



# Wisconsin Trout

January 2005

*Many culverts are impacting temperature and fish passage*

## Council tackling state's problem culverts

By Bob Obma

Working with state and local officials in charge of roads and highways to fix improperly sited culverts can be one of the best things our TU chapters can do to improve Wisconsin's trout waters.

When WDNR fishery biologists review environmental problems impacting our state's trout streams, culvert impoundments come up frequently. If a culvert is too small, it causes damming with secondary sedimentation which, in turn, heats a stream's water beyond trout toler-

ance and into the sucker and bull-head temperature range.

Another common problem involves culverts being placed so their downstream ends are too high above the streambed, preventing trout from migrating upstream to cooler water or spawning beds.

Culvert problems like these are widespread:

- The Prairie River in Lincoln County, source of the state record brookie has a bad culvert.
- The Hunting, source of the Wolf, has two problem culverts.
- Brehmer Creek is being addressed by the Oconto River Chapter right now.

Because a new culvert will last for decades, so will its damage to the fishery. It is therefore a good deal cheaper to place one correctly right from the start. The DNR and Department of Transportation (DOT) have worked out culvert placement guidelines that specify how large a given culvert must be to prevent these problems.

Your local fishery biologist will have a list of problem culverts and would appreciate your chapter's support at town and county board meetings to address these problems.

I recently photographed a properly placed culvert on Battle Creek and sent an "attaboy" e-mail to the

highway department because good work should be complemented and our interest noted.

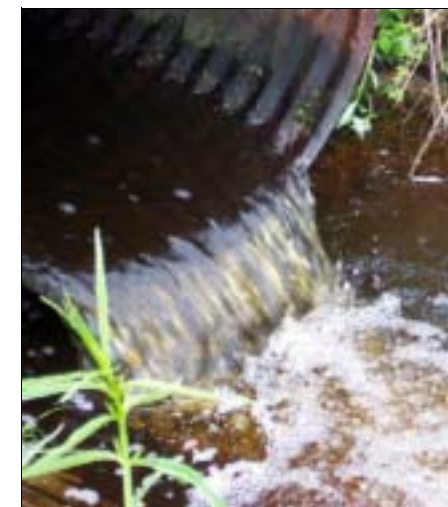
Upcoming efforts

We plan to list problem culverts on the State Council's web site. Each of these culverts will be avail-



### UPSTREAM BATTLE

This culvert on County Hwy. C at Pemma Creek seven miles east of Wabeno in Forest County tells the story. An impoundment upstream has a silt bottom and warms the water. Additionally, the downstream end of the culvert (close-up at right) prevents trout from moving upstream.



able for "adoption" by one or more TU chapters, and we will also seek sources of cost-sharing to correct these problems.

If you know of a problem culvert, please contact me. You may also want to send a representative to the Feb. 5 State Council meeting where we will have an update on addressing these culverts across the state.

## Mongolian taimen trout focus of banquet speaker

By Bill Pielsticker

They're big. Imagine a grip-and-grin shot with a 70-pound trout. According to Jake Vander Zanden, "that's too large to pick up out of the water for a photo!"

Vander Zanden should know. He spent part of last summer fishing for, catching, and monitoring these landlocked salmonids in Mongolia, and he will talk about his adventures at the annual State Council Banquet at the Park Plaza Conference Center in Oshkosh Feb. 5.

Vander Zanden and other researchers will spend the next five years conducting research and drawing up conservation plans to protect these fish and encourage a sustainable fishery and related eco-tourism.

Go to the web and you can find outfitters offering trips to Mongolia to fish for these monsters. One such advertisement says, "Imagine

wading clear cliff fringed pools and casting a mouse fly to meter-long sighted taimen...."

Little is known about the life-cycle of these magnificent fish, so Vander Zanden and others are catching taimen and fitting them with transmitters to track their movements through the year. "We don't know their habits or what level of catch and release is sustainable for these fish, and we need to find that out." Even more worrisome, says Vander Zanden, are people flying in from Russia in helicopters and harvesting taimen with seine nets.

"This is a great opportunity to encourage a sustainable eco-tourism opportunity, but we need to act now to find out how to make that work."

Once widespread, taimen trout have vanished from much of their historical range. They are threatened by over-harvest as well as environmental decline.

Vander Zanden is an associate professor of limnology at UW-Madison. His work has been featured in *National Geographic News*.

*Continued on p. 3*



### HUGE TAIMEN TROUT

Often too big to lift out of the water for a photo, Mongolian taimen trout will be the subject of a special presentation at the annual State Council Banquet in Oshkosh Feb. 5.

## In this issue...

John Gale to lead membership recruiting session . . . p. 4

Efforts by many prevent damaging fish kill. . . . . p. 4

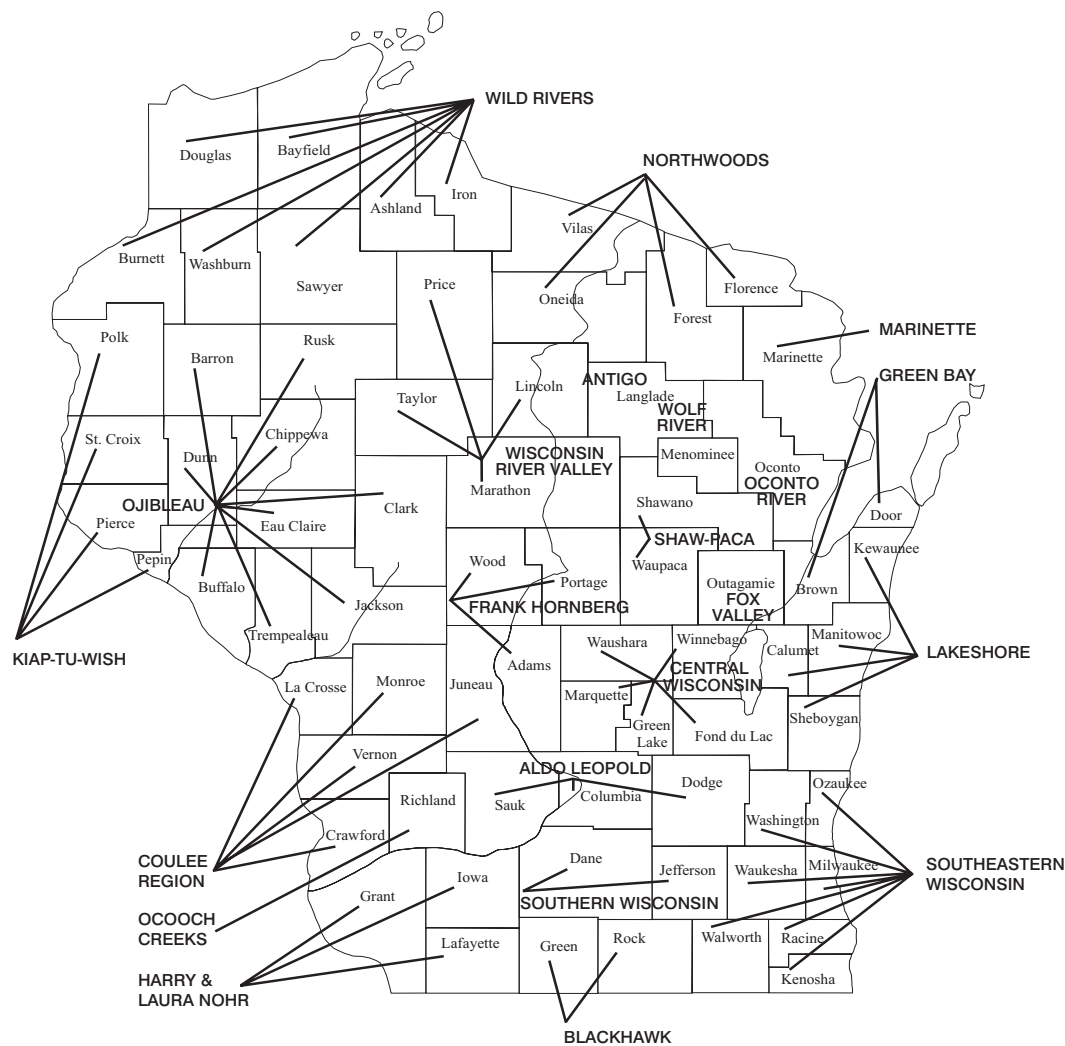
State Council holds meeting in Plover. . . . . p. 12

Hair samples needed for mercury study. . . . . p. 13

"Beadbelly" nymph. . . . . p. 15

Friends of WITU looking for 2005 projects. . . . . p. 16

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

- 1. Inform TU National.** Call, write, or e-mail TU National on your new address because only TU National keeps the membership database:  
 Trout Unlimited (703) 522-0200  
 1500 Wilson Blvd. trout@tu.org  
 Arlington, VA 22209
- 2. Include your ID number and new chapter affiliation.** Your ID number is found on mailing labels attached to *TROUT* magazine. If you are moving to a different city and wish to be affiliated with the TU chapter in your area, note the new chapter number (see the text next to the map above).

## WISCONSIN TROUT

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

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# Letters

## Appreciates climate change discussion

Editor,

The inestimable importance of the earth's climate for the well-being of humankind and the natural world is, in general, exceeded only by the magnitude of public disinterest in it, if not disdain for it. Thus I was delighted to read Bill Pielsticker's article on climate change ("TU, Junk Science, and Typical Liberal Environmentalism") in the October issue of *Wisconsin Trout*.

I can only say, "Right on, Bill!" As a climate change biologist, and a contributing author to the most authoritative report on climate change in the Great Lakes region<sup>1</sup>, I can affirm that Bill has his facts straight. Climate change is real, it is accelerating, and it is due primarily to human activity. Despite well-entrenched public perception to the contrary, there is virtually no disagreement in the scientific community about those facts.

The consequences of climate change will be no respecter of international, economic, ideological, or political boundaries. We will all be affected, and mostly for the worse. For example, in southern Wisconsin we can anticipate more frequent spring floods, late summer

droughts, and extreme weather (e.g., rainfall) events. By the end of this century, temperatures are predicted to rise by 8-18°F in summer and 6-11°F in winter. By 2095, Wisconsin summers will be similar to those presently experienced in Arkansas.<sup>1</sup>

The good news is that such climate change impacts can be mitigated, if we exercise the individual and corporate will necessary to do so. As a leader in coldwater fisheries conservation, TU should be applauded, not chastised, for leading the way.

I became a life member of TU not to learn more about trout, although I need to. I became a life member of TU not to learn more about fly fishing, although I certainly need that as well. I became a life member of TU because of its leadership role in protecting and enhancing the habitats and species I love. That is earth stewardship, and that is why I support TU.

Rick Lindroth  
Professor of Ecology  
University of Wis.-Madison

<sup>1</sup> Kling, G.W., et al. 2003. Confronting climate change in the Great Lakes region: Impacts on our communities and ecosystems. A report of The Union of Concerned Scientists and The Ecological Society of America. Cambridge, MA. (available on-line at [www.ucsusa.org/greatlakes](http://www.ucsusa.org/greatlakes))

## BANQUET: Taimen trout talk

*Continued from p. 1*

A native of Neenah, Vander Zanden has declined a speaker's fee for the banquet, but has asked that the money be contributed to the Taimen Conservation Fund he established to pay for a five-year research program.

Featured auction items

As always, there will be a wide assortment of auction items available. This year's banquet features a chance to win a Jim Maier bamboo fly rod, as well as an original oil painting by Dan Burish, winner of the 2004 Wisconsin Trout Stamp contest. Fly rods and guided trips will also be available to bidders.

Cocktails are available starting at 5 p.m., with dinner served at 7:00. The Council's annual conservation awards will be presented earlier in the day.

Early bird raffle

To reserve your banquet tickets, send a check for \$35 per ticket to Larry Meicher, 5258 Salisbury Rd., Rio, WI 53960. Everyone who purchases a ticket by January 22 will have their names entered for a \$100 early-bird drawing the evening of the banquet. Additional tickets also will be available at the door. Please note, tickets will be held at the registration table for pickup the evening of the banquet. Contact the Park Plaza at (800) 365-4458 by Jan. 22 to receive a special room rate. Check the council web site at [www.WisconsinTU.org](http://www.WisconsinTU.org) for late-breaking details.

## Monitoring workshop April 23

A water monitor training session will be held near the home of Stefan and Jane Shoup near Big Falls in northern Waupaca Cty. on April 23.

Water Action Volunteers protocols will be taught along with a few optional procedures. All necessary equipment will be supplied with the exception of hip boots. Participants should bring rain gear.

Training will run from 8:30-Noon. Lunch will be provided. During the afternoon monitoring,

equipment will be available for practice along with mentor instruction if needed or desired.

Trainers Phil Emmling, Wes Halverson, and Jim Hlaban can accommodate up to 18 new people. If you would like to attend as a refresher, you are welcome. Hlaban will register up to 25 participants, but late registrants may be designated as alternates. For more information, contact Hlaban at (920) 244-7456 or [WISCPR@Wolfnet.net](mailto:WISCPR@Wolfnet.net).

## CORRECTION: Black Earth

The story by Dennis Franke in the October *Wisconsin Trout* on the overgrown tree canopy along Black Earth Creek was incorrectly edited to give the impression that more corrective brushing has taken place than has actually been done. In-

deed, only about 600 feet of brushing has been done on BEC, not the 5-6 miles stated in the story.

Franke actually feels that 9-11 miles of additional brushing could be done to improve BEC and nearby Mount Vernon Creek. -Ed.



## DNR Board approves White River Fishery expansion

By Larry Wiland

The state's Natural Resources Board unanimously approved the proposed White River Fishery Expansion project at its Oct. 27 meeting in Cable.

The proposed expansion was covered in detail in the October, 2004, issue of *Wisconsin Trout*.

The plan allows the state to acquire property between two already protected sections of the river — the Bibon Swamp Natural Area in Bayfield County and the White River Wildlife Area in Ashland County.

The targeted stretch of river — bounded by Hwy. 63 to the west and Hwy. 13 to the east — currently is the only large block of riverfront land in private ownership in the entire White River watershed. The NRB's decision allows the WDNR to purchase land or conservation easements from willing landowners.

Acquiring all the property could take decades, according to Dan Schuller, DNR Land Services Supervisor in the Northern Region. The DNR's land-acquisition budget for the region is large enough only to buy small amounts of property each year, Schuller said. The DNR can only offer landowners fair-market value for land.

The project targets 7,049 acres of riverfront land along a 15-mile stretch of the White River. The plan also identifies an ad-

ditional 500 erosion-prone acres along White River tributaries for easement purchase.

One 30-acre parcel of riverfront land in this stretch currently is being purchased by a private land trust, the Bayfield Regional Conservancy. The trust will manage the land for conservation values.

The White River system is, relatively speaking, one of the state's most pristine watersheds. The river has been identified in the DNR's *Land Legacy Report* and the Northern Rivers Initiative as a high-quality trout stream. The efforts to establish a conservation corridor along this stretch of the White River have been proactive, an attempt to ensure that the health and beauty of the entire watershed will be protected and even improved for future generations.

The ability to sell land or easements to the state now becomes one of many voluntary tools landowners in this stretch of river might use to establish a conservation legacy on their land. Landowners may choose to engage in private conservation measures, or write restrictive easements of their own.

(This story was reprinted in part from *Watershed News*, the newsletter of the Bad River Watershed Association. -Ed.)

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# Group effort prevents fish kill on Green Cty. trout stream

The following story is a good example of farmers acting on a problem, promptly contacting the DNR, and the DNR and others

Quick and cooperative action by state, county and university officials, along with an early alert by a farmer, prevented nearly 200,000 gallons of manure from flowing into a trout stream and likely producing a fish kill last November.

Liquid manure overflowed from a holding tank at a Green County dairy farm overnight and rapidly reached a small unnamed stream leading to Dougherty Creek, a Class

2 trout stream. The farm's co-owner discovered the spill and reported it to Green County authorities early in the day on Nov. 9, setting in motion a round-the-clock effort over two days involving staff from the WDNR, Green County, and the University of Wisconsin Agricultural Research Station.

Together, their efforts successfully blocked the manure from entering the creek and pumping it out of

doing what was needed to prevent a fish kill. Kudos to all involved.

—State Council Chair Bill Pielsticker

the feeder stream and onto nearby fields.

"The quick thinking and great teamwork demonstrated by DNR staff from different agency programs, Green County, UW, and the farm's co-owners prevented this from becoming another disastrous fish kill in south central Wisconsin," noted Ruthe Badger, director of the DNR South Central Region.

Dougherty Creek is a popular trout water in Green County. It supports some natural reproduction of brown and rainbow trout and receives supplemental stocking. The manure spill was the ninth reported to DNR in south central Wisconsin this year, and potentially the largest.

When DNR conservation warden Jeff King and fisheries biologist Don Bush arrived shortly after the spill was reported, liquid manure had filled the unnamed stream and was about half way to Dougherty Creek. Soil dumped by the farmer's son across the stream was doing little to slow the tide.

Bush called in fellow fisheries staff from Dane County and they decided to dam the unnamed stream near the leading edge of the manure. UW Agricultural Research Station director Richard Straub allowed them to cross the station's land to access the stream and provided hay bales to help filter and block the manure flow. The station also loaned the DNR tractors, allowed manure to be spread on the station's fields, and granted full access to the farm.

A UW employee started to build an earthen dam just below the hay bales in the stream, and by the time the liquid manure reached the dam, DNR crews had started to build an

other dam 75 yards away. Green County's Land Conservation Department surveyed the stream to find the best site for that dam, and the county highway department provided nine dump trucks of gravel to build it.

A neighboring farmer permitted DNR to place boards in another private downstream dam, allowing them to hold back about 370,000 gallons of water a day, but by evening, watery manure was seeping around the first earthen dam.

DNR Spills Coordinator Ted Amman and DNR Animal Waste Investigator Mike Vollrath estimated that the taller downstream dam could hold back manure overnight and into the next morning, but advised the farmer to get a contractor in to pump the manure and water out from behind the dam.

*"Together, their efforts successfully blocked the manure from entering the creek and pumping it out of the feeder stream and onto nearby fields."*

Commercial pumping started at Noon on Nov. 10, and DNR fisheries crews rounded up additional pumps to supplement the

pumping. By mid-afternoon, however, their combined efforts had barely reduced the manure and water levels and the farmer brought in another commercial contractor.

The pumping was halted the next afternoon when only clear water was making its way around the dam. DNR staff determined that a slow release of the remaining backed up water was unlikely to cause a fish kill or other environmental damage.

The farmer reported that a drain valve inside one of the barns had been left open or was opened overnight. DNR is still investigating.

"The impacts of this spill were contained to the upper reaches of the tributary to Dougherty Creek, and it will take some time for that upper stretch to recover," Bush said.

## WDNR 2005 FISH MANAGERS

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| Jackson County General   | Dan Hatleli  | Walworth County General  | Doug Welch<br>Rick Dauffenbach  |
| Jefferson County Lower Rock Basin<br>Upper Rock Basin  | Don Bush<br>Laura Stremick-Thompson  | Washburn County General  | Larry Damman  |
| Juneau County General  | Scot Ironside  | Washington County Lakes<br>Streams   | John Nelson<br>Will Wawrzyn   |
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| La Crosse County Inland Waters<br>Mississippi River  | Dave Vetrano<br>Dave Heath   | Waushara County General  | Dave Bartz<br>Dave Paynter<br>Scott Bunde   |
| Lafayette County General   | Bradd Sims   | Winnebago County General   | Ron Bruch<br>Kendall Kamke<br>Bob Olynyk<br>Doug Rinzel   |
| Langlade County General  | Dave Seibel  | Wood County General  | Scot Ironside   |
| Lincoln County General   | Dave Seibel  | Other Management Areas Treaty (East)<br>Treaty (West)<br>Forest Service Liaison<br>Lake Michigan: Kenosha, Racine &<br>Pradeep Hirethota<br>Milwaukee Counties<br>Lake Michigan: Sheboygan &<br>Ozaukee Counties<br>Lake Michigan: Manitowoc &<br>Kewaunee Counties<br>Lake Michigan: Door County<br>Lake Michigan: Brown County | Mike Coshun<br>Jamison Wendel<br>Skip Sommerfeldt<br>vacant (contact 920-892-8756)<br>Steve Hogler<br>Paul Peeters<br>Terry Lychwick<br>Rod Lange |
| Manitowoc County General   | Steve Hogler<br>Steve Surendonk  | Lake Michigan: Oconto & Marinette<br>Counties<br>Lake Superior: Main Lake<br>Lake Superior: Tributary Streams<br>and Rivers  | Mike Seider<br>Dennis Pratt   |
| Marathon County General  | Thomas Meronek   |  |   |
| Marinette County Inland Waters<br>Lake Michigan  | Thomas Meronek<br>Russ Heizer<br>Greg Kornely<br>Cliff Sebero<br>Justine Hasz<br>Mike Hawley<br>Richard Rost |  |   |
| Coastal Shore of Green Bay   |  |  |   |
| Marquette County General   | Dave Bartz<br>Dave Paynter<br>Scott Bunde  |  |   |

Telephone numbers for the above WDNR personnel are posted at the WDNR's web site at [www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/fhp/fish/people/fisheriesbiologists.shtml](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/fhp/fish/people/fisheriesbiologists.shtml)

## John Gale to lead membership recruiting session Feb. 5

By Bill Pielsticker

John Gale, chapter support coordinator for TU National, will offer a training session on new member recruitment in conjunction with the State Council Banquet Feb. 5.

Gale will share successful new member recruiting tactics employed by chapters around the country. Assisted by TU's Laura Hewitt, Gale also will lead a discussion of some of the problems and successes Wisconsin TU chapters have had recruiting new members.

One year ago TU National changed the chapter rebate program to focus on new member recruitment. This change concerned many chapter leaders and members who feared the new policy would leave them with smaller rebate checks and less money to spend on stream restoration. That may have been the result for some chapters, but others took on the challenge like gangbusters. In fact, chapter rebates for the 2003 fiscal year reached \$47,000, compared to \$37,000 in the previous year. This training is designed to help you redouble your chapter's efforts at member recruitment and the rebates that will accompany that.

Training starts at 2 p.m. just after the awards luncheon at the Park Plaza Conference Center in Oshkosh. To register, contact Laura Hewitt at (608) 250-3534 or me at [billpiel@merr.com](mailto:billpiel@merr.com).

### Lucky attendees may win free banquet tickets

All TU members may attend this training session, but the first two members from each chapter to sign up for the training will receive a free ticket to the banquet later that evening.

# WI Trout Unlimited is at a crossroads

By Bill Pielsticker  
WITU Chair

With winter upon us and the early season several months away, there's still much work to do. I don't mean organizing your fly boxes, repairing rods, and tying flies. I mean deciding whether or not Wisconsin TU will start down the road that could see the State Council hiring a full-time executive director in two or three years. This is a big decision, and if agreed to, a big commitment. It is also not without controversy.

How did we get here? One: TU National sees our council as a prime candidate to take this step. Two: Both of my predecessors, Jon Christiansen and Duke Welter, agreed with that assessment. Three: The question has become the central issue of our strategic planning process.

Beginning last February, the State Council has been reviewing which tasks Wisconsin TU does, how well we do them, what things we should be doing but aren't, and what tasks we should drop. We already accomplish a lot. Based on reporting to TU National and estimates by the DNR, our chapter volunteers contributed 25,000 hours and spent over \$175,000 on habitat projects last year. That's a lot of work, and our streams reflect that. We do habitat work well.

What don't we do well? The strategic planning outcomes suggest we don't do communication as well as we should. The same is true for assisting chapters with leadership development, fundraising ideas and training, and member recruitment. We don't do enough to get TU's name out in the public, to solicit positive press, and to burnish our image.

We've put together a great set of goals for Wisconsin TU and strategies to achieve them (see below). Now who will do the work? Many members of the State Council are chapter presidents or ex-presidents. Others are State Council reps who also volunteer for other chapter work. We all have jobs, and possibly other volunteer commitments. Nearly all of us are already tapped out when it comes to volunteer time. Yet we also see the potential for doing more good things through greater involvement in policy work and better equipping chapters to pursue their mission.

OK, you say, but why does anyone think hiring a staff person is the solution? Isn't it going to cost too much? Isn't it going to take money away from habitat work? I asked Rich Bowman to come to the October State Council meeting to talk about those questions.

Rich was hired four years ago to become the first executive director for the Michigan Council. What's been the result? Rich spends nearly half his time working to increase the effectiveness of the chapters. He explained that when he started there were six chapters that were basically inactive. Today, there remains just one chapter in that category.

Rich also works with all state chapters to develop new leaders, fundraising skills, and other skills needed to run an active chapter. He also works with other chapters to hone their skills and share ideas about what works and what doesn't. Finally, he is the point person for

contact with the Michigan Legislature and other conservation groups and represents the interests of Michigan TU in a way volunteers cannot.

The cost to the Michigan Council for Rich's salary, benefits, travel, and other expenses is \$70,000 a year. No doubt, that's a lot of money, and if it comes at the expense of money for habitat work, it won't be worth it.

Rich told us that the Michigan Council established a Director's Fund, and raised three years of an ED's costs prior to hiring him. Chapters were not required to contribute. One measure of his support is that after four years, "nearly all of the (Michigan) chapters" make substantial donations to the Director's Fund. In that same period of time, both the chapters and the Michigan Council have substantially increased the money they raise for trout stream protection and restoration.

Clearly the Michigan chapters have decided they are getting their money's worth. Additional funds for the ED position are raised from a group of individuals and other sources. These sources comprise new money from people who see the value in having a staff resource to increase not only the Council's capacity, but that of each chapter as well.

So, the question for the State Council in February is, do we embark on a multi-year fundraising effort to raise at least two to three times the annual cost position?

Let's be clear on one thing — the role of the ED is NOT to do things other volunteers, including the chair, already do. If that were the case, we would not expect to see an increase in our capacity. Instead, the role of the ED is to help us increase our capacity both as a council and as individual chapters. We'll discuss this in detail and put it to a vote the afternoon of February 5 following the regular State Council meeting and the awards luncheon.

Whether we decide to go down the ED road or not, we will pursue our other tasks. These include:

- education and training;
- fundraising;
- habitat/stream improvement;
- leadership;
- marketing/image/PR;
- membership and fellowship;
- recognition and awards;
- relations with TU National;

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### GETTING THE MICHIGAN PERSPECTIVE

Executive Director of the State Council of Michigan TU Rich Bowman (left) is thanked by WITU State Chair Bill Pielsticker for addressing the State Council attendees in September. Bowman discussed his role as a full-time staff person serving the Michigan State Council and its chapters.

- relations with landowners;
- political activity; and
- communication.

Finally, a year after taking on the position of State Council Chair, I find I fully agree with Jon and Duke. It's time for Wisconsin TU to take a new road — to begin to plan for and raise the funds for the position of Executive Director for the State Council. I am convinced that this is the best way to proceed to increase our state chapters' capacity — and the Council's capacity — to carry on their mission. I hope you agree.



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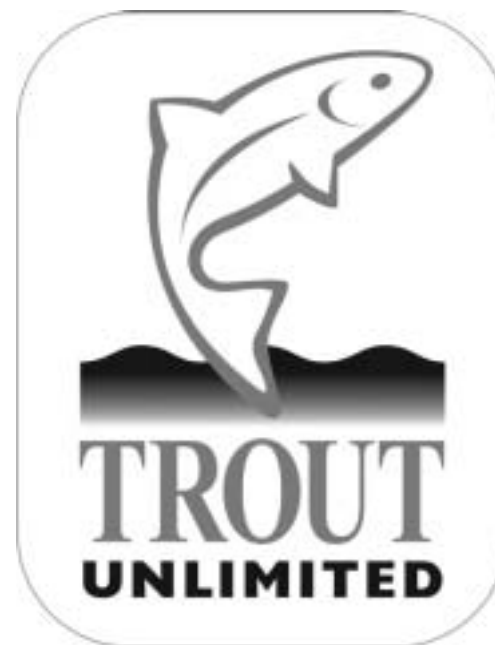
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Dan won the 2004 Wisconsin trout stamp contest. This is a special painting (shown here “in progress”) for Wisconsin TU. Why buy a print when you can have the original?



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# Stewardship purchases hit 280,000 acres in '04

A July, 2003, veto from Gov. Jim Doyle protected the state's Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program from a funding cut of \$145 million and from a forced \$40 million sell-off of pristine state recreational land.

Since he became Governor, Wisconsin has utilized the Stewardship program to purchase and protect more than 42,120 acres of land for our forests, parks, wildlife, and natural areas, in 155 projects across 66 counties.

Among noted purchases in 2004 were:

**Rainbow Flowage** — 5,875 acres of land and 63 miles of shoreline on the Rainbow Flowage and Pickerel Lake in the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest in Oneida and Vilas counties. The Rainbow Flowage is a highly productive fishery and offers habitat for eagles, osprey and many species of waterfowl. This purchase assures that nearly all the Rainbow's shoreline will remain undeveloped.

Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company had owned the land for over 70 years. The cost was \$7.95 million funded 100 percent with Stewardship funds.

**Big Timber Island, Chippewa Flowage** — Governor Doyle approved a new state purchase of land within northern Wisconsin's Chippewa Flowage, including 3,000 feet of shoreline frontage and 14 acres on the flowage's Big Timber Island and 3.04 acres on the mainland and three smaller islands nearby. The Stewardship Fund provided \$400,000 for the purchase.

Private funds totaling \$50,000 were donated from the Chippewa Flowage Area Property Owners Association and the Couderay Waters Regional Land Trust.

**Ice Age National Scenic Trail** — The department purchased 1,010 acres of land and nine miles of new trail for the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. This land was purchased at a price of \$5.1 million dollars and the Stewardship Program leveraged \$2.5 million from the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund to offset the state's purchase cost.

**Baraboo Hills State Recreation Area** — The department was able to protect 1,597 acres of land in the Baraboo Hills. The land, valued at \$2.9 million was purchased with funds from the State Stewardship Program, the Federal Forest Legacy Program and the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. The Baraboo Hills Recreation Area is located in the Baraboo Range in south central Wisconsin.

The Range is an extremely valuable resource of national and international significance. Covering

more than 50,000 acres, the range contains the largest block of non-fragmented deciduous forest remaining in the upper Midwest.

**Maiden Rock Bluff** — This 248-acre site, a bluff located high above the Mississippi River overlooking Lake Pepin, was purchased by the West Wisconsin Land Trust, Inc. for \$1.195 million that included \$642,500 in Stewardship funds.

Additional funding came from other donors. The site, dedicated as a State Natural Area, includes a sheer 400-foot cliff, ¾ mile of river frontage and native oak savanna habitat containing rare native species.

Since the Stewardship program began on July 1, 1990, the DNR has acquired about 280,000 acres of land. The program was renamed in the mid-1990s to recognize former Wisconsin governors Warren Knowles and Gaylord Nelson. It was renewed for another 10-year period beginning July 1, 2000.

## DNR feedback line 1 year old

More than 265 people have used the WDNR "customer feedback line" since it was established in early January of 2004. The line was created to give the public an easy way to report problems with regulations, environmental permits or general services as well as positive interactions with DNR staff.

Of calls received to date, more than half (54 percent) have been compliments or neutral comments about the agency. Some 40 percent (105 calls) of calls were complaints about agency rules or process and 6 percent (16 calls) were problems reported with individual agency staff.

The feedback line is a small portion of the calls DNR fields from the public in an average day or month. For example, DNR service center and central office call center staff responded to 41,580 telephone inquiries last November.

The DNR's telephone feedback line can be reached at (608) 266-0158 (not a toll-free number) during regular business hours of 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays. The line will be answered by a person at the DNR central office in Madison unless the line is busy, in which case the caller will have an opportunity to leave a message for a return call.

Callers are asked to identify themselves and to provide specific information regarding their concern or situation. Supervisors for specific DNR programs involved in the situation will then follow up on that information.

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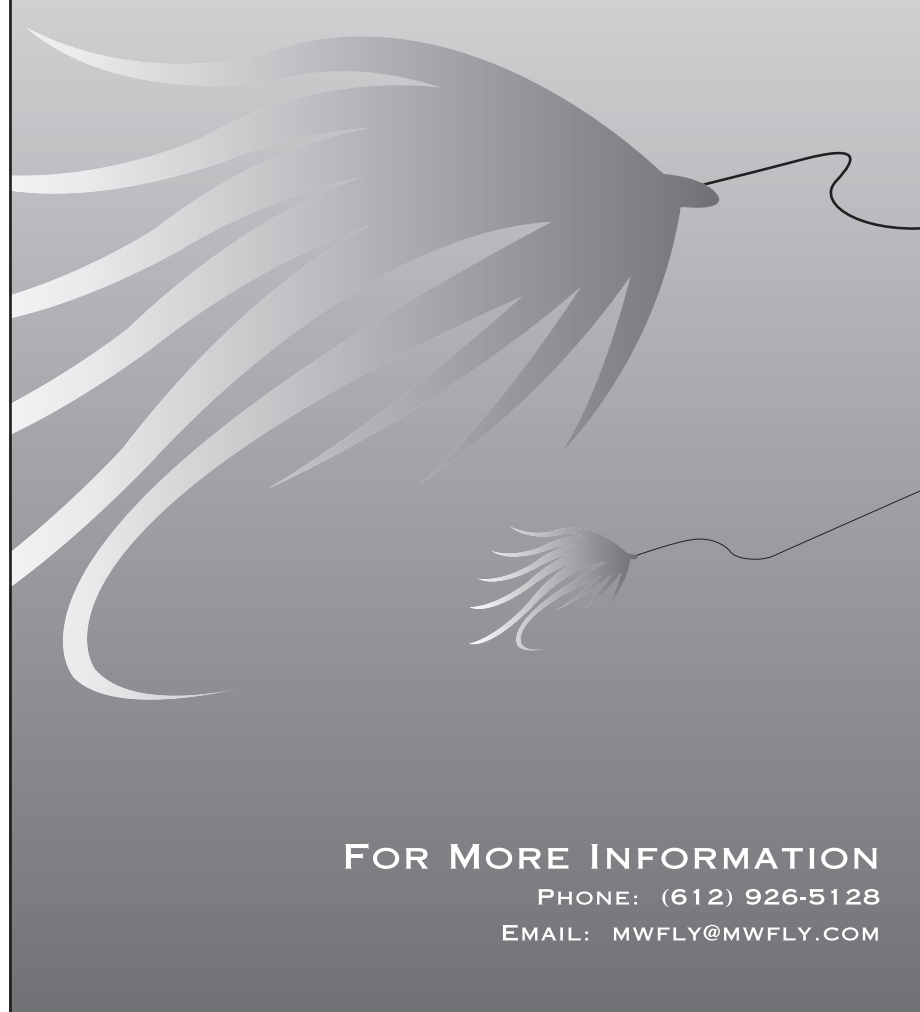
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## Chapter News



### BLACKHAWK ACTIVITIES CAPTURED

Dave Patrick (top, right) and Bob Stevens (top, left) present a \$5,000 check to Vernon County Conservationist Jeff Hastings. Below (left to right) Dick Alfors, Dave Bickle, Don Studt, and John Miller build lunker structures along the shores of the German Valley.

### Aldo Leopold Chapter

On September 11 our board attended a benchmarking workshop run by **The River Alliance of Wisconsin**. The workshop is designed to help chapters answer a few key questions:

- *Are your organization's goals and priorities clear?*
- *Do you have a plan for reaching annual goals?*
- *Is your group unsure of which organizational needs to tackle first?*
- *Are your leaders overwhelmed?*
- *Do you need more leaders or volunteers?*

We found the workshop to be very effective in helping us address these questions and highly recommend the workshop to all chapters. We left the workshop with a list of goals, action items for members to achieve these goals, and a clear timeline for accomplishing them.

What goals? First, we have committed to achieving 100 members by September, 2005. We restarted the chapter with 73 members in March

of 2003. We now stand at 91 members. Upon completing our goal, we will have grown by 36%.

The board is also committed to creating a clear chapter identity. To that end, we have adopted a chapter mission statement and are in the process of formulating a prioritized list of local watersheds that we can assist, with a designated "home watershed" to be specified at our January meeting. This list will guide us in the next few years as we allocate resources and plan activities.

We also have initiated a clear budget process that will allow us to project expenses and funding needs on a yearly basis. We are planning our fund-raising activities with this budget in mind, coupled with our long-term goals and their funding needs.

A related process is for every board member to write out a "job description" listing what they really do and how they do it. This will assist in training new board members and officers when the time comes for a transition.

All of these activities came out of a few hours spent in the basement of a church on a fine September day. After the workshop, we retired to a local stream and caught a few fish.

Our spring calendar includes a presentation from **Len "Spinner" Harris** on finding and catching BIG trout in Southwest Wisconsin. The date is January 19 at 7 p.m. at the Baraboo **Gander Mountain**.

February 16 we return to **Gander Mountain** for a fly tying demonstration. Last year's event was a success, with a number of new members

signed up. We look forward to another successful night. All are welcome to join us at these events.

—Mike Barniskis

### Blackhawk Chapter

The Blackhawk Chapter donated \$200 to the **California Golden Trout Program**. The golden trout is on the borderline of being an endangered species. The **Orvis Company** will triple the donations made to this program. A donation of \$200 resulted in Orvis adding \$400 to the amount, making it a total of \$600.

In July we had a number of members participate in a stream improvement project on **German Valley Creek** near Mt. Horeb. This involved building lunker structures as well as stream improvement.

Our speaker for the July 19 meeting was **Bob Hunt**. Bob has worked as a hydrologist for the DNR, as a scientific advisor to Trout Unlimited, and has written the book *Building Trout Streams*. It gave us a better understanding of how the area adjacent to the stream affects the stream quality and the fish in it.

Outdoor writer, photographer, and musician **John Beth** presented a program in September on steelhead and salmon fishing in the Lake Michigan tributaries. John gave a very informative presentation on the tackle, flies, and techniques used in fishing for large trout and salmon. He donated some of his flies for our raffle that is held at the conclusion of our monthly meetings. Our speakers at the October meeting were **Steve Born** and **Henry Haugley**. Their topic was on fishing for large trout in **Argentina**. This involved a 10-hour plane ride to Buenos Aeries and another 1,000 miles to the border area by Chile in the Patagonia area. Their worst nightmare was the rough roads, as flat tires were not uncommon. In addition we held a second raffle with the

proceeds being donated to the **Castling for Breast Cancer Recovery Program**. We presented a check to the **Susan G. Koman** of the **Foundation for Breast Cancer**.

Several members of the **Blackhawk Chapter** participated in a fly tying demonstration at the **Walworth County Fair**. This helps to promote an interest in fly fishing, but also creates an awareness of the necessity to maintain the quality of the streams and lakes for future generations.

Stream projects we have been involved in over the summer are as follows:

|                           |       |         |
|---------------------------|-------|---------|
| West Fork                 | Labor | \$1,000 |
| Otter Cr. (2 sites)       | Labor | \$1,000 |
| Bear Creek                | Labor | \$1,000 |
| Middle Bear Cr.           | Labor | \$1,000 |
| N. Fork Bad Axe           |       |         |
| Bishop's Branch (2 Sites) |       | \$1,000 |
| German Valley             | Labor |         |
| Blue River                | Labor | \$2,000 |
| Big Spring                |       | \$2,000 |

The above projects involved workdays or monetary contributions (and many times both). Presently we have monies earmarked for more projects planned for next summer on the **North Fork of the Bad Axe** and **Bishops Branch**.

The date of our Spring Banquet has been set for Monday, April 25, at the **Holiday Inn Express**. This is the same site as last year's banquet. More info to come. We will have door prizes, table prizes, bucket prizes, raffles, and a silent auction. The proceeds of this event will go toward stream improvement. People interested in attending this event should contact a chapter member or **Terry Vaughn**. One does not have to be a member to attend this event.

—Bud Hilgendorf

### Central Wisconsin Chapter

Central Wisconsin Trout Unlimited is making plans to start a stream monitoring program in 2005. **Bob Rennock** and **Bob Haase** are the leaders of this venture. They plan to monitor streams in the Wautoma area and hope to recruit at least 12 participants. **Wautoma** and **Ripon High schools**, and well as a number of individuals, have shown interest in being involved.

The program will start with Rennock and Haase being trained by **Water Action Volunteers (WAV)** Coordinator **Kris Stepenuck**, followed by Rennock and Haase training CWTU water monitors. The volunteers will eventually collect data on water temperature, clarity, dissolved oxygen, macroinvertebrates, habitat, and stream flow nine times during the year. The data will be posted on the WAV web site at <http://clean-water.uwex.edu/wav>. Our chapter is receiving technical support from Fox Valley TU's **Jim Hlaban** and **UW-Madison Environmental Chemistry and Technology Department's Phil Emmling**.

CWTU's Fourth Annual **Master's Fly Tying Series** will start on Thursday, February 3, 6:30 p.m. at **Winneconne High School**. This year's master tiers are **Bob Koon** of Waupaca, **Dave Ehrenberg** of Manawa, **Jeff Preiss** of Sheboygan,

**Tim Johnson** of Sheboygan, and **Bob Haase** of North Fond du Lac. Each master will teach a two-hour session, providing materials and instruction on how to tie three of their favorite flies. Participants pay \$40 for the series. Video equipment will be used and the group is limited to 20 participants.

Webmaster **Brian Tesch** has reported that our ([www.cwtu.org](http://www.cwtu.org)) web site has had its best month ever with 642 visitors and 2,100 pages. Brian indicated that more people are involved with the forum and fly tying section. Anyone who wants to present a fly of the month should contact Brian at [btesch@eaa.org](mailto:btesch@eaa.org). Thanks go to **Rick Bolda** who submitted the December fly of the month, The Dark Lord Nymph.

CWTU's **Annual Trout Fishing Funday** will be held on Saturday, February 26, at the **Fin 'N Feather** in Winneconne. Programs will start at 10:00 a.m. and over 60 tiers, rod builders, biologists, etc. will be on hand to entertain, visit, and instruct. People who would like to present, tie, or demonstrate (or who would like more information) should contact **John Gremmer** at (920) 582-7802 or [jgremmer@charter.net](mailto:jgremmer@charter.net). Our January 10 program will be held at the **Performing Arts Center** in Wautoma. Former DNR fisheries biologist and current environmental



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# Chapter News



activist **Elward Engle** will present a slide program titled "The Degradation of a Trout Stream and its Rehabilitation." This is a free public program that starts at 7:30 p.m.

Our November program, "Fly Fishing Lakes and Ponds" was presented by **Dr. Donald Larmouth** (jalarmouth@aol.com) of Green Bay and was held on November 8 at the Fin 'N Feather in Winneconne.

**Phil Emmling** of the UW-Madison's Environmental Chemistry and Technology Program presented our October 12 program at the Performing Arts Center in Wautoma. Emmling's (emmling@engr.wisc.edu) program was titled "Citizen Stream Monitoring: What You Can Do and What You Cannot Do."

CWTU highly recommends these programs for other chapters. Contact John Gremmer at (920) 582-7802 or jgremmer@charter.net for more information.

Thanks go to **Bob Chamberlain** and **Scott Grady** for taking over the writing, organizing, and publishing of our newsletter, the **Brookie News**. The last issue consisted of six pages that included photos. Copies of the newsletter are being sent via e-mail to state chapter presidents.

**Dan and Gail Colligan** are again organizing our March annual banquet and fund-raiser. **Bob Chamberlain** and others are assisting. Our goal is to add 50 more participants to the banquet.

Workday Chair **Rich Mlodzik** reported that there were 107 volunteers at the various workdays in 2004 and they expended approximately 305 hours of stream work on projects on the **Little Pine Creek, Chaffee Creek, and the Mecan River**. Mlodzik extended his thanks to all who were involved in workdays. Thanks go to Rich for his outstanding workday efforts.

CWTU is currently supplying two fisheries grad students seeking degrees in fisheries biology with half tuition scholarships for two semesters during the 04/05 school year. **Tara Kent** of **UW-Oshkosh** is doing research on central Wisconsin trout streams and **Julie Nieland** of **UW-Stevens Point** is doing research on Lake Superior Lake Trout. CWTU's goal is to supply scholarships to two grad students in fisheries every year. Students apply for the scholarships by attending a CWTU board meeting and making a short presentation on their research.

—John Gremmer



### GREEN BAY AWARDEES

The Green Bay Chapter recently honored chapter member for their outstanding efforts. Receiving distinguished service awards were (top, left to right) **Kim McCarthy, Bill Holton, and Tom Nelson**. The member of the year award went to **Jack Koivisto** (right), while **Jim Vanden Branden** (above) was inducted into the President's Club.



quet. The banquet committee has selected the date, **March 31**, and the site, **The Stadium View**, for what is the premier fund-raising banquet in the area.

Then, on December 2, the chapter held its annual **Christmas Dinner Meeting** at the **Sport's Corner Bar** in De Pere. The evening featured great fellowship, a fine meal, and entertainment by the **Ebenezer Brass and Bell Choir** and giving out of some door prizes. Of course, the highlight of the evening was the presenting of awards recognizing outstanding contributions to the chapter which allow us to continue our mission in regards to our cold-water streams. This program was expanded this year to recognize individuals and businesses that have contributed greatly to the success our annual fundraising banquets. **Gold Banquet Sponsorships** were given to: **Pioneer Credit Union** in the business category for their many

years of financial assistance. **Bill Komsi** and **Tom Buettner** in the individual category, also for many years of financial donations and **Dick Bajorek** in the artist category for many years of donating carvings. Additionally, **Jodi Burmeister** was selected as our **Unsung Hero** for many years banquet help.

The chapter also presented awards to various chapter members whose efforts on behalf of our trout waters have been exemplary. **Distinguished Service Awards** were presented to **Tom Nelson, Kim McCarthy, and Bill Holton**. **Jim Vanden Branden** was inducted into the **President's Club** which recognizes those who have given much of their free time to participate in chapter work projects. Finally, **Jack Koivisto** was presented with the **Member of the Year** award for his efforts on behalf of the chapter during the past year.

Continued on p. 10

## Coulee Region Chapter

The chapter has elected new officers this fall:

President — **Rich Bain**

Vice Pres. — **Jim Sabota**

Treasurer — **Harry Warriner**

## Frank Hornberg Chapter

A September 9 work evening was held at **Welton Road**. Members reconstructed a brush mat that had been heavily damaged by recent high-water events. The extensive brush mat is immediately downstream from the current staging area.

Members held an impromptu work day on September 11. The "faithful" hauled several loads of field stone to the staging area for future work projects.

On September 18 members and students transported the field stone in jon-boats, and placed the rock on top of a 40 foot instream overhead island.

On October 16 the chapter held another work day. In addition to the usual chapter members, 16 students from **Midwest State Technical College's Urban Forestry Program**, and **UW-Stevens Point Fisheries Society** spent the day finishing a large instream brush mat on the **Raddatz** property.

On October 23 members of the chapter assisted members of the **Friends of the Tomorrow-Waupaca River** in planting native prairie grasses along a section of the **Tomorrow River** just downstream from Nelsonville.

The November 4 board meeting was held at **Shooter's Supper Club** in Plover. Newsletters were mailed out to all members, and additional copies were handed out to those present to promote our upcoming fly-tying workshops to be held in 2005. The first such workshop will be held at **Clancy's Stone Lion** in Custer on Thursday, January 20

from 7-9 p.m. The second workshop will be at **Shooter's** on Saturday, February 19, from 10-1 p.m.; and the final workshop will be conducted at **The Chalet** in Wisconsin Rapids on Thursday, March 24, from 7-9 p.m. Everyone interested in learning about fly-tying or improving their tying skills is cordially invited to attend.

Also at the board meeting the schedule of speakers for upcoming chapter meetings was announced. These include well-known author **Rich Ostoff**, on January 13; DNR Fisheries Biologist **Tom Meronek** on February 10; and DNR Fisheries Technician **Pete Segerson** on March 10. All meetings will be held at 7:00 p.m. at Shooter's Supper Club located at the intersection of I-39 and Hwy 54 in Plover.

The chapter would like to extend an invitation to all TU members as well as non-members to attend these chapter functions.

The November 11 meeting was held at Shooter's. The annual chapter elections were conducted with the following results:

President — **Mike Mather**

Vice Pres. — **Bob Juracka**

Secretary — **Mary Holtz**

Treasurer — **Don Ebbers**

There followed a most informative discussion of fishing Montana rivers and streams.

A sunny, warm December 4 prompted a group of us to get together to construct another bit of overhead cover on **Stedman Creek**, thus putting an end to a most productive and enjoyable 2004.

—Dan Holland

## Green Bay Chapter

With a productive summer in the books, the **Green Bay Chapter** has embarked on its winter activities. Of

course, the first item on the agenda was preliminary planning for our **30th Annual Fund-raising Ban-**



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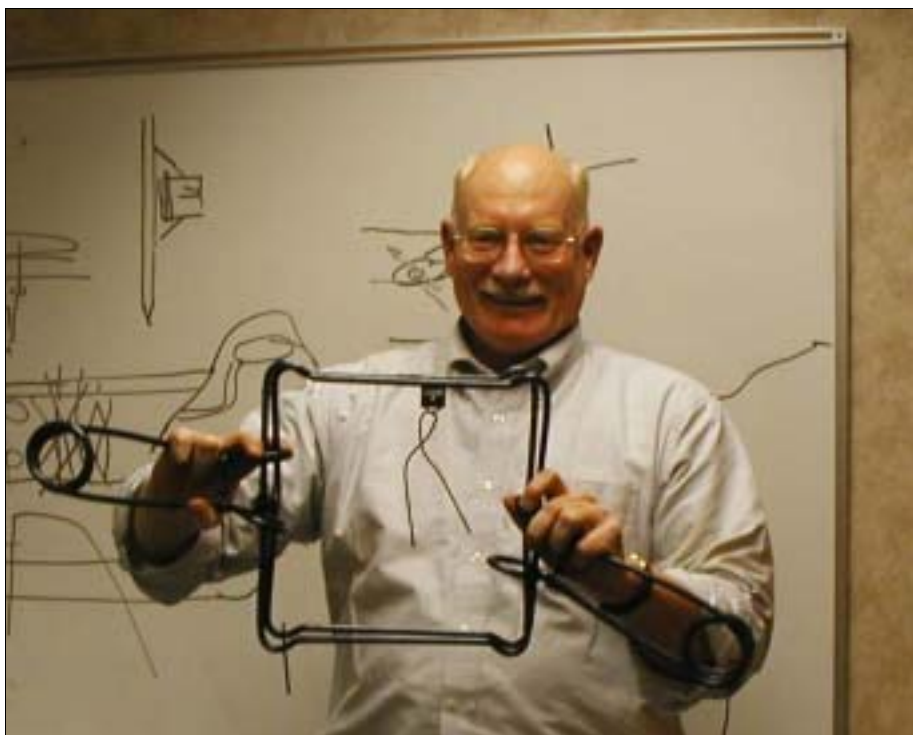
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## Chapter News



### OCCOCH ACTIVITIES

Ocooch Chapter member John Cler (top) talked about beaver trapping and displayed a trap at the chapter's November meeting. Meanwhile, the WDNR's Matt Mitro (below, right) is assisted by Ocooch member Kim James during the fall fish survey on Elk Creek.

*Continued from p. 9*

Having done all of the above, the chapter will spend the rest of the winter planning how to best use our funds and manpower to improve our area trout streams. Planning

work projects, funding habitat improvement, beaver trapping, scholarships, and scientific study, as well as staging another Kid's Fishing Day, are all on the docket.

—Gary Stoychoff

### Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter

Our **Spring Creek Festival** held September 11 at Castle Rock was a huge success. It is held right next to **Castle Rock Creek**, so we have on-stream demonstrations. We took in over \$10,000 that will go toward our stream restoration work. Next year's event is already being planned and will be at the same location on the same weekend.

The Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter's major stream restoration effort for 2005 involves a segment of

the **Blue River** just above last year's segment. This project involves about 4,800 feet of stream. There will be no brushing work, but we will have several weekends of lunger structure building. Design work is in progress as well as applying for grants and permits.

Our **Stream Monitoring Curriculum Project** is almost complete. The curriculum is now being tested by a number of teachers.

—Brian Larson

### Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter

Following chapter president **Gary Horvath's** update on chapter activities at the KTU September meeting, the October meeting featured chapter board member **Dr. Corey Mairs**, who gave a slide presentation on fishing remote waters

in **Wyoming**. In November, **Joseph Meyer**, the proprietor of **One More Cast Fly Shop** in Countryside, IL, drove all the way from the Chicago area on a Wednesday to give a slide presentation to an appreciative au-

dience on trout fishing in **Patagonian Argentina**.

The chapter's annual **Holiday Conservation Banquet** at Tartan Park on December 2 was, by any measure, a huge success, and the chapter wishes to thank the banquet committee, the staff at Tartan Park and the many donors to the evening's silent auction and bucket raffle. Ninety guests listened to author **Steve Kinsella's** fascinating presentation on the **Black Hills**, which focused on the area's history, geology, and trout fishing opportunities. Kiap-TU-Wish chapter member and long-time activist and volunteer **Chuck Goossen** received the chapter's **Conservationist of the Year Award** and a huge round of applause from a standing audience.

The award includes a plaque and a traveling trophy featuring a hand-painted carving of a brook trout by **Craig Aschenbrenner**.

The chapter's recently completed drift boat, which will end up in the hands of a lucky angler in fund-raising efforts early next year, was on display on the portico of the facility, where it drew rave reviews from attendees. The boat was aboard a trailer donated to the cause by

board member **Ted Mackmiller**. **Randy Iten Chevrolet** in Hudson donated repair and modification of the trailer in November. **Gary Horvath** thanked and offered recognition to boat kit donor **Bill Scheussler** and the many volunteers who worked on the project.

Chapter vice president **Greg Dietl** and chapter member **Sarah Sanford** met with other members of the **Western Wisconsin Habitat Projects Planning Committee** recently. The committee is in preliminary discussions concerning the likely possibility of purchasing angling easements from willing sellers on the **Rush River**, a key trout angling resource in an area of rapidly increasing land values.

The chapter is preparing to state its objections to a road proposed to be built over the valley of the **Rocky Branch**, a fragile, high-quality tributary of the **Kinnickinnic River**, in conjunction with a proposed development in suburban River Falls. The chapter intends to state its case at a scheduled January 20 meeting of the River Falls Planning Commission.

—Jonathan Jacobs

### Lakeshore Chapter

The Lakeshore Chapter has been winding down a little from our busy summer of work on the **Onion River**. Many of our members spend the fall fishing the Lake Michigan tributaries for lake-run fish. This doesn't mean that we are completely idle, though. We have received word from the **Trout and Salmon Foundation** that we have been awarded a \$5,000 grant to be put toward our work on the Onion River. Chapter member **Jerry Bauman** did an excellent job writing this grant application.

Members **Ron McCormick** and **Tom Steinberg** spent an evening tying deer hair flies at the annual **Buck Fever Night** sponsored by the **Manitowoc Fish and Game Association**. Ron and Tom have done this for several years, and it is great public relations for our chapter.

Club members **Jeff Preiss** and **Louie Jirikowic** put on programs at our October and November meetings. Jeff's program included a well done video on fishing the **Big Horn River** in Montana. Louie's program featured a video from the series **Fly Fishing America** with **Chad Foster**. Louie guided Chad Foster on the **Sheboygan River** during the fall of

2003 during the making of this video.

On Friday, Dec. 10, club members, along with **Roger Widner**, walked the banks of the **Onion River** plotting the work that we plan to do this coming spring and summer.

On Saturday, Dec. 11, we had our last work day of the year. We spent the day building mini lunger structures that will be used in some of the smaller tributaries of the Onion River. We used some of these smaller structures this past spring and found them to work very well on smaller creeks.

Monday, Dec. 20, the chapter hosted our annual Christmas party after our regularly scheduled meeting.

Our January meeting date had to be changed due to work being done to the **Club Bil-Mar** (our meeting place). We will hold our January meeting on the second Wednesday of the Month (Jan. 10) instead of the third Monday. February will see our meetings return to the third Monday of each month. All meetings start at 6:30 with a program to follow the meetings.

—Wayne Trupke

### Northwoods Chapter

Local trout fisherpersion received some very disheartening news in the October 3 issue of the **Rhineland Daily News**. News quickly spread across the state by e-mails about two very determined fishermen who caught and kept their limits of five 16-18 inch brook trout from a stream near Rhineland. Wow, were the first words that came to my mind. Ten 2- to 3-pound brook trout in one day in Wisconsin!

Then the reality struck me that these 10 mature, adult fish were removed from a stream system in the prime of their lives and were more than likely taken from their spawning beds. Now, I'm not trying to preach catch and release as I do believe that sportsmen should be able to keep enough fish for a meal or

kill one trophy for the wall. Each of us has to decide for ourselves what limits or ethics we place on ourselves in regards to taking from the natural resource. I can only hope that there are many more people out there that limit their catch instead of catching and keeping their limits.

Many thanks to **John Kubisiak** and **David Brum** from the DNR and **Sue Reinecke** and **Mike Peczynski** from the **Forest Service** who did a fantastic job explaining past and future projects in the Northwoods Chapter area at our October 11 meeting. Sue presented a slide show of the **Elvoy Dam** removal and project. It was just fantastic to see how the removal of this dam had resulted in a beautiful meadow section of river upstream from the dam. Sue

# Chapter News



and Mike went on to discuss the upcoming work on the **Deerskin River** and the stream surveys that will be conducted to document the condition of the old habitat structures and general stream morphology. Mike will be contacting the chapter to organize a day of alder brushing on a section of the **Deerskin** this summer. At long last, the chapter will begin work on this river. The chapter will be preparing an **Embrace-A-Stream** grant application to help offset the \$6,000 that the Forest Service has asked the chapter to contribute to this project.

**Dave Brum** gave a report on the DNR's work on the **Brule/Elvoy** system. Last year in the **Rock Dam** area, 2,700 feet of stream habitat work was completed with the placement of boulders, logs, and channel restoration. The last 1,650 foot project on **Brule Creek** will happen this coming summer. The chapter pledged \$1,000 for the next two years for this work. Dave even mentioned that this stream habitat work has been so successful that additional landowners down to County Trunk A have come forward to have work done on their section of stream. I have only one comment about this work, and it's rooted in the unfortunate killing of those 10 brookies on a local stream — if you fish the Brule/Elvoy stream work, please limit your catch and release all brown trout caught. It's up to all of us to help this stream as it is spawning habitat for the Brule River system.

**John Kubisiak** discussed the in-stream boulder and log habitat work completed this past summer on the **Bearskin Creek**. It looks fantastic. There was very positive talk about doing a section of in-stream work with a backhoe this summer to see how the stream responds. The Bearskin does have a large amount of sand, and it needs to be determined how in-stream structures will respond.

## Ocooch Creeks Chapter

The chapter's **Calendar Raffle** fund-raiser to support our stream restoration projects is underway. During April, \$5,200 in cash prizes will be awarded to 60 lucky participants. With only 2,000 calendars to be sold at \$10 each, sales have been good, but we still have one with your name on it. For more information on how to get your ticket, see the ad and order form on this page.

Earlier this fall, chapter members assisted **WDNR Fisheries Research staff** in the fall fish survey of **Elk Creek**. This study is part of the research being conducted as part of the Elk Creek Project. Already the trout population has increased with the initial brushing phase of the project. In-stream restoration will commence in the summer of 2005.

On November 6, chapter members tried to stay one step ahead of the beavers by clearing willows and

## Shaw-Paca Chapter

Our annual banquet will be held at the **Northwinds Banquet Hall** in Marion on Thursday, April 7.

Our October and December meetings featured several of our chapter members telling and showing about their summer fishing adventures. In October, **Lee Kersten** talked about his trout fishing adventures from Wisconsin and Michigan to the **Rocky Mountains of Idaho**,

The chapter also decided to begin our own brush bundling activities in a new section of stream upstream from the second bridge on the bike trail. And finally, **John** and **Pete Segerson** are working on coordinating a dredge project on **Woodboro Springs**. John and the fisheries crew investigated the springs and found they are a great candidate to be dredged. The chapter pledged \$1,500 for fuel for the dredge for either the summer of 2005 or 2006.

**Bill Sherer** from **We Tie It** fly shop in Boulder Junction gave a talk on Fishing the Upper Peninsula at our November 8 meeting. As usual, this event was packed with over 20 people eager to take notes on where to catch fish in the Upper Peninsula. Bill is a great speaker as he is passionate about the fishing opportunities in the UP and he has a memory that remembers all the fine details about a water body. Thanks, Bill.

The Chapter held its **Christmas Party** at the Rhinelander Café & Pub December 13. Many lies were told about the past fishing season as well as some true tales about the big one that did and didn't get away.

Our upcoming events include **Pete Segerson** from the **Antigo DNR** discussing the stream work completed on the **East Branch of the Eau Claire** this summer on the lower **Prairie River**, dredging at **Maxwell Springs**, and the radio-telemetry of trout on the **Wolf River** on January 10, and a slide show of **Montana Spring Creeks (DuPoy, Milesnick, McCoy Cattle Company)** by **Brian Hegge** on February 14. We will hold our annual **Conservation Banquet** on April 12 at the **Rhinelander Café & Pub**.

The Chapter holds its meetings on the second Monday of each month at the **Claridge Inn**, Rhinelander, with a 6:00 p.m. business meeting followed at 7:00 p.m. with our guest speaker or event.

—*Brian Hegge*

other streamside vegetation along **Ash Creek** in the **Richland County Forest**. Thus far it appears we are winning the battle.

**Doug Cieslak, Executive Director of the Drifless Area Land Conservancy**, discussed conservation easements at the October membership meeting. This organization has already be active in Richland County and has secured easements in the **Willow Creek Watershed**. The historical data concerning native vegetation and land use in Richland County was very interesting.

In November, **Richland Center High School Principal and master trapper John Cler** discussed strategies and techniques for successful beaver trapping. Word has it, the beaver aren't too nervous in that they still outnumber the Ocooch members by 100 to 1.

—*Allon Bostwick*

**Montana** and **Yellowstone Park** and the **Black Hills** of South Dakota. In December, **Jerry Weatherwax** and **Dave Ehrenberg** told of their fishing adventures in **Alaska**. Our January meeting will feature **Dave Ehrenberg** telling about the Lake Michigan tributary fishing.

This year is the year of the culvert. We are on the lookout for culverts on our smaller brook trout



### ICHTHYOLOGY OR JUST PLAIN ICKY?

Students from Menomonie High School assist DNR staff and Ojiblean chapter members survey a section of Gilbert Creek in Dunn County.

streams that do not properly allow upstream movement of fish for spawning. Those little "waterfalls" may be noisy and pretty, but they can be barriers to necessary movement of fish. We hope to compile a list of such culprits in our area.

Our project of sending **Trout** magazine to area high school and some municipal libraries has gone well. The librarians report that these magazines are very popular.

Our actual membership has risen to 63, up from 55 in spring.

Our annual fly tying class be start in January. The first date is Jan. 26. The other dates are Feb. 3, 10, and 24, plus March 3. The location is the **Pella Town Hall**. We are offering this class to the public at no cost. Anyone interested should register with **Jerry Weatherwax** at (715) 823-2180 or (715) 524-5642 or **Lee Kersten** at (715) 754-2085 pr e-mail at [lwkcjk@dotnet.com](mailto:lwkcjk@dotnet.com).

—*Lee Kersten*

## Wild Rivers Chapter

In October our speaker for the evening was **Seth Moore** from the **USGS Great Lakes Science Center's Lake Superior Biological Station** in Ashland. Seth has conducted research attempting to understand essential habitats for coaster brook trout. The primary objective is to determine whether habitats are limiting their populations; i.e., have habitats changed over time so that they cannot occupy areas they once did?

We are happy to announce that in October the WDNR Board unanimously approved the proposed **White River Fishery Expansion** project that the chapter has been working on for the past year (see story elsewhere in this issue).

In November, **Dick Prine, Dick Berge, and Bill Heart** assisted the **U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service** with population estimates of coaster brook trout in Lake Superior waters, including **Chequamegon Bay, Sand Bay, Raspberry Bay, Little Sand Bay, and on Oak Island** in the Apostle Islands.

The chapter has also volunteered many hours assisting the **Fish & Wildlife, WDNR, TU National, and ABDI Land Conservation Office** with installing engineered log structures on both **Whittlesey Creek and Lenawee Creek**. Chapter members **Chuck Campbell, Bob Rice, Dick Prine, Dick Berge, and Bill Heart** all worked on these projects.

*Continued on p. 12*

## Ocooch Creeks Calendar Raffle – April 2005

**\$10 per Calendar, 2000 Calendars sold, \$5,200 in Cash Prizes**

**2 - \$50 winners each Su, Tu, Th and Sa.**

**2 - \$100 winners each Mon, Wed and Fri.**

**2 - \$500 winners on April 30<sup>th</sup>.**

**All proceeds support stream restoration in Richland County**

To purchase a calendar, complete form and mail with check (\$10 per Calendar) to:

**Ocooch Creeks TU**  
**Allon Bostwick**  
**21650 Hwy A**  
**Richland Center, WI 53581**

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 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail (optional): \_\_\_\_\_



## Chapter News

Continued from p. 11

At our December meeting we were pleased to have **Bob Dubois**, a WDNR Community Ecologist. Bob gave an interesting talk about dragonflies and damselflies and how they relate to trout and trout fishing.

### Wolf River Chapter

With the threat of high-sulfide ore mining in the headwaters of the Wolf River largely terminated, our chapter is working with the DNR to determine the movement and destiny of the brown trout stocked in the **Wolf River**.

Herb donated the use of two of his whitewater rafts to assist in

Don't forget about our annual **Fishing Expo and Auction** that will be held in Ashland on April 9. This is a very important fund-raiser to help with the work on our many White River projects. Everyone is invited to attend.

—*Bill Heart*

shocking the 34 miles of river from the Highway A bridge to the Menominee County line. Twenty-two brown trout over 15 inches had radio chips implanted in them so their movements can be monitored regularly by air flights as long as may be needed to draw solid conclusions.

The chapter is committed to do-

ing what is necessary to make the Wolf River the renowned trout stream it once was, hopefully with the naturally reproducing brook and rainbow trout stream it had in the 1920s and early 1930s.

We can and must provide the environment which the trout need so they don't have to migrate to survive, including spring-fed slow pools void of the freezeup slush to winter in, which would also provide cool water refuge areas during the occasional warm water periods in late summer.

The **County Board** has been assigned the task of managing the abandoned railroad corridor that parallels the Wolf River from Highway 64 up to Lily for recreational

uses. Our chapter must develop a position as to whether parts of it should be open to vehicular traffic to allow fishermen access where the DNR's streambank land extends to the railroad land, as it often does on the three miles of good trout water from Lily down to the Wolf Road, otherwise only accessible on foot.

Maintaining active local membership is an ongoing problem. Opportunities to protect and improve the Wolf River as a good trout stream must have local origin and support. We will do that, and we deeply appreciate the continued membership of the non-local supporters who encourage us and support our efforts.

—*Herb Buettner*

# State Council holds fall meeting in Plover

Chuck Steudel  
WITU Secretary

The Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited met at Shooters Supper Club in Plover Saturday, Oct. 2, by State Chair Bill Pielsticker.

Present were 31 people representing the following chapters: Aldo Leopold, Central, Coulee, Fox Valley, Green Bay, Harry & Laura Nohr, Kiap-TU-Wish, Northwoods, Oconto, Ocooch, Ojibseau, Southeastern, Southern, and Wild Rivers.

Special guests in attendance were Rich Bowman, Exec. Director of Michigan TU, Larry Claggett of the WDNR, and Laura Hewitt of TU National.

The minutes of the last meeting were circulated and approved.

#### TU National update

Bill Pielsticker discussed the recent TU National meeting held in Denver, Colorado. That meeting was attended by Pielsticker, Jeff Smith, and Duke Welter. In general TU National income is up, membership is up, and staff is being re-hired to keep up with growth and services. National will be making an effort to encourage re-enlistment of current members. Embrace-A-Stream applications are available and chapters are encouraged to contact Laura Hewitt at the regional office in Madison for help with the application process.

Jeff Smith reported that progress has been made on resolving the chapter roster problems with zip codes and that computer updates will make chapter rosters more accurate.

#### Council inquiries

Bill reported on a River Alliance report on the DNR and its river management programs. It gave details of the concerns about politics playing a role in decision making in this vital area.

A request for assistance from a teacher at Shabaz High School in Madison was discussed. Shabaz is an alternative school for bright students who do not do well in a traditional school setting. The intent is to set up a learning block centered around the West Fork of the Kickapoo which will involve some fishing and conservation work by the students. It was agreed that there are several chapters in the area that could help with the effort. Sue Fey with SWTU is the contact for other chapters to coordinate their involvement.

BT Squared, a Madison environmental engineering firm, has offered pro bono assistance to the State Council and to individual chapters with projects. The chairman will pass the necessary information on to the individual chapters to use if they have a need for these types of services.

The River Alliance's programs and workshops for chapters were discussed. The council is closely aligned and networking with the River Alliance, and these programs and workshops can be brought to chapters as requested. For more information on the programs, contact Bill Pielsticker or the River Alliance.

Chairman Pielsticker informed the group that he had received a letter requesting the council to sign on to a letter about roadless areas in northern Wisconsin and that following Executive Committee input, he had chosen not to sign on.

He reported on a letter from the Florence County Land and Resource Committee for TU assistance in creating ponds to raise trout for stocking in an effort to replace trout not being stocked by the DNR due to budget cuts. It was noted that TU is much more interested in improving habitat than in stocking more fish and the group is to be so informed.

Bill discussed a letter to the editor of the Madison papers on global warming and noted that National TU has added the issue of global warming to its National Conservation Agenda.

Jeff Smith reported on the National Leadership Council (NLC) meeting. This group will be making an effort to inject the national perspective into local chapters more. He also discussed a systematic response to fish kills — exactly who does what, when, etc. This issue will also be mentioned and worked on more in the future on a national level within TU.

#### Cooperative stream work

Duke Welter reported on the driftless area working group which is working to organize a Driftless Area Restoration Effort (DARE) in Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa, and Minnesota. They have had meetings in Galena, IL, and they will use the best models, approaches, partnerships, and sharing to improve habitat work in this great driftless area.

They are trying to coordinate a state, federal, and local effort to work together on projects. There are 9 TU chapters in the area and

many chapters that would like to work with them. National TU has added this to the national agenda. The skills are present for such work at the local level, but they could be taken to new heights.

Welter spoke of \$500,000 a year going into project in this area. Within the next 10 days, representatives of National TU will be visiting sites in Iowa, MN, and WI. Within two years, this effort should be working on projects.

#### Legislative report

Smith and Pielsticker discussed the Job Creation Act (Act 118) and the efforts now underway to write the bill's rules and regulations. Already in the wings is a second Job Creation Bill. Unlike the first bill, this one may not be written in private by the special interest groups and their politicians. The environmental community is aware of what is happening, and there should be no secret deals between the Governor's office and the business interests without citizen input.

Smith reported that the DNR budget has been submitted and that it does not contain any fee increases. The fee increases if any will be added in the Governor's budget. An effort will be made to get a \$10.00 inland trout stamp. His advise was to look forward to a series of cuts in the overall budget.

Pielsticker reported on the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters Institute putting together a second *Conservation Briefing Book* for the next Legislature. Both Pielsticker and Smith have been involved and working on the sections on funding the polluted runoff rules, fish kill response teams, and the shoreland zoning proposal.

They also reported on Clean Wisconsin's efforts at the Great Lakes Basin Resource meetings. A compact has been prepared that is overall acceptable to environmental interests and is much better than current laws. Interested groups have until October 18 to give opinions on the matter. A motion was put forward and passed to have the State Council endorse the Great Lakes Compact that will be pending before the Legislature and Governor with the qualifications noted by the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation. *Wisconsin Trout* will have a detailed article in its next issue about the compact and its implications.

Bill reported on the livestock siting legislation. An expert panel is working on the details, and progress is being made. The goals of the

group are to increase protection to our waters, increase dairy production, use more science in protection, lessen odor problems, and to review and update the rules every five years.

The panel's siting standards will be reviewed by the Livestock Siting Advisory Committee (of which Bill is a member) before they go to hearings. The main work and leadership seems to be coming out of DATCP and Pielsticker praised their efforts, saying he is hopeful the end result will be improved environmental protection.

#### MITU guest Rich Bowman

Rich Bowman spoke about the Michigan State Council of Trout Unlimited. They have 7,000 members in 29 groups, of which 24 are TU chapters and five are other interested environmental groups.

He mentioned the groups' conservation agenda which was last revised during 2001-2003 and was recently approved by the Michigan group. He uses this agenda when he talks to legislators about TU priority issues.

#### WDNR's Larry Claggett

Larry Claggett of the DNR spoke about the culvert issue and Act 118. There is a lot of concern in TU over the details of what activities are allowed. He noted that he personally had no part in the negotiations on the bill, very little input into the bill, and that he was just reporting on it.

The law contains permit exemptions for replacing culverts less than 24 inches across and 35 feet long. The DNR is now working to create standards to implement that exemption. The standards will be put to internal DNR review, reviewed by interested parties, and then will go to the Legislature. Current recommendations would call for making 24" culverts not exempt on trout streams and having procedures for installing culverts over 35 feet in length. They may require professional design before installation.

It was noted that there are a lot of poorly designed culverts around that have a very negative effect on a lot of trout waters. Once these rules and restrictions are worked out, they will go for the NRB for review and then to the Legislature.

Members urged Claggett to pass on our concern that any replacements must be made in a manner which does not obstruct fish movement.

Continued on p. 13

# Hair samples wanted for blood mercury level study

Adult anglers in Wisconsin can help state health officials study the relationship between fish consumption and mercury exposure by volunteering to

submit hair samples for the study.

The Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services is conducting the study of fish con-

sumption and mercury exposure and hopes to analyze mercury levels in hair samples from 2,000 men and women 18 and older between January, 2004, and

June, 2005, according to Lynda Knobeloch, a DHFS toxicologist in the Wisconsin Division of Public Health.

Study volunteers are asked to complete a brief questionnaire and send a hair sample for analysis. Laboratory results will be mailed to all study participants along with an interpretation of their mercury level, Knobeloch says.

People interested in participating in the study can call 1-866-236-3461 or log on to the mercury study Web site at <http://www.wisc.edu/uwsc/mercury.htm> to request a survey and hair collection kit. For additional information about this study, please contact Dr. Lynda Knobeloch at (608) 266-0923 or e-mail her at [kno-belml@dhsf.state.wi.us](mailto:kno-belml@dhsf.state.wi.us).

Fish is the main source of mercury in the human diet. Mercury from the environment and from the burning of fossil fuels enters lakes and other waters in rain, snow and runoff and is converted to a toxic form that's easily absorbed by insects and other small organisms, and in turn, by the fish and humans that eat them, Knobeloch says.

Because some fish from nearly all Wisconsin waters contain elevated levels of mercury, DHFS and the Department of Natural Resources jointly issue recommendations that people limit the number of meals they eat of certain fish species and sizes to continue gaining the benefits of eating fish while limiting dietary exposure to mercury.

At low levels, mercury can harm the developing nervous system of a fetus and may harm adults' cardiovascular and immune systems. At high levels, mercury can trigger memory loss, slurred speech, hearing loss, lack of coordination, loss of sensation in fingers and toes, reproductive problems, coma, and possibly death.

## Choose Fish Low in Mercury!

Guidelines below are for fish from Wisconsin lakes, ponds, and rivers and for fish bought in restaurants and stores.

*Fish is good for you. Eat fish low in mercury!*








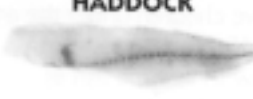












| SPORT CAUGHT:<br>Fish You Catch  |  | COMMERCIAL:<br>Fish You Buy   |   |
|--|--|---|---|
| <b>BLUEGILL</b><br><br>Mercury Levels: <input type="radio"/> LOW <input type="radio"/> MED <input type="radio"/> HIGH                  | <b>WHITE CRAPPIE</b><br><br>Mercury Levels: <input type="radio"/> LOW <input type="radio"/> MED <input type="radio"/> HIGH       | <b>ATLANTIC SALMON</b><br><br>Mercury Levels: <input type="radio"/> LOW <input type="radio"/> MED <input type="radio"/> HIGH                      | <b>SHELLFISH</b><br>(such as shrimp, scallops or lobster)<br><br>Mercury Levels: <input type="radio"/> LOW <input type="radio"/> MED <input type="radio"/> HIGH |
| <b>YELLOW PERCH</b><br><br>Mercury Levels: <input type="radio"/> LOW <input type="radio"/> MED <input type="radio"/> HIGH             | <b>BLACK CRAPPIE</b><br><br>Mercury Levels: <input type="radio"/> LOW <input type="radio"/> MED <input type="radio"/> HIGH      | <b>FLATFISH &amp; FLOUNDERS</b><br><br>Mercury Levels: <input type="radio"/> LOW <input type="radio"/> MED <input type="radio"/> HIGH           | <b>COD, OCEAN PERCH &amp; HADDOCK</b><br><br>Mercury Levels: <input type="radio"/> LOW <input type="radio"/> MED <input type="radio"/> HIGH                    |
| <b>SMALLMOUTH BASS</b><br><br>Mercury Levels: <input type="radio"/> LOW <input type="radio"/> MED <input type="radio"/> HIGH          | <b>CATFISH</b><br><br>Mercury Levels: <input type="radio"/> LOW <input type="radio"/> MED <input type="radio"/> HIGH            | <b>CANNED "LIGHT" TUNA</b><br><br>Mercury Levels: <input type="radio"/> LOW <input type="radio"/> MED <input type="radio"/> HIGH                 | <b>CANNED "WHITE" TUNA</b><br><br>Mercury Levels: <input type="radio"/> LOW <input type="radio"/> MED <input type="radio"/> HIGH                               |
| <b>LARGEMOUTH BASS</b><br><br>Mercury Levels: <input type="radio"/> LOW <input type="radio"/> MED <input type="radio"/> HIGH          | <b>CARP</b><br><br>Mercury Levels: <input type="radio"/> LOW <input type="radio"/> MED <input type="radio"/> HIGH               | <b>HALIBUT</b><br><br>Mercury Levels: <input type="radio"/> LOW <input type="radio"/> MED <input type="radio"/> HIGH                            | <b>TUNA</b><br><br>Mercury Levels: <input type="radio"/> LOW <input type="radio"/> MED <input type="radio"/> HIGH  |
| <b>NORTHERN PIKE</b><br><br>Mercury Levels: <input type="radio"/> LOW <input type="radio"/> MED <input checked="" type="radio"/> HIGH | <b>WALLEYE</b><br><br>Mercury Levels: <input type="radio"/> LOW <input type="radio"/> MED <input checked="" type="radio"/> HIGH | <b>SWORDFISH</b><br>DO NOT EAT<br><br>Mercury Levels: <input type="radio"/> LOW <input type="radio"/> MED <input checked="" type="radio"/> HIGH | <b>SHARK</b><br>DO NOT EAT<br><br>Mercury Levels: <input type="radio"/> LOW <input type="radio"/> MED <input checked="" type="radio"/> HIGH                    |

Chart from "A Guide to Eating Fish from Wisconsin" (WI Dept. of Health and Family Services)

## COUNCIL: meets in Plover

Continued from p. 12

On trout stamp funds, Claggett stated that past fund surpluses are gone. The DNR is doing about 25 miles a year of habitat work, and the goal is to increase time and employees working on trout stamp projects.

The number of fulltime employees working on trout stamp work was discussed. Currently that number stands at 11.2 with a goal of 14.6. For financial year 2004, the total is 11.2, and when survey work is included, the figure is 14+ FTE. He anticipated that future budget problems will result in less trout spending and noted that the sale of inland trout stamps is declining somewhat.

A discussion on dissatisfaction with current restrictive regulations noted that the Pine and Melancthon in Richland County and Prairie in Lincoln County are hotspots in organized opposition. Hearings are being held in both counties.

Discussions with the NRB and other interested parties have resulted in some compromise. Changes will be made in Richland County which will result in less restrictive

fishing but will still protect the brook trout in Melancthon. In Lincoln County the restrictions will be left in place for five years in order to do evaluation of the effects of the regulations.

Larry Meicher gave the treasurer's report. There is \$6,600 in checking, \$42,000 in the investment account, and \$29,400 in the endowment account for a total of \$78,000 with an additional \$6,620 in stocks.

A sum of \$8,000 has been spent for Friends of Wisconsin TU projects which left a balance of \$71,645. The Southeast Chapter will be using up to \$20,000 next year as a short term loan to be repaid back when their River Protection Grant costs are reimbursed. Chapter fundraising in the meantime will probably lower the figure. The treasurer's report was approved without opposition.

Larry Meicher noted that chapter financial reports are due before November 15. Last year the State Council took a financial hit because some chapters did not get this report in on time. Chairperson Piel-

sticker noted that he has already contacted those chapters and will work very hard to get all financial reports in on time.

Laura Hewitt, speaking for Todd Breiby, reported on coaster brook trout efforts. A detailed update was passed around. There is much more cooperation on the effort now than there was a few years ago between state, federal, and international agencies. Streams in the Bayfield area are being assessed and engineered log jams are being installed. Reintroduction and monitoring efforts underway in Michigan.

It was noted that a potential sulfide mining operation in Upper Michigan is a potential threat on the Salmon Trout River. The state of Michigan is taking legislative action that should help if passed. There is a lot of research being done on the coaster brook trout with the direction being less on stocking efforts and more on improving the unique, specific habitat that these trout seem to need.

### Regional reports

Larry Meicher gave the Southern Region report and noted a small fish kill in Lodi on Spring Creek that is being investigated. It does not seem

related to farming, rather a release of a toxin into the stream. About 50 fish were killed.

Jim Hlaban gave the Central Region report. He noted that efforts to work with Rawhide Boys Ranch have been successful. There have been workdays completed and the effort will be expanded next year. He discussed the purchase of metal Consider Proper Release signs that could be purchased through Bill Heart. Cost would be \$4.50 each in 500 lots and \$6.50 for 100 lots. Chapters should let Bill Heart know how many they want. They are working on having the Michigan TU road work/culvert video made available to those who want them.

John Bethke gave the Southwestern Regional report and commented on the ESPN games. He commented that the fishing portion of the program seemed within the concepts of TU and that a large number of people could potentially be reached with our message. This issue will be discussed further.

### Friends of Wisconsin TU

John Cantwell discussed Friends of Wisconsin TU.

Continued on p. 14

## COUNCIL: meets in Plover

*Continued from p. 13*

In 2004 \$16,235 was taken in which was a 30% increase. There were 135 contributors with a net of \$14,200. This makes a total since 1990 to be \$134,992. John was thanked for his 15-year effort with the Friends program. It is noted that other states are now setting up fund-raisers like Friends.

Pielsticker noted that the council's endowment fund is now set up and that members of the committee to run the fund are being sought. There is thought of offering individual chapters a place within the endowment fund to invest chapter

funds. It would be like a mutual fund situation for chapters. It is noted from the national meeting that having one central fund for a state can make things a lot simpler for individual chapters and ease the issue of oversight and audits.

Todd Hanson noted that the CD of old issues of State Council publications is now available for chapters. He noted that he would like articles about individual gadgets that chapters have come up with to make their projects more effective.

Bob Obma reported on efforts of the water resources committee. He mentioned problems with best agri-

cultural practices, grazing, beaver control, and control of trees on streams. Bob is working to develop areas on the state web site to make available information on these subjects.

Todd Hanson discussed the Wisconsin Stewardship Network and its financial problems. Some of their grant money has ended, and they have had to lay off their staff. They do have some potential funding sources and will continue to a limited degree some of their more successful functions.

Chairman Pielsticker reported that next year's banquet will be held in Oshkosh as it has in the past. In 2006 the banquet will be moved to Hotel Mead in Wisconsin Rapids.

This year's banquet will be held on February 5.

Welter discussed the issue of having booths at shows like the DU Great Outdoors Festival. He participated in shows in Madison and Minneapolis this past year and thought they could be a very good way of reaching people with and interest in our issues and that our message would be well received. A motion was made that the SC cover the costs of the booths and that chapters be asked to contribute both manpower and money to this effort. Motion was seconded and passed without opposition.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 and was followed by the third strategic planning session.



## WITU Looking Back

### From the Winter, 1974, WITU Winter Newsletter...

The winter meeting of the Council was held at the Natural Resources Building on the UW-Stevens Point campus on January 10th. Dr. Tom Poullette, council chairman, opened the meeting at 12:15. While waiting for "McGoo" and his party, the men enjoyed a brunch of coffee and doughnuts provided by the good doctor and Prof. Jack Heaton of the University. Representatives of Southwestern, Southern, Southeastern, Green Bay, Central, and Ojibseau were present. Headwaters Chapter has withdrawn its charter and asked that its membership be shifted to that of the Northwoods Chapter in Rhinelander.

Treasurer's Report: \$1,500 in savings and \$907 in the checking account.

Ron Koshoshek, of Ojibseau, corrected the minutes of the previous meeting by stating that Jim Bailey, of his chapter, had erroneously stated that a Supreme Court case held that counties and towns no longer need DNR permits for bridge construction projects. It was an Attorney General's opinion that so stated the releases from permit requirements. Russ Younglove, of the legal committee, commented he was in agreement with the AG's opinion, as written, although he is not happy with it. Southern reported the DNR had sought TU help at the last minute to get a test case but the Public Intervenor felt it was a "poor case" to use on appeal. The DNR is reportedly setting up a test case and this whole matter may end up in the courts.

A motion was passed asking Russ Younglove to write a letter to the DNR supporting the DNR's displeasure with the AG's opinion.

Southern will check on the opinion of the DNR relative to the requirements of an Environmental Impact Statement on these bridge projects.

Dr. Poulette announced the Council has made reservations for a suite of rooms at the National Convention in Michigan in August. The suite is to be used as a courtesy room for entertainment and modest display of Wisconsin TU projects and fund raising items. Much can be gained from the friendly interchange of members from all over the nation.

A general discussion of expansion of TROUT UNLIMITED in Wisconsin followed. Ron Koshoshek stated a chapter at Rice Lake is in the final stages of organization with its first meeting set for late January. Central is working on a chapter in the Stevens Point area. Tom Lepley indicated he is working on a chapter in Antigo and will be sending out feelers for chapters in Clintonville and Marinette. Ray Piehl, of Central, displayed a copy of their new letter designed to maintain renewals.

### From the Winter, 1995, Wisconsin Trout...

## "Rivers conference held

"A Gathering for the Rivers," the first statewide conference devoted to the future of Wisconsin's rivers, took place October 28-29 in Manitowoc. The convention focused on the role of local stewards and partnerships in protecting riverine systems.

The conference brought together almost 150 invited river stewards and activists with representation from a wide array of interests.

The heart of the conference was a series of workshops that sought to identify high priority problems facing rivers and related resources in Wisconsin, institutional barriers that prevent addressing these issues and the identification of an action agenda for future direction-setting.

Among the concerns facing public and private river stewards are: inadequate coordination within and among governmental agencies; concerns related to stewardship, values and ethics; limited citizen understanding of

river systems and a dearth of access to readily available information; legal and regulatory obstacles; improved information and data; funding-related issues; and barriers to effective citizen action.

A conference summary and action recommendations are currently being prepared. A publication prepared for the conference - "A Citizen's Guide to Governmental River Management and Protection Programs and Agencies in Wisconsin" - is available from the UW-Extension Cooperative Service or the River Alliance of Wisconsin.

Contact Steve Born of the UW-Madison Extension (608-262-9985) or Sara Johnson of the River Alliance of Wisconsin (608-257-2424) for copies or additional information.

The conference was sponsored by the UW-Extension, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the National Park Service and the River Alliance of Wisconsin.

### From the Winter, 1985, WITU Quarterly Report...

## Eulogy for a conservationist, Cap Buettner

Winter has come now to the valley of the River Wolf, covering its hills and valleys with a carpet of snow and the waters of the Wolf with a sheet of ice. Silence and solitude embrace the North country now. That silence, though, comes not only from winter itself, but from the sorrow that pervades the Wolf valley. He who fought for the river for so long is with us no longer. Cap Buettner is gone.

Caspar John Paul Buettner, "Cap" for short, was one of the fortunate ones, for he lived his dream beside his beloved Wolf River for most of his 72 years. Born in a cabin on an island in the Wolf River near Shawano, Cap learned the intimate secrets of the Wolf as no one else did through a life-long love affair with that storied river. Foresaking the opportunities of higher paying jobs in the big cities, Cap spent a lifetime working for the Langlade County Highway Dept., and then on his own as owner and proprietor of the well-known "Cap's Fly Shop" on the Wolf south of Langlade. But, in reality, Cap spent his life working for the Wolf.

Cap saw all the changes come to the Wolf...from the log drives in the early part of the century to the dams creating the Post Lakes to the fishery change from brook to brown trout to the rafters and kayakers. But, more than that, Cap made sure that the Wolf remained a treasured resource for all trout anglers to enjoy. He did it because he loved the Wolf. When plans were being made to dam the Wolf near Pearson back in the late 1950s and 60s, it was Cap Buettner and his followers who went to work to put an end to that mischief. He formed the Wolf River Conservation Club and began the first Trout Unlimited chapter in Wisconsin. With Cap's leadership, these groups succeeded in preventing the degrading of the Wolf, thus keeping it for all to enjoy. But, that wasn't all. Cap fought to help the DNR establish a master plan for a state fishery area for the Wolf and thus prevent excessive streamside development of the river's banks. He also fought the DNR on their method of stocking trout in the river, finally convincing them to use his "scatter-planting" method of spreading out the plated fish so that more of the river could receive fish.

Cap Buettner was a rarity among the everyday outdoorsperson, for, besides enjoying his sport, he was also willing to fight to preserve it, a quality almost universally lacking among sports men and women today. Some folks do all their conservation work between their nose and their chin over three martinis; not Cap Buettner. He fought for the things he believed in because he loved the land and wasn't willing to see it degraded. He wasn't afraid to speak his mind, either, whether to an individual or to the Legislature, if need be. He had the intestinal fortitude to stick up for his principals and fight for the environment he so dearly loved.

The seed that Cap Buettner planted in 1959 that became Trout Unlimited in Wisconsin has spread. Twenty-two chapters and over 2,250 members comprise our organization. And each of our members owes Cap Buettner a debt of gratitude for his efforts of so long ago. He showed us the way, and it is your duty to follow.

## Beadbelly nymph offers sparkle plus a traditional nymph profile

By Todd Hanson

The "beadbelly" is a nymph pattern of mine that maintains the flash of a beadhead, but which presents that sparkle (and color if you choose) in a traditional thorax shape.

You can apply this concept to any nymph of any color. The pattern makes extensive use of super glues like Zap-a-Gap because you will

### MATERIALS LIST

#### Beadbelly Nymph

**Hook:** 2x long wet fly hook, size 10 or 12.

**Thread:** reddish brown.

**Tail:** pheasant tail fibers.

**Bead:** Pink-centered glass.

**Body:** abdomen reddish brown synthetic dubbing; thorax same mix plus guard hairs.

**Wing case:** peacock herl.



have to tie off and re-tie in several places, and these glues facilitate that when you don't have a clean, hard tie-off surface.

I have been using Japanese glass beads that are sold in plastic tubes at my local craft store. The beads I'm using are particularly nice for two reasons. First, their center holes are a bit oblong in shape, making them easier to slip over a hook's bend than most metal tying beads. I also find these beads have subtle way of using color. Instead of being constructed of a solid color, the outside of my beads are clear glass, while the inside is colored. I like this feature because the clear glass provides sparkle and flash while the inside can provide some accent to the fly's overall color. For example, I may use a pink-centered bead on a reddish brown nymph. (See the color plates of this fly at the State Council's web site at [www.WisconsinTU.org](http://www.WisconsinTU.org).)

Begin by wrapping the hook shank with thread. Then super glue a bead onto the shank about 1/4" behind the hook eye. If you like, add a few turns of lead wire behind the bead. Tie in the tail.

Apply dubbing to form the fly's abdomen. Then tie in 6-8 peacock herl or your favorite material for forming a wing case.

Next form the abdomen in two sections — one behind the bead and a smaller section above the bead — using dubbing mixed with guard hairs. The second use of super glue comes in tying off your thread after forming each of the dubbed thorax sections. Coat about 1/2" of the tying thread with super glue, wind the thread several times at the tie-off spot, and snip the thread. The glue dries as you wrap, and this will anchor your thread as solidly as the best knot.

Now take some of your dubbing/guard hair mixture and pull it between your fingers to align the hairs and dubbing in the same direction. Coat the top half of the bead with super glue, and then press the dubbing across the top of the bead like you were applying a bandage with the thumbs and fingers of both hands. In a second the glue will take, and you now have protruding legs angling down from the thorax.

Further anchor the dubbing you've just applied to the top of the bead by applying a dab of super glue across the top of the bead. Then wrap your peacock herl over the top of the bead and tie it off to form the wing case. Finish the head as usual.

From the top, this fly looks like a traditional nymph. From the sides the bead is visible in the "belly" of the thorax. From the bottom the bead is readily visible.

## Jack Dennis headlining Feb. 12 Badger Fly Fishers' Spring Opener

The Badger Fly Fishers of Madison, WI, will host their annual fundraiser, the Spring Fly Fishing Opener, on February 12 at the Marriott Hotel on the west beltline highway (Hwy. 12) in Madison.

The featured speaker will be fly fishing expert, guide and author Jack Dennis.

Jack will be presenting two programs:

- *The Fly Fishers Underwater World of Trout* and
- *Matching the Hatch*.

We will have fly tying demonstrations, fly tying lessons, commercial

exhibitors, raffles, prizes, a lively auction, and an evening banquet.

Representatives from several rod companies will be there with their newest rods available for test casting indoors. Local vendors and fly shop owners will be available to sell rods to anyone who wishes to purchase one.

There should be something for everyone who loves fly fishing!

Admission for the day is \$10.00 at the door. For more information, contact Rich Ludt at (608) 833-7918 or log onto [www.badgerflyfishers.org](http://www.badgerflyfishers.org).



Waverly Beach, Menasha, WI  
N8770 Fire Lane #1 on the North Shore of Lake Winnebago

March 19, 2005  
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Sponsored by Fox Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited

### Featured Speakers



**Craig Mathews**  
Fly Rod & Reel's Angler of the Year

Saltwater Fishing 10:15

Fishing SW Montana & Yellowstone Park 1:30



**Darrell Toliver**  
Fox Valley Guide & Fishing Expert

Bass and Northern Pike Fishing 11:30

### Also Featuring

- We-no-nah King Fisher Canoe Raffle
- Fly Tying, Lure Making, and Rod Building Demonstrations
- Silent Auctions
- Bucket Raffles
- Door Prizes
- Vendors, Factory Reps, and DNR Booths
- Information on Inland Streams, Rivers, Lakes, and Great Lakes Tributaries

### Cabin Fever Night: Dinner with Craig Mathews

**\$30 ADVANCE TICKETS REQUIRED** — Sat., 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
Hear Craig on "Under Fished and Overlooked Waters in Yellowstone Park." Plus a special silent auction.

|         |   |  |
|---------|---|--|
| TICKETS | Cabin Fever Day only                        | Tickets at Door \$10 (lunch available) |
|         | "Combined" Cabin Fever Day and Night events | Required Advance Tickets \$35          |

CONTACT Jim Oates 920-915-8884 or Tony Trembl 920-830-2322 or visit [www.FoxValleyTU.org](http://www.FoxValleyTU.org)

# “Friends” grant committee looking for new project requests after record 2004 campaign

By John Cantwell

As we enter the new year, I want to thank all 2004 donors for your generous contributions to Friends of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited.

The fund broke all records in 2004, with over \$16,300 donated. Money donated to Friends goes directly to the resource.

Over the past 15 years, the fund has dedicated over \$135,000 to state coldwater resources in the areas of stream improvement, education, and land acquisition.

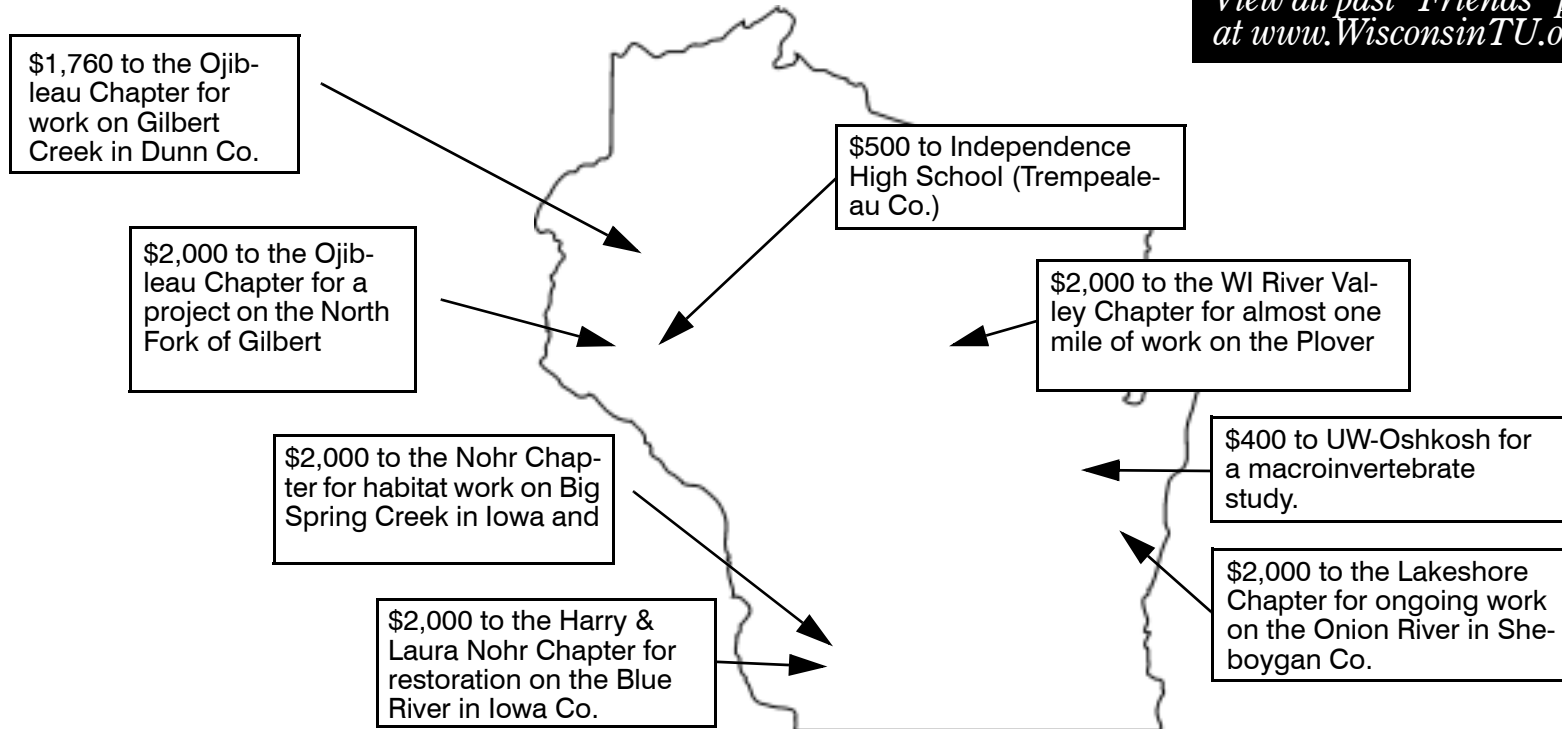
Requests for funding can be send by mail or e-mail at any time to me at johnc3989@aol.com or by mail in quadruplicate to:

John Cantwell  
WITU Fundraising Chair  
3725 Ken Ridge Ln.  
Green Bay WI 54313

All requests are evaluated by a committee composed of the State Council's four regional vice chairs.

## Over \$135,000 devoted to trout resources since 1991. Recent projects include...

View all past “Friends” projects at [www.WisconsinTU.org](http://www.WisconsinTU.org)



### Friends of Wis. TU

Your name would look great here!  
Join the Friends today...

- Anonymous
- Douglas M Aziz
- Brian Bachhuber
- Edwin N Barnes
- David E Beckwith
- George Bereza
- Mark and Julie Berggren
- Walter Bettin
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- Allan Bostwick
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- R.E. (Bob) Zimmerman

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- Madison WI

- \*Anglers Club of Chicago
- Central WI Chapter
- Coulee Region Chapter
- Fox Valley Chapter
- Frank Hornberg Chapter
- Green Bay Chapter
- Harry & Lora Nohr Chapter
- Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter
- Lee Wulff Chapter, Illinois
- Marinette Co. Chapter
- Northwoods Chapter
- Oconto River Chapter
- Ocooch Creeks Chapter
- Southern WI Chapter
- Wild Rivers Chapter

Yes, I want to join the “Friends” of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited.  
Enclosed is my check for \$100 or more.

MAIL TO: Friends of Wisconsin TU  
% John H. Cantwell  
3725 Ken Ridge Ln.  
Green Bay, WI 54313-8271

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_