



Wisconsin Trout

October 2006

Chapters re-chartered at TU annual meeting

By Bill Pielsticker

The 2006 TU National annual meeting was held in Minneapolis Sept. 15-17. The meeting brought to a close year one of the Chapter Focus Project and saw 94 chapters re-chartered by TU National, including nine Wisconsin chapters.

The meeting was also an opportunity to showcase the Midwest's Driftless Area, to celebrate the work TU volunteers do here and elsewhere, and to review progress at the national level over the past year. Chapter re-chartering process

A year ago, the TU National Leadership Council and Board of Trustees adopted a new program requiring all TU chapters to be reviewed and either de-chartered or re-chartered within four years. This was motivated by the recognition that a number of chapters existed in name only and that TU is bound by its own charter to provide all its members with a minimum level of services. Failure to provide those membership services could put TU's nonprofit status in jeopardy.

The result was the creation of a chapter assessment tool, the Chapter Effectiveness Index, or CEI, and a review of each chapter's CEI by their state council.

The review found 59 chapters with over 11,000 members in defunct chapters. These chapters were de-chartered their members assigned to other chapters or their state council.

Wisconsin chapters' status

No Wisconsin chapters were de-chartered in this process. The Wisconsin Council's executive committee evaluated the CEIs that nearly every state chapter submitted and recommended that National re-charter nine of our 22 chapters including Blackhawk, Central Wisconsin, Fox Valley, Green Bay, Harry & Laura Nohr, Lakeshore, Ocooch,

Oconto River, and Southern Wisconsin.

Given no Wisconsin chapters were de-chartered, it appears that Wisconsin TU continues to have a stronger network of chapters and volunteers than many other states.

Those chapters that were not recommended for re-chartering this year are expected to show some headway in one or more areas of the CEI where they fell short, and may be recommended next year.

Even as TU National is requiring evidence of chapter effectiveness, they are also providing web-based assistance to strengthen chapters and tools for councils to assist chapters that may need more help. The ultimate goal is to build sustainable local organizations and, again, Wisconsin TU is ahead of the game.

Other meeting highlights

Also, this year's conservation tour featured restoration of Trout Run Creek in Southeastern Minnesota and a review of the geology and stream restoration needs of the driftless area.

National staff reported that volunteer hours across the country were up 19% in 2005, a number expected to increase again as chapters better document their activities. Having a good count of volunteer hours and habitat spending are important tools in getting cooperation from government agencies and support at the legislative level.

National TU has obtained an agreement with the US Environmental Protection Agency that will allow us to begin to address acid mine drainage from Superfund sites, an important new tool in restoring damaged streams in our western states.

Work continues on the Potomac River Headwaters initiative, providing opportunities for members of Congress to view TU's work up close and personal.



Steve Born



Bob Blumreich

NOHR IN MINNEAPOLIS, WIDNER IN AVALANCHE

A distinguished group of current and past Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter leaders (top) are shown with their TU National Gold Trout award. Pictured are (l to r) Jayne Wisler, Iris Petersen, Kay Fritz, current Nohr President Brian Larson, and past Nohr presidents Bill Wisler, Dave Fritz, and Chuck Studel. Iris Petersen is the widow of Dave Petersen, who passed away this summer and devoted countless hours to the Nohr Chapter.

Knowing Roger Widner's serious health condition, TU sent its Distinguished Service Award to Wisconsin for an early presentation. Making the presentation are TU's John "Duke" Welter (left) and former Blackhawk Chapter President Dave Patrick at a benefit for Roger at the West Fork Sports Club on Sept. 2.

Nohr Chapter and Roger Widner honored by TU National

Wisconsin was well represented in TU National's 2006 National Conservation Awards presented in Minneapolis Sept. 16.

The Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter was presented the Gold Trout Award for best chapter in the United States, and Roger Widner of Av-

alanche, who died of cancer Sept. 24, was recognized for his contributions to Wisconsin trout streams and conservation efforts with the national Distinguished Service Award.

The Gold Trout chapter award is granted annually to the chapter that has made the most noteworthy contribution to the cause of coldwater conservation over the previous year.

The Nohr Chapter is a leader in conservation efforts in the Midwest's Driftless Area, which is considered by many to be a national treasure with its unique limestone formations, springs, and small streams. Over the past three years, the Nohr Chapter has spearheaded three restoration projects on Wisconsin's Blue River, restoring over 11,000 feet of stream at a total cost of well over \$100,000.

The chapter has brought together a wide array of public and private partners, and they have been particularly successful in connecting urban Chicago TU chapters with these rural restoration projects.

"The Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter is a model for coldwater activism," said Duke Welter, member of the TU Board of Trustees. "The chapter's successful efforts in the Driftless Area encouraged our region's TU volunteers and our national organization to develop a program focused on the large-scale restoration of the region."

Members also have worked with area teachers to develop a coldwater conservation curriculum for use in local schools.

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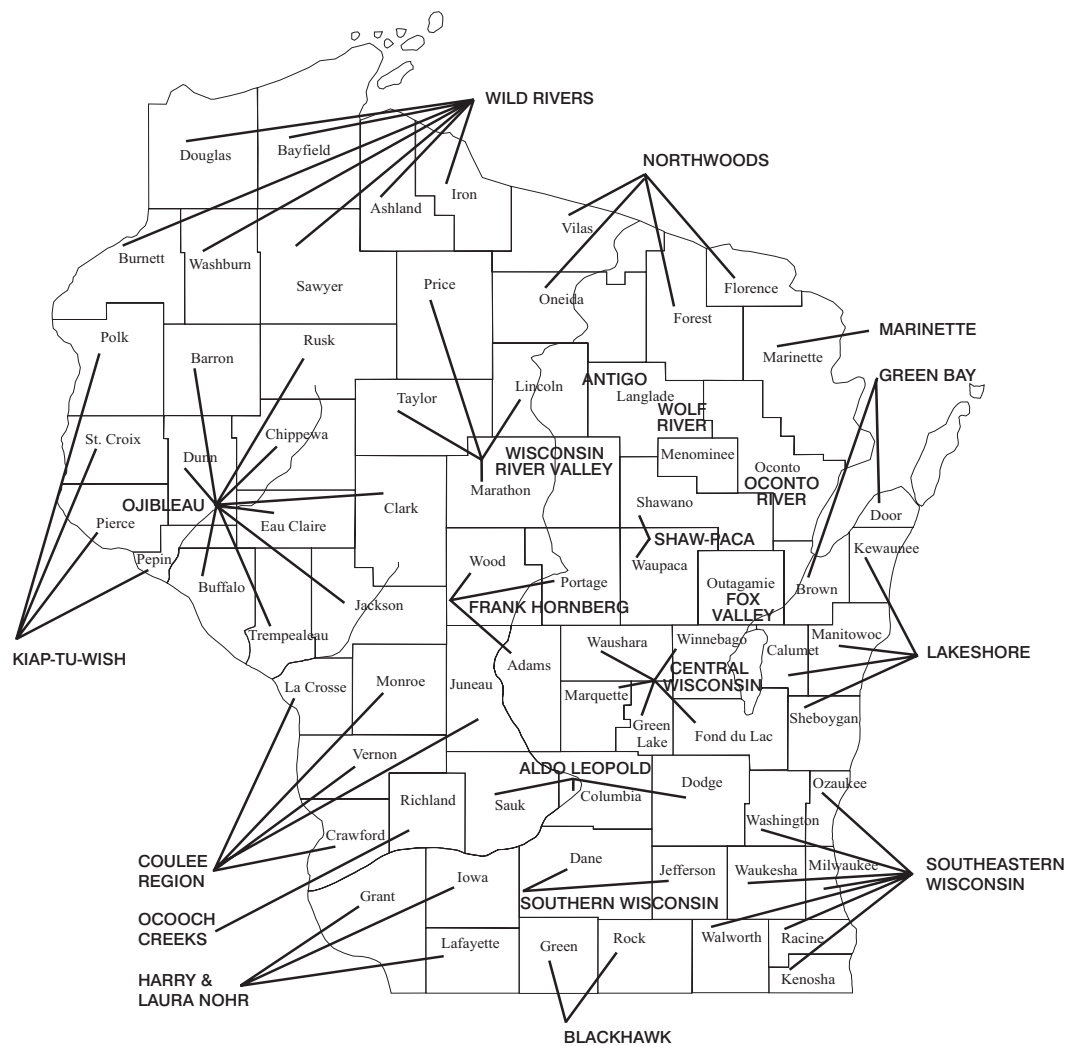
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Wisconsin TU Chapters, Presidents, and Web Sites



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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).

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Don't blame the kids

By Kim McCarthy

A small group of anti special regulations folks seem bound and determined to abolish scientific management practices in Wisconsin. I guess that shouldn't be too surprising given the current national passion for ignoring scientific thinking that gets in the way of personal desires.

Guest
Editorial

Apparently there is a hard-core group that sees creeks full of trout and thinks the resource would be better off if most of those trout were in somebody's freezer. The fact that the creeks are full of fish because of sound regulations and scientific management is lost on this group.

The anti-regs group is entitled to their opinion, even though most of us vigorously disagree. What I'm not sure they are entitled to do is to drag the kids of Wisconsin into the debate. Their claim generally states that one of the reasons we are seeing a decline in numbers of youngsters taking up the sport is because regulations are too complicated and kids are turned off. On this point they are dead wrong.

Kids are not born either pro or anti much of anything, especially attitudes about hunting or fishing. Everything kids know about fishing is pretty much learned behavior. They start knowing nothing and are trained by adults who mentor them in the sport.

Kids who enter fishing have no background or opinions about changes the sport has undergone. Most of them are just happy and fascinated to be fishing and maybe have something tug on the end of the line. They will adopt whatever they are taught because it is all they know about the activity. If they are taught to kill everything and fill the freezer, that is what they will learn.

If they are taught in the spirit of Lee Wulff that a gamefish is too valuable a resource to be used only once, that is what they will learn. What they will *never* do is complain that they are fishing or say it just isn't fun because it isn't like the good old days.

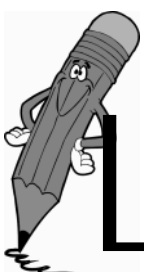
The problem we face in diminishing numbers of youngsters taking up fishing is that kids simply are not being taken fishing and taught the sport. As a former teacher of 31 years, I always made it a point to survey my classes about interests and activities in which they were engaged. At the start of my career, I had numbers of kids exceeding 50% of my classes who were engaged in outdoor activities. By the time I retired a couple of years ago, the numbers had dropped to just a few kids in each class.

I watched the family structure change as the numbers involved in outdoor sports dropped. I think it is safe to say that one-parent families just don't put many kids into outdoor sports like trout fishing. Let's also not underestimate the impact of video games and computers in removing kids from the outdoors. My belief is that we would have seen the same drop in interest if regulations had not changed one bit over the years.

So the next time you hear somebody claim that kids would flock to fishing if they could just kill a bunch of fish, remember that what you are really hearing are the ages-old attitudes of grandpa, not the kids.

We won't change the anti group. But we need to keep praising the benefits and successes of special regulations and insisting on fish management based on science rather than emotion. And finally — do whatever you can as a chapter or an individual to get some kids interested in fishing.

(Kim McCarthy is a member of the Oconto River Chapter and serves as Wisconsin TU's Northeastern Region Vice Chair. -Ed.)



Letters

Questions huge brookies in Clam River

Editor,

I am a longtime member of the Wild Rivers Chapter of TU and have always enjoyed reading *Wisconsin Trout*. However, the article on bigger brook trout in the July is-

sue really took me by surprise.

The article mentions the Clam River in Washburn County as a good location to catch a 16" brook trout. It also states that this river is over 17 miles long and unimpeded

by dams. It further credits the large brook trout in part to special regs protecting all trout over 12 inches.

I live near the Clam River and have fished it for about 25 years. I have never caught or heard of anyone in the last quarter century catching a brook trout over 16 inches from this river. In fact, I cannot honestly say I have caught a brook trout over 12 inches from here.

While the river is over 17 miles long, only the headwaters contains brook trout. Most of the river is a warm water fishery with panfish, northern, and bass. There are two impoundments on the Clam (Clam River Flowage and Clam Lake).

According to the local DNR fisheries manager, the maximum lifespan of brook trout in the Clam River is four years. He recommended the special regulation protecting all trout over 12 inches to encourage larger brown trout while allowing maximal harvest of the brook trout. He knows brook trout cannot be stockpiled through release since their lifespan is so short.

Bruce Moss,
WDNR, retired

[Author Bob Obama comments: "Errors were made. The Clam River does indeed originate in Washburn County, but only gets to be good trout water when it crosses the Burnett County line. Nineteen miles of unimpounded North Clam River trout water are upstream of Spencer Lake in Burnett County, flowing out of Washburn County at the source, but that stretch is not considered trout water at the source.

Bruce and I (and the fishery manager) do agree that the headwaters (Burnett County) fish can make four years of age, which would make them 14" long if they are like the Lawrence Creek population of four-year-old brookies. The 16" Clam River angler report is worth what you believe of it, as I did not measure the fish myself. It does look plausible to me, given the long free-flowing headwater area and the honest reputation of that angler.

I blew another one when I said that the Oconto River doesn't produce 18" brookies. Dave Brunner of Oconto River TU saw an 18" brookie this May that came from the river. I shall ask all to correct my errors."]

Where was Little Plover concern before crisis?

Editor,

The dewatering of the Little Plover River in 2005 and again this year probably came as no surprise to water scientists and fishery managers in Wisconsin. For all the years that they watched and studied the stream's deteriorating situation, were they properly informing the public about decline of the essential groundwater supply for this and other trout streams of the region? Were they taking remedial action? I do not represent a river group, but as a former WDNR aquatic research biologist (and still returning each year from Washington state to fish for trout), I have particular concern for central Wisconsin trout streams and offer the following remarks.

The U.S. Geological Survey, in cooperation with DNR, conducted a major experimental study of pumping from the Little Plover's groundwater aquifer some 40 years ago (USGS Water-Supply Paper 1811, 1965). They did this in order to predict effects on central Wisconsin trout streams. It was clear from this and other studies that intensive irrigation farming and whatever other massive groundwater withdrawals in the region there might be would cause flow volume of the area's streams to decline.

Surely, the appropriate agencies have followed the area's trends of decrease in groundwater levels, stream flow, and fish populations ever since. I understand from another former DNR biologist that, although irrigation was already damaging the Little Plover River too much, the groundwater effects of urbanization in the watershed became an even worse factor. (Beyond its summer harm, urban groundwater pumping probably exacerbates the stream's winter low flow problems, as well.)

What were state agencies doing about the deteriorating situation? DNR's web site states its dedication "to the preservation, protection, effective management, and maintenance of Wisconsin's natural resources." Is this being borne out with respect to the groundwater upon which central Wisconsin's trout populations depend? "Efficient use of agricultural resources in a quality environment" is part of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture's mission. Is destroying trout streams consistent with this?

Long before it causes utter drying, groundwater pumping typically reduces stream volume to an extent that harms fish populations. A stream's trout population thrives best under conditions of rather stable "base flow" — the amount of water supplied by groundwater springs and seepages, or flow that is not due to overland runoff of rain or melted snow. The fish generally contend well with high flows, such as floods from runoff. Runoff flows usually last only a few hours or days. It is severe low flows that most damage stream fish populations. Low water tends to undergo greater warming in summer, exposes fish to predators, often lasts for weeks, and can greatly increase a fish population's death rate even if complete dewatering does not happen.

Certainly, the Little Plover River's trout suffered from groundwater pumping for many years. The same goes for other central Wisconsin trout streams — no doubt all those where significant irrigation occurs. Creeks in the "sand plain" west of the region's moraine crest have probably been hit the hardest, not only because so much irrigation is done there, but also because flow of streams in flatter land responds more sharply to decreased groundwater levels. Big Roche-a-Cri Creek (Waushara and Adams counties) appears to have shriveled to a pitiful fraction of its former flow. Similar conditions can be expected in the Ten Mile Creek headwater branches (Portage County), in Carter Creek (Adams County), and most other sand plain streams. Are these creeks even worth fishing anymore?

It looks like people did not become sufficiently concerned during the Little Plover River's long festering flow crisis. Now they see the stream's dry bed and are raising something of a fuss. Way too late to prevent terrible damage, but streams can restore themselves when human harm is halted.

Is the situation retrievable? Restoring or preserving the stream's low flows in the form of mere trickles will do little good for the trout population. Substantial, dependable flow will have to be assured if fishing and other important stream values are to recover. Do Wisconsin's people and their government care enough about this region-wide crisis to tackle what's causing it?

Ray White

State Council holds fall meeting in Avalanche

By Jeff Ware

WITU State Council Secretary

Chairman Bill Pielsticker called the fall meeting of the WITU State Council to order at the West Fork Sports Club in Avalanche Sept. 23.

Fifteen chapters were represented, including Aldo Leopold, Blackhawk, Central, Coulee Region, Fox Valley, Green Bay, Harry & Laura Nohr, Hornberg, Lakeshore, Oconto River, Ojibseau, Shaw-Paca, Southeastern, Southern, and Wild Rivers.

Chair's report

Chair Pielsticker reported that of the 95 chapters officially re-chartered in the nation, nine of those were Wisconsin chapters. Bill pointed out that this count does not even reflect the fact that one or two additional Wisconsin chapters that would have qualified since the tally.

Nationally, it was found that about 11,000 members were assigned to 59 defunct chapters. These members have been reassigned. Again, and notably, WITU has none of these situations. Chapters need to look at this as a self-evaluation or strategic planning tool. Re-chartering will go on every four years.

The Chair spoke with Liz Olgivie of TU National, and plans are in the works for her to present a one-hour workshop on using the "Chapter Toolbox" on the TU web site at our February meeting in Stevens Point.

We had joined in a proposal with Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters, Pheasants Forever, and others to host a gubernatorial debate on conservation issues. This did not work out, and we will send a questionnaire in lieu of a debate.

WITU's fall election candidate survey (*see results on pp. 8-9 in this issue*) was spearheaded by Tom Hermann, Paul Mongin, and Paul Kruse and distributed in July. A majority of candidates did not respond, but many did.

The Chair read excerpts from a letter and indicated that the number of out-of-state anglers reported by Roger Kerr in his letter should be read as very positive in terms of the impact on the economic health of nearby communities. In fact, Kerr himself suggested the term "Trout Tourism."

Pielsticker, Rich Kyte, and Larry Meicher reported a very positive interaction during a program they presented to the academy which inducted 12 new Wisconsin game wardens. The TU message was very well received. Larry pointed out that only one or two of the new wardens had experience trout fishing.

Chair reported on a public trust doctrine issue on tribal lands raised by an out-of-state fisherman who had been cited for trespassing on tribal land here in Wisconsin. This issue was resolved by a tribal judge and never went any further, but Jack Bode and others pointed out that we would be wise to approach a number of tribal officials and seek to develop some cooperative efforts which would improve the resource and public access to it.

Update on de-watering issues

We signed a joint letter to DNR with MEA on the Waupaca River de-watering. We understand that the Waupaca Country Club did pay a \$5,000 fine for its actions in this matter and agreed to abide by suggested procedural changes. Negotiations may be continuing between

MEA, DNR, and the country club. Chair Pielsticker will follow up with DNR to find out where the \$5,000 fine went.

The DNR has developed some baseline data which will help greatly with quantifying impacts going forward of the Polar Springs water bottling operation. The operator indicates that he will pump 50,000 gallons/day and has indeed installed a pump of that capacity. The DNR has suggested to the local TU chapter that the Polar Springs site is really "small potatoes" compared to the six high-capacity agricultural wells nearby that each currently draw about 1.2 million gallons per day.

Kim McCarthy and the Chair both underscored the fact that the existing high-capacity wells are indeed the issue and that the situation looks more and more like the Little Plover River situation. Elsewhere in the state, at least six high-capacity well permits have been denied under the 1,200-foot setback rule of the state's new Groundwater Law.

Dewatered occurred once again this summer on the Little Plover River. Chair pointed out that a local survey revealed even more high-capacity wells in existence near the Little Plover than were mapped.

It also was reported that Spring Brook in Antigo County has dried up two years in a row. The Chair will follow up on this with DNR.

Chair indicated that volunteer staffing at the 2006 Outdoor Expo was a real challenge. Bob Hasse from the Central Chapter underscored the challenge the group faced this year with approximately 4,000 attendees at the event. Chair noted that many chapters had conflicting activities for that date this year and he will work with specific chapters to ensure maximum volunteer staffing at the 2007 event.

Guest WDNR speakers

The State Council heard from two WDNR guest speakers at the meeting — WDNR Water Quality Biologist Cindy Koperski and Fisheries Supervisor Dave Vetrano.

Koperski talked about the Cook Creek de-watering events in Vernon County. She emphasized the following:

- The de-watering cause was quite easily discovered and confirmed.
- The operator of the well was operating within the permit, but at 350' from the stream, well below the now-established 1,200' minimum.
- This is a 650' deep well, but cased only to 60'. Hydrologist review of maps discovered a very porous layer of rock down to 350 feet, and when the operator installed well casing down to 350', the de-watering of Cook Creek no longer took place.

Koperski concluded that a local landowner's inquiry about the de-watering and subsequent follow-up by DNR was a key to finding a solution.

A vulnerability inherent in current groundwater law was discussed. The 1,200' distance between a well and a stream may not be sufficient in all circumstances; it would not have been in this case. If groundwater mapping is not available statewide, we are at risk of not being able to implement effective solutions.

Jack Bode offered that to his knowledge the Public Trust Doctrine would not protect high-capacity well impacts on lakes.

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2211 Frona Place
Eau Claire WI 54701

July 26, 2006

TROUT UNLIMITED
Attention: Ms. Sally Armstrong
1300 N. 17th Street, Suite 500
Arlington VA 22209-2404

Re: Nomination of Roger Widner for Distinguished Service Award

Dear Ms. Armstrong:

Last year, a group of TU leaders concerned with the future of the Driftless Area's thousands of miles of trout streams submitted a nomination of Roger Widner for a Distinguished Service Award, but he did not receive one. This year we again submit the nomination, with some urgency. **Roger has been diagnosed with terminal, inoperable cancer and his doctors advised him that his life will end within a few months. He is now near death from those who have spoken with his family this week, and may have a few days or, at most, a few weeks to live. We would ask that Roger be honored with this award, and that we be able to present it to him prior to the September Annual Meeting while he has the physical and mental resources to appreciate it.**

There's a good reason the West Fork of the Kickapoo River in southwest Wisconsin's Driftless Area shows up as one of America's Top 100 Trout Streams: Roger Widner of Avalanche, Wisconsin. Roger, a third generation resident of the Kickapoo Valley, began working with the West Fork Sports Club, Coulee Region TU, and Wisconsin DNR over 20 years ago. Although acceptance from local residents came slowly, they obtained easements and stabilized banks and turned the river into the fine trout resource it is today. The degraded Kickapoo River had been written off in the 1950s by a DNR fish biologist as a restorable trout resource. Roger and the WFSC, working with the DNR and TU volunteers, proved him wrong. In the process, they reduced streambank sedimentation, established a catch-and-release brown trout fishery and re-established a native brook trout fishery in a tributary, and obtained almost eight miles of public fishing easements for access to this fine recreational resource.

Roger is not formally trained as a biologist or a fluvial geomorphologist, but as an angler he has learned to read water and in numerous projects he has proved himself as a designer of habitat improvement in the Driftless Area. His services are sought after by other TU chapters, with whom he has done other notable work, including the Lakeshore TU's Onion River project in Sheboygan County and several other projects conducted by the Harry & Laura Nohr chapter in the Dodgeville-Fennimore area of southwest Wisconsin. He is a master with an excavator.

At the same time, Roger has proven an effective and thoughtful advocate for clean water and healthy trout fisheries. He has appeared before local and state natural resource boards and legislative committees to urge resource protection and restoration. He speaks his mind plainly but with eloquence born of common sense. With thousands of miles of coldwater streams in the Driftless Area, many worthy of our protective and restorative efforts, Roger has been a strong ally in pursuit of TU's mission.

Roger Widner is clearly deserving of TU's National Distinguished Service Award. I can advise you that the Wisconsin State Council's Executive Committee joins in and endorses this nomination.

Sincerely,

John (Duke) Welter
National Board of Trustees
Secretary, National Leadership Council

cc: Bill Pielsticker, Wisconsin State Council Chair
Dan Wisniewski, Wisconsin NLC Representative
Steve Born

AWARDS: Nohr, Widner honored

Continued from p. 1

Education also is a high priority for the Nohr Chapter. It provides grants and internships to local students, as well as opportunities for citizens to participate in a stream monitoring program.

"Our membership has been steadfast in its commitment to the preservation, protection, and restoration of the coldwater resource," says Brian Larson, chapter president. "We are committed to working with landowners, educators, and other community leaders to ensure that trout streams can thrive along with productive farms, forests and recreational lands."

The Nohr Chapter earlier won Wisconsin TU's highest award for chapters, the Silver Trout Award, in both 2000 and 2005.

The Nohr Chapter is based in the Dodgeville, Fennimore, and Platteville areas of Wisconsin.

Roger Widner honored

In addition to the Nohr Chapter being honored, Roger Widner Jr. of Avalanche was presented TU National's Distinguished Service

Award, one of TU's top awards for volunteers.

Roger was too ill to travel to Minneapolis to receive his award. He died of cancer on Sept. 24, about one week after the Minneapolis event.

However, Roger was able to attend a benefit held on his behalf at the West Fork Sports Club on Sept. 2. That event was attended by several hundred people, many of whom were TU folks who had worked with Roger on projects across the state.

In a nomination letter supporting Roger for the award (*reproduced above*), John Welter noted, "There's a good reason the West Fork of the Kickapoo River in southwest Wisconsin's Driftless Area shows up as one of America's Top 100 Trout Streams: Roger Widner of Avalanche, Wisconsin."

Individuals and chapters wishing to contribute to the "Roger Widner Family Benefit #5106" can send a check in the fund's name to the Westby Community Credit Union, PO Box 70, Westby, WI 54667.

Wisconsin trout and agriculture: Can we get along?

By Bill Pielsticker

WITU State Council Chair

Several years ago, I began an address to the Professional Dairy Producers of Wisconsin with the following statement:

Across history, agriculture has created more environmental problems than any other human activity. In this country alone we see the near extinction of native prairie, the Dust Bowl fiasco, pesticide contamination, wetland destruction, and the dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico.

In Wisconsin, agricultural practices filled our streams with sediment, and the native brook trout were eliminated or confined to fragile headwaters in what was left of their original range. More recently, improper management of animal manure has resulted in numerous fish kills on dozens of trout streams.

Yet, things may not be as bleak as they seem. Wisconsin's Coon Valley was the birthplace of modern soil conservation programs. Changing land use practices are allowing the return of brook trout to many streams that a few decades ago lacked the cold, clean water these marvelous fish require.

Members of Wisconsin TU work well with individual farmers and landowners. Individuals and chapters cooperate with farmers to improve stream habitat and to maintain the work completed in earlier projects. Until recently, one thing we didn't do well was work with the agricultural groups that represent Wisconsin's farmers.

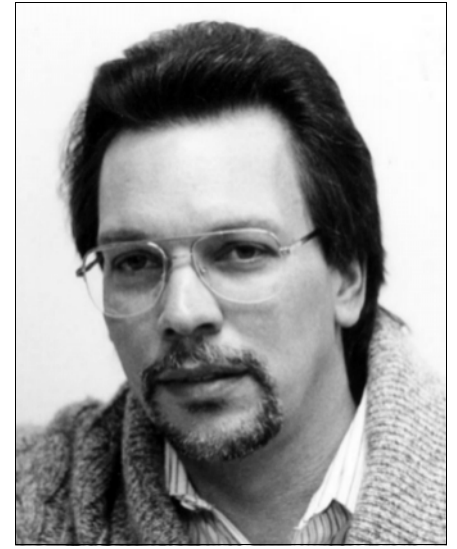
As an organization, members of Trout Unlimited have a reputation for putting our money where our mouth is, especially through stream work (see photo). The result is that we are well placed to try to bridge

the chasm between farmers and environmentalists.

Wisconsin TU and other conservation and environmental groups are beginning to work hand-in-hand with agricultural groups to find ways to keep farming profitable without taking a toll on our trout streams and other natural resources. In a sense, this cooperation began with the Wisconsin Buffer Initiative. This three-year process produced a plan to target specific small watersheds for intensive implementation of the polluted runoff program. It calls for field-by-field evaluation and adoption of appropriate upland practices and buffers where needed. The Wisconsin DNR is responsible for implementing this plan, and conser-

vation of winter manure spreading plans and emergency response plans for livestock producers. These plans would identify which fields are least likely to have runoff problems and which are most prone to runoff, and we would seek avoiding winter spreading of liquid manure on the latter. Among the issues to be settled are the questions of voluntary versus mandatory plans and what sort of incentives might be offered to speed adoption of these plans.

Three years ago I was appointed by DNR Secretary Scott Hassett to the Wisconsin Agricultural Stewardship Initiative (WASI) steering committee. The WASI steering committee is designed to help coor-



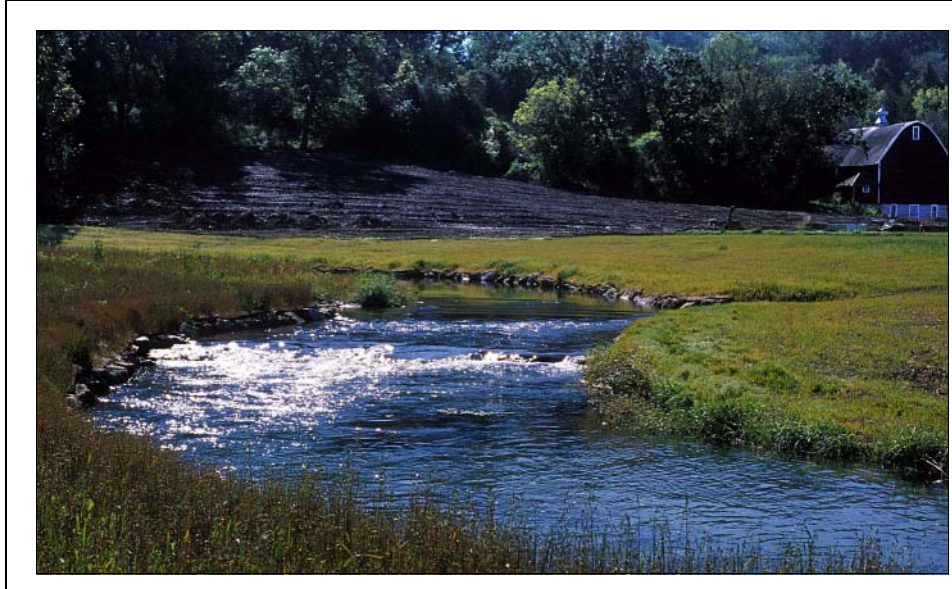
Bill Pielsticker

ery Farms examining manure transport during late winter and spring provided the impetus to limit manure spreading during times when snowmelt and spring rains are most likely to create runoff problems.

To date, Pioneer Farm has held two full-day research symposiums to review their work on field-scale runoff and interactions between cattle and streams. The Discovery Farms program has presented research updates in numerous forums around the state. Now WASI is working to present a series of roundtable presentations on agricultural practices and environmental impacts based

on the research being conducted here.

The WASI effort is still relatively new, and reliable results depend on the level of baseline data available to compare with. Even so, recent work by university researchers on the Discovery Farms and independently and at Pioneer farm leave me optimistic that there is both a will and a way to resolve the conflict between agriculture and the environment. To do so would produce a win-win outcome for farmers, anglers, and Wisconsin's trout.



Bill Pielsticker

FARMERS AND TU WORKING TOGETHER

Over 60 TU National meeting attendees reviewed the Hiawatha Chapter's efforts to restore a stream badly degraded by 6-12 feet of sediment. This work is being accomplished with the cooperation of the local farm owner and operator, the Minnesota DNR, and a full contingent of TU volunteers.

vation and farm groups will monitor their progress.

At the same time, nearly everyone agrees that there is not enough money budgeted to fully implement the polluted runoff program. Wisconsin TU and others are talking with a leading farm group about new funding sources for this program. There was bipartisan support for the polluted runoff program when it was adopted five years ago. Over the next few months, we will work with farmers to try to re-create that level of support to provide the funding needed to enable them to be the stewards they want to be but can't afford on their own.

We are also talking to farm representatives about statewide imple-

ment research at the Pioneer Farm operated by the UW-Platteville, the Discovery Farms system operated in conjunction with the UW Extension Service, and individual research projects at UW-Madison, UW-Platteville, and UW-Stevens Point. The goal of this work is to collaborate on efforts to make production agriculture "environmentally compatible and economically sustainable."

Much of the new research by the Buffer Initiative was done on Discovery Farms or with university researchers. This effort was facilitated by WASI. Research on the Discov-

COUNCIL: meets in Avalanche

Continued from p. 4

Chair Pielsticker will thank the Kramer Co. and others involved for helping resolve this situation.

Area Fisheries Supervisor Dave Vetrano covered a wide range of topics in his remarks.

Vetrano thought Timber Coulee regulations did not need simplification or changes. As to the kind of trout regulation simplification as proposed by Roger Kerr, Vetrano said the current category system is designed to grow fish. He said there is no scientific or DNR support for Kerr's proposals.

Manure handling and winter spreading is a large issue for the streams Dave works with.

He talked a little about Duck Egg (a tributary of the Bad Axe) and the use of less intensive techniques to construct deep pools and riffles. Increased Trout Stamp revenues have been very helpful.

Vetrano is working hard to get baseline data to support the development of trend lines to be able to extrapolate data. Citizen water monitoring can be a real asset along with citizen-supplied weather information if correlated to stream data.

Chair and Duke Welter gave the National Leadership Council report in Dan Wisniewski's absence. Dan is chair of TU National's Farm Bill Working Group and is key in providing leadership in this area. Bill Pielsticker has been appointed to this committee as well.

Jeff Hastings introduced TUDARE Project Manager Jeff Hastings introduced himself at the meeting. He talked about his previous experience as the Vernon County Conservationist and his extensive work with Dave Vetrano and Roger Widner. He now wants to extend into his regional work to the new TUDARE program.

Continued on p. 6



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Wisconsin TU State Council Awards Criteria

Trout Unlimited Resource Award of Merit

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

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

Lee and Joan Wulff Conservation Leadership Award

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

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

Trout Unlimited Gold Trout Award for Service

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

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

Trout Unlimited Gold Net Award

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

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

Silver Trout Award for Chapter Merit

- Recipient a WITU chapter that has restored, enhanced, or protected Wisconsin's trout or salmon resource.
- Total value of the project, including the value placed on man-hours and materials, must total at least \$3,500.

- The project must involve trout and salmon resources available to the public to fish. Projects for private use only do not qualify.
- The end result of the project must demonstrate a long-term commitment or benefit to the trout or salmon resource.

Nature of award — a silver plaque with printed inscription.

Jeffrey Carlson Volunteer Award

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

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

Special Appreciation DNR Personnel Award

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

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

Certificate of Appreciation

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

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

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

YEAR	AWARD OF MERIT	GOLD TROUT	SILVER TROUT	GOLD NET	JOAN & LEE WULFF	PROFESSIONAL	CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION
1984	Harold Starkweather	Roger Fairbanks	Ojibseau	Bob Brunzell		Duke Andrews	Tom Flesch, Bob Maier, Tom Mertens, Bob Burnham, Bob Brunzell, Wally Cooper, Duke Andrews, Jim Spalding, Cap Buettner & Green Bay Chapter
85	Jim Addis	Ron Koshoshek	Shaw-Paca	Mitch Bent		Prof. Jack Heaton	Arling Erickson, Lee Parker, Cy Sendaibach, Tom Poulett, Tom Sopkovich, Phil Orth, & Sheldon's (Mepps)
86	Bob Zimmerman	Larry Meicher & Bob Retko	Green Bay	Jim Bereza		Frank Pratt	Rep. Sharon Metz, Frank Pratt, Walli Arts, Larry Worth, Earl Little, Glen Cox & Tim Johnson
87	Tom Flesch	Dan Harmon	Antigo	Lowell Genrich		Max Johnson	Connie Rohlman
88	Richard Osborn	Kim McCarthy & Jerry Weatherwax	Fox Valley	Jim Bereza		Tim Larson	Rep. James Holperin, Jim Curran, Bud Jordahl & Joe Knight
89	Mitch Bent	Bob Heding	Southern WI	Bob Worth		Gene VanDyck	Jim Bereza, Herb Hintze & Gordon King
90	Bob Hunt	Jim Bereza	Aldo Leopold	Dick Krays		Scott Stewart	
91	Larry Claggett	Rich Wachowski & Steve Born	Green Bay	Dennis Orgemen		Duke Andrews	Anne Dirkman & Tip Bagstad
92	Nash Williams	Herb Buettner	Wolf River	Marlin Spindler		Dave Vetrano	Mike Syverson, Carrol Besadny & Forrest Grulke
93		Kim McCarthy & Jerry Weatherwax	Aldo Leopold	Jim Bereza		Tim Larson	
94	[No banquet this year]						
95	George Vukelich	Bob Eastlund, Harley Erbs & Jim Hlaban	Frank Hornberg	John Cantwell			Bob Boucher
96	Richard Knitter	David Newhouse	Kiap-TU-Wish	Forrest Grulke	Bud Jordahl	Marty Engel	Bob Reynolds & Sen. Robert Cowles
97	Lee Kernen	Bob Heim	WI River Valley	John Bethke	Steve Born	Duke Andrews	
98	Herb Buettner	Bill Sherer		Herb Hintze	Kathleen Falk	Scott Stewart, Andy Morton & Ken Johnson	Stu Grimstad
99	Dr. Christine Thomas	Jeff Smith	Kiap-TU-Wish	Jeff Preiss	Jeff Carlson	Jim Holzer, John Nelson & Al Niebur	
2000		Tony Tremi	Harry & Laura Nohr	Larry Doebert	Martin Hanson	Roger Kerr	Sen. Kevin Shibilski, Dick Prine, David Beckwith & Ron Seely
01	Terry Kohler	Fred Young	Central WI	Greg Vodak	John Welter		John Sauers, Scott Watson, Steve Galoff & Connie Walker for WI Public Radio
02	Elward Engle	John Bethke & Stu Grimstad	Coulee Region	Gary Stoychoff	George Meyer	Larry Kreise	Kris Stepenuck, Peggy Compton & Mike Reiter
03	Dave Ladd	Chuck Steudel	Ojibseau	Bill Pielsticker	Dan Flaherty		Eric Schubring for WOJB-FM
04	Mole Lake Sokaogon Chippewa & Forest County Potawatomi	Dave Fritz	Wild Rivers	Gordon Braun	Dale Druckrey	Jeff Hastings & Jim Radtke	
05	Larry Meicher	Jeff Smith	Harry & Laura Nohr	Bill Heart		Al Stranz	Rep. Du Wayne Johnsrud & Sen. Neal Kedzie
06	Herb Behnke	Larry Kriese	Lakeshore & Ocooch	Don Pluemer			Ed Culhane

OTHER AWARDS

- 1985 **Scientific Contribution Award** -- Steve Field
- 89 **Scientific Contribution Award** -- Eddie Avery
- 91 **Headwaters Award** -- Clint Byrnes
- 96 **Aldo Leopold Leadership Award** -- Todd Hanson
- 98 **Most Unsung Valuable Trout Award** -- Forrest Grulke
- 99 **Most Unsung Valuable Trout Award** -- Mitch Bent
- 2003 **Most Unsung Valuable Trout Award** -- Jim Bereza; **Jeff Carlson Leadership Award** -- Roger Widner
- 04 **Most Unsung Valuable Trout Award** -- Jim Hlaban; **Reel Partners Award** -- Oakbrook Chapter TU & Elliot Donnelly Chapter TU
- 05 **Jeff Carlson Leadership Award** -- Pete Esser
- 06 **Most Unsung Valuable Trout Award** -- Dan Holland; **Reel Partners Award** -- River Alliance of WI

Award nominations sought

State Council Awards Committee Chair Larry Meicher is accept-

ing nominations for Wisconsin TU's yearly appreciation awards.

Nominations are due Dec. 1 and must be in the form of a written narrative describing the accomplishments of the candidate, chapter, or entity.

The 2007 awards will be presented at a Noon luncheon to be held in conjunction with the State Council's annual meeting and banquet at the Holiday Inn in Stevens Point on Feb. 3.

Past award winners and the criteria for the council's major awards are shown above.

Send nominations to:
 Larry Meicher
 5258 Salisbury Rd.
 Rio, WI 53960
 (920) 992-6612
 dr.sausage@centurytel.net



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COUNCIL: meets in Avalanche Sept. 23

Continued from p. 5

He said he would get more information out to us on a TUDARE Stream Restoration Seminar at the Radisson in La Crosse Oct. 30-31.

Duke Welter pointed out that the all Embrace-a-Stream grant requests should be moving forward by November 1. It was noted that some may have missed last year's deadline. Jeff and others will work with chapters needing assistance.

An effort to revise the NR253 nutrient standards for large animal operations had hearings starting the end of August. Apparent inter-agency conflicts have stalled the effort. We have joined others in suggesting a stakeholder group session with the Senate to get this issue resolved by November 1. Importantly, the Farm Bureau supports the proposed rules. This is a big deal and

we need to keep close watch on the issues.

Larry Meicher gave the treasurer's report. He reminded chapters that their financial reports to TU National would soon be available on the TU web site and must be filed by November 1. Anyone needing help with this should contact Larry or Bill Pielsticker.

The treasurer also pointed out that chapters showing income of more than \$25,000 may need to file form 990 with the IRS. It was pointed out that chapters needing help with this requirement can get it from National and should verify with National that the filing is indeed necessary.

The treasurer reminded chapters that they must carry their own Tax Exempt (sales tax) number and their own raffle license (Class A or Class B) if they do raffles.



WITU Looking Back

From the Fall 1976 WITU Newsletter...

Except for members of TROUT UNLIMITED, THE FEDERATION OF FLY FISHERMEN and a dedicated force of lay individuals who feel they have some responsibility for the environment they alter in pursuit of their game, Wisconsin fishermen have, traditionally, shot down all attempts to establish a fund for habitat restoration and improvement by way of a trout stamp

They have argued such a fund would be impossible for the DNR to administer; that bureaucratic sleight-of-hand would transfer the monies to other departments; and that it would be an unreasonable financial burden for resident and non-resident fishermen. Resort owners, predictably, went to the wailing wall and they haven't left it yet.

A few years ago, a \$1.00 trout stamp was proposed. It went down like a stone under a barrage of editorial slop that depicted the Wisconsin fisherman as an impoverished boob who could barely afford his regular fishing license. Since then, fees of \$.50 and \$2.00 have been recommended by individual legislators and/or the DNR. This trip, in its budget request, the DNR has raised the ante to \$2.50, a clear signal to the disident members of the Badger angling fraternity that their to-hell-with-the-habitat attitude has run its course and the time has come to pony up.

So, what's \$2.50? A couple of martinis? A six pack cooling in a streamside riffle? Or, is it a small down payment on the decent habitat we owe the trout, our children and our grandchildren?

For those of you who may wish to make an effort to influence the legislature relative to this vital matter we supply the following information. We suggest you write your State Senators and Assemblymen and at least one member of the Joint Finance Committee. Please do not write representing the opinion of TROUT UNLIMITED! Write as individuals!

From the Fall 1996 Wisconsin Trout...

From the Chairman

By David Ogletree

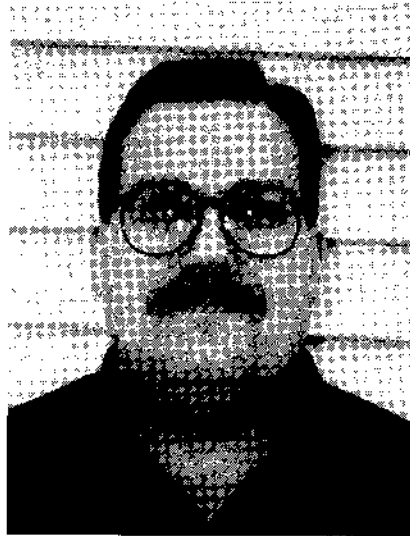
Recent issues have divided our Wisconsin Trout Unlimited State Council and the membership it represents. Over the past several months, I have received one very thoughtful and considerate letter, as well as a handful of equally thoughtful and considerate phone calls, from T.U. members who asked me, "Is our T.U. State Council and its membership split so far apart that it will be unable to pull together and deal with the many sensitive resource issues that face us now and in the near future?"

What all the individuals who contacted me had in common was a desire to find a way to bring us back together and to prevent our recent differences from creating a permanent schism in our ranks that weakens our ability to provide stewardship over our coldwater resources.

My reply to all of you is this: the resource is in more need of good stewardship now than ever before. One positive thing that I see coming the recent contentious issue is that everyone involved - no matter which side of the issue on which they stood - showed their passion, which burns brightly inside them, for our precious coldwater resources in Wisconsin.

Now that we have witnessed how strong our convictions truly are, let's use this strength positively. We all know in our hearts and minds that the future of our coldwater resources depends on how we deal with the complex issues that will be affecting them.

Let us leave what is now past in the past. Let's not waste any time, let's rededicate ourselves to the resource. If we focus on issues **TOGETHER**, we are a force. Let's harness our passion, giving us the strength and unity which will help us preserve our tradition of being good stewards to our state's vast coldwater resources. I know that I can depend on all of you for your best efforts for the resource.



Dave Ogletree

I recently attended the T.U. National Resource Board meeting in Fayetteville, Arkansas, this past August. This meeting always offers an interesting and diverse array of people and resource issues. Every part of our country offers its own unique circumstances affecting its coldwater resources.

Two new items on T.U.'s National Resource agenda are: 1) restoration of Great Lakes salmonids, with specific focus on native species such as the **coaster brook trout**, and 2) the impacts of concentrated animal feedlots on water quality. It was noted that operations of

From the Fall 1986 Reflections...

DNR Should Move On Special Regulations

By MITCH BENT

Much has been said over the years about the pros and cons of establishing "special regulations" on trout waters to improve both numbers of trout and numbers of larger-sized trout. By and large, where special restrictive regulations have been implemented, the quality of trout angling has improved. Be they on the famed trout waters of New York's Catskill Mountains, the limestone streams of Pennsylvania, the desert rivers of New Mexico, or the hallowed waters of the Yellowstone Park area, these regulations have helped trout populations rebound.

One state, though, that just hasn't been able to get into the "groove" as far as special regs are concerned is our own Wisconsin. We have over 9,400 miles of trout waters in the state; yet, by my best calculations, no more than 25-30 miles of these streams have been designated for special angling restrictions (be they restrictions for method of angling, minimum size limits, reduced creel limits, etc.). And ten of those miles, five each of flies-only water on the Wolf and Peshigo Rivers, cover waters that are marginal for trout.

I make note of this situation now, because of my recent trip to the state of Washington for our annual Trout Unlimited Meeting. I discovered that, only four years ago, Washington had a mere 15 miles of trout waters within its perimeter designated for some type of restrictive regulations. Today, after several years of research, analysis, proposals and decisions, over **FIVE HUNDRED** miles of streams in Washington have had special regulations applied to them. While the jury is still out on the impact of these applications, discussions with TU'ers from Washington indicate nothing but success.

One argument that has always been used in opposition to expanding the number of streams in Wisconsin with special regs on parts of their streamthread is the alleged

desire to "simplify regulations" rather than make them more detailed. Unfortunately, our DNR has often used that argument, too. Well, if anyone could see the fishing regulations book that anglers in Washington get with their license purchases, they would see that Wisconsin's regulations, in comparison, are nothing compared to Washington's. That state's regulations book is twice as thick as ours, PLUS it's written on 8½" by 11" paper, not like the little pocket-sized booklet we get.

The "Let's-keep-things-simple" argument just doesn't hold water any more. We all know that we live in a world that is becoming increasingly crowded each day. We have more people with more leisure time taking up angling as a pastime. The resource can only take so much pressure under those circumstances. Thus, we have to make tough decisions. Do we let our "crown jewels" succumb to the effect of the standard regulations (10 trout/day, 6" size limit)? Or, do we recognize that special efforts need to be done to allow the fishery to reach its potential?

Trout Unlimited chapters, meeting in regional meetings this fall, will be addressing these issues at their meetings. They will be examining the coldwater resources of their regions and making recommendations on sections of certain streams for application of special regulations. We hope that DNR staff and the Natural Resources Board will take our recommendations seriously. It's time Wisconsin got off dead center with its attitude toward special regulations and developed an aggressive approach toward implementing these regs in a scientifically determined manner. Continuing on our present course can only mean a continued mediocre trout fishery in Wisconsin. We'd like to see it improve. And we're willing to take the lead in seeing that goal accomplished.

fewer than 100 animals are exempt from regulation under the Clean Water Act. This type of smaller operation is the kind of animal feedlot operation into which T.U. National should be looking.

This year T.U. National offered a T.U. leadership seminar. There was good attendance at this seminar. Wisconsin had two members - **John and Susan Bleimehl** of Madison and the Southern Wisconsin Chapter - attend this seminar. I was really pleased to see Wisconsin represented at the leadership seminar.

Great Lakes Regional Vice President Steve Born of Madison was elected to

the position of Chairman of the National Resources Board, a position which also makes him Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees. The two boards determine and define our T.U. National agenda and T.U. policies each year.

This is just one more example of strong Wisconsin leadership stepping up to the T.U. National level. Steve has been active at the national level for a couple of years already, but being elected to these board positions means a significant contribution of time and energy. I would like to take this moment to congratulate Steve for his commitment to Trout Unlimited.



Chapter News



Jim Jenkin

STILL SMILING AFTER ALL THOSE ROCKS

Fox Valley TU members and friends hauled and placed rocks last August to repair structures the chapter installed some years ago. Crew members included (front, l to r) Pete Jenkin, Brian Schwartz, John Rieder, Harold Zellmer, Lynn Peters, Ryan Borowicz, and (back, l to r) Rich Erickson, Dale Druckrey, and Mark Peerenboom.

Aldo Leopold Chapter

We are moving ahead with our project on the **East Branch of Lodi Spring Creek**. We have Trout Stamp money secured by **Tim Larson** of the **DNR**, and have applied for a number of other grants. If all goes well, we hope to have contractor bids later this fall with work starting in early 2007.

Because this section was ditched and straightened, our goal is to return it as much as possible to its original channel. This will involve moving more earth, but is worth it. Additionally, two landowners downstream from our work area have expressed interest in the project and may want to add their sections into the project in the future. These two sections would extend our project almost all the way to the confluence with the main stem.

We have also been meeting with the **Friends of Scenic Lodi Valley** and have discussed expanding the scope of our project into the City of Lodi. Since this is our chapter's first habitat improvement project in over

10 years, I am excited by the prospect of seeing our plans come to fruition.

We are making plans for our winter fly tying class or classes. We will be gauging interest in the class to see if having two sessions, one in Dodge County and one in Sauk, is viable. Last year we had a great response and hope this year is the same.

In late June nine chapter members spent a weekend camping in the **Rush River** area exploring the northern driftless. Aside from the intermittent rain, a good time was had by all. I found out how picky some trout can be, as I watched fly after fly drifting unmolested over the heads of feeding trout. I caught a few, but as often happens, I felt it was only the dumb ones I managed to fool.

The board is busy planning chapter programs for the winter and we look forward to a productive winter.

—Mike Barniskis

Blackhawk Chapter

The Blackhawk Chapter participated in the following workdays and

made donations of \$6,131 for stream work:



Gary Richardson

LUNKER ASSEMBLY LINE

Kiap-TU-Wish members and friends got the lunker assembly line running during workdays in May and July. The beneficiary of this work was the South Fork of the Kinnickinnic River.

- \$2,000 for stream work on the **Duck Egg** area of the **North Fork of the Bad Axe**.
- \$1,131 to the **Nohr Chapter** for lumber used for lunker structures on the **Snow Bottom** area on the **Blue River**.
- Donated \$3,000 to the **Vernon Co. DNR Office** for stream work. **Dave Vetrano** has started work on **Plum Creek** and **Sugar Creek**. **Terry Vaughn** reported the work was in progress.

On June 10 a number of the Blackhawk Chapter members participated in the **Willow Creek** work day.

We received a check for \$7,000 from the "spill fund" for work on **Hefty Creek** and the **Little South Branch of the Sugar River** in Green County. The work day was held on the two streams outside of **New Glarus**. The funds for this project came from the spill fund and under the direction of the WITU with the Blackhawk Chapter overseeing the project. The easements for public access have been signed and things are ready to roll.

The **Nohr** and **Southern WI** chapters worked with us on the project. Work started at 8:30 a.m. By Noon 35 people turned out.

About 50 lunker structures were built at five different sites. Lunch was served at the New Glarus Park. Thanks to **Karen Patrick** for overseeing this part of the project. There were drawings for some boxes of flies for workers.

The Blackhawk Chapter voted to donate a chain saw to the **Roger Widner Benefit** held on Sept. 2.

On August 12 **Terry Vaughn** led a contingent of Blackhawk fly tyers and casters to Beloit for demonstrations at the **Isaac Walton League's Youth Fishing Day**.

Speaker for the June meeting was **Craig Amacher** from **Fontana Sports** in Madison. The topic was fishing Southwestern Wisconsin. He helped us with our fly casting on the lawn at the DNR building.

At the July meeting **Mike Miller**, **DNR** stream ecologist, gave an interesting presentation on stream ecology and trout behavior as well as a few fishing tips to improve our success as fly fishermen.

At the August meeting **Bob Harrison** of the **Federation of Fly Fishers** gave a presentation on pike fishing. Bob also spoke on fly fishing for trophy pike in Canada at our August Meeting.

—Arlan Hilgendorf

Coulee Region Chapter

Our chapter had a picnic and meeting at **Mormon Coulee Park** in July. There were reports of several large trout caught within a couple hundred yards of the shelter where we met. This is largely due to stream work done in recent years by the **La Crosse Lions Club** on the park area of **Mormon Coulee Creek**.

We pledged \$6,000 to the **DNR** for work on **Hornby Hollow Creek** thanks largely to grants received through the efforts of **Eric Roush**. We have all been busy fishing the multitude of area streams. Life is good in the Coulee Region!

Beginning the third Wednesday of September, our meetings will be held at **Forrest Hills Country Club** off Losey Blvd. in La Crosse.

Our September speaker was author, guide, and guru **Rich Ostoff**.

Our current president, **Rick Kyte**, and our executive board are busy trying to reinvigorate interest and participation in chapter activi-

ties. Thanks to some coercion and arm twisting, **Bob Hubbard** has agreed to chair our banquet yet again. The banquet will be at the end of February, just before the start of the catch-and-release season.

Bob Hunt, author of *Trout Stream Therapy*, and **Jordan Weeks**, **DNR** area coldwater fisheries manager, spoke at our last meeting. We had a discussion about the efficacy of the barbless hook regulation. Both of these individuals expressed the opinion that the biological impact of this regulation is negligible, and the social impact may be discouraging interest in the early season by some anglers.

Many TUers from all over the region participated in a fundraiser for the **Roger Widner Jr.** family on Sept. 2nd in **Avalanche**. Much was accomplished, and it was gratifying to see such generous support.

—John Bethke

Fox Valley Chapter

Fox Valley TU has been busy with a number of summer activities and plans for 2007 programs.

On July 8 and Sept. 9 FVTU was involved with work on the **Radley Creek**. **Al Niebur** from the **DNR** identified a number of areas on the Radley that needed some brush bundles to help narrow the stream and improve the flow. He had several loads of unused Christmas trees from last year delivered to the site for us to use for the project. On two Radley Creek habitat days, we moved the trees to the areas that needed the bundles, staked out the bundles, and tied them in place.

On August 12 we had a number of activities for chapter members. Our August Habitat Day was at the **Sannes/Morgan farm** on the **Tomorrow River**. We spent the morning moving rock to two structures that had been installed years ago and needed some maintenance work. We also completed some fence repair. **Tom Young** represented our

chapter at an **Izaak Walton League** event in Stevens Point. We finished the day with a picnic at the **Rose Farm** on the **Waupaca River**.

Our fall and winter membership meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month at the **Gordon Bubolz Nature Preserve** north of Appleton starting at 7:30.

Our first fall meeting was Sept. 21 when **Pete Segerson** from the **DNR** presented a program on the **Wolf River**.

We will also have a scatter plant of brown trout Oct. 7 on the **Waupaca River**. We will meet at the **Rose Farm** and then proceed from there to the various drop-off sites. Please check our web site at www.FoxValleyTU.org for information.

Get out there and enjoy this great fall weather and, as our former chapter Prez would say, "See you on a trout stream."

—Rich Erickson

Chapter News



Frank Hornberg Chapter

In July we focused on putting in brushmats at our **Rolling Hills** worksite despite the oppressive heat. The refreshments and food were most welcome after all the hard work.

I then was fortunate to assist **Tom Young** at a **Ducks Unlimited** event teaching casting and fly tying. The kids are just such a pleasure to work with.

We would like to thank the gang at **Shooters** for once again hosting and selling raffle tickets for our annual fundraiser and helping us make it a success.

We held two work events in August that focused on building an island on a wide sand flat upstream at the **Welton Road** worksite on the **Tomorrow River**. Hopefully, this will help develop a channel and create more trout habitat.

The project also takes into account the development of more insect habitat which will benefit the whole system. We will be watching to see what happens after next spring's runoff, and then we'll deter-

mine if the island will need to be expanded. Again, I would like to thank the **Shooters** people for closing down the supper club for the day and coming out in force to help us with this project. They really made a difference. And I would like to thank **Stu Grimstad** for giving the participants a talk about what and why we do what we do.

Our chapter assisted the **Friends of the Tomorrow/Waupaca River** in opening up obstructions in the river through the city of Waupaca for canoes and kayaks. This will provide the public the opportunity to use a neglected and wonderful stretch of the river.

Finally, we will be helping fisheries student **Eric Struck** complete his project repairing previous DNR work on the upper **Tomorrow R.** This is the first of the joint projects we will be undertaking with members of the **Fisheries Society at UW-Stevens Point**, and we hope we can continue this association for many years to come.

—Michael Mather

Green Bay Chapter

The Green Bay Chapter has had another productive summer on area streams improving trout habitat.

Chapter Work Project Chairperson **Janet Smith** arranged for the chapter to spend two Saturdays working with the **US Forest Service** on streams in the **Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest**. During these days, members installed brush bundles on two streams. These will help narrow the streams, thus increasing flow and scouring the streambed and creating better trout habitat.

We also began restoration of a fence along the **South Branch of the Oconto River**. The chapter installed this fence back in the 1980s in order to keep cattle from grazing along the streambanks. Grazing had caused severe degradation to the banks and had negatively impacted the water quality and trout habitat. Over the years, the fence has deteriorated, and the chapter is working to return it to its original condition. We also plan to rebuild the cattle watering stations that were part of the original project.

The chapter also staged its annual **Kid's Fishing Day**. Thanks to the

Izaak Walton League of Green Bay, our chapter, aided by the **Green Bay Exchange Club**, brought over 50 kids enrolled in the **Brown County PALS** program to the League's ponds to fish for bluegills and enjoy refreshments. As always, this event was a great success.

Even though it is fall is here, we are not done yet. We have two workdays planned in the next few weeks that will give us additional opportunities to positively impact our coldwater resources.

Even though we took the month of August off from work projects, we used that time to have some fun. A number of chapter members went on a weekend outing to **Boney Falls** on the **Escanaba River** in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. A Saturday morning rain and slow fishing did not dampen the campers' spirits one bit, and a good time was had by all. Finally, we resumed monthly meetings in September. We will use these meetings to prepare for our fundraising banquet and to plan more activities that will protect and enhance our coldwater resources.

—Gary Stoychoff

Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter

The **Blue River** project for 2006 is done, except for the paperwork. **Don Pluemer** has done another great job working with the contractor. We will also be doing some maintenance work on the Blue above **County I** on past project areas yet this year.

We are already hard at work writing grant requests for 2007. We are looking at two projects. One project will be on the **Blue River** on the **Sime** and **Carpenter** properties just below **Bluff Road**. The other

will be on **Big Spring** just below our previous work.

We had a great turnout over at New Glarus to help the **Blackhawk Chapter** make some lunger structures. They have a couple little-known streams to work on.

We had our last Fish-along on Sept. 28 on **Castle Rock Creek**. These events are great for anyone interested in leaning about trout fishing by any legal means.

—Brian Larson

Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter

Between mid May and July 11, Kiap-TU-Wish volunteers worked with the **DNR** on stream restoration on the **South Fork of the Kinnickinnic River**.

The South Fork is a brook trout stream that runs parallel to Hwy. 29

east of River Falls. It is a tributary of the **Kinnickinnic River**.

The South Fork was a stream in need of bank and habitat work. Rock and structures were added, grasses planted, and now this stream is running cold and clear. On July



Gary Stoychoff

WHO BROUGHT THE TIP-UPS?

Green Bay TU members repaired a streamside fence they originally erected in the 1980s along the South Branch of the Oconto River. Manning the auger are some guys who are old enough to remember post hole diggers that needed just one operator with a sore back.

11, the water temperature was 58 degrees. Kiap was joined by members of the **Laughing Trout Fly Fish-**

ing Club and **Twin Cities TU** members.

—Greg Dielt

Northwoods Chapter

We had another great **Youth Fly Fishing Conclave at Kemp Natural Resources Station on July 8**. The kids learned how to tie knots, tie flies, and cast a fly rod. Every year **Terry Cummings** organizes this event and gets great gifts for the kids. He does a superb job. Terry would like to thank the following TU volunteers:

- Cooks: **Don Olcik** and **Al Brooks**,
- Entomology: **Aaron Nelson**,
- Tying: **Bill Kingsbury**, **Carole Linn**, **Ed Konzak**, and **Dave Brum**,
- Casting: **Brian Hegge**,
- Knots: **Terry Cummings**,
- Time keeper/photos: **Hannah Hansen**, and
- Multi-tasking assistants: **Patrick Goggin** and **Ron Reupert**.

The Grand Prize for this event was donated by **St. Croix Rods and Jeff Schluter**. Door prizes were donated by **Wayne Parmley**, **Aaron Nelson**, **Bill & Dawn Sherer** from

We Tie It Fly Shop, and **John Mitchler** (wooden tying stations and a cash donation).

Food was provided by **Sysco Foods** and **Al Brooks**. Education materials donated by **We Tie It**, **DNR (John Kubisiak & Theresa Stabo)** and **Dave Lambert**. And pre-event publicity was provided by **Victoria Houston**, **Patrick Goggin**, and Northwoods Chapter members who delivered fliers.

At our Oct. 9 general meeting we will hold elections. If we do not elect officers and directors, the chapter status will go into limbo. If it fails to reorganize, it will be merged with another chapter or just disbanded. So how many of YOU GOTTA WANNA?

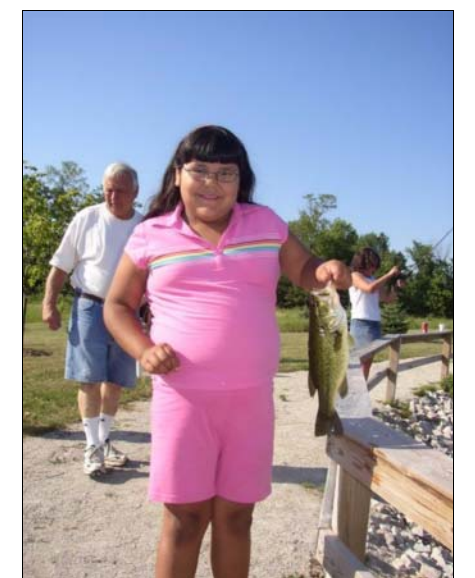
The chapter had three workdays this past summer. The **DNR** requested we brush out **Plum Creek** in preparation for the **DNR** habitat crew to move in. We ended up with eight people working.

Continued on p. 12



BRUSHING AND BASSING

A young angler (right) shows off the bass she caught at the Izaak Walton League pond during GBTU's 2006 Kid's Fishing Day. Meanwhile, Northwoods members (above) pose while brushing Plum Creek.





Chapter News

Continued from p. 11

It was very hot with people wearing waders only for protection from branches, but they didn't keep the perspiration out at all! What a crew on Plum Creek! Now we just need to convince **Wesley Jahns**, DNR fisheries management technician, that this creek deserves the efforts of the DNR!

Our second steam work day was Sept. 2 on the **Deerskin River** under USFS direction to perform more brushing. The chapter has recently

learned that the DNR is considering removing the special regulations section from the Deerskin. Based on my discussion with other chapter members, we do not support this action by the DNR and the next group of officers will need to express this to the DNR prior to the next **Conservation Congress**. This stream needs time to heal, and there is evidence that the special regulations are protecting some larger brook trout.

—*Brian Hegge*

Ocooch Creeks Chapter

The Ocooch Chapter had a busy spring and fall.

On the first weekend of April, members of the **SEWTU Chapter** joined us for the clearing of vegetation along **Ash Creek**.

They and members of **The Prairie Enthusiasts** and **Pheasants Forever**, returned the first weekend in May for the brushing and prairie preparation of the riparian area along **Elk Creek**.

DNR fisheries biologist **Matt Mitro** and his crew completed the spring survey of **Elk Creek** in May. They were assisted by members of

the Ocooch Chapter and 12 students from **Richland Center High School**. It was a great learning experience for them, and it was satisfying to see the positive results of the restoration work done on **Elk Creek**.

On June 10, with help from the **Blackhawk, Nohr**, and the **Southeastern Wisconsin** chapters, we constructed 40 lunger structures for the **Clary** project on **Willow Creek**. When the work was done, we were treated to rib eye steak sandwiches provided by the **Richland County Beef Producers** and the very gracious **Anderson family**.

Finally, the first weekend in July was our **Brat Barn** fund-raiser. This event provides funds for chapter activities throughout the year.

Overall, the Ocooch Chapter logged over 500 hours of volunteer activity from April to July.

Ojibseau Chapter

Gilbert Creek works nights began in mid-July. The **Dunn County Fish and Game Assn.** again provided food and numerous volunteers. The Ojibseau volunteer efforts were coordinated by **Tim Meyer**.

The chapter is already planning the **UW-Stout Fly Fishing Class 2007** to be held Tuesday evenings in late March and the month of May. Instructors are **Dennis Vanden Bloemen** and **Dave Vollmer**, with casting help from **John Higley**.

The chapter has been asked if we could teach a class similar to the very rigorous and academically demanding UW-Stout fly fishing class for **UW-Eau Claire**. **Duke Welter** and **James Fulkerson** have agreed to teach this class.

The Ojibseau Chapter will offer a beginners fly tying class in January 2007. **Jeff Bartynski**, **Willie Wilson**

The two projects on the **Willow** have been completed and **Dick Peters** continues to prepare for the 2007 restoration season with planned projects on **Elk** and **Camp** creeks.

—*Allon Bostwick*

and **Tom Loose** are part of the instructor team. Classes meet on Thursday evenings at **Gander Mountain** in Eau Claire.

The chapter was awarded a grant for \$4,450 from the **WDNR Citizens-Based Monitoring Program**. This money will help fund the purchase of steam monitoring equipment and pay for a **UW-Stout** intern to conduct the monitoring activities on **Gilbert Creek** in western Dunn County and **Elk Creek** in eastern Chippewa County.

Our chapter has funded an intern for the past several years for stream monitoring activities. Chapter Vice President **Dr. Chuck Bomar** of the **UW-Stout Biology Dept.** is the intern supervisor.

Gilbert Creek fund raising for 2007 and 2008 has been very successful. We will get \$64,000 each year as part of a larger \$1 million federal grant submitted by the **Western Wisconsin Land Trust** and the **DNR**. That is a lot of rock! In restoration efforts over the past four summers, we have completed 16,000 feet of stream work. In the next two years, we will complete an additional 16,000 feet. Mark your calendars for 2010 when a multitude of naturally reproducing brookies will be in the 12-14 inch range!

Recently **Jeff Hastings** of **TU-DARE** helped the chapter write and submit a \$15,000 grant proposal.

—*Dennis Vanden Bloemen*

Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter

The Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter has continued its busy ways over this past quarter. Now that Wisconsin's trout fishing season is closed, the chapter will resume its regular monthly all-chapter meetings at **The Thunder Bay Grille** located just off the intersection of Hwy. 94 and Pewaukee Road in Waukesha. Meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of each month and feature excellent food, beverages for all ages, stories, and speakers. Members are encouraged to check out the calendar of events section of our web site at www.sewtu.org for meeting and event information.

September's meeting featured our Chapter President **Rich Vetrano's** brother, **Dave Vetrano**, of the **DNR**. Mr. Vetrano spoke about stream restoration, southwest Wisconsin, and efforts in the driftless area.

That meeting also featured a drawing for a fly fishing rod and reel combo for SEWTU's spring/summer restoration volunteers. Individuals who volunteered throughout 2006 at habitat workdays got one ticket for each day attended.

On June 27, SEWTU members again headed west, this time to **Salmo Pond** west of Madison. There, SEWTU board member and past president **James Folda** led the chapter's annual **Hex Hatch Outing**. Attendees enjoyed a great and relaxing night of fishing, and a good time was had by all. On June 10-11,



SECRETARY HASSETT VISITS WHITE RIVER HABITAT PROJECT

WDNR Secretary Scott Hassett visited a stream habitat project on the South Fork of the White River in Ashland County on Aug. 21. The DNR crew was replacing a series of old, failing boom covers with new lunger structures (below) under the direction of DNR Fisheries Tech Cris Sand. The Wild Rivers Chapter has contributed to this project and others on the White River system. Pictured at right are crew members (l to r) Paul Riordan, Bryon Lund, Scott Toshner, Sec. Hassett, Cris Sand, Gavin King. Wild Rivers President Bill Heart is kneeling.



Chapter News



SEWTU held its all-chapter fishing outing in **Avalanche**. Members enjoyed fishing on local streams, and even managed to catch a few fish in between a bratwurst dinner provided by Vice President **Dan Asmus**.

While in the area, SEWTU joined in a June 10 four-chapter workday with the **Ocooch Creeks, Blackhawk, and Harry and Laura Nohr chapters**. The workday featured the construction of nearly 40 lunger structures in conjunction with the **Richland County Land Conversation Department**. The event was hosted by Richland County Land Conservation Technician **Ken Anderson** and his family at their family farm and featured an incredible free steak sandwich lunch provided by the Anderson family.

On July 25, SEWTU held its annual fly casting clinic at **Greenfield Park**. Led by board member **Larry Wirth**, over 30 attendees received casting instruction and participated in competitions and camaraderie. Past President **Chuck Beeler** and his wife provided an excellent dinner consisting of casseroles, bratwurst, beans, snacks, and beverages.

On August 19, a small group of SEWTU members attended a river cleanup on the **Fox River**. The cleanup was part of an **Eagle Scout** project run by **Tony Fitzpatrick** and the **City of Brookfield**. Although not a coldwater system, the cleanup was a good chance to hone our skills and interact with a Scouting Troup, and to get out the word about TU.

On August 22, SEWTU held its **2007 Habitat Restoration Project Raffle Event**. The event drew over 50 attendees, and featured 22 prizes. The event was sponsored by the **Miller Brewing Company** and held at the **Miller Inn**, featuring catering by **Saz's**. Led by chapter treasurer **Craig Heim** and vice president **Dan Asmus**, the event raised approximately \$2,000 for use in 2007 habitat restoration projects. Board of directors members and officers **Nick Schmal, Herb Oechler, Rich Vetrano, and Henry Koltz**, as well as countless others, all made prize donations to the event. Generous support was also received from both **Laacke & Joys** and **The Flyfishers**, two longtime SEWTU supporters. SEWTU thanks all those who donated prizes, made monetary donations, and attended the event. All money raised will certainly be put to good use.

As busy as SEWTU has been this summer, however, we are not resting on our laurels. As previously reported in last quarter's chapter update, SEWTU is working in connection with the **DNR** in order to remedy stream obstruction which has occurred at the Hwy. P overpass of **Bluff Creek** outside of **Whitewater**. Bluff Creek was previously restored by SEWTU, but the section of stream above Hwy. P has become sediment-laden, wide, and slow. The cause appears to be manmade rock and wood obstruction at the base of the overpass. **DNR** fisheries managers **Douglas Welch** has requested and received a manual code labor permit to remove the obstruction,

and several workdays will commence this fall to gradually remove the obstruction. Efforts are being made to study the effect of the debris removal, and to have a research paper authored by local universities as part of the project.

On September 16, SEWTU returned to **Genesee Creek**, the site of our previous **Embrace-A-Stream** roller mill dam removal project. Led by **Dan Asmus**, SEWTU removed downed timber that was impeding the stream's flow and preventing sediment removal in the area upstream of the removed dam.

This work stems from a **Genesee Creek Partners** meeting which was held on **August 16** at the **USDA-NRCS** Waukesha office. Attending were **Jason Freund, Susan Lewis, and Eric Thobaben** of **Carroll College**; **Dan Asmus** and **Henry Koltz** of **SEWTU**; **Caroline Clarin** and **John White** of the **USDA-NRCS**; and **Chuck Paper** and **Maureen McBreem** of the **DNR**. At the meeting, future plans for the site were discussed, with SEWTU being scheduled to perform initial work as part of an **EQUIP Grant**.

On October 14, SEWTU will begin work on an exciting and entirely new project at **Nichols Creek** outside of **Cascade**. Championed by SEWTU Political Liaison **John Knitter** in connection with **John Nelson** of the **DNR**, this project will involve removing overly encroaching streamside vegetation. **Nichols Creek** is a true coldwater system and is part of the headwaters of SEWTU's largest home water, the **Milwaukee River System**. John has measured water temperatures on the creek upstream of the Cascade dam at 52 degrees, even in the warmest weeks of this summer. Below the dam, temperatures were slightly warmer, but still measured only 65 degrees. Nichols Creek represents, in short, a tremendous restoration opportunity in our own back yard.

On October 21 at 9:00 a.m., SEWTU will hold its **Second Annual Steelhead Fishing Outing** on the **Milwaukee River**. Meet at **Estabrook Park**. The event will feature not only a great opportunity to get out and fish one of the region's prime steelhead runs, but will also serve as a chance to receive on-the-water casting and steelhead fishing instructions from some of our chapter's most seasoned pros. Stop by, enjoy the company of fellow steelhead fisherman, and pick up some pointers.

Finally, SEWTU has continued its efforts to be a part of the **TUDARE** program. Unfortunately, a hoped **Targeted Runoff Management Grant** ("TRM Grant") was not funded in order to allow restoration work at the headwater region of **Melancthan Creek**. SEWTU is exploring several other possible 2007 projects, however, including potential projects in the **Viola** area in connection with the **Ocooch Creeks Chapter**. SEWTU remains committed to being a part of the Wisconsin-involved **TUDARE** initiative.

—Henry Koltz

Southern Wisconsin Chapter

Southern Wisconsin TU's endowment fund recently received a huge boost thanks to the thoughtfulness and generosity of **Jim Bartelt**. Jim retired this spring from a long and distinguished career as a **Madi-**

son Public Schools special education teacher. As he neared retirement, he began thinking about the traditional accouterments that are often bestowed upon retirees, and it occurred to him that though

thoughtful, these gifts are soon forgotten. He therefore requested that all retirement gifts be directed to SEWTU.

Well-wishers honored Jim's milestone by donating nearly \$1,300. This money will be deposited into the fund account so the chapter benefits from it forever. Thanks, Jim! Your generosity and insight are both remarkable. Jim acknowledges that **Sue Bartelt** (his wife) and **Del Underbakke** organized the effort.

Project chair **Dan Geib** reports that great weather on May 6 gave us the chance to complete the last of our brush removal work on **Deer Creek**. The **Friends of Donald Park** provided us with extra manpower, equipment, and transportation to the stream and back. This was truly a successful coalition of conservation groups that illustrates the power of partnerships. Master chef **John Schweiger** provided us with his fine grill expertise and **Rose Schweiger**

with the cookies that John forgot! Fear not, she also won our rod raffle.

Special thanks go to all of the **Friends of Donald Park** volunteers, especially **Pat Hitchcock**, who rallied friends' volunteers, and **Gayle Treaduing**, who provided the chain-saw winch. Thanks are also due the following SEWTU members: **Jim Gentry, Ray Venn, Mike Grimes, Chuck Valliere, John & Rose Schweiger, Doug Wadsworth, Karsten & Katja Geib**, and to rest of you — **Phil Johnson, Alex & Heather Stefano, Debbie & Jerry Ford, Jennifer Shaw, Charlie Jacobson, Donald Willis, Lynn Blenker, and John Iforgotyourname**.

Please mark your calendars for our **2007 Ice Breaker** to be held on Saturday, Jan. 20. This year's event will feature **Tom Rosenbauer, Kevin Searock, and Craig Amacker**.

—Mark Maffitt

Wild Rivers Chapter

Wild Rivers held our 5th Annual Whack-a-Northern Day with pretty good results on Aug. 12. Five years ago, we kept hearing stories of a large number of northern pike being present in the **Bibon Marsh** section of the **White River**. Ever since, we have been making an effort to eliminate some of these pike and have an outing at the same time.

This year we had five canoes and 12 people make the nine-hour trip through the **Bibon Marsh**, ending up with six northern pike. None was very large — two 27-inchers, three just over 20", and one small fish. We had a very nice day for the trip and the resulting fish fry at **Jeff Carlson's** house at 6:00.

On our August meeting we were taken on a tour by **DNR Fisheries Tech Cris Sand** on the **South Fork of the White River** where Cris and his crew were doing habitat work for the last year. They were replacing some of the old, failing boom covers with new lunger structures on over 1,500 feet of stream.

The **South Fork** is the primary spawning and nursery area of the **White River**, and the work that Cris has done will improve the spawning sites by opening up the gravel and providing better cover.

DNR Secretary Scott Hassett was in the area Aug. 21, and **Bill Heart** was invited to go with him on another tour of the habitat work on

the **South Fork**. The secretary was very impressed with the work that Cris has been doing. He knew that our chapter was helping with the project by our donations and thanked me for that. Scott is mostly a musky fisher but would like to come back to fish the **South Fork**.

In September, a number of chapter members including **Chuck Campbell, Bill Heart, Dick & Jodie Prine, Bob Rice, and Deb Dwyer**, helped the **U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service** and the **DNR** with a population assessment on the **Whittlesey Creek**. **Jonathan Pyatskowitz**, fishery biologist for the **USFWS**, was very pleased with the numbers of brook trout that were captured, especially the young of the year. This was the fourth or fifth year that our chapter has assisted with this effort.

—Bill Heart



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State Council adopts revised organization bylaws

Inspired by changes in TU National's council representation system, the WITU State Council has updated the organization's bylaws.

The new bylaws — reproduced in their entirety below — were approved at the council's annual meeting Feb. 4 in Wisconsin Rapids.

A number of changes were easily approved, but two proposed changes were discussed and amended.

A concern was first raised over the new definition of a quorum for council meetings. There were concerns that the bar should be raised from the previous "majority of those present," but not so high as to make it likely that a council meeting would lack a quorum for official business.

After discussion, the following quorum definition was approved: "A quorum for council meetings shall be the number of those present so long as 50% of the then current active chapters are represented...."

A discussion then arose around the issue of the regions that chapters are assigned to. It was felt that existing chapters should have the ability to select their own region.

After some discussion, the following language passed: "Any chapter may petition the Council for a regional membership assignment and the request may be approved by the Executive Committee. New chapters shall be designated in a specific region by the Executive Committee."

BYLAWS OF WISCONSIN COUNCIL OF TROUT UNLIMITED

Article I

ORGANIZATION AND PURPOSES

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be: Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited (hereinafter referred to as the Council). The Council shall operate as a non-profit, non-political and non-sectarian corporation. The Council shall function primarily for charitable, educational and scientific purposes.

Section 2. The Council shall be an affiliated and a subsidiary organization under the authority of Trout Unlimited, a Michigan non-profit corporation, hereinafter referred to as Trout Unlimited. The Council shall carry on the aims and purposes of Trout Unlimited in Wisconsin. The Council adopts, by reference, the Articles and Bylaws of Trout Unlimited, and further acknowledges that all policies and objectives to be pursued by the Council and any actions taken by the Council or any chapter thereof, or by any member or members thereof, will be in accordance with the policies, purposes and objectives of Trout Unlimited. All chapters of the Council shall conform to the policies and bylaws of the Council, which shall not conflict with those of Trout Unlimited.

Section 3. The Council shall neither promote nor oppose the candidacy of any person seeking election to public office.

Section 4. The purpose of the Council shall be to conserve, protect and restore trout and salmon fisheries and their watersheds in Wisconsin. The Council shall also endeavor to increase the effectiveness of Trout Unlimited in the state and the region by the following means, which are listed by way of example and not by way of limitation:

- Establishing liaison among member chapters, assisting the chapters in solving problems ranging from membership recruitment to fundraising.
 - Coordinating projects and programs of member chapters.
 - Interpreting and providing guidance to chapters in carrying out the policies and objectives of Trout Unlimited.
 - Building state and/or regional Trout Unlimited membership and establishing new chapters.
 - Providing a vehicle for communication between chapters and the national organization via representatives elected from the Council to the National Leadership Council and Board of Trustees of Trout Unlimited.
 - Serving as a line of communication with government agencies, and speaking as a unified voice for Trout Unlimited on state and regional fisheries management matters.
 - Raising funds by solicitation and conducting fund raising activities provided, however, that all funds so raised shall be used exclusively for the purposes of the Council as set forth in these Bylaws.
 - Provide review and give prior approval to chapter fisheries management programs or projects in the Council area.
 - Arbitrate any conflict of policy within the Council area.
- Section 5.** The Council will do whatever is within its ability to foster sound trout and salmon management in the state and region. By way of illustration and not by limitation, the Council will be concerned with such matters as:
- Trout and salmon water as a resource and especially with the preservation and enhancement of the quality and quantity of such water.
 - The adequate inventory of trout and salmon water as a resource and its classification in a manner conducive to the development of effective biological and sociological management programs.
 - Fostering the concept of wild trout fishing as a sport and a heritage to be protected for future generations.
 - Promoting the concept of quality trout and salmon fishing and encouraging the adoption of fishing regulations that will provide for such fishing.

Article II

ELECTIONS AND MEETINGS

Section 1. The votes at all regular and special meetings of the Council shall be by delegate vote.

- Each Chapter shall have the right to designate two delegates to represent the chapter at each meeting of the Council. All members of each chapter are invited to attend each meeting of the Council.
- All members of the Executive Committee shall be permitted to vote at the Council meetings.
- Only the designated chapter delegates shall vote at the meetings of the Council.
- All elected and designated delegates to Council meetings shall be members of Trout Unlimited.
- A simple majority vote of Council delegates present shall be required for passage of a motion, unless otherwise dictated in these bylaws.

Section 2. The Council shall hold one (1) annual regular meeting to be held in February of each year or at such other time as the Council shall designate. One or more additional state Council meetings shall be held each year at the discretion of the Executive Committee. The place of each meeting shall be held at a location designated by the Chair.

Section 3. Special meetings of the Council may be called by the any officer of the Council or by request of ten (10) members of the Council, as the need arises. The notice shall state the business to be transacted and no business shall be transacted at the special meeting except that stated in the call.

Section 4. A quorum for Council meetings shall be the number of those participating so long as at least 50% of the then current active chapters are represented. Proxy votes shall be permitted at any regular or special meeting; provided, however, that only a chapter delegate present at such meetings shall be allowed to cast a proxy vote for a delegate(s) from that chapter absent from such meetings.

Section 5. Thirty (30) days minimum advance notice shall precede all regular Council meetings. The agenda for any such meeting shall be submitted as far in advance of the meeting as may be practical under the circumstances.

Section 6. All meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the Democratic Rules of Order. The Chair of the Council or the Vice-Chair, in the Chair's absence, shall preside at each meeting, or shall appoint a parliamentarian to preside.

Article III OFFICERS

Section 1. The Council officers shall be:

- Chair
- Executive Vice-Chair
- Regional Vice-Chairs
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Immediate Past-Chair
- National Trout Unlimited Leadership Council Representative ("NLC Representative")
- Delegate to the National Trout Unlimited Board of Trustees, if any.

Section 2. Term of Office.

- All officers shall serve until the next Annual meeting.
- All officers shall be eligible for re-election.
- The Chair shall fill any vacancies, which may occur in offices of the Council subject to approval by the Executive Committee or the Council at the next Council meeting.
- Any officer may be removed at any regular or special Council meeting by a two-thirds vote of the delegates in attendance (subject to the presence of a quorum).
- Any officer, who shall be absent for two (2) consecutive meetings, shall be automatically removed from office, unless the Chair excuses any such absence.
- With the permission of the Executive Committee or the Council, a Chapter President may hold a Council elected position.

Article IV COMMITTEES

Section 1. The Executive Committee shall consist of the elected officers of the Council, the immediate past Chair of the Council, plus committee Chairs as determined by the Executive Committee.

- The Executive Committee shall conduct the business and affairs of the Council and report on their actions at all regular and special Council meetings.
- The Executive Committee shall meet at such times as it may determine.
- The Executive Committee may prepare and adopt a budget for the Council for a twelve month period or may delegate such function to the Treasurer. Said budget shall be presented to the members of the Council for informational purposes at the annual Council meeting.

Section 2. The Council Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall consist of the (1) Past-Chair and the Vice-chairmen or such other nominating committee as the Executive Committee shall establish. Nominations shall also be received from the floor at the annual election meeting.

Section 3. Membership Committee. This Committee shall be responsible for the total membership activity throughout the State of Wisconsin. One of the primary functions of this Committee is to monitor membership status and activity throughout all Chapters. This Committee shall be responsible for the development of statewide membership drives and membership programs and for the dissemination of information regarding the same to the Chapters. This Committee shall also be in charge of Chapter support and development. The Chair of the Membership Committee shall be appointed by the Executive Committee.

Section 4. Fund Raising Committee. This Committee shall be responsible for and shall coordinate the raising of funds for the operation of the Council. It shall coordinate fund raising activities by the Council and by the Chapters. It shall develop, coordinate and endorse all fund raising projects throughout the State of Wisconsin. The Chair of the Fund Raising Committee shall be appointed by the Executive Committee.

Section 5. Water Resources Committee. This Committee shall review, evaluate and develop statewide policies relative to resource management and conservation. It shall develop programs to assure implementation of policies and it shall coordinate programs, which meet the objectives and intent of national and state conservation policies. This Committee shall be comprised partially of specialists who shall be responsible for monitoring specific areas of concern such as but not limited to: dams, mines and minerals, highways and bridges, industrial and municipal solid waste, water quality control, and other issues related to the preservation and enhancement of the cold water resource in the State of Wisconsin and surrounding area. The Chair and members of this Committee shall be appointed by the Executive Committee.

Section 6. Publicity, Public Relations and Publications. This Committee shall be charged with coordinating all public relations concerning the Council and Chapters within the State of Wisconsin. This Committee shall also be responsible for publishing and disseminating the Council newsletters, which shall be, if possible, published on a quarterly basis. The Chair of this Committee shall be appointed by the Executive Committee.

Section 7. Legal and Legislative Committee. This Committee shall be responsible for providing legal assistance to the State Council and to individual Chapters when needed. It shall also be responsible for monitoring and coordinating input into legislative matters within the State of Wisconsin and, in conjunction with Trout Unlimited, at the national level. It shall be the responsibility of this Committee to organize legal representation at hearings and other proceedings involving issues where deemed necessary by the Executive Committee.

Section 8. Finance Committee. This Committee shall be responsible for overseeing the general financial matters of the Council, including budgeting, and, where appropriate, providing for an audit of the finances of the Council. The Treasurer shall be the Chairman of the Committee.

Section 9. Other Committees may be created as needed by the Executive Committee, with members appointed by the Executive Committee.

Article V OFFICERS DUTIES

Section 1. Chair. The Council Chair shall be the chief executive officer of the Council and shall preside over all council meetings. The Chair shall have the

Continued next page

WDNR surveying anglers about their catch and harvest

The WDNR is about half way through a survey of anglers in Wisconsin's inland waters to determine how many fish are being caught and how well fish managers are doing their jobs.

The bright yellow survey began mailing on May 19 and will continue to be mailed through the ice fishing season, according to Ed Emmons, chief of the DNR fisheries and habitat research section and lead researcher conducting the survey.

Emmons says the return rate for the survey is running about 35%. A batch of surveys is being sent every two weeks to 2,500 anglers randomly selected from the DNR's database of current license holders, including sportsman, patron, and out-of-state license holders. There will be 22 different survey periods.

"The ultimate measure of the success of our program is how many fish people are catching," says WDNR Fisheries Director Mike Staggs. "Every five years we plan to do the same survey, and time it to coincide with a national survey on hunting, fishing, and wildlife watching participation and expenditures. The result

will be that we get a very complete picture of fishing in Wisconsin, its role in the state's economy and quality of life, and how well we're doing in managing the fish populations and providing fishing opportunities."

Repeat of UW-SP effort

The mail survey repeats the methods and questions posed in a 2001 survey conducted by UW-Stevens Point that estimated that Wisconsin anglers caught 69 million fish and kept 31 million of them throughout the 2001-02 inland fishing season.

DNR researchers will use the same survey and survey design used in 2001 so the information gathered will be fully comparable. A UW-SP graduate student developed and conducted that original survey under contract with DNR.

"We ask people if they fished during the two week period, what fish they primarily fished for, and other general information like whether they belong to a sportsman's club or other conservation group," Emmons says.



A GREAT PARTNER THANK-YOU SIGN

TU chapters are prominent on this park sign recognizing everyone's hard work.

The survey is strictly for research purposes and not for enforcement. "This is done strictly as a research tool to understand what fish people are catching and to get a general idea of where they are going."

Key results of the survey are the relative popularity of different species, catch and release rates of different species, and long-term trends in harvest. For more information, call Ed Emmons at (608) 221-6334.

general and active management of the business and affairs of the Council and shall have the general supervision and direction of all other officers and shall see that their duties are properly performed. The Chair shall chair all Executive Committee meetings and shall also hold ex officio membership on all Committees, except the Nominating Committee.

Section 2. Vice-Chair

- (a) The Executive Vice-Chair shall aid and assist the Chair in the performance of his duties. He shall also act as the official Chair in the absence of the duly elected Chair.
- (b) Regional Vice-Chairmen shall be elected by Council members within their regions. The duties of the regional Vice-Chairmen are to serve as the Chair's representative in their region. They shall also serve as their region's representatives to the Executive Committee. They shall coordinate the activities of their regional chapters and assist the Chair with direct chapter contact. They shall also perform such other duties as defined by the Chair and/or area chapters.
- (c) Regional Vice-Chairmen shall be elected by the Council members within their region prior to the annual meeting and will take office at said annual meeting. The regions shall be designated as follows: Northeast Region; Central Region, Southern Region and Western Region.

Any chapter may petition the Council for a regional membership assignment and the request may be approved by the Executive Committee. New chapters shall be designated in a specific region by the Executive Committee.

Section 3. Secretary

- (a) The Secretary shall keep an up-to-date copy of the Bylaws.
- (b) The Secretary shall maintain an accurate chapter membership tally.
- (c) The Secretary shall hand all records and minutes over to his successor in office within thirty (30) days after the election of said successor.
- (d) The Secretary shall perform other duties as designated by the Executive Committee.

Section 4. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be responsible for all funds belonging to the Council. All accounts shall be paid by the Treasurer as directed by the Chair and reviewed by the Executive Committee. He shall prepare and distribute to all Chapter presidents and the Executive Committee a quarterly financial report. Said report shall be in the detailed form of a balance sheet and/or profit and loss statement showing all income and expenditures for the prescribed period of time. The Treasurer shall be sufficiently bonded as determined by the executive committee.

Section 5. NLC Representative

- (a) The NLC Representative shall be elected as provided by the Bylaws of Trout Unlimited.
- (b) The NLC Representative shall be elected by the Council delegates at the annual meeting or a special meeting of the Council from a list of nominees submitted by a Nominating Committee appointed by the Council Chair.]
- (c) The NLC Representative shall be a member of TU in good standing, must have served in statewide TU office, and must be familiar with coldwater resource and TU organizational issues. The NLC representative should also have one or more of the following qualifications: knowledge of coldwater fisheries issues of concern to their state; knowledge of the Council's and chapters' organizational needs and concerns; proven communication skills; the ability to work effectively with staff and volunteer components of TU; and experience in implementing, directing, or organizing conservation efforts.
- (d) Immediately following the election, the Council Chair shall notify the Chair of the NLC of the name, address, telephone number and email address of the elected NLC representative.

Section 6. Nominee to National Trout Unlimited Board of Trustees

- (a) The Council may nominate a National Board of Trustees member from a list forwarded by a nominating committee.
- (b) The nominee must be a TU member in good standing, must have demonstrated expertise in matters of budget, finance, risk management, development, advocacy, organizational development, or national policy relevant to the goals of TU, or such other expertise or skills relevant to the goals of the TU.
- (c) The nominee will be submitted to the Chair of the NLC for possible election to the Board of Trustees.
- (d) In the event that the Council proposes a candidate for membership on the National Trout Unlimited Board of Trustees, the Council shall elect a provisional NLC Representative.

Section 7. Past Council Chair

The Past Council Chair shall also provide counsel to the Council Chair and shall be a member of the Executive Committee.

Article VI BYLAWS

Section 1. The Bylaws of the Council may be added to, amended or repealed, in whole or in part, by two-thirds majority vote of the delegates at a Council meeting, providing that written notice of intent and the specific proposed changes have been provided by the Executive Committee to each Chapter president at least thirty (30) days prior to said meeting.

Section 2. If any provision of these Bylaws shall be declared invalid or inoperative by competent authority of state or federal government, the Executive Committee shall suspend the operation of that section during the period of its invalidity and substitute in its place a provision which will meet the objectives of the portion declared invalid, and which shall be in accordance with the intent and purpose of the invalid provision. If any provision of these Bylaws are so invalidated, the remainder of these Bylaws and the application shall remain in effect.

Article VII FISCAL YEAR

Section 1. The fiscal year of the Council shall be October 1 to September 30.

Article VIII MISCELLANEOUS

Section 1. Executive Director. At its discretion, the Executive Committee may employ an Executive Director or Directors to perform such duties and responsibilities as the Chair and Executive Committee may determine, provided that the State Council shall authorize said position to be established.

Section 2. The Executive Committee may authorize the employment of clerical personnel and such professional and other personnel whose services are deemed necessary or appropriate to the activities and purposes of the Council, provided that the State Council shall have to approve any such permanent position.

Section 3. No part of the net earnings or property of the Council shall inure to the private benefit of any member, except as authorized by the State Council.

Section 4. The Chair may call a special joint meeting with any other Council of Trout Unlimited when it is deemed necessary by both Council's Executive Committees.

Section 5. The Council shall be authorized to hold title to real property for the benefit of its membership.

Article IX LIABILITY & INDEMNIFICATION OF OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES AND AGENTS

Section 1. Indemnification of Officers, Employees and Agents.

(a) The Council shall indemnify an Officer, Employee or Agent to the extent he or she has been successful on the merits or otherwise in the defense of any threatened, pending or completed civil, criminal, administrative or investigative action, suit, arbitration or other proceedings, whether formal or informal, including but not limited to any act or failure to act alleged or determined to have been negligent, or to have violated any statute, where such claim was brought against said Officer, Employee or Agent as a result of actions in connection with Council activities. The indemnification shall include all reasonable fees, costs, charges, disbursements, attorneys' fees and any other expenses incurred in connection with the proceeding. Indemnification shall be made within ten (10) days of receipt of a written demand for indemnification.

Indemnification shall not be permitted where it is determined that the Officer, Employee or Agent is proven by final judicial adjudication to have breached or failed to perform a duty owed to the Council which constitutes (1) a willful failure to deal fairly with the Council or its members in connection with a matter in which the Officer, Employee or Agent has a material conflict of interest; (2) a violation of criminal law, unless the Officer, Employee or Agent had reasonable cause to believe his or her conduct was lawful or no reasonable cause to believe his or here conduct was unlawful; (3) a transaction from which the Officer, Employee or Agent derived a improper personal profit; or (4) willful misconduct.

Section 2. Insurance. The Council shall have the power to purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person who is an Officer, Employee or Agent against any Liability asserted against or incurred by the individual in any such capacity or arising out of his status as such, regardless of whether the Council is required or authorized to indemnify or allow expenses to the individual under this section.

[The above bylaws were approved at the meeting of the Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited held at Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin, on February 4, 2006.]

Get the Lead Out!

Lead fishing tackle kills loons, eagles, swans, and other aquatic wildlife dependent on Wisconsin's lakes, rivers, and streams each year. All it takes is one lead sinker to kill a loon. For a penny more, this could be prevented with a non-toxic equivalent.



The loon above died from ingesting lead tackle.

Photo courtesy of the Minnesota DNR



Photo by Tom Maple

For more information about lead poisoning and what you can do to Get the Lead Out!

- **LoonWatch**
<http://www.northland.edu/loonwatch>
- **Raptor Education Group**
<http://www.raptoreducationgroup.org>
- **Minnesota Pollution Control Agency**
<http://www.moea.state.mn.us/reduce/sinkers.cfm>

To request additional copies of this card

Visit the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative:
<http://www.wisconsinbirds.org/leadpoisoning.htm>



The following organizations are working together for healthy wildlife and lead-free waters in Wisconsin:



Gordon/St. Croix Flouage Association (Lorna and Roger Wilson)



Bald eagles and trumpeter swan afflicted with lead poisoning.

You can prevent lead poisoning in wildlife:

- Replace lead jigs and sinkers with non-toxic equivalents made of tin, bismuth, steel, tungsten or ceramic.
- Ask the businesses where you purchase fishing tackle to carry non-lead products.
- Dispose of old lead sinkers and jigs properly at your local hazardous waste collection site.
- Instill strong conservation ethics in your kids by outfitting their tackle boxes with non-lead tackle.
- Use non-lead ammunition for hunting.

'Get the lead out' rack cards now available

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited was one of several outdoor organizations contributing to the development of a "Get the Lead Out" rack card that is now available.

The LoonWatch group at Northland College was the lead group behind the cards which show the negative effects of lead consumption on loons and other aquatic birds.

The cards also offer suggestions to anglers for alternatives to traditional lead fishing supplies.

An electronic version of the card is available from the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative web site at <http://www.wisconsinbirds.org/leadpoisoning.htm>.

To get printed copies of the card, contact Lynn Ratkowski at (262) 757-0168 or lynn@typea.net.

LoonWatch hopes to start other lead information projects in Wisconsin if they can find the funding, including:

- Lake association kits — a display, handouts, and non-lead tackle blister packs for lake association meetings,
- Poster — create a poster for tackle retailers to display,
- Signs — boat landing signs modeled after LoonWatch's "Loon Alert" sign, and
- Tackle exchanges — partner with Minnesota's Get the Lead Out! program to purchase non-lead tackle blister packs.

Write to LoonWatch at the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute, Northland College, 1411 Ellis Avenue, Ashland, WI 54806-3999.

Mark your calendar for Wisconsin TU's 22nd annual State Council Banquet

"A Celebration of Trout"

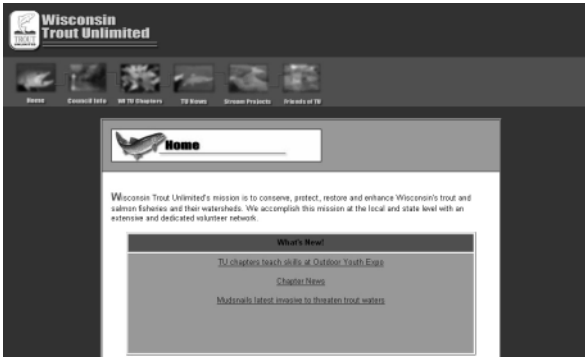

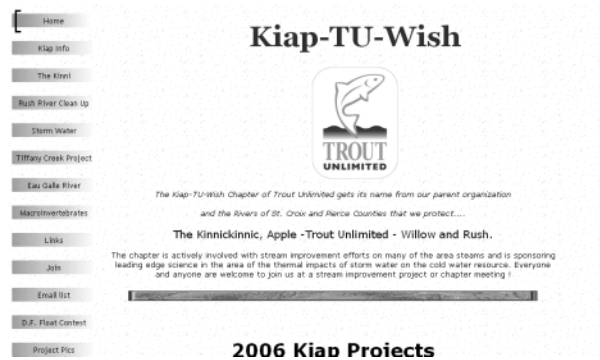
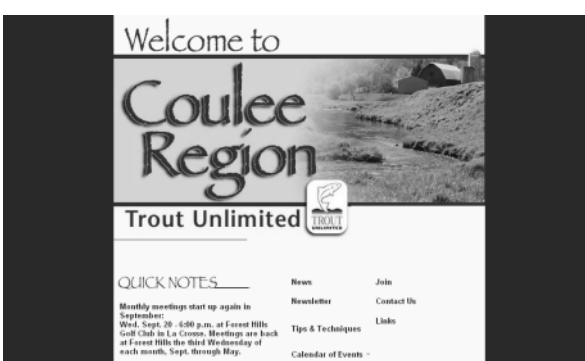


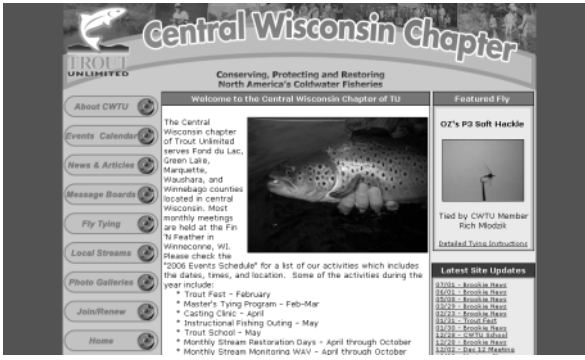
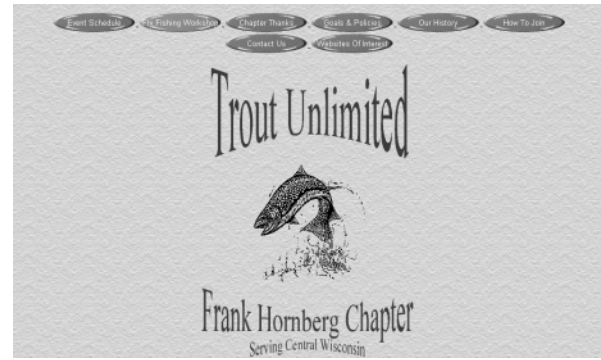
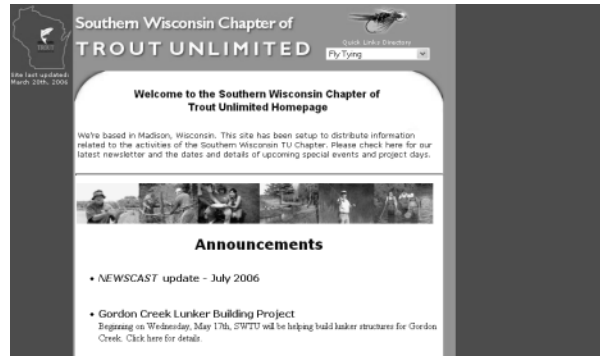


NEW LOCATION

**Holiday Inn Convention Center
Stevens Point, WI**

The Holiday Inn has many exciting indoor amusements. Why not bring the family this year for a mid-winter break?

2006 Wisconsin Council and Chapter Web Sites

 <p>Wisconsin Trout Unlimited</p> <p>Home</p> <p>Wisconsin Trout Unlimited's mission is to conserve, protect, restore and enhance Wisconsin's trout and salmon fisheries and their watersheds. We accomplish this mission at the local and state level with an extensive and dedicated volunteer network.</p> <p>What's New</p> <p>TU chapters teach us lots about Trout and Eggs</p> <p>Chapter News</p> <p>Midwest's latest issues to threaten trout waters</p> <p>WisconsinTU.org</p>	 <p>Fox Valley Trout Unlimited</p> <p>Trout Unlimited's mission is to conserve, protect and restore North America's trout and salmon fisheries and their watersheds. Check out the new Message Board!</p> <p>Upcoming Events & Meetings:</p> <p>Habitat Day is Saturday August 12th beginning at 8:30 AM. We will be at the Morgan/Sellers Farm. Directions from the Fox Cities are: take US10 west toward Diverse Post, just after you cross into Portage County take a gravel road to the left, go 1.2 mile and turn right on County 7, go 1.34 mile to the Wisconsin River we will be working just upstream from the bridge. We would like to start again at 8:30 and lunch will be around noon at the Nancy Rose Farm. This is also the day of the chapter picnic.</p> <p>August 12, 2006 and later chapter picnic: This year we're gathering at the Nancy Rose farm along the beautiful Waquesha River. Drop by and meet some of the landowners and regular TU members who've made our projects possible.</p> <p>September 26, "Habitat Day" will be again at the Radley where we will be putting in more brush land/abandoned Christmas Trees. From the Fox Cities to the Radley Creek work site go west on US10 to Waquesha, take the 22 southbound exit and go approx 5 miles to Dugess Road, turn left on Dugess Rd and cross the bridge to a small parking area. Again start at 8:30 lunch and finish around noon. Basic directions are as follows:</p> <p>Highway 10 west to Waquesha South on 22 toward Watoma (about 5 miles)</p> <p>FoxValleyTU.org</p>	 <p>Kiap-TU-Wish</p> <p>The Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter of Trout Unlimited gets its name from our parent organization and the Rivers of St. Croix and Pierce Counties that we protect...</p> <p>The Kinnickinnic, Apple - Trout Unlimited - Willow and Rush.</p> <p>The chapter is actively involved with stream improvement efforts on many of the area streams and is sponsoring leading edge science in the area of the thermal impacts of storm water on the cold water resource. Everyone and anyone are welcome to join us at a stream improvement project or chapter meeting!</p> <p>2006 Kiap Projects</p> <p>Lambcom.net/KiapTUWish</p>
 <p>Welcome to Coulee Region Trout Unlimited</p> <p>QUICK NOTES</p> <p>Monthly meetings start up again in September! Wed. Sept. 20 - 8:00 p.m. at Forest Hills Golf Club in La Crosse. Meetings are back at Forest Hills the third Wednesday of each month, Sept. through May.</p> <p>News</p> <p>Newsletter</p> <p>Tip & Techniques</p> <p>Calendar of Events - 2006</p> <p>CouleeRegionTU.org</p>	 <p>GREEN BAY CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED</p> <p>About Us and Our Mission</p> <p>The Green Bay Chapter of Trout Unlimited</p> <p>The formation of the chapter was in 1995, with a small group of people who enjoyed the fine pleasures of trout fishing. We currently have about 250 members in the N.E. Wisconsin area. These members come from all walks of life, from professionals to the common laborer. All with a passion for trout and the great outdoors these fish inhabit. A common bond that keeps us integrated to our environment. One that lends us well to our mission!</p> <p>Our mission is the protection and enhancement of our coldwater resources here in Wisconsin. The chapter has volunteered many manhours and resources to this task. We work with the D.N.R., U.S. Forest Service, and other organizations in carrying out the chapter's endeavors. The restoring of trout and salmon habitat to which it once was in the Badger State. Habitat is the key to the betterment and future of trout fishing in Wisconsin. This habitat consist of a place for</p> <p>GreenBayTU.org</p>	 <p>Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter Trout Unlimited Chapter #257</p> <p>Chapter Information</p> <p>Spring Creek Festival</p> <p>Chapter Projects</p> <p>Educational Programs</p> <p>Chapter History</p> <p>Important Links</p> <p>Administrative</p> <p>Nohr Message Board</p> <p>"I can't quite figure out if I really like trout fishing or if I like trout fishing because trout live in the most beautiful places in the world!"</p> <p>Harry Nohr</p> <p>NohrTU.org</p>
 <p>Central Wisconsin Chapter</p> <p>Conserving, Protecting and Restoring North America's Coldwater Fisheries</p> <p>Welcome to the Central Wisconsin Chapter of TU</p> <p>Featured Fly</p> <p>OZ's P3 Soft Hackle</p> <p>Tied by CWTU Member Rich Miodini</p> <p>Latest Site Updates</p> <p>2006 - Brookline State</p> <p>2005 - Brookline State</p> <p>2004 - Brookline State</p> <p>2003 - Brookline State</p> <p>2002 - Brookline State</p> <p>2001 - Brookline State</p> <p>2000 - Brookline State</p> <p>1999 - Brookline State</p> <p>1998 - Brookline State</p> <p>1997 - Brookline State</p> <p>1996 - Brookline State</p> <p>1995 - Brookline State</p> <p>CWTU.org</p>	 <p>Trout Unlimited</p> <p>Frank Hornberg Chapter Serving Central Wisconsin</p> <p>Event Schedule</p> <p>Fly Fishing Workshop</p> <p>Chapter Thanks</p> <p>State & Politics</p> <p>Our History</p> <p>How To Join</p> <p>Contact Us</p> <p>Outdoors of Interest</p> <p>HornbergTU.org</p>	 <p>Southern Wisconsin Chapter of TROUT UNLIMITED</p> <p>Welcome to the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited Homepage</p> <p>We're based in Madison, Wisconsin. This site has been setup to distribute information related to the activities of the Southern Wisconsin TU Chapter. Please check here for our latest newsletter and the dates and details of upcoming special events and project days.</p> <p>Announcements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NEWSCAST update - July 2006 Gordon Creek Luncheon Building Project <p>Engineering on Wednesday, May 17th, SWTU will be helping build luncheon structures for Gordon Creek. Click here for details.</p> <p>SWTU.org</p>

Council's web site statistics offer surprises

By Jaime Sundsmo
WITU State Council Webmaster

In the last decade, the world of the Internet has opened wide the doors to those wanting to stay informed about conservation. This impact has been vital to spreading the word about stream preservation, legislation affecting nature's resources, and the mission to care for Wisconsin's trout population.

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited has, for some time now, utilized the Internet to get the word out and keep our members informed.

The Wisconsin TU web site has served its mission in giving members and nonmembers quick and easy access to local chapter web sites, council information, toolkits, and online access to the popular *Wisconsin Trout* quarterly newspaper.

Viewing statistics

Some quick stats on our web site's usage are fun to note:

- On average, www.Wisconsin-TU.org receives 350 monthly visitors.
- The most popular day of the week to visit our site? Tuesday.
- 11:00 p.m. seems to be the most-liked time to browse the site.
- Apart from Internet Explorer, a lot you are using Firefox to browse our site.
- Most people who search for us find us through Google, with Yahoo carrying a distant second.

Surprising international interest

But after this recent surveying of statistics, perhaps the most intriguing

discovery is that our site has reached far beyond the American browser and into the virtual world of international browsing. The dominant countries viewing our site are China and Germany, but we've also had visitors from Australia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Canada, South Korea, the Philippines, and Japan.

Statistics are significant to a good web site, but after seeing the diversity of visitors that frequent our site, I propose the thought that perhaps our web site — which specifically addresses the Wisconsin fisherman and conservationist — might also bear a greater testimony to others around the world. Think of the impact we can have in making public our enthusiasm to preserve the world's trout waters!

Our efforts should not be kept quiet, and Wisconsin TU's web site is a portal that is connecting the world to your local chapters. Visitors worldwide are witnessing the labors you put forth to defend your community waters — and learning from such labors!

So as you take part in your local chapter, remember to report your experiences in both word and picture on your local sites, because the world is watching and we can make a difference.

Your local TU chapter's web site, as well as our state site, is helping to bring the mission to "conserve, protect, and restore" to the world! That is a statistic we can be proud of.



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Wisconsin's spring ponds have some big brookies

By Bob Obma

Salvelinus Fontanelis, the Latin name for our native brookie, translates into English as the fish of the pool at the head of the stream. They have been in these beautiful places since the springs were created by the advances and ultimate retreat of the Wisconsin glacier over 10,000 years ago. Thus we consider them — along with their char cousins, the lake trout — our only natives.

As the glacier ice advanced, it created an aquifer that soaks up rainfall and releases cold water in abundant springs. The deep ice left large cubes that melted, leaving holes for the springs to create the ponds. Most of the ponds that stay cold enough for trout run from one to several acres in size.

Distribution is broadly across glaciated northern Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula, with the farthest extent of the Langlade and Wisconsin Valley glacier lobes having the greatest blessing. This places the bulk of the ponds in an area bounded by Washburn County on the west to Oconto County on the east, Vilas County on the north to Marathon County on the south.

The densest concentration is in Langlade County (30 to well over 200 ponds, depending on how you count them) with smaller groups of outliers from Polk County to Waukesha County.

Shared spring pond features include springs inflowing, an outflow, and spawning habitat within the pond or stream. The adjacent upland aquifers are "hummocky" with small wooded hills storing water for the springs to release in the hollows, the deepest of which form the ponds. Shorelines and shallows can be gradually sloping and swampy, abruptly dropping and deep, or combinations. Bottoms vary from silt to weedy to marl to gravel and boulders. Spawning habitat is centered in the pond bottom inflows through gravel or the connecting streams.

Some bottom sculpting is manmade. These ponds are prone to gradual siltation, degrading the habitat for spawning, feeding, and protection. This has led to an extensive 50-year, long-term program of dredging of selected areas in suitable ponds.

Overpumping of groundwater will dry up the feeder springs. Plastic bottles of water look to be our current greatest environmental hazard.

Brook trout have lived here since the glaciers retreated with the fluctuations from year to year that one would expect from a population of fish in a small area. Should they suffer a winter kill, the outflow streams contains fish to come upstream seeking good spawning habitat in the next autumn.

The forage base is as variable as the ponds. Chironomids are ubiquitous, as are leeches. Scuds and snails are common with marl bottoms. Mayflies are commonest in central Wisconsin silt bottoms, though a scant hatch came off in Langlade County this summer and Callibaetis swimming nymph flies have been worth tying on this summer. Sticklebacks are common in weeds, sculpins on rocky bottoms, and mud minnows in silt bottoms, so keep your streamers ready.

Finding bigger brookies in ponds is an enjoyable quest over maps on winter evenings or at gatherings of serious anglers. The formula is generally

agreed upon — combine the right genetic code, food sources, growing season, and rate of growth with a long life.

It's a reasonable bet that the genetic code potential in your favorite pond is adequate. You may worry about genetic contamination by planted brookies, but this risk is not great as fishery managers long ago shifted toward habitat improvement and away from planted fish. Recall that the spawning brookie stock at the Wild Rose hatchery (when planting was more in style) were really big fish.

Ponds do vary in food sources; I find it reassuring when I see sculpins and sticklebacks in outflow streams as brookies over a foot long are piscivorous if they can be, and they grow better eating minnows. Mayflies are another helpful indicator. Nymphs of callibaetis and hexes are both longish and strong swimmers.

Some ponds with good-looking forage bases have a brookie "glass ceiling" at about 12 inches. Exactly why this is the case is not obvious, but several factors are mentioned by fishery biologists. Competition from brown trout and warm water species, as well as angler harvest, are all factors. A 12-inch brookie is releasable; some consider exotic browns in these ponds quite tasty. Salvelinus 16 to 18 inches long exist in small numbers, and fishery biologists spend a lot of time discussing them. Trail accessible only or wilderness fisheries are less pressured and worth the effort for larger fish.

Finding spring ponds is best started by visiting the DNR web site at <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/fhp/lakes/lakemap/> which lists lakes and provides maps, species present, and accessibility. Public access is listed, as are boat ramps, trails, roadsides, navigable waterways, and wildernesses.

The next place to look is the *Wisconsin Trout Fishing Regulations and Guide* (PUB-FH-302 2006) with area maps and a listing of special regulations. The US Forest Service maps show some ponds not seen elsewhere, and the GPS technology with digital mapping is increasingly helpful.

Once the ponds are located, finding bigger fish comes to mind. Two general tactics work well — fish waters with special regulations or those you must walk to. Special regulations work because the managers know the population well, but the area then attracts more anglers. The popular notion that only the best motivated three percent of anglers will walk a half hour before casting works here on the more challenging access water.

A lot of good information is presented at TU meetings, particularly those where fishery biologists make presentations. Big fish registries, notably that kept for Fleet Farm and published in the *Appleton Post Crescent* by Daryl Toliver, are useful.

Winter map strategy sessions, checking fishing articles, and tying big chironomids, olive mottled muddlers, and bigger leech imitations all make for a shorter winter and an enjoyable summer trip to where the natives live.

(Bob Obma is a 20-year member of Trout Unlimited and serves as chair of WITU's Water Resources Committee. This is his second article for Wisconsin Trout on big brookies. WDNR Fisheries Biologist Dave Seibel in Antigo notes that there are about 250 spring ponds in Langlade County alone, the largest such concentration in the world. -Ed.)



FRIENDS: funding nutrient study

Continued from p. 20

The project will improve our understanding of how streams process nutrients and how water quality may be changing in Wisconsin trout streams.

In addition, a Friends of Emmons Creek group will be established in a collaboration between UW-Oshkosh, CWTU, and Golden Sands Resource Conservation and Development.

Stelzer's collaborators include:

- Dr. Sue Eggert, US Forest Service,
- Dr. Maureen Muldoon, UW-Oshkosh,
- TU volunteers, and
- UW-Oshkosh students.

Besides the Friends of WITU, other groups funding this project include Central Wisconsin Trout Unlimited, the United States Forest Service, and the WDNR through a river planning grant.

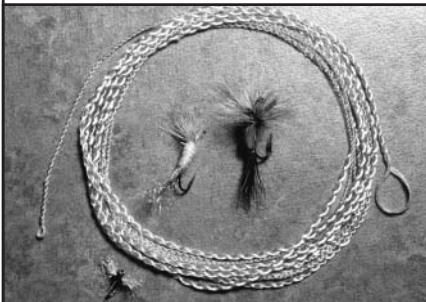


ROBERT STELZER ALONG RADLEY CREEK

UW-Oshkosh Assistant Professor Robert Stelzer takes a water sample from Radley Creek last December. Stelzer is leading a team that is studying how Wisconsin trout streams are processing nutrients. If you would like more information or would like to become involved in the The Friends of Emmons Creek, contact Bob Stelzer at (920) 424-0845 or at stelzer@uwosh.edu.

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Double Flash Bunny streamer sports a realistic lateral line

By Bill Sherer

The Double Flash Bunny is a very simple fly to tie, but it is my "go to" pattern for big trout and smallies. Many times simple is best!



Flashy lateral line

The secret of this fly is the flash down the side — similar to the lateral line on a fish. The fly shows profile, bulk, and it moves a fair amount of water with the right hackle up front.

It's fairly easy to cast, and it has that sexy movement in the water that only rabbit fur can give. I've even caught a fair number of pike and muskies on sizes up to 3/0!

I tie this on a natural bend streamer hook — drop point style so you have a more effective hook gap to work with, better for hook ups. This hook is sometimes used as a stone fly nymph hook.

Tying sequence

Prepare the bottom rabbit strip by poking a bodkin into the strip at a distance equal to the length of the hook shank. Cut a point on the rear portion of each strip — this will help the fly track in the water in a straight line.

Prepare the hackle by removing the filoplume and lower webby portions of the saddle feather.

Slide the cone head onto the front of the hook and cover the shank with tying thread.

Slide the lower rabbit strip onto the hook with the hair facing down and secure just behind the cone head with tight wraps of thread. Cover the hook shank with tying thread first. Then the rabbit strip is anchored only at the front of the hook just past the hook eye. That's the beauty of this pattern, you don't have to tie in the entire strip for it to work perfectly.

Tie in the strip of flash in the same way followed by the upper rabbit strip.

Separate the two upper strips from the lower strip and lay down a nice even bead of rubber cement on the lower strip. Then lay the middle strip (the Holo Flash) on top of the cement. Put another bead of cement on the upper strip and lay it on top of the flash squeezing it with your

fingers so it sticks together evenly.

Tie in the saddle hackle just behind the cone head. Take about four wraps of hackle for a nice collar, tie off, and whip finish. Go catch big fish!

MATERIALS LIST Double Flash Bunny

Hook: Dai-Riki 270 #6-#2 (3 XL streamer hook).

Thread: Guidebrod 3/0.

Head: Large brass cone head. (For more weight, use a tungsten head.)

Body: Two 2 1/2" long x 1/4" wide rabbit strips and one 2" long x 1 1/4" wide piece of holographic and tri-lobal fibers.

Collar: One long webby saddle hackle.

Adhesive: Elmer's Rubber Cement or other flexible water-proof cement.

Favorite colors

My favorite colors can be separated into those for dirty water and those for clear water.

For dirty water or low light:

- natural upper/yellow lower/gold flash and
- black upper/yellow lower/silver flash.

For clear water:

- olive upper/white lower/silver flash,
- brown upper/orange lower/copper flash,
- chartreuse upper/white lower/silver flash, and
- olive upper/yellow lower/copper flash.

The flash material described here is available in silver, gold, and copper.

I have tried many color combinations, but the above-mentioned ones work the best. The brighter colors work best in clear water and the darker ones are better for low light conditions and darker waters.

I suggest you use 2x or larger tip-pet because the strikes on this fly are often vicious!



JUST 10 MILES NORTH OF THE CAPITOL DOME

A highlight of the Southern Wisconsin Chapter's summer picnic was a stream shocking of Token Creek. The shocking crew consisted of (top, l to r) Scott Harpold, Kurt Welke, and Mark Terrill. WDNR Fisheries Manager Kurt Welke (left) held a typical trout. The Token Creek watershed is a 27-square-mile sub basin of the Yahara-Lake Mendota watershed. It is located on Madison's northeast side and immediately adjacent to the City of Sun Prairie.

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Located in God's Country on a maintained road 27 acre farm in Highland, WI

Contains 17 acres CRP, remainder wooded pasture, 1 earth-sheltered house built in 1981 that never gets colder than 50 degrees in the winter or warmer than 80 in the summer. Land has had 35 years of loving care, many tree, shrub, and prairie grass plantings. Also contains an old farmhouse, barn, and sheds.

This property is located within walking distance of the 2005 Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter Blue River Project and is within a 10-minute drive of all the recent Nohr Chapter projects. Price: \$235,000.

For sale by owner, Charles T. Steudel, 1217 County QQ, Mineral Point, WI 53565 e-mail csteudel@mhtc.net.



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Friends funding stream nutrient study

Thanks in part of a Friends of WITU grant initiated by the Central WI Chapter, two state trout streams are being studied to determine how nutrients are processed by Wisconsin trout streams.

Bob Stelzer, a UW-Oshkosh assistant professor in the Biology and Microbiology Dept., is leading a team of researchers and volunteers focusing on Emmons and Radley creeks in the central sand plains.

The central sand plains has dozens of trout streams that are threat-

ened by high nutrient levels, particularly nitrate, a main component of fertilizer used on agricultural fields and suburban lawns.

High nutrient levels can cause algal blooms and other disruptions of stream food webs that can be harmful to trout populations.

The main goal of the research is to determine the capacity of streams to process nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus.

A second goal is to monitor the water quality of the streams for two

or more years to determine if the health of the streams is improving, worsening, or staying the same.

Researchers have been monitoring nutrients and aquatic invertebrates in the two streams throughout the year.

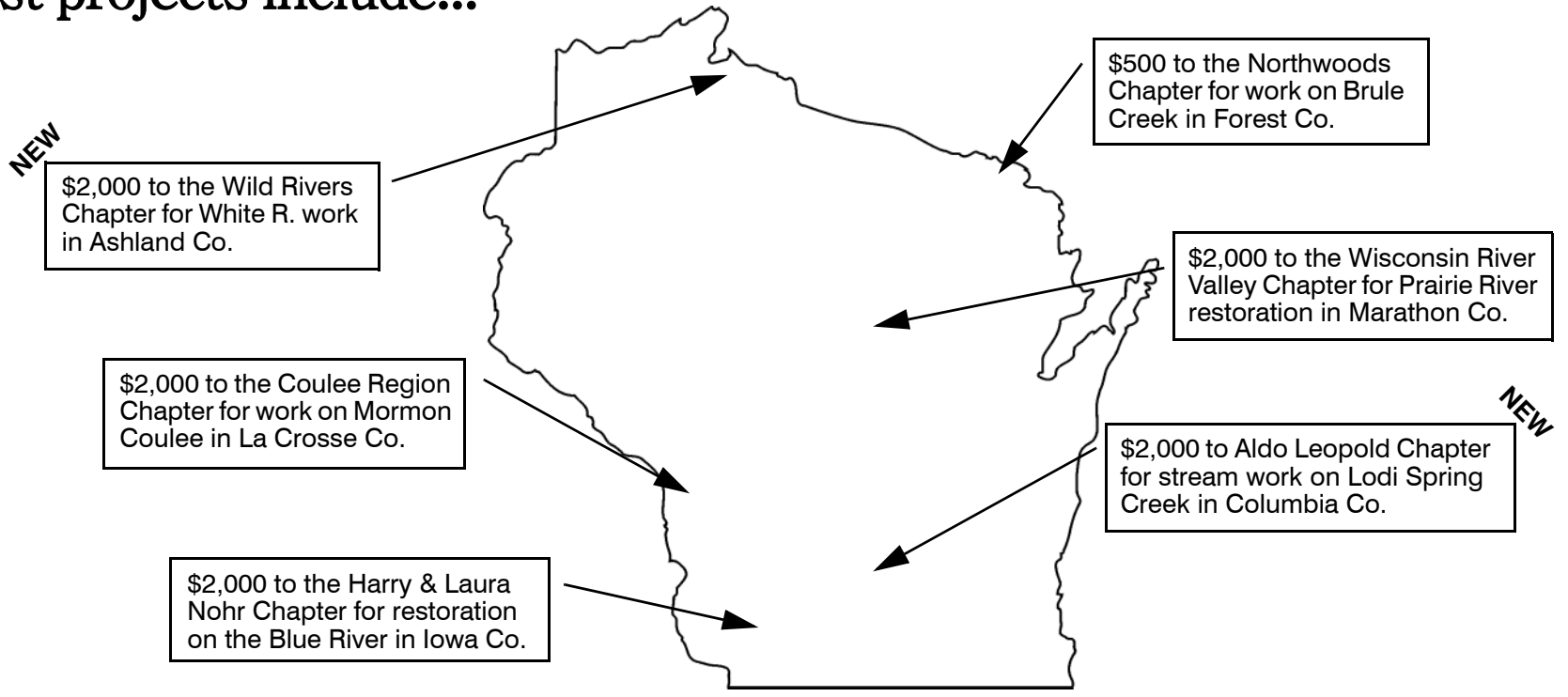
Nitrate and other forms of nutrients are being measured in the surface water, while groundwater entering the streams is being measured in shallow wells in the riparian zones of each stream.

Continued on p. 18



RADLEY RESEARCHER
Researcher Heather Oxley holds a drive point next to Radley Creek in Central Wisconsin.

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



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