



Wisconsin Trout

October 2009



SEWTU WAS "GOLDEN" AT TROUT UNLIMITED'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY MEETING IN TRAVERSE CITY, MICHIGAN

Many Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter members traveled to Traverse City, Michigan, to take part in the ceremony naming SEWTU the nation's top chapter of 2009. On the podium accepting TU's Gold Trout Award were (l to r) Ivan

Nohavica, Mike Kuhr, Todd Durian, Bob Ondishko, Chapter President Henry Koltz, Past Chapter President Dan Asmus, Jim LaRose, Scott Criqui, Jason Freund, and Chris Weber.

TU names SEWTU the nation's top chapter

By Bill Heart

WITU State Council Chair

The Wisconsin State Council is proud of our Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter for its very deserving National Gold Trout Chapter Award.

The award was given to SEWTU at an awards ceremony August 21 as part of TU's 50th anniversary celebration in Traverse City, MI.

It is one thing to receive the 2008 Silver Trout Award for Chapter Merit from WITU, but to be chosen from the 400-plus national TU chapters as the outstanding chapter of the year during TU's 50th anniversary year is really special.

My personal highlight at the national meeting was seeing this group of SEWTU members and supporters who had driven from Milwaukee to accept their award at the luncheon.

SEWTU member Jon Christianson, a former WITU State Council chair and now a TU trustee, arrived just before the luncheon. He told me he was worried he was going to miss seeing "his boys" receive their award. This had to be the most SEWTU members I have ever seen in one spot.

The member turnout in Michigan shows how SEWTU President Henry Koltz can rally all of the support that he does.

We all know how much the SEWTU Chapter is doing. There are very few days that my e-mail subject list does not include something or other from SEWTU.

It was not that long ago, though, that the SEWTU Chapter was mired in kind of a funk. The chapter was having a difficult time providing services to its membership.

Rich Vetrano was elected president, and things started to change.

Meeting attendance grew from 20 to over 60, a web site and e-mail list were developed, and chapter members were offered many ways to become involved.

There is very little trout water in the chapter's counties, but the leadership started partnering with other chapters, primarily in the Driftless Area, to bring SEWTU's manpower to the waters its members fish.

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Council meeting recap

New Watershed Access Fund to get 2010 banquet proceeds

By Kim McCarthy and Todd Hanson

A highlight of the Sept. 19 WITU State Council meeting in Cross Plains was the adoption of a charter for the council's new Watershed Access Fund (see text on p. 6).

The new fund will contribute money to the WDNR, land trusts, and other entities for the purchase of lands and easements where trout streams are present and stream access is made a part of the deals.

To get the new fund off to a good start, the council approved allocat-

ing 100% of the net profits of this February's State Council banquet to the fund.

Additional start-up funds are coming from the recent settlement of the Graul Farms lawsuit.

WDNR's Mike Staggs present

WDNR Fisheries Management Director Mike Staggs was the featured guest at the meeting.

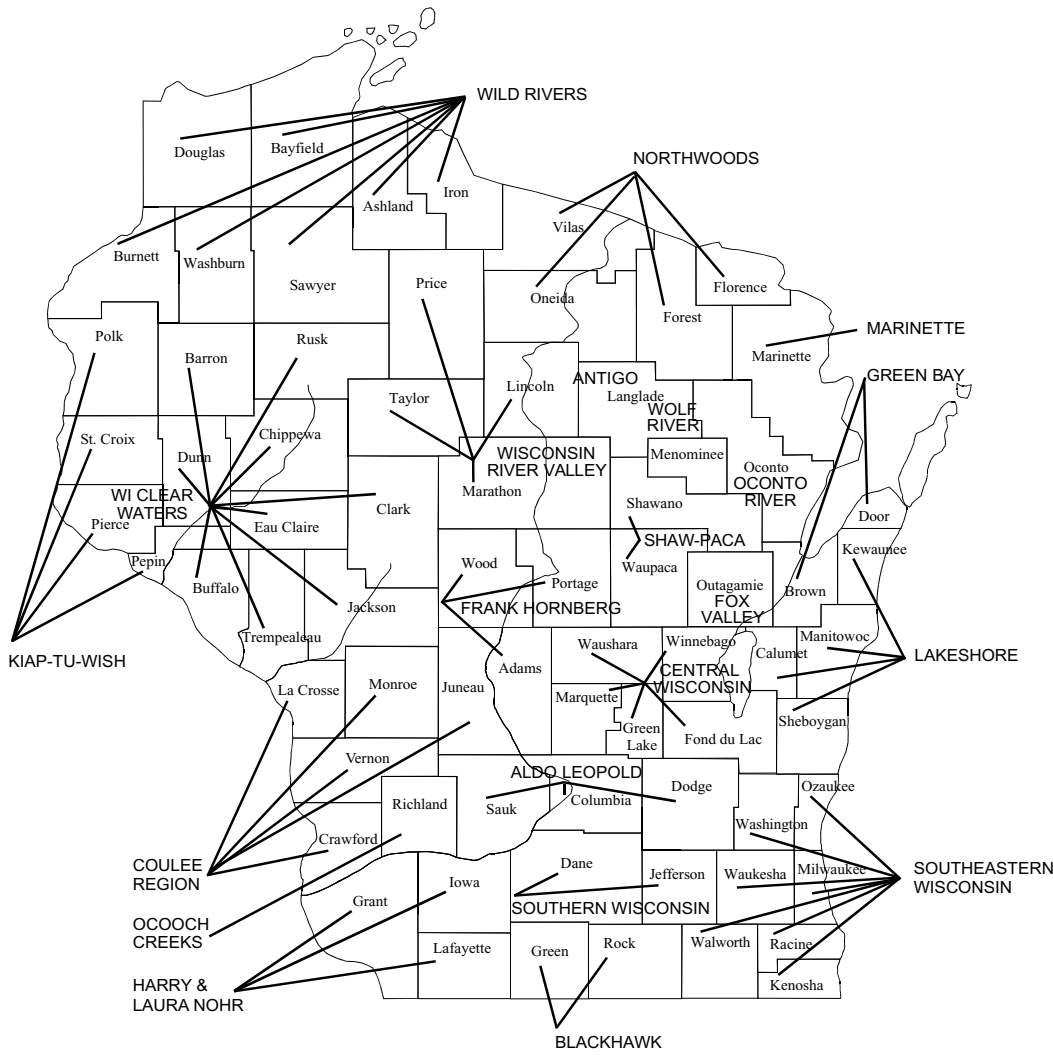
Staggs was asked why fewer trout habitat projects are being done in northern Wisconsin as compared to the southwest.

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Contact TU National when you change addresses or chapter leaders

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

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

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WITU reps discuss issues with DNR Sec. Matt Frank

By Todd Hanson

WITU State Council Chair Bill Heart and four other WITU members discussed a range of cold-water resource issues with WDNR Secretary Matt Frank in Madison Aug. 13.

Joining Frank at the meeting were DNR's Water Division Administrator Todd Ambs, Deputy Secretary Patrick Henderson, and Executive Assistant Mary Vollbrecht.

The meeting began with a discussion of the controversial Rosendale CAFO. In an April 2009 *Wisconsin Trout* editorial, Bill Heart called on Gov. Doyle to appoint an "outside panel of academic experts to review the DNR's permitting process" of CAFOs.

When asked if such a review was in the works, Frank said flatly that a review would not happen.

Ambs noted that about 20 DNR people were involved in the Rosendale CAFO permitting process, calling it "one of the strongest permits ever issued" by DNR.

Ambs said the DNR will consider it a violation of the Rosendale CAFO's permit if any manure runoff reaches local waters. He said DNR gets reports every other month from the CAFO on their nutrient management plan.

Ambs said DNR would be willing to work with TU and other local water monitors to track the



WITU REPRESENTATIVES MEET WITH WDNR SECRETARY

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited members met with Sec. Matt Frank (3rd from right) in Madison Aug. 13. Attending were (l to r) Henry Koltz, Todd Hanson, Bob Haase, Matt Frank, Bill Heart, and John Gremmer.

Rosendale dairy's manure spreading on local farm fields, something Central Wisconsin TU is considering. CWTU has developed extensive water monitoring expertise in recent years.

The TU delegation brought concerns from our northern chapters about the perceived imbalance in habitat work being done in the north compared to the south.

Frank said that recent state government budget cutbacks and hiring freezes have not affected trout stamp restoration work. He said that nine full-time equivalent (FTE) positions are working in trout stamp positions, the same number as in the previous budget.

Frank noted that TU might want to comment on a matter currently before the state Public Service Commission on the rate farmers are paid for electricity from manure digesters, something that could have broad implications for the widespread adoption of this technology.

Other topics discussed at the meeting included the desire to see more manure digesters on farms in sensitive geographic areas, the need for a state-wide trout management plan, WITU's new Land Access Fund, groundwater protection, and TU's opposition to efforts in some parts of the state to roll back special trout fishing regulations.

Frank and the TU delegation agreed that future meetings like this would be helpful.

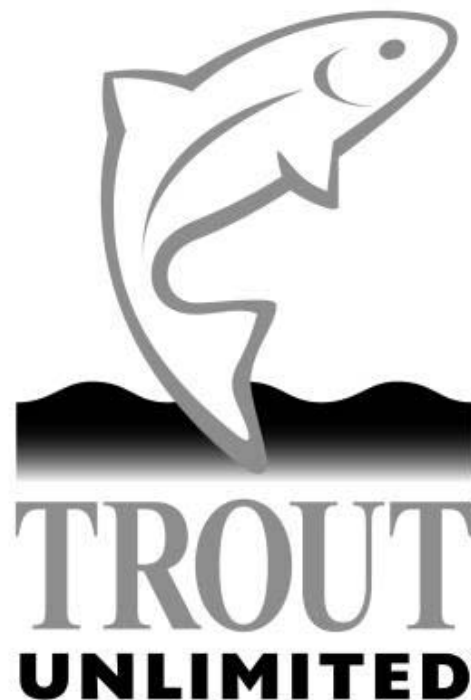
Mark your calendar for Wisconsin TU's 25th annual State Council Banquet Sat., Feb. 13, 2010, Stevens Point, WI

SOMETHING NEW!

All proceeds from this year's banquet go to WITU's new Watershed Access Fund! Your support will:

- (1) buy easements on trout streams running through private lands and**
- (2) help the WDNR, land trusts, and others buy land with high-quality trout waters.**

Let's get this fund off to a great start!



Also planned for this event:

Scott Grady custom bamboo rod. Buy a raffle ticket to win one of Scott's custom bamboo rods. Proceeds from this raffle will go to the new Watershed Access Fund.

Special workshops!

Guided fishing trips!

Observations from the road on my western trip

By Bill Heart

WITU State Council Chair



The National meeting in August was a pretty nice event. A number of Wisconsin TUers attended, including a large group from Southeastern WI to accept their well-deserved National Gold Trout Award. They were not there long, but they did make an impact. That was the main highlight for me.

One of the other highlights was meeting Art Newmann, one of TU's founders. Art is a very gracious man who is just excited at how TU has grown and become such an important conservation organization. I also met Nick Kraus, author of the book *Brook Trout*. It was pretty neat talking brook trout with him in the hospitality room after the daily events. Duke Welter always says that more is probably accomplished in the hospitality rooms than during the actual meetings.

One interesting thing I learned at the meeting was that the actual incorporation papers for TU were signed on July 15, 1959. That, by the way, was my twelfth birthday. I'm sure that I will remember that fact.

While getting ready for the fall State Council meeting, I thought that I needed to go on a road trip. Since I just turned 62 and received my first Social Security check just before the meeting, this trip is being financed by the government! What a great way to spend part of my first check. If I may, this column is my journal for this trip.

I left right after the State Council meeting and drove until after midnight, sleeping in a small park in western Iowa. I was so wired from the meeting and the excitement of the upcoming trip that I awoke at 5 a.m. and was back on the road. I was kind of hoping that when the sun rose, I would start seeing the mountains, but, as you know, Nebraska has none. I am driving my Prius, and to save the government some money and to better see the prairie states, I am staying off of the interstates.

I started fishing in Colorado in a small stream near Gunnison. As I reached higher elevations, there was a little snow present, and after a few hours fishing during a very windy day, it started to snow, mostly a hard corn snow. It was hard to believe that 18 hours earlier it was over 90 degrees in Kansas. I camped that night, and it got down to probably 20 or so.

After a day of sight-seeing the Black Canyon of the Gunnison (there's another trip for the future), I stopped at the Cimarron Creek Fly Shop in Montrose, Colorado, to find out about fishing possibilities. They sent me to Gunnison River Pleasure Park. Don't get the wrong idea, this is a fishing park and campground on the lower Gunnison. I walked into the bar/store/restaurant and was really surprised to walk into a Packer bar. The owner, Leroy Jagodinski, is originally from Manitowoc. He has a Packer helmet and a Bart Starr jersey on the wall, along with a few of "Brent" Farve's stuff. By the way, Leroy hates the Broncos.

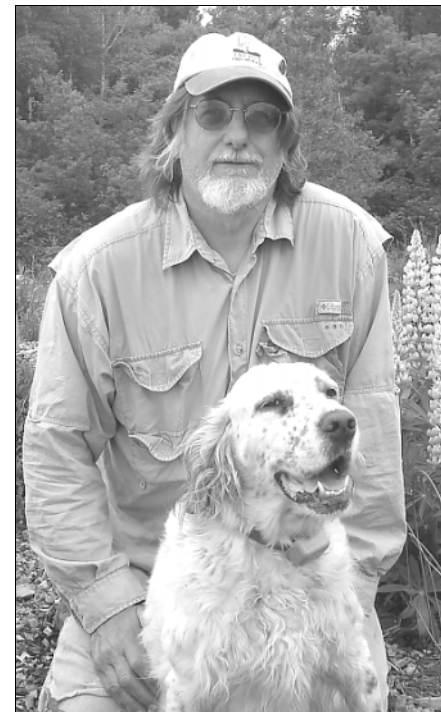
At the fly shop in Montrose, I got to talking with the owner, and he told me about a Trout Unlimited-led stocking workday that was going to happen Friday. So after a couple of days exploring and fishing, and a lit-

tle more snow, I am back at Pleasure Park to help with the stocking. This stocking is a joint project between Gunnison Gorge Anglers and the Grand Valley Anglers, both TU chapters, along with the Colorado Fish and Game department.

We were stocking a hybrid rainbow that is half Hoffer, an old American strain that was brought over from Germany, and half Colorado River strain. The combination of these two strains seems to be about 80% resistant to whirling disease. The Lower Gunnison lost most of its rainbows a number of years ago, and this strain does seem to be working out. They are actually seeing successful spawning in the Black Canyon section. Currently there are 90% browns in the river, but it used to be 50-50 browns and rainbows. The chapters are hoping to get back to the old levels.

I found it very interesting that of the 25-30 volunteers, there were only maybe seven or eight that were younger than 50 and only two women. I guess we all have same problem with getting younger people involved. It was a great day on the river, and I look forward to going back in a couple of years to see if I recognize any of these fish that I helped stock.

I may still be on my trip as this little narrative reaches your mailbox, but Todd has given me a deadline for *Wisconsin Trout*, so I am not able to continue this journal. My plans are to head to the Green River in Utah, then to Yellowstone to fish the Firehole, and finally to meet up with Steve Born to do some fishing on the Henry's Fork. After that, it's pretty much not planned until meeting friends in northwest North Dakota for a little sharptail hunting the first weekend in October.



Bill Heart with dog Ellie

Back to a little business. I encourage all of our chapter to get involved early with your donations to our annual banquet coming up February 13 in Stevens Point.

All of the proceeds from this year's banquet — plus the proceeds from a special raffle of a bamboo fly rod made and donated by Scott Grady of Appleton — will be going to the council's new Watershed Access Fund. This new fund was approved at the recent State Council meeting, and it will really ensure protection of and more access to our trout streams. This will be a great new initiative from Wisconsin TU. Please contact Banquet Chair Bill Pielsticker or me with any questions or donations. Let's make this the best banquet ever.

NLC meeting free of recent access concerns

By Dan Wisniewski

The 50th annual meeting of

Trout Unlimited in Traverse City, Michigan, provided an excellent opportunity to assess the current status

of the organization and to chart a path to the future. Although TU is facing the same problems as other conservation groups in this economic downturn, the organization has not had to lay off employees or cut back on any major programs. We should be well positioned when recovery occurs.

Lack of SAWG conflict

In some ways, the annual meeting was notable for what did *not* take place — there was almost no discussion of public access, an issue which threatened to divide and diminish TU in recent meetings. The process to decide how TU state councils and chapters will be involved in access disputes or legislative attempts to limit access is working well.

At this meeting, the Stream Access Work Group (SAWG), established two years ago to deal with access issues, met and gave the go ahead to Montana's State Council to fight a new attempt to amend their state constitution to limit access. As with every other SAWG vote on access issues, the vote on Montana was unanimous, with NLC members and Board of Trustee members in total agreement.

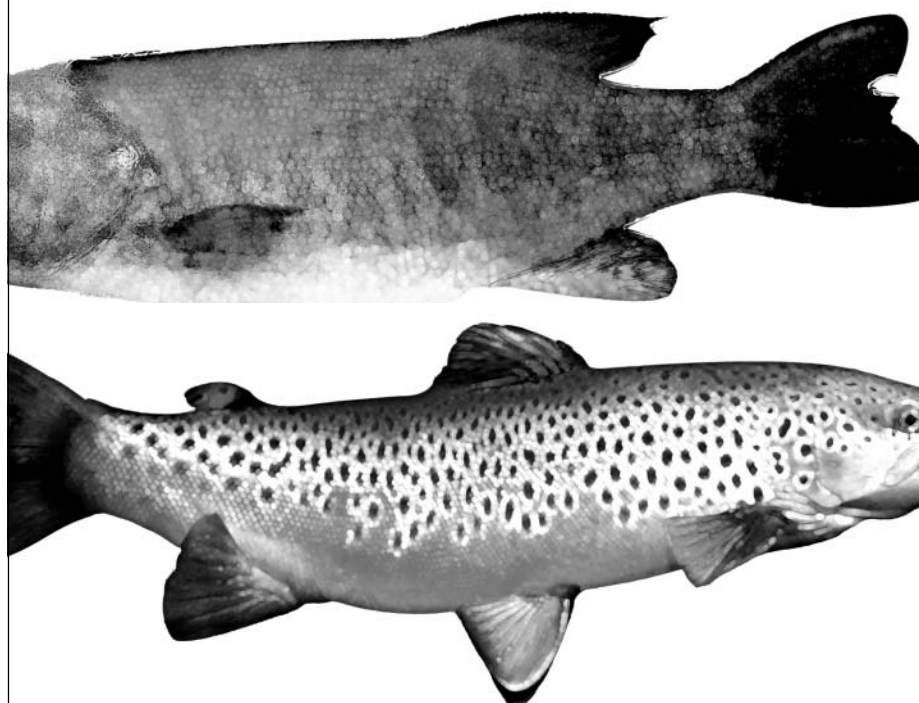
TU working with land trusts

There was also continuing progress on developing the new TU national grant program to aid collaborative projects between TU chapters and local land trusts. Serious fund raising by TU National will begin shortly, and the structure, criteria, and timetable of the new pro-

gram will be finalized this year. We hope the new grant program — which will resemble and complement the Embrace-A-Stream program — will be operating next year.

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A personal note from Dan...

"This was my fifth and last annual meeting as Wisconsin's NLC representative. My term ends in February. It's hard to believe it's been five years. I've enjoyed the experience immensely. I've especially appreciated the help and guidance I've gotten from Duke Welter who, as secretary and, for the past two years, chair of the NLC, has given me one interesting assignment after another chairing the Farm Bill and Land Conservancy Work Groups.

"When Duke and Steve Born asked me five years ago about succeeding Jeff Smith as Wisconsin's NLC rep, my main question was: does the NLC have any real power to affect change within TU, or does the Board of Trustees and TU staff really control everything? After five years, I can say the NLC has begun to assert itself, push for positive change, and really represent TU's grassroots. I'd encourage others to consider representing Wisconsin TU on the NLC. It takes some time and energy, but it can be extremely rewarding."

Chapter president profile

SEWTU ties on a new leader in Henry Koltz

By Mike Kuhr

Friday night at the Koltz residence starts like so many have before. Henry is busy boiling bratwurst in preparation for lunch after tomorrow's SEWTU workday. Having planned over 20 workdays in the last three years, Henry has the process down to a science. Chop two onions, add a beer for flavor, and bring to a boil. He can't hide his German heritage.

While lunch may seem trivial compared to the actual habitat work, Henry realizes it's more than that. Lunch provides time to reflect and connect.

"It's about the volunteers," he says, "giving people a chance to do something good, making friends in the process, and creating a family and culture dedicated to being a positive force for conservation."

Henry grew up in a rural community in Jefferson County, an area not well known for its trout streams. A strong conservation ethic has been passed on for generations in the Koltz family.

"I am a reflection of my predecessors' efforts," says Henry.

Some of his earliest memories include fishing "Up North" with his father and grandfather. Now 33, chasing wild brook trout remains one of Henry's favorite activities.

After high school, Henry headed east to study at The College of William and Mary in Virginia. He returned to Wisconsin and earned a law degree from Marquette in 2001. When he's not planning an SEWTU event, Henry works as an attorney for the law firm Schmidt, Darling, & Erwin in Milwaukee.

A TU supporter for many years, Henry has become a more active member since 2003. He has served as SEWTU's secretary and vice president under past presidents Rich Vetrano and Dan Asmus. Henry also maintains SEWTU's web site and has compiled a massive e-mail list to effectively communicate with TU members.

Vetrano notes, "Henry is seemingly everywhere at once. He's at every workday, every meeting, workshops, outings, SFPs, State Council meetings, fundraisers, sports shows...basically, if the chapter is involved, Henry is there. There is simply no one more dedicated."

In addition to his many SEWTU roles, Henry serves as Wisconsin TU's Southern Region Chair and sits on the TUDARE steering committee. TUDARE has played a significant role in SEWTU's revival in recent years.

What SEWTU lacks in local coldwater resources, it makes up for in sheer numbers. Henry went out and found a chapter with the opposite problem — the Ocooch Creeks Chapter has hundreds of miles of trout streams, but only a small, albeit dedicated, group of conservationists. A partnership was formed between our two chapters, and it has since blossomed to the benefit of trout in Richland County. Now, SEWTU makes a point to schedule 2-3 joint workdays per year outside of our immediate territory. By working together with other chapters, SEWTU is showing that we truly are "one TU."

In May of 2007, Henry helped organize one of the largest workdays in recent memory. All of 97unker structures were built in five hours for Camp Creek by 70 volunteers from seven different TU chapters from three states!

"Seeing that many people turn out from across the Driftless Area to work, for free, really left an



BOATS AND BIRKIES

Henry Koltz (above, kneeling) joined Duke Welter (far left), Bill Heart (3rd from left), and Todd Durian (2nd right) on a Green River float trip during last year's TU National meeting in Salt Lake City. Below Henry displays the medal he won at a recent Korteloppet cross country ski race in Hayward, WI.



impression on me." Koltz recalls. "I think there are a lot of people out there, especially sportsmen, looking for something truly good to be a part of. TU is a great vehicle to provide that opportunity."

Like many, Henry's volunteer efforts are made possible by the support of his spouse. He and his wife, Amy, reside in Brookfield with their two beautiful daughters. SEWTU is indebted to Amy for allowing Henry to be, well, Henry.

Fatherhood has reinforced another TU goal — youth education. Henry says his most rewarding workday was Nic Schmidt's Eagle Scout project, a habitat improvement project on the headwaters of the Milwaukee River. Nic organized and led the entire event. Henry is very proud that SEWTU felt it vital to be a part of Nic's project and support his efforts. He's always looking for the next opportunity to mentor a future conservationist.

Now that SEWTU has won the Gold Trout Award, TU's chapter of the year is not ready to rest on its laurels.

"The award should be a launching point, not an end goal," says Koltz. "My goal is to continue to develop our membership, to recognize our volunteers, and to continue to foster the type of family atmosphere that is pervasive at our events."

SEWTU VP Todd Durian likes to say that "TU isn't about the fishing...but fishing IS the com-

mon denominator of TU. Henry echoes that sentiment.

"We're for the rivers, and once we take care of the rivers, the fishing will follow. If you care about coldwater conservation, TU is the place to be."

This year SEWTU ties on a new leader, mindful of where we've been, focused on the tasks at hand, and always preparing for the future.

(Mike Kuhr sits on the SEWTU board of directors. He is currently chair of SEWTU's habitat committee, and he also leads the chapter's work with Project Healing Waters. -Ed.)

AWARD: TU National names SEWTU nation's top chapter

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SEWTU has since been able to turn out huge numbers of volunteers to help with habitat projects.

Since April 2006, SEWTU has held 31 workdays, tallying thousands of volunteer hours, and — thanks to the generosity of chapter

members and friends — done this at absolutely no cost to their chapter.

You can rest assured that under the current leadership of Henry Koltz and Todd Durian, SEWTU will not be slowing down any time in the future.

Just contact Henry at cheesetrout@yahoo.com and ask to be put on his e-mail list. You will see why they received the Gold Trout Award. You may also want to join them for some of their workdays. And it's not all work. They know how to work hard, but they also know how to have a good time.

Many thanks and congratulations to all of the Southeastern Wisconsin

Chapter members for all of their efforts in making them a national Gold Trout Chapter.

NLC: free of access concerns

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TUDARE doing very well

As chair of the TUDARE work group, I was able to give an extremely positive report on the continuing success of that effort. TUDARE had 35 restoration projects last year and will make about the same number this year thanks to our increased capture of

farm bill money for projects. We have \$2 million in new bonding revenues funneled through Minnesota TU (and administered with help from TUDARE staff) going for projects this year.

I urged Charles Gauvin and Chris Wood, TU's conservation programs director, to increase financial support for TUDARE so that it can expand its efforts even more.

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2. Handle fish in the net. Grasp them across the back and head for firm but gentle control. Use the net fabric as your "glove."
3. Turn fish belly up while removing hooks. This disorients fish momentarily for easier, quicker handling.
4. Don't remove swallowed hooks. Just cut the line...doing so saves two-thirds of deeply hooked trout.
5. Don't keep fish out of the water more than 10-15 seconds. Fragile gills are damaged after that...especially in cold weather.

COUNCIL: fall meeting convenes in Cross Plains

Continued from p. 1

Staggs pointed to the huge amount of Farm Bill grant money flowing into the southwest, noting that private labor can be hired with that federal money.

Staggs said there is nothing in DNR policy that would prevent the hiring of private labor to do projects in northern Wisconsin. He pointed out that the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) works all over the state and could be approached about doing work in northern Wisconsin.

Staggs also addressed the fact that the north has some unfilled DNR positions that are making it more difficult to get trout work done there.

Stocking and reclassification

Staggs said there will be a significant reduction in put-and-take stocking due primarily to DNR staff shortages.

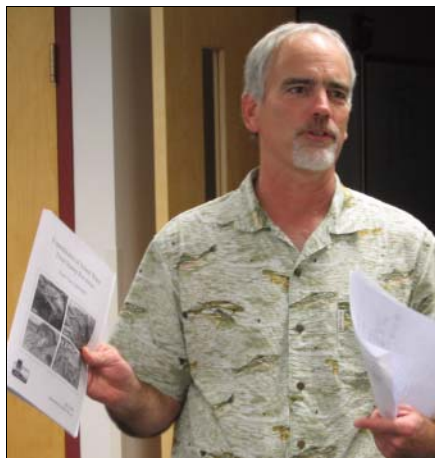
He also said that DNR will be reclassifying trout streams soon. He expects there will be more official trout water once that work is done.

It is important to complete this classification work because trout waters receive more protection under Wisconsin law. In a lot of cases, tributaries have not been classified as trout streams and are not receiving the protection they should be getting. Local TU chapters should

be ready to offer input as the reclassification process proceeds.

Trout regulations

Staggs was asked where the trout regulations might be headed. He said that following the simplification



MIKE STAGGS AND PAUL KRUSE

WDNR Fisheries Management Director Mike Staggs (left) spoke on a variety of topics at the Sept. 19 meeting. Green Bay TU's Paul Kruse (right) was introduced as the new Chair of the State Council's Legislative Committee.

of the regulations in 2002, there has been some scattered local dissatisfaction, but widespread displeasure has not been noted.

Sometime around 2011 the reclassification of trout waters will be complete and biologists will have more data to use in looking at regu-

lations. Because of the new data, we can expect a more analytical approach to regulation changes.

There will only be minor regulation tweaks between now and the completion of the reclassification.



DNR's trout team

Next up was a discussion about the workings of the DNR's trout team led by Larry Claggett. It was pointed out that the trout team is different from the other species' teams in that it has no standing citizen members.

It was suggested that a liaison should probably exist between TU and the trout study team. This would probably be Larry Claggett.

Fisheries input on CAFOs

Questions then arose about DNR fisheries' input when applications are considered for CAFOs.

Staggs said DNR biologists may have input when permits are considered, but fisheries does not "sign off" on applications.

Little Plover dewatering

Another recent dewatering of the Little Plover River came up for discussion. Staggs suggested we express our dissatisfaction to Todd Ambs.

Bill Pielsticker has agreed to look into what we can do in re-

sponse to the situation. Some form of lawsuit cannot be ruled out.

Special regs committee formed
John Meachen offered the State Council two options for approaching the issue of special regulations.

The first would involve a statewide approach in which the committee would be a standing committee that would report regularly to the State Council. Membership would reflect a statewide approach.

A second option would be for the northern chapters to deal with the issue as a regional concern.

In the discussion that followed, the point was made that attacks on special regulations are not just regional, but are showing up around the state.

Kim McCarthy made a motion to form a statewide WITU committee on special regulations. Dave Sanders seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

CEI reports due

Chair Bill Heart noted that chapter effectiveness index (CEI) reports are due from *all chapters* by Nov. 15.

In addition, eight WITU chapters are scheduled for re-chartering this year. Those chapters will be getting letters from Bill with details.

Vernon County CAFO guests

Matt Urch and Ryan Call from the Viroqua area informed the council about a proposed Vernon County CAFO.

They report that local citizens are concerned that the state's livestock siting law creates a regulatory floor that does not allow for unique geological conditions that might call for more restrictive conditions upon such operations.

Quick response mechanism

Dan Holland discussed the need to get important information about coldwater resource threats to people as quickly as possible. Todd Hanson agreed to serve as a clearing house on such threats.

Dan Asmus also agreed to set up a Facebook page for WITU so members can share information in a convenient manner.

WI Trout Unlimited Watershed Access Fund Funding and Withdrawal Procedures

Adopted September 19, 2009

Fund Purpose. The Trout Unlimited Watershed Access Fund will make money available to assist in the direct acquisition of lands adjacent to coldwater resources or to assist in the acquisition of conservation easements or leases that allow access to and future restoration of coldwater resources. The existence of the fund will make it easier for chapters to enter into partnerships with land trusts and agencies for the purpose of providing more public access to coldwater resources.

Fund Raising. Initial funding for the program will come from the \$5,000 Wisconsin TU has received as part of the Graul Farms legal settlement. In addition, net proceeds from the 2010 State Council banquet will be deposited into the TU Watershed Access Fund. Additional fund raising will then supplement the fund. Every year during October, the State Council will send a solicitation letter to each TU member in Wisconsin laying forth the purpose of the fund and a requesting contributions. Contributors will receive one ticket to the annual State Council banquet for each \$100 contributed. The ticket offer would also be extended to non TU members.

Fund Withdrawals. Requests for funds to assist in land acquisition or access acquisition will originate from local Trout Unlimited chapters. Chapters will be eligible to apply for funds for projects that fit the purpose of the fund. Projects that are undertaken jointly by a chapter and a land trust or an agency like DNR will receive priority over projects undertaken solely by a chapter. In the event that requested amounts are greater than funds available, geographic parity will become a major factor in making the decision about which projects will receive funding.

Funding Limits. Requests for funding will be limited to \$2,000 for a project by a single chapter. No more than two chapters will be allowed to request funds for the same project. Requesting chapters will need to match at least 50% of the requested amount with chapter funds.

Request Submissions. Requests by chapters for funds will be submitted to the State Council Vice Chair. The requests should include detailed explanations of the acquisition project as well as a listing of all of the partners involved in the project. Requests will also need to specify when the funds need to be available. The decision to grant requests will be made by the Regional Vice Chairs and the State Council Vice Chair as requests are received. One of the Vice Chairs will be designated to record details of awarded grants on a spreadsheet as the grants are awarded.

Fund Restrictions. The WITU Watershed Access Fund will be used solely for obtaining access to coldwater resources either through direct land purchase or through obtaining permanent easements or leases.



VERNON COUNTY CAFO CONCERNS RELAYED

Ryan Call (left) and Matt Urch spoke to the State Council about a proposed Vernon County mega-farm. Call and Urch are from the Viroqua area and are among those opposed to the proposed development.



A LITTLE TO THE RIGHT — OK, LET HER GO!

Large woody debris in the form of whole trees were recently placed into the Border Brule River on the Wisconsin-Michigan border. The work was done by the Michigan DNR and the U.S. Forest Service. Helicopters were needed to do the heavy lifting.

Border Brule R. gets a boost with whole trees

The Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest (CNNF), in partnership with the Michigan DNR, placed 143 trees during week of August 31 on the banks of the Border Brule R. to restore habitat for native brook trout.

The full-sized trees — with their root balls intact — were transported from Michigan DNR state lands by helicopter. They were placed in clumps of 2-4 trees, with the root-ward ends placed on or near the river bank on both sides of the river along CNNF lands.

Funding for the helicopter work was from a Mitigation of Enhancement Fund (MEF) grant of \$65,000 provided by We Energies. The trees do not exceed more than half way across the river so canoeing will not be impacted.

According to the Michigan DNR, "The Brule River helicopter tree drops will occur for three years, with one mile of river being improved each year. The helicopter flights, which make up the bulk of the project's expense, are fully funded by the We Energies grant, and the power company has already committed to funding the flights again in 2010. As part of the power company's operating permit, they are required to provide funding each year for projects that enhance the Upper Menominee River watershed."

The CNNF provided personnel to help in many aspects of the project. Other partners included the Ottawa National Forest, WDNR, Northwoods Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Huron Pines, and Michigan landowner Phyllis Olsen.

The Brule River was heavily utilized during the logging era for transporting logs down river to mills. Because of these events, the habitat in the Brule was severely compromised. Re-introducing large woody debris is a high-priority habitat tool.

Will Doyle sign?

Independent DNR bill passes State Assembly

By Todd Hanson

The Wisconsin Assembly passed a bill restoring DNR Secretary appointment authority to the Natural Resources Board on a bipartisan vote of 61-32 on Sept. 22.

Board appointment of WDNR secretaries has been a priority issue for Wisconsin Trout Unlimited ever since that appointment authority was removed in former Gov. Tommy Thompson's 1995 budget bill.

"Our environment is too important to our state and our future to allow political control over conservation to continue," said Rep. Spencer Black, author of the bill.

"Decisions about our outdoors should be based on science and

WI adopts new invasives rule

Wisconsin's new invasive species rule, designed to contain new and existing invasive species, went into effect Sept. 1, 2009.

The new rule establishes a science-based classification and regulatory system for invasive species and addresses possession, sale, transportation, and introduction of listed invasive species.

"Invasive species affect every corner of Wisconsin's land and water habitats," said WDNR secretary Matt Frank. "Some of these species are here to stay, but actions taken by citizens and visitors can greatly reduce their spread and impact and help to preserve our native landscapes and the traditions they support."

The rule's classification system lists species of plants and algae, animals, and plant disease-causing organisms as prohibited or restricted. The rule focuses on education, prevention, and cooperative action to contain new problem species when found in the state.

The rule does not address viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS), chronic wasting disease (CWD), and certain other fish and wildlife pathogens that are already the subject of specific control programs.

what is best for our environment, not on what is best for politicians and special interest groups. This strong and bipartisan support shows how important restoring the independence of the DNR is to the citizens of the state," said Black.

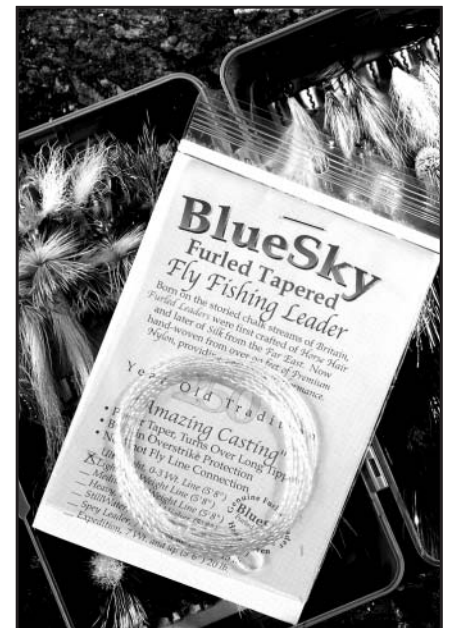
Senate action pending

The Senate will vote on a companion bill any time now. The Senate's Transportation, Tourism, Forestry, and Natural Resources Committee voted 5-2 to recommend a similar bill be passed on Sept. 3.

Gov. Doyle wavering

Gov. Doyle was once quoted as saying gubernatorial appointment of WDNR secretaries was a "wholesale attack on the way we protect the environment."

But Doyle has been wavering about returning DNR secretary appointment to the NRB since January, setting up a possible veto and override vote later this fall.



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Chapter News



ANTIGO CHAPTER REPAIRS TROUT SPRINGS' OUTLET

Trout Springs was dredged six years ago, but the spring pond's outlet recently became clogged. Antigo TU members fixing that situation this summer included (l to r) Tim Gregrich, Mike Heinrich, and Mike Hugunin.

Aldo Leopold Chapter

The chapter held another work day on **Rowan Creek** on September 19. Hopefully this will complete the tree and brush clearing needed ahead of planned DNR habitat improvement work. Thanks to all who came out to help, and to Project Chair **Steve Hill** for organizing the day.

I want to extend a public thank-you to our newest board member, **Todd Franklin**. Last year Todd moved to the Beaver Dam area from the Madison area. The **South-**

ern Chapter's loss is our gain. His enthusiasm for trout is infectious, and we greatly appreciate his stepping forward to serve on the board.

Chapter members **Zoan Kulinski**, **Tim Hood**, and **Steve Hill** recently spent a day guiding veterans as part of **Project Healing Waters** in **Milwaukee**. Thank-you to the three of you for your efforts on this excellent program.

Tom and **Sally Gawle** have been doing water monitoring on **Lodi Spring Creek** over the summer

along with the **Friends of Scenic Lodi Valley**. They report that fishing after monitoring is a great side benefit to the monitoring work. Thanks for your efforts!

This winter, we will again hold fly tying classes. It looks like we will return to **Beaver Dam** for the classes, expected to start in January. Hard

to believe it, but that is only three months away. Brrrrr.

There have been a few minor delays in our **Bear Creek** project related to easement completion, but those seem to be all cleared up, so project planning should proceed apace. Hopefully next year will see shovels hit the dirt.

—Mike Barniskis

Antigo Chapter

The Antigo Chapter had a busy summer, but we still pray for more rain. We had a great turnout for our **Kid's Fishing Day** the 2nd Saturday in June with 425 kids spending the day with us. Kids enjoyed our trout fishing tank, DNR-manned casting contests, food, soda, and gifts for everyone. Again **Curren's Taxidermy** mounted the largest fish caught. The event was held at **Antigo City Park**.

In July, we got a group of workers to show up at **Lion's Park** north of **Antigo** on the **E. Branch of the Eau Claire River** to re-stain the fishing dock. This turned out to be a great night for all, and with some hard work by 10 chapter members, we stained all 105 feet that one evening. And, if I remember right, someone brought a fly rod and caught a nice-sized brookie as we finished the project.

In the beginning of August, we formed a work group to work with **Tanya Meives**, our area DNR fisheries technician, to work in the **Hunting River** off of **Hwy. T** by the old wayside. We had some heavy equipment in the river and were rehabing

some old structures that have failed over the years. This area was the first project that the DNR and the Antigo Chapter had ever worked on. We also did some brushing in this area and helped place logs into new dug holes in the river.

Later in August we again got a group of members together to clean out the outlet of **Trout Springs**. This spring pond was dredged by the DNR about six years ago. Some grass plugs developed at the outlet, and these were impeding water flow out of the pond. With a little elbow grease and some rakes and shovels, we cleaned out this area.

With all that work, we looked forward to some September trout fishing on spring ponds in Langlade county.

Please don't forget to pray for rain. We are still so very short of water in N.E. Wisconsin. Almost forgot — I hope to be with the DNR when they survey **McGee Lake** later this fall. This will help provide info to see when they can re-open the lake to fishing.

—Scott Henricks

Central Wisconsin Chapter

CWTU's **39th Annual Conservation Banquet** will be held Thursday, October 15, at **LaSure's Banquet Hall** in **Oshkosh**. This is our major fund-raiser. The doors open at 5 p.m. for registration, drinks, and a chance to check out the raffle prizes. Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. Banquet tickets, advance raffle tickets for a split bamboo fly rod, and Trout Bucks are available from Banquet Chair **David Seligman** at (920) 745-2579 or seligmand@gmail.com.

Our chapter summer picnic and board meetings were held at President **John Tucker's Pine River** cottage, **Scott Park** in **Omro**, and **Leon Town Hall** in **Pine River**. All three were very well attended. Regular board meetings are held every third Monday at the **Fin 'N Feather** restaurant in **Winneconne** from September to May. **John Gremmer** and **Bob Smaglik** have prepared a very interesting program schedule of free and public presentations following the board meetings.

The September 21 program "Badger State Tributary Fishing" will be presented by guide **Nate Sipple** of **Tight Lines Fly Fishing Co.** Sipple will talk about salmon, but will spend the majority of the time on steelhead and migratory browns, specifically how to swing flies for them. Also at the September board meeting, **Peter Ziegler** of the **Wisconsin Waterfowl Association** will give a presentation about the **Carpenter Creek** wetlands restoration. Carpenter Creek feeds into the **Pine River**.

On June 18, I went with a group of eight people to tour the **Central Sands Dairy** near **Nekoosa**. This was done at the invitation of the managing partner, **Dr. Gordon (Gordie)**

Jones. Central Sands is a **CAFO** with 3,800 cows. It was built on this site in **Juneau County** in 2007, and by now, most of the start-up problems have been resolved. A methane digester is in full operation and is the source of energy for the dairy as well as surrounding neighbors. It seems to be a well-organized and efficient operation that Jones hopes can be a model for other CAFOs.

CWTU members have had three workdays on **Cedar Springs Creek** near **Redgranite**. This is a small brook trout stream that was last worked on by the **DNR** in the mid-1950s. Over these many years, there has been some deterioration, leaving few places for the larger trout to hide. We are working with the DNR to remedy that. Right now, the creek is a pretty productive nursery that feeds into **Willow Creek**. Our last workday for this year at Cedar Springs Creek was on Saturday, September 19.

We have submitted a matching grant request jointly with the **Elliot Donnelley Chapter of Illinois** to the **Trout and Salmon Foundation** for funding to help improve the **Mecan River**. If this grant request is approved, the Mecan will be the focus of our stream work days for at least the next two years. **Alistair Stewart** prepared the grant request, and we are very appreciative of his efforts.

At the July 20 meeting, our board approved the chapter proceeding with a **Project Healing Waters** program at the **Appleton Veterans Clinic**. We received a signed agreement with Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc. in mid-August, and we are planning our kick-off presentation at the VA Clinic in early October.



WHITE RIVER REPAIR

Elward Engle (foreground in hip boots) helped FVTU members place boulders for a bank structure on the White River in July. Pictured are FVTU members (l to r) Tom Lager, Rich Erickson, Jim Voltava, Joe Bach, and Bill Repulski.

Chapter News



Bob Haase and John Gremmer of CWTU, along with members of other chapters, met with the **WDNR Secretary Matt Frank** on August 13. Topics included CAFOs, permitting

procedures, long-term trout plans, water monitoring, and trout stamp money.

—*John Tucker*

Fox Valley Chapter

The Fox Valley Chapter's activities have been centered on stream work and the building and refurbishing of structures that were placed in the **South Br. of the Little Wolf River** years ago. Our June, July, and Sept. habitat days have dealt with brush bundling and replacing underwater posts and planking.

Our August 8 date was a washout because our area of the state received two plus inches of rain the previous day and evening. No one complained, however, because we needed the moisture. The chapter picnic was still held at the **Nancy Rose farm** on the 8th of August.

On July 24, six chapter members met with **Elward Engle** and moved many wheelbarrow loads of rock to help shore up a bank area on the **West Br. of the White River**. Elward then took the group on a road trip through parts of **Waushara and Marquette counties**. He pointed out many areas where stream work has been done in the past and, more importantly, "suggested" some places to test our fishing prowess.

We will be holding our first chapter meeting of the fall/winter season on Sept. 17 at the **Bubolz Nature Center** located just north of Apple-

ton. Nate Sipple from **Tight Lines Fly Fishing Company** in **De Pere** will present a program dealing with fall fishing of the tribs of **Lake Michigan and Green Bay**.

Our chapter has also informed the **Central Wisconsin Chapter** that we will work with them on the **Project Healing Waters** veteran's initiative. **John Tucker** from CWTU is coordinating the planning of the project, and once he has the plan in place, we will assist in any way we can. Please check www.projecthealingwaters.org.

We are in the planning stages for our annual fund-raiser called **Cabin Fever Day**. We have decided to keep January 30, 2010, as the date for our event. **Ross Mueller** is going to be the presenter in 2010, and we are again going to hold the event at **Waverly Beach** on the north shore of **Lake Winnebago**. Please check this and the January issue of *Wisconsin Trout* and our web site for updates at www.foxvalleytu.org.

Hope you enjoyed the last few weeks of trout fishing, and in the words of **Tom Lager**, our "Let's Talk Bugs" writer, "Enjoy His creation."

—*Rich Erickson*

Frank Hornberg Chapter

The Frank Hornberg Chapter has spent a busy summer on and off the water. Our annual **fly fishing school** was a great success. We enrolled students to capacity, and some students even volunteered to return next year to help staff the school. The video crew from **Channel 7 in Wausau** spent a day with us, and we were featured in three television segments the following week. Many thanks are due to all the chapter members who helped with teaching and support duties.

In spite of cold and rain, 17 members of the **North County 4-H Club** from **Portage County** participated in our **Take a Kid Fishing** day at **Bukolt Park** in **Stevens Point**. **Jeff Dimick** organized the event and demonstrated basic fishing techniques. **Wayne Duecker** and **Mary Holtz** prepared a hot lunch for all present.

On the same day, **Wyatt Bohm** and **Stu Nelson** demonstrated fly tying and casting at the **Wisconsin Rapids Kiwanis Club Youth Outdoors Day** at **Lake Wazeecha**.

On August 15, Hornbergs joined with **Friends of the Tomorrow River** for a river clean-up day. Participants started at the **Tomorrow River Supper Club** and cleared the river of

obstructions and debris downstream from there. We worked in the river, provided tools from our well-stocked trailer, and helped prepare the hot lunch.

Our rehabilitation efforts on the **Tomorrow River** downstream from **Nelsonville** continue. We used several work days to place rocks and Christmas trees at strategic locations in the river, thereby redirecting its flow. We continue to be grateful to **Paul and Loretta Peck** for their contribution of outstanding lunch buffets at our work events. Their repasts always draw rave reviews from the hard workers and hearty eaters.

Our chapter will have a presence at the third annual **Lettie's River Run** in **Amherst** on October 10. We are a sponsor of the event, and we will have a display table with information on the mission and the activities of TU. We may also have our famous work trailer on site for public viewing. Lettie's River Run is a 10K competitive race and 5K race/walk sponsored by the **Lettie W. Jensen Center** in **Amherst**. The Jensen Center provides facilities and support for the local school and for county service organizations.

—*John Vollrath*

Green Bay Chapter

The summer activities of the **Green Bay Chapter** can be summed up in three words — work and fun. The work portion was when we worked with the LTEs hired by the **DNR** to perform habitat work on area streams. These three men (two of whom were funded by the **Green Bay, Oconto River, and Marinette chapters** and one by **trout stamp funds**) accomplished a lot during their summer of work.

Brushing and bank cover installation comprised most of their work. All three chapters spent time with them on various Saturdays during the summer, working on the **North Br. of the Beaver** and the **South Br. of the Oconto River**.

The chapter also spent a workday on **Spencer Creek** near **Laona** working with **Tom Moris** and the **U.S. Forest Service** installing brush



FOX VALLEY RETURNS TO THE S. BR. OF THE LITTLE WOLF

Some old structures on the S. Br. Little Wolf R. were recently repaired by the Fox Valley Chapter. Jetting a post (top, l to r) were Gordy Braun, Del Schwaller, Joe Price, Joe Bach, Rich Erickson, and Bill Repulski. Jim Hlaban (bottom right) prepared brats and burgers after the day's work.

bundles and creating deep water in portions of the stream.

The fun part came in with a couple of activities. The first was our annual **Kid's Fishing Day** at the **Izaak Walton League** ponds in **Bellevue**. We had a record turnout

of kids from the **Brown County Social Services PALS** program coming out to fish for bluegills. A great time was had by all from our chapter and the **Green Bay Exchange Club** who staffed the event.

Continued on p. 10



Chapter News

The second fun day was when members of the chapter, guests from the **Oconto River Chapter**, and two of the aforementioned LTEs fished **Sullivan Ponds** to prove or debunk rumors of northern pike being present there. The results were:

- Four anglers fished for 6.75 angling hours using live and artificial bait.
 - Total fish caught was 17, including 5 yellow perch, 11 creek chubs, and 1 common shiner.
 - Three perch, 3 creek chubs, and 1 shiner were harvested.
- Results from **Twin Ponds** were:
- Three anglers fished for 5.0 angling hours using live and arti-

cial bait.

- Nine fish were caught, including 5 brook trout, 3 creek chubs, and 1 pumpkinseed.
- The pumpkinseed was the only fish harvested.

There were no northern pike caught. This result, along with prior electroshocking surveys, is evidence that northern pike (if present) are not in abundance.

Having finished the summer's work, the chapter resumed monthly meetings in September to begin planning next year's endeavors on behalf of our coldwater resources and raising funds for these goals.

—Gary Stoychoff

Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter

We have had three stream projects in 2009:

- a 3,800 foot section on **Bronson Creek** (completed),
- a 3,300 foot section on **Blue River** (50% done), and
- a 5,400 foot section on **Big Spring** (completed).

These three projects will use techniques similar to those in last year's projects.

Our landowner appreciation picnic date has been set for October 10 from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Details and invitations are forthcoming.

Big Spring is getting a lot of media attention. There was segment of the **Outdoor Wisconsin** TV program there with **Joe Schmelz**, although they said Big Spring was in **Vernon County**! Then the TU TV show **On The Rise** did a segment with us building lunger structures (a couple hours of work for ten seconds of air). And in August, the **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service** set up a site visit for **Congressman Ron Kind** to talk about the **National Fish Habitat Action Plan** legislation that he is sponsoring and reintroducing.

We are hosting a series of presentations on climate change in SW Wisconsin by representatives of the **Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts (WICCI)**. WICCI is a partnership of citizens and scientists whose goal is to develop practical information for Wisconsin businesses, farmers, communities, and governments on climate change effects and how we can respond to them. The first presentation by retired **Professor John Magnuson** of **UW-Madison** will provide an informative introduction to the issues, particularly as they may play out in SW Wisconsin. Magnuson's talk and PowerPoint presentation will be held Sunday, Oct. 25, at 4:30 p.m. at the **Stonefield Apartments Community Center**, 407 E. Madison St., Dodgeville, WI. The presentation will be followed by a pot-luck supper.

Two further presentations on climate change impacts are planned for the coming winter of 2010. One will be focused specifically on the impacts on agriculture, and the second on impacts on wildlife and fisheries.

—Brian Larson

Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter

Kiap-TU-Wish finished work on **Parker Creek** in June and moved to **Pine Creek** in **Maiden Rock** in July.

Work has been slowed a bit by schedules and, believe it or not, a couple of rains. **Fairmount Minerals** of Maiden Rock has supplied

outstanding volunteer help on the project and moved it along well in spite of delays. Work on the project should be finished with the final work night on September 16.

—Greg Diel

Lakeshore Chapter

The Lakeshore Chapter has experienced a very frustrating summer. We are in the seventh year of a 10-year plan to restore the **Onion River** to a sustainable wild trout stream, and last fall the Onion River

and its two headwater creeks were reclassified as Class 1 trout streams.

Late last summer, we lost our **DNR** fish manager out of the **Plymouth** office in Sheboygan County, and were told it would be at least

two years before he would be replaced. This left us without a direct conduit to the inner workings of the **DNR** and left us trying to figure out who we could work through. We were advised to contact the **South-east Regional DNR** office and we did. A fisheries administrator came up to the Onion River in May, walked the section of the river that we were planning on working on this summer, and agreed to help us get the permits and work crew to help out. The work was planned for the third week in June. Lakeshore TU members got to work and built 20 lunger structures and had rock and limestone delivered to the site.

A week before we were to start work, we were notified that the work would need to be delayed until later in the summer. After waiting and not hearing anything, we contacted the southeast office and were told that the work could not be done because they needed to do a **flood plain study**. That study could not be

done until next year, and we probably would not be able to start our project until the summer of 2011.

We are trying to speed things along, but we are having trouble getting any responses from the **DNR**. We make phone calls and send e-mails, but it takes several weeks before we get any response, and we seem to be always left hanging. Right now the only work our members can do is maintenance on work we have done in the past.

On a more positive note, our chapter started monthly meetings again on Sept. 21. We meet at the **Club Bil Mar** in **Manitowoc** at 6:30 p.m. on the third Monday of each month.

We are also scheduled to help instruct students on fly casting and fly tying at **Longfellow Elementary School** in **Sheboygan**, **Plymouth High School**, and **Kiel Middle School** starting in October.

—Wayne Trupke

Northwoods Chapter

The chapter held our annual **Youth Fly Fishing Conclave** at the **Cedric A. Vig Outdoor Classroom** on July 25. We had several kids between the ages of 12 and 16 learn about the fine art of fly fishing. **Aaron Nelson** taught fly tying, **Terry Cummings** showed the kids how to tie knots and identify the difference between a stonefly and a mayfly nymph, and **Brian Hegge** showed everyone how easy it is to get wind knots in a leader!

Two of the highlights of the day were watching a student single haul a cast across the lawn and land the line at his parents' feet and sorting out all the insects in the specimen tray. **Al Brooks** fired up the grill and feed the class, and **Hanna Hansen** kept everyone on schedule between the rain showers.

The chapter held a workday on August 15 on the **Deerskin River** along with several **U.S. Forest Service** staff. We cleared alders and installed brush bundles for another several hundred feet downstream from the old fish hatchery.

And finally, on September 1, the **Michigan Department of Natural Resources** and the **U.S. Forest Service** began dropping whole trees into the **Brule River** on the Wisconsin and Michigan border (see separate story in this issue).

The Northwoods Chapter will hold our first meeting of the new year on October 12 at 7:00 p.m. at the **Rhineland-Oneida County Airport Building**. We will hold elections and plan events for the upcoming year.

—Brian Hegge

Oconto River Watershed Chapter

We elected some new officers recently, including:

- Bob Obma** — President,
- Mike Breed** — Vice Pres.,
- Jim Trochta** — Secretary, and
- Dan Sumnicht** — Treasurer.

We continue with our social mission, trout fishing in a portable tank at the **Woodland Village** nursing home in **Surging**. We had our larger tank at **Copperfest** in **Peshtigo** for four days in June. Seventy-five trout were caught, with most anglers in wheelchairs and high enthusiasm for all.

We continue also providing a stocked trout pond at our **Underhill hatchery** for the developmentally delayed at our annual autumn fishing day.

We are not raising trout this year due to **viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS)** issues.

Our chapter is back in stream rehab now, having appointed **Mark Green** water resources chair. We have done projects with **Green Bay TU** on the **Oconto** and **Beaver Creek**, as well as the with **Wolf River Chapter** on **Nine Mile Creek**.

We are following the recording thermometers on **Pecor**, **Hays**, and



CHRISTMAS ON THE SOUTH BRANCH OF THE OCONTO

Green Bay TU members found a good home for some old Christmas trees on the South Branch of the Oconto R. in July. The trees were ferried by boat



downstream to the project site and anchored on an inside bend to make an effective brushmat.



Chapter News



Lindsay creeks with regard to suitable summer temperatures for rehabilitation. These streams have had projects in years past. The **Waupee** has known reliable cold summer flows, and it has had work done in the past, so it is being eyed for a project we could do with others.

We had a good four days of exhibition fly tying, video presentation, and trout talking at the **Oconto County Fair** that garnered 20 new members.

Shaw-Paca Chapter

It has been a slow summer in central Wisconsin, but our projects are going strong. We continue to supply **Trout Magazine** to our local libraries. We also sponsor students to attend the **Natural Resources Careers Camp** at **Sunset Lake** and a group of 4th graders from **Shawano** to attend the **Timbertop Camp at Glacier Hollow**. Both of these locations are near **Stevens Point**.

Ben Kissinger of **Mosinee** was awarded our **Coldwater Resources Research Grant** at **UW-Stevens Point**.

We continue to support various conservation organizations, such as

Trout in the Classroom has been headed up by **Ben Prince**. Part of the program features hatching and raising fish in school aquariums, but it also includes video presentations on the nature of a trout stream and our spring ponds.

Next week we will do a fish boil for high school teachers, administrators, and school board members. It will be fun to see if this bread cast forth upon the water comes back.

—*Bob Obma*

the **Kinnickinnic River Land Trust**, the **Northeastern Wisconsin Land Trust**, **Wisconsin Rivers**, and the **Navarino Nature Center**.

Our project of working with a class at **Rosholt High School** with fly tying and casting went well. We also helped the **Green Bay Chapter** with their stocking project on the **Oconto River** with a donation.

Despite a slight decline in ticket sales, our annual fund-raising banquet went very well.

We will reorganize and retool in September for another exciting year.

—*Lee Kersten*

Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter

Since our last report, SEWTU took the summer off from its busy meeting schedule, but those meetings have now resumed. As always, our meetings are held at the **Thunder Bay Grille**, located just off of the intersection of I-94 and Pewaukee Road in **Waukesha**, from September through May.

Our **Sept. 22** meeting featured **Peter DeBoer**, an experienced angler and guide who works out of **Pat Ehler's The Fly Fishers** in Milwaukee. DeBoer discussed spey casting techniques. He devoted a significant amount of time to discussing how spey casting techniques can be used with ordinary, one-hand fly rods that most of us use.

That meeting also featured an awards presentation associated with the **Gold Trout Award**, which was just awarded to SETWU by TU National at the annual meeting in **Traverse City, MI**. The award truly belongs to all of our members.

Our **Oct. 27** meeting features **Nelson French**, Executive Director of the **Kinnickinnic River Land Trust** in western Wisconsin. He will discuss his organization, what land trusts do, and how they are able to help SEWTU's mission of coldwater conservation. In addition, we'll have our **2nd Annual October Chapter Awards Ceremony**. If you know of someone who deserves an award this year, please contact Henry Koltz at hek@sdclaw.com.

The speaker for our **Nov. 17** meeting is yet to be determined, but our **December 15** holiday meeting will once again feature the screening of one or two movies. We'll watch **Chasing Down the Man**, a documentary about fishing for **Rooster Fish** on the beaches of **Baja Sur** in **Mexico**. Second, we'll watch **The Hatch**, an SFP award-winning documentary about the epic stonefly hatch that occurs each year in the **Black Canyon** of the **Gunnison River** in **Colorado**. As always, we'll also have our purely voluntary gift exchange. If you would like to take part, please bring a wrapped gift of \$15 or less.

Over this summer, SETWU has had some incredible events. On July

28, we held a casting clinic at **Greenfield Park** in **Greenfield**. At this event, novice casters using fly and spinning equipment get lessons from some of our best casters. Over 50 people attended this event, including members of the **Milwaukee Veterans Administration**, with whom **Mike Kuhr** has been leading SEWTU's **Project Healing Waters** activities. Food was provided and cooked by **Stan Strelka** and **Jay Zawerschnik**.

On the workday front, we had an incredible workday at the headwaters of **Elk Creek** outside of **Viola** on **June 6**. We work alongside the **Ocooch Creeks** and **Gary Borger (IL)** chapters. Crews reset a previously installed cross-channel log which had been removed by past flood events, rebuilt two rock vortex weirs, cut willows, burned slash piles from the headwater restoration project's initial undertaking, and mowed acres of willow growth.

This workday simply would not have been possible without the incredible assistance of **Amy Staffen** of the **Prairie Enthusiasts**, the **WDNR**, and **Ken Anderson** of the **Richland County Land Conservation Department**. We also thank the **Ocooch Creeks Chapter** for allowing us to lend some labor to their project.

Surrounding our **June 6** workday was our chapter outing, which may have been our biggest in recent memory. A great time was had by all, and a few of us even caught some fish. And the luckiest of us broke the tip of his prized three-weight fighting a mighty, and very strong for its size, 8" brown trout.

On **June 27**, SEWTU worked again in the **Southern District of the Kettle Moraine** with our great friends from the **Gary Borger Chapter**. There we installed "mini-lunker" structures that we had built with GBTU last summer in **Scuppernon Creek**, where it flows away from **Paradise Springs**. This workday continued our long-running project work on **Scuppernon Creek**.

Moreover, now that **Gary Borger TU** is working in this region as well,

more work than ever is getting accomplished.

We returned to the **Southern District of the Kettle Moraine** on **Aug. 29** and worked with the **Gary Borger Chapter** to construct another 30 mini-lunker structures. Lumber for about 20 more structures remains, and we anticipate another workday to complete this project in the next few months. These structures will also be placed in the **Scuppernon River** as part of our ongoing work there with Fisheries Biologist **Ben Heussner** and the **DNR Southern District station**.

At press time, we planned a **Sept. 19** workday with **Gary Borger TU** to complete our work on **Van Slyke Creek**, a coldwater stream located in **Fontana, WI**, that runs into **Geneva Lake**. Last summer, we helped restore a huge stretch of this river, including the replacement of a culvert that had been an absolute barrier to fish passage. This year, we'll complete our work, and work downstream through the **Abbey Resort**,

which has generously agreed to partner with us on this project.

In **October**, SEWTU will work at **Genesee Creek**, the site of a long-running project. Under the leadership of **Carroll College Professor Jason Freund** (who is also an SEWTU board member), we'll perform more in-stream and riparian work with his regular crew of college student volunteers.

We'll hold a last workday **Dec. 12** at a location to be determined.

On education front, we've manned booths featuring mission information, fly tying, and casting instruction at retailers, including **Cabela's** and **Gander Mountain**. These events have been supervised by past presidents **Chuck Beeler** and **Dan Asmus**, and they've relied heavily on the volunteer efforts of **Al Dalfanso**, **Joe Valcoun**, **Herb Oechler**, and **John Knitter**, who also continue to teach fly tying classes at the **Milwaukee VA**.

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CABIN FEVER DAY FISHING SHOW

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Chapter News



NOW THAT'S SOME CULVERT! Wild Rivers members (l to r) Rolland Kiel, Chuck Campbell, and Jim Emerson stand in front of a huge culvert section before installation on Whittlesey Creek in Bayfield County. Meanwhile, Henry Haugley thanks Evie Berge for hosting the Berge Hex Camp in June of 2009.

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On June 13, **Dan Asmus** organized a booth at the **Lakeshore State Park** as part of its **Gathering Waters** summer kick-off festival. The event featured health and wellness displays, as well as other events sponsored by local Milwaukee-area retailers and organizations. SEWTU's booth provided education on our coldwater conservation mission and fly tying demonstrations.

We once again manned a booth at **Cabela's Kids Fishing Day** on June 20. We were able to discuss TU's mission and activities, and we provided children with fly tying and casting demonstrations. **Cabela's** has been a very strong partner of SEWTU, and this was yet another great opportunity to get our message out, educate children, and give back to a consistent chapter contributor. We were back at Cabela's again Sept. 25-26 for their Conservation Weekend event.

On August 15, the **River Alliance of Wisconsin**, the **Milwaukee Riverkeepers**, and SEWTU hosted a free "Project RED" training at the **Wauwatosa Library**. As most know, invasive species threaten the health of our rivers. Project RED (which stands for "Riverine Early Detectors") is a citizen monitoring project that trains paddlers, fishermen, and amateur naturalists to detect invasives within river corridors. Early detection of these species increases the success of confining or eradicating them before they spread downstream, saving our rivers and our money. This event provided training about such issues, and was well-received by all attendees.

We will man a booth at the **WDNR Root River Fishery Facility** as part of its open house celebration Oct. 17. We'll provide casting and tying demonstrations, give those attending information about our group, and tell people how they can help our efforts.

With respect to our ongoing **Project Healing Waters** program, **Mike Kuhr** has completed the program's establishment with the **Milwaukee Veterans Administration**. The project launch meeting at the VA drew nearly 100 people. From the stories this author has been told, there was nary a dry eye in the room when the sacrifices our soldiers have made for us were discussed.

Mike Kuhr took VA **Project Healing Waters** attendees fishing at **Lakeshore State Park** on Aug. 20. Although the weather was uncooperative and fishing was tough, an incredible time was had by those who attended. Mike thanks everyone who has contributed to the program, including the family of **Mary Kwitek**, who recently donated a number of demo fishing rods for use at instructional and fishing events, and **Pat Ehlers**, who has been a consistent contributor. If you have rods, vices, or tying equipment that you'd be willing to donate for use at this or our other youth-related events, contact Henry at hek@sdelaw.com.

On **October 10**, SEWTU will sponsor a **FISTA** chainsaw certification program on the **Carroll College** grounds. Contact me for more details.

On the fund-raising front, our fund-raising committee has now set in stone the location and date for our October Habitat Fund-raiser. This year's event will be at the **Charcoal Grill and Rotisserie** and will feature a raffle for an incredible assortment of prizes. We have already accumulated more prizes than ever before. There will be rods, reels, power tools, jewelry, apparel, flies, artwork, libations, tales of fish caught — some of which might even be true — and one heck of a speaker, **Dave Vetrano** of the **WDNR** to talk about stream restoration techniques and structures. If you've ever wondered "how exactly *do* we fix up rivers," then this is a talk that you

won't want to miss. Tickets start at \$50, and run to \$300.

Over the past several years, funds raised at this event have seen our mile-long **Camp Creek** project completed, our mile-plus project at **Melancthan Creek** completed, and helped to fund our half-mile project with **Gary Berger TU** on **Scuppernong Creek**. In short, we're making a huge difference, and this fund-raiser has really helped make our work possible.

Finally, in May SEWTU established habitat, education, fund-raising, and membership committees. All committees have met and are increasing our capacity. If you are an

SEWTU member, consider joining one of these committees. This is a great chance for all to get involved. Together we are making a great impact on the resource.

Finally, I'd like to simply thank everyone who has helped make what SEWTU is doing possible. This thank-you goes first and foremost to our members, but it also extends to those at the chapter, state, and national level who have gone far out of their way to help us. The result has been a group where "organization" has been replaced by "family" as its operative description. Let's keep this thing going!

—Henry Koltz

Southern Wisconsin Chapter

The **Meicher Garage Sale** at our June chapter meeting was a huge success. Featuring massive amounts of gear and materials from the late **Larry Meicher's** collection, the sale raised \$2,355. **Dorothy Meicher** shared half the total receipts with the chapter, and it was placed in our endowment fund at her request.

Our spring workdays on **Black Earth Creek** were all pushed aside by rough weather, but we have several sessions planned for this fall. Check the calendar at swtu.org or contact Project Chair **Mike Grimes** at mgrimes17@charter.net if you have questions or would like to help! It was a busy and rewarding June day as we hosted our **Annual Special Fishing Day** for people with disabilities. Again organized by **John Schweiger**, many chapter volunteers gathered at **Kalscheur Ponds** to organize gear, take pic-

tures, and help more than 60 fantastic folks catch some very big fish.

Be sure to mark Saturday, June 16, 2010, on your calendar because that is the day of our annual **Ice-breaker** event. We are excited to be welcoming **Mike Heck** to speak. Mike is an author, guide, instructor, and all-around expert on **Pennsylvania** spring creeks. **Lefty Kreh** says of Mike's book, **Spring Creek Strategies**, "If you fish these sometimes difficult waters, read this book and you'll almost certainly catch more fish." The same will be true, we're certain, of Mike's live presentation. The event will again be held at the spacious **Promega Center** in **Fitchburg**. We hope to see you there!

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

—Drew Kasel

Wild Rivers Chapter

Congratulations to **Bill Heart** on receiving a special commendation from **DNR Secretary Matt Frank** at the **Friends of the White River's** annual picnic. Bill heads the Friends group in addition to chairing WITU's State Council. Secretary Frank presented Bill with a plaque thanking him for his work protecting the White River watershed and for his leadership in TU.

Bill has also been instrumental in working with the **Bayfield Regional Conservancy** to acquire **80 acres** on the **White River**. An appeal to Wild Rivers, BRC, and Friends of the White members was recently sent out to help raise the \$150,000 to purchase the property. Donations may be designated for the **White River Revolving Land Protection Fund**. Contact Bill Heart for details.

The **Whack a Northern** 2009 event was well attended. Due to the cool, overcast weather, and coupled with high water, the paddling was very fast and comfortable. Enough northerners were caught to feed the nice group at the picnic in **Mason**. This year's whackers included **Joyce** and **Rolland Kiel**, **Jim Emerson**, **Dick Berge**, **Rich Bell**, **Dick Prine**, **Lon Christianson**, and **Paul** and

Kathryn Reichel. Bill Heart camped in the swamp and joined the group along the way.

Also in August, chapter members **Jim Emerson** and **Chuck Campbell** demonstrated fly tying at the **Senior Expo** in **Ashland**, and members **Rolland Kiel**, **Jim Emerson**, and **Chuck Campbell** helped with the culvert replacement on **Cozy Corner Rd.** on the **North Fk. of Whittlesey Creek**. The old culvert was badly perched and blocked fish migration. The new 200-foot long, 10-foot diameter culvert will open the upstream section to migrating trout and salmon.

Chapter members concluded September with a tour of the lamprey barrier on the **Brule River**, an open house fly tying and casting demonstration at the **Iron River National Fish Hatchery**, and fishing the fall run.

Each fall the **USFWS** schedules a week of electro shocking on **Whittlesey Creek**. Chapter members and other volunteers look forward to getting on this beautiful stream to help with the coaster brook trout restoration work.

—Chuck Campbell

Wisconsin Clear Waters

It would sure be appropriate for any WITU member to seek out **Dennis Vanden Bloomen** when you get a chance and personally thank him for all his past, present, and future work and dedication to this chapter and all of TU. Thanks, Dennis! Dennis served as **Ojibseau** and

WI Clear Waters chapter president from May of 2005 to June of 2009.

He brought about many positive changes to this chapter, and he definitely changed the amount of trout stream habitat work that has been, and will be, accomplished in west central Wisconsin.

Chapter News



Dennis brought a more disciplined budget and business model to the chapter. We now conduct professional, annual audits, and we are in good standing with the IRS. Dennis has donated, and most likely will continue to donate, innumerable hours to the chapter every year. He has personally secured hundreds of thousands of dollars, through grants and donations, for the trout and trout streams in this area and other chapter's areas.

During Dennis' term of office, the membership changed our chapter name from the **Ojiblean Chapter** to the **Wisconsin Clear Waters** chapter. All chapter members were not in favor of this change, but we now feel that most are very comfortable with the new name. The chapter now has a name that will be easier to pronounce, easier to remember, and bring appropriate and pleasing images to mind of the trout waters that west central Wisconsin has historically been known for.

The **Elk R/G Club of Independence** recently completed its multi-year habitat restoration project on the **Ed and Mary Anderson** easement on **Traverse Valley Creek** in **Trempealeau County**. The complete project covers about 4,200'. The first year, club members removed trees, burned brush, stabilized banks, and installed jetted trout structures on 600' of the Anderson stream corridor. After observing this first year outcome, the Andersons granted a perpetual fishing easement to our chapter.

This opened the door to more funding opportunities. **WDNR** habitat crews from **Black River Falls** completed the remaining 3,600' as funding became available. Club President **Bob Pietrek** would like to thank the following partners and people for making this project possible — landowners **Ed, Mary, Mathew, and Barb Anderson**; **NRCS's Mark Kunz, Diane Sczepanski, and Christine Bouzek**; **WDNR's Dan Hatleli, Eric Kramer, and Rob Herman**; **USFWS's Vicki Hirshbeck and Lisa McCurdy**; **TU's Tim Meyer, Duke Welter, and Dennis VandenBloomen**; **Associated R/G Clubs of Trempealeau County's Bruce Knutson**; **Whitehall High School's Melinda Goplin**; **Independence High School's Scott McConnell and Terry McConnell**; **Arcadia Sportsman's Club, the City of Independence**, and all members from the **Elk R/G Club**.

Our club has already started tree removal on the **Sobotta** easement located two miles upstream of the **Anderson** property on **Traverse Valley Creek**.

Wisconsin River Valley Chapter

It was a fairly quiet summer for our chapter as we did not have a designated river project scheduled, but members did participate in various other activities, as well as planning for our upcoming monthly meetings.

I inadvertently forgot to give **Linda Lehman** kudos for her work at the **Wisconsin Outdoor Expo** that was held in **Beaver Dam** earlier this summer in our summer chapter report. Linda said some 900 kids came through on Thursday, and over 2,000 attended the Friday event!

We are pleased that the **Wisconsin Outdoor Expo** will be coming to **Wausau** next year on **May 10**. Our chapter is very excited to have an

event of this size and impact for our area youth.

At this writing, **Clear Waters Chapter**, in partnership with **WDNR, Dunn County Fish and Game Association, UW-Stout, and Pheasants Forever**, is nearing completion on the 7th year of restoration work on **Gilbert Creek** in **Dunn County**. Plans are being formulated to seek a **USDA WHIP/EQIP** contract for a critical stretch of the **Middle Br. Gilbert Creek** in 2010.

Later this summer and fall work will continue on **Elk Creek** in **Chippewa County** northwest of **Eau Claire**. This is the second year of a multi-year project on this local blue ribbon brook/brown trout stream.

Recent special chapter events have included a youth event serving 400+ kids at **Whispering Emerald Ridge Game Club** in **Menomonie**. Casting (Zebco 33) and fly casting instruction was provided.

An **Eddie Bauer** store manager's **Fly Fishing Clinic** was planned for September. Eight to ten store managers met at **Elk Creek** above Highway 29 for a brat feed and casting demonstrations.

On Oct 8, we'll have a chapter meeting at 7 p.m. in the community room of the Eau Claire **Gander Mountain** store. The featured speaker is **Damian Wilmot**, who will present a program entitled "**Steelhead Fishing on Lake Superior Tributaries**." A special **50th Anniversary TU DVD** will also be shown. Bring your own reminiscences about the early years of our chapter and Wisconsin Trout Unlimited.

Other upcoming events include our chapter banquet on April 22. Mark your calendar.

Our chapter now has an active web site at www.wisconsinTU.org/clearwaters. The site is being actively developed, and we hope to have it become the primary source of information for ongoing and upcoming events. Our periodic newsletters will be published on the site, and you can get information on scheduled events on the calendar.

Shortly we will be setting dates for chapter meetings beginning this month. Members' pictures are in the site's photo gallery, and stories about recent work is being added to the projects section.

Please register at the web site. For information or to submit items, contact editor **Lon Christianson** at lchrist@charter.net.

Our officers include:

President — **Tim Meyer**,
Vice President — open,
Secretary — **Duke Welter**,
and
Treasurer — **James Fulker-son**.

—Tim Meyer



WRVTU AT THE WISCONSIN OUTDOOR EXPO

Linda Lehman (top) helped a future trout fisher tie his first fly at the Wisconsin Outdoor Expo in Beaver Dam this summer. Next year the Outdoor Expo will open a second location in the Wausau area. Meanwhile, Henry Kanemoto (bottom) taught fly casting at Youth Heritage Days.

of recreating in the outdoors. **Henry Kanemoto, Linda Lehman, Gene Koshak, Judy Pendergast, Jim Slayton, Al Hauber, Dan Grauer, and John Meachen** taught youngsters about fly fishing, tying flies, and fly casting. The weather was beautiful, and the turn-out was excellent.

We have a full fall planned. Our monthly meetings, which are held every 2nd Monday of the month at 7

p.m. at **Gander Mountain** in **Mosinee**.

Also, we'd like to throw a big thank-you to President Extraordinaire **John Meachen** for designing out new web site! Looks great. You can find our monthly meeting schedule there. Please check out John's work at www.wrvtu.org

—Doug Brown

Wolf River Chapter

Wolf River TU president **Barry Climie** resigned July 24th. Barry helped in the reformation of the chapter in March 2008. Vice President **Barbara Cadwell** has taken over the presidential duties on an intern basis. We all thank Barry for his service and wish him well. An election for president will be held next March.

Board member **Tim Winkel** resigned in August, citing a heavy workload. Some in TU don't consider it "work," but Tim raises trout! **Andy Killoren** was appointed by the board to fill the vacancy. Andy is also the webmaster of our web site at www.WolfRiverTU.org

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Chapter News

Continued from p. 13

On October 1, eight water sensors will be removed from various feeder creeks in our area. These sensors have been collecting temperature data all summer and hold invaluable information that will be analyzed by the DNR and eventually made available to the general public. The data will help all involved in the restoration of the **Wolf River** to better focus our time and energy in areas most responsive to our future restoration efforts.

After a general meeting at 4 p.m., we will hold our second annual **Appreciation Dinner and Dance** at the **Wolf River Town Hall in Langlade** on Oct. 17. Bring a dish to pass as the meat will be provided by TU. Dinner is at 5 p.m., with live music,

dancing, and door prizes to follow at 6 p.m. The cost is \$6 at the door, and beer costs just 25 cents!

On September 10, board member **Jim Waters** taught 4th, 5th, and 6th graders from **White Lake** the importance of stream restoration. The event was sponsored by the **Lake Association of White Lake**. Boats carried the students to different docks where various classes were held.

Our brush and bundling project on lower **Ninemile Creek** has finished up for the year. Thank you to everyone involved! The area worked includes the **Highway 55** crossing down to its confluence with the **Wolf**.

Four beavers were trapped this summer, three on the **Evergreen River** and one on **Ninemile Creek** near the **Wolf**. **Spring Creek** is believed to be beaver-free as of this writing.

Winding down its second year, the **Ninemile Creek Restoration Initiative** focused on the upper reaches of the creek. **Kelly Thiel** from the **US Department of Agriculture**, with help from trapper **Duane Fronek** and TU members **Jim Waters** and **Dale Druckery**, blew eight more beaver dams.

In addition to trapping beaver, 20 beaver dams have been blown this summer. A fall canoe trip is being planned to observe the results.

—*Tim Waters*



I'll keep fishing barbless despite the "no difference" mortality studies

By Lee Kersten

It all started one windy April afternoon in Southwestern Wisconsin. The wind was strong enough to blow down trees at the tops of the ridges.

It was also strong enough to make fly fishing difficult, it not impossible. I had brought along my spinning rod and some lures just in case I needed them. I proceeded to fish with them and caught quite a few fish.

I still take both fly and spinning rods along, but mostly use the spinning equipment during the early part of the season.

Since barbless hooks were the rule at that time, I would "fix" the hooks on all my spinners before fishing. I used a needle-nosed pliers with a wire-cutting edge. First, pinch down the barb on one of the hooks. No, it doesn't matter which one. Sometimes the process will snap the hook off, so keep pinching barbs until one is down. Then, cut off the other two hooks with the wire cutter and you have a barbless, single-hook spinner.

Does using a single, barbless hook matter? I've caught a lot of fish with this modification. Keep your line tight, and you'll land them.

The treble hook is designed to catch and hold fish. Trying to remove a treble hook from a fish when all three hooks are embedded is difficult at best. Those studies about how it doesn't matter if the hooks are barbless, or single, or not, still sound pretty vague and ambiguous to me. From my experience of over 50 years of trout fishing, I just cannot buy those "results."

I am also a little suspicious of recent hooking mortality studies because I believe that the species of trout studied does make a lot of difference. Rainbow trout — the type of trout found in hatcheries — have a smaller mouth opening and structure. This may make it harder for hooks to get farther into their mouths, thus making it easier to release those hooks.

An underlying argument in the studies seems to be that there is a large amount of natural mortality among fish populations. And so there is. However, the question remains if fishing is part of that natural mortality or a factor added on to it. I used to have a discussion about releasing fish with an older veteran fisherman who kept what he caught. His argument was that released fish died anyway. My reply was that every kept fish surely dies.

I do keep some trout during the regular season. We bake one or two larger ones, and my wife loves smoked trout. I catch several hundred trout in a season, perhaps 10 or so end up on the table. I would like to think that all of those released trout swim away and live happily ever after, but I know better. Even when I fly fish, which always accounts for most of these fish, I know that it does not happen that way. A single barbed hook can kill them. Ironically, those size 18 and smaller hooks can be just as deadly.

As TU members, we can help spread the word to make releasing trout as safe and easy as possible.

(*Lee Kersten is a longtime member of the Shaw-Paca Chapter. He has penned the chapter reports you've read in Wisconsin Trout for many years. -Ed.*)

Fall shore fishing opportunities highlighted at new DNR web site

Anglers looking to fish Wisconsin's fall salmon, steelhead, and brown trout runs can visit a new WDNR Lake Michigan fall fishing web site.

The new web site features information on 50 places to fish from the shore that are 60 minutes from

downtown Milwaukee. The site is at <http://dnr.wi.gov/fish/lakemich/fall-fishing.html>.

A companion brochure with the same information can also be downloaded from the fall fishing page.

Lake Michigan Run Timing

Chinook salmon — Sept. 1-Oct. 15, peak in late September.

Coho salmon — Oct. 1-Nov. 15, peak in late October.

Steelhead — Aug. 1-Nov. 30, peak in late September depending on water flows, especially in August.

Brown trout — Sept. 1-Dec. 31, peak in early December.

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Bob's Tying Tips

Advice from
the bench of
Bob Haase

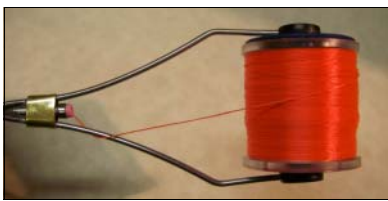
Weighted spools add heft to bobbins



You can add weight to your thread bobbins by inserting a spinner body or lead sinker in the spool of thread before attaching the bobbin to the spool. By doing this, it puts more downward weight when left hanging before proceeding to the next step.

The old bobbins used to weigh more and do a better job of holding material in place once it has been tied in. You can now have the advantage of the newer ceramic insert bobbins — which work better for smaller diameter thread — and still have the added weight when desired by just inserting weight into the spool of thread.

Improve bobbin tension with an arm twist



Some bobbins are better than others when it comes to holding even tension on the thread. There are many reasons for this, but they include the quality and tempering of the bobbin arms, the kind and shape of material that makes contact with the

spool, and the overall design. I like the Dr. Slick bobbins. They are a little more expensive, but they are more consistent in holding thread tension. If you have a bobbin that has problems maintaining even tension, try placing a wrap of thread around one of the legs of the bobbin before running the thread through the tube. The friction from the leg will improve tension. You can also bend the arms in closer together to add more tension if needed.

Wet sponge improves fur dubbing



It is easier to apply dubbing to the thread if your fingers are damp or moistened. You can lick your fingers, but you may not want to do that if you are using natural dubbing materials like squirrel or fur from other animals. You do not know

how clean the materials are or what kind of disease they may have been carrying, and you don't want to transfer that to your mouth. By keeping a small sponge in a tray and a bottle of water alongside your tying area, you can simply pour a little water on the sponge and moisten your fingers any time you want. This also works good when working with marabou.

Scrap hackle cleans cement from eyes



It is easy to get head cement into the eye of a hook when applying head cement. To prevent this, strip some hackle off part of the stem of a scrap piece of hackle. After applying the head cement, just run the stem of the hackle (with some hackle

barbs left on the stem) through the eye of the hook. This may seem like extra effort while you are tying a fly, but it will be well worth it when you try to tie the fly on at streamside.

Empty film canisters wanted for TU's youth fly tying programs

By Bob Haase

The empty plastic canisters that photographic film comes in make perfect containers to put flies in at our TU youth tying programs.

We sometimes put the flies in small plastic bags, but the film canisters are safer and do a better job of protecting the fly. I have been able to get film containers through my local Walmart store, but we could use a lot more for next year's Wisconsin Outdoor Expo.

Through the various youth tying programs this year, TU has had over 1,700 kids tie their first fly, and we hope to do even more next year. This means that we could use 2,000 or more empty film canisters. I am asking the help of TU members across the state to contact their local Walmart, Walgreens, or other stores that do photo finishing and ask if they can donate their empty film canisters to us.

All you have to do is pick them up periodically and save them. You can have your representative bring them to any State Council meetings or to our annual banquet. You might also want to save some for your own local youth tying programs. If you have any questions call Bob Haase at (920) 922-8003.



Trout tip A better way to rig your net

By Henry Kanemoto

Most fly fishers clip their nets by the *handle* to the "D" ring at the top rear of their vests. This is the standard setup, but I have devised a method that works for me and solves several problems with carrying a net in the usual way.

First, I rig my net so that it has a magnetic release at the end of the net hoop — not the handle — so my net hangs *handle side down*. This makes it easier for me to grab.

Next I have a Velcro and neoprene band that I put around the handle to hold the net bag tight to the handle. This band prevents the net bag from getting caught on bushes and tree limbs. A loose bag that catches on a branch will pull off the magnetic release, and the net will fall. If you are along the bank next to a fast-flowing river, your net can fall into the water, and you could lose it.

A loose bag that catches on a branch will pull off the magnetic release, and the net will fall. If you are along the bank next to a fast-flowing river...you could lose it.

People used to be able to buy Velcro/neoprene net bag holders, but they are not made anymore. You can make your own, though, following the directions and the photo you see here.

Take an old pair of neoprene waders and cut a one-inch wide strip material. Take one end of the neoprene strip and loop it around, forming a circle smaller than your net handle, and sew the loop closed.

Cut a piece of the hook side of some Velcro fabric that is one inch by one inch. This will be the Velcro that will hold itself to the fabric of the neoprene. Place the loop of neoprene around your net handle, grab your net bag, and stretch the free end Neoprene band around the bag so that it holds the bag to the net handle. Mark the neoprene band where you want the Velcro applied, but remember to leave enough extra neoprene in the band so that the bag will not get trapped under the Velcro. My band measures about three inches.

Sew the Velcro in place, leaving about 1/4 inch of free neoprene next to the Velcro, and cut off the rest. This will be the edge you grab to release the net bag.

If you don't want to make a net bag holder, you can substitute a thick rubber band around the net handle to hold your net bag.

Finally, I have a short retractable safety cord (available at fly shops)

attached to a ring screw in the end of the handle. The other end of the cord is attached by a clip to a D ring that has a piece of Velcro sewn to it. The Velcro is the loop side. The hook side of Velcro is sewn to the bottom left side (I am right handed) of my fly vest. I hook the two Velcro pieces together, attaching the safety cord to my vest.

When set up, my net hoop is attached to the net ring of my vest with a magnetic net release. The neoprene bag holder keeps the net bag under control, and the handle of the net is attached to my vest by a safety cord. The second (lower) D ring is for my wading staff (*see photo above*).

When I need the net, I pull on the net handle with my left hand, releasing the net, and I pull the net bag from under the neoprene band. If the fish makes another run or if I need my left hand free, I can just drop the net and it is still attached to my vest by the safety cord. When I have the fish under control again, I can just grab the net handle.

After releasing the fish, I never have to worry about forgetting the net on the river because the safety cord attaches it to my vest. If I do need to quickly remove my net, I just pull the Velcro D ring free of my vest.

The magnet release reattaches itself automatically when I place the end of the net close to the other side of the magnetic release.

This system may sound complicated, but once it is set up, it solves the problem of losing your net in the river and needing a free reel hand once you have grabbed the net.

(Henry Kanemoto is a charter member of the WI River Valley Chapter. This story originally appeared in his chapter's The Riffle and Pool newsletter. -Ed.)



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Thank-you, Friends, for a successful 2009 campaign

By Steve Hill

Friends of WITU Chair

There's still time to contribute to and become a 2009 member of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited's Friends of Wisconsin Trout program.

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

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

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

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

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

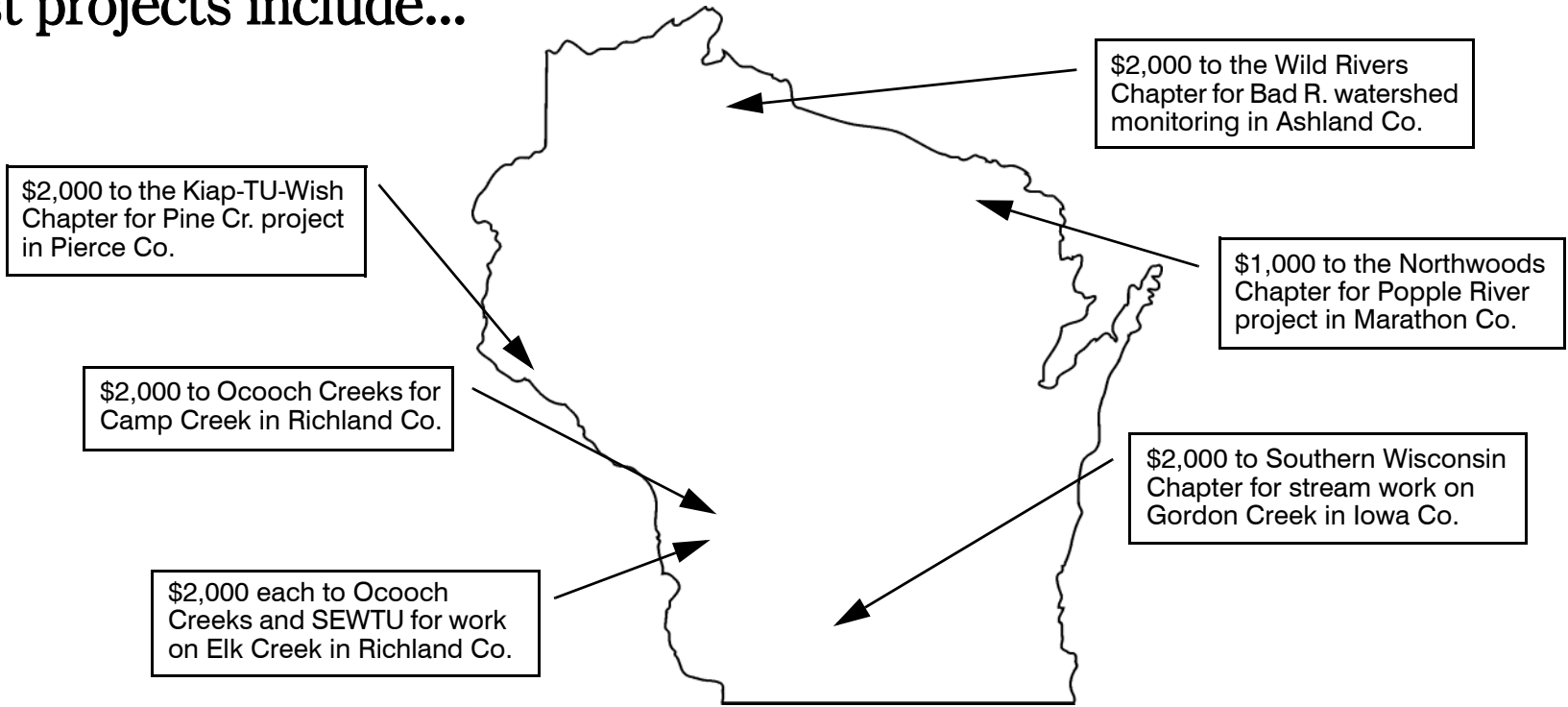
Just as importantly, though, you'll receive the satisfaction of knowing that you donated to a cause that has made a difference in Wisconsin's trout fishery.

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

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



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