



Wisconsin Trout

July 2006

Hastings new project manager Governors give TUDARE joint resolution support

By Laura Hewitt

It has been an exciting spring for the TU Driftless Area Restoration Effort (TUDARE).

All four driftless-area state governors and the Secretary of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) signed a resolution (*text on p. 14*) committing to work together to restore the lands and waters of the Midwest's driftless area at an April 19 TU conference in La Crosse.

The governors of Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Illinois all signed the joint resolution. The resolution commits state and federal agencies to work together in collaborative restoration projects for the driftless area and to utilize Farm Bill conservation programs to help finance the work.

The unveiling ceremony for the resolution was followed by a tour of driftless stream restoration sites in Minnesota and Iowa.

At the ceremony, TU Board of Trustees member Duke Welter said, "Restoring these landscapes will decrease erosion and improve soil productivity for farmers. It will improve water quality, decreasing water filtration costs for downstream communities. Restoration will spur jobs and economic opportunity for the whole region. And yes, the fishing will be fantastic."

USDA Under Secretary for Natural Resources and the Environment Mark Rey was also present said, "The Natural Resources Conservation Service cut its teeth by

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JEFF HASTINGS IS TUDARE'S NEW PROJECT MANAGER

Former County Conservationist for the Vernon County Land and Water Conservation Department Jeff Hastings of Westby has been hired by TU National to head TU's four-state Driftless Area Restoration Effort.

TU chapters teach skills at Outdoor Youth Expo

By Bob Haase

Volunteers from five Wisconsin TU chapters taught fly tying and casting at the first Wisconsin Outdoor Alliance (WOA) Education Foundation Youth Expo at the Dodge County Fairgrounds near Beaver Dam May 19-20.

On Friday, May 19, schools from as far away as Medford bussed in 4th-6th grade students to attend the event. Some 4,400 students attended. Saturday's event was open for parents and their children.



Bill Pielsticker and Larry Meicher helped coordinate the fly tying and fly casting programs sponsored by Wisconsin Trout Unlimited. Five members taught fly casting, and 12 members demonstrated fly tying. Volunteers came from the Central Wisconsin, Fox Valley, Lakeshore, Southern Wisconsin, and Wisconsin River Valley chapters.

Both the fly casting and fly tying were popular events, and some of the students brought their parents back on Saturday to have them watch as they tied another fly or practiced their fly casting. The TU volunteers assisted the students in tying a woolly bugger, which they got to take home with them.

Based on the number of hooks used, there were over 800 flies tied during the two-day event. Tying materials were provided by the WITU State Council and Dutch's Trading Post in Fond du Lac. Whiting Hackle and Mustad provided special pricing on hackle and hooks.

This was the first time the WOA program was offered in Wisconsin, and based on attendance and feedback from teachers and students, it will probably be offered again next year. A planning committee for the event is already working on this.

Our TU volunteers felt we definitely need more people to help with the fly casting and fly tying. We could also provide a program for the students involving identifying the different aquatic insects that we find in our streams, plus information on stream monitoring and habitat restoration work. This is a tremendous opportunity to get our youth interested and involved in fly tying, fly castings, and stream environmental activities.

Manure rules, runoff program funding getting TU attention

By Jeff Smith

WITU Legislative Chair

I have been working with a group of conservationists and environmental organizations in developing legislation on manure spreading practices and finding additional funding sources for the state's polluted runoff (nonpoint pollution) program. See most past issues of *Wisconsin Trout* for background on the nonpoint program.

Nonpoint funding sources

Currently the nonpoint program is funded with bonding authority and General Purpose Revenues (GPR) from income tax and sales tax dollars. The bonding levels are less than what was anticipated when the program was adopted four years ago.

The GPR money available for farmers to implement practices to

control polluted runoff is incredibly low and can't come near to support the 70% cost share required by the rules.

Both sources of funding are unstable.

Program funding from general revenue is determined every two years by the Legislature and is vulnerable to being used in other programs or to balance the budget.

Bonding is also vulnerable to being cut by the Legislature since debt service (which is funded by GPR) contributes to the state's current structural deficit (where GPR revenues are sufficient to balance the budget in this budget period but not the next).

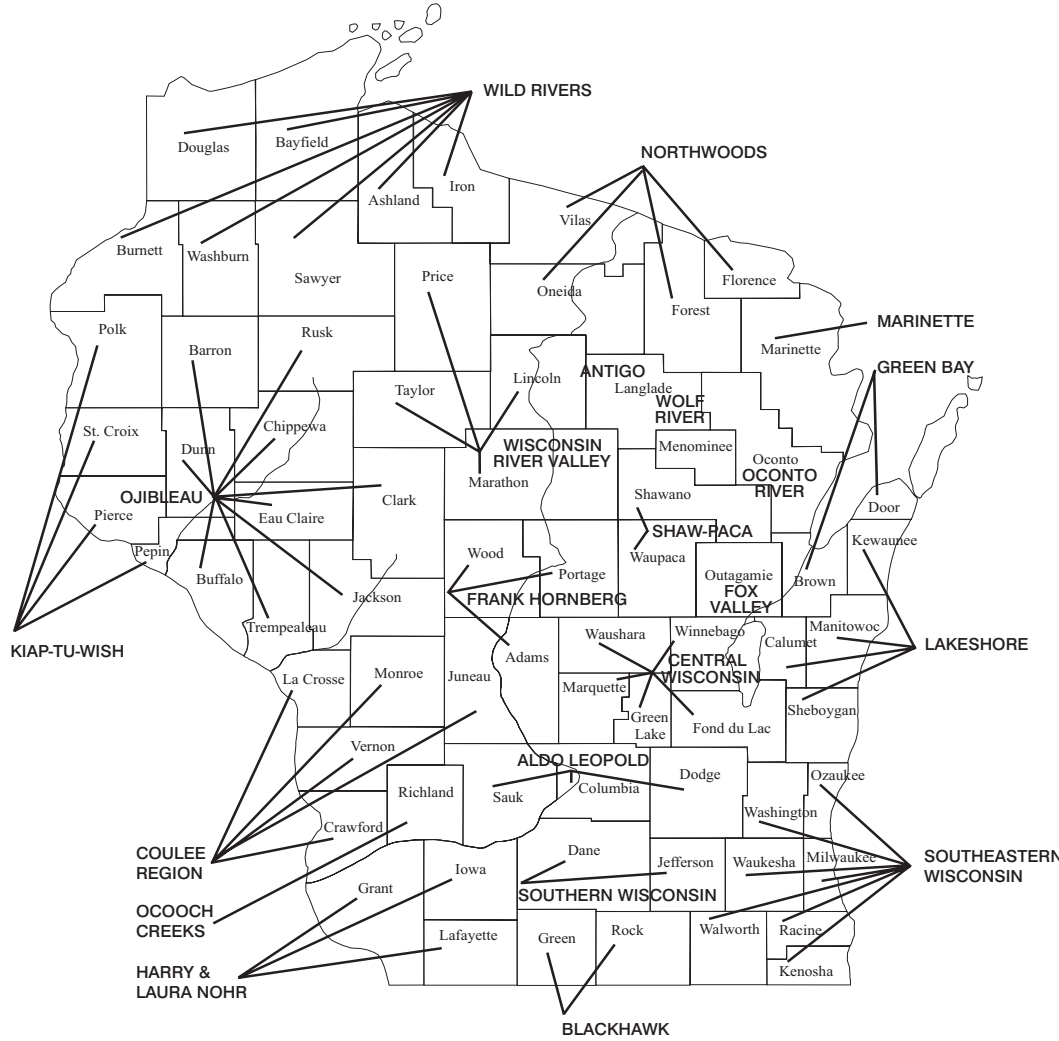
Given this funding instability, alternative funding sources are being considered by Wisconsin TU and other organizations.

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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:
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 1500 Wilson Blvd. trout@tu.org
 Arlington, VA 22209
2. **Include your ID number and new chapter affiliation.** Your ID number is found on mailing labels attached to *TROUT* magazine. If you are moving to a different city and wish to be affiliated with the TU chapter in your area, note the new chapter number (see the text next to the map above).

WISCONSIN TROUT

Vol. 18, No. 3 — July 2006

Wisconsin Trout is the official publication of the Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited and is distributed to the members of Wisconsin's 22 TU chapters. Nonmember subscriptions are \$12.50/year. Publication and distribution dates are the first weeks of January, April, July, and October. Deadlines for articles and advertisements are the 10th of December, March, June, and September. Advertising rate sheets are available, or you may download it at www.lambcom.net/witu. Contributions and letters to the editor are welcomed. Submit articles and returnable photos (color or b&w) to the editorial office:

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Thoughts on the public, politics, and policy

By Bill Pielsticker

WITU State Council Chair

In a recent letter to the DNR, a prominent state senator echoed his constituent's complaint that Wisconsin Trout Unlimited is a "special interest group" that seeks to dictate DNR fisheries policy. That set me to thinking.

I'm not sure what the problem is with being a special interest group. Most any organized group can be called that. More properly, TU is a *public* interest group in contrast to a private interest group like, say, a builders' or realtors' organization. As a *public* interest group, TU lobbies for policies that protect and improve trout habitat on public waters. More than that, we actually do something about it.

In 2004, our 22 chapters raised and spent \$400,000 on habitat and stream improvement projects. Our volunteers contributed over 10,000 hours on those same projects, the equivalent of five full-time DNR stream restoration positions. In almost all cases, we refuse to improve a stream reach if it isn't open to the public. That's the *Public* — not just TU members. And with over 160,000 trout stamps sold each year, it's safe to say that a great many

non-members take advantage of that.

Contrast that with the lobbying of a business interest group. Their goal is to make more money. Sure, they tout job creation and economic growth, but at the base of it is making a profit, and more of one rather

"...TU is a public interest group in contrast to a private interest group like, say, a builders' or realtors' organization."

than less. That's fine and good, just so long as their private interest doesn't compromise a public interest, like the citizen-owned waters of the state.

As to the claim that we try to dictate DNR fisheries policy, TU has built a reputation for advocating policies based on science. The specific policy in question here was designating a relatively small proportion of state trout streams as catch-and-release waters.

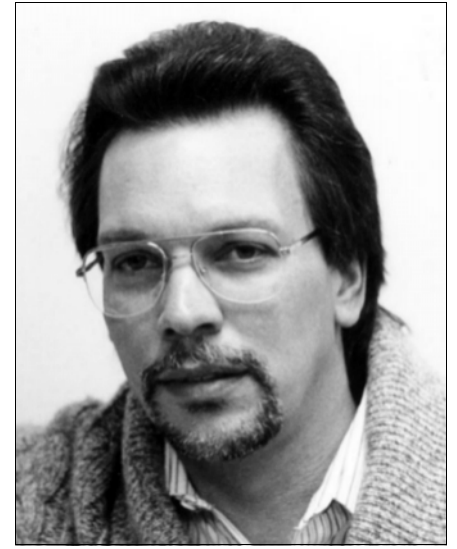
The senator's constituent claimed to have evidence that catch-and-release promotes too many fish in a stream, leading to stunting and a poorer fishing experience than was had 30 years ago. I've reviewed the "evidence," and it doesn't support that conclusion. In fact, the complainer's own data shows there are more fish, and more big fish, per stream mile now than earlier in the

streams sampled. In general, we advocate catch-and-release regulations on stream reaches which are subject to heavy angling pressure or where the trout resource is especially sensitive to over-harvest (i.e., where restoring a brook trout fishery). The DNR fisheries managers, also operating on the basis of science, often act without any need for our encouragement, as you might expect.

Another politician recently created a splash by proposing to split the DNR into two agencies. One agency would be devoted to forestry, fish, wildlife, and state park matters and would have its secretary appointed by the Natural Resources Board. The other, a Department of Environmental Quality, would focus on air and water regulation, pollution control, etc. The politician claims this would improve management in both areas and remove political pressure from wildlife policymaking. Finally, the secretary of the regulatory agency would be appointed by the governor...the very position this politician is running for.

When the leaders of the Conservation Congress were briefed on this plan, several objected that, as business leaders, they would look to consolidate agencies to improve efficiencies, not break them up. This reflects the criticism we had when a similar proposal was floated several years ago. We pointed out that regulators who do not have a good understanding of fish and wildlife issues won't be able to properly protect those resources as needed. Evidence from neighboring states supports this judgment.

Perhaps more importantly, the regulatory agency would have a political appointee as secretary. This would leave that agency just as subject to potential political pressure as the existing DNR. As to that, the most recent example of politicians seeking to control DNR policy came



Bill Pielsticker

from the Legislature itself when several politicians tried to force the agency to ignore its own science-based management plans because they conflict with the interest of a special interest group. While I wish it were otherwise, it appears easy for some politicians to ignore science when it conflicts with their own interests.

Lastly, as another reminder that the campaign season is underway, the politically motivated audit of the DNR found that the agency spends almost 98% of its license and stamp money on work that benefits hunters and anglers. Predictably, several politicians and long-time critics of the DNR were "shocked" that "only" 98% was spent to benefit license holders. What of the rest? It goes to endangered species work which, if not carried out, would jeopardize millions in dollars of federal fish and wildlife funds.

What of the shortfall in the fish and wildlife account, compared to several years ago? Most of it is caused by the added spending to control CWD in the state — spending legislators should be aware of since the DNR has often warned that those funds have to come from somewhere. The net result of the audit? Absent political spin, the DNR comes out clean. That's a fact.

When it comes to politics and policy, check your facts. Especially in an election year.

MANURE: TU helping define programs and find funding

Continued from p. 1

Alternative sources of nonpoint pollution funding being considered include:

- an increase in the vehicle title fee (a past funding source for environmental programs),
- a surcharge on environmental fines,
- phasing out the Farmland Preservation Tax Credit Program and directing that revenue increase to nonpoint,
- creating a fee to accompany residential and commercial construction plans submitted to the Dept. of Commerce,
- a 50 cent per acre tax on farmland (Brown County does this), and
- other "new" sources of money to be dedicated to the nonpoint program.

Manure spreading problems

At times during the winter, livestock producers must spread liquid manure because they don't have the storage capacity to hold their accumulated manure until they can incorporate it into the soil when the ground is unfrozen. Between July 1, 2004, and June 30, 2005, there were 52 documented manure spills in the state, and several more since then. About 85% of these occurred either when the ground was frozen or snow covered or both. Most of these spills resulted in fish kills to various extents.

There are two separate, but parallel, efforts currently going on to mitigate these problems. First is a technological approach led by the Dept. of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP), that is looking into establishing profit centers for manure — i.e., manure digesters producing new energy sources for farms that would mitigate winter manure storage capacity problems. I am on that committee, but it has yet to meet.

Second is establishing legislation that would regulate winter manure spreading. I am representing TU on that committee, too, and it is actively working.

Regarding the winter spreading issue, the route we are taking is to provide a statutory requirement to have all livestock producers have a winter spreading plan. The plan would consist of some limitations for spreading such as slope, topography, and an emergency response plan in case of a manure runoff event.

We have not yet engaged the farm community in this effort as of press time, but that is the next step. There are various gradations of the extent of regulatory involvement by DNR, DATCP, and counties being considered, but we want the farming community to be involved in choosing the level of regulation.

We are seeking to establish an option that both livestock producers and environmentalists can live with on this regulatory continuum. Without the farm community buy-in, we do not predict success. However, if decent safeguards cannot be put in place, TU will not buy in.

WITU State Council Chair Bill Pielsticker briefed Governor Doyle on these issues on June 7. Pielsticker was one of four environmental leaders representing over a dozen groups who spoke with the Governor about current environmental/conservation issues. Bill covered these topics as part of a review of water policy issues.

In short, we are trying to be creative in finding new funding sources and meaningful compromises to protect the coldwater resource. With some luck, the next issue of *Wisconsin Trout* will discuss our success. But this will be a tough one. It will certainly call for me asking chapters and members to contact their state legislators. More on that later.

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State Council holds spring meeting in Waupaca

By Jeff Ware

WITU State Council Secretary

The Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited met at TW Martin's Public House in Waupaca April 29.

In attendance were representatives from the Blackhawk, Central Wisconsin, Coulee Region, Fox Valley, Green Bay, Frank Hornberg, Harry and Laura Nohr, Oconto River, Ojibseau, Shaw-Paca, Southeastern Wisconsin, Southern Wisconsin, Wisconsin River, and Aldo Leopold.

Drought and dewatering issues

Several drought and dewatering issues were first on Bill Pielsticker's chair's report.

A Vernon County gravel pit operator has volunteered to grout the well in question down to the recommended level to facilitate operation without impacting a trout stream fed by the shallow aquifer, hopefully eliminating the dewatering that has occurred. Chair will wait until this is proven to be the solution before writing a letter to the operator.

There is no specific update on the Little Plover River. It was noted that a "Friends of the Little Plover" group has been formed. Work at the UW-Stevens Point has indicated there may be factors contributing to the dewatering of this stream other than the City of Plover. More information is needed and the Chair pointed out that it is a lesson learned that we need a thorough examination of all possible causes be-

fore seeking a solution to these types of problems.

The Chair summarized a current situation involving a permit request from the Waupaca Country Club and other complicating factors that present both an opportunity and a challenge for action in this matter. This may indeed represent an opportunity to establish precedent for the calculation of the Public Rights Stage (PRS) flow levels by the DNR and the establishment of a 'run of the river' electric power generation regime. This involves a complex set of issues, but it is a case study in challenges facing many of our State's rivers. Both Midwest Environment Advocates (MEA) and the River Alliance of Wisconsin (RAW) have been active in this matter. It was noted that MEA has filed an open records request with the DNR.

A motion was made that the Executive Committee take the Waupaca River Country Club situation under review and consult with Attorney Bob Selk and others relative to joining any effort to litigate. The motion passed unanimously. The Chair will forward the River Alliance summary of the situation to all chapter presidents and make sure all are kept up to date on Executive Committee action with this matter.

The final dewatering issue concerned the Polar Springs bottling operation. It looks as though the Polar Springs bottler is going forward with a low-capacity well permit with the company being in full operation by late summer. There is currently no provision for monitoring impacts on stream flows and temperature. It

was noted that WAV data would be useful as we go forward, and we will ensure that water monitoring training is provided to the Antigo Chapter. The council will look to the chapter to request this assistance.

It was noted that the owner of the original permit is looking to divide his property into two-acre parcels, raising the threat of additional wells. The council expressed the concern that multiple low-capacity wells could have the potential for a very negative cumulative impact. It was suggested the Legislative Committee look into this issue. [It now appears the division is complete, and we will raise the issue with the DNR and the GWAC as an apparent effort to circumvent Wisconsin's recently enacted groundwater law.]

As a general comment, it was noted that when a chapter has an issue it wants to move forward or seek council support for, that it is imperative that the chapter be represented at the council meeting when the topic is brought forward.

Chapter Effectiveness Index

Chapter Effectiveness Index (CEI) has not been completed by eight chapters. It was noted that it is a requirement that the State Council re-charter all chapters within the next two to four years, and that the submission of a CEI is a requirement for re-chartering.

A question was raised concerning the use of e-mail for distributing TU newsletters. This is recommended by TU National, but several State Council Chairs have expressed concerns based on individual experience. This is something to be thinking about as we all struggle with the cost of hard copy newsletters. TU National has established a team to review the effectiveness issue.

It was noted that the Washington State Council is still under suspension. Anticipate reactivation by September. It is expected that the reactivated organization will better reflect TU's conservation agenda.

Note that TU's national meeting will take place Sept. 14-16 in Minneapolis.

TU's "Leaders Only Section" online training will be available on May 24. The Chair will send out information to chapter presidents. Information on the training is currently on TU's web site.

The State Council has contributed \$100 to the "Get the Lead Out" effort by Loon Watch to promote the use of alternatives to lead. Information cards will be available at upcoming meeting, and there will be more information in the next issue of *Wisconsin Trout*.

Groundwater Advisory Committee

The Groundwater Advisory Committee is drafting language for the regulations to implement the law. There was unanimous support to require that Groundwater Management Areas (GMA) "manage all aquifers concurrently to minimize ecological impact, to limit impacts to base flow of streams, and to sustain groundwater quality and quantity for future generations."

There was no agreement on whether to adopt enforceable limits versus best management practices when executing groundwater management plans. Discussion continues on this. There is also discussion of providing for early notice to potential GMAs so they may address developing problems short of being designated a GMA and regulated by the state.

Michigan mine

Michigan TU is challenging a mining permit application in the Upper Peninsula. The Sierra Club has joined challenge and has sought classification of coaster brook trout as an endangered species. This could be problematic as this classification may be applied beyond the Salmon-Trout River and unnecessarily complicate our Wisconsin efforts on behalf of the coaster brook trout. Bill Heart will follow up with Laura Hewitt and others.

It was noted that Governor Doyle's Water Symposium will be held May 23 in Sheboygan.

Outdoor Education Expo

The Outdoor Education Expo will be held May 19-20 at the Dodge County Fairgrounds from 8:00 to 3:30 and will involve approximately 5,000 students. The Chair and Larry Meicher are coordinating volunteer efforts and ask chapter presidents to get names of participants to them within the next two weeks.

There is nothing to report at this juncture on Executive Director fundraising. The names of potential volunteers for this fundraising committee should be given to Chair Pielsticker.

Manure management legislation

Legislative Chair Jeff Smith provided a handout on a manure management legislative proposal. We currently have a discussion with the River Alliance and others over a preferred approach. RAW want to get lots of people involved first and get input on direction. We have suggested we put a proposal on the table to get the process moving.

All are in agreement, however, that winter manure spreading is the issue because it is politically feasible to get some positive movement/results with this approach.

The Chair noted that the issues herein are related to liquid manure as opposed to that spread by low-volume, solid-form spreaders. The Chair also added that information he has seen from the Discovery Farm initiative indicates that rainfall is not a determinate, but that the major contributor to a problem runoff event is soil saturation. Also noted was the fact that the drainage tiles used extensively in some areas of the state are another real culprit.

The question was raised as to what 'other states with cows' are doing with this problem. The Chair noted that Wisconsin are in the forefront of addressing this issue.

Nonpoint pollution funding

Funding of the nonpoint program remains a major stumbling block. Larry Meicher noted that inclusion of DOT funds tended to create a perception problem even though these funds may indeed come from DOT funds designated for 'environmental purposes.'

The Council concluded that the outlined plan represented an acceptable approach, but did note that the 'perception problem' highlighted by Meicher could be a problem at some point. Jeff Smith pointed out that he was looking for all to be even more creative in finding a way to fund the program.

On another front, Smith also added that we are currently working with the TABOR advocates to exclude the Wisconsin Conservation Fund from any potential inclusion.

Treasurer's report

Year-end rebates have historically been used to fund State Council operations.

Continued on next page

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Wild Rivers sponsoring Aug. riverfront property conference

The Wild Rivers Chapter of Trout Unlimited is one of several sponsors of a conference for riverfront property owners to be held Aug. 18-19 at the Lac Courte Oreilles Community College campus near Hayward.

The two-day conference begins on Friday with informative presentations on river ecology, coldwater resources, shoreland management, shoreland regulations, and stewardship of river shoreland resources.

Saturday's events feature optional field trips with natural resource professionals.

"We're calling the conference *Hear the Currents: Connecting with our Rivers* because our goal is to connect property owners to river resources on all levels — aesthetic, biological, ecological, and historic," says Kris Tiles, UW-Extension Upper Chippewa basin educator.

The Wild Rivers Chapter is involved with conference sessions

dealing with coldwater resources and trout management.

Other program topics include sturgeon biology, starting your own river group, shoreland zoning, river ecology, shoreland buffers, native plants, aquatic invasives, and conservation options for property owners.

Registration fees for the conference are \$30/person for Friday and an additional \$10/person for those participating in a field trip on Sat., Aug. 19. Registration is required by August 1. For more information, contact Kris Tiles at (715) 762-0036 or visit <http://go.communityseason.com/?goto=uwex>.

The conference's other co-sponsors include the US Forest Service, Hayward Fly Fishing Company, WDNR, Upper Chippewa Basin Partnership, River Alliance of Wisconsin, LCO Ojibwa Community College, LCO Conservation Department, and UW-Extension.



GEORGE BORONOW UPDATES TU ON WDNR FISHERIES RE-ORGANIZATION
WDNR Northeast Region Supervisor George Boronow addressed attendees of the April 29 State Council meeting. He said the recent re-organization of the DNR fisheries division was a positive change.

MEETING: State Council holds April gathering in Waupaca

Continued from p. 4

The rebate regime has not changed, and two rebates are forwarded — \$1 per new member and then a second rebate of \$2.50 per member. It was noted that the National web site indicates that the \$1 rebate is to be returned to the chapters. Because of this addition of a new rebate, Larry Meicher noted that we need to discuss State Council policy. Jon Christianson made a motion that the State Council keep the \$1 per new member and develop incentive programs to reward chapters for the retention of current members and the growth in new members. This motion passed unanimously. In this regard, it was suggested that a 'member retention workshop' be offered at the 2007 State Council annual meeting.

Meicher reported that we have a request for the State Council to participate in an effort to have the DNR purchase a property on the Peterson Creek Watershed/Sand Creek. It was noted that there is currently a \$6,000 difference in what the DNR can offer for this property and the current asking price. Several NE chapters are participating in this effort, with Antigo participation pending. The current situation is in flux, with Jim Hlaban noting that landowner may be reluctant to move ahead at this point. Jim Hlaban made a motion that the State Council set aside \$2,000 for this effort in anticipation that it will go forward. The Council voted unanimously in favor of this motion. [Note: Antigo has since pledged \$2,000 for this, covering the balance of the \$6,000. The decision to move ahead with the land purchase is still pending.]

Dave Patrick and Larry Meicher discussed the need to allocate funds from the Juda Branch Sugar River Fund to meet a stream work project sponsored by the Blackhawk Chapter and working with the Green County LCD. Dave noted that this represents a breakthrough in that area, and he expects more cooperative efforts to follow. It was noted that the current dollars in the fund come from a spill forfeiture and need to be run by the originating attorney to ensure compliance. No motion was required. The Blackhawk Chapter will move ahead with the work with Green County.

Meicher reported that the State Council Banquet recorded a profit of \$7,876. Congrats to all involved.

Candidate survey

Tom Hermann led the discussion of a proposed TU legislative candidate survey initiative. Tom passed out the proposed survey he has previously distributed for comment. He also included a cost estimate. Jim Hlaban made a motion that the Council approve moving ahead with this initiative by finalizing with Executive Committee input by May 15. Jeff Smith expressed concern that this effort may be misunderstood or misinterpreted by some candidates. Others said that while they saw the potential for misunderstanding, they felt the message that "TU cares" was an important one. The Council voted to approve the motion with one dissenting vote.

The survey will be transmitted to candidates with a cover letter from the Chair emphasizing that we seek only to inform and educate our members and the public and will not in any case endorse a candidate.

Guest speaker George Boronow

Chair Pielsticker introduced the meeting's featured guest, George Boronow, WDNR NE region supervisor. Boronow let the Council know that he has been with the DNR for 27 years, and prior to that spent five years as a fisheries biologist. He has a master's degree from the University of Tennessee and just previous to this new challenge was a supervisor for the Lower Fox where he spent the past 10 years.

On March 1, Boronow came to this new assignment and has responsibility for all fisheries staff in the NE Region. He explained the new reorganization of the DNR in the fisheries area and indicated he felt it was a very positive change.

Boronow graciously took questions ranging from the specific (Hibbards Creek) to the general (how the internal DNR permitting process works). The Council also engaged the him regarding beaver control efforts, plans in the NE Region, and the DNR's fish kill response plans.

It was also noted during this discussion with Boronow that the DNR has a very good handle at this point on how to track hours to ensure that trout stamp funds are indeed spent correctly. It comes down to tracking

hours spent by personnel working on trout habitat, and most seemed to agree that this tracking method should work to ensure the funds end up supporting trout. The same system also helps the DNR ensure that the additional personnel beyond those supported by the trout stamp funds are being applied as promised to stream work.

As of this year, the DNR appears to be on schedule to provide a total of 14.5 full time equivalent employees working on stream work, almost five FTEs beyond those funded by the trout stamp fund.

Hlaban award

The Chair had the privilege to use the council meeting as an opportunity to convey the River Alliance of Wisconsin's Stream Champion award to council vice chair Jim Hlaban. Jim could not be at the RAW presentation because he was — you guessed it — training stream monitors. Congratulations, Jim!

Conservation Congress trout question

We had a fair amount of discussion on the recent Conservation Congress question asking about a single trout regulation for all streams statewide. Regarding the Conservation Congress meetings and what was learned this year, consensus was:

- We need to have volunteers at the most populous counties handing out literature to inform and educate on the issue(s).
- We need to talk to our members on the Trout Study Committee.

Bob Hunt noted that the DNR needed to emphasize and publicize how very successful the current regulation regime has been in producing the kinds of fish populations we currently enjoy. We need to have a good story being told to non-TU people. Bob indicated he felt the DNR let many people down by not doing this effectively. Some suggested that the DNR's magazine could carry that story.

It was also noted that this past week's La Crosse *Tribune* carried a letter to the editor from a simplified regulations proponent, and that we ought to consider countering this by supplying the newspaper with the other side of the story.

Wetland tax treatment

This discussion focused on the Conservation Congress' advisory

question #68. We have been asked to support this initiative to provide tax equity/relief to land owners investing in buffers and wildlife habitat in association with wetlands management. It was noted we need to keep in mind how this impacts local tax receipts. Jeff Smith made a motion that we go ahead with support of this initiative. The motion passed unanimously. Smith will compose the letter of support for the Chair's review and signature.

TUDARE

Duke Welter reported that 90 people attended the TU Driftless Area Restoration Effort (TUDARE) stream workshop in Westby. Bob Hunt's kick-off presentation really set the tone.

An April 19 event in La Crosse featured the governors of the four driftless area states in a show of support for the TUDARE initiative.

Jeff Hastings, former Vernon County Conservationist, has been hired as the TUDARE project manager (*see story elsewhere in this issue*). He started on April 24 and can be contacted at JHastings@tu.org. He is currently in the process of developing a TU steering committee with two members from each state. Two more workshops are in the making.

A grant application has been made to the National Fish and Wildlife Fund. Duke pointed out that the work being done and the lessons being learned in the driftless area can apply to many area streams as well.

Kim McCarthy, Larry Meicher, and Jim Hlaban presented status reports on issues and initiatives in their regions.

Chapter requests for reassignment come from some questions raised in the NE Region. Larry Meicher pointed out that other reorganization suggestions have been floated in the past. It is recognized that this needs to be addressed at some point, and it was suggested that the regional chairs address the process and next steps prior to the next annual meeting.

The issue of funding/reimbursing the Executive Committee has been brought to the Chair's attention by several Executive Committee members.

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FRONT ROW SEATS TO THE WAUPACA RIVER

Bill Heart (top left) chats with Larry Meicher prior to the April 29 WITU State Council meeting. The meeting was held at TW Martin's Public House in downtown Waupaca, which also happens to be the site of a possible handicapped trout fishing access project.

During the meeting Chair Bill Pielsticker (below right) presented State Council Vice Chair Jim Hlaban with the River Alliance of Wisconsin's Stream Champion award. Jim was unable to attend RAW's recent awards ceremony in Madison, so the official presentation was made here.



MEETING: Council convenes

Continued from p. 5

It was noted that some chapters do provide for reimbursement for those attending State Council meetings. This is not the case with all chapters. Duke Welter made a motion that the State Council provide reimbursement for reasonable expenses not reimbursed by local chapters for expenses incurred by State Council Executive Committee members in association with meetings and other functions. The motion passed unanimously. The Council will ensure chapters are notified of this reimbursement policy.

Bob Obma noted that stream improvement projects are on the State Council's web site, and Bob encourages member to take a look. Chapters should be aware of needs and opportunities in other areas. Matching up manpower with need is a great way to get things done.

It was reported that the Friends of Wisconsin TU fund currently has over \$15,000 in the account with another \$1,500 in the pipe.

Todd Hanson said he is seeking subjects for the regular *Wisconsin Trout* chapter president profile series. Several suggestions were made and Todd will follow up.

The council asked Todd to step out of the room for a bit and then discussed a change in compensation for *Wisconsin Trout* compilation. A motion was brought by Jim Hlaban and an amendment made by Duke Welter. The amendment passed with one objection, and the amended motion passed unanimously.

Funding requests

The Environmental Law and Policy Center requested support to challenge Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest logging sales. This was tabled until the next meeting.

A Lac Courte Oreilles trout stream habitat improvement initiative request was considered. Bill Heart indicated that the Wild Rivers Chapter will consider routing this through as a Friends request. Bill will initiate contact. It was the general consensus of the Council that we are very supportive of working with tribes on projects such as this as long as public access to improved water is part of the plan.

New TU access policy

A TU National public access policy has been developed with great input from Wisconsin. This new policy authorizes TU to be involved in a wide range of access issues. This may eventually lead us into a national discussion of TU's role in land management.

The Chair suggested we think about setting up a more formal calendar with 'standard' meeting dates. This will continue to be discussed. All agreed this Waupaca site is a good one and should be used for future spring meetings.

The next State Council meeting will be Sept. 23 at the West Fork Sports Club in Avalanche. The State Council's annual banquet at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Stevens Point.

Earth Day cleanup for Rush River

People from all walks of life gathered at the Ellsworth Rod and Gun Club to get their stream segment assignments for the second annual Rush River trash pickup this past Earth Day.

About 130 members of the Kiap-TU-Wish, Twin Cities, and Ojiblaeu chapters of Trout Unlimited joined forces with the Eau Galle Rush River Sportsman's Club, Laughing Trout, Ellsworth Rod and Gun Club, and other interested citizens in the clean-up effort.

Most work focused on cleaning both upstream and downstream from parking areas located near bridges. When it was all finished, a pile of garbage was piled along State Hwy. 72 where it awaited pick-up by the Pierce County Highway Dept.

Sheriff Everett Mulhausen briefed the group on dangerous items that might be encountered when along the stream and how to safely handle them. The Eau Galle Rush River Sportsman's Club served a lunch of hot pork chops, cole slaw and potato salad.

Project organizer Sarah Sanford stated that the volunteer turnout was up nearly 50% from last year's inaugural effort.

The Rush River draws anglers from around the region and is regarded by anglers as one of the finest trout streams in the upper Midwest. The spirit of Earth Day founder Gaylord Nelson was in evidence as people proudly displayed their bags of garbage as if they were showing off a Rush River brown trout.

During lunch the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter recognized the Laughing Trout Angler's Club for recently signing an access easement with the WDNR. Chapter President Greg Dietl presented Dennis Potter with the Chapter's Brown Trout award for outstanding contribution to coldwater conservation and for sharing access to their land with fellow anglers.

The event participants felt that the trash pickup was a small way to thank area landowners for allowing them access to their land.



RUSH JOB

Rush River Cleanup organizer Sarah Sanford poses with some treasure taken from the Rush.

State wardens want input in developing strategic plan

What are the most important areas for Wisconsin conservation wardens to focus their enforcement, education, and community involvement efforts on over the next five to seven years?

That is what the WDNR Bureau of Law Enforcement is hoping to find out through an on-line questionnaire to help the warden force develop a strategic plan to guide its efforts to protect Wisconsin's natural resources through the next five to seven years.

"We want to know what is important to the citizens of Wisconsin," says Randy Stark, chief conservation warden. "We are inviting members of the public who have an interest in their natural resources, public safety, and education to participate in developing this plan."

Stark says wardens are encountering a number of emerging issues and trends, and that they are seeking public input to determine where to focus their enforcement, education, and community involvement efforts.

These issues include such things as:

- changing demographics,
- greater demands on existing resources for a wider variety of recreation,
- increased energy costs,
- reduced human connection to the land, and
- increased threats to water and air quality.

The survey is available on the DNR law enforcement web page: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/es/enforcement>.

Grants available for citizen-based monitoring

With many Trout Unlimited chapters getting involved in stream monitoring programs of various types, it is useful to know about the DNR's Citizen-based Monitoring Grant Program as a possible source of funding.

The purpose of the Citizen-based Monitoring Partnership Program is to provide funding and support to initiate or expand citizen-based monitoring programs involved in the monitoring of aquatic and terrestrial plants, animals and their habitats.

The deadline for the 2007 grants will have passed just before the deadline for this issue of Wisconsin Trout, but the following information can be used to plan for next year's grant cycle.

Eligibility

Non-profit organizations, tribal organizations, academic institutions, conservation organizations, and local governments are eligible for consideration

A 25% non-DNR funding match is required and university or agency overhead is not applicable. The purchase of boats, vehicles, and furniture is ineligible.

Organizations which have previously received partnership program funding but have not submitted required deliverables by the due date will not be eligible for further funding until the deliverables are submitted.

Eligible Activities

Training/ Methods Development: Training — includes development, expansion or implementation of training programs, and materials. The purposes of training include learning methods, protocols, data collection, or species identification.

Monitoring — Monitoring is considered in the field data collection that meets DNR data collection standards. Funding for equipment, certified lab services, and travel is allowable.

Data Sharing/Conversion — Data conversion, GIS, and ground-truthing are appropriate activities, as well as accessibility/data transfers to existing data sets. New development of programming is not eligible.

Application Information

While the amount of each funding request will vary depending on the project, awards will range from \$2,500-\$7,500. Funding will be made available through contract.

All successful recipients must sign a standard state contract which will include a waiver of liability, as well as a Citizen-based Monitoring Partnership Agreement which outlines invoicing and deliverable requirements.

Recipients are required to provide an electronic copy of all raw data, as well as any analytical results and training materials developed through or under the contract to the Partnership Program.

A final, summary report is due within 60 days of the conclusion of the funding period and a poster must be made for display at the Citizen-Based Monitoring Conference.

After all partnership program proposals have been reviewed and evaluated, a notification letter will be sent to applicants. Funding may be approved for a lower amount than was originally requested, based on the availability of funds and the ranking of the reviewed proposal. Proposal changes may be required.



Todd Hanson photos



Bob Haase

TU MEMBERS GET INSECT IDENTIFICATION TRAINING

Members from several TU chapters in central Wisconsin attended a Citizen Scientist Pilot Project training session in Waupaca designed to teach them how to identify stream insects down to the family level. This pilot project is sponsored by WDNR and the Water Action Volunteer (WAV) program and was coordinated by Jim Hlaban (top, foreground). Five Central Wisconsin TU members (bottom right) took turns at a microscope, including (left to right) Jack Talin, Mike Shupryt, Bob Rennock, and Dick Pollock. UW-Extension staff members Mike Miller (lower left) and Kris Stepenuck were at the Waupaca training session. Trainers also include Phil Emmling and Scott Provost.

A refusal of funding does not necessarily indicate a poor study proposal. Because funds are limited and competition for these awards may vary each year, applicants not receiving funds are encouraged to re-apply in the next round.

Timeline

- Call for proposals: mid May
- Proposals due: end of June
- Project awards: end of July
- Final invoices due: June

(The above timeline is for the 2007 grant cycle. Consult the DNR program officials for the 2008 timeline dates.)

Application Guidelines and Checklist

Proposals are evaluated on a 100 point scale. Proposals must include the following sections:

1. Project Title, 0 points
2. Project Description, 20 points
3. Project Deliverables, 30 points
4. Detailed Budget, 15 points
5. Feasibility of Project Completion, 20 points
6. Project Personnel, 15 points
7. Indication of Prior Funding, 0.



CPR SIGNS NOW AVAILABLE IN METAL

Shaw-Paca Chapter President Dave Ehrenberg holds one of the new metal CPR signs. To order these signs for your chapter signage projects, contact Dave at (920) 596-3089.



Chapter News

Aldo Leopold Chapter

April 8 found 15 of us removing brush from the banks of **Rocky Run Creek** on a section TU did habitat work on about 20 years ago. **Sam Cullop**, his wife, **Carol**, and granddaughter **Ravanna** drove up from Champaign, IL, joining others from as far away as Wisconsin Rapids to help us remove a good section of brush. After a morning of hard work we retired to the trucks for a hot chili lunch provided by **Michael Stupich**. There is still a lot of stream bank yet to be cleared, so we will return in the fall to continue our work.

On May 17 we held our annual chapter picnic and fundraising raffle. **Dave Barron** once again gave a casting demonstration and clinic followed by some individual tutoring on how to improve our casts. The weather cleared just before we started and stayed beautiful for the evening. We had a really good turnout of generous folks.

All told we took in \$1,063, double last year's raffle income. We couldn't have accomplished this without our many generous donors, including **The Fly Fishers** in Milwaukee, **Tight Lines** in De Pere, **Hunter Dorn**, **Russ Bouck**, **Clint Byrnes**, **Korbel Brandy**, **Ever After Kennels** in Beaver Dam, **Elias Inn** of Watertown, **Kevin and Teresa Searock**, the **Aldo Leopold Foundation**, and others I know I am missing. We also asked chapter members who wouldn't be attending the picnic if they would consider making a donation, and many generous souls sent in a total of \$620. These donations brought our fundraising total to almost \$1,700. To one and all I say "Thank you!"

Blackhawk Chapter

The speaker for our March meeting was author and fisherman **Rick Ostoff**. His topic was "Active Nymphing." The membership found Rick's presentation interesting and informative. This writer wasn't able to attend the meeting but read Rick's book on the subject, and would put it in the must-read category for the trout fisherman from the standpoint of casting and the approach to nymphing.

At the April meeting we drew from the local talent, **Dick Alfors** and **Dave Patrick**. They covered the topics of lines, leaders, knots, and what to include in your vests both for fishing and other emergencies.

The May meeting featured **Jay Thurston** of Richland Center. Jay emphasized the necessity of establishing good relations with the landowners. He also covered:

- how to approach the trout,
- temperature and its relationship to the trout's metabolism, and
- light, time, turbidity, and
- how they related to trout feeding patterns.

In board action, "Have Guns Will Travel" — our board moved to purchase an enclosed Haulmark trailer to haul and store our compressors, nailers, etc.

Bob Stevens moved that the chapter reimburse mileage to the driver who drives to State Council TU meetings and to the driver who tows the our tool trailer to worksites. The board and the membership at the May meeting passed all actions.

The proceeds of our picnic will be put to work next year, as we are moving ahead with our planning for our 2007 rehab project on the **East Branch of Lodi Spring Creek**. This summer we will be doing grant writing as we seek to raise \$25,000 for this project.

Also in Lodi, we are working with the **Chamber of Commerce** and the **Friends of Scenic Lodi Valley** on an angler survey to help gauge both the quality of the fishery and its impact on the local economy. As pressure mounts to develop rural land in the watershed, we can't just argue the environmental benefits of a healthy stream. We also need to show that a healthy trout stream is an economic positive to the area.

Earth Day found **Kevin Searock** and **Steve Hill** standing in **Lodi Spring Creek**, seining bugs and casting flies, as part of Lodi's Earth Day celebration. Attendees were treated to a discussion of what the presence, or lack thereof, of different bugs tell us about a stream's health. They also got to see and try fly casting. Rumor has it that Kevin even caught a trout that day, although Steve once again was fishless.

Speaking of **Steve Hill**, I want to thank him on behalf of the chapter for all of the printing and mailing services he has donated over the last three years. Steve's company, **Budgetprint** of Watertown, donates the printing and material costs of all our newsletters, mailers, and flyers. Without this largesse, I don't think we could have sustained the chapter these last few years. For that I am very, very grateful.

—Mike Barniskis



CENTRAL CASTING

Russ Bouck (right) helps one of 24 students with her casting skills at the 30th annual Trout School put on by the Central Wisconsin Chapter.

Bill Karduck, Fred and Wendy Young, Jerry Jackson, Phil Dawkins, Bob Blummerich, Dennis Richmond, Bill Smeaton, John Lusk, Dan Sable, Jim Pippel, Terry Kent, Kevin Searock, Craig Kinney, Judy Nugent, Donna Harding, Charles Rohlhoff, Wes Milner, Jill Wegner, Dan Boggs, Dave Patrick, and Jim Roberts. Let these companies and people know that you appreciate

their contributions. You can do so by thanking them and by doing business with them.

Coming events include:

- June 5 — board of directors meeting, 6:30 and
- June 19 — regular meeting, casting lessons on the lawn, speaker **Craig Amacher**.

—Arlan Hilgendorf

Central Wisconsin Chapter

Central Wisconsin Chapter has been busy with a number of activities. In April we held our annual **Fly Casting Clinic** at **Marble Park** in Winneconne. This year we divided up into beginning, intermediate, and advanced groups. This year's instructors were **Russ Bouck, Dan Harmon III, and Tom Young**. They were assisted by other club members to provide more individualized instruction. We had about 45 people attend the casting clinic. It was a little windy and cool, but we still had a good turnout. Thank you **John Gremmer** for coordinating the event again this year.

WAV water nonitoring training was conducted at **Green Lake High School** on Saturday, April 29. Twenty-six people attended, of which 14 were new participants. Two new monitoring teams were formed. We now have 12 Tier 1 teams which have their own WAV monitoring kits and are monitoring 15 stream locations. **Dick Pollock** is our stream monitoring chair and coordinates all the training and stream monitoring activities.

WDNR Upper Level Monitoring Certification Training was conducted at the **Mecan Discovery Center** near Wautoma. Nine CWTU volunteers were certified to participate in the program. Four of the monitoring teams will now be using the WDNR protocols and equipment to monitor nine of the sites. This includes being able to calibrate and use the dissolved oxygen meters, pH meters, and placement of water temperature probes in the streams. One requirement that takes additional commitment from the members is that the monitoring is conducted on the same day each month.

Five CWTU teams are also participating in the **Citizen Scientist Pilot Project** which involves

identifying macroinvertebrates to the family level. The training program for this was held at **Waupaca** and **Jim Hlaban** from the **Fox Valley Chapter** coordinated the program. With gas prices being what they are, we are grateful to have so many of our members volunteering their time to travel to participate in all these training programs and going out to the various stream locations each month to monitor our streams. We have trained around 50 volunteers in the WAV program, of which close to 40 are active in the program. A special thank-you to all the members who volunteer their time to complete the training and do the monitoring each month. We should also thank the **WDNR** and **UW-Extension** staff that help us with the program such as **Kris Stepenuck, Phil Emmling, Mike Miller, and Scott Provost**.

Our **Trout Outing** was held at the **Dakota Inn** near Wautoma, and we had about 50 people participating in the program. We match up an inexperienced fly fisherman with an experienced person and fish one of the area streams for the morning. We then meet back at the **Dakota Inn** for brats and burgers, fly casting demonstrations, macroinvertebrate identification demonstration, and a wild flower walk. We thank our members who took the time to share their knowledge with others in knot tying, reading the water, fly selection, and presentation techniques. One of our members, **Alistair Stewart** came all the way from Chicago to help guide. **John Gremmer** did a great job of organizing the event again this year.

Our annual **Trout School** was held again at **Camp LuWiSoMo** near Wild Rose. We had 24 students signed up for the school that went from Friday evening to Sunday Noon. Instruction was provided on

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fly casting, reading the water, understanding fly hatches, tackle and fly selection, knot tying, and many other areas. In addition to the classroom instruction and demonstrations that were provided, each student received a morning of one-on-one guided instruction fishing one of the area streams. **Dan Harman III** is the school director and he was assisted by **John Gremmer, Bob Hunt, Russ and Sue Bouck, Tom Poullette, Rich Mlodzik, Dick Kraus, Mark Brosseau, and Tom Sopkovich**. There were also over 20 more members that helped out on Sunday providing the one-on-one guided instruction on the streams.

We also continue each month with our stream restoration work on area streams. Our first workday was on the **Little Pine** where we completed the remainder of the work we started last year. After the work was completed for the day, **John Gremmer** and **Dick Pollock** provided a demonstration on gathering and identifying macroinvertebrates and stream monitoring. **Jim Humphreys**, workday chairperson, is planning similar programs after many of the workdays this year.

Most of the workdays the remainder of this year will be on the **White River**. Jim has been handicapped in coordinating our workdays this year because of recent back surgery. He is recovering at home and is anxious to get back out on the streams for both stream restoration and a little fishing.

Some of our members such as **John Gremmer** and **Rich Mlodzik** traveled to **Avalanche** to help take

students from Madison's **Shabazz School** fishing. During the same week **Dick Pollock, Jerry Smet, and Bob Haase** helped students tie flies at the **Wisconsin Outdoor Alliance Education Youth Expo** at the **Dodge County Fairgrounds** near Beaver Dam.

Al Lee and **Bob Renneck** volunteered to coordinate this year's banquet that will be held in October in Oshkosh. They will be setting up a banquet committee to help them with the banquet, which is one of our main fund-raising events.

Thanks to **Ira Giese**, our membership chair, and all of our members who volunteer their time and talents to all the various activities we get involved in each year, our membership continues to grow. In a recent letter received from TU National, *our chapter ranked first in Wisconsin and fifth in the Nation in growth for the period from October 2005 to March 2006.*

I hope that I have not left out anyone or any activity, as we have been so active it is easy to miss someone. Our chapter cannot accomplish any of the things we have done without the effort of all the members. Some cannot attend and help physically, but help out financially, and your help is appreciated. We also receive help and work together with other chapters of TU, and the more of this we do, the more we can achieve. I hope everyone gets a chance to spend a little more time on the stream fishing and enjoying TU's improvements.

—Bob Haase

Fox Valley Chapter

The Fox Valley Chapter had a successful fundraiser called **Cabin Fever Day** on March 25. The main presenter was **Dave Whitlock** with an additional presentation by **Tim Landwehr**. There were many happy winners of the excellent bucket raffle items, and the silent auction items drew many bidders. Thanks to all who attended, participated, tied, donated items, ran a booth, bid, purchased raffle tickets, and just enjoyed an early spring day.

We are in the planning stages for **Cabin Fever Day 2007**. The date will be March 24 and the main presenter will be **Lefty Kreh** — mark it on your calendar.

The **Handicapped and Special Needs Fishing Day** sponsored by Fox Valley TU on April 29 at the **Main Creek Farm** was another successful fishing adventure. The day was dedicated to and a tribute to **Del Schwaller** who started this special day 28 years ago. **Tom Beyer** and **Barb Bermel**, with the help of sponsors such as **Miller Electric, Darrell Toliver**, and other local businesses, put together a great day of fishing that included a super cookout and some very nice prizes. "Get the net," "Look at that whopper," "Did you see that fish?" and "Where are the crawlers and corn?" were phrases heard all afternoon. Many trout were caught and the anglers went home with their trout ready for the frying pan because several individuals volunteered to clean and ice the fish.

This is one of those events that our chapter members can take a great deal of pride in presenting to those people who have special needs here in our local communities. Most of us can go fishing just

about any day of the year and anywhere we choose. These folks appreciate the fact that we take them fishing for this one day because for many of them this is the only day they will get to fish until we meet them again next year. Plan now for the last Saturday in April, 2007.

The election of officers and board members was held at the April general membership meeting. Newly elected officers include:

President — **Jim Jenkin**,
VP — **Mark Peerenboom**,
Treasurer — **Tom Lager**, and
Secretary — **Rich Erickson**.

Four new board member positions were added to the board: **Kris Oates, Ryan Borowicz, Steve Heuser, and Roger Genske**. The following individuals are also on the board: **Gene Vanasten, Tom Young, Jim Oates, Bob Omba, Bob Kinderman**, and past president **Tony Tremel**.

Jim Hlaban has been working with **Al Niebur** from the DNR to establish our stream work schedule for this summer. Our first project is to do so some maintenance work on **Radley Creek**. On June 10 brush bundles and Christmas trees were placed in a couple of different areas on the creek by **Pete Jenkin, Jim Jenkin, Gordy Braun, John Rieder, Lynn Peters, Bob Doornbos, Brian Schwartz, Al Niebur, Jim Hlaban, and Rich Erickson**. The next scheduled project day will again be on **Radley Creek** on July 8. Check our web site for more information.

Our past prez would conclude his remarks with, "Until then, we'll see you on a trout stream," and **Tom Lager** always reminds us to "enjoy His creation." It is that time of year to get out and enjoy the great rivers



FOX VALLEY BURGER AND BRAT REWARDS

The Fox Valley Chapter's stream improvement trailer always contains a grill for a post-streamwork lunch. Here (left to right) **John Reider, Rich Erickson, Jim Hlaban, Gordy Braun, Lynn Peters, and Pete Jenkin** enjoy a bite to eat after some brush bundling on **Radley Creek**.

and streams that we have here in Wisconsin. —Rich Erickson

Frank Hornberg Chapter

The last general meeting of 2006 was held at **Shooters Supper Club** on April 13. The featured speaker was **Dr. Tom Rice** who spoke on the subject of the "History of Fly Fishing." Although the crowd was disappointingly small, no one in attendance was disappointed by the incredibly informative presentation by Tom.

On Sunday April 30, the chapter held an impromptu work event at the **Hemp** area of the **Upper Tomorrow River**. **Eric Struck**, a UW-SP fisheries student, has taken responsibility for repairing a section of the Hemp area damaged by high water events. Although the weather was terrible (wind-driven rain and cool temperatures), a dozen of the FHC "faithful" showed up to assist Eric in the completion of his undertaking. A heartfelt thanks goes out to Eric for his efforts on behalf of trout! Also kudos to **Professor Michael Hansen** of the UW-SP College of Natural Resources Fisheries Division for supervising this important project.

A beautiful Saturday, May 20, brought 13 of the Frank Hornberg faithful out to our regularly sched-

uled workday on the **Upper Tomorrow River** just downstream from **Rolling Hills Road**. We installed a large, 50-foot long brushmat at the head of a stretch of river the DNR has developed an ambitious project for us to work on. The brushmat had the effect of narrowing the river by 15 feet, speeding up the current, and exposing good cobble for future spawning. We anticipate the entire project will take us at least the entire summer to complete.

On Wednesday, May 31, **Dan Holland** and **Stu Grimstad** met with **Dave Ehernberg**, President of the **Shaw-Paca Chapter**, and representatives of the **Fox Valley** and **Central Wisconsin chapters** to undertake a regional effort to create a handicapped-accessible fishing site(s) along the **Waupaca River** in downtown Waupaca (see picture on p. 6). The participation of **Al Niebur** of the DNR should help ensure that the project is a success. Long under discussion, it is hoped that 2007 will see the realization of a dream shared by a number of us for more than a decade.

—Dan Holland

Green Bay Chapter

The Green Bay Chapter, having had another successful fundraising event which garnered nearly \$20,000 for the chapter, made some simple plans for the summer — have some fun, teach some youngsters how to catch fish, provide some quality fishing near the Green Bay area, and improve trout habitat wherever we can.

We started by once again stocking trout in the **Oconto River** below the **Stiles Dam** as we have done for the past several years. With financial assistance from the **Oconto River Chapter, the Marinette Chapter, and the Brown County Conservation Alliance**, rainbow trout were planted just before opening day, thus providing a quality fishery within easy driving distance from Green Bay and the surrounding area. We may also do an additional planting in the fall. We continued with the fun part, holding our annual chapter

picnic June 1 at the **Barkhausen Preserve** on the west shore of the Bay of Green Bay. Members attending enjoyed a fine meal and some great camaraderie and were even entertained by **Tom Hermann** on his concertina.

The teaching of youngsters how to fish will be done on our **Annual Kid's Fishing Day** to be held in July at the **Izaak Walton League's** ponds in Bellevue. This is also part of the having fun, as everyone who has ever helped out on that day comments on how enjoyable it is to see youngsters catch fish.

As far as improving trout habitat goes, Work Project Chair **Janet Smith** has arranged for several work projects to be performed during the summer and early fall. We have already torn out a beaver dam on an area trout stream with our beaver trapper.

Continued on p. 10



Chapter News



Gary Richardson

LUCKY DRIFT BOAT WINNER

Scott Swanson from Oakdale, MN, is the winner of the Kiap-TU-Wish drift boat raffle. He is from Oakdale, MN, and, as luck would have it, is an avid steelhead fisher who can really put this boat to good use.

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We have also worked with the **DNR** to move rocks along the **First South Branch of the Oconto River**, placing them so as to stabilize the banks of the stream. We also will work with the **US Fish and Wildlife Service** to perform maintenance on a fence that keeps cattle from degrading the banks of the **South Branch of the Oconto River**. The chapter installed this fence in the mid 80s, and it needs some attention again. We are also going to return to the **Laona** area to work with the **US Forest Service** on trout streams in the **Nicolet National Forest**. Also on the agenda are more projects with the **DNR**, fin clipping the trout raised by the **Oconto River Chapter** for the wild trout stocking program,

and helping the **DNR** when they shock the **South Branch of the Oconto River** to get the brood stock needed to continue the wild trout stocking program.

All in all, the chapter has scheduled quite a few work projects for the summer and therein lies the catch. Chapter work projects are also an extension of the fun part of the summer. It is exhilarating when you look at a stream after finishing the days work and see the improvement in the quality of the habitat, then you look at your fellow workers and realize how fast the work went and how you enjoyed being with people who cherish our cold waters as much as you do. What better way to spend a day in our great outdoors?

—Gary Stoychoff

Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter

Our annual banquet, which was held May 5 at **Dodger Bowl** in Dodgeville, WI, was a great success. We want to thank all those from other chapters who contributed to that success by donation or by coming to the banquet.

The **Blue River Restoration Project 2006** is the third annual project on the upper reaches of the Blue River. This year's work is being done between **Snowbottom** and **Bluff** roads. The contractor has already removed the trees that limit grass growth on the banks and macroinvertebrate growth in the stream. We had a small workday and made the cribs we need for the project, and some we are donating to a project further down stream being done by the **Drew family**.

We still have two fish-alongs going on this summer. Members will be available to take beginners out on a stream to help them learn more about trout fishing; bait, spinning, or fly fishing. These will be on the **Big Green** and **Castle Rock**. Anybody interested should view our web site for further information. <http://www.nohrtu.org/>.

—Brian Larson

Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter

Kiap TU Wish thanks outgoing President **Gary Horvath** for his tenure as President. Gary brought leadership, energy, science, and hard work to his presidency. New President **Greg Diel** has assumed the duties. **Kyle Amundson** is the newest Kiap board member.

Kiap-TU-Wish received a donated drift boat kit a few years ago from a chapter member. A dedicated crew of chapter craftsmen diligently and lovingly built the 14-foot **Greg Tatman** boat. The chapter then sold raffle tickets with raffle proceeds dedicated to a stream restoration project in 2007 on **Pine Creek** near Maiden Rock. The chapter raised \$3,200 in donations. The drift boat was won by **Scott Swanson** of Oakdale, MN. Mr. Swanson was thrilled to win the prize. He is a self-proclaimed steelhead fisher who has fished all over North America. Kiap thanks all who donated for a chance at the boat.

The fly tyers at this year's April meeting were **Murry Humble, Curt Nordrum, Rob Kolokowski, Scott Hanson, Perry Palin, Bob Deisch, Sarah Sanford** and **Pete Killibarda**.

Kiap-TU-Wish begins work with **WDNR** on stream restoration project on the **South Fork of the Kinni**. This little gem of a brook trout fishery has excellent water

quality and resident brookies, needing only habitat improvement to bring it to full potential. **John Sours** and **Nate Anderson** of the **WDNR's** habitat crew have been hard at work doing bank work. Kiap-TU-Wish is providing volunteer labor on structure building, seeding, and mulching. The **South Fork** is a tributary of the **Kinni** and runs just east of **River Falls**. This phase of the project will wrap up in late June and will continue again in 2007.

Another project is planned for July on a section of the **Rush River** in Martel. The **Laughing Trout Club** in Martel has sold an easement to the **DNR**. Habitat improvements will be made on that section of the river. We thank **Laughing Trout** for ensuring public access to that part of the river.

Some 130 volunteers turned out for the second **Rush River Cleanup** on **Earth Day**, April 22. Chapter member **Sarah Sanford** developed this event and organized it again this year. Literally tons of trash and recyclable materials were removed from the river. Sarah had extensive help from the **Ellsworth Rod and Gun Club** and the **Rush River-Eau Galle Sportsman's Club** in bringing this event to a most successful conclusion.

—Greg Diel

Lakeshore Chapter

The Lakeshore Chapter has been involved in quite a few projects this past quarter. On March 21, 22, 23 and April 3 and 4 we were involved with teaching fly casting and fly tying to two physical education classes at **Sheboygan South High School**. This program was coordinated by **Ray Larson** with help from **Bob Melcher, Jeff Preiss, John Matenaer, Tom Mockert, and Wayne Trupke**. The program was well received by the students and a very worthwhile project.

March 24-26 found members **Larry Doebert, Jeff Preiss** and **Tom Mockert** attending the **TUDARE Stream Restoration Planning Conference** in Westby. In a related matter, **Laura Hewitt** gave a presentation on **TUDARE** and the driftless area to our membership at our March meeting.

April 8 found our chapter holding our annual banquet at the **Bill-Mar Supper Club** in Manitowoc. The banquet was headed up by co-chairmen **Jeff Preiss** and **Jeff Yax**. The banquet was attended by 170 people and earned our chapter \$7,200 to be put toward our stream project work.

On April 22 we held our first stream project of the year on the

Onion River. A combination of Lakeshore members and **Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter** members spent the day doing brushing and general maintenance work on 2 1/2 miles of the **Onion River**. More work is scheduled to be done later this summer.

Tim Landwehr of **Tight Lines Fly Shop** gave an outstanding presentation on fishing southwestern Wisconsin streams to our membership at our April meeting.

In May we learned that longtime chapter member **Bob Melcher** was named the **Wisconsin Wildlife Educator of the Year**. Bob is very deserving of this award considering the hundreds of hours (probably thousands) he has spent teaching adults and students how to tie flies over the last 50 or so years. Congratulations Bob!

The Lakeshore Chapter holds elections at our May meeting each year. This year's officers and board members are:

President — **Wayne Trupke**,
VP — **Ron McCormick**,
Secretary — **Jeff Yax**, and
Treasurer — **Jeff Preiss**.

Our board of directors includes **Larry Doebert, Jerry Baumann, Dave Zerger, and Roger Berg**.

—Wayne Trupke

Marinette County Chapter

The Marinette County Chapter held its 23rd annual fund-raising banquet on April 17 at **Schussler's Supper Club** in Peshtigo. The banquet was successful, with over 300 people attending. As part of the banquet, the chapter held a new member recruiting drive which brought in 34 new members. Chapter membership is now the highest it has ever been.

Projects for the summer include:

- financial support for beaver control in the **Nicolet National Forest** and in **Marinette County**;

- contributions to trout plantings in the lower **Oconto** and lower **Peshtigo** rivers; a contribution to the hiring of seasonal forestry technicians for habitat work on trout creeks in the **Nicolet National Forest**;
- a contribution to help restore lands on the **North Branch of the Oconto River** where the **Hemlock** and **Knowles** dams were taken out;
- a contribution for bank stabilization and riprapping on the **Swede John Creek**, a tributary to the

Chapter News



upper **Peshtigo River** in the Goodman Park area; and

- a contribution to the **South Branch** of the **Oconto** wild trout stocking program, and the evaluation of that program.

The chapter will hold kids fishing days in Peshtigo and Marinette in

June and will be providing scholarships for two high school students from **Marinette High School** to attend the UW-SP/DNR career camp in July.

—John LeBeau

Northwoods Chapter

The Northwoods Chapter held its 32nd Conservation Banquet April 11 at the **Rhineland Café & Pub**. This past year we had super support for the banquet planning and prize collections. At the risk of forgetting someone, our rundown of banquet volunteers included **Joshua Kunzman, Terry Cummings, Don, Nick and Tom Olcikas, Victoria Houston, Wayne Stevens, Mike Umland, Carole Linn, Gerald Wiczek, Dick Oehler, Al and Holly Brooks, Aaron Nelson, Cheryl Campbell, and David Brum**. Thank-you letters were mailed to over 130 individuals and businesses that contributed prizes or made cash contributions.

The Certificate of Appreciation was awarded to **Mike Vlahakis** (the outgoing owner of the **Café & Pub**) for his 32 years of supporting the banquet. **Harley Erbs** did a fine job with reminiscing about the past with his presentation to Mike. And we had a special visit from the Rhineland television station, **WJFW-TV Channel 12**, to do a special report on our banquet.

Our chapter will not hold regular meeting until the second Monday in September. At that meeting, we will have a general meeting with election of officers and board members.

Our summer activities include our **Youth Fly Fishing Conclave at Kemp Research Station** on July 8. This is a great event and Terry will be looking for volunteers this summer. Call Terry at (715) 362-2187 if you can help.

Stream work days are scheduled for June 10, July 15, and September 2. We will work on the **Bearskin** on June 10 and possibly **Plume Creek** or the **Deerskin** on July 15 and September 2. We have made a tremendous improvement to the **Bearskin** with our brush bundles. The WDNR has requested our assistance on **Plume Creek** to remove brush prior to habitat structure work. And we will continue brushing activities on the **Deerskin**. Keep in contact and call **Josh Kunzman** at (715) 482-9619 for details.

—Brian Hegge

Ojibseau Chapter

Almost 80 people attended our annual banquet and fundraiser at the **Holiday Inn Campus** in Eau Claire. Grand prize winners got \$500, and our youngest attendee (a twelve-year-old) won the \$200 gift certificate donated by **Gander Mountain**. He also won a fly rod in the table drawing as did seven other lucky attendees. The live auction, conducted by professional auctioneer **Jim Severson**, featured an **Alaskan fly-in** trip at **Legends Lodge** and a Sage rod built by chapter member **Bill Pearson**. It was a fun evening that supports our conservation efforts and chapter activities.

April 29 saw chapter members **Dave Blyma, James Fulkerson, Mikelene Malone** and **Dennis Vanden Bloomen** present an introduction to fly fishing for 37 women. These women attended a program at UW-Eau Claire for **Women in the Outdoors** sponsored by the **Turkey Federation**. In addition to the fly fishing introduction, these women went to a range for trapshooting, a park for map reading and orienteering, and a local lake for kayaking basics. The Ojibseau Chapter has been asked to consider teaching an eight-session, for-credit fly fishing class at **UW-Eau Claire** in the spring of 2007.

Fifteen students recently took an eight-week, for-credit fly fishing class at UW-Stout. For the fourth year in a row, the Ojibseau Chapter has offered a physical education class (PE 125) designed by **Duke Welter** and **Dennis Vanden Bloomen**. Chapter members assisting this year were **Dave Blyma,**

Chuck Bomar, James Fulkerson, John Higley and **Dave Vollmer**. Most of these members are certified **DNR Angler Education** instructors. All of the students are provided free chapter memberships upon completion of the class.

Twenty-five chapter members met at the chapter's property on **Elk Creek** recently for a brat feed. The objective was to do some light brushing and cleanup of the area. But no one brought the chapter chain saw, so we immediately commenced with the brat feed and adult beverages. Maybe we can get around to the brushing at the September brat feed scheduled for the same location.

Chapter members provided staffing for the 7th Annual **Free Fishing Day** activities in **Carson Park** in Eau Claire on June 3. Sixty-five children and adults took advantage of great weather to catch fish and win prizes. Many prizes were provided by the Eau Claire **Wal-Mart**. A casting contest was conducted for age groups 10 and under and 11 and older. Zebco 202s were awarded to the top two in each category. **Joe Knight** provided a fly casting clinic for interested children and adults. Other chapter member volunteers were **Mikelene Malone, Jim Klees,** and **Dennis Vanden Bloomen**.

Gilbert Creek works nights are scheduled to begin in mid-July. The **Dunn County Fish and Game Association** will again provide food and volunteers. The Ojibseau volunteer efforts will be coordinated by **Tim Meyer**.

—Dennis Vanden Bloomen

Shaw-Paca Chapter

April marked our **Annual Fundraising Banquet**. Ticket sales were up from last year. We have upgrad-

ed our database to computer disc and hope to do even better next year. This event was held at the



Gary Stoycheff photos

GREEN BAY ROCKING ON THE OCONTO

The Green Bay Chapter recently did some bank stabilization work on the First South Branch of the Oconto River. When one part of the work was done, a path (bottom) was made along an eroding bank.

Northwinds Banquet Hall in Marion.

We helped sponsor two school groups to summer environmental camps. One was a group from the **Longfellow-Rexford School** of Clintonville who attended **Trees For Tomorrow** in April. The other is a group from the **Lincoln School** in Shawano who will attend the **Timbertop Camp** at Stevens Point later this summer.

Our project to provide *Trout* magazine for our local high school

and public libraries continues. We have added several to the list for this year. There have been many favorable comments from the librarians on this project.

We provided a donation to the **Marion's Lions Club** to assist with their **Kid's Fishing Day** which was held on the Free Fishing Saturday, June 3. It was reported that 97 young fisherman came out for the event which was held at **Wallace Park** near Marion.

—Lee Kersten

Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter

This past quarter has been an exceptionally busy one for the Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter. As previously reported, the chapter has moved its 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. Meeting attendance has increased, and the chapter has been fortunate to hear from an assortment of excellent speakers.

In **March**, the chapter welcomed **David Ruetz**, who provided an excellent presentation full of entomological information related to fishing Wisconsin's spring creeks. The March chapter meeting also featured this year's **SEWTU Sports Show** raffle drawing.

In **April**, SEWTU welcomed **John "Duke" Welter**, one of several representatives spearheading the national **TU Driftless Area Restoration Effort (TUDARE)**. Mr. Welter — fresh off a statewide tour earlier in the day — provided an excellent and informative speech concerning TUDARE and how SEWTU can become involved.

In **May**, SEWTU welcomed **Jim Bartlett**, owner and operator of **Spring Creek Specialties**. An active TU member, Jim spoke on southwestern Wisconsin spring creeks.

Over the past quarter, SEWTU has also significantly increased its in-stream work. On April 1, we traveled to Richland Center to join a workday with the **Ocooch Creeks Chapter** at Ash Creek.

Continued on p. 12



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SOUTHEASTERN-OCOCH ROCK BRIGADE

Southeastern's Todd Durian (left) starts a rock on its journey streamside via Henry Koltz, Larry Clowry, Jill Wabiszewski, Mark Lamberty, and Ocooch Creek's Kim James at a joint workday between the Southeastern and Ocooch Creeks chapters on Elk Creek May 6.

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Led by Ocooch Creeks' leaders **Allon Bostwick** and **Dick Peters**, we helped remove and treat willow chutes encroaching on Ash Creek's riparian area which had been being used as dam building material by beaver, and we removed a beaver dam.

In its most exciting recent development, SEWTU will hold a raffle fund-raiser on **August 22** at **The Miller Inn** with the kind assistance of **Miller Brewing Company**. The raffle will be used to fund upcoming 2007 stream restoration projects. Tickets will be sold in advance in packages ranging from \$25 (entrance plus \$30 worth of raffle tickets) to \$100 (entrance plus \$240 worth of raffle tickets). Additional raffle tickets will be available at the event. Information concerning the event will be provided to members in the near future, and members wishing to become involved in the event should contact Vice President **Dan Asmus**.

On April 22, 25 volunteers coordinated and led by political liaison **John Knitter** turned out to engage in a **Milwaukee River cleanup**. The cleanup was part of a six county, 1,500 person effort to improve the cleanliness of Lake Michigan and its tributaries. The effort was part of the **Great American Cleanup** sponsored by **Keep America Beautiful**, a nationwide **Earth Day** effort.

Also on April 22, SEWTU turned out a good showing for a

joint workday with the **Lakeshore Chapter** of TU on the **Onion River** in Sheboygan County.

Led by Lakeshore's **Larry Doeber**, SEWTU volunteers helped remove in-stream debris to maintain the stream's riparian area.

On May 6 SEWTU volunteers again traveled to Richland Center and aided the **Ocooch Creeks Chapter** working on the headwaters of **Elk Creek**. The project featured a combination of groups, including prairie enthusiast and fowl groups.

All told, **SEWTU has performed over 225 volunteer hours of work since April 1** on stream work alone. Our work is not done, however. On June 10, we will again join three other TU chapters in constructing lunger structures at the family farmstead of **Richland County Land Conservation Department** technician **Ken Anderson**.

As part of its continuing political action campaign, our members turned out for the statewide **Conservation Congress** hearings. In a number of counties, our members spoke against the proposed "one size fits all" trout size and bag limit regulation. SEWTU remains strongly opposed to any regulation or proposal that would do away with Wisconsin's nationally recognized trout regulation system.

On May 12, SEWTU members **John Knitter**, **Henry Koltz**, and **Nick Schmal** (who is also the Fish and Aquatic Ecology Program Leader for the **USDA Forest Service's Eastern Region**), met with **WDNR** fisheries managers **Douglas Welch** and **Rick Dauffenbach**, **WDNR DOT** liaison **Anne Reis**, members of the **Walworth County Department of Transportation**, and retired **UW-Whitewater** biology professor **Dan Sable**. The meeting, held at the Highway P overpass of **Bluff Creek**, was aimed at determining the cause of upstream sediment deposition. At the meeting, a tentative plan was created to reduce sediment buildup and create a research project wherein post-removal stream changes will be studied and documented.

On May 19-20, SEWTU volunteers attended and participated in the **Youth Outdoor Expo**, in Beaver Dam. The expo was attended by over 1,500 children.

On May 31, one of SEWTU's newest board members **Todd Durian**, traveled with **Henry Koltz** to Richland Center to meet with **TU-DARE's** national Project Manager **Jeff Hastings**. Also attending were **Ken Anderson**, **Allon Bostwick**, and **Dick Peters**. At the meeting, the parties discussed the possibility of a restoration project at the headwaters of **Melancthon Creek**. The project, which would be primarily aimed at increasing the native brook trout population, would occur in 2007 in the event that funding (namely, in the form of a **Targeted Runoff Management grant**) is awarded.

In addition to what it has done, SEWTU has an equally busy summer calendar. On June 3, **John Knitter** attended a **Water Quality Action Volunteer** raining session where he learned how to measure water turbidity, dissolved oxygen, stream flow, temperature, and biology. Another training session will be held June 10 in West Bend, and interested SEWTU members are encouraged to attend.

On June 10 and 11, SEWTU will hold its annual all-chapter fishing trip meeting at the **West Fork**

Sportsmen's Club next to the **West Fork** of the **Kickapoo River**. This year, SEWTU will be pairing experienced anglers with those seeking to learn how and where to fish in the area. Vice President **Dan Asmus** will be cooking a bratwurst lunch early Saturday afternoon at the campground.

On June 27, the chapter will hold its annual **Hex Hatch Outing** at **Salmo Pond** just west of Madison between Cross Plains and Black Earth (just off of Hwy. 14). The Hexagenia is a large mayfly that hatches in June. When the hex hatch is on, large trout throw caution to the wind, gorge themselves on the hatch, and the fishing can be incredible. This outing will be led by past president **James Folda**.

Finally, on July 25 at 6:00 p.m., the chapter will hold its annual **Fly Casting Clinic** at **Greenfield Park** in the Milwaukee area. Come out and either test your casting skills or pick up some pointers and instruction. There will be a casting obstacle course, competition, and past president **Chuck Beeler** will be preparing vittles at the event.

—Henry Koltz

Wild Rivers Chapter

Wild River had board elections in February. The three new board members elected are **Larry Mann**, **Dale Bast**, and **Lee Newman**. Retiring from the board are **Phil Wallace**, **Carolyn Swartz**, and **Samantha Hansen**.

Also at the February meeting, member **Justin Spring** talked about his summer guiding jobs in Alaska while going to college.

Our March meeting featured **WDNR** fisheries biologist **Frank Pratt** talking about his work on the **Namekagon River** in the Hayward area. Frank plans to install 50 whole log or partial tree big woody structures next year.

Cris Sand from the **DNR** Brule office gave the chapter an update of his work on the upper **White River** below **Lake Two**. He is repairing and adding a number of boom structures on about 1,500 feet of stream. Our chapter donated \$5,000 to Cris and

the **DNR** to help with buying rock, etc. in finish the stream work. We also donated money to **Paul Christel**, fisheries biologist for the **Lac Courte Oreilles Tribe** for some work on **Grindstone Creek**, which is a nice little spring creek that has about 30 beaver dams in its 14-mile length. Wild River's annual **April Fishing Expo and Auction** went over very well this year. The weather was too nice to have a large crowd, but the people there did a good job with their wallets and checkbooks. We had a net profit of about \$6,000 for use on our coldwater resources. Our auctioneers, **Dr. Sausage**, **Col. Fontinalis**, and **Back of Head** did a great job.

May and early June also had the chapter helping stock 2,000 yearling brook trout in **Whittlesey Creek** and working on three kids fishing day events in our area.

—Bill Heart



STUDENT WATER MONITOR AWARDS

Wes Halverson (right) and **Jim Hlaban** (2nd left) award a trophy to the students and faculty advisor for the best high school presentation at the 2006 Wisconsin River Educators Network (WREN) Water Monitoring Symposium held at DC Everest High School in Wausau May 25th. The State Council of Wisconsin TU provided the money for the two trophies presented at the event.

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WITU Looking Back

From the Summer 1986 *Reflections* newsletter...

Will The Wolf Survive?

Maybe, But You Must Act Now

The Crandon Project: First Test of Wisconsin's Mining Legislation

On June 20 and 21, 1986, in Forest County, Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources held a public meeting on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement the Department issued on May 12, 1986. It was the first opportunity for verbal public comment on DNR's description of the impacts of the proposed underground mining and ore concentrating facility Exxon Corporation plans to build near Crandon, Wisconsin. It also started the first test of Wisconsin's mining legislation.

What is the Crandon Project? It is a proposed underground zinc-copper-lead mine along with a mill to concentrate the extracted ores. What does the Crandon Project mean environmentally? It means many things, such as air emissions, disposal of mine tailings, water discharges, but it primarily means water impacts. The project lies in the Wolf River watershed and it will have effects on that water system during its proposed 30-year life and long into the future.

The mine will be pumped to keep it dry. The resulting drawdown will directly effect the groundwater in the immediate area surrounding the mine. This lowering of the groundwater levels will impact the streams and lakes surrounding the mine. Stream flows will be reduced and some local lake levels will drop. The extent of these impacts cannot be fully understood, although both Exxon Corporation and the Department of Natural Resources have attempted to model, or explain mathematically, what the effects might be. Since the water system is complex, it is not possible to predict the impacts with certainty. DNR has announced that the predicted effects would hurt the public rights in the waters affected.

Exxon's response, after years of claiming public rights would not be affected, has been to offer mitigation. The Corporation proposes to add water supplements to make up for what they are taking. Their proposed mitigation is based on predicted impacts since actual impacts cannot be known until the pumping has continued long enough for the impacts to be fully developed. This "mitigation plan" is part of the permit the Corporation will need for the pumping. It is crucial to test DNR's work to be sure the worst possible case has been anticipated so the state is prepared to require all the mitigation which might be necessary to protect public rights.

In addition to pumping, Exxon will discharge up to 3,000 gpm of water into Swamp Creek, a tributary of the Wolf River. This effluent will contain concentrations of heavy metals and other pollutants and will be put into state waters so long as mine pumping continues. DNR's responsibility is to see that the effluent does not harm the plant and animal life which make up the living system in the waters. The effects of a 30-year discharge of this sort will impact the Wolf River system since dilution does not mean that pollutants disappear. Even if the required 24-hour and 30-day toxicity tests show "no adverse effect," the impacts of the discharge over an extended period of time are unknown.

Concentrating the ores will result in both waste water and enormous amounts of ground rock known as mine tailings. Exxon's plan is to store these tailings in a three hundred sixty (360) acre waste area. In addition to nearly thirty million tons (30,000,000 tons) of tailings, which have proven capacity to produce acid, the waste dams would contain water treatment sludges (17 tons per day) and sludges from retention of industrial water from the concentrating process.

This "Mine Waste Disposal Facility" would create the largest solid waste site in Wisconsin and would represent a continuing threat of groundwater contamination. While the Corporation has a 30-year responsibility for care after the waste is capped, the possible groundwater effects may not begin to be apparent until long after that 30 years.

What this complex project illustrates best is that water effects cannot be piecemealed. Groundwater and surface water are a connected system and a project which has multiple impacts, like Crandon, can only be adequately evaluated looking at system impacts, not by considering each impact separately. The DNR's draft environmental impact statement does not address water system impacts in a way that the public can use to evaluate the total water problems which will be caused by the Project.

What comes next? After the June meeting on the draft impact statement, the DNR will take public comments in writing until July 7, 1986. The agency will use these comments in preparing its final environmental impact statement. The planned issuance date for the final is late in September, 1986. The public input must come now if it is to be considered by the Department in its assessment of the Project. Waiting until after the final impact statement is issued reduces the chances that the Department will seriously consider the public input.

The master hearing, the hearing on the adequacy of the FEIS and Exxon Corporation's rights to the permits, will be held in late January, 1987. This will include both a contested case proceeding where there will be sworn testimony and cross-examination and a portion for unsworn public comment. This is the last opportunity anyone will have to comment on the Project.

What should be done? Get a copy of the DEIS from DNR and read it. A free copy may be obtained by calling 1-800-232-7367. Learn about the project and use your knowledge to encourage participation by state environmental groups in the public process. Decide which issues have priority for you and your group, and prepare written comments to the DNR on those issues.

What is at stake? The integrity of the Wolf River watershed is at stake. The Project should not proceed until and unless the DNR has learned enough about its cumulative impacts to protect the public through the permitting process. The DEIS does not inspire confidence that the Department is making conservative judgments which place the risks of the inevitable uncertainties on the Corporation.

Another, more subtle principle is at stake. Will Wisconsin continue its tradition of public involvement in environmental decision-making, or will the big institutional bureaucracies, DNR and Exxon Corporation decide these matters between themselves?

Complex technology should not be left just to the experts who would be more than happy to be left with no accountability for their judgments. Citizens can make a difference, and the common sense approach which has so often led to better decisions can play a role in how the permits are written for this Project. Without the interest and participation of the public, there will be no public phase of this Project. That is a precedent Wisconsin should avoid.

Waltraud A. Arts
Public Intervenor

From the Summer 1996 *Wisconsin Trout*...

"Consider Proper Release" committee reports

by Jim Hlaban

Each chapter president should have received by now three VHS cassettes of Wisconsin T.U.'s "Consider Proper Release" (CPR) video, several thousand new versions of the CPR brochure, some 11x15 CPR signs for display at sport shops or at parking lots along trout streams, and directions for making a streamside holder.

If you as president have not received these materials, PLEASE contact your chapter's previous president (in situations where there has been a recent change in chapter leadership) to see if he or she has them. If such is not the case, then PLEASE contact me at 1429 Silverwood Lane, Neenah, WI 54956, or call me at (414) 722-4335.

T.U. National has sent a copy of the CPR video to every T.U. chapter in the nation (one of the three videos you should have received came from T.U. National), and additional copies of the video are available at \$5 each, which covers shipping and handling charges, by contacting Chris Marshal at the T.U. National office, (703) 522-0200.

Of note, Chris has told us that she has received over 100 orders for the video by chapters, magazines, resorts and indivi-



duals all over the country.

Most importantly, though, is that we need FEEDBACK from the chapters! PLEASE...get back to me at either the address or phone number listed above, and tell me your opinions on the video. Does it get the message across? Are there any weak points? What do you like - or not like - about it?

Only with YOUR input can we make this video better, and the better we do our job, the more trout we will save from improper handling or release. Again, PLEASE LET US KNOW!

The Consider Proper Release (CPR) signs referred to above are still produced. In fact, they have been improved — signs are now printed on metal stock. See picture and story on p. 7 for details.

Audit of WDNR fish and wildlife programs released

The state's Legislative Audit Bureau (LAB) released their review of the WDNR's expenditures supporting hunting and fishing activities on June 5.

The DNR was pleased with the report's findings, pointing to the following report findings:

- 97.6% of fish and wildlife user fee expenditures benefited hunters and anglers in 2004-05. (The report noted that the remainder was spent on activities such as those necessary to be eligible for federal fish and wildlife funding and cooperative efforts with Forestry to fight forest fires. Total dollars spent on hunting and fishing related programs far exceeded license revenues.)
- Overall administrative spending, at 11.1%, below the statutorily established 16% cap.
- Special hunting and fishing stamps are spent according to statutory requirements.
- Wisconsin relies more heavily on user fees to fund fish and wildlife activities and conservation programs than most states.

Several Legislators were critical of the LAB report. However, the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation said it was satisfied with how the DNR's

fish and wildlife money is being spent.

Report recommendations

The LRB report did come with two major recommendations relating to DNR time accounting and project planning:

"We recommend the Department of Natural Resources:

1. *renew its efforts to limit the use of the basic program services time-reporting category and report to the Joint Legislative Audit Committee on the result of its efforts by January 1, 2007, and*
2. *incorporate clearer time lines in its project planning documents, annually compare initial project budgets to actual expenditures, and tie project outcomes to specific goals and objectives included in its strategic plans and report to the Joint Legislative Audit Committee on its progress in improving project-planning by January 1, 2007."*

The LRB is a nonpartisan agency that conducts financial and program evaluation audits of state agencies. The LRB ensures that financial and management decisions are made effectively, efficiently, and in compliance with the law and that state agencies carry out the policies of the Legislature and the Governor.



STATE OF WISCONSIN
Legislative Audit Bureau

22 E. Mifflin St., Ste. 500
Madison, Wisconsin 53703
(608) 266-2818
Fax (608) 267-0410
Leg.Audit.Info@legis.state.wi.us

Janice Mueller
State Auditor

June 5, 2006

Senator Carol A. Roessler and
Representative Suzanne Jeskewitz, Co-chairpersons
Joint Legislative Audit Committee
State Capitol
Madison, Wisconsin 53702

Dear Senator Roessler and Representative Jeskewitz:

As requested by the Joint Legislative Audit Committee, we have completed an evaluation of expenditures made by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to support fish and wildlife activities. In fiscal year (FY) 2004-05, these expenditures totaled \$120.2 million. Of this amount, \$68.2 million was generated through the sale of hunting and fishing licenses and other user fees. Fish and wildlife activities were also funded with federal aid, general purpose revenue, and program revenues.

For a number of years, some hunters and anglers have raised concerns about the extent to which the fees they pay are spent on activities related to hunting and fishing. We found that 97.6 percent of DNR's user fee-funded expenditures in FY 2004-05 provided some benefit to hunters and anglers, including 57.3 percent spent primarily for their benefit. User fees also funded \$1.6 million in expenditures that did not directly benefit hunters and anglers.

In FY 2004-05, DNR spent \$7.5 million in user fees for administrative costs at the department and division level. These costs represented 11.1 percent of all user fee expenditures, which is below the 16.0 percent limit established in statutes.

When we reviewed the financial condition of the Fish and Wildlife Account, we found that expenditures exceeded revenues in each year and the account's balance declined significantly, from \$28.3 million in FY 2000-01 to \$1.0 million in FY 2004-05. Fee increases that took effect in July 2005 will increase revenues, but preliminary information for FY 2005-06 indicates that sales of some types of licenses declined from 2004 to 2005. These trends will have to be monitored closely.

We appreciate the courtesy and cooperation extended to us by staff of DNR and by the interest groups with which we spoke. DNR's response follows the appendices.

Respectfully submitted,
Janice Mueller

Janice Mueller
State Auditor

JM/PS/ss

For bigger brookies, try a northern Wisconsin river

By Bob Obma

Where have all the big brookies gone? Many of us started fishing while quite young and as sophisticated as a small brook trout. The fish reproduce well in good habitat, and yearlings are prone to taking the first worm that they see, which was just what we needed. An eight-inch fish was a lunger to brag about after Mom fried it in butter.

But brook trout over that size became rare with logging in the north and agricultural use in the southern part of Wisconsin.

Still, one occasionally thinks of orange bellies and white-tipped pectoral fins, wondering if the progeny of the 1944 state record nine pounder from the Prairie River are waiting. It turns out, they are.

If we are interested in fish over, say 14 inches, several things are needed. The proper fish genetic code, food sources, growing season, water temperatures, rate of growth, and length of life are all factors. Native stock in a river with good hatches of hexagenia, sulfurs, and other large mayflies are a good start. Throw in some forage fish for brookies over 12 inches (when they become piscivorous) and you're in business. Free flowing streams must be long enough to provide deep wintering pools for big fish downstream, midstream feeding lies, and shallower spawning gravel beds upstream. Inflowing springs along the way maintain steady water temperatures.

Some of our larger northern rivers do all of these things. The Prairie of Lincoln County, Clam of Washburn County, and Eau Claire of Langlade



County all have healthy native populations of wild brook trout over 16 inches in length.

All of these rivers are over 17 miles long, are now free flowing without dams, and have lots of larger insects and forage fish. Given these factors, all of these rivers are manifestly able to grow brook trout to that size. These rivers have been regarded as holding "natives" for at least 30 years.

The nearby Oconto and Peshtigo rivers yield 14-inch fish, but stop short of the 16-inch mark, perhaps because they have impoundments which warm their water and inhibit migration.

Public access is good through DNR purchases over the years. The damages of the logging era have been addressed with habitat rehabilitation. A foolish hydropower dam at Prairie Dell that never generated a watt of electricity has been removed.

A portion of all three of these rivers have special regulations aimed at maintaining a trophy brook trout fishery. On the Clam, for instance, the daily bag limit is five fish, all less than 12 inches. The Eau Claire and Prairie have artificial-only regulations, brookies over twelve inches.

Bigger brookies? They are back on our northern free-flowing rivers.

(Bob Obma is a 20-year member of Trout Unlimited. A retired cardiologist, he now lives along the Oconto River. Bob is a former president of the Coulee Region Chapter and serves as chair of WITU's Water Resources Committee. Bob will be writing more about brook trout in upcoming issues of Wisconsin Trout.)

TUDARE: governors endorse goals of region-wide restoration project

Continued from p. 1

helping to improve farming practices in the driftless area in the 1930s. Through Farm Bill conservation programs, we will continue to improve the health, diversity, and productivity of these watersheds and the quality of lives for the people that live in them."

Wisconsin Lieutenant Governor Barbara Lawton said, "The actual restoration of these rivers and streams is relatively straightforward. We use excavators to slope back the

eroded streambank. Then we stabilize and reseed with native prairie grass. This requires skilled operators of heavy machinery and provides high-paying, family-wage jobs. Restoring the driftless area could be a huge jobs program for the region."

New project manager hired

Trout Unlimited also used the release of the resolution to announce that it has hired Jeff Hastings to help lead the restoration effort. Hastings has spent most of his life in the driftless area and worked for the

past 25 years in county government to conserve its streams and landscape. The past 20 years he has been the County Conservationist for the Vernon County Land and Water Conservation Department.

Hastings is well-known to many of our volunteers who fish and work to restore streams in the driftless area and a consummate fundraiser and partnership-builder. He was an important partner for TU's Kickapoo Home Rivers Initiative project from 1996-1999.

Hastings started work full time on April 24 based from his home in Westby, WI. In these few weeks since he started, Jeff has been crisscrossing the four-state area meeting with partners, helping submit a final proposal to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to fund restoration projects in 2007, and working with Duke Welter to form a TU volunteer steering committee.

Hastings can be contact by phone at (608) 606-4158 or e-mail at jhastings@tu.org.



A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE, AND THE GOVERNORS OF WISCONSIN, MINNESOTA, IOWA AND ILLINOIS AGREEING TO WORK TOGETHER TO PROMOTE AND FACILITATE THE RESTORATION OF THE WATERSHEDS OF THE DRIFTLESS AREA

WHEREAS, the Midwest's Driftless Area is one of the nation's natural resource treasures, containing unique geological features and over 600 spring creeks in six major watersheds; and

WHEREAS, the Governors of Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, and Illinois believe that sustainable farming practices can promote thriving communities and abundant fish and wildlife resources; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture through its Natural Resources Conservation Service is the nation's leader in promoting and facilitating voluntary conservation and restoration measures of private agricultural lands; and

WHEREAS, Farm Bill conservation programs are among the most effective means of engaging private landowners and agricultural producers in conservation and restoration; and

WHEREAS, the Driftless Area is recognized as a national and regional recreational center that helps to support a diverse economy by providing employment and income including critical off-farm jobs; and

WHEREAS, due to land use practices in the mid-1800s and early 1900s, the Driftless Area experienced widespread hilltop and hillside erosion that led to flooding, massive siltation in its valleys and even the loss of life; and

WHEREAS, beginning in the 1930s with the work of the Civilian Conservation Corps and the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, erosion on many of the hilltops and hillsides in the Driftless Area was reduced through improved farming practices; and

WHEREAS, siltation continues to negatively effect watersheds of the Driftless Area, causing the erosion of agricultural lands, degrading water quality, increasing water temperatures, and causing sediment and chemical run-off into the Mississippi River; and

WHEREAS, the federal government dedicates millions of dollars annually to attempt to address siltation in the Mississippi River, of which the Driftless Area is a major contributor and any effort to minimize that siltation will reduce the need for those federal expenditures; and

WHEREAS, when state and volunteer efforts have restored individual streams and rivers in the Driftless Area, that restoration has resulted in immediate environmental benefits, including less agricultural erosion, less sediment and chemical erosion into the Mississippi River and the hypoxia zone in the Gulf of Mexico, reduced water treatment costs, improved fisheries and enhanced wildlife habitat; and

WHEREAS, stream restoration has also led to expanded economic activities due to improved recreational opportunities, in some cases adding dozens of new jobs and millions of dollars in increased tourism and recreation expenditures,

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Secretary of Agriculture and the Governors of Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and Illinois will—

- Work together to help encourage the restoration of the watersheds and streams and rivers of the four-state Driftless Area; and
- Utilize Farm Bill conservation programs as administered through the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and practiced by willing private landowners; and
- Lend the collective expertise of their state and federal agencies to foster collaborative efforts to promote the restoration of the region; and
- Promote state and federal policies that support and facilitate watershed restoration and community well-being; and
- Work in partnership with the Resource Conservation and Development Councils of the Driftless Area.

Mike Johanns
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Rod Blagojevich
Governor
State of Illinois

Jim Doyle
Governor
State of Wisconsin

Tim Pawlenty
Governor
State of Minnesota

Thomas J. Vilsack
Governor
State of Iowa

Mudsnails latest invasive to threaten trout waters

Researchers have discovered New Zealand mudsnails in the Duluth-Superior harbor, and Wisconsin and federal natural resource agencies are concerned about potential impacts on trout streams.

The DNR is calling on trout fishers and others to help prevent the invasive snail's spread (*see steps to take below*).

This is the first time the invasive species has been found in Minnesota or Wisconsin waters.

Mudsnails cause concern because their sheer numbers can disrupt ecosystems, as they've done in some Rocky Mountain trout streams where the invasive species is present, according to Doug Jensen, aquatic invasive species program coordinator for Minnesota Sea Grant.

Snails are easy to spread

The snails can spread easily, riding along in the mud on anglers' boots and waders.

"They have adapted so well in mountain rivers that they have pushed out almost all of the native insects, snails, and other invertebrates that are important food for fish," Jensen says. "More than 700,000 snails per square meter cover some river bottoms. That's like having 585,000 snails in your bathtub!"

The EPA confirmed the snail's identity in the Duluth harbor in April. More than 100 of them were collected by a federal research team checking Great Lakes harbors for invasive species last fall.

New Zealand mudsnails are about the size of a peppercorn with spiral-shaped shells that are usually dark gray or dark brown to light brown and have five or six whorls. Some native Wisconsin snails look similar to the mudsnail, which makes identification difficult.

Martin, the DNR invasive species coordinator, worries that the mudsnails can spread easily on



aquatic plants, waders, and other gear used in infested waters. They are able to close their shells, allowing them to survive out of water for days. The snails can also start new infestations easily because they can reproduce without mating, essentially cloning themselves.

Wisconsin and Minnesota departments of natural resources are working to designate the New Zealand mudsnail as a prohibited invasive species, making it illegal to import, transport, possess, and place mudsnails into other waters in those states. An exception is if a person is bringing the mudsnail to the DNR for identification or reporting purposes.

In addition to taking steps to remove invasive species from boats and trailers, Martin urges anglers and others who may use gear in infested waters to inspect and remove visible aquatic plants, animals, and mud from waders, hip boots, and field gear before transporting. He also recommends rinsing such gear in hot water or drying it for five days before reusing.

People who think they've found a New Zealand mudsnail are asked to preserve the specimen in rubbing al-

cohol and report the sighting to DNR at (608) 266-9270 or Wisconsin Sea Grant at (920) 683-4697.



Photos courtesy of Wikipedia

Meicher's deadliest fly list... revisited eight years later

[Eight years ago, State Council Treasurer and noted fly tyer Larry Meicher penned a story for Wisconsin Trout on his favorite trout flies.

We thought it would be worth reprinting that story, but to spice it up, we asked Larry to review his old list and make any changes he'd care to. We've placed the original list in a table so you can see Larry's thinking, then and now. Here are the results. In the original story, there was also a description of the Pass Lake Emerger listed under the "Hex" patterns. We hope to reproduce that fly pattern in an upcoming issue. -Ed.]

By Larry Meicher

At the Spring 1998 Wisconsin TU State Council meeting, I was asked by Council Chairman "Duke" Welter to divulge my favorite flies for trout fishing in Wisconsin. While this is almost akin to revealing one's favorite fishing spots, I will accede to "Duke's" request since he IS the Council Chairman, and he did take a fly tying class from me way back when.

Anyway, here is the list. You likely can find the patterns in any good book on fly tying/fishing. Those pet flies of mine are:

1998	Today
1. Blue Wing Olive — (with duck quill wings), dry sizes 14-22	Same.
2. Pass Lake — dry sizes 14-18 and wet sizes 12-16	Same. "The pass lake dry is my most frequently used fly."
3. Light Cahill — dry sizes 14-18	Same.
4. "Hex" patterns — deer hair body mayfly (Sealstead), size 8; White Wulff, sizes 8-10; Pass Lake Emerger, sizes 6-8	"I rarely tie the Sealstad (spun deer hair body) Hex anymore. It's too much work. I tie kamakazee flies for fishing at night — keep it simple and easy because you're going to probably lose it anyway. I now just tie a size 8 Pass Lake — it's a whole lot simpler and easier, and it catches more fish, too."
5. Elk Hair Caddis — dry sizes 16-20	Same.
6. Rabbit Hair Scud	Same.
7. Prince Nymph	"These days I tie most of the nymphs in my list in bead heads as well as the regular patterns."
8. Montana Nymph	Same.
9. South Platte Brassie	"I used to tie very small Brassies, but now I tie almost all in size 14. My cronies think I've flipped my lid when they see me tie these on, but they catch as many or more fish than the standard 20s and 22s."
10. Black Woolly Buzzer	Same.
11. Grasshoppers — To imitate Wisconsin phases, you will need light yellow, tan, light green, kelly green, and bright yellow.	Same.

Tips from TU on preventing the spread of exotic species

Aliens are invading our streams and lakes. Exotic fish, mollusks, earthworms, plants, and their diseases can be devastating to our fish, as well as the ecology of springs, wetlands, lakes, and rivers. Each of us can help fight their introduction and spread by following the following simple rules.

1. Know your fish! Every angler should be able to identify what is native and not native to your local fishing waters. If you catch a fish that is something really exotic and clearly does not belong, it should be kept on ice and shown to your state fish and wildlife agent.

2. Clean mud and plant material from waders, boots and other equipment. All fishing equipment should be thoroughly cleaned and dried before moving to new waters. Tiny New Zealand mudsnails and other harmful species can be inadvertently moved by anglers. Mud on waders has been demonstrated to transmit the vectors of whirling disease.

3. Clean boats and trailers before moving them to new lakes and rivers. Exotic mussels and plants can cling to boat hulls and be moved long distances.

4. Never transfer fish, bait, or other organisms from one stream or lake to another. Anglers can be their own worst enemies by playing Johnny Appleseed with live organisms.

5. Never empty aquariums into natural waterways. Once introduced into local waterways, tropical fish and their diseases can become established and destroy natural populations.

6. Use caution when buying or relocating new plants. Certain non-native nursery stock can escape from lawns, gardens, or ornamental ponds and take over wild areas from native species.

7. Know the exotic species problems in your area. It will help to know which exotic species and diseases are spreading in your area so you can be sure to do your part in keeping invasions to a minimum. Some areas have special regulations and warnings in effect.

If you encounter an unusual and unknown fish that may be an exotic invader, immediately contact your local state fish and wildlife agency. (This message is from the Trout Unlimited National web site. The information was compiled by Dr. Jack Williams, TU Chief Scientist.)

Hill succeeds Cantwell as Friends program coordinator

By Todd Hanson

Steve Hill has succeeded John Cantwell as WITU Fundraising Chair and director of the Friends of Wisconsin TU program.

Cantwell has been the Friends' program's first and only director since its inception in 1990. Since then, the program has grown to be a powerful source of stream restoration work in Wisconsin.

The Friends program has inspired TU chapters — and even oth-

er state councils — to start similar programs.

Before taking on the Friends program, John was editor of the State Council's *Reflections* newsletter for five years. He has served on the Executive Committee for 22 years and received the council's Gold Net Award in 1995.

The Friends program was originally approved at the January 1990 State Council annual meeting. The Spring 1990 *Wisconsin Trout* said the

program "will allow T.U. members and others to make tax deductible contributions to the State Council to fund its operations involving communication, land acquisition, legal advice on coldwater resource issues and other important aspects of conservation that the Council is involved in." Soon, however, the program focused nearly exclusively on funding stream improvement.

New Friends coordinator Steve Hill is a 13-year member of the Aldo

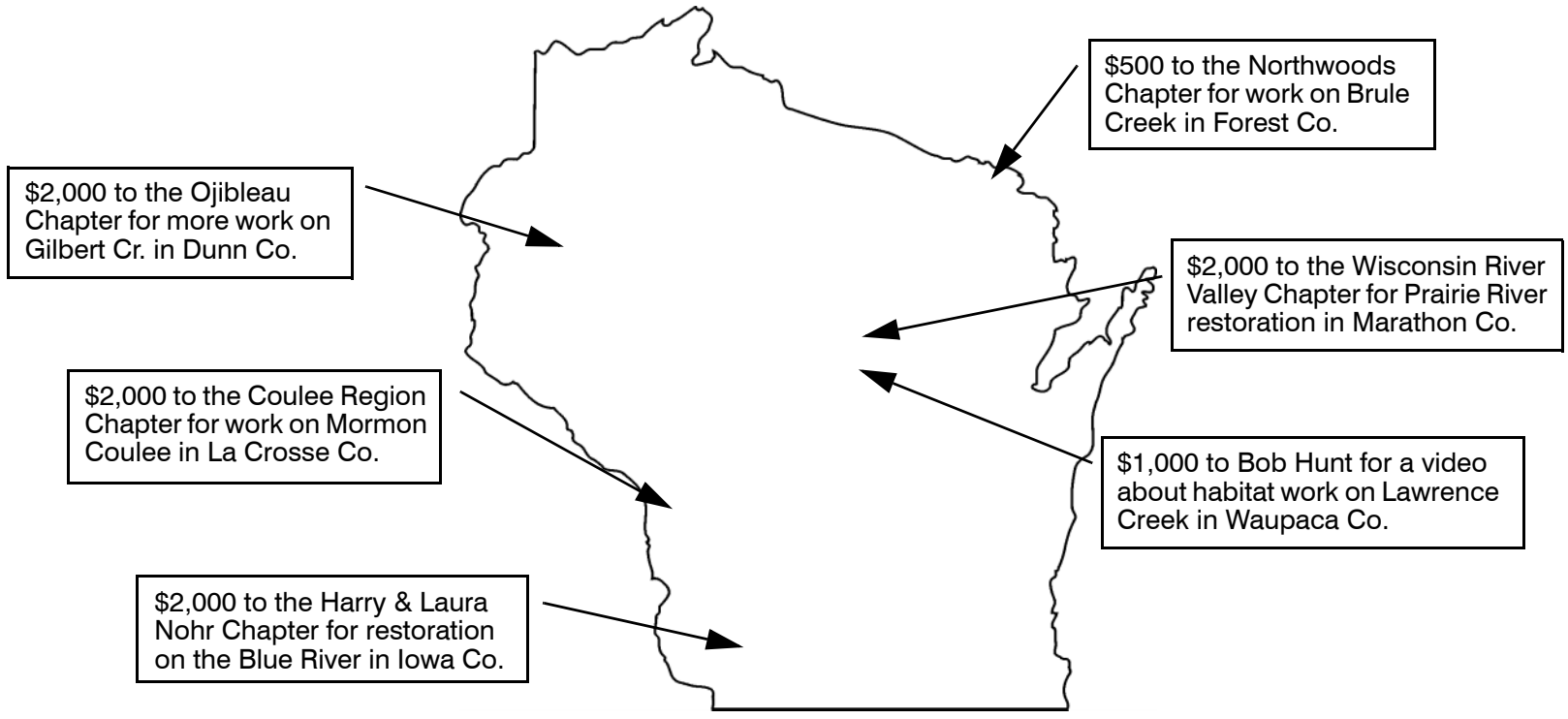
Leopold Chapter where he serves as chapter treasurer.

Hill has run a successful printing business in Watertown with his wife, Donna, for 24 years and will use that marketing and business background to help the program.

"I believe in TU's mission," says Hill, "and at this point in my life, I think it's time to put something back into the trout resource I've enjoyed all these years."

The State Council thanks John and Steve for their efforts.

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



Friends of Wis. TU

Thanks for becoming one of our 2006 Friends!

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- Henry A Anderson MD
- Mike and Sue Arneson
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- Dale E. Bakke
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- David E. Beckwith
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- Racine WI
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- Arena WI
- Eau Claire WI
- Trempealeau WI
- Minneapolis MN
- Marinette WI
- Eau Claire WI
- Waterford WI
- Stevens Point WI
- Hudson WI
- De Pere WI
- Watertown WI

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

MAIL TO: Friends of Wisconsin TU
 % Steve Hill
 104 S. 5th St.
 Watertown, WI 53094

Name _____

Address _____

City, State Zip _____ Phone # _____