



Wisconsin Trout

January 2004

Compromise in the works

TU opposes 'trout destructive' jobs bill

By Todd Hanson

A 114-page regulatory reform bill was introduced in the Wisconsin Legislature on Nov. 11 that would have harmed habitat on nearly all of the state's trout waters.

The Job Creation Act of 2003 (AB655/SB313) included a series of changes to the state's Chapter 30 rules that govern how the WDNR reviews and approves activities on and around public, navigable waters for such things as rip-rapping, stream channelizing, and dredging.

The WI Assn. of Lakes called the bill's proposed changes "the most serious attack on public waters since modern pollution laws were enacted" some 70 years ago.

Former WDNR Secretary George Meyer, now Executive Director of the WI Wildlife Federation, concluded "the proposed law either deregulates or down-regulates 23 regulated activities and in the process lowers the standards for the activities" resulting in "lower water quality, loss of fish and wild-

life habitat, loss of biodiversity, and the loss of natural scenic beauty."

TU Regional VP Larry Kriese testified, "Natural streams and rivers cannot be straightened, lakes cannot have foreign material dumped in them, nor can they have natural material removed from them without the threat of serious long-term damage to water quality and the entire ecology of that water system. Actions such as these demand a thorough study on a case-specific basis before they can be allowed. General permits without pre-construction review by qualified professionals is unacceptable."

Compromise in works

Following widespread criticism of the bill's negative impacts on the state's air and water, the Governor's office and Senate leadership announced in mid December that they were working on a compromise to provide regulatory streamlining that did not negatively impact air and water quality.

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TU chapters file petition to review Polar Ice well permit

Conservationists and the Menominee Tribe initiated legal action on Nov. 21 to protect public water resources. The group, which is comprised of several chapters of Trout Unlimited, the Menominee Tribe, the Langlade County Waterways Association, and other individual parties, filed a Petition for Judicial Review, challenging the WDNR's approval of a high-capacity well permit for Polar Ice Water.

The DNR approval allows the company to pump almost 1.6 million gallons of spring water a day for the purposes of water bottling and export from the watershed. This is over twice as much water as Perrier tried to take from Big Springs a few years ago.

Polar Ice would remove a substantial amount of groundwater and may potentially damage the health

of connecting surface waters, including the Rabe Pond and Creek, the Wolf River and surrounding wetlands.

The DNR not only approved the well, but also denied public participation by refusing to grant a hearing on the issue, despite its significant impact on Public Trust resources.

"The reduced spring flow from the bottled water operation may harm the coldwater trout fishery in Rabe Pond and Creek and the waters to which they are tributary," said Mitch Bent of the Antigo Chapter of TU.

"The DNR has ignored our concerns by denying a hearing on the groundwater pumping. This legal action is now necessary to make sure the DNR does its job and protects our common public trust resources," said Bent.



BIG SPRING RESTORATION

The Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter is tackling a major restoration of Big Spring Creek in Iowa County. See p. 18 for the story.

State Council banquet features Michael Furtman

Award-winning writer Michael Furtman, author of *Trout Country* (1995) and *A Boundary Waters Fishing Guide* (1984), will be the featured speaker at the Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited's 19th annual banquet Feb. 7 in Oshkosh.

In his conservation column for *Midwest Fly Fishing* magazine, Furtman recently critiqued the energy policies of the Bush administration. He has also been critical of the 2001 U.S. Supreme Court decision that removed federal protection from critical wetlands throughout the U.S. (To date, Wisconsin remains the only state to step in and provide state protections to cover the gap due to the court's decision.)

Furtman is expected to talk about the broader conservation record of the current administration, a theme he will focus on earlier in the day as the keynote speaker at the Wisconsin Stewardship Network's annual conference in Stevens Point.

Other banquet highlights

The State Council event will also feature a pre-banquet raffle of a one-of-a-kind wall hanging titled "Worth the Hike." Created by Ellie Cannan, the hanging features a mountain setting and several trout.

Master fly tyer Tim Landwehr will also be giving fly tying demonstrations. Tickets are \$35 each. See p. 4 for further conference details and to order tickets.



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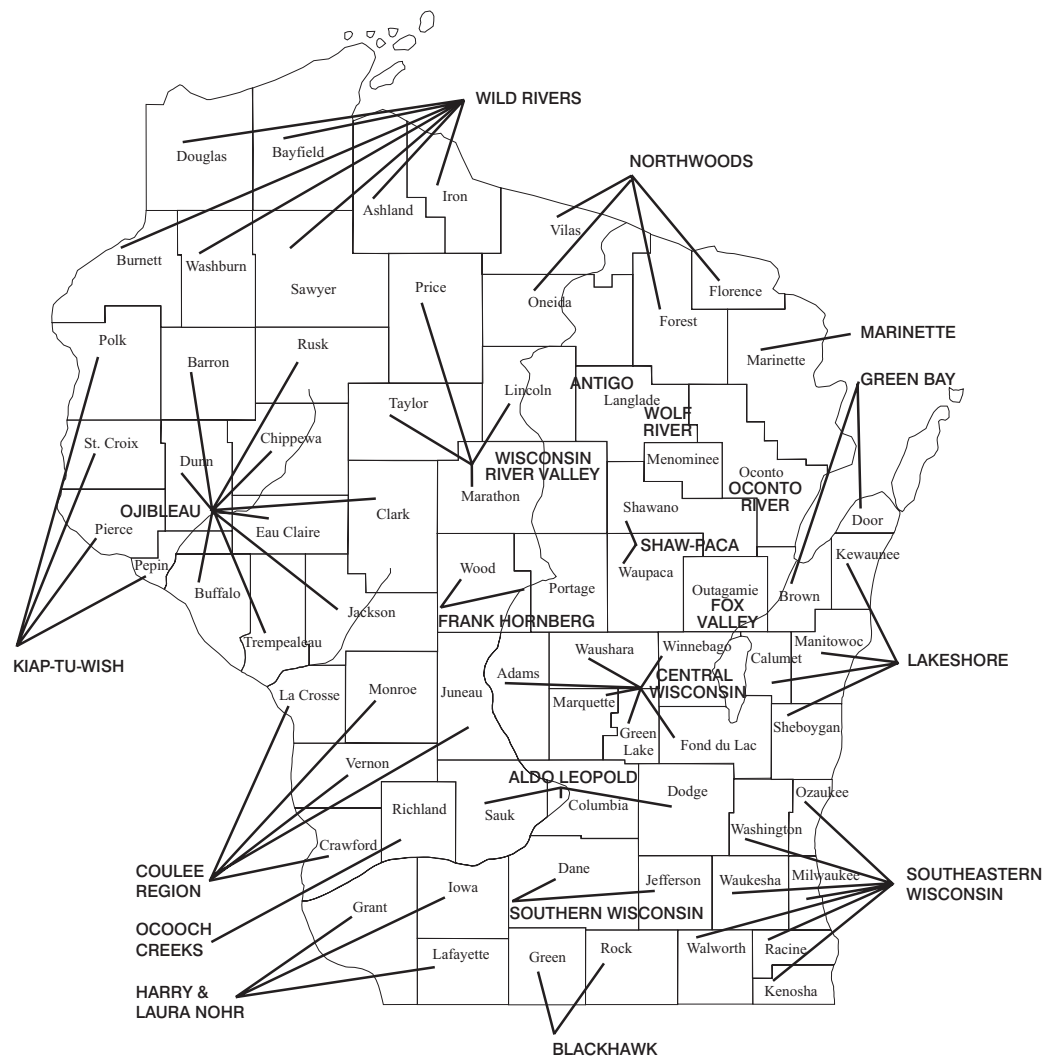
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Wisconsin TU Chapters, Presidents, and Web Sites



Visit Wis. TU online at
www.WisconsinTU.org

- Aldo Leopold (#375):** Mike Barniskis, 805 S. Center St., Beaver Dam, WI 53916 (920) 356-0081; barniskis@yahoo.com
- Antigo (#313):** Scott Henricks, 213 Mary St., Antigo, WI 54409-2536 (715) 623-3867; Henricks51@charter.net
- Blackhawk (#390):** Dave Patrick, P.O. Box 893, Janesville, WI 53547 (608) 884-6948
- Central Wisconsin (#117):** Bob Chamberlain, W2728 Oakwood Bch. Rd., Markesan, WI 54946 (920) 398-3721; rchamberlain1@juno.com; www.dotnet.com/~fishfun1/CWTU.htm
- Coulee Region (#278):** Nathan Barnhart, 400 Gillette St. #332, La Crosse, WI 54603 (608) 779-4184; suzanna_nathan@msn.com; www.couleeregiontu.org
- Fox Valley (#193):** Tom Deer, 1271 Maple St., Neenah, WI 54956 (920) 725-6077 (H); troutricks@netzero.net; www.foxvalley-tu.org
- Frank Hornberg (#624):** Jim Henke, 5006 Dorothy St., Stevens Point, WI 54481-9451 (715) 341-4503; jhenke@g2a.net
- Green Bay (#083):** Dennis Gusick, 1531 Lost Dauphin Rd., De Pere, WI 54115 (920) 336-1157; dengusick@msn.com; www.greenbaytu.com
- Harry & Laura Nohr (#257):** Don Pluemer, (608) 943-8122; djpluemer@centurytel.net
- Kiap-TU-Wish (#168):** Andy Lamberson, 2104 Chestnut Dr., Hudson, WI 54016 (651) 733-7285 (W), (715) 386-7568 (H); andrewlamberson@hotmail.com; www.lambcom.net/kiaptuwish
- Lakeshore (#423):** Roger Berg, 4867 Dennwood Dr., Sheboygan, WI 53083 (920) 458-7899 rberg@sheboygan.k12.wi.us.
- Marinette (#422):** Steve Wilke, 2526 Shore Drive, Marinette, WI 54143 (715) 732-4911; swilke@new.rr.com
- Northwoods (#256):** Brian Hegge, 5077 Sunset Dr. #2, Rhineland, WI 54501 (715) 362-3244 (W), (715) 362-3244 (H); bhegge@newnorth.net; www.northwoodstu.org
- Oconto River (#385):** Dale Halla, W2811 Zastrow Rd., Cecil, WI 54111 (715) 745-2099; dhalla@frontiernet.net
- Ocooch Creeks (#729):** Allon Bostwick, 21650 Highway A, Richland Center WI 53581 (608) 547-4709 (H); bostwick.allo@students.uwlax.edu
- Ojibbeau (#255):** Kelly McKnight, 1129 1/2 Barland St., Eau Claire, WI 54701 (715) 379-3781 (H) kjmcknig@yahoo.com
- Shaw-Paca (#381):** Dave Ehrenberg, 324 East Fourth St., Manawa, WI 54949 (920) 596-3089; skyonna@netnet.net
- Southeastern Wisconsin (#078):** Chuck Beeler, 2954 S. Moorland Rd., New Berlin, WI 53151 (414) 486-1129 (W), 789-6921 (H)
- Southern Wisconsin (#061):** Bill Pielsticker, 8045 Crystal Lake Rd., Lodi, WI 53555-9539 (608) 592-4718; billpiel@merr.com; www.swt.u.org
- Wild Rivers (#415):** Bill Heart, 66625 Highland Rd., Ashland, WI 54806 (715) 682-5307 (W), 682-4703 (H), 682-3221 fax; wrtrout@cheqnet.net
- Wisconsin River Valley (#395):** Herbert Hintze, 629 Hamilton St., Wausau, WI 54403 (715) 842-1365
- Wolf River (#050):** Herb Buettner, N4297 Buettner Rd., White Lake, WI 54491 (715) 882-8611 (W), (715) 882-8610 (H)

Wisconsin TU State Council Leadership

State Chair: Jon Christiansen, 237 W. Aster Ln., Mequon, WI 53092 (414) 297-5557 (W); (262) 241-5220 (H) (414) 297-5557 (fax); jchristiansen@foleylaw.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

hhaugley@solvnetmail.net.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Contact TU National when you change addresses or chapter leaders

- 1. Inform TU National.** Call, write, or e-mail TU National 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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Vol. 16, No. 1 — January 2004

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

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

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

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

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

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



Letters

Biologist: Jobs Bill is bad for trout streams

Editor:

Every citizen of Wisconsin who values the state's outdoor quality of life should actively oppose a legislative move now afoot to weaken natural resource protection. A bill in the Assembly, labeled AB 665 and disguised, together with its twin, SB 313, as a "job creation act," threatens the health of lakes and streams — and the fishing, hunting, and other outdoor recreation they provide.

Wisconsin, a national leader in conservation, has long protected the natural qualities of its waters and their capacity to produce fish and wildlife. It does this under a public trust doctrine applied to navigable waters, navigability defined as ability to float a log of just 8 inches diameter. Thus, not only are boating-sized rivers protected, but also streams as small as the brooks that serve as wild trout nurseries.

AB 665 and SB 313 would exempt a large set of currently regulated activities from official inspection and permitting. The Attorney General's office says the bill would lower the state's environmental standards. Removed from regulation would be at least 25 kinds of construction and alteration that can harm lakes or streams.

For example, any shoreline owner would be allowed to deposit up to two cubic yards (54 cubic feet) of "sand, gravel or stone" in a stream or lake every five years *without permit*. That's a lot of material; try shoveling it! Spread four inches deep, this could obliterate natural features for a distance of 54 feet in a 3-foot-wide creek, ruining it as a place for native brook trout to reproduce.

Another proposed allowance: the lining of 75 linear feet of stream bank or lakeshore with rock "riprap." This kind of armoring destroys such fish habitat as the hiding cover that undercut banks and their tree root work offer. Destructive dredging of water bodies and bulldozing of stream banks would also be possible.

Such activities severely damage fish and wildlife resources. Stream-bank and lakeshore areas contain the most essential habitat for most kinds of freshwater fish. Other animals, like waterfowl and songbirds, also depend on the highly productive shallows and lushly vegetated edges of shore areas.

Further shore-altering activities that AB 665 and SB 313 would allow, essentially *without regulation*, include building bridges across

streams less than 35 feet wide and placing culverts less than 5 feet in diameter. This could result in fishery resource disasters all over the state. Most of our trout streams are less than 35 feet wide and can easily be damaged by the construction and existence of improperly designed bridges. Improperly installed culverts less than 5 feet in diameter commonly block fish migration.

As stated on the DNR website, *Wisconsin's waters belong to everyone*. Wisconsin lakes and rivers are by law public resources, "common highways and forever free," held in trust by the Department of Natural Resources. Protected public rights include water quality and quantity, recreational activity, and scenic beauty.

Wisconsin law recognizes that owners of lands bordering lakes and rivers hold rights in the water next to their property, including use of the shoreline, as well as access to and reasonable use of the water. But when conflict occurs between the rights of a shoreland owner and public rights, the public's rights are primary.

The law requires the state to protect public rights in use of navigable waters. The DNR does this mainly by requiring water projects to follow certain standards, many of which AB 665 and SB 313 would weaken. When DNR staff review projects that could impact lakes and rivers, they must consider the cumulative impacts of individual projects in their decisions. As the State Supreme Court has held, "A little fill here and there may seem to be nothing to become excited about. But one fill, though comparatively inconsequential, may lead to another, and another, and before long a great body may be eaten away until it may no longer exist. Our navigable waters are a precious natural heritage, once gone, they disappear forever."

Ray White
Edmunds, WA

(Ray White is a former WDNR biologist now living in the Seattle area. He returns each year to fish Wisconsin streams because, as he says, "Wisconsin protects and restores its habitat, so fishing is better here than in the state of Washington." At press time, Republican sponsors and the Governor's office announced a compromise on the Job Creation Act. TU members are encouraged to study this compromise bill to ensure the harmful items pointed to by Ray White are not in the final bill. —Ed.)

TU member has 'action plan' for new year

Editor:

At the risk of sounding like I am preaching to the choir (in this case, Trout Unlimited members), I'm proposing an Action Plan for 2004.

The Wisconsin Wildlife Federation has said that the "Job Creation Act of 2003" would be better titled the "Lake, Stream and Job Destruction Act of 2003." According to George Meyer, Executive Director of WWF, "This bill will substantially

reduce or eliminate regulations regarding the filling in of waterways, straightening larger stretches of streams...."

The Wisconsin AFL-CIO calls the act a "vehicle to smuggle in a variety of changes to Wisconsin laws and regulations that in some cases actually undermine good paying jobs, or have nothing to do with job creation."

The Clean Water Action Council of Green Bay has filed a formal ethics complaint against Senator Cathy Stepp, Chair of the new Job Creation Committee.

I could go on, but you get my point. So here is the plan:

STEP 1: Go to www.wisconservationvoters.org. By late January, the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters will have their Conservation Scorecard for Wisconsin legislators updated.

STEP 2: Go to www.wisconsin.gov. Click on Government, next click on "Who are my legislators?" Fill in your address and click search.

STEP 3: Call, write, and e-mail your representatives that pop up. Remember, these people work for you!

For best results, do this often and on every issue, especially this one. Let's make 2004 our best year ever in fighting to protect our resources for us, our children, and their children. Thanks for listening.

Paul J. Mongin
Vice President, Green Bay TU

P.S. One more thing, join the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters if you can.

Biggest coldwater threats from legislators

Editor:

It has been clear for years that in order to protect our coldwater resource, we need to respond to threats from any quarter. Right now, the biggest threats appear to be coming from lawmakers, both in Wisconsin and elsewhere.

At home, we have the recently introduced "Job Creation Act" which does little to create any jobs, but would allow property owners to move up to 500 feet of a stream without DNR review, or dredge up to 200 truckloads of material from a lake or stream, again without DNR review.

In Washington, there are several frightening provisions in the Energy Bill now bottled up in the Senate. These include exempting the construction of facilities, pipelines, roads and other infrastructure necessary to develop oil and gas resources on public lands from the Clean Water Act, and establishes preferential treatment for hydropower dam operators to the exclusion of other river interests

As TU National points out, "Energy development does not have to damage fish and wildlife and their habitat on public land, nor does it need to disenfranchise fisheries conservationists from key hydropower decision-making processes." What is most frustrating about both these examples is that the lawmakers who want to roll back environmental protection don't reflect the values of their own constituents.

Curiously, Representative Du Wayne Johnsrud, criticized in these pages last issue for his stand on the trout stamp fee, has shown remarkable interest in bridging the "gap" between business interests and conservationists on the issue of groundwater. Johnsrud, along with Senator Neal Kedzie, has solicited the involvement of TU members and other resource specialists in crafting a bill to give the DNR some real authority over groundwater withdrawals in this state. Let's hope it's the start of a trend.

Bill Pielsticker
President, SWTU

Connections between groundwater and surface water explored in new video

By Derek Scheer

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited members have obvious interests in, and connections to, Wisconsin's lakes, rivers, and streams. Polluted waters and low or diminishing water levels do not make for the outstanding trout fishing



that members have come to expect. Many people may not realize the connections that exist within the water cycle, and few recognize the strong connection between the water we see, surface water, and the water under our feet, groundwater.

In a new video/DVD called *Above Ground - Below Ground: The connection between Wisconsin's waters*, Clean Wisconsin, an environmental advocacy group, educates us about water connections, shows existing threats to Wisconsin's water, and demonstrates solutions to protect it.

The video/DVD begins with defining the water cycle. Along the way it details groundwater's key role in the cycle, which is

something not typically taught in schools.

Groundwater is stored in aquifers that act like banks where water can be deposited until dry periods. During times of drought, the lakes and streams draw on their groundwater account and make withdrawals to stay healthy.

Many of Wisconsin's most endangered wetlands, lakes, and streams depend on groundwater to sustain suitable fish habitat. Wisconsin's groundwater supplies are severely threatened from pollution, overuse, and over development.

Clean Wisconsin's video/DVD offers some solutions and highlights Wisconsin communities like Cross Plains and the Fields Neighborhood of East Troy as models for innovative and successful attempts to minimize water pollution.

Suggestions are also made for how individuals can minimize water consumption and pollution at home. Viewers are asked for assistance in helping persuade Wisconsin's Legislature to strengthen groundwater protection so we can keep using and enjoying the state's lakes and streams for fishing and other recreation.

For a copy of the video/DVD, contact Derek Scheer at Clean Wisconsin at (608) 251-7020 or dscheer@cleanwisconsin.org. A suggested donation of \$10 helps cover shipping and handling.

Mark your calendar for Wisconsin TU's 19th annual
State Council Banquet
**“A Celebration
of Trout”**

Sat., Feb. 7, 2004

**Oshkosh Convention Center &
Park Plaza Hotel, Oshkosh**



**FEATURING...outdoor
writer Michael Furtman**



Award-winning writer **Michael Furtman** is author of numerous books, including “Trout Country” and “A Boundary Waters Fishing Guide.” He was recently named Ducks Unlimited’s communicator of the year.

Furtman regularly writes a conservation column for *Midwest Fly Fishing* magazine. Furtman recently critiqued the Bush administration’s wetland and energy policies. He is expected to address the conservation record of the current administration.

Special auction item...

A one-of-a-kind wall hanging titled “Worth the Hike” is available in a pre-banquet raffle. Created by **Ellie Cannan**, the quilt features a mountain setting and several trout. Tickets are \$10 each from Larry Meicher (note it is for the raffle) or through your chapter.



Plus Tim Landwehr
with a master tying demonstration.

COCKTAILS 5:00

DINNER & PROGRAM 7:00

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

Larry Meicher
5258 Salisbury Rd.
Rio, WI 53960

**YES! I want to attend Wisconsin TU's 19th annual
“A Celebration of Trout”**

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

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Oshkosh Park Plaza at a special rate double or king rooms through January 17, 2003. Call for reservations now at 1-800-670-7275.

Jon's 'last cast'

By Jon Christiansen

WITU Chair

I expect that most of you trout fishers have a place in your mind's eye where you would go if you had to fish one last time. It might be that exotic stream half-way across the world or a famous western tailwater. For me, it would be a very small stream in southwestern Wisconsin. I have only seen this river twice in my life, but if you sat down to design the perfect Coulee Country stream, this would be it.

I was introduced to this stream by the ever-generous John Bethke. Perhaps because I overbid for his guide services at a State Council banquet, he felt obliged to show a friend and me some of the best water in Crawford County. In any event, to get to this stream, we had to get off the beaten path, trudge through a cornfield, jump a couple of fences, and walk through a valley so beautiful that if you had the money, you would buy it on the spot.

The river came trickling off the top of a ridge from a spring some ways distant. It ended up against the side of the sheer face of a long hill, worn away by the effects of thousands of years of flow to create a sort of "mini-Dells." The limestone formations were variegated and smooth. The result was that the river ran cold and deep up against the side of the rock face. In places the river was five feet wide and in others, where there was less drop, it was 30 feet wide.

And by the way, it was chock full of fish. These fish were our native brook trout, and because they were in this off-the-beaten-path, not-

very-well-known, not-worth-much-bothering-with, stream, they grew to a nice size. Most of the trout were 8-10 inches, but there were several that nudged above a foot.

The fishing was rather a challenge, both because the trout were very spooky and because there were branches overhanging the stream that compelled a rather precise side-arm cast. However, as is the case with brook trout anywhere, a good cast yielded a take without hesitation. You have heard endlessly that brook trout can be described as a "jewel" or a "riot of color." The best description I ever heard was "a fish in a clown suit." The fish on that day were pretty beyond description, both because of the sunlight streaming through the trees into that small canyon, and because the setting was so painfully beautiful that you were tempted to literally beg for time to stand still.

John would probably tell you the name of this stream, give you directions, and probably even take you there himself, if you asked nicely and dug your toe in the dirt a while. However, I won't, because the last thing this place needs is 4,000 Wisconsin TU members charging into that hollow and putting flies over those gullible little brookies. No, those brookies do not need a cast of thousands or a thousand casts. What they do need is for people to care about the quality of the water in which those fish swim. They need cool, deep places to hide and spawn. But most of all, they need clean water. The brown trout I love to fish for on my home stream are wily and challenging, but being a European import, they are adapted to a far



Jon Christiansen

wider range of conditions. The brook trout is special in that regard, almost like the canary in the coal mine, showing us when we have managed to mess up our water.

If I have the choice about where I fish on my last day, I expect I'll try to get my son or my friends (if they're still around) to drag, push, or carry me out to that little stream to try a tangle with one more brook trout. And if — Lord willing — it is 30 or more years from now, I hope that the water of that small coulee stream is still clean and cold enough to support good old-fashioned Wisconsin brook trout.

We owe a responsibility as stewards of this earth to those brook

trout in that little stream, and the next one over, and the next one past that, to make sure that that water is clean and cold. That means that we have to prevent polluted runoff. It means that we have to make sure that we don't extract so much water from our aquifers that our streams run dry. It means that we have to encourage responsible agriculture, development, and road building. It means that, time and time again, we have to push against the forces that look only to today, instead of tomorrow. It means to me, above all, that to save the fish in the clown suit, we have to make sure that our organization and others like it remain vibrant, committed, and active.

Polluted runoff 'champions' to lead chapters' work

By Lou Gauen

The State Council's polluted runoff committee has begun a push for chapter involvement in the effort to control nonpoint pollution in Wisconsin.

At last year's State Council meeting in February, the TU Midwest office in Madison and the polluted runoff committee put on an all-day training session facilitated by TU's Laura Hewitt and Russ Schnitzer. The focus of this meeting was the distribution and overview of a handbook that covered how TU could address nonpoint pollution. TU members from 14 chapters across the state attended this training.

One year later, while there has been some effort in this area, we are not taking advantage of the new laws that cover nonpoint pollution or working with farmers, construction companies, and municipalities to try and curb runoff pollution.

Recently more and more articles are appearing talking about the future shortage of water and how pressure will be felt by the Great Lakes states as the need for water becomes more acute. We in Wisconsin TU can have an effect on clean water in our state and protect our fishing future at the same time.

Nonpoint champions being sought

The polluted runoff committee is asking every chapter to appoint chapter coordinators (known as "nonpoint champions") who will work with chapter members in implementing the strategies in the Polluted Runoff Toolkit.

The state committee will be in contact with the nonpoint champions on a frequent conference call basis or, if needed, visits to offer

whatever support, recruitment help, or technical aid is needed.

The state committee will also make sure the State Council's web

site is updated with contacts and other information as it becomes available for use by the coordinators and their chapter members.

TU Midwest hires Breiby for coaster program

Trout Unlimited National hired Todd Breiby in November to serve as TU's coaster brook trout program coordinator.

Breiby is based in the Madison office and will work solely on efforts to bring back the coaster in the Lake Superior Basin.

To reach that goal, Breiby will be working with a diverse partnership of county, state, federal, and tribal agencies. These partners are located in Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Canada in a basin-wide effort.

The coaster brook trout program has been moving forward and gaining momentum over the last few years due to the diligence and hard work of the many people representing the 26 public and private groups involved in this unique partnership. As the program has gained momentum, it was determined a staff person devoted to the coaster effort was needed.

The partnership approached the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to fund ongoing coaster management and research efforts, including this position. And thanks to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, TU now has someone on the ground devoted to the recovery effort.

Breiby's first order of business will entail meeting with a group of folks within the partnership who have been approached to develop and implement a basin-wide joint outreach and communication plan for Lake Superior. Those involved represent TU, TU Canada, Minnesota Sea Grant, and the University of Wisconsin Extension. Breiby will also coordinate several on-the-ground projects, and in the future he will help initiate other efforts.

Outreach efforts will focus on private landowners, local governments, local and regional community organizations (including TU chapters and councils), and the general public. Breiby will be:

- providing updates on coaster research and management efforts across the Lake Superior Basin,
- distributing information on how to protect and restore habitat crucial to coaster recovery and sustainability, and
- showing partners how you can help.

The coaster brook trout program is a community-wide effort to bring sustainable populations back to the basin and provide opportunities for a coaster fishery. It



Todd Breiby

is one where participation by members of the community will be essential in bringing back the coaster.

A native Wisconsinite, Breiby now resides in Spring Green with his wife, Stephanie. As an avid outdoors person, he can usually be found hiking or canoeing the beautiful trails and waterways across Wisconsin, and now perhaps he'll even be able to find time to dust off his rod and reel. You can reach Breiby at (608) 255-0361 or tbreiby@tu.org.

Legislative Committee report

Job Creation Act TU's top concern in recent weeks

By Jeff Smith

Legislative Committee Chair

This article will provide an update of current legislative issues, remind members of TU's legislative priorities, and discuss the State Council's role in the state's legislative process.

Job Creation Act

Once again we find ourselves beating back anti-environmental initiatives. The current culprit is the so-called Jobs Creation Act of 2003. The bill attempts to streamline the DNR air and surface water permitting process. But it does so by allowing individuals to move streams and dredge streams and lakes without a DNR permit. It also lowers the state's air pollution standards and chokes the state's rule making process. Finally, the bill runs against the Public Trust Doctrine and, according to the Justice Department, is unconstitutional.

The bill was introduced and made public at 3:00 p.m. one day in mid-November and there was a hearing on it the next day — not fair. The mix of testimony was basically business people who had horror stories about DNR permitting and environmentalists complaining about the legislative process. No one really had time to read the bill.

BILL: jobs bill would hurt trout

Continued from p. 1

The Doyle administration has receiving criticism from many in the environmental and conservation community for not including them in the actual face-to-face negotiations to improve the bill, especially in light of the fact that representatives of the building and development community have been active in this process.

Earlier it was learned that a lawyer representing the state's builders supplied actual wordings for the

The Governor's Office is, at this writing, negotiating with some legislators and business associations to try and reach a compromised package making more modest changes to the air and water permitting processes and standards. The environmental community (including TU) has expressed to both the Governor's Office and Secretary Hassett our disappointment that we are not at the negotiating table.

High-capacity well legislation

The other legislation that's important to mention is regulating high-capacity wells. If you recall, DNR can only disapprove a high capacity well (one that pumps more than 100,000 gallons a day) if it impacts a municipal well. This has caused enormous problems in various parts of the state where groundwater is getting scarce. Representative Johnsrud (Chair of the Assembly Natural Resource Committee) and Senator Kedzie (Chair of the Senate Environment Committee) have drafted a bill and asked for comments.

The bill basically enables DNR to disapprove or modify a permit if it adversely affects the environment. I sent TU's suggestions to strengthen the bill in mid October. DNR also has a bill out for comments and I gave them similar suggestions.

original bill's water provisions. No conservation or environmental groups were involved in the drafting of the bill's language.

While not including these leaders in the negotiations, the Doyle administration has updated TU and others on the status of negotiations at a couple points in the talks.

TU members are encouraged to stay tuned to this compromise legislation when it is released in early January to ensure it does not compromise.

Those bills will be introduced probably by the time you are reading *Wisconsin Trout*. Not everyone will agree, but this is probably TU's highest legislative priority.

Shoreland zoning update

Another legislative initiative is a redo of the states shore land management rules, or NR115. These rules were prepared by a committee of 25 people with varying interests. Bill Pielsticker, President of SWTU

Chapter, represented TU. The rules are a major improvement and will enhance water quality. DNR has just finished a series of listening sessions around the state and many of you volunteered your time to speak in support. Thanks much.

TU's legislative agenda

TU has six issues that we are working on consistently.

Continued on p. 8

Trout Unlimited's role in the legislative process

By Jeff Smith

Through recent communications it has come to my attention that many of TU's membership does not understand what TU's legislative activities involve. This is an attempt to explain that.

The State Council has a Legislative Committee consisting of myself (Chair), Jon Christiansen (State Council Chair), Duke Welter (Past Council Chair), Stu Grimstad (Water Resources Chair), and Dan Wisniewski (TU member). Although not a member of the Committee, SWTU President Bill Pielsticker spends a lot of time on TU's legislative program.

The roles of the committee are to collaborate on legislative proposals, take positions on legislative initiatives, create and amend our legislative agenda, and develop strategies to have successes with our legislative program. The committee operates on a consensus basis. We've never voted.

My role is to keep the Committee informed of legislative undertakings, coordinate representation of TU before legislative committees and other legislative groups, discuss our legislative agenda with individual legislators, their staff, DNR and the Governor's Office, write letters of support or opposition to key legislators, and work with other conservation/environmental groups to influence favorable legislative outcomes.

Most of my legislative activities are devoted to this last effort. There are a number of environmental coalitions to which TU is a member and I'll mention three. First is the Clean Water Coalition (CWC) consisting of 16 organizations including The Sierra Club, River Alliance of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Public Interest Research Group, Wisconsin Association of Lakes, Wisconsin Audubon Council, Wisconsin Stewardship Network, and others. I represent TU on its Steering Committee. This coalition works on legislative matters on a bi-weekly basis as well as being in close touch via e-mail on a daily, often hourly, basis.

This coalition has established three priorities on its Legislative Agenda — high-capacity wells, monitoring implementation of the Clean Water Act, and funding levels for DNR's water programs. We mostly collaborate on legislative strategies and discuss different roles for different

groups in communicating to DNR, legislators, and the Governor's Office.

Second is the League of Wisconsin Conservation Voters. This organization of about 10 conservation groups develops a conservation legislative agenda, communicates that agenda to the entire Legislature, and then grades each legislator on their conservation voting record after each legislative session.

Third is what has been called the E-Team. This group consists of basically the same organizations in the CWC but the meetings are called and chaired by the Governor's Office policy staff. The purpose of this relatively new group is to establish two-way communications between the Governor's Office and environmental (E) groups. Most often, the Governor's staff informs us of their legislative efforts and tries to gain our support. And the environmental groups do the same with the Governor's staff. There are conflicts. There are similar meetings with DNR Secretary Hassett. These are called Enviro meetings and we get together bi-monthly.

Finally, I need to mention the involvement of TU's membership in legislative matters. On occasion we have asked members to testify on legislation or to write legislators supporting or opposing bills. You have responded amazingly and I thank you.

For example, a few years ago when the US Supreme Court ruled that the Army Corps of Engineers had no jurisdiction permitting alterations to isolated wetlands. That left each isolated wetlands totally unprotected. Jon Christiansen sent a request, via a postcard, that you write your legislators supporting a bill that would give DNR jurisdiction. You responded so well that a staff person of the Assembly Minority Leader told me that TU's correspondence really turned that issue around.

I won't ask you to testify or write too often because first, it has to be a huge issue, second it is expensive to do a mass-mailing request and finally, I understand fully that it takes up your time. When I do ask for membership's participation in legislative matters, you can be assured it is extremely important. Thanks much for your actions.

That's TU's legislative program in a nutshell. To summarize — it's all communication.



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Atty. General says Jobs Bill may be unconstitutional

The following is Asst. Attorney General Tom Dawson's testimony pertaining to the water provisions of Assembly Bill 655 as given by before the Joint Committee on Finance on Nov. 15, 2003.

I am Thomas Dawson. I am an assistant attorney general and director of the environmental protection unit of the Wisconsin Department of Justice. I am here to speak at the direction of Attorney General Peg Lautenschlager.

The Attorney General strongly opposes this bill. This "Jobs Creation Act" appears more to be a wolf in sheep's clothing, intended more to eat our citizens' natural resources, clean air and clean water, than to significantly deliver or save any jobs.

We have seen no analysis that suggests that this massive bill to cripple environmental protections would have any significant impact on creating or saving jobs.

For sure, Wisconsin needs many more good paying jobs. But, this bill clearly does not do that.

Stripped of the spin and label, this bill instead does other things. Contrary to the assertions of the bill's proponents, the bill does significantly lower environmental standards.

The bill abdicates the state's constitutionally mandated duties under the public trust doctrine of navigable waters. The bill violates the Clean Air Act, and bars the state from acting to fill the gaps in that law that are needed to protect our citizens and children from polluted air. It violates the doctrine of separation of powers.

Major revisions of law require adequate public notice and hearing

This 114-page bill proposes to radically repeal and revise longstanding statutory laws that have served this State well for decades.

Those laws, the product of careful and deliberate drafting and evolution over decades, have struck a careful and fair balance between the rights of the public in our public waters and natural resources — with the rights of property owners and individuals.

We find many of these repeals and revisions to be unconstitutional under state law, and illegal under existing federal law.

However, before stating those findings, we find it necessary to express our shock at the secrecy, magnitude and lightning speed with which this massive sea-change in Wisconsin law is being ram-rodged through the Legislature.

It is clear that this 114-page, 292-section, bill has been worked on and drafted for months by industry lawyers and legislators. Yet, the public has been given less than a day to absorb this massive document, let alone to review, analyze and comment on it.

This process is not consistent with democratic principles, or with Wisconsin's heritage of public participation in the policy-making process.

Because of the extremely short time we were given to review this bill, we believe there are likely to be other issues that we have not had time to find, review, and comment on.

However, we address the following specific issues in the bill.

Navigable water provisions

Thirty-seven pages of the bill are devoted to repealing and revising our longstanding laws for the protection of public rights in our state's waters. This bill would weaken current environmental protections of our public waters.

Under current law, those who would alter, change or destroy publicly owned waters, or publicly enjoyed rights to use our waterways, are prohibited from doing so unless their proposed activities are reviewed, modified and permitted by the DNR according to environmental and legal standards, after public notice, and subject to court review. Private property owners and the public who might be injured by these activities have a say in that process.

As a result of this process, people generally get their permits without injuring other property owners or the environment. We understand that 92% of chapter 30 applicants got their permits, most in less than 7 weeks, last year. It appears this bill is throwing out the baby with the 8% washwater who did not get their permits more quickly, or not at all, and without determining what portion of that 8% have justifiable complaints.

This bill would provide exemptions, and blanket approvals called general permits, for the most commonly undertaken and cumulatively harmful activities in our waterways. Significantly, these blanket approvals of potentially destructive activities would be required without consideration of public rights and interests, and without any opportunity for hearing.

The United States Supreme Court, in striking a proposal by the State of Illinois to allow a railroad company to use part of the bed of Lake Michigan for the company's business purposes:

"...The state can no more abdicate its trust over property in which the whole people are interested, like navigable waters and the soils under them, so as to leave them entirely under the control of private parties ...than it can abdicate its police powers..."

Under this longstanding rule of law, this legislature simply has no authority to advance private business interests over those of the public when it comes to these resources, and this bill appears to do just that.

Without these constitutionally protected safeguards, enunciated by our U.S. and Wisconsin Supreme Courts, and consistently upheld throughout Wisconsin's history, the bill's provisions are constitutionally flawed. They cannot be legally defended. The court has consistently held that public rights are entitled to the same, and in fact superior, protections as private rights. Yet, this bill relegates public rights to second class status. A legislatively enacted legal presumption in favor of actions that can harm or destroy significant public rights in our waters would be an unconstitutional abrogation of the duty of the State to protect our waters.

Conclusion

We urge this Committee to reject this bill. We urge you to develop public policy that is legal, constitutional, by consensus, by involving the public, and by involving all of us who want to create meaningful employment opportunities for our citizens.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today.

Legislative sponsors of bill to hurt state's trout waters

The following Legislators were sponsors of AB655/SB313, the much-criticized Job Creation Act of 2003 that would have allowed activities that would have damaged nearly all of the state's trout streams.

Though this bill is currently being reworked to reduce its damaging provisions to the state's air and water, these Legislators put their name on the original bill and stood by its provisions.



Alberta Darling



John Gard



Curt Gielow



Glenn Grothman



Scott Gunderson



Eugene Hahn



Mark Honadel



Michael Huebsch



Jean Hundertmark



Suzanne Jeskewitz



DuWayne Johnsrud



Theodore Kanavas



Dean Kaufert



Neal Kedzie



Steve Kestell



Judy Krawczyk



Robin Kreibich



Bonnie Ladwig



Joe Leibham



Dan Meyer



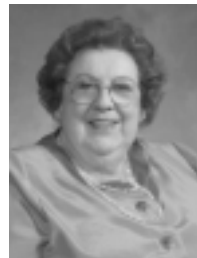
Phil Montgomery



Stephen Nass



Alvin Ott



Carol Owens



Mary Panzer



Cathy Stepp



Scott Suder



John Townsend



Robert Welch



Jeffrey Wood



David Zien

Chapter president profile

Bob Chamberlain ending term as Central president

By John Gremmer

You see Bob Chamberlain at all our Central Wisconsin TU activities, be it working in a local trout streams, removing brush, or addressing the crowd at our banquet.



ities through notices to the various media. We are now in our second year of exciting programs that have included renowned fish sportsmen and guides like Ray Larson and Tim and Bart Landwehr, biologists like Dr. Ray White and Dr. Bob Hunt, authors like Ross Mueller and Steve Nelson, and wildlife experts like Edward Engle.

Bob encouraged the creation of a web site for our chapter (visit it at www.cwtu.org). Bob also started our new, all-day Trout Outing that introduces people to our area's trout streams and to TU. Last year, the Outing in May introduced 25 individuals, young and old, to a guid-

teaching the tying of their specialties. With new chapter video equipment, 25 tyers can get a live, close-up view of each master's instructions and duplicate them. This series, chaired by John Gremmer, has become a very popular event and is a recruitment tool for our chapter.

Bob has also supported those CWTU activities that have been successful in the past, such as our annual CWTU Fly Fishing School, administered by Dan Harmon III, now coming into its 28th year. He supports and contributes to our newsletter which is published by Dan and Gail Colligan with mailing help from Ray Piehl.

Bob was born in 1926 in Marion, Iowa, and graduated from the local high school. After service as a motor machinists mate in the Pacific amphibs during WWII, he graduated from Iowa State with a degree in mechanical engineering. Two weeks after discharge, Bob married Jane.

Bob's work history is varied. In high school he clerked for the Milwaukee Road. After college, he joined LinkBelt Speeder Corporation and, later, Gidding-Lewis in Fond du Lac. He finally retired in 1983.

Volunteer service has been a large component of his life. He has been active with the Boy Scouts of America in several positions on local, state, and national levels and is a past president of the Fondy Jaycees.

Jane and Bob have five children and 12 grandchildren. Their son and his sons have followed Bob and Jane's footsteps as fly fishing enthusiasts.

Bob doesn't believe a TU president should try to do everything, an approach that eventually leads to burnout. He believes in finding qualified, committed people and allowing them to do the job. When people have completed an event, Bob never fails to sincerely thank them and indicate how important their contributions have been.

Bob runs a tight meeting and is an experienced parliamentarian and has the diplomatic ability to keep people on task. As he now finishes his last few months as president, he has volunteered to be secretary and to continue involvement with our annual banquet.

Bob became interested in trout fishing while living in Duluth during the 1930s. "I went with my Dad several times, but was limited to fishing from the bridge crossing a marsh

where he fished with a friend. Caught a few with bait, but it wasn't really exciting for a twelve-year-old...being stuck in one spot, I mean."

"Fortunately, Duluth has several trout streams within the city limits," Bob remembers, "I could fish a couple by walking from our apartment downtown. One day, a guy came along a stream and asked if he could fish in my stretch. With my approval, he promptly caught four fish, swish-swish, where I'd spent the day and merely caught two. I was too awed to ask what the heck he was doing, but was mighty intrigued.

"About a month later, the same guy came along, again asked permission and caught three more fish in front of me. This time, when I pressed for an explanation, he showed me his fly rod and fly and explained a bit about trout foods. With my interest, he recommended reading Zane Grey at the public library and thus eventually gave me fantasies on faraway fishing experiences."

Bob and his Jane became fishing partners soon after their marriage. Combining travel with chasing rainbows, they have fished in Canada, Switzerland, Chile, Argentina, and New Zealand, plus in a number of states in this country, including Alaska.

Bob and Jane's favorite place is Los Allerces National Park in Argentina where Bob twice landed a so-called "grand slam" of brook, brown, rainbow, and landlocked salmon. His biggest rainbow measured 36 inches in Alaska; the biggest brown was 28 inches in Chile. Jane has caught the biggest fish on several trips and she doesn't let Bob forget that.

Bob has been a TU member since 1967 when he had a business assignment in Madison. Bob says, "We used to meet at the Big Boy Restaurant on East Washington, but I didn't know our chapter's genesis arose there until our first CWTU president, Dr. Tom Poullette, recently told me. At that time, about eight guys would come to the meetings there. Later in 1971 and after I returned to Fond du Lac, National TU assigned us to the Fox Valley Chapter. There I was eventually awarded a 15-year pin which I still wear on my fly jacket. After my retirement, we moved to Green Lake County and National switched us again to the Central Wisconsin Chapter.

When I asked Bob what he gained from TU after all these years, he said it was the chance to meet and work with dedicated people who want to protect, conserve, and improve coldwater resources. Says Bob, "The camaraderie is outstanding."

(John Gremmer is a CWTU member and frequent contributor of photographs to Wisconsin Trout. -Ed.)



BOB CHAMBERLAIN

Bob lands a nice trout on South Island in New Zealand in 1999 and relaxes during a quiet moment at last year's CWTU banquet with Dan Harmon III.

As our current president, he leads by example and cares deeply about trout and the environs they inhabit. And he hopes to see CWTU continue to progress.

A part of Bob's vision for CWTU was to increase attendance at our board and membership meetings. That vision has been realized. We now regularly see 15 or more at the board sessions, 30 or more at our many informational programs, and we've tripled our turnouts at work-days.

Bob has strongly urged the public be invited to our meetings and activ-

ed fishing experience on the Mekan River, followed by a picnic along its banks.

Our chapter also conducts an indoor Funday in February or March which has grown from a small gathering in Berlin to a large event. On February 28 in Winneconne, our next Funday will include seminars, fly tyers, rod builders, fly shop reps, artists, environmentalists from around the state, and more.

During Bob's tenure, our Master's Fly Tying Series was established. This event consists of five Wisconsin Fly Tying Masters, each

sett to have his agency develop a regional plan to respond to fish kills. The plan would identify the specific people involved and define their role, list all equipment needed, etc. DNR has a general manual on this but we think it should be more specific to the DNR Region. (Note that this is not a legislative matter.)

• **Trout stamp positions** — When the Trout Stamp was created in

the 1977-79 budget, there was an agreement that these additional resources would be used to add to habitat development and not replace segregated (fishing and hunting fees) funds. Over time that level of funding has been lost in the sense of not knowing what it is. (However, we do know there is some level of segregated positions working on trout habitat.) We are now negotiating with

DNR to establish a new segregated funding base. (Note that this is not a legislative matter.)

- **Public Intervenor** — Re-establish the Office of Public Intervenor to serve as an environmental watchdog for the state.
- **DNR Secretary** — Reinstate the law which provides for DNR Board appointment rather than the Governor.

LEGISLATION: TU following various conservation issues

Continued from p. 6

- **High-capacity wells** — This issue was explained above.
- **Repeal the Cranberry Exemption** — The cranberry industry is exempt from DNR's surface water permitting process due to a law enacted in the mid 1800s. As such they can divert and pollute a stream or lake.
- **Fish kill response teams** — I have asked DNR Secretary Has-

Public favors protective shoreland zoning rules

By Bill Pielsticker

As the official representative of Wisconsin TU on the WDNR's Shoreland Rules Advisory Committee that has met in recent months, I have been asked to review the proposal the WDNR put before the public in a series of "listening sessions" over the past eight weeks.

The listening sessions were held across the state, and the public spoke approximately 3-to-1 in favor of the more protective water quality and habitat options discussed at the sessions.

In brief, the following options are the more protective measures being considered:

- A narrow viewing corridor,
- A deeper primary buffer,
- Full 75' setback for boathouses,
- Structures limited to 1,500 square feet of habitable living space,
- Minimum building area of 5,000 feet,
- Limits on impervious surface area, and
- Strict limits on camping duration.

The actual options package is 13 pages long and merits a bit of explanation. When the legislation requiring protection of the shoreland zone was enacted in 1966, all buildings within 75 feet of the shore of lakes and rivers and outside the bounds of cities and villages became "non-conforming." A strict interpretation of the law would require these buildings to be moved or removed from that 75-foot buffer zone.

This has caused a great deal of controversy as the DNR rules to implement the law were applied by local officials throughout the state. Officials in the DNR decided now is a good time to update the shoreland rules, and convened an official advisory committee in September 2003. Advisory committee finishes

Over a year later, the advisory committee has completed its initial work and the result is the options package now ready for Listening Sessions. While removing all structures within the 75-foot buffer zone likely would result in a vast improvement in water quality, committee members agreed this isn't going to happen any time soon.

Instead, we focused on structuring the regulations in a way to accomplish real improvements in water quality in the short term, while letting market forces determine how and when buildings now in the buffer area are eventually moved or removed.

This proposal divides the 75-foot buffer into a primary buffer (near shore) and a secondary buffer. The focus of the rule is to protect and restore native vegetation in the near shore area, based on the scientific evidence that doing so has a direct and positive impact on water quality, thereby protecting and enhancing the state's waters. In turn, improved water quality has a direct and positive impact on property values. At the same time, the proposal seeks to provide landowners with reasonable use of their property, as reflected in different standards for the secondary buffer.

Buffer depths

The first option is what depth to make the primary buffer. Most studies show that a wider buffer will yield greater improvement in water quality. Clearly, a 50-foot primary buffer is preferred. However, should

the final rule revision call for a 35 foot primary buffer, the mitigation practices that will also be included (see below) will insure that citizen's of Wisconsin will see real improvement in water quality faster than under the existing rule. Related to the primary buffer option is the width of the Viewing Access Corridor. Maintaining or restoring native vegetation in the Viewing Access Corridor is not required, so a narrow corridor is likely to provide more benefit to our natural resources than a wider one.

Boat houses

The next option is where to locate boathouses. The more protective option is to require them to be setback 75 feet from the ordinary high watermark. This is especially important given the history of people converting boathouses into living space — a problem attested to by several zoning administrators on the advisory committee.

Non-conforming structures

The real heart of the rule revision relates to dealing with non-conforming structures (cabins, homes, garages, etc.) within the 75-foot buffer. The proposal scraps the existing rule governing improvement of structures within the buffer (improvements can be made, but not to exceed 50% of the value of the structure — with disputes common over how that is calculated, and different jurisdictions applying it in widely different ways).

Instead, we are offered several choices. The first is to limit improvements and expansions to structures of 750 square feet or more. This is most protective and removes the likelihood of turning a shed into a house.

The next choice is how to limit the maximum size of the principal structure — both options apply a 1,500 square foot limit on the building footprint, but the second option allows for a second story on a building. Since this will likely be accompanied by more intensive use of the site, the first option is most protective. Also, since the goal is to allow continued use of existing homes and cabins but to limit their size in order to encourage their eventual removal in favor of a larger building at least 75 feet from the water, allowing upward expansion runs counter to that goal.

Next is the question of how to apply the rule to buildings that straddle two zones. Again, the most restrictive (Option A) is the most protective.

Major reconstruction

The question of what constitutes major reconstruction is critical for triggering the requirement to move or remove the structure. Proposal A is the more restrictive option, and will trigger earlier removal of existing buildings from the 75-foot buffer.

Lot size options are a means to address density, with the real focus on the cumulative impact of septic systems on lakes. While narrower but sewered lots appear to provide more protection to water quality, we have to factor in the Viewing Access Corridor and the cumulative impact of more VACs in the primary buffer. Proposal A is therefore more protective. Establishing a minimum buildable lot size is also more protective.

The options for Multiple Family Developments and for Conservation Developments are between current



Legislative notification system available on the web

A web-based Wisconsin Legislative Notification System is now running that allows anyone the opportunity to follow legislation by receiving daily or weekly e-mails for specific legislative activities.

You can choose items by Proposal, Committee, Author, or Subject and can select the activities for which you would like to receive notifications. The notification system will let you know when bills are introduced, when hearings will be held, and other activities surrounding legislation.

You will find the site at <http://notify.legis.state.wi.us>.

law and the new proposal. In each case, the new proposal is more protective.

The discussion of options for setback reductions for nonconforming lots is another area that illustrates the effort by most members of the committee to find ways to allow owners to use their property for a modest-sized home or cabin, while restoring or maintaining the primary buffer. Clearly, allowing no buildings on nonconforming lots would be more protective, we did not feel that was a viable option in the current political climate, as well as inequitable.

Filling, grading, etc. would be revised to allow for retaining walls in some very limited circumstances.

Impervious surfaces

The proposal to set a cap on, and require mitigation for, impervious surfaces is an important one for water quality. The science is very clear on this, both for coldwater and for warm water lakes and streams. Run-off from impervious surfaces degrades water quality and should be

minimized or mitigated through BMPs (Option A).

The current law does not address mitigation. The mitigation proposal is the cornerstone of this revision. Only through mitigation will we see real water quality benefits even while nonconforming structures remain in use.

The current law is silent on agricultural and forestlands. This proposal adds helpful standards for both.

Recreational camping areas

The proposal also adds significant language on recreational areas. They exist and will continue to exist, so we need some standards to address their impact on water quality. The new language does a fair job of seeking to obtain water quality benefits while not prohibiting recreation areas.

Following the Listening Sessions, DNR staff will review the public reaction with the advisory committee, then write the actual rules proposal. Their goal is to take the rule to formal public hearings later in 2004.

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Chapter News



John Gremmer

CENTRAL CANE ROD BUILDING PROGRAM

Rod builder Scott Grady (right) presented a PowerPoint program on the cane rod building process at the October 13 Central Wisconsin TU meeting. Looking over the materials are (left to right) Bob Haase of Fond du Lac, Ray Piehl of Wautoma, and Bob Hunt of Waupaca.

Aldo Leopold Chapter

A huge thank-you to those chapters who have donated to our chapter. Since the last *Wisconsin Trout*, we received additional donations from the **Shaw-Paca** and **Southern Wisconsin** chapters. All told, we received \$750 in donations from other chapters, for which I am immensely thankful. These donations give us some breathing room to continue our chapter building without having to worry so much about fundraising. As the commercials say, this is priceless.

At our October board meeting **Kevin Searock** was formally elected chapter secretary. **Jeremy Jongebloed** continues as treasurer. Kevin has been and remains responsible

for editing our newsletter. **Teresa Searock** has volunteered to be in charge of new member outreach. Many thanks to Teresa.

We continue to pursue cooperative relations with a number of local groups on stream protection and improvement, including **The Friends of Rowan Creek**, **Friends of Scenic Lodi Valley**, and the **Ho-Chunk Nation**. By working with these like-minded groups we hope to increase the effectiveness of our conservation efforts and build a stronger network of protection for our streams.

We are planning some work days on **Lodi Spring Creek** in the spring and are happy to announce that the

East Branch Feeder stream will be added to the "official" trout stream list after the first of January. This listing, plus a hoped-for purchase of

land on the stream by the DNR, should open up a new area for habitat work for the chapter.

—Mike Barniskis

Central Wisconsin Chapter

Saturday, February 28, is the date for our **Annual CWTU Trout Fishing Funday** that will be held at the **Fin and Feather Supper Club** in Winneconne. The Fin and Feather is found at the bridge on Main street. Four seminars are planned including:

- biologist **Dr. Bob Hunt** presenting "Reading the Water — Anatomy of a Trout Stream,"
- chapter president **Bob Chamberlain** presenting "Rainbow Potpourri,"
- guide and author **Steve Nelson** presenting "Fly Fishing Two Handed Rods," and
- cane rod builder **Scott Grady** building a rod on site.

The assemblage will also include fly tyers from around the state, historian **Giles Clark**, artists, rod builders, environmentalists, youth instructors, and more. It all starts around 10:00 a.m. and the public and all TU members are invited. For more information call **John Gremmer** at (920) 582-7802 or jhg@vbe.com.

On Monday, January 12, environmentalist and TU activist **Elward Engle** of Wautoma will present a 7:30 p.m. program titled "Wildflowers Along The Trout Stream" at the **F&M Bank** on Main Street in Wautoma. Elward is a long time TU member who is on our Board, and his programs are known throughout the region. The program is free to the public and all TU members are invited. For more information call **John Gremmer** at (920) 582-7802 or jhg@vbe.com.

Our chapter's thanks go to guide and FFF and TU activist **Ray Larson** of Sheboygan for presenting an outstanding program at our November meeting. Ray presented "Food For Trout." We highly recommend other chapters scheduling one of Ray's programs. Ray's knowledge of biology (he is a former college and high school biology instructor) and his outstanding slides of aquatic and terrestrial trout organisms made for an entertaining and intellectual experience.

Scott Grady, our new treasurer, presented a great program on bamboo rod building at our October meeting. Using an entertaining and informative PowerPoint program, Scott compelled attendees to hang around after to question building techniques. Thanks also go to **Ray Piehl** for securing the F&M Bank meeting room for the session.

Chapter President **Bob Chamberlain** says that "It's tremendous being part of an organization that provides important information for trout fishermen, whether they are bait, spin, or fly casters. Everyone can use information that makes the sport more enjoyable." Bob encourages members to "Ask all your friends to become TU members by using our application forms to sign up. The initial year's dues return to

us for use on streams in our area and after that year a portion returns."

Dr. Bob Hunt and **Bob Haase** are into the final details of a remake of the "**Wisconsin Stream Management**" brochure. The publication date will be after the 2004 trout stamp is out in early April. The plan is to distribute these to other chapters, sport shops, and other interested organizations to help get the word out on the science behind the good work that the DNR and TU do on our trout streams.

Ira Giese and **John Gremmer** are organizing a beginning fly tying class that will be held in Wautoma. The class will start sometime in February of 2004. This is a TU partnership with the **Wautoma Area Public Schools**.

Our CWTU **Master's Fly Tying Series** that features master tyers **Ray Larson**, **Dan Ferron**, **Dr. Don Larmouth**, **Bart Landwehr**, and **Mike Porter** will commence on Feb. 12. At this time we have 20 participants signed up for the five-session event. Interested parties should contact **John Gremmer** at (920) 582-7802 or jhg@vbe.com.

Central Wisconsin TU stream workdays in 2003 had almost 600 hours of on-stream work. Member and guest participation was up considerably from past years. We had 100 people attend the six workdays. Workday chairman **Rich Mlodzik**, Princeton, says, "I would like to thank all the volunteers who made the workdays a success. It was great to see father and son, father and daughter, and couples participating in the workdays." Rich plans to meet with DNR personnel in December or early January to go over projects for 2004.

Dr. Bob Hunt suggested we emphasize our purpose to everyone in our counties, that all are invited to support and preserve our coldwater resources, whether they are bait, spin, or fly flingers. We encourage ALL trouters to join and help! We encourage all to invite a friend to a meeting or a workday.

Dan Harmon III reported that work is progressing on next year's 28th annual **CWTU Fly Fishing School** that will be held on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, June 4-6. This is a comprehensive learning experience that attracts students both locally and from throughout the Midwest. Parties interested in learning more should contact **Dan** at (920) 235-1761 or danh3@ex-ecpc.com or at our website www.cwtu.org.

Dan Colligan and **Bob Chamberlain** report that preparations are being made for our major fundraiser, our **CWTU Banquet** that will be held **March 27, 2004** at the **Pioneer Inn** in Oshkosh. All members and interested parties are encouraged to attend.

—John Gremmer

Fox Valley Chapter

"Reading the Water" was the topic of the November meeting with **Bob Hunt** giving an excellent presentation.

Chapter members also met **Dean Schoenike** at our **Whitcomb Creek** worksite and searched for brook trout redds on November 15. Spawning activity was late this year.

Cabin Fever Day

A Trout Unlimited Sponsored Fly Fishing Show

Featuring:



Gary Borger
World Renowned

- Author
- Speaker
- Fly Casting Instructor
- Fly Tyer
- Video Producer
- Movie Consultant

- World Renowned Speaker
- Fly Tying and Rod Building Demonstrations
- Vendor, Factory Rep., and DNR Booths
- Information on Inland Streams and Great Lakes Tributaries
- Silent Auctions
- Bucket Raffles
- Door Prizes
- Wenona King Fisher Canoe Raffle

March 20th, 2004

Waverly Beach Menasha, WI

Fire Lane #1 on the North Shore of Lake Winnebago

9:00am to 4:00pm

Tickets \$10.00 at the Door

Lunch Available



For More Information Contact

Mark Peerenboom
1509 S. Outagamie
Appleton, WI 54914
(920) 738-0228

See Map at <http://www.foxvalleytu.org>



Chapter News



No redds were observed, but several fish were seen staging for the spawning to begin. It was an interesting day observing these fish getting ready to spawn.

Several of Wisconsin TU's most prominent fly tyers demonstrated their skills on

December 18. **Don Larmouth**, **Ross Mueller**, **John Gremmer**, and **Tom Young** each demonstrated one of their favorite flies.

We had our awards banquet this year on October 16 at **Germania Hall** in Menasha. It was a great success! We had our largest attendance that I can remember since we have been doing this event. The food was great and the program was excellent as well. **Darrell Tolliver** gave a very interesting and informative program on fishing the **Lake Michigan tributaries** from the Michigan border to the North to the Illinois border to the South.

Awards were presented as follows:

- **The Gale Crist Fly Tying Award** was presented to **Bob Kinderman** for his leadership in the education and promotion of the art of fly tying.
 - **The Pat Howlett Memorial Award** was presented to **Tony Treml** for his untiring dedication and leadership in the preservation of our fresh water resources.
 - **The Tex Helms Catch and Release Award** went to **Tom Young** for his efforts in promoting catch and release fishing, and
 - **The Gordy Braun Chapter Worker of the Year Award** went to **Rich Erickson** in grateful appreciation for his outstanding contributions and dedication to chapter projects.
 - A special award was given to our treasurer **Mark Peerenboom** for his unselfish efforts providing administrative support and assisting with the many programs the Fox Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited conducts to achieve their goals. I cannot say enough good things about Mark. Every single time we are in need of someone to take ownership of a project or help out with something, Mark steps up to volunteer!
- In addition to these awards there were six appreciation awards presented in 2003 to persons or organizations that were key players in our chapter achieving its goals in the past year. They were awarded to the following:
- **Employees of Miller Electric Manufacturing Company** for

their support of our Fishing Day for the Disabled done through a fundraiser by **Tom Beyer**.

- **Telmark Sales and their employees** for their outstanding financial support last year done through a fund raiser by **Janie Peabody**.
- **Jim Oates** for his outstanding efforts and leadership in last years Cabin Fever Day
- **Toni Young** for her dedication to helping out at many chapter events even though she is not a member of the chapter.
- **Les Van Dalen** for his dedication to helping out at many chapter events even though he is not a member of the chapter.
- **Tom Deer** was given a special thanks for his leadership as president over the last several years.

Our chapter is truly fortunate to have these dedicated people to keep us moving forward.

We have appointed a committee to update our bylaws and **Tony Treml** is chairing it. **Tom Deer** and **Tom Lager** are the nominating committee for our spring elections. We are already very busy this fall with our **First Cast Program**, teaching kids about fly tying and fly-casting. We are teaching at the **Boys and Girls Brigade** in Neenah and hope to be visiting schools and working with scouts and other youth groups. This program has really grown since we started it three years ago. There is nothing more satisfying than passing your knowledge on to an interested youngster.

I would also like to remind you that we will again have our **Cabin Fever Day** on **March 20** at **Waverly Beach** in Menasha. We will have **Gary Borger** as our speaker, over 30 vendor booths, lots of bucket raffles, and a silent auction. In addition to the great door prizes, we are raffling off a **Wenonah Kingfisher** canoe as well. This year's event will be even bigger and better than last year. See the add in this issue for more information.

The Fox Valley Chapter would also like to go on record saying thank you to the **Sokaogon Chippewa Community Mole Lake Band** and the **Forest County Potawatomi Community** for their foresight and stewardship in purchasing the Crandon Mine site and eliminating the need to focus so much of our energy on keeping the headwaters of the Wolf River system environmentally safe from big money.

—Tom Deer & Jim Hlaban

Frank Hornberg Chapter

On September 11 the chapter conducted a work evening on the **Middle Tomorrow River near Nelsonville**. Chapter members were assisted by urban forestry students from **Mid-State Technical College**, who helped remove debris from a feeder spring. Approximately 50 feet of spring channel was cleared to improve flow into the river channel.

On September 20 we spent our regular work day culling and hauling Christmas trees for the October 18 work day. On October 9 "The Faithful" held their annual Social Event-General Meeting at **Shooter's Supper Club**. The evening included a short introduction of each attendee, followed by supper and a review of the accomplishments of the past summer.

On October 18 the work day was devoted to reinforcing and extending existing brush mats with the previously culled Christmas trees. We were again assisted by students from **MSTC**, who seemed to enjoy the work and helped us also solidify the banks on several sharp bends of the river further downstream on **Welton Road**. Their efforts should materially help curtail erosion on that part of the river. We also transported several loads of rock via jon boat to reinforce another section of stream bank. It sum, it was an extremely productive and enjoyable work day!

On November 6 we held an impromptu work day. Members split into two groups — one transported Christmas trees upstream to reinforce existing brush mats, while the second group transported sandbags

and rocks to riprap above an existing structure that is susceptible to erosion during spring runoff.

On November 13 the general meeting was again held at **Shooter's**. **Bill Sherer**, fly fishing guide and owner of **We Tie It Fly Shop** in Boulder Junction, gave a presentation entitled "Wilderness Fly Fishing Opportunities for Trout, Salmon, and Steelhead in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan."

On November 28 a few members held another unscheduled work event, transporting several loads of field rock to the staging area for projects next spring.

The chapter has also scheduled four fly tying workshops next year:

- Thursday, January 22, from 7-9 p.m. at **Clancy's Stone Lion** in Custer,
- Saturday, February 14, from 10a.m.-1 p.m. at **Shooters**,
- Thursday, February 26, from 7-9 p.m. at **The Chalet** in Wisconsin Rapids, and
- Thursday, March 25 from 7-9 p.m. at **Shooters** in Plover.

The general meetings for the first quarter of 2004 will feature the following:

- Jan. 8 — presentation by author **Ross Mueller** entitled "Early Spring Hatches,"
- Feb. 12 — **WDNR Fisheries Management Technician Jason Spaeth** on "Stream Surveys and Stream Improvement Projects,"
- March 11 — former chapter President **Jeff Dimick** will present "Steelheading #101 Getting Started."

All the above presentations will be held at 7 p.m. at **Shooter's Supper Club** in Plover. Anyone interest-



GBTU AWARD WINNERS

Former WDNR fishery biologist **Russ Heiser** (top) and member **Paul Kruse** were honored recently by the Green Bay Chapter for their efforts.

ed in the subjects presented is encouraged to attend.
—Dan Holland

Green Bay Chapter

The Green Bay Chapter wrapped up a busy work project season on October 4 by assisting the DNR in the collection of brook and brown trout which will be used to collect eggs for the wild trout stocking program. Nineteen people turned out for the collection which was done on the **South Branch of the Oconto River**. The eggs will be hatched and raised by the **Oconto River Watershed Chapter** and stocked back into area streams next year as has been done for the past several years. In fact, there was a spring and fall planting last year.

In September, the chapter started regular monthly meetings during which we have been addressing the multitude of threats to our coldwater resources. Once again, we are hiring a beaver trapper to work on area streams threatened by the creatures. We have also designated funds to aid in the fight against the establishment of a water bottling plant at **Polar Springs**. The chapter has also started planning for our annual fundraising banquet which will be held March 25, 2004.

Finally, the chapter held our annual December **Dinner & Awards** meeting. At this year's event, we recognized two people. First, **Paul Kruse** was awarded the coveted **Member Of The Year** plaque. Kruse has been very active in the chapter's affairs, especially during the past year. He is a member of the board of directors, serving as membership chairman. He serves on the banquet committee and works diligently to ensure the success of that event. He regularly attends work projects and

has earned membership in the prestigious **President's Club** which is bestowed upon people whose efforts on behalf of trout habitat have been exemplary. He has created a display for the chapter to use at events where we can recruit new members and tout our work on behalf of the coldwater resource. He is webmaster for the chapter's web site and works hard to keep the site current. As if that's not enough, he has now taken over the planning and executing of the rainbow stocking in the **Lower Oconto River**. Congratulations to **Paul Kruse**, the Green Bay Chapter 2003 Member of the Year.

The chapter also presented **Russ Heiser** with a Orvis fly rod and reel combination. Heiser recently retired as **DNR Fisheries Biologist** for Northeast WI area. For many years Russ was the person we contacted to arrange for work projects. Not only did he arrange for the work, he was also on hand for the majority of the projects, and not just there to supervise, but to work. Thank you to **Russ Heiser** for all your efforts over the years. Without you, we would not have accomplished as much as we have for trout and trout habitat.

—Gary Stoychoff

Continued on p. 12

Consider Proper Release



"The future of trout fishing is in your hands."



Chapter News

Continued from p. 11

Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter

Our most recent programs have been very informative and entertaining.

Dr. Tom Hunt spoke about the **University Experimental Farm** and efforts to control waste from agricultural businesses, **Dr. Kris Wright** spoke about aquatic ecology, which was followed by a lively discussion of survey methods. We were enlightened by the knowledge of **Dr. Wright**, **Dr. Steve Carpenter**, and **Bob Hansis** from the DNR.

Most recently **Randy Hoffman** author of the book *Wisconsin's Natural Communities* presented a program. Everyone really enjoyed Randy's photographs and easy style of delivery.

We look forward to the January meeting which will be presented by our own member **Dr. Don Campbell**, geologist. Don will be speaking about groundwater, certainly a timely topic. March will be our annual meeting with the election of officers and two directors. The speaker will be **Pat Ehlers**, owner of **The Fly Fishers** in West Allis.

Jayne Wisler, education chair, is very busy organizing the school grant and internship programs. **David Canny** is working on the internship program once again with Jayne.

After the first of the year the banquet committee will be going about their business planning for the annual banquet to be held in May.

The seeding has been completed for the year on **Big Spring** under the direction of **Jim Sime** and **Bill Wisler**. Both these fellows have put a great deal of time and effort into the project for which we're grateful.

Plans are underway for the work to be done on **German Valley** this next year. **Steve Fabos** is working with **Dave Marshall** and **Bradd Sims** from the DNR and **Pat Sutter** from the **Dane County Soil Conservation Dept.** to plan our upcoming workdays. There is lots of work to be done on this one.

Pete Esser and **Don Pluemer** are working on a project proposal for an area stream, trying to maintain the momentum we gained from the work on **McPherson** and **Big Spring**. We're still working to establish the three-legged stool relationship that has proven so successful in Vernon and Monroe Counties.

Fly tying will begin after the first of the year as we work to fill up those boxes and dream of days a field once again.

—Dave Fritz

Marinette County Chapter

The chapter held two youth fishing days and sent three students to **summer conservation camps**. We will also host a **youth environmental education program** this coming winter.

The chapter paid for beaver control on Marinette County streams, and it also donated \$2,000 to the

Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest for seasonal help on stream improvement in the forest. We also helped purchase stream thermographs for the DNR.

The chapter's **2004 banquet** is set for Monday, April 19, at **Schussler's** in Peshtigo.

—Steve Wilke

Northwoods Chapter

The Northwoods Chapter had a busy summer completing projects on the **Bearskin River** and hosting our **10th Annual Youth Fly Fishing Conclave** on July 12, 2003. **Terry Cummings** did a fantastic job of organizing this event. Although our turnout was low this year, it really benefited the kids as they had more one-on-one attention from all the volunteers. We received the following thank you note from **Merrilee Hansen**:

"Please accept and pass on to all involved our thanks for your fly fishing day for kids yesterday. My 14-year-old, Hannah, participated and loved it. I'll never forget picking her up — her hat was full of flies she had tied, she was grasping her 'goodies bag' and carrying a brand new St. Croix fly rod and reel that she won! Wow! I was so excited! So was she! Today, she wore her shirt that you all gave her and used her new rod and reel! She has been studying all the literature she received and plans on sharing it with her uncle, another fly fisherman. She is also encouraging me to become a fly fisherman. I have inherited her Wal-Mart set-up! I cast my first fly line in the yard last night with her new reel and enjoyed it a lot! Hannah can't wait for next year's class! She learned a lot and is even more enthused, and I didn't think she could be more enthused about fly fishing. Our thanks to all of you. You gave one girl some very special memories and a future full of fly fishing!"

Terry wants to thank the following individuals for their help: **Christopher Deubler** for his donation of books for door prizes; **Matt Wilhelm**, **The International Flyfishing Center** for tying materials, door prizes, and educational materials; **Theresa Stabo** from the **WDNR** for educational materials; **TU National**; **Rob Roberts** for educational materials and give-aways; **We Tie It** and **Bill & Dawn Sherer** for tying materials, door prizes, and give-aways; **Sysco Foods' Al Brooks** for all the food; **McDonalds' Sharon Ruppinger** for drinks; **St. Croix Rods' VP Jeff Schluter** for the Grand Prize Drawing rods; chapter volunteers **Brian Hegge** and **David Brum** for tying demonstrations; **Vicki Houston** for publicity and being an at large volunteer; **Al Brooks** for food procurement and preparation; **Wayne Parmley** for graphics and casting demos; and **Bob Tabbert** for planning and educational materials.

We have scheduled the following events for 2004:

December 11 — **Claridge Motor Inn, Rhinelander**, 7:00 p.m. **Dave Brum** from the **WDNR** will discuss the trout habitat work the **WDNR** completed this year on **Brule** and **Elvoy Creeks** and discuss upcoming **TU** supported projects for next summer on the **Brule/Elvoy** and **Bearskin Creeks**.

December 18 — 5:30 Cocktails, 6:30 Dinner, **Chapter Christmas Party** at the **Rhinelander Café &**

Pub. Come join the fun and rekindle friendships and share your trout fishing memories from the past year.

January 17 — Spend an afternoon with **Ross Mueller**, 1:00-4:00 p.m., **Claridge Motor Inn, Rhinelander**. Author of *Upper Midwest Flies That Catch Trout* and *Fly Fishing Midwestern Trout Streams*, **Ross** will present slide programs entitled "Early Spring Hatches" that illustrates major insect hatches found on Wisconsin streams and "A 500 Mile Tour of Wisconsin Trout Streams" that highlights streams such as the **Brule**, **Wolf**, **Waupaca**, **Mecan** and the **Southwestern Coulee Streams**. The cost for this event will be \$10.00 per person.

March 13 — Chapter fly tying session at the **Claridge Motor Inn in Rhinelander**, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Bring your tools or use ours, the Chapter will supply materials. Learn secret patterns from your fellow **TUers** or just polish up and get ready for the new season. Lunch will be provided by the chapter.

April 27 — The chapter's **30th Annual Conservation Banquet** will be held on April 27 at the **Rhinelander Café & Pub**. The best conservation banquet in the Northwoods! Look for future announcements. Banquet organiza-

tional meetings will be held at 7:00 pm, on January 8, February 12, March 11, and April 8 at **MSA Professional Services** in Rhinelander.

July 10, 2004 — **11th Annual Youth Fly Fishing Conclave**. This is our chapter's **FREE** fly fishing event for boys and girls ages 10 to 16. Learn how to cast a fly rod and tie a fly. **FFF** fly casting instructors, great prizes, and just a great day to learn the basics about this method of catching fish.

Stream work days on the **Bearskin River** are scheduled for:

- April 17,
- May 1, and
- May 22.

Come see what we've done and share the enjoyment of seeing your efforts really improve this quality trout stream.

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. Check the chapter web site at www.northwoodstu.org or contact **Brian Hegge** at (715) 362-9611 or bhegge@newnorth.net for up-to-date meeting schedules or changes.

—Brian Hegge

Ojibseau Chapter

Plans are underway to continue stream improvement on **Gilbert Creek**. This year's successful work period included bringing together a number of **TU** chapters, local sportsman's groups, and the area **DNR**. We also had continued success in gaining access rights to parts of **Elk Creek**.

Winter projects and meetings are set, with rod building in January and fly tying in February and March.

Upcoming meeting presentations include:

- December — **Jim Radke** and **Jeff Hastings** discussing conservation in **Vernon County**;
- January — **Jim Motoviloff**, author of *The Fly Fisher's Guide to Wisconsin*;
- March — Wisconsin **DNR** personnel night.

—Dan Perkins

Wild Rivers Chapter

In October, **Scott Toshner**, **WDNR** fish biologist, talked about the year's work on the **White River** and its tributaries. Our chapter assisted with a population census on the **White** and the **Long Branch** of the **White**. The populations are stable but are still down from the last census taken in the 1980s. We will be doing the same shocking again next year to establish more data. **Scott** should have a final report written up this winter.

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.

The **Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute** also presented a program for our chapter at the November meeting on the findings of the **Bay-**

field Stream Assessment. This assessment was conducted to assess the health of five Bayfield County watersheds including, **Whittlesey Creek**, **Sioux River**, **Raspberry River**, **Bark River**, and **Cranberry River**. Information was gathered on each stream, such as channel stability, bank erosion, the quantity and quality of fish habitat and other characteristics. The recommendations include restoration on headwaters of streams, repair culverts that impair fish passage, stream channel and bank stabilization, enhance forestry best management practices, and encourage conservation easements.

We began working on the **Second Annual White River Fishing Expo and Auction**, which will be held on April 10 in Ashland. This is our main fundraiser of the year to enable us to assist the **WDNR** with their work on the **White River**. Any donations of new or used equipment would be appreciated.

—Bill Heart

Wisconsin River Valley Chapter

Chapter stream project work in 2003 covered 6,100 feet of rehabilitation work on the **Plover River** in Marathon County above the **Village of Bevent**. The second half of the project will include 4,900 feet and will be completed in 2004. This will complete all major rehabilitation

work on the **Plover** planned at this time.

In the summer of 2004, our chapter will also see the start of a two-year project on the **Prairie River** above the city of **Merrill** below Highway C. The second half of this

Chapter News



project is scheduled for completion in 2005.

This past summer the DNR and our chapter once again had the opportunity to work with students from two area high schools. They included **Wausau East** students from their chemistry, physics, biology, and environmental systems classes, and **Edgar High School** students from an advanced physics class. The students do water quality studies, and they gather aquatic specimens that are identified and returned to

the river alive. The highlight of the day is the fish shocking demo by the DNR. It gives the students a chance to see the trout up close. It is a hit with the students. The day also gives both the DNR and TU a chance to explain our roles on the rebuilding of the river. The chapter is going to invite the students to come to one of our meetings and put on a program of their findings and thoughts about this joint program.

—Herb Hintze

Wolf River Chapter

During the past year the Chapter continued its opposition to the ever-increasing exploitation threats on the waters of the upper Wolf River watershed. After 20 of countless hours of gathering and studying factual information on the proposed **Crandon Mine** in the headwaters of the Wolf River, traveling many thousands of miles attending mine meetings across the state, at their own time and expense, in our attempts to disseminate the historical adverse effects of high-sulfide ore metallic mining on rivers and building a statewide coalition of concerned citizen groups and Native American tribes, we finally and per-

manently ended that lethal threat to the upper Wolf River.

On October 28, 2003, the **Forest County Potawatomi Community** and the **Sokaogon Chippewa Community Mole Lake Band** bought the mine and its mineral rights, including the Nicolet Minerals Company, the applicant of the 10-year-long mine permitting process. On October 30, 2003, the Mole Lake Band, now NMC, notified the state and the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers to **terminate the permitting process!** Thus, the Native American tribes did, for all persons in the upper Wolf River watershed, what our state and federal government would not do — they terminated the cer-

tain long-term degradation of our surface and groundwaters from sulfide ore metallic mining.

For chapter members involved, this has been a long and serious education of dubious state government and the actual commitment of conservation and environmental groups to their stated purposes. The effective methods which we have learned are being passed on to the "Front Forty," a citizen group in Menominee County, in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, which is organized to oppose a mining exploitation there, similar to the Crandon mine threat. Our VP **George Rock** is to be recognized and commended for his work with that group.

Chapter members attended all local meeting on the conversion of the **Trouthaven Hatchery** to the high-capacity sale of spring water for bottling, from the headwaters of our trout streams, for personal profit. We hold that the groundwaters belong to the people of our state, collectively, for their personal needs and domestic uses. They should not be extracted and sold for personal profit. The chapter is a party with others in a suit against the state to protect the people's rights.

We are also involved in a suit to compel the DNR to fulfill their responsibility of writing rules clarify-

ing the implementation of the **Mining Moratorium Law** and also the law specifying the qualifications required by any party intending to initiate a mine permit.

During the past year we continued our beaver removal from the **Wolf River** and its feeder streams. We also worked with the **Lanlade County Waterways Assn.** on a purple loostrike eradication program. As an experiment of a non-chemical method of killing it, members with propane torches burned the plants on an island in a heavily infested area of the Wolf River, below the ledge. We will evaluate the results next year.

Three chapter members assisted the **Gardner Dam Scout Camp** in providing trout fishing classes in which over 100 scouts participated to earn merit awards. It included fly casting techniques, rods and supplies, fly tying, and reading the waters.

As a member of the **Wisconsin Stewardship Network**, the chapter will have delegates attending its spring conference.

Chapter officers are:
Herb Buettner — President
George Rock — Vice President
Genie Buettner — Secretary/Treasurer

—Herb Buettner



WITU Looking Back

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

Publicity Committee Report

Co-chairman Susie Isaksen reported the ad sales program for the WIS. TU Quarterly Report was becoming too expensive and time-consuming for the individuals who solicited ads and that there were not enough regular advertisers to support the Quarterly as several had dropped out. Also, Susie pointed out that since the Action Line could carry expanded articles on Wisconsin TU projects and issues, there was no longer a need for an elaborate Quarterly (hence this publication put out by Susie and Nash Williams).

The Central Wisconsin Chapter reported plans to start a new professional style newsletter with advertising.

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

WISCONSIN T.U. RECEIVES "PRESIDENT'S AWARD"

The Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited is pleased to announce that it has been informed by Ben Dysart, President of the National Wildlife Federation, that the Wisconsin Council will be one of sixteen recipients in 1984 of the N.W.F. "President's Award". These awards are given out annually to the top 16 state affiliate award winners in the previous year (as you may remember, Wisconsin T.U. was named "Conservation Organization of the Year" by the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation in 1983). The award was given to Wisconsin T.U. for its impressive achievement in coldwater resource conservation over the past twelve years. The award will be presented to the State Council on Saturday, April 28th, at the 36th Annual Wisconsin Wildlife Federation meeting at the Pioneer Inn in Oshkosh, WI.

From the Winter, 1994, Wisconsin Trout...

Early trout season to continue through 1994

Wisconsin's "early" trout season that begins January 1 in eight southwestern Wisconsin counties (Columbia, Crawford, Grant, Green, Iowa, Lafayette, Richland and Sauk) will continue through 1994.

However, the Department of Natural Resources says that a question on the questionnaire for the April Conservation Congress fish and game hearings will ask attendees whether or not that "early" season should continue.

The DNR fisheries bureau will make recommendations to the Natural Resources Board, the governing body

of the DNR, on the fate of the "early" season based upon the vote at the Congress hearings in mid-1994.

The "early" season has come under increasing criticism over the years, mainly from anglers living in the eight counties where the "early" season exists. Excessive harvest of larger trout and overexploitation of the resource have been the primary complaints about the "early" season, as well as the fact that so few counties are in the "early" season, thus focusing so much pressure on a limited resource.

A Wisconsin Trout reprint

Aldo Leopold's contribution to fly fishing

By Harry L. Peterson

Fly fishing has a long and well-documented history. Some of our country's best-regarded novelists and essayists have been part of our sport and have written about it eloquently. Others have written about the technical aspects of fly fishing and fly tying. Such texts give us a way to learn and to remember those who have contributed so much to our sport.

In spite of this profusion of writing on fly fishing, there is little recognition of the work of an individual who may have contributed the most: Aldo Leopold, arguably the most important conservationist of the twentieth century. Leopold's writings and teachings are responsible for helping preserve and restore many of our favorite and most beautiful places to fish. Reading Aldo Leopold enhances our appreciation of our sport and of those beautiful places.

Aldo Leopold (1887-1948) was born and grew up in the small town of Burlington, Iowa. In 1909, he received his master's degree from the Yale School of Forestry. He began his professional career in the U.S. Forest Service, where he was instrumental in the establishment of New Mexico's Gila Wilderness Area, the first in the nation. In 1933, Leopold became the first professor of wildlife management at the University of Wisconsin and established the Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Units, institutions that bring research scientists to our states' land-grant universities. He was also a founder of both the Wilderness and Wildlife Societies. But most people know him best for a collection of his thoughts and observations on the environment. His book, *A Sand County Almanac*, published in 1949 shortly after his death, is an enduring contribution to conservation and environmental literature.

In prescribing a dramatically different relationship between people and land, Leopold challenged assumptions American settlers brought from Europe that land, plants, and animals were on earth solely to serve people, and that their value should be measured only in economic terms. His writings continue to challenge our long-held assumptions about our relationship with the land, assigning to us an ethical responsibility to use the land wisely. Leopold wrote:

*All ethics so far evolved rest upon a single premise: that the individual is a member of a community of interdependent parts. His instincts prompt him to compete for his place in that community, but his ethics prompt him also to co-operate (perhaps in order that there may be a place to compete for) The land ethic simply enlarges the boundaries of the community to include soils, waters, plants and animals, or collectively: the land.*¹

Leopold asked us to consider our relationship to the land: "It is inconceivable to me that an ethical relation to land can exist without love, respect and admiration for land,

and a high regard for its value. By value, I of course mean something far broader than mere economic value; I mean value in the philosophical sense."²

We might compare Aldo Leopold's contribution to our views of the world with Copernicus's view of the universe, for they are of a similar magnitude. Before Copernicus, everyone thought the sun revolved around the earth. Copernicus discovered and declared that, in fact, the earth revolved around the sun. After Copernicus, the sun and the earth continued to behave as they have for all time, but we could never view the universe in the same way.

Wallace Stegner, one of the most respected writers on the environment in the twentieth century, said of Leopold's work: "When this forming civilization assembles its Bible, its record of the physical and spiritual pilgrimage of the American people, the account of its stewardship in the Land of Canaan, *A Sand County Almanac* will belong in it, one of the prophetic books, the utterance of an American Isaiah."³ Leopold contributes to people who devote their professional lives to understanding the environment and conservation, as well as those, like this author, for whom experiences in fields and streams are an essential part of our lives.

We cannot understand a stream or lake without understanding the environment in which it exists. If we understand and accept Leopold's ideas, we can never see the land in the same way again. We also understand that we cannot improve the fishery without considering the ecosystem. Because Leopold is responsible for much of the development of the concept of conservation — as well as the concept of the interdependence and connectedness of plants, animals, water, and people — he brought together issues that were formerly viewed as separate and disparate. If today this idea seems obvious, it is because the ideas of Aldo Leopold helped us acquire that understanding. He wrote at a time when these connections were not well understood or accepted.

Restoration and protection

Aldo Leopold developed ways to restore damaged land, which he tested in several places in Wisconsin. These restoration projects are models that have utility everywhere and are being applied throughout the world.

In 1934, at the University of Wisconsin Arboretum, Leopold began to restore 500 acres of former farmland to its original prairies. The experiment continues today, with a flourishing prairie within the urban area of Madison, Wisconsin. This seminal experiment has had an enormous impact on our understanding of plant communities and ecological restoration, inspiring similar restorations around the country. Governments, individuals, and even churches have undertaken prairie restoration, and remnant virgin prairies are being preserved through purchases and protective covenants.

Leopold bought a farm that was abused and worn out in the Central



ALDO LEOPOLD TAKING A FEW HOME

Some of the most famous lines in Leopold's *A Sand County Almanac* are those relating to his time fly fishing for trout.

Sands area of Wisconsin. He and his family began the slow, arduous reclaiming of the land through the planting of trees and native grasses. Today the farm and what he referred to as "the shack" — a chicken coop on the property that he converted to a weekend cabin — is visited by thousands of people from throughout the world and serves as a continuing experiment and study of restoration.

In 1931, Leopold organized a group of fellow hunters and, in cooperation with some farmers in south-central Wisconsin, organized the Riley Game Cooperative. The farmers made their land available, and the hunters contributed labor and increased plantings to provide pheasant food and winter cover. The number of wild pheasants increased because of the improved habitat. When Leopold became a professor at the University of Wisconsin, the Riley Game Cooperative provided a place for research by him and his students.⁴

Several projects in which Leopold was involved improved trout streams. In the early 1930s, Leopold was an advisor on a project to restore the Coon Valley watershed in southwestern Wisconsin. This area, one of the most beautiful in Wisconsin, is unglaciated, or "driftless." Its hills and valleys were eroding from intensive tilling and dairy herd grazing, and its forests were eroding

from indiscriminate cutting. The federal Soil Erosion Service, now the National Resources Conservation Service, undertook projects to restore the area and to advise cooperating farmers on practices to protect the land. In reflecting on this project, Leopold wrote: "A diagnostic policy of the Coon Valley staff is its steadfast refusal to straighten streams. To those who know the speech of the hills and rivers, straightening a stream is like shipping vagrants — a very successful method of passing trouble from one place to the next."⁵ Today Coon Valley is a model of early restoration efforts, and its spring creeks are among the best trout streams in the state.⁶

In the 1940s, a private group of fly fishermen asked Leopold for advice on improving Mt. Vernon Creek. Located about 20 miles southwest of Madison, Wisconsin, this stream has received national attention because of its quality.⁷ It was created by the confluence of two small creeks, and the main stream is fed by a spring producing about 3,000 gallons of water per minute. The roughly 8-mile stream consists of a variety of runs and pools, providing good holding water for trout. In the fall, trout create redds for spawning in the numerous gravel riffles.

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Continued from p. 14

Like most Midwestern spring creeks, its native fish were brook trout. Brown trout were introduced from Germany in the 1880s. Browns, rainbows, and brook trout were stocked from about 1905 until 1979. The creek has not been stocked since that time; brown trout are naturally reproducing at present. During the last several years, wild brook trout were reintroduced in the feeder streams and are flourishing. Catch-and-release restrictions are in effect for a 2-mile stretch.

Almost all of the property through which Mt. Vernon Creek flows is owned or leased by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Because of its high quality, the stream has received special attention from this state agency and private conservation groups. Since 1953, it has been improved by the of the Department of Natural Resources, Madison school groups, and private conservation organizations (including the Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited chapter), all under the review and approval of the Department of Natural Resources.⁸ Leopold advised the anglers:

In the Southwest I have seen many a mountain stream which carried trout when stockmen arrived in the 1880s, become a dry rockpile, wet only during floods, at the present time.

Our Wisconsin trout streams will never experience so radical a change because our rains and our soils are gentler. But all streams, including ours, deteriorate for the same causes:

1. Overgrazing, especially of steep slopes.
2. Exhaustion of organic matter in the soil.

Both have the same effect: They allow the rain to run off instead of sinking in.

It is not within the power of fishermen to rebuild the soils of Wisconsin, but they can do a lot of good by rebuilding the streambank itself. At least they can show the public a few samples of what a "civilized" streambank ought to look like.

My advice is: let's build our samples on headwaters, for floods are less severe there, and there is less chance of their washing out plantings and fences. Plantings in plowland need not be fenced, but plantings in pastures must be. Stick to native trees and shrubs, especially those found elsewhere on the same stream. Be careful not to choke the flood channel with tall trees on both banks; this may cause the creek to move elsewhere. Do not plant tall trees on banks which undercut; they may pry off chunks of bank and thus accelerate erosion. Do not put expensive plantings vulnerable to rabbits near rabbit cover.⁹

In Wisconsin, through the restoration of watersheds and stream habitat, the number of streams where wild trout thrive and reproduce has steadily increased. These improvements have replaced artificial propagation and annual fish stocking with stream and habitat protection and restoration.

Wildlife management

Leopold brought a scientific perspective to what had been until then a haphazard, mostly guesswork approach to hunting and fishing regulation and management. He insisted on the same standards for his students to which he held himself. They

first acquired facts and then applied those facts to develop understanding and plans of action. These early graduates of the University of Wisconsin's wildlife management program did not forget those lessons, and many made major contributions to their fields during their careers.

As the University of Wisconsin's first professor of wildlife management, Leopold helped to establish and apply scientific understanding to the profession of game management. His book, *Game Management*, published in 1933, is the seminal work in the field.¹⁰ It is a benchmark contribution, still in print, and used today both in the classroom and in the field.

Stanley Temple, a professor in the department of wildlife ecology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, which succeeded the department of wildlife management that Leopold founded, writes: "The science of wildlife management was just beginning to take shape under Leopold's intellectual leadership, and no trained professionals worked yet in the field. That is, there were no professionals in the field until 1933, when Leopold began training them in his revolutionary program at the University of Wisconsin, using as a text his just published *Game Management*, the world's first book on the subject.... In the conservation world of the day, a niche was open for Leopold to occupy, and he stepped into it with authority."¹¹

Fly fishers owe a great debt to the professionalizing of the state and federal agencies that regulate our sport. Increasingly, these agencies are staffed with college-trained professionals who understand that the focus should be on maintaining and restoring ecosystems, rather than simply stocking fields with more birds and streams with more fish. Leopold's influence was deep and is continuing. Natural resources managers were asked to identify the three most important sources of information for their careers. Ninety percent of them named *A Sand County Almanac*.¹²

Bringing about change

Aldo Leopold's *A Sand County Almanac* — especially its "Land Ethic" section — as well as his other writings are, in the best sense of the word, political. They not only afford us an understanding of our natural world, but they are also calls to individual and collective action. Because his insights are deep and enduring, as well as clear and understandable, Leopold's teachings have been used to advance his ideas of land health, which he defined as the land's capacity for "self renewal."


A Sand County Almanac is Leopold's most celebrated and widely read work, and more than two million copies have been sold. Leopold also wrote many publications for farmers, foresters, landowners, game management professionals, and conservationists. But writing was not the only way in which he made an impact. His most public, political contribution was his service as a board member on Wisconsin's Conservation Commission from 1943 until his death in 1948.

During the time he was a member of that commission, regulation of deer hunting and the number of deer that could be harvested by Wisconsin hunters was a major issue — as it sometimes is today — there and in other states. Leopold conducted research in northern Wisconsin and saw deer in that part of the state that were underweight and starving because there were more deer than the forage could support.

Continued on p. 16


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FLY FISHING EDUCATION DESTINATIONS CONSERVATION

LEOPOLD: contributions to fly fishing

Continued from p. 13

Wolves, the natural predators of deer, had been eliminated from Wisconsin, the result of hunting and a bounty for their removal. Mild winters resulting in an increase in the deer herd, followed by severe winters reducing the availability of forage, caused starvation. Leopold saw hunting as a way to regulate the number of deer and to keep the herd healthy.

Leopold argued for an increase in the number of deer that hunters could kill to address the reduced availability of food. He faced strong opposition from the staff within the Conservation Commission, other commissioners, news media, and deer hunters who were concerned that the deer herd would be depleted. He regularly lost those efforts on 5 to 2 votes, having persuaded only one other commissioner that increasing the harvest of deer would be effective. Although these issues continue to be of concern among deer hunters, regulating deer hunting to modify the herd is now universally accepted among professional game managers.¹³

Although conflicts continue between anglers and hunters and professional fish and game managers over the management of fish and wildlife, managers have become more sophisticated in their efforts and hunters have become more accepting of their recommendations. Fishery management by state and federal fish and game agencies has evolved from an exclusive focus on hatcheries and stocking to an emphasis on understanding stream and lake habitat and ecosystems to foster natural reproduction of native

and wild species. Leopold offered sophisticated, informed choices for policy makers through his writing and his courses, and through his personal involvement in developing and enacting natural resource policy.

A way of seeing and understanding

Virtually every dedicated fly fisher has said that catching fish, and as many as possible, was the initial goal, but that over the years fishing became something more. Describing that experience is difficult, and only a few succeed. Most writings are overwrought and sentimental, and their meanings, while earnest, are often significant only to the writer. By contrast, science writing is precise, rigorous, and unambiguous. Rarely can the same author write well about both science and personal experience. Aldo Leopold accomplished this difficult task, perhaps better than anyone else.

He knew that an experience with nature is at once intellectual, scientific, aesthetic, and emotional. The best writing involves all of those senses and is evocative and intuitive. Just as an experience in nature is unique, reading about nature should provide its own experience and be evocative and personal. Leopold wrote about his deep love of the outdoors and nature in a way that is compelling without being sentimental.

A few of our best contemporary fly-fishing writers, in describing the complexity of what it means to fish, convey the challenge for angling writers. John Gierach observed: "...flyfishing is solitary, contemplative, misanthropic, scientific in some hands, poetic in others, and laced with conflicting aesthetic considerations. It is not even clear if catching fish is actually the point."¹⁴ And Paul Schullery says: "Fishing is a quest for knowledge and wonder as much as a pursuit of fish; it is as much an acquaintance with beavers, dippers, and other fishermen as it is the challenge of catching trout."¹⁵ For me, fishing connects the present with what sometimes seems like a distant past. The change has been from worms to flies and from an old steel casting rod on lakes and little brook trout streams in northern Minnesota to expensive graphite rods on famous rivers. What has not changed, fifty years later, is the feeling at the moment that I have fooled the fish into striking.



CENTRAL WORK ON THE WHITE RIVER

Members of the Central Wisconsin Chapter did some brushing on one of their area's premier hex waters, the White River near Wautoma.

Leopold made a significant contribution to the literature of fly fishing with "The Alder Fork," a short essay in *A Sand County Almanac*, his only published writing on fly fishing:¹⁶

In the fresh of the morning, when a hundred whitethroats had forgotten it would ever again be anything but sweet and cool, I climbed down the dewy bank and stepped into the Alder Fork. A trout was rising just upstream. I paid out some line wishing it would always stay thus soft and dry and, measuring the distance with a false cast or two, laid down a spent gnat exactly a foot above his last swirl. Forgotten now were the hot miles, the mosquitoes, the ignominious chub. He took it with one great gulp, and shortly I could hear him kicking in the bed of wet alder leaves at the bottom of the creel....

I shall now confess to you that none of those three trout had to be beheaded, or folded double, to fit their casket. What was big was not the trout, but the chance. What was full was not my creel, but my memory.

17

An attitude toward the sport Leopold's completed writings were eloquent documents with an economy of style. The Leopold archives contain records of his meticulous data collection, observations, and research. Drafts in progress reveal repeated re-writing. In an unpublished essay that was still being reworked, Leopold applied the concept of the land ethic to the responsibilities of anglers and hunters. He anticipated the evolving role of the sportsman as more than a food gatherer, an idea that continues to develop. This unpublished essay is titled "What Is a Sportsman?" In fragments of this early draft,

he says: "A sportsman is a hunter or fisherman who combines his intense enthusiasm for the hunt,¹⁸ with decent respect for man and nature. As his skill increases, he realizes that the power to destroy carries with it the responsibility to conserve. As his skill increases, he reduces his armament rather than enlarge his bag."¹⁹ And in another draft:

*He respects himself
He has respect for the land and its owner
He has respect for the game
He has respect for nature
He has respect for the future²⁰*

Aldo Leopold's writings are a call to action and an invitation to contemplation. They have meaning for fly fishers because in describing what he experienced in nature, Leopold evokes insights into our own experiences. Leopold lived most of his life in the first half of the twentieth century. He offered advice, insights, and scientific understandings that continue to be important for those of us who live in the twenty-first.

(This story first appeared in the Fall 2003 issue of *The American Fly Fisher*, the quarterly journal of the American Museum of Fly Fishing. -ed)

ENDNOTES

1. Aldo Leopold, *A Sand County Almanac* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1949), 203-04, 204.
2. Ibid., 223. For an examination of the philosophical roots of Leopold's ideas, see Roderick Nash, "Aldo Leopold's Intellectual Heritage," in J. Baird Callicott, ed., *A Companion to A Sand County Almanac* (Madison, Wis.: University of Wisconsin Press, 1987), 63-88.
3. Wallace Stegner, "The Legacy of Aldo Leopold," *A Companion to A Sand County Almanac*, 233.
4. Aldo Leopold, "History of the Riley Game Cooperative 1931-1939," *Journal of Wildlife Management* (July 1940, vol. 4, no. 3), 291-302.
5. Aldo Leopold, "Coon Valley: An Adventure in Cooperative Conservation," *American Forests* (May 1935, vol. 41, no. 5), 205-08, 208.
6. Malcolm Clark, "America's 100 Best Trout Streams," *Trout* (Spring 1989, vol. 30, no. 2), 68-69.
7. Mt. Vernon Creek was featured on the cover of *Fly Fisherman* (July/August 1979, vol. 10, no. 7) and is included in J. R. Humphrey, "Wisconsin's Unknown Spring Creeks," *Fly Fisherman* (September 1987, vol. 18, no. 6), 31-36, 66-68.
8. South Central Region, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Fitchburg, Wisconsin, Mt. Vernon Creek files.
9. Aldo Leopold, "Sick Trout Streams," 14 April 1944, Leopold Archives, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Steenbock Library, 9/25/10-6, Box 16.
10. Aldo Leopold, *Game Management* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1933).
11. Stanley Temple, "Afterword," in Leopold, *For the Health of the Land*, 228.
12. Richard L. Knight and Suzanne Reidel, "Introduction," in Richard L. Knight and Suzanne Reidel, eds., *Aldo Leopold and the Ecological Conscience* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002), 4.
13. Susan Flader, *Thinking Like a Mountain: Aldo Leopold and the Evolution of an Ecological Attitude toward Deer, Wolves, and Forests* (Madison, Wis.: University of Wisconsin Press, 1974). For a review of this issue from a long-term perspective, see Dale McCullough, "North American Deer Ecology: Fifty Years Later," in Thomas Tanner, ed., *Aldo Leopold: The Man and His Legacy* (Ankeny, Iowa: Soil and Water Conservation Society, 1995), 115-22.
14. John Gierach, *Dances with Trout* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1994), 178.
15. Paul Schullery, *Mountain Time* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1984), 30.
16. Leopold's only other writing about trout was an unpublished presentation in 1917, advising game managers to stock only one species of trout in a stream. "Mixing Trout in Western Waters," paper for American Fisheries Society, 47th Annual Meeting, St. Paul, Minnesota, 29 August 1917, Leopold Archives, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Steenbock Library, 9/25/10-6, Box 16.
17. Leopold, *A Sand County Almanac*, 37-38, 40. Aldo Leopold's bamboo rod is owned by the American Museum of Fly Fishing, and his reel is owned by the Department of Wildlife Ecology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. "The Alder Fork" was written in the early 1930s, and Leopold was using a silk line.
18. Leopold's draft included several other word choices—"game, wild things, the chase"—making clear he had not yet made a decision.
19. Aldo Leopold, "What Is a Sportsman?," undated draft, Leopold Archives, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Steenbock Library, 9/25/10-6, Box 16.
20. Ibid.

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Writer Michael Furtman keynote speaker

WSN conference to honor tribes, explore rollbacks

The Wisconsin Stewardship Network's annual conference Feb. 6-7 at UW-Stevens Point will feature a ceremony thanking the two tribes that recently purchased the Cranston Mine and a forum exploring the recent trend toward legislative rollbacks and retrenchments.

Tribal thank-you awards

The WSN has engaged native American artist Jeff Savage to build two tabletop statues for the awards.

Either Gov. Jim Doyle or Lt. Gov. Barbara Lawton will make the presentations on behalf of the state of Wisconsin, groups, and individuals to Mole Lake Sokaogon Chippewa Chair Sandra Rachal and Forest County Potawatomi Chair Gus Frank.

Groups and individuals are being asked to contribute toward the purchase of the awards to show their appreciation to the tribes. Whoever

contributes will have their names engraved in three places — on the bases of both awards and on a tile at

tor of the WI Wildlife Federation, • **Steve Hiniker**, executive director



Furtman



La Follette



Meyer



Hiniker



Scanlan

TU chapter fundraising roundtable set for Feb. 7

Wisconsin TU chapters are invited to send two representatives each to a roundtable discussion on chapter fundraising methods Feb. 7 in Oshkosh.

Laura Hewitt, TU's Midwest Conservation Director, will moderate the discussion from 3-5 p.m. at the Park Plaza Conference Center.

Chapter members who attend will receive a FREE ticket to the 19th annual State Council Banquet that same evening.

The fundraising session will look at the variety of methods TU chapters in Wisconsin use to raise money for habitat projects. These include:

- annual banquets,
- chapter auctions,
- raffles, and
- spring creek festivals to mention just a few.

Publicity, complimentary tickets, choice of venue, types of speakers, and celebrity hosts are some of the tools that may work for you.

Chapters confident that they have their own methods honed to a fine point should send representatives to share their techniques with others.

Other chapters considering ways to raise more money should also send members to discuss their experience and get ideas on how to tweak their events and increase their net profit.

To sign up for this fundraising session, call Laura Hewitt at (608) 250-6354 or e-mail her at lhewitt@tu.org. Please register by Jan. 30.

The Park Plaza Conference Center is at 1 North Main St. in downtown Oshkosh.

the Mole Lake tribe's new administration building. Contact the WSN for donation details at (608) 268-1218.

Friday rollbacks forum

Another conference highlight will be a Friday evening forum focusing on the recent trend at both the state and federal level toward environmental and conservation rollbacks and retrenchments.

Heading the panel are nationally acclaimed writer Michael Furtman and Wisconsin Secretary of State Doug La Follette. They are joined by:

- **George Meyer**, former WDNR Secretary and now Exec. Direc-

of 1000 Friends of Wisconsin, and

- **Melissa Scanlan**, executive director of Midwest Environmental Advocates.

TU members are entitled to register for the conference at the reduced member rate given the State Council is a member group within the WSN.

The WSN is a statewide umbrella organization serving the networking, capacity building, and advocacy needs of Wisconsin sporting, conservation, environmental, and other groups working to protect Wisconsin's natural resources. More information is available at www.wsn.org.

“Fly Fish Wisconsin” March 27 in Sheboygan

The Lakeshore Chapter of Trout Unlimited and the Helen Shaw Chapter of the Federation of Fly Fishers are teaming up to present a day-long “Fly Fish Wisconsin” event March 27 at Lutheran High School in Sheboygan.

- Fly Fish Wisconsin will feature:
- seminars by Steve Nelson, Glen Winston, and John Beth,
 - a series of pattern-specific workshops by regional fly tying experts on how to tie dozens of fly patterns, and
 - sessions on fishing, fly casting, fly tying material preparation, and trout stream restoration.

Free featured presentations include a 10:00 a.m. session by Steve

Nelson on steelhead and salmon fishing using two-handed rods, a 1:30 p.m. presentation by Glen “Mr. Beadhead” Winston on how to nymph fish with beadheads, and a 3:00 p.m. session by John Beth on methods for catching lake-run fish.

Workshops vary in length from two to four hours. Morning workshops begin at 8:30. Afternoon workshops start at 1:00.

Table and booth space is available for exhibitors.

Admission is just \$3 or \$5 at the door. There are added charges for special workshops.

For more information, contact Ray Larson at (920) 458-4021 or mlarson@excel.net.

Conservation buyer program links trout water sellers, buyers

Anyone who is interested in buying land with trout water on it, or has land with trout water on it that they would like to sell, should contact Jim Hlaban.

If you want to sell your land but are concerned that it could be developed, this program is for you. Jim is trying to put together conservation buyers who pledge to be good stewards of land from sellers who are interested in selling but want their land preserved.

There are, of course, no expressed warranties with this program, but we all know that Trout Unlimited members are true to their word.

If you are interested, contact Jim at Wispr@Wolfnet.net or (920) 244-7456, or write him at:

N5967 Murray Road
Ogdensburg, WI 54962

Include as much information as you can.

Sellers: note where your land is and give as complete a description as possible, including the price and whether there is a conservation easement on the property or is if one required for the sale. A conservation easement can guarantee that the property is never developed or can restrict its development. If you want more information about this tool, Jim can supply that.

Buyers: let Jim know what you are looking for. It is most important that you note what counties you would consider property in or how far from your location you would consider traveling.

Welter, KRLT honored by RAW


John “Duke” Welter and the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust (KRLT) were honored at the River Alliance of Wisconsin's 10th anniversary awards dinner Nov. 15 in Madison.




Welter and the KRLT were named “local guardians” for their



outstanding conservation work on behalf of Wisconsin's rivers over a period of 10 years.

Welter is the past chair of the State Council of Trout Unlimited. KRLT has worked with the Kiap-TU-Wish chapter on temperature monitoring and other efforts.

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Nohr finds many partners for Iowa County project

Big Spring Creek restoration a team effort

By Pete Esser

Good things happen when players unite around a common objective and then marshal their resources and energies in pursuit of the goal. This is exactly what happened in the case of the Big Spring Creek restoration project under the overall leadership of the Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter.

stream is cold. This is brook trout water, and this is a brook trout restoration project.

To achieve the desired outcome, a significant amount of rock has been utilized to accelerate the flow, to

Seven TU chapters, the Wisconsin TU State Council, National TU Embrace-a-Stream, and the Wisconsin DNR have teamed to give Southwest WI its first "exemplary coldwater restoration project."

Seven TU chapters, the Wisconsin TU State Council, National TU Embrace-a-Stream, and the Wisconsin DNR have teamed their collective financial and physical resources to give Southwest Wisconsin its first exemplary coldwater restoration project.

Big Spring Creek is located in Iowa County about two miles west of the Village of Highland in a remote valley and flows through state-owned public property. The

produce the riffle-pool-riffle sequence and to provide mid-stream cover.

The results are technically correct, environmentally sound, and esthetically pleasing.

Fisheries Supervisor Dave



BEFORE AND AFTER
Here a stretch of Big Spring Creek by a tree (above) is narrowed to create a series of riffles and pools (right).



BEAUTIFUL WATER IN SCENIC COUNTRY

Big Spring Creek is a picturesque stream (left and below) in Iowa County. (right).

Vetrano and his crew consisting of Craig Erickson, Todd Mathison, Cale Severson, Dave Hobbs, and Steve Fauver have done a remarkable job — they would win a blue ribbon if blue ribbons were awarded for such work. We owe Dave a big vote of thanks for his involvement in this project.

We also are grateful to Gordon Stevenson, Scot Stewart, and Tim Larson of the DNR who were instrumental in keeping the project on track and moving forward.

Without funding from our State Council, Embrace-A-Stream, the Besadny Foundation, the Madison Fishing Expo, Lands End, Wal-Mart, and the Wisconsin DNR, the project would not have been possible.

Our TU chapter partners were there with volunteer labor and funds when we needed them. Those project partners include the Elliott Donnelley, Oak Brook, Lee Wulff, and Gary Borger chapters in Illinois.

Our Wisconsin partners are the Blackhawk and Southern Wisconsin chapters.

The Big Spring project was a successful common effort for a common cause. Gratitude? You bet — big-time gratitude to all those who contributed in any way to make this project a success.

Nohr Chapter members are especially proud to have taken the lead in initiating the project and in involving Dave Vetrano away from his usual work area.

FORMER CHAIR LANDS A RECORD

Former WITU State Council Chair Bill Sherer holds a 45-inch musky he is registering with the IGFA as the new 16# test line class world record. The musky had a 21" girth and weighed 21 pounds. It was taken on a Boulder Junction-area lake on October 18.



Great Waters Fly Expo April 2-4 in Minneapolis

The Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo will be held April 2, 3, 4, 2004, at the Radisson South in Minneapolis.

It is the first major fly fishing show to take place in the Upper Midwest. More importantly, it is the first fly fishing show anywhere to include as a major part of its message a call for individual stewardship and protection of our streams, rivers, and lakes.

With programming that is contemporary and adventure-oriented, this Expo will reach out to a new generation of outdoor and water sports enthusiasts. The organizers' goal is to celebrate our sport, but also to convince anglers that they must practice an active and enlightened stewardship to preserve and protect the waters they fish.

There will be presentations on imminent environmental dangers — global warming, corporate farming, unwise development, acid precipitation and storm water runoff/imperious surfaces — and others from grassroots rivers groups on their efforts to protect their home waters.

The Great Waters Expo has received a warm reception from the fly fishing industry, and organizers expect as many as 100 commercial exhibitors.

The conservation community from around the Midwest also has responded. Rivers groups, land trusts, Trout Unlimited, the Izaak

Walton League, the Federation of Fly Fishing, the Smallmouth Alliance, the Friends of the Boundary Waters, and others will be represented.

Gary Borger, western river guide Kelly Galloup, and smallmouth expert Tim Holschlag are headliners. The Expo will include non-stop fly casting instruction for all levels of expertise, with demonstrations/instruction by Gary Borger, fly-casting champion Tim Rajeff, and renowned casting instructors Dorothy Schramm of Michigan and Bob Nasby of Minnesota.

There will be fly tying demonstrations, a Fly Tiers' Row featuring many of the Midwest's most acclaimed tiers, a Camp Fly Fish for youngsters and families organized by the Minnesota DNR's MinnAqua program (the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is partnering with the Expo) and an exhibit by the American Museum of Fly Fishing.

In addition to fly casting and fly tying, there will be classes in fly fishing techniques and tactics, entomology, "how to dress for the weather," and presentations on fly fishing adventures from Alaska to the Timber Coulee.

The Expo's web site is www.greatwaters2004.com.

Admission \$10 per day, \$25 for three days, students half-price, children under 12 free.

Southern's 20th Ice Breaker features Krumm and Seger

Southern Wisconsin TU's popular Ice Breaker is celebrating its 20th anniversary at this year's event Sat., Jan. 17, at the Park Ponderosa Ballroom in McFarland.

Features speakers at this year's event are:

- **Bob Krumm** — nationally acclaimed author, columnist, and veteran western rivers guide and
- **Nikki Seger** — Orvis Chicago fishing manager and Chicago lakeshore fishing specialist who learned to cast before she could walk.

Krumm is expected to give two presentations at the Ice Breaker, one entitled "Nymph Fishing Made Easy" and another on "Spring Creek Tactics." He will also be tying flies at the event. Seger will also be making presentations Saturday morning and afternoon.

The Ice Breaker is preceded by a Friday night dinner. For details, contact SWTU's Tom Fendrick at (608) 873-1623.

Ice Breaker tickets are \$9 in advance, \$10 at the door. The Park Ponderosa is located at 5100 Erling Ave. in McFarland.

Pheasant-back grey squirrel a two-toned classic-shaped nymph

By Larry Meicher

Here is a classic-shaped nymph that has a fish-catching "buggy" look from its two colors and its use of spikey grey squirrel guard hairs.

Attach throat and cover the front 2/3 of the hook. Wrap 6-8 turns of .020 lead-free wire to the thorax. Build up a ramp of thread behind and in front of the lead to create a "cigar" shape.

MATERIALS LIST

Pheasant-back grey squirrel

Hook: Size 10-16 standard wet fly hook wrapped with 6-8 turns of .020 lead.

Thread: Black.

Tail: Pheasant tail fibers.

Abdomen: Black squirrel underfur or other black dubbing, 4 pheasant tail fibers for back, copper wire ribbing.

Thorax: Grey squirrel fur and guard hairs.

Wing case: Pheasant tail.

Legs: Cream round rubber.

Attach four fibers from a large pheasant tail feather. Attach copper wire for a rib.

Wax the thread and attach black dubbing (if you are fortunate enough to have a black squirrel pelt, use the underfur for the dubbing). Wrap the abdomen forward.

Pull the pheasant fibers over the top of the dubbed abdomen and tie them off. Then rib the abdomen with the copper wire.

Attach 10-12 pheasant tail fibers by their tips at the back of the thorax for a wing case. Again wax the thread and add dubbing, this time from a grey squirrel. (This dubbing should be chopped fine and include the guard hairs.) Wrap the thorax forward.



Pull the pheasant tail fibers over the thorax for the wing case and tie off behind the head.

Whip finish and cement the head.

Cedar strip canoe, bamboo rod raffle to benefit Gilbert Creek

As a benefit for Western Wisconsin TU projects, the Kiap-TU-Wish and Ojibseau chapters are offering a cedar-strip canoe and bamboo rod raffle.

The canoe is being built this minute by Ojibseau Chapter member Dick Prine of Ridgeland, WI. The canoe is an 18.5' E.M. Swift model, a Maine lake style built of cedar and redwood with ash gunwales and thwarts and cane seats. The rod is being built by Kiap member Jay Johnson. It will come with a reel and line.

Proceeds will be split between the Ojibseau and Kiap-TU-Wish chapters for stream restoration projects on Gilbert Creek in Dunn County.

Tickets are \$20 each, and can be had by sending a check made out to *Trout Unlimited* to John Welter at 2211 Frona Place, Eau Claire, WI 54701.

The canoe and rod are expected to be displayed at the State Council meeting and banquet at the Oshkosh Park Plaza Feb. 7. Drawing will be held April 22, with winners notified by mail.

Badger spring opener Jan. 24

The Badger Fly Fishers of Madison, WI will host their annual fund raiser, the Spring Fly Fishing Opener on January 24 at the Marriott Hotel on the west beltline highway (highway 12).

The featured speaker will be fly fishing expert, guide and author Mike Lawson. Mike will be presenting two programs, *Spring Creek Magic* and *Proven Techniques for Larger Trout*.

The event will feature fly tying demonstrations, fly tying lessons, commercial exhibitors, raffles, priz-

es, a lively auction, and an evening banquet.

Representatives from various rod companies will be there with the latest examples of their finest rods available to be test casted indoors at our event, while local vendors and fly shop owners will be available to sell rods to anyone who wishes to purchase one.

There should be something for everyone who loves fly fishing! Admission for the day is \$10.00 at the door. For more information, contact Rich Ludt at (608) 833-7918.

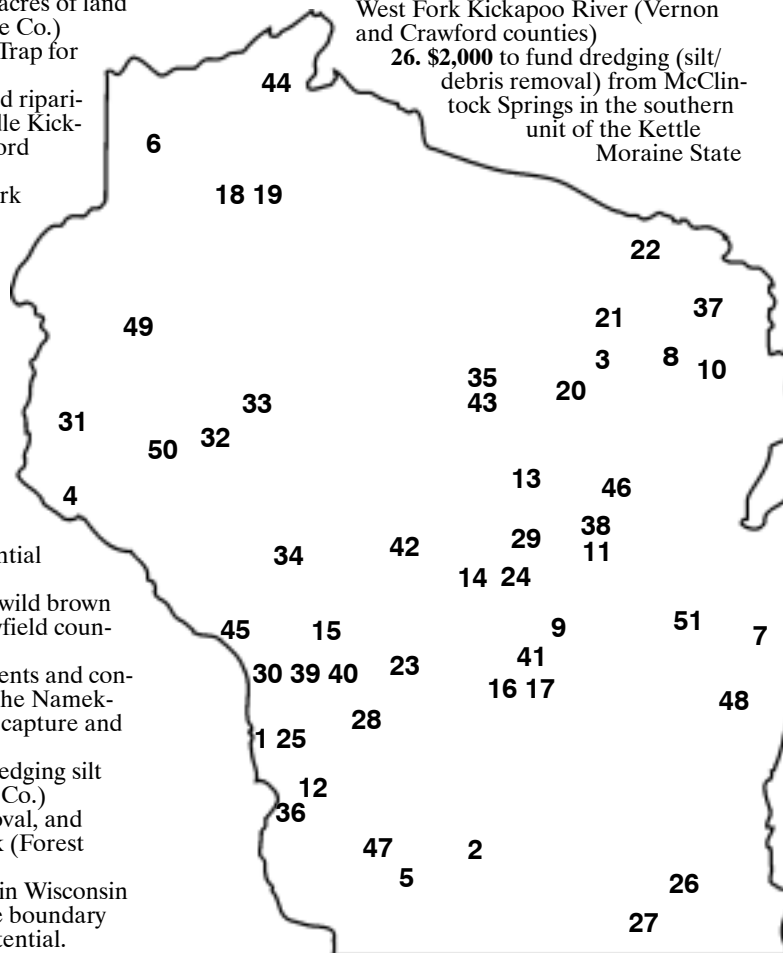
"Friends" Project Locations

1. \$4,000 for rip-rapping and structural improvements on the West Fork Kickapoo River (Vernon Co.)
2. \$1,500 for placement of LUNKER structures and bank stabilization in Black Earth Creek (Dane Co.)
3. \$1,000 for hydraulic dredging of Saul Spring Pond (Langlade Co.)
4. \$750 for purchase of special thermometers to monitor stormwater runoff into the Kinnickinnic River (Pierce Co.)
5. \$2,000 for rerouting and stabilizing Brewery Creek (Iowa Co.)
6. \$75 for purchase of catch and release signs for the Bois Brule River Douglas Co.)
7. \$2,500 for renovation of trout rearing facilities in Lincoln Park (City of Manitowoc)
8. \$500 for bank, stabilization, and structural improvements on the North Fork Thunder River (Oconto Co.)
9. \$1,000 for land acquisition along the White River (Waushara Co.)
10. \$1,000 to assist with acquisition of 64+ acres of land along Upper Middle Inlet Creek (Marinette Co.)
11. \$7,000 to purchase a Rotary Screw Fish Trap for DNR Coldwater research
12. \$3,000 to fund stream improvements and riparian protection in and along streams of Middle Kickapoo River watershed. (Vernon and Crawford counties)
13. \$1,000 to help fund instream habitat work in the Plover River (Marathon Co.)
14. \$551 to help purchase recording thermographs to monitor thermal regimes in trout streams in the Buena Vista and Leola marshes (Portage, Wood, Adams counties)
15. \$3,372 for installing bank cover and closing side channels in Sand Creek (Jackson and Monroe counties)
16. \$3,296 to continue and extend stream bank brushing along Chaffee Creek (Marquette Co.)
17. \$1,000 to continue population and movement studies of brown trout in the Mecan River (Marquette County) for potential stream reclassification
18. \$1,700 to conduct follow-up surveys on wild brown trout in the Namekagon River (Sawyer/Bayfield counties)
19. \$2,000 to conduct studies of fall movements and concentrations of spawning wild brood fish in the Namekagon River (Sawyer/Bayfield counties) for capture and use in raising wild trout for the river
20. \$1,000 to assist with the third year of dredging silt and detritus from Elton Springs (Langlade Co.)
21. \$1,000 for stream brushing, debris removal, and brush bundle installation in Swanson Creek (Forest County), a tributary to the Rat River
22. \$500 for building a sand/ sediment trap in Wisconsin Creek (Florence County), a tributary to the boundary Brule River, to enhance trout spawning potential.

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

24. \$350 to conduct trout population studies in the lateral ditches listed as trout waters (Portage, Wood and Adams counties) that are under threat from agricultural/cranberry operation encroachment
25. \$250 toward habitat work on the West Fork Kickapoo River (Vernon and Crawford counties)
26. \$2,000 to fund dredging (silt/debris removal) from McClintock Springs in the southern unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest (Waukesha Co.)
27. \$2,000 to create overhead bank cover in and remove beaver dams from Whitewater/Bluff Creek (Walworth Co.)
28. \$2,000 for stream improvements in Billings Creek (Vernon Co.)
29. \$1,500 for materials for in-stream structures in the Tomorrow River (Portage Co.)
30. \$2,500 for stream restoration in Mormon Coulee Creek (La Crosse Co.)
31. \$1,500 to assist in production of an educational video on development impacts along the Kinnickinnic River (St. Croix and Pierce counties)
32. \$7,000 for stream improvement on Elk Creek (Chippewa Co.)
33. \$4,000 for rock hauling and restoration work on Duncan Creek (Chippewa Co.)
34. \$1,750 to purchase materials for stream improvements on the North Fork Buffalo River (Jackson Co.)
35. \$2,000 to fund backhoe work on intensive habitat improvement in the Prairie River (Lincoln Co.)
36. \$500 for stream rehabilitation in Tainter Creek (Crawford Co.)
37. \$1,000 for expenses to study the long-term effects on brook trout following the removal of beaver dams on the Pemebonwon River in northern Wisconsin (Marinette Co.)
38. \$2,000 to help fund reprinting *Trout Stream Therapy* book (Waupaca Co.)
39. \$1,000 to defray expenses involved in holding the Midwest Trout Angling Workshop in La Crosse in July, 2000 (La Crosse Co.)
40. \$2,000 to fund stream improvement work on Mormon Coulee Creek (La Crosse Co.)
41. \$2,000 to fund restoration work on the Little Pine River. (Waushara Co.)
42. \$2,000 to the WDNR to help purchase an easement on Tenmile Creek along Hwy. 13.
43. \$2,000 in 2001 plus \$2,000 in 2002 to Wisconsin River Chapter for Prairie River work (Lincoln Co.)
44. \$1,245 to Wild Rivers Chapter for coaster baseline information (Ashland Co.)
45. \$1,000 to WDNR Trempealeau district for trout restoration backhoe (Trempealeau Co.)
46. \$500 to the Central Region of TU for stream monitoring equipment for use on the Little Wolf River (Waupaca Co.)
47. \$2,000 to the Nohr Chapter for habitat work with the WDNR on Big Spring Creek (Iowa and Grant Co.)
48. \$2,000 to the Lakeshore Chapter for ongoing work on the Onion River restoration project (Sheboygan Co.)
49. \$1,750 to the Ojibseau Chapter for a project on Gilbert Creek (Barron Co.)
50. \$500 to Independence High School (Trempealeau Co.)
51. \$400 to UW-Oshkosh for a macroinvertebrate studies (Waupaca and Waushara Co.)

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



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 Enclosed is my check for \$100 or more.

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

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