



Wisconsin Trout

April 2007

Bill Heart elected State Council Chair

By Chuck Campbell
and Todd Hanson

Bill Heart, longtime president of the Wild River Chapter, was elected State Council Chair at Wisconsin TU's annual meeting in Stevens Point Feb. 3.

Heart succeeds Bill Pielsticker of the Southern Wisconsin Chapter who served as WITU Chair the past three years.

Heart has been honored for his outstanding conservation work twice in recent months.

Last November Heart and the Wild Rivers Chapter were given a Partnership Award by the WDNR Fisheries program for their outstanding work on behalf of the White River fishery in Ashland County.

Heart was also awarded the Jeff Carlson Leadership Award at the State Council's Feb. 3 awards luncheon. Heart said the Carlson

award was particularly meaningful to him because he was best friends with the award's namesake, a fellow Wild Rivers Chapter member who died of cancer in early 2001.

Other elected officers include:
Jim Hlaban — Vice Chair,
Jeff Ware — Secretary, and
Larry Meicher — Treasurer.

Other meeting highlights

The State Council had several guests address the group:

- Brad Pfaff, U.S. Rep. Ron Kind's legislative aide, reported on efforts to renew the Farm Bill. He summarized the focus of the various federal programs that are not only friendly to natural resources, but are "WTO friendly."
- Elizabeth Post, Northland College's Pathfinder program director, discussed how TU can support this natural resources education and leadership program.

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BILL HEART RECEIVES JEFF CARLSON LEADERSHIP AWARD

Besides being elected new State Council Chair on Feb. 3, Bill Heart (left) was honored with the council's Jeff Carlson Leadership Award for his multi-year efforts to improve the White River fishery in Ashland County. Outgoing Chair Bill Pielsticker made the presentation.



PEG LAUTENSCHLAGER SHARES A LAUGH

Former WI Attorney General Peg Lautenschlager shared a laugh with Bill Pielsticker at the State Council Awards Luncheon. Lautenschlager was presented the Lee & Joan Wulff Conservation Leadership Award for her work on behalf of the state's natural resources while attorney general.

Great for fisheries TU supports reauthorizing Stewardship Program

By Todd Hanson

A report requested by *Wisconsin Trout* shows the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program has spent just under \$40 million on fisheries-related land since the program began in 1990.

"Over the years, the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund has been an important source of funding for critical stream reaches and habitat protection for Wisconsin's native and wild trout," said former WITU State Council Chair Bill Pielsticker in a recent letter to the Natural Resources Board's (NRB) Stewardship Reauthorization Subcommittee. "The Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited fully supports the Governor's proposal to reauthorize the fund at \$105 million starting in 2011."

The NRB Reauthorization Subcommittee was formed to develop recommendations to pass on to the Governor and legislators as they consider reauthorizing the Stewardship Fund. The Stewardship Fund expires on June 30, 2010. For the program to continue, reauthorization legislation needs to be developed and funded by the state.

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See pp. 5-6 for a list
of all fisheries-related
Stewardship purchases.

Governor's budget gives TU conservation priority a boost

By Bill Pielsticker
Legislative Chair

Governor Doyle's proposed state budget includes \$12 million over two years for cost sharing, nutrient management implementation, and other management practices aimed at reducing polluted runoff from agricultural fields.

Reducing polluted runoff is WITU's top legislative priority, and this a good first step in getting the proposal passed by the Legislature.

Five years ago, Wisconsin adopted the nation's strictest set of standards to curb polluted runoff. But due to tight budgets, the program has never been fully funded.

The most cost-effective measure of the new runoff rules — implementing nutrient management plans that would change cropping and tillage practices — has received just \$1 million of the estimated \$32 million needed every year over a 10-year period.

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CWTU recognized for stream monitoring p. 13

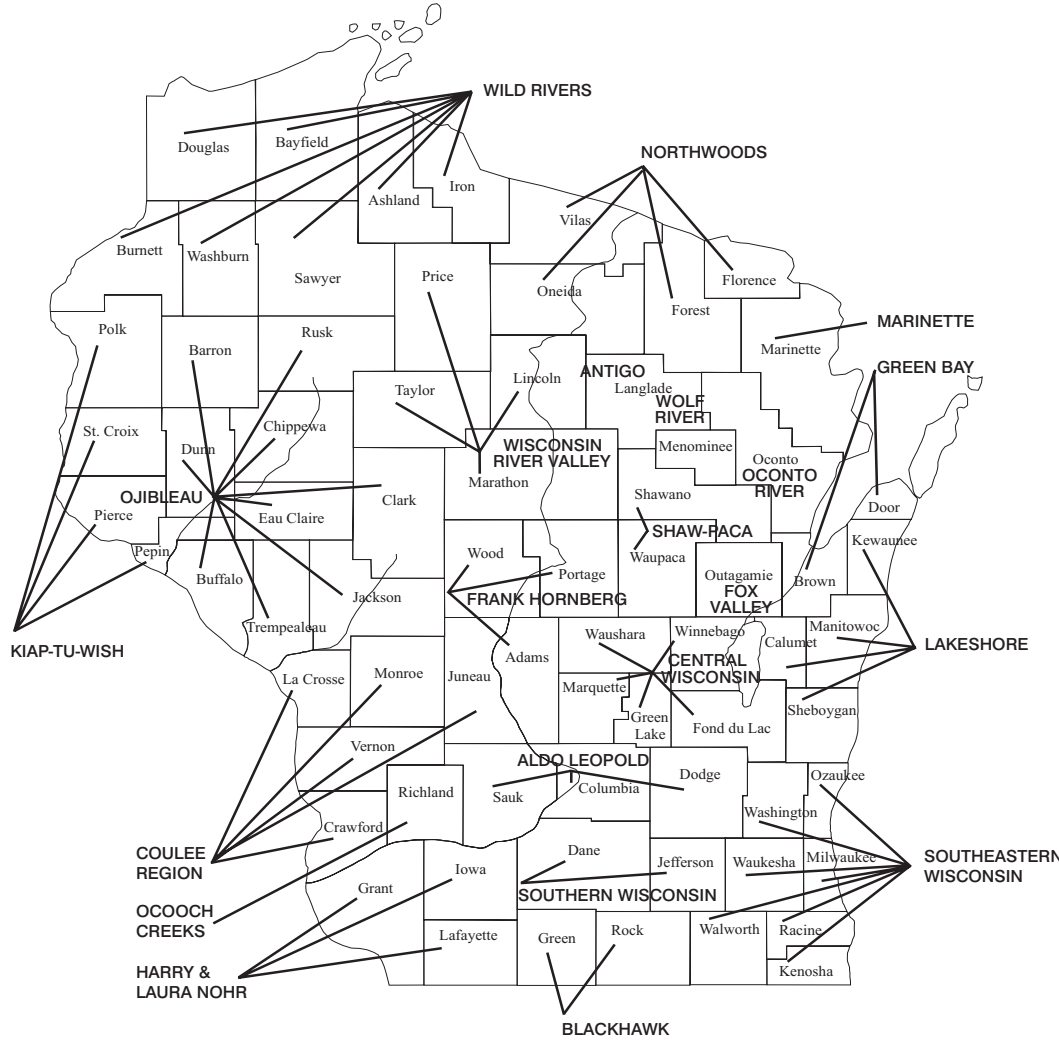
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Contact TU National when you change addresses or chapter leaders

TU National manages WITU's mailing list, so members should contact TU National at 1-800-834-2419 to change addresses. Address changes can also be done on-line by going to www.tu.org and signing in with your member number, which is found on your wallet card or *TROUT* magazine label.

If you are moving to a different city and wish to be affiliated with the TU chapter in your new area, note the new chapter number (see the text next to the map above for the numbers of our chapters).

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Some near-term goals for WITU

By Bill Heart

WITU State Council Chair

Two years ago at our annual meeting — well, actually after the banquet while sitting in the pub having a cold one — a couple of council officers asked me about becoming the next chair of the State Council. I was a little flabbergasted that they would want me, a hick from the far north, chairing this great organization. I have gone around and around in the past two years and talked the ears off of Duke Welter, Steve Born, Bill Pielsticker, and Larry Miecher, all four wonderful leaders and friends.

I went to the TU National meeting in Denver in 2005 and was amazed at the passion of the people involved in TU, from the grassroots State Council leaders to the trustees and the national staff. I learned more than I ever thought I would, including how to degrade myself by scamming to get a bag full of free flies and equipment at the fly fishing show by following Steve around. (Steve's bag was much larger than mine.)

I definitely knew that I wanted to get more involved in TU, but I still needed time to learn more. Bill shared much of the chair's duties during the year by sending me copies of most of his correspondence and having me sit in on a couple of TU National council chair phone meetings. After attending the 2006 national meeting in Minneapolis, I

knew that I wanted to become WITU chair.

Soon after I was elected, Duke asked me what my goals were going to be while in office. One of my major objectives is to get the coaster brook trout issue back to the forefront in Wisconsin. One of the last things that I said to Jeff Carlson the day before he died was that I would keep his passion going for the coasters. There has been some work done in northern Wisconsin, but it is too little and too slow. We need to be thinking and working on alternatives and getting more projects started.

I also plan to visit and work with all of the Wisconsin chapters to make them stronger. This may be a little ambitious, and quite possibly nearly impossible, but it is something that I will try. I figure if I can attend a chapter meeting, workday, or banquet, especially during the fishing season, I can probably line up a chapter leader to show me some of the local streams to check out the habitat work and possibly cast a few flies.

Education is another very important goal that I would like to promote. The Youth Fishing Day in May needs to have a strong TU presence. What better way to expand our mission than to get more young people involved in our cold-water resources. For the most part, it would be hard for TU to change kids' parents, but if these kids can develop a passion for trout fishing and protecting the streams that they love to fish, they can educate their

parents. We need to continue to increase our membership, and these young people will become the rock rollers and leaders of the future.

The Pathfinders Program at Northland College is another educational program that can only be a win-win situation for TU. Elizabeth Post, Pathfinders coordinator, gave a small presentation at the State Council meeting in February, and most present were impressed with the program. I was asked to be involved with three of last summer's camps, which consist of high school-aged youth. I was very impressed with how these young adults handled themselves on conservation issues. Again, they will be our leaders of the future, and we need to get them involved in TU. Elizabeth and I sent out letters to the chapters detailing the program. If you have any questions, please e-mail Elizabeth at epost@northland.edu or call me at (715) 682-4703.

The TUDARE program is more of a TU National initiative, but I plan to help continue the efforts that were started by a small group of concerned TU members with a great vision. I only learned about the Driftless Area about eight or nine years ago, but have fallen in love with that area and its wonderful trout streams. I have spent the first couple weeks in May for the past eight years or so chasing morels and trout in southwestern Wisconsin, and I plan to continue until I am not able to — in another 40 years or so. I have to make up for lost time. So, it goes without saying, I will make



Bill Heart

sure that we stay involved in the Driftless Area.

A couple more important issues I'll be working on are the executive director initiative and completing the strategic planning work that we did about a year ago. Bill Pielsticker assures me we will be discussing this at the April 28 meeting in Waupaca.

I am very honored to serve as your chair. I greatly appreciate the State Council's confidence in me. Since I became more involved in TU six years ago, I have been very impressed with the caliber of people volunteering to keep the Trout Unlimited one of the most important conservation groups in Wisconsin. The leadership has been unbelievable. I will try my best to continue that leadership.

MEETING: council convenes in Stevens Point

Continued from p. 1

- Jeff Hastings, TUDARE project manager, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the accomplishments and plans for the TU National project he directs.
- Allison Werner, River Alliance of Wisconsin (RAW) local groups program manager, gave an update on RAW activities and noted several upcoming events of possible interest to chapters.
- Mike Staggs, WDNR fisheries director, fielded numerous questions relating to trout and cold-water resources.

Chair's report

Chair Pielsticker covered numerous recent State Council activity.

A call was put out to get volunteers to help at this year's Outdoor Education Expo at the Dodge County Fairgrounds May 18-19. Those attending last year were overwhelmed. Volunteers should contact Bill Pielsticker.

An appeal was made for chapter representatives to attend the River Alliance's Spring Confluence at the UW-Madison Arboretum March 10. The council approved a donation of \$250 to help sponsor the event.

Pielsticker noted that the recent dewatering of the Plover R. south of Stevens Point may result in special status for the river under the state's new groundwater law.

Members were reminded that Conservation Lobby Day will be Feb. 21 in Madison. Those attending enjoy meeting legislators, and a big crowd is sought.

Legislative activity

Legislative Committee Chair Jeff Smith announced he is stepping down from chairing this committee. Incoming State Council Chair Bill Heart has appointed Bill Pielsticker to head this committee.

Smith noted that a major effort is underway to get \$8 million in non general purpose revenue to fund the state's nonpoint pollution program. The much-heralded nonpoint program has suffered for years due to a lack of meaningful funding. Some have been looking at a sales tax on bottled water.

The Great Lakes Compact is now ready for states to adopt. This would prevent Great Lakes water from being diverted out of the basin.

Smith noted there will be a push to reauthorize the state's Stewardship Program (see story on p. 1 of this issue) at a higher level than in the last reauthorization.

Finally, Smith said he has received complaints about the quality of NE Wis. trout streams. There is a feeling that the WDNR is neglecting work on trout in favor of warm water species.

TU National activities

National Leadership Council (NLC) representative Dan Wisniewski and National Trustee John "Duke" Welter updated the group on national activities.

Wisniewski reported on efforts at the national level to deal with concerns over public access, TU ownership of land, and how TU can work with local land trusts.

Welter discussed a recent trip to Washington, D.C. on behalf of TU National to discuss the Farm Bill and possible negative effects of ethanol production on recent conservation programs. He also discussed various stream access issues and cases.

Regional vice chair reports

Highlights of the regional vice chairs' reports include:

1. Kim McCarthy (NE Region) reports that the Forest Service and DNR are seeing a corner being

turned in efforts to control beavers on NE trout streams. The Wolf R. trout fishery is in decline from high summer water temperatures, and recently the DNR had a hard time finding enough trout to tag for a study.

2. Larry Meicher (Southern Region) reports that an Enbridge Co. gas pipeline is being planned on an existing pipeline right-of-way. Chapters should be aware that the line will cross some trout waters.

3. Jim Hlaban (Central Region) reported that the region will have a meeting later in the month.

Restoration on 'Wild Rivers'

Lloyd "Duke" Andrews reported that an agreement has been reached on the long-running effort to determine whether stream improvement can take place on "wild and scenic" rivers like the Pine and Popple. Such restoration efforts (as opposed to "enhancement") will be allowed if they follow guidelines being developed for materials and equipment.

Wolf River property

A motion was made and passed to authorize the State Council to contribute \$3,400 to help the WDNR purchase some property on the Wolf R. that is owned by Herb Buettner. There was a difference between the DNR's available funds and the land's assessed value.

CPR committee

Bob Hunt asked the State Council to create a new ad-hoc Consider Proper Release (CPR) committee to update the council's CPR brochure. Hunt said there is a continuing need to educate trout anglers on proper releasing techniques, especially in light of today's more restrictive bag limits. The motion passed.



Elizabeth Post (top), Allison Werner, and Brad Pfaff

Stewardship Fund Fisheries Purchases, 1990-Present

PROPERTY NAME DEFINITIONS:

Fee title — the outright purchase of land including title transfer and all rights associated with ownership.

Easement — a way to convey some land rights associated with ownership to the Stewardship Program. It is a voluntary legal agreement that permanently limits specified

current and future uses.

Named Fishery Area — lands and riparian rights along bodies of water to protect, manage, and improve fisheries resources and provide recreation.

Remnant (REM) Areas — isolated tracts not within established boundaries (critical for spawning, habitat, springheads).

Spring Ponds — acquired and dredged for

fisheries and public use.

Statewide Public Access — lands purchased for access for public recreational use of the state's public waters (public boat landings).

Statewide Habitat Areas — lands purchased to protect, manage, and improve fish resources and provide recreational opportunities.

Streambank Protection Fee Program — lands purchased to protect surface water quality and fishery habitat via natural buffers along streams.

Streambank Easement Program — easements purchased to protect surface water quality and fishery habitat for natural buffers along streams to reduce agricultural and urban runoff.

County	Type	Property Name	Acres	Total \$
Adams	easement	REM-GRANT R.	< 1	\$24,400
Adams	easement	STATEWIDE PUBLIC ACCESS	< 1	\$0
Adams	easement	REM-FORDAM CR.	4	\$6,200
Adams	fee title	STATEWIDE HABITAT AREAS	22	\$20,000
Adams	fee title	REM-FORDAM CR.	36	\$30,000
Adams	fee title	BIG ROCHE A CRI FISHERY AREA	80	\$223,200
Adams	fee title	UPPER NEENAH FISHERY AREA	94	\$118,500
Ashland	fee title	REM-RAPID CR.	7	\$0
Ashland	fee title	WHITE R. FISHERY AREA-BAYFIELD	227	\$300,900
Barron	easement	STATEWIDE PUBLIC ACCESS	1	\$0
Barron	easement	YELLOW R. FISHERY AREA	3	\$1,000
Barron	fee title	STATEWIDE PUBLIC ACCESS	10	\$30,201
Bayfield	easement	WHITE R. FISHERY AREA-BAYFIELD	1	\$0
Bayfield	easement	S. SHORE L. SUPERIOR FISH AND	6	\$7,750
Bayfield	fee title	REM-IRON R.	39	\$18,700
Bayfield	fee title	N. FISH CR. STREAM IMP	40	\$89,000
Bayfield	fee title	STATEWIDE HABITAT AREAS	274	\$22,000
Bayfield	fee title	WHITE R. FISHERY AREA-BAYFIELD	280	\$89,600
Bayfield	fee title	S. SHORE L. SUPERIOR FISH AND	2,993	\$1,343,875
Brown	fee title	STATEWIDE PUBLIC ACCESS	< 1	\$20,278
Brown	fee title	STREAMBANK PROTECTION FEE PGM.	6	\$100,000
Brown	easement	STATEWIDE HABITAT AREAS	31	\$0
Brown	fee title	STATEWIDE HABITAT AREAS	75	\$208,000
Buffalo	fee title	BEAN BROOK FISHERY AREA	<1	\$339,000
Burnett	fee title	STATEWIDE HABITAT AREAS	2	\$0
Burnett	fee title	STATEWIDE PUBLIC ACCESS	24	\$200,000
Burnett	fee title	SAND CR. FISHERY AREA	39	\$23,000
Burnett	fee title	CLAM R. FISHERY AREA	70	\$85,502
Calumet	fee title	REM-STOCKBRIDGE HARBOR	2	\$96,000
Calumet	fee title	STATEWIDE PUBLIC ACCESS	3	\$255,500
Chippewa	easement	HAY CR. FISHERY AREA	1	\$0
Chippewa	fee title	STATEWIDE PUBLIC ACCESS	5	\$26,500
Chippewa	easement	DUNCAN CR. FISHERY AREA	7	\$4,200
Chippewa	easement	ELK CR. FISHERY AREA	15	\$12,800
Chippewa	fee title	ELK CR. FISHERY AREA	24	\$30,350
Chippewa	easement	STREAMBANK EASEMENT PGM.	26	\$25,800
Chippewa	fee title	DUNCAN CR. FISHERY AREA	30	\$49,682
Chippewa	fee title	HAY CR. FISHERY AREA	72	\$81,600
Chippewa	fee title	MCCANN CR. FISHERY AREA	80	\$30,000
Chippewa	fee title	SAND CR. FISHERY AREA	139	\$30,000
Columbia	fee title	STATEWIDE PUBLIC ACCESS	1	\$73,500
Columbia	fee title	ROWAN CR. FISHERY AREA	3	\$17,000
Columbia	easement	LODI SPRING CR. FISHERY AREA	3	\$6,100
Columbia	easement	ROCKY RUN CR. FISHERY AREA	15	\$250
Columbia	fee title	ROCKY RUN CR. FISHERY AREA	25	\$78,044
Columbia	fee title	LODI SPRING CR. FISHERY AREA	50	\$125,736
Columbia	fee title	HINKSON CR. FISHERY AREA	73	\$171,600
Crawford	easement	REM-PLUM RUN CR.	2	\$0
Crawford	easement	REM-KNAPP CR.	3	\$5,300
Crawford	easement	STREAMBANK PROTECTION FEE PGM.	3	\$0
Crawford	easement	REM-RUSH CR.	6	\$3,600
Crawford	fee title	LA CROSSE AREA COMP. FISH. AREA	180	\$219,025
Crawford	easement	LA CROSSE AREA COMP. FISH. AREA	185	\$314,254
Crawford	fee title	STREAMBANK PROTECTION FEE PGM.	340	\$257,100
Dane	fee title	MOUNT VERNON CR. FISHERY AREA	<1	\$500
Dane	fee title	TOKEN CR. REARING STATION	1	\$5,810
Dane	easement	STATEWIDE HABITAT AREAS	1	\$0
Dane	easement	STATEWIDE PUBLIC ACCESS	2	\$0
Dane	easement	CHEROKEE MARSH FISHERY AREA	3	\$2,100
Dane	easement	REM-ELVERS CR.	4	\$8,500
Dane	easement	BLACK EARTH CR. FISHERY AREA	15	\$85,530
Dane	easement	STREAMBANK EASEMENT PGM.	22	\$80,000
Dane	easement	LOWER MUD L. FISHERY AREA	29	\$0
Dane	fee title	LOWER MUD L. FISHERY AREA	68	\$6,130
Dane	fee title	CHEROKEE MARSH FISHERY AREA	78	\$467,225
Dane	fee title	DORN CR. FISHERY AREA	97	\$867,581
Dane	fee title	NEVIN HATCHERY	103	\$83,250
Dane	fee title	BLACK EARTH CR. FISHERY AREA	180	\$251,962
Dane	fee title	STATEWIDE HABITAT AREAS	238	\$699,250
Dane	easement	STREAMBANK PROTECTION FEE PGM.	389	\$1,148,400
Dane	fee title	STREAMBANK PROTECTION FEE PGM.	603	\$1,576,101
Dodge	fee title	STATEWIDE PUBLIC ACCESS	< 1	\$3,800
Dodge	easement	STREAMBANK EASEMENT PGM.	30	\$27,150
Door	easement	STATEWIDE PUBLIC ACCESS	1	\$233,000
Door	fee title	STATEWIDE PUBLIC ACCESS	5	\$765,000
Door	fee title	STATEWIDE HABITAT AREAS	6	\$0
Douglas	easement	STATEWIDE HABITAT AREAS	1	\$0
Douglas	fee title	STATEWIDE HABITAT AREAS	80	\$18,000
Douglas	fee title	ST. LOUIS R. STREAMBANK AREA	6,365	\$983,350
Dunn	fee title	ELK CR. FISHERY AREA	4	\$3,400
Dunn	fee title	STATEWIDE HABITAT AREAS	5	\$0
Dunn	easement	ELK CR. FISHERY AREA	22	\$12,210
Dunn	fee title	REM-GILBERT CR.	32	\$29,500
Dunn	easement	STREAMBANK EASEMENT PGM.	77	\$61,515
Dunn	fee title	REM-WILSON CR.	110	\$30,800
Eau Claire	fee title	STREAMBANK PROTECTION FEE PGM.	93	\$48,600
Eau Claire	easement	STREAMBANK EASEMENT PGM.	108	\$191,900
Florence	fee title	STATEWIDE PUBLIC ACCESS	2	\$12,600
Fond Du Lac	easement	STREAMBANK EASEMENT PGM.	38	\$67,850
Forest	fee title	STATEWIDE SPRING PONDS	46	\$21,000
Grant	easement	REM-CASTLE ROCK CR.	2	\$3,375
Grant	easement	REM-BIG SPRING CR.	4	\$11,800
Grant	easement	REM-ROGERS BR.	4	\$3,621
Grant	easement	REM-BIG ROCK CR.	5	\$6,940
Grant	easement	REM-BIG SPRING BR.	8	\$10,200
Grant	easement	REM-SIX MILE BR.	16	\$35,500
Grant	easement	REM-CROOKED CR.	18	\$8,950
Grant	easement	REM-GRANT R.	19	\$22,275
Grant	easement	STREAMBANK EASEMENT PGM.	29	\$85,635
Grant	easement	REM-LITTLE GRANT R.	31	\$38,240
Grant	easement	REM-BIG GREEN R.	53	\$52,995

County	Type	Property Name	Acres	Total \$
Grant	easement	REM-BLUE R.	56	\$114,710
Grant	fee title	STATEWIDE HABITAT AREAS	77	\$156,631
Grant	fee title	REM-CASTLE ROCK CR.	80	\$145,000
Grant	easement	REM-LITTLE PLATTE R.	207	\$336,815
Grant	fee title	REM-BLUE R.	240	\$264,000
Green	easement	STREAMBANK EASEMENT PGM.	80	\$177,055
Green L.	fee title	STATEWIDE PUBLIC ACCESS	1	\$41,525
Green L.	easement	STATEWIDE PUBLIC ACCESS	1	\$0
Green L.	easement	STATEWIDE HABITAT AREAS	3	\$0
Green L.	fee title	UPPER FOX R. PUBLIC ACCESS	4	\$31,500
Green L.	fee title	STATEWIDE HABITAT AREAS	343	\$383,200
Iowa	easement	REM-DODGE BR.	6	\$10,900
Iowa	easement	REM-DICKINSON CR.	8	\$15,000
Iowa	easement	REM-E BR. PECATONICA R.	8	\$19,080
Iowa	easement	REM-POMPEY PILLAR CR.	13	\$7,325
Iowa	easement	REM-OTTERS CR.	14	\$24,400
Iowa	easement	REM-GORDON CR.	20	\$31,975
Iowa	easement	REM-HARKER CR.	28	\$25,950
Iowa	fee title	STATEWIDE HABITAT AREAS	68	\$137,369
Iowa	fee title	STREAMBANK PROTECTION FEE PGM.	125	\$101,500
Iowa	easement	STREAMBANK EASEMENT PGM.	170	\$367,765
Jackson	easement	REM-S BR. TREMPLEAU R.	3	\$0
Jackson	fee title	TANK CR. FISHERY AREA	20	\$8,000
Jackson	fee title	N. BR. TREMPLEAU R. FISH. AREA	37	\$28,250
Jackson	fee title	HALLS (STOCKWELL) CR. FISH. AREA	92	\$48,875
Jackson	fee title	REM-S BR. TREMPLEAU R.	230	\$69,420
Jackson	fee title	BUFFALO R. FISHERY AREA	493	\$303,400
Jefferson	fee title	L. MILLS HATCHERY	1	\$8,400
Jefferson	easement	L. MILLS HATCHERY	1	\$2,951
Jefferson	fee title	STATEWIDE PUBLIC ACCESS	18	\$21,650
Juneau	fee title	STATEWIDE PUBLIC ACCESS	5	\$2,000
Juneau	fee title	REM-BREWER CR.	24	\$22,800
Juneau	easement	REM-LITTLE LEMONWEIR R.	35	\$47,200
Juneau	easement	STREAMBANK EASEMENT PGM.	421	\$329,591
Kenosha	fee title	CAMP L. FISHERY AREA	<1	\$1,775
Kenosha	fee title	STATEWIDE PUBLIC ACCESS	1	\$140,000
Kenosha	fee title	HOOVER L. MARSH FISHERY AREA	7	\$0
La Crosse	fee title	STATEWIDE PUBLIC ACCESS	< 1	\$30,000
La Crosse	fee title	STREAMBANK PROTECTION FEE PGM.	3	\$1,400
La Crosse	fee title	LA CROSSE AREA COMP. FISH. AREA	14	\$9,300
La Crosse	fee title	COON CR. FISHERY AREA	18	\$12,600
La Crosse	fee title	STATEWIDE HABITAT AREAS	22	\$49,500
La Crosse	easement	LA CROSSE AREA COMP. FISH. AREA	136	\$224,800
Lafayette	easement	REM-OTTER CR.	64	\$47,100
Lafayette	easement	REM-GALENA R.	151	\$134,890
Langlade	easement	STATEWIDE SPRING PONDS	2	\$0
Langlade	easement	UPPER WOLF R. FISHERY AREA	4	\$0
Langlade	fee title	EVERGREEN R. FISHERY AREA	322	\$393,840
Langlade	fee title	UPPER WOLF R. FISHERY AREA	442	\$702,470
Langlade	fee title	STATEWIDE SPRING PONDS	658	\$688,056
Lincoln	easement	PRAIRIE R. FISHERY AREA	<1	\$1
Lincoln	fee title	STATEWIDE PUBLIC ACCESS	329	\$332,128
Lincoln	fee title	PRAIRIE R. FISHERY AREA	693	\$567,100
Marathon	fee title	STATEWIDE PUBLIC ACCESS	< 1	\$0
Marathon	fee title	PLOVER R. FISHERY AREA	24	\$17,000
Marathon	fee title	STATEWIDE SPRING PONDS	37	\$60,000
Marinette	fee title	STATEWIDE PUBLIC ACCESS	1	\$15,000
Marinette	easement	STATEWIDE PUBLIC ACCESS	6	\$0
Marinette	fee title	LITTLE R. REARING POND	18	\$0
Marinette	easement	STATEWIDE HABITAT AREAS	40	\$100,000
Marinette	fee title	N. BR. BEAVER CR. FISHERY AREA	40	\$102,000
Marinette	fee title	STATEWIDE HABITAT AREAS	111	\$330,000
Marquette	easement	MECAN R. FISHERY AREA	< 1	\$0
Marquette	fee title	ANDREW KRAKOW FISHERY AREA	1	\$45,478
Marquette	easement	STATEWIDE HABITAT AREAS	2	\$30,000
Marquette	easement	REM-LAING CR.	3	\$0
Marquette	fee title	STATEWIDE PUBLIC ACCESS	8	\$110,000
Marquette	easement	CAVES CR. FISHERY AREA	8	\$1,000
Marquette	fee title	REM-LAING CR.	60	\$0
Marquette	fee title	JOHN A LAWTON FISHERY AREA	84	\$133,500
Marquette	fee title	MECAN R. FISHERY AREA	136	\$339,968
Marquette	fee title	CAVES CR. FISHERY AREA	344	\$359,040
Monroe	fee title	MILL CR. FISHERY AREA	5	\$2,000
Monroe	easement	REM-LITTLE LACROSSE R.	14	\$18,550
Monroe	easement	COON CR. FISHERY AREA	36	\$46,600
Monroe	fee title	BIG CR. FISHERY AREA	40	\$73,500
Monroe	fee title	COON CR. FISHERY AREA	64	\$88,400
Monroe	fee title	LA CROSSE AREA COMP. FISH. AREA	89	\$56,200
Monroe	easement	LA CROSSE AREA COMP. FISH. AREA	106	\$156,950
Monroe	easement	STREAMBANK EASEMENT PGM.	448	\$305,051
Monroe	fee title	STREAMBANK PROTECTION FEE PGM.	640	\$350,600
Oconto	easement	S. BR. OCONTO R. FISH AREA	< 1	\$0
Oconto	fee title	STATEWIDE SPRING PONDS	2	\$0
Oconto	fee title	STATEWIDE PUBLIC ACCESS	25	\$146,200
Oconto	fee title	STATEWIDE HABITAT AREAS	107	\$327,012
Oconto	fee title	S. BR. OCONTO R. FISH AREA	109	\$405,800
Oneida	fee title	STATEWIDE PUBLIC ACCESS	1	\$0
Outagamie	easement	STATEWIDE HABITAT AREAS	1	\$0
Outagamie	fee title	STATEWIDE HABITAT AREAS	275	\$229,100
Ozaukee	easement	STREAMBANK EASEMENT PGM.	85	\$299,412
Pepin	easement	STREAMBANK EASEMENT PGM.	17	\$53,600
Pierce	easement	STREAMBANK EASEMENT PGM.	71	\$121,650
Pierce	fee title	STREAMBANK PROTECTION FEE PGM.	277	\$445,400
Polk	fee title	STATEWIDE HABITAT AREAS	8	\$85,000
Polk	fee title	BEHNING CR. FISHERY AREA	40	\$16,000
Portage	easement	RICHARD A HEMP FISHERY AREA	3	\$0
Portage	easement	LITTLE WOLF R. FISHERY AREA	4	\$2,500
Portage	fee title	EMMONS CR. FISHERY AREA	12	\$26,300
Portage	fee title	STREAMBANK PROTECTION FEE PGM.	20	\$23,600
Portage	fee title	RADLEY CR. FISHERY AREA	34	\$75,000
Portage	fee title	REM-PETERSON AND SANNES CR.	40	\$41,000
Portage	fee title	RICHARD A HEMP FISHERY AREA	80	\$88,000

STEWARDSHIP: program up for reauthorization

Continued from p. 1

In its capacity as the policy-setting body for the WDNR, the state Natural Resources Board approves Stewardship purchases and guides the WDNR on the use of the fund.

Members of the Natural Resources Board Stewardship Reauthorization Subcommittee are Chair John Welter of Eau Claire, Dave Clausen of Amery, and Jane Wiley of Wausau.

TU reauthorization concerns

WITU's Pielsticker expressed two concerns in his letter to the Stewardship Subcommittee.

"First, we expect some members of the Legislature to insist on renewing legislative review and approval of Stewardship Fund land purchases. Should this be necessary to secure passage, we hope that purchases under \$500,000 will be exempted from such reviews. Additionally, we hope that safeguards can be crafted to prevent legislators from holding hostage a Stewardship funding request in order to obtain favorable DNR activity on an unrelated issue.

"Second, we understand that some purchases of rural land of towns and counties has, inadvertent-

ly or otherwise, made land previously open to hunting off limits. We ...trust a straightforward fix can be found for this, ensuring that public lands...would generally be left open to hunting."

FINDING STEWARDSHIP AND OTHER PUBLIC LANDS ONLINE

Tools for locating and viewing public lands on the Internet have improved greatly. These two screen captures show a familiar spot to many — the area surrounding Avalanche, WI. The bottom picture shows a Stewardship-funded public access path from Hwy. Y going south and then west to the Seas Branch. Shading on both sides of the Seas Branch above that access point show that the streambanks there are also in public easement. The top picture shows the same features but with an optional aerial photo overlay. This mapping tool is available at http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/facilities/dnr_lands_mapping.html.



County	Type	Property Name	Acres	Total \$
Portage	fee title	LITTLE WOLF R. FISHERY AREA	374	\$583,600
Racine	fee title	STATEWIDE PUBLIC ACCESS	< 1	\$500
Racine	fee title	EAGLE L. FISHERY AREA	1	\$7,100
Racine	easement	STATEWIDE NEW HATCHERIES	1	\$0
Racine	fee title	STATEWIDE HABITAT AREAS	140	\$310,000
Richland	easement	STREAMBANK EASEMENT PGM.	<1	\$18,850
Richland	fee title	STATEWIDE PUBLIC ACCESS	2	\$8,000
Richland	fee title	REM-PINE R.	3	\$6,250
Richland	fee title	PINE R. SYSTEM FISHERY AREA	4	\$7,500
Richland	easement	STATEWIDE HABITAT AREAS	4	\$13,010
Richland	fee title	REM-MILANCTHON CR.	4	\$0
Richland	easement	REM-ENGINE CR.	6	\$15,040
Richland	easement	REM-MILANCTHON CR.	9	\$57,895
Richland	easement	REM-KNAPP CR.	12	\$19,775
Richland	easement	REM-PINE R.	12	\$38,350
Richland	easement	REM-PINE R.-YUBA	17	\$36,600
Richland	easement	REM-FANCY CR.	29	\$63,830
Richland	fee title	REM-KNAPP CR.	30	\$22,500
Richland	easement	REM-MILL CR.	39	\$33,150
Richland	fee title	REM-PINE R.-YUBA	43	\$78,300
Richland	fee title	REM-ASH CR.	43	\$30,100
Richland	fee title	WILLOW CR. FISHERY AREA	95	\$112,300
Richland	fee title	BEAR CR. FISHERY AREA	121	\$35,830
Richland	easement	WILLOW CR. FISHERY AREA	189	\$94,620
Richland	fee title	REM-CAMP CR.	284	\$404,803
Rock	fee title	STREAMBANK PROTECTION FEE PGM.	223	\$267,000
Rusk	fee title	REM-THORNAPPLE R.	56	\$46,500
Sauk	fee title	REM-BARABOO R.	< 1	\$0
Sauk	easement	REM-BARABOO R.	1	\$10,000
Sauk	fee title	STATEWIDE PUBLIC ACCESS	3	\$2,500
Sauk	easement	STATEWIDE HABITAT AREAS	10	\$28,590
Sauk	easement	BEAR CR. FISHERY AREA	13	\$9,540
Sauk	fee title	STATEWIDE HABITAT AREAS	27	\$268,660
Sauk	fee title	BEAR CR. FISHERY AREA	92	\$40,000
Sauk	easement	STREAMBANK EASEMENT PGM.	162	\$146,695
Sawyer	easement	STATEWIDE HABITAT AREAS	<1	\$0
Sawyer	easement	STATEWIDE PUBLIC ACCESS	<1	\$1,450
Sawyer	fee title	STATEWIDE PUBLIC ACCESS	3	\$24,000
Sawyer	fee title	BENSON CR. FISHERY AREA	20	\$7,250
Sawyer	fee title	MCDERMOTT BR. FISHERY AREA	20	\$20,800
Sawyer	fee title	STATEWIDE SPRING PONDS	45	\$15,000
Sawyer	fee title	STATEWIDE HABITAT AREAS	341	\$346,616
Shawano	fee title	STATEWIDE PUBLIC ACCESS	< 1	\$13,300
Shawano	fee title	EMBARRASS R. FISHERY AREA	2	\$1,250
Shawano	fee title	SHAWANO L. FISHERY AREA	7	\$27,500
Shawano	fee title	STATEWIDE HABITAT AREAS	10	\$10,001
Shawano	easement	SHAWANO L. FISHERY AREA	14	\$0
Sheboygan	easement	STATEWIDE NEW HATCHERIES	1	\$0
Sheboygan	easement	STREAMBANK PROTECTION FEE PGM.	1	\$200
Sheboygan	fee title	STATEWIDE PUBLIC ACCESS	5	\$48,900
Sheboygan	easement	STREAMBANK EASEMENT PGM.	29	\$55,990
Sheboygan	fee title	STATEWIDE NEW HATCHERIES	39	\$159,000
Sheboygan	fee title	REM-AREAS-ONION R.	49	\$28,000
Sheboygan	fee title	LA BUDDE CR. FISHERY AREA	80	\$106,000
Sheboygan	fee title	STREAMBANK PROTECTION FEE PGM.	542	\$2,061,280
St. Croix	easement	STREAMBANK PROTECTION FEE PGM.	1	\$0
St. Croix	fee title	STATEWIDE PUBLIC ACCESS	1	\$92,500
St. Croix	easement	KINNICKINNIC R. FISHERY AREA	6	\$10,500
St. Croix	fee title	KINNICKINNIC R. FISHERY AREA	120	\$374,688
St. Croix	fee title	STREAMBANK PROTECTION FEE PGM.	556	\$734,000
Taylor	fee title	STATEWIDE PUBLIC ACCESS	3	\$43,500
Taylor	easement	RIB R. FISHERY AREA	6	\$8,100
Taylor	fee title	RIB R. FISHERY AREA	136	\$102,000
Trempealeau	fee title	STATEWIDE PUBLIC ACCESS	< 1	\$0
Trempealeau	fee title	REM-KING CR.	13	\$7,668
Trempealeau	fee title	BUFFALO R. FISHERY AREA	49	\$36,000
Trempealeau	fee title	REM-BUFFALO R.	78	\$37,500

County	Type	Property Name	Acres	Total \$
Trempealeau	fee title	REM-PINE CR.	91	\$102,500
Trempealeau	easement	STREAMBANK EASEMENT PGM.	93	\$61,883
Vernon	easement	STREAMBANK PROTECTION FEE PGM.	1	\$0
Vernon	fee title	REM-RAINBOW SPRINGS	5	\$45,000
Vernon	fee title	STREAMBANK PROTECTION FEE PGM.	6	\$15,000
Vernon	fee title	REM-ELK CR.	8	\$25,000
Vernon	fee title	REM-MAPLE DALE CR.	19	\$10,577
Vernon	easement	COON CR. FISHERY AREA	22	\$31,791
Vernon	easement	REM-MILANCTHON CR.	23	\$0
Vernon	easement	LA CROSSE AREA COMP. FISH. AREA	28	\$60,075
Vernon	fee title	REM-WEST FORK KICKAPOO R.	45	\$21,150
Vernon	easement	REM-WEST FORK KICKAPOO R.	55	\$96,100
Vernon	fee title	COON CR. FISHERY AREA	56	\$37,850
Vernon	easement	STREAMBANK EASEMENT PGM.	97	\$127,200
Vernon	fee title	REM-BISHOP BR. CR.	131	\$57,750
Vernon	fee title	LA CROSSE AREA COMP. FISH. AREA	643	\$473,825
Vilas	fee title	STATEWIDE PUBLIC ACCESS	3	\$157,000
Walworth	fee title	STATEWIDE PUBLIC ACCESS	12	\$81,900
Walworth	fee title	STREAMBANK PROTECTION FEE PGM.	24	\$0
Washburn	easement	GOV. THOMPSON HATCHERY	< 1	\$0
Washburn	fee title	GOV. THOMPSON HATCHERY	4	\$1
Washburn	fee title	STATEWIDE PUBLIC ACCESS	6	\$168,000
Washburn	fee title	STATEWIDE HABITAT AREAS	19	\$115,000
Washburn	fee title	BEAN BROOK FISHERY AREA	181	\$7,250
Washington	fee title	STATEWIDE PUBLIC ACCESS	5	\$250,210
Washington	easement	STATEWIDE HABITAT AREAS	45	\$145,001
Washington	fee title	STATEWIDE HABITAT AREAS	70	\$404,500
Washington	fee title	STREAMBANK PROTECTION FEE PGM.	100	\$346,700
Washington	easement	STREAMBANK EASEMENT PGM.	157	\$223,750
Waukesha	easement	STATEWIDE PUBLIC ACCESS	< 1	\$0
Waukesha	fee title	STATEWIDE PUBLIC ACCESS	16	\$1,497,500
Waukesha	fee title	STATEWIDE HABITAT AREAS	118	\$263,000
Waupaca	easement	REM-S BR PIGEON R.	1	\$0
Waupaca	easement	STATEWIDE PUBLIC ACCESS	1	\$0
Waupaca	easement	REM-PETERSON AND SANNES CR.	1	\$0
Waupaca	fee title	WOLF R. FISHERY AREA	6	\$3,700
Waupaca	fee title	STATEWIDE PUBLIC ACCESS	6	\$77,600
Waupaca	fee title	EMMONS CR. FISHERY AREA	12	\$47,000
Waupaca	easement	WAUPACA R. FISHERY AREA	14	\$24,200
Waupaca	easement	RADLEY CR. FISHERY AREA	20	\$21,000
Waupaca	fee title	WAUPACA R. FISHERY AREA	34	\$61,912
Waupaca	easement	REM-LEER AND GRIFFEN CR.	46	\$12,250
Waupaca	fee title	REM-WOLF R.-COLIC SLOUGH	65	\$20,800
Waupaca	fee title	RADLEY CR. FISHERY AREA	91	\$140,913
Waupaca	fee title	REM-PETERSON AND SANNES CR.	105	\$139,000
Waupaca	easement	LITTLE WOLF R. FISHERY AREA	178	\$22,166
Waupaca	fee title	STATEWIDE HABITAT AREAS	379	\$225,500
Waupaca	fee title	LITTLE WOLF R. FISHERY AREA	480	\$531,963
Waushara	easement	WILD ROSE HATCHERY	< 1	\$0
Waushara	easement	PINE R. SYSTEM FISHERY AREA	< 1	\$0
Waushara	easement	MECAN R. FISHERY AREA	1	\$0
Waushara	fee title	REM-LITTLE SILVER CR.	3	\$34,000
Waushara	fee title	REM-THORSTEAD CR.	12	\$25,280
Waushara	fee title	REM-PINE R.	13	\$0
Waushara	fee title	WILD ROSE HATCHERY	16	\$237,300
Waushara	easement	WHITE R. FISHERY AREA-WAUSHARA	19	\$4,500
Waushara	easement	WILLOW CR. FISHERY AREA	46	\$28,200
Waushara	fee title	WILLOW CR. FISHERY AREA	176	\$235,772
Waushara	fee title	PINE R. SYSTEM FISHERY AREA	366	\$610,900
Waushara	fee title	MECAN R. FISHERY AREA	770	\$1,533,097
Waushara	fee title	WHITE R. FISHERY AREA-WAUSHARA	880	\$1,266,874
Winnebago	fee title	STATEWIDE PUBLIC ACCESS	12	\$41,000
Wood	easement	STREAMBANK PROTECTION FEE PGM.	1	\$0
Wood	easement	STREAMBANK EASEMENT PGM.	5	\$0
Wood	fee title	STREAMBANK PROTECTION FEE PGM.	165	\$239,100
Wood	fee title	STREAMBANK EASEMENT PGM.	302	\$750,000
Total Statewide Fish Acquisition			29,652	\$38,957,452



2007 STATE COUNCIL AWARD WINNERS

The WITU State Council honored 10 at the council's annual awards banquet in Stevens Point Feb. 3. Council Awards Chair Larry Meicher (left) stands next to Dave Patrick, Rick Kyte (accepting for WDNR Program and Planning Analyst

Cindy Koperski), Jim Jenkin (accepting for Fox Valley TU member Del Schwaller), Bill Heart, Bill Pielsticker, Peg Lautenschlager, Paul Kruse, Bob Haase (accepting for Rep. Tom Petri), Scott Toshner, and Paul Mongin.

Council honors 10 at annual awards ceremony

By Larry Meicher

State Council Awards Chair

The WITU State Council honored 10 individuals for their efforts to protect Wisconsin coldwater resources at the council's annual awards banquet in Stevens Point Feb. 3.

Dennis Vanden Bloemen — Award of Merit

Dennis Vanden Bloemen had a military background before he settled in the Eau Claire area where he is Professor of International Busi-

ness at the University of Wisconsin - Stout. Using his superior administrative abilities, he's given meritorious service to our coldwater resources.

Among his other talents, he's a master at grant writing and has done outstanding work for the Ojibseau Chapter, securing funding for several projects on Gilbert and Elk Mound creeks. He's also guided the chapter in preparing their first-ever strategic plan and rejuvenating their budgeting process. He's recruited new members for their board of directors and upgraded their opera-

tions so well that the Ojibseau Chapter achieved a high CEI score and is now re-certified by National TU.

Dennis has also put his skills to work for the National TUDARE project. He's conducted workshops across the state to help TU chapters increase their funding capabilities.

As an educator, he has started a fly fishing class and a fly tying class at UW-Stout. He's also started Boy Scouts of America fishing classes and disabled fisherman's classes. He's even started a club for disabled anglers in Eau Claire. Working with the DNR, he's been instrumental in the development of fly angler instructor certification courses.

Over the years he's raised over \$250,000 for TU projects in Western Wisconsin. Today hundreds of anglers are able to say that their skills were developed because of classes Dennis put together, and these new anglers will have vastly expanded fishing opportunities because of habitat and enhancement projects funded by Dennis' efforts!

DENNIS VANDEN BLOEMEN AND PEG LAUTENSCHLAGER

State Council Chair Bill Pielsticker presents Dennis Vanden Bloemen (left) with the council's Award of Merit. Peg Lautenschlager (below) accepts the Lee & Joan Wulff Award from last year's recipient, Dale Druckrey.

Because of his willingness to give of himself and share his expertise, we give Dennis Vanden Bloemen our Award of Merit.

Lee and Joan Wulff Conservation Award — Peg Lautenschlager

Several years ago John Beth made arrangements with Joan Wulff to create our Lee and Joan Wulff Conservation Award. This is a traveling award. We pass it on annually to a person who has shown outstanding leadership. John's vision was that this award, like a trout, was too valuable to be caught only once. Mr Beth's vision has a variety of subtle yet powerful feelings that focus on the heart of Trout Unlimited. In its own way, as a catch-and-release trophy, it should help us all remember and refocus on what we're all about and perhaps make our commitment stronger.

Outgoing Wisconsin Attorney General Peg Lautenschlager is our choice for the individual "who has demonstrated outstanding service in the field of conservation." Peg Lautenschlager has met this qualification by bringing nearly 175 enforcement actions in her four years as Attorney General against those who have violated Wisconsin's environmental laws. Over the past four years, hardly a week has gone by without the Attorney General's office announcing some action to enforce Wisconsin's environmental laws. This number of environmental cases may be a record for a Wisconsin Attorney General over a four-year period, and it underscores the fact that if an Attorney General wants to, he or she can stand up for our state's air, water, and land instead of looking the other way.

Peg Lautenschlager's efforts recently won the praise of Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., who said, "There is no Attorney General who is better in the United States on the issues I've been fighting for...than Peg Lautenschlager."

Wisconsin is a better place because of Peg Lautenschlager's efforts to level the playing field between those who respect and follow our state's environmental and conservation laws and those who seek to benefit by shortcutting them. For this record of service, the Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited awards Peg Lautenschlager with our Lee & Joan Wulff Award.

Blackhawk Chapter — Silver Trout Award

The Blackhawk Chapter of TU operates mainly in Rock and Green counties. In that area they have limited coldwater streams, yet over the years the chapter has been involved



in over 90 different conservation projects and activities.

In 1984, they were contacted by DNR fish manager Dave Vetrano about an eager group that eventually evolved into the West Fork Sports Club. Vetrano couldn't do any habitat work on the West Fork of the Kickapoo because it was class III water. The Blackhawk Chapter got instruction from him on how to build a lunger structure. Later that summer they built and installed eight lunger structures, making them the first non-governmental group to install lunger structures in a trout stream. Since then they have poured over \$80,000 in funds and man-hours into the Kickapoo. Through that process they perfected building lungers, utilizing nail guns and mass production methods. They then reached out to the Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter showing them how to do it and assisting with their first major project on McPherson Creek.

In addition to their own projects on streams in their geographic area, including Aliens, Leon, Sage, and Plum creeks, they have worked on German Valley Creek in Dane County with the Southern WI Chapter; Willow R. and Elk Cr. in Richland with the Ocooch Chapter; and several more projects on the Blue and Big Springs Branch with the Nohr Chapter. They've also reached out and done projects on Timber Coulee, The North Fork of the Bad Axe, Knapp Creek, Bishops Branch, Norwegian Creek, Duck Egg Creek, Raccoon Creek, and Reads Creek (sometimes in conjunction with Coulee Chapter and sometimes on their own).

Most recently they have coordinated the use of money paid by contractors who violated environmental laws to initiate projects on Hefty Creek and the Little Sugar River in Green County. They attained a cooperative effort from the city of New Glarus on part of the projects. The projects included the building and placement of 52 cribs and the acquisition of three major easements. They have plans to expand these projects in 2007.

The chapter has also reached into the state of Illinois. A pipeline company wanted to cross Kent Creek in a park area that Illinois operates as a put-and-take trout fishery. The Blackhawk Chapter built and supervised the installation of structures and the crossing. As a result of their leadership, an additional \$60,000 is scheduled to be spent on the area this year.

The Blackhawk Chapter is a true supporter of our coldwater resources, and we are proud to give them our Silver Trout Award for Chapter Merit.

Bill Pielsticker — Gold Trout Award

Our Gold Trout Award goes to Bill Pielsticker of Lodi. Bill has served on the board of directors and as president of the Southern Wisconsin Chapter. Both Bill and his wife come from agriculture backgrounds, and a few years back Bill scratched his living out as a farmer. This experience has proved very beneficial to the resource. Bill was one of the movers and shakers who provided the leadership that formulated our state's nonpoint pollution runoff rules.

Bill also worked very hard on the state's Buffer Initiative, and our new rules go into effect in 2008. He's also helped to negotiate the livestock siting law, and he's been appointed by the governor to sit on the livestock siting board. He's been a true spokesman for the interests of TU through all of this, but his presence carried extra weight with the agricultural interests as Bill is recognized as a farmer.

Bill has been our council chair for the last three years, and he has done an excellent job. During his tenure, he's become very visible in the affairs of National TU where he's worked with several initiatives to help council chairs work more effectively.

Last year he stepped up and chaired our annual banquet, which was a very successful event, and tonight's event promises to be even bigger and better.

Del Schwaller — Gold Net Award

Our Gold Net Award goes to Del Schwaller of Appleton. Del is probably our oldest active TU leader. He's a spry 80 years young, yet he continues to organize and run the Fox Valley Chapter's Fishing Day For People with Disabilities. He's done this for over 28 years. He also

coordinates Fox Valley's Kids Fishing Day and leads their fly tying classes.

He's a master when it comes to fund raising. He's been the chief organizer for their annual banquets for several years. Five years ago Del was the mastermind instrumental in developing Fox Valley's latest venue, "Cabin Fever Day." Every year since he's gathered donations, worked the fund-raiser, and helped administer the event. Every year Cabin Fever Day has netted the chapter between \$3,600 and \$5,100 dollars, chiefly because of Del's leadership.

In every organization there are a few key people who carry knowledge from one generation of leadership to the next — this has been the key role Del has played in his chapter to insure the continued fund raising necessary to finance the Fox Valley Chapter's many projects.

Del has also been very active in most of the chapter's conservation projects. In the last five years the list is impressive, including the Camp McCoy stream improvement, the Tomorrow River Sannes/Morgan project, the Whitcomb Creek project, and the Waupaca River scatter planting to name a few.

Del doesn't just participate in the chapter's activities. He has acted as a true "motivator" during his 35 plus years of service to his chapter. In addition, he's also worked on several of our State Council awards banquets.

Bill Heart — Jeff Carlson Leadership Award

Our Jeff Carlson Leadership Award goes to Bill Heart of Ashland. Back when we created this award, I sensed that it would just be a matter of time before we'd be giving it to Bill. Bill considered Jeff one of his best friends. After Jeff's untimely death, Bill stepped in to

lead the Wild Rivers Chapter where he's done an outstanding job of building and expanding membership.

Bill has been involved with a wide range of activities, including initiating and leading resource projects, organizing the Kids Fishing Day, coordinating events for the Wisconsin Free Fishing day at the Brule and Bayfield hatcheries, publishing an outstanding chapter newsletter, providing many services for the state council and chapters throughout the state via his graphic arts business, and being a key player in the State Council's banquet for the last five years.

But Bill has really shined in his commitment to two very important resource initiatives. One of these is the coaster brook trout restoration effort where he has been a very visible leader in this multi-state venture. The other being his commitment to the White River watershed in Ashland and Bayfield counties. Bill appealed to the DNR six years ago with concerns regarding the brown trout fishery on the White. He has been leading his chapter as well as other groups working to protect and enhance the fishery. At one point Bill even dug into his own pocket and went into considerable debt to purchase a key parcel on the White to protect it from potential development and then arranged to pass it to the DNR for permanent protection. In 2004 there was a large expansion of the White River Fishery Area which happened mainly because of Bill's hard work, determination, and leadership. This led to giving the DNR the ability to purchase title or easements from willing landowners that may result in the addition of 7,000 acres to the White River Watershed.

Continued on p. 8

BLACKHAWK CHAPTER, BILL PIELSTICKER, DEL SCHWALLER, BILL HEART

Bill Pielsticker presents Dave Patrick (top left) and Dan Boggs of the Blackhawk Chapter with the State Council's Silver Trout Award. Jim Jenkin (below left) accepts the Gold Net Award on behalf of FVTU member Del Schwaller. Bill Heart (below right) presents the Gold Trout Award to outgoing State Council Chair Bill Pielsticker.



AWARDS: council honors 10 at annual ceremony

Continued from p. 7

Scott Toshner — WDNR Professional of the Year Award

The Wild Rivers Chapter met Scott Toshner years ago when he was appointed fish biologist for Bayfield and Douglas counties. The Wild Rivers Chapter had a number of concerns about the White River. One of Scott's first jobs was to meet with chapter leaders about their concerns, and that was the beginning of a wonderful relationship between them.

Since that first meeting, Scott has been very involved. Instead of just reacting to their concerns, Scott started a long-term project to gather data to make sure that there was indeed a problem on the White River. He started by doing population estimates of the brown trout fishery and

comparing the data using the same historic stations that Ed Avery used in the 1960s. Scott asked for help with these surveys, and the Wild Rivers Chapter assisted Scott.

In 2004 and 2005 Scott replicated an angler creel survey that was done in the 1960s. Scott made sure that the survey was done exactly as the last time in order compare the two sets of data. This winter Scott will be writing a final report on all of his White River work and will be giving recommendations for any changes needed to ensure that the White will remain one of Wisconsin's best wild trout rivers. While all of the data work was going on, Scott and his staff were also working to improve the upper White by installing course woody debris and lunger structures on the South Fork.

Wild Rivers has also kept Scott busy with their concerns for one of

the major tributaries of the White, Eighteen Mile Cr. The mouth of the Eighteen Mile is silted and channelized from beavers and highway erosion. This impacts the spawning abilities of brown trout. Correcting this will probably be the next big project for the White.

Scott has also been very supportive of a group of local citizens, Friends of the White River, who are concerned with the lower area of the White, most of which is privately owned. They proposed a management plan for this stretch of the White and the DNR decided to expand the boundaries of the White River Fisheries Area to include this part for land acquisition and easements. Scott has attended all of their meetings, and after the fisheries area was expanded, he was appointed as co-property manager for this expansion area and has worked very closely with the newly formed White River Citizen Involvement Committee. Scott really didn't need more work, but he has been invaluable to the committee.

Scott has also been very involved with the Wild Rivers' annual Fishing Expo and Auction. He has attended all of their expos and has set up information displays to inform anglers about what is being done on the White. He also bought his first fly rod at one of their auctions and continues to acquire more equipment. Chapter President Bill Heart took Scott on his first hex night in the Bibon Marsh, and when Scott caught his first 18-inch brown, he was hooked.

Green Bay Chapter — Certificate of Appreciation

Tom Herman approached the State Council in April 2006 to propose conducting a survey of legislative candidates before the upcoming elections. The council moved that they go ahead. Tom, Paul Kruse, Paul Mongin, and other members of the Green Bay Chapter gathered input from the State Council executive committee to formulate and conduct the survey over the summer. The candidates were surveyed, and the results from those who responded were collated and reported to our entire membership in the October issue of *Wisconsin Trout*.

This was a real service to all of our membership to make them more informed voters. It is a simple, basic reality that many of our social, commercial, and legal policies and practices that determine the future of our natural resources come from the halls of our government. The bottom line is that our government is only responsive to how we as trout fisherman participate in the political process. Being informed voters is crucial to making democracy work! For doing such a fine job, we thank the Green Bay Chapter.

Cindy Koperski — Certificate of Appreciation

Today we have a certificate of appreciation for Cindy Koperski for the way she handled last year's complaints about the impact of the Kraemer Company gravel washing operation on Cook Creek in Vernon County. Cook Creek is a small tributary of the Kickapoo that serves as a spawning ground for brook trout.

Neighbors noticed in recent summers that a portion of the stream had been drying up when gravel washing was taking place. Cindy went out of her way to gather data, observe the stream, and put together a watertight circumstantial case that convinced Kraemer to take action. At their expense, Kraemer cased their high-capacity well to the depth needed to eliminate removal of groundwater from the shallow aquifer. Not only did this resolve the conflict between the gravel-washing operation and the trout stream, it also opened up a new way to look at mitigating the potentially adverse environmental impacts of high-capacity wells at other locations in our state.

Cindy, who is a DNR water resources biologist, says it is a win-win solution all around as the quarry got the water it needed for its washing gravel, and the stream got the water it needs to maintain the fishery and aquatic resources year-round.

State groundwater and drinking water officials are pleased with the outcome, citing that it shows people can work together to protect streams and other natural resources and yet benefit business at the same time. Our hats go off to Cindy for this successful outcome.

SCOTT TOSHNER, THE GREEN BAY CHAPTER, CINDY KOPERSKI, AND REP. TOM PETRI

State Council Chair Bill Pielsticker presents Scott Toshner (top left) with the DNR Professional of the Year Award. Paul Mongin and Paul Kruse (2nd from top) accept an Appreciation Award given to the Green Bay Chapter. Rick Kyte (bottom left) accepts an Appreciation Award on behalf of the Cindy Koperski. Two weeks after the awards ceremony, CWTU President Bob Haase delivered our Appreciation Award to Rep. Tom Petri (below right).



Rep. Tom Petri — Certificate of Appreciation

U.S. Rep. Tom Petri of Fond du Lac has been unwavering in his effort to bring sound science and fiscal responsibility to the effort to restore endangered Northwest Pacific wild salmon and steelhead. Fisheries biologists agree that breaching the four lower dams on the Snake River would open up vast stretches of the river above them to native salmon would have the highest probability of success for the recovery effort. Barring an act of Congress, the Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Marine Fisheries Service insists they cannot even consider the effect of the dams on the salmon. Rather, they insist the dams are part of the landscape around which any management plan must be implemented. In the face of opposition by members of his own party, Petri has sponsored several versions of the Salmon Planning Act, which would authorize the Corps to evaluate the cost and effectiveness of breaching the lower four dams on the Snake River. He pledg-

es to continue this effort in the new Congress, where his chance of success is ironically improved by the losses of his own party in November's election.

Rep. Petri has also been a staunch champion of the Great Lakes. Last year he helped fund continuing operation of the temporary Asian carp barriers in the Chicago Ship and Sanitary Canal. Last month, he sponsored legislation to authorize funding for a permanent barrier to keep the Asian carp from invading the Great Lakes.

Rep. Petri's actions, intentionally or not, have helped to further several of Trout Unlimited's national priorities while bucking the preferences of his party leaders. Wisconsin Trout Unlimited does not have a regular award for outstanding legislators, but we decided that Rep. Tom Petri's actions in support of wild Pacific salmon and protecting the Great Lakes more than deserve recognition, so we are happy to present him with a Certificate of Special Merit from the Wisconsin

Council of Trout Unlimited and its 4,500 members.

Bill Pielsticker — Aldo Leopold Leadership Award

Former Aldo Leopold Chapter President Clint Byrnes made a special presentation to outgoing State Council Chair Bill Pielsticker during the Noon Awards Luncheon.

After roasting Pielsticker and giving him numerous going-away gifts of very dubious value, Byrnes presented Pielsticker an Aldo Leopold Leadership Award as signified by one of Byrnes' custom trout

nets. This award recognizes Pielsticker's special leadership for Wisconsin TU over the past three years.

PIELSTICKER ROASTED

Outgoing State Council Chair Bill Pielsticker (bottom) couldn't escape without being roasted by Clint Byrnes of Beaver Dam. Bill, a professional photographer, probably won't be taking his new camera to the *Antiques Roadshow*.

New Farm Bill may fund trout stream habitat restoration

By Bill Pielsticker

TU National is working with 14 other conservation, hunting, and fishing groups through the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership to see that the conservation provisions of the new Farm Bill will enable funding of trout stream habitat restoration when other conservation practices are implemented along or near trout waters.

Since the 1980s, the Farm Bill has become the largest source of funds for conservation work in the federal budget. The bill is reauthorized every five years, with the current reauthorization set for this year.

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited (WITU) finds itself in a key position as Congress begins to consider how to shape the new Farm Bill. Wisconsin Rep. Dave Obey chairs the House Appropriations Committee, and Sen. Herb Kohl sits on the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Five years ago, Obey came within 11 votes of substituting his conservation-oriented Farm Bill for the one crafted by House leaders.

TU forms Farm Bill Work Group

Reflecting this state's importance in the Farm Bill debate, TU's National Leadership Council (NLC) recently created the Farm Bill Work Group, which is chaired by WITU's own NLC Representative, Dan Wisniewski. WITU's new Legislative Chair, Bill Pielsticker, is also on the work group.

Assisted by staff at TU National, the Farm Bill Work Group is monitoring various proposals, including the draft bill released by the Bush Administration in February.

TU and other hunting, fishing, and conservation groups are seeking more funds for habitat improvement, especially through increasing funding for the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) and expanding the reach and funding for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

At the same time, we are working to retain a strong Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), both of which reduce sediment loss and protect critical trout habitat.

Ethanol vs. stream health?

Some are looking at the Conservation Reserve Program as a source of new corn acreage to fuel the explosion of corn-based ethanol factories. Conversion of a substantial amount of CRP acres could create significant new sources of sediment and nutrient runoff that could degrade surface water quality.

The Farm Bill campaign will solicit TU members in Wisconsin and elsewhere to contact their legislators and urge support of increased funding for conservation programs and language changes to allow funds to be used on in-stream habitat improvement.

BUDGET: runoff funding in Governor's budget proposal

Continued from p. 1

This budget addition is the result of a nine-month campaign by members of WITU, the River Alliance, the WI Wildlife Federation, and other conservation groups, including the WI Assn. of Land and Water Conservation Employees.

The Governor's proposal would provide \$5 million the first year and \$7 million the second year out of an expanded Environment Fund. The \$7 million would become the base for the next two-year budget and put us on track to seeing the program fully funded over the following three state budgets.

Action on CAFOs

In March, a slightly revised rules package governing the handling and disposal of manure by confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs) began to take effect.

These rules, strongly supported by Wisconsin TU, were returned to the DNR for changes last fall by the Senate Agriculture Committee.

The revised rules were resubmitted to the Legislature in January and took effect following decisions by the Senate and Assembly Agriculture Committees not to hold hearings on them.



TU's NLC bringing grassroots concerns to forefront

By Dan Wisniewski

WITU NLC Representative

The TU National Leadership Council (NLC) was created a couple of years ago as part of an effort to increase grassroots participation in the organization. It took the place of the Natural Resources Board (NRB), chaired for a number of years by Wisconsin's own Steve Born.

So how has this effort at increasing grassroots participation worked? The NLC functions as sort of the House of Representatives to the Board of Trustees' Senate. It's a real balancing act. TU has grown into a \$20 million per year operation, and the BOT must ensure the long-term fiscal viability of the organization.

Still, the desires of TU's 170,000 members — represented through their local chapters and state councils — must be heeded and, when possible, acted upon.

TU suffers from the same problem of retaining new members as most other national conservation groups. A drop-out rate of 35% is common. TU members always want to know what TU National is doing for them lately.

Public access first big issue

The first real issue to confront the new grassroots TU has been public access. How involved, nationally and locally, should TU be in fighting threats to public access to trout waters?

An earlier attempt to devise an access policy led to confusion. In late 2005 TU President Charles Gauvin and other senior staff proposed that TU should refrain from participating in almost all access disputes. They argued that public access was not a conservation issue and that it threatened to drain TU staff resources and impede fund raising.

The reaction from many members of the NLC and some members of the BOT was strongly negative. Wisconsin State Council Chair Bill Pielsticker and I worked with Duke Welter, who is Secretary of the NLC and also a BOT member, and a number of NLC and BOT members to fashion a compromise that would ensure TU's continued involvement in access disputes under carefully defined circumstances.

After months of discussion, the NLC overwhelmingly approved the compromise, and it was then adopted by the BOT in May 2006. A Stream Access Working Group (SAWG) comprised of BOT and NLC members was created last fall to decide when it was proper to participate in access issues.

Montana cases

Since last November, SAWG has considered two issues, both pre-existing the policy and both arising in Montana.

The first issue involved the Mitchell Slough controversy, where several landowners have sought to exclude the public from what is either a navigable water or a restored ditch, depending on which side is speaking. Montana TU sought to file a "friend of the court" brief in an appeal of the case to the Montana Supreme Court. The SAWG decision authorized Montana TU to file the brief in support of an important underlying issue, but not the access issue, and was endorsed by the TU Executive Committee in a split vote.

The second issue involved modifications to Montana's Stream Access Law which Montana TU sought to back in their state Legislature. Here SAWG voted 4-0 to allow Montana TU to support the modifications to the access law. The TU Executive Committee voted to back the SAWG decision, again on a split vote.

It appeared that a potentially divisive issue had been resolved, a new process was working, and the grassroots voice of TU members had been heard.

Maybe, maybe not. SAWG's action prompted the abrupt resignation on Feb. 7 of BOT Chair John Maher of Colorado, who stated, "In addition to their often murky nature

TU's National's Organizational Structure

National Leadership Council — NLC representatives are elected by every state with an active TU State Council. The 35-member NLC's primary responsibility is to further TU's conservation agenda.

Board of Trustees — TU's 36-member BOT is responsible for the finances and structure of the organization. A number of grassroots trustees were added to the board as part of the organization's restructuring to broaden the governance of TU.

State Councils — TU's 34 State Council chairs also contribute to setting direction.

Staff — A national TU staff of approximately 100 carries out the policies and directives that come out of this process.

and all the acrimony they entail, disputes between public access proponents and landowners have nothing to do with conservation. There is nothing in TU's strategic plan or in its simple, eloquent mission statement or sweeping vision statement about promoting or defending public access; nor should there be."

Maher said he believed TU's fund-raising goals would "elude TU" if it does not "avoid entanglements over such collateral issues as

stream access."

Kirk Otey of North Carolina, chair of the NLC and thus a member of the BOT, responded to Maher's resignation in a Feb. 28 memo to the BOT, NLC, and State Council Chairs.

"John clearly misses one of the key elements in the success of TU," Otey wrote. "George Griffith and his unhappy buddies on the Au Sable banded together to 'conserve, protect, and restore' a public stream — one which they believed had many friends among the public which fished there. They were confident that such anglers would see the wisdom and benefit of organized conservation for streams which they did not own or control, and would join them in their efforts. So it proved to be, and continues to prove so to this day, 48 years later."

Otey said TU members understood an issue like public access "in their bones" and that everyone in TU should be patient and allow the new policy to work.

Otey's right. Any rushed attempt to repeal a TU access policy that's barely had a chance to begin to work would be a serious betrayal of a genuine grassroots effort to forge a workable compromise. Maintaining a good policy might mean a few lost contributions from wealthy folks who are lucky enough to own their own trout streams. But fighting for public access when it's the right and smart thing to do is what Trout Unlimited is really all about. I feel it "in my bones."

March votes test access policy

On March 9, acting BOT chairman Robert Teufel sent out a memo calling for a special conference call meeting on March 22 to discuss a resolution to amend the stream access policy to "prohibit TU involvement or participation in disputes that pit claims of public stream access against claims of private property rights." The BOT would then vote (by email) on the resolution by March 27.

In the meantime, the NLC will meet (by phone) on March 19 to get their reaction to the proposed change. Teufel stated that the BOT has "sole authority" to change the policy, but urged BOT members not to cast votes until after the NLC met. Since the NLC approved the new policy unanimously, it's not difficult to predict their reaction.

SAWG has only been in place for a few months and has initiated a process that seems to be working. Since there are no pending access cases coming before SAWG, and

since the full BOT meets face-to-face in June, one can ask, what's the rush?

Other recent issues

As Wisconsin's NLC representative, I've also been involved in a couple of other interesting issues.

At the annual meeting in Minneapolis last September, the NLC created two new workgroups. One deals with the federal Farm Bill and the other with how TU can cooperate more effectively with state and local land trusts. I was asked to chair both workgroups.

Why the Farm Bill? Each year the federal government spends over \$80 billion on Farm Bill programs, including over \$4 billion on various conservation programs. This makes the Farm Bill the biggest chunk of conservation spending in the entire federal budget.

There are a number of conservation programs such as the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) that pay farmers and ranchers for conservation efforts. One problem is that WHIP, at about \$45 million a year, is the only program designed specifically to address fish and wildlife concerns, and only 5% of the acres enrolled in WHIP are riparian habitat.

CRP, which pays farmers to take sensitive lands out of cultivation, also needs to be strengthened to keep land enrolled in the face of the growing demand for corn ethanol.

TU's Farm Bill goals

TU's legislative goals are as follows:

1. Create a new \$60 million/year aquatic habitat improvement program similar to WHIP, and
2. Modify other current Farm Bill programs to direct more attention and funding to riparian habitat.

The Farm Bill Work Group includes NLC reps from several other states, as well as Duke Welter, Bill Pielsticker, TU legislative staff, and TU field staff like Jeff Hastings of TUDARE. Our goal is organize an effort to have TU volunteers and staff directly contact key members of Congress, especially those on the Ag and Budget committees to lobby them on these issues.

Short issue briefs have been prepared to help TU volunteers get the message across. In the first week of March, a TU Action Alert was sent to the first wave of volunteers, asking them to e-mail and call their representatives. More alerts will follow. You can participate in these deliberations by going to the *Conservation* page of www.TU.org.

Working with land trusts

A new Land Conservancy Work Group has also been formed to determine how TU can work more effectively with local and state land trusts to protect coldwater resources. TU National studied this question starting in the early 1990s and developed a limited trial program that led to land acquisitions and easements in several watersheds.

The goal is not for TU to function as a land trust, own land, or even to hold easements. Instead, our goal is to take advantage of the growing expertise and reach of local land trusts and to assist them financially when they deal with coldwater-related projects. The question is how to set up and manage this new enterprise.

We hope to have recommendation for the next annual TU meeting in September.



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Electronic voting equipment conflict Spring Hearings and Conservation Congress to meet one week later this year

The annual WDNR Spring Hearing and Conservation Congress meeting will take place one week later than normal this April.

Meetings this year will occur on Monday, April 16, instead of the traditional first Monday of the month.

According to the WDNR, "The State Elections Board has informed counties that they are required to secure election results for a specified period of time following any general or primary election. In 2007, the primary election will take place on April 3rd.

"What this means for the Department and the Conservation Congress is that we will not have access to the voting equipment used for tabulation of the results of the hearing until this time has expired." The new date makes the automated ballot system available this year.

Trout-related questions on 2007 Congress ballot

Below are the trout-related questions on this year's Conservation Congress ballot.

Questions 5 & 6: Beaver Dam Lake Trout and Smelt Regulation Changes

Brood stock brown trout (larger than 15 inches) will be stocked in Beaver Dam Lake, Barron County, starting in 2008 to control an abundant exotic rainbow smelt population. Rainbow smelt were illegally introduced sometime in the late 1970's and since that time, the walleye population has decreased 53%. In addition, natural reproduction of walleye is no longer occurring and walleye stocking success has been very poor. It is suspected rainbow smelt are preying on natural reproducing and stocked walleye fry and fingerlings. Similar negative interactions between rainbow smelt and walleye have been documented on several other walleye lakes in northern Wisconsin.

It is proposed that a high minimum length limit with a daily bag limit of 1 for trout be implemented to maximize predation on rainbow smelt. However, it is also felt that anglers should have an opportunity to harvest a large trout once they grow to a quality size range. In addition, a higher minimum length limit will minimize the number of brood stock trout that need to be stocked and save the Department considerable dollars in terms of hatchery production costs. Therefore it was determined the best option would be to pursue a 26 inch minimum length limit with a daily bag limit of 1. This regulation option should allow the brood stock to predate on rainbow smelt for a period of 1 1/2 years after the initial stocking and at that time, anglers would have the opportunity to harvest a larger fish if they desired. It is also felt that opening the season for dip netting would expedite the smelt removal process. Smelt harvest is currently prohibited.

Do you support a 26 inch minimum length limit with a daily bag limit of 1 fish for trout in Beaver Dam Lake, Barron County? 5. YES _____ NO _____

Do you support allowing smelt harvest, by use of dip nets not exceeding 8 feet in diameter or 8 feet square and seines not more than 75 feet in length and 6 feet in depth, in Beaver Dam Lake, Barron County? 13 6. YES _____ NO _____

Question 7: Hay River Trout Regulations

The Hay River was recently classified as a trout stream in 2004 in Barron County. Currently a low density brook trout population is present with trout densities around 100 fish per mile. However, the potential for larger brook trout is present due to a low density fishery, with good physical habitat and an excellent forage base. Brook trout in excess of 15 inches were sampled in 2003 and anglers have been reported catching brook trout up to 17 inches.

When the stream was classified in 2004, the stream fell under the default regulation for Barron County of a 7 inch minimum length, bag limit of 5 fish. This regulation seems to work well on local streams where trout densities are higher at 1000-3000 fish per mile. However, considering the number of brook trout present on the Hay River is very low at only 100 fish per mile, the regulation is considered to be too liberal and the potential for overharvest is high.

Fish survey data since in 2003 has further confirmed this problem and has shown that the number of brook trout greater than 8 inches has decreased 50% over the past 3 years. It is speculated that prior to the classification in 2004, very few, if any anglers were aware that trout were present in the river, which allowed fish to grow to trophy size ranges. However, after the stream was classified anglers started fishing the stream and the number of larger trout has decreased overtime likely from increased angler harvest. Given the fact that very few streams in Wisconsin have the ability to produce 15-17 inch brook trout, it is felt the Hay River should be managed for large brook trout.

In an effort to provide the opportunity to harvest a large brook trout and prevent overharvest of a low density brook trout fishery,

Do you support a 15 inch minimum limit with a daily bag limit of 1 for trout on the Hay River in Barron County? 7. YES _____ NO _____

Questions 12 & 13: Keyes Lake Trout and Walleye Regulation Changes

Keyes Lake now supports a large population of a non-native fish, the rainbow smelt. Keyes Lake once supported a naturally reproducing population of walleyes. DNR sampling in recent years, since smelt have become established, show that walleyes are no longer recruiting successfully to adult sizes. Similar problems with walleye recruitment have been seen in other northern Wisconsin lakes with smelt. DNR began annual stockings of brown trout fingerlings in Keyes Lake in 2002 to eventually provide some measure of smelt control by a cold-water predator during summer when smelt and trout share similar habitat. There is a possibility of Trout or Black Oak Lake strain lake trout being stocked in Keyes Lake in the future, depending on availability. Current fishing regulations (trout Category 2) allow harvest of stocked browns at small sizes and high rates, before they reach a size where they can be effective predators of smelt.

Current fishing regulations for walleye in Keyes Lake specify a daily bag limit of five and a minimum length of 15 inches. This regulation maximizes harvest opportunities, but the current management need is for more walleyes to reduce smelt numbers. Restoring walleye to high densities through restrictive fishing regulations has been effective in reducing smelt in at least two other northern Wisconsin lakes.

Do you favor changing the trout regulation category on Keyes Lake, Florence County from category 2 (all trout 7" minimum length, 5 daily bag limit) to category 5 (lake trout 26" minimum length, 1 daily bag limit; brown trout 12" minimum length, 2 daily bag limit)? 12. YES _____ NO _____

Do you favor changing the walleye regulation on Keyes Lake, Florence County from a daily bag of five fish, minimum length 15 inches to a daily bag of three fish, minimum length 18 inches? 13. YES _____ NO _____

Question 21: Prairie River Trout Regulations

The problem described here is a social issue, not a biological issue. Both the existing and proposed regulations will allow for self-sustaining populations of brook and brown trout in this section of the Prairie River. The issue is about what type of bait should be allowed and what length the trout must be to harvest (high minimum length limits and artificial lures only versus lower minimum length limits and no bait restrictions).

Some local landowners and fishermen would like a change to more liberal trout regulations on approximately 5 miles of the Prairie River in Lincoln County. They would like regulations that allow bait fishing and allow harvest of brown trout less than 18" and brook trout less than 12". Currently, the Category 5 regulations on this 5-mile stretch from R & H Road downstream to STH 17 are as follows:

- Daily Bag Limit: 1 Trout
- 12" Minimum length limit on Brook Trout
- 18" Minimum length limit on Brown Trout
- Artificial Lures Only

The current regulations were passed as part of the state and countywide trout regulations package voted on at the 2002 Spring Hearings. Some anglers like the existing category 5 trout regulations and some would like more liberal regulations. This proposal is to see what rules the majority of anglers want for this 5-mile section of the Prairie River.

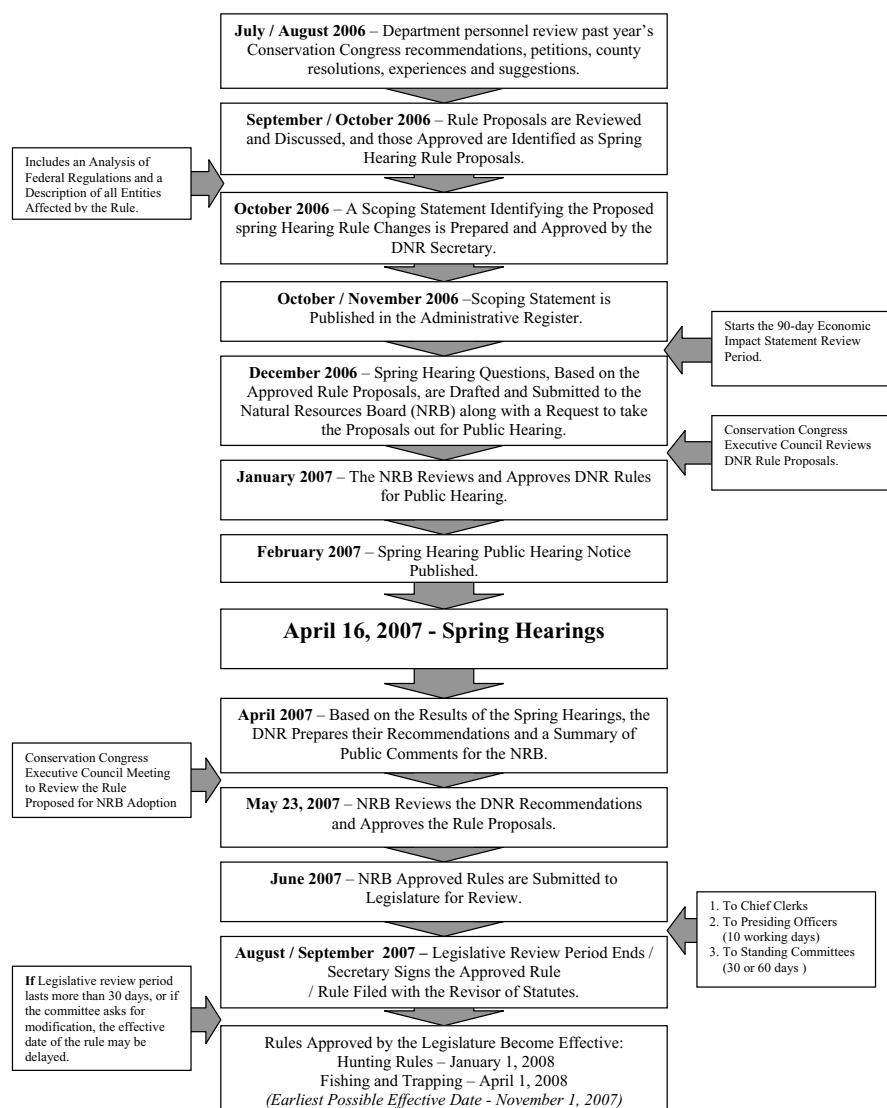
Do you favor changing the regulations on the Prairie River from R & H Road downstream to STH 17 (5 miles) from category 5 (daily limit of 1 trout; 18" minimum length limit on brown trout; 12" minimum length limit on brook and rainbow trout; artificial lures only) to category 4 (daily limit of 3 trout; 12" minimum length limit on brown and rainbow trout; 8" minimum length limit on brook trout; no bait restrictions)? 21. YES _____ NO _____

Question 24: Plum Creek Trout Regulations

Special regulations were placed on Plum Creek during 2003. The daily bag limit was changed from 3 to 2, and the minimum length limit was changed from 9 to 12 inches. Special regulations were implemented to protect and improve brook and brown trout densities, however it has been determined that trout populations have not responded, fishing pressure is light and poor habitat is the primary limiting factor regulating trout reproduction, density and size structure. Therefore, it is recommended to eliminate special regulations on Plum Creek in Pepin County (from CTH SS downstream to the Chippewa River) and revert back to the baseline regulation for the county which is Category 4 (brook trout length limit - 8 inches, brown trout length limit - 12 inches, bag limit of 3). Such change will make trout regulations uniform on Plum Creek and throughout Pepin County.

Do you favor eliminating special regulation waters on Plum Creek (12 inch length limit, bag limit of 2) from CTH SS downstream to the Chippewa River and reverting back to the baseline regulation for the county, Category 4 (brook trout length limit - 8 inches, brown trout length limit - 12 inches, bag limit of 3)? 24. YES _____ NO _____

Fisheries/wildlife rule adoption timeline



Conservation Congress Trout Committee Members

- Michael Reiter, New Richmond
- Dennis Vanden Bloomen, Eau Claire
- Maurice Amundson, Sparta
- John Bethke, Westby
- Jamie Conway, Crandon
- Scott Hecker, Wild Rose
- Larry Knutson, Prairie Du Chien
- Richard Kulas, Arcadia
- Albert Kwallek, Lancaster
- Sid Lepscier Sr., Keshena
- Arby Linder, Spring Valley
- Robert Maass, Rhinelander
- Art Malin, Stone Lake
- Harry Meinking Sr., La Crosse
- James Mense, Menomonie
- Terry Mihlbauer, Lavalle
- Todd Oestreich, Appleton
- Todd Roensch, Wauzeka
- Jay Umland, Antigo
- Jim Waletzko, South Range
- Ron Waller, Eagle River
- Dennis Haanpaa, Montreal

2007 Conservation Congress Locations

Monday, April 16
7:00 p.m. at all sites

NOTE: meetings are one week later than normal this year only due to a scheduling conflict

- Adams, County Courthouse, Board Room, 402 Main Street, Friendship
- Ashland, Senior High School, Auditorium, 1900 Beaser Ave., Ashland
- Barron, Old Courthouse Building Lower Level, Auditorium, 330 E LaSalle Ave., Barron
- Bayfield, Drummond High School, 40 Eastern Ave., Drummond
- Brown, Green Bay Southwest High School, Auditorium, 1331 Packerland Dr., Green Bay
- Buffalo, Alma High School, Auditorium, S1618 State Rd. 35, Alma
- Burnett, Siren Government Center, Room 165, 7410 County Road K, Siren
- Calumet, County Courthouse, B025, 206 Court Street, Chilton
- Chippewa, Chippewa Falls Middle School, 750 Tropicana Blvd., Chippewa Falls
- Clark, Greenwood High School, Cafeteria, 306 W. Central Ave., Greenwood
- Columbia, Turner Junior High School, 2505 New Pinery Road, Portage
- Crawford, County Courthouse, Court Room, 220 N. Beaumont Road, Prairie du Chien
- Dane, Alliant Energy Center, 1919 Alliant Energy Way, Madison
- Dodge, Horicon City Hall, 404 Lake Street, Horicon
- Door, Sturgeon Bay High School, Auditorium, 1230 Michigan, Sturgeon Bay
- Douglas, Superior Senior High School, 2600 Catlin Avenue, Superior
- Dunn, Dunn County Fish And Game Club, 1900 Pioneer Ave., Menomonie
- Eau Claire, South Middle School, Auditorium, 2115 Mitscher Ave., Eau Claire
- Florence, Florence Natural Resources Center, Large Conf. Room, Highway 70/101, Florence
- Fond du Lac, Theisen Middle School, Auditorium, 525 E Pioneer Road, Fond du Lac
- Forest, Crandon High School, Auditorium, 9750 USH 8 W, Crandon
- Grant, Lancaster High School, Auditorium, 806 East Elm Street, Lancaster
- Green, Monroe Middle School, Auditorium, 1510 13th Street, Monroe
- Green, Lake Green Lake High School, Small Gym, 612 Mill St., Green Lake
- Iowa, Dodgeville High School, Gymnasium, 912 West Chapel Street, Dodgeville
- Iron, County Court House, Main Courtroom, 300 Taconite, Hurley
- Jackson, Black River Falls Middle School, LGI, 1202 Pierce Street, Black River Falls
- Jefferson, County Fairgrounds, Activity Center, 503 N. Jackson Ave., Jefferson
- Juneau, County Courthouse, 2nd Floor Cty. Board Rm., 220 E. State Street, Mauston
- Kenosha, Bristol Grade School, Auditorium, 20121 83rd Street, Bristol
- Kewaunee, Kewaunee High School, Auditorium, 911 2nd Street, Kewaunee
- La Crosse, Onalaska High School, Field House, 700 Hilltop Place, Onalaska
- Lafayette, Darlington High School, Auditorium, 11838 Center Hill Road, Darlington
- Langlade, Antigo High School, Media/Tech Room, 1900 10th Avenue, Antigo
- Lincoln, Tomahawk Middle School, 1048 East Kings Road, Tomahawk
- Manitowoc, UW-Manitowoc, Theater, 705 Viebahn Street, Manitowoc
- Marathon, D.C. Everest Middle School, Auditorium, 9302 Schofield Avenue, Schofield
- Marquette, Crivitz High School, Auditorium, 400 South Ave, Crivitz
- Marquette, Montello High School, Community Room, 222 Forest Lane, Montello
- Menominee, County Courthouse, Basement, Courthouse Lane, Keshena
- Milwaukee, Greenfield High School, Auditorium, 4800 South 60th Street, Greenfield
- Monroe, Tomah High School, 901 Lincoln Ave., Tomah
- Oconto, Suring High School, Cafeteria, 411 E. Algoma St., Suring
- Oneida, James Williams Jr. High, Auditorium, 915 Arcadia, Rhinelander
- Outagamie, Riverview Middle School, Auditorium, 101 Oak Street, Kaukauna
- Ozaukee, Webster Middle School, Commons, W75 N624 Wauwatosa Road, Cedarburg
- Pepin, County Government Center, County Board Room, 740 7th Avenue W., Durand
- Pierce, Ellsworth Senior High School, Auditorium, 323 Hillcrest, Ellsworth
- Polk, Unity High School, Gymnasium, 1908 150th Street/Hwy 46, Balsam Lake
- Portage, Ben Franklin Middle School, Auditorium, 2000 Polk Street, Stevens Point
- Price, County Courthouse, County Board Room, 126 Cherry Street, Phillips
- Racine, Union Grove High School, Auditorium, 3433 S. Colony Ave., Union Grove
- Richland, County Courthouse, Court Room, 181 W. Seminary, Richland Center
- Rock, Janesville Moose Lodge, 2701 Rockport Ave., Janesville
- Rusk, Ladysmith High School, Auditorium, 1700 Edgewood Ave., East Ladysmith
- Sauk, UW Baraboo, R.G. Brown Theater, 1006 Connie Road, Baraboo
- Sawyer, Hayward High School, Auditorium, 10320 Greenwood Lane, Hayward
- Shawano, Shawano Middle School, LG Room, 1050 S. Union Street, Shawano
- Sheboygan, Sheboygan Falls H. S. Auditorium, 220 Amherst Avenue, Sheboygan Falls
- St. Croix, Indianhead Technical College Auditorium, 1019 S. Knowles Ave., New Richmond
- Taylor, County Fairgrounds, Multipurpose Bldg., Hwy 13/64 Intersection, Medford
- Trempealeau, Whitehall City Center, Gymnasium, 36245 Park Street, Whitehall
- Vernon, Viroqua High School, Lecture Room, 100 Blackhawk Drive, Viroqua
- Vilas, Saylor Community Center, Golf Course Road, Saylor
- Walworth, Delavan/Darien High School, Auditorium, 150 Cummings, Delavan
- Washburn, WI Ag Research Station, Conference Room, W6646 Hwy 70, Spooner
- Washington, County Fair Park, Exhibit Hall, 3000 Hwy PV, West Bent
- Waukesha, Waukesha Co. Tech. College (WCTC), C052, 800 Main Street, Pewaukee
- Waupaca, Waupaca High School, Auditorium, E2325 King Road, Waupaca
- Wausara, County Court House, County Board Room, 209 S. St. Marie, Wautoma
- Winnebago, Webster Stanley Auditorium, Auditorium, 915 Hazel Street, Oshkosh
- Wood, Pittsville High School, Auditorium, 5459 Elementary Ave., Pittsville



Chapter News



SCENES FROM TROUT FEST

Al Lee from the CWTU (top) teaches a youngster how to tie a fly at the chapter's Trout Fest held Feb. 24 in Winneconne. Meanwhile, Don Larmouth (bottom, with hat) discusses patterns with some of the 250 people who braved a big snow storm to attend the event.

Aldo Leopold Chapter

This year our winter fly tying class moved to **Portage High School's** excellent facilities. With four instructors, **Kevin Searock, Eric Lorenzen, Steve Hill, and John Doucette**, our 15 students were able to receive a lot of individual attention as they learned the basics of tying. We are already looking forward to next year's class.

On March 3, while some were casting lines to frozen trout, Kevin Searock was representing our chapter at the annual **Lodi Reads Leopold** event. This year's event included a community forum discussing the environmental impacts of growth in the area. With the Hwy. 12 upgrade, the Lodi area has become very attractive to commuters to Madison. Lodi's **Mayor Fisk** and the town chairmen from the surrounding communities discussed how they plan to limit the environmental impact of new development. Storm water runoff and thermal pollution are high on the list of threats to **Lodi Spring Creek**, probably more than manure runoff.

The Lodi Reads Leopold event also gave us another opportunity to discuss our project on the **East Br. of Lodi Spring Cr.** A prior public hearing on the project was held in Lodi in January, and a couple good ideas were suggested by attendees.

One idea is to install a walk bridge over the creek at the access

point from Hwy. 60. There was a bridge there long ago, and the abutments remain. I really like this idea, because most of the 20 acres of DNR land is on the far side of the creek, so to access it you need to get wet. A bridge would open this land up to the public for hiking, birding, and other uses. DNR biologist **Tim Larson** agrees that this would be good, so we are going to work it into our project if funds allow.

Another good idea is to try to provide better off-road parking. We'll have to contact the Highway Dept. to figure out how to do this.

As of now, the contractor has installed an equipment crossing, tree removal is complete, and rip-rap has been quarried. We had been awaiting both warmer weather and word on our Embrace-A-Stream grant application before proceeding. The warmer weather is here, but alas, we did not receive the EAS grant, so we may be short of the funds needed to complete the project this spring.

We are meeting with **Tim Larson** and **Kurt Calkins** from the **Columbia County Land and Water Conservation Dept.** to review the budget and determine if we'll need to stretch the work out into the fall.

Earth Day, April 22, will find us manning a "Brats on the Bridge" booth in downtown Lodi raising money for our project and spread-

ing the TU message. Eat a brat, save a trout!

On April 14 we will be removing brush on **Rocky Run Cr.** in Columbia County. Last year we got a lot done, but much remains. This year we'll be working upstream from the section we cleared last year. We'll meet at the public easement on Rocky Run Cr. on Dunning Rd., just south of the intersection of Dunning and Phillips Road, at 8:00 a.m. Check our web site (www.alctu.com) for a map if you need one.

Last year 15 of us turned out, worked hard, and then enjoyed a fine lunch of chili and sandwiches. We'll be serving another fine lunch to all who attend, so this year I hope you can join us.

Our winter chapter meetings have so far brought us another fine presentation from **Kevin Searock** and an excellent program from **Rich Osthoff**. Kevin's program focused on "The Angler's Eye," both ours and the fish's awareness of what is around us and how we can use both of these to catch more trout and en-

joy the places they live. Rich discussed the methods described in his book *Active Nymphing*. Both programs offered ways to look at the water that differ from what one usually finds in the "how-to" manuals. Given the proven productivity of both of these fishers, I listened closely. Now I am itching to get out and try some new things this year.

On March 21 we had **Steve Winters** discussing many of the fine smallmouth waters of Wisconsin. Just as the trout fishing slows, the smallmouth fishing heats up, and Steve knows where to find them.

Our April 18 meeting will feature photographer **Steve Gassman's** "Visions of Earth."

And last, May 16 is our annual fund-raising picnic at **Habermann Park** in Lodi. There are many excellent prizes to be had, including guided trout fishing trips, a casting contest, and a shocking demonstration from **Tim Larson** from the **DNR**. Join us for an evening of fun
—Mike Barniskis

Antigo Chapter

The Antigo Chapter had a frantic last couple of weeks preparing for our annual fund-raising banquet that was held March 24 at **Northstar Banquet Hall**.

We again hope to help our cold-water resource in 2007. Antigo TU has pledged \$10,000 this year for in-stream projects and beaver control in northeast WI. This year \$6,500 dollars are earmarked for maintenance on in-stream projects in **Langlade County**.

We will be having our annual Kid's Fishing Day this year on the first Saturday in June. What a GREAT day for the kids and TU—a fish tank for the kids, prizes, food for all, and even kids' bikes. The last couple of years we have had about 450 kids come to fish.

One project I'm in the process of setting up are brush bundling workdays with our local **Boy Scout** troop.
—Scott Henricks

Blackhawk Chapter

The **Roger Widner** plaque has been delivered and will be mounted at the entrance to the **West Fork Sportsman Club**.

We held fly tying classes during the months of January and February on Wed. and Thur. nights. The classes were under the direction of **Bob Stevens**. The group crossed all age lines and genders. A job well done by Bob.

We were running short on raffle prizes for our meetings. To replenish our supply of flies, we held a Lie and Tie day on Feb. 24. We started tying at 8:00 a.m. and finished about 2:30 before the storm hit. The chapter supplied coffee and rolls in the morning and wings and soda at Noon. We enjoyed the session and it was mentioned we should get together again some time. Members who participated in the session were **Dick Alfors, Dave Blavelt, Dave Gempler, Arlan Hilgendorf, Dave Patrick, Vic Potocki, Bob Stevens, Don Studt, and Terry Weisman**. We were able to put together enough flies to make up eight boxes with a dozen of our favorite flies in each box. I think the lies were the best part.

Our chapter was awarded the **Silver Trout Award** at the State Council meeting in Feb. This recognizes us for the contributions of labor and money we have put toward stream improvement and collaborating with other chapters on their projects.

The spring banquet will be held at the **Holiday Inn Express** on April 30. We are in need of donations and especially those one-of-a-kind items for the silent auction. Contact **Dave Patrick** or one of the board mem-

bers if you have items to donate. Banquet proceeds go toward stream improvement. There will be door prizes, bucket prizes, and silent auction items. The prizes will include a canoe, tolls, crafts, trips, bicycles, Amish crafts, and fishing tackle. Contact **Terry Vaughn** at (608) 362-4295 for tickets.

We are looking at possibly four or more workdays this spring. We have earmarked \$1,000 for **Sherry Cr.** and \$2,000 for the **Blue R.** The Sherry Cr. property will involve building 13 lunger structures.

Other possible sites are on the properties above the **Loescher** property on **Elk Cr.** up to and beyond the county line. There are easements on these properties or they are in the process of being eased. The Elk Cr. phase will require building 44 lunger structures.

Other possible work sites include the **Blue R., Brush Cr., Hornby Cr., Tenny Spring Cr., and Reads Cr.** on eased property above Cty. M and in Green County. The Green County streams are to be determined later. All of these properties have easements on them with several of them having a considerable amount of work to be done on them.

Funding for the above projects will come **EQU, WHIP, DNR, WSF-WS** and several of the local chapters. The Blackhawk Chapter will donate money for materials and labor on several of the projects.

We had 17 members in attendance at the January meeting with **Pat Ehlers** from the **Milwaukee Fly Fisher**. He spoke about innovations and changes in fly fishing equipment and accessories.

Chapter News



At the February meeting we had 26 members present and had two speakers. **Paul Krantz** from the **Vernon Cty. Land Conservation Dept.** talked about projects they completed this past year and future projects in the area for 2007.

The second half of the program was presented by **Chris Wright**, a biology professor at **UW-Platteville** and his intern, **Elliot Reams**. They

studied the effects of stream restoration on the **Blue R.** and compared it to others streams in the area, including **Borah Cr, Harker Cr, and Bronson Cr.** The study was over a three-year period. They surveyed fish population, invertebrates, vegetation, entomology, and sedimentation.

—Arlan Hilgendorf

Central Wisconsin Chapter

It sure looks like 2007 will be another active year for the Central Wisconsin Chapter. The program committee comprised of **John Gremmer, Bob Smaglik, Bob Stelzer, and E.R. Waskawic** have put together some excellent programs and speakers for our monthly meetings as well as a variety of other activities.

We just completed our annual **Master's Tying** program that is held during January and February. The program runs for five weeks with a different "master tyer" each week demonstrating new fly patterns, tying techniques, and how to fish the fly. This year's master tyers were **Pat Ehlers, Bob Hunt, John Gribb, Tim Landwehr, and Russ Bouck.** **John Gremmer** coordinated the program again this year and we had 24 participants. The program seems to fill up faster each year, which is a reflection on the quality of the program.

John Gremmer, with the help of some of our members, also taught two classes on trout fishing through **Fox Valley Technical College.** The courses ran six weeks with 16 persons in each class. This is an excellent recruitment tool as many of the students each year become active members of our chapter.

On February 24 we held our annual **Trout Fest**, formally called Fun Day, at the **Fin N' Feather** in Winneconne. This was during the little lull between two major snow storms, and we still had around 250 people attend the event. Part of the success of the program is due to the many talented people who come to help us with Trout Fest such as the fly tyers, seminar presenters, and others who provide displays or exhibits on everything from hand crafted nets and bamboo fly rods to exhibits on water monitoring and stream restoration. We thank all the individuals and members of other clubs that took the time and braved the weather to make this another successful event. Last year we had around 400 people attend, and I think we would have surpassed that number this year if it wasn't for the bad weather.

Congratulations goes out to **Dick Pollock** and the entire **Water Monitoring Team** for receiving the **2007 Wisconsin Volunteer Stream Monitoring Award** in the Organized Group category. The team spent 922 hours during 2006 in training, water monitoring, and related activities. We would like to thank **Jim Hlaban** from the **Fox Valley Chapter** for nominating us for the award. Our chapter is very fortunate to have such an active and dedicated water monitoring team. This year we will be working with some of our

area schools to get the teachers and students trained and actively involved in monitoring. We will also be working with our local fish managers, County Land Conservation departments, and others to help monitor area streams.

Our chapter would like to thank **Shawn Sullivan, David Bartz, Ron Bruch, the Wild Rose habitat crew, and all DNR staff** that worked in the planning and actual work of restoring over 2 1/2 miles of trout streams in our area so far this fall and winter. So many times we take for granted the work these crews do, and I think they should be recognized for both the quantity and quality of the work they accomplished. I'm sure the fish will also appreciate their improved habitat.

Jim Humphrey has been busy this winter planning for our 2007 stream restoration projects. We will be partnering with a number of groups and other chapters to increase our capacity to do more work on our streams. Some of these groups include **Rawhide, Fox Valley Technical College, Boy Scouts,** and other TU chapters. Anyone who would like to join us for stream restoration workday can check our www.cwtu.org web site or call **Jim Humphrey** at (920) 232-8845.

We recently held our annual planning meeting for the chapter, and the two areas that we felt were the most important were membership and leadership. With membership we felt it was important to personally contact and welcome all new members and also spend more time on membership retention. For leadership we were concerned with getting more members actively involved in leadership positions such as serving on the board or serving on committees or subcommittees. Both membership and leadership are necessary if we are to expand our efforts at stream monitoring and stream restoration work, which is part of our mission of protecting, preserving, and enhancing our waters.

We would like to work together as much as possible with other chapters and extend an invitation to participate in our programs and activities, including water monitoring and stream restoration projects.

As we plan our activities for the coming year, we also need to set aside some time to do some fishing on the streams we are working so hard to protect and enhance. You may want to talk to fellow members at the meetings and set up a date to fish together or invite a friend and get them involved in TU.

—Bob Haase

Coulee Region Chapter

The Coulee Region Chapter is pleased to announced that we've been awarded a \$7,000 **Embrace-A-Stream Grant** to continue our work on **Mormon Coulee Cr.**, a 100%

spring-fed, class II trout stream. Mormon Coulee flows about 15 miles west through southeastern La Crosse Cty. to the Mississippi R. This stream contains critical but de-



Bob Haase

CWTU STREAM MONITORING RECOGNIZED

Chad Cook (right) from the UW-Extension presents the 2007 Stream Monitoring Group Award to CWTU Stream Monitoring Chairperson Richard Pollock.

Central WI Chapter recognized for stream monitoring efforts

The Central Wisconsin Chapter of TU has been given the 2007 Stream Monitoring Group Award by the WDNR and UW-Extension.

"Our chapter feels that the stream monitoring program plays an important role in our mission of protecting, preserving, and enhancing the coldwater streams in our area by providing a baseline of information about the streams," says CWTU president Bob Haase.

CWTU monitors numerous area streams on a monthly basis. The information gathered helps the chapter prioritize and select their stream restoration projects. Monitoring data also helps them determine the effectiveness of their restoration work by comparing before and after changes in flow rates, temperature, dissolved oxygen, and macroinvertebrate populations and diversity.

"Our water monitoring chair, Dick Pollock, has done an excellent job of recruiting and training new volunteers and getting current volunteers involved in advanced monitoring programs," says Haase. "We are fortunate to have a very dedicated group of water monitoring volunteers that contribute their time and travel expenses to help protect our waters. We are also fortunate to have people like Kris Stepenuk and Mike Miller from the WDNR and Phil Emmling to help organize and run the Water Action Volunteer program in Wisconsin."

graded habitat for wild brook and brown trout. We started working on the stream with the **WDNR** in 1998, and to date we've restored a total of 1.8 miles. The summer 2007 project

will concentrate on a 1,050-foot section in the lower quarter of the creek. The grant coordinator for the chapter is **Eric Rauch**.

Continued on p. 14



GETTING READY FOR THE GUESTS

Coulee Chapter Treasurer Bob Hubbard sets up a prize table at the chapter's annual fund-raiser. The event raised about \$4,500 for upcoming conservation and education projects.



Chapter News



HAVE FISH, WILL FRY

Chefs and students from Fox Valley Technical College again knocked a home run with FVTU members at the chapter's annual fish cooking (and eating) meeting. This year's event was held at the college's new restaurant and kitchen facility in Appleton, Ione's.

Continued from p. 13

Our chapter's major fund-raising event for 2007 took place Feb. 23 at **Cedar Cr. Country Club** in Onalaska. Over 100 members and friends gathered, despite the snowstorm that shut down just about every other activity scheduled for that evening. It was obvious that nothing will stop an angler if there is a fish to be caught or a prize to be won. Chapter treasurer **Bob Hubbard** reports the event raised about \$4,500

for upcoming conservation and education projects. Thanks to all the volunteers and contributors who made this year's banquet a success.

The money raised at the banquet will be used to assist the WDNR on a stream restoration project on **Hornby Cr.**, a feeder stream of the **South Fork of the Bad Axe**. The Coulee Chapter has promised to contribute up to \$6,000 for this project.

—Rick Kyte

Fox Valley Chapter

The Fox Valley Chapter has held several meetings this winter, and the members spent a lot of time planning this year's fund-raiser held on March 24.

The January meeting was the annual session that we have with one of the teaching chefs and a couple of students from **Fox Valley Technical College**. This year the meeting was

held at **Ione's**, the new restaurant and kitchen facility at FVTC. The demonstrations included the fixing of almond-crusting tuna, stuffed fish in puff pastry, New England clam chowder, and Cajun seafood pasta. Everyone in attendance agreed that the presentations were excellent and the recipes easy to follow. Everything was delicious and the serving



BRUSHING AND BURNING ON BIG SPRING

Harry & Laura Nohr members have been brushing this winter along Big Spring Cr. on the DNR property northwest of Highland.

trays were empty at the end of the evening. We have already scheduled the program for next January, so highlight the third Thursday of 2008 on your calendar if you want to join us.

Our "Funnite" meeting was held on February 15 at **Sabre Lanes** in Menasha. **John Nebel** organized a kids corral fly tying area, and we had fly tyers, the chapter library, door prizes, and other presenters to help introduce TU to those who don't know about the organization.

Our February 22 chapter meeting was a presentation by **Al Niebur** from the **DNR** on streams in Wau-paca and Shawano. He talked about some of the streams that our chapter has worked on and about areas where he would like to see us do some work once permits are received.

A great deal of time has been spent organizing the chapter fundraiser called **Cabin Fever Day**. This will be the sixth time the event has been held, and we will be at a new location, the **Grand Meridian** on N.

Oneida St. in Appleton. The event will run from 10:00-4:30 on March 24 and will include bucket raffles, silent auctions, a special dice game, a \$500 cash raffle, fly tyers, a DNR booth, suppliers, and tackle reps. The legendary fly caster **Lefty Kreh** is the featured presenter this year. We will also have a banquet following the daytime activities at the **Grand Meridian**. Lefty will entertain us with some of his wit and wisdom with a presentation entitled "Why We Fish."

We are also planning for our spring and summer workdays, the very popular **Handicapped Fishing Day** on April 28, and working with **Jim Hlaban** and his stream monitoring program.

Many of us are looking forward to spring and anticipating our first fishing trip of the new year. Enjoy the beauty of God's streams, creeks, and lakes, and as our former Prez closed his column, "We'll see you on a trout stream."

—Rich Erickson

Frank Hornberg Chapter

The winter here in central Wisconsin was made to seem shorter because of a number of noteworthy chapter events.

The first such event was the Jan. 17 general meeting at **Shooter's Supper Club** in Plover. **Ross Mueller** was the featured speaker. He presented a program entitled "Connect with Large Trout." As usual, his presentation was both interesting and educational. More than 30 people attended the meeting, and all were uniformly pleased.

While the weather was damp and disagreeable, 25 people attended the first of the chapter's fly tying workshops. The workshop was held at **Clancey's Stone Lion** in Custer. Seven tyers, including such widely

admired tyers as **Jeff Dimick**, **Gary Glennon**, **Stu Nelson**, and **Jan Tulley**, displayed their skills and fielded questions for an appreciative audience.

At the Feb. 8 meeting at Shooter's, **Tom Meronek** of the DNR gave an informative presentation on the DNR's 2006 and 2007 work projects. We are excited about some of the DNR projects the chapter can be involved with in the future.

A unseasonably pleasant Feb. 17 kept attendance down at our second fly tying workshop of the winter at Shooter's. As usual, those who attended found it highly valuable. Featured tyers included **Jan Tulley** and **John Talley**.

—Dan Holland

Green Bay Chapter

As is the norm, the Green Bay Chapter has spent the winter months planning for **Banquet 07**, our only fund-raising event of the year, and then deciding how to use the proceeds to best benefit our coldwater resources.

Banquet 06 raised over \$20,000 for our endeavors, and the banquet committee is working hard to provide banquet attendees with a memorable evening on March 29 that will allow us to exceed last year's total. It is important to do so, because during the recent fiscal year, the chapter put over \$26,000 into the resource. That amount is over and above operating expenses.

We have already committed over \$12,000 to the fishery in 2007. These

commitments include monies to hire a fisheries technician, habitat improvement projects, aid in the purchase of an ATV to be used for habitat improvement projects by the **DNR**, and beaver trapping.

Additionally, the chapter has tabled several funding requests until after the banquet.

Finally, a committee has been formed to study the feasibility of the chapter adopting a body of water for the chapter to focus its habitat improvement efforts upon. It is expected that this would be a long-term commitment as has been done by other chapters around the state.

—Gary Stoychoff

Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter

We have already had two workdays this year on **Big Spring Cr.** on the WDNR property a couple miles northwest of **Highland**. We will clear more brush and trees on Big Spring later.

We will also be making lunger structures for the **Blue R.** portion of this year's projects. We will stabilize about 6,400 feet of stream this year

at a cost of about \$87,000 in an area a few miles north of **Montfort**.

Our Education Committee is starting work on our school grants for 2007. We will be giving about \$3,000 to local schools to help them do special programs related to coldwater resources.

—Brian Larson

Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter

Kiap-TU-Wish volunteers helped on the **Gilbert Cr.** stream project in

Dunn Cty. on Feb. 10. Tree cutting, dragging, and stacking were the or-

Chapter News



der of the day at the site about three miles south of I94, just east of Cty. P and North of Hwy. 29 in Dunn County. Kiap joined with the **Ojib-leau Chapter, Dunn County Fish and Game**, and the **DNR**. A lot of work was accomplished, and nobody got hurt.

On March 10 Kiap-TU-Wish manned a booth at the annual **Prairie Enthusiasts' Conference** at **UW-Stout** in Menomonie. This is the

Lakeshore Chapter

The Lakeshore Chapter has just completed our yearly fly tying class. This class is taught by Lakeshore TU members and scheduled through the **Manitowoc Recreation Department**. This year we had 14 students and met for two hours every Tuesday evening in February. Our chapter furnished all of the materials and equipment needed for the class. **Chuck Wolff** organized the class and was assisted by chapter members **Tom Steinberg, Ron McCormick, Jeff Yax, Wayne Trupke, Dave Zerger, Al Spindler** and **Jeff Preiss**.

Our annual fund-raising banquet is scheduled for Sat., April 14 at the **Club Bil-Mar** in Manitowoc. Co-chairing the banquet this year are **Jeff Preiss** and **Jeff Yax**. Tickets were distributed to chapter members at our Feb. meeting and are now available from chapter members. The banquet will feature an auction, silent auction, bucket raffles, door prizes, and a variety of

Northwoods Chapter

At our Jan. meeting **Terry Cummings** gave an excellent presentation entitled "Fly Fishing Far From Home" in which he highlighted his fishing experiences over the past 20 years in many distant places including **Alaska** and **Kamchatka, Russia**. His slides were spectacular, and we all were treated to a taste of fishing a truly premier destination.

On March 10 our chapter hosted a **fly tying day** presented by local experts. The event was enjoyed by both the accomplished fly tyer and the novice, alike. We focused on tying streamer patterns. Lunch was served, and it was a day filled with sharing tying tips and learning new skills.

Josh Kunzman announced our stream workdays for this summer. We will be working on the **Bearskin Cr.** in April, **Elvoy Cr.** in June, **Bearskin Cr.** again in July, and finally the **Deerskin R.** in August.

Our chapter has donated subscriptions of **Trout** and **Wisconsin Trout** to 10 area libraries this year. They were all delighted to receive the subscriptions. The libraries are **Crandon Public Library**; **Edith Evans Community Library** in Laona; **Edward U. Demmer Memorial Library**, Three Lakes; **Minocqua Public Library**, **Rhineland District Library**; **Tomahawk Public Library**, **Wabena Library**; **T. B. Scott Free Library** in Merrill; **Antigo Public Library** at **Elcho High School**; and the **Eagle River Library**.

Our February and March meetings focused primarily on planning our **Annual Conservation Banquet**. The banquet will be held again this year at the **Rhineland Café and Pub** on April 2. We have an outstanding array of prizes, raffles, and auction items, including a Mad Riv-

er canoe, Remington shotgun, St. Croix fly rod, musky casting outfit, fly and spinning rods and reels, float tube, wood carving, a full-day guided float trip on the **San Juan River**, and a hand-crafted graphite fly rod made by **George Langley**.

chapter's first trip to this event, and we are looking forward to working closely with the Prairie Enthusiasts. Kiap-TU-Wish also had a booth at the **Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo** in Bloomington, MN, on March 30-April 1. This is our third trip to this event that gets better every year. This has been a very good venue for sharing TU's mission.

—Greg Dietl

raffles for kids, ladies, and sportsmen.

Roger Berg told the chapter that his grant request to the **Sheboygan County Stewardship Fund** has been approved for up to \$8,500. This money is for work to be done in the **Onion R.** watershed. **Larry Doebert** also told the chapter that our first workday will be held on Sat., April 21, and will be devoted to building lunger structures needed to finish off work on the **Bonhoff** property and then to proceed to the **Weber** property.

Our January meeting featured noted author and fly fisherman **Rich Osthoff** presenting an outstanding program on active nymphing. Another fine fly fisherman, **John Gremmer**, was featured at our Feb. meeting and gave an informative and entertaining presentation on "Fishing the **Bighorn River**." Our thanks go out to **Jeff Preiss** for arranging to have Rich and John come to our meetings.

—Wayne Trupke

KIAP-TU-WISH BRUSHING AND STAGING ON GILBERT CREEK

Kiap-TU-Wish member Randy Arnold (left) goes after some downed limbs along Gilbert Creek. Meanwhile, tons of rock have been hauled to the stream for upcoming habitat work.

er canoe, Remington shotgun, St. Croix fly rod, musky casting outfit, fly and spinning rods and reels, float tube, wood carving, a full-day guided float trip on the **San Juan River**, and a hand-crafted graphite fly rod made by **George Langley**.

Our annual **Kids Fly Fishing Conclave** will be held this year on July 7 at the **Kemp Research Station**. **Terry Cummings** will coordinate the event.

—Carole Linn

Oconto River Chapter

We continue the long-term program of raising trout as a joint project with the **DNR** in our hatchery on the Oconto. We currently have 24,000 healthy young brook and brown trout growing in our tanks. When you catch a fish minus an adipose fin in the area, that's one of our alumni.

We release each year's fish in the **Oconto River** system. The **Suring Sportsmen's Club** works with us on this as well. We release fish between five and seven inches long in early October for in-river growth. That is also the time of year that brood stock are captured by the **DNR** to collect eggs for the upcoming year.

Only eggs from locally captured Oconto River stock go into our hatching jars in order to maintain the genetics of sizable fish adapted to our ecosystem.

Trout are in the classroom. **Ben Prince**, an active local TU member and educator, has brook trout fry in the cooled aquarium in his classroom at **Oconto Middle School**. We furnish the eggs, Ben does guidance, and the students furnish the enthusiasm. The school/TU partnership has worked well.

Our spring banquet will be held at the **Holiday Inn** at **Kelly Lake** on April 26.

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Chapter News

Continued from p. 15

Merriment, auctions, and raffles of everything from a bucket of booze to a wallet of spring pond brook trout flies — with an instruction book appended — will be available there.

The chapter has funded and agreed to help maintain a weir across both branches of the **Oconto R.** by Suring. Steel rods are set across the river at 3/4-inch intervals to guide the fish to capture during their annual upstream migration to cooler water. TU members get debris out of the weir daily and work with the DNR crew funding, counting, and measuring fish. We have

historically had large fish when the weir was last put in 10 years ago, so we can compare historic results. In addition, by counting adipose fins, we will find out the impact of our hatchery on the fish population.

Connie Scharenbrock of **Gillett High School** has run the very successful water monitoring program with her biology class. They do the DNR program of water chemistry and benthic insect surveys. Because of her abilities and success, she has been appointed to the **Water Resources Committee** of Wisconsin TU. We hope to clone her successes with other schools.

—*Bob Obama*

Ojibseau Chapter

January saw chapter members make a religious pilgrimage to Park Falls and the shrine at **St. Croix Rod Co.** (see story elsewhere in this issue). Some 18 Ojibseau members and three others took part in the factory tour. It is also rumored that they spent some time in the outlet store.

Eight members participated in the **WDNR Fly Fishing Instructor** program at the State TU Banquet in February. Earning their certifications were **John Konkell**, **Steve Josephson**, **Tim Meyer**, **Dale Dalhke**, **John Higley**, **Jim Klees** and **Greg Lynch**. **Dennis Vanden Bloomen**, chapter president, was one of the lead instructors, along with **Theresa Stabo** of the **WDNR**.

The **Dunn County Fish and Game Assn.** organized a brush cleaning day on **Gilbert Cr.** on Sat., Feb. 17. **Tim Meyer**, Ojibseau conservation director, reported they had a perfect day for a box elder chainsaw massacre. They had a good-sized crowd, the sun was out, the temperatures were cool enough for hard work, and there wasn't too much snow on the ground. Many thanks to all the members of **DCF&G**, **Twin Cities**, and **Kiap-TU-Wish** members that came from the west, and to all the others who stopped to help. A special thank-you to **Al Finder** and all the **DCF&G** members for sponsoring the chili lunch afterwards.

Also on **Gilbert Cr.**, the **DNR** has been busy positioning rock for the upcoming work season. **John Sours** of the **DNR** trout crew positioned 4,000 tons of rock in the past month. He accomplished this just ahead of the spring thaw. They also were positioning rock for the chapter's **Elk Cr.** project in Chippewa County.

Our northern pike (reduction) ice fishing contest also took place on Feb. 17. **Lake Como** in Bloomer was the site for this event attended by 68 teams of two. The over abundance of pike in this impoundment threat-

ens the native book trout in **Duncan Cr.** (Class I) that flows into the lake. According to **Joe Kurtz** of the **DNR**, there are 27 pike per acre, while a healthy average should be around six per acre. The chapter was a co-sponsor of this program with the **Bloomer Rod & Gun Club**. The dynamic duo of **Tom Looze** and **Chuck Bomar** finished in 11th place with 90 inches of northern. Good for a \$25 check! The winning team had 200 inches, and the largest northern caught was 37 inches by **Jerry Berse** and his grandson. They won a fly donated by the chapter.

Tim Meyer and **Dennis Vanden Bloomen** attended meetings of the **Chippewa Valley Outdoor Resource Alliance** in Chippewa Falls recently. This group consists of 32 conservation-minded organizations in the county. Tim provided a briefing on the **Elk Cr.** 2007 restoration project and received enthusiastic support of the efforts of the chapter. We have 45 members residing in Chippewa County.

Altoona High School applied for a National Physical Education grant for \$3,500. **Dennis Vanden Bloomen** assisted teacher **Jamie Oliver** in applying for funds to buy rods and reels through the **St. Croix Rod Co.** purchase program. The high school will integrate fishing and fly fishing into their physical education curriculum.

The chapter applied in Sept. for \$3,000 from the conservation fund established by **Xcel Energy**. We "got" the check in Nov.

The chapter also applied for a \$10,000 **TU National Embrace-A-Stream** grant in December for rock for **Elk Cr.** We received notice that we were awarded this money.

The **Red Cedar River Chapter of Pheasants Forever** gave the chapter a check for \$400. This check was for seed and used for plantings in the **Gilbert Cr.** area in 2006. Thanks to all these organizations for their support.

—*Dennis Vanden Bloomen*

Shaw-Paca Chapter

Our local beaver trappers have been at work. **Wyatt Kersten** and **Harvey Colrud** (who is a member of the **Central Wisconsin Chapter**) reported that they were successful. We have just wrapped up our annual fly tying class. We tied on six different Tuesdays starting Jan. 23 and ending on March 6. Instructor **Jerry Weatherwax** reported that 23 different tyers attended with a maximum of 18 in an evening. He was assisted by other chapter members.

Once again we sponsored a scholarship for a student at **UW-SP**

studying in coldwater resources. Our scholarship winner this year is **Zach Burington** of Waupaca.

We voted to renew our membership in the **River Alliance of Wisconsin**. We also voted to assist the **Green Bay Chapter** with their trout stocking project on the **Oconto R.** below the **Stiles Dam**.

Al Niebur, our district fish manager, reported on the state of trout populations in our local streams. There is a concern about the number of larger trout in local waters.

Finally, our annual fund-raising banquet was held on March 29 at the **Northwind Banquet Hall** in

Marion. Thanks to all who helped and attended.

—*Lee Kersten*

Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter

SEWTU is saddened to report the loss of two longtime members, **Louis G. Gauen** and **John P. Gosz**. Lou had served as SEWTU's Sports Show Coordinator, and John was SEWTU's current Sport Show Coordinator. Both were men of the highest standing, committed to TU and its mission, and both played a critical role in SEWTU's yearly presence at the sport show. Both Lou and John will be missed and remembered fondly.

SEWTU's January meeting featured **Tom Helgeson**, editor and publisher of **Midwest Fly Fishing Magazine**. His talk was perfectly timed as a prelude to the **Great Water Fly Fishing Expo** in Chicago.

At February's meeting, **Will Wawrzyn** and **Tanya Meyer** of the **WDNR** spoke about dam removal. Their talk may lead to a future dam removal workday.

March's meeting featured **Rich Osthoff**. Rich has written a number of fly fishing books, including his recent *Active Nymphing*.

April's meeting will feature of SEWTU's **John Knitter** and **Tom Berzynski** of the **WDNR** on fishing Milwaukee-area river salmon runs.

From March 9-18, SEWTU manned a booth at the **Milwaukee Journal Sports Show**. We featured a cedar strip canoe as our grand prize, funded by **Stan Strelka** and **Professional Insurance Services**. Other prizes include a fly fishing outfit from **Laacke and Joys**, a shotgun combination from **Gander Mountain**, and a prize package from **Potawatomi Bingo Casino**. SEWTU thanks its generous supporters. **Chuck Beeler** is serving as interim chair, and ran a raffle event at the **Germantown Gander Mountain**.

In early April SEWTU will participate in a workday with the **Ocooch Creeks Chapter**. On April 21 we will participate in the **Earth Day Milwaukee River Cleanup** run by **Friends of Milwaukee's Rivers**.

On June 2-3 we'll hold our **Annual All Chapter Fishing Outing in Avalanche**. The weekend features fishing, cookouts, and camaraderie.

Southern Wisconsin Chapter

This year started well with the **Icebreaker** fund-raiser on Jan. 20. Over 250 attendees were exposed to top-rate fly fishing information and generously contributed to the chapter which allows us to continue on our mission.

The split cane bamboo rod made by **Paul Douglas** of the **Douglas Rod Co.** was again the most prominent bucket raffle item, closely followed **Greg Erickson's** fly tying table and **Jim Gentry's** rod rack. Their generosity and that of some 30 other donors is greatly appreciated.

Speakers **Dave Ames**, **Kevin Searock**, and **Craig Amacher** presented a varied and informative program. SEWTU would recommend them to any chapter.

As always, a successful day only happens with the cooperation and effort of stalwart members and volunteers. **Tom Fendrick** led the effort with **Greg Vodak** handling bucket raffle items, **Larry Meicher** leading

ticket sales, and **John and Rose Schweiger** responsible for the financials. **Mark Maffitt** was the day's MC and displayed a unique talent for remaining calm, cool, and collected. Of course, many others were involved and their support was essential to having the day turn out well.

The donations from the **Blackhawk**, **Harry and Laura Nohr**, and **Wild River** chapters are gratefully acknowledged.

Fly tying under the leadership of **Phil Anderson** is well underway with over 40 participants at our Sun Prairie and Fitchburg locations. This year we welcomed a number of parent/child participants.

Mike Grimes has volunteered to fill the essential role of STU Project Chair. Mike has indicated that initial efforts will be directed toward projects on **Token** and **Black Earth** creeks.

Continued on p. 19



JACK WAY WITH A SPECKLED TROUT

Southern Wisconsin Chapter President Jack Way weighs an ocean-run speckled trout caught in the Indian River, Sebastian, FL. Jack has fished a number of exotic locations for trout and other gamefish.

Chapter president profile

Jack Way: a late comer to trout and TU

By Bill Pielsticker

“So I’ve got you and Larry Meicher to thank for this, or to blame, I should say!” The president of the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of TU looked across at me with a hint of a smile.

“That’s right,” I replied. “I recall that you were attending meetings and taking part in workdays.” Jack and I had just sat down at a Denny’s on the east side of Madison where we’d agreed to meet. “I was the one who recruited you for the board.”

That’s how it began, but that wasn’t the beginning. STU President Jack Way came to trout fishing relatively recently. For much of his life, Jack chased largemouth bass and carnivorous muskies. He has traveled from the Arctic Circle to Mexico in search of game fish.

“There are these high mountain lakes in Mexico stocked with a Florida strain of largemouth bass” he says with a wide grin. “They’re like bass on steroids due to the heat!”

“I was given a fly rod as a present,” he says. “After spending a year trying to teach myself to use the rod — nearly killing myself in the process — I joined TU to learn how to fly fish. Then I saw the emphasis of the chapter isn’t fishing. Instead, it is an environmental and educational organization focused on much more than the fishing itself.”

Jack joined TU in 1998. Since then, he has learned to fly cast, and he has gone from learning to tie flies to teaching fly tying. As a tyer, he gets great satisfaction out of “fooling the fish with something you created.” He says that teaching fly tying “is more flat-out fun than anything else, seeing students go from all thumbs and thread to tying something that will catch fish!”

His favorite fishing haunts are in the coulee region near Avalanche. He also fishes for trout in Arkansas and Iowa. He fishes about 40 to 50 days a year. He explains that he

took up fly fishing as a challenge. “I had proven to myself I could catch muskies and bass, but fly fishing for trout is so completely different. It’s a lot more like hunting than fishing.”

Way served on the SWTU chapter board for several years before being elected vice president in 2004 and president two years later. A realtor and builder by profession, he has decided to emphasize “the business end” of the chapter.

“It’s a challenge to try to balance the interests of the ‘old guard’ with those of newer members. I’m trying to pull the chapter into the 21st century.”

When Way helped steer the chapter into adopting e-mail distribution for its newsletter — thereby saving \$6,000 a year — he took a lot of flak from older members. “Sure, change is hard. But if you want your newsletter in hard copy, it will cost you \$20 a year.”

He also was instrumental in changing the location of chapter meetings. The new location, Jingles restaurant in Madison, is well lit and smoke-free. “This was fine for about 75% of active members, while the others complained about the food. I spend a lot of time ticking people off,” he grinned, “so I must be doing something right.”

Jack volunteered that “sometimes I have to remind myself I’m supposed to be working. I find TU business to be rewarding and enjoyable. It’s a lot easier to do the chapter business than my own work.”

Jack’s most recent innovation is his invitation to take chapter members out to fish. If he doesn’t have the time, he will recruit other chapter members to do it.

“I take young members out, show them some fishing spots, and teach them something about fishing. It works well and connects some of the new people to the chapter.” And with luck, this is just the beginning for these new members as well.

“Sometimes I have to remind myself I’m supposed to be working. I find TU business...a lot easier to do...than my own work.”

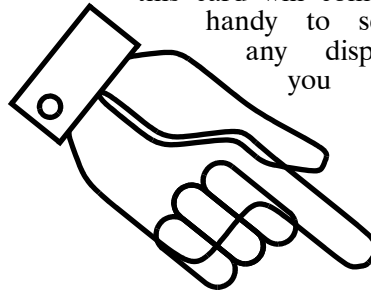
WI stream access laws summarized in wallet card

By Todd Hanson

Having trouble remembering what Wisconsin law says about stream access? Stream access laws have changed twice since 2001, so WITU has created the wallet card below to summarize your rights.

The card is two-sided. The side below gives a concise summary of your current rights and responsibilities regarding stream access, while the facing side has relevant excerpts from the current state statutes.

The State Council hopes this card will come in handy to settle any disputes you may



have with landowners who feel you are trespassing.

Confusing recent change


Anglers and other stream users may remember that Wisconsin law was changed in 2001 to allow people to walk the exposed banks of rivers up to the “normal high-water mark.” However, that expansion of rights was *reversed* just two years later, and anglers are now again required to follow the old “keep your feet wet” rule while fishing.

Of note in the current law is that anglers can legally walk on private property whenever they encounter an “obstruction.” The WDNR has interpreted an obstruction to include “deep water.” This obstruction provision is not yet widely known, so this wallet card will help fishers and land owners understand the current law.

CLIP AND CARRY

WI State Council
of Trout Unlimited

**2007 Stream Access
Wallet Card**



Keep this handy stream access wallet card with you when you fish. It describes your rights and responsibilities when accessing public waters that flow through private property.

Can I fish streams that flow through private lands?
Yes, all trout streams are considered “navigable” and, therefore, are public property. Streams are public even though the land on both sides of them may be private. Without permission, you may not cross private lands to enter or leave a stream. Enter the water at bridge crossings, public lands, or private lands under public easement.

Do I have to stay in the water?
Yes, but there is one exception. Wisconsin law was amended in 2001 to say you may exit the water “to bypass an obstruction.” (*See statute text on other side.*) Re-enter the water after the obstruction has been passed.

What counts as an obstruction?
According to the WDNR, “Obstructions could consist of trees or rocks, shallow water for boaters, or deep water for wading trout fishers. The bypass can involve areas up to the ordinary high water mark and should be by the shortest route possible.”

Can I walk on the exposed shoreline up to the “ordinary high water mark”?
No, that provision in the statutes was only in effect for two years. Anglers must now follow the previous “keep your feet wet” rule. But you may still leave the water legally to bypass obstructions.

What if I come upon a fence across a stream?
Land owners may not obstruct navigable waters in a way that “impairs the free navigation thereof.” If you can pass under or over a single strand of barbed wire, the stream remains navigable. However, if several strands of wire or some other intentional obstruction prevents passage, the land owner is in violation of the law. Do not cut the wire. Instead, contact the WDNR to investigate the illegal obstruction.

How does the “no interference” with hunting, fishing, or trapping statute apply to my fishing?
Animal right activists have generally preferred to harass hunters and trappers instead of anglers. Nevertheless, fishing is included in a 1989 WI statute that makes it illegal for someone to “interfere or attempt to interfere with lawful hunting, fishing or trapping with the intent to prevent the taking of a wild animal...”
This statute not only protects you from physical interference, but it protects the animals as well — someone cannot interfere with your fishing by “harassing a wild animal.” For fishers, this may be interpreted to mean that someone cannot interfere with your fishing by throwing rocks into water you are about to fish. Land owners blocking your legal access or preventing you from navigating around obstructions may also be violating this statute.

See WI statute text on other side

Chapter president profile

Dale Lange of Marinette Chapter immersed in outdoors

By Steve Wilke

Dale Lange had been president of the Marinette County Chapter for two years before ever wetting a trout line in Wisconsin. A bass and walleye fisherman who grew up on the Peshtigo River, Dale once held



the National Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame world record for smallmouth bass caught with a fly rod.

Dale didn't begin trout fishing until a longtime family friend introduced him to speckled trout in Ontario. He later became involved in fly tying when his boss at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College asked if he would sign up for a fly tying class which needed one more student to avoid cancellation.

The Peshtigo native became involved with the local TU chapter in 1986 at the urging of Jim Bereza, a founding member and longtime chapter president and banquet chair. Jim recalls, "Our chapter had held a couple of fund-raising banquets, and we were making some progress getting recognized in the community. Then Dale joined the chapter. He came to the meetings and volunteered his services and considerable contacts."

Dale adds, "The reason I joined Trout Unlimited was because it had monthly meetings which provided educational opportunities for me. Jim was an apprenticeship student at NWTC where I teach welding and metallurgy, and he sold me a ticket to the banquet. At that time it was one of the few ways to legally gamble on prizes, and the tickets to the Ducks Unlimited banquet were almost impossible to get."

Dale has taken a special interest in the Marinette Chapter's Youth Fishing Days held in both Peshtigo and Marinette. He is also a regular instructor at the annual Introduction to Trout Fishing educational program presented through the Marinette Recreation Department.

One who seldom declines when asked to volunteer for anything related to conservation, Dale serves as banquet chairman for the Bay Area Wildfire Chapter of the Wild Turkey Federation and has been a sponsor for the local Ducks Unlimited banquet.

An avid hunter and fisherman, Dale enjoys using the feathers from his quarry to tie flies and catch a variety of fish.

"It is very satisfying to take the feathers from a wood duck you shoot in the fall and tie flies that catch a beautiful trout in the spring," says Dale. "It's like completing the circle of life in the outdoors."

Outside of hunting and fishing, Dale is currently the head coach of the Lena/Marinette St. Thomas high school football team. He also founded and coaches the Bay Area High School rugby football team.

A veteran of many arthroscopic procedures, Dale was a longtime player-coach of the Tri

City Maulers Rugby Football club. He spends his free time shooting trap, bowling, and brewing beer.

He has been a welding and metallurgy instructor at NWTC since 1979 and is an American Welding Society Certified Welding Inspector and Educator. He also serves as the President of the AWS Upper Peninsula Chapter.

"Dale seems to know everybody," says Jim Bereza. "Dale's enthusiastic involvement has really helped us become the respected and successful chapter that we are today."



Relevant Wisconsin Statutes

(Key portions underlined)

§30.134 Use of exposed shore areas along streams.

- (1) DEFINITIONS. In this section:
 - (a) "Artificial ditch" means a ditch, channel, canal or other stream of water that has no prior history as a stream.
 - (b) "Exposed shore area" means the area of the bed of a navigable body of water that is between the ordinary high-water mark and the water's edge.
 - (c) "Highway" has the meaning given in s. 340.01 (22).
 - (d) "Riparian" means the owner, lessee or occupant of land that abuts a navigable body of water.
- (2) AUTHORIZATION. Members of the public may use any exposed shore area of a stream without the permission of the riparian only if it is necessary to exit the body of water to bypass an obstruction.
- (3) RESTRICTIONS; MEMBERS OF PUBLIC. (a) In using an exposed shore area of a stream, as authorized under sub. (2), a member of the public may not enter the exposed shore area except from the water, from a point of public access on the stream, or with the permission of the riparian.
 - (c) Use of an exposed shore area of a stream by members of the public does not grant an easement or other right to the exposed shore area that is greater than the right granted to the public under this section.
- (4) RESTRICTIONS; RIPARIANS; OTHERS.
 - (a) No riparian may prohibit a member of the public from using, as authorized under this section, an exposed shore area of a stream.
 - (b) No riparian may charge a fee for the use, as authorized under this section, of an exposed shore area of a stream.
 - (c) No person may obstruct a highway with the intention to impede or prohibit access by the public to an exposed shore area of a stream.
- (5) EXCEPTIONS. The right granted to the public under this section to use an exposed shore area of a stream does not apply to any of the following:
 - (a) An exposed shore area of an impoundment on a stream.
 - (b) Any artificial ditch.
 - (c) Any location on a stream where there is no surface water flowing in the stream.

§30.15 Penalty for unlawful obstruction of navigable waters.

- (1) OBSTRUCTIONS PENALIZED. Any person who does any of the following shall forfeit not less than \$10 nor more than \$500 for each offense:
 - (a) Unlawfully obstructs any navigable waters and thereby impairs the free navigation thereof.
 - (b) Unlawfully places in navigable waters or in any tributary thereof any substance that may float into and obstruct any such waters or impede their free navigation.
 - (c) Constructs or maintains in navigable waters, or aids in the construction or maintenance therein, of any boom not authorized by law.
 - (d) Constructs or places any structure or deposits any material in navigable waters in violation of s. 30.12 or 30.13.
- (3) EACH DAY A SEPARATE VIOLATION. Each day during which an obstruction, deposit or structure exists in violation of sub. (1) is a separate offense.

§29.083 Interference with hunting, fishing or trapping.

- (1) DEFINITION. In this section, "activity associated with lawful hunting, fishing or trapping" means travel, camping or other acts that are preparatory to lawful hunting, fishing or trapping and that are done by a hunter, fisher or trapper or by a member of a hunting, fishing or trapping party.
- (2) PROHIBITIONS (a) No person may interfere or attempt to interfere with lawful hunting, fishing or trapping with the intent to prevent the taking of a wild animal by doing any of the following:
 - 1. Harassing a wild animal or engaging in an activity that tends to harass wild animals.
 - 2. Impeding or obstructing a person who is engaged in lawful hunting, fishing or trapping.
 - 3. Impeding or obstructing a person who is engaged in an activity associated with lawful hunting, fishing or trapping.
 - 4. Disturbing the personal property of a person engaged in lawful hunting, fishing or trapping. [Remaining portions of the statute deleted. -Ed.]

WI State Council of Trout Unlimited Stream Access Wallet Card

(See other side for a summary of your stream access rights)

"Dale seems to know everybody. Dale's enthusiastic involvement has really helped us become the respected and successful chapter that we are today."



DALE LANGE ENJOYING THE OUTDOORS

Marinette Chapter President Dale Lange enjoys hunting (top, left) as well as fishing. He has been filling a variety of roles for his chapter and the WITU State Council for many years.



WITU Looking Back

From the Winter 1977 WITU Quarterly Newsletter...

There's a good chance that when you go to buy your 1977-78 fishing license there'll be a \$2.50 to \$2.75 trout stamp fee tacked on if you want to fish for trout. Here's why.

In his 1977-79 executive budget submitted to the Legislature, Governor Patrick Lucey supported a recommendation by the Department of Natural Resources calling for the trout stamp. With strong support from the Governor, DNR and Trout Unlimited, it's quite likely legislation requiring the stamp will be passed this year.

Past effort to get such legislation passed have failed due to strong objections by the tourist industry (373,806 non-resident fishing licenses were sold in 1975) and some sportsmen's groups. The strongest supporter of such bills in the Legislature has been Senator Thomas Harnisch of Neilsville. We applaud his efforts and those of Trout Unlimited in getting the DNR and the Governor to again seek approval for such a stamp.

We find it difficult to understand the objections voiced against the trout stamp. The funds derived from the sale of the stamp would be earmarked solely for the purpose of habitat improvement. There have been enough studies done to show that trout stocking programs are losing propositions in the long run. What needs to be done is improve the carrying capacity of the streams where there is natural reproduction.

Wisconsin has 2,244 trout streams, of which as many as 1,300 need some form of protection or improvement to raise them to maximum carrying capacity. By its own admission, the DNR figures less than 100 of these streams, or about 9 percent of the total, have had any work done on them. Where some work has been done,

such as on Lawrence Creek in Marquette County or Mt. Vernon Creek in Dane County, the carrying capacity has increased dramatically.

Currently the DNR is spending only about \$140,000 a year on improvement of fish habitat throughout the state. If a \$2.50 trout fee went into effect, an estimated additional \$250,000 the first year and about \$500,000 the second year of the biennium would be raised. All of this money would be earmarked for trout stream improvement.

While we support the concept of a trout stamp, there must be iron-clad assurances that all the money collected from the sale of the stamps goes for habitat improvement. We also feel the DNR should provide matching funds from other sources, even if the funds come from current fishing license revenues.

It's shocking to think that only \$140,000 is being used each year for habitat improvement when the DNR collects close to \$4 million from both resident and non-resident fishermen. We feel its time a closer look was taken at how the revenues from fishing license fees are allocated to the different fish management functions.

However, habitat improvement doesn't come cheap, and even if the trout stamp fee is approved fishermen shouldn't expect a big return for their money immediately. Habitat improvement is a long-range program needed to increase fish numbers, but costs are going up all the time. Just cutting and removing unwanted vegetation costs between \$1,500 and \$2,000 per mile.

We feel trout fishermen will want to see their streams improved and a return to natural reproduction rather than stocking, and should let their representative and senator know they support the trout stamp. FF

From the Spring 1987 Reflections...

Updates on Special Regulation Studies

An experimental slot size limit went into effect on a mile of Timber Coulee Creek in Vernon County at the beginning of the 1986 fishing season. Bob's evaluation will continue through the 1988 season. After the first year he reports that "so far, so good" is the most apt summary of results. Desired consequences are mostly "on target."

Only seven brown trout were kept during the 1986 season and 2,613 were reported released, a ratio of 1:373. The total number of trout caught exceeded the number present at the beginning of the season by 220%. So, even wily brown trout can be "recycled."

Fewer anglers chose to fish in the special regulation zone than in an adjacent normal regulation zone, but fishing pressure in both zones was heavy for a Wisconsin trout stream. Non-resident and non-local anglers were attracted to Timber Coulee by the special regulations. Their numbers are expected to increase during 1987-88 as the regulations continue.

About 70% of the anglers in the special regs zone were fly fishers and 30% were spin fishers. Both groups enjoyed good fishing based on their average catch rates. Spin fishers averaged one trout per hour; fly fishers averaged 2.2 trout per hour.

The brown trout population showed some positive responses to the reduction in harvest in the special regs zone. The number of browns over 9 inches increased from 765 at the beginning of the season to 970 at the end. Browns over 14 inches numbered only 10 at the beginning but 66 at the end of the 1986 season.

Bob predicts even better fishing during 1987 as a result of the build-up of catchable-sized trout and the added survival benefits of an exceptionally mild 1986-87 winter.

At McGee Lake, east of Antigo, the first year of special regulations aimed at producing a catch and release fishery for brook trout was less successful.

Although anglers were required to fish with artificial lures only, and harvest was restricted to two trout per day of any size, those anglers who fished at McGee Lake during 1986 kept more trout than they released. Exploitation of the population was lower than the rate observed in previous years when anglers could also use live bait, but it seems that the majority of local anglers just switched to spinning lures to catch trout to take home.

Average size of the trout creel was nearly 10 inches, a high average value for a brook trout fishery in Wisconsin.

Bob Hunt

From the Spring 1997 Wisconsin Trout...

Staggs replaces Kernen

Veteran fisheries person **Mike Staggs** has been appointed to head the Department of Natural Resources Bureau of Fisheries Management and Habitat Protection. Staggs will replace **Lee Kernen**, who retired March 1.

Also, the DNR announced that **Steve**

Miller was appointed to head the reorganized agency's **Division of Land**, replacing **Howard S. Druckenmiller** who was promoted to executive assistant in the agency. Miller is a 23-year veteran of the DNR who began his career as wildlife manager in Shawano.

CHAPTER REPORTS

Continued from p. 16

This is a tough job which not only includes selecting projects and coordinating with DNR and Dane County, but getting an ample number of volunteer workers and completing the project. The success of this effort, and therefore improvement of the coldwater resource, is dependent on the turnout of chapter members to spend part of a day doing the actual labor. While physical labor is obviously involved, so is fellowship among like-minded individuals, usually a good lunch, and an opportunity to scout fishing sites. We appreciate Mike taking on this job and the best way to express that appreciation is to show up!

Our Board of Directors has finished reviewing the modernization of the chapter by-laws. **Bob Selk** has prepared the drafts which were reviewed and discussed by the board. Bob has contributed a significant amount of time and effort to bring this draft to a point where it will be submitted to the membership for review. He has displayed inordinate patience during this process, without which the page would still be blank. Thanks, Bob!

At its Feb. 27 meeting the board gratefully accepted **Jason Borger's** offer to hold a casting clinic. May 12, 2007, was chosen at **Token Creek County Park** (if available) There will be space for 12 casters. The chapter newsletter *Newscasts* will have more details.

The March 13 chapter auction was a good time and a way to acquire fishing equipment and other stuff donated by chapter members. While the actual inventory of auction items defies an accurate description, it can safely be stated that while some of it was outgrown, used, shot, useless, or landfill rejects, there were also real bargains to be had. The talents of chapter fly tyers **Bob Gennrich**, **Mark Rhinerson**, **John Gribb**, **Henry Haughley**, **Larry Meicher**, and **LeRoy Ebert** were available. Watching the auctioneers was worth the price of admission (\$0). **Mark Maffitt** (Mr. Cool) displayed his boyish grin to get high bids, **Topf Wells** (Mr. Arkansas) charmed the cash from pockets, and **Larry Meicher** (Pass Lake Kid) used the magnificent resonance of his voice to make you want to buy. Just avoid the number "Eleven."

(Correction: In the last issue I misspelled **Mark Rhinerson's** last name. Having known Mark for al-

most 10 years, this is unforgivable, and I apologize. Mark willingly fills many chapter roles quietly and ef-

fectively, and we appreciate his efforts.)

—Ted Lauf

Wild Rivers Chapter

The State Council annual meeting was an important one for the Wild Rivers Chapter. **Scott Toshner** received a **DNR Professional Award** for his work on the **White R.** Scott credits coworkers **Cris Sand** and **Cord Manz** for their part in the project. **Bill Heart** received the **Jeff Carlson Leadership Award** for his work on coaster brook trout restoration projects and for his leadership on White R. projects. Bill was also voted in as State Council chair. Bill has done an excellent job as Wild Rivers president for six years.

Chapter members and the public listened to **Dennis Pratt** and **Bill Blust** of the DNR talk about **Bayfield Peninsula** stream work at the Feb. chapter meeting. Dennis and Bill are working to restore fish habitat on streams that have been subject to serious erosion. The meeting was held at the **Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center** where many of the chapter's most successful events are held.

In January, chapter members held a fly tying demonstration at the **Sleigh & Cutter Rally**. The room was full all day as rally participants stopped in to learn about local streams and talk fishing.

Preparations for the April 14 **Fishing Expo & Auction** are underway. We are fortunate to again have a crack team of auctioneers from downstate, namely **Larry Meicher**, **Duke Welter**, and **Henry Haugley**. There will be two speakers this year — **Scott Toshner** speaking on the **White R.** study and **Jay Thurston** talking about his books. Jay's outdoor columns appear in several local papers, and a strong turnout is expected to hear Jay speak. His first book, *Following in the Footsteps of Hemingway*, contains his collected columns. He is currently touring with his second book, *Out of the Rainbow*, which is for teens. As usual, we are looking for donations of guided fishing trips, quality fly fishing items, flies, and of course, pies.

—Chuck Campbell

Ojibseau Chapter field trip

Hot rods: a visit to the St. Croix Rod Company

By Joe Knight

My fly rod tip was a casualty of poor navigating last summer when a friend and I swamped a canoe going over a ledge on the Flambeau River.

We were rescued by members of a summer camp who helped us dump out the canoe and get on our way, but sometime during our struggles with the swamped canoe I broke off the top two or three inches of the rod.

I meant to send it back to the St. Croix Rod Co. to get a new tip, but the fractured rod lingered in the basement until last Friday, when I had a chance to hand-deliver it to the factory of its birth in Park Falls.

While I was looking for the broken rod in the basement, I found another St. Croix rod with a broken tip — a victim of a car door. I brought that, too.

It's not that St. Croix rods break more easily than others, it's just that I mostly own St. Croix rods, and I guess I'm hard on equipment.

They're good rods, and they're made in Wisconsin.

They're not the cheapest, but they're not the most expensive either — although the company's high-end fly rods are starting to get up there in price.

So last week, a group of about 20 left Eau Claire for a pilgrimage to the rod factory. Dennis Vanden Bloemen, a professor of international business at UW-Stout and president of the Ojibseau Chapter of Trout Unlimited, had arranged a tour.

Some in his group were university and state experts in business and technology and international mar-

keting. For them this was a business trip, although they also bought quite a few fishing rods before they left the factory.



ketting. For them this was a business trip, although they also bought quite a few fishing rods before they left the factory.

That's probably just part of economic development. The rest of the

group were fishing bums. Some were custom rod builders. You can order a rod blank from St. Croix and then attach your own line guides and handle and reel seat. You save a few dollars and add some personal touches.

I've made several line guides. They're ugly, but I've caught fish with them.

Factory tour

The real creative part of the whole rodbuilding process is designing the blanks.

The length and taper and stoutness of the rod, as well as the material it is made of, determine how it will cast and how it will behave if you hook a fish.

In a room deep in the bowels of the factory, we met Jason Brunner, a UW-Stout graduate who designs fishing rods. It's done with computers now, although there also is some field testing done by expert fishermen.



The goal is to produce ever-lighter rods that are stronger while keeping the whole process affordable, Brunner said.

For this they have invented ART — Advanced Reinforcing Technology. They place some graphite fibers along the length of the rod, and others wrapped around in circles, which makes the rod stronger without making it heavier.

To demonstrate the difference, tour guides passed around short, thin-walled sections of regular graphite rods, which were easy to crush by hand. Then they handed out sections of reinforced rod that were no heavier but were harder to squish.

Some of the more macho members of the group still crushed the ART sections, but they had to work harder.

St. Croix produces about 100 models a year, company officials said. Most of the new models are refinements of existing models, but they also usually develop about 15 to 20 new models each year, said Jeff Schluter, vice president of marketing and sales.

We followed the process of taking a big roll of graphite cloth, then cutting off narrow, triangle-shaped pieces, according to a specific pattern.

The graphite cloth is wrapped around a mandrel and then shrink-wrapped with polypropylene tape.

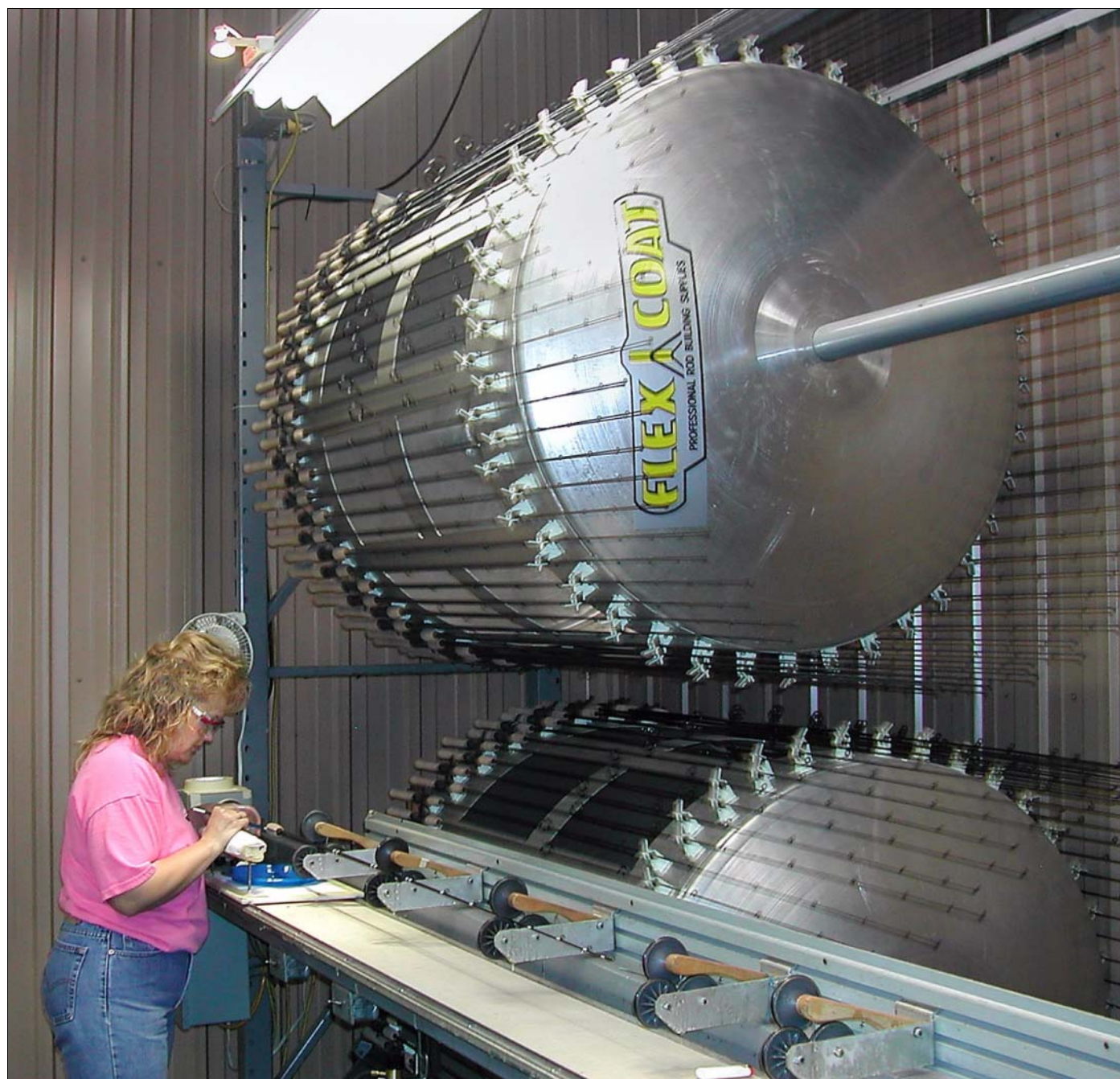
Then the rod is baked, where it turns into hard graphite. The tape is unwrapped, the blank is tested for uniformity, it gets sanded and painted and a handle is put on.

The most labor-intensive process in making a rod is attaching the line guides with thread. This is done as piece work outside the factory by rod wrappers who have completed training at the factory.

The wrappers are almost all female; guys don't have the dexterity, Schluter said. From start to finish more than 30 pairs of hands touch the rods, Schluter said.

The factory produces 800 rods a day and 4,000 in a week, making it the largest domestic rod maker. St. Croix tries to keep production constant throughout the year, even though demand varies. This is the time of year when demand starts to exceed the number the company can produce, Schluter said.

Continued on p. 21



SOME OF THE 30 PAIRS OF HANDS THAT TOUCH A NEW ROD

A St. Croix employee (top, left) uses a computer to check for imperfections on a new rod blank. Another employee (top, right) reams a cork handle so it matches a blank. After finishing cement is applied to a batch of rod wrappings (above), rods are rotated slowly to make sure the cement dries evenly.

CPR — it's working!

Committee updates CPR flyer

The WITU Consider Proper Release (CPR) Committee that produced various brochures, signs, and a six-minute video over 10 years ago has re-convened to update its CPR publication.

Former WDNR trout researcher Bob Hunt suggested the idea of forming a new CPR committee at the State Council meeting in Stevens Point on Feb. 3.

The council agreed, and Hunt assembled a new group.

Joining Hunt are former CPR Committee members Jim Hlaban, Clint Byrnes, and Todd Hanson, plus Bill Pielsticker and Bill Heart.

The group has already updated its earlier CPR brochure, turning it from a three-fold publication to a two-sided flyer.

The committee printed 50,000 of the flyers in mid-March and sent most of them to local chapter contacts. Flyers and metal signs will also be distributed at the April 28 State Council meeting in Waupaca. CPR — it's working!

One of the messages of the update CPR flyer (see below) is that proper trout releasing is working. Anglers are releasing more and more trout, whether by choice or because they fish in special regulation waters that require more releasing. The average size of trout

being caught in Wisconsin is also increasing.

The CPR Committee is currently working with chapter presidents to find champions to organize local distribution of the flyer. It is hoped the flyer can be

placed at a wide range of bait shops, tackle stores, and outdoor shows and events.

If you would like to help in this effort, contact your local chapter president or Bob Hunt at (715) 258-2886.



UPDATING THE CPR MESSAGE

The State Council's Consider Proper Release (CPR) Committee met in Waupaca in February to begin updating the group's flyer. Members include (l to r) Clint Byrnes, Jim Hlaban, Bob Hunt, and Todd Hanson. Committee members Bill Pielsticker and Bill Heart could not attend this meeting.

ST. CROIX: rods

Continued from p. 20

While I was taking the tour, I left my fractured rods at the shop in the front of the store.

After the tour and lunch I stopped back to get the verdict.

The heavier one that I broke on the Flambeau could be fitted with a new tip for \$55, so I left that with them. They'll mail it back when the tip is finished.

Because it was a homemade rod, I'll still have to wrap some guides back on it and glue them in place.

I should be able to get that done before summer.

Like the billboard in front of the factory said — there is no cure for an obsession, only more rods.

The other rod I brought was an older model that they don't make anymore. Because that one was missing only an inch, they just glued another guide on the tip and said it would work.

I also bought a four-piece travel rod before leaving. Buying just one new rod actually showed restraint, compared to many of my fellow travelers.

Like the billboard in front of the factory said — there is no cure for an obsession, only more rods.

(Joe Knight is a member of the Ojibseau Chapter and writes for the Eau Claire Leader-Telegram where this story originally appeared. -Ed.)

Consider Proper Release

It's working!

Most anglers agree that trout fishing in Wisconsin has steadily improved over the past two decades. Average size and the number of trout caught per trip are increasing. One of the factors contributing to this healthy trend is that anglers are getting better and better at releasing trout so they survive.



CPR's 5 simple steps:

1. Don't play fish to exhaustion. Use a landing net.
2. Handle fish in the net. Grasp across the back and head.
3. Turn fish belly-up while removing hooks.
4. Don't remove swallowed hooks. Just cut the line.
5. Don't keep fish out of the water more than 10-15 seconds.

You can become an expert at properly playing and releasing trout

Some of the trout we release will die from hooking injuries no matter how carefully they are handled. But if all anglers properly play and release their trout, nearly all fish hooked in the jaw or mouth will survive, and two out of three trout hooked in the gills or stomach will survive. Biologists estimate Wisconsin anglers can save the lives of at least 250,000 trout each season by following the five simple CPR steps.

If you fish with natural bait, strike quickly, before the hook is swallowed — your catching success may decline a bit, but you'll release more trout unharmed. Maybe the trout you "recycle" this season will be bragging-sized on future trips.

There are two reasons why CPR assures continued improvement in Wisconsin trout fishing:

1. The number of trout fishers who voluntarily release trout they could legally keep is increasing.
2. Today's fishing regulations impose more restrictive minimum size and daily bag limits aimed at reducing harvest to improve fishing quality.

But in order to get the maximum benefits of these conservation efforts, we must reduce the mortality rate of the trout we release.

Keep the trout you want, but try CPR, too. It's working!

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For more information about CPR — including the science behind these recommendations — visit us at www.WisconsinTU.org.



Budget print

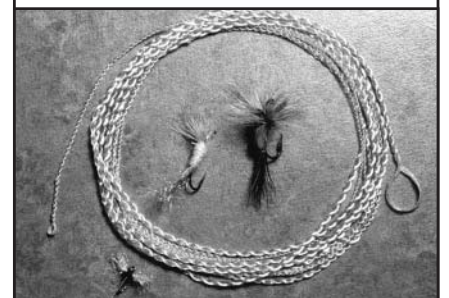
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Wisconsin's Blue Hills: state's trout fishing capital?

By Greg Jandrt

The little town of Exeland in southwest Sawyer County calls itself the trout fishing capital. While there are many places in the world that put the Blue Hills trout fishery to shame, nevertheless there is a very delightful small trout fishery which many in the area have recognized. That is why Exeland has an annual trout festival and touts itself as one of the best areas to catch trout.

I grew up in western Rusk County in the small town of Bruce. To the northwest of Bruce is a small wilderness area known as the Blue Hills. The Blue Hills cover NW Rusk County, eastern Barron County, and SW Sawyer County.

Much of Rusk and Sawyer counties consists of forest or forest cropland. Deer, grouse, and especially trout, are quite abundant.

The Chippewa River runs through Bruce. Streams in the eastern Blue Hills run into the Chippewa River. Every watershed flowing out of the Blue Hills into the Chippewa River — from the Chippewa Flowage down to Bruce — contains trout, unless the stream is too small. Streams on the other side of the Blue Hills watershed run west into the Red Cedar River headwaters.

Streams aplenty

From Bruce going north, trout streams that run into the Chippewa River include the following — Soft Maple, Little Soft Maple, Devils, Alder, Becky, Clear, Big Weirgor,

Deer, Spring, Swan, Little Weirgor, Badger, Maple, and Beaver creeks.

Coming down from the north to south in the western watershed (running into the Red Cedar watershed) are Knutsen, Forty-one, Thirty-three, Louler, Hemlock, South Hemlock, Spring, Pokegama, Silver, Rock, and Moose Ear creeks.

Most of these trout streams are small and can be referred to as flash flood runoff creeks. These streams fill up quickly in the spring and have been known to wash out roads, bridges, and culverts. In late summer they can be nearly dry.

There are a few larger streams among them, including Hemlock, Devils, Pokegama, Soft Maple, and both Weirgors.

The largest trout in the area are taken out of the two Weirgors and Hemlock Creek before it was dammed. I have a nice 2 lb. 3 oz. brook trout hanging on my wall which was taken out of the Big Weirgor 25 years ago. The Big Weirgor also yielded a 1 lb. 6 oz. fish and the Hemlock a 1 lb. 11 oz. fish.

The Big Weirgor Creek is a wilderness stream surrounded by high hills. The Hemlock is a heavily dammed stream. Before running into Red Cedar Lake, flowages include Bucks Lake, Murphy Flowage, Bolger Flowage, and Hemlock Lake.

I used to catch numerous 13- and 14-inch brook trout where Louler Creek and South Hemlock Creek feed into Hemlock Creek. This whole system has been destroyed, and Louler and South Hemlock now flow into the Murphy Flowage.

Trying to save Hemlock Cr.

I tried my best to save Hemlock Cr., I believe in the early 90s. Joe Knight did an Eau Claire newspaper article on situation, Dave Carlson of *Northland Adventures* did a video story, and Frank Pratt of the WDNR was contacted. I was told those building the dam had rights because there had previously been a dam there that washed out 20 years earlier. And besides, I was told, the local Trout Unlimited chapter approved.

Out of this I also ended up doing "Weirgor Gold" with Dave Carlson and a *Midwest Outdoors* article with Noland Eidsmoe on the Weirgor. I rank the Weirgor right up there with other Wisconsin wilderness trout streams like the Marengo and Brunsweler rivers in the Chequamegon Forest to the north. The Weirgor, like the Marengo and Brunsweler, can give up a number of 14-inchers. Brook trout water

The streams in the Blue Hills are almost exclusively brook trout streams. The bigger streams do have an occasional brown, and even some planted rainbows. The rainbows were strictly based on DNR planting, and I don't know if there are any in the hills at this time. It has been many years since I caught one.

Most of the streams are small with steep gradients. That means they have to be fished in the spring before water levels drop. The bigger streams can continue to yield fish into July, but even those are not going to give up fish in the low-water month of August.

If there are rains in September, because of lower evaporation, a per-

son can sometimes find small headwater streams filling up both with water and larger spawning fish that have migrated up the tiny tributaries from the larger streams.

Spinners the trick

I tend to approach these streams using 1/4-ounce

Panther Martin spinners. I head upstream. I started off my trout fishing career as the traditional worm soaker who headed downstream, which is very effective in high spring runoff. Later I added spinners, using 1/8, 1/16, and even 1/32 ounce spinners. I found these difficult to

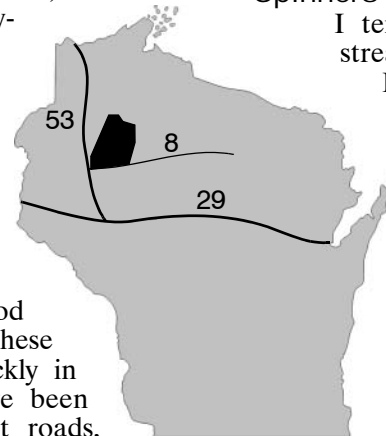
cast due to their light weight.

I also learned trout have very large mouths, and even five-inch trout will aggressively attack a large, 1/4-ounce spinner. I also found attaching the spinner to a large snap swivel was an asset rather than a negative. While my worm-fishing buddy heading down to me generally caught more trout, I generally landed more large trout as I headed upstream with spinners.

I've found worms to be effective in cooler, high-water conditions. Trout don't go after spinners in cold water. They do, however, slam them greedily in the middle of a warm, sunny afternoon, just the weather I love! People are amazed that I use such huge spinners, even on the tiny Blue Hills streams. It helps me end the day with only the keeper-size brookies hitting, and no nuisance chubs.

On the larger streams you will catch the bigger chubs on spinners, but most of the fish that hit will be trout. Chubs can be a real problem for worm fishermen on some less-than-stellar trout streams. Some of the small headwater Blue Hills streams seem to have no chubs at all, but they are packed with four- to eight-inch trout in the holes, a worm fisherman's paradise.

Continued on p. 23



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Best bets for Blue Hills fly fishers

The two biggest, high-quality streams in the Blue Hills — the Weirgor in Sawyer Cty. and the Weirgor in NW Rusk Cty. — have a lot of open water. There are places clogged with alders, making fly casting difficult, but both streams have meadows or open, slower headwaters. Both run quickly through narrow, alder-filled stretches. Both also run through some open hardwoods.

The lower portion of Devils Cr. is a wider, deeper stream that holds a good number of trout in the spring. It has plenty of room for fly casting. In summer, fish are found farther upstream. The upper half of Devils is smaller and brushy in most spots. Devils Cr. has DNR access at three bridges in the middle section on Cty. O.

Hemlock Cr. once ran slow and deep through an old flowage, but it has been dammed up again after a quarter century. Sadly, this has nearly destroyed the trout fishery.

Meicher Turkey Fed's instructor of the year

Larry Meicher was recognized by the National Wild Turkey Federation for his work with their "Women In The Outdoors" program as Instructor of the Year at the Wisconsin State Chapter convention Jan. 12.

Larry has been conducting workshop classes on fly fishing, fly casting, and fly tying around the state for several years.

Big turnout for Conservation Lobby Day

By Bill Pielsticker

At least 19 TU members from eight chapters gathered in Madison to take part in Conservation Lobby Day on Feb. 21.

They joined over 400 other citizen-lobbyists in visits to their State Senators and Assembly Representatives to urge action on four issues:

- strengthening the Great Lakes Compact,
- renewing the Stewardship Fund,
- renewable energy, and
- the Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Bill of Rights.

The latter includes board appointment of the Secretary of Natural Resources, legislation requiring a Senate vote within six months of a receiving a Governor's nominee for the Natural Resources Board, and a constitutional amendment barring raids on Trout Stamp and similar segregated wildlife funds.

Those who took part appeared to have a good time, were well received by legislators and felt their message was better received than in previous years. At the end of the day, participants were invited to attend a wild game feed. Jeff Smith reported he found the raccoon to have been excellent and the biggest surprise of the meal.

Attendance was nearly double that of last year's Lobby Day, and the TU contingent grew by about 50%. The Legislative Committee will work with other conservation and environmental groups to get even more members out next year.

BLUE HILLS:

Continued from p. 22

Recent drought conditions

Northwest Wisconsin had a very serious drought in 2006 which nearly dried up several streams and turned many into trickles. Trout fishing was nonexistent in the summer of 2006.

In mid-February of 2007 there was no snow cover in the Blue Hills area, but a foot of snow fell in several late February and early March snowstorms. We hope there will be some recovery in the water table.

The Blue Hills trout fishery is a real joy. There are a lot of streams, and every stream is a trout stream. Much of the water is on public land. Most of the streams are small, where you can enjoy stepping across the stream and can bring home five colorful, seven-inch brookies.

The area has a few larger streams, too, where you can catch a few 10- or 11-inch fish and enjoy a wilderness experience. Why not give the Blue Hills trout fishery a try!

(Greg Jandrt is a member of the Wisconsin River Valley Chapter. -Ed.)

Surveyor an easy steelhead and salmon fly

By Larry Meicher

This is my go-to fly for steelhead and salmon. It's also an "easy tie," which is always nice.

I try to locate an aggressive male and keep drifting it by him, or I tease him in front of his nose if I can get into the right position. More than once this fly has also worked as a searching fly in clouded water.



This fly is named for and makes use of surveyor's marking tape. This material can be found at any archery shop that caters to deer hunters where it's called "trail marking tape." You can also find it at Menards or Home Depot.

Begin by tying in the squirrel hair tail and covering the hook with tying thread from back to front.

Then attach a strip of surveyor's tape at the front of the shank. This tape should be cut 1/4" to 3/8" wide. Wrap the tape back to the bend, and then overwrap it forward to the front again. Tie off.

Attach a squirrel tail wing and trim the butts at an angle to facilitate anchoring the fibers and forming a proper head.

Wrap the head, whip finish, and glue. And that's it — a very simple fly with a body that's attractive to our big steelhead and salmon.



Here are some variations. Besides pink, surveyor's tape is available in hot orange, red, yellow, and purple. I often use fox squirrel for the tail and wing instead of grey squirrel, and I sometimes rib the bodies with mylar tinsel.

MATERIALS LIST

Surveyor

Hook: Turned up eye black salmon hook in #4 or #6 (a Mustad 9671 works in a pinch)

Thread: Black waxed flat nylon.

Tail: Grey squirrel tail.

Body: A 3/8" wide strip of surveyor tape in hot pink.

Wing: Grey squirrel tail.



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2007 Friends campaign is off and running

By Steve Hill

Friends of WITU Chair

The 2007 Friends of Wisconsin TU program is underway! Last year our generous members contributed over \$15,000, and we hope to meet or beat that this year.

Formed in 1990, the Friends program allows members to make annual contributions of \$100 or more to a special fund managed by the WITU State Council. In the last 17 years, the Friends program has appropriated over \$165,000 for projects throughout the state. Funds can only be

used for stream habitat improvement, research, land acquisition, or conservation education.

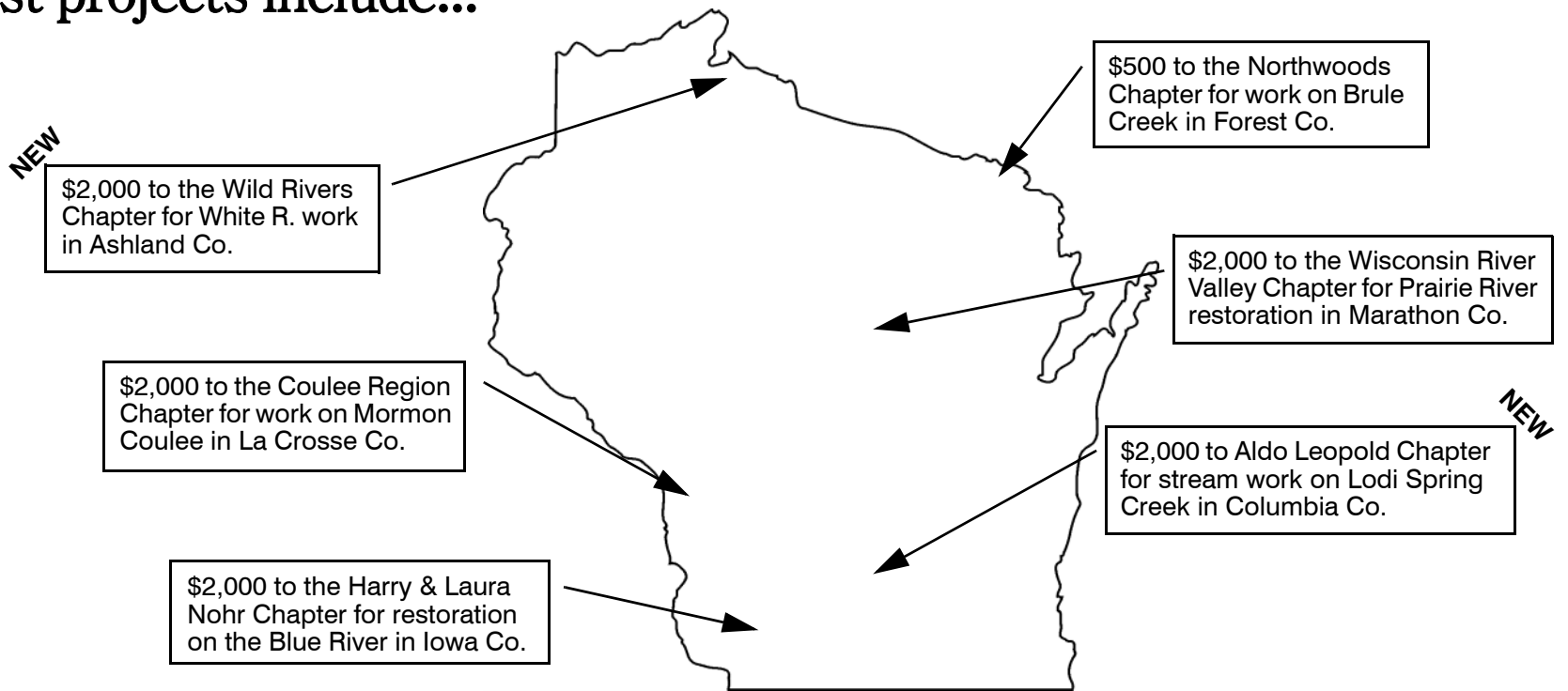
By donating to the Friends program, you can help solve some of the issues facing our coldwater resources. Plus your annual contribution of \$100 or more means you will be listed with all the other "Friends" in four consecutive issues of *Wisconsin Trout*. Also, we will send you a very nice fly box with the Wisconsin Friends logo.

Just as importantly though, you'll receive the satisfaction of knowing that you donated to a cause that has made a difference in Wisconsin's trout fishery. And that will pay dividends down the road for you and future generations.



Great fly box premium

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