



Wisconsin Trout

October 2008



WI CLEAR WATERS CONTINUES WORK ON ELK CREEK

The WI Clear Waters Chapter welcomed help from area Cub Scouts from St. James School in Eau Claire this past summer to help spread mulch on newly seeded areas along Elk Creek in Chippewa County. The scouts also viewed an electroshocking survey and demonstration.

State Council holds fall meeting in Antigo

By Todd Hanson

The Antigo Chapter of TU hosted the fall meeting of the WITU State Council at The Refuge in Antigo Sept. 27.

Three WDNR fisheries personnel were present to hear concerns and discuss various trout resource matters at the meeting. Present were Fisheries Bureau Director Mike Staggs, Regional Fisheries Coordinator Steve Avelallemant, and Antigo Fisheries Biologist David Seibel.

Staggs distributed a draft copy of the front matter of the soon-to-be-published 2004-7 DNR trout stamp report. Staggs said 17.8 miles of trout stream were restored in 2008, and another 24 miles of previously improved trout waters received maintenance work this year.

Staggs also noted that increases in heavy equipment costs have risen significantly over the past year, saying this will impact the amount of restoration work the agency can do.

He noted that Great Lakes trout stamp sales are off 17% this year, but he didn't have numbers for inland trout stamp sales levels.

Avelallemant updated the council on recent coaster brook trout restoration efforts along the north shore of Lake Superior. He said habitat efforts on north shore streams focus on beaver control, stabilizing streamside sand sources, and transporting sand downstream.

Seibel presented a slide show on trout sampling on the Prairie River within and near the former special regulation section of the river. Sections of the Prairie have been repeatedly electroshocked for decades, allowing for some comparative analysis of trout populations over several different regulation regimes.

Seibel noted that this year's electroshocking shows lower trout numbers in the former special regulation portion of the Prairie, but that these lower numbers are within historical yearly variations.

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TU conservation awards go to Vetrano, Carlson

By John Welter

Two Wisconsinites were honored by TU National at the organization's annual meeting in Snowbird, UT, in September.

Veteran WDNR Fisheries Biologist Dave Vetrano and TV Outdoor Writer-Producer Dave Carlson received two of TU's four 2008 National Conservation Awards.

Vetrano a Driftless Area trout champion

The Midwest's Driftless Area — encompassing southwest Wisconsin, southeast Minnesota, northeast Iowa, and northwest Minnesota — features almost 10,000 miles of spring creeks and rivers from the Mississippi to the Bad Axe. Those resources need champions, committed to protection and restoration of those waters and the fisheries they contain.

In the late 1950s, a Wisconsin Conservation Department biologist concluded that due to poor land use practices and erosion, it was unlikely the area could support a trout fishery in the future. But for over 30 years, the coldwater streams of Wisconsin's Driftless Area have been championed by Dave Vetrano, the WDNR's West Central Regional Fisheries Supervisor, working in the area around La Crosse.

Over the past three decades, Vetrano's work for WDNR in southwestern Wisconsin has included:

- spearheading several hundred miles of stream restoration projects,
- developing a team of restoration specialists to carry out projects,
- developing the lunger in-stream overhead cover structure (of which thousands have been installed across the region), and
- inspiring numerous groups, including TU chapters, to work on stream projects and raise money to support them.

Vetrano also undertook a wild trout brood stock study at a time when many hatchery fish were being stocked in the region, and this program's success has revolutionized wild trout management. Partly as a result of his efforts, the area has become a nationally recognized trout resource.

In accepting his award, Vetrano credited two of his life's maxims for serving him well throughout his career. First, he said, "It is sometimes better to ask forgiveness than permission," and second, "Always surround yourself with people smarter than you are."

Awards committee members were struck by Vetrano's career-long willingness to go the extra mile to help the resources under his charge. He has attended hundreds of meetings and given scores of presentations on the Driftless Area and stream restoration, and he has worked to build partnerships to get

things done. He has been a supporter of and key advisor to TU's Driftless Area Restoration Effort since its inception.

Carlson a long-time supporter of TU efforts

Dave Carlson of Eau Claire has been producing outdoor shows for 27 years. He now hosts and produces *Northland Adventures*, a production of Quincy Newspapers, Inc.

Many of the 4,000 individual segments on his 1,500 shows have fea-



Dave Vetrano (top) and Dave Carlson

tured trout streams, mostly in the Midwest, where his show is aired on 26 stations in 12 states. *Northland Adventures* has featured many Midwestern trout streams and spotlighted TU's many trout conservation and education efforts.

From fly tying and casting to advocacy for water resources, Carlson has been a constant supporter of TU's efforts. He has also covered key national conservation issues like the Farm Bill and CRP programs, and local issues like dam removals and access problems.

Carlson's television program was the first to feature TUDARE's efforts. If he gets to pick the topic of his last show, he told awards luncheon attendees, it "will be about the peace I've found on trout streams, with trout fishers and trout...a fall brookie, preferably.

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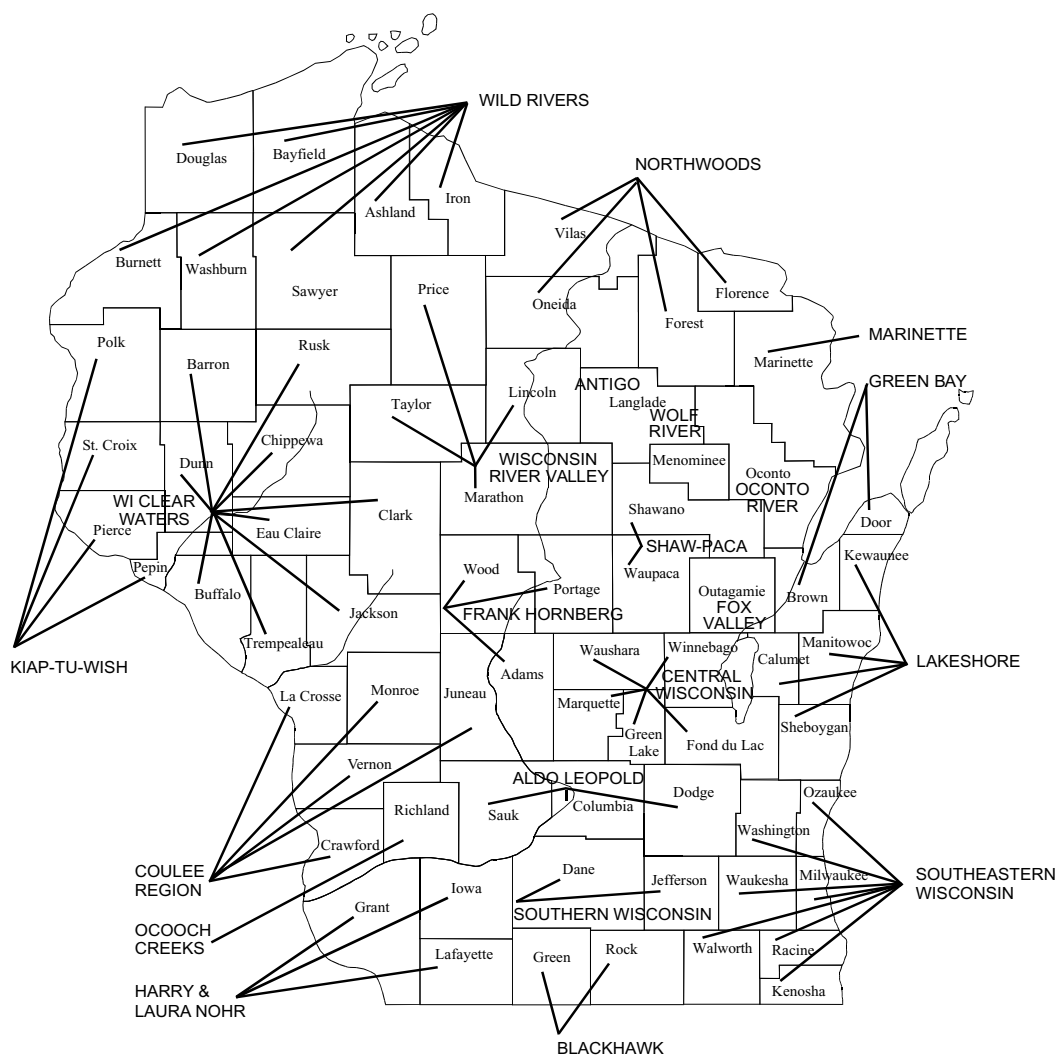
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Contact TU National when you change addresses or chapter leaders

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).

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Fish and inspiration at TU meeting

By Bill Heart

WITU State Council Chair

I apologize for starting this column out with a little fish porn, but I was lucky enough to have another trip of a lifetime to central Alaska last month. Four of us did an eight-day raft trip on the Salmon and Aniak rivers southeast of Bethel.

We caught Arctic grayling, Dolly Varden, Arctic char, and a number of species of salmon, but for me the highlight was catching rainbow trout. Attacking the root wads and shorelines with large streamers was a joy for the last couple of days. The rainbow pictured on this page was 26" and weighed eight pounds.

The streamers also worked well on silvers, but the most fun was casting a large floating fly called a polly-

wog and catching 25-30" silvers on the surface. A couple of my partners were about 100 yards downstream from me and could hear me laughing and giggling at the antics of these large Coho salmon. I broke two rods, one twice, while trying to land these crazy fish.

A couple of weeks after the Alaskan trip, I attended the TU National meeting at Snowbird just east of Salt Lake City. If you are ever thinking about becoming involved in the leadership of TU, I am convinced that if you attended a national meeting, you will understand why we get involved.

For the most part, the national leadership and staff are a very dedicated group that understands how to protect our coldwater resources. I asked our vice chair, Kim McCar-

thy, if he could attend this year's meeting. He did, and I know that he was as impressed as I was at my first meeting.

Next year, Trout Unlimited will be celebrating its 50th anniversary with many planned activities. The meeting will be held in Traverse City, Michigan, which makes it an easy ride from Wisconsin. We hope to have a large contingent of Wisconsinites making the pilgrimage to the holy waters of the Au Sable River to attend the meeting.

Our Wisconsin TU Annual Meeting and Banquet will also be celebrating TU's 50th. It would be nice if each chapter could bring a display of its historical background. Since I have only been a member since 1996, I would love to see some old photos and news clippings of chapter activities from years past. The banquet will again be held the first weekend in February, so you will have plenty of time to get things organized.

Be sure to check into our council's new web site at www.WisconsinTU.org. Jim Hlaban and his web consultant son, Ben, have done a wonderful job of revamping the site. This new site will provide the council and chapters with a better opportunity to further develop TU throughout the state.



Bill Heart with an Alaska rainbow

If your chapter does not have a web site, contact Jim. As our new web editor, Jim will help you open your own site. The council web site has the ability to maintain all of our individual chapters' web sites, if desired, at no cost to the chapters. The local chapter's web person (or persons) will have the ability to change and add any information.

This will also be a wonderful tool to archive chapter minutes and newsletters, and your chapter will be able to decide if these documents can be viewed by the public. Please open the web site and register your name. The site has only been open for two weeks, but you will be amazed by how much it has changed!



Tips for helping DNR with habitat improvement

Editor,

I continue to be very pleased about the extensive habitat improvement we have been able to make to Wisconsin trout streams through the use of trout stamp monies. Even the recent very heavy rainfalls and flooding in our area have not significantly damaged the lunger structures, etc. which have been installed in the area trout streams with trout stamp monies and some of our sweat.

There are a few things which the TU chapters in Wisconsin can do to help the DNR to continue improving our wonderful and healthy pastime:

1. From time to time, the DNR has troubles getting owners of land on trout streams to consider allowing the DNR to purchase streambank rights so that habitat improvements may be extended. We have found that many of the landowners who are reluctant to grant such rights have friends and acquaintances who are members of TU, and those members can frequently prevail upon the landowners to grant those streambank rights to the DNR. They certainly can be told that the DNR cannot make those habitat improvements without having streambank rights and access and a friend or acquaintance from the TU chapter may be able to convince an owner to give the DNR the necessary streambank rights. You may tell them that doing so actually improves the value of their lands, which is a fact.

2. There are some occasions where the landowner wants more than the DNR's appraisal will permit it to pay for stream easements. On several such occasions, the local units of the area TU have made up the difference by donating that amount to the DNR. Have your chapter contact the local DNR representative for the details of such cases.

3. If you are thinking of buying land for the DNR as a "straw man," however, make sure that the DNR has already had the land formally appraised so that you don't get stuck like I did a few years back. One of

the DNR persons told me that they certainly would be able to pay at least "x" dollars for such rights, but the owner would not sell or talk to them. I told the individual that I would buy the land from him for what he was asking, a price that was within what the appraiser had said the DNR would be able to pay. I bought the land and then arranged to deed it to the DNR. Unfortunately, before I sold it, the DNR had their formal appraisal done, and it turned out to be \$2,000 less than I had paid for it. Be sure to check ahead of buying so that you don't end up making an involuntary donation to the DNR as I did.

Dan Flaherty
La Crosse, WI



WISCONSIN TU MEMBERS AT WORK AND PLAY AT THE TU NATIONAL MEETING

In his role as chair of TU's National Leadership Council, John "Duke" Welter of Eau Claire (top) updated attendees at TU's annual meeting on the "State of the Grassroots." There was also time for fishing. Getting ready to hit the Green River near Salt Lake City are (l to r) John Welter, local guide Darren, Bill Heart, Henry Koltz, Todd Durian, and guide Scottie.

Chapter gets out the vote!

SEWTU wins \$50,000 Redwood Creek Wines grant for Camp Cr.

By Henry Koltz

What the Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter of TU lacks in terms of coldwater streams, it makes up for in enthusiastic conservation volunteers. Nowhere was this enthusiasm more evident than in the chapter's recent successful efforts to win Redwood Creek Wine's \$50,000 Greater Outdoors Project grant.

The grant was used to complete the Smith family project on Camp Creek, SEWTU's joint TUDARE project with the Ocooch Creeks Chapter just east of Viola in Richland County.

Early funding difficulties

The Camp Creek project has seen more than its fair share of tribulations over the past two years. The project was initially to have been funded in large part through an Environmental Quality Improvement Program (EQIP) grant. Additional funding was anticipated from the WDNR in the form of a River Protection Grant and trout stamp funding. With this anticipated funding, the project was slated to be completed no later than the fall of 2007.

Unfortunately, all three sources of funding either failed to materialize or were withdrawn. Worse yet, these funding losses occurred *after* SEWTU, Ocooch, and the Blackhawk Chapter hosted a May 2007 workday involving over 70 volunteers from three states and seven TU chapters from two states to build 95 lunger structures.

Despite great efforts from Dr. Dick Peters of Ocooch, Ken Anderson of the Richland County Land Conservation Department, and countless others, additional funding simply failed to materialize for the project throughout 2007 and into early 2008. The horizon looked dark.

Funding tide turns

The tide began to shift last spring, however. At that time, it was learned that a National Fish Habitat Action Plan (NFHAP) grant of \$15,000 had been awarded to SEWTU, and that a Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) grant of nearly \$50,000 had been awarded to Ocooch. These funds were combined with a \$2,500 TU National Embrace-a-Stream grant that SEWTU

had previously been awarded, as well as two \$2,000 grants from WITU's Friends of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited to both SEWTU and OCTU. With additional cash contributions from both chapters and significant financial support from the Richland County Land Conservation Department, a faint glimmer of hope began to appear. If only one more domino would fall, the Camp Creek project might actually make its way in to the water.

Redwood Creeks grant push begins

The final domino came in the form of three individuals — SEWTU board of directors members Michael Kuhr and Todd Durian, and Redwood Creek Wines Trailblazer Josh Harpke.

After a presentation by Josh to the SEWTU board just before the filing deadline, Mike Kuhr researched, drafted, and submitted a grant application for the Camp Creek project to Redwood Creek Wines. Mike's work was of his usual high standard, and the Camp Creek project was selected as one of five fi-

nalists for the winery's Greater Outdoors Project grant competition. What remained necessary was only a firm push to topple the final domino which Mike had placed.

That push came from Todd Durian. In order for SEWTU to win the Greater Outdoors Project grant, it would need to win a month-long e-mail and text message voting contest. Under Todd's direction, SEWTU members and volunteers spread the word, requesting members and nonmembers alike to vote for the Camp Creek project at the Redwood Creek Wines web site and by text message. As a result of Todd's get-out-the-vote-efforts, SEWTU came from behind and ultimately won the grant.

In recognition of his work, Mike Kuhr was flown by Redwood Creek Wines to Salt Lake City, Utah, where SEWTU's victory was made official before hundreds of guests at a large outdoor retailers trade show.

The Greater Outdoors Project victory could not have come at a better time. Within 10 days, SEWTU was in receipt of the grant funds and transferred them to Ken Anderson, leader for the Camp Creek project. That money was used

Nearly one mile in length, the Camp Creek restoration features 95 lunger structures. Streambanks that were once sheer mud cliffs — in many instances exceeding 10 feet in height — have been sloped and stabilized. Rock weirs have been placed, and flows have been improved.



to complete the entire original project plan, and at long last the project became a reality.

And the reality is a fine one indeed. Nearly one mile in length, the Camp Creek restoration features all 95 lunger structures completed in 2007. Streambanks that were once sheer mud cliffs — in many instances exceeding 10 feet in height — have been sloped and stabilized. Rock weirs have been placed, and flows have been improved. Stream sections which had previously been severely impaired by massive sedimentation are now sediment free, and free flowing. Areas which had previously been wide and prone to warming are now narrower and deeper. In short, the project has turned out magnificently.

Many partners to thank

SEWTU owes thanks to Redwood Creek Wines and its Greater Outdoors Project, as well as to its Trailblazer, Josh Harpke. Most prominently, thanks is owed to the George Smith family who, as landowners, are the most significant reason that this incredible project came to be.

Additional thanks are due to our project partner, the Ocooch Creeks Chapter, and its project coordinators Dick Peters and Alton Bostwick. SEWTU further thanks the Blackhawk Chapter and Ray Weiss of Max Weiss Steel, whose assistance made our May 2007 workday possible. Special thanks are owed to Louise Mauldin of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan, Ken Anderson of the Richland County Land Conservation Department, Gene Van Dyck of the WDNR, and Michael Patin of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, all of whom aided us in providing project funding. Finally, SEWTU thanks each and every individual who has provided efforts on behalf of the project, in any form.

Camp Creek is a fine example of large urban chapters teaming with smaller rural chapters in order to make stream restoration projects occur. SEWTU looks forward to continuing its work in the Driftless Area in the future, and wishes the best of luck to all those who enjoy the Smith family project.



BANK STABILIZATION ALONG CAMP CREEK

One of 2008's larger stream restoration projects in Wisconsin, the Camp Creek project on the Smith family farm east of Viola brought together many partners and took advantage of some fortunate funding.



SEWTU member Mike Kuhr (top) wrote the grant that got the chapter in the running for the Redwood Creek Wine's contest. Todd Durian (bottom) led the push to get people far and wide to vote for the chapter's project.

Nohr Chapter gets Orvis donation for Bronson Creek

The Orvis Company is donating \$10,000 to the Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter of TU for the chapter's ongoing Blue River/Bronson Creek

project, an effort the chapter has been working on since 2004.

Today, the project has expanded to include restoration efforts on

WITU following Little Plover, power plants, and elections

By Bill Pielsticker

WITU Legislative Chair

It is the very nature of seeking to preserve and protect our coldwater resources that we never run out of issues to pursue. In this column, I will review the status of funding for nutrient management implementation, lack of progress on the Little Plover River near Stevens Point, a proposed ash dump that could threaten the Seas Branch in Vernon County, Alliant Energy's proposed coal+biofuels plant in Cassville, and state legislative elections.

Nutrient management plans

The current state budget, tight to begin with, has been subject to trimming to accommodate shortfalls in funding. All state agencies have had to identify areas where they could cut costs. Clearly, the new money for nutrient management planning (NMP) and implementation might be a handy place to cut. Staff at the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) recently released figures detailing the status of those funds.

The new money for the NMP program was heavily weighted toward the second year of the budget. However, DATCP arranged to commit funds for county cost-sharing based on work being done in the first year of the budget (July 2007-June 2008). After those funds were distributed, the department agreed to a \$1 million "lapse" or give-back of program funds. The net result was that DATCP was able to preserve over 80% of the total funding for the two-year budget, while also maintaining full funding for county staff. This is good news on all sides.

Little Plover River dewatering

We continue to push for a long-term solution to the nearly annual de-watering of a key stretch of the Little Plover River. This August, the local workgroup assisted by the DNR to recommend short-term actions to address the acute problem of de-watering, and to try to come to agreement on long-term measures to address the chronic problem of low stream flows.

This August, both Del Monte and the irrigator's representatives made clear they would not take part in any effort that could call for voluntary pumping reductions. In light of this, Wisconsin TU, the Friends of the Tomorrow/Waupaca River, the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, and the River Alliance of Wisconsin have asked the Natural Resource Board to have the DNR establish a "public interest" flow regime. This would establish seasonal minimum flows to alleviating the chronic low flows endangering the fishery.

Seas Branch fly ash dump

This spring, the WITU State Council was notified of a potential challenge to the groundwater which is the lifeblood of the Seas Branch and other coldwater streams in Southwest Wisconsin. In order to reduce air pollution from its coal-fired plant in Genoa, Dairyland Power Cooperative plans to install scrubber technology at the plant. That's the good news.

Dairyland Power now needs to find a way to dispose of the solids

("ash") the scrubbers remove from the air. What they propose is a 600 acre landfill somewhere in Vernon County. Considering the geology of the area (riddled with cracked bedrock and sinkholes) and the near certainty any landfill liner will eventually leak, such a landfill threatens the integrity of any nearby coldwater stream. Clearly, that's bad news.

Local citizens and conservation groups were convening a meeting in late September to review alternative solutions to the ash solids collected by the scrubbers (re-use, recycling, etc.) and to determine the best approach to seeing that these alternatives are adopted. Wisconsin TU's Dan Holland and others are participating in this effort and we will keep you posted on its progress.

Alliant Energy coal plant

In a related issue, Alliant Energy has proposed building a coal-fired power plant in Cassville, also in Southeast Wisconsin. While the plant would primarily burn coal, up to 20% of its fuel could come from biomass like corn stalks, wood waste, and, eventually, switchgrass. Alliant is aggressively courting conservation groups, including Wisconsin TU, to endorse their project. Opposition to the project is being led by Clean Wisconsin, which has asked us to oppose it.

I forwarded information about the project to the State Council by e-mail for their input. All responses reflected my initial analysis that the project poses no threat to a particular stream or, even, a group of streams in the area. Furthermore, while there are legitimate questions about carbon emissions and climate change, it doesn't appear to be TU's mission to oppose or support an individual power plant that likely has no impact on the coldwater resource.

Since the proposed plant would be sited in the Driftless Area, TU's Laura Hewitt and Jeff Hastings were asked by the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation to sign on to a letter of support drafted and circulated by the WWF. Late last month, Hewitt declined to sign on to that letter, noting that despite claims that Alliant would reduce its overall carbon "footprint," it "is difficult for us to actively support approval of any coal plant expansion."

It appears that part of the WWF's support of the coal plant derives from the habitat and potential water quality improvement that the widespread planting of switchgrass might offer. While TU supports habitat restoration, Hewitt noted that "we would be more excited to see mixed native prairie grasses rather than monocultures of switchgrass" should the plant be approved.

Conservation voting records

Lastly, with the November elections approaching and campaigning in high gear, I encourage our members and fellow travelers to consider the conservation record of State Assembly and Senate candidates. Evaluation of the conservation voting records of incumbents may be obtained from the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters and are available on their web site at www.conservativoters.org.

Bronson Cr., a Blue R. tributary that is home to native brook trout.

Orvis's \$10,000 donation will be used to improve the banks and streambed along 3,900 feet of Bronson Cr. This work will ensure that the native, naturally reproducing brook trout will remain a part of the Blue River system.

Orvis' Chicago and Madison stores teamed up with TU chapters in Chicago and Southwest Wisconsin to present the Bronson Cr. project to Orvis' Conservation Board. This was part of a nationwide Orvis retail conservation challenge. The Bronson Cr. and Blue R. stream restoration project is one of the seven selected projects for 2008.

"This is a fantastic opportunity to improve what really is our home water here in Chicago," stated Orvis Chicago store manager T.J. Roy. "Hopefully with Orvis on board, this project will help to spotlight the amazing fishery we have right here in the upper Midwest."

Tony Mort, Orvis Madison store manager, agrees. "The spring creeks

west of Madison are such a unique fishery, and this donation will go a long way to ensure that they will be in prime condition for years to come."

Don Pluemer, Nohr's project chair, believes that along with the monetary donation, Orvis's widespread recognition as a conservation-minded company will help put a national spotlight on the ongoing restoration efforts and high quality trout fishing in the region.

"We are extremely pleased with this significant donation to our project from Orvis," says Pluemer. "This donation will ensure that critical restoration work on Bronson Cr. will be completed and that this natural brook trout habitat will be saved for future generations."

Orvis was founded in 1856 as a bamboo fly rod shop in Manchester, VT, and has been a leader in the fly fishing industry in innovation and quality for more than 150 years. Orvis donates five percent of pre-tax profits each year to environmental programs.

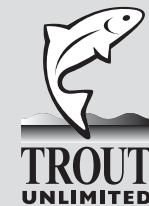
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COUNCIL: Antigo hosts fall meeting

Continued from p. 1

Seibel said the Antigo area continues to experience drought conditions, which may be affecting trout numbers. He said it will take more sampling before any conclusions might be drawn on reduced trout numbers due to the recent change in regulations.

Special regulation committee

Earlier in the day, council members voted to form an ad hoc committee to work with other sporting organizations to see if there are any common criteria such groups can develop for proposing and maintaining special hunting and fishing regulations. This committee's formation was brought to the attention of Staggs and the other DNR per-

sonnel later in the day.

Some council members wondered what data the DNR maintains on trout angler fishing methods, trout angler fishing frequency, and trout harvest patterns. Staggs said that while these statistics would be valuable in assessing special regulation needs, the agency does not keep track of these figures.

New financial reporting

WITU vice chair Kim McCarthy reported on several different IRS 990 forms chapters will have to file depending upon their gross income. A motion was made and passed to provide financial help to chapters to hire a tax professional to help them complete these new reporting requirements. Chapters should contact McCarthy or TU National's Hillary Coley for more information about financial reporting.

Chapters were also informed they may no longer give individuals "scholarships." Financial assistance must be given as a "sponsorship,"

with money passing directly to the institution the individual will be attending instead of to the person.

TU National meeting

Chair Bill Heart reported that two Wisconsinites were given awards at the TU National annual meeting in Snowbird, UT, in September. WDNR Fisheries Team Supervisor Dave Vetrano and TV producer/host Dave Carlson were honored (*see separate story on p. 1*).

John "Duke" Welter was re-elected chair of TU's National Leadership Council at the meeting.

Heart also said WITU can be proud that all 22 of Wisconsin's chapters have now been officially re-chartered in a process that began three years ago. Only two other states — Texas with one chapter and Illinois with five chapters — have re-chartered all their chapters.

NE Region LTE funding

Kim McCarthy updated council members on how chapters in the NE

region plan to raise \$15,000 to fund a WDNR LTE crew to brush area streams in both 2009 and 2010.

McCarthy said a three-person crew would work in the Peshtigo area in 2009 and around Antigo in 2010. The crew would do about 1,200 hours of work each year.

The council moved to award \$1,000 toward the NE region's LTE plan. In addition, the council clarified that one chapter in the region could also apply for Friends of Wisconsin TU funds for this effort.

Centerville Cares presentation

Bob Fink of the organization Centerville Cares in Cleveland, WI, gave council members presentation on manure runoff problems in Manitowoc County.

Centerville Cares has been collecting water samples and identifying pollution sources on Fisher and Point creeks, both of which flow into nearby Lake Michigan, including one large CAFO near the creeks.

Continued on p. 7



WITU Looking Back

From the Fall 1978 WITU Newsletter...

TROUT STAMP SALES NEAR \$300,000-MARK

As of Sept. 1, trout stamp receipts totalled \$295,923.90, according to Stan Kmiotek, DNR trout specialist. Although the 1978 general trout fishing season ends Sept. 30 and almost all trout anglers will have purchased their stamps by this time, Kmiotek said that license agents have not yet sent all stamp revenue to Madison and the total should easily reach the \$300,000-mark, which is close to the original estimate. To date, 16 trout stream habitat improvement projects, totalling \$225,597.00, have been approved, Kmiotek said.

From the Fall 1988 Reflections...

Northeast Regional Report

Trout plagued by drought, beavers

By Mitch Bent

The Northeastern Wisconsin T.U. Region has not met since late April, as reported in the last issue of *Reflections*. The Region will meet in early December to discuss a variety of issues affecting trout resources in our area.

Plenty of things occupied our chapters' time. The devastating drought of 1988 threw a real scare into many TU'ers in our area. The effects of the drought have not been quantified, but we feel that some very bad things happened to our trout populations due to low water levels and high water temperatures.

In addition, I received several reports of heavy angling pressure on trout congregated in streams with cool spring seeps. I called Doug Morrisette, new head of DNR Bureau of Fisheries, and asked him what DNR was doing about the situation. Our conversation was unpleasant. While I intimated that an early season closure might be useful in sparing the trout that had survived the onslaught of hellfire heat and low water, he felt that "monitoring" the situation was a sufficient reaction to the situation. I could not have disagreed more.

Another situation affecting trout populations in northeastern Wisconsin is the expanding beaver population. With pelt prices heading ever downward and trapping activity decreasing, beaver populations have become completely out of control in many areas.

In late September, I toured streams not less than five miles from Rhinelander with former T.U. member Wally Cooper. Wally has long advocated policies to control beaver populations, and he is quite upset about the current situation. On every creek that we crossed that day, we found a multitude of dams. Oneida County work crews were unclogging culverts and removing dams, actions that are good only temporarily, until beavers rebuild their structures.

From the Fall 1998 Wisconsin Trout...

Trout Stamp Committee to make recommendations

The Wisconsin Trout Unlimited State Council's **Ad Hoc Trout Stamp committee**, chaired by **Ted Lauf** of the Southern WI. Chapter, met over spring and summer to review the situation regarding the continued excessive surpluses (\$1.5 million) that have accrued in the **Inland Trout Stamp fund** for at least three consecutive fiscal years. The Ad Hoc committee intends to submit its recommendations for modifications in Trout Stamp policy to the full State Council at the October 10, 1998, Wisconsin Trout Unlimited meeting in Eau Claire (see front page for time and location).

The report by the Ad Hoc committee contains **13 recommendations**, key among them being:

*Calling for the Department of Natural Resources to identify specifically for each trout stamp-funded project the location, estimated cost, completion date, project coordinator and type of work done;

*Establishing a "Trout Stamp Program Coordinator" position in the Bureau of Fisheries and Habitat Protection separate from current staff to be a "hands on" advocate for the program and keep track of project activity and funding status;

*Requiring the DNR to make public the standards, criteria and priorities it uses in selecting projects for funding;

*Requiring more aggressive training programs for DNR fisheries personnel in state-of-the-art techniques in stream improvement and spring pond

rehabilitation;

*Asking the DNR to identify obstacles to implementing the Trout Stamp program and devising alternative ways to resolve them (among obstacles noted to date is the lack of time and resources to plan and carry out trout stream improvement projects);

Asking the DNR to do a "demonstration project" wherein Trout Stamp funds are passed through to a willing T.U. Chapter or other related interest group to plan and construct a project.

In addition, the Committee's report recommends that the Wisconsin T.U. State Council appoint a Council **Trout Stamp Coordinator** to work with the DNR in promoting the Trout Stamp program and keeping the State Council and individual chapters apprised of program progress, and it urges the T.U. chapters to involve themselves in the annual planning process done by the DNR to commit funds for various projects.

The report also urges the DNR to carry through with the commitment to hire the five fishery personnel on a two-year project basis for which federal funding had been approved. As of press time, those hirings had not taken place.

Some of the Committee's recommendations were made public to the DNR and to the Natural Resources Board via a presentation by Council Chairman **John Welter** at the September NRB meeting in Alma.

COUNCIL: Antigo hosts fall meeting

Continued from p. 6

The presentation made a convincing case that a local confined animal feeding operation (CAFO) is responsible for runoff that is feeding Lake Michigan algae problems. Other business

Jim Hlaban reported on his efforts to revamp the State Council web site at www.WisconsinTU.org. The new site is up and running, and chapters without web sites can create one at no cost as part of the council's site.

Dan Wisniewski updated the council on the work a committee is doing to address public access concerns for lands purchased via Wisconsin's Stewardship Fund.

Dan Holland noted that a DVD is available on concerns about the proposed Dairyland Power fly ash dump the company wants to site near the headwaters of Seas Branch in Vernon County.

Bob Obma distributed copies of a DVD containing a presentation chapters can show to educate people of the value of special regs.

Bill Pielsticker presented a legislative report on the status of issues of concern to Wisconsin TU (see separate story in this issue).

Todd Hanson noted that the council's revamped web site will allow him to post all electronic back issues of *Wisconsin Trout* to the site. He encouraged chapters to gather their historical documents and post them to the site for safe keeping.

The next State Council meeting will be Sat., Feb. 9 at the Holiday Inn in Stevens Point, followed by the WITU annual fund-raising banquet.

AWARDS: Vetrano and Carlson honored

Continued from p. 1

There and then I will ask for forgiveness for not having done more trout stories...and hope that's good enough to get me to wherever the bulk of trout anglers want to wind up."

TU awarded Carlson its National Conservation Award for Communications, an honor only awarded in the past to one other Midwesterner, Tom Helgeson of *Midwest Fly Fishing* magazine.

Carlson has also been awarded over 20 national awards for video production by the Outdoor Writers Association of American, evidence of the high quality of his work.



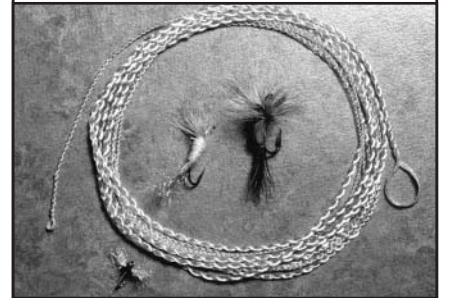
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K-DAM AT WORK ON NICHOLS CREEK

Several K-dams were installed on a section of Nichols Creek in Sheboygan County as part of Boy Scout Nic Schmidt's Eagle Scout requirement.

SEWTU helps Eagle Scout with Nichols Creek project

By Mike Kuhr

Boy Scout Nic Schmidt, age 14, of Dousman, WI, recently organized and led a habitat improvement project on Nichols Creek in Sheboygan County as part of his requirement to become an Eagle Scout.

Schmidt coordinated the entire workday with the Boy Scouts, SEWTU, and WDNR fisheries biologist John Nelson. He also ran a fund-raising drive in which he gathered \$1,425 to help cover the costs of acquiring materials, labor, and equipment rental fees. Additional funding came from Wisconsin trout stamp fund.

On Sept. 6, 47 volunteer scouts and TU members showed up to help the WDNR put in three wooden K-dams, a rock vortex weir, and a new footbridge leading to the hiking trails on the opposite side of the creek.

These improvements are located on a section of the creek that runs through the Nichols Creek State Wildlife Area south of Cty. Hwy. N near Cascade.

The habitat improvement project created several riffle/pool sequences in a section of stream that was previously straightened for irrigation purposes decades ago. The wooden K-dams — made of three logs fastened together in the shape of a K — create a scour pool as water rushes over the structure. The vortex weir creates a similar situation using large rocks instead of wood.

As part of the workday, SEWTU's John Knitter demonstrated water quality monitoring for the scouts and helped them catch and identify some of the aquatic insects that call Nichols Creek home. Afterwards, SEWTU's signature bratwurst lunch was provided to all volunteers!

Nichols Creek is a class one trout stream located in the heart of Sheboygan County. The creek is home to both brown and brook trout, and it is also the headwaters of the Milwaukee River.

SEWTU is proud to be a part of the development of Wisconsin's future anglers and conservationists like Nic Schmidt.



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Chapter News



John Gremmer

CENTRAL WISCONSIN TU'S LATEST STREAM MONITORING

Central Wisconsin TU's water monitoring team is doing Surface Water Integrated Monitoring System (SWIMS) Level III monitoring on Magdanz, Austin, and Hatton creeks in Waushara County. Shown measuring flow on Magdanz Creek are (l to r) Dick Pollock, Bob Jozwowski, John Crane, Bob Gayeske, Bob Smaglik, and Lynn Druেকে.

Aldo Leopold Chapter

The chapter has had a quiet summer. The June floods washed away our chapter camping and fishing weekend plans.

The board has now started our planning for the upcoming winter meetings and events, including our fly tying class.



BLACKHAWK AND SEWTU JOIN FORCES

Blackhawk members Jill Wegner and Wes Milner (top) led a recent brushing operation on Van Slyke Creek near Fontana. Removing stream obstructions (bottom) are SEWTU members Ed Lauzon, Chris Pitassi, and Karl Nelson.

Once again, the class will be held at the **Beaver Dam Community Library** starting in January.

We also hope to schedule another workday on **Rocky Run Creek** later this fall.

—Mike Barniskis

Antigo Chapter

Hope everyone had a great summer! Antigo TU held our annual kids fishing day on June 7. A fish tank with nice brook and brown trout were provided for 450 kids that showed up. Hamburgers and hot dogs, and a prize for each kid were provided by TU. The largest fish caught was mounted free by **Curran's Taxidermy** of Antigo.

We hosted the spring NE region meeting in Antigo in mid June. The eight chapters in our region came to **The Refuge** for the meeting. After the meeting, those members that were interested were taken to a Langlade County spring pond to see what they look like. **Trout Springs** was a spring pond that was dredged by the DNR five years ago. A summer work project was planned on cleaning the outlet of this pond to increase water flow.

A general member meeting was held in August, and Dave Seibel, our area WDNR fish biologist, brought the members up-to-date on the **McGee Lake** restoration project. This is a multi-year project to remove the unwanted fish species and restock the lake with native brook trout. We are looking at a 2010 reopening of this trout lake.

Antigo TU hosted the fall WITU State Council meeting in Antigo Sept. 27. This is the first time a state council meeting has been held in Antigo, and we are proud to have hosted this event at **The Refuge**.

We were involved in funding beaver control in the national forest and bought the **U.S. Forest Service** crew a new chain saw this year.

—Scott Henricks

Blackhawk Chapter

We've had several workdays on streams in Green, Vernon, and Monroe counties. On April 19, work was held on **Brush Creek** near **Cashton**.

On June 7, a workday was held to construct lunkers on **Elk Creek** for the **Project Green Teen** students from **Madison's Shabazz High School**.

On June 28, we built 76 lunkers that will be placed in the **Little Sugar River** in Green County.

We held a joint project on July 19 with the Southeastern Wisconsin

Chapter on **Van Slyke Creek** near **Fontana**. This project was led by **Wes Milner** and **Jill Wegner** of Fontana, and we brushed and cleared lots of trees.

On March 8, our chapter held a fly tying demonstration at the **Bass Pro Store** in Gurney, IL.

Fly tying classes will begin again on Jan. 6. These will be taught by **Bob Stevens**, our vice president. Two classes will be held — one for beginners and one for more advanced tyers.

—Terry Vaughn

Central Wisconsin Chapter

As usual, summer has been a very busy time for the Central Wisconsin Chapter.

Our July 21 board meeting was held at **John and Laura Tucker's** cottage on the **Pine River** near Saxeville. John and Laura provided a wonderful cookout for us, and we thank them very much. It was difficult to concentrate on business when trout could be seen rising within casting distance of the living room window.

Our August 18 board meeting was held at the newly renovated **Wild Rose Fish Hatchery**. **Dan Harmon**, **Jerry Strom**, and **Tom Poullette** put together a picnic that was outstanding. After our business meeting, **Steve Fajfer**, the hatchery manager, gave us a very interesting presentation on the history of the hatchery and its renovation. The hatchery today is a state-of-the-art facility and is well worth seeing. Thanks to Steve and DNR for allowing us to use the new visitors center for our meeting.

We have had four chapter workdays and one two-day session with **Rawhide** cadets and counselors on our **Lawrence Creek** project. On some of our chapter workdays, we had help from other chapters. Most notable was on May 17, which was Illinois day, as several people from the **Elliot Donnelley Chapter** drove up to help. Thanks, guys.

So far, over 100 feet of Lawrence Creek has been narrowed with the use of Christmas trees, and over 500 feet of stream have new bank struc-

tures from work completed at our September 20 workday. More work will be done here by DNR over the winter. Thanks also to DNR for actual in-stream work and for the supervision they provided. **Jim Humphrey**, our workday chair, did an outstanding job coordinating all of these activities. I'm looking forward to fishing on Lawrence Creek next summer. If you want to know where this work was done, see our web site at www.cwtu.org and look for the **Brookie News**.

Lynn Beck is replacing **Dick Pollock** as our water monitoring chair. We thank Dick for his many years of dedicated service in that position. Our stream monitoring team continues to log many hours of in-stream data gathering that is useful to DNR for planning purposes.

Elward Engle and **Tom Poullette**, our watchdog committee, are checking into some possible problems on **Magdanz Creek** in Waushara County. There will be more on this in coming months. Good job Elward and Tom.

After volunteering to serve as legislative chair, I appointed **Mike Stapleton** to that position. Mike is a long term-member of TU and has served our chapter in many capacities, including President. Thanks, Mike.

Planning for our Annual Fundraising Banquet has been underway for many months, and

Dave Seligman, our banquet chair, told me it is going to be a good one. This year's event will be

Chapter News



held on October 9 at **LaSure's** in Oshkosh. This is a family-oriented get-together, so bring the kids. All who read this are invited to come. Reach Dave at (920) 745-2579 or seligmand@ripon.edu for more information.

Past President **Bob Haase** continues to secure grants to support our ambitious activities.

As a result of the recent high-capacity well application in Waushara County, several streams have been reclassified as Class 1 trout streams. These streams were not included in the DNR publication, which is the official list of trout streams in Wisconsin. Any streams not in that publication will not have the legal protection of a trout stream. After discovering that some trout streams were left out of that publication, **Dave Bartz, Scott Bundy, and Ted Johnson**, DNR personnel from the Montello and Wautoma offices,

quickly did the work needed to reclassify those streams. Thanks to their efforts, Waushara County now has 8.75 more miles of Class 1 trout water.

While this is a good result, I believe there may be many more streams that were left out of the official publication. Much more work needs to be done to ensure that all trout streams in Wisconsin are listed in DNR PUB-FH-806 2002, especially in the agricultural regions of our state. For more information, see recent articles on our web site.

Our program committee, consisting of **John Gremmer, Bob Haase, Dave Seligman, and Bob Smaglik**, has put together a great schedule of programs beginning in September. Be sure to check it out on our web site. Everyone is welcome to all of our meetings and functions. Please come.

—*Dick Kraus*

Fox Valley Chapter

Fox Valley TU has been busy with a number of summer activities, and we're planning programs for the remainder of the 2008 and early 2009.

The habitat day in June had to be cancelled because all of the rain made for high water in **Davis Creek**. On July 12, the water dropped, and we were able to continue maintenance and brush bundling on a project that had been completed a number of years ago. An added bonus to the day was an impromptu field trip led by **Elward Engle**. He pointed out a number of stream improvement projects on a couple of streams close to the work that we were doing on Davis Creek.

Our August and September habitat days were spent cleaning up and clearing out blowdowns on the **Wau-paca River**. **Stu Grimstad** suggested sites that needed clearing, and we were able to remove some major obstructions to canoes and kayaks. Our annual picnic followed the August habitat day.

An activity that a number of chapter members participated in took place in the latter part of May at the **Fox River Academy** in Appleton. The Fox River Academy is an environmental charter school in the **Appleton School District** for students in grades 4-8. **Jim Oates, Ryan Borowitz, Bob Omba, Gordy Braun, and Mark Peerenboom** spent the

day teaching the students how to tie flies, cast a fly rod, and identify macroinvertebrates in the stream.

On September 13, a number of chapter members gathered at the **Sannes farm** on the **Tomorrow River** for a special dedication. This is a site where some significant stream work has been completed by TU. **Tony Treml**, who passed away in December of 2007, was a leader in securing the easements with the land owners and provided direction to the many individuals and groups who worked on the project. Tony's wife, **Marsha**, his son, **Kurt**, and his grandson, **Austin**, helped dedicate of an Aldo Leopold bench that was placed on a site overlooking a beautiful portion of the river. The cedar bench was constructed by **Tom Beyer**, who worked with Tony on the Tomorrow River project.

Our fall and winter membership meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month starting Sept. 18. Our meetings are held at the **Gordon Bubolz Nature Preserve** north of Appleton on Cty. Rd. A starting at 7:00. Find more at our web site at www.foxvalleytu.org.

Get out there and enjoy this great fall weather, and in Tony's word, "So, until then, cast your fly with confidence, and we'll see you on a trout stream."

—*Rich Erickson*

Frank Hornberg Chapter

The Frank Hornberg Chapter spent the summer making stream improvements on the **Tomorrow River** in the vicinity of **Nelsonville**. From late June to the end of September, we had seven work events at our locations on **Rolling Hills Road** and **Welton Road**.

We continue to improve in-stream structures and wing dams. **Paul and Loretta Peck** generously prepared complete catered lunches for everyone working on the river. On August 24, **Gene Schuller** released the staff of his supper club so they could help us move rocks and trees. We are grateful for their help.

Our officers and board of directors has firmed up our schedule of

events and public meetings for the remainder of the calendar year.

On October 4, we will be having a brat sale at **Trig's County Market** in Stevens Point. **John Gremmer** and **Jeff Hastings** will be the speakers at our November and December meetings.

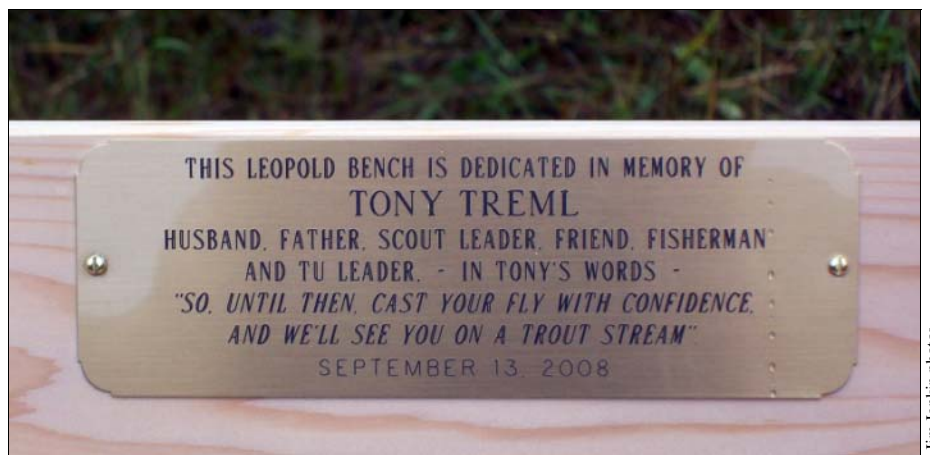
In an unfortunate turn of events, Chapter President **Mike Mather** and his wife, **Karin**, lost their home and possessions in an early morning fire on August 25. Mike reports that he was able to save their cars, their dog, and three fly rods, but nothing else. We wish Mike and Karin all the best as they work to recover from this unexpected loss.

—*John Vollrath*

Green Bay Chapter

The Green Bay Chapter, www.greenbaytu.com, has had an-

other busy summer working with the **WDNR** and the **US Forest Service**



FOX VALLEY TU PLACES MEMORIAL BENCH FOR TONY

A Leopold bench was dedicated in memory of former FVTU President Tony Treml along the banks of the Tomorrow River Sept. 13. The crew from several area chapters consisted of (l to r, seated) Jim Hlaban, Bob Doornbos, (standing) Rich Erickson, Greg Haasl, Tom Lager, Mark Peerenboom, Bob Obma, Bill Repulski, Stu Grimstad, Jim Cuhel, and Gordy Braun.

on work projects on trout streams in Northeast Wisconsin.

We spent a day removing fallen trees and other debris from the **1st South Branch of the Oconto River** near **Mountain**. It is especially rewarding when, at the end of the workday, you can see your efforts have resulted in increased water flow resulting in sand and sediment being washed away, gravel exposed, and holes deeper formed.

The chapter also assisted the **Marinette Chapter** and the DNR with refurbishing the handicapped fishing pier at **Holley's Hole** on **Beaver Creek**. Deck repair and staining of the structure were the order of the day there.

We also spent a work day working on **Swanson Creek** with the **Tom Moris** and the **Forest Service**. The purpose of this project, according to Tom, is to create deep pool habitat for brook trout to live. This is done by shoveling away the sand and organic matter on the bottom of the stream. Brush bundles are first placed in the inside bends of the wider parts of the stream. Then the sand and organic matter is shoveled on top to secure the bundles in place and, in conjunction the bundles, help form a solid base for the "new" stream bank to vegetate naturally on its own. There are a lot of natural plant seeds in the sediment, and it doesn't take long for the seeds to germinate and develop into a carpet of lush vegetation which

holds the sediment in place. Within 3-5 years these new banks start growing woody plants which shade the stream and help keep the water temperatures cool.

With logs cut from trees adjacent to the stream, overhead cover was created to help protect the brook trout from predators and give the trout a place to seek refuge where they feel secure and protected. The stream channel was narrowed and deepened throughout by using tag alder brush bundles. The project is, in essence, a 1-2-3 punch to get the stream into a better living environment for the resident fish species.

Finally, we again worked with the **Green Bay Exchange Club** and the **Brown County Social Service's PALS** program.

Continued on p. 10



STRAIGHT SHOOTERS

The staff of Gene Schuller's Shooters Supper Club moved rocks as part of the Hornberg Chapter's Aug. 24 workday on the Tomorrow.



Chapter News

Continued from p. 9

We staged another very successful **Kid's Fishing Day** at the **Izaak Walton League's** facility in Bellevue. Despite thunderstorms in the area, youngsters were given a chance to

catch bluegills from the ponds and treated to refreshments. We thank **Apple Creek Catering** and **Morning Glory** for the food and beverages and **Fathead Franny's** for the bait.
—Gary Stoychoff

Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter

At our **Landowner Recognition and Blue River Celebration**, Nohr TU members and local landowners

had a picnic lunch to celebrate progress on stream restoration and recognize the many landowners in



GBTU WORKING WITH VARIOUS PARTNERS

Green Bay TU helped the Marinette Chapter repair the handicapped fishing pier at Holley's Hole on Beaver Creek (top). Members (middle, l to r) Paul Kruse, Jessica Garrels, and Byron Duge were among those helping the US Forest Service on Swanson Creek. Finally, shown working on the 1st S. Branch of the Oconto River near Mountain are (bottom, l to r) Pat Hill, an unidentified member, and Brian Hill.

the region who allow trout anglers on their land. The celebration was held on the **Sime** property near the **Blue River**, just west of the bridge on Bluff Road, west of County I, a couple miles north of Montfort, from 11-2 on Saturday, Sept. 27. A meal was provided and tours of the restored stream habitat offered. It was a great opportunity to share a meal, recognize landowners, and then enjoy fishing the afternoon and evening the last day of trout season.

It has been four years since the founding of **Spring Creek Partners**. It is clear that the partners can be essential for stabilization and habitat improvement on trout streams throughout the **Driftless Area**. Partner funds fill a critical niche between government programs. The Partner funds are relatively small, typically covering less than 3% of our project costs over the past year. But Partner funds are extremely flexible and can be used quickly with no red tape or bureaucratic obstacles. This flexibility enables us to buy materials or reimburse contractors on short notice.

Every dime contributed to Spring Creek Partners goes into improvement of trout streams. Spring Creek Partners is an all-volunteer organization with no overhead, no staff, and no lobbyists. Because of the skilled grant-writing by members of the Nohr Chapter, Partner funds, as well as private donations, are heavily leveraged by the acquisition of state and federal funds for stream improvement. As one example among many, the **Orvis Company** contributed \$10,000 this year for restoration of **Bronson Creek** (see separate story in this issue). In recent years, the Nohr Chapter got more than \$30 in grants and awards for every dollar from the Partner fund.

We hope that you will join in this work by participating as a Spring Creek Partner of the Nohr Chapter. Your membership donation of \$250 will be spent entirely on improvement of trout streams. Where else can you get a 30:1 return on your investment, plus the satisfaction of knowing that you are helping to conserve and improve the beautiful trout streams of our region?

For more information about the Spring Creek Partner program, see www.springcreekpartner.org, or contact **Dave Fowler** of Madison. The Spring Creek Partners committee members are **Dave Fowler (chair)**, **Steve Carpenter**, **Claude Kazanski**, and **Brian Larson**.

If you would like to be a Spring Creek Partner, but are not with the Nohr Chapter, contact your chapter about joining in on the program. There is no cost, and all funds your chapter collects will go to projects that your chapter supports.

This year's flooding has taken a toll on our streams, making our work even more important as we repair damage, improve habitat, and create access for anglers. While our past work has held up well, in some areas the flood damage greatly increased the cost of doing the project compared with the original plan. Luckily we were able to go back to some of our funding sources and get extra funds to cover the increased costs.

Our work on **Big Spring Creek** has been extended downstream to the bridge on **Pine Road** at the winery and was completed August 17. Further 2008 projects are underway on the **Blue River** and **Bronson Creek**, and planning is well underway for 2009 projects, which are extensions downstream on both Big Spring and Blue River.
—Brian Larson

Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter

Kiap-TU-Wish continues to work on the **Pine Creek** restoration project in **Maiden Rock**. Various factors got the project underway later in the summer than expected. However, there has been excellent progress.

Much of the credit for the pace of the project is because of the unique partnership that emerged with **Fairmount Minerals** in Maiden Rock. Chapter member **Andy Lamberson** has an article on the following page describing this partnership.
—Greg Dietl

Marinette County Chapter

Marinette County TU held our annual youth fishing days in **Peshigo** on Saturday, June 21. We had 29 kids in attendance.

We also had youth fishing days in **Marinette** on Friday, June 27, and had around 40 kids.
—Dale Lange

Northwoods Chapter

The Northwoods Chapter held our annual Youth Fly Fishing Conclave at the **Cedric A. Vig Outdoor Classroom** in **Rhineland** on July 26. We had almost 20 kids between the ages of 12 and 16 learn about the fine art of fly fishing. **Bob Tabbert** gave casting lessons, **Aaron Nelson** had the kids looking at bugs in the trays and learning knots, and **Terry Cummings** and **Brian Hegge** had the fur and feathers flying in the fly tying session. **Al Brooks** served lunch to the hungry kids and adults, and **Hanna Hansen** helped keep things running with all the events. **Terry Cummings** did a great job putting together another great program again this year.

On August 16, a group of TUers and **US Forest Service** staff met on the **Deerskin River** for a full day of

removing alders and creating brush bundles. We met at 8:00 a.m. and worked until Noon. After lunch, we returned to the stream and knocked out another few hundred feet of alder.

This second year of brushing, plus last year's work on the **Deerskin River**, has had a dramatic impact on the river. The bundles from last year have solidified and narrowed the channel in several places. The next step is to remove the old habitat structures that are no longer functional and continue with brushing activities next year.

We have our first meeting scheduled for October 6 at 7 p.m. at the **Rhineland-Oneida County Airport**, and we will continue with meetings on either the first or second Monday of the month depend-

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ing on room availability at 7:00 p.m. for the rest of the year.

The October meeting will focus on planning activities for the next year and will end with a slide presentation on a trip to the South

Oconto River Chapter

The Oconto River Chapter has had an active and changing summer. **Gary Bauman** and **Bob Obma** did a teaching trout fishing day on the lower **Oconto River** offering the spectrum of live bait, spinning, and fly fishing techniques.

The Oconto County Fair was an occasion for exhibits on fly tying featuring **Ben Prince** and a DNR tank with brown trout mingled with lesser species (largemouth in type). There was lots of conversation and interest with the festive crowd.

We are looking forward to coordinating stream habitat work with the other NE Wisconsin chapters.

Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter

The Southeast Wisconsin Chapter is happy to report that it has continued its busy schedule over the

Fork of the Flathead River taken this past summer.

Our November meeting will be held on Monday, November 3.

—*Brian Hegge*

We do a “special needs” fishing event annually in the ponds beside our hatchery that will go forward on September 27 as scheduled. The VHS issues have slowed our efforts with the trout fishing tank somewhat. We are now discussing how to move forward with the hatchery that has provided 30,000 fingerlings for the Oconto for many years. The VHS era is upon us, and we are re-evaluating the needs for stocking the Oconto or elsewhere. We are working on this, and we’re asking for shared wisdom from other chapters in Wisconsin.

—*Bob Obma*

past quarter. We conduct summer meetings “on the water” and have
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CHECKING FISH AT THE LANDING

WITU Water Resources Committee Chair Bob Obma (left) and Gary Bauman measured fish recently at an Oconto R. boat landing.

Kiap-TU-Wish working with mining company on Pine Creek restoration

By Andy Lamberson

A headline of a TU chapter teaming with a mining company is not common, but that is exactly what is happening between the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter and Fairmount Minerals' Wisconsin Sand Company in Maiden Rock, WI.

Kiap-TU-Wish, Fairmount Minerals, and the West Wisconsin Land Trust have developed a unique relationship to support the Pine Creek restoration project that is yielding big results.

Pine Creek is located in southeast Pierce County and empties into the Mississippi River at Lake Pepin. The creek and land surrounding it are owned by the West Wisconsin Land Trust and are preserved forever. The creek is a native brook trout stream in the Driftless Area, and records indicate that it has never been stocked. The brook trout that inhabit the stream are true natives, residing in the stream for thousands of years.

Despite excellent water quality, the stream has suffered due to poor agricultural practices and the clear cutting of timber in the late 1800s. With average bank heights of nearly 10 feet, very shallow stream depths, and slow-moving water, the trout population has suffered considerably.

However, a restoration project was started in the summer of 2007 with funds from TU's Embrace-a-Stream program, federal funds from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wisconsin trout stamp funds, and major donations from Kiap-TU-Wish, Twin Cities TU (MN), and the local Patagonia store.

After funding for the project was secured, volunteers contributed hundreds of hours of time for the effort. Volunteers constructed and placed lunger structures, and later they prepared, seeded, and mulched the repaired banks and riparian area around the stream. Volunteers from Kiap-TU-Wish, TCTU, Clear Waters TU, and West Wisconsin Land Trust went to work on the significant undertaking.

Despite good turnouts at work sessions, the project needed even more volunteer help. That is where Fairmount Minerals jumped in.

Tim Stauffer, regional manager of Fairmount Minerals' Wisconsin Sand Division, contacted me in early August looking for an opportunity for Fairmount employees to volunteer on the Pine Creek project. Fairmount operates a silica sand mine just a couple of miles away from the project. Tim and plant manager Al Nelson were looking for a way for their em-

ployees to fulfill their corporate objective of 40 hours of *paid* volunteer time per employee per year. The Pine Creek project was literally in their back yard!

Kiap-TU-Wish President and Project Lead Greg Dietl has been impressed with Fairmount's turnout.

“At the next Kiap-TU-Wish work night, the company sent over 14 employees and another dozen a week later,” says Dietl. “They have made a huge contribution toward reaching our project goals. We would not have completed nearly the amount of bank restoration, seeding, and mulching without them.”

Kiap-TU-Wish, Fairmount, and West Wisconsin Land Trust are in the process of organizing another major work effort, according to West Wisconsin Land Trust Executive Director Rick Gauger.

“The three organizations are working together on a plan to harvest native prairie seeds from Maiden Rock Bluff this fall and then plant the local biome grass and forb (flower) seeds at Pine Creek,” says Gauger. “This is a great opportunity for West Wisconsin Land Trust to utilize a big group of volunteers and assist Fairmount Minerals with giving back to the region.”

The prairie seed harvest is planned for Saturday, Nov. 15.

This unique cooperative effort between these organizations is making a big impact on Pine Creek and will provide outstanding native brook trout fishing for generations to come.

(Andy Lamberson is a former Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter president. You can find more about the Pine Creek project on the Kiap-TU-Wish web site at www.lambcom.net/kiaptuwish. -Ed.)



PINE CREEK PROJECT NEAR MAIDEN ROCK CONTINUES

The Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter has found an unlikely partner for its Pine Creek project — the Fairmount Minerals Company. The mining company has a corporate objective of having its employees perform community volunteer work, and the Pine Creek project was right in their neighborhood.



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Brian Hegge

NORTHWOODS AND THE FOREST SERVICE ON THE DEERSKIN

Northwoods TUers and U.S. Forest Service staff blazed a trail through several hundred yards of the alder-choked Deerskin River on August 16. Brush cutters included (l to r) Roberta and Josh Kunzman, Sue Reinecke, Fred Johnson, Bob and Phyllis Tabbert, Mike Peczynski, Dan Wisniewski, Bob Martini, Kevin Kelley, Terry Cummings, Aaron Nelson, Andrew DeWitt, and Jason Meachem. Brian Hegge manned the camera.

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resumed our meetings in September at our regular meeting place, the **Thunder Bay Grille**, at the intersection of I-94 and Pewaukee Road.

Our Sept. 23 speaker was **Brad Petzke** of **Rivers North Guide Service**. Brad talked about fishing in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

October's meeting will be Tues., Oct. 28, and feature **Peter Ziegler** of the **Wisconsin Waterfowl Association**. Peter will talk about habitat projects his organization undertakes, their effects on coldwater resources, and any potential project overlap with our group's goals.

At this meeting we'll also recognize our chapter's resource and educational workday volunteers with a drawing for a prize based upon project attendance.

November's meeting will be held on Tues., Nov. 18, with a speaker to be announced.

December's meeting will be our annual holiday party, and will be more informal than our ordinary all-chapter meetings. We'll look back at our accomplishments over the past year, and preview what we've got coming up in the new year.

December will also mark the **First Annual Troutie Award Ceremony**. This will be both a serious and light-hearted look at our chapter and its members/volunteers. If you have a serious or light-hearted award you'd like to make, send a nomination to **Henry Koltz** at hek@sdelaw.com.

On the habitat restoration front, SEWTU won the **Redwood Creek Wines Greater Outdoors Project** grant (*see separate story in this issue*). That gave us \$50,000 for our joint project with **Ocooch Creeks TU**, which is officially called **The Smith Family Project at Camp Creek, a TUDARE Project**.

Work is set to begin this fall at the headwaters of **Melancthan Creek**, a brook trout stream near **Hillsboro**. SEWTU was the recipient of a **WHIP** grant and will be working with **Ken Anderson** and the **Richland County Land Conservation Dept.** to restore this heavily sedimented stream. The RCLCD also got a **Targeted Runoff Management Grant** for this project.

SEWTU has also engaged in local project work. On July 19, we co-hosted a workday at **Van Slyke Creek** in **Fontana** with the **Blackhawk Chapter** and the **Gary Borger Chapter** in Illinois. Other volunteers were also present from the Fontana community, including members of the **Fontana Parks Committee**. This workday was led by Blackhawk TUers **Jill Wegner** and **Wes Millner** who live in Fontana.

At Van Slyke Creek, volunteers removed old wooden dams, impoundments, and massive amounts of woody debris (in some cases whole trees) which had fallen into the creek causing siltation. This work was part of a **WHIP** grant project, and volunteers accomplished literally every requirement of the grant in five hours of work. Moreover, this workday has spurred action to remove and replace one reaming impediment to fish movement — a large culvert that crosses under a village street. Stay tuned for more on this effort.

Another nearby project on Aug. 23 found SEWTU joined by members of Illinois' **Gary Borger Chapter** in the **Southern District of the Kettle Moraine**. The Borger Chapter became more active in stream work late last year, and they've been working with SEWTU on many of our projects. This project marked the first time in recent memory that their chapter ran the entire show. Given their past efforts on our behalf, it was the least SEWTU could do to turn out a good crew and help make Gary Borger's workday a success.

Led by Gary Borger President **Matt Jennings** and conservation chair **Jim Bailey**, the **WDNR** directed over 40 volunteers working in two crews. The first crew traveled to

the **Scuppernon River** and removed invasive vegetation from the stream. Back at the DNR's field station, the remainder of the volunteers constructed over 55 minilunker structures for future placement placed in the Scuppernon for fish cover and bank stabilization.

On Sept. 6, SEWTU aided aspiring Eagle Scout **Nic Schmidt** in his habitat improvement project on **Nichols Creek** in **Sheboygan County** (*see separate story in this issue*). Nic's project was on a section of Nichols which was straightened as the result of poor agricultural practices perhaps as many as 100 years ago.

In addition, SEWTU volunteers used a generator graciously donated by member **Bob Ondishko** to build a new foot bridge across the creek, replacing the previous death trap of a bridge! **John Knitter** also conducted water quality monitoring instruction, and along with members of Nic's troop, searched for insects and other aquatic residents.

On Sat., Oct. 18, we will return to **Genesee Creek**, located just outside of **Genesee Depot** in **Waukesha County**. The subject of a prior SEWTU-involved roller mill dam removal led by **Dan Asmus**, Genesee Creek is a pristine spring creek in the heart of our chapter's area. Under the direction of **Carroll College Professor Jason Freund**, who is also a SEWTU board member, we'll remove invasive vegetation and may perform monitoring and scientific testing as part of a study which Jason is performing.

Stay tuned to www.sewtu.org for future workday details! There is an opportunity for everyone to aid in some facet of our workdays. As was the case with Bob, any donation of tools or equipment to SEWTU is greatly appreciated. Those wishing to make such donations can contact **Henry Koltz** at hek@sdelaw.com.

On its education front, SEWTU has likewise been incredibly busy over the last quarter. We've manned conservation education booths featuring mission information, fly tying, and casting instructions at local retailers including **Sportsmen's Warehouse**, **Cabela's**, and **Gander Mountain**. These events have been under the supervision of past president **Chuck Beeler**, and all have relied heavily on the volunteer efforts of **Al Dalfanso**, **Herb Oechler**, and **John Knitter**, all of whom also continue to teach fly tying classes at the **Milwaukee Veterans Administration**.

Additionally, under the leadership of President **Dan Asmus**, SEWTU manned a booth at the **Milwaukee Public Television Outdoor Wisconsin Family Day** in **Johnson Creek** on **Aug. 17**. We provided information about our mission, projects, and TU's vision of coldwater conservation. Volunteers also offered fishing and fly tying lessons.

Also under Dan's leadership, on Sept. 23 we manned another information, casting, and tying booth at the **Great Outdoors Weekend Youth Event** at the **Lynden Hill Nature Area** in order to aid the **U.S. Forest Service**. This event was aimed at providing inner city youth and families with exposure to the outdoors in general.

SEWTU has also had its first two students qualify for college application support letters. We have a standing offer to any rising college students that, in the event they attend three workdays within a one-



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Chapter News



year period, we will draft a college application letter of support. The fact that not only one, but two, students have qualified for this program is a fine reflection upon our younger members and their children. Hand in hand with this program, SEWTU continues to write confirmation letters for **National Honor Society** students who attend workdays in order to credit them with service hours.

In other news, SEWTU is pleased to announce that we'll host our **Third Annual Habitat Fundraiser** on Thursday, Oct. 2, from 6-10 p.m. at **Lakefront Brewery's Palm Garden in Milwaukee**. As always, we'll raffle off amazing prizes, ranging from fishing trips to Sage, Orvis, and G. Loomis equipment, plus wine, art, a personal pontoon boat, and other assorted great prizes. This is an event you won't want

to miss. Tickets start at \$100, and all proceeds go to a great cause — SEWTU's habitat projects and initiatives.

Funds raised from prior events have helped SEWTU undertake 25 workdays in the past two years resulting in nearly 2.5 miles of restored waters. In short, this fundraiser is vital to helping SEWTU continue its mission of coldwater conservation and volunteerism. This year's speaker will be **Dave Vetrano**, architect and inventor of the luncker structure, recent National Trout Unlimited distinguished service award winner, and a driving force in Wisconsin stream restoration for over two decades. Dave will speak about the progress of coldwater conservation and restoration in Wisconsin to this point, and its outlook going forward.

—Henry Koltz

Southern Wisconsin Chapter

The Southern Wisconsin Chapter is proud of the significant restoration work done this summer on **Gordon Creek**. The improvement focused on the stretch between **Sandy Rock Road** and **Brue Road** in **Iowa County**.

The in-ground portion of the project is substantially complete, and we are addressing the final stages of site work. Other objectives are also underway, such as designing maintenance programs, arranging a wide array of surveys and monitoring programs, producing educational materials, and developing promotional pieces.

The project was funded by our chapter and several grants, including one for \$115,000 from the **USDA Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program**.

Here are just a few of the numbers involved in this massive project:

- 6,280 feet of stream,
- 5,200 cubic yards of rock,
- 7 cross-channel log structures,
- 10 vortex weirs,
- 4 tree root wads,
- 14 sets of boulder retardes,
- 4 turtle escape logs,
- 2 snapping turtle dens,
- 2 snake hibernaculum, and
- 81 luncker structures.

Tremendous thanks goes to the project committee consisting of chair **Mike Schmidt**, **Jim Gentry**, **Henry Nehls-Lowe**, and **Jim Kanvik**. They put in a stunning amount of work on this, the largest project ever undertaken by SWTU. Not only is this an improvement of habitat, it's another very fine stream in easy driving distance for many of our members — no small consideration given today's gas prices!

We look forward to continued improvements on Gordon Creek in the future. Learn more by viewing project photo galleries at www.swtu.org.

That's far from all that SWTU has had going on, though! We hosted our **Annual Special Fishing Day**

for people with disabilities. Again organized by **John Schweiger**, many chapter volunteers gathered at **Kalscheur Ponds** to organize gear, take pictures, and help some fantastic folks catch big fish. It was a day that not one of our chapter volunteers or 66 guests will soon forget.

Have you driven the beltline in Madison and wondered at the **Fish Hatchery Road** exit? There is, indeed, a fish hatchery there, and on July 12 it was the site of our chapter picnic. We saw thousands of fish, from fingerlings to monsters, and learned a great deal about the hatchery system before sitting down to a delicious lunch put together by master chef **Mark Rhinerson**.

We have had several stream workdays this fall, and we have many more planned for the spring. According to the DNR, our improvements on **Black Earth Creek** are paying off, as the sections we've worked on are holding many more fish than they had been. Check www.swtu.org or contact project chair **Mike Grimes** at mgrimes17@charter.net if you have questions or would like to help!

Mark your calendars for our annual **Icebreaker** event featuring super speakers, fantastic food, terrific tyers, an amazing raffle, and more! It will be held on Saturday, Jan. 17, at the spacious **Promega Center** in **Fitchburg**. Our keynote speaker this year is master fly fisher **Rich Ostoff**, perhaps best known for his book, **Active Nymphing**. Our regional speaker slate contains **Dave Barron** of **Jacquish Hollow** in **Richland Center** and a few "fishers to be named later." In the heart of a Wisconsin winter, nothing is better for your heart than a day spent talking and learning about fishing.

Learn more and stay up-to-date on these and our many other activities by visiting www.swtu.org.

—Drew Kasel

Wild Rivers Chapter

Here on the south shore of Lake Superior, the early fall bird migrations are well under way. The shorebirds are filling the beaches, and the early raptors are on the move. Local followers of the fall runs of trout and salmon are salivating over the start of the **Coho** run. It's still not too late, though, to take advantage of the good late hopper fishing.

Thanks to **John Casperson** for

preparing a great fish fry at the **Whack a Northern** event and a big trout boil for 100 at the **Friends of the White River** annual picnic. The 2008 Whack a Northern drew seven canoes for the river paddle and a nice crowd for the evening picnic at **Grand View**. The 11 northern pike caught were all consumed by a hungry crowd. This year's whackers included **Dave** and **Katie Gallatly**,



Jim Beecher

YOU REALLY THINK WE NEED TO ATTACH THAT "WELCOME" SIGN?

Southern Wisconsin member Bob Selk (foreground left) stands by to help as Jim Gentry bores a hole into a luncker structure for the chapter's big Gordon Creek project in Iowa County. Jim Kanvik (l) and Mike Grimes supervise.

Mark Eggleston, Dick Berge, Ron and Bill Heart, Dick Prine, John Hingley, Scott and Rolland Kiel, Al Hillery, Jim Emerson, and Chuck Campbell. We were joined in Grand View by **Duke Welter, Sherri Eggleston, John Casperson, Don Suttliff, and Scott Toshner.**

Thanks to WDNR Fish Biologist **Scott Toshner** for coming to the event and speaking to the chapter on a project set for this fall on the **White River** tributaries. Scott is organizing a trout redd sampling project in early- to mid-November where the chapter members will survey each tributary and record redd locations, water temps, and other information. Scott has supplied redd observation forms, sampling protocols, and maps for use by the chapter. He gave more specific information at the September meeting, and will sign up volunteers for specific segments of **18 and 20 Mile creeks** at the October meeting.

This survey will take several seasons to complete, and will also involve the **American Fisheries Society** students from **Northland College** in **Ashland**. AFS advisor

Derek Ogle and the student volunteers have plans to survey the **Long Lake Branch** of the **White River** as their part of the project. Chapter members will survey the 18 and 20 Mile Creek sections in November during prime spawning time.

The September chapter meeting was very well attended due to the appearance of our speaker, chapter member and **Brule River** guide **Damian Wilmot**. Damian talked about fall steelhead fishing with a fly on the Brule. He discussed the dos and don'ts of fall fishing, equipment, and what he has learned from years of river guiding. There were lots of questions, and everyone learned a lot. Reach Damian at flybynight@centurytel.net or the **Superior Fly Angler** shop in **Superior**.

The news from our area sports shops includes a big sale and close-out at **Brule River Classics** that will run through September. Also, **Craig** and **Amy Putschat** at **Outdoor Allure** in **Washburn** have a new web site that features improved fishing reports, weather, a photo album, and a local forum.

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WHACKED AND HEADED FOR THE FRYING PAN

State Council Chair **Bill Heart** begins to fillet the northern pike caught from the **White River** this summer during the Wild Rivers Chapter's annual Whack-A-Northern event.



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Thanks to **Bayfield County Conservationist Butch Lobermier** for giving the chapter a heads up on a potential land sale that would have impacted the **White River**. The former **Delta Dump** site was listed for sale in the Bayfield County Land Auction. Thanks to Butch and others at the Bayfield County office, the site has been taken out of the auction and hopefully will receive added monitoring due to its potentially harmful status.

News that the **Winneboujou Club** has asked that anyone wanting to use the club property to walk in to **Big Lake** on the **Brule River** must

obtain permission has been one of the hot topics recently. The club is concerned with overuse of the area, and has been carding vehicles parked on Hwy. 27.

The **Brule River Sportsmen's Club** has asked for a clarification of this policy, and at this time, the **Winneboujou Club** has not finalized their long-term policy. An effort is underway to provide access from Hwy. 27 on public land.

The Wild Rivers Chapter supports the development of a public access point, and will work with others to further the project.

Our Chapter received a big thank you from the **Sigurd Olson**

Environmental Institute for sponsoring a scholarship to the **Pathfinders Program**. The gift will make a big difference in the life of a young person. We encourage other chapters to support this important program and institution whose goal is to develop effective environmental leaders and make a positive impact on the natural world we all call home.

The Ashland session of the **Conservation Listening Sessions** was held at the **Northern Great Lakes Visitors Center** in August. The chapter attended and listed its ma-

ior priorities, mostly having to do with clean water, including water from ship ballast in the **Great Lakes**. One of the participants, however, **Ruth Opperdahl** of the **Bayfield Regional Conservancy**, offered what turned out to be the biggest vote getter. Ruth wanted the **Martin Hanson** proposal to designate the **Brunsweler River** system as a state wild river to be the main priority, and it turned out to be that. The chapter strongly supports this proposal, and we hope it advances in the next state legislative session.

—Chuck Campbell

Wisconsin Clear Waters

On May 20 and 21, 10 people were introduced to fly fishing in a four-hour Introduction to Fly Fishing session at **UW-Stout**. This format of intense instruction and an instructor-to-student ratio of 1:2 was very well received by the students.

We got several new members as a result of the class. Volunteer instructors were **John Higley**, **Dale Dahlke**, **Dennis Woodford**, and **Dennis Vanden Bloomen**.

Chuck Bomar and **Dennis Vanden Bloomen** helped with the **Chippewa Valley Outdoor Games** in August, providing fly rod and Zebco 33 instruction during the Friday youth events. The three-day games drew thousands of participants. **The Outdoor Channel** filmed our TU instructors, and we hope we made the final cut for the televised show.

The new and three times bigger **Gander Mountain** store had its grand opening on Saturday, May 31, and the chapter staffed a table. **Duke Welter** provided a fly tying demonstration. Chapter members answered customer questions and recruited five new members. Other volunteers included **Terry Allen**, **Steve Josephson**, **James Fulkerson**, **'Mike' Malone**, and **Dennis Vanden Bloomen**.

The chapter conducted our new four-hour introduction to fly fishing program Sept. 16 for 10 **Eddie Bauer** store managers from throughout the state. Our fall chapter brat feed was held at the **Elk Creek** worksite in conjunction with the training. Instructors were **Mike Swenson**, **Tim**

Meyer, **Jack Kins**, **Dennis Vanden Bloomen**, and **Steve Josephson**. The brats were cooked by **Tim Meyer** and **Jeff Hastings** of **TUDARE** (the chapter thought it would be too dangerous to let Jeff Hastings try casting a fly rod). We hope this program leads to a new level of sponsorship with TU and the **Eddie Bauer Company**.

The chapter submitted a \$21,500 **WDNR River Grant** request in May for the second phase of the **Elk Creek** project. We were notified at the end of June that we were awarded \$15,000. Last year we also received \$15,000 through this program for Elk Creek.

We submitted a preliminary grant application in January for \$10,000 from **Xcel Energy's** environmental community grant program for the **Elk Creek 2008** restoration effort. We were approved and submitted Phase 2 level of the application. We were awarded \$1,500 from their environmental fund. We thank them for their support of our efforts on Elk Creek. **Xcel Energy** also donated \$230 toward the purchase of a new chapter banner that will be used for meetings and other events.

The chapter worked on **Elk Creek** in **Chippewa County** from May-June and **Trout Creek** in **Chippewa County** in July. We worked on **Gilbert Creek** in September with our partners in the **Dunn County Fish and Game Association**. **Rob Herman** organized and worked on several streams in Trempealeau County.

—Dennis Vanden Bloomen

Wisconsin River Valley Chapter

While our monthly general chapter meetings were on hiatus for the summer, our activities were not.

We again were a part of the **Youth Sporting Heritage Day** organized by the **DNR** on August 23 at the **Wausau School Forest**. Several of our chapter members demonstrated fly tying and gave instruction on fly casting. This generated a lot of interest, not only with the kids but with their parents as well.

The second part of a two-year restoration project was completed this August on the **Prairie River** in **Lincoln County**. We are exploring cooperative efforts with the **Frank Hornberg Chapter** for work in southern **Marathon County**.

Our September meeting was an extended planning session and has set much of the coming year's programs and activities.

Our next board and general meeting will be held Monday, Oct. 13 at **Gander Mountain** in **Wausau**. The board meeting starts at 6:00 p.m., and the general meeting and program begins at 7:00.

Our chapter programs begin this October with a presentation by **Don Wisner**. Don will be giving the presentation he gave at last year's **Great Waters Fly Expos** in Chicago and Minneapolis. His presentation, entitled *Made, Not Born: Becoming an Environmental Steward*, challenges us to reach out and model environmental stewardship, especially for youth.

Our November program will be *Western Trout Fishing* presented by **Henry Kanemoto** and **Gene Koshak**.

Each meeting night is filled with great conversation and the chance to win a free door prize.

—John Meachen

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



Dave Seibel photos

FROM WIDE AND SHALLOW TO NARROW AND DEEP

The Wisconsin River Valley Chapter has done this type of thing many times on the **Prairie River**. A wide, shallow section of stream on the **Henrich** property (top) was given a new bank (middle) so as to increase stream flow and deepen the river.



Golden Squirrel a small, deadly streamer

By John Gremmer

There is something about jungle cock on a streamer that gives me confidence that it will catch a fish. I love the beauty of the old streamer designs of the first half of the last century.

In some ways fishing wet flies and streamers has become somewhat of a lost art. Our 21st century fly fishermen seem to be divided into two camps — dry fly or nymph fishers. In my mind, the complete fly fisher knows how to fish the three types and when to do each.

Royce Dam, Wauwatosa, created the Golden Squirrel in 1953 specifically for fishing brook trout streams. It has become his signature fly. I have tied it and used it in southwest Wisconsin, Arkansas, and on the Bighorn River in Montana with success.

I especially like to use the size 12 version as a trailer behind a bigger streamer in larger rivers. Even though it was designed for brook trout, it does equally well on browns and rainbows. But, what about the story behind the fly?

Many of you know or have run into Royce at fly tying functions.

Did you know he was a veteran of World War II's Iwo Jima campaign? His company of 210 landed on the beach in February of 1945 and at the end of the campaign he was one of just 35 survivors.

MATERIALS LIST The Golden Squirrel

Hook: 2x long Mustad 94831 or TMC 5262 dry fly, size 8-12.

Thread: Black 6/0.

Tail: Red hackle fibers.

Body: Flat gold tinsel or mylar.

Wing: Hair from the tail of a red or fox squirrel.

Cheeks: Jungle cock or some substitute.

Royce says, "I can't recall many of the things that went on during the battle, and that is a good thing."

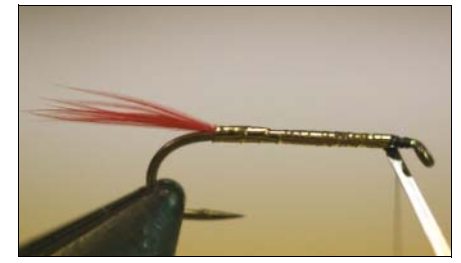
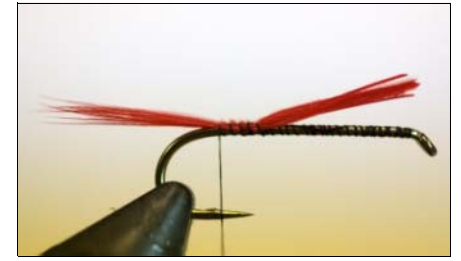
Every once in a while an image pops into his head, but he can only remember about half of the experience. Royce, 82, also told me that only in the last two years has he been able to talk to his family about his war experience.

I learned of the Golden Squirrel from Royce's book, *The Practical Fly Tier*, Stackpole Books, 2002, ISBN 0-8117-1027-0. The introduction to the book by Mark Van Patten states, "Royce brings a new look to an ancient art form. He has discovered pragmatic approaches and more efficient ways to achieve fly-tying perfection. Royce has also produced six outstanding DVDs demonstrating his flies and techniques. The DVDs (\$15 each) and an autographed edition of his book can be purchased from Royce by calling (414) 476-4599.

To Royce: thanks for the Golden Squirrel, for sharing your fly tying knowledge with your book and DVDs, and most important, thanks for putting your life on the line for our country.

The Golden Squirrel is a fast tie. I tie it in sizes 8, 10, and 12. What, you don't have any jungle cock? There are imitation jungle cock nails that you can buy. You can also modify a guinea hen feather, use a stick-on eye, or paint an eye on the head.

Start by wrapping the shank of the hook with gold tinsel or mylar.



Tie in a small bunch of red hackle fibers for a tail.

Tie in a wing of red fox squirrel.

To complete the fly, add two jungle cock cheeks and apply head cement to head.

(John Gremmer of Winneconne is a photographer, biologist, fly fishing/tying instructor for Fox Valley Technical College, speaker, webmaster, water monitor, and former president of CW-TU. Contact John at jgremmer@charter.net. -Ed.)

Fox Squirrel Scud a big, bright morsel trout really go for

By Todd Hanson

My Fox Squirrel Scud is much larger than the scuds trout normally eat, but when they see it, they don't swim away in fear. Instead, they be-

have kind of like you probably do when, after you've been munching on some shrimp cocktail, the waiter brings out a plate of hot, deep-fried jumbo shrimp! In short, I've found this to be a fly that can catch every trout in a hole.

This scud is lighter-colored than most found in nature. Maybe this color reminds trout of the yellowish tint a scud takes on when it dies. Whatever the reason, the light color is appealing. I also tie this fly in yellow, and that color is equally effective.

Fish this fly with a short, twitching movement after it has been allowed to sink to or near the bottom.



Even though this fly is heavily weighted, you may need a small split shot to accomplish this.

This is a straight fly with a little bend representing the scud's tail that flips like a crayfish. (While the flipper part should actually be on the head side of the fly, the trout don't care...I think they're too focused on the jumbo shrimp thing.)

Create the dubbing mixture by clipping off the guard hairs and underfur from just the reddish parts of a fox squirrel carcass. If you get some grey underfur, that's OK. This gives you an orangish cream mixture with lots of spiky hairs to tease out later to form the scud's legs.

Tying instructions

Begin tying the fly by wrapping the hook shank with heavy lead wire. Wrap the lead slightly onto the bend of the hook. There is no need to tie down or glue the lead because you'll be anchoring it with wire.

Next tie in a piece of gold wire and a clump of dubbing at the end of the lead wire. This little bit of dubbing makes it easier to tie in the 1/4" strip of shiny plastic film from a CD cover or pack of cigarettes.

Apply a thick layer of dubbing forward to the head. Use your fingers to brush any guard hairs pointing upward so they angle downward. Lay the plastic over the top of the fly and anchor it toward the head with spirals of gold wire.

After forming the head, I like adding an antenna to the fly. It's a nice touch and may make the fly look even bigger to the trout.

(I was in a fly shop in Denver

once buying flies for a trip to the Frying Pan River, and the old guy in the shop said I had to have some white scuds that were always spilling into the river from the dam's bottom discharge. The shop had a couple kinds of scuds, one of which had an antenna made of two pieces of fine monofilament with burned tips. I asked the guy what the difference

MATERIALS LIST Fox Squirrel Scud

Hook: Standard Mustad 94840 dry fly hook, size 12.

Weight: Heavy lead wire.

Thread: Tan 6/0.

Body: Orangish cream dubbing made by clipping the hair and underfur from only the fox squirrel's "orangish" areas.

Scud back: 1/4" CD cover plastic strip and fine gold wire.

Antenna: 6-8 fox squirrel tail fibers.

was between a scud without an antenna and one with them. "About 50 cents," he said.)

When tying in the antenna, angle the fibers slightly upward from the center of the head rather than next to the eye to leave room for tying the fly to your tippet.

The final step is to tease out the guard hairs from between the gold wire wraps to create the scud's legs. Apply lacquer or head cement and the fly is finished.

Check out the latest habitat work made possible by Friends

By Steve Hill

Friends of WITU Chair

With the 2008 Friends of Wisconsin TU fund-raising campaign wrapped up, now comes the fun part — seeing where all the money has gone!

We've just updated our Friends map below to show the latest projects to receive Friends of WITU grants.

Your Friends contributions have gone toward some of the largest restoration projects in Wisconsin histo-

ry. The Pine Creek (Pierce Co.), Gordon Creek (Iowa Co.), and Camp Creek (Richland Co.) projects all cost over \$100,000 and involved many TU chapters and funding partners. We hope you have a chance to fish them in the future.

Friends grant question

An interesting question came up about our Friends grant program at the recent State Council meeting in Antigo. At that meeting, the council heard about plans of our NE region chapters to pool their funds to pay for a couple WDNR part-time

workers to brush area streams.

Chapter representatives wondered whether Friends funds could be used for this effort. The answer is "yes," but the request has to come from an individual chapter, not the region.

According to the Friends grant criteria, "Grants may be made for research, habitat improvement, and educational projects that further the goal of Trout Unlimited."

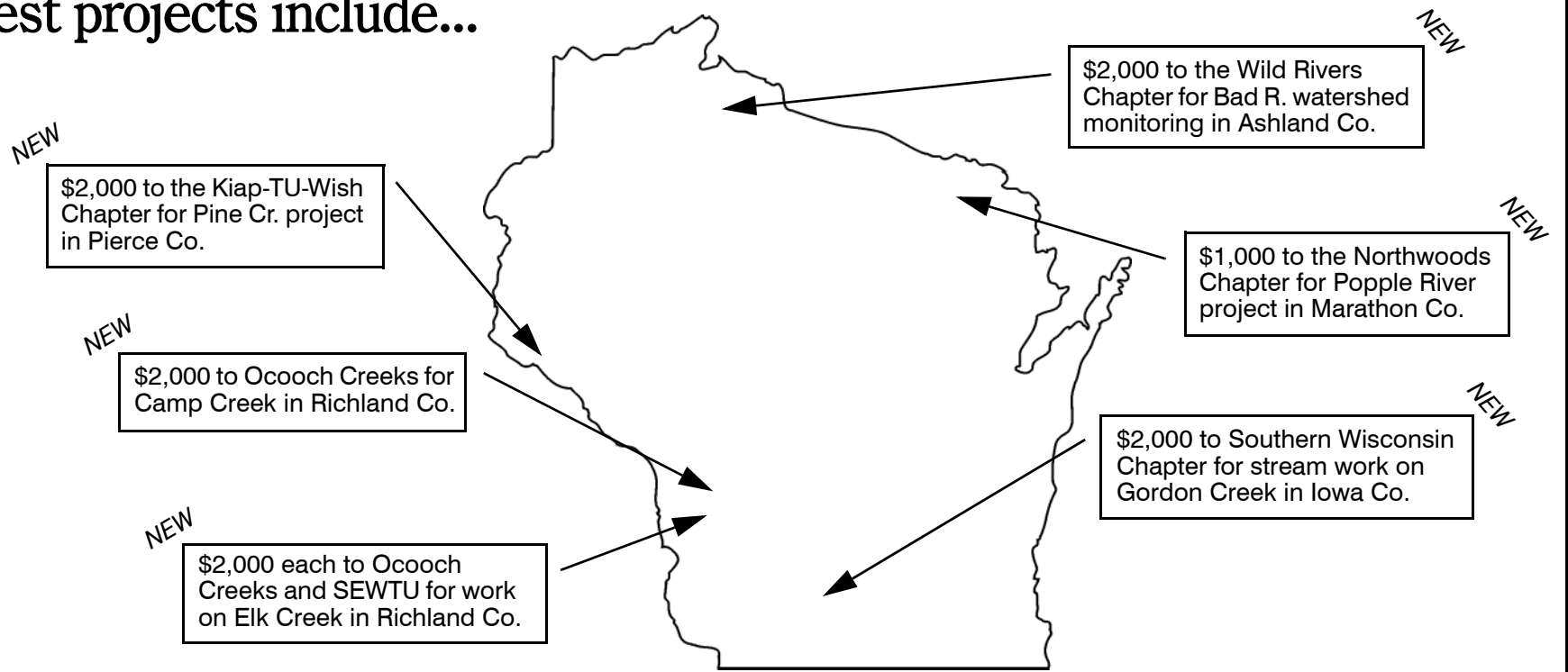
The program guidelines also state, "Projects having a statewide or regional impact will generally re-

ceive priority over localized projects if the amount of funds available does not allow for the funding of all projects applications received."

New friends chair sought

"I have enjoyed my work as Friends chair the past couple years, but now I need to find someone else to direct this worthy program. Please consider this, and call me with your questions." -S. Hill

Over \$150,000 devoted to trout resources since 1991. The latest projects include...



Friends of Wis. TU

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 Southeastern WI Chapter TU

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

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

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

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