



Wisconsin Trout

Fall 2017

Council opposes Back Forty mine

The Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited has taken a position in opposition to the Back Forty sulfide mine.

The mine proposed by Aquila Resources would be located along the banks of the Menominee River in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, roughly due east of Wausau, Wisconsin.

At its closest point, the mine would be within 150 feet of the river. This would be an open-pit sulfide mine with a pit depth of up to 750 feet. The ore would be processed at the site using cyanide and create toxic waste that would need to be contained indefinitely.

The mine is being engineered with a standard that it would need to withstand a 100-year flood event, even though just this past summer the area experienced a 500-year flood event.

I think it is important to also note the mining company, Aquila Resources, is a foreign company based in Toronto, Canada. It is a penny stock selling for 18 cents a share at the time of this writing. The company has never operated this type of mine on its own.

The Menominee is a world-class smallmouth bass fishery and one of the largest tributaries of Green Bay. The river hosts migratory steelhead and brown trout and is home to a large population of sturgeon. Any acid produced by the mine and not contained could be devastating to the fish populations.

Trout Unlimited cannot ignore the potentially devastating impacts to this large freshwater area and the fisheries it supports.

What follows is an article by Charlie Piette. Charlie is the shop manager at Tight Lines Fly Fishing



Tight Lines Fly Fishing Company

MENOMINEE RIVER AND ITS WORLD CLASS FISHERY AT RISK FROM OPEN-PIT SULFIDE MINE

The Menominee is a world-class smallmouth bass fishery and one of the largest tributaries of Green Bay. The river hosts migratory steelhead and brown trout and is home to a large population of sturgeon. Any acid produced by the mine and not contained could be devastating to the fish populations. Trout Unlimited cannot ignore the potentially devastating impacts to this large freshwater area and the fisheries it supports.

Company in De Pere, Wisconsin. Tight Lines is one of Trout Unlimited's biggest supporters in Wisconsin. A large portion of its business involves guiding resident and non-

resident anglers on the Menominee River. In addition to his role as manager at Tight Lines, Charlie is also a guide on the Menominee River. He is also highly qualified to

comment on the mine proposal, as he holds a master's of environmental science and policy that focused specifically on water quality.

Back Forty Mine:

A disaster in the making.

By Charlie Piette

I'll be very forward in expressing my opposition to the Back Forty Mine, and yes, I'm tremendously biased. As a fly-fishing guide, I have the pleasure of spending a significant portion of my time working on the Menominee River. I also happen to have a masters of environmental science and policy that focused specifically on water quality. Needless to say, those two facets combined make me extremely concerned for the future of the river if this mine becomes a reality.

Though the river is generally pretty quiet, smallmouth bass fanatics know about the Menominee. In fact, many devotees make an annual pilgrimage to fish these beautiful fighters. I'll spare the flowery hyperbole. The Menominee River is un-

questionably one of the best smallmouth fisheries in the world, but it is so much more than that. In the post-dam era, the river is in as pristine of a state as it will ever be. It supports a highly diverse community of native fishes, insects, plants and birds, all of which depend exclusively on the clean water to thrive.

Anyone remotely tuned in to water quality issues knows that sulfide mining can be dangerous. Here are the basics. In the case of the Back Forty Mine, the main metals at play are gold, copper and zinc. The hard rock containing these metals is sulfide bearing. When buried underground, they are typically harmless. Through mining, these rocks are taken out of the ground and the metals are extracted with a process that uses cyanide. That is just the beginning of the danger.

Chemical reactions occur when the waste rocks, or tailings, are exposed to air and water, forming sulfuric acid. Over time, the sulfuric acid continues to eat away at the tailings, leaching out toxic heavy metals. During the life of a mine, continuous exposure to water via rain over the pit leads to a poisonous liquid known as acid mine drainage. When this hazardous liquid contaminates surrounding surface waters, the end results are catastrophic for everything in its path. Even a slight alteration of the present water chemistry caused by the mine would have unknown, and quite possibly devastating, effects on the flora and fauna of the lower Menominee all the way out into Green Bay.

Please see *MINE*, page 26

WITU remains busy with legislative issues

By Henry Koltz, TU National Trustee

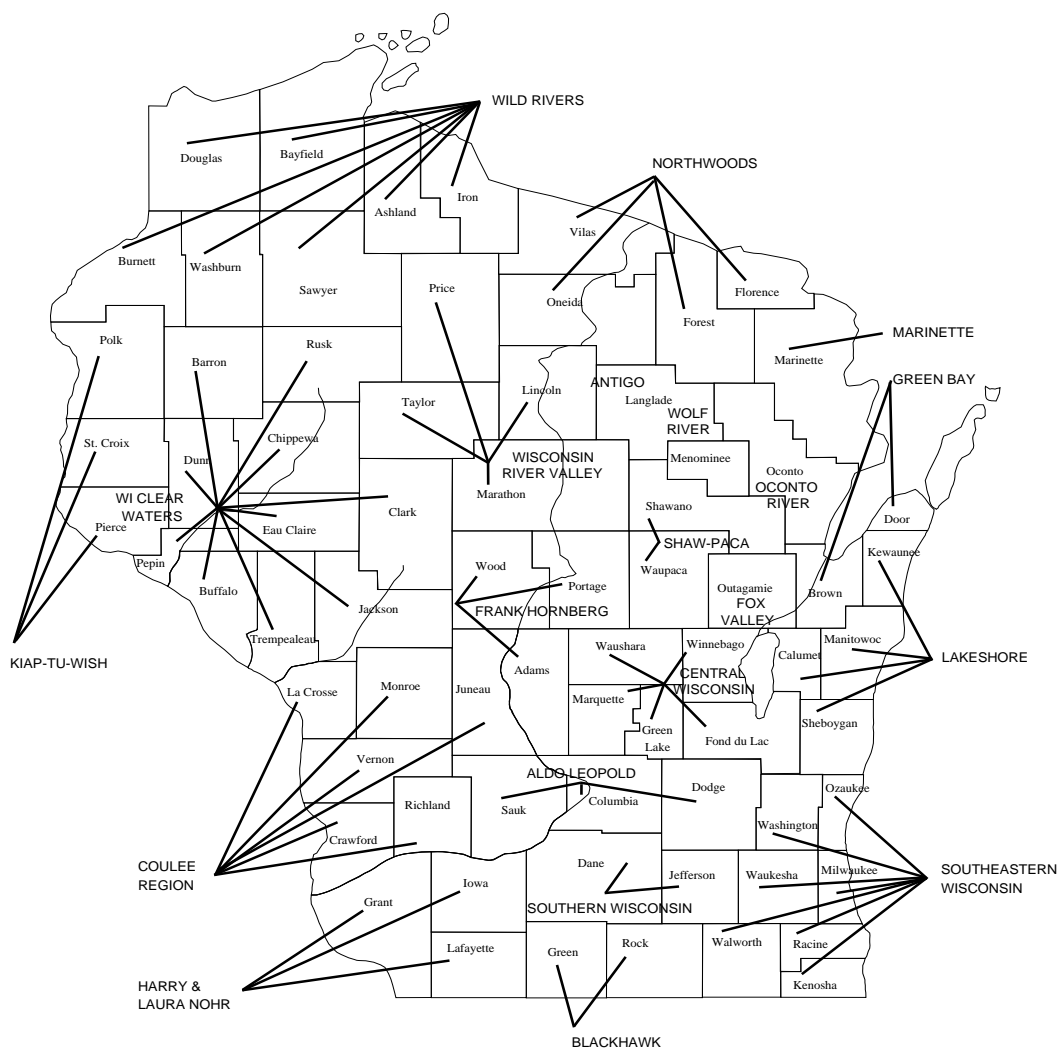
High-capacity well bill

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited took a hard stance in opposition to SB 76/AB 105. This bill was identical to a bill which had moved through the Wisconsin Legislature last session, and which actually passed both houses, but which did not become law on technical grounds. The two versions of the bill which passed through both houses were not identical, and were not reconciled, so they were not signed into law.

This year a similar bill was moved through both houses. It allows high-capacity well permit hold

Please see *WELLS*, page 13

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Are you getting emails from TU?

If you are currently not receiving news and event-related email messages from your chapter, the state council and TU National, then you are truly missing out on what's happening at all three levels. TU National manages the mailing list for the council and chapters, so update your address by going to www.tu.org, log in, then go to "Email Preferences." You can also call 1-800-834-2419 to make these changes, or to ask questions about making the changes via the web site.

WISCONSIN TROUT

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Photo/article contributions, letters to the editor and advertisements are welcomed. Submit to:

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Linn Beck, Chair

Mike Kuhr, Vice Chair

Tom Lager, Secretary

Gary Stoychoff, Treasurer

Chairman's Column

Summer fades into fall

Our efforts shift with the seasons, but still focus on habitat, kids, fundraising and legislative issues.

By Linn Beck, Council Chair

Wow, where did the time go this summer? It seems like yesterday that it was early May and I was trying to figure out what weekends were going to work out to get out and fish, and now by the time you read this we are at the close of the trout season.

I hope everyone got in their fair share of fishing. Based on the work day reports I have seen, it seems like a lot of you were able to help out at your chapter work days. I know I was able to make a couple work days and it felt great to get wet and work up a sweat. What a great excuse to get out and fish before and after the work is done. It's kind of like killing two birds with one stone.

Now the fun begins all over again, as we get back in the swing of things with our chapter meetings. We're all planning our chapter banquets to make the money to fund our work days. We're all working on setting up great programs for our chapter meetings.

This all sounds like a lot of work, but it really is the fun part. Without

all this preparation, we wouldn't be able to do the things that are very near to our hearts: Restoring our streams and keeping the chapter traditions going. For those of you who helped out at work days this past year, take satisfaction in a job well done.

As the trout season ends and you are cleaning your gear and getting your fly-tying stations prepared and picking out your winter reading material, please think about a few things.

First, we are about to get into the most unfavorable season of the year: The legislative sessions. Please take time to read our emails regarding contacting your representatives about important issues such as the bill regarding sulfide ore mining in Wisconsin. Contact your representatives, neighbors and anyone else who will listen and let them know this is a very bad idea.

Second, the Wisconsin Trout Unlimited banquet is just around the corner, on the first Saturday of February, at the Premier Best Western in Oshkosh. Please consider attending and supporting WITU so we can



STATE COUNCIL CHAIR LINN BECK

keep doing all the great work we do.

Finally, keep up the great work with our youth. It is great to hear from parents on how much fun their kids had at your events. Take a

youth fishing. They will remember you for it.

Thanks for all you do.
Tight Lines.

LETTERS

Dydimo "rock snot" blooms not spread by fishermen

I read with interest the article in the Summer 2017 Issue of Wisconsin Trout by Kim McCarthy about the dydimo blooms in Rapid Creek in the South Dakota Black Hills. Although Kim was correct to point out the dangers of invasive species, the example of dydimo ("rock snot") as an invasive species in North America and the spread of dydimo by fishermen is incorrect, according to the latest research independently performed by a research team in the USA and another in New Zealand.

The National Science Foundation published an article (<http://tinyurl.com/yaawsuju>) about a study in this same Rapid Creek, which was published in the journal Geophysical Research Letters. "In a study funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the State of South Dakota Carbon Scientist fund, Sundareshwar and colleagues revealed that dydimo is able to concentrate phosphorus from the water."

In layman's terms, dydimo forms "rock snot" filamentous mats as an adaptation to the low phosphorus concentrations in the water. These mats are able to concentrate the phosphorus required for dydimo growth. For "rock snot" to occur, there also must be abundant iron in the water, which is required for the mats to concentrate the phosphorus. Without both low phosphorus and iron, dydimo cannot form mats.

"The ability of the mats to store phosphorus is tied to the availability of iron in the water."

Dydimo cells adsorb, or condense on their surfaces, both iron and phosphorus. Then bacterial processes in the mat interact with iron to increase the biological availability of phosphorus.

The process results in abundant phosphorus for cell division, "and hence," says Sundareshwar, "resolution to the paradox of dydimo blooms in oligotrophic streams and rivers."

Kathy Kilroy and Max Bothwell have independently confirmed the findings in the rivers of New Zealand that have Dydimo blooms. Kilroy wrote an article for *Wailogy*, the New Zealand Freshwater Science Journal titled "What causes dydimo blooms ("rock snot") in NZ rivers?" (<http://tinyurl.com/y7zl9pey>)

Ironically, Max Bothwell is the Canadian scientist who first blew the whistle (incorrectly, as it turns out) on dydimo and felt boots. Independent of the South Dakota Sundareshwar team, Kilroy and Bothwell were studying the New Zealand dydimo-affected Waitaki River. Kilroy and Bothwell confirmed that "the blooms are caused by low nutrients in the overlying water, which promotes excessive stalk production. Subsequent surveys, experiments and observations in New Zealand have all been consistent with low nutrients (specifically low P) driving the blooms."

Kilroy and Bothwell published their findings in *The Journal of Phycology* 47: 981-989; *Freshwater Biology* 57: 641-653; and *Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences* 69: 1723-1727.

As a result of these new findings, Max Bothwell, who wrote an influential article that blamed angler's felt-soled boots as causing dydimo spread, has now reversed himself and said that anglers' boots are not responsible.

His original article, "On the Boots of Fishermen," can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/y8tj6yze>.

Bothwell now believes that dydimo has been in North American waters and that it is a change in water chemistry, specifically lower phosphorus, levels that has caused dydimo blooms. In an article in July-August

2013 *American Angler*, Bothwell now recants his original thesis:

"I no longer believe the problem is North American streams is the result of it (dydimo) being moved around...Scientists are now convinced that dydimo lives in many streams, but blooms only when the water has far less than the normal amount of phosphorus...The most damaging dydimo episode in the United States seems to have been on Rapid Creek in South Dakota, where a six-mile bloom dramatically impacted a blue ribbon brown trout fishery. In 2007 and 2008, Bothwell and other scientists added phosphorus to sections of Rapid Creek. Sure enough, the dydimo mats shrank."

In *Freshwater Biology* (2012) 57, 641-653 Bothwell now writes, "The blooms were present only in rivers where average dissolved P was very low. Dydimo in higher nutrient waters had higher cell division rates, shorter stalks, and did not form blooms...the blooms are caused by low nutrients in the overlying water, which promotes excessive stalk production. Subsequent surveys, experiments and observations in New Zealand have all been consistent with low nutrients (specifically low P) driving the blooms."

Furthermore, dydimo has been found in core borings of lake sediments dated back to 1218 by the presence of ash from a volcanic eruption. So I believe and I suggest that the research shows dydimo blooms in North America are unlikely to be due to recent transplantation of dydimo by fisherman. Rather, dydimo was spread centuries ago and only recently bloomed due to low phosphorus conditions as a result of eliminating phosphorus in detergents, cleaning agents and lawn fertilizer.

I think this recent discovery makes more sense than the old theory that all of a sudden dydimo sprang due to anglers boots when anglers have been using these same rivers for more than a century with no dydimo blooms.

Dr. Henry Kanemoto

Driftless Trout | LWR Smallmouth | Pike & Musky



Reel Issues.



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Nominations sought for 2018 State Council awards

The Wisconsin State Council of TU believes it is important to recognize the outstanding efforts of our members and the broader conservation community and has presented a number of awards since 1983.

Nominations are now being taken for the awards to be presented this February at the annual meeting and banquet in Oshkosh.

Award nominations come from the WITU

general membership, so please take time to tell our awards committee of individuals, groups or others you feel qualify for one of our awards.

Nominations, including a short narrative, should be submitted to the committee at least 60 days before the annual banquet. Successful recipients will be notified by the committee at least 15 days prior to the banquet.

If you have any questions about an award, feel free to contact an award committee member. Their contact information is on page 2.

The awards committee includes Bill Heart, Mike Kuhr, Todd Franklin and Henry Koltz.

Send nominations to Mike Kuhr at mikek.trout@yahoo.com.

Wisconsin TU State Council Award Criteria

Resource Award of Merit

Recipient can be a person, corporation or organization and may be a nonmember. Award can be presented posthumously. Award is given for outstanding contributions to conservation (does not need to be given for trout or salmon contributions).

Gold Trout Award for Service

Recipient must be a member in good standing of Wisconsin TU. Award will be presented to any person who has been an officer of the State Council, a national director, or any committee chairperson. This individual must have served at least one year of his or her term.

Silver Trout Award for Chapter Merit

Recipient must be a WITU chapter that has restored, enhanced, or protected Wisconsin's trout or salmon resource. The end result of the project must demonstrate a long-term commitment or benefit to the trout or salmon resource.

The total value of the project, including the value placed on man-hours and materials, must total at least \$3,500.

The project must involve trout and salmon resources available to the public to fish. Projects for private use only do not qualify.

Gold Net Award

Recipient must be an individual who has been a member in good standing of WITU for a period of at least five years.

Recipient must have participated in at least one major state or chapter fundraising event in the last five years.

Recipient must have worked on or attended at least five TU resource projects in the last five years.

Joan and Lee Wulff Award for Outstanding Conservation Leadership

Recipient to be an individual who has demonstrated outstanding service in the field of conservation. WITU's Executive Committee will choose the recipient. The traveling award, a framed collection of flies tied by Lee Wulff, remains with the recipient for one year.

Robert Hunt Resource Professional Award

Recipient must be a state fish manager or other conservation professional who has shown concern for the trout resource over and above his or her normal duties.

Corporate Sponsor Award

Recipient must be a business or corporation that has shown outstanding support of the State Council through financial contributions or by providing other support for TU's activities.

Certificate of Appreciation

Recipient can be a member of Wisconsin TU or be someone indirectly related to the trout and salmon resource. Recipient can be someone in an organization for his or her efforts within that organization.

Tomorrow's Angler Award

Individuals who have significantly contributed to youth education.

SPECIAL AWARDS:

Jeffrey Carlson Leadership Award

Recipient must be a WITU member who, following the example of Jeff's work over many years on coaster brook trout restoration, has taken a leadership role on a major stream project, or preserved or restored a species in a body of water.

Unsung Valuable Trout

Reel Partner Award

NOTES: All award nominations must be submitted to the awards committee as a written narrative describing the candidates' accomplishments, be that nominee an individual, chapter or other. All award recipients will be asked to be present at the awards banquet. The judgment and selection of all award recipients will be made by the awards committee, and their selections will be final.

YEAR	AWARD OF MERIT	GOLD TROUT	SILVER TROUT	GOLD NET	JOAN & LEE WULFF	HUNT PROFESSIONAL	CORP./BUSINESS	CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION
1984	Harold Starkweather	Roger Fairbanks	Ojibseau	Bob Brunzell		Duke Andrews		Tom Flesch, Bob Maier, Tom Mertens, Bob Burnham, Bob Brunzell, Wally Cooper, Duke Andrews, Jim Spalding, Cap Buettner & GBTU
1985	Jim Addis	Ron Koshoshek	Shaw-Paca	Mitch Bent		Prof. Jack Heaton		Arling Erickson, Lee Parker, Cy Sendalbach,
1986	Bob Zimmerman	Larry Meicher & Bob Retko	Green Bay	Jim Bereza		Frank Pratt		Tom Pouliett, Tom Sopkovich, Phil Orth, Sheldon's (Mepps)
87	Tom Flesch	Dan Harmon	Antigo	Lowell Genrich		Max Johnson		Rep. Sharon Metz, Frank Pratt, Walli Arts, Larry Worth, Earl Little, Glen Cox & Tim Johnson
1988	Richard Osborn	Kim McCarthy & Jerry Weatherwax	Fox Valley	Jim Bereza		Tim Larson		Connie Rohman
89	Mitch Bent	Bob Heding	Southern WI	Bob Worth		Gene VanDyck		Rep. James Holperin, Jim Curray, Bud Jordahl & Joe Knight
1990	Bob Hunt	Jim Bereza	Aldo Leopold	Dick Krays		Scott Stewart		Jim Bereza, Herb Hintze & Gordon King
1991	Larry Claggett	Rich Wachowski & Steve Born	Green Bay	Dennis Orgemen		Duke Andrews		Anne Dirkman & Tip Bagstad
1992	Nash Williams	Herb Buettner	Wolf River	Marlin Spindler		Dave Vetrano		Mike Syverson, Carrol Besadny & Forrest Grulke
1993	--	Jerry Weatherwax	Aldo Leopold	Jim Bereza		Tim Larson		
1994	[No banquet this year]							
1995	George Vukelich	Bob Eastlund, Harley Erbs & Jim Hlaban	Frank Hornberg	John Cantwell				Bob Boucher
1996	Richard Knitter	David Newhouse	Kiap-TU-Wish	Forrest Grulke	Bud Jordahl	Marty Engel		Bob Reynolds & Sen. Robert Cowles
1997	Lee Kernen	Bob Heim		John Bethke	Steve Born	Duke Andrews		
1998	Herb Buettner	Bill Sherer	WI River Valley	Herb Hintze	Kathleen Falk	Scott Stewart, Andy Morton & Ken Johnson		
1999	Dr. Christine Thomas	Jeff Smith	Kiap-TU-Wish	Jeff Preiss	Jeff Carlson	Jim Holzer, John Nelson & Al Niebur		Stu Grimstad
2000	--	Tony Tremi	Harry & Laura Nohr	Larry Doebert	Martin Hanson	Roger Kerr		
2001	Terry Kohler	Fred Young	Central WI	Greg Vodak	John Welter			Sen. Kevin Shibilski, Dick Prine, David
2002	Elward Engle	John Bethke & Stu Grimstad	Coulee Region	Gary Stoychoff	George Meyer	Larry Kreise		Beckwith & Ron Seely
2003	Dave Ladd	Chuck Stuedel	Ojibseau	Bill Pielsticker	Dan Flaherty			John Sauters, Scott Watson, Steve Galoff & Connie Walker for WI Public Radio
2004	Mole Lake Sokaogon Chippewa & Forest County Potawatomi	Dave Fritz	Wild Rivers	Gordon Braun	Dale Druckrey	Jeff Hastings & Jim Hladke		Kris Stepenuck, Peggy Compton & Mike Reiter
2005	Larry Meicher	Jeff Smith	Harry & Laura Nohr	Bill Heart	--	Al Stranz		Eric Schuhring for WOJB-FM
2006	Herb Behnke	Larry Kriese	Lakeshore & Ocooch	Don Pluemer	--			Rep. Du Wayne Johnsrud & Sen. Neal Kedzie
2007	Dennis Vanden Bloomen	Bill Pielsticker	Blackhawk	Del Schwaller	Peg Lautenschlager	Scott Toshner		Ed Culhane
2008	--	Dan Wisniewski	Southeastern WI	Dave Patrick	Herb Hintze	John Sours		Green Bay Chapter, Cindy Koperski, & Rep. Tom Petri
2009	Clint Byrnes	Todd Hanson	Southern WI	Tim Meyer	Jim Hlaban	Jim Larson & Dave Brum		Jeff and Jenna Phillips family
2010	WI League of Conservation Voters	Bill Heart	Kiap-TU-Wish	Steve Hill	Chuck Beeler	Rob Herman		Kathleen Falk & Ken Anderson
2011	John Welter	Bob Haase	Central WI	Rick Kytte	Topf Wells	Henry Quinlan & George Boronow	Tight Lines Fly Fishing Co.	Paul Smith, Paul Krahn, & Greg Wahl
2012	Dan Wisniewski	Henry Koltz	Aldo Leopold	John Gremmer	Paul Kruse	Shawn Sullivan	Fontana Sports Specialties	Alistair Stewart & Fairmount Minerals Co.
2013	Kim McCarthy	Dale Lange	Southern WI	Rich Vetrano	Scott Grady	Cliff Sabero & Brent Bergstrom	Hayward Fly Fishing Co.	Save Copper Creek, Al Niebur, & Bob Micheel
2014	Bill Heart	Winston Ostrow	Oconto River Watershed	Rich Erickson	Tina Murray	Todd Mau & Pat Sutter	Cabelas	Tom Gawie, Sen. Bob Jauch, & Sen. Dale Schultz
2015	Henry Koltz	Doug Brown	Northwoods	Dave Seligman	Stu Grimstad	Tracy Hames & Tony Pillow	WI Orvis stores	All Noll, Rick Bauer, & Brian Larson
2016	Mike Staggs	Heidi Oberstadt	Fox Valley	Joe Bach	Scott Stewart	Sue Reinecke & Dave Seibel	St. Croix Rod Co.	Jim Ott, Brandon Scholz, Dale Dahlke, & Dave Carlson
2017	--	Linn Beck	Marinette County	Tom Lager	Gene Van Dyck	Ben Heussner, Marty Engel	Damian Wilmot Fly By Night	Jeff Butler & Bob Swanson

OTHER AWARDS

1985	Scientific Contribution Award -- Steve Field
1989	Scientific Contribution Award -- Eddie Avery
1991	Headwaters Award -- Clint Byrnes
1996	Aldo Leopold Leadership Award -- Todd Hanson
1998	Most Unsung Valuable Trout Award -- Forrest Grulke
1999	Most Unsung Valuable Trout Award -- Mitch Bent
2003	Jeffrey Carlson Leadership Award -- Roger Widner; Most Unsung Valuable Trout Award -- Jim Bereza
2004	Most Unsung Valuable Trout Award -- Jim Hlaban; Reel Partners Award -- Oakbrook Chapter TU & Elliott Donnelley Chapter TU
2005	Jeffrey Carlson Leadership Award -- Pete Esser
2006	Most Unsung Valuable Trout Award -- Dan Holland; Reel Partners Award -- River Alliance of WI
2007	Jeffrey Carlson Leadership Award -- Bill Heart; Aldo Leopold Leadership Award -- Bill Pielsticker
2008	Jeffrey Carlson Leadership Award -- John Welter; Most Unsung Valuable Trout Award -- Sarah Sanford
2009	Lifetime Achievement Award -- Larry Meicher; Most Unsung Valuable Trout Award -- Bob Gennrich
2010	Most Unsung Valuable Trout Award -- Randy Arnold
2012	Most Unsung Valuable Trout Award -- Eric Rauch
2013	Jeffrey Carlson Leadership Award -- Kent Johnson
2014	Jeffrey Carlson Leadership Award -- Mike Barniskis; Reel Partners Award -- Steve Born, Tom Krauskopt, Bob Selk, Fred Wolf, & Scott Stokes; Most Unsung Valuable Trout Award -- Ivan Nohavica
2015	Most Unsung Valuable Trout Award -- Stan Strelka and Jim Wierzbza; Tomorrow's Angler Award -- Bob Haase, Todd Templen, Linn Beck
2016	Most Unsung Valuable Trout Award -- Mike Stapleton, John Gribb; Reel Partners Award -- Jennifer Giegerich, Erin O'Brien & Helen Sarakinos
2017	Most Unsung Valuable Trout Award -- Bob Traczyk; Tomorrow's Angler Award -- Wayne Parnley

2017 TUDARE Project Bus Tour coming soon

Annual tour is set for Tuesday, October 17, departing from Winona, Minnesota



ENJOYING A LITTLE SOCIAL TIME BETWEEN STREAMS

Project sites on Rush and Pine Creeks near Rushford, Mill Creek near Chatfield and Garvin Brook near Stockton will be featured. There is no admission fee and lunch will be provided. Reservations are necessary, as seating is limited.

A group of innovative and successful southeast Minnesota trout stream restoration projects will be featured on the 2017 Project Bus Tour on October 17. Minnesota Trout Unlimited, Hiawatha and Win-Cres chapters of TU, the Minnesota DNR and other partners have cooperated in building a strong coldwater restoration program, with projects notable for their impacts on many species, including trout.

“We’re excited to bring interested people from all over the Driftless Area to see these projects and take good ideas home,” said Jeff Hastings, project manager for TU’s Driftless Area Restoration Effort (DARE). “New designs and methods are changing the face of restoration and these projects show them

off. We’ll also invite the designers, contractors and landowners to join us and talk about the work they’ve done.”

Each year the bus tour will focus on projects in a different part of the Driftless Area.

The tour will meet at the Winona Fleet Farm parking lot (Highways 61 and 43) at 8 a.m. and return by 5 p.m. Project sites on Rush and Pine Creeks near Rushford, Mill Creek near Chatfield and Garvin Brook near Stockton will be featured. There is no admission fee and lunch will be provided. Reservations are necessary as seating is limited. For questions or reservations, contact Duke Welter at dwelter@tu.org. Signups for the charter bus tour are now under way.

Camp American Legion

Veterans Service Partnership event leaves lasting impression.



TYING A BLUEGILL FLY ISN'T THAT DIFFICULT, AFTER ALL

Terry Cummings of the Northwoods Chapter helps a young camper with constructing the perfect bluegill fly.

By Mike Kuhr

This past August, nine military families gathered for an adventure-filled week at Camp American Legion near Minocqua. Wisconsin TU volunteers from four different chapters provided the expertise on “fly fishing day.” The camp offered active troops, National Guard, reservists and veterans the opportunity to reconnect with and reintegrate with their families in a low-stress environment situated in the heart of Wisconsin’s famed “Northwoods.”

This retreat was the brainchild of Lynn Marilla, a TU volunteer in her home state of North Carolina and founder and “Chief Executive Camper” of Eagle Rock Camp (ERC), a non-profit organization serving military families in North Carolina. According to their website, ERC “reconnects military families at holistic retreats that are therapeutic, build spiritual resilience and strengthen family bonds.”

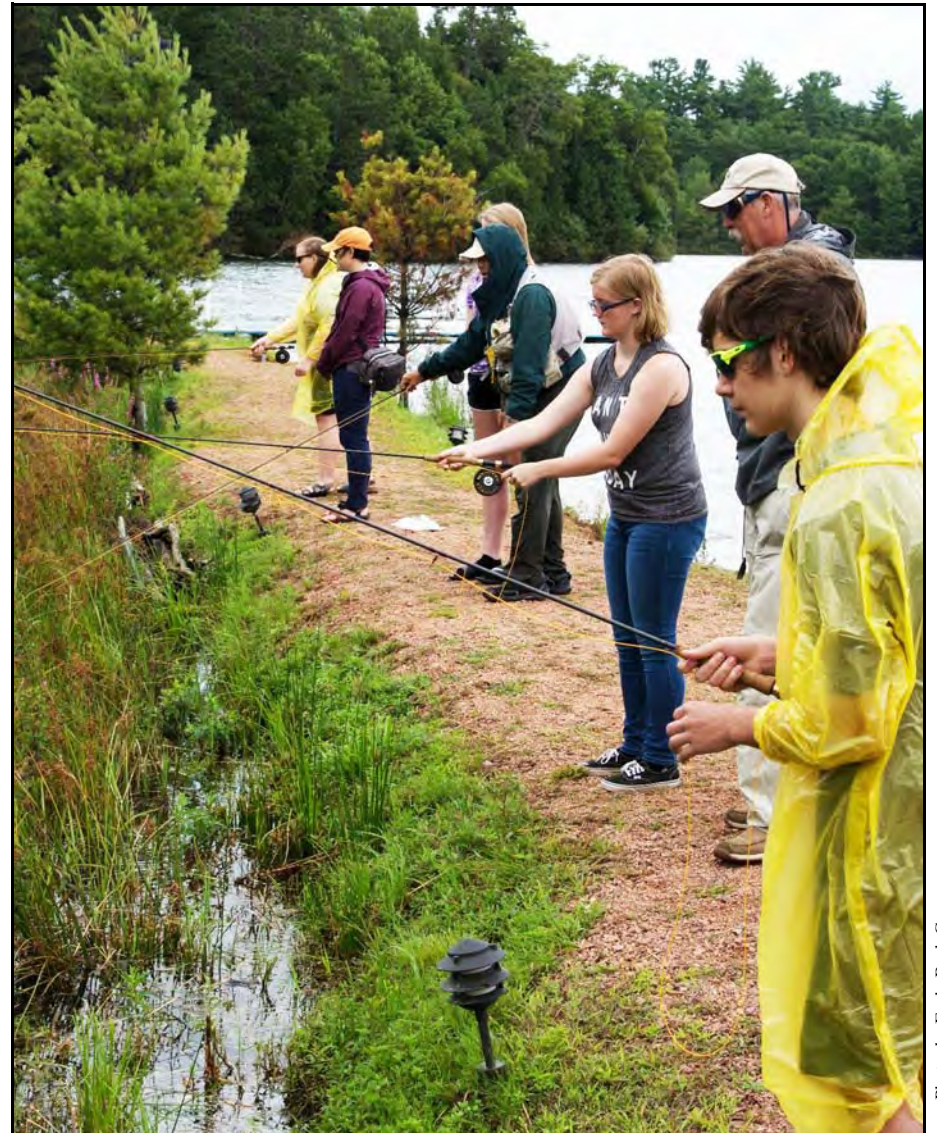
When Marilla, a Michigan native, heard about Camp American Legion, which offers lodging, meals and recreation opportunities to Wisconsin’s military families on the shores of Big Carr Lake, she immediately went to work on setting up a retreat. Nine families, consisting of

18 adults and 26 kids, participated in the four-day event. Marilla, being familiar with TU and our work with Project Healing Waters, reached out to Wisconsin TU and asked us to lead fly-fishing and fly-tying activities on day three.

We started the morning working with the children while the adults were doing other activities. The retreats often break up the adults and kids for a period of time during the day. This creates more family bonding opportunities during mealtime and in the evenings where everyone can come together and share their daily experiences.

Terry Cummings and Dave Tiple of the Northwoods Chapter and Renee Sagal of the Aldo Leopold Chapter set up fly-tying stations for the kids in the morning. WITU Education Chair Bob Haase provided the tying material kits with everything needed to tie simple panfish flies. Bright colored foam, chenille and hackle quickly adorned the hooks. Thanks to Northwoods TU for letting us use their fly-tying vices and tools. Next, the kids brought their flies down to the shores of the lake, hoping to get a bass or bluegills’ attention.

Once lakeside, Bill Sherer of We Tie It Fly Shop in Boulder Junction



CASTING LESSONS PART OF THE PROGRAM

Laura MacFarland of the Northwoods Chapter, Henry Kanemoto of the Wisconsin River Valley Chapter and Bill Sherer of We Tie It Fly Shop and the Northwoods Chapter, mentor youth anglers at Camp American Legion.

gave the kids a brief casting lesson. Soon it was time to give the new flies a try. Volunteers Henry Kanemoto and Chuck Sauer from the Wisconsin River Valley Chapter, Laura MacFarland of the Northwoods Chapter, Jared Sagal of the Aldo Leopold Chapter and Mike Kuhr of the Southeast Wisconsin Chapter assisted. High winds and stormy skies made casting a challenge, but the kids kept their composure and managed to land some small bluegills near shore. We’d like to thank Northwoods TU and Tina Murry of the Wisconsin Women’s Fly Fishing Clinics for providing the

rod and reel outfits.

Volunteers and family members all gathered in the lodge for lunch provided by the camp. Afterwards it was family time, and it was great to see husbands, wives and kids all lined up casting a line in the lake. Rainy weather brought the day to an early end, but the families all really enjoyed their time together on the water.

Wisconsin TU is proud to have been able to assist in serving these military families and we look forward to partnering with both Camp American Legion and Eagle Rock Camp on future retreats.

Fourth Annual WITU Youth Fishing Camp

Thanks to the chapters, volunteers and campers for buying into this amazing annual event.



Photos by the Oberstadts

By Linn Beck, Council Chair

The 2017 Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Youth Camp is in the books and this year's camp had everything going for it. The weather was great and we had another fantastic turnout of campers, mentors and volunteers.

It's hard to believe this was our fourth annual camp. Time flies when you are having fun, and fun it is has been. Of course, we couldn't do it without having our supportive chapters buying into the program. Thanks to this support, what started out as a great idea has developed into something truly special. As long as chapters continue to find interested youth campers, this annual event can go on for a long time. Next year's camp is July 19-22.

We had a dream when we started the camp that every youth would be as excited about our passion as we are when we finished the event. This dream has turned into a reality. Several former campers started a youth chapter within their home chapter. Some of the youth have enjoyed camp so much that they volunteer to

return and serve as mentors. The part I love though, is going to chapter events and seeing past campers being involved and having fun doing it.

I want to thank everyone for making the camp a success, including all the chapters that spend the money to make sure a youth or two could attend the camp and represent their chapter. I can't offer enough thanks to the many volunteers and mentors. I know how special time off is for everyone, but each year so many people give their time to this event. Including committee members, presenters and mentors, we average 35 volunteers every year. Over the course of these first four years more than 100 different people have given their time and effort in some way.

A big thanks go out to the very dedicated members of our WITU Youth Camp Committee. The work the committee puts in really shows, and has made the camp what it is.

I would like to send a special thank you to all the youth who have attended our camp. We hope the experience you had with us was as



TYING FLIES CAN BRING SMILES

Aled Griffiths and mentor Don Fritz are truly enjoying themselves at this past summer's WITU Youth Fishing Camp.

much fun as the experience we enjoyed having you participate.

One thing we've confirmed via the camp is that youngsters love to fish. Please find the time to take a

youth fishing. Show them not only the fishing, but point out the beauty that surrounds them when you are on the water. Be a mentor and you will have a friend for life.

Chapter Youth Education Coordinators needed

By Linn Beck, Council Chair

We have been talking about and encouraging all the chapters to install a Youth Education Coordinator within their chapters. Currently this position exists in less than 10 percent of chapters nationwide. In Wisconsin we are doing better, with about with about a third of the chapters having success finding a volunteer to take on this important chapter role.

I took on the role of Youth Education Coordinator for the State Council because I believe that this is an important role not only to help develop our youth programs for the chapters with the coordinators, but more importantly to give our youth an opportunity to learn and enjoy the programs that are available.

In my role, I won't be developing new programs in the individual chapters, but instead I will be available to help all the chapters either develop some or all the programs that Trout Unlimited has available, or help improve the programs that are already up and running.

This chapter role doesn't require that the youth coordinators take the lead for all their chapters' youth programs, but rather work to help the chapter to recruit leaders for the programs the chapter is willing to take on. Additional roles of the chapter Youth Education Coordinator include:

- Serving as a liaison between the chapter and other youth organizations. This would be to help get youth involved in our programs.
- Serve as the contact between the chapter and TU National's Headquarters staff.
- Manage youth memberships and help recruit youth to attend chapter events.
- Search for funding opportunities for youth-related programs.

One of the biggest issues facing chapters is the lack of youth attending meetings and becoming involved. This could change in a heartbeat with youth programs designed to build interest and involvement. I speak from experience with something as simple as the WITU Youth Fishing Camp. I get to see the interest of these youth and the eagerness to learn something new at each of the programs. I know the chap-

ters that have sponsored youth are experiencing some great youth involvement. For example, the Fox Valley Chapter past camp attendees have been working to develop a youth chapter. The youth camp also is reaping the rewards of youth involvement. About 25 percent of our past participants are now volunteering to be mentors and presenters at the camp.

I know there are a lot of examples of youth involvement with chapter programs such as "Trout In the Classroom." Some of the chapter fun days are experiencing great youth involvement, such as Cabin Fever and TroutFest. We are having more youth tyers at some of our functions around the state.

If you are interested in serving as a Youth Education Coordinator for your chapter, contact your chapter leaders or contact me at chlbeck@att.net or 920-216-7408. I also ask that chapter leaders let me know when you fill this vital position.

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Taking it all in and passing it on

Things we might be missing.



LEARNING TO STOP, LISTEN AND LOOK

Youth mentor Michael Endres stops to see what's clinging to the rocks during the Youth Camp fishing outing.

Words and photos by Wayne Parmley

For all of us, I believe, trout fishing is and always has been a bit more than just trying to catch trout. Yes, the pursuit of trout is what gets us on the stream, but the "bit more" is soaking in the total surroundings. We all do it, but do we do it as deeply as we could or should?

On Sunday morning, the last day of the Wisconsin TU Youth Trout Fishing Camp this past July, I had the good fortune, quite by accident, to experience the "bit more" a bit more.

The day before, Shawn Sullivan of the DNR gave a great presentation on trout stream environments, restoration and related topics.

I have seen this presentation several times, and it is always enjoyable and informative. Shawn always tweaks it a bit, adding a new story and often getting off track because of a great question or a related idea that freshly pops into his head. I always find some nugget to take away, so I never tire of his presentations, and his enthusiasm is infectious.

This presentation picked up on a theme he added on the day before at our on-stream presentation, where he touched on taking your time and looking around. He noted all the fantastic things going on that make up the whole environment. Cool stuff is happening. You just might see something very interesting while you are not fishing, and that just might make you a better fisherman. Yes, cliché of course, but yet such true advice.

Back to Sunday morning. All the students were paired up with guides, and all volunteer assignments were in place, so I was free to take two of our junior mentors fishing, William Follett and Michael Endres.

Junior mentors are students who we ask back and/or they ask to come back to help, and it has become a great part of the youth camp program. After all the great help they brought to camp, they more than deserved some free time chasing

trout. So we geared up and headed to a quiet part of the Mecan River to explore.

During the drive, Michael and I chatted up a storm and William drifted off to nap land. We debated if we should leave him in the truck to sleep while we fished, but he sprang into action once he heard the doors open.

We were all in a nice relaxed mood, not in a hurry. I set them up on the stream in different spots with plenty of room and then faded into the background a bit to watch them do their thing.

Since it was very warm, sunny, unfamiliar water and so on, fishing was slow, to say the least, so we did not have high expectations, but we were so happy to just be out on a stream.

As we all inched along popping a cast here and there, me a bend or two behind them, I found myself really looking at everything around me: plants, bugs, poking my rod under LUNKER structures to see just how far back they go, etc.

Then a damselfly sitting on a leaf at eye level caught my attention. While looking at this damselfly with my face two inches away, I finally noticed just a few inches behind it, looking at me was a Northern Water snake.

Luckily my fear of snakes has been curbed over the past few years by my son's intense interest in snakes. I went from not touching them three years ago to holding them. Yes, your children can teach you many things, even how to deal with phobias. I slowly backed away for a better look and noticed a larger one behind it.

Ironically, Shawn had talked about water snakes in the trees around trout streams and I had neither heard of that nor have I ever seen a water snake in a tree. So, here I am less than 24 hours later experiencing it close up. I pulled out my camera and started taking photos, so close that the snake nearest me struck at the camera. As many of

you know, water snakes are quite feisty.

Working my way upstream, I finally reached the boys and shared the snake story. We decided it was time to work our way back downstream to the truck, but we had taken our time. So began the best part of the outing, exactly what Shawn had talked about: stopping, looking around and being in the moment.

One of the snakes was still hanging in the tree. We found bugs, talked about undercut bank cover, debated plant species, ate wild raspberries and picked up trash. We found a golden stonefly nymph, and this was as big of a moment for William as if he had caught a fish. He had never seen one, but yet had fished that nymph many times.

This outing was all for these two young men, but yet I felt like the privileged one. What a rich experience it was. I stepped back, sighed and thought to myself that this is what it is all about.

Over the next several days I reflected back on this outing as well as remembering back to my early experiences getting on trout water in my early teens. I had been very interested in fishing from an early age, and my grandmother shared stories that fascinated me and handed down quite a bit of old fishing gear.

Unfortunately she was long past being able to actually take me fishing, but either way it pulled me in deeper into pursuit of learning all I could about fishing. Books, magazines and the rare outdoor TV show added to my drive.

At age 11 my family moved into town from our waterless rural setting. Living in town actually gave me access to water for the first time. The Flambeau River was just a 3-block walk from our new house. Thus began weekly, in some cases daily, fishing outings all summer long. That was a big deal since I had no one in my family to take me fishing. I now had the means to do it on my own.

Little did I know that this would open a door to trout fishing. For me trout seemed inaccessible for many reasons, not quite something that was real. Not that I did not enjoy all the warm-water fishing, I truly love warm-water, but trout were just so beautiful, exotic and remote to me at that time.

A neighbor of ours saw me hauling my gear down the street to the river so he knew I was into fishing. He approached me one day and

asked if I would be interested in going trout fishing with him someday. His name was Morris and he worked part time for the railroad, so he was free seven out of every 10 days. He explained that his grandkids were too young to go fishing and his own children were too busy working and taking care of those young grandkids, thus he was in need of a young fishing partner.

I now finally had a trout fishing mentor. At the time I was excited, but I did not fully realize my good fortune and how much long-term impact this would have on me.

So, for the next several summers, I would get a call in the evening asking if I could be ready to go the next morning at 5:30 a.m. The answer was always an enthusiastic "yes!"

We typically fished worms and night crawlers, then eventually moved to spinners on some outings.

In his earlier life he fly fished, but due to local conditions and heavy brush, he went back to spin fishing. So, even though we did not fly fish, he shared a lot of good information on the topic that worked as a great stepping-stone to later pursue fly fishing.

By the time I got my driver's license and had a few buddies that were also into chasing trout, Morris's grandkids were old enough to take over as his new fishing partners.

As James Babb notes in his book, "Fish Won't Let Me Sleep," the most important angling innovation since the fishing hook was the automobile." I could not agree more. That is the biggest key to trout fishing. Anyone without the means to drive needs someone who can.

This leads me to believe that maybe this is a gap TU can help fill in a better way. I know TU does so much already and does do some mentoring, but mentorship I feel is still needed for some of those 10- to 16-year-old kids out there who don't have a family member or neighbor to fill that role.

I worry there are some kids that go to our camp and come home excited with an armload of new gear and just can't get to trout water to keep the excitement going.

Would there be a way to create a mentor network within TU chapters or at the state level? Just one or two outings a summer could really make a big difference in a young angler's life.



STOP AND LOOK AROUND, AND YOU WILL BE SURPRISED WHAT YOU SEE
Eye-to-eye with a northern water snake on the Mecan River.

Kiap-TU-Wish completes Trimbelle River project

Volunteers put in tremendous effort to sow seed and plant prairie plugs.

By Dan Wilcox

The Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter recently announced the completion of a conservation project on the Trimbelle River west of Ellsworth. This project is another example of the vision of Kiap-TU-Wish in the 21st century: to conserve, protect and restore our coldwater streams.

The project area is on the Mike and Suzanne Holst property along County Highway O about one mile south of U.S. Highway 10. There is a DNR easement on the property and it is open to public fishing.

Dennis Fritz, who recently retired from the Pierce County Conservation Department, and Mike Holst started planning the project in 2013. Jeff Kitelinger of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in Ellsworth and DNR Trout Stream Projects Leader Nate Anderson designed the project.

The project included stabilizing the banks and providing in-stream structure for trout on the Trimbelle River and the tributary Spring Creek. Starting during the winter of 2017, Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter volunteers spent 527 hours cutting and burning box elder trees and brush along the river. The DNR purchased rock riprap that was delivered during the winter. Mike Holst donated and hauled in large limestone boulders.

In early May the DNR stream crew removed stumps, graded the banks back to a gentle slope and placed rock to stabilize the stream

banks and create in-stream trout habitat. Mike Holst hauled out stumps and excess soil. In-stream habitat features include two plunge pools, including one on the Trimbelle River and one on Spring Creek, 12 root wads with logs and large boulders.

Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter and Fairmount Minerals volunteers built 6 wood LUNKER structures that provide overhead shelter for trout. Five LUNKER structures were installed in the Trimbelle River and one on Spring Creek. Work was completed on June 21 with final grading, seeding and mulching, and construction of a small parking area.

In June Kiap-TU-Wish volunteers seeded grass mix, winter rye and red clover. Dennis Fritz donated some native wildflower and grass seed that was planted along Spring Creek. We used 250 straw bales to mulch everything, a record for us to place in one day.

There was a total of 889 feet of one bank and 345 feet of both banks completed on Trimbelle River and 356 feet of both banks on Spring Creek for a total of 2,291 feet of rip rap and trout habitat. Randy Arnold, Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter volunteer coordinator, constructed and installed a sign for the project. He also built and set out 16 bluebird boxes along the Trimbelle River.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Environment Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) funded \$34,147 of stream bank stabilization. The total cost of the project



INSTREAM STRUCTURE AND STABILIZED BANKS

Here's a beautiful view of the recently completed Trimbelle River project on the Holst property, looking upstream from one of the plunge pools.

(not including labor) was \$48,268. The DNR Trout Stamp Program provided \$14,121.20. Cost per foot for 2,291 feet of stone rip rap bank protection was \$21. The DNR constructed a two-car parking area and installed a culvert. That work was funded through the DNR Fisheries Lands budget.

Landowners Mike and Sue Holst said that they are pleased with how well the project turned out and that they are happy to have been a part

of it. They extend their thanks to all for their hard work on the project. Jeff Kitelinger of the NRCS in Ellsworth said that with completion of the Holst project, there are now about two miles of Trimbelle River downstream of Highway 10, nearly all of which has been restored and that provides excellent opportunity for public fishing.

Follow the chapter on Facebook or at kiaptuwish.org.

Correctional center provides prairie seeds and plugs

By Dan Wilcox

To help inmates prepare themselves to rejoin the wider community, the St. Croix Correctional Center in New Richmond offers a wide range of work and treatment programs. According to Caitlin Smith of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Wetlands Management Office near Somerset, Wisconsin, the USFWS and DNR completed a prairie restoration project on about five acres of the correctional center grounds. This started a conversation for further partnership and how to expand efforts for pollinators.

The correctional center committed to starting a local ecotype seed plot on their grounds to provide native prairie seed and plugs (small plants) for public and private lands throughout the community. They also committed numerous volunteer hours for habitat-related projects. Their goal is about giving back to the community.

The USFWS received a Monarch grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to conduct a program to provide plants for pollinators. Plugs were grown and supplied by the St. Croix Correctional Center. The USFWS was initially working with

Captain Scott Grady, who recently retired. He handed the reins over to Sergeant Jonathan Rosenthal at the correctional center to lead the project.

The correctional center provided funds and time to build a greenhouse and provide supplies for this project. The Willow River Rod and Gun Club provided funds to purchase greenhouse lighting. Donations of planting containers were obtained from the local community.

The pilot project was a success, growing about 2,500 plugs. Species included oxeye sunflower, bergamot, common milkweed, swamp milkweed and butterfly milkweed. There were too many plugs for the correctional center to plant to expand their seed and educational plot, so they wanted to provide excess plugs to the surrounding community.

Excess plugs were provided to USFWS to distribute to grant partners and the local community. That's how the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter received a donation of native prairie plants. I met with the USFWS office near Somerset. Caitlin Smith and her colleague, monarch program coordinator Colleen Anderson, loaded my truck with many flats of small native plants,



KIAP VOLUNTEERS PITCH IN

Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter volunteers and DNR stream crew during the seeding and mulching work at the Holst project.

way more than the 500 plants we had discussed.

On a Sunday in July, Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter volunteers gathered at the Mike and Suzanne Holst property, where there is a fishing easement on the Trimbelle River along County Highway O, about a mile south of U.S. Highway 10. Volunteer Coordinator Randy Arnold, Pat Sexton, Leif Grina, Nathan and his six-year-old son Isaiah Scheibe, Trish Hanna and I were the planting crew.

It was a nice morning that turned into a hot day. We planted and watered more than 700 native prairie plant plugs along

the Trimbelle River. After working from 9 a.m. until after noon, the volunteers were bushed, but we left knowing that there will be a 300-yard strip of pollinator habitat along the newly restored reach of the Trimbelle River.

Caitlin Smith said that the native plants pollinator program with the St. Croix Correctional Facility is an excellent opportunity for education and outreach, while also giving back to the community. She and Colleen Anderson hope that this project continues well into the future and provides pollinator habitat for years to come.

Marinette Chapter supports local monitoring effort

By Greg Cleereman

The ability of trout to move up and down a stream is an often overlooked habitat quality factor. Knowing this, Trout Unlimited has been actively seeking out and rectifying trout passage problems in northeastern Wisconsin.

In March of this year, Laura MacFarland, Wisconsin TU Great Lakes Stream Restoration Manager, contacted Marinette County's Greg Cleereman to request help with assessing stream passage issues in the Peshtigo River Watershed. Collaboration was quickly agreed to, if additional county staff resources became available. A tight budget in the Marinette County Land Information Department had required elimination of the summer help that usually assisted permanent staff with field work and other duties.

This was where the Marinette TU Chapter stepped in by donating \$3,000 to partially fund hiring a summer staff person. Brody Devine, a Peshtigo High School graduate and UW-Stevens Point attendee, began assisting Marinette County staff in mid-June. His duties included crossing surveys, especially on Swamp, Camp Nine, Camp Five, Swede John and Eagle Creek and tributaries.

Several parameters were considered at each stop. Culvert dimensions were measured and conditions assessed. Water flow rate was gauged in both the culvert and natural stream. Stream dimensions and flow rate were taken for later comparison with the culvert results. Fill

depth above the culverts, road width and surface type were noted to facilitate a rough remediation cost estimate, if appropriate.

Improperly installed culverts are the biggest fish-passage problem, mostly due to being undersized or "perched." An undersized culvert usually results in ponding upstream of the inlet. In this situation, flow rates through the culvert may be too high for trout to pass through. Ponding can also lead to higher water temperatures and buildup of sediment.

Culvert bottoms should be placed at the level of the stream bottom. A perched culvert is too high, sometimes completely above the water surface, resulting a mini water fall from the outlet. Some anglers like perched culverts as they concentrate trout, but a perched culvert is bad for a stream since all brook trout movement may be blocked.

Despite a relatively late project start and technical difficulties inherent to using a new computer data collection method, we have visited 221 stream crossings. Some crossings were bridges, presenting no passage issues. Others turned out to be ephemeral or only connected wetlands.

So far, 64 sites were fully examined. The effort will continue until all stream segments suitable for trout have been visited.

In all, three full-time Marinette County staff worked on the project. Russ Mattice worked in the field. Tim Oestreich made project maps, organized data and set up our computer data collection equipment.



MARINETTE COUNTY CHAPTER SUPPORTS SUMMER STAFF
Russ Mattice and Brody Devine (in the stream) are shown with some of the equipment used to assess stream crossings.

Greg Cleereman also performed field work and will make a project presentation at the October Marinette Chapter meeting.

Words and photos contributed by Marinette County Land Information Director and Conservationist Greg Cleereman.

CWTU member attends TU Teen Summit

Clay Parmley looks forward to implementing goals at the national level.

By Jennifer Owen

Spotting an endangered bird, working on a stream improvement project and brainstorming ways to get more kids into fishing are all pretty interesting endeavors.

But for Clay Parmley, a 16-year-old who is passionate about conservation, these were just a few of the things that occurred in less than a week at the TU Teen Summit in Grayling, Michigan.

"We were lucky enough to see a Kirtland's Warbler, which was pretty great," said Parmley. "It's weird to think that this bird, which is endangered, only nests in this specific area of Michigan, but then actually winters in the Bahamas."

Parmley, a member of CWTU for four years, was one of 29 teens from across the U.S. who attended the teen summit. The organization recruits young leaders ages 13-18 who have proven a commitment to TU's mission and have demonstrated leadership at a high level.

During the five-day event they form the Youth Leadership Council (YLC). The YLC members stay involved with each other, their local community and with TU staff throughout the year, working on projects and outreach with the goal to raise TU's profile among their peers. Activities include conservation tours of the area, leadership skills, conservation and science workshops, guest speakers, a service proj-

ect at a local stream, and, of course, lots of time for hanging out by the campfire, tying flies and fishing.

"The fact that this year's summit was held in Grayling, Mich., which is the birthplace of TU, made it even more special," Parmley said.

"I would say the stream improvement project we did was as enjoyable as fishing. We were on a stretch of the North Branch of the Au Sable River, close to the headwaters. We split into groups and floated about 40 logs down 100 yards. My team built a LUNKER structure with a water jet. It'll be there for a thousand years if nothing crazy happens. It was pretty cool."

Parmley and the rest of the attendees will keep in touch to work together on a mutual goal. TU Teen Summit encourages teens to attend for a second or third year to build on the momentum of ideas that have been started. He will consider going next year after the location for the 2018 summit has been determined.

"I think it's important to be able to connect adults who can mentor kids who don't have anyone to take them fishing or expose them to different ecosystems. Maybe we can come up with some type of network like an online program where that happens. We'll see where it goes," he says.

Parmley is a junior at Oshkosh West High School this fall. Passionate about snakes and reptiles, he plans to study herpetology in college.

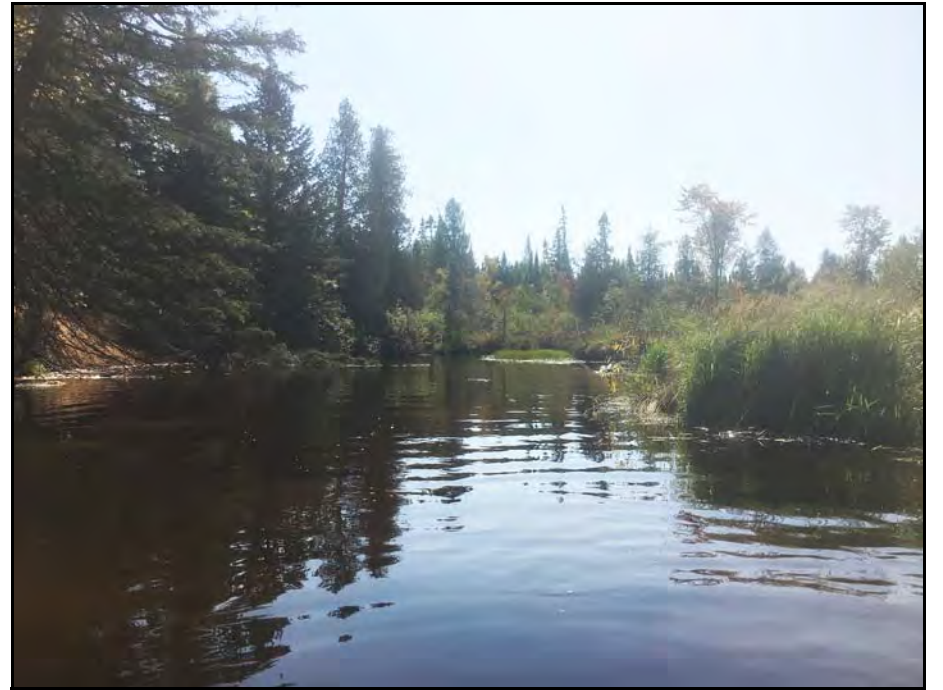
"The fact that this year's summit was held in Grayling, Michigan, which is the birthplace of Trout Unlimited, made it even more special."



CWTU'S CLAY PARMLEY ATTENDS TEEN SUMMIT
Parmley, a member of CWTU for four years, was one of 29 teens from across the U.S. who attended the teen summit. Here he shows off a Manistee River brown trout.

Reconnecting

TU's Great Lakes Restoration Program continues to reconnect watersheds.



NORTH OTTER CREEK: BEFORE AND AFTER

TU implemented a road crossing abandonment on North Otter Creek in Forest County in September. Four culverts were removed, eliminating an aquatic passage barrier, restoring the natural geomorphology of the river and reconnecting the floodplain. Large wood was added at the former crossing to provide instream habitat.

By Laura MacFarland, TU Great Lakes Restoration Manager

The Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, in partnership with TU, is still on track to reconnect more than 30 miles of coldwater habitat within the Peshtigo River watershed this summer. Eleven projects are slated to be completed by the end of the construction season.

We recently installed one of our largest new structures on Halley Creek in Forest County. Replacing three degraded, perched undersized culverts, this 19-foot-wide aluminum box culvert mimics the natural width of the stream, preventing constriction of flow (which can cause high velocities).

The new culvert was set lower, allowing organisms to swim through, and also allowing sediment and debris to flow unimpeded, preventing habitat degradation. This project reconnected 7.2 miles of high-quality, class 1 trout stream to the Peshtigo River.

This work is being funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Sustain Our Great Lakes Program, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, Wisconsin DNR Trout Stamp Funds, Wisconsin DNR Surface Water Grants, Trout and Salmon Foundation, WITU and the Wild Rivers, Northwoods, Marinette and Green Bay chapters. This project would not be possible without the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI).

Trout Unlimited has received a second grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Sustain Our Great Lakes Program, which will enable us to continue our efforts in northern Wisconsin through 2019. We will continue to partner with the U.S. Forest Service to reconnect a minimum of 30 more miles on and adjacent to the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest.

For more examples of our projects, please like and follow "Trout Unlimited - Great Lakes Restoration" on Facebook. You will find additional photos, project updates and information on how you can get involved on the ground.

Statewide Aquatic Invasive Species Snapshot Day:

Volunteers and partnerships aimed at catching invaders.

By Amanda Perdsock, River Alliance of Wisconsin

In early August more than 100 volunteers showed up at 16 cities around Wisconsin to participate in this year's Statewide Aquatic Invasive Species Snapshot Day.

Built around the notion that many eyes are needed to fight invasives, AIS Snapshot Day was designed to train local citizens to identify invasive species and collect species distribution data for DNR and other resource managers.

Volunteers visited 142 stream and lake sites, finding invasive species at 80 of the sites surveyed. Species monitored for included submerged species such as Eurasian watermilfoil, shoreline species such as Japanese knotweed, and New Zealand mudsnails, the infamous invertebrate of high concern to anglers in recent years.

Of the sites where invasive species were found, only a handful of sites had species which hadn't been previously documented.

One of these discoveries occurred on Stratton Lake in Waupaca County, thanks to a crew of volunteers from the Wild Rose snapshot training site, hosted in partnership with UW-Extension Lakes, Golden Sands RC&D, and the Central Wisconsin Chapter of TU.

Their discovery of *Corbicula fluminea*, also known by the aliases of Asian or Asiatic clam, was the second discovery of this bivalve in central Wisconsin. *Corbicula* can lay up to 70,000 eggs a year, which allows it to compete with native species for food.

This species, much like the well-known zebra mussel, can also wreak havoc by fouling up water intake pipes used by water treatment systems and power plants. Once it becomes estab-

lished in a waterbody, there is no way to fully remove the population without also harming native fish and mussels.

This was the fourth year for AIS Snapshot Day, coordinated by the River Alliance of Wisconsin, UW-Extension Lakes, and dozens of local organizations and county conservation departments across the state.

To learn more about AIS Snapshot Day and get involved with next year's event, contact River Alliance of Wisconsin Statewide AIS Program Director Amanda Perdsock, at aperdsock@wisconsinrivers.org or 608-257-2424, extension 111.



LOOKING FOR INVASIVES

A volunteer from the Wild Rose training site looks for invasive species.



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Brown trout and temps

Using archival tags to measure thermal habitat use by brown trout during summer: A case study on the Namekagon River.



WALTER, WHERE ARE YOU?

Volunteers help the search for tagged brown trout on the Namekagon River.

By Matthew Mitro, Wisconsin DNR

When we measure thermal habitat for trout in streams, we typically install a temperature data logger at a fixed location and assume it is representative of water temperatures experienced by trout over some larger area of the stream. Data loggers may be set to record hourly, thereby tracking diel changes in temperature. These data can be summarized into daily, weekly or monthly averages of water temperature, which are useful for defining thermal tolerance limits for trout.

We have found that brook trout and brown trout in Wisconsin streams can tolerate average temperatures as high as 77.5 F for one day, 73.9 F for one week, and 71.2 F for one month. Streams that get this warm typically do not provide quality trout fishing, but some trout have been observed tolerating such conditions.

We know trout can move, and the search for more suitable thermal habitat, should it exist, would be a good reason to do so. In 2016 we tested a new archival temperature tag that allows us to measure the thermal habitat occupied by tagged trout. Archival temperature tags are miniaturized temperature data loggers that can be surgically implanted into a fish and will measure and record the water temperature wherever the trout goes. The tags are 17 mm long with a diameter of 6 mm and weigh 1 gram.

We first tested the tags on rainbow trout at the Nevin Fish Hatchery to see if they accurately recorded the water temperature in the hatchery raceway. The accuracy of tags is plus/minus 0.36 F. The dif-

ferences between the water temperature recorded by each tagged trout and the water temperature recorded by a temperature data logger placed directly in the raceway were well within the accuracy range.

We next field-tested the tags in brown trout in the Namekagon River. This river warms in the summer and we do not know if the trout tolerate the warm thermal conditions or if they find and occupy some thermal refugia, should it exist.

In May 2016, we tagged and released 11 brown trout in the Namekagon River near Seeley. We also installed a stationary temperature data logger at the release site and at three additional sites along 7.5 miles of the river. In September, we recaptured seven of the 11 brown trout near where we tagged and released them in May. Tags were lost from two trout, so we ended up with temperature data from five recaptured trout.

We were fortunate to have recaptured 7 of 11. The Namekagon River is big trout water, and had the trout moved and not returned to the area where we released them, we could have been searching a long time to possibly find them. But from my experience in tagging and recapturing trout, I have found that while some trout move—sometimes long distances—many do not, particularly at certain times of the year.

Water temperatures measured by each of the five recaptured brown trout generally matched the water temperature recorded by a nearby stationary temperature data logger.

However, when we look more closely at the differences between the temperatures measured by the tags versus the stationary data log-



LARGE TAGGED BROWN TROUT ON THE NAMEKAGON RIVER

Researchers and volunteers recaptured seven of the 11 trout that they had tagged in May with archival temperature tags.

ger, we see evidence that at times the tagged trout were exploiting thermal habitat about 0.9 to 1.8 °F cooler as compared to the fixed site data recorder.

There was some minor variability in water temperatures measured by the four stationary data loggers in the Namekagon River, but they did not indicate the presence of any significant thermal refugia during summer 2016. In other words, there was likely no thermal benefit to moving a few miles in either direction along the river from Seeley. The changes in thermal habitat found by the tagged trout likely occurred at a fine scale within a short section of the river or across the channel.

The maximum daily average water temperature in the Namekagon River near Seeley was 74.7 F (about 2.8 F less than the one-day thermal tolerance limit for trout). Over the course of the summer the maximum average water temperature measured over one-to 63-day time periods was on average about 1.6 F lower than the thermal tolerance limits defined for trout in Wisconsin streams.

In this pilot study on the use of archival temperature tags in trout, we concluded that trout may be selecting thermal habitat about 0.9 F to 1.8 F lower than the ambient water temperature measured by the stationary data logger when such thermal habitat was available nearby. The thermal conditions in the Namekagon River during summer 2016 were at times stressful for brown trout but not limiting. We also concluded that the temperature data measured by a data logger at a fixed site was generally representative of thermal conditions realized by trout in the river.

There are some great questions about trout and thermal habitat yet to be answered. What thermal conditions will induce a trout to search for more optimal thermal habitat? How do trout respond to variation in thermal conditions in more thermally-diverse streams? How do realized thermal conditions affect growth, maturation, and egg production? Archival temperature tags may be a useful tool for answering such questions.

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Book Reviews

Two books of Wisconsin and Driftless Area interest

By Duke Welter

A questioning nature is a hallmark of outdoorspeople and environmentalists. Curiosity underlies our active engagement with the world. It's not a characteristic unique to anglers by any means, but I find it interesting that many anglers I meet share a wide-ranging curiosity, an inquiring mind about the world we occupy.

One author with a philosophical turn, a native Montanan named McLean, wrote, "If you're not trying to find answers to riddles, you're not fly-fishing."

If you're looking for answers to questions on a couple of close-to-home topics, two books of Wisconsin and Driftless interest that came across my doorstep in recent weeks may be of interest. They're

both from University of Wisconsin Press, and they follow a growing line of the Press' quality offerings, including some of special outdoor interest we've reviewed in past issues.

"The Driftless Reader"

"The Driftless Reader" is a wide-ranging anthology of pieces focusing on our unglaciated area and will be released by the time you read this. Editors Curt Meine, author of the preeminent biography of Aldo Leopold, and Keefe Keeley, executive director of the Driftless-focused Savannah Institute, took on the task of assembling and condensing hundreds of choices to about 80 pieces, mostly short, to paint a picture of the varied faces of the region.

Their selections cover the geography, exploration and unique geology of the Driftless Area, from some of the first scientists and European explorers in the 1670s to more modern examiners.

The colorful lead-mining industry of the 1820s and 1830s, populated in large part by migrants from Missouri, Tennessee and Kentucky, gave us our state's name and hundreds of good stories.

Botanists, trappers, traders and settlers gave us accounts of their explorations and lives here. The life of the Mississippi and tributaries like Coon Creek, where Aldo Leopold describes the nation's first watershed restoration project, provide more examination of the richness of this place by people who appreciate it.

Many familiar authors show up in excerpts, and a complete bibliography allows the reader to find more complete versions of their writings. Frank Lloyd Wright, Laura Ingalls Wilder, Mark Twain, Wallace Stegner (a UW product before he became one of the West's best-appreciated authors), John Muir and Henry David Thoreau all show up in excerpts.

William Cronon, the UW professor who's one of our generation's top environmental historians, offers his thoughts on how early cave explorations help establish his own sense of place. He concludes that it wasn't the quarry of exploring caves,

but the process, that counted to him. And the inimitable Ben Logan, memoirist of "The Land Remembers," is featured as he mulls the role in his life played by his family's "Seldom Seen Farm" above Gays Mills.

I especially appreciated the sections on the lives of tribes in the region, as they dealt with the intruding white settlers, traders, explorers and treaty negotiators and tried to protect their cultures.

Other sections include poetry, examinations of the Lake LaFarge dam partly built on the Kickapoo River in the late 60s, and the role of suffragettes from Richland Center in obtaining voting rights for women.

Scattered throughout this book are arresting nuggets to appreciate. Author Catherine Young of Blue River describes our smaller streams as such:

"...the spring creek is an artery in a water heart, alive and pulsing." Stegner describes Guttenberg, Iowa as marked by "a certain threadbare tidiness." You will find your own. This book is sure to provide some enjoyable evenings of reading by the fire this winter.

"Place Names of Wisconsin"

When I was a young reader, there wasn't a better place to spend an afternoon of miserable weather than curled up behind the couch with a couple volumes of the family encyclopedia. "Place Names of Wisconsin" scratched that same itch. I'd long wondered where lots of place names came from, and Callary, a professor emeritus of linguistics at Northern Illinois University, helps illuminate many of them.

It turns out many names are fairly pedestrian, named after the current president or the first settler or a well-known battle. But I was surprised to find out how much fluidity there was in naming, and how much chicanery and ego showed up, among other things.

In one town, a settler got 12 signatures on a petition to have a post office, but left the name blank. After he obtained the signatures, he filled in his own name for the town. The post office named the town after him, but it didn't last long. He left town soon after.

The Town of Peebles was named after an early settler. He was asked by the railroad how much he'd pay to have the town named after him. "Not a damn cent," he answered. It was named after him anyway.

And Mt. Morris in Waushara County was just called "the mountain" until Gunnar Gunderson and Solomon Morris each sought to have it named after himself. They agreed to name it after a footrace to the top, which Morris won.

Many names came from tribal languages, but some of them were just plain made up. Early explorer Henry Schoolcraft, according to the author, though a thoughtful describer of the places he visited in the mid-19th century, "was notorious

for taking bits and pieces from actual words and confecting them into pseudo-Indian names." His "fertile mind" may have come up with Osseo from parts of Algonquin words he had encountered in his studies and interviews with tribal members around the Great Lakes. Maybe when an area is being settled, one gets some latitude in such things.

Near my own neighborhood in Vernon County, I found out there really was an Avalanche, or at least it looks like there was. An 1884 history of the county said it took its name "from the formation of the earth immediately east of the place, which resembles a gigantic landslide or avalanche suddenly stopped in its destructive course."

And Esofea, home now only to a lovely little county park on an eponymous branch of the Bad Axe River, was named by an early settler, Even Tomtengen in 1868 using the E from his name combined with a respelling of Sophia, either from his wife or another family member. How about that?

In LaFayette County, the town of Calamine was named in 1856 after the zinc ore mined there that was a key ingredient of calamine lotion, used to treat poison ivy and sores.

I've seen across this region a plethora of features, mostly streams, with two names. Now, as an angler, I have heard of people adopting an alias instead of the accepted name for their favorite stream. But why, for instance, would Halls Creek in

Jackson County also be named Stockwell Creek?

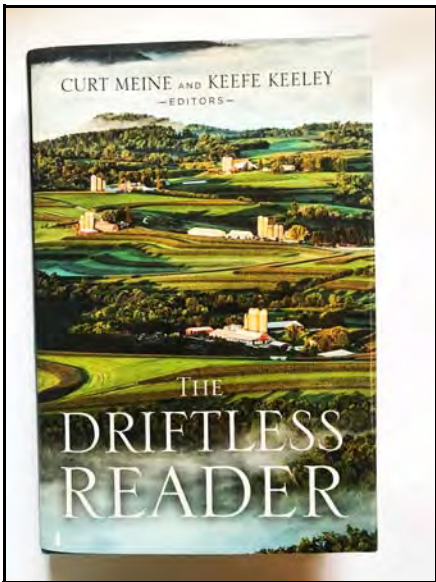
Near where I grew up in Washburn County, Bashaw township is locally thought to be named after B.A. Shaw, said to have been an officer of the Shell Lake Lumber Company. But when one reviews corporate records of that company, there's no Mr. Shaw listed. Instead, the author attributes the name to a Sioux chief named Wabasha who lived well south of the area. Who knows?


Many counties across the state have sacrificed the original names of their roads to a contrived set of alphabetical words or numbers. That may be of some benefit to delivery vehicles or emergency services people who can't bother to use a map or GPS or learn the names. But it gives up often colorful names and family names deserving of recognition. Kudos to the counties that refused to rename.

That's enough for reviews for this issue. Right now I think I'll go back and see what Viroqua was really named after: The steamboat or the fictional indian princess?


The Driftless Reader, Curt Meine and Keefe Keeley, Eds., University of Wisconsin Press, Madison, 333 pages, 2017, \$26.95.

Place Names of Wisconsin, Edward Callary, UW Press, Madison, 327 pages, 2016, \$21.95.

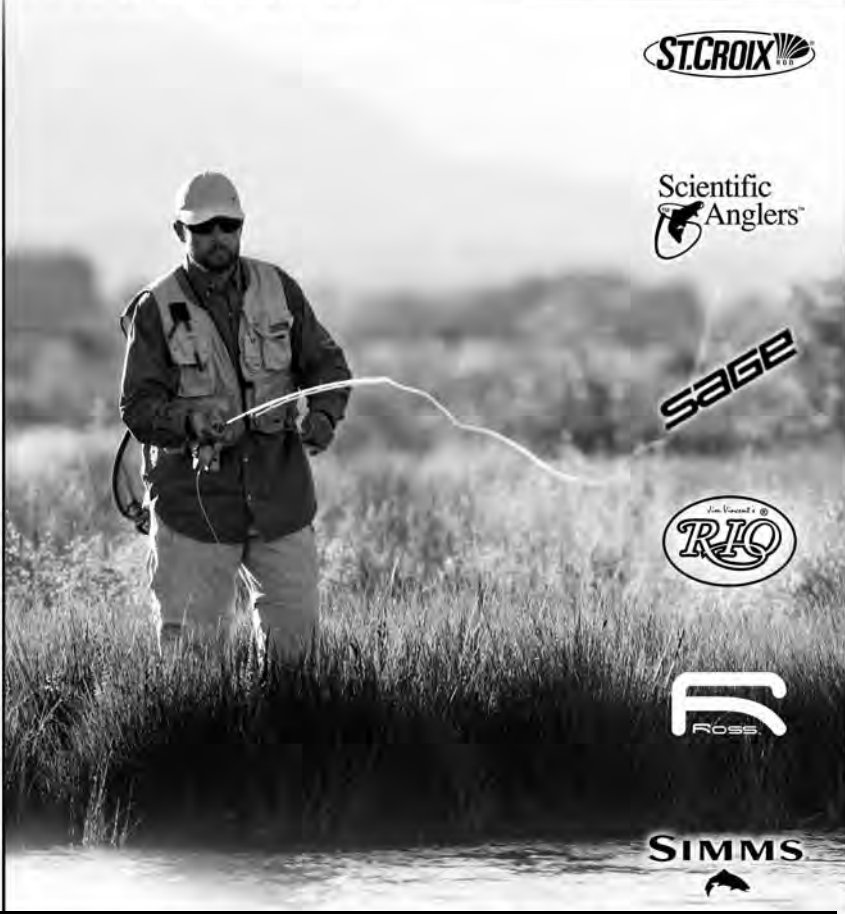










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WELLS, from page 1

ers to move, rebuild, repair and transfer high-capacity wells without further review by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). In effect, it provides permit holders with perpetual permits, not subject to further review, regardless of changing circumstances, science or water levels.

Wisconsin TU's position on high-capacity wells and opposition to these bills remained consistent in this session. Specifically, WITU took the position that all high-capacity well permits should be periodically reviewed (for example, every 10 years), because it is undeniable that science progresses. Permits issued 20 years ago are based on antiquated science, just as permits issued today will be based on science which is outmoded in another 20 years. It makes sense to use the best available science to understand how high-capacity wells are interacting with one another, and how they impact ground and surface water. That can only be accomplished through periodic review.

Despite our email campaigns, meetings with legislators both in Madison and in legislators' districts, and despite our testimony at hearings regarding these bills, these bills advanced through both houses of the legislature, and were signed into law in June of this year as 2017 Wisconsin Act 10.

One facet of this bill that TU does support is that it requires that a study be performed in Wisconsin's Central Sands area to evaluate and model the hydrology of three specified lakes: Pleasant Lake,

Plainfield Lake and Long Lake; and three watershed areas: the Fourteen Mile Creek, Ten Mile Creek and Lone Rock-Fourteen Mile Creek watersheds, to determine if existing and potential groundwater withdrawals are, or are likely to cause significant reductions of stream or lake flows or levels below seasonal averages.

If the studies determine that pumping is having adverse impacts, then the DNR is required to propose measures to the legislature on how to remedy such impacts.

When we learned that the study may not be funded in the state's budget bill, Wisconsin TU urged its members to speak to their legislators. In late August we learned that the study would be fully funded, as required by Act 10.

CAFO moratorium

As most know, Wisconsin Trout Unlimited has previously taken a written position in opposition to CAFOs which cannot be shown to guarantee no pollution to ground or surface waters. Highly concentrated animal operations result in a significant amount of animal effluent. In many parts of Wisconsin, the substrate beneath such operations is fractured bedrock. Many other parts of Wisconsin feature karst topography, which is dissolved, soluble rocks such as limestone and dolomite, which leads to underground passages, sinkholes and caves. When effluent such as liquid manure is spread over these substrates, it seeps in and downward, making its way into water tables.

Such pollution is a significant issue statewide, such as in Kewaunee County, where a recent study re-

vealed that up to 60 percent of sampled wells contained fecal microbes from both bovine and human waste. One researcher from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Research Service noted that in his professional opinion if a second round of studies was performed, the number of contaminated wells would jump to 90 percent. Researchers estimated that such contamination leads to the infection of 140 of the county's 20,000 residents each year.

In keeping with its previous position, and aware of the facts above, WITU signed on to a "Resolution in Support of a Statewide Moratorium on the Construction and Expansion of Industrial-Sized Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations in Wisconsin." We strongly support cold, clean fishable water. Therefore, we strongly support cold, clean and *drinkable* water.

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited continues to urge its members to reach out to their legislators and ask them to support a moratorium on industrial-scale CAFOs in Wisconsin.

Trout Stamp Fee Increase

As most know, when we purchase trout stamps, the funds are placed in to a segregated fund. That segregated funding must, by law, be used for improving and maintaining inland trout habitat, or to conduct trout surveys.

Since 2006, the trout stamp fee has been \$10. While the value of a dollar has decreased over the past 10 years, the DNR has also suffered budget constraints. Recently a group of hunting and angling organizations organized to support an

increase in various stamp funds associated with different sports. For inland trout stamps, the fee would be increased to \$15.

Our chapters voted unanimously in favor of a fee increase, although some chapters differed on the amount of the increase, and when it should commence. WITU recognizes that additional segregated funding for trout streams helps increase the economic impacts of trout angling. It also helps bring youth into the sport via different methods of angling (fly, spin and bait). We believe that a fee increase will ensure that Wisconsin's blue-ribbon trout-fishing opportunities continue to exist, and continue to provide quality recreational opportunities for Wisconsin residents and guests. Finally, we believe that even with the fee increase, Wisconsin's trout stamp is an amazing bargain, considering the number of stream miles accessible for trout angling, versus our neighboring states.

As a result, Wisconsin Trout Unlimited supports this increase. We had hoped that this increase could be included as an item in this year's budget bill. Unfortunately, due to significant turbulence in this year's budget debate, notably regarding Foxconn and transportation funding, this effort simply failed to gain traction, despite the best efforts of WITU and other groups.

As is often the case with legislative initiatives, Wisconsin TU will remain committed, and will continue to push for this increase. Wisconsin TU believes that this increase is in the best interests of our streams, their uses and the eco

See **TROUT STAMPS**, page 16

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THERE'S SOMETHING SPECIAL ABOUT MONTANA TROUT

Heidi Oberstad takes a gentle grip and grin.

Words and photos by Heidi Oberstad

As a millennial, and someone who works in the media industry, I admit that I am addicted to my connected life. Not an hour goes by where I'm not checking my email, or my post reach, or responding to a digital message of some kind. When I was offered the opportunity to go out in the mountains of Montana in August, to a remote cabin, and create beautiful art, I jumped at the chance.

It wasn't until later that I realized this meant I was going to have to give up my cell service and fully embrace a disconnected life. In the past, when I've been without technology, there has always been a day or two spent detoxing. It takes me a while to relax, stop worrying or wondering if I'm missing something important, and start breathing in the outdoors once again.

I flew into Missoula and rented a

Jeep to get me down to the Bitterroot Forest. After a crazy drive filled with wildlife, a traffic violation and winding roads, I made it to the cabin. I couldn't sleep the first night. I missed my mustachioed husband's snoring, and tried to mentally replace the white noise of his breathing with the bubbling of the stream outside. I could cast to the stream from the back door of the cabin; with the river so close, I was serenaded by the ripples 24/7.

In the five days that I spent in that little valley, I did yoga six times, fished 10 times, stepped in fresh moose scat once, and drank a couple bottles of red wine. I took photos of the sky and the water, of the fish and the frogs, and struggled with wildfire smoke. At dawn and dusk, the smoke slithered around the mountains like a pink satin snake, and I was simultaneously horrified and awestruck. I drank my weight in coffee and fished in my pajamas. I sang,

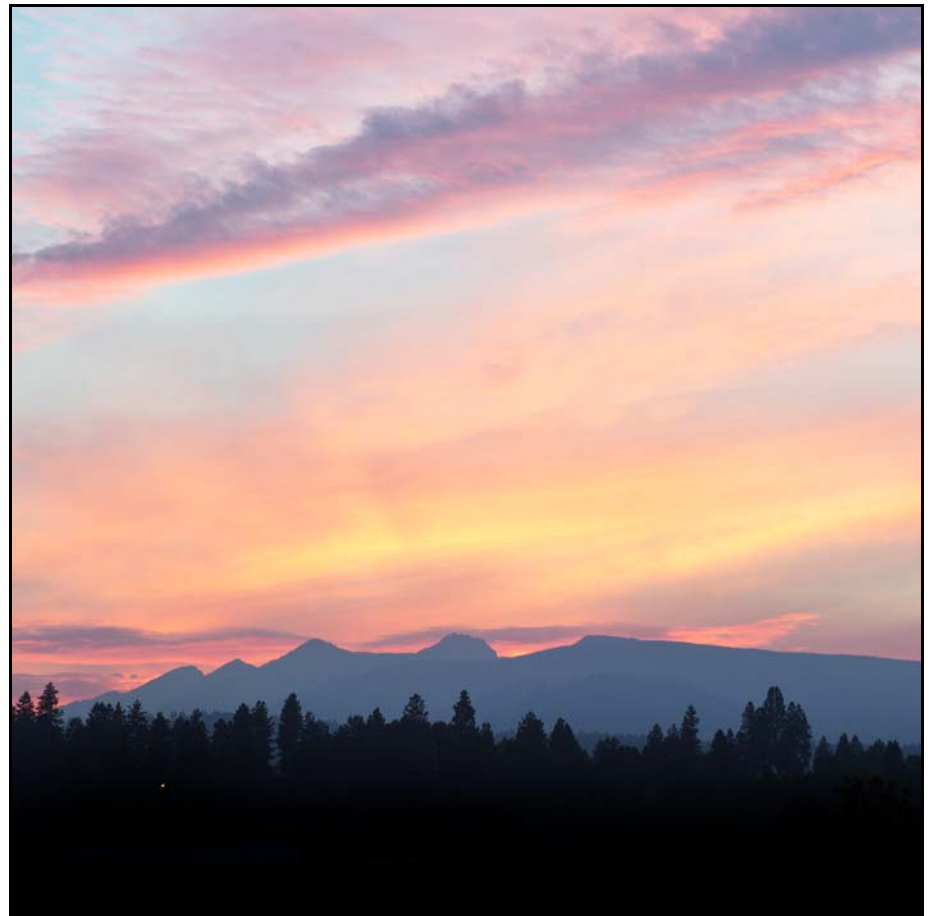
loudly, everything from the Rat Pack to the Supremes to Jason Isbell. I took solar showers in the nude, with only the hummingbirds to notice. I wandered, and took chances while navigating with handwritten directions, and found "unknown" beautiful places!

I surprised myself with my ability to effectively read a map. My Girl Scout colleagues would be so proud. I didn't lose a fly the entire trip, and beamed with joy knowing the flies I tied held up to so many successful trout sets. Cutthroat are gaining in the ranks of my favorite kind of trout, although you all know that brookies will always be my number one favorite.

Each of these adventures challenges me in unexpected ways. While I'm working hard in graduate school, the solitude and openness of those mountains is teaching me something else, something deeper, something meaningful. I'll let you know, when I put my finger on it. I'm guessing that many of you know exactly what I'm talking about.

Special thanks to Dan for opening his glorious cabin to me and my creative spirit.

I'll paraphrase from Heraclitus, and note, with total clarity, that this curly girl will never step in the same river twice: for it's not the same river, and I'm not the same girl.



HAZY...BUT STILL PICTURESQUE

Wildfire smoke has been part of the scenery this summer in Montana, and Heidi Oberstad captured the eye-burning beauty of a hazy mountainscape.

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Celebrate cold, clean, fishable water with us

By Mike Kuhr, Banquet Chair

Doing anything the first weekend in February? Sure, you could be on your favorite early season trout stream picking ice out of your guides, but I bet you'd rather be with us celebrating all the good work Wisconsin Trout Unlimited is doing for our coldwater resources.

Join us in Oshkosh for the Wisconsin TU 47th Anniversary Banquet on Saturday, Feb. 3, 2018. As in years past, the Best Western Waterfront hotel will play host to the festivities. It's sure to be a fun-filled evening.

While the goal for the evening will be to raise funds to support our coldwater conservation mission, our Banquet Committee is focused on making sure everyone has an enjoyable time.

Several of our partner organizations will be on hand with displays and representatives, and we'll have a cash bar available to help enhance your fish stories.

You'll want to spend some time perusing the goods available as bucket raffle prizes. Then

check out the silent auction items. There are great deals to be had. Last year we had more than \$20,000 worth of prizes.

Chapter fly boxes have become very popular auction items. Some of the best fly tiers in Wisconsin donate flies to fill beautiful wooden fly boxes engraved with the local chapter's names. Which chapter will have the best box this year?

We'll also have live auction items featuring amazing guided fishing trips. Warning, bidding in a live auction setting can be thrilling, especially if your fishing buddy is cheering you on.

We'll gather for a nice dinner, listen to the State of Wisconsin Trout address from Chair Linn Beck. Then Trout Professor Emeritus Steve Born will pepper us with humor and present awards. A good time is sure to be had by all.

Go ahead and put February 3 on your calendar, and plan on bringing a spouse, fishing buddy, co-worker, or TU Teen. All are welcome.

Father-son duo hits five states

A summer spent fishing together, the Rees boys cover the country.

By Curt Rees

I have a lot of summer fishing trip memories as a kid growing up in South Dakota. I spent many hours in the boat with my dad and brothers on the Missouri River system catching walleyes, perch and pike. Fast forward about 30 years and I hope to have instilled similar positive memories with my 15-year-old son Gavin as we caught fish in five different states this summer.

Wisconsin

Fishing was excellent here in southwest Wisconsin this spring and summer. I'm a fly guy and Gavin is a spinner guy and we both found plenty of fish here in the Driftless. Most of my fish came on streamers as I like to throw leeches, buggers and Frick's Fixes to catch the aggressive fish in the local waters. Gavin found fish on every outing with Mepps XDs or Panther Martins on our trips. We each caught our fair share of fish in the Driftless, but the most memorable day of the season was on Coon Creek on a very hot day in May. He caught 16 browns and brookies and I caught 16 less than that using every fly in my pack.

South Dakota

We headed west on July 2 to see my family for Independence Day, and our hotel was right on the Missouri River in Fort Pierre, South Dakota. We got to town about 8 p.m. and Gavin insisted that we throw just a few casts before going up to Grandma's for a late supper. We fished for 10 minutes and landed a couple of Missouri River smallies. The next day we hit the river with Grandpa Curt (my dad) and brought about 12 walleyes to the boat.

Wyoming

After our South Dakota stay, we headed west to visit Grand Teton and Yellowstone National

parks. Even in early July, the Snake River, Buffalo Fork, and Pacific Creek were impossible to fish due to the high runoff. But we found fishable water in the tailrace of the Jackson Lake dam. Gavin caught the first lake trout on a Mepps spinner, and I caught mine on a white Frick's Fix fly. My 5-wt rod got quite a workout with that 21-inch laker.

Utah

The next leg of our trip was to Provo, Utah, where my brother Carter lives. He is also a fly fisherman, so we were happy to spend a day on the Provo River with him. We fished the lower section of the Provo, saw plenty of fish but couldn't get any to take. We moved to the middle section of the Provo and Gavin caught a brown within 10 minutes. Carter found a few fish while high sticking a double nymph rig, and Gavin had the hot rod, netting six more browns. They caught all the fish and I took pictures.

Minnesota

At the end of July, we did a four-night trip to the Boundary Waters in northern Minnesota with some friends from church. We put in at the end of the Gunflint Trail and stayed on an island on the west side of Sea Gull Lake. We caught a bunch of smallmouth casting crank baits and then had one very good evening catching northern pike on topwater baits. We barely even had to retrieve the top water baits, as the fish would strike the lures as soon as they hit the water or just after a subtle twitch. We only caught one walleye on our trip, but every-



Curt Rees

MISSOURI RIVER SMALLIE

Gavin Rees shows off a colorful smallmouth bass along the Missouri River near Fort Pierre, South Dakota.

one in our group caught fish. The weather was good, no big rainstorms, and the clear skies at night allowed for some wonderful sky watching.

Wisconsin TU needs your support

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited is seeking individuals and businesses to Sponsor our 2018 State Council Banquet to be held on Sat. Feb. 3 in Oshkosh

Levels of Sponsorship:
 Headwaters = \$100
 Tributary = \$250
 River = \$500
 Watershed = \$1,000

For more info visit: <http://wicouncil.tu.org> or contact Mike Kuhr at mikek.trout@yahoo.com

Asian carp barrier study released

By Taylor Ridderbusch, TU Great Lakes Organizer

On August 7 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers released the draft Brandon Road Feasibility Study, which assesses options for preventing Asian carp from reaching the Great Lakes. The report was originally set to be released on February 28, 2017, but was delayed by Trump Administration officials. Thanks to hard work from Great Lakes legislators, sportsmen and women from around the region, and other organizations, the study has been released and has initiated a 45-day comment period, which closes on November 16, 2017.

The study examines five possible alternatives

for preventing the spread of invasives, particularly Asian carp, at the Brandon Road Lock and Dam in Joliet, Illinois. The preliminary preferred option outlined by the Army Corps, called the “Technology Alternative-Complex Noise with Electric Barrier” includes: complex noise, water jets, an engineered channel, an electric barrier and a flushing lock. Additionally, this alternative includes nonstructural activities (i.e. overfishing), new boat launches and a new mooring cell. For a full outline and definitions of these measures please visit the Corps’ Report Page at <http://glmris.anl.gov/brandon-rd/>.

TU supports the Corps’ recommendation, as it provides for an increased array of protective mea-

asures. This is a step in the right direction, and will allow legislators and stakeholders more time to address complete basin separation, which will ultimately be necessary to ensure that the Great Lakes are protected.

The “Technology Alternative- Complex Noise and Electric Barrier” has an initial estimated cost of \$275.3 million. TU believes this is a justifiable expense for protecting the world’s largest freshwater system that generates \$16 billion through tourism and \$7 billion via angling annually.

The Army Corps will be collecting comments through November 16. Comments can be submitted at <http://glmris.anl.gov/brandon-rd/draft-comments/>.

TROUT STAMPS, from page 13

economic benefits that they produce for Wisconsin and its residents.

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited urges its members to contact their legislators, and ask them to support a \$5 trout stamp fee increase when the issue arises.

Support GLRI

As previously reported, political regime change brings policy change. Such is the case at the federal level. With a new administration, we faced the possibility of losing all funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI).

Starting in 2010 GLRI has provided funding to “protect and restore the largest system of fresh surface water in the world – the Great Lakes.” GLRI’s Action Plan calls for funds to be distributed to remediate Great Lakes areas of concern, prevent and control the spread of invasive species, reduce nutrient runoff and associated algae blooms, and to restore habitat in order to benefit native Great Lakes species.

These objectives clearly fall within our mission, and the funds that GLRI provides have directly aided the retention of staff in northern Wisconsin who are working on stream-crossing and connectivity projects on coldwater watersheds. This program has also supported fish-passage efforts on the Menomonee River near Miller Park in Milwaukee. That single project reopened more than 25 miles of river to anadromous fish passage.

GLRI funds have also resulted in numerous toxin removal projects, such as on the Sheboygan River. It has also funded invasive species control, notably Asian carp, as well as projects to protect nearshore health, wetland and habitat restoration, and many other projects right here in Wisconsin.

Expenditures in support of these objectives is a sound investment, as the value of the Great Lakes fishery has been estimated at \$7 billion annually. These projects put locals to work, and bring funds to local economies. GLRI funds also reduce local financial burdens. In Wisconsin’s northwoods, GLRI funds support TU staff’s efforts to rebuild road crossings to outlast “ordinary” crossings, such that local governments will have reduced future repair and replacement costs.

WITU, and TU National lobbied Wisconsin’s federal delegation regarding this issue. Historically, GLRI funding has enjoyed a good deal of bipartisan support across the Great Lakes region, and when it was proposed for complete elimination in this budget session, the vast majority of Wisconsin’s federal delegates took action.

In a February 2017 letter, nearly all of Wisconsin’s Congressional members signed a letter in support of GLRI funding, including Sean Duffy, Mike Gallagher, Glenn Grothman, Ron Kind, Gwen Moore, Mark Pocan, and F. James Sensenbrenner.

A continuing resolution was then passed as part of a budget deal to avoid having a government shutdown. That resolution fully funded GLRI at \$300 million, its previous level, for the next budgetary cycle.

Please thank your federal legislators for their support of GLRI.

Inland aquaculture

In the last legislative session a bill was introduced to make significant changes to regulations regarding aquaculture facilities in Wisconsin. We actively engaged the legislature regarding this bill, negotiating several amendments. The first ensured that changes regarding water diversions applied only to existing facilities and existing diversions. Therefore the changes were not prospective, but only for already-licensed facilities.

Another amendment ensured that a portion of the bill which would have redefined aquaculture as agriculture, such that aquaculture facilities would have been available to receive state-paid cost sharing on best management mitigation practices, was removed. A third amendment made clear that grading along stream banks would only be allowed when necessary to maintain existing, already-permitted aquaculture facilities.

Ultimately, last year’s bill did not pass through the session.

Similar bills were brought back in this session (SB 95 / AB 160), and we assumed they would have ample votes to pass. Both bills passed through their respective committees and houses, and a bill is now available for the governor’s signature.

We again worked during these bills’ processes to ensure that the same amendments it had garnered last session remained in place, and found that an even more narrow definition was inserted regarding the geographic areas where water diversions may occur.

This session, other conservation organizations similarly worked with the bills’ authors to secure changes and amendments to its language. WITU thanks the legislature for hearing our concerns and working to address some of them.

Great Lakes aquaculture

WITU and TU National have also been supporting a bill which would prohibit net-pen aquaculture within the Great Lakes. Representatives of WITU and the national office have lobbied in support of this bill. Net-pen aquaculture

threatens the Great Lakes and the \$7 billion annual fishing economy it supports.

We will continue to keep our members updated regarding this matter as the bill moves through Congress.

Zoning ordinance training

Many areas of Wisconsin lack zoning ordinances, which can lead to development which is both undesirable to local residents and communities, as well as allow the construction of facilities which are harmful to coldwater resources and the economic engine that they provide for Wisconsin’s citizens and businesses.

Getting out ahead of such issues with solid, sound and fair ordinances is the best course of action. Being proactive avoids potential damage to coldwater resources.

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited seeks volunteers to help lead efforts to educate local municipalities regarding drafting and enacting ordinances aimed at protecting coldwater resources. If you are capable of aiding such efforts, or would be willing to donate funding to support such training, please contact a WITU leader.

WOTUS support

TU is a strong supporter of the Clean Water Rule (Waters of the U.S. Rule, or “WOTUS”). The rule was created in response to concerns about the lack of clarity in application of the Clean Water Act of 1972 from multiple sources. Importantly, the WOTUS rule called for a restoration of the application of the Clean Water Act to ephemeral and intermittent streams (often headwaters), and to isolated wetlands.

The rule was intended to clarify that the “waters of the United States” included traditional navigable waters, non-navigable tributaries of traditional navigable waters, and wetlands that directly abut such tributaries, and included a provision that a fact-specific analysis could be performed to determine if a water has a “significant nexus” to navigable water such that it should be covered by the Clean Water Act.

The WOTUS rule was to be implemented in 2015, but had been stayed by court action since that time. Last February, President Trump signed an executive order calling for a review of the WOTUS rule.

TU believes that all waters as defined by the WOTUS rule should be subject to Clean Water Act protections, and we favor the rule. Anyone who has fished Wisconsin’s streams knows that “fishable” water often starts as small, non-navigable, intermittent and ephemeral streams. Such small waters undoubtedly impact navigable down-

stream reaches, however, and harm done to them will undoubtedly negatively impact all downstream stretches.

In Wisconsin, 47 percent of stream miles within native trout historical range are classified as intermittent or ephemeral (and if the WOTUS rule is rejected would not be subject to Clean Water Act protections). More than 60 percent of Wisconsin’s streams are designated as headwater streams.

In the Kickapoo River basin of Wisconsin’s Driftless Area, and astounding 60 percent of all streams are designated as intermittent or ephemeral and would be left unprotected. Another 63 percent of streams in this same region are considered headwaters. In short, only 3 percent of streams in this region would be subject to Clean Water Act protection. The implications of such figures are clear. Without the WOTUS rule, many of the sources of some of the best trout waters in Wisconsin would be without defense.

Because Wisconsin TU cares about our streams, the people that use them, and the jobs and salaries that they provide, it urges all of its members to reach out to the Environmental Protection Agency at 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, in Washington, D.C., 20460, and to their federal representatives and senators, in support of enacting the WOTUS rule of 2015.

Conclusion

Our political climate is exceptionally hectic. Regardless of our political affiliation, we are all concerned about the waters of our state and nation.

As such, and in such a turbulent political environment, it is critical that TU be a voice of reason. We ask that our members reach out to their federal representatives concerning WOTUS, and their state representatives regarding the issues detailed above, and let them know how incredibly important protecting our water is.

In keeping with TU’s position as a voice of reason, it is imperative that our members be persistent, but always cordial, polite, and always on point and keeping in mind the other hundreds of thousands of TU members that we each represent.

Please be honest, courteous, state our position, and represent yourself and TU well.

We need each member more than ever. And we need each member to be active, to speak up and make a difference. The future of our streams and the sport that we love is at stake.

Thank you for all that you do for Wisconsin TU.

Fall 2017 Update: Friends of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited

The 2017 fundraising campaign is well on its way, and the response has been terrific. Through your generation donations, we have raised nearly \$17,000. An enormous amount of in-stream work will be accomplished because of this. A huge thank you goes out to the SEWTU Chapter with a very generous \$5,000 contribution to this fund.

For the last several years, many of the grants involve supporting DNR fishery crews that do maintenance, brush/bundling primarily in the northeast and central part of the state. Numerous grants to chapters for

either rehabilitation or outright reconstruction of streams were awarded this summer and more potential recipients are awaiting notice of grant funding to help their projects. Your support of this program is making this happen.

I hope you got out this year and enjoyed the bounty of our healthy, productive trout streams. Many streams throughout the state have directly benefited for the Friends of Wisconsin TU program.

*Doug Brown, Chairman
Friends of Wisconsin TU*



Friends grants support DNR LTE crews like this one with Doug Weber, Kyle Siebers, DJ Loken.

Providing habitat improvement grants since 1991. The latest projects are...

\$2,000 to Wild Rivers for White River in Ashland County in 2015

\$2,000 to Wisconsin River Valley for Prairie River Project in Lincoln County in 2015

\$2,000 to the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter for the Upper Kinni in 2014

\$2,000 to Wis. Clearwaters Chapter for Waumandee Creek in 2015

\$2,000 to Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter for Pompey Pillar, 2016

\$2,000 to the Northwoods Chapter for habitat crews in 2015

\$2,000 to Marinette and \$1,500 to Wolf River for NE Region work in 2015

\$2,000 to Green Bay Chapter for a habitat crew 2015

\$2,000 to SEWTU for Little Willow Creek in Richland County in 2016

Here are our Friends of Wisconsin TU

- Jason Anderson Mukwonago WI
- Edwin Barnes Middleton WI
- Charles Barnhill Madison WI
- Jim Bayorgeon Appleton WI
- Jolene Berg Chippewa Falls WI
- John and Susan Bleimehl Verona WI
- Stephen Born Madison WI
- Allon Bostwick Port Washington WI
- Maxwell Burgert Neenah WI
- Rick Christopherson Norwalk WI
- Andrew Cook II Sister Bay WI
- Bruce Davidson Wauwatosa WI
- Mike Duren Mazomanie WI
- Ed Eggers Genoa WI
- Jim Fleisch Fox Point, WI
- Jerome Fox Two Rivers WI
- D. James Fruit Jr. Hartland WI
- Scott Geboy Fox Point WI
- Dan Geddes Appleton WI
- John Gribb Mount Horeb WI
- Gordon Grieshaber Mineral Point WI
- Dean Hagness MD Custer WI
- Ashton & Stephen Hawk Madison WI
- William Heart Ashland WI
- Brian Hegge Rhinelander WI
- Wally Heil De Pere WI
- Bob Hellyer Boulder Junction WI
- Walter Hellyer Egg Harbor WI
- Charles Hodulik Madison WI
- Jeff Jackson Oconto Falls WI
- Charles Jorgenson Oconomowoc WI
- John Kenealy III Waukesha WI
- Lane Kistler Milwaukee WI
- Ralph Klassy Phillips WI
- Mark Kraft Madison WI
- Barb and Joe Kruse LaCrosse WI
- Joseph Kubale Dane WI
- Thomas Lukas Manitowoc WI
- Thomas and Larissa Lyon Janesville WI
- Douglas MacFarland Dousman WI
- Brian Madsen Ellsworth WI
- Anna Magnin Marshfield WI
- Kevin Mahaney Middleton WI
- Kim McCarthy Green Bay WI
- Austin McGuan Green Bay WI

- David Menke Bristol WI
- Cris Meyer Middleton WI
- Steven Miller Sun Prairie WI
- Steve Musser Middleton WI
- Herb Oechler Wauwatosa WI
- Cheryl and Winston Ostrow De Pere WI
- Donald Persons Janesville WI
- Randall Rake Helena MT
- Ron Rellatz Merton WI
- Thomas Rogers Princeton WI
- Tom Ryan Whitefish Bay WI
- Michael San Dretto Neenah WI
- Lisa and Todd Scheel St. Germain WI
- Jeff and Mary Schmoeger Cot. Grove WI
- James Schommer Lodi WI
- James School Kaukauna WI
- Jim and Marie Seder New Berlin WI
- Robert Selk Madison WI
- John Shillinglaw Madison WI
- George Shinnors Antigo WI
- Brent Sittlow Hudson WI
- Michael Staggs Poynette WI
- Mike Stary New Richmond WI
- Gary Stoychoff Green Bay WI
- Rick Szymialis Waupaca WI
- Julie & Todd Templen Dubuque IA
- Donald Thompson Cumberland WI
- Chuck Urban Wauwatosa WI
- Dennis, Becky Vanden Bloomen E. Claire
- Eric Van Vugt Milwaukee WI
- Greg Vodak Stoughton WI

- Ken Voight Sugar Grove IL
- Don Wagner Gillett WI
- Denis Wandtke Ogdensburg WI
- Stephen Wilke Marinette WI
- Paul Williams Madison WI
- Dan Wisniewski Middleton WI
- Nancy and Roland Woodruff Oshkosh WI
- Norb Wozniak Stevens Point WI
- Robert Wyman Beaver Dam WI
- Frederic Young Roscoe IL

TROUT UNLIMITED CHAPTERS

- Kiap-TU-Wish TU Chapter
- Antigo Chapter
- SEWTU Chapter

In Memory of Mike Rands.
Donation from Tom and Nan Siebert

Special Thanks to Todd Hanson for the donation from the sale of his books.

*Yes, I want to join the "Friends" of Wisconsin TU.
Enclosed is my check, payable to Wisconsin Trout Unlimited.*

MAIL TO: Friends of Wisconsin TU
% Doug Brown
R4800 Timber Lane
Ringle, WI 54471

_____ Name

_____ Address

_____ City, State Zip Phone #



Chapter News

Aldo Leopold Chapter

The chapter fundraiser and picnic in June netted \$2,470 to help fund our projects and activities in the coming year. Many thanks to our generous donors and participants. We couldn't keep going without you.

We had been hoping to participate yet this fall in a project on Bear Creek being planned by Carl Wagner, an Eagle Scout candidate from Portage. Construction of an access stile, rebuilding and relocation of the existing kiosk, and the trimming of bankside willows are all expected to be part of a busy day involving scouts and ALTU members. A postponement until

spring appears to be likely, however, since quite a bit of planning remains to be done.

The upcoming chapter meeting on October 11 at Suzy's Steakhouse in Portage will include a program by Bill Engber on fishing in Iceland. We hope to draw a crowd for this, and since seating is limited, we ask that anyone hoping to attend would email Mike Stapleton at mikestapleton22@gmail.com. If the "Land of Fire and Ice" happens to be on your bucket list, Bill will let us know how to get there on a budget for what could be the trip of a lifetime.

—Mike Stapleton

Antigo Chapter

I can't believe it's October already! Where did the summer go? We had a busy summer, starting with our Kids Fishing Day in early June. We had one of the biggest turnouts ever. It was a great day and a lot of fun.

Our chapter had a couple of work days this summer. North of Antigo on the East branch of the Eau Claire River at Lion's Park, a group of TU members cleaned and restained the deck and re-lettered the sign. More recently we worked on the Eau Claire River with rakes and shovels, cleaning out little springs that supply the river with cold water. Work days are always a good time.

With the school year starting, our chapter has started our second Trout In the Classroom project. This one is at Wittenberg-Birnamwood high school. We just finished helping set up the fish tank and equipment at the school. Again we are working with the Antigo High School for our second year of Trout In the Classroom.

At the end of July our chapter had the pleasure of taking some

veterans and other residents from Evergreen Terrace to Silver Moon Springs in Elton for an afternoon of fishing. Boy, what fun that was, and they all caught fish. When we were done fishing, the crew cleaned the fish and they took the fish back home for a fish fry.

The DNR dredge has been in the Mayking Flowage this summer working hard. We funded \$3,000 for the fuel for this project and we hope that the DNR can spend another year there.

We also just sent a check to the town of Elcho to help fund a long-need culvert and road project on Fitzgerald Dam Road. This is a large project that will correct water flow and a fish barrier on the Evergreen River north of Antigo in the town of Elcho. Thanks to all the supporters of this much-needed project. The Antigo Chapter provided \$1,500 in support of this project.

We are looking forward to our fundraising banquet in March.

—Scott Henricks

Central Wisconsin Chapter

At our Casting Clinic and picnic at Marble Park in June, we taught beginner and advanced casting. Bob Haase presented rigging demonstrations. Jeff Treu organized casting instructors. We provided free sandwiches, cookies, brownies and great conversation, including fishing advice.

The River Keepers, coordinated by Bob Jozwowski, are busy monitoring streams in our region for quality of the water. Data is being entered into the computerized program of UW-Extension.

Dennis Draskowski is doing a wonderful job of organizing work days. Work days occur on the third Saturday of each month from May through September. We've recently worked on the West Branch of the White River and on the Pine River. The volunteer turnout has been great, as we are averaging 36 volunteers per work day.

Also in June was another first

for CWTU. Dennis Draskowski coordinated a work day attended by five Wisconsin TU chapters including our chapter and the Fox Valley, Green Bay, Marinette and Oconto River chapters. More than 40 volunteers turned out that morning at a stretch of the West Branch of the White River, just west of Wautoma, to participate in a unique multi-TU chapter habitat restoration project.

The day's activities were led by nine members from the DNR Fisheries units from Wild Rose and Green Bay, with organizational assistance from the Central Wisconsin and Green Bay chapters.

In about four hours we performed fishability and navigation brushing. Brushing crews bundled the brush and strategically placed it in the stream to narrow and deepen the stream channel. Woody debris from prior storm damage was reoriented

to provide prime habitat for fish, amphibians, macroinvertebrates and other wildlife. We constructed about 500 feet of log sill, bank cover and bank stabilization. The total habitat restoration project covered about 4,200 feet.

Dennis served an awesome lunch consisting of fried chicken, salads and dessert. Great conversation, new friendships, the sharing of fishing adventures and hot spots were plentiful. The assistance of the other TU chapters was greatly appreciated.

Nate Ratliff from the Fox Valley Chapter was there and took fantastic photos. Check them out on the CWTU website at cwtu.org. Click the "Multimedia" tab.

The July work day was on the Pine River off of Aniwa Road, east of Wild Rose, and 36 people attended. Many thanks again to FVTU for its continued support. This work day focused on building structures and repositioning logs. Many thanks to the work day crew for their hard work in stream restoration. We were blessed with sunny skies, a nice breeze, and great food per Dennis Draskowski's leadership. You can view Nate Ratliff's great photos on the CWTU website.

In August more than 30 members of the Central Wisconsin and Fox Valley chapters attended a presentation on aquatic invasive species prior to a work day on the Pine River. Aquatic Invasive

Species Program Director Amanda Perdsock of the River Alliance of Wisconsin was the guest presenter. She taught the audience how to identify aquatic invasive species in our riparian corridor and identified the risk factors of transporting invasive species between waterbodies.

Amanda did an outstanding job describing the threat that these species pose to our environment and steps we can all take to decrease their spread. She also gave a demonstration on how to properly clean waders. Cleaning equipment will be available for use at future stream habitat workdays. Once again a successful day occurred with the guidance of the DNR.

We also held a work day September 16 on the Pine River

CWTU proudly sponsored Clay Parmley, a 16-year-old student who is passionate about conservation, for the TU National Teen Summit. The Summit recruits young leaders ages 13 to 18 who have proven their commitment to TU's mission and have demonstrated leadership at a high level. Parmley has been active with the chapter for four years and his enthusiasm for conservation and fly fishing is infectious. See the article about his experiences at the summit in this issue of *Wisconsin Trout*.

TU put on its fourth Youth Trout Fishing Camp in July, thought to be the best so far. CW-



GETTING THE HANG OF IT

Coulee Chapter volunteer Bob Hubbard teaches fly casting at the Youth Outdoor Fest in July.

Chapter News



TU sponsored three campers this year. These three kids were excited to attend and left with fresh knowledge, enthusiasm, new gear and best of all, a big smile! The camp had an awesome group of mentors, guides, presenters and junior mentors from across the state.

The men and women who volunteer form the foundation that makes this event possible.

At our September meeting our own Dan Harmon, who has spent a lot of time fishing from a kayak, shared his experiences and ad-

vice. He showed that kayaks will get you to places not easily reached. Thought and planning goes into fishing from one.

Our 46th Annual Conservation Banquet is October 14 from 4:30-9 p.m. at the Best Western Premier Waterfront Hotel in Oshkosh. It's a great time, with great people and great conversation. Youth admission is only \$15, and they receive a special give and are entered into a youth raffle. Adult tickets are \$40 if purchased before October 4.

—Laura Tucker

Coulee Region Chapter

Greetings from the Coulee Region chapter. It's been a fantastic summer here in the Driftless. We haven't had any meetings lately, but we did manage to make time to help others enjoy fishing in the area.

Many thanks to Cy Post, Bob Hubbard, Fred Spademan and Scott Linssen for their help with the Youth Outdoor Fest in July. They worked with hundreds of kids and parents during this event to talk about fishing, teach fly casting and help tie flies.

The big rains and flooding in Southwest Wisconsin led to the cancellation of Coon Valley's Trout Fest on July 22, but we look forward to this fun event

next summer.

We are very appreciative of the help of the Cabela's store in Sun Prairie, especially Jan Breitsprecher, as they aided us in landing a \$5,000 grant to support our work with our Veterans Service Project (VSP), youth outdoors events, and stream restoration in our area. This money will be used to send CRTU member Will Lusignan to the VSP training session in Sun Valley, Idaho this fall.

Thanks to this Cabela's grant, we are also able to fund two different Trout In the Classroom (TIC) projects in the School District of La Crosse. Scott Linssen at Central High School and Jeff

Hansen at Longfellow Middle School will both lead TIC projects with students in their science classrooms.

Dale Jonson, Fred Spademan, Cy Post and Curt Rees worked with members of Onalaska's Boy Scout troop 168 to help five of their members earn the Scout fly-fishing badge. Congrats to scouts Grant, Luke, Jack, Ethan and Sam for earning their fly-fishing merit badges. The CRTU chapter will pay for these scouts' TU Teen or Stream Explorer memberships.

We appreciate the help of our friends from the Lee Wulff and Gary Berger TU chapters for installing a new stile on the Little La Crosse River. They did all the hard work and CRTU made lunch. Sounds like a good deal, right? Thanks go out to landowner Bruce Peterson for helping all of us make this happen, and thanks to Duke Welter for bringing it all together.

In early September the Coulee Region was home to the Reel Recovery fly fishing event for men living with cancer. Jeremy Southworth coordinated this project and was assisted by many quality people to make it happen. Thank you to CRTU friends Anthony Larson, Brian Schumacher, Janet Veit, Jim Gitter and Jeanie, Rob, Robbie and Charlie Ruprecht for all their help to make this event go well. There were many more people who helped this event

happen and all are appreciated. Please check out reelrecovery.org to see how you might help with future events.

Here is what's on tap for the CRTU meetings and presentations this coming year. Thank you Dave Krier for coordinating all of this. Tom Starmack shared all he knows about fly tying on September 20.

On October 18 Bob Micheel and John Noble will talk about the excellent trout fishing in Monroe County. On November 15 Dave Vetrano will discuss the history of the very successful wild trout stocking program in Wisconsin. On December 20 Geri Meyer of the Driftless Angler will talk to attendees about trout equipment and her efforts to bring more women into the world of fly fishing. Jason Freund will make us all smarter on January 17 as he shares information on caddis flies and larva.

Our banquet is on February 23, so there is no chapter meeting that month. On March 21 we look forward to hearing from DNR wardens Shawna Stringham, Greg Koelker and Dave Mathes. For our last meeting of the year on April 18 we will hear from DNR fisheries biologist Kirk Olson, who will share all that is happening in Southwest Wisconsin.

—Curt Rees

Fox Valley Chapter

The Fox Valley Chapter has been involved in and with a number of activities this summer. These activities have included introducing youth to fishing and how to fish, youth fly tying, habitat work on the Pine River, and planning for the upcoming fall meetings.

A number of chapter members assisted with the Wisconsin TU Youth Camp in July at Pine Lake Bible Camp in Waupaca County. FVTU members included Norm Christnacht, Jen Erickson and Tom Lager. Youth member Zach

Klingseisen, a past youth participant, also assisted with the activities. FVTU sponsored Norm's grandson, George, for the event this summer.

Habitat Days this summer have been held on the Pine River just northeast of Wild Rose and were joint efforts with Central Wisconsin TU and a team from the Wild Rose DNR station.

The July and August habitat days were very productive, as there were at least 35 volunteers in attendance each Saturday. The July day was used to remove ma-



Anthony Larson

A BROOKIE ALWAYS BRINGS A SMILE

A guest at the Reel Recovery fly fishing outing shows off a gorgeous brook trout. Coulee Chapter members have been very supportive of this program, which helps men with cancer.



Nate Ratliff

BUILDING HABITAT BY HAND

Mike Maier (left) of the Central Wisconsin Chapter and Tony Garvey of the Fox Valley Chapter nail cross members on a bank cover on Pine River in Washara County near Aniwa Road between County Highway K and 22nd Drive.



Chapter News



Nate Ratliff

IT'S ALL SMILES WITH THESE FVTU TIC STUDENTS

ny downed trees that were blocking stream flow on the Pine. The downed trees were a result of the tornado that went through that portion of Waushara County in mid June. The group broke up into four separate groups to complete work on four different sections of the stream.

The August habitat day had one group of volunteers working on a bank structure just off of Aniwa Road. That crew completed about 80 feet of beam and planking work that morning. The DNR LTE crew had the posts in place so the work on the placing and the fastening of the beams and planking made for efficient use of the volunteer's time. Two other groups of volunteers were again involved with removing downed trees and creating brush bundles to help narrow the stream in a couple of the wider bends.

The September habitat day was also on the Pine River. The work included finishing up the bank cover and completing the removal of downed trees and creating additional brush bundles.

Our monthly chapter meetings have started up again with the first meeting in September at the Capitol Centre on the Northside of Appleton. It was a Social Night, with a chance for members to share stories, pictures and videos of recent fishing trips.

We are in the planning stages for our annual Cabin Fever Day fundraiser on January 20 at the Grand Meridian in Appleton. Watch our website for details. Also check our website and the

fly-tying section created by Duane Velie. It is very informative. Also check out Chapter Chef Bob Kinderman's recipes in our newsletters. Jesse Walters also provides excellent fly-tying instruction in our newsletters.

The Trout In the Classroom (TIC) program has gained traction as a result of the effort of many and it is providing grassroots support for not only a trout stream but, more importantly, a watershed. We met Adam Nickel of the DNR at Stony Brook. The purpose of the meeting was to electro shock Stony Creek to determine if trout raised in the classroom by Chilton students had in fact survived. Within 20 feet of where they entered Stony Brook they located the first of 30 brown trout found in about 300 yards of stream. You see, not only were the trout shocked, the audience that assembled was also shocked. The trout ranged in size from 8 1/4 inches to 14 inches.

The audience included students from Chilton Christian and Chilton Public Schools, a half dozen land owners, Riverkeepers, the Calumet County water specialist, the DNR and FVTU.

Nickel took scale samples to verify the age of the trout at a later date. There was quite a bit of speculation on the age of the trout, which were planted in April of 2016 and April of 2017. The youth successfully returned all the trout to the stream after measuring and scale removal.

Stony Brook has received a fair amount of attention the last two years. It has been stocked

with brown trout annually from 1973-1994, with additional stocking in 1998 and 1999. However, stocking efforts were halted due to a lack of return of stocked fish. Habitat loss and degradation over time was thought to be one of the main causes.

Our monitoring information indicated that water temperatures generally stayed below 70 F during the summer months and indicated a fairly strong aquatic invertebrate community.

Trout In the Classroom resulted in 118 fingerling brown trout

stocked in 2016 and 179 in 2017.

Wisconsin DNR staff conducted backpack shocking at two stations along Shady Lane. In total, 23 Brown Trout were sampled with 22 of the fish sampled ranging from 8.4-10.5 inches. One larger fish of 14 inches was also sampled.

Enjoy fall and the Wisconsin fishing. And in the words of Tom Lager - our Let's Talk Bugs writer - "enjoy his creation."

—Rich Erickson, Joe Bach, Jim Jenkin

Frank Hornberg Chapter

Our chapter joined forces with the Friends of the Tomorrow/Waupaca River for a river clean-up day in August. Teams were assigned sections of the Tomorrow River between the road crossings at Highway 161 and County T. Each team then cleared the river of obstructions and debris.

We were pleased to see the next generation of fly fishers represented by Jack and Naomi Bohm, who accompanied their father, Wyatt Bohm, on one of the teams.

Gary and Darlene Anderson, owners of the Rivers Bar and

Supper Club in Amherst, allowed us to use their grounds as a staging area. They also supplied burgers and buns for the hot lunch. Vicky Haugh supplied breakfast goodies.

Our team of River Keepers continues to monitor the Tomorrow River. Water levels in the river are generally higher than normal this year, thanks to the abundance of rain in the early summer. Ted Carapezza, visiting from out of state, assisted the team on August 22.

—John Vollrath

Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter

Work on about a quarter mile of Borah Creek has been com-

pleted. About 30 root wads were installed and some bank was be-



Brian Larson

NEW ROOT WADS IN BORAH CREEK

According to the Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter, work on about a quarter mile of Borah Creek has been completed. About 30 root wads were installed and some banks were being pulled back during the primary work. The banks are generally fairly stable here.

Chapter News



Brian Larson

DAVE ROH GETS AWARD FROM NOHR CHAPTER

The Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter had a Landowner Appreciation/Project Completion/Award Ceremony and gave a long-overdue Golden Net Award to Dave Roh, their long-time project contractor.

ing pulled back during the primary work. The banks are generally fairly stable here.

We also are done with work on the Blue River above Bower road. This is property that we got a TU fishing easement for.

We also will be making some LUNKER structures for another

project our contractor is doing on Otter Creek.

In September we had a Landowner Appreciation/Project Completion/Award Ceremony. We gave out our long overdue Golden Net Award to Dave Roh, our contractor.

—*Brian Larson*

Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter

Kiap-TU-Wish takes a reprieve from chapter meetings every summer so that members have more time to fish and hang out with family and friends. And while they do just that, members also continue to work on stream projects, advocate for restoration and educate.

This year's summer activities included work on three stream projects and participation in the Kinni Corridor Planning Process, summer youth camp and Eco Fair.

The Trimbelle-Spring Creek/Holst project was completed in June. Mike Holst, the landowner along this section of the Trim-

belle, started planning the project in 2013 with the help of Pierce County. Last winter Kiap volunteers, organized by Randy Arnold, cleared the stream banks of boxelder and brush.

This past summer the DNR crew of Nate Anderson and Ron Fredrick sloped the banks, armored them with rock, and installed LUNKER structures and root wads.

Kiap volunteers then seeded and mulched the site. Final touches included native grass seed, donated by Dennis Fritz, spread along Spring Creek; prairie plugs, grown at St. Croix Correctional Center and secured by



Dan Wilcox

KIAP VOLUNTEERS PLANTING NATIVE PLANTS

At the Kiap Chapter's Trimbelle River Project, volunteers plant native plant plugs that were grown at the St. Croix Correctional Facility.



Ron Kuehn

FRIENDSHIPS MADE AT WITU YOUTH CAMP

The Kiap Chapter's Anna Kuehn and her mentor, Jen Folz, ham it up at the WITU Youth Fishing Camp.

Dan Wilcox, planted along the Trimbelle/Holst easement; 16 blue bird houses installed along the river; and a sign placed to recognize project partners.

All in all, approximately 900 feet of the Trimbelle and 170 feet of Spring Creek were restored to productive coldwater habitat. With the Holst project, more than two miles of stream have been restored on this portion of the Trimbelle.

Elsewhere on the Trimbelle, Kiap-TU-Wish volunteers conducted the post-restoration habitat assessment on the stretch of river near County Highway W. Thanks to John Kaplan, Kent Johnson, Dan Wilcox, Dan Duncan, Joseph Duncan and Scott Wagner.

The Parker Creek culvert project has been in the works for more than four years. A perched culvert, located just outside of Amery, was replaced in August.

Pierce County representatives and chapter member John Carlson were on-site for the installation. Funding for the \$35,000 project was provided by Kiap-TU-Wish, Bosch-New Richmond, a Friends of Wisconsin TU grant, Star Prairie Fish and Game, and Trout Stamp dollars.

As a result of the replacement, we anticipate lower water temperatures, a stronger flow to the mouth of the Apple River, and enhanced brook trout reproduction in the creek's headwaters.

Kiap members certainly enjoyed the opportunity this summer to volunteer and work with the DNR's electrofishing trout survey crew. DNR employee Barb Scott did a great job setting up the survey routes and times.

Kudos to Randy Arnold for coordinating Kiap's volunteers. The trout crew of Kyle Kuss, Dan Gilbertson, Haley Ludwig and Josh Morrissey were always professional and fun to be around.

Kiap-TU-Wish was present at the Eco Fair in Clear Lake in late

August. The Eco Fair is a new venture put together by local people to promote Earth Day and expressions of environmental interest. (Gaylord Nelson, a hometown son and founder of Earth Day, is celebrated in the Clear Lake Area Historical Museum.)

Chapter volunteers were there with posters and the chapter diorama that shows what a typical stream restoration project entails.

Several interesting contacts were made at the Eco Fair including a contractor who had recently made his first bid on a stream restoration project, a landowner who has a spring on his property that supports a population of native brook trout, and a Wisconsin state park educator who expressed interest in starting a Trout In the Classroom project. Thank you to volunteers Perry Anderson, John Carlson and Perry Palin for their time and effort at this new event.

In early September, the final Tech Talk was held for the Kinnickinnic River Corridor Study, a comprehensive, two-year planning process initiated by the City of River Falls. The final Tech Talk focused on the importance of recreation, tourism and economics to river corridor planning. Ed Freer with SEH Inc., the consultants running the study, opened the evening with a discussion about recreation and tourism in small river towns and how these experiences could translate into strategies for River Falls.

Patrick Seeb, the director of the Destination Medical Center (DMC) Economic Development Agency in Rochester, Minnesota, spoke about the importance of economic development and "placemaking." The evening concluded with a description of the next phase of the planning process: a four-day community input session, scheduled for October 25-28 at the River Falls Public Library. This input session will



Chapter News

pull together community ideas and thoughts into tangible graphics, maps and plans.

When complete, the Kinnickinnic River Corridor Plan will establish a future vision for the area and strategies for implementation.

It is critically important that chapter members show up to participate at the input session. Ultimately, the completed plan will be used by the River Falls City Council to design future amenities, natural areas and, most importantly, determine the fate of the two dams on the Kinni.

Finally, our first chapter meet-

Lakeshore Chapter

Lakeshore TU's summer has been filled with change and excitement.

In July our long-time President Gordy Martin submitted his resignation from the position. Gordy has served way longer than expected and has helped lead efforts to improve fishing in our region over the last 10 years as both an active member and as president.

Gordy leaves behind a great legacy. We will miss his leadership but will have him with us as he will continue to help us grow the club and tackle new projects.

Stepping in for Gordy will be Myk Hranicka. Myk was voted in by the board as the new acting president and will lead our efforts for the next several months until we hold our regular officer elections. If he is not careful, he will find himself voted in again.

Work on our crown jewel, the Onion River, has mostly focused on maintenance and brushing projects this year. We have had several large trees come down that required some real effort to

Marinette County Chapter

This summer has been a busy time for our chapter. In June we worked with several other TU chapters on the West Branch of the White River in Waushara County. A total crew of nearly 50 people showed up and a sizeable section of the stream was improved.

Also in June, our chapter cleared an access trail from Highway 8 to the North Branch of the Pike River. This 1/3-mile trail now allows for easy access to a rapids section of the river. This trail starts in a parking lot on Highway 8 near 3 Mile Road.

Chapter members have since fished this area and reported good numbers of brook trout and a few browns.

In July, members of the Green Bay and Marinette County chapter assisted the DNR on a stream-shocking survey on the North Branch of Beaver Creek in Marinette County. It was very educational and several age classes of brown trout were located.

Chapter members fish this stream regularly and report that

ing after the summer hiatus was held in early September. Anna Khuen and her dad, Ron, shared their experiences at the WITU Youth Fishing Camp. Anna had high praise for the staff, especially her women mentors. In the camp's four short days she made some good friends with whom she stays in touch.

Ron said he was impressed with the facility and staff. Both are hoping to go back next year, with Ron as an instructor and Anna as a junior mentor.

—Tom Schnadt, Gary Horvath, John Carlson and Maria Manion

clear. However, the stream has been fishing great and many anglers have reported catching fish on dries. Hoppers seem to be coming alive now, so we expect the fishing to improve over the next few weeks.

We are excited to share that we have been working this summer on brushing out several small streams in Sheboygan County.

Our work has already made a difference with increased flow and more visible fish on some of the waterways we've worked on.

More than anything, our work has helped generate some new excitement and we have seen several new members join us for work days. We will be meeting with the DNR biologist soon to talk about creating a long-term plan for stream improvements on some of these small streams.

Overall, it has been a great summer and we look forward to more exciting things happening with the chapter.

—Myk Hranicka

these browns do not come easy.

This year our chapter sponsored two Marinette County 12-year-olds to attend the Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Youth Fishing Camp at the Pine Lake Bible Camp near Wild Rose.

Owen Wysocki of Goodman and Brett Nygren of Marinette both reported they had a great time and learned a lot. The two boys demonstrated that they are proficient with both the spinning rod and the fly rod.

Doug Erdmann guided Owen on a half-day fishing trip to the Pine River in Waushara County and Owen landed two brook trout on flies. Owen also won an Orvis fly rod outfit. Brett also fished the Pine River and caught a couple of trout on spinners.

In August, our chapter assisted the Green Bay, Oconto and Wolf River chapters with a stream improvement project on the South Branch of the Oconto River near County Highway T. This was a continuation of a stream improvement project that started last year.

Our chapter donated \$4,000 to the Town of Elcho in Langlade County to replace a culvert on the Hunting River. This new culvert will allow for unrestricted movement of trout up and down the Hunting River.

We also gave \$3,000 to Marinette County to survey culverts in the Peshtigo Watershed to see if they are properly placed and do not impede trout movement. This area is outside the scope that Laura MacFarland does as TU's

Great Lakes stream restoration manager. This project is well underway and Greg Cleereman reported that 221 sites have been reviewed thus far. For more information see the article in this issue of *Wisconsin Trout*.

Check our website for upcoming events at marinettecounty.tu.org. These are opportunities to meet some great people, improve our trout waters and learn new places to trout fish.

—Doug Erdmann

Northwoods Chapter

Bill Sherer, Dave Tipple, Laura MacFarland and Terry Cummings volunteered to teach fly tying and take family members fishing at the August 17 veteran's day organized by Mike Kuhr at Camp American Legion outside of Lake Tomahawk.

At our September chapter meeting, TU's Great Lakes Stream Restoration Manager Laura MacFarland gave a presentation on the status of several culvert replacement projects in the

Peshtigo River watershed and in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest in Oconto County. Before and after photos at one site showed that aquatic life is using the improved passage.

Bob Haase from the Central Wisconsin Chapter will be the speaker at our November chapter meeting. Bob will be speaking about many of his innovative approaches to fly tying.

—Terry Cummings

Oconto River Chapter

Our chapter continues to work on stream projects with the Green Bay, Marinette and Wolf River chapters. This year's projects included brushing, bundling and structure rehab work on Shawano Creek, on the South Branch of the Oconto and Eagle Creek.

The chapter set up a booth at the Oconto County Youth Fair in August. We displayed a Trout-In-the-Classroom set-up, complete with chiller and live trout. This was donated by the Lakewood Fish Hatchery.

The TIC set-up will be taken to the Menominee Indian High School, which is the ninth school in the area to install and utilize the Trout In the Classroom curriculum. To help pay for the equipment, the chapter ran a summer cash raffle.

In early August, chapter members participated in the Suring Sportsmen's Youth Day. Nearly 40 kids participated in the event. Our chapter provided the oppor-

tunity for each child to catch a trout. Other members ran a casting contest and gave away rod and reel combos for prizes. Still others offered to teach fly casting to those that wanted to learn another type of fishing.

Plans are in place to hold the annual handicapped fishing day September 16 at Brunner's Pond in Underhill.

Participants are treated to a picnic lunch before fishing for the big one. Fish caught are cleaned and sent along with the fisherperson and his or her caregiver for a fish fry at their home. Details of the event will be shared in the next issue of *Wisconsin Trout*.

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

—Tom Klatt

Shaw-Paca Chapter

The ShawPaca Chapter will be resuming its yearly meetings in October. The chapter Facebook page will have the time and place, but it will again be the third Thursday of the month, on October 19.

Our officers and board had a busy summer of fishing, from the Driftless Area to the warm-water spoils of Wisconsin's larger rivers to the freestones of northern Wisconsin. Variety is the spice of life.

The chapter's focus this year will once again be funding our local work crews, supplying area libraries with copies of *TROUT Magazine*,

scholarships to students going into fisheries management, education and growth.

The annual chapter banquet will once again be held in March or April, with details to follow online and on Facebook. If you have questions or comments, please let us know and we'll do our best to answer them in a timely fashion. We're looking forward to getting back to work and assisting our local work crews and the DNR in any way we can.

Tight Lines.
—Nate Sipple

Chapter News



FUTURE TU LEADER GETTING HER HANDS WET

SEWTU's Family Fun Day continues to be a much-anticipated summer event. Kids and adults enjoy a variety of activities at Paradise Springs.

Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter

It has been a busy summer for the Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter.

We've had several productive workdays, educational workshops, classes and clinics. As we head into fall we will continue to organize workdays and outreach opportunities for members and the general public, as well as resuming our monthly chapter meetings.

SEWTU members participated in several stream outings this summer.

After rains flooded out our July workday, our chapter reorganized for a strong showing in August in partnership with our friends from the Southern Wisconsin Chapter.

The work was conducted on the Sugar River Basco Unit Wildlife Area (Neperud property) and involved instream work installing planking on two large bank covers. This work complemented the DNR work of additional bank covers, log sills, root wad deflectors, brush bundles, bank shaping, rip rap and more.

In late August we held our fourth annual SEWTU Family Day at Paradise Springs near Eagle.

This is always a special event as children, parents, grandparents and other family members join in a day of stream exploration activities and fun. Some of these include kick netting, aquatic insect identification, a casting station for kids, stream table experiments to learn how water and streams flow, and a tour of the spring house, pond and spring.

After participating in the activities, everyone was able take a very close look at some brook trout, thanks to an electro-fishing demonstration conducted by the DNR. After all of the excitement, everyone enjoyed a cookout at the park shelter.

The SEWTU Project Healing Waters program, led by George Batcha, continues to provide op-

portunities for our area veterans. In addition to regular fly-tying and rod-building sessions, SEWTU volunteers organize and assist at fishing outings.

In August our members joined veterans at Rushing Waters Fisheries and helped them to catch plenty of trout with some taunting from the flies they had tied.

Another outing in August at Milwaukee's Lakefront provided another great opportunity for fishing and camaraderie on the water with the catching not as productive as Rushing Waters. Everyone had a great time with wonderful reward.

Another activity conducted in August for member outreach and education was our annual Casting Clinic, thanks to the coordination of Chapter Vice President Stan Strelka. Each year we get together at Greenfield Park to learn about casting and enjoy a cookout.

It provides an opportunity for new and experienced casters to get tips from multiple experts and make new friends. Our casting instructor was Eric Helm from Orvis. Many of our members provide support for Eric with the many Fly Fishing 101 classes he conducts throughout the year.

In September we worked at Bluff Creek near Whitewater. Luke Roffler, the DNR fisheries biologist for Walworth County, has been doing a great job identifying habitat projects and improving streams for trout.

During the work day we installed habitat features within the re-meander project site. This included placement of woody material, half logs, and/or boulders where necessary to direct stream energy, increase water velocities or provide overhead cover. Other activities included in-stream weed pulling and cutting/dragging of small brush.

This work helped enhance the next two phases of the recently completed re-meander project

and build on the premier fishing produced by other restoration projects upstream and downstream of the proposed project site.

On this same day we had members helping clean up Pike Creek in sponsorship with the Kenosha Sportfishing and Conservation Association. The event took place at the Petrifying Springs Park.

Also in September, Jay Zawerschnik, Chuck Beeler and several other members represented SEWTU at the Cabela's Ladies Day Out event. Jay and Chuck and team distributed brochures, explained the TU mission and answered questions from attendees. This is a great event to grow our membership diversity.

Greg Schick and the Oak Creek Fly Tying Group will continue with the monthly fly-tying sessions at the Oak Creek Community Center 8580 S. Howell Ave. These sessions are conducted from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. and meet on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, running through May of 2018.

SEWTU monthly chapter meetings resumed in September after the summer hiatus. Our chapter meetings are held at Thunder Bay Grill, located at the intersection of I-94 and Highway 164 in Pewaukee.

Meetings occur on the fourth Tuesday of each month and are open to the public.

In September we welcomed Dave Barron as our guest speaker.

Dave is co-owner, with his wife, Nancy, of Jacquish Hollow Angler and Angler's Inn in Richland Center. Jacquish Hollow Angler provides guide services

for trout angling on the spring creeks of southwestern Wisconsin, as well as Montana. In addition, they offer several casting clinics.

The topic of Dave's presentation was casting. He is a Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF) certified casting instructor and teaches classes designed for beginners, masters and other FFF certified instructors. Dave is an Orvis-certified guide and a recipient of the Mel Kreiger Award for casting instruction excellence presented by the International Federation of Fly Fishers. This presentation offered practical tips for everyone.

Our SEWTU Habitat Fundraiser is Tuesday, October 24 at the New Berlin Hills Golf Club, 13175 W. Graham Street in New Berlin.

The event starts at 6 p.m. and will take the place of our October chapter meeting.

This is an exciting event for our chapter. There will be food, plenty of opportunities for socializing, and most importantly raffle prizes, a door prize and a silent auction.

All of the funds raised from the evening will be used for future stream restoration projects. Thanks to Stan Strelka, and Rosie and Matt Marotz, for organizing this event.

SEWTU is fortunate to have so many members that are active and willing to take leadership and organizational roles for workdays, education and outreach events.

We also have many wonderful volunteers who are willing to donate their time helping these events run smoothly.

—Todd Durian



CLOSE UP VIEW OF REAL TROUT

Hallie Koltz holds up a shocked brook trout during Paradise Springs Family Day, which has brought families together for several years now.



Chapter News



Tom Krauskopf

SWTU AND FRIENDS WORK ON SUGAR RIVER

SWTU had 31 mighty members of its Stream Team lend a hand at an August workday on the Sugar River at the Basco Unit Wildlife Area. This two-year project included reshaping stream banks and installing LUNKER structures, log sills, root wad deflectors, brush bundles, rip rap, rock barbs and bank covers.



Jim Beecher

SWTU'S PROJECT HEALING WATERS FLY FISHING CLINIC

The SWTU Project Healing Waters program hosted a fly-fishing clinic along Black Earth Creek in Cross Plains. Many thanks to the volunteers who made a difference for some very worthy veterans.

Southern Wisconsin Chapter

Save the date for our Icebreaker event on Saturday, January 13. It will once again be held at the easy-to-access, spacious and comfortable headquarters of American Family Insurance on the east side of Madison.

Our keynote speakers will be Tucker and Jacquie Nelson from Nelson Spring Creek Ranch in Livingston, Montana. Give them a quick search on the internet and you'll see why we're so excited to have them for our largest fund-



WILD RIVERS CHAPTER DISCUSSES BAYFIELD REGIONAL CONSERVANCY
Mary O'Brien (left) and Erika Lang present on the work of the Bayfield Regional Conservancy to the September Wild Rivers Chapter meeting.

raiser.

It's been a busy summer for us, including the launch of an all new website at SWTU.ORG. Instead of detailing our many activ-

ities here, we encourage you to visit our site for information on everything from fall stream workdays to great fly patterns.

—Drew Kasel

Wild Rivers Chapter

Summer has been relatively quiet for the Wild Rivers Chapter. Chapter members worked with Sawyer County fisheries biologist for the DNR to do some follow up habitat work on a beaver dam removal project we helped with last year. We continued to aid in placing brush bundles in two small creeks where dams had been removed in the past. Chapter members Bob Traczyk and Bill Heart were on hand to help with the work.

For the last few years we've been having an annual bass and musky outing in August. This year we were joined by a couple members of Arkansas Trout Unlimited. Bill Thorne and Bruce Petray made the drive north to fish with us, and then Thorne gave a presentation on the stocking of Bonneville Cutthroats in the White River tail water system in Arkansas. The goal is that there would be successful natural reproduction of the species, much like the natural reproduction occurring amongst brown

trout in the same tailwater systems.

The Wild Rivers chapter is partnering with Wisconsin TU to help the Bayfield Regional Conservancy (BRC) successfully protect a parcel of land just shy of 600 acres in Ashland County. The landowner wishes to protect the parcel for its natural resources while also allowing it to be open to non-motorized public use. Between the Wild Rivers chapter and Wisconsin State Council, a contribution of \$5,000 has been made to Bayfield Regional Conservancy to start the work in grant writing to ensure that this project goes through.

At the September chapter meeting, BRC staff members Erika Lang and Mary O'Brien presented on this Ashland County project and other projects that BRC is engaged in developing and maintaining conservation easements and land protection in the region that Wild Rivers chapter works in.

—Bob Rice

Wisconsin Clear Waters

The Wisconsin Clear Waters Chapter had two enthusiastic candidates for the annual Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Youth Camp at Waupaca and we sponsored them both: Nick Leary and Jack Savaloja.

"The only thing I'd change about camp would be to make more days to get kids out even more," wrote Nick in his letter to the chapter. He sounds like a fisherman.

In June the chapter was a sponsor of Trout Day on Eagle Creek in Buffalo County, along with several clubs. The event included fishing, shocking the creek by DNR, food and prizes. More than 110 kids attended. In addition to giving some financial support, board member Bob Swanson brought down a couple fly rods for prizes.

Speaking of fly rods, L.L. Bean has donated five complete fly rod kits to the chapter to be used for education purposes. Thanks to LL Bean. The rods arrived in summer after our education projects were over for the year, so the leaders still have no wind knots.

In recent years the chapter volunteers have helped out at a morning of fly tying, casting practice and fishing at the Beaver Creek Nature Reserve, but this didn't happen this year because not enough youths signed up. The fees may be a bit high.

Also not quite panning out was a One Fly Contest organized by local fly fishing guide and chapter member Steve Wisner.

The contest was to include warm-water fish and take place in the vicinity of Eau Claire and the Wisconsin Clear Waters Chapter and the Wisconsin Clear Waters Chapter was to be the beneficiary of any funds raised. Unfortunately, Steve canceled the event due to a lack of sign-ups. It appears that a one-fly contest that includes smallmouths and muskies is an idea whose time has not yet come. Anyway, Steve has been busy with his new guide service, but it's back to school now. His regular job is teaching high school English.

The chapter has transferred the deed of land we owned to the Alliance of Dunn County Conservation and Sports Clubs. The chapter has owned the property on Elk Creek, near the mouth of Elk Creek Lake, for more than 30 years.

Many years ago we did a habitat project there. We also used to hold an annual brat feed there, sometimes combined with fishing or a brushing project. But TU National prefers that chapters not own property, and the alliance has been successful with public access issues and purchases for public use in the county. It includes a permanent fishing easement. Thanks to Dick Duplessie for doing the paper work for this.

The chapter takes a break from board meetings and general meetings in the summer, but board meetings resumed in September. Dick Duplessie is the new chapter president, replacing Joe Knight, who stepped in for a

Chapter News



BIG BROOKIES IN DUNCAN CREEK

A DNR crew shocking the upstream portion of Duncan Creek this summer found some larger trout.

one-year term when health issues kept Al Noll from finishing his final year as president.

The northern boundary for streams eligible to be included in TU DARE project has been expanded to include part of Barron County and more of Chippewa and Dunn County. The chapter already has plans underway for work on Wilson Creek in Dunn County, which is now within the boundaries of TU DARE.

The chapter recently sent off a letter in support of the federal grant Jeff Hastings is trying to get for TU DARE. In general terms we said there are a lot of potential projects in this northern end of the Driftless Area.

An experiment the chapter is funding that involves moving brook trout from upstream of the Bloomer Pond on Duncan Creek, where they have historically been abundant but small, and restocking them downstream below a barrier, seems to be working. A DNR crew shocking the upstream portion of Duncan this summer found some larger trout. Regular anglers say they have been catching larger brookies, although the behavior of the anglers is probably helping. They have been releasing the big ones and keeping the little ones if they want a fish dinner.

—Joe Knight

Wisconsin River Valley Chapter

Greetings from the Wisconsin River Valley. I'm sure it is said by nearly everyone the speed that the summer season arrives and in the blink of an eye is gone.

In July I did have the pleasure of spending a couple days at the WITU Youth Fishing Camp. It is an amazing group of students and mentors, and it's a pleasure to meet and work with them.

I had the opportunity to mentor Jack Savaloja from Eau Claire. Jack had a little trouble with casting, as any beginner does.

We did manage to catch a trout together on the Saturday night outing. When we got out on the stream Sunday morning we were in more close quarters and he was roll casting like a pro and had very few issues with fly eat-

ing vegetation. We didn't catch a fish on Sunday but enjoyed the beautiful weather and even a few wild raspberries.

The last weekend in August brings the Sporting Heritage Day at the Wausau School Forest. Many thanks to Henry Kanemoto and John Meachen for showing their tying expertise to the kids who turned out for the event. Thanks also to Al Hauber who joined Henry and John in the afternoon for casting.

We are still planning presentations for the fall but are looking forward to seeing everyone for the fall meeting October 7 and the art and literature event at the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum, October 5-9.

—Linda Lehman

Wolf River Chapter

The summer fishing on the Wolf River for many was a pleasant surprise. While the smallmouth fishing was quite good for most, the trout continued to bite as the Wolf River maintained higher water levels and cooler water temperatures than the past few years.

Expectations are that the Autumn season will provide exceptional fishing with good sized trout and numbers.

In August we had a fantastic

smallmouth bass fishing day trip on the Wolf. Many smallmouth bass and a trout were caught. What a collection of river, rapids, boulder gardens, eagles, osprey, otter and some great guys.

Also of interest, the Wolf River was one of the featured rivers in the July/August issue of Eastern Fly Fishing magazine. Carl Haensel and Jade Thomason did a great job of writing about all that the Wolf River has to offer. Last fall Bill Kallner got a call



ANDY KILLOREN FISHING THE WOLF RIVER IN AUGUST 2017

from Alice Klimoski at Mike's Service at Langlade about some people looking for info about fishing the Wolf River. Turns out it was Carl Haensel and Jade Thomason.

Bill has been reading their articles in Eastern Fly Fishing magazine for a while and says their quality of writing is impressive. After talking with them for an hour or so about hatches, time of year, access, trout, smallmouth, all of the normal fisher stuff, they were ready to go fishing.

They went around to various places on the Wolf and Hunting rivers. The end result was a feature article in the July/August issue of Eastern Fly Fishing magazine. The article does a great job of representing all that the Wolf has to offer. If you can find a copy it is worth the read.

The Wolf River Chapter fall meeting is October 7 at the Bear Paw Adventure Resort, with lunch and fishing afterwards.

—Laurie Zen Netzow

Oak Brook Chapter

For the past several years the Oak Brook TU (OBTU) chapter, along with a wide range of partners, has provided financial support for the Weister Creek project within the Kickapoo Valley Reserve.

Weister Creek is in its third year of construction and fourth year of fundraising. Phase 3 construction will be completed this fall.

At that time, the project will cover 7,540 feet of stream length, six acres of restored wetlands and 36 acres of prairie planting. It is a significant project with a total project length of 13,000 feet.

In addition to stream improvement, the Weister Creek project provides habitat for hunting and is a demonstration site for many non-game wildlife habitat best practices.

The chapter's other Driftless Area stream restoration project encompasses the reduction of soil

erosion and phosphorus discharge within the city of Sparta.

Since 2014 OBTU has provided both volunteer and financial support that has been leveraged to get large government grants. OBTU volunteers returned to Sparta for a stream restoration work day in July. Seven LUNKERS were constructed, which were used for restoration work on Beaver Creek.

"We had planned to remove tree dams and debris at the Beaver Creek construction site, but all trees and obstructions were taken care of the prior week by a very heavy rain storm," said Conservation Chair Dave Carlson.

"Local streams received a royal flush of high water, but our stream work in Sparta from previous years held up really well."

—Jim Schmiedeskamp



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MINE, from page 1

Aquila Resources paints an all-too-rosy picture of the life and final capping of the mine. Its engineering would be largely designed after another sulfide mine in northwestern Wisconsin on the banks of the Flambeau River. Aquila and its associates are attempting to compare the two sites and highlight the Flambeau Mine as a success story with minimal water contamination.

One doesn't have to dig too deeply to determine that these two projects are completely different and have zero ground for comparison. First and foremost, the Flambeau Mine is a tiny fraction of the size that Back 40 would be. The waste rock generated by Back 40 would be nearly six times larger. Furthermore, unlike the Flambeau Mine, which shipped all its rock away for processing, Back 40 would exclusively process and store the toxic end products in the pit a mere 150 feet from the river.

At the very root of it all, Back 40 would pose a two-fold wastewater problem. The first potential disaster stems from water being pumped into the river during operation. Aquila was already granted the necessary permit to pump millions of gallons of treated water directly into the Menominee. One little slip in the treatment process could dramatically alter the river's water chemistry leading to unknown consequences.

The second problem, and true ticking bomb, is the containment of the acid mine drainage during operation and after closure. Despite Aquila's lofty claims about their barrier wall's capabilities, they are only required by permit to build it to with-

stand a 100-year flood event. This is an undoubtedly terrible mistake by the regulatory bodies of Michigan. We flat-out do not have normal weather in this area anymore. Whether you believe in climate change or not makes no difference in this case. Having spent more than a thousand days on the Menominee River over the course of 16 years, I have witnessed a dramatic increase in severe weather. In June of 2017, we were forced to cancel more guide trips than we have in the entire existence of our business combined, all due to the fact that the river was at or above USGS flood stage.

All of these violent storms beg a lingering question. What could happen when the big one hits? In 2016, northwestern Wisconsin was subject to what a U.S. Forest Service hydrologist described as five times a 500-year flood event. This system dumped 12 inches of rain in a few hours causing, several million dollars in damage to infrastructure and killing a handful of people. What if a similar event were to occur during the operational life of Back 40? Open pit mine planning intends to keep water in, but what if the pit is swallowed by the river? Considering Back 40's proposed proximity to the Menominee and the violent weather seen across the globe as of late, the risks far outweigh the potential benefits.

I'm sure many readers are wondering how this all fits into the mission of TU, since the Menominee River is not a coldwater resource. And why is it so important that Wisconsin Trout Unlimited has taken a stance of opposition to a mine in the state of Michigan?

The connection is not exactly transparent until one does a bit of research into current proposed legislation here at home. This is where the protection of our cold water resources comes to light. Unlike Michigan, Wisconsin has what amounts to a moratorium on sulfide mining. These restrictions have protected multiple natural areas in the state that also contain some of the same metals found in the Back 40 site.

Some of our legislators are working hard to ease the current restrictions on sulfide mining, which will inevitably threaten some of the trout water many hold dear. Wisconsin Trout Unlimited's opposition to Back 40 makes a clear statement. The disastrous effects of sulfide mining on surface waters are well-documented and future mine sites represent a true threat to clean, cold water bodies. I applaud TU's efforts in taking a stance against Back 40, and I truly believe it is an important action in alignment with TU's mission to conserve, protect and restore North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds.

"The second problem, and true ticking bomb, is the containment of the acid mine drainage during operation and after closure."

Watershed Access Fund

Fall 2017 update

The 2017 Watershed Access Fund campaign is nearing its end and the response has been very good. Thanks to your generous contributions, we have raised more than \$5,500! Thank you so much for the support.

The Wisconsin TU Watershed Access fund is used to secure important stream access links, such as the well known "Horseshoe" section on the North Fork of the Bad Axe. Without this program, we may have lost the opportunity to secure public fishing access on this beautiful section of water.

The current grant request is \$7,500. Because two chapters may each request for a single acquisition and each chapter would have to match at 50 percent, the new limits would provide as much as \$15,000 for a single purchase or easement. The matching 50 percent from chapters can be in the form of volunteer hours.

The 2018 fundraising campaign is coming soon. Watch for a letter from us late this fall, and please consider making a generous contribution to the 2018 Watershed Access Fund. The need for access is critical for anglers to continue their passion for trout fishing. Access is also critical for Trout Unlimited to continue its successful stream improvement work.

I hope you all had a fantastic 2017 fishing season.

Doug Brown, Wisconsin TU Watershed Access Fund Chair

2016 Contributors

Louis Arata	Whitefish Bay WI	Edward Brockner	Beaver Dam WI
Henry Barkhausen	Winnetka IL	Russell Cison	Phillips WI
Ed Barnes	Middleton WI	William Creasey	Muscatine IA
Charles Barnhill	Madison WI	Terry Cummings	Rhineland WI
Jim Bayorgeon	Appleton WI	David Darling	River Falls WI
Michael Benish	Oregon WI	Bruce Davidson	Wauwatosa WI
Ron & Jolene Berg	Chippewa Falls WI	Steve Deery	Coloma WI
Mark Berggren	Madison WI	Richard Diedrich	Grafton WI
Blaine Biedermann	Madison WI	Richard Duplessie	Eau Claire WI
Richard Boda	Boyceville WI	Mike Duren	Mazomanie WI
Stephen Born	Madison WI	Jack Ellingboe	Prescott WI
		Harley Erbs	Rhineland WI

Paul Feldhake	Port Washington WI	Dr. C. Emil Mueller	Boscobel WI
Joel Fisher	Biramwood WI	Keith Nelson	Waunakee WI
William Flader, M.D.	Madison WI	Eric Nelson	Chili WI
Richard Galling	Hartland WI	Herb Oechler	Wauwatosa WI
Daniel Geddes	Appleton WI	Winston Ostrow	De Pere WI
Don Glanzer	Loganville WI	Scott Quandt DDS	Green Bay WI
James J. Goodwin	Sturgeon Bay WI	Carl Rasmussen	Neeah WI
Colleen Grant	Eden Prairie MN	Bob Retko	Cedarburg WI
Dan Grauer	Wausau WI	James Ruether	Mosinee WI
John Gribb	Mt. Horeb WI	Michael San Dretto	Neeah WI
Jack Halbrehder	Sparta WI	Jeff Schmoeger	Cottage Grove WI
Stephen Hawk	Madison WI	Glen Schmadt	Richland Center WI
Ashton Hawk	Madison WI	P.R. Schumann	Hartford WI
John Hawk	New Holstein WI	Frederick W. Seybold	Madison WI
Donald Heinzen	Verona WI	Edwin Shultz	Prairie du Sac WI
Walter Hellyer	Egg Harbor WI	Michael Stagg	Poynette WI
Jerone Herro	Kimberly WI	Wayne Stockman	Spring Valley WI
Cline Hickok	Hudson WI	Thomas Towne	Rosendale WI
Nancy and Dan Hill	Spencer WI	Dennis Vandembloemen	Eau Claire WI
John Hoar	Ashland WI	Carol Vendt	Oconto WI
Charles Hodulik	Madison WI	John Voorhees	Hazelhurst WI
Harold Hoffman	West Salem WI	Dick Wachoski	Eau Claire WI
Scott Homann	Roscoe IL	Don Wagner	Gillett WI
Phyllis Hunt	Waupaca WI	Janis Watson	Thiensville WI
John & Judith Hutchinson	Sun Prairie WI	Donald Wellhouse	Kaukana WI
William Johnson	Hudson WI	Paul Wiemerslage	Hudson WI
Cliff Kremmer	Sparta WI	Stephen Wilke	Marinette WI
Larissa Lyon	Janesville WI	Dan Wisniewski	Middleton WI
Thomas Lyon	Fontana WI	Don Wolf	Madison WI
Brian Madsen	Ellsworth WI	Jared Wunderlich	DePere WI
Kevin Mahaney	Middleton WI	Wendy & Fred Young	Roscoe IL
Charles Martinson	Mt. Horeb WI		
Peter Meronek	Stevens Point WI		
Fred Mikolajewski	West Allis WI		
Robert Moser	Milwaukee WI		

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

Make your check payable to Wisconsin Trout Unlimited

MAIL TO: TU Watershed Access Fund
Attn: Doug Brown
R4800 Timber Ln.
Ringle, WI 54471

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____



Driftless Rambler

With Duke Welter
TUDARE Outreach Coordinator

Under water...again.

It's been 10 years this summer since a catastrophic storm hit much of the Driftless Area and caused tens of millions of dollars of damage across the region. The following spring, another of almost similar magnitude drenched us again. The first has been described as a 1000-year event and the second, a 500-year event. The economic, personal and environmental impacts were tremendous, and are still being felt.

Worse, those storms led a parade of more dramatic rainfalls, most of them of high intensity and short duration. The most recent, July 23, dumped more than 10 inches of rain on Arcadia in a few hours, and plenty more across southwest Wisconsin.

These aren't isolated, according to the weather scientists, but are part of a weather pattern they've watched develop over the past decade. Since 2007 some parts of the Driftless Area have been inundated every single year: 2008, the Root River and Viroqua area. 2009, El Paso. 2010, Boscobel and Decorah, and so on.

Last year Viroqua had three successive events over an eight-week period, with rainfall events of five and six and more than nine inches. Some people lost repeated bridges across creeks that otherwise would be less than ten feet across.

Also last year, Trempealeau and Buffalo counties got hit twice, two weeks apart; northeast Iowa got hit two weeks later and Vernon and Crawford counties were hammered

a month later. More than \$21 million in damage took place in that last storm.

Since 2007 at least eight catastrophic storms have hit the region, according to the federal government's weather studies branch, the National Atmospheric and Oceanic Administration (NOAA). These storms are causing weather specialists to question the description of a 100-, 500- or 1,000-year event. Roads all across the region have been interrupted as usually-dry runs flood and wash out culverts or the roadway covering them.

Our County JJ Bridge over Reads Creek is still blocked off almost a year later, as the county tries to figure out where the money will come from to fix it. They can get funding to replace it with the same bridge, but to make it strong enough to withstand future floods would cost much more. Private landowners are vexed by losing their bridges repeatedly.

I traveled Highway 14 along Reads Creek early the morning of September 23, after more than nine inches fell overnight. At the JJ bridge, the normally seven-foot-wide stream was more than 80 feet wide, and piled with downed trees. Downstream, the flood had gone through the nursery's hoop houses and hundreds of plastic flower pots bobbed as they washed down toward the Kickapoo River.

The big river itself was up over the only bridge at Readstown. Even



on the high ground, stormwaters were washing along shoulders and causing ravines and washouts.

We've learned again and again how floodwaters take out pieces of roads, and how dangerous it is to try to drive through any flooded road. Sadly, deaths last year and this spring don't seem to drive the lesson home to everyone.

These dramatic events have led me to some observations that don't bode well. One is that while scientists are generally convinced we are in for more of these high-intensity, short-duration storms, many of our policy makers at the state and federal level either decline to address the situation or deny it's occurring.

That means it's hard for a town or county to plan for replacing an inadequate bridge with one designed to withstand harsher conditions, if you can't get funding help from the federal government. And towns have scores and hundreds of inadequate culverts that they can't or won't replace without increased financial help.

How were some of those culverts sized? One town road crew member said they just went to the local supplier and bought the cheapest culvert available, regardless of its size.

Another observation is that we are seeing significant erosion in places that have been relatively stable for many decades. They were beat up by early land use, remedied from the 1930s through 1960s, but now are at risk again. If we don't address them in ways that allow them to withstand these changing conditions, we'll be in an age of backsliding on soil conservation.

An excellent article in the La-Crosse Tribune by environmental reporter Chris Hubbuch recently examined a wide range of problems, mostly unaddressed, posed by the rash of 100-year storm events.

Some solutions have been found in the past 10 years, including moving residents of flood-prone towns like Gays Mills to higher ground, with help from the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA), or buying out landowners in villages like Avalanche.

And across the region, some zoning changes have made significant changes. Flood plain zoning

was originally controversial in Wisconsin, but that has changed. In the 2007-8 floods, some 50 structures were lost in Wisconsin, but almost 950 were lost in Minnesota, which hadn't adopted similar zoning rules.

Avalanche, that little hamlet dear to anglers on the West Fork of the Kickapoo, once boasted a church, school, newspaper and 750 souls, according to an area resident who was born there. Today, with the razing of the Avalanche Store and more houses, only a half-dozen buildings remain. Other Vernon County and Driftless Area villages that remain but a place name, such as Purdy or Newton, and many foundations of their former structures are buried under successive layers of flood-born sediment.

Changes are coming, albeit slowly. Some highway departments are working to plan and build roads and bridges that take the changing weather conditions into account. Urban subdivisions are being required to include better storm water systems. Even Viroqua's own system seems to be overtaxed, with gullies forming in draws directly over stormwater piping.

One cannot help but wonder the extent to which agricultural practices, especially during the corn-and-soybean boom, have contributed to some of the woes. Much upland soil erosion control was lost as corn and bean prices rose and many decades-old contour strips, grass waterways and buffers were torn out on hillside fields. Now, during a storm, downhill runoff goes unchecked and tears out dry runs and watercourses, causing increased damage.

Stream restoration techniques have been tested, too, in these dramatic events. Some didn't survive, but most have, as their widened floodplains help absorb the power of floods. But some, especially in higher-gradient areas or in constricted valleys, were badly beaten up or destroyed.

Continuing to take inadequate measures, or doing nothing, in the face of changing conditions, doesn't make any sense. But in light of the last 10 years, it's likely the challenges will continue. How will we choose to meet them?



ONE OF MANY STREAM CROSSING DESTROYED LAST FALL

This concrete crossing on Tainter Hollow Road in Vernon County was one of many that couldn't withstand last September's rain event.

Todd Franklin

You can donate securities to WITU

The Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited has an account at Morgan Stanley. Whether you're a TU member or not, you can donate securities to the WITU from almost any source.

Contact Rick Christopherson at 1-888-301-9769 or rick.christopherson@morganstanley.com



2018 Wisconsin TU State Council Banquet

Saturday, Feb. 3, 2018

**Best Western Premier Waterfront Hotel and
Convention Center
1 North Main St., Oshkosh, WI 54901**

**Doors & Cash Bar @ 4:30 pm
Dinner Seating @ 6:30 pm**

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