

# Wisconsin Trout

January 2006



Jim Lee

## STUDENTS MEASURE THE BENEFITS OF STREAM REHABILITATION

Wausau East student Kelly Bard (foreground) prepares to check the velocity of the Plover River as Mary Williams (left) and Jen Strande assemble equipment upstream. TU's Wisconsin River Valley Chapter has held on-stream biology and water quality training sessions for over 120 Wausau-area students in recent years. Story on p. 6.

## Fly fishing instructor trainees to get free banquet tickets

Participants in an upcoming fly fishing instructor certification training program on Feb. 4 will get complimentary tickets to the State Council banquet to be held later that night.

The training session runs from Noon-5 p.m. prior to the annual WITU State Council Banquet in Wisconsin Rapids.

This initial certification class will be presented by Theresa Stabo, WDNR director of angler education, and Dennis Vanden Bloomen, UW-Stout fly fishing instructor and president of the Ojibseau Chapter.

The WDNR Angler Education Program provides training for adult volunteers to offer fishing programs in their schools and communities.

Adults who attend angler education workshops receive free materials they can use to introduce children to basic fishing skills and help guide adventures in local water resources investigations. The program links

one of Wisconsin's most venerable traditions to science, social studies, language arts, fine arts, and physical education through first-hand explorations of fish and their habitat.

*Continued on p. 9*

## Lakeshore Chapter honored for Silver Springs project

The Lakeshore Chapter of Trout Unlimited has been awarded the John Nolen Award of Excellence in Ecological Restoration Practices for its Silver Springs/Mill Creek Restoration Project in Sheboygan County. Lakeshore shared the award with Inter-Fluve, Inc. and the WDNR.

The award was presented in October at the fourth annual Leopold Restoration Awards Dinner in Madison sponsored by Friends of the Arboretum and the Aldo Leopold Foundation.

The Silver Springs project is part of the larger Onion River restoration project started in 2001. That project has been the subject of numerous stories and updates in *Wisconsin Trout*.

The Onion River project is expected to run another six years.

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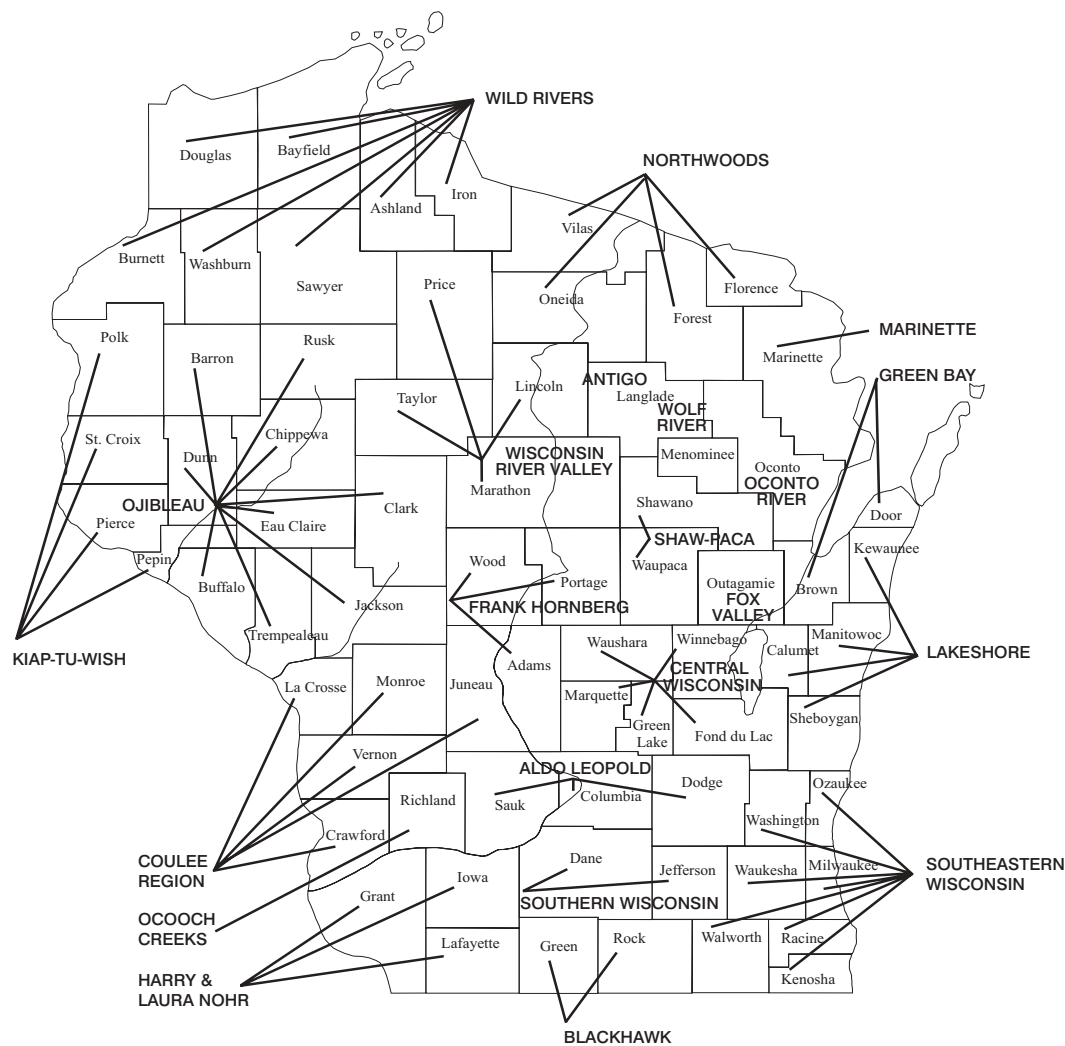
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- 1. Inform TU National.** Call, write, or e-mail TU National on your new address because only TU National keeps the membership database:  
 Trout Unlimited (703) 522-0200  
 1500 Wilson Blvd. trout@tu.org  
 Arlington, VA 22209
- 2. Include your ID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

## WISCONSIN TROUT

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# Letters

## Buffers would protect state's trout streams

Trout Unlimited was on the National Conservation Buffer Team that supported a national goal of establishing buffers on two million miles by 2002. According to DNR (*Wisconsin Trout Streams*, 2002) there are 10,371 miles of trout streams in Wisconsin. Wisconsin has 54,924 miles of streams.

Of the 54,924 miles of streams, 56% (31,148 miles) are perennial water. That means that 33% of Wisconsin's perennial water is trout water. Will Wisconsin protect these streams with a minimum buffer standard?

Performance standards are defined by Chapter NR151 as a narrative or measurable number specifying the minimum acceptable outcome for a facility or practice. What is the minimum acceptable outcome we will expect and require from a buffer strip standard along Wisconsin streams?

From what I have read and reviewed at Wisconsin Buffer Initiative (WBI) meetings, the work done by UW Scientist John Norman and his team is very good. The research tries to rank streams in the state based upon estimates of where buffers can do the most good. This would prioritize efforts. The research has also focused on the need to address concentrated flow areas, which is critical to reduce sediment and nutrient delivery to the streams. While the research by the scientists has been good, the WBI report is silent on the need for a statewide minimum buffer standard.

Some argue that Wisconsin law that requires the state to offer to pay 70% of installing buffer strips as the logic to why buffers cannot be installed everywhere. It would be too expensive. What is the cost of not installing buffers? What is the cost when we lose a trout stream? With growing populations and increasing demand on land use, is it not important to preserve a small

strip of nature next to the stream? Does every acre right up to and through the stream need to be developed or plowed or have manure spread upon it? It is disappointing that we place so much emphasis on cost share and not enough on doing the right thing. The public should expect a minimum level of protection along our lakes and streams.

There are many water quality and ecological values to buffers beyond sediment and phosphorus delivery to lakes and streams. There are hundreds of scientific studies on

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buffer strips that show their importance to water quality functions such as stream bank stabilization, water purification, sediment reduction, chemical removal, decrease of nitrate concentration in groundwater, pesticide and metals removal, shade production/temperature moderation, particulate organic matter, flood attenuation and floodplain hydrology, manure spreading setbacks, plowing setbacks, protection of groundwater recharge areas, terrestrial wildlife habitat and aquatic interactions, and recreational and aesthetic benefits that result in economic benefits.

There are many studies that show improved trout populations (quantity and size of trout) when a natural buffer is present. A review of the scientific literature on riparian buffer width, extent, and vegetation by the University of Georgia, Institute of Ecology concluded, "...to be most effective, buffers must extend along all streams, including intermittent and ephemeral channels." Professor Wendell Gilliam from North Carolina State University in his testimony to the United

States Congress stated, "...it is my opinion that riparian buffers are the most important factor controlling nonpoint pollution." Do buffers improve and protect water quality and protect Wisconsin trout streams? Of course they do!

Bill Hafz  
Brown Cty. Land Conservation  
Green Bay, WI

[WITU State Council Chair Bill Pielsticker responds: "*Research for the WBI indicates that buffers are not very effective at removing phosphorous from runoff and can be of little effect during spring runoff. Mr. Hafz is aware of this research, though he insists on pointing to data from North Carolina where the ground isn't frozen for three months of the year. My conclusion, and that of others on the WBI, is that other methods of addressing runoff are more effective and cost-efficient than miles of buffers. But don't believe me, just read on.*

*The November-December 2005 issue of the Journal for Soil and Water Conservation includes a research article titled "Establishing Conservation Buffers Using Precision Information" by two researchers from Nebraska and one from Iowa. The article notes that given field variability and other conditions common here in Wisconsin,*

*"uniform-width buffers are often not very effective or efficient, and are unlikely to meet expectations for water-quality purposes" (p. 349, emphasis added). The authors note that "Precision conservation creates an opportunity for optimizing buffers with other conservation practices" (p. 352) thereby providing outside peer-reviewed support for the WBI approach.*

*Just as importantly, the JSWC article generally supports the remote sensing (GIS) and modeling work (SNAP-PLUS) used in the WBI science and also demonstrates that the work of some of the WBI researchers is well ahead of others in the fields of remote sensing and modeling.*

*Finally, if you want to see my position on the need for more funding for the polluted runoff program, read this issue's front page article on the Manure Management Task Force. The cost-sharing provision is part of state law and cannot be addressed by the WBI. Rather than arguing about ribbons of grass on either side of a stream, let's get to work implementing the rest of the polluted runoff standards and install buffers, often the most expensive practice to choose from, only where they are needed or where federal programs will pay for them."]*

## Streamside buffer types defined

**Contour buffer strips** — Narrow bands of vegetation established across the slope of a crop field and alternated down the slope with strips of crops.

**Field border** — Strips of vegetation planted at the edge of fields that can be used for turn areas or travel lanes for machinery.

**Filter strips** — Strips of grass or other vegetation used to slow water runoff from a field. These intercept or trap sediment, nutrients, pesticides and other pollutants before they reach a river, lake or stream.

**Grassed waterways** — Strips of grass on areas where water is concentrated as it runs off a field. Used primarily to prevent and control gully erosion, waterways also act as a filter, trapping sediment and other pollutants.

**Living snow fence** — Trees and/or shrubs designed to control drifting snow to protect buildings, roads and other property. They can be installed to help protect nearby areas for livestock, provide wildlife cover and enhance soil moisture.

**Riparian buffers** — Streamside planting of trees, shrubs and grasses that can intercept pollutants from both surface and ground water before they reach a river or stream. Provides habitat for wildlife and also enhances fish habitat.

**Shelterbelts/windbreaks** — A row or rows of trees or shrubs used to reduce wind erosion, protect field crops and shelter from blowing snow. Shelterbelts also provide protection from the elements for houses, farm buildings, livestock and wildlife.

**Wetlands** — Areas of shallow water within or near cropland that have water loving grasses, shrubs or trees growing in and around the area. These act as a filter and provide wildlife habitat.

Source: Conservation Technology Information Center, Purdue University

## Wisconsin TU Chapter Membership 2003-05

#	CHAPTER NAME	Oct-03	Dec-03	Feb-04	Apr-04	Jun-04	Aug-04	Oct-04	Dec-04	Feb-05	Apr-05	Jun-05	Aug-05	Increase (Decrease)
050	WOLF RIVER	33	30	29	29	32	30	27	28	27	30	30	33	0
061	SOUTHERN WISCONSIN	615	622	642	643	682	681	665	673	708	768	815	789	174
078	SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN	555	559	575	590	618	609	604	614	619	670	689	661	106
083	GREEN BAY	225	227	230	254	285	276	269	261	268	289	306	306	81
117	CENTRAL WISCONSIN	284	275	276	284	313	309	312	275	271	278	315	345	61
168	KIAP-TU-WISH	211	211	211	223	231	231	229	225	231	240	246	247	36
193	FOX VALLEY	211	207	206	214	229	232	231	222	219	224	235	235	24
255	OJIBLEAU	227	218	215	229	230	225	224	229	231	238	251	266	39
256	NORTHWOODS	108	106	108	106	111	110	113	110	108	116	122	120	12
257	HARRY & LAURA NOHR	122	126	112	123	132	125	153	154	153	157	166	163	41
278	COULEE REGION	162	157	160	160	165	155	153	153	153	168	174	176	14
313	ANTIGO	42	42	41	43	45	45	43	39	39	37	36	37	-5
375	ALDO LEOPOLD	77	73	75	84	89	90	94	98	107	127	131	136	59
381	SHAW-PACA	61	60	57	56	76	72	80	81	80	81	88	87	26
385	OCONTO RIVER WATERSHED	105	101	110	120	142	163	163	156	158	163	173	179	74
390	BLACKHAWK	158	158	159	155	154	151	150	156	155	164	176	171	13
395	WISCONSIN RIVER VALLEY	138	130	128	136	149	150	156	159	163	167	182	178	40
415	WILD RIVERS	136	138	139	147	154	155	161	160	160	166	172	167	31
422	MARINETTE COUNTY	65	61	60	62	80	78	80	71	73	78	87	88	23
423	LAKESHORE	130	124	126	158	164	169	170	167	165	173	182	181	51
624	FRANK HORNBERG	131	125	121	122	136	131	131	128	134	142	147	147	16
729	OCOOCH CREEKS	13	13	15	15	17	25	26	30	30	31	32	34	21
		3,809	3,763	3,795	3,953	4,234	4,212	4,234	4,189	4,252	4,507	4,755	4,746	

# Renovation of workhorse Wild Rose State Fish Hatchery to begin this summer

By Todd Hanson

Two public information meetings held in October have given the WDNR feedback needed to complete the environmental assessment for the agency's planned major renovation of the Wild Rose State Fish Hatchery in Wautoma.

"The biggest concerns were expressed at the Wautoma meeting by some local landowners," says DNR statewide fish propagation coordinator Al Kaas. "There are some private wells in the area of the hatchery near Highway 22, and people wanted to be sure their wells will not be affected."

Kaas says the DNR's modeling shows no significant impacts to the local water table, but the agency will conduct some additional modeling in the coming weeks just to be sure.

The renovation plan calls for closing most of the site's existing wells and drilling up to four new wells that could pump a maximum 7,000 gallons per minute. Under normal operation, the upgraded hatchery is expected to draw about 4,200 gallons of water per minute, compared to the current usage of 1,800 to 2,200 gpm.

The Wild Rose hatchery is the workhorse of the state's coldwater fish stocking program. The hatchery is critical to Wisconsin's \$2.3 billion sport fishery. The hatchery produces:

- 27 percent of the trout and salmon DNR stocks,
- 64 percent of northern pike,
- 100 percent of lake sturgeon, and
- 100 percent of spotted musky.

The facility is particularly important for good fishing on Lake Michigan and its tributaries, where natural reproduction of popular trout and salmon species does not occur. More than 94 percent of fish produced at Wild Rose are stocked in Lake Michigan.

## Project funding

The \$24.3 million hatchery project was identified in a 2003 stocking study as the state's highest priority for addressing the growing demand for fishing opportunities.

Primary funding for construction of the \$15 million first phase would use \$6 million from the Fox River environmental restoration settlement for parts of the hatchery that produce fish for restocking Green Bay and surrounding waters. Other funds are coming from sale of fishing licenses, Great Lakes salmon and trout stamps, and DNR's federal Sport Fish Restoration grant.

Wild Rose's production capacity is now threatened by aging facilities and water supply problems. Fish production is decreasing and the hatchery is under an order to fix the groundwater supply system.

Fish rearing units and related systems have outlived their useful lifetime and are failing, contributing to decreasing fish production and health of the fish. Deteriorating raceways and pond walls pose health risks for hatchery visitors and staff, Kaas says.

*Continued on p. 5*



## WILD ROSE HATCHERY

Many elements of the Wild Rose Fish Hatchery will undergo changes starting in 2006 (see table). The coldwater building (above) will be replaced with a new facility. Also seen here are the upper paired raceways (right).

## A brief history of the Wild Rose State Fish hatchery

Portions of the hatchery property have been utilized for fish rearing for nearly 100 years. The state purchased the hatchery property and began operations in 1908.

The hatchery utilizes water from springs flowing from the base of a hillside located in a valley about one half mile north of the Village of Wild Rose. These springs are located on the west side of Highway 22 and form an unnamed tributary stream that flows under Highway 22 to the Pine River.

Over time, the hatchery has developed with coldwater operations taking place on the west side of Highway 22. Coolwater operations were later developed on the east side utilizing flow (effluent) from the coldwater operations.

The hatchery's primary purpose initially was to rear brook and brown trout for stocking. During the 1930s, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) laid red granite fieldstone and mortar walls to shape the ponds that are still present and in use today.

Below the coldwater hatchery facilities, and on the east side of Highway 22, a dam was constructed in the 1950s. The dam formed a pond to act as a waste-settling basin to address concerns that effluent from the hatchery could potentially affect the quality of the Pine River downstream of the hatchery. (This dam currently serves as one of the fish rearing wastewater outfalls for the facility.)

Beginning in the early 1960s, many driven 2-inch sand point wells and header pipes were added in an attempt to augment the natural flow from springs and to direct well water to supply egg hatching batteries and fish rearing tanks in the buildings. In 1963, three 4-inch wells were drilled for the same purpose.

In 1967, the main building for rearing coldwater fish was constructed. This building has 26 fish rearing tanks and eight egg hatching batteries.

In 1971, an old building located around 15 old concrete tanks was rebuilt with the addition of three coolwater egg hatching batteries.

In the 1970s the warm water rearing ponds were redeveloped to include solar heating ponds for the rearing of coolwater fish.

In 1985 a metal building was constructed to house the 26 tanks that are used for rearing Lake Sturgeon, Northern Pike and other cool/warm water fish.

SOURCE: WDNR



WDNR photos

## Deficiencies to be addressed in the hatchery upgrade

- Bring the hatchery water supply into compliance with existing standards for potable and non-potable water sources as applicable. The existing fish rearing water supply for current hatchery operations includes springs, shallow well points, and various wells, some of which are of undocumented construction or are not in compliance with current regulations.
- Renovate the fish rearing capacity to help meet Wisconsin fish production requirements and provide for optimal fish health. The *Fish Propagation System Action Plan for Meeting Wisconsin's Fish Stocking Needs* (WDNR, July 2003) identifies renovation of the Wild Rose State Fish Hatchery as its highest need. Current fish rearing facilities at the hatchery include areas that have deteriorated such that maintenance and operation have become increasingly difficult.
- Construct a new, consolidated wastewater treatment system such that the hatchery continues to discharge only high-quality, treated effluent that continues to meet or exceed all applicable discharge standards and is protective of the Pine River (a Class 1 trout stream) that receives the wastewater discharge from the hatchery.
- Restore portions of the property's natural stream and wetland environment that were previously modified during development of the existing hatchery.
- Renovate and preserve select portions of the existing hatchery, including early hatchery structures, as part of a Visitor's Center and public education program.

# State Council banquet nets a big fish story

By Bill Pielsticker

WITU State Council Chair

"Damn, you DO know what you're doing!" I said to my host, as I landed a 35-inch tiger musky after four hours of chucking large baits on Madison's Lake Monona.

That fish in the picture to the right is a direct result of last year's State Council banquet. Some of the highlights of the banquet in recent years have been the hosted fishing trips we've auctioned off. Last year, Laura Hewitt and I bid against each other for a half-day musky trip on the Madison lakes hosted by Scot Stewart, a DNR fish expert whose job includes knowing where the muskies are.

After I outbid Laura, I asked her if she wanted to share the trip. We agreed, and in mid-October we met Scot on the shores of Lake Monona, a 3,300-acre lake and one of the five lakes that make up the chain of lakes that has become a hot fishing destination.

One of the thrills of musky fishing is sighting the big toothy predators in shallow water and watching one or more follow your bait to the boat only to turn away at the last moment. Scot had been talking to several guides and learned that they were seeing few "follows" that day, but the few fish they saw were hitting. After a chilly sack lunch provided by Scot (some trip hosts provide a gourmet meal as part of the banquet package) we launched Scot's boat and headed for our first hot spot.

We started off a weed bed not far from the landing at Olin-Turville Park. We set up out from the Monona Terrace convention center, with the Capital Dome visible behind. Laura was rigged with a casting rod and a large Suick jerk bait that was a bit larger than a 3-year-old brook trout. Scot instructed her

on how to jerk the bait side to side on the retrieve, and she proceeded to cast toward the weeds.

I opted for a casting rod with a giant Mepps spinner with skunk tail. Within a few minutes, we both realized A) this is NOT fly casting and B) a few hours of this and we'd be in pain.

Within about 20 minutes I hooked and landed a 14-inch largemouth bass. We saw no follows, and Scot suggested that as the approaching front got nearer, the musky fishing should pick up. "These are great conditions" he said, watching the clouds moving toward us.

A while later we moved to site #2, and began casting toward shore in about six feet of water. And casting. And casting. A loon popped up about 50 feet from the boat and began to shadow us for the next hour, breaking the monotony of the day.

On to site #3. Now the wind had shifted and was picking up, and whitecaps formed on the surface. "This is great weather for this," said our host, as Laura and I both donned extra layers of clothes. We arrived in a cove off the south shore of the lake where several other boats were working the water. As we passed one of them, Scot asked if they had any luck. "A few follows and two in the boat," they said. They had landed two muskies? Suddenly the wind felt a bit less chilly.

Laura continued to try one or another large Suick baits, while I stuck to the spinner. My right shoulder started to ache. Eventually, Scot asked if we wanted to head back toward the north shore, maybe get out of the wind and try another promising spot. That sounded good. After a choppy, spray-filled trip across the lake, we nestled in near shore. Scot talked about the fish he had seen recently, including a 49-inch musky that several people had caught here this year.



## BANQUET GUIDED TRIP PRODUCES BIG RESULTS

WITU Chair Bill Pielsticker landed this 35" musky-northern hybrid four hours into a half-day guided trip on Lake Monona this fall. The trip was provided by Scot Stewart, fisheries expert with the DNR.

We resumed casting. And casting. Then more casting. Scot had us try a couple spots, then had us cast toward the shore as we slowly cruised to the west, heading toward Monona Terrace. Then, just before 6 o'clock, my spinner halted on its retrieve. "This feels big," I said. "Tell me what to do." "Just bring it in slowly while I get the net."

A few minutes later, with the fish alongside the boat, Scot landed it and pulled it aboard. He got out some tools and carefully removed the treble hook from the fish's jaw. After I donned a glove, he instructed me how to grip the fish's jaw and hold it for a picture. Scot was about as happy as I was. "A hybrid!" he said. "I don't have a good picture of one from the Madison lakes. This is great!" I couldn't agree more.

The musky-northern pike hybrid, often called a tiger musky for the prominent stripes on its sides, was one the DNR stocked in the lake several years earlier. Fisheries managers like them because they grow faster than a pure breed musky. An-

glers like them because they're easier to catch (why I like fishing for brook trout).

We headed back to the south side of the lake for a try at one more location, then motored to the take-out. Laura was chilled and tired; I was chilled, sore, and happy! I figured I was unlikely to fish for musky any other time, so a hosted trip sounded like a good idea. I was right.

The Madison lakes are managed for trophy musky and have a 45-inch minimum. Many anglers are practicing catch and release even beyond that limit, and taking home photos as trophies. While not a giant among muskies, my catch is trophy enough for me.

We plan to have eight hosted trips to bid on — along with rods, reels, and other fishing and non-fishing items — at the State Council Banquet on February 4 at the Hotel Mead in Wisconsin Rapids. I hope you'll join us.

Maybe you can bring back your own fish story next year.

## HATCHERY: renovation plans

Continued from p. 4

"When the hatchery was built at the turn of the 20th century, people felt producing fish for stocking was more important than protecting the environment," says Mike Staggs, DNR fisheries program director. "We believe you can do both and people will see that reflected in the new design."

The renovation calls for abandoning some existing buildings that are now located in former wetlands and restoring the wetlands, natural springs, and trout streams on the hatchery property.

Impacts on Pine River

"We're also improving the wastewater treatment of the hatchery effluent so we will be reducing even further our impact on the adjacent Pine River, a Class 1 trout stream," says Staggs.

Because the renovation will use some federal dollars, the hatchery must meet both state and federal requirements designed to assure that potential cultural, social, and environmental issues relating to the project are examined.

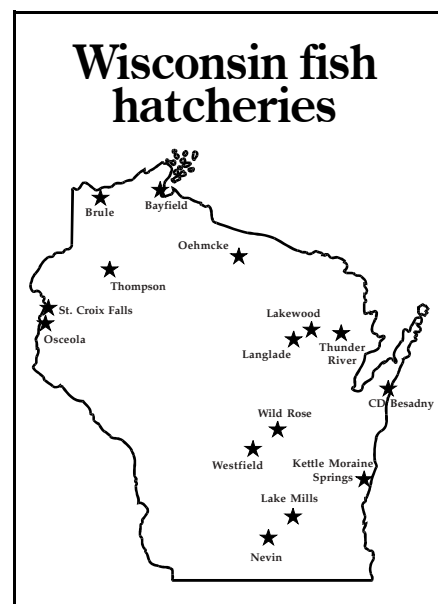
Proposed work

The project will essentially build a new coldwater hatchery for trout and salmon and a coolwater hatchery facility for northern, musky, walleye, and sturgeon.

In addition, the project will:

- abandon some existing buildings that are now located in former wetlands,
- restore or reconstruct the wetlands, and
- preserve for use as a visitor center a portion of the historical hatchery that was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s.

Ground breaking for the coldwater facility is set to begin this spring, with the entire project expected to be completed in 2009.



## Phase I and II hatchery construction

### Phase I

Broadstock Building (7,920 SF)  
Coldwater Hatchery Building (13,017 SF footprint)  
Proposed Visitor Center Building (4,400 SF footprint)  
Raceway Pavilions A through D (Raceway Pavilion buildings each 7,695 SF)  
Detention Pond (7,500 SF)  
Circular Clarifier (491 SF)  
Sludge Storage Tank (1,963 SF)  
Water Control Structures A through D  
Parking Areas  
Microscreen (#1 and #2) Systems  
Headtank  
LPA Tank  
Main Entrance Road and Well Road  
Renovation of Office Building  
Renovation of Garage  
Renovation of Raceway Shack

### Phase II

6 Fish rearing ponds (each 1/2 acre)  
8 Fish rearing ponds (each one acre)  
Coolwater Hatchery Building (30,000 SF footprint)  
Detention Pond (Size to be Determined)  
Circular Clarifier (491 SF)  
Microscreen System  
Sludge Storage Tank (1,963 SF)  
Water Control Structures  
Parking Areas  
New Service Road  
Headtank  
Upgrade to Existing Entrance Road  
Upgrade of Some of the Existing Ponds

## Nominations sought for DNR's 2006 Brogan awards

Governments and businesses demonstrating dedication to protecting the environment could be rewarded for their efforts with the WDNR's most prestigious award, the John E. Brogan Environmental Achievement Award.

The DNR is accepting nominations for the award until Feb. 24.

First presented in 1982, the award is named after John E. Brogan, a former member of the state Natural Resources Board who established a trust fund to finance the

accolade. According to DNR Secretary Scott Hassett, the Brogan Award is the highest honor bestowed by the department and is proof that the recipient has achieved environmental excellence.

To nominate a Brogan Award candidate, describe the environmental accomplishments of the nominee in three pages or less and send the information by Feb. 24 to Mary Brown, WDNR, PO Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921.



## Trout stream teaches hands-on lessons

By Jim Lee

A trout stream is cold and wet, and so are waders if the person who wore them ahead of you fell into the water.

The lessons were mainly scientific when students from Wausau East and Edgar high schools tested the waters of the Plover River in eastern Marathon County recently, but a few practical reminders were thrown in.

Biologists from the Department of Natural Resources joined with experienced anglers from the Wisconsin River Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited and veteran instructors from the two high schools to offer a hands-on learning experience to more than 100 students.

"We're measuring the velocity of the current to see how long it takes this paper boat to travel 10 meters," said Touhue Ly, 16, of Wausau East, as he stood waist deep in the Plover to release his fragile craft.

Jacob Burgess, 16, a fellow student, recorded the data while Maria Mueller, 16, and Philip Burclaff, 16, handled details at the downstream end of the boat's journey.

Several hundred yards upstream were Kelly Bard, Jen Strande and Mary Williams, all 16 and students in Bill Nemke's class in IB Physics.

"We're comparing the flow rate upstream and downstream," said Jenna Cummins, 16. "Trout habitat has been improved downstream.

Here it is undeveloped. We want to see if stream flows are faster — and better for trout — where improvements have been made."

A group of Edgar High School students — Nathan Myszka, 16, Heather Taylor, 16, Greg Nowak, 17, and Roseanne Meier, 16, huddled around Gene Koshak, vice president of the local chapter of Trout Unlimited, as he pointed out various species of insect life obtained



### STUDENTS AND MENTORS

Wisconsin River Valley Chapter VP Gene Koshak (top right) looks over invertebrate samples with Edgar High School students (l to r) Nathan Myszka, Heather Taylor, Greg Nowak, and Roseanne Meier. Meanwhile, several students prepare to float a paper boat a specified distance to test the effects of stream narrowing on current speed. Upstream are Jacob Burgess (left) and Touhue Ly, and waiting for the boat are Maria Mueller and Phillip Burclaff.

from a brief scoop of the stream bottom.

Among the findings: a giant water beetle, mayfly nymphs, damselflies, scuds (a type of freshwater shrimp), and an aquatic worm.

"We're also testing the water for pH, phosphates, dissolved oxygen and to see how clear it is," said Heather.

"This water is in very good condition."

That, of course, is what Koshak wants to hear.

The Wisconsin River Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited has been directly responsible for much of the recent restoration of the Plover River, renovations that have changed a wide, shallow, slow-moving, silted waterway into a trimmer, faster, deeper, more productive and attractive trout water.

Herb Hintze, chapter president, has spent more than a decade contacting private landowners along the Plover and obtaining easements from them that allow the DNR to make in-stream improvements that improve trout habitat.

In addition, the chapter — along with other TU groups — donated tens of thousands of dollars to fund the Plover River makeover.

instruction to the would-be research biologists.

Koshak and Hintze view the annual student visits to the river as a way to teach a new generation an environmental lesson as well as an appreciation for the unique place a quality trout stream is.

"This is a cooperative effort," Hintze said of the educational benefits. "We make it available to schools if they ask. It's one of the projects that we have become involved in because we think it is so worthwhile."

The students come largely from instructor Dave Coenen's second year biology class, Tom Erdman's IB chemistry class and Nemke's IB physics class at Wausau East and Jean Abreu's environmental biology class at Edgar.

"These are some pretty sharp kids," Hintze said. "They seem to enjoy being here and they take everything in stride...even if they sometimes get a little wet."

After individual environmental tests are finished, students gather at the river bank as DNR biologists using electroshock equipment reveal the presence of brook and brown trout hidden in the same pockets the teens have just assessed.

Tom Meronek, DNR fisheries biologist at Wausau, conducted the shocking demonstration with assistance from Mark Hazuga and Garrett Drach, both DNR fisheries technicians.

It was a "cool" experience for the teenagers, many of whom probably never connected the terms "trout" and "environmental quality" before this visit to the Plover, but undoubtedly will find it hard to ignore that link in the future.

(This story originally appeared in the Nov. 6 Wausau Daily Herald and is reprinted with permission of the

author. For tips on how to start a similar program with students from one of your area high schools, contact Wisconsin River Valley TU President Herb Hintze. He can be reached at (715) 842-1365. -Ed.)

## Suggestions to enhance TU's legislative program

By Jeff Smith

WITU Legislative Chair

Over the years, Wisconsin Trout Unlimited has established itself as an independent voice on legislative proposals and regulations that affect coldwater streams and watersheds.

### Consider Proper Release



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

There are two steps chapters can take that will help with the effectiveness of the State Council's legislative program and enhance our relationships with legislators. Both of these are reflected in the council's draft strategic plan.

First, I would appreciate it if each chapter designates a legislative coordinator. If this person is the chapter president, fine. But if a chapter president wants to pass that on to someone else, that's just as well.

Either way, I would like chapter presidents to let me know the contact information for this person.

The purpose of the "chapter legislative coordinator" is to contact

and motivate individual members (especially members who know legislators personally) to contact their representatives and senators and urge them to vote our way on important issues.

Often times things move quickly in Madison, and knowing chapter contacts in key legislative districts will help the legislative committee be much more responsive to the issues of the day.

The second suggestion is to get the legislators in your chapter area acquainted with your chapter's operation. Some chapters are already doing this.

You can invite legislators to monthly chapter meetings (I'm

starting this with the Southern Wisconsin Chapter in December), work projects, banquets, and outings. If they do attend, introduce them and give them a minute or two to say a few words about the conservation or environmental issues they are dealing with.

This exposes legislators to what TU does and, in turn, gives the legislator exposure to a group of voters. With luck, it will also make some of them more sensitive to our concerns.

Finally, when important issues do come up, members may be more comfortable contacting their legislators after they have met them at a chapter function.

# January hearings to consider new 'outstanding' waters

The WDNR will hold public hearings at four locations across the

state in January relating to listing additional waters as Outstanding or Exceptional Resource Waters (OWR/EWR).

In August, 2004, the DNR received a petition from various conservation organizations requesting the agency designate 100 water segments as OWR/EWR. The DNR is recommending that 30 additional segments (*see table*) be added to the existing list.

Hearing times on the proposed new listings are shown at left.

## Hearing locations

**January 4, Rhinelander** — 6:30 p.m. at Holiday Inn Express, 668 W. Kemp.

**January 5, Madison** — 1:30 p.m. Room G09, GEF #2, 101 S. Webster,

**January 11, Ashland** — 6:30 p.m. Northern Great Lakes Visitor Cntr.,

29270 Hwy. G.

**January 12 Spooner** — 6:30 p.m. at Gov. Tommy Thompson Hatchery, 951 W. Maple.

## Executive Summary: Key Draft Recommendations Manure Management Task Force December 1, 2005

This is a summary and distillation of the key draft recommendations prepared by the Manure Management Task Force. The Secretaries of the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection appointed a task force of 16 members representing a broad spectrum of interests to provide findings and recommendations to address manure runoff events. The following key recommendations are drawn from throughout the Draft Findings and Recommendations which follow this summary.

1. Increase use of the following practices to reduce risks related to manure runoff incidents:
  - a. Winter spreading plans for farmers to identify high risk fields that should not receive winter applications of manure.
  - b. Manure hauling procedures to promote safe handling of manure.
  - c. Emergency response plans to contain and clean up manure spills and overflows.

The specific mechanisms for implementing these practices may include education, incentives, planning and regulation.
2. Increase implementation of nutrient management plans, with the recognition that phosphorous-based plans are the most effective means to reduce overall risks. Build support within the agricultural community, environmental, and legislative interests and others to increase funding by \$7-14 million annually for the implementation of nutrient management plans (required by state programs) for livestock operations. Funds should be targeted to areas/approaches that provide maximum benefit in terms of risk reduction and address locally-identified priorities for watersheds and groundwater.
3. Improve our knowledge about manure runoff events and their prevention by:
  - a. Working through Wisconsin Agricultural Stewardship Initiative to develop and maintain a catalogue of research activity and needs, coordinate and help set priorities for research activity, and serve as a clearinghouse to coordinate the interpretation of research findings.
  - b. Pursuing adaptive management approaches to inform and guide research, monitoring, management and policy decisions.
  - c. Improving state agencies data collection, tracking and reporting related to manure runoff events, including improved cooperation between DATCP and DNR that makes better use of the agency's different expertise and protocols.
4. Revitalize information and education efforts through targeted improvements and innovative approaches including:
  - a. Developing a manure spreading advisory system that may take the form of a web-based risk assessment tool to warn farmers about specific weather-related hazards such as predicted rain events, and
  - b. Developing a statewide notification program to alert farmers concerning high risk spreading conditions such as melt periods and dry weather. Different media including radio broadcasts (including daily market reports), websites, and email could be used for making notifications.
5. Strongly encourage counties to develop emergency response systems and farmers to prepare individual emergency response plans to better deal with manure runoff events.
6. Follow current regulatory paths for non-permitted livestock operations on state and local levels to address manure runoff incidents, and evaluate new regulation as follows:
  - a. DATCP should consider developing a statewide certification or licensing program for manure haulers that builds on the certification program operated by the professional manure haulers, giving careful consideration to the scope of requirements imposed, fees or other funding mechanisms for the program, and the class of persons to be regulated (e.g. contract haulers, medium and large livestock operators).
  - b. DATCP should evaluate how farmers can participate in training and education efforts related to a statewide certification or licensing program for manure haulers.
7. Provide funds to compensate owners of wells contaminated by manure runoff events through revisions to DNR's well compensation program.
8. Develop a regional **pilot** program to test the effectiveness of limited enforcement protection and other incentives for farmers that meet standards for superior environmental performance. The regional pilot program will help evaluate:
  - a. The potential conditions that would trigger protection, including criteria regarding protective management practices (beyond a Nutrient Management Plan and Emergency Response Plan) that a farmer must meet to be eligible for limited enforcement and related incentives.
  - b. The nature of the potential protection and incentives that will be afforded farmers, including specifics associated with limited enforcement, reduced liability (which may involve a risk-pooling mechanism), and priority status in securing added technical and financial assistance.
  - c. Ensure that this approach produces adequate public benefit to warrant the protection and incentives provided to farmers.

**Outstanding/Exceptional Waters Defined**  
**Outstanding resource water** — a lake or stream which has excellent water quality, high recreational and aesthetic value, high quality fishing, and is free from point source or nonpoint source pollution.

**Exceptional resource water** — a stream which exhibits the same high quality resource values as outstanding waters, but which may be impacted by point source pollution or have the potential for future discharge from a small sewer community.

A classification of outstanding or exceptional status protects waterways in their current state and provides legal authority for more careful review of urban development or industrial activity that might harm the quality of these waters.

## Proposed OWR/EWR bodies

County	Stream	Segment	Class
1. ASHLAND	E FK CHIPPEWA RIVER	SEG2-3: T42N R01E S17-18 LINE TO PELICAN LAKE TO CHIPPEWA FLOWAGE	ORW
2. BARRON	RED CEDAR RIVER	ORIGIN TO HWY 8 CROSSING*	ERW
3. BARRON	ROCK CREEK	SEG2: ALL WITHIN BARRON	ORW
4. BURNETT	CLAM RIVER	SEG2-3: CLAM FALLS FLOWAGE DAM TO CLAM LAKE TO ST CROIX RIVER	ORW
5. BURNETT	N FK CLAM RIVER	SEG1: CLAM RIVER TO CTH H	ORW
6. DOUGLAS	AMNICON RIVER	ALL	ORW
7. DOUGLAS	MOOSE RIVER	ALL	ORW
8. DOUGLAS	SPRUCE RIVER	ALL	ORW
9. DOUGLAS	ST CROIX RIVER	SEG1: ORIGIN TO ST CROIX FLOWAGE	ORW
10. IRON	FLAMBEAU RIVER	SEG1: TURTLE-FLAMBEAU FLOWAGE TO UPPER PARK FALLS FLOWAGE	ORW
11. LANGLADE, FOREST	SWAMP CREEK	SEGMENT BELOW RESERVATION BOUNDARY*	ORW
12. LINCOLN	NEW WOOD RIVER	ALL	ORW
13. LINCOLN	SPIRIT RIVER	ALL	ORW
14. LINCOLN	WISCONSIN RIVER	GRANDFATHER DAM TO LAKE ALEXANDER*	ORW
15. ONEIDA	SQUIRREL RIVER	ALL	ORW
16. ONEIDA	TOMAHAWK RIVER	ORIGIN TO WILLOW FLOWAGE = ERW* WILLOW FLOWAGE TO MOUTH = ORW*	ORW & ERW
17. PRICE	ELK RIVER	HEADWATERS TO MUSSER LAKE*	ORW
18. PRICE	N FK JUMP RIVER	ALL	ERW
19. PRICE	S FK JUMP RIVER	ALL	ERW
20. PRICE, SAWYER, RUSK	FLAMBEAU RIVER	SEG2: CROWLEY DAM TO BIG FALLS FLOWAGE	ERW
21. RUSK	FLAMBEAU RIVER	SEG3: LADYSMITH DAM TO CHIPPEWA R.	ERW
22. RUSK	MAIN CREEK	ALL	ERW
23. RUSK	SOFT MAPLE CREEK	ALL	ORW
24. RUSK	SWIFT CREEK	ALL	ORW
25. RUSK	THORNAPPLE RIVER	SEG1: ORIGIN TO CTH J	ORW
26. RUSK	JUMP RIVER	SEG1: HEADWATERS DOWNSTREAM TO VILLAGE OF JUMP RIVER	ORW
27. SAWYER	COUDERAY RIVER	SWIFT CREEK CONFLUENCE IN T38N R8W S9 TO CONFLUENCE WITH CHIPPEWA RIVER*	ERW
28. SAWYER	KNUTESON CREEK	SEG2: BELOW WISE L IN T38N R9W S36	ORW
29. SAWYER	TEAL RIVER	ALL	ORW
30. SAWYER	W FK CHIPPEWA RIVER	ALL	ORW
31. SAWYER, BAYFIELD, DOUGLAS, BURNETT, WASHBURN	TOTAGATIC RIVER	SEG1-3: ORIGIN TO COLTON FLOWAGE TO MINONG FLOWAGE TO NAMEKAGON R.	ORW
32. SAWYER, RUSK	CHIPPEWA RIVER	DAM AT CHIPPEWA FLOWAGE TO CONFLUENCE WITH COUDERAY RIVER*	ERW
33. TAYLOR	JUMP RIVER	ALL	ERW
34. TAYLOR	SILVER CREEK	ALL	ERW
35. TAYLOR	YELLOW RIVER	ALL	ORW
36. VILAS	MANITOWISH RIVER	SEG2: ORIGIN TO ISLAND LAKE	ORW
37. VILAS	TROUT RIVER	FROM TROUT LAKE TO RESERVATION BOUNDARY*	ORW
38. VILAS, ONEIDA	WISCONSIN RIVER	ORIGIN TO WATERSMEET LAKE = ORW* WATERSMEET LAKE TO RHINELANDER FLOWAGE = ERW*	ERW & ORW
39. WASHBURN	BEAR CREEK	ALL	ORW
40. WASHBURN	STUNTZ BROOK	ALL	ORW

\* This segment description has been modified from the original petition

SOURCE: WDNR

## MANURE: Council comments on task force's draft report

Continued from p. 1

Bob Selk (SWTU) is a member of the Task Force. Selk has noted that "when it became clear we weren't going to recommend any real changes, I began to push for a Green Tier approach."

As the draft report notes, Green Tier "provides non-monetary incentives for DNR-permitted entities...to adopt higher levels of environmental performance." This approach resulted in a proposal to examine the use of "limited enforcement" of the runoff rules as such an incentive.

The recommendations note that "protection of limited enforcement" for livestock producers who adopt "key practices" like nutrient management might provide an incentive for producers to operate in a manner that poses less risk to the environment. Producers who adopt such measures may be subject to reduced fines and may be able to receive lower liability rates from insurers.

Pielsticker notes that TU does not believe "that voluntary measures will be able to safeguard the waters of the state." However, he suggests that in exchange for effective protective measures, limiting

damages in the face of an unforeseen snowfall or rainfall may be a way to "help move us beyond today's anemic pace of implementation.... Therefore, we support a pilot program" to test this approach.

"It should be clear, however, that producers who do not take these steps will face the full application of fines and punitive damages in the event of a runoff incident or fish kill."

Pielsticker included these comments on limited enforcement even after concerns by some TU leaders that we are endorsing another voluntary program. Later, Pielsticker noted that "their arguments convinced me to clearly separate us from a voluntary approach, and to stress the need for new rules and restrictions as the best way to address the problem of manure management and water quality."

The Task Force will meet in January to consider changes to the draft recommendations. Some of its members are hoping that the public comments will provide support for recommending a funding mechanism as well as urging adoption of some new regulations. It is not clear whether they will succeed.

Chapter president profile

# Ojibseau's Dennis Vanden Bloomen catching them all

By Joe Knight

The Brule. It was different now. Quieter, although we could hear the occasional passing car on a nearby highway.

The distinctive voices of the yellow-throated warblers, white-throated sparrows and thrushes were silent. The little warblers probably started their migration.

I have been here in late June when the big mayflies hatch. In my mind's eye, it is always late June on the Upper Brule, usually in the company of C.W. Wilson of Eau Claire.

But the seasons change here, too.

Now the cedars are showing more brown than in June. There were a few patches of yellow among the shoreline vegetation.

It wasn't totally silent. Bluejays called. At twilight the barred owls hooted to each other.

And the caddis flies still were here, fluttering around the streamside alders. They might have been smaller than the ones in June, but the small trout still swirled at them.

That gave my friend, Ojibseau TU President Dennis Vanden Bloomen, something to cast to Friday as we floated down the river. More often, when no trout jumped, he cast near the alders or cedars where trout might be hiding.

He wore a light green hat that said "Stout Fly Fishing" on the front. On the back it said "Instructor." His day job is teaching international business at UW-Stout, but he has started a fly fishing class there.

He also started a club for disabled anglers in Eau Claire, and he instructs angler educators for the WDNR. He is so busy teaching fishing and organizing anglers that I don't think he gets to fish much.

He got the fly hung in the alders a few times. His theory was good — cast near the cover — but implementation was lacking at times. It made me wonder how stringent the process is to become a fly-fishing instructor at UW-Stout.

But Vanden Bloomen was a college professor, a big ideas person. He could organize the class, write grants, maybe give a lecture on the economic, social, public policy, and philosophical aspects of fly fishing and leave it to others to teach the mundane mechanics of casting a fly.

He caught small rainbows. We took his photo with one for documentation. He is trying to catch as many different species of Wisconsin fish as possible.

For every 10 new species he catches, the DNR gives him a patch or stripe for his shirt. He has a military background, and he likes having stripes on his shirt.

He also is in a race with his daughter, Gretchen, to see who can catch the most species.

If the little trout would grow up to be a lake-run steelhead, it would count as a new fish for his list. If it would grow up and stay in the river, it

would not be new. He already has an inland rainbow trout.

About the time it got dark, we got out and stretched and switched places in the canoe.

The whip-poor-wills sang. I was surprised they were around. In June that is a sign that the big mayflies will be hatching and the bigger brown trout might be prowling.

The season for the mayflies was gone, but we were hoping the brown trout still would be prowling. In August and early fall, brown trout from Lake Superior begin swimming up the Brule to spawn, so there is a chance to connect with a really big brown here.

The preferred fly now imitates a swimming mouse.

I tied on a clipped hair fly I use for bass and began casting toward shore.

In the dark it was not clear where the bank ended and the river began.

Sometimes I could see the fly on the water. Other times I followed its progress by the gurgling sounds it made as I brought it back in a series of short jerks.

We heard a loud splash in the dark. A trout had gone after the mouse, but I failed to hook it.

Probably a small fish.

There were two more impressive splashes and two more missed fish. I began to wonder if the hook was too small or maybe too big.

Maybe a half-hour passed before the next splash. This time I felt resistance when I set the hook. It was a 14-inch brown.

This mouse thing was working.

It was Vanden Bloomen's turn to fish, but he said he was getting sleepy and we needed to get back. It was 7:30 p.m.

Our main reason for coming up north was not to fish but to go to a meeting Saturday, and we needed him to be awake for the meeting. We headed back.

He kept up a good stroke rate on the paddle back to the landing. He was a little worried about how long it would take us to get out of there.

Fishing and canoeing at night are an acquired taste.

A full moon rose and helped guide us. Trees hanging over the river cast shadows. At one bend of the river we had to paddle toward the rising moon and we were temporarily blinded, like when you have to drive west into a setting sun.

We heard geese honking ahead of us. They had settled in for the night on a pool, and we were disturbing them.

An hour of brisk paddling brought us back to the landing.

On Sunday morning, we tried the Brule once again. We actually fished in Lake Superior, launching our canoe near the mouth of the Brule.

A canoe is not the ideal craft for the world's biggest inland lake, but it was a calm morning.



**OJIBLEAU'S DENNIS VANDEN BLOOMEN**

One of Dennis Vanden Bloomen's passions is a quest to catch at least one of as many Wisconsin fish as he can. Brook trout came early on in his quest.

Two other small boats were out trolling, hoping to catch a salmon or steelhead. The trout start to gather around the river mouths this time of year before swimming up the Lake Superior streams. The process has been delayed this year because of warm weather and low water in the creeks.

We drifted and cast spoons and watched the sunrise but had no strikes.

We paddled up the river a short ways. It was slow and murky here. We were heading in when Vanden Bloomen caught a 21-inch Coho at the boat landing — a good-size coho by Lake Superior standards. It was on the proverbial last cast.

He was pleased. He didn't have a Coho on his fish list.

(Joe Knight has covered outdoors and environmental issues for the Eau Claire Leader-Telegram for 20 years. He is a member of the Ojibseau Chapter. -Ed)

## New web site helps people identify Wisconsin fish

A new online fish identification site contains 4,000 close-ups of 162 species of fish found in Wisconsin and 12 other invasive species possibly on their way. Find it at <http://www.wiscfish.org/fishid/>.

"The fish ID site serves a dual purpose — it will help professional people better identify fish affected by their decision-making, but also

give us an opportunity to display and educate citizens on just how diverse and fascinating a fauna we have in Wisconsin," says John Lyons, a WDNR fisheries research scientist.

The fish identification site is Lyons' brainchild, a product that spun off from a much larger endeavor that he concedes may take him the rest of his career.

Lyons is mid-stream in updating the *Fishes of Wisconsin*, the seminal fisheries reference work by the late George Becker, a University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point biologist professor and fish curator.

From 1958 to 1978, Becker culled thousands of scattered reports by DNR, university, and other researchers, examined more than 1,800 fish specimens, and synthesized the information into a 1,052-page tome with detailed reports on the biology, range, and habitats of Wisconsin fish.

Lyons thinks the fish identification site in particular will be useful for anglers, but especially so for natural resource managers, to help them more accurately identify the less common species they may run across in their work.

"The work we're doing as natural resource managers and researchers goes well beyond standard game fish. We have to understand and be able to identify the forage fish that support the game fish, and the threatened and endangered species we have to consider in our decision-making," he says.





## BANQUET: instructor trainees get free tickets to Feb. 4 event

*Continued from p. 1*

Fishing equipment and other supplies are available for loan to instructors at the DNR's 42 tackle loaner sites.

The program has two levels — a Junior Angler curriculum designed for grades 4-8 and a Master Angler curriculum suitable for high school students.

A subset of materials appropriate for younger learners is also available.

The materials are aligned to Wisconsin's state academic standards, making the program an easy fit in the classroom.

Materials available from the DNR at no charge for chapters include Scott Rod Company Fly Fishing booklets. Fly tying equipment and materials are also available.

The DNR recently purchased 100 St. Croix fly rods and reels for instructor use through the equipment loaner program.

Trout Unlimited members, fishing club members, youth leaders, classroom teachers, and civic leaders are encouraged to attend as a team or form one at the workshop. Successful models include after-school fishing clubs, summer enrichment classes, school-family events, and Boy Scout fly fishing merit badge training.

This special class is limited to 25 people, so act now to reserve your seat. Register by contacting Theresa Stabo at (608) 266-2272 or Theresa.Stabo@dnr.state.wi.us.

For more information about the training session, contact Dennis Vanden Bloomen at (715) 834-0949.

## States reducing Lake Michigan salmon stocking

Wisconsin has agreed to reduce stocking of Chinook salmon in Lake Michigan this year by 21 percent, or about 300,000 fish, according to WDNR Fisheries Director Mike Staggs.

The reduction is Wisconsin's share of a lakewide stocking reduction agreed to by states surrounding Lake Michigan.

The lakewide reduction is aimed at bringing the Chinook population into line with its forage base, says Mike Staggs.

Overall, Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, and Illinois will reduce their Chinook stocking from a combined 4.3 million fish to about 3.3 million fish, or by 25 percent. Michigan will decrease its stocking 30 percent, Illinois 17 percent, and Indiana 12 percent.

Staggs noted that a previous stocking reduction by the states in 1999 preceded a strong fishery in ensuing years. Wisconsin anglers have caught near-record hauls of Chinook in 2002, 2003, 2004, and 2005.

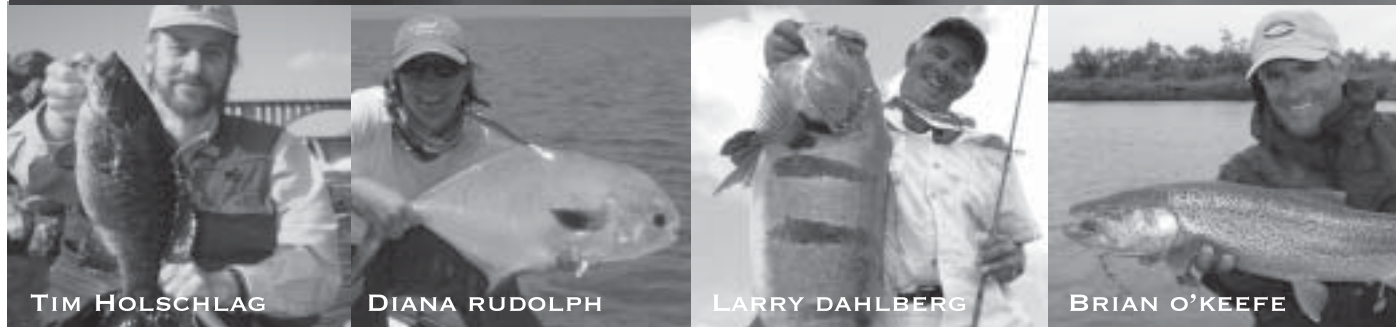
Now, despite those near-record catches, fisheries biologists are worried that a decrease in Chinook weight, and other signs — including monitoring showing a decrease in alewife populations — suggest there are again too many Chinook in Lake Michigan for the forage base.



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## Chapter News



John Gremmer photos



### CWTU ACTIVITIES

Central WI TU board member Bob Hunt (above, standing) recently presented local trout stream maintenance needs to DNR officials in Waupaca. Hunt, Ed Avery, and Elward Engle undertook a five-county survey of stream rehabilitation needs. CWTU Treasurer Scott Grady (left) presents a check to UW-

Oshkosh fisheries biology student Mike Shupryt for half his tuition. This is one of two year-long scholarships that CWTU awards annually.

### Aldo Leopold Chapter

January will see the beginning of our first chapter fly tying class. Instructors **Steve Hill** and **John Doucette** are looking forward to spending six nights with some eager students.

Nestled between two of the classes, our chapter meeting on Jan. 18 will bring us **Bob Blumreich** showing salmon and steelhead fly tying techniques. Observing Bob's skills should give our students an idea of how beautiful flies can be.

The rest of our spring calendar looks great, with everything from stillwater trout fishing to net building to **Bob Hunt** on trout stream therapy. Our complete calendar is available online at [www.alctu.com](http://www.alctu.com).

Speaking of our web site, our site address has changed. We also have a

newly designed site courtesy of our new webmaster, **Eric Lorenzen**. Check it out; he's done a great job.

Other upcoming events of note. March 4 will mark our third year at the Lodi Reads Leopold event. The first weekend in March is officially Aldo Leopold Weekend, and we are pleased to be able to spend the day of the early season opener at Lodi's event. We tie flies, talk about how Leopold's ethic is embodied in Trout Unlimited's mission and actions, and meet many like-minded conservationists. If there isn't a Leopold Weekend event in your area, consider starting one.

—Mike Barniskis

### Central Wisconsin Chapter

Central Wisconsin Trout Unlimited moved its banquet this year from March to October, and it worked out well. We found that in March we were competing with too many other conservation groups, and the occasional blizzard would be a disaster.

According to the feedback we've received, people like the venue, the day of the week (Thursday), the shortened program (it was over at 9:00 p.m.), and the location in Wautoma at **Pine Ridge Farms**. Financially, we will be close to other years.

Thanks go to **Bob Haase**, **Dan Colligan**, **Ira Giese**, **Tracy Moran**, **Russ Bouck**, **Mike Schaefer**, **Bob Chamberlain**, **Scott Grady**, **Dick Pollock**, **Jerry Smet**, **Jim Humphrey**, **Dan Harmon III**, **Rich Mlodzik**, and others for organizing and orchestrating our banquet. Good job, guys! Thanks also to all those who supported by attending; it wouldn't be a success without you.

Last year our chapter purchased a 2,800 lumen projector and a laptop to help produce and present programs related to our mission. The equipment has already been used at our monthly informational programs by **John "Duke" Welter** and **Tom Young**. The equipment is scheduled to be used throughout the winter and spring.

Our December 12 program will be a keynote presentation produced by **John Gremmer** and **Bob Chamberlain** titled "CWTU In Action." The program will be held at the **Fin 'N Feather** in Winneconne.

January will bring the premiere of **Bob Hunt's** stream rehabilitation video. This video is a collaboration of **Bob Hunt**, CWTU, and **Gary Herlache** of the UW-Green Bay.

Our 5th annual Master's Fly Tying Series will start on Feb. 2 at Winneconne High School. **Rich Osthoff**, Mauston, **Jack Holewinski**, Green Bay, **John Nebel**, Menasha, **Mike McGill**, Glenbeulah, **Tracy Moran**, Omro, **Brian Tesch**, Win-

chester, and **Rick Bolda**, of Buttes Des Morts will be the master tyers. The cost is \$45 person. The master tyers will provide all materials and refreshments will be served. Tyers will meet at the **Fin 'N Feather** prior to the sessions to share a meal and tales of the past fishing season.

February 25 is the date of our Annual CWTU **Trout Fishing Funday**. The event will be held on the second level of the **Fin 'N Feather**, Winneconne, and will be free to the public. The Funday will feature 10 20-minute seminars by local and state trout fishing experts. Fly tyers from all over the state will be present, along with rod builders, guides, artisans, and fly fishing equipment vendors. Raffles and a used equipment rummage sale will also be featured. It runs from 10-4. Last year we signed up 16 new members at this event.

February will also bring our fly fishing and fly tying course that we do in conjunction with **Fox Valley Technical College**. The course meets six times with three hours per session. The class contains an extra session of fly casting instruction and a morning of guided fly fishing on the **Mecan River** in May. **John Gremmer** is the instructor, and people interested should contact John at [jgremmer@charter.net/](mailto:jgremmer@charter.net/).

CWTU has just completed its first year of water monitoring in our area. Over 40 members and non-members were trained to be either water monitor trainers or water monitors. Teams were formed to monitor specific streams, data was collected, and the data was posted on the **Water Action Volunteers** web site. A full report is being prepared by **Bob Rennock** and **Bob Haase** and will be presented at the January meeting. Our plan is to recruit more water monitors, meet in the spring for a training session, tweak the system a little, and continue on.

In August, CWTU lost one of its most ardent supporters. **Msgr. Cliff May**, USAF Ret, passed away at the home of his son in Michigan. There was nothing Cliff would not do to further CWTU! If he met someone along a stream, they usually were a TU member before he let them go. He loved working with young people. We'll miss him. Cliff, may the trout always rise for you!

### Fox Valley Chapter

The frozen creeks and rivers and four inches of snow on the ground have most of us in thinking about Christmas and the approaching holidays and the anticipated time we will spend with family and friends.

The Fox Valley Chapter honored a number of our members at a special dinner in October. **Mark Peer-enboom** received the Gordy Braun Worker of the Year Award; **Al Niebur** the Pat Howlett Award; and **John Gremmer** the Gale Crist-Tom Deer Award. Appreciation awards were presented to **Scott Grady**, **Chris Killoren**, **Charles Mitchell**, **Ed Culhane**, and the **Rawhide Boys Ranch**.

Our December 15 meeting featured a number of local fly tyers giving demonstrations to the chapter at the **Bubolz Nature Center**.

The January 19 meeting will be held at **Fox Valley Technical College**. Students in the culinary arts program will be presenting a program on preparing the "Catch of The Day."

One special feature of CWTU's communication effort is our web site at [www.cwtu.org/](http://www.cwtu.org/). The site is full of news, including upcoming programs, events, workdays, meeting minutes, and the scoop on local streams. It is frequently updated...in short, lots of good stuff. There are even message boards, and the site is linked to the State Council and National sites, so it's available to many different users. Thanks go to CWTU member **Brian Tesch** for building and maintaining the site.

CWTU received a check for \$525 from National TU as a rebate for the 35 new members we signed up last year. Thanks go to our new Membership Chairman, **Ira Giese**, for this big jump in members. Ira does not believe in providing free memberships, because then "they may be worth nothing to the recipient." Instead he asks new potential members to put the money on the table and then shake a die. Odds get a free membership and evens pay for it. Both ways people are happy.

Thanks again to **Bob Hunt**, **Ed Avery**, and **Elward Engle** for their good work last summer surveying local streams for needed maintenance. They walked the streams, took photos, made notes, and presented their findings to the WDNR in October. Hunt stressed, "Our Chapter appreciates the receptive attitude and courteous hearing the WDNR biologists and technicians gave our initiative on this matter. We look forward to a strong partnership in accomplishing an enlarged and accelerated maintenance strategy."

**Rich Mlodzik**, Princeton, has resigned from his long-held position as workday chair. Rich has done an outstanding job, and he will be missed. Thanks, Rich, for all that you've done. One of our priorities this winter will be to fill this very important position.

CWTU member **Mike Shaefer** of Oshkosh is working establishing a Trout In The Classroom project at a school in Oshkosh. He has contacted the school principal who is working with Mike to find and interested teacher. Other members have expressed interest in working on this project.

—John Gremmer

The February meeting will again be the "Funnite" program to be held at **Saber Lanes** in the Town of Menasha. The program is designed to introduce kids and adults to trout fishing. A very popular part of the program is having many of the local tyers working with the kids to tie a wooly bugger.

We are currently planning for our spring fund raiser which is **Cabin Fever Day V**. The event will be held on March 25 at **Waverly Beach** on the north shore of Lake Winnebago. The main presenters will be **Dave Whitlock** and **Tim Landwehr**. Please join us for the day and evening events. Check our web site at [www.foxvalleytu.org](http://www.foxvalleytu.org) for additional updates and information.

Take part in the many outdoor activities that our state has to offer during this winter season and look forward to those first casts in the spring. In the words of our chapter Prez, "I'll see you on a trout stream."

—Rich Erickson

# Chapter News



## Green Bay Chapter

After a very productive summer performing habitat improvement on area streams, the Green Bay Chapter has turned its attention to planning for bigger and better events in the upcoming year.

**Banquet chair Bruce Deuchert** and his committee have begun preparing for **Banquet 06** which will be held **Thursday, March 23**, at the **Stadium View Banquet Hall** in Green Bay. This event raises the majority of the funds that the chapter uses for its work on behalf of the coldwater resource.

The chapter also made some recent donations for habitat work. Notable among these were a donation to habitat work in the La Crosse area and one to aid in the replacement of a culvert on an Oconto County trout stream.

**Janet Smith, work project chairperson**, is busy planning the work projects for next summer. Of interest is a project to do major repairs to a fence and cattle crossing the chapter installed years ago on the **South Branch of the Oconto River**.

We are also investigating ways to get younger people involved with Trout Unlimited. The possibility of having a weekend with **Boy Scouts** where they could earn a merit badge in fly fishing and learn more about TU's habitat work has been advanced, and the chapter is hoping to work with an area high school **FFA** chapter to create a working trout stream at their school.

Finally, the chapter held its annual **December Dinner and Awards Christmas Party** on the Dec. 1 at the **Sports Corner Bar**. This event serves to recognize people whose contributions to our fund raising and resource protection efforts have been outstanding. This year's honorees for banquet contributions were **PCM Credit Union** in the business category, **Richard Prehn** in the artist category, and **Gary & Jan Stoychoff** in the individual category. The chapter also inducted **Dan Ferron** into the **Presidents Club** which recognizes people whose attendance at work projects is exemplary. **Pat Hill** was honored as **Member of the Year** for his involvement in all of the chapter's activities during the past year. The prestigious **Silver Trout Award** was presented to **Dennis Gu-**



### GREEN BAY TU THANKS MEMBERS AND BANQUET SPONSORS

Gary and Jan Stoychoff (top, l to r) won the GBTU Banquet Gold Sponsor Award in the Individual category. Pat Hill was awarded Member of the Year, Dennis Gusick was given the chapter's Silver Trout Award, and Dan Ferron was inducted into the President's Club. Dan Wallen (bottom left) accepted the Banquet Gold Sponsor Award in the Business Category for PCM Credit Union, while Richard Prehn (bottom center) won the Banquet Gold Sponsor Award in the Artist Category. Laurel Heil (bottom right) was voted the Unsung Hero Award for her banquet efforts.

sick in recognition of his many years of service to the chapter. **Laurel Heil** was presented with the Unsung Hero award for her work on the banquet committee and assistance in staffing the event.  
—Gary Stoychoff

**Habitat Committee** — a consortium of conservation organizations, outdoor clubs, county sportsmen's alliances, and the WDNR — is planning its 2006 and 2007 projects.

A brush burning project is scheduled for this winter. The first major project this spring will be on the **South Fork of the Kinnickinnic River**, a brook trout creek with superb water quality. The creek has badly degraded habitat due to many years of poor land use practices. A major project on the **Trimbelle River** a short distance downstream of Highway 10 will follow that.

The chapter will continue offering support to the **Gilbert Creek** project in Dunn County.

Work on **Pine Creek**, a brook trout fishery with problems related to land use practices, is slated for 2007. This is a huge project that will involve several partners.

Kiap-TU-Wish will again, in cooperation with the **Ojibbeau Chapter**, have a presence at the **Midwest Fly Fishing Expo** in Bloomington, MN. The Expo is scheduled from March 31 through April 2 at the **Bloomington Sheraton South**.

The chapter will draw the winner of its drift boat raffle in May.

Kiap-TU-Wish had a great series of meetings this fall. **Paul Wotska**, a hydrologist with the **Minnesota Department of Agriculture**, presented a program at the October meeting detailing the long-term water quality study that is underway on the **Whitewater River** in Minnesota's driftless area for a number of years.

**Rick Remington** of the **West Wisconsin Land Trust** spoke about that organization's preservation mission at the November meeting.

Author **John Van Vliet** spoke to 97 guests at the chapter's annual Holiday Conservation Banquet on December 8. Van Vliet gave a slide show about the trans-Canada train trip he made in 2004. His experiences on that trip form the basis for his forthcoming book, *Along the Iron Road*. Excerpts from the book have appeared in the *New York Times* and *World Traveler* magazine.

The silent auction at the banquet was a solid success. Chapter president **Gary Horvath** presented long-time chapter activist **Jonathan Jacobs** with the chapter's Lifetime Achievement Award for his work as a chapter officer, board member, and newsletter editor.  
—Jonathan Jacobs

## Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter

The **Blue River Restoration Project 2006** is the third annual project aimed to restore the upper reaches of the Blue River. The work will be done on the center half of the stream between **Snowbottom** and **Bluff** roads.

The previous two years we restored 5,600 feet of stream above County I north of **Montfort, WI**. This year's work is about a mile from the previous work and involves 4,200 feet of stream. We will install 21 bank hides and remove trees from 2,200 feet of bank. We will also taper banks and armor them with rock, create weirs to narrow the flow and create holes, and use root wads to create structure. Several cattle crossings will be installed, and to finish it off, we will seed and mulch disturbed soil.

As a follow-up to our stream work, we have interns from **UW-Platteville** studying the stream and determining what the impacts have been. For further information on the monitoring information, see our web site at [www.nohrtu.org/blueriverresearch.htm](http://www.nohrtu.org/blueriverresearch.htm).

There will be changes taking place in the leadership of the Nohr Chapter. **Dave Fritz** accepted **Dave Peterson's** resignation as treasurer with regrets and gratitude for the time and effort he's shared with the chapter through the years. There will be a restructuring of the board in the March elections:

- Bill Wisler** — President
- Steve Carpenter** — VP
- Dave Fritz** — Treasurer

—Brian Larson

## Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter

Kiap-TU-Wish, through its asso-

ciation with the **Western Wisconsin**

## Lakeshore Chapter

September found the Lakeshore Chapter finishing our summer's

work on the **Onion River**.

*Continued on p. 12*

Gary Stoychoff photos



## Chapter News

Continued from p. 11

We had workdays on Sept. 15-18 and completed work on about 1/3 of a mile of river. The work entailed installing 31 lunger structures and creating v-wiers and point bars with the use of over 300 tons of rock and limestone.

With the work completed earlier this summer, there is now a continuous stretch of about two miles of river that has been improved over the past three summers. The fishing reports on this stretch of river are good, with improvement being noted each year.

September 24 found the chapter sponsoring **Fly Fish Wisconsin** at **Sheboygan Lutheran High School**. The day was coordinated by **Ray Larson** and included three seminars, 15 workshops, plus numerous tyers and vendors. The seminars were put on by **Paul Mauer** (float tube fishing), **Tim Landwehr** (Northeast Wisconsin Smallmouth on a Fly), and **Glen Winston** (Mr. Beadhead, on fishing spring creeks). Members putting on workshops included **Jack Gehr**, **Roger Berg**, **Jeff Yax**, **John Matenaar**, **Wayne Trupke**, **Jeff Preiss**, and **Tom Mockert**.

In October the chapter was informed that we would be receiving the **John Nolan Award of Excellence** for our work on the **Silver Springs/Mill Creek** (a tributary of the Onion River) restoration project. This project was a joint effort by the Lakeshore Chapter, **WDNR** and **In-**

**ter-Fluve**. The award was part of the **Leopold Restoration Awards** for 2005 and came with a \$1,000 donation to the Onion River Project.

Board of director member **Jerry Bauman** and **John Nelson** of the **WDNR** represented our chapter at the awards dinner in Madison.

Lakeshore members **Tom Steinberg** and **Ron McCormick** represented our chapter at the annual **Buck Fever Night** on November 9. They demonstrated fly tying using patterns that entail the use of deer hair. Tom and Ron have been participating at this event for several years and their skills are very well received by those in attendance.

December 5 & 6 found five chapter members joining other **Federation of Fly Fishers** members putting on an outdoor education workshop for 138 **Denmark High School** students. The two-day workshop had each student tying several flies as well as spending time learning how to cast a fly rod. The program was very well received by the students. Chapter members helping with the workshops were **Ray Larson**, **Barry Reynolds**, **Tom Mockert**, **Jeff Preiss**, and **Wayne Trupke**.

Our chapter meets every third Monday of the month at the **Club Bil-Mar** in Manitowoc. Everyone is welcome to attend our meetings to see what we are all about.

—*Wayne Trupke*

### Northwoods Chapter

Representatives from the **US Forest Service** and the **WDNR** gave presentations at the November 14 meeting on work completed over the past summer. **Sue Reinecke**, with help from **Mike Peczynski** from the **US Forest Service**, discussed the results of the stream survey to identify and characterize all of the in-stream habitat work that has been completed over the past 40 years on

the **Deerskin**. The study resulted in a detailed map that shows the locations of half logs, bank structures, etc. in the stream channel from which future restoration activities can be planned.

**John Kubisiak** from the **DNR** talked about the dredging that was completed at **Woodboro Springs**. The project was a success with thousands of yards of detritus being removed. **Dave Brum**, **DNR** fisheries technician, discussed this past summer's work on **Brule Creek** that completed habitat work down to the **County A** bridge. This project, known as the **Rock Dam Project**, resulted in 5,000 feet of habitat work over the past two years. Dave is now working on getting easements from nine landowners (seven have already signed) to work on 2,350 feet of creek downstream from **County A**. That work may begin in 2006.

We held our Christmas Party at the **Rhineland Café & Pub** on December 12. The party was well attended with many fish lies being told by participants.

The chapter holds its meetings the 2nd Monday of each month at the **Claridge Inn**, **Rhineland**, at 7:00 p.m. Mark your calendars for these upcoming events.

### Ojibseau Chapter

Ten Boy Scouts and seven adults met for seven hours on Saturday, August 27, at **Crazy D Tackle** north of Eau Claire to begin the process to earn their **Fly Fishing Merit Badge**. **Ojibseau** members helping included **Rick Bickler**, **Jim Klees** (Asst. Scout Master) **James Fulkerson**, **Greg Lynch** (Scout Master) **Tim Meyer**, **Dennis Vanden Bloomen** (Merit Badge counselor), and **Duke Welter**.

Subject matter was taken from the new 70-page **Boy Scout Fly-Fishing** book. The chapter provided the youngsters with a supplement, the **Scott Rod** booklet. Classroom subjects were basic equipment, knots and knot tying (five different knots), putting equipment all together, accessories, and the always-important **Wisconsin** fishing and trout regulations. Fly tying integrated that skill with choosing flies. **Duke Welter**, also a member of the **Wisconsin Natural Resources Board**, gave a presentation on fish conservations and ethics.

In a nearby field, scouts were introduced to the overhand and roll casts. A short walk to **Elk Creek** addressed the concepts of where to fish, casting in realistic conditions, line mending, and safety issues.

After dinner, scouts and instructors traveled a short distance by car to a secret spot on **Elk Creek**. Fish were surprisingly plentiful as several scouts caught native brook trout. **Tim Meyer** said "watching a kid catch his first trout was as much fun as catching a fish myself." Three

**January 9** — Back by popular demand, the infamous **Roger LaPenter** from **Anglers All** in Ashland will talk about fishing opportunities in **Chequamegon Bay**.

**February 13** — **Jim Pippel** will conduct a bamboo rod building session and enlighten all of us on the history of bamboo rods. Jim brings a wealth of experience to his craft. In his 35 years as a design engineer in the machine tool industry, he learned the importance of incorporating precision, physics, and workmanship into every step. A lifelong love of fishing and collecting angler memorabilia brought interest to the historical construction of bamboo fly rods. His enjoyment of working with wood and using hand tools adds pleasure to his work. A completed rod represents not only Jim's craftsmanship, but also a combination of his loves and talents.

**July 8** — Youth Fly Fishing Conclave at **Kemp Research Station**.

**April 8** — Fly tying session with **Bill Sherer**. Learn to tie a meat fly like a **Double Bunny**. Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Cost of \$40.00 with registration required. **April 11** — **32nd Conservation Banquet**.

—*Brian Hegge*



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## Spectacular Northern Wisconsin Opportunity



Beautiful home and 8 acres for sale on the West Fork of the **White River** just off the **Delta-Drummond Road** in **Bayfield County**. Includes one bedroom home with fireplace, landscaped patios, hot tub and covered porch overlooking spring pond with brookies. Has new garage with greenhouse, covered porch, dog kennels and bunkhouse. Also has 2000 square foot shop with in-floor heating.

Owner is looking for a conservation buyer for this property and will donate 4% of the selling price to the **Trout Unlimited** chapter that assists with the selling.

This is a wonderful opportunity for an individual or group to have a home or retreat on one of **Wisconsin's** best trout streams. Please contact **Todd & Nina Bucher**, 715-372-5315 or [bucher@cheqnet.net](mailto:bucher@cheqnet.net) for more pictures and information.

### Shaw-Paca Chapter

We are preparing for our annual fund-raising banquet at **Northwinds Banquet Hall** in **Marion** on **Thur., April 6**. Tickets are available from me at **Box 446, Marion 54950**.

Our annual fly tying class starts **Jan. 27** and runs five nights through **March 1** at the **Pella Town Hall**.

We have rejoined the **Northeastern Wisconsin Land Trust**. This group has been active in preserving land along our lakes and streams, including the **Little Wolf River**.

Our fly tying group continues to meet at **Prime Time** in **Marion** on the first Thursday of the month. If you are in the area, join us for some fly tying and fishing talk. We start at 7:00 p.m. Come early for dinner.

We are again offering our annual \$1,000 scholarship to a coldwater resources student at **UW-Stevens Point**. The criteria is that the student must have junior standing and have at least a 3.25 GPA.

—*Lee Kersten*

# Chapter News



## Southeastern WI Chapter

This past quarter has been an exceptionally busy one for the Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited. In late September, the chapter held a fall steelhead fishing outing on the **Milwaukee River** at **Esterbrook Park** in Milwaukee.

At our September general membership meeting, we heard a presentation from WDNR biologist **Will Wawrzyn** concerning potential stream restoration projects in Southeastern Wisconsin, a subject of special concern in our coldwater-starved region.

At the October meeting, we heard an presentation from WITU's National Leadership Council Representative **Dan Wisniewski** on the soon-to-be-implemented **Chapter Effectiveness Index (CEI)**.

November began a new era for the Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter, as the restaurant which had served as our previous longstanding meeting location ceased operations. As a result, the chapter has changed its regular meeting location to **The Thunder Bay Grille**, located just off the intersection of Highway 94 and Pewaukee Road, at N14 W24130 Tower Place, in Waukesha.

November's meeting featured **Pat Ehlers** of **The Fly Fishers**, who made an excellent and well-received presentation concerning warm water fishing destinations. SEWTU encourages its members, as well as any individuals who may be considering joining Trout Unlimited, to attend its monthly meetings at the Thunder Bay Grille.

The chapter's most recent meeting was our December **Holiday Party** (an informal dinner and non-mandatory under \$10.00 gift exchange) held on **December 13**. With the new meeting location, new menu, and new assortment of liquid refreshments available at the Thunder Bay Grille, this was a great event to stop in, have some good food, and hear a few hear stories about "the big one that got away."

SEWTU has continued its e-mail initiative spearheaded by Chapter President **Rich Vetrano**, and is now sending newsletters, notices, and inquiries directly to the computers of over 80 members. In furtherance of its technology-based initiative, the chapter has appointed **W.S. "Bill" Meyers** as its webmaster. In upcoming weeks, the chapter will be launching a web site in order to provide chapter news, board of director meeting minutes, notices of upcoming events, and activity sign-up information directly to members via the worldwide web.

SEWTU has also now fully launched its political action campaign, and has appointed **John Knitter** to its board of directors as its political liaison. John recently attended Attorney General **Peg Laut-**

**enschlager's** press conference announcing the State of Wisconsin's lawsuit against the **Metropolitan Milwaukee Sewerage District**, concerning effluent discharges into the Milwaukee River and Lake Michigan. There, John asserted and made clear SEWTU's commitment to coldwater preservation and restoration.

The chapter is also currently in full preparation mode for the upcoming **Milwaukee Sports Show**, at which we are yearly booth occupants. Spearheaded by Board of Director member and Sports Show Coordinator **John Gosz**, SEWTU is assembling raffle prizes and commencing volunteer sign-up lists. SEWTU asks that any members who may be in a position to discuss donating raffle prizes contact either John Gosz or Past President **Chuck Beeler**.

Led by Director of Education and board member **Nick Schmal**, the chapter has also made significant and important strides in its education and community outreach presence over the past quarter. As a result of Nick's leadership, SEWTU has been in contact with the **Milwaukee County Council of Boy Scouts of America**, and has discussed the chapter's involvement in setting up mentor programs and a **Fly Fishing Merit Badge** program. Under Nick's tutelage, the chapter has also been involved in a partners meeting with **America's Outdoors**, a group of federal agencies including the **Bureau of Land Management**, the **National Park Service**, the **U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**, the **Natural Resource Conservation Service**, and the **U.S. Forest Service**.

SEWTU is exploring joining in existing America's Outdoors urban youth activities, such as **National Public Lands Day**, and involvement in its **Neighborhood House** and **Urban Tree House** programs. In short, thanks to Nick, the chapter's education and community involvement movement has made exceptional strides over the past few months and will continue to grow in the future.

Finally, the chapter has received several generous donations this past quarter. The chapter thanks all of its contributors, whether individuals or sponsoring corporations such as **The Fly Fishers**, **Gander Mountain**, and **Lackey & Joys**. This quarter, the chapter would like to particularly thank **Core Creative**, an integrated marketing communication firm located in Milwaukee's historic Third Ward district, and **Stan Strelka** of **Professional Insurance Services**, for their charitable donations. Donations such as those received from these fine individuals and organizations makes the SEWTU's restoration and educational work possible.

—Henry Koltz

## Southern Wisconsin Chapter

Please mark our annual **Ice Breaker** on your calendar the weekend of Jan. 20-21. The Ice Breaker can be described as a one-day fishing seminar complete with famous speakers of national renown and local speakers with deep insight, but such a description would be incomplete.

Our speaker of national repute for 2006 will be ESPN personality and streamer fishing authority **Kelly**

**Galloup**. Our local attraction will be none other than Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited member and WDNR aquatic insect guru **Mike Miller**.

These guys are sure to be both informative and entertaining, but wait, there is more. The Ice Breaker can also be described as an opportunity to purchase raffle tickets in order to win fabulous prizes. A typical Ice Breaker features about 30 indi-

vidual bucket raffles. Prizes often include artwork, rods, reels, gear, flies, and more.

The 2006 Ice Breaker will again feature a split cane bamboo fly rod made and donated by **Paul Douglas** as well as a beautiful hardwood fly tying desk made and donated by **Greg Ericson**. Raffle tickets start at \$1 per ticket, but you will surely want to do more for the resource by taking advantage of the available volume discounts.

**Tom Ehlert** is moving to **Bozeman, Montana**. He served on the SWTU board of directors, and followed that up with two terms as chapter president. Not one to fade into oblivion, Tom then served as our Fly Tying Course Coordinator and instructor of the renowned intermediate class at Madison West.

Perhaps Tom's greatest legacy to our chapter will be his leadership of the *Corps of Recovery*. As Chair of the projects committee (i.e., the *Corps of Recovery*) Tom was indefatigable. Many of his efforts were behind the scenes commiserating with DNR personnel or recruiting and

coordinating workday volunteers on the phone. His gustatorial inducements became legendary, and were surely a factor in his many recruiting and retention successes. Less dedicated individuals would have been content to have laid out hastily prepared gruel, but Tom was absolutely passionate about the work that the Corp performed, and this passion was reflected in the quality of the rewards he provided.

The box elder posse had another successful workday November 12 on the **Frye's Feeder to Mt. Vernon Creek**. Much debris was removed from the stream, making it free flowing and fishable again, and streamside brush and trees were knocked back, at least for a while. Contributing members were **Karsten Geib** (mighty turtle hunter), **Dan Geib**, **Chuck Valliere**, **John Pundt**, **Ryan Pundt**, **Jerry Conwell**, **Fritz Seybold**, **John Schweiger**, **Ray Venn**, **Jim Gentry**, **Mike Grimes**, and **John Strauss**. Cookies were donated by **Doug Wadsworth** and **Rose Schweiger**.

—Mark Maffitt

## Wisconsin River Valley Chapter

We recently got some great publicity in the *Wausau Daily Herald* for an ongoing trout stream ecology project we've sponsored with the WDNR for area high school students over the past eight years (see *separate story in this issue*). We've reached about 120 students over the

years, and it is a great way to get our message out to young people.


These kids are tomorrow's leaders, and from them we hope to encourage them to carry on our work. This project has been a rewarding experience for everyone involved.


—Herb Hintze

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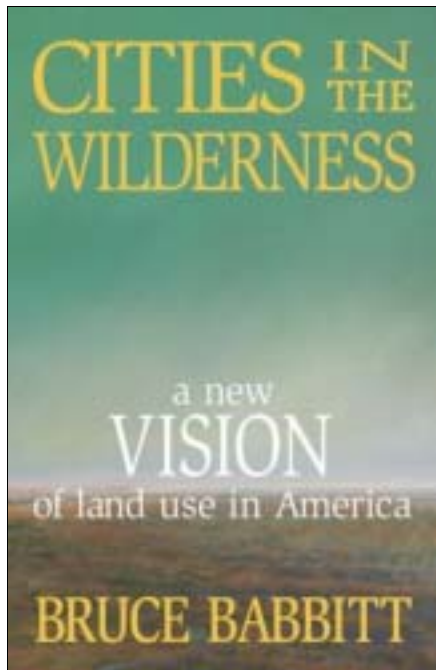


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Wisconsin Trout book excerpt

# Babbitt calls for stronger state-federal partnership to improve land use planning

Former Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt's new book, *Cities in the Wilderness* argues for more of something that might seem out of style these days — stronger federal leadership in land use planning. Babbitt does this by describing several high-profile success stories he has been involved with over



By Bruce Babbitt

The authors of the Clean Water Act recognized that our waters could not be restored without action to control the widespread runoff that constitutes “nonpoint source” pollution. But they could not agree on what to do about it. Direct federal regulation of millions of landowners through a permit system analogous to that imposed upon municipal and industrial point sources seemed out of the question. And for whatever reason, the authors of the Clean Water Act seemed disinclined to grapple with providing a system of meaningful incentives to induce state action. So, in the end, the legislation simply passed the problem on to the states, with vague language suggesting they should adopt nonpoint source pollution control plans.

What the federal government was unwilling to do, the states proved even less willing to attempt. In the more than 30 years since the Clean Water Act was enacted, no state yet has produced a meaningful plan to clean up and restore its waters by managing land uses. A handful of states, prodded by litigation, have taken preliminary steps to assess their watersheds, to propose standards intended to prevent further degradation, and to assign tentative quotas for the reduction of pollution, all through an elaborate standard-setting process known as TMDL (the allowable Total Maximum Daily Load of pollution). Still, after 30 years no state has managed to implement an effective program to halt stream degradation resulting from land use or to begin the process of cleaning up the waters by managing the way land is used. Today more than half the nation's waters still do not meet the “fishable, swimmable” goal set forth in the Clean Water Act.

For all this history of procrastination and foot dragging, the Clean Water Act may yet play an important role in comprehensive land use planning. The act has both the narrow focus and broad reach appropriate to a federal land use statute. It treats only matters of essential na-

tional concern, relating to the protection and restoration of our rivers, lakes, and wetlands, by prescribing measures to manage land use that degrades those waters. It does not speak to “land use planning” in the more traditional sense of the phrase, that is, to the fine-grained local decisions such as where to locate an airport, to run power lines, or to place aggregate pits, or to matters involving the relative locations of industrial zones, commercial establishments, and subdivisions — issues properly left to state and local decision. What the nonpoint source provision of the Clean Water Act does address is what is, or should be, an important federal concern, to which much of this book is addressed: the protection and restoration on a large scale of our natural landscapes and ecosystems.

The principal reason for the failure of the Clean Water Act at this landscape scale lies in the failure to implement a workable federal-state regulatory partnership. Generally

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While it is illegal to pollute a river, the Clean Water Act does not directly prevent you from destroying the river by diverting all the water. This is rather like a legal system that prohibits spraying graffiti on a building, yet says nothing about burning the structure to the ground.

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speaking, Congress cannot order a state legislature to pass a law or adopt a plan. But Congress can devise an appropriate mix of incentives and sanctions designed to induce public support and state action, something yet to be attained in the administration of the Clean Water Act's land use provisions.

To imagine how such incentives might work requires separate consideration of the two major land use practices affected by the Clean Water Act: first, management of agricultural lands, and second, urban sprawl onto “greenfield” sites (agricultural land or open space as distinct from “brownfield” sites, which have already been in industrial use).

Farming is the most widespread and least regulated land use affecting our aquatic ecosystems. More than 60 percent of the lands within the watershed of the Mississippi-Missouri river system, which gathers waters from 32 states, is planted to crops, including corn, soybeans, wheat, and alfalfa. The land is rich and productive, and farmers, encouraged by federal agriculture policies, have continually expanded at the expense of natural grassland and forest cover. Federal policy has encouraged and subsidized this process; one agriculture secretary in the Nixon administration is remembered for repeatedly urging farmers to plant “fencerow to fencerow.” The result of these maximum production, nature-annihilating practices, as we saw in the preceding chapter, is most evident in the flat expanses of Iowa and southern Illi-

nois where rectangular fields march from horizon to horizon, uninterrupted by any natural cover other than scraps of prairie grass in old cemeteries and the clumps of trees that shade the farmhouses. The streams, stripped of tree canopies and planted to water's edge, run thick and muddy. The land has been transformed into an industrial landscape, from which natural features, wetlands, forest patches, and wildlife have been largely obliterated.

Proper application of the Clean Water Act could bring these regions back to balance with only minimal adjustments in land use. Muddy creeks and sloughs can be restored by simply bringing back the natural canopy to river bottoms and bordering fields with vegetated strips to trap sediment and soak up dissolved fertilizer nutrients.

Creating a more diverse landscape by restoring natural patterns of streams and rivers would draw wildlife back to land, provide clear and clean water, restore down-

however, by making greenfield development more costly, induce both builders and buyers to consider new housing within existing urban boundaries, where infrastructure and water-treatment facilities are already in place.

As with agriculture the question is how to devise the proper mix of regulatory measures and economic incentives to induce states to adopt regulations that will translate into cooperation from builders and buyers. Some federal programs already in existence actually suggest how this might be accomplished. In 1968 Congress established a national program of flood insurance designed to compensate homeowners for losses from infrequent but highly destructive floods that were not adequately covered by conventional homeowner insurance and underwriting practices. This insurance, however, was and is available only to homeowners in communities that have enacted flood plain regulations that meet federal standards.

The law has since won widespread acceptance and has demonstrably reduced development in river bottoms, a nice illustration of how a federal incentive can produce far-reaching change in state and local land use plans. The concept behind this insurance program could readily be extended to provide incentives for states to manage sprawl development, for example by denying federal flood insurance to greenfield developments that do not meet enhanced standards for the control of wastewater and stormwater runoff. ...

The oasis pattern of development is not without troublesome side effects, most of them plainly visible in the West. Urban residents, disconnected from the reality of the desert, use water as if it were an inexhaustible resource. Developments are landscaped to resemble Brazilian rain forests and partly as a result, per capita water use in urban areas of the arid West is considerably higher than elsewhere in the country. Everywhere in this country we are consuming too much water, and in the process drying up and destroying many of our streams, springs, lakes, and other aquatic ecosystems. This ecological damage incurred by the overappropriation of streams, rivers, and groundwater resources has gone largely unnoticed and unregulated. ...

The destruction of aquatic resources is seen by some as, however lamentable, the inevitable price that must be paid for progress and development. Yet nothing could be further from the truth. Simple statistics easily refute notions of an insoluble water crisis, even in the arid regions of the West. Of the water used in the West, nearly 80 percent goes for agriculture, half of which could be saved with the use of modern irrigation technology (for example, by using drip irrigation instead of flooding entire fields).

*Continued next page*

Of the urban uses, nearly 40 percent flows onto outdoor lawns and landscaping. Water has been treated as such a cheap, inexhaustible commodity that many cities and farms do not even meter or otherwise measure the amounts consumed. The destruction of rivers and aquatic ecosystems, so frequently and fatalistically accepted as the inevitable price of progress, turns out to be entirely unnecessary.

In its present form, the Clean Water Act does not speak directly to water quantity, what is used or what is left; it regulates only water quality and those who pollute it. While it is illegal to pollute a river, the Clean Water Act does not directly prevent you from destroying the river by diverting all the water. This is rather like a legal system that prohibits spraying graffiti on a building, yet says nothing about burning the structure to the ground.

Although the regulatory provisions of the Clean Water Act do not address depletion, the preamble to the act does recognize the issue, for it establishes as a goal the restoration of the physical, chemical, and biological integrity of the water resource. I believe it is time to expand the regulatory reach of the Clean Water Act to accomplish that goal by adding a provision to prohibit the depletion of streams and lakes below the level sufficient to sustain them as living resources. Such revision would require establishing a hydrologic "bright line" for sustaining streamflows, marking a share for the aquatic ecosystem below which rivers cannot be depleted.

What might that "bright line"

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I believe it is time to expand the regulatory reach of the Clean Water Act to...prohibit the depletion of streams and lakes below the level sufficient to sustain them as living resources. Such revision would require establishing a hydrologic "bright line" for sustaining streamflows, marking a share for the aquatic ecosystem below which rivers cannot be depleted.

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level be? And who would make the determination? And how would it be enforced? Minimum stream-flow is not a new idea. On the Sacramento River in California, biologists have determined the minimum seasonal flows necessary to sustain the salmon runs. And on the Missouri, scientists have constructed a hydrographic model that shows the range of seasonal flows necessary to sustain spawning by the endangered pallid sturgeon and nesting by the piping plover.

Who should make the determination is best answered by reference to the federal-state structure of the Clean Water Act, under which the Environmental Protection Agency sets overall standards and methodologies, giving the states the option to administer the program. States also need incentives to adopt and enforce river protection plans, and those incentives should ideally be a mix of some carrots — federal grants to aid in implementation — and a stick — withholding federal water development funds from states that do not comply. If the federal government is going to continue, as it surely will, in its historic role of promoting water development through flood-control projects, water and sewer infrastructure grants, and myriad other programs that encourage and promote development and water consumption, those programs should at least require minimal protection of what is left of our lakes, rivers, and landscape ecosystems. ....

It is not sufficient just to save the remaining fragments of our natural river systems, however. Just as we have awakened to the possibilities for restoring the land, we should now take steps to bring our dead and dying rivers back to life. A good place to begin is at the dams, where development and land use decisions are set in motion by allocation and use of the water stored behind these structures.

Most of the dams built in the twentieth century were planned and constructed by two federal agencies, the Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation. And, as with the interstate highway system and other federal infrastructure initiatives, little or no planning attention was paid to the land use consequences of dam building.

There are by most estimates more than 75,000 dams blocking our rivers, which amounts to one dam erected each day since Thomas Jefferson took office as president. Nearly every river in the contiguous 48 states has been dammed. The Yellowstone River, which runs from within the national park to its confluence with the Missouri, is the longest of the few rivers that remain unimpeded. Some of these 75,000 structures are essential to our modern economy, but a large number are now obsolete, and many should never have been built in the first place.

I was not instinctively drawn to the idea of dam removal; I grew up thinking of dams as there forever, as eternal as the pyramids of Egypt. In the Southwest, Hoover Dam was an American icon, an unforgettable

sight, its glistening white ramparts transforming the muddy river in the depths of Black Canyon into light and power and progress.

Like many others I was introduced to the notion of dam removal by a book, *The Monkey Wrench Gang*, Edward Abbey's novel in which a picaresque band of saboteurs scheme to take down the Glen Canyon Dam, located on the Colorado River just upstream from the Grand Canyon. And I happened to be at that dam, accompanying Secretary of the Interior James Watt, on the day in 1981 when Earth First! pranksters unfurled a huge poster crack down the face of the dam. It was great theater, prompted by an entertaining novel, but removing Glen Canyon Dam seemed far-fetched given its central role in capturing and storing the highly variable annual flows of a river that supplies water to Phoenix, Las Vegas, and Los Angeles.

I awakened to the real-world possibilities of dam removal in the Pacific Northwest, a region that I came to know well only after becoming secretary of the interior. In 1993 I visited Olympic National Park, a place of towering forests and snow-capped peaks drained by white-water streams, one of which, the Elwha River, flows into the Strait of Juan de Fuca at the town of Port Angeles.

Salmon, including Chinook, Coho, sockeye, pink, and chum, as well as steelhead, once spawned in the Elwha and its tributary streams.

## About Bruce Babbitt

Currently practicing law in Washington, D.C., Bruce Babbitt served as U.S. Secretary of the Interior from 1993 to 2001, as Governor of Arizona from 1978 to 1987, and as Attorney General of Arizona from 1975 to 1978.

Babbitt is the son of a northern Arizona ranching family and was exposed to Arizona's cultural and natural heritage from an early age. His father helped found the Arizona Wildlife Federation and the Arizona Game Protective Association.

With degrees in geology, geophysics, and law, Babbitt was elected to statewide office on his first foray into elective politics in Arizona at the age of 36. In 1978, he became governor, was twice re-elected to that office, and served nine years in all. In 1988, Babbitt was a candidate for the United States presidency, and from 1988-1993 he practiced law and served as head of the League of Conservation Voters.

As Secretary of the Interior from 1992-2001, Babbitt was perhaps the best-qualified person ever to hold that position. He combined experience and enthusiasm with a deep commitment to environmental protection and restoration. He tackled some of the most complex and controversial issues in public land management, resulting in long-overdue reforms to mining, grazing, and endangered species law, and the protection of millions of acres of federal land from development through the designation of several national monuments.

He used his skills as an effective public advocate and teacher to counter the inevitable criticism from political opponents, and he was instrumental in defeating the environmental rollback propositions of the Republican's 1994 Contract with America. Among the highlights of his tenure are:

- Bringing peace to California's water wars with the historic Bay Delta accord,
- Shaping the old growth forest plan in the Pacific Northwest,
- Drafting interagency plans to restore the ecosystem of South Florida, the Everglades and Florida Bay, creating the largest environmental restoration project in history,
- Helping to enact the massive California Desert Protection Act, the largest land protection bill ever enacted in the lower 48 states,
- Forging new legislation for protection of The National Wildlife Refuges,
- Returning entrance fees and concessions back into the National Parks that generated them,
- Helping to preserve the incomparable old growth Headwaters Forest, and
- Negotiating the largest state-federal land swap in the history of the lower 48 states in order to create the two-million-acre Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument and other parks in Utah.

Babbitt's other restoration actions include being the first Interior Secretary to restore fire to its natural role in the wild and to tear down dams, restoring rivers flowing into the Atlantic and the Pacific. He was personally involved in demonstrating catch and release programs for endangered trout and salmon to highlight how restoring native fish habitat restores economies.

At the end of his term, he provided recommendations to President Clinton which led to the creation of 21 new monuments protected under the Antiquities Act, resulting in several million acres of spectacular resources on federal land coming under new conservation management.

These runs disappeared in 1910 with the construction of two dams a few miles upstream from the mouth of the river, built to generate hydro-power for Port Angeles.

The ecological price paid for the two dams included more than fish, for spawning salmon had once sustained eagles, bears, and other natural fishers in addition to feeding the spiritual and physical needs of the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe living near the river's mouth. From every perspective this seemed an ideal place to initiate a new era of dam removal, and indeed Congress had authorized a study of the impacts of potential dam removal there even before we came into office.

In the summer of 1994 while visiting Yellowstone I dropped in on the annual meeting of Trout Unlimited, an organization of fly-fishers. It



seemed like a perfect place to launch a public discussion of the relation between dam building and the decline of salmon throughout the Pacific Northwest. After a brief review of the Elwha River issues, I turned to the subject of the Columbia River, where the stakes were considerably higher than a few kilowatts of electricity for a small town on the boundary of a national park.

The Columbia is the Mississippi of the West, beginning in the Canadian Rockies, turning south through eastern Washington, and then flowing along the Washington-Oregon border to the Pacific.

As Lewis and Clark made their way downriver, they came upon a natural phenomenon as awesome as the herds of buffalo they had passed

*Continued on p. 16*

## BABBITT: book calls for more federal leadership in land planning

*Continued from p. 15*

through on the Great Plains, this one consisting of fish — more than 16 million salmon swarming as much as a thousand miles upriver each spring and summer, all the way into the remote streams of the Rocky Mountains.

Ever since that time visitors have come to marvel at the poetry and mystery of the salmon runs, wondering just how it is that a fish, after growing to maturity in the depths of the Pacific, can unerringly find its way upstream for hundreds of miles to spawn in the very tributary where it began life several years earlier. Scientists inform us that the salmon navigates primarily by a sense of smell — what scientists call “olfactory imprinting” — so discriminating that it can discern the equivalent of a single drop of vermouth in a million barrels of gin. The homing process remains mysterious, but it leads again out onto the land. Rainfall is pure distilled water. Falling on the land it begins to dissolve minerals, plant matter, and whatever else may be present, imparting to each tributary a distinctive chemical signature with the power to guide the fish home — and the power to destroy that cycle of life if there is too much sediment or pesticides or PCBs or other contaminants in the flow. The spawning salmon imprints not on the water, but on the land that is dissolved in the water at its birthplace.

Then the Columbia was put to work producing hydropower. The four dams built on the lower river along the Washington-Oregon border — Bonneville, The Dalles, John Day, and McNary — all incorporated newly designed fish ladders, and the salmon seemed to manage well enough on their downstream voyage to the Pacific and then on the return trip up over the dams and through the reservoirs to spawn in the mountains of Idaho. In 1942 the biggest dam of all, Grand Coulee, was completed at a site in central Washington below the Canadian border; too large for fish ladders, it completely

eliminated the salmon runs from thousands of miles of Canadian tributaries.

That left one pathway into the Intermountain West still open: up the Columbia over the four dams and then into the Snake River and on to the Salmon River of central Idaho. And what happened next illustrates two recurring themes in our long history of misusing natural resources. The first is overkill. Dam building that began as reasonable and necessary went on and on beyond all logic, gathering unstoppable political momentum, overstating benefits and underestimating costs, and ignoring environmental impacts. And second, just as occurred in Chesapeake Bay, an ecosystem

the Columbia did not seem to matter. The rest of the story was well known to my audience of fly-fishers that day in Yellowstone: the sockeye salmon runs that once turned the lakes of central Idaho red and green in spawning frenzy are now extinct. The Snake River runs of Chinook salmon are all on the endangered species list. And the Corps, rather than acknowledging the cause, has resorted to taking salmon out of the river to barge them through the dams — wheat and salmon riding on barges, each taken for a ride along with the taxpayers picking up the bill.

Given this reality of modern executive-branch government, one of the few ways to initiate change is to

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Dam building that began as reasonable and necessary went on and on beyond all logic, gathering unstoppable political momentum, overstating benefits and underestimating costs, and ignoring environmental impacts.

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initially resilient and resistant to stress, eventually reached a cumulative stress threshold and suddenly began to collapse.

The precipitating factor, pushing the river ecosystem to collapse, was a decision by the Army Corps of Engineers to remake the lower Snake River into a shipping channel, for the purpose of extending barge traffic all the way through eastern Washington to the Idaho border. Transforming Lewiston, Idaho, into a seaport was a maniacal idea, an example of the relentless overextension that has characterized many Corps projects. To get barges 400 miles upriver required transforming the lower Snake into a chain of slackwater lakes impounded behind four more dams, the ostensible purpose of which was to facilitate the shipping of grain and wood pulp to the Port of Vancouver on the lower Columbia. That two transcontinental railroads with sufficient capacity to haul grain already ran parallel to

surface ideas directly in public, watch as they are picked up or discarded by the press and the public, and then be prepared to take the consequences when things go wrong. At a White House reception in 1994, the president took me aside and asked, plainly puzzled, “What’s all this talk about tearing down dams?” I explained, somewhat feebly, that I had meant to target the Elwha River dams, not large dams on the Columbia-Snake river system, but I conceded that in my lack of specificity I had left plenty of room for our opponents to characterize my remarks as an opening volley against the four large dams on the Snake River. He cautioned me to speak more carefully in the future, a fairly mild rebuke considering that he had probably never heard of the idea until angry members of Congress began besieging him with calls. When I concluded there by saying I intended to be the first secretary to tear down a large dam, the audience stood up and cheered. Elsewhere the reaction was less enthusiastic. It was an election year, and nervous western Democrats bombarded the White House with angry complaints. I had again crossed the line, and I had not cleared my remarks with anyone in the White House. Yet, as a practical matter, there was no way to do that. Cabinet members (excepting only the “big four” at State, Treasury, Defense, and Justice) conduct their offices at the outer periphery of the presidency, where new ideas usually get lost or scuttled in the White House bureaucracy. Most cabinet secretaries are expected to spend their time “amplifying” the current administration line, not proposing new ideas or programs. A cabinet officer, for all the prestige associated with the title, is more like the local Ford dealer, expected to sell the product as delivered to his showroom floor and not to appear in Detroit offering unsolicited suggestions to improve the product.

The deeper problem was that I had once again, as with proposals in mining and grazing reform, failed to anticipate the worsening political climate. This time around, the periodic western “sagebrush rebellion” was merging into the even stronger flames of antigovernment sentiment being fanned in the Gingrich revolution. Within a year the leaders of a new Congress would seek to weaken the Clean Water Act, to repeal the Endangered Species Act, and even

to establish a commission to consider closing down national parks. We had come to office with high expectations for reform, and I would instead have to be content to leave town, relentlessly traveling the country simply to defend existing programs and laws.

Yet I also realized the problem was not just hostile members of Congress. The idea of tearing down dams was a novel and unfamiliar concept to the public at large. Dams are impressive structures. They generate clean energy. Why tear down a perfectly good dam that impounded a beautiful blue lake? The ecological damage was, in contrast, more subtle and difficult to explain. Dam removal was a new concept that needed more time to incubate; we would have to back off and seek a better time and place to make a more convincing case. With the Republican takeover of Congress after the 1994 elections, though, it was not clear whether that time would ever come.

In the second Clinton administration the political climate thawed a bit, just enough to revisit the subject of dam removal. This time, sensitized by my unhappy experience in the Northwest, we broadened the search, seeking a smaller dam on a less controversial river in friendlier surroundings. The search for a fresh start soon led us away from the Pacific Northwest and, unexpectedly, back to the Atlantic coast, where we went back in time to rediscover some remnants of early American history — hundreds of obsolete dams.

In colonial times dams built to power waterwheels were the only source of mechanical power to run the grist- and sawmills. Wherever settlers went, the nearby stream would soon have a waterwheel and a dam that both diverted water and blocked the passage of fish. Then as the Industrial Revolution began, factory owners began to build larger dams on bigger rivers to power the textile mills springing up from Maine to the Carolinas. In the twentieth century, as electric power displaced waterwheels, the small mills that once dotted the landscape were abandoned, and the hundreds of dams that powered them were often left behind and forgotten.

We began looking for restoration opportunities and soon found an ideal target in North Carolina on the Neuse River. As dams go, the Quaker Neck was not much to look at. All of six feet high, more weir than dam, it had been constructed near the mouth of the river in 1952 to create a pool large enough to supply a short canal that diverted water for cooling at a coal-fired power plant just back from the river. If the dam was unimposing, the ecological consequences were not. The Neuse River, running more than 150 miles from the foothills of the Appalachians across North Carolina to Pamlico Sound, had once teemed with spawning stripers, shad, and herring. Records suggest that before the dam was built, North Carolina produced more stripers and shad than any other state; and the Neuse generated more than any other river in the state. After the dam went up, fisheries virtually disappeared. To the American shad, striped bass, alewife, herring, and sturgeon trying to spawn upstream, those six feet might as well have been 600, blocking off more than 900 miles of upstream spawning waters in the Neuse and its tributaries.

*Continued on p. 17*



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## WITU Looking Back

From the Winter, 1986, *Reflections* newsletter...

# Alert! Legislature Seeks To Undermine DNR

If you are concerned about the proper management and protection of Wisconsin's natural resources, then you'd better read on. The Wisconsin Legislature may be destroying the effectiveness of our DNR.

Senate Bill 32 by Sen. Lloyd Kincaid (D.-Crandon) would alter the current nonpartisan method of running the DNR and change the agency into a political pawn. Currently, DNR is governed by a citizens' board (Natural Resources Board) NRB. The Board hires the DNR secretary and establishes resource management policy within the limits of statutory authority. It frees the system to a great extent of political influence and partisanship. SB 32 would change all that. It would allow the governor to directly hire and fire the DNR secretary, thus making the post open to change and cronyism with every change in the governor's chair. The NRB, whose members serve staggered six-year terms and usually include appointees from two or three different governors, would become merely advisory with little or no power.

What's the big deal, you say? Well, friends, it's this. Under our present system of operating DNR, which was established in 1927 and since copied by 33 other states, we have access, accountability, openness, lessened political influence and consistency. We have staff that manage resources for their betterment rather than for the whim of politicians. We have groups like the Conservation Congress, Trout Unlimited, Wisconsin Wildlife Federation and others being a part of the decision-making team resource management. Under Cabinet government, you've got the cronies, good ol' boys and Big-Buck PACs (Political Action Committees) calling the shots. The little guy is left in the lurch. DNR becomes less of a resource management agency and more of a public relations arm of the governor. If you don't believe me, take a look at the states of Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana, Texas, Maine and California (and don't forget Louisiana!), where the politicians call all the shots.

From the Winter, 1996, *Wisconsin Trout*...

## "Catch-and-release" video near completion

By Chris Halla

Efforts by the "Catch-and-Release" Committee of the Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited are about to pay off with the completion of their CPR (Consider Proper Release) video. Production of the video began in September, with post-production work planned for completion by the time this issue of *Wisconsin Trout* is in the mail.

The purpose of the production of the video is to provide T.U. chapters, sports clubs and individuals with a visual presentation on the proper methods of releasing fish once they are hooked and landed. With an increasing interest in "catch-and-release" fishing of all

sorts and the necessity of releasing trout caught on many Wisconsin waters due to size limit restrictions adopted as part of the inland trout angling rules overhaul, Trout Unlimited members decided to produce this video as a means of educating anglers in proper release methods.

Wisconsin T.U. also felt an urgent need to produce this educational video after learning from now-retired Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Coldwater Research Team Leader **Bob Hunt** that somewhere between **400,000 and 600,000 trout** are killed in Wisconsin every year by anglers because of lack of knowledge of proper release techniques on trout.

*Continued from p. 16*

Sportsmen groups in North Carolina had begun to see the attractive possibilities of dam removal. A plan was formulated with the help of state officials and the Fish and Wildlife Service. Hydrologists and engineers were employed to figure out an alternative water diversion method, thereby rendering the dam obsolete and open to removal.

On a spring day in 1997, I went down to the dam site to join utility executives, environmentalists, fishers, and local residents for the ceremony. I took a couple of swings with a sledgehammer against the concrete, then stepped back to watch as a crane swung a wrecking ball to demolish the structure.

And, just a year later, the shad returned right on cue, as if they had been waiting right below the dam all this time. They spawned 75 miles upstream, all the way to the state capitol, where residents were soon catching stripers and shad within the city limits.

With this example under way, communities up and down the Atlantic coast began looking at possibilities for removal of dams and the restoration of fisheries on their rivers.

Fortified by this success we turned to a large dam, the Edwards Dam in Maine. Located in Augusta, near the mouth of the Kennebec River, the dam was a stone and timber structure built in 1837 to power

a textile mill. Nathaniel Hawthorne witnessed the dam's construction and took the occasion to lament the destruction of the river fishery.

The Edwards came up for its 50-year licensing hearing in 1987. An indecisive proceeding before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission dragged on for years, and our first attempt in 1993 to settle the conflict through mediation failed. After a cooling-off period the Department of the Interior joined with a new mediator and eventually a complex agreement — calling for the purchase and dismantling of the dam and for mitigation of environmental degradation attendant to expansion of the nearby Bath shipworks — broke the impasse and cleared the way for settlement, license revocation, and removal, the first such outcome in the 80-year history of the commission.

We gathered on a sunny morning in Augusta, arriving early so we could cast off into the river to fish for stripers, and were soon headed into the turbulent waters below the dam. In the water beneath us the striped bass circled, haplessly searching for a way through the dam. An osprey spiraled overhead, then plunged into the waters to seize a fish. On a ledge above the dam we could see the brick skeleton of the long-abandoned textile mill.

We moved up to the ledge to watch as crews at the dam opened a cut and the waters surged through.

Within days the 15-mile lake behind the dam disappeared. Within a year there were hordes of fish swarming up the river. This dam breaching made the national press, the sure sign that we had come full circle from those discouraging days after my Yellowstone speech. And now I could return to Olympic National Park; after a five-year struggle in congressional appropriation committees, we had finally obtained funds to begin dismantling the two dams on the Elwha River. Dam removal and river restoration were now on the American agenda, with removal projects springing up in local communities throughout the nation.

The events leading to removal of Edwards Dam and the two dams on the Elwha River were triggered by the Federal Water Power Act of 1920, which requires utility companies and other nonfederal owners to obtain a license from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission — good for no more than 50 years, subject to renewal — to operate hydro power dams. This licensing requirement provides an important opportunity to review dam operation in light of changing conditions, and advancing technology, and to consider new license conditions to mitigate or reduce impacts upon fish and wildlife.

There is, however, no such licensing requirement for dams operated by the Army Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Reclama-

tion, or other federal agencies. These dams should be subjected to the same periodic assessment and licensing procedures required for nonfederal dams.

Dam removal, better land management to prevent the decline of our fisheries due to water pollution, better water allocation policies to shape and control the sprawling growth of our cities, laws to ensure against excessive diversions that destroy our rivers and lakes — the subjects discussed in this chapter have two common themes, one physical and the other political. The waters that surround us cannot be simply divided up, used and thrown away like commodities from a store shelf. Everyone lives downstream from someone else, and how we use water in one place has repercussions throughout that watershed, for wildlife, for the land, and for our own well-being.

From this physical reality comes a political imperative. Water cannot be the exclusive concern of any one jurisdiction, local, state, or federal. Our waters must be used and managed in a holistic blend of development and ecological protection, engaging government at every level — beginning with national leadership.

(From *Cities in the Wilderness* by Bruce Babbitt. Copyright ©2005 by the author. Reproduced by permission of Island Press, Washington, D.C. -Ed.)

## Wisconsin Trout book excerpt

# A million nodding trilliums

By Jay Thurston

It's trout that gets you there where nature is displayed at its best for your enjoyment. But you have to take time to stop and look or it's all the same.



The earth turned and the sun stretched through the leaves and slid down to the river. It was time to quit trout fishing and put our back to the Sioux. Bill Swenson and I had talked about lures, trout we caught, tall trees, deep pools, and lunch. Now we were on the trail as the rapids whispered to a murmur. Then we stopped and bent down to look at a single nodding trillium. "Look, Bill!" I exclaimed. "This one is different: the ends of the petals are a purplish rose instead of pure white." I knew before I stopped that Bill, the retired biology professor from UW-Superior, would be interested in that special flower. We moved on up the slope in reflection. I thought about trilliums and how reverent they appear, always nodding in respect. Because the experience of sharing nature through trout fishing with Bill Swenson had been enjoyable, I couldn't help but think of others I had fished with who would have stopped to look at the magenta-colored trillium. And I thought of the poem I had written, "A Million Nodding Trilliums."

*The floor of the woods again  
white*

*Covered by a million nodding  
trilliums;  
From a distance they are all  
identical.*

*But each has its purpose, time,  
and passing;  
And so it is with many human  
beings:*

*Like the trilliums, they wait  
discovery.*

Like the trilliums, from a distance we all look identical. Look at people on the other side of a football stadium: they all look identical. You have to get close to the person, and the flower, to see the difference.

When you see that each flower and each person is unique, you know it is the difference that makes them special. But some people don't stop to notice. Bill and I had

stopped, and we knew why. There is a lot more to fishing trout than catching trout. We had caught enough trout in our lifetime to know lasting pleasure comes from the pursuit of trout, rather than the catching. It's the trout that gets you there, where nature is displayed in its best for your enjoyment. But you have to take time to stop and look, or it's all the same — like every white trillium and the people in the stadium.

When I saw that special trillium, Bob Miller came to mind. Like the trillium, Bob was different. He had developed a special reverence for trout fishing. And I would like to think I had a small part in fostering that appreciation. Like the trillium, Bob Miller's time on earth was short. And I'll probably never understand why. For some things, there is no answer.

Bob called four summers ago and it hit me like a thunderbolt. At only age thirty-six they had found cancer in a number of places in his body. But he was being treated, he was fishing trout, and he sounded hopeful. I can suppose Bob thought as I would have: "When the trout season opens I'll start fishing, and I'll feel better." So he put off seeing a doctor and then it was too late.

We wanted to get together to fish a last time. I called, but had to talk to him in the hospital. The next time I spoke to him, he was better; he told me he had fished Lowes Creek, the trout stream flowing by his house, with his dad and a brother. Diana and I left for Eau Claire. If Bob and I couldn't fish, at least we could talk trout.

Bob Miller, his wife Krista, two pre-school daughters, and Kramer, their golden retriever, met us at the door. Bob's hair was gone from the treatment; he looked slim, but he had that broad grin I had often seen on the stream, and the same firm handshake. We sat down in the living room and Bob told me he had waded upstream a last time.

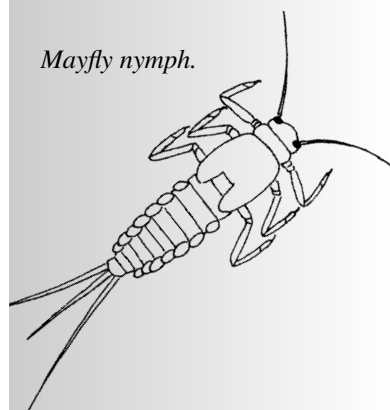
His dad and brother had to help him out of the stream. "Jay," he asked, "how can I fish trout if I'm not strong enough to wade the stream?" I was still his trout mentor. It wasn't easy for me; I wanted to cry, but I forced a smile and told Bob how to use a minnow and fish a big hole from the bank.

Two weeks later, as colored leaves floated on trout streams, we were again in Eau Claire, this time at a funeral home. Bob's ashes were in his trout creel and they would be spread in his favorite trout stream, the Bad Axe River. His wife handed me his trout journal.

Diana and I read about some of the times we had fished together.

Before I left, his wife gave me a hug, smiled, and said, "Jay, there will be times when you think you're all alone on the trout stream, but you won't be — Bob will be there." Although nothing fills the void left by a great trout fishing partner, and the tears roll as I write this, Krista was right: Bob has been there.

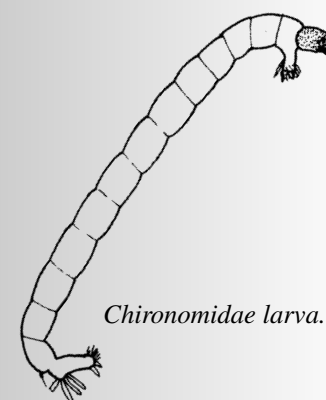
*(Many of you will remember Jay Thurston from some of his trout tips we printed in Wisconsin Trout several years ago. Now 60 of his stories have been collected in Following in the Footsteps of Ernest Hemingway published by Savage Press. Jay's friend mentioned in this story, Bob Miller, was an active TU member and past president of the Coulee Region Chapter to which Jay also belonged. -Ed.)*



Mayfly nymph.

### Ephemeroptera (Mayflies):

Presently, 115 species found within 52 genera and 19 families have been identified from Wisconsin. Larvae of all Ephemeroptera are aquatic. Most inhabit streams but several species inhabit a variety of permanent or temporary lentic habitats. Mayfly larvae are easily distinguished from other aquatic insects by having lateral or ventrolateral gills on most of the basal abdominal segments. Mayfly larvae mostly crawl about on aquatic substrates, and some burrow in soft sediment. Almost all larvae are herbivores or detritivores; only a few are known to prey on other invertebrates. Ephemeroptera ("ephemeral on the wing") do not feed as adults, and some species may live for as little as a few hours, but other species may live for as long as a few weeks.



Chironomidae larva.

### Diptera (Aquatic Flies and Midges):

While primarily a terrestrial order Diptera is the dominant order of aquatic insects in Wisconsin, with 660 species estimated to occur in the state distributed among 19 families and at least 185 genera. Larvae and pupae of many species are aquatic, and account for more than one-third of all aquatic insect larvae found in Wisconsin. More than one-third of aquatic Diptera are in the family Chironomidae. Larvae inhabit all types of aquatic environments, and often dominate the invertebrate fauna in lentic environments. Diptera larvae are easily recognized by their lack of segmented thoracic legs. Taxonomic identification to the species level is not possible for the larvae of most families.

### KNOW YOUR INSECTS

The above insect nymph descriptions are from the WDNR's *Macroinvertebrate Data Interpretation Guidance Manual* (PUB-SS-965 2003). The manual is online and can be downloaded as an Acrobat file at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/es/science/publications/>.

## Martini to fill new WDNR river coordinator position

Bob Martini has been appointed to the new WDNR position of statewide river management coordinator, a position charged with uniting diverse Wisconsin programs focusing on river issues and building partnerships between individuals, organizations, and river users.

Martini has been involved with all aspects of river management issues since he started with the DNR in 1976.

As river team leader, Martini will focus on:

- building partnerships with river user groups, river organizations like Trout Unlimited, and academic institutions like the UW and UW-Extension; and
- coordinating the DNR's involvement in federal re-licensing agreements for hydroelectric

dams operating on state rivers.

Martini says that building a partnership around river issues will be challenging because there are so many different groups with conflicting interests. Anglers and paddlers use the rivers for recreation, industry and municipalities to discharge their wastewater, some utilities to generate hydroelectric power, and some farmers to irrigate their fields.

The partnership effort will be largely modeled after the nationally renowned Wisconsin Lakes Partnership in which the DNR and UW-Extension provide educational, financial, and technical support to lake communities, while citizens provide local leadership and initiative.

Martini will be based in Rhineland. He can be reached at (715) 365-8969.

## BlueSky Furred Tapered Leaders

Hand-woven, offering legendary casting performance not possible with ordinary mono or braided leaders. Proven durability. Leader life is measured in seasons, not hours or days. Six sizes for 0 to 10 line weights. Saltwater too! From \$11.95. Thousands sold worldwide.



See the new 8 ft. 4 in. StillWater leader and the BlueSky-Ti with Titanium bite tip for pike, muskie and toothy saltwater fish.

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# Pass Caddis has black-and-white trout appeal

By Larry Meicher

The Pass Caddis is a pattern I use whenever there is a black caddis hatch.

I first started tying this one when I saw some black foam cylinders and thought they would make for an easy way to tie an extended body.

This pattern has been especially effective on Black Earth creek and the Blue River system, but give it a try wherever you find black caddis.

Begin by cutting a 1/2" piece foam cylinder and attaching it to the back of the hook. (These pictures make it look like I've used fur for the thorax, but that is just the foam fraying my fishair thread.)

Next tie in the white Zelon wing. Finally, tie in a brown hackle and wind it forward to the head. And that's it for this high-floating caddis.



**MATERIALS LIST**  
 Pass Caddis  
**Hook:** 94831 size 16 (2x fine, 2x long).  
**Thread:** black.  
**Body:** 1/16" foam cylinder, black.  
**Wing:** white Zelon.  
**Hackle:** brown.

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# Cabin Fever Day Fishing Show

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

March 25, 2006  
 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Sponsored by Fox Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited

## Featured Speakers



**Dave Whitlock**  
 International Speaker & Author  
 Trout, Salmon & Bass Fisher



**Tim Landwehr**  
 Tight Lines Fly Fishing Company  
 Fly Fishing Expert

Nymph Fishing 10:00 for Trout

Northeastern WI Smallmouth 11:30

Fly Fishing with Grasshoppers 1:30

### Also Featuring

- We-no-nah King Fisher canoe raffle
- Silent auctions
- Bucket raffles
- Door prizes
- Wisconsin guides
- Local fly fishing shops
- Fly tying, lure making, & rod building booths
- Fishing equipment reps
- DNR booths
- Information booths on inland streams, rivers, lakes and the Great Lakes

### Cabin Fever Night — Dinner with Dave Whitlock

\$35 ADVANCE TICKETS REQUIRED — Sat., 6:30-9:00 p.m.  
 Dave talks on "Fly Fishing New Zealand."  
 Plus a special silent auction!

TICKETS	Cabin Fever Day	Tickets at Door \$10 (kids free)
	Cabin Fever Night	Required Advance Tickets \$35 Call Jim at 920-915-8884 or Tony at 920-830-2322



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



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

Dedicated to the memory of Gaylord Nelson

Sat., Feb. 4, 2006

Mead Hotel  
 Wisconsin Rapids, Oshkosh



**NEW LOCATION** - Mead Hotel in Wisconsin Rapids  
**LOWER PRICE** - Just \$24/person

# Council seeking new 'Friends' program chair

By Todd Hanson

The Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited is seeking a volunteer member to direct the council's popular Friends of Wisconsin TU program.

This position involves:

- planning an annual fund raising campaign,
- identifying and ordering premiums for the annual campaign,
- keeping records of funds collected,
- depositing funds with the State Council treasurer, and

- working with the State Council's regional vice chairs to distribute funds to qualified applicants.

Longtime Friends Chair John Cantwell of Green Bay wishes to step down from this position, which he has directed for many years.

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 State Council.

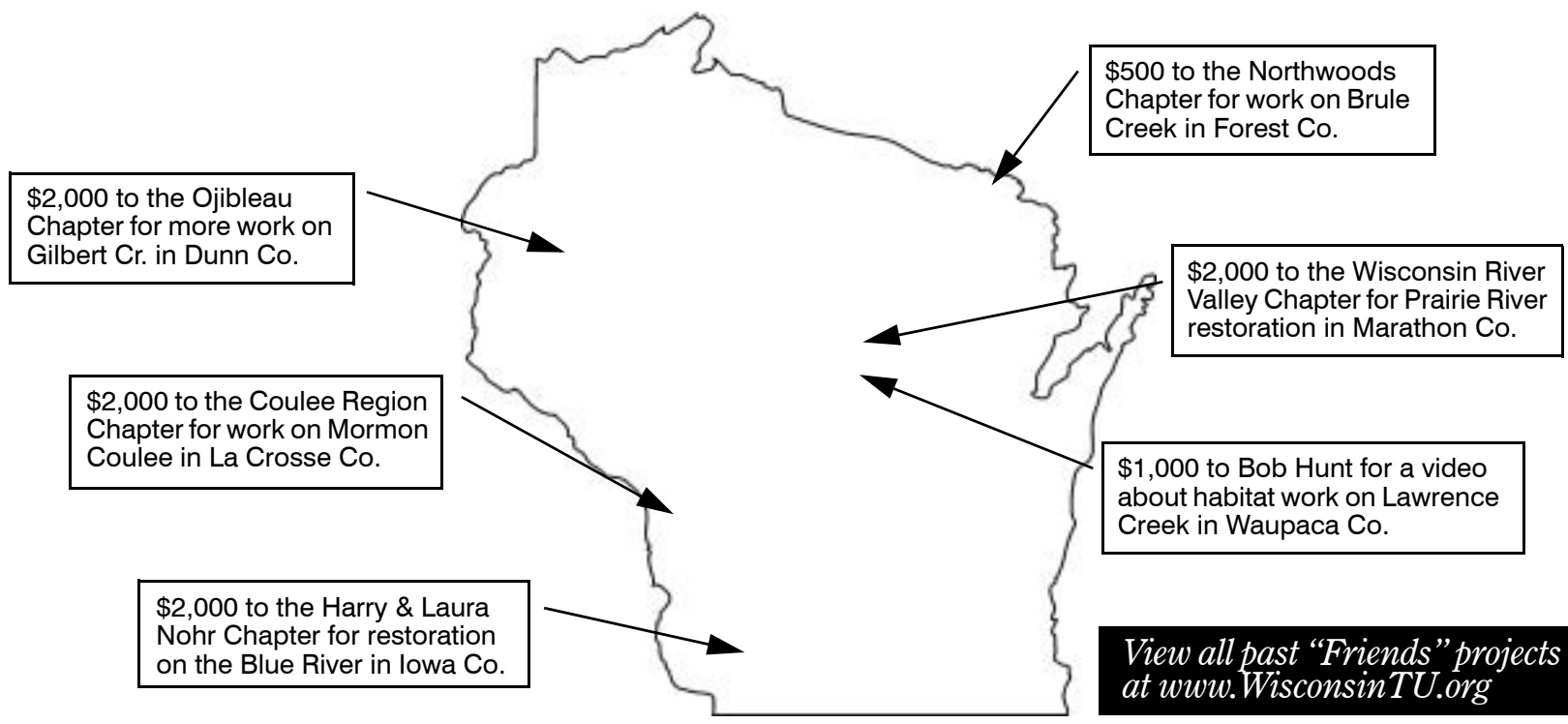
In the last 16 years, the Friends program has generated over \$135,000 for projects throughout the state. Funds can only be used for projects in-

volving stream habitat improvement, research, land acquisition, and conservation education.

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

John has offered to help the new volunteer for the first year. If you are interested in being considered for this important State Council position, contact WITU Chair Bill Pielsticker at (608) 592-4718 or [billpiel@merr.com](mailto:billpiel@merr.com).

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



### Friends of Wis. TU

*Thanks so much for your support in 2005!*

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- Douglas M Aziz
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Do you appreciate the 'Friends' program enough to guide it?

This Wisconsin State Council of TU is looking for a member to direct The Friends of Wisconsin TU program.

See the story above for details.