



Wisconsin Trout

July 2004

Coaster brook trout update

Surveys and 'engineered log jam' work underway

By Todd Brieby

An ideal recipe for being on the waters of Lake Superior is an evening sky, stars stretching from horizon to horizon, a gentle wind, and calm waters. And this is exactly what we found during an evening in late May. With the shoreline of Raspberry Bay and, later, Sand Bay to our left and the Apostle Islands over our right shoulder, a boat carrying representatives from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, and Trout Unlimited slowly followed the coast north pulling in fish shocked by the boat's gear.

Looking for brookies

Standing at the bow netting a fairly homogenous mix of fish with only a handful of brookies seen, it became apparent why we would be logging many hours in the field on the Bayfield Peninsula in northern Wisconsin this year.

The Bayfield Peninsula is an idyllic location that has been a favorite destination for anglers for well over 100 years. Even though little historical information exists, anecdotal and newspaper accounts from the late 1800s suggest that the brook trout population on the Peninsula was so large, it seemed exhaustless. Coaster brook trout, the migratory form of the stream-dwelling brook trout, was also reported on two of the Apostle Islands during this time.

Even though there was no targeted brook trout fishery among the Islands, most angling did occur along the Bayfield Peninsula shoreline from June to August, along the Peninsula's upper streams at spawning time, and along the lower streams during spring and late summer.

Changes bring fishery decline

By 1886 the shoreline fishery north of Bayfield dramatically declined from overfishing and it was at



Todd Brieby

A LOG JAM WOULD LOOK GREAT OVER THERE

Scoping potential log jam sites in Whittlesey Creek are (left to right) Dennis Pratt of WDNR, Eric Maki of ABDI-LCD, Marty Melchior of Inter-Fluve, Inc., and Paul Johnson of USDA NRCS.

this time that reports indicated extensive logging activities and its impact on the land and streams. Logging, road building, and the attempt to farm greatly impacted stream and watershed health and further affected brook trout populations.

Even today there continues to be a great deal of information we don't know about brook trout populations on the Bayfield Peninsula, including whether coasters are present and, if not, whether there is suitable habitat for a self-sustaining coaster population.

Collaborative effort underway

But a collaborative effort is currently underway to help fill in the gaps. With funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation acquired by Trout Unlimited in 2003, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), National Park Service

(NPS), Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), Red Cliff and Bad River Bands of Lake Superior Chippewa, and Trout Unlimited established a work plan to document coaster brook trout presence, distribution, and habitat use.

Using information gathered from past USFWS and WDNR surveys, as well as historical records, these groups determined the series of steps necessary to begin developing a better understanding of these fish at the tip of the Bayfield Peninsula. This, in turn, will assist in developing a coaster management strategy for the Apostle Island National Lakeshore and Red Cliff.

Work by representatives of the USFWS, Red Cliff Band, and Wild Rivers Chapter of TU will continue throughout this spring, summer, and fall.

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Welter appointed to NR Board

Gov. Jim Doyle has appointed former Wisconsin State Council of TU Chair John "Duke" Welter to serve on the Natural Resources Board.

In making the appointment, Doyle said, "For years, John Welter has been a leader in protecting our environment for future generations. He is thoughtful and measured when considering the use of our natural resources. We need more people like him." (See p. 7 for more of Governor Doyle's comments.)

Welter fills an open seat on the NRB, so he is serving right away without having to first get confirmed by the State Senate.

Welter joins two other Doyle appointees on the NRB:

- Jonathan Ela and
- Christine Thomas.

A fourth Doyle NRB appointee, Alan Grischke, recently withdrew his name from consideration.

Grischke had been in limbo for a year awaiting Senate confirmation following Steve Willett's decision to serve until his replacement was confirmed by the Senate.



John "Duke" Welter

Jaime Sundsmo succeeds John Koch as Council webmaster

Jaime Sundsmo is the new webmaster for the Wisconsin State Council's web site at www.WisconsinTU.org.

Sundsmo succeeds Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter's John Koch, who has served as the State Council's webmaster for two years, during which time he brought numerous improvements to the site.

Sundsmo has been a trout fisher for just two years, but is catching on from the looks of the picture below.



Jaime Sundsmo

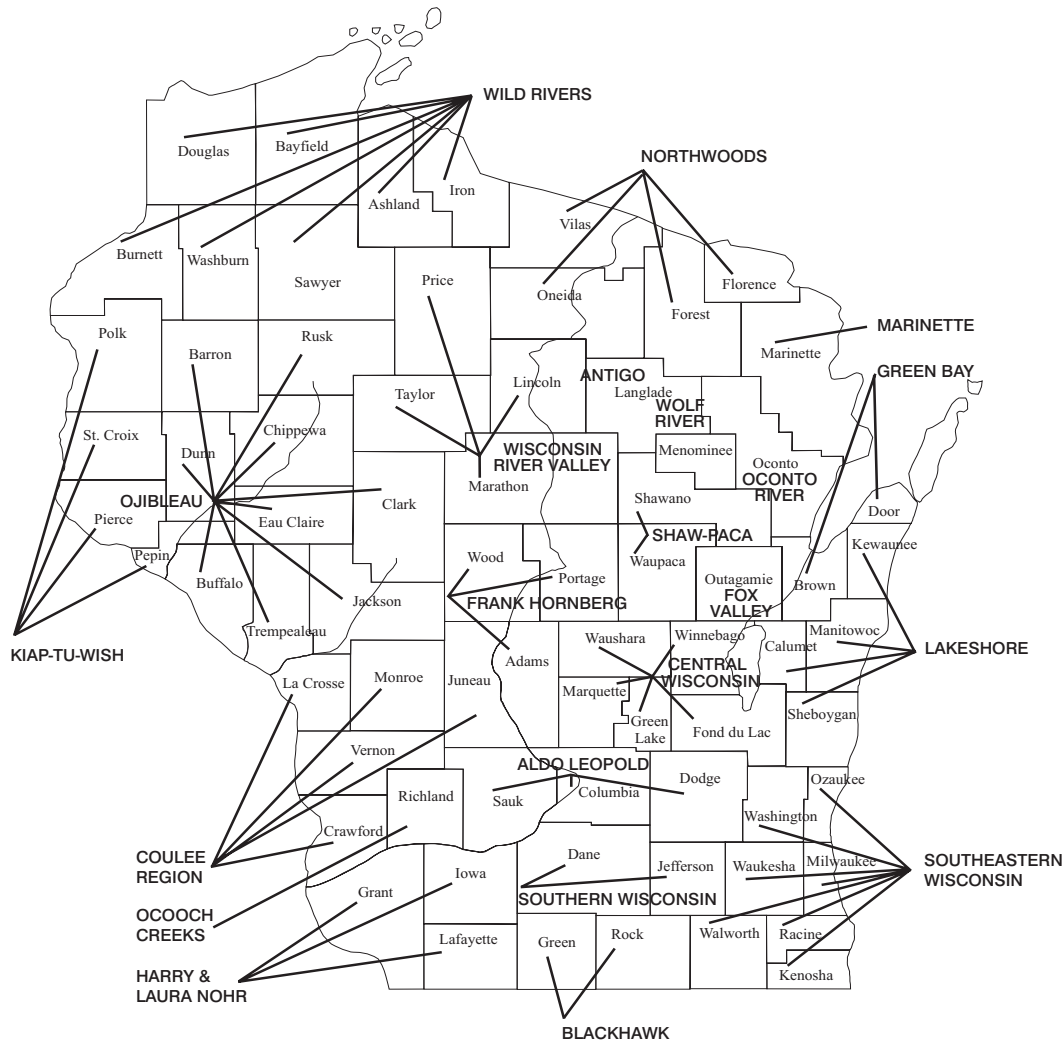


John Koch

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Contact TU National when you change addresses or chapter leaders

- 1. Inform TU National.** Call, write, or e-mail TU National on your new address because only TU National keeps the membership database:

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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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Wisconsin and Pacific Northwest wild salmon

By Bill Pielsticker

WITU Chair

Curiously, Wisconsin has a stake in the question of whether to consider breaching the four lower dams on the Snake River in Washington State. Since these four dams were completed in the 1970s, runs of wild salmon have been decimated. Twelve species of Columbia River and Snake River salmon are now listed as endangered or threatened, yet the best plan to save these genetic treasures from extinction is off the table. Wisconsin's Representative Tom Petri (R-Fond du Lac) is working to change that.

Protecting the Columbia and Snake River salmon is a priority for national Trout Unlimited. In conjunction with other groups, notably the Save Our Wild Salmon Coalition, TU has been working to reverse the decline in wild salmon numbers. This past March I had the opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C. to lobby on behalf of these wild salmon, and learned a great deal in the bargain.

Prior to the construction of the first of the four lower dams on the

SNAKE RIVER, wild salmon populations were holding their own. The dams were built in the 1960s and 1970s in an effort to create an inland port in Lewistown, Idaho. The expected shipping traffic never materialized. Instead, the dams created nearly impassable barriers to spawning salmon and, more importantly, to the smolt trying to swim downstream.

When the damage to the salmon population was observed, the federal agency responsible for the fishery (NOAA Fisheries) developed a system to collecting smolt at the dams, placing them in containers on barges or trucks and eventually dumping them into the Columbia River to continue their journey to the sea.

There are just two problems with this solution. First, it doesn't seem to work — it is estimated to have about a 40% chance of success. Second, it has a frightening cost. It has been estimated that in order to return the salmon populations to sustainable levels, the federal government and state agencies will need to spend \$1 billion a year for 10 years. Even worse, the project is receiving only half the money it calls

for, giving it even less likelihood of succeeding.

Rep. Petri is vice chair of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. He also is a fiscal conservative who questions why his constituents should pay for barging and trucking salmon around four dams that arguably are doing little good for anyone. He began asking questions.

In short, it seems that the ocean-going traffic never materialized. The Lewistown business that does use the waterway can get its goods out just as well with the railroad that is in place. The dams produce a negligible amount of hydropower which can be replaced by other generating methods and conservation. Studies have shown that breaching the earthen parts of the four dams in question has a 90% likelihood of restoring four of the at-risk salmon populations, and at less than a tenth the cost of the existing plan. Rep. Petri and others then asked why the government wasn't considering breaching the dams as an option for salmon recovery. He was told that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has determined that since the dams were authorized by Congress, only Congress can authorize their removal, or even the consideration of their removal.

All of this led Rep. Petri to join Rep. Chris McDermott (R-Washington) in co-sponsoring the Salmon Planning Act, HR 1097. The goal of this bill is simple. It authorizes NOAA Fisheries to evaluate the restoration potential and overall cost of breaching the lowest four dams on the Snake River. It doesn't mandate their breaching, though it would allow that should the study show it is justified.

Now, dams are a hot-button issue for some Pacific NW politicians. Any proposal to breach these dams raises the specter of a push to dismantle all 200 dams on the Columbia-Snake River system. Of course, nobody is proposing that, nor is it called for to achieve reasonable recovery of the salmon populations.



Bill Pielsticker

To wrap this up, I spent four days meeting with legislators explaining why Trout Unlimited has an interest in this issue. I also met with and thanked Congressman Petri for his efforts on behalf of wild salmon. As

the Congressman pointed out, this is one of those cases where conservation and sound fiscal policy come together. Unfortunately, the

proposal continues to receive stiff resistance in some quarters. The lobbying campaign is designed to lower that resistance and pave the way for a companion bill to be introduced in the U.S. Senate. Hopefully, we can move beyond the hysteria of "they want to take out all our dams!" and take a reasonable, cost-effective approach to wild salmon restoration. If you get a chance, you might just thank Rep. Petri for his part in this campaign.

P.S. A recent proposal by the federal government to count hatchery-raised salmon as "wild" is only sowing confusion in Washington and the Pacific Northwest. Trout Unlimited is adamantly opposed to this proposal and working to see it defeated. If it moves forward, we are all but certain to see the extinction of wild salmon in the very near future.

Hopefully, we can move beyond the hysteria of "they want to take out all our dams!"



Letters

Writer wonders about Wolf River & ATVs

I have a question regarding the Wolf River and TU. From White Lake north to Lily is the section we call Section 1 and 2 of the Wolf River. There is an abandoned rail line that has been purchased by the state. It is known as the "old WL-C rail bed." The state has charged Langlade county with determining the recreational use of the rail bed — motorized or non-motorized or perhaps a combination of the two.

The trail is extremely close to section 1 and 2 of the Wolf River (for over 20 miles) and crosses it at one point. I keep picturing ATVs racing up and down the trail, creating monster dust clouds, noise, and smells. I see myself fishing or floating down the river and looking at trees covered in dust. I wonder how much of the dust will land in the river. I wonder how the trout are going to react to the roar of the engines. This is not an exaggeration, a friend of mine visited Ladysmith over Memorial weekend. Per the operators of a local tavern, over 300 ATVs crossed between his tavern and the Flambeau River that weekend. The tavern rents canoes, but canoe rentals are down. He blamed that on the

noise, smells, and dust from the ATVs. It changed the atmosphere of Flambeau in that area.

Does TU have a position on this trail? Personally I would love to see it non-motorized. (I would accept snowmobiles in winter). They sell attachments for bicycles that hold fly rods. I can envision myself riding the rail bed to my favorite fishing spot. It is quiet and I won't be bothering the other fishermen on the river.

I am hoping you can forward this message to other TU members, especially those in the Antigo Chapter or those that frequent the Wolf river area. These folks should contact the Langlade County Forester, Steve Jackson, at the following email address: sjackson@co.langlade.wi.us. Mr. Jackson appears to be a good guy, but he needs to hear from interested folks about the need to protect one of Wisconsin's best trout fishery from the noise, dust and smells of potentially hundreds of ATVs each weekend.

Hopefully this can be addressed in the TU newsletter too.

Name withheld

Mercury threaten state's fishing heritage

Fishing is not just a recreational pastime. It is part of Wisconsin's heritage. However, the future of Wisconsin's fishing heritage is threatened by widespread mercury pollution. According to a recent report from National Wildlife Federation, coal-burning power plants remain the largest unchecked source of mercury pollution in Wisconsin. After living with mercury contaminated fish for a generation,

we now have the technology to reduce mercury pollution from power plants by 90%. The Bush Administration's proposed rule targeting mercury emissions falls far short of what is needed. The time is now to implement the most stringent controls available to reduce mercury pollutions to levels necessary to protect people and wildlife.

Marc Smith
National Wildlife Federation

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State Council holds May meeting in Amherst

By Chuck Steudel

State Council Secretary

The spring meeting of the Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited was held June 5 at the Tomorrow River Supper Club in Amherst.

The meeting called to order by Chairperson Bill Pielsticker. In attendance were 30 members representing the following chapters: Coulee, Aldo Leopold, Ocooch Creeks, Southern, Central, Green Bay, Wild Rivers, Hornberg, Wisconsin River Valley, Kiap-TU-Wish, Ojibseau, Blackhawk, Fox Valley, and Harry and Laura Nohr.

The minutes as circulated and published in *Wisconsin Trout* were approved.

Welter appointed to NRB

The Chairman's report followed. Chair Bill Pielsticker pointed out that past Chair Duke Welter has been appointed to the Natural Resources Board. This appointment is the result of many years of effort on the part of Duke to protect the resources of the state.

There was discussion on the Richland County situation concerning no-kill regulations on portions of the Pine and Melancthon Creeks. There is a move to remove restrictive regulations, started by some members of the Conservation Congress and landowners. The discussion has reached the level of the Natural Resources Board. It seems that the pre rule change data for the no-kill rules is lacking or weak and

that poor communication is involved in the controversy. This situation concerns the State Council because it could have implications on all special regulations. There was discussion and no action was taken.

Bill reminded chapters that under Trout Unlimited's 501(c)(3) status, we can not endorse candidates for office, but that individual members can be politically active as long as they do not act under the name of TU.

Chair's report

Bill discussed the TU National native trout work study group. They are working on collecting data base for restoration of native trout. In Wisconsin this would be brook trout. This is an ongoing effort that we should hear more about in the future.

The National Convention will be September 15, 2004, in Denver. A primary issue will be reworking the bylaws that apply to the roles of chapters and state councils with National.

Bill noted that he has sent out letters of support for chapter efforts to obtain Stewardship and River Protection Grants. The situation with the Southeastern Chapter's grant was discussed. The grant was for re-payment of money already spent by the chapter and the chapter in this case did not have the approx. \$20,000 to spend. After discussion, the Executive Committee of the State Council authorized a loan to the chapter from the Endowment Fund which will be repaid back with interest. This situation was discussed and it was felt that there needs to be better written policy on the use of the Endowment Fund. This issue will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. A motion to support the action of the Executive Committee on this matter passed on a chapter vote of 18 to 0 in a phone/mail vote taken in May.

There was discussion on being a co-sponsor of the Citizen Water Monitoring Conference to be held this August. This effort will involve more than streams and was approved.

Bill reported that he had sent out letters on the following subjects:

- Efforts to require emergency regulations for the Job Creations Bill,
- Support of a western TU effort to protect Alaskan forests,
- Support the River Alliance effort to pressure the DNR to expand the exceptional/outstanding waters listing,
- Supporting the National Wildlife Federation's efforts on reducing mercury pollution,
- Urging that more hearings be held on Annex 2001 which concerns a revising of the Great Lakes Charter and would affect the exporting of Great Lakes water.

The efforts and discussion by the Executive Committee on sharing a booth with the NWF at the ESPN games was reported on. The booth would have cost almost \$500, and because there was no agreement on it, the state council passed on the NWF offer. There was more support at the meeting to attempt to work in a booth at the Ducks Unlimited show and it will be looked into.

Bill reported on the results of the state council donation of \$100 to the water council put on by the Guardians of Water for middle school kids which seems to have been a great success.

TU National efforts

NLC Rep Jeff Smith reported on his efforts. The problem of communication between the three levels of TU was discussed. Bill and Jeff intend to make an effort to attend more local chapter meetings in order to communicate more about state and national issues. All chapter presidents are urged to have Jeff and Bill on the mailing lists for chapter newsletters. Jeff Smith's e-mail address is riversmith@charter.net

National is working on setting issues to be included in its national conservation agenda. One issue that Jeff is working on is the improvement of DNR response to fish kills. The goal is to have a fish kill response policy and plan for each DNR district. Who calls who, who does what would be addressed. There should be proper testing equipment ready to go in specific locations. Larry Kriese noted that the DNR used to do a better job of investigation fish kills, but due to politics and the legislature's threats of turning this action over to DATCP, the DNR has been restricted on the extent they can play in investigating and taking enforcement action when fish kills occur.

NWF guest Marc Smith

Guest Marc Smith of the National Wildlife Federation discussed his group's efforts concerning mercury pollution. Most states want to duck this issue and let the federal folks handle it. He discussed the effects that mercury has on animals and humans and efforts to restrict it. Of most concern are coal-burning power plants. The EPA is addressing the issue with proposals that are pretty weak. He noted that there is lots of congressional opposition to the Bush/EPA proposal and that in the past President Bush has listened to sportsmen's concerns.

State legislation

Jeff Smith reported on legislative matters. The passing of the Groundwater Bill was just the first step. A groundwater advisory committee is being formed to look at the law and probably change it. Efforts on this issue are nowhere near done. Jeff is seeking a TU member to represent our issues on this committee.

Wisconsin's efforts to reduce mercury pollution were discussed. The Legislative process and time seem to be the problems. TU supports DNR efforts to reduce mercury levels 75% by 2015, though there are other groups that want higher reductions faster.

Act 118 Rule making was discussed. The emergency rules to apply the Job Creation Bill are in effect and TU will be very active in the process of creating lasting rules. Already there is pressure to roll back the emergency rules. TU intends to hold the Governor and Legislature to their word not to harm the waters of Wisconsin. He noted that in July and August there will be hearings on rules to cover construction sites that we need to attend. A motion that the State Council opposes any rules that are proposed to NR 118 that would result in any reduction of protection to cold waters and spring creeks in Wisconsin passed without opposition.

Bill Pielsticker reported on the Livestock Siting Bill. Some legislators have expressed concern over the makeup of the expert panel. The bill now covers 500 animal units or larger which equals 350 cows.

Continued on p. 5

NWF's Smith visits Council to discuss mercury letter

The National Wildlife Federation (NWF) is circulating a national letter from hunting and fishing groups to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Leavitt that urges him, as a fellow sportsman, to work to address mercury contamination in a serious and timely manner.

The NWF is asking individual Trout Unlimited chapters to join the Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited and sign on to this letter.

The NWF says it is imperative that your voice is heard when it comes to important decisions that impact your fishing experience. To fish for food is the most basic of human rights. But that right is under a grave threat. This summer, if you fish in one of 43 states, you will catch certain species of fish with high levels of mercury pollution in our lakes and streams.

The U.S. EPA has proposed a rule targeting mercury emissions from the largest remaining unregulated source, coal-burning power

plants. Unfortunately, this proposal has several major shortcomings.

To sign on, call (202) 797-6821 with your chapter's name and phone number, or send that information to grassroots@nwf.org.



NWF VISITOR TO MEETING
Marc Smith of the National Wildlife Federation's Michigan office visited the State Council meeting to talk about NWF's mercury efforts.

NATIONAL SPORTSMAN GROUP MERCURY REDUCTION SIGN-ON LETTER

Dear Administrator Leavitt:

We write to you as fellow sportsmen and outfitters to convey our concern about the effects of mercury contamination on fish and wildlife. We urge you to ensure that this problem is addressed in a serious and timely manner.

More than 10 million acres of lakes and 400,000 miles of streams in America are contaminated by mercury. Forty-three states and one territory currently warn the public about unsafe mercury levels and advise people against eating locally-caught fish. People who eat fish contaminated by mercury can suffer from a myriad of health problems. Children, whose brains are still developing, are at particularly high risk of neurological problems such as delays in walking, talking and developing fine motor skills. Evidence continues to mount that mercury causes reproductive problems in ducks and fish-eating birds such as loons, and also threatens reproduction in walleye and other fish species.

In addition to health and wildlife effects, mercury in fish has potential serious economic implications for the sportfishing industry. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's "National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation," the recreational fishing industry generates more than \$100 billion in revenue per year. More than 44 million Americans fish – more than play golf and tennis combined. This includes nearly 10 million children. Few experiences in life are better than witnessing the excitement of a child who reels in his or her first fish, then proudly takes it home for dinner. How do we explain to them that they cannot safely eat what they catch?

Anglers in some states have had to worry about mercury fish advisories for three decades – the difference today is that we now have the technology to feasibly and affordably solve this problem. The current Clean Air Act includes a provision to effectively address mercury pollution. Unfortunately, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's proposal to reduce mercury emissions from power plants falls far short of what the law requires. We urge you to consider the impact mercury has on our wildlife, economy, and children, and strengthen this proposal so it meets the intent and obligations of the Clean Air Act.

Please help us rid our nation's beautiful rivers, streams and lakes of mercury so we can continue to enjoy fishing with our children for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Our TU Chapter



FACILITATOR TOM MICKELSON

Tom Mickelson is the State Council's strategic planning facilitator. Mickelson is a professional facilitator, mediator, and public participation expert with over 15 years of facilitation, mediation, and alternative dispute resolution experience with issues related to environmental and natural resources.

COUNCIL: holds meeting

Continued from p. 4

A panel is working on the issue, an advisory committee will review it, and DATCP will finalize it. The bill is a plus for the environment and a negative for local control so far.

The Shoreline Rules are being delayed until next summer. There is still a lot of effort going into the language and specifics of the legislation.

Treasurer Larry Meicher gave his report. The checking account has \$19,000, the investment fund has \$32,500, our endowment fund has \$29,000, and two stock funds have

\$17,500 in them. Total council assets are about \$99,000. The Camp Creek encumbered fund was discussed. The Nohr, Southern, and Blackhawk chapters made donations to help cover this expense. A motion to authorize the payment of \$6,000 minus the amount received from the chapters to the DNR for expenses toward the purchase of the Camp Creek property was passed without opposition. There was also \$5,000 encumbered for the Polar Springs legal effort. It was noted that the issue is resolved with all expenses paid for by other funds so a motion

to return the \$5,000 to the general checking fund was approved without opposition. This year's banquet showed a \$5,500 profit. The treasurer's report was approved.

Regional reports

Larry Kriese, NW regional VP reported that two culverts in Oconto County will be replaced as a special project to be funded by numerous groups. It is hoped that county and township crews will in the future be able to replace culverts without damaging trout waters. He noted that the Green Bay chapter has almost 30 new

members through the new TU National campaign. TU national pays half the cost and the chapter picks up the other half of

the membership. Once the chapter gets its rebate, the cost to the chapter is about \$2 per new member.

Larry reported that the Polar Springs situation is resolved for now. As the process grew closer to hearings in which the identity of those backing the effort would become part of the public record, the request was withdrawn. Most expenses for those who fought the project have been picked up by unknown donors and the money that the State Council had pledged toward the effort was not needed and returned to the SC general account.

Jim Hlaban reported that the Central Region had a successful water monitoring training session. They are very interested in the new runoff rules and are working on the issue. The Central Wisconsin Chapter is working with UW-Oshkosh researchers to find out the effect of increased harvest of Hex larva for the bait industry. A six-year study is planned. They are also working with Rawhide Boys Ranch to organize a crew for working on area streams. Bill Pielsticker noted that corre-

spondence has been sent to Senator Herb Kohl encouraging him to get involved in the effort to continue to fully fund the beaver control effort in northern Wisconsin.

Todd Hanson noted that the first CD is full with back issues of state council newsletters and old *Wisconsin Trout* issues. A new disc will be started. There was discussion of preparing a special 6-12 page paper about Trout Unlimited for use at events like the Ducks Unlimited booth.

Membership of Chapters issues was discussed. National assigns new

The Driftless Area Working group met June 19 in Galena, IL, at the Stony Creek Inn. This is an effort to work together with chapters in Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa, and Minnesota.

members to chapters on the zip codes and these zip codes do not follow county lines. Al Bostwick of the Ocooch Chapter discussed their efforts

and frustrations with working on these issues with National. This is an old problem. A motion was passed to assign three zip codes to the Ocooch chapter according to national's policy.

New business

Under new business, Duke Welter reported that the Driftless Area Working group is meeting on June 19 in Galena, IL, at the Stony Creek Inn. This is an effort to work together by chapters in Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa, and Minnesota. Wisconsin representatives will be in attendance.

The idea of moving the State Council banquet to the Wisconsin Rapids area was discussed and there was general agreement to do so. The idea of having a Becoming an Outdoor Woman workshop the same day was discussed and will be looked into.

A motion to donate \$1,000 to the Coldwater Conservation Fund was discussed and agreed to on a motion that passed without opposition.

Meeting ended at 12:30 p.m. and was followed by the second State Council strategic planning session.

Seven new themes tackled in planning session

About 20 WITU State Council members resumed work on the strategic plan following the council's meeting in Amherst June 5. The following is a summary of the seven themes they worked on.

Coordination Objective

Improving working relationships with other chapters, conservation groups and environmental agencies to further TU mission. How? Make use of phone conferences. Hold an additional (fourth) council meeting. Identify collaborative projects. Fund an executive director position.

Goal: To develop a process that fosters communication, partnerships, and coordination on coldwater conservation issues.

Fellowship Objective

Creating a welcoming environment that people want to return to a place to develop relationships with like-minded individuals. How? Develop mentors for new members. Have chapters sponsor guides or fishing trips. Organize "greeters" for new members at meetings. Invite members to picnics, potluck dinners. Sponsor inter-club fishing outings.

Goal: To create an environment where people will be encouraged to become long-term active members.

Fundraising Objective

Improving TU fundraising capacity in Wisconsin. How? Share ideas, successes, through *WisTrout*, other publications, council web site. Pursue grants from public and private entities. Solicit endowments from individuals and corporations.

Goal: To achieve a consistent, sustainable cash flow.

Marketing/Image/PR Objective

Improving public perception, reaching a more diverse group — being a more effective conservation organization. How? Mentoring. Improving landowner and small town relations. Courting bait fishermen. Evaluating our branding, make adjustments. Engage in public service activities. Do more public media appearances.

Goal: Broaden our appeal — be more inclusive to better focus on habitat protection.

Recognition & Awards Objective

Recognizing members and other's contributions to coldwater conservation, improving organizational culture by recognizing achievement and increasing recognition of TU and its members at every level. How? Have an ongoing award program, rather than an annual event. Keep the enterprise fresh with new volunteers, new award recipients. Chapters should recognize business supporters with awards. Awards should be publicized in local media.

Goal: Raise esteem by recognizing achievements; creates good chapter and good member culture; brings TU public image to the fore-front for having presented award.

Relations with TU National Objective

Improving financial, mission, communications, administrative, fundraising and advocacy relations will all three level of TU. How? Better communication between National and council and chapters. Need to transfer lessons of national projects/success to councils

and chapters. Better inform chapters of resources National has to offer. Provide effective national training workshops. Be sure chapter leaders have and are using the National Leadership Manual which defines the roles of TU leaders and volunteers.

Goal: To enable members to feel more a part of the national organization and for the national organization to expand members' ability to carry out our mission

Relations with Land Owners Objective

Fishing access, habitat improvement, promote stewardship, establishing relationships between landowners and Trout Unlimited. How? Encourage members to carry trash bags, clean up trash they see on stream. Send landowners thank you notes, host landowner appreciation days. Include landowners in awards program. Talk to landowners about livestock issues, access, and work with them to resolve conflicts.

Goal: To encourage and improve and maintain fishing access, habitat improvement and stewardship.

The themes that were addressed in the February planning session were:

- Habitat & Stream Improvement; Leadership Training
- Information Exchange & Communication
- Fishing Education
- Political Action
- Membership
- Council-Chapter Interaction and
- Executive Director.

Chapter president profile

Southern Wisconsin's Sue Fey has led a fishing life

By Bill Maund

I first met Sue Fey sitting behind a drawing board in Wisconsin Public Television's art department 20 years ago. We were working on a show titled *The Fishing Life*.

From this first meeting, I saw Sue harbor interests beyond her work: a fascination for the outdoors and wildlife, particularly water. She recreated childhood fishing stories with a sparkle suggesting they occurred only yesterday.

Sue's interest in trout fishing both waxed and waned during college days in Montana. Then they lay dormant for years, though her love for water grew and fishing became a more dominant preoccupation.

Sue lives near, on, and for water. First, on the shore of Madison's Lake Monona, then the east shore and now the north shore of Lake Mendota. She paddles hand-crafted solo canoes

and sails a 20-foot wooden sloop. When the water turns hard, she bores holes through the ice for



SUE FEY INSIDE AND OUT

Sue Fey has succeeded Bill Pielsticker as president of the Southern Wisconsin Chapter. She runs a welcoming meeting, and she is not afraid to test cold weather of opening day on Black Earth Creek.

perch, walleye, and northern. Winter vacations in the Bahamas attract

her to wet wading for bonefish and summer vacations in New England waken latent thoughts of trout.

Meanwhile, back at Wisconsin Public Television, under open competition, Sue is appointed Art Director, charged with the 'look' of all station print materials and 'on-air' graphics. The move to management capitalizes on Sue's talent to work with and supervise people: to plan, direct, and complete key station



projects. Her appointment to University of Wisconsin policy committees elevates her insight to develop broad-based institutional programs.

For Sue, the time to fly fish for trout arrives. Office conversations turn from television production to fly rods, fly tying, and favorite trout streams. Casting techniques are per-

fectured in the huge TV studios. Evenings are devoted to fly tying. Stolen days are spent on the Mecan, Green, Mt. Vernon, and Black Earth creeks.

Getting serious about fly fishing and trout, Sue joins the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of TU. She enrolls in the chapter's popular fly tying class and attends their winter Ice Breaker. Sue's leadership skills are apparent to TU's chapter elders, and she is invited to the summer streamside board meeting at Avalanche. In just two years she is elected Chapter Vice President. She has now succeeded to President of the Southern Wisconsin Chapter.

Beneath these accomplishments, Sue and I often reflect back to a poster she prepared for me, quoting from John Voelker's *Trout Magic*, "I fish because I want to...not because I regard fishing as being so terribly important, but, because I suspect that so many other concerns of men are equally unimportant and not nearly so much fun."

For Sue, being a Trout Unlimited leader is the next best thing to fly fishing for trout.

(Author Bill Maund is a longtime member of the STU Chapter. He notes that an example of Sue's persuasive powers is that she got him to write this profile the day before he left for a two-month photography assignment to the Southwest. -Ed.)

"Do you really want all these rocks?"

By John Koch

With the western sky giving off the last orange glow of daylight, my daughter and I were busy on the far side of the river, packing up our things. Bats had started their hectic nighttime feeding flights, and the first fingers of an evening mist had started to slowly slide through the river valley.

Member Reflection

"Well, not really all of them, I guess," was her hesitant reply.

The amateur geologist in me had taken over as I recognized some of her collected "treasures: a chunk of mundane sandstone, a lump of nondescript basalt, a small pebble of plain white quartz.

"OK then, which ones do you want — what are you going to do with these, anyway?"

"They're for my collection, Dad." Of course, how stupid of me. I rolled up the hat that she had filled with stones, and placed it in the creel, next to the two fish that would be her breakfast the next morning.

It had been an excellent night. We arrived to the river late, and managed to find a deserted few hundred yards of river where we could do "our thing," namely, my daughter patters about in the river while I fish. Seven years old and intensely curious about river things, she's good for perhaps 20 minutes of actually fishing with her dad, then it's off to explore, to gather, to collect.

The fishing was good, but very demanding. A sparse few caddis were hatching, and we had some luck fishing a variety of patterns. She managed to hook a couple of fish on a Bivisible fished quartered and down, but couldn't hide her disappointment at their size.

"I suppose we can't keep that one, huh?" she asked hopefully.

"No, he's pretty puny. Here, put him back in," I replied. We laughed as the 6-inch fish splashed her as she leaned down to release the small brown.

I constantly switched patterns, as I am oft to do during sparse hatches like the one that night. I counted at least three different and distinct types of caddis flies coming up. We caught fish on nearly every pattern we tried, but it wasn't until I put on a green-bodied deer hair parachute that the fishing got exciting. The first cast next to a tree extending over the water produced a hefty brook trout. Somehow instantly appearing at my side, my daughter took the fly rod as I handed it to her and excitedly fought the fish to (my) hand. We released the little gem, but a few casts later we were able to land a legal rainbow. I showed her how to quickly dispatch the fish by breaking its neck, how to gut the fish, and how to pack the creel with wet grass to lay the fish in to keep it cool.

She eventually bored entirely of fishing, and was off again in pursuit of something else. Intent on fishing, I concentrated on drifting my flies across the feeding lanes. Since my daughter was with, I was armed with two rods, one holding a dry, the other tipped with a wet. I alternated between the two: often times a rise and refusal to the dry would be followed up with a solid hook up on the wet, and vice versa.

I was suddenly enveloped in cheap perfume; it was as though a giant church lady had folded me into her huge, bosomy embrace. I looked up, and behind me stood a small bush of white, pink, and red crab-apple blossoms.

The shrub shook with laughter,

and spoke in the high, piping voice of my daughter. "Look what I found for Mom!"

I managed another good fish that night, a brown of about 13 inches; with the rainbow I had caught earlier, we had enough for breakfast for the next morning. By then, she and I were ready to make our way back home and started the process of packing up our stuff.

As we arrived back at the car and put away our things, I couldn't help remembering a time years ago, following my own father from the same spot on the river to a car parked on the same road, next to the same

bridge. I remember feeling the wet lump of rocks and shells in my pocket; I remember the smell of fresh trout covered with grass.

"Do you really want all these rocks...?"

As I remembered my reaction to the same question posed to me over 30 years ago, I quietly smiled. And so, next to the tube of fly rods, and on top of the wet waders, the dripping, muddy hat full of stones that my daughter had found was placed, nary a one of the priceless gems being left behind.

(John Koch is a member of the Kip-TU-Wish Chapter. -Ed.)



BILL PIELSTICKER AND GUEST

State Council Chair Bill Pielsticker shares a joke with council members. National Wildlife Federation guest Marc Smith is in the background.

Governor appoints Duke Welter to NR Board

The Wisconsin Natural Resources Board (NRB) sets policy for the Department of Natural Resources and exercises authority and responsibility in accordance with governing statutory provisions.

Board members are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the State Senate. Three members each must be selected from the northern and southern portions of the state and one member serves "at large." Terms expire on May 1.

The Board meets monthly, except for July and November, on the fourth Wednesday of the month. Board meetings are held at the DNR Building in Madison except for May through October when meetings are held in different locations around the state.

Gerald M. O'Brien
Attorney. Appointed May 1, 1999. Term expires May 1, 2005.
Box 228
Stevens Point WI 54481
(715) 344 0890

Howard D. Poulson
Farmer, Retired President, Wisconsin Farm Bureau. Appointed August 1995, re-appointed February 2001. Term expires May 1, 2007.

1212 Deming Way
PO Box 5550
Madison WI 53705
(608) 828 5700

Jonathan P. Ela
Conservationist, retired from the Sierra Club. Appointed January

2003. Term expires May 1, 2005.
2130 Chamberlain Avenue
Madison WI 53726
(608) 238 8187

Herbert F. Behnke
Retired from 21st Century Genetics. Past DNR Board member (1967-1972). Appointed April 1989, reappointed October 1995 and February 2001. Served as Chair from May 1993 to February 1997. Term expires May 1, 2007.
N5960 Wolf River Road
Shawano WI 54166
(715) 524 4423

Christine L. Thomas
Associate Dean and professor of resource management at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point College of Natural Resources. Appointed to Board March 2004, Term expires May 1, 2010.
College of Natural Resources
UW-Stevens Point
Stevens Point WI 54481
(715) 346 4185

John Welter
Attorney. Appointed May 5, 2004. Term expires May 1, 2005.
PO Box 228
Eau Claire, WI 54702-0228
(715) 831-9565

Stephen D. Willett
Attorney. Appointed June 1991; reappointed April 1999. Chair, Air, Waste and Water/Enforcement Committee. Term expires May 1, 2003.

PO Box 89
Phillips WI 54555
(715) 339-2125

STATE OF WISCONSIN

JIM DOYLE
GOVERNOR

Wednesday, May 5, 2004
Contact: Jessica Erickson, Office of the Governor, 608-261-2156

Governor Doyle Announces Appointment of John Welter to the Natural Resources Board

Governor Jim Doyle announced the appointment of John Welter to the Natural Resources Board today, Wednesday, May 5, 2004.

"John Welter is one of Wisconsin's great conservationists," Governor Doyle said. "For years, John Welter has been a leader in protecting our environment for future generations. He is thoughtful and measured when considering the use of our natural resources. We need more people like him. John loves the outdoors and fishing – he even teaches a fly-fishing class at the UW-Stout. I know he will be an asset to the board and I look forward to working with him."

The Natural Resources Board sets policy for the Department of Natural Resources and holds public meetings around the state to gather input on Natural Resources policies. The seven members of the Natural Resources Board serve staggered 6-year terms. At least three of them must be from the northern part of the state and at least three must be from the southern part.

"Thoughtful stewardship of Wisconsin's grand array of natural resources is a responsibility I take very seriously," Welter said. "I welcome this appointment to the Natural Resources Board to carry on that work. Through many years of working on resource projects with groups and the DNR, I've learned the value of partnership efforts to preserve, protect and restore our outdoor resources. I look forward to working with resource groups and the Wisconsin DNR."

Welter earned his B.A. in Journalism from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1974, and his J.D. from the UW Law School in 1980. He is a partner in the Eau Claire law firm, White, Welter & Schilling LLP. Welter has served as a chapter president, state council chairman, and national trustee of Trout Unlimited; as a member of the Eau Claire County delegation to the Conservation Congress; as the secretary of the Trout Study Committee; and as a member of the Special Natural Resources Board Early Trout Season Task Force. Welter has had active involvement in several conservation issues including groundwater protection, mining, fisheries regulation, and easement and land purchases for public use. Welter lives in Eau Claire with his wife, Kathy, and has two children.

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COASTERS: work update

Continued from p. 1

Upcoming work includes sampling along the Apostle Island National Lakeshore and Red Cliff tributaries, shorelines, and islands.

Installing engineered log jams

The lakeshore isn't the only busy place this year on the peninsula. If you were to drive south from the National Lakeshore in July, you may happen upon another project that is underway. TU National, Wild Rivers Chapter of TU, Inter-Fluve, Inc., USFWS, WDNR, and the Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas, and Iron Counties Land Conservation Department will be installing engineered log jams into Whittlesey and Leneawee Creeks.

From an assessment of stream conditions on five Bayfield Peninsula streams conducted in 2002-2003, sponsored by TU and funded generously by the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program, recommendations were developed to assist in alleviating problems plaguing these streams. The problems documented included excessive erosion and sediment loading, incising channels, extremely high stream power during floods, lack of large trees falling into and holding in the streams, impacts from past and present land use practices, and loss of backwater habitat for spawning.

The addition of engineered logjams to Whittlesey and Leneawee Creeks will imitate the natural process of large trees falling into the streams to provide habitat and complex stream flows that are essential to a healthy forest stream. The measurable results from installing these structures include:

- decreasing the power of the stream during floods,
- reducing erosion,
- promoting processes to allow the channel to spread out more on the floodplain and find a more stable path,
- producing backwater and rearing habitat for trout and salmon, and
- creating microhabitat.

This project would not be possible without the financial support provided by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Trout and Salmon Foundation, USFWS Challenge Cost Share, USFWS Great Lakes Coastal Program, USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, and the WDNR.


More work will still need to be invested into streams on the Bayfield Peninsula after this summer, including work that addresses the watershed as a whole, but these first steps will provide a good foundation for future efforts.

(Todd Breiby is Coaster Brook Trout Program Coordinator working out of TU's Madison office. If you have questions or would like more information, contact him at (608) 255-0361 or tbreiby@tu.org. -Ed.)

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Chapter News



PLENTY OF CASTING ROOM FOR FIRST-TIMERS

Russ Bouck gives casting instructions to students at Central Wisconsin Trout Unlimited's 28th annual Fly Fishing School. Some 25 people attended this year's school, held June 4-6 at Camp LuWiSoMo near Wild Rose.

Aldo Leopold Chapter

A great time was had at our May 20 picnic and raffle, held "on stream" in Lodi. Chapter member **Eric Lorenzen** was the winner of a handcrafted fly tying desk, made and donated by chapter member **Bill Gatzke**. The raffle raised \$520 for the chapter, a welcome addition to our coffers.

We recently mailed out a survey to our chapter members as part of our strategic planning for our next few years. The survey sought opinions on all manner of chapter activities and foci, member interests, and more. Chapter members returned 37 completed surveys (out of 79 mailed), an excellent response. Our board will be reviewing the results over the next few months, and we're grateful to all who returned their surveys.

One stretch of **Lodi Spring Creek** was cleared of much timber in May in concert with the **Friends of Scenic Lodi Valley** and **Capital**

Water Trails. The Capital Water Trails people had with them a "chain saw winch," an attachment that fits a standard chain saw. With it we were able to move some very large stumps and logs up 4-foot banks with ease. For any chapter with a lot of timber to clear, this tool is a real back saver, and is totally portable as well. A second stretch is on the agenda for the fall. It is currently hard to judge flow improvements — with all this rain, all one can say is the flow is up, way up!

We are not holding any regular chapter meetings over the summer. Instead, we are sponsoring a chapter camping/fishing outing July 10 and 11 at **Wildcat Mountain State Park**. Chapter members and guests will spend the weekend catching, and lying about, trout. Anyone is welcome to join us in the group campsite area of the park — look for the TU bumper stickers!

—Mike Barniskis

Central Wisconsin Chapter

New officers for CWTU for the 2004-05 time period are

President — **John Gremmer**,
Vice President — **Elward Engle**,
Treasurer — **Scott Grady**,
Secretary — **Bob Chamberlain**,
and

Past President — **Bob Chamberlain**.

Our annual banquet and fund raiser held at the **Pioneer Inn** in

Oshkosh on March 27 was very successful. Thanks go to **Dan and Gail Colligan** for organizing and orchestrating the event. Special thanks go to "**Ozzie**" **Osborn**, **Russ Bouck**, and **Pat Strom** for their generous contributions to our auctions and raffles. We are grateful to all that attended and contributed.

Bob Arwine of Green Bay led our first on-the-water casting clinic held

at **Marble Park** in Winneconne on April 19. Thirty-five people participated on a windy, rainy evening. Thanks go to **Tom Young**, **Bob Chamberlain**, and others who helped people with their casting problems.

Forty-three people braved nasty weather to attend our 2nd Annual CWTU Trout Outing at the **Dakota Inn** south of Wautoma on May 8. Thanks go to **Dan Harmon III** for his casting lesson, **Jack Wahlers** for helping with the administration of the event, and **Rich Mlodzik** for placing people on nearby trout water. This was camaraderie at its best. We had young lady beginners, lady guides, visitors from Chicago and Milwaukee, professional guides, people catch their first trout on a fly — a grand mixture of people who all share the love of trout and their environs.

Our webmaster, **Bob Haase**, announced that CWTU member **Brian Tesch** of Appleton will be redoing our web site for us in the coming months. Brian is a member of our Master's Fly Tying Series and he helped guide at our Trout Outing. Check it out at www.cwtu.org/.

Rich Mlodzik has good things to say about our two April work days on the **Little Pine** west of Wautoma. The April 3 workday on the Little Pine was raw and very windy, yet 20 people showed up to clear brush. On April 24 17 people participated in brushing and installing in-stream brush bundles. Thanks to **Elward Engle** for his pre-work talks on the science behind our efforts and to "head chef" **Jack Wahlers** for preparing the Noon lunches.

Chapter member **Dr. Robert Stelzer** of UW-Oshkosh is working with **Bob Rennock** and **Mark Brosseau** to apply for a grant to study the effects of the removal of Hex nymphs by bait dealers in our local trout streams. We should know in a couple of months.

Thanks to past President **Bob Chamberlain** for organizing and leading our first "long-range" planning session on April 17. **Bob Hunt**, **Jerry Strom**, **Rich Mlodzik**, **Ira Giese**, **Scott Grady**, **Jack Wahlers**, **Bob Haase**, **Bob Rennock**, and **John Gremmer** participated. Thanks to these people for investing their time for the future of our chapter. The results were pleasing. This process continued at our May 8 and June 14 meetings.

Dean **Dan Harmon III** reports that CWTU's 28th Annual Fly Fishing school held at **Camp LuWiSoMo** north of Wautoma June 4-6 was a great success. Twenty-four students learned casting, entomology, knot tying, how to play fish, fly selection, etc. Each student also received a half day of one-on-one guiding on a local trout stream. Many students caught their first trout on a fly. Thanks go to instructors **Russ Bouck**, **Bob Hunt**, **Tom Poullette**, **Mark Brosseau**, **Rich Mlodzik**, **Tom Sopkovich**, **Gene West**, and to **Dan Harmon III** for organization and orchestration. The school had students from not only Wisconsin but also from Illinois, Pennsylvania, and Texas. A special thanks go to all of the local guides that did an outstanding job.

—John Gremmer

Fox Valley Chapter

The Fox Valley Chapter has been quite active over the past couple of months and the late spring/summer months will also have our chapter involved in a number of events. On March 20 we held our third annual Cabin Fever Day fund raiser event. There were a variety of equipment reps, rod makers, net builders, fly tyers, and DNR personnel on site giving demonstrations and answering questions. The featured speaker was **Gary Borger** who presented a morning and afternoon session and spent the Noon hour giving a very informative fly casting demonstration.

There were approximately 80 items in the silent auctions and bucket raffles which included fly rods, reels, nets, prints, a number of sets of flies, guided fishing trips, plane flights over your favorite stream, and many other fishing-related items. The fund raiser helps

our chapter continue our funding of the scholarships we offer to a student at **UW-Stevens Point** and **Fox Valley Technical College**.

On April 24 we hosted our 26th annual Fishing Day for People with Disabilities event at **Main Creek Farm**. The day was a bit cool, but there were about 30 very successful fishermen and fisherwomen in attendance. A super brat and burger fry followed the afternoon of fishing. **Del Schwaller** and **Tom Beyer** have been the two Fox Valley members who have helped to make this a very worthwhile event over all of these years. Many of the fisher people are only able to fish on this day each year, so that is the main reason our chapter members strive to make this a "day to remember." Check out our web site www.FoxValleyTU.org for pictures of the 2004 fishing day.

A number of our members have made fly tying presentations and taught fly tying to a number of area middle schools, the **Girl Scouts**, and **Boys and Girls Brigade** of Neenah. We also had several members assist with the **Appleton Park/Rec Kids Fishing Day**.

FVTU will also be continuing stream work on the **Whitcomb Creek** and **Davis Creek**. Our workdays are always the second Saturday of the month from May through September. Check our web site if you are interested in joining us for a Saturday morning. **Jim Hlaban** has been working with **Rawhide Boys School** and will be doing some stream work with some of those students several times this summer. Jim has also organized a number of our chapter members into a group



CENTRAL'S TROUT OUTING CREW

It was all smiles as the trainers and attendees posed for this picture after Central Wisconsin TU's Trout Outing.

Chapter News



GREEN BAY HONOREES

Paul Mongin and Janet Smith received awards from the Brown County Conservation Alliance recently. Mongin received BCCA's Conservationist of the Year award, and Smith received the Professional of the Year award.

that monitors a number of streams in the **Little Wolf River** watershed.

The chapter elections were held during the April annual meeting:

President — **Tony Treml**,
VP — **Bob Kinderman**,
Secretary — **Rich Erickson**,
Treasurer — **Mark Peerenboom**.

Two board member positions were also elected — **Jim Oates** and **Bob Obama**.

Our chapter remains quite active and we are continuing to introduce new members through the special program the TU National has instituted. We realize there are many different activities that our members and their families are involved in, so we are making a greater effort to encourage our current members to take part in at least one event throughout the year.

—*Rich Erickson*

Frank Hornberg Chapter

The final chapter general meetings concluded on March 11 with a presentation entitled *Steelheading 101 — Getting Started*. It was given by **Jeff Dimick**, chapter founder and its first president. The program was enthusiastically received by all those in attendance.

This winter's series of four fly tying workshops also came to a conclusion on March 25 with the final session held at **Shooter's Supper Club** in Plover.

On April 8 the chapter held a work evening at **Peterson Creek**. The members took a tour of the work site, noting that two brush mats had been blown out by extreme high water events this spring. Needless to say, this will necessitate some future chapter work.

On April 17 chapter members went to **Byron Shaw's** tree farm and culled out unwanted white pines for placement in brush mats. Three trailer loads were transported to the **Raddatz** farm for future stream work. Members also transported a large load of field stone to the **Weldon Road** staging site for future rip-rapping.

Because of inclement weather and extremely high water, "the Faithful" were obliged to forego stream work May 13 and forced to sit around enjoying each other's company and swapping exaggerations!

May 15 the chapter held a work day at the **Raddatz** farm. We constructed a large in-stream brush mat that extended downstream from an existing inland. In the afternoon the members were treated to a nymph fishing symposium presented at the **Rising Star Mill** in Nelsonville by longtime chapter member and expert fly tyer **Stu Nelson**.

On June 5 we held our annual Introduction to Fly-fishing Workshop at the Rising Star Mill. There were 17 enrollees in the day-long event. Those in attendance received excellent instruction in the fundamentals of fly casting, streamside entomology, fly selection, gear selection, knot tying, etc. Everyone present seemed to conclude it was a good investment of time and money!

—*Dan Holland*

Green Bay Chapter

On March 25 the Green Bay Chapter staged its 29th Fundraising Banquet at the **Stadium View Banquet Hall** in Green Bay. It was another very successful event in that it raised over \$20,000 which we will use on behalf of trout and our cold-water resources. Since then the chapter has been planning on the best uses for these funds. We have donated to National's **Cold Water Conservation Fund** and funded beaver trapping.

Of course, our main planning for the summer centers around hands-on habitat work. We have spent a day cleaning the **Oconto River** below the **Stiles Dam**, removing a large amount of trash from the stream and its banks and performed general clean-up, spruce-up chores at our **Walk Through Educational Trout Stream** at the **Brown County Reforestation Camp**.

We are also going to spend time working on a stream in the **Nicolet National Forest** with the **Forest Service** and will join forces with the **DNR** to work on the islands the **DNR** (with TU assistance) constructed in the **Oconto River**. We will also travel north to work on the feeder springs to the **Lakewood Hatchery**.

Finally, the chapter has an ongoing membership recruitment drive that has been very successful to date, having brought about 40 new members to our ranks.

Every other year, the **Brown County Conservation Alliance** — a group that includes delegates from many conservation organizations in Brown County — holds an awards dinner at which outstanding efforts on behalf of conservation in our area are recognized. This year, the Green Bay Chapter was honored to have two of our members recognized at the event.

Janet Smith, a longtime member and former chapter president, was awarded the **Professional of the Year** award. Janet works for the **US Fish & Wildlife Service** out of the Green Bay office. There, she works diligently to preserve our natural resources. In addition, she is a member of other conservation organizations in our area and spends much of her free time performing hands on work for our environment.

Paul Mongin, current chapter vice president, was given the **Conservationist of the Year Award**. Mongin, while serving as Conservation Congress delegate, was the leader of a **Wisconsin Stewardship**

Network effort to restore the Public Intervenor Office and to return the DNR Secretary's position to being an appointee of the Natural Resources Board. He also spearheaded a letter writing campaign asking all

those seeking election to the Wisconsin Legislature about their positions on these issues. Congratulations to Janet and Paul.

—*Gary Stoychoff*

Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter

The Nohr Chapter's main stream conservation efforts for 2004 will be the restoration work on a segment of the **Blue River** that begins at the County Highway 1 bridge between Highland and Montfort. While permitting was stalled for a while, we are back on track. We built lunkers on June 26.

We are also committed to building lunkers for the **German Valley** project. The schedule for this

project has been bumped up. We are planning the weekends of July 10 and July 17 for lunker building parties. We are scheduling a morning shift and an afternoon shift for each day. The **Southern Chapter** has agreed to provide the lunches each day.

For more information visit the chapter web site at www.Nohr-TU.org.

Continued on p. 10



HORNBERG FLY FISHING SCHOOL

Guest fly caster and former Fenwick Rod Rep Dave Engebretson (top) wrapped up the day's instruction at Hornberg's June 5 Fly Fishing School with an on-stream demonstration. Earlier Stu Grimstad (above) talked fishing with attendees at the historic Rising Star Mill in Nelsonville.



Chapter News



PROUD GRANDFATHER AND GRANDSON

LaVerne Lederman and his grandson, Nathan, can thank the Blackhawk Chapter for Nathan's new L. L. Bean fly rod. LaVerne won the rod at Blackhawk's banquet with these strings attached — he had to give the rod to a grandson and send back a picture!

Continued from p. 9

Our annual banquet in April was a great success.

Spring Creek Festival 2004 plans are well on their way. It will be held

Saturday, September 11 at **Castle Rock Creek Campground**. For more information go to www.Nohr-TU.org/spring_creek_fest.htm.

—*Brian Larson*

Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter

Greg Dietl, Eric Forward, and Ted Mackmiller were elected to terms on the board at the chapter's March business meeting. They joined board members **Corey Mairs, Kent Johnson, Craig Aschenbrenner, and Bill Lovegren** in electing **Gary Horvath** chapter president, **Greg Dietl** vice president, and **Brent Sittlow** secretary-treasurer.

The chapter paid homage to the memory of **Dick Frantes** as it does every April with fly tying demonstrations by **Scott Hanson, Edd Twigg, Bill Stieger, Dennis Hook, Mark Bolton, Jay Rogers, and Brian Stewart**, all of whom wowed the crowd with their skills.

Area DNR senior fisheries biologist **Marty Engel** updated chapter members on the status of the ongoing **Eau Galle River** restoration project at the May meeting.

While the chapter adjourned its meetings for the summer months, chapter activists continue to work hard on chapter projects. **Bill Hinton, Dan Bruski, Jonathan Jacobs, and Dan McMillan** have begun construction of a **Greg Tatman Wooden**

Boat drift boat that will, upon completion, be raffled in a chapter fundraising effort. More K-TU members are expected to join in on the project as it moves along.

Kiap-TU-Wish conducted its 12th annual Fly Fishing Clinic in River Falls on June 5. Over the years, volunteers have introduced nearly 300 area residents to fly fishing and to the value of the **Kinnickinnic River** as a trout angling and community resource. Students receive fly casting instruction from FFF-certified instructor **Bill Hinton**, instruction on equipment choices, angling technique, fly selection, and aquatic biology. Students are given a leader and a fly box with a selection of suitable flies and are furnished an evening meal. The day is capped off with guided fishing on the Kinnickinnic River. This year's volunteers included **Michael Alwin, Jonathan Jacobs, Allison Jacobs, Paul Wiemerslage, Clarke Garry, Skip James, Brent Sittlow, Greg Dietl, Bob Bradham, Renate Mackmiller, Mark Leyde, and Bill Lovegren. Bob Torres, Dave Ball-**

man, Corey Mairs and Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop most generously donated flies to be distributed to this year's students. **Tom Andersen,**

a charter K-TU member and fly fishing tackle rep, furnished Sage rods for the students' use.

—*Jonathan Jacobs*

Lakeshore Chapter

The Lakeshore Chapter has been very active this spring. On March 27 we co-hosted **Fly Fish Wisconsin** with the **Helen Shaw Fly Fishers** at **Sheboygan Lutheran High School**. Fly Fish Wisconsin featured over 30 vendors, about 50 fly tyers, numerous workshops (both indoors and outdoors), fly casting, and large group presentations. This event was organized under the direction of **Ray Larson**. Ray put numerous hours into making this a big success.

On April 10 we held our annual TU banquet at the **Club Bil-Mar** in Manitowoc. **Jeff Preiss** is the chairman of this event. **Bob Melcher** and **Jeff Yax** were the prize chairmen and did another great job procuring prizes. Through a variety of raffles and auctions we raised over \$8,000.

Jeff Preiss, Bob Melcher, and Jeff Yax also tied flies at **Folk Art Day** in Two Rivers. Over 150 fourth grade students attended and each student received a hand-tied fly.

April 17 and May 15 were stream project days. Over these two Saturdays we built 77 lunger structures that will be used in our **Onion River** project. We have two sets of workdays scheduled this summer. June 16, 17, 18, and 19 we will be working on the section of the headwaters on Hwy ZZ. August 18, 19, 20, and 21 will find us working on the section of river immediately below the Hwy E bridge. Anyone interested in helping or checking out the work we have done is welcome to come on any of these days. **Larry Doebert** is our Onion River project leader.

On Sunday, August 22, we will be hosting an open house starting at 10 a.m. at the **Lester Schmitz** home. His property is located on the west bank of the Onion River on Hwy U. The day will feature demonstrations, some in-stream work, and a chance to look over the work we did last summer. Everyone is invited to attend.

—*Wayne Trupke*

Northwoods Chapter

The Northwoods Chapter held its 30th Annual Conservation Banquet on April 27 at the **Rhineland Café & Pub**. Can you actually believe the Northwoods Chapter has had 30 consecutive banquets? We had our usual core of supporters along with quite a few new faces this year.

Our volunteers were just fantastic this year and really helped distribute the work out. **Don Olcikas** and **Sara Umland** gathered door prizes, Terry coordinated the prizes, and quite a few people pitched in at the banquet to help sell tickets. A Certificate of Appreciation was presented to **Brian Leitinger** for his past efforts as the Stream Improvement Committee Chairman and Treasurer. Thank you letters were sent out to all of the banquet donors and supporters thanking them for their support.

Elections were held after our stream work day on May 22. **Brian Hegge** and **Victoria Houston** were re-elected as President and Vice President. Board members elected are **Josh Kunzman** and **Al Brooks**, and the treasurer position was appointed to our past treasurer, **Ron Reupert**.

The chapter will continue to work with the **DNR** and **US Forest Service** on the **Brule** and **Elvoy**

Creeks and the **Deerskin River**. In-stream habitat projects will be completed this summer on the **Brule** and **Elvoy Creeks** by the DNR, and we look forward to planning future activities on the **Deerskin** with the US Forest Service. The DNR will also be placing boulders and logs in the section of the **Bearskin Creek** we have been installing brush bundles in for the past several years.

We are also in communication with the DNR about possible dredging activities at **Woodboro Springs** for 2005 or 2006. As you can see, we've got a plate full of activities.

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

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

—*Brian Hegge*

Ocooch Creeks Chapter

In March, **Roger Kerr**, retired DNR fisheries biologist, presented his views on "Catch and Release" regulations on Southwest Wisconsin streams. In addition, there was discussion concerning the 2003 regulations on the **Upper Pine River** and **Melanchton Creek**.

Bob Hunt, author of *Trout Stream Therapy*, entertained a large audience with a historical account of stream habitat restoration during his tenure with the Wisconsin DNR. This seminar attracted a large audience, including nearly 30 **Richland Center High School** biology stu-

dents and their instructor, **Bob Rosenkranz**.

The chapter sponsored a fly-casting clinic at **Richland Center's Krouskop Park**. Chapter member **Dave Barron** provided the instructions for this talented group of anglers.

During the July 4th weekend the Chapter will be cooking and serving those tasty brats at **Burnstad's Supermarket**.

—*Allon Bostwick*

Chapter News



Shaw-Paca Chapter

Our annual banquet was a success. Our original venue was damaged by fire, and we had to switch locations. All went well and plans are already underway for next year. Despite a slight decline in ticket sales and a new location, we made more net profit than last year.

We also contributed \$50 to the **Marion Lions Club** to assist with their **Kids Fishing Day** held June 5. Several new projects have been started this spring. We have decided to send subscriptions of *Trout* magazine to all high school libraries and several city libraries in our Shawano-Waupaca county area. The idea is to acquaint this population with TU and what we are about. We will review the success of this project next fall. (For other chapters' information, the cost of a non-member subscription is \$12. Contact **Wendy Reed** at TU National about this.)

We have been checking into **Alcohol Creek** which is a small Class I stream in Shawano County. Our recommendations about this stream have been conveyed to all concerned parties.

We have had two of our members working on beaver control on our local streams. A special thanks to **Wyatt Kersten** and **Ron Knitter** for helping to keep these critters

from damming and warming our local trout waters.

We donated four books on fly tying to the **Clintonville Public Library**. The titles are *Trout Flies* by Richard Hughes, *Advanced Fly-Tying* by A.K. Best, *Fly Tying* by John Van Vliet, and *Beginning Fly Tying* by Skip Morris. These books will also be available for loan through other libraries with the OWLS Program. **Lee Kersten** and **Jerry Weatherwax** made the official presentation to **Karen Mitchell** in April.

We paid out the \$750 we had pledged for beaver control in the **Nicolet National Forest-Lakewood District**.

We voted once again to sponsor two high school students to the **UW-SP Natural Resource Careers Camp** at the **UW-SP Sunset Lake Camp** in July. The students will be selected from our two-county area or an adjoining county.

Our monthly fly tying sessions will continue during the summer. We meet on the first Thursday of each month at **Prime Time** in Marion. Our regular meetings will resume on September 16 at **Mathews Supper Club** in Clintonville. Meeting time is 7:30 p.m.

—Lee Kersten

Southern Wisconsin Chapter

Our April meeting was graced with a fabulous presentation by world-renowned fisheries scientist **Ray White**. His talk was both entertaining and informative. Ray has a long and distinguished career which couldn't possibly be summarized in an hour, but he did manage to disseminate a tremendous amount of valuable information on stream habitat restoration.

Of particular interest was his emphasis on the importance of retaining in-stream woody debris as a means of providing fish habitat. He provided a convincing scientific argument that fish-centered habitat restoration is important. Removing all of the deadfalls from a stream may improve stream flows and create clear casting lanes, but can degrade fish habitat. Without cover, there will be no fish. This valuable advice has practical implications for our work projects. As our chapter volunteers continue the important work of improving stream flows, strategic woody fish cover structures need to be retained. Some wood is good. Raceways should only be found in hatcheries!

Steve Born must be a glutton for punishment. Having finished up several years as Chair of the **TU National Resources Board** (and having served as SWTU President and Wis-

consin State Council Chair along the way), he recently agreed to serve on the National Resources Board for **TU Canada** (the lone non-Canadian). TU Canada is undertaking an agenda similar to that pursued by TU in the U.S. beginning in 1992. The American effort culminated in the formation of a National Leadership Council, designed to facilitate closer programming ties between our conservation and organizational development entities. TU Canada will now follow suit, and develop a national conservation agenda for Canadian coldwater resources. The Canadian effort should also culminate in a strengthened "grassroots" organization, with an improved ability to carry out the conservation mission of TU.

Born's experience in the U.S. should help our neighbors to the north successfully undertake this mission - avoiding some of our missteps and building on initiatives that worked well. His expertise in watershed management and water policy will be an asset to TU Canada.

Coldwater fisheries in Canada are spectacular -- from Atlantic salmon in the east to brook trout in Labrador and Quebec, to spectacular Rocky Mountain fisheries, and West Coast steelhead and salmon. TU envisions playing a more aggres-



Todd Hanson

RAY WHITE TALKS ABOUT HABITAT AT SOUTHERN WI TU

Former WDNR trout researcher Ray White spoke at the April 13 meeting of the Southern Wisconsin Chapter. He gave a brief history of stream restoration and then outlined the current trend of "managing for the mess" where woody debris is a key part of restoration projects.

sive role in working with government and other conservation interests to protect, conserve, and better manage these resources and the watersheds where salmonids abound. One observer noted that it would be a surprise if Born didn't develop some familiarity with some of these world class Canadian salmonid resources. Another noted that it would be astonishing if he didn't also find a little time to fish for those resources.

Our **March Madness Auction** was a lot of fun. Thanks to more donations than anyone could remember having ever seen, it was a long and fruitful night. In the end, we collected \$3,885 for the cause. This appears to have been our most profitable auction ever. Success doesn't

just happen. Hundreds of people contributed to this effort. There were at least five dozen sets of flies donated, and some of those sets were large. **Dennis Franke** donated a tremendous amount of camping equipment. **Jim Hess** and **Peter Burke** donated some nice pieces of wildlife art. **Jim Bartelt** and **Scot Stewart** donated guided fishing trips. The auctioneer's bag was once again provided at a very generous discount by **Dennis Cuchna** of **Battle Lake Outdoors**. The bounty filled over 40 square feet of table space. It all came in so fast that it is difficult to recall, and then thank, all of the donors. If you were one of them, thanks! There were also many generous bidders. Thank you, too.

—Mark Maffitt

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



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Chris Dyer

CONTEMPLATING A ONCE-GREAT SPOT

Dennis Franke thinks about the lack of trout at a formerly fine fishing spot on Black Earth Creek in Dane County just upstream from Salmo Pond.

A Wisconsin Trout reprint

Fishers wonder whether growing tree canopy is detrimental to Black Earth Creek

By Chris Dyer

Dennis Franke has been watching Black Earth Creek for a long time now, watching it as only an avid fly fisherman with a biology degree could. He is worried.

Standing beside the riffle just upstream of the bridge at Salmo Pond, Franke jumps and waves his arms vigorously while watching the water flowing from the deep shadows of overhanging trees. "See?" he says. "I can't scare up a single trout here. 25 years ago you'd have seen them racing off left and right. This creek has been resting on its laurels for years. It's not the high-quality trout stream people come here to fish. Black Earth Creek used to be listed as one of the 100 best trout streams in the country, but not any more," says Franke.

"Why? Because people have realized that it's got problems. They're just not catching the fish they used to, plus, for much of its length, it's just too difficult, physically, to fish it anymore."

It would be hard to argue that Franke doesn't know what he's talking about. He began fishing Black Earth Creek, as well as other area streams, back in the mid 1960s while studying biology at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, IL. A fisherman since the age of three, Franke had been trekking from Carbondale to Michigan for his trout fishing fix when he read a Wisconsin Department of Conservation bulletin

about trout habitat research on Black Earth and Mt Vernon Creeks.

"It sounded interesting and when I tried them, I found them far superior to the Michigan streams," he remembers. "After about 1966 I gave up on Michigan and came up here instead."

In the early 1980s deteriorating trout populations, plus a surge in the popularity of fly fishing, sent him west in search of streams with more fish and fewer fishermen. But he never stopped fishing Black Earth Creek. In 1992 Franke and his wife, Hanna, moved from Chicago to Madison and, in 1995, to Cross Plains.

"In 1992, when I started fishing here almost every day, I saw there were some real problems that were not being addressed," he explains. "I saw that what had been one of the state's best trout streams in the 1970s was now below average."

The most obvious threat was storm water runoff from the Village of Cross Plains, including its aging wastewater treatment plant, and from farms along the creek. Franke has explored every foot of the creek within the village, identifying and documenting every active or potential source of pollution. His constantly updated list of 28 sources of polluted rainwater runoff is all too familiar to village, county and DNR officials over the last few years and has undoubtedly contributed to the ongoing efforts to understand and control the problem.

While the fish kill of 2001, focused public attention on the threat to Black Earth Creek from storm water runoff, and water pollution in general, Franke believes that another, less obvious, threat has been quietly growing for decades.

The problem, he argues, is the trees that crowd the creek's banks for much of its length, especially in the upstream areas around Cross Plains. "It isn't a prairie stream anymore, it's a tree canopy stream. Since about 1980 the canopy has been getting out of control and I'd say roughly 50 percent of it is in canopy now."

This is a problem, Franke claims, because a low gradient, spring-fed stream like Black Earth Creek needs plenty of direct sun-plus protection from heavy livestock traffic to support a flourishing trout population.

For support, Franke cites the same Wisconsin Department of Conservation studies that first brought Black Earth Creek to his attention back in the 1960s, work by Ray White and Oscar Brynildson begun in the mid 1950s and published in 1967 in a bulletin titled *Guidelines for Management of Trout Stream Habitat in Wisconsin*.

The study analyzes the evolution of these "fertile, lowland Wisconsin trout streams" after the removal of dams and millponds and the fencing out of cattle.

In their initial, overgrazed state the authors described the creeks as

wide, shallow and silt choked with their whole surface and bed exposed to the sun, conditions offering trout "no shelter, no place to spawn, little food and frequently unfavorable temperatures." After only five years without grazing, however, the streams are narrower — less than half the former width is exposed to the sun — deeper and swifter flowing as bank grasses form a resilient turf, watercress beds constrict the flow and trap sediments and submergent plants thrive. For trout, food, shelter and spawning opportunities are plentiful while water temperature and oxygen content are favorable and stable.

By the mid to late 1960s these ideal conditions prevailed on Mt. Vernon and Black Earth Creeks, but, based on what they observed happening on other area streams, White and Brynildson warned that it couldn't last. Without controlled grazing, periodic fires or some other human intervention, woody brush and saplings would invade stream banks and shade out the grasses. Within 20 years, a canopy of trees would shade the channel. In the final stage of succession toppled trees and debris clog the channel, banks erode and the stream, now shrouded in dense shade, is again wide, shallow and silted. Conditions, from the trout's point of view, are just as bad as they were 30 years ago.

Continued on next page

Continued from p. 12

For Franke it has obviously been frustrating to watch as the predicted, but not inevitable, decline of the creek has progressed. "The Wisconsin DNR led the nation in understanding the ecology of the spring creek trout stream," he says. "They identified a process that applies to all streams of this type: Remove cattle and cut down trees and the streams improve. But they also realized that if you don't maintain the stream banks, conditions go downhill quickly. The tree canopy has been a growing problem for 20 years now and I have to ask, first,

- Does the model still hold?

- And, if so, why is not being applied here?

Franke stresses that he is not advocating returning the valley to the virgin prairie described by the early settlers.

"I'd like to have DNR foresters identify the best big trees and then have crews come in and cut down everything else," he explains. "Remove the white cedars, alders, willows and other scrub trees so we can really appreciate the big, beautiful maples, cottonwoods, and white pines that are now buried in the undergrowth. Then there would be a great opportunity for the UW Arboretum or some other group to get

involved in restoring some of the grasslands along the creek."

Franke realizes that he is talking about a big project and that it will take more than the fraternity of fly fishermen to make it happen.

"Support for the creek has so far come from users, mostly fishermen," he says. "But this has the potential to be not only a better trout stream, but also to be enjoyed by many other recreational users. Non fishermen don't use it because they can't walk its banks because of the canopy vegetation. That has to change."

Is BEC in trouble?

It depends on whom you ask. For

Dennis Franke and a lot of other avid trout fishing enthusiasts — the ones who know every riffle, hole, and horseshoe bend from Middleton to Lake Marion — the answer would most likely be yes.

Others, especially those with some degree of influence over, or responsibility for, the creek, tend to be a bit more equivocal in their assessment. As President of the Southern Wisconsin chapter of Trout Unlimited, Bill Pielsticker is all too familiar with the Black Earth Creek's problems, past, present, and future.

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WITU Looking Back

From the Winter, 1974, WITU Quarterly Report...

Don't Discriminate

Dear Editor,

The trout fishermen of Wisconsin are triply blest. Hundreds of miles of good water, a state organization which actively manages the habitat, and, lastly, the right by law to fish this water anywhere within the constraints of the trespass laws.

Unlike other countries and even other states in this country, where much of the trout water is privately controlled by clubs or individuals, the farsighted people of this state have so set up the rules that no individuals or clubs are considered privileged with regard to trout fishing.

With this background, it concerns me as a trout fisherman and a member of Trout Unlimited to read in this publication that another member is attempting to convince other TU'ers and the DNR that a section on a trout stream like the Mecan, Tomorrow or Willow be set aside for trophy trout fishing for the exclusive use of fly fishermen and a restricted type of hardware fisherman.

Personally, I object to this for two reasons. Even in a small way, this action would establish a precedent whereby the fishing rights to a certain section of a stream are set aside for a special type trout fisherman. Where this might end is a matter of conjecture, but there is a chance that it could lead towards further restrictions on our present rights.

Secondly, it seems to me that our efforts as an organization should be for the betterment of all trout fishermen rather than setting one type of fisherman against another. The patronizing approach on the part of some fly fishermen towards hardware or bait fishermen really has no place in our organization. Appreciation of the sport and our noble quarry, the trout, should be our goal.

Yours for unity and unrestricted fishing privileges,

John R. Hammond,
Member, Fox Vally Chapter

Fly and Spin

Dear Editor,

I was quite interested in reading in the fall quarterly about Arling Erickson's interest in trophy trout fishing on a few select Wisconsin streams.

I am in complete agreement that Wisconsin needs trophy trout waters, and that the size of a trophy trout should be nothing less than 16 inches.

Although Erickson states that most TU members are not fly fishermen and that TU must never give the impression that it is a group that does not need the bait and spin fisherman in defense of our cold water resources, he still refers to the idea that our trophy trout waters should be limited to fly fishing only.

I could accept this idea of flies only if more than one stream was set aside for trophy fishing. But we are talking about the state's first stretch of trophy water and this water being public.

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

Koshoshek 'Conservationist of Year'

At the annual Wisconsin Wildlife Federation Awards Banquet on April 28 at the Pioneer Inn in Oshkosh, Ron Koshoshek, member of the Ojibbeau Chapter of Trout Unlimited and a former TU National Director, received the "Conservationist of the Year" Award from the Federation.

Ron received the award from WWF president Robert Lachmund. Koshoshek was given his award for his many years of dedicated service to conservation, particularly that of coldwater resource conservation. He was instrumental in working with the city of Eau Claire in

reaching a precedent-setting agreement regarding discharge of effluent into Lowes Creek, a class II trout stream near Eau Claire. Ron has also worked diligently as a member of the Citizen's Advisory Committee to the Public Intervenor's Office, where he has been involved with water resource issues. Ron also maintains a farm outside the city of Eau Claire.

TU congratulates Ron Koshoshek for his well-deserved award. It is another example of the class and dedication of Trout Unlimited members we have in Wisconsin.

From the Summer, 1994, Wisconsin Trout...

Intervenor appointed for Exxon mine project

The Citizen Advisory Committee to the office of the Wisconsin Public Intervenor has appointed a public intervenor to represent and act on behalf of the citizens of Wisconsin with regard to the proposed zinc-copper mine planned by Exxon and Rio Algom, Ltd. (a.k.a. "Crandon Mining Company").

Laura Sutherland is an assistant attorney general in Government Operations and the Administrative Law Unit of the Wisconsin Department of Justice. She was appointed by the advisory committee to that post in late 1993.

In her capacity as a special public intervenor, Ms. Sutherland has suc-

cessfully challenged various Wisconsin statutes which created unlawful exemptions to Wisconsin's navigable waters protection laws.

She received a B.A. in political science with University Honors from Northern Illinois University, and J.D. degree from the University of Wisconsin Law School, where she served as an Articles Editor on Wisconsin Law Review.

Before joining the Department of Justice, Sutherland worked as a law clerk for the Wisconsin Court of Appeals. She is a member of the Dane County Bar Association and the State Bar of Wisconsin.

Old TU pubs on CD

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

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

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

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

TU should support fishing for trophy trout, at least on the first stream so designated, to include both the fly and spin fisherman. That fish may be taken only on artificials and that spin fishermen be limited to the use of only one hook on their lures and spinners.

I also believe in the use of barbless hooks and this should be given consideration as a possible requirement on trophy waters.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Lane

Member, Southeastern Wis. chapter

BEC: stream in trouble?

While he agrees that, as a trout stream, it has seen better days, he doesn't necessarily share Franke's sense of urgency or all of his conclusions about causes and effects and priorities.

Pielsticker doesn't, for instance, buy the idea that the canopy of trees and brush that shrouds the creek for much of its length is a major problem. "I think there has been some decline," he says, "but I also think it's not clear exactly why."

What is clear, Pielsticker says, is that storm water runoff from developed areas and farms is a big problem, especially in terms of the oxygen content of the creek's water. Because it is a spring fed, low-gradient stream, there are few falls, rapids and riffles to help oxygenate the water.

And, since warm water holds less oxygen than cold, the low oxygen situation gets worse in the summer. When, as happened in June of 2001, warm, pollution-loaded runoff from a major rain event enters the creek, the situation can become critical for its inhabitants.

The good news, Pielsticker points out, is that the 2001 fish kill brought this problem into sharp focus and that corrective measures are being taken at both the state and local levels.

"I think the DNR is more on top of it now, and the Village of Cross Plains' storm water ordinance is a promising development," he says. "Prior to the fish kill there wasn't a process in place to watch for that kind of incident. The DNR has learned a lot about oxygen levels."

And they are learning even more, Pielsticker notes, thanks to new water quality monitoring

projects sponsored by the Village of Cross Plains and Trout Unlimited.

While Franke and Pielsticker agree on the dangers posed by pollution and runoff, they part ways when it comes to the cause and effect relationship between an expanding tree canopy and declining trout populations.

"I think it may be true that some fish experts in the DNR don't share that opinion," Pielsticker notes. "but I do agree that where a canopy forms, banks wash out and a stream gets shallow and slow. I'm hoping we might be able to monitor temperature and oxygen content on stretches of the creek with varied canopy to learn more about this."

On the question of how many fish are in the creek these days, Pielsticker tends to defer to the DNR.

"You have to realize that there are problems in relying on anecdotal evidence as opposed to hard data from year to year stream shocking," he says. "I'm impressed with their determination to return to the same places at the same times of year over so many years. My feeling is that the total mass of fish in the stream is greater now, at least up until the fish kill, but that the size distribution is different."

Whatever his doubts about the effect of stream bank vegetation on trout numbers, Pielsticker agrees that all the trees and brush make for a bad fishing experience.

"What Dennis says about the creek being difficult to fish is certainly true," he admits. "If you want to fish Black Earth Creek, you'd better perfect your roll cast."

Brush clearing, he notes, has been a major occupation of Trout Unlimited volunteers for many



Bill Sonzogni

BAMBOO AND GRAPHITE WEDDING ARCH FOR MR. & MRS. JEFF SMITH

Some of you may recognize this "wedding retreat" as one of the cottages at the West Fork Sportsman's Club in Avalanche. What better place for a dyed-in-the-dubbing trout fisher like Southern Wisconsin's Jeff Smith to marry bride Kathy O'Connor than on the banks of the West Branch of the Kickapoo? The wedding was May 22.

years. Although they have generally left the big timber for the DNR to deal with, Pielsticker feels there is no reason his organization couldn't lend a hand with the kind of large-scale tree removal Franke has in mind. The lack of DNR activity in this area, he suggests, is probably due more to budget constraints than to any denial that there is a problem.

"I think the department would do more of this if it had the resources," he says. "This is the kind of work Trout Unlimited volunteers would be capable of helping with, once there's a consensus that it is worth doing."

Stream's location a challenge

Beyond the lack of a clear consensus on what is happening to the creek, there is, Pielsticker points out, the larger question of whether it might be, in fact, a lost cause.

"The challenge is its location," he explains. "It's just so close to Madison and to Chicago that to keep it a high-quality trout stream may be impossible. I've had several Trout Unlimited members from the Southern Wisconsin chapter question whether we should invest our time and money in it if in 40 years, no matter what we do, it will be swallowed up by urban sprawl. But, in my opinion we shouldn't, and won't, give up on it," he concludes. "We and the other groups concerned about the creek will continue to maintain and improve it even as land use patterns change. I look forward to our children and grandchildren fishing Black Earth Creek."

DNR Fish Specialist Scott Stewart would never deny that Black Earth Creek has problems. But a dwindling trout population is not, he believes, one of them. And he feels he has the data to prove it.

"The department has been counting fish in the creek since 1956," he says, "and I, personally, have been doing the count since 1988. Our numbers indicate a very good — even excellent — density of reproducing brown trout."

Counting fish in a creek is necessarily an inexact process, but Stewart and his predecessors have refined their "electrofishing" technique to the point that they are confident the annual count accurately reflects both the current fish population and its changes over time. This spring, as it has been for many years, the count was conducted at two points — one in the Village of Cross Plains between highways KP and P and one downstream from South Valley Road, a stretch subject to the 2001 fish kill.

"We counted about 2,400 native brown trout per mile in the upstream segment in Cross Plains," Stewart reports. "That's a trout every other foot, with a nice distribution of sizes from three to 17 inches. I see no decline over time, except for a dip from '89-'91 which was probably related to a drought."

Downstream from South Valley Road, the spring count showed a bit under 1,500 fish per mile.

Continued on p. 15

Galligan mystery unfolds along Black Earth Creek

By John Welter

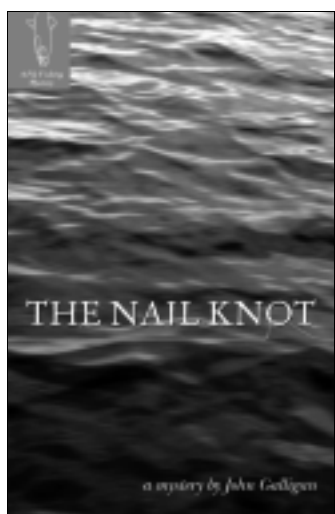
Chances are, you could populate a whole library's worth of books with characters drawn from the people who fish or hang out along Wisconsin's trout streams. An encyclopedia of natural history with the variety of plants, insects, and critters we find here. And a rural sociology textbook, or a whole batch of suspense novels, with stories of tensions wrought from conflicting values and perceptions of the natural world.

John Galligan should have plenty of material for a raft of novels. From his most recent, *The Nail Knot* (Bleak House Books, Madison, 262 pages), it's apparent he'll have fun writing them. Galligan, who teaches writing at Madison Area Technical College, has crafted a nifty whodunit centered around Black Earth Creek.

Small towns like Black Earth each seem to have their share of interchangeable characters who might not be too different whether they lived in Indiana, Nebraska, Montana, or Wisconsin. Galligan's task has been to bring the cast together and weave their histories and their personalities into an engaging mystery that keeps you guessing until the final chapter.

It seems something's amiss in the Black Earth watershed, beset by encroaching development and cared for by its own watershed enthusiasts.

The body of an activist stream keeper type is found by the narrator, Ned "Dog" Ogilvie, as he fishes the stream during the Yellow Sally hatch. The corpse's rod is near his body, and the second witness at the



FLY FISHING MURDER MYSTERY

Author John Galligan has written *The Nail Knot*, a murder mystery set on Southern Wisconsin's Black Earth Creek.

scene snips off and tosses away a fly as soon as she measures up the situation.

As it turns out, the fly pattern, the timing of the hatch coinciding with a tension-filled town board meeting, and the adeptness with which a nail knot is used on the rod, all turn out to be clues to the mystery of who killed the streamkeeper.

The Dog, wandering the country in his RV until he's "fished every one of the Hundred Best Trout Streams" in the famous TU book, stumbles into the mystery and can't

wander on until it's solved. In the meantime, he encounters a quirky local trout bum who ties flies and lives part-time in his car, a retired DNR fisheries biologist who haunts the creek with his backpack electroshock unit, a developer-politician always trying to get an edge on the world, and a host of other "Black Earthlings." Nobody got bit by a swamp rattler, and there aren't any hydrogeologists identified, but for the most part you can find most of the usual Black Earth Creek subjects somewhere in the book.

Galligan holds a bachelor's degree in environmental policy and a masters in English literature. He's enchanted by waters like lovely Black Earth Creek, and enjoys writing about them. Deftly, he brings the reader along, describing the first signs of a hatch when the cedar waxwings flit out of streamside bushes to take the first flying insects. He's not bogged down in technical minutiae that might throw off a non-enthusiast, although he can come close. When most all is said and done, he ties it up neatly and brings some seemingly unrelated loose ends into the story.

But he leaves enough to learn about Dog, and has enough characters around the state to draw from, that one suspects that we will hear more in this series about Wisconsin characters and waters. I'm looking forward to the next.

Recalling opening day in Crawford County

By Jon Christiansen

The end of the dark period finally arrived. I call it the dark period because it is that vast, seemingly unending time between the close of hunting season and opening day of trout season. It is when I finally shorten all of those home job lists and get all my flies tied for the year.

Somehow this year the dark period never seemed to end. I did all the usual foreplay of tackle fondling. I put new line on my reels, new leaders on lines, and greased the reels. Heck, I even cleaned by fly rods. I tied dozens of pink squirrels, prince nymphs, and size 22 midge emergers. In short, I was ready to fish.

So when opening day came I was with five other similarly afflicted at a farm in Crawford County. Of course, the weekend before the opener was glorious with temperatures in the 50s, sunshine, and no wind. Naturally, two days before opening saw an absolute gully washer inundate the southern half of the state, with the result that the Kickapoo River was less than a foot below flood stage. Things were looking pretty bleak for a successful opening day.

We figured our best chance for success was probably to go as high as we could in the Coulee Country of southwest Wisconsin. Streams would clear up first at the top as the water receded. Three of us decided to start on a stream at the top of

Crawford County. This pretty little stream runs for two or three miles through a long, narrow valley before joining with a reasonably well known trout stream, which means its own way to the Mississippi.

Since I was the first one of our group to be rigged up (having been ready since January), I walked from the road down a narrow path to the stream. We fished the meadow portion of the stream, which varies from 8 to 15 feet across with a few nice plunge pools. Fortunately, the river was only slightly off color — not bad, considering the chocolate milk of most rivers we crossed the day before.

My first stop was a place that I knew always held fish. The water was clearly high, and the matted-down grass on the bank showed that the recent rains pushed the stream far beyond its banks. I was modestly hopeful given the popular thought that fishing is generally better on falling water.

This particular pool was formed by a short riffle of fast water entering from the upper right side of the pool. The water slammed into the upper left side of the pool and gouged a deep dark hole that lasted the first two thirds of the pool. In previous trips I had found that the trick to getting a good drift on a nymph was to land the fly at the very end of the riffle so that as it sank, the rig would be pulled into the deep cut.

This all seemed fairly elementary, except for one thing. The recent water burst had reshaped the vegetation on the stream bank, and there was one long reed at the top of the pool extending nearly horizontal from the edge of the stream a third of the way out to the middle. Of course, this was exactly where I needed to land my fly.

The easiest thing to have done, of course, would have been to sneak along the bank on my hands and knees and grab the offending weed from the side of the stream in order to free up the casting lane. For some reason, however, this didn't seem quite kosher; sort of like golf's admonition to play it like it lies (yet more of a guideline, in my view).

What to do? I could try to hook slide under the weed, but this would likely slap the line and fly on the water, sending every fish heading for cover. I could cast to the right of the weed and then try to mend in, but this didn't seem all that possible, either.

After some study, I figured that I could cast over the weed and probably have seven or eight feet of drift before the fly was carried under and past the weed and I would get hung up. I also figured that I might be able to slowly draw the whole rig over the top of the weed without hanging up.

My first cast was wide of the weed, and the fly floated down unimpeded. The second cast was on

the money over the top of the reed. The strike indicator floated for about four feet before a fish took the bottom pink squirrel. When the fish raced back down stream it pulled the fly line loop against the reed bending it backwards to the bank. In one of those lucky happenings, the fly line slid down and fell off the reed without causing the barbless hook to fall out of fish. Not only did I have my first fish of the year, but I also now had a clear channel. A very lucky and wonderful way to begin the season. This run yielded three more fish, and I could have quit for the day completely contented.

This was a wholly unimportant event in human history, a point brought home by my wife's ambivalence when I related the heroic story to her. It was rather like seeing someone build a house using playing cards — nice, the point exactly? But the point for me wasn't the significance of the event, because it was wholly insignificant. It was just kind of rewarding and fun for somebody who had spent a few months daydreaming about the return of trout fishing. It was nice to catch and release a couple of fish on a raw Saturday morning two months before the catch-em and clean-em opener. It was one of those moments that causes you to reflect on the elemental aspects of trout fishing, the small things that make you relax and let the air out of the tires of life.

As John Volker said in *Testament of a Fisherman*, I fish "not because I regard fishing as being so terribly important, but I suspect that so many of the other concerns of men are equally unimportant — and not nearly so much fun."

Michigan Council's Bowman to speak this Fall

By Bill Pielsticker

Rich Bowman, executive director for the Michigan TU State Council, will attend the next Wisconsin State Council meeting this Fall at a date yet to be determined at the West Fork Sportsman's Club in Avalanche.

Bowman will describe the work

he does as a full-time staff person for the Michigan Council. He will also address issues such as chapter support for his work and how the Michigan Council raises the funds to maintain his position.

ED for WITU?

As noted in the last issue of *Wisconsin Trout*, the question of whether

Wisconsin TU should consider hiring an executive director was raised by members in response to a strategic planning questionnaire distributed to chapter leaders in January. It is hoped that Mr. Bowman will be able to address those questions prior to the start of the planning session.

BEC: stream in trouble?

Continued from p. 14

This was only a little below the pre fish-kill figure, an indication, Stewart notes, that the population has rebounded strongly and naturally from the roughly 85 percent loss suffered in 2001.

"We didn't re-stock with domestic, hatchery fish, so this year there were lots of young, naturally reproduced, fish with a size distribution that is right on the money for healthy growth rates in that stream," he stresses.

Considering the fish-count numbers they depend on and the still-fresh trauma of the fish kill, it is not surprising that Stewart and his DNR comrades are primarily focused on urban and agricultural runoff as the most pressing threat to the creek and its trout. He doesn't dispute the negative long-term effects of canopy formation on trout habitat, but as long as the fish-count numbers look good and budgets are tight, large-scale brushing and tree removal are likely to remain low priority items.

"We do what we can, and we have worked with Trout Unlimited on many brushing projects, but there are no funds for Black Earth Creek this year," says Stewart. "In the 80s and 90s we did a ton of projects on the creek. Downstream of South Valley Road, we did bank improvements and installed lunger structures that gave a 500 per cent

increase in trout populations in one year. This fall we had a crew doing bank restoration in Cross Plains. That's all we're able to afford."

Franke is quick to acknowledge the DNR's past good works on Black Earth Creek, but he is convinced that their current perception of what is going on there is distorted by reliance on bad data. The problem, he argues, is not how they count the fish, but when and where they count them.

"In the beginning, from the mid-50s into the mid-80s, they sampled much more of the creek," he explains. "Most years they did up to 11 miles for a total picture of the situation. Now they only shock in two of the most favorable stretches and they do it at times when the trout are packed in to reproduce. Then they extrapolate those numbers to the entire length of the creek when so much of it has changed because of the tree canopy."

As Franke sees it, the this kind of sampling significantly exaggerates the actual number of fish in the creek, leading to the conclusion that it is healthier than it really is.

"The trout fan out from the counting sites in the spring and then move back in the fall," he argues. "At those times you can put on your waders and walk through there and feel them bumping your legs and see them. But walk through in August

and you can hardly scare up a trout. There are, at best, hundreds per mile, not thousands. I've been looking at this longer than just about anyone, and I challenge them to disprove me on this."

(This story originally appeared in the *News-Sickle-Arrow* newspaper serving *Black Earth, Mazomanie, and Cross Plains* and is reprinted with permission. -Ed.)

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2004 "Friends" program off to a bright, shining start

By John Cantwell

The 2004 Friends of Wisconsin TU program is off to a strong start with 122 donors contributing \$14,485 toward the program's stream habitat, research, land acquisition, and education grants.

Formed in 1990, the Friends of Wisconsin TU program allows concerned anglers to make annual contributions of \$100 or more to a special fund managed by the WITU State Council. In the last 14 years, the Friends program has appropriated over \$122,000 for such projects throughout the state.

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

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Also, while supplies last, we will send you a very practical *mini flashlight* featuring a bright LED bulb

that will last nearly forever. As you probably know, LED bulbs use very little energy. This light will be a handy addition to your fishing vest.

Just as importantly, though, you'll receive the satisfaction of knowing you donated to a cause that has made a difference in Wisconsin's trout fishery.

So, as you get ready for another great Wisconsin trout fishing season, please consider becoming a Friend of Wisconsin TU! Like any solid investment, your donation will pay dividends down the road, dividends in the form of improved wa-

ter quality, better trout habitat, and exciting fishing. Don't delay — become our Friend TODAY.



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- \$2,000 to the WI River Valley Chapter for almost one mile of work on the Plover
- \$400 to UW-Oshkosh for a macroinvertebrate study.
- \$2,000 to the Lakeshore Chapter for ongoing work on the Onion River in Sheboygan Co.
- \$2,000 to the Nohr Chapter for habitat work on Big Spring Creek in Iowa and
- \$2,000 to the Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter for restoration on the Blue River in Iowa Co.

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