contribution of funds to conduct improvement work on nearby waters. Among the coldwater resources that depend on water from the same underground source the bottling plan intends to draw from is Rabe Pond and Rabe Creek, both of which affect Garski Flowage and the Wolf River.

Hose intends to operate his bottling plan under the name of "Polar Ice."

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### BERGE BIDS BIG BROOKIE BYE-BYE

Wild Rivers Chapter Vice President Dick Berge releases a 19" coaster brook trout into Whittlesey Creek in an experimental release held August 9 in conjunction with the Whittlesey Creek National Refuge Centennial Celebration.

## Coaster brook trout reintroduced into Whittlesey Creek Wildlife Refuge

By Laura Hewitt

Amid great fanfare, coaster brook trout were reintroduced into Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge during an Aug. 9 ceremony commemorating the 100th anniversary of the wildlife refuge system.

The fish were reared in the Iron River fish hatchery and are from the Tobin Harbor and Siskowit strains.

About 75 3- and 4-year-old fish were released. Of these fish, 25 were implanted with radio transmitters, and the remainder were given floy tags.

Volunteers from TU's Wild Rivers Chapter and TU National staff were on hand to assist with the event and the stocking.

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## TU chapters' mining suit against WDNR on hold

By George Rock

The Green Bay and Wolf River TU chapters are part of a large coalition of groups that filed a complaint and notice of intent to file a lawsuit with the WDNR about mining rules back in June.

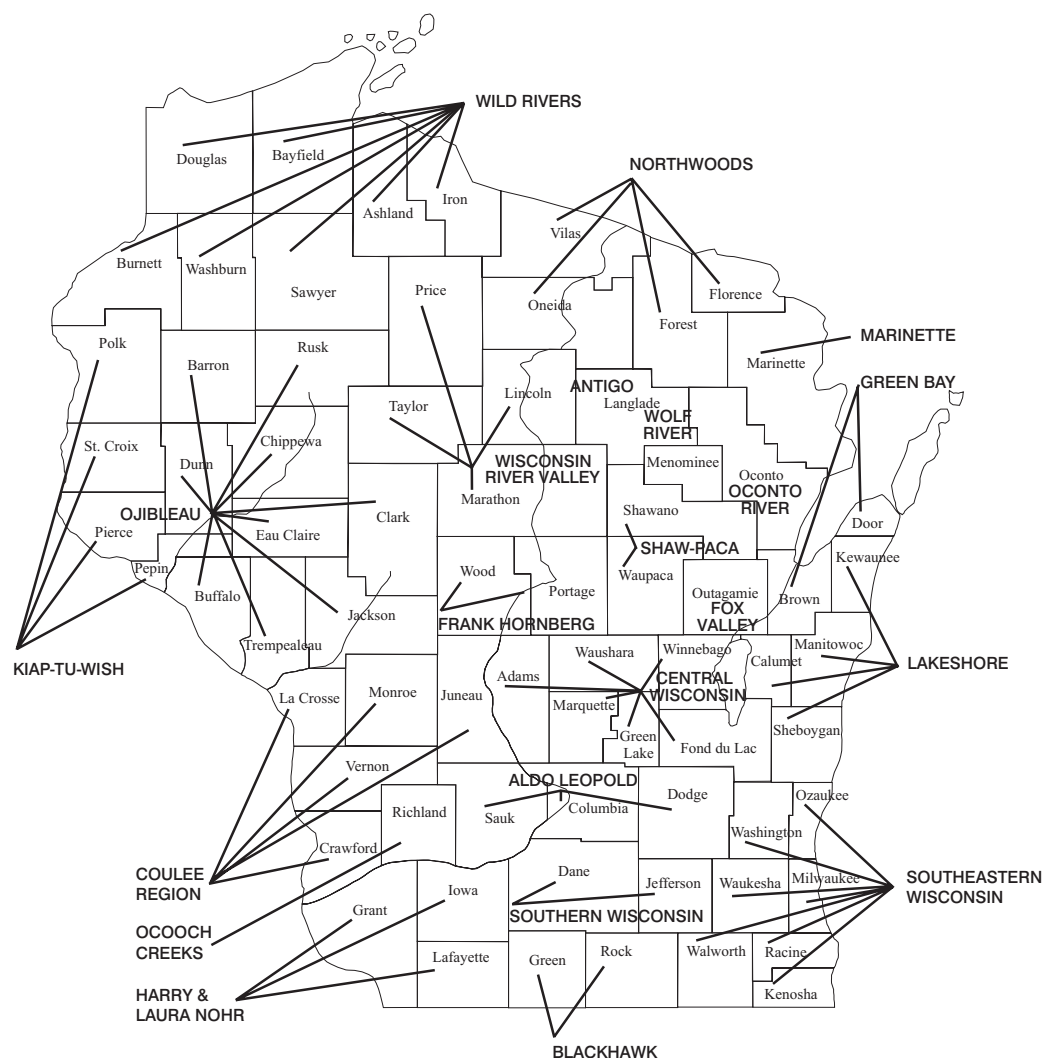
The DNR has responded to our complaint, and there are some positive developments. The complaint and notice of intent to file a lawsuit

was really about two things.

First, we complained that the DNR had failed to develop administrative rules setting minimum qualifications for mining applicants. Establishing these rules is important because the new owner of the Cran-don mine site has no experience whatsoever with mining, making it more risky than ever.

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## Contact TU National when you change addresses or chapter leaders

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

### WISCONSIN TROUT

Vol. 15, No. 4 — October 2003

*Wisconsin Trout* is the official publication of the Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited and is distributed to the members of Wisconsin's 22 TU chapters. Nonmember subscriptions are \$12.50/year. Publication and distribution dates are the first weeks of January, April, July, and October. Deadlines for articles and advertisements are the 10th of December, March, June, and September. Advertising rate sheets are available, or you may download it at [www.lambcom.net/witu](http://www.lambcom.net/witu).

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# Of fishing license increases, real people, Rep. Johnsrud, and gods

By Todd Hanson

When the state budget was being debated last spring, the Wisconsin State Council of TU learned of severe cuts to the DNR's hunting and fishing programs. The DNR was surely going to bear its share of the pain as the Governor and Legislature attacked a budget deficit of about \$4 billion. The only question was "how much?"

## Editorial

But when the State Council met last June, another option was considered. As you know, our hunting and fishing licenses don't increase every year. Raises occur every six to eight years, and it was pointed out that seven years had passed since the last increase. Given this, the State Council voted to recommend that the trout stamp fee be increased from its current \$7.25 to \$10 so the DNR could keep more of its people who work on our trout streams. After passing this motion, we all left the meeting feeling good that we'd given our government a commonsense idea to maintain valued programs despite hard times.

And all of us were ignored. The key person receiving Trout Unlimited's recommendation was Rep. DuWayne Johnsrud (R-Easton). Johnsrud chairs the Assembly Natural Resources Committee and had a lead role in setting the DNR budget numbers that ended up on Governor Doyle's desk. Johnsrud included no trout stamp increase and just a few small increases in other hunting and fishing license fees.

When asked why he didn't recommend the larger hunting and fishing license fees TU and other groups in the broader sporting community called for, Johnsrud said, "I haven't heard anyone ask me to raise their hunting and fishing license fees."

Now that's quite a statement. I happen to know that former State Council Chair John Welter — the person who introduced TU's trout stamp fee increase resolution — is a somebody. TU Chair Jon Christiansen — real person. TU State Council representatives Clint Byrnes, Chuck Steudel, Jim Hlaban, John Bethke, and the 30 others at that State Council meeting in Avalanche — all flesh and blood.

That Rep. Johnsrud could say he hadn't heard anyone call for an increase in license fees is more than a lie and insult to TU and other hunting and fishing organizations. It is something far more serious. This statement by Johnsrud is a symptom of how he increasingly ignores Wisconsin's natural resources groups.

Here are some examples. Former DNR Secretary George Meyer is now Executive Director of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation. Last April Meyer collected the signatures of 45 hunting, fishing, and trapping organizations requesting Johnsrud schedule a public hearing on Assembly Bill 30. That bill would have restored the authority of the WI Natural Resources Board to appoint the DNR secretary. Johnsrud scheduled no hearing.

Another example of Johnsrud's deaf ear involves the Wisconsin Conservation Congress. For many years the congress has called for a return to an independent DNR secretary and restoration of the state's Public Intervenor Office. Johnsrud recently referred to these bills as "dandelions," pesky weeds that crop up yearly for him to kill.

What Rep. Johnsrud seems not to understand is that members of natural resources organizations are absolutely the best people to listen to. They're the people who have enjoyed what the outdoors has given them so much that they are giving something back to their sport and the lands that support them. What these people give back is their time and attention — the two most valuable things we all can spare. There are tens of thousands of trout fishers in Wisconsin, and most of them just enjoy their days on the water. But TU members spend their weekends building stream structures, developing nonpoint pollution toolkits, fighting assaults against the Public Trust Doctrine, and working to protect the state's groundwater. The same goes for members of Pheasants Forever, Walleyes for Tomorrow, and other such groups.

A TU member who is close to the ways of the Legislature recently described Rep. Johnsrud this way: "Johnsrud used to think of himself as a champion of hunters and fishers, but now he thinks of himself as a god." A god has the wisdom to tell the difference between good advice and poor advice. In the case of Rep. Johnsrud, he increasingly feels that natural resources organizations like Trout Unlimited don't represent real, salt-of-the-earth folks.

These actions of Rep. Johnsrud are troubling. To use a business analogy, it's as if Johnsrud ignores his mid-level managers for ways to improve company operations in favor of the opinions of the janitorial staff. And since none of the janitors are calling his office, Johnsrud makes up his own mind about policy based on what he *thinks* the janitors feel. That's not very good business sense, and it sure isn't very godlike, either.

# MINING: chapters put brakes on lawsuit against WDNR

Continued from p. 1

Attorneys for the coalition told the DNR that under the law, it was required to develop these rules. In mid-July, DNR wrote us agreeing that the rules were required and that it wasn't clear why this had never been done.

The DNR did speculate that the issue had not been raised in the past because past mining applicants had always been large companies with experience. DNR stated, "...the recent purchase of Nicolet Minerals Company by Northern Wisconsin Resource Group, LLC does suggest that there is a need to establish more explicit qualifications for mining permit applicants."

Qualifications rulemaking underway

The DNR then published a notice of intent to begin rulemaking on minimum qualifications for metallic mining and prospecting permit applicants and operators. This appeared in the August 15, 2003, *Administrative Register*.

The proposed rule will have direct application to the proposed Crandon mine project and will require that the state Metallic Mining Council be reformed. Mining rules must be developed in consultation with this council, a nine-member advisory body whose members are appointed by the DNR secretary.

Moratorium action less clear

On the other issue we raised with DNR — the Mining Moratorium

Law — we were less successful but not shut out.

In the complaint, we wanted DNR to make a decision as soon as possible about whether the mining company could comply with the Mining Moratorium Law before moving forward. Currently the DNR plans to act on a mining application way downstream in the process at the "master hearing" where the final decision on the mine permit is made. We felt that it was important that the master hearing not take place at all if the company couldn't comply with the law. This would save money and resources of all parties.

DNR disagreed that the decision should be made before the master hearing, but did agree that it might make sense to have a separate hearing on the moratorium law compliance before the final permit decision.

Suit on hold

The coalition has held off filing the actual lawsuit. The complaint and intent to file a lawsuit are still in effect, meaning that if the DNR is not cooperative, we can still take them to court over these issues.

But for now, everyone agrees that we've made progress and that we will have a good chance to ensure that unqualified companies aren't allowed to mine in northern Wisconsin. I'll update TU members as this issue develops further.

(George Rock is a member of the Wolf River Chapter. -Ed.)

## SLASH THE STEWARDSHIP FUN

(It's Back! AB 480, Introduced 8/26/03)

## STONEWALL THE MERCURY RULE

(Returned to the DNR by Assy. & Sen. Committees, Aug. 2003)

## REDEFINE NAVIGABLE WATERS

(AB 506, Introduced 9/11/03)

## IGNORE THE TROUT STAMP

(Excluded from the Budget, June 2003)

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## Nominations sought for State Council awards

State Council Awards Committee Chair Larry Meicher is accepting nominations for the Council's yearly awards. Send them to:

Larry Meicher  
5258 Salisbury Rd.

Rio, WI 53960

Nominations must be in the form of a written narrative describing the accomplishments of the candidate, chapter, or entity and submitted by Dec. 1.

### Awards Criteria

#### Trout Unlimited Resource Award of Merit

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

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

#### Lee and Joan Wulff Conservation Leadership Award

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

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

#### Trout Unlimited Gold Trout Award for Service

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

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

#### Trout Unlimited Gold Net Award

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

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

#### Silver Trout Award for Chapter Merit

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

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

#### Jeffrey Carlson Volunteer Award

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

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

#### Special Appreciation DNR Personnel Award

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

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

#### Certificate of Appreciation

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

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

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

### Chapter president profile

## Chuck Beeler in fourth year as Southeast leader

By Herb Elodea

Chuck Beeler, the president of Southeastern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited, has been swimming upstream for quite a few years now, so expect him to find him, if you are looking, in one of the prime lies which can make life rich.

In spring and fall, you might find Chuck rolling up to a favorite stream in Coulee Country, or maybe the Namekagon in northwest Wisconsin.

You will recognize him by his fish car, always a late model Lincoln. The one parked by the bridge. He will have plenty of fly rods.

If he has a permit, he may have a gun or two, for turkey, or, depending on location, pheasants or grouse. Hunting is a second passion. And who knows, you might catch him on a day when the car carries golf clubs, another big interest. The trunk is big, the maps are neatly organized in a canvass bag, and Chuck has room.

Chuck has led Southeastern Wisconsin TU for four years. Covering a wide geographic area, including portions of both the Mississippi and Lake Michigan watersheds, the region has few coldwater streams. So the club's 500 plus members must travel some distance to get to an inland trout stream, and attending a winter evening trout meeting in Milwaukee is an act of faith.

Chuck has worked hard to get believers, organizing casting clinics, slide shows and outings.

Chuck conceived and for several years organized and inspired the chapter's successful winter fund raiser at the Journal-Sentinel Sports show. Money raised from the raffle

for each year's hand-built wood-strip canoe has gone into habitat restoration in nearby Walworth County where at least a couple of streams seem to hold the opportuni-



ty for trout.

Recently, Chuck has led the chapter in the direction of partnership with other chapters closer to trout water, and contributions have been made to sportsmen's clubs and others.

The man has a lot to do. Chuck has organized church and boy scout outings for young people. He will soon mentor a young granddaughter in the magic of an elk hair caddis. (And he will be hunting for elk this October in Colorado.)

Joan is his wife and partner of 34 years.

Chuck is also a skilled nature photographer. On the side, Chuck works almost full time as a project manager for a builder in Waukesha County.

Find Chuck Beeler and you will find something special happening in Wisconsin.

(Herb Elodea is a friend of Chuck's. -Ed.)

## Stu Grimstad new State Council rep on WSN board

Stu Grimstad has been appointed by the Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited to represent the council on the board of directors of the Wisconsin Stewardship Network.



Grimstad is one of 16 representatives of Wisconsin sporting, conservation, and environmental organizations on the WSN board. Other WSN board members include:

David Blouin (Sierra Club), Logan Edinger (Save Our Unique Lands), Lisa Goodman (River Alliance of WI), George Guyant (Izaak Walton League — WI Division), Karen Etter Hale (Madison Audubon Society), Sarah Lloyd (Concerned Citizens of Newport), Marc Looze (Clean Wisconsin), Paul Mongin (Brown County Conservation Alliance), Peter Murray (Wisconsin Association of Lakes), Russ Ruland (Musky Club of WI), Melissa Scanlan (Midwest Environmental Advocates), John Schwarzmann (Environmentally Concerned Citizens of Lakeland Areas), Cornell Stroik (WI B.A.S.S. Federation), Tom Wilson (Northern Thunder), Dave Wisnefske (Pheasants Forever), Rick Wilke (member at large), and Jim Shurts (member at large).

TU has had a seat on the WSN board for many years. Before Grimstad, the State Council was represented by Jim Friedrich, Todd Hanson, and Gary Horvath.

# Legislature's nose in the court's business

By Jon Christiansen  
WITU Chair

Why is it that the lawmakers in our state from time to time seem to forget that our waters are held in trust for the people of Wisconsin? This cherished ownership, referred to as the "Public Trust Doctrine," arises from a provision in Wisconsin's 1848 Constitution that states "the navigable waters...and the carrying places between same, shall be common highways and forever free, as well to the inhabitants of the state...."

This provision derives its authority from the Northwest Ordinance of 1787. The people's rights are grounded in the concept of navigability. Unlike in Europe where the kings and queens exclusively controlled the right to use waterways, our founding fathers believed that it was essential that the members of the public have the free right to use America's waterways. Lacking adequate roads, navigation was key to the growth of the country, as virtually all goods were shipped on rivers.

As you might expect, disputes arose as to whether a particular stream was navigable. Some of these disputes reached the Wisconsin Supreme Court, which meant that the Court was called upon to lay down a rule of common law defining navigability. Common law is judge-made law, meaning that the law announced in one case decided by the Supreme Court becomes the law of the state. Other courts, including the trial courts, where most disputes are resolved, are bound to apply the principles laid down in the Supreme Court's decision.

Common law cases are to be distinguished from statutory law. The Wisconsin Legislature enacts laws called statutes, which regulate the affairs of ordinary life by providing the rules and rights that the Legislature deems appropriate in the matters constitutionally vested in the Legislature. Thus it is that the Legislature establishes rules for corporations, pollution rules for our environment, workers' rights, and thousands of other subjects. Judges then interpret these statutes in further common law cases.

In government — as in affairs between neighbors — occasionally somebody pokes their nose into somebody else's business. That is what's happening right now concerning the public's right to navigate

the waters of our state. Representative Scott Gunderson (R-Union Grove) has proposed a bill in the Wisconsin Legislature (AB-506) to define what is and is not a navigable stream. (The bill is co-sponsored by Representatives Ladwig, Ainsworth, Bies, Friske, Gielow, Gronemus, Grothman, Hahn, Hines, Hundertmark, Jeskewitz, Kerkman, Krawczyk, Kestell, M. Lehman, LeMahieu, F. Lasee, McCormick, Musser, Nass, Nischke, Olsen, Petrowski, Seratti, Steinbrink, Suder, Towns, and M. Williams, as well as Senators Stepp, Harsdorf, Kanavas, A. Lasee, Reynolds, and Zien.)

The claimed reason justifying a need for such a statute is the alleged indefiniteness of the Supreme Court's definition of navigability.

More than a 100 years ago, the Wisconsin Supreme Court measured navigability in terms of the ability to float a saw log in a stream. In later cases, the definition was modified by holding that a stream was navigable if it is capable of floating the shallowest draft recreational water craft at any time during the year.

Taken within the context of con-

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*"Representative Gunderson's bill defines a stream to be navigable if it can float a watercraft carrying a person at least six months during a calendar year. In reality, this definition is no more precise than the existing definition of the Supreme Court's cases. So, is this bill a solution in search of a problem?"*

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stitutional policy, this definition is both logical and precise. Wishing to provide for the public's right to conduct commerce over the state's waterways, any watercraft that could float on the stream could provide a means of carrying goods to market, whether those goods were a trapper's furs loaded on a canoe or a barge full of grain.

Naturally, the concept of "any watercraft" was general, but reasonably well defined. Is a canoe a watercraft? Of course. Is a single two-by-four? Of course not. There may be times of the year where the stream is not, in fact, navigable, but taken in the context of the historical need for navigability, the stream is nonetheless deemed to be navigable.

So why the heck is all this important to Trout Unlimited members? The reason is that the Public Trust Doctrine has also been defined to



Jon Christiansen

include within the concept of navigability the public's right to use navigable streams for *recreational uses* in addition to commerce. The Wisconsin Supreme Court decided that navigability included the right to fish, hunt and boat.

Also included within this use is the right to use the stream bottom.

purpose is to exclude certain streams for navigability in order to engage in additional property development. By draining swamps and channelizing small streams that occasionally act as staging area for fish fry and home for other aquatic life, more land go into development.

Now, I am the first to admit that we're not talking about putting a culvert around Black Earth Creek or the Oconto River. But what is proposed will chip away at the public's rights to use the waters held in trust by the state for the people. Seeking to change 150 years of law laid down by the Supreme Court is bad policy and bad law. It may also be unconstitutional.

The Constitution establishes the Public Trust Doctrine and the concept of navigability. It is the job of the Supreme Court to define navigability and it has addressed this task admirably in the case law. While the Legislature is free to enact laws implementing constitutional intent, it may not be free to change a Supreme Court's decision. Whether or not this is so would have to await a court challenge to the proposed statute.

I do not know if this bill will go anywhere in the Legislature. It has been referred to the natural resources committee. What I do know is that this is a bill that ought to receive our considerable attention and opposition. If we raise the flag and ask for a membership charge up the hill against this bill, I hope you will respond.

## Central Region supports Little Wolf monitoring

By Jim Hlaban

The chapters of the region continue to support the water monitoring efforts on the Little Wolf River headwaters. They have added \$150 to the \$500 received from the Friends of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited to be used toward equipment to help monitors assess the watershed.

They also volunteered to help the DNR crew with a major project below the new highway 10 bridge just north of Waupaca.

All chapters are actively recruiting, fundraising, and pursuing habitat projects.

## State Council shirts available

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited State Council denim shirts are now available.



Shirts come in either khaki or light blue in sizes small through XXL, and in long or short sleeve models.

To order, contact Bill Heart at [wtrout@cheqnet.net](mailto:wtrout@cheqnet.net). The price is \$25.00 plus tax and shipping for the long-sleeve shirt and \$23 for the short-sleeve model.

For XXL add \$2.00.

Thus it is that trout fishers can walk on the bottom of navigable streams, casting for reclusive brown trout that were not even in Wisconsin's streams when the Supreme Court first laid down its definition of navigability.

Representative Gunderson's bill defines a stream to be navigable if it can float a watercraft carrying a person at least six months during a calendar year. In reality, this definition is no more precise than the existing definition of the Supreme Court's cases. So, is this bill a solution in search of a problem?

The Supreme Court cases taken in conjunction with the DNR's implementation provide for a completely workable system. Completely, that is, unless the legislative

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# Council meeting reviews DNR budget, water bottling

By Chuck Steudel  
WITU Secretary

The Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited met on September 13 at the Tomorrow River Supper Club in Amherst.

There were more than 30 members present.

Previously circulated minutes were approved on a unanimous vote.

## TU National priorities

State Council Chair Jon Christiansen presented his chair's report. The TU National meeting had just been held in Denver, Colorado. Jon reported on National's priorities:

- In the West, water use policy is the problem.
- In the East, the Delaware River watershed's water quality problems will be focused on.
- Atlantic Salmon and the removal of key dams in the East will continue to be a focus.
- So will the removal of dams on the Snake River.

The reorganization of TU National's structure is now complete. The new governing body is called the National Leadership Council (NLC) and includes 32 members, one from each state council. NLC members have elected 8 members who, along with NLC chairperson and secretary, will make up the 10-person Board of Trustees.

Jeff Smith is our representative to the NLC, and Duke Welter been elected to serve on the board of trustees. This format does not allow for formal regional representation on the board of trustees, but does include generalized regional representation.

National finances, membership In spite of the difficult economic times, National's revenue has increased. 2002 national revenue was up 41%, with expenses going up 8%. The investment portion of the financial picture showed a loss in 2002. There was a 7% growth in TU National's program spending.

National's money was spent as follows in 2002. Administration 7%, fund-raising 6%, membership 7%, and program expenses were 80%. Revenue for state councils increased, too. Total revenue for national, state councils, and local chapters increased 24%. The overall picture is very positive.

From 55,000 members in 1992, we now have over 130,000 members. There are now 54 employees in 14 offices. Because of cutbacks in staff in 2001, this number is very close to what it was in 2000. National spends \$71.00 per member by leveraging our average dues of \$35.00 with other sources.

## Vision statement

The new TU "vision statement" was reviewed by Jon. It states, "By

the next generation, Trout Unlimited will ensure a robust population of native, wild coldwater fish once again through and within their North American range so that our children can enjoy healthy fisheries in their home waters." A generation is considered to be 30 years. TU's values include:

- healthy watersheds and clean water,
- wild and native trout,
- stewardship and advocacy,
- commitment to members, and
- quality people.

Christiansen noted that Bill Heart has come up with a shirt with TU logo and State Council wording which he is offering for \$25.00.

The Nominating Committee consisting of Regional VPs discussed the process for nomination of new officers to be elected at the February meeting in Oshkosh.

## Legislative report

In the absence of the Legislative Committee Chair Jeff Smith, Bill Pielsticker gave the legislative report.

He reported the loss of 160 positions in the DNR, the failure to increase the cost of the trout stamp, and that there will be less and less money from the DNR for projects.

The pollution runoff rules are now in place, but the new budget cut the hoped-for \$65 million over 10 years by spreading it instead over 20 years. DATCP has finally gotten its directions on the procedures out to the counties. Counties now have it, with encouragement they will hopefully start to use their authority. It is now up to the County Land Conservation Committees to do their work.

Overall the climate in Madison is very negative toward our issues. Bill reported on:

- the efforts to control mercury from power plants,
- the one-day \$10 fishing license that doesn't include money for the trout stamp fund,
- a bill that has been reintroduced to cut the Stewardship Fund,
- efforts to revoke smart growth legislation,
- a bill to speed up government permit processes,
- efforts to pre-empt local control of large factory farms, and
- little positive movement on groundwater legislation.

## Navigable waters threat

Efforts to define navigable waters in the legislature were discussed. It was felt that an definitions was going to result in a "loss" of protection for many streams.

Wisconsin has a clear 150-year record of court decisions, including Supreme Court decisions, which have given a very understandable definition to the term navigable waters. A motion to have the State Council take an early, active part in opposing any new definition of navigable waters passed unanimously.

## WDNR budget update

Larry Claggett, DNR fishery supervisor, reported on the DNR budget problems. DNR Secretary Hassett sent out a lengthy and detailed e-mail to all employees this past week that detailed the cuts. In the next biennium there is a cut of 7% or \$33.5 million which includes 160 positions or 8% of the employees. This will affect all divisions of the DNR.

In the first round 100 "at risk" letters were sent out and 18 were laid off. 50 LTEs were let go. Cuts in hours and services offered were made at most DNR centers. Fisheries have kept many positions vacant.

Next year in fisheries there will be 30 vacancies and 8 more cuts. The Langlade fish hatchery will close. Stocking will be cut and there will be no stocking in Class 3 streams. Surveys will be cut. Trout habitat programs will probably be cut 15-20% due to vacancies.

## Trout work amid cuts

The possibility of moving habitat money to other areas and programs exists. Exact details of this next round of cuts is still fuzzy. There was a discussion of expenditure of trout stamp funds; what amount goes toward projects and what goes toward salaries.

Jeff Smith and Duke Welter have talked to DNR officials on this matter, and in the past the State Council has pressed the DNR for a full and detailed accounting of this money. Welter reported that there are now 9.34 positions funded with trout stamp money and the traditional (from the 1970s) 5.7 positions funded by general DNR funds that are so-called trout positions. However there is a lot of give and take with these positions in that some of the people work on other projects and people not paid by the "trout" money do in fact work on trout projects. Overall Welter thought the promises of the past are being followed.

## Trout water maps available

Larry passed around two new books just printed by the DNR. They are *Wisconsin Trout Streams* and *Wisconsin Trout Stream Maps*. The books show every trout stream in every county and note what class of fishery the streams contain.

## Northern county beaver control

Steve Ave Lallemond of the DNR discussed the situation with beaver control in the northern parts of the state. The program of beaver control is many years old and has evolved from simple bounties and trapping.

Beaver control in the north is the #1 "bang for the buck" way of improving trout habitat and restoration of trout water in the north. For 13 years the program has had funding from many groups, mostly from the DNR and federal personnel. Now the DNR funding is at risk starting this fall due to an accounting problem.

This issue is not directly related to the overall DNR cuts, but to accounting problems over when state and federal accounting years begin and end. Currently the DNR contributes \$130,000 a year to beaver control, but next year could be a problem and different sources of funding may have to be found to cover the one-year gap. Currently over 800 miles of trout water are covered by the problem, and without the money beaver control maintenance on those streams will not happen.

The possibility of a donation from the State Council for beaver control was discussed. A motion to have the affected regions work with Steve and to defer for now any financial contribution was passed unanimously.

## Coaster reintroduction

Laura Hewitt, TU National's employee stationed in Madison, spoke about her role in Trout Unlimited. Progress is being made on the coaster brook trout issue.

*Continued on p. 7*

## BOTTLING: TU votes funds to challenge water operation

*Continued from p. 1*

He has applied to the Township of Polar for zoning permits to conduct a commercial operation on his property. The local township, with strong support from local citizens and local organizations like the Langlade County Waterways Association, were unwilling to grant the zoning changes without conditions attached that would limit the volume of water being bottled and shipped from the property to an amount which Mr. Hose originally indicated he intended to use.

Hose apparently found the original volume being proposed for shipment from his property to be inadequate, and he rejected the zoning changes being offered by the Township.

Hose now has stated he intends to construct an underground pipeline from his property to a county road where he can fill waiting tanker trucks that will ship the water to an undetermined location for bottling. The scale of the current operation being proposed for operating "Polar Ice" now has many local residents concerned that a much larger volume of water will be removed from the underground aquifer than originally thought.

On July 25, 2003, the DNR approve the application for a high-capacity well from Mr. Hose. The DNR's position has been that under the current state law that regulates the construction of high-capacity wells in Wisconsin, a permit must be issued unless the proposed well could negatively impact the water being drawn by a local unit of government to provide drinking water to its citizens. Since no such municipal well exists in the area affected by this bottling plant, the DNR's position is that it must issue a well permit.

Trout Unlimited members in attendance at the State Council meeting in Amherst agreed that

improved legislation is needed to require that potential negative impacts to other important resources also be considered prior to granting high-capacity well permits. Such legislation was sought after the Perrier bottled water operation gained widespread attention in central Wisconsin a few years ago.

While legislation was passed which would have improved the current high-capacity well regulations in Wisconsin, then Governor Scott McCallum vetoed much of the language of the bill that contained those improvements needed.

The Antigo and Wolf River Chapters of Trout Unlimited — along with the Menominee Nation of Indians and other concerned citizens and local organizations — have retained the Madison law firm of Garvey & Stoddard, S.C. to represent them in challenging the issuance of the high-capacity well permit by the DNR. The State Council is also included as a petitioner in the request for a Contested Case Hearing filed with the DNR by attorneys from Garvey & Stoddard on August 22, 2003.

The DNR recently informed those challenging the permit issuance that a Contested Case Hearing has been granted by the department. This hearing will likely be held early in 2004.

Hopefully this hearing will raise significant concerns regarding the potential negative impacts on the area's natural resources and prompt the DNR to conduct environmental studies to determine just what the scope of those negative impacts might be.

While the DNR has the authority to conduct such studies prior to the issuance of a permit, the department chose not to do so and has not fully explained to the parties involved in this challenge why they feel it is not necessary to conduct such studies.

# COUNCIL: Amherst meeting

Continued from p. 6

There is more cooperation between Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan, and Ontario than there has been in the past. Also there is more state/federal cooperation. Stockings of coasters have been made of 75 3- to 4-year-old fish, some of which were fitted with radio transmitters.



**Steve AveLallemant**

Steve AveLallemant attended the State Council meeting to discuss beaver control efforts in northern Wisconsin. A financial year mismatch between Wisconsin and the federal government may force control efforts to stop for a number of months starting this fall

The purchase of property on the Gratiot River in the UP is going well. A grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation has been awarded, and the National TU Wild Rivers project on Copper River area of the UP is going well. A potential problem for the coaster restoration is the application of the Kennecott Mining Company for a mine on the Salmon Trout River. This copper/nickel mine could affect a wide area. The proposed mine is currently to be the size of the Ladysmith/Flambeau mine. Opposition at a grassroots level is forming and TU is involved.

The *Polluted Runoff Toolkit* effort is continuing with the Clean Water Coalition to take the concept to the grassroots level statewide.

### Council audit

Larry Meicher gave the treasurer's report which was accepted on a unanimous vote. The concept of yearly audits and working closely with all treasurers in Wisconsin TU was discussed. There is a need for all chapters to be very careful with their money and for planned reviews of all chapter books.

A motion to form a new committee under the State TU Constitution consisting of the State Council treasurer, a member of the State Council with bookkeeping knowledge, and a representative from the chapters, with the purpose of assisting chapters in controlling their treasuries, passed unanimously. This issue will have to be passed at a later State Council meeting in order to change the constitution.

### By-laws review

Christiansen reported that the review of the State Council by-laws is 90% complete and that the new by-laws will tie nicely into the new National TU by-laws.

### Regional reports

Larry Kriese of the NE Region noted that the *Polluted Runoff Tool-*

*kit* effort needs to be continuous. He noted that in the past there has been reluctance in the DNR to push these matters. Be it at the local office level, Madison level, or the attorneys level, too often there are those who prevent action on cases from being taken. This is where citizen groups like local TU chapters come in. We can not accept the old "hands off, don't get in trouble" approach.

The Florence County wild rivers issue is progressing well. There is a lot of local support for TU's position.

Larry started the discussion on the Polar Ice water bottling plant in Langlade County (*see story on p. 1*). Bottled water is a growth industry in the USA and there is big money involved. In the Polar Ice case, the request went from 1,500 gallons a day to 1.5 million gallons a day.

Opposition is being led by Mitch Bent, a TU member, and those involved expect there to be legal bills in the future. Under current law, the DNR has an option of asking for an environmental impact statement (EIS), which they have not done so far. Part of the problem is who is putting up the large sums of money that this small operation is prepared to spend to get this plant going? The DNR has granted a "contested case" hearing and that will require lawyers and money. The DNR has not granted an environmental hearing on the matter.

A motion that the State Council of Trout Unlimited go on record allowing the Water Resources Committee \$5,000 for legal expenses to state our commitment to the principals involved in this issue.

Jim Hlaban, Central Regional VP, reported that all area chapters are going well. The Aldo Leopold Chapter is now back and active. The region is getting involved in water monitoring.

Larry Meicher, Southern Regional VP, noted that the Big Spring project in Iowa and Grant County was completed. This project involved Wisconsin and Illinois chapters working together.

### White River purchase

Bill Heart reported on the efforts of the Wild Rivers chapter to purchase a critical property on the White River. This property is a target of development, and 126 acres can be purchased for \$126,000 which the chapter is well on its way to securing. The problem is that they would like the State Council to hold the option on the property. A motion passed unanimously that the State Council work with the Wild Rivers Chapter to carry out the purchase and to eventually transfer the property to the DNR.

### Publication scanning project

Todd Hanson spoke about publications. The next issue of *Wisconsin Trout* is almost ready for the printer. He noted that he was working with Jeff Smith to do an editorial about Rep. Johnsrud.

Efforts to find and preserve on disk old issues of Wisconsin State Council publications are going well.

### Zip codes and membership

It was noted that the Membership Committee is still working on National's attempt to clarify the zip code/membership list. Chapters are reminded to fill out the necessary papers to resolve and hopefully finally clarify this policy.

### Water resources

Stu Grimstad spoke for the Water Resources Committee. He noted that most of the committees issues

# COASTERS: reintroductions starting on Whittlesey, Gratiot

Continued from p. 1

This is the first in a five-year plan to experimentally reintroduce coasters into Whittlesey Creek. In the coming years, a variety of life stages of fish — eggs, fry, fingerlings, and adults — will be released and monitored.

### Gratiot R. reintroduction work

Another coaster reintroduction effort continues on the Gratiot River on Michigan's Keweenaw peninsula.

The primary approach of this restoration project involves the stocking of brook trout from the Lake Nipigon hatchery strain, coupled with evaluations of their local survival, dispersal, growth, and return rate.

In the fall of 2002, about 30,000 fall fingerlings were planted in the Gratiot River. Since 1999, a total of 89,000 Nipigon stock fall fingerlings and 12,000 spring yearlings have been introduced into the Gratiot River.

In 2002, crews detected 29 total fin-clipped fish in five Lake Superior tributaries (other than the Gratiot) around the Keweenaw Peninsula. Eleven of these fish were from the 1999-2001 plants. Only two individuals of the older fish planted in 2001 as spring-yearlings were de-



### COASTERS RELEASED

Some 75 adult coaster brook trout were released in August in Whittlesey Creek in Bayfield County.

tected in other tributaries during the surveys.

Eighteen of the brook trout planted in the fall of 2002 were already detected later that fall in other tributaries.

These efforts are the result of fruitful collaboration between various partners (*see table below*), including Michigan Technological University (MTU), the Copper County Chapter of Trout Unlimited (CCCTU), and the Michigan DNR (MIDNR). The effort is led by Dr. Casey Huckins with the assistance of Andrew Carlson, MTU, and was made possible by almost 500 total volunteer hours and over 400 paid hours of work from MTU and CCCTU.

Coaster Brook Trout – Lakewide Partnership Participants		
<b>Federal Agencies</b> U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service* U.S. Forest Service - Eastern Reg. Superior National Forest Hiawatha National Forest Ottawa National Forest US Geological Survey* National Park Service Great Lakes Fishery Comm.*	<b>Trout Unlimited</b> TU National - Midwest Office* Trout Unlimited - Canada* Gitchee Gume Chapter of TU Wild Rivers Chapter of TU Copper Country Chapter of TU Fred Waara Chapter of TU	<b>State and Provincial Agencies</b> Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Res.* Michigan Dept. of Natural Res. Minnesota Dept. of Natural Res.* Ontario Min. of Natural Res.*
<b>Tribal Entities</b> Bad River Tribe Red Cliff Tribe Keweenaw Bay Indian Community	<b>Universities and Extension Services</b> Michigan Technical University* Northern Michigan University Univ. of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Univ. of Wisconsin - Extension* Minnesota Sea Grant*	<b>Funding Entities</b> Oxley Foundation Wisconsin Coastal Management Program U.S. EPA - Great Lakes National Program Office National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

\* Organizations involved with planning and hosting the conference series

# Al Shea, Bill Smith appointed to top WDNR positions

WDNR Secretary Scott Hasset has appointed Bill Smith, 52, as deputy secretary for the department and Al Shea, 50, administrator of Air and Waste Division.

Smith, a 25-year DNR veteran, has served as acting deputy since January. He served as director of the Northern Region when it was formed during the department reorganization in 1996, and directed the former Northwest District since 1990. Prior to that, he served as deputy director of the former North Central Region.

Smith was environmental quality program supervisor and a field engineer for the DNR Northwest District. He started as an air management engineer with the department in 1978.

Shea, a 20-year DNR veteran, has directed the agency's Bureau of Watershed Management since 1997, where his responsibilities included:

- urban and rural runoff management,
- wastewater facility permitting, and
- water quality standard-setting for inland waters and the Great Lakes.

In his new position, Shea will guide the activities of 411 employees in three programs:

- air management, which is re-

sponsible for air quality and air emissions permitting;

- waste management, which handles disposal of solid and hazardous wastes; and
- remediation and redevelopment, which oversees the cleanup and beneficial re-use of contaminated land.

Shea began his new duties Sept. 22. He replaces Jay Hochmuth, a 33-year veteran employee who is being reassigned to customer and employee services leader for the South Central Region in Fitchburg.

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Makes long-term recommendations on policy, sustainability

# Waters of Wisconsin report released

The Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters has released a report entitled *Waters of Wisconsin: The Future of our Aquatic EcoSystems and Resources*. The report is a product of the academy's Waters of Wisconsin initiative and the celebration of 2003 as the Year of Water.

According to the report, "Wisconsin has distinguished itself through its efforts to define and live according to a conservation ethic that crosses cultural, generational, and jurisdictional boundaries.

"We suggest that the goal of Wisconsin's water policy should be to assure for this generation and future generations a safe and plentiful supply of water to meet essential human needs; to strive toward efficient use and environmentally responsible management of our waters; and to ensure the

resilience, viability, and beauty of Wisconsin's watersheds and aquatic ecosystems."

The report makes a series of recommendations in four categories:

- water policy,
- public education and civic participation,
- water science and assessment, and
- sustainable water management.

*Wisconsin Trout* has been given permission to excerpt the recommendations relating to *water policy* and *sustainable management*. Those recommendations follow.

## Toward a Wisconsin Water Policy

Wisconsin's waters are at once abundant and precious, renewable and limited, resilient and vulnerable. We cannot and should not be complacent in the face of increasing stresses affecting water quality and water quantity, the biological diversity and healthy functioning of aquatic ecosystems, sustainable water use and water allocation, governance and administration of water supplies, and impacts upon Wisconsin's waters that originate from beyond our borders.

As noted previously, Wisconsin has much existing and de facto water policy. Overall, however, our policies tend to be fragmented and reactive and will not suffice to meet emerging needs. The many water challenges we face cannot be regarded as separate issues. Wisconsin water policy must better reflect the interconnected nature of water and the interdependence of varied uses and demands. In the face of uncertainty and increasing pressures on water, both within the state and beyond, Wisconsin needs a forward-looking, broad-based, coherent, consistent, and integrated state policy to protect, manage, and sustain our waters.

As a starting point, the Waters of Wisconsin committee has adopted for its use the following statement: *The goal of Wisconsin's water policy should be to assure for this generation and future generations a safe and plentiful supply of water to meet essential human needs; to strive toward efficient use and environmentally responsible management of our waters; and to ensure the resilience, viability, and beauty of Wisconsin's watersheds and aquatic ecosystems.*

Development of a state policy along these lines should include, and be based upon, a review and assessment of our myriad existing de facto water policies and laws.

To encourage action toward a more comprehensive state water policy, the WOW committee recommends the following:

**1. The governor of Wisconsin, working together with the state legislature and with Wisconsin's Native American tribes and bands, should establish in 2003 a Wisconsin Water Policy Task Force to out-**

**line steps toward a comprehensive state water policy.**

The goal of the task force should be to assess existing policy and develop recommendations that reflect and represent the public interest in

healthy water resources and aquatic ecosystems in the state. Achieving this goal will require the active participation and involvement of all agencies of the state government and of decision makers at all levels of government. In working toward this goal, the task force should seek extensive and meaningful public participation. The task force should be broadly constituted — com-

prising citizens from varied sectors, with experience and expertise in water science, use, policy, public health, conservation, and environmental protection. The task force should base its discussions on the best available scientific information and should explicitly seek to address the connections between water and public health, transportation, tourism, agriculture, energy, commerce, research, education, land use, and other areas of public policy.

**3. The proposed Wisconsin Water Policy Task Force should seek to examine all major topic areas related to water use, management, and protection and address the long-term and cumulative impacts of current policy on Wisconsin's waters.**

In carrying out its mission, the task force should include consideration of the following topic areas: the status and future of the public trust doctrine and water law; trends and needs related to water quality; drinking water supplies and public health; water quantity, use, and management; water allocation, priorities, and property rights; climate change issues; drought preparedness; groundwater protection and groundwater quantity management; protection and restoration of Wisconsin's lakes, rivers, and wetlands; protection of the aesthetic value and quality of Wisconsin's waters; the importance of water to Wisconsin's economy; the impact of existing incentives on water use, conservation, and management; fisheries management; exotic and invasive aquatic species; dams and dam removal; floodplain management; shoreline

protection; Great Lakes withdrawals and interbasin transfers; Great Lakes ports and navigation needs and impacts; the water policies and programs of Wisconsin's Native American tribes and bands; irrigation, drinking water, and watershed health; the security of our water bodies and water supplies; and the state of water-related educational efforts.

**4. The proposed Wisconsin Water Policy Task Force should undertake the following specific activities:**

- The task force should compile an annotated inventory of the main elements of current statutory, administrative, and other policies pertaining to water.
- The task force should identify and assess gaps, conflicts, duplications, and weaknesses in the existing policy framework.
- The task force should identify scientific data, sources, and additional information and monitoring needs upon which Wisconsin can base effective water policy.
- The task force should provide a clear statement of future directions and a general policy framework to ensure a sustainable water future for the state.
- The task force should develop specific recommendations for the modification of statutes and incentives, and other needed reforms.
- The task force should assess needs associated with water education, as described next.

A broad partnership of Wisconsin's educators and institutions should conduct a full review and assessment of statewide water education efforts at all levels.

Despite longstanding efforts to enhance public appreciation of water, water use, and water issues in Wisconsin, we are still confronted by widespread lack of public understanding about even the basics of water and its role in our lives and landscapes. In the long run, better stewardship of our water requires a higher level of water literacy across the state. Water education in this sense involves not only K-12 students, but all Wisconsin's citizens.

A full assessment of current water education goals, programs, and requirements in Wisconsin is needed. Because this is necessarily a broad undertaking, a variety of institutions, organizations, and agencies should be involved. Within the state government, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and Department of Natural Resources should assume a lead role in this effort. Other partners in this effort should include the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board; the University of Wisconsin System (including the UW Center for Biology Education, the UW Center for Limnology, UW-Extension, the Water

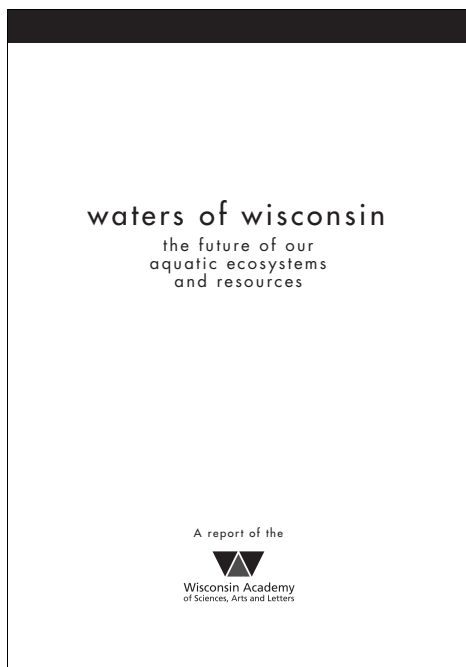
Resources Institute, and the Wisconsin Center for Environmental Education at UW-Stevens Point); and the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters. Other state agencies, municipalities and local governments, conservation and environmental organizations, utilities, businesses, and other private sector partners should also be involved. Specific tasks that should be carried out include

- a review of existing information regarding the state of public understanding and water and awareness of water issues;
- an inventory of water education efforts in the Wisconsin DNR, across the University of Wisconsin System (including the UW-Extension system), in Wisconsin's private colleges and universities, and in nature centers and nonprofit organizations;
- identification of innovative opportunities for water education;
- identification of important non-traditional audiences;
- consideration of the role of the media in improving water literacy in Wisconsin;
- establishment of broad water education goals; and
- a statement of recommendations for improving water education.

**5. As part of the general review of water education in Wisconsin, special attention should be given to assessing K-12 water education programs and needs.**

Water education at the K-12 level deserves special attention. Although water education programs at this level have increased in recent years, they are often general in nature (i.e., not tailored specifically to Wisconsin's waters). We have limited information about their effectiveness in improving water literacy in the state. To meet future K-12 water education needs in Wisconsin, educators must come together to:

- assess the degree to which water is included in current K-12 curricula;
- inventory and review existing K-12 water education programs and curricula materials;
- define essential water concepts that students in Wisconsin should acquire;
- identify opportunities to integrate water education into existing science, math, history, health, social studies, language arts, visual arts, and other programs;
- identify opportunities for students to become involved in monitoring programs and to make meaningful contributions to their communities' decision-making processes; and
- develop and implement a comprehensive plan to integrate water resources education into both teacher education programs and the K-12 curriculum.





**6. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, working with partner organizations, businesses, schools, and communities, should lead efforts to support, expand, and improve volunteer monitoring programs and to coordinate an effective statewide volunteer monitoring network.**

Volunteer monitoring is a powerful way to involve local citizens and organizations in gathering useful information about their local waters, and to supplement technical monitoring programs. At the same time, state- and county-level budget constraints limit the capacity of the DNR and counties to gather essen-

tial baseline data, monitor remediation and restoration efforts, and implement Wisconsin's new non-point pollution control program. The recent reorganization of DNR administration, following the state's river basins, is premised on the need to bring watershed management decisions "closer to home," and to involve local citizens and organizations in natural resource planning and decision making. For these reasons, the Wisconsin DNR should lead a concerted and coordinated effort to expand involvement in existing volunteer monitoring programs, and to create new opportunities for citizen participation.

Local monitoring efforts not only are important in and of themselves, but also can contribute to better understanding of entire watersheds and Wisconsin's water in general. But to be used effectively, the information gathered through volunteer monitor programs must meet certain quality standards and must be consistent and carefully coordinated.

A statewide volunteer monitoring network, working through the water basins, would achieve multiple education and stewardship goals while giving citizens a greater stake in, and understanding of, their waters. Future actions to provide for more effective volunteer monitoring of

- Wisconsin's waters should include:
- development of consistent sampling protocols;
  - identification of funding sources for required equipment;
  - identification of a primary coordinating institution (such as the DNR or the U. of Wisconsin);
  - development of standard, user-friendly data reporting methods;
  - preparation of accessible and timely summary reports of monitoring results;
  - support and training opportunities for local organizations and their leaders; and
  - coordination of local monitoring programs with K-12 science and water education programs.

## Managing Wisconsin's Water for Sustainability

The ways in which the people of Wisconsin have used and protected the state's waters have evolved throughout the state's history in response to changing economic forces, demographic trends, environmental threats, scientific information, legal mandates, policy tools, and stewardship opportunities. We are now poised for further significant changes in the way we manage our waters.

As in the past, we are constrained by uncertainties and gaps in our knowledge. However, we have the benefit of past experience and of greatly expanded understanding of the status, trends, and functioning of our waters, both within the state and as a part of the global hydrologic system. In the past we have regarded water as a discrete resource and have sought to manage particular water uses, activities, or impacts. Increasingly we understand water as an integral part of the landscapes and watersheds where it occurs. To sustain water for human health, environmental quality, and economic prosperity, we must sustain as well the hydrologic systems and ecosystems through which our waters flow.

Managing for sustainability means taking the long view and seeking ways to integrate human needs and ecosystem values without compromising either. It implies constant assessment of the impacts of our decisions and actions. It depends upon citizens becoming more aware of Wisconsin's waters and more involved in the decisions that affect them.

The principles in chapter 4 underlie the following recommendations for management of our water resources and aquatic ecosystems.

**1. Sustainability should be recognized as the foundation and guiding principle of Wisconsin's water policy.**

As efforts to frame a comprehensive state water policy continue, sustainability should be the core consideration. The proposed Wis-

consin Water Policy Task Force should consider sustainability principles in its work and should further define how they may be embraced and implemented in decision-making processes. For example:

- The task force should examine options for developing groundwater quantity management policies that allow for a sustainable level of withdrawal while ensuring the protection of surface waters.
- The task force should recognize the connections between land use and water and propose ways to better integrate water policy with the planning provisions of Wisconsin's Smart Growth legislation.
- The task force should consider the efficacy of both regulatory and nonregulatory approaches, including the existing incentive structures in state policy, on water conservation, use, and management.

**2. Our approach to the protection and management of Wisconsin's water resources and aquatic ecosystems should be flexible, adaptive, and responsive to the complex nature of hydrologic systems.**

Because ecosystems are constantly changing, management must itself remain flexible and dynamic. Such adaptive approaches are a fundamental attribute of sustainable resource management. Adaptive management suggests that all water management actions can be thought of as experiments-in-progress, that the results of these actions should be monitored, and that the knowledge and lessons gained should be applied in planning future actions. Adaptive management feeds information back into the decision-making process, so that actions that tend to deplete or degrade water resources are more likely to be selfcorrecting.

Adopted widely, the concept of adaptive management can help to reduce the inherent uncertainty in

water resource management. At present, the feedback loops connecting our water assessment system and water management efforts are weak or lacking. These links need to be strengthened if adaptive management is to be realistically achieved.

The Water Policy Task Force should review how well basic adaptive management principles are, and can be, embedded in water management programs.

**3. Collaborative water basin and watershed-based approaches are fundamental to sustainable water management and should be supported and strengthened through both private- and public-sector actions.**

The Wisconsin DNR has recently reorganized its programs according to the state's water basins. This change is intended to encourage more comprehensive and better integrated approaches to water and other resource management responsibilities, and to more actively engage partners in shared management responsibilities.

The DNR's water basin teams deserve public support and will require broader citizen participation to become more effective. Supporting such citizen engagement and partnerships should be regarded as

a common, cross-sector goal. Collaborative watershed groups should be established in all of Wisconsin's major watersheds to build a stronger foundation for long-term water stewardship, involve citizens more actively at the local level, and provide input into state- and federal-level decisions.

**4. Local governments, organizations, institutions, and businesses in Wisconsin should be encouraged to discuss, embrace, and apply sustainability principles, in both public and private decision making.**

The Waters of Wisconsin committee urges others to consider, test, and apply the basic water management principles outlined in this report. Sustainability is a broad societal goal. Laws and policies are essential to promote improved water stewardship and to protect the state's waters against abuse. However, most of the activities and decisions that contribute to greater sustainability are not mandated by law but are made every day by individual citizens, local governments, businesses, and organizations.

Observance of sustainability principles is an expression of commitment to future generations and to the well-being of Wisconsin's waters.

## Web pages celebrate 2003 Year of Water

The public can find facts, figures, and milestones regarding water in Wisconsin on new web pages that help celebrate 2003 as the "Year of Water" and highlight looming water challenges.

2003 is officially the "Year of Water" in Wisconsin. Last year, more than 700 citizens and representatives from organizations gathered for the Waters of Wisconsin Forum in Madison, capping an initiative led by the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters.

Participants embraced the designation as an important step toward creating a long-term, comprehen-

sive plan to sustain Wisconsin's water resources.

Gov. Jim Doyle has likewise strongly endorsed the Year of Water designation as an occasion to "celebrate water as our most precious natural resource, participate in a statewide effort to understand and appreciate our waters, and work together on projects that conserve and sustain our waters for future generations."

Find out more about Wisconsin's water at these sites:

- [www.wisconsinyearofwater.org](http://www.wisconsinyearofwater.org) and
- [www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/division/yow/](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/division/yow/).

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## WITU Looking Back

## From the Spring, 1973, WITU Quarterly Report...

Jim Stewart Receives TU Award

Jim Stewart was presented one of those beautiful Byrnescraft trout clocks made by Clint Byrnes and Lee Parker, TU'ers from Beaver Dam, by the Wis. State Council at its April meeting. The award was to recognize Jim's continued service and efforts beyond the call of duty on behalf of TU.

## From the Fall, 1983, WITU Quarterly Report...

On October 22, 1983, Tom Flesch of Poyette will step down as chairman of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited and turn the reins of leadership over to another. One good reason why Tom is handing over the chairmanship is shown above; his name is Charlie Flesch.

In early July, Tom (with a little help from wife Ann) became a proud father. Tom is now going to take some time to sit back and let others handle the chores while he and Charlie make plans for the future. In the past seven years, Tom has given so much of himself to T.U. that it's hard to list all he's done: chapter newsletter editor, work project co-ordinator, fly-tying instructor, State Council secretary and newsletter editor, National Director, and State Council Chairman. It's time for Tom to take a breather, to recharge his batteries, to take care of things he's been putting off. And, of course, there's Charlie.

But, we all know that Tom Flesch will never fade from the scene; he'll be there in some capacity. Because Tom Flesch is, above all else, a LEADER, one who is COMMITTED to the betterment of the coldwater resource, one who gives a damn about tomorrow. Wisconsin T.U. has been fortunate to have his guidance this past year. So, Tom (and Ann), we say "THANK YOU!" Because of your sacrifices, Wisconsin T.U. has grown in size and strength. And we mean to keep it that way!

## From the Fall, 1983, Wisconsin Trout...

"Catch-and-Release"  
committee formed

Council activist Jim Hlaban has announced the composition of the newly-formed "Catch-and-Release" (C & R) Committee formed as a result of the June 12th State Council meeting in Wautoma. Members are:

Jim Hlaban  
1421 Silverwood  
Neenah, WI 54956  
(414) 722-4335

Randy Butters  
811 Eureka St.  
Ripon, WI 54971-1136

John Cantwell  
2286 Mt. Olive Dr.  
Green Bay, WI 54313-8102  
(414) 434-3989

Bob Hunt  
N2254 Skyview Ln.  
Waupaca, WI 54981

Tom Boario  
326 S. Washington  
Waupaca, WI 54981  
(715) 258-8203

Dale Lange  
N3167 Right-of-Way Rd.  
Peshtigo, WI 54157  
(715) 582-4172

Russ Bouck  
P.O. Box 56  
Amherst Junction, WI 54407-0056  
(715) 824-3781

Clint Byrnes  
921 South Spring St.  
Beaver Dam, WI 53916  
(414) 885-5335

Bill Sherer  
6272 Otswego Fishtrap Lane  
Boulder Junction, WI 54512-9721  
(715) 369-6172

Marlin Spindler  
921 North Center St.  
Beaver Dam, WI 53916-1735

The purpose of the committee is to assimilate ideas and devise plans to educate the trout angling public about the proper methods of releasing trout. If any T.U. member has ideas for promoting proper "C & R" techniques, call Jim Hlaban at (414) 722-4335.

# Ojibseau, others tackle Gilbert Creek Much work done and all agree: "it sounds different"

By Daniel J. Perkins

JoAnne Thorud stood looking at Gilbert Creek, admiring the stream reconstruction just completed on her property. The squeaking of the rusted iron bridge she was standing on caused her to turn.

John "Duke" Welter of the Ojibseau Chapter was walking toward her when she said, "It sounds different."

It was a sound she recalled from her childhood some 60 years ago when she and her sister fished for brook trout on the property just behind their farm house. The sound of the stream running over boulders and gravel, running faster in some sections slower in others. The sound of a trout stream at work.

According to members of the Dunn County Fish and Game Club, no stream work has ever been done on the North Branch of Gilbert Creek. Jim Mense indicated that they had been considering it for 50 years!

Between April and August, 2003, some 3,800 feet of the North Branch of Gilbert Creek have been reworked with the cooperation of members of the Dunn County Fish and Game Club, four area TU chapters, students and faculty from UW-Stout, students from Menominee High School, and the WDNR.

These partners sculpted banks to allow for high water conditions, ripped along the banks to keep cattle out and installed lunger structures to provide protective cover for the fish.

15,000 man hours spent

Welter suggests that an mind-boggling 15,000 hours have already been put into this restoration project — 3,000 of which have been contributed by local volunteers.

Working every Tuesday evening from June through August, some 300 workers put in volunteer time, and the various organizations contributed a total of \$80,000 to the project.

In addition to constructing about half of the lunger structure, students and faculty from UW-Stout cleared debris from the old spring near the farmhouse and deepened the channel. Now the crystal-clear water that collects from the hills just north of the farmstead can again flow into Gilbert to make it productive trout water. Thorud recalls seeing spawning trout in that spring during her youth.

The effect of the project has been dramatic. A pre-reconstruction survey by the DNR indicated 200 fish per mile with an average length of 7". A post-construction survey in the plunge pools indicates

there are now fish in Gilbert Creek in the 11-13" range.

More important is the very nature of the stream itself. As JoAnne Thorud says, "It sounds different." The difference is easily noticed when one walks to the lower end of the work site. There the stream goes under a fence onto the next property downstream, a property that will be the focus of next year's reconstruction work.

At that border the stream changes dramatically. There, cutting through eight-foot banks, the stream makes no sound. It merely moves over sand beds through pastures and fields until it disappears under Highway Q on its 12-mile journey east to the Red Cedar River. Here the banks are so high — as high as they were on the Thorud property — that one could not hear the stream even if it were rippling and bubbling over some rocks.

Why the North Branch of Gilbert Creek? There are many streams in this area of Dunn County (see the 2003 DNR trout map book, p. 12). The stream was chosen for three reasons.

First, because a stream project in another valley only a few miles away (Cady Creek) has proven to be extremely successful. In that restored creek, 14-inch brook trout are not uncommon.

Second, according to DNR personnel, Gilbert had a good reproduction potential.

Third, Ms. Thorud graciously allowed the project. Her generosity has been rewarded by being able to sell some of the gravel/topsoil that was removed during the project.

Another benefit surfaced when UW-Eau Claire geographer Doug Faulkner discovered layers of wood — trees



## MOVING LOTS OF SOIL

These pictures give some idea of the massive amount of soil redistributed in the Gilbert Creek restoration project. Even the youngsters took part in the fun. John "Duke" Welter (bottom, left) and WDNR fish manager John Sours take a break from the work.



and debris — which he is carbon dating in an attempt to get a sense of the development and settlement in this particular valley. These results will help us "see" what the valley looked like before the effects of farming.

## Open house celebration

To celebrate the success of this venture, the participants had an open house on the site September 27. The DNR surveyed sections of the stream, and the TU chapters involved conducted classes related to stream restoration and fishing.

Still there is much work to be done. The owners of the property next to the Thorud homestead have agreed to allow the project to continue downstream. That work will begin next summer.

The North Branch of Gilbert Creek begins some 5-6 miles north of the Thorud property and flows

through heavily wooded valleys. There, as it comes out of the woods, under the old iron bridge at the edge of the project, it takes on its natural character, flowing as it once had in the 1930s when Thorud and her sister were children, fishing for trout in this stream.

The sound she hears now is a sound she heard then when the stream was "working." It's a sound we all know about trout streams as they talk to us, and now, as Gilbert Creek again talks, "It sounds different."

(Daniel Perkins is a longtime TU member and professor of communication at UW-Eau Claire. He is the owner of Rude Trude Flyfishing services in Eau Claire. —Ed.)





## Chapter News



### RELAXING AFTER A WORK DAY

Central Wisconsin TU Picnic Chair Dan Harmon III (left) and Workday Chair Rich Mlodzik enjoy the festivities at a recent after-workday chapter picnic.

### Aldo Leopold Chapter

Many thanks to the many who donated prizes to our June raffle. The top prizes were a hand-crafted Byrnescraft net, made by former ALCTU president **Clint Byrnes**, and a day on the stream guided by member **Kevin Searock**. The net went to **Michael Stupich**, while Bill Brashear enjoyed a day of Coulee stream fishing with Kevin. Judging from the photos of the 20" brown, and his 30" smile, I'd say Bill enjoyed himself.

Also many thanks to the other chapters who have donated to our chapter their money and advice. So far financial donations have been received from the **Hornberg**, **Wild Rivers**, **Northwoods**, and **Nohr** chapters, with more on the way. The

list of chapter donating advice is too long to list — thanks one and all. We promise to put both to good use as we move ahead!

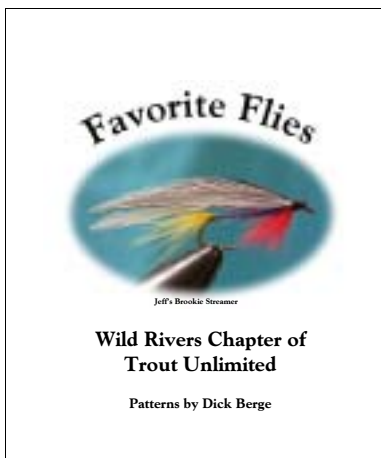
To that end, we have met with both **Andy Morton** and **Tim Larson** of the DNR. Besides getting a better picture of the state of our local streams, we also learned of some possible ice age relict populations of brookies in a few of the streams around Baraboo. We'll be following up on this possibility with an eye to assuring their future. Tim also gave us a good overview of the needs of the streams in our area, as well as some of the success stories. With all of the ideas generated by both men's talks, I expect an activity-filled 2004.

## Wild Rivers publishes *Our Favorite Flies* pattern booklet

By Bill Heart

Last April the Wild River Chapter had our first Fishing Expo and Auction. While doing our planning, we came up with the idea of producing a booklet of the fly patterns featured in our monthly newsletters.

Each month, Charter Vice President and master fly tyer, Dick Berge draws a series of pictures and writes directions for tying the flies. We had done about 20 flies for the past newsletters, and Dick did five more to finish out the booklet.



Since I own a graphics business, my part of the endeavor was to produce the actual book. I had to reformat the pages and take a digital photo of the finished flies. Each page has a black-and-white photo of the fly. The back cover has color photos of all of the flies, and the front cover features a color photo of Jeff Carlson's favorite brookie streamer fly.

We dedicated the book to Jeff and all of the proceeds went to our White River projects. Books are still available if anyone is interested.

One change in our chapter leadership: our chapter vice president, **Mike Voelker**, is moving to Iowa. He has been replaced by **Bill Brashear**.

Our best wishes to Mike as he learns to fish the waters of Iowa.  
—Mike Barniskis

### Central Wisconsin Chapter

President **Bob Chamberlain** is pleased that our chapter is growing. Chamberlain stated, "We had more attendees at our annual work day and picnic on August 9 than I've ever seen before!"

Workday Chairman **Rich Mlodzik** is elated at the turnout of 21 people for the August 9 workday on the **Little Pine** on Czech Ct., northeast of **Dakota**. Many brush bundles were installed along with the subsequent clearing of bank brush. A film crew from the Clean Wisconsin filmed some of our river work — present and past.

Workers were rewarded for their efforts with the annual chapter picnic that followed the morning's work. **Dan Harmon III**, **Bob Chamberlain**, and **John Gremmer** served as cooks for the picnic. **Ira Giese** supplied and prepared sweet corn from his truck farm. Thanks go to all who volunteered their time.

The Saturday, June 21 workday on the **Chaffee Creek** was an electrofishing workday with the help of the DNR. Earlier in the week, **Dave Bartz** and **Dave Paynter** of the DNR, marked a 1,000-foot section of the creek to survey. We assisted them in collecting, tagging, and measuring 178 trout. Longtime member **Dan Harmon III** achieved his "illusive dream" of helping with the shocking. The DNR estimates that there are 1,206 fish per mile.

The next workday will be Saturday, September 20 at 9:00 a.m. **Edward Engle** will be heading up this workday. The workday will consist of brushing and building brush bundles. A picnic lunch will be served at Noon.

Board members were alarmed at the news of Perrier's latest attempt to mine Wisconsin's ground water. Our chapter helped lead the fight to prevent Perrier from setting up a bottling plant in the headwaters of the Mekan River. The battle never ends.

**Bob Haase**, our chapter webmaster, has reported that our site [www.cwtu.org](http://www.cwtu.org) is now linked to state and national TU.

**Bob Hunt** discussed the reworking of the *Trout Stream Management* book. Many feel the book is needed to inform the public of the science behind the work that TU and the Wisconsin DNR does on our trout streams.

Our August meeting dealt mainly with developing a budget for the coming year. New Treasurer **Scott Grady** helped lead the session.

**Ira Giese** and **John Gremmer** are organizing a beginning fly tying class that will be held in February in Wautoma. CWTU is partnering with the **Wautoma School District** on this class.

At the September meeting, **Mark Brosseau**, scholarship committee chair, reintroduced **Lisa Corradin**, last year's scholarship award winner. Lisa made a short presentation about her work with Lake Trout in Lake Superior. The Board voted to award her a scholarship for 2003-4.

**Tim** and **Bart Landwehr** of **Tight Lines Fly Fishing Company**, De Pere, presented our first program following our board meeting on September 8. The title of their program was "Spring Creeks Simplified." The 40 people in attendance were treated to a high-energy program that included spring creek ecology, tackle selection, presentation techniques, and beautiful slides.

The whole of our September meeting was devoted to "strategic planning" for our chapter. The meeting was well attended, and a list of projects and directions was compiled. At our next meeting the board will select several items from the list to emphasize in the coming year.

Our October 13 program will be presented by **Scott Grady**. His program is titled "Simplified Bamboo Rod Making." The program will be held in the F&M Bank in Wautoma starting at 7:30 p.m.

**Ray Larson** of Sheboygan will present our November program at 7:30 at the Fin 'N Feather in Winneconne. Ray's program is titled "Food For Trout."  
—John Gremmer

### Coulee Region Chapter

As usual **John Bethke** has been our single most active member, spending numerous hours on the water trying to convert the unsuspecting into the ways of the trout. And Thanks to Tomah DNR Conservation Warden **Mark Little**, we had the opportunity to have our chapter display at some county fairs, including **Trempealeau County Fair** from July 17-20, **Jackson County Fair** July 30-August 3, and **Monroe County Fair** July 23-27.

We are all deeply saddened by the approaching trout season coming to an end. September kicks off the Coulee Region's meeting season. We meet the 3rd Wednesday of the month from September to May at the **Forest Hills Golf Course** in La Crosse, 600 Losey Blv. We have presentations, speakers, and prize raffles at each meeting. Dinner/social starts at 6 p.m., with presentations at 7 and the meeting following.  
—Nathan Barnhart

### Fox Valley Chapter

The Fox Valley Chapter has had a busy summer. Stream improvement continues on the **Whitcomb Creek** near **Big Falls** in Waupaca County. Two overhead structures and wing dams have been added to the habitat there, and the trout are very appreciative. So are the trout fisherman. A fisherman's path has appeared along the stream which

was absent when the stream work was started. This fall a redd survey is planned.

Fox Valley members have been busy with youth activities. Many youth groups across the area have been enlightened in the art of fishing and fly tying by Fox Valley members **Tony Tremel**, **Tom Deer**, **Tom Lager**, as well as others. The chap-

# Chapter News



ter held its summer outing at **Nancy Rose's Farm** on the **Waupaca River** and it was followed by a flotilla of belly boats assaulting **Skunk Lake**.

Skunk Lake is in one of Wisconsin's newest Natural Areas thanks to the help of many chapter members urging legislators earlier this year to complete the purchase of this beautiful area despite tough fiscal times in Wisconsin. Only a few bluegills and crappies felt the sting of the super lures provided by **Tom Young**.

A full slate of interesting programs is on tap for members starting in September. Meetings are

generally held the 3rd Thursday of the month at the **Gordon Bubolz Nature Center** on County A just north of Appleton beginning at 7:30.

A fall scatterplanting of wild reared trout in the Waupaca River is planned for October 4. Folks interested in volunteering should meet at the Rose Farm where the Waupaca crosses highway 10 just north of the city of Waupaca.

The chapter is also planning an awards banquet in October recognizing some of the outstanding conservationist in the chapter and area.

—*Jim Hlaban*

## Frank Hornberg Chapter

A number of chapter members represented Trout Unlimited at the **Adams County Conservation Fair** in June.

On July 10 a work evening was held at **Stedman Creek**. Despite a soaking rain, members were able to make various repairs, including fixing a brush mat that was damaged during a serious high-water event. On July 19 a work day was held on the **Middle Tomorrow River**. Work included adding brush to reinforce the backwall on a recently completed overhead structure. Also we retrieved a substantial amount of rock from an abandoned snowmobile bridge that once spanned the river, and, along with rock stockpiled at the staging area, we were able to construct a sturdy wing dam across the aforementioned overhead.

We also retrieved a number of large rocks from the remains of a circa 1930s CCC structure that would have otherwise been lost in silt and sand. The rocks were transported, one at a time, via a jon boat, and placed in the stream to create a turbulence which helps improve the oxygen levels and stabilize water temperatures during summer's dog days.

On August 8 the chapter held its **Annual Fun Night** and Fundraiser at **Shooter's Supper Club** in Plover. Many thanks to long-time friend and supporter, **Gene Shulfer**, for again hosting the successful event!

On August 14 a work evening was held on the **Middle Tomorrow**. We inspected the condition of existing structures. Minor damage was noted, but overall they appear to be holding up rather well.

On August 15 we held a Benefit Concert at the **Rising Star Mill** in Nelsonville. It featured long-time chapter friend, **Dave Hundrieser**, and his fiancé **Bonnie Koop**, who performed traditional Mississippi delta blues music to an appreciative audience.

On August 16 a work day was held on the Middle Tomorrow. We started construction of the chapter's first island. The structure will be 36 inches wide, and an estimated 24 feet long. During the lunch break, members drove to check the DNR's habitat work on the **Flume Creek** near Rosholt. Upon their return, members resumed work on the overhead island, as well as doing some clean up on a feeder spring choked by debris.

—*Dan Holland*

## Green Bay Chapter

The Green Bay Chapter spent a usual summer, that is, we did the usual things. We put in roughly 250 hours working on habitat improvement on trout streams in northeast Wisconsin. Such streams included the one that supplies the water for the **Lakewood Trout Hatchery**. There, working with the DNR, members cleaned debris from the streambed that was impeding the flow which allowed the water to flow faster and colder, which is naturally better for the trout in the hatchery.

We also worked with the **US Forest Service** on **Waupee Creek** in the **Nicolet National Forest**. Under the direction of **Tom Moris**, members installed brush bundles the Forest Service way. All natural materials are used in the construction of these devices which, over a period of several years, narrow a stream, creating much better trout habitat.

As usual, we also staged our annual **Kid's Fishing Day** at the **Brown County Reforestation Camp**. The weather on August 12 the was just perfect for this wonderful event.

Forty-two kids involved with the **Brown County Social Services PALS** program ventured out to the camp to fish for bluegills stocked in the ponds there. The event is co-sponsored by the **Green Bay Exchange Club**. Donations from the following businesses are greatly appreciated by the chapter.

- Morning Glory** refreshments,
- Apple Creek Caterers** lunch,
- Bob's Bait & Tackle** bait,
- Moonshiners Liquor** ice,
- Walmart West** snacks, and
- Target** snacks.

During the summer months that chapter also took steps to possibly get involved with any litigation that might occur in the **Crandon Mine** permitting process and the proposal to build a water bottling plant in **Polar** in Langlade County.

Finally, the chapter resumed monthly meeting in September where members will monitor actions which may harm our cold water resources and formulate plans to further improve our trout waters.

—*Gary Stoychoff*

## Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter

The first **Spring Creek Festival** is now history and we are very pleased with the results. It appears we cleared about \$5,500 to be used for stream restoration work in south-

west Wisconsin. For pictures and information about the event check out our web site at <http://springcreekfest.tripod.com/>.

On November 15, the 5th annual **Water Celebration** will be held in at **UW-Platteville**. The focus of the event will be watersheds. A separate track will be provided for youth and adults. New partners for the celebration are **Friends of the Rountree** and the **UW-Platteville Biology Dept**.

The chapter has committed to building 250 lunkers for the **Gordon Creek** project in Dane county and is eagerly awaiting word from the Dodgeville office of the DNR for

proposed projects for the future. Right now we have about \$15,000 available for project work and the potential of getting much more with the cooperation of our partners. It seems like everyone is excited about improving our trout water and the economic benefit it brings to the community.

We continue to be concerned about the lack of rain and it's impact on the resource. Water tables are low and the streams reflect this.

—*Dave Fritz*

## Lakeshore Chapter

The Lakeshore Chapter has been busy throughout the summer doing restoration work on the **Onion River** west of Plymouth. During nine days of work in June and August we were able to complete the first section of our 10-year plan to restore about 3,000 feet of river.

In August we held an open house day for Sheboygan County residents and landowners along the Onion. We held classes and demonstrations

on fly fishing, fly tying, fly casting, and entomology. We demonstrated the construction and placement of lunker structures on a river bend, and the DNR did a fish shocking demonstration. Throughout the day we had about 180 people in attendance, including the majority of landowners along the Onion. The day was a great success and well received by those in attendance.

—*Roger Berg*

## Ocooch Creeks Chapter

On one of the few days of rain this summer, members of the Ocooch Creeks Chapter assisted a local landowner in maintenance work on a previously completed stream restoration project on **Elk Creek**. Thanks to **Jim Kaderavek**, **Dick Peters**, **Bob Rosenkranz**, **Thad Wantor**, and **Rob Hemling** for a job well done.

The chapter is considering a pro-

posal for a stream project near the headwaters of **Elk Creek**, a premier brook trout fishery that has been severely impacted by beaver dams. Fundraising for the project has commenced. We appreciate the efforts of **Dick Peters** in putting this project together.

Congratulations to the **Nohr Chapter** for the outstanding **Spring Creeks Festival** on September 6 and

**HORNBERG'S MULTI-YEAR WORK SITES**  
The Hornberg Chapter continues to work on the Tomorrow River and Stedman Creek in Portage County.



## Chapter News

to **Kim James** of our chapter on winning the **Schroeder** bamboo 4 wt. fly rod.

—Allon Bostwick

### Ojibseau Chapter

The Ojibseau Chapter is continuing our work on **Gilbert Creek**. See the story elsewhere in this issue out-

lining our progress on this fine trout stream.

—Daniel Perkins

## Wisconsin water library a source for trout publications

If you're interested in learning about water issues in Wisconsin, check out Wisconsin's Water Library at [www.aqua.wisc.edu/waterlibrary](http://www.aqua.wisc.edu/waterlibrary).

The new site offers access to almost 30,000 volumes and a videotape collection of water-related information, plus links to additional sources on the Web. Many trout-related books and research materials are included in the collection (see *sample search results below*).

The site was designed to help Year of Water participants who want to learn more about Wisconsin's waters, but any Wisconsin citizen can check books out from the library. Just search the collection or browse the suggested reading lists, then request up to five items via e-mail. Library staff will mail the materials to you free of charge for a loan period of four weeks. You can either return materials to your local public library or mail them back.

The project is a special partnership of the UW Water Resources Library, UW-Madison Libraries, and the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters.

The UW Water Resources Library is an academic library but has non-technical materials on most water-related topics. The library has always emphasized materials related to Wisconsin and has many books relating to groundwater, mercury, wetlands, and water quality protection.

For recreational reading, there are books on water-related tourism, water gardening, building a pond, and more.

### Sample results for a search of "brown trout"

**Title:** Field performance of wild and domestic brown trout strains in two Wisconsin rivers / by Ed L. Avery, Al Niebur and David Vetrano.

**Authors:** Avery, Eddie L.

**Published:** Madison, WI : Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources, Bureau of Integrated Science Services, [2001]

**Description:** 16 p. : ill. ; 28 cm.

**Location:** stacks 281049

**Title:** Effects of streambank riprapping on physical features and brown trout standing stocks in Millville Creek / by Ed. L. Avery.

**Authors:** Avery, Eddie L.

**Published:** [Madison, Wis. ?] : Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources, [1995]

**Description:** 12 p. : ill., maps ; 28 cm.

**Location:** stacks 200932

**Title:** Surficial Substrates and Bathymetry of Five Historical Lake Trout Spawning Reefs in Near-Shore Waters of the Great Lakes.

**Authors:** Edsall, T. A.

**Published:** Great Lakes Fishery Commission, Ann Arbor, MI, 1992.

**Description:** 54+ pp.

**Location:** stacks 280882

**Title:** Evaluation of a catch and release fishery for brown trout regulated by an unprotected slot length / by Robert L. Hunt.

**Authors:** Hunt, Robert L. (Robert Leroy), 1933-

**Published:** Madison, Wis. : Dept. of Natural Resources, 1991.

**Description:** 39 p. : ill., maps ; 28 cm.

**Location:** stacks 280862

### Shaw-Paca Chapter

We helped sponsor four students from the fourth grade of **The Lincoln School** in Shawano to attend **Timbertop Camp at Camp Glacier Hollow**, 14 miles east of Stevens Point. Our sponsorship was part of a group of local sportman's groups and businesses. **Carrie Stoss** is the teacher and contact person.

We also sponsored two high school students to the **Natural Resources Career Camp**, which was held at the **Central Wisconsin Environmental Station**.

We have continued to have informal fly tying sessions throughout the summer.

—Lee Kersten

### Wild Rivers Chapter

In June, the Wild River Chapter was involved in three different events during the State Free Fishing Day. We again assisted at the **Kids Fishing Day** at the **Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center** where there was a record turnout. We also had a some members setting up fly tying displays for the WDNR at both the **Brule River Hatchery** and the **Bayfield Hatchery**. All three events were well received by the public.

In July, chapter members **Dave Krueger, Duane Olson, Chuck Campbell, Dick Berge, and Bill Heart** helped WDNR fisheries people **Cris Sand** and **Cordell Manz** move about 50 16' logs down the upper **White River** for the habitat work that Cris did later in the month. The logs have been staked into the bottom of the stream to provide more habitat and spawning areas for the White River browns. The stream was visited in early September, and each of the structures are producing some good holding water.

The Wild Rivers Chapter was well represented at the coaster brook trout release on **Whittlesey Creek** August 9. Many of us helped stock these beautiful fish at two locations. After the stocking, we cooked lunch for all of the volunteers and the public. Thanks much to everyone who helped cook and serve (see story on p. 1).

Our chapter is also working on acquiring about 126 acres of land on a lower stretch of the **White River**. There are a couple of landowners that want the river corridor protected for future generations. We received a \$7,500 grant to develop a management plan for the middle stretch of the White River from Highway 63 downstream to the dam. We will be working with a large number of local groups to write grants and acquire money to purchase this property. Many thanks to **Duke Welter** for assisting with some of the legalities.

—Bill Heart

### Wisconsin River Valley Chapter

We will be working on the Prairie for the next two years and one more year on the Plover. Much of our

work will hinge on the success of our banquet and DNR budget.

—Herb Hintze

## Consider Proper Release



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



John Gremmer

### COUSINS PRESENT SPRING CREEK PROGRAM

Central Wisconsin TU President Bob Chamberlain (center) welcomes Tim and Bart Landwehr of Tight Lines Fly Fishing Company of De Pere. The Landwehrs, who are cousins, opened Central's 2003 program series on September 8 with a presentation titled "Spring Creeks Simplified." About 40 people attended the program.

# DNR fish stocking information available on the web

Wisconsin anglers can now learn with the click of a computer mouse whether their favorite lake or river has been stocked with game fish.

## 2002 WDNR stocking facts

- A total of 45,003,823 fish were stocked, 32,749,900 of them fry while the remaining 12 million plus ranged from small and large fingerlings to 18-month-old adults.
- 4,622,200 fish were stocked in Lake Michigan, where the trout and salmon fishery depends on stocking; 827,543 fish were stocked in Lake Superior, where the fishery is enhanced by stocking.
- 961 waterbodies (including Lake Michigan and Lake Superior) were stocked in 2002 in a state with 15,000 lakes of various sizes and 32,000 miles of perennially flowing streams and rivers.
- 2,825 stocking events (multiple sites on each waterbody) in 2002.
- Walleye were stocked in 189 inland lakes.
- Muskellunge were stocked in 105 inland lakes.
- **Brown trout were stocked in 316 inland lakes and streams.**
- **Brook trout were stocked in 250 inland lakes and streams.**
- **Rainbow trout were stocked in 204 inland lakes and streams.**

The state's new fish stocking database is now online, giving anglers and others a quick and convenient answer to the question of where the state stocks fish (*see sample data below*).

"Fish managers are often asked, "What fish were stocked in the lake or stream near my house?" says Joanna Griffin, the Department of Natural Resources statewide fisheries database manager who created the Web site and fish stocking summaries. "We've developed a public Web site to help answer this type of question."

The web site features an interactive map of Wisconsin that allows people to easily retrieve and view or print a stocking report for a particular county, all counties at once, Lake Michigan, or Lake Superior, Griffin says. The stocking reports contain information on the county, waterbody, species, strain, location and average length of the 45 million fish stocked in 2002 by DNR fish hatcheries, ponds, rearing stations and co-op ponds. Most fish that are stocked are not of a size to be caught by anglers for a year or even two or three.

The Web site can be found at <http://www.fishingwisconsin.org>, then looking under "Wisconsin fish" and select "stocking." The direct URL is <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/fhp/fish/pages/stocking.shtml>.

### Ten percent of waters stocked

"Ninety percent of Wisconsin's waters already have outstanding game or panfishing entirely due to natural reproduction, but stocking is an important component of the 10 percent of Wisconsin waters that are stocked," says Mike Staggs, who directs the DNR Fisheries Management and Habitat Protection program. "Stocking helps re-

store or maintain fisheries in these waters, expanding opportunities for anglers."

Staggs cautions that whether a waterbody is stocked or not always a good indicator of how good the fishing will be. But the stocking database should help steer trout anglers to good action on Class 2 and 3 trout waters, and to musky hunters fishing Category 0, 2, 3, and 4 musky waters. These waters generally rely on stocking for good fishing.

The DNR fisheries program produces and stocks the cold water species of brook trout, brown trout, rainbow trout, coho salmon, chinook salmon, lake trout and splake. Musky, walleye, northern pike, largemouth bass and smallmouth bass are the cool water species DNR facilities produce, or produce in cooperation with local sporting clubs that raise fish in their own ponds under DNR supervision.

The stocking database figures reflect changes the agency has made in recent years to its stocking strategies. The changes respond to research showing that some stocking can harm naturally reproducing fish populations in a lake, and also to the need for more cost-effective stocking practices in the wake of declining funding, according to Al Kaas, DNR statewide fish propagation coordinator.

When Wisconsin opened its first state-owned hatchery in 1876 on the outskirts of Madison — the Nevin State Fish Hatchery — the idea was to crank out millions and millions of fish, most of them only a few days old, called fry. The fish were stocked without much regard to fish habitat or other fish species in the water, Kaas says.

At the time, stocking was seen as a panacea to promoting more fishing opportunities when overfishing was hurting native stocks. In 1937, in fact, Wisconsin set a national record for fish propagation when it raised and released more than 1 billion fish, most of them fry.

### Emphasis on fewer, larger fish

Today, Wisconsin's hatcheries emphasize producing fewer numbers of larger, high quality fish, Kaas says. Stocking is recognized as just one tool for managing a fishery in a waterbody, along with other major tools such as regulations, habitat protection and restoration, public access and public education.

DNR staff are developing genetic guidelines to assure that stocked fish destined for a particular water are from parent fish, or broodstock, native to the same river, lake or basin. This approach preserves the genetic mix of local adaptations of the native, naturally reproduced fish living in a waterbody. That means that the fish produced for stocking survive better — and should make for better fishing, Kaas says.

Wisconsin's stocking strategies now promote as the top priority stocking waterbodies where there's a good chance of re-establishing formerly self-sustained populations that have been severely reduced. The second priority is to stock fish in conjunction with a research project aimed at determining the cost-effectiveness of some stocking practice or other management actions.

The third priority is to stock a water to maintain an existing fishery that's been reduced due to outside factors that may not be fixed easily or inexpensively. As a last priority, DNR will stock fish to expand recreational opportunities by stocking fish in a water that will likely continually need stocking to sustain that fishing opportunity.

## Major sport fishes stocked by the DNR

Species	Total Fish Stocked	Small Fingerling	Large Fingerling	Yearling	Adult (Broodstock)
Brook Trout	460,056	110,478	136,706	211,833	1,039
Brown Trout	2,300,522	412,591	990,290	890,624	7,017
Chinook Salmon	1,799,386	1,799,386			
Coho Salmon	479,845	122,355	357,490		
Hybrid Muskellunge	25,979	13,459	12,300	220	
Lake Sturgeon	23,298	2,861	20,287	150	
Lake Trout	133,479	30,105	89,724	13,650	
Largemouth Bass	223,382	223,382			
Muskellunge	155,046	1,162	150,954	441	
Northern Pike	149,600	113,112	36,488		
Rainbow Trout	983,442	72,957	447,553	461,336	1,596
Splake	138,209	138,209			
Walleye	4,382,624	4,245,192	137,432		
<b>Statewide*</b>	<b>11,254,868</b>	<b>7,285,249</b>	<b>2,379,224</b>	<b>1,578,254</b>	<b>9,652</b>

\* Numbers do not include fry stocking or fry plant back (which is removing, safely hatching and returning fry to their original location).

**COUNTY**  
 WAUPACA

**STOCKING YEAR**  
 2002

**REPORT CREATED**  
 AUG 16, 2003 - 11:49 AM

Apply

SAMPLE  
report

	WATERBODY NAME	SPECIES	STRAIN	AGE CLASS	NUMBER FISH STOCKED	AVG LENGTH (IN)	LEGAL DESC
1	BASS LAKE	BROWN TROUT	WILD ROSE	YEARLING	1,000	9.1	T21N R11E S13
2	BASS LAKE	RAINBOW TROUT	ERWIN	YEARLING	1,000	8.5	T21N R11E S13
3	LITTLE LONG LAKE	BROWN TROUT	WILD ROSE	YEARLING	400	9.1	T25N R13E S21
4	MIRROR LAKE	BROWN TROUT	WILD ROSE	YEARLING	500	9.3	T22N R12E S30
5	MIRROR LAKE	RAINBOW TROUT	ERWIN	YEARLING	499	8.5	T22N R12E S30
6	WAUPACA RIVER	BROWN TROUT	TIMBER COULEE - SOUTHWEST FERAL	LARGE FINGERLING	4,000	3.1	T21N R13E S11
7	WAUPACA RIVER	BROWN TROUT	WILD ROSE	ADULT (BROODSTOCK)	150	22.3	T21N R13E S11
8	WAUPACA RIVER	BROWN TROUT	WILD ROSE	YEARLING	1,500	9.1	T21N R13E S11
9	WAUPACA RIVER	RAINBOW TROUT	ERWIN	YEARLING	1,500	7.6	T21N R13E S11
10	WOLF RIVER	MUSKELLUNGE	GREAT LAKES SPOTTED	LARGE FINGERLING	841	12.0	T19N R15E S28

## TU involved in talks

# Permit process for livestock expansions under review

Changes are coming in the way local units of government decide questions of permitting livestock facility siting and expansions in Wisconsin.

This follows several contentious applications for livestock operations, including the denial of a permit for a 5000 cattle feedlot in eastern Manitowoc County.

The current "system" is grounded in local decision-making by towns or counties through a permitting process that varies depending on the make-up of the town or county board. Critics complain the process is inconsistent, cumbersome, and subject to political pressure, generally by opponents of expansion proposals.

### Schultz legislation

Senator Dale Schultz (R-Richland Center) and other legislators are drafting legislation that could pre-empt local control over livestock siting applications.

Schultz, who recently announced his intention to run against Ron Kind (D-La Crosse) for the U.S. House of Representatives in the 3d District, is concerned that the state's agricultural sector is threatened with permanent decline.

"We must reach agreement quickly on policies that will work to grow Wisconsin agriculture," said Schultz.

Possibly in response to the rumored legislation, a 21-member committee was appointed by Rod Nilsestuen, secretary of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, in July. Nilsestuen asked the group to come up with recommendations for a process with clear steps and objective criteria for producers seeking to start or expand a livestock farm. He also asked the committee to help ensure the vitality of animal agriculture while promoting sound land use and protecting the environment.

### TU rep on committee

Members of this committee include representatives from:

- the dairy, beef, and grain farmers,
- the American Farmland Trust,
- the Wisconsin Towns Association,
- the Wisconsin Counties Association,
- the Wisconsin Farmers Union,
- the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation,
- Trout Unlimited (in the person of Bill Pielsticker, president of SWTU), and
- the Department of Natural Resources.

"We are beginning to build a shared perspective on several im-

portant ideas that we believe will enable animal agriculture to grow in Wisconsin," said Gary Rohde, chairman of the Advisory Committee on Siting Livestock Facilities, following the second committee meeting in August.

"The committee members all agree that expanding animal agriculture is an important economic objective for our state," said Rohde. Committee members also agree that good and responsible land use and protecting the environment are essential.

"The greatest challenge we face is balancing the need for uniform, statewide standards with a continuing and meaningful role for local and county government," he said.

At their meeting on September 10, the committee began filling in the details of a proposal that is designed to influence the direction of the legislation that is being proposed in the state capitol.

"We are moving toward a system that would establish statewide standards for counties and municipalities to apply to new siting proposals and new expansions," said Pielsticker. "These standards would likely include adoption of best management practices, performance standards, and practice standards to address manure and nutrient management, odor, and dust. They may also include setbacks from neighboring homes."

### Dealing with 'local control'

Regarding the issue of local control, Pielsticker notes the committee is working toward a system where the primary land use would be determined by local zoning ordinances.

"Applicants would no longer be subject to conditional use permits," said Pielsticker. "Instead, farm operators who wish to locate or expand in areas zoned for agriculture, and who are willing to abide by the BMPs and other standards, are likely to get their permits."

If the committee continues to move in this direction, it will be critical for towns and counties to specify allowable uses in their zoning code. The zoning codes will then replace the conditional use process in determining whether a proposal is acceptable or not.

"The key here is to insure that environmental and nuisance issues are properly covered in the siting standards, and that they are enforceable after the fact," said Pielsticker.

Mark O'Connell, executive director of the Wisconsin Counties Association, said that local govern-

ments would benefit from reasonable environmental standards.

"If the land is planned agricultural and if the farming enterprise meets reasonable standards, then the enterprise ought to be able to engage in agriculture," said O'Connell.

"We still have some hard decisions to make," says Pielsticker, "but it is in TU's interest to help insure that agriculture is both profitable and environmentally sound. Given our state's soils and varying topography, properly managed animal agriculture is much better suited

to the land than row crops or other alternatives."

Pielsticker also notes that key legislators have indicated their legislation is likely to closely track the advisory committee's recommendations.

Next meeting Oct. 16

The committee has scheduled a fourth and final meeting for Thursday, October 16, in the State Agriculture Building, 2811 Agriculture Drive, Madison. Meetings are open to the public. Citizens can call (608) 224-5041 to receive agendas and meeting materials by mail.



### FIGHTIN' BOB FEST 2003

Here are two scenes from this year's Fightin' Bob Fest in Baraboo Sept. 6. Headline speaker Jim Hightower (top) entertains the crowd with an optimistic view that the public is increasingly taking back power to change federal policies in reaction to being shut out of many recent decisions. Meanwhile, Lisa Goodman of the The River Alliance of Wisconsin (above left) and Chris Nehrbass of the Wisconsin Stewardship Network (above center) talk about their services to member groups to an attendee.

### SHORELAND WEB SITE HIGHLIGHTS THE VALUE OF THE WATER'S EDGE

Several partner groups in northern Wisconsin have collaborated to produce a web site and CD offering advice on how land owners can be better stewards of shoreline property. Check it out at [www.theshorelandconnection.org](http://www.theshorelandconnection.org).



# Surveys show Black Earth Creek recovering from fish kill

By Todd Hanson

WDNR fish shockings conducted this spring on several reaches of Black Earth Creek outside the village of Cross Plains west of Madison show the native brown trout population is bouncing back after a devastating fish kill in June, 2001.

"The population estimate conducted this year shows that the brown trout population is recovering very nicely," said Scot Stewart in a DNR memo.

The Stewart memo said the kill was "likely as a result of manure washing into the stream after a rain event."

Following the kill, the DNR did not stock brown trout in Black Earth Creek. With a historically strong naturally reproducing brown

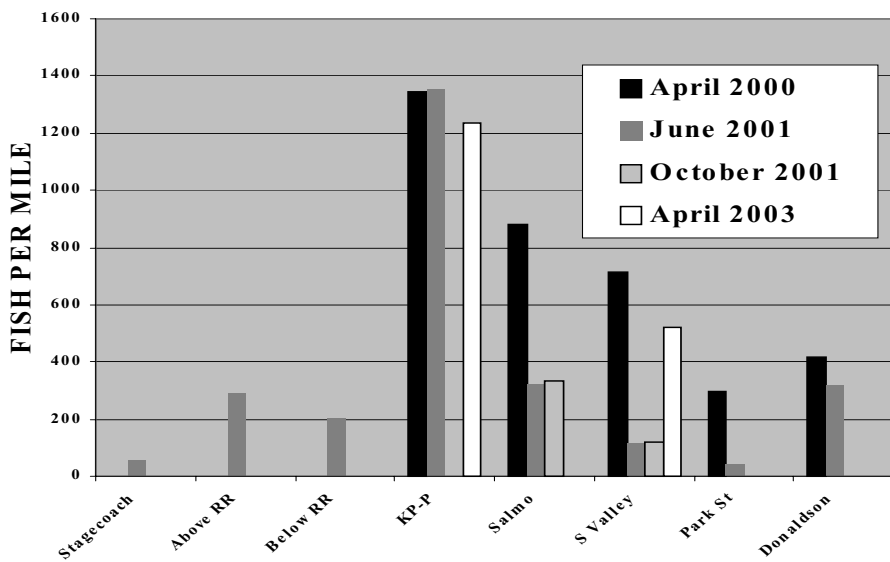
trout population, the DNR decided instead to let the brown trout population recover on its own through natural reproduction.

"In 2002, the department did stock a large number of yearling rainbow trout in the area affected by the fish kill to provide anglers with a fishery as the brown trout population recovered," said Stewart.

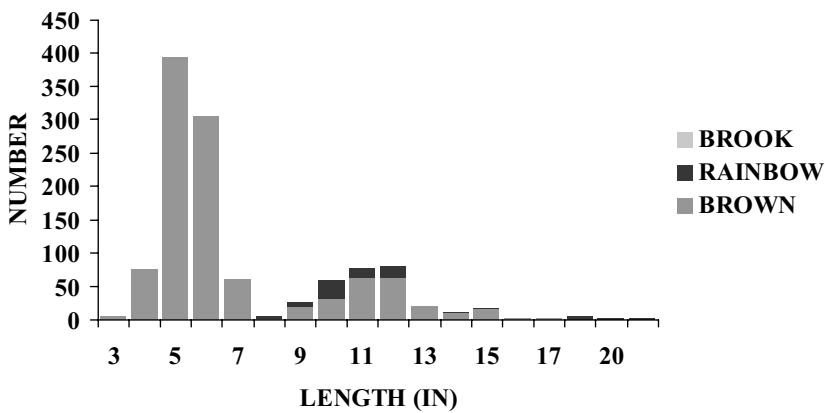
Five shocking stations in the hardest-hit area of the stream (see table at right, top) show a contrast in trout sizes and numbers compared to trout in downstream reaches (see table at right, bottom).

Shocking stations 1-5 summarized in the table at the right came from the areas below South Valley Road. Stations 6-15 are located between Highways KP and P in the Village of Cross Plains.

## BLACK EARTH CREEK Before and after the 2001 fish kill

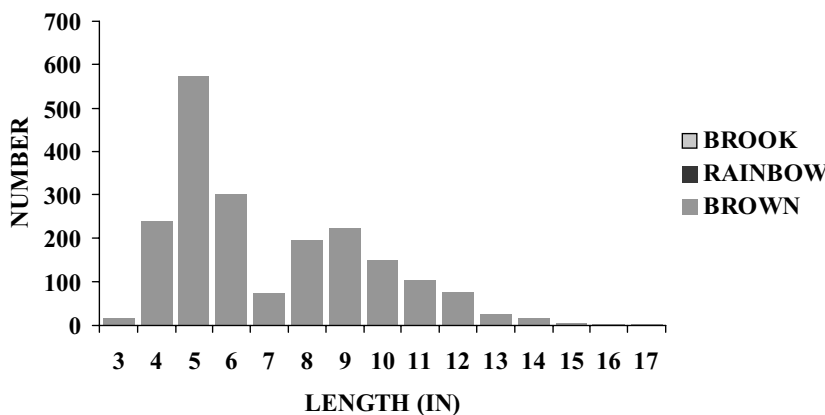


## BLACK EARTH CREEK 2003 POPULATION ESTIMATES



STATIONS 1-5

## BLACK EARTH CREEK 2003 POPULATION ESTIMATES



STATIONS 6-15

### TALE OF TWO REACHES

The above WDNR tables show the state of recovery of the brown trout population on Black Earth Creek. The top table shows a spike in numbers of juvenile fish in the 5-6" range due to post-kill natural reproduction in the main fish kill area (stations 1-5). The bottom table shows overall greater numbers of trout in areas downstream of the fish kill, including far greater numbers of fish in the 8-12" range.

# 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 but one 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 [twanson@chorus.net](mailto:twanson@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	Have
1980	Have		Have	Have
1981	Have	Have	Have	
1982		Have	Have	Have
1983	Have	Have	Have	Have
1984	Have	Have	Have	Have
1985	Have			
<i>Reflections</i>				
1985		Have	Have	

Thanks: Ted Mackmiller sent us four back issues. What have you got in your basement or closet?

# Sheboygan County partnership restoring the Onion River to its former glory

By Kitty Foth

It's the summer of 1946 and you're growing up in tiny Plymouth, Wisconsin. You're too young to remember the Great Depression, the war is over, and everyone is teeming with confidence and goodwill. The sun is shining, your chores are done, and you're off to do a little trout fishing in the cool, crystal-clear waters of the Onion River with one of your very best friends. Life is good!

Now fast-forward 50 years.

The Onion is not looking so great. The water isn't nearly warm enough for swimming, which would be fine, except that it has this uninviting milky cast to it. You can't imagine dropping a fishing line in it. Why bother? The wild trout have all but vanished. In fact, other than the occasional hatchery-raised brown, there's nothing to fish for anymore.

For the Sheboygan County Onion River, this might have been the same old story of decay and death that has played out for literally hun-

dreds of miles of trout streams across Wisconsin. Happily for the Onion, this is a story that's destined for a happy ending. The reason: expert restoration driven by an extraordinary partnership between the public and private sectors.

**Hard times for the Onion**

Those who knew the Onion River in the first half of the 20th century agree: this 100-square-mile watershed in eastern Wisconsin just west of Plymouth was, as one long-time fly fisherman put it, "a lovely little trout stream" — free-flowing, self-sustaining, and laden with wild brook and brown trout.

By the 1990s this stream had been plunged into a state of potentially irreversible decline, according to John Nelson, senior fisheries biologist for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) due to a combination of shoddy agricultural practices along its banks and ill-advised headwater alterations.

In fact, Nelson says the problems started at the headwaters where two of the Onion River's major spring-fed feeders — the Silver Springs spring complex and the Kamrath property — are located.

In the 1930s, the Silver Springs land had been turned into a fish hatchery. Its operation was abandoned in the 1980s. Left behind was a maze of 10 holding ponds, underground pipes to direct the springs' flow, concrete raceways, and dams.

The Kamrath property was in a similarly dysfunctional state from the viewpoint of a healthy trout stream. There, ponds had been built for recreational use, as well as for the rehabilitation of race horses.

Polluted runoff well beyond the headwaters was also a problem for the Onion, says Eric Fehlhaber, engineering supervisor for the Sheboygan County Land and Water Conservation Department.

"For instance, the largest dairy farmer in the area — a farmer with about 400 animals — was operating without any manure storage," Fehlhaber says. "This necessitated spreading manure year-round, a practice that's most detrimental when snow-melt and spring rains would wash winter-spread manure directly into the Onion. Additionally, a nearby farm's feedlot and milk parlor stood on a slope just 15 feet above the Onion, giving serious levels of contamination direct access to the river."

The problems didn't end there, according to Larry Doebert of the Lakeshore Chapter of Trout Unlimited (LCTU), one of the driving forces behind the Onion River restoration.

"Two hundred years ago, the Onion was likely a meadow stream that was narrow enough to stay naturally cold," Doebert says. "But gradually, the beavers that kept big trees from growing along its banks disappeared. As those trees grew and died, they fell over, wrenching their roots out of the banks and in some areas tripling the width of the stream. The result, of course, is an unnaturally shallow river that becomes slower and warmer over time."

It all added up to summer water temperatures that hovered around 85 degrees in some reaches — temperatures generally fatal to trout.

**Pursuing the possible**

A full-blown restoration was the only solution for the Onion, according to Nelson. "It's our mission to restore habitat wherever possible," he says. "Otherwise, to sustain a fishery in a river like this would have required perpetual stocking, and that's no solution. Only wild fish



Todd Hanson photos

## ONION RIVER CELEBRATION DRAWS BIG CROWD

The pictures on this page and the next were all taken at the Onion River Open House August 24. Over 150 people were treated to a stream shocking led by WDNR fish manager John Nelson (next page), lunger structure building and installation (above), and various streamside before-after pictures of the work done on the stream (top).

give us the larger populations we want, as well as the mystique that attracts fishermen from other parts of the country."

So in the late '90s, the WDNR began working to reclaim as much of the Onion as possible. Before long, the LCTU joined the effort, naming Doebert their Onion River Project Director.

"We had purchased some sections of land on the Onion," says Nelson, "and the LCTU, along with other local conservation groups, helped us buy another 80 acres. It was a good start."

Nevertheless, they knew that they were lacking the single most important element in any major river restoration — control of the headwaters.

"You can do everything possible to correct the conditions downstream," Doebert says. "But if there are major problems in the headwaters, and you aren't addressing those problems, it may be impossible to make lasting improvements. That's precisely the situation we faced with the Onion."

And then something truly remarkable happened.

**Securing the sources**

In 1999, the Kamrath property suddenly came up for sale. Nelson was among the first to hear the news. But it was a frustrating piece of information for him. The WDNR was not in any position to purchase the land outright.

"Even if we had the money — which we clearly didn't — as a State agency, we had to avoid buying land that was improved or outside our plan boundaries," he says. "What's more, the owner definitely did not want to sell it off piecemeal."

More frustrating, the Silver Springs property soon came up for sale, too. Nelson knew the two properties together would give them control of about 50% of the Onion's headwaters. Yet it looked like the land was destined to end up in the hands of a condominium or golf course developer.

*Continued on p. 19*



Continued from p. 18

And then, something else remarkable happened.

Sheboygan businessman and LCTU member, Terry Kohler, heard about the dilemma and decided to investigate.

To gauge the project's feasibility, Kohler flew in Laura Hewitt, TU's upper Midwest conservation director, and Jock Conyngham, TU National's river restoration expert from the Maine office. They said they believed the stream was eminently recoverable.

"Terry got all his ducks in order," says Doebert, "and then moved quickly. Within weeks, he owned 385 acres of land that he'd never wanted, in essence holding it in trust until the DNR could pull together the necessary funds to purchase the critical headwater areas."

This purchase has made all the difference to the success of the restoration, says Ray Larson, a long-time TU member and vice president of development for the Wisconsin Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF).

"Restoring crucial habitat in the headwaters of a coldwater fishery is



vital to the health of any river system," says Larson, a retired high school biology teacher and entomologist. "In this case, it also contributes to the health of the entire Great Lakes Basin. It is without a doubt the single most important factor in the restoration of the Onion River."

The plan takes shape

Once the headwaters were in Kohler's hands, the WDNR developed a restoration plan, with plenty of input from both Sheboygan County and Trout Unlimited.

From the start, it was clear that this would not be your ordinary stream fix-up.

"Our goal was not a quick fix, but enduring improvements," says Nelson. "That took us beyond the realm

of traditional fish management and into a new era of watershed management."

"One result of this approach was an emphasis on natural channel design techniques," says TU's Hewitt. "That means using engineering and computer modeling to mimic nature's meandering paths, helping the river reach the size it would have on its own, and achieving a balance between sediment and water. It also means using primarily natural fiber and plant material for stabilizing the banks, rather than armor-plating them with rocks."

An outstanding team effort

Working together, Nelson, Hewitt, Fehlhaber, and Doebert assembled crews of workers that included people from all walks of life

— from fluvial geomorphologists to fisheries biologists, from contractors and scouts, from students to adult volunteers.

Over the course of a year and a half, these teams began making monumental changes to the terrain. On the Kamrath property, they drew down two huge man-made ponds and brought back the stream's original bed. At the Silver Springs site, they eliminated 10 large man-made ponds, nine dams, and multiple buildings, plus structures from wellheads to concrete raceways. In total, workers restored nearly 150 acres to their natural state and released a flood of pristine spring water — 2,000,000 gallons a day from Silver Springs alone.

Continued on p. 20

## Terry Kohler's early intervention kickstarted Onion restoration

Terry Kohler is best known as the chairman of Windway Capital Corp. But the movers and shakers in the world of fishing also know him as a faithful and generous friend of the environment — and, most recently, the man whose purchase of the Onion River's headwaters has made lasting restoration possible.

"It's fabulous to have such a willing and wonderful advocate for our natural resources," says Trout Unlimited's Laura Hewitt, who noted that this is not the first time Kohler has helped her organization out. "If just half the people had the concern for the environment that Terry has, the world would be a much better place."

In this case, Kohler's concern was both risky and costly. Although he eventually recouped his original multi-million-dollar investment in the land, he lost three years' worth of interest in the process.

"I've been a trout fisherman for more than 60 years, and fished the Onion when I was a boy," says Kohler. "It was a nice little stream, and I wanted to see it restored."

It didn't hurt that renowned Sheboygan fly tyer, Helen Shaw, had decades earlier been a fishing guide on the Onion, or that Kohler and

his lifelong friend, Pete Schils, had known her then. Before committing to buying the headwater properties, they called her at her home in New York state and asked if she remembered the Onion. She did.

"It was great until they put all those ponds in," she said.

They told her they were thinking about restoring it.

"God bless you boys!" Shaw said.

Shaw's vote of confidence sealed the deal as far as Kohler was concerned. And the rest is trout-stream history.

Kohler's contribution has not gone unrecognized. He received the Resource Award of Merit from the Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited and the Friends of Trout Unlimited award from the LCTU.

Still, he shrugs off his role. "It's a small component of the whole project. Far more important is the TU commitment, and the physical labor involved in this project. Restoring trout streams to close to what they once were depends almost entirely on the people doing the work."

LCTU's Larry Doebert disagreed. "Without Terry's involvement, we never would have



**TERRY KOHLER**

Sheboygan businessman Terry Kohler helped secure key properties when they were available.

been able to secure the Onion's headwaters. And without that, I don't believe we would ever reach the point where it could become a self-sustaining wild trout fishery again. Thanks to Terry, that goal is well within our reach."

## ONION: partners restore river

Continued from p. 19

"Even if we'd done nothing else, the restoration of these two headwater areas would have had a major impact on the health of the entire river system," Nelson says. "It significantly reduced the thermal pollution and restored a spawning and rearing habitat for brown and native brook trout."

### Nonpoint pollution component

Downstream, for example, workers were also addressing the Onion's nonpoint pollution problem. Perhaps the most impressive aspect of this task was the rerouting of the Onion River away from the feedlot and milk parlor that had been sitting just 15 feet away from its banks for many years. The new, 150-foot buffer zone has greatly reduced a major source of runoff pollution.

At the same time, county officials began addressing the manure issues facing the area's largest dairy farmer. The solution may well be a \$100,000 manure storage system, and the county is helping the farmer apply for a grant to make it happen.

### Promoting carrying capacity

Even after all this restoration work, the trout population in the Onion is relatively low right now — less than 10 trout per 100 feet.

That's why creating an optimum habitat for breeding is so critical, points out Dave Vetrano, WDNR fishery supervisor for the La Crosse/Bad Axe basin region. Because Vetrano had years of experience restoring similar streams in his part of the state, the Onion River team asked him to visit in the fall of 2002 to share his insights.

Vetrano was all too familiar with at least one aspect of the Onion restoration — its rocky streambed, which is very similar to those in the coulee region.

"It's nearly impossible to dig postholes in these beds to install conventional undercut structures," he says. "When I ran into this problem in the 1980s, I developed a solution I call LUNKERS — Little Underwater Neighborhood Keepers Encompassing Rheotactic Salmonids."

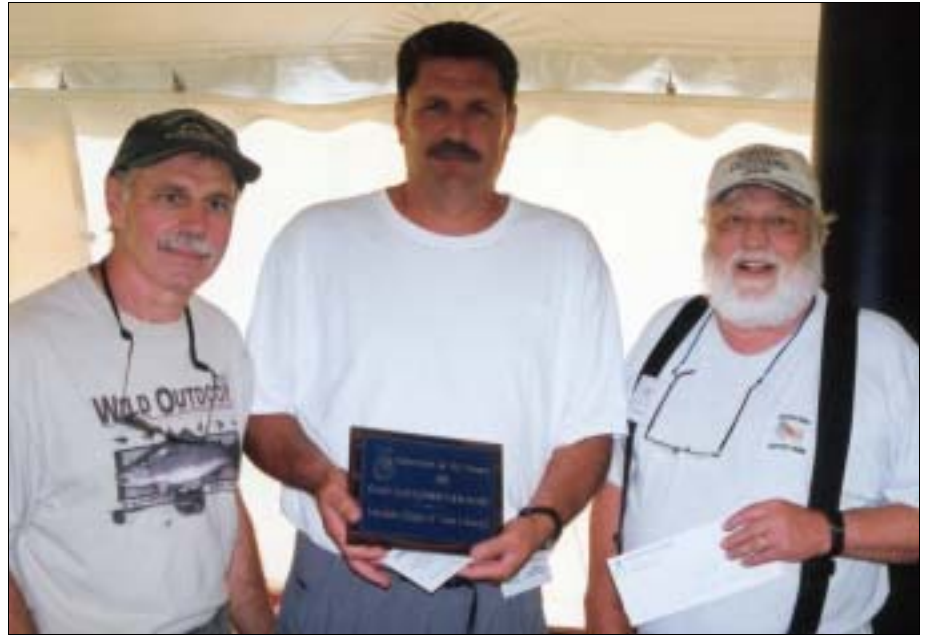
These revolutionary structures create the riverbank undercuts needed to promote population growth without the need for postholes, Vetrano says. They also provide an unprecedented level of stability, as river restorers in the U.S., Canada, and Australia are finding out. Happily, LUNKERS turned out to be the perfect solution for the Onion.

In the meantime, thanks to the efforts of the WDNR and LCTU, more conservative fishing bag limits will go into effect in spring, 2004, for the headwaters and spawning areas of the upper Onion River.

"To give the existing wild trout population time to re-establish itself, the take-home will be one trout with a minimum size of 15 inches," Nelson says. "In addition, only artificial lures will be allowed through at least a couple of reproductive cycles, until the population increases sufficiently to sustain itself."

### On the horizon

As the FFF's Larson put it recently, "This once-needy river is looking better every day. The water is once again crystal clear, and the



### MORE SCENES FROM THE ONION PROJECT OPEN HOUSE

Federation of Fly Fishers VP of Development Ray Larson (top, right) presents the FFF's Stanley Lloyd Conservation Award and a check to TU's Lakeshore Chapter for their work on the Onion River. Accepting are Larry Doebert (right) and LTU President Roger Berg (center). Earlier in the day Sheboygan-area fly casting instructor Lew Jirkowiak told a crowd that the fly casting motion can be compared to the snapping of a dart toward a target.

summer temperatures have dropped back down to 65 degrees — close to optimal for trout."

Nevertheless, the project is far from finished.

"We still have quite a few areas that need attention," Nelson says, "including areas that lack high-quality trout cover. We'll get there. We just have to be patient."

What's more, additional easements are needed, and there are still headwaters putting hot water into the Onion River system. The team would like to work with the landowners to gain access to those remaining headwaters.

Money is an issue, of course. It takes a lot of it to undo the damage of decades of neglect. The Onion River project has been fortunate so far, drawing in many thousands of dollars from private donations, fund-raisers, and grants to go supplement funds from the Wisconsin Trout Stamp program.

"If money were no object," sighed TU's Hewitt, leaving the thought unfinished. "But it always is. So you try to strike the right balance between budget and how much good you can do. In the case of the Onion, we invested a major chunk of our money in restoring the headwaters. That's given us a lot of bang for the buck, with benefits that will be realized far downstream for generations to come. It was a very wise use of limited funds."

Officials estimate that the total price tag for the Onion River restoration will approach \$6 million. In addition, the LCTU is establishing an Onion River Keeper Fund for long-term maintenance, access

easements, and, when absolutely necessary, land acquisition.

### An optimistic group

Optimism seems to reign among those involved in this project, in no small part because of the unique working relationships that have evolved since it began.

"Too often, I think we pay lip service to functioning as partners," says Sheboygan County's Fehlhaber, "but then we go right on protecting ourselves and our own interests. That hasn't happened this time around. In fact, it's the first time I've experienced a true partnership among various agencies."

The heavy involvement of the private sector may be a major reason, he suggests. "That's going to become more and more important in the years to come in light of state cutbacks. A project like this one will serve as an excellent template for others to follow in the future."

Whatever happens, we must not let budget concerns put projects such as the Onion River on permanent hold, says LCTU's Doebert, who was recently given TU's National's first Stream Champion Volunteer Heroes award for his work on the Onion River project.

"Wisconsin is blessed with water, but if we don't take care of it, what good is it? We believe it's important to help our streams become self-sustaining, wild-trout streams again — and not just for ourselves, but because it's the heritage we're leaving to our children. We have an obligation to pass this land on to future generations in better shape than it was when we got it."

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# A users guide to Wisconsin grasshoppers

The meadow was wet with dew and Nick wanted to catch grasshoppers before the sun dried the grass. He found plenty of good grasshoppers. They were at the base of the grass stems. Sometimes they clung to the grass stems. They were cold and wet with dew and could not jump until the sun warmed them. Nick picked them up, taking only the medium sized brown ones, and put them in his bottle.

— Ernest Hemingway, *Big Two Hearted River: Part II*

By Chuck Bomar

When people mention grasshoppers, it seems a variety of images come to mind. From an entomological perspective when the term grasshopper is used, I think of the Acrididae, or short-horned grasshoppers. "Short-horned" refers to the fact that their antennae are shorter than their body length.

Other people commonly include katydids and crickets in with the grasshoppers. These last two groups, while hopping through the grass like the Acrididae belong to entirely different taxonomic families, and can be readily distinguished by antennae which are longer than the body.

Grasshoppers have a simple metamorphosis, much like that of mayflies and stoneflies. Grasshoppers, depending upon species, will have 4-6 instars

with most having five instars. Each nymphal instar looks relatively the same, except for the growth of the wings and antennae. Color can be quite variable ranging from the normal "brown" to bright green or black. Grasshoppers are most important as a trout food source in the late nymph and adult stages since their mobility is greatest at this time.

Besides being trout food, grasshoppers as are many insects, play an important role in nutrient cycling, making sure that organic material, such as plants, gets returned to the soil as nutrients.

Kathy Kirk of the WDNR and I have compiled a monograph titled *A Users Guide to the Grasshoppers of Wisconsin*. This monograph is designed to be a technical bulletin, but is also written to appeal to the naturalist. It will be published by the WDNR this fall or early next spring. Wisconsin hoppers not understood well

There are numerous grasshopper species maybe 600 species in the US alone, but we don't know very much about them. What I mean by that is that there is a dearth of information regarding their behavior, distribution and basic biology. This manual is a "State of the Union" document, relative to grasshoppers in Wisconsin. We now have a starting block with some knowledge to build upon. Wisconsin has never had a document like this for grasshoppers.

When we were assembling this monograph, we quickly realized that past grasshopper researchers (Orthopterists or more specifically Acridologists) never came to Wisconsin. Previously published distribution maps commonly left Wisconsin as a big empty void.

In the end Kathy and I have accounted for 70 different species of grasshoppers in Wisconsin, and we have estimated there may be another 15 or so species yet to be found.

Three types of hoppers

There are three primary groups of grasshoppers in Wisconsin, the spurthroats, the slantfaced, and the banded wing. These characteristics represent features to better help identify specimens in the field.

- The spurthroats have a "peg" on their neck about where the Adams apple would be on a human.
- The slantfaced grasshoppers have a distinct angle when you observe the side of their head, ranging to the not-so-obvious to the extreme. Specimens with the extreme head angle are often referred to as "toothpick" grasshoppers.
- The banded wing grasshoppers have colorful hind wings, ranging in color from pale yellow, to orange, red and black. This hind wing is readily observed when individuals fly away.

The grasshoppers in Wisconsin include everything from common pest species to uncommon to the federally listed.

The uncommon include species like *Paratytopidia brunneri*. Survey of museum collections uncovered the existence of this incredibly uncommon specimen in Wisconsin. It was collected in traps specially designed to collect gypsy moths. The specimens were collected in the Black River State Forest in the mid-

70's and have not been collected since. Kathy and I made one attempt to go back and collect it in the field, but we were woefully unsuccessful. Unfortunately, being uncommon is too common. Over half of the grasshopper species collected in Wisconsin were collected fewer than 20 times, many of those were collected only once or twice.

One federally listed species *Trimerotropis huroni* resides in Wisconsin. It is collected on high quality dune areas along the northern shores of Lake Michigan. I would like to think it could also be found along the southern shores of Lake Superior, but Kathy and I have been unable to confirm that at this time.

Fishing hoppers

The common species are those that are probably most important to trout fishing in Wisconsin, and on the Big Two Hearted River. The primary species would most likely be *Melanoplus femurrubrum*, or more commonly the red-legged grasshopper. This species is abundant in most habitats found in Wisconsin, and especially likes weedy disturbed areas, edges of agricultural fields, and most importantly stream banks.

What makes this species, and other members of the spurthroat group so important for trout fishing is that they are good swimmers. When they jump off the bank into the water they will gracefully glide back across the surface of the water

to the bank. As described by Hemingway:

*The first hopper gave a jump in the neck of the bottle and went out into the water. He was sucked under in the whirl by Nick's right leg and came to the surface a little way down stream. He floated rapidly, kicking. In a quick circle, breaking the smooth surface of the water he disappeared. A trout had taken him.*

In Montana and Wyoming, where I have significant personal experience fishing hopper patterns, fly fishermen look forward to the grasshopper winds at the end of summer.

Strong breezes blow the grasshoppers of the bank and into the river, often times straight to a feeding frenzy below. Most of the grasshoppers involved in this phenomena, whether in Wyoming or Wisconsin, are spurthroat grasshoppers. Grasshoppers from the other two groups don't swim nearly as well, and some sink immediately upon contact with the waters surface.

(Chuck Bomar is a professor at UW-Stout where he teaches "The Biology of Flyfishing." One of his angling specialties is grasshoppers, and he is co-author of a monograph on the Wisconsin grasshoppers that was published this year. -Ed.)

## Thoughts on catch-and-release Angling's moral dilemma

By Bill Pielsticker

Catch and eat, or catch and release? That's the question raised by Jim Zumbo in the June issue of *Outdoor Life* magazine. My brother-in-law sent me a copy of the article, apparently concerned that I might be one of those suffering from a moral dilemma when it comes to keeping some trout for dinner. Not to worry — I have a creel that is stained and stinking from use.

### Member Opinion

I don't doubt that some of us treat catch and release more like a religion than a management tool. That's too bad, because fishing IS a consumptive sport. I like to fry trout on a griddle in real butter, and eat it off a hot plate. I make no apologies for that.

I don't keep every fish I catch, and I certainly don't keep any large fish I catch. That's where catch and release comes in. First, let's be clear that catch and release must be carried out properly to be a useful fish management tool (see below). Releasing a damaged fish back to a lake or stream does that fish and the sport no good at all.

When do I practice catch and release? When I'm fishing over wild (reproducing) fish where the fishing pressure is moderate to high. However, stocked trout are put there to be consumed, so take a couple home and enjoy them. Low fishing pressure generally means a stream can afford to lose a few fish to the dinner table, so the same applies.

I also release any trout over 11 or 12 inches, even when I'm fishing for dinner. Recent research suggests that by consistently harvesting the largest fish in a given population, removing them from the gene pool, we are "selecting" for smaller fish in the future. Want to keep one for a trophy? Take a picture of it, and measure its length and girth (distance around its fattest point), and return it to the water. With the photo and data you can have a realistic mount created for your wall, and a chance to land the same fish next year.

There are some basic guidelines to follow when practicing catch and release. If spin casting, avoid treble hooks. Pinching the barbs down on hooks will make hook removal easier. Don't play a fish to exhaustion - use a heavier tippet when possible. Don't remove swallowed hooks - just cut the line. Don't keep the fish out of the water for more than 15 seconds. Turning a fish belly-up stops the fish from struggling, making hook removal easier. When handling a fish in a net or otherwise, grasp it across the back and head to avoid throttling the daylights out of it.

The last step is to be sure the fish is strong enough to be released. Revive it by holding it gently under water and moving it back and forth to pass water through its gills. Returning a dazed fish to a rapidly flowing stream makes a mockery of the care you've taken up to that point.

(This comment was reprinted from Newscasts, Southern Wisconsin TU's newsletter. -Ed.)



**CHUCK BOMAR**

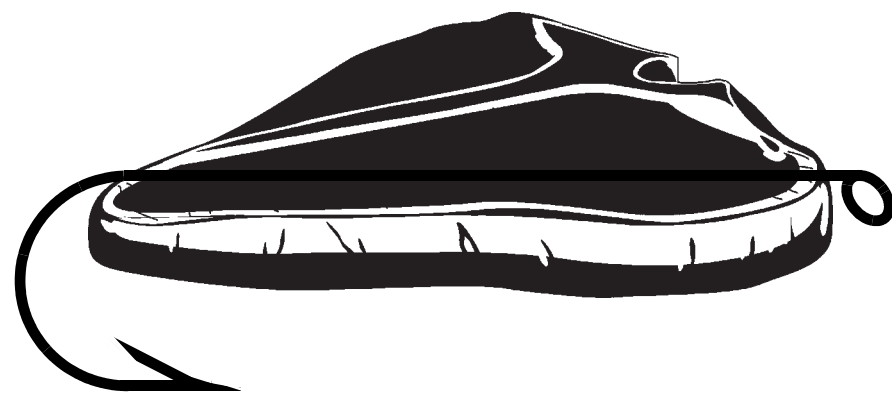
Author Chuck Bomar helping out on a recent Gilbert Creek work day.

## Consider Proper Release



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

# T-bone terrestrials



## Beefy flies for late summer trouting

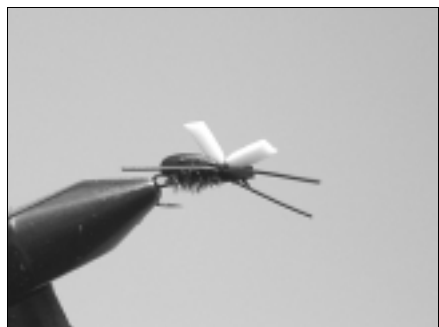
By Jonathan Jacobs

With the exception of early morning trico spinner falls, "matching the hatch" fishing can be tough to come by in the daylight hours of high summer. Still, trout are predators. Beetles, ants, grasshoppers, and crickets are available to trout in great numbers in the hot, dog days of July and August.

A terrestrial's protein-rich body provides a healthy meal for a trout whose metabolism may be working in overdrive in the slightly elevated water temperatures

common in mid-summer. And, by the way, terrestrial patterns are particularly effective for fishing to those sporadic risers that you see taking something from the surface once every few minutes in the summer. You're likely seeing an aggressive trout taking advantage of a land-borne insect's utter helplessness after a bit of clumsiness or a sudden breeze landed it in the drink.

The following patterns can appeal to a fish's predatory instincts and may provide good action whether fish are actively rising or not. And, fortunately, the flies are much more straightforward to tie than these lengthy instructions would indicate.



### Rainy's Float Foam Beetle

Entomologists say beetles comprise nearly half of the species of animals on earth. Because they are so much a part of the background, I think we're prone to ignoring these incredibly plentiful creatures, but trout don't make the same mistake.

**Hook:** Size 12 to 18 standard dry fly.

**Thread:** Black 6/0 or 8/0.

**Hackle:** None, or black, one size smaller than normal for hook size, palmered over abdomen in widely spaced turns.

**Carapace:**

Black float foam cylinder split in half lengthwise. Size dependent on hook size. Small works best on size 14 and smaller.

**Abdomen:** One to three strands of peacock herl (depending on hook size) wound around working thread and dubbed forward  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the hook's shank.

**Legs:** None, or black rubber round legs tied in behind head.

**Indicator:** Small block of yellow or fluorescent orange foam tied in between abdomen and head and trimmed short.

#### Tying instructions

Mount the hook in the vise and start the thread at rear of shank. Tie in the hackle, if used, by the base of the feather with the dull size forward. Cut a V-shaped notch in the end of the flat side of the halved float foam. This allows you to compress the foam better with the thread and neatness up the forward fold of the carapace.

Tie in the foam with the flat side up and extending rearward. Tie in the peacock herl, wrap it around the working thread to reinforce it, and dub a body by winding the herl and thread forward. Advance the dubbing forward  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the shank length, or perhaps slightly further. Secure the herl with wraps of plain thread and trim away excess herl.

If hackle is being used, palmer it forward in fast spirals to represent legs. Tie it off at the waiting thread and trim excess. Fold the foam forward to create a carapace and tie it down (You can slightly stretch or compress the foam to adjust the bulk of the fly's outline).

If using rubber round legs in lieu of hackle legs, tie in a length on both sides of the hook and add either half hitches or a whip finish to secure them. Trim them to length later. Add a small drop of head cement.

Tie in a small strip of brightly colored foam and cinch it down. Trim it to a small block shape with scissors. Whip finish. Remove the fly from the vise and trim the bot-

tom hackle (if you've incorporated hackle) so that the fly rides flush in the film.

### Letort Cricket

Crickets are ubiquitous denizens of both meadows and woodlands, which means that they're around all kinds of trout habitat. This pattern is one of the few prospecting dry flies with which I've ever had any luck while fishing to the persnickety brown trout of the upper Kinnickinnic River.

**Hook:** Tiemco 5210, size 10 or any dry fly weight hook with that shank length.

**Thread:** Black 3/0 Monocord or 6/0 Uni-Thread.

**Abdomen:** Black dry fly dubbing.

**Underwing:** Lacquered black primary feather segment (dyed goose, crow, etc.).

**Overwing and head:** Black deer or elk hair.

#### Tying instructions

Mount the hook in the vise and start the thread at rear of shank. Dub thread with black dubbing and dub forward  $\frac{2}{3}$  shank length to create a substantial abdomen.

Tie in a quill segment about  $\frac{3}{16}$ " wide, extending rearward to hook bend. Tie in a bunch of black hair with tips rearward and extending to end of abdomen. Don't bother to stack the hair. Cinch the thread hard to secure and flare the hair, but don't allow it to spin. Lift the hair butts and work the thread



in front and through them. Trim the butts to about  $\frac{3}{4}$ ".

Cut another bunch of hair, brush out the underfur and trim off the tips. Lay it diagonally across the bare hook shank and wrap a soft loop of thread around it. Tighten the thread slowly, take a second wrap and tighten hard while letting go of the hair bunch, allowing it to spin and flare around the shank. Work the thread through the spun hair to the eye of the hook and whip finish and cement there.

Remove the fly from the vise and trim the flared hair to a blocky "muddler" shape.

### Borger Flying Ant

One does see swarms of mated flying ants in the summer and trout do relish them. I've seen real feeding frenzies as trout prey on "flocks" of ants blown onto to the water. I think the wing adds greatly to the fly's visibility on the water without scaring away trout looking for a non-winged ant. Dr. Borger's pattern presents a remarkably lifelike outline, is simple in design and requires few materials. It does take a little practice to tie one nicely.

**Hook:** Standard dry fly, size 12 to as small as you can effectively tie the fly.

**Thread:** 8/0 to match dubbing color.

**Dubbing:** Commonly black or brown

**Hackle:** To match dubbing color.

**Wing:** Cream straight Zelon.

#### Tying instructions

Mount the hook in the vise in the standard position and start the thread at the rear of the hook. Twist a short, slightly bulky length of dubbing onto the thread.

Lift the bobbin so that the thread is vertical and under tension. With your materials hand, slide the dubbing down against the hook shank and form it into a ball.

*Continued on p. 23*



## T-BONE: beefy flies for late summer fly fishing

Continued from p. 22

Take a few turns of thread against the dubbing ball to seat it.

Wind the thread forward, covering the bare hook shank with three layers of thread. Stop at about  $\frac{3}{4}$  shank length.

Take a sparse length of Zelon yarn and double it around the working thread. Pull it under thread tension to the top of the hook and bind it down there. Take several turns of thread up and back down the Zelon post. This will help "post" the wing and will ease mounting the hackle and thorax.

Select a hackle appropriate to the hook size and trim the feather barbules close to the shank. Mount the hackle on the hook and bind it to the base of the wing post as well.

Dub a slender amount of dubbing on the thread and wind it around the wing post to form the thorax. Take three turns of hackle around the wing post under the dubbed thorax and tie off the hackle between the hook eye and thorax.

### Hybrid Hopper

This fly is so named because it incorporates elements of many other hopper patterns, most notably Rainy's Float Foam Hopper and Mike Lawson's Henry's Fork Hopper.

The foam body keeps it afloat cast after cast and the bullet head looks realistic and catches less wind on the cast than many other styles.

This is a "high effort" fly, but it's durable and interests the fish more than any other hopper pattern I've ever tried.

**Hook:** Tiemco 5212, size 8.

**Thread:** Yellow 6/0.

**Tail:** Red saddle hackle fibers.



**Hackle:** Large brown neck hackle, trimmed short.

**Abdomen:** Yellow Rainy's Float Foam cylinder, "baloney" sliced at ends and split halfway through lengthwise.

**Underwing:** Lacquered turkey quill segment.

**Overwing and bullet head:** Elk hair, natural or dun gray.

**Legs:** Yellow rubber legs, knotted and tied in on sides.

### Tying instructions

Mount the hook in the vise and start thread at rear of hook. Trim about twenty hackle fibers from a dyed red saddle hackle and tie them in as a tail extending just past the hook bend.

Wind the thread forward and cover about  $\frac{2}{3}$  the shank, then reverse the thread and wind back to the tie in point, creating a thread base on which to affix the body.

Tie in a brown neck hackle by its base, dull side forward. Take a length of yellow float foam and slit it halfway through lengthwise. The rear end should be cut on a long diagonal and the front at a somewhat steeper angle.

Soak the thread with a quick-set super glue and immediately slide the slit body down over the hook shank, positioning it so that the end of the abdomen extends outward over one half the tail.

Wind the thread forward in widely spaced turns to the front of the body, slightly compressing and segmenting it, then take several turns of thread over the front taper of the foam to secure it.

Wind the hackle to the front of the body directly over the thread wraps and secure it at the front of the body with turns of thread. Trim the hackle short all the way around (remove the hook from the vise and hold the fly in your hand to do this, if you find it convenient).

Snip a segment of lacquered turkey primary about a quarter inch wide from the quill and trim the end to a round shape. Fold the quill segment down over the body with the circular end to the rear, extending to the end of the tail.

Cut a bunch of elk hair about the diameter of a pencil or slightly smaller, brush out the underfur and trim it to length. Length is critical. It should be long enough so that after it's tied in tips forward with the butts abutting the body and folded back to form the bullet head, the tips will extend rearward over nearly one half the body.

Once the first bunch of hair is bound down to the hook eye, remove the hook from the vise, turn it over and reinstall it in the vise.

Take a second bunch of elk hair and attach it in similar fashion (length is not critical here because the excess hair will be trimmed off on the bottom side of the fly).

Remount the hook in the conventional position. Position the thread at the back of the hair bundle and form a bullet head by reversing the elk hair at the hook eye and taking wraps of thread over it.

Add a whip finish, but don't cut the working thread. Trim the hair at the thread on the bottom side of the hook.

Prepare two yellow rubber round legs by tying an overhand knot in two lengths of material. Tie them in at the waiting thread, adjusting their splay and attitude.

Once the legs are secure, finish the head.

## More grasshopper patterns to whet a trout's appetite

Here are two more hopper patterns, one from Dick Berge of the Wild River Chapter and another from Tom Wendelburg, as featured in the "Hoppers Only" chapter of *Catching Big Fish on Light Fly Tackle*.

### Berge foam hopper

**Hook:** Mustad 94831 #12

**Thread:** Green Mono cord

**Body:** Green closed-cell foam 4 mm thick, 1/8 in wide, 2 in. long

**Wing:** Green pheasant back feather

**Legs:** Round rubber - green

**Glue:** Flex cement

### Tying instructions

Coat pheasant feather with flex cement and stroke it in your fingers. As it dries, it will form into a teardrop shape.

Place hook in vise and cover with thread, ending just behind the eye of the hook. Cement thread wraps.

Tie the strip of foam in directly behind the hook eye with excess extending beyond the hook bend. Spiral thread over foam, attaching it to the hook shank. Make several wraps over the foam and hook at the hook bend.

Glue the foam attached to the hook and pull the strip extending rearward, forward over the eye of the hook and spiral thread over it to the hook eye.



Tie pheasant wing in 1/8 inch behind hook eye.

Tie a knot in the 2-inch rubber leg and tie to the body where the wing is attached. Adjust legs so the back leg points back and down.

Glue the leg and wing where they are tied in. Pull foam strip that extends forward, backward and tie it down with three or four wraps, forming a head. Trim excess foam.

Advance thread under head to hook eye and whip finish and glue.

Note: Tie this pattern in other colors like yellow or tan and in larger or smaller sizes to match hatches in your area. Also, you can add detail with a magic marker improve effectiveness.

### Wendelburg hopper

**Hook:** 9671 or 2xl any brand

**Thread:** reddish brown 3.0-6.0 depending on hook size

**Body:** yellow deer hair

**Wing:** turkey wing segments

**Back:** red deer hair

**Legs:** pheasant tail fibers

**Antennae:** pheasant fiber

### Tying instructions

Tie in yellow deer hair pointing backward beyond the end of the hook and secure at the bend. Gather hair and pull it forward, securing it to the hook with wraps of reddish thread. Trim excess.

Tie in the red deer hair back fibers extending from the head across the top of the back 1/2 the length of the body.

Tie in the turkey wings (or pheasant fibers made by gluing the pheasant tails, slicing, and forming).



I think it's critical the pheasant legs are 1.5 times the length of the abdomen. Leg knots are made with a series of square knots of using 6.0 thread and then cementing them with pliable cement.

This is a sparse pattern, so after forming the head with deer hair, trim most of the fibers that extend backward along the body. Trim deer fibers on the top of the fly so the red is visible from below.

Finally, add a couple pheasant fibers for antennae.

Note: you can also substitute yellow foam for the deer hair.

## Fly Fish Wisconsin March 26-7

Mark your calendars now for a newly designed approach and a revamped format for Fly Fish Wisconsin this March 26-27 at Lutheran High School in Sheboygan.

Both the Lakeshore Chapter of TU and the Sheboygan Area Helen Shaw Club of the Federation of Fly Fishers will sponsor this year's program.

Plans are underway to have Midwest fly fishing legends presenting their tying and fishing techniques, as well as many workshops and exhibits of interest to all fishermen.

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Presentations and a workshop by the leaders of the Onion River Res-

toration project will provide valuable insight into the process and procedures involved in large-scale trout stream restoration.

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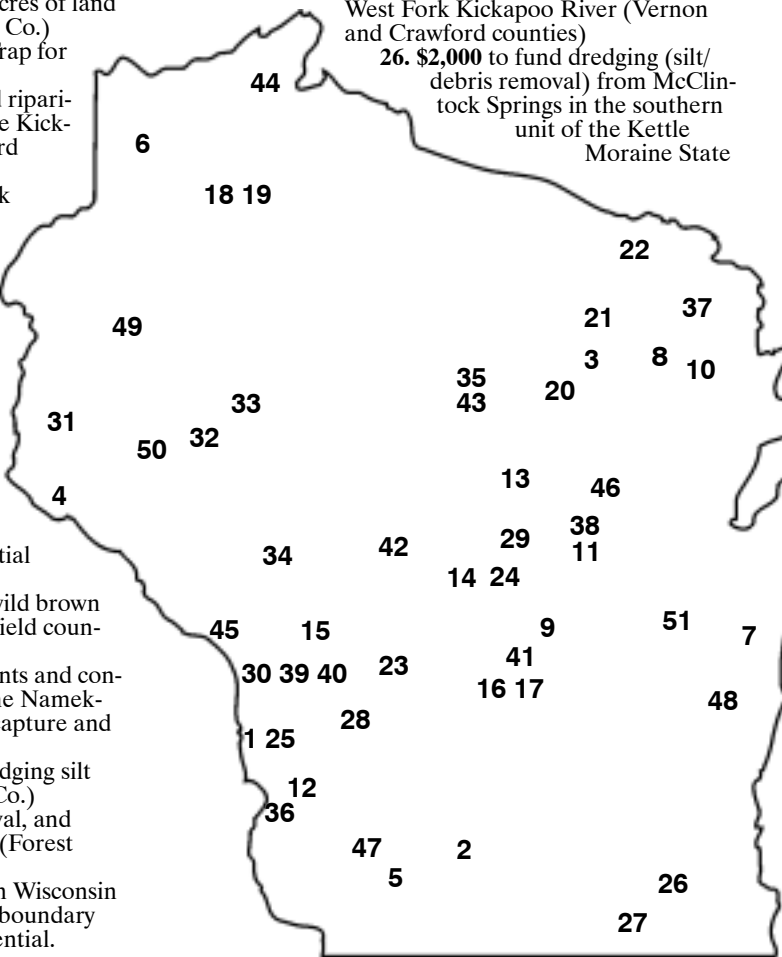
# "Friends" Project Locations

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 stormwater runoff into the Kinnickinnic River (Pierce Co.)
5. \$2,000 for rerouting and stabilizing Brewery Creek (Iowa Co.)
6. \$75 for purchase of catch and release signs for the Bois Brule River Douglas Co.)
7. \$2,500 for renovation of trout rearing facilities in Lincoln Park (City of Manitowoc)
8. \$500 for bank, stabilization, and structural improvements on the North Fork Thunder River (Oconto Co.)
9. \$1,000 for land acquisition along the White River (Waushara Co.)
10. \$1,000 to assist with acquisition of 64+ acres of land along Upper Middle Inlet Creek (Marinette Co.)
11. \$7,000 to purchase a Rotary Screw Fish Trap for DNR Coldwater research
12. \$3,000 to fund stream improvements and riparian protection in and along streams of Middle Kickapoo River watershed. (Vernon and Crawford counties)
13. \$1,000 to help fund instream habitat work in the Plover River (Marathon Co.)
14. \$551 to help purchase recording thermographs to monitor thermal regimes in trout streams in the Buena Vista and Leola marshes (Portage, Wood, Adams counties)
15. \$3,372 for installing bank cover and closing side channels in Sand Creek (Jackson and Monroe counties)
16. \$3,296 to continue and extend stream bank brushing along Chaffee Creek (Marquette Co.)
17. \$1,000 to continue population and movement studies of brown trout in the Mecan River (Marquette County) for potential stream reclassification
18. \$1,700 to conduct follow-up surveys on wild brown trout in the Namekagon River (Sawyer/Bayfield counties)
19. \$2,000 to conduct studies of fall movements and concentrations of spawning wild brood fish in the Namekagon River (Sawyer/Bayfield counties) for capture and use in raising wild trout for the river
20. \$1,000 to assist with the third year of dredging silt and detritus from Elton Springs (Langlade Co.)
21. \$1,000 for stream brushing, debris removal, and brush bundle installation in Swanson Creek (Forest County), a tributary to the Rat River
22. \$500 for building a sand/ sediment trap in Wisconsin Creek (Florence County), a tributary to the boundary Brule River, to enhance trout spawning potential.

23. \$2,750 to purchase materials for fencing projects approved under the Streambank Easement Program (part of the state's Stewardship Program) for the Wisconsin Rapids Area; and for fencing materials for the Little Lemonweir River project (Monroe Co.)

24. \$350 to conduct trout population studies in the lateral ditches listed as trout waters (Portage, Wood and Adams counties) that are under threat from agricultural/cranberry operation encroachment
25. \$250 toward habitat work on the West Fork Kickapoo River (Vernon and Crawford counties)
26. \$2,000 to fund dredging (silt/debris removal) from McClintock Springs in the southern unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest (Waukesha Co.)
27. \$2,000 to create overhead bank cover in and remove beaver dams from Whitewater/Bluff Creek (Walworth Co.)
28. \$2,000 for stream improvements in Billings Creek (Vernon Co.)
29. \$1,500 for materials for in-stream structures in the Tomorrow River (Portage Co.)
30. \$2,500 for stream restoration in Mormon Coulee Creek (La Crosse Co.)
31. \$1,500 to assist in production of an educational video on development impacts along the Kinnickinnic River (St. Croix and Pierce counties)
32. \$7,000 for stream improvement on Elk Creek (Chippewa Co.)
33. \$4,000 for rock hauling and restoration work on Duncan Creek (Chippewa Co.)
34. \$1,750 to purchase materials for stream improvements on the North Fork Buffalo River (Jackson Co.)
35. \$2,000 to fund backhoe work on intensive habitat improvement in the Prairie River (Lincoln Co.)
36. \$500 for stream rehabilitation in Tainter Creek (Crawford Co.)
37. \$1,000 for expenses to study the long-term effects on brook trout following the removal of beaver dams on the Pemebonwon River in northern Wisconsin (Marinette Co.)
38. \$2,000 to help fund reprinting *Trout Stream Therapy* book (Waupaca Co.)
39. \$1,000 to defray expenses involved in holding the Midwest Trout Angling Workshop in La Crosse in July, 2000 (La Crosse Co.)
40. \$2,000 to fund stream improvement work on Mormon Coulee Creek (La Crosse Co.)
41. \$2,000 to fund restoration work on the Little Pine River. (Waushara Co.)
42. \$2,000 to the WDNR to help purchase an easement on Tenmile Creek along Hwy. 13.
43. \$2,000 in 2001 plus \$2,000 in 2002 to Wisconsin River Chapter for Prairie River work (Lincoln Co.)
44. \$1,245 to Wild Rivers Chapter for coaster baseline information (Ashland Co.)
45. \$1,000 to WDNR Trempealeau district for trout restoration backhoe (Trempealeau Co.)
46. \$500 to the Central Region of TU for stream monitoring equipment for use on the Little Wolf River (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 (Barron Co.)
50. \$500 to Independence High School (Trempealeau Co.)
51. \$400 to UW-Oshkosh for a macroinvertebrate studies (Waupaca and Waushara Co.)

Wow! Look at all these great projects made possible by the Friends of Wisconsin TU. Join today!



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