

Wisconsin Trout

January 2009

Sen. Feingold urged to back Snake R. salmon plan

By Joseph Bogaard and Bill Pielsticker

Last May, a 25-foot salmon was driven across the U.S., stopping in Wisconsin for five days before heading to Washington, D.C. A creation of the Save Our Wild Salmon Federation, the giant salmon was a symbol of the endangered stocks of Pacific salmon and steelhead and a reminder of how the coalition feels they can be saved.



FOUR SNAKE RIVER DAMS TARGETED

The lower Snake River in Washington is prime territory for salmon spawning.

With the start of a new legislative session at hand, the SOS folks and Trout Unlimited are renewing their effort to see the endangered salmon stocks placed on a path to recovery and restoration. The most biologically promising and cost-effective step to recovery — a plan endorsed by TU National — is the removal of the lower four dams on the Snake River in Idaho.

We are asking you to let our own Senator Russ Feingold know how important it is to ensure the recovery of these wild Northwest Pacific salmon and steelhead. In this issue of *Wisconsin Trout*, you will find a postcard addressed to Sen. Feingold. Please fill it out and mail it. Or better yet, write your own personalized letter and send it to the senator. Time is running out if we hope to restore several of these endangered fish populations. Please do your part today.

Annual salmon returns plummet

In the 1800s, the Columbia and Snake Rivers in America's Pacific Northwest boasted the greatest salmon populations on earth, with up to 30 million salmon returning home each year. But today, populations linger near just one percent of that historic number. Wild salmon and steelhead — a valuable economic resource to the Northwest and a national treasure — are in danger of extinction.

Fortunately, we now have one of our best opportunities to bring them back.

For decades, the federal government has ignored science and wasted taxpayer money on a series of failed and illegal federal plans. Elected

officials in the Northwest have failed to lead, leaving our wild salmon and Pacific Coast communities that rely on them high and dry.

But a changed political landscape — a new administration and new members of Congress — offers us a fresh opportunity to bring people together to work collaboratively on federal salmon efforts that will recover our endangered wild salmon, create good jobs, invest in our fishing and farming communities, and encourage the development of truly clean energy resources.

In 2009, we have an opportunity for a fresh start — to apply the best scientific and economic information available, to stop wasting taxpayer dollars, and to begin restoring wild salmon and steelhead to healthy, abundant levels that support jobs and communities.

Dams hurting recovery efforts

Over the last 18 years, the federal government has failed to develop a lawful, science-based, fiscally responsible recovery plan that restores endangered salmon and steelhead to healthy, abundant populations. Through inaction and misplaced priorities, the federal government is allowing salmon to quietly disappear, devastating scores of fishing communities up and down the West Coast in order to preserve four outdated and costly dams on the lower Snake River.

The dams in question were built in the 1960s and 70s, primarily for barge traffic transporting eastern Washington grain to market.

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TUDARE 2008 annual report recaps the year's highlights

By Jeff Hastings

TUDARE Program Manager

The past twelve months in the Driftless Area have seen their ups and down...literally, with several major storm events dumping 12-18 inches of rain.

Our projects were tested by the floods, and for the most part, they held their ground. Sections below bridges and wooded corridors proved to be the exceptions.

Typically our partners spend approximately a million dollars on stream restoration projects each year, with trout stamp dollars and Farm Bill programs making up the largest share.

This year we were able to more than double the amount of money coming into the Driftless Area by working with the Wisconsin Natural Resources Conservation Service to secure:

- \$933,000 from the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program,
- \$300,000 from the National Fish Habitat Action Plan,
- \$240,000 from the Minnesota Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund, and
- other grants.

We also completed an Economic Impact of Recreational Trout Angling in the Driftless Area study. We were pleasantly surprised to find that over 125,000 anglers fish the Driftless Area each year, and these anglers are generating an impressive \$1.1 billion annual economic benefit to the local economy.

The report is being used to build broader community support for TUDARE and Driftless Area stream conservation.

Stream restoration update

- **Iowa** — Little Turkey River and Trout River;

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NASH WILLIAMS AND TOM SOPKOVICH

Tom Sopkovich (right) paid a visit to Nash Williams several years ago to reminisce about trout fishing and past TU accomplishments.

Former State Council Chair Tom Sopkovich passes

By Todd Hanson

Tom Sopkovich — whose leadership spanned the local, state, and national levels of Trout Unlimited — passed away Oct. 5 from cancer.

Sopkovich was president of both the Southern and Southeastern Wis-

consin chapters in the 1970s, and he served as WITU State Council Chair from 1978-80. Following these Wisconsin leadership posts, he was elected TU National's Midwest Regional VP in the fall of 1980.

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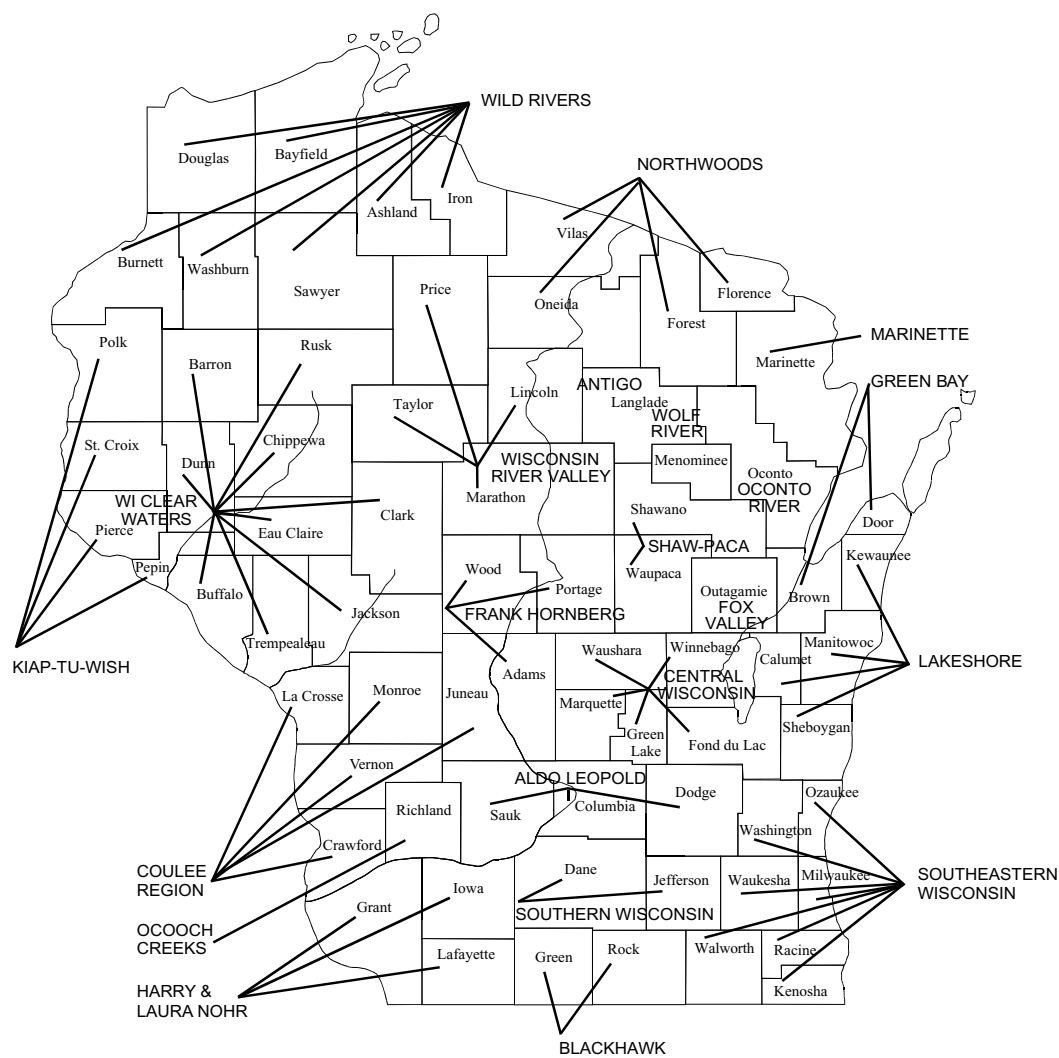
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Contact TU National when you change addresses or chapter leaders

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

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

WISCONSIN TROUT

Vol. 21, No. 1 — January 2009

Wisconsin Trout is the official publication of the Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited and is distributed to the members of Wisconsin's 22 TU chapters. Nonmember subscriptions are \$12.50/year. Publication and distribution dates are the first weeks of January, April, July, and October. Deadlines for articles and advertisements are the 10th of December, March, June, and September. Contact the editor for a current advertising rate sheet.

Contributions and letters to the editor are welcomed. Submit articles and returnable photos (color or b&w) to the editorial office:

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Some thoughts on global warming

By Bill Heart

WITU State Council Chair

In November I was able to attend a lecture by noted author and environmentalist Bill McKibben. Back in about 1991, I purchased and read McKibben's first book, *The End of Nature*, which had a great effect on my life. *The End of Nature* was one of the first books that dealt with the fact that humans were changing the weather patterns of the world by releasing immense amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Since writing his first book, McKibben has written 11 more on topics ranging from climate change to sustainable lifestyles to genetic engineering.

At the lecture, McKibben talked about what we can do to help lower the amount of CO₂ that is being released. We can buy locally grown foods, drive a hybrid, or carpool. McKibben also talked about his web site, www.350.org. Please check out this site if you are interested in protecting the planet. The 350 comes from the theory that we need to get back down to 350 parts per million of CO₂ in the atmosphere to slow the global warming effect.

One date to remember is October 24, 2009, which is the International Day of Climate Action. More information is on the web site.

McKibben's lecture reminded me of a TU white paper produced in 2007 entitled "Healing Troubled Waters, Preparing Trout and Salmon Habitat for a Changing Climate." This pamphlet does an excellent job of explaining the climate change issue. It uses the Protect-Reconnect-Restore-Sustain approach to help trout and salmon build resistance to climate change, and it includes the Ten Steps for Protecting Trout and Salmon from Climate Change. You can go to www.tu.org/climate-change to download a copy, or call me and I will get you a copy.

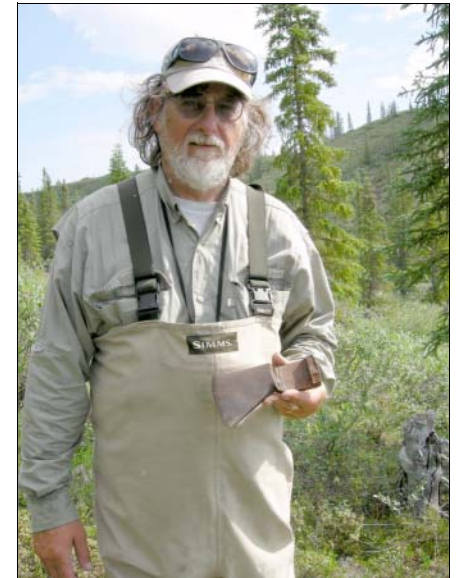
Of course, McKibben did say that trout fishing trips were exempt from lowering our CO₂ emissions for TU members. Some chapters have set up a carpool system for local fishing trips. When the hex hatch is happening on the White or Brule in Bayfield County, you will often see the Wild Rivers members showing up at the river together, but then they will try to lose each other in the Bibon or Big Lake to get to their favorite holes. Duke Welter has a system where he only drives a gallon away from home to go trout fishing. Those of us with gas guzzling vehicles might be staying pretty close to home, but the hybrid drivers will be able to reach a few more streams. I know that it is very hard, but try to

think more about your carbon footprint in 2009 and beyond.



Trout Unlimited is celebrating its 50-year anniversary in 2009, and I would like to have many of our longtime members present at the Annual Banquet in Stevens Point on February 7th. It would be wonderful if each of you who are available to attend the banquet brought any old pictures, documents, or artifacts from our first years. We can display them for our newer members. If you are interested in bringing something or in lending them to us, let me know. Everything will be returned.

The Wild Rivers Chapter, my chapter, has been saddened by the passing of longtime member and friend Martin Hanson. After Jeff Carlson died in 2001, I was reading some of his papers and on one list was the quote, "Support Martini, support Martini, support Martini, enough said..." That was enough for me. Over the years, I spent many hours with Martin when he would stop in to my office to give me the lowdown on something or other that



Bill Heart with an old axe head found along a trout stream.

he was working on. I tried to support Martin as much as I could, and he, in return, supported our chapter and the State Council. Martin will be missed.

Also, Wild Rivers Treasurer and extraordinary cook, John Casper, has been diagnosed with terminal cancer. It will be difficult to replace John's chili at our Expo, his deep fried pike after the Whack-a-Northern Day, or his wonderful fish boils for the Friends of the White River. We are all thinking about him.

Photography, fly casting, invasive species, trout video...

Council banquet has many special events

Four special training or entertainment programs have been planned as part of the WITU State Council Banquet in Stevens Point Feb. 7. Attendance at the invasive species and fly casting sessions will earn the person a free ticket to the evening banquet.

Invasive species workshop

Invasive species are the second largest threat to biodiversity after habitat loss. In Wisconsin, invasive plants and animals are encroaching on our streams and shorelines, threatening their flow and fisheries.

But the fight against invasives is not a hopeless one. To protect our local rivers, we must detect new infestations early and respond quickly. Streamside volunteers are invaluable.

During this two-hour workshop conducted by the River Alliance of Wisconsin (RAW) and the National Institute for Invasive Species Science (NISS), attendees will learn how to recognize the threats to their home waters, how to record and report them, and how to approach containment or eradication.

The session runs from 1:30-3:30 and will be presented by Laura MacFarland of RAW and Alycia Crall of NISS. Up to two attendees per chapter will receive a free banquet ticket for attending. Contact Bill Heart or Bill Pielsticker for details.

Fly fishing instructor training

A popular event last year, fly fishing instructor certification will again be offered from Noon-5:00 under the direction of UW-Stout fly fishing instructors and WI Clear Waters Chapter members Chuck Bomar and Dennis Vanden Bloemen.

The WDNR's Angler Education Program provides training for adult volunteers to offer fishing programs in their schools and communities. Adults who attend angler education workshops receive free materials

that they can use to introduce children to basic fishing skills and help guide adventures in local water resources investigations. The program links one of Wisconsin's most venerable traditions to science, social studies, language arts, fine arts, and physical education through first-hand explorations of fish and their habitat.

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

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

Participants in this training will also be given a complimentary ticket to the State Council banquet. This class is limited to 25 people. Register by contacting the DNR's Theresa Stabo at (608) 266-2272 or Theresa.Stabo@wisconsin.gov.

Wildlife photography program

Award-winning outdoor photographer Bill Pielsticker from Lodi, WI, will present a slide program on Wisconsin wildlife and landscapes at 4 p.m.

A professional photographer for 10 years, Pielsticker will show images of bald eagles, sandhill cranes, deer, and turkeys, along with striking landscape images ranging from the Baraboo Hills to the Northwoods.

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Annual Conservation Lobby Day February 25

By Bill Pielsticker

WITU Legislative Chair

The 5th annual Conservation Lobby Day is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 25 in Madison.

Sponsored by the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters, about two dozen Wisconsin TU members joined nearly 500 others last year to lobby for pro-conservation policies.

This year's priority issues are:

- strengthening the groundwater law in order to provide clean abundant drinking water, protect spring-fed ponds and streams, and establish a state-wide water conservation policy;
- taking actions to address global climate change;
- returning the appointment of the DNR secretary to the Natural Resources Board; and
- insuring the safety of applying agricultural, municipal, and industrial waste to the land.

The morning session is spent on training attendees how to make your case to your legislators. Attendees from the same district will meet with their assembly representative and separately with their state senator.

You do not have to be prepared to speak — this is definitely a case

where just showing up has an impact. But you must register on-line by February 13 to be part of this event. Go to www.ConservationVoters.org and follow the links for Conservation Lobby Day.

Ask at a chapter meeting who else is attending and set up a car pool. Make a day of it by staying for the wild game feed that evening.

Members who have attended past Lobby Days report having a good time. They also feel good about sharing their values (and TU's) with their elected representatives.

If you have any questions, call the WLCV at (608) 661-0845 or contact Bill Pielsticker, WITU's legislative chair.



PREPPING FOR A LEGISLATOR VISIT

TU members (left to right) Jim Hlaban, Dale Druckrey, and Kim McCarthy talked with Melissa Scanlan of Midwest Environmental Advocates during the morning preparation session at last year's Conservation Lobby Day.



Clint Byrnes photos

SOPKOVICH AT WORK AND PLAY

Tom Sopkovich discussed TU matters at a chapter meeting in Beaver Dam in 1973 (top) and examined a new Clint Byrnes Brule River Steelheader net in 1994.

SOPKOVICH: passes away

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Besides his many years of work on behalf of Trout Unlimited (see *Susie Isaksen's profile on this page*), Sopkovich's career included many years of wine sales and consulting, including doing a wine and food radio talk show.

He was a Village of Bayside trustee, served on the board of the North Shore Library, and was involved in his church and community.

Former WITU State Council Chair Tom Fleisch of Antigo worked closely with Sopkovich in the 1970s and '80s. He remembers a time in 1989 when Sopkovich's quick action saved the day for some international visitors studying US fish restoration and management methods.

"The Russian-American International Scientific Exchange Conference was taking place over three to four weeks in the US, and the 12 Russian scientists were going to be in Wisconsin for about a week studying trout habitat restoration and other things," says Fleisch.

"Turns out, when the Russians landed in Wisconsin, they found all of their luggage had been lost. Tom and his contacts worked with the Jockey Company to almost immediately outfit all 12 of the Russian men with brand new clothes."

"Later Tom arranged to have 13 hand-crafted landing nets made and engraved as presents for the Russian scientists. He also put together an outing on a cruise ship for the delegation to wrap up their stay."

Even though Sopkovich did much for TU, Fleisch says he has always been more impressed with Sopkovich's devotion to his wife and three children. Sopkovich's wife, Wendy, suffered from polio when the couple met, and later on she was confined to a wheelchair.

"You could see Tom was so devoted to Wendy," says Fleisch. "That's something I will always remember."

The Sopkovich family has established a memorial for Tom with the Central Wisconsin Chapter. To contribute, contact Dan Harmon at 57 Stoney Beach Rd., Oshkosh, WI 54902 or call Harmon at (920) 235-1761.

Remembering Martin Hanson

By Steve Born

Many TUers were saddened to hear that Martin Hanson — lifelong conservationist, big game hunter/adventurer, tarpon fishing addict, wildlife photographer, staunch progressive political activist, raconteur, character extraordinaire, and a great supporter of Trout Unlimited — died in October at his home near Mellen at the age of 81.

Hanson's passing leaves a big void in his beloved North Country and in the conservation community in Wisconsin.

Hanson never sought publicity for himself, but only for the numerous environmental causes he championed. Over the years, working closely with political leaders like Sen. Gaylord Nelson and Rep. Dave Obey, as well as governors of both parties, he played pivotal roles in preserving the Apostle Islands, reintroducing elk to Wisconsin, and supporting wild and scenic river legislation and sustainable forest management.

He served on the Public Intervenor's Advisory Committee for many years, and also the Governor's Forestry Productivity Council.



Steve Born

MARTIN HANSON ON HIS BOAT

Martin Hanson entertained friends this past summer aboard his pontoon boat on Beaver Dam Flowage in northern Wisconsin.

While his interests focused mainly on Wisconsin, his conservation efforts ranged far afield of our badger state — from fund raising to save the black rhino in East Africa to testifying in the 1960s in support of Washington's North Cascade Wilderness.

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The following profile of Tom Sopkovich appeared in the July 1981 issue of the *WITU Quarterly Report*. -Ed.

National Director—Profile - Tom Sopkovich

by Susie Isaksen

I first met Tom Sopkovich 11 years ago. Even then he and his wife, Wendy, were pretty heavily into Trout Unlimited. That was back in the days when the federal Soil Conservation Service (SCS) wanted to spend \$15.7 million on ten dams that would have wiped out miles of trout water in southwestern Wisconsin's Blue River Watershed.

Tom was living in Madison then and the Blue River area happened to be one of his favorite fishing haunts. He wasn't going to let the SCS spoil it without putting up a good fight. So he obtained as many facts as he could concerning the proposed dams (no easy task in those days as the SCS was not yet in the habit of including environmentalists in its planning processes). Next he and Wendy obtained maps from which they composed a mailing list of landowners along effected streams. Then they sent out a letter on chapter stationery. It wasn't a firely letter, just a presentation of facts and costs. It was sent not only to the landowners but also to town officials, county and town board members, key legislators and DNR personnel. Another letter was sent out to newspaper editors.

Then Tom and a crew of chapter members called on landowners personally, door-to-door, day after day. They also attended dozens of meetings -- with newspaper editors, with landowners, with county boards, with DNR officials, with SCS representatives. There was also the important business of keeping T.U. members involved and informed.

Finally the Grant County board squashed the project by a vote of 26 to 5, mostly because it would have cost the county several hundred thousand dollars.

The Blue River campaign, like so many others around the state, was a T.U. job well done. Somewhere in the midst of it T.U. chapter members were so appreciative of Tom's efforts that they bestowed upon him the title of Chapter

Water Resources Committee Chairman.

That meant Tom was expected not only to head opposition to the Blue River dams but also monitor the health of all streams in the chapter's territory. That, of course, meant more letters, more meetings, and more hearings.

All the work earned Tom the title of President, Southern Wisconsin Chapter in 1972, a position which also gave him a seat on T.U.'s state council. Tom took on the business of membership development, fund-raising, programs and all the other details of running a good chapter while overseeing and taking continued personal interest in the Chapter's water resources and legislative committees.

Naturally enough, the state council appointed Tom to head its water resources committee, a position in which he served most dedicatedly and skillfully for three years.

Somewhere along the line (it must have been in 1975 or 1976), business took Tom, Wendy and their growing family to Milwaukee. There, the Milwaukee T.U. group was quick to harness Tom's enthusiasm and leadership capabilities. He was elected President of the Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter in 1977. Meanwhile, Tom continued to work on behalf of the state council as its treasurer.

Then, in 1978, he began the traditional two-year term as state council President and council-elected director of the T.U. national board. The national appointment meant a whole new range of meetings, letters, and involvements.

Now, continuing as one of the council's own elected representatives to the national board, Tom serves as T.U.'s Midwest Regional Vice President. National T.U. business and regional and national environmental concerns now take the bulk of his T.U. energies.

Tom Sopkovich's T.U. career has been impressive. The most incredible aspect of it, though, is that this author could write equally impressive stories about scores of other T.U.'ers in Wisconsin. It's the extreme dedication of so many people that is the essence of T.U.'s success.

Northeast Region to fund new joint TU/DNR brushing crew in 2009-10

By Kim McCarthy
WITU NE Region Vice Chair

The WITU Northeast Region held a meeting along the banks of the Wolf River at the Wild Wolf Inn on Sat., Dec. 6.

Attendance was exceptional, with all eight regional chapters present. Representatives were also present from the US Forest Service (USFS) and the Peshtigo and Antigo DNR offices.

Agency funding requests

As in the past, DNR and USFS came to the meeting with financial requests that would allow them to meet their trout management goals for 2009. By pooling money from across the region, all of the agency requests were met. This year's funded projects include:

- beaver control on the National Forest and in the Antigo area,
- a summer fisheries technician to do trout work on the National Forest,
- equipment to do in-stream projects in the DNR's Northern Region, and
- LTE time to remove small dams on streams in the Antigo area.

Innovative TU/DNR brushing crew planned

This year's funding also includes a TU-initiated project. Marinette and Oconto counties have a backlog of brushing work and a number of older habitat projects that have not been adequately maintained over the years due to a lack of staff to get the work done. TU work projects have helped attack the problem, but an intensive effort was needed to reduce the backlog.

Trout Unlimited approached DNR and, with the help of Northeast DNR Fisheries Manager George

Boronow, created a proposal to hire two summer employees for DNR who will work full time on brushing and rehabilitating old structures. DNR will add a third person to the crew with trout stamp dollars.

This three-person crew will be in the field accomplishing trout habitat work for 10 full weeks during the summer of 2009. TU's northeast chapters are sharing TU's portion of the crew costs.

An interesting aspect of the hired crew proposal is that chapter workdays are being built into the crew's work schedule. Chapters will decide which Saturdays that they would like to work. The work crew will then work a Tuesday through Saturday schedule during the weeks that have been selected for workdays. The chapters will join with the crews for a combined effort on the workdays.

Northeast TU and DNR have also agreed on a similar joint project for 2010. In that year, the location will change from the Marinette area to the Antigo area, and the emphasis will be on in-stream projects that would not be possible without TU financial support. The in-stream work in the Antigo area is going to look different than much of the work being done in the state.

A decision has been made to move away from lunker structure type work and to use wood as the primary material. Logs, root wads, and brush bundles will become the main materials. The change will accomplish two things. Projects will look more natural and will be done at lower costs.

In total, the Northeast Region chapters have committed over \$34,000 of funding for trout work during 2009. They will also be providing many hours of labor at work projects and continuing their education and community activities. Many good things continue to happen in the Northeast Region.

HANSON: remembering Martin Hanson

Continued from p. 4

But Wisconsin Trout Unlimited leaders and members knew him for his stewardship efforts closer to home, especially in northern Wisconsin. He worked closely in support of TU's coaster brook trout restoration program, including personally making the arrangements for the marvelous brook trout painting and its reproduction to raise funds for the effort.

Working with northern Wisconsin TU leaders like Bill Heart, Martin worked with local landowners and officials to improve conservation and watershed management on the White River.

His love for the family grounds, through which the Brunswiler River flows, including the Beaver Dam Flowage — which his family nurtured back to productivity and ecological health from the days of the cutover — is legendary. The 1200+ acres which the Hansons gave to the University of Wisconsin (now transferred to the U.S. Forest Service) were not only his home grounds for photographing wildlife, but served as an important scientific research area to study black bear, deer, grouse, vegetation, and other biota.

Some TUers were able to tour and experience those waters and the surrounding landscape fishing from a pontoon boat captained by Martin — with his frequent wry commentary about the casting skills and other attributes of his TU guests! And we listened carefully to the stories and the wisdom (“where there's a will, there's relatives!”). And it was a rare day when Martin didn't invite a visiting TUer into his home for drinks, dinner, and wildlife watching.

Throughout his long career in conservation, Martin Hanson worked at the grass-roots level, working with private landowners and attending town and county meetings to secure the support of local citizens and public officials. While never elected to public office, he was a man of the people. And always, his humility, his directness, his sense of humor, and his remarkable story-telling skills brought new friends to support his conservation causes.

Bill Christofferson, Gaylord Nelson's biographer, opined that Martin got his money's worth out of life...he was not short-changed. Those of us who knew him concur — he lived a full life doing things he cared deeply about, pursued outdoor hobbies and cinematography tenaciously, enjoyed friends and family, and exited the planet gracefully.

On a personal note, I doubt that Wisconsin will see the likes of “Martini” (one of his business cards said “Martini's the name — tarpon's the game!”) again any time soon. A celebration of Martin Hanson's life is being planned for June 2009 at the Northern Great Lakes Region Visitor Center in Ashland.

TUDARE: recap of 2008 accomplishments

Continued from p. 1

- **Illinois** — Clear Creek;
- **Wisconsin** — Melancthon, Timber Coulee, Traverse Valley, Gilbert, Elk, Pine, Smith Conley, Camp, Blue system, Little Sugar, Blue, Big Spring Branch, Kittleston Valley, Gordon, Coles, and Little La Crosse; and
- **Minnesota** — Hay, Trout Run, any Mony, Willow, and Whitewater.

In addition, last spring we collaborated with NRCS to secure additional WHIP funds for stream restoration projects. Over \$800,000 went directly to fund 10 Wisconsin TU chapters' projects.

Capacity building

- March '08 — The third annual *Stream Restoration Project Planning Training* was held over two days. Workshops trained over 60 volunteers from 18 chapters. The training included various presentations, hands-on-exercises, field trips, and training toolkits.
- August '08 — Partnered with Hiawatha and Twin Cities chapters to develop a two-day hands-on workshop for conservationists to learn how to construct and install streambank stabilization and habitat for trout and nongame species. All participants received a stream restoration manual.
- Assisted numerous TU chapters in raising funds for projects, developing relationships with local conservation field office staff, and providing technical advice.

Building partnerships

- October '07 — Driftless Area recognized as one of the first four “National Fish Habitat Partnerships” under the National Fish Habitat Action Plan.

- October '07 — 2nd Annual Driftless Area Symposium for sharing results of management and research experiments related to stream habitat and fishery restoration in the Driftless Area.
- October '07 and March '08 — Meetings of the “Wild & Rare” committee. Representatives from state and federal agencies and other conservation organiza-

...last spring we collaborated with NRCS to secure additional WHIP funds for stream restoration projects. Over \$800,000 went directly to fund 10 Wisconsin TU chapters' projects.

tions have come together to promote the inclusion of nongame habitat during the development of stream restoration projects.

Securing resources

- February '08 — \$300,000 secured for projects and program support from the National Fish Habitat Action Plan.
- July '08 — \$240,000 received from the Minnesota Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant for promoting and restoring coldwater streams in southeast Minnesota.
- August '08 — \$65,000 grant received from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for creating additional habitat for nongame species in brook trout streams.
- Summer '08 — \$10,000 received from Patagonia's World Trout Program.
- Spring '08 — Chapters working in the Driftless Area receive \$12,500 from Embrace-A-Stream, with more than \$165,000 in matching funds.

Planning for future success

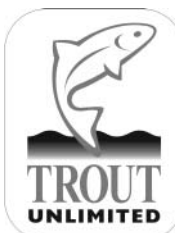
- Fall '07 — Five-year outreach plan was created to engage broader audiences over time and increase public support and expand stream restoration efforts.
- Spring '08 — Collaborated with 13 Driftless Area fish biologists to document the brook and brown trout population and threats assessment in the Driftless region in preparation of completing the Conservation Success Index.

- Spring '08 — Contracted local herpetologist to do preconstruction monitoring of cold-blooded species. In 2009 seven large projects,

with additional funding from WHIP, will incorporate habitat for trout and nongame species.

Raising Driftless Area awareness

- Quarterly DARE eNewsletters distributed to over 500 people and organizations.
- Project Manager traveled over 25,000 miles last year working with groups to plan stream restoration projects and develop plans for their watersheds.
- Project Manager continues to write numerous news articles and give presentations about the TUDARE project.



TU QUIZ

The WDNR recently added up all the trout streams the agency has electroshocked since 1938. How many different streams have been shocked? A: 911, B: 1,048, C: 1,612, D: 2,610.

Answer: 2,610 streams and 7,338 different stretches have been sampled.

Plan now to attend Wisconsin TU's 24th annual

State Council Banquet



“A Celebration of Trout”
Sat., Feb. 7, 2009
 Holiday Inn Conference Center
 Stevens Point, WI

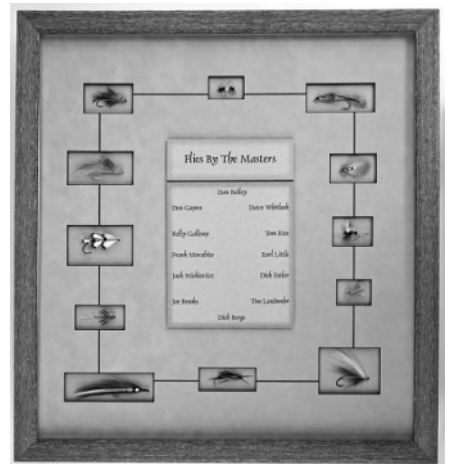
MEETING AND BANQUET EVENTS

- 9:30 a.m. — Coffee & Rolls, Expo Room 1
- 10:00 a.m. — Annual Meeting, Expo Rm. 1
- Noon — Awards Luncheon, Expo Room 2
- 12:00-5:00 — Casting Certification Training, Trillium Room
- 1:30 — Invasive Species Training, Bayba Board Room
- 4:00 — Wisconsin Photography Program, Expo Room 2
- 5:00 — Cocktails & Silent Auction, Expo Room 1
- 7:00 — Dinner
- 7:45 — Video & Presentation by Dave Carlson

FEATURED SPEAKER: Dave Carlson, host of TV's *Northland Adventures*.



GREAT DOOR PRIZES AND RAFFLE ITEMS: Bid on this “Flies by the Masters” collection (see story next page).



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**Yes! I want to attend Wisconsin TU's
24th Annual Banquet**

Order by Jan. 21 and be eligible for early bird drawings of \$100, \$50, and \$25!

Chapter president profile

Michael Mather ending run at helm of Hornberg Chapter

By Stu Grimstad

That longer-haired fellow in the brim hat — yes, that'd be him. Michael Mather is a professional carver/sculptor and a teacher of the martial art Tai Chi Chuan, but beyond that he's a philosopher and a serious fly fisherman.

Here's a great true story. Mike escaped his blazing home in the early morning hours a few months back with just his wife, Karin, and a few fly rods in his hand. The home was reduced to ashes in a blink. There was insurance, but there went all the family's personal belongings, not replaceable.

The fire also consumed a good chunk of the Hornberg Chapter's archives.

Michael remains philosophical. "There were no lives lost," he says, "and it was a serious house cleaning." A better philosophy would be hard to find.

As a bit of short history and overview, Mike was born in Madison and has lived in central Wisconsin for the past 30 plus years. He attended UW-Stevens Point, studying wildlife biology and majoring in art and history. He says if he were back in school today, he'd be attracted to studying environmental anthropology.

Mike stepped up to the Hornberg Chapter's presidential plate in November of 2004 to oversee the lively and somewhat legendary energies of the "Hornbergers." The chapter's long-standing dedication to stream restoration has remained high and expanded during his leadership.

Over a recent chat, I had a chance to explore Mike's current views. I asked him why he accepted his chapter leadership, and what was his vision?

With a chuckle, he replied, "Actually, I accepted the chapter presidency because Jim Henke had put in a long stint and was tired. And I was

the first board member to weaken. Continuing to work with a great group of people was what made the job possible and a great pleasure."

"As for my vision, while with the chapter I learned quite a bit about stream restoration and wanted to keep that going — especially with an interest in exploring more natural restoration techniques that would be more self-maintaining over time. I also felt strongly about expanding the conservation eth-

"As for my favorites in the west, that's another long and tough list. If I had to pick one, though, I'd have to say the Boulder River for its sheer beauty and the quality of the resource. I would also underscore that nearly any of the smaller tributaries to the larger systems of the west are enchanting and well worth exploring."

As for future challenges to our coldwater resources, Michael points to development and its attendant pollution. "We have an increasing disconnect from the natural world. We need to understand that these losses are difficult to recover."

Michael just stepped aside as chapter president, but he continues to serve us as our vice president.

"Of course, I hope the chapter continues to thrive," he says. "I hope more people come to appreciate and embrace our natural resources and decide to give something back in either large or small ways. I encourage people to carve some time out of their admittedly hectic and competitive lives to engage more in the natural world."

The Hornberg Chapter, like most conservation organizations, is always short of active participants and leaders. "The Hornberg Chapter has a devoted core, though, and I hope to see a bright future for the group," says Michael.

My chat with Mike reminded me of sitting around those evening campfires at the end of the Hornberg Chapter's workdays down over the years. And I second his sentiments. May that glimmer run long.

The Hornberg Chapter is indebted to Michael for his continued years of service and leadership.

(Author Stu Grimstad is a member of the Frank Hornberg Chapter and can be found lending his carpentry skills at most of the chapter's stream improvement workdays. -Ed.)



"I hope more people come to appreciate and embrace our natural resources and decide to give something back.... I encourage people to carve some time out of their admittedly hectic and competitive lives to engage more in the natural world."

fishing, I'd like to see our overall organization find some way to expand beyond the all-too-common image of what I'd call the Orvis tweed crowd. A broader image would probably strengthen our mission."

Michael has spent a good bit of time fishing deep in the west. When it comes to his short list of favorite waters here in Wisconsin and the west, he says, "That's a challenging question. There's so much great water here and in the west. Also, the treasures of the west can sometimes blind us to what we

have right here in Wisconsin. Of course, my home water, the Tomorrow River, is especially close to my heart, and the coulee area presents an endless world of options."

Though Mike says his fishing isn't suffering because he made it out the door of his burning house with fly rods in hand, he probably wouldn't turn down some flies from any TU members who would like to help re-stock his new fly boxes....

Featured WITU banquet item

Famous tyers' flies going up for bid

A shadowbox containing 12 flies by some legends of angling will be raffled off at the 2009 State Council banquet in Stevens Point Feb. 7.

The flies include those of such nationally prominent tyers as Don Gapen, Dan Bailey, Dave Whitlock, and Joe Brooks. Gapen's signature fly, the muddler minnow, is included in the fly collection.

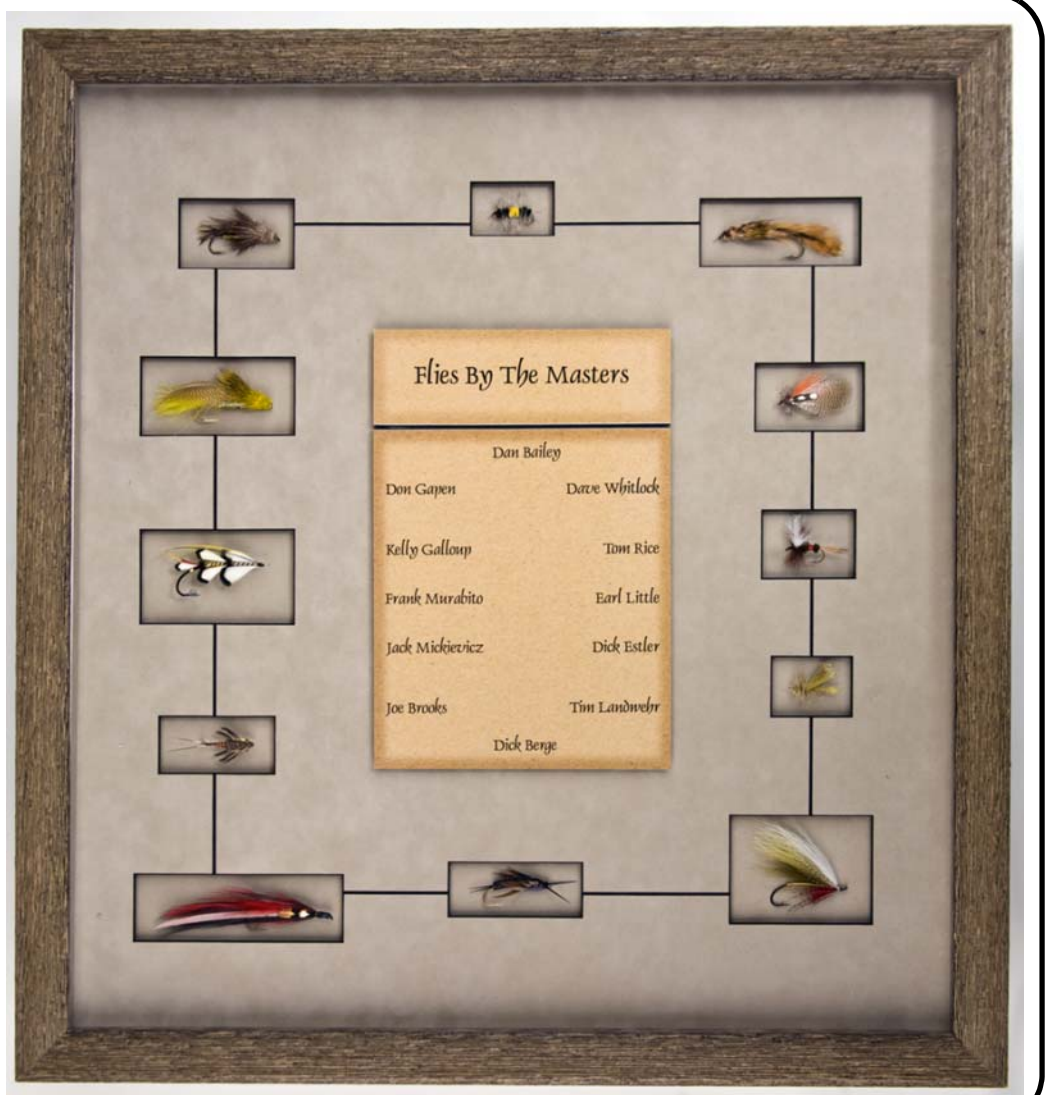
The selection also includes flies by a number of Wisconsin's most renowned fly tyers, including Dick Berge, Tim Landwehr, and the late Tom Rice.

This beautiful auction item was made possible by the generosity of two Frank Hornberg members. The flies were donated by Dan Holland, who has been collecting flies from famous tyers for many years. Dan recently thought his collection would make a nice banquet item, and he set out to find someone to make a display case for them.

Holland found fellow Hornberger Jan Tully of Stony Birch Studio in Wisconsin Rapids to make the shadowbox.

Only 100 tickets will be printed, and they will sell for \$20 each.

For WITU members in the Green Bay area, the shadowbox will be on display prior to the banquet at Tight Lines Fly Fishing Co. in De Pere, and tickets will also be available for purchase there.



What killed the trout?

Can trout and humans coexist as communities continue to grow?

Trout streams face growing challenges from urbanization. On Black Earth Creek in Dane County, some are wondering whether road salt has been reducing trout numbers in the stream. The following story originally appeared last fall as a five-part series in the News-Sickle-Arrow, the local newspaper in Black Earth, WI. We thank the paper for allowing us to share how the small Dane County communities along Black Earth Creek are trying to protect their stream during times of limited resources.

By John Donaldson

Maybe it was the salt?

Local biologist and trout fishing enthusiast Dennis Franke of Cross Plains thinks this past winter's massive amounts of snow spiced with road salt and piled near the Black Earth Creek probably contributed significantly to the low trout numbers detected by sampling this spring.

"It's standard practice, and it is something that has to stop," wrote Franke of the salt piling. "Laden with salt, and with a vastly greater load this year, it has probably caused more havoc than we will ever know over the years."

Village public works director Jerry Gray is more reserved in his assessment of the salt situation, noting the jury is out on how much salt actually ends up in the creek.

Gray also notes the village tries to tread lightly with salt "for both economic and ecological reasons," but that Dane County's goal is bare pavement as soon as possible after a snowstorm, and the county is responsible for Main Street, which also happens to be USH 14. Main Street runs parallel to the creek, a block or less to the north. It is the village's responsibility to remove plowed snow from the roadway.

Gray says the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has expressed concern over chlorides in the sanitary waste water, but hasn't approached the village about street salt. The primary source of salt coming into the treatment plant comes from home water softening systems, said Gray, and while the village is required to monitor chloride levels, there is no viable removal method.

Significant drop in trout in BEC

The annual electro-shocking project, a spring ritual that's been conducted for over half a century by the DNR, this year revealed a significant drop in trout numbers. Franke said the numbers were down 75 percent in the stretch along the Village of Cross Plains and 50 percent near South Valley Road. The last detected fish kill was in 2001: the winter of 2001 also saw a spike in snowfall, though not nearly so much as last winter.

According to Franke, who makes and sells split bamboo fly rods and spends countless hours on the stream, the stream's health is all about runoff, whether it's from a storm sewer, a barn lot, a field, or those piles of salty snow. DNR fisheries manager Scot Stewart agrees to the extent that he



BLACK EARTH CREEK FLOWS RIGHT THROUGH TWO VILLAGES

The small towns of Black Earth and Cross Plains have developed considerably in recent decades. With older infrastructure along the river in place, it is difficult to employ holding ponds and other storm water detention systems that are a part of modern development plans.

says there should be more long-term monitoring of the creek.

Franke says this year's trout kill indicates in general a need for more stringent controls over what flows into the creek throughout the year. Franke says the community as a whole — the village, the county, and the state — needs to take steps to control runoff from streets and rooftops, fields and barnyards, and industrial and building sites.

"We need to look at temperatures and oxygen," said Stewart at a recent meeting between trout fishing enthusiasts, environmentalists, and officials from state, county, and local governments. "We need to screen for toxins."

Stewart said his plan is to develop a low-cost monitoring plan. In the meantime, however, are there some immediate changes that could be made at relatively low cost that would protect the stream?

"In the last 15 years (Gray's tenure) the Village of Cross Plains has been very proactive with regard to safeguarding the creek," said Gray. "Could and can more be done? Absolutely. But there is always the financial constraint that looms over the dreams...."

As is usually the case when it comes to environmental issues, this is a question of protection

concern that too little is being done to protect the stream environment from manmade pollution from both urban and rural sources. What remains to be seen is whether there is a public consensus, from the village level on up to the state agency, on what can be done.

Record snows, record salt damage?

The winter of 2007-08 brought a record amount of snow to Dane County, well over 100 inches. Snowfall after snowfall strained municipal and county road-clearing budgets, not to mention the backs of residents who got way more exercise than they had planned on in the fall.

Searching for answers to explain the most recent decline in trout numbers, Franke has wondered aloud if it had something to do with the worst winter ever.

More snow meant more road salt, notes Franke, who strongly suspects increased salinity had a lot to do with the significant drop in trout population detected by last spring's annual electroshocking project.

While officials charged with monitoring the water quality and trout population in the creek aren't yet willing to attribute the precipitous drop to the salt, DNR biologist Welke does acknowledge that "in a perfect world," it would be best to place plowed snow somewhere where it would not drain into the creek when it melted. I wish that *all* storm water, regardless of whether it is snow melt, could go somewhere else," said Welke.

But as he hastens to point out, it is not a perfect world. Franke is not seeking perfection, at least not yet, but for now, he thinks it would be a good start to simply take the plowed snow somewhere where it's melting could take place in a more controlled situation.

"With a possible early winter upon us, it behooves all interested parties to start discussing *now* the policy of snow piling up to the banks of Black Earth Creek, in both Cross Plains and Black Earth," wrote Franke recently.

While that may seem like a simple concept, Village of Cross Plains public works director Gray says that from his perspective, it's more complicated than that.

Gray notes that road salt begins flowing to the creek through the storm sewer system shortly after it is applied. After it is plowed to the sides of Main Street and Church Street in Cross Plains and Mills Street in Black Earth, village workers begin the intensive task of blowing the snow into the backs of dump trucks and hauling it away.

Gray explained there were three dump sites used last winter that he feels had the potential for directly discharging melt water into the creek: the area behind the former fire station on Main Street, the lot where the new Ice Age Trail headquarters is being built, and the swimming pool parking lot where melt water would run into the storm sewer drains. Other sites are also used.

"The Village of Cross Plains has been particularly innovative in its approach to storm water runoff from newly developing areas," said Myers. "In fact, more innovation with storm water treatment and infiltration has been done in Cross Plains than in any other Wisconsin community of which I am aware."

versus cost. Franke sees what he perceives as a real problem, and Gray, while not necessarily disputing that a problem exists, has to wrestle with how village taxpayers would pay for correcting it.

According to Franke, fishing tourism needs to be considered: just how much economic benefit does the Black Earth Creek bring to the Village of Cross Plains and the surrounding area is another question.

"If surface water problems can be fixed, all indicators are that this dynamic, spring-rich trout stream has the potential to heal," wrote Franke recently. "The sports anglers will then frequent this area rather than heading off as so many do to points west in Grant and Vernon counties. While Dad's fishing, the wife and kids will be hiking the Ice Age Trail or biking county roads and the scenic side valleys, or better yet, the proposed three-village bike trail. And they'll spend their money here."

That was the upshot of remarks Franke made to the meeting held at the Cross Plains fire station in July. The meeting was attended by 100 or so anglers who frequent the banks of the stream, as well as by DNR and county officials who regulate it and manage it. Many of those present expressed

The pool lot is considered the dump of last resort, because it is supposed to provide overflow parking for the library. Half of it was used last winter. This winter, the village will not have access to the Ice Age Trail site because of the new building, and Gray predicts the village will lose the old fire station site “to other uses within the next few years based on the redevelopment/reconstruction plan for the Main Street corridor.”

Gray says the cost to haul the snow is a primary factor in where it is moved for disposal. He also predicts that within five to seven years, the village will have to go elsewhere with snow because the properties along the creek will be developed.

“I anticipate that...the village will be forced to obtain rural property (either by purchase or renting) to use as a snow dump site outside the current village limits due to lack of space in the village.”

Salt in the wound?

A 2001 article in the *Journal for Surface Water Quality Professionals* suggests Franke may be on to something with respect to salinity. The article by William Wegner and Marc Yaggi notes, “Salt held in solution in snow or deposited on surface soil layers is readily dissolved by rain and can be transported to receiving waters in runoff. Prolonged retention of salt in streambeds or lakebeds decreases dissolved oxygen and can increase nutrient loading, which in turn promotes eutrophication.”

Eutrophication is an increase in chemical nutrients in an ecosystem. This can result in an increase in the ecosystem’s primary productivity (excessive plant growth and decay) and further effects, including lack of oxygen and severe reductions in water quality, fish, and other animal populations.

The article also notes, rather matter-of-factly, “A seven-day exposure of 1000 mg/liter is lethal to rainbow trout.”

In other words, a diet too rich in salt can have both long- and short-term effects on a stream’s trout population, in the view of the article’s authors.

Welke and Gray both note there are many variables to consider with respect to runoff: chief among them is the rate of melting. If the snow melts slowly, it soaks into the soil, greatly reducing its immediate impact on the stream. If it is melted rapidly by rainfall, rivulets can form that carry the salty water directly into the stream, a more threatening scenario. The old saying is, if you don’t like the weather in Wisconsin, wait 15 minutes, and that doesn’t bode well in this situation.

The DNR’s Stewart, like his colleague Welke, agrees putting plowed snow somewhere where it would not release directly into the stream would be an ideal situation. Both, however, sympathize with the realities Gray and his crew have to deal with. When it just snowed 12 inches and everybody wants to get to work, the stuff has to go somewhere.

That said, Stewart added, “I would be supportive of trying to do common sense things” that would keep pollutants out of the stream.

Long-term, Stewart is trying to set up a stream monitoring system that would automatically spot-check water quality during rain events. Taking readings days or even hours after heavy rainfalls doesn’t always tell the whole story, he notes. Readings need to be taken as the rains — and the pollutants — are entering the stream.

To that end, DNR has contacted the U.S. Geological Survey to obtain bids on a water chemistry monitoring program. This would involve a series of stations equipped with auto-samplers that would take periodic samples, increasing the sampling rate when it is raining. At one point, there was a discussion of having the samples taken by volunteers, but Stewart is concerned that wouldn’t be as reliable.

“Four years from now, when the storm hits at 2 a.m., are we sure someone is going to roll out of the rack to go out and collect samples?” he asks.

USGS has provided a range of options from \$53,000 in year one to \$106,000. Costs in subsequent years would be much lower, once the equipment is purchased and installed. Stewart said he is hoping the cash-strapped DNR can obtain some funding help from the national Trout Unlimited organization, since the Black Earth Creek a couple of decades ago was listed as one of the top 100 trout streams in the United States.

“A program like this would hopefully point us in a direction where we could identify the prob-



CROSS PLAINS TU MEMBER DENNIS FRANKE FISHING BLACK EARTH CREEK

Dennis Franke of Cross Plains has fished Black Earth Creek for many years, so he knows when something more than cyclical variations are affecting trout numbers. He has been an advocate for storm water control on Black Earth Creek for many years. He is once again sounding the alarm.

lem or problems,” said Stewart. “I’m trying to get a reason, and then we’ll target management.”

Welke, while admitting concern over the fall in trout numbers detected last spring, added, “We routinely document reliable natural reproduction in the Black Earth Creek. We routinely see those fish. Whether or not there is an effect from the runoff of the removal of snow, something is working. The bright spot is that people like Jerry (Gray) are working with us on things like this.”

Gray adds, “The village engineer (Town and Country Engineering’s Warren Myers) and I are well aware of the problems with these untreated storm water discharge points: thermal increases, sedimentation material discharges, biological oxygen demand increases, heavy metal discharges,

Franke says this year’s trout kill indicates in general a need for more stringent controls over what flows into the creek throughout the year. Franke says the community as a whole ...needs to take steps to control runoff from streets and rooftops, fields and barnyards, and industrial and building sites.

and hydrocarbon and other chemical pollutant discharges. These are worldwide issues, not just issues here in Cross Plains affecting Black Earth Creek.”

Franke, perhaps self-appointed but nevertheless speaking with the support of the fishing community, said at a July 11 meeting in Cross Plains on this topic, “The DNR/USGS water chemistry monitors will scientifically prove what trout fishers and concerned local residents already suspect. Then we can get on with correcting this form of institutionalized pollution — pollution not accepted, but tolerated for many years.”

Perils of being close to the water

Early European settlers wanted to be close to water. It made sense.

Not only did streams, rivers, and lakes provide water and food for consumption, but they also were sources of power and transportation. Millponds were created to turn waterwheels that in turn powered machinery. In the winter, blocks of ice were cut from these ponds for refrigeration purposes. Creeks, rivers, and lakes also were used as disposal sites for sewage and runoff. Out of sight, out of mind.

Waterways like the Black Earth Creek (BEC) were at once ribbons of life and commerce. As a result, those early settlers got as close as they could to the banks, so what once made sense is now a problem, notes engineer Warren Myers of Town and Country Engineering. TCE serves the villages of Cross Plains, Black Earth and Mazomanie, all of which are nestled on the banks of the BEC.

“A major problem we face,” said Myers recently, “is retrofitting the old piped storm water discharges that were installed many years ago, before the current sensitivity to negative effects of storm water.”

In the last half-century or so, as the population grew and the paved surfaces increased, so did the runoff into those waterways. Most everyone acknowledges this increased runoff has had a deleterious effect on the health of the creek. The question remaining is what can realistically be done about it.

Recent development considers runoff

Myers notes there have been significant improvements with respect to runoff in recent decades.

The problem areas are those older sectors, the areas that were built up prior to environmental awareness.

“The Village of Cross Plains has been particularly innovative in its approach to storm water runoff from newly developing areas,” said Myers. “In fact, more innovation with storm water treatment and infiltration has been done in Cross Plains than in any other Wisconsin community of which I am aware.”

Reining in runoff is arguably most important in Cross Plains because that village is upstream and runoff there, relatively speaking, is a larger problem because the stream is smaller.

Franke, however, has noted, “In the *Report on the Black Earth Fish Kill* of 2001, the Cross Plains storm water runoff situation was mentioned as a ‘potential cause’ and ‘contributing factor’ to that fish kill. Yet it remains uncorrected.”

Too close for comfort

Myers notes the current technology with respect to treating runoff necessarily involves infiltration: letting it soak in before it actually reaches the stream. This usually involves a pond.

Continued on p. 10



RECORD SNOWFALL LAST WINTER MEANT RECORD SALT RUNOFF

US Highway 14 runs right along Black Earth Creek in the towns of Black Earth and Cross Plains. Salted snow from the highway is often hauled to areas right next to the Black Earth Creek.

BLACK EARTH CREEK: What killed the trout?

Continued from p. 9

The problem in the older portions of the area's villages is, in most cases, there simply isn't room for a pond.

"Certainly, in all of the cases in these three villages, there is insufficient undeveloped area available at the discharge end of storm sewers to allow construction of a wet detention pond," explained Myers. He added that "proprietary treatment devices" currently on the market generally don't live up to their manufacturers' claims, though he has high hopes this will change as science and technology advance.

Franke has identified no less than 30 different manmade sources of runoff in the Village of Cross Plains. Some of these sources are storm sewer outlets, others are ditches, and still others are paved areas or structures that are very near the creek. He's hoping area villages and businesses will take the initiative and seek grants for creating rain gardens and similar control measures to reduce runoff.

"Since Cross Plains' comprehensive planning embraces the Ice Age Trail recreational concept, and now the foundation's central office, and has set out a new direction for the community as the 'Gateway to the Driftless Area,' the writing is on the wall," said Franke at a summer gathering of state and local officials and area fishers. "Clean up your storm water and snowmelt runoff or expect to have a nice land trail next to a polluted water trail devoid of trout."

"Cross Plains and Black Earth businesses with roof and parking lot runoff to storm sewers and directly to the trout stream need to take the lead from Plastics Ingenuity, recently given the DNR's 'Green Tier' award for installing significant storm water systems on their property. They need to shop for grants, spend some money, install their own swales and rain gardens, and help make their villages Green Tier communities," said Franke.

"Over the years several infiltration beds, some very near the creek, have been constructed with grants from the DNR to treat sheet flow that was directly entering the creek. Some years ago one end-of-pine modification was made with the assistance of Trout Unlimited," said Myers. He also noted the work done by Plastic Ingenuity.

"Where possible, grass buffers have been preserved," added the engineer. "Jerry Gray (the village public works director) and I have brainstormed about the locations where we could possibly place 'first flush' treatment devices at the end of storm sewers."

According to Myers, research has shown that the first flush of water through a storm sewer sys-

tem contains the lion's share of all types of contaminants.

"Who knows? Maybe eventually we will come full circle from trying to separate sanitary waste and storm water runoff and store and pump some of the worst contaminated first flush storm water back into the sanitary sewer system for treatment at the wastewater treatment plants," added Myers. "We have not reached the point of estimating costs or designing any such features, but we do hope to do so in the process of the major reconstruction of water and sewer mains on Main Street that is planned for 2013. Hopefully grants will be available to assist the village in this effort."

"Obviously there is the alternative of purchasing properties adjacent to the direct storm sewer discharges and converting those properties to use as creek buffers and/or the construction of treatment facilities," said Myers. He also notes, however, that in addition to the costs of purchase and the resulting loss of tax revenue, hydrological problems could arise.

Franke acknowledges the advancements in technology and the efforts that have been made on the part of the village. He also notes, however, that at the same time there has been a significant increase in the amount of runoff because of increased development. Most recently, he notes,

"Who knows? Maybe eventually we will come full circle from trying to separate sanitary waste and storm water runoff and store and pump some of the worst contaminated first flush storm water back into the sanitary sewer system for treatment at the wastewater treatment plants."

with the installation of a stoplight on Hwy. 14 at the west edge of the village and the widening of the road, there was a substantial increase in paved area in that region, "thereby again increasing impermeable surface in the village and adding to the snowmelt and storm water runoff problem for BEC."

What about rural runoff?

Farming, like everything else, has undergone significant change over the past few decades.

The annual electroshocking of the creek by DNR officials last spring detected a steep drop in trout numbers in certain areas, both urban and rural. Fish managers were scratching their heads as to the reason for the die-off, but all concerned agree fish kills are sometimes the result of a combination of factors: urban and rural pollution as well as natural causes. From the Black Earth Creek's perspective, much of this change has been good. But when viewed in the context of increasingly erratic precipitation patterns, the trout population and the agricultural community are still at odds at times.

While urban areas have been growing, the farming community has been redistributing.

Where once there were many dairy and hog farms with relatively small herds, there are now significantly fewer operations that are larger in scale. They most often do not qualify as "factory farms," but they are larger nevertheless.

For the Black Earth Creek and its inhabitants, this means the potential sources of barnyard runoff have been reduced in number: a good thing. On the other hand, each individual source has greater potential to pollute when the big storm or melt hits: potentially a bad thing, especially for the trout in the immediate area of an active farm.

The amount of land under plow is basically the same as it was before this redistribution; the larger farms have to a great extent absorbed the smaller farms. But the plow is different: new farming techniques like chisel-plowing are designed to protect topsoil and have been welcomed by the environmentalist community.

Insect numbers a water quality indicator

Despite these many improvements and changes, challenges remain, says Franke.

"Many aquatic invertebrate densities are low, many species endangered," said Franke at a this summer's meeting in Cross Plains of trout fishing enthusiasts and those who oversee the management of the creek and the fishery. "Consequently, the number of trout with greater size and weight is appreciably down."

According to Franke, mayfly and caddisfly populations are "the hallmark sign of a healthy trout population," and "biotic indicators of water quality." Franke is all for the proposed monitoring equipment, but he says nature provides some monitoring of its own: the insects trout enjoy eating during the summer months.

These bugs are a great food source for trout, especially just before they lay their eggs. In short, pregnant mayflies and caddisflies, rich in protein, are what make trout fat and sassy. Unfortunately, these bugs are also quite delicate when it comes to environmental changes. Franke calls them, "the sensitive canaries in the mine" and notes they too have suffered frequent kills and population fluctuations.

New trends in farm nutrient planning

Because of the changes in agribusiness, those who watch over farming operations and their relationship with the Black Earth Creek watershed have changed their focus as well.

For several decades, as part of the Black Earth Creek Watershed Project, many area farmers received cost-sharing to help them build manure containment systems. These went a long way toward protecting the creek. Meanwhile, a lot of emphasis was placed on restoring creek banks. This work was designed to reduce erosion and keep the stream narrow, deep, and cool.

Now, with much of that work completed and a great number of those farms retired, officials like Pat Sutter are shifting their focus to match the changes in the farming business and also help farmers better measure the amount of fertilizer —

both commercial and manure-based — that they need to apply. In so doing, farmers can better target their resources and the creek is a beneficiary.

"Some of the fields are high in phosphorous. We're trying to get manure put on the fields that actually need it the most," said Sutter, who manages the land conserva-

tion division of Dane County's Land and Water Resources Department. While there are fewer barnyards, most of the fields are still being tilled to feed those larger herds and for cash crops, and these fields are all potential sources of pollution when the rains come like they did last June. And the rain has been coming a lot in recent years.

"I don't know if I've ever seen the Black Earth out of its banks as much as I have in the last two years," said Sutter. "We are definitely in some trends where we've had some very big rains, and then we've had some dry periods."

Vegetative buffers

One way to protect a stream from its neighbor is to have a buffer of natural grass between the water and the field. For farmers, the outside perimeter of the field is the one with the most crop, so the tendency is to get as close to the stream as possible. Obviously, agribusiness and environmentalism are at odds in this situation.

According to Sutter, there is currently no requirement for a vegetative buffer, though the state is still looking at one. Attempts to institute such a requirement in the past have failed.

Continued on p. 11

BLACK EARTH CREEK: What killed the trout?

Continued from p. 10

"The last time they tried to do this, it fell by the wayside," Sutter explained, "but the effort is still alive. For the most part when we do restoration work, we get easements. We keep it grass."

Sutter said there are also federally funded programs that in essence pay farmers rent to keep land next to the creek out of production. While some would like to see the distance between the bank and the field edge be 30 feet, Sutter thinks any resulting regulation would probably be more like a rod, a little over 16 feet.

He also thinks a possible compromise will involve a "haystrip" along creek edges, since alfalfa cropping is less intensive, or a no-till requirement.

The nutrient management plans, however, are already required. There is a cost-share provision to help farmers develop their plans.

"We currently are prioritizing the Black Earth Creek area," said Sutter. He added that Dane County already has a liquid manure ordinance that regulates when and to some extent, where liquid manure can be spread.

"We have developed plans on 17 different farms in the Black Earth area," said Sutter. "We went out and verified those plans and we will go out again this year to work with them. It's a work in progress. We sit down, we work with them and make sure they understand there is that requirement."

Sutter, like his urban counterparts, emphasizes that you can't point the finger at one particular sector of society and say, "There's the problem."

"We've come a long way in 20 years, and that goes for agriculture, too," said Sutter. "It's a combination of stuff...the county is prioritizing the Black Earth Watershed again, and we're dedicated to continuing."

Good fishing helps the local economy

There's not a lot of hard data about how much they spend when they get here, but it's hard to dispute that the recreational trout fishery that is the Black Earth Creek (BEC) watershed attracts a significant number of tourists to the area.

After the opening weekend blitz, when area streams are visited by hundreds bearing poles and bait, fishing pressure tapers off to a steady stream of fishing purists, people who prefer to wage their personal battles with spinners and flies. When the nights start turning hot and sultry and the aquatic flies hatch out, for these people, the real fun begins.

Some of the locals were upset two decades ago when the BEC made the list of "100 Best American Trout Streams." The fear was that the listing would attract droves of fishing enthusiasts to the stream. To some extent, that did happen, as the stream is indeed visited by fishermen from all over Wisconsin, out of state, and sometimes out of the country. But local fishing enthusiast Franke

doesn't think it is fishing pressure that has caused periodic drops in trout populations.

In Franke's view, there is a combination of factors that have contributed to changes in the aquatic environment that have not served the trout population well. While the local human community has in many ways improved the way it treats the stream — better sewage treatment, improved treatment of runoff in new developments, manure containment efforts, low-till farming, and stream bank stabilization projects, to name a few — the challenges posed by a growing and changing human community still remain: direct discharge of storm water runoff from streets and fields and a general increase in impervious surfaces — rooftops and paved areas — which generate runoff.

Franke was particularly concerned about the direct discharge of melting, salt-laden plowed snow from last year's record snowfall. In general, there appear to be changes in weather patterns that produce periods of extreme rainfall alternated with four to six-week droughts. These weather extremes also make life difficult for the sensitive fish, which thrive not only on fat-laden mayflies but on oxygen-rich, cold water.

Those in charge of regulating what flows into the stream all acknowledge the need to be vigilant, and they also are quick to point at the many strides that have been made in this regard in recent years. Faced with the many realities associated with urban and rural runoff control — realities mainly associated with the expenditure of public or private money — they are proud of the efforts that have been made.

The BEC passes directly through the Village of Cross Plains, and it is a section of stream that is of particular importance in terms of trout repopulation. The BEC generally does not require "fish stocking" by the DNR because its fish population regenerates the old-fashioned way. Since much of this re-population activity takes place in or very near the village, runoff control is most important there.

And according to Myers, village engineer for all three villages along the creek, the very reason BEC is such a productive stream lends itself to this task.

"The glacial alluvium underlying much of the Black Earth Creek area provides some unique opportunities to maximize the infiltration of storm water runoff," explained Myers. "The Village of Cross Plains has been particularly innovative in its approach to storm water runoff from newly developing areas and, going back to the mid-1980s, has done a good job in this regard."

Dairyland Power abandons plans for Vernon County fly ash dump

Dairyland Power Cooperative in La Crosse suspended its bid to site a controversial coal power plant combustion byproduct waste dump in Vernon County on Nov. 3.

Many WITU members were made aware of the proposed dump by the West Fork Sports Club in Avalanche. Club officials noted one proposed site was just a few miles from the club near the headwaters of the Seas Branch.

Those who fished Vernon County this past year noticed many lawn signs opposing Dairyland's proposed waste dump plans.

According to Dairyland, "In 2003, Dairyland began installing...a 'scrubber,' now under construction, that will further improve air quality by reducing sulfur dioxide emissions. The scrubber will generate significant amounts of a new type of coal combustion byproduct that has fewer opportunities for recycling. Therefore, a little more than a year ago, Dairyland announced plans to begin the lengthy siting process for a potential facility in Vernon County

for safe disposal of the material that could not be recycled."

The company has now decided to change its power plant's coal mixture, a move that will reduce the amount of combustion waste generated by the plant.

"By using a greater proportion of lower energy, lower sulfur coal at the Genoa plant, Dairyland's members will have economic benefits and Dairyland can reduce the amount of scrubber byproduct," said the company.



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Chapter News



Arlan Hilgendorf

FINISHING UP ON CAMP CREEK

Blackhawk, SEWTU, and other chapters came together in 2008 to finance and volunteer manpower for a big project on Camp Creek in Richland County.

Aldo Leopold Chapter

After many years of service to the chapter in every capacity possible, **Clint Byrnes** has retired from the board. Clint has assisted me personally in many, many ways, and I want to thank him for all he has done for me, our chapter, and our State Council. Thank you, Clint.

Another retirement: **DNR Fisheries Biologist Tim Larson** of Poynette is retiring at the end of 2008. Tim has been a good friend of trout and TU for decades. His knowledge, experience, and tireless efforts on behalf of Wisconsin trout

will be sorely missed. Thank you, Tim, for all you have done.

Tom Gawle has joined our board of directors. Tom also serves as our newsletter editor. When not chasing pheasants, Tom and his wife can be found chasing trout. Welcome aboard, Tom.

Our fly tying class will be held at the **Watertown Public Library** starting January 22 at 6 p.m. and running for five weeks on Thursday evenings. Call **Steve Hill** at (920) 261-4005 if you want to join the class.

—Mike Barniskis

Antigo Chapter

We've been busy this quarter. This summer Antigo TU hosted the summer meeting of our Northeast region. We also had the pleasure to host the fall **State Council** meeting here. We hope all were well cared for and everyone had a pleasant time.

We had a workday to rake out the outlet of **Trout Spring** pond.

Went also spent two nights with our DNR fisheries personal to do a shocking survey at **Magee Lake** this fall.

On Dec. 6th I attended the **NE Region** meeting on the **Wolf River**.

It was a great meeting, and our eight chapters funded upcoming chapter and regional projects (*see separate story on the meeting in this issue*).

Our annual spring banquet will be held on Sat., March 28, at the **Knights of Columbus Hall** starting at 4:30 p.m. This is our annual fundraiser and hope all will go well.

Finally we're in the process of setting up an Antigo Chapter web site. We hope to have this set up with all info ASAP.

—Scott Henricks

Blackhawk Chapter

The following stream projects were worked on this past year.

- **Reads Creek** — in March we donated \$5,000 for purchase of materials for the middle section,
- **Brush Creek** — on April 19 we held a workday,
- **Elk Creek** — on May 10 we built 25 cribs,
- **Little Sugar River** — on June 16 we constructed 76 cribs,
- **Van Slyke Creek** — on July 7 we removed brush,
- **Ward Creek** — on Oct. 11 we built 47 cribs,
- **Little Sugar and Hefty Creek** — on Oct. 25 we built 17 cribs for the Little Sugar and 21 for Hefty,
- **West Fork** — we have earmarked \$1,700 for materials for stream restoration.

Projects completed this past summer include work on **Elk Creek** and **Camp Creek**. We contributed monies and labor on these two projects.

The following officers were elected to serve for the coming year:

Dan Boggs — President,
Bill Hosely — Vice President,
Steve Bentz — Treas., and
Terry Vaughn — Secretary.

We are developing our own web site using the State Council's new web site. **Dick Alfors** volunteered to coordinate this effort.

Chris Newberry has approached us to put on a fishing clinic in March 2009. This would include fly casting, knots, equipment, accessories, and reading the stream. More to come later.

All members had their names put in a hat once for each day they worked at one of last year's workdays. The prize was an Orvis 4-piece, 9-foot, 5-weight rod built by **Bud Hilgendorf**. He tried it once in the yard and the line literally flew off it. **Rob Patrick** was the lucky winner.

The chapter had another rod raffle for a Winston 3-piece, 9-foot, 5-weight rod at the December meeting. **John Miller** won that rod.

Fly tying will begin the first Tuesday in January for the beginners.

The experienced tyers will meet the following Thursday for their "lie and tie" sessions. Materials will be provided for the beginners. There is a \$15 fee for the beginners to help defray costs. The classes will meet at the **DNR building** at 7:00 p.m.

Special thanks to Southeastern WI Chapter which sent over 11 people on Oct. 25 to work on the lunker structures on the **Little Sugar** and **Hefty** creeks.

—Arlan Hilgendorf

Central Wisconsin Chapter

You would think that things would start slowing down at this time of year. Not so with the Central Wisconsin Chapter of TU!

Since our last report, we have had two workdays. Workday Chair **Jim Humphrey** reports that CWTU hosted students from **Fox Valley Technical College** (Natural Resources Dept.) for a day at the **Wild Rose Fish Hatchery** on Sept. 5. The students took a tour of the facility, learned about fly tying, netted aquatic insects, and tried to catch a fish with a fly rod. **Russ Bouck** gave a demonstration of fly tying and an explanation of fabricating an ersatz insect to attract fish. **Dick Pollack** directed the hands-on effort of obtaining, sorting, and identifying insects. **Jerry Strom** was a whiz at demonstrating and handling a fly rod. Thank you to these gentlemen for taking time to spend a weekday with students who are the future of Trout Unlimited.

The last scheduled stream day this year at **Lawrence Creek** was a partial success. A good crew assembled to continue installing pilings and other bank work for completion by the **DNR** this winter. However, the gas engine (manufacturer not named, but sells a wonderful import car) used to for jetting in pilings would not cooperate. The chain saws *did* work, though, and much necessary work continued.

Kudos to the following for their efforts to help repair our streams: **Bill Garvey, Scott Bahn, Tracy Moran, Mike Niemczyk, Dennis Drazkowski, Adam Drazkowski, Jerry Bitter, Jim Williams**, and the following DNR personnel — **Dave Paynter, Steve Sullivan, Alan Lane, and Dakota Lane**.

The following CWTU members were recognized for their efforts with awards at CWTU's Annual Fund Raising and Awards Banquet on October 9, 2008.

The Brookie Award went to **Gail** and **Dan Colligan**. This award is considered the chapter's most prestigious and is presented to professionals and non-professionals whose efforts have helped preserve our coldwater resources. Dan and Gail have worked tirelessly for many years on the chapter's banquet and prize committees. As chairpersons and promoters, they have introduced many innovations in raffles, drawings, and games at the annual fund-raising event.

John Gremmer received the W.C.T.U. Award. This award had its beginning in an error, as the engraver left out the "C" (it should

read C.W.C.T.U. for Central Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited), but it was decided to continue it for service, which could be serious or humorous at the discretion of the Awards Committee. This year, the award was given in the serious category to John, who originated many chapter functions that exist today. John's event ideas include Trout-Fest, the Casting Clinic, the Trout Outing, the Fox Valley Technical College courses on fly fishing and fly tying, our monthly programs, and the Master's Fly Tying Series. Gremmer, along with others, was instrumental in launching CWTU's award-winning water monitoring program. He believes that this is one of the most important things we do. John is a past president, a former vice president, board member, and former program chair.

The "Ozzie" Award went to **Dr. Tom Poullette**. This award is given for lifetime humanitarian achievement and is named in honor of **Richard W. Osborn**, who exemplifies these attributes. Poullette served as the chapter's first president, and he has also held the position of chair of the WITU State Council. He has worked for many years at workdays and at the chapter's annual Fly Fishing School as an instructor and supervisor of guides. He has been instrumental in the development of fly fishing merit badges for the Boy Scouts of America in the Waupaca area. Tom currently chairs the chapter's "Watch Dog Committee."

Bob Chamberlain received the "Curmudgeon" Award. The big surprise of the evening was the presentation of the "Curmudgeon" Award, a trophy which had not been given for several years. It was recently defined by **Tom Poullette**. "The Curmudgeon, says Tom, "was started in 1993 as a public, humorous announcement of someone's attempt to capture a crusty, ill-tempered (i.e., large) fish that resulted in a major goof — screw-up — etc. Bob was selected for the award because of his propensity to get lost."

In addition to the banquet, we've had several interesting monthly programs following our scheduled board meetings which are usually held on the first Monday of the month. See our web page www.cwtu.org and click on Events Calendar for information about upcoming programs and activities.

Be sure to check out Trout Fest 09, **Bob Smaglik** is planning another great event on Feb. 28, 2009. It is free to the public.

—Dick Kraus

Fox Valley Chapter

The Fox Valley Chapter has started the winter schedule of meetings. We are also busy preparing for

the annual fund-raiser, **Cabin Fever Day**, to be held Jan. 31 at **Waverly Beach** (*see ad on p. 23*).

Chapter News



Our October scatter plant had to be cancelled this year because there were issues with the VHS disease and also with transporting the trout for a weekend plant. We will have to make some long-range plans and hope to continue the plant in 2009.

Several members toured the **Besadny Fish Hatchery** open house in **Kewaunee** as an alternative to the plant on the first weekend of October.

Our October chapter meeting was a very informative PowerPoint presentation by **John Gremmer** describing his trout fishing trips to **Pennsylvania**. On October 16, **Gordy Braun, Joe Bach, Bob Omba, Jim Jenkin, Mark Peerenboom, and Rich Erickson** participated in the **Bulolz Nature Preserve's** annual **Romp In The Swamp** by demonstrating fly tying and promoting TU.

The November chapter meeting was a popcorn and cider video night that featured the showing of the **Trout Bum Diaries Volume 2: Kiwi Camo**. If you enjoyed Volume 1, you will want to see this video — the photography and sound are much better than Volume 1.

Our December meeting was a presentation by **Rick Buser** and **Bruce Cecka** from **Fox Valley Tech-**

nical College dealing with the use of GPS systems.

Our January meeting is our annual event put on by the students in the culinary arts program at **FVTC**. If you are interested in attending that event, please check our web site for information.

We are also planning and preparing for our annual fund-raiser, **Cabin Fever Day**, to be held January 31. Our presenters this year will be two individuals who are very familiar to many in Northeast Wisconsin — **Darrell Toliver** and **Tim Landwehr**. Our event will be held at **Waverly Beach** again this year, and the evening program will feature **Tim Landwehr** and his program "The Wonders of Wisconsin Fly Fishing." Please check our web site www.foxvalleytu.org for additional information on **Cabin Fever Day** and our other activities.

The early snows and decorated houses have many of us thinking of Christmas, the holidays, and the special time that we will have with family and friends over the next few weeks. Relax and enjoy this great season. From all of us at **Fox Valley TU**, merry Christmas and happy new year and "We'll see you on a trout stream."

—*Rich Erickson*



GBTU AWARD WINNERS

Leo Nikowitz (top left) received GBTU's President's Club Award from Gary Stoychoff. GBTU's member of the year is **Dave Witzeling** (row 2, 1 to r) flanked by gold banquet individual sponsor **Paul Mongin**. Artist **Bob Taylor** (row 3, 1 to r) won a gold sponsor award in the artist's category, while **Bruce Deuchert** won the **Unsung Hero Award**. **Pat Beimborn** (bottom) of **Los Banditos'** restaurant was named a gold sponsor in the business category.

Frank Hornberg Chapter

On October 4, the **Frank Hornberg Chapter** tried a new form of fund raising by holding a brat sale at **Trig's County Market** in **Stevens Point**. The warm weather brought out a steady stream of customers for our brats and hot dogs. **Jan Tully** took the lead in organizing this activity. We should also thank **Jim Schickert**, the store director, for his assistance. We are using the profits from this sale to buy advertising for our **2009 Fly Fishing School**.

Our final workday on the **Tomorrow River** was held on October 18. We placed left-over Christmas trees behind rock wing-dams to trap silt. The water was cold, but we were warmed by **Paul Peck's** gourmet wild rice soup and chili.

John Gremmer was the speaker at our November 13 general meeting. He supplied us with very specific information on hatches, flies, access, lodging, presentations, and equipment for fishing the **Bighorn River** near **Ft. Smith, Montana**.

The chapter also elected the next year's officers at this meeting. New officers are:

Wyatt Bohm — President,
Mike Mather — V.P., and
Mary Holtz — Secretary.

We are pleased to have **Wyatt** as our new chief officer. He's one of the younger members of the chapter, a knowledgeable fly fisher, and a responsible administrator.

We will be having three winter fly tying workshops scheduled for January 13, February 21, and March 19. The February workshop will be a daytime event at the **Portage County Library** in **Stevens Point**. We are promoting it as a family-oriented affair, and we will be advertising it in the local schools.

Our final three general meeting speakers this year are **Jeff Hastings** (speaking on **TUDARE** and the effects of flooding in the **Driftless Area**), **Ross Mueller** (speaking on late season trout), and **Tom Meronek** (speaking on **DNR** in-stream activities in **Portage County**). We look forward to hearing from them.

—*John Vollrath*

Green Bay Chapter

Wow! Where did our summer and fall go? As we sit here anticipating a huge snowstorm, it seems like the nice weather only lasted several weeks. It must be time to take up ice fishing. NOT! Anyhow, the **Green Bay Chapter**, www.greenbaytu.com, has embarked on its winter activities, among which are holding its annual **December Dinner and Awards** meeting, planning and staging our annual fund-raising event, and searching out the best way to use the funds raised at this event on behalf of our coldwater resources.

We held our December meeting at the **Sports Corner** in **De Pere** and used the occasion to celebrate the Christmas season with some Christmas cheer, a fine meal, and great entertainment. We then finished the evening by giving out some great door prizes. During the event, we al-

so presented awards to various persons who have been instrumental in the success the chapter has enjoyed during the past year.

We began by presenting our **Banquet Gold Sponsorship Awards**. As the title of the awards suggest, they recognize the people and businesses who have contributed greatly to the success of our only fund-raising event of the year.

The first award was presented to **Bob Taylor** in the artist category. Bob has been donating carvings used in our live auction for nine years, and his creations have been instrumental in the success the live auction has enjoyed over the years.

The next award was presented to **Pat Beimborn**, co-owner of **Los Banditos**, in the business category. Over the years, Pat has donated

many dollars worth of items used as prizes during the evening.

The next award was in the individual category. This is given to the person who makes significant monetary donations to the banquet. This year, the award was presented to **Paul Mongin**.

Our final banquet award was our **Unsung Hero Award**. This recognizes a person whose efforts may go

unnoticed by most attendees, but without their work, the banquet could not run as smoothly as it does. This award was presented to **Bruce Deuchert**. His work as Banquet Chair and tireless efforts the night of the banquet make him most deserving of this award.

We also inducted a chapter member into our **President's Club**.

Continued on p. 14



Chapter News



ON YOUR MARKS, GET SET, CLIP!

Some Oconto students recently volunteered to help the Oconto River Chapter clip trout fins at the club's fish hatchery in Underhill.

Continued from p. 13

The President's Club recognizes those who have given greatly of their time working on habitat improvement projects. This year's inductee is **Leo Nikowitz**. Over the years, Leo has attended countless work projects that have improved out trout waters.

Finally, the coveted **Member of the Year Award** was presented to **Dave Witzeling**. Dave is a member of our board of directors and this past year assumed the duties of Work Project Coordinator. In this role, Dave arranged and attended

work projects that saw the chapter accumulate about 380 man-hours on the trout streams in Northeast Wisconsin. He often brought and prepared the lunch we traditionally have at our work projects.

Last but not least, our chapter will have our fund-raising banquet Thursday, March 27, at the **Stadium View Banquet Hall** in Green Bay. The committee is hard at work devising ways to attract people to the event and trying to make sure attendees have a great time while they support our work on area trout streams.

—Gary Stoychoff

Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter

It has been four years since the founding of **Spring Creek Partners**. While the use of this tool has not been widely used by other chapters, we have gained considerably from it. This year our members and friends contributed about \$2,500 toward our stream work.

Our work on **Big Spring Creek** has been completed downstream to the bridge on **Pine Road** at the winery. We also got the banks pulled back on the section below that where we have more work scheduled in 2009. This will allow the farmer to plant easier next year, and we'll have the ground prepped for planting the buffer strip in the spring.

The work on the **Blue River** on the **Sime** and **Carpenter** properties was completed in time for the **Landowners Appreciation Picnic**.

We are presently making our submittals for payment on some grants and getting out the project reports for these two streams.

Next year's work involves more of **Big Spring**, more of the **Blue**, and a nice section of **Bronson Creek**, a feeder into the Blue.

We do not have specifics yet, but we are looking at having our meeting in January with a speaker on the geology of the Driftless Area and a potluck meal. We are also setting up for a lie and tie meeting in January or February.

—Brian Larson

Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter

Kiap-TU-Wish finished up this year's work on **Pine Creek** in **Maiden Rock Township** in late summer. Plans have been in the works for a couple years to do prairie restoration work on the site. The land is owned by the **West Wisconsin Land Trust (WWLT)**.

The WWLT sponsored a prairie seed harvesting and planting event

on November 15. Over 30 volunteers assembled at the **Maiden Rock Bluff** prairie restoration site. The bluff and prairie area is a couple miles south of Pine Creek and is owned by the WWLT. **Rick Gauger**, **Rick Remington**, and **Bill Hogseth** from the land trust demonstrated how to identify and harvest seeds from a variety of prairie grasses and

prairie flowers. Volunteers then spent the morning harvesting seeds. In the afternoon, the group moved to the Pine Creek site and sowed the harvested seeds along with seeds purchased by the land trust. This process can take a few years for results to show. With the stream restoration work and the prairie planting, this could turn out to be a model project. Volunteers for the planting event were from **Kiap-TU-Wish**, **West Wisconsin Land Trust**, **Clear Waters Chapter**, and the community. The majority of volunteers came from nearby **Fairmount Minerals**. Fairmount has been a major volunteer contributor all year to the project. Plans are being made to continue restoration work upstream on Pine Creek next summer.

—Greg Diel

Lakeshore Chapter

workday there had us cleaning up and burning brush piles that have accumulated over several years. Chapter members working on Nov. 15 included **Jim Camp**, **Ron McCormick**, **Andy Jacobson**, **Dave Pozorski**, **Al Spindler**, **Wayne Trupke**, and **Jeff Yax**.

On November 10 and 11 several chapter members were involved with teaching fly tying and fly casting to physical education classes at **Plymouth High School**. This has become an ongoing project for our chapter, as this is the third year we have helped out at Plymouth. Chapter members who helped instruct the classes included **Mike Hiebing**, **Bob Jones**, **Tom Mockert**, **Jeff Preiss**, **Bill Rogers**, and **Ken Zimmermann**.

November 12 found chapter members **Ron McCormick** and **Tom Steinberg** tying flies that use deer hair at **Buck Fever Night** at the **Club Bil-Mar** in Manitowoc. This is a show that is educational in nature and helps get hunters ready for the deer hunting season. Ron and Tom have been tying at this show for several years and always draw an interested crowd.

Following our September meeting fish manager **John Nelson** gave a presentation on the changes to the brown trout population on the **Onion River**. His presentation summarized that the brown trout population has increased ten fold between 1997 and 2006 and 46% from 2004 to 2006. No information was available for 2008. Our chapter meetings are held on the third Monday of each month at the **Club Bil-Mar** in Manitowoc. Most meetings are followed by some type of presentation.

Our October presenter was **John Gremmer**, who gave a presentation on fly fishing **Pennsylvania** trout streams with emphasis on terrestrials and tricos. John has been to past Lakeshore meetings, and his presentations are always interesting and informative.

The November meeting featured a presentation by chapter members **Tom Mockert** and **Ken Zimmerman**. They gave a slide presentation on work that still needs to be done on the **Onion River**. The photography was done by Ken, and Tom did the narration. This was a very good presentation and got many of us ready to get back to work.

—Wayne Trupke

Chapter News



Northwoods Chapter

The Northwoods Chapter reconvened meetings after our summer break and got right into planning for the next year. We filed our fiscal report with TU National that includes our estimate of the time spent on three types of conservation activities — protect, reconnect, and restore — that totaled 396 hours. **Josh Kunzman**, our stream improvement committee chair, provided an update on activities completed this past summer.

Two stream days were held on the **Bearskin** with more rock removed near the trestle, further lowering the water level upstream of this impediment. The second project included more brushing and brush bundles upstream of the trestle. The stream channel has been narrowed by almost half in this area while deepening it from a foot to almost three feet deep.

The chapter will be stepping back from activities on the **Bearskin** next summer while background information is obtained on stream temperatures and a plan is developed for the restoration activities.

Terry Cummings gave a run-down on the Skills Day that was held on September 27 at the **Hodag Sports Club** facility in **Rhinelander**. **Terry** and **Aaron Nelson** entertained the kids with a fly tying demonstration and hands-on learning to use a fly rod. The event had almost 100 kids in attendance. Kids participated in activities sponsored by many of the sporting clubs in the area like the **Wild Turkey Federation**, **Ducks Unlimited**, and **Whitetails Unlimited**, to name a few. **Brian Hegge** ended the October meeting with a slide

presentation on a trip to the **S. Fork of the Flathead River** taken this past summer.

Bill Sherer from **We Tie It Fly Shop** in **Boulder Junction** was our guest speaker at the November 3 meeting. Bill talked about his trip for brookies in **Ontario** and correlated that to more success here in WI and the U.P.

We held our Christmas party on December 8 at the **Fireside Restaurant** in **Rhinelander**. It was great to see old and new faces at this very popular event.

Our next meeting will January 5 and will focus on banquet planning. Our guest speaker at the January meeting will be **Sue Reinecke** from the **US Forest Service**. Sue will present information on the projects the USFS has completed in the past year. Regular meetings are scheduled for the first Monday night of the month and are held at the **Oneida County/Rhinelander Airport**. Park in the west lot for the restaurant for free parking. The meeting is in the downstairs classroom.

The Northwoods Chapter's 35th annual **Conservation Banquet** will be held on Saturday, April 4, at **Holiday Acres Resort** east of **Rhinelander**. Yes, that's a Saturday night, the first ever for this chapter. Planning for the banquet has already begun, and tickets will be available at the January 12 chapter meeting. Donations and especially cash donations are now being requested. Put the Northwoods Chapter on your Christmas list and send us a donation!

—*Brian Hegge*

Oconto River Chapter

The Oconto River chapter ends a year of our traditional community outreach events providing fishing for the residents of the local retirement home and the employees of the **New Horizons** workshop for the developmentally delayed.

These long-term, popular events complement our fishing tank at the **Oconto County Fair**, **Copperfest**, and the **Gillett Fourth of July Fest**.

Our **Trout in the Classroom** venture continues to prosper with fish hatching daily now in the schools in **Lena**, **Oconto**, and **Oconto Falls**. We will do PowerPoint presentations on *The Nature of a Trout Stream* to biology classes in **Antigo**, **Lena**, and **Gillett** this winter.

We are re-evaluating our hatchery project at **Underhill** in the **VHS** era. Fewer eggs are available, costs are up, and we are re-evaluating the

hatchery program for cost effectiveness.

We have raised over 20,000 brook and brown trout in years with plentiful eggs available, with these trout planted primarily in the **Oconto River**.

The **South Branch** of the Oconto in a 2006 shocking survey above **CTH W** showed excellent numbers of natural young of the year brook trout, over 2,500/mile. Our weir studies showed five percent of the older fish have their adipose fins clipped, showing they were one of our stocked fish.

At our fall banquet, **Mitch Meunier** was given the Golden Trout award for his long-term service as point man on our banquet raffles, bingo, and fund raising for the good of the coldwater fishery.

—*Bob Obma*

Shaw-Paca Chapter

We now have a web site. Chapter member **Randy Berndt** is our webmaster. Randy also has a high school class project going involving fly tying and teaching casting skills scheduled for next spring, with members of the chapter assisting him.

We are again sponsoring our **Fly Tying Class** starting on January 20 and continuing every Tuesday until February 24. We do not charge for this class. Master fly tyer and chapter member **Jerry Weatherwax** will be the class leader, assisted by other chapter members. This event is held at the **Pella Town Hall** in beautiful

downtown Pella, Wisconsin, and goes from 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Jerry will also be the featured tyer at **Tight Lines** in **De Pere** on Saturday, Jan. 10.

Thus far, our chapter rebate has paid to trap five beavers from local trout waters. We still have a few trappers left in our area to help with this project.

Our annual fund-raising banquet will be held Thursday, April 2, at the **Northwinds Banquet Hall** in **Marion**. Tickets can be purchased by contacting **Lee Kersten** at Box 446 in Marion, WI 54950. Hope to see many of you there.



SEWTU's Camp Creek grant touted in winery ad

Last fall Redwood Creek Wines awarded the Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter \$50,000 after the chapter's Camp Creek restoration grant proposal got more votes than competing projects in the winery's Greater Outdoors Project contest.

Now a broader audience has learned of SEWTU's efforts via an ad the winery has run in some national magazines. The ad shown above appeared in the December issues of *Outside* and *National Geographic Adventure* magazines.

At this point, we are working on dispersing our proceeds on projects occurring throughout the Northeastern Region. Stream improvement, brushing of streambanks,

beaver control, a project on the **Waupaca River**, and our annual **UW-SP "scholarship"** are all on the burner.

—*Lee Kersten*

Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter

The Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter is happy to report that it has maintained its busy schedule over the past quarter to protect, reconnect, restore, and sustain our coldwater systems.

Since our last report, SEWTU has had an excellent slate of meeting speakers. Our September meeting featured **Brad Petzke** of **Rivers North Guide Service** in **Marquette**, in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Brad gave an excellent talk on steelhead, trout, and other migratory fish in the U.P. The talk was truly excellent, and some of Brad's photos were simply awe inspiring. Members interested in retaining Petzke can check him out on the web at www.riversnorth.net.

In October, **Peter Ziegler** of the **Wisconsin Waterfowl Association** spoke concerning habitat projects his organization undertakes, their effects on coldwater resources, and the very real potential for overlap between WWA's mission and that of TU.

At October's meeting, SEWTU also recognized a number of its out-

standing volunteers during the past two years. Award recipients received a personalized plaque and the thanks of our chapter. Recognized members were:

- **"Lunker" Ray Weiss**, **Mike Kühr**, and **Todd Durian** for their work on our **Camp Creek** project;
- **Rick Frye** for his tireless efforts at, and providing provisions for, chapter workdays;
- **Ivan Nohavica** for his outstanding work as chapter treasurer;
- **John Knitter** for his leadership in water quality monitoring, youth motivation, resource protection, and as our Political Liaison;
- **Chuck Beeler** for his amazing leadership as Sports Show Coordinator, and in gathering raffle prizes and setting up community outreach events;
- **Alphonse Dalfonso** for his volunteer efforts in establishing regular fly tying efforts at the **Milwaukee Veterans Administration**; and

Continued on p. 16



Chapter News



Chuck Campbell

REDD CHECKING ON 18 MILE CREEK

Wild Rivers Chapter member Jim Emerson (left) and Bayfield County Conservationist Butch Lobermier looked for trout redds on 18 Mile Creek as part of a DNR survey this past fall.

Continued from p. 15

• **Rich Vetrano** and **Dan Asmus** for their leadership as our chapter's past and current presidents, leading stream restoration projects, and revitalizing our chapter.

Given that this was SEWTU's first-in-a-very-long-time formal awards ceremony, it was simply impossible to honor everyone who deserved an award. Quite simply, we have an embarrassment of riches when it comes to quality volunteers and members. All of our members, to be blunt, deserve recognition, and this editor thanks everyone who has stood up, pitched in, and helped make our chapter vital and ever-improving.

November's meeting featured **Pat Ehlers**. Pat is, as most know, a strong and consistent supporter of SEWTU and our stream restoration activities. Pat spoke about small-mouth fishing opportunities in our area. As always, Pat provided an excellent presentation, with excellent anecdotes, photographs, and sense of humor. Pat's fly shop, **The Fly Fishers**, is located at 9617 Greenfield Ave. in Milwaukee and can be found on the web at www.theflyfishers.com.

December's meeting was our annual informal **Holiday Party** where we looked back at our accomplishments over the past year and outlined what we've got coming up in 2009. We also 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 salmon fisheries in **Bristol Bay, Alaska**. December's meeting also featured our optional "gift exchange."

For the new year, the following 2009 Tuesday night meetings are scheduled: January 27, February 24, March 24, April 28, and May 26. Speakers are yet to be announced. Stay tuned to www.sewtu.org and our "Calendar of Events" for upcoming meeting details.

SEWTU has additionally maintained its busy education and workday schedule. On Oct. 18, we returned once again to **Genesee Creek**, located just outside of **Genesee Depot** in **Waukesha County**. Under the direction of **Carroll College Professor Jason Freund**, who is also a chapter board member, we removed a previous poorly construct-

ed stream control contraption that had been disturbing stream flow. Additionally, chapter member **Hugh Mooney's** grandson, **Sam**, performed stream bottom composition survey work. Other SEWTU members helped replace and repair boardwalk sections which had been moved by this spring's flood events. Finally, members felled numerous cedar trees for use in stream work this upcoming year.

On October 25, an elite squadron of SEWTU volunteers traveled to the **New Glarus** area where it joined forces with the **Blackhawk Chapter** to build about 40 lunker structures at two streamside locations.

Afterwards, the same SEWTU crew traveled to our Southwest Wisconsin worksites for an impromptu stream restoration tour. At **Camp Creek**, one of our major 2008 projects, our volunteers installed electronic water quality monitoring equipment that will track stream flow and temperature data in the newly restored section. Thereafter, volunteers viewed our project at **Melancthan Creek**, the second of our major 2008 projects, and monitored its progress.

Over the last quarter, SEWTU has manned conservation education booths that featured mission information, fly tying, and casting instructions at local retailers including **Sportsmen's Warehouse**, **Cabela's**, and **Gander Mountain**. These events have been under the supervision of **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**.

SEWTU continues its student college application/scholarship letter of recommendation program. Specifically, our standing offer is that we'll provide a college application or scholarship letter of recommendation to any student who attends three workdays within one calendar year. One of our two past letter recipients reports that he has been accepted to **UW-Stevens Point**, where he plans to study in the **College of Natural Resources**.

Hand-in-hand with our letter of recommendation program, we also write confirmation letters for **National Honor Society** students who

attend workdays to credit them with their required NHS service hours.

In other news, SEWTU hosted its **Third Annual Habitat Fundraiser** in October. The event was held at the **Lakefront Brewery's Palm Garden** in **Milwaukee** and featured restoration luminary **Dave Vetrano** as our guest speaker. Moreover, an incredible range of top-end prizes were won by attendees from manufactures such as **Sage**, **Orvis**, **G. Loomis**, and other rods and reels, spin fishing outfits, wine, art, a personal pontoon boat, a chainsaw, and as an assortment of guided fishing/hiking trips from the likes of **Brad Petzke** and "**Duke**" **Welter**. The event was a great success and raised several thousand dollars. Funds raised from this event and prior events have helped SEWTU undertake 27 workdays in the past three years, and over 3 miles of stream restoration projects in that same time.

SEWTU is also pleased to announce that board member **Mike Kuhr** and a committee comprised of some of SETWU and **Aldo Leopold TU's** best and brightest, along with **Pat Ehlers** of **The Fly Fishers**, have joined forces with **Project Healing Waters** to start a full-fledged program involving SETWU, PHW, and the **Milwaukee Veterans Administration**. Project Healing Waters "serves military personnel who have been wounded, injured, or disabled to aid their physical and emotional recovery by introducing or rebuild-

ing the skills of fly fishing and fly tying and by using and enjoying these skills on fishing outings and as life-long recreation." Our particular program will be aimed, as with all of Project Healing Waters' projects, at providing fly tying, casting, and on-the-water fishing experiences for vets, with a little of SEWTU's coldwater conservation message thrown in.

SEWTU is also exploring, along with **Minnesota's Twin Cities TU Chapter**, participating and lending aid to **Casting for Recovery's** summer outing near Eau Claire. Casting for Recovery is a nonprofit organization that helps recovering breast cancer survivors by using fly fishing "to promote physical, emotional, and spiritual healing."

Finally, SEWTU is pleased to announce that, under the leadership of **Chuck Beeler**, it will once again man its customary booth at the **Milwaukee Sports Show**. This event will feature a raffle for a traditional cedar strip canoe donated by **Stan Strelka** and **Professional Insurance Services**, as well as other prizes. Aside from raising thousands of dollars for our restoration, educational, and community outreach activities, the Sports Show allows SEWTU to interact with literally hundreds of thousands of community members and spread our message of coldwater conservation far and wide.

—Henry Koltz

Southern Wisconsin Chapter

2008 was an exceptional year for Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited. To name just a few accomplishments, we:

- started the year with record fund raising at our **Icebreaker** event,
- had loads of fun and raised a bundle at our **March Madness Auction**,
- elected several new officers and board members,
- received significant grant money to complete the "in-ground work" on our first big solo project — the restoration of a long stretch of **Gordon Creek** in **Iowa County**,
- spent many Saturdays doing habitat work at **Black Earth Creek** (and received terrific feedback on the quality impact the "sweepers" we installed are having),
- again supported **Project Green Teen** that teaches high schoolers fly fishing and brings them to **Avalanche** for a week of work and fishing,
- brought joy to many with our annual special needs fishing day at **Kalscheur's** ponds,
- held numerous educational events for the public, and
- financially supported the unique Dane County program to buy **permanent easements** on all coldwater streams (more than \$5,000 has been donated by STU members as of Thanksgiving for this unique effort).

These are just a few of the big things we undertook or set in motion, with tremendous thanks to our many chapter members who gave of their time and talents.

2009 looks to be another banner year as SWTU turns 40! We'll be celebrating this birthday by building on past success and great events to

do even more to preserve and protect our coldwater resources.

It starts with our annual **Icebreaker** event on January 17 at the **Promega Center** in **Fitchburg** (see our ad on p. 22 of this issue). It's a full day of great fishing fun and education with **Rich Osthoff** as our featured speaker. We hope to see you there. In the dead of winter, what better way to warm your coldwater heart?

A main focus in 2009 will be continued fund raising to purchase permanent stream easements in **Dane County**, thereby assuring that the coldwater resource will be there for future generations to enjoy.

We will accent the easements with our new **Stream Monitoring Program** under the guidance of Project Chair **Mike Grimes**. Working with Dane County, we will help to arrange and train volunteers to monitor and report on stream conditions. Did that big oak finally fall? Have beavers been busy? Is the cattle crossing in good condition? We'll have trained volunteers keeping an eye on such things (while drifting a few flies through, no doubt!) so that the county knows where to send its crews.

We also look to build on our beautiful (and trout/snake/turtle-friendly!) restoration work on **Gordon Creek**. We will be seeking further grants to extend the work as well as implement a wide variety of stream monitoring, maintenance, and education programs.

Learn more about us and our activities at www.swtu.org. Be sure to access the new calendar feature to find out what is happening with our chapter and in our area. Our 40th year is already looking to be very busy — and very rewarding.

—Drew Kasel

Chapter News



Wild Rivers Chapter

The passing of **Martin Hanson**, a longtime Wild Rivers Chapter member, brings a special significance to his latest proposal. Martin attended two recent chapter events to support enhanced protection for the **Brunsweler River**. His proposal to designate the Brunsweler River as a state wild river will be considered in the next state legislative session. The proposal includes federal land and land owned by Martin Hanson's estate.

There was a lot of activity on the chapter's fall projects. Thanks to **John Casperson, Jim Emerson, and Roger Gustafson** for their work on the **Adopt a Highway** fall cleanup at Delta. A good meal at the **Delta Diner** helped a lot.

The participation for the redd survey on **18 and 20 Mile creeks** has been very successful. Sixteen people signed up for 8 of the 12 segments to be surveyed, and several have asked about the remaining 4 segments. The stream segments were surveyed during November.

Thanks to **Kitty and Keith Wilson** and **Mo and Smiley Knutson** for their presentation at the October meeting. All commercial salmon fishermen, they presented the story of the **Bristol Bay, Alaska** salmon fishery and the impact of the **Pebble Mine** on the Bristol Bay region. Trout Unlimited has worked to protect this fishery and the streams that support it in Alaska. As a chapter, we are planning for a future showing of the award-winning **Red Gold** documentary on the culture of the region and the impact of the Pebble Mine project on the people and the fishery.

Carey Edwards of the **Iron River National Fish Hatchery** came to the **Brule River Sportsman's Club** with a proposal to place a fish aquarium project in the **Ashland Middle School**. The club already maintains

two very successful classroom aquariums at the **Maple and Superior** schools, raising eggs to fingerlings from Nov. to May. Since they would like to get this up and going this year (planting eyed eggs in Nov.) the BRSC committed to purchasing a chiller. The total startup cost for the project is approximately \$1,000. Our chapter agreed to support this project and has funded part of the cost.

Winter fly tying classes have started in Ashland and Washburn with members **Bill Heart, Dr. Bob Stanley, Dick Berge, Jim Emerson, and Chuck Campbell** helping out with the instruction. The initial event at Ashland was successful, and more events may be offered. A similar event held annually is the Fly Tying Saturday held in conjunction with the Sleigh & Cutter Rally at the **Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center** at Ashland on January 10, 2009. This is a nice opportunity to tie flies or to share fishing stories, so stop by if you are in the area. Thanks to **Rolland Kiel** and other members who have donated vises and other materials for these events. Another project involves a plan by **Bayfield County, WDNR, and Wally and Karen Vietmeier** and the **West Wisconsin Land Trust** to protect an 80 acre parcel on the **Bark River**. **Jane Anklam** of the WWLT discussed the plan with chapter members at the October meeting. It will protect coaster brook trout spawning grounds and downstream water quality for the Bark River estuary. The chapter has approved a donation of \$1,500 toward the estimated \$3,000 appraisal fee and has sent a letter of support for this project. Jane is now applying for grants to fund the Bark River land acquisition.

—Chuck Campbell

Wisconsin Clear Waters

Wisconsin Clear Waters has been busy this past year on many local trout streams (see separate story on p. 18 of this issue).

A beginning fly tying class at the **Gander Mountain** store will be held Jan 8, 22, 29, Feb 5, 19, and 26. The instructor is **Jeff Bartynski** with assistance from **Tom Morgan** and **C. 'Willie' Wilson**.

For more information and to register, contact Jeff at (715) 832-2362. The class is limited to 15 people. It is free to TU members and costs \$25 for non-members. Those who complete the class will get a free ticket to Saturday night's State Council Banquet.

Our January 15 chapter meeting at Gander Mountain will feature the

movie **Red Gold** and a speaker with more about **Alaska**.

Chapter members will be at the **State Council Banquet** in Stevens Point on Feb. 17 teaching a **DNR fly fishing instructor certification** class. Contact **Dennis Vanden Bloomen** if you want to attend this class.

Our Feb. 12 meeting presents "Lines I've used around the world" by **Lon Christianson** and **John Higley**. This discussion includes tips on backing, line care, leader connections, leader types, leader connections to tippet, tippet to hook, leader to fly line, etc. It is a chance to ask questions and get confidence in the way you are doing things.

—Dennis Vanden Bloomen

Wisconsin River Valley Chapter

WRVTU held its annual meeting on December 8, electing officers and planning for a very active future.

Henry Kanemoto and **Mike Pierce** are spearheading a fly tying class that will begin with a general introductory session open to the public at **Gander Mountain in Wausau** at 7:00 p.m. on January 12.

Our February meeting will be on February 9 with a presentation about fishing giant Canadian brook trout.

Plans for our annual **TU Banquet** to be held at the beginning of April are being made.

True to our mission to involve youth in coldwater conservation, we have provided funding and speakers for a new **Trout in the Classroom** project in the **Edgar Middle School**. Teacher **Jon Albee** is excited about the work we are doing cooperatively and is impressed by the course materials provided by TU.

—John Meachen



GIRLS LIKE TO TIE 'EM, TOO

Wisconsin River Valley Chapter President John Meachen tied some flies for a couple girls at the Youth Sporting Heritage Days sponsored by the WDNR last August.

Wolf River Chapter

The Wolf River Chapter, one of the first chapters in the country, went through a re-organization in March of 2008 with the retirement of longtime president and conservationist **Herb Buettner**. Without Herb's loyal dedication, the Wolf River would have gone the way of many waters in this state and become troutless. The reorganization proceeded with the election of officers and board members.

The chapter hosted a clean up on the lower stretch of **Ninemile Creek**. A gracious landowner allowed access where truckloads of junk were removed, including a Ford model "T" frame.

On June 21 the chapter held its first annual **Fishing Fun Day** at the boat landing in **White Lake**. Many members participated in demonstrating fly tying, rod making, casting, and knot tying. Representatives from **Mepps** and the **WDNR** were also on hand.

Fund-raising efforts focused on weekend brat fries at **Mike's Service Station in Langlade**.

Members also worked with **WDNR** on brush and bundling projects on the lower stretches of **Ninemile Creek** near Hwy. 55. Wolf River members who are monitoring the creek have observed brook trout moving back into these areas this past fall.

Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program Coordinator **Kris Stepenuck** of **Water Action Volunteers (WAV)** trained 14 members in July. The five tributaries of the Wolf River currently being monitored include the **Hunting River, Lilly River, Ninemile Creek, Evergreen Creek, and Spring Creek**. These

tributaries are monitored for dissolved oxygen, temperature, turbidity, stream flow, habitat, and macroinvertebrate life. Monitoring is the first step in gaining the knowledge necessary for determining any future course of action.

In August a fly-over was conducted over **Ninemile Creek, Spring Creek, and Evergreen Creek** where a video was taken documenting the creeks and identifying trouble spots. An extensive beaver problem was found on the upper reaches of **Ninemile Creek**, blocking the flow of cold water at **Emil Spring, Little Emil Spring, and Poor Farm Spring**. The Wolf River Chapter would like to thank pilot **John Kielcheski** for the valuable video.

Duane Fronck of **White Lake** held beaver trapping classes where six members received their trapping license. Working in conjunction with the **WDNR**, chapter members have removed several beaver dams on stretches of **Ninemile Creek**. With landowner consent and permits from the **WDNR**, some beaver were trapped, while others moved up river, beyond the springs.

Wolf River members also worked with the **WDNR** installing temperature monitors on the Wolf River and its tributaries. Fisheries biologist **Dave Seibel** and state trapper **Rick Halder**, along with chapter members, canoed **Ninemile Creek** to the above-mentioned springs.

A pig roast and dance after the October general meeting capped off an exciting and fruitful year.

Our partnership with the **DNR** is extremely important for the restoration of the Wolf River and its potential as a sustainable trout fishery.

—Tim Waters

BANQUET: training/entertainment sessions part of event's mix

Continued from p. 3

Along with his slides, **Pielsticker** will give tips on how to improve your photo-taking and get the most out of your camera.

People who see **Pielsticker's** work often comment that Wisconsin is even more beautiful than they realized. Come early and take in his show. His work will be on display during the banquet. Preview his work at www.pielstickerphotos.com.

Dave Carlson presentation

Dave Carlson of Eau Claire has

been producing outdoor shows for 27 years. These days he produces and hosts **Northland Adventures**, a production of Quincy Newspapers.

Carlson is the featured speaker at the evening banquet, and he will be showing a video with plenty of trout in it. From fly tying and casting to advocacy for water resources, Carlson has been a constant supporter of TU's efforts. Carlson recently won a conservation award from TU National in Snowbird, Utah.

WI Clear Waters working with many partners on some favorite home waters

By Tim Meyer

Gilbert Creek Restoration Project

Partners Working Together

"A community partnership with multi-purpose goals"

- restore habitat and spawning potential for brook trout
- restore native prairie and savanna habitat
- control streambank erosion and reduce downstream flooding
- enhance game and non-game wildlife habitat

- ❑ Dunn County Fish & Game Association, Inc.
- ❑ Dunn County Land Conservation Department
- ❑ Pheasants Forever
- ❑ Trout Unlimited
 - ❖ WI Clear Waters (local), Kiap-TU-Wish, Twin Cities, and Wild Rivers Chapters
 - ❖ TU Embrace-A-Stream Grants
- ❑ University of Wisconsin - Stout
- ❑ Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
 - ❖ Trout Stamp Funds and River Grants
- ❑ Xcel Energy
- ❑ The many other "Friends of Gilbert Creek" volunteers




--PLEASE--
Do not litter. Carry out any trash that you may encounter.

The 2008 restoration work season started late and ended late this year due to the cold, wet spring, but dry and warm conditions this fall helped us. Project work ended by about late October.

Trout in several area creeks are very pleased with their new habitat. We can also thank all the trout stamp-funded WDNR employees and their supervisors who continue to support and accomplish excellent work despite the recent financial woes (*see sidebar on next page*).

We also thank all the dedicated volunteers, landowners, and partners who contributed their time and money to wild trout in Wisconsin.

Elk Creek (Chippewa Co.)

Work began here a bit late this spring due to cold, wet weather, but by early May banks were being reshaped and rock that was staged the previous winter was beginning to be put in place to stabilize banks.

There have been a number of successful projects on Elk Creek in the past, but this latest project is a multi-year project and on a larger scale than those in the past. About 4,000 linear feet were completed this year.

Root wads and tree trunks were readily available and utilized fully on this stretch of the project along with lunker structures.

Cub Scouts from St. James School in Eau Claire came out in May and helped spread mulch on newly seeded areas and participated in an electro-shocking survey and demonstration.

Next year an additional 2,860 feet are expected to be restored with help and funding from the USDA Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP).

Stop out at Elk Creek just north of Hwy. 29 and give it a fish. *Directions:* from the east or west on Hwy. 29, exit north on Cty. M just east of where Elk Creek crosses Hwy. 29. Immediately turn left (west) on Cty. X and drive west until you come to the driveway by the public land sign. The work starts upstream from the bridge a few hundred yards.

Trout Creek (Chippewa Co.)

Trout Creek is a very unique little stream in southern Chippewa County which has exceptional water quality, and possibly an original strain of native Wisconsin brook trout. The habitat is degraded and the channel is wide and shallow, but the grade is good and the substrate is solid, containing mostly gravel and cobbles mixed with coarse sand, which could make for ideal spawning habitat.

A 650-foot stretch was completed on private property as the first phase of a large USDA Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) contract for Trout Creek. The work this year involved redirecting the channel of Trout Creek to the east into a former channel, in order to stabilize a vertical sand and gravel bank that was collapsing into the streambed.

Gilbert Creek (Dunn Co.)

This marks the fifth year of restoration work on this Dunn County gem. The four previous years were spent on the North and Middle branches, and this year we began work on the main branch. This work will continue for at least another three to five years.

Work on Gilbert has many partners, including the Dunn County Fish and Game Association, UW-Stout, Lucas Township, Lucas School, Menomonie High School, Western Wisconsin Land Trust, Bubbling Springs Farm, Xcel Energy, Dunn County Land Conservation Department, USDA-NRCS, and Pheasants Forever.

We have an ongoing monitoring program through our partnership with UW-Stout and a pilot program with WDNR and Pheasants Forever to restore the native wet prairie through seeding and maintenance.

Pigeon Creek (Jackson Co.)

(The following information and pictures on Pigeon and Traverse Valley creeks came to me via Rob Herman of the WDNR.)

The second phase of a three-year project was completed in early June. The project was sponsored by the Northfield/York Sportsman's Club. Log deflectors, jetted trout structures, brush bundles, and vortex weirs were installed. To date, an 1,800-foot stretch has been restored, with another 800' planned for 2009.

The project involved the following partners: WI Clear Water Chapter, Jackson County NRCS, Necedah USFWS, WDNR, Osseo-Fairchild Schools, Whitehall Schools, and the Kaminski family.

Special thanks to the following who made this project happen without trout stamp dollars: Ron Larson and Ron Moe (Northfield/York Sportsman's Club), John Welter, Dennis Vanden Bloemen, and Tim Meyer (TU, WI Clear Waters Chapter), Al Langworthy and Ryan Swatek (USDA-NRCS), Jon Olson



GILBERT CREEK PROJECT CONTINUES; TROUT CREEK RETURNED TO OLD COURSE IN RESTORATION

The many partner groups responsible for work along Gilbert Creek have been recognized on this streamside sign (top). Meanwhile, a steep, eroding bank (middle) was the target of restoration work on Trout Creek in Chippewa County in 2008. The stream was redirected to its former channel (bottom) as part of the work on this small brook trout stream.



TRAVERSE VALLEY CREEK BEFORE AND AFTER

Eroding banks (top left) are excavated, tapered, and reinforced during many large-scale restoration projects, like this one on Traverse Valley Creek. Once completed (top right), the stream can overflow its banks during high water events without causing major stream damage.

DOT equipment fee increases impacting trout stamp projects

WI Clear Waters Chapter, along with the West Central Region of the WDNR, experienced a frustrating series of trout stamp fund cuts this summer that will have a severe impact on the amount of restoration work done in Western Wisconsin in coming years.

In the middle of this project season — after all of our project planning and funding was believed to be in place — the West Central Region (WCR) received word that there would be a drop in their trout stamp fund allocation. Beginning July 1, 2008, the WCR experienced a \$20,000 trout stamp budget drawdown and an additional \$5,000 cut at the end of August.

The reason for this drastic drawdown is apparently not due to trout stamp sales levels, but to a big increase in the expense cost/overhead for equipment. Beginning July 1, 2008, (the start of the fiscal year for state government), the WI Dept. of Administration (DOA) — which actually owns most, or all, of the equipment that is used by the DNR for stream restoration — drastically increased the amount that must be deducted for each hour or mile that each piece of equipment is used.

This was a double or triple dollar whammy that still has many fish biologists, equipment operators, TU members, and wild trout in Wisconsin very disappointed.

We all are beginning to understand and feel the impact of our nation's current financial situation, and apparently the habitat work we do will not escape these troubled times.

We do have 2009 work funded for three of our multi-year projects. However, we will be scaling back the extent of work on these projects. One result of these decreases may be that it forces us to explore more efficient, innovative, cost-saving methods that will help us keep chugging along to create trout habitat.

(USFWS), Rob Herman, Pete Segerson, Steve Fauver, Don Schmitt, George Brown, Greg Reick, Keith Weaver, Dave Schmidt, Mike Simplot, and August Luther (WDNR), Jeff Larson (teacher, Osseo-Fairchild Middle School), and Melinda Goplin (Whitehall HS).

Traverse Valley Creek (Trempealeau Co.)

In 2003, the Elk Rod/Gun Club of Independence started a small 500' restoration project on the Ed and Mary Anderson property to stabilize eroding stream banks and improve habitat. The Andersons liked what they saw and gave TU a fishing easement. This set the stage for more improvement work.

In 2007, our club spent 600 hours improving another 1,500 feet by removing box elder, installing trout structures, seeding, and mulching.

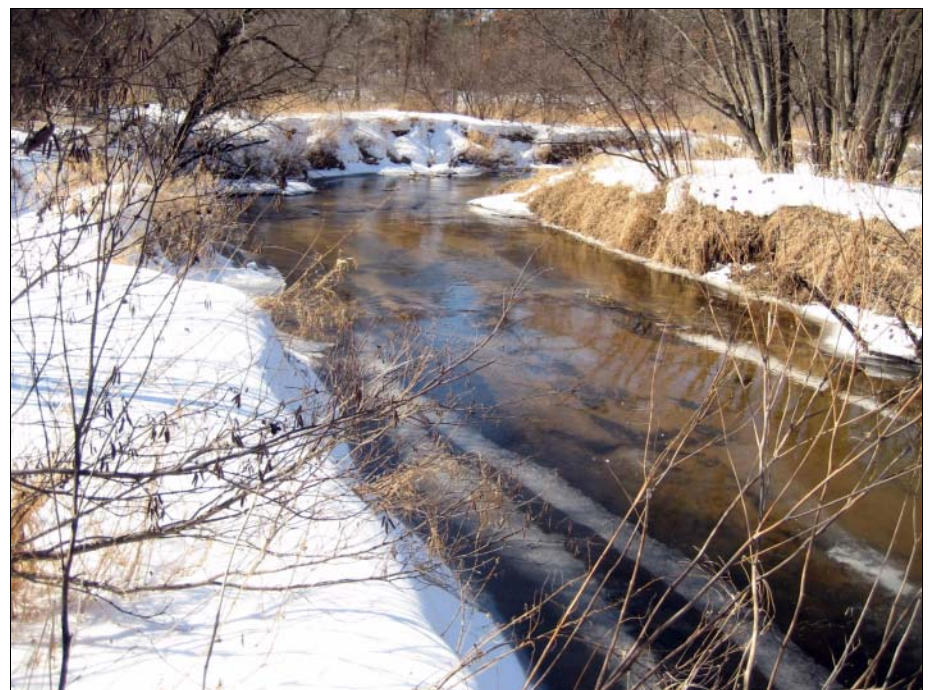
Workdays were held from December through March to remove trees. Some trees were saved and used as log deflectors, but most became firewood. Jetted trout structures were installed by volunteers from the Arcadia Sportsman's Club, Elk Rod/Gun, Quality Habitat Improvements, and Independence HS.

Club president Bob Pietrek

thanks the following partners for making this project happen: Jay Moe of Arcadia Sportsman's Club, Bruce Knutson of Associated Rod/Gun Clubs of Trempealeau Co, Ed and Mary Anderson, the City of Independence, Clear Waters TU, Elk R/G Club, Jeff Hastings of TU-

DARE, Louise Mauldin and Vicki Hershboeck of USFWS, Trempealeau Co. Hwy. Dept., Trempealeau Community Cable TV, and WDNR fisheries staff Dan Hatleli, Eric Kramer, and Rob Herman.

Project manager Rob Herman is planning more work for 2009.



ELK CREEK MULTI-YEAR PROJECTS CONTINUING

Elk Creek's wide, shallow areas (top) continue to receive attention, like this stretch just north of Hwy. 29 (bottom).

WITU State Council has new web site

By Jim Hlaban
WITU Webmaster

The address is the same, www.WisconsinTU.org, but the look of the State Council's web site is brand new.

Not only is the look new, but the technology is new, too. The new site is much easier to modify and update, and it does not take an expert to make changes. In fact, most people who are comfortable using a computer can register and add or modify items for their chapter or the State Council within minutes.

Jim Hlaban is the new webmaster. He succeeds Jaimie Sundsmo, who has managed the site the past four years.

Jim and his son, Ben, of Northstar Solutions, recommended the change last year, and Jim volunteered to be webmaster.

After viewing a demonstration of the technology and reviewing the estimated costs, the WITU executive committee approved the change.

The new web site launched in September and is being steadily upgraded.

WisTrout back issues online

WITU Publications Director Todd Hanson has loaded all past electronic issues of *Wisconsin Trout* onto the site. These issues have a lower "web" quality and are available as Adobe Acrobat files.

The on-line issues date back to the fall of 1999 when Hanson began editing the paper. Story headlines are shown for each issue so readers can see what's in an issue before downloading it. Find these back issues under the site's "News" tab.

Information about major projects has also been added. A WI-

KI history module of the council and chapters was added to try to capture information about when and who began each chapter. If you know some chapters history, please contribute to this effort.

In order to contribute to the site, you need to register. There are other reasons to register and log in. Eventually there will be information visible only to registered users. We will also be able to send notices of breaking news and reminders of upcoming events to all registered users.

We promise this list of registered users will not be shared with anyone, so visit the site, create a user name and password, and enjoy.

New chapter sites being created

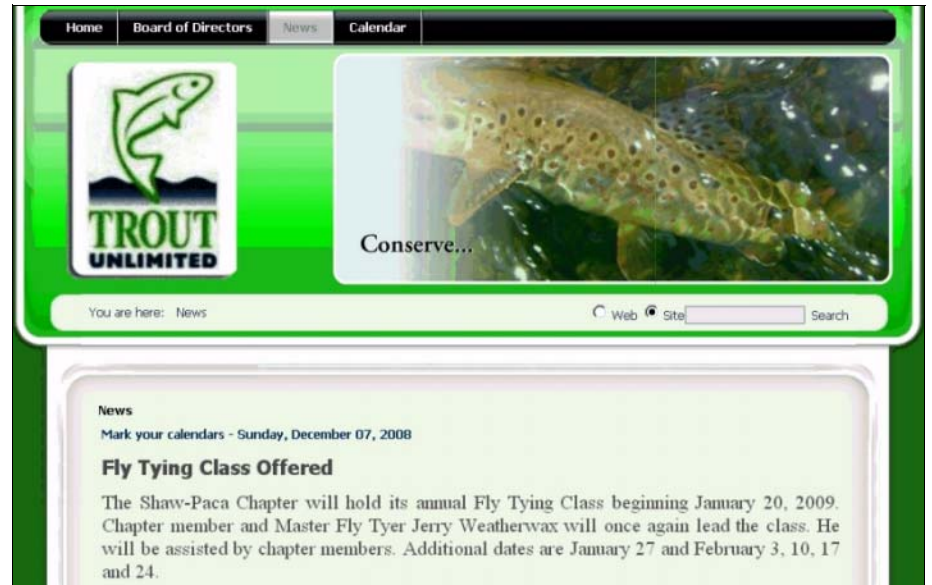
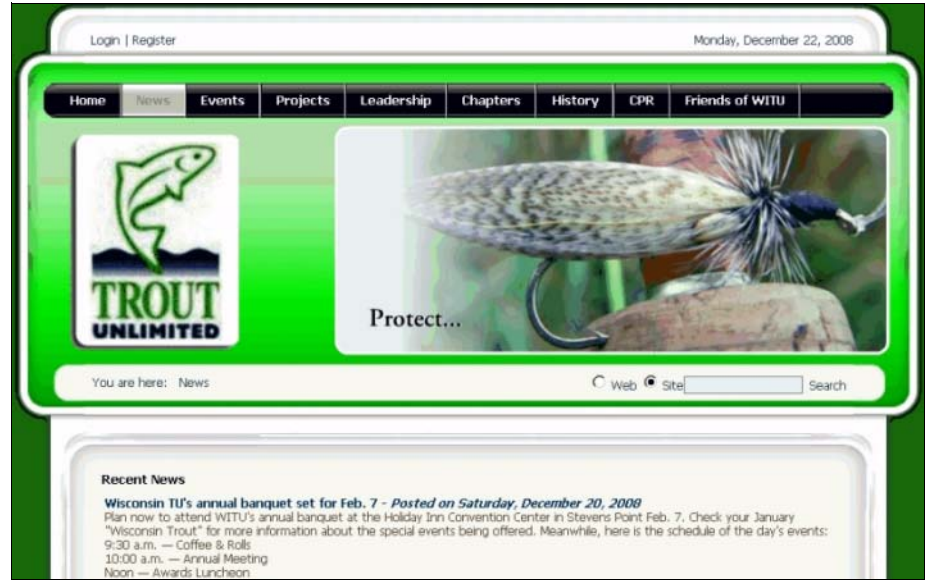
Another major benefit of the new site is that "child" sites similar to the main site can be created by our local chapters. This allows the State Council to offer free web sites to all chapters that don't yet have a stand-alone site. So far four chapters have used this feature to create new chapter web sites. (See the home page for more information on these brand new chapter sites.)

All a chapter needs to do to create its own site is to find a volunteer webmaster and have him or her contact Jim to get started. This is a great way to communicate with your chapter members in addition to any newsletter you may distribute. And it's free.

If you go to the "Chapter" tab of the site, you'll find a link to every chapter's web site.

Hlaban is offering basic information on the site, but he will add features as chapters request them.

Another major benefit of the new site is that "child" sites similar to the main site can be created by our local chapters.



STATE COUNCIL'S AND SHAW-PACA'S "NEWS" PAGES

The State Council's "News" page (top) has a lot in common with the news page of Shaw-Paca's new "child" web site. Notice that the council's site has nine major tabs across the top, whereas Shaw-Paca's site has just four so far. The council's new site lets chapters create their own, easy-to-modify sites.

Budget woes may dominate state legislative session

By Bill Pielsticker
WITU Legislative Chair

Even before the financial crisis began unfolding last fall, there were signs that Wisconsin's state budget was facing a serious deficit.

Since then, the Governor's office has projected at least a \$5 billion shortfall across the next two years, barring some very heavy lifting by the state Legislature.

Federal help may cut that some, but state agencies have been asked to make sharp cuts in their budget requests.

So far, there have been no announcements of lay-offs, but as many as 10% of state positions have been left unfilled. In the meantime, agencies with public grant programs have been instructed not to distribute new funds.

The economic situation may require that programs like the recently expanded cost-sharing for nutrient management be cut back. So far, that hasn't happened. We will be working to ensure that this program is funded and that the counties have adequate staffing resources to manage it.

Despite the budget woes, the post-election make-up of the state Legislature presents us with some opportunities on our conservation priorities. Due in part to the work of TU's Jeff Smith and Dan Wisniewski, the conservation community has adopted strengthening the groundwater law as one of their four priority issues for the year. We hope to

see a bill introduced and adopted to provide protection to streams and wetlands that currently fall outside the requirement for review under the existing law.

Many TU members are eager to see the DNR secretary provided some protection from political pressure. This is the goal of returning the authority to appoint the DNR secretary to the Natural Resources Board. Again, this is one of the four priority issues adopted by the conservation community for this session, and it would appear to be

within reach. We will do what we can to make that happen.

Lastly, we may have a window of opportunity to formally apply appropriate water

pollution and conservation standards to cranberry producers in the state. There is growing worldwide demand for cranberry products, demand that exceeds supply.

As cranberry production expands, it seems appropriate that growers be required to meet the same standards other industries must meet.

Many cranberry growers voluntarily meet those standards, but we don't feel these standards should remain voluntary. Uniform and appropriate standards will protect our water resources, level the playing field for all producers, and ensure broad public support for this industry. Former legislative chair Jeff Smith has agreed to lead this effort. We'll keep you advised of our progress.

TU in the news

Stream monitoring efforts noted in WI Outdoors News

The following story by Elizabeth Goers appeared in the Nov. 28 issue of *Wisconsin Outdoors News*.

Goers is a UW-Madison graduate student who has been working in conjunction with Kris Stepenuck of the UW Extension's Water Action Volunteers (WAV) program to publicize the state's growing citizen stream monitoring program.

You can download this story at WITU's web site at www.WisconsinTU.org under the "news" tab.

Page 4 WISCONSIN OUTDOORS NEWS



Tim Plegier, of Green Bay, battled this 53½-inch, 41-pound Green Bay muskie on Nov. 8. The fish hit a Bucher Shallow Raider.

TU members help trout, and trout streams

By Elizabeth Goers
Contributing Writer

"I really have replaced my fishing with water monitoring," said Jim Hlaban, of Ogdensburg, an active member of the Fox Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited for 31 years.

He's been the chapter's stream restoration coordinator on and off for the past 25 years.

It may seem strange that an avid fisherman would give up his sport, but Hlaban sees commonalities between fishing and monitoring.

"It's a very similar experience; you get out in the streams, you experience wildlife," Hlaban said. "Instead of catching fish, you're catching macro-invertebrates, though we do occasionally catch fish. I always tell people the biggest difference is when I went trout fishing I was seeking solitude and when you're stream monitoring, you don't mind some company. It's a little more social."

Goers began reporting on the work of TU members who help trout, and trout streams in Wisconsin and a better relationship between TU and the Wisconsin DNR. The stream monitors collect data through a citizen-based stream-monitoring program in association with "Water Action Volunteers" and the DNR.

Braum and Hlaban's work—and the work of others—has led to restoration of trout streams in Wisconsin and a better relationship between TU and the Wisconsin DNR. The stream monitors collect data through a citizen-based stream-monitoring program in association with "Water Action Volunteers" and the DNR.

"For us, as we enter our information, it lends the club credibility," said Jim Waters, of White Lake. A member on and off for 20 years of the Wolf River TU chapter, Waters now serves on TU's board of directors. "We are on top of things here; we are eager to cooperate with people involved with monitoring, and also it gives us a picture of the stream quality over the years."

John Gemmer, of Wisconsin, uses, as does the Central Trout Unlimited Chapter, the data collected from stream monitoring to guide stream restoration efforts.

"We have restoration work going right now on Lawson Creek," Gemmer said. "Forty years after its initial restoration, it is beginning to fall apart. The creek has gotten wider and shallower. There have been fewer fish and smaller fish lately. What we are doing is narrowing the stream's

width in different structures to gauge out the stream bottom to make it deeper, and adding habitat for trout to hide. We've been working on this for a couple years."

"I think all of the Trout Unlimited groups should be involved in monitoring," Gemmer said. "The water is right there in front of you—it can only make things better to know the data. Monitoring also has opened up a better relationship and communication lines between the DNR and us. We are getting a lot more stream work done because we can use the data to get the message across."

According to the latest data on the DNR web site, Wisconsin possesses 4,136 miles of Class I streams that are able to sustain populations of wild trout at or near capacity without stocking.

One of the biggest challenges facing stream restorers now is what some call the overabundance of beavers. With the number of trappers sliding over the past few years, the beaver population keeps growing, and so do their dams.

"Monitoring is helpful in getting information reported about beaver dams, which devastate the trout streams," Hlaban said. "I'm sure there are a number of dams we wouldn't have discovered if it wasn't for stream monitors being in there and understanding what to look for."

TU chapters receive special written permission from the DNR to trap on public land, or permission from the owner of private land to trap beavers during the off-season.

If a beaver builds a dam, the trout can't migrate upstream and spawn, causing the trout population to decrease. The water rising behind the dam also places pressure on the natural water springs, causing the springs to slow. For example, beaver dams caused the decline of trout and the habitat of Nine Mile Creek near Wisconsin.

"We know there was a beaver dam farther upstream. I went out and caught the beavers," said Harvey Collum, who lives in Iola and continues his Central Trout Unlimited membership despite moving out of area. He monitored streams for three years before injuring his knee this past summer.

"I had a special permit during summer, before trapping season," he said. "When beavers dam up the stream, you get a backlog of water and that causes the water temperature to rise, and trout need cold water."

But it's not only the trout and streams that benefit from monitoring. Hlaban maintains stream monitoring has increased his knowledge as a trout fisherman.

"What I am really trying to do is understand the whole system and put the streams in priority as to what streams are the best trout habitats," Hlaban said. "Then I look for streams to be restored that are in our area to improve the value of what we are doing with monitoring."

Anyone interested in becoming a stream monitor may contact Kris Stepenuck of Water Action Volunteers (WAV) by phone at (608)264-8948 or by e-mailing kris.stepenuck@wisconsin.gov.



QUICKFISH

Eskimo

SNAKE RIVER: groups renew push to remove harmful dams

Continued from p. 1

Immediately after the dams' construction, wild Snake River salmon and steelhead populations plummeted by 90%.

The best available science today shows that removing the four lower Snake River dams must be at the heart of any effective recovery plan.

A comprehensive Snake River legislative "salmon solutions" package will do more than increase wild salmon numbers. It will:

1. Create sustainable family-wage jobs.

Removing the four lower Snake River dams will create thousands of family-wage jobs and help to restore the commercial and sport fisheries of the Pacific salmon states.

2. Restore 140 miles of river and 30,000 acres of parklands and wildlife habitat.

A restored Snake River will return rapids, recreation, wildlife habitat and plentiful salmon — uncovering thousands of acres of riverfront to help wildlife, farms and towns thrive again, and reconnecting the Snake River to its spectacular canyons and magnificent salmon runs.

3. Enhance the recreation economy based on a free-flowing river.

A restored Snake River will provide year-round recreation including hiking, hunting, bird watching, salmon and steelhead fishing, rafting, kayaking and canoeing — pumping tens of millions of dollars into the region's communities.

4. Address safety concerns associated with aging dams.

Removing the four lower Snake River dams will reduce flood risk and save money. These four dams

are facing expensive repairs and maintenance. Lower Granite dam is creating a serious flood risk for the city of Lewiston, Idaho because of sediment piling up behind the dam.

5. Eliminate subsidized barge transportation and invest in an efficient rail network.

Removing the four lower Snake River dams will create the opportunity to bring a more efficient, modernized transportation system that includes rail and highway improvements to farming communities for shipping and exports.

6. Replace hydroelectricity with clean, affordable, salmon-friendly energy.

Smart investments in efficiency and renewable sources like wind and conservation can more than replace these dams' limited energy production.

7. Keep farmers farming with secure water supplies.

Today, irrigation water for several orchards is drawn from the reservoir behind Ice Harbor dam. With upgraded equipment, this water can instead be drawn from a free-flowing Snake River, or replaced by local groundwater supplies.

For more information online, visit the Save Our Wild Salmon at www.wildsalmon.org.

(Trout Unlimited is an original partner organization of Save Our Wild Salmon, a coalition of conservation organizations, commercial and recreational fishing associations, and other citizen groups committed to working together to protect and restore healthy, abundant populations of wild salmon and steelhead to the rivers and streams of the Pacific Northwest. -Ed.)



WITU Looking Back

From the Winter 1979 WITU Newsletter...

TROUT STAMP FUNDS YIELD EARLY RESULTS

The Kinnickinnic River in St. Croix County is one of the midwest's outstanding trout streams. This summer, the Kinnickinnic's trout habitat capacity was significantly increased with the construction of 700 half-log structures. The structures, which provide cover for brown trout in a 3.8 mile stretch of the Class I stream, were financed by \$6,535 from DNR's Trout Stamp Fund. According to Bert Apelgren, Eau Claire Area fish manager, who has worked on the Kinnickinnic fishery development for 25 years, the unique feature of the stream is its proximity to the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Despite fishing pressure from Minneapolis-St. Paul, only 30 miles west, the Kinnickinnic maintains an excellent brown trout population, a direct result of its superb water quality. Statewide, to date over 21 miles of trout habitat have been improved and protected during 1978, compared to seven miles improved during all of 1977. Currently, 35 trout streams scheduled for habitat work are in various stages of development, with work to continue until freeze-up.

From the Winter 1989 Reflections...

Trout Unlimited Involved

State Environmental Groups Meet To Set Agenda for 1989

Leaders of the major conservation/environmental organizations met in the State Capitol on Saturday, Dec. 17th, to formulate plans and discuss issues for the 1989-1990 Wisconsin Legislative session. The meeting was organized by Rep. Spencer Black (D. Madison), chair of the Assembly Natural Resources Committee, and Senator Joe Strohl (D. Racine), majority leader in the State Senate.

Rep. Black began the meeting with a statement that he felt the time was ripe for forging ahead on environmental issues, because public awareness and interest in these issues is at its highest point since the environmental movement began in the 1970's. Black was quite optimistic that the next Legislature could pass some meaningful new laws to protect the environment provided the groups worked cohesively.

Over 50 people were in attendance, with representation from such diverse groups as the Sierra Club, Wisconsin Environmental Decade, Audubon Society, Lake Michigan Federation, Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, Wisconsin Conservation Congress, Izaak Walton League, Trout Unlimited, League of Women Voters, Wisconsin Bear Hunters Association, Wolf River

Lakes and Stearns Alliance, and Wisconsin Waterfowlers Association. Trout Unlimited members present that day were Chairman Dick Wachowski, N.E. Regional VP, Mitch Bent (Both representing T.U.), and Dave Ladd of Dodgeville (representing the Conservation Congress).

Through the process of discussion and prioritizing, the individuals in attendance listed their most important issues as thus:

- 1) Wetlands protection (including a "no-net-loss" policy, stronger state controls, and repeal of rules exempting cranberry operations from regulation under chapters 30 and 31 of the State administrative code).
- 2) Increased regulation of water and air toxins with emphasis on source reduction
- 3) (tied with #2) the Stewardship Program for increased funding for wildlife and fish habitat
- 4) support for passage of the Lower Wisconsin River Plan.

These items will be likely the high priority issues for the environmental community during the upcoming Legislative session.

From the Winter 1999 Wisconsin Trout...

Some more "dam" good news!

Colfax dam gone; 18-Mile Creek restored

Two years ago, trout anglers in western Wisconsin rejoiced when the **Mounds Dam** on St. Croix County's **Willow River** was slated for demolition and removal. That decision cleared the way for restoring a segment of a popular Wisconsin trout stream.

Just as important, but with considerably less fanfare, another dam on a western Wisconsin trout stream bit the dust this past year when the **Colfax Dam** (Dunn Co.) was removed from **Eighteen-Mile Creek** near the stream's confluence with the **Red Cedar River**. And restoration efforts on Eighteen-Mile Creek (EMC) are showing that quality trout water can be restored quickly once dams are removed from free-flowing waters.

The EMC at Colfax had been dammed for over 100 years, with the most recent structure built in 1957. As in every case where dams span rivers or streams, the impoundment behind the Colfax dam became filled with sediment and no longer provided the scenic or recreational value it once did.

While the original water depth in the impoundment after the 1957 construction was about 10-16 feet, sediment accumulation over the years reduced that to an average depth of **three feet** at best during normal water periods. Summer water depths were even lower, and the impounded area was described as nothing but sand flats and mosquito habitat."

Several years ago, the Wisconsin

Department of Natural Resources ordered that the dam either be removed or replaced. Dam replacement - and subsequent dredging of the pond - was estimated to cost at least **\$1 million**, a large amount of money to be borne by the small Village of Colfax. After a series of public meetings and a referendum, the Village Board of Trustees decided to remove the dam.

At this point, the **Ojibseau Chapter of Trout Unlimited** stepped up to become an important partner in seeing removal of the dam and restoration of EMC to completion, according to Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Council Chairman **John Welter**, who was chapter president at that time.

(Rest of story deleted due to space. -Ed.)

Mysteries have something fishy for readers

By John Welter

A trio of Upper Midwestern writers has all published a new mystery novel in their respective series, and they all offer wintertime page-turning action in settings familiar to many Wisconsin trout anglers.

Regardless of their contributions to the literary world, it's always fun to have one of these fictional characters take time from sleuthing a mysterious death to attend a Northwoods TU meeting, or fish a Pink Squirrel, or tip back a Leinie's. Original with a plate of walleye at a Friday night fish fry in the middle of nowhere.



Victoria Houston
Dead Hot Shot

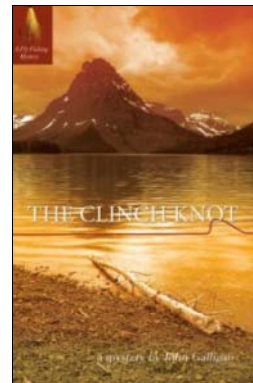
Victoria Houston's *Dead Hot Shot*, her ninth Loon Lake Mystery, brings back her familiar characters, retired dentist Dr. Osborne and local Sheriff Lewellyn Ferris, and confronts them with the body of a difficult

heiress floating just off her mansion's pier on an Oneida County lake.

Houston's ensemble of characters has become better-defined in her recent books, with more depth and sometimes surprising talents and nuanced relationships. But sometimes her strength seems to be in transporting the reader to scenes in the Northwoods not often de-

scribed in fiction: The backside-of-nowhere bar that lies just outside the law, the lakeside tavern whose scent of fried perch wafts across the dark lake, or the McMansion dominating the shore whose owners are part of that separate monied world who form a separate society across the lake country.

This Houston novel reminds us that the skeins of outlawry take many forms, even bringing high-tech crime to the backwoods.



John Galligan
The Clinch Knot

he's back with *The Clinch Knot*, but he's had his main character, Dog, move west to a polyglot part of Montana that combines segments of several familiar rivers. The RV is getting run down now, and the Dog is still moving away from a disappointing life in the northeast by fishing his way across the country. Again, a murder shocks the community, and the angling setting brings together a raft-full of characters.

The first two Dog novels featured colorfully drawn characters

Madison writer John Galligan took us to two familiar streams in Wisconsin's Driftless Area in his first mystery novels — Black Earth Creek in *The Nail Knot* and the West Fork of the Kickapoo in *The Blood Knot*. Now

we all might recognize from Black Earth Creek or the West Fork of the Kickapoo, and Galligan is at it again here. A local lawyer spends his time running ultra marathons and pursuing a pronghorn on foot to prove that he can run it to ground. White supremacists construct a world where their race is threatened by a perceived wave of outsiders. A former circus clown figures out a guiding service as a cover for a scheme that provides more income than most service professions, most of it illegal. A tough guy movie star has cowboys and two hapless supremacists as his main service staff.

Galligan, like Houston, is having fun drawing these characters, and moves forward in this book with a stronger plot and better-described action. Some more fanciful altered perception scenes in a past book are gone from this one, a change that's an improvement for a reader. And we even find a cameo by a familiar Wisconsin nymph that turns out to be deadly for large western rainbows.



Joe Heywood
Death Roe

Death Roe is the sixth novel in Joe Heywood's Woods Cop mystery series. It is set mostly in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and features a veteran conservation warden, Grady Service. Heywood spent a

career in corporate communications before publishing his first book, and his second career is infinitely more interesting. His main character is a rough-hewn guy who reminds me of the bumper sticker on a truck often parked near my office: "My only domestic quality is that I live in a

house." But he'd rather be operating in the woods and waters of the U.P., cat-and-mousing with poachers in places where his father was a warden before him. He's had his share of ups and downs, mostly downs, but has a sense for sniffing out woods criminals that's almost feral.

Heywood's new novel starts local but becomes larger, eventually international in scope, with an operation collecting roe from Great Lakes salmon that's quite legal and known to authorities. (In Wisconsin, early season spawning salmon roe are collected by DNR fisheries staff and sold to a fish-bait company before the bulk of the spawners give up their eggs for hatchery reproduction.) But the Michigan operation is controlled by eastern and international interests and the eggs are secretly sold off as caviar, even though they're contaminated with toxic chemicals. Service's sniffing around leads him to work with the IRS and other law enforcement agencies to figure out the ruse and chase down its kingpins.

Heywood's strengths are in describing the U.P. outdoors and a law enforcement program focused on natural resources. In past books we've been treated to the history and traditions of a close-knit warden force, and in recent books we're seeing more and more of the modern approach of wardens working with higher tech methods and a wider range of agency partners. A century of police work and detective novels and a half-century of TV cop shows have made us familiar with those realms, or at least with their fictional versions, but a well-written warden tale like Heywood's takes us into unfamiliar territory.

Another Heywood book with some enjoyable shorter stories, many of them involving his treasured trout fishing, is *Covered Waters: Tempests of a Nomadic Trout* (2003). You might find it good winter reading, as I did.

John Galligan, *The Clinch Knot*, Bleak House Books, Madison, 318 pages; Victoria Houston, *Dead Hot Shot*, Bleak House Books, Madison, 272 pages; Joseph Heywood, *Death Roe*, Lyons Press, 346 pages.

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

Southern Wisconsin Chapter Trout Unlimited's 25th Annual

ICE BREAKER

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17

8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Promega Biotechnology Center, 5445 East Cheryl Parkway, Fitchburg, WI



Featuring Rich Osthoff

Author of 3 fly-fishing books including most recently **Active Nymphing**.

Rich is an innovative fly fisherman, guide and designer.

Also Featuring



Dave Barron

Dave is an FFF master fly caster and he will demo casting strategies with his talk.

Jim Bartelt

Jim is one of SWTU's most skilled fishermen and guides.

He will recount some of the chapter's accomplishments over the last 40 years.



Raffle Items and Door Prizes including: Quality Fly Rods and Reels, Presentation Flies, Fine Prints, and many other items donated by area businesses.

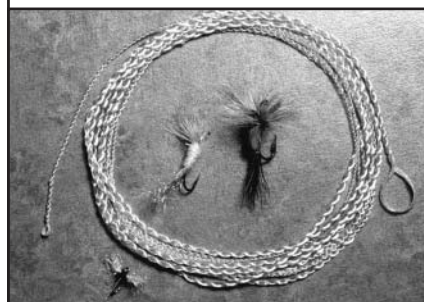


Advance Tickets \$9 (\$10 at door). Contact Brendan Budack at www.swt.org

INFO: Josh Palmer at joshuacpalmer@gmail.com or www.swt.org

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5. Don't keep fish out of the water more than 10-15 seconds.

Versatile parachutes can be modified on-stream

By Henry Kanemoto

Most fly fishers who consider the parachute as a dry fly were probably surprised when Gary Borger described the parachute as closer to an



Standard parachute pattern



Parachute modified into a suspender resembling a klinkhammer



Parachute repositioned to turn fly into a spinner pattern

emergent pattern. Because the parachute hackle is tied above the body, the body of a parachute rides low on and in the film. The post of a parachute mimics the body and wing of the emerging insect. The tail of the fly imitates the nymphal shuck.

The reason the parachute is so effective during a hatch is that it is a

“tweener” pattern — close enough to an emerger when the fish are feeding on emergers, and yet close enough to the dun when the fish are feeding on the adults. Because of the low-riding position of the fly, the trout can easily take it for an emerging adult, a stillborn, or a drowned adult trapped in the film.

Usually the parachute is tied with stiff tailing material such as microfibbets to imitate the adult dun.

However, to better imitate an emerger, the parachute should be tied with tailing material that imitates the nymphal shuck such as zelon, wood duck fibers, or pheasant tail. Most fly fishers will treat the entire fly with floatant. However, if we only treat the post and hackle with floatant, the untreated body and tail of the fly will sink into or under the film. The parachute is then suspended in the film by the hackle and the fly becomes a more effective emerger.

I'd like to take that concept a step further and show how a few on-stream modifications can turn the generic parachute into a fly that is nearly as effective as more specialized patterns.

The parachute fly is a prototype of the klinkhammer pattern, invented by the Hans van Klinken as an emerger pattern. Put the flies side by side and you can see how the parachute inspired the development of the klinkhammer. One change Hans van Klinken made was to tie his klinkhammer on a hook that angles the body of the fly downward just behind the post so that the body of the fly is suspended below the surface film, just like an emerging insect. This angled shape of the klinkhammer allows the fly to penetrate the surface film as the fly lands tail end down and orients the body of the fly under the water at the proper angle.

This type of fly design is known as a suspender pattern because the fly is suspended in the film with the body of the emerging insect above the surface, and tail of the fly under

the surface just like a nymph or pupal shuck during the emergence.

Many effective patterns such as Bob Quigley's quigley cripple and quigley emerger take this approach.

We can modify the parachute fly on the stream to become a more effective emerger by holding the fly with our hemostat just behind the post and bending the front end of the fly downward about 30 to 40 degrees. This will angle the body of the fly just like the klinkhammer.

Treat just the post and hackle of the fly with floatant. The body of the parachute will then penetrate the surface film just like a klinkhammer.

The second modification that can be made is to turn the parachute into a spinner pattern. On many occasions, I've taken my iris scissors and cut off the post of the parachute. The front and back hackle are trimmed so that the only fibers left are those projecting fanlike to the side just like the wings of a spent spinner. The horizontal tie of the parachute hackle makes an ideal imitation of the flat splayed wings of the spent spinner.

The reason the parachute makes such a good spinner pattern is that the hackle is tied in above the body. Where are the wings on a real mayfly spinner — above the body! Therefore, a spinner tied with the wings above the body will have a truer surface impression that one with wings tied at the same level as the body as in a standard spinner pattern.

So is the parachute a dry, an emerger, a stillborn, a cripple, a drowned adult, or a spent spinner? It can be all those things when properly modified. A few snips with a pair of scissors or a bend placed in the body, and the parachute can become nearly as effective an emerger or spinner pattern as more specialized patterns tied specifically for the situation at hand.

(Henry Kanemoto is a charter member of the Wisconsin River Valley Chapter of TU. This story originally appeared in April/May 2008 issue of Wisconsin River Valley Chapter's The Riffle and Pool newsletter. Expect some more of these pieces from Henry in coming issues. -Ed.)

Wild Turkey Peacock wet fly

By Larry Meicher

Here is a nice little wet fly made from the turkey body feathers so



many of us hunters have on hand these days.

When you see flies on the surface but no apparent rises, fish this one underwater!

Begin by covering the hook shank with thread and attach hackle barb tail.

The fly is weighted at the rear so it will tend to sink tail first. This gives the fly the appearance of a heads-up emerging insect, so wrap 7-8 turns of .015 diameter lead near the hook bend and cover the lead with thread.

Tie in the gold rib tinsel and several peacock herls. Wrap the herl forward, followed by the ribbing.

Tie in the turkey maribou, trim, and finish/cement the head.

MATERIALS LIST Wild Turkey Peacock

Hook: Mustad 3906B, #10-16.

Thread: Black.

Tail: Coachman brown hackle barbs or antron shuck.

Body: Peacock herl or grey or tan wool yarn.

Wing: Wild turkey maribou from body feathers.

Rib: Gold tinsel.

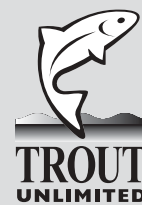
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Multi-species fly fishing expert



Tim Landwehr
Fly fishing guide for local and destination fly fishing
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Friends grants helping many a worthy habitat project

By Steve Hill

Friends of WITU Chair

There is a story in this issue of *Wisconsin Trout* about how the higher rates the WDNR has to pay to rent heavy equipment from the Dept. of Administration is decreasing the miles of habitat the trout stamp program will be able to improve in coming years.

Even though gas prices have come down in recent weeks, the state budget operates on a two-year basis, so it is unlikely the higher

equipment rental rates can be renegotiated until 2010.

This makes it all the more important that grant programs like the Friends of Wisconsin TU are around to contribute to projects. Keep this in mind as you consider joining or renewing your Friends membership. And if you are spearheading a local restoration project, be sure to submit a Friends grant application as part of your funding mix.

Your chapter can apply for a Friends grant at any time. Applica-

tions are considered as they arrive, typically right after a WITU State Council meeting when all the regional vice chairs are available to review and act on requests.

For more information about the Friends grant application process, contact me.

It won't be long before the 2009 Friends appeal begins. Look for it in your mailbox this spring and contribute generously.

Appreciative IL angler

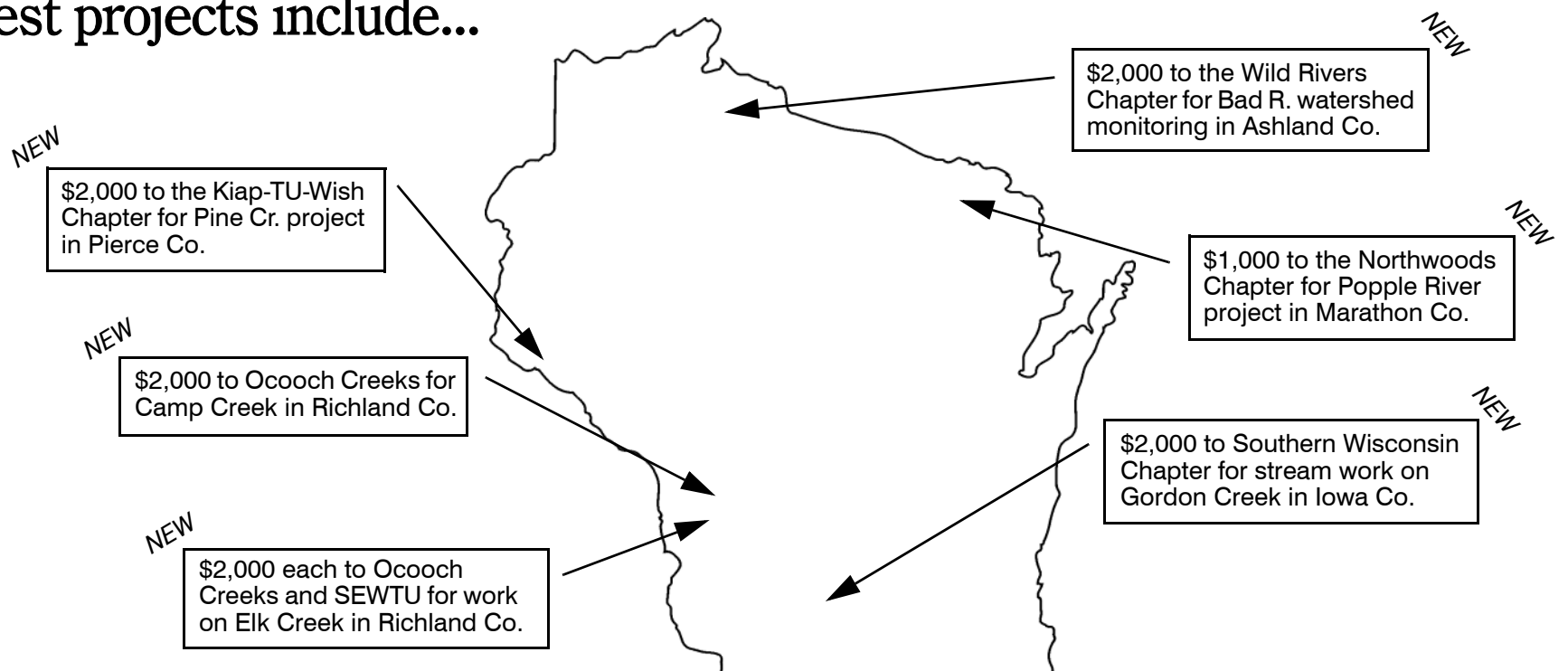
On another note, I received a note from an Illinois trout fisher's

family a while ago with a check payable to our Friends program.

Turns out this gentleman was an Illinois TU member who had fished in Wisconsin many times over the years. He knew what our Friends program had done for the quality of fishing in Wisconsin, and he appreciated it.

This gentleman made it known to his family that he'd like some money to go to our program, and that is just what happened. That is something more of us might want to keep in mind.

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



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

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