

Wisconsin Trout

October 2005

Little Plover River dries up in August

By Heather Clark

Years of research suggesting the Little Plover River would dry up became reality the second week of August this year.

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point professor Bryant Browne, some of his students, and some recent graduates visited the river the second week in August to begin a one-year study of how the river works, where flow comes in, and where it exits. What they discovered surprised them.

Stretches of dry river bed greeted them, and dead trout — and other

aquatic life — floated in shallow pockets of water near tree roots.

“For a long time we’ve expected this to occur, but it always comes up on you faster than you expect it to,” Browne said. “We had no idea this was going to happen this year. We wanted to find out more about the river’s dynamics. We knew we needed to do more (research).”

Browne pulled together some student researchers (some of whom were hired by the university for research this summer) to head out and install a well system to monitor the flow. The wells, PVC piping about the size of large straws, were installed at various depths in the river and flags pinpointed the edge of the river in the beds.

“It’s completely different than last fall,” said Jeremy Wyss of Black River Falls. A May graduate and former student of Browne, he was hired as a researcher this summer. “We were just going to map out how the water enters and leaves the stream...and we realized the area we were mapping, the water wasn’t flowing.”

Browne and his students have been studying the river, especially the stretch about two-tenths of a mile from Eisenhower Avenue, for the past 13 years, he said. His results indicated that each year, the river was taxed more and more by farmers pulling from the stream to irrigate their fields and Plover drawing water for its municipality.

“If we didn’t have the competition for water, this would be going pretty well, even in drought conditions,” he said. “I’ve never seen it like this. Historically this has never happened.”

Later rains brought life back into the river, but minimally. Scuds, less than a half-inch long side-swimming invertebrates, were about the only organisms left to see, and some of them were floating in the water, too. “There should be vegetation all over here and there is none,” said Kyle Heimerl, a senior at the university. “It’s drying all the way down to the bridge. We found just two pools.”

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WITU reacts to Plover and other dry-ups

Following the discovery of the Little Plover River running dry, WITU State Council Chair Bill Pielsticker issued a statement saying, “It is not unusual for stream flows to decrease in the summer, but the de-watering of this Class 1 trout stream should never have happened. We must take immediate steps to insure this will not occur again.”

Another de-watering was reported the last week of July on Cook Creek in Vernon County. This loss of flow also killed trout. The lack of flow was linked to the operation of a high-capacity well next to the stream that was pumping water to wash gravel at a quarry on Hwy. 56 east of Viroqua.

At the recent State Council meeting in Ashland, council members discussed the possibility of filing suits based on the state’s public trust doctrine if working with the parties causing such loss-of-flow incidents refuse to modify their water draws, especially in times of drought.



Bryant Brown photos

HIGH AND DRY

UW-Stevens Point researchers Jeremy Wyss (left) and Kyle Heimerl stand on the dry streambed of the Little Plover River south of Stevens Point on August 9. The lack of flow killed trout (bottom left) and insects (bottom right).

State cites farmer and hauler for Sugar River fish kill

A Town of Blue Mounds farm and a manure hauler have been issued citations stemming from a manure-related fish kill last February on the Sugar River’s West Branch, part of a stretch of the river that was just removed in 2004 from a federal list of degraded waters.

Jones Brothers Dairy LLC, rural Mt. Horeb, and Steven Van Den Bergh, proprietor of Back Woods Slurry, Hillsboro, are each charged with a violation of the state’s water pollution law, which the DNR alleges resulted in the killing of at least 165 trout. Each party faces a total of \$2,682 in forfeiture and restitution.

A DNR investigation alleges that the fish kill was caused by the land spreading of a large amount of liquid manure from Mr. Jones’ pit by Back Woods Slurry on steep slopes of frozen ground located off State Highway 78 and Blue Valley Road in the Town of Blue Mounds, south of Mt. Horeb.

A number of manure-related fish kills during the past year has prompted the State Natural Resources Board to hold public hearings in August on rules that would impose more controls on manure handling and field spreading. One of the rule’s components would limit the spreading of liquid manure on frozen ground and require farmers to have six months of manure storage capacity.

Conservation warden Dave Wood, Fitchburg, who issued the citations, noted that Mr. Jones and the manure hauler could have been charged with more serious violations “but we took into account the excellent cooperation and contributions by the two parties who immediately took steps to halt the runoff after being made aware of the problem.”

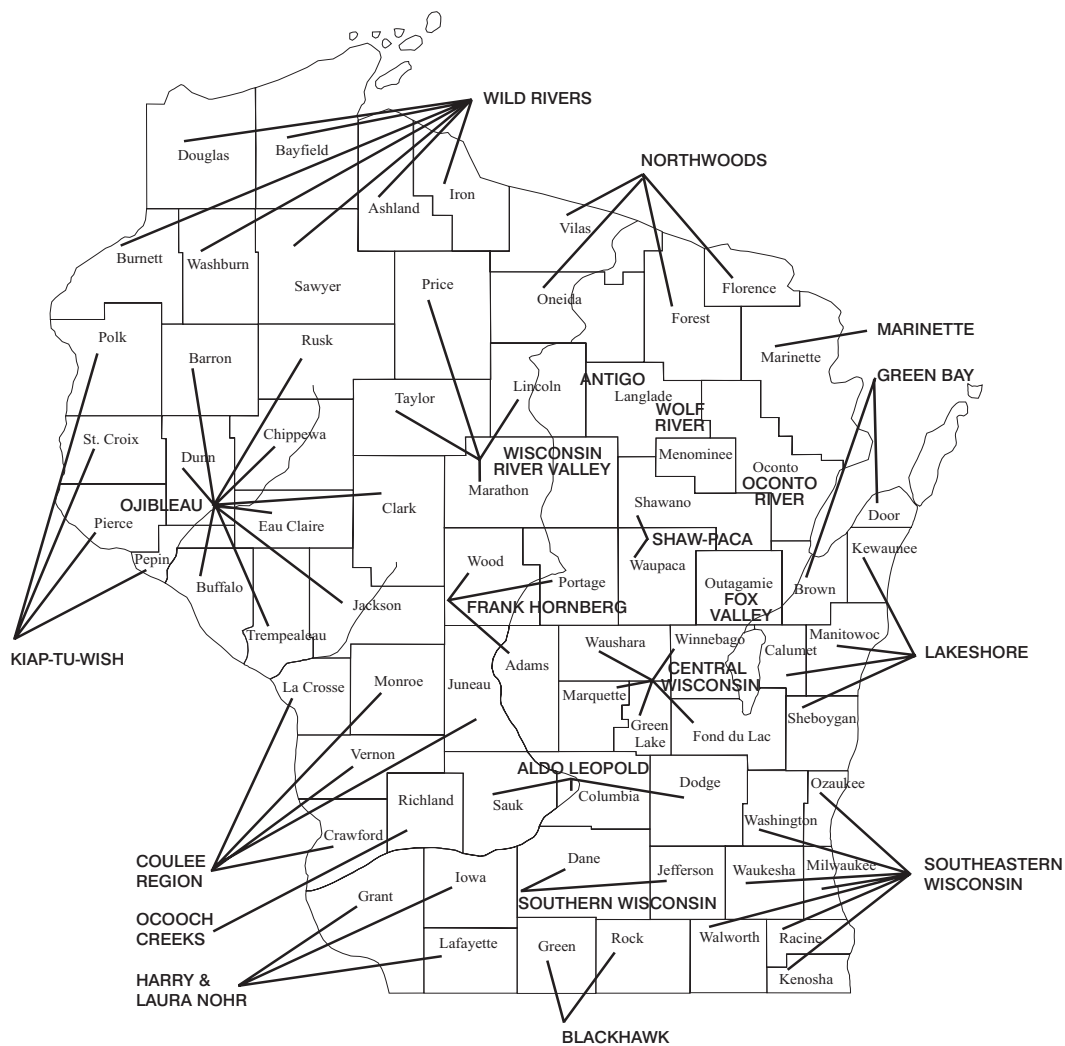
Fish restitution money for the 165 dead trout recovered from the river will be directed toward trout rehabilitation projects, according to Kurt Welke, DNR fisheries biologist. Welke plans on stocking the impacted stretch of the West Branch next spring with brown trout fingerlings and adult rainbow trout brood stock.

There is no word yet from the DNR or Dept. of Justice on the disposition of the other major trout kill on Willow Creek in July, 2004.

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Contact TU National when you change addresses or chapter leaders

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

WISCONSIN TROUT

Vol. 17, No. 4 — October 2005

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

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Letters

Let's not give up on the Wolf River fishery

Editor,

I read with interest the articles about the Wolf River in the July issue. I'm concerned about the statements of DNR personnel that "We're probably going to more of a put-and-take type of fishery if the public allows it." I think that approach is premature. There is so much work that could be done to improve the fishing on the Wolf before resigning ourselves to a put-and-take fishery.

While some dredging, narrowing, and deepening has been done, there is certainly room for a whole lot more. The stretch immediately above Garfield (Boy Scout) Rapids comes to mind. When the water is low it's hard to even paddle a kayak through that stretch. I've heard some speculation that paddlers might not like the narrowing it would take to restore the Wolf to what it once was. As an angler and paddler, I suspect that all users would be glad to see some narrowing of the shallow flats.

In addition to work on the river itself, it seems to me that tributary restoration could be a key to restoring more wild trout to the Wolf. While some of the tributaries provide cold water to the river, it would seem that such inflows could be overwhelmed by the warmth of the river itself in mid-summer. A few years back we had 10" of warm rain during one July day, and the river was high and hot for days after. One has to wonder how much refuge is provided by, say 50 cubic feet per second (cfs) of cool water pouring into 1,000 cfs of warm river, especially if there isn't good holding water below the tributary mouths.

If the tributaries were restored, the trout could actually move into them during hot periods. That could mean larger and colder sanctuaries. As an example, I would offer Getchell Creek near Military Park. That stream is spring fed and stays cold in the summer and mostly open all winter. It provides some cold water to the Wolf and, according to some "old timers," the section of the Wolf below its mouth was once great fishing. The creek itself is listed as a brook trout stream. Unfortunately,

one has to wonder whether that is true anymore. Just up from the mouth is a culvert and just up from the culvert is a rock jam that may be impassable, especially at low water. Even if trout can make it past the rock jam, most of the stream is silted in and just inches deep. If that stream, and others, were dredged and improved so trout could live in them, they might provide natural hatcheries and sanctuaries for Wolf River trout.

Other tributaries, or at least big sections of them, don't run cold anymore. Much of the Lily River gets really warm, as do parts of the Hunting River. On July 9th of this year I took the temperature below where Blue Springs enters the Hunting. The water was 77 degrees.

Beaver dam removal on tributaries to the Lily might make a big difference. The lower Hunting is really wide and shallow. If the lower river could be narrowed and sped up, its water might make it to the Wolf without first passing through what is essentially a big, slow warming pond. Also, trout from the Wolf might be able to more successfully use it as a sanctuary.

While I have great respect for the DNR and the work it does, I understand that funds are limited and the agency is pulled in many directions. I can understand how settling for a put-and-take fishery would certainly provide a quick solution. Wouldn't it be superb, though, and maybe less expensive in the long run, if one of our biggest, most beautiful, and historically best trout streams could really be restored? So much is already in place: the state owns much land on the river so over-development is unlikely, much of the land is reforested, there are abundant hatches, and the water is clean.

In the grand scheme of things, it really wasn't that long ago that the Wolf was a great trout stream. If Wisconsin Trout Unlimited puts its energy and resources behind it, then maybe it can be great again. One has only to look at Southwestern Wisconsin to see what we can do. Let's not give up too soon. After all, it wasn't long ago that people were saying that elk re-introduction in our state wouldn't be feasible, and that project has met with success. Let's support the Wolf River Chapter in its quest to bring back the Wolf.

Thomas D. Wiensch
Rhineland, WI

Consider Proper Release



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

TU QUIZ

Trout populations are eliminated in watersheds when what percentage of land is made impervious to water through paving, roofs, urban sprawl, etc.?

- A. 11% C. 33%
B. 22% D. 44%

Answer: 11%. Source: "2004 Water Division Annual Report."

Nominations sought for State Council awards

State Council Awards Committee Chair Larry Meicher is accepting nominations for the council's yearly awards. Nominations should be sent to Larry at 5258 Salisbury Rd., Rio, WI 53960.

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

AWARDS CRITERIA

Trout Unlimited Resource Award of Merit

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

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

Lee & Joan Wulff Conservation Leadership Award

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

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

Trout Unlimited Gold Trout Award for Service

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

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

Trout Unlimited Gold Net Award

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

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

Silver Trout Award for Chapter Merit

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

Nature of award — a silver plaque with printed inscription.

Jeffrey Carlson Volunteer Award

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

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

Special Appreciation DNR Personnel Award

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

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

Certificate of Appreciation

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

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

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

Recap of legislation affecting coldwater resources

By Jeff Smith

Since the last issue of *Wisconsin Trout*, a lot has happened on the legislative front. We'll cover the 2005-07 biennial budget, key vetoes by the Governor, the Governor's conservation initiatives, and other legislation related matters.

2005-07 license fees

We got most of the fee increases we lobbied for. Below is a schedule of all the fishing license changes including some new license choices:

License Type	Former Fee	05-07 Budget
Resident Fishing		
Annual	\$17	\$20
Senior Annual	7	7
Youth Annual	7	7
Husband & Wife	29	31
Disabled	7	7
Disable Veteran	3	3
Sturgeon Spearing	20	20
Inland Trout Lakes	0*	14
Sturgeon Hook & Line	0*	20
Nonresident Fishing		
Individual Annual	40	50
15-day	24	28
4-day	18	24
Family Annual	65	65
15-day	40	40
Sturgeon Spearing	50	65
Sturgeon Hook & Line	0*	50
Fishing Stamps		
Inland Trout	\$7.25	\$10
Great Lakes Trout	10	10
Two-day Great Lakes	14	14
Resident Multiple		
Conservation Patron	\$140	\$165
Junior Patron	75	75
Sports	45	60
Junior Sports	35	35
Nonresident Multiple		
No Changes		
Duplicate Fishing License	\$9	10

*Denotes new licenses created by the Legislature

The three new licenses noted above take effect March 1, 2006, but all other fishing licenses increases are in effect now.

One problem with the fee increase is that the deer license increase was to \$32 as proposed by the Governor. The legislature only increased it from \$20 to \$24. This is an issue because the hunting and fishing revenues mingle together in the Fish and Wildlife Account. That means, unlike the trout, salmon, and pheasant stamp funds, which are kept in separate accounts, there is no distinction between general hunting and fishing license revenues. Because of this, it is likely this fee hike will only support the programs for two years and we'll see another fee increase in the upcoming 2007-09 biennial budget.

General obligation bonding supports non-point funding

There are three components to it:

- Priority Watershed funded at \$6 million in the Governor's budget,

- Targeted Runoff Management (TRM) funded at \$0, and
- the municipal program funded at \$4.7 million.

When the Governor made his decisions on these three programs, he assumed DNR would continue to be able to put Priority Watershed funding into TRM as they have in the past. Newer information indicates this is not the case. He was also unaware of a potential match of federal funding of up to \$3 million if DNR spent \$3 million in TRM. The Legislature partially fixed this by transferring bonding authority into TRM so that \$6 million can be put into that program. At least there is partial funding to implement the strongest non-point pollution laws in the country.

Budget vetoes

The Governor had a near-record number of vetoes. Two that are noteworthy for TU are Smart Growth and Stewardship funding.

Essentially, the Legislature eliminated the Smart Growth program along with its funding. Through a very creative veto, the Governor restored the program along with about \$4 million in funding. This program is important to us because land use practices often dictate water quality and water temperatures.

Wisconsin's Stewardship program is funded with bonding authority to purchase and preserve unique property. The Joint Committee on Finance basically killed the program by directing the DNR to use it to purchase property already state-owned by the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands. This latter agency is charged with managing timber sales on various state lands and using the proceeds to provide low-interest loans to schools and libraries. The net benefit, it was argued, would be to increase the pool of money for loans. However, from a land preservation perspective, it did nothing but transfer the ownership from one state agency to another. Using his item veto authority, the Governor restored the Stewardship program. Governor's "Conservation Initiative"

On August 18, the Governor rolled out his conservation initiatives, which is a combination of legislation and administrative actions. These include:

- restoring the Public Intervener's Office,
- regulating the ballast water of ship discharges into the Great Lakes to mitigate the introduc-

tion of invasive species,

- adopting some of the Governor's Energy Task Force recommendations, including making state office buildings more energy efficient, and
- working with the Bush administration to limit forest roads.

Other legislative initiatives

There are numerous bills in the Legislature or pending agency rules that are of interest to TU members. The following are some of the major ones.

1. Senate Joint Resolution 21

SJR 21 is a constitutional amendment to protect segregated funds. This means transfers could no longer be made out of the Conservation Fund (Fish and Wildlife and Trout Stamp Accounts) to bail out the General Fund in times of General Revenue shortages as was proposed in the last budget.

2. NR 115 — shoreland zoning rules

Over the past three years, the DNR has been revising rules designed to restore and protect water quality in our lakes and streams by regulating the placement of homes, cabins and other structures, and the management of shoreline vegetation. The revised rules balance the interests of landowners in continued use of their existing homes with the needs to restore vegetation within 35 feet of the shoreline to maintain or improve water quality and habitat.

As the state's lakeshores become fully developed, these rules will be important in protecting our streams and rivers from degradation. The revised rules have been to public hearings and await action by the Natural Resources Board. After that, they will be reviewed by the Legislature.

3. NR 243 — regulations for CAFOs

Farm operations that include 700 or more cows or a similar density of other animals or poultry (concentrated animal feeding operations, or CAFOs) are regulated by the state for water quality purposes. Revisions to NR243 include new limits on surface spreading of manure during winter. Beginning in 2010, the rule would prohibit surface application of liquid manure on frozen or snow-covered ground. At the same time, it would bar solid manure application on frozen or snow-covered ground during the months of February and March.

The winter spreading restrictions will help reduce the number of manure spills and runoff incidents we've seen in recent years, though these rules are limited to the largest animal operations in the state. The public comment period for these rules has been extended to October 14, 2005. You can review the rule as well as ways to strengthen it at www.MidwestAdvocates.org (Midwest Environmental Advocates). Following the public comment period, the rule will go the Natural Resources Board and then be reviewed by the legislature.

4. Wisconsin Buffer Initiative

For the last four years, the Wisconsin Buffer Initiative (WBI) has been pursuing research and targeting strategies for implementing an agricultural buffer requirement along Wisconsin lakes and streams. The WBI will make its recommendations to the DNR by the end of the year. Less than a year later, the DNR will hold hearings on a proposed revision to NR 151 incorporating some or all of the recommendations from the WBI. The goal is to have a buffer performance standard in place by Jan. 1, 2008.

5. Manure Management Task Force

The Manure Management Task Force held its first meeting in July. According to its web site, the task force is focusing on a wide range of issues including new technologies, prevention strategies, management and treatment alternatives, and changes to management practices when applying manure to frozen or saturated ground. Upon completion of its work, the task force will report to the secretaries of the two agencies convening the group. The secretaries will share this report with the Natural Resources Board and the Board of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection at a joint board meeting in the winter of 2006.

Bob Selk, a member of Southern Wisconsin TU and formerly with the Wisconsin Department of Justice, is representing Wisconsin TU on the task force. Other organizations are also representing, including Wisconsin Association of Lakes, River Alliance of Wisconsin, and Midwest Environmental Advocates, along with farm and producer groups. The task force is co-chaired by our own Steve Born and former state Senator Brian Rude. For more information, including meeting materials and minutes, go to www.manure-taskforce.wi.gov.

TUDARE enlisting restoration partners

By John Welter

Watershed restoration efforts as part of TU's Driftless Area Restoration Effort (TUDARE) recruited volunteer firefighters and drew interstate support this summer on a variety of projects led by TU chapters in the four-state unglaciated area of Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois.

TUDARE made progress with an important planning meeting in July in Avalanche, WI, for grass-roots volunteers. Then in September the project gaining financial support from a USDA agency for several key components of our plans.

Further support is actively being sought by TU's Washington conservation staff and by Laura Hewitt,

TU National Director of Watershed programs.

Chapters across the region are recognizing that they can augment their own resources and spread the word about watershed work by involving other TU groups, conservation volunteers, school and scout groups, and agencies.

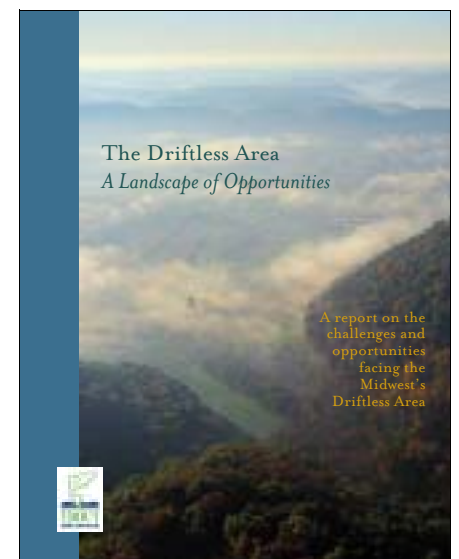
TU National CEO Charles Gauvin highlighted TUDARE at the recent national meeting in Denver, referring to the "great level of cooperation between TU volunteers and national staff" on this project. In an upcoming issue of *Trout* magazine, TU will be featured in an article currently under way.

Fund raising on the regional level continues with a request to chapters and councils for support to operate the project and help pay for part of the report, *The Driftless Area: Land-*

scape of Opportunities, which laid out our vision of region-wide collaborative projects across key watersheds in cooperation with agencies and other non-governmental organizations. At state and federal levels, we are finding support for TUDARE, and we hope to be able to announce some significant fundraising achievements in the next several months.

A special projects grant from the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will bring in \$35,000 to map watershed restoration work in Wisconsin and build solid relationships with NRCS and other state and federal agencies.

Next spring, we hope to hold a workshop for chapter volunteers on project planning, probably in conjunction with a symposium sponsored by the Midwest chapter of the



American Fisheries Society on trout management in the Driftless Area.

If your chapter would like to see a presentation on TUDARE, contact Laura Hewitt or Duke Welter for more information.

This day's mission was fishing

By Bill Pielsticker

WITU Chair

"YOW!" I shouted. Duke Welter claims the next two sentences out of my mouth came out as one long word. I had just watched an over-20-inch brown trout engulf the hopper part of a hopper/dropper combination on Colorado's Gunnison River.

Chair's Thoughts

The fish emerged past its shoulders and returned to the water. Not familiar with playing a fish this size, I turned to Jason, our guide, and asked for advice. "Give him some line, keep your tip up." I managed to play the "monster" for a couple of minutes before it broke off.

Even though I didn't land it, I felt great. Why shouldn't I? Despite living 15 minutes from a trout stream and just 90 minutes from the Coulee Region's storied trout waters, I don't get out fishing very

much. Frankly, I don't think that's too unusual for most of our members. Some people appear to live to fish, and have a string of spouses to show for it. Others, like me, just can't afford to take the time.

In my case, as an artist, I don't punch a clock — which seems to leave me free to fish when I want. Of course, no one pays me vacation time and no one provides paid sick leave, so when I have some free time, I generally focus on my work — making landscape or wildlife photos, working in my digital darkroom, mounting, matting, and framing, or (ugh) doing my accounting. Sure, a few hours on a stream would be nice, but somehow I just don't find the time for it.

Some of our members don't fish. Perhaps they did in the past. After my father purchased a cabin on the East River between Gunnison and Crested Butte, I made annual journeys to fish there. I won't say I've fished enough (hardly) but in over 30 visits out west I've landed more

than my share of trout and missed three times as many. It's not like I'm hurtin' for experience.

If I don't live to fish, what keeps me in TU? Like others who fish infrequently or not at all, I believe in TU's mission. Even more, I believe in TU's vision. At the TU National annual meeting in Denver (my excuse for heading to the Gunnison Country for a few days practicing my cast) the most meaningful part of the meeting was hearing and reading not the mission statement, but the vision statement:

"To insure that, by the next generation, robust populations of native and wild coldwater fish once again thrive within their North American range, so that our children can enjoy healthy fisheries in their home waters."

Now that's a vision worth working toward.

Oh, and the rest of the fishing? Steve Born, Bill Heart, and I dodged thunderstorms during a



Bill Pielsticker

walk-wade on the Gunnison that produced few large fish, but all the dinks you could care to catch. Duke caught some nice fish, and Jeff Smith finished the trip with about 15 fish in two hours on the East River. All but two of Jeff's fish were caught on a Copper John nymph — something that looks like a cross between an electrical resistor and an artificial fly. Go figure.

TU National meeting recap

TU touts grassroots focus and growing influence

By Bill Pielsticker

Presentations at the TU National meeting in Denver illustrated the recent emphasis on servicing our chapters and grassroots members, while reflecting increasing influence on regional and national issues. At the same time, our membership is growing, income is up, and there is record growth in conservation programs.

First, the numbers. National reports that overall income (from chapter, councils, and National) was up 8% in 2004, and expenses were up 21%. Spending breaks down to 48% for conservation work, 27% for communication and chapter support, 19% for fundraising, and just 6% for administration (the latter two figures are within the guidelines for a well-run non-profit organization).

Membership is also up, though current figures were not available. The estimate is there are over 150,000 members in TU now.

Perhaps the most interesting number is that every \$35 membership renewal results in local and national spending of \$110 on conservation, communications, and chapter support. This is due to money raised by chapters and councils, as well as fundraising and grant support at TU National.

Between the total budget and membership, TU has reached a size which achieves respect among policy makers in Washington as well among other conservation and environmental groups.

This growth has created some problems. The TU web site has been redesigned but has yet to function as planned. It is hoped the web site problems will be fixed shortly, as National staff have been called on to respond to user complaints.

The system for registering, tracking, and renewing members has also suffered, and a new vendor has been hired to take on that job. A new feature will be the ability to "lock" a member's data until a request is made to change it. As I was recently "transferred" from SWTU to the Aldo Leopold Chapter due to my zip code (a confusion over county lines shared by the Conservation Congress as well as the county jury

system), I hope the new system is running smoothly very soon.

The grassroots focus is apparent in the effort by National to improve the workings of chapters through the Chapter Effectiveness Index (CEI). There are 150 dormant chapters in the U.S., but none in Wisconsin. Asking chapters to complete the CEI will enable councils with dormant chapters to begin the process of merging or dissolving chapters and redistributing their members.

Chapters that are not totally dormant will use the CEI to consider whether they are providing their members with the services they deserve. Chapters that find themselves falling short can obtain assistance from National and their council to help address their needs, whether it be fundraising training, leader development, or the design of conservation programs.

The goal here is to insure that every TU member is part of an active chapter and has the opportunity to support or take part in meaningful conservation work as close to home as possible.

Another reflection of a new openness to grassroots priorities is our own Driftless Area Restoration Effort (TU DARE). One of seven major campaigns being pursued by TU National, TU DARE is the first initiated and led by local chapters and councils. Not coincidentally, it was championed by Duke Welter, the first grassroots member of the TU Board of Trustees from the Midwest.

Other national efforts include salmon habitat and passage (Alaska), the Potomac Headwaters (acid mine and agricultural impacts easily visible in the nation's Capital), the Eastern Water Project (minimum stream flow and acid mine drainage issues), and the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture (begun in the Southeast, gaining support in the East).

Along with these regional projects, TU influence is projected through the Western Water Project, the Public Lands Campaign, ongoing watershed restoration, and consistent lobbying at the national level. One result of the latter is that when the final Energy Bill passed earlier this year, it did not contain many of

the anti-conservation measures that were included in the House-passed bill that TU opposed.

As an organization spending over \$6 million a year on conservation work, it's appropriate for us to ask, "What are we getting for our money?" Measuring success is often a matter of successfully carrying out a project and counting fish afterwards. In an effort to bring more science to this, TU hired Jack Williams to be our senior scientist, and charged him to develop a Conservation Success Index (CSI).

Williams, with the help of other staff and data provided by chapters throughout the eastern United States, has developed a system to evaluate the success of eastern brook trout restoration efforts

throughout their native range. This includes an analysis of brook trout population integrity, habitat integrity, and threats to populations and habitat. Once completed, the CSI effort will turn to the Great Basin and the Southwest, to be followed by the West Coast, the Great Lakes, and the Intermountain West.

One result is a nearly completed, watershed-by-watershed analysis of eastern brook trout populations with a color-coded map identifying extirpated waters, waters with healthy populations, and several grades in between. This map can be used by local chapters and councils to identify areas for new work projects, and by chapters and National for determining how to focus their efforts for restoration.

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Council meets at Olson Environmental Institute

By Chuck Campbell
and Bill Pielsticker

The Wild Rivers Chapter hosted the fall meeting of the Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited at the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute on the campus of Northland College in Ashland Sept. 17.

Representatives were present from the Central Wisconsin, Fox Valley, Oconto, Ojiblaeu, Shaw-Paca, Southeastern, Southern, and the Wild Rivers chapters.

In State Council Chair Bill Pielsticker's report, the council was given an overview of the State of TU in 2005 (see the separate story in this issue for details). It appears National is refocusing efforts to aid chapters and strengthen the grassroots. One thing they recognize is most of our conservation work is done locally, and they hope to feature some of those efforts on the national web site.

Greggor Isaakson requested that *Wisconsin Trout* be sent to members of the National Board of Directors. Duke Welter noted that the next national meeting will be in Minneapolis and will feature the driftless area. The 2009 meeting will be in Traverse City to celebrate TU's 50th year.

In other National business, Pielsticker reported that TU National expects to request letters from members to counter attempts to weaken protections for endangered species. The threat comes from efforts to revise the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA. The Embrace-A-Stream grant program is being revised, with an effort to provide chapters with feedback on failed grant applications. Duke noted that chapters that plan to apply for an EAS grant should talk to their EAS committee contact by early November.

Pielsticker presented details of this year's reports of stream de-watering on the Little Plover River, Cook Creek (Vernon County), and the Long Lake branch of the White River. Bill Heart reported they were working to address the Long Lake problem, and are seeking changes in how the Drummond Lake outlet is regulated. On the Little Plover, TU is involved in effort to restore water to the stream — the problem appears to involve a municipal well. On Cook Creek, the problem appears to be with a gravel washing operation at a quarry operated by Kraemer Brothers. The chair was urged to explore a lawsuit based on the public trust doctrine in this case, but then asked to first approach Kraemer Brothers and seek to find a win-win solution before pursuing litigation.

The chair reported on more fish kills from manure this summer. Jeff Smith noted the Manure Management Task Force is meeting and we should expect a report by the end of the year. He served on the Dane County task force, and anyone interested in their report should contact him.

Pielsticker noted the discussion

and their tributaries. Following a request from National, the chair sent letters to Reps. Sensenbrenner and Kind asking that the anti-conservation portions of the Energy Bill be defeated (they were removed from the final bill). Jeff Smith issued a press release supporting the Governor's conservation agenda.

The chair read a note from Dave Fritz of the Nohr Chapter thanking the Council for providing a credit card processing account. He credits the ability to accept credit cards with an extra \$500 in fundraising. Larry Meicher noted that chapter must contact him to borrow the imprinter, then get the credit slips back to him for processing. There is a 4-5% charge by the bank. About 4 to 6 weeks after the slips are processed a check will be sent to the chapter for the balance.

USFWS guest
Glen Miller

The council was given a special presentation by Glen Miller, a US Fish and Wildlife Service biologist who has worked on Wittlesey Creek since 1978. Mill gave the council with an overview of

and how it will be used (see letter on following page). The CEI has been revised to give chapters more credit for a single large project, both conservation and education projects. National has added a "toolkit" tied to each of the measures to help chapters with the resources to improve their numbers in the future.

Chapters will prepare the CEI by 11/15/05 (after the filing deadline for the financial reports).

The Council will review each chapter's CEI by the end of January and report to National which chapters are functioning well, which chapters require significant help and improvement, and which are dormant with no hope of revival. Wisniewski and the chair agreed that, based on comments at the national meeting, *no Wisconsin chapters are at risk of de-chartering*. This contrasts with National's estimate of about 150 inactive chapters around the country. We do have a couple chapters that appear to need a good deal of help.

Chapters are encouraged to review their CEI's and the toolkit National is providing, and examine where and to what extent they might want help from the Council or from National to improve their chapter's operations. Councils are to work with chapters that request or require help. The NLC will review the program at the next Annual Meeting and discuss the need for new tools, changes to the Financial Reports, etc.

Pielsticker suggested the council should create a new "Capacity Building Grant Program" out of current funds to assist chapters in fundraising training, hiring a facilitator to do strategic planning, or attending leadership development training by the River Alliance or other groups.

Welter commented that the CEI is a benchmark for evaluating individual chapters, not for judging chapters

against each other. The council needs to help chapters with the CEI. Pielsticker noted that some chapters may have reasons why they cannot achieve higher than 65 while others theoretically could achieve 100. Each chapter must decide what is possible and work with the council to understand when local conditions limit what can be expected (some chapters can't raise lots of money but have lots of stream work; others aren't near streams but can fund stream work).

Wisniewski offered to meet with chapters and help with CEI scoring, as will Welter and Pielsticker.

A motion by Duke Welter directed the Chair to hold a teleconference with the State Council in mid-January to review the CEI scores and decide how to convey the information to National.

Continued on p. 7



of the Strategic Plan and the Executive Director idea will take place at the annual meeting in Wisconsin Rapids on February 4, 2006. The draft strategic plan is about 12 pages long and includes metrics to allow annual review of progress on each point. The proposed final draft will be distributed to chapters soon.

Wisconsin TU is working with the Wisconsin Outdoor Alliance in planning the fishing "camp" for the 2006 Outdoor Education Expo to be held May 19-20 at the Dodge County Fairgrounds. The fishing camp will include fly casting instruction and fly tying instruction. As many as 50 volunteers will be needed for each venue on both days. The goal is to increase youth exposure to the outdoors and outdoor recreation.

Wisconsin TU continues to support the Healing Our Waters coalition in an effort to improve and move forward the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration aimed at getting a comprehensive plan and action to clean up the Great Lakes



BEAUTIFUL NORTHLAND FACILITY

The Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute features a beautiful wooded location on Ashland's south side and inspiring architecture inside and out.

coaster brook trout habitat and management for Lake Superior.

Following lunch, Larry Wiland was introduced, one of two new part-time hires by TU national to write up the TU coaster brook trout plan. Larry prepared a draft master plan for the White River Fishery expansion that the DNR adopted with little change.

NLC report

Dan Wisniewski reported on the Chapter Effectiveness Index (CEI)

Continued from p. 6

Pielsticker reported that TU National is working to fix problems with their web site, as well as problems with membership registration and renewal. In the latter case, they have fired their vendor and hired a new one which should be capable of doing the job properly. Chair noted he had just been moved from his chapter to a neighboring one based on his zip code.

TU DARE update

Duke Welter reported on the meeting held in July for chapters in the Driftless Area. It was well-attended. The next meeting is planned for March, 2006, in Minneapolis. The NRCS has just approved a \$35,000 grant for Project DARE. Other funding initiatives are underway, including some federal funds supported by Sen. Kohl. The project is also looking to have collaborative projects with other groups including the five Resource Conservation and Development offices in the area.

Legislative Report

Jeff Smith reports that the change in leadership at the Department of Administration (Secretary Mark Marotta is out, Steve Bablitch is in). This may be a net gain for TU. Regarding license fees, we got the trout stamp increase. Nonpoint funding is alive, but less than what we asked for and far less than what is needed. The Joint Finance Committee's decision to reduce the increase in the deer license hurts us, as, apart from the stamp funds, the fish and wildlife account funds are commingled so less money for the DNR means less all around. Hiring Brandon Scholz as a paid lobbyist produced good results and was \$3,000 well spent. Without his help, we likely may not have gotten the fee increase.

The Governor's vetoes saved the Smart Growth program and restored money for planning grants. A veto also stopped Rep. Jensen's effort to use Stewardship funds to purchase Bureau of Public Lands properties, which would have tied up the Stewardship fund money without providing any gain in land protection.

Governor Doyle's Conservation Initiative was discussed. This initiative consists of several things, including calling for more funding for the nonpoint program. It also includes a move to restore the Public Intervenor, implement energy-saving recommendations in state buildings, control aquatic invasive species in ship ballast waters in Lakes Michigan and Superior, expanded brown-field cleanups, and submit requests to the Feds for roadless areas in the state's National Forests. Later, Smith noted the initiative also would designate the Totagatic and Upper St Croix Rivers as wild rivers.

Pielsticker reported that the Shoreland Rules revision was out for hearings this summer. Pielsticker made comments on the rules for the council. Next step is approval by the DNR board, then review by the legislature.

The comment period for NR 243 (rules for large animal operations) has been extended to mid-October. Pielsticker will comment on them for the council.

Larry Meicher has volunteered to serve as TU representative on the Forestry Best Management Advisory Committee after TU was invited by the DNR to name someone to the committee.

Bob Obma reported that the DNR has a vision in place on future ATV policy. Bob has attended the meetings that produced that "vision statement." Pielsticker noted that our Minnesota brethren warn of a

strong industry-supported effort to expand ATV use without regard for its impact on streams. Welter urges the council to discuss with policy makers ATV use and its impacts on waterways.

The council was told of efforts to have the Conservation Congress' Trout Study Committee approve proposals to cancel the early season, require that 50% of trout stamp funds be used for stocking, and require that trout streams in some counties be managed with a single regulation regarding harvest and means of fishing. The council was encouraged to act now and not wait until the proposals are on the spring ballot. A motion was made to "request the Trout Study Committee to reject the proposal to use trout stamp funds for stocking, as the funds are properly designated for improving natural reproduction in the state's streams and rivers; reject the proposal to cancel the early season, as this issue was fully discussed and evaluated just a few years ago, and it appears to both be popular among anglers and not causing harm to the fishery; and reject the 'all one regulation' proposal, as tier regulations are not just helpful but necessary to protect some trout populations, especially in the case of brook trout streams or where fishing pressure is intense, and these tiered rules are scientifically supported by the research carried out by Bob Hunt." The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by voice vote.

Pielsticker noted he had been asked to respond to questions about the policies he is supporting on the Wisconsin Buffer Initiative (see story on p. 8). Bill Hafs, the Brown County Conservationist, has told the Green Bay Chapter that TU should take a stronger position than Pielsticker's and should call for a state-wide minimum buffer requirement. Pielsticker noted this was rejected four years ago due to its great cost and uncertainty as to its benefit. He pointed out the Buffer Committee is working on a method to select sites based on topography, fish habitat, soils, and likelihood that buffers will improve or protect water quality in those watersheds. This would enable the state to use scarce funds to target a few specific watersheds and monitor them for improvement and as financing expands, more watersheds can be addressed. Pielsticker promised an article addressing Mr. Hafs concerns in the next issue of *Wisconsin Trout*.

Smith reported on a state constitutional amendment to protect segregated funds, including the Trout Stamp fund (as well as the Transportation Fund). It has a good chance of passing.

Smith discussed the goal of improving TU's legislative effectiveness. One thing is not to sign on to other groups' letters but to issue our own, as the Chair did in the case of the fee increase. Another thing is to get chapters to do more politically (as the Southeast Wisconsin Chapter has done recently), including attending local open houses by legislators, identifying yourself as a TU member, and speaking on an issue. Chapters also can ask members to list any legislators they know and what is the best way to access them. Establish a legislative coordinator in each chapter. Invite legislators to your local events, on-stream meetings or workdays. The council should establish a TU Lobby Day in Madison, develop a call to action. *Wisconsin Trout* should run legislator profiles.

Continued on p. 8



USFWS GUEST SPEAKER GLEN MILLER

USFWS fishery biologist Glen Miller (right) prepares to start a PowerPoint presentation for State Council meeting attendees on coaster brook trout rehabilitation activities on Lake Superior's north shore. Seated next to Miller is Wild Rivers Chapter President Bill Heart.

Draft of Chapter Focus Resolution from NLC

WHEREAS, the National Leadership Council resolves to recommend that the Board of Trustees ("the Board") adopt the Chapter Focus proposal as described in the paragraphs below.

WHEREAS, Councils (or assigned NLC Workgroup in the absence of a Council) will annually track Chapter progress in service of TU's mission in the areas of conservation activity, education activity and business practices using the Chapter Effectiveness Index and any other information they deem necessary. Councils will use this information to assign Chapters to three categories:

- 1) Chapters functioning well (i.e., significant achievement or sustained annual improvement)
- 2) Chapters requiring significant help (i.e., little or no annual improvement)
- 3) Chapters that are dormant with no hope of revival

WHEREAS, TU National staff and Councils will develop and deliver additional resources to help Chapters address areas of need as identified in the annual evaluation process. These additional resources will come in the form of a "Toolkit" that includes assistance for Chapters in conducting conservation projects, education projects and tools to improve Chapter business practices.

WHEREAS, Section 1 of Article VII of the Bylaws of Trout Unlimited gives the Board the authority to "withdraw a Charter for due cause." Exercising this authority, the Board will, every four years, recharter Chapters in the first two categories and withdraw the charters of Chapters in the third category. In making these decisions, the Board will follow the Councils' recommendations, as long as they are supported by facts and consistent with TU's mission.

WHEREAS, prior to recommending the withdrawal of a Chapter's charter, the governing Council (or assigned NLC Workgroup in the absence of a Council) will develop a plan to reassign the members and dispose of the assets of that Chapter in a manner that benefits the coldwater resources in the area of the former Chapter.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the National Leadership Council of Trout Unlimited, at its meeting on September ____, 2005, requests that the Board of Trustees adopt the Chapter Focus proposal as outlined above, and that it direct TU staff to take appropriate measures to carry out said proposal, and report back to the NLC and Board of Trustees on a periodic basis on its implementation.

Dated this ____ day of September, 2005

COUNCIL

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Kirk Otey, Chair

John Welter, Secretary

Is TU's position on buffers too weak?

Streamside buffers need flexibility to work

By Bill Pielsticker

At a recent meeting of the Green Bay Chapter, Bill Hafs of the Brown County Land Conservation Department voiced several concerns about my positions regarding buffers while representing TU on the Wisconsin Buffer Initiative.

Member Analysis

I have been asked by several TU leaders to respond to Mr. Hafs concerns and, in doing so, flesh out the buffer rationale I have been supporting.

In a Sept. 20, 2005, e-mail to Paul Kruse of the Green Bay Chapter, Mr. Hafs referred to my April, 2005, story in *Wisconsin Trout* on the buffer initiative and noted,

"...the debate really comes down to prioritization of buffer installation to certain streams vs. setting a minimum setback distance as a standard for all to comply with. Based upon the research I have seen — buffers improve water quality. Are we willing to allow some streams to have buffers and others will be allowed to spread animal waste and plow up to the waters edge? I think there should be a minimum set back for plowing and spreading animal waste on all streams in Wisconsin — including the 10,000 miles that are designated as trout streams. Let me know what you think. Please forward this email to other Trout Unlimited members."

Well, let's start with the suggestion that I support a program that allows animal waste and plowing up to the waters edge. In the case of animal waste (a.k.a. manure), manure management is not included in the charge to the WBI by the DNR. However, the Manure Management Task Force is reviewing manure handling and spreading issues, and I hope their report includes required setbacks from lakes and streams and strict limits on winter landspreading of manure.

Mr. Hafs has brought his complaint about "plowing up to the waters edge" to the WBI and has been told by the DNR's Gordon Stevenson that existing regulations prohibit land disturbing activities that destabilize stream banks, including plowing or other tillage operations. I can add nothing more to that, except that I frequently call upon farmers to prove that they are stewards of the earth. Keeping tillage well back from the water's edge is one way of proving that. Controlling polluted runoff is another.

The real issue here is Mr. Hafs' call for thousands of miles of buffers along Wisconsin's streams and rivers through enacting a minimum buffer width (which he usually suggests should be 30 feet). First, the WBI cannot address the is-

sue of urban buffers (already included in NR 151, the polluted runoff rules) or forested buffers (part of the NR 115, Shoreland Rules revision). Still, the idea of mile after mile of buffers between agricultural fields and streams is appealing. Just what's wrong with that?

There are two problems with Mr. Hafs' proposal. 1) Who pays for these buffers and 2) What will they accomplish? Is the statement "buffers improve water quality" true in every case? Not so fast.

Who pays?

Wisconsin law requires that the state offer to pay 70% of the cost of installing buffers or other practices aimed to controlling polluted runoff. As it is, even without a buffer standard, we do not have enough money to adequately implement the polluted runoff rules at the present time. Any money that goes to buffer implementation will come from the same pot.

If you accept this logic, then establishing a system to select areas/watersheds where we get the most benefit for the money expended makes sense. In fact, this logic has been adopted by the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration and the Healing Our Waters coalition. Without targeting, available money is likely to be divided either randomly or dispersed throughout the state, with little visible impact on water quality (unless you're willing to wait 40 years for results).

Should we be lobbying for more funding? That's what Brandon Scholz was doing for us, and what I and other TU volunteers were doing this spring. The WBI will provide the DNR and DATCP with an economic analysis of what the buffer recommendations will cost, so there will be plenty of additional logic for and evidence of the need for increased funding. Unfortunately, that is not likely to translate into new dollars without some changes in personnel at the legislative level. Here, it is up to TU members and their families and friends to consider how they vote, and to lobby their legislators for increased funding for polluted runoff implementation.

Just what will money spent on a buffer standard accomplish?

Mr. Hafs cites research that shows "buffers improve water quality." That's fine in the abstract, but just what does it mean? A 30-foot buffer may be adequate in Brown County, but it would be of limited value in hilly Vernon or Richland counties. At the same time, a 30-foot buffer may be overkill in the flatter Portage County.

Implementing a 30-foot buffer standard does little to address the issue of concentrated flow. Research on some of the Discovery Farms indicates that addressing areas of concentrated flow may minimize or eliminate the need for a substantial buffer and still protect water quality.

In an e-mail to me last month, Mr. Hafs insists that the state of Georgia also reviewed the literature and decided to adopt a 30-foot minimum buffer width, despite the fact that the national environmental group Environmental Defense had lobbied for a 50-foot buffer for water quality purposes. Whether 30 or 50 feet, WBI-sponsored research shows that buffers do little to filter runoff during snowmelt events, when a large percentage of our polluted runoff hits the streams. Without an annual hard freeze, Georgia is spared from this troublesome fact, one which emphasizes the need to be cautious about applying research to buffers in all states.

As for evaluating the available research, Mr. Hafs substitutes his own judgment for that of a multi-disciplinary committee in the UW College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, which evaluated over 600 research titles and concluded that additional research was needed to determine where buffers should be placed to protect water quality, how wide they should be, and what plants should they be composed of. Most buffer research focuses on sediment removal, a natural focus for soil conservation. However, research by the WBI suggests that filtering the sediment from spring and summer runoff only addresses part of the phosphorous that leads to excessive plant growth in Wisconsin streams. More research is needed to demonstrate the ability of and limitations to using buffers to protect water quality.

To sum up, after nearly four years on the WBI, a road trip to Iowa to view their "successful" buffer program (a program which measures success in miles of buffers, not improved water quality), evaluating the science, and considering various policy alternatives, I do support beginning to spend limited resources on a few small watersheds where the water quality benefit is most likely to be measured and observed. The number of watersheds can be expanded as funding allows.

I agree that many, perhaps even most, of our streams can benefit from buffers and related water quality protections. However, I do not see the science supporting a mandatory minimum buffer width, nor do I see this state as willing or able to pay for that. Instead, the best approach appears to be identifying streams and watersheds most at risk from polluted runoff and addressing them first. At the same time, we need to monitor changes in water quality in these watersheds while continuing research around Wisconsin to determine where, what type, and what width of buffers are most effective. The buffer standard can then be revised every four or five years to reflect what we have learned and to use the public's money most effectively.

MEETING: State Council meets at Olson Institute

Continued from p. 7

Jeff will send a letter to chapters to follow up and expand on these ideas. Pielsticker noted that the goal is to improve our policy influence, not to get involved in elections. Jeff noted that Wisconsin TU has gotten good credit on the Trout Stamp campaign, and that is due to our lobbyist, as well as the contacts specific members were asked to make with key legislators.

Treasurer's Report

Larry Meicher reported there is \$4,654 in the council checking account, just over \$37,500 in the investment account, a bit over \$15,000 in the endowment account, over \$7,000 in the Morgan Stanley account, over \$14,600 in the Juda Branch Sugar River account, and \$3,000 in the Trempealeau River fund. Out of a total of \$86,712.89, fully \$29,388.45 is encumbered for particular purposes, leaving a net of \$57,324.44 for the State Council.

The Treasurer's Report was approved.

Meicher noted that chapters must submit their financial reports on-line after Sept. 30 and before November 1. Chapters should contact Meicher if they need assistance. Meicher provided a draft budget to the council. Pielsticker suggested the executive committee would work on turning that into a formal budget for FY 2006 (beginning October 1, 2005).

Regional VP reports

Meicher reported on the Ocooch Chapter Elk Creek project. The North Chapter raised \$7,000 with its Spring Creek Festival. Chapter members are starting to question the wisdom of loading streams up with lunger structures. Discussion suggested this was partly a result of the limited things the DNR and the Feds take account of for cost-sharing. Suggestion was made to look into changing this so that a greater

range of in-kind contributions can be used to determine credit.

Jim Hlaban filed a report by e-mail noting the Central Region is still pursuing work in Riverview Park in Waupaca, a handicapped fishing deck, demonstration rain gardens, habitat structures, lunger, brush bundles, and half logs, plus kiosks explaining their functions. The Shear Street dam was removed this summer and Central Region TU will be involved in habitat work that may result from that removal. The hydropower dam in Waupaca was opened this summer to allow repair work and installation of a new low-head generator. As much as 500 tons a day of silt was washed down the river in the first few weeks of this draw down covering the normal rocky substrate with sand and silt that resulted in very low dissolved oxygen levels. We are anxious for the spring runoff to cleanse the Waupaca River and restore the habitat. The good news in all of this is

electric generation should become constant and provide the downriver sections with a constant supply of cooler bottom water instead of the fluctuations experienced in the past.

Pielsticker opened a discussion of altering the make-up of the regions, creating a Northwest Region. Hlaban had previously noted that the Lakeshore Chapter feels it is better served in the Southern Region rather than Central. Hlaban has asked Shaw-Paca to consider moving from Northeast to Central. It was noted that the regions are defined in our by-laws and suggested that an update of the by-laws might be in order. Welter moved to "direct the chair to establish an ad hoc committee to bring a proposal for a by-law change to the next council meeting." The motion was seconded, and passed by voice vote. Pielsticker said he will ask chapters to specify which region they want to belong to.

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Chapter president profile

Rich Vetrano: stream stewardship runs in the family

By Henry Koltz

Southeastern Wisconsin may not be what many would consider particularly blessed with an abundance of coldwater stream systems. One stream the region does boast, however, is Bluff Creek outside of Whitewater in Jefferson County. And if you have ever had occasion to cast a fly on this trout oasis in a proverbial sea of warm water, you have a connection to the Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter's new president, Rich Vetrano. Since 1995, Rich has spearheaded restoration efforts on Bluff Creek, continuing the fine work performed by other Southeastern volunteers throughout the 1980s.

Rich became involved with Trout Unlimited through a simple gift.

"I've been fishing my whole life," he states, "but I really didn't start trout fishing until I was given a fly rod on my 30th birthday." Thereafter, and seeking to pick up tips on how to actually *use* his new gift, Rich attended the Southeastern Chapter's annual casting clinic at Greenfield Park in Milwaukee. Some might call it love at first cast, a hatch made in heaven, or any other number of terrible puns. The end result, however, has been a true gift for Southeastern — namely, Rich's involvement in the chapter.

Today, as Southeastern's newest President, Rich has a plan for the chapter.

"I believe that we need to articulate the vision of our chapter within the larger context of Trout Unlimited's mission," Rich states. "It is my hope that once the members (and the community) see the big picture — the goals we've defined, the activities we've engaged in, and the successes we can enjoy at the local, state, and national levels — then our chapter will continue to grow in all of its aspects."

What will be the result of Rich's vision? The answer is quite simple, Rich explains. "Members will become more active, businesses will increase their support, and we'll make an even larger difference in benefiting the health of our watersheds."

The health of our watersheds is something that Rich, by way of his family, knows a little something about. "I learned most of what I know about trout, and everything I know about trout streams, from my brother, Dave."

As many are likely aware, Rich's brother, Dave, is a WDNR fisheries supervisor. Dave's development of LUNKERS habitat structures and his contribution to establishing a wild trout stocking program in Wisconsin's coulee region have garnered interest from conservation organizations across the country.

Stream stewardship runs deep in the Vetrano bloodline.

"Dave has been instrumental in my understanding of how land use affects streams and how dramatically streams can recover with a little help. When I joined TU 12 years ago, it was because I wanted to rehabilitate streams as my brother has done."

When Rich isn't helping to spearhead and identify new stream restoration projects, innovating chapter e-mail communication systems, or laying the foundation for urban kids fly fishing programs, he finds time for his business and his family. A devoted father and family man, Rich lives in Milwaukee with his wife, Karin, his seven-year-old son, Evan, and his four-year-old daughter, Julia.

Rich is an avid fly fisherman, and has caught over 30 species of fish with his fly rod. In fact, adding to his "species caught" list is one of Rich's favorite pastimes. Some of the more



RICH VETRANO ON THE LOOKOUT FOR TROUT

Rich Vetrano has succeeded Chuck Beeler as president of the Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter, WITU's largest chapter.

exotic species Rich has managed to land include the formidable gizzard shad, mooneye, longnose gar, shovel nose sturgeon, bowfin, and one particularly disgruntled channel catfish.

A few of Rich's favorite catches include a 40" northern pike taken with a 6 lb. test tippet and a 14 lb. catfish caught using a prince nymph. Rich's best day fishing, he vividly recalls, involved consecutively landing a 15" brook trout, a 17" brook trout, and then a 15" brown trout. Ask Rich where in Wisconsin he accomplished this feat, however, and his memory gets a little hazy. "I can't seem to remember the name of the stream where that happened," he says with a grin.

Trained in photography and commercial art at Milwaukee Area Technical College, Rich has worked in advertising for 20 years. About 11 years ago, Rich and several partners started their own ad agency — Core Creative, Inc. — headquartered in Milwaukee's historic 3rd Ward district.

Rich approaches his position as chapter president the same way he approaches owning his business. "I identify strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities. Then I develop a strategic plan, set goals, and develop budgets. We then assign action items and follow up with progress."

It was, in fact, an "action item" that led to Rich join Southeastern's

board of directors. Of his own accord, and using his commercial art background, Rich redesigned Southeastern's newsletter and presented it to the chapter. Shortly thereafter, Rich was asked to join the board, and he has been active in TU ever since.

What does the future hold for the Southeastern Chapter under Rich's leadership? One of the chapter's largest priorities will continue to be its various stream restoration projects, including its notable work at Genesee Creek headed by Vice President Dan Asmus. Additionally, Rich looks to identify future projects for the chapter to embrace, such as a potential restoration opportunity at Mole Creek in Ozaukee County.

Other priorities include developing the chapter's education activities and creating a director of education position. Additionally, Rich plans to develop marketing communications and public relation materials, create political action liaison positions, create a chapter web site, and increase the chapter's fundraising and membership.

In short, Southeastern's future under Rich Vetrano's leadership is bright, and the chapter is undoubtedly on the rise.

(Author Henry Koltz is Secretary of the Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter. -Ed.)

MEETING: State Council meets at Olson Institute

Continued from p. 8

He will also review the function and advantage of having regions.

Friends of Wisconsin TU

John Cantwell reported by e-mail that there is good news for Friends for 2005. With about two months remaining in the campaign year, we have surpassed the previous year with a gross to date of over \$17,200 and a net of over \$15,000. The addition of a \$250 shirt premium appeared to help.

Webmaster Jaime Sudsmo reported by e-mail that a new button/page has been added that reads "current issues." This is an effort to post more current material on the web site for legislative and regulatory issues, etc.

Pielsticker reported a request for a contribution by the UW Stevens Point School of Natural Resources for their first-ever fund-raiser. In discussion, members noted the high percentage of DNR fisheries managers who have come out of that program, and the good work they have done. A motion was made to make a \$100 contribution. It was seconded and passed by voice vote.

Publications Report

Todd Hanson noted he has changed printers due to problems with photos and graphics. The new printer (Capitol Newspapers) did well with the July issue and they are charging no more for the service than did Black Earth Publishing. Todd suggested we might benefit from paying for a fundraising position to solicit ad sales for *Wisconsin Trout*. This sparked a discussion on the proper level of advertising in the paper, with members noting that *Michigan Trout* appeared to be little but ads. Members suggested the current level of advertising looks about right.

Welter asked if we have some members who would like to receive their *Wisconsin Trout* by e-mail rather than mail. Meicher wondered if it would save enough to be worthwhile. Henry Koltz (Southeast Chapter) noted they have offered an e-mail version of their newsletter and it is going well, but does require some work. Others raised concerns that the need to sort the mailing list by hand may cost more than it saves. No motion was made.

Pine-Popple/Wild Rivers Issue

Duke Andrews reported by e-mail that there is movement on the issue of in-stream habitat work. A rule change is being prepared by the DNR and will be taken to the NRB. Pielsticker noted that he had followed Andrew's request and talked to Mike Staggs about this issue, and was assured it was being resolved. Pielsticker also noted that to treat the rivers as if they are in a natural state overlooks the changes caused by logging and other activities in the last 160 years.

New Business

The next meeting is Feb. 4 in Wisconsin Rapids at the Hotel Mead. Pielsticker will serve as banquet chair and work with Greg Vodak to organize the event.

It was noted the Lee Wulff Award plaque is still missing. Dennis Vanden Bloomen will check with John Bethke to see if anyone has come up with it. If not, we will explore making a duplicate. There will be an award luncheon again the day of the annual meeting. Meicher asked to have a notice run in *Wisconsin Trout* requesting nominees.

Nominating Committee

The by-laws specify the council nominating committee consists of the past chair and the regional VPs. The committee was directed to convene and determine if the current council officers are willing to run for re-election.

Vanden Bloomen noted that the DNR will be offering a certification course for the Angler Education Fly Fishing Program at the annual meeting in Wisconsin Rapids. Welter suggested we offer free banquet tickets to members who attend. Pielsticker recalled there had been requests for a grant-writing workshop the same day and will explore the possibility for that.

Lastly, the question was raised as to whether TU should encourage the certification of stream monitors. The item can be raised in the future. The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m., whence several members retired to area streams.

(The meeting's minutes were taken by Chuck Campbell and typed by Bill Pielsticker for Secretary Jeff Ware who could not attend. -Ed.)



Chapter News



Tom Kautz photos

BLACKHAWK LUNKERS AND MONUMENT

The Blackhawk Chapter has been building many lunker structures for work on the Blue River. In addition, the chapter also donated the plaque that resides on the stone pillar at the entrance to the West Fork Sports Club grounds in Avalanche honoring all the groups which have contributed over the years to helping restore the West Fork of the Kickapoo River.

Aldo Leopold Chapter

Well, its been a slow summer in Lake Wobegon. Oh, wait, wrong story. It was a slow summer, with no chapter meetings. Our July chapter outing occurred on one of the hottest weekends of the summer. Few fish were caught, many streams were too warm to fish, but we enjoyed the company.

This fall we are planning two workdays on **Lodi Spring Creek** clearing trees and logjams along with the **Friends of Scenic Lodi Valley**. Our partnership with them on this ongoing project has been great. One other thing the Friends has been doing has been checking the water temps involved with the Hwy 113 rain garden in Lodi's Veteran's Park during rain events. Short answer: the garden is working! The garden is cooling the water 10-12 degrees before it enters the stream, and on some occasions the water coming out of the garden is actually cooler than the stream! This means that the garden is actually cooling the stream with stormwater runoff, a complete reversal from the normal runoff effect.

Here are a couple numbers: during one rainfall, the water entering the garden fresh from the road was 81 degrees, whereas the water exiting the garden was 69 degrees. The stream was at 79 degrees above the garden outfall. At this point the

stream has just exited the marsh. It has a low gradient, so it often warms in hot, sunny weather. Luckily numerous cold springs feed into the stream as it flows through town, and the east branch is always near 60 degrees, so as the stream flows north it actually cools. And now, with the rain garden, the coldwater inputs have grown, not diminished, a rare event in this day and age.

We are still waiting for the **East Branch** feeder of Lodi Spring Creek to be officially declared a coldwater stream. It will be; we await the slow turnings of bureaucracy. As described above, the East Branch is essential to maintaining Lodi Spring Creek's ability to sustain trout. Once classified as trout water, our chapter will be pursuing financing for a rehabilitation of approximately 600 feet of DNR owned streambank. We hope to commence this project in 2007.

A thank you to the **Nohr Chapter** for allowing us to set up a booth at their marvelous **Spring Creek Festival**. We raised over \$400 from this event selling books that were donated to our chapter by the **Ron Ahner** estate. In less than one year we have raised over \$1,500 from this donation. Thanks again to Mrs. Ahner.

—Mike Barniskis

Blackhawk Chapter

There were 21 members present at our July 18 meeting. The speaker for the evening was **Phil Emmling**. Phil is the head of the **Dept. of Environmental Chemistry and Technology** at **UW-Madison** and is the vice president of conservation for the **Federation of Fly Fishers**. He spoke on monitoring trout streams for water quality over a period of time, and training water action volunteers.

Points that Phil brought out in his talk were as follows:

- dissolved oxygen in the water varies at different times and on different dates,
- health of the water is the principal measure of how we live on the land,
- health of the water is the most critical issue of our lifetime and our children's lifetimes, and
- water quality measures include temperature, clarity, dissolved oxygen, biotic index (insects and animals), habitat, and stream flow.

Dave Patrick reported what he had found on hats. After some discussion the board authorized the purchase of 48 hats with the Blackhawk TU logo and the words "Lunkers are Our Thing" on the back. There are two choices of colors — khaki with a green bill or all khaki. The price has been set at \$13. Hats not sold to members will be offered as door prizes at the banquet.

Money allocated for projects at this point are as follows:

- \$2,000 **North Fork of the Bad Axe** in the Duck Egg area and
- \$2,000 **Blue River**.

There was a motion by **Dave Patrick** to allocate \$5,000 for work on the following properties:

- Boggs property on **Bishops Branch**,
- Haugrud property on **Otter Creek**, and
- Mills property on **Norwegian Hollow**.

The money on the **Haugrud** property is in addition to the work already done. The above work has public easements and will be done by the **Vernon County Soil and Water Conservation**, under the Direction of **Jeff Hastings**.

Dave Patrick moved to allocate \$1500 for a project on the **West Fork** and a tributary coming into the West Fork. This also passed. **Roger Widner** and the **West Fork Sportsman Club** are doing this work.

Fred Young moved to allocate \$3,000 for stream work on **Burns Creek** and **Sugar Creek**. We will also strongly urge that reclamation work be done next year on the middle section of **Reads Creek** below the arboretum. This passed, with the work to be done under direction of **Dave Vetrano** and the DNR.

The funds we donate to the above projects are used to purchase materials, and the projects also have easements for public fishing.

There were 17 members present at the August 17 meeting. We did not have an outside speaker that evening. The topic for the meeting was fishing terrestrials. It was noted by the membership that the action on the streams had slowed up considerably with the action being on terrestrials, girdle bugs, and some on soft hackles.

Our speaker on Oct. 17 will be **Len Harris** of Richland Center. Len is a guide, and his topic is "Reading Water for Big Fish."

—Arlen Hilgendorf

Central Wisconsin Chapter

Central Wisconsin TU has had a busy summer of workdays, water monitoring, picnic meetings, planning, and decision making.

One of the big decisions was to move our annual conservation banquet from March to October. This year's banquet will be held at **Pine Ridge Farms** west of Wautoma, on Thursday, October 20. It is our hope that we will avoid all the competition from other conservation groups that hold their banquets in March, that many of the "snowbirds" that are often in the south will be able to attend, and that we can avoid some of March's unpredictable weather. **Bob Haase** is the banquet chair, and he is being assisted by **Jerry Smet**, **Dan** and **Gail Colligan**, **Dick Pollock**, **Jerry Strom**, **Bob Chamberlain**, **Tracy Moran**, **Ira Giese**, **Scott Grady**, **Jim Humphrey**, **Al Lee**, and others. People interested in attending should contact Bob at (920) 922-8003 or rmhaase@dotnet.com.

Our three summer meetings were hosted by members at their homes. A picnic lunch proceeded each meeting. Thanks go to **Bob Renneck**, **Scott Grady**, and **Ira Giese** (great fish boil) for hosting and providing the meals. Each meeting averaged 25 in attendance. **Pat** and **Jerry Strom** and **Tracy Moran** have already volunteered to host for the summer of 2006. We're looking for one more host.

Workday Chair **Rich Mlodzik** reports that progress continues to be made on the brushing and in-stream

modifications to the **Little Pine** west of Wautoma. Workdays were held on June 18 and August 13. **Elward Engle** provided the guidance for the in-stream work. Fingerling and bigger trout have been seen in the stream while work progresses. Joining us on August 13 for hands-on experience was **Julie Nieland**, our chapter's scholarship grad student from **UW-Stevens Point**. We cleared about 100 yards of very thick buckthorn brush from the stream bank, a task made easier by a generous donation of a Stihl brushcutter from **Dan** and **Gail Colligan**.

The next workday will be on October 8 on the **Little Pine**. We will be doing brushwork downstream from where we finished in August. If you have a chainsaw or brushcutter, you are welcome to bring them. Lunch will be provided at Noon. For more information contact **Rich Mlodzik** at mjmrpm@charter.net or (920) 295-8772.

CWTU members staffed the Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited's booth at the **Ducks Unlimited's Great Outdoor Festival** in Oshkosh on August 26-28. National TU provided *Trout* magazines and other publications to hand out, and Todd Hanson provided copies of *Wisconsin Trout*. Many membership applications were handed out. The festival annually has an attendance of around 75,000 people. Thanks go to **Jerry Strom**, **Sue** and **Russ Bouck**, **Bob Haase**, **Joel Staffaroni**, **Tracy Moran**, **Bob Smaglik**, **Dick**

Chapter News



Pollock, Jim Humphrey, Ira Giese, Dan Harmon III, and Rich Mlodzik for staffing the booth. The consensus is that it was a worthwhile endeavor.

Bob Hunt, Ed Avery, and Elward Engle have been surveying central Wisconsin trout streams for needed maintenance this summer. They visited 21 streams, and have put together a slide program that they plan to present to WDNR personnel in October. **Bob Hunt** presented this program at our August meeting. Many thanks go to these men for their efforts at shining light on the needed maintenance. It is hoped that the WDNR will conduct an inventory of all improved waters, prioritize their respective needs and then plan and begin a long-range program to balance wholly new efforts against simple, but beneficial, repairs. The streams on which the surveys were conducted were **Chaffee Creek, Davis Creek, Emmons Creek, Flume Creek, Humphrey Creek, Lawrence Creek, Lunch Creek, Mekan River, Peterson, Creek, Pine River, Radley Creek, Roche A Cri, Soules Creek, Spaulding Creek, Tagatz Creek, Tomorrow River, Trout Creek, Wedde Creek, W. Br. of White River, Willow Creek, and Whitcomb Creek.**

Our new water monitoring project has gotten off to a good start in July! The work has begun with 12 sites being monitored by one team each. Thirty volunteers have been trained in the process and 10 more are signed up for taking readings, but are not yet wholly ready to go solo. The streams being monitored are **Bird Creek, Campground creek, Chaffee Creek, Mekan River, Parsons Creek, Pine River, Waupaca River, White River and Willow Creek.** Many monitors are not even members of TU.

Our 2005-6 CWTU program schedule will start September 19 with a program titled "Flies: Choosing, Designing, and Fishing Them" by **Rich Osthoff** of Mauston. The program was held at the **Fin 'N Feather** in Winneconne.

On October 10 **John "Duke" Welter** will present our second program of the year titled "The Driftless Area — A Landscape of Opportunities." The 7:30 p.m. program will be held at the **Fin 'N Feather** in Winneconne and it will be preceded by a Board meeting starting at 6:30 p.m.

Tom Young of Waupaca will be presenting a program titled "**Tom Young's Video Diary — Hatches, Fishing, and On-stream Happenings**" on November 7 in Wautoma. The site is yet to be determined. The program will start at 7:30 p.m. and will be preceded by a business meeting at 6:30. Check our web site at www.cwtu.org for the location of the meeting and program.

December 12 will bring our last program of 2005. **John Gremmer** will be presenting a keynote program written by **Bob Chamberlain** titled "CWTU in Action." The program, preceded by a 6:30 p.m. board

Fox Valley Chapter

The Fox Valley Chapter has had a busy summer, and we are now ready to start our fall meeting dates. We invite you to any of the meetings that may be of interest to you.

In early June several chapter members under the guidance of **Tony Treml** helped out with a half-



GREEN BAY BRUSH BUNDLES WITH THE US FOREST SERVICE

The Green Bay Chapter helped install 120 brush bundles and five log structures on Swanson Creek near Laona on June 25. The chapter worked with the US Forest Service on the project.

meeting, will be held at the **Fin 'N Feather** in Winneconne and will start at 7:30.

Our first program of 2006 will be a "world premiere" of a video produced by **Bob Hunt**, Waupaca, a retired WDNR fisheries biologist and **Gary Herlache** of UW-GB. The video titled *Trout Stream Habitat Restoration — A Case History* will be shown at 7:30 p.m. at the **Fin 'N Feather** in Winneconne. Adjacent chapters are invited to partake in the festivities.

—*John Gremmer*

day fly fishing/casting session at a student **Leadership Training Conference** at the **Boys and Girls Brigade Camp** on **Lake Onaway** which is located in the Waupaca chain of lakes.

Our July workday was again back on the **Whitcomb Creek** because

there were some structures that still needed some rock placement. We also finished filling in a couple of holes. That work is now complete.

Our August and September workdays were on the **Waupaca River** site that we had worked on several years ago. There were some half logs that had to be refastened, some fences that needed tightening, and some rocks that had to be placed in some low areas.

After the August workday we had our chapter picnic at the **Nancy Rose** farm on the Waupaca River. **Jim Hlaban** has organized the summer work projects, and he also set up three workdays in September

with students from the **Rawhide Boys Ranch.**

Jim Hlaban and **Gordy Braun** have been doing stream monitoring on a number of creeks and streams in the **Little Wolf River** watershed area.

Please check our new web site setup. It is at the same address www.foxvalleytu.org.

There are only a few days left this year to get on your favorite stream, so get out there and enjoy the beautiful fall weather. Remember to also take part in TU's mission to conserve, protect, and restore North America's fisheries and wetlands.

—*Rich Erickson*

Frank Hornberg Chapter

This summer kept the Hornberg faithful extremely busy.

On June 11, following our initial soil preparation efforts of June 9, members of the devoted a blistering

hot day to planting and fencing off the prairie planting area along the **Tomorrow River** in Nelsonville.

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Chapter News



FUN AT THE NOHR CHAPTER'S SPRING CREEK FESTIVAL

John Gribb (lower left) and Larry Meicher (lower right) were among the TU members teaching people how to tie their first fly at this year's Spring Creek Festival run by the Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter. The chapter also erected a sign recognizing all the partners contributing to the success of their Blue River restoration project.



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The native plants, when mature, will impede runoff and provide habitat for a variety of invertebrate species, in addition to providing natural beauty for those humans fortunate enough to pass that way. We are especially grateful to **Mike McGibbon**, **Randy Slagg**, and **Bob Juracka** for their part in orchestrating the planning, and successful implementation of this project.

On June 18 members and volunteers worked at **Mark and Sara Medow's** property, culling large red pines to be quartered for use in the construction of future overhead structures. A couple of volunteers also planted wild flowers and made minor alterations to the prairie buffer strip planted by the chapter on June 11.

We would like to thank **Francis Kubisiak** for stopping by and donating another of his handcrafted fly rods. This one is a 9' 3 wt. made from a St. Croix blank. Francis had previously donated a 7½' 5 wt. St. Croix rod which is outfitted with a reel, line, and box of hand-tied flies along with a chest pack donated by **Roger Nelson** of Waupaca. The package will be raffled off at the end of the work season the third Saturday in October. In order to qualify, you must contribute at least three hours of stream-related work to the chapter.

July 14 found us working at **Welton Road**. Members constructed a fence with an access sign to stop anglers from destroying the stream-bank when there is a natural access point 20 feet away! We also deposited soil on to the island we had previously completed in order to facilitate the growth of vegetative cover to make the island more natural in appearance.

On July 16 we returned to our Welton Road work site on a calm, sunny day, with temperatures in the 90s. A crew of dedicated members,

using their bare hands, shovels, as well as tools designed for moving large rocks, constructed a wing dam to clean out an existing overhead structure of accumulated sand and silt. Two hours after its completion, the wing dam had altered the channel, and the sand and silt had been whisked away, exposing cobble and rock!

August 19 was our chapter's annual FunNight and fundraiser at **Shooter's Supper Club**. Our week-long bucket raffle is always a favorite with Shooter's patrons. A heartfelt thanks to Shooter's owner **Gene "Geno" Shulfer** and his crew for all their efforts to help our chapter remain financially solvent. A special "thank you" is due **Bud Nehring** and **Bob Juracka** for their efforts to solicit prizes for the successful event. While space constraints prevent expressing our gratitude to each donor, know that your generosity is sincerely appreciated.

On August 20 we joined forces with others from the **Friends of the Tomorrow River** to do a river cleanup. Using canoes and jonboats, the members removed scrap iron, old tires, and assorted debris from a long section of river downstream of Amherst. It turned out to be an important as well as enjoyable event.

On August 28 **Gene Schulfer**, Shooter's owner, closed his business for the day and brought his crew out to the Welton Road staging area to team up with the Hornberg faithful for a productive workday. Together we removed remnants of a structure that, we believe, was constructed by the **Civilian Conservation Corps** in the 1930s. In its place we built a 32-foot-long overhead structure using some of the rock from the original one. We also built a temporary wing dam to keep the structure free of fill. We cannot begin to adequately express our appreciation to Geno for his steadfast support of the Frank Hornberg Chapter!

Members of the chapter assisted the DNR in their annual shocking of the **Middle Tomorrow River** on Tuesday, September 6. Twenty trout were shocked from under the re-

cently completed overhead structure. Talk about a great payback for our efforts!

—Dan Holland

Green Bay Chapter

Banquet 05 is in the books, and the chapter had another successful event raising over \$24,000 to be used to improve our coldwater resources. Donations were made to the **Coldwater Conservation Fund** for beaver trapping and habitat improvement with the **US Forest Service** in the **Nicolet National Forest** among others.

So, naturally we turned our efforts to performing habitat improvement. As of this date, we have spent two Saturdays carrying rocks to repair rock structures on the **First South Branch of the Oconto River** off County W west of Mountain. These structures, installed by the DNR and the chapter in the early 80s, were overdue for some maintenance. It will take at least one more day, probably next year, to complete the repairs.

We also spent two Saturdays working with the **US Forest Service** to install brush bundles on **Swanson Creek** near Laona. This is a continu-

ation of habitat work started last year.

We have two workdays left, one of which will be fin clipping some of the trout raised by the **Oconto River Chapter** and, on the same day, removal of some trees that are threatening to impede the water flow on the **First South Branch of the Oconto River**.

We are also planning on aiding the DNR when they collect brood stock for the wild trout stocking program. This is how the DNR obtains the fingerlings that the **Oconto River Chapter** raises.

Our 14th Annual **Kid's Fishing Day** went off without a hitch in July and we sponsored three students to attend conservation camps.

Finally, chapter membership has swelled to 250 members thanks to our free first year of membership offer. This program has brought in several members who have become very involved in the our activities

—Gary Stoychoff

Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter

Our **Blue River Project 2005** is on the **Blue River** north of Montfort and starts one half mile upstream off County I. We are improving the habitat on 4,800 feet of stream. On-stream work started in late August and will be done by the end of September. Right now the improvements have been laid out and most materials set in position. The two cattle crossings are done. Information on our work on the Blue and past on-stream research results are on our web site http://www.nohr-tu.org/blue_river_report.htm.

Our summer intern and his assistant are finishing up their summer data collection. They are collecting data from above, through, and below our work areas to see what the impact is. They have a nice web site at <http://www.wi-streams.researcher.at>. Please take a look and see what they've been doing. They'll be

giving their final 2005 report at our January membership meeting. We're hoping to hold it on the **UW-Platteville** campus in the Nohr Gallery where an exhibit of photos of Harry and Laura Nohr are on permanent display.

The **Spring Creek Festival** was on September 10. One of our friends has said, "All the best fly fishers of spring creeks will be at the festival." Even with the warm weather, a good time was had by all, including the kids who fish-dyed shirts and such, made giant bubbles, and raced ducks they had decorated. There were good sessions for beginners as well as the more experienced fly fishers. The **Ocooch Creek Chapter** provided food and the **Aldo Leopold Chapter** sold books and other materials, providing some income for other chapters.

—Brian Larson

Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter

Kiap-TU-Wish cooperated with the **WDNR** on several projects this summer. The **Eau Galle River** project drew to a close with completion of work from the **Spring Valley High School** to State Highway 29. Contributing to that effort were **Bob Bradham**, **Andy Lamberson**, **Gary Horvath**, **John Koch**, **Sarah Sanford**, **Mike Colling**, **Gary Richardson** and **Greg Dieltl**, among others.

The chapter has moved on to helping with the continuing work on **Gilbert Creek**. The DNR drew support from the chapter in an extensive electrofishing project this summer. Participating from the chapter were **Jonathan Jacobs**, **Sarah Sanford**, **Ron Zaudke**, **Chuck Goossen**, **Charles Condon**, **Mike Colling**, **Gary Richardson**, and **Bob Laurentzen**.

Due to the efforts of chapter member **Chuck Goossen**, the gauging station on the **Willow River** in **Willow River State Park** is up and running again. Real-time flow data is available on the **USGS** web site.

Chapter President **Gary Horvath** and vice president **Greg Dieltl** attended the **TUDARE Grassroots** meeting in Avalanche July 23.

The chapter kicked off its 2005-2006 series of meeting in September with a meeting that featured updates on chapter activities and projects and door prizes of fly selections from **Perry Palin** and from **Bentley's Outfitters**.

Meeting attendees learned that the chapter's annual **Holiday Banquet** and fund-raising event is scheduled for Thursday, December 8 at **Tartan Park** in Lake Elmo, MN. Auction items will include a split cane fly rod donated by rodmaker and chapter member **Dave Norling**.

In a further fund-raising effort, Kiap-TU-Wish is planning a joint effort with the **Ojibbeau Chapter** to raffle the chapter's **Greg Tatman drift boat**. Funds derived from that effort will be used to help fund the restoration of **Pine Creek** in Pierce County.

—Jonathan Jacobs

Chapter News



Lakeshore Chapter

Summer found our members spending time on the streams both fishing and participating in stream restoration. The week of June 13-17 saw our chapter working on about a 3/4 mile section of the **Onion River**. This section is directly above the Hwy E bridge.

During this week we installed 60 lunger structures at 17 different sites. We also installed 33 weirs and created 15 pools. A total of 560 tons of rock was needed to complete our work. Lakeshore TU members volunteered 408 hours of work during the week, and we were assisted by 126 professional hours of work. The work was directed by our stream project chairman **Larry Doeber**, and most of the heavy machinery work was done by **Roger Widner**.

Our plan was to have an open house on the river in August, but with our dry summer we realized we were able to get heavy equipment into areas along the river which are not normally accessible. So instead of the open house, we held another work project on the Onion River

Sept. 15-19 where we left off in June.

August found several of our members tying flies at the **Ducks Unlimited Great Outdoors Festival** in Oshkosh. Tying at this three-day event were Lakeshore members **Jeff Preiss, Al Spindler, Ron McCormick, Chuck Wolf, Bob Melcher, Dave Zerger, Ray Larson, and Tom Steinberg**.

September 24 found our chapter teaming up with the **Helen Shaw Fly Fishers** to sponsor **Fly Fish Wisconsin**. This show took place at **Sheboygan Lutheran High School** and featured programs, seminars, exhibits, and vendors. **Ray Larson** coordinated the event again this year.

With September rolling in, it means that it is time for our chapter to begin our monthly meetings again. The Lakeshore Chapter meets on the third Monday of each month at the **Club Bil-Mar** in Manitowoc. Meetings start at 6:30 p.m. We have a business meeting followed by a program.

—Wayne Trupke

Northwoods Chapter

So what's been happening with the Northwoods Chapter this summer? We had two workdays on the **Bearskin Creek** where rock was removed from the culvert under the second trestle and dropped the backed-up water by another four inches! The former backwaters are responding great, with some islands forming and the channel making a course and carving out the sand and mud. We also installed a sandbag and log structure to block off one of the first parts of the braided channel above the second trestle. **Mike Peczynsky** from the **Forest Service** organized a workday where we had eight people brush about half a mile of stream starting at Military Road. The best part of this workday was the new faces that really spread the effort out amongst the participants. This workday laid a great foundation for the work next year when the permits for more intensive in-stream activity are approved.

The chapter received a \$2,000 grant from the **Friends of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited** to help fund a stream mapping project on the **Deerskin River** this summer. The final stretches of stream habitat were completed by the DNR fisheries crew on the **Brule** and **Elvoy Creeks**. The chapter received \$500 from the **Friends of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited** to help fund this work.

Dredging has been completed at **Woodboro Springs** by the DNR. We will be placing CPR (Consider Proper Release) signs at the landing to promote the catch and release of trout from the springs. The DNR dredge crew did a fantastic job and even made it into the second pond. We are all optimistic that this pond will provide fishing opportunities

well into the future. Thanks to **John Kubisiak** from the DNR and the dredge crew for a great job. The DNR crew completed this work with the chapter assisting by paying for \$2,000 worth of fuel for the dredge.

The chapter sponsored our 12th Annual **Youth Flyfishing Conclave** on July 23 at the **Kemp Natural Resources Station** in Woodruff. This year 19 students attended. The event included instruction in fly tying, fly casting, knot tying, and entomology. We are very grateful that Kemp donated their facility for the day. Our fly casting teacher was FFF certified casting instructor **Bob Tabbert**. Entomology and knot tying sessions were manned by **Aaron Nelson** and **Pat Goggin**. **Bill Kingsbury, Ed Konzak, and Terry Cummings** taught the fly tying sessions. Lunch provisions were donated by **Al Brooks**. **Phyllis Tabbert** and **Victoria Houston** prepared a great lunch on a humid afternoon as well as taking care of registration and keeping the session shifts moving smoothly. Our grand prize was donated by **St. Croix Rod Co**. This year's door prizes were donated by **Bill and Dawn Sherer** at **We Tie It**, **Wayne Stevens, Fred Johnson, and Al Brooks**. We thank all those who contributed to the conclave, and especially Terry for organizing it.

The chapter holds its meetings on the 2nd Monday of each month at the **Claridge Inn**, Rhinelander, at 7:00 p.m. On November 14, the **WDNR** and **Forest Service** representatives will provide updates on their respective projects and our Christmas Party will be at the **Rhinelander Café & Pub** on December 12, with cocktails at 5:30 and dinner at 6:30.

—Brian Hegge

Shaw-Paca Chapter

Our chapter has funded, or help fund, several operations.

We sponsored a group of 4th grade students from **The Lincoln School** of Shawano to the **Timbertop Camp** near Stevens Point.

We provided financial assistance to the **Central Wisconsin Chapter**

for their project to produce a video by **Bob Hunt** on trout stream restoration work.

Our chapter bought a membership in the **Kinnickinnic River Land Trust**.

We continued our project to donating copies of *Trout* magazine to



John Munding photos

NOW THAT'S A STRIKE INDICATOR!

Hornberg Chapter President Mike Mather (in boat) recently took a fishing trip out west where guide Kelly Palmer instructed him on vertical nymphing Montana-style. The "indicator" is actually a specialty beer cooler that was filled with Wisconsin microbrew for streamside rehydration.

high school libraries in our two-county area. We have received a lot of positive feedback from the librarians on this.

Another special thanks to chapter member **Wyatt Kersten** for his

work in trapping beavers on the **Little Wolf River** system.

It's been a long, hot summer in Shaw-Paca trout land. Hopefully, our trout coped with the conditions better than we fisherman did.

—Lee Kersten

Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter

Over the past several months, the Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited has been very busy. In June, the chapter held an outing on the **West Fork of the Kickapoo River** at the **West Fork Sports Club** grounds in Avalanche, headed by board member **Melvin Anderson**.

On June 28 the chapter held a hex hatch clinic at **Salmo Pond** to the west of Madison, headed by SEWTU board member **Jim Folda**.

On July 26 the chapter held a casting clinic at **Greenfield Park** in Milwaukee, featuring casting instructions and competitions, headed by board member **Larry Wirth**. Refreshments were provided by former chapter president **Chuck Beeler**.

On September 24 we held a fall fishing outing on the **Milwaukee River**, spearheaded by chapter vice president **Dan Asmus** at **Esterbrook Park** in Milwaukee.

In addition to the activities the chapter has undertaken so far this summer, several other activities are planned. The chapter has lined up several great speakers for its upcoming series of fall meetings, the first of which featured the **WDNR's Will Wahryzn** who spoke in September on potential stream restoration projects in Southeastern Wisconsin.

November's meeting will feature **Pat Ehlers** from **The Fly Fishers**, who will speak about warm water fishing destinations — just in time for Wisconsin's long winter.

In addition to the above activities, SEWTU has commenced several new plans of action, including an **e-mail/Internet initiative** aimed

at increasing communications with members electronically. The chapter has also undertaken efforts to begin an **urban kids fly fishing program** which it hopes to see through to fruition in this upcoming year.

Other action items include the development of a **Director of Education** position, the development of **Political Action Liaisons**, and a drive to create a **chapter web site**. Lastly, the chapter has undertaken efforts to increase its educational activities with local scouting troops.

Southeastern's board of directors also recently approved the chapter's membership in the **Milwaukee River Basin Partnership Agreement**. The partnership, which consists of concerned organizations, businesses, and governmental agencies, is a cooperative aimed at maintaining the overall quality of the Milwaukee River basin. The Southeastern Chapter feels it is important to have a voice at the table in any discussions affecting one of our largest home-water basins.

Finally, we received several generous donations this past quarter. We thank all our contributors, whether individuals or corporations such as **The Fly Fishers, Gander Mountain, and Lackey & Joys**. This quarter, we particularly thank **Peter Davis**, owner of **Edgerton Contractors** (who aided us in our **Genesee Creek** project), **Michael and Susan Arneson**, and **Stan Strelka** of **Professional Insurance Services** for their charitable donations.

Continued on p. 14



Chapter News

Continued from p. 13

Donations such as those received from these fine individuals and organizations makes the chapter's restoration and educational work possible.

As always, the Southeastern Chapter encourages its members, as well as any individuals who may be considering joining Trout Unlimited, to attend our monthly meetings. These meetings are held at the **Bavarian Wurst Haus**, located at 8310

West Appleton Avenue, in Milwaukee. Meetings take place on the 4th Tuesday of each month, running from September through May. November's meeting is held on the 5th Tuesday of the month, or November

29, to avoid conflicts with the deer hunting season. December's meeting is a holiday party held on December 13.

—Henry Koltz

Southern Wisconsin Chapter

The annual **Special Need Fishing Day** was held on Saturday, June 11, at **Jim Kalscheur's** ponds west of Madison. This event provided a great day of fishing for some very special people who are seldom able to fish. Volunteers helped guide participants down to the ponds, bait their hooks, land fish, distribute drinking water (it was a very hot day), serve lunch, and clean up. Over 50 special guests and caregivers registered to participate. Once again, **Scott's Bakery** donated pastries and coffee, and the **Oscar May-**

er Co. donated hot dogs. Many TU members brought their families to share in the experience. Mark your calendar, for we will return on June 10, 2006, to do it again.

Did you buy a 2006 calendar yet? If so, please mark January 20 and 21 on it as soon as possible. The 2006 **Ice Breaker** will be here before you know it. **ESPN** celebrity **Kelly Gallop** and **WDNR** trout stream guru **Mike Miller** will be our featured speakers.

—Mark Maffitt

Wild Rivers Chapter

The theme for Wild Rivers this summer seems to be buckthorn. We are working with the **WDNR** to assess the buckthorn problem on the **White River**. On August 16, **Ted Gostomski**, **Scott Toshner**, **Cordell Manz**, and I paddled up the White in the **Bibon Marsh** and spent the day cutting buckthorn. We mainly used chainsaws to cut the larger stems and then dabbed them with an herbicide that is drawn into the root system and kills the plant. The area that we picked is very thick with buckthorn, and I was very discouraged at just how much work this is going to be. We definitely will be trying to get some younger people involved with our efforts.

I also spent one morning on the upper **White River** below the spring ponds with the DNR crew. They will be doing a large project next year to replace a number of old structures. We also need to reopen some of the old roads and, of course, that whole area is also infected with buckthorn.

On August 13 we held our fourth annual **Whack-a-Northern Day** on the **White River**. We had six anglers float the Bibon to help eradicate a few of the northerners, including **Dick** and **Eric Berge**, **Chuck Campbell**, **Keith Behn**, **Dick Prine**, and **Bill Heart**. We ended up catching nine pike with the largest being 29" (about 10 pounds) and one 27".

—Bill Heart



Dennis Vanden Bloemen



Gary Stoychoff



Mark Maffitt

KIDS RULE AT SEVERAL TU CHAPTERS' FISHING OUTINGS

A Boy Scout landed a trout (top) at a recent class taught by members of the Ojibbeau Chapter. Another youngster shows off his perch caught at the Green

Bay Chapter's 14th annual Kid's Fishing Day. Finally, the smile couldn't be any bigger for this girl who caught a nice bluegill at Southern Wisconsin's Special Needs Fishing Day.

State settles suit for fish kill on Pecatonica and Otter Creek

Attorney General Peg Lautenschlager filed and settled an environmental protection enforcement lawsuit against a partnership in Lafayette County and its associates for violations of the state's water pollution control laws on Aug. 30.

Reichling Homestead Farms, Richard J. Reichling, Richard A. Reichling and Michael D. Reichling will pay penalties, damages and costs totaling \$50,000, and will upgrade their manure storage and handling operations to meet state permitting requirements.

"This agreement shows that the partners in this operation recognize the effect of their practices on the water and fisheries resources, and their obligations to take the steps required by law to protect those resources," Lautenschlager said. "The settlement of this case provides some assurance to the public that proper measures will be taken to minimize if not eliminate the risk of future manure spills and fish kills at this property."

According to the complaint, there were two manure spills from the Reichling farm into Otter Creek and the Pecatonica River in July and August, 2004. In July, 2004, a pump attached to the manure storage tank

of the Reichling farm at 14309 County Highway G in the Town of Willow Springs was left open and discharged at least 84,000 gallons of manure. The manure flowed into Otter Creek and the Pecatonica River, and resulted in a fish kill on a 35-mile stretch of Otter Creek and the Pecatonica River, from Darlington to South Wayne. In August, 2004, additional manure flowed into the creek and river from a field on the Reichling farm, in which manure had pooled.

Otter Creek historically harbored one of the best smallmouth bass populations in Lafayette County. The July, 2004, manure discharge from the Reichling farm exterminat-

ed the smallmouth bass population in Otter Creek.

Part of the judgment to be paid by the Reichlings will fund a fisheries management plan to restore the smallmouth bass population in Ot-

ter Creek. The Department of Justice filed the lawsuit at the request of the Department of Natural Resources. Assistant Attorney General JoAnne F. Kloppenburg prosecuted the case for the state.



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Mark your calendar for Wisconsin TU's 21st annual State Council Banquet "A Celebration of Trout"

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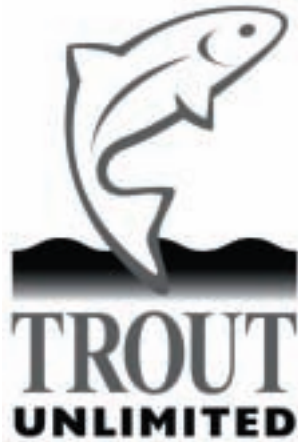
WITU Looking Back

From the Winter, 1975, WITU Newsletter...

WISCONSIN HEADWATERS CHAPTER (Wausau)

The Wisconsin Headwaters Chapter has withdrawn its charter from TU and asked that its membership be incorporated into the Northwoods Chapter. Wide geographical dispersion of the membership and lack of active participation were among the reasons for this move.

During its brief history, the Headwaters Chapter successfully blocked an application for a dam on a tributary of the Red River and was instrumental in initiating the annual Wausau Fishing School conducted in cooperation with Marathon Rubber Corporation, WASU TV, and the Wausau Daily Herald. Continued participation in the school by involved TU members is anticipated. Members of the Headwaters Chapter wish to thank all those who have participated in the activities of the chapter and supported the goals of TROUT UNLIMITED.



From the Fall, 1985, Reflections...

FORTUNE To Feature Wisconsin TU

Fortune Magazine was in Wisconsin over the weekend of Sept. 14 for research on an article about how executives of large corporations fit into organizations like Trout Unlimited, what they put into them, and what they get out. The visit was arranged by Midwest Region Vice-President Tom Flesch. The editor and two Chicago photographers accompanied Flesch to Langlade, Wisconsin, for the Wolf River scatter planting and the plaque dedication in memory of Cap Buettner.

Fortune has a circulation of about 700,000 corporate executives. The article is scheduled to be printed in the Oct. 30 issue and will include two pictures of the trout planting project. Watch for it at your newsstand.

From the Spring, 1995, Wisconsin Trout...

Council opposes Crandon mine

At the September 9th meeting of the Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited, the Council adopted a position statement on the proposed zinc-copper-silver-gold mine planned by Exxon Minerals Company and Canada-based Rio Algom, Ltd. (a.k.a. Crandon Mining Company). The State Council has come out opposed to the mine in the following statement:

"The Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited is dedicated to protecting and enhancing coldwater resources and perpetuating the native and wild fish resources of this state. We believe that prevention of environmental degradation from mining is essential for salmonid conservation. The Council opposes permitting, constructing or operating the metallic mine proposed by Crandon Mining Company (a partnership of Exxon Minerals Company and Rio Algom, Ltd., of Canada).

We believe that the proposed mine should not be permitted, constructed or operated, because:

**Proposed ground-and-surface-water removals (to keep the mine dry at great depth) would adversely draw down local wetlands, lake levels and stream flows to the detriment of resident aquatic life and human recreational uses; it would alter flow regimes - especially that of the Wolf River - with particularly serious effects on aquatic organisms during period of high summer temperatures; and it would affect detrimentally groundwater supplies upon which local residents depend across a miles-wide "cone of depression."*

**Proposed discharges from mining operations would transfer ground-and-surface-waters, and possibly living organisms, from the Wolf River/Lake Michigan/St. Lawrence watershed to the Wisconsin/Mississippi River watershed, with adverse hydrologic effects on fish and human use of the Wolf River, and would have potentially negative biological and genetic consequences for native animals and plants.*

**Proposed placement of mine tailings ponds would destroy important ground-water-*

recharging wetlands. Even if such ponds were placed in upland locations, they would eventually leak or leach heavy metals and other contaminants to surface- or ground-waters, regardless of the liner material used (no known liner material has lasted as long as has the toxicity of the tailings).

**Proposed mitigation sites for the wetlands to be altered or lost during construction of the mine site and operation of the mine are inadequate, because proposing to mitigate for wetlands and their hydrologic functions in an area far removed from the actual site of wetland alteration and loss is both irrelevant and ineffective.*

**Proposed construction of discharge lines from the mine site to the Wisconsin River would damage several wetlands, cause disturbance and sedimentation to the beds of several streams (including one "trout" stream), depending upon the route used and placement methods selected.*

**Proposed discharge of "treated" water into the Wisconsin River, even if supposedly "cleaner than the receiving water itself," will degrade water quality of that river, cause long-term accumulation of heavy metals in this aquatic ecosystem and inevitably affect aquatic life, especially that which is sensitive to low-level contamination, adversely. Wastewater that is unacceptable to an "Outstanding Resource Water" like the Wolf River is no more appropriate discharged below a paper mill and hydroelectric dam on Wisconsin's namesake river.*

**We are concerned that the overall, cumulative negative impacts of the proposed mine on the region's water and fishery resources will have long-lasting negative secondary effects on the Northwoods' diverse and sustainable economy. Economic, as well as ecological, health, in the Northwoods depends upon tourism, recreation, forest products and small businesses, working in harmony with the land. The overall negative consequences of constructing and operating the proposed mine would be contrary to the desires of both the residents of the area and seasonal visitors, that is, to "Keep the North the North" (as expressed resoundingly by those who gave input into the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' "Northern Initiatives" study.*

Technology reveals state has more river miles

Wisconsin officially just got a little wetter.

New technology has enabled the state to obtain a more accurate accounting of the number and size of the bodies of water found in Wisconsin. Based on this new electronic data, the state now recognizes 84,474 stream and river miles, up from the 57,698 miles reported in previous years using manual calculations.

A little under half of the new total — 41,613 miles — are waters that flow year-round; the remaining 42,860 miles flow intermittently, sometimes just during spring when rain and melting snow fill them.

The new calculations show Wisconsin's 15,057 lakes stretch across 1.2 million acres, not the 0.9 million acres reported a few years ago.

"New tools have allowed us to improve the accuracy of water body

size calculations, so we have found a significant difference in the mileage we have historically reported to the federal government for monitoring and assessment purposes," says Lisa Helmuth, Water Resources Specialist.

The new water body totals are discussed in the biennial report that Wisconsin, like other states, submits to Congress on the status of waters within their boundaries. Wisconsin's

2004 Water Quality Assessment Report to Congress is now available online and in hard copy.

The more accurate accounting of Wisconsin's water bodies is the result of long-term investments in information technology and high-quality data gathering by the DNR Water Division over the last decade.

Continued on p. 17



The "Our Favorite Activities" series is designed to highlight what our chapters feel are some of their best activities.

Four years ago, the Wild Rivers Chapter began noticing a growing northern pike population in the White River trout system. They created a fun event to help reduce the number of trout-eating predators.

Whack-a-Northern Day helps rid White R. of trout predators

By Bill Heart

One of the Wild Rivers chapter's favorite activities is our annual Whack-a-Northern Day.

Four years ago we discovered that the Bibon Marsh area of the White River was infected with a large number of northern pike. Although there are records of some pike present in the Bibon in years past, I believe that the problem worsened when the dam was redone on Drummond Lake, which empties into the Long Branch of the White River. In 1999, Bayfield County, with the help of the U.S. Forest Service, drained Drummond Lake and rebuilt the dam. I think that when the lake was drained, many of the northern pike were dumped into the White River system and have been thriving ever since.

During the summer of 2001, we kept hearing about many pike being caught while anglers were trout fishing. Of course, most of the pike either cut the line or were released by the trout fishers.

In August, Keith Behn and I floated through the marsh trying to catch pike. I used a Johnson Silver Minnow with a split pork rind tail with a spinning rod. In the first couple of hours we only saw a couple of pike. As

we got further into the swamp, I finally hooked into a very nice fish. After a long fight, and us having no net, I got out of the canoe and finally landed the fish. My first north-

ern was a 39" 13-pound, trout-eating machine. We whacked this one and then caught two more, with one of those about eight pounds. After thinking about this all winter, I decided that our chapter could help the White River brown trout population by trying to eliminate some of these pike, so we came up with our Whack-a-Northern Day. The name actually came from Jeff Carlson. Many times when I fished with Jeff, he would ask if I was going to "whack" a fish today for supper. I would always laugh at his comment, and so the name was a natural.

This past August we held our best Whack-a-Northern Day so far. The weather was almost perfect — partly sunny, 70 degrees, and with very little wind. Only six people showed up — Dick and Eric Berge, Chuck Campbell, Keith Behn, Dick Prine, and I.

We ended up catching nine pike, with the largest being 29" (about 10 pounds) and one 27" (8 pounds). We also saw at least a dozen other fish that attacked the bait, but then either missed or got off.

We have held four "Whacks" so far with mixed results. We have caught fish every year except last year, which was a terrible, cold, windy day in May. Altogether, we have taken over

20 northern pike out of the White River and have enjoyed a nice fish fry when we finished.

A large number of pike are still in the Bibon, and they need to be removed. I encourage everyone to paddle the marsh and try to catch some of these pike. They are delicious.



ern was a 39" 13-pound, trout-eating machine. We whacked this one and then caught two more, with one of those about eight pounds.

After thinking about this all winter, I decided that our chapter could help the White River brown trout population by trying to

TECHNOLOGY: reveals state has more river miles

Continued from p. 16

These new tools, Helmuth says, allow managers to better understand what water resources the state has, and where and why water quality problems might arise.

This electronic data on water in Wisconsin has allowed the state to develop a new mapping tool that brings water and selected land information together in an easy to use map called the Surface Water Data Viewer at http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/data_viewer.htm.

The Surface Water Data Viewer gives the public and DNR the ability to go online, click a point on a map, and reach close up views of that water resource, along with the location of dams, impaired waters, outstanding and exceptional resource waters, and floodplains. New information will be added to the map in the future, including water monitoring data, community growth data, and the location of activities that require DNR permits, such as waste water

discharges.

"It's sort of like having a street address on the water for everything we do," says Ann Schachte, Geographical Information System (GIS) specialist.

"It's a visual way of displaying all of the information in one place."

This electronic representation allows the DNR to automate and more accurately calculate the total stream mileage and lake acreage in the state. The previous method for calculating mileage involved a manual method of using a map wheel to trace the rivers and lake shores on a map and then multiplying to account for the scale of the map.

"Our goal is to provide all of the information possible together on the same map," says Russ Rasmussen, director of the DNR Bureau of Watershed Management. "Investment into this and similar tools will reap huge long-term time savings and will provide better information as well."

Water Division staff are now working on making existing information more accessible and easier to use. For example the new Surface Water Data Viewer allows computer users to view all surface waters that are represented on U.S. Geological Survey 7.5 minute topographic maps. The viewer can zoom in on the map to find waters that are considered impaired by the federal government as a result of a variety of pollutants, or which are categorized

as "Outstanding and Exceptional Resource Waters" and so granted a higher level of protection.

More information is available from the WDNR's Ann Schachte (608) 267-2301.

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Grasshoppers of Wisconsin published by WDNR

By Joe Knight

Chuck Bomar says he grew to appreciate grasshoppers "as soon as they started paying the rent."

He persecuted them at first. He worked for a biological control company in western states and doused them with a hopper-killing protozoa that selectively killed grasshoppers so they wouldn't damage crops.

That's one thing about being an insect specialist. Most jobs involve using your knowledge of bugs to find them and kill them.

"That's the great problem with entomology. All of the money is associated with 'how can I kill this creature.' Nobody is ever going to pay you to say, 'look at the pretty butterfly,'" Bomar said.

Now he is getting paid to point out butterflies. He teaches an entomology class at UW-Stout, where he is a biology professor. When he isn't teaching, he's searching western Wisconsin for grasshoppers.

He finds some of the most interesting hoppers on remnant patches of prairie that haven't been paved, plowed, or heavily grazed.

While plant ecologists may judge the health of a prairie by the variety of grasses and flowers, Bomar judges prairie health by the diversity of grasshoppers.

A five-grasshopper grassland is about average. A grassland with 10 grasshopper species is a good prairie.

"I've used them as an indicator of prairie quality. They're a good window as to what the health and quality of a prairie is. I'm speaking

from an entomologist's perspective. Insects make it a more complete ecosystem," Bomar said.

One patch of native prairie within the Eau Claire city limits has 16 or 17 species, which is unusually good, he said.

Grasshoppers are important in the environment, he said. "They're nutrient recyclers. They're food for birds and fish."

As a trout fisherman, Bomar uses flies that imitate grasshoppers, but he doesn't have a fly in his fly box for all 70 Wisconsin species. A traditional pattern with a little yellow in the body and a touch of red in the legs usually will work, he said.

Bomar always is on the lookout for patches of prairie when he drives around western Wisconsin. Some more conspicuous plants like big bluestem and milkweed species can be detected at normal driving speeds. "I look for indicator plants. I've gotten lots of help from people pointing out remnants. Some are small; some are not so small."

Once he has found a promising prairie parcel, he visits it every couple of weeks during the summer to survey hoppers. Different species have different times of peak abundance, so getting a complete list of the hoppers requires numerous visits, he said.

Generally, grasshoppers do better in drier weather. "Grasshoppers are very sensitive to springtime moisture and temperatures," he said.

The drought year of 1934 saw one of the last big outbreaks of

grasshoppers in the state, according to historical records.

Although Bomar has concentrated on the grasshoppers of the prairies, not all grasshoppers live in grass. "Grasshoppers exist in just about every habitat that exists in Wisconsin, except for truly aquatic habitats. They even live in wetlands," he said.

Bomar has co-authored a book on Wisconsin grasshoppers: *Guide to the Grasshoppers of Wisconsin*, which has been published recently by the Department of Natural Resources.

His co-author, Kathryn Kirk, is a biologist with the DNR's Bureau of Endangered Resources.

Through surveys and checks of 18 museum and university collections, they have found 70 grasshopper species in Wisconsin.

There may be more, possibly as many as 85, based on grasshoppers observed in nearby states.

The book includes a key for grasshoppers, photos, a section with maps, and a discussion of the life and status of each species.

"It was pretty much designed as a user guide. We're hoping that lots of naturalists will use it. It has technical stuff but not so technical that somebody who's an educated reader cannot get through it," he said.

For those who want to identify their local hoppers with the book, now is prime time. For most species, the adults start showing up in late July. They continue to be abundant until mid-September. A couple of frosts in late September are usually



NEW HOPPER BOOK

Newly published *Guide to the Grasshoppers of Wisconsin* is available free in hard copy or online in Acrobat format at http://dnr.wi.gov/org/es/science/publications/ss1008_2005.htm.

enough to finish most of them off, Bomar said.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, DNR, and UW-Stout and Stout Foundation provided funding for the project.

[Both Joe Knight and Chuck Bomar are members of the Ojiblean Chapter. This article originally appeared in the Eau Claire Leader-Telegram. -Ed.]

Loaner fly rods now available at some parks and DNR offices

The DNR has acquired 105 fly rods that are available for people to borrow through 11 of the department's 42 tackle loaner sites statewide, plus a collection at DNR's main office in Madison.

The agency purchased the rods and reels at deep discount from St. Croix Rods of Park Falls.

For many years, DNR has offered rods and reels, hooks, and other fishing equipment through 42 state parks and DNR offices. The equipment is often used in fishing clinics held at the parks, and instructors have often requested fly fishing equipment, but the cost to purchase and maintain the equipment was prohibitive.

As with all of DNR's tackle loaner equipment, if you want to take a large group fishing, call ahead to reserve equipment and consider taking an angler education instructor course.

DNR fly rod loaner sites

South Central Wisconsin
Madison Central Office
(No spinning tackle)
Theresa Stabo (608) 266-2272
101 S. Webster St.
Madison, WI 53707

Nevin State Fish Hatchery
Don Dodge (608) 275-3246
3911 Fish Hatchery Road
Madison, WI 53711

Browntown-Cadiz Springs State Recreation Area
Alex Olson (608) 966-3777
N3150 State Highway 81
Monroe, WI 53566

Southeastern Wisconsin
Urban Ecology Center
Dan Gray (414) 964-8505
1500 E. Park
Milwaukee, WI 53211

DNR Service Center
Matt Coffaro (414) 263-8614 or
Dick Rebecik (262) 594-6218
2300 N. Dr. Martin Luther King Dr.
Milwaukee, WI 53212

Richard Bong State Recreation Area
Beth Goeppinger (262) 878-5600

26313 Burlington Road
Kansasville, WI 53139

Northeastern Wisconsin
DNR Service Center
Kendall Kamke (920) 424-7880
635 E. Cty. Y, Suite 700
Oshkosh, WI 54901

DNR Service Center
Greg Kornely (715) 582-5010
101 N. Ogden Road
Peshtigo, WI 54157

Northern Wisconsin
DNR Service Center
Lynn Hudacek (715) 392-7988
1401 Tower Ave.
Superior, WI 54880

Interstate State Park
Julie Fox (715) 483-3747
State Highway 35
St. Croix Falls, WI 54024

DNR Service Center
Pete Segerson (715) 627-4317
223 E. Steinfest Road
Antigo, WI 54409

Council Grounds State Park
Dawn Bishop (715) 536-8773
N1895 Council Grounds Drive



GREEN BAY MEMBERS JOIN THE ROCK BRIGADE

Green Bay TU has been working on the First South Branch of the Oconto River repairing bank structures that were first built in the early 80s. This huge pile of rocks was brought in by the DNR, and it was quite a job moving it via bucket brigade to the structures.

Gary Stoychoff photos

Is it an egg fly or a bugger? Either way, salmon like it

By Todd Hanson

As most of you pick up this issue of *Wisconsin Trout*, the salmon fishing will be getting its hottest along lakes Michigan and Superior. Here's an easy-to-tie fly you might want to take along.

I've fished quite a few single- and multiple-egg flies for salmon, but this one is my go-to pattern. It works well enough that I suspect the fish strike it less because it's an egg and more because they think it's a wooly bugger-like insect or a leach attacking their redds. Either way, it works.

I usually don't weight this fly since I'm sight casting to individual fish in less than two feet of water and can use split shot if needed.

As for hooks, use any long-shank hook that gives you about 1" from the bend to the head in about the size 4 area.

Begin by tying in two webby purple hackles in at the bend tip first (I've found that using just one hackle doesn't give the egg segments enough definition. Two hackles also make the fly look bugger.)

Next wrap florescent orange poly yarn back to the head as thick as a salmon egg. If you buy the typical commercial glo yarn, divide the strand in half to make it easier to tie a uniform body.

Finally, treat the two hackles as one and palmer them together back to the head such that they form what looks like three or four well-defined eggs along the hook shank. That's it.

You can fish this fly up and across, letting it sink and swing past the noses of holding fish. It is especially effective when fished directly upstream using a strike indicator, allowing it to drift back to several fish guarding a female on a redd.



John Gremmer

TU AT DU

Russ and Sue Bouck, Central Wisconsin Chapter, staff the Wisconsin State Council of TU's booth at the DU Great Outdoors Festival in Oshkosh. Ten other Central Wisconsin Chapter members participated in handing out *Trout* magazines, *Wisconsin Trout* newspapers, membership forms, and other related literature. The festival annually averages 75,000 attendees and was held August 26, 27, and 28.



Arlene Hilgenbruf

ONE YEAR LATER

These two pictures show sections of Otter Creek west of La Farge. The stream work here is about one year old and was done by the Blackhawk Chapter under the supervision of the Vernon County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Consider Proper Release



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

L. PLOVER: river dries up

Continued from p. 1

The trout minnows and shellfish in those were transferred to larger aquatic areas, Heimerl said.

Local, regional, and state officials were contacted, and Browne hopes to work together to find a solution to at least slow the process.

In the meantime, the student researchers will continue their work monitoring the flow. Already they have identified areas in which the groundwater and runoff enters the river and areas that it is being pulled from for other resources.

They will take samples from each of three depths, 5-feet, 3-feet and 1-foot, and then test them for various chemicals and compounds such as

nitrites, chloride and minerals.

"What this certain area will reflect is what is going on in the farmers' fields," said Cory Wallschlaeger, a junior.

The data will combine with that collected previously to further indicate any patterns occurring, Browne said, and may help in the process of determining what to do.

"This is going to become a reoccurrence," he said. "This was a beautiful resource. If we were going to keep (it), now is the time for political action."

(This story originally appeared in the August 12 Stevens Point Daily Journal and is reprinted with permission. -Ed.)

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Friends campaign sets record

By John Cantwell

The 2005 Friends campaign has so far brought in a record \$17,300. The campaign is just about over, and sorry to say, the nipper premium is not available any more. However, the WITU denim shirt is still available for contributions of \$250 or more between now and when the campaign ends on Oct. 31.

Another new grant was approved at the June 4 State Council meeting. Bob Hunt of Waupaca was granted \$1,000 for a video on habitat work on Lawrence Creek.

Formed in 1990, the Friends of Wisconsin TU program allows members to make annual contributions of

\$100, \$250, or more to a special fund managed by the Wisconsin TU State Council.

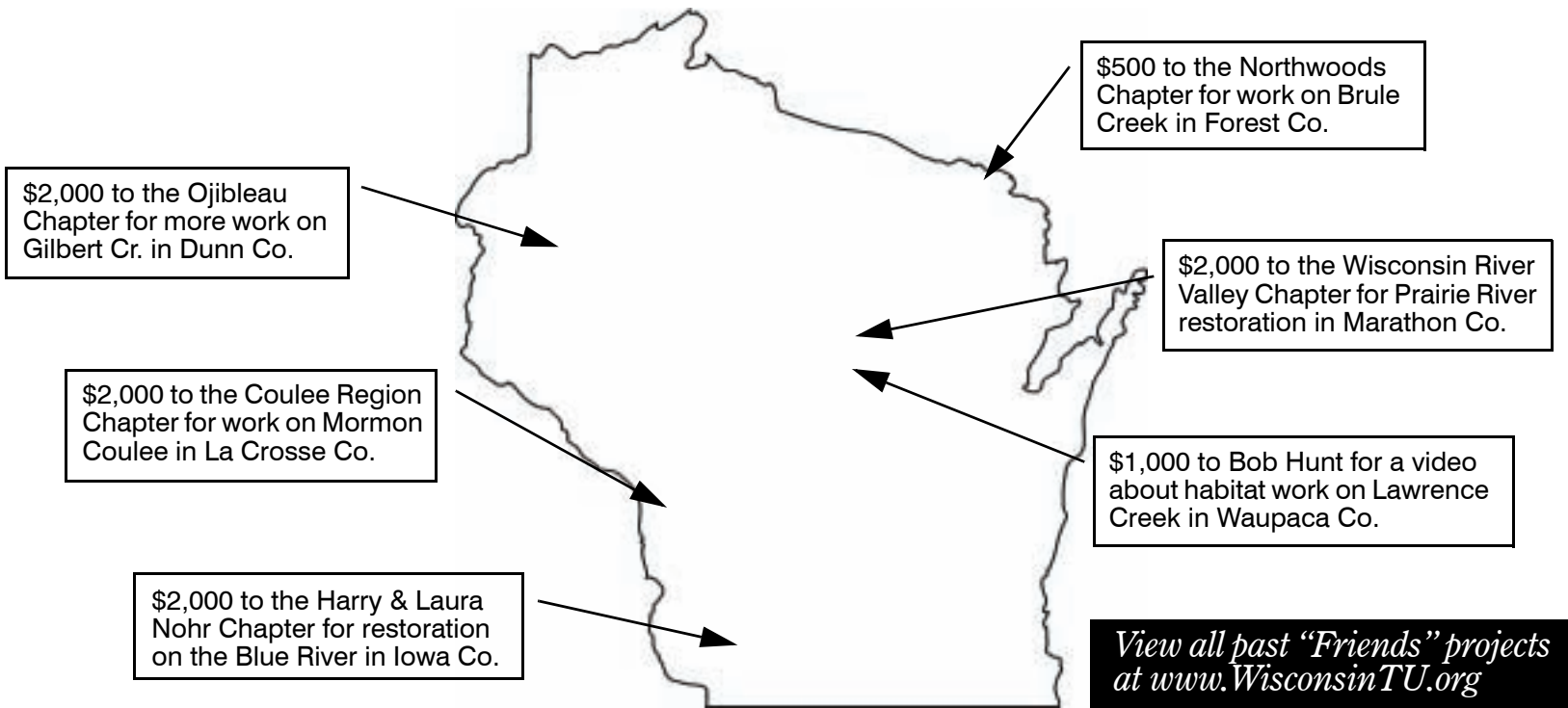
In the last 15 years, the Friends program has generated over \$135,000 for projects throughout the state. Funds can only be used for projects involving stream habitat improvement, research, land acquisition, and conservation education.

Requests for Friends funding of chapter projects should first be directed to the regional vice chairs. Requests will then be forwarded to a State Council committee composed of all regional vice chairs for consideration and a vote in conjunction with a regularly scheduled meeting.



\$250 LEVEL PREMIUM

Over \$135,000 devoted to trout resources since 1991. Newly approved 2005 projects include...



View all past "Friends" projects at www.WisconsinTU.org

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- Steve Born
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