By Todd Hanson

After the last TV camera left the State Capitol, the last press release was issued, and the last aide walked off the Senate floor to let the dust settle three weeks ago, one thing was certain — Senator Dale Schultz stopped the Penokee iron mine.

The State Assembly had already passed an iron mining bill that gave Gogebic Taconite, LLC all the key wetland protection exemptions and permitting process changes it wanted.

All that was needed for the mining company to proceed would be for the Republican-controlled Senate to pass the same bill.

But the Republicans controlled the Senate by just one member. When Schultz (R-Richland Center) began expressing serious concerns over the Assembly bill’s provisions, observers wondered whether his objections were serious enough that they might translate into a “no” vote. They were.

Soon Schultz joined with Sen. Robert Jauch (D-Poplar) and others to offer amendments to the Assembly bill.

Competing bill offered

When the key changes Schultz and Jauch wanted were rejected by Republicans in the Senate, the two introduced a competing mining reform bill, SB 542. That bill would have kept enough critical environmental protections and public oversight provisions to get Schultz’s support.

Schultz and Jauch’s SB 542 was scheduled for a public hearing, but that was cancelled by Republican leadership two weeks after Gogebic Taconite released a statement saying it was abandoning its plans to mine in Wisconsin.

Senators Dale Schultz (R-Richland Center) (left) and Robert Jauch (D-Poplar) offered an alternative to the Assembly’s mining bill, but it was rejected.

Dombeck thanks TU at annual meeting for conservation efforts

By Todd Hanson

A highlight of the annual WITU State Council meeting on Feb. 4 was an evening banquet address by former U.S. Forest Service Chief Mike Dombeck.

He thanked Trout Unlimited for its continued strong efforts to protect the state’s coldwater resources.

Dombeck noted that environmental battles require persistence. He should know. As Forest Service Chief during the Clinton administration, Dombeck initiated a controversial “Roadless Rule” in 2001 that halted or restricted road building on 58.5 million acres out of the 191 million acres of national forest land.

Though the Roadless Rule had broad public support from extensive public hearings, it was immediately challenged in the courts by various states. Dombeck noted that it took until just last year before a federal circuit court finally upheld the rule.

Dombeck is currently involved in a number of conservation activities in addition to serving as University of Wisconsin System Fellow and Professor of Global Conservation at UW-Stevens Point.

Trout print display

Another highlight of the annual meeting was a display at the banquet of all the Wisconsin inland trout stamps and art prints produced since that program began in 1978.

The print exhibit was organized by Darrell Toliver to celebrate TU’s recent efforts to revive the stamp and print program in conjunction with the WDNR (see separate story on p. 4).

The winning trout stamp artist, Virgil Beck of Stevens Point, was on hand to meet banquet attendees.

Resource threats abound

The annual business meeting included a number of presentations on a wide range of current threats to coldwater resources.

Guest Jennifer Giegerich of the WI League of Conservation Voters updated members on the proposed iron mining legislation moving through the State Legislature.

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Wisconsin TU Chapters, Presidents, and Websites

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Vice Chair, Western Region: Bill Heart (see above)

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Contact TU National when you change addresses or chapter leaders
TU National manages WITU’s mailing list, so update your address by calling 1-800-834-2419 or e-mailing trout@tu.org. Address changes can also be done on-line by going to www.tu.org and signing in with your member number, which is found on your wallet card or TROUT magazine label.

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

WISCONSIN TROUT
Vol. 24, No. 2 — April 2012
Wisconsin Trout is the official publication of the Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited and is distributed to the members of Wisconsin’s 21 TU chapters. Nonmember subscriptions are $12.50/year. Publication and distribution dates are the first weeks of January, April, July, and October. Deadlines for articles and advertisements are the 10th of December, March, June, and September. Contact the editor for a current advertising rate sheet.

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

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Do legislators really think environmental abuse is unavoidable?

By Kim McCarthy

WITU State Council Chair

This is a very interesting time in Wisconsin history. Resource issues that were settled in a commonsense manner, and in a spirit of bipartisanship, years ago are suddenly returning as issues that might be revisited. It seems as if there are attempts being made to turn the clock back many years to a time when environmental abuse was considered to be an unavoidable way of doing business.

I’m talking about recent bills working their way through the Wisconsin State legislative process. It seemed Wisconsin had made the decision long ago that we could have a sound economy and provide jobs without destroying the environment. At one time that was the Wisconsin way. That is no longer the case as bills appear in rapid order to roll back protections and allow valuable resources to be sacrificed for questionable economic benefits.

Let’s look at the recently passed wetlands bill as an example. In 2002 Wisconsin legislators of both political parties found that a loophole in Federal law left small, isolated wetlands unprotected. This was recognized as the importance of those wetlands as water filters, wildlife habitat, and spring recharge areas and acted quickly to protect them. Something happened that now seems almost unbelievable. That is, to protect those wetlands was passed unanimously. The effort by Wisconsin Trout Unlimited to get that bill passed was one of the largest efforts on behalf of a bill that TU has been involved with because we fully understood the connection between wetlands and trout streams.

Now, ten years later, that bill was basically overturned and many of the protections that passed without disagreement just ten years ago were repealed in a completely divided legislature.

So, what has happened in ten years? Are we supposed to believe that wetlands are no longer important? Do these no longer serve the important purposes they did in 2002? Of course they are still needed to recharge groundwater and provide habitat. But leaving wetlands alone turned out to be inconvenient for those who would profit by their destruction. We were told that by destroying wetlands for short term profits we could somehow improve economic conditions.

As a state representative said, “The people called wetlands because they are wet.” So profits will now be made by building in wetlands where water will continue to collect because nature doesn’t care if buildings have been placed in wetlands. And, of course, the taxpayers of the state will end up coming to the rescue of areas damaged by the flooding in inevitable. Short-term profits will be made by transferring long-term liability to the tax payers. In addition, springs will not have the recharge capacity they once had, and wildlife habitat will be diminished.

As I write this column, an attempt to pass an iron mining bill that would have allowed an out-of-state strip mining company to dig an enormous open-pit iron mine in one of Wisconsin’s most valuable natural areas has stalled. The bill was written by corporate interests with virtually no input from the general public. It is likely that serious attempts will continue to be made to exempt iron mining companies from many environmental standards. We are being told that allowing out-of-state strip mining companies to develop giant iron mines with virtually no restrictions will overwhelm us with prosperity. The good citizens of West Virginia could probably tell us a lot about how turning mining companies lose on their environment has worked out.

And on and on it goes. These are difficult times for those of us who care deeply about quality-of-life issues. We absolutely believe that jobs and a productive economy are important. But we also absolutely believe that we can have those jobs and that economy while maintaining a quality environment. That had been the Wisconsin way of doing things.

Under the category of “been there, done that,” let’s remember that the reason we made the decision to protect the environment in the first place was because we didn’t like the idea of a beautiful state that had been conducted without restraint. Folks looked around and realized there had to be a better way. We found that better way and the economy still prospered in Wisconsin. I doubt that returning to a system that has already been tried and rejected is going to be much of a solution to today’s economic difficulties.

In light of what has happened and what is likely to happen in the near future, Trout Unlimited’s position is worth repeating. We fully realize the need for and support activities that will bring good jobs and boost the economy. But we will continue to oppose plans that roll back environmental safeguards for short-sighted development.

Our 2012 Annual State Council Banquet was held in Wausau on February 4. I’m happy to report that it was an evening of successful fundraising as well. It looks like the event will net about $14,500 to support the efforts of your State Council for the next year.

This event could not have taken place without all of the help the council gets from the chapters. Whether it is making cash or merchandise donations, selling tickets, or pitching in to staff the event, the support received from chapters around the state is fantastic.

Thank you chapters! The State Council sincerely appreciates all of your support.

Editor,

Letters

Find a way to attend council meetings

Editor,

We attended the recent annual meeting and fundraising banquet of the State Council and thought that the whole event went very well. The meeting ran smoothly and the banquet was very successful, raising in excess of $14,500. There were many people responsible for these facts. However, in particular a huge thank you goes to Kim McCarthy and Henry Koltz for their roles in the event.

On a different but related note, the location of the annual meeting is always a problem. Ideally it can be held at a centrally located site such as the Wausau-Stevens Point area. However, there are many possible reasons why that might not be feasible, e.g. half availability, what area does the banquet staff travel from, yes, even cost should be taken into consideration.

This brings me to the point of this letter. I heard comments that some people would not travel a long distance to participate in the annual meeting. These comments were very disturbing to me. As we all know, Trout Unlimited is a national organization made up of a national headquarters, state councils, and local chapters. In order to effective as a group, we need to be supportive of one another up and down the chain. Therefore I say to local chapters, your participation is very important. Participate in the affairs of the State Council, even if that means some hardship for those attending meetings.

There may be many valid reasons why certain people cannot attend these meetings, but there is always someone in the group who will step up and make the commitment, even if it imposes some adversity upon them. Just as you need the support of the State Council, the council needs your support. Your opinions and ideas, even criticisms, will make us a stronger organization as a whole.

Finally, in the short time that I have been active in the State Council, I have found it very fulfilling to work with a great bunch of dedicated people who share my views on preserving our natural resources and our coldwater resources.

Gary Stoychoff
Green Bay

Environmental sensitivity badly needed in wetland and other policy matters

Editor,

Bill Lueder’s wetlands article served to remind us all of the importance of wetlands as natural water repositories ensuring against flooding while filtering, restoring, and recharging both our groundwater and ultimately our surface waters. These retained waters are the life blood of our natural environment and are the very natural symbol of life as flow or a process of exchange, as interconnectedness itself. In describing the attempt to simplify or eliminate some of the existing provisions of Wisconsin’s benchmark wetlands protection law as economic impediments or “threats,” Lueder’s article also highlighted what seems like the fundamental conflict of ideas underlying most environmental issues of our time — the conflict between the materialistic, individual, economically based, and essentially short-term theory of value versus a naturalistic, communal, shared-interest based, enduring, and ultimately more spiritual theory of value.

It seems what is often missing from the public dialogue is an environmental sensitivity and appreciation which, in turn, results in the exclusion of environmental considerations entirely from the general discussion of most public and political issues.
IT’S BACK! Wisconsin TU steps up to revive the trout stamp and print

By Tim Waters

At the State Council meeting in Viroqua last September, Chair Kim McCarthy laid out a proposal he'd received for reviving Wisconsin’s trout stamp program.

Darrell Toliver took a lead role in the program’s revival. Darrell solicited artwork and photographs from artists around the state. A committee was organized to determine a winner. Members of the Frank Hornberg Chapter decided on Virg Beck’s beautiful rendering of a brook trout chasing a Mepps spinner. This became the cover of the 2012-2013 Trout Fishing Regulations booklet.

Darrell has also arranged for prints and commemorative stamps to be printed, and Virg Beck has signed and numbered the prints. Artists and photographers interested in competing in the next trout stamp contest can contact Tim Waters. This project is currently an annual one, with contest entries due on November 15. If WDNR goes to a semi-annual trout regulations booklet in the future, the print project will also become semi-annual.

Ordering information
Wisconsin TU is now selling the prints to individuals for $125, plus shipping and handling. Each print will include a commemorative stamp. Stamps alone cost $10.

WITU chapters will be allowed to purchase up to two prints for the reduced price of $50 apiece for their fund-raising efforts. Anyone with questions or interest in purchasing the 2012 trout stamp print should contact Tim Waters at Muddy-Waters@new.rr.com, or visit Wisconsin TU at www.wisconsintu.org under the “News” tab. Prints are also available on the Wolf River TU website at www.wolfrivertu.org.

A WISCONSIN TRADITION RETURNS
Virgil Beck’s painting of a brook trout chasing a Mepps spinner is the winner of the 2012 inland trout stamp print contest. Wisconsin TU has taken over the artwork selection and printmaking aspects of the program, which was discontinued in recent years by the WDNR.

A WISCONSIN TRADITION RETURNS
Virgil Beck’s painting of a brook trout chasing a Mepps spinner is the winner of the 2012 inland trout stamp print contest. Wisconsin TU has taken over the artwork selection and printmaking aspects of the program, which was discontinued in recent years by the WDNR.

VIRGIL BECK WITH THE NEW TROUT REGS
The 2012-13 WDNR trout regulations feature Virgil’s winning brook trout print on the cover.

ORDER FORM
2012 Inland Trout Stamp Print/Stamp

PLEASE SEND ME:

2012 trout print(s) @ $131 each ($125 + $6 S&H) Price includes a trout stamp.
2012 trout stamp(s) only @ $10 each.

Make check payable to: WI Trout Unlimited, 1326 14th Ave., Green Bay, WI 54304.
Wisconsin Trout

Spring Hearing update

By Todd Hanson

Except for one WDNR Spring Hearing question relating to trout fishing, no new questions about trout fishing were brought up at this year’s Spring Hearing balloting.

However, two other questions could affect trout fishing in major ways without ever mentioning the word “trout.”

Questions 27-29 (see actual questions below) relate to “regulation development.”

In recent weeks, some WITU leaders—including some who serve on the Conservation Congress—have expressed concern about these three questions.

First, most Spring Hearing questions beg for a “yes” answer, and a “yes” answer on these questions may lead the WDNRF to think that trout fishers disapprove of the multi-tier regulatory system the state has operated under successfully for 20 years.

Second, there is a small, vocal group in the state that has been calling for just the kind of broad over-simplification of the trout regulation types that a “yes” vote on these questions might support.

Given, this WITU is urging members to speak up at their local Spring Hearing meetings to note that trout and other regulations are not so complex that individual lakes and streams can’t have their unique biological needs addressed with varying regulations. We can and are figuring it out.

WITU has always supported the WDNR’s efforts to regulate trout waters differently based on stream biology and management goals. The DNRF’s recent study comparing regulation types against observed trout sizes and numbers may yet lead to some regulatory simplification. That kind of science-based trout regulation change is supported by WITU.

QUESTIONS 27-30: Regulation Development

Pollutants management goals may be ambitious, or regionalized or designed for specific waterbodies or portions of waterbodies. There may be more than one regulation option to help meet a management goal, and the same regulation on different waters may not have the same effect. They can affect anglers and fish populations very differently because of location, the mix of species, habitat condition, and other factors. Fewer and more uniform regulations throughout the state may be less complex, but may not manage some waters to meet their needs. The following questions will help us develop regulations that can and are addressing the biological needs addressed with varying regulations. We can and are figuring it out.

27. It is important to you to have identical bag limits for a fish species on all inland waters, even if it means that some waters are not managed to their greatest potential and the diversity of angling opportunities is decreased? YES _____ NO ______

28. It is important to you to have identical bag limits for a fish species on all inland waters, even if it means that some waters are not managed to their greatest potential and the diversity of angling opportunities is decreased? YES _____ NO ______

29. It is important to you to have identical bag limits for a fish species on all inland waters, even if it means that some waters are not managed to their greatest potential? YES _____ NO ______

MEETING: Mike Dombek speaks at WITU annual event

Continued from p. 1

At the time of the meeting, the State Assembly had already passed mining bill AB 426. This bill was handled by a jobs committee instead of the natural resources committee. Giegerich said the bill’s removal of contested cases by the public is unprecedented in Wisconsin, and no other state currently removes this protection.

Giegerich said action now moves to the State Senate where it is hoped the most productive parts of the Assembly bill can be changed.

The council also updates on legislative changes affecting navigable water permits and the state’s wetlands.

Frack sand mining

Duke Welter reported on recent happenings in west central Wisconsin regarding the mining of sand deposits to feed the nation’s expanding hydraulic fracturing industry.

The council meets next ten fold in Chippewa county alone, Welter said, with the prime targets being deposits located near rail lines.

Impacts of concern to TU include ground water recharge, ground water depletion, and the discharge of chemicals to area waters and wetlands.

(Somewhat of the annual Spring Hearing meeting are posted on the council’s website at www.wisconsinTU.org. -Ed.)

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE AT THE WITU STATE COUNCIL BANQUET

There were a number of ways to relax and enjoy the evening at the WITU State Council Banquet Feb. 4 at the Holiday Inn in Rothschild. A group of local musicians from UW-Stevens Point (above) entertained the crowd before the awards ceremony. Artist Bill Milliong of Campbellsport (right) had some of his paintings on display and worked on another painting for attendees. This was the first year the event was held in Rothschild.

2012 Spring Hearing Meeting Sites

All meetings are on April 9 and start at 7:00 p.m.

Adams  Adams County Community Center, County Board Room A29, 412 Main Street, Friendship, WI 53934
Ashland  Ashland County Courthouse, Main Court Room, 200 North Washington Street, Ashland, WI 54806
Bayfield  Bayfield County Courthouse, 113 N. Main Street, Bayfield, WI 54814
Brown  Brown County Government Center, Administration Building, 701 S. 8th Street, Green Bay, WI 54301
Buffalo  Buffalo County Government Center, 301 W. Broadway, Platteville, WI 53818
Calumet  Calumet County Courthouse, Room C112, 206 Court Street, Chilton, WI 53014
Cass  Cass County High School, 1200 Main Street, Casselton, ND 58012
Chippewa  Chippewa Falls High School, 750 Trinity Blvd, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729
Clark  Conover Community Center, 921 Wisconsin Street, Menomonie, WI 54751
Columbia  Columbia County Courthouse, 255 New Pinery Rd, Portage, WI 53901
Dane  Downtown Plaza Performing Arts Center, 2010 Bluff Rd., Madison, WI 53705
Dodge  Dodge County Government Center, 301 Main Street S., Beaver Dam, WI 53916
Douglas  Douglas County Government Center, 601 Main Street, Superior, WI 54880
Dunn  Dunn County Fish and Game Club, 1900 Pioneer Avenue, Menomonie, WI 54751
Eau Claire  Eau Claire Community Center, 2140 15th Street, Eau Claire, WI 54701
Florence  Florence County Courthouse, 520 Main Street, Florence, WI 54121
Fond du Lac  Fond du Lac County Courthouse, 501 Main Street, Fond du Lac, WI 54935
Forest  Forest County Courthouse, 700 W. 5th Street, Merrill, WI 54452
Green  Green County Courthouse, 301 Main Street, Green Bay, WI 54301
Humboldt  Humboldt County Courthouse, 300 Main Street S., Humboldt, WI 54943
Iron  Iron County Courthouse, 1900 W. 7th Street, West Bend, WI 53095
Jackson  Jackson County Government Center, 301 Main Street S., Monona, WI 53716
Kewaunee  Kewaunee County Courthouse, 420 Main Street, Kewaunee, WI 54216
La Crosse  La Crosse County Courthouse, 200 Main Street, La Crosse, WI 54601
Langlade  Langlade County Court House, 400 Main Street, Rhinelander, WI 54501
Lafayette  Lafayette County Courthouse, 300 Main Street, Lafayette, WI 54753
Lake  Lake County Courthouse, 100 N. 8th Street, Superior, WI 54880
Lincoln  Lincoln County Government Center, 1600 East King Road, Tomah, WI 54660
Manitowoc  Manitowoc County Government Center, 400 South Avenue, Manitowoc, WI 54220
Marquette  Marquette County Government Center, 1202 W. 15th Street, Marquette, WI 54954
Marion  Marion County Government Center, 200 S. 1st Street, Marion, WI 54954
Marquette  Marquette County Government Center, 400 South Avenue, Crivitz, WI 54518
Marquette  Marquette County Government Center, 200 S. 1st Street, Marion, WI 54954
Menominee  Menominee County Government Center, 9220 County Line Road, Menomonie, WI 54751
Menominee  Menominee County Government Center, 9220 County Line Road, Menomonie, WI 54751
Merrill  Merrill County Government Center, 100 S. 1st Street, Merrill, WI 54452
Miami  Miami County Government Center, 100 S. 1st Street, Merrill, WI 54452
Milwaukee  Milwaukee County Government Center, 1200 N. 1st Street, Milwaukee, WI 53201
Monroe  Monroe County Government Center, 100 S. 1st Street, Monroe, WI 53566
Oconto  Oconto County Government Center, 200 S. 1st Street, Oconto, WI 54960
Oneida  Oneida County Government Center, 200 S. 1st Street, Rhinelander, WI 54501
Outagamie  Outagamie County Government Center, 200 S. 1st Street, Appleton, WI 54910
Pierce  Pierce County Government Center, 200 S. 1st Street, Ellsworth, WI 54011
Polk  Polk County Government Center, 200 S. 1st Street, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729
Racine  Racine County Government Center, 200 S. 1st Street, Racine, WI 53401
Rusk  Rusk County Government Center, 200 S. 1st Street, Ladysmith, WI 54848
Saint Croix  Saint Croix County Government Center, 700 S. 1st Street, Hudson, WI 54016
Shawano  Shawano County Government Center, 200 S. 1st Street, Shawano, WI 54166
Sheboygan  Sheboygan County Government Center, 200 S. 1st Street, Sheboygan, WI 53083
Shullsberg  Shullsberg Community Center, 904 W. 1st Street, Shullsberg, WI 54565
Taylor  Taylor County Government Center, 200 S. 1st Street, Medford, WI 54451
Tomahawk  Tomahawk Government Center, 200 S. 1st Street, Tomahawk, WI 54487
Vernon  Vernon County Government Center, 200 S. 1st Street, Viroqua, WI 54665
Vilas  Vilas County Government Center, 200 S. 1st Street, Crandon, WI 54520
Washburn  Washburn County Government Center, 200 S. 1st Street, Washburn, WI 54889
Washington  Washington County Government Center, 200 S. 1st Street, Oshkosh, WI 54901
Waukesha  Waukesha County Government Center, 200 S. 1st Street, Waukesha, WI 53186
Winnebago  Winnebago County Government Center, 200 S. 1st Street, Oshkosh, WI 54901
Wisconsin  Wisconsin State Government Center, 200 S. 1st Street, Madison, WI 53705
Wood  Wood County Government Center, 200 S. 1st Street, Green Bay, WI 54301
Wisconsin  Wisconsin State Government Center, 200 S. 1st Street, Madison, WI 53705

April 2012

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Wisconsin Trout
Council honors 10 leaders at annual meeting

By Todd Hanson

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited honored 10 people, organizations, and businesses at the annual State Council meeting at the Holiday Inn in Rothschild on Feb. 4.

Winners were chosen from the nominations submitted by members to the State Council’s awards committee over the past two months.

Resource Award of Merit — Dan Wisniewski

The State Council’s Resource Award of Merit is reserved for someone who has made outstanding contributions to our resources.

In past years, it has been awarded to world-renowned trout researchers like Bob Hunt, policymakers like former Natural Resources Commissioner Dan Becker, TU leaders like Nash Williams, and even a writer or two, such as George Vukelich.

What they have in common has been a significant and positive impact on our state’s or nation’s natural resources.

This year’s recipient, Dan Wisniewski, has earned this accolade by virtue of a career in governmental positions where he managed and protected public lands. He was a trusted advisor to two governors on resource issues, and helped develop key land acquisitions for fisheries protection.

On top of all that, Dan helped develop and grow the Northwoods Land Trust and was a key leader of the state’s Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund.

In 2008, we awarded Dan the Gold Trout Award, annually presented to a top volunteer at the chapter level. The Award of Merit recognizes Dan’s contributions at a variety of levels, for he is truly a versatile performer.

Dan has served TU as a board member and officer of the Southern Wisconsin Chapter, our state’s representative to TU’s National Leadership Council for six years, a key contributor and chair of the TU Driftless Area Restoration Effort steering committee, and a longtime member of our State Council’s Legislative Committee.

As the state’s top volunteer at the national leadership level, he played a key role in ensuring that TU would continue to be involved in disputes over public access to lands. He also helped develop national and state TU programs to fund acquisition of access rights to streams and rivers.

Dan truly knows how to get things done, and Wisconsin Trout Unlimited is grateful for that.

Lee & Joan Wulff Conservation Leadership Award — Paul Kruse

As Lee Wulff once said, a trout is too valuable to be caught just once. In that spirit, our annual Lee and Joan Wulff Conservation Leadership Award recognizes Dan’s contributions at a national and world level.

For many years, Paul was a Green Bay delegate to meetings where he voiced the opinions of the chapter.

Paul is very active in keeping up with the activities of our Legislature in Madison. He served as Legislative Chair for the State Council for a brief period of time.

He now serves as Vice Chair of the Northeast Region where he has been instrumental in that region’s large expenditure of funds that benefit our coldwater resources.

The above are just some of the reasons why Paul Kruse is this year’s winner of the Lee & Joan Wulff Conservation Leadership Award.

Gold Net Award — John Gremmer

This year’s Gold Net Award winner is John Gremmer from the Central Wisconsin Chapter.

John has provided leadership for many of his chapter’s most innovative endeavors, including Trout Fest, the chapter’s master fly tying classes, various fly casting clinics, and the chapter’s unique water monitoring program.

John has been responsible for introducing new technology to his chapter. He has purchased computers and LCD projectors for the chapter, and he has developed PowerPoint presentations about the chapter that have been taken out to various service clubs and organizations.

Many new members have joined the chapter after taking one of John’s classes or being involved in a chapter event. Many of these new members are now board members or officers.

John has also personally introduced many people to the sport of trout fishing in the Northwoods of Wisconsin.
trout fishing, taking them with him and teaching them the needed skills. The Central Wisconsin Chapter would not be what it is today if it were not for the time and leadership John Grammer has given his chapter. **Gold Trout Award for Service — Henry Koltz**

Our Gold Trout Award is being presented to Henry Koltz of the Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter. About eight years ago, SEWTU underwent a resurgence under the leadership of many, including Rich Vetran, Chuck Beeler, and Henry Koltz. At that time, Henry became heavily involved in the chapter’s habitat efforts.

In 2006, Henry met with members of the Ocoosh Creeks Chapter and helped organize a workday on Ash Creek, a small brook trout stream in the heart of the Driftless Area. He took a big risk setting up a workday in another chapter’s territory three hours from home, but the gamble paid off. SEWTU volunteers drove half way across the state to work that day, and they have continued to turn out ever since.

SEWTU now hosts about eight workdays per year, many outside of SEWTU’s territory and in partnership with other chapters.

Since 2006 and under Henry’s leadership, SEWTU has restored many miles of streams, brought in hundreds of thousands of dollars for stream restoration, and has tallied thousands of volunteer hours each year.

While president of his chapter in 2009, SEWTU was named TU National’s Chapter of the Year. Henry has been named a TU National Stream Champion in Trout magazine, and his chapter was featured in Field & Stream as a Hero of Conservation during this time.

Henry knew that as a chapter with many members but few trout streams, SEWTU needed to find ways to partner with other TU chapters to be a successful organization. He made us all realize that it’s our collective resources that are important, not the lines on a map.

Henry has also become a valuable TU leader at the state level. Using his legal background, Henry helped develop TU positions on recent water-related court cases, and he has authored or helped author countless amicus briefs filed on behalf of WI-TU with the Wisconsin Supreme Court, pro bono.

Henry is currently Wisconsin TU’s Southern Region Vice Chair and serves on TU’s awards and banquet committees.

We are thankful that Henry doesn’t just enjoy catching trout, but that he values helping our trout resources improve and thrive.

**Silver Trout Award for Chapter Merit — Aldo Leopold Chapter**

One of the main qualifications for our Silver Trout Award for Chapter Merit is the completion of a major trout habitat project. We are happy to give this year’s Silver Trout Award to the Aldo Leopold Chapter for their huge Bear Creek project on the Ron Fargen property in Sauk County.

Chapter President Mike Barniskis and a number of dedicated leaders in members Tom Gawle, Todd Franklin, Eric Lorenzen, and others. They used their skills to turn what could have been a little chapter project into a multi-year effort involving numerous TU chapters and many partner organizations.

Last year’s work on Bear Creek cost over $130,000, and ALTU is trying to match that dollar figure for a second round of work on Bear Creek in 2012. The Aldo Leopold Chapter hasn’t won the Silver Trout Award since 1990, but success breeds success. Don’t be surprised if the skills learned — and the satisfaction gained — on their Bear Creek project are applied to other trout waters in coming years.

As Todd Franklin wrote in his recent story on the Bear Creek project, “I visited the site in August to see the progress, and I experienced a feeling of satisfaction and pride that I have never felt before. Looking at crystal clear water flowing along the graded, boulder-covered banks, the dark, deep trout ‘hides’ and the various plunge pools, I kept saying to myself, ‘We did it!’”

**Corporate Sponsor — Fontana Sports**

Fontana Sports Specialties in Madison is this year’s Corporate Sponsor Award winner. Fontana has been a destination for outdoor enthusiasts in the Madison area for decades, and trout fishing has always been a mainstay of Fontana’s business.

Instead of just selling trout fishing gear, Fontana has also been a constant supporter of Trout Unlimited’s conservation and habitat values. Fontana has been a longtime advertiser in our Wisconsin Trout newspaper. They have donated countless prizes to our Southern Wisconsin Chapter. And Fontana fly fishing department manager, Craig Amacker, has shared his fishing wisdom and experiences with TU chapters across the state.

We thank Fontana and its owner, John Hutchinson, for all they do on behalf of TU and trout fishing.

**Resource Professional — Shawn Sullivan**

WDNR Operations Supervisor Shawn Sullivan is this year’s winner of our Resource Professional Award. Shawn works out of the DNR’s Wild Rose office, and he has taken the lead role on a very impressive string of stream restoration projects in the central region in recent years.

Trout Unlimited’s Central Wisconsin, Fox Valley, Hornberg, and Shaw-Paca chapters have all worked with Shawn on habitat projects.

Five years ago these chapters joined forces on an ambitious project in downtown Waupaca. That project encountered many obstacles, but because Shawn and others didn’t quit, the City of Waupaca now has a wonderful habitat project. That project includes handicapped fishing access and an educational kiosk that informs the public about DNR and TU trout habitat work.

Shawn has also been involved in a burst of other habitat work in central Wisconsin, including work on Chaffee Creek, the Mecan River, and Lawrence Creek.

**Certificate of Appreciation — Save Copper Creek/Bob Van Hoesen**

We are presenting a Certificate of Appreciation to the Save Copper Creek organization in Crawford County and its Administrative Coordinator Bob Van Hoesen.

Continued on p. 8
AWARDS: council honors 10

Continued from p. 7

This organization is a great example of what a dedicated group of citizens can do when one of their prime resources is threatened.

When an individual filed a permit application to drill a high-capacity well along Copper Creek in Crawford County, a group of local citizens discovered that the proposed well could do serious damage to Copper Creek. They banded together to form Save Copper Creek to challenge the drilling of the well.

The group discovered inconsistencies in the permit application and called these to the public’s attention. They raised funds, hired a consultant, met with local and state politicians, raised concerns with DNR, used TV and radio interviews to increase public awareness, and lobbied for protective ordinances.

Save Copper Creek should be an example to all of us about how a small group of dedicated, concerned citizens can battle to save a coldwater stream from senseless development. Although the Copper Creek well battle has not yet ended, the fighting spirit of the group should serve as a reminder to us all about the importance of getting involved when resources are threatened.

Certificate of Appreciation — Al Niebur

We have a Certificate of Appreciation this year for Al Niebur, the WDNR Fishery Manager for Shawano, Waupaca, and Menominee counties.

Al has been involved in planning and approving a number of stream restoration projects, but he went above and beyond the call of duty on a recent project in downtown Waupaca. The project involved bank restoration, bank covers, and other habitat improvements.

Al said that this was one of the most difficult projects he has ever worked on in terms of getting all the necessary approvals. Whenever it seemed like all the approvals were in place, something else came up, such as working with the state’s Bureau of Endangered Resources because Blandings and wood turtles were found within the project area.

In order to get the WDNR water management permits, additional detailed plans had to be submitted. Then came a required flood plan analysis due to the site’s location within the Waupaca city limits and the potential impact for future FEMA funding. To accomplish this, Al had to do additional surveying for elevation, channel dimensions, and the impact of stream narrowing structure placement.

All of this was tackled, however, and the result is a beautiful, informative habitat project that the City of Waupaca can be proud of.

Certificate of Appreciation — Bob Micheel

Our final Certificate of Appreciation is for Monroe County Soil and Water Conservationist Bob Micheel.

In 2002, Bob was awarded the Conservation Achievement Award from the Wisconsin Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society. Of particular interest to Trout Unlimited, Bob has always included trout habitat into the plans he has developed over the years to help landowners control farm runoff.

For several years, Bob worked on Coles Valley Creek, a class I brook trout stream running between Spartan and Tomah. By partnering with the WDNR, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, NRCS, and Monroe County, he helped secure funding for habitat improvements throughout the length of Coles Valley Creek. We know he’s persuasive because he got over 20 landowners along Coles Valley — virtually all of them — to participate in the project.

Another of Bob’s larger projects was highlighted last November during a TUDARE tour of Wisconsin and Minnesota habitat projects. There Bob showed off recent work on the Little LaCrosse River that runs along Hwy. 27 near Melvina. For nearly 20 years of work on behalf of trout and water conservation, we thank Bob Micheel.

Most Unsung Valuable Trouter — Eric Rauch

Occasionally we give out the Most Unsung Valuable Trouter Award to a member. This year we have one for Eric Rauch of the Coulee Region Chapter.

Eric had a great idea for a regional trout festival. Luckily for TU, Eric decided to plunge ahead before knowing how much work it would actually entail. Eric made it happen by inspiring people from across the state to help with a piece here and a piece there. The result was last summer’s Coon Creek Trout Festival.

Plans now call for this to become an annual event that highlights the trout resource in the Driftless Area. We thank Eric for his vision and leadership.

CORPORATE SPONSOR AWARD, CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION, AND MOST VALUABLE UNSUNG TROUTER AWARD

State Council Chair Kim McCarthy (in all photos) presented the Corporate Sponsor Award to Fontana Sports Specialties and its owner, John Hutchinson, of Madison. It was accepted by Craig Amacker (top left, on right). The Resource Professional Award went to the WDNR’s Shawn Sullivan (2nd from top, on right). Certificates of Appreciation went to Save Copper Creek and its Administrative Coordinator, Bob Van Hoesen (2nd from bottom, on right) and the WDNR’s Al Niebur (bottom left, on right). The Most Valuable Unsung Trouter Award went to Eric Rauch (bottom left, on right).
Bob Hunt set to enter the WI Conservation Hall of Fame

Internationally recognized trout researcher Bob Hunt of Waupaca will be inducted into the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame Saturday, April 21, at 10 a.m. in the Sentry Theater in Stevens Point. The public is invited.

Hunt is being inducted along with his brother, Richard, a former WDNR wildlife management professional, forestry researcher Nils Folke Becker and industrialist/conservationist Phil Sanders.

Brothers Richard and Robert Hunt spent their professional careers in wildlife and fisheries management. Together they performed 69 years of extraordinarily productive work with the Wisconsin Conservation Department and its successor, the Department of Natural Resources.

Bob Hunt was a founding member of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited, and he has been involved in many significant TU efforts over the years. It was Bob’s research on the key components of successful trout release techniques that led to WITU’s Consider Proper Release campaign that was later picked up and promoted by TU National to every chapter in the country.

Contact the Hall of Fame at (715) 346-4992 for more information.

LETTER: environmental sensitivity needed in wetland policies

Continued from p. 3

Clearly, I am among those who believe that what is needed is a return to a political and social environment in which environmentalism itself has regained the status of one of the few fundamental measures by which all public issues and policies must be debated and judged. Indeed, I am sometimes uncomfortable to the point of disbelief at how we as trout anglers and TU members see coldwater stream conservation as simply converting streams into angling venues rather than restoring, preserving, and protecting streams as wild, fully functional natural environments.

What has displaced environmentalism as a broadly accepted fundamental parameter of public debate is clearly revealed in the title to Landers’ article, “Wisconsin wetlands seen as threat to jobs.” It is quite plain that we are living through a period when the prevailing notion is that the economy and economic prosperity are the measures of all things. This notion seems also to be ever increasing in its cultural pre-eminence within the context of our perceived ongoing economic and public budgetary distresses. It now seems almost conventional wisdom that a valid public policy is one which stimulates or enables economic activity and that any policy which limits economic activity is unacceptable.

The strategy of outdoor recreation, conservation, and environmental groups of quantifying and then proclaiming the economic value of their pastimes and projects to attract and maintain popular and political support may seem realistic and astute. However, I have argued in these pages before that this practice of relentlessly commercializing our personal relationships with the natural world will ultimately lead to continuing abuse and damaging exploitation of our natural environment as primarily an economic resource in the popular conception.

We should not fail to overtly and consistently address the fundamental values conflict between the vision of the natural environment as an economic resource to be exploited versus the vision and understanding of nature as the community of life which nurtures and sustains us. If we do, we are failing as conservationists and as citizens to do what is necessary to enhance and promote the possibility of an ecological awakening.

We as TU members have done well in speaking out in these pages as conservationists on the statewide issues of mining and wetlands. We can do even more. Become leaders by consistently and courageously speaking and acting as embodi- ments of the better angels of our environmental selves.

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Herb Oechler
Wausaua WI
Robert Pekowski
Franklin WI
Randal Rake
De Pere WI
Anne Reidel
Madison WI
Steve Robertson
Voyage WI
Frederick Seybold
Madison WI
John Shillinglaw
Appleton WI
Ronald Smith
Cudahy WI
Mike Spittel
Minneapolis MN
Wayne Stockman
Spring Valley WI
Charles Urban
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Gillett WI
John Walters
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Jim & Sharon Waters
White Lake WI
Donald Wellhouse
Kaukauna WI
Fred Young
Rice Lake WI
Anonymous
Antigo WI
Kiap-TU-Wish
Hudson WI
Marinette Co. TU
Minocqua WI
Southern WI TU
Fitchburg WI

2012 access fund campaign underway

Our 2011-12 Watershed Access Fund campaign is well underway. The response already has surpassed last year’s donations in a short time, with nearly 75 donations and approaching $7,000 in funds raised.

The more members of TU that make membership gift matching donations, the more members putting their own hard-earned money back into the programs that go to protect our resources and secure access. Thank you!

With 2011 now behind us, I want to thank all of you listed on this page who have donated to this program. The donations from private individu- al and four TU chapters will provide financial support to let us acquire and protect access to our coldwater resources.

The current grant request limit is $5,000. Because two chapters may each give a grant to a single purchase, clearly each chapter would have to match at 50%, the new limits will provide as much as $15,000 for a single purchase or easement. So for all you chapters looking for purchase help, this should go a long ways.

2011/2 Contributors

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Here is my contribution of $100 or more to the Watershed Access Fund

(Make your check payable to “Wisconsin Trout Unlimited”)

MAIL TO: TU Watershed Access Fund % Doug Brown R.R. 1, Ringle, WI 54477

Name
Address
City, State, Zip
Phone

(Wisconsin Trout) April 2012 Page 9
**Blackhawk Chapter makes impression on young fly tyer**

By Dave Hinde

This year’s Blackhawk fly tying classes were held in the Community Room at the Basics Natural Food store in Janesville.

Fifteen students, led by 6 instructors, spent 10 weekly sessions learning to tie 21 fly patterns in the well-light, comfortable room. Everyone involved with the classes seemed well pleased, but one student, Trevor Allen, age 12, who was accompanied by his trout fishing Dad, Brian, was even more excited. Here’s the e-mail Trevor sent to his grandparents (printed here with permission):

I don’t know if you’ve heard, but I’ve been taking a fly tying class with my Dad. In the class we learn to tie flies for fly fishing. The teachers of the class are a few older men from a club called Trout’s Unlimited. The club has lots of members and does a lot of things for the environment and stream/ponds. Last night at class the main teacher gave me an Alstads can, so I opened it and there were ten flies in it. About half way through class one of the teachers said, “We have an award to give. Every year we have an award that goes to a member of the class who is young and makes it through the class.” He pulled out a metal tube from a plastic crate and walked over by me. He handed it to me and said “This award goes to Trevor.” He told me to look inside, so I did and in it I found a St. Croix fly rod, which is a top of the line brand started in Wisconsin. He also handed me a Berkley 588 fly fishing reel. I was really excited. Now I can use the flies that I’ve made, and go fly fishing at some streams with my Dad. One of my friends that goes fishing just bought a fly rod and reel, so now I can fly fish with him at our local ponds that we have plans on biking to during the summer.

Kudos to those instructors, and "Welcome aboard, Trevor!"

Central Wisconsin Chapter

CWTU started 2012 off with a bang with our recently completed Trout Fest. Bob Smaglik and Dave Johnson, our program coordinators, really set the bar high for next year. Bob and Dave put together ten 20-minute seminars that were fantastic. Some of the seminars included reading and understanding water, fishing trips on a budget, Lymes disease, and identifying poisonous streamside plants, to name a few. We also had over 25 fly tyers, each domeing their own fly patterns. We also enjoyed the classes, and different vendors with a variety of items.

Special thanks stood out for the day. We had five full tables of items for the rummage sale, which most items sold. There were huge numbers of raffle items and great door prizes. The event was well attended and a lot of fun. Everyone had a great time at the event. The CWTU chapter and all the volunteers that worked in making the event possible should be very proud of what they accomplished. Thanks to everyone who made it possible.

I would like to acknowledge a fantastic accomplishment on behalf of our members. A lot of you know Bob Hunt and all he has done for the DNR, Trout Unlimited, and trout in his lifetime. Because of this, Bob will be inducted into the Wisconsin Fishing Hall of Fame on April 21. He will be inducted along with his brother, Richard. His son, Bob Jr. and family, will be in attendance. Welcome aboard, Trevor!
estered in attending. Please join me in congratulating Bob on this wonderful and great achievement.

As 2012 gets going, it will be a very busy first couple of months. On March 19 we had Elder Eagle give a presentation called “Wild Flowers Along the Stream.” We will be having our annual casting clinic Monday, April 16, at Marble Park in Winneconne hosted by Russ Bock. The evening will start with burgers and brats at 5:00 p.m., with the casting clinic and a kayak program right after.

April also will see John Gremmert with his “Introduction to Fly Fishing and Fly Tying” class meeting every Tuesday starting on April 10 and running through May 29 from 6-9 p.m. at Winneconne High School. Please check out our website for more info or contact John at JGremmert@charter.net.

February also brought CWTU some sad news as we had two members pass away. Gene West was a past president, vice-president, treasurer, and board member. Others may have known him from stopping in the fly shop out in Wild Rose and talking fishing and flies. Bob Stemper was a member for several years and had property along the Pine River. He was a gracious host for one of our summer board meetings and at his home there. Our thoughts and prayers go out to their families.

—Linn Beck

**Chapter News**

**Coulee Region Chapter**

Our chapter banquet was held on February 24, and we had a record number of attendees (about 120). It was a very great night of fish talk for the upcoming season and also to lay out some of the big projects coming up for our chapter.

Our March 21 meeting was co-hosted by one of the instructor chefs and the ability of the students to answer our questions.

Our January chapter meeting in Winneconne was again impressed by the high attendance. Everyone in attendance was again impressed with the thorough presentations and the ability of the students to answer our questions.

We have now set the third Thursday of January in 2013 for the next FVT cooking program.

**TU’s habitat work featured in Outdoor Wisconsin story**

By Linn Beck

SEWTU President Mike Kuhr contacted me with an opportunity for TU to do a segment on the Outdoor Wisconsin public television show last August. Deb Woliak of Outdoor Wisconsin had an opening after a different project fell through, so she contacted Mike. He made a pitch for a segment on TU’s stream restoration efforts and youth education opportunities, and Deb liked the idea.

This is where it became interesting. We had about two weeks to line everything up. We contacted Shawn Sullivan, the fish habitat supervisor for the DNR’s Wild Rose station, and he was absolutely up for it. So from there it all fell into place.

The taping took place on the Mecan River between Coloma and Wautoma, a section of stream that had been targeted for our workdays for the last couple of years. It still needed a couple of structures constructed, so it worked out great.

Shawn and DNR employees Steve DeVitt and Abe Wittenwyler demonstrated the building of a bank cover from beginning to end, with Deb getting right into the water and nailing some stringers and deck boards. After the construction portion was done, Shawn did an interview detailing the function and purpose of the structures.

Next up was Mike, who spoke on Trout Unlimited’s mission statement and how TU is trying to get more youth involved in activities. After Mike’s segment, I spoke some on our youth programs. Finally, we had Tracy Moran of CWTU do a fly fishing segment with Deb’s son, Alex, as another part of the youth segment. Alex had gotten his start on fly fishing by tying a fly with Dan Lauren at a youth tying expo.

The whole session of taping and interviews took about three and a half hours to complete. Speaking for all, I felt this was a wonderful experience. I think that we really had a great opportunity to portray TU’s mission and show viewers that we are more than just a fishing club. Hopefully all who saw the story came away with the same feeling, and maybe some are even thinking about getting involved with or supporting TU. To see this story, go to www.mpr.org/video and click on the drop-down arrow to the right of “Program.” Select Outdoor Wisconsin from the list. The episode is Outdoor Wisconsin #2807.

**FOX VALLEY CHAPTER**

The winter months have been a busy time for the Fox Valley Chapter. We had our January meeting at Fox Valley Technical College. The February meeting was held at the Appleton Public Library. Our 11th annual chapter fund-raiser Cabin Fever Day, was held on January 28. Our January chapter meeting in recent years has been a presentation by one of the instructor chefs and several students in the culinary arts program at Fox Valley Technical College. This year the students in fishing trips.

Our March 21 meeting was co-sponsored by Viterbo University. It featured a presentation from Karl Green, a community natural resource educator from the UW-Extension. Karl shared information about frac mining, the use of frac sand, where these sand deposits are located in the Coulee Region, and the issues that arise when this sand is mined.

—Curt Rees

**SHOWING TROUT HABITAT WORK IN ACTION**

SEWTU President Mike Kuhr (top) and CWTU President Linn Beck (center) were interviewed for a recent Outdoor Wisconsin television story on habitat restoration on the Mecan River in Central Wisconsin. Show co-host Deb Woliak (bottom center) was in the water to interview WDNR Operations Supervisor Shawn Sullivan (bottom left).
**Chapter News**

Continued from p. 11

Our February 16 meeting was a presentation by chapter member Steve Heuser titled "Internet Fly Fishing." Steve highlighted websites that are related to fly fishing and he also covered fishing applications that can be used on our smart phones. All this information will definitely enhance our fishing experiences.

Our chapter fundraiser, Cabin Fever Day, was held January 28 at Fox Valley Technical College. The guest speaker for the day included Bob Haase, Damien Wilmot, Tom Langer, Matt Wagner, Steve Heuser, and Tim Landwehr. The bucket raffles, silent auctions, fly tying, DNR booths, tackle reps, guides, suppliers, and rummage sale made the event a successful fundraiser for our chapter.

Scott Grady again built and donated his famous driftless Area buckaroo, and the audience members were able to use as the main fundraiser for the day. The cane rod raffle was very successful, and the profits will be used for many of the chapter programs.

Our chapter has a number of stream work projects planned starting in April and running through June. Jim Hlaban and Joe Bach have arranged for additional opportunities for our chapter to work with a group of young people from the Waukon Public Library this year. We will also try a couple of mid-summer habitat evenings again this summer in an attempt to have chapter members who cannot meet on weekends take part in some stream projects.

We will also construct a kiosk in the City of Wauponca along the Wau- paca River to display information about the work that was completed by the DNR last fall. Please check our newly revised website at www.fooxvalleyut.org for information during with times and locations of the habitat days and evenings. Please join us at one of these habitat days or monthly programs. Our two chapter members have stepped forward and offered to fill some officer positions that have technically been vacant for some time. Joe Bach is now the chapter president and Tom Langer is the vice president. Kevin Halvor-son and Matt Heinritz have agreed to be board members.

There are only a few days before the official start of spring and this unusually warm winter has many of us looking forward to some warm season fishing prior to the regular season, and possibly organizing trips to other parts of the country. Enjoy the beauty of God’s streams, creeks, and lakes, and as our late chapter president Tony Trend would close his column, “When you’re on a trout stream…”

—Rich Erickson

**Frank Hornborg Chapter**

The Hornborg Chapter has already had three work events this winter. On January 11 several members of the chapter helped DNR personnel move left-over Christmas trees to the Lower Driftless Area Tomorrow River work site on Welton Road. Litskeri supplied a truck and trailer, which made the task much easier. We were amazed at the number of trees that could be weaved and packed in one trailer load.

On February 2 chapter members were at work again, moving saw logs (donated by Tom Litskeri) to the bank of Jim Henke’s farm. We will use the lumber to constructunker structures.

The February 18 a loyal group of members used chain saws to cut trees donated by Sarah Meehan for use as piling. Stens Gregist and Matt Salchert supplied trucks to move the pilings to the work site on Welton Road. With this supply of materials, we are prepared for a busy summer of work in the Driftless Area.

Our January and February general meetings at the Portage County Public Library were well attended. The workshops scheduled for the January meeting were at Matt Wagner, owner of the Driftless Area Fly Shop in Viroqua. A snow storm on January 12 prevented him from coming to Stevens Point. Our own Daniel Boggs graciously stepped in and gave the presentation we would have heard from Matt. His demonstration of casting techniques brought forth many good questions from our attentive audience.

We had two guest speakers at the February 16 general meeting, also at the Driftless Area Fly Shop in Viroqua. The first speaker was Kevin Halvor-son, Soil Conservation Technician for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Kevin gave us an update on the two USDA/WD- NR rehabilitation projects on the Tomorrow River. Work upstream from the Keener Road bridge is now complete, with all plants and fencing are secured, similar work will be done below the bridge. Work on the Bob Lea property between farm bridge and Lake Meyers Road is essentially finished, and work above the farm bridge is projected for the future.

The second speaker at the Feb-ruary meeting was Tom Monev. The Fly Fishing Film Tour begins at sundown. Note that we will be presenting the full Fly Fishing Film Tour presentation as described at http://flyfultour.com.

Tickets to the Pig Roast and Fly Fishing Film Tour are only $25.00 per person and are available now. You may purchase your tickets by visiting the Driftless Angler Fly Shop in Viroqua or www.driflessangler.com.

—Dave Engebretson

—Virgil Peters were remembered. There was also a recognition of the former presidents of the chapter: Jeff Dimick, Stu Grimsrud, Jim Friedrich, Jim Henke, Michael Mispagel and Wyatt Bennett.

Jean Klein organized this special anniversary meeting with the assistance of Norbert Wozniak, Stu Grimsrud, the chapter President, and Virgil Peters. The evening was held at the Creston-Carlisle Public Library, and the chapter now has a website at www.creston-carlisle.org.

The next chapter meeting will be March 15 at 6:30 p.m. at the Portage County Public Library.

**Coulee TU holding pig roast and fly fishing film event**

By David Blondshaus

Coulee Region TU is inviting all Wisconsin TU members to the chapter’s annual Driftless Area Pig Roast and Fly Fishing Film Tour event at the Norskedalen Nature and Heritage Center outside of Coon Valley on Sat-urday, May 19.

Everyone is welcome, including all TU members, their families, local Driftless Area landowners, DNR and other professionals, along with anyone interested in coldwater conservation.

The preliminaries start with free fly casting lessons, Driftless Area fishing hints from local guides, and general camaraderie from 3:30-5:30 p.m. We plan to have presentations by the WDNR and other stream professionals, as well as a group of young people from the Driftless Area Pig Roast and Fly Fishing Film Tour event at the Norskedalen Nature and Heritage Center. This will be a great opportunity to hear from one of our chapter members. The evening will also feature the presentation on our newly revised website at www.hornberg-tu.org is up and running.

After dinner we will have presentations covering the Driftless Area stream improvement projects that have recently been completed, plus those that are planned for this year and 2013. TU chapters that are cur-rently engaged in or have recently completed projects in the Driftless Ar-ea are invited to give a brief presentation of their efforts.

Additionally, our 2011 honoree, Dave Vetrano, will be introducing John “Duke” Welker as this year’s banquet honoree. We are honoring Duke for his many years of TU leadership and coldwater stewardship. Duke was recently honored by TU National with the prestigious Ray Boggs Award.

The Fly Fishing Film Tour begins at sundown. Note that we will be presenting the full Fly Fishing Film Tour presentation as described at http://flyfultour.com.

Tickets to the Pig Roast and Fly Fishing Film Tour are only $25.00 per person and are available now. You may purchase your tickets by visiting the Driftless Angler Fly Shop in Viroqua or www.driflessangler.com. You can also purchase tickets in advance by mailing a check to Coulee Region TU, c/o Robert Hubbard, 483 Lark Lane, West Salem, WI 54669.

For more information, including information about accommodations, guides, and the Driftless Area, please visit www.couleeregiontu.org/pigroast.htm.

**Green Bay Chapter**

The Green Bay Chapter’s winter months were highlighted by another very successful fund-raising ban-quet. The banquet committee con-sisted of Chairman Dennis Gasuck, Wally & Laurel Heel, Brian Hill, Pat Bill, Bill Heeke, Jack Keenan, Paul Krusser, Kim McCarthy, Adrian Mesberg, Lee Meyer, Paul Mongin, Leo Nikowitz, Randy Rake, Janet Smith, Gary & Jan Stochybo, and Jim & Kim Vandem Branden. They put to-gether a wonderful event that raised over $19,000 that will be used to benefit coldwater resources.

Having raised the money, the chapter has made some appropri-a-tions to several different coldwater streams. We are supporting habitat crews, beaver control efforts, and management of the watersheds by the State Council. These funds will be used by the DNR and the Forest Service to improve trout fish-ing in our area.

We are also going to sponsor young people to conservation camps
and stage our annual Kid’s Fishing Day. Finally, we will work with the DNR, the Forest Service, and the
Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter

This past fall we extended our 2011 project work and worked on a lower portion of the Six Mile Branch below Pine Road where Big Spring enters. This is a fairly channelized section and we will be pulling back the banks and adding some protection. Next summer we will complete the structures and ground work, and we will tie the work into Big Spring by cleaning it up a hundred feet or so above the confluence.

On February 29 we had a round table discussion on Act 21 and its possible impacts on wildlife regulations and the ability of the WDNR to apply scientific-based regulations.

Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter

Kiap-TU-Wish is continuing our prep work for the upcoming Timbelle River restoration project as de-brushing near the headwaters has been held on most Saturdays. We will also be looking at setting up temperature monitors to assist us in measuring overall project effectiveness on a long-term basis.

We will be losing two longtime board members in March, Jon Jacobs and Greg Dietl. Their contributions have been immeasurable, as Jon has served in most every capacity for the chapter over the past 20 plus years. Greg, who was my predecessor as president, has assisted me in every aspect of the office and more. Thanks much to both of you.

On the other side of this equation, we are gaining new board members Tom Schmidt and Allison Jacobs (Jon’s daughter). Thank you Tom and Allison for stepping up to the challenge.

The chapter will be participating in the Tom Helgeson Flyfishing Expo. It’s always a great gathering with many booths to visit, seminars to listen in on, and rods to cast. Hope to see others from around the state there.

Board member Greg Meyer is setting up a photo contest among our members with prizes to be awarded. Winning pictures will be displayed at our banquet and at our opening September meeting this fall.

Chapter members Kent Johnson, Greg Dietl, and Kyle Aumundson held a meeting with Fairmount Minerals Co. to gain answers to address questions by some of the chapter members concerning sand mining. Fairmount Minerals provided us with detailed information regarding their sand mine operations, and they truly showed us how they strive to be ecologically sound. They make a concerted effort in every aspect of their business to address any issues and to remain environmentally friendly. We say thanks to Fairmount Minerals and can only hope other mining companies will follow their model.

—Kyle Aumundson

Oconto River Chapter to hold at six workdays on area streams.

—Gary Stoychoff

We are looking forward to a slight departure from our regular agenda and having a talk of fishing bluegills near the end of April.

Our 2012 stream project is the lower end of the Blue River off Shemack Road. There are about 3,000 feet below and 1,000 feet above the bridge that can be worked on. The stream is very deep here and will cost a bit more for pulling back the bank soils, but there is good substrate and many large reds have been seen here.

—Brian Larson

Chapter News

Lakeshore Chapter

Work on the Onion River will continue this summer with help from our chapter and the DNR. The upper reaches of the Onion where Mill Creek and Ben Nutt Creek join to form the Onion are scheduled for work to begin in mid-summer. Lanker structures, crib, and overall stream repair work will further improve the habitat and water quality in that section.

If you are interested in helping out or just seeing how all this work is done, please give us a call! Contact Gordy Martin at (920) 876-3510 or Wayne Trupke at (920) 758-2357. Any help would be greatly appreciated, and it will ensure good fish karma!

The Onion is already fishing well this early season with some nice black stonefly hatches, caddis, and, of course, midges being seen on the improved sections form last year’s work.

—Gordy Martin

Northwoods Chapter

We will be having our 38th annual fund-raising banquet on Tuesday, April 17 at Holiday Acres in Rhinelander. The meal choices will be haddock, barbecue ribs, and steak.

Early bird specials for tickets bought before April 1 are only $30. After that they will be $40. Contact Brian Hegge by e-mail at bri-an.hegge10@gmail.com or call (715) 462-2936 for tickets. Come for a great night of prizes and fish tales.

—Hannah Hansen

Oconto River Chapter

The chapter is busy planning our annual banquet/fund-raiser scheduled for April 26 at Romy’s Holiday Inn at Kelly Lake. Dan Sumnicht is chairing the event.

—Wayne Trupke

Continued on p. 14

Consider Proper Release

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

*The future of trout fishing is in your hands.*
Chapter News

Kirk Deeter Headlined SWTU's Icebreaker
Kirk Deeter was the headline speaker at this year's Icebreaker event at Madison. His most recent book is The Little Red Book of Fly Fishing, co-authored with the late Denver Post outdoors writer Charlie Meyers. On Feb. 29, TU National announced that Deeter will assume the editorship of TU's TROUT magazine. In addition to his new responsibilities at TROUT, Deeter is an editor-at-large for Field & Stream, writes the FlyTalk blog at fieldandstream.com, and serves as co-publisher of Angling Trade magazine.

Continued from p. 13
Ticket information can be obtained from Mitch Meunier at True Value in Gillett by calling (920) 855-2844.

The chapter will also send kids to camp at the UW-Stevens Point environmental camps this summer. Information on the camps can be fanned through Moni Brunner at (920) 855-6669.

The chapter has established a Trout in the Classroom program at three schools in NE Wisconsin. Oconto, Lena, and Gillett school districts have setups and active fish projects. Mark Green is coordinating this endeavor for us.

Our membership meetings are held monthly (excluding May and November) on the first Wednesday of each month. Meetings are held at the Lone Oak Club north of Gillett starting at 7:00 p.m.

—Dale Halla

Shaw-Faca Chapter

We are in the process of selecting a UW-Stevens Point student to receive our Cold Water Research Grant. Our criteria are that the student be of junior status with at least a 3.25 GPA, enrolled in a course involving coldwater resources, and reside within our chapter area.

Our fly tying class was held on Tuesdays from Jan. 17 through Feb. 21. Chapter member and master tyer Jerry Weatherwax led the class, assisted by several chapter members, including Pete Sippel. Attendance ranged from 7-14 per session, so it was another successful class.

We also sponsored two high school students to the Natural Resources Careers camp at the Central Wisconsin Environmental Station to be held this summer.

Our annual fund-raising banquet will be March 29 at the Northwinds Banquet Hall in Marion.

—Lee Kersten

WRVTU Members Give Fly Tying Demonstrations
Mike Pierce was one of several Wisconsin River Valley TU members who gave fly tying demonstrations at the Central Wisconsin Sports Show at the Patriot Center in Wausau Feb 17-19.

Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter

Our formal all-chapter meetings will commence in February at the Thunder Bay Grille located at N14W24130 Tower Place in Pewaukee (behind the Mobile station, just north of County Highway J's intersection with I-94). Dinner (optional) is at 6:00 p.m. and meeting at 7:00, with the meeting starting at 7:30. Our meetings are open to the public and run monthly from September through May. Stop out, get acquainted with some old friends, and make some new ones.

At our January meeting, Lake Rohrer from the Ozaukee County Fish Passage Program gave us an update on fish passage improvements underway on the Milwaukee River.

In February, Matt Krueger from the River Alliance of Wisconsin gave a very informative presentation about aquatic invasive species.

Our March meeting featured Gary Martin from Tie-One-On Guide Service.

Our April 24 meeting will feature Mike Wagner, owner of the Driftless Angler. We’ll also draw the winners of our spring raffle prizes — a cedar canoe and paddles. Weatherby .308 rifle, Cabella’s fly rod and reel outfit, and a Shimano spinning rod and reel at our April 24 meeting.

At our May 22 meeting, we’ll once again give our members a chance to speak about recent fishing trips that they’ve taken. If you are interested in sharing information about one of your recent adventures, please contact Mike Kuhr at mikel.trout@yahoo.com.

Our Habitat Committee has been putting together a great slate of projects for the 2012 year. We’ll kick off on Sat., April 21, with the Spring River Clean-up. This year we have a site on the Menomonee near North Park. We’re in the working lot off of Canal St. (near the Sausage Haus) at 9:00 a.m. and work until Noon. We’d like to thank our site captain, John Knitter, for organizing our involvement in the event.

Our Trout in the Classroom program is eagerly waiting the up-coming fishing season. Al Dalphonse from the Cabela’s Kid’s Fishing Day at Sandy Knoll Park in West Bend from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Kids 15 and under are welcome to come and fish the pond. We need help running this event! Volunteers are needed to fill in the gaps so get your tickets in advance online at www.flyfilm-tour.com. We’ll raffle off an Echo EdgeLite 8 4 wt. rod and reel outfit that evening with all proceeds benefitting SWTU. Thanks to Chris Weber at chriswebercomet@yahoo.com.

On Wednesday, April 18, the Fly Fishing Film Tour will come to Milwaukee! Sponsored by The Fly Shop and Sprecher Brewery in Glendale. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. with the show starting at 7:00. We expect this event to sell out, so get your tickets as soon as possible. We’re running a limited number of tickets and there are only 422 left! Visit FlyFilmTour.com to purchase your tickets today.

We had a booth at the 2012 Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Sports Show that took place March 11-11. Volunteers helped spread the word about TU’s mission to protect our coldwater resources and also managed to sell quite a few tickets for our spring raffle. Thanks to Chuck Beeler for coordinating the event and all the volunteers who worked a successful booth. We’d also like to thank those who shared their passion for fishing with the next generation of anglers in the kid’s fly tying area.

On Saturday, April 14, we’ll join forces with the DNR and the West Bend Paper Company for the Annual Kid’s Fishing Day at Sandy Knoll Park in West Bend from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Kids 15 and under are welcome to come and fish the pond. We need help running this event! Volunteers are needed to fill in the gaps so get your tickets in advance online at www.flyfilm-tour.com. We’ll raffle off an Echo EdgeLite 8 4 wt. rod and reel outfit that evening with all proceeds benefitting SWTU. Thanks to Chris Weber at chriswebercomet@yahoo.com.

Finally, we’d like to thank our political liaisons Herb Oechler and John Knitter for keeping our chapter and our members well informed about the controversial mining bill that has been making headlines over the last year.

If you would like to receive SEWTU e-mail alerts with details about upcoming events, contact us at sustain@sewtu.org. Thanks for all you do. Our coldwater resources wouldn’t be the same without you.

Mike Kuhr

Southern Wisconsin Chapter

2012 has been off to a rousing start for SWTU! In January, we started the year with an enjoyable, enlightening, and successful Icebreaker event. It’s our biggest fundraiser of the year, and we had a great turnout from around the state. Thanks to all who attended!

We heard nothing but praise for our featured speaker, Kirk Deeter, who educated, entertained, and inspired with his remarks and wonderful pictures. Craig Amacker of SEWTU stepped up to "pull your fly升温or" and got everyone thinking about different places — and species — to fish in Wisconsin.

We also held our annual Nash Williams Banquet — a somewhat more refined and formal dinner which will once again return to the Driftless Area for work on Camp Creek in 2012. We’ve been awarded an Embrace-a-Stream grant to help fund the project. We owe a big thank you to Henry Kolitz and Jim Wierzba for writing a great grant proposal. Details are being worked out for a workday in May.

We’ll also be in the Driftless Area on June 2 for a tunker building workshop on Bear Creek with the Aldo Leopold Chapter. Check our website for the latest details.
event where many members bring their significant others. At the banquet, our chapter awarded Golden Trout awards to three members who made a difference:

- **John Gribb** — Youth Education Volunteer,
- **Bob Self** — Distinguished Service Award, and
- **Drew Kasel** — Outstanding Volunteer Leader.

Congratulations and thank you!

In February, we took advantage of the winter months to have our first stream workday of the year. Thirty-four volunteers showed what teamwork, a positive attitude, and the right mix of power tools can accomplish in a morning! All told, roughly 1,000 feet of a public easement on Vermont Creek is now cleared of dense brush and invasive species like box elder and buckthorn.

March also saw our annual Meicher Madness Auction, an always-enjoyable evening of generous donations and lively bidding, all in the spirit of friendship and raising funds for our coldwater resource.

This spring will also see at least two more stream workdays, including a large multi-site workday event on April 28 with a cookout afterwards. We are coordinating with other preservation groups on this event and can use all the help we can get, so visit our website to learn more about how you can get involved.

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

—Drew Kasel

### Wild Rivers Chapter

The Wild Rivers Chapter's efforts to remove toxic fishing products from the environment took another step forward in December.

Erica LeMoine, program coordinator for the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute, talked to chapter members at the December meeting about the Get the Lead Out program and detailed the effects of lead sinkers and jigs on our chapter to function effectively and meaningfully habitat projects. His hook off the river mouths of Lake Superior.


to introduce kids to the joy of fly tying. We also provided a lending product for members to tie flies for our March 24 Expo/Auction.

We recently presented an inscribed Sage fly reel to Chuck Campbell. Chuck served as Wild Rivers president from 2006-2010, and his contributions included chapter growth, expanded youth activities, enjoyable member activities, and meaningful habitat projects. His wit and organizational skills enabled our chapter to function effectively and smoothly. As past president, Chuck continues to lead by organizing habitat projects and also by using his writing skills to communicate chapter activities.

Chuck, we hope your new reel will stop those big rainbows you will catch in a morning! All told, roughly 1,000 feet of a public easement on Vermont Creek is now cleared of dense brush and invasive species like box elder and buckthorn.

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—Drew Kasel

### Wisconsin River Valley Chapter

Many thanks to Henry Kanemoto, Gene Koshak, John Mecham, Bob Self, and Mike Pierce for demonstrating their tying skills and to Brian and Larry Marnholtz, Pat goldfish spawn from the environment took several years to accomplish in a morning! All told, roughly 1,000 feet of a public easement on Vermont Creek is now cleared of dense brush and invasive species like box elder and buckthorn.

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—Drew Kasel

### Wolf River Chapter

Our general membership meeting was held March 10. Officers were nominated and elected:

- **Andy Kilforen** — President,
- **Linda Anderson** — Secretary, and
- **Jennifer Wild** — Treasurer

Eight members of the chapter are involved with Project Green Teen. Mrs. Wokatsch is interested in learning about tying. Our chapter has been working on their positions.

Erica LeMoine, program coordinator for the Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute, talked to chapter members at the December meeting about the Get the Lead Out program and detailed the effects of lead sinkers and jigs on our chapter to function effectively and meaningfully habitat projects. His hook off the river mouths of Lake Superior.


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—Drew Kasel

### Wisconsin River Valley Chapter

Many thanks to Henry Kanemoto, Gene Koshak, John Mecham, Bob Self, and Mike Pierce for demonstrating their tying skills and to Brian and Larry Marnholtz, Pat Esselman, Mike Pierce, and Tina Murray for demolding the shape of the new head. Erica plans to work with the chapter on the Get the Lead Out program at the 2012 Fishing Expo.

Fly tying sessions were held at the Great Lakes Visitor Center on January 21 and March 10. These opportunities for chapter tyers to introduce kids to the joy of fly tying. We also provided a lending product for members to tie flies for our March 24 Expo/Auction.

We recently presented an inscribed Sage fly reel to Chuck Campbell. Chuck served as Wild Rivers president from 2006-2010, and his contributions included chapter growth, expanded youth activities, enjoyable member activities, and meaningful habitat projects. His wit and organizational skills enabled our chapter to function effectively and smoothly. As past president, Chuck continues to lead by organizing habitat projects and also by using his writing skills to communicate chapter activities.

Chuck, we hope your new reel will stop those big rainbows you will hook off the river mouths of Lake Superior.

—Dick Berge

### Field & Stream names SWTU’s Murray “conservation hero”

Field & Stream magazine has named Southern Wisconsin TU member Tina Murray a “hero of conservation” in its April 2012 issue. Murray was honored for her work with the Project Green Teen program that she started and directs at Madison’s Malcolm Shabazz High School.

The Green Teen program has been featured many times in Wisconsin Trout magazine. Tina Murray has been setting up with survey slips. If you fish this creek this spring and summer, please fill out the survey. This will help us with stream management and complement the data from our temperature monitors. We will post the results of the surveys on our website.

The date for our fall Appreciation Dinner has been set for October 13. Please check out our new website at www.WolfRiverTU.org for more info.

—Tim Waters

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—Tim Waters
254 miles of new trout water added
DNR updates state’s official trout waters

The 2002 Trout Streams Book — a county-by-county collection of all official Wisconsin trout waters and their classes — is now available, according to Larry Claggett, DNR coldwater fisheries ecologist. The book can be accessed online at the DNR Fish Web site at www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/fhp/fishag/troutclass.htm. Copies are also available in paperback.

This comprehensive list of trout streams has been updated for 2002 using the latest trout survey information and the last publication of the Wisconsin Trout Streams in 1980. Numerous changes have occurred.

• the number of trout streams has increased by 254, and the miles have increased by 809,
• the miles of class 1 trout streams have increased by 600 miles,
• the miles of class 2 have increased by 401 miles, and
• the miles of class 3 have decreased by 192 miles.

Most of the increases have occurred in the southwestern and west central counties of Iowa, Richland, Vernon, Pierce, Dunn, and Trempealeau. The reasons for these changes are numerous, including changing land use patterns, land conservation measures, habitat restoration and protection, and wild trout stocking.

The Wisconsin Outdoor Expo help needed May 17-18
By Bob Haase

The Wisconsin Outdoor Expo will be held at the Dodge County Fairgrounds outside of Beaver Dam May 17 and 18. The program runs from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. both days. Between 3,000 and 4,000 kids and their chaperones attend the event every year. Last year we had 918 kids tie a fly, and many of them also tried their hand at fly casting.

We always talk about ways to get our youth more involved in hunting, fishing, and outdoor sports, and this is a great opportunity to do that. The kids who attend get a chance to tie a fly and try their hand at fly casting, but we could do even more.

We could have a display showing what we do with stream monitoring and stream restoration work, or we could show aquatic insects and help kids try to identify them. Other activities could include knot tying or fish identification.

There is a lot we can do, but it all takes volunteers. It takes a minimum of 4-6 volunteers each day to teach fly casting, and a minimum of 10-16 each day to demonstrate fly tying. The more volunteers we have, the more students we can accept.

With up to 2,000 students attending each day, we have an opportunity to reach a lot of kids.

The fly rods we use are furnished by the DNR office out of Oshkosh, so all you need to bring to help out with fly casting is yourself. If you would like to help with fly tying, all you need to bring is your vise and basic tying tools such as a scissor, bobbin, half hitch tool, and whip finisher. All the materials and directions for tying the fly are provided.

We have a lot of repeat volunteers because people realize what a great program this is. If you have volunteered in the past, maybe you can talk a friend into coming along with you this year.

It seems like this year more than ever we have dealt with legislation that could negatively affect our environment such as the wetland bill and the mining bill. We need to get the message out that there are many events that provide us the opportunity to do that like the Expo.

Bob Haase and Todd Franklin are co-chairs for this year’s TU involvement at the expo. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Bob at (920) 922-8003 or flytier@milwpc.com. or Todd at (920) 219-9550.

THE FLY YOU’RE TYING IS AS ALMOST AS COOL AS THAT HAT
Mike Schaefers from the CWTU helps a youngster tie a fly at a recent Expo.
**Former WDNR trout program director Stan Kmiotek passes**

Stan Kmiotek, the WDNR biologist who first directed Wisconsin's trout habitat program after the trout stamp was introduced in 1978, passed away on Feb. 23 in Madison, Wis., at age 93.

In 1950, Kmiotek was hired by the WI Conservation Dept. (the predecessor of the WDNR) as one of the agency's first aquatic biologists. It was Kmiotek who compiled the information for and published Wisconsin Trout Streams for the agency in 1968. He also oversaw the annual trout stamp print contest for the agency.

**WI stream access laws summarized in wallet card**

Having trouble remembering what Wisconsin law says about stream access? Keep this handy stream access wallet card with you when you fish. It summarizes your rights.

**Anglers and other stream users may remember that Wisconsin law was amended in 2001 to allow people to walk to the exposed banks of rivers up to the "normal high-water mark."**

However, that expansion of rights was reversed just two years later, and anglers have ever since been required to follow the older "keep your feet wet" rule while fishing.

The WDNR has interpreted an obstruction to not only include such things as fallen trees, but also "deep water." This obstruction provision is not yet widely known, so this wallet card will help fishers and land owners better understand the current law.
2012 WI Natural Resources Board

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DNRquesnic@wisconsin.gov

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CHAPTERS HELP FUND WDNR SUMMER HABITAT WORK

GBTU’s Paul Kruse (right) presents the WDNR’s Shawn Sullivan a check to help fund the WDNR’s summer habitat crew members.

TU funding makes 2012 trout work crew possible

By Paul Kruse

Central Region Vice Chair

Four Wisconsin TU chapters — Shaw-Faca, Fox Valley, Central WI, and Southeastern WI — have helped fund a three-person trout habitat crew under the direction of Shawn Sullivan, WDNR fisheries operation supervisor out of the Wild Rose field office.

The crew will be hard at work improving trout habitat for 10 weeks this summer in Shawano and Waupaca counties.

The contributing chapters also got a matching $6,000 grant from the Friends of WITU program.

The three-person trout habitat crew will work on development and maintenance of area trout streams and perform maintenance work on past restoration projects. These positions will also be responsible for helping with Saturday WDNR trout workdays in the area.

Due to DNR budget constraints and personnel shortages, the crew’s planned 2012 work would not have been scheduled this year without TU’s help. The TU chapters paid two of the habitat crew positions, and WDNR trout stamp monies will fund the third position.

Shawano County Work

In Shawano County, the crew plans to do 1,700 feet of habitat work on Wilson Creek. The Wilson Creek project will be the crew’s largest in the sense that it will require heavy equipment in order to accomplish major restoration work to this critically important coldwater tributary of the Middle Br. Embarrass River.

Experienced technicians will be responsible for the development of this project, and the crew will be under their direction doing maintenance.

Also on the slate of trout stream candidates is a 2,000-foot stretch on the S. Br. Embarrass River and maintenance on bank covers on the N. Br. Embarrass near Bowler.

Waupaca County Work

In Waupaca County, a Peterson Creek project will receive 1,000 feet of improvements that include 3-4 bank covers, mid-channel boulders, and brush bundles.

They will also perform maintenance on the Waupaca River up-stream of County Hwy. Q.

Leer Creek or the S. Br. of the Little Wolf will get 3-4 bank covers installed as part of this busy summer schedule. Maintenance on Spaulding, Whitcomb, Murray, and Radley creeks.

Consider Proper Release

CPR is working...keep it up!

1. Don’t play fish to exhaustion. Instead, use a slack-leader to bring fish under circumstances that you plan to play a fish. Don’t play fish to exhaustion. Use a slack-leader so that you can never play a fish to exhaustion.

2. Handle fish the right way. Grasp them across the back and head with firm but gentle control. Use the net fabric as your “glove.”

3. Turn fish belly up while removing hooks. This dis- orients fish momentarily for easier, quicker handling.

4. Use a net. Don’t use or remove fish out of the water more than 10-15 seconds. Fragile gills are damaged after that...especially if you have to give a fish a second chance...just hook, out.

5. Don’t keep fish out of the water more than 10-15 seconds. Fragile gills are damaged after that, especially in cold water.

For Sale

Mecan River | 199 Acres

Sportman’s paradise on the renowned Mecan River. Experience the hex hatch on this restored stretch of trout stream where you control both sides of the bank; hunt turkey and deer; and when your day is through, relax in the well-appointed log home situated on a bluff just steps from the river. Enjoy time in the spacious living/kitchen/dining area centered around a two-story stone fireplace. The property and stream have been meticulously cared for by a former national secretary of Trout Unlimited and are protected by a conservation easement. Offered for $789,000.

For information please contact: Christine Haag
608-554-8432
christine@conservationrealestateservices.com

April 14 Vetrano family benefit coincides with project workshop

A benefit for the Dave Vetrano family will take place at the Chaseburg Rod & Gun Club Saturday, April 14, at 6:30 p.m.

Dave’s wife, Jeannine, was recently diagnosed with cancer. The Vetranoes have a teenage daughter, Jess.

The Chaseburg Rod & Gun Club is located west of Chaseburg, WI at S1269 Sportsman Lane, Stoddard, WI. A catered meal will be provided.

For more information, contact TUDARE Project Manager Jeff Hastings at (608) 604-4158.

The Vetrano family benefit is the same weekend as the seventh annual TUDARE Chapter Planning Workshop, which will be held at the Little Waters Bible Camp near Westby. This workshop will be held April 14 and 15.

The workshop is again expected to focus on all aspects of planning and carrying out watershed restoration projects. In past workshops, hundreds of TU volunteers, agency personnel, and members of other conservation groups have assembled plans for their own projects. Participants have come from seven states and dozens of TU chapters.

For more information on the Vetrano family benefit, contact John Welter at dwwelter@tu.org.

By Eric Rauch

Coon Creek Trout Fest 2012 will take place June 16, and we have been working away since last year’s event to make 2012 even better.

Now that we have one successful year under our belts, we feel like we have the ability to continue to make Trout Fest the premier environmental gathering in the Driftless Area.

Last year we had over 700 attendees, 60 booths, and 100+ kids fishing. We also had over 50 volunteers helping make the event run smoothly (even through a torrential downpour), and for that Coulee Region TU would like to say thank you.

We need your help again this year. We are currently looking for volunteers to help out with all aspects of the festival, from bartending and fly tying, to t-shirt sales and tent volunteers.

If you would like to be a part of this growing event, please e-mail Eric Rauch at 808rauch@charter.net and I will know if you have any preference of work area.

In addition, we are still looking to book fishing and outdoor-related booths and vendors, so if you know of someone who would be interested, contact us at the above e-mail address. You can also check out the website at www.cooncreektroutfest.com.

Booths are only $25.

This is a free event for the public, so we hope to have over 1,000 attendees this year.

Finally, if you have any innovative ideas or things you would like to see us incorporate into the festival, please drop us a line. We would love to include your idea on fest day! Hope to see you all there.

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Bob’s Tying Tips

Help for getting beads onto a hook instead of the floor

By Bob Haase

There are a number of ways to put beads on the hook, and some work better than others.

Most people grasp the bead between their thumb and forefinger and run the point of the hook through the bead, bringing it around the hook and onto the floor.

Many times in the process of doing this, the bead slips off or out of your fingers and onto the floor never to be found again.

The following are some alternate ways of putting beads onto the hook.

Use the palm of your hand

Lay the bead in the palm of your hand. Using the hook, roll the bead around until you can find the small hole end of the bead and run the hook into the bead.

NOTE: Some of the newer micropoint hooks do not need to have the barb crimped down in order to put the bead on the hook, but depending on the size of hook and bead you are using, you may still need to crimp the barb down.

Use a bead tweezers

Another method is to use a bead tweezers. There are different kinds of bead tweezers, and some work better than others.

I like the Deluxe Beadizers distributed by Wapsi Fly. They have a small cupped indentation at the tips to hold the bead and keep it from slipping out.

Wapsi also distributes another Deluxe Bead Tweezers with a cupped indentation that can be locked to hold the bead in place.

Both of these work better than your fingers for holding a bead securely.

Try Scotch tape

You can also use a piece of Scotch tape to hold the bead. This method works well if your hands are not steady or you’re working with small beads.

I take about a two-inch piece of tape and stick it to the bottom of my thumb. Then I fold the tape over my forefinger and keep it in place with pressure against the tape with my middle finger against my forefinger.

I then place the bead small hole down on a flat surface and press the tape (forefinger) against the bead.

The bead will stick to the tape (small hole up) so that you can easily insert the point of the hook into the bead.

Try the new “bead pad”

Hairline Dubbin came out with what they call a bead pad with what they call a bead pad. You can also use a piece of what they call a bead pad.

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The bead will stick to the tape (small hole up) so that you can easily insert the point of the hook into the bead.

Slough in Montana, the fish took these when they declined to take anything else. I am not sure what makes this fly work so well, but tie some up and try them out.

Begin by placing the bead on the hook and wrapping the thread to the bend of the hook. Tie in a single red goose biot as shown, wrapping over the biot all the way to the bead.

Tie in a piece of flashabou or opal tinsel. I like using the mirage flashabou, the holographic flashabou, or opal tinsel.

Wrap the thread to the bead, building up the thread slightly as shown. Try to keep the thread base as smooth or flat as possible for the next step.

Wrap the flashabou or tinsel to the bead and tie off.

Then dub a collar using peacock black ice dubbing or peacock Super Bright. This will also serve to lay a base to tie in the white goose biots. Laying a base of dubbing like this makes it easier to tie in the biots.

Tie in two white goose biots as shown. This is similar to the way you might tie them in for a Prince nymph.

Then trim the biots and lightly dub over the biots.

Tie off by making a series of half hitches behind the bead and put a drop of head cement on at this point.

NOTE: If you tie off using a whip finish behind a bead head or on foam where it is compressed in one spot, the thread stacks in the same place and can come loose. I feel that a series of half hitches makes for a stronger knot in these situations.

Tie up a few of these and give them a try. If you get the same results with this fly as I’ve had, you will always want a few of them in your fly box.
Friends 2012 campaign underway

By Doug Brown

Friends of WITU Chair

With 2011 behind us, I would like to say Thank You to all of you who donated last year’s Friends of Wisconsin TU fund-raising event.

It was a good year for the Friends program with all of your donations. Now it is looking forward, we have funds for our chapters to do various stream projects that will help our coldwater resources for many years.

The 2012 Friends donation request is in the mail. You should have either received it, or you’ll get it shortly. A lot of grants have been approved for 2012, but we need your continued support so chapters can have the financial resources to do the projects that help our trout streams.

For example, the Aldo Leopold Chapter is looking to complete a two-year project that rehabs nearly two miles of Bear Creek in Sauk County. Your donation will help this become a reality. This year, with a $100 donation you get a Stream Works Fly Box to dry your flies. It attaches to your vest or fits in a small pocket. The fly box also has the TU logo on it.

Any donation amount is gladly accepted, and the money goes right back into YOUR streams. Donations can be sent to Doug Brown, Friends of WITU, R4800 Timber Ln, Ringle, WI 54471. I can also be reached at Decbrown@yahoo.com.

Nearly $175,000 devoted to trout resources since 1991.

The latest projects include...

$4,000 to WDNR for a brushing crew in Lincoln and Langlade ctys. (1-10) and $4,000 for a crew in Shawano and Waupaca ctys. (7-10)

$1,500 to Wolf River for Ninemile Cr. in Lincoln and Langlade ctys. (7-10)

$5,000 to Aldo Leopold for Bear Cr. in Sauk Co. (9-10)

$2,500 to Green Bay for N. Br. Beaver Cr. in Marinette Co. (7-10)

$4,000 to SEWTU for Scuppernong R. in Waupaca Co. (7-10)

$4,000 to No further for Niobrara Cr. and $2,000 for Blue R. in Grant Co. (7-10 & 3-10)

Three Clear Waters projects: $3,000 Elk Cr. (Chippewa Co.), $2,000 Trout Cr. (Buffalo Co.) and $1,000 Traverse Valley Cr. (Trempealeau Co.) (all 7-10)

Friends of WIS. TU

Thank you all for the last year to our Wisconsin Trout Unlimited

Jim & Billie March
James Addie
Jason Anderson
Michael Arneson
Henry Barkhausen
John Barmuth
Jeremy Barger
James Belanger
John & Shari Beimel
Stephen Bon
Allan Bossick
Casey Cailek
John Cantwell
R. G. Chamberlain
Rik Christopherson
Robert Chopikowski
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Bill Harp
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Walter Heffley
Tim Hood
John & Judith Hutchinson
Jeff Jackson
Thomas Janssen
Andrew Jicha
Joe Johnson
Don Johnson
David & Sheree Keloe

Waukesha W
Merrill W
Phillips W
Verona W
Mecan W
Menasha W
La Crosse W
Rhineland W
Green Bay W
De Pere W
Wausau W
Marshfield W

$4,000 to WITU for a ongoing Pine Cr. project in Pierce Co. (9-10)

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

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

MAIL TO: Friends of Wisconsin TU

PO Box 4800 Timber Lane

Ringle, WI 54471

Phone #

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Wisconsin Trout

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April 2012