



Wisconsin Trout

April 2004



DANIEL BURISH'S MYSTERIOUS BROWN CHOSEN FOR 2004 TROUT STAMP PRINT

Wausau artist Daniel Burish won this year's inland trout stamp contest with this portrayal of a brown trout. This is Burish's first trout stamp commission. See p. 19 for more information about the artist and print.

Groundwater bill passes Legislature

By Jeff Smith and Steve Born

The Wisconsin Legislature passed the 2004 Groundwater Protection Act by a vote of 99-0 in the Assembly and 32-1 in the Senate on March 11. The bill is expected to be signed by Gov. Doyle during Earth week in mid-April.

Co-authors of the legislation, Senator Neal Kedzie (R-Elkhorn) and Representative DuWayne Johnsrud (R-Eastman) worked with Gov. Jim Doyle, the DNR, and a broad spectrum of environmental, conservation, agricultural, municipal, industrial, and development interests to enact the compromise legislation.

While Trout Unlimited feels this legislation is far from "perfect," it does significantly advance water quantity management in the Wisconsin.

The process producing this new legislation was bipartisan, open, and relatively inclusive, a far cry from the process used in developing Act 118, the so-called "Job Creation Act," that was enacted into law in January. The authors of the groundwater bill deserve substantial credit for their leadership and collaborative approach.

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Planning starts to chart the future of Wisconsin TU

By Bill Pielsticker

The first of several strategic planning sessions for Wisconsin TU got underway in Oshkosh on Feb. 7.

Outgoing council Chair Jon Christiansen led off the session noting that the State Council had voted to begin this process at its meeting in Avalanche last June. He noted that is a chance for Wisconsin TU to reflect on what it is doing well, what it is not doing well and should be, and what the role and effectiveness of the State Council should be.

Bill Pielsticker, the new council chair, introduced facilitator, Tom Mickelson, who reviewed the results of the questionnaire Jon had circulated to all chapters in January. Nearly all chapters responded.

From the questionnaires, Mickelson was able to group the responses into 15 themes. Following a review of these themes, participants identified which ones they wanted to work

on. What follows is a review of the small group work on eight of those themes.

Habitat & Stream Improvement

Objective: Do more and better stream improvement, and reduce dependence on stocking. *How?* Organize regional planning efforts

with chapters. Have the council present "best practices" workshops and post on web site. Have council work with River Alliance and others to do project planning workshops.

Goal: Expand chapters' ability to lead and carry out habitat improvement projects.

Leadership Training

Objective: Provide leadership training to chapter leaders.

How? Identify chapter leaders. Provide sample "job descriptions." Match mentors with chapter leaders.

Continued on p. 5

Polar Ice Water abandons well application

By Larry Kriese

After more than a year of discussion and legal challenges, a water bottling operation in Langlade County has withdrawn its application for a high-capacity well permit.

Dennis Hose, operating under the business name of Polar Ice Water, notified the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources that he was formally ending his application to install a new well on his property near Polar on February 11.

The well in question would have been used as the source of water for a commercial bottling operation that was expected to ship drinking water throughout the United States and foreign countries.

Early in 2003 Hose began seeking permits from local units of government in Langlade County to change his commercial trout hatchery operation into a water bottling business.

Local citizens and organizations began asking questions about what effects such a business might have on the local water resources in the area known for high-quality coldwater trout streams and spring ponds.

Local chapters respond

Trout Unlimited, led by Antigo Chapter member Mitch Bent, a long-time defender of our coldwater resources, sought answers from local officials and the DNR regarding potential negative impacts to surrounding surface waters.

Initial responses from the DNR indicated the agency did not feel it had the authority to deny Hose his permit. DNR also said it was not in a position to conduct studies intended to answer the question of wheth-

er the new well might be harmful to nearby public waters.

Not satisfied that with this DNR response, TU and other groups began a legal action against Polar Ice Water challenging the issuance of the permit by DNR.

After failed attempts to force the DNR to hold a Contested Case Hearing on the well application — during which more facts could be gathered about the intended bottling operation and the possible affects on the environment — the groups challenging the permit were granted a hearing in Circuit Court.

DNR changes its mind

Before that hearing could be scheduled, however, the DNR changed its position, apparently at the urging of the State Attorney General's office as well as the Governor, and agreed to conduct the Contested Case Hearing originally sought by TU and others.

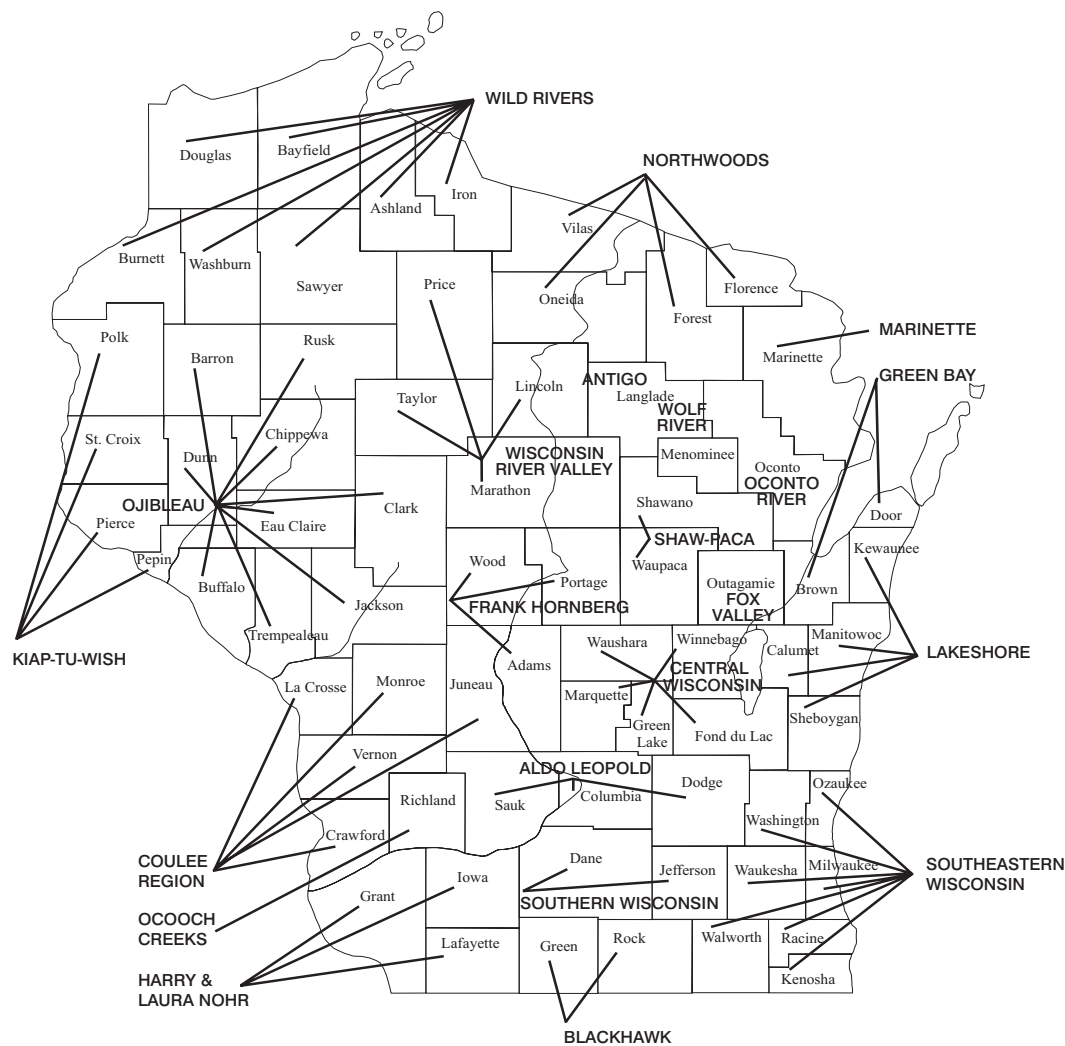
Those questioning the Polar Ice Water permits were given additional reason to be concerned when they learned Perrier was having trouble with their new Michigan operation.

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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 on your new address because only TU National keeps the membership database:
 Trout Unlimited (703) 522-0200
 1500 Wilson Blvd. trout@tu.org
 Arlington, VA 22209
- 2. Include your ID number and new chapter affiliation.** Your ID number is found on mailing labels attached to *TROUT* magazine. 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 the text next to the map above).

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Letters

Thanks Friends for Blue River grant

On behalf of the Nohr Chapter, I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks for the Friends grant which was awarded for the 2004 Blue River restoration project.

We will do our best to use the funds wisely so as to reinforce your

confidence in our ability to be a significant force in coldwater restoration efforts in Southwest Wisconsin.

Pete Esser
Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter

Outraged by bill limiting local ag control

This is outrageous! The Senate passed AB 868 by voice vote (no debate) the day AFTER the legislative session was due to close (possibly in the wee hours of the morning).

This bill will let factory farms come into ag areas willy-nilly, over the objections of the local citizens. This bill will benefit only the giant agribusinesses, and drive family farmers out of business faster. This bill gives NO consideration to air pollution.

Worst of all, it runs roughshod over the local citizens, denying any right to appeal unless the aggrieved lives or owns land within two miles.

I would think that large segments of the tourist, real estate industries, as well as rural residents and fishing enthusiasts, would have major objections to this bill. It could impact some rural schools and their children and staff (this has happened in Minnesota).

Please contact Gov. Doyle as soon as you possibly can, and ask him to veto AB 868, the Livestock Siting bill.

Arlene Kanno
Wisconsin Dells

Ten state TU chapters on board

Polluted runoff 'champions' formed to inform and take action on State Council's nonpoint campaign

By Lou Gauen

The first meeting of the Polluted Runoff "Champs" was held via a conference call in February.

Champ update

News from TU's polluted runoff campaign



This group has been formed from 10 chapters that have designated a member(s) to be coordinators in Wisconsin Trout Unlimited's effort to reduce and control runoff pollution.

The chapters and individuals involved are:

- Wild River — **Dick Verge** and **Chuck Campbell**,
- Green Bay — **Paul Kruse** and **Jack Kovisto**,
- Oconto River — **Larry Vanderkellen**,
- Marinette — **Dale Lange**,
- Wolf River — **George Rock** and **Herb Buettner**,
- Fox Valley — **Tony Tremi**,
- Hornberg — **Mike Mather**,
- Lakeshore — **Eric Fehlhaber**,
- Shaw-Paca — **Steve Schulz**, and
- Central Wisconsin — **Bob Renock**.

Lou Gauen and **Jim Hlaban** are coordinators for the group. Also in attendance at the first organizing meeting were Erin O'Brien of the River Alliance of Wisconsin, Laura Hewitt of TU National's Madison

office, and WITU State Chair Bill Pielsticker.

The champs' goals

Lou Gauen opened the meeting talking about the role of the chapter polluted runoff coordinators or, as they are designated, *Polluted Runoff Champs*.

The job of the polluted runoff champs will be to lead their chapters' efforts in tackling polluted runoff. Their task is not one of driving around their areas looking for violations. Instead, they will be the ones to teach their chapter members how to recognize runoff pollution when they are out fishing.

The champs will also help chapter members fill out the polluted runoff site cards and then help coordinate with state agencies and the TU state coordinators to see that something can be done in helping stop polluted runoff at the specific location.

Start of statewide effort

Jim and Lou pointed out that the group present at the meeting was the beginning of a statewide program. The State Council would like to have each chapter have a polluted runoff champ.

Bill Pielsticker, our newly elected State Council Chair, spoke on the need for Wisconsin TU to get totally behind this project. Pielsticker said the idea for working against polluted runoff began as a grant from the Mott Foundation to the State Council. Following a training session at a recent State Council meeting, the *Polluted Runoff Toolkit* was developed.

TU's Central Region completes Clean Water Act training

Representatives of the Central Wisconsin, Fox Valley, Green Bay, Southeastern, and Wolf River Chapters — plus members of the new Friends of the Tomorrow-Waupaca River watershed group — have completed a Clean Water Act training workshop sponsored by the Central Region of Trout Unlimited.

Participants learned about river protection tools available to citizens under the Clean Water Act and how to find and use the documents and resources needed for effective advocacy.

The workshop was presented by the River Alliance of Wisconsin and Midwest Environmental Advocates.

During the coming months, the chapters will implement an action plan they are devising on behalf of the Tomorrow-Waupaca watershed.

"I did not realize this was such a powerful tool to help us protect Wisconsin Waters," said Central Region VP Jim Hlaban. "I hope other TU regions will sponsor training in their areas and invite partners to take advantage of the great job the River Alliance does with this training. If we don't protect our rivers, it won't get done."

Chapter training available

If your chapter is looking for opportunities to train your board and members, the River Alliance is offering the following workshops in 2004:

Benchmarking Your Organization's Development — Using the Institute for Conservation Leadership's Benchmarking survey, identify your organization's strengths and challenges, and create an action plan prioritizing your work as you move ahead. (This training also meets the requirements for the DNR River Protection Grant program. Contact the River Alliance for details.)

Grassroots Fundraising — Your organization can fundraise fearlessly with the best of them. Learn the essentials, and put them to work for your group. Practice crafting effective grant proposals, learn how to cultivate prospective members in your community and how to establish and maintain an effective membership program, identify effective ways to ask, and practice asking for funds. (Five hour training.)

Using the Clean Water Act to Protect Your Watershed — Receive customized training, based on which factors pose the greatest threats to your watershed. Factors will be identified prior to each workshop based on a review of documents produced within or about your watershed. (Two three-hour sessions.)

Contact Lisa Goodman at the River Alliance of Wisconsin for more information at (608) 257-2424 or goodman@wisconsinrivers.org.

Bill went on to say that polluted runoff — sometimes called nonpoint source pollution — is the primary pollution issue in the state. The laws are in place to fight and control such pollution, but the funds

farmers, municipalities, and road construction companies, but educators, helpers, and facilitators with these groups. There are funds and expertise available in this effort.

Jim Hlaban asked for reports of work being done in chapters. With the start of the polluted runoff champs, we would like every chapter to be involved and have a coordinator. If you have questions on how to get

The job of the polluted runoff champs will be to lead their chapters' efforts in tackling polluted runoff. they will be the ones to teach their chapter members how to recognize runoff pollution when they are out fishing

and manpower are not available. Bill wants TU chapters to be the leaders in fighting pollution runoff.

Bill points out that we are not wardens who confront and harass

started or need a *Polluted Runoff Toolkit*, contact Lou Gauen at (262) 695-2742 or Lou2Gau@aol.com.

Our next meeting via conference call will be in May.

TU chapters recap their recent local polluted runoff control achievements

GREEN BAY — Paul Kruse of the Green Bay Chapter said they will be putting on a presentation at their next meeting using slides from Laura Hewitt's office. In addition, they have printed some Polluted Runoff Site ID Cards from the toolkit and will be passing them out to their members. They are also working with the Shaw-Paca Chapter on a problem on Alcohol Creek.

HORNBERG — Mike Mather of the Hornberg Chapter is working with the Dept. of Transportation (DOT) and WDNR on the Highway 10 construction project over the Tomorrow River. Mike was asked by the DNR to be the inspector on the project because a lack of funding for the DNR prevented the area warden from making it over to the project very often. How's that for being a part of the solution? The Hornberg Chapter is also meeting with the city of Amherst regarding a new housing development along the river.

WOLF RIVER — Herb Buettner of the Wolf River Chapter said they have contacted an insurance company that purchased potato farms along the Wolf River. The Wolf River Chapter wants to work with the insurance company developing berms to divert sediment runoff away from the river during heavy rains.

GROUNDWATER: new bill a 'first step' forward

Continued from p. 1

Groundwater quantity management became Wisconsin TU's highest priority after the Perrier/Mecan River/Big Springs battles.

Legislation a first step forward

The new legislation is a far cry from the ideal as outlined in the study *Modernizing Groundwater Management in Wisconsin* (University of Wisconsin Extension, 2000). That groundwater study included many recommendations, including statewide regulation of all high-capacity wells using expanded permit criteria to preclude significant adverse environmental impacts to any important aquatic resources from groundwater pumping.

However, the legislation that has just been enacted represents a big step forward in many ways, and provides mechanisms to continually examine groundwater management and make improvements over time. While not ecstatic about some aspects of the final bill, we felt it deserved our support.

Sensitive waters protected

The new legislation aims to protect certain sensitive surface water resources, including

- trout streams,
- waters classified Exceptional and Outstanding Resource Waters, and
- large springs with a flow exceeding 1.0 cubic feet per second.

The legislation establishes a 1,200-foot Groundwater Protection Area (GPA) around these resour-

ces where any proposed high-capacity well will undergo a higher standard of environmental review before any permit is granted.

The legislation contains provisions to mitigate any significant environmental damages that might be caused by existing wells within these zones. Outside the GPAs, there is very limited expanded authority to review high-cap well applications.

In addition to the current requirement that a new well not interfere with a municipal well supply, higher levels of review will occur if large spring resources are potentially impacted, or if there is a very high level of consumptive use/water loss from the watershed as a result of groundwater extraction.

The new legislation allows for locally led planning (with state assistance in terms of technical assistance and planning and research funding) by communities and affected interests in two Groundwater Management Areas to be designated in the southeast and northeast regions of the state. These are areas centered around Waukesha and Brown counties where groundwater pumping has resulted in significant drawdowns in the aquifer systems.

The community-based planning effort will have the opportunity to address their groundwater use and management and put it on a more sustainable basis.

If local entities fail to cooperate to address these chronic groundwater withdrawal problems, state intervention is anticipated.

The new legislation also beefs up the requirements for reporting in an effort to ensure that the state continues to gain additional information to improve future groundwater management.

Additionally, an important Groundwater Advisory Committee (GAC) is created and charged with developing further recommendations for improved management of groundwater resources, including springs, and for addressing long-term strategies in Groundwater Management Areas. The GAC is required to issue a report recommending legislative or administrative action in the problem regions, as well as having a relatively open invitation to recommend legislative improvements to this Act.

Bill authors Kedzie and Johnsrud both noted that this bill is only the beginning of continuing efforts to secure groundwater for the future.

What the bill lacks

The bill is somewhat disappointing because it does not specifically include wetlands, coldwater ponds and lakes, smaller springs, and a strong water conservation component. These are areas to be pursued as management of groundwater quantity evolves in the coming years. TU is pleased that there is a focus and forum for this dialog as a result of this legislation.

DNR staff concerns remain

At the time of this writing, we are concerned about an amendment added in Joint Finance Committee (JFC) by Sen. Bob Welch that would eliminate five DNR positions needed to carry out the bill's intent. We anticipate that these DNR positions will be secured in the near future through a special DNR request requiring a JFC approval.

The torturous process leading up to the bill's adoption played out over a period of three months. The process involved:

- years of applied research,
- advocacy by many environmental and conservation groups,
- input from the Waters of Wisconsin/Year of Water initiatives,
- a collaborative effort of the Potato and Vegetable Growers and the River Alliance of WI, and
- advice from University of Wisconsin scientists to draft preliminary legislation.

The environmental members of the advisory committee appointed by the legislators included Rich Bogovich (River Alliance) and Jeff Smith (WITU). Smith replaced George Meyer (former DNR secretary now Executive Director of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation) who had been appointed to the committee but had scheduling conflicts.

Careful communication with a broad coalition of environmental and conservation interest groups (the Clean Water Coalition) was a keystone to improving and reaching a collective position on the final bill.

There were more meetings and unending e-mail traffic than most humans should be subjected to, as well as countless meetings with legislators, DNR and administration representatives, and others.

We want to give special kudos to Todd Amb, DNR water division administrator, and his staff for their hard work in support of the bill.

In the final analysis, we regard this new legislation as a significant victory (obviously with some qualifications). We think we helped achieve a substantial improvement over current law with the opportunity to strengthen it down the road.

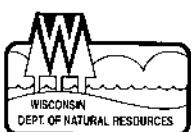
We know that TUers across the state will stay engaged with this issue in the coming years. We need to work together to not only provide sound management of Wisconsin's "buried treasure," but to protect trout waters and other irreplaceable — and vulnerable — surface water resources.

POLAR: company abandons Langlade County well permit

Continued from p. 1

Recent court orders in Michigan have found that Perrier's bottling operation in that state caused significant damage to nearby public waters and wetlands and have all but stopped the operation.

While the application for a high-capacity well from Polar Ice Water has now been withdrawn (see the *WDNR letter below*), it is not known if the applicant might seek to file for a new permit some time in the future.



State of Wisconsin | DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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Scott Hasselt, Secretary

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February 27, 2004

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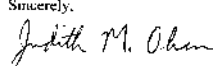
Subject: Withdrawal of High Capacity Well Approval Application by Dennis Hosc

Dear Mr. Sinderbrand:

I am in receipt of your letter to William Furbish, Department of Natural Resources ("the Department"), Bureau of Drinking Water and Groundwater, dated February 11, 2004. This letter withdraws the application of Dennis Hosc for a high capacity well approval, which was submitted to the Department on or about July 9, 2003, and approved by the Department on July 25, 2003. The Department granted a request for a contested case hearing regarding the high capacity well approval on January 13, 2004.

Since Mr. Hosc has chosen to withdraw his application for a high capacity well approval, the Department's previous approval of that application is no longer valid. The Department has no jurisdiction to render a decision since the application was withdrawn. Hence, the request for a contested case hearing, and the Department's decision to grant that request, are now moot. Since there is no Department decision to appeal, no contested case hearing will be held. Mr. Hosc remains subject to the conditions of the existing high capacity well approval, for fish rearing operations, dated June 12, 2003.

Sincerely,



Judith M. Ohm
Attorney

c: Dennis Hosc
William Furbish—DG/2
Jill Jonas—DG/2
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Todd Amb—AD/5
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www.dnr.state.wi.us
www.wisconsin.gov

Quality Natural Resources Management
Through Excellent Customer Service



State water policy web site debuts April 15

A new "Wisconsin Water Policy Inventory" web site is set to debut April 15 as part of weeklong Earth Week celebrations.

The idea for the site grew out of concerns expressed at the October, 2002, Waters Of Wisconsin conference where participants often asked, "Does Wisconsin have a policy about X, and if so, what is it, and where can it be found?"

People can search the web site using any topic or keyword. Many

terms can relate to the same policy idea, so the site is designed to match the most relevant policy information with various terms people search.

The web site was developed by the graduate students in UW Professor Steve Born's water policy class. These students worked with USGS policy analyst Elisa Fruffy and an advisory committee to identify the site's policy items. You can view the site at http://aqua.wisc.edu/_waterpolicy.



Wisconsin's Water Policies
a database of current statutory, administrative, and other policies

Home

Browse by Category

Search

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Welcome...

...to the Wisconsin Water Policies website. This site was developed to provide you with an inventory of Wisconsin's current statutory, administrative, and other policies pertaining to water. This information has been organized into categories for you to browse, or you may search the entire inventory.

Browse by Category

Watersheds & Components (47 records)
Goals for the status and condition of state lakes, rivers, wetlands, and ground water.

Unique Waters (32 records)
Outstanding, wild, priority, and other specially designated waters.

Water Allocation & Use (125 records)
Withdrawals, diversions, and consumption for agricultural, municipal, and various industrial activities.

Water Quality (164 records)
Standards for natural waters and drinking water, and rules for discharge of pollutants from point and non-point sources.

State Agency Management Activities (71 records)
Specified departmental functions like monitoring, funding, education, and coordination.

Deciding the future of Wisconsin TU

By Bill Pielsticker
WITU Chair

YOU will decide the future of Wisconsin TU. Our mission is to preserve, protect, and restore cold-water fisheries. This is a group effort in which we all have a role.

All of us contribute to the effectiveness and success of Wisconsin TU. We have members who pay their dues, maybe attend a fundraiser or two, and rely on others to carry out that mission. We have members who get involved in habitat work with their chapter, sometimes with other chapters in areas they like to fish. Some members get more involved, organizing events or serving on chapter boards. Some also work on issues and projects for the State Council.

As much as we have done — and an inventory of habitat work over the last 20 years shows we've done a heck of a lot — there is much still to do. In fact, there is more to do than we have the resources for.

Possibly the best way to increase our resources is to increase our member base. Consider this: over 143,000 trout stamps sold in Wisconsin last year. There are about 3,600 members of Trout Unlimited in Wisconsin. Naturally, many of the stamp sales were to out-of-state anglers. Even so, there clearly is room

for growth by Wisconsin TU. New members increase our ability to raise funds and often lead to additional volunteers for stream work, chapter involvement, and the like.

Following the completion of a new strategic plan last year, TU National has reworked its membership recruitment strategy. New members can join TU for \$17.50 for the first year. When these members sign up through a chapter, the chapter receives \$15 of that as a new member rebate. (If you are one of these recruits, go to www.tu.org/intro and include your chapter number which is found on p. 2 of *Wisconsin Trout*.)

If each one of us recruited one new member, we would double the members in Wisconsin TU and provide thousands of dollars to our chapters. The boost in both human and financial resources would be tremendous!

Member recruitment is one way to help decide the future of Wisconsin TU. Another is to get involved in the strategic planning process the State Council has begun. Many of us are unaware of what the State Council does. Most of us know that the Council speaks for Wisconsin TU on legislation (trout stamp fees, Job Creation Act, Groundwater Bill), and agency regulations (polluted runoff). But there are many other things the State Council does or can do. Chapter presidents, State



Bill Pielsticker

Council representatives, and others are reviewing a list of issues and asking which of them should be a priority and how we can better address them. See the article in this issue for details and let your chapter president know your ideas or reactions to the planning process and issues.

Finally, the photo accompanying this article is from the Southern Wisconsin Chapter's Special Needs Fishing Day last June. We help our

clients try to catch these "retired" brood trout in a couple private ponds that also are stocked with hand-sized bluegills. It's great "work," and the bonus is we can fish the ponds (catch and release) ourselves later in the day. A black wooly bugger and sink-tip line did the trick for this one. Several clients caught and kept large trout, which we cleaned and sent home with their caregivers for dinner.

PLANNING: State Council strategizes future at Oshkosh meeting

Continued from p. 1

Goal: Work with chapter leaders to give them the skills they need to do their job.

Information exchange & communication

Objective: Improving information exchange among chapters and between chapters, the State Council, and TU National in order to further the TU mission.

How? Utilize phone trees, post cards, chapter newsletters, web site, e-mail network.

Goal: Provide a statewide communication system that will effectively solicit information from members and provide communications about issues.

Fishing education

Objective: Provide fishing education to chapter members and the public.

How? Establish list of qualified/proven instructors, publicize training events in the media using direct contacts and press releases.

Goal: Expand the angling community.

Political action

Objective: Having the TU goals and philosophy incorporated into legislation in Wisconsin.

How? Use media effectively to increase visibility of Wisconsin TU. Communicate legislative information to chapters in a timely manner. Coordinate the actions of all chap-

ters to present a statewide response to critical issues. Ensure that key TU members establish and maintain working relationships with legislative leaders. Develop a presence within the legislative process on an

ongoing basis through the use of a TU staff person.

If you have ideas on how WITU can better pursue our mission, bring them forward. Give your suggestions to your chapter president or State Council representative.

Goal: Ensure TU is seen as an organization with a high degree of credibility when speaking to lawmakers on behalf of the best interests of our natural resources.

Membership

Objective: Recruit new members including women, sustain current members, and find youth members.

How? Encourage chapters to have membership chair. Recruit former members. Make new and prospective members feel welcome at meetings/work days. Develop youth education programs within each chapter. Participate in the Becoming an Outdoors Women program. Boy Scout merit badge program. Bring a friend to a meeting. Have guides give out free TU memberships to clients. Increase publicity about chapter activities. Go on local TV. Get a list of trout stamp purchasers and recruit from that. Recruit landowners along streams to join.

Goal: Increase the organization's influence, increase human and financial resources in support of cold-water fisheries.

Council-chapter interaction

Objective: Improving communication between the State Council and local chapters. **How?** Develop cooperative projects. Revisit/reorga-

nize the regional structure. Involve the regional vice presidents in chapter meetings and activities. Provide monthly updates of issues to chapters for use in their newsletters, including levels of importance,

recommended actions. Provide leadership training.

Goal: Even the level of understanding among chapters and members.

Executive director

Objective: Consider hiring a staff person to increase the capacity of Wisconsin TU to pursue its mission.

How? Provide the information needed for chapters and the council to decide whether to pursue funding and then hiring an executive director for Wisconsin TU. Determine draft position description, including leadership training and chapter communication. Determine how Wisconsin TU might afford a staff person — funding strategy and timetable. Invite Rich Bowman, Michigan TU Executive Director, to a State Council meeting.

Goal: Take Wisconsin TU to the next level of effectiveness by utilizing a full time or half-time staff person to improve capacity and communications of chapters and the council.

At the next State Council meeting, we will resume small group work on the remaining themes which are:

- Coordination (between chapters, and between the council and chapters),
- Fellowship (what we do well),
- Fundraising (what we do well/

- what we could do better)
- Marketing, image, and public relations (need to improve),
- Recognition and awards (we do this well),
- Relations with TU National (chapters see need for better relations/SC does well, can improve),
- Relations with land owners (can be improved).

The next step at that meeting or the following one will be to set priorities for each theme/goal, establish timetables for implementing the priorities, and identify performance measures to evaluate our success down the road.

Wisconsin TU encourages complete participation by members and chapters in the planning process. If you have a problem with what Wisconsin TU or the State Council is doing, this is the time to air your concerns.

Contact your chapter president or State Council representative to bring your comments to the next meeting. Help us chart a course for Wisconsin TU for the next 5-7 years.

State Council to meet June 5

Next State Council meeting will be June 5 from 10-4:30 at the Tomorrow River Supper Club in Amherst. Fishing on the Tomorrow River will be available after the meeting.

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Council awards honors at Oshkosh event

The Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited held its annual awards ceremony at a Noon luncheon at the Oshkosh Convention Center Feb. 7. This luncheon gave the council a chance to thank various individual and organizations. The following is the text used to introduce the award winners by WITU Awards Chair Larry Meicher.

By Larry Meicher

Dale Druckrey — Joan and Lee Wulff Conservation Award

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

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

This year we have chosen Dale Druckrey to hold the award. Dale is a member of the Green Bay Chapter, and he actively participates in all of their activities. But Dale doesn't limit his commitment to his chapter. He is frequently seen at projects of chapters all over northeast and central Wisconsin. He has become well known at project days in many of our TU chapters.

Dale is well known for his workday participation, but very little is known about Dale's financial support. Dale has donated thousands of

dollars to different TU chapters, the State Council, Friends of Wisconsin TU, TU's endowment fund, as well as many other environmental and conservation organizations. Dale is probably more than a little upset with me for bringing this up! The last thing Dale wants is recognition, but his contributions — both physical and financial — are, to say the least, inspirational.

What else is inspirational is Dale's concern for the environment. Dale is a member of Central Region's polluted runoff committee, is a member of the River Alliance, and Dale helped found the Northeastern Wisconsin Land Trust. He doesn't just belong to these organizations. He supports them!

Frankly, I don't think we could have found a better candidate for the Joan & Lee Wulff award.

Mole Lake Chippewa and Forest County Potawatomi tribes — WITU Resource Award of Merit

Trout Unlimited members have been concerned about the proposed Crandon Mine's impact on the Wolf River and other nearby water resources ever since it was first proposed over 25 years ago. The original Crandon Mine owner was the Exxon Corporation. Other mining companies owned the property for different periods of time over the years.

Now the mine has one final owner. On October 28, 2003, the Sokaogon Chippewa Community

Mole Lake Band and the Forest County Potawatomi Community combined their resources to buy the Crandon Mine. One of the tribes' first acts was to inform the Wisconsin DNR to withdraw the application for a mining permit, and with that the Crandon Mine was dead.

In announcing the purchase, Potawatomi Chair Gus Frank said, "This purchase protects the Wolf River, the wetlands, and the groundwater of Northern Wisconsin. It ends the threat to the tourism economy — the economy that most of us in Northern Wisconsin, including the tribes, depend on. We all depend on the waters and natural resources of the Northwoods — for recreation, to bring tourists to our state, and, for the tribes, to sustain our traditions. We're proud to be a part of protecting this area for future generations."

Trout Unlimited chapters have been happy to help the tribes and others express concerns over the Crandon Mine over the years. For putting this matter to rest, we want to thank the tribes on behalf of trout fishers everywhere and, indeed, on behalf of all of Wisconsin, with our Award of Merit.

Accepting on behalf of the Mole Lake Tribe is Tina Van Zile and on behalf of the Forest County Potawatomi Gus Frank.

Gordy Braun — Gold Net Award

Our Gold Net Award goes to Gordy Braun of the Fox Valley Chapter. Gordy is presently co-chair of Fox Valley's stream improvement project in Waupaca County on Whitcomb Creek which involves the placement of lumber structures on over 1,800 feet of stream. Gordy is described by chapter members as the "backbone" of the chapter's efforts.

Over the last few years, Gordy has participated in the Sannes project, involving half logs, lunger structures, fencing, and brushing of over 3,000 feet of stream.

He's also been involved in the Rose Farm project near Highway 10, which encompasses lunger structures, half logs, and boulder placement on over 1,600 feet of stream, and for several years he was heavily involved in Fort McCoy projects on Tarr and Silver Creeks and the La Crosse River.

Gordy joined TU in 1983. For the last 10 years, he has published and mailed the Fox Valley chapter's newsletter.

Gordy is also heavily involved in Fox Valley's fundraising activities. He's not only provided leadership to these events with his management skills, but he also made many personal contributions of auction items, raffle prizes, and door prizes. Even though Gordy is a man of modest means, he's donated his out of pocket!

In the last two years, Gordy has headed up Fox Valley's "Cabin Fever Day." This has turned into a major funding avenue for the chapter and last year grossed over \$10,000.

Wild Rivers Chapter — Silver Trout Award for Chapter Merit

Our Silver Trout Award for chapter merit this year goes to the Wild Rivers Chapter. The chapter's origins were in 1982 and 1983 when Tom Fleisch was our council chair. One of Tom's passionate missions was to build our membership and start new chapters in Wisconsin. A group consisting of Fleisch, yours

truly, Tom Mertens, and Mitch Bent went around Wisconsin trying to spread the word and start new chapters. In 1982 the Chequamegon Chapter (serving the Ashland-Superior area) was formed. In 1983 the Wild Rivers Chapter was formed. Wild Rivers held its charter meeting April 16, 1983, in Seeley. Both chapters had some rocky times, and they eventually merged into the one solid chapter of today.

The chapter's core volunteer group has taken on a wide range of resource activities and done them well, but always with a constructive, let's-have-fun attitude. They have been front and center on the coaster brook trout initiative, working with agencies and others to make it go. They're raising funds to make these activities go, and 2003's first annual spring fundraising chili feed and auction — with a couple of high spirited auctioneers, outside agitators Dr. Sausage and Colonel Fontinalis, aka Larry Meicher and Duke Welter — they brought in over \$6,500. Plans are now gelling for this year's event.

The chapter has worked in streams to survey trout and other populations and improve degraded habitat. Their annual Whack-a-Northern Day on the White River has been a rowdy effort to help brown trout and have a good fish fry at the same time.

The chapter is presently working to obtain key wild parcels along the White and is working on a management plan with other groups and agencies.

All in all, they are a dedicated group working hard for the coldwater resource and having fun doing it. What more could we ask of a TU chapter?

Jim Hlaban — Unsung Most Valuable Trout Award

This year we have a special award, the U.M.V.T. Award for someone whom we've already given a Gold Trout to, but who just keeps on performing. Jim Hlaban meets or exceeds the qualifications for any of our awards because of his endless campaign on behalf of the coldwater resources in northeastern Wisconsin.

For the last few years Jim served as the Central Region V.P. for our State Council. Last year he stepped into the vice chair's position. In this capacity, Jim has provided a great deal of service to the council, as well as providing an active voice for important environmental issues. Jim also actively partners TU with other organizations such as the Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust and the DNR.

In the last two years, Jim has made understanding nonpoint pollution runoff issues his personal crusade. He has spent countless hours bringing the Central, Hornberg, Shaw-Paca, and Fox Valley chapters together to achieve this. He has orchestrated several streamside workshops involving UW educators that deal with understanding the water quality in feeder streams and the impact of water quality in Northeast Wisconsin, especially the Little Wolf watershed.

Jim has not only pulled the workshops together, but has mustered up the necessary testing equipment and tools for the chapters to do the job.

At his local chapter level, Jim is co-chair of Fox Valley's stream improvement project near Big Falls in Waupaca County.

Continued next page



STATE COUNCIL HONOREES

Dale Druckrey (top, left) was this year's winner of the Joan and Lee Wulff Conservation Award at the State Council's Feb. 7 awards luncheon. Gordy Braun (top, right) was given the Gold Net award. The WITU Resource Award of Merit was given to the Mole Lake Sokaogon Chippewa and the Forest County Potawatomi tribes for their purchase of the Crandon Mine. Accepting for the Mole Lake tribe was Tina Van Zile (bottom, left) and Chair Gus Frank for the Potawatomi.

Jim keeps the project in tools and equipment and has become the official gourmet chef at weekend workdays.

All this makes Jim our *Unsung Most Valuable Trout*.

Dave Fritz — Gold Trout Award

Dave Fritz has been a TU activist in the southern Wisconsin area for over 25 years. A charter member of the Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter, Dave has served as president, initiated their newsletter, got their web site up and running, and has been a leader on their banquet committee for several years. Dave has led the Nohr Chapter to get stream restoration activities going in southwest Wisconsin and was especially influential in the restoration of the Blue River in 2002 and the Nohr Chapter's Big Spring project in 2003. He was the catalyst who managed to find the matching funds that made these projects possible!

Dave also initiated, organized, and then chaired the chapter's Spring Creek festival held the last two years, which has proved to be a major fundraiser.

Dave has been active in the State Council's affairs ever since he joined TU. In the last few years, Dave started the water monitoring effort in southern Wisconsin, and he is responsible for training over 60 monitors. Dave was instrumental in getting monitoring data standardized around the state, as well as making it possible to get monitoring data on a statewide web site.

Dave has truly been a dedicated spokesman and advocate for TU's causes.

Jeff Hastings and Jim Radke — Special Appreciation Award for Resource Personnel

We have traditionally had a special appreciation award for DNR Personnel. But this year we're stepping out of the box to recognize two federal employees. Vernon County's trout streams are some of the best in the state, drawing thousands of tourists and anglers each year. Those visitors pump millions of dollars annually into the local economy. Many small businesses serve these visitors, including campgrounds, restaurants, bed and breakfast inns, and sports shops.

Vernon County Land Conservationist Jeff Hastings and Vernon County NRCS District Conservationist Jim Radke are our recipients. Working together and consulting with DNR Fisheries Biologist Dave Vetrano, Jeff and Jim have restored over 25 miles of trout streams in Vernon county in recent years, reducing erosion, stabilizing banks, obtaining public fishing easements, and restoring trout habitat.

Creatively obtaining funding from a variety of federal, state, county, and nonprofit sources, Jeff and Jim work to pool resources and volunteer labor from conservation groups including TU chapters, DNR crews, landowners, and others.

Jeff's office, the Vernon County Land Conservation Department, has spent over \$250,000 a year over the past 10 years on stream projects in Vernon County. Jim works with private contractors trained in workshops put on by their offices and TU on stream projects and has had outstanding results.

Jeff Hastings has been a County Conservationist for 22 years, four years in Carroll County, Illinois, and the past 18 years in Vernon County. He is a graduate from the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point where he majored in Wildlife Management and Soils. Jeff is a past president of

the Wisconsin Association of Land Conservation Employees. He currently serves on their Legislative Committee and is their representative on the Wisconsin Agricultural Stewardship Initiative Coordination Council.

After leaving the military in 1968, Jim Radke attended the University of Montana's School of Forestry in Missoula. He attended for three reasons — to get out of Vietnam one month early, to attend one of the best forestry schools in the nation, but mainly to live in an area with exceptional trout fishing. A large share of his four years at the university was spent in trout streams.

He has worked 30 years for the Natural Resources Conservation Service, 25 in Vernon county. He has taken a personal interest in controlling streambank erosion and improving fish habitat.

Although neither of these individuals is employed by the Wisconsin DNR, they are both dedicated public servants and agency professionals who have gone the extra mile for our state's trout resources and been successful at it.

Oakbrook and Elliot Donnelly Chapters — Special Appreciation Award

While we've stepped out of the box, we believe that two Illinois Chapters — the Oakbrook Chapter and the Elliot Donnelly Chapter — should be recognized for their unwavering support of Wisconsin's trout resources, and we want to recognize them as real partners in our cause.

For many years these Chicago-area chapters have supported Wisconsin's coldwater resources. The Elliot Donnelly Chapter was an early supporter of the Kickapoo River TU Home Rivers Initiative. The Donnelly Chapter also provided matching funds and volunteer labor for several restoration projects. More recently they have contributed over \$3,500 and many hours of volunteer help to Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter's Big Spring project.

The Oakbrook Chapter was also heavily involved in the Kickapoo project, and in particular, they provided funds to support brook trout restoration on the Seas Branch. The Oakbrook Chapter has also been a staunch supporter of the coaster brook trout restoration effort.

Both chapters have also been involved in projects involving private landowners through the Vernon County Land Conservation Department and the NRCS office.

Accepting these honors on behalf of their chapters are James Coursey, Chair of the Elliot Donnelly Chapter's Conservation Committee, and Walter Boch, president of the Oakbrook Chapter.

WOJB Radio — Special Appreciation Award

This year the State Council recognizes Radio Station WOJB and Public Affairs Director Eric Shubring as our mass media journalist of the year. WOJB is operated by the La Courte Oreilles Indian tribe.

With its powerful 100,000-watt signal, WOJB serves many more people than those in its home city of Hayward. WOJB decided years ago to devote lots of coverage to conservation and environmental issues since these topics would be of more interest than the school lunch choices at Hayward High School. In line with this, the station has covered some important events.

When the Mining Moratorium Law was being debated in the state Legislature, WOJB covered the floor debate live from Madison.

Last spring WOJB broadcast a public listening session on the proposed Arrowhead-to-Weston transmission line that was attended by former Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson on the banks of the Namekagon River.

And most recently, the station is keeping listeners informed on the Polar Springs water bottling proposal in Langlade County that several TU chapters are fighting for its effects on nearby trout waters.

WOJB's leadership in these efforts has been due in large part to the vision of its Public Affairs Director, Eric Shubring. Eric's morning program is the place where many of these stories are covered, and Eric Shubring is here today to accept our award on behalf of radio station WOJB.

Adams County now in Frank Hornberg Chapt.

Adams County is now officially part of the Frank Hornberg Chapter instead of the Central Wisconsin Chapter.

Central WI now includes:

- Fond du Lac,
- Green Lake,
- Marquette,
- Waushara, and
- Winnebago.

Hornberg now includes:

- Adams,
- Portage, and
- Wood.

The WITU chapter map on p. 2 reflects these changes.



MORE AWARD WINNERS

Public Affairs Director Eric Shubring (top, left) accepted a special appreciation award on behalf of radio station WOJB-FM. Jim Hlaban (top, right) received a special *Unsung Most Valuable Trout* award. Accepting the Silver Trout Award for Chapter Merit for the Wild River Chapter were Dick Berge (center, left), Bill Heart, and Chuck Campbell. Receiving a special appreciation award for the Oakbrook and Elliot Donnelly chapters in Illinois were Wally Bock (bottom, left) and Jim Coursey. Not pictured are Gold Trout awardee Dave Fritz, plus Special Appreciation Award for Resource Personnel awardees Jeff Hastings and Jim Radke.

WLCV planning series of Earth Day events April 17 and May 1

A series of "Earth Day Coalition" events are being organized by the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters (WLCV) for April 17 and May 1. The WLCV plans to en-

gage 600 volunteers to go door-to-door in communities across Wisconsin, delivering literature to 40,000 households. The literature will educate Wisconsinites about recent at-

tacks on our environmental protections and encourage them to vote in this year's elections.

The Earth Day events will occur in four cities:

- **April 17** — Green Bay, Madison, and La Crosse
- **May 1** — Milwaukee area.

Earth Day will begin in the morning with events that include

speakers, music, food, and informational tables for organizations. Volunteers will gather around 11:30 for a media event and will then go to communities in teams for two hours of distributing literature to homes.

To get information on how your TU chapter can participate, call Anne Sayers at (608) 850-4505 or e-mail earthdayanne@yahoo.com.

WI Lakes Convention April 15

Trout anglers interested in what is new around the state regarding research, water policy, regulations, and rules may be interested in attending the Wisconsin Lakes Convention in Green Bay April 15-17.

Hundreds of state lake and other organizations regularly send a delegation to the Wisconsin Lakes (WAL) convention. The conference represents a unique opportunity to listen, learn, and discuss your experiences and questions on lake and water resource management, law,

fisheries, shoreland restoration, and other important matters.

The Convention is hosted by the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership, a nationally recognized and successful collaboration of WAL, UW- Extension, and the WDNR.

Speakers include Governor Jim Doyle, Attorney General Peg Lautenschlager, Department of Natural Resources Secretary Scott Hassett, and Department of Tourism Secretary Jim Holperin. See www.wisconsinlakes.org for details.

Water video available from Clean Wisconsin

The new video/DVD *Above Ground - Below Ground: The connection between Wisconsin's waters*, Clean Wisconsin, an environmental advocacy group, educates about water connections, shows existing threats to Wisconsin's water, and demonstrates solutions to protect it. For a copy of the video/DVD, call (608) 251-7020. A suggested donation of \$10 helps cover shipping and handling.



Several trout questions on April 12 congress ballot

There are several questions on this year's Conservation Congress ballot that relate to Wisconsin trout fishing, all of which are advisory in nature. Congress meetings take place at 7 p.m. across the state.

One question asks whether the state should reinstate its earlier "ordinary high water mark" law the allowed anglers to step along the near-shore bank of rivers and streams. The two other questions — one dealing with an increase in trout stamp fees and the other calling for groundwater legislation — may be moot at this point. License fees have, in fact, increased, and the Legislature has passed groundwater legislation (see p. 1). The questions on the ballot are as follows:

Question 53 - Reinstate Access Up To Ordinary High Water Mark

Under current law, anglers and other users of streams and ponds can walk along those waterways as long as they "keep their feet wet", but may step out of the water to pass an obstruction as long as they immediately return to the water. If they use exposed sand or rock bars along the shoreline but are not standing in the water, they are technically trespassing. Some anglers and other users believe that stream corridors, even at low water, are public property, and that allowing use up to the "ordinary high water mark", where land-based vegetation begins, would allow users access while reducing disturbance of fish species. Allowing access up to the ordinary high water mark would not allow use of flood plain areas without landowner permission.

- **Do you favor allowing access to the public along waterways up to the ordinary high water mark?**

53. YES _____ NO _____

Question 54 - 55 - Increase Inland Trout Stamp Fee

Although many Wisconsin fishing and hunting licenses have been increased twice in the past 10 years, the inland trout stamp has been the same price, \$7.25 since 1992. Inland trout stamp funds are required to be used for trout habitat projects (90%) and surveys to determine where they will be most helpful (10%). Trout habitat projects across the state have provided all cold-water species, from insects to a wide range of fish, with improved habitat in streams and spring ponds, and have reduced streambank erosion and siltation. Each year, more projects are proposed than can be funded with the existing trout stamp funds. More could be done to improve trout habitat if the inland trout stamp fee was raised to \$10.00 per year for residents, \$12.00 per year for non-residents.

- **Do you favor increasing the inland trout stamp fee to \$10.00 per year?**

54. YES _____ NO _____

- **Do you favor increasing the inland trout stamp fee to \$10.00 per year for residents and \$12.00 per year for non-residents?**

55. YES _____ NO _____

Question 56 - Ground and Surface Water Protection

Currently, Wisconsin law provides very little protection for ground or surface waters from high-capacity wells that would remove water from the system, such as for commercial bottling plants. The only reason DNR can deny a permit is if the proposed well would adversely impact the nearest municipal water supply. Even if a proposed well would drain a lake or stream, completely dry up a spring, or destroy a fishery, the permit could not be denied.

- **Should the Wisconsin DNR seek added legislative authority to be able to deny high capacity wells that could have adverse or undesirable impacts on wetlands, fisheries, ground and surface wells?**

56. YES _____ NO _____

Adams Adams Co. Courthouse, County Board Room, 402 Main St., Friendship
Ashland Ashland Sr. High School, Auditorium, 1900 Beaser Ave., Ashland
Barron Barron Co. Courthouse, Auditorium, 330 E. LaSalle Ave., Barron
Bayfield Bayfield Co. Courthouse, County Board Room, 117 E. 5th St., Washburn
Brown Southwest High School, Auditorium, 1331 Packerland Dr., Green Bay
Buffalo Alma High School, Auditorium, S1618 STH 35, Alma
Burnett Burnett Co. Government Center, Room 165, 7410 County K, Siren
Calumet Calumet Co. Courthouse, Room 25, 206 Court Street, Chilton
Chippewa Chippewa Falls Middle School, Auditorium A, 750 Tropicana Blvd., Chippewa Falls
Clark Greenwood High School, Cafeteria, 306 W. Central Ave., Greenwood
Columbia Columbia County Courthouse, 400 DeWitt Street, Portage
Crawford Crawford Co. Courthouse, Courtroom, 200 N. Beaumont Road, Prairie du Chien
Dane Alliant Energy Center (Dane Co. Expo Center), 1919 Alliant Energy Way, Madison
Dodge Horicon City Hall, 404 East Lake Street, Horicon
Door Door Co. Courthouse, Room A150, 421 Nebraska Street, Sturgeon Bay
Douglas Superior Sr. High School, 2600 Catlin Avenue, Superior
Dunn Dunn Co. Fish and Game Club, 1900 Pine Avenue, Menomonie
Eau Claire South Middle School, Auditorium, 2115 Mitscher Ave., Eau Claire
Florence Florence Natural Resource Center, 4842 Forestry Drive, Florence
Fond du Lac Theisen Jr. High School, Auditorium, 525 E. Pioneer Rd, Fond du Lac
Forest Crandon High School, 9750 STH 8, Crandon

Grant Lancaster High School, Hillary Auditorium, 806 E. Elm Street, Lancaster
Green Pleasant View Annex, Auditorium, N3150 Hwy. 81, Monroe
Green Lake Green Lake High School, Small Gymnasium, 612 Mill Street, Green Lake

2004 Spring Hearing Locations

Iowa Dodgeville High School, Gymnasium, 912 W. Chapel Street, Dodgeville
Iron Mercer Community Center, 2448 West Margaret, Mercer
Jackson Black River Falls Middle School, LGI Room, 1202 Pierce St., Black River Falls
Jefferson Jefferson County Fair Park, Activity Center, 503 N. Jackson St., Jefferson
Juneau Juneau County Courthouse, County Board Room, 220 E. State St., Mauston
Kenosha Bristol Grade School, Gymnasium, 20121 83rd Street, Bristol
Kewaunee Kewaunee Co. Courthouse, Courtroom, 613 Dodge Street, Kewaunee
La Crosse Onalaska High School, Gymnasium, 700 Hilltop Place, Onalaska
Lafayette Darlington High School, Cafeteria, 11630 Center Hill Road, Darlington
Langlade Langlade Co. Multi-purpose Bldg., 1581 Neva Road, Antigo
Lincoln Tomahawk Elementary School, Auditorium, 1048 E. Kings Road, Tomahawk
Manitowoc UW-Manitowoc, Theater, 705 Viebahn Street, Manitowoc
Marathon John Muir Middle School, 1400 W. Stewart Avenue, Wausau
Marinette Crivitz High School, Auditori-

um, 400 South Avenue, Crivitz
Marquette Montello High School, Community Room, 222 Forest Lane, Montello
Menominee Menominee Co. Courthouse, Basement, Courthouse Lane, Keshena

Milwaukee Greenfield High School, Auditorium, 4800 South 60th Street, Greenfield
Monroe Sparta Meadowview High School, Cafeteria, 1225 N. Water Street, Sparta
Oconto Suring High School, Cafeteria, 411 E. Algoma Street, Suring
Oneida James Williams Jr. High School, 915 Acacia Lane, Rhinelander
Outagamie Riverview Middle School, Auditorium, 101 Oak Street, Kaukauna
Ozaukee Webster Middle School, Auditorium, W75 N624 Wauwatosa Road, Cedarburg
Pepin Pepin Co. Government Center, County Board Room, 740 7th Avenue West, Durand
Pierce Ellsworth Senior High School, Auditorium, 323 Hillcrest, Ellsworth
Polk Unity High School, Auditorium, 1908 State Road 46, Balsam Lake
Portage Ben Franklin Jr. High School, Auditorium, 2000 Polk Street, Stevens Point
Price Price Co. Courthouse, Board Room, 126 Cherry Street, Phillips
Racine Union Grove Grade School, 1745 Mildrum, Union Grove
Richland Richland Co. Courthouse, Courtroom, 181 W. Seminary Street, Richland Center
Rock Loyal Order of Moose Lodge, 2701

Rockport Road, Janesville
Rusk Ladysmith High School, Auditorium, 1700 Edgewood Ave. East, Ladysmith
St. Croix Indianhead Tech. College, Cashman Auditorium, 1019 S. Knowles Ave., New Richmond
Sauk Ringling Theatre, 136 4th Avenue, Baraboo
Sawyer Winter School, High School Auditorium, 6585 W. Grove Street, Winter
Shawano Shawano Community Middle School, LGI, 1050 S. Union Street, Shawano
Sheboygan Sheboygan Falls High School, 220 Amherst Avenue, Sheboygan Falls
Taylor Taylor Co. Multi-purpose Bldg., Hwys. 64 and 13, Medford
Trempealeau Whitehall City Center, Gymnasium, 36245 Park Street, Whitehall
Vernon Viroqua Middle School, Large Lecture Room, Blackhawk Drive, Viroqua
Vilas Sayner Community Center, Golf Course Road, Sayner
Walworth Dalavan High School, Auditorium, 150 Cummings Street, Delavan
Washburn WI Agriculture Research Station, Conference Room, W6646 Hwy. 70, Spooner
Washington Washington Co. Fairgrounds, Exhibit Hall, 3000 Hwy. PV, West Bend
Waukesha Waukesha Co. Expo Center, Arena, 1000 Northview road, Waukesha
Waupaca Waupaca High School, Auditorium, E2325 King Road, Waupaca
Waushara Waushara Co. Courthouse, 2nd Floor Courtroom, 209 S. St. Marie St., Wautoma
Winnebago Oshkosh North High School, Auditorium, 1100 W. Smith Ave., Oshkosh
Wood Pittsville High School, Auditorium, 5459 Elementary Avenue, Pittsville

Water-related legislation heads Council meeting

By Chuck Steudel
WITU Secretary

The Feb. 7 meeting of the Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited was called to order by Council Chair Jon Christiansen at 10:05. There were 58 members present representing 16 chapters. According to the sign-up sheet, those chapters not represented were Antigo, Kiap-TU-Wish, Lakeshore, Northwoods, and Shaw-Paca.

The minutes that had previously been circulated were approved.

Jobs bill's impact on waters

The Legislative Report centered on the Job Creation Bill. There was expressed the need to get more information on this issue to the chapters. While the bill is overall very bad for the interests that we work toward, the final version does protect our interests in that the bill "does not affect a surface water identified as a trout stream by the DNR." This clause was a direct result of Jeff Smith's efforts.

Bob Selk of the Southern Chapter, a recently retired lawyer from the attorney generals office, spoke in detail about what was in the bill and what is being done about the bill. At this time the groups who oppose the bill have decided to wait and not start a lawsuit based on the Public Trust Doctrine. The concern is about exception to the current permit policy. The law creates serious problems with air quality.

There are also problems with activities on or in waters, not so much changes in things that pollute waters. Activities like dredging, culverts, bridges, piers, etc. which used to require a permit now have huge areas of exception or general rules. One just has to provide information about what one is going to do to the DNR 30 days before the activity starts and then just go out and do what you want. The real concern is with these exemption. The idea that one can go out and do what one wants after reporting what you want to do is now law. There are no rules written to define these exception.

The environmental community has decided to pressure the DNR to propose "emergency rules" to cover all these exceptions and take them to the Natural Resources Board. Lawsuits could follow.

Selk stressed the importance of local observation and reporting activities to the DNR. Also, letters need to be sent to the Governor, DNR, and legislators expressing our interests and concerns. It was noted that under the bill the DNR has to report all exceptions granted.

There was a discussion on the role of the Conservation Congress in this issue, and a resolution was approved to have Duke Welter and Herb Buettner draft a county resolution to be presented at as many county spring hearings as possible.

The State Council and Selk will prepare information on this bill to be circulated to local chapter leaders on this issue ASAP. Local leaders will then have the responsibility to circulate the information to their members. (Note: members are encouraged to log on to this DNR web site to see if they can determine whether an activity they observe qualifies for exemptions or general permits, or whether it still requires DNR review: www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/fhp/waterfront.htm.)

High-capacity well legislation

High-capacity well legislation may get off the ground soon. Rep. Johnsrud and Sen. Kedzie have appointed a committee of which Jeff

Smith is a member to come up with a proposal to be introduced to the Legislature. TU, represented by Smith and Steve Born, has been very involved in this issue. If it happens, it will happen very quickly within the next month. The issues are very complicated but workable.

Larry Meicher gave the Treasures report and an update on the council's endowment fund.

On the subject of the TU rebate it was noted that we lost \$3,000 when *some chapters did not send in their national financial reports*. Those chapters were later reported to be *Antigo, Southeastern Wisconsin, Kiap-TU-Wish, Ocooch, Blackhawk, and Wolf River*. The issue was discussed in detail with suggestions that went as far as withholding funds for projects being considered. In the end it was agreed that there were many reasons involved and that for now efforts would be made to educate and encourage all chapters to get their required reports in on time.

There was discussion on National TU's new rebate policy. It was reported that there will be a rebate to councils and chapters on only new members in the future. The intent seems to be to reward the growth of membership with new members. The treasurer's report was accepted.

Regional reports

Larry Kriese reported on the NE region. Polar Springs is the main issue. The State Council has committed \$5,000 for legal expenses concerning this issue. There is an attempt being made to convert a small hatchery into a bottling plant that seems to have a lot of money from unknown sources behind it. A "contested case hearing" petition has been filed with the DNR that was first approved by the DNR, then rejected, and then after a motion for judicial review was filed, the DNR turned again and approved the petition.

Jim Hlaban reported on the Central region. They are active in water monitoring efforts, offering a water monitoring training session in Big Falls on April 17. Call Jim Hlaban at (920) 244-7456 for more information. They are also working with the River Alliance on a Clean Water Act training session to be held on Feb 28 (macroinvertebrate identification important for any water monitoring effort) and March 13. Again, contact Jim for details.

John Bethke reported on the Western region. He urged chapter leaders to contact him about having meetings.

John Cantwell reported on Friends of Wisconsin efforts. The yearly mailing is out. In 2003 over \$10,800 was raised and in the last 15 years the total is over \$121,000 which has all been granted back to chapters for their works. He urged chapters to become Friends and noted that some businesses have matching fund policies for employees that should be used more.

Jack Bode spoke about membership. The zip code effort has been completed and hopefully national will be able to use it in distributing new members to chapters. He spoke about the possibility of the State Council setting up a program of giving free memberships to guides to distribute to some of their clients.

Officer elections

- The election of officers was held.
- **Bill Pielsticker** was elected council chair,
- **Jim Hlaban** was re-elected vice chair,
- **Chuck Steudel** was re-elected

- secretary, and
- **Larry Meicher** was re-elected treasurer.
- **Jeff Smith** was re-elected as National Leadership Council rep.

Outgoing Chair Christiansen was honored with numerous gifts from Clint Byrnes.

Past issues of State Council newsletters has been made into a CD disc that was given to all chapters. Todd Hanson was complimented for his efforts.

Polluted runoff campaign

Hlaban reported on the *Polluted Runoff Toolkit* situation. He is making an effort to get a representative from each chapter to lead local efforts. A conference call on the matter will take place soon. There are still copies of the kit available for those who want them. He stressed the importance of this program at the local chapter level.

It was announced that Todd Breiby has been hired with the help of a grant from the National Wildlife Foundation to the fulltime position of Coaster Brook Trout Coordinator with the Midwest Region of National TU. He is working on partnership issues and coordinating regional conferences. A national conference of the American Fisheries Society will take place in Madison in August and Breiby will represent TU there. He will attempt to tie together the many groups that are working on and are interested in the coaster issue.

TU insurance was discussed. National does have a good liability policy that covers chapters and members during projects. If a group wants a certificate of insurance, the person to contact at National is Nancy Neilson. This coverage is liability only and does not cover medical costs. There were several questions about the details of the coverage and its application. Duke Welter volunteered to follow up on that and report back to the chapters.

A request for \$1,000 to cover membership in the Wisconsin Stewardship Network was discussed. A motion to approve \$1,000 to the WSN was approved.

Wisconsin Conservation Congress issues that apply to our group were discussed. The statewide county hearings will take place on April 12. There are three questions that relate to trout. They are:

1) A resolution to return to the "old high water" standard for public use of streams.

2) A resolution supporting regulation of high-capacity wells, and

3) A resolution concerning increased trout stamp fees. The proposal would raise the price of a stamp from \$7.25 to \$10.00 for residents and \$12.00 for non-residents.

A motion to support the resolution was defeated. The State Council has supported the increase of the trout stamp to \$10.00, but there was opposition to raising the non-resident fee.

The meeting adjourned at 12:25. Friends of WITU grants

After the meeting, the Friends Committee met and awarded:

- \$2,000 to the Wisconsin River Valley Chapter for excavation of 4,900 feet on the Plover River in Marathon County,
- \$2,000 to the Ojiblean Chapter for work on the North Fork of Gilbert Creek, and
- \$2,000 to the Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter for restoration and habitat work on the Blue River in Iowa County.



OUTGOING COUNCIL CHAIR JON CHRISTIANSEN ROASTED

As he has done in the past, Clint Byrnes (bottom, left) brought out a box of gag gifts with which to roast outgoing WITU State Council Chair Jon Christiansen. Christiansen had to wear an apron to collect all the goodies, which included a book (middle), fish lights, and a distinctive streamside trout hat. Bill Pielsticker (top) of the Southern Wisconsin Chapter was elected new State Council chair at the meeting.

Bill Heart photos



Chapter News



Bob Haase

OK, NOW WHAT COLOR WAS THAT AGAIN?

Dr. Charles Wernberg (left) of Oshkosh confers with master fly tyer Bart Landwehr of Tight Lines Fly Fishing Company of De Pere. Landwehr was one of five master tyers who instructed at this year's five-session Central Wisconsin Chapter Master's Fly Tying Series held in Winneconne.

Aldo Leopold Chapter

Our chapter hosted a fly tying demonstration at the **Gander Mountain** in Baraboo that was a great success on Feb. 19. Seven new members joined that night, an almost 10% increase in our roster! Many members who had not been to previous chapter events stopped by also, so all-in-all it was a great night. A big thanks to our program chair, **John Doucette**, for arranging the evening.

We also helped sponsor the "**Lodi Reads Leopold**" weekend March 5-7. This event both celebrates and seeks to further Aldo's conservation legacy. The weekend was very successful, with attendance of around 600 people from five states. It was great to be a part of this event and we look forward to next year. Thanks to the **Legislature** and **Governor**, the State of Wisconsin has henceforth designated the first weekend in March as "Aldo Leopold Weekend."

Our upcoming meetings bring us **Ray Larson** on April 22 giving us his "Food For Trout" program. This program has received excellent reviews from others, and we anticipate gaining a small bit of Ray's knowledge.

Thursday, May 20, finds us at **Goerres Park** in Lodi for an "on stream" meeting and picnic! We will

have food, drink (non-alcoholic), door prizes, a raffle, good company, and hopefully good weather. Our very own **Kevin Searock** will give a presentation on his equipment and techniques entitled "Notes from a Village Troutsmith." This presentation earned him accolades at both last fall's **Spring Creek Festival** held by the **Nohr Chapter** of TU and the **Hawkeye FFA** show this spring.

Mid-May we will be working jointly with the **Friends of Scenic Lodi Valley** to clear brush and obstructions from a section of **Lodi Spring Creek**, with a second work day planned for later this summer.

We were happy to write a letter in support of a grant request the **Village of Poynette** is submitting to the DNR. They are seeking to create a stormwater utility. One of the major goals of this project is the protection of both the **Rowan Creek** and **Hinkson Creek** watersheds.

At our January meeting **Steve Hill** was elected treasurer after **Jeremy Jongbloed** resigned. **Teresa Searock** has generated a member survey we will soon be sending to all chapter members. The results will help guide us as we develop a plan for our chapter's next few years. Thank you to Steve and Teresa for all of your help.

—Mike Barniskis

Blackhawk Chapter

Jeff Hastings, who works for the **Vernon County Land and Water Conservation Department**, was our guest in January. **Rich Osthoff** was our guest in February.

Blackhawk contributed \$2,000 to the **Harry Nohr Chapter** for stream work on the **Blue River** above the bridge of Hwy. I.

Central Wisconsin Chapter

President **Bob Chamberlain** feels that it is unfortunate that TU has acquired a reputation as being for fly fishers only. He believes it's true that fly fishing is 'efficient' in probably resulting in more fish caught per

time, and nothing in our charter seeks or supports a specific form of angling. Nothing demands 'catch and release,' even though we support that concept as better providing for future generations. And

absolutely nothing should discourage every trout fisher from joining our organization! Therefore, please ask everyone you know who loves the coldwater environment to join Central Wisconsin Chapter. They may help in our work and enjoy our activities.

Elward Engle is to be congratulated for presenting a great program in January. Fifty people heard Elward present "Wildflowers Along the Trout Stream" in Wautoma.

Dr. Robert Stelzer and grad student **Tara Kent** of the **UW-Oshkosh Department of Biology and Microbiology** presented a short program at our February meeting in Berlin. Dr. Stelzer presented research data on invertebrates in our region's trout streams. Stelzer also proposed a research program to study the effects of the removal of Hex and other mayfly nymphs from local streams. This would be a six-year program which would be supported by grants, CWTU manhours, and CWTU funds. The CWTU Board later voted to support this research project.

Some 350 people attended our free **CWTU Trout Fishing Funday** on February 28 in Winneconne. Over 60 of the state's best fly tyers, net makers, rod builders, environmentalists, etc., made the day a success. Thanks go to **Bob Haase** and **Rich Mlodzik** for running the raffles, **Bob Keehan** and **Sue Bouck** for working the rummage sale, and **Tracy Moran** for organizing and orchestrating the youth tying. Thanks also go to **Scott Grady**, **Tom Young**, **Bob Hunt**, **Steve Nelson**, and **Bob Chamberlain** for providing seminars. This was not a fund raiser, but because of our raffles and rummage sales, we ended up in the black. Check out our www.cwtu.org web site to see pictures.

Gail and **Dan Colligan** are hard at work organizing our annual **CWTU Banquet and Fund-raiser**. The event will be held on March 27 at the **Pioneer Inn** in Oshkosh and promises to be a great time. Some of the people helping Gail and Dan are **Bob Chamberlain**, **Ira Giese**, **Bob Haase**, **Tracy Moran**, and **John Gremmer**.

CWTU's Beginning Fly Tying class in Wautoma came to and end on March 15. Eighteen youth and adults enjoyed the five-session class. Thanks go to **Russ Bouck**, **Tom Young**, **Tracy Moran**, **Bob Haase**, **John Gremmer**, and **Rich Mlodzik** for helping with the instruction. Participants were also presented programs on TU's mission and CPR (Consider Proper Release).

Another 22 accomplished tyers took part in our five-session **Fourth Annual Master's Fly Tying Series** in Winneconne. Each participant paid \$40 to participate. This year's master tyers were **Ray Larson** of She-

boygan, **Don Larmouth** of Green Bay, **Dan Ferron** of Green Bay, **Bart Landwehr** of De Pere, and **Mike Porter** of Menasha. Each master tyer instructed the group on how to tie three of their favorite flies. Thanks go to refreshment chairman **Tracy Moran**, video technicians **Gary Herlache** and **Bob Haase**, and series organizer **John Gremmer**. Many participants helped with the youth tying at our **Trout Fishing Funday**. Check out our web site to see pictures. Federation of Fly Fishers-certified fly casting Instructor **Bob Arwine** of Green Bay will lead the instruction at our April 19 **Fly Casting Tune-up** at the lagoons of **Marble Park** in Winneconne. Starting time is 6:00 p.m., and it will run till dark. The public and all chapter members are invited to participate in this fun experience. Many accomplished casters will be on hand to help instruct at this free event. Bring your fly rod. Fly rods will be available for those who don't have them.

CWTU's First Annual Strategic Planning Session will be held on Saturday, April 17, at the **Oshkosh Office Systems** building on Highway 44 in Oshkosh. All members are encouraged to attend. Contact **Bob Chamberlain** at (920) 398-3721 for more information.

CWTU's 2nd Annual Trout Outing will be held on Saturday, May 8, at the **Mecan River Discovery Center**, south of Wautoma. Experienced bait, spin, and fly fishers will take the inexperienced out for a morning of fishing. A picnic lunch will be served at noon, and the afternoon will be open to tours of stream work that our chapter has completed. Any fisher who would like to participate in this event should contact **John Gremmer** at (920) 582-7802 or jhg@vbe.com.

Summer board meetings are set to be held at the **Berlin Park Pavilion** on June 14, July 12, and August 9. Meetings start at 6:30 p.m. All chapter members are invited.

Workday Chairman **Rich Mlodzik** has released this year's workday dates. All members are encouraged to participate and to bring friends. The dates are:

Saturday, April 3, Little Pine Creek, Czech Ct.,

Saturday, April 24, Little Pine Creek, Czech Ct.,

Saturday, June 19, Chaffee Creek, Dakota Rd. (electro-shock survey),

Saturday, July 17, to be announced,

Saturday, August 14 or 21, to be announced, and

Saturday, Sept. 11, to be announced.

Check the web site for new information or contact Rich at (920) 295-8772 or mjmrpm@dotnet.com.

—John Gremmer

Coulee Region Chapter

Our chapter has had a very enjoyable winter! Three members shared their experiences during our monthly gatherings, **Pat Kennedy** presented on his snorkel surveying in the **Salmon Region of Idaho**, **John Krueger** presented on his trip to **Hudson Bay** through **Expedition Outfitters, LLC.**, and **Eric Rauch** shared his vast knowledge of the **Green River in Utah**.

In addition, we held three fly tying events at **Gander Mountain** and had our most successful banquet to

date, raising over \$8,000 with 116 people in attendance. **Plum Creek Rod Co.** really helped us increase our banquet profit by donating one of their bamboo rods, "The Coulee Special," which is one of their signature rods.

Just like everywhere else, Spring fever has hit. Everyone is excited that the early season has begun and we are busy planning our improvement projects and work days. The next work day will be held on Saturday, May 22.

Chapter News



We continue to hold our monthly meetings at **Forest Hills Golf Course** the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Some folks meet for cocktails at 6 p.m., and there is always an entertaining presentation starting at

7 p.m. Please stop by our web page at www.couleeregiontu.org to find out everything that's going on here in the Coulee Region.
—Nathan Barnhart

Frank Hornberg Chapter

The Frank Hornberg Chapter has been active this seemingly endless winter season. The general meetings have featured presentations by fly fishing guide **Bill Sherer**, author **Ross Mueller**, DNR Fisheries Technician **Jason Spaeth**, and chapter founder **Jeff Dimick**. All presentations were well received.

In addition, the chapter held a series of fly tying workshops at **Clancy's Stone Lion** in Custer, at **Shooter's Supper Club** in Plover, and at **The Chalet** in Wisconsin Rapids. Despite inclement weather (-12 degrees qualifies), the workshops were surprisingly well attended.

Our Winter/Spring newsletter "Frank Talk" was printed and distributed to "the faithful" in late February. The newsletter includes a schedule of upcoming work events, as well as maps to the various work sites, and a "thank you" to those corporate sponsors who have helped sustain our stream enhancement activities.

Green Bay Chapter

The Green Bay Chapter has spent the winter months deciding on the best ways to utilize our funds to best benefit our coldwater resources. We are once again going to fund the stocking of trout in the **Lower Oconto River**. This year we are going to start with a rainbow stocking followed a few weeks later by a stocking of brown trout. It is hoped that two stockings will keep the fish around longer, mainly because the brown trout can withstand the higher water temperatures that occur as the summer wears on.

We have also donated funds to the **US Forest Service** to use for habitat improvement and beaver trapping in the **Nicolet National Forest**.

We have also donated funds to the **WDNR** for the same purposes and to study the effects on the **Oconto River** of the islands that were installed two years ago.

We are also once again funding scholarships for area students to attend conservation camps and will again host a **Kid's Fishing Day** at the **Brown County Reforestation Camp** in August.

As always, we are planning on several work days performing habi-

tat improvement on area streams. Already on the calendar are a workday with the Forest Service in the Nicolet National Forest, a clean up of the Oconto River below the **Stiles Dam** and habitat improvement on the islands in the Oconto River previously mentioned.

Of course, all of this requires money. Therefore, the chapter is very busy planning its **29th Annual Fundraising Banquet**. This year's event will be held on March 25 at the **Stadium View Banquet Hall**.

The committee organizing the banquet consists of **Bruce Deuchert**, chairman, **Dennis Gusick**, **Paul Mongin**, **Gary & Jan Stoychoff**, **Wally & Laurel Heil**, **Janet Smith**, **Paul Kruse**, **Pat Hill**, **Leo Nikowitz**, **Jim Vanden Branden**, **Jack Koivisto** and **Larry Kriese**.

The chapter also monitoring bills in the Legislature that would affect our coldwater streams and will take appropriate action when necessary.

Finally, the chapter is going to be very proactive in using TU National's new membership recruitment program to increase our numbers.

—Gary Stoychoff

port us. The **Gary Borger**, **Oakbrook**, and **Lee Wulff** chapters will be on hand to assist with the brushing. Our grant applications for funds have been fruitful:

- Embrace a Stream \$10,000
- Friends of WITU 2,000
- Besadny Grant 500

We are looking forward to conducting another successful restoration effort and encourage our members to become involved.

The Nohr Chapter distributed \$3,000 in **school grants** to nine schools in **Iowa**, **Grant**, and **Lafayette** counties. This money will be used to establish water monitoring

programs, construct rain gardens, plant native vegetation in riparian buffer zones, and take field trips to various coldwater locations. Our chapter has been funding this program for the past eight years. We are proud to play an integral part in the environmental education of our area students.

We have again funded a \$2,500 summer intern scholarship program. The **UW-Platteville** faculty will choose the student. The student will be working on collecting data from streams in our tri-county area and publishing this information in a database at the UW-P and also at the UW-Madison. The student will be working under the direction of **Dr.**

Kris Wright, UW-P Biology Department. Our chapter has designed a long-term protocol from which a student and professor will work from each summer. It is our hope that this will lead to a cohesive and comprehensive study of our southwestern Wisconsin streams over a long period of time.

Our **annual banquet** is coming up Friday April 30. We are raffling off a **Wenonah Kingfisher Canoe**.

Plans are well on their way for our now annual **Spring Creek Fest**. It will be held Saturday, September 11, at **Castle Rock Creek Campground**. For more information go to www.nohrtu.org/.

—Brian Larson

Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter

Kiap-TU-Wish has had a busy and productive winter. Monthly meetings have featured an interesting series of speakers, beginning with **Tom Helgeson**, publisher of *Midwest Flyfishing* magazine.

Noted sporting artist **Bob White** headlined the annual **Holiday Banquet** and wowed the crowd with his tale of a worldwide angling trip.

Our own **Chuck Goossen** gave a charming presentation on making bent-frame wooden landing nets, and **Brian McKinley** clued chapter members in on fly fishing for northern pike in **northern Canada**.

Dry fly **Dick Frantes** memorial fly tyers will take the stage in April, and **WDNR Fisheries Biologist Martin Engel** will update meeting attendees on coldwater fisheries management issues in May.

Longtime chapter activist **Andy Lamberson** received the chapter's first-ever "Conservationist of the Year" award at the Holiday Banquet. Chapter President **Mark Waschek** presented Andy with a plaque and a "traveling trophy" — a hand painted brook trout carving by **Craig Aschenbrenner**.

Chuck Goossen has taken on responsibility for the chapter's **Willow River monitoring station** and has collected data through the winter.

Fund-raising issues grow steadily more important. The chapter's board established a fund-raising committee in January and named board member **Corey Mairs** its chair. The chapter is also cooperating with the **Ojibseau Chapter** in a major fund-raising effort to provide funds for the continuing restoration of **Gilbert Creek**.

In other board business, the chapter has again provided partial funding for **UW-River Falls** biology professor **Clarke Garry's Kinnickinnic River** macroinvertebrate diversity study in 2004. This year's funding will defray the expense of creating a permanent archive of preserved samples collected in past years.

Elected to board positions at the March meeting were **Greg Dietl**, **Eric Forward** and **Ted Mackmiller**.

—Jonathan Jacobs

Continued on p. 12



Mike's Service

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Chapter News

Northwoods Chapter

The chapter had one of its best turnouts for special events on Saturday, January 17, when **Ross Mueller** gave a seminar on fishing southwest Wisconsin streams. We had visitors from the Antigo area and a delegation from the **Wild Rivers Chapter** in Ashland came down, too.

Our annual **Christmas Party** was again attended by 25 people. It's really good to reconnect with old and new members at this party and just

kick back and relax.

We held our annual Chapter fly tying session on March 13. Our featured patterns this year were the Quigley Cripple and its variations, cut-wing Caddis, and, for you small-mouth addicts, Clouser Minnow patterns. The supplies and instructions came from **Bob Clouser** himself. Can't wait to try out that crayfish pattern on the Wisconsin River this summer.

Duke Andrews and I meet with **Sue Reinecke** and **Mike Peczynski** from the **Forest Service** and **Mike Vogelsang** and **Steve Gilbert** from the **DNR** to discuss fishery projects on the **Deerskin River**. I'm happy to say that the process has begun with the **Forest Service** to begin work on the section of stream in the National Forest. There are some immediate habitat maintenance needs for the selective removal of alder that can begin in the near future if we can get authorization and volunteers to do some of the work.

The rest of the work will begin after the required stream studies and permits are obtained in approximately two years. Future activities on the lower part of the river under DNR jurisdiction are not as clear because the flowage will require time to stabilize before activities can be done in that section.

The chapter's **30th Annual Conservation Banquet** will be held on April 27, 2004 at the **Rhineland Café & Pub**. Can you actually believe the Northwoods Chapter has had 30 consecutive banquets! Come on up and be part of our party.

The **11th Annual Youth Fly Fishing Conclave** will take place July 10. Our chapter sponsored a free fly fishing event for boys and girls ages 10-16. Learn how to cast a fly rod and tie a fly. **FFF** fly casting instructors, great prizes, and just a great day to learn the basics about this way to catch fish. Call **Terry Cummings** at (715) 362-2187 for details.

Stream work days are scheduled for April 17, May 1, and May 22. We have made a tremendous improvement to the **Bearskin** with our brush bundles. This spring, we are financing the **WDNR** to place boulders and logs in the stream. We may just be moving upstream to a new section of stream upstream of **Lake-wood Road**. Come see what we've done and share the enjoyment of seeing your efforts really improve this quality trout stream. Call **Wayne Stevens** at (715) 362-3659 for more.

Chapter elections will be held after the stream work day on May 22. All positions are open and the chapter truly needs new leaders to step up and become involved.

The Northwoods Chapter serves Oneida, Vilas, Forest, and Florence counties. The Northwoods Chapter was created in 1974 and has grown from 25 to over 100 members. Visit our web site to learn more about our chapter activities, committees, and how you can become involved.

Contact **Brian Hegge** at 715-362-9611 or bhegge@newnorth.net for up-to-date meeting schedules and/or changes.

—*Brian Hegge*

Ocooch Creeks Chapter

The chapter received an **Embrace-a-Stream** grant for the **Elk Creek Project**. Work on the project has commenced with removal of the beaver dams, tree cutting, and the brushing of willows. Stream banks will be allowed to stabilize prior to the rehabilitation/habitat improvement phase of the project in 2005. Multiple research projects related to the project have been proposed.

In addition to the Elk Creek effort, the chapter made a contribution to the DNR toward land on **Camp Creek** in Richland County.

An exciting schedule of upcoming events includes the following:

- **March 23**, 7 p.m., at **Richland Co. LCD office** — **Roger Kerr** discusses stream easements.
- **April 19**, 7 p.m., **Richland Hospital Conference Room** — **Robert Hunt** presents "Trout Habitat Improvement."

May 11, 6 p.m., **North Park**, **Dave Barron** of **Jaquish Hollow Anglers** will conduct a fly casting clinic. **June 5**, chapter picnic at the **Richland Center North Park**.

—*Allon Bostwick*

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WITU Looking Back

Old WITU newsletters now on CDs

The "Looking Back" scans you see in this feature are available on a CD compiled by WITU Publications Director **Todd Hanson** and **Wild Rivers President Bill Heart**.

Hanson collected back issues of State Council newsletters dating back to the *WITU Quarterly Report* that began publication in the early 1970s, and **Heart** did the large-format scanning. Many TU members contributed by finding "missing" issues from their collections.

The old newsletters are on two CDs — one with all *Wisconsin Trout* issues and the other with newsletters issued prior to 1989.

To get the CDs, contact **Todd Hanson** at (608) 268-1218 or twanson@chorus.net. Many chapter presidents now also have the CD set and can make duplicate copies for members.

From the Spring, 1984, WITU Quarterly Report...

FIRST STATE T.U. BANQUET A BIG SUCCESS !!!

The first Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Awards & Fund-raising banquet was held on January 21, 1984, at the Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton, WI. Close to 250 people attended this first-ever event, and over \$5600 was earned for Wisconsin T.U. Awards that evening went to **Roger Fairbanks**, **Harold Starkweather**, **Bob Brunsell**, the **Ojib-leau** and **Southern Wisconsin Chapters**, plus many others.

Wisconsin T.U. is grateful to the many businesses, chapters, individuals, and artists who helped with donations of merchandise, cash, and artwork for the event. The funds raised by Wisconsin T.U. will be used by the State Council in its many capacities for preserving and protecting Wisconsin's coldwater resources. Special thanks are extended to the management of the Paper Valley Hotel for their wonderful hospitality and co-operation.

From the Spring, 1974, State Council meeting minutes...

Water Resources Reports

Green Bay: Newly-elected President **Gary Stoychoff** said the chapter is still involved in the Handsaw Creek controversy. Rip-rap was installed in the Kewaunee River as part of the chapter's long-range plan to improve the Kewaunee. Also, the chapter is working with the Boy's Club and the DNR and using its water testing equipment along the Kewaunee. A vibert box planting program is in the works.

Southern Wisconsin: President **Tom Sopkovich** reported the chapter donated money for the DNR to purchase two chain saws to brush Dell Creek, Sauk County... Participating in a joint SCS/DNR study committee... Opposing an impoundment on the unnavigable portion of Plainville Creek which would probably result in deterioration of this Class I trout stream... Petitioned the DNR for an environmental impact statement concerning alterations in Painter Creek, Crawford County's best trout stream... Cleaned up Spring Creek, Lodi, with the help of Boy Scouts from Madison and Lodi... Seeing to it that IF the SCS project for the Pine and Willow watersheds in southwestern Wisconsin is undertaken it be designed to minimize harm to trout resources.

Southeastern Wisconsin: **Chris Doyle** reported the chapter is trying to work out the problem of deciding what to do about gaining access to Genessee Creek, Waukesha County. The chapter would like to see portions of the creek opened to the public but fear the fishing pressure would be too much for the small metropolitan stream.

Central Wisconsin: President **Arling Erickson** reported the White River brushing project will be completed April 27... The chapter purchased a pump to clear Cedar Springs but now needs a dredge... Conducted a brushing project on Lunch Creek... Conducted fishing seminars in Stevens Point, Oshkosh, and Wautoma... Members arranged speaking engagements and showed TU films... Appeared at many hearings concerning damming of tributary streams and prevented one dam near Shawano.

Wolf River: **Duke Andrews** of the DNR, a chapter member, reported on a vibert box project undertaken in cooperation with the Oak Brook (Illinois) Chapter. The vibert boxes were installed, with the help of the DNR, in a few tributary streams of the Wolf River. The project was not successful as the mortality rate was 99 percent. (Duke will write a complete report of the project and why it failed for a later issue of the Action Line.)

Chapter president profile

Kids and restoration Tom Deer's focus at Fox Valley

By Tony Trembl

Tom Deer has been a member of Trout Unlimited since 1993 and president of the Fox Valley Chapter the past two years. Although that is not a long time, he sure has made his presence known as an activist for the protection of our coldwater resources. Consider the following about Tom:

- he got very active in the fight against the Crandon Mine in 1995, working with Herb Buettner and George Rock,
- he spent significant time in the struggle against Perrier to save Mecan Springs,
- he was active on the Polar Springs water bottling issue,
- he was instrumental in getting the state of Wisconsin to purchase the Skunk Lake area last winter,
- he was a regional coordinator for the Wisconsin Stewardship Network for the first year after he retired, and
- he has just agreed to join the State Council's Water Resources Committee.

Given all this work, I understand why Tom says, "I don't get to fish as much as I would like to."

Tom has been heading up our contingent to the Camp McCoy stream restoration project for five years. On the second Saturday of the summer months, you will most always find him working on a stream at the fort.

Tom also initiated our chapter's First Cast program, and has spent countless hours teaching kids and adults to tie flies. He has been to numerous schools in the area teaching fly tying and has started a class at the Boys and Girls Brigade, which has just completed its second year. Hundreds of kids have learned to tie because of Tom's efforts.

He not only is an accomplished fly tyer, but is also a skilled rod maker who has donated some of his fine rods to the chapter fundraisers.

For the past two years as our chapter president, Tom has been a strong leader. He has brought much decorum to our business meetings by reducing the extemporaneous palaver, causing a lot of good things to happen in a much shorter period of time.



TROUT ARE GOING TO LOVE THIS

Fox Valley Chapter President Tom Deer helps a future trout monger tie a tasty fly. Tom has long believed kids are at the future of trout fishing.

After 18 years of service to Kimberly Clark, Tom retired in 2000 as Maintenance Supervisor. He and Deanne have been married for 43 years. They have three daughters and six grandchildren.

As for fishing, Tom says, "I love to fish anything with a fly, but my favorites are brook trout and bluegills." Tom particularly loves fishing the Bois Brule and in the Black Hills of South Dakota with his brother, Tim.

Because of Tom's leadership, the chapter is viable monetarily and has vibrant personnel. We've all enjoyed working with him, but now we need to concentrate on fishing with him.

(Tony Trembl is a longtime member of the Fox Valley Chapter and one of the stars of the State Council's 1996 Consider Proper Release video. -Ed.)

Chapter News



Continued from p. 12

Ojibseau Chapter

Members of the Ojibseau Chapter will be presenting a seminar on stream restoration at the April 1-3 **Midwest Fly Fishing Expo** in **Bloomington, MN**. With the recent success in acquisition and restoration of **Gilbert Creek** in Dunn county, chapter members have organized a detailed PowerPoint presentation for the Expo.

The chapter will also have a booth at the Expo where interested attendees can discuss Ojibseau projects and learn more about fishing the Western Wisconsin streams.

The **Annual Chapter banquet** is April 22. We invite any and all interested people to attend and take a chance on our major prize — a

\$1,000 gift certificate/shopping spree at a **Gander Mountain** store. Along with the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter, our Ojibseau Chapter is sponsoring a **Rod and Canoe Raffle** in which a beautiful *Dick Prine* canoe is being offered.

Summer projects are underway. Right-of-way acquisition on **Elk Creek** is continuing, and the **Gilbert Creek** project will proceed, adding another half section of stream work through the efforts of the Ojibseau and **Kiap-TU-Wish** members, the **Dunn County Fish and Game Club**, and students from both **Menomonie High School** and **UW-Stout**.

—Daniel Perkins

Shaw-Paca Chapter

We have contributed to the sponsorship of one of the **Fourth Grade Classes of Carrie Stoss** at the **Lincoln School** in Shawano to the **UW-SP Timbertop Camp** this summer.

We also pledged \$750 toward beaver control in the **Nicolet National Forest** and another \$1,000 to the **Laona-Lakewood District** for habitat work. We are pledged to contribute to the removal of the **Knowles Dam** if needed in 2004.

Wild Rivers Chapter

In January we held the first public meeting to inform the land owners bordering the **White River** from Highway 63 to Highway 13 about our plans to acquire lands and develop a management plan for the

river corridor. All of the people who were contacted about this project have been very positive. The final master plan will be done in May.

Our chapter is also working on a project to encourage anglers to

switch from using lead for sinkers and weighted flies to a non-toxic alternative. We have applied for a grant to possibly set up a lead exchange sometime next year. The **Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute** of **Northland College** in Ashland is partnering with our chapter on this project.

The **Wild Rivers Expo and Auction** will be held April 10 from 3-8 p.m. at the **Ashland Civic Center**. The main focus is the auction of donated sporting items, with the proceeds going to chapter projects that benefit the White River. The Expo consists of fly-tying, fly casting, and area agencies and outdoor groups with tables to inform the public about their projects. TU's **Larry Meicher**, **Duke Welter** and **Henry Haugley** will serve as auctioneers.

In January, Wild Rivers held our annual election for the board of directors and officers, with the following elected:

Bill Heart — President,
Dick Berge — Vice-President,
Chuck Campbell — Treasurer,

Samantha Hansen — Secretary.

The at-large board members are **Dan Cervin**, **Carolyn Swartz**, **Gary Bernhardt**, **Phil Wallace** and **Bob Rice**.

On January 9 two members assisted the **US Fish & Wildlife Service** and **WDNR** with an experimental stocking of coaster brook trout fry into **Whittlesey Creek**. We worked with **Dennis Pratt** from **WDNR** and **Henry Quinlan** and **Glenn Miller** from **U.S. Fish & Wildlife** and had a very informative day. The hatching of these eggs has started. We have seen a few tiny brook trout just coming out of the redds.

Frank Pratt, Senior Fisheries Biologist for Sawyer and Rusk counties with the **WDNR**, gave a talk on large brook trout in inland waters, examining the habitat versus genetics controversy. Frank also talked about some other brook trout work being done on the **Namekagon River** at the mouth of **Shultz Springs/Cap Creek**.

—Bill Heart

Wisconsin River Valley Chapter

This past winter our chapter has conducted two open fly tying classes for the public at the **American Legion Clubhouse** in Wausau. We are also setting up one more class at the local **Gander Mountain** store in Wausau.

We have been busy putting together the funding for our two projects this upcoming summer. We will be funding the back hoe, rock purchases, and other expenses for these projects.

The first project is a mile-long stretch on the **Prairie River** in the **Merrill** area. This project will entail

meandering and deepening the channel and adding boulders that will offer feeding and resting stations for trout.

Our second project is a one-mile stretch on the **Plover River** in the **Bevent** area. The river in this project are will be narrowed, deepened, and meandered. There will be some structure work and there will be bouldered redds added to the stream flow channel to offer feeding and resting stations for the trout.

We are also looking at some half logging work on the Plover as a chapter work day.

Could this happen in Wisconsin?

Navigable waters bill would have 'privatized' streams

Wis Trout Analysis

Last fall Rep. Scott Gunderson introduced a bill in the state Legislature (AB-506) that would have redefined "navigable waters" in Wisconsin. Instead of relying upon over 100 years of Wisconsin Supreme Court rulings to define navigability — as we do now — this bill would have provided a new, harder-to-meet definition. Gunderson's bill would have defined a stream as navigable only if it was capable of floating a canoe for six months of the year.

This bill was quickly beaten back through the efforts of Trout Unlimited and many other concerned groups and individuals. Those opposed to the bill recognized that this new definition would result in the state literally giving away hundreds of miles of public waters to private land owners. Still, it is sobering to know that such a proposal would even be floated by one who has a constitutional

duty to protect those same waters for the public.

If such a re-definition was passed, would land owners open up their waters for you to wade and fish once they owned the river bottom? Maybe. Maybe not. Right now you know the water belongs to you, and you are free to use it.

We offer two stories to illustrate this concern. First, author Nancy Lofholm of The Denver Post describes the problems Colorado is experiencing with their "private waters" law. Though it hasn't happened yet, many are predicting there may soon be a court case in which visiting anglers are prosecuted for fishing outside a boat.

Then we reprint the testimony of attorney Melissa Scanlan of Midwest Environmental Advocates gave last fall before the Assembly Natural Resources Committee on Gunderson's bill.



Scott Gunderson

PART ONE: problems with private streams

Colorado river law could snag fishing guides' customers

By Nancy Lofholm

When Don Menk stormed down to the riverbank of his property several weeks ago with a .22 rifle in hand to confront anglers casting in his trout-filled eddies, it was the latest in a growing list of skirmishes over Colorado's confusing river-access laws.

The state has long struggled with clashes between property holders, who have rights to the rivers that run through their land, and recreational rafters and anglers, who float through that land and flout those property rights.

The current interpretation of state law Colorado says rafters can drift through private property and anglers can even cast for fish as they cross private land - but they can't get out of their boats nor can they touch bottom because property lines extend to the middle of rivers.

"The law is basic. The interpretation is complicated," Gunnison County Undersheriff Rick Besecker said.

Because Menk said he saw the anglers out of their rafts in his part of the Gunnison River, the Menk case threatened to add another layer of complication: Besecker took the unprecedented step of asking prosecutors to look at filing trespassing charges against the fishing guides' clients as well as the guides themselves.

Irate landowners have been charged with menacing or assault in the past. Fishing guides and private boaters have been charged with trespassing, but their paying customers have remained untouched.

"That's a new and novel twist on things. It's a reaction to the fact that we don't yet have resolution on river-access issues," said Jay Kenney, past president of American Whitewater and access director of the Colorado Whitewater Association.

In the end, prosecutors didn't charge the anglers involved in the Menk incident — but only, prosecutors said, because they thought there was not enough proof that they had gotten out of their rafts.

"I wouldn't rule out the possibility of charging people (guided anglers) in the future," said 7th Judicial District Attorney Thomas Haynes, who considered the case.

Ken Lane, a spokesman for Colorado Attorney General Ken Salazar, agreed that gray areas in Colorado river-access law, are opening the possibility for more prosecu-

tion at a new level. He said that when one of these trespassing cases is eventually filed against anglers on guided trips, it could prompt a call for changing state law.

"We could very well see a criminal filing some day that could very well bring action in legislation, or a referendum," Lane said.

Guided anglers, who are aligned with the \$125 million-a-year Colorado recreational rafting industry, have so far avoided charges because they count on guides to tell them when they on private property and when they are not.

In the incident on Menk's property, two rafts of anglers with two guides from Three Rivers Resort & Outfitting had allegedly trespassed on his property one morning. Menk called the Gunnison County Sheriff's Office after he said he saw the first anglers standing out of the boat and heard the guide tell one of the fishermen to break off the fish he had just caught and get back in the boat.

Menk said that before the sheriff could respond, clients in the second Three Rivers raft were also out of the raft, casting for the lunkers that Menk stocked in his section of the river five years ago. A no-trespassing sign is posted at the property's edge.

Neither the guides involved in the incident nor Three Rivers owner Mark Schumacher responded to requests for comment.

Misdemeanor trespassing charges would carry only a small fine, but could set precedent for other river disputes and send a message to Colorado's fishing industry.

"We don't want to close all this down. It's a huge industry in Colorado," said Todd Price, a fishing guide with Scenic River Tours in Gunnison.

He said if all fishing guides simply kept proper etiquette in mind, many of the access disputes would go away. But he said the bigger tips that guides get when clients catch the bigger fish are too tempting for some.

"Good Lord, if everybody just used their manners, we wouldn't even need all these laws and courts and all that," Price said.

Price said he is on friendly waving terms with Menk when he floats through his property. Menk confirmed that out of seven fishing companies around Gunnison, he has had trouble only with Three Rivers.

Continued on p. 15

PART TWO: Wisconsin's public water legacy

Expert's testimony recaps Wis. Public Trust Doctrine

By Melissa Scanlan

Good morning. My name is Melissa Scanlan and I am the Executive Director of Midwest Environmental Advocates, Inc., a non profit environmental law center that represents the public interest in our environment.

We are here today to discuss the wisdom behind the proposed AB 506, a bill that will significantly impact the Public Trust in Wisconsin's navigable waters. This is a topic that is near and dear to me: I studied water law with the nation's leading lawyer on the Public Trust Doctrine, Joseph Sax; I have taught several Continuing Legal Education courses on Wisconsin's Public Trust Doctrine; I have published a law review article called *The Evolution of the Public Trust Doctrine and the Degradation of Trust Resources: Courts, Trustees and Political Power in Wisconsin*; I have represented communities across Wisconsin who are working to protect the Trust; and I have enjoyed many of Wisconsin's Public Trust waters.

We all should be deeply troubled by AB-506. This Bill attempts to redefine navigability in such a narrow manner that many Public Trust waters would be removed from the public domain and given to private property owners. The result is the elimination of state water protection for thousands of miles of some of the most valuable waterways in Wisconsin. This is a wholesale give away of Trust property. It violates your duties as trustees of our State's waters and it runs counter to basic conservative values.

What is the Public Trust Doctrine?

The Public Trust Doctrine is rooted in Article IX, Section 1 of Wisconsin's Constitution. But well before Wisconsin became a state, there was a Public Trust Doctrine. The Romans originally based it on the laws of nature and the concept that there are things that no one can own: the air, the running water, the sea and shores. The right to fish was also included as part of these "natural rights" as early as the 6th Century A.D.

English common law later developed the concept of the Public Trust in tidal waters. When the United States became a Nation, it

incorporated this legal doctrine into our laws. In Wisconsin and other states that were part of the Northwest Territory, citizens were obligated to include the Public Trust Doctrine in the state Constitution as a requirement for obtaining admission to the Union on Equal Footing with all other states.

The idea that the government holds waters in trust for the public is a timeless concept that stands true today in Wisconsin. People have the right to use water, but not to own it. Since this is a shared, common property, there needs to be an entity that oversees our shared use.

The concept of the Public Trust is similar to that of financial trusts with a property held in trust, a trustee and beneficiaries. In the case of the Public Trust the property is our state's waters (generally limited to navigable waters), the trustee is the State, as it is the entity that oversees this shared Trust property, and all citizens are the beneficiaries of the Trust.

Who are the trustees and what are your duties?

The State Legislature is a primary trustee of Public Trust waters. When the Legislature created the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), it delegated a substantial amount of trust authority to that agency. The DNR now functions as the central trustee of our water resources.

The duties imposed on the trustees to manage our Public Trust property wisely are both Constitutional and Statutory. The Constitution sets a floor under which the trustees cannot fall. This concept was first established in the late 1800s in *Priewe v. Wisconsin State Land and Improvement Co.*, where the Legislature attempted to give away Public Trust property by passing a bill that allowed a developer, John Reynolds, to drain two lakes and build on the land that was formerly State-held lakebed. The Wisconsin Supreme Court analyzed whether the Legislature was acting as a good trustee in the best interests of maintaining and improving the Trust property. Ultimately, the Supreme Court held that the Legislature had erred because the effect

Continued on p. 15

COLORADO: private waters

Continued from p. 14

The battles go back at least five years. Menk said that when he and his wife, Pauline, bought their 2 1/2 acres of riverfront property in 1997 and the following year did \$43,000 worth of fish habitat work and rainbow stocking, they like many Colorado newcomers didn't know the stretch of river was a superhighway for rafters.

Unlike some landowners who have had disputes with rafters and tried to block their passage along the Gunnison, Menk said he doesn't mind those who just float through his property. In fact, he and Pauline sit on a rustic swing they have set up along the river to watch the parade in the busy summer months.

He said they also enjoy the big rainbows they consider pets. They feed them fish-food pellets, have named many of them, and can recognize them by their markings.

"It's like a giant aquarium, Menk, said.

But Menk now says he wishes he had not purchased his "little piece of peaceful Western paradise."

"It's created such havoc for my wife and I," he said.

Menk could face the most serious charge — felony menacing — in this latest river-access skirmish. If Menk is charged with felony menacing, he could face jail time and a large fine.

He admits he walked to the river with the gun in hand because he had been sighting it by firing at a stump on his property. He said he lost his temper, but he said he never pointed the gun at the fishermen. He did



Todd Hanson

CRANDON MINE PURCHASE COMMEMORATED AT WSN CONFERENCE

Governor Jim Doyle (center) was at the Wisconsin Stewardship Network conference Feb. 6 to present two specially commissioned statues to the two tribes that purchased the Crandon Mine in November, 2003. Chair Sandra Rachal accepted on behalf of the Mole Lake Sokaogon Chippewa and Chair Gus Frank accepted for the Forest County Potawatomi. Several TU chapters contributed toward the purchase of the ceremonial heron and wolf statues that were created by native American artist Jeff Savage of Minnesota.

admit saying to fishing guide Jason Booth, "I'm so mad at you I could drop you in your trucks."

"It was horrible mistake. I

shouldn't have done it," the retired engineer said.

But Menk said it has turned into a matter of principle and precedent.

"This one is a political hot potato now," he said.

(This story appeared in The Denver Post on Oct. 23, 2003. -Ed.)

TESTIMONY: Public Trust cannot be sold to private interests

Continued from p. 14

of their action was to solely benefit a private interest. If AB-506 becomes law, I suspect it will meet a similar fate.

How is navigability defined?

The definition of navigability is very important because it draws the line between public and private property.

Under English common law, the Public Trust only applied to tidal waters, as opposed to fresh waters. When the United States tried to adopt this concept for our fledgling country, the tidal waters definition was far too limited. So in 1871, United States Supreme Court in *The Daniel Ball*, discarded the tidal versus fresh water distinction and held that the test for navigability is whether the waters are "navigable in fact."

This started the long development of determining what waters were navigable. Wisconsin first used the commercial use test: If logs or rafts of lumber could float down a stream, the stream was considered navigable.

Then in 1952, in *Muench v. Public Service Commission*, the Wisconsin Supreme Court adopted the recreational boating test, which is the test that is still used today. Based on this decision, navigability now encompasses all water bodies capable of floating any recreational boat during a certain recurrent period of the year.

Why we should oppose AB-506

AB-506 is unconstitutional and unreasonable. AB-506 would change this long-held definition of navigable waters and limit the Public Trust Doctrine to those wa-

ters that can support a watercraft carrying a person for at least six months of the year. This Bill would diminish Public Trust property and give what is now considered public water to private landowners. It will particularly impact shallow lakes and streams that cannot support a watercraft for at least six months of the year. So if you can only use a boat on a stream from April to August, that stream would no longer be considered navigable under this proposed bill. In some areas of the state, such as Door County, it could remove 90% of all the streams from the definition of navigable.

This will have a significant adverse impact on public rights. If waters are not considered navigable, then the protections in Chapters 30 and 31 that require the DNR to consider and protect the public beneficiaries of the Trust when they are considering allowing a solid pier, a 500-slip marina, or a condominium development near shoreland, disappear. Most of the prime shoreland is already developed. Smaller streams that previously were not considered prime real estate in comparison to lakefront property are now feeling the pressure of development. This bill would allow rampant and unregulated development in those areas if the water was too shallow during 5.9 months of the year to carry a person in a watercraft.

Currently the Public Trust only applies to waters defined as navigable or in limited situations, waters that impact navigable waters. If navigability is defined narrowly, it will weaken our ability to boat, fish, hunt, swim, or do anything else

that we would normally have a public right to do on those waters.

As I understand it, this Bill is the result of complaints about inconsistencies at the DNR in determining navigability. Don't blame the definition, blame the implementation of that definition. The way to address this problem is with annual DNR training and efforts at the DNR to ensure the use of a uniform test. AB-506 is not the right tool to address these complaints about the DNR's application of the definition.

Finally, the Constitutional limitation on you, the Trustees of these water resources, prevents you from taking this step to give away Public Trust property. It is a shame

that Representative Gunderson and those who support this bill have wasted all of our time today with this unreasonable bill to benefit a small group of private property owners.

All of us stand to lose if AB-506 becomes law. It takes away our Trust property and our public rights as beneficiaries of the Trust. I urge you to uphold your duties to the public and oppose AB-506.

(Readers may remember Melissa Scanlan's longer work "The Evolution of the Public Trust and the Degradation of Trust Resources: Courts, Trustees and Political Power in Wisconsin." That law journal comment was serialized in Wisconsin Trout in 2001. -Ed.)

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New biography chronicles Gaylord Nelson's career

The University of Wisconsin Press will celebrate Earth Day on April 22 with the publication of *The Man From Clear Lake*, a biography of Gaylord Nelson, former U.S. senator and founder of Earth Day, who continues to be one of the nation's leading environmentalists.

Author Bill Christofferson, a former journalist who has worked in local and state government in Wisconsin, is a political campaign consultant based in Milwaukee.

Christofferson and Senator Nelson will appear together for events in Milwaukee and Madison to launch the book. The events coincide with Earth Day at:

- Tuesday, April 20, 7:00 p.m., Harry W. Schwartz Bookshop, 2559 N. Downer Ave., Milwaukee, (414) 332-1181 and
- Thursday, April 22, 7:00 p.m., Barnes and Noble, 7433 Mineral Point Road, Madison, (608) 827-0809.

"This political biography tells the rest of the story," says Al Gore, "how a small town boy from Wisconsin became a national champion of a progressive agenda. Nelson's record on civil liberties, consumer issues, and Vietnam is remarkable. His story is an inspiration."

The book's anticipated publication date is April 15. For additional information, visit the University of Wisconsin Press web site at <http://www.wisc.edu/wisconsinpress/books/2105.htm>.

Wisconsin Trout book excerpt from *The Man From Clear Lake* The hard detergent battle

By Bill Christofferson

When your identify is wrapped up with a place called Clear Lake, it is logical that water quality would be one of your priorities. Nelson, thinking both locally and globally, fought relentlessly against water pollution. He was the first major public figure to speak out on pollution of the Great Lakes and to propose a cleanup plan, as part of a comprehensive clean water agenda that also sought to protect the oceans.

Nelson's first speech in the Senate was on the need to clean up water pollution from detergents. It was an issue he had already raised as governor and one that he would continue to champion during his Senate career. In retrospect, it seems obvious that the mountains of foam on the nation's rivers and lakes were signs of a problem. The foam, primarily from dish and laundry detergents used in homes, businesses, and commercial laundries,

was sometimes five to ten feet high, floating down the rivers and over the dams. Clearly, that could not be good for the water, could it? During the 1950s, almost no one asked that question.

In the 1960s, when Nelson and others began to ask, the detergent industry denied it was doing any harm and even claimed the suds were beneficial. Nelson believed otherwise and was determined to clean up the detergent industry no matter how long it took. The detergent manufacturers — giant corporations like Proctor and Gamble, Colgate-Palmolive, and Lever Brothers — were a powerful, well-entrenched interest group with considerable influence in the Congress. They resisted regulation every step of the way.

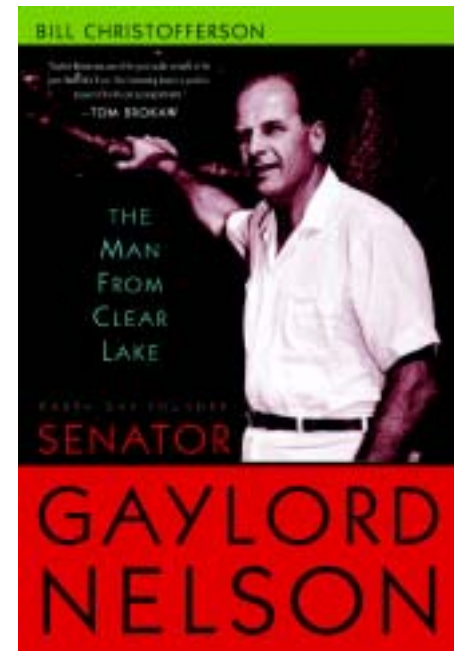
Synthetic detergents, developed about the time of World War II, quickly became part of American life, with no real thought about damage they might do. In the late

1950s it was discovered that the new detergents contained ingredients that resisted the bacteria in sewage treatment systems, intended to break them down into harmless byproducts. In what has since become a common term, they were not biodegradable. The main culprit was alkyl benzene sulfonate (ABS), a wetting agent. It passed right through septic systems or municipal treatment plants and into lakes, streams, groundwater, and wells, producing the foam.

As governor, Nelson learned from state agencies that nearly one third of the shallow wells in Wisconsin were contaminated by detergents. He ordered a study, which turned up evidence of pollution of underground water in sixty-four of the state's seventy-two counties.

"My mother got her dishes clean without the aid of detergents," Nelson said in a 1962 speech to the Wisconsin Conservation Congress. "We need legislation protecting our waters, and we sorely need legislation against harmful detergents." As he was preparing to leave the governor's office, Nelson called on conservation groups to support a state law banning detergents that would not decompose. One of the ingredients, ABS, "is practically immune to destruction by biological means," Nelson said, and pollution from detergents was "seeping into our water supplies everywhere, reducing efficiency of our sewage treatment facilities, causing unsightly foaming on streams, and even appearing in fresh water supplies in some places." He pointed to phosphates as the detergent ingredient causing algae to bloom on the state's lakes and called for Wisconsin to join Germany, which already had enacted a phosphate ban. The algae were a sign that eutrophication, a natural aging process in lakes, was being greatly speeded up by the flood of phosphorus, a nutrient that encouraged the growth.¹

In his first year in the Senate, Nelson cosponsored a bill to ban detergents that did not decompose and told a Senate subcommittee that new scientific breakthroughs would allow the industry to switch to biodegradable products by the 30 June 1965 deadline in the bill. The industry said the foam was not a pollutant but merely an aesthetic issue and might actually serve a useful purpose as a visual marker or tracer for other sources of pollution. It claimed that the ban would stand in the way of scientific progress and cost hundreds of millions of dollars, and that it would be impossible to meet the deadline. Having made those arguments, the Soap and Detergent Association did an about-face just three weeks after the Senate bill was introduced. At a legislative hearing in Madison, where a similar state bill was pending, the industry said it would voluntarily change over to a new, nonpolluting



detergent by 31 December 1965. Later the industry said it would make the change by 30 June 1965 — the "impossible" date in the original federal bill. Despite that assurance, Wisconsin went ahead and became the first state in the nation to ban so-called "hard" detergents containing ABS after 31 December 1965.²

A change in composition of the detergents eliminated most of the foam, but it did not stop the flow of phosphates into the nation's water. Nelson, not satisfied with the industry's voluntary pledge, continued to push for enforceable standards and government testing. While pleased by the switch from "hard" to "soft" detergents, Nelson said, "I have still seen nothing to guarantee that the public interest is any more certain to be protected than it was two years ago." Nelson introduced an updated bill in 1965 and continued to rene it in subsequent sessions, to achieve what he called a "first time safe" principle of testing products for environmental and health hazards before they went on the market. His three-point detergent plan called for a limit and eventual ban on phosphates; establishment of test protocols, standards, and regulations; and an intense federal effort to develop safe, nonpolluting substitutes for phosphates. The bills received several public hearings and considerable public attention, but the industry was always able to block passage.³

But as lakes and rivers declined and died from eutrophication, with algae choking off oxygen, which killed other plants and fish, the public began to demand action. By the late 1960s, nearly ten thousand lakes had been affected, and Lake Erie, the worst example, was said to have aged fifteen thousand years in the previous fifty. There was a general belief that "the nation's lakes and streams were getting more polluted every day, and phosphate detergents were the primary reason" and "a growing public consensus that in order to save lakes (like Lake Erie), phosphates must be banned from detergents."⁴

By 1970 there was more evidence linking phosphates to pollution. A congressional study recommended removing phosphates from detergents.

Continued on p. 17

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NELSON: the 'hard detergent' battle fought in 1970s

Continued from p. 16

A study of eutrophication in the lower Great Lakes, conducted by the International Joint Commission, recommended replacing phosphates in detergents by 1972, as well as improved sewage treatment and a reduction in agricultural fertilizer runoff, the other biggest source of phosphate pollution. The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) chimed in with similar recommendations. Detergent makers began to announce plans to reduce the phosphate content of their products. Then came a new problem: The most likely substitute for phosphates, called NTA (nitrilotriacetic acid), had not been adequately tested and was a suspected carcinogen. The industry quit using NTA and switched formulas again. The new ingredients had their own hazards, containing caustic agents that could irritate or damage the eyes, nose, and throat and that were especially dangerous to children.⁵

Meanwhile, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) refused to require detergent makers to label their products to list all ingredients and disclose that phosphates contributed to water pollution and were unnecessary in soft water. The Nixon Administration's witnesses urged the FTC to delay action pending further study on the safety of phosphate substitutes. "If the right hand washes the left hand in this administration, it apparently does not do so with detergents," Nelson said, citing a letter from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) supporting labeling of detergents. The administration's position "is seeking to postpone efforts to cut back on the use of phosphates and is reducing the industry's incentive to eliminate them entirely," the *Minneapolis Tribune* said. "Raising the specter of untested phosphate substitutes in an effort to block a sensible warning to housewives about excess household detergent use is a scare tactic," the *Milwaukee Journal* said.⁶

An About-Face

Several months later, the administration did a shocking about-face on the phosphate issue. In a joint news conference on 15 September 1971, the surgeon general, EPA, and CEQ suggested that consumers return to using phosphate detergents, which were less harmful to health than caustic substitutes. Local communities should reconsider efforts to ban phosphate detergents, they said, urging the FTC not to implement the labeling rules either. "A capitulation to soap and detergent-makers," complained Congressman Henry Reuss. The administration's position "followed closely the line of reasoning advanced by leading elements in the soap and detergent lobby," the *New York Times* said. The action "may have delighted the detergent industry," the *Washington Post* said "but it has only confused the women and men who load the wash." The industry's fingerprints were easily detected. The president of Procter and Gamble, the nation's number one detergent maker, chaired the Detergent Sub-Council of the National Industrial Pollution Control Council. President Nixon created the council in 1970 to "reassure the corporate community regarding impending waves of environmental regulation, and allow direct communication between businessmen and both the CEQ and the President." The press conference took place at the request of the Detergent Sub-Council.⁷

The EPA also said it would support construction of waste treatment plants to eliminate most of the phosphates. "Now, there is no argument about the need to remove nutrients from waste water at the treatment stage," Nelson said. "What is arguable is that this has never been viewed by anyone other than the soap and detergent industry as a substitute for the removal of phosphates from detergents." To be effective, the program also required removal of phosphates from detergents and controls on farm runoff, he said. It would also take a real commitment of federal dollars — \$1.5 billion just to save the Great Lakes, he said.⁸

While detergent makers advertised that the surgeon general recommended phosphate detergents, another round of congressional hearings produced a report calling for a reduction in phosphorus content to 8.7 percent immediately, and to 2.2 percent by the end of 1972. Now the industry wanted to be regulated, if regulation meant the 8.7 percent limit and a federal law that preempted stronger state and local laws. But that didn't happen, and many states and local governments adopted their own laws on detergents, despite legal challenges from the industry.⁹

Nelson mounted his last campaign against phosphates in 1977, when he won Senate passage of a virtual ban on phosphates in laundry detergents sold in the eight states in the Great Lakes basin. "Tens of millions of Americans depend on the Great Lakes for drinking water and recreation," Nelson said, and years of research had shown that even the most advanced treatment plants were unable to eliminate phosphate pollution. This time Nelson had the EPA on his side. The agency's Chicago office had released a study that found deterioration in open waters of Lake Michigan south of Milwaukee, with phosphates identified as the cause. With EPA's endorse-

ment, the Senate passed Nelson's amendment to an omnibus clean water bill. That provision drew heavy fire from the industry, and even with EPA support it did not survive. A Senate-House conference committee dropped it from the bill.¹⁰

Ultimately, state and local regulation, improvements in the treatment and removal of phosphorus from sewage, and the development of more alternatives to phosphate detergents all combined to reduce

phosphate pollution. In the mid-1990s, after many states had passed phosphate detergent bans, the industry voluntarily quit manufacturing household laundry detergents with phosphates.¹¹ While Nelson's efforts did not produce federal legislation, they increased public awareness, spurred other states and local governments to follow Wisconsin's lead and act on their own, and kept the pressure on manufacturers to clean up their act and find alternatives to phosphates.

PHOSPHORUS-FREE DETERGENT AD FROM TU NEWSLETTER
Do you remember this ad? It appeared in a several early 70s Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited newsletters when the anti-phosphorus campaign Gaylord Nelson championed was in full swing.

Southern Wisconsin's Lowell Gennrich dies

By Mark Maffitt

Lowell Gennrich, a charter member of the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of TU and the chapter's president from 1974-75, passed away January 23.

Gennrich was an avid fly fisherman and a lifelong model of TU volunteerism. In 1981 he was given the SWTU Award of Merit, the chapter's highest award. Only six people have received that award in chapter history.

He was an excellent photographer, and SWTU and State Council newsletters often featured his photos.

Gennrich was also very active in the State Council and was given the Gold Net Award by the council in 1987.

Gennrich was an unwavering advocate for coldwater conservation, was involved with countless stream improvement projects, and was a mentor to large numbers of young and old TU anglers, fly tyers, rod builders, photographers, and conservationists.

Over half a century, he became highly knowledgeable about aquatic entomology, water quality and the environment.

Gennrich's story-telling was legendary — he was surely the only TU member in the country with stories of brook trout fishing in the Atlas Mountains of Morocco during WW

II. His droll sense of humor endeared him to all who knew him well.

Born on May 10, 1917, Gennrich lived in Madison his entire life. He was a worker for the Civilian Conservation Corps until he enlisted at the outbreak of World War II. He served in the infantry until he was injured. Upon recovery, he was re-

assigned as a photographer in the Air Corps and was sent to North Africa. He returned home as a decorated veteran.

Lowell affected the lives of TU members in Southern Wisconsin and statewide for decades, and the health of the trout streams he loved so deeply for generations. He will be dearly missed.

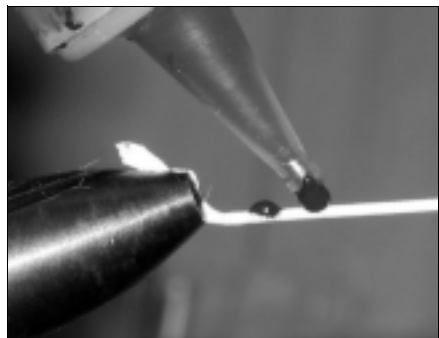


HEY, THESE ARE GOING TO BE JUST THE TICKET
Former Aldo Leopold President Clint Byrnes (above left), Lowell Gennrich, and former State Council Chair David Ogletree examine some large flies protected by an egg carton. Gennrich (right) passed away Jan. 23.

First the Pass Lake... now the "Pass Ant"

By Larry Meicher

I used to tie ant patterns like everyone else, with dubbed bodies. But thanks to a Ray Larson pattern



I saw in *Wisconsin Trout* a couple years ago, I now use dimensional fabric paint for these bodies. They look good, and they really float well on the water.

I use white 30# backing as a base for the thread. I like to think that the small amount of white that shows on both ends of the ant body helps this fly be more effective.

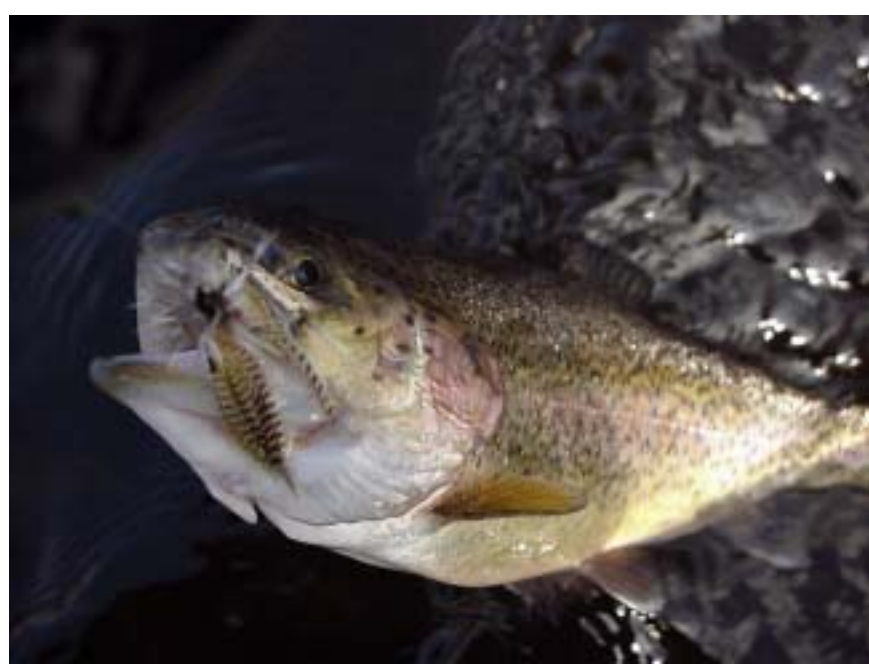
To make this ant, first stretch a section of on 30# white backing between your vice and another point. Place the paint about 10-12 droplets per inch and let dry overnight.

Place a standard #18 94840 dry fly hook in the vice. Cut two paint droplets from the string and anchor them on top the hook with thread wrapped between the two droplets.

Attach a brown hackle between the droplets, wrap four turns, tie off, and whip finish. And that's it.

Let's see now. Black. Brown. White. That makes it a "Pass Ant."

(Larry Meicher conducts many fly tying sessions in Madison for the Southern Chapter. He is known for his steadfast belief that a Pass Lake is the only fly one needs. -Ed.)



John Gremmer

The Hornberg Special revisited by readers having success

The Hornberg Special fly was profiled in the January, 2003, *Wisconsin Trout*. Since then, we have received some follow-up about this fabled fly.

John Gremmer of the Central Wisconsin Chapter wrote, "This is the first year I have fished the Hornberg streamer. I fish it wet and often get it down with the help of a small split shot. From March to November it has caught my biggest trout. The fish above (notice the Hornberg in the mouth) was taken below a dam on a Lake Michigan tributary on November 11.

"There is something about those Mallard flank feathers and how they dance around in the cur-

rent that turns the fish on. When there is no hatch on or before the hatch starts I like to size up the stream by rapidly fishing the Hornberg downstream. When the hatch starts are work my way up to where I started from."

We also heard from 83-year-old Tom Rice from Marshfield.

Tom says, "I got my first Hornberg flies from Weber Co. in cards of 12 in the early 50s and agree that it is a dandy.

"I throw it up and across and try to mimic a minnow."

Tom ties Hornbergs with wood duck feathers, yellow kip tail, and an occasional beadhead (see pictures below).



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.

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Great Waters Expo to include strong water stewardship theme

Champion tournament fly caster Tim Rajeff, St. Croix Rod Company's Bob Nasby, and Sage head rod designer Jerry Seim are among headliners at the Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo April 2, 3, 4 at the Sheraton Bloomington Hotel (formerly the Radisson South) in Minneapolis.

"Fly casting is a centerpiece of our Expo," said Tom Helgeson, editor of *Midwest Fly Fishing* magazine, sponsor of the event. "There will be casting demonstrations throughout the Expo and free fly casting lessons continuously from opening to close. We need to get people interested in fly fishing again, and the best way to assure them easy access to our wonderful sport is through competent casting instruction."

The Great Waters Expo will be the first major fly fishing show to take place in the Upper Midwest and the first anywhere to link the sport of fly fishing with the need for individual and collective stewardship to protect the remaining wild rivers, streams, and lakes.

There will be more than 110 fly fishing and conservation exhibits at the Expo. "As far as we know, this will be the largest gathering of fly fishing and fly tying experts and teachers at a fly fishing show in the Midwest," said Helgeson.

Representative of several conservation/fly fishing clubs will be on hand to describe volunteer projects underway to rescue endangered streams and rivers. The Expo will include a Skills Station for beginners, fly tying demonstrations, a Camp Fly Fish for youngsters, and an exhibit by the American Museum of Fly Fishing.

Hours of the Expo are Friday, April 2, 2:30-8, Saturday April 3, 8:30-6, and Sunday, April 4, 9:30-5. Admission is \$10 each day, \$5 for students, children under 12 free. A weekend pass is available for \$25.

The Great Waters Expo's web site is www.greatwaters2004.com and *Midwest Fly Fishing's* web site is www.mwfly.com.



EASY DOES IT

CWTU member Gary Herlache shows a pair of youngsters how to tie flies at CWTU's Trout Fishing Funday in Winneconne.



Daniel Burish trout stamp print available

The limited edition of 950 signed and numbered prints can be purchased directly through the artist at (715) 849-8370. Daniel's favorite trout waters are the Prairie River, the Timber Coulee system, and the Bois Brule.

Invertebrate workshop set

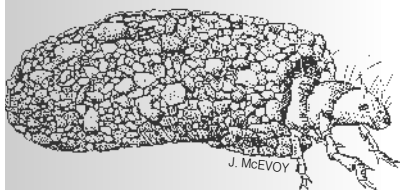
The Central Region recently hosted an informational meeting on using macroinvertebrate monitoring to help benchmark water quality in our watersheds.

Jeff Dimick, laboratory supervisor and research specialist from the Aquatic Entomology Laboratory at UW-Stevens Point, presented the program. Dimick compared the Water Action Volunteers (WAV) Biotic Index to other indices and showed what an effective measure of watershed health it is.

Kris Stepenuk, WAV coordinator for the DNR and UWEX, also attended. Stepenuk distributed preserved macroinvertebrate samples common to local waters.

There will be another water monitoring training session for folks interested in water monitoring at the home of Jane and Stephan Schoup near Big Fall on April 17. To get more information on this training, contact Jim Hlaban at (920) 244-7456 or Wiscpr@wolfnet.net.

New book helps advanced monitors gauge stream health through insects

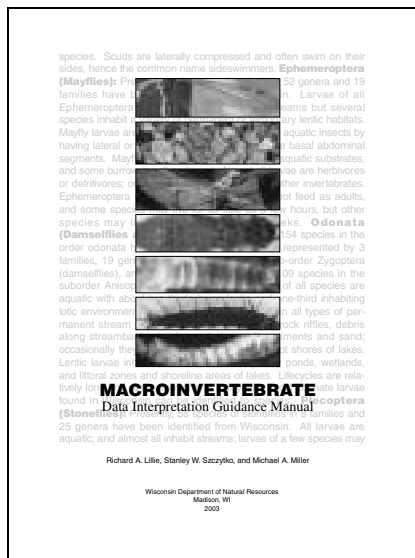


Trichoptera (Caddisflies):

Presently, 245 species of caddisflies in 19 families and 72 genera have been identified from Wisconsin. Caddisfly larvae are a very important faunal component of most streams, but half of the families also have species occurring in lentic environments as well, some even in temporary ponds. Caddisfly larvae use silk to spin nets for food collection or to construct tubular shelters. The structures vary by size, shape, and use of streambed organic and inorganic materials for construction. For some taxa the cases can be used to identify the animal to genus and sometimes species. Cryptic cases protect some species from predation, while certain case-forms allow other taxa to inhabit fast currents, or provide protection from abrasive scour. All taxa pupate in closed silken cocoons. The adults tend to be drab-colored and moth-like in their shape and erratic flight behavior.

TU chapters engaged in water monitoring have a new tool to help them with their ongoing determinations of a stream's biotic health.

The WDNR's Bureau of Integrated Science Services has published *Macroinvertebrate Data Interpretation Guidance Manual* (PUB-SS-965 2003) to assist researchers in understanding the biological significance of various macroinvertebrate indicators in streams.



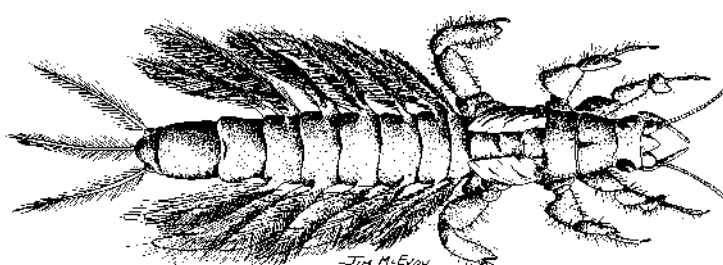
The publication includes:

- detailed descriptions of each biological metric,
- a simplified explanation of the significance of each metric, and
- instructions as to how and when each metric should be applied.

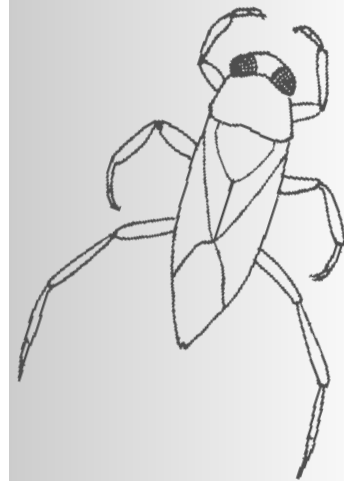
A comprehensive list of references provides access to the literature for those who wish to explore topics further. The authors also provide some perspective on the evolution of the metrics by including a short history of macroinvertebrate indices in Wisconsin.

The manual is online and can be downloaded as a .pdf file at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/es/science/publications/misc.htm> by choosing either "Guidance Documents" or "Reference Publications." Print copies of the report can be ordered online or by contacting Science Communications Manager Martin Griffin at Martin.Griffin@dnr.state.wi.us.

(The graphics and insect descriptions seen here are from the new publication. -Ed.)



Heteroptera adult.



Heteroptera (Aquatic and Semi-Aquatic Bugs):

Heteroptera is primarily a terrestrial order. Presently 67 aquatic and 26 semi-aquatic species in 30 genera and 11 families have been identified from Wisconsin. The adults of Heteroptera can be distinguished from other aquatic insects by their sucking mouthparts that are formed into a broad tube or rostrum, except Corixidae. Adults of all Heteroptera found in Wisconsin can be identified to species. Almost all are predators feeding on invertebrates and occasionally on small vertebrates such as tadpoles and minnows.

2004 "Friends" get LED flashlight as a thank-you

By John Cantwell

In 2003, through the generosity of members, we were able to apply over \$11,500 to projects involving stream habitat improvement, research, land acquisition, and conservation education. Formed in 1990, the Friends of Wisconsin TU program allows concerned anglers to make annual contributions of \$100 or more to a special fund managed by the WITU State Council. In the last 14 years, the Friends program has appropriated over \$122,000 for such projects throughout the state.

We in Wisconsin are blessed with many trout fishing opportunities! But all is not roses with our coldwater fishery. Too many streams and tributaries have their flows impaired by dams and debris. And some ponds are so clogged with silt that they are nearly devoid of living and spawning space for trout. Many of our most famous streams face threats from stormwater discharges, ag runoff, and development.

Yet there is something that YOU as an individual can do to help correct these problems that hurt the coldwater resources in the Badger State. You can become a "Friend of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited."

Your annual contribution of \$100 or more means you will be listed with all the other "Friends" in four consecutive issues of *Wisconsin Trout*, the official publication of Wisconsin TU. Also, while supplies last, we will send you a very practical *mini flashlight* featuring a bright LED bulb that will last nearly forever. As you probably know, LED bulbs use very little energy. This light will be a handy addition to your fishing vest.

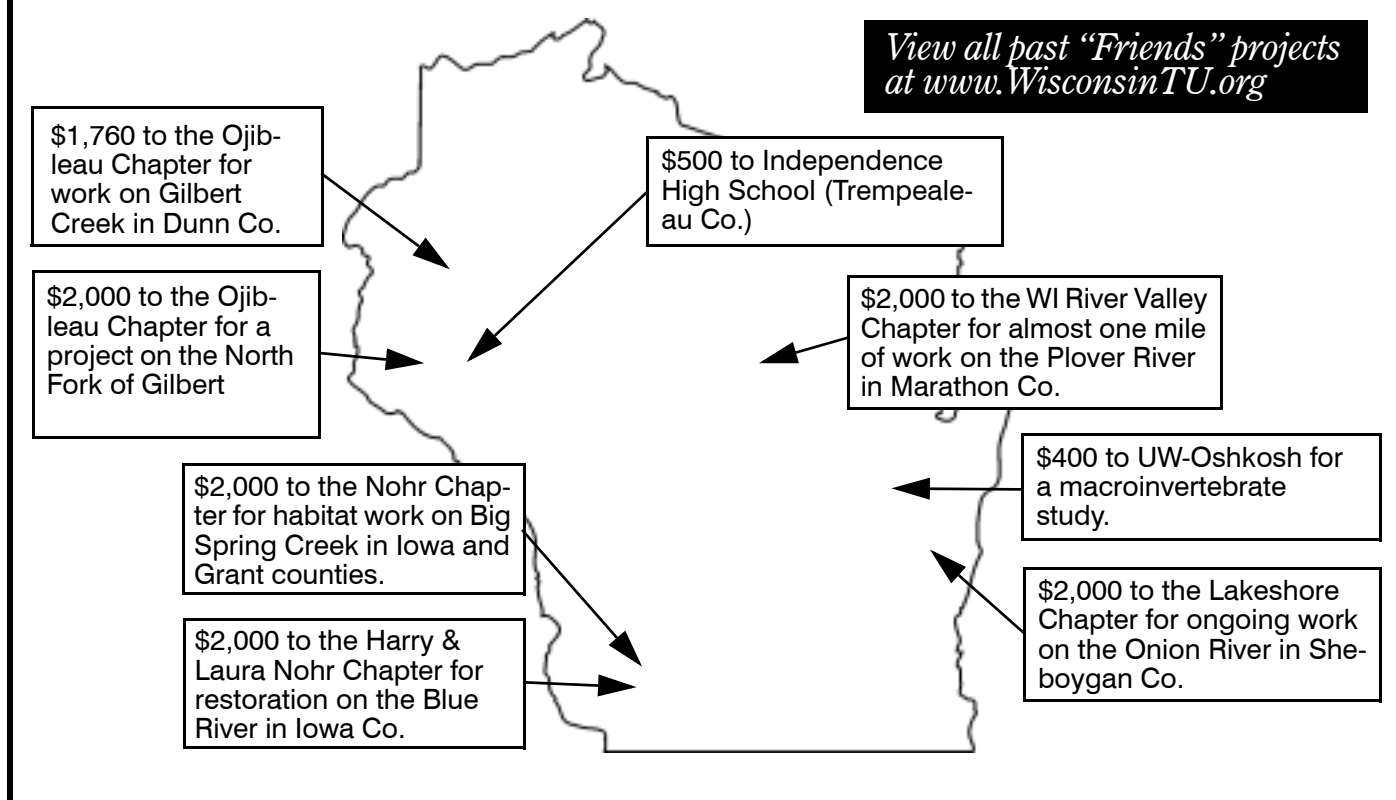
Just as importantly, though, you'll receive the satisfaction of knowing you donated to a cause that

has made a difference in Wisconsin's trout fishery.

So, as you get ready for another great Wisconsin trout fishing season, please consider becoming a Friend of Wisconsin TU! Like any solid investment, your donation will pay dividends down the road, dividends in the form of improved water quality, better trout habitat, and exciting fishing. Don't delay — become our Friend TODAY. Fill out the form below and mail in your donation today.



Over \$122,000 devoted to trout resources since 1991. Recent projects include...



Friends of Wis. TU

Your name would look great here!
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% John H. Cantwell
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