



Wisconsin Trout

April 2008



NORTHWOODS CHAPTER GETS WDNR EXTERNAL PARTNERSHIP AWARD
WDNR Fisheries Director Mike Staggs (left) and WDNR Fisheries Management Technician David Brum (right) presented Northwoods TU President Brian Hegge with the agency's 2007 External Partnership Award at the Fisheries Management Program's annual meeting Feb. 27.

Prairie R. Spring Hearing question deserves support

By Bill Heart
WITU State Council Chair

In the past couple of months, I have received numerous e-mails concerning the special regulation change on the Prairie River. At last year's Conservation Congress hearings, there was a question to change a category 5 regulation to a category 4. The category 5 regulation was brown trout over 18" or brook/rainbow trout over 12", with a total bag of one fish on artificial lures only. The category 4 regulation would be brown trout over 12" or brook/rainbow trout over 8" with a total bag of 3 fish using artificial or live bait.

Chair's Analysis

A small group of vocal citizens of Lincoln County influenced the WDNR to have this question on the ballot. The way the question was worded, it was primarily a social question that left out all of the science needed to let voters around the state make a knowledgeable decision.

Well, the question passed, not only in Lincoln County, but statewide. (By the way, the special regulation is just on a five-mile stretch of the river, which is about 12% of the trout water on the Prairie River.)

The Natural Resources Board (NRB) discussed this issue at its last two meetings and came up with a different question for this year's Spring Hearings, and an emergency rule for the 2008 season. The emergency rule did not pass at the February NRB meeting, but we still have a chance at the April meeting of the NRB to enact the emergency rule if the new question passes at the April 14 meeting of the Conservation Congress. If the question (printed on p. 5) does *not* pass, the Prairie River will be all Category 4 for many years. That is why we need to act as a group **now**.

Continued on p. 5

TU chapters receive subpoenas in easement lawsuit

A Trempealeau County lawsuit contesting a conservation/access easement on a trout stream led to most Wisconsin TU chapters receiving subpoenas to produce records last month.

Attorney Bob Selk, a former Wisconsin Assistant Attorney General, and Eau Claire attorney Dick Duplessie, who together represent Wisconsin TU in the lawsuit, are managing the response to the request for information.

The plaintiff in the suit is a party that bought the property where the easement had been previously obtained and recorded in favor of Wisconsin TU. The named plaintiff is Graul Farms LLC.

The lawsuit alleges that the grantor of the easement either did not have authority to do so on behalf of his elderly aunt who had granted him power of attorney, that

no payment or benefit was made for the easement, or that Wisconsin TU misrepresented the terms of the easement. Both the grantor and the elderly aunt are now deceased.

The easement in question was drafted in form similar to the ones used by the Wisconsin DNR.

Similar easements are in effect on several streams in Trempealeau and Jackson counties, and stream restoration work has been funded on many of those easements through a combination of funds from TU and other sources and volunteer help from local schools and conservation clubs.

Trout habitat has significantly improved as a result of the work, and the public has access to each of the restored areas. In most cases, landowners paid nothing to the projects.

WHIP funds given to four big improvement projects

The Wisconsin Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has been successful in getting \$580,446 dollars for streambank stabilization, trout habitat, and practices that benefit threatened and endangered species in riparian corridors for 2008.

These are special Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) dollars states are eligible for and *not* part of the regular yearly allocation each state receives.

"When I was contacted by Don Baloun, Jan Whitcomb, and Bob Weihrouch if we had projects ready to go this spring, I said yes!" says Jeff Hastings, TUDARE project manager.

"I then contacted Minnesota and Iowa hoping they would also go after these special funds, but they didn't feel they had enough time to make the application. Wisconsin took the initiative and went after these special dollars, and now we have over one half million dollars we weren't planning on for projects this summer."

According to Pat Leavenworth, NRCS State Conservationist for Wisconsin, having more applications for stream restoration than funding will also benefit Wisconsin in the future.

"Building a backlog of potential high-value projects like we have will put Wisconsin in a good position to receive additional funds should they become available from other states," says Leavenworth.

Four big projects

Four TU chapters submitted the top seven projects.

- Wisconsin Clear Waters TU will get funds for Trout and Elk creeks in Chippewa County, Gilbert Creek in Dunn County, and Traverse Creek in Trempealeau County;
- Southern Wisconsin TU has funds to improve Gordon Creek in Iowa County;
- Southeastern Wisconsin TU will be working on Melancthon Creek in Richland County; and
- Coulee Region TU will have funds for a project on Timber Coulee in Vernon County.

All four projects will involve stabilizing eroding streambanks, incorporating habitat for trout and nongame species, and the establishing warm season grasses.

Help for non-trout species

According to Jeff Hastings, a group of nongame biologists and stream restoration specialists has been meeting for a couple years to develop practices that will benefit threatened and endangered species living in the riparian corridor.

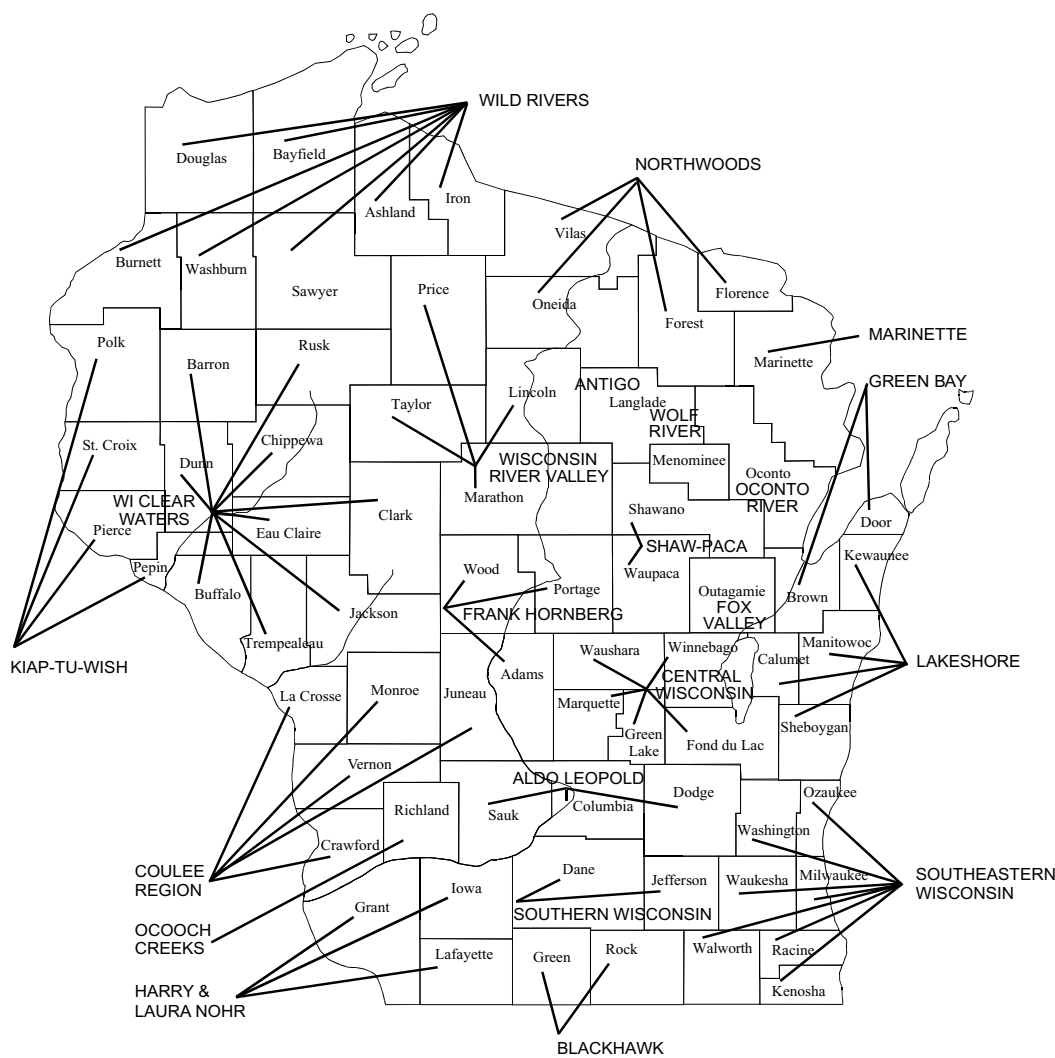
The group has developed a number nongame habitat practices that can be incorporated during any streambank stabilization and trout habitat project.

Bob Hay, herpetologist with the WDNR, has organized a series of monitoring programs that can be utilized that will help determine the success of the projects in creating habitat for these threatened and endangered species.

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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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Of the BWCAW, Bill Rom, thugs, South Pacific, and the Prairie regs

By Todd Hanson

A couple recent events in Minnesota have some things to say about the controversy we're having here in Wisconsin over the Prairie River trout regulations.

Editorial

Bill Rom of Ely, MN, has sometimes been called "the canoe king of Ely" for the huge wilderness canoe outfitting business he built in that town. Rom worked with wilderness visionaries like Ernest Oberholtzer and Rom's former community college teacher, Sigurd Olson, to create Minnesota's Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, and he later fought to keep the wilderness experience pure by supporting bans on planes and snowmobiles. That activism made Rom unpopular with some Ely residents who felt wilderness status for their lakes would take more from the town than the town could ever expect to get in return. During the debate over whether planes should be allowed to fly over the wilderness, someone went so far as to explode a stick of dynamite next to one of Rom's buildings.

Bill Rom died on Jan. 20 at age 90, living just long enough to see an ugly incident last August in which six Ely-area men were arrested for getting drunk and motoring into a canoe-only area of the BWCAW late one night where they vandalized government property, stole from campsites, and terrorized dozens of campers with gunfire and verbal threats of rape and murder. All of these thugs were charged with various felonies, and recently the first of the men were sentenced.

Were these terrorists 65-year-old men venting old resentments they experienced first-hand in their youth? No, only one of the men charged was over age 20, meaning they learned their hatred and intolerance from their parents and grandparents. I'm reminded of what the *South Pacific* song "You've Got to Be Taught" says about racism:

*You've got to be taught
To hate and fear,
You've got to be taught
From year to year,
It's got to be drummed
In your dear little ear,
You've got to be carefully taught.*

Ely residents were shocked at last August's BWCAW terrorism incident. Most have come to see the tourism trade that has built up around the wilderness as a tremendous asset that will pay dividends for hundreds of years to come. The BWCAW has for years been the most-visited wilderness in the U.S.

Trout fishers can learn something from all this. I would encourage those vocal opponents of special regulations on the Prairie and other trout streams not to look at category five regulations as something that *takes* from them, but rather something that *gives* to them. The promise of the special regs section on the Prairie is the possibility of catching a big fish, a trout of a lifetime. This water also serves as a magnet for trout fishers who might just as easily visit some other Wisconsin trout stream than travel to the Prairie to spend their money. For most of us, these are huge pluses for a local community.

To Trout Unlimited's great credit, our stream improvement work has never, ever come with any special regulation strings attached. No chapter that I know of has ever said to a WDNR fish manager, "We'll raise \$20,000 for such-and-such project *if* you turn the stretch into category five water afterward." Instead, Wisconsin TU's 4,250 members have improved trout streams based on need, and the state's 125,000 non-TU anglers have benefitted from our projects, no matter what fishing tackle they use or how many trout they keep.

Our generous TU organization now needs to hear from other generous voices to support special trout regulations in Wisconsin. The place to start is this year's Spring Hearings on April 14. That night we have a chance to support the continuation of the Prairie River's special regs through the year 2010 so that those regulations can be fully evaluated for their ability to produce large trout.

And what will this generosity of spirit cost? Compared to setting aside 1.1 million acres of land to form the BWCAW, setting aside a few miles of category five trout water here and there among the thousands of miles of trout water in the state is a pittance. Unless carefully taught, I think the fairness meters of most 12-year-olds wouldn't sound an alarm at the thought of managing a small number of trout waters for special angling opportunities.

We are all, in the end, carefully taught. So what do *you* want to teach — the lessons of Bill Rom fighting to preserve a unique natural resources experience or the lessons of a mob intent on frightening and bullying people? I'm with Bill.



Questions economic valuing of trout streams

Editor,

At the risk of appearing to be either a curmudgeon or a hopeless idealist, permit me to object to the basic premise of the article *Dollars and Good Sense* [in the winter issue of TU National's *TROUT* magazine]. My objection isn't merely to the irritatingly trite literary juxtaposition of the terms "dollars" and "sense;" rather, it is to the practical and intellectual and moral juxtaposition of the concepts of environmentalism and commercialism.

I object to the commercialization of conservation on several grounds. First, the attempt to place a dollar value on the national hunting and fishing resource by accounting for the value of all spending done by any and all outdoor sports enthusiasts undoubtedly includes and legitimates lots of spending which contributes to some of our worst and most urgent environmental problems: hydrocarbon-based travel to and within natural settings, land over-development, etc. Such a starting point for thinking about the issues of conservation validates all spending and consumption without distinction and creates a very questionable foundation for all that follows in this line of thinking.

Second, and more practically, if many see the economic value of a natural resource as its primary intrinsic value, what happens when its immediate worth is greater through exploitation than through conservation or preservation? A current example is what's happening with CRP lands, many of which are being withdrawn from the CRP program to be returned to production because of the so-called "ethanol boom." People who are basically entrepreneurs or otherwise commercial actors will in the main probably make commercial decisions if not persuaded about the degree to which some decisions must be thought of in ecological terms.

Finally, the reason for protecting, preserving, and cherishing our natural resources of all kinds isn't and shouldn't be that there's money in it, but rather that it's the right thing to do environmentally, aesthetically, and morally. Given the current state of our planet's biological systems as at risk of fundamental breakdown due to human activity, we cannot afford anything less than appealing to people more broadly based on a deeper than commercial understanding of life and its interconnectedness through the environment. I gather the TU approach being advocated/celebrated in your article is one of first attracting new people to the cause by showing them the economic value of the fishery resource and by then holding them in the conservation fold by persuading them then of the richer value of the resource. However, I'm just not sure we can afford for ourselves or for the resource to appeal at all to people based on what is essentially a notion of our resources as something in human terms fundamentally in existence to be commercially exploited. We underestimate both the capacity of our fellows to understand and the urgency of our current environmental crisis to think that we cannot and should not focus all our energy on educating ourselves and others about the direct, and not the indirect (economic), benefits of conservation.

In summary, my appeal is for TU to rededicate itself wholly to promoting and teaching environmental values rather than trying to accommodate commercial values to conservation values. Hopefully, what will guide us as fisherman is a vision of our trout streams as not just places to catch fish, but as places to experience, and what will guide us as conservationists is a perception of the necessity of protecting our environmental systems for our biological, aesthetic, and spiritual selves.

Rolf Skogstad
Hixton, WI

Legislative wrap

Key policy issues fail to pass as state budget cuts loom

By Bill Pielsticker

WITU Legislative Chair

Last fall, when the state budget was finally adopted, Wisconsin TU celebrated with our partners the renewal of the Stewardship Fund and the addition of new money to fund nutrient management plans that would reduce polluted runoff.

However, that success did not carry over into the regular legislative session which ended March 13. Even the new money provided for polluted runoff prevention appears at risk due to a serious budget shortfall.

Independent DNR secretary

The three measures comprising the "Hunter, Angler, and Trapper Bill of Rights" failed to be adopted.

The first proposal is to return the appointment of the DNR Secretary to the Natural Resources Board instead of the Governor.

Continued on p. 9

State Council to meet in Waupaca April 26

The spring meeting of the WITU State Council will be held at T. W. Martin's Public House in Waupaca Sat., April 26.

The restaurant is located at 111 Cooper St. in downtown Waupaca.

A date for the fall State Council meeting has also been set. That meeting will be Sept. 27 at a yet-to-be-named location in Antigo.

Back from Patagonia and into lawsuit

By Bill Heart

WITU State Council Chair

My second year as State Council chair started out pretty well. One week after the banquet, I left for Argentina with, of all people, Duke Welter, Steve Born, and Loren Albright, a TU trustee from Idaho. We spent two weeks traveling Patagonia and fishing as many streams as possible. We had wonderful fishing for nice browns and rainbows, went on three raft trips, attended the largest gaucho festival of the year in Junin (you think *our* politicians are long-winded, at least ours speak English), had a lots of travel problems, and did I mention the great fishing.

It has been an extremely hot summer in Patagonia, with many of the stream levels well below normal. Lanin is an extinct volcano in the area where we fished. It is a very prominent landmark with glaciers and snow fields on the peak. This is the first time that I have seen most of the peak devoid of snow. Climate change is affecting the southern hemisphere also.

It was a pleasure traveling with these three very important TU lead-

ers, and I don't think that we ruined any chance of TU International succeeding. Even on the raft and camping trips, most of us were able to keep very clean in case we ran into any potential members. Ask Steve and Duke about their unique bathing techniques.

Midway through our trip, Duke checked his e-mail and we found out about the subpoenas that the Graul Farms' attorneys laid on all of our chapter presidents. It just so happened that our attorney, Bob Selk, was also out of the country. It made for a pretty stressful couple of weeks for our chapter leaders, but everything has been taken care of, and it is again a waiting game.

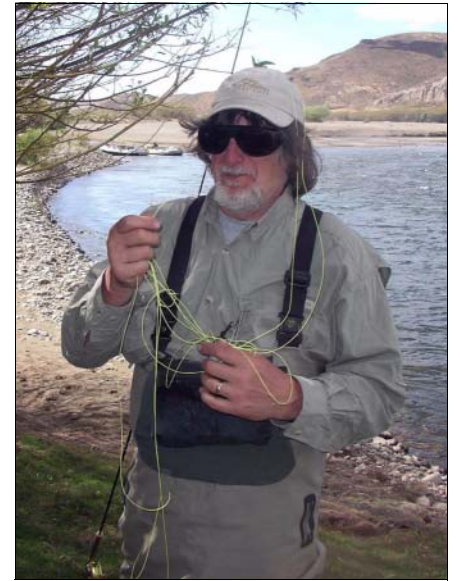
I would like to thank all of our chapter presidents for showing patience and getting the needed information to Bob. We all owe Bob Selk a lot of gratitude for agreeing to take on this project. You can read more about this matter in the story on p. 1.

The week after we returned, the NRB voted to not support the emergency rule change on the Prairie River. We have talked a lot about how this should be handled and

came up with the strategy to be aggressive at next month's Conservation Congress hearings to make sure that question 36 passes by a large margin. If that happens, the NRB could have another discussion at their April meeting about the emergency rule and will hopefully pass it at that time. We need everyone's help to get a yes vote on April 14.

Even though this question concerns a northern river, it quite easily could have been any Category 5 stream in the state. There are still people around who want to be rid of all special regulations, and they are very vocal. We really need to cancel them out **now** to protect our fisheries. Please read the article on p. 1 and attend one of the hearings with the talking points. It would be great to have TU members at every county hearing to make sure the question passes.

I would like to thank Dan Holland and Bill Pielsticker for organizing a very nice State Council banquet in February. Also thanks to all who donated prizes and helped out at the banquet, especially the members of the Fox River Valley and Hornberg chapters, who did a



Bill Heart

great job on registration and set-up. We had a very nice turnout and made well over \$5,000 for our cold-water resources.

I am planning to dedicate next year's banquet to "Women in Fishing," and I ask for your help in lining up some workshops and prizes for women. Only 5% of our members are women, and we need to address that. We have over 10 months to do the planning, and I would like to hear any suggestions.

Getchell Cr. saga: once in, culverts hard to fix

By Brian Hegge

Everyone knows the problems with culverts. Improper culvert installation restricts fish passage and produces impoundments that warm the water upstream of the culvert.

Member Analysis

Some culverts are installed with the bottom of the culvert above the streambed, while others are not sized properly to the stream flow and create

water velocities that fish cannot swim against or depths too shallow for fish to swim in. With lifetimes in excess of 30+ years, once a culvert is installed, it impacts a fishery for decades. It's no wonder that fish managers and Trout Unlimited get so fired up about culverts.

There is a small tributary to the Wolf River in Langlade County, Getchell Creek, where an improper culvert installation took place in the summer of 2006. It has been almost two years now, and the WDNR and WDOT have not come to an agreement on what is to be done to rectify this culvert installation. That's just too long.

Getchell Creek is a Class II tributary to the Wolf River located eight tenths of a mile south of Military Park on State Hwy. 55, or three miles north of Lily in Langlade County. Getchell Creek is one mile in length, originates in a cedar swamp, has a sustainable population of wild brook trout, and, most importantly, is a very cold spring-fed tributary to the Wolf River.

The Wolf River was once a respected fishery with wild brook, brown, and an occasional rainbow trout. In recent years, trout populations have decreased so that only stocked trout and an occasional migratory brown are found above the Menominee Indian Reservation boundary in the Wolf River.

The Wolf River suffers from high temperatures in the summer that trout cannot tolerate. Small coldwater tributaries to the Wolf like Getchell Creek are very important in that they provide thermal refuges, spawning sites, and nursery areas for trout and other aquatic life. These small creeks are critical for wild brook trout natural reproduction in the Wolf ecosystem.

State Hwy. 55 is located less than 100 yards from the Wolf River where it crosses Getchell Creek. It is a bad place for a culvert as the slope down to the Wolf River is steep.

Years ago, before this road was constructed, Getchell Creek freely flowed out of the cedar swamp and down the Wolf over boulders forming pools and resting places for migratory fish to rest. All that changed many years ago with

the construction of Hwy. 55 and the installation of a culvert that was installed improperly with its bottom above the elevation of the streambed.

Before Hwy. 55 was reconstructed in 2006, the DOT requested the DNR review a design for either a bridge or culvert replacement on Getchell Creek. The DNR emphasized to the DOT that Getchell Creek was considered a high-quality, sensitive resource.

Several review steps later, the DNR authorized the placement of a 72-inch diameter, 96-foot culvert. The culvert was to be set at a 1.8-2% slope, and the bottom of the culvert elevation was to be six inches below the elevation of the streambed.

Pagel Construction Company installed the culvert in the summer of 2006 under the oversight of DOT staff. Pagel requested a change in the culvert alignment during the construction that was approved by DOT and DNR because the design plans did not allow for adequate space for construction of a temporary bypass channel for Getchell Creek. This realignment resulted in lengthening the culvert to approximately 136 feet. The DNR requested the depth of the culvert be increased from six inches to a minimum of one foot below the elevation of the streambed so streambed materials could be deposited in the bottom of the culvert and create a roughness factor in the pipe to help prevent high velocities and barriers to fish movement.

The DNR observed the completed culvert installation and found that there were issues with shallow water and higher velocities in the upstream portion of the pipe. To state it simply, the water flow in the first 64 feet of culvert was only a couple inches deep and straight in flow. This straight, high-velocity water was suspected to be prohibiting the migration of brook trout through the culvert as several small brook trout were observed at the outfall of the culvert.

The DNR notified the DOT of their concerns about the culvert placement and fish passage obstructions. Several meetings between the DNR and DOT have ensued since the summer of 2006 with no agreement from DOT on how to fix the problem culvert. From September through November 2007, the DNR fisheries crew conducted trout sampling above and below the culvert to document whether the culvert was preventing fish passage. The data clearly indicated that the culvert is a barrier to fish migration. A total of 67 brown and 74 brook trout were captured below the culvert, but not one brown trout was captured above the culvert,

and no brook trout caught and tagged below the culvert were ever re-caught above the culvert.

WDNR correspondence dated Jan. 29, 2008, stated, "Where creek flow is somewhat backed-up in the downstream 56 feet of culvert we caught trout, which indicates that the trout were attempting to move upstream through the culvert, but could not make it. This was especially apparent on October 18, 2007 when brown trout first showed up in Getchell Creek (brown trout were stocked in the Wolf River on October 8, 2007; the closest stocking location to Getchell Creek was Military Park which is about 1 mile upstream). Most of the 44 brown trout were captured in the culvert that day, but none were captured upstream from the culvert. It was very apparent that the culvert was a barrier to trout movement and they were swimming upstream as far as they could get."

The DOT agreed to obtain survey data on the culvert in December 2006 to determine if the culvert was set at a steeper slope than authorized and to determine if baffles or stream bottom retention methods could be installed to address the shallow water and laminar flow problems. The DNR is waiting for that data from the DOT.

The DNR and DOT have a long history of cooperation on fishery issues. It is unfortunate that this situation has taken over two years to resolve. For now, the DNR has indicated a desire to address this issue on a cooperative basis. Once the survey data is reviewed, decisions on whether the problem can be fixed by retrofitting or, as a last resort, resetting the culvert, will need to be made. Until retrofitting or resetting is completed, fish passage will continue to be restricted on Getchell Creek.

TU members are monitoring the Getchell Creek situation and will continue to press the DNR and DOT to take actions to resolve this culvert barrier.

We all need to be aware of culvert installations and bring improper installations to the attention of the DNR. We need to support the DNR in their efforts to standardize and address culvert sizing issues so that all contractors know what is expected during design and installation. We also need to support the DNR when they need to take legal actions to force the correction of improper installations. If we don't, these improper culvert installations will be with us for many, many years.

(Brian Hegge is president of the Northwoods Chapter of TU and sees many poorly designed culverts on northern WI streams. -Ed.)

PRAIRIE: question revisiting reg change deserves support

Continued from p. 1

Here is the question you will have a chance to vote on at the April 14 Spring Hearings:

“Do you favor Category 5 trout regulations (aggregate daily bag limit of 1 trout; 18” minimum size limit on brown trout; 12” minimum size limit on brook and rainbow trout; artificial lures only) on the Prairie River in Lincoln County from R & H Road downstream to STH 17 (5 miles) through the 2010 season? At that time the Natural Resources Board can determine whether to permanently institute these Category 5 regulations based on results of the evaluation, or begin an evaluation of the Category 4 alternative. This will allow a full evaluation of the regulation and the capacity of this stretch of river to grow larger trout.”

After the February NRB meeting and their negative vote, I received a number of e-mails on this regulation change.

WITU Vice Chair Kim McCarthy wrote: “Those of us who believe in science-based management and quality fisheries are going to have to be much more vigilant and much more vocal in the future. This Prairie business is yet another example of the squeaky wheel getting greased. The anti regs group on the Prairie was very small, but they made lots of racket, were very persistent, and ultimately won. The lesson here is that we in TU must be more vigilant, and we certainly need to take these kinds of threats seriously.”

Duke Andrews wrote: “We are dealing with a culture that views protected areas with disdain if not outright contempt. The fact that they could not tolerate 12% of the stream being set aside for something special that benefited brook trout tells the story. There is, I’m afraid, no compromise in their attitude toward this issue. The warm fuzzies are not going to sway them to our way of thinking. The issue has become significantly polarized. It is not a case of disagreeing but not becoming disagreeable. Quite the contrary as I read it. Sad but true.”

Joe Krznarich of the Friends of the Prairie wrote: “I think it is imperative that as many people as possible show up and vote on this question in April so it doesn’t fall off the radar screen. According to the NRB board minutes, one of the board members stated that if the Prairie River question is passed during the 2008 hearings, then this item would return to the April 22-23, 2008 Natural Resources Board agenda. I think we need this issue to stay on the agenda instead of trying to get it back on the agenda as an item in 2009 or 2010. It may be harder to revisit this if we let it go.

“Remember this is/was portrayed as a ‘social issue’ and not a ‘biological issue.’ I don’t like the idea of social issues driving the regulations in our state. If that is the case, this is going to set precedence for other parts of our state as well if we let this go. My thought is if the survey data, showing an increase in both size and numbers, was presented at April 2007 hearings, I don’t think we would be having this discussion today. That is the key piece of the puzzle that was missing on last year’s question. While we may have still lost the vote in Lincoln County due to the ‘social’ aspect of it, I think if the data was presented last year it would have passed statewide to keep the special regulations in place.”

These are but a few of the well-thought-out messages I have received. It was an overwhelming thought that we should at least try to let the NRB know that special regulations are very important for our fishery. What we need to do is specifically address scientific trout management as a worthwhile goal. Science gives us the opportunity to measure the impacts of regulations and determine whether the goal of a regulation is being accomplished: Do we want larger fish in a stream, or do we want to be able to catch and keep them as soon as they reach eight inches? We survey walleyes, panfish, muskies, bass, and sturgeon to determine impacts of angler harvest and other factors. Why shouldn’t we treat trout management in the same way?

We as an organization need to let the DNR know how we feel about special regulations. There is a very good chance that the NRB may take another look at implementing an emergency change for the regulation on the Prairie River if the vote at the Conservation Congress hearings in April is overwhelmingly in favor of keeping the Category 5 regulation. We need to make a concerted effort to attend the hearings at each county in the state, make sure that the question is voted on, and have at least one person speak on the importance of the special regulation. To help members out, we have produced some talking points for the hearings which are printed on this page.

Because of the changes at the hearings where citizens can just come in to get a ballot and then vote without attending the entire meeting, we are encouraging members to take copies of the talking points to hand out to people as they come in for the hearings. We need to let the people who just come in to vote know all of the reasons to pass the Prairie River question.

One thing to remember is that this vote is not just about the Prairie River. It concerns all special regulation streams throughout the state. There are a number of other groups that are waiting to see what happens with this vote, and you can be assured that if we lose this vote, many other special regulation stretches will be at risk.

Because of this, we are forming a committee to work on special regs so that we can be ready for the next attack, and we will have this issue on the agenda at the State Council meeting on April 26.

2008 Spring Hearing Locations

(All meetings begin at 7:00 p.m.)

Adams	Adams County Courthouse, Board Room, 402 Main Street, Friendship
Ashland	Ashland Senior High School, Auditorium, 1900 Beaser Avenue, Ashland
Barron	Old Courthouse Building Lower Level, 330 E. LaSalle Ave., Barron
Bayfield	Bayfield County Old Courthouse, Second Floor, 117 E. 5 th , Washburn
Brown	Franklin Middle School, Auditorium, 1234 W. Mason, Green Bay
Buffalo	Alma High School, Gymnasium, S1618 STH 35, Alma
Burnett	Siren Government Center, Room 165, 7410 County Road K, Siren
Calumet	Calumet County Courthouse, B025, 206 Court Street, Chilton
Chippewa	Chippewa Falls Middle School, 750 Tropicana Blvd., Chippewa Falls
Clark	Greenwood High School, West Gymnasium, 306 W. Central Ave., Greenwood
Columbia	Columbia County Courthouse, Community Room, 400 DeWitt St., Portage
Crawford	Crawford County Courthouse, Court Room, 220 N. Beaumont Road, Prairie du Chien
Dane	Dane County Alliant Energy Center, Exhibition Hall, 1919 Alliant Energy Way, Madison
Dodge	Horicon City Hall, 404 E. Lake Street, Horicon
Door	Sturgeon Bay High School, Auditorium, 1230 Michigan Ave., Sturgeon Bay
Douglas	Springs High School, 8993 E. Baldwin Avenue, Solon Springs
Dunn	Dunn County Fish And Game Club, 1900 Pioneer Ave., Menomonie
Eau Claire	South Middle School, Auditorium, 2115 Mitscher Ave., Eau Claire
Florence	Florence Natural Resources Center, Highway 70/101, Florence
Fond du Lac	Theisen Middle School, 525 E Pioneer Road, Fond du Lac
Forest	Crandon High School, Auditorium, 9750 USH 8 W, Crandon
Grant	Grant Co. Youth & Ag Building, 916 E. Elm Street, Lancaster
Green	Monroe Middle School, 1510 13 th Street, Monroe
Green Lake	Green Lake High School, Small Gym, 612 Mill St., Green Lake
Iowa	Dodgeville High School, Gymnasium, 912 West Chapel Street, Dodgeville
Iron	Mercer Community Center, 2648 W. Margaret Street, Mercer
Jackson	Black River Falls Middle School, LGI, 1202 Pierce Street, Black River Falls
Jefferson	Jefferson County Fairgrounds, Activity Center, 503 N. Jackson Ave., Jefferson
Juneau	Olson Middle School, Auditorium, 508 Grayside Avenue, Mauston
Kenosha	Bristol Grade School, Gymnasium, 20121 83 rd Street, Bristol
Kewaunee	Kewaunee High School, Auditorium, 911 2 nd Street, Kewaunee
La Crosse	Onalaska High School, Field House, 700 Hilltop Place, Onalaska
Lafayette	Darlington High School, 11838 Center Hill Road, Darlington
Langlade	Antigo High School, Volm Theater, 1900 10 th Avenue, Antigo
Lincoln	Tomahawk Elementary School, 1048 East Kings Road, Tomahawk
Manitowoc	UW Manitowoc, Theater, 705 Viebahn Street, Manitowoc
Marathon	D.C. Everest Middle School, 9302 Schofield Avenue, Schofield
Marinette	Crivitz High School, Auditorium, 400 South Ave, Crivitz
Marquette	Montello High School, Community Room, 222 Forest Lane, Montello
Menominee	Menominee County Courthouse, Basement, Courthouse Lane, Keshena
Milwaukee	Greenfield High School, 4800 South 60 th Street, Greenfield
Monroe	Sparta High School, Auditorium, 506 N. Black River Street, Sparta
Oconto	Suring High School, Cafeteria, 411 E. Algoma St., Suring
Oneida	James Williams Middle School, 915 Acacia, Rhinelander
Outagamie	Riverview Middle School, Auditorium, 101 Oak Street, Kaukauna
Ozaukee	Webster Middle School, Commons, W75 N624 Wauwatosa Road, Cedarburg
Pepin	Pepin County Government Center, County Board Room, 740 7th Avenue W., Durand
Pierce	Ellsworth Senior High School, Auditorium, 323 Hillcrest, Ellsworth
Polk	Unity High School, Gymnasium, 1908 150th Street/Hwy 46, Balsam Lake
Portage	Ben Franklin Middle School, Auditorium, 2000 Polk Street, Stevens Point
Price	Price County Courthouse, County Board Room, 126 Cherry Street, Phillips
Racine	Union Grove High School, Gymnasium, 3433 S. Colony Ave., Union Grove
Richland	Richland County Courthouse, 181 West Seminary, Richland Center
Rock	Janesville Moose Lodge, 2701 Rockport Ave., Janesville
Rusk	Ladysmith High School, Auditorium, 1700 E. Edgewood Ave., Ladysmith
Sauk	UW Baraboo, R.G. Brown Theater, 1006 Connie Road, Baraboo
Sawyer	Winter High School, Auditorium, 6585 West Grove Street, Winter
Shawano	Shawano Middle School, LGI Room, 1050 S. Union Street, Shawano
Sheboygan	Sheboygan Falls High School, 220 Amherst Avenue, Sheboygan Falls
St. Croix	WI Indianhead Technical College, Cashman Conf. Room, 1019 S. Knowles Ave., New Richmond
Taylor	Taylor Co. Fairgrounds, Multipurpose Building, State Hwy 13 and Hwy 64 Intersection, Medford
Trempealeau	Whitehall City Center, Gymnasium, 36245 Park Street, Whitehall
Vernon	Viroqua High School, 100 Blackhawk Drive, Viroqua
Vilas	Plum Lake Community Center, Golf Course Road, Sayner
Walworth	Delavan/Darien High School, Auditorium, 150 Cummings, Delavan
Washburn	WI Ag Research Station, W6646 Hwy 70, Spooner
Washington	Washington County Fair Park, Exhibit Hall, 3000 Hwy PV, West Bend
Waukesha	Waukesha Co. Tech. College (WCTC), Richard T. Anderson Bldg., 800 Main St., Pewaukee
Waupaca	Waupaca High School, Auditorium, E2325 King Road, Waupaca
Waushara	Waushara County Court House, 2 nd Floor Old Courtroom, 209 S. St. Marie, Wautoma
Winnebago	Webster Stanley Auditorium, 915 Hazel Street, Oshkosh
Wood	Pittsville High School, Auditorium, 5459 Elementary Ave., Pittsville

Prairie R. talking points

Why is this question back on the agenda this year? Last year’s question to change the Prairie regs from category 5 to category 4 was presented for a vote with some important information missing. Because this information was left out, the question needs to be reconsidered.

What is the missing information? DNR fisheries personnel conducted fish population surveys on the Prairie. Those surveys showed that the number of larger brook trout (greater than 10 inches) had increased by 135% in the category 5 water. That biological information was completely missing from last year’s question, which was presented only as a social question.

Why is the missing information important? When presented as being only a social question, an audience might conclude that the special regulations didn’t have a positive impact, and there would be no reason to continue the regulation. The biological information is critical to letting the audience know that the special regs did indeed have a very positive impact on the resource.

A small group of individuals had influenced the DNR to put this social question on the ballot, and other similar vocal individuals and groups want to influence rule makings to eliminate all category 5 trout waters in the state. This is a movement we all need to take notice of. If we don’t, the next group may organize an assault on the size and slot limits that are in place for other species which have resulted in quality fishing in Wisconsin.

The special regulation section of Prairie River is just 5 miles long on a 42-mile-long river. This vocal minority is not just satisfied with 37 miles of category 4 trout water. They want all 42 miles. Anglers have liberal harvest opportunities and no gear restrictions on nearly 90 percent of the river. Let’s appreciate the choice options and share them equitably.

Don’t buy into the argument that this water is for elitist fly fishers. There are no fly fishing only regulations on any trout water in the state. All it takes to fish special regulation waters is a spinning outfit, and artificial lure restrictions do not prevent kids from fishing. In fact, most kids already have a spinning rod.

Category 5 regulations are formulated to provide a greater diversity of angling experiences, especially opportunities to fish populations of wild trout that have a natural size and age distribution unaltered by harvest. Such opportunities should not be abandoned on the few waters that are now designated as Category 5 waters.



2007 STATE COUNCIL AWARD WINNERS

The eight WITU State Council award winners include (left to right) Dave Patrick, the Southeastern WI Chapter (represented by Henry Koltz), John Welter, Sarah Sanford, and John Sours. Not pictured are Herb Hintze, Dan Wisniewski, and the Jeff and Jenna Phillips family.

Council bestows honors at State Council meeting

By Larry Meicher

The WITU State Council honored eight individuals and groups for their service to Trout Unlimited at the annual meeting in Stevens Point Feb. 2.

Lee and Joan Wulff Conservation Award — Herb Hintze

Several years ago John Beth made arrangements with Joan Wulff

for the creation of the Joan and Lee Wulff Conservation Award for outstanding leadership. This is a traveling award. We pass it on annually to a person who, in the eyes of the awards and executive committee, has shown outstanding leadership.

John's vision was that this award, like a trout, is "too valuable to be caught just once." Mr. Beth's vision conveys a variety of subtle, yet powerful feelings that focus on the heart

of Trout Unlimited. In its own way, as a catch and release trophy, it should help all of us to remember and focus on what we are all about...and perhaps make our commitment stronger.

This year's recipient is Herb Hintze. Herb has been a member of TU for longer than I can remember, and he has been an integral part of the WI River Valley Chapter since its inception in 1982. Herb has served as chapter president since 1985. Over the years he's headed up their annual banquet, which raises several thousands of dollars yearly to fund the chapter's stream projects. He's also spearheaded the chapter's annual fishing outing for people with special needs.

If you've ever fished in the north central part of our beautiful state, you've no doubt seen and enjoyed some of the fruits of his labors. Herb has worked diligently in Lincoln County on waters such as Meadow and Spring creeks, and, he was a quiet but powerful mover and shaker in the efforts that brought about the removal of the Prairie Dells Dam on the famed Prairie River.

Over the years Herbie has had a golden touch with landowners in the Prairie and Plover River watersheds. The easements he's obtained have provided for the accomplishment of mile upon mile of stream improvements. It took Herb four years of gentle persuasion before he got that first easement signed by a willing landowner. But since then the marvelous work he directed in conjunction the DNR Antigo staff started a snowball effect. Many other landowners have signed on all the way down the Plover to Highway 29. And now, Herb is trying to push that all the way to the Portage County Line.

Herb's real secret is persistence. He claims part of it was that some of these landowners got tired of seeing him show up on their doorstep every other week and just plain gave in. He always stressed to them that trout are good stewards and are very appreciative of the chance to fish streams flowing through private land. He made sure that as the improvements were placed, the landowners felt satisfied, so, in turn they acted as ambassadors who encouraged their neighbors to join in and participate.

Over the years Herb has conducted many field trips for the local schools and many high school aquatic biology classes to view and study stream restoration and improvements.

Hopefully someday some of these young people will become the next generation of leaders to champion these great rivers.

Incidentally, I remember Herb chiding me at a meeting at Camp McCoy in the 1980s about the expense of the State Council giving out all these awards. Well, Herb should like this one because it doesn't cost us anymore; as a traveling trophy he'll have to pass it on next year!

Jeff Carlson Leadership Award — John Welter

The Jeff Carlson Leadership award this year goes to John "Duke" Welter. Duke joined TU as a member of the Southern Wisconsin Chapter and moved to Eau Claire after completing grad school to set up a law practice. There he has become a mover and shaker in the Ojiblaeu Chapter, now the WI Clear Waters chapter. He has been a chapter president, then completed a long stint as our State Council Chair, was one of TU National's first grassroots trustees, and is presently chair of TU's National Leadership Council.

Duke has been instrumental in restoring parts of Gilbert Creek, a wonderful little spring creek in Dunn County. The project was started in 2003 on 3,800 feet of the north branch on private land which is now in perpetual easement held by TU. During the next four years, Duke, his chapter, the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter, and many other partners including students from UW-Stout and Menomonie High School, all brought together by Duke, have finished 13,000 feet of stream improvements on DNR properties along Gilbert Creek. Funding for all of this has come from trout stamp funds, TU, Dunn County Fish & Game Association, Xcel Energy, Pheasants Forever, and numerous grants.

Results of this restoration work have been very apparent from the first November when brookies showed up in large numbers to spawn in the just-improved spawning beds. Post-project surveys have



WITU Chair Bill Heart with Henry Kanemoto (top, accepting the award on behalf of Herb Hintze) and John Welter.

shown a tremendous increase in resident brook trout populations over the next years.

Recognizing the potential of restoration projects like Gilbert Creek, Duke became one of the catalysts to launching TU's Driftless Area Restoration Effort program, and he was instrumental in crafting the initial plans that have shaped the focus of TUDARE. His back-of-the-cocktail-napkin outline was something like, "Let's do many, many more and better-quality stream restorations."

He was tireless in helping promote TUDARE in its fledgling stages — securing critical support from the TU National staff and spending countless hours in meetings with potential partners. It's a wonder how he managed to practice law to support himself and his family during this period. His vision and input for peer-to-peer stream project training workshops for chapters has not only been wildly successful, but these training sessions have changed the way our national staff thinks about training elsewhere. Today TUDARE is one TU's largest and most ambitious restoration efforts to date. It is supported by a full-time national staff member. Last year alone, collective efforts of staff and chapters were responsible for direct investments and leveraging more than \$2 million in numerous restorations across the driftless area.

Finally, it is worth mentioning that we owe Jim Coursey a dedicated leader and volunteer from the Chicago area, a small debt of gratitude for saving us from one of Duke's less well conceived ideas (yeah, he has them once in a while). Duke's originally conceived working title for TUDARE was Coldwater Driftless Working Area Group. That comes out with a southern drawl as Sea Dawg and conjures caricatures of a rednecked bulldog with a brook trout in his toothy mouth — almost more than one could bear. So, when Jim proposed DARE, there was palpable relief those involved.

Gold Trout Award — Dan Wisniewski

Dan Wisniewski has served Trout Unlimited with distinction at all levels. As a member of the Southern Wisconsin Chapter, he served as an officer, as a member of their board of directors, and edited their newsletter for several years. Dan was a significant actor in their acquisition of the development rights and removal of the dam on Token Creek which is yielding a unique resource — a brook trout fishery in an urban setting. He's served both his chapter and the State Council as legislative liaison. Because of his occupational experience in Wisconsin's Lucy and Schreiber administrations, as well as serving Dane County as their legislative lobbyist, he's been a real political insider. He has steered the council's political activities on such issues as wetlands, high-capacity wells, agricultural rules, and a list of other issues.

At the state level, Dan has worked tirelessly as Wisconsin's National Leadership Council representative. In that role, he's taken the lead in several areas — land conservancy and coldwater conservation where, with others, he took the lead in establishing an entirely new TU program thrust; land access, working with Duke Welter and other colleagues across the nation to formulate TU's working policy; strengthening the grassroots component of TU; and helping formulate the organization's national policy positions on the farm bill.

Dan has proven himself a thoughtful leader with regard to representing state councils in their interactions with TU National. He is highly regarded by the national staff, and his judgment is often sought out. Dan is another in a long line of Wisconsin trout anglers and conservationists who have distinguished themselves in leadership roles at every level of TU. In addition, he's a somewhat successful trout angler with an addiction to soft hackle flies.

Silver Trout Award — Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter

The Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter of TU was going through some doldrums a few years ago. It seems this happens to every chapter at one time or another. But during the last two or three years, they've completely turned themselves around. New, ambitious leaders — like former President Rich Vetrano and now President Dan Asmus — have breathed new life into this chapter.

SEWTU recently started a program to communicate electronically with their membership, and they now reach over 400 members and friends quickly and effectively. They maintain a stellar web site that's regularly updated. It's one of the best in the state. They've changed their meeting location and offer a slate of incredible monthly speakers, and now attendance at chapter meetings has increased from 10-15 a month to 60-75 or more per month. They've reorganized their board of directors to have positions including a political liaison and an education chair. They now fund scholarships, work with the Milwaukee Urban Fisheries Program, put on youth-centered programs, give seminars at local retailers, and participate in the Wisconsin Youth Outdoor Expo. They are presently launching a Boys and Girls Club of Washington County fly fishing and conservation program, and they maintain a presence at the Milwaukee Sentinel Sports Show which gives TU exposure to over 150,000 people a year.

When it comes to stream improvement projects, they've been really ambitious. Since April of 2006, they've had over 20 workdays at river sites in Vernon, Richland, Milwaukee, Waukesha, Washington, and Sheboygan counties. Those work days have benefited 12 streams including Ash Creek, the Onion River, the Milwaukee River, Elk Creek, Clary Creek, the Fox River, Genesee Creek, Nichols Creek, Paradise Springs, Camp Creek, Bluff Creek, and Allenton Creek. They have worked not only with other TU chapters, but with non-TU groups like Carroll College, Pheasants Forever, Prairie Enthusiasts, and DNR crews from Whitewater, the Southern District, and Kettle Moraine. They've even recruited volunteers from three states. Collectively they've logged thousands of conservation and restoration hours.

SEWTU's major 2007-08 project serves as a perfect example of how a large urban chapter that lacks an abundance of coldwater resources can cooperate with smaller rural chapters who have lots of water but few members to do project work. Specifically, the Smith Family project on Camp Creek is an ongoing joint project with the Ocooch Creeks chapter based in Richland Center. This was part of the TUDARE initiative, and SEWTU has served as a leader for the out-of-the-driftless-area chapter involvement.

The chapter has also held two project-specific fund-raisers. They successfully brought in substantial



WITU Chair Bill Heart with Dan Wisniewski (top), Henry Kanemoto (accepting for Herb Hintze), and Henry Koltz (representing SEWTU).

donations and raised thousands of dollars for use stream restoration habitat projects. SETU has already set its workday calendar for 2008, and they're set to undertake at least 11 workdays this year spanning from just north of Lake Winnebago to the Driftless Area. The Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter has proven to truly be a chapter on the go!

Gold Net Award — Dave Patrick

Anyone who's really involved in the Driftless Area has heard of Dave Patrick and probably experienced some of the fruits of his labors. He's a charter member of the Blackhawk Chapter and has been an activist there for over 30 years, much of that time as chapter presi-

dent. But it's his commitment to stream improvement and restoration of streams that really distinguishes him. Most of his work has been in the Driftless Area and the list of waters he's been involved with is vast. These include the West Fork of the Kickapoo River, Elk Creek, Blue River, Camp Creek, Reed's Creek, Little Sugar River, Allen's Creek, Bishop Branch, Big Springs, Scuppernong Springs, German Valley Creek, Willow River, Timber Coulee Creek, Bad Axe River, and even Kent Creek in Illinois.

Dave knows most of the landowners by name, and his reputation precedes him with the DNR and county personnel.

Continued on p. 8

AWARDS: Council honors eight at Stevens Point event

Continued from p. 7

Dave has taken the lead in all of Blackhawk's projects, from start to finish. His expertise at how to plan for and to get things done is inspiring. But where Dave really shines is in his ability to raise funds. He's been the major backbone and leader of Blackhawk's annual banquet. He's created a strong reputation for the chapter within the conservation community that brings in donations from many other conservation organizations and outdoor-related businesses. He's constantly on the hunt for opportunities to solicit donations. He puts on demonstrations on fly tying and trout fishing at many local and not-so-local fly shops in order to get the chance to solicit banquet donations from them. Looking at recent history, Blackhawk's banquets are typically attended by about 250 people a year. The chapter netted \$15,000 in 2005, \$17,000 in 2006, and over \$23,000 in 2007.

A few years ago Dave helped secure much of the inventory of a mail order fly fishing company that went out of business. He organized these materials and used them to raise funds for his chapter, and he also passed much of that inventory on to other chapters to use to raise funds for their own projects. Dave is a master fly tyer and has donated hundreds of his ties to Blackhawk and our State Council banquet.

The fact is, Dave has had his hand in raising over \$175,000 over the years for Blackhawk's projects.

Just during the last few weeks, he's solicited \$1,000 from a landowner on a stream where an improvement project is underway, and he's secured \$500 each from Bass Pro Shops and the Sportsman's Warehouse as a result of fly tying demonstrations he put on at their stores. Dave truly has that Midas touch.

Unsung Most Valuable Trout Award — Sarah Sanford

Sarah Sanford is a member of the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter and this year's Unsung Most Valuable Trout. Over the years she's been active on all of her chapter's stream projects. But she's not just one of those hands on rock rolling crews; she goes further and twists the arms of many Minnesotans (she lives on that side of the river herself) and drags them along to help, too.

Sarah is a master fly tyer (she also belongs to the Laughing Trout Fly Tying Club), and she donates dozens of flies and buys merchandise out of her own purse for the chapter's fund-raising events. She's always there to help set up Kiap-TU-Wish's annual banquet. She travels over 100 miles round trip to attend chapter meetings and often a lot further for stream projects. When National TU had the annual meeting in Minneapolis in 2006, she volunteered to guide and took two delegates out for day trips on the Rush River. She's been highly praised by them. Sarah is often referred to as Kiap-TU-Wish's ambassador.



Sarah Sanford and John Sours.

Sarah really started showing herself in 2003 when she took on organizing a Rush River cleanup day. Her plan was to solicit and organize volunteers from Kiap-TU-Wish, Twin Cities TU, sportsman's clubs from throughout Pierce, St. Croix, and Dunn counties, plus schools, scout troops, youth groups, and environmental groups. She contacted all of them to participate. She worked with Pierce County Solid Waste and Recycling and the Pierce County Highway Department to arrange for trash and recycling pickups. She arranged with a local sportsman's club for the use of their clubhouse for a meeting place from which to cover over 30 miles of the Rush and adjacent roadways.

The original event was an outstanding success, and it has grown every year since. She now organizes this event annually, and it draws well over 100 volunteers of all ages. The event is held in April and is a compliment to Earth Day. Tons of trash have been removed each year from the ditches, roadways, and entire length of the Rush River from highway 29 all the way to highway 35. The goodwill that has been generated between participating groups and the local communities has been immeasurable.

Often you hear TU members say "someone ought to..." or "you guys should...." But Sarah's Annual Rush River Clean Up Day is an example individual member initiative and activism that must be recognized and applauded. She took it on herself to work every detail of this project and has built it into an outstanding annual event, making her this year's Unsung Most Valuable Trout!

DNR Professional of the Year — John Sours

This year we're recognizing John Sours as our DNR Professional of the year. Were it not for his work over the past 18 or so years, TU would likely not have a TUDARE program.

John has shown exemplary habitat management skills, as well as outstanding relationships with landowners and partner groups in developing stream research data, funding, and partnerships to enable more and larger projects.

In 2002 we cited John with an appreciation certificate for his work as leader of the DNR trout crew on the Cady Creek habitat project. If you start reviewing reports in *Wisconsin Trout* since then, you'll note that the list of projects he's lead is vast. These projects include not only Cady Creek, but Duncan Creek, Elk Creek, Gilbert Creek, Pine Creek, the Eau Galle River, the Rush River, Tiffany Creek, and the South Fork of the Kinnickinnic River.

John has helped TU and other partners move "the art and science" of habitat work forward by combining stream corridor and adjacent upland native prairie restoration efforts. In the process, he's been a reliable and prominent representative of the Wisconsin DNR with the public, acting as a spokesman for the value of stream restoration projects.

In addition, his guidance to various school and university student groups has led to some strong relationships with teachers and schools. These relationships have benefited projects and, even more importantly, inspired young people to get excited about healthy watersheds.

Continued on p. 18

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Lake Superior Pathfinders program

TU supporting tomorrow's conservation leaders

By Elizabeth Post

In 2007, Bill Heart encouraged WITU chapters to consider sending high school students in their area to the Lake Superior Pathfinders program located at the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute at Northland College. And they have!

In addition to the Wild Rivers Chapter, both the Green Bay and Southeastern WI chapters sent students to attend the program and return to their areas more knowledgeable about themselves and the environment.

Chapters have publicized their scholarships and then required that students write essays to the chapter. They then chose recipients. Some chapters offer free one-year TU memberships to scholarship winners to better introduce them to TU and a future in conservation.

The Lake Superior Pathfinders program now offers three distinct residential summer experiences for young people to learn more about Lake Superior. All programs utilize the lake as a living classroom, and students learn primarily through life-changing experiences.

Lake Superior Pathfinders

Lake Superior Pathfinders continues to offer an environmental leadership and social justice program to students in grades 9-12. The goals of Pathfinders include helping participants learn more about their own leadership styles through such tools as rope challenge courses, climbing walls, and on-the-water experiences.

After attending this program, participants understand critical Lake Superior issues as identified by the Bi-national Program. Attendees more effectively gather, analyze, and evalu-

ate related information, and have the confidence, knowledge, and desire to take action in response to these issues in terms of their sustainability socially, economically, and environmentally. This eight-day program runs from July 26 to August 2, 2008. Tuition costs \$550.

Making Waves
Making Waves is a new program for students in grades 6-9 that partners with the Conserve School in Land O' Lakes, WI, and Northland College in Ashland, WI. This program focuses on aquatics, both



inland and on Lake Superior.

Making Waves also connects student experiences through activities that examine real strategies to sustain healthy lake communities. Students develop skills to become better environmental stewards in this 12-day program runs from July 6-19, 2008. Tuition costs \$1,600 per student.



Lake Superior Navigators

Lake Superior Navigators is designed for those students who have attended Pathfinders,

or have exceptional leadership experience in grades 9-12. Participants network with other amazing leaders and develop relationships and build capacity through focused experiential activities, exceptional speakers, and skill sharing.

Pathfinders explore community sustainability and leadership concepts further by civically engaging in service learning projects in the Ashland area. This six-day program runs from August 3-9, 2008, and costs \$550.

All of these programs are taught by Northland College professors, professional educators, Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute staff, Chippewa tribal elders and educators, community leaders, and field counselors.

To date, Pathfinders has had 266 participants and educated another 7,800 students throughout the Midwest through school visits and events. Pathfinders still hopes to become a model to be instituted all around Lake Superior and, perhaps, the Great Lakes.

"The whole learning experience was amazing," wrote one recent session participant. "Not only did I learn more about the environment — how important it is to take care of it, understand it, and take an active role in preserving it — but I learned how to interact with other people, be a leader, listen to ideas, and conquer fears."

If your chapter would like to consider offering a scholarship to one of these programs, contact Elizabeth Post at (715) 682-1482, or pathfinders@northland.edu.

For more information on this program, visit www.northland.edu/pathfinders.

LEGISLATION: key policies stalled at session's end

Continued from p. 3

This is an effort to provide the Secretary some protection from political pressure when considering natural resource policy.

The State Senate passed a version of the DNR Secretary bill (SB 15) by a vote of 22-12. A slightly different version of this bill (AB 504) was never brought to a vote in the State Assembly. This followed statements by Assembly leaders that they didn't feel hunters and anglers supported the proposal. Wisconsin TU lobbied in support of this measure.

Preventing stamp fund raids

The second part of the "package" was a constitutional amendment written to protect money paid into accounts like the trout stamp fund (AJR 34). In past budgets, money has been taken from several such segregated accounts to help balance the budget, despite the fact that hunters and anglers pay money into these accounts for things like habitat protection. The measure passed the Assembly by a vote of 91-3, but technical problems with the amendment's language kept it from being voted on in the Senate.

Timely board appointee votes

The third related proposal was to require a timely vote on any new appointees to the Natural Resources Board and other similar appointees (SB 422). In recent years, due to what might be termed political gamesmanship, several appointees were forced to wait up to a couple years before receiving an up or down vote.

Again, technical questions were raised over the effect this bill might have on state boards. An informal study committee has been formed to review this issue, and we expect this bill to be reintroduced next session.

Great Lakes Compact

Another issue left hanging at the end of the session is approval of a strong Great Lakes Compact resolution.

This measure (SB 523) was approved on a bi-partisan vote of 26-6 in the Senate. Assembly leaders are insisting on changes in language that not only would weaken the compact language but, if adopted, would require other Great Lakes states that have already adopted the Compact to return to the issue and consider the weaker measure in place of the strong compact language they have already adopted.

Governor Doyle has said he will call a special session of the Legislature to adopt the Compact if a compromise can be reached.

Budget shortfall wild card

The downturn in the economy has led to a shortfall in state tax receipts, putting the state budget over \$500 million short of what was anticipated.

At this time, the Assembly leadership has put forth a budget repair bill that would require serious cuts in agency budgets. The Governor has proposed a different set of measures to deal with the shortfall, and Senate leaders are looking at a third set of options. In this instance, the

Even the new money provided for polluted runoff prevention appears at risk due to a serious budget shortfall.

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Chapter News



WISCONSIN OUTDOOR EXPO FLY TYING

CWTU member Jerry Smet knows that any girl who can paint her nails this well can tie a wooly bugger! Volunteers are needed to teach fly tying and casting at this year's Outdoor Education Expo in Beaver Dam May 15-16.

Volunteers needed for WI Outdoor Education Expo

Wisconsin TU is seeking volunteers to teach fly tying and casting at this year's Wisconsin Outdoor Education Expo to be held May 15-16 at the Dodge County Fairgrounds in Beaver Dam.

The expo is a completely free "see-touch-do" experience for fourth and fifth grade students from throughout Wisconsin.

The expo helps communicate the relevance of wildlife and habitat management in our lives. The expo teaches outdoors skills, encourages ethical behavior, and perpetuates Wisconsin's hunting, fishing, and conservation heritage.

Last year over 4,000 youngsters participated in the expo.

If you can devote some time to this worthy effort, contact CWTU President Bob Haase at (920) 922-8003 or rmhaase@dotnet.com.

Aldo Leopold Chapter

Another successful fly tying class was held last January and February, with 14 souls who braved the depths of our Wisconsin winter to learn the gentle art of fly tying. Class was postponed twice due to excessive snow, but aside from that, things went well, with many new faces seen at the vise. Best of luck to all the graduates. You will now spend all your loose change on feathers.

I attended the "Lodi Reads Leopold" event on March 1. This is the fifth year the chapter has been there to help celebrate our namesake, and I continue to be impressed with how many in Lodi have embraced Leopold's land ethic and seek to realize it. I am glad we can be even a small part of their efforts. At the event I was able to discuss possible easements along **Lodi Spring Creek**, particularly on the east branch, soon

to be named the **Bohlman Branch**. I am encouraged about the easements becoming reality.

On April 12 we will be returning to **Rocky Run Cr.** in Columbia County to extend our brushing efforts of the last few years. Once again we'll meet on Dunning Road, just north of where it crosses the creek. Lunch will be provided, so please join us.

On April 19 we'll be selling "Brats on the Bridge" in Lodi to raise funds for chapter work. Eat a brat; save a trout!

Finally, planning continues for our picnic on May 14 at **Habermann Park** in Lodi. Once again great raffle prizes can be had, as well as good food and good fun. This is our main fundraiser for the year, so we welcome your wallet's attendance.

—Mike Barniskis

Central Wisconsin Chapter

As I look out the window at all the snow on the ground, it is hard to believe that the early catch and release season for trout is here. It is also hard to believe that two years have gone by already and that my term as president of CWTU will be ending as of our March meeting. I really need to thank everyone who helped in so many ways over the last

couple years to make my job as president much easier.

First of all I would like to thank **John Gremmer**. As past president, John was there for me whenever I needed help or advice. I hope that I can be as much help to our next president as John was for me. John serves as program chairperson and does an excellent job of setting up

speakers and programs for our meetings. He also coordinates our casting clinic, trout outing, the Master's Fly Tying program, and teaches classes through **Fox Valley Technical College** that helps recruit new members to our chapter. John also took over a lot of the webmaster responsibilities for our chapter and has done an excellent job of changing and updating our web site. Check it out at www.cwtu.org.

John also coordinates our **Trout Fest**, which is held every February at the **Fin N Feather** in Winneconne. This year's Trout Fest was one of the best ever, with over 400 people attending. We had over 10 seminars, over 35 fly tyers, a youth tying program, a rummage sale, a raffle, a water monitoring exhibit, and many other exhibitors and events. Thank you to everyone who helped with this year's Trout Fest.

Dick Pollock stepped up to the plate and helped provide the needed leadership and direction for our water monitoring program. It was through Dick's leadership and the dedicated efforts of so many volunteers that our chapter received a water monitoring award from the DNR for each of the last two years. **Lynn Druce** and **John Gremmer** helped provide leadership in the Level 2 and Level 3 water monitoring programs, and this again would not have been possible without all the members who volunteered to help in these programs. Dick also did a great job serving as chapter vice president until we could get someone to serve in that capacity.

Jim Humphrey has coordinated the stream restoration efforts for our chapter and has helped build working relationships with the DNR and organizations such as **Fox Valley Technical College**, **Rawhide Boys Camp**, and others. This coming summer we have a major stream restoration program planned for **Lawrence Creek** as well as some projects on other area streams.

Scott Grady not only served as our treasurer, but also provided some great leadership and direction in fund raising and the financial operations of our chapter. I did not have to worry about reports being turned in on time to State or National, and he was always there to help in so many other ways.

Bob Chamberlain served as Secretary and Newsletter Editor and was always there to help whenever needed. Having been newsletter editor for other organizations, I know

the work it takes to do this every month, and this plays an important part in providing good communications.

I would also like to thank **David Seligman** for volunteering to serve as vice president and banquet chair. David and the banquet committee did a great job of planning and running the banquet the last couple years. We not only raised the money needed for chapter operations, but we also had fun as well.

Our chapter is really lucky to have members like **Bob Hunt** and **Elward Engle** who not only have experience working on trout streams, but also have the dedication and willingness to help provide leadership in our conservation efforts and take time to serve on our board. We are also lucky to have people like **Dan Harman** and **Russ & Sue Bouck** who organize and conduct a great trout school every year, serve on the board, and help in so many different capacities for our chapter. I also need to thank **Alistair Stewart** for his dedication to conservation, trout fishing, and traveling all the way from Chicago to help our chapter whenever he can.

Other people that I think need to be recognized as board members or members that have played a roll in making our chapter so successful and my work much easier include **Ira Giese**, **Dan & Gail Colligan**, **Tracy Moran**, **Bob Stelzer**, **Al Lee**, **Bob Rennock**, **Rich Mlodzik**, **Jerry & Pat Strom**, **Tom Poullette**, **Linn Beck**, **Gary Herlache**, **Mike Schaeffers**, **Bob Smaglik**, and **Tom Poullette**.

We have done so much, and yet so much remains to be accomplished. With the help of those I have mentioned, those I may have forgotten to mention, and all the members of Central Wisconsin TU, I hope we have laid a foundation that will allow us to do even more in the future.

One area I think we need to focus more attention on is getting our youth involved in fishing and TU. We can do this by helping at programs like the **Wisconsin Outdoor Expo** in **Beaver Dam**, which is planned for May 15 and 16. We can also get more involved in school programs, scouting programs, and other youth activities.

I would like to wish everyone great fishing in 2008 and hope that all of us get to spend more time on the water this year.

—Bob Haase

Coulee Region Chapter

The Coulee Region Chapter held its annual fund-raising banquet on Feb. 29, the evening before the spring opener. About 100 people attended the event at **Cedar Creek Country Club** in Onalaska. We netted approximately \$4,000 to be used on stream restoration and education. We are grateful to **Nathan Barnhart** for serving as the banquet chair.

Earlier in the week, CRTU received a \$180,000 **Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP)** grant from the **Natural Resources Conservation Service** of the **U.S. Dept. of Agriculture** to support a \$240,000 stream restoration project in Vernon County. The grant proposal was written by **Eric Rauch**, our chapter's vice president and conservation coordinator. The \$240,000 project will be completed over a four-year peri-

od and restore 6,000 feet of stream-banks on **Coon Creek** and **Spring Coulee Creek**, located just northeast of **Coon Valley** near Cty. Hwy. P.

"These special WHIP funds will improve water quality and riparian habitat in a way that benefits multiple non-game species," according to Jeff Hastings, Director of the Trout Unlimited Driftless Area Restoration Effort (TUDARE) program. (See separate story on p. 1.)

Over the four-year project period, measurable objectives will be documented in the form of pre- and post-project water quality monitoring and species presence monitoring. CRTU will also provide for continued stewardship of the watershed through future maintenance and public education of this valuable environmental resource.

—Rick Kyte

Chapter News



Fox Valley Chapter

The Fox Valley Chapter has held several meetings this winter and members have been planning this year's fund-raiser which will be held April 12.

The January meeting was the annual session that we have with one of the teaching chefs, **Aaron Nigbor**, and a student, **Josh Powell**, from **Fox Valley Technical College**. The meeting was held at **Ione's**, the restaurant and kitchen facility at FVTC. The demonstrations included the fixing of tilapia corn chowder, coconut crusted crab cakes, poached salmon with tarragon sauce, and halibut with lemon, capers, and croutons. We had to deal with a winter snow storm but everyone in attendance agreed that the presentations were excellent and the recipes easy to follow. Everything was delicious and the serving trays were empty at the end of the evening. We have already scheduled the program for next January, so highlight the third Thursday of 2009 on your calendar if you would like to join us.

On January 30 five of our members — **Gordy Braun**, **Jim Hlaban**, **Mark Peerenboom**, **Dale Druckrey**, and **Rich Erickson** — joined many other outdoors people for the **Meet Your Legislator Day** at the state capitol. We all had a chance to speak with our state representatives and senators and voice our opinions concerning a number of subject areas.

On February 2 a number of chapter members helped with greeting, signage, and setting up the bucket raffles and silent auction at the annual State Council meeting/banquet in Stevens Point.

Our "Funnite" meeting was held on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, at **Sabre Lanes** in Menasha. **John Nebel** and **Lynn Ann Sauby** organized a kids corral fly tying area, fly tyers, door prizes, and other presenters to help introduce TU to those who don't know about the organization.

Our February chapter meeting was a presentation by **Al Niebur**

Frank Hornberg Chapter

Our January 10 general meeting featured **Rich Ostoff**, who gave an excellent presentation on "Designing Trout Flies." The meeting, held at **Shooter's Supper Club**, was reasonably well attended with some 20 people present.

The first fly tying workshop held at **Clancey's** in Custer on January 15 drew eight experienced tyers and was attended by 25 people. It was well attended despite the fact that the weather was not especially hospitable.

The weather became an even greater factor when we were obliged to cancel **Jeff Hastings'** much-anticipated presentation "Lessons from the Flood" that was scheduled for Feb. 14. We look forward to having Jeff in next year when he can also bring us up to date on the important **TUDARE** initiative.

Our second fly tying workshop was held in the evening at **Shooter's** on Feb. 21. Five tyers participated, and a dozen other people attended. Most gratifying of all was that two youngsters not only watched, but demonstrated a real aptitude for fly tying. Their enthusiasm provided a fine payoff for the event.

from the DNR dealing with information on streams in Waupaca and Shawano counties. He talked about some of the streams that our chapter has worked on and about areas where we are doing restoration work.

He also had some slides showing the work that is being done on the **Waupaca River** right in the **City of Waupaca**. On April 19 we will join forces with a number of other TU chapters to put in about 90 feet of boardwalk on the Waupaca project.

A great deal of time has been spent on organizing the chapter fund-raiser, **Cabin Fever Day**. This will now be the seventh year the event has been held, and we will be back at **Waverly Beach** on the north end of **Lake Winnebago**. The event will run from 9:00-4:00 on April 12 and will include bucket raffles, silent auctions, a 50/50 cash raffle, fly tyers, a DNR booth, suppliers, and tackle reps. The creator of the famed Clouser Minnow, **Bob Clouser**, is the featured presenter this year.

We will also have a dinner following the daytime activities at **Liberty Hall**. **Bob Clouser** will entertain us with a presentation called "Fly Fishing Smorgasbord" after the evening meal. Please plan to spend the day with us, and for additional information check our web site at www.foxvalleytu.org.

We are also planning for the very popular **Special Needs Fishing Day** on April 26 and working with **Jim Hlaban** and the habitat days projects.

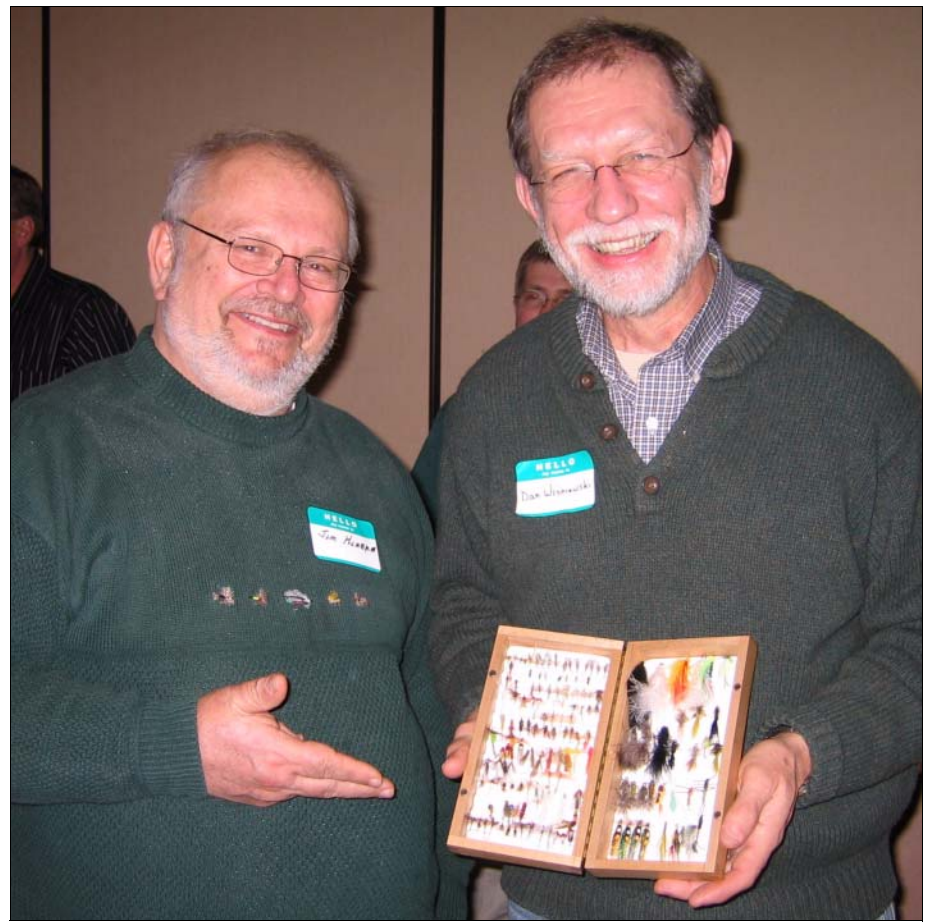
This winter has been a long one. The snowman I made on December 20 is still standing in the front yard the middle of March, and many of us are looking forward to spring and anticipating our first fishing trip of the new year. Enjoy the beauty of God's streams, creeks, and lakes, and as our former prez closed his column — "We'll see you on a trout stream."

—*Rich Erickson*

Frank Hornberg members **Mike Mather** and **Dan Holland** joined **Bob Hunt** in working on the design of an educational kiosk to be erected on the banks of the **Waupaca River** in downtown Waupaca. It will be part of a four-chapter collaborative effort to not only improve the trout habitat in that section of the river, but also to highlight TU's mission. In addition, the project, assisted by the WDNR, will provide handicapped access to fisherman along the improved river corridor.

We are all looked forward to hearing our final general meeting's distinguished speaker, **Dan Wisniewski**, who talked about "Politics, Conservation, and Trout" at Shooter's on March 13.

I would personally like to thank the following people for their help running of the State Council banquet on Feb. 2: **Jim Henke**, **Wyatt Bohm**, and **Mary Litursik** of the Frank Hornberg Chapter, and the "Fox Valley Brigade" consisting of **Jim Jenkin**, **Rich Erickson**, **Mark Peerenboom**, and **Gordy Braun**. I am also grateful for all the work done by **Dave Ehrenberg** of the



SPECIAL FLY BOX

Outgoing WITU Vice Chair Jim Hlaban (left) shows WITU's National Leadership Council representative Dan Wisniewski a special fly box up for bid at the State Council banquet in Stevens Point Feb. 2. The box was made by Dick Pollock using wood from a submerged saw log Jim found in the mud during a recent spillway removal in downtown Waupaca.

Shaw-Paca Chapter, and my able banquet co-chair, **Bill Pielsticker**.

—*Dan Holland*

Green Bay Chapter

The Green Bay Chapter has spent the winter months preparing for another busy summer of habitat work and improving our coldwater resources. Our main focus has been planning and executing our annual fund-raising banquet. This was our 33rd such event and was held at the **Stadium View Banquet Hall** on March 27.

Our Focus Stream Committee chaired by **Matt Norem**, has been active also. After further review, the streams initially selected for consideration were deemed to have too many obstacles to be viable, therefore the committee is meeting again to continue the selection process. They have received guidance from the board of directors and hope to have the selection process completed by the May meeting, our last meeting before the summer break. It is expected that in-stream work can begin in 2009.

Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter

Project work for 2008 has been set. We will get the work done on the **Blue River** that got delayed last year, which is the section below **Bluff Road** to the **Adametz** property where we worked in 2006. We will also do another section of **Big Spring** from where we finished last year down to the bridge at the winery.

We will also try to work on about 1,000 feet of **Bronson Creek**, a tributary of the Blue that joins it in the Adametz property.

In 2009 we expect to do another section of **Big Spring** just below where the WDNR did work next to the winery, a section of the Blue below the Adametz property down to

the next bridge, and the balance of Bronson that we can work on.

March 16 was our annual meeting with elections and a report by our summer interns on the stream studies they did this past summer. More information will be available from our web site, www.nohrtu.org.

Our annual banquet will be held at the usual time and place, the **Dodger Bowl** in Dodgeville on May 2, the night before the regular season opening. We are looking for donations for our bucket raffles or auctions. If you have something, please contact **Gordon Grieshaber** at ggries@mhtc.net or **Dave Fowler** at fowler@execpc.com.

Additionally, the chapter is planning on another busy summer performing habitat work on area coldwater resources. Work project chair **Dave Witzeling** is working with the **DNR** and **US Forest Service** to choose streams and dates for these projects.

We are also again sponsoring the **Hank Bredael Memorial Scholarships** to area conservation camps.

Finally, we are once again sponsoring a **Kid's Fishing Day** for area youths involved with **Brown County Social Services PALS** program. The event, held at the **Isaac Walton League** ponds in Bellevue and co-sponsored by the **Green Bay Exchange Club**, allows youths to experience the joys of fishing and, in many instances, the enjoyment of landing their first fish.

—*Gary Stoychoff*

Continued on p. 12



Chapter News

Continued from p. 11

Just a reminder that there is a fisherman's breakfast at the **Castle Rock Lutheran Church Hall in Castle Rock** on the morning of the regular season opening May 3. This is in the valley along **Castle Rock Creek** in Grant County. This is not a chapter function, although a number of our members will be there cooking, serving, and eating. They do such a great job, all you can eat for whatever you want to pay. Some game wardens even show up.

We authorized the continuation of the **Spring Creek Partner** program at our February board meeting. This is an ongoing program any chapter in the Driftless Area can use to collect funds. Neither our

chapter nor the members who are running this take any part of the funds collected for other chapters. See www.springcreekpartner.org for more information.

Basically when someone donates \$250 to this fund, they get a hat with the Spring Creek Partner logo and a chance to win a nice prize at the end of the season, and the chapter they designate gets the \$250. Our chapter took in about \$5,500 last year from this fund-raising program.

At our February board meeting, **Pete Esser** presented the Bank-Taper, Riffle-Pool, Root-Wad, and Toe-Armor Society of Southwest Wisconsin Award to **Don Pluemer** for all his diligent work on our projects.

—*Brian Larson*

Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter

Kiap-TU-Wish has begun brushing work on **Pine Creek in Maiden Rock Township** in preparation for

phase 2 of the this brook trout stream restoration project. Last year we restored 1,700 feet below the



KIAP-TU-WISH AT THE GREAT WATERS FLY FISHING EXPO

Kiap-TU-Wish member Sarah Sanford (top) posed with Dr. Tom Waters after receiving the conservation award named after Waters at the Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo in Minneapolis in March. Meanwhile, Kiap members Chad Borenz (bottom left) and Greg Dietl manned the chapter's booth at the event.

Cty. AA bridge, and this year over 3,000 feet will be worked on upstream from last year's project. The DNR has already moved in many ton of rock. There are boxelders everywhere, so if you need some extras, let us know.

We had a booth at the **Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo** at the Bloom-

ington, MN, Sheraton Hotel in mid March. This annual event has become an excellent venue to spread the word on TU's mission.

For more information on our Pine Creek Project check our web site at www.lambcom.net/kiaptuwish.

—*Greg Dietl*

Marinette County Chapter

The Marinette Chapter is holding our 25th anniversary banquet this year. It will be Monday, April 21, at **Schussler's Supper Club in Peshtigo**. Our banquet flyer includes information about all the work we have done over the last 25 years. The banquet will feature artist **Virgil Beck** doing the live painting.

Tickets are available through the mail or at **O'Ryans Pub and Grub** in Marinette, **Cortez Place, Snowflake Sports, Schussler's Supper Club** in Peshtigo, **Gambles of Stephenson**, the **Crivitz Pharmacy**

in Crivitz, or any TU banquet committee member.

Since 1983 our chapter has spent over \$247,692 on various endeavors. We have contributed \$10,185 to **TU National** for the **Living Brightwater Trust Fund**, \$2,000 to **TU National's Coldwater Conservation Fund**, \$18,022 for education, \$19,420 for various stream surveys, \$51,079 for land purchases, \$65,164 on various stream improvement projects, \$70,022 for beaver control, and \$7,770 for kids fishing day prizes and other coldwater habitat improvements.

—*Dale Lange*

Northwoods Chapter

Chapter members lobbied very hard to have **Natural Resources Board (NRB)** place emergency rules on the **Prairie River** to keep category 5 rules in place this spring. Unfortunately, we lost our fight when the NRB voted 4-2 to not enact the emergency rule this spring.

For those of you who haven't heard, the category 5 section of the Prairie River was to revert to Category 4, with an 8-inch size for brook trout and a 12-inch size for brown trout. In four years this category 5 section of water has had a 135% increase in the number of brook trout over 10 inches in the protected reach of stream.

The Northwoods Chapter received a **2008 External Partnership Award** from the **DNR** at their annual **Fisheries Management Program** meeting on Feb. 27 in Wisconsin Dells. **David Brum**, Fisheries Technician from Woodruff, nominated the chapter for our consistent support of DNR-sponsored projects and our involvement in the Kids Fly Fishing Conclave in the area. It was quite impressive to listen to Dave provide a summary of all of the activities our chapter has completed over the past years on the **Bearskin Creek, Deerskin River, Prairie River, Brule, Elvoy, and Plum creeks, Woodboro Springs**, and upcoming work on the **Popple River** and hopefully **Brule River**.

Everyone who has ever volunteered to assist in stream workdays, the banquet, the kid's conclave, attend chapter meetings, and lend a helping hand deserves credit for this award. Pay attention, folks. There is a movement in Wisconsin to remove category 5 waters. Our chapter members are optimistic that the State Council will create a committee to fight this movement. We all need to fight to restore "sustainable" fisheries in our trout stream and not see trout populations culled

at or below the legal size limits on those streams.

Several chapter members got together on March 8 to tie stimulators and comparaduns. We were pleasantly surprised to have a father and his two kids (girl and boy) show up to learn how to tie flies. It was great to see these two young people enjoying the opportunity to learn fly tying and just hang out with some trout bums. **WJFW TV-12** from Rhinelander showed up to interview the group, capping off a great day.

Northwoods will hold its 34th conservation banquet on Monday, April 14, at **Holiday Acres Resort** in Rhinelander. Tickets are available at **Mel's Sporting Goods** in Rhinelander or by calling Brian at (715) 482-2898.

Stream workdays have been scheduled for April 19 and June 7 on the **Bearskin Creek** near **Harshaw**. We will meet on Lakewood Road and work on brush bundles from 8:00-Noon, followed by lunch.

On August 16 we are coordinating a full day of work on the **Deerskin River** with the **Forest Service** with other chapters in the **Northeast Region**. We hope to have several campsites reserved for the entourage of people that will attend this event. Contact **Josh Kunzman** at (715) 482-9619 for information on chapter workdays.

We will hold our annual **Youth Fly Fishing Conclave** at the **Cedric A. Vig Outdoors Classroom (CAV-OC)** in Rhinelander on July 26. It's a full day of activities for kids between the ages of 12 and 16 to learn about the fine art of fly fishing. Classes will be taught on fly tying, knots, entomology (bugs), and fly casting with lunch provided. Everything is free of charge to the kids. Call Terry at (715) 362-2187 if you can help or have a son, daughter, or grandchild you'd like to enroll.

—*Brian Hegge*

Shaw-Paca Chapter

After several glitches in the TU National office, our local libraries are again receiving Trout magazine for student use. For other chapters that are interested in this plan, the cost is \$15/year per subscription.

We're hoping that our record snowfalls will translate into a recharging of our groundwater supplies, which in turn could result in more stable stream flows for area streams.

Chapter News



Our annual fund-raising banquet, our 25th, was held Thursday, March 27, at the **Northwinds Banquet Hall** in Marion.

We are once again sponsoring a scholarship to a student at **UW-Stevens Point** majoring in coldwater resources. Our winner this year is **Charles J. Boettcher** of Appleton, WI.

We also are sponsoring two high school students to the **Natural Resources Careers Camp** held at **Sunset Lake** in July. This spring we will sponsor elementary students to attend the **Timbertop Camp** held at the same location.

Our annual fly tying class, led by master fly tyer and TU member **Jerry Weatherwax**, was again very successful. Between cancellations for bad weather and elections, the class ended on March 11. We had a good mix of ages participate. Several other TU members assisted at the class.

We continue to sponsor a membership in various environmental organizations, including the **Northeast Wisconsin Land Trust (NEWLT)**,

Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter

We are happy to report that the Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter has maintained its busy schedule over the past quarter. SEWTU is happy to remind its members and friends that its regular all-chapter meetings are generally held on the 4th Tuesday of each month from September through May at **The Thunder Bay Grille** located just off the intersection of I-94 and Pewaukee Road at N14 W24130 Tower Place in Waukesha.

All SEWTU members, and non-members alike, are invited to attend our monthly meetings, which feature excellent speakers, food and beverages for all ages, and the opportunity to interact with other members and conservation stewards. A calendar of events is available at our web site at www.sewtu.org.

Since our last report, SEWTU has had some outstanding meetings, and speakers. In **December**, SEWTU members gathered for an informal holiday meeting. At this meeting, there is no speaker, but rather a non-required gift exchange, and thanks given to our members and friends. This year's event was one our largest ever, and gave SEWTU a good opportunity to give praise and thanks to those who helped make 2007 one our chapter's best years ever. 2008 promises to be even better.

In 2008, our first meeting in January welcomed **Dr. Jill Leonard**. Jill is a professor of biology at **Northern Michigan University** and has been involved in ongoing coaster brook trout studies in **Lake Superior**. Jill spoke concerning her studies and efforts, notably at the **Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore**, in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Over 65 members and friends heard Jill speak, and a good time was had by all.

In February, SEWTU welcomed **Wisconsin Trout's** own **Todd Hanson**. Todd presented his new work, **Map Guide to Improved Trout Waters of Wisconsin**. Todd's presentation generally focused on the incredible work he undertook in order to catalog the stream improvement areas documented in his book, and what his book covers. Over 50 members gathered to hear Todd's talk.

the **Driftless Area Restoration Effort (TUDARE)**, and the **Kinnickinnic River Land Trust**.

At the Northeastern Region meeting, our chapter pledged \$2,000 for three projects:

- a summer fishing technician for projects on the **South Branch of the Oconto**, the **North Branch of the Peshtigo River**, and several other streams in the **Nicolet National Forest**,
- habitat work on the **Prairie River**, and
- habitat work on **Walker Creek**.

Our current membership is 68, including eight life members. In addition we have 17 library members.

At present, our ongoing beaver trapping project continued. However, our trappers are either retiring or passing away. We paid for only three beavers thus far.

Several of our members attended the Central Wisconsin TU **Trout Fest** held at the Fin N Feathers in Winneconne in February.

—Lee Kersten

In **March**, we welcomed long-time chapter friend, venerated conservationist, and river restoration expert **Dave Vetrano**. Dave talked about restoration work in the **Driftless Area** and the effect of last summer's massive flooding in that region on streams and habitat improvement work.

Just as we've had great speakers, we'll continue to have great speakers for the rest of our meeting schedule before we break for the summer.

In **April**, we'll welcome **Dave Barron**, of **Jacquish Hallow Angler Guide Service** in **Richland Center**. Dave will present a talk entitled "**Smallmouth on the Fly**" covering where smallmouth live, what flies work well for them, equipment to use, and other helpful smallmouth fishing tips.

Our final meeting before we reconvene in September will be in May. There is a strong likelihood that this meeting will feature a talk on fly fishing in **Iceland**. For those unfamiliar with Iceland, it is an incredibly beautiful area, full of trout and salmonids. Check www.sewtu.org for more information.

In addition to its busy meeting schedule, SEWTU has continued to maintain its exceptional restoration pace. Since April 2006, SEWTU has now completed 20 workdays, tallying literally thousands upon thousands of volunteer hours and drawing together volunteers from TU chapters from all corners of Wisconsin, and multiple like-minded conservation organizations. SEWTU cannot thank its dedicated crew of volunteers enough for their work, and encourages those who have not been to a workday to stop out, see what the buzz is about, and take part in SEWTU's most direct link to our rivers: stream restoration and improvement workdays.

Since our last report, SEWTU returned on December 8 to **Paradise Springs** in the Southern District of the **Kettle Moraine State Forest**. Volunteers at this joint workday with the **Gary Borger Chapter of TU** from northern Illinois defied sub-10 degree temperatures and knee-deep snow in order to finish up buckthorn removal work commenced in August. Volun-

teers removed an incredible amount of buckthorn, honeysuckle, and other invasive vegetation in order to improve accessibility for fisherman and equipment which will be used to undertake future work. In addition, the WDNR crew leading the workday, which included **Sue Beyler**, **Benjamin M. Heussner**, and **Steven "Gus" Gospodarek**, shocked the creek and demonstrated that gorgeous brook trout are present in the stream! At the conclusion of the workday, volunteers were rewarded with warm brats and a special pot of incredible chili made by SEWTU's political liaison **John Knitter**.

On Jan. 26 over 40 volunteers and friends from SEWTU and the **Gary Borger Chapter** of TU, and representatives of the **Aldo Leopold Chapter** and **Carroll College**, returned once again to **Genesee Creek** for a riparian and stream corridor maintenance workday. Carroll College Professor and SEWTU board member **Jason Freund** led this workday.

During this workday, volunteers worked downstream of the original dam location, removing massive amounts of buckthorn and other invasive vegetation that had essentially taken over the forest understory surrounding the stream. At the conclusion of the workday, a bratwurst dinner was provided to volunteers. Best of all, SEWTU President **Dan Asmus** provided an incredible pot of chicken wild rice soup and bread.

On Feb. 23, over 30 volunteers from SEWTU, along with our good friends in the **Gary Borger Chapter** and the **WDNR**, turned out to work in sub 10 degree temperatures at the **Scuppernong River** in the Southern Unit of the **Kettle Moraine State Forest**.

The Scuppernong River is a great coldwater resource within our chapter area, and one which has a great deal of potential for restoration and improvement work.

On this workday, and under the guidance of the WDNR, our volunteers split up into two crews. The first crew installed "biologs," which are giant, rolled tubes of coconut fiber. The biologs are installed in part in order to narrow the stream channel, and in part to create overhead cover for coldwater species. Volunteers dug out and removed accumulated silt, backfilling behind the installed biologs. As a result, the stream channel is now narrowed, deeper, and has overhead cover for fish.

The second crew used 3-4" aggregate, carted by hand using wheelbarrows, to close off three intrusive entrances into the Scuppernong River. These entrances are from a warm water marl pit operation. The marl pit is gigantic and constitutes a significant warm water body which, until our work, had been directly connected to the coldwater Scup-

pernong River. The aggregate was installed by volunteers in order to create earth levees separating the two water systems. The hope is that the earth levees will stop warm water species (such as pike and bass) from invading the coldwater river and from feasting upon its trout population. At the conclusion of the workday, SEWTU volunteers enjoyed a provided chili and bratwurst lunch.

Unfortunately, due to snow depth and inclement weather, SEWTU's March workday planned for **Nichols Creek** was cancelled. SEWTU has a multitude of upcoming workdays, however, including a **Milwaukee River** cleanup in April, a planned joint workday with the **Fox Valley Chapter** in May, a joint workday with the **Ocooch Creeks Chapter** in southwest Wisconsin in June, a July workday at a location to be determined, an August workday at **Allenton Creek**, a September workday at a location to be determined, an October workday at **Genesee Creek**, and a December workday at a location to be determined. Stay tuned to the calendar of events at www.sewtu.org for details.

It's worth noting, moreover, that workdays are about a lot more than just "work." SEWTU workdays offer a great chance to meet some of our area's truly dedicated conservation volunteers, and are full of camaraderie. Moreover, as many of our workdays are in some of Wisconsin's "troutiest" areas, many of our members head out and fish together afterwards.

For parents with college-age children, SEWTU reminds members of our standing offer to write a college application or scholarship letter of recommendation for any student attending three workdays within a calendar year. Finally, there is no member who is unfit to work at our events. From food preparation to membership operations, there is truly something for everyone. Being able to lift 100 lbs. is decidedly not a workday requirement! So why not be a part of something truly good, and have some fun afterwards?

On its education and fundraising front, **Chuck Beeler** has coordinated SEWTU's participation in multiple community outreach events at local sporting goods retailers.

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Chapter News

Council endorses Herb Buettner for Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame

Retiring Wolf River Chapter President Herb Buettner was endorsed for membership in the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame at the WITU State Council meeting in Stevens Point Feb. 2.

The council received a nomination letter from the Mining Impact Coalition seeking support of Buettner's nomination. Rather than just add the State Council's name to their nomination, the State Council authorized Chair Bill Heart to write a separate letter listing Herb's TU contributions. That letter is reproduced below.

February 4, 2008

To: Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame
Stevens Point, Wisconsin:

On Saturday, February 2, 2008 the Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited held its annual meeting. At that meeting the Council was made aware of the nomination of Herb Buettner to the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame. That nomination was made by the Mining Impact Coalition of Wisconsin Inc.

Herb's contributions to the conservation of coldwater resources are many. Some of his achievements that are particularly important for Trout Unlimited are:

- * His efforts in the 1960s to prevent the damming of the Wolf River two miles below the community of Pearson. Herb recognized the negative impacts the dam would have on the system, gathered the facts, and led the effort to work with the state legislature to have a bill passed that not only stopped the proposed dam but also halted any future dams on the Wolf upstream from Keshena.

- * In 1965 Herb worked with DNR to establish an Upper Wolf River Management and Protection Plan. This resulted in the area being designated a Trout Management Area.

- * Following the passage of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act Herb escorted Gaylord Nelson and then Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall on raft trips down the Wolf. Consequently, he worked with the Wild Rivers Study Team which ultimately resulted in 24 miles of the Wolf in Menominee County becoming part of the National Wild Rivers system.

- * In 1984 Herb became the President of the Wolf River Chapter of Trout Unlimited. He has led the chapter and its conservation efforts since that date.

- * 1990 - 2003 Herb was one of the primary opponents of the proposed mine near the headwaters of the Wolf River. He devoted hundreds of hours of his own time educating citizens and elected leaders about resource damage that would result from mining. Finally in 2003 ownership of the mine area was transferred to Native American Tribes and the mine was effectively halted. This result came about in no small part because of Herb's efforts.

The highlights featured above are but a small part of Herb's total conservation resume. He has devoted the better portion of his lifetime to conservation issues; being particularly devoted to the area around his beloved Wolf River.

The purpose of this letter is to inform the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame that the Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited has unanimously decided on February 2, 2008, to support the Mining Impact Coalition of Wisconsin's nomination of Herb Buettner to the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,

Bill Heart
Chair
Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited

en significant efforts to involve SEWTU in the **Milwaukee Urban Fisheries Program**. SEWTU will be a significant contributor to this program in 2008, and has been assigned to lead its own location in Washington County.

Additionally, **Dan Asmus** has commenced a plan to involve SEWTU as a leader in conservation education with the **Boys and Girls Club of Washington County**. SEWTU will offer conservation and trout fishing education to youth as part of this program, including taking youth to some of our many worksites and having them experience firsthand how SEWTU protects and improves coldwater resources.

Chris Weber has also continued his efforts to launch several **Trout in the Classroom** projects. Anyone interested in donating to any of our educational programs is asked to contact Chris directly.

SEWTU has also continued its inroads into establishing a volunteer fly tying class at the local **Veterans Administration**, providing fly tying classes to patients and residents at the VA. The program was launched by SEWTU member **Al Dalfonso**. **John Knitter** has provided tying lessons at the VA as well.

On the political activism front, SEWTU again maintained its presence at the **Wisconsin League of**

Conservation Voters' Lobby Day on Jan. 30 at the State Capitol. At the event, SEWTU volunteers spoke to their legislators in order to espouse the importance of conservation-oriented legislation and to support specific bills and agendas important to state conservation activities.

SEWTU is asking members to appear and vote at this spring's **Conservation Congress Hearings**, notably concerning issues involving special regulations on the **Prairie River** in northern Wisconsin.

Finally, SEWTU was awarded this year's **Silver Trout Award** by the **WITU State Council**. The Silver Trout, or "Chapter of the Year" Award, is a fine recognition of the work that SEWTU's members and friends have undertaken in support of coldwater conservation within the past several years. SEWTU is, quite simply, nothing without its members, and the award truly belongs to each and every individual who has aided, in any fashion, our chapter. SEWTU owes a significant "thank you" to its tremendous members who have, through their continued and stalwart support, given SEWTU a reputation as a chapter that gets things done. Let's keep it up and carry our momentum forward so as to keep making a difference!

—Henry Koltz

Southern Wisconsin Chapter

SWTU has received a grant of up to \$115,000 from the USDA Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) to improve a section of **Gordon Creek in Iowa County**. Ours was one of only three special aquatic grants given in Wisconsin under the WHIP program for this fundraising cycle.

The overall project will be the 9,600 feet between **Sandy Rock Road** and **Brue Road**, and the grant is for the upper part. We will continue with the lower part over the next two years. Major funds are still needed, but the WHIP grant is a huge boost.

The Gordon Creek project involves multiple partners and wildlife habitats. It will transform and restore a beautiful valley teeming with wildlife, including a pair of nesting eagles and the rare Blandings turtle. And, of course, brown trout.

Mike Schmidt, Jim Gentry, Greg Vodak, Henry Nehls-Lowe and **Jim Kanvik** are on the project committee for this work.

In Dane County, project chair **Mike Grimes** and his trusty volun-

teer crew will continue to work with the DNR to clear brush, install sweepers and *do what needs doing* on **Black Earth Creek**. Check www.SWTU.org for workday details!

Our **Icebreaker** fundraiser in February was a tremendous success. Under the steady leadership of new Icebreaker chair **Josh Palmer**, we raised around \$7,500, about a 30% increase from previous years! Thanks to all who traveled near and far to the new state-of-the-art facility. With Josh at the helm, we know this event is just going to get bigger and better!

All are invited to our **Annual Casting Clinic** on Saturday, April 12 at **Salmo Pond** located just off of Hwy. 14 west of Cross Plains. It's free, and you're guaranteed to learn something.

For more information on these and our other activities, be sure to bookmark www.SWTU.org. Our web site is up-to-date with latest on all that we do!

—Drew Kasel

Wild Rivers Chapter

Before we release 2007, let's recognize some of those individuals, agencies, and others who have played a part in making the last year a good one. The **Ashland National Fish & Wildlife Conservation Office**, **WDNR**, and the **Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge** are all committed partners with strong programs and professional staff members who share the chapter's goals in preserving and protecting coldwater resources.

While **Bill Heart** has moved on from being chapter president to chair the TU State Council, he continues to provide important local leadership. The chapter board members have taken a strong role in bringing greater membership in-

volvement and a more ambitious program for 2008.

Thanks also to the businesses that have purchased an ad for the chapter newsletter, greatly aiding the chapter effort. Thanks to **Bill & Cindy Heart** for hosting the December board meeting. The board worked on the 2008 projects and schedule. A project that will improve stream habitat on upper **Whittlesey Creek** received a pledge of a \$2,000 contribution. The project, proposed by **Mike Mlynarek** of the **Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge**, will be carried out by landowners **Steve & Jan Kacvinsky**, **Bayfield County Land & Water Conservation Dept.**, **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service**, and **USFWS** in '08

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Events were held at **Gander Mountain** in Germantown, **Sportsmen's Warehouse**, and **Cabella's**. At these events, members tie flies and spread TU's mission to those who stop and interact with us. Also under Chuck's leadership, along with membership chair **Todd Durian**, SETWU attended, for the first time ever, the **Milwaukee Fishing, Boating & Outdoor Expo** Feb. 14-17.

SEWTU also manned its annual booth at the **Milwaukee Journal**

Sentinel Sports Show March 12-16.

At the show, we tied flies, spread the word of TU's coldwater conservation mission, and sold raffle tickets for our spring raffle fundraising drive. Our annual spring fundraising drive will again auction off some incredible prizes, including a handmade cedar strip canoe donated to SEWTU board member **Stan Strelka** and his insurance agency, **Professional Insurance Services**.

Education chair **Chris Weber** and **Dan Asmus** have also undertak-

Chapter News



and '09. The board would like the chapter to help with funds and also volunteer hours.

At long last, the chapter held a drawing for the float trip donated by the **Hayward Fly Fishing Company**. **Larry Mann** and **Wendy Williamson** donated the trip to encourage attendance at chapter meetings. About 150 names were in the pot when **Jim Dwyer's** name was drawn for the float trip. Jim is happy to have won, but has a better idea. He wrote, "As a former USAF officer, I would like to give thanks to current military members in our area if possible. I would like to donate this trip to a current member of our armed services...who is/has been disabled in the war.... I would like to go along as a paying member with normal expenses charged."

Larry Mann, a Vietnam veteran, has greatly aided the idea. **J.R. Salzman** has agreed to accept the trip. J.R. is an injured veteran of the war in Iraq, and is well known in Wisconsin as a log-rolling champion and fly fisher. Jim and J.R. like the idea of working with **Healing Waters** on the trip. The **Fly Tyers Afternoon** was held January 12 in conjunction with the sleigh rally at the **Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center**. It was a nice mid-winter gathering. Thanks to **Dick Berge**, **Jim Emerson**, **Larry Mann**, **Jerry Acker**, **Keith & Harlan Behn**, and **Don Sutliff** for demonstrating fly tying and talking about TU and fishing to the visitors. There were four new members signed up at the event.

A regular visitor to the fly shop, **Dave Carlson** said that he would like to present the story of the float trip on his **Northland Adventures** television program. Thanks to Jim and to Larry and Wendy for the trip and the arrangements.

Scott Toshner, WDNR fisheries biologist for Douglas and Bayfield counties, is in the final stages of completing the study of the **White River** fishery that he, **Cordell Manz**, the agency, and this chapter have worked on for the past five years. Following the January meeting, Scott and Cord reviewed the results of the study with chapter members. The final product will be out soon.

Wild Rivers members have enjoyed a pretty serious winter this year, one where we needed all of the distractions that we could find. The February meeting featured a presentation by **Lee Newman** that offered a great look at the salmon fishery of the northwest coast. Lee and **Nancy Newman** have enjoyed that part of the country and the great fishing since Lee worked there in the '60s. A good crowd enjoyed his presentation.

That meeting also included the annual elections, where all of the officers and board members were unanimously re-elected.

Jim Dwyer updated the chapter on the float trip project and the adopt-a-highway project. Since the meeting, Jim has filed an application with Bayfield County for the chapter to adopt the stretch of Cty. Hwy. H two miles east and west of Delta-Drummond Road. This section would be a good area because of its proximity to the White River at Delta, and it also includes the **Delta Diner**. It would also be convenient to pick up on Delta-Drummond Road adjacent to Cty. H.

Matt Symbal, biologist with the **Red Cliff Natural Resources Department**, has a big task. He must



WOLF RIVER CHAPTER ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

A highlight of the March 1 meeting of the Wolf River Chapter was the election of new officers. Long-time president Herb Buettner (third from right) was succeeded by new president Barry Climie (far right). Show here are (l to r) board member George Rock, WITU Chair Bill Heart, WITU NE Region Vice Chair Kim McCarthy, board member Jim Waters, newly elected secretary Cindy Higley, former secretary-treasurer Ginny Buettner, Herb Buettner, board member John Nebel, and in-coming president Barry Climie.

clip fins on all 86,000 coaster brook trout in the hatchery before they can be planted in **Lake Superior** this spring. Worse yet, each of the four-inch trout need to have two fins clipped off to mark them for later identification should they be recaptured. Matt contacted the Wild Rivers Chapter of Trout Unlimited and the **American Fisheries Society** group at **Northland College** in Ashland for help. As a result, two workdays were held at the hatchery located on Lake Superior north of Red Cliff in Bayfield County. The first work day was February 16. The hard-working fin clippers included **Branden Braden**, **Logan Tucker**, **Jessica Sarauer**, **Katie Renschen**, **Lance Uselman**, **Hnue Yang**, **Laura Schmidt**, **Keely Ledbetter**, **Casey Erdman**, and **Megan Malovec**. Wild Rivers chapter members included **John Casperson**, **Mark Eggleston**, **Jim Emerson**, and **Chuck Campbell**.

The second work day was Feb. 22. AFS clippers included **Joe Schenk**, **Tyler Zesig**, **Jason Meacham**, and **Megan Malovec**. Wild Rivers clippers included **Dick & Jodie Prine**, **Jim Emerson**, **Dick Berge**, **John Casperson**, **Chuck Campbell**, and **Rolland Kiel**. The volunteers clipped 15,000 trout the first Saturday and 20,000 the next. Thanks to **Derek Ogle**, AFS Advisor, and to **John Casperson** for their help on this project. One secret to a successful project is providing good food to the volunteer workers. The tribe furnished fresh and smoked trout and whitefish for lunch. A special thanks to the **Apostle Island Fish Company** for the fresh fish. Thanks to **John Casperson** for preparing the fish, potatoes, and beans, and to **Carol Campbell** for the pumpkin bars, cranberry pie, and lemon bars. The food was excellent, and the project was fun and very successful. Thanks to **Megan Malovec** and **Jessica Sarauer** for the photos.

Future projects with the Red Cliff Natural Resources Department will include shoreline shocking trips with the department's 18-foot boat, and possibly a stream improvement project. We look forward

to joining with the hard working AFS students from Northland on these events.

For those looking for a winter get-away, the Wild Rivers Chapter's **Fishing Expo & Auction** offers a spring break opportunity as well as a chance to hear two great fishing trip presentations. **Bill Heart** will talk on his **Arctic Ocean** canoe trip, and **Henry Haugley** will speak on fishing

the **Sutton River**. The event is **April 12** in **Ashland**. The auction offers new and used fishing gear, guided trips, and will probably deteriorate into a pie fight under the auctioneering direction of **Larry Meicher**, **Duke Welter**, and **Henry Haugley**. Bring your friends and your wallets, and best wishes for some great days on the water this spring.

—Chuck Campbell

Wisconsin River Valley Chapter

Our chapter has been very busy with the retirement of **Herb Hintze** as president of the chapter. Herb has served this chapter and TU with distinction, and he will continue to be an advisor to the new president and the board.

Congratulations to Herb on winning the **Lee & Joan Wulff Conservation Leadership Award** at the WITU State Council awards luncheon in February. This award will be formally presented by **Duke Welter** at our banquet on April 5.

The new officers are:

John Meachen — President,
Brian Marnholz — Treas., and
Sheldon Schooler — Secretary.

Board members include **Mike Pierce**, **Al Hauber**, **Linda Lehman**, **Bob Pils**, **Gene Koshak**, and **Henry Kanemoto**. **Mike Pierce** has taken on the editor duties of our new newsletter, and we have created a web site at www.wrvtu.org.

Chapter meetings have been moved to the **Gander Mountain** meeting room near the **Cedar Creek Mall**. Board meetings are held at 6:00 p.m., and the general chapter meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. on the second Monday of each month. General meetings so far have had great attendance.

Gary Borger, **John Kort**, and **John Heusinkvelt** have led our presentations so far. Gary Borger's presentation was "Sight Fishing with Nymphs from Top to Bottom," John Kort spoke on "Wisconsin Stillwater Fishing," and John Heusinkvelt gave a presentation on his work with the students at **Treehaven** near **Tomahawk**.

April 12 is our **Plover River Cleanup**. We meet at the state parking lot on the corner of highways Y and N at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday morning. Bring trash bags, old clothes, boots, or waders. We will be cleaning trash from the highway, access points, and possibly the river depending on the number of people who turn out. We gather back at the parking lot for lunch at 12:30. Brats will be provided!

Also in April, we will have **Dr. Arni Salli** giving a presentation on "The Bois Brule — Studies, Story and Song." That date is April 14 at **Gander Mountain** and starts at 7 p.m.

May 12th is "Hexteria! — Tips, Techniques, and Tales of Fishing the Hexagenia Limbata Hex Hatch." This also begins at 7 p.m.

Our projects for the spring and summer begin with our annual banquet on Sat., April 5, at **Memories Ballroom** near **Wausau**. **Duke Welter**, TU National Leadership Council chair, will be our featured guest. Check our web site for details.

We will be finishing the second part of a two-part major restoration project and investigating a possible second project on the **Prairie River** in **Lincoln County**. We are pursuing continued opportunities with the **Wausau Boys and Girls Club** and local high schools for educational events. Check our web site for the latest newsletter and upcoming events.

—John Meachen & Linda Lehman

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Chapter News

Wolf River Chapter

The Wolf River Chapter held its first meeting since re-organization on Saturday, March 1, at the **Wolf River Town Hall in Langlade**. The meeting was held for the purpose of electing new officers and board members.

President **Herb Buettner** called the meeting to order and conducted

the elections. There were 45 members present, plus WITU State Council Chair **Bill Heart** and NE Region Vice Chair **Kim McCarthy**.

The newly elected officers include:

Barry Climie — President,
Barbara Cadwell — Vice Pres.,
Jennifer Wild — Treasurer, and

Cindy Higley — Secretary.

Newly elected board of directors members include **Jim Waters**, **George Rock**, **Tom Flesch**, **Tim Winkel**, and **John Nebel**.

After the elections, there were recognition gifts for years of service given to both **Herb Buettner** and former Secretary/Treasurer **Ginny Buettner**. Herb was given a laser-engraved birds-eye maple landing net made by chapter member **Bill Kall-**

ner. Ginny was given a silver, wallet-sized note pad and pen engraved with her initials as a thank-you for her years of service.

There was a great deal of emotion with Herb Buettner stepping down, especially when one realizes that the Wolf River Chapter was the first TU chapter in Wisconsin and just the 50th in the nation.

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WITU Looking Back

From the Spring 1988 Reflections...

Answer Man Found Alive

Reprinted from Fox Valley Chapter Newsletter

As this scribble goes to press, we are happy to report that Answer Man is still with us — alive and healthy. In fact, he never left. We finally found him in his usual place — under his favorite rock on the scenic banks of his favorite stream — sipping his usual gin and strawberry wine. With such good fortune, we have again submitted a few questions from our readers and he has again provided the answers:

Dear Answer Man,

I would like to take a fly-in trip to Alaska. Can you recommend a pilot?

E.Z. Glider from Milwaukee

Dear Mr. Glider,

I have a special treat for you. Answer Man recommends his own personal bush pilot — an old oriental named "One Lung" Wong. Mr. Wong flies a one-popper biplane which he normally uses for crop dusting. He is an experienced pilot and was a Kamikase instructor in WWII. With Mr. Wong you get all the excitement of a carnival ride while on your way to the distant north. On my last trip we did 27 barrel rolls, 51 loop-de-loops, several long dives and ambushed a few marijuana fields. On the way back it only took us 45 min. to make it to Appleton. Obviously Mr. Wong knows the territory.

Dear Answer Man,

What was the biggest fish you ever caught?

Just Curious

Dear Curious,

I thought no one would ever ask. The biggest fish ever caught by Answer Man was a 17 foot Great White. Yes, indeed, this fish took a number 28 midge while I was flyfishing for bonefish off the Florida Keys. It was a long five hour battle and I knew I had a world record on my hands but, as a true sportsman, at the end of the battle I reached down and gently removed the fly from the great jaws of this fish and watched it swim off into the sunset.

Dear Answer Man,

What do you recommend to get rid of mosquitos?

**Max "Mini" Festation,
town of Mukwa, WI.**

Dear Mr. Festation,

I prefer a .45 revolver, although a 12 gauge works well at close range. If all else fails try covering yourself with the following solution:

2 parts turpentine
1 part extract of garlic
1 part eucalyptus oil
3 parts road binder
10 part Old Crow

Drink the Old Crow. Mix the rest.

In addition to mosquitos, this will repel sow bugs, skunks, and bill collectors. If necessary, you can use it as a fly dressing.

From the Spring 1998 Wisconsin Trout...

Mining moratorium bill passes Legislature

Will Thompson sign or veto?

After months of political wrangling and debate, the Wisconsin Legislature finally approved **Senate Bill 3**, a bill that would place a moratorium on the permitting of sulfide ore mines in Wisconsin by the Department of Natural Resources until it can be shown that similar mines in similar ore bodies in North America have been operated and closed for at least 10 years, respectively, without adverse environmental impacts accruing to surface waters and groundwater supplies.

Overwhelming public support for the bill was generated and fueled by concerns over the **gold-silver-zinc-copper sulfide ore mine** proposed by **Exxon Minerals Company** and **Rio Algom, Ltd.**, of Ontario, Canada. The proposed mine lies near the headwaters of Wisconsin's famed **Wolf River** in Forest County.

Despite the large level of public support for the sulfide mining moratorium, passage of the bill was difficult, particularly in the State Assembly, where the Republican majority made numerous attempts to kill the bill with public hearings held in sites thought to be areas of pro-mining support and with amendments to SB 3 that would have gutted the intent of the bill.

Assembly GOP weakens bill

Once SB 3 came up for debate on the Assembly floor January 21st, it became clear that Assembly Republicans had plans to amend the bill in such a fashion that it would benefit **Exxon**, other mining companies and related industries that were opposing SB 3. After the full Assembly passed two relatively innocuous amendments to SB 3 by unanimous votes, Assembly Republicans then offered **Assembly Amendment 4** - the "killer" amendment - to SB 3.

The amendment, sponsored by **Rep. Thomas Ourada** (R.-Antigo), created a giant loophole by which mining firms would have been able to circumvent the main focus of the moratorium, that being the finding of a North American sulfide ore mine that had been operated and closed for 10 years each without environmental harm. Ourada's amendment, as analyzed by the non-partisan **Wisconsin Legislative Council**, would have allowed mines that have polluted but which have not been cited and adjudicated for environmental harm either through lack of such laws or inadequate enforcement of existing laws to be cited as **NON-POLLUTING MINES** and thus meet the criteria set by SB 3 for examples of non-polluting mines.

Born, Ladd on "Stewardship" panel

In early February, Governor Thompson announced his appointments to the Governor's **Blue Ribbon Task Force** on the **Stewardship Program**. Thompson created the task force in 1997 to evaluate the landmark "Stewardship Fund" program and make recommendations about its future. The Legislature created the \$250 million, 10-year program in 1990 under the leadership of **Rep. Spencer Black** (D.-Madison), former Assemblyperson **Tom Loftus** (D.-Sun Prairie) and others, and it will expire on June 30, 2000.

Among Thompson's task force appointees are two prominent members of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited: **Steve Born**, a professor of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, a past chairperson of the Wisconsin T.U. State Council and current chairperson of the T.U. National Board of Trustees; and **David Ladd**, a Dodgeville businessman and long-time member of the **Harry and Laura Nohr T.U. Chapter** who also has served many years on the **Wisconsin Conservation Congress**.

Chapter president profile Scott Henricks guides work of TU's Antigo Chapter

By Todd Hanson

Scott Henricks has been a member of the Antigo Chapter of TU since 1979. He was born and raised in Antigo, so he knows and loves the area's many trout streams and spring ponds.



"I've be so very lucky to live in an area of Wisconsin that is blessed with so many coldwater resources," says Scott.

Langlade County is home to 850 miles of class I trout water and over 200 spring ponds.

"I've been the president of the Antigo Chapter for 20 years," says Scott. "It's been a long time, but I still enjoy the challenges of what has seemed, you know, a job for life!"

Scott is proud of the many projects the Antigo Chapter has been able to accomplish over the years. These include working on seven different improvement projects on the East Branch of the Eau Claire River, the Hunting, Em-

barrass, Evergreen, and Spring Brook.

The chapter has also been involved in dredging projects on eight spring ponds in Langlade county.

"Boy, it sure doesn't seem to have been 20 years," says Scott, "but none of these things would have ever gotten done without the help of my fellow TU members. Our chapter has also been blessed with the love and assistance of two great area DNR fish managers, Max Johnson and Pete Segerson. Our work wouldn't have been possible without the help of our DNR personnel."

Scott is also proud of the chapter's annual Kids Fishing Day held the first Saturday every June. "This is just a great, fun day for the area's children," he says.

Scott has been married to wife Mary for 35 years, and the couple has two swell kids, Zak and Jolee.

Scott has been a nuclear medicine technologist at Langlade Memorial Hospital for 30 years. "I was gone from this area for six years going to school and working at other hospitals," says Scott, "but I came back to northeast Wisconsin to fish and hunt."

Scott says a great concern for the local trout resource is the pumping of groundwater for export in bottles and tanker trucks. Scott notes this is already happening in Langlade County at the Polar Springs bottling operation.

"There never seems to be a shortage of things we in TU can do to care for and protect our coldwater resources."



SCOTT HENRICKS OF ANTIGO TU

Scott Henricks has been president of the Antigo Chapter of TU for nearly 20 years. He sees some challenges ahead for the area as drought and water withdrawals are affecting area streams.

CHAPTER NEWS: Wolf River

Continued from p. 16

The chapter was started by Herb's brother, **Cap Buettner**, and then carried on by Herb following Cap's passing.

Herb's heart and soul truly reflects the chapter's mission, which is to conserve, protect, and restore the Wolf River coldwater fishery and its watershed. The Wolf River Chapter wishes only the best to Herb and Ginny in their days ahead. May there be a 20-inch brown behind every boulder in Burnt Point, Horse Race, and 20 Day Rapids for you.

On the political front, Barry. Climie distributed an op-ed piece by **State Rep. Terry Van Akkeren** from Sheboygan critical of **Assembly Speaker Mike Huebsch** for delaying movement on a bill to restore an independent WDNR Secretary. The bill would have given the **Natural Resources Board** the ability to appoint the WDNR Secretary like it had before **Gov. Thompson**.

The next chapter meeting is scheduled for Sat., April 5, at 1 p.m. at the **Wolf River Town Hall in Langlade**.

—Barry Climie

WI stream access laws summarized in wallet card

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

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

The WITU State Council hopes this card will come in handy to settle any disputes you may have with land-owners who feel you are trespassing.



Confusing recent change

Anglers and other stream users may remember that Wisconsin law was changed in 2001 to allow people to walk the exposed banks of rivers up to the "normal high-water mark."

However, that expansion of rights was *reversed* just two years later, and anglers have ever since been required to follow the old "keep your feet wet" rule while fishing.

Of note in the current law is that anglers can legally walk on private property whenever they encounter an "obstruction."

The WDNR has interpreted an obstruction to include "deep water." This obstruction provision is not yet widely known, so this wallet card will help fishers and land owners understand the current law.

CLIP AND CARRY

WI State Council of Trout Unlimited 2008 Stream Access Wallet Card



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

Can I fish streams that flow through private lands?

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

Do I have to stay in the water?

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

What counts as an obstruction?

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

Can I walk on the exposed shoreline up to the "ordinary high water mark"?

No, that provision in the statutes was only in effect for two years. Anglers must now follow the previous "keep your feet wet" rule. But you may still leave the water legally to bypass obstructions.

What if I come upon a fence across a stream?

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

How does the "no interference" with hunting, fishing, or trapping statute apply to my fishing?

Animal right activists have generally preferred to harass hunters and trappers instead of anglers. Nevertheless, fishing is included in a 1989 WI statute that makes it illegal for someone to "interfere or attempt to interfere with lawful hunting, fishing or trapping with the intent to prevent the taking of a wild animal..."

This statute not only protects you from physical interference, but it protects the animals as well — someone cannot interfere with your fishing by "harassing a wild animal." For fishers, this may be interpreted to mean that someone cannot interfere with your fishing by throwing rocks into water you are about to fish. Land owners blocking your legal access or preventing you from navigating around obstructions may also be violating this statute.

See WI statute text on other side

Your bench should have the Sunken Beetle ready to bat

By John Gremmer

A number of years ago my friend, Marty Kwitek, from Meribel, WI, an expert fly tyer and fly fisher, told me that if a person really wanted to learn how to tie flies well, that per-

son should make a list of at least 30 different flies they think they would use, get the materials for those flies, and tie them.

He pointed out that by tying those 30 flies you would be forced to tie with many different materials

and techniques, and your skill level couldn't help but go up.

About the time Marty related this to me, I was just starting to explore the fishing opportunities in southwest Wisconsin. I took his advice. I bought Ross Mueller's wonderful book, *Fly Fishing Midwestern Spring Creeks*, and proceeded to gather materials and tie 35 different flies from that book.

Marty was right. One of those flies was the Black Glass Bead-Head Beetle. It was an easy tie and I must confess that I carried them around a few years without getting any wet. They were just sitting on the fly box bench waiting for their turn to prove themselves.

That time came one spring day when I was fishing on a southwest Wisconsin stream and having little luck with dries, streamers, or nymphs. I approached a big pool with a two-foot waterfall at its head and tried my dry. No action! I opened my nymph box and considered the possibilities. The Black Glass Bead-Head Beetle (which I now refer to as the Sunken Beetle) called out to me. It's time had come.

I pitched the beetle up into the foam below the falls and instantly had a fish on. Then another, and another, etc. A star was born! These are the moments that a fisherman never forgets.

This fly, tied on a size 8 hook (it's a big fly), is not tied with any weight other than the hook and the glass bead, but it sinks a little and is tossed around under the surface just like a real beetle. I think this is its magic. There are many dark beetles this size that end up falling into the stream. Think June beetles.

Memorable day

Last Spring Art Kempf from State College, PA, and I were fishing and camping at Avalanche, WI. Art planned on staying on after I headed for home. On my way out of camp I tossed Art one of the sunken beetles. I told him of my experiences with it and said if he had a chance, he should give it a try.

About a week later I got a call from Art in Pennsylvania. He was excited! "How do you tie that sunken beetle? The fish were just nuts about it! I went right up the creek catching fish after fish and then I lost it. I think it will work out here!"



I gave the beetle to Bob Haase (who has never seen a pattern that he didn't want to change), and he came back several days later with some new twists. He substituted

black tool box liner from Sears for the Hi Vis shell back, and he wrapped a few turns of peacock Ice Dub through the chenille body. I have also substituted a pheasant rump feather with iridescent metallic green or blue coloration for the turkey wing covert hackle.

Fishing the fly

How do you fish it? Toss it upstream into turbulent water and let the current take it. You need to give it some slack and let it bounce around a bit. This is the type of thing that many opportunistic trout are waiting for.

(John Gremmer of Winneconne is a photographer, fly fishing/tying instructor for Fox Valley Technical College, speaker, water monitor, biologist, and former president of CWTU. -Ed.)



John Gremmer photos

Relevant Wisconsin Statutes

(Key portions underlined)

§30.134 Use of exposed shore areas along streams.

(1) DEFINITIONS. In this section:

(a) "Artificial ditch" means a ditch, channel, canal or other stream of water that has no prior history as a stream.

(b) "Exposed shore area" means the area of the bed of a navigable body of water that is between the ordinary high-water mark and the water's edge.

(c) "Highway" has the meaning given in s. 340.01 (22).

(d) "Riparian" means the owner, lessee or occupant of land that abuts a navigable body of water.

(2) AUTHORIZATION. Members of the public may use any exposed shore area of a stream without the permission of the riparian only if it is necessary to exit the body of water to bypass an obstruction.

(3) RESTRICTIONS; MEMBERS OF PUBLIC. (a) In using an exposed shore area of a stream, as authorized under sub. (2), a member of the public may not enter the exposed shore area except from the water, from a point of public access on the stream, or with the permission of the riparian.

(c) Use of an exposed shore area of a stream by members of the public does not grant an easement or other right to the exposed shore area that is greater than the right granted to the public under this section.

(4) RESTRICTIONS; RIPARIANS; OTHERS.

(a) No riparian may prohibit a member of the public from using, as authorized under this section, an exposed shore area of a stream.

(b) No riparian may charge a fee for the use, as authorized under this section, of an exposed shore area of a stream.

(c) No person may obstruct a highway with the intention to impede or prohibit access by the public to an exposed shore area of a stream.

(5) EXCEPTIONS. The right granted to the public under this section to use an exposed shore area of a stream does not apply to any of the following:

(a) An exposed shore area of an impoundment on a stream.

(b) Any artificial ditch.

(c) Any location on a stream where there is no surface water flowing in the stream.

§30.15 Penalty for unlawful obstruction of navigable waters.

(1) OBSTRUCTIONS PENALIZED. Any person who does any of the following shall forfeit not less than \$10 nor more than \$500 for each offense:

(a) Unlawfully obstructs any navigable waters and thereby impairs the free navigation thereof.

(b) Unlawfully places in navigable waters or in any tributary thereof any substance that may float into and obstruct any such waters or impede their free navigation.

(c) Constructs or maintains in navigable waters, or aids in the construction or maintenance therein, of any boom not authorized by law.

(d) Constructs or places any structure or deposits any material in navigable waters in violation of s. 30.12 or 30.13.

(3) EACH DAY A SEPARATE VIOLATION. Each day during which an obstruction, deposit or structure exists in violation of sub. (1) is a separate offense.

§29.083 Interference with hunting, fishing or trapping.

(1) DEFINITION. In this section, "activity associated with lawful hunting, fishing or trapping" means travel, camping or other acts that are preparatory to lawful hunting, fishing or trapping and that are done by a hunter, fisher or trapper or by a member of a hunting, fishing or trapping party.

(2) PROHIBITIONS (a) No person may interfere or attempt to interfere with lawful hunting, fishing or trapping with the intent to prevent the taking of a wild animal by doing any of the following:

1. Harassing a wild animal or engaging in an activity that tends to harass wild animals.

2. Impeding or obstructing a person who is engaged in lawful hunting, fishing or trapping.

3. Impeding or obstructing a person who is engaged in an activity associated with lawful hunting, fishing or trapping.

4. Disturbing the personal property of a person engaged in lawful hunting, fishing or trapping. [Remaining portions of the statute deleted. -Ed.]

WI State Council of Trout Unlimited Stream Access Wallet Card

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

AWARDS: Council bestows honors at Stevens Point annual meeting

Continued from p. 8

Certificate of Appreciation
— Jeff and Jenna Phillips family

Today we have a certificate of appreciation for the Phillips family — Jeff, Jenna, Jesse, and Isaac.

At our summer meeting in Richford in 2000, then Chair Duke Welter said that unless someone stepped forward to chair the annual banquet, it would happen no more. In one of his moments of weakness (and, naivety) Dan Holland stepped forward to take on the job.

Later that winter when Dan realized what he'd gotten into and was a nervous wreck, Jeff stepped forward to bail him out.

Consider Proper Release

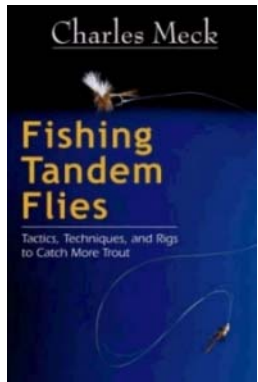


"The future of trout fishing is in your hands."

Charles Meck's "Fishing Tandem Flies" has new ideas on old fishing method

By John Welter

Historically, multiple-fly rigs have been with us for a couple of centuries, at least. So when Charles Meck, author and columnist, wrote



Fishing Tandem Flies (Headwater Books, 119 pp., \$16.95), he had the challenge of saying something new about them, or finding new ways to fish them.

When I first read this book during last fall's gun deer season, I was plunked down on a stand overlooking several

good active runways. It was hard to keep on task, if the task was reading this book, because of the darn deer passing by, fast and slow, and the accompanying activities.

But my impression at the time was, "He really put a five-page magazine article into that 119-page book." It seemed that way because Meck, after introducing you to his seven tandem rigs, tended to talk about different fishing situations and then repeat pretty much the same set of rigs for each situation.

It seemed even more that way when Meck penned a four-page article in *Fly Fisherman's* March 2008 issue on "Tandem Connections."

Still, when Your Editor pressed me to actually come through with a review, I was hard pressed to come up with a description of the book beyond those seven tandem rigs.

But he persisted.

So, finally, I've gone back and re-read the book, showing you to what lengths your *Wisconsin Trout* book review staff will go to bring you the news about books.

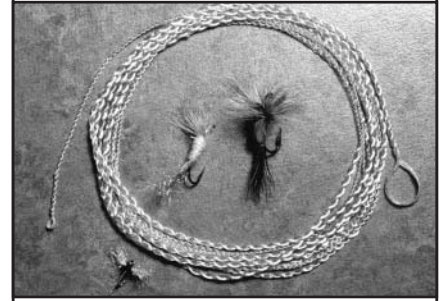
And, to my surprise, I found it was better on the second impression than the first.

There's some good information here on why you'd fish certain rigs — such as a dropper that stands out from the leader — in certain waters. He includes a number of oddball indicator flies and a couple of flies that seem to imitate nothing you're likely to find on a stream, but which he swears catch fish. And he has brought in some interesting color research that suggests we should be trying flies tied with blue and purple and orange more than most of us do.

So there you go, reading a reviewer's second-time-around kudo. And I'm off to the tying table to tie up some blue indicator flies.

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Tool time

Build your own hook holders

By Todd Hanson

My fingers don't work as well as they used to, so I won't go fishing without a retractable-loop fly holder so I can hold flies well enough to tie good knots.

For years I've been making these little "fly pen" hook holders from retractable ballpoint pens by blowing out the ink and gluing a metal loop into the ink stem. Here's how it's done.

As with making flies, it's a good idea to make at least a few of these tools at a time to take advantage of the mess you create. Make a dozen. They are great gifts for your fishing friends.

First, select some pens. I especially like the plastic, rubber-gripped pens that are favorites of marketers. A good source of these pens is your doctor. Next time you visit your doctor, have him or her give you a handful of the many pens the drug company reps leave behind.

It doesn't matter whether the pen's tip is metal or plastic, but I like pens with wider holes because they handle everything from streamers to size 20. If you fish a lot with flies smaller than size 18, make a couple holders from pens with small holes.

With pens in hand, remove the ink stems. Just before you do, though, make a line on each stem to show the height the

ballpoint tip extended above the ink stem (see arrow) to remind you how far the metal loop should be positioned above the stem so it extends and retracts properly into the pen body. If you're making more than a few tools, also mark the ink stems so you later remember which stem goes with which pen body.

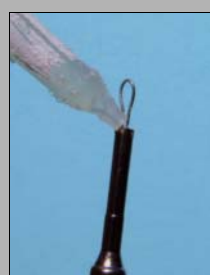
Remove the ballpoint tips with a pliers and blow out all the ink. Remove any remaining ink with a pipe cleaner soaked in a solvent like gasoline and allow the stems to dry.

While the insides of the ink stems dry, cut some 1" lengths of wire for the loops. The copper and brass wire in your fly tying kit is too soft for these loops. Steel wire is good, but stainless steel is best because it is strong yet flexible in tiny diameters.



I have some multiple-strand stainless wire that makes perfect loops when unraveled. Create a loop in the wire by bending

it around something round, such as a paper clip. The loop should be about as wide as the ink stem so it will fit through the tip of the pen body. Don't worry about the final shape of the loop until after it has been cemented into the ink stem.



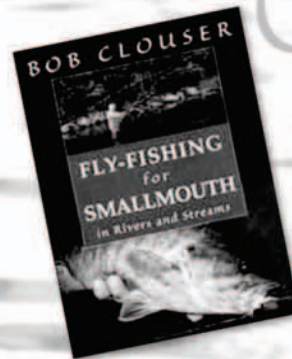
Lately I've had success cementing loops into stems with some of the thicker super glues like Zap a Gap, but the gold standard for this is epoxy glue. Suck some epoxy into the stem before inserting a wire, allowing the loop to extend above the tube the same distance the ballpoint did (refer to your reference line).

Angle the loops/stems slightly below horizontal so the glue accumulates next to the loops while it sets. When the glue hardens, just insert the correct stem into the correct pen body.



Click the pen open and the loop stays out for you to insert your fly. Click again and the loop retracts, pulling the hook firmly against the pen body. Now you have something substantial to hold on to so you can tie your knot.

CABIN FEVER DAY & FISHING SHOW



Bob Clouser, Guest Speaker
Creator of the famed Clouser minnow
Noted author, fly tier, conservationist and passionate smallmouth fly fisher

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Friends canoe goes up for bid on eBay April 15

By Steve Hill

This spring, the date April 15 will mean more than your taxes are due. It will also mean that you can bid on a superb wooden canoe, motor, and trailer package that will help the Friends of Wisconsin TU at the same time.

Last year a beautiful 20' wooden canoe was donated by an anonymous benefactor to the Friends program. The canoe was built in Maine in the early 1990s and has been expertly maintained.

After considering several options for selling the canoe, it was decided to offer it for sale on eBay. A starting sale date has now been set for April 15, so mark your calendar.

You can also look forward to helping the Friends of WITU by responding to this spring's annual campaign letter that will be arriving in your mailbox soon. And thanks to

all of our loyal Friends (see below) for their support this past year!



Ebay registration simple and fast

If you've never used eBay, you will have to register with your name, address, phone number, and e-mail address. You then pick a user ID and password, and you're all done.

For more information on the bidding process, visit www.ebay.com.

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Look for a letter from the Friends program asking you to join these supporters...

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 Trempealeau WI
 Hudson WI
 Marinette WI
 River Falls WI
 Augusta WI
 Oshkosh WI
 Stevens Point WI
 Roscoe IL

Yes, I want to join the "Friends" of Wisconsin TU.

Enclosed is my check for \$100, \$250, or more payable to Wisconsin Trout Unlimited.

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

Name _____

Address _____

City, State Zip _____ Phone # _____