

Wisconsin Trout

April 2009



Chuck Campbell

FUN AT THE WITU ANNUAL BANQUET

Dave Carlson (left), host of TV's *Northland Adventures* and featured speaker at WITU's Feb. 7 banquet, talks with Bill Heart and Nathan Thomas (right).

WITU stalwart Larry Meicher dies of cancer

The Wisconsin State Council of TU, the Southern WI Chapter, and TU members across the state lost one of their most active and honored leaders when Larry Meicher of Rio passed away March 2 from cancer.

Meicher, 66, was presented the first-ever WITU Lifetime Achievement Award a couple weeks before his death for the many things he did for his favorite organization, Trout Unlimited.

Among the formal TU thank-yous Larry received over the years were WITU's Gold Trout Award in 1986, WITU's Award of Merit in 2005, and a TU National Distinguished Service Award in 2001.

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NE region habitat crew gets WDNR approval

By Kim McCarthy

About a year ago, WITU's Northeast Region approached WDNR looking for ways to get more habitat work accomplished in the northeastern counties.

Discussions ultimately focused on having TU's Northeast Region hire a two-person trout habitat crew and place the crew under the direction of the DNR's Peshtigo office.

The DNR then made the decision that the crew could be more effective if it were a three-person crew, and a decision was made to add the third person using trout stamp funds.

Funding then needed to be secured for the project. The WITU State Council got the ball rolling with a contribution. Seven of the Northeastern TU chapters then got on board with financial support for the crew.

The final piece of the funding puzzle fell into place with the approval of a Friends of Trout Unlimited grant.

The total outlay for the habitat crew will be \$22,500 with trout stamp funds paying for one third and TU funds paying for two thirds.

Hiring freeze overcome

The next roadblock was thrown up by the economic crisis with the state budget. A hiring freeze went into effect and prevented the program from hiring the needed limited term employees. During the last

week of February, DNR received permission to do the hiring to staff the trout habitat crew and the final hurdle was cleared.

As this article is being written, the jobs are posted on the DNR web site and plans are being made for the summer work schedule.

The hired crew will be tackling a large backlog of trout projects in Marinette and Oconto counties where much brushing and bundling needs to be done.

In addition, those counties have old habitat projects that were completed years ago and have not been maintained. The crew will be rejuvenating the old habitat projects and restoring them to a productive condition. Five to ten streams will benefit from the habitat crew.

Joint workdays

Another exciting aspect of the hired crew project will be the opportunity for northeastern chapters to incorporate chapter workdays into the schedule of the hired crew. Several times during the summer, the crew will work Saturdays and be joined by members of northeastern chapters. Those will undoubtedly be some very productive days.

This should be a very good summer for trout habitat in Marinette and Oconto counties. Depending on weather conditions and water levels, the northeastern chapters are hopeful that we will see more habitat work this summer than we have seen for many years.

Trout now passing through Getchell Creek culvert

By Dave Seibel

Trout and other fish have not been able to navigate past the culvert on Getchell Creek at State Hwy. 55 in Langlade County for a long time due to it being perched. That problem has now been remedied.

Getchell Creek is home to a naturally reproducing population of brook trout, and it is also a valuable coldwater tributary to the Wolf River. It is important that brown trout are able to use this stream when water temperatures in the Wolf get warm, and also possibly for spawning.

In 2006, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT) reconstructed a portion of Hwy. 55, and the old culvert was replaced. Originally, a clear span bridge was recommended at this

site, but the final plans called for an eight-foot concrete culvert. The new design, which was supposed to allow for fish passage, instead turned out to be a barrier to fish passage due to fast laminar flows over the 64-foot stretch of culvert set at a 1.8% slope.

WDNR personnel in fisheries and environmental analysis and review worked together with DOT to evaluate the situation and correct it. Through marking and recapture electrofishing studies in the fall of 2007 and 2008, we documented that trout were unable to move upstream through the new culvert. Engineers with DOT then came up with a "baffle" design that slowed water down in the 64-foot section of culvert, thereby creating resting areas for trout.

After installation of the baffles from Sept. 29 - Oct. 3, 2008, follow-up studies confirmed that, for the first time in many decades, trout are able to access all of Getchell Cr. to carry out important life history movements and functions.

(Dave Seibel is the WDNR Fisheries Biologist for Langlade and Lincoln counties. -Ed.)

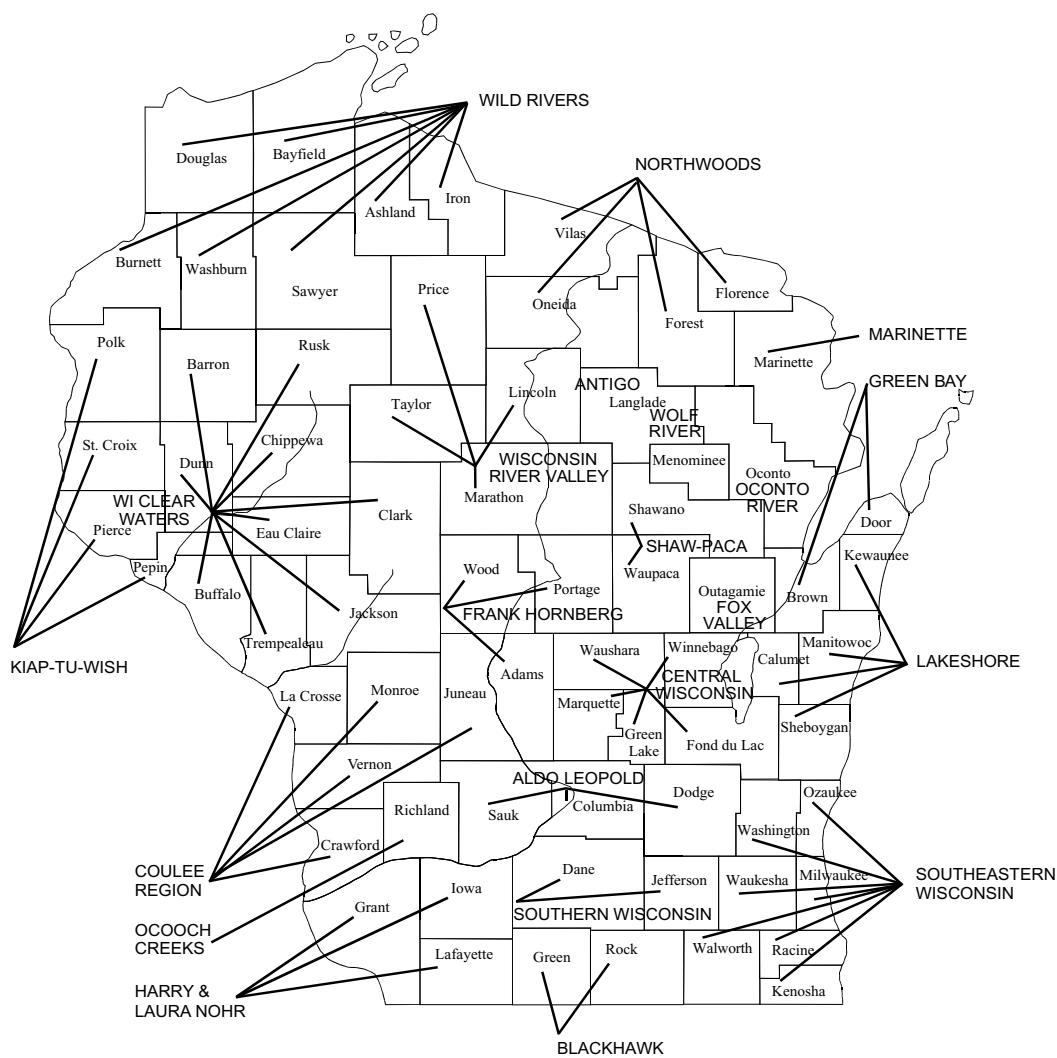


BAFFLES HOLD WATER FOR TROUT PASSAGE
Wooden baffles installed inside the 62-foot-long culvert on Getchell Creek now allow for trout passage under Hwy. 55 in Langlade County.

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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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Gov. Doyle: appoint a panel to review Rosendale CAFO

By Bill Heart

WITU State Council Chair

In order to retain public support for our expanding dairy industry while ensuring proper protection of our surface and groundwater resources, this would be an opportune time to ask an outside panel of academic experts to review the DNR's permitting process. The public needs assurance that the regulatory review process is being carried out using objectivity, transparency, and the best science. This is particularly true given concerns in some quarters about politicization of the agency under a cabinet form of governance.

Editorial

The recent approval of a 4,000-cow dairy operation (with plans to expand to 8,000 cows) near Rosendale could be a useful case study in the siting and management of a very large dairy in an area with shallow soils and karst topography. Despite the DNR's review, including an unprecedented Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), both citizens and some experts feel that this facility is all but guaranteed to produce a significant level of pollution.

An EIS is the gold standard of environmental review. Ideally it is process-driven and not concerned with a pre-determined outcome. However, an EIS can be steered in a particular direction, favoring one outcome over another, if not carried out properly. There are disturbing suggestions that this may be what happened in the Rosendale case.

A timely outside review of the data used, how the EIS was carried out, and the decision-making procedure within the DNR could reassure those with continuing doubts as to the wisdom of the permit. At the same time, such a review might point up aspects of the process that can and should be improved. This is especially important given the dairy manager's stated goal of doubling his herd size in as little as a year. If, indeed, there are soil characteristics or geological factors that really do make surface or groundwater pollution more likely than not, isn't it better to identify them now than after a second permit is granted?

Some of the concern over the DNR's decision arises from the fact that Governor Doyle has been a vocal supporter of dairy expansion in this state. We recognize that this expansion is important to the state's economy, and that it will require both small and large operators to step up milk production. Skeptics, however, note that the DNR Secretary was appointed by the Governor and might be expected to do what he can to implement the Governor's priorities. An independent review of the Rosendale decision might lay to rest the claim that the DNR is putting economic development ahead of essential natural resource protection.

At the federal level, such a review might be pursued by an agency's inspector general. However, no such arrangement exists for the state. Given the current cabinet arrangement for selecting a DNR Secretary, we expect that Governor Doyle would embrace a timely independent audit of the DNR's decision on the Rosendale dairy permit to allay fears of politics being injected into the regulatory review process. The expert panel might be appointed by the chairs of the Senate Environment Committee and the Assembly Natural Resource Committee.

Should the audit reveal the need for changes in DNR processes or procedures, we are confident the Governor will see that the DNR carries out those changes. Not only is this responsive accountability a hallmark of cabinet government, but it is necessary to ensure that we have a healthy agricultural sector along with clean lakes and streams and healthy drinking water.

Budget, DNR Secretary, and CAFO permits draw TU attention

By Bill Pielsticker

WITU Legislative Chair

While the Governor's budget proposal was pretty grim, it would have been a good deal grimmer were it not for the federal stimulus funding Wisconsin will receive.

The net effect, barring substantive changes by the Legislature, will be a continuing freeze on new hiring at state agencies.

The freeze is creating a problem when fish managers retire. So far,

where that has happened, the DNR personnel remaining in place have stepped up to keep stream projects moving ahead.

Funding for nutrient management implementation will be about half of what we had expected after gaining a big increase in the last budget. We have joined other conservation groups in asking for restoration of the full amount. Even so, given the nature of the economy and the budget, half the funds are better than no funds.



Grass roots democracy worked to stop Vernon County coal ash dump proposal

Editor,

I was privileged to represent the Wisconsin Council of TU at an all-day seminar sponsored by the Valley Stewardship Network on September 22 at the Kickapoo Valley Reserve near La Farge. It was gratifying to see how effectively democracy *does work* at the local level!

The real heroes in successfully ensuring that the insidious coal ash dump was not placed at the headwaters of the Seas Branch of the Kickapoo River were two citizen action groups that coalesced on the issue — the Asbury Ridge Community of Hope (ARCH) and Harmony Opposed to Polluting the Environment (HOPE). Their effective grass roots organizational efforts ensured that all four candidates for state office (Assembly and Senate) participated in the seminar, and I suspect those legislators then worked tirelessly be-

hind the scenes to get the Dairyland Power Cooperative on record that it will not locate the dangerous dump (containing arsenic, selenium, mercury) "anywhere in Vernon County."

Dairyland Power is also on record that it will pursue alternative energy sources (solar and wind), thereby helping us put an end to our morally irresponsible dependence upon fossil fuels.

When a power plant plans a coal ash dump in your area (there are 18 such plants in the State of Wisconsin potentially imperiling *your* coldwater resources), I recommend you follow the outstanding example set by ARCH and HOPE, thereby reaffirming that democracy can, and actually does, work in America, even in the 21st century.

Dan Holland
Plover, WI

Friend and angler Dennis Graupe will be missed on Timber Coulee streams

Editor,

Dennis Graupe, an old friend, streamside companion, teacher, and — on many a fly fisher's list — *the best* trout angler to come out of the Coon Creek complex of spring creek trout streams in Vernon County, died Jan. 11 in La Crosse at age 56.

In my 30-year career in the fly fishing industry, I've met many fly fishing experts, but none have matched Dennis Graupe's aggressive style of stalking and catching trout. Learning on Timber Coulee at the bootstraps of his father, Kenneth, Dennis went on to develop a unique style of upstream "wet fly fishing," as he always insisted on calling it, to distinguish it from the more common nymphing method.

Making use of a lightning fast hand-twist retrieve that kept constant tension on the line, and with his marksman's eye and reflexes, Dennis rarely missed a hook set on underwater feeding trout. His "three-and-two" hand-twist, as he finally allowed me to call it, was a fundamental advance over the traditional slower, and less controlled, two-and-three finger method. It alone will most certainly distinguish him as one of the great innovators of modern American trout fishing. As one of those lucky enough to have learned it at his side, I pay homage to this homegrown, master angler.

For over 10 years, his Coon Valley fly shop, Spring Creek Angler, was the hub for trout fisherman visiting the coulee trout streams in the Coon Creek watershed — Timber Coulee, Bohemian Valley, Rullands Coulee, and Spring Coulee. From his shop, Dennis guided anglers and educated them, not only in the art of fly fishing for trout, but in trout stream habitat restoration, stream-flow morphology, the nuances of different trout regulations, and the great benefits of catch-and-release. Dennis spoke with authority on all these subjects because he learned them firsthand — *on-stream* — during a trout fishing odyssey that spanned 48 years.

For those who knew Dennis as a black powder man, a trapper, hunter, an award-winning marksman, a carpenter, machinist, log home builder, and always the gracious host at his log home up in Bergen Coulee, let them too pay homage in the days and years ahead.

May Dennis now find the best run in the finest creek on high, stalk the most difficult trout hiding under the most treacherous "wing dam," catch it, release it (of course), rest back up on the bank, take a puff or two, and find peace in that outdoor world of fish and game that was his playground.

Dennis Franke
Cross Plains, WI

Funding cuts are also proposed for the county staffs which work with landowners to address polluted runoff issues.

Just when it appeared likely we would get a positive vote on returning the appointment of the DNR Secretary to the Natural Resources Board, Governor Doyle has reversed his promise to sign such a bill. Despite broad support among many Democrats who are in the majority in both the Senate and the As-

sembly, the Governor's opposition makes passage doubtful. Republican members of both chambers are luke-warm to the proposal, at best.

About 500 citizens made it to Madison for Lobby Day on February 25, including a strong contingent of TU members. Spirits were good and citizen lobbyists appeared to receive a better welcome than in previous years.

Continued on p. 4

Let's involve more kids and women in TU

By Bill Heart

WITU State Council Chair

As I was leaving Larry Meicher's bedside the day before WITU's annual meeting, I asked him what would be the most important thing that I could do for him concerning Trout Unlimited. Without even thinking, he said, "Get more youth and women involved." Larry firmly believed that we have to get more women and youth active in all facets of TU.



At the council meeting in Stevens Point, I counted 75 members during the business meeting before the breakout sessions, and there was not one woman and very few young people. The average age was at least 55 or better. I think that the youngest on the Executive Committee is Bill Pielsticker, and he's no spring chicken. Even Duke Welter is now retired and starting to gray. Of the chapter presidents, there are probably only four who are under 40. And, by the way, there are NO women in any of our leadership positions.

How do we turn this around? It has to be a concerted effort by the council and all chapters to develop a strategy to involve both youth and women. First, take both fishing. There is not a better way to get anyone interested in TU than showing them a good time out on a stream. This may take more than one trip, but you are going anyway, right! Organize fly tying events and classes. You'd be amazed at how excited kids get when they tie their first fly.

Try to follow up these tying events with an outing on a local stream. More and more chapters are developing some kind of fishing

day that helps with casting, reading the water, and learning bugs. On the free fishing day in June, the Wild Rivers chapter has to divide our time between three different venues, and we probably assist 300 to 400 youth in one day. We have been doing this every year for at least the past dozen or so. Jeff Carlson started it up here and told me that he didn't tell me about it because he knew that I didn't care for kids that much. But as I get older, even I have mellowed some, and I do enjoy helping the little brats, I mean youngsters.

The Beaver Dam Youth Expo is really a blast. We never have enough help, and it is a very busy, but satisfying, day. I would like to see many more volunteers this year, so contact Bob Haase to sign up.

Get involved in the schools. Talk to TU National and try to get a Trout in the Classroom program going in one of your local schools. Contact a local Boy or Girl Scout troop and volunteer to help with their fishing merit badge program. Work with a local 4H club. They love outdoor activities. Help start a fly fishing club in a local school.

I attended the Great Water Expo last weekend and a group of Minneapolis high school students formed a club in January, and Tom Helgeson gave them a booth where they were busy tying flies, which they just learned to tie, and they donated them to the Reeling for Recovery group for their drawings. I'm pretty shy, but I went up and talked to these youth and thanked them for being involved and encouraged them to join TU — which they had ready done. These will be the future leaders in Minnesota.

Another thing. Try to involve more women and youth in your banquets. Have prizes by and for women. Have a female speaker. Have raffle prizes of interest to women. Invite your local Scouts and 4Hers.



I'M GLAD YOU'RE THE ONE POKING THAT WORM, MR. HEART
Bill Heart helps a girl bait up at the Kids' Fishing Day at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center in Ashland last year.

Do you have chapter members at college? Invite them to speak or report on their progress if it is conservation. Nate Thomas, one of Wild Rivers' members, is a freshman at Stevens Point studying fisheries, and I invited him to be one of our featured tyers at our annual banquet in February. It was cool seeing him sit between a couple of our — I want to be politically correct about this — elder tyers in Dick Berge and Bob Haase. At the end of the evening, Nate was all smiles and really enjoyed himself. I am sure he will be a TU leader sometime in his future.

Just think what we could do if even one third of our council and chapter leadership made a point of mentoring at least two young people or women this summer by taking them fishing, teaching them fly tying, showing them how to cast, or interesting them in stream ecology, or getting them involved in chapter activities.

See the story by WITU Education Chair Bob Haase on p. 20 of this issue for more thoughts on getting kids involved in fishing. Meanwhile, I promised Larry that I will do the best that I can. I hope that all of you will help me.

Vernon County hopes to prevent another major fish kill

Vernon County is preparing to spend \$2 million in state and local funds to repair the dam and refill

Jersey Valley Lake in Vernon County.

Conservation officials are also working to prevent a repeat of the large-scale fish kill in the lake caused by manure runoff in 2005.

In early February of this year, the DNR received a complaint about excessive manure being spread on fields in the Jersey Valley watershed prior to a warming period. Water samples confirmed that once again manure runoff to the lake was in amounts sufficient to kill fish.

County conservationists and DNR biologists are working to ensure money invested in restoring the lake and fishery will be well spent and that a fully restored lake with a healthy fishery will be preserved for decades to come.

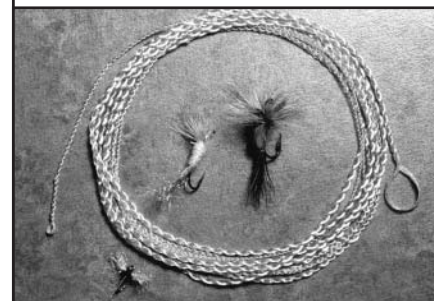
As part of this effort, land conservation staff from Vernon and Monroe counties will be visiting people in the Jersey Valley watershed in coming weeks to gather ideas on how to best manage manure so that this popular and re-

gionally important lake is protected.

"We need everyone's ideas and everyone's help to make this work," Koperski said. "Our hope is that everyone joins us in finding ways to manage manure in the watershed that are beneficial to the soil and the crops and this beautiful lake."

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LEGISLATION: issues update

Continued from p. 3

This year's priority issues are:

- improving the state's groundwater law,
- preventing drinking water contamination from agricultural, municipal, and industrial waste,
- supporting renewable energy jobs and conservation to combat global warming, and
- restoring board appointment of the DNR Secretary.

On that last issue, several Republican legislators said they would only support the change if the DNR were split into two agencies, something Wisconsin TU has opposed when it was suggested several years ago.

Lastly, the recent approval of a permit for a large dairy operation near Rosendale, along with possible plans for a large operation in Vernon County, has raised concerns among TU members and others. In response, Council Chair Bill Heart is calling for an outside review of DNR's decision-making in the Rosendale case.

Heart notes that the public needs to be assured that the DNR is doing everything it can to ensure that the risks of surface water and groundwater contamination are minimized. This is especially important in the wake of the livestock siting law passed during the first Doyle administration.

Culvert design workshop set

People who design or install road crossings over streams, manage road systems, or oversee permit activities in streams will meet for a three-day workshop hosted by the U-W Extension and WDNR April 21 at Holiday Acres Resort near Rhinelander.

"This hands-on workshop involves field activities and actual case studies that will improve a person's ability to assess, design, and install culverts at road-stream crossings," says Jon Simonsen, environmental review coordinator with the DNR.

Anyone interested in enrolling can do so either on the internet at <http://uwebe.encum-pus.com>.

Wisconsin Trout reprint

CAFO fight comes to Westby in Vernon County

By Joseph O'Brien

Westby area farmers Ryan and Leah Call have raised a small army of activists to help them fight the possible Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) moving into their neighborhood.

After several meetings with the Westby community, and one with the engineer in charge of coordinating the proposed CAFO, they know they have an uphill battle. They also won't give up without a fight.

But at the moment, they're frustrated — and whether they know it or not, they've joined the growing list of CAFO opponents around the state who are beating their heads against the brick wall known as the 2006 State Livestock Facility Siting Law and Rules.

According to Jamie Saul, attorney for Midwest Environmental Advocates of Madison, present state legislation — including the Wisconsin Livestock Siting Law — leaves the Calls and others like them with little recourse on the legal front.

"The Livestock Facility Siting Law makes it very difficult to say no to CAFOs," he explains. "The law puts into place a bare minimum of environmental protections so that then if local government wants to regulate, they can only do so according to state standards."

Last year, after much hard work, area residents lost the battle against a CAFO proposed by Roth Feeder Pigs, Inc.

"It's very difficult to put in more stringent environmental standards

— or even for a municipality to use their zoning power to any effect," Saul says. "As Crawford County saw last year, there's a lot of frustration at the county level on these kinds of issues."

Having moved back into the Westby area from Madison in 2002 to live on a farm they purchased, the Calls began making a life for themselves in their hometown. Both Calls grew up in the Westby area.

But in mid-December last year,

"Mr. Bourgault did not have answers to a lot of our questions, since (he said) his plan is not completed," she said.

Following up on the private Jan. 11 meeting, the *Kickapoo Free Press* made several calls to Bourgault's office. None were returned.

In a call prior to the Jan. 11 meeting, Bourgault told the paper that he wished to "forgo (an) interview since there isn't much to discuss except what's been out in the

the WDNR's permitting process. In the meantime, the Calls are doing what they can to defend their little corner of paradise even as they mobilize forces to combat the proposed CAFO. The Calls say they have plenty of reasons to be concerned.

If Petry is successful, the CAFO's potential drawbacks aren't restricted to a stink that comes with a shift in the wind. CAFOs can also impact the area with health, environmental, and economic risks.

Crawford County residents Pete and Jane Holzhauer took an active role in last year's battle against Roth's CAFO. Jane Holzhauer is a board member of the Crawford Stewardship Project, one of Roth, Inc.'s main opponents. Peter Holzhauer is an emergency room doctor at Elmbrook Memorial Hospital, Milwaukee, who used his medical expertise to research the health hazards of CAFOs in the 2008 fight. Two direct human health risks have been linked to CAFOs, he says: airborne particulates (with attendant odors serving to add insult to injury) and antibiotic-resistant bacteria.

"The air pollution [is a health risk] which, depending on prevailing winds and distance to populations, basically dissipates with time and wind. And generally there is a siting rule that the CAFO has to be half a mile from any population or even a farmhouse," he said, noting in particular the dangerously higher incidence of hydrogen sulfide and ammonia near CAFOs.

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"There are suitable places for CAFO operations, for sure; I just don't think Vernon County is one of them."
— Jeff Hastings, TUDARE Project Manager

the Calls discovered that Petry Trust, Inc., a land developer from Rockville, IL, had begun testing some of the land that it owns nearby for possible CAFO siting.

If the CAFO is built, the Calls know it would mean the end of their rural world as they've known it. They're also beginning to realize that a fight against big-business agriculture is also a fight against heavy-handed state laws.

On Jan. 11, they invited Marc Bourgault, the engineer coordinating the CAFO proposal for Petry, to a private meeting at their home. According to Leah Call, the meeting came to little more than an exercise in frustration.

(local papers). There isn't much to discuss yet because there isn't a proposal yet."

In the same call, Bourgault did say that he was "doing investigations (for a possible CAFO siting), asking questions and unfortunately stirring up a rumor mill, but we have yet to put together our plan."

The churning of the rumor mill has not been slowed by the fact that Jeff Petry hasn't appeared at any of the meetings, hasn't talked to the concerned neighbors, and hasn't made clear his intentions for the land that he owns.

Call maintains that she will remain patient to hear what Petry will propose — whenever that might be, considering the lengthy nature of

TU wins stream access battles in western states

By Dan Wisniewski

In order to advise state TU councils and local chapters on how they should be involved in stream access issues, TU National in 2007 created a Stream Access Work Group (SAWG), comprised of two members of the TU Board of Trustees (BOT) and three members of the National Leadership Council (NLC).

NLC Chair Duke Welter asked me to be one of the NLC members.

SAWG's role is to gather information from state councils and chapters that want to get involved in access issues that arise in the courts, state legislatures, or other arenas. We are to determine whether current public stream access is really threatened, the impact on private property rights, what precedents are involved, and whether involvement in the dispute reflects TU's national policy on preserving access.

First cases in Montana

When SAWG was first formed, things were pretty quiet on the access front. Our first issue involved whether Montana TU could support the purchase of a five-mile rail corridor along a trout stream by a private group with some funds from the state. Willing seller, much improved access, no opposition from anyone — it was a no-brainer, and SAWG supported Montana TU's wish to be involved.

It got more interesting after that. Late last year, the Montana Supreme Court ruled that Mitchell Slough was indeed a natural waterway and open for public access under current state law. That ruling was extremely important in terms of supporting general public access in the state.

Since then, there have been attempts in the legislature to overturn or limit the court decision. SAWG gave its approval to Montana TU to oppose Senate Bill 314 which would have overturned the Mitchell Slough court de-

cision. This bill died in committee. The sponsor, after receiving many communications from members of the angling and conservation communities, agreed that the language of the bill was broader than he had intended and would restrict stream access rights. He requested that the bill not be heard in committee and his request was granted.

Montana bridge access

The other hot access issue in Montana involved fencing along county road bridges. Some landowners were fencing right up to the bridge structure to deter public access to previously open streams. Last October, a district court in Montana ruled that the public indeed had the right to access streams at these bridges. Montana TU feared that landowners and big ranchers would try to have the legislature overturn or severely limit the court ruling and asked SAWG to OK its opposition to such a bill.

As it turns out, Montana TU has been able to work with ranch groups and other conservation organizations to develop a bill that would merely clarify the court ruling. What's now called the "Access at Bridges" bill recently passed the Montana House by a 97-3 margin and is expected to pass the Senate. A few questions relating to landowner liability remain to be worked out, but the process has demonstrated Montana TU's ability to marshal support for stream access.

Utah access challenge

In Utah, the state Supreme Court also ruled in favor of increased public access, and there have also been legislative attempts to overturn the court decision. After the court unanimously decided last fall that river users had the right to walk on the streambed and access the shoreline to get around stream obstructions, Utah TU asked SAWG for permission to fight against an expected attempt by landowners to reverse the court decision. We granted them permission to be involved

since the issue at hand was preserving current access and not limiting current landowner rights. We urged them to work with other conservation groups and to seek advice from the Montana TU council, a veteran of similar legislative battles.

The expected bill surfaced toward the end of the legislative session, and an attempt was made to rush the bill through. Despite long odds in this conservative environment, the Utah Council, allied with a host of other groups, marched on the capitol, some wearing waders and waving fly rods, and convinced the State Assembly to narrowly kill the bill. The bill resurfaced a few days later and was killed again. The legislature then adjourned.

The issue will probably surface again next year, but Utah TU has shown it can also work effectively in favor of access and should be ready to do so again.

Oregon right to access

Similar access issues are also brewing in Oregon, where a 2005 Attorney General's opinion clarified that anyone who accesses a river at a public right of way and stays below the high water mark is free to use the river. It is expected that there will be an attempt in the legislature to "clarify" the issue, and battle lines are being drawn. SAWG can expect to hear from Oregon TU soon.

Board of Trustee and grassroots members of SAWG have so far been able to achieve consensus on how to advise state councils and chapters to deal with these access issues. It's a welcome relief after several years of infighting within TU about whether the organization should even be involved in these issues at all. Well, we are involved in a positive way and, at least for now, we're winning.

(Dan Wisniewski has been the WITU's elected representative on the National Leadership Council since 2006. -Ed.)

Council honors 11 at annual ceremony

By Bill Heart

Eleven individuals and groups were honored for their work on behalf of the state's coldwater resources by WITU at the State Council's annual conference in Stevens Point Feb. 7.

The MC duties for the awards ceremony were handled by former State Council Chair Steve Born, who filled in for the ailing Larry Meicher.

Larry Meicher received the council's first-ever Lifetime Achievement Award for his many efforts of behalf of Trout Unlimited over the years. Meicher could not attend the event, but Chair Bill Heart presented the award to him several days before the ceremony.

The following are highlights of from the ceremony recognizing the award recipients.

Larry Meicher — Lifetime Achievement Award

Larry Meicher has been involved at every level of TU in Wisconsin for decades, and whatever needed to be done, he did. His contributions have been consistently outstanding, both in leadership and service to chapter and council, and he is just as involved today as he was thirty years ago!

At the chapter level, he served early on as Southern Wisconsin chapter president. Perhaps more importantly, he has played a principal role in recruiting many successor chapter officers. In fact, from the time that Larry first introduces himself to a new member, he is already sizing him up for leadership potential and future roles in TU.

He has been a highly effective lead instructor in SWTU's beginner fly tying classes for more than 20 years. Several past presidents of SWTU, various State Council officers, some TU National leaders, and scores of TU members generally have been recruited from his fly tying class.

For chapter and council fund-raising events, he has been omnipresent. Our SWTU and Wild Rivers chapters couldn't imagine an auction without the infamous auctioneer, Dr. Sausage, known for extracting ridiculously high bids for seemingly useless trout fishing miscellany, all to support coldwater conservation. Whether it's been educational events, stream projects, oversight of award nominations, master of ceremonies, interim officer — he's done it all with grace and enthusiasm at both the council and chapter levels.

Larry has also played a key role in organizing new TU chapters in Wisconsin. And when Larry, as MC of a TU ceremonial event, presents a TU award in his rich baritone voice, there is no doubt in the mind of the recipient that the award is heartfelt and represents genuine appreciation on the part of our organization.

Larry has always been a generous contributor to chapter and council fund-raising events. Of particular note, his famous series of Pass Lake flies — anything black and white that he ties on a hook, and for which he has gained the nickname "The Pass Lake Kid" — are always sought after and seem to show up at every kind of TU event.

He's even been a "performer" on TUTV in a wonderful episode that showcased local conservation efforts

on Black Earth Creek. His warm, friendly style of communicating, coupled with his many years of work as a professional educator, made him a top-notch spokesman for local conservation efforts viewed nationwide.

All his accomplishments in support of TU's mission — notable for both their quality and their longevity — make Larry Meicher a splendid recipient for the Wisconsin State Council's Lifetime Achievement Award. Larry has spent a TU lifetime recognizing the work of others; it's with pride that the Wisconsin Council recognizes Larry for his superior longtime leadership, service, and commitment to Trout Unlimited.

Clint Byrnes — Award of Merit

Clint Byrnes has been a member of TU since 1969 when he traveled to Madison to help establish what would become the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of TU. Since that time, he has worked tirelessly for TU and coldwater conservation and education.

Clint was a charter member of the Aldo Leopold Chapter, serving as its president for many years. He was a leader in the Crystal Creek improvement project in Dodge County — intensive habitat work that took six years to complete.

In the mid 1990s, Clint worked with Bob Hunt and others to launch Wisconsin TU's nationally acclaimed Consider Proper Release (CPR) program, producing the streamside CPR signs and video to implement the work. Clint's car always has a stack of pamphlets to be dropped off at sport shops, and he always has CPR signs ready to go for trout stream access points that are "bare!"

Clint's professional life as a shop and technology instructor at Beaver Dam High School reflects his deep interest in education. It also led to his other "professional identity" as a crafter of beautiful laminated landing nets. His highly desired nets have been handed out as TU awards and prizes all over the state for years. In fact, Clint started the State Council's awards program, knowing how important it is to recognize the conservation activities and successes of our members and chapters.

He is a living example of direct personal environmental activism, both in TU and in other conservation organizations. When Clint thinks of something that needs doing, he acts on it, and he's been doing that for a long time to the tremendous benefit of our organization.

Jim Hlaban — Lee and Joan Wulff Conservation Leadership Award

Several years ago, John Beth made arrangements with Joan Wulff for the creation of our Lee and Joan Wulff Award for outstanding conservation leadership. This is a traveling award. We pass it on annually to a person who — in the opinion of the executive committee and the awards committee — has shown outstanding conservation leadership.

John's vision was that the award — like a trout — "is a treasure too valuable to be caught only once." Because this award is "caught" and then "released," it seems especially appropriate that this year's recipient once chaired the State Council's



AWARDEES MEICHER, BYRNES, AND HLABAN

WITU Chair Bill Heart (top left) presents ailing Larry Meicher with the State Council's first-ever Lifetime Achievement Award at Larry's home in Rio. Heart made the presentation a few days before the official award ceremony in Stevens Point Feb. 7. Clint Byrnes (middle right) received the State Council's Award of Merit from Heart for his many leadership roles and efforts for WITU over the years. Jim Hlaban (bottom right) received the Lee and Joan Wulff Conservation Leadership Award.

prolific Consider Proper Release Committee. That person is Jim Hlaban.

The CPR Committee was formed in 1993 after Bob Hunt shared with the State Council his sobering study of trout mortality following release. We were shocked to hear that perhaps a quarter million Wisconsin trout could be saved every year to fight again if anglers used better releasing techniques.

Under Jim's leadership, the CPR Committee first produced brochures with the familiar five CPR steps. In 1996, the committee developed a streamside CPR sign. The committee's biggest project was a six-minute video featuring Joan Wulff's narration and starring various Wisconsin TU characters.

In 1997, TU National reproduced our CPR video and sent it to every chapter in the country. If you go to TU National's new 50-year anniversary web site, you'll see Wisconsin's CPR program featured as one of about a dozen major TU accomplishments over the past 50 years.

In recent years, Jim has gotten very involved in stream monitoring. At first Jim did monitoring at the chapter level, but he now advises others and plans training programs.

In 2007, Jim wrapped up a seven-year run as State Council vice chair. But instead of relaxing, he worked with his web-guru son last year to update the State Council's web site. As our new webmaster, Jim is helping our chapters without web sites get online by creating sites linked to the council's site.

For these and many other reasons, we honor Jim Hlaban as the recipient of this year's Lee and Joan Wulff Conservation Leadership Award.

Todd Hanson — Gold Trout Award

Todd came from a checkered career as a teacher, writer, brewmaster, and editor, as well as a retired leader of Fox Valley TU, to become *Wisconsin Trout* editor starting with the summer 1999 issue. Under Todd's editorship, the paper has encouraged contributions from writers and photographers from around the state, and they have responded. In short, he has transferred ownership of *Wisconsin Trout* to Wisconsin TUers.

It didn't hurt that Todd, in a stroke of brilliance, combined his brewing and editor's skills by offering a home-brewed Big Bookie beer for each photo or article contributed to the paper. This year, he brought five cases of the exclusive brew to distribute to the editorial staff.

The result has been an exciting and richly informative *Wisconsin Trout*, one which has articles ranging from chapter reports and editorials to law review articles on important topics like the Public Trust Doctrine. And, of course, the paper has scintillating book reviews and fishing advice. *Wisconsin Trout* has taken a stand on legislative issues and on key coldwater conservation issues, and it is read by Wisconsin policy makers as well as anglers and conservationists.

For his efforts, *Wisconsin Trout* under Todd's leadership received the Jean Bollinger Award from National Trout Unlimited as the best state TU publication in the nation in 2001. We applaud his efforts in producing an outstanding publication on behalf of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited by recognizing Todd Hanson as this year's Gold Trout award recipient.

Southern Wisconsin Chapter — Silver Trout Award

TU National recently established a working group on partnering with land trusts and others to protect private lands tied to coldwater conservation. The National Leadership Council's conservancy work group was led by Wisconsin's NLC Representative, Dan Wisniewski of the Southern Wisconsin Chapter.

At about the same time, Dane County embarked on a new effort to secure permanent fishing access easements on key trout streams. Many of these were protected by temporary easements at the time that habitat improvement work had been done.

The new easements will provide permanent access to improved and critical stretches of trout streams. This conservation/access easement program complements the aggressive stream improvement program of the past few years, including a showcase project (with easements) on Gordon Creek and extensive habitat improvement on Black Earth Creek.

Last year, following a \$5,000 contribution by the State Council for the easement program, the Southern Wisconsin Chapter solicited contributions from its members. By year's end, SWTU members had contributed over \$8,000 for permanent easements. Additional chapter fund-raising events are underway in support of the easement acquisition program and healthy, accessible trout waters.

Going forward, a key partner with SWTU will be the Natural Heritage Land Trust. The goal of this partnership is to obtain easements on Vermont Creek, a five-mile tributary of Black Earth Creek and a stream ripe for restoration.

In honor of the Southern Wisconsin Chapter's partnership with Dane County and an area land trust, as well as other organizations, in the pursuit of permanent access easements on trout water, SWTU is hereby awarded the 2009 Silver Trout Award by the Wisconsin TU State Council.

Bob Gennrich — Most Unsung Valuable Trout Award

Bob Gennrich is old school, and he has been in the trenches for TU for decades. He is gracious and treats people with respect. Bob has unwavering opinions when it comes to fly fishing. He loves bluegill fishing, and no one knows better when to go, where to go, and how to catch them. For bluegills there is only one fly for Bob, his girdle bug. Bob states emphatically that it must be #12, must be unweighted, must be black with white legs, and — the special secret — must have a small tuft of red marabou at the rear. No deviation is possible if you want to be successful.

Trout are Bob's passion, especially brook trout. Early season finds Bob and friend, Dez Bible, chasing all over southwestern Wisconsin, checking streams with his spinning rod to find the best brook trout populations. When the summer season starts, Bob returns to those good streams with his fly rod. The rod must be light and short, the fly line must be freshly cleaned and treated to float, and the leader must be sanded to sink so it won't reflect light. And the fly? There is only one — the Gennrich Hopper is his fly of choice. Bob insists that the body be a special color of Kelly green, which only he knows is right. The wing is of wild turkey specially treated and shaped. The tail and hackle need to be that special shade of brown.

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AWARDEES HANSON, SWTU, AND GENNRICH

Todd Hanson (top right) received the Gold Trout Award for his 10 years of service editing the council's *Wisconsin Trout* newspaper and helping with other WITU projects. Southern Wisconsin TU President Dave Sanders (center right) accepted the Silver Trout Award on behalf of SWTU, which was recognized for its recent habitat project on Gordon Creek and for promoting Dane County's trout stream easement program. Bob Gennrich (bottom right) was awarded the Unsung Most Valuable Trout Award for his years of work for the Southern Wisconsin Chapter.

AWARDS: 11 honored by State Council at Feb. 7 event

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Bob has been a leader in Southern Wisconsin TU for many years. He helped develop and taught the chapter's fly tying and rod building

courses. He has introduced many young people to trout fishing, and many of those students have become members and leaders of TU. Bob has given much to TU and

coldwater conservation, earning the respect and admiration of those who've known and worked with him.

Tim Meyer — Gold Net Award

Tim Meyer has been the WI Clear Waters Chapter's stream project manager for the past five years. In this role, he has organized the chapter's Gilbert, Elk, Trout, and other creek projects. These projects bring together many groups, from sport clubs to conservation groups like Pheasants Forever. Tim has coordinated their participation in funding and evening work efforts.

Tim has taught at the TUDARE workshops held in Westby for several years, and has taught various chapter classes as a certified DNR fly fishing instructor. He organized the participation of elementary school students and Scouts in DNR electro-shocking demonstrations on Gilbert and Elk Creek. This has resulted in more volunteers for these stream projects.

He has been a key participant in the Western Wisconsin regional watershed projects planning group which coordinates the area's stream restoration efforts.

Tim's strong administrative skills, superb volunteer organizing, and ability to work with landowners and students are of great value to his chapter. His technical skills as a soil scientist, abilities as a natural resources trainer, and familiarity with soils across the state all aid him in planning and carrying out watershed projects. He has been an integral part of WI Clear Waters Chapter programs, and is a fine example of the best of TU's volunteer leaders.

Kathleen Falk — Certificate of Appreciation

Kathleen Falk was awarded our Lee and Joan Wulff Award in 1998 based on her earlier accomplishments as a co-founder of Wisconsin's Environmental Decade (now Clean Wisconsin) and as a State Public Intervenor. Since then, in her 12 years as Dane County Executive, she has made Dane County a national leader in natural resources conservation.

Early in her tenure, she led the fight for a successful county-wide referendum to dramatically increase Dane County's Conservation Fund from \$1 million to \$4 million a year. The fund is used to purchase park, recreation, and sensitive natural resource lands. The fund has now increased to \$7.5 million a year under her leadership. The county funds often receive matching funds from the state's Stewardship program, magnifying their impact.

In addition, Falk created a \$5 million a year Land and Water Legacy Fund which is used for grants to local governments and non-profit groups for restoration projects and other conservation programs.

More recently, Kathleen Falk created the first and only county-funded program to purchase permanent easements on trout streams, guaranteeing public access and habitat improvement. This program provides about \$300,000 annually to buy easements from willing landowners. As part of a National TU pilot program to encourage greater collaboration with local land trusts and public agencies to secure public access and allow stream restoration, the State Council and the Southern Wisconsin Chapter have partnered with Dane County and the Natural Heritage Land Trust to support this effort. The State Council

has donated \$5,000 to accelerate this effort, and SWTU has so far raised over \$10,000 from its members, as well as several thousand dollars from other conservation groups.

There may be no other county in the country that has a better conservation program, especially as it relates to trout streams. Kathleen Falk is a true conservation leader, and she deserves our acclamation.

Tim Larson — Special Appreciation DNR Personnel Award

This year we are giving two special appreciation awards to DNR personnel. The first goes to Tim Larson.

Tim recently retired from his position as the fisheries biologist at Poynette after decades of trout work. Under Tim's direction, many streams in Columbia and Sauk counties have become much better trout habitat.

Beside his many habitat improvement projects, Tim has sought to raise awareness of the importance of trout streams by reaching out to landowners and advocacy groups. He has worked with cities and towns on storm water runoff issues, erosion control, and thermal pollution. He has been a huge help to the Aldo Leopold Chapter in its efforts over the years.

Tim's various studies have added a wealth of data about what works and what doesn't when applying habitat improvement techniques and regulations. His rigorous shocking program has created an extensive data set on trout populations in area streams that will help TU in its work for years to come.

Tim's retirement will be a great loss of experience and knowledge. Luckily, his work has left the trout resource in his area in such good shape that excellent fishing opportunities will remain for a long time. The State Council and the Aldo Leopold Chapter join in wishing Tim a happy retirement and in thanking him for all of the fish.

David Brum — Special Appreciation DNR Personnel Award

Our second special appreciation award goes to David Brum. Dave retired last September from his position as a fisheries technician in Woodruff after serving the resources of Wisconsin for 32 years.

Some of Dave's major successes came about on Brule and Elvov creeks in Forest County. Those creeks provide cold water and spawning habitat for the border Brule River, and both streams were suffering from channel degradation due to beaver activity and old logging practices.

Work on the creeks began with the Forks Dam removal in 1990, followed by channel renovation and headwater springs dredging during the next few years. Additional work required accessing private property. Dave was successful in working with private landowners to get easements. Once access was obtained, equipment was used to improve thousands of feet of frontage on both creeks.

Another of Dave's successes occurred last year when he led the first restoration project to be completed on one of Wisconsin's designated wild and scenic rivers. The Popple River project restored several thousand feet of frontage below the Woods Creek confluence.

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AWARDEES MEYER, FALK, LARSON, AND BRUM

Wisconsin Clear Waters Chapter member Tim Meyer (top right) was presented the Gold Net Award for coordinating numerous stream improvement projects in western Wisconsin. Dane County Executive Kathleen Falk (represented by Dan Wisniewski, middle right) received a Certificate of Appreciation for her innovative stream easement purchase program and other county conservation efforts. Retiring WDNR Fishery Biologist Tim Larson (represented by Aldo Leopold Chapter President Mike Barniskis, bottom left) was awarded a DNR Personnel Award.

Conservation Congress asks for input on barbless hooks

The top trout-related question on this year's Conservation Congress ballot relates to barbless hook usage during the early trout season.

The WDNR has been concerned that the benefits of using barbless hooks on trout mortality are so small that they do not outweigh the problems the restriction has on enforcing the provision.

The Conservation Congress is asking for angler input on the question at the statewide meetings to be held Monday, April 13, at 7 p.m. at locations across the state.

WDNR Fisheries Management Bureau Director Mike Staggs addressed the WITU State Council on Feb. 7 to discuss the question.

Staggs later distributed a summary of the scientific literature relating to hooking mortality and barbed hooks. (See the State Council web site at www.WisconsinTU.org under "documents" to review these studies.) The Council did not make a recommendation one way or another on the question.

Three other trout-related questions are on the spring ballot:

- Do you support changing the

QUESTION 6 – Eliminate barbless hooks restriction during early trout season

Numerous scientific studies have been conducted showing that the use of barbed versus barbless hooks has little effect on trout mortality following release. In a 1997 study published in the North American Journal of Fisheries Management, for flies and lures combined, the average hook related mortality was 4.5% for barbed hooks and 4.2% for barbless hooks. Because natural mortality for wild trout range from 30-65% annually, the 0.3% difference in the two hook types is irrelevant at the population level, even when fish are subjected to repeated catch and release. Most biologists agree that how deeply a fish is hooked has more to do with mortality than what type of hook is used. Despite the scientific evidence, anglers are required to use barbless hooks only during the early catch-and-release trout season. Elimination of that restriction would simplify trout fishing regulations and eliminate law enforcement issues.

The use of live bait will still be prohibited during the early catch-and-release trout fishing season.

If adopted, this proposal will take effect on the first day of the month following publication in the Wisconsin Administrative Register.

Do you support allowing the use of barbed hooks during the early catch-and-release trout season in Wisconsin?

6. YES _____ NO _____

trout regulations from alternate year open fishing season to an annual open fishing season for four managed trout lakes (Nymphia, Overby, Little Star, and Beaver) in Bayfield Co.?

- Do you favor extending the end of the open season for trout in Anderson Lake from September 30 to the first Sunday in March?
- Do you favor changing the 9-inch minimum size limit, 3 fish daily bag limit to a 9-inch maximum size limit with a 5 fish daily bag limit on Manley Cr., for a period of 10 years to allow evaluation?

See the DNR's web site under "Conservation Congress" tab for meeting locations in your county.

WITU members continue CAFO discussion on council's web site

WITU webmaster Jim Hlaban has set up a discussion forum on the State Council's web site to allow members to comment on manure

runoff, CAFOs, barbless hooks, and other topics.

From the home page, click on the "forums" tab.

AWARDS: 11 honored by TU

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The northern TU chapters are hopeful that this pioneering work will lead to many more restoration projects on the wild and scenic Pine and Popple rivers.

Dave has been a great help to the Northwoods Chapter in their efforts to stay heavily involved with the trout resource in Northern Wisconsin. We thank him for many years of work and lots of improved habitat.

Ken Anderson — Certificate of Appreciation

Ken Anderson is a technician with the Richland County Land Conservation Dept. and has been a consistent contributor to and vital partner for numerous TU chapters on many steam projects.

For two years, Ken wrestled right here at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point before an injury derailed his ability to compete. Although Ken's collegiate wrestling days were through, he wasn't done fighting. Specifically, Ken fights nearly every day for Richland County's resources, it's people, and for those willing to pitch in and help both out.

Ken and his department have been intimately involved with, and have helped make possible, some of Wisconsin TU's most visible projects over the past several years. For instance, Ken was a leader for the nearly river-long restoration of

Elk Creek outside of Viola, WI. He was the project leader for the mile-long George Smith project on Camp Creek accomplished over the past two years.

He was also the project leader for the nearly 1.5-mile restoration of Melancthan Creek's headwaters, and he has been involved in a myriad of other restoration efforts including those at Tenny and Clary creeks, just to name a few. When one considers the sheer mileage of trout stream restoration that Ken has helped make possible, the tons of unnatural sediment he's helped to keep out of our rivers, and the benefit he's given to southwest Wisconsin's coldwater resources, one can't help but be impressed.

There are more than just metrics to the man, however. Anyone from the numerous chapters that Ken has worked with — from Ocooch to Blackhawk to Southeast Wisconsin, and even some chapters from Illinois, for which we'll forgive him — can attest that Ken does more than just his job. Ken reaches out, invites, and makes volunteer involvement enjoyable. If that means time put in off the clock, he does it. If that means using his own farm equipment to get a job done, Ken does it.

Although we formally recognize Ken here today, perhaps the best and most true symbol of our appreciation are the hundreds of miles that TU volunteers drive to be part of workdays associated with his projects. We appreciate what Ken does, and we appreciate how he does it.

Spring council meeting May 9

The spring WITU State Council meeting will be held in the Eau Claire area on Saturday, May 9.

The meeting will be hosted by the Wisconsin Clear Waters Chapter, and its members will be happy to guide attendees on Friday evening and after the meeting ends about 3:30 Saturday.

Once details are finalized, WITU Chair Bill Heart will contact council members and chapter presidents with details.



AWARDEES BRUM AND ANDERSON

A second DNR Personnel Award was given to retiring WDNR Fisheries Technician Dave Brum (top right) for his many years of service to coldwater resources. Richland County Land Conservation Dept. Technician Ken Anderson (represented by SEWTU member Henry Koltz, bottom right) received an Appreciation Award for his work on many trout habitat projects.

Big farms or small, TU members continue to ask... what to do with all that manure?

There was a spirited discussion about farm manure, polluted runoff, and fish kills at WITU's February State Council meeting. It all started with a presentation on a proposed concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO) in the Rosendale area that has many of our members concerned.

Are Wisconsin's regulations for CAFOs adequate? Or are

It's not about size... it's all about the manure!

By John Gremmer

I am alarmed and concerned about the increasing number of CAFOs (concentrated animal feeding operations) in Wisconsin. As I write this, there are 185 CAFOs in the state, with 50 more applying for permits. Our existing laws make these permits easy to acquire. Northeast Wisconsin, where I live, has a large number of CAFOs, and there already have been two major spills, both with fish loss.

But, they are not the major culprit when it comes to manure spills and kills. More on that later. The big problem is that CAFOs produce tremendous volumes of animal wastes that have to be disposed of.

I know that CAFOs have more stringent regulations than smaller farms, but I worry about the sheer volume of animal wastes that they are spraying and spreading on our agricultural lands. Many people feel that the way CAFOs currently handle manure will eventually lead to the contamination of drinking water, ground water, and surface water.

CAFOs need a better answer than spraying and spreading. Anaerobic digesters that produce methane

may be the answer, but so far there are only 17 operating in Wisconsin.

The DNR recently OK'd a permit for the \$100,000,000 Rosendale Dairy to spread 92,000,000 gallons of liquid manure on Fond du Lac County farmlands per year. This is equal in volume to what the city of Green Bay produces — the third largest sewage district in Wisconsin.

Now, human wastes and animal wastes are two different things, and they certainly have different effects on the environment. I use this comparison to illustrate the volume that this one CAFO creates.

The Rosendale Dairy permit was granted in spite of the fact that the soils in that region are thin, with porous rock underneath. These lands are drained by streams that empty into Green Lake, Rush Lake, and Lake Winnebago. There is also a trout stream that is in this area. Nearby citizens and communities were opposed to it.

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CAFOs actually less of a threat to Wisconsin's trout streams than an equal number of animals spread out among a dozen smaller — and largely unregulated — “family farms”?

Four TU members offer their opinions below on a number of aspects of farming and nutrient management. We love our farms, but what do we do with all that manure?

“Factory farms” or “family farms”? Should we care?

By Bill Pielsticker

Over the last several decades, a number of individuals and organizations have expressed a preference for “family farms” as opposed to “factory farms.” The term CAFO, or concentrated animal feeding operation, is often freely substituted for factory farm.

According to the Sierra Club, CAFOs “threaten America’s public health” as well as “America’s drinking water, lakes and rivers.” My question is, to what extent do CAFOs threaten our drinking water, lakes and rivers here in Wisconsin?

Since the mission of Trout Unlimited centers on stewardship of our coldwater resources, I will limit my analysis to threats to our lakes and rivers. Personally, I have concerns about drinking water quality as well as interests in seeing that air quality standards adequately protect farm employees, but neither of those fall under TU’s mission. Simi-

larly, some opponents of CAFOs object to the concentration of land ownership in fewer hands, or other side effects of larger operations. Again, these may be personally of concern, but they are outside the area of TU’s mission.

Not all CAFOs are created equal. That is to say, not all manure is the same. All large animal feeding operations produce large amounts of animal manure. Please note the “animal” part. Poultry manure contains very high concentrations of nitrogen which, if it runs off into lakes and streams, creates serious water quality problems. Hogs have a single stomach; their manure is similar to human waste and smells terrible.

Unlike hogs, however, cows are ruminants. When food is processed by their four stomachs, what remains is still full of fiber, isn’t digested as much as with hogs or poultry, and (usually) doesn’t smell as bad.

Curiously, the Sierra Club on its “Clean Water and Factory Farms” web page, notes fish kills from hog manure and the harm that chicken and hog waste have done to the Chesapeake Bay.

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Are CAFOs worth the risks they pose to Wisconsin water?

By Tom Hermann

I joined TU because I know that protecting our coldwater resources is very important in the larger scheme of things. TU does that by putting its money and time where its mouth is.

Still, no matter how important protecting coldwater resources may be, I cannot help but note that if we do not protect the environment as a whole, then our efforts will be like saving our hat while the shirt rots off our back.

There is a broader picture. What the role of TU might be in the broader issue(s) of factory farms remains to be decided. For me, the lodestone that directs my thinking in regard to environmental matters is the following quote from Aldo Leopold’s “Land Ethic” essay: “A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise.”

By that standard, I fail to see how most of our modern factory farms, including CAFOs, can be regarded in positive light. There has always been a tension in regard to agriculture. Is a farm a food factory, or is it a place to live? As near as I can tell,

factory farms are strictly profit-oriented enterprises.

Of course, making a profit and making a life are not mutually exclusive. But let me submit that when the first (profit) overrides the second (a life) then the farming methods used will not be those that lead to integrity, stability, and beauty of any biotic community.

If there is one lesson of modern ecological thought, it is that diversity matters. The first rule of Leopold’s “intelligent tinkering” is to save all of the pieces. When I see a modern factory farm, I can practically hear the pieces falling to the floor.

Industrial agriculture is not a new phenomenon in Wisconsin. In the early to mid 19th century, the farmlands of Wisconsin were being exploited during a wheat boom. The boom depleted the soils, but when the land went bad, the exploiters and boomers kept moving on.

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Can water monitoring have a role in judging CAFOs?

By Kent Johnson

At the Wisconsin TU State Council meeting on Feb. 7, a spirited discussion arose about the possible impacts of concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) on Wisconsin’s water resources.

After a presentation by Rick Fahrenkrug of the Central WI Chapter that espoused the possible water quality hazards of CAFOs, WITU Legislative Chair Bill Pielsticker delivered an impassioned rebuttal, suggesting that CAFOs, as a general rule, are causing no substantial water quality impairments. Members expressed opinions on both sides of the issue.

As I sat listening to the dialogue, it impressed me that the discussion was largely opinion-based. Nobody was basing their assessment of CAFO impact (or not) on sound scientific data that had been collected as a part of a well-crafted water quality monitoring program that

measures CAFO performance on an on-going basis.

Performance monitoring is required by WDNR as a condition of all Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) permits held by industrial and municipal (wastewater treatment plant) dischargers throughout the state. As a regulatory condition of their WPDES permits, shouldn’t CAFOs be required to establish and conduct “upstream” and “downstream” monitoring that would document the performance of their on-site management practices? The monitoring program should address key surface water quality aspects that could be impacted by CAFOs, including:

- dissolved oxygen and temperature (continuous measurement),
- biochemical oxygen demand, nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen),
- bacteria, and
- suspended solids.

Since monitoring of surface water quality is not possible at all times, annual biomonitoring using aquatic macroinvertebrates would be very useful.

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GREMMER: it's about the manure!

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The city of Ripon opposed the CAFO and fears it will contaminate its drinking water. In my mind, the DNR and the Rosendale Dairy have not proved that the dairy will not pollute.

A dispassionate and impotent DNR, which has been battered and minimized by politicians and big money interests, says, "We have written the WPDES (Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permit (for Rosendale Dairy) to the best of our ability within our existing legal framework to ensure that the project will avoid and minimize adverse environmental water quality impacts." (Does the word minimize bother you?)

Is the DNR suggesting that Wisconsin laws are not adequate in protecting our natural resources from exploitation and degradation? I believe they are inadequate. Many others do, too.

CAFOs are a current and future threat, but some of the 13,000-plus smaller farms are the immediate problem. This past February saw many farmers all over Wisconsin spreading manure on frozen and snow-covered fields. In mid-February, we had a 65-degree day, and much of that manure ran off into our waterways. Not all farmers are

irresponsible, but enough are to cause problems. The large majority of farmers are exemplary stewards of the land.

I am not against farmers finding new technologies and processes to make the food that we all consume. I am not against them making a profit. I hope they do! But, they should prove that they are not doing this to the detriment of our environment before they start.

The Rosendale Dairy was so confident that they would get all 23 DNR required permits that they started construction before permits were granted. How did they know they would get all the required permits? Were they gambling \$100,000,000, or did someone tell them it was a slam dunk?

As an organization that pledges to protect and preserve our cold water resources, Trout Unlimited should be actively promoting legislation that will do that. I know many people have worked hard and long to do this in the past, but we need to renew and increase our efforts.

Thanks for taking time to read my letter. What do you think Wisconsin TU should do to help solve this problem?

(John Gremmer is a member of the Central WI Chapter and has submitted several fly patterns and close-up trout photos to WisTrout. -Ed.)

PIELSTICKER: should size matter?

Continued from p. 10

Clearly, cow manure can cause fish kills, a fact often cited here in Wisconsin. However, very few of the fish kills documented over the last few years in our state were traced to CAFOs. Most were due to improper manure storage or handling by family farms or by private manure haulers.

How can family farms be responsible for the vast majority of manure-caused fish kills in our state? Wisconsin has over 14,000 dairy farms, only about 130 of which are CAFOs. The CAFOs are highly regulated, require state permits, and must follow approved manure management plans. The other dairy farms range in size from a few dozen cows to just under 700 cows. These 13,000 plus operations are only required to have approved manure management (nutrient management) plans if the state offers to pay for it. They are not otherwise regulated.

Many of Wisconsin's small farms are located adjacent to streams and wetlands, just as they were when they were first settled. This is especially the case in the stream-filled Driftless Area. Certainly, when a CAFO has a problem, chances are it is a big problem. Even so, when you combine the runoff from the 13,000 plus family farms, they represent a much larger problem for water quality than the highly regulated and generally well managed CAFOs.

For me, all this boils down to three critical issues. First, as far as water quality is involved, I have at least as much concern about the

combined impact of the large number of smaller operations as compared to the impact of the large operations, or CAFOs.

Second, in either type of operation, the critical factor is not size but management. Yes, a poorly managed CAFO can have a large, negative impact. At the same time, a number of poorly managed small farms can have an even larger negative impact. In fact, given the management skills required for a small operation versus a large operation, I would expect a large operation to be better managed to have less of an adverse impact on water quality than an equivalent number of smaller operations.

Third, not only should any dairy operation have enough land under contract to handle its volume of manure, but that land needs to have appropriate soils and geology. Not only are surface runoff and possible groundwater contamination legitimate concerns, but the outflow of drainage tiles also needs to be considered and accounted for.

My ideal dairy operation is a 200-head managed pasture operation where much of the manure is naturally distributed across the landscape. That said, given the choice between 20 100-cow "family farms" and one 2,000-cow CAFO, my preference is for the latter. Due to its management, that CAFO's impact on water quality is likely to be substantially less than the smaller operations.

(Bill Pielsticker is a former WITU State Council Chair, and he now serves as chair of WITU's Legislative Committee. -Ed.)

JOHNSON: the role of water monitoring

Continued from p. 10

as these organisms are excellent integrators of water quality impacts over time. Monitoring of groundwater quality in the underlying aquifers that sustain our trout streams and serve as drinking water sources should also be a strong consideration.

While there is a role for volunteer monitoring of Wisconsin's waters, the burden should not be placed on volunteers (including our Trout Unlimited chapters) to document any water quality impacts of CAFOs. WDNR issues WPDES permits to ensure that Wisconsin's waters are protected from municipal

and industrial discharges, and the burden of proof for performance measurement should clearly be placed on the CAFO industry and WDNR, as the independent regulatory authority. A CAFO monitoring program would need a focused design, careful attention to established and acceptable monitoring protocols, and analysis of samples by a certified laboratory, since the data generated by the program would have regulatory and legal implications. As the state's regulatory entity, WDNR has the authority to develop monitoring requirements and place those requirements in WPDES permits, and this is a tool that WDNR should be using to document CAFO performance.

The same monitoring approach should be applied to WPDES Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permits being issued to Wisconsin communities for storm water management.

While a well-crafted CAFO monitoring program would entail additional cost for the industry, it

would not have to be inordinately expensive and could be designed with industry input. In addition to documenting any water quality impacts, the monitoring results would be very helpful for informing the industry and WDNR about the effectiveness of CAFO management practices, including any adjustments that may be needed to further protect or improve surface and ground water quality. Compared to the economic cost of water quality impacts and resource clean-up and restoration, water quality monitoring is a small and prudent investment.

The scientific data generated by monitoring would do much to quell the debate about CAFO impacts on Wisconsin's waters, including our precious trout streams.

(Kent Johnson is a member of the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter. He also runs a consulting business advising clients on water quality monitoring and storm water planning and management. -Ed.)

HERMANN: CAFOs worth the risks?

Continued from p. 10

Fortunately we had poor immigrants from Europe who replaced the Yankee wheat farmers, and they brought their more sustainable methods of dairy farming and crop rotation. That system worked pretty well and lasted for quite a few years. It rebuilt the soil. It also built a whole rural culture that still has workable remnants left here in the state. I have to wonder if our current industrial farms will leave any such legacy.

Perhaps the most disturbing part of these factory farms is how they came into existence. They exist largely due to government efforts. Governments, both state and federal, have made a decision that factory farming is what is needed. Of course this decision was based on considerable "input" from the various "stakeholders," mostly those in large agribusiness firms, the milk haulers, and farm lobbying organizations.

In the case of dairy, Governor Doyle has stated that he does not want Wisconsin to fall behind California in production. To that end, his administration has tossed out large amounts of money in the form of milk volume production (MVP) loans. The name tells it all. It is strictly a production, or profit, model of agriculture. Of course, we taxpayers get to underwrite the loans.

Proponents of factory farming often point to efficiencies and claim to have science on their side. Of course, using science to bolster your case can be a tricky business. I cannot tell you how many hearings I have been to where each side has used science find facts of their own choosing. Using science alone can be a fool's game. Science has limits. It can easily tell us the *how* of a thing. It can *measure* and *quantify*. It may even tell us the *why* of a thing. It can even tell us the *end result* of our actions, although that kind of finding can often read like an autopsy report.

But science rarely asks the question of whether we *should* do a given thing. Science is useful in designing a better bomb. but woefully inadequate in deciding on the proper use of said weapon. I realize that this example is a bit of hyperbole. but you see the point.

At our annual State Council meeting, past chair Bill Pielsticker pointed out that factory farms, and CAFOs in particular, are highly reg-

ulated. Very true. But the agency doing the permitting and regulating (DNR) is highly stressed. It lacks a sufficient budget. It is strained for manpower. It has become highly politicized. Decisions are rarely arrived at in a timely manner. This is not a good formula for effective and sensible permitting and regulation.

True, due to the permits, we would likely know which operators may be to blame for any damage to our waterways, but that is cold comfort when the stream is dead. Then we truly would be using science to write an autopsy report.

Mr. Pielsticker often notes that small farms are frequently a source of pollution. That is true. It is also a means of rebutting a point not made. That point serves as nothing more than a deflection of the argument. Lawyers frequently use this technique as a way of changing the subject at hand. Nobody I know has ever claimed that all farms, of any type, are polluters. Pollution alone, however, is not the only issue. There are much larger issues of economics, social considerations, biotic diversity, and politics that enter into the equation.

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Number of Animals Equivalent to 1,000 Animal Units	
ANIMAL TYPE	EQUIVALENCY NUMBERS
DAIRY CATTLE	
Milking and Dry Cows	700
Heifers (800 lbs to 1,200 lbs)	910
Heifers (400 lbs to 800 lbs)	1,670
Calves (up to 400 lbs)	5,000
BEEF CATTLE	
Steers or Cows (600 lbs to market)	1,000
Calves (under 600 lbs)	2,000
Bulls	700
HOGS	
Pigs (55 lbs to market)	2,500
Pigs (up to 55 lbs)	10,000
Sows	2,500
Boars	2,000
SHEEP	
Sheep (per animal)	10,000
HORSES	
Horses (per animal)	500
TURKEYS	
Turkeys (per bird)	55,000
DUCKS	
Ducks - Wet Lot (per bird)	5,000
Ducks - Dry Lot (per bird)	100,000
CHICKENS	
Layers (per bird)*	100,000
Broilers (per bird)**	200,000
* Layers or Broilers - liquid manure system	30,000
** Broilers - continuous overflow watering	100,000

CAFOS, BY THE NUMBERS

The following chart shows how many animals qualify for a CAFO designation based on their equivalent manure output.



Chapter News



SCENES FROM CWTU'S TROUTFEST

UW-Oshkosh graduate student Nicholas Bach (top left) discusses his macroinvertebrate study with two visitors to CWTU's TroutFest '09 in Winneconne. Bach's research is supported by a scholarship from CWTU. Tom Towne (bottom left foreground) visits with FVTU's Tom Lager (right foreground) while Bob Haase is seen presenting his seminar on fly tying tips in the background.

Aldo Leopold Chapter

Our annual fund-raising picnic and raffle will be held May 13. Once again we will be at **Habermann Park** in Lodi along the banks of **Lodi Spring Creek**. Last year people were catching trout within sight of the barbecue. If this appeals to you, we're appealing to you also: bring your checkbook and your appetite. **Eric Lorenzen** will once again provide homemade pulled pork and smoked turkey, prizes will abound, and much fun will be had. Join us from 5 p.m. until dark.

On March 7, as part of the annual **Lodi Reads Leopold** event, I took part in a forum on the economic impact of environmental assets in Lodi valley. Many local government bodies and interested citizens discussed ways to promote, protect, and enhance the numerous assets in the valley, Lodi Spring Creek among them. Everyone recognizes that a healthy trout stream contributes to a healthy economy. To help quantify its effects, we'll be implementing an angler "use" survey this year, hoping to capture data on the economic benefits of the stream.

Our chapter is also establishing a working relationship with the **Baraboo Range Preservation Association**, a land trust working to preserve land and waters in the

Baraboo range. They have a keen interest in establishing conservation easements and in improving land use practices along trout streams throughout the range. Our shared goals will help us increase the effectiveness of both our groups in these efforts.

On April 18 we'll be clearing brush and trees on **Rowan Creek** near Poynette ahead of an upcoming DNR streambank project. Our work will allow the DNR crew to focus all their efforts on the stream, stretching critical DNR trout stamp dollars to more feet of stream. We'll feed you and fill you with coffee, so if you want to join us, contact me for final location information.

May 9 will find a number of chapter members attending water monitoring training in Lodi. This training session was put together by the **Friends of Scenic Lodi Valley** as part of a comprehensive watershed improvement plan. The volunteers will be able to put their training to work this summer, gathering data that is crucial to maintaining stream health.

In Sauk County a landowner along **Bear Creek** has approached us about a habitat project on the creek. This parcel is upstream from the existing **Bear Creek State Fish-**

ery Area. A DNR easement acquisition is almost complete; as I write in early March, it is "weeks away from done." The stream's potential is excellent, with great water quality, but degraded habitat. The parcel has about one mile of stream, so this is a much larger project than we've tack-

led before. **Eric Lorenzen** has taken the lead on this project, so much thanks to him. We would love to find partner chapters on this, so if your chapter is interested, contact me, and I'll get you to Eric.

—Mike Barniskis

Antigo Chapter

Hope everyone has enjoyed this winter! It's been fun. Let's hope we get some water in the NE region of Wisconsin.

Looking forward to this spring and summer, we have a new fisheries tech in the **Antigo DNR** office. Her name is **Tanya Meives**, and our chapter is looking to get more things done in our area. I know she has some great ideas.

We've just send a check to Tanya for \$4,000 for beaver control and some new equipment for doing more in-stream work in the Antigo area. Also am sending to **Kim McCarthy** our share of funding for the two summer laborers the NE region

chapters are funding for the next two years. This looks like a great project to help get some stream improvements in our region.

We are very busy getting ready for our annual banquet that will be held Sat., March 28, at the **Knights of Columbus** in Antigo. We hope things go well, because I think all of us are wondering how the recent downturn in our economy will affect our fund-raising banquets. So far things are looking good.

We will also be holding our annual **Kid's Fishing Day** that will be held the first Saturday in June.

—Scott Henricks

Central Wisconsin Chapter

The Central Wisconsin Chapter held its 10th annual **TroutFest** at the **Fin 'n' Feather Restaurant** on the Wolf River in **Winneconne** Feb. 28. With the goal in place of attracting new members, sharing the CWTU story and developing camaraderie among our exiting members, the chapter leadership orchestrated a tremendously fun event for roughly 300 attendees.

Ira Giese, **John Tucker**, **Bob Stelzer**, and **Mike Schaefer**s welcomed everyone at the greeter's table and oriented them to the day's events. So much was offered in one very busy day, and everyone got to take in all they could absorb. Offerings ranged from fly tying to rod building to guide services and almost everything in between. It turned out to be just a great day for everybody involved.

Some of TroutFest's best features are the 20-minute mini-seminars held throughout the day. This year's lineup was once again very strong. **Bob Haase**, Eldorado, led off with "Fly Tying Tips and Solutions," followed by **John Gremmer**, Winneconne, with his very enjoyable presentation of "25 Ways to Have More Fun Fly Fishing." At least 10 people took John's advice and used his #25 idea and joined TU.

Alistair Stewart, Chicago, shared his beautiful photos and stories of his experience catching crazy big brookies in **Labrador** this past year. **Wild Rose Fish Hatchery Superintendent Steve Fajfer** outlined the hatchery's history and what the hatchery is now able to accomplish now that its \$17 million Phase 1 renovation is complete. When in the Wild Rose area, check out this state-of-the-art facility. Please call ahead for times available.

CWTU Chapter VP **David Seligman** gave a most entertaining presentation on fly fishing from a kayak to wrap up the morning seminars. A big thank you to David for doing such a wonderful job introducing all of the seminars.

Jerry Weatherwax, Shawano, kicked off the afternoon seminars with a historical account of the pass lake fly, one of those beautiful flies with a Wisconsin origin. **Tim Landwehr** from **Tight Lines Fly Fishing Co.** in De Pere highlighted "New

Techniques for Trophy River Bass." Did you know that the really big and smarter fish think differently than the smaller ones? Tim pointed out how fortunate we are in central Wisconsin to have so many great fisheries close by.

Jim Hauer, Green Bay, taught the importance of having the correct leader attached to the fly and the leader's role in catching fish.

Dave Bartz, WDNR fisheries manager, revealed data taken from **Marquette** and **Waushara** county streams such as the **Pine**, **Mecan**, and **White** rivers confirm how current stream practices are improving our fisheries.

Tom Young, Waupaca, and **John Gremmer** concluded the seminar sessions with a fantastic homemade fishing show filmed last summer on "Fly Fishing for Smallmouth Bass." Tom's video skill and John's teaching points make this video a pleasure to watch. It was great watching fish hit surface flies in February, even if they were just on video. All the seminars were enjoyable, highly informative, and definitely worth the time to sit down and partake in.

Gary Herlache, Winneconne, did a great job ensuring all the seminars ran smoothly, but I think he had the most fun keeping each presenter to the allotted 20-minute time slot.

Another great area to take in at TroutFest was the fly tying section. More than 20 highly experienced tyers shared their skills, stories, and more than a few flies, especially with the kids, who were captivated by the magic taking place right before their eyes. Great job, guys. Many people told me they enjoyed watching the older guys passing along their interest in fly tying to the next generation of tyers, anglers, water monitors, and stream stewards.

Al Lee, **Joel Staffaroni**, **Rich Mlodzik**, **Jim Murphy**, and **Joe Guerard** led the youth fly tying area in which at least 20 kids learned to tie a fly for the first time. This is a great area to watch the kids' faces as they watch their own hands create a fly. We even had a pleasant surprise when a 10-year-old boy brought his own collection of flies that he tied himself.

Chapter News



High praises go out to **Bob Gayske, Sue Bouck, and Bob Keehan** for their work at the rummage sale table. They were crazy busy for most of the day, while still remaining so patient and kind with all of the bargain shoppers. **Linn Beck, Steve Fisher, Bill Zimmerman, Mike Sandretto, and Tracy Moran** all pitched in and kept the raffle area active throughout the day. Chapter members' flies were raffled off, as well as a beautifully framed Atlantic salmon fly by **Brian Van Erem**, a muzzle loader donated by **John Gremmer**, two fly rods and a fly tying bench by **Russ Bouck**, and a fly tying kit donated by **Dutch's Trading Post** in Fond du Lac and **Bob Haase**.

Attendees had the opportunity to visit with **Craig Kinney** and his handmade nets, **Scott Grady** and his bamboo rod building display, **John Nebel** and **Lynn Ann Sauby** from **Stream Dreams Outfitters** in Menasha, **Bob Hunt** with his **Waupaca River kiosk project**, **Tim Landwehr** and **Nelson Ham** from **Tight Lines** in De Pere, **George Porter** and his had carved fish artwork, Jim Hauer and Gary Gillis from BlueSky Leader Co., **Dave Bartz** from **WDNR**, **Jim Hlaban** and **Chris Northway** with their water monitoring display, **Brian Van Erem** and his Atlantic salmon flies, and **Russ Bouck** representing the **CWTU Fly Fishing School** coming up in May.

Nicholas Bach from **UW-Oshkosh** had an outstanding macroinvertebrate display complete with mounted and live bugs. Nick also brought along his microscope for closer inspection. This display was very popular with both the kids and adults. After seeing the quantity and diversity of insects Nick collected the day before TroutFest, I better understand why fish don't lack for food during the winter months.

I appreciated the opportunity to visit with **Bill Heart**, our **WITU State Council Chair**, and welcomed him to TroutFest. It is good to see our state leadership experiencing our efforts. Bill told me that it was 22 degrees below zero when he set out for Winneconne. Yikes! Now that is cold.

In closing, I wish to thank all those people who, through their willingness to help out, made this year's TroutFest one of the best ever. There is a lot of fishing to be done in the mean time, but I look forward to TroutFest 2010 on Feb. 27, 2010. [Committee report submitted by **Bob Smaglik**.]

Coulee Region Chapter

The Coulee Region Chapter held its annual fund-raising banquet Feb. 27 at **Cedar Creek Country Club** in **Onalaska**. We had 120 attendees and raised \$5,700 for area conservation projects.

The keynote speaker for the banquet was the loquacious **John "Duke" Welter**, chair of TU's **National Leadership Council**. He presented the **TU National Conservation Professional Award** to **Dave Vetrano**, **WDNR West Central Region fisheries supervisor**, in recognition of his success with the wild trout program.

Fox Valley Chapter

The Fox Valley Chapter has had one meeting frozen out, one meeting (**Funnite**) held as scheduled, and

The dates are the 3rd Saturday of May through September, starting with Illinois Day at **Lawrence Creek**. On May 16, we will be joining TU members from Chicago for a joint workday and fishing with newfound anglers. The rest of the workdays will be at **Cedar Springs NNE of Redgranite**. We'll meet at 8:00, work until about 12:30, have a provided lunch, and fish the rest of the afternoon. Please join us to help improve streams, meet new angling friends, share experiences and expertise, and have a great time! [Committee report submitted by **Jim Humphrey**.]

We will be continuing a carryover of all the water monitoring we did last year, and adding a water sampling program for **Ted Johnson** from the **DNR** on **Hattan, Magdanz, and Austin** creeks for analysis of nitrogen, phosphorus, and total suspended solids.

I also have a training day set up for the water monitoring program on April 25 from 1-5 p.m. at **Parkside School** in **Wautoma**. In conjunction with this, I have **Laura McFarland** from the **River Alliance of WI** doing training and certification for invasive species that morning of the 25th from 8-Noon. [Committee report submitted by **Linn Beck**.]

CWTU's fly casting clinic is scheduled for Tuesday evening, April 28. There is no admission charge. The clinic begins at 5:30 and lasts until dark. The site is **Marble Park** in **Winneconne**. Everyone is invited.

There will be instruction for beginners and intermediate fly casters. All experienced casters are invited to attend and help with the instruction. Tackle will be available for those who do not have fly fishing equipment. Vendors will be in attendance. The date has been set for the closed week between the early season and the regular season opener. [Committee report submitted by **Russ Bouck**.]

Our 33rd annual **Fly Fishing School** is scheduled for May 29, 30, and 31. This event is held at **Camp LuWiSoMo** in **Waushara County** and is our major fundraiser for the **Bill Beck Memorial Fund** which allows us to provide a scholarship for graduate students who are studying areas of interest to Trout Unlimited. [Committee report submitted by **Dick Kraus**.]

—*Dick Kraus*

Our January meeting featured **Roger Haro**, a professor in the **River Studies Center** at **UW-La Crosse**. Dr. Haro gave a presentation entitled "Matching the Hatch with Charles Darwin," a look at what Darwin would notice if he could walk along the banks of the Coulee region streams.

Our March meeting will consist of a strategic planning session aimed at setting a strategic direction for the future of the chapter. —*Rick Kyte*

the 8th annual chapter fund-raiser (**Cabin Fever Day**) was held on January 31.



Don Cloutier photos

PLENTY TO SEE AND DO AT FVTU'S CABIN FEVER DAY

Tom Lager (top, l to r), Jim Hlaban, Roger Genske, and Bill Repulski check out the aquatic insect display at Cabin Fever Day. Mike Porter (bottom, l to r), Rich Erickson, and Clare Town look over some freshly tied flies.

The past few years our regular January meeting has been a presentation by **Chef Aaron** and several students in the **Culinary Arts Program** at **Fox Valley Technical College**. They demonstrate several recipes for fixing and preparing fish. This year the day of the scheduled meeting was the same day as the coldest day this winter and the **FVTC**, along with most schools in northern Wisconsin, was closed, so the meeting had to be cancelled. We are now planning for the third Thursday of 2010.

Our chapter fund-raiser, **Cabin Fever Day**, was held January 31 at **Waverly Beach** on the north shore of **Lake Winnebago**. The guest speakers for the day were **Darrell Toliver** and **Tim Landwehr** from **Tight Lines Fly Fishing Company**. The bucket raffles, silent auctions, fly tyers, **DNR** booths, tackle reps, guides, and suppliers made the event a successful fund-raiser for our chapter.

In the evening, we had a supper event that included a presentation by **Tim Landwehr** entitled "The Wonders of Wisconsin Fly Fishing," and we presented thank-you plaques to **Steve Heuser, Scott Grady, Bill Repulski, and Elward Engle** for their contributions to our

chapter and the environment.

Several chapter members helped out with the raffles and silent auctions at **WITU's State Council** event held in **Stevens Point** Feb. 7.

Our February meeting was the annual **Funnite** event held at **Sabre Lanes**. The main purpose of the evening event is to introduce people, in particular youngsters, to the fishing and TU. **John Nebel** and **Lynn Ann Sauby** organized fly tyers to work with kids in a "tying corral."

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VETRANO AWARD

John Welter (left) presented **TU National's Conservation Professional Award** to **Dave Vetrano** at the **Coulee Region Chapter's annual banquet**.



Chapter News



HORNBERG TYERS, YOUNG AND OLD

Emma Dimick (top) learned fly tying as a 4-H project, and now she can demonstrate with confidence to others, like she did at the Frank Hornberg February fly tying workshop. Jan Tully (below right) also demonstrated his tying techniques at the workshop as Wayne Duecker (seated) asks a question.

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The children had an opportunity to tie their own fly, learn a bit about the environment, and just have a good time with mom and dad on a winter evening.

Our March meeting was a joint meeting with the Central WI Chapter. **Dave Seibel** from the **DNR** presented his study of the **Wolf River**, and **Jim Waters** from the **Wolf River Chapter** discussed his chapter's recent work on the Wolf.

Our chapter has a number of stream work projects planned starting in April and running through

next fall. Please check our web site at www.foxvalleytu.org for information dealing with times and locations. Please consider joining us on these habitat days and monthly programs.

This winter has been a long one, and many of us are looking forward to some early season fishing, planning for the regular season, and possibly organizing trips to other parts of the country. Enjoy the beauty of God's streams, creeks, and lakes, and as Tony would close his columns, "We'll see you on a trout stream."

—Rich Erickson

Frank Hornberg Chapter

A large number of members and guests were present for our January

public meeting at the **Stevens Point Public Library** where **Ross Mueller**

spoke on "Late Season Trouting." Ross had practical advice on fishing the coldwater streams of southeast Minnesota and northeast Iowa. Ross did an excellent job, and we were pleased that he was willing to share his knowledge from the many productive hours he has spent on those streams.

Six Hornberg fly tyers demonstrated techniques to an appreciative audience at our first fly tying workshop at **Clancey's** in **Custer**. Nine tyers, including some new to the art, were present at our second workshop at the **Stevens Point Public Library**. **Stu Nelson**, **Jeff Dimick**, **Jan Tully**, and **Wyatt Bohm** tied flies at both workshops.

Longtime TU member **Dan Holland** made two public presentations in Stevens Point as part of the local **LIFE** program. Dan entertained the audience with stories from his own life as a fly fisherman. He stressed the importance of respect for nature and the need to impart environmental values to the next generation. **LIFE** is a program promoting intellectual stimulation and cultural awareness in central Wisconsin.

Our chapter has made plans to be involved in three educational projects in the coming months. First, we will supply fly casting instructors at a **Kiwanis Club** event in **Wisconsin Rapids**. Second, we will help mentor students in the fly fishing class at **Rosholt High School** when they practice casting on **Flume Creek**. Third, we are sponsoring a **Kid's Fishing Day** in **Stevens Point** in conjunction with the **North County 4-H Club**. **Jeff Dimick** has generously agreed to organize this last event.

We continue with advance planning for our chapter's signature yearly event, the **Fly Fishing School** on the **Tomorrow River** south of **Amherst** from May 15-17. Advertising, registration, and scheduling proceed apace.

The Hornberg stream work subcommittee is already putting together the 2009 schedule of in-stream activities. We should have enough projects to keep us busy for the full season and then some.

—John Vollrath

Green Bay Chapter

As we sit here with a gentle rain falling, reducing the snow banks and bringing much-needed water to our lakes and streams, it seems that we should be doing something to get ready to GO FISHING. However, duty calls, and few more minutes in front of the computer reporting on the activities of the **Green Bay Chapter** (www.greenbaytu.com) is time well spent.

As is the custom, the March meeting of the chapter was our annual meeting, which is the election meeting. As a result of the election, **Paul Kruse** and **Gary Stoychoff** were again selected respectively to the posts of president and secretary/treasurer, each to serve an additional two years. **Randy Rake** was elected vice president, also for a two-year term. **Pete Hill** and **Pete Harris** were re-elected to the board of directors, each for three-year terms. **Tom Herman** will remain on as delegate to the **State Council**, and **Janet Smith** and **Bruce Deuchert** will continue on as delegates to the **Brown County Conservation Alliance**. The chapter also extends a **big thank you** to **Jessica Garrels** for her service as vice president the past two years.

In other news, we are busy getting ready for **B09**, our only fund-

raising event of the year. The committee planning the March 26th event (not March 27 as reported in the last **TROUT**) is busy devising events that will lure people to the **Stadium View Banquet Hall** for a night of fun and prize winning. Guns, fishing gear, cash, and artwork are just a part of what is being offered to banquet goers.

Of course, we are also planning for a busy summer performing habitat work on area streams. Members are especially excited about working with the **DNR** and the crew that is being funded with donations from the chapters in the **NE Region** and trout stamp funds. This plan, formulated by **Kim McCarthy**, **WITU NE Regional Vice Chair**, will fund the hiring of two people to work on area streams. The **DNR** will use trout stamp money to hire an additional habitat technician to work with these two. We should see a great amount of improvement to area streams.

Finally, the chapter is once again sponsoring students to conservation camps via the **H. Bredael Memorial** program and will again stage our **Kid's Fishing Day**.

—Gary Stoychoff

Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter

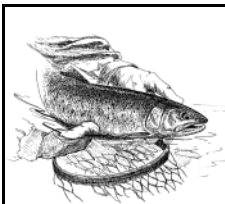
Our annual meeting will be on March 24. Mark it on your calendar. Note that that is the fourth Tuesday of the month. This is to accommodate our summer intern and assistant. Board and officer elections will be held before the intern presentation. We will have three new board members joining us.

Our chapter's 32nd annual banquet will be at the **Dodger Bowl** in Dodgeville on Friday, May 1. Doors open at 6 p.m. and dinner is at 7. We will have door prizes, bucket raffles, a silent auction, and a grand raffle prize of a \$500 **Cabela's** gift certificate. All donations are welcome, and remember that the money raised at this event funds chapter activities for the next year. Come out to celebrate the past success of our group and keep us moving for-

ward protecting the coldwater resource in Southwest Wisconsin.

We have three separate stream projects planned for completion in 2009 — a 3,800-foot section on **Bronson Creek**, a 3,300-foot section on **Blue River**, and a 5,400-foot section on **Big Spring**. These three projects will use techniques similar to those in last year's projects. We will be scheduling workdays in the future to build some lunkers as well as spraying, prepping, and seeding some additional riparian areas, and possibly burning the prairie area on upper Big Spring.

A program from the past is our **Fish-Alongs**. We are going to start out by trying a new approach. If you are new to trout fishing and would like to go out with a guide/mentor, contact us, and we will line you up



Consider Proper Release

1. Don't play fish to exhaustion.
2. Handle fish in the net.
3. Turn fish belly up while removing hooks.
4. Don't remove swallowed hooks...just cut the line.
5. Don't keep fish out of the water more than 10-15 seconds.

Chapter News



with a fishing buddy for a trip or two this summer. We will cap it off with a cookout potluck gathering. This is for any type of fishing, so if you want to learn about bait fishing, spin fishing, or fly fishing, we will find a guide/mentor for you. Likewise, if

you would like to be a guide/mentor, contact **Brain Larson** at blarson@pcii.net or (608)725-5570, or **Claude Kazanski** at ckazanski@charter.net or (608)257-3101.
—*Brian Larson*

- \$70,022 for beaver control, and
- \$7,870 for kids fishing day prizes

and other coldwater habitat improvements.
—*Dale Lange*

Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter

Kiap-TU-Wish began a stream improvement project with the DNR on Saturday, Feb 28, on Parker Creek. Parker Creek is a tributary of the Kinnickinnic River north of River Falls and about 3.5 miles east of or Hwy 65 on Cty J. Plans are to work on 5400 feet of Parker Creek. It is expected this project will go in-

to May and possibly June. We will them move to the third year of the Pine Creek project south of Maiden Rock in July. Plans are to work at the Cty A bridge and then do some work downstream of the 2007 project and move upstream of the 2008.
—*Greg Dielt*

Lakeshore Chapter

Lakeshore TU members have spent the last few months preparing for our 26th annual **Conservation Banquet**. The banquet is being held March 28 at the **Club Bil-Mar** in **Manitowoc**. Banquet preparations are under the direction of co-chairmen **Jeff Preiss** and **Jeff Yax**. By the time you are reading this the banquet will be over and hopefully a success again this year.

Lakeshore Chapter member **Chuck Wolf** organized our annual fly tying class again this year. The class is organized through the **Manitowoc City Recreation Department** with Lakeshore TU providing materials, tools, and instruction. The classes met for two hours on the four Tuesday evenings in February. This year's class consisted of 10 students who learned the basics of tying streamers, nymphs, and dry flies. Lakeshore members who assisted Chuck with the teaching were **Ron McCormick**, **Jeff Preiss**, **Al Spindler**, **Tom Steinberg**, **Wayne Trupke**, and **Jeff Yax**.

Our chapter is also involved with the **Reel E'M in Club** at **Longfellow Elementary School** in **Sheboygan**. This is a club started by chapter member **Dave Zerger** and his wife, **Patti**. It focuses on different aspects of fishing, raising trout in the classroom, and a variety of other conservation-related activities. The club meets twice a month. On March 3 several Lakeshore members helped

Dave and Patti instruct 25 students in the art of fly tying and fly casting. This will be followed up with another class continuing the instruction on April 7. The class will then take a trip to a local fish hatchery on April 21, followed by placing wood duck houses (which they construct) along the **Onion River**. This will be followed with an opportunity to try their luck at fly fishing. Lakeshore members who helped out in March were **Bruce Balsterri**, **Rodney Johnson**, **Tim Johnson**, **Frank Kushner**, **Tom Mockert**, **Dexter Porter**, **Jeff Preiss**, **Bill Rogers**, **Al Spindler**, **Chuck Wolff**, and **Dave Zerger**.

Our **Onion River** committee met in January and set up our first workdays of the year. It was decided to schedule each Saturday in April. It was recognized that not many members will be able to make each workday, but we are going to try to get work done on each day. The reasoning behind scheduling each day was that last year we had to cancel several workdays because of flooding, and we fell behind in the work that we were hoping to accomplish.

If anyone is interested in helping out, we meet at the Hwy. E bridge in Sheboygan County at 8:00 a.m. and work until Noon. If you care to fish afterwards, there is usually someone available who can help put you onto some fish.
—*Wayne Trupke*

Marinette County Chapter

The Marinette County Chapter put on our annual **Trout Fishing Seminars** this year, and they were attended by 35 different people. The four-evening event includes information on trout habitat, what trout need to survive, and where to catch them. Also covered is trout and fly fishing gear, how to put an entire fly rod fishing system together, fly tying, and which flies look like various insects.

On the last night of the series, casting techniques are covered, and students get to cast indoors. The program is run in conjunction with the **Marinette Recreation Dept.**

The **Kids Fishing Day** in **Marinette** will be held on June 19th.

Finally, our annual banquet for our chapter will be held on Monday April 20, at **Schussler's Supper Club** in **Peshigo**.

Thanks to our banquet, our chapter has compiled an impressive list of accomplishments. Since 1983, our chapter has spent over \$252,542 on various endeavors, including:

- \$10,185 to TU National for the Living Brightwater Trust Fund,
- \$2,000 for TU National Coldwater Conservation Fund,
- \$19,420 for various stream surveys,
- \$51,079 for land purchases,
- \$69,164 on various stream im-

Northwoods Chapter

Sue Reinecke from the **U.S. Forest Service** was our featured speaker at our January 5th meeting. Sue is the fisheries biologist for the **Chequamegon and Nicolet Forests** in Northern Wisconsin. Sue and **Mike Peczynski** are the driving forces behind the Northwoods Chapter's work on the **Deerskin River** and the other stream habitat projects completed every summer by the USFWS crew we and other chapters in the Northeast Region of TU sponsor. Sue provided an update on the **Deerskin River**, the other projects in the forests, and especially the whole tree habitat work that will begin this summer on the **Border Brule River**.

The Northwoods Chapter will sponsor a fly tying session for all levels of experience on Saturday, March 28, at the **Oneida County/Rhineland Airport** from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the downstairs community room. Bring your own tools or use ours. We will supply materials to tie several patterns. This is a free session with lunch served.

We are in the final planning stages for our **35th Annual Conservation Banquet** to be held Saturday, April 4, at **Holiday Acres Resort** east of **Rhineland**. It's the first Saturday night event we have ever held, and we are optimistic that we will get some new faces at the banquet.
—*Brian Hegge*

Shaw-Paca Chapter

We will be holding our **26th Annual Fund-raising Banquet** on Thursday, April 2, at the **Northwinds Banquet Hall** in **Marion**. Hopefully by then the snow will be gone, and this writer will have one trout fishing trip in. It has been a long and snowy winter up in Northeastern Wisconsin.

We have awarded our annual **Shaw-Paca Coldwater Research Grant** to **Ben Kissinger** of **Mosinee**. He is currently a student in coldwater resources at **UW-SP**.

At the high school level, we are sponsoring two student to the **Central Wisconsin Environmental Center's Natural Resources Careers Camp**, which is held in July. We are

also sponsoring two students from a local elementary school to the **Timbertop Camp** near **Stevens Point**.

Our annual fly tying class went well. We had between 12 and 16 tyers at each of the six sessions. The ages went from 12 to 80. The class was taught by master tyer **Jerry Weatherwax**, while chapter members **Dave Ehrenberg** and **Lee Kersten** led the class for one evening each.

We also sponsored a "tile" for the new addition to the **Navarino Nature Center**. We as a chapter have had many occasions to work with this group in education projects.
—*Lee Kersten*

Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter

Since our last report, SEWTU has had an excellent slate of meeting speakers. As always, our meetings are held at the **Thunder Bay Grille**, located just off of the intersection of I-94 and Pewaukee Road in **Waukesha**. As always, dinner starts at 6:00, with our meeting and speaker following at 7:30.

In December, SEWTU held its annual informal **Holiday Party**, where SEWTU looked back at its accomplishments and service to the resource and public in 2008. SEWTU truly had a great 2008, and we are looking forward to an even better 2009.

At the party, SEWTU screened **Felt Soul Media's** award-winning film **Red Gold**. *Red Gold* is a documentary exploring a proposed mine at the head of multiple major salm-

on fisheries in **Bristol Bay, Alaska**. Produced in part by **TU-Alaska**, the film was well received and really drove home that we are all part of something larger as members of TU. Afterward, members participated in a purely voluntary \$15.00 gift exchange.

In January, SEWTU welcomed **Cheryl Nenn** from **Milwaukee Riverkeeper**, and **Will G. Wawrzyn** from the **WDNR**. They spoke about various impoundments and dams on local waterways, and notably about the **Estabrook Dam** on the **Milwaukee River**. As many know, the future of the Estabrook Dam is a hot topic in Milwaukee. SEWTU has taken a formal position that the dam be removed.

Continued on p. 16

RIVER RETREAT

2300 sq. ft. home on 13+ acres with
1700+ ft. of frontage on the Tomorrow-
Waupaca River in Central Wisconsin.
Park-like setting with paths leading to
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Chapter News



Jim Beecher

SWTU ICE BREAKER PRESENTERS

Keeping the crowd informed and entertained at SWTU's annual Ice Breaker at the Promega Center in Fitchburg were featured speakers (l to r) Dave Barron, Jim Bartelt, and Rich Osthoff.

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The removal option, SEWTU believes, will offer a free-flowing river that is more in keeping with the Milwaukee River's historical flow regime. Removal will allow natural and unhindered migration of native fishes, both game and non-game, coldwater and warmwater, within the river. Moreover, SEWTU believes that the removal option will make the Milwaukee River more accessible to non-motorized boat recreation and wading fishermen. The meeting was, as you might imagine, the home of some lively debate and discussions, and afforded many the ability to become familiar with the issues at stake.

In February, SEWTU's monthly meeting featured **Nick Volk**, a certified guide working out of the **Madison Orvis Store**. Nick provided a thought-provoking talk on ethics and etiquette associated with fly fishing, prompting discussion concerning how fast is fast enough when working a river, how much room is enough when encountering other fishers, when is it too warm to fish for coldwater species, and how long should a fish be kept out of the water. In short, it was a great talk and sparked a lot of discussion.

Our March 24 meeting featured the **Milwaukee Journal Sentinel's Paul Smith**, the paper's lead outdoor writer. Paul gave a presentation on **Fly Fishing New Zealand**, which he recently visited. New Zealand is home to some monster trout. It has relatively untouched waters, plus some gorgeous scenery. Anyone who has met Paul or who has read his writing knows that he's an avid fisherman and spins a fine tale.

In addition to Paul's presentation, the March meeting also had our annual raffle drawing associated with our yearly booth at the **Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Sports Show**. Led by ex-President **Chuck Beeler**, SEWTU maintains a booth that has become a fixture at the Sports Show. The booth is used to spread TU's message of coldwater conservation, provide fly tying exhibitions, and sell raffle tickets.

Sometimes our booth also provides a forum for SEWTU to gain support for our unique issues. Last year, for example, we discussed our involvement in TUDARE, and this

year we'll talk about our support of the Estabrook Dam removal.

Our booth features a raffle, with grand prize being a handmade cedar strip canoe donated by board member **Stan Strelka** of **Professional Insurance Services** in Elm Grove. Other prizes are provided by **Gander Mountain**, **Sportsmen's Warehouse**, and **Cabela's**. As always, SEWTU owes a debt of gratitude to Chuck and President **Dan Asmus**, who regularly transport the canoe and other prizes to and from the Sports Show and other raffle ticket sale locations, as well as all of our volunteers who help make the booth a smashing success.

The speakers for our April 28 and May 26 meetings are yet to be announced. Stay tuned to www.sewtu.org for upcoming meeting details.

On the workday front, we started off the new workday year in grand fashion on January 31, drawing over 50 volunteers to a huge workday at **Paradise Springs**. This was a joint workday with the **Gary Borger Chapter** out of northern Illinois and the WDNR. Under DNR leadership, volunteers split up and performed multiple tasks, including removing an old metal wall, hauling rocks, installing biologs, and removing woody debris. Finally, members traveled away from the pond and performed in-stream work, readying the creek for fish structure installation slated to occur this summer.

All in all, this was a completely gratifying workday, as it represented the partial culmination of two previous workdays. Our work improved equipment access to the springs, installed two rock fishing station areas around the back of the pond, and began to create a walking path around the rear of the pond that will be completed this summer. More importantly, however, the workday continued our great working relationship with the **Gary Borger Chapter** and the WDNR.

SEWTU has a busy summer schedule of workdays planned as well. On April 18 from 9-Noon, we will man our yearly station at the **Estabrook Park and Ride** for the **Milwaukee Riverkeeper's Milwaukee River Cleanup Event**. Led by SEWTU Political Liaison **John Knitter**, we'll remove the trash in this stretch of the river. Past finds have included parking meters, a boot, an SFP trombone, the fender

from a '67 Plymouth Fury, and two hoola hoops. John may even have a prize for the "best piece of trash located," and I've been promised that this year it won't go to my Jeep.

On Saturday, May 16, SEWTU will join forces for the second time with the **Fox Valley Chapter** to work on the **Little Wolf River** north of **Iola**. Our last workday with FVTU was last year on Davis Creek. That was a huge success as we joined forces with members of two other TU chapters to do brush bundling, stream narrowing, and other restoration work. Aside from the work, we also made some great friends. Let's keep this going and have another great workday. We'll work half the day and finish with a free lunch.

On June 6, we will have a workday/scouting merit badge/chapter fishing outing extravaganza in the **Driftless Area** generally based out of the **West Fork Sportsmen's Club** grounds at **Avalanche**. Those so inclined will meet up starting on Wednesday evening, June 3, and fish for our chapter outing until Friday evening, when scouts will arrive. There, under the leadership of our good Eagle Scout friend **Nic Schmidt** and SEWTU Education Chair **Chris Weber**, we'll help provide casting, knot tying, and fly tying demonstrations for scouts.

The scouts and our members will then travel to **Elk Creek's** headwaters on Saturday morning to work with the WDNR, the **Richland County Land Conservation Department**, the **Ocooch Creeks Chapter**, and likely some volunteers from the **Gary Borger Chapter**. We will be repairing habitat work that was previously placed, but which was destroyed during our past two summers' floods. We'll likely also remove invasive willow, which is encroaching on the stream.

On its education front, SEWTU has stayed very busy. Over the last quarter, SEWTU has manned conservation education booths featuring mission information, fly tying, and casting instructions at various

local retailers, including **Sportsmen's Warehouse**, **Cabela's**, and **Gander Mountain**. These events have been under the supervision of Past President **Chuck Beeler** and have relied heavily on the volunteer efforts of **Al Dalfanso**, **Joe Valcoun**, **Herb Oechler**, and **John Knitter**, who also continue to teach fly tying classes as the **Milwaukee Veterans Administration**.

Under the leadership of **Dan Asmus**, SEWTU also conducted a multi-week free fly tying class for the general public and multiple youth at **Cabela's** Richfield store.

SEWTU board member **Mike Kuhr** has been busy setting up a **Project Healing Waters** program with the **Milwaukee Veteran's Administration**. This is, to SEWTU's understanding, one of the first instances in which a TU chapter has been the point leader in such a project. Under Mike's leadership, this project provides immeasurable assistance to local military veterans. Stay tuned to www.sewtu.org for more details as they become available.

In addition to the above, SEWTU members have volunteered to act as stream stewards for the 2009 **Casting for Recovery** program which provides on-stream fly fishing instruction for breast cancer survivors.

SEWTU members also traveled to the **Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters Conservation Lobby Day** in **Madison** earlier this year to espouse conservation-based initiatives to Wisconsin legislators.

Numerous SEWTU members attended the **WITU State Council Banquet** in **Stevens Point** in February, and we will have a fine contingent at the **March TUDARE** project planning workshop in **Westby**.

Members continue to put an incredibly kind and proactive face on our organization, and we thank them all for their efforts.

—Henry Koltz

Southern Wisconsin Chapter

It's been a wonderfully busy time for SWTU! Work has continued with our **Gordon Creek Project**, which you can read all about in the separate article in this issue.

Our **Icebreaker** fund-raiser in January was again a tremendous success. **Josh Palmer**, Icebreaker chair, reports that we raised over \$8,000 for coldwater restoration and education efforts. It was a wonderful day of learning, tale-telling, camaraderie, and world-class chili. Thanks to all who traveled near and far to be with us and support our efforts. We hope to see you there next year!

We have so far raised over \$20,000 for the purchase of permanent stream easements in **Dane County**. This unique program will preserve and protect the coldwater resource for all future generations. The money has been raised from chapter members and from other organizations (a full listing of contributors is available online in the latest issue of our newsletter).

Some of that \$20,000 was raised with our exclusive showing of the amazing **Warren Miller** fly fishing movie "Drift" on the big screen in downtown Madison. We all oohed and ahhhed over incredible scenery,

monstrous fish, and long, delicate casts.

Happily, we report that the "sweepers" we installed last year on **Black Earth Creek** had a very positive impact on stream flow and habitat. We'll be installing more under the sturdy leadership of **Mike Grimes**, project chair. Numerous workdays are scheduled, and we'll take any and all help. Visit www.sewtu.org to learn more.

Be sure to check out our online chapter calendar. There you'll find all of our activities and events, including details of our **Annual Casting Clinic**. It's set for April 18 at **Salmo Pond** just off Hwy. 14 west of **Cross Plains**. It's free, and everyone is invited to come learn about casting, bugs, gear, reading the water, and more!

Finally, and with great sadness, we report the passing of **Larry Meicher**, who did much for TU and the coldwater resource across Wisconsin. Before passing, Larry was honored to receive the Wisconsin TU's **first-ever Lifetime Achievement Award**. A tribute to our friend Larry can be found online in our March newsletter.

—Drew Kasel

Chapter News



Wild Rivers Chapter

Wild Rivers Chapter members applaud our legislative representatives for their action to designate the **Brunswiler River** as a state wild river in honor of conservationist **Martin Hanson**. It is the fourth wild river to be given protected status. **Representative Gary Sherman** and **State Senator Bob Jauch** authored the legislation.

This is the first new protected river in over 44 years. The **Pike, Popple, and Pine** rivers were the first to be so designated in 1965. Also in February, **Representative Nick Milroy** and **Senator Bob Jauch** announced their bill to name portions of the **Totagatic River** a Wisconsin wild river. Thanks to Senator Jauch and Representatives Sherman and Milroy for honoring Martin Hanson, and for protecting wild rivers.

The January meeting in **Seeley** was well attended in spite of the sub-zero weather. Thanks to the **Sawmill Saloon** for hosting us, and many thanks to our speaker, **Donovan Dums**. Donovan began his presentation with a shot of vodka, introduced himself in fluent Russian, and then gave us an in-depth look at the **Kamchatka** peninsula, its fishery, and his experiences as a fishing guide there. Donovan grew up on the **Namakagon River** in **Seeley**, and has been aided in his guiding efforts by **Larry** and **Wendy** at the **Hayward Fly Fishing Company**. Chapters and others who want to hear about life and fishing on the Kamchatka can contact Donovan at (715) 634-3918.

We have been fortunate to hold our January fly tying event in conjunction with the **Sleigh & Cutter Rally** at the **Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center** for the past several years. Thanks to **Steve Hoecker** and the center staff for having us there again this year. It went well and was a busy and fun day. Thanks to the **Arrowhead Fly Fishers** who came, including **Keith** and **Harlan Behn** and chapter members **Don Sutliff**, **Jim Emerson**, **Dr. Bob Stanley**, and **Dick Berge**. Thanks to **Carol Campbell** and others for the sloppy joes and desserts. Lots of flies were tied in preparation for the April auction, and many fishing stories and secrets were shared as well.

The February meeting included a presentation by **Ashland Public Schools** Technology instructor **Bruce Prentice** on a school project involving the **Bay City Creek** and corridor in Ashland. The staff and students have been conducting research along the creek, first as an educational tool to teach proper science, and secondly as a platform for the schools and community to work together. The project uses nets to catch and survey the aquatic populations, using the information to develop baseline data to aid future efforts.

Bruce furnished a report on the project that showed the student activities and species studied to date. The project requires support to continue its work, and the chapter voted to donate \$500 to the school district for the **Bay City Creek Estuary Project**.

Also in February, the chapter elected the current President, Vice-President, and Secretary. **Jim Emerson** was elected to the Treasurer position. **Rolland Kiel** and **Rob Kemkes** were elected to the board of directors. The chapter thanks **Jim**



Dwyer for his board service and for all of his good ideas.

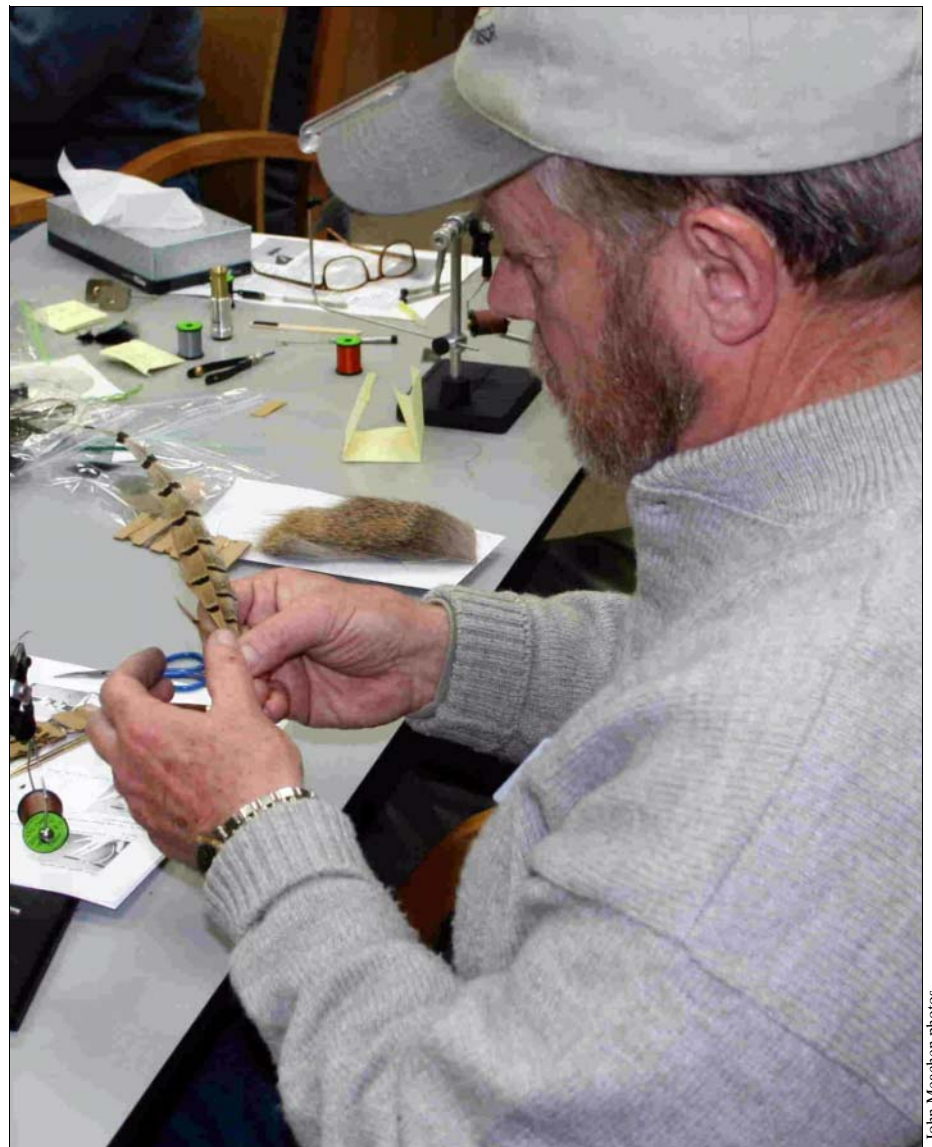
The chapter plans a showing of the award-winning documentary "**Red Gold**" on March 17 at the **Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center** in Ashland. The **Wilson** family of Washburn fish **Bristol Bay** each season and will be on the program.

March Madness may refer to the annual college basketball frenzy, but we have our own version this year. March begins with the **Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo** in Minneapolis. Week two has a board/regular meeting. Week three has a **Red Gold** showing on Tuesday and fly tying and the **Arrowhead Banquet** on Saturday. Week four has fin clip Saturday with the **Fly Fishing Film Tour** at **STAGENORTH** that night, and the following Saturday we hold the **Fishing Expo & Auction**. Hopefully, this level of activity will continue on throughout this, the 50th anniversary of Trout Unlimited. The anniversary will be marked by our Wild Rivers Chapter at its various events this year.

Chapter members **Lee Newman**, **Bill Heart**, and **Chuck Campbell** participated in a **Brook Trout Coordination** meeting on February 17 involving the various agencies currently working on restoring a native brook trout fishery to **Lake Superior**. The Ashland meeting was hosted by **Steve Schram**, **Dennis Pratt**, **Bill Blust**, **Mike Seider**, and **Marty Jennings** of the **WDNR**. **Mark Brouder** and **Henry Quinlan** of the **USFWS**, **Mike Myrnek** of the **Whittlesey Creek Refuge**, and **Matt Symbal** of the **Red Cliff Hatchery** also provided updates on their work.

Steve Schram updated the group on the Wisconsin Brook Trout Plan, and Mark Brouder showed how the PIT tagging station at the mouth of **Whittlesey Creek** was tracking the dispersal of brook trout. Mark talked about the retention, survival, and growth of PIT tagged juvenile trout, and gave an update on stocking in Whittlesey Creek. **Bill Blust** and **Dennis Pratt** presented a summary of their work on south shore tributary streams. This effort has restored miles of stream habitat for brook trout. Mike Seider described the ongoing work done to rehabilitate and study a section of the **Little Sioux River**.

The **2009 Fishing Expo & Auction** will be held April 4 at the Ashland Civic Center. This year's event will recognize the 50-year anniversary of Trout Unlimited, and will honor the memory of **Martin Hanson**, **John Casperson**, and **Larry Meich-**



John Meschen photos

WI RIVER VALLEY TYERS

Dan Hill (left) shares a smile with those attending a recent chapter fly tying event, while Charles Sauer (right) selects just the right pheasant tail fibers for his fly.

er. Martin's wildlife videos will be shown at 4:30, with an introduction by **Senator Bob Jauch**. Larry, aka Dr. Sausage, served for years as lead auctioneer at all of the Expo events. This year **Duke Welter** and **Henry Haugley** will again work the crowd, and **Representative Gary Sherman** may be there to take the stage as

well. Send your auction donations to a chapter member, or come to the show to help out with a great event. Wild Rivers has generated over \$40,000 in Expo proceeds over the years for stream work and other projects.

—Chuck Campbell

Wisconsin Clear Waters

Our new chapter web site is up and running. Check it out at www.wisconsinu.org/clearwaters.

Last fall, as an experiment, we sent our chapter newsletter to all the TU e-mail addresses we had. Then we ran off the newsletter at **UW-Stout** (they donated a ream of paper) and sent a hard copy to all those without e-mail. That cost about \$76.00 as compared to \$250 for printing and mailing to everyone. In the future, our newsletter will be assembled at the board meeting. Over time, we will be able to significantly reduce the cost of the newsletter with more e-mail addresses and the use of the chapter web site (**Lon Christianson** is the webmaster). Currently about 25% of the chapter gets the newsletter via e-mail. Hopefully we can provide a better member service at a reduced cost.

On Feb. 12 the chapter met at **Gander Mountain** to hear a presentation entitled "Lines I Have Used Around the World" by **Lon Christianson**. We also heard **John Higley** discuss "Fly Line Management," a discussion with tips on backing, line care, leader connections, leader types, leader connections to tippet, tippet to hook, leader to fly line, and more. Lots of questions were asked with advice and options for improved methods.

In January and February, the chapter had a beginning fly tying class at the **Gander Mountain** store in **Eau Claire**. **Jeff Bartynski**, with assistance from **Tom Morgan** and **C. 'Willie' Wilson**, taught the class.

Another **fly fishing instructor certification** course was offered from Noon-5 p.m. on Feb. 7 at the **State Council Banquet** site in **Steven Point**. This was the fourth certification class presented by **Dennis Vanden Bloomen**, UW-Stout fly fishing instructor and president of the chapter. Assisting Dennis were **Dale Dahlke**, **James Fulkerson**, and **Dave Bylsma** of our chapter. Thirteen instructors were certified at this class. Nine WITU chapters now have certified instructors on their rolls.

A beginning fly fishing class will be held at **UW-Eau Claire** April 6 and 8 from 4-8 p.m. The course's rain date is April 11. Instructors are **John Higley**, **Steve Josephson**, **James Fulkerson**, **Tim Meyer**, and **Duke Welter**. Class is limited to 15 people and costs \$5. For participants who have never been members of TU, the class includes a one-year membership in TU. For more information, contact **Dan Langlois** at UW- Eau Claire at (715) 836-3616.

Continued on p. 18



Chapter News

Continued from p. 17

The chapter submitted a **Friends of WITU** \$2,000 grant request for 2009 summer work on **Traverse Valley Creek** in Trempealeau County to continue our support of **Rob Herman**.

The chapter is also working on a \$56,000 Phase III **North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA)** grant under the larger grant submitted by the **Western Wisconsin**

Land Trust. This is a two-year grant for 2010-11 for some work on **Gilbert Creek**. The chapter has been working each year on this stream since 2003.

Finally, we submitted a \$2,000 request to the **Chippewa Valley Outdoor Resource Alliance** for support of **Elk Creek** in Chippewa County. This request was approved for the summer 2009 work. Thank you, CVORA!

—Dennis Vanden Bloomen

Wisconsin River Valley Chapter

This winter has been a busy one for the chapter, with good meetings and informative presentations. The chapter held its first day-long fly tying class organized by two of the best tyers in the chapter. **Henry Kanemoto** and **Mike Pierce** led the group on tying flies that are usable on our local waters. From this effort, regular tying nights are in the planning stages for the off-season months.

Duke Andrews challenged us with an informative presentation on March 9 entitled "The Good Old Days, Illusion or Reality." Duke tested our preconceived notions on fishing regulations and practices. A spirited discussion followed about what we can do to provide quality trout waters today.

Our annual conservation banquet will be held on April 4 at **Mem-**

ories Ballroom near **Rib Mountain**. Complete information can be found on our web site www.wrvtu.org.

Activities for the spring and summer months are being finalized. We will be participating in a joint chapter workday on the **Little Wolf River** near **Waupaca**. Along with the **Shaw-Paca** Chapter, we will mentor students from **Rosholt High School** for their fly fishing class on May 7.

Then on May 16 we will be teaching fly casting and tying at the **Women in the Outdoors** event held at the **Wausau School Forest**.

We will take part in the **TU National Stream Clean Up Day** on June 13.

More is being planned and we look forward to staying active throughout 2009.

—John Meachen

Wolf River Chapter

Elections were held for the two vacant seats on our board of directors at the chapter meeting held March 7. **Bill Livingston** and **Jim Robinson** were elected.

A chapter meeting was held February 19 at the **Antigo DNR Service Center**. In attendance were **Barry Climie** (President), **Rick Halder** (WDNR Trapper), **Bill Livingston**

(board member), **Allen Holbrook**, **Clyde Park**, **George Rock** (board member), **Jim Waters** (board member), **Tanya Meives** (WDNR habitat technician), **Dave Seibel** (WDNR fisheries biologist), **Mike Vogelsang** (WDNR regional supervisor) and **Jim Robinson** (board member).

Top priority for projects will be high-quality, cold tributaries of the **Wolf River**. Projects discussed include:

- Spring Creek (3.1 miles, 2cfs, beaver dam removal, brushing, bundling & habitat),
- Ninemile Creek (added to APHIS and USFS lists for beaver control work, beaver dam removal, brushing, bundling & habitat),
- Lily River (rock dam removal),
- Flora Lake (headwater of the Evergreen River, beaver dam removal, trapping),
- Squaw Creek (1.7 miles, 2cfs, recon for beaver work, APHIS has been working, and brushing potential),
- Hanson Creek (.7 miles, 2cfs, recon for beaver work, APHIS has been working, and brushing potential),
- Stevens Creek (2.6 miles, 4cfs, recon for beaver, brushing potential),
- Getchell Creek (1.2 miles, .2cfs, recon for beaver work, habitat potential),
- Elton Creek (rock dam removals, need landowner permission),
- Mayking Creek (rock dam removals, need landowner permission, DNR is checking into potential habitat projects),
- Spring Lake and Spring Creek in Oconto Co. (brushing, bundling, and habitat),
- Evergreen R. (habitat improve-

ment project by Cty. M, WDNR hopes to receive funds for project to occur in 2009-10),

- Hunting River (habitat improvement project, remove/repair old devices by wayside, DNR hopes to receive funds for project to occur in 2009 and 2010, DNR is checking into a habitat project above the wayside using devices that would lower a man-made hydraulic control),
- Jim Anderson Creek (1.5 miles, 1.5cfs, recon for beaver work and habitat potential, lower old dam sill and contain stream channel in old impoundment),
- Dalton Creek (DNR is checking into potential habitat improvement projects), and
- South Branch Oconto River (DNR is checking into potential habitat improvement projects, TU and the DNR work cooperatively to evaluate culvert and bridge crossings in the Wolf River drainage and identify existing structures needing replacement or resetting).

WRTU is also planning an active year of stream improvement with the **Ninemile Creek Restoration Initiative**. Coordinators **Jim Waters** and **Bill Livingston** encourage members and nonmembers alike to help out. Work begins around 8:30 a.m. and wraps up by Noon, with a free lunch afterwards. Call Jim at (920) 740-1840 to volunteer.

Brushing and bundling days will be on the fourth Saturday of each month. **Water Action Volunteers (WAV)** water testing will be on the third Saturday of each month. Check the web site for details. **Andy Killoren** is webmaster of our site at www.WolfRiverTU.org.

—Tim Waters

CAFO: fight over large farm happening in Vernon County

Continued from p. 5

The other danger, he adds, is both less immediately detectable and more deadly.

"The so-called MRSA (Methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus) show a higher incidence near CAFOs," he says, explaining that this and other e-coli bacteria have

managed to build a resistance to human antibiotics through the overuse of animal antibiotics prevalent in CAFOs. "Part of the problem there is that about 70 percent of our antibiotics go into animals, and not for the purpose of preventing disease, necessarily, but for fattening them up for market. Therefore a

CAFO is a prime situation for developing antibiotic-resistant bacteria."

He noted that the bacteria first showed up among CAFO workers and eventually, through personal contact, can infect family and neighbors. It also shows up, **Holzhauser** said, in surface water runoff.

With about 4,000 miles of trout streams in the Driftless Area to keep tabs on, **Trout Unlimited's** Driftless Area Restoration Effort Manager **Jeff Hastings** is also opposed to a CAFO setting up shop in the Kickapoo. Hastings was the Vernon County conservationist for 21 years.

This region is, he says, an area uniquely unqualified for CAFO management.

"If the CAFO system was actually close to a stream, and you had some kind of breach in the storage unit, the runoff could carry on for miles," he says.

In the 2005 Jersey Valley Lake disaster, a manure spill from a neighboring farm caused massive fish kill and forced the WDNR to close the lake to the public. Hastings noted that the disaster could have been worse except the spill was contained by the lake's dam system and the relatively low water levels at the time of the disaster. The lake has yet to reopen. A comparable catastrophe in the Kickapoo Valley stream system would devastate fish life in the streams for years, he says. There would be little to control the spill except time and Mother Nature.

"It all depends on the weather and how soon the contaminants can get flushed out of the system," he says. "There are suitable places for CAFO operations, for sure; I just don't think Vernon County is one of them."

Dairy farms, strictly speaking, don't pose an environmental threat, **Hastings** quickly adds, but CAFOs are a different matter altogether.

"If dairy farms are managed properly, they pose no threat to our trout streams," he explains. "Managed grazing and all that dairy farmers usually do is actually good for our trout streams, but a large operation in the type of topography found in the Driftless Area sends up red flags. It's not impossible to pull off a successful CAFO, but the odds are against it. On the other hand, the odds of [a catastrophic] event happening are much higher."

According to **Hastings**, regardless of what **Petry Trust** might find useful about the Westby area for a CAFO, the group will still find a particular set of challenges in the area geography.

"They're going to have to find suitable land to spread that manure on. That's going to be the main challenge for them," he says, noting that the porous Karst limestone formations and shallow bedrock both leave groundwater vulnerable to easy contamination.

The catastrophe wouldn't be only environmental, **Hastings** adds.

Continued on p. 19



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Wolf River Chapter trapping beaver on Ninemile Cr.

By Tim Waters

One season fishing the Wolf River shows us the biggest problem concerning trout. By summer, the water becomes too warm. The trout go elsewhere. WDNR tracking indicates the trout winter in the Wolf, but they summer in colder water.

Cold water enters the Wolf from spring creeks. Ninemile Creek used to be one of these creeks. Every time I fished the Wolf where Ninemile enters, I took temperature readings. They always fell within one degree of each other, even in late June.

Ninemile Creek starts at the exit of Hiwanka Lakes in the Nicolet National Forest. It then runs southwest where it meets Little Emil Spring, Emil Spring, and Poor Farm Spring. From there, it runs predominantly south where it enters the Wolf River south of Hollister, just up from the railroad trestle. Until it nears the Wolf and Hwy. 55, the river runs through roadless, wild forests.

Access for beaver control the Wolf River Chapter wanted to conduct on this tributary was attained from a generous landowner under one condition. We were told that the owner's small bridge nearly washed out in the past because of debris clogging the culverts. Jim Waters, WRTU board member, quickly agreed to keep the culverts cleaned out.

We explored this area above and below the bridge in July 2008 and found beaver dams a quarter mile above and below the bridge. We removed them both, but the northern dam was repaired the next day, with all new branches. The battle with the beavers

had begun. It was obvious that unless we removed the beavers, the fight was pointless. Jim continued to remove the dams and keep the culvert clean on nearly a daily basis.

Beaver dams stop the flow of the stream, creating pools, collecting silt, and heating the water. Above the dams are a maze of swamps and channels, with no established bank. An area of roughly 50 yards on both sides of the creek is void of trees. The rising water above the dam floods the plain and

eo showed at least 15 beaver dams in six miles from Hollister Road up to the three springs.

Duane Fronek, a prominent trapper from White Lake, taught a trapping class where members of Wolf River TU graduated and received their trapping license. During the fall, WRTU members trapped 20 beavers on private land. For the winter trapping season, WRTU set a \$20 bounty on beavers trapped on Ninemile Creek. Duane has collected

bounty on eight more beavers taken through the ice this winter. With the advent of warm weather, trapping will end on Ninemile Creek.

The DNR no longer issues permits to trap beavers on state land out of season. Instead, Ninemile Creek has been added to the APHIS and USFS lists for beaver control. If beaver problems are observed, TU members will contact the DNR, which will trap the beavers.

Permission has been granted by most landowners to remove all but two of the dams on the lower six miles. WRTU members worked late into fall removing many of these dams.

The removal of the beavers and their dams from the Ninemile Creek watershed — along with brushing, bundling and other habitat work being planned with the WDNR

— will move the stream's spring water into the Wolf quicker, creating a sanctuary for the trout during warm water periods. Eventually, it is hoped, trout will once again spawn in Ninemile Creek, bringing us one step closer to a sustainable trout fishery on the mighty Wolf River.

(Tim Waters is a member of the Wolf River Chapter. -Ed.)



BEAVER DAM IN, BEAVER DAM OUT, STREAM RECOVERING

This beaver dam on Ninemile Creek (top left) backed up water across a wide area. Once the dam was removed (top right) the shoreline began drying out and growing vegetation (bottom left). Within weeks, the old streambed had a good cover of fresh grass on the banks (bottom right).

eventually kills all the trees.

I was amazed to see the speed at which the creek recovers after dam removal. Within a week grass began to grow along a defining bank.

Satellite photos of the river showed a history of beaver problems all along the creek. John Kielcheski agreed to fly over the creek, and Jim took a video camera along. The vid-

HERMANN: worth the risks?

Continued from p. 11

That is where we come back to Leopold's words on the rightness of things. We also come back to the issue of the effectiveness of our various regulatory agencies and the pressures they are under.

The role of TU in this matter of factory farming deserves some careful consideration. Many of our chapters work closely with farmers on their stream projects. Nobody can deny that this is all to the good. If nothing else, it often raises the awareness of the farmers as to how important a stream is to others. Our members who do this valuable work need to build and maintain respectful relationships with landowners and farmers. Any official position taken by TU needs to be carefully considered. Still, it must be asked what the future will look like if industrial agriculture continues as planned.

As individual citizens, we have more latitude of action. We can work at the local government level, on zoning boards, with other organi-

zations more directly involved in this issue, and even write a timely letter to the editor. What we must be careful of is speaking for the organization of TU as a whole until and unless TU arrives at some official policy decision.

We need to remember that most legislators are weak and pitiable creatures who will latch on to any words that may support their preconceived ideas. Noting your membership in TU as part of your bona fides at any hearing can easily confuse these guys, and it is very hard to unring a bell. Besides, if you happen to be an officer in the organization you can really tick off your fellow TU members. I have seen it happen. Treading lightly is advised.

Of course, this essay is merely a beginning. Much more could be written. We could discuss the socio-political aspects of factory farming. We could discuss rural land use in general. We could discuss not just factory farms but other types of agriculture that might be more in line with Leopold's idea of the "rightness" of things.

With that in mind I would like to close with another thought from Aldo Leopold. He wrote, "The true

problem of agriculture, and all other land use, is to achieve both utility and beauty, and thus permanence. A farmer has the same obligation to help, within reason, to preserve the biotic integrity of his community as he has, within reason, to preserve the culture which rests on it. As a member of the community, he is the

ultimate beneficiary of both."

Let me submit that this is a good starting point for any future decisions made by TU, our politicians, our business interests, and our landowners.

(Tom Hermann is one of the Green Bay Chapter's representatives to the WRTU State Council. -Ed.)

CAFO: fight in Vernon County

Continued from p. 18

Hastings points to a 1998 study by Trout Unlimited which found that the trout fishing industry for Vernon County alone was around \$1 million annually (for the Driftless Area in general, the impact was close to a billion dollars).

"And now today, when you drive these streams, even during the week," he says, "you see all the out-of-state license plates, all the fishermen coming in from out of state, and the hotels and bed and breakfasts springing up, and guides coming into the area. Trout fishing is not a small industry for Vernon County anymore."

Citing a recent study done by the La Crosse Department of Land and Water Conservation, Hastings notes that with as few as two heavy spring rains or other events that induce heavy runoff, 85 to 90 percent of nutrients from a manure spill can wind up in a stream system.

"If we get the spring runoffs and all these nutrients into the water," he said, "it will have a catastrophic effect on both our recruitments, the new fish that we stock, and those fish in the Class 1 self-reproducing trout streams."

(This story originally appeared in the Kickapoo Free Press in Viroqua and is reprinted with permission. You can visit them at www.kickapoo-free-press.com. -Ed.)

How can we get more youth and women involved in fishing?

By Bob Haase

Take a look around the next time you attend your TU chapter meeting, the State Council meeting, or other hunting and fishing clubs you may belong to. See how many of those attending look like they are under 20 years of age, or 30 or 40 years of age for that matter. Where are our youth?

Member Analysis

When you do this you, will get the picture.

While you are making this visual observation, also count how many women are in attendance. I think when you do this you, will get the picture. When I visited Larry Meicher shortly before his death, we talked about a lot of things related to fishing and getting youth and women involved in fishing. The last thing that Larry said to me as I was leaving was, "Bob, we have to get more women and youth involved in fishing." I promised Larry that I would do my best, and I am asking for your help in this effort.

It is time to plant the seed and help it grow. When we teach a kid to tie flies, we don't always see the results right away. Kids don't always continue tying flies or get more involved in fishing right away. There are many things competing for their

time, including video games and other activities that may seem more interesting at the time. As they get older and are more involved in their job and family, they don't always have or make the time to go fishing. Some kids take to fishing right away and continue to get more involved, while others may not get involved with fishing until later in life.

duced him to fly tying or fishing when he was a kid, he may not have waited so long and may have even

and her son came in and asked where she and her son might go to learn more about fishing. She was a single mother, and the boy's father had no interest in fishing or outdoor sports. Unfortunately, this is becoming more of the norm than the exception, and there is nothing we can do about this. We can, however, try to provide more opportunities to introduce parents and their children to fishing. I helped her the best I could, but I could not help think that we could be doing more.



Joe Sienkiewicz



Bob Haase

TU YOUTH FISHING TRAINING IN ACTION

Dr. Joe Guerard of Winneconne (top) introduces a youngster to the art of fly tying at CWTU's TroutFest '09. Larry Meicher (bottom) was a frequent fly casting instructor for TU at youth events like the Wisconsin Outdoor Expo.

been an active member in one of our TU chapters.

I, along with a few others, spent some time this year at the Milwaukee Sentinel Sport Show teaching kids how to tie flies. I was pleasantly surprised at how many kids showed a genuine interest in fly tying and fishing and told me about some of their fishing trips with their parents. I could not get over how many children or their parents asked where they could go to learn how to tie flies and learn how to fly fish. We need to do more if we can to help provide programs to fill that need.

While I was working part time at a local sport shop, a young woman

opportunities can range from formal classes to mini-seminars at sport shows or other events.

As Education Chair for the State Council, I will do whatever I can to help each chapter try to do more in this area. I am also asking the support of each chapter and each and every member to help whenever possible.

Maybe every chapter can solicit a skills inventory of its members to find out who is willing to help teach fly casting, fly tying, knot tying, or other fishing-related activities. This could be the basis for the volunteer help needed to get more women and youth involved in fishing. Members can also sponsor a subscription to TU's new *Stream Explorers* magazine aimed at youngsters under the age of 13 (see story on this page).



TU National launches new web site and magazine for kids

TU has just launched a new web site for kids. The web site at www.streamexplorers.org and has sections like "Go Fishing," "Fish Facts," and "Get Active."

In addition to the web site, TU is also launching a quarterly magazine for kids, also entitled *Stream Explorers*. It seeks to introduce kids to such things as clean water, wild fish, and the joy of fly fishing. Members can order it for just \$12 for the child, grandchild, or other special young people in their lives.

The magazine and web site have activities, games, and fun facts for kids age 13 and below. (Kids age 14-18 receive TU's *Trout* magazine.)

A welcome letter will be sent announcing your gift. Kids will get a personalized member card, a *Stream Explorers* decal, and a TU wall calendar that will mail in late summer.

For a gift of \$25, the recipient will also receive *A Kid's Guide to Fly-fishing*. With a retail value of \$16, *A Kid's Guide to Flyfishing* is written by Tyler Befus, a fly angler who authored the book at age 8.

Volunteers needed again at Wisconsin Outdoor Expo

By Bob Haase

We really need your help again this year at the Wisconsin Outdoor Expo at the Dodge County Fairgrounds near Beaver Dam May 14-15.

Last year we had around 1,000 fourth- and fifth-grade students tie their first fly, and a few hundred students tried their hands at fly casting. Wisconsin TU coordinates the fly tying and fly casting part of this event where around 3,500 students spend the day learning outdoor skills related to hunting, fishing, and other outdoor sports and conservation.

We need around 6-10 volunteers each day to teach fly casting, and around 12-15 volunteers each day to help the students tie a fly. Fly casting volunteers do not need to bring anything, as the fly rods will be provided by the WDNR. Fly tying volunteers need to bring their vise and tying tools, along with a couple spools of thread. All the tying materials will be provided.

We talk about getting kids involved in fishing, and this is our chance to plant the seed that may someday result in these students getting involved in trout fishing, stream restoration, water monitoring, and TU.

We would like to thank all those who took the time to volunteer the last few years and encourage everyone to consider volunteering for this year's Outdoor Expo.

Please contact Bob Haase at (920) 922-8003 or flytier@dot-net.com if you are able to help from 8-3 p.m. on Thursday, May 14, or Friday, May 15.

MEICHER: stalwart passes away March 2

Continued from p. 1

In presenting Meicher with its Distinguished Service Award in 2001, TU National President Charles Gauvin said, "Larry Meicher's contributions are not only numerous, but they have been done over the long haul. He has stayed involved at every level of Trout Unlimited in Wisconsin for decades, and whatever needed to be done, he did. His contributions have been nothing short of outstanding, and he is just as involved today as he was 30 years ago!"

"Perhaps Larry's greatest contribution to TU," said Gauvin, "has been his work in developing future leaders for the organization — a commitment to investing in human capital that makes TU what it is today."

Meicher served two long stints as WITU State Council treasurer, once

from 1982-84 and again from 2001 until his passing. He was also a past president, vice president, and treasurer of the Southern Wisconsin Chapter.

For many years, Meicher taught fly tying classes at East High School in Madison and Patrick Marsh Middle School in Sun Prairie. Two of Larry's adult fly tying students — John Welter and Steve Born — went on to become TU leaders at the national level.

He also taught fly tying and fly rod casting to Project Green Teen students at Madison Shabazz High School and to women enrolled in the Women in the Outdoors program.

A memorial celebration for Larry was held Saturday, March 21, at the Warner Park Community Recreation Center in Madison. Dozens of Trout Unlimited members from

across the state attended and heard many stories of Larry's adventures in the outdoors from friends Bill Heart, Dick Berge, Duke Welter, Robert Slane, and others.

"It will be impossible for us to fill his shoes with even three or four people," said WITU chair Bill Heart at the memorial celebration. "I really don't know how he did all of this stuff without complaining. He was our treasurer, chaired the mostly one-person Awards Committee, presented the awards with his booming voice, chaired our Friends of WITU grant program selection committee, was very active in running the banquet raffles, and represented TU on the WDNR BMP Forestry Committee. And that was just for the State Council."

To many, Larry was affectionately known as "The Pass Lake Kid" for his dedication to the black-and-



LARRY MEICHER IN 2005

Larry was awarded WITU's top honor in 2005, the Award of Merit.

white wet fly. He developed many variations on the Pass Lake theme over the years.



WITU Looking Back

From the Spring 1979 WITU Newsletter...

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

by Verlin H. Peckham

The Environmental Resources Committee heard Assembly Bill 140 on March 29. This is the bill introduced to eliminate the office of Public Intervenor. Tom Sopkovich asked me to appear and voice our unanimous opposition to the bill which I did along with about 35 representatives from other organizations. Only 3 persons who had a bone to pick with the Public Intervenor appeared in favor of the bill along with Assemblyman Omernick who introduced the bill. Others who voiced opposition were Chairman Messinger of DNR, Attorney General Bronson LaFollette, Professor James McDonald of the U.W. Law School Water Resources, Francis Murphy of the Conservation Congress, Peter Anderson of Environmental Decade, Jim Derouin - Attorney for Exxon Minerals Company, and representatives from the Audubon Society, Wetlands Protection, Town of St. Germain, Town of Grant, League of Women Voters, and Common Cause.

Many members of T.U. took off work or forgot lunch to appear and register their opposition. This really had a great impact and we hope the bill was killed. It is the kind of support that makes T.U. the action organization necessary to protect our water resource.

From the Spring 1989 Reflections...

TU's GB Chapter funds trout movement study

The Green Bay Chapter of Trout Unlimited funded a study to determine movement patterns of stream trout in the Beaver Creek system in southern Marinette County.

This investigation started in the spring of last year and will continue through the upcoming winter. Some very interesting data has been collected to date.

Six adult brown trout were implanted with small radio tags last April and May. These fish were originally caught in the Peshtigo River near the mouth of the Beaver, or just upstream from the mouth in the main Beaver Creek itself.

As water temperatures warmed in the spring these fish moved upstream into the North Branch of the Beaver. Some moved as far as six miles to get into their "summer habitat."

Most of these fish showed little movement throughout the summer months, but as fall approached upstream movement to spawning areas were detected.

Additional brown trout were being radio tagged last fall on the spawning grounds, so their movements could be tracked during the winter months.

During the course of the survey work on the Beaver Creek system, the DNR has put small plastic tags on nearly 500 brown and brook trout. When these fish are recaptured in subsequent surveys, the information will be added to that obtained from the radio tagged fish to help clarify the knowledge of trout movement patterns in this system.

If anglers catch any of these tagged trout, they are asked to return the tag along with information on where the fish was caught and length to the DNR office in Marinette.

In addition to looking at the movement of trout within this system, the DNR is also continually monitoring water temperatures at six sites in the watershed and checking on water levels throughout the systems to see if these factors play any role in the movement of trout.

The information gained from studies of this nature will help the DNR in providing better trout fishing in the future. The knowledge of trout movement is needed when considering stocking plans, proposing new regulations, and determining where to do habitat improvement projects and what type of improvement or protection of the trout habitat is necessary.

Back issues available online

All past issues of *Wisconsin Trout* dating back to when the paper was assembled in electronic form (Oct. 1999) are available on the State Council's web site at www.WisconsinTU.org under the "news" tab. Scroll down to review each issue's headlines and select the issue you'd like to download in Acrobat format.

From the Spring 1999 Wisconsin Trout...

Conservation Congress hearings April 12th

Early trout season, other items on agenda

The annual Wisconsin Conservation Congress Fish and Game rule hearings will be held in all 72 Wisconsin counties on Monday, April 12, 1999, starting at 7 p.m. Several questions pertaining to trout fishing will be part of the agenda for proposed statewide Bureau of Fisheries Management and Habitat Protection rule changes.

Most notable among the questions is the proposal to reauthorize the "early" trout fishing season on inland trout streams, except for the Category 5 sections of the **Tomorrow River** (Portage Co.), the **West Branch White River** (Waushara Co.) and the **White**

River and its tributaries (Bayfield Co.) upstream from **Pike River Road**.

The early trout season - which allows catch-and-release trout fishing by anglers using only **barbless hooked** artificial flies and lures on all inland trout waters save for lakes, ponds, spring ponds and the above-mentioned trout streams from March 1 through 6 p.m. of the day before the general fishing season opener - was approved by the Natural Resources Board in 1996.

The controversial statewide season was ordered to run only for three years (1997, 1998 and 1999). If the special season is to continue, it must again be put to a vote before the Conservation

Congress and be approved by the NRB.

Along with that question is one that would remove the requirement that **barbless hooks** be used by anglers during the early trout season.

In addition, there will be a proposal to prohibit the **possession** of live bait on designated Category 5 trout waters where gear restrictions limit anglers to use of artificial lures and flies only. Conservation wardens have complained that it is difficult to arrest violators who illegally fish "artificially only" waters with live bait, because they must nab the poachers fishing with live bait **already on the hook** before they can make a case, and

approval of this proposal would make enforcement of the "artificially only" restriction easier.

Finally, a fourth question asks approval of a proposal to add certain stretches of five Lake Michigan tributary rivers (**Pike Kewaunee, Milwaukee, Menomonee and Little**) to those waters designated as "outlying waters."

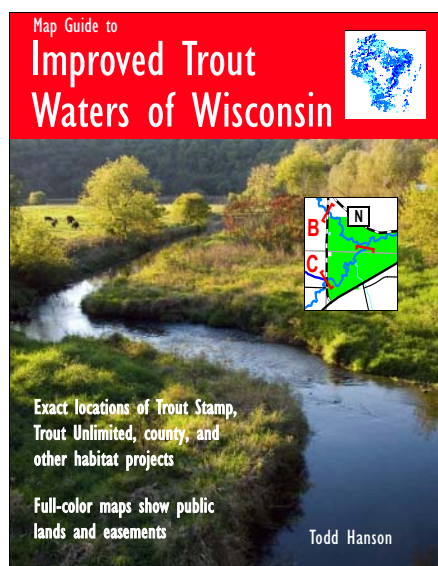
Wisconsin Trout Unlimited strongly urges its members to attend the Congress hearing in their county and vote as they feel on these issues pertaining to fishing rule changes. The county-by-county locations for the hearings are listed below.

Helpful book lists state's improved trout waters

By John Welter

Trout anglers, it can safely be said, have a love-hate relationship with maps. For every angler who relies on stream maps, there's another who damns them and whoever published them.

When Wisconsin TU was being organized several decades ago, some very thoughtful people devoted time to a platform, or manifesto,



or statement of principles intended to guide the young organization. One plank said, in effect, "we won't give out maps or be in the business of telling people about fishing spots." But from time to time and place to place, the thinking has been very different.

For instance, at least several TU chapters from Georgia to Colorado, and probably many other places,

have no problem distributing maps of fishing locations to their members and the general public. Often it's a fund-raiser — the hottest bucket raffle and silent auction trophies at the annual Rabun Rendezvous run by Georgia's Rabun Chapter are a pair of Forest Service maps with notations by biologists, guides, and hydrologists along the key rivers. The notations detail access sites, flow rates, hatch charts, and prime times. Since hundreds of people already fish those waters, it's hard to imagine how distributing such a map would have any discernible impact on angler populations.

The dilemma is not hard to decipher. Should we each be exploring and seeking our own waters, holding them all dear and hiding our personal maps? Or should we be willing to accept that most anglers don't have unlimited time for exploring, that regulations and personal ethics will hopefully protect fish populations, and maps help show where public money and TU money goes into those places?

I come down on the side of providing some information as a starter, and then encouraging people to explore from that foundation. The DNR's web site on trout streams shows maps of stream classifications, and its regulation booklet shows the regulations. But they don't show access sites, non-DNR easements, or places where habitat improvement has been done.

For almost 20 years, I've been bugging the WDNR — anybody who bothered to listen, at least — about publishing a worthwhile booklet showing where its money had been spent on easements and stream projects. After all, Minnesota has done excellent and useful pamphlets for almost that long showing classified trout waters, public access easements, and restored waters. As far as I can see, they are valuable resources for anglers.

But the closest the WDNR comes is its "Lands" web site which shows public fishing lands and, up to a limit of currency, fishing easements. It's a start, but it's nowhere

All of us — including the WDNR — now have this first edition to serve as a baseline of...trout habitat.

near a completely informative picture of Wisconsin's range of fishing and angler access opportunities. When so much public money is spent on these restorations, it only makes sense that information about them would be accessible.

So when I heard a year ago that Wisconsin Trout editor Todd Hanson had written a book entitled *Map Guide to Improved Trout Waters of Wisconsin*, I looked at it as a good potential source for information for anglers, and said so. Now, a year after it has been published (and on the verge of a new trout season), how is it holding up?

The book, published by Where Am I Publications, costs \$29.50 and can be found in many state fishing supply shops (see the retailer list at www.WhereAmIPubs.com). It consists of five-color maps of segments of streams where restoration work has been done throughout Wisconsin, arranged alphabetically.

The maps show where improvement work has been done (at least since the 1960s and 1970s), where state-owned lands are located, and where WDNR fishing easements exist on the maps included. The maps are nicely keyed to each stream's location within its county and in the ubiquitous DeLorme *Atlas and Gazetteer* where one can find other landmarks.

There are gaps in easement coverage here, but I didn't find they took away from the avowed purpose of the book of listing improved trout waters. For instance, where easements are held but no improvement work has been done on a stream, that stream might not be shown unless it appears incidentally on the map of a nearby stream. Access easements are held in this state not only by the DNR, but by TU, land trusts, counties, municipalities, and local conservation clubs, to name a few. The book often notates "county easement" along a reach where work was done.

As far as I know, there is no publication that compiles all these easements, including this one. The only ways to find out such information would be to ask each possible easement holder for information, or to go to the Register of Deeds office in each county and go through the recorded documents in the easements volume, and that would take some skill reading legal descriptions and years of work.

Another gap comes because some older easements had a term of years and may have expired. For instance, many older DNR easements expired after 20 years unless they

were renewed. Some thought in the '60s and '70s that if habitat work lasted 20 years it was good work. Today we expect longer-lasting impacts, and most easements sought are perpetual. In cases where the easement associated with the decades-old work has expired, you'll have to get landowner permission or keep your feet wet while you fish that stretch of stream.

To see how the information here stacked up on places I know, I examined the streams catalogued around Eau Claire where I fish most often — I'll call them Wapiti, Punkin, and McCant creeks. Some work shown on these waters is inaccurate. I found some restoration of which I hadn't been aware. That is good, but on some mapped sites, I found older work shown that I

know to now be located far away from the stream thread, odd work resembling archeological sites now 50 or more feet from the channel. That distinction isn't pointed out here, though there is a lot of '60s and '70s stream work shown on various maps. As an angler, I won't walk a long way to see if 40- or 50-year-old habitat work is still in the stream or doing its job.

However, since the author reports all of the book's improvement sites were reviewed and signed off on by WDNR fisheries personnel, any such old, marginally functional improvement work only shows what happens when personnel leave the agency or memories grow old. All of us — including the WDNR — now have this first edition to serve as a baseline of the trout habitat work done by the state in the union that has done more of it than any other. Until now, these improvements weren't compiled anywhere, or at least anywhere accessible by the public.

While most TU projects and all trout stamp projects *require* public access, USDA and US Fish & Wildlife Service-funded projects do not. The book shows the USDA and USFWS improved sites that have public access agreements in place.

The book also lists some projects around the state as "keep-your-feet-wet" sites. (As an aside, it would be a constructive effort for conservation groups to work with landowners to purchase or otherwise obtain public access rights to such areas, but that's another project.)

In the end, Hanson's *Map Guide to Improved Trout Waters of Wisconsin* provides helpful information for anglers across the state. Because the book publishes only the general range of the stream where work was done rather than GPS coordinates on hole locations, it's unlikely it will bring a horde of anglers down on any particular water or lead people to give up exploring waters not shown in the book. There are still many, many gems out there waiting to be found.

Every angler should understand the benefits of asking permission where access is in doubt, or of thanking landowners when they see them, and the book makes this clear.

The book left some questions unanswered, but made progress in answering some that deserve to be addressed.

(John Welter writes book reviews for Wisconsin Trout as a break from serving on the Natural Resources Board and chairing TU's National Leadership Council. -Ed.)

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Marking pens will doctor flies on-stream to match the hatch

By Henry Kanemoto

In my previous article in *Wisconsin Trout* about the versatile parachute, I discussed modifying flies by



bending and snipping them to fit the hatch. But what if you don't have the right color of fly? Virtually any light-colored fly can be converted into a darker fly.

In the early 1980s, I stopped along the shores of Yellowstone

Lake for a picnic with my family. There was a mayfly hatch, and a fly fisher was trying to catch rising cutthroat without success. My sons and I rigged up our fly rods and we didn't have success, either. However, I managed to catch a mayfly, and it was a black size 14. My regular grey parachute Adams would not work, so I took a black art marker and colored the fly black. We immediately started to catch fish.

If you carry a few Prismacolor markers and then tie a few flies in cream, you can convert a generic fly into a specific hatch pattern. The best place I have found online to purchase these markers is Jerry's Artarama at www.jerrysartarama.com. I have a selection of markers and carry them in a ziplock bag.

The basic colors I carry are light and dark grey, black, brown, olive, yellow, and pale morning dun (PMD) colors. PMDs can vary in color from shades of olive to cream to pinkish, so you need to carry different colors that you can mix with the flies you carry.

If you don't have olive, you can mix the brown and yellow to get olive. Since there is variation in color

among the naturals, you don't need to exactly match the color. You only need to get close enough to offer a reasonable imitation.

Another hatch that is difficult to match are grasshoppers. Grasshoppers vary markedly in color and shading from green to yellow to brown to black with even areas of some red. I have found it frustrating to try to match the coloration of hoppers when fishing the western rivers of Montana. What I do now is to carry a light-colored pattern and color it to match.

As you get to know the hatches on your home waters, the times you need to modify your flies on stream will become fewer and fewer. The times when you need them will usually be when you run out of the right-colored flies and you need to "doctor" another color to match the hatch.

But when you travel to fish on new waters, carrying some art markers along can make the difference between success and failure.

(Henry Kanemoto is a charter member of the Wisconsin River Valley Chapter. This story originally appeared in his chapter's The Riffle

and Pool newsletter. Expect a couple more of Henry's pieces on strike indicators and fly selection in coming issues. -Ed.)



A grasshopper before (top) and after being colored with art markers. (These changes are better viewed by downloading the color version of this issue at www.WisconsinTU.org.)

Marty's JP Taper uses striped jungle cock feathers

By John Gremmer

The JP Taper first caught my eye in the old Bob's Bait and Tackle in Green Bay. There is something about streamers that have that early 20th Century look that force you to pause and ponder their beauty, history, and capabilities. The JP Taper has exotic looking hackle wings, a tail of greenish-blue peacock sword

tying. When I asked Marty if this streamer was any good, he replied, "John, it's just murder on fish. Brook trout just love it. They can't leave it alone. Steelhead just hammer it. John, the fly ought to be outlawed!" This was vintage Marty! I miss talking with him. Of course, after that pitch, how could I not buy a couple?

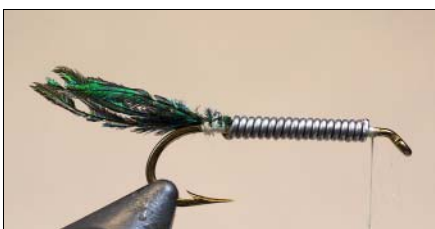
listed the possibilities. He always stood out at our Central Wisconsin TU TroutFest, a late winter celebration of trout and trout fishing, with his ink block printing of mayflies or his hand tying (without a vise) of a salmon fly. He would pull people into his table and try to inject into them the love he had for the art of fly fishing and fly tying.

When I told Marty I was still using the JP Taper, he looked amused. He got that glint in his eye, a smile broke across his face, and he confessed, "Leave it to me to create a fly that couldn't be commercially produced." Oh! Yes! I got it! Who's going to make any money these days putting jungle cock on flies.

I've had great days fishing this streamer. An afternoon on Chaffee Creek, near where I live, comes to mind. The Chaffee has lots of brush along its banks, crystal clear water, and fish with Ph.D.s in avoidance. It can be very challenging. Each cast had to be specially measured and fitted through openings. But, true to Marty's word, the fish just murdered it. I stopped at 12 fish. One measured 18 inches. (It's interesting that at 66 I can't remember my cell phone number, but I can remember how many fish and how long they were on something that happened years back. That's what life's peak experiences will do for you.)

I always carry a half dozen JP Tapers in my streamer box. Marty

was right! "It should be outlawed." And don't you just love that white line through the wing?



barbs, and a red head all attached to a white fiber body with a copper wire rib. Lifting it you discovered it was heavily weighted with lead. It was tied on a salmon hook — was it used for salmon? Steelhead?

The late Marty Kwitek, who was running the fly fishing department at Bob's, created this fly, and I believe he tied and packaged all of those at Bob's. If you knew Marty, you have no doubt he led the league in enthusiasm for fly fishing and fly

MATERIALS LIST
Marty's JP Taper

Hook: 3x streamer hook, size 8 or 10.

Thread: White 6/0 for body and red 6/0 for head.

Tail: 6 peacock sword fibers.

Body: Lead weight wrap, white Aunt Lydia's Sparkle Yarn (antron), and medium copper wire ribbing.

Wing: Two jungle cock neck flank feathers.

Beard: Red hackle fibers, red rabbit fur, red E.P. fibers, etc.

The source of the streamer's feather wings were a mystery to me. What bird did they come from? They were gray and black with a white line down the middle that did a great job of imitating a lateral line on a minnow. I later learned that the feather came attached to some jungle cock necks.

These two flies stayed locked in my streamer box for years. I didn't try them on the migratory fish, but about 10 years ago I had some success with them in southwest Wisconsin. But, the salmon hook was too big, so like all of us fly tyers, I started to tinker with the pattern. I replaced the salmon hook with a size 10, 3X streamer hook. Marty had hundreds of wraps of some kind of thread or cord for the body. I replaced it with one strand from a three-strand piece of Aunt Lydia's Sparkle Yarn made of Antron.

The last time I saw Marty, he still had the same enthusiasm for fishing. He said, "John, I will do anything to help your chapter." Then he

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2009 Friends campaign off and running to help WI trout

By Steve Hill

Friends of WITU Chair

By now you have received this year's appeal for funds from Wisconsin Trout Unlimited's Friends of Wisconsin Trout program.

Everyone knows that we are in the middle of a bad economy, but the trout don't know that. They still need our help, so please send as much as you can!

I can't think of one of our chapters that hasn't used Friends money at one time or another over the

years to help pay for their local habitat projects. They've appreciated having this money ready and waiting for their great ideas.

Your annual contribution of \$100 or more means you will be listed with all the other "Friends" in four consecutive issues of *Wisconsin Trout*.

Also, this year we are sending all Friends a very special hat. The hat not only has the Friends of Wisconsin TU name on it, but also TU's 50th anniversary logo. It will become one of your favorites.

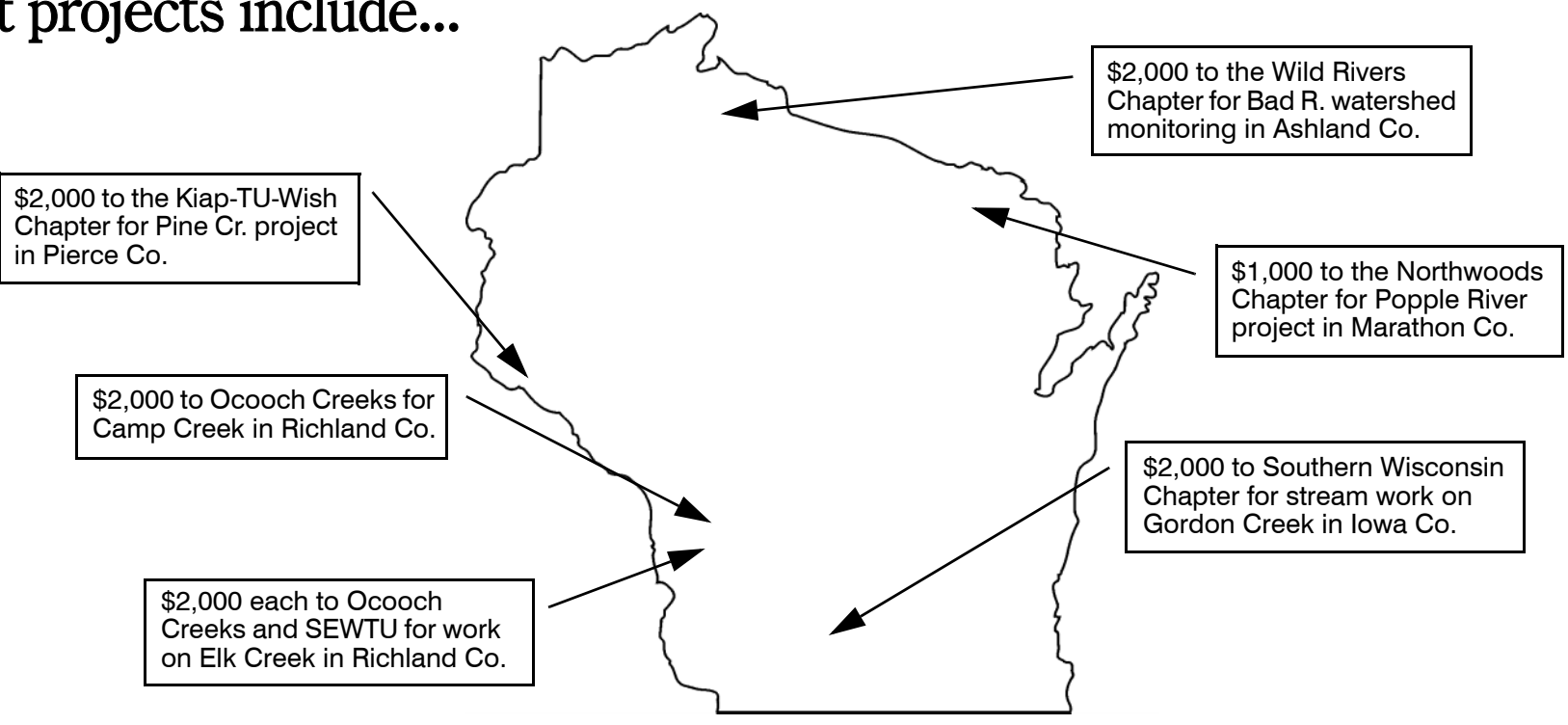
Just as importantly, though, you'll receive the satisfaction of knowing that you donated to a cause that has made a difference in Wisconsin's trout fishery.

Like any solid investment, your donation will pay dividends down the road for you and future generations.

So, as you get ready for another great Wisconsin trout fishing season, please consider becoming or renewing your membership in the Friend of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited.



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