



Wisconsin Trout

January 2007



WILD RIVERS RECOGNIZED

WDNR Fisheries Program Director Mike Staggs (left) presents Bill Heart of the Wild Rivers Chapter with one of the bureau's 2006 Partnership Awards. Fisheries biologist Scott Toshner (right) nominated the chapter for the honor.

WITU thanks Cook Creek dewatering case parties

The WITU State Council recently thanked several parties for their efforts to stop the periodic dewatering of Cook Creek, a Class I trout stream in Vernon County.

WITU State Council Chair Bill Pielsticker thanked Paul Wallace of Viroqua for first bringing the dewatering to the attention of WDNR officials. "Your concern for the diminutive Cook Creek eventually led to the Kraemer and Company retro-fitting their well with casing deep enough to prevent a draw down of the shallow aquifer that is the creek's lifeblood," wrote Pielsticker. "It also opened up a new way to look at mitigating the potentially adverse environmental impact of high-capacity wells in other locations in Wisconsin."

Pielsticker also wrote Dan Bauman, DNR west central water leader in Eau Claire, to praise the

efforts of Cindy Koperski, the DNR water resources biologist in La Crosse who investigated the matter.

"Cindy went out of her way to gather data, observe the stream, and put together a watertight, if circumstantial, case that convinced the

Kraemer Company to take action," wrote Pielsticker.

Pielsticker also wrote to Richard Marino of The Kraemer Company to thank his company for their ef-

forts to ensure that future stream dewaterings will not occur (see letter on p. 4).

The Cook Creek case unfolds

Koperski spoke to the State Council at last fall's meeting. There she gave a brief history of the Cook Creek dewatering.

"It's a win-win solution all around," says Koperski.

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"It's a win-win solution all around. The quarry got the water they needed for their gravel-washing operation, and the stream got the water it needed...."

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WDNR honors Nohr and Wild Rivers chapters

By Todd Hanson

The WDNR's Fisheries Management program has given 2006 Partnership Awards to TU's Harry & Laura Nohr and Wild Rivers chapters.

The awards were given at the Fisheries Statewide Meeting in Stevens Point Nov. 29-30.

The Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter was cited by the DNR for many of the same accomplishments that led to their receiving TU National's highest chapter honor, the gold trout award, last September.

The DNR pointed specifically to the Nohr Chapter's three recent restoration projects on the Blue River in Grant and Iowa counties. There the chapter restored more than 11,000 feet of stream at a cost of over \$100,000.

The DNR also praised the Nohr Chapter for being instrumental in persuading TU National to undertake the multi-state Driftless Areas Restoration Effort (TUDARE) in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, and Illinois.

Bill Heart and the Wild Rivers Chapter were given their Partnership Award primarily for their work to improve the White River fishery in Bayfield County.

In making the award, the DNR said the recent expansion of the White River Fisheries Area in 2004 was completed largely due to Bill Heart's hard work and determina-

tion. According to the DNR, "This expansion has given DNR the ability to purchase fee title or easement from willing landowners in an additional 7,000 acres in the White River watershed."

2006 WDNR Fisheries Award Winners

Professional Awards
Don Bush, Fisheries Management Outstanding Contribution Award

John Nelson, Fisheries Management Outstanding Contribution Award

Technical Awards
Bill Blust, Fisheries Management Outstanding Contribution Award

Dale Kufalk, Fisheries Management Outstanding Contribution Award

Special Recognition Awards
Gary Green, Fisheries Management Board Special Recognition Award

Pat Schmalz, Fisheries Management Board Special Recognition Award

Partnership Awards
Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Bill Heart and the Wild Rivers Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Portage Area Musky Club
Walleyes For Tomorrow, Inc.
Roy Berres and the Northeast Wisconsin Great Lakes Sport Fishing Club

Northeast region chapters address area trout concerns

By Kim McCarthy

Wisconsin TU's Northeast Region held its annual December meeting along the banks of the Wolf River at the Wild Wolf Inn Saturday, December 2. The meeting is used to both discuss regional issues and to fund agency requests for the upcoming year.

Regional habitat support

This year the northeast chapters again opened their checkbooks to make sure that both DNR and Forest Service personnel will be able to make a positive impact on the trout resource in the northeast. The chapters pledged a combined total of \$41,500 to a variety of projects.

Northeastern streams that will benefit from the funding include:

- Shabodock Creek,
- Swanson Creek,
- Cherry Creek,
- McCaslin Brook,
- Deerskin River,
- Tamarack Creek,
- Elvoy Creek, and
- The South Br. of the Oconto R.

Beaver control remains a major part of the northeastern expenditures. Funds to continue beaver control throughout the northeast

were appropriated at the meeting, and funding for an ATV to be used by DNR personnel in beaver control efforts was also approved. The good news is that agency staff reported that we might be starting to see some progress in the ongoing efforts to get the beaver situation under control.

Groundwater withdrawals

Groundwater withdrawals remain a real source of concern in the northeast. Spring Brook in Antigo can now be added to the list of streams that have been dewatered in the last few years. Water tables in the area appear to be dropping.

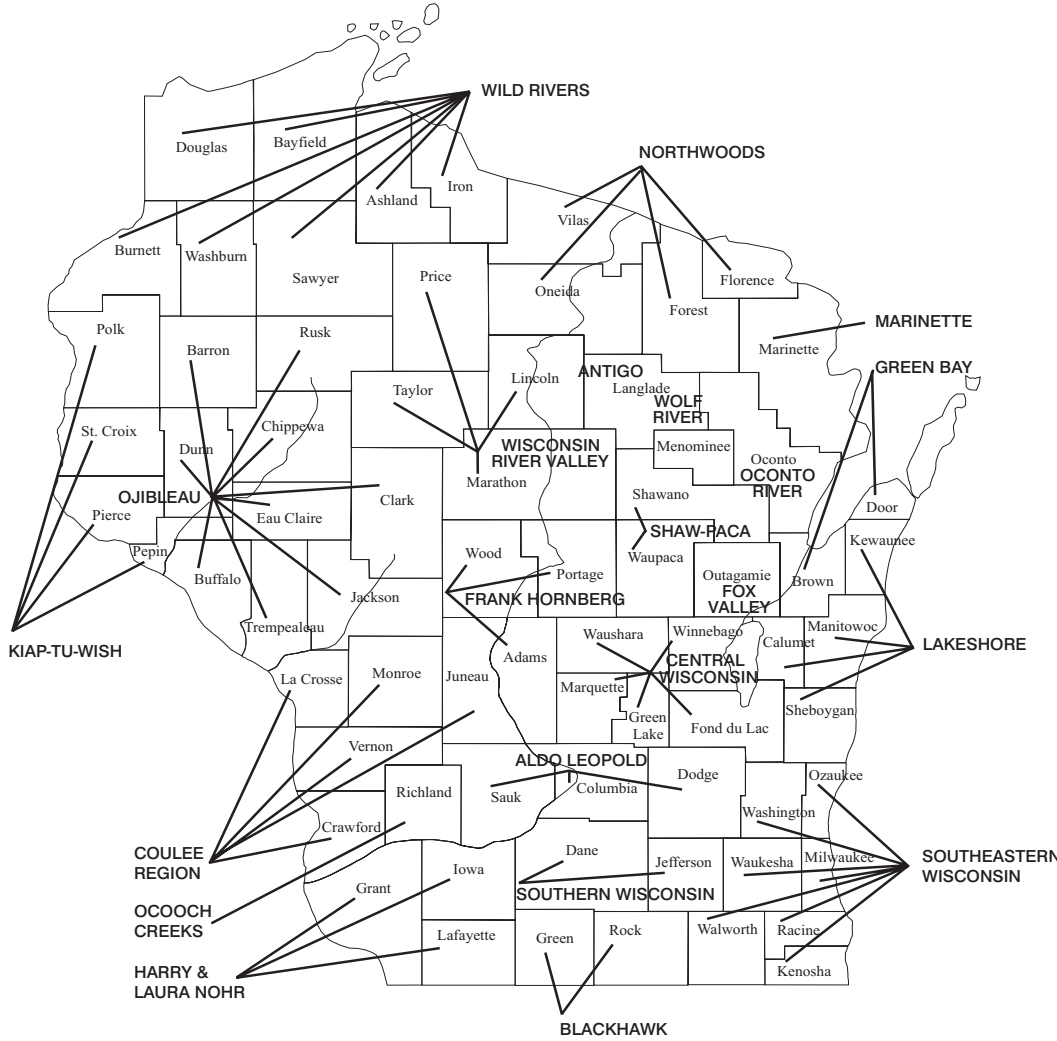
Of particular concern to northeast chapters is the use of low-capacity wells for bottled water operations. The low-capacity wells do not require permits so are not regulated by Act 310. This may be an area that will need to be addressed at the state level in the near future.

Wolf River status

The final topic of discussion at the Northeast Regional meeting was the current state of the Wolf River.

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Wisconsin TU Chapters, Presidents, and Web Sites



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

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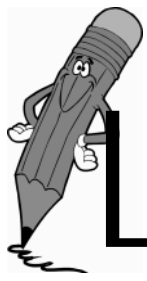
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Letters

Wants TU to do more legislator surveys

Editor,

I want to express my appreciation to the State Council for conceiving and then carrying out the 2006 candidate survey and to you, the *Wisconsin Trout* editor, for in turn publishing the survey results. I regard this entire effort as a real service to our membership and as a meaningful advance in holding our elected officials accountable for their environmental voting records and for their general support of the environmental public interest.

It is obvious from reviewing the survey results in the October issue that many of the candidates chose not to respond. Perhaps this is understandable in the first instance of such a survey by TU or any other organization. However, if such a survey process is continued in future years, we can hope that more candidates will anticipate and take seriously being surveyed by TU and that failures to respond can then be regarded as having meaningful significance.

I have always believed that one of the greatest gifts that comes from years spent pursuing trout on trout streams is an ever-deepening understanding and appreciation for the delicate beauty and balance that is a healthy coldwater stream. Eventually that appreciation and understanding grows and extends beyond the stream, giving to the trout fisherman a personal perspective of the larger natural world, an ecological perspective, that is in reality shared by too few of us and is a real and valuable resource to the larger society.

When, in turn, trout fishermen fail to share and apply this perspective to the issues and questions of our public debates and political decisions, they are forsaking the truth of their own experience and depriving the larger society of the benefits of their natural wisdom.

I understand that there is a reluctance, even a refusal, on the part of many, even some in our own Trout Unlimited, to be involved in the so-called sordid world of politics. However, such an attitude seems to ignore the simple, basic reality that much of the social, commercial, and legal policy and practice which winds up directly determining the future of our trout streams and all the rest of our natural resources are decided in the halls of government

by our elected officials. Such an aversive attitude toward politics also fails to acknowledge that our government is only responsive and responsible to the extent that we, all of us, insist that it be so through our own participation in the political process.

Regardless of your personal politics, I can think of nothing worse than being in the position of the fisherman whose letter is published in the current issue of *Fly Fisherman* magazine. [This person] explains his personal sense of shame at having voted for a candidate whom he thought would be a responsible environmentalist simply because the candidate called himself a sportsman, but whom the fisherman now realizes misrepresented himself.

Today's conservation and environmental issues are too urgent and too critical for the voting public not to expect, even demand, a high level of environmental awareness and responsibility on the part of all its elected representatives regardless of their party affiliation. And having the environmentally conscious representatives we need and deserve will only happen if we the public consistently convey our expectations to our politicians and then openly monitor the real environmental impact and consequences of their legislative actions and inactions. In order for us, an otherwise diverse citizen constituency united around a common respect for the environment, to accomplish all this, we need the help of nonpartisan representative groups like the League of Conservation Voters and Trout Unlimited to deliver our message of conservation with clarity and authority and to cut through the political rhetoric and posturing to establish the reality of our politicians' environmental positions and voting records.

Personally, I can't imagine being a trout fisher who isn't concerned about the environmental consequences of public government policy, and I can't imagine being a member of a Trout Unlimited organization that is indifferent to helping me be a better citizen conservationist.

Keep up the good works, and I will look forward to your next candidate survey in 2008!

Rolf Skogstad
Hixton, WI

Disappointed by picture of water park

Editor,

I enjoyed reading Ray White's letter to the editor in the October 2006 edition of *Wisconsin Trout* about the crisis situation in the Little Plover's groundwater aquifer. He expressed similar concerns throughout the "sand plain" area where glacial Lake Wisconsin used to sit. He stated that urbanization is a larger concern now, over the ongoing agricultural and irrigation activities in the area.

Then I turned the pages and saw a picture of some of the same water he was talking about. Right there in your ad for the 22nd annual State

Council Banquet, "A Celebration of Trout," an indoor water park is shown. Where? In Stevens Point, WI. Shame on you guys.

David E. Blume, M.D.
Oregon, WI

(We called The Holiday Inn, and they have a pool, but not a "water park." Their pool holds 26,000 gallons of water, which is a lot, but not when compared to the 67,000 gallons of water my water utility says the average Madison home uses per year. The hotel also conserves enough throughout its building and grounds to apply for the "green hotel" designation. So attend the banquet in peace. -Ed.)

It's time to chart the course for Wisconsin's environment

By Stephen M. Born

Another election season has come and gone. In Wisconsin, there was little intelligent discussion about our environment and how we should protect, manage and use our incredible natural resources to maintain the quality of life and recreational opportunities most Wisconsinites cherish.

Member Analysis

I often imagined I could hear Gaylord Nelson reminding the political aspirants that "the economy is just a subsidiary of the environment."

Gov. Jim Doyle and his agencies, along with a new Legislature and new local leadership, now have a responsibility to lay out their vision for Wisconsin's environment, including what actions they plan and what resources they propose to commit.

Several policy issues need to be addressed, but our political and civic leaders must also ensure that the pieces fit into an integrated management program. Goals should include managing for sustainability, ensuring a viable future for our working agricultural lands and forests, protecting our state's biological diversity, promoting healthy and livable communities, reducing our contributions to greenhouse gas emissions, conserving and protecting our priceless land and water resources, and pursuing these goals through transparent, democratic, scientifically based and fair decision-making.

Land use issues should be at or near the top of the list. How we use, develop, and conserve our land determines the future of our water resources, wetlands, wildlife, working landscapes, transportation options, communities, public health, and more.

Wisconsin enacted "smart growth" comprehensive land use planning legislation in 1999, and many local governments across the state have engaged their citizens in charting their communities' futures. Political leaders should commit to stay the course, provide the requisite resources to complete the planning, and implement the plans.

Given our growing population and expanding communities, reauthorization of the state Stewardship Program also is a high priority. And we must ensure that existing programs to protect dwindling lake and river shorelands and threatened wetlands are carried out. That should be non-negotiable.

Water defines Wisconsin. We need to fully implement the Clean Water Act — especially for urban and agricultural runoff management, which dramatically affects our water quality. Adequate, well-tar-

geted funding of the nonpoint source management program, including a focus on manure, agricultural land, and nutrient management, is essential; without funds our innovative programs are a charade.

We must also protect our state's buried treasure, groundwater. Working with neighboring states, we also need to follow up on plans and charters to protect the Great Lakes and Mississippi River. And it's time for water-rich Wisconsin to conserve water aggressively to assure future supplies, protect aquifers, and move toward a sustainable balance between supply and demand.

There are many opportunities to pursue conservation and sustainable sources of energy and build on clean energy legislation enacted in the last session. We need to revitalize long-range energy planning for the state. Part of that planning should involve rethinking our continuing dependence on and expansion of coal-fired generating plants. It should include creative planning for a truly multimodal, environmentally and energy-sensitive transportation system. Taking such actions will also reduce our "carbon footprint" and contributions to global warming.

Other issues also need continuing attention, including air quality in urbanizing areas and mercury, pharmaceutical, and other possible contaminants in our waters.

Protecting threatened and endangered species and stemming the horde of invasive non-native plants and animals is a less recognized priority with significant consequences to our environment.

Now that Doyle has been re-elected, a follow-up "report card" to citizens on progress on his Conserve Wisconsin initiative, launched last year, is warranted.

Finally, we need plans and actions to increase civic engagement in environmental stewardship. Citizens across the Badger State play important roles in caring for our environment through watershed associations, lake districts, hunting and fishing organizations, land conservancies, and "friends" groups. The state should invest in and facilitate these burgeoning efforts at civic environmentalism. We also need to renew our state's once-strong commitment to environmental education.

The time to chart the course and take action for tomorrow's Wisconsin is now.

(Steve Born is emeritus professor of planning and environmental studies at UW-Madison. He's held numerous prestigious positions within our state and national TU organization. This piece was originally published Dec. 1 in the Capitol Times. -Ed.)

Conservation Lobby Day Feb. 21

The 2007 Conservation Lobby Day at the State Capitol in Madison will take place Wed., Feb. 21.

Conservation Lobby Day is a chance for citizens to give legislators their views on issues relating to wildlife management, conservation, natural resources, and the environment. Often the wisest people on these issues are the very people who regularly use and protect our natural resources...people like you reading this right now.

Registration will begin at 9:00 a.m. at the Best Western Inn on the Park located on the southern end of the Capitol square. The official start time is 10:00 a.m. For more information, contact Anne Sayers at the WI League of Conservation Voters at anne@conservationvoters.org or (608) 661-0845.

Wisconsin Natural Resources Board Members

David Clausen
Veterinarian
Appointed February 2006.
Term expires May 1, 2007.

1265 58th Ave.
Amery, WI 54001
(715) 268 8131

Jonathan P. Ela
Conservationist, retired from
the Sierra Club.
Appointed January 2003.
Term expires May 1, 2005.

2130 Chamberlain Ave.
Madison WI 53726
(608) 238 8187

Gerald M. O'Brien
Attorney
Appointed May 1, 1999.
Term expires May 1, 2005.

Box 228
Stevens Point, WI 54481
(715) 344 0890

Howard D. Poulson
Farmer, retired President,
Wisconsin Farm Bureau.
Appointed August 1995.
Re-appointed February 2001.
Term expires May 1, 2007.

N795 Tamarack Rd.
Palmyra, WI 53156
(262) 495 2439

Christine L. Thomas
Dean and professor of resource
management at the University
of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
College of Natural Resources.
Appointed March 2004.
Term expires May 1, 2009.

UW-Stevens Point College of
Natural Resources
Stevens Point, WI 54481
(715) 346 4185

John W. Welter
Attorney, former WITU State
Council Chair.
Appointed May 5, 2004.
Reappointed May 1, 2005.
Term expires May 1, 2011.

PO Box 228
Eau Claire, WI 54702-0228
(715) 831-9565

Stephen D. Willett
Attorney
Appointed June 1991;
reappointed April 1999.
Term expires May 1, 2003.

PO Box 89
Phillips WI 54555
(715) 339 2125

**Air, Waste, and Water
Management/
Enforcement Committee**
Stephen D. Willett, Chair
Howard D. Poulson
Jonathan P. Ela
Land Management,
Recreation and
Fisheries/Wildlife
Committee
Christine L. Thomas, Chair
David Clausen
John W. Welter

The seven NRB members are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the State Senate. Three members each must be selected from the northern and southern portions of the state and one member serves "at large."

Natural Resources Board nominees to get confirmation vote in January

By Todd Hanson

With the November election tipping the balance of power in the State Senate back to the democrats, the backlog of unconfirmed nominees to the Natural Resources Board is expected to be addressed this January.

Currently three Doyle appointees are serving without having been confirmed by the Senate — former Sierra Club staffer Jonathan Ela of Madison, attorney John Welter of

Eau Claire, and veterinarian Dave Clausen of Amery.

Ela has been filling a vacancy on the NRB for about three years without senate confirmation. His term expired in May 2005.

Welter has been serving on the NRB since May 2004 when he was tapped to fill the term of Trygve Solberg. He was re-appointed in May 2005.

Clausen is serving out the term of Herb Behnke who retired from

the NRB this past spring. Clausen's term will expire this coming May.

Another Doyle appointee to the NRB, Jane Wiley of Wausau, is in a unique position. Though she was appointed back in July 2004 to fill the expired term of Stephen Willett, Willett has refused to give up his seat until the Senate confirms Wiley. Willett was a 1991 Tommy Thompson appointee.

See the list on this page for the expiration dates of members' terms.

COOK CREEK: trout stream dewatering resolved

Continued from p. 1

"The quarry got the water they needed for their gravel-washing operation, and the stream got the water it needed to maintain the fishery and aquatic resources there year-round."

State drinking water and groundwater officials are pleased with the outcome, saying it shows people can work together to protect streams and other natural resources and benefit business at the same time.

Cook Creek is a small tributary of the Kickapoo River that serves as a spawning ground for brook trout and as a nursery for their young. Neighbors noticed in recent summers that a portion of the stream had been drying up.

When they noticed again in the summer of 2005 that the stream dried up, they called local officials. The neighbors said the stream went dry after The Kraemer Company, LLC, of Plain, WI, operated a nearby well it uses a few times a year as part of its gravel washing operations at their quarry near Viroqua.

The well had been operating within the conditions laid out in its approval, and Koperski and others didn't think the limited pumping could be affecting the stream. However, the company coordinated with Koperski and gave her advance notice when it was going to operate the well in late 2005 so she could be hand to document any problems and possible connections.

Koperski and DNR groundwater specialist Bill Furbish documented that once the pumping started, the stream's water level came down very quickly, too quickly for fish to sense the declining water levels and take refuge farther downstream, Koperski says.

A puzzle unfolds

The loss of water was puzzling because the company had built the well to meet construction codes and was operating it within approval parameters.

DNR water supply engineer George Mickelson pored over documents detailing how the well had been built and looked at the geology in the area. He hypothesized that the well, despite being constructed and operated according to all requirements, had essentially been functioning as a drain. It allowed groundwater from an upper aquifer that normally fed the stream to drain down into the lower aquifer, where water was being pumped for the gravel-washing operation.

DNR staff brought in the specialists from the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey to run additional tests and do additional modeling. Their work confirmed Mickelson's suspicions.

The well had originally been drilled to a depth of 350 feet into sandstone and limestone. A steel

pipe or "well casing" was cemented into bedrock down to 61 feet, beyond the codes' 60-foot requirement. After a few years of operation, the quarry was unable to get the amount of water they needed, so they sought DNR approval and deepened the well.

When the well was deepened to 600 feet, it penetrated through a layer of impervious rock found at about 350 feet. Because the well casing extended down only 61 feet, however, water from the sandstone and limestone formation was flowing down the uncased part of the well and into the bottom of the well.

The result was that even when the well pump wasn't operating — and it was idle most of the year — water from the upper aquifer was continuously pouring down into the lower aquifer at a rate of 90 gallons a minute, partially depleting the upper aquifer. When the well was pumped, the upper aquifer was depleted further, which affected Cook Creek.

A solution emerges

DNR recommended to The Kraemer Company that they case the well farther down. The company agreed.

"Our main concern is making sure we don't have any adverse effects on anything we do," says Dick Marino, the company's director of land management.

The Kraemer Company paid to have the well casing extended and grouted down to 350 feet in April 2006, and water from the upper aquifer has stopped flowing down to the lower aquifer.

The company began pumping in late June and that pumping didn't affect water levels in the stream, Koperski says.

"It's one of those situations where you put a lot of time in and it comes out positive — and that's really satisfying," she says. "The landowners are happy they have a stream running by their home again, the stream has its fish spawning and nursery back, and the company got the water they needed."

Mark Putra, who leads the DNR private well program, said the Vernon County situation illustrates that groundwater and surface waters are connected and that by working together to protect both, Wisconsin's environment and economy benefit.

(This story contains both original and WDNR reporting. -Ed.)



Richard J. Marino
Director of Land Management
The Kraemer Company
P.O. Box 235
Plain, WI 53577

Mr. Marino:

The members of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited thank the Kraemer Company for its response to the circumstantial evidence that one of the company's high capacity wells was causing intermittent de-watering of a portion of Cook Creek in Vernon County. We understand that, at your own expense, your company has installed well casing to a depth that prevents pumping of the upper aquifer, the apparent cause of the de-watering.

While this portion of Cook Creek is a small, even tiny stream, it is an important spawning area for native brook trout. Coincidentally, the de-watering generally occurred either during the fall spawning season or the spring emergence of young-of-the-year trout. We hope the Kraemer Company's actions serve as an example to others that economic activity need not conflict with our efforts to protect and restore Wisconsin's coldwater streams and their watersheds. Thank you.

Sincerely,

William J. Pielsticker, Chair
Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited

September 25, 2006

8045 Crystal Lake Rd.
Lodi, WI 53555-9539
Ph: 608.592.4718
billpiel@merr.com

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N5967 Murray Rd.,
Ogdensburg, WI 54962

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5258 Salisbury Rd.
Rio, WI 53960

Look who's hitting the ice

By Bill Pielsticker

WITU State Council Chair

At this time of year, most trout fishing opportunities are rather limited. I did talk to one TU member who heard the DNR had placed about 200 brood trout into Devils Lake at the end of November. He grabbed his gear, drove to the Sate Park, and proceeded to land about a dozen fish, none under 20 inches. I'm not sure this really eclipses landing a 12-inch brook trout in a Coulee Region stream, but that's not an option right now.

If tossing flies at befuddled brood trout doesn't interest you this time of year, perhaps you enjoy ice fishing. Crystal Lake in northern Dane County froze over on the first Monday of December. Following three single-digit nights, the ice was four inches thick and crawling with camo-outfitted, auger-carrying, tip-up toting bucket sitters. I suppose the tip-ups make more sense than a 9-foot 5-weight graphite fly rod (what you'd need to counter the winter winds). Besides, I never could see the sense of casting a glow-bug to a six inch hole in the ice.

Now, when I get out on the ice, I'm wearing my camo outfit (either the lighter one for "mild" weather or the heavy one for old-fashioned Wisconsin weather), warm boots, appropriate head gear (top, top and ears, or full facial coverage), and carrying my camera, tripod, and

mirror. You see, I'm angling for wee little beasties in the ice. Creatures from other worlds, scenes of other galaxies, or patterns that possibly inspired some obscure European artists to "create" cubism.

It's well known that I may be the first council chair to spend less time fly fishing than the family dog (only a slight exaggeration). Thing is, when I find some "free

time" during fishing season, I can't get past the fact that I should be out shooting. Shooting eagles, waterfalls, landscapes, whatever I can capture on film (yes, I still shoot film). Sadly, it has been three years since I had done any new work.

Perhaps it was the recent addition of some new morning vitamins that enabled me to put aside my TU responsibilities for a few weeks. Picking up my 35-pound pack and old-fashioned view camera, I set out for several State Natural Areas, in-

cluding John Muir Memorial Park and Page Creek Marsh. The latter location found me hiking out in waders and setting up in two feet of water to shoot tamaracks and oak trees in their fall splendor.

A month later, our 500 acre lake became THE destination for ice augers and their owners. I waited a prudent two days until the first reckless anglers were free of the surface, then grabbed my camera equipment and mirror and slipped onto the ice to make art. What's with the mirror, you say? When shooting in winter, the sun's intensity is at its weakest

(that's what causes winter, doncha know?) The mirror helps to illuminate interesting fractures and patterns in black ice.

I came up with this approach four years ago when I made the images that became my Inner Space series. The camera flash just didn't work on the ice, and flashlights were useless. Then I remembered that ugly wall mirror we received one Christmas from Kathy's mother. The one collecting dust in our

storage room. This is a bit like using road kill to create beautiful dry flies!

In three days of work I composed 30 new abstract images. From what I could gather, the bucket brigade would have been better off with cameras of their own rather than those tip-ups. One old-timer told me he had just one bite all day and had walked over two miles on the



Bill Pielsticker

ice trying out new spots until he finally gave up. He figures that after several years of heavy fishing, Crystal Lake's panfish bonanza was over (isn't it ever so?).

I expect the masochists soon will head to other frozen lakes to sit on plastic buckets and risk frostbite while angling for a mess of gills. Me, I'll scan and prepare my new images in my digital darkroom (I'm not a total Neanderthal!), keeping warm until a nice blanket of snow nudges me to make some winter landscapes images. Then again, if the snow holds off, I just might get another shot at some fresh black ice. Now repeat after me, I'm sure it's thick enough to walk on....

This is my last column as your State Council chair. We've badgered Bill Heart to volunteer to be elected chair in February, after which I expect he will regale you with tales of big fish from Patagonia and horror stories from the Bibon Swamp. Meanwhile, I'll shift over to the Legislative Committee and see if I can't carve out some fishing time come early season. I wonder where my cold-weather fishing gloves are?



West Fork Sportsman Club appears to be on track

By Jeff Smith

Following the tragic death of our good friend Roger Widner, many of us have asked about the future of the West Fork Sportsman Club — a small gathering center and campground in Avalanche, WI, frequented by fly fishers from Wisconsin, the Midwest, and beyond.

The club had been run by Roger (the club president) for many years as sort of a one-man operation. With Roger gone, the question is, how will the club survive?

There is a board of directors, but it has rarely met in the past. The board called a meeting of members on Nov. 4 at the club to discuss questions about the future.

Before that meeting they appointed John Bethke, an active TU member, as temporary president and John ran the meeting. The purposes of the meeting were

to get some facts out to membership and to get feedback as to what problems or issues needed to be addressed.

A new full-term president will be elected in the near future and John clearly stated it would not be him.

At the November meeting the issues discussed included:

- the need for maintenance projects for campground buildings and electrical system,
- the problems that may result due to the club lacking liability insurance,
- the lack of a budget or spending plan, and
- the recent discontinuance of fund-raising events.

A number of suggestions were discussed by the group, including fund-raising ideas, going through a strategic planning process, and having workdays for maintenance projects.

All said, it was my strong impression that the West Fork Sportsman Club's future will be a challenge, but maintaining the club is very important to club members and a lot of area people.

Many of us volunteered to pitch in as needed so the human resources won't be a problem. The challenge, in my view, is to build a new organization that will be strong enough to make decisions, raise funds, and fix some of the problems mentioned above.

Sportsman Club Facts
The club has about 650 members, including about 35 life members.

The club has a total budget of about \$25,000 housed in various accounts.

The club is 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that owns the campground in Avalanche.

NORTHEAST: region meets

Continued from p. 1

David Seibel, Antigo area fisheries manager, has completed studies of the Wolf and has found summer water temperatures in the 80 degree range for a good part of the summer.

Trout were found in only a few areas, and the few larger fish that were found and radio tagged are leaving the Wolf during the summer and returning when the water cools.

Return on stocked fish is very poor because most fish don't survive long enough to reach the current legal size limit of 12 inches.

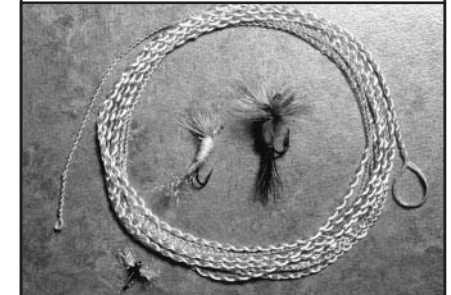
Area chapters will be discussing possible management changes to allow some harvest on stocked fish. The discussions will be reported back to DNR, and agency managers will then consider bringing possible

management changes to the spring hearings in 2008.

Area chapters are now in the planning stages for next spring's banquet season. Successful banquets are a necessity in order to maintain the kind of financial support for the resource that area chapters are committed to.

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Chapter president profile Allon Bostwick leading Ocooch Chapter in Richland Co.

By Dick Peters

Did you ever meet someone that you immediately said, "There is someone I would enjoy having as a friend"? Allon Bostwick, president of Ocooch Creeks Chapter of TU, is that kind of guy.

Trout Unlimited has allowed me to meet similar friends like Ira Giese, Dave Fritz, and Bob Hunt to name a few. You quickly realize that all of these friends are not only nice guys, but have a driving passion to protect the environment and leave it a better place for those who will follow us. Allon is no exception. As president, his driving message is: "Ocooch Creeks is a conservation organization, not a fishing club."

Allon grew up in Port Washington, WI, where he developed an interest in sports and the out-of-doors. As a youth, he came to love trout fishing on treks to the Onion River near Waldo and on a once-a-year overnight trip to Pembine in Northeast Wisconsin.

His father, a 30-year 3rd shift steel worker, instilled in Allon and his three brothers an appreciation of the privilege of fishing and the need to protect the environment and water.

Allon got an undergraduate degree in zoology from the UW-Milwaukee and a medical degree from the University of Wisconsin. After completion of his residency, he practiced family medicine and emergency medicine in Waukesha.

The call of the Driftless Area was too strong, and 11 years ago he relocated to Richland Center where he is employed in the Emergency Department at The Richland Hospital.

In 1997, a large animal feedlot for hogs was proposed on a ridge-top setting in Richland County, the

run-off of which would have affected three watersheds. Allon and his neighbors defeated this proposal, but the experience exposed the need for a better understanding of stream ecosystems.

In 2001 Allon enrolled at UW-La Crosse. He is now completing a Master's degree in aquatic ecology. His dream is to someday establish a stream ecology field school for the Driftless Area.

Upon arriving in Richland County, Allon immediately joined the Nohr

Ocooch Creeks Chapter in 2002. Allon has remained the president of the chapter ever since it was chartered, and under his leadership the State Council awarded the Ocooch Chapter the Silver Trout Award last

opportunity he was looking for — to involve large urban chapters in stream restoration in the Driftless Area. Ocooch Creeks is fortunate to be working with John Bacon, Jr. of the Lee Wulff Chapter in Illinois and Henry Koltz of the South-eastern Wisconsin Chapter on two major stream restoration projects this year. It is Allon's hope that this will serve as a model for other urban-rural efforts in the future. It is felt the Lee Wulff and Southeastern will be able to conduct their projects independently next year.

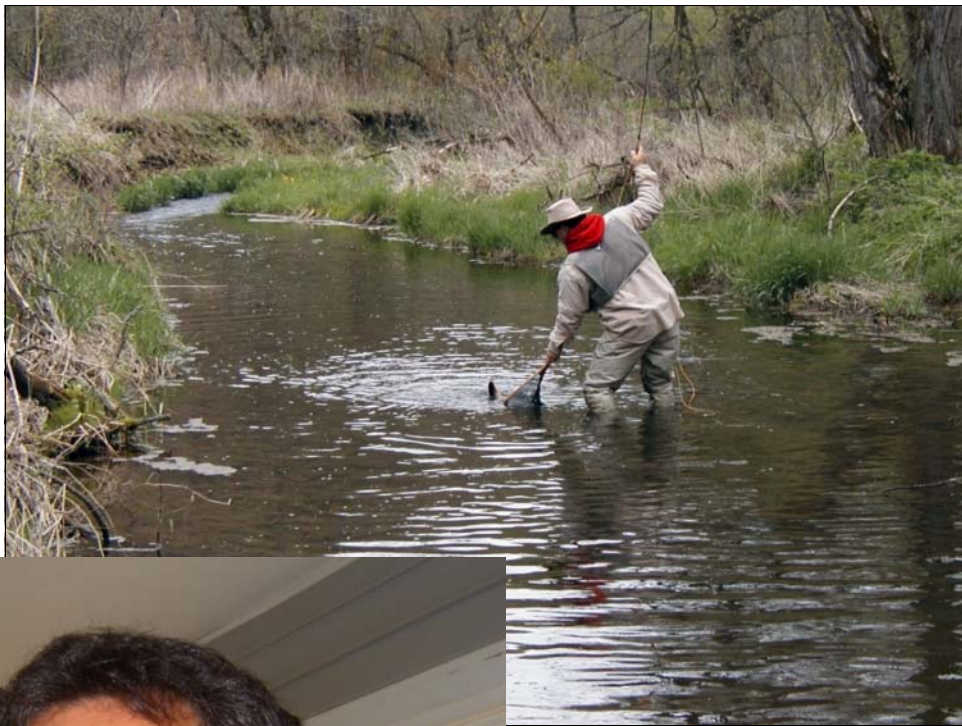
Whether it's helping you out of a steep Western canyon, dragging pontoon boats over rocks in a small-mouth river, or participating at the annual Sugar Creek Christian Fly Fishing Retreat, Allon is a

great fishing companion.

His community and volunteer activities are too numerous to mention here. It is difficult to hold a luncheon meeting with him in Richland Center as it is always interrupted by grateful patients and community members.

Allon possesses one questionable attribute — he doesn't know how to say no to a good cause. Allon is the perfect example of how Trout Unlimited continues to produce leaders who are concerned about the environment and are willing to put in the time and effort to get results.

(Dick Peters is a charter member of the Ocooch Creeks Chapter and serves as the chapter's project leader. He can be seen with some of his cronies in the photo below. -Ed.)



AT HOME AND ON THE WATER
Ocooch Creeks TU President Allon Bostwick enjoys a morning of early spring fishing and playing with one of his grandchildren.



year. This is a remarkable achievement considering the chapter is limited to a county with a population under 18,000.

In 2005 under Allon's leadership Ocooch Creeks was involved with two projects on Elk Creek. In 2006 the chapter completed two more projects on Willow Creek. Although these are very gratifying stream restoration projects, Allon realizes we aren't making a dent in the degraded trout streams of the area.

The development of TUDARE under the leadership of Duke Welner and Jeff Hastings gave Allon the

Chapter. He was very impressed with the work of the Nohr bunch, but realized not much work was occurring in Richland County. The Nohr Chapter's geographic area was too large to accomplish projects in all counties. With over 250 miles of neglected trout streams in Richland County, much was needed to be done.

With the help and guidance of Dave Fritz, Allon established the



OCOPOCH MEMBERS WITH RICHLAND COUNTY AWARD

A number of Ocooch Chapter members were on hand to receive Richland County's "Friends of Conservation" award. Pictured with the award are (front, l to r) Bill Wheeler, Ken Anderson, Kim James, (back) Fred Robinson, Jim Kaderavek, Allon Bostwick, Dick Peters, and Steve Nockerts.

Richland Co. Land Conservation Committee honors Ocooch Chapter

The Ocooch Chapter has been honored by Richland County officials for the chapter's recent conservation work.

The Richland County Land Conservation Committee recognizes landowners every year for the work they have done for soil conservation, wildlife, and forestry.

Usually the Wildlife Award is given to an individual landowner, but this year the Land Conservation Committee decided to give a "Friends of Conservation" Award to the Ocooch Chapter for all the work the chapter has done over the past two years.

The chapter has helped financially and physically on several stream restoration projects with public access. They have provided money for at least three projects:

- Elk Creek (DNR owned),
- Clary farm (DNR easement), and
- Lee property (DNR easement).

Ocooch members also built 40 luncker structures for the Clary project.

The chapter has also been involved with the application process for DNR's Targeted Resource Management grants.

Gilbert Creek site of more restoration in 2006

By John Sours and Tim Meyer

The Ojibseau Chapter continued its work on Gilbert Creek in 2006, focusing on the Middle Branch in the area of state-owned land just north of Hwy. 29 and east of Cty. Q in western Dunn County.

The Gilbert Creek project is a collaborative effort between Ojibseau and the WDNR, the Dunn County Fish and Game Association, and UW-Stout. It relies on these entities for the professional planning, design, fund raising, and supervision of the project.

The project has also drawn volunteers and additional funding from many other groups, including the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter, the Wild Rivers Chapter, Minnesota's Twin Cities Chapter, Menomonie High School, UW-Eau Claire, UW-Madison, USDA-NRCS and RC&D, the Dunn County Land Conservation Department, Boy Scout troops, Xcel Energy, and many other interested citizens from the community.

Restoration challenges

Gilbert Creek in the project area is often deeply incised into the valley with vertical streambanks 4-8 feet high. This bank erosion is a result of post-settlement valley filling from uncontrolled row cropping, logging, and grazing practices of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

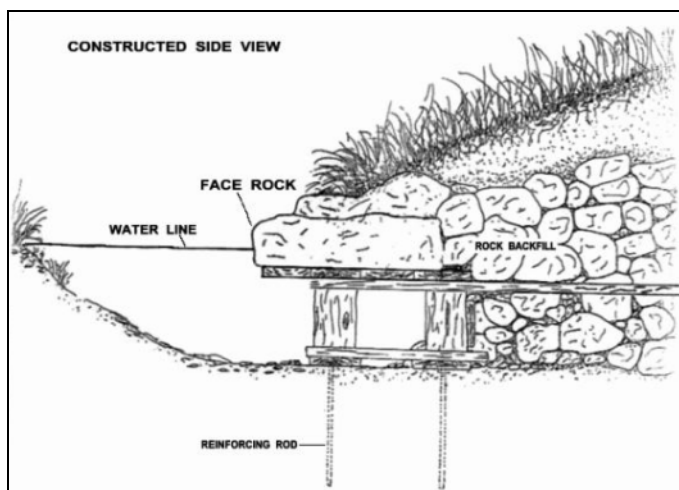
The streambanks along the Middle Fork — like many west central Wisconsin streams — are composed of the fertile, organic-rich topsoil that once resided on the ridgetops and steep wooded slopes farther up the watershed. This alluvium is made up of mostly silt and very fine sand particles, and it is easily undercut by high waters flows.

To this day, banks continue to erode. Sloping and toe riprap is necessary to ensure stabilization and reduce the sediment. Many hundreds of tons of local bedrock (mostly dolostone) has been used for bank stabilization and construction of plunge pools.

The 2006 project work began in early August and after a considerable period of dry weather. About 2,500 feet of stream was restored.

Work this year was optimistically projected to be completed from the confluence of the North and Middle forks up to Cty. Q.

Due to the wet conditions during several critical periods when rock needed to be hauled in to the site and heavy machinery was needed daily, progress was delayed. The 2006 project work was finalized dur-



ANATOMY OF A LUNKER STRUCTURE

Lunker structures are commonly used on Gilbert Creek and other Coulee Region trout streams.

ing the last week of September to allow the movement of brook trout up the Middle Fork during the upcoming spawning season and with about 1,500 feet of restoration needed to reach Cty. Q.

Old beaver dams exposed

Until recently, the middle fork of Gilbert Creek had been inundated due to a succession of beaver dams. During the winter of 2005-2006, more than 20 beavers were removed from the general area, and the DNR trout crew has removed more than 20 dams on just this stretch of the middle fork. It was an interesting lesson in fluvial hydrology for volunteers to observe this summer.

Once the most recent and largest dam was removed, the stream incised down through the exposed sedimentation to expose an older dam which had to be removed. This continued the channel cutting and continued to expose a whole series of older beaver dams.

At the top end near Cty. Q, the DNR crew put in several grade stabilization structures to control the channel cutting and stop the silt suspension and sediment movement out of these old beaver pond areas and into the Middle Branch for this spawning season.

After a recent heavy rainfall, the Middle Branch was running clear. We will have to return and complete

sections that are between the grade control sites and the 1,500 feet or so to the bridge next year.

Overall it should not take more than three weeks to finish the Middle Branch to Cty. Q, and then we will begin on the main stem immediately thereafter.

More than 20 lunker structures were installed this year, and more than 10 grade control plunge pools have been placed to provide wintering water for brook trout.

Many acres of temporary seeding and mulching were accomplished as well. All of these cleared areas will eventually be planted to native grasses and forbs.

Holding up to flooding

In 2005 and 2006, record spring flooding had a devastating effect on trout fry in streams throughout Pierce, Dunn, and St. Croix counties.

However, the restored sections of Gilbert Creek and other similar streams seem to have weathered this quite well. Electro-shocking surveys by Mary Engel, Nate Anderson, and John Sours in 2005-06 within the project areas of Gilbert Creek showed good numbers of brookies throughout the short survey runs (22 in one pool). The 2004

ify and legitimize continued restoration efforts on this stream and other similar streams in Western Wisconsin that have good water quality but degraded habitat.

Partner recognition

A couple of other events from 2006 at Gilbert Creek are also noteworthy.

A sign was built and installed on Dode Thorud's property this summer to give credit to all the partners and volunteers.

On September 5 many community and economic development leaders from the Menomonie area toured the Gilbert Creek site and were treated to an electro-shocking demonstration. Attendees were also given a short course in trout stream biology by Marty Engel, explanations of terrestrial and aquatic insect life by both Chuck Bomar and Duke Welter, and an outdoor picnic dinner by the Dunn County Fish and Game Association. It was a great day on the water.

Outdoor reporter Dave Carlson was also in attendance with his film crew, and they shot a segment for the *Northland Adventures* TV series that aired in September.

Community leaders hope to showcase the area's exceptional wa-



LOOK WHAT I FOUND

WDNR Fisheries Biologist Marty Engel showed the results of a shocking survey of Gilbert Creek that took place during an open house in September.

survey found only eight young of the year brook trout.

If the immediate resurgence of brook trout in the restored sections during regionally poor reproduction years is any indication, our habitat efforts have been very successful, and it would seem to ver-

ter quality, beautiful and unique landscapes, and fine fishing opportunities.

(John Sours is the WDNR fisheries biologist working out of the Eau Claire office. Tim Meyer is the Ojibseau Chapter's Gilbert Creek project manager. -Ed.)

State Council meeting and banquet Feb. 3

The 2007 Wisconsin TU annual meeting and banquet will be held at the brand new Holiday Inn and Convention Center just off Hwy. 10 on the far east side of Stevens Point Sat., Feb. 3.

The business meeting will run from 10-4 p.m., with the State Council's annual awards luncheon beginning at Noon.

The banquet begins at 6:30 p.m., with Chris Wood from TU National as the featured speaker.

Guest speaker Chris Wood

Wood is TU's Vice President for Conservation Programs. Before coming to TU in 2001, he served as the senior policy and communications advisor to the Chief of the US Forest Service for four years. He be-

gan his career as a temporary employee with Forest Service Research in Idaho and also worked for the Bureau of Land Management and American Rivers, a river conservation group.

Tackle Box workshop

There will be an afternoon workshop on using TU's on-line Chapter Tackle Box. Liz Ogilvie, volunteer operations coordinator for TU National, will be here to help new and future chapter leaders learn how to get the most out of TU National's web site. She will also look for suggestions on how the Tackle Box might be improved.

Each chapter can designate one or two people to attend the workshop. Those who attend will receive

a free ticket to the evening banquet (a \$25 value). Please contact Bill Pielsticker by phone or e-mail to reserve space in the workshop.

Casting instructor training

Along with the State Council meeting, WITU will also be hosting another DNR casting instructor clinic (see story on p. 16).

In the late afternoon and up until dinner, Daryl Toliver of 3M Scientific Anglers will provide casting demonstrations and hands-on trials of Scientific Anglers' products.

Banquet preliminaries begin at 5 p.m. with cocktails and the viewing of auction items. Featured items this year include a beautiful, custom bamboo fly rod courtesy of Scott Grady, a solid oak H. Gerstner &

Sons fly tying cabinet, and a full suite of handsome articles including fly rods, flies, artwork, and hosted fishing trips.

The auction proceeds are the major source of funding for State Council operations and cost-sharing for major projects.

Banquet tickets are \$25, payable at the door. Please reserve your banquet ticket by Jan. 22. Call or e-mail Bill Pielsticker at (608) 592-4718 or Larry Meicher at (920) 992-6612 to reserve a ticket and be entered in the early bird raffle for a chance to win \$25, \$50, or \$100.

To reserve a room at a special rate, make your room reservations by Jan. 17 by calling the Holiday Inn at (715) 344-0200.

Friends, Wild Rivers contribute TU and LCO tackle habitat project on Grindstone Cr.

The Friends of Wisconsin TU and the Wild Rivers Chapter joined forces recently to address habitat degradation on portions of Grindstone Creek on the Lac Courte Oreilles (LCO) Reservation in Sawyer County.

Some of the stream runs through state land, and some is on reservation land. The entire stream is open to public angling.

Paul Christel, fisheries biologist for the LCO Tribal Conservation Dept., attended a meeting of the Wild Rivers Chapter of TU on April 26, 2006, to discuss problems with Grindstone Creek, one of the trout streams on the LCO Reservation.

Siltation, temperature elevation, lowered dissolved oxygen levels, and habitat fragmentation and degradation were identified as ongoing issues. All these issues resulted from an overabundance of beavers on the stream.

Christel laid out a plan involving beaver dam removal, trapping, and shoreline restoration to get the creek back on track.

Possible funding support from TU was discussed. The Wild Rivers Chapter approved a \$2,000 contribution to the project.

A request was also made to the Friends of WITU program for an additional \$2,000. This funding was also approved and made available in October.

"I am extremely grateful for the support the Wild Rivers Chapter of Trout Unlimited and the Trout Unlimited Friends have shown for this project," said Christel. "The stream was extremely fragmented and silted up. Waiting to start this work would not have been a good idea. Reproduction was nil and the population of brook trout was down to a remnant one. Your support allowed us to get started right away."

Christel noted that he was also able to "buddy up" the funds TU provided with funding provided by

the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) for the purchase of explosives.

Here is what LCO Conservation has been able to accomplish so far on Grindstone Creek:

- opened up 11 beaver dams by explosive means,
- removed/opened another 12 dams by hand,
- planted 400 DNR-donated pine trees along the creek to lower the appeal of the area to beavers in the long run,
- set up targeted beaver trapping,
- did some baseline water quality readings,

- worked with the township to upgrade a culvert for easier fish passage,
- set up another fish friendly culvert replacement with the Sawyer County Land and Wa-

ter Conservation Dept. for next year, and

- transferred 93 brook trout from young-of-the-year size up to 10-inch size into Grindstone Creek on October 25.

Plans for spring include planting more trees, reopening any dams that were rebuilt, and getting the other culvert in.

The system is flushing out the sediment that has been accumulating for decades, but that will take some time. As that process goes on, we will continue to observe changes in habitat availability and consider what, if any, in-stream structure work will be required.

Siltation, temperature elevation, lowered dissolved oxygen levels, and habitat degradation were identified as ongoing issues.



BUSY BEAVERS

Beaver dams severely degraded Grindstone Creek in Sawyer County. Removing them restored healthy riparian flow to the stream.

Chicago venue added to Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo

After three successful years in Minneapolis, *Midwest Fly Fishing* magazine is hosting its first show in Chicago this winter.

"Both expos will showcase our commitment to Trout Unlimited and its new restoration agenda in the Midwest and our desire to bring to both Chicago and Minneapolis audiences a chance to experience the best of fly fishing in one of the world's truly remarkable and diverse fly fishing regions," says *Midwest Fly Fishing* editor and publisher Tom Helgeson.

The Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo in Chicago will be Feb.16-18 at the Westin Chicago Northwest Hotel in Itasca, IL.

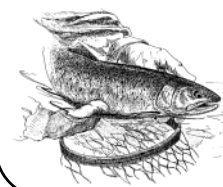
The fourth annual Great Waters Expo in Minneapolis will be March 30 thru April 1 at the Sheraton Bloomington Hotel.

"The Great Waters expos are the first major fly fishing shows anywhere to encourage a connection between the sport of fly fishing and environmental stewardship and conservation," says Helgeson. "Our fundamental philosophy is that it is no longer enough simply to be an angler. One must adopt an active conservation ethic to preserve and protect our fly fishing waters."

Both shows will have programs on the health of the Great Lakes, updates on the TUDARE restoration effort, and an evaluation of smallmouth bass opportunities and habitat by members of The Smallmouth Alliance.

For more on both Great Waters Fly Fishing expos, go to www.greatwaters2007.com or e-mail to mwfly@mwfly.com.

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Chapter News



Arlan Hilgendorf

HEFTY TIMBERS FOR HEFTY CREEK

Blackhawk TU members put their expertise building lunger structures to work on Hefty Creek near New Glarus in Green County this summer.

Aldo Leopold Chapter

We are honored to report that we received \$2,000 from **Friends of Wisconsin TU** for our **Lodi Spring Creek** project. This puts us over the \$14,000 mark for our project. We've applied for a number of other grants as well. As of this writing, we haven't heard back on them. The project is moving ahead, with a scheduled start in early 2007.

On September 23 ALCTU board members **John Doucette**, **Bill Gatzke**, **Eric Lorenzen**, and **Kevin Searock** joined the **Friends of Scenic Lodi Valley** for "Brats on the Bridge," a brat fry fund-raiser to assist the trout habitat improvement

project planned for the **East Branch of Lodi Spring Creek**. Brats and hot dogs were sold from 8:30-2 p.m., and many citizens of Lodi and the surrounding area stopped in to "eat a brat and save a trout." A map of the East Branch restoration plan was on display, and flyers explaining the project were distributed.

Kevin Searock gave two fishing demonstrations that day on the section of Lodi Spring Creek just upstream from the Main Street bridge. Fishing Panther Martin spinners, Kevin was able to catch several wild brown trout from this urban section of the stream, which attracted quite

a crowd of onlookers. Kevin's best trout was a fat 14-incher! This event netted about \$300 for our restoration project on Lodi Spring Creek.

We will again be offering our fly tying class beginning Jan. 24. Classes will meet Wednesday evenings from 6-8 p.m. at **Portage High School**, 301 E. Collins St., Portage. The class will be geared toward beginners, but all fly tyers are welcome to attend.

Our November chapter meeting saw **Jeff Hastings**, TUDARE project manager, present an overview of the project. It was a highly informative presentation that showed the incredible potential for improving trout and other species' habitat in the **Driftless Area**. I was particularly intrigued by the snake hibernaculum they built on one project. While not a big fan of snakes, it is great to see that TU can help improve the whole ecology of a stream, and not just that benefiting the trout therein.

We have some great programs planned for spring! Our January 17 chapter meeting will be 7 p.m. at the **Log Cabin Restaurant**, 1215 8th St. (Hwy 33) in Baraboo. **Kevin Searock**, outdoor writer and photographer, will present "Through an Angler's Eye."

Kevin's last presentation on trout fishing in England was fantastic. This time he turns our attention to what and how we "see" when fishing.

We will return to the Log Cabin at 7 p.m. on February 21 for noted Wisconsin author **Rich Osthoff**. Rich will present "Active Nymphing," a companion program to his book of the same name. Come find out how and why you should "move" your nymph from a trout fishing master. Rich also authored "No Hatch To Match," which has many insights on fishing productively between hatches. All in all, this should be a very informative evening.

For our March program we hope to have a presentation from **Matt Wagner**, proprietor of the soon-to-open **Driftless Angler** fly shop in **Viroqua**. We are still working out the final time and date.

The **Log Cabin** will host us again on April 18 for a program by professional photographer **Steve Gassman** entitled "Visions of Earth." One of the reasons we in TU trout fish is because "trout don't live in ugly places." Steve's combination of images and music highlight such places, reminding us that it isn't all about the fish.

—Mike Barniskis

Antigo Chapter

Our last banquet in March 2006 was very well attended, netting the chapter \$16,200 in profits.

Our annual kid's fishing day was held the first Saturday of June. Some 425 kids showed up to try their luck in the fishing tank. There were door prizes for all, including boys and girls bikes. Local WDNR personal manned the casting contest, and there were hamburgers

and hot dogs for all. It was a great day.

Our chapter paid for fuel for dredging at **Polar Springs** last summer. We have also done in-stream project work on the **Middle Branch of the Embarrass River** including brush bundling and stream contouring with boulder placement.

This year we also finished an in-stream project on **Spring Brook** north of **Antigo**.

Our chapter is working with Wisconsin TU and other people on groundwater pumping in **Langlade County**. High-capacity wells for bottling groundwater are the next great threat to our Wisconsin coldwater resource.

Our next banquet will be held the last Saturday in March 2007.

—Scott Henricks

Blackhawk Chapter

The election of officers took place at the November meeting. New officers are:

President — **Dave Patrick**
Vice Pres. — **Dick Alfors**
Secretary — **Arlan Hilgendorf**
Treasurer — **Don Studd**

In addition, our new **Membership Chairman** is **Fred Young**. Spring banquet positions include **Chairman Dick Alfors**, **Assist. Chair Dan Boggs**, and **Ticket Sales Chair Terry Vaughn**.

The **Spring Banquet** has been tentatively set for April 30. The details of time and location are to be worked out. The menu will be very similar to what was presented the last two years. We welcome all contributions by members and the business community. All proceeds go toward stream work on trout streams.

Our fly tying classes will begin Jan. 3 for beginners and members who just want to come in and tie and "shoot the breeze." A second class for intermediate tyers will start on Jan. 4. The class will meet for a minimum of six weeks and costs \$10.



Bob Huse

BRUSH BUNDLING ON THE WHITE RIVER

Central Wisconsin TU logged 463 hours of work on area streams last summer. Brush bundles are effective at reducing silt on many central Wisconsin streams. Here CWTU members (l to r) **Rich Mlodzik**, **Gary Herlache**, and **Tracy Moran** install a brush bundle on the White River near Wautoma in Waushara County.

Chapter News



The Blackhawk Chapter contributed money and labor this past year on the following streams — **North Fork of Bad Axe, Willow Cr., Kent Cr., Blue River, Hefty Cr., Little S. Br. of the Sugar River, Sugar Cr., Plum Cr., Burns Cr., and Elk Cr.**

This coming year there are several projects we are considering, including possible work on **Hornsby**

Cr., Hefty Cr., Little So. Branch of the Sugar River, Elk Cr., Van Sleek Cr., and the West Fork of the Kickapoo.

We put the names of our members who worked on stream projects in a hat and drew for a winner. **Bob Rundle** was the winner of an Orvis mid-arbor Battenkill reel.

—Arlan Hilgendorf

Central Wisconsin Chapter

During the last few years we have concentrated a lot of our time on building our chapter, which included the processes of evaluation, planning, organization, goal setting, and increasing our membership. The result of this was an increase in activities, which included things such as a Master's Tying Program, Casting Clinic, Trout Outing, Trout Fest, Water Monitoring Program, and a great monthly program schedule of speakers.

All these activities were in addition to our annual Trout School, Annual Banquet, and our stream work days. Our past presidents **Bob Chamberlain** and **John Gremmer**, along with the board of directors and the help of so many of our members, made this all possible.

All of the above activities are very important because they build the foundation for a strong chapter. They provide a variety of opportunities for the membership which includes activities for those just getting started in trout fishing and fly fishing to those who are very experienced and want a new challenge. They provide opportunities for members to meet new friends, share information, and learn new techniques. I would like to thank everyone who had a part in building our chapter and working on all the activities. I say "working" on all the activities, yet most of us had a great deal of "fun" doing these things.

We do not have programs with speakers at our meetings during the months of June, July, and August. We do, however, have our monthly board meetings. For the last two summers these meetings have been hosted by and held at the residence of one of our members, with a different person or persons volunteering to host the meeting each month. These meetings provide a relaxed atmosphere that allows us to get better acquainted and yet accomplish a lot of things that may not have been accomplished in the conventional business setting. Did I mention the great food? I would like to thank those who volunteered to host these summer meetings — **Bob Stemper** and his wife, **Jerry and Pat Strom** with **Dan and Judy Harman III**, and **Bob and Mary Haase**.

This last summer we spent a lot of time talking about and planning for an increased effort in our stream maintenance and restoration work. There is that word "work" again. We have a major challenge facing us. We are blessed with 56 trout streams that total 254 miles in our five-county area. The good news is that we have a lot of public access on these streams. The bad news is that most of these streams are in need of some form of maintenance or restoration work.

Our chapter and the DNR usually accomplishes maintenance or restoration work on one to three miles per year. If we took away the marginal quality stream areas and the area for which we have no public ac-

cess or work access, we would still have about 120 miles of stream to work on. This means that we would be able to work on each three-mile section of a stream once every 40 years.

If we only complete, at the most, about three miles of stream per year, it would make sense that we prioritize our efforts to make sure that the work we do gives us the biggest "bang for the buck!" We need to complete a comprehensive inventory of the streams in our area with information such as a physical description, average depth and width, average temperature, flow rate, dissolved oxygen level, stream bed composition, macro-invertebrates present, aquatic vegetation, in-stream habitat, condition of the streambanks and land approximately 30 feet back on each side, and more.

We should have good mapping with GPS points and digital photographs showing areas needing maintenance or major restoration work. If we have a comprehensive inventory of our streams, it may help us do a better job of planning and prioritizing what needs to be done now and in the future. Our chapter has made stream maintenance and restoration our major initiative, and this would not be possible without the work we have done to build our chapter. Our chapter has always been active in stream maintenance and restoration, but we need to do more. We need to partner with other chapters, clubs, schools, and organizations so we can increase the quantity and maintain the quality of the work we do. We also need to find new ways to make this work fun and educational so that we don't burn ourselves out. And we need to encourage more of our members to participate.

I would like to thank **Jim Humphrey**, our stream maintenance and restoration chair, and all the people who helped this last year. We contributed a total of 463 hours of volunteer labor working on our streams.

Earl Schmoll, the director of the **About Face Program** from **Rawhide Boys Ranch**, volunteered his help and that of his students to work on **Lawrence Creek** this year. They did a great, and we look forward to working with them again next year.

Rick Buser and his students from **Fox Valley Technical College** also provided help working on a number of stream projects this year. They also did a great job, and we look forward to working with them next year as well.

I would also like to thank **Dick Pollock**, our **Water Action Volunteer Chair**, and all the members who volunteered a total of 922 hours of labor and training time to monitor area streams this year. We participated in the **DNR Upper Level Monitoring** as well as the **Advanced Biotic Index Training**. The information gathered will help provide a



ABOUT FACE...ENTER STREAM

Central Wisconsin TU has been introducing young men in the About Face program at the Rawhide Boys Ranch in New London to stream improvement. Rawhide counselor Nathaniel Melpon (left) hands filled sandbags to several boys and About Face Director Earl Schmoll (3rd from left).

CWTU introducing Rawhide boys to trout stream improvement

By Bob Haase

The Central Wisconsin Chapter has been introducing young men enrolled in the About Face program at Rawhide Boys Ranch in New London to the art and science of stream improvement.

Recent work has focused on Lawrence Creek near Westfield under the supervision of area fish manager Dave Bartz and his crew.

The boys recently camped out on the stream and worked for three days until a stretch of the project was completed.

CWTU members helped by making dinner for the crew each day, providing a demonstration on stream monitoring, and explaining the importance of the work the crew was performing.

The Rawhide boys did an outstanding job filling and placing sandbags to close off braids in Lawrence Creek to re-direct current in the right direction.

Rawhide's About Face program is an excellent program, and you can support it and central Wisconsin trout streams at the same time by supporting Rawhide. For more information, visit www.rawhide.org.

baseline for the quality of our streams. We also need to thank **Mike Miller** and **Kris Stepenuck** from the DNR for their help in making this all possible.

Our annual banquet was held October 12, and it was a great success. We need to thank our Banquet

Committee comprised of **Al Lee, David Seligman, Bob Rennock, Scott Grady, Ira Giese, Dan and Gail Colligan, and Bob Chamberlain**. Thanks also to all those who attended for helping make the banquet a huge success.

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READY FOR YOUR CAST

Blackhawk TU recently contributed \$4,000 toward habitat work on Plum Creek in Crawford County.



Chapter News



Mark Peerenboom

TROUT BUCKET BRIGADE

Fox Valley member Rich Erickson (right) hands a bucket full of wild-reared brown trout to FVTU President Jim Jenkin. Teams with canoes and floating fish baskets cover the Waupaca River every fall from bridge to bridge, scattering some trout as they go. This year some 20,000 trout were planted.

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I would also like to thank all of our sponsors and members who contributed items for raffles and auction.

John Gremmer has done an outstanding job with our **Master's Tying Program** that he has been running for the last few years. We know how good this program is because it is already filled to its capacity of 25 for this year's program that begins Jan. 18.

John Gremmer along with program committee members **Bob Smaglik**, **Bob Stelzer**, and **E.R. Waskawic** put together a great program schedule for this year. Some of the topics for this year's programs include Pike Fishing Alaska Style, Increasing Angler Success, Emmons Creek Ecosystem, Alaska on the Cheap, and Exotic Birds and Fly Tying Feathers.

Fox Valley Technical College in collaboration with CWTU is offering a class entitled "**Introduction to Fly Fishing and Fly Tying**" starting Jan. 16 from 6-9 p.m. at **Winneconne High School**. **John Gremmer** is the instructor, and you can get more information by e-mailing John at jgremmer@charter.net, or you can check out his web site at <http://web/mac.com/jgremmer>.

Scott Grady, our treasurer and master rod builder, is also teaching a class at Fox Valley Technical Col-

lege in collaboration with CWTU on bamboo fly rod making (*see separate story in this issue*). The class will cover all aspects of building bamboo rods from cane splitting to casting.

I would also like to thank another one of our members, **Alistair Stewart** from Chicago, for his contributions this last year. Alistair took the time to drive all the way from the Chicago area to help with our Trout Outing, our Trout School, and some stream workdays.

Alistair also attended one of our meetings and contributed to our banquet. When someone cares enough and makes that kind of effort, I think they should be recognized.

Our chapter is only as good as the members, and we have some great members. One of the problems in recognizing members who stepped up and helped is forgetting someone, and I hope that I have not forgotten anyone. I hope that most of our members got a chance to hit the streams this last summer and enjoy some of the quality fishing we have here in Wisconsin. It seems to get better every year because of organizations like TU and the members who volunteer their time to make things better. I would like to thank everyone for giving of their time and talents and wish everyone a great holiday season.

—*Bob Haase*

Fox Valley Chapter

The Fox Valley Chapter has finished the fall season of activities,

and we are now starting the winter schedule and planning for spring.

Our fall activities included our last habitat workday on Sept. 9 and the fall planting on Oct. 7. Using canoes and wire-screened boxes to hold trout fingerlings, we scatter-planted almost 20,000 trout in the **Waupaca River**. When the work was completed we had a great picnic meal that included a wild rice dish prepared by **Bob Kinderman**. Bob's recipe is in our November newsletter which can be found on our web site at www.foxvalleytu.org.

The October meeting was a presentation on digital photography by **John Gremmer** from the **Central Chapter**. He had an excellent presentation and some very interesting photos which included some taken with the camera in the water — those shots really impressed his audience.

The November meeting had **Al Gosha** and **Greg Swanson** giving demonstrations on tying various flies.

December meeting was a presentation by **Damian Wilmot** dealing with the fishing opportunities on the **Bois Brule**.

Our January meeting is a special presentation by the students in the **Culinary Arts** program at **Fox Valley Technical College**. They will be

demonstrating a number of ways to fix and prepare a variety of seafood. Check the December newsletter on the web site if you are interested.

Planning and preparation for our fund-raiser is in full swing now. On March 24 we will be holding our sixth annual **Cabin Fever Day** event. We will have many bucket raffle items, silent auction items, and a \$500 single item raffle. Our main speaker for the day is the fly fishing and casting legend **Lefty Kreh**. The event will run from 10-4:30 p.m., and a banquet with Lefty Kreh will follow at 6:30. The daytime program entry fee is \$10, and the banquet fee is \$35 with pre-registration required for the banquet. The venue for the event this year will be the **Grand Meridian** on North Oneida St. in Appleton.

The frozen creeks and rivers and the anticipated snow have most of us thinking of Christmas, the holidays, and the time we will be spending with family and friends. Take time to participate in the many great outdoor activities our state has to offer during the winter season. In the words of our chapter treasurer, take time to enjoy what He has given us.

—*Rich Erickson*

Frank Hornberg Chapter

Inclement weather precluded a good turnout for the planned Sept. 14 work evening at **Stedman Creek**. However, those who attended the event learned that the **Worth Company** of Stevens Point, a preeminent maker of beads for bead-head nymphs, has become a Chapter Corporate Sponsor. A heartfelt "thank you" is extended to **Dave Worth**, president and CEO of the Worth Company, and also to **Bob Juracka** who was responsible for obtaining this important source of funding for our stream improvement efforts.

On a halcyon Sept. 11 (note the poignancy of the date), we were privileged to receive a visit from **Owen Owens**, **Rod Horton**, and **Frank Donohoe** of the **Valley Forge Chapter of Pennsylvania TU**. They had heard about our hands-on stream enhancement efforts here in central Wisconsin, and were desirous of seeing the results firsthand. **Mike Mather** and **Stu Grimstad** from our chapter, together with **Bob Hunt**, showed the visitors our work on a section of the **Middle Tomorrow River**. The Pennsylvanians seemed pleased with what they saw and may decide to incorporate some of our strategies and tools in their own stream improvement efforts.

Sept. 23 was our final work event of the year. It was held on the **Upper Tomorrow River** off **Rolling Hills Road**. The weather was beautiful and nine members participated in

installing the last of three brush mats. In spite of a balky jet pump and serious in-stream cobble, tie off posts were installed before lunch. The DNR donated some retired Christmas trees which were included in the brushmat. Mid-morning, we received a like-new, 12-foot jon boat, graciously donated by **John Morser**. The hungry crew dined on the luncheon entrée of sesame chicken and special recipe baked beans.

After lunch, the last of the Christmas trees were knit into a brushmat and were augmented by cut streamside tag alders. Streamside logs were placed on the brushmat to compact it, and it was all tied off with twine.

On Oct. 21, some 13 FHC faithful got together for an unofficial workday. While we brought in a couple of loads of rocks for next year's stream work, the principal purpose of the event was to socialize and celebrate this year's stream enhancement efforts. Homemade vegetable soup and **Paul Peck's** peerless barbecued smoked pulled pork provided a delicious streamside feast that was enjoyed by all. A roaring bonfire also helped make up for the cold weather. It is gatherings such as these that provide ample payment for all our labors doing the work year!

—*Dan Holland*

Green Bay Chapter

The **Green Bay Chapter** recently wrapped up its most productive year ever as far as man-hours spent in and along streams performing habitat improvement work. We had a total of seven projects — one day of rock throwing, two days of brush bundling, three days repairing a fence along a trout stream, and another day fin clipping trout destined for the **Wild Trout Stocking** program.

Chapter members also staged our annual **Kid's Fishing Day** and visited sites where **Jerry Giese** is

trapping beaver on behalf of the chapter.

Unfortunately, one project — collecting brood stock for the Wild Trout Stocking program — was cancelled due to staffing problems within the DNR. The nine events which were held resulted in a total of **127** member days and **826** man-hours of volunteer time which made a tremendous impact on our environmental efforts.

It is also worthy of note that our chapter contributed well over \$25,000 in 2006 toward such en-

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deavors as habitat improvement, scholarships, trout stocking, and beaver trapping. Special recognition goes to **Pat Hill** and **Paul Kruse** for their attendance at these events. Additionally, **Tom Hermann** spent many hours preparing, mailing, and tabulating the answers to the candidate survey appearing in the last issue of *Wisconsin Trout*.

On December 9 the chapter staged its annual Christmas dinner meeting at the **Sport's Corner Bar** in De Pere. Members and guests enjoyed some fine companionship, a great meal, and wonderful entertainment by a comedy troupe. As always, the highlight of the evening was the presenting of various awards to those who have been instrumental in the success of the chapter.

The prestigious **Member of the Year** award was presented to **Janet Smith**. During the past year, Janet has continued her many years of service on the board of directors, helping that body chart the course of the chapter. She has also served as work project chairperson, planning our projects in conjunction with the DNR and the US Forest Service and preparing the meal for many of the projects. She also is a member of the banquet committee, spending many hours preparing for the chapter's only fund-raising event. Janet is also chairing a committee charged with selecting a body of water for the chapter to focus its habitat improvement efforts on over

the next several years. Congratulations to Janet Smith, the 2006 Green Bay Chapter Member of the Year.

Congratulations also go out to the following who received awards in the various categories for aiding in the chapter fund-raising banquet. The **Banquet Gold Sponsorship** in the individual category was presented to **Hank Mencheski, Roger Denil, and Larry Mommaerts**. This award recognizes many years of financial support for the banquet. The **Banquet Gold Sponsorship** in the artist category was given to **Bill Doyle** for many years of donating his paintings to the banquet. The **Banquet Gold Sponsorship Award** in the business category was presented to **Bob Garfinkel**, owner of **Bob's Bait and Tackle** in Green Bay. Bob, who recently retired, has been a major contributor to our banquet for many years. The final award presented was the **Unsung Hero Award** which recognizes a person whose efforts behind the scenes is exemplary. **Kim Vanden Branden** earned the award for many years of work collecting payments at the banquet.

Finally, the Banquet 07 Committee is busy preparing for the March 29, 2007, affair to be held at the **Stadium View Banquet Hall in Green Bay**. We are planning to have another outstanding event as we raise funds to continue our work on behalf of trout and our coldwater resources.

—Gary Stoychoff



Gary Stoychoff

GALS RULE IN GREEN BAY

Former Green Bay TU Chapter President Janet Smith (above) was named 2006 Chapter Member of the Year at GBTU's Christmas dinner in December. Kim Vanden Branden (right) was honored as the chapter's Most Unsung Hero for her years of work at the chapter's annual banquet.



Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter

We are already hard at work developing stream restoration project plans and writing grant requests for 2007. We are doing work on two streams.

On the **Blue River**, we are working on the **Sime and Carpenter** properties just below **Bluff Road**.

The other work is on **Big Spring** just below our previous work on the WDNR property. Total stream footage will be about 6,400 feet.

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 cold-water resources.

We are very pleased to announce that we received one of the **Partner Awards** from the **WDNR** at this year's statewide banquet last November (see the story elsewhere in this issue).

At our members meeting on January 16, we will have a report from our summer interns on their stream monitoring work.

—Brian Larson

Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter

Kiap-TU-Wish had a productive year of projects. Work was done on the **South Fork of the Kinnickinnic River, Gilbert Creek, and Rush River** in Martel. Work on the Rush River was with the **Laughing Trout Fly Fishing Club** and the **Eau Galle Rush River Sportsmans Club**. All projects were with the **WDNR**.

On Dec. 7, Kiap-TU-Wish held its annual banquet and fund-raiser. Over 100 people attended the banquet. **Larry Mann** and **Wendy Williamson** from **Hayward Fly Fishing** gave an outstanding presentation on fly fishing the **Chippewa, Namekagon, and Flambeau rivers**. They gave an excellent talk, and you may want to keep them in mind for your own events.

The chapter awarded its Silver Trout Awards for outstanding contributions to conservation of cold-water streams and their watersheds to **Roger Widner** and chapter member **Kent Johnson**.

Roger's award was for his legendary work in southwestern Wisconsin and will be presented to his family at a later date.

Kent Johnson received his award for his 15 years on the board of di-

rectors, his work with the **River Falls City Council and Planning Commission**, and his dedication to the preservation of the **Kinnickinnic River**.

The Gold Trout Award for lifetime achievement was presented to **Ted Mackmiller**. Ted has been a member of the chapter since at least 1981 and has served on our board for the past six years. He is considered a dam (good) resource and monitor of the **New Richmond Dam** on the **Willow River**. Ted is a truly deserving recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award.

The banquet was attended by many Kiap members, members of **Twin Cities TU, Ojibseau Chapter, Laughing Trout Fly Fishing Club**, and by staff and contributors from **Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop, Sportsmans' Warehouse, Bentley's Outfitters**, and **Marty Engel** from the **DNR**.

Many others worked hard to make the banquet a success.

—Greg Dieltl

Lakeshore Chapter

Now that the summer months have passed, the Lakeshore Chapter has seen an increase in activity. We held an **Onion River** workday on Oct. 7. The day was devoted to repairing washouts on some of the structures and removing trees that had fallen into the stream. The use of two skidsters enabled us to move a lot of rock, and by the end of the day we had filled in behind many structures on a two-mile stretch of river. Club members participating in the workday were **Robert Athorp, Gerry Baumann, Larry Doebert, Mike McGill, Tom Mockert, John Nelson, Jeff Preiss, Bill Rogers, Wayne Trupke, and Ken Zimmermann**.

Club member and DNR fish manager **John Nelson** reported on fish shockings that his crew conducted on the **Onion River**. The survey found that the same stretch of river that had an average of 50 browns/mile in 1997 now has 501 browns/mile for a 10-fold increase. John also noted that there was an increase in the percentage of quality-sized fish.

John's crew also shocked a stretch of river on the **Kamrath** property. Here, there were mostly first-year trout, but they had a catch rate of 3,971 browns/mile. Clearly, this spawning creek is accomplishing its intended purpose. It sure is nice to have some positive feedback for our restoration efforts.

Chapter member **Dave Zerger** and his wife **Patti** have organized the Reel 'Em In Club at **Longfellow Elementary** school in Sheboygan where Patti teaches. The purpose of the club is to introduce students to

the joy of fishing and encourage them to become lifelong anglers and stewards of the resource. The club, which has about 70 members, meets after school every other Tuesday and teaches students about various aspects of fishing. Lakeshore TU members have helped out at three of their recent meetings. On Oct 17 a fishing outing was held on the **Sheboygan River**, and although the fishing wasn't great, the kids' casting skills were very good. November 7 found TU members teaching fly casting to the students on the schools' playground area. November 21 was devoted to learning about bugs in the rivers and having each student tie a fly. Watching the bugs move around in shallow containers really captured the students' attention. There were also a lot of beaming smiles when the kids completed tying their wooly worms.

Chapter members who helped out with these activities were **Bruce Balisterri, Roger Berg, Mike Hiebing, Rodney Johnson, Mike McGill, Tom Mockert, Jeff Preiss, Al Spindler, Wayne Trupke, Chuck Wolf** and **Dave Zerger**.

Tom Steinberg and **Chuck Wolf** represented the Lakeshore Chapter at the annual **Buck Fever Night** held at the **Club Bil-Mar**. Tom and Chuck tied flies that involved the use of deer hair. This is always a good event to promote our chapter to other sportsmen.

Gerry Bauman has reported that the **Trout and Salmon Foundation** has awarded our chapter a \$5,000 grant for continuing work on the **Onion River**.

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Chapter News



WATER MONITORS PROVIDING VALUABLE DATA

CWTU Vice President Dick Pollock tests a section of the White River near Wautoma for dissolved oxygen levels and temperature. Pollock chairs CWTU's Water Action Volunteer program and has inspired members to become local stream monitors. Besides participating in the state WAV program, CWTU is in the WDNR's pilot Upper Level Monitoring project and the Advanced Biotic Index program where members are trained to identify macro-invertebrates to the family level. CWTU had a total of 922 volunteer hours in stream monitoring and training in 2006.

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Roger Berg reported he has finished writing a grant to the **Sheboygan County Stewardship Fund** for funds for more work on the Onion River.

Our October and November meetings featured outstanding pre-

sentations by **Bob Arwine** and **John Gribb**. Bob's program was on fishing for **Pike on a Fly** and John's program **Fun With Foam** featured simple, effective terrestrial patterns. —*Wayne Trupke*

Northwoods Chapter

The chapter held elections this fall and drafted **Carole Linn** as its new president. Outgoing President **Brian Hegge** resigned to be vice president. **Terry Cummings** volunteered to be our treasurer, and **Josh Kunzman**, **Al Brooks**, and **Wayne Stevens** also volunteered to be board members.

At our Nov. 13 meeting representatives from the **WDNR** and **Forest Service** updated us on projects completed this year and discussed projects for 2007. **Mike Peczynski** from the Forest Service described how their crew completed the removal of many old structures on the **Deerskin River**. **David Brum** and **Mike Vogelsang** from the DNR provided an update on the stream habitat work performed on the **Brule/Elvoy Creek** system and potential projects for 2007. Chapter members were also very interested in upcoming changes in the DNR staffing in the northwoods with pending retirements and staff transfers.

The chapter authorized our representatives to fund various requests from the **Forest Service** and **DNR** at the **Northeast Region** meeting held Dec. 4 at the **Wild Wolf Inn** in Langlade.

WDNR funding requests included:

- replacement of a culvert in **Vilas County** on **Tamarack Creek** for \$2,000,
- **Elvoy Creek** channel restoration

project for \$500, and

- beaver control for the **Pine-Popple Wild Rivers**.

Requests for funding from the Forest Service included:

- a seasonal fisheries technician on **Shabodock Creek** for tag alder removal, brush bundle construction, and pool maintenance,
- **Swanson Creek** brush bundling and log cover structures,
- **Cherry Creek** tag alder removal, and
- **McCaslin Brook** selective tag alder removal.

The Forest Service also requested funding for a two-person summer fish habitat crew and beaver control. These requests amounted to approximately \$7,000 in committed funding from the Northwoods Chapter.

Our annual Christmas party was held December 11 at the **Rhineland Café and Pub**. The evening was filled with good food and good friends and, of course, a lively exchange of fish stories.

Our next meeting will be January 8 at our new meeting location, the **Rhineland Airport**. At that meeting our guest speaker will be **Terry Cummings** who will highlight his fishing experiences in **Kamchatka, Russia**. It promises to be an interesting and exciting presentation. And finally, banquet planning has begun for our annual banquet to be held on Tuesday, April 3, at the

Rhineland Café and Pub. Mark your calendars.

—*Carole Linn*

Oconto River Chapter

The Oconto River Watershed Chapter recently elected the following new officers:

Dan Sunnicht — President,
Annie Stanski — Vice President,
Jim Trochta — Secretary, and
Dave McMahon — Treasurer.

The Golden Trout award went to **Arnie Derks**, a long-term reliable workhorse volunteer. The coveted "best lunch maker" award went to **Dennis Hagman** for his smoked trout. We had our annual "northern eradication day" on the river, followed by a very tasty northern fry. When you look at us, it is apparent we are big on good lunch.

The chapter continues to raise over 20,000 trout per year in our hatchery. The stock is shocked out of the **Oconto River**, thus our brookies and brownies are well adapted to local waters. We funded installation and operation of weirs in the Oconto at the river bifurcation by Suring for the coming spring with a view toward more river knowledge on annual migrations as well as assessing returns on our 10-year-old fish stocking program. Fish in the Oconto with a clipped adipose fin have our fingerprints on them, and we would like an e-mail from those who catch them for follow-up.

The chapter has always enjoyed the social mission. Our hatchery has supported our fishing tank on wheels, a large recycled cheese vat. We go to **Oconto County Fair**, the local July 4th celebrations, **Copperfest**, local nursing homes, and points in between. Handicapped fishing days for the local developmentally delayed workshop employees is fun for all, and we grow some large "golden trout" rainbow variants that are spectacular and well received.

We partner with the local schools and support **Connie Scharenbrock's** program of water quality monitoring for her biology class at **Gillett High School**. The students work with us on river cleanup projects, and we sponsor them for conservation camps. Connie has been so successful with this that she is now on the state TU Water Resources Committee as an educational mentor for biology teachers of environmental classes.

We look forward to hearing from those of you who catch one of our clipped trout on the Oconto. A 28-inch brown was electrofished from the Oconto six weeks ago, and after a genetic donation, it went back into the river in case you might be interested.

—*Bob Obama*

Ocooch Creeks Chapter

Work continues on project planning for the 2007 restoration season. **Dick Peters** has been coordinating efforts of the **Lee Wulff Chapter** of TU and the **Vernon County Land Conservation Department** to restore the **Baker** property on **Elk Creek**. In addition, work is also being planned to restore the brook trout population on **Teeny Creek**, a tributary of **Elk Creek**.

Dick has also been working diligently with land owners and the **Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter** to restore a large section of stream on **Camp Creek**. Camp Creek was severely impacted by the Viola tornado in the summer of 2005.

In October, our chapter was awarded the **Richland County Conservation Partner Award** by the **Richland County Land Conservation Dept.** (see story elsewhere in this issue). State Senator **Dale Schultz** and State Representative **Cheryl Al-**

bers were on hand to make the presentation. This award was in recognition of the support we have provided **Richland County Land Conservation Dept.** for their work on **Ash Creek**, **Elk Creek**, and the two recently completed projects on **Willow Creek**. In turn, our chapter feels very fortunate to have an excellent working relationship with **Ken Anderson**, **Cathy Cooper**, and other staff of the department.

At the most recent chapter meeting, an election of officers was conducted with these results:

Allon Bostwick — President,
Kim James — Vice Pres., and
Steve Nockerts — Sec.-Treas.

The chapter is indebted to the **Spring Creek Partners** for their fund-raising efforts that will support the restoration projects discussed above.

—*Allon Bostwick*

Ojibseau Chapter

Our fourth season of work on **Gilbert Creek** work was completed in September (see story elsewhere in this issue). Two more years of work are funded. The next 16,000 feet of restoration will be the major responsibility of the **Dunn County Fish and Game Association**. They have been a major partner for the past four years, providing many volunteer hours, money, and great after-work meals.

The chapter conducted a Fly Fishing Merit Badge program as part of a **Boy Scout** merit badge clinic on Saturday, October 7. **Dave Blysmas**, **Dave Vollmer**, and **Dennis Vanden Bloomen** taught knot tying, safety, casting, fly tying, trout regulations, equipment, and conservation. The on-water requirements — to catch two species of fish, cook

one, and release the other — will be taught the first Saturday in June in **Carson Park**, Eau Claire. This is the second season the chapter has taught the fly fishing merit badge. Scouts attending this clinic were given a free one-year membership in the chapter.

The chapter applied for and was awarded a \$3,000 grant from **Xcel Energy**, the power generation company. This money will be used to buy rock for the **Elk Creek** project. The chapter will begin a 6- to 10-year restoration effort where the stream flows through **Chippewa, Dunn, and Eau Claire** counties. We are also applying for an **Embrace-A-Stream** grant for \$10,000 from TU National.

Fly tying classes will begin in January at **Gander Mountain** in Eau

Chapter News



Claire on five Thursday evenings. This class will be taught by **Jeff Bartynski** with assistance from **Tom Morgan** and **Willie Wilson**. A rod building class will also be taught by **Bill Pearson** on three Wednesday evenings in late January.

On Sat., Jan. 17, the chapter plans to descend on **Lake Como** in Bloomer in Chippewa County. The lake has an 'infestation' of northern pike that like to swim up **Duncan Creek** for trout snacks. Members will be ice fishing as part of this event co-sponsored by the **Bloomer Rod & Gun Club**.

Shaw-Paca Chapter

We once again signed up for membership in the **Kinnickinnic River Land Trust** and **The Northeastern Wisconsin Land Trust**. Both of these organizations work to preserve land along our waterways and lakes.

We are organizing supplies for our annual winter fly tying class. The location is the **Pella Town Hall** right near beautiful downtown Pella starting Tues., Jan. 23, from 7-9:30 p.m. There is no charge for this public service as the chapter provides all materials and instruction. Anyone

Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter

The Southeast Wisconsin Chapter has maintained its busy schedule over this past quarter. The chapter resumed its regular meetings in September at **The Thunder Bay Grille**, located just off the intersection of Hwy. 94 and Pewaukee Road, at N14 W24130 Tower Place, in Waukesha. All SEWTU members, and non-members alike, are invited to attend our monthly meetings which feature excellent speakers, food and beverages for all ages, and the opportunity to interact with other members and conservation stewards. A calendar of events is available at our web site at www.sewtu.org. Check it out, and plan on stopping by.

SEWTU's September all chapter meeting featured Chapter President **Rich Vetrano's** brother, **Dave Vetrano** of the **WDNR**. Dave spoke about stream restoration in Southwest Wisconsin and efforts in the Driftless Area. At this meeting, a special "thank you" raffle was held, with entry being limited to those who had participated in SEWTU's 2006 stream restoration workdays. The prize, a fly fishing rod and reel combination set, was won by regular volunteer **Dave Wunrow**.

SEWTU's featured speaker at its October meeting was **Tim Landwehr** of **Tight Lines Fly Shop**. Tim spoke about smallmouth bass fly fishing opportunities throughout northeastern and north central Wisconsin. For those interested in visiting his fly shop, it is located in De Pere. His web site is www.tightlines-flyshop.com.

November's featured speaker was **Pat Ehlers** of **The Fly Fishers**, who has been a consistent contributor to SEWTU. Pat provided an excellent presentation concerning northern pike fly fishing opportunities in Alaska. Pat's fly shop, it is located on Greenfield Avenue in Milwaukee. His web site is www.theflyfishers.com.

Over the past quarter, SEWTU has engaged in in-stream restoration work. On September 16, SEWTU returned to **Genesee Creek**, the

A January 26 field trip to Park Falls is planned. The trip will include a manufacturing tour of the **St. Croix Rod Company** followed by a visit to the "seconds" store.

The chapter is planning a Kids Fishing evening at part of the **Eau Claire Deer Classic**. Feb. 2 will see many kids attending the Deer Classic. Thousands of people attend this weekend event at the **Eau Claire Sports Center**. We will teach kids basic casting skills using Zebco 33s, do a knot tying skills session, and have a fly tying demonstration.

—*Dennis Vanden Bloomen*

over the age of 14 is welcome. The other dates (all Tuesdays) include Jan 30, Feb. 6, 13, and 27, and March 6.

Our next regular meeting will be on February 20.

At the Northeastern Regional meeting on Dec. 2 we pledged support for various projects in that area.

Our annual fund-raising banquet will be held on Thursday, March 29, at the **Northwinds Banquet Hall** in Marion.

—*Lee Kersten*

site of our prior dam removal project. Under the leadership of project head and SEWTU Vice President **Dan Asmus**, volunteers coordinated with **Carroll College** students and staff under the direction of professors **Jason Freund** and **Susan Lewis** to join **Chuck Pape** and **Maureen McBroom** of the **WDNR** to remove remnant construction felt (from the prior roller mill dam removal process), and woody and other debris which was slowing streamflow. The effects of the dam removal at the site have been stunning, and the river is quickening, deepening, and removing decades of accumulated silt. Further workdays are planned as part of an **Environmental Quality Improvement Program ("EQIP")** grant which has been awarded the project. In December, SEWTU held our annual **Holiday Party** in place of a regular meeting at **The Thunder Bay Grille**. As always, the Holiday Party will be an chance to reflect on SEWTU's 2006 achievements and share some stories. The party also featured a traditional (although non-mandatory) gift exchange.

On October 14, SEWTU began work on an exciting and entirely new project at the **Nichols Creek Wildlife Area** outside of **Cascade**. This workday, championed by SEWTU political liaison **John Knitter** in connection with **John Nelson** of the **WDNR**, involved removing encroaching vegetation and foliage to open up the stream corridor. SEWTU volunteers cut and removed massive amounts of timber. SEWTU hopes to continue working with Nelson on other stream restoration efforts in 2007, notably in certain stretches of Nichols where channelization has occurred, and fish passage is impeded, possibly including the installation of fish habitat structures.

On **October 21**, SEWTU held its **Second Annual Salmon Outing** on the **Milwaukee River**. Meeting at Milwaukee's **Estabrook Park**, 15-20 members journeyed in the river and even managed to catch a few salm-



SEWTU ON BLUFF CREEK

Some hardy SEWTU and WDNR volunteers attended a workday on Bluff Creek last November, including (l to r) SEWTU members M. Scott Connor, Bob Pelowski, Henry Koltz, Dennis Rogers, and Craig Heim, plus WDNR Fisheries Biologists Douglas Welch and Rick Dauffenbach.

on. The outing was a great opportunity for experienced salmon and river-run anglers to share their knowledge with beginners, and was a great way to enjoy the fruits of our restoration and stewardship efforts.

On **November 1**, SEWTU volunteers returned to **Bluff Creek**, which was the site of a previous SEWTU-led restoration project. We worked with **DNR** fishery biologists **Douglas Welch** and **Rich Dauffenbach** and, under a manual code labor permit, focused on an obstruction that had been created just downstream of the Hwy. P overpass. This work followed a previous joint meeting which was attended by the **Walworth Co. Transportation Dept.**, **DNR**, **SEWTU**, and a retired member of the **UW-Whitewater Biology Dept.** At that meeting, it was determined that a rock pile/telephone pole logjam downstream of the overpass had caused upstream channelization and sedimentation. SEWTU volunteers removed the obstruction and freed Bluff Creek's waters. The impact upon the creek was immediate, with water levels dropping upstream as far as could be seen, and sediment being visibly removed from upstream stretches. Further workdays are planned here in early 2007.

Finally, from a stream restoration standpoint, SEWTU has continued its efforts to be involved in a 2007 **TUDARE** project. In December SEWTU filed an application seeking TU National **Embrace-A-Stream** grant funding for a joint partner project with the **Ocooch Creeks Chapter** on **Camp Creek** at the **Smith** property. If funded, this project will restore some 1.9 miles of stream, including stream bank stabilization, fish structure installation, and riparian restoration.

SEWTU has been active outside of its restoration activities as well. In October, SEWTU signed and stood alongside the WI League of Conservation Voters, urging against the diversion of Great Lakes' water, against accepting other states' garbage, and supporting better manure runoff and containment controls. Political liaison **John Knitter** and board member **Herb Oechler** took part in candidate forums to espouse

SEWTU's commitment to coldwater resources.

SEWTU is likewise gearing up for its annual involvement at the **Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Sports Show**. Led by Sports Show Coordinator **John Gosz**, SEWTU will again raffie off a handmade, cedar strip canoe. Funding for the canoe's purchase is again graciously being provided by longtime member and consistent supporter **Stan Strelka** and **Professional Insurance Services**. Other prizes will include a fly fishing combination provided by **Laacke and Joys**, a shotgun combination from **Gander Mountain**, and a prize package from **Potawatomi Bingo and Casino**. SEWTU utilizes its Sports Show booth as both a fund-raiser and an educational opportunity, distributing information about SEWTU's projects, TU's mission, and spreading the word of coldwater conservation.

SEWTU has also placed several new members into leadership positions. The chapter's treasurer position has been filled by **Doug Dettmers**, and **Chris Weber** has become the Chapter's Education Coordinator. Chris will be constructing an education program, in order to increase youth exposure and involvement with SEWTU. Additionally, **Ivan Nohavica** has become a member of our board of directors.

Finally, SEWTU is proud to announce that it has made significant strides over the past year as a chapter. Some of SEWTU's accomplishments over the past year include involvement in eight different workdays on eight different rivers, involvement in the **TUDARE** program, the creation of a working political program, the creation of a working and maintained web site, a new meeting location with increased member attendance, a successful raffle event fund-raiser, the creation of a functioning e-mail communication system, and overall increased chapter participation.

As a result of these strides, SEWTU's Chapter Effectiveness Index score has improved dramatically. We're looking forward to continuing our success in 2007.

—*Henry Koltz*

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Chapter News

Southern Wisconsin Chapter

Continued from p. 15

While generally an irregular participant on these pages, that does not mean that Southern Wisconsin TU has been dormant. With some 680 members and an active board of directors, this ship is steadily on course.

Saturday, June 10, found the chapter involved in its Annual Special Needs Fishing Day. **John and Rose Sweiger** led some 20 member volunteers to **Jim Kalscheur's** trout ponds. SWTU receives support from **Oscar Mayer** and **Scott's Bakery** (eats), **Dorn Hardware** (bait), **Sun Prairie Lions Club** (participation trophies), and the **Mt. Horeb EMTs**. The **WDNR** furnished tackle through its Loan a Rod Program. Special thanks go to **Mark Rinerson** and **Bill Engber** for their Friday night efforts in setting up the terminal tackle and making sure the rods and reels were operational for our guests.

Since mid-April, SWTU has encouraged members to receive our fine monthly newsletter by e-mail. This has multiple benefits, primarily a significant savings realized by avoiding printing and mailing costs. About 70% of the membership is participating. Another benefit is having ready access to members to advise them of volunteer opportunities, outings, workdays, and the like on a more frequent basis than the monthly meetings and newsletter. The newsletter is also available at the SWTU web site. The "weblit" does not replace the paper newslet-

ter. Members wishing to have a hard copy can get one by paying an annual fee to cover the direct costs of printing and mailing. **Mark Maffit** will continue his able production of the very readable newsletter.

DNR's **Scott Stewart** says the **Token Creek** brook trout rehabilitation project is steadily progressing. While most of the activity has been at the headwaters, the lower reaches also support trout and warm water species. To gain an idea of the extent and diversity of this fishery, SWTU held its annual "On the Stream" outing and picnic at **Token Creek County Park** just north of Madison in July. DNR's **Kurt Welke** and his electrofishing crew demonstrated stream shocking and joined some 80 members and guests for brats, beans, and the fixings. Chefs **Mark Rinerson** and **Larry Meicher** fed everyone well. Chapter VP **Dave Saunders** booked the park which saw one of the best turnouts for "On the Stream" in years.

Breaking with tradition is often disturbing, but sometimes you just have to. The time came on October 10 when SWTU held its inaugural meeting at the **Coliseum Bar** on Olin Ave. in Madison. Seeking a conveniently located, smoke-free site with larger and better facilities for presentations prompted this move. Approximately 70 attendees saw **George Close** demonstrate his carpet fly pattern and others which have had extensive, successful field testing on the **Wolf River**.

Member **Mike Schmidt** has volunteered to represent SWTU on

TUDARE activities. SWTU made a \$1,000 donation to TUDARE in October.

President **Jack Way** is leading the planning for the January 20 **Icebreaker**. As usual, the Icebreaker will be held at the **Park Ponderosa** in MacFarland. The Icebreaker will feature three speakers, headlined by **Dave Ames**, a Montana fishing guide and operator of **Lodge Pole Inn** in **Elliston, Montana**. Ames is author of *True Love and the Wooley Bugger, a Good Life Wasted: Or 20 Year As a Fishing Guide* and the recently published *Dances With Sharks*. To emphasize local fishing, **Kevin Searock** and **Craig Amacker** will talk about Southwestern Wisconsin fishing. All three speakers bring years of practical experience to the program.

Jim Gentry has recently completed a very necessary and important milestone for SWTU's coldwater resource efforts. Over the years, SWTU has acquired easements for

stream access on various **Dane County** streams. Much of this information has languished in file cabinets and boxes and has not been readily available. Jim has compiled information on 28 easements held by SWTU. Working in close cooperation with **Dane County Conservationist Pat Sutter** and the DNR, we will soon provide a comprehensive picture of stream access in Dane County.

Larry Meicher reports that planning for the 2007 fly tying classes is underway. As in 2006, classes will be held in Fitchburg and Sun Prairie. Returning by popular request to lead classes will be **Henry Haughley** and **Henry Nehls-Lowe**. As an added benefit to fly tyers, the excellent fly tying guide used in classes for many years has been rewritten and reformatted (same flies, however) by **Eric Christianson**. Plans are afoot to put this on a CD and make it available to fly tyers.

—Ted Lauf

Wild Rivers Chapter

The Wild Rivers meeting in October featured **Matt Paulson** from the **Superior Fly Angler**. Matt talked about his trip to **Alaska** fishing for salmon and rainbow while on a float trip.

For our November meeting, we met at the **Iron River National Fish Hatchery** to assist with spawning coaster brook trout. **Kurt Shilling**, assistant project leader, talked about the different strains of coasters and about their operation with the spawning. Our main job for this evening was sorting out a couple of age groups of coasters. We had to check each fish for ripe eggs to see if they were ready to be stripped. We placed the ripe fish into a different raceway where they would wait until the next day to be stripped. We had 10 members helping, and all agreed that it was one of the best work nights we have ever had. It was great

to handle a couple hundred 12" to 18" brook trout. I am sure that we will be doing this again next year.

We have been involved with the **White River Citizen Involvement Committee**, and in December we were informed that the **Natural Resources Board** agreed to purchase a 122-acre parcel in the expanded fisheries area in the section of the White River upstream of the dam. This parcel includes 2.2 miles of river frontage on the north side of the river and an access point from a dead-end road. This will be the third parcel protected and the first purchased by the state.

Bill Heart and the Wild Rivers Chapter received the **WDNR External Partner/Cooperator Award** at the agency's annual fisheries meeting in Stevens Point in November (see story elsewhere in this issue).

—Bill Heart

Learn to be a fly fishing instructor at Feb. banquet

By Dennis Vanden Bloomen

Fly fishing instructor certification will be offered from Noon-5 during the State Council's annual meeting in Stevens Point Feb. 3.

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

The **DNR Angler Education Program** trains adult volunteers to plan and offer fishing programs in their schools and communities.

Adults who attend angler education workshops receive free materials that they can use to not only introduce children to basic fishing skills, but to guide adventures in local water resources investigations.

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

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

The program has two main levels, junior angler for grades 4-8 and

master angler for high school students. A subset of materials appropriate for younger learners is also available.

The materials are aligned to Wisconsin's state academic standards making the program an easy fit in the classroom. Materials available from the **DNR** at no charge include **Scott Rod Co.** fly fishing books and fly tying equipment and materials.

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

TU members, fishing club members, youth leaders, classroom teachers, and civic leaders are encouraged to attend the workshop as a team.

Successful models include after-school fishing clubs, summer enrichment classes, school-family events, and boy scout fly fishing merit badge training.

Free banquet admission

Participants in this training will be given a complimentary ticket to the State Council banquet that evening. This class is limited to 25 people. Reserve your seat by contacting **DNR's Theresa Stabo** at Theresa.Stabo@dnr.state.wi.us or (608) 266-2272.

Southern Wisconsin Chapter Trout Unlimited's 23rd Annual

ICE BREAKER

SATURDAY, JANUARY 20 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Park Ponderosa Ballroom - 5100 Erling Ave. (Off Sigglekow Rd), MacFarland, WI

Featuring



Dave Ames

Premier Montana Fishing Guide
Author *A Good Life Wasted, or Twenty Years as a Fishing Guide*

Plus the critically acclaimed *True Love and the Woolly Bugger* and *Dances With Sharks*

Learn the secrets for fishing cutthroat trout and mountain grayling

And be enormously entertained by Dave's experiences as a flats fishing guide

Also Featuring



Kevin Searock

Southern Wisconsin writer, teacher, photographer, and avid fisherman

Will be published in *Wisconsin Trails* and *Grays Sporting Journal* in 2007

Kevin knows fishing and will inspire you with his love of the sport and its long history

Craig Amacker

Madison based fly fishing guide for 10 years

Featured in *Flyfishers Guide to Wisconsin*

Has fished and led trips all over the world

Learn how to fish Wisconsin from a local master



Raffle Items and Door Prizes including: Quality Fly Rods and Reels, Presentation Quality Flies, Fine Prints, and many other items donated by area businesses.



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INFO: Call Jack Way at
(608) 222-2461 or
www.swtu.org

All proceeds are used for cold water conservation projects

Wisconsin Trout book review and excerpt

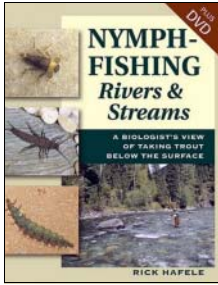
Hafele gives entomologist's perspective of nymphing

By John Welter

Nymph-Fishing Rivers and Streams: A Biologist's View of Taking Trout Below the Surface; Rick Hafele, Stackpole Books, 178 pages and 72-minute CD, \$49.95, 2006.

For the trout angler, it helps to keep asking questions and searching for answers. Some guy named McLean, writing some story about Montana some years back, said something like, "You can't consider yourself a trout angler unless you're constantly looking for answers to the riddles." It isn't enough to focus on just one part of fishing, one area of entomology or technique, because all you find out is how much you still don't know about why trout do what they do. If I can work to reduce the times I'm totally stumped, I consider myself to be making progress as an angler.

Last season, I found myself focusing on brook trout in some of our west central Wisconsin (and other) waters. Heck, brookies were a not-too-difficult fish to catch, an attainable goal, a fun (and periodically tasty) quarry, even a teaching tool for folks who are learning to fish. There are some dandy fish to be found on those streams, and I wasn't likely to find seven cars parked at every bridge access. And the driving



distances involved weren't going to strain my gas credit card limit to its max. Sure, there were still days to quest after wild browns on rivers where they dominate, and I needed some mountain river time, but my main quarry would be the brook trout. An Ontario fly-in trip north-east of Nipigon even gave me some exposure to brook trout over 20 inches and what attracted their attention.

What I found during the season was how varied the diets of those brookies were, and how those diets differed between larger and smaller fish. I found hatching insects in them when the hatches were on, and found ubiquitous species like green rockworms and scuds, but was struck by how often fish were eating things I could not have predicted.

Smaller trout were eating bugs I didn't even know existed in or along their streams, such as a housefly variant with a yellow abdomen and orange thorax. Medium-sized fish were eating crayfish, wasps, minnows, dragon and damsel nymphs up to 1-1/2 inches long. And the larger fish were spitting out 4-inch minnows and, during high water periods, a uniform diet of #8 olive dragonfly nymphs.

When I was reduced almost to the point of using a #3 red Mepps, the always-generous Bill Heart deigned to sell me one of Damian Wilmot's Furburgers and an olive dragonfly nymph for a little less than a car payment.

Now I've found a winter's worth of subsurface reading to study. Rick Hafele's new book, *Nymph-Fishing Rivers and Streams*, is an impressive review of major insects attractive to trout feeding below the surface and the range of techniques necessary to catch them. Outstanding photography of the places we angle, of insect

"A 72-minute CD tucked into the book's cover demonstrates a dozen nymphing techniques and will make you an angler better versed in a broad range of techniques."

types, and suggested fly patterns makes this an attractive book as well.

A 72-minute CD tucked into the book's cover demonstrates a dozen nymphing techniques and will make you an angler better versed in a broad range of techniques.

An entomologist by training, Wisconsin TU members may have heard him speak at the SWTU Ice Breaker a couple winters ago. While he lives in Oregon, he grew up in Illinois and, like stonefly nymphs moving toward the shore to emerge, sought out more appropriate waters for his activities.

Another constant in Hafele's angling has been his friendship with (and ribbing of) fellow angling writer Dave Hughes, to whom the book is dedicated. You'll find it continuing here as well, the kind of good-natured teasing between friends that leavens angling relationships.

The 72-minute DVD is a lively, well-organized how-to handbook for the beginner or intermediate nymph angler, with segments on nymph selection, weights, strike indicators, and casting techniques. I had hoped it would have more on the dozen or so nymphing techniques Hafele described in the text, but it only features a couple of the longer-established techniques rather than Czech nymphing. Still, his descriptions and accompanying photos gave me a good enough idea of how each method works, and I expect that in another decade or so I'll be nearly able to do each one.

One of the strengths of the book — to be expected from an entomologist — is Hafele's section on about 30 major nymphs found across the U.S., with descriptions of their abundance, availability to trout, and imitative patterns. The key features of effective nymphs, in order of importance, are size, shape, movement, and color, according to Hafele. (See the book excerpt below for more on this.) He really favors a basic dozen or so patterns to imitate a variety of nymphs, and he suggests that you can get by in your "home waters box" using just those dozen patterns in varying sizes and colors.

Some fly fishing authors, well-known names to many of us, have published books which are marred by sloppy editing. These books have

Continued on p. 18

Selective Feeding

By Rick Hafele

A discussion of feeding behavior wouldn't be complete without some mention of selective versus non-selective feeding. What causes selective feeding, when does it occur, and does it matter when fishing nymphs? If you've been fly-fishing for long, you have probably noticed that trout in some streams feed quite selectively and seem to have amazing "stream smarts" when it comes to picking out fake flies from the real thing, while in other streams trout seem quite gullible, even downright stupid. On heavily fished catch-and-release streams, the theory goes, trout learn to recognize artificial flies, the leader, un-natural drag, etc., from all the conditioning they get over the course of a fishing season. This may be part of the answer, but selective vs. non-selective feeding goes beyond how many times a fish gets caught or sees artificial flies. But first let me be clear about what I mean by selectivity.

Selective feeding means that fish focus all their feeding on one specific type of food to the exclusion of other food that may be just as available. In some cases, the food selected isn't even the most abundant. Why? First, selective feeding almost always occurs in productive waters that have a high abundance of available food. In waters like this, where finding food isn't the main problem, going after every different type of food can actually use more energy than focusing attention on one single abundant type of food and feeding on it exclusively. Thus when blue-winged olive nymphs drift in large numbers or a mass of green rock worm caddis pupae begin swimming to the surface to emerge, it saves trout energy to feed selectively on just this single abundant food. Plus, when trout get caught numerous times on heavily fished waters, they also learn to pay closer attention to unusual characteristics of their food like leaders or drag. All of a sudden these trout become much harder to fool and seem much smarter than your average trout.

On waters with low productivity, and therefore a limited food supply for fish, and in remote areas where trout rarely see an angler, such as many streams in Alaska, feeding behavior is different. In waters where food is scarce trout can't afford to be choosy and will sample anything that drifts by that looks like something to eat. If it isn't food, they simply spit it out and try the next likely looking item in the drift. And if the fish have never been caught or seen an artificial fly with a leader attached, then they won't associate it with something unpleasant. These trout aren't selective or cautious. As a result, they are relatively easy to catch and may even seem stupid in their eagerness to grab your fly.

I find it interesting that people aren't all that different when it comes to selectivity. If you're at a party with dozens of different desserts to choose from after eating a large meal, you will likely be rather selective about which one you pick. But if you've been on a long backpacking trip with nothing to eat but freeze-dried food for several weeks, and then arrive at a party with only two or three desserts to choose from and not quite enough to go around for everyone, you will quite likely grab the first dessert you see and not spend much time analyzing it before gobbling it up. Selectivity seems more a matter of circumstance than intelligence.

There is a common belief among many anglers that brown trout are hard to catch and therefore smart, whereas cutthroat trout are easy to catch and therefore stupid. But look at the environment in which these two species live: Brown trout most frequently inhabit moderate to large, slightly warmer, and usually highly productive streams and rivers; while cutthroat trout often live in moderate to small streams at higher altitudes, which are cold and less productive. These conditions put brown trout in areas where it pays to be selective and cutthroat in areas where it pays to be non-selective. I have come across cutthroat trout in productive streams during heavy hatches that have rivaled brown trout in their selectivity and difficulty to catch. Any species' feeding behavior is shaped to a

large degree by the environment in which they live.

When fish become selective, how do they decide what is and what isn't on their menu? One theory I like explains that selectively feeding fish create a search image of the food item they want, based on certain key elements of the natural food: its size, shape, and how it moves or doesn't move, for example. Anything matching the search image triggers the fish to eat it. When trout are selective and hard to catch, a successful fly must match the search image trout have formed of the natural insect being eaten. In addition, the fly must be presented with the movement that matches that of the search image.

Based on my own experience and that of other accomplished fly fishers, the key characteristics of a natural that a fly should match when fish are, in order of importance, its size, shape or silhouette, movement or action, and color. I find it interesting that most fly fishers spend a lot of time trying to match the color of their patterns with the natural, but then use a fly one or two sizes bigger or smaller or has a much different shape in the water. Though color is worth paying attention to, it is most often the least important feature of a successful fly pattern. And don't forget your presentation. Where and how your fly moves in the water, i.e., your presentation, is usually critical to your success.

Do fish feed selectively on nymphs like they do on emergers or adults? I believe the answer is a definite yes. Here again, it occurs when a certain nymph is so abundant fish save energy by feeding on it selectively. Therefore, it pays to know what nymphs are most abundant in the stream you are fishing. This requires spending some time collecting insects. It only takes 20 or 30 minutes to assess how rich the stream is in food and what nymphs or larvae are most abundant. With this information your chances of selecting an effective pattern increase dramatically.

(Excerpt published with permission of the publisher. This book is available from your favorite bookstore or Stackpole Books, www.stackpolebooks.com. -Ed.)

Bigger historic brook trout — the coasters

By Bob Obma

Those of us with a fondness for larger brook trout gaze longingly at the Great Lakes trout identified on the back of the *Trout Fishing Regulations and Guide*. It sure looks a lot like a big brookie. The fabled “coaster,” the “salmon of the springs,” brings to mind this article in the *Bayfield County Press* of June 13, 1877:

“The brook trout fishing in the vicinity of Bayfield can hardly be equaled in any part of the world. There are not less than fifty streams of easy access for both ladies and gentlemen; and the rock fishing for brook trout all along the shore, which is shielded by the Islands, afford the grandest sport that the disciples of Walton can find.”

Fellow Walton disciples, what happened?

Historic Wisconsin coaster spawning streams included the Bark River, Birch Run, Bono Creek, Brule River, Fish Creek, Little Sioux River, Oak Island streams, Pike’s Creek, Saxine Creek, Sioux River, Thompson Creek, and Whittlesey Creek.

A “coaster” is best defined by Becker as a brook trout that spends at least some of its life in Lake Superior. They were caught with great ease in the high concentrations where they staged off the spawning tributaries and for feeding opportunities. Other populations lived in the littoral about Isle Royale and spawned in the upwelling of spring water in the shoals without having to migrate upstream, and are counted with the coasters, as both are creatures of the littoral, rather than pelagic.

All of the surviving populations are described as “remnants” of what was once a very much larger fishery including the current Isle Royale, Salmon River of Upper Michigan, and Whittlesey Creek of Bayfield County. The historic coaster included all of Lake Superior and tributaries, as well as Sault St. Marie. Coasters were abundant and big.

A fishery covering such a wide area must have been very large. What we have now is well-documented genetic char of the brook trout variant with several isolated groups, prominently in Isle Royale (Siskiwit, Tobin Harbor, etc.), Salmon River, Whittlesey Creek, and the Nipigon River in Ontario. None of these discrete populations is thought to number more than the “low hundreds.” Conceivably some remnant populations have not been discovered, but such a hypothetical undiscovered population of fish that grow to a great size seems unlikely. The mitochondrial DNA data looks solid, and suggests that we are in a situation akin to the American Bison a hundred years ago, when a small genetic remnant was all that was left of millions of bison. We have a number of small remnants of coasters.

What devastated the coaster fishery is a subject of debate; over fishing versus environmental degradation? The steepest fishery decline happened before fishery biologists existed, thus we rely on historic data. In 1888 “a party of four caught 500 trout in Blue Jay Creek on Manitoulin Island” but earlier in 1865 Roosevelt wrote that “streams within thirty miles of Marquette, Michigan are fished out.” The decline is agreed to have been precipitous from about 1850, but little other information is available.

In addition to heavy exploitation of a vulnerable population, major environmental changes were ongoing due to lumbering and shoreline and littoral development. Habitats used by coasters varied with the life phase of the fish. Spawning habitat was likely localized because the Lake Superior area offers mostly clay over granite rather than the mixed sand and gravel which produce frequent up-flowing springs in the streambed. Forest fires were frequent, often burning hot enough to destroy roots and peaty soils, thus affecting spring base flows. Logging dams would wipe out a population by preventing access to spawning areas.

A little farther downstream, the nursery for hatched coaster fry required niches and hiding places for protection from predators and oncoming cur-

rent as small fish feed and grow. Logging removed a lot of this cover. A successful log drive requires a lot of “preparation” of small and mid-sized streams. Brush is cut off the banks before in-stream downed timber is pulled out and midstream boulders dynamited. “Flush dams” are built to provide floods on demand to move quarter- to half-ton batter-

ing logs that pretty well destroy the banks. Streams become wide and shallow while sand replaces gravel bottoms. No place for a small fish to hide. Some of the great Canadian coaster rivers were given obstructing hydropower dams (the Nipigon) or mining without much attention to water pollution.

The abundant new sand bottom spills out into the bay and creates a sandbar. The shallow bar at the mouth of Whittlesey Creek looks to have accounted for the lives of all of a recent group of telemetry-equipped planted coasters.

Once out into the lake, favored coaster habitat was the littoral, which is why they were called coasters. Depths of less than 10 fathoms or 60 feet were favored. The littoral is also a great place to anchor boats, build cities and harbors, and load iron ore. This all resulted in siltation, nutrient addition from sewage, as well as ill-documented but major changes from building and towing very large rafts of logs. Some logs didn’t float and have been in the bays for a hundred years followed by more recent logging salvage of the ancient timber.

Trying to tease out what caused the population collapse is worthwhile, not least because it may give us some insights into what might help in re-establishing such a wonderful fishery. Historically, a large portion of the decline happened before logging, ore docks, or municipal sewage systems came on the scene. The Native Americans brought commercial catches of fish to Duluth long ago; their technology base of nets, weirs, and spears would have been very effective on a population of fish that stages in a littoral and makes an autumnal spawning run up small rivers.

Sailing and steam ships made Lake Superior travel so easy that sportsmen came to Marquette and, as noted by Barney Roosevelt, “fished out” the local streams by 1860. More fishermen followed. One still doubts whether they could have been effective in destroying the fishery without the environmental changes.

The remaining coaster stocks have had their mitochondrial DNA catalogued and are carefully nurtured in the hatchery at Iron Mountain. Planting of available stocks is targeted to avoid competition with any remaining indigenous local strains. Dam removal, natural bank recovery with vegetation regrowth, leaving fallen timber in the stream, and judicious repositioning of in-stream boulders are all done to improve habitat. We have had regulations requiring that all brook trout caught in Whittlesey Creek be immediately returned to the water for years. The Salmon River has been carefully protected for many years as well.

A 2000 report by Newman at Grand Portage, MN, on stocking Nipigon strain eggs and 38 mm fingerlings was encouraging. That study showed migration to Lake Superior with successful return of fish to spawn. Many efforts have been made to recreate the old incredible fishery with stocking.

The basic question of what devastated the wonderful stocks of big and abundant coaster brookies comes down to over-fishing versus environmental degradation. If it were over-fishing only, restocking should have restored the fishery long ago. Current efforts are therefore focusing on stocking supplemented by environmental remediation. We can all say a short prayer that it may work.

(Bob Obma is a 20-year member of Trout Unlimited and serves as chair of WITU’s Water Resources Committee. This is his third article for Wisconsin Trout on one of his passions, big brookies. -Ed.)



HAFELE: review of *Nymph Fishing Rivers and Streams*

Continued from p. 17

typographical, punctuation, and grammatical errors on almost every page. This isn’t one of those books.

It’s well laid out, well-edited, and attractive.

Technical suggestions for nymph fishing will give you things to think about. Hafele likes to use a Uniknot rather than a blood knot or surgeon’s loop, and a Duncan loop rather than a clinch knot. He promises to try newly developed knots when “I can get my feeble mind to learn how to tie them.” He favors red strike indicators, suggests using two or three indicators in slower water, and urges curious anglers to use a small seine to sample nymphs in the water wherever it’s legal.

Rick Hafele’s book will make most of us better nymph anglers by helping us better understand the bi-

ology of what trout eat and showing us how to more effectively imitate those insects. He doesn’t overburden with more biology than we need for that purpose, and he provides an entertaining trip along the stream.

(John “Duke” Welter was WITU State Council Chair from 1998-01 and is now very active in TU’s Driftless Area Restoration Effort (TU-DARE). He also serves on the state’s Natural Resources Board. -Ed.)

WDNR regs on nymph seining

Some might wonder if Wisconsin anglers are in a bit of a legal netherworld on author Rick Hafele’s point about capturing nymphs because WDNR regulations forbid using a seine or net to catch nymphs for personal use as bait. WDNR attorney Mike Lutz says that anglers catching nymphs for bait must do it by hand. But if an angler is surveying the water to see which nymphs are present — and if the angler returns those insects to the water immediately after being caught — the angler may use a seine or small net.



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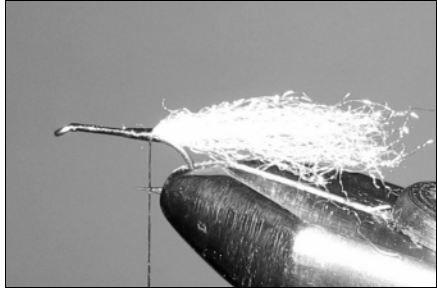
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Pass Lake Emerger a top fly over the years

By Larry Meicher

The Pass Lake Emerger is a top fly of mine when caddis are emerging and even when they aren't.

This fly evolved from a Gary LaFontaine pattern I used to fish 20 years ago. LaFontaine tied his pattern in several colors, and he used sparkle yarn for the fly's emergence shuck. I always found sparkle yarn hard to work with — its fibers are



Todd Hanson

somewhat stiff and difficult to separate so one can give the shuck a veil-like effect over the top of the fly body.

I now use regular white poly yarn for the shuck, and I find it easier to work with than the older materials. But I have also used Sepp wing post material with success.

I fish this fly as the main fly in the evening when the trout are focusing on caddis emergers. In this case, fish the fly in the surface film. You don't want it to sink too far.

The fly is also effective as the trailing fly in a two-fly rig where about 18" of leader material is tied onto the upper fly's hook bend and this fly trails. Here the fly is allowed to sink, and this can be encouraged with a commercial sinking compound since the fly isn't normally weighted.

For some reason that I can't explain, this has been a good fly on the Kickapoo River.

Tying instructions

Begin by winding black thread across the entire hook shank to the bend.

Next tie in a small clump of white poly yarn that will form the wing shuck. (Note that the yarn in these pictures is reflecting light and appears to be much thicker and bulkier than it really is.)

Tie in a piece of thin, black chenille and wrap to the front, but not

as far as the head. Leave room for the collar.

Next separate the yarn fibers and lay them over the top of the chenille forming a slightly rounded shuck. The fibers should cover roughly the top half of the chenille body. Trim.

Now take the brown ostrich herl and the peacock herl and tie them in

together. Wrap both of these herls together to make the collar. You will get an effect where the base of the collar appears dark, but the brown fibers of the ostrich herl will extend outward.

Finish the head and you're done. Good luck using this on our area streams.

MATERIALS LIST
Pass Lake Emerger

Hook: Size 14-16 dry.

Thread: Black.

Shuck: White poly or Sepp wing post material.

Body: Thin black chenille.

Collar: One brown ostrich herl and one peacock herl.

Bamboo rod building FVTC course offered at Winneconne

Fox Valley Technical College, in collaboration with Central Wisconsin Trout Unlimited, is offering a class on building bamboo fly rods.

The class is being taught by master bamboo rod maker Scott Grady, an Oshkosh business man.

A strong supporter of Trout Unlimited, Grady has donated a bamboo rods to the State Council for a special raffle at the council's annual banquet Feb. 3 in Stevens Point.

The class (#63536) will cover all aspects of building bamboo rods from splitting the cane to casting the completed rod.

Students will meet at Winneconne High School 12 times. Each session will run three hours. The class starts Wednesday, Jan. 17, and continues on a weekly basis, finishing in April.

The class has a \$332 registration fee, which includes the cost of the materials (bamboo, cork handles, guides, reel seats, etc.) and supplies needed to complete one rod.

In addition, a tool rental fee of \$200 is due at the beginning of the class to cover the cost of specialized tools. If a student has his or her own tools, no rental fee is required.

To enroll in the bamboo fly rod making class, you can log on to www.fvtc.edu and register online or call (920) 233-9191 for details.

If you have questions, please contact Scott Grady at (920) 687-0987 or oossg@vbe.com.

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Friends program helping trout resources across the state

By Todd Hanson

Because the Friends of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited program has funded so many projects since its in-

ception, recent issues of *Wisconsin Trout* have been saving space by printing only the newest projects on this page. However, with a new Friends campaign set to begin this

spring, we have updated the state-wide map so you can see the scope of Friends-funded projects over the years. The below list of projects is truly impressive thanks to you.

Read about the latest Friends project on Grindstone Cr. on p. 9.

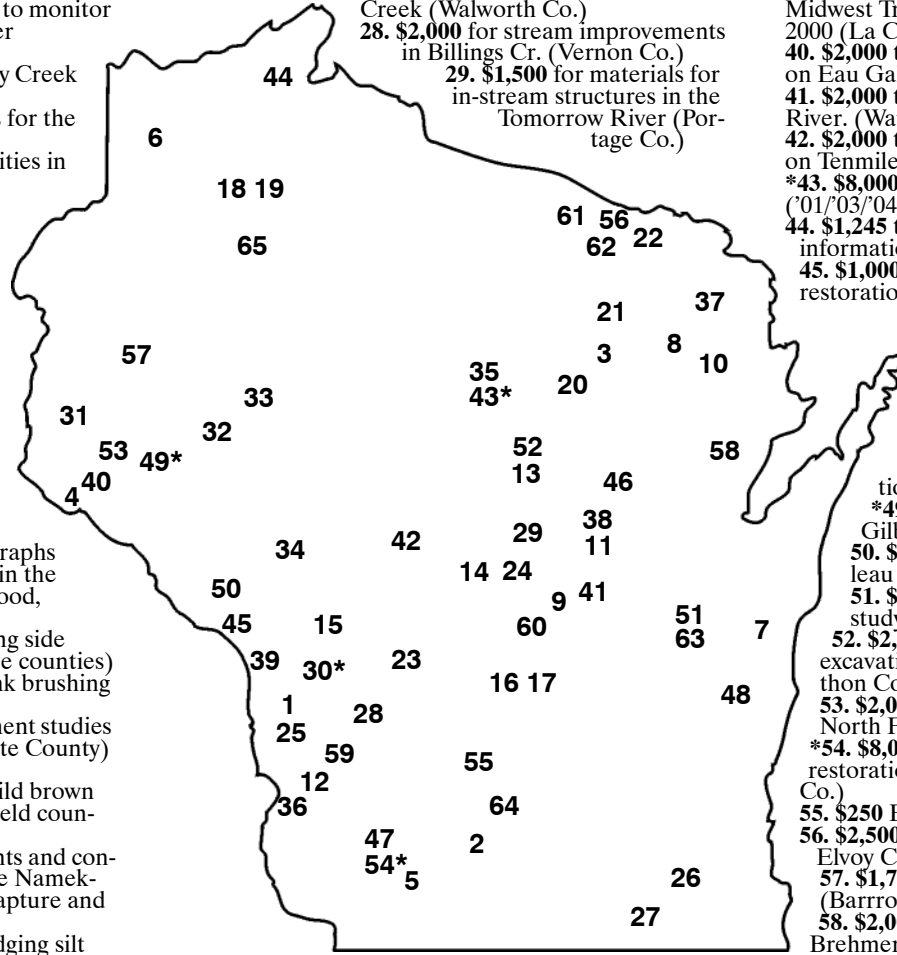
Friends of WITU Project Locations

This map shows all Friends projects since the program began

- 1. \$4,000 for rip-rapping and structural improvements on the West Fork Kickapoo River (Vernon Co.)
- 2. \$1,500 for placement of LUNKER structures and bank stabilization in Black Earth Creek (Dane Co.)
- 3. \$1,000 for hydraulic dredging of Saul Spring Pond (Langlade Co.)
- 4. \$750 for purchase of special thermometers to monitor stormwater runoff into the Kinnickinnic River (Pierce Co.)
- 5. \$2,000 for rerouting and stabilizing Brewery Creek (Iowa Co.)
- 6. \$75 for purchase of catch and release signs for the Bois Brule River Douglas Co.)
- 7. \$2,500 for renovation of trout rearing facilities in Lincoln Park (City of Manitowoc)
- 8. \$500 for bank, stabilization, and structural improvements on the North Fork Thunder River (Oconto Co.)
- 9. \$1,000 for land acquisition along the White River (Waushara Co.)
- 10. \$1,000 to assist with acquisition of 64+ acres of land along Upper Middle Inlet Creek (Marinette Co.)
- 11. \$7,000 to purchase a Rotary Screw Fish Trap for DNR Coldwater research
- 12. \$3,000 to fund stream improvements and riparian protection in and along streams of Middle Kickapoo River watershed. (Vernon and Crawford counties)
- 13. \$1,000 to help fund instream habitat work in the Plover River (Marathon Co.)
- 14. \$551 to help purchase recording thermographs to monitor thermal regimes in trout streams in the Buena Vista and Leola marshes (Portage, Wood, Adams counties)
- 15. \$3,372 for installing bank cover and closing side channels in Sand Creek (Jackson and Monroe counties)
- 16. \$3,296 to continue and extend stream bank brushing along Chaffee Creek (Marquette Co.)
- 17. \$1,000 to continue population and movement studies of brown trout in the Mecan River (Marquette County) for potential stream reclassification
- 18. \$1,700 to conduct follow-up surveys on wild brown trout in the Namekagon River (Sawyer/Bayfield counties)
- 19. \$2,000 to conduct studies of fall movements and concentrations of spawning wild brood fish in the Namekagon River (Sawyer/Bayfield counties) for capture and use in raising wild trout for the river
- 20. \$1,000 to assist with the third year of dredging silt and detritus from Elton Springs (Langlade Co.)
- 21. \$1,000 for stream brushing, debris removal, and brush bundle installation in Swanson Creek (Forest County), a tributary to the Rat River
- 22. \$500 for building a sand/ sediment trap in Wisconsin Creek (Florence County), a tributary to the boundary Brule River, to enhance trout spawning potential.
- 23. \$2,750 to purchase materials for fencing projects approved under the Streambank Easement Program (part of the Stewardship Program) for the Wisconsin Rapids Area; and for fencing materials for the Little Lemonweir River project (Monroe Co.)
- 24. \$350 to conduct trout population studies in the lateral ditches listed as trout waters that are under threat from agricultural/cranberry operation encroachment (Portage, Wood and Adams counties)
- 25. \$250 toward habitat work on the West Fork Kick-

- apoo River (Vernon and Crawford counties)
- 26. \$2,000 to fund dredging (silt/debris removal) from McClintock Springs in the southern unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest (Waukesha Co.)
- 27. \$2,000 to create overhead bank cover in and remove beaver dams from Whitewater/Bluff Creek (Walworth Co.)
- 28. \$2,000 for stream improvements in Billings Cr. (Vernon Co.)
- 29. \$1,500 for materials for in-stream structures in the Tomorrow River (Portage Co.)
- 30. \$6,500 to Coulee Chapter for restoration in Mormon Coulee Cr. (also '02, '05) (La Crosse Co.)
- 31. \$1,500 to assist in production of an educational video on development impacts along the Kinnickinnic River (St. Croix and Pierce counties)
- 32. \$7,000 for stream improvement on Elk Creek (Chippewa Co.)
- 33. \$4,000 for rock hauling and restoration work on Duncan Cr. (Chippewa Co.)
- 34. \$1,750 to purchase materials for stream improvements on the North Fork Buffalo River (Jackson Co.)
- 35. \$2,000 to fund backhoe work on intensive habitat improvement in the Prairie River (Lincoln Co.)
- 36. \$500 for stream rehabilitation in Tainter Cr. (Crawford Co.)
- 37. \$1,000 for expenses to study the long-term effects on

- brook trout following the removal of beaver dams on the Pemebonwon River in northern Wisconsin (Marinette Co.).
- 38. \$2,000 to help fund reprinting *Trout Stream Therapy* book (Waupaca Co.)
- 39. \$1,000 to defray expenses involved in holding the Midwest Trout Angling Workshop in La Crosse in July, 2000 (La Crosse Co.)
- 40. \$2,000 to Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter for stream work on Eau Galle R. (Pierce Co.)
- 41. \$2,000 to fund restoration work on the Little Pine River. (Waushara Co.)
- 42. \$2,000 to the WDNR to help purchase an easement on Tenmile Creek along Hwy. 13.
- *43. \$8,000 to WI River Chapter for Prairie River work ('01/'03/'04/'05) (Lincoln Co.)
- 44. \$1,245 to Wild Rivers Chapter for coaster baseline information (Ashland Co.)
- 45. \$1,000 to WDNR Trempealeau district for trout restoration backhoe (Trempealeau Co.)
- 46. \$500 to the Central Region of TU for stream monitoring equipment for use on the Little Wolf River (Waupaca Co.)
- 47. \$2,000 to the Nohr Chapter for habitat work with the WDNR on Big Spring Creek (Iowa and Grant Co.)
- 48. \$2,000 to the Lakeshore Chapter for ongoing work on the Onion River restoration project (Sheboygan Co.)
- *49. \$6,000 to the Ojibseau Chapter for work on Gilbert Cr. ('03/'04/'05) (Dunn Co.)
- 50. \$500 to Independence High School (Trempealeau Co.)
- 51. \$400 to UW-Oshkosh for a macroinvertebrate study (Waupaca and Waushara Co.)
- 52. \$2,000 to Wisconsin River Valley Chapter for excavation of 4,900 ft. on the Plover River (Marathon Co.)
- 53. \$2,000 to the Ojibseau Chapter for work on the North Fork of Gilbert Creek (Barron Co.)
- *54. \$8,000 to the Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter for restoration on the Blue River ('02/'04/'05/'06) (Iowa Co.)
- 55. \$250 Baraboo Middle School, Rowley Cr.
- 56. \$2,500 to the Northwoods Chapter for work on Elvov Cr. ('03/'05) (Forest Co.)
- 57. \$1,750 to WDNR for stream work on Turtle Cr. (Barron Co.)
- 58. \$2,000 to Oconto R. Chapter for habitat work on Brehmer Cr. (Oconto Co.)
- 59. \$2,000 to Ocooch Creeks Chapter for stream work on Elk Cr. (Richland Co.)
- 60. \$1,000 to Central WI Chapter to help fund Bob Hunt's Lawrence Cr. video (Marquette Co.)
- 61. 2,000 to Northwoods Chapter for work on the Deer-skin Dam removal project (Vilas Co.)
- 62. \$1,000 to Northwoods Chapter for habitat work on Brule Cr. (Forest Co.)
- 63. \$2,000 to UW-Oshkosh to study nutrient processing on Emmons and Radley creeks (Portage and Waupaca counties)
- 64. \$2,000 to Aldo Leopold Chapter for bank stabilization on Lodi Spring Cr. (Columbia Co.)
- 65. \$2,000 to Wild Rivers Chapter for beaver dam removal and habitat work on Grindstone Cr. on LCO public-access tribal land (Sawyer Co.)
- * Projects with multi-year grant awards.



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