



Wisconsin Trout

October 2007



SW Wisconsin trout streams hit by flood

By Todd Hanson

In an area of Wisconsin where nearly every creek and river is a trout stream, it comes as no surprise that trout waters across southwestern Wisconsin suffered damage in the record flooding that struck the region the third week of August.

Governor Jim Doyle declared a state of emergency in Vernon, Crawford, and Richland counties on August 20 after 10-12 inches of rain fell in those counties over two days.

Those three counties — plus La Crosse and Sauk counties — were later declared federal disaster areas.

Six weeks after the floods, damage estimates stand at \$48 million in the 12 Wisconsin counties affected by the flooding, and some roads

continue to experience detours in the hardest-hit areas.

As an organization that seeks to preserve, protect, and restore cold-water resources, TU can take pride in how our organization's stream improvement efforts helped many streams withstand severe damage.

Wisconsin Trout began soliciting field reports on how the floods affected SW Wisconsin streams soon after the flooding. The following reports are presented in the order they were received.

Rick Kyte, Coulee Region TU President, 8-24-07

"At the time of writing this, I haven't had a chance to travel to the majority of streams in our area.

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Todd Hanson photos

CRAWFORD AND VERNON COUNTY TROUT STREAM DAMAGE

The road washed out next to Bruce Ristow's bridge (left) on Tainter Creek off Cty. Hwy. B not far from Star Valley in Crawford Cty., forcing Ristow to use an extension ladder to get across the bridge. Meanwhile, the West Fork of the Kickapoo in Vernon Cty. (right) threw rocks and tree trunks onto the grounds of the West Fork Sports Club in Avalanche as the river tried to rush straight ahead instead of veering to the west.

Welter, Pielsticker recognized at TU National meeting

By Dan Wisniewski

John "Duke" Welter of Eau Claire and Bill Pielsticker of Lodi were recognized for their service at TU National's annual meeting in Boise, ID, Sept. 15.

Welter was elected chair of TU's grassroots National Leadership Council (NLC), while Pielsticker was awarded TU National's Distinguished Service Award. Both Welter and Pielsticker are former WITU

State Council chairs. Welter will begin his NLC Chair term on Oct. 1.

Welter elected NLC Chair

The NLC deals with conservation and organizational issues for TU National. Welter served as NLC Secretary the past two years and has been extremely active in a number of high-profile issues, including TU's public access policy (*see separate story on p. 4*) and the TUDARE project in the Driftless Area. As

NLC Chair, Welter will also serve as Vice Chair of TU's Board of Trustees.

Welter succeeds Kirk Otey of North Carolina. Otey was term-limited, but earlier this summer had asked the NLC to consider amending its bylaws to allow him to serve a year or two longer.

The NLC declined to extend Otey's term, instead creating a new position of past chair in order to take advantage of his experience in

a formal way. This cleared the way for Welter's candidacy, and he campaigned aggressively for the post.

Just two days before the vote, Rick Murphree, a grassroots board of trustees member, decided to become a candidate for NLC chair. Murphree's candidacy was at least partially a result of some discomfort with Welter's lead role in the attempt to modify TU's access policy.

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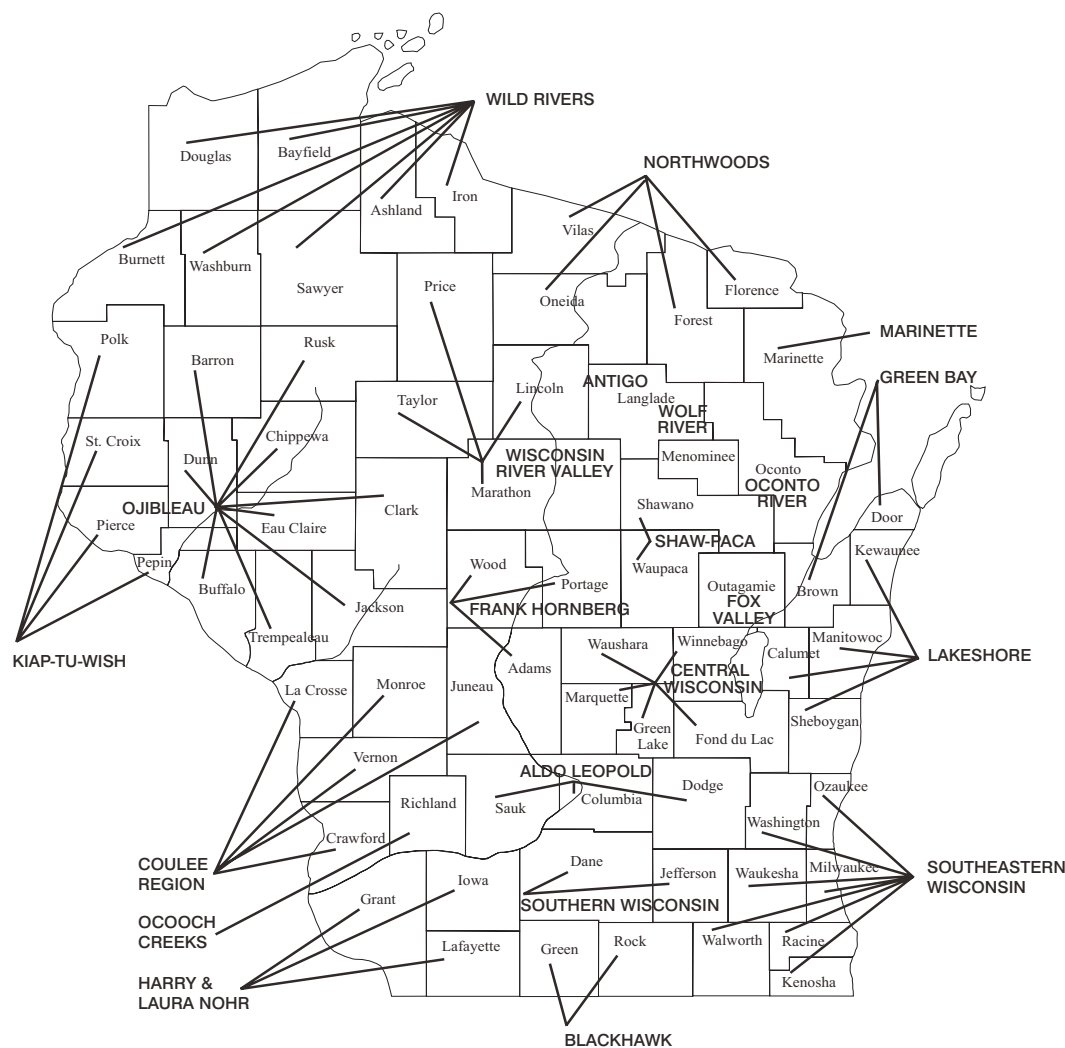


Matt Frank to speak at WITU banquet

Newly appointed WDNR Secretary Matt Frank will speak at WITU's annual banquet at the Holiday Inn Conference Center in Stevens Point on Feb. 2.

Before heading the WDNR, Frank served four years as Secretary of the Dept. of Corrections and 22 years as an Assistant Attorney General for the WI Dept. of Justice. Frank succeeds Scott Hasset, who stepped down as WDNR Secretary Sept. 1.

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Contact TU National when you change addresses or chapter leaders

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

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

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Time to take politics out of DNR Secretary post

By Bill Pielsticker
WITU Legislative Chair

With children returning to school and summer near its end, it's time to focus on one of Wisconsin TU's top legislative priorities — a return to having Wisconsin's Natural Resources Board (NRB) appoint the Secretary of the DNR. **Please contact your State Senator and your State Representative now and tell them you support this.**

While efforts have been made in the past to take up bills that would do this, a new effort offers more hope of success this time around. Republican Representative Scott Gunderson of Union Grove, Chair of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee, is sponsoring a bill that would immediately return this appointment power to the NRB.

Democrats have been pushing for this for years, but this is the first time a Republican is sponsoring such legislation since Governor Thompson and the Legislature abolished board appointment in favor of making the DNR Secretary a political appointee of the Governor.

Why is this such a big deal for us? Trout Unlimited supports appropriate, science-based management decisions for our coldwater resources. In Wisconsin, there has long been a tradition that natural resource management should be above partisan politics. In recent years, that tradition has suffered.

One former Secretary of the DNR told me he rebuffed several attempts by politicians to alter DNR policy and decisions over the course of his tenure. An independent DNR Secretary is insulated by the NRB from direct retribution for choosing good science over politicized science or just plain political meddling.

Any Secretary appointed by the Governor knows he or she can be replaced at will. This has led to concerns that natural resource policy has been being politicized. Even if politics is not interfering with such decisions, the inference that it *may* have been is enough to undermine public confidence in agency policy decisions.

It is time to end the uncertainty and the potential for political meddling in natural resource policy. Please contact your legislators and tell them you support Rep. Gunderson's bill, as well as similar legislation sponsored by Senator Wirch and Representative Black.

Let's take advantage of this opportunity and encourage bipartisan support for these bills and for strong natural resource protection in this state which is so dependent on its lakes, streams, and scenic beauty for its economy and its very soul.

Ongoing state budget talks deciding fate of TU priorities

By Bill Pielsticker
WITU Legislative Chair

It seems quite possible that as you read this, the Wisconsin state budget impasse will not have been solved. This could change if enough pressure develops from local governments, school districts, and (perhaps more importantly) the road builders.

However, as Assembly Speaker Mike Huebsch (R-West Salem) has pointed out, the failure to pass a new budget does not leave the state with no budget. Instead, it leaves state agencies with the same funding and spending levels as the last two-year budget.

What does this mean for our organization's budget priorities and for the state's fisheries program? The short answer is that it is a mixed bag.

Nutrient management funding

Our top priority is to substantially increase cost-share funding for livestock producers to implement nutrient management plans.

Only when these plans are created and followed will we see real decreases in the amount of polluted runoff entering our streams and lakes.

While the Assembly budget would provide a modest increase in the small existing budget for cost sharing, the Senate and the Governor's budgets would provide a significant increase. No budget would see another two years go by without real progress implementing the most cost-effective tool we have to rein in polluted runoff.

Stewardship program

Our second budget priority is to renew and substantially increase funding for the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program.

The Governor's proposal to renew and increase funding to account for increased real estate costs includes a "set aside" for stream easements that would make the program even more beneficial to coldwater streams than it currently is.

The Assembly budget would renew but substantially reduce funding for this program and would make little money available to protect new areas that may come on the market. If no budget is passed, the program continues at its current funding levels through 2010.

Budget's effect on agencies

Failure to pass a new budget would also leave agencies with the same budget as in the last two years.



Appreciates trout stamp anniversary story

Editor,

It seems that I've been terribly remiss in not offering my congratulations on your excellent article on the trout stamp. I was glad to see that you brought out many viewpoints on the program and readers could see that it did not just happen.

As with any effort, there are detractors, and this program still has them, but I'm sure continually demonstrating results will keep it viable.

Ted Lauf
Madison

Having trouble getting the actual trout 'stamp'

Editor,

Just finished reading the article *WI trout stamp turns 30*. No doubt the program has made a difference, but the DNR is short changing the trout fisherman. I am referring to when you purchase your fishing license and trout stamp.

Originally when you purchased your trout stamp you got a trout stamp. With the advent of the computer and the new license system, it is printed "trout stamp" on your license, and you must request the actual trout stamp.

That is all well and good, but you are only able to obtain the actual trout stamp from a DNR service center. That is where the problem is.

I started collecting these stamps from the git-go, but I live in Merrill and our service center was closed down a few years back due to budget cuts. The closest service center is Wausau (Rib Mountain)....

Sorry to say, but I work from 8 till 4:30 with a 1/2 hour lunch, so I can't make it to these service centers. Why can't they have these centers open one night a week from 5-8 for those folks that live out of town or work during the day? It seems like the DNR is more concerned with having great hours for their employees but they don't give a rats behind about the customer.

Patrick Hommerding
Merrill

Flooding a chance to revisit Seas Branch dam

Editor,

While all the flooding is occurring in the Driftless Area, it may seem bad timing to suggest that now is the time to consider modifying an existing [Public Law] 566 check dam on Seas Branch, a tributary to the West Fork of the Kickapoo in Vernon County. But given concerns for possible dam failure risk (some seepage through the dam was observed at high stages in the impoundment), along with a long history of water quality problems and adverse impacts on a tremendous existing fishery, the time may never be better.

The impoundment not only covers up what was reputedly excellent native brook trout stream habitat, but the impoundment itself suffers from degraded water quality. It is overgrown by macrophytes and algae and is impaired by suspended sediment.

Fisheries and dam removal professionals at WDNR, working with

county staff, could examine the possibilities for modifying the existing structure to a dry dam — providing flood protection while allowing the stream's water quality and fisheries potential to be realized. A modified structure could continue to serve as a barrier between brown trout downstream and native brook trout restoration efforts upstream.

A scientific assessment of this should be done. There are only a few riparian landowners who seem committed to keeping a dam, with many local residents and recreationists — including many TU conservationists — interested in seeing it removed/modified. With an eye to dam safety, flood protection, and restoration of a tremendous spring creek, now is the time to think ahead.

Stephen M. Born
Emeritus Professor of Planning and Environmental Studies
Madison WI

This would mean the DNR would not see an increase in funds to address serious erosion and sedimentation problems on the state's streams and lakes. Nor would there be an increase in funding for storm water and polluted runoff control.

Fortunately, lack of a new budget would likely have little impact on the existing fisheries program. However, as the end of the fiscal year approaches, the DNR and other agencies may find their personnel costs have risen without an increase in agency budget levels, requiring some cuts in programs or employee hours.

Apart from the budget issues, several other areas deserve our attention. These include two proposals to remove the Secretary of the DNR from the Governor's cabinet and to reinstate the authority of the

Natural Resources Board to appoint the Secretary.

Great Lakes Compact

Another issue we are watching concerns adoption of the Great Lakes Compact. In brief, the Compact would prohibit large-scale diversions of water from the U.S. and Canadian Great Lakes waters and establish clear rules on the appropriate use of these waters.

As of now, the legislative panel evaluating this issue has been disbanded for lack of consensus. This leaves Wisconsin as the only Great Lakes state not to have introduced a bill to adopt the Compact. Especially in light of our interest in re-establishing coaster brook trout in Lake Superior, we will continue to monitor this issue and push for adoption of the compact.

Checking Arctic grayling off my list

By Bill Heart

WITU State Council Chair

I remember when I was a teenager a few years ago seeing an article in one of the outdoor magazines of that era about Arctic grayling. I was very impressed by the colors, the huge dorsal fin, and the fact that grayling only survive in clear, pristine waters. Since this was before the Internet, I spent time in our local library reading as much as possible about grayling. I was a fisher back then and decided that I really wanted to see and catch one of these beautiful fish, and I made it one of my life goals.

Well, as things happen in life, I was never able to turn this dream into a reality, even though I kept thinking about this life goal. Three months ago, on July 5, I finally realized that goal. And it was awesome.

About 10 years ago, I found a book on canoe routes of the Northwest Territories, and after talking to Jeff Carlson, we decided that some summer we would take a canoe trip down the Horton River to the Arctic Ocean. What intrigued me the most in the description of the trip was the mention of plentiful grayling. We kept talking half-heartedly about going, but my business prevented me from taking that much time off.

Jeff passed away almost seven years ago now, and I thought that I would probably never be able to take that trip until a couple of years ago when a few friends showed some interest.

After many meetings, planning, drying food, and tying flies, six of us finally set off to drive to Yellowknife in the Northwest Territories on July 1. We boarded a twin Otter float plane for a 2½-hour flight to Horton Lake, which is about 100 miles above the Arctic Circle. Horton Lake was about three quarters covered with ice, but we had no problems landing.

After an hour of paddling a small creek that leads to the Horton River, I finally said that I needed to stop to get my fly rod out. I put on a small woolly bugger, and on my third cast I caught my first Arctic grayling. Even though my partners wanted some fresh fish for supper, I insisted that I release this first fish.

We spent 25 days paddling 375 miles down the Horton River and finally arrived at the Arctic Ocean on July 27. The trip was much more than catching my first grayling. It was experiencing an area of pristine, gin-clear water, ancient rock formations, and the tundra.

I was fascinated by the tundra. It was much better than I ever thought, with its stunted trees, beau-

tiful wild flowers, caribou, grizzly bears, wolves, musk ox, wolverine, and so rich bird life. I spent hours on the tundra, and on most days I walked miles just to look at everything that I could. The river ran through a valley with hills on each side that were 200-300 feet high which I had to climb before getting to the tundra. A couple of years ago in Argentina, Steve Born gave me the nickname "the goat," and I really lived up to that name here. We would stop for lunch, and I would eat something quickly and then up the hill and onto the tundra for an hour or so. We experienced 24-hour daylight, and when we camped at "night," I would take a walk and rarely got back until everyone was sleeping. There was so much to see.

For the first couple of weeks, I fished daily and caught many grayling. They are not very wary. I also caught Arctic char, lake trout, and northern pike, but fishing was secondary to experiencing the tundra.

This was true wilderness, but it is in peril from climate change. For the first 18 days or so, the temperatures were in the 70s and 80s and sunny. I was ready for millions of bugs. I have seen pictures of incredible swarms of black flies and mosquitoes, but I only wore my bug shirt for the first couple of days. There were more mosquitoes in the Bibon



Bill Heart holding an Arctic grayling

Marsh during the hex hatch the week before I left.

Things are changing in the Arctic. There was no ice along the shoreline, although we did see the pack ice many miles out to sea when we flew out. We saw a couple of large slumps where the permafrost was exposed and melting on the slopes above the ocean. Hopefully things will change to protect the Arctic and the tundra.

Realizing a life goal of catching a grayling was great, but seeing and spending time on the tundra was an even greater experience.

Truce reached on access issue at TU annual meeting

By Dan Wisniewski

Two years after the beginning of an intense internal debate over what TU's position should be on public access disputes involving private landowners, a "truce" was reached on the issue at the annual meeting in Boise, ID, last September. Issue began in 2005

An 18-month effort following the 2005 annual meeting resulted in a modified policy which attempted to clarify when TU would become involved in an access dispute.

A joint Stream Access Work Group — comprised of three members of the TU National Leadership Council (NLC) and two at-large members of the Board of Trustees (BOT) — was formed to judge cases presented by local TU chapters and

councils and make its recommendation to the executive committee of the BOT, which would then make the final decision on whether TU would be involved.

In early 2007, two access cases from Montana went through the new process, and the decision was made to allow TU involvement. The process seemed to work.

Some questioned involvement

Shortly thereafter, however, things blew up. The chair of the BOT resigned, saying that taking part in access disputes involving private landowners was not part of TU's mission and that the new policy would hurt TU's fund raising. TU President Charles Gauvin argued that the newly enacted policy needed to be changed.

Last June, it appeared that the BOT was poised to revise the access policy to significantly "raise the bar" to limit TU's involvement in any disputes involving private landowners.

There was a strong reaction from the NLC to this proposal, on both policy and procedural grounds. The NLC scheduled a quick meeting and urged the BOT not to act so abruptly and undemocratically. NLC members argued that they had compromised in creating a workable access policy and resolution process in which the BOT had the final say on any decision.

Efforts at resolving the issue

Following the NLC meeting, the new acting chair of the BOT, Bob Teufel of Pennsylvania, agreed to pull back his resolution to scale back the new policy. Teufel and Kirk Otey, NLC chair, then created an ad hoc committee to try to "minimize TU's involvement in stream access disputes." Three members of the NLC and three members of the BOT were appointed to the committee. Duke Welter of Wisconsin, who had been intensely involved in the process of creating the new policy, was one of the NLC appointees.

Over the next two months, the ad hoc group couldn't agree on chang-

es where disputes involved private landowners making claims that existing public access rights were not valid. The NLC reps supported acknowledging that TU would not support any taking of private property owners rights, supported defending public access where it exists, and supported programs to expand public access through donation or acquisition from willing sellers.

Despite the hope on both sides of the question that the contentious issue would be resolved during the annual meeting, the impasse led Teufel and Otey to issue a joint statement that the Board of Trustees would not put the issue on its agenda. Advocates of increased access involvement feared that the BOT would take the matter up in their next meeting next February and unilaterally restrict TU's involvement.

Access was still on the NLC's agenda. Montana representatives were poised to introduce a resolution declaring that public access was indeed part of TU conservation agenda, countering Gauvin's admonition that it was "not part of TU's core conservation mission." Pas-

sage of such a resolution would directly pit the NLC against the BOT.

Compromise reached

A great deal of behind-the-scenes discussion took place over two days and nights, and the result was a resolution that attempts to achieve a more lasting compromise. Here's what the resolution enacts:

1. The current policy and decision-making process on access disputes remains in place with no changes.
2. Montana agrees not to introduce its resolution for now.
3. The NLC will set up a work group to develop more factual information on regulations, laws, and constitutional provisions in each state that are more likely to trigger future disputes.

In passing the resolution by an almost unanimous vote, the NLC hopes the current policy will work well enough to calm the fears of those who have opposed it.

If it can be demonstrated that TU will be judicious about its involvement in access issues, then the truce has a good chance of holding.

TU NATIONAL: Pielsticker and Welter recognized

Continued from p. 1

In his remarks to the NLC before the vote, Welter pointed out that he had also been involved in a number of other important issues including TUDARE, the Chapter Effectiveness Index, and land conservancy efforts. Welter won by a vote of 20-9.

Pielsticker given service award

Bill Pielsticker was awarded a TU National Distinguished Service Award at the TU National meeting.

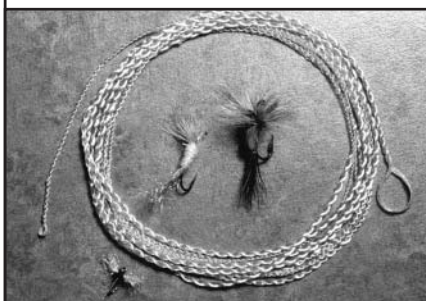
In presenting the award, TU President Charles Gauvin said, "Since Bill was elected to his chapter's Board of Directors in 1999, he has been a nonstop TU activist,

ready to take the ball and run with it whether the project involves complex, long-term assignments or seemingly mundane tasks. Bill's willingness to do whatever it takes has produced remarkable results in his role as the legislative and policy voice of Wisconsin TU."

Gauvin cited Pielsticker's work representing TU on the Cold Water Coalition, the Wisconsin Buffer Initiative, and the WDNR Shoreland Rules Advisory Committee. Gauvin also noted that Pielsticker played a role in helping win an increase in Wisconsin's trout stamp fee and securing state funds to implement farm nutrient management plans.

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WDNR Secretary Frank speaks to State Council

By Jeff Ware
WITU Secretary

Newly appointed WDNR Secretary Matt Frank was the featured speaker at the WITU State Council meeting in Avalanche on Sept. 29.

Frank introduced himself and thanked the State Council and the West Fork Sports Club for this invitation and for the good work both organizations do in protecting and enhancing the environment.

The Secretary also introduced Steve Hewitt, WDNR Section Chief for Fisheries Operations, who joined Frank at the meeting.

Frank began his remarks by noting that in Wisconsin "the outdoors is part of who we are," and that it is "an honor to be doing this job."

"Hunting and fishing is part of the quality of life in Wisconsin," said Frank. "It is an important industry generating more than \$4 billion for the state's economy. We have four million licensed anglers in our state, and this is the 6th most in the country. In addition, we are #2 in the nation for non-resident fishing days."

Frank outlined the following as his top natural resources concerns:

- stopping aquatic invasive species, controlling VHS,
- signing the Great Lakes Compact,
- implementing 90% mercury reduction rules in Wisconsin,
- continuing the Fox River PCB cleanup,
- funding nonpoint pollution control, and
- addressing global warming via the Governor's Task Force.

After Frank's address, Jim Hlaban asked about the possibility of utilizing minimum-security incarcerated individuals to assist with stream project work. Frank said he was intrigued by the idea, and he suggested we bring project ideas to his office for consideration.

Todd Hanson and others asked Frank to comment on the legislative proposals currently going forward to change the way in which the DNR Secretary is appointed. Frank said that he thought it would be a mistake to "weigh in on the issue."

Finally, the Secretary noted that his job was in many respects to "bring people together" by identifying stakeholders and operating as a transparent and accountable facilitator.

Chair's report

WITU Chair Bill Heart began by congratulating John Welter and Bill Pielsticker for the honors they received at the TU National meeting (see separate story on p. 1).

Heart reported that state council chairs are becoming more organized as a group, and he is considering hosting a regional meeting of Midwest state council chairs.

Heart reported that we nominated another six chapters for re-chartering and that this number represented fully 1/3 of all of the re-charter nominations brought before the TU National meeting. WITU has re-chartered 16 of 22 chapters, and we now need to focus on getting our remaining six chapters through the process.

Heart said the 2009 TU National meeting will be held in Traverse City, MI. This will be the 60th anniversary of TU, and all councils are being encouraged to put together a display board highlighting their history and accomplishments. Heart

asked Todd Hanson to head up a committee to put this display together for the 2009 meeting.

Duke Andrews has been our longtime representative on the Wild Rivers Advisory Committee, but he would now like to turn his position over to another. Duke Welter moved that Ned Cochrane be endorsed by the council as Duke Andrews' replacement, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Access and flood updates

Duke Welter updated all on behalf of Dan Wisniewski on the resolution of TU National's access issue debate (see separate story on p. 4).

TUDARE Project Director Jeff Hastings gave the council his impressions of the damage done to area trout streams from the August flood. Most stream work survived quite well, but there was greater damage in the upper ends of streams where the flood tore out trees which then came down and caused damage in the lower portions of streams. Jeff, Dave Vetrano, and others see heavily treed areas on the upper reaches of Driftless Area streams as an area where efforts need to be expanded. TUDARE is involved in a research symposium on the flooding that will be presented at the upcoming Science in the Driftless event.

Flood check dams discussed

Bryan Voldahl reported on the Seas Branch Pond and the Jersey Valley Lake near Avalanche. Voldahl worked with Steve Born and others to get the DNR involved. The result was an order to drain the Seas Branch Pond, and although technical problems have prevented that from being done at this point, the feeling is that this problem has been solved.

Voldahl said Vernon County's decision to maintain Jersey Valley Lake at a maximum depth of 15 feet is not workable. Many are convinced the solution is either to fill the lake to capacity or drain it. After some discussion, it was determined that Jeff Hastings, Voldahl, and Jeff Smith would write a letter on suggested actions to the county or the DNR for review by the Executive Committee.

Legislative report

Bill Pielsticker gave an update on legislative matters affecting issues of interest to TU. He discussed the state budget's support for nonpoint pollution nutrient plans, two bills that would restore WDNR Secretary appointment power to the Natural Resources Board, and reauthorization of the Stewardship Fund (see separate story on p. 3).

Pielsticker said the DNR Secretary appointment bill will have a hearing in Madison Oct. 10, and he encourages members to attend.

Chapter Form 990 filing

Larry Meicher gave the council's treasurer's report. He also reminded chapters that all should file IRS Form 990 this year. Because of WITU's fiscal year, they should use the 2006 form. Contact Larry if you have any questions.

Strategic plan presented

Bill Pielsticker distributed the final version of WITU's strategic plan. The plan was the product of a process that started in 2005. He noted that some of the initiatives in the plan are already being implemented and asked that copies go back to each of the chapter for final consideration and input. Pielsticker indi-



WDNR SECRETARY MATT FRANK AND BILL HEART

Newly appointed WDNR Secretary Matt Frank (left) chatted with WITU State Council Chair Bill Heart during lunch at the Sept. 29 meeting in Avalanche.

cated he would distribute the Word document via e-mail.

Easement concerns

Duke Welter reports he is establishing an Easement Working Group after some issues were raised regarding a Trempealeau County easement brought this into focus as a problem. WITU and its chapters hold 80-100 easements across our state. Some are limited term, some perpetual. We need to take a survey of all and establish next steps.

Duke will provide a list of potential working group members to Bill Heart, and he also asks that anyone interested in working on this effort submit their name to him.

Fly tyer training

Bob Haase asked the Council for input on putting together a statewide "train the trainer" fly tying instruction program. He indicated it need not be a fund-raiser. There was general agreement this would be a good idea that met a need since many chapters want to teach tying but need help in how to best do it.

Bill Heart suggested that he saw no problem with making it a fundraiser. The Council asked Haase to put together some ideas and get back to the Council.

State Council banquet update

Banquet co-chair Dan Holland reported that he has secured a wonderful 7½-foot, 4-weight, 2-piece

bamboo fly rod with two tips as the featured prize. He has also secured a tying bench, several rods and reels, and an original painting.

WDNR Secretary Matt Frank will be the guest speaker. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door.

The Council is looking at ideas for incentives to boost banquet attendance. Work is going forward to put workshops together for the event.

Holland is seeking someone to replace him as banquet chair for the 2009 event. If you are interested, call him to discuss what is involved to spearhead this worthy cause.

Stream thermal problems

Noting that although the SW of Wisconsin has had problems with flooding, Bob Obama indicated that "three quarters of our state has had 'hot water' problems." Trout are going to thermal refuges. We talked about radio telemetry and temperature monitoring to identify trout holding areas. We also discussed the need for traveling workshops — or workshops at the annual banquet — to help get the restoration expertise Obama is seeking made more available to all chapters.

Regional vice chair reports

Regional updates were given by Larry Meicher, Bob Haase, Kim McCarthy, and Duke Welter.



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FLOOD: Southwest WI streams damaged

Continued from p. 1

“Many roads are still closed, and the ones that are open are getting heavy use from residents and commuters. Most of the streams that I have observed seem to be holding up well.

“Mormon Coulee Creek had some significant runoff from the stream bank in the section that was restored this summer, but the stream itself, including the newly installed structures, appears to be relatively unharmed. The sections of Mormon Coulee that were restored in previous years are in good shape.

“It will probably take several weeks to get an accurate assessment

of the extent of the changes wrought by this flood. Many streams, especially in the lower sections, will be permanently changed and will provide new challenges and opportunities for the anglers who will have to relearn the streams. Other streams are already fishable in the upper sections and have had no more impact than from a typical spring flood.”

Fred Young, Blackhawk TU, 8-31-07

“I have been out several times in the last two weeks, most recently yesterday when I flew my plane out to Viroqua to fish. However on the way I flew over many of my favorite

haunts to witness the devastation from the air, which is the best way to get a comprehensive overview of the damage.

“I also spoke to [WDNR Fisheries Supervisor] Dave Vetrano regarding his inspections. He confirmed that much of the recent work completed with backsloping and strategic use of large rocks has held up very well. That squares with my personal observations on middle Elk Creek which is one of the more recently completed projects. Elk was hit pretty hard, but there are still plenty of fish present.

“Vetrano opined that with the bottom scouring that had occurred

some of the insect life was washed away and that the fish were on the prowl for protein. The turbidity of the water was vastly improved which helped the catching. One good thing is that our ground water supply should be greatly enhanced though snow in the winter with a slow melt without huge runoff is important.

“Dave also felt that the upper end of the streams with higher gradients were impacted more than the shallower gradient portions. I feel this is correct from visual observations from the plane and on-stream fishing.

“Some of the worst spots hit seem to be the lower Coon Creek system. It is difficult to assess whether the silt loads have been diminished in stream portions or just displaced downstream. Unfortunately, I saw lots of degradation on many hillsides with serious slopes having whole earthen banks give way. Also many normally dry washes which were really steep suffered enormous loads washing down lots of debris and rock. Much of this, of course, ended up in the streams. Apparently many of the quarries and rock haulers have been busy repairing road, driveways, and crossings using most of the available rock. This will probably adversely affect rock for TU stream restoration projects.

“Last night I overflowed the entire length of Reads Creek and was struck by how walls of water must have rushed down that valley spreading gravel and rock at least an eighth of a mile wide and more in shallow gradient portions without clear definition of streambed riparian zones.

“When I got to Readstown, I veered slightly SW to check out Soldiers Grove from the plane and witnessed large pools of standing water still present at some length after the flooding. Since it was only a minute farther, I flew down to Gays Mills where there seemed to be even more damage. It is quite apparent from the air that building these towns in close proximity to these rivers prone to flooding was not the wisest decision.

“Hopefully due to better land management and lots of stream projects, I think we came through these floods in reasonably good health considering the vast amounts of water coursing down these valleys. It only speaks to me that we need to redouble our efforts to protect more miles of streams to preserve them for our kids and fellow fisherman who will be retracing our footsteps in the future.”

Jack Way, SWTU President, 9-4-07

“I spent a day inspecting the damage in Crawford and Vernon counties. As you are aware, the southwest corner of our state was pounded by rain and mudslides. The state of the areas streams has been the topic of numerous discussions. A lot of the talk and rumors that I heard before my visit turned out to be just that, talk and rumors.

“While no expert in disaster assessment, I would say that the streams will recover just fine. A week after the deluge, most of the streams that I viewed were a little off-colored, generally back in their banks, a little soft around the edges, but, quite frankly, fishable.

“Some of the bank-work (lunkers and riprap) were torn up, but most of it survived the onslaughts. In fact,

Continued on p. 7



MORMON COULEE CREEK BEFORE AND AFTER THE FLOOD

Coulee Region TU President Richard Kyte took these pictures and made these observations. “It looked to me like the structures are holding up fairly well,” says Kyte. “The lunker structures all seemed to be in place. The major damage was to the banks. During the restoration, most of the trees were removed on one side of the bank, and without the vegetation to stabilize it, there was a great deal of runoff into the stream. However, because the banks were sloped, you don’t observe any major collapse. The stream’s contour is the same as it was before the flood. Despite how bad it looks, I think these photos actually demonstrate how effective stream restoration is at protecting streams from damage.”

FLOOD: reports from the field

Continued from p. 6

"a few silt-filled stretches were scoured down to the gravel bottom. Pretty cool.

"I do not mean to understate the disaster. It's obvious the area was hit pretty hard, and I have great sympathy for the residents. It will be our duty to help in the restoration, and we will. But in the long run, it is the way of Mother Nature to renew and restore herself. It's pretty much as it should be."

John Bethke, Coulee Region TU, 9-8-07

"I have been fishing extensively since the flood and have found many streams to be considerably re-arranged.

"This is not to say they are actually damaged. I have seen little evidence that each stream I've visited would be anything but an interesting and enjoyable stream to be enjoyed for its changes and continued fishing opportunities.

"Over the years, I have witnessed many heavy flood events, but this is probably the largest event, in my estimation. However, this time, as always, there are plenty of fish when the water returns to normal levels and clarity, which it has done in nearly all streams.

"I can tell you that anyone interested in stream work will find plenty of job security. I would like to suggest that folks come visit the area,

relax, and see for themselves rather than get all in a dither and wring their hands. In other words, shut up and fish!"

Dave Vetrano, La Crosse WDNr fisheries supervisor, 9-11-07

"Despite all of the recent flooding that occurred last month, anglers should not pass up an opportunity to fish for trout in the La Crosse area. Most streams that have been "restored" under the trout stamp program came through the high water with little damage. In fact, these waters look better now than they did a month ago. Pools that had been inundated with sediment have been scoured clean leaving "new" places to fish.

"Fish surveys on streams with no restoration have shown good survival of trout despite their 'destroyed' appearance. With the reduction in the invertebrate populations trout are hungry and moving more. Terrestrial insects (hoppers) should be the first pattern of choice as they will make up the bulk of trout feeding opportunities until the end of the season."

Gene Van Dyck, Dodgeville DNR fisheries biologist, 9-11-07

"The streams in Grant County came through the high water with only a small amount of damage to the fisheries. It did clean a lot of the in-stream vegetation out and sweep a lot of the bank vegetation back out of the water. This should make fish-

ing a lot easier. Further, the water was high enough to do significant damage to the insect life in the streams. This should make the trout in particular hungry and easier to catch.

"Richland County was hit considerably harder, and I would guesstimate that there was probably at least a one-third decrease in trout abundance. The damage to the fishery in the upper ends is probably much greater, while in the middle and lower stretches it might be a little less. Again, the fishability should be good, and the trout should be hungry and catch rates at or above normal.

"I would caution that because of the damage the floods did to the populations, harvest should perhaps be more limited than normal. As noted above, these floods kill trout without regard for size. Thus if they kill any significant portion of the adult population along with the smaller fish, it can be some time before the populations recover to 'normal.' The larger fish in the streams are 5 to 12 years old. There aren't as many younger fish to replace them and it's a long time until the new fish reach that age.

"The population for the next couple of years will be good because of the number of year classes that make up the adult population, it just won't be quite as spectacular as it has been."

Len Harris, Driftless Area Trout Adventures, Richland Center, 9-12-07

"Recent floods in my area have displaced many trout. The northern most area was hit the worst. There streams have some new routes and many different holes. Some holes have disappeared, and others were made three times as deep. I will be required to re-learn those areas.

"The southern part of my area was not hit so bad. The trout are eager for a little exercise.

"Overall, the area needed a cleansing to clean up the decades of sediment deposits. The stream bottoms are much more trout and angler friendly now."

Bryan Voldahl, Avalanche, 9-14-07

"I drove around the county yesterday and observed all the damage. All waters were changed. Your favorite hole has probably changed.

"The Esafia Branch of the North Fork of the Bad Axe was showing the most damage. Tainter Creek is tough looking. Hornby is not as bad as 2000, but bad. Where hard-earned dollars were spent on creek work, most showed no change, a testament to money well spent.

"Twenty-seven lunkers are either missing or damaged on Reads Creek at the nursery. Sugar Creek has hundreds of trout between 12-15 inches lying in the fields. The West Fork is damaged, yet fishing well along with the Seas Branch.

Continued on p. 17

Mark your calendar for Wisconsin TU's 23rd annual State Council Banquet "A Celebration of Trout"

Sat., Feb. 2, 2008

**Featuring WDNr Secretary
Matt Frank**



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Wisconsin's silent springs: Survey documenting how water demand is reducing spring levels

By Ron Seely

Jake Macholl has been drawn to springs, to their mystery and their clear, cold waters, since he was a boy growing up in Northern Wisconsin and his grandfather passed along some of the magic of such places in the stories he would tell.

Now, Macholl, working for the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, is just about done with a statewide survey of springs that will not only fill in considerable missing knowledge about the location, size, and number of Wisconsin's springs, but may also play an important role in strengthening legislation aimed at protecting the state's threatened groundwater resources.

After nearly two years of work, including long hours spent poring over two historical surveys and long days afield battling mosquitoes and stinging nettles, Macholl has tallied about 10,851 known springs in Wisconsin. And his studies of the size of the springs show that the much-heralded 2004 groundwater law protects just about three percent of those springs.

Springs, Macholl laments, have not fared well across the state in the face of development and of growing numbers of high-capacity agricultural wells. He estimates he's found close to a thousand springs that have dried up in the last five years, including many in Dane County where growth and the demand for water is drawing the water levels in the deep underground aquifer down faster than nature can replenish them.

"There are so many that are dry," Macholl said. "Dane County wins that one. So many springs being pumped dry."

Unavailable data

Macholl's survey had its beginnings in the passage of the state's groundwater law in 2004. That law, however, protects only those springs that flow at a rate of at least one cubic foot per second, or 7.5 gallons per second, at least 80 percent of the time. But Macholl's work shows only about 235 springs of the nearly 11,000 that he found meet that criteria.

Part of the problem, Macholl said, is that comprehensive data on springs, including such basic information as the number and size of springs in the state, was not available to the authors of the law. But at least, he added, the law made provisions for updating the data and making necessary changes.

Macholl's study, paid for by a \$138,000 Joyce Foundation grant secured by the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, will be presented soon

to the groundwater advisory committee that will make recommendations on amendments early next year.

George Meyer, executive director of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, is hoping that Macholl's study will change the minds of some who do not want more extensive protection for the state's springs.

"The current groundwater law is

"Springs are special places," said Kenneth Bradbury, a hydrogeologist with the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey. "I think of them as a window into the groundwater system."

Generally, Bradbury said, the health of a spring is directly related to the health of the groundwater system that feeds the spring's flow. Springs, even smaller ones, are cru-

was elderly people who carried with them the stories that had grown up around a well-known spring.

"They'd know all the history," Macholl said. "Sometimes, it would be the guy who 70 years ago made lemonade from the water. The old guys, they like their springs, I'll tell you that."

Surprising finds

Macholl sometimes stumbled across springs that hadn't shown up in historical surveys. He got a call, for example, from Tim White, with the Mount Horeb Historical Society about a spring near Mount Vernon called The Big Spring. White had some historical information about the spring and wanted more information from Macholl about its flow and importance.

Macholl went with White to take a look at the spring and to his surprise found an enormous watercress choked spring adjacent to Mount Vernon Creek, beneath a wooded hill and surrounded by a bower of overarching cedars and oaks. Eventually, Macholl

trekked back out to the spring with his waders and backpack full of measuring equipment and found that the spring was pumping 2,370 gallons of water per minute into the adjacent trout stream.

White provided stories and photographs that showed just how important the spring has been to the community of Mount Vernon. The spring, White's research showed, is what attracted settlers to the area to begin with. A photograph from a Fourth of July celebration in the late 1800s shows hundreds of people, including the local coronet band, gathered on the banks of the spring, which boasts thick growths of watercress just as it does today.

Despite this apparent fondness for such places, Macholl found an almost cavalier disregard for springs as he crossed and recrossed the state. In his travels he was dismayed to come across spring after spring being dug up to build subdivisions and roads. He's hoping that the groundwater advisory council will look closely at his warnings and heed his numbers — data that clearly shows current protections are not enough, especially for smaller springs.

After all, Macholl said, you can rebuild wetlands and prairies and other such important landscape features. But springs, gifts of ancient geologic forces and flowing from deep within the Earth, are irreplaceable.

"You can't," Macholl said, "build a spring."

(Ron Seely's story originally appeared in the Madison Capitol Times. The photo is courtesy of the Mount Horeb Area Historical Society, www.MountHoreb.org. -Ed.)



DRAWN TO THE SPRING

The Big Spring on Mount Vernon Creek in Dane County was a beautiful spot to celebrate the fourth of July in this photo circa 1880 when the Mount Vernon Cornet Band provided the entertainment. Unlike many small springs, Big Spring has special protections afforded it under Wisconsin's 2004 groundwater law because of its large, year-round flow.

extremely deficient," Meyer said.

But toughening the law to protect more springs may be difficult. Agricultural representatives on the council have argued that some loss of some springs and other surface waters is a necessary compromise to grow crops such as vegetables and potatoes that require irrigation. Keith Meyers, with Layne Northwest, a company that drills high-capacity wells, is a member of the groundwater advisory council and said such a proposal will receive considerable opposition from others on the panel.

Meyers said he is willing to look at the new data but is comfortable with the law as it now stands.

"What kind of paperwork would it entail?" Meyers asked of a tougher springs standard. "I don't see a problem with the way it is now."

Springs are special places

Springs, often wreathed in local story and legend, are crucial parts of the natural water system, places where the groundwater upon which we so depend becomes visible, bubbling up from stone aquifers deep below the earth.

cial sources of water for trout streams and home to numerous species, such as the Hine's emerald dragonfly, that are threatened or endangered.

A spring generally appears when the side of a hill or a valley bottom

intersects a flowing body of groundwater at or below the local water table. At that point, the groundwater is so near the surface that it overflows. Many springs in Wisconsin create crystalline pools with sandy bottoms and the groundwater boils up through hypnotic clouds of sifting, moving sand. Pheasant Branch Creek in Middleton rises from such a spring north of town. It rests at the foot of a steep, oak-covered hill and gurgles forth from a number of sand boils.

The very nature of such places, their frequent remote and pastoral surroundings and the clarity of the water they produce, gives rise to a fascination. Macholl, during his journeys into the field in search of little-known springs, often encountered local people who provided a wealth of information about their local springs. Many times, he said, it

"Despite this apparent fondness for such places, Macholl found an almost cavalier disregard for springs as he crossed and recrossed the state. In his travels he was dismayed to come across spring after spring being dug up to build subdivisions and roads. He's hoping that the Groundwater Advisory Council will look closely at his warnings and heed his numbers — data that clearly shows current protections are not enough, especially for smaller springs."

Wisconsin's Groundwater Advisory Committee

The Groundwater Advisory Committee (GAC) was created by WI Act 310 of 2003 to make recommendations to the State Legislature regarding future groundwater management needs in Wisconsin.

Two GAC reports are due to the environmental and natural resources standing committees of the Legislature. The first report was delivered on Dec. 31, 2006, and the second is due Dec. 31, 2007.

The GAC first met on April 1, 2005. Meeting agendas, notes, and handouts are posted on the WDNR web site.

Members of the GAC are appointed by the leaders of both houses of the Legislature and the governor.

The GAC represents municipal, agricultural, environmental, and industrial interests. The well drilling industry and the WDNR are also represented.

In addition, two work groups have been established to provide scientific and technical expertise to the committee on groundwater science, modeling, regional planning, and water management topics.

The WDNR provides administrative and staff support for the committee.

Groundwater Advisory Committee Members

Agriculture: (3)

Valerie Dantoin – Full Circle Farm

Mike Carter – Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers Association

Ron Kuehn – DeWitt Ross & Stevens, S.C.

Environment: (3)

Andrew Graham – Vierbicher Associates, Inc.

Stuart Gross – Northern Environmental Technologies

Jodi Habush Sinykin – HS Law

Industrial: (3)

Doug Hahn – McCain Foods

David Holdener – Nicolet Forest Bottling Company

M. Carol McCartney – Consulting Hydrogeologist

Municipal: (3)

Dan Duchniak – City of Waukesha Water Utility

Lawrie Kobza – Boardman, Suhr, Curry & Field

Robert Nauta – RSV Engineering, Inc.

Well Drillers: (1)

Keith Meyers – Layne-Northwest

Department of Natural Resources (DNR): (1)

Todd Ambs – Administrator, Division of Water

GAC Work Groups

Geology, Hydrogeology, Hydrology, and Public Health

Mark Borchardt	Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation, Environmental Microbiologist
Ken Bradbury	Wisconsin Geological & Natural History Survey, Hydrogeologist
Tim Ehlinger	UW-Milwaukee Department of Biological Sciences, Associate Professor
Randy Hunt	US Geological Survey Wisconsin Water Science Center, Hydrogeologist
John Jansen	Ruekert & Mielke Aquifer Science and Technology, Senior Geoscientist
George Kraft	UW-Stevens Point College of Natural Resources, Professor of Water Resources
Jake Macholl	Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, Hydrogeologist
George Meyer	Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, Executive Director
Maureen Muldoon	UW-Oshkosh Department of Geology, Professor
Sue Swanson	Beloit College Department of Geology, Associate Professor
Jake Vander Zanden	University of Wisconsin Center for Limnology, Assistant Professor
Paul West	The Nature Conservancy, Associate Science Director

Planning and Water Use

Steve Born	UW-Madison Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Emeritus Professor Planning and Environmental Studies
Bob Biebel	Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, Environmental Engineer
David Sheard	Wisconsin Public Service Commission, Engineer – Water Rates
David Denig-Chakroff	City of Madison Water Utility, Water Utility General Manager

Is there good news ahead for the Little Plover River?

By Bill Pielsticker

With late summer rains and an end to the prime irrigation period, we can report that the Little Plover River, a class 1 trout stream located south of Stevens Point, did not completely dry up this summer.

According to the WDNR, one vegetable grower used one of his wells “to redistribute water into the river as a temporary emergency measure...[which] helped to maintain minimum flows during drought conditions” this summer.

Observers noted the stream flow was still inadequate, suggesting these sorts of actions are closer to keeping a patient on life support than providing a cure.

Fortunately, long-term solutions are being evaluated by the Little Plover River Working Group and the DNR.

Despite passage of the Groundwater Law a few years ago, the state still lacks the authority to require action by either municipalities or local growers. Stu Grimstad, representing Wisconsin TU on the work group, reports that “DNR is supporting a local effort to resolve this showcase resource conflict, with hopes that successful solutions and guidelines will be developed which can be utilized statewide.”

According to Grimstad, “Since its inception in early 2006, the Little Plover River Working Group has been primarily focused on gaining a clearer understanding of the groundwater depletion issues underlying the diminished flows in the Little Plover River. Groundwater modeling carried out by the Central Wisconsin Groundwater Center at UW-Stevens Point has been invaluable in this regard. It is now clear that groundwater extraction for agricultural irrigation coupled with the Village of Plover’s expanding municipal water demands are the primary causes of the depletion problem.”

Grimstad also reports that early responses to the problem were little better than Band-Aid or temporary measures.

“Currently there seems to be a fundamental shift occurring, where in these parties are beginning to consider substantive long-term solutions, including relocation of munic-

ipal wells and alternative uses of agricultural lands,” says Grimstad.

The DNR reports that with the results of the groundwater modeling, partially funded by the agency, “the workgroup can now develop activities and make science-based decisions through the completion of a flow management plan.” In the meantime, the agency notes that “The Village of Plover has installed two gauging stations with funding assistance from Rural Water Association and the WDNR. Re-establishing these gauging stations is a critical step in calibrating flow models, associating continuous temperature monitoring devices to flow, and giving the workgroup some early warning of the LPR’s ‘real-time’ flow condition.”

In the meantime, voluntary actions reported by the DNR to benefit the Little Plover River include both growers and the Wisconsin DOT exploring several wetland restoration projects. These projects include using some of the Del Monte company’s wash water to help recharge local groundwater and getting the Village of Plover to change its pumping regime of the nearest well to reduce the well field’s impact on the river. In addition, the Village of Whiting has instituted a plan to reduce groundwater pumping by 92 million gallons.

What may be of most benefit is the development of what the DNR calls “flow regimes that identify the public’s interest” on the Little Plover River. The proposed flow regimes will be presented to the work group this fall and then taken to the DNR board and the public. The agency suggests that “setting this public interest flow regime, coupled with the development and completion of a flow management plan, will help ensure healthy flows in the LPR.”

All of which is good news to Stu Grimstad and area trout anglers.

“At this point in time,” says Grimstad, “I am cautiously optimistic that the efforts of the state and the conservation community, coupled with increasingly realistic responses at the local level, may actually produce meaningful and tangible results beneficial not only to the Little Plover River, but the broader water resources of Wisconsin as well.”

Annual pumping reports now required for high-capacity wells

Under new state groundwater rules that went into effect Sept. 1, owners of all existing high-capacity wells are required to report annually on how much water they have pumped.

High-capacity wells are those which alone or together with other wells on the same property pump more than 100,000 gallons a day. Wisconsin has more than 9,000 such wells.

In addition, applicants for new high-capacity wells are required to submit more information and face environmental review for wells proposed within 1,200 feet of a trout stream, on water bodies designated as an Exceptional Resource Water (ERW) or Outstanding Resource Water (ORW), near springs with a minimum flow of one cubic foot per second for a least 80 percent of the time, and where 95 percent of the water produced by a well is not returned to the Mississippi or Great Lakes drainage basins.

The new rules seek to get a better handle on how much groundwater is pumped out of Wisconsin aquifers and at assuring trout streams and other high-quality waters get the groundwater they need to sustain aquatic life.

Proposals that have the potential to impact protected resources will undergo an environmental assessment process.



Chapter News



Richard Kyrle

COULEE REPAIRING AUGUST FLOOD DAMAGE

The Coulee Region Chapter and the WDNR joined with six biology students and Dr. Alfieri of Viterbo University to repair a section of Mormon Coulee Cr. between La Crosse and Coon Valley on Sept. 16. The creek was damaged by the August flooding in Southwest Wisconsin.

Aldo Leopold Chapter

A quiet summer for the chapter. Our chapter camping and fishing outing to Pierce County in late June went well, with quality time spent with quality people. Some fish were caught, many were not, and **John and Cody Doucette** know how to cook bluegill. Best fish I have ever eaten. Thanks again, guys.

After four years of service, **Kevin Searock** will be leaving our board and will no longer edit our newsletter. I and the chapter owe Kevin a huge thank you for all of the hours he has devoted to us and TU. We would be much poorer without his efforts.

As the fishing season winds down, we are planning winter's chapter activities. We hope to have a chapter meeting and tour of the new **Aldo Leopold Legacy Center**

this fall. We will continue our fly tying class and are exploring the option of two sessions in separate locales to expand student participation.

An August DNR shocking survey of our completed habitat project on the **East Branch of Lodi Spring Creek** showed an incredible response by the trout. Trout from 3-9 inches long were 10 times pre-project numbers, trout from 9-12 inches were 5 times higher, and fish over 12" were 3 times higher. As DNR Fisheries Biologist **Tim Larson** stated in his report on the project, "the immediate response to the habitat improvement work is far greater than expected," which is fine by us.

—Mike Barniskis

Blackhawk Chapter

Paul Kranz reported that **Vernon County Land Conservation** did not

use all our monies designated in last year's projects because they got



BLACKHAWK TAKES ON ERICKSON CREEK

The Blackhawk Chapter has been busy building lunker structures for a new project on Erickson Creek in Grant County.

more funds than anticipated from other sources. Our board voted to use \$600 of this money to buy rock for lunker structures on the **West Fork of the Kickapoo** at the site of the **Shabaz Project**. The other monies will be designated at a later date for other projects.

Bob Stevens, Bob Rundle and **Arlan Hilgendorf** featured a fly tying demonstration at the **Blackhawk Boys Council** meeting on June 2. The **Fort Wisconsin Club** donated \$250 to the Blackhawk TU banquet fund.

At our July meeting an Orvis representative and guide from the **Orvis Greenway Station** gave a presentation on new innovations for the fly fisher. We also got a chance to try the new rods on the lawn.

Dave Fritz, Bill Weege and **Dave Fowler** of the **Nohr Chapter** gave a presentation explaining their **Spring Creek Partners Project**. They explained how individuals and TU chapters can join together to direct funds to specific projects on their favorite streams. One can purchase a cap for \$250 with \$235 directed to the stream of your choice (the other \$15 covering the cost of the cap). Those who make the \$250 donation will also be eligible for a grand prize drawing for a chance at winning a canoe, chain saw, rod & reel, etc. The drawings will take place at their **Spring Creek Festival** in September. Some of the streams they have contributed to or worked on are as follows: the **Blue River** and **Big Springs** by **Montfort**, **Elk Creek** by **Readstown**, **Spring Creek** by **Lodi**, and a host of others.

Fred Young gave a presentation and handouts of information on

Dane County trout streams and streams in the **State of Iowa**. Good job, Fred.

A rod and reel drawing was held for those people who worked on our recent **Hefty, Elk, Camp**, and **Erickson** workdays. **Dave Bickle** was the winner of the reel, and **Dick Alfors** won the fly rod.

The Blackhawk Chapter donated a chain saw and four dozen flies to the **West Forks Sports Club** fundraiser that was held Sept. 30.

The board voted to earmark \$1,200 for excavation, seeding, lunkers, and rock for **Erickson Creek** in **Grant County**. This a \$400 project with \$2,800 coming from **Green County Land Conservation**. It has an easement and is on the upper end of the Erickson. Work should be completed in late summer or early fall. We had a work day on the **Erickson** and **Hefty** creeks on Aug 18. The purpose was to build a total of 35 lunker structures at three different site. There were about 15 members participating in this project.

Motion by **Don Studt** to set aside monies in the amount of \$5,000 for rock on **Reads Creek** above Cty. Hwy. M. The rock is to be purchased and hauled to the site by March 1, 2008.

The **Camp Creek** project was put on hold for the time being due to insufficient funds.

All in all, we have monies earmarked for the following projects:

- \$1,200 Erickson Creek,
- \$1,000 Blue River,
- \$2,012 Hornby Creek, and
- \$5,000 Reads Creek.

—Arlan Hilgendorf

Central Wisconsin Chapter

It is hard to believe that another summer is almost gone. We had the month of September to get in some of the last inland trout fishing for the season here in Wisconsin. Every month I encourage our members to get out on the streams and spend some time fishing. The reason I do this is because I think we all work too hard and do not spend enough time doing the things we like to do, such as fishing.

Fishing also gives us a better perspective on why we exist as an organization — to protect, preserve, and enhance our coldwater streams. We get a chance to see the great things we have accomplished on our streams and also the work that still needs to be done. It is also a good time to sit down along the stream and just relax and be thankful for all that we have.

Speaking of being thankful, I would like to thank all the members of our chapter who gave of their time this summer to help with all our projects, such as our water monitoring and stream improvement projects. When we accomplish something as a chapter, it is because everyone works together.

Dick Pollock has spent a lot of time coordinating our water monitoring activities with the DNR, other agencies, and our volunteers. We were involved in not only the basic **WAV** program, but the advanced level two and three programs where we used more sophisticated equipment and tested to the same standards that the DNR does. This included taking water samples that

we sent into the **State Hygiene Lab** in Stevens Point.

We spent over 900 hours last year on stream monitoring, and I think we will surpass that this year. We will also be assisting the DNR on a special project the beginning of September which may require monitoring efforts on another 14 streams.

Jim Humphrey kept us busy all year with stream improvement projects. Our last workday will be on September 15 on the **West Branch of the White River**. This should finish our work on the White. We walked sections of **Lawrence Creek** with the DNR to determine the scope of work that needs to be accomplished next year. You could tell from the widening of the stream, lack of cover in some areas, and other problems that work is badly needed. You could also tell from the good water temps, water clarity, and fish that were holding on some sections that this stream has great potential. We may make this a joint project with other TU chapters such as **Fox Valley, Hornberg**, and **Shaw-Paca** to bring this stream back to the quality it used to be. Working together we can make a difference.

We also checked out the stream improvement work that was done on the upper sections of the **Chaffee** by DNR crews. I was really impressed with both the quality and quantity of work that was accomplished. I was also impressed with some of the new techniques that were used. We thank the **DNR Habitat Crew** out of **Wild Rose** — including **Shawn Sullivan, Scott Bunde**, and **DNR fish manager Dave Bartz** — for the extra

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effort they put in this year on the Chaffee and other area streams. Sometimes we take for granted the work that these people do, and when you see that kind of work, they need to be recognized.

We had some great board meetings this summer, and they were well attended. **Scott Grady, Dick Pollock, Jim Humphrey, and Dan and Gail Colligan** hosted the three meetings. The casual setting and great food provide an atmosphere where people can relax and yet provide thoughtful input on the topic of discussion.

Our annual conservation banquet will be held on October 18 at **La Sure's Banquet Hall in Oshkosh**. Our banquet committee is working hard to make this the best banquet ever! We are placing an extra effort at trying to get more members to attend the banquet and bring a friend. We are also working hard to come

up with some great raffle and auction items such as a laptop computer, digital waterproof cameras, a pig roast, guided trips, party packs with Packer and Badger tickets, and many other great raffle and door prizes.

The last issue of *Wisconsin Trout* had an article about Senate Bill 15 that would have the **Natural Resources Board** appoint the **Secretary of the DNR** rather than the **Governor**. We are encouraging all of our members to keep informed about this and contact their elected representative to urge their support. We need to make fish and wildlife decisions based on sound conservation practices and not for political reasons.

We have some of the best trout fishing waters in the country right here in Wisconsin. Take advantage of it and go fishing!

—*Bob Haase*

Coulee Region Chapter

On September 16 the Coulee Region Chapter and the **WDNR** joined with six biology students and **Dr. Alfieri of Viterbo University** to repair a section of **Mormon Coulee Creek** located between La Crosse and Coon Valley that was damaged by the August floods that afflicted SW Wisconsin.

Two hours of removing rock and gravel that had collected to form a dam resulted in lowering the water level in the adjacent pool by 12". We succeeded in restoring proper flow to the stream and improving the spawning habitat for brown trout this fall.

—*Rick Kyte*

Fox Valley Chapter

Fox Valley TU has been busy with a number of summer activities and planning for our 2008 programs.

FVTU was involved with work on **Nace Creek** just out of the town of **Iola** on July 14, August 11, and September 8. We are removing almost 100 old half logs from the stream in preparation for stream work to be done either by our chapter or by DNR crews next year. Over the past 20 or more years, many of the steel rods holding the logs in place have worked loose, and as a result, the logs are not doing what they were intended to do. On September 13 a crew of five young men from **Rawhide** volunteered their help and worked with FVTU members to complete the removal and cleanup process.

Following the August 11 habitat workday, we had our annual picnic at the **Rose Farm on the Waupaca River**. Chef **Bob Kinderman** had roast corn, brats, and burgers ready for the hungry crew and visitors.

A number of members assisted with programs to teach casting and basic fly tying — the old standby the **Wooly Bugger** — to students in programs in **Menasha** and **Kaukauna** during the month of June. The members who assisted with the programs included **Al Gosha, Gordy Braun, Gene Van Asten, Rick Fahrerkrug, John Nebel, and Rich Erickson**. According to Gene, a

number of the students who were in the one-week course in Kaukauna have purchased fly tying equipment and are continuing to tie.

On September 15 **Kris and Jim Oates** and a number of other members helped with a **Women's Outdoor Workshop** that was held at the **Outagamie Conservation Club**.

On October 6 we will have our annual scatter plant of brown trout in the **Waupaca River**. We will meet at the **Rose Farm** and then proceed from there to various fish and canoe drop off sites. Please check our web site for information.

Our fall and winter membership meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month starting with the first meeting on Sept. 20. **Steve Hogler** from the DNR will present a program detailing the Great Lakes migratory fishing. He should have some good information that can be used for fishing trips to the tributaries this fall.

Those of you who are interested in coaster brook trout fishing may want to attend our October 18 meeting. Our meetings are held at the **Gordon Bubolz Nature Preserve** north of Appleton starting at 7:00. Our web site address is www.Fox-ValleyTU.org.

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

—*Rich Erickson*

Frank Hornberg Chapter

About 15 people were present for the June 23 workday at the **Welton Road** site on the **Tomorrow River**. Several members attended for their first time, and their presence was greatly appreciated. We connected the island we built last year to the wing dam above it, creating a backwater to benefit insects and amphibians. We placed tag alder to collect silt, and several boat loads of

rock was positioned along the upper edge to armor the leading edge from the current and to aid the deposition of silt. Also, we used the trunk of a white pine for a deflector on the right side of the river across from the new structure.

At the end of the day, some Hornbergers said this was one of our most successful and enjoyable workdays ever.



FOX VALLEY STREAM CREW AT WORK ON NACE CREEK

Bob Hackinson and Dale Druckrey (top, l to r) carry a half log. Other helpers included (bottom, l to r) Dale Druckrey, Jim Hlaban, Gordy Braun, Bill Repulski, Bob Doornbos, Ernie Labrake, and Bob Hackinson. (Not pictured were Rich Erickson, Mark Peerenboom, Pete Jenkin, and Jim Jenkin.)

On the mornings of July 2 and 3 **Mike Mather** assisted Vice Principal **Steve Procop** teach fly tying to junior high students for art class at **Ben Franklin School** in Stevens Point. The flies were the basis of other projects. They were first taught the basic bugger, and then the students were turned loose. Their "innovative patterns" could start a small-mouth fly revolution!

The July 21 workday found the Hornbergers back at the **Rolling Hills** site continuing the stream improvements between the **township road bridge** (formerly known as the **County Q bridge**) and the farmer's bridge. We constructed an in-stream structure on the right side of the river immediately downstream from the road bridge. We made good use

of our chapter's four-person rock claw, moving very large rocks on the bank into positions in the middle of the river.

Jim Humphrey, author of *Wisconsin and Minnesota Trout Streams: A Fly Angler Guide*, stopped by in the afternoon. He was able to see our rock claw in action, and he was very impressed. We will be watching how the river reacts to our new structure to see what additions or modification we can make in the future. As always, we invite chapter members to come out to see our stream improvements and to participate in our workdays.

August 18 found us loading rocks to use at the Welton Road and Rolling Hills sites.

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Rain cut the day short so we retired for a fine lunch.

On September 2 we had our annual "Shooters Workday." Many of the staff of **Shooters Restaurant** where we hold our meetings came out to give us a hand. We reinforced the wing dam on the "Big Island"

and bagged and rocked a soft bank below and across from it. The rock claw again got a workout moving some huge rocks.

We have been quite pleased with the results of this project, turning a very wide two- to four-inch deep sand flat into something that can support trout and more. A channel is forming with depths of mid calf

and higher below and nearly mid thigh above.

I want to give a big hand to the crew from Shooters for their hard work and company.

Last, but not least, I want to thank **Paul and Loretta Peck** for the

wonderful food they cook and donate for our workdays. It is so good it is surprising anything gets done in the afternoons.

—*Michael Mather & John Vollrath*

Green Bay Chapter

As do many TU people around the state, members of the Green Bay Chapter gave generously of their time during the summer to perform habitat improvement on area trout streams.

Most notable among our projects over the summer were two that were completed. Coincidentally, each of these involved maintenance of trout habitat improvement projects done back in the 1980s. At that time, the DNR had a three-year project going where bank cover structures were installed along the **First South Branch of the Oconto River** below **Hwy. W** in **Oconto County**. At that time, the chapter assisted in placing rocks upon these structures and also with covering the rocks with dirt to allow vegetation to grow there. Over the years, some of the rock disappeared (how that happened is a mystery) and erosion caused holes to appear behind the structures.

Three winters ago, **Cliff Sebero** of the DNR hauled in several loads of rocks to the stream which the chapter, over the past three summers, then placed in appropriate areas to effect quality repairs to the structures. Those working on this endeavor all gave a great sigh of relief as the last of the rocks were placed and the buckets used to carry them were put away until needed again.

Another project that the chapter completed in the middle 1980s was the installation of fence and watering stations along the **South Branch of the Oconto River** at a farm in **Oconto County**. In this area, cattle grazing was causing serious damage

to the stream bank with resultant harm being done to the stream and trout habitat. After the project was completed, lush vegetation sprang up along the banks of the stream, thus stabilizing the banks and minimizing the harm done to the stream.

Over the years, the fence had deteriorated to the point where the farmer was not able to graze his cattle in a large portion of the field along the stream. The chapter decided to make repairs to the fence and spent several workdays over the past two summers completing these repairs. For this project, the **US Fish & Wildlife Service** purchased wire and fence posts needed to do the work.

Chapter members also traveled to **Swanson Creek** near **Laona** to assist the **US Forest Service** with an ongoing habitat improvement project on that stream. **Tom Moris** and his crew are installing brush bundles along the stream in an effort to improve trout conditions.

We also fin clipped about 3,300 brown trout raised by the **Oconto River Watershed Chapter** at their trout barn near **Suring**. These fingerlings, hatched from brood stock obtained through the yearly shocking program, are to be planted in area streams later in October.

In a different vein, and spite of some rather nasty storms that moved through our area, the chapter had another very successful **Kid's Fishing Day** at the **Izaak Walton League** ponds in **Bellevue**. Upwards of 100 volunteers and guests from the **Brown County Social Service's PALS** program attended the event, which was hosted by the chapter and the **Green Bay Exchange Club**.

Finally, the chapter has formed a **Focus Stream Committee** which is charged with selecting a stream for the chapter to focus its habitat improvement efforts upon over the next several years. Once a stream or watershed is selected, the committee will be expected to formulate plan for the stream and move forward with the implementation of that plan.

—*Gary Stoychoff*

Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter

The chapter's **Big Spring** project has been started, but the weather has not been cooperating and is becoming an issue. The work that has been completed looks great.

The 2007 **Blue River** project has also hit a temporary snag and is on hold because an archeology study had to be completed on the area. A national **WHIP** grant requires a review of any archeological components. If we start before we get approval, we lose the grant. While we could go ahead, it is not practical to disregard the money available from this grant. A state archeologist did the study in July and did find a few arrowheads in the stream. The archeologist said that this is not uncommon in the state of Wisconsin,



Dan Holland



Mike Mather



Mike Mather

BRUSH BUNDLING ON THE TOMORROW RIVER

Hornberg TU often has to transport rocks for their stream work by water (top). Larger rocks benefit from the "rock claw" (middle) the chapter invented. All is worthwhile, however, when a finished brush bundle is in place (bottom).

Chapter News



Gary Richardson photos

KIAP-TU-WISH BEGINS PROJECT ON PINE CREEK

Nick Wescot (top left) and Greg Dietl (top right) help mulch the restored streambank on Pine Creek south of Maiden Rock in southeast Pierce County. Sloping streambanks like this helps protect a stream from flood damage.

and she did not see that this would pose a problem with getting the site cleared for work. Her report was sent to the **Wisconsin Historical Society**, and from there it had to be sent to **Hochunk Nation** authorities.

It is thought that everything would be cleared by sometime in September. The problem is that if the project is not started before September 1, it will probably have to wait until 2008. Further things to work out before starting would be the presence of the Blanding's turtle and brown trout spawning period. If the project is not done in 2007, the funding will be used next year to do the project.

Our **Spring Creek Festival** was re-established this year. It was Saturday, Sept. 8, on Castle Rock Creek in **Grant County**. There were some great raffle prizes and presentations. If you were not there, you really missed a good time. We cleared over \$3,000 from this event. All of this money goes to our project funding. A big thank you to all those who participated, donated, or worked on this program.

This year there were five chapter projects signed up besides the Nohr chapter. We got over \$5,000 for project work through Spring Creek Partners. Other chapters got roughly \$500 to \$1,000 each. I say "roughly" because money for hats and such comes out of the donation, but little else. Nohr Chapter gets no funds

from any donation to other projects. At the end of the Spring Creek Festival, the **Spring Creek Partners** had their first annual drawing for raffle prizes. The Spring Creek Partners started as a part of the Spring Creek Festival, but has evolved and expanded into a fund that any TU chapter working in the **Driftless Area** can tap into. All they need to do is to sign up and encourage members and others to make a \$250 membership donation to their project. For this donation, the member gets a hat or decal and their name is put on the list for a drawing held at the end of the fiscal year. All drawing articles are donated items.

To show how "unfair" the drawing was, while the Nohr Chapter had more partners than all of the other chapters combined, I don't think we got any of the raffle prizes. Next year's partner list starts now, so if your chapter has not signed up, encourage them to do so, and encourage your members and patrons to join. See the project's web site at www.springcreekpartner.org for further information. This is a win-win program.

Kyle Richards and **Don Pluemer**, for the second year, prepared a **Blue River Watershed Celebration** on Sunday, Sept. 9, the day after the Spring Creek Festival. The celebration is a small token of appreciation for landowners, workers, and others involved in that project work. The

event includes a picnic and presentations on the projects. The funding is through the chapter operating

funds and does not use any money set aside for the project.
—*Brian Larson*

Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter

Kiap-TU-Wish volunteers had a busy spring and summer. Members worked 135

hours between mid May and mid June seeding and mulching on the **South Fork of the Kinnickinnic River** east of River Falls along Hwy. 29. This creek has a bubbling sand spring near the top of the project that is worth a trip to see.

With the South Fork completed, the DNR moved to the long-awaited **Pine Creek** project just south of **Maiden Rock** along Cty. AA. This project has been in the works for a couple years. Between July 10 and August 21, volunteers from **Kiap-TU-Wish**, **Twin Cities TU (TCTU)**, **Ojiblean, West Wisconsin Land Trust (WWLT)**, and various neighbors put in 374 hours working along side the DNR crew of **John Sours** and **Nate Anderson** building and installing lunger structures and seeding/mulching banks and surrounding areas. This was a rapid

and intense project with stunning results. This brook trout stream has truly been transformed. Gone are the steep, muddy, eroding banks and the wide, shallow runs. Now there are sturdy banks, cover, increased flow, plunge pools, and a lot of fish.

This new work held up very well during a period of 10 inches of rain over a short period in August. Some seed and mulch washed away, but the bank work stood up very well. Kiap-TU-Wish thanks all the volunteers who worked this project. A special thanks to the **Twin Cities** chapter for their financial contribution. Many volunteers drove over 100 miles round trip to work on this project. We also want to thank the WDNR crew who worked on this and all the projects in our area. We are fortunate to have John and Nate working on our streams. The project will continue next year.
—*Greg Dietl*

Lakeshore Chapter

With the arrival of September, the Lakeshore Chapter will begin holding monthly meetings again. We meet on the third Monday of the month at the **Club Bil-Mar** in Manitowoc with meetings starting at 6:30.

While our members got in a lot of fishing this summer, we also got some stream work done. We spent June 30 and July 14 working on the **Onion River**. We worked on the river just below where **Mill** and **Ben-Nutt** creeks join to form the Onion River. Up on this end of the river the work was all done by manpower. We worked on four things:

- Logs, rocks, and brush were used to block off a side channel to divert all of the water back to the main channel.
- The river was narrowed in spots with the use of rocks and brush.
- The streambank area was brushed to remove some of the tree canopy.
- A path was cleared in the area to

allow **John Nelson** and his DNR crew access to the river so they are able to work. The plan is to put in weirs and diversions to make this section more fish friendly.

August 24, 25, and 26 found several Lakeshore members demonstrating fly tying and fly casting at the **Ducks Unlimited Great Outdoors Festival** in Oshkosh. Members working there were **Mike Hiebing**, **John Matenaer**, **Al Spindler**, **Mike McGill**, **Tom Steinberg**, **Ron McCormick**, and **Jeff Preiss**.

Our October meeting will feature **Ross Mueller** giving a presentation titled **Big Trout in Spring Creeks**. Ross has authored two books on fly fishing and is an outstanding presenter. If you would like attend this program, you are welcome to join us on Oct. 15. The presentation will follow our business meeting at about 7:00.
—*Wayne Trupke*

Northwoods Chapter

The Northwoods Chapter held our 14th Annual **Northwoods TU Youth Conclave** on July 7 at the **Kemp Natural Resource Station** in **Woodruff**. Students were instructed in fly tying, fly casting, knot tying, and aquatic entomology. The following chapter members volunteered at the event:

- Tying — **Bill Kingsbury**, **Dave Brum**, and **Ed Konczak**;
- Casting — **Bob Tabbert**;
- Knots and Entomology — **Aaron Nelson**;
- Food — **Al Brooks** and **Sysco Foods**;
- Registration — **Phyllis Tabbert**; and
- Shift Manager — **Hannah Hansen**.

The grand raffle prize — an 8-foot, 5-weight fly rod, reel, line combo — was donated by **Al Mohr** of **St. Croix Rods**. Additional door prizes were donated by **Aaron Nelson**, **Bill and Dawn Sherer** from the **We Tie It** shop in Boulder Junction, **Theresa Stabo** and **John Kubisiak** from **WDNR**, and **Dave Lambert**. **Sysco Foods** from **Baraboo** donated all of

the food for the event.

The chapter sponsored two projects with the WDNR this summer. The first was completed on August 10 when both the dam and sill were removed and the culvert replaced on **Tamarack Creek**. It's the first time in many years that this creek has been free flowing. The chapter funded \$2,000 toward the contracted services.

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NORTHWOODS FLY TYING

Dave Brum of Northwoods TU helps a youngster turn fur and feathers into a tasty morsel.



Chapter News

TROUT UNLIMITED NATIONAL

Trout Unlimited's mission is to conserve, protect and restore North America's trout and salmon fisheries and their watersheds.

TU accomplishes this mission on local, state and national levels with an extensive and dedicated volunteer network. TU's national office and its regional offices employ professionals who testify before Congress, publish a quarterly magazine, intervene in federal legal proceedings, and work with the organization's 152,000 volunteers in 450 chapters nationwide to keep them active and involved in conservation issues.

TUDARE

A recent initiative from TU that benefits the Coulee Region is the Trout Unlimited Driftless Area Restoration Effort (TUDARE). It's an ambitious endeavor to restore and protect the cold water streams and watersheds that sustain viable trout populations in our area.

To find out more about TUDARE and other TU National projects, or to become a member of Trout Unlimited, please visit www.tu.org.

Please Join Us

The Coulee Region Chapter of Trout Unlimited is open to anyone who has an interest in trout and cold water conservation efforts.

- Meet others with similar interests
- Learn more about trout and trout fishing in the Coulee Region and beyond.
- Invest in habitat management that will benefit this and future generations

MEETINGS

The chapter typically schedules a guest speaker or activity for the first part of the meeting. Many members also enjoy dinner while they exchange their latest fish tales. Regular meetings are held at 6:00 pm on the third Wednesday of the month, September-May, at Forest Hills golf course in La Crosse.

FREE MEMBERSHIPS

If you have never been a member of TU contact us to see how you can get a free introductory membership.

CONTACT

info@couleeregiontu.org
www.couleeregiontu.org

TU National taps Kiap-TU-Wish brochure as 'tackle box' model

A brochure produced by Wisconsin's Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter is serving as a model on TU National's web site for how local TU chapters can better communicate with the public.

The brochure is posted on TU's "Chapter Tackle Box" page. To find that page from the home page at www.TU.org, click on *Members*, then *Chapter Tackle Box*, then *Member Services*.

Former Kiap-TU-Wish President Nathan Barnhart designed the four-color, tri-fold brochure.

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The second WDNR project required a morning of brush clearing by the chapter members to prepare the **Dam Sill Meadows Restoration** project on **Elvoy Cr.** in **Forest County**. Several chapter members met with the DNR on a Saturday morning and removed alder brush in preparation to the DNR performing in-stream work with boulders and logs. The DNR also narrowed the stream channel by placing several large brush bundles. Prior to the stream work, there were only three or four decent pools in this section for adult trout.

Oconto River Watershed Chapter

The Oconto River Chapter led by **Paul Welch** and **Don Denor** has created a new display booth to showcase our "Trout in the Classroom" project of placing trout in aquariums in classrooms. The exhibit has highlighted the aquarium with trout in the **Oconto Falls Middle School** and attracted the interest of four more schools.

We continue to support the **Gillett High School** biology class in their water monitoring as well.

Summer raffles and the November 2 mini banquet continue to pro-

duce revenue for our joint DNR project of shocking **Oconto River** trout in October to provide fertilized eggs for our hatchery at **Underhill**. Once hatched, the fry are planted into the Oconto.

The talented and charming **Duke Welter** did a special meeting on Sept. 24 at the **Lone Oak Gun Club** just north of **Gillett** in which he shared his perspective on the work Trout Unlimited does. We enjoyed his views and insights from the TU national level.

Our first meeting since taking the summer off will be held on October 8 at the **Rhineland/Oneida County Airport** at 7:00 p.m.

—*Brian Hegge*

Ojibseau Chapter

Chapter members participated in the **Chippewa Valley Outdoor Games** Aug. 10-12, an event organized by the **Eau Claire Rod & Gun Club** to commemorate their 100 year anniversary (1907-2007). The chapter provided a fly casting clinic and basic casting instruction with Zebco 33s. Thanks to the following volunteers for working the weekend: **Dave Blysmo, Chuck Bomar, Fames Fulkerson, Joe Knight, Mike Swenson, Dennis Vanden Bloomen,**

and **Dennis Woodford**. Over 5,000 people attended the weekend event.

Volunteers provided basic fly rod casting and Zebco 33 casting instruction on Sept. 8 at **Whispering Emerald Ridge NRA Youth Day**. Over 400 kids aged 5-16 participated in a pheasant hunt, shooting sports, and many other outdoor activities. Thanks to chapter volunteers **Chuck Bomar, Dale Dahlke, John Higley, Tom Looze** and **Dennis Vanden Bloomen** for helping intro-

duce TU to so many children and their parents.

The chapter will again participate in a **Boy Scout Merit Badge Clinic** on Oct. 20 in Eau Claire. **Dave Vollmer** will need 2-3 more volunteers to help. This is an all-day event with fly tying in the morning and casting in the afternoon.

Our regional DNR crews have been working on other chapter's projects — including the **South Fork of the Kinni, Pine Creek, and Eau Galle River** — until just recently. We had our first work night on **Gilbert Creek** the evening of Sept. 4. We had 13 volunteers build 16 lunkers. Heavy equipment work began the next day on **Gilbert Creek**. We hope to complete the 1,500+ feet upstream to **Hwy. Q** soon. Another chapter project, **Elk Creek in Chippewa County**, will begin after the **Gilbert** project is finished.

Our chapter recently helped **James Oliver** of **Altoona High School** write a grant so he could attend **PhyshED** training. Physical education teachers from across the country were in **Traverse City, MI**, the week of July 16 learning how to teach boating and fishing. As part of the **National PE Grants Initiative**, known as "PhyshED," this year's grant recipients got hands-on training, collaborative lesson planning, and activities development from a diverse group of instructors. Entering its fourth year, **PhyshED** is also undergoing some exciting changes. This year's program was expanded to include 96 grant recipients (the most ever) from 38 states.

James returned to **Altoona HS** this fall to integrate these subjects into the physical education curriculum. Our chapter will be helping with the fly fishing instruction this fall and next spring.

The chapter received a \$4,450 **Citizens-Based Monitoring Grant**

Shaw-Paca Chapter

Our project of providing a subscription of *Trout* magazine for our local libraries continued. We now have 17 high school and public libraries involved.

For those interested, a magazine-only subscription to *Trout* is \$15 per year, and by making such a subscription, each library is also added to

the *Wisconsin Trout* mailing list. Contact National TU for more details. The feedback has been very positive.

Our Sept. 20 meeting was at **Mathews in Clintonville**. Time to get organized for another year.

—*Lee Kersten*

The **Red Cedar River Chapter of Pheasants Forever** has given the chapter a check for \$1,200 for seed and plantings in the **Gilbert Creek** area in 2007. The chapter got a **TU National TU Embrace-A-Stream (EAS)** program grant for \$10,000 for rock for **Elk Creek**. The **Friends of Wisconsin TU** also awarded us \$2,000 for 2007 work on **Elk Creek**.

Our regular chapter meetings will resume at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 11 at **Sweetwater's Restaurant** in **Eau Claire**. The chapter board recently met and approved the budget for FY2007. A few beers and snacks made the process go much quicker, but I do not think that technique is taught in university accounting classes.

—*Dennis Vanden Bloomen*

Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter

SEWTU has continued to maintain its busy schedule over this past quarter. We're happy to remind members and friends that regular all-chapter meetings resume in September at **The Thunder Bay Grille** located just off the intersection of Hwy. 94 and Pewaukee Rd. at N14 W24130 Tower Place in Waukesha. Members and non-members alike are invited to attend our monthly meetings, which feature excellent speakers, food and beverages for all ages, and the chance to interact with other members and conservation stewards. A calendar of events is at www.SEWTU.org.

Our September meeting featured renowned fisherman and author **Ross Mueller**. Mueller has authored such notable works as *Upper Midwest Flies That Catch Trout* and *Fly Fishing Midwestern Spring Creeks*.

Our Oct. 23 meeting will feature renowned fisherman, caster, artist, film star, and author **Jason Borger**. Dinner is at 6:00, and Jason speaks

at about 7:30. Borger was the stunt caster for the famous fly fishing film *A River Runs Through It*, based on the **Norman Maclean** work of the same name, and has himself authored such notable works as *Jason Borger's Nature of Fly Casting: A Modular Approach*, and other works. Jason has spoken to our chapter previously and puts on a fine presentation.

Our Nov. 27 and Dec. 18 meetings do not yet have confirmed speakers. Check our web site's calendar of events for details as they become available.

In addition to its busy meeting schedule, SEWTU continues an exceptional restoration pace. As was reported here previously, we have already had 2007 workdays on Feb. 17 at **Bluff Creek** in **Walworth County**, on April 21 at the **Milwaukee River**, and on May 19 at **Camp Creek** in **Richland County** in a **TU-DARE** joint project with the **Ocooch Creeks Chapter**.

Chapter News



Since then, a good contingent of SEWTU volunteers traveled back to the **Driftless Area** and joined forces with **Dick Peters**, **Allon Bostwick**, and the **Ocooch Creeks Chapter** in order to perform restoration work at **Elk Creek** on June 23. This workday, which also involved **Pheasants Forever**, **Friends of the Prairie**, and members of the **WDNR**, involved removing and treating invasive vegetation in areas where heavy equipment was unable to reach along the creek. This work is vital in maintaining accessibility to the stream, and in keeping the stream healthy.

Afterwards, SEWTU members were treated to an excellent bratwurst lunch by **Dick Peters** and the **Ocooch Creeks Chapter** at member **Mark Nash's** property. Finally, many SEWTU members took the opportunity to enjoy some excellent fishing afterwards, which included a huge brown trout for one member, and another member's first-ever spring creek trout on a fly rod. Pictures are, of course, available on our web site under "Habitat Projects" and then "Project Workdays."

On July 21, SEWTU returned to **Nichols Creek** in **Sheboygan County**. As most SEWTU members and friends know, Nichols Creek has been the location of prior recent workdays, and SEWTU has established a fine relationship with **WDNR Fisheries Biologist John Nelson**. On July 21, over 30 SEWTU volunteers split up into two teams to perform water quality monitoring work in the creek's upper stretches and major riparian maintenance work farther downstream. As a result of this work, more stretches of this creek are running clear than at any time in the last 10 years. As a headwater of the Milwaukee River, one of our Chapter's "home waters," SEWTU takes a special interest in Nichols Creek and looks forward to continuing work there in the future. As always, a bratwurst lunch was had afterwards, and many members took to nearby waters in order to fish.

Another contingent of about 25 SEWTU volunteers traveled to **Paradise Springs** in **Waukesha County** on Aug. 18. For the first time in at least 15 years, SEWTU volunteers joined forces with members of the **WDNR** under the guidance of **Susan Beyler**, **WDNR inland fisheries team supervisor** for the southeast region. Volunteers split up into three groups, each headed by **WDNR workers**, and removed invasive vegetation (including mass quantities of buckthorn) which had choked the stream and its spring pond, and which had contributed to deterioration of the watershed. The positive impact of this workday was phenomenal, and SEWTU hopes that this work will lead to continued involvement in the Southern District of the **Kettle Moraine/Scuppernong** watershed area. Afterwards, a great bratwurst and corn on the cob lunch was provided, and members were even able to help feed a wedding set-up crew for an event which was taking place at the springs later that day!

As this report went to press, SEWTU had plans to return on Sept. 15 to a coldwater resource at which no work has been done in numerous years, **Allenton Creek**, under the leadership of the **WDNR's John Nelson**.

On October 20, SEWTU will return to **Genesee Creek**, the site of a previous roller mill dam removal and ongoing habitat restoration work led by Chapter President **Dan Asmus**. We'll work alongside **Carroll College** volunteers led by **Carroll College Professor Jason Freund**, who is also an SEWTU board member.

Aside from these many workdays, SEWTU has had many other fun-filled events this summer. On June 26, **Dan Asmus** led SEWTU's annual **Hex Hatch Outing** in southwest Wisconsin. Although conditions were less than ideal (high temperatures), the event provided a good time for those attending. Held at **Salmo Pond** near **Black Earth**, the **Hex Hatch Outing** is one of our longest-running yearly outings.

On July 24, SEWTU held another long-running activity, our **Annual Casting Clinic** at **Greenfield Park**. The clinic was run by casting virtuoso **Larry Wirth** and featured some of SEWTU's best casters. We provided free instructions to anyone stopping by. Over 30 people attended, and many walked away casting better than when they'd arrived. Food and drinks were provided by past SEWTU President **Chuck Beeler and his wife**.

As part of its education programming, SEWTU sponsored **Megan Malovec**, a local Milwaukee student, to attend 2007's **Lake Superior Pathfinder's Program** in **Ashland**. This project aims to teach conservation ideals to young people. Representatives of **Northland College**, which sponsors the program, reported that Megan was one of the program's top participants and that she will be attending college at Northland this fall. Good luck, Megan. On Aug. 6, SEWTU held its **Second Annual Habitat Restoration Raffle Fundraiser**. Last year, over \$2,000 in prizes were raffled off. This year, even more money was raised, in part thanks to generous donations from individuals including **Herb Oechler**, **James Folda**, **Rich Vetrano**, **Stan Strelka**, **John Nelson**, **Henry Koltz**, **Jeff Hastings** and **TUDARE**, **Dick Peters** and the **Ocooch Creeks Chapter**, **Pat Ehlers** and **The Fly Fishers**, and **Sportsmen's Warehouse**. SEWTU uses the funds raised at this raffle to fulfill its mission of coldwater conservation, restoration, and improvement. Funds raised last year, for example, were used to make our nearly one-mile restoration at **Camp Creek** possible, and new funds will be used at **Melancthon Creek** in 2008. SEWTU thanks all of those who attended or donated prizes.

Additional education activities included SEWTU members manning a booth at **Cabella's** in **Richfield, WI**, on Aug. 18-19. There members taught various young people fly tying and casting, and we discussed the importance of TU's mission of coldwater conservation and stewardship. SEWTU Education Chair **Chris Weber** looks to continue its involvement with local retailers in order to spread TU's message, including returning to **Cabella's**.

As previously reported, board member **Todd Durian** has established a chapter incentives program with **Pat Elhers**, owner of **The Fly Fishers** in **Greenfield**. As part of the program, **The Fly Fishers** will donate a 5% portion of any purchase made by SEWTU members back to

SEWTU. Members are asked to show their TU identification card when making purchases, and to mention the program, in order to aid our chapter. **Please note that this will not be a discount off of the purchase price.**

Former President **Rich Vetrano** and his company, **Core Creative**, has established a hat and fishing shirt program for our chapter, and apparel is now available for purchase. The apparel features SEWTU's logo and is absolutely fantastic. The apparel — which is currently limited in quantity — will be available for purchase at our all-chapter meetings. Proceeds, of course, will go to our conservation and education work.

Southern Wisconsin Chapter

SWTU's summer activities were a bit dormant, partly due to members fishing and other diversions, hot weather, and erratic water levels. Notwithstanding those factors, two events for members stood out.

On a sunny June day, **John and Rose Schweiger** led another successful **Special Annual Fishing Day** at **Kalschur's ponds** near **Pine Bluff**. Thirty guests, accompanied by 25 family members and caregivers, were assisted by some 20 chapter members in catching lunker trout and panfish stocked in the ponds.

This annual event would not be possible without the generosity of **Jim Kalschur**, **Oscar Mayer**, **Dorn Hardware**, **Scott's Bakery**, the **Sun Prairie Lion's Club**, the **Mt. Horeb Fire and Rescue** staff, and, of course, our chapter members.

The July chapter meeting was held at **Donald Park** near Mount Vernon and was preceded by a

stream shocking demonstration on nearby **Gordon Creek**. Over the past few years, Gordon Creek has undergone a substantial amount of habitat improvement and bank restoration. **Kurt Welke** and his **DNR** crew generously donated their Saturday for this event. Word has it that **Steve Born** will be preparing a brief monograph on successful fishing strategies for Gordon Creek.

Who else but **Mark Rhinerson** and **Larry Meicher** were responsible for making certain that no picnic attendee went away hungry.

At our August board meeting, the resignation of **Greg Erikson** was regretfully accepted. Greg has served multiple terms on the board and could always be counted on for insightful thoughts and comments. His presence and generosity will be missed.

—*Ted Lauf*

Wild Rivers Chapter

It's early September, and northwest Wisconsin remains in a drought, with extremely low water levels in the big lake as well as inland. There are hints of fall color, the hopper fishing is better than ever, and the salmon run is beginning on Lake Superior stream mouths.

Whack a Northern Day, the chapter's main event for August, is getting to be as much fun and as anticipated as the **Fishing Expo** is in the spring. This year there were six TU chapters represented from three states, and the weather and the fishing were great. Unfortunately, **Bill Heart's** record for making all of the whack events was broken due to a family engagement.

River Park in **Mason** is a convenient site for the post-event picnic, and a nice crowd enjoyed **John Casperson's** fish fry and a talk by **Martin Hanson**. A short meeting followed, where chapter members approved a donation of \$1,000 to the **Friends of the White River**, participation in an "Adopt a Highway" project, and a letter of support for the **Martin Hanson's Wild River** proposal at **Mineral Lake**. The donation was presented at the **Friends of the White River Annual Picnic**. Thanks to all who paddled, fished, and ate well at the whack event.

Robert Mitzner fished the whack event this year and send the following thank-you note:

"I took the liberty of writing the E.D.T.U. chapter in Chicago about your yearly event. The following is what I gave them...."

"I just want to drop a line or two telling our chapter of a great T.U.

event I got to participate in. I had become familiar with the Wild Rivers TU Chapter based in Ashland, WI, on the south shore of Lake Superior during my various trips visiting my family in the great northwoods. I had been invited out, but rain or drought had prevented these trips through the last few years. This year I drove up just for the yearly event...the Wild Rivers Chapter created: Whack-A-Northern Day. This is the chapter's favorite mission, which attracted about 14 participants in about 7 canoes. They gathered for a breakfast, then on to the White River in Bayfield County for a 10-hour trip through the Bibon Marsh. Northerns are targeted to both help trout, and to introduce people to the White River. The White is said to be the premier brown trout stream east of the Mississippi. With its seclusion, cold clear spring water, deep cuts and over hanging alders, it's easy to imagine the idyllic life of the Salmo Trutta. A lunchtime stop at the 'Campground' halfway down the river offers a respite from the 94 degree day filled with paddling and fishing. The successful trip culminated with a swim and a picnic which had a larger attendance. By the way, there was plenty of deep fried northern Pike for all. Thanks again."

Dale Klubertanz, a member of the **Southern WI Chapter** with a cabin on **Brickyard Creek** near **Bayfield**, has been working on a brook trout restoration project that would involve the **Bayfield Regional Conservancy**, **Sigurd Olson Institute**, **Wild Rivers Chapter**, and possibly the **Red Cliff Chippewa Tribe**.

Continued on p. 17

Celebrating Christmas all summer long

By Dan Holland

For members of the Frank Hornberg Chapter, our involvement with Christmas doesn't end in December. Rather, it continues throughout the entire summer work season. Specifically, we make ample use of discarded Christmas trees in our stream enhancement work.

Two main uses

We employ two strategies in the use of the Christmas trees. The first is to place trees side-by-side, alternating butt to tip, to create wide brushmats. This allows us to narrow the stream six to eight feet with a modest amount of effort.

Once the trees are in place, they need to be tied down with baling twine (preferably not the unsightly orange stuff).

The trees act very much like the gills of a trout, filtering out the silt and sand during significant high-water events. It is astonishing how quickly the spaces between the branches fill up with sediment and provide firm banks upon which daisies, Jewell weed, and a variety of wildflowers quickly take hold.

Our second use of Christmas trees is to place them along the front of more traditional brushmats (*see photos*). Again, they soon anchor these more traditional brushmats and provide habitat for invertebrates.

One word of caution on the placement of such brushmats: if they are exposed to heavy current, they need to be well protected/anchored on the upstream end in order to prevent them from being washed away in high-water events. We learned this lesson the hard way several times!

Sources of trees

We have no difficulty in securing an ample supply of Christmas trees for our summer work. Neighbors are only too glad to have us take them away before the scheduled village or city pickup. Also, villages in our area are often glad if we take them off their hands, assuming they are not used for mulch for parks or walking trails.

In addition, we are fortunate to have access to the culls from the tree farms of our generous chapter members, Tom and Mary Liturski.

Lastly, the DNR has been good about providing us with Christmas trees for our work.

So, instead of allowing Christmas trees to fill up precious space in landfills, or, worse yet, be burned, put them to good use in the rivers and streams in your area. You will be impressed with how well they work to create firm and attractive streambanks and clean the water of unwanted silt and sand.

Wisconsin Christmas tree facts

- The economic impact of the Christmas tree industry in Wisconsin is \$50 million/year.
- The number of wreaths and garlands made each year in Wisconsin is over 600,000.
- There are about 36,000 acres of Christmas trees in Wisconsin.
- Christmas tree farms in Wisconsin total 1,387.
- Of the Christmas tree farms in the state, 39% are less than 10 acres, 24% are 10-19 acres, 24% are 20-49 acres, and 13% are 50+ acres.
- The principal trees grown in Wisconsin are balsam fir, fraser fir, scotch pine, white pine, and spruce.
- Wisconsin ranks fifth in the U.S. in Christmas tree production:

1. Oregon	6,466,551	6. Washington	1,164,139
2. North Carolina	2,915,507	7. New York	618,917
3. Michigan	2,380,173	8. Virginia	507,791
4. Pennsylvania	1,724,419	9. Minnesota	463,885
5. Wisconsin	1,605,981	10. California	383,940

SOURCES: National and WI Christmas Tree Producers Assns.

CHRISTMAS TREES AT WORK ON THE TOMORROW RIVER

Brushmats are a common stream improvement technique in low- and moderate-gradient streams. The Christmas tree bundles pictured here are all staked against inside bends where sediments want to accumulate.



FLOODS: stream damage reports from the field

Continued from p. 7

"I'll repeat, your favorite hole has changed no matter what creek or river. Almost all the work Roger Widner, Jr. did is still in place, a lasting memorial to his life's work. There are plenty of bait fish still in the West Fork.

"Timber Coulee does not have as much damage. Thank God for Public Law 566 check dams that were in place. Thank God that Jersey Valley was drained."

CHAPTER REPORTS

Continued from p. 15

Several chapter members have expressed an interest in helping with the project. An organizational meeting was held September 28 with the involved land owners.

The chapter received a thank you from **Marissa Spruell** for sponsoring her **Pathfinders Program** session. Several chapter members have expressed their interest in continuing the chapter's support for the Pathfinders Program. Pathfinders is sponsored by the **Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute** at **Northland College** in **Ashland**. The program emphasizes a "hands on" approach to environmental studies. Following **Bill Heart's** suggestion, three Wisconsin TU chapters have sponsored tuition for four Pathfinders students. This is a good program, and it is highly recommended to other chapters.

Chapter members were on **Whiteseey Creek** the week of Aug. 27 helping the **Inter Fluve** crew and **Mike Mlynarek** of the refuge staff with an engineering survey studying sediment transport. Thanks to **Bob Rice** and **Chuck Campbell** for helping with this work.

—*Chuck Campbell*

Tim Meyer, Ojibseau TU, 9-19-07

"All of our previous work on Gilbert Creek was surveyed after the August flood waters receded. Our area got about eight inches of rain. We did not have the devastation we have been reading about in Vernon, Crawford, and Richland counties, but Gilbert Creek did flood out of its banks and across most of the valley. We did not observe any damage to any of our project areas. It was really satisfying to know that the 2-3 miles of projects we completed since 2003 did not contribute any sediment to the main stem of Gilbert, or to the Red Cedar, Chippewa, or Mississippi systems downstream.

"However, Gilbert Creek was carrying a significant sediment load by the time it reached our project area. We can only conclude that this was soil from sheet, rill, and gully erosion coming off cultivated row crop fields on the ridge tops, as well as from old gully scars through the steep forested slopes in the upper part of the watershed.

"We could also observe another benefit of the restoration project areas. By eliminating all the vertical collapsing banks and re-sculpting them to an acceptable grade, it allowed the flood waters to dissipate much of their energy by gradually overtopping the protected streambanks and spreading out across the valley floor. Many old stream channels and new wildlife scrapes were also replenished with water and are now attracting waterfowl and providing new life and habitat for all the other wildlife species that rely on these ephemeral ponds.

"Of course, some of these 'other species' are mosquitoes, which have also benefited and are very happy about all the new standing waters!"

Mat Wagner, Driftless Area Fly Shop, Viroqua, 9-24-07

"The recent floods in the area

have really changed our area trout streams. In most cases the changes are for the better. There are those that were so hard hit with high water and landslides that they've become dammed and choked with trees, but most of our streams benefited from a good flushing of sand and muck.

"The waters that fared the best were the waters that had solid structure work done on them, especially those that included riprapping of some sort. The Timber Coulee watershed is a prime example as the main branch looked flooded, but a couple of the tributary streams look like nothing even touched them, except for the new exposed gravel.

"All of our streams have a new look and a new feel to them. Holes that were acquiring a reputation have filled in, changed, or disappeared altogether. The locals are abuzz with news about the holes from 20 years ago that have been flushed out again. In a nutshell, expect to relearn water around here.

"Smaller streams did not necessarily fare better. Many smaller waters had enough vegetation clogging them (and, in the worst cases, landslides) that their flow was stopped, and they are in the process of changing channels.

"Lunker structures fared much better than I thought they would. I have still only seen a handful that were uprooted and washed away. There are a few that are in the middle of the river making for an interesting place to drift a nymph, however.

"All in all, the floods have flushed the rivers, creating more spawning and insect habitat. There is some work that must be done this season and into the winter, making sure streams can get back into their channels. In the future, narrowing some now-wide sections of slow-moving water should be a restoration priority."

LOST ON LAST WEEKEND of trout season: Treasured trout net on Hornby Creek. Can identify. Reward: selection of hand-tied trout flies. Call Duke at 715-579-7538.

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WITU Looking Back

From the Fall 1987 Reflections...

Wisconsin TU, DNR Team Up

The Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited has appointed Special Regulations Committee to develop a policy statement on special regulations. A final statement is due in January, 1988.

The timing is perfect because the DNR is holding internal meetings to develop a proposal for the complete change of state trout fishing regulations. Changes such as those anticipated are currently in effect in many other areas of the country which have experienced high fishing pressure. These changes have resulted in improved results. Changes will include catch-and-release areas, artificials-only areas, special size and bag limits, and others.

Public pressure from some groups and individuals will be against these needed changes and it will be the job of Trout Unlimited to put out the good word on special regulations.

The DNR will be working with TU this winter to develop a final proposal due to be considered at hearings in the spring of 1989. This will allow ample time to develop the regulations together. Look for announcements of workshops this winter.

For information or input into the TU Special Regulations Committee, contact: Rick Penn, 715-274-2942, Rt 1 Box 267 Highbridge, WI 54846. To contact the DNR on this subject, call or write Larry Claggett, 608-267-9658, DNR-FM/4, Box 7921, Madison, WI 54707.

Ed. note: This is just another example of how Wisconsin TU and the DNR have worked together over the years. Let's all help.

From the Fall 1997 Wisconsin Trout...

Corps denies permit to cranberry grower

An "After-The-Fact" permit sought by the **Duck Creek Cranberry Company, Inc.**, of Wisconsin Rapids to retain fill material discharged **without authorization** into **Fourmile Creek** (Ditch Four) in **Portage County** was denied by the St. Paul District office of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers upon recommendation of Corps field staff in the Stevens Point-Wisconsin Rapids area. The permit had been opposed by the **Frank Hornberg T.U. Chapter**, the **Northeast Region** of T.U. and the **Wisconsin T.U. State Council**.

Duck Creek Cranberry Company had constructed a road crossing/control structure across Ditch Four (a Class I and II trout stream in Portage County within the Portage County Drainage District) and had dug a ditch to the stream to both discharge water to the creek and withdraw it as needs would arise for cranberry operations.

The company had done so without a permit from the Corps under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, as is required, and sought the permit "after-the-fact."

In its review of the application, Corps staff noted that the water demands by the grower for his operation would seriously impact the water levels in Fourmile Creek and the trout populations therein. The Corps recommended that the request to retain the unauthorized discharge as a water control structure be denied, but that discharge done to create road access to the applicant's property be allowed to remain.

The permit denial was a victory for T.U. and the coldwater resource, as plans by the applicant not only would have caused dewatering of the stream, but also blocked migration of trout for spawning purposes.

Chapter president profile

Paul Kruse is a Green Bay TU spark plug

By Jack Koivisto

Paul Kruse developed an interest in trout and trout fishing as a teenager with his father and uncle as important role models exhibiting reverence to the trout inhabiting the Peshtigo, Thunder, and Oconto rivers near a family cabin located in Silver Cliff. Many of their catch were released to swim, grow, and perhaps be caught again, but a few were enjoyed sizzling in butter in a cast iron frying pan.

Paul became aware of Trout Unlimited when, as a student, his Green Bay Southwest High School fish and wildlife class was involved in assisting Green Bay TU in a work project.

He became further motivated by reading Mitch Bent's well-written trout and conservation articles in a former area newspaper, the *News Chronicle*.

In 1995, Paul joined GBTU. He immediately became a "go to" member, enthusiastically taking on any project in which he was asked to take part.

The first such project was teaming with a longtime TU member to create a versatile, portable display panel. This panel has since been utilized at numerous shows, exhibits,



and banquets to display GBTU's extensive photography collection and to promote membership drives.

Before becoming GBTU president, Paul served on the chapter's board of directors for six years, spent two years as vice president, and was membership chair for about eight years. He designed the chapter's web site and is its webmaster.

Paul is also co-chair of the lower Oconto River Committee which plants trout to enhance the fishery near Green Bay, and he's served as coordinator since the chapter took over the project seven years ago.

Paul is one of the chapter's fly fishing instructors, volunteering to instruct youngsters in

Green Bay and other areas. Currently, he is involved in a committee that is in the process of adopting a stream which has the potential to become a major chapter undertaking.

This 42-year-old man thoroughly enjoys his commitment to TU. He takes part in most all of the chapter's stream improvement projects and fund-raisers, including our annual March TU banquet event.

He has also been involved with visiting our Madison elected office



PAUL KRUSE LEADS GREEN BAY TU

Paul Kruse takes part in just about everything the Green Bay Chapter does. In April he helped stock trout (above), and he showed off a nice trout on a recent WDNR stream shocking (below).

holders to impress upon them the importance of passing laws that protect our lakes, streams, and waterways. He will also express these ideas in letters to newspapers.

Always an outdoorsman, Paul loves bow and rifle hunting for deer. He began "serious" fly fishing five years ago and has been hooked on it ever since, employing new skills while fishing for steelhead on Lake Michigan tributaries as well as for trout on inland streams.

Of course, behind our dedicated man there is a dedicated woman.

Mary, Paul's lovely wife of almost 20 years, supplies understanding, support (and permission) for Paul to continue his efforts to promote TU values. Their three children — Danny, Karly, and Logan — love fishing and have an interest in art. Their family pet, a lab named Cody, hasn't tried art, but does enjoy playing with the family and has shown an interest in hunting and fishing.

(Jack Koivisto is a longtime member of the Green Bay Chapter and currently serves on GBTU's board of directors. -Ed.)

TCTU also active in WI

Hiawatha TU wins Silver Trout Award for Driftless Area work

By Bill Heart and John Welter

Two Minnesota TU chapters have been very busy on area trout streams in recent months.

The Hiawatha Chapter was awarded TU National's top award for chapters, the Silver Trout Award, in September. Located in southeastern Minnesota, Hiawatha has been very involved in TUDARE and is working closely with Wisconsin, Illinois, and Iowa on restoration and education in the Driftless Area.

A quote from the awards program says, "The chapter is a bright light in one of TU's most shining projects — the Driftless Area Restoration Effort (TUDARE) focusing on a geologically unique, four-state region containing hundreds of severely degraded spring creeks."

Hiawatha has been doing stream restoration since 1985 and does it all by writing grants, obtaining ease-

ments, acquiring permits, designing structures, and doing the installation. Members also made presentations at TUDARE workshops.

TCTU working in western WI

Twin Cities TU has stepped up with key financial help on two western Wisconsin projects this season.

On the Pine Creek project near Maiden Rock, TCTU volunteers showed up for every work night. The chapter also contributed \$3,000 toward the purchase of a key land parcel to make this project possible.

On the Rush River, a DNR easement purchase was aided by another \$3,000 TCTU contribution which concluded the deal, and which the DNR could not pay under its Stewardship rules.

TCTU President Steve Carlton is supporting conservation projects in areas where many of its members have traditionally angled.

CANOE: "Friends" raffle coming

Continued from p. 20

At first we thought we'd raffle off the canoe at the annual State Council banquet in Stevens Point on Feb. 2, and that may still be the case. However, we are now also looking at selling it on eBay.

Either way, we will let all of you know how you can get this beautiful boat in the January issue of *Wisconsin Trout*. Meanwhile, start thinking

about how good you'll feel piloting this baby on your favorite lake! This is an impressive 20-foot, square-backed canoe. It comes with an eight-horse Johnson motor and can be operated from the motor's tiller or from a front center remote console. A canvas cover and trailer is included with the canoe. The canoe was built in 1990 by J. A. Leavitt's Canoe Company of Newburgh, Maine, and it is in mint condition.

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Introducing the incredible foam Gribbeetle

By John Gremmer

I have no plausible explanation as to why the Gribbeetle works so well. This year, and at times in past years, it has been my number one dry fly. It's also a big fish fly!

Legendary fly tying innovator John Gribb of Mt. Horeb designed the Gribbeetle. He just called it a big foam beetle. A number of us have renamed it the Gribbeetle. This article represents its debut.

This past July I spent a glorious week visiting my friend, Art Kempf, in State College, PA. We fished Spring Creek, Fishing Creek, and the Little Juniata. The water was low and clear. The fish were quite wary, but they hadn't seen the Gribbeetle yet!

The first night Art took me down to Fisherman's Paradise, a historic piece of public water on Spring Creek, next to a fish hatchery. As we walked along the bank, Art pointed out many big fish that were stationed along the banks waiting for something edible to drift by. These were highly educated fish that had flies thrown at them all day long. They're extremely hard to catch.

The next morning we were back early at Fisherman's Paradise for the Trico hatch. It was a substantial hatch, and the trout had changed positions and were now lined up at the ends of riffles waiting for the size 24 and 26 Tricos to drop and drift to them.

After taking 15 minutes to thread 7X tippet material through a size 26

hook, I was able to hook several medium-sized fish. Then the cloud of Tricos was gone and so were the rises. Now what?

I carry five fly boxes with me. I opened up several of them looking for a likely candidate. I went with a size 20 parachute BWO. This didn't work. Neither did other candidates. Meanwhile, Art was fishing along the edges with a size 16 black foam beetle and doing quite well. I had several beetle patterns in my terrestrial box. I tried a black foam beetle tied on a size 19, TMC 102Y hook. I caught a few, then nothing for about two hours. Frustration was creeping in.

Opening the terrestrial box again, I noticed the size 12 Gribbeetle off to one side. Was this fly too big for this clear stream? Thinking that I couldn't do any worse, I tied on the Gribbeetle.

That was the defining moment of the trip. I immediately started catching fish. I caught them along the edges, in the riffles, and in the pools. They banged it and held on. For the next five days after the Trico event, the Gribbeetle got tied on. That's all I fished! I rode that horse the rest of the trip. My evenings were spent tying up Gribbeetles.

Art was politely skeptical when I told him of my success and showed him the Gribbeetle. He and I are alike in that we are suspicious of "wonder flies." He would stick to his beetle patterns. Later, when we fished side-by-side along Fishing Creek and big fish after big fish came out from cover and exploded on the Gribbeetle, he became a convert. Now in the evenings I was tying the pattern for him, too.

Simple materials

The Gribbeetle is as simple and quick a tie as there is. It's constructed of cheap, black, 2mm craft store sheet foam, red thread, and rubber legs.

When John first started developing this fly, he cut the beetle out of a flat sheet of foam. This often led to an uneven-shaped fly. He then came up with the idea of cutting a half moon shape from a folded piece of foam. Now all he had to do was make one cut and he had a uniformly shaped beetle.

I first learned of this fly during the last week of the season several years ago. John Gribb and several others were camped at Avalanche and fish weren't rising on the West Fork. But John was taking lots of fish on the surface with his new beetle. He took us down to the water's

edge in the campground for a demonstration. He plopped that fly out on the water and bang! Then bang again. I want some of those! We coerced John into tying us a bunch of those beetles on the spot and we all went off and had fun for a few days.

Fish appeal

Why does this pattern work so well? I can only speculate. I believe like a lot of "go-to" flies, there are several features that attract fish. It doesn't float on top of the water, it floats in the film or just under. This may be due to the heavy Mustad 3366 size 10 or 12 hook. Floating in the film may give the fish a better look at it.

It also makes a plopping (sometimes "splat") sound when it hits the water. Fish may perceive this sound as a snack shaken from the heavens.

The rubber legs provide some movement. It also has a good profile. There are a lot of beetles out there crawling and flying around trout streams. Who knows? They eat it, and that's enough for me.

I fish the Gribbeetle with a 3 or 4 wt. rod, a nine-foot leader, and a 5X tippet. I try to drift it by where fish may be holding. I always give it a coat of floatant before I use it.

The Gribbeetle has been very, very good to me. Maybe it will be good to you, too. Good luck!

Tying instructions

Take a sheet of 2mm black craft foam and fold it over. Cut a half moon shape out along the fold. (Note: the pattern calls for black foam, but I used yellow foam in

these pictures so you can get a better view of the process.)

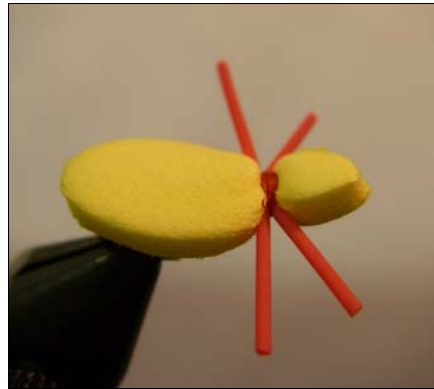
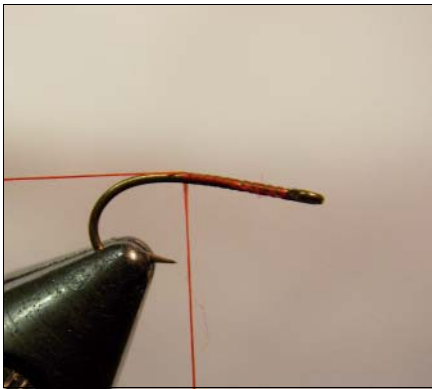
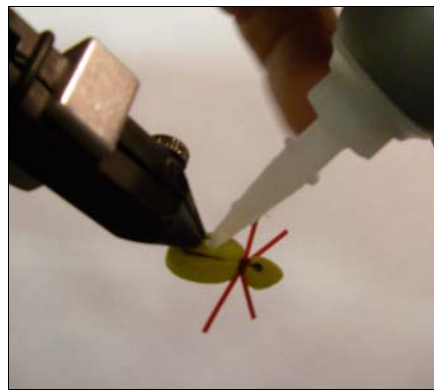
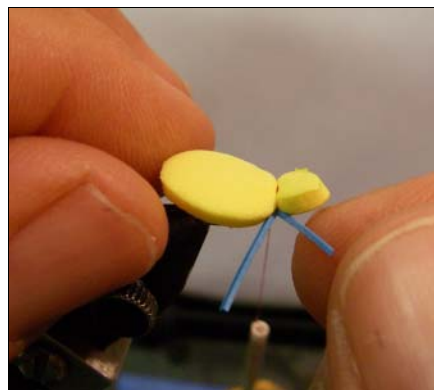
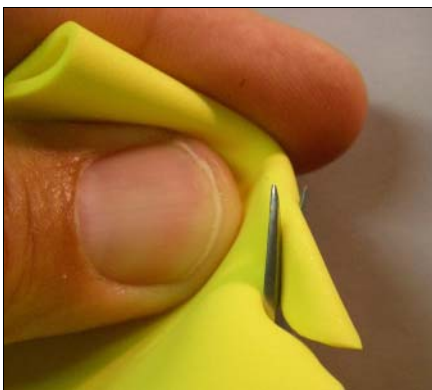
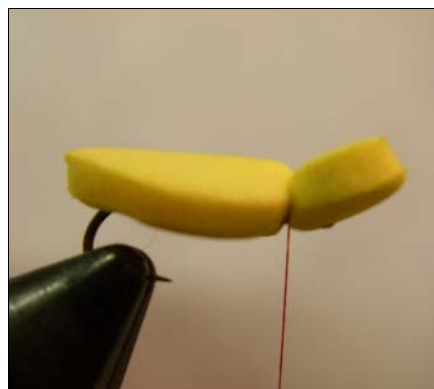
Put several layers of thread on the shank so the foam will grip firmly to the hook.

As tightly as you can, attach the foam body to the hook as shown in the photo.

Leave a small head. Tie in a rubber leg on each side of the body. Trim legs to the desired length.

Finally, add a drop of super glue to the underside of the beetle. This is very important. If not glued, the body will twist on the hook.

(John Gremmer is a retired biology and leadership teacher from Winneconne. A past president of CWTU, he teaches fly fishing and fly tying classes for Fox Valley Technical College. John is also available to make presentations on a variety of subjects including digital photography for the fisherman, water monitoring, fly tying, chapter effectiveness, and fishing the Bighorn River. You can contact him at jgremmer@charter.net. -Ed)



MATERIALS LIST Gribbeetle

- Hook:** Mustad 3366 (straight eye), size 10 or 12.
- Thread:** red 3/0.
- Body:** black sheet foam, 2mm.
- Legs:** black rubber legs or Stretch Magic from craft stores.

1986-2006 Lake Michigan trout and salmon harvest by species and method

Species	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	TOTAL
Brook Trout	4,587	1,369	5,148	2,192	5,927	1,659	4,431	1,967	7,481	1,914	419	299	159	574	199	263	144	126	1	18	17	38,894
Brown Trout	68,806	82,397	59,397	55,036	45,092	59,164	51,554	64,546	52,397	49,654	38,093	43,224	27,371	37,187	40,966	26,421	35,220	23,654	20,918	27,489	17,769	926,355
Rainbow Trout	26,483	56,055	60,860	87,987	51,711	67,877	79,525	104,769	114,776	117,508	77,099	94,470	110,888	84,248	71,829	72,854	74,031	48,548	25,529	48,490	48,420	1,523,957
Chinook Salmon	356,900	396,478	176,294	189,251	111,345	139,080	103,564	87,365	99,755	162,888	183,254	130,152	136,653	157,934	136,379	191,378	275,454	317,619	360,991	418,918	398,905	4,530,557
Coho Salmon	127,919	111,886	136,695	105,224	64,083	44,195	70,876	74,304	110,001	65,647	104,715	138,423	59,203	56,297	87,927	47,474	102,313	50,625	76,944	59,244	56,136	1,750,131
Lake Trout	96,858	113,930	89,227	94,614	75,177	85,841	52,853	61,123	53,989	69,332	36,849	57,954	82,247	39,819	31,151	40,408	39,865	23,881	14,209	14,139	10,638	1,184,104
TOTAL Harvest	681,553	762,115	527,621	534,304	353,335	397,816	362,803	394,074	438,399	466,943	440,429	464,522	416,521	376,059	368,451	378,798	527,027	464,453	498,592	568,298	531,885	9,953,998
Per Hour	0.1469	0.1593	0.1068	0.1220	0.0979	0.1103	0.0980	0.1213	0.1256	0.1426	0.1481	0.1619	0.1451	0.1331	0.1614	0.1382	0.1789	0.1719	0.1904	0.2036	0.1916	0.1421

Total number of salmonids harvested by year by angler group in Wisconsin waters of Lake Michigan, 1986-2006

Fisheries Type	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	TOTAL
Ramp	255,559	266,036	222,428	173,224	118,439	150,840	111,260	145,689	167,388	193,752	176,085	190,976	155,953	141,903	170,081	156,470	236,241	196,235	195,953	241,535	197,833	3,863,880
Moored	186,611	225,586	98,908	184,011	97,206	103,633	111,441	110,507	134,315	128,743	125,017	129,332	141,538	100,078	68,872	85,435	110,094	111,148	130,418	149,845	128,666	2,661,404
Charter	124,282	150,249	133,861	125,969	85,773	88,490	71,113	81,490	81,909	84,898	86,346	94,556	84,867	73,622	91,665	76,868	106,631	100,037	123,995	137,922	152,749	2,157,292
Pier	47,643	44,280	26,527	7,548	6,946	8,701	10,867	9,144	15,130	14,621	6,218	5,002	4,200	4,614	4,402	7,327	10,629	8,464	11,329	9,284	8,835	271,711
Shore	27,947	30,043	22,945	13,268	14,538	16,830	16,602	13,645	16,370	17,676	19,676	16,726	8,997	12,885	13,971	18,308	20,111	14,995	11,175	8,557	13,472	348,537
Stream	39,511	45,921	22,952	30,284	30,433	29,322	41,520	33,599	23,287	27,253	27,087	27,930	20,966	43,157	19,460	34,390	43,321	33,574	25,722	21,155	30,330	651,174
TOTAL	681,553	762,115	527,621	534,304	353,335	397,816	362,803	394,074	438,399	466,943	440,429	464,522	416,521	376,059	368,451	378,798	527,027	464,453	498,592	568,298	531,885	9,953,998

Friends get canoe to raffle off

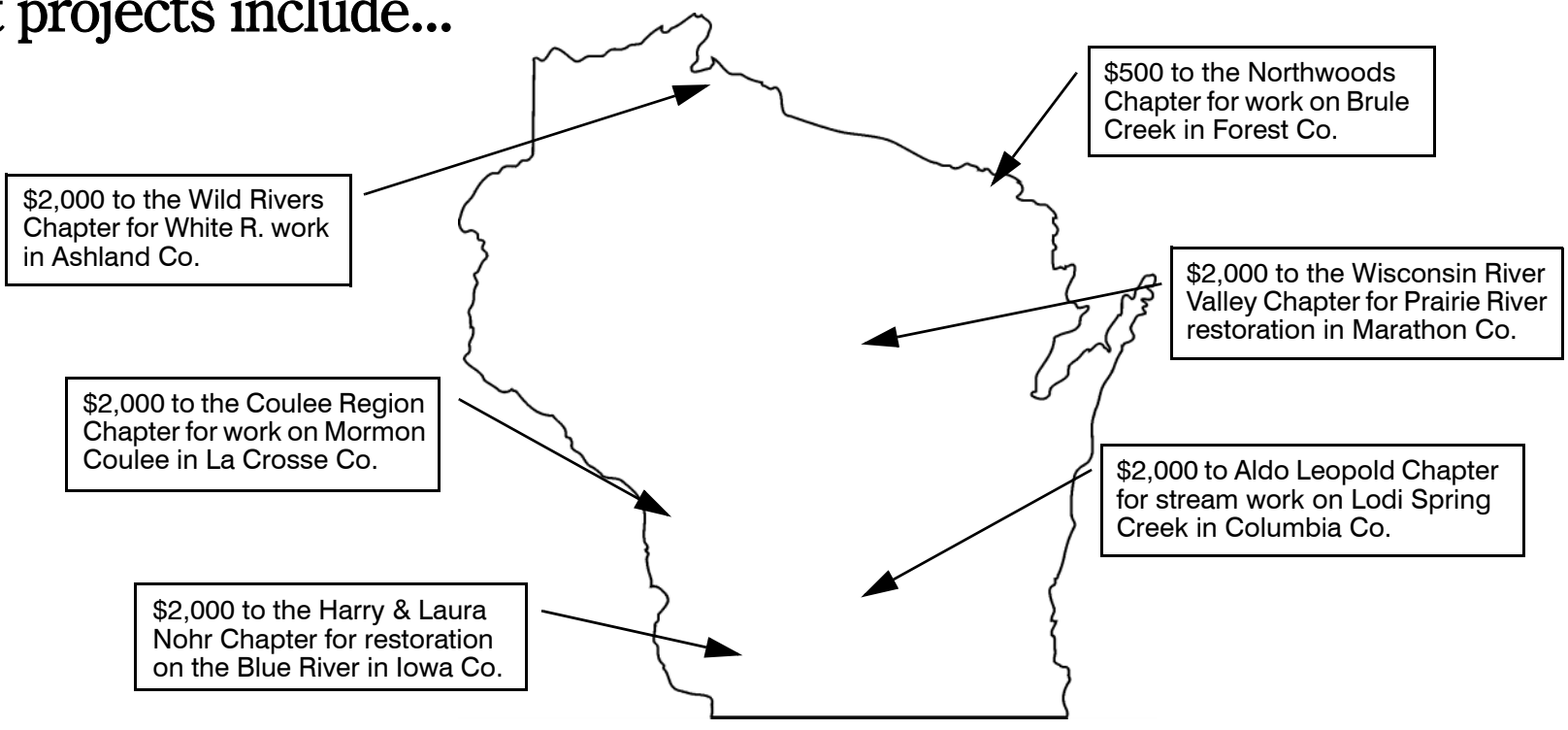
By Steve Hill

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Continued on p. 18



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