



Wisconsin Trout

January 2008

Stewardship program re-authorized TU helps increase farm runoff funding

By Bill Pielsticker

WITU Legislative Chair

Wisconsin TU scored an important victory when the long-delayed state budget passed in October with a significant increase in funding to help farmers design and implement nutrient management plans.

These plans are the most cost-effective way to reduce polluted runoff from agricultural fields, and the funding increase was Wisconsin TU's top legislative priority.

Members of our legislative committee worked with other environmental and conservation groups to achieve this victory. We also joined the Farm Bureau in issuing a joint letter in support of the increase.

Beginning July 1, 2008, the budget for nutrient management planning will rise from \$0.5 million to \$6.5 million dollars a year. Most of the money will be used by counties to cost-share nutrient management plans. Other funds will go to the UW Extension and others to assist counties and farmers alike.

A small portion of the funds will be used to provide ongoing research and support for SNAP-plus, a computer-based tool that farmers, land managers, crop consultants, and county personnel can use to determine appropriate crop rotations and fertilizer applications on specific farm fields.

Stewardship renewal passed

Another TU priority was re-authorizing the Stewardship Fund and funding it with more dollars. This, too, was included in the final budget.

Importantly, this measure also specifies that a portion of the Stewardship Fund can be used to purchase stream easements. This sets the stage for a new TU priority — seeking a further increase in the amount of Stewardship funds available for stream access easements.

New legislative issues

The legislative committee has identified several new legislative issues beyond funding for stream easements.

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USDA photo

CWTU given monitoring award

The Central Wisconsin Chapter of TU was named "2007 Citizen-based Monitoring Program of the Year" by the WDNR at the 4th Annual Citizen-based Monitoring Conference at Devils Lake State Park Oct. 6.

CWTU is active in several levels of water monitoring, including:

- the basic Water Action Volunteer (WAV) program,
- citizen-based stream monitoring (Level 2), and
- monitoring streams on the 303(d) impaired water list for nutrients, sediment, bacteria, metals, and other pollutants (Level 3).

During 2006 and 2007, CWTU has monitored 25 different sites on 17 streams in the Level 2 program alone.

Ojibseau Chapter is now Wisconsin Clear Waters Chapter

By Todd Hanson

Following two years of on-again, off-again discussions, Wisconsin's Ojibseau Chapter has officially changed its name to the WI Clear Waters Chapter.

The former Ojibseau name was actually made up of two components, according to chapter president Dennis Vanden Bloomen. "The 'Ojib' part referred to the area's original inhabitants, the Ojibwa tribe, and the 'leau' part referred to the chapter having been formed by an existing TU chapter in Trempealeau County."

"The change took many months and lots of discussion," says Vanden Bloomen. "Some didn't want to make the change, but others did, so we approached a possible change using a name change matrix that a business might use in developing a name for itself. That was a helpful tool."

The name change matrix had members consider things like whether a name was easy to spell, easy to remember, suggestive of benefits, didn't suggest undesirable imagery, etc.

Before settling on WI Clear Waters, several other choices made the final list. One choice was

"Chippewa Valley Chapter" because almost all of chapter's territory is in the Chippewa River Valley. Another possibility was "Northern Driftless Area Chapter" in recognition of the chapter's geological heritage. The name "West Central Wisconsin Chapter" was descriptive of where the

~~Ojibseau~~
~~Northern Driftless Area~~
~~CHIPPEWA VALLEY~~
WI Clear Waters

chapter was on the Wisconsin map. A final possibility was renaming the chapter after one of its founding members.

In the end, the choices boiled down to two — rename the chapter WI Clear Waters or keep the name Ojibseau. A vote was taken, and the WI Clear Waters won.

The vote was the easy part. A new name comes with a lot of downstream work. The chapter had to change its by-laws, of course. That was relatively easy. But then the chapter had to make the

change on bank accounts, money market accounts, CDs, stationery, directories, etc.

"We had to send a letter to TU National asking their permission to change the name," says Vanden Bloomen. "It wasn't just up to us. When we talked with them three months ago, they said, 'Well, we're not exactly excited about Clear Waters because there are already Clear Waters chapters in several different parts of the country.' We countered that the name 'Eau Claire' is French for 'clear water.' So after some negotiation, we were able to settle on 'WI Clear Waters.'"

As of press time, this name change has yet to be officially approved by TU National, but that is just a formality at this time.

If other chapters want to change their names, remember to also include the IRS in on the change.

"We finally got around to filing our federal taxes," says Vanden Bloomen, "and we got a letter back saying, 'You don't owe us taxes, but your fine totals \$5,125.' So our accountant wrote them a letter, but they still think we owe them money. We're waiting for the different branches of the IRS to catch up with each other."

TU National's Moore leading workshop on CEI at banquet

By Bill Heart

Bryan Moore, VP of volunteer operations and watershed programs for TU National, will present a workshop on chapter re-chartering and the Chapter Effectiveness Index (CEI) in Stevens Point Feb. 2

The workshop will be offered concurrently with WITU's annual meeting and will help all chapters

continue their CEI efforts necessary for chapter growth and re-chartering. Attendees will get a free ticket to the banquet.

Moore is based in Bridgeport, West Virginia. He joined TU National in 2005 as program manager of the Potomac Headwaters Home Initiative.

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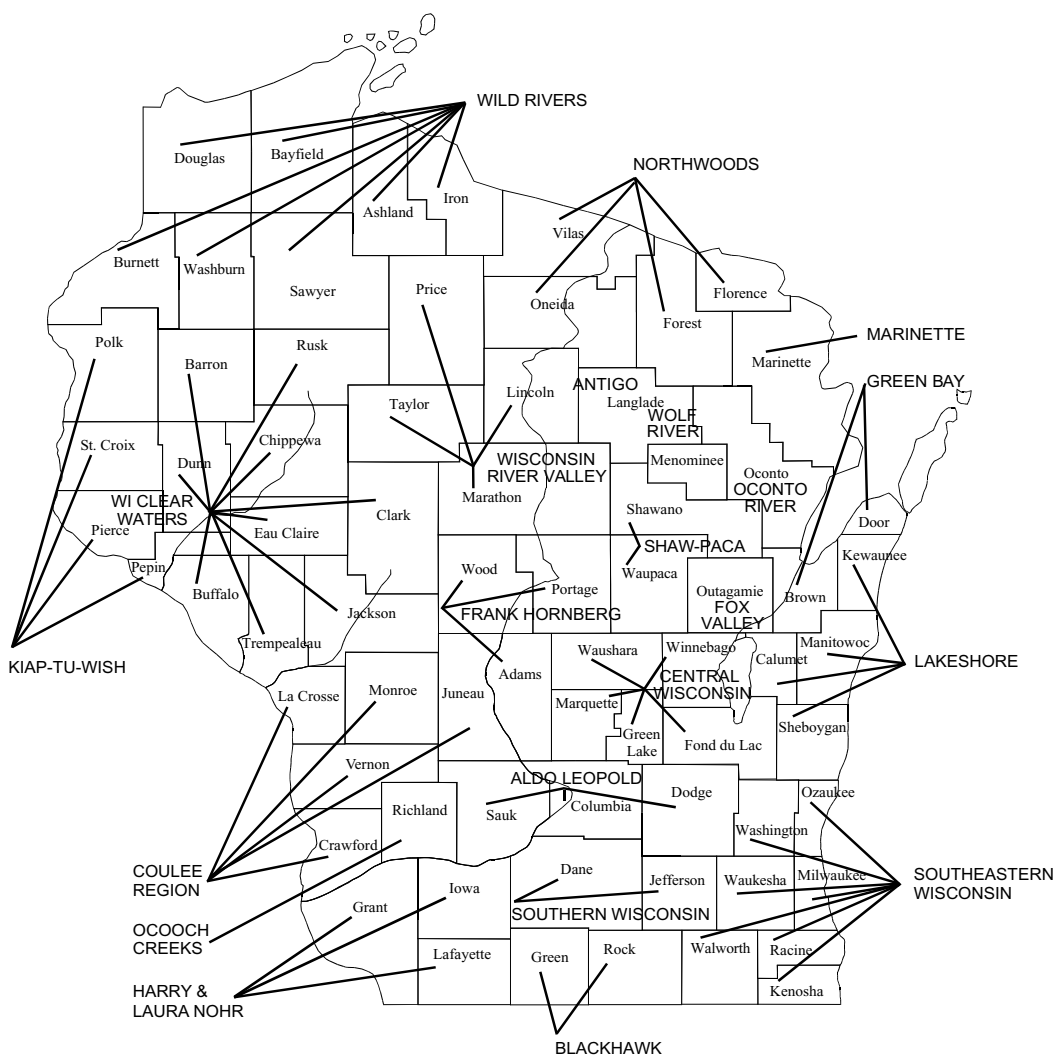
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Contact TU National when you change addresses or chapter leaders

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

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

WISCONSIN TROUT

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Chapter re-chartering? WITU rocks!

By Bill Heart

WITU State Council Chair

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited members should be very proud of themselves for the number of chapters that have been re-chartered. Out of 22 chapters, only six have not been re-chartered, and one of those was kind of lost between Bill Pielsticker and me when I became chair. That chapter will be re-chartered next fall.

I have had discussions with most of the other five chapters, and hopefully all will be re-chartered by next fall. I am sure that Wisconsin is one of the leading councils in the nation.

That being said, we all have to keep working hard to remain a leading council. The re-chartering process has to be done every four years for *all* chapters, so the chapters that were re-chartered in 2005 will have to go through the process again in 2009. The information needed for re-chartering is in the Chapter Effectiveness Index (CEI). Each chapter is supposed to do a CEI every fall after September 30th. Most of the information on your financial report is also used for the CEI. I am in the process of going over all of the financial reports and doing a CEI for each chapter.

With that information, the State Council will be able to help chapters that are in need. It is each council's responsibility to help chapters that are lacking in any aspects of their CEI. If it is obvious that there is a common problem with many chapters, we will hold workshops to work toward solving those problems. For a start, there will be a workshop by Bryan Moore from TU National at our annual meeting this February

on chapter re-chartering and the CEI. It would be nice to have a representative from each chapter attend that workshop. For incentive, there will be a free banquet ticket for everyone who attends.

Another important initiative that TU National is taking on is a strategic plan. The plan is for 2008-2012 and is a very ambitious undertaking. TU plans to achieve a "One TU" concept from chapter to council to staff and then back. A strategic planning committee is looking for our feedback — council, chapter, and members. Each chapter president should have received a copy of the plan, but if not, and if anyone else would like a copy, please let me know and I can get you one. Each council needs to comment on the plan by using input from chapters and the membership. So please get your comments to me as soon as possible.

Be sure to mark your calendars for February 2 and attend our annual meeting and banquet. Dan Holland and Bill Pielsticker have put together a very nice program and one of the better selections of bucket prizes and silent auction lineups that we have had in a number of years. This is our council's major fund-raiser of the year, so we need a large turnout to make some money for our coldwater resources.

If I may, I would just like to mention the passing of a dedicated conservationist and dear friend of mine. Pam Troxell, coordinator of the Timber Wolf Alliance for the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute of Northland College in Ashland, died of cancer Nov. 9 at the age of 48. She had been a leading force in educating the public on the value of the timber wolf re-

introduction program in Wisconsin. Pam was the leader on my recent trip on the Horton River when we paddled to the Arctic Ocean. She had to deal with five male subordinates for nearly a month — not an easy task. I was teaching her to fly fish and she caught her first fish on a fly — a nice arctic grayling.

Like my old friend Jeff Carlson, who lived about a mile from Pam, she was a free spirit who will be greatly missed by the environmental community.



Bill Heart



WDNR lacked leadership on Prairie R. regs

Editor,

Prior to my retirement in 1996, I spent 36 years in DNR, primarily in north central Wisconsin. My career involved various professional level fisheries management positions and concluded as the District Fisheries Supervisor for the former 10 county North Central District. I am well versed in fisheries science and experienced in the application of its management strategies.

I am very disturbed by the DNR action that will rescind the Category 5 special regulation rule for a 5-mile stretch of the 42-mile Prairie River. The rule to be discarded required artificial lures only, bag of 1 with an 18-inch brown trout and 12-inch brook and rainbow trout minimum length. It is to be replaced by a Category 4 regulation which allows any type of angling gear, a bag of 3 with a 12-inch minimum for brown and rainbow trout and 8 inches for brooks.

Prior to this change, 37 miles of the river was in the aforementioned Category 4 rule. Only 12 percent of the river's 42 miles of trout water had the Category 5 restriction.

Anglers had more liberal harvest opportunities and no gear restrictions on nearly 90 percent of the river. Apparently that was not enough to satisfy the harvest mentality. Why am I disturbed over this situation? DNR's own data reveals a positive brook trout response in the Category 5 special regulation zone.

Wild brook trout are dominant in the Prairie along with a modest brown trout population. The following facts are in evidence:

- The special regulation zone (Category 5) holds the highest densities of brook and brown trout found in the Prairie River.
- The numbers of brook trout over 10 and 12 inches have increased 115 percent and 200 percent respectively since the special regulations went into effect in 2003.
- The numbers of brown trout over 12, 14, and 16 inches have not increased but declined somewhat in the special regulation zone.

The special regulation zone has been in place since 2003. Arguments could be made that this is a minimum time line and that additional years would provide a better evaluation with respect to optimizing the potential of this zone's trout-carrying capacity. Elimination of this

zone reflects a short-sighted decision to be sure.

Locally there was a contingent of the public that wanted the special regulation zone changed to a Category 4. At the 2007 spring Conservation Congress hearings, the vote in Lincoln County was 47 for change and 29 to stay the course. Statewide the vote was 909 for change and 563 to retain Category 5.

The Prairie River is one of Wisconsin's fine trout streams. There is a long history of in-stream and riparian trout habitat management along with land acquisition and easements. Nearly 75 percent of the streambank in the special regulation zone is in DNR ownership or easements. Two significant dams have been removed in recent years. Each generating their own local controversies but the river is now free flowing. The Wisconsin inland record brook trout is reported from this river.

When a regulation demonstrates that it significantly increases the stocks of wild brook trout, particularly those larger than 10 inches, why would you want to trash the rule that got you there? It is a paradox, and I view the action as a case of mismanagement. During my fish management career I, among others, strived to achieve results of this nature for some of our trout fisheries.

There is more to angling than killing fish, and until that realization permeates our management philosophy, we stand on the threshold of fostering primarily average or mediocre fishing opportunities for our angling public. To fully optimize the biological potential of some of our ecosystems, the application of special rules is paramount.

Capitulating to public pressure in this case was a move in the wrong direction. Those who have spoken through their right to vote an issue up or down need to understand that having the right doesn't mean the consequences of their action is right. DNR leadership in this issue is sadly deficient.

Lloyd "Duke" Andrews
Minocqua, WI

(Duke Andrews sent this letter to the Natural Resources Board in December as a "last resort" to getting the WDNR to reconsider the changes to the Prairie R. regulations. -Ed.)

RUNOFF: more funding in new state budget

Continued from p. 1

Possible new legislative issues include:

- providing secure funding for DNR's fish and wildlife account,
- securing dedicated funding for the nutrient management program,

- lobbying for an increase in the number of game wardens in Wisconsin, and
- fighting for strong rules to implement the Groundwater Law we helped pass nearly four years ago.

Look for more on these issues in coming months.

TROUT UNLIMITED NATIONAL

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

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

TUDARE

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

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

Please Join Us

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

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

MEETINGS

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

FREE MEMBERSHIPS

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

CONTACT

info@couleeregiontu.org
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COULEE REGION CHAPTER

CORRECTION: Coulee, not Kiap-TU-Wish

In the October issue of *Wisconsin Trout*, we reported that TU National is showing the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter's brochure as a model for chapters nationwide. It should be noted that the brochure in question was produced by the Coulee Region Chapter, not Kiap-TU-Wish.

WITU NE Region funds projects and charts future direction

By Kim McCarthy

The Northeast Region of Wisconsin TU held its annual early winter meeting at the Wild Wolf Inn along the banks of the Wolf River on Dec. 2.

The meeting was quite productive both in terms of getting lots of trout work funded and in setting the future course for the region.

Habitat funding

Northeastern chapters pledged \$24,000 to the US Forest Service and WDNR to make sure that regional trout projects were fully funded and able to proceed during the summer of 2008. Some of the streams that will benefit from the chapters fund-raising efforts include:

- Popple River,
- Prairie River,
- Beaver Creek,

- South Branch Oconto River,
- Swanson Creek,
- Deerskin River, Cherry Creek,
- McCaslin Brook, and
- Walker Creek.

Another funding requests dealt with at the meeting will help the Forest Service fund a two-person habitat crew during the summer of 2008. Beaver control is always an issue in Northeastern Wisconsin, and more funds were pledged to help keep the critters from damaging area streams.

Labor needs

In addition to dollars, chapters also pledged labor.

The Northwoods Chapter has agreed to coordinate some work on the Deerskin River, and the Green Bay Chapter has agreed to do the same for Swanson Creek or McCaslin Brook.

This was a change for the meeting. We have been dealing with monetary requests for years, but this was the first year we asked biologists to submit labor requests.

The hope is that by bringing these labor workday requests to the regional meeting, we can get multi-chapter participation at the events and help the chapters set work schedules more easily than in the past.

Long-range direction

The regional reps then engaged in a brainstorming session to help set long-range direction. We took a look at strengths and weaknesses in the region and began to look at opportunities for getting more trout work done in the region.

Brian Hegge led the session, and he will now analyze the comments and suggestions that were recorded

at the meeting. This discussion will continue at the next regional meeting with the goal being to set a long-range path for the region to follow.

The meeting was not only highly productive, but demonstrated the high level of commitment northeast region chapters have to improving the trout resource.

Dec. 1 produced the first major snowstorm of the season. In spite of some pretty nasty weather, every chapter in the region had representatives present at the meeting, some of whom drove considerable distances on bad roads to be present.

State Council Chair Bill Heart also dropped in and addressed the chapters on TU's chapter effectiveness index (CEI) tool. Bill gets the award for the longest trip to attend the meeting. The NE region appreciated the effort he made to attend.

Longtime Fox Valley Chapter leader Tony Trembl passes

Tony Trembl, one of the Fox Valley Chapter's most active members over the past decade, passed away Dec. 20 at age 64 from cancer.



Tony Trembl

Trembl lived in Neenah and served as FVTU chapter president four years between 2000 and 2007.

He also reinvigorated the chapter's stream improvement efforts by spearheading a multi-year, multi-chapter restoration project on Whitcomb Creek in Waupaca County.

Trembl was the WITU State Council's gold trout award winner in 2000 and was a volunteer actor in the State Council's 1996 "Consider Proper Release" instructional video, playing the part of a worm angler who properly released a deeply hooked trout.

Although many knew Tony as a fellow TU member and leader, he was also known in other capacities.

He was husband to Marcia; pops to his boys, Kurt, Scott, Eric and Tony; elder in the New Hope Lutheran Church; Scout Master; and friend to many who knew him as a man who lived the fullness of life and was always positive no matter the circumstances.

We will remember him for his handlebar moustache, his love of brook trout and poetry, his skill with metal working and gunsmithing, being there whenever we needed help, living the Word, loving his fellow man through his joyful nature, and for making all the difference.

Fox Valley President Jim Jenkin said, "Few people have so well shown how one person can truly

make a difference in the world; Tony has done just that."

A memorial is being established in Tony's honor. Contact Jim Jenkin at (920) 734-6344 for details.

TU Driftless Area survey underway

TU and NorthStar Economics are engaged in an economic impact study to determine the impact of trout stream restoration efforts in the Driftless Area.

To take part in the survey, go to <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=278823822052>. Those completing the survey are eligible to win Gander Mountain gift certificates.

Conservation Lobby Day set for Jan. 30

By Bill Pielsticker
WITU Legislative Chair

The fourth annual Conservation Lobby Day will be held January 30 at the state Capitol in Madison.

Our legislative committee has strongly supported this effort to increase the visibility of conservation issues in the state Legislature.

Last year saw nearly two dozen TU members join over 400 other citizen lobbyists to meet their state senators and representatives and stress the need for strong measures to preserve our state's natural resources. This year's effort will focus on:

- keeping Great Lakes' water in the Great Lakes,
- restoring conservation integrity by restoring an independent DNR Secretary (see story elsewhere in this issue), and
- adopting a science-based plan to reduce Wisconsin's global warming emissions.

How it works

For those of you who are uncertain about how to lobby, the day begins with several sessions to prepare you and put you at ease. You then will meet with others from your legislative districts, choose a lead person, and prepare for your appointments which will have been arranged in advance by the staff of the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters.

The day will conclude with the second annual Wild Game Feed sponsored by the WLCV Institute and supported by Wisconsin TU.

The day begins at 9 a.m. at the Inn on the Park directly across the street from the Capitol in Madison.

If you want more information or are already planning to attend, please go to www.conservationvoters.org to register. Registration in advance is required so the WLCV staff and volunteers can organize each district's visit.

Also, please e-mail me at bill@pielstickerphotos.com so we can get together that day. With a strong turnout, we may be able to exceed the 600 people that show up for the Wisconsin Ag Coalition's Ag Day each year!

Learn to be a fly fishing instructor at Feb. 2 State Council banquet

Fly fishing instructor certification will be offered from Noon to 5 at the WITU State Council Banquet site in Stevens Point Feb. 2.

This class will be presented by Theresa Stabo, WDNR director of angler education, and Dennis Vanden Bloemen, UW-Stout fly fishing instructor and president of TU's WI Clear Waters Chapter.

The WDNR angler education program provides training for adult volunteers to offer fishing programs in their schools and communities. Adults who attend angler education workshops receive free materials they can use to introduce children to basic fishing skills and help guide adventures in local water resources investigations.

Fishing equipment and other supplies are available for loan to instructors at the DNR's 51 tackle loaner sites.

The program has two levels, junior angler for grades 4-8 and master angler for high school ages. A subset of materials appropriate for younger learners is also available. The materials are aligned to Wisconsin's state academic standards.

Materials available from the DNR, at no charge, include the Scott Rod Company Fly Fishing booklets. The DNR has purchased 100 St. Croix fly rods and reels for instructor use through the loaner program at 18 locations.

Trout Unlimited members, fishing club members, youth leaders, classroom teachers, and civic leaders are encouraged to attend as a team or form one at the workshop.

Participants in this training will also be given a complimentary ticket

to the State Council banquet held later that evening. This class is limited to 25 people. Register by contacting Theresa Stabo at (608) 266-2272 or by e-mail at Theresa.Stabo@wisconsin.gov.

WORKSHOP: TU's Moore to speak at Feb. 2 meeting

Continued from p. 1

Moore has spent many years as an active TU volunteer advocating for stream protection and restoration.

All chapters are encouraged to have a chapter representative attend this workshop, especially those chapters that have not yet been re-chartered.

For more information, contact Bill Heart at (715) 682-4703.



Bryan Moore

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Todd Hanson photos

SCENES FROM FOX VALLEY'S "WILD-RAISED" TROUT SCATTER PLANT

The Fox Valley Chapter has been planting "wild-raised" brown trout by canoe in the Waupaca R. for over 25 years. This fall's event began when the WDNR's technician (top left) showed up with around 20,000 fingerlings. TU members met the truck at each bridge crossing (above). Shaw-Paca President Dave Ehrenberg (middle left) poured his bucket of fingerlings into one of the floating, wire-meshed boxes FVTU built for this purpose. Trout were distributed a scoop here, a scoop there until each team of planters reached the next bridge downstream. Dave Ehrenberg and Bob Doornbos (bottom left) prepared for takeout at the Hwy. Q bridge.



What counts as "wild"?
Oregon study casts doubts on hatchery fish efforts

By Leah Weissman

A 15-year study conducted by Oregon State University (OSU) reveals hatchery-raised steelhead trout released in Hood River lose their ability to reproduce in the wild at a drop-rate of about 40 percent per generation.

Andrew Van Scoyk, hatchery manager of Rowdy Creek Fish Hatchery in Smith River, said this study doesn't necessarily apply to every hatchery in Oregon.

"This is just one study on one river," Van Scoyk said. "There's a lot said that doesn't relate to us. For instance, we only rear one generation at a time."

According to the research, offspring obtained strictly from farmed fish have around half the reproductive fitness as fish reared in a hatchery for only a single generation.

Michael Blouin, an OSU associate professor of zoology said, "There is now no question that using fish of hatchery ancestry to produce more hatchery fish quickly results in stocks that perform poorly in nature."

The decrease in reproductive fitness is due to a combination of genetics and natural selection, scientists administering the study said. The evolutionary process se-

lects certain characteristics suitable for fish living in a protected environment such as a hatchery, but unsuitable for the fish-eat-fish world of the wild.

According to Van Scoyk, the major differences between steelhead at Rowdy Creek Fish Hatchery and the hatchery steelhead released into Hood River are the hereditary contrasts between the fish and the hatchery's mating practices.

"We never mate two hatchery fish," he said. "Whenever possible, we always prefer to mate two wild fish. We also mate different sizes and ages of fish to keep the gene pool mixed up. Finally, we clip the adipose fin so we know, and fisherman know, what fish are wild and what fish are farmed."

The obvious physical difference makes it easy for the hatchery to distinguish between wild and farmed fish when selecting different steelhead to mate. The clipped fin is also a red flag to fishermen that this is a farmed fish and should be caught.

Earlier studies by OSU and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) mention that hatchery fish reared from wild stock have the potential to help wild populations in the short run.

Continued on p. 7

OREGON: hatchery study

Continued from p. 6

“Our hatchery fish only make up about 30 percent of steelhead in Smith River, so there’s a higher chance of wild fish spawning with hatchery fish, rather than two hatchery fish spawning and perpetuating

the negative traits,” Van Scoyk said. “I think some of the data from this study are more of a concern for hatcheries that take up a bigger proportion of the river.”

“The key issue is how to minimize their (hatcheries) impacts on

wild populations,” he said. “Among other things, this study proves with no doubt that wild fish and hatchery fish are not the same, despite their appearances.”

Van Scoyk said he hopes people don’t take this study too seriously and use it to indict all hatcheries.

“We want to improve the fish population, not harm it with bad ge-

netics. The Departments of Fish and Game has given us strict guidelines; we do our best to stay within them.”

(This story originally appeared in the Oct. 10, 2007, edition of the Curry Coastal Pilot, a community newspaper serving Curry County on the Southern Oregon coast. It is reprinted by permission of the publisher. -Ed.)

Hatcheries limited in producing so-called “wild” trout

By Ray White

The WDNR’s “wild-raised” program sounds laudable and undoubtedly must be better than the old standard hatchery procedure. Maybe the trout raised in this way are also less damaging to whatever truly wild fish exist where they are stocked. A related issue is whether the raised trout came from truly wild parents.

There should be skepticism about whether the term “wild” is really justified for the program. Is it being used (as so often nowadays) in a well-meaning but deceptive way? The term seems more like merely *less-artificially-raised* than truly wild-raised.

I’ve long pondered schemes to simulate natural conditions in hatcheries. (A forum where this happens is the Columbia River Basin’s fish and wildlife restoration program, in which I help evaluate proposed projects.) In order to produce trout of stream-dwelling types under the “wild” conditions that are often implied, they would (aside from important matters of parent-stock and spawning partner selection) have to be raised in environments that embody all attributes of a natural stream.

These attributes would include natural flow regimes, natural habitat structure, and natural associated organisms (food, predators, competitors, etc.). This is an unbearably “messy” proposition for people who try to do the raising, so such projects come up short.

Moreover, the fish would have to be raised at the same population densities as occur in the wild, so that interactive behaviors wouldn’t be warped. Those densities are so low that the envisaged natural or “wild” hatchery (an oxymoron, anyway) simply couldn’t be cost effective. Typically, hatchery reformers (grudgingly) install some “cover” in raceways and reduce rearing densities by 50% or so. That comes nowhere near what’s needed to match the natural situation.

What all this boils down to is that the kind of hatchery that could produce trout having all characteristics of wild trout must exactly resemble a natural stream. We can have that by protecting and restoring natural streams.

I should expand on the question of whether the so-called “wild hatchery trout” come from truly wild parents by asking: What qualifies as a wild trout, anyway? One definition: a wild trout is one that emerged from the gravel of a natural stream after having been deposited there as a fertilized egg by its mother. You might extend that consideration back into its mother’s and its father’s ancestry.

Another consideration — important evolutionarily, that is to say, from the standpoint of the trout population’s long-term genetic sustainability — is why that particular mother and a particular male happened to mate with each other, not each with some other trout. This is the issue of mate selection or natural pairing.

In nature, the female trout selects a site where she begins digging a redd in gravel (brook trout can also use coarse sand within which springwater upwells), and males come to court her at that site. The males in her vicinity vie for the honor of spawning with her by displaying and fighting (and perhaps by means of other behaviors, such as emitting odors?). They have exerted some selection of the female by going to that particular female’s redd site, and she exerts some selection of the male(s) she spawns with by extruding her eggs into the redd when “the one she likes” is there. (The spawning can’t be said to involve selection, of course, if the population is so small that only one of each sex exists in it.)

My description of the process is a simplifi-

cation, but you get the general idea. The point is: within a population of spawners, pairing is neither random nor haphazard; it occurs as a complex selective process, with, on average, the more “attractive” males and females selecting each other, and their progeny being more fit for life in the wild than others because the parents responded to signals that told them that their chosen mates were especially fit. We cannot possibly know all the signals that spawners use in selecting each other.

Therefore, hatchery personnel cannot possibly pair the right (most attractive or fit) males and females within whatever population — wild or otherwise — the hatchery is trying to bolster. They cannot select who will spawn with whom as well as the fish themselves can. In fact, within any population that



the hatchery personnel are choosing from, they are likely to spawn some relatively unfit (ill-adapted) fish, thus making poorly adaptive genes more numerous than they otherwise would be in the population that receives the stocked fish.

Also involved in effectiveness of trout reproduction are the abilities of females to select proper spawning sites, to construct redds (properly bury eggs), and to compete with each other for the most suitable spawning sites. Neither hatchery personnel nor anyone else can know whether a female trout they choose to strip eggs from is a fish who is inherently skilled in these (and other necessary) behaviors. It’s not an issue, of course, in the immediate (one-generation) hatchery situation because that spawned female will do no redd selecting, no redd construction, and no competing for redd sites. But when the hatchery spawns a female whose abilities for those behaviors are inferior, and then raises her offspring (many more surviving under hatchery pampering than would in nature) and releases them into streams, this injects an unusually high proportion of reproductively “substandard” females into the free-living population that the hatchery is trying to augment.

Yet another factor in truly wild salmonid reproduction that the hatchery cannot simulate is so-called “sneak spawning” by early-maturing or otherwise small males, who, at the moment of spawning by the female with the (usually much larger, stronger) “dominant” or “selected” male, dashes to the other side of

the female at the crucial moment and contributes to the sperm cloud that envelops the eggs she is extruding into the redd pit. Supposedly, this imparts a certain beneficial diversity to the population’s genetic make-up.

And, speaking of genetic make-up, here’s another basic situation that makes intervention via hatcheries problematic: *The genetic make-up of a truly wild population constitutes a record of that population’s ecological success.* In other words, the assemblage of crucial genes (maybe some genes are “neutral”) within the whole population — not just within an individual member — derives from ancestors who had traits enabling them to best exploit the characteristics that the natural environment offered for thriving, and who could best survive the adversities that nature threw at them. Past population members who didn’t have what it takes perished and didn’t pass their genes on. It’s not just “survival of the fittest” that is important; it’s also a diversity of fitnesses represented among the population’s members, and then passed via reproduction.

It follows that the wild population’s genetic make-up is the basis for future success in the environment to which it is adapted. Natural environments undergo swings in their characteristics, and wild populations are adapted to the degrees of such changes as usually occur. The connection with “wild” hatchery fish? We humans cannot artificially breed fish in a way that preserves the genetic make-up of a wild population.

Note that what I’ve presented stresses reproduction — the passing on of traits. Consider then an argument that hatchery advocates voice: “We keep fish in the hatchery only for a short period, so we really don’t do much harm.” That’s true, of course, especially for salmon hatcheries. Well, salmonids can be considered to have several types of life cycle phases: a reproduction phase (courtship, spawning, embryonic development, sac fry development in gravel, emergence from gravel), perhaps a juvenile migration phase (to a larger, more food-rich water body), a growth and maturation phase, and perhaps a reverse-migration phase to reproductive habitat. Some kinds of salmon follow this sequence once, and then die. Other salmonids, including trout, can repeat the cycle. Some stream-dwelling trout undertake no migration because they pass the reproduction and growth phases in the same vicinity.

The short-duration-in-hatchery-therefore-little-harm argument doesn’t hold water for the following basic reason — the time that fish are in the hatchery (or under influence of its operations) is at least *the whole reproductive phase* (sometimes more than that), and reproductive process is exactly what the hatchery is intended to manipulate. As should be clear from what I’ve described above, no hatchery can avoid disrupting the genetic make-up of any population it handles. I submit that’s a lot of harm. Small wonder that the recent study in Oregon found reduced reproductive capacity in hatchery fish.

Well, you see that I’ve now brought up all sorts of problems. This could go on and on. People much more qualified on these subjects than I am [include] Bob Behnke and Kurt Fausch (both at Colorado State U.), Tom Quinn (U. of Washington), Fred Utter (U. of Washington), and Fred Allendorf (U. of Montana), to name a few. My comments above are, in reality, only a sketchy account of the “wild” trout situation.

(Ray White is a former trout researcher with the WDNR. He now lives in Bend, OR. -Ed.)

Coaster brook trout research underway in Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore

By Paul Kusnierz and Jill Leonard
Michigan State University

On the south shore of Lake Superior, we are investigating a unique native trout that was once the exemplar of fishing in the upper Midwest: the coaster brook trout. With the support of the National Park Service, Trout Unlimited, and state and federal agencies, we are working to help coasters return to their native streams on the south shore while increasing our understanding of brook trout in general and the communities in which they live.

Coaster brook trout, *Salvelinus fontinalis*, are brook trout that spend part of their lives in Lake Superior. Some of these fish live their entire lives in the lake, while others are spawned in a stream and spend time in both the lake and its tributary streams. These fish were once known for growing to exceptional sizes and being relatively easy to catch. Coasters once made Lake Superior's near-shore waters a national fishing destination.

Although they were once found throughout the Lake Superior drainage, overfishing, the introduction of exotic species, and habitat degradation has reduced coaster populations to only a few streams and areas. The most notable populations found within the United States portion of the lake are located around Isle Royale and in the Salmon Trout River, Michigan, though there are other ongoing restoration efforts, including several in Wisconsin.

In the spring of 2000, a coaster brook trout restoration project began in Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore (PRNL), Michigan. Tobin Harbor strain coaster brook trout from the Iron River National Fish Hatchery in Iron River, WI, were stocked into the Hurricane and Mosquito rivers and Sevenmile Creek. The stocking of these fish continued until fall of 2005 when it ceased to allow for evaluation of the program. From 2000 to the present, special regulations were in place on portions of the three streams to help protect brook trout.

From the onset of the coaster restoration, Dr. Jill Leonard has been helped by a steady stream of biology graduate students at Northern Michi-

gan University in Marquette. The laboratory has conducted studies on the three PRNL streams that have involved brook trout movements, physiological and age structure differences between coaster and resident brook trout, and habitat use by brook trout and non-native steelhead.

The newest project that has just started involves the removal of invasive steelhead and Coho salmon from Sevenmile Creek to see how brook trout respond to competition reduction.

Coaster movement study

The first NMU coaster project was done by graduate student Sean Stimmell and examined the movement of stocked coaster-strain and wild brook trout. The goal of this project was to determine the coasting (migration to and from Lake Superior) rates in these stream populations and determine during what times of the year most movement occurs.

This study revealed that coasting occurs during all seasons, including winter, but is greatest in the spring and fall. Two other important findings were that wild fish were coasting at the same rates as stocked fish and that all these migrating fish were much smaller than anticipated.

Physiological traits study

A second study by Ashwin Sreenivasan compared different strains of wild and hatchery brook trout in the field and lab to look for differences in physiological traits. Ashwin found that there were in fact few physiologically detectable differences between resident and coaster brook trout when fish were reared under the same conditions.

Coaster and brook trout habitat study

Graduate students Gerrit Cain and Todd Anderson studied the condition of brook trout and steelhead and habitat partitioning between the two species. Their preliminary data indicates that in some streams both species utilize the same habitat and can be found together, whereas in others, the two use different habitats.

Age in relation to movement study

As the most recent graduate student to finish field work in PRNL, my work focuses on the age structure of brook trout in the three restoration streams and how age relates to movement in the

Hurricane River. The data indicate that there is little difference in length at a given age for fish in the three streams and that the majority of brook trout that coast from the Hurricane River are age one. Most of these fish are migrating out of the streams toward Lake Superior, though some are detected re-entering streams. Other findings from this study support the conclusions of Sean Stimmell that the majority of brook trout in the Hurricane River coast during spring and fall and that these fish are usually small (about 6 1/2").

The results from the studies that the NMU group has done have led us to the concept of partial migration within the populations of brook trout in PRNL. This idea is based on some members of a population moving from a stream out into a lake or the ocean while others stay in the stream their entire lives. It seems that in the PRNL streams studied, resource availability and fish density may help determine the proportion of coasters versus residents present. The small size of the coasters in PRNL goes against the common belief that all coasters grow to large sizes. This may be related to fishing pressure selecting against fish attaining large sizes before their first reproduction, but it is hard to determine this because of the lack of historical information. We do



COASTER RESEARCH IN A BEAUTIFUL SETTING

Graduate students Ashwin Sreenivasan, Dan Armichardy, and Joel Mulder (above) electroshock coaster brook trout at Mosquito Falls in Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. A captured coaster from the Hurricane River (top left) prepares to be measured while another is seen holding behind some woody cover.

know that, historically, adult coasters were larger on the north shore of Lake Superior (e.g., Lake Nipigon) than on the south shore, and this is born out today both in our own work as well as in the comparison of adults from Isle Royale to the larger Lake Nipigon fish. Because the PRNL fish migrate when they are relatively small, we feel it important to emphasize that coasting is a behavior (selection of large lake habitat along with migration in some cases) rather than a size category for brook trout in the Lake Superior watershed.

While large fish are produced in this group of fish in some populations, it is not a guaranteed outcome of the restoration efforts currently underway. Instead, we advocate adhering to the idea of restoring a native life history behavior that was once important to the Lake Superior fish community. This simple concept has significant impact for anglers as well as managers.

The coaster brook trout restoration project in PRNL has led to the discovery of wild coasters in an area where they were presumed to be non-existent. It has also brought media attention to Michigan's Upper Peninsula that has informed the public about the presence of these fish and the threats that they face. The work done in PRNL has been presented to Trout Unlimited groups in Michigan and Wisconsin, at the University of Maine, and at professional fisheries conferences in New York and Montana.

As a result of our work, we hope that coaster research and protection will continue well into the future and, equally importantly, that scientists will continue to examine these efforts both to assess their effectiveness and to keep an eye out for the unexpected findings that always lie in nature.

(Paul Kusnierz will earn a master's degree in biology from NMU this spring. Jill Leonard is an associate professor of biology at NMU. -Ed.)

CWTU weaves monitoring into area trout projects

By Bob Haase

Central Wisconsin TU has been working together with DNR staff to help complete needed stream maintenance on Central Wisconsin streams. There are a lot of quality trout streams in Central Wisconsin, and many of them are in need of maintenance or major stream improvement work.

Water quality in many of these streams is excellent, with good water flow, clarity, temperatures, and dissolved oxygen levels. The major problems in our area are:

- dense brush like buckthorn crowding the streams,
- bank erosion leading to widening of the streams, and
- lack of adequate cover.

CWTU has been very active in stream monitoring projects the last few years, with over 900 volunteer

With this kind of information, we can...see if it pays to invest the time and resources in improving the streams. If water temperatures are too high...it may be better to invest the resources on a stream with better temperatures and other characteristics.

hours recorded last year. With an expanded program this year, that number will probably be even higher.

Under the leadership of Dick Pollock and the dedicated work of many volunteers, a lot of useful information is gathered that provides a baseline for the status of our streams. Data includes a basic habitat assessment for the streambed and bank cover and macroinvertebrate sampling that determines the quantity and diversity of the aquatic insects present. It also includes recording water temperatures, dissolved oxygen, pH levels, stream flow, and clarity. In some streams, water samples are collected and sent to the State Hygiene Lab.

The DNR provides electroshocking on some streams to determine the species, size, and quantities of fish present.

With this kind of information, we can look at streams such as Lawrence and Chaffee creeks and the Mecan, White, and Pine rivers to see if it pays to invest the time and resources in improving the streams. If water temperatures are too high in mid summer, it may be better to invest the resources on a stream with better temperatures and other characteristics.

Monitoring can also help tell us what kind of work may need to be done and provide before and after data to see what effect the work had on the stream. As an example, by narrowing the stream and increasing stream flow, did water temperatures go down, stay the same, or increase? We can also determine what the effect was on the quantity and diversity of aquatic insects in the stream.

Central Wisconsin WDNR fish managers and biologists developed a comprehensive list of all the trout streams in Central Wisconsin that they considered in need of work. This list also outlined the kind of work needed on many of these streams. This plan was presented to representatives of CWTU at a meeting in Wild Rose, and from this we

were able to plan how we could work together on these stream improvement projects.

This last winter, spring, and summer, DNR crews were hard at work on stream maintenance projects, and about three miles of work was completed. This included major work on Chaffee Creek.

Recognition needs to be given to Ron Bruch, Dave Bartz, Scott Bunde, Shawn Sullivan, Dave Paynter, and the entire Habitat Crew from Wild Rose for the excellent work they did. Not only did they complete a lot of basic brushing and stream maintenance, they also ex-



Bob Haase photos

A RETURN TO LAWRENCE CREEK


WDNR staffers (above, l to r) Scott Bunde, Dave Bartz, and Shawn Sullivan discuss possible restoration techniques for a 25-foot-wide section of Lawrence Creek in Marquette County. The stream here used to be 10-12 feet wide, but bank erosion has destroyed its depth and cover. Former WDNR trout researcher Bob Hunt (top left) explains the work he and others did on Lawrence Creek prior to the adoption of the state's trout stamp program over 30 years ago.

perimented with some new techniques for adding structure and various methods of narrowing the stream with pine trees.

CWTU Stream Improvement Chair Jim Humphrey was also busy this year planning work projects with the DNR and coordinating workdays on various streams. There was a good turnout at the workdays from CWTU members, members from other chapters such as the Elliot Donnelley Chapter of TU from Chicago, and groups such as Rawhide Boys Ranch and Fox Valley Technical College.

Late this summer, Bob Hunt, Jim Humphrey, and Bob Haase from CWTU walked sections of Lawrence Creek with DNR staffers. Plans are being made to do some extensive maintenance work on Lawrence Creek next year and the following year. This may become a joint project with other TU chapters such as Fox Valley, Frank Hornberg, and Shaw-Paca. After walking sections of Lawrence Creek, the group traveled to see the work accomplished by the DNR on the upper sections of the Chaffee this year.

A lot of work was accomplished this year, and a lot more work is still needed. A special thank you to everyone that helped out with the water monitoring, stream improvements, and related projects. Working together we can accomplish so much more.



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Chapter News



Mike Barniskis photos

RESTORATION BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER

This habitat work on the East Branch of Lodi Spring Creek just east of Lodi in Columbia County is a rare bird in the field of trout stream restoration. Not only is the stream unnamed, but it is not on the WDNR's list of official trout streams. It is, however, a high-quality stream that gives Lodi Spring Creek a big influx of cold water.

Aldo Leopold Chapter

At our December chapter elections the following were elected as officers:

Mike Barniskis — President,
Bill Brashear — Vice President,
Steve Hill — Treasurer, and
Eric Lorenzen — Secretary.

Clint Byrnes was elected to our board, and one board position remains vacant. We also have a new editor for our newsletter, *The Alder*

Fork Journal. **Thomas Gawle** has volunteered as editor and brings years of graphic arts experience to the position. Many thanks to Thomas.

Our fly tying class will be in Beaver Dam this year starting in mid-January. We have found the classes to be an excellent way to reach new members, with most of the students not being chapter members. This

year we are holding the classes at the **Beaver Dam Community Library**, a new venue for us.

The library is also co-hosting our January 9th chapter program with fly fishing mystery writer **John Galligan** reading from his novels and talking about both of his crafts.

Later in spring we will be visiting the new **Aldo Leopold Legacy Center** near Baraboo for a chapter tour of this environmentally intelligent building. Rumors also abound that

Jason Borger may be seen at our spring picnic in May. Details coming as they emerge.

On **Lodi Spring Creek** a DNR easement is being worked out on a section of the **East Branch** just downstream from our last project area. We are already planning spring workdays for the East Branch and look forward to new public access along this stream.

—Mike Barniskis

Antigo Chapter

Antigo TU competed brush bundling projects on the **East Branch Eau Claire R.**, **Prairie R.**, and **Evergreen R.** for 2007 with the help of area DNR personnel.

We attended the Dec. 1 winter NE Region TU meeting at the **Wild Wolf Inn** in White Lake. It was a great meeting with representatives of the Forest Service and area DNR fish mangers from our region. Chapters in the region donated \$24,000 to help these people with projects slated to start in 2008. Antigo TU donated \$4,900 for beaver control, a project on **Prairie R.**, brushing on

the **Eau Claire R.**, fisheries help in the national forest, and a new chain saw for national forest personnel.

Our annual spring banquet will be held on Sat. March 29 at **Northstar Lanes** in Antigo.

Also new for 2008, we will be raffling a 14-foot Starcraft Boat with a 15 hp four-stroke motor and stainless steel trailer. The boat will be awarded at our **Kid's Fishing Day** on Sat. June 7.

We are also planning workdays with area TU chapters in Nicolet National Forest in August.

—Scott Henricks

Blackhawk Chapter

Members participating in our Green County workday on the **Little Sugar R.** included **Steve Bentz**, **Dave Patrick**, **Dick Alfors**, **Dan Boggs**, **John Miller**, **Bud Hilgendorf**, and two nonmembers, **John Lusk** and **Mike Kowalski**. Seven lunger structures were built in one hour once we got set up.

We are also planning a workday on **Elk Cr.** to remove the willows on the **Loescher** property. **Mark Loescher** has granted an easement on Elk Cr. from the bridge by the red barn, which is about a one half mile below the "Blue Phantom Silos" to the **Kickapoo R.** **Paul Krantz** says the cost to do this project will be \$27,000, of which he currently has \$20,000 from other sources. Blackhawk TU has earmarked \$7,000 for the project.

We held a workday on Oct. 20 on **Reads Cr.** to address damage from last August's flood. Members who participated were **John Miller**, **Bob Stevens**, **Dave Blavelt**, **Tom Kautz**, and **Steve Bentz**. The objective was to clean up the stream and its banks. There will be another workday on **Reads Cr.** at the **Arboretum** on Jan 19.

The election of chapter officers took place at our November meeting and include:

Dan Boggs — President,
Bob Stevens — Vice President,
Steve Bentz — Treasurer, and
Terry Vaughn — Secretary.

A motion to contribute a minimum of \$500 per year for the next three years to **TUDARE** was passed. The money is to be used for stream restoration in coldwater fisheries (stream work and materials). This \$500 could be spent in the entire Driftless Areas of Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. Any additional monies over and above the \$500 would be designated to stream restoration in Wisconsin.

Pheasants Forever sponsored a program that involved 101 kids. This program involved gun safety, pheasant hunting, fly tying, and fly casting. Members who participated in this were **Bob Steven** and **Dave Blauvelt** in the fly tying and **Dan Boggs** in fly casting. **Joe Meyers** from the **One More Cast Fly Shop** in **Countryside, IL**, donated the use of his equipment. Job well done.

Fly tying classes will begin Wed., Jan 2, with the advanced tyers meeting Wednesdays and the beginners meeting Mondays. The beginners class will start Jan 7. Starting time is 7:00 p.m. for all classes.

—Arlan Hilgendorf

Central Wisconsin Chapter

It's looking a lot like Christmas outside now, and I have actually been looking forward to this. No, I am not looking forward to the snow, and Santa has been pretty good to me all year! What I am looking forward to is a little time to reflect on this last year and make plans for next.

I really enjoy tying flies and creating new patterns, and this is the time that I can reflect on what worked best and how I might be able to improve it. I can also look at maps, think about the streams that I fished this year, and collect some information on new streams that I want to try next year. It seems like I never have enough time to read the books that I purchased and the vari-

ous magazine articles, and now I can sit by the fireplace and try to catch up on my reading. I also need to go through my rods, reels, and gear and get re-organized. I hope everyone can take a little time to reflect and be thankful for everything we have and all the work that CWTU and other TU chapters have accomplished during 2007.

What I really need to do is thank everyone who helped with all the activities of the Central Wisconsin Chapter. We had another good year. **Jim Humphrey** organized some good workdays this year, and we had a good turnout of members with around 820 hours of volunteer work. Students and staff at **Fox Valley Technical College** and students and

Chapter News



staff from **Rawhide Boys Ranch** helped with our stream work again this year. We appreciate their help! The **DNR** habitat crew from **Wild Rose** and DNR staff from the **Montello** and **Wautoma** area did some fantastic work on area streams this last year under the leadership of **Shawn Sullivan** and **Scott Bunde**.

Our water monitoring coordinator **Dick Pollock** was assisted by **Lynn Druেকে**, **John Gremmer**, and over 40 members and other volunteers. They spent over 1,560 hours in training, travel, and time on the stream monitoring in 2007. The WDNR presented CWTU a recognition plaque for being selected as the **2007 Citizen-based Monitoring Program of the Year** (see picture) at the 4th Annual **Citizen-based Monitoring Conference** in October. CWTU uses the **WAV** Level 1 protocol and the **Citizen-based DNR** Level II protocol. We have also begun using **DNR** Level 3 monitoring for streams that may be on the **303(d)** impaired water list.

CWTU also partners with other groups, such as **Winnebago Streamers FFF Chapter**, the **League of Women Voters** in Fond du Lac, the **Fond du Lac County Land Conservation Dept.**, and the **US Fish & Wildlife Service** for the **Upper Rock River**.

We had another good turnout at our annual **Conservations and Fund-raising Banquet** in October. **David Seligman** was banquet chairperson, and he was assisted by **Al Lee**, **Linn Beck**, **Bruce Pennings**, **Dan and Gail Colligan**, and **Tracy Moran**. We would like to thank all those that attended the banquet and helped in any way to make it another successful event.

During the banquet, we presented a plaque to **Lynn Druেকে** for her work in water monitoring and grant writing. We also presented recognition plaques to **Dave Bartz**, **Dave**

Paynter, **Shawn Sullivan**, **Scott Bunde**, and the **Wild Rose Habitat Crew** for the outstanding work they have been doing on area trout streams the last few years.

John Gremmer and **Bob Haase** will be taking over the chapter web site. They are currently taking **Dreamweaver** web development classes at **FVTC** to enable them to perform the needed work. We need to thank **Brian Tesch** for all the work he put into the current site, but because of work commitments, Brian is not able to continue as web developer. Communications is very important, and the web site is a valuable communications tool for our chapter. Our new web site should be operational by the beginning of our next year. Check it out.

John Gremmer has put together some great programs for us again this year. One good way of increasing attendance at meetings is to have good programs, and we have had excellent attendance at all of our meetings. Mark your calendars for **CWTU's Trout Fest** to be held again this year at the **Fin N' Feather** in **Winneconne** on Sat., Feb. 23. This is open to the public and admission is free. Our **Master's Fly Tying Program** will begin on January 17, and it is already filled.

It is really amazing how many activities CWTU was involved in during 2007, and it would not have been possible without the help of all of our members, officers, board of directors, and committee chairs. Thank you! I would like to challenge all our members to make 2008 even better. If you have not attended a meeting lately, make plans to attend at least one meeting in 2008, or attend and help out at one of the major activities. And most important, spend at least one more day on a stream fishing than you did last year.

—Bob Haase

Coulee Region Chapter

The Coulee Region Chapter **Fund-raising Banquet** will take place Fri., Feb. 29 at **Cedar Creek Country Club** in Onalaska. There will be door prizes, raffles, silent auctions, and more. Ticket information will be sent out to members and prior attendees in January. Or check our web site for updates at www.CouleeRegionTU.org. Anyone who has items to donate for the banquet should contact **Nathan Barnhart** at (608) 792-8044.

The November chapter meeting featured a presentation by **DNR Area Fisheries Supervisor for SE Minnesota Steve Klotz**. Steve provided us with a brief overview of trout management activities, habitat improvement, surveys, and assessment, plus a description of the types of fishing experiences provided by the SE Minnesota streams.

We also met with **Trevor Sprague**, **Chris Schabow**, and **Steve Topel** of the **Gateway Area Council of the Boy Scouts** to discuss the pos-

sibility of teaming up to sponsor a **Venture Program** dedicated to fishing and conservation. Venturing is an activity open to young men and women between the ages of 14 and 20. As the plans develop, we will be looking for volunteers to help with this program.

Elections were held at the November meetings. Officers include:

Rick Kyte — President,

Eric Rauch — Vice President, and

Bob Hubbard — Treasurer.

Our chapter recently received a \$500 gift from **Spring Creek Partners** to be used on the **Hornby Cr.** restoration project. **Spring Creek Partners** is a hat sale program that raises funds for stream restoration projects in the **Driftless Area**. Anyone who is interested in learning more about the program may visit the **Spring Creek Partner's** web site at www.SpringCreekPartner.org.

—Rick Kyte

Fox Valley Chapter

The Fox Valley Chapter has finished the fall season of activities, and we are now starting the winter schedule and planning spring events.

Our fall activities included two habitat days in September. The regular second Saturday habitat day was spent removing old half logs

from **Trout (Nace) Cr.** We did not finish the work that day, so the following week a number of chapter members and a crew of young men from **Rawhide Boys Ranch** worked for about three hours on a beautiful fall morning to complete the half log removal project. The muscle power provided by the young men

from **Rawhide** made it possible for us to complete the first phase of the project.

On Sept. 8 **Jim and Kris Oates** and **Mark Peerenboom** represented our chapter at a **Women's Outdoor Workshop** held at the **Outagamie Conservation Club**. Kris and Jim worked with attendees on casting, and Mark helped with the fly tying instruction.

The fall scatter plant on the **Waupaca R.** (see separate story in this issue) was delayed from the planned October 6 date to October 20. We had to wait until the **DNR** was able to give the plants a "clean bill of health" from **VHS**. Using canoes and wire-screened boxes to hold the fingerlings, we scatter planted 18,100 trout in the **Waupaca R.** When the work was completed, we had a great picnic meal.

The September chapter program was a presentation by **Steve Holger** from the **DNR**. His presentation dealt with the streams and tributaries of **Lake Michigan** and fishing opportunities they present. Steve also handed out information sheets dealing with the planting of fish in the streams and tributaries.

The October meeting was a presentation dealing with research on the coaster brook trout in the **Pictured Rocks National Park** (see separate story in this issue). **Northern Michigan University Professor Jill Leonard** and grad student **Paul Kusnierz** were the presenters.

The November meeting was an excellent presentation by **Scott Grady** on the making of cane rods, and our December meeting was a demonstration on using spey rods.

Our January meeting is a special presentation by the students in the **Culinary Arts** program at **Fox Valley Technical College**. They will be demonstrating a number of ways to fix and prepare a variety of seafood. Check the December newsletter on the web site if you are interested.

Planning and preparation for our fund-raiser is in full swing now. On April 12 we will be holding our seventh annual **Cabin Fever Day** event.

Frank Hornberg Chapter

The chapter held its final workday of the 2007 year on October 20 at **Welton Road** in **Nelsonville**. Six students from the **UW-Stevens Point Fisheries Society** joined a half dozen of the **FHC** faithful to put in a full day of work.

The group jetted in posts for a 30-foot brushmat across from the recently completed large island above the staging area. The structure (composed of more than 100 sandbags filled by the students) deepened the water more than three inches and created a strong current which was successful in scouring out a good bit of sediment. The students finished the day rocking off the front of the brushmat. It was certainly one of the most productive chapter workdays in recent history!

Needless to say, we are extremely grateful to the students, not only for their strong backs, but for the enthusiasm they brought to their work!

We are pleased that **Wyatt Bohm** has agreed to assume the vice presidency of the chapter. His youthful enthusiasm will doubtless prove of great value in the future. The chapter would also like to thank **Bob Juracka** for his many years of dedication as chapter vice president.



MONITORS OF THE YEAR

Central Wisconsin TU is the **WDNR's** 2007 citizen-based monitoring program of the year.

We will have many bucket raffle items, silent auction items, and a 50/50 raffle. Our main speaker for the day is a man known for his pursuits of smallmouth bass and his fly æ the **Clouser Minnow** æ the legendary **Bob Clouser**. The event will run from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00, and a banquet with **Bob Clouser** will follow at 6:30. The daytime program entry fee is \$10, and the banquet fee is \$35 with pre-registration required for the banquet. The venue for the event this year will be **Waverly Beach** for the daytime program and **Liberty Hall** for the evening event. Please check the posters, future chapter newsletters, and in particular www.FoxValleyTU.org for updated information.

The frozen creeks and rivers and the early snows have most of us thinking of Christmas, the holidays, and the time we will be spending with family and friends. Take time to participate in our many great outdoor activities this winter season. And in the words of **Tony Treml**, our former chapter president who passed away on Dec. 20, "We'll see you on a trout stream."

—Rich Erickson

Five of the chapter faithful held an impromptu workday on Nov. 10. They collected and hauled six pickup loads of rocks to the staging area on **Welton Road** along the **Tomorrow R.** in preparation for next year's work season.

We are planning two fly tying workshops after the first of the year. The first one will be held at **Clancey's Stone Lion** in **Custer** on Tuesday, Jan. 15.

The second will be held at **Shooter's Supper Club** on Thursday, Feb. 21. Both workshops run from 7-9 p.m. and are free and open to the public.

We are excited about our upcoming 2008 general meetings. The January meeting will feature **Rich Osthoff**. **Jeff Hastings** of the **TU-DARE** program will be the speaker at the February meeting. **Dan Wisniewski** will be featured at the March meeting. The meetings are always the second Thursday of the month at **Shooter's Supper Club** starting at 7 p.m. We extend a cordial invitation to members from other chapters in the area to attend the meetings as we are certain they will prove to be most informative.

—Dan Holland

Continued on p. 12



Chapter News



Bob Ohma

ONE FIN AT A TIME

Oconto River Watershed President Dennis Hagman (standing) helps the WDNR's Greg Korneli clip trout fins at the chapter's Underhill hatchery.

Continued from p. 11

Green Bay Chapter

In our last report, we told you that the Green Bay Chapter had established a **Focus Stream Committee** charged with selecting a stream for the chapter to focus its habitat improvement efforts upon for the next several years. The chapter has talked about doing this for a few years now, but no concrete action had been taken. Now, thanks to the efforts of Chairman **Matt Norem**, the committee will present two streams to the chapter for consideration for the Focus Stream at the January meeting.

The first choice is the **North Branch of the Oconto River** near the site of the **Knowles Dam**, and the second choice is the main **Beaver**. Once the stream is selected, the committee will move forward with planning, and it is hoped that work will begin in 2009.

On another front, the chapter is also planning for a March 27 fund-raising banquet. **Banquet 2007** was a very successful event, setting a new record for the chapter with over \$24,000 being raised for chapter endeavors. It is hoped that we can do even better with **Banquet 2008**.

The chapter held its December **Dinner and Awards** meeting on December 6 at the **Sports Corner in De Pere**. Forty members and guests enjoyed a fine meal, entertainment, and helped honor the people and businesses who have been outstanding in their support of the chapter's

work on behalf of trout habitat. Receiving **Banquet Gold Sponsor Awards** were **Sportsman's Warehouse** in the business category, **Dave Van Lanen** in the artist category, and **Dale Druckrey** in the individual category. Recognized with the **Unsung Hero Award** for her work on banquet night was **Jeanne McCarthy**.

The chapter also presented several awards to chapter members for their exemplary work over time. The **Silver Trout Award** was presented to past president **Paul Mongin** and the **Member of the Year Award** was given to **Bill Holton**. Additionally, **Matt Norem**, **Bill Holton**, and **Dave Witzeling** were inducted into the **President's Club** which recognizes those whose have been outstanding in their attendance at work projects and other events.

Finally, the chapter mourns the passing of a longtime supporter. **Tom Buettner** passed away recently while removing snow from his driveway. Even though he lived in Sheboygan, Tom insisted upon being assigned to the Green Bay Chapter and often traveled to Green Bay to attend chapter meetings. He was a member of the President's Club and was awarded the first Banquet Gold Sponsorship Award in the individual category. Our condolences go out to his wife, **Genrose**. He will be greatly missed.

—Gary Stoychoff

Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter

Our **Big Spring** project for 2007 has been completed. In fact, we extended the work to consume more

of the money we had available. This project will continue on in 2008 down to the road across from the

winery and the stream work done there by the DNR. This project will require roughly \$55,000 of additional financing to complete.

We will have a talk by **Jim Bartelt** and **Bill Engber** on their **Hudson Bay** adventure last summer at our January 18 member meeting.

We are also getting ready for officer elections in March and our banquet in May.

Our March members meeting will also have a presentation by our summer intern and associate on their survey results.

—Brian Larson

Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter

Kiap-TU-Wish held our annual conservation banquet on Dec. 6 at the **Tartan Park Clubhouse**. Chapter member **John Koch** gave a slide show presentation of his trip to **Chile**. John is an artist and extraordinary angler with a wide range of interests, all of which made his presentation an angling, cultural, and artistic journey.

At the banquet the chapter recognized our **DNR Trout Crew John Sours** and **Nate Anderson** with the chapter's **Silver Trout Award** for their outstanding contributions to conservation of coldwater streams and their watersheds. I say our "trout crew" because there is no way we could do the work we do as a

chapter without the tremendous efforts year after year of John and Nate.

The chapter recognized board member **Hap Lutter** for his leadership in making our annual **Spring Appeal Fund-raiser** a tremendous success. Chapter member **Randy Arnold** was also recognized for his extraordinary commitment to volunteer activities and projects.

Plans are being worked on and grants are being sought to continue our work in summer 2008 on our **Pine Cr.** restoration project. Take a look at the project in the fall issue of TU National's **TROUT** magazine.

—Greg Diel

Lakeshore Chapter

After several years of working on the **Onion R.**, and with several more years of work to go, the Lakeshore Chapter has established the **Onion R. River Keeper's Trust**. The trust is an endowment fund established for the purpose of maintaining the completed restoration work on the Onion R. with the objective of maintaining, in perpetuity, a self-sustaining wild trout fishery in the Onion R. watershed.

The Onion River restoration committee will be able to use only 75% of the interest income annually to be used exclusively for river maintenance.

Financially, the River Keeper's Trust is off to a great start. Lakeshore TU started it out by donating \$2,500 dollars and has pledged a minimum of 20% of the net income from our annual banquet for the next 10 years. Other major donors to date are:

- **The Charlotte and Walter Kohler Charitable Trust** — \$25,000 and another \$25,000 in matching funds for contributions made in the next year,
- **The Vollrath Company** — \$5,000 and another \$5,000 in matching funds,
- **The Sheboygan County Land and Water Conservation Department** — \$2,500, and
- **Wal-Mart** — \$500.

We have also had individual donations and are awaiting word from other organizations. Board member **Jerry Bauman** has been the major solicitor of the above donations.

Our October meeting was highlighted by a presentation from **Ross Mueller** titled "Big Trout in Spring Creeks." Ross' presentation featured slides and commentary about targeting big fish in spring creeks in Wisconsin and Iowa and was very informative and well received by our members.

Lakeshore members **Ron McCormick** and **Tom Steinberg** represented our chapter at **Manitowoc's** annual **Buck Fever Night** held on Nov. 7 at the **Club Bil-Mar**. Ron and Tom do this on an annual basis and spend the evening demonstrating fly tying using deer hair.

Board of Directors member **Dave Zerger** and his wife **Patti** have started a second year of leading the **Reel EM in Club at Longfellow Elementary School in Sheboygan**. The club meets every other Tuesday after school and introduces students to many aspects of fishing including fishing trips (two last year) and raising trout from eggs in a tank located in one of the classrooms. They have 47 students this year and are off to a good start.

Our December meeting featured our annual **Christmas Party** following the business meeting. We had food and refreshments and a voluntary gift exchange.

The Lakeshore Chapter meets on the third Monday of most months at 6:30 p.m. at the **Club Bil-Mar** in Manitowoc. Guests are always welcome.

—Wayne Trupke

Marinette County Chapter

The Marinette County Chapter will be hosting our **25th Anniversary Banquet** this year. The banquet will be held at **Schussler's Supper Club** in **Peshtigo** on Monday, April 21. Doors open at 5:00 and dinner is at 7:00. The cost for the banquet is \$30 per person. Sponsor tickets are \$100 and special sponsors \$200.

The event features a live auction, silent auction, bucket raffles, and other special raffles. For more information or to make a donation, please contact President and banquet chair **Dale Lange**.

Our chapter will team up with the **City of Marinette Parks and Recreation Dept.** again this year to put on the **Trout Fishing Seminar**. It runs on the evenings of Feb. 21 and 28 and March 6 and 13 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. each night.

This event is free to the public and covers trout habitat and anatomy of a stream, how to match fly fishing gear and set it up, basic fly tying, how flies match insects, and casting. Presenters are **Dale Lange** and **Doug Erdman**.

—Dale Lange

Chapter News



Northwoods Chapter

The Northwoods Chapter reconvened on Oct. 15 to elect officers and board members, tell stories about the big ones that got away over the summer, and begin planning our projects for the next year.

The first order of business was elections, and the results are:

Brian Hegge — President,
Carole Linn — Vice President, and

Terry Cummings — Treasurer.

The secretary position is vacant. Board members elected include **Josh Kunzman**, **Al Brooks**, and **Jim Voborsky**. **Josh Kunzman** and **Fred Johnson** will remain Stream Improvement Committee co-chairs, and the Education Committee chairperson is **Terry Cummings**.

At the chapter's November meeting, it was decided we would fund the \$2,000 request for the **Popple R.** in **Florence Cty.** presented by **David Brum**. This is an important project in that it's the first one on a **Wild and Scenic River** in Wisconsin. The location for this habitat was determined based on the temperature measurements conducted by **Bob Young** and **David Brum** over the past couple of years. The work will consist of channel restoration and placement of logs and boulders. The chapter will also provide \$2,000 toward the \$7,000 requested by the

US Forest Service for seasonal fisheries technicians in the **Nicolet National Forest**.

We held our Christmas Party on Dec. 10 at the **Fireside Inn** in **Rhineland**. Libations filled the glasses to the rim. This induced many a tall tale about past fishing expeditions and brought about many wishes that Santa would bring a bamboo rod or fly box or musky outfit down the chimney with him this year.

We have scheduled meetings for Jan. 14, Feb. 11, and March 10 at the **Rhineland/Oneida County Airport** beginning at 7:00 p.m.

We have three stream projects to plan for next year, funding requests to review from the recent Northeast Region meeting, and our youth fly-fishing conclave and banquet activities to plan. We hope to have an agenda with USFS and DNR speakers at the January meeting.

We will also sponsor a fly tying clinic on Sat., March 8 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the **Rhineland/Oneida County Airport**. The **Northwoods Conservation Banquet** has also been scheduled for Monday, April 14 at a location to be decided at our January chapter meeting.

—*Brian Hegge*

Oconto River Chapter

The Oconto River Watershed Chapter has run a hatchery producing 20,000 to 30,000 brook and brown trout for years. The data from fin-clipped hatchery fish subsequently recaptured in our weir at **Suring** shows that just under five percent of **Oconto R.** fish got their start in our hatchery. The data from our weir on the Oconto is now in use for articles on seasonal fish movements in the bigger northern rivers as waters warm up.

The VHS concerns this year prevented our usual plant, and our 800 brook trout fingerlings ended up in-

stead in **Fisher Cr.** in Manitowoc Cty. following a manure fish kill there. You're welcome.

Our **Trout in the Classroom** project continues with the **Gillett High School** biology class helping with fin clipping and doing water quality monitoring. The program looks to be ready to move into other area schools with brook trout in coldwater aquariums.

The November banquet was well attended and provided further support for the fish.

—*Bob Obma*

Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter

Once again, the Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter has maintained a 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** in Waukesha.

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

Since our last report, SEWTU has had some outstanding meeting speakers. In September we welcomed renowned fisherman and author **Ross Mueller**. The author of such notable works as *Upper Midwest Flies That Catch Trout and How to Fish Them* and *Fly Fishing Midwestern Spring Creeks* — *Angler's Guide to Trouting the Driftless Area*, Mueller gave an excellent speech concerning targeting large fish, and fishing Wisconsin's spring creeks.

In October we welcomed renowned fisherman, caster, artist, film star, and author **Jason Borger**. Borger was the stunt caster for the famous fly fishing film *A River Runs Through It* based on the **Norman Maclean** work of the same name. He also authored such notable works as *Jason Borger's Nature of Fly Casting: A Modular Approach*. Borger spoke about fishing techniques, providing a wealth of knowledge and challenging our traditional fly fishing methods.

November's meeting featured **WDNR Area Fisheries Biologist John Nelson**. Nelson is a longtime friend of SEWTU, and was responsible for the **Onion R.** restoration, for which the **Lakeshore Chapter** of TU was a leader. Nelson spoke about the Onion R. restoration, as well as other projects in the area in which SEWTU has the opportunity to become involved.

Our December meeting was our annual holiday gathering. This was an informal meeting with no business conducted. Rather, members simply had a good dinner, talked about the year past and the year to come, and engaged in a small gift exchange.

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Trout fishing expected to improve due to removal of alder branches

Submitted by Krya Walton

USA Forest Service Eagle River-Florence, Wis. - Trout fishing along the Deerskin River has improved thanks to the USA Forest Service along with Trout Unlimited volunteers and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). The Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest's Deerskin River is a Class I trout stream that originates from Long Lake in northeastern Vilas County. Class I trout streams are considered to be high quality trout waters. Between 1950 and 1960 the Deerskin River was the site of a United States Forest Service trout hatchery.

The Deerskin River was also used by loggers in the early 1900s to move pine logs to sawmills. Consequently, several logging dams were constructed along the river. The logging dams were removed in the 1930s and 1940s but were replaced by beaver dams, which resulted in heavy sedimentation and bank erosion.

Beginning in the 1960s, several miles of the Deerskin River were enhanced by the installation of bank cover structures, stream deflectors, and half-logs. Since 2006 there has been periodic removal of encroaching alder and installation and maintenance of other stream enhancing structures.

Currently the stream channel is being widened by alder branches, reducing stream flow into the banks. This bank



Trout Unlimited volunteers and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) worked together for the past two summers to remove alder branches that were growing out into the Class I trout stream Deerskin River in addition to constructing brush bundles. The brush bundles narrow and deepen the stream channel by holding new stream banks from

eroding. In addition, the brush bundles narrow and deepen the stream channel by holding new stream banks from eroding. In addition, the brush bundles narrow and deepen the stream channel by holding new stream banks from eroding.

WDNR and Trout Unlimited have worked together for the past two summers to remove alder growing out into the stream. In addition, to construct brush bundles, work is planned to continue and the stream channel is being widened by alder branches, reducing stream flow into the banks. This bank

NORTHWOODS GARNERS DEERSKIN RIVER PRESS COVERAGE

The Northwoods Chapter got some nice press coverage of their ongoing efforts on the Deerskin River in northeastern Vilas County with the WDNR and USFS. Josh Kunzman is the chapter's stream habitat committee chair.

The Jan. 22 meeting will feature **Jill Leonard**. Jill is a biology professor at **Northern Michigan University** and has been involved in ongoing coaster brook trout studies in Lake Superior (*see separate story in this issue*). This should be an exciting speech on a great topic, so be sure to stop out.

No speaker has been announced yet for the Feb. 26 meeting, so check www.sewtu.org for details.

Our March 25 meeting will feature **Dave Vetrano**, a notable luminary within the **WDNR** and a longtime friend and supporter of SEWTU.

In addition to its busy meeting schedule, SEWTU has continued to maintain its exceptional restoration pace. We returned on Sept. 15 to **Allenton Cr.** Allenton Cr. was the subject of restoration efforts decades ago and was in need of some upkeep. Over 30 SEWTU volunteers turned out and, under the leadership of **John Nelson**, performed a great deal of brush clearing and stream maintenance, increasing stream flow and accessibility. Best of all, we are told by the WDNR that the fish have responded to the work performed!

On October 20, SEWTU returned once again to **Genesee Cr.**, site of a previous roller mill dam removal and an ongoing habitat restoration project which has been led by Chapter President **Dan Asmus**. Along with **Carroll College** volunteers led by Carroll College Professor **Jason Freund** (who is also an SEWTU board member), over 40 volunteers turned out engage in invasive vegetation removal, stream clearing, and access improvement. Volunteers were, as always, treated to a free brat lunch and were additionally provided the special treat of Italian seafood chowder by Dan Asmus.

In honor of the hunting season (we figured we didn't want to be in the woods when people were shooting at things), SEWTU had no workday in November.

On Dec. 8, however, over 30 brave souls from SEWTU and our newest friends from the **Gary Borgner Chapter** of TU from northern Illinois defied 10-degree temperatures and knee-deep snow to finish up the work we had started in August at **Paradise Springs**. Volunteers removed an incredible amount of buckthorn, honeysuckle, and other invasive vegetation 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**.

All told, in the span of 20 months since April of 2006, SEWTU has had 18 workdays. For 2007, SEWTU has tallied over 3,500 volunteer hours. There is simply nothing which can be written to adequately convey SEWTU's thanks to our members, volunteers, and supporters for this incredible stewardship of our resources.

A busy schedule is already being formulated for 2008 on our home waters of **Genesee Cr.**, the **Milwaukee R.**, **Nichols Cr.**, and **Allenton Cr.** We'll also have workdays to interact with sister TU chapters such as the **Ocooch Creeks Chapter** and, for the first time in memory, the **Fox Valley Chapter** to our north.

On its education front, from March 12-16 we will be participating in two outdoor shows. We will have a booth and large presence at the **Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Sports Show**. Led by Sports Show Chair **Chuck Beeler**, we will again auction a handmade cedar strip canoe donated by board member **Stan Strelka** and his company, **Professional Insurance Services** in Elm Grove.

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Chapter News

Wild Rivers submits petition on Lake Superior water level

Lake Superior's low water levels have concerned members of the Wild Rivers Chapter enough that they have petitioned the International Joint Commission's (IJC) Water Control Board to change its current practices.

The IJC formed the board in 2007 to review Lake Superior outflow policies.

Four of the chapter's counties border the big lake, and chapter members see the impacts of low

water daily. Chapter board member Lee Newman is a recently retired USFWS biologist who has lived and worked on Lake Superior for many years. His concern over the low water level caused him to prepare a petition to the Water Control Board.

The petition (text below) was approved by the chapter and will soon be presented to the WITU State Council and others for their sign on.

Water Control Board Petition Text

The undersigned representatives of the Wild Rivers Chapter of Trout Unlimited, respectfully ask that the Water Control Board review and modify water level control policies for Lake Superior. We believe that current policies and practices should be modified and updated to more appropriately address broad environmental issues.

We ask for this action because:

- The current policy of releasing all water over 603.2 ft. (1985 datum) is causing long term alteration and degradation of critical coastal wetland habitats.

- The common practice of lowering water levels during the fall season to provide extra storage capacity for spring runoff often results in lake water levels so low that fall spawning anadromous fish (Coaster Brook Trout, Brown Trout, Coho, Chinook and Pink Salmon) can not enter many of the small spawning streams because of barriers at river mouths. Limiting access to spawning streams can cause a significant loss of production of salmonids that support a Lake Superior fishery valued at more than a billion dollars per year. In addition, consistent low water occurring during winter exposes and damages wetland vegetation.

- The policy of limiting lake levels to a maximum of 603.2 feet, in combination with the fall draw downs, is causing massive, long-term alteration of critical coastal wetland habitats. While these issues have not been adequately studied, it is clear that these habitats, and the plant and animal communities that have co-evolved with them, are fully adapted to the range of historic natural water level fluctuations. Eliminating the natural higher water levels for long periods coupled with excessively low levels during fall and winter are causing large-scale invasion of grasses and woody plants in wetlands and reducing their size and capacity to provide the shallow water and wet marsh habitat critical to a wide range of fish, waterfowl and plant species (including major wild rice beds that are vital tribal resources).

- While we recognize that eliminating higher water levels can be a short-term aid in dealing with shore-

line erosion; maintaining long-term integrity of shorelines and beaches also depends on the constructive effects of natural fluctuations in high and low water levels.

- Given the current climatic cycle (whether due to global warming or other processes) Lake Superior water loss through evaporation has increased significantly. All indicators seem to suggest this trend will continue. Current predictive models used to estimate water loss in Lake Superior through evaporation (and employed to set water release rates) need revision.

- Historically, environmental issues involved in Lake Superior water level considerations have not been granted importance or study in proportion to their vital role in the health and well being of the Lake Superior ecosystem and its inhabitants. Therefore, we recommend that the water control board adapt a water level control policy for Lake Superior that is generally more supportive of Lake Superior environmental concerns. Specifically, we ask that:

- Water level control policy be altered with a goal of more closely approximating the natural water level fluctuations inherent to the Lake Superior system.

- The standard policy of releasing water when lake levels reach 183.86 m (603.2 ft.) should be amended to allow the occasional higher water levels critical for maintenance of coastal habitats.

- Fall releases of water to provide more storage capacity for spring inflows be reduced or eliminated. If required, any such releases should be curtailed until fall spawning fish and waterfowl have completed seasonal use of the habitats. We suggest November 15 as the earliest date for water major water releases.
- Studies should be initiated to more fully understand the complex and important environmental impacts involved in Lake Superior water level management.

Signed,
Wild Rivers Chapter
Trout Unlimited
11-13-07

We have also started a volunteer fly tying class at the local **Veterans Administration**, providing fee fly tying classes to patients and residents at the VA. The program was launched by SEWTU member **Al Dalfonso**, who has provided countless hours of invaluable volunteer tying instruction on his own time.

On its political activism front, SEWTU will again have a presence at the **WI League of Conservation Voters' Lobby Day** on Jan. 30 at the **State Capitol** in Madison. There we will speak to our legislators about the importance of conservation-oriented legislation and ask for support for specific bills that are important to statewide conservation efforts.

Logo hats and shirts featuring the SEWTU logo are now available at our all-chapter meetings, workdays, and other outings. Proceeds will go to chapter coldwater conservation and education efforts. Be sure to get your hat or shirt before supplies run out!

Chapter member **Todd Durian** reminds members of the incentives program he developed with **Pat Elhers'** shop, **The Fly Fishers**, in **Greenfield**. The Fly Fishers will donate a portion of any purchase made by SEWTU members back to SEWTU when members mention they are SEWTU members when making purchases. Remember that this is not a point-of-sale discount.

SEWTU continues to have a presence at both the state and national TU levels. Our officers regularly attending WITU State Council meetings, and several of our officers are taking part in TU National steering committees and planning meetings.

SEWTU owes a significant "thank you" to our tremendous members who have, through their continued and stalwart support of our chapter, given us a reputation as a chapter that gets things done.

—Henry Koltz

Southern Wisconsin Chapter

You're invited to visit the new and resuscitated SWTU web site at www.swtu.org to see the herculean task completed by **Jim Gentry**. Jim transformed the site into an informative communication vehicle. As the web site is the principal means by which information is disseminated to chapter members and others, it is vital to have it in top rate shape at all times. Jim has accomplished this and set a high standard. Many thanks.

Drew Kassel has taken on the role of newsletter editor, and by the tone and quality of the past few issues, he is maintaining the high level of information established by his predecessors **Mark Maffitt** and **Dan Wisniewski**. The newsletter may be viewed on the SWTU web site. Mark and Dan remain active chapter members.

SWTU's main fund-raiser, the **Icebreaker**, has new leadership. **Josh Palmer** has taken over the job

previously done by **Tom Fendrick** over the past few years. Along with the leadership change, the Icebreaker is moving to a new venue, the **Promega Building** on Fish Hatchery Road south of Madison in **Fitchburg**. Some things remain the same, however æ door prizes, generous bucket raffles (including the **Paul Douglas** bamboo fly rod), fly tying demonstrations, and first-class speakers, including **Tom Rosenbauer**. More details are found on the web site.

Led by our indefatigable Project Chair **Mike Grimes**, SWTU has rounded out the 2007 work season with three Saturdays cutting brush and installing sweepers on **Black Earth Creek**. This was done with the close cooperation and supervision of **Kurt Welke** of the **DNR** as part of a program to improve stream conditions.

—Ted Lauf

Wild Rivers Chapter

Wonderful news has arrived via the long dog sled trail from downstate. **Larry Meicher**, leader of our **Fishing Expo and Auction** auctioneering team, is doing well following surgery, has plans to preside at the 2008 Expo, and, as if that's not enough, bagged a huge "wall hanger" buck during the gun hunt. Congratulations to Larry on all of the above.

More good Expo news. **Henry Haugley**, also a member of the crack auctioneering team, will speak at the 2008 Expo on his trip to the **Sutton River** in northern **Canada** for sea run brook trout. **Bill Heart** will also speak at the event on his **Horton River** trip to the **Northwest Territories**. The 2008 Fishing Expo & Auction is off to a great start!

There was a nice turnout for our September meeting. **Dick Berge** did a program on hopper fishing and flies. Several items were approved, including a donation of \$1,000 to the **Bad River Watershed Association** for their ongoing resource work. **John Casperson** presented the donation at the group's annual picnic.

The October meeting was held at the **Sawmill Saloon** in **Seeley**. This location works well for our meetings in the Seeley area. It has good food

and a separate room with a stage for a speaker. Thanks to **Cord Manz** for inviting **Heath Benike** to speak on the **WDNR** coldwater programs in **Polk** and **Barron** counties. The programs include developing a feral brook trout strain for northwest Wisconsin. Trout populations have increased significantly in streams stocked with feral trout. He has worked on stream restoration projects totaling 6,000 feet of **Turtle**, **Osceola**, and **McKenzie** creeks.

The chapter meeting for November was held on the **South Fork of the White R.** and was arranged by **Cordell Manz**. Thanks to Cord for taking chapter members on a tour of **WDNR** projects on the South Fork where the chapter played a part. The chapter helped fund and float the many logs down the White that the **WDNR** later installed in the stream. The chapter's walking tour looked at the log projects and at the numerous brown trout that were spawning in the project areas. The stream has had time to scour beneath the logs in the several years since the work so that deeper holes and cover now greatly benefit this fishery.

Cord suggested that the chapter got a lot of bang for the buck in these projects, and more of this type

Continued from p. 13

Other prizes include two fly rod combinations donated by **Cabella's** and **Sportsmen's Warehouse** and a shotgun package from **Germantown Gander Mountain**.

Prior to this event, we will participate in the **Milwaukee Fishing, Boating & Outdoor Expo** from Feb. 14-17. At both events, SEWTU will demonstrate fly tying to children.

Education Chair **Chris Weber** and President **Dan Asmus** have also undertaken significant efforts to involve SEWTU in the **Milwaukee Urban Fisheries** program. We expect to be significant contributors to this

program in 2008, providing fishing instruction to urban youth.

On October 6, Political Liaison **John Knitter** "adopted" a sturgeon in SEWTU's name as part of the **Riveredge Nature Conservancy's Return the Sturgeon** program in Newburg, WI. The multi-agency and group event featured the release of numerous "adopted" sturgeon into the **Milwaukee R.** in the hopes of re-establishing a native sturgeon population into the river, one of our home waters. The program featured youth conservation education involving Native American tribes and the **WDNR**.

Chapter News



of work would be beneficial to this resource. Chapter members **Phil Wallace** and **Bruce Moss** suggested that Heath work with the chapter to develop projects where the chapter can help with funding and volunteer help to remove alder brush on several streams. Heath plans to seek chapter funding for such a project later this year. The chapter voted to donate \$500 per year for three years to support the **Driftless Area Restoration Effort**. Since the October meeting, **Laura Hewitt** of the TU Midwest office sent a thank-you to chapter members for supporting this grassroots effort to restore trout streams in SW Wisconsin.

—Chuck Campbell

Wisconsin Clear Waters

In late 2007, the **Ojibbeau Chapter** officially changed its name to the **Wisconsin Clear Waters Chapter**. New name in hand, we continued work on our multi-year project on **Gilbert Cr. in Dunn Cty.** We also began the initial phases of rock staging, equipment placement, and partner and landowner contacts at **Elk Cr. in Chippewa Cty.** which will also be a multi-year project.

Gilbert Cr. in the area of our chapter restoration work is a classic driftless area spring creek with the narrower channel and increased flow scouring out the silt and sand and exposing the bedrock rubble substratum. Native brook trout have these stretches all to themselves for most of the year, however, the late fall will find a few big browns taking advantage of the newly created spawning areas.

Elk Creek is more typical of streams in the glacial region with most upper stretches being rounded stones, cobbles, and gravel, with the lower stretches transitioning to mostly sand. Elk Creek has a good mix of brown and brook trout, with the balance continuing to tip to the brook trout side.

As a final, sad note, **Josette Migawa**, the wife of our chapter President **Dennis Vanden Bloomen**, passed away Dec. 1 after a 4 1/2-



CENTRAL WI CHAPTER PRESIDENT HERB HINTZE HONORED

If your travels find you at the intersection of county highways Y and N in Marathon County, you will see this tribute to longtime Central WI Chapter President Herb Hintze. Herb, dressed for fishing, stands next to the sign.

year battle with breast cancer. The family requests memorials to the **Josette Migawa Scholarship** at the **UW-Eau Claire Foundation**, Schofield 214, Eau Claire, WI 54701 to honor her commitment to her students, teaching, and the university. Please remember Josette, Dennis, and their daughter, Gretchen, in your thoughts and prayers.

—Tim Meyer

during the planning for our chapter's 25th banquet.

The design, lettering, and wording of the sign was conceived by a chapter member.

The sign was jointly constructed by Marathon County and the Wausau Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department.

The Marathon County Highway Committee was approached for approval to place the sign on county property. They voted unanimously to OK the sign's placement, and it was erected in October.

—Linda Lehman

Independent WDNR secretary bills under consideration

By Bill Pielsticker

There now are two bills moving through the Legislature that would return the appointment of the DNR Secretary back over to the Natural Resources Board.

The bill in the Senate (SB 15) would restore the board's appointment authority in 2011 at the start of the next gubernatorial term of office. This bill passed the state Senate 21-12 the end of October.

In the Assembly, Representative Gunderson authored AB 504 to restore the Board's appointment power.

Gunderson's bill differs from the Senate bill in that it would take ef-

fect immediately when signed into law.

A hearing was held in October on the Assembly bill, and it is expected to move to the floor of the Assembly in the near future.

It is not clear what the prospects are for finding a compromise between the two bills, or for one to be accepted by both chambers. This is a priority issue for Wisconsin TU, and we hope that you will personally let your legislators know your position.

Wisconsin River Valley Chapter

A commemorative sign was placed along the Plover River recently recognizing the habitat work

led by our longtime WI River Valley Chapter President Herb Hintze. The idea for the sign came about

TU National grassroots financial report shows gains over 2006

By Bill Heart

The results of the 2007 TU National grassroots financial report have been reported and are again very impressive. Through November 19, with 401 chapters and 35 councils that filed on time, there was a total contribution, including revenue and volunteer time, of \$19.2 million. That is a staggering amount of money that the grassroots has generated for our coldwater resources.

Members volunteered a total of 618,510 hours. Using the national average of \$18.77 per hour, that totals \$11,609,432. Hours include 229,822 conservation hours, 79,792 fundraising hours, 133,369 general operations hours, 69,329 youth education hours, 46,391 general education hours, and 60,022 travel hours.

There was also \$1,606,828 of leveraged or matched funds. The volunteer hours were an increase of 6% over 2006. There was also a record year for revenues generated by chapters and councils in 2007 with a total of \$7,547,664. This betters last year's total by more than one half million dollars.

Along with the volunteer hour value, the total contributions from the grassroots increased from 2006 by \$1.6 million.



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Caddis closely related to the target pest

Genetically engineered corn harms caddis flies

A study by an Indiana University environmental science professor and several colleagues suggests a widely planted variety of genetically engineered corn has the potential to harm aquatic ecosystems.

The study was published online by the journal *Proceedings of the National Academies of Sciences*.

Researchers, including Todd V. Royer, an assistant professor in the IU School of Public and Environmental Affairs, established that pollen and other plant parts containing toxins from genetically engineered Bt corn are washing into streams near cornfields.

They also conducted laboratory trials that found consumption of Bt corn by-products produced increased mortality and reduced

growth in caddis flies, aquatic insects that are related to the pests targeted by the toxin in Bt corn.

Caddis flies, Royer said, "are a food resource for higher organisms like fish and amphibians. And, if our goal is to have healthy, functioning ecosystems, we need to protect all the parts. Water resources are something we depend on greatly."

Bt corn is engineered to include a gene from the micro-organism *Bacillus thuringiensis*, which produces a toxin that protects the crop from pests, in particular the European corn borer. It was licensed for use in 1996 and quickly gained popularity.

In 2006, around 35 percent of corn acreage planted in the U.S. was genetically modified, the study says,

citing U.S. Department of Agriculture data.

No pre-release testing on closely related insects

Before licensing Bt corn, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency conducted trials to test its impact on water biota. But it used *Daphnia*, a crustacean commonly used for toxicity tests, and not insects that are more closely related to the target pests, Royer said.

Royer emphasized that, if there are unintended consequences of planting genetically engineered crops, farmers shouldn't be held responsible. In a competitive agricultural economy, producers have to use the best technologies they can get.

"Every new technology comes with some benefits and some risks," he said. "I think probably the risks associated with widespread planting of Bt corn were not fully assessed."

There was a public flap over the growing use of Bt corn in 1999 when a report indicated it might harm monarch butterflies. But studies coordinated by the government's Agriculture Research Service ... concluded there was not a significant threat to monarchs.

Their research, conducted in 2005 and 2006 in an intensely farmed region of northern Indiana, measured inputs of Bt corn pollen and corn by-products (e.g., leaves and cobs) in 12 headwater streams, using litter traps to collect the materials. They also found corn pollen in the guts of certain caddis flies, showing they were feeding on corn pollen.

In laboratory trials, the researchers found caddis flies that were fed leaves from Bt corn had growth rates that were less than half those of caddis flies fed non-Bt corn litter. They also found that a different type of caddis fly had significantly increased mortality rates when exposed to Bt corn pollen at concentrations between two and three times the maximum found in the test sites.

(This story is reprinted from *EurekaAlert!*, a service of AAAS. More at www.eurekaalert.org/. -Ed.)

Catch and quit: Three good reasons to go beyond catch and release

By Lee Merrill

To say that catch and release has been important to the preservation of trout fishing is a little like saying that oxygen has been important to the process of breathing. Without catch and release, except for small remote wilderness streams, our fishery would by now have breathed its last gasp.

Member Opinion

Nothing I say here is intended as a criticism of catch and release. I simply want to propose that the time has come to go beyond catch and release to an ethic that I would call *catch and quit*.

One of the natural but unintended consequences of catch and release is the ideal of the 20 fish day. One outdoor writer whom I greatly admire recently published an article in which a very astute angling friend of his caught and released over a hundred trout in one day.

I would like to propose three among a multitude of good reasons why such practice harms the fishery as a resource and ourselves as lovers and respecters of the natural world.

#1. The streams are crowded

The angler who stays on the stream attempting to catch scores of trout crowds the waters and is guilty of interfering with the pleasure of other anglers seeking at least a modicum of solitude. One spring I met a very happy fisherman in the parking lot of one of my favorite small streams. He had caught and released 27 trout from the stretch I intended to fish. Miles up the little stream I encountered his fresh boot tracks. Had he contented himself with five or even 10 trout, my day would have been very different.

#2. Not all trout live when they are released

Even though proper release helps enormously, the more fish an angler releases, the greater the possibility that some are going to die. Not all anglers are good at releasing fish. With the best of intentions, the fumble-fingered among us kill fish. Even the most casual angler has witnessed the result of clumsy release — those large dead trout turning white and drifting slowly along the bottom.

#3: We are better than that

Catch and release was born of necessity, of the truth of Lee Wulff's dictum that a trout is too valuable a resource to be caught only once. I would like to add that trout fishermen are too precious a segment of our population to fall for a pathetic numbers game.

I visited a friend last summer who lives at the mouth of the Hoarfrost River on Great Slave Lake. My last day there we decided to skip fishing and to do the family laundry in an old wringer washing machine. We held up stringers of colorful laundry for

the camera and had a wonderful day.

For my part, I didn't have fun doing laundry because I was tired of fishing. There were trout and grayling at my friend's doorstep, and I couldn't get enough of them. Perhaps it was the memory of an evening at Reynold's Pass on the Madison. As the result of some foolhardy wading, I had made it out to a shoal in the middle of the river. I caught fish after fish, losing count until a fellow on the bank called out to me. I was sure he wanted to know what I was using, but he was up to no such thing. He pointed to the sun going down behind the mountains and shouted over the rushing river.

"Hey, don't forget to look at the sunset."

There are more than 20, more than a hundred wonderful things to do while fishing. We are all of us good enough to know what they are. We should put down our rods and do them.

Conclusion

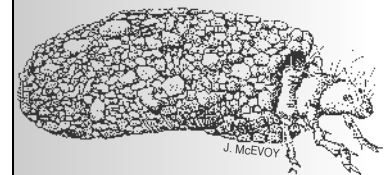
In an effort not to be tiresome, I have tried to limit myself to three reasons to catch and quit. I cannot resist quickly adding a fourth — catch and quit would be the best thing that ever happened to the guiding profession.

Several years ago I made the dreadful mistake of attempting to be a guide. The "20 fish day" was my undoing. On one outing I spent an excruciating morning, afternoon, and evening with a client who was determined to catch every trout in the river and to leave no detail unmentioned of his worldwide fishing adventures.

Before the evening rise, I thought it would be a good idea if we had a little toddy. My client declined, wanting to stay stone cold sober in case there were any more fish to be caught. Unfortunately I drank his share of the whisky and proceeded to fall ass over teakettle into the stream. It was very quiet at the bottom of the river. When I emerged, I told my client that I would waive his fee if he would just promise not to talk on the way home.

Even in its last days, there was a lot that was wrong with meat fishing, but the idea of a reasonable limit is something that was right. As practitioners of a privileged and soulful art, we need to seize on that right part and move ahead to an ethic that will put the 20 fish day as securely in our past as those grainy antique photographs showing proud anglers holding up stringers of a hundred dead brook trout. Unless we do, we will seem as destructive and slovenly to our children as our ancestors sometimes now seem to us.

(Lee Merrill is a retired Northland College English professor who lives in Washburn. He is a member of the *Wild Rivers Chapter of TU* and is also a serious duck and grouse chaser. -Ed.)



Trichoptera (Caddisflies):

Presently, 245 species of caddisflies in 19 families and 72 genera have been identified from Wisconsin. Caddisfly larvae are a very important faunal component of most streams, but half of the families also have species occurring in lentic environments as well, some even in temporary ponds. Caddis larvae use silk to spin nets for food collection or to construct tubular shelters. The structures vary by size, shape, and use of streambed organic and inorganic materials for construction. For some taxa the cases can be used to identify the animal to genus and sometimes species. Cryptic cases protect some species from predation, while certain case-forms allow other taxa to inhabit fast currents, or provide protection from abrasive scour. All taxa pupate in closed silken cocoons. The adults tend to be drab-colored and moth-like in their shape and erratic flight behavior.

Le Shack fondly remembers friends, fishing in central WI

By John "Duke" Welter

It is a bittersweet thing to review the last book of Jim Chapralis, *Le Shack*, a collection of short essays and stories about his time among a group of Chicagoans who frequented a tumbledown fishing camp in the sand country streams of central Wisconsin.

It is bittersweet because the book came out about a week before Jim died of lung cancer last November.

Jim Chapralis could be known to many Wisconsin Tuers for a variety of reasons. For several decades he owned or ran one of several adventure angling companies that brought anglers to sites around the world. He was a widely traveled angler himself, for one of the perks of the business was exploring for new lodges or fishing spots.

He was a champion fly caster and held several world championships and records. He wrote five books, each of them marked by a conversational tone, lots of people-focused stories, and nary a footnote or literary reference to be found.

And despite having traveled the world and fished the big headline places and the unknowns as well, he returned again and again for 40 years to the Mekan, the Pine, and Wedde and Taggatz creeks in central

Wisconsin. (Those names are all aliases, I surmise, for the streams Chapralis *really* fished.)

There's one more quality for which Wisconsin Tuers should be glad Jim Chapralis lived near and fished here: he had a passion for conservation of coldwater resources and wrote with that passion when those resources were threatened. When Perrier wanted to drill and bottle the Mekan Springs, Chapralis was ready to marshal the facts and write about the threat Perrier posed. When other threats came up, he was quick to see the dangers and mobilized people to respond.

We sat and talked last January, a month after his diagnosis, about his fear that trout streams in Wisconsin and Michigan would be unable to remain healthy in the face of commercial, residential, and energy development. He was unabashed in his admiration for his friends in Central Wisconsin TU who had fought so many battles for the streams of their area and, by association, the streams of the state. "And I don't think I'll be here to fight, so I hope you guys in TU will continue," he told me.

Le Shack tells several dozen tales from Jim's time as a member: how the fishing hats of deceased members were hung on nails from a ceil-

ing beam, how difficult the streams were to learn to fish after he'd traveled the world and thought he was a pretty good angler, and how reticent his chums always were about their favorite holes and targeted fish, or "stake-outs." Reading his tales is like sitting around a stone fireplace with a good glass of scotch in a chipped cup, listening to a storyteller you want to keep on talking.

The best tales are of pratfalls and mistakes and challenges that sometimes are met and sometimes not, and the closer he is to the person who pratfell — whether himself or a close buddy — the more joyful the ribbing becomes. Wouldn't we all want a close buddy to memorialize those moments? It's all said in the best-intended way imaginable.

Jim's buddy Chuck Mitchell has provided pen-and-ink drawings to accompany the stories, except perhaps for the one where he, on a misunderstood verbal direction, drove his brand-new RV down a path and into a sinking mud-wallow near a Waushara County stream.

This book could be subtitled, "Tales from a Fishing Buddy" and enjoyed in that vein, reminiscent of former *Milwaukee Journal* columnist Bill Stokes' *Trout Friends*, published a decade ago. But as a reminder that

Jim Chapralis offered so much more to the world of trout and resource protection, especially in the Upper Midwest, it poses a challenge: from this activity and these places that you take from, find a way to give back.

The Shack is available from Anglingmatters.com. 216 pages, \$16.95. Illustrations by Charles B. Mitchell.

BROOKIES: Change in plans

Continued from p. 18

A quick check of water temperature can suggest a move to cooler water before you, too, become an accomplished chub angler. Surface runoff temperatures and stream water temperatures both go up in a warmer world.

We are also in a multi-year drought which decreases groundwater recharge and baseline spring flows. This will be here for a while, so we will need to change, just as the trout have.

(Bob Obma is a 20-year member of Trout Unlimited and serves as chair of WITU's Water Resources Committee. This is another in his series on fishing for bigger brookies for Wisconsin Trout. -Ed.)



WITU Looking Back

From the Spring 1988 *Reflections...*

Update on the Slot Limit Regulations Research at Timber Coulee Creek

The third and final field-phase of evaluating a slot size limit at Timber Coulee Creek in Vernon Co. gets underway April 13 and 14 when Bob Hunt's electrofishing crew will carry out a preseason inventory of the trout in his study zones. Interested observers are welcome to join the local crowd expected to be present. Tubs of impressive-size trout will be frequent.

Since the spring of 1986, when the experimental slot limit went into effect on a mile-long reach of stream, the biomass of brown trout has increased from 680 pounds to nearly 1000 pounds in the fall of 1987 and the abundance of brown trout over 14 inches has increased from 10 to 70.

A season-long creel survey of anglers in the slot length study zone and in a half-mile reference zone will get underway on "opening day", May 7th. A similar survey was conducted during the 1984 season, before the special regulations were imposed, and during the 1986 and 1987 seasons when anglers in the special regs zone could keep only 1 trout per day in the 14.0 to 16.9 inch "slot". Anglers were also required to fish with artificial lures.

Last year, fishing pressure averaged 10 trips per day in the special regs stretch and over the course of the season angling effort totalled 730 hours per acre — a very high level of fishing intensity for a Wisconsin trout stream.

Anglers reported releasing more than 3000 brown trout during the 1987 season and kept only 8. An average of 393 were released for each trout creeled. Nine of 10 anglers in the special regs zone fished with flies rather than spin-cast lures.

Non-local and out-of-state anglers have been attracted by the special regulations and the kind of fishing quality such regulations provide. In 1984 only 10 percent of the anglers interviewed had travelled more than 25 miles to get to Timber Coulee, and only 7 percent were nonresidents. During the 1987 fishing season, 58 percent of the anglers travelled at least 25 miles and 28 percent were nonresidents.

The creel survey conducted during 1987 was partially funded by a \$2000 contribution to the DNR by the Wisconsin TU Council. A similar contribution has recently been made to help pay for the 1988 creel survey. Bob Hunt sends along his grateful appreciation for the essential financial support provided by TU and for the commitment such financial support represents to underwrite the kind of fact-finding research needed to meet demands for top quality trout fishing in our state.

From the Winter 1998 *Wisconsin Trout...*

Sulfide mining moratorium bill in Assembly's hands

By a razor-close 6-4 margin, the Assembly Environment Committee approved a bill (Senate Bill 3) that would establish a moratorium on the permitting of sulfide ore mines in Wisconsin until it can be shown that such mines can be operated safely and without harm to the environment for 10 years, as well as being closed with no adverse environmental impacts for another 10 years.

Voting for the bill in committee were all four Democrats (Spencer Black-Madison; Peter Bock-Milwaukee; Judith Robson-Beloit; and John LaFave-Brown Deer) and two Republicans (DuWayne Johnsrud-Eastman and Eugene Hahn-Cambria). Four Republicans (Chairperson Marc Duff-New Berlin; Lorraine Seratti-Florence; Tim Hoven-Port Washington; and Neal Kedzie-Elkhorn) voted against the bill.

A substitute version of SB 3 offered by Rep. Duff was defeated on a 5-5 tie vote when Seratti joined the four Democrats on the committee in opposing the substitute bill, because even the measures of Duff's substitute bill — criticized by environmentalists as being weakening measures — were deemed too strong by the pro-Exxon Assemblyperson from Florence.

The vote came nearly one month after a second hearing on the sulfide mining moratorium proposal was held Oct. 14th in West Allis. The hearing location was chosen purposely by Rep.

Duff, a pro-mining supporter, because it was close to the sites where P&H Harnischferger and Bucyrus-Erie, both manufacturers of mining equipment (at sites OUTSIDE of Wisconsin), have their plants.

Both companies paid their workers to attend the hearing and support the bill, prompting Phil Blank, a former steelworker and former head of the MATC teachers' union, to ask Rep. Duff if the paid meeting attendees should be registering as lobbyists. Rep. Duff avoided answering the question.

Despite the blatant attempt to produce a strong show of opposition to the bill, Duff's maneuvering failed, as proponents of SB 3 outnumbered opponents by at least a 3-2 margin. On hand to lend support for the bill were members of conservation and environmental groups (including Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Council chairman Bill Sherer), Wisconsin Tribal leaders, the League of Women Voters and many more.

Among notable opponents of the sulfide mining moratorium bill were Department of Natural Resources Secretary George Meyer, whose comments about the alleged inadequacy of SB 3 were later refuted by the Wisconsin Legislative Council, and former Democrat governor Anthony Earl, who has worked as a paid lobbyist for corporate polluters since his loss to Herb Kohl in the 1988 Democratic U.S. Senate primary race.

Change in plans for bigger brookie float trip

By Bob Obma

Planning a canoe float trip down a great Wisconsin river casting to free-rising trout was straightforward in years past — take the DNR trout maps, check a canoe guide book for what's navigable, and have a ball. This is harder to do in a warmer world.

Last summer we did a summer float trip down the Peshtigo near Cavour, starting as high as the canoe maps indicated floatable water, well within the trout water. It looked like this should work with another 60 miles of trout water downstream, but it didn't.

I was king of the chub fishermen on dries, nymphs, classic wets, and streamers. My buddy did really well on both chubs and shiners with night crawler pieces and spinners. We were in hot water catching species viable to 90 degree temperatures when we had coldwater trout in mind that are viable to a little over 70 degrees.

We figured out what we had done and went upstream to the highest landing that would permit us to paddle and wade further upstream. The water temperature there was 70 degrees at Noon on a hot day. My fishing partner caught a lot of brook trout at that landing in years long past, but didn't catch any on that day. I continued to demonstrate my prowess

on golden shiners until we paddled and waded upstream to 60-degree water, where we both caught brook trout in lovely spawning colors till we had all the fun needed.

Adjusting to change

Trout fishermen must adjust to change because the fish already have. Seasonal fish movement upstream in hot weather to colder water is an old story. I recall being told, while I still had my own parr marks, that the brookies go up to the springs when the pasture streams warm up in summer.

Water temperatures tolerated by aquarium brook trout are easy to measure — 34 degrees up to 75 degrees, at which temperature they go belly up.

The temperatures at which free-ranging fish live, spawn, and feed are not as clearly delineated, but we do have some data based on our experience, weir trapping, and telemetry-tagged fish. This confirms the angler's observation that they will feed in the low 30s, feed happily in the low 60s, and catch lockjaw at 70 degrees.

Lessons from Oconto's weir

Weirs on the Oconto River have been placed by the Oconto Watershed Chapter of Trout Unlimited with the DNR over the years. They have shown that trout stay comfortably downstream in deeper winter loafing water until temperatures go over 59 degrees when they mass migrate upstream. A dozen fish are found in the weir trap at 58 degrees, but 180 migrating fish are there the next day when temperatures go over 60 degrees. Spring upstream migrations to cooler water are in miles or tens of miles, whereas mid-summer movement is in fractions of a mile.

The take-home message here is that trout have finely calibrated thermal sensors and actively move to cooler water well before high, critical summer killing temperatures arrive, which is why we don't see hot-water fish kills that look like manure spill mass kills. It's also why we found no trout at Cavour.

How is a fish to adapt?

Take refuge. A heat-stressed fish may stay and sulk in marginal temperatures or go to a thermal refuge. Staying and sulking has some limits, but recall that streams often cool more than 10 degrees of a summer evening and nocturnal food organism drift is abundant. In warmer water, going to a thermal refuge is a matter of survival. Thermal refuges are of three types — micro, macro, and vertical.

- *Micro refuges* require short movements of a few feet into a spring upwelling in the stream bottom or a few hundred yards up a feeder stream to a spot with cover. These moves are best seen on telemetry studies.
- *Macro migrations* found on radio telemetry studies look a lot like our data on the Oconto where native fish make their long migrations far enough ahead of fatal warm summer temperatures to stay out of trouble.
- *Vertical movements* occur in lakes or larger ponds during hot weather. Here trout move from the cool, well-oxygenated thermocline to eat hatching insects in very warm surface water. This is common and demonstrates heat tolerance for short periods, and it tells us why we see summer surface rises on ponds.

Finding the refuges

At the May opening of fishing season, there are no thermal refuges because the water from springhead to far downstream is comfortably in the 50s. As water temperatures climb to 60 degrees, fish make their macro moves for miles upstream to comfortable water. Highest water temperatures are measured on hot afternoons. A good rule of thumb is that when you get find 70-degree water, you're in the wrong place, usually too far downstream. Note that streams do not all heat up at the same rate. When the North Branch of the Oconto is at 82 degrees, five feet away the inflowing Waupee runs 66 degrees. No prize for knowing where these trout are.

Less extreme temperature swings find trout concentrated in upwelling springs in the stream bed, up local spring trickles where cover is adequate, or at the bottom of riffles where better oxygenated water is better tolerated at high temperatures. These fish feed freely at cooler nocturnal temperatures when benthic organisms are prone to drift. They can comfortably move a few hundred yards to areas of food abundance, retreating to resting spots as water warms.

Sunup often finds trout still feeding in the cooler water. A friend recently released a 28-inch brown from a summer stream in Iowa County that he could jump across at a tender age. He tells me that he is a very athletic 67, but I'm betting on a narrow feeder stream.

In deeper lakes and ponds, thermal stratification offers trout cold water at the thermocline with better oxygenated water than that at the bottom. Chironomid emergers coming up from the benthos (they are less picky about oxygen levels) are most vulnerable in the surface film, and one commonly sees trout surface feeding in 80-degree water. These are big as chironomids go, thus worth taking the heat briefly. This is vertical refuge.

Put into context

Trout stream temperatures are warmer today than they once were, and fish are adapting. More of our trout water is now seasonal habitat that fish leave during the summer fishing season.

Continued on p. 17



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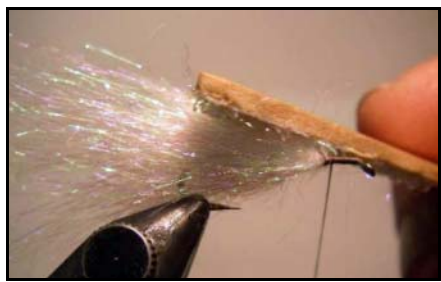
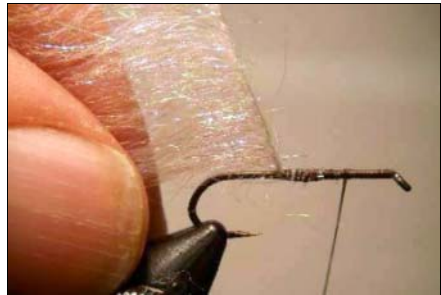
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The EP Sparkle Hornberg is a favorite streamer pattern

By Bob Haase

John Gremmer got me hooked on fishing streamers. I think I like fishing them because of their versatility and because they many times catch fish when nothing else is working. I think I probably started using streamers so that I could catch fish rather than just watching John catching fish. I enjoy fishing dries as much as anybody, but I also enjoy catching fish. When there is no hatch going on, there are usually still minnows in the stream for the trout to feed on.

One of my favorite streamers is the Hornberg Special, and I still use the original-style Hornberg a lot.



rent and downstream, but have also had success fishing them upstream.

I also like using unweighted streamers because I think they have more action in the water. I found that I can drift a streamer downstream in places that I could never cast and by mending the line I could get the streamer to catch the current and cut across stream or under a bank and entice fish to hit. This method sometimes works good for spooky trout that are scared by normal presentation methods.

I call this version of the Hornberg the "EP Sparkle Hornberg" because I replaced the underwing and mallard flank feather wings with Enrico Puglisi EP Sparkle Brush. It has a little more flash and can be colored with Prismacolor pens to any color



One of the benefits of tying your own flies is experimenting and changing things such as the materials, color, weighting, hook styles, etc. A good friend, Gerry Smet, often asks if I have ever tied a fly according to the original recipe, and I usually reply that I often tie at least one fly that way before I start looking at ways to change it.

I tie another streamer pattern called the Awesome fly, which is another one of my favorites. It was called the Awesome fly because it was tied with synthetic Awesome hair. It was originally tied in larger sizes for bass (2-8), and I just modified it slightly and tied it in sizes 8 through 14. I found the Enrico Puglisi Sparkle Brush at Tight Lines in De Pere and started using it instead of using Awesome hair with a dubbing spinner. I liked it so well that I switched to it almost entirely.

One day I decided to tie the Awesome fly but stopped short enough on the hook to tie it like a Hornberg. I tried it for the first time on streams near Avalanche and found that the fish liked it. I find that if the fish like it, I like it.

John Gremmer taught me to fish streamers a lot of different ways, and just like fly tying, I am always experimenting with presentation. I prefer fishing streamers across cur-

variation you desire. I think it is important to keep the belly and part of the sides white because I think the white color of the mallard flank feathers helps attracts trout to hit the original Hornberg. Because this is supposed to imitate a minnow, you may consider the sparkle brush to be the body or wing. Tie up a few EP Sparkle Hornbergs and give them a try next season.

Tying directions

Begin by wrapping the thread about 2/3 of the way back and tying in the EP Sparkle Brush (picture 1). Advance the thread to the point shown to leave room for the hackle after tying off the brush. Use your fingers to pull the synthetic fibers to one side of the wire as shown.

Wrap the sparkle brush around the hook making wraps close together to build up the wing (body). As you do this, continue to pull the fibers to one side as you make the wraps. Tie off the brush and cut with an old scissors used for cutting wire. I use a de-barbing pliers to flatten down the remaining stub of wire that sticks up. I then use a Popsicle stick with Velcro hook material (picture 2) to brush out the sparkle brush.

Next I grab the synthetic fibers and pull them back and twist them

(picture 3) as shown to help form the wings (body). If too long, you can trim the fibers by cutting with a scissors at a sharp angle.

I use a Prismacolor Colorless Blender (picture 4) and stroke back as if I were coloring the fibers. This helps control the stray fibers.

I then use various Prismacolor pens to color the upper sides and top of the wings (picture 5). Apply light colors first and then dark using whatever colors you desire. I have had my best luck with:

- yellow sides and dark brown back,
- yellow sides and dark green or olive back, and
- yellow sides with dark blue back.

Now tie in jungle cock nails as shown. Because of the rounding wings (picture 6) it is sometimes difficult to tie in jungle cock nails without having them flare out too much. When I have this problem, I place a *small* drop of super glue just underneath the nail and hold it tight to the wings until it sets. I also use a small drop of super glue where the nails are tied in to help secure them. This also makes the fly much more durable.

Next tie in a the hackle as shown. I prefer using medium to dark brown, or any color slightly darker

than the wing color, in a hackle size appropriate for a size 16 to 20 hook. Wrap the hackle around the hook as you would for the original Hornberg.

Tie off the hackle and whip finish to form a very small head.

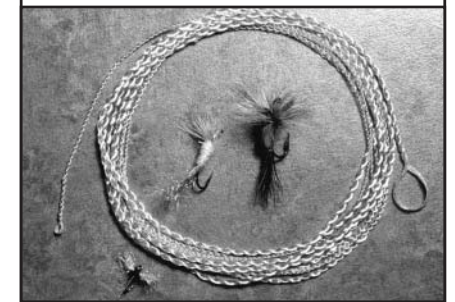
And there you have (picture 7) the finished EP Sparkle Hornberg, a variation on a favorite pattern.

MATERIALS LIST EP Sparkle Brush Hornberg

- Hook:** Mustad 79580 streamer hook, sizes 8-12
- Thread:** Brown 3/0
- Body:** Plain hook
- Wing:** EP Sparkle Brush in #23 Pearl Magic color
- Eyes:** jungle cock nail
- Hackle:** brown or a color to match for hook size 16-20

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Canoe going up on eBay

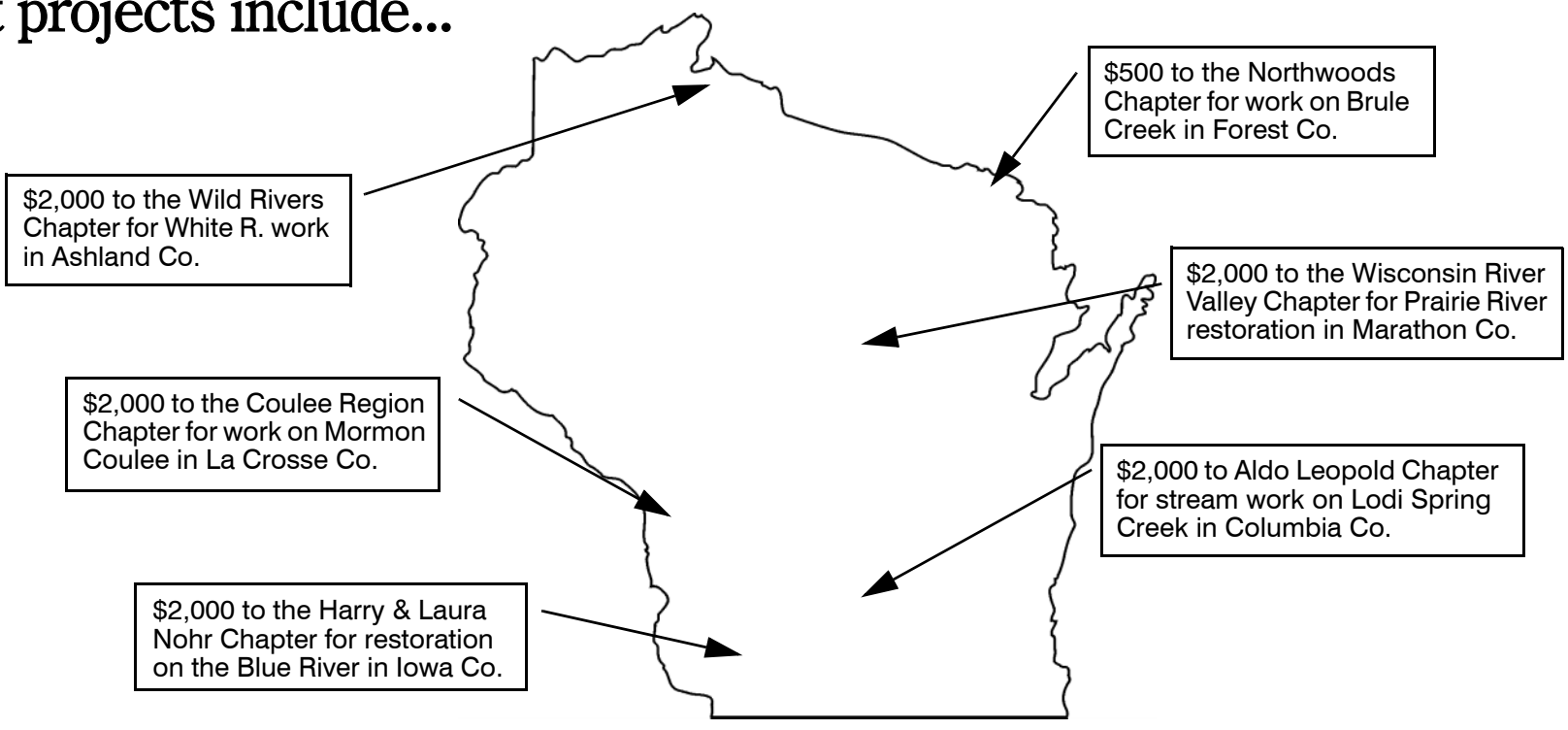
By Steve Hill

A decision has been made to use the online auction site eBay to sell the beautiful wooden canoe a benefactor recently donated to the Friends program.

The canoe will go up for sale this spring. Stay tuned for final details.



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