



# Wisconsin Trout

Spring 2018

## Wetlands bill update

*A controversial wetlands bill was amended and passed by the legislature.*

By Mike Kuhr, Council Vice Chair

Last October, Wisconsin legislators introduced legislation that would significantly roll back state-wide wetlands protections, which could potentially harm coldwater habitat and trout streams around the state. AB 547 and SB 600 (whose lead authors are Rep. Steineke and Sen. Roth) would remove protections for “non-federal” wetlands, which make up an estimated 20 percent of Wisconsin’s total wetland acreage, or approximately one million acres.

Non-federal wetlands lack a permanent surface water connection to water bodies like lakes and rivers that are protected by the Clean Water Act. However, these wetlands provide many benefits, such as supplying critical amounts of groundwater to coldwater streams, particularly in headwaters sections, as well as protection against flooding, erosion and nutrient pollution. These wetlands also provide habitat for diverse plant, animal and bird species throughout our state.

Wisconsin TU believes that both conservation and responsible development of our communities are possible with the right framework. We felt AB 547 and SB 600 fall far short of this, and we were disappointed that the bills would leave so much of our state’s ecologically valuable wetlands unprotected. We joined many of our partners in the sporting and conservation community in opposing these bills last October.

In the following months, Sen. Rob Cowles (R-Green Bay) and his staff began meeting with representatives from conservation organizations and developers in an effort to draft more suitable language for the

bills. At the end of January, Rep. Steineke introduced Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 that included some of the compromise language. A substitute amendment essentially replaces the original bill.

WITU opposed Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 to AB 547, as did many of our partnering organizations. While the amendment contained protections for isolated wetlands in the headwaters (non-navigable portions) of Class I and Class II trout streams, we saw lots of room for improvements in the bill. We were concerned with the lack of any mitigation requirements, as well as the broad definition of an “urban area.” We also felt that sedge meadow wetlands should be included in the list of rare, high-quality wetlands that will still require permitting and mitigation.

Under the amendment, up to three acres of isolated wetlands in rural areas could be filled only for the purpose of building an agricultural structure with no mitigation. Up to one acre of isolated wetlands could be filled in urban areas with no mitigation required. Currently, mitigation works like this: If a developer wants to fill one acre of wetlands, they need to create 1.2 acres of wetlands somewhere nearby.

Democrats introduced their own Substitute Amendments (Sen. Miller in the Senate and Rep. Brostoff in the Assembly) that would have only exempted from permitting the filling of artificial (not naturally occurring) wetlands and would have created the Wetlands Study Council, which is included in the Republican version as well. Neither of these amendments had the support to pass through either chamber.

In February, we continued to work with Sen. Cowles, his staff and



Mike Kuhr

**ISOLATED WETLANDS ARE CRITICAL TO THE HEALTH OF TROUT STREAM HEADWATERS LIKE THESE**

our partners to push for more stringent language that addressed our concerns. Sen. Cowles and Sen. Roth introduced language in the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy that put mitigation back into the bill, narrowed the definition of an “urban area” and included protections for sedge meadow wetlands. This language was quickly rolled into the Assembly version as Substitute Amendment 3.

The Assembly passed the newly amended AB 547 on Feb. 15. The Senate followed suit and passed the bill on Feb. 20. The governor will probably have signed the bill by the time you read this.

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited would like to thank Sen. Cowles and his staff for the respect they have shown for the sporting community while crafting this amendment. We

don’t believe that either side is completely satisfied with the amended bill, but that’s the true nature of compromise. We’d also like to thank Brandon Scholz from The Capitol Group, whose services we retained to help guide our advocacy efforts on this critical issue.

We value the recreational opportunities that the woods and waters of Wisconsin offer. We also recognize the economic impacts that trout fishing in particular, and angling in general, provide to our state. Many isolated wetlands are critical to the headwaters and spawning areas of our trout streams. For that reason, we will continue advocating for wetland protections to ensure that future generations have access to cold, clean fishable water in Wisconsin.

## Successful banquet

*Volunteers, sponsors, donors, attendees create another successful and enjoyable banquet.*

By Mike Kuhr, Council Vice Chair and Banquet Chair

Our 2018 State Council Banquet will be remembered for snowstorms and perseverance.

On a cold Saturday in early February, more than 240 people gathered in Oshkosh, despite inclement weather, to support our coldwater fisheries. We rewarded attendees by handing out more than \$25,000 in prizes. Treasurer Gary Stoychoff said we raised more than \$22,000.

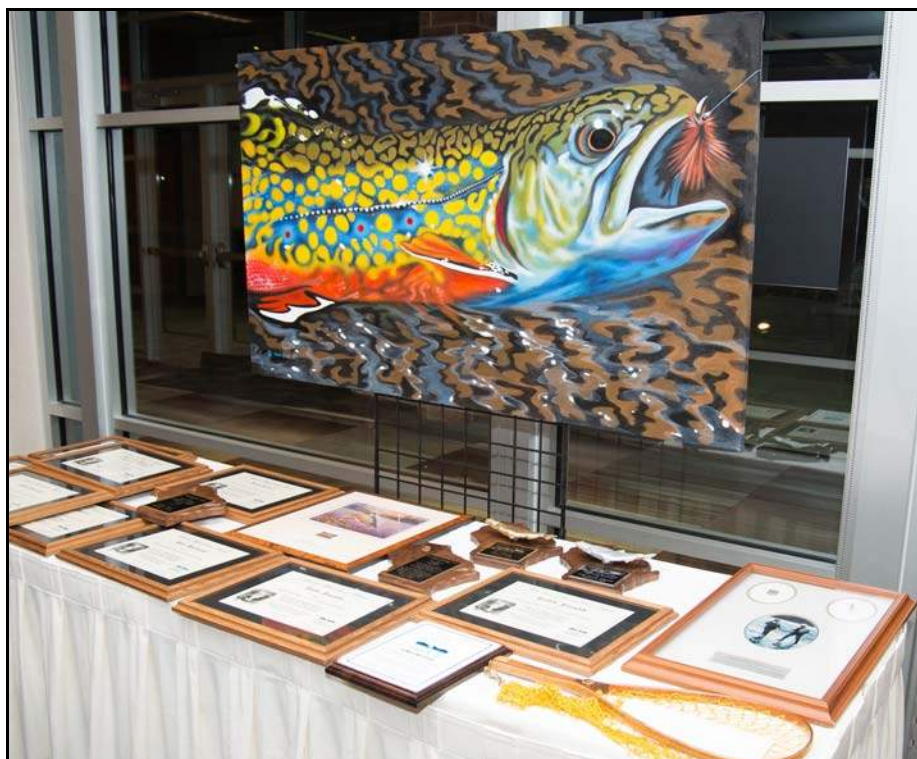
Volunteer efforts and local chapter support were again keys to the banquet’s success. The Banquet Committee was outstanding in both planning and execution. The Council is fortunate to have Bill Heart,

Heidi Oberstadt, Jim Wierzba, Linn Beck, Paul Kruse and Todd Franklin working on its behalf.

Our donors really came through this year with an amazing array of prizes. We’d like to thank the individual donors and all the chapters that made prize and cash contributions. The Council would also like to thank our sponsors for their generous support. Please see our “Thanks” to sponsors on page 32.

The Council would like to thank the many volunteers who performed so many tasks leading up to and during the banquet. Their efforts are critical to making an event like this run smoothly.

See **BANQUET**, page 28



The Oberstadts

**ADAM ZINS’ AMAZING BROOK TROUT ART ON DISPLAY**

## Chairman's Column

# TU offers so many ways to get involved

Where does the time go? It seems like I was just getting ready for our annual meeting, and now I

am gearing up for summer activities. I'm already thinking of where I can fit another four hours into every

day. But that is the fun part of it. It's exciting to have the opportunities and ability to protect and enhance our coldwater resources.

There are a lot of opportunities available for us all to get out and help our chapters. Work days provide great opportunities. Help comes in all forms, because chapters not only need volunteers for the heavy lifting, but help with the meal when all the work is done, or recording the day's events with camera or notebook.

Via the National TU website, chapters can now record the location of the work day and what was done to that area. This site will capture and record your chapter's volunteer hours, so at the end of the year your chapter can easily find your annual total volunteer hours.

Youth programs continue to grow among our chapters. If your chapter doesn't have a youth-related program, take it upon yourself to start one. When someone steps up to be a leader, it's amazing how other members will volunteer to help you get it going. Youth programs are a great way to educate kids about conservation and, of course, get them hooked on the outdoors by taking them fishing. The parents, inevitably see what we do, and some of them join chapters and become volunteers and leaders themselves.

Water monitoring is going to be

ever more important for us as attacks on our water resources continue. While we can't monitor every stream, monitoring a major creek, stream or upper watershed can provide important data when issues such as well permits, factory farms or manure spreading are being considered. The sooner we get data recorded on our waters, the easier it will be to show that these watersheds should be left alone.

Although I've always stressed the need for all of us need to be more involved in advocating our science-based ideas to our elected officials, times have changed so much in our political world that I need to stress this again. Thanks to your continued efforts, our legislators are better educated on coldwater conservation issues. Now that we have their attention, please keep up the good work.

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited is lucky to have members like all of you. If you would like to get more involved with anything from youth education to issue advocacy, please contact your local chapter. If water monitoring is something you are interested in, please contact me and I will put you in touch with the Water Action Volunteer coordinator.

Thanks for all you do.  
Tight Lines

Linn



STATE COUNCIL CHAIR LINN BECK

## WITU Youth Camp

This July will mark our fourth annual youth fishing camp. Each year we try to tweak and improve the camp. We work on streamlining our curriculum to share the most information, along with providing time for all the participants to feel comfortable with what we are teaching.

This year will be no different. The DNR's Shawn Sullivan has offered his guys to be available for most of the weekend. They will be around to help answer questions about everything from conservation to fishing.

Last year we started working with the Wisconsin Conservation Congress, which contacted us about offering our students a chance to become youth delegates in the congress. Guess what, half of our last class of 18 students has accepted the chance to be a delegate. It's great to see that our students are embracing conservation.

We also altered our schedule so the students can experience an actual TU work day for a couple of hours, in conjunction with our regular streamside presentation about stream restoration and fish shocking. During the rest of camp, we'll still cover the same important topics: stream/water safety, knot tying, fly tying and entomology. Always a highlight for students and instructors will be the portions where we cover fly fishing, bait fishing and spin fishing.

This year's camp will run from Thursday, July 19 through Sunday, July 22. The camp will be held again at the Pine Lake Bible Camp, located between Waupaca and Wild Rose on beautiful Pine Lake.

If you know of a youngster 12-16 who might be interested in attending, contact your local chapter or contact me. The camp roster is filling fast and the limit is 20 students.

Wayne Parmley will be contacting past volunteers. If you haven't experienced the fun and satisfaction of volunteering at the camp, please contact Wayne Parmley and he will share the amazing details. Come for a day or come for the weekend. Everyone is welcome.

Contact Linn Beck at chlbeck@att.net or 920-216-7408. Contact Wayne Parmley at wparmley@gmail.com or 920-540-2315.

## Please help with youth expo in May

WITU has a great chance to introduce hundreds of kids to fishing, and the outdoors, but only with your help. Please volunteer at this year's Midwest Outdoor Heritage Education Expo near Poynette.

The expo is Wednesday and Thursday, May 16-17. We're expecting to see more than 3,000 kids from 4-6 grades, as well as their chaperones.

This is a great opportunity for Wisconsin Trout Unlimited to share information with them about fishing and conservation issues. Some of the activities at the event include archery, forestry, wildlife tracking and game calling, bird dog demonstrations, trapping, parks and camping, outdoor safety and angler education.

Every year TU volunteers help about 900 children tie their first fly. That's an amazing number, but could even be higher, if we could round up more volunteers. We could use about 16-18 volunteers per day to help with the fly tying. We show the kids how to tie a simple bluegill fly, and explain how they can use their spinning rods and a spinning float to catch fish on it. We are not trying to make them fly tyers or fly anglers. We are trying to get them hooked on fishing. It's amazing how excited kids get when they catch a fish on a bait they made themselves.

We provide the tying materials, so that volunteers only need a vise and basic tying tools, including a scissors, bobbin and half hitch tool.

This event also presents an opportunity for us to teach kids about conservation. All we would need is a display showing the work we do on trout streams and water monitoring. We could teach kids how to identify aquatic insects from our streams and explain the role they play in monitoring our water quality. It would only take about three or four volunteers each day to help with bug identification and answer questions from the kids and chaperones.

I've also suggested we present a display showing the different kinds of trout, and ask kids to match the picture to the name of the fish. It would only take



### HELP US REACH HUNDREDS OF KIDS

Aldo Leopold Chapter's Jared Segal helps a young tyer create her first fly at last year's Expo. Jared was once a student at this amazing event, and now returns to share his passion and knowledge with the next generation.

one volunteer to answer questions and lead them through the activity.

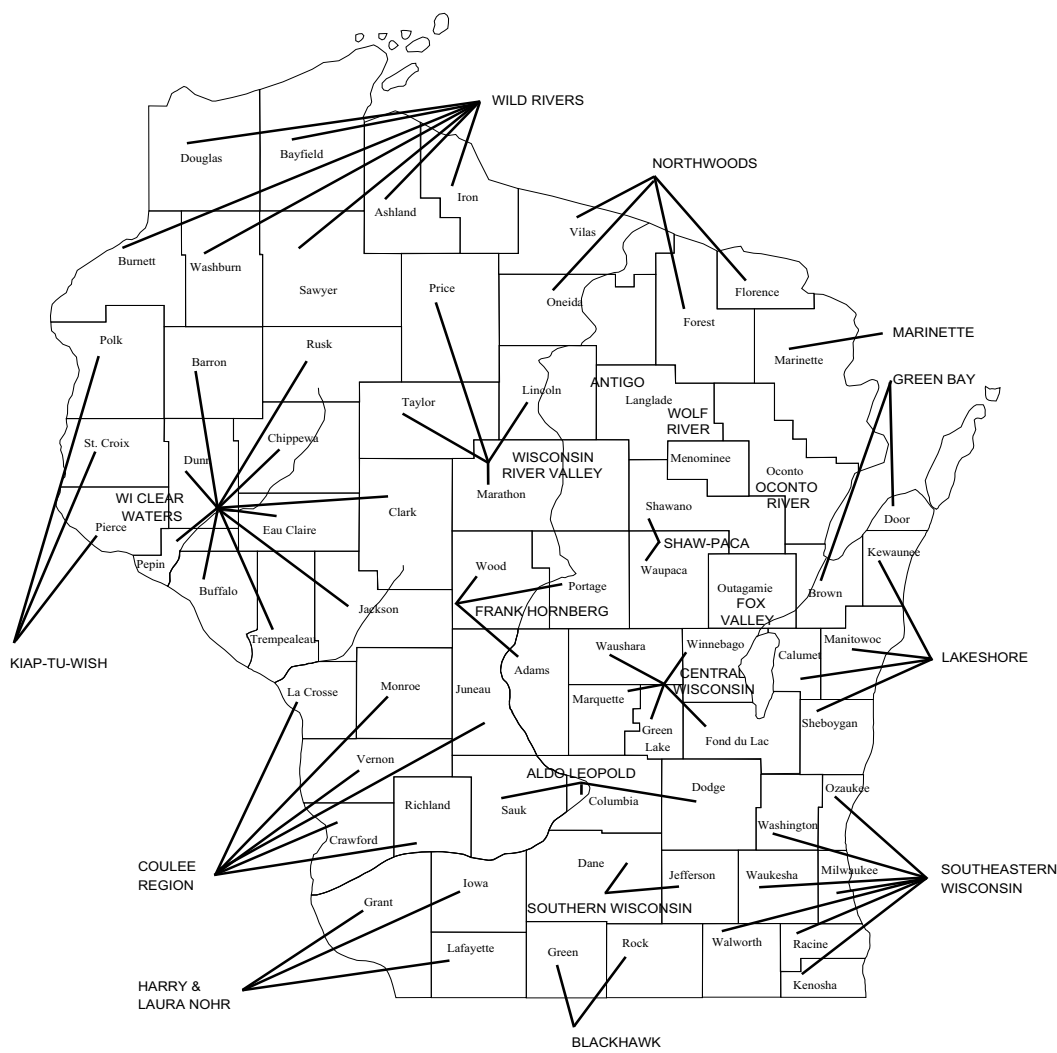
With additional volunteers, we could teach kids how to tie some basic knots. All it would take is a few knot-tying kits and a few volunteers.

We're hoping a chapter steps up to design and construct a display for these types of events, which could be shared by all chapters. Maybe this display could be put in schools and public libraries across the state when not in use at the Expo. If this is something your chapter would like to do, please contact me.

I am coordinating the fly tying and looking for volunteers to help the kids tie flies. Volunteers need to be at the MacKenzie Center in Poynette from about 8:15 a.m. to 3 p.m. If a chapter or individuals would like to help put together another activity, such as knot tying, bug identification or would like to create a display about TU stream restoration activities or water monitoring, let me know. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, contact me soon at 920-579-3858 or flytier@milwpc.com.

—Bob Haase

## Wisconsin TU Chapters, Presidents, and Websites



Visit the Wisconsin State Council's web site at [wicouncil.tu.org](http://wicouncil.tu.org), or find us on Facebook.

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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 lev-els. TU National manages the mailing list for the council and chap-ters, so update your address by going to [www.tu.org](http://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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**Mike Kuhr, Vice Chair**

**Tom Lager, Secretary**

**Gary Stoychoff, Treasurer**

## Commentary

# Are increased harvest regulations going too far?

*Before his passing, our foremost authority on trout research suggested that could be the case.*

By Kim McCarthy

Trout management in Wisconsin is undergoing rapid change. Trout regulations were rewritten just a couple of years ago. The rewrite was an attempt to clear up some issues that had existed since the category system was implemented more than 25 years ago. The category system was put in place after research by people like Robert Hunt suggested that trout fishing could be much better in Wisconsin with a management approach that allowed managers to manage in a way that took into account the different characteristics of various water bodies.

Parts of the category system bothered some anglers, such as multiple regulations on the same body of water, too many categories and a confusing number of different special regulations. The regulations committee went to work in 2011, and the new regulations were implemented in 2016. The number of categories was reduced from 5 to 3. Wherever possible a single regulation was put in place for an entire stream. The number of special regulations used around the state was reduced from over 40 to ten. That all seemed logical, and, as a member of the Trout Study Committee I agreed with what was done.

One of the more interesting discoveries made while doing the regulations revision came from a survey conducted among anglers who had purchased trout stamps in the past, but had since stopped. Some claimed that people had stopped fishing because of the rules under the category system. The DNR wanted to establish if there was fact in that claim. There was not.

The survey showed that, by far, the number one reason people had stopped fishing was "lack of time." No other reason given even came close. So, more than anything else, it was society changing the demand for people's time that caused some people to give up trout fishing.

### Demand for increased trout harvest

There were also other pressures being applied. One of those was a demand for greatly increased harvest. The category system of regulations, plus a change to wild trout stocking, plus good habitat work had succeeded in greatly increasing the trout populations in many areas of the state. The new regulations considered the higher populations and raised the bag limits in many parts of the state.

Many creeks that for years featured three-fish bag limits now have five-fish limits. Special regulations were removed from a number of streams. Five southwestern streams were changed to allow a 10-fish bag limit. 15 days of harvest season were added to the month of October. Taken in total, it was a large increase in potential harvest.

Still, the demand for more harvest has not quieted down. Some are floating new ideas to increase harvest opportunities.

One idea is to open the harvest season a full month earlier, on the first Saturday in April. This would add a month of harvest at a time when fish are starting to feed heavily following the lean times of winter.

It would remove a month when only catch-and-release fishing is allowed on some streams and replace that with a month of full harvest statewide. It would add a full additional month of harvest in northern Wisconsin where even catch-and-release early seasons have been rejected.

### April trout harvest proposal will be a question at Spring Hearings

It would be another large increase in harvest on top of an already large increase under the new 2016 regulations. Anglers will be asked about the idea of opening the regular harvest season in early April when they vote on question 31 at the April Spring Hearings. I will not support that proposal.

In trying to decide whether still more harvest is a good idea, I began to think about the vision for trout fishing in Wisconsin held by Robert Hunt. Hunt has long been considered Wisconsin's foremost authority on trout research. His work has landed him a spot in the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame beside such visionaries as John Muir and Aldo Leopold.



FAMED TROUT BIOLOGIST ROBERT HUNT

I would never consider guessing at what Hunt would think of the constant effort to increase harvest. Fortunately I don't have to guess. Back in 2011, when the regulations were being reviewed I was the Trout Unlimited State Council Chair in Wisconsin. We had a regulations committee in place, and Hunt agreed to give advice to that committee. I sent Hunt a request asking him for his opinion on some of the issues being discussed. Although not feeling well, (he passed away not too long afterward) he was kind enough to send me some thoughts on regulations.

I have made it a point to keep that last communication from him, as it may have been the final time he offered suggestions about regulations. I think it would serve us well to consider the contents and advice contained in that communication. The quotes below come directly from his letter. I have underlined parts for emphasis. His first statement references complaints about regulations originating in southwestern Wisconsin.

"There seem to be few complaints from trout fishers in other regions of the state about the category system of managing trout. I guess the DNR must be doing something right regulation wise. The ad hoc committee I served on to develop the category system was primarily focused on reducing harvest statewide. That goal was accomplished and trout populations have generally increased. Especially significant in terms of providing better fishing has been the increase in the number of trout reaching terminal size. Increasing the statewide daily bag limit to 5 will increase harvest and reduce angling quality by reducing the number of large trout.

There is a biological principle called "Inverse Density Dependent Mortality" that I proved operates. It basically means that as the

number of trout present decreases, the greater the percentage of trout caught becomes. Overharvest may not be noticeable for a few years, but eventually the harvest results in a crash. This rule has been documented in oceanic fisheries as well as inland fisheries. The danger of such a crash will increase in Wisconsin trout fisheries as the daily bag limit liberalizes.

TU National recognized that the trout management program in Wisconsin is the best in the nation. Let's be cautious about changing the present system. It's a lot better to under-harvest than to over-harvest.

I am skeptical about the claim that present conservative regulations have scared away young people from trout fishing. Kids today are good at handling complexities. Most of them have a cell phone in one pocket and an iPod in another. I don't think they are about to be intimidated by some color coded trout regulations. Loss of young recruits is a nationwide problem for all outdoor oriented organizations, a social phenomenon that has little to do with complexities of a given sport. TU chapters are probably doing a better job of getting kids started fishing than most other outdoor focused groups. TU deserves commendation, not criticism. We teach a lot of environmental knowledge as well as how to fly cast or spin cast.

A final thought: Turning back the societal clock to a simpler time when present day parents and grandparents grew up in a more rural environment is not going to happen. Radical tinkering of the present category based regulations would be a gigantic mistake."

—Bob Hunt

I will end this article by saying that if I have to agree with someone on the issue of continuing to find ways to harvest more fish, I will agree with Hunt, especially his statement that it is better to under-harvest than to over-harvest. Hopefully his words of wisdom will be remembered, will take hold, and we will continue to have world-class trout fishing in Wisconsin. Remember, that was not always the case.

*Kim McCarthy has been a member of Trout Unlimited since the 1970s. During that time he has served as Chapter President in Green Bay, as the Northeast Region Vice Chair, and then as the State Council Chair from 2010-2012. He is currently serving as the Wisconsin Representative on the TU National Leadership Council.*

41<sup>st</sup>  
YEAR

## Come Discover Fly Fishing

### Central Wisconsin's Annual Fly Fishing School

June 2 & 3, 2018 in Amherst, WI

- Great way to learn how to fly fish or to brush up lost skills
- On-stream and classroom instruction
- Gear provided, if needed
- On-site lodging available on the grounds
- Includes meals for Saturday and Sunday
- Learn about rods, lines, reels, gear, fly selection, knot tying, reading water, safe wading and much more
- Instructor staff has over 500 years of collective experience

Sunday morning one-on-one guided trout fishing on local stream is included.

For more information or to register, visit [cwttu.com](http://cwttu.com) or contact **Scott Grady** at 920-687-0987 or email: [oosgg@vbe.com](mailto:oosgg@vbe.com)



# Back 40 Mine update

*Federal and state agencies raise concerns about the mine proposal.*

Allison Werner,  
River Alliance of Wisconsin

The last few months have been active for the Back 40 Mine Proposal. The latest news is the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), on behalf of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), have objected to Aquila Resources' wetland permit application.

In a March 8, 2018 letter to Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MI DEQ), the EPA stated, "The federal agencies have identified specific concerns with the project as proposed. Our concerns include the deficiencies in the impacts analysis, the significance of aquatic resource impacts, alternatives analysis, and the demonstration of adequate compensation for wetland and stream impacts. Therefore, this project does not comply with the CWA Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines, and EPA objects to the issuance of a permit for this project as proposed."

If Aquila Resources and MI DEQ do not satisfactorily address the concerns raised by the EPA within 90 days, the review of the wetland permit will be taken over by the Army Corps of Engineers.

Ironically, this is exactly what the Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin's lawsuit is asking to have happen. On January 22, the Menominee Tribe filed a lawsuit because they believe the Corps and EPA should take over the review of the wetlands permit application.

For most states the Corps has a role in reviewing wetland permit applications. This is not the case in Michigan. The state of Michigan has been given sole authority to review wetland permits. The Menominee Tribe believes the state of Michigan should not have been delegated this authority for this proposal because the Menominee River is an interstate body of water.

In addition to the objections to the wetland permit from the EPA, MI DEQ also sent Aquila Resources a list of issues to address on both January 18 and March 2. The 30-page document provided by MI DEQ to Aquila Resources on March 2 included the comments shared by the 88 people who spoke at the January 23 public hearing for the wetland permit. The document also included a summary of the 3,420 written comments MI DEQ received from people concerned about this risky proposal.

Aquila Resources has recently



## BACK 40 MINE HEARING DRAWS LARGE CROWDS

The Environmental Protection Agency, on behalf of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, have objected to Aquila Resources' wetland permit application. Please let everyone know what's going on with this potentially damaging mine.

responded in writing to the concerns MI DEQ raised on January 18 and the company said it will address the EPA's concerns within the 90-day deadline. It is estimated that MI DEQ will not have a decision on the wetland permit until at least June. Add in the Menominee Tribe's lawsuit and Aquila Resources need to acquire funding and a social license

to mine, it will be awhile before this proposal moves forward.

Please continue to inform TU members and other angling friends about this issue. The best way to protect the Menominee River and Lake Michigan fishery is grassroots opposition to activities that will pollute our waters.

## EPA, GLRI and LWCF face significant cuts

The Trump Administration's plans to kill federal support for improving and protecting some of the nation's most prized waterways has failed, thanks to bipartisan support to maintain funding for key programs.

The proposal would have significantly cut funding to the EPA and other agencies, essentially eliminating programs such as the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). On March 22 the U.S. House of Representatives decided to keep, and in some cases increase, funding.

Since 2010, the GLRI has supported more than 3,400 projects, totaling nearly \$1.76 billion, in the Great Lakes region, including TU projects improving stream connectivity and restoring instream habitat. The president's budget proposed to reduce GLRI funding from \$300 million to \$30 million, and end the program the next year. But due to a vocal sportsmen's community and a unified, bipartisan Great Lakes delegation, GLRI was fully funded at \$300 million.

As of this printing, we're unsure what has become of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which faced a 98 percent overall cut to the program. Federal agencies' budgets for conservation at our national parks, forests and national wildlife refuges and other public lands would be eliminated outright or held so low as to barely pay staff, affecting future protection of our lands and waters and undercutting efforts to enhance public access for hunting, fishing and other activities that drive a vibrant economy.

State grant programs, funded through LWCF, support local recreation facilities, state parks, working forests, wildlife habitat and other community conservation priorities.

## Making a Destination, Part II

For those who have been involved, or have been following what John Meachen and I have been doing to create an angling destination here in central Wisconsin, a brief update seems to be in order.

Following Phase I of Making a Destination, concluding with At the Convergence held at the Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum last October, we now seek to move on to Phase II: Rehabilitating a Stream. We've identified a possible site in a small village in Marathon County. I made a formal presentation to the village council in February. The reception I received was extremely favorable, but, as usual, there are significant issues involved which must be overcome before we can

undertake a major reclamation project on the river running through the village. Principal among those are complex easement issues, as well as anticipated local opposition to a major makeover of the river and the area bordering it.

If those issues can be satisfactorily resolved, we will be looking to enlist the assistance of TU chapters to remove massive amounts of deadfall currently clogging the river. If our current efforts aren't successful, we will be looking for an alternative destination somewhere in the central part of the state. In any event, stay tuned and make sure your chainsaws are well sharpened. Your help may be needed this summer!

—Dan Holland and John Meachen

## Wanted: Aquatic resources seasonal intern

TU is seeking an Aquatic Resources Seasonal Intern, who will report directly to Laura MacFarland, Great Lakes Restoration Manager, and will assist with projects to restore aquatic connectivity and instream habitat in Northern Wisconsin.

The position will require frequent overnight travel (camping on the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest) and will work three days a week, not to exceed 30 hours per week.

This position is not to exceed six months in duration. Some weekend work will be required. This position is not eligible for benefits. The position is based in Crandon, Wisconsin.

### Duties and responsibilities:

- Conduct a variety of stream surveys including aquatic organism passage assessments and habitat assessments
- Assist with data entry and database management, as well as assist with project reporting
- Coordinate education and outreach efforts with project partners and general public
- Assist in project implementation and on-site construction

This is not an all-inclusive list of duties and responsibilities.

### Desired qualifications

- Ideally working towards or completed a B.S. in a field related to fisheries management, aquatic ecology, watershed management, geomorphology, or biological systems engineering.
- A working knowledge of principles and practices of fisheries and aquatic resource management.
- Outstanding interpersonal and written communication skills.
- Demonstrated ability to work effectively as both a team player and independently
- Proficient with Microsoft Office programs.
- Willingness to travel (frequently overnight) and capable of hiking and carrying equipment in difficult terrain and working in inclement conditions and remote locations.
- Valid driver's license and a reliable vehicle.
- Passion for protecting and restoring trout populations and their watersheds.

### How to apply

Please send a letter of interest and resume to Laura MacFarland at [laura.macfarland@tu.org](mailto:laura.macfarland@tu.org). No phone calls please. Open until filled.

TU is an Equal Employment Opportunity & Affirmative Action Employer pursuant to Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act & Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Assistant Act. TU hires staff without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, age, gender, sexual orientation, marital status or disability.

# Council bestows awards at banquet

The Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited honored several individuals, one chapter and one corporate sponsor at the annual banquet in Oshkosh February 3. The council has been presenting awards since 1984. Thanks go out to Mike Kuhr for overseeing the banquet awards committee. Other award committee members include Todd Franklin and Bill Heart. Todd Franklin will take over as chair and is seeking new members for this committee. If you are interested please contact Todd at toddfranklinwistrout@gmail.com.

We would also like to thank our sponsors and for those who donated prizes for our banquet.

Council Chair Linn Beck is shown presenting awards in these photos.

*Thank you to the Oberstadts for taking photos of the award winners.*



## Resource Award of Merit: Laura MacFarland

In the short time since taking the restoration manager position, Laura's work in reconnecting streams in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest has been well documented in *Wisconsin Trout* and now in TU's national publication, *Trout magazine*. It is amazing how quickly the trout have responded in returning to their historic spawning grounds once given the chance.

Besides her work correcting culverts, Laura is coordinating a large habitat restoration project on the North Branch of the Oconto River in and around Wabeno. Depending on where the work will be done, she will be working with different partners. In carrying out this work, Laura has demonstrated incredible coordination and communication skills working with landowners, contractors, state and federal employees, town crews, tribal governments, volunteers and the general public. Laura has mastered the thankless and tedious task of grant writing as well, much to the benefit of the local trout.

Laura coordinated and carried out the Trout in the Classroom (TIC) program at Wabeno Elementary School and is now taking TIC to the Environmental Science students at Wabeno High School.

As a TU National employee, Laura had to surrender her official status as an officer and board member with the Northwoods Chapter, but she remains a valuable and hard-working member of our chapter in her "advisory" role. Laura arrived in the Northwoods in February 2010, and by May she was active with the Northwoods Chapter, serving as vice president from 2011 to 2013. By May 2013, Laura was elected chapter president. Our chapter, Wisconsin TU and TU National is fortunate to have someone with Laura's talent, energy and enthusiasm.

Before her arrival in the northwoods, Laura was a member of the Southern Wisconsin Chapter. She served as education chair and teamed up with other chapter leaders to organize the first of many successful women's fly-fishing clinics. She remains active in organizing this annual clinic by women, for women, at the West Fork Sportsmen's Club.

Laura's resume includes a bachelor's degree in biology from William Woods University and a masters of science in Water Resource Management at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She worked for Alpine County, California, managing five watersheds in northern California, as well as serving as the executive director of the Alpine Watershed Group. After that we knew her as the invasive species director for the River Alliance of Wisconsin.

Besides her passion for fishing and conservation, Laura enjoys skiing, camping, canoeing and cooking for her family.

## Gold Trout Award for Service: Jim Wierzba

Jim Wierzba has been a driving force for Wisconsin Trout Unlimited for the better part of a decade. Starting as a board member for the Southeast Wisconsin Chapter, Jim eventually became SEWTU's president. During that time Jim presided over numerous stream projects, habitat workdays, youth and veterans' events, and continued SEWTU's strong history of fundraising.

In 2013, Jim spent countless hours helping to lead SEWTU and the state council's hospitality room efforts at Trout Unlimited's Annual Meeting in Madison, Wisconsin. In addition, Jim has been a significant contributor to the State Council, notably with his prize marshalling, coordination and setup work at our annual banquet. As a result of Jim's efforts and the associated generosity of donors and chapters, both the number of prizes and their quality has increased significantly. Jim notably ensured that prizes were equally distributed between raffle and silent auctions events so that all attendees had a chance to win a truly top-shelf prize.



## JIM WIERZBA RECEIVED THE GOLD TROUT AWARD FOR SERVICE

At the same time, Jim became the vice president of the Wisconsin Council's Southern Region, helping to distribute Friends of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited funds, and leading efforts to coordinate joint workdays between the Southern Region's chapters.

Aside from his TU responsibilities, Jim continues to serve as a Conservation Congress Delegate on its Trout Study Committee, where he works to protect trout streams and trout fishing opportunities for all. Finally, Jim served as Wisconsin TU's representative to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources regarding its recent trout fishing regulation revisions and is involved in new efforts to update Wisconsin's Trout Management Plan.

It would be impossible to list all of Jim's efforts for Trout Unlimited in this small space. Suffice it to say that whenever Trout Unlimited has called, Jim has answered and done so in a manner that is above and beyond ordinary. For his chapter, the Council and trout anglers in general, Jim has been a shining example of service to others and to Trout Unlimited's mission.

## Silver Trout Award for Chapter Merit: Wild Rivers Chapter

The Wild Rivers Chapter continues to be very active on many fronts. After Wisconsin TU decided to realign the Northeast Region by adding Wild Rivers, the chapter has been active in the region by donating funds for habitat work outside of the chapter boundaries and to support TU's growing work in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. In 2018 the chapter will assist on a culvert replacement on forest land on a tributary of Eighteen Mile Creek in Bayfield County, and chapter members will use Wild Rivers and Northeast Region funds in Sawyer County, assisting the DNR with some brush bundling work on two small spring creeks that have been impacted by beavers.

The chapter's Spring Fishing Expo is held on the campus of Northland College. The chapter invites about 20 natural resource organizations to set up free booths to help educate the public on what is happening in the north. The event often brings in more than 100 attendees. The chapter combines this afternoon with a couple programs, bucket raffles and live auction as its major fundraiser of the year.

The chapter hosts a number of fly-tying events throughout the year, especially during the winter months to get ready for the expo. For the past couple of years, four chapter members also attended a two-week session of the Ashland High School Natural Resource & Environmental Science class. They taught fly tying, entomology, stream craft and fly casting, and explained TU's role as an organization that works to protect rivers. For the past couple of years, Wild Rivers has partnered with Solstice Outdoors to put on women's fly fishing clinics in the city of Ashland.

The Wild Rivers chapter continues to be a strong financial supporter for continuation of the USGS Leonard School Gage on the Namekagon River, and continues to have a strong voice in opposition of mining and CAFO development. Like many chapters throughout the state, it's an active, hard-working chapter that get things done.



## THE WILD RIVERS CHAPTER WON THE SILVER TROUT AWARD

From left are Bob Traczyk, Jason Stewart, State Council Chair Linn Beck, Frank Pratt, Bill Heart and Bob Rice.



### Gold Net Award: Curt Rees

While the area covered by the Coulee Region Chapter of TU (CRTU) is home to more than 1,000 miles of trout streams in southwest Wisconsin, the chapter has at times struggled to carry TU's mission out to the area. Curt Rees, in his three years as chapter president, has led the chapter to a better, stronger position to conserve, protect and restore our coldwater resources.

Curt Rees is a quiet-spoken man, but when he speaks at a chapter event or in a newsletter, people listen. He is an elementary school principal in La Crosse, and his administrative, leadership and speaking skills come through in his communications with members. He has invited and listened to new ideas, many of which have been put into action: moving meetings around, working with outside chapters on projects within the area, supporting non-typical events like the Driftless One-Fly and the Coon Valley Trout Fest. Under his leadership, CRTU has begun supporting Trout in the Classroom and other teaching opportunities, and the public response has been significant and positive.

As a result, the chapter is stronger and has become more able to sponsor and support events with its volunteers. Work days with other chapters in this area have drawn members from all over southern Wisconsin and Illinois. Kids' events are well-covered. He has been integral working with the chapter banquet and other fund-raising events to be successful. The money raised has been used to raise more funds from other sources. Several new board members have been added in the past couple of years, replacing veterans who were ready for a break. There appears to be more interest and more activity than at any other time in the past 20 years.

Curt intends to step down later this year, to share more time (much of it on the water) with his family. But he has put CRTU in a good position to move forward with strong membership and board leadership. For all that good work and strong leadership, we honor Curt Rees with the 2018 Gold Net Award from Wisconsin Trout Unlimited.

### Joan & Lee Wulff Award for Outstanding Conservation Leadership: Amy Klusmeier

The Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited nominated Amy Klusmeier for the Joan and Lee Wulff Award for Outstanding Conservation Leadership, and the state council fully agrees that she is most deserving of this prestigious award. Amy is one of her chapter's most active members and gives a huge amount of time and energy to TU. Not only has her work benefited the trout resources of our state, but it has attracted women, youth and others to help achieve what all of us agree we need in our organization.



AMY KLUSMEIER EARNED THE JOAN & LEE WULFF AWARD

Amy began her relationship with TU a few years ago by attending the Women's Beginners Fly Fishing Clinic in southwestern Wisconsin. The next year she returned for the intermediate clinic and joined the board of directors of the Southern Chapter. She served as vice president, and has been successfully organizing our major fundraiser, the Winter Icebreaker, for three years now.

Amy continues to help with the Women's Fly Fishing Clinics as a river buddy, guiding new women fly anglers. She always agrees to teach special topics at the clinics as well.

Amy routinely teaches at the women's clinics here at the State Council meeting and banquet. She helps with Project Green Teen, a program which puts at-risk high school youth out on trout streams. She also helps with TU's veteran programs.

If that is not enough, Amy is active in SWTU workdays and is trained and proficient with a chainsaw. Amy participates in the stream keeper program to monitor and do minor maintenance on coldwater streams. She covers a portion of Kittleson Creek. She has helped to suggest ways to make TU more attractive to new members and has influenced our strategic plan to grow our membership and improve diversity.

Recently Amy has been representing Wisconsin TU on the TUDARE Volunteer Steering Committee. This important committee works to ensure that the Driftless Area Restoration Effort will remain strong for years to come.

We are thankful for Amy's contributions to both SWTU and the State Council, and are honored to award her the Joan and Lee Wulff Award for Outstanding Conservation Leadership.



### Robert Hunt Resource Professional Award: Dale Higgins

Dale Higgins recently retired from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), U.S. Forest Service (USFS) with nearly 39 years of honorable public service. Before joining the Forest Service, he obtained two degrees from the University of Minnesota: a bachelor's degree in forest resource development in 1977 and a master's degree in forest hydrology in 1979. Dale worked on national forests in three different regions across the country. He began his FS journey in Roanoke, Virginia, at the Jefferson National Forest, then travelled west to John Day, Oregon, to work on the Malheur National Forest, and completed his lifelong natural resource career on the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest in Park Falls.

His diverse geographic work background and experience includes a broad range of hydrology and watershed management activities implemented to protect, restore and manage streams, lakes and wetland habitats and ecosystems. These include aquatic habitat inventories, project monitoring, scientific training, detailed hydrologic analysis for instream flows, dam removals and road-stream crossings, and design and implementation of stream, lake and wetland habitat restoration projects.

Dale also developed prescriptions and/or mitigation measures for various ground land management activities such as road construction, mining activities, timber sales, sewage treatment plants and recreation sites, to name a few. Dale received regional and national awards from the Forest Service for his passion, dedication and professionalism as a forest hydrologist. Some of his more significant contributions include:

- Participating in the hydropower relicensing projects in Wisconsin and Michigan to ensure adequate minimum fish and channel maintenance flows and also to ensure reservoir water levels are achieved and maintained.
- Designing and implementing nearly 100 miles of in-stream habitat restoration for both coldwater and warm-water systems.
- Developing and nurturing complex partnerships with the forest fish programs at the federal, state, regional and local levels with agencies, tribes, the public and non-government organizations, especially TU.
- Implementing a detailed in-stream water temperature monitoring program to evaluate long-term impacts from climate change.

But what may be one of the most significant areas that Dale participated in during the past few decades is working on Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) projects at road-stream crossings. It is significant how that program links to the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative in funding for the Forest Service and TU acquire to reconnect coldwater streams in the Lake Michigan and Lake Superior basins. Budgets annually range between \$150,000 to \$1.5 million for fixing road culverts. Dale has designed and helped construct more than 200 fish passage crossing structures during his career.

### Robert Hunt Resource Professional Award: Mike Miller

We are blessed in Wisconsin to work with numerous fisheries professionals who are committed to our water resources and the fish species living in



### THE DNR'S MIKE MILLER RECEIVED THE ROBERT HUNT RESOURCE PROFESSIONAL AWARD

those waters. They work with several state, federal and county agencies, and often spend a great deal of their work time improving habitat for and understanding of our coldwater resources.

When we find one of those outstanding professionals who goes beyond their weekday employment to study and teach others about these resources, we should recognize them for their extra commitment arising from their passion for coldwater.

DNR Stream Ecologist Mike Miller perfectly illustrates one of those who go the extra distance. In his years with DNR, he's worked with lake trout, salmon, carp and various contaminants, but for the last 20 years he's focused on watershed and stream ecology.

Mike, a Sheboygan native, grew up playing in streams near his home. Now he plays in streams all around the state. He's done important work assessing the impacts of culverts and road crossings on stream fishes and their migration. That work has informed many TU chapters and led to notably improved culvert design and installations.

Education is an important part of Mike's work. With numerous TU groups, from local chapters, the state council, women's workshops and the national teen summit, he has been a patient and entertaining teacher. He brings a wealth of stream knowledge to discussions with these groups as they assess the mix of bugs in a particular stream, teaching people how that insect assemblage is affected by sediment and contaminants. And he does it on weekends throughout the season, all over the state. People of all types—anglers, non-anglers, kids, women—ended up learning, laughing and enthusiastic about our streams.

With a co-author, Mike wrote an outstanding, broad-based book, the "Field Guide to Wisconsin's Streams: Plants, Fishes, Invertebrates, Amphibians and Reptiles," which should be in every angler and outdoorsperson's backpack.

On top of all those accomplishments, for the last several years Mike has taught a class at UW-Madison, his alma mater, on stream ecology and water management. "The passion and intelligence of university students gives me hope for the future," he says.

Mike may not fill a traditional fisheries biologist's role, but he has been an outstanding contributor to our understanding of Wisconsin streams and what they need, to TU in its advocacy for those streams, and to the public through his educational efforts. We are proud to honor Mike with the Robert Hunt Resource Professional Award.



### GERI MEYER ACCEPTS THE CORPORATE SPONSOR AWARD FOR THE DRIFTLESS ANGLER AND ATHENA & ARTEMIS, WHICH PROVIDES GEAR TAILORED TOWARD WOMEN, BUT ALSO PROVIDES A SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR THIS GROWING PORTION OF THE FISHING COMMUNITY.

### Corporate Sponsorship Award: Driftless Angler & Athena and Artemis

For 11 years now, the Driftless Angler Fly Shop in Viroqua has been a valued partner to Coulee Region Trout Unlimited (CRTU) and thousands of visiting anglers from across the nation. They've supported WITU and many, many Midwestern TU chapters with donations and by visiting their meetings to talk about fishing in the Driftless Area. They've contributed hundreds of hours to teaching anglers, both men and women, about the joys of trout fishing through donated trips and teaching workshops in the area. And time after time they've been willing to speak up about environmental issues arising in our area.

For all those contributions, CRTU and the Wisconsin TU State Council enthusiastically recognize the Driftless Angler and its co-owners, Mat Wagner and Geri Meyer, as our 2018 Corporate Partner of the Year.

Geri and Mat opened the shop in 2006 after visiting the community from their former base in New Mexico. They'd never been in the unglaciated area of the upper Midwest. Mat is from Michigan and Geri from Washington, but they fell in love with it on their first visit. They looked at the streams and saw schools of fish and assumed they were suckers, but learned in fact they were trout.

The shop has been successful with an experienced group of guides and offers a full range of equipment and flies. On top of those attractions, the shop is a center for conversations about resource issues and just spreading the word about what the Driftless Area has to offer. Being surrounded by 6,000 miles of trout streams within 100 miles is another undeniable draw.

Some businesses tend to keep their heads down when issues arise that provoke controversy. Not Mat and Geri. They speak up and work to organize discussions and show up at meetings to give their informed opinions on the threats to coldwater streams.

Two years ago Geri launched Athena and Artemis – the Women's Fly Shop. She is also involved with many regional and national women's fishing groups and manufacturers in efforts to increase the involvement of women in fly fishing. Athena & Artemis offers gear that's tailored toward women, but more importantly, it provides a safe, comfortable and inviting space for the growing community of female anglers.

They go at all these activities with verve and humor, enjoying the people in the Driftless Area and sharing it with new visitors.

All these positive contributions make the Driftless Angler, Athena & Artemis and their owners, Geri Meyer and Mat Wagner, worthy honorees as our 2018 Corporate Partner of the Year.

### Certificate of Appreciation: John Meachen & Dan Holland

When John Meachen and Dan Holland hatched "At the Convergence," it was borne out of a shared sense of outrage about our state and nation's current environmental policies. The galvanizing moment occurred when Dan asked John: "What are we going to do about it?"

Dan responded with legendary anthropologist Margaret Mead's immortal words: "Never doubt that a few thoughtful, concerned people can change the world. Indeed, that is the only thing that ever has." At that moment Dan and John committed themselves to do whatever they could to be a positive force for good in a world much in need of good.

They approached Curator of Education Catie Anderson at the award-winning Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum in Wausau. When they discussed their intent to "fight ugly with beauty," she startled them by saying, "Your idea would fit perfectly with Birds in Art, and we are in the planning stages of that now."

That is how some of the luminaries of writing, visual art and environmental science came together in Wausau in early October to celebrate the thing that unites us all: a love of beauty.

Because of their friendship with celebrated artist Bob White, they asked him what he thought. His reply was, "I'm in." He paused an instant, then added, "I'll get Gierach and Dvorak." Then they were able, again with Catie's help, to add eminent environmental scientists Alan Haney and Eric Anderson to the distinguished individuals who made the event such a success. Who could have foreseen the evolution of a wild idea into the celebration that became "At the Convergence?"

In the aftermath of the event, sponsored jointly by WITU and the museum, a host of memorable images remain: Bob White creating a masterpiece of Alaskan landscape before the adoring eyes of numerous onlookers, the gallery tour of Birds in Art identifying and talking about imperiled species of birds around the world.

For their incredible effort at putting this event together, on somewhat short notice, we are awarding John Meachen and Dan Holland with Certificates of Appreciation.



### DAN HOLLAND (ABOVE, WITH LINN BECK) AND JOHN MEACHEN RECEIVED CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION





### Certificate of Appreciation: Jonathan Jacobs

Jonathan Jacobs has been a member of the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter for more than 30 years. During the mid-1980's, chapter membership was down to about 118 members and the board of directors was having difficulty filling positions. Jean Mitchell, an early chapter stalwart, was recruited to serve as president. She recruited Jonathan for the board through her work at Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop, recognizing his strengths, intelligence and character. Jonathan succeeded her as president a year or two later. He later served on the board for several terms.

In addition to serving as chapter president and board member for multiple terms, Jonathan was the longtime editor of *Rip Rap*, the chapter newsletter. While serving as editor, he was also a regular contributor of essays and fly-tying articles to the newsletter. Jonathan's fly-tying advice and patterns are a major source of the chapter's archives of reliable fly patterns. While no longer editor of the newsletter, Jonathan continues to be a regular contributor of excellent essays to *Rip Rap*. His essays cover a wide range of topics and are always exceptionally well written.

Jonathan also served for years on the chapter's fundraising banquet committee and was master of ceremonies at a number of banquet events. For many years Jonathan recruited fly tyers and organized the chapter's annual fly-tying event. This event was always a big success and well attended because of his efforts. Jonathan also conducted tying seminars himself at the event as well as at local fly shops. He is an accomplished tyer of trout and warm-water patterns. For many years he helped organize the chapter's annual fly fishing instructional event on the banks of the Kinnickinnic River and served as a casting instructor, again being an excellent caster and effective, patient instructor.

Jonathan also participated as a volunteer in many years of stream restoration events.

The Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter holds regular chapter meeting at local venues, and they have been increasingly well attended, including long-time chapter members and new attendees. At each of these meetings, Jonathan personally introduces everyone attending the meeting. Some of the introductions are done by his astonishing memory and others from the sign-in list. Everyone gets introduced. This ritual provides a sense of welcome and good will to all who attend the meetings and serves as an excellent icebreaker to meet your neighbor and foster chapter cohesion.

Jonathan's wide-ranging contributions to Kiap-TU-Wish are immeasurable and can best be summed up in his own words: "If I can somehow begin to convey what a pleasure being among you is and how proud I am to be able to think of you as my friends, I will give thanks for the opportunity." Kiap-TU-Wish is a better chapter for Jonathan's many years of contributions.

### Certificate of Appreciation: Judy Lutter

Judy Lutter has a long history with the Kiap-TU-Wish chapter. The annual spring appeal was started by her late husband, Hap Lutter, who recognized the need for additional fundraising to support the chapter's stream restoration efforts. Judy was a strong supporter at that time, joining Hap in sending handwritten notes of appeal and thanks to those who contributed. Many of the notes received by chapter members were written in Judy's hand. Judy's experience and expertise with fundraising for non-profit organizations – she founded the Melpomene Institute, a non-profit focusing on women's health, in 1982 – was extremely helpful to the appeal efforts.

Sadly, Hap Lutter passed away in 2009. The spring appeal was renamed in his honor, and Judy has continued her connection to this effort. While not a passionate trout angler herself, Judy did share Hap's love of the Kinnickinnic. Each year she has donated to the chapter in Hap's name, and once again provides input into the creation of the appeal letter, advises spring appeal volunteers, writes personalized notes of appeal to chapter members, and paints small watercolors of trout, which she sends as a thank you to major contributors. This past year, one of our project landowners was so touched by her painting, that the chapter requested additional paintings to be presented as awards at the banquet.

Judy's involvement with the chapter has only continued to grow since losing Hap. In addition to her spring appeal commitment, Judy has graciously donated a "gourmet fishing lunch" to the chapter's conservation banquet. Nearly every year, at her cabin along the Kinni, she has cooked a gourmet lunch for the silent auction winner and their guest, walked them to the river to point out the best spots, and left them to enjoy the quiet and beauty of the place she loves. For those who knew Hap and share his love of the Kinnickinnic, it's a particularly special event.



### ANNA KUEHN ACCEPTED A CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION ON BEHALF OF JUDY LUTTER

Aside from Judy's fundraising involvement, she's now lending her writing and editing expertise to the chapter newsletter. A published author and former columnist, Judy proof-read the newsletter each month, and has started writing a series of chapter leader profiles to help members become more acquainted with one another. During the summer, she also lends the use of her cabin to the Kiap-TU-Wish board members for their monthly meeting. Sitting in a cabin on a bluff above the Kinni, it's a poignant place to meet and talk about furthering the chapter's mission.

For Judy's longtime commitment to the chapter's Hap Lutter Memorial Spring Appeal, for her ongoing support of our conservation banquet, and for her growing contributions to our chapter's communication efforts, we award Judy Lutter a certificate of appreciation.

### Most Valuable Unsung Trout: Jason Freund

For nearly two decades, Jason Freund has been serving the Southeast Wisconsin Chapter of TU (SEWTU). He's a "jack of all trades," selflessly doing whatever volunteer duty the chapter needs. He has occupied numerous official and not-so-official chapter positions over the years, from officer and member of the board of directors to habitat workday coordinator and guest presenter at chapter meetings.

Jason has a Ph.D. in Fisheries Ecology and Management from West Virginia University and is currently teaching biology and ecology courses at UW-La Crosse. His teaching background is evident throughout his volunteer efforts. Jason is always willing to take the time and share his knowledge with others, be it stream ecology or trout angling tips and techniques.

Recently, Jason has taken on the task of administering the state council's Facebook page. If you're a part of our online community, you'll instantly recognize his posts like "Imitation Tuesday" and "Fish Science Thursday." Earlier this year, he took us on an in-depth look at the trout's diet. Every Tuesday he featured a different aquatic insect of importance to both the trout and the angler. These regular and interesting posts have contributed greatly to the growth of the state council's online presence.

While teaching at Carroll University in Waukesha, Jason served as mentor to its 5 Rivers Club – a student-run group focused on fly fishing and outdoor recreation. Jason would often chaperone the students on field trips to the Driftless Area to try out their new skills. His research at Carroll often brought students out to the university's field stations, conveniently located



### JASON FREUND IS OUR MOST VALUABLE UNSUNG TROUTER

on the banks of a local trout stream. This location has played host to many SEWTU habitat restoration projects, including the removal of a roller mill dam in the early 2000s.

Jason has provided valuable leadership on numerous SEWTU Habitat Restoration Projects. He's a FISTA-trained chainsaw operator and his orange chaps are visible on chapter worksites in the heat of summer and the dead of winter. On chapter fishing outings in the Driftless, Jason can often be found forgoing his own angling time in order to take a newer member out on the stream. This is the type of mentoring that often encourages newer members to return to future events, thus sustaining the viability of SEWTU.

Jason has done all of this with the selfless commitment to TU's mission to protect and restore our coldwater fisheries. He's a "Valuable Trout" that any TU Chapter would be proud to call their own.



**ACCEPTING THE REEL PARTNER AWARD FOR THE OAKBROOK TU CHAPTER WERE KEN KRUEGER, STAN ZARNOWECKI AND DAVE CARLSON.**

### Reel Partner Award: Oakbrook Chapter of Trout Unlimited

For decades the Oak Brook Chapter in Illinois has worked to protect and restore trout habitat here in Wisconsin. The chapter has made financial contributions to dozens of government agencies, conservation organizations and other TU chapters. This support helped finance everything from fish-tagging equipment to egg-hatching equipment to brushing equipment and, most importantly, to stream restoration projects throughout the state.

And, like other chapters that may not have a tremendous amount of cold-water resources close to home, this chapter long ago figured out how to coordinate carpooling, lodging and fishing opportunities to get their members to travel north into Wisconsin. When they get here, they work hard, then enjoy the wonderful trout fishing resources that they have helped restore.

Some of the streams that have benefited from OBTU support include Warner, Blue River, Emmons, Castle Rock, Kickapoo Watershed, Farmer's Valley, the White River, Paradise Springs, Tenney Spring and Black Earth Creek. The list goes all the way back to 1973, when they helped acquire eggs and Vibert boxes for the Wolf River.

More recently, the chapter has provided financial support for the Weister Creek project in the Kickapoo Valley Reserve, while working with the Orvis Lombard store to obtain a \$2,500 Orvis grant for this project. Since 2014, near Sparta, the chapter has provided both volunteer and financial support for ongoing stream restoration projects on Beaver Creek and Farmer's Valley Creek.

Given this record of support here in Wisconsin, we're proud to honor the Oak Brook Chapter of Trout Unlimited with the "Reel Partner Award."



### Jeffrey Carlson Leadership Award: Paul Hayes

Paul Hayes lives along the West Fork of the Kickapoo River and has become a guardian of that stream and others in the area. For his career, he worked as an ecologist in the County Forest Preserves near Chicago, Illinois. In his retirement, he has continued to spur restoration projects and river protection on the West Fork, Weister Creek and other sites. Those who have worked with Paul, both through the Coulee Region Chapter and TUDARE, are indebted to his thoughtful approach to conservation.

Paul was instrumental working with Blackhawk TU, West Fork Sports Club and the DNR in working on the upper end of the West Fork between Bloomingdale and Jersey Valley Lake. Using his ecologist's eye, he encouraged inclusion of non-game habitat features such as turtle basking logs and side channels. That encouragement has led to a popular part of the DARE program, good for a wide range of non-game species such as turtles, snakes, butterflies, frogs, dragonflies and many native plant species.

The past three years, Paul has been a key organizer of the Weister Creek Project in the Kickapoo Valley Reserve north of La Farge. Working with many TU chapters, KVR staff and the Wisconsin DNR's La Crosse Trout Habitat Crew, three phases have been completed and two remain for the next two years. These innovative projects incorporate woody materials, log toe protec-

tion, side channels and other newer techniques, and are having a dramatic positive impact on the brown and brook trout in Weister Creek.

Paul's organizing has resulted in significant contributions from many TU chapters around Wisconsin and Illinois to augment our state trout stamp and other dollars. He has coordinated work days and monitored completed sections as the work goes on. Without his leadership this project would have been unlikely to be a success. It's a good illustration of how much impact one thoughtful, committed volunteer can have. These qualities make Paul Hayes a worthy recipient of this award.

### Tomorrow's Angler Award: Mike Stary: no photo

Mike Stary has been instrumental in the success of the Wisconsin TU Youth Trout Fishing Camp. He has been involved since the beginning, including being on the planning committee, and he brings some great new ideas to the camp every year.

Mike's specialty is spin fishing for trout, specifically with spinners. The enthusiasm he infuses into his presentations is infectious and he really gets the kids wanting to hit the streams. His techniques, ideas and shared experiences get us all rethinking what we thought about spin fishing. Mike discusses in detail rods, reels, lines, spinners and lures as well as on-the-water execution and observations.

Seeing all those young minds turned on about modifying and customizing their lures and spinners and thinking outside the box is impressive. He shares great stories and tips that take spin fishing to the next level. Often, many kids who were planning to work on fly fishing change their minds the next time they get on the stream. They find themselves saying they want to try all of Mike's ideas and find a renewed interest in all the possibilities of spin fishing.

Mike also wrote a great series of articles on spin fishing for Wisconsin Trout. The articles covered more than technical things about spinning, but all the other aspects of fishing including the importance of friends and family, and just being outdoors to have fun.

Mike is completely engaged from the opening hour of camp to the last door prize being handed out on Sunday afternoon. He is never idle. If he is not tuning up his presentations, he is making a last-minute fix to the casting contest. Or he is sneaking out to check on one more fishing spot in the area for the next youth fishing outing. His rapport with the kids is the frosting on the cake, as he is a kid at heart and they all respond to it in the very best way. What more could you ask for in a youth mentor?

### Certificate of Appreciation: Dan Harmon III (no photo)

Dan Harmon III is a lifelong member of the Central Wisconsin TU Chapter (CWTU). He has been instrumental in the success of the organization. He has been president of CWTU in the past and remains a board member. Dan is coordinator of CWTU's annual award selection and presentation. He maintains the endowment for CWTU scholarships for post-graduate degrees in environmental science. Dan also coordinates the selection process of scholarship recipients.

Dan initiated the CWTU Annual Trout Fishing School in 1976. The school is the first and longest-running instructional program of its kind in the area. Dan remains the coordinator of the school. The school has outstanding reviews. Dan says the half day of fishing one-on-one with a mentor adds to the success of the school.

As program director, Dan created the curriculum. The curriculum has been redesigned through relentless reviewing, research and critiquing the material.

The school teaches various fly-casting techniques, stream entomology, tackle selection, trout stream ethics, knot tying, fly pattern selection, how to play, land and safely release a trout, and water conservation concepts. Instruction includes interactive classroom, on-stream instruction and one-to-one guided fishing with some of the most experienced and enthusiastic fly fishers in the CWTU area.

The educational team is composed of highly experienced fly fishers and fly tyers in central Wisconsin with combined fishing experience of more than 500 years!

Dan has donated relentless time, talent and knowledge, paying attention to detail in order to put forth a superb program. Meals are included and lodging can be purchased for \$10 per night. His organizational skills and marketing skills are remarkable. The 41st Annual Fly Fishing School will be held June 2-3, 2018. Dan has created scholarships for those who wish to attend but are unable to afford the fee.

Dan also teaches casting through Project Healing Waters in Florida, his winter home. He has provided numerous veterans with ways to deal with stress and improve their quality of life. Dan remains a lifelong fisherman and conservationist donating a large section of his life to CWTU and TU and is someone all of us should emulate. He is truly an asset to CWTU and the TU



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# Trout management plan to be created

Many stakeholders involved in initial meetings.

By Kent Johnson, Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter of Trout Unlimited

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has begun the process of creating a Statewide Inland Trout Management Plan. Currently, no inland trout management plan exists, so this new plan will support the existing efforts in the department. The scope of the new plan covers inland trout waters only, excluding the Great Lakes, but including Great Lakes tributaries. Inland brook, brown, rainbow and lake trout will be included in the management plan.

## Large stakeholder team

To obtain public, private and partner input on the creation of this new plan, the DNR has assembled a team of stakeholders from the four state fisheries districts (north, south, east and west). Stakeholders have been selected to represent each district, with members from the following groups: two anglers (including one TU member angler), one landowner, one "non-consumptive" member not affiliated with an angler group, one tribal representative, one Conservation Congress member, one business/tourism member, and one member-at-large. Trout Unlimited anglers representing the four districts include Laura McFarland (North), Tom Lager (East), Tim Fraley (South), and Kent Johnson (West).

The initial meeting of the stake-

holder team was held in January in Stevens Point. The DNR Trout Team was on hand to provide background information on Wisconsin's current trout management program, including the fisheries management structure, funding, public access standards and major program components, which include: 1) surveys and assessment; 2) stocking and wild trout management; 3) classifications and regulations; 4) habitat development; 5) beaver management; 6) angler access; 7) public education and outreach; and 8) research.

To solicit stakeholder input on these issues and more, DNR staff asked the following questions:

*What do you value about Wisconsin's coldwater trout fishery?*

*What are your concerns about trout resources and trout management in the future (what are the risks and threats)?*

*10 years from now, what would you like to see accomplished via a trout management plan?*

Stakeholder feedback at the January 27 meeting particularly emphasized the topics of climate change, stream restoration, public education and outreach (how to nurture the interest and support of future trout enthusiasts), partnerships for trout management, public access, funding and prioritization of resources, and maintaining a strong science- and research-based approach to trout management.

## Six vision statements

At a second meeting of the stakeholder team in March, DNR staff presented the team with six vision statements that could guide creation of the trout management plan:

- Use the best biological, social and economic data to inform trout management decisions.
- Engage new and existing trout anglers and supporters through education, outreach and promotion, and promote public awareness, understanding and involvement with the trout program.
- Increase and maintain partnerships with the general public, agriculture, co-ops, angling groups and others.
- Provide trout angling opportunities that satisfy the diverse preferences and needs of our participants.
- Protect, restore and enhance sustainable coldwater habitats and trout populations.
- Recruit, hire, develop and support a world-class fisheries staff and program.

The vision statements created an excellent discussion, as stakeholder team members shared their thoughts with the DNR Trout Team. DNR staff are planning to revise these vision statements based on the input received.

During the March meeting, stakeholders had an opportunity to circulate through stations where DNR staff received input on five

topic areas: 1) angler opportunities; 2) habitat restoration and improvement; 3) public education and outreach and partners; 4) wild trout management; and 5) inland lake trout management/two story lakes.

At the conclusion of this process, each stakeholder selected her/his three "highest priorities" from the idea list generated in each of the five topic areas. DNR staff noted that prioritization will be helpful for plan development, but all stakeholder ideas will be considered.

No future meetings are currently planned. DNR staff will prepare a draft inland trout management plan throughout 2018. The first step will be drafting an outline of the plan for the stakeholder team to review. After the draft plan is complete, including internal DNR review and approval, public meetings on the draft plan will be held during the winter of 2018-2019. The ultimate goal is for the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board to approve the inland trout management plan in April 2019.

As Wisconsin TU's angler representatives, Laura, Tom, Tim and Kent are open to hearing any and all of your ideas about issues, topics, and concerns that should be included in the new plan. Please send your ideas to your district representative, who will forward them to the DNR Trout Team. Collectively, we can make this a strong plan for the future of trout management in Wisconsin. Thanks for your input and support.

# Watershed Access Fund

## Spring 2018 update

The 2017 Watershed Access Fund campaign came to an end, and we had another excellent year of financial support. Through your generous contributions we raised more than \$6,000! Thank you so much! The 2018 campaign is in full swing and the initial response has been tremendous.

This fund can help WITU secure easements like the important "Horseshoe" section on the North Fork of the Bad Axe. Without your continued support, this wouldn't have been a reality.

There are some potential projects that may require support from this program in 2018. Please consider supporting this important program so valuable trout streams across this state can be protected for your permanent access and enjoyment.

Chapters can request up to \$7,500 for an easement from this program, but because two chapters may each request for a single acquisition, the Watershed Access Fund can provide as much as \$15,000 for a single purchase or easement.

I hope you all had a wonderful winter. Wishing you the best in the 2018 fishing season.

Doug Brown, Wisconsin TU Watershed Access Fund Chair

## 2017 Contributors

Ed Barnes	Middleton WI	David Dybdahl	Middleton WI
James Baxter	Whitefish Bay WI	Chuck Egle	Amherst Junction WI
Jolene Berg	Chippewa Falls WI	Beatrice, William Evans	NewRichmond WI
Robert Burke	Markesan WI	John Ewen	Neenah WI
Dennis Buzzar	DeForest WI	Erik Forsgren	Fremont WI
Tom Crabb	Monona WI	Richard Galling	Hartland WI
Terry Cummings	Rhineland WI	Robert Galvin	Crivitz WI
David & Sharol Darling	River Falls WI	Daniel Geddes	Appleton WI
Richard Duplessie	Eau Claire WI	Giorgio Gimelli	Madison WI

Ron & Margery Ginsbach	Elmwood WI	Gary Preisler	West Bend WI
Thomas Goodman	Miami FL	Randall Rake	Helena MT
Dan Grauer	Wausau WI	Bob Retko	Cedarburg WI
John Gribb	Mt. Horeb WI	Ken Rizzo	Oconomowoc WI
Jack Halbrehder	Sparta WI	James Roden	Eau Claire WI
Stephen Hawk	Madison WI	Dan Rorabeck	Hudson WI
Ashton Hawk	Madison WI	Nancy Rosenbacher	Waupaca WI
James Hayett	Hartland WI	Michael San Dretto	Neenah WI
Jan & Mark Heifner	Appleton WI	Jeff & Mary Schmoeger	Lake Mills WI
Walter Hellyer	Egg Harbor WI	George Shinnars	Antigo WI
Nancy and Dan Hill	Spencer WI	Tim Stark	Wind Lake WI
Mike Hittle	Appleton WI	Wayne Stockman	Spring Valley WI
Ed & Irene Josephs	Oconomowoc WI	Juergen Stuebs	Wautoma WI
Patrick Kirsop	Stoughton WI	Ronald Suslick	Peshigo WI
Lane Kistler	Milwaukee WI	Charles Urban	Wauwatosa WI
Robert Kleba	Crivitz WI	Karen & Martin Voss	Eau Claire WI
Barb & Joe Kruse	LaCrosse WI	Dick Wachoski	Eau Claire WI
Peter Kurtz O.D.	Menominee WI	Don Wagner	Gillett WI
David Lange	LaCrosse WI	Rodd Wangen	Oregon WI
Randy Lueth	Marshfield WI	Donald Wellhouse	Kaukana WI
Brian Madsen	Ellsworth WI	Jared Wunderlich	DePere WI
Matenaer Corp.	West Bend WI		
Kim McCarthy	Green Bay WI		
Fred Mikolajewski	West Allis WI		
Robert Moser	Milwaukee WI		
Herb Oechler	Wauwatosa WI		
Edward Parsons	Platteville WI		
Ray Piehl	Wautoma WI		

Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter of TU  
Marinette County Chapter of TU

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

Make your check payable to Wisconsin Trout Unlimited

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Attn: Doug Brown  
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Ringle, WI 54471

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_



# Fixing roads to fix rivers

*A collaborative success on the Hunting River opens miles of habitat.*

By Jon Simonsen, Laura MacFarland, Caroline Gottschalk Drusehke and Michael Miller

Want to learn how 25 feet of in-stream work can restore more than a mile of instream habitat and reconnect 9.5 miles of river, 8.8 miles of coldwater tributaries and 39.2 acres of 12 high-quality spring ponds? Hint: we aren't talking about a dam removal.

On northeastern Wisconsin's Hunting River, Wisconsin TU and several TU chapters, the Town of Elcho, the DNR, the Langlade County Land Conservation Department (LCD), and the Department of Agriculture Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) took a collaborative approach to helping the river by focusing on roads, addressing an undersized road stream crossing that posed connectivity challenges for the river.

Across Wisconsin, diverse partners are leveraging conservation funding to help municipalities with very limited resources target high-priority sites. These efforts improve water quality, create a safer, more durable, lower maintenance roadway and restore aquatic connectivity.

## Stream connectivity matters for trout

Thanks to TU's strong emphasis on reconnecting rivers, if you're reading *Wisconsin Trout*, you're probably at least somewhat familiar with the idea that connectivity matters for trout.

Rivers are complicated ecosystems, far from homogenous as they flow from their source downstream. If you were to wade a stream from its headwaters to its mouth, you would undoubtedly notice a change in substrate, pool depth, cover and temperature throughout various reaches. It's rare for a particular stream reach to contain the variety of habitat trout need throughout all seasons and life stages, so individual trout thrive, growing larger faster, when they can travel throughout a river system.

During the summer, trout can seek colder reaches for refuge from uncomfortable or even lethal water temperatures. In autumn, trout may seek good spawning grounds in a

reach with plentiful gravel and groundwater upwelling. At the population level, trout benefit when individuals are able to disperse throughout a stream, allowing for the flow of genetic material and the ability to recolonize after disturbances like floods, overfishing and manure spills.

Of course, it's not just trout that benefit from connectivity. Other fish, amphibians, reptiles, mussels and benthic macroinvertebrates (trout food) benefit in the same way.

Rivers are not only superhighways for animals; they also actively transport water (obviously), sediment, woody debris and nutrients as water from wetlands, spring ponds, rivulets, and spring creeks converges in a dendritic pattern—like the branches on a tree—to form our rivers and streams. These long and linear ecosystems wind through our fields, forests and towns, requiring us to install culverts and build bridges to leave them intact.

But where these man-made structures are meant to allow both water and cars to continue on unimpeded, inadequate size or elevation can turn culverts into sieves and even barriers, impounding water upstream and preventing the free movement of animals, plants, organic matter and sediment. And the magnitude of this problem is larger than many people imagine.

## Culverts, culverts everywhere...

More than four million roadway miles in the United States criss-cross the nation's estimated 3.5 million stream and river miles. While people are becoming more aware of the impacts of the country's estimated 75,000 dams on stream connectivity, culverts may have an even more significant impact. The number of roadway crossings of streams and rivers may be 20 times greater than the number of dams; various unpublished estimates range between one million and two million road-stream

crossings across the United States.

In Wisconsin alone, there are some 3,700 dams, and likely more than 80,000 roadway crossings of streams and rivers, including an estimated 62,000 road stream crossings with culverts. An estimated 19 percent of those crossings in the Great Lakes basin are barriers to fish movement, and this percentage is even higher in other areas of the state.

Managing transportation infrastructure is a significant challenge, and attention to infrastructure improvements often focus on the skin at the expense of the heart: fixing road surfaces while aging bridges and plastic, steel or concrete culverts remain below.

Many Wisconsin culverts are reaching or have exceeded their life expectancy, and it's common to find culverts that are much narrower than the width of the stream. Consequently, many rural municipal road crossings have difficulty passing water during a large storm event.

It is common for undersized culverts to last only 20 to 40 years, and they require periodic maintenance to remove debris and fix road shoulders. When culverts need to be replaced, municipalities often opt to replace them with the same undersized culverts due to a combination of limited annual funding and lack of design tools.

Many municipalities and counties do not have engineers on staff, nor do they have the fiscal means to hire independent engineering consultants for their projects. Streambed elevation surveys and estimates of stream flows and culvert capacities are valuable tools to determine the cost-versus-flow benefit of different culvert configurations. Without them it's difficult to choose the appropriate size and determine proper elevations. Since these tools are not readily available, even when problem culverts are identified, municipalities and counties often have limited information to determine the best cost-effective alternatives to replace them.

## Broad benefits of culvert replacements

While we still need more data that tracks the total life cycle cost of undersized culverts, recent research in Wisconsin and beyond is revealing strong evidence that municipalities often save money over the long term by investing in adequately sized culverts at problem sites. For more information about "culvert economics," contact Jonathan.Simonsen@wisconsin.gov for digital copies of several culvert cost-benefit analysis studies. Municipalities can save money over time thanks to longer culvert life, greatly reduced chance of flood failure and reduced periodic maintenance costs.

When it comes to culverts, flood resiliency is key. The best way to protect that investment is not to rely on a coin toss chance that a flood won't occur. Instead, cost effectiveness means planning ahead for flooding, with culverts designed to resist corroding and stay in place for

70-plus years through major floods. While a 100-year flood event might sound unlikely, it actually has a 1 percent chance of occurring each year, and more than a 50 percent chance of happening over the lifespan of a culvert.

To compound this problem, we are experiencing an increase in the frequency and magnitude of heavy precipitation events. In the past six years, Wisconsin has experienced five 100-year flood events and one 1,000-year flood. Wisconsinites have witnessed firsthand the devastation that results from flood-related culvert failures, including irreversible degradation to our rivers, millions of dollars of infrastructure damage and the loss of human life.

## Collaborating for flood-resilient culverts on the Hunting River

Addressing road and stream connectivity and flood resiliency can seem like a daunting task, but TU and TU's partners are already playing an important role creating the connectivity success stories that will inspire broader change. In 2017 alone, TU was instrumental in helping to improve at least 11 road crossings. These flood-resilient and fish-friendly crossings are an important first step to demonstrate the broad public benefits of culvert improvement to a wide variety of stakeholders.

Residents have become so used to seeing undersized culverts that they are often shocked to see how big an appropriately sized culvert can be. But after the next flood flows unimpeded through a replaced culvert, it is common to hear local community members exclaim how glad they are for the seemingly oversized culvert. These on-the-ground demonstrations are key to changing perceptions and attitudes over time.

TU members can be proud of this perception-changing work this past year on the Hunting River, in the midst of county forest lands in the headwaters of the Lake Michigan basin, just over seven miles upstream of the confluence of the Hunting and the Wolf rivers.

The entire Hunting River is a Class II trout stream, offering high-quality, naturally reproducing brook trout and brown trout. Local DNR fisheries biologist Dave Seibel suggests the river has the potential to be reclassified as a Class I trout water. Fisheries surveys have also noted a fall influx of large brown trout into the Hunting River, presumably from the Wolf River. Wolf River trout almost assuredly use the Hunting River for spawning, nursery and rearing habitat and also as a refuge from periodic warm water temps that routinely occur in the Wolf River.

For years, the Fitzgerald Dam Road crossing consisted of four 36-inch culverts that severely constricted the natural 30-foot river width. The culverts were too small to pass normal flows, were perched above the water surface, created a significant backwater, and would frequently plug with debris. The river flow at each culvert outlet looked like an oversized garden hose.

Both the perched water drop and the very high water velocities measured at the site were impassable for



## A FINAL LOOK AT A HIGH-PRIORITY STREAM BARRIER

Both the perched water drop and the very high water velocities measured at this site were impassable for native fish and other aquatic organisms, even during summer low flow periods. Dave Seibel, who has worked in Langlade and Lincoln Counties for many years, was a strong advocate for this project and indicated that this site was the highest priority road stream barrier and the only aquatic connectivity barrier on the entire Hunting River system.

See **FIXING ROADS**, page 31

# Landowner dinner proves rewarding

*Stewards met their DNR biologists, learned about their streams and showed tremendous interest in stream easements.*



Jim Hess

## LANDOWNERS ENJOYED EVENT AND LEARNED A LOT

The landowners seemed to appreciate the invitation, were very positive in conversations, and many seemed genuinely interested in easements. At least three landowners who had sold easements to the DNR, including two who had restoration work completed, talked to the other landowners about how pleased they were with the sales and restorations.

By Topf Wells

Thanks to the efforts of several organizations, including Southern Wisconsin TU, 36 landowners in the southwest Dane County watersheds of Kittleson, Gordon, Sawmill and Erickson creeks and the East Branch of the Pecatonica River enjoyed a wonderful dinner, learned about the DNR's stream bank easement program and met the fish biologists for their streams. Other organizers included Pecatonica Pride, the DNR and the Blanchardville Women's Club.

A delicious chicken dinner was catered by the Viking Café, while the Blanchardville Women's Club provided a table of homemade desserts.

Bradd Sims of the DNR successfully battled laryngitis to provide an update on the trout fishery in that area, while Paul Cunningham provided a succinct, helpful review of the easement process.

April Prussia reviewed citizen-based water monitoring efforts and opportunities in the area, while Pecatonica Pride's Kriss Marion, the spark plug of the event, pitched the

importance of healthy streams and public access to the area's economic health.

Sims, along with Dan Oele and Justin Haglund, the DNR fish biologists attending the event, spent much of the evening circulating among and discussing streams with all the landowners.

They presented detailed maps of each sub-watershed and brought the technology to pull up photographs and detailed information about any segment of the streams landowners wanted to talk about.

They did a superb job. Each had detailed conversations with several landowners about their streams.

Landowners were asked to fill out postcards indicating their interest in the program and most did. Kimberly Kuber, the fish technician working with Dan, provided very helpful logistical support to the biologists and Paul.

Pat Hasburgh created all the graphic material used to advertise the event and opened the evening with a very warm welcome to all the landowners from the perspective of someone who had grown up in that neighborhood and fished all the

streams. Pat saw old friends and family acquaintances and reached out to several with miles of stream ownership. He deserves huge thanks for his varied work before and during this meeting.

Jim Hess, who also worked on the event and had helpful conversations with several landowners, took some great photographs.

The landowners were quite varied. Some were older farmers with miles of stream and whose property has been in their families for generations. Some of the farmers were younger and had recently acquired properties. A fair number of folks had parcels where they are pursuing ambitious conservation programs, including prairie and oak savanna restorations. Some folks had smaller parcels, in many cases retirement homes.

All seemed to appreciate the invitation, were very positive in conversations, and many seemed genuinely interested in easements. At least three landowners who had sold easements to the DNR, including two who had restoration work completed, talked to the other landowners about how pleased they were with the sales and restorations.

The Southern TU Chapter's contribution was to provide sponsorship and volunteers, and included \$300 toward the dinner costs. Based on the results, that \$300 was one of the best investments our chapter has ever made.

It has certainly generated some good will in this area and opened some doors for our DNR fish biologists and easement specialists.

Two of our fish biologists are fairly new to the job, and all three

worked hard to reach out to all the landowners.

The landowners were fun to be with. "Stewards of the land and water" is a phrase that gets thrown around a lot, and many of these landowners are living proof. Nearly all of them are concerned about their streams and were willing to learn how to take better care of them.

The groups we worked with are fabulous. Kriss, Steve Fabos and April Prussia have sparked great enthusiasm for stream conservation in the Sawmill and Erickson creek watersheds.

Finally, way to go, SWTU. Landowners in this area know that TU really does support and appreciate their conservation of trout streams and that we are ready to help however we can.

Some landowners in attendance are extremely interested in easements and are willing (in some cases eager) to start the formal process of selling an easement. Prior to the meeting we determined that the event would be a success if it resulted in the acquisition of five easements. I'm predicting we'll even surpass that number.

*Topf Wells is a long-time member of the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited and currently serves on its board. He worked for Dane County for 15 years and was one of the Dane County staff who created the county trout stream restoration and easement programs. He has been one of the most active SWTU volunteers on various Sugar River projects and other efforts such as the landowner dinner.*

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You do not have to be present to win the canoe raffle.

\*paddles are not included

Northwoods Trout Unlimited 42<sup>nd</sup> Conservation Banquet  
Quality Inn (668 West Kemp Street, Rhinelander)

April 28, 2018 | 5:00 – 9:00 PM

For tickets or more information contact Terry Cummings (see above) prior to April 21st. No tickets purchase at the door.

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Jim Hess

## DINNER BROUGHT OUT DOZENS OF LANDOWNERS

Thanks to the efforts of several organizations, including Southern Wisconsin TU, 36 landowners in the southwest Dane County watersheds of Kittleson, Gordon, Sawmill and Erickson creeks and the East Branch of the Pecatonica River enjoyed a wonderful dinner, learned about the DNR's stream bank easement program and met the fish biologists for their streams.

# Crews enjoy tackling box elder menace

By Joe Knight

Wood smoke drifted in the air while an eight-foot-high bonfire crackled as branches and logs were added. Chainsaws buzzed. Trees fell. Beyond the first bonfire, three or four more were being started, each fed by teams of volunteers dragging branches in the snow.

This deforestation was being done in the name of conservation and water quality. The trees being cut were 99 percent box elders, bordering Wilson Creek, a small trout stream. The plan is to replace box elders with native grasses, which have deep roots that prevent erosion.

Wilson Creek carries so much phosphorus and sediment that it is on the federal list of impaired waters. The creek flows into Lake Menomin at Menomonie, adding more nutrients to that famously green lake. A major part of the funding for the work comes from a federal farm bill program for clean water. But this is also a trout habitat project. Wilson Creek has wild brook trout, although not many in this section.

This project covers about 2,000 feet of stream between Highway O and 770th Avenue, just east of Knapp in Dunn County.

## Trees and trout

Box elders are a native species related to maples. I'm told if you are willing to boil enough of their sap you can get maple syrup, but in flood plains they are very aggressive, shading out other trees. Box elders have shallow root systems and when they tip over they uproot soil that finds its way into the creek.

As box elders tumble into the creek they divert the current to the far bank, causing additional box elders to topple in a sort of domino effect, said Nate Anderson, Department of Natural Resources Trout Habitat Specialist in western Wisconsin. The end result of the toppling box elders is a wide, shallow creek with a bottom of shifting sand and sediment, leaving few places for trout to live and spawn.

This project is trying to reverse this trend by replacing the box elders with deep rooted native grasses bordering the creek. "Right now, it's extremely wide and shallow. What we want to do is narrow the creek up and get it back to its original width," Anderson said.

The trees are being cut leaving about three feet of stump – higher than you would cut if you were harvesting trees for timber. However, the three-foot stump makes it easier for the DNR to come in later with an excavator and pull up the roots, Anderson said. If they don't get the roots, the trees will re-sprout.

Anderson said when volunteers cut the trees, it saves the DNR time and the hourly costs of operating heavy machinery. Also, the volunteer hours can be used for a match for some grants.

The tree cutters are also leaving 10-foot logs from some of the straighter box elders. Some of those logs may be used in trout habitat structures in the creek, Anderson said. Some may go to the Dunn County Fish and Game Club to be used in fish cribs. Box elder logs from Hay Creek, a tributary of Wilson, are the main source of logs for the fish cribs.

Some logs will be used as firewood by area residents.

## Kiap-TU-Wish

I have gone over twice to help on this project, along with a few other volunteers from Eau Claire and Menomonie, but there were more Minnesota folks than Wisconsin folks there.

The project is being coordinated by the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter of Trout Unlimited, which is comprised of Wisconsin residents living west of Baldwin, but also a number of Minnesota residents who fish in Wisconsin.

They went to work efficiently, cutting dead trees first and collecting wood for the base of the bonfires and green boughs and logs are tossed on top. The whole thing is ignited with a roll of toilet paper soaked in diesel fuel.

If a bonfire sputtered with too much green wood, they gave it a blast of air with a leaf blower, one of those gas-powered devices normally used for blowing leaves off of urban driveways.

They have been at it every Saturday all winter. Sometimes a few of them come over on Wednesday mornings.

On New Year's Day, when most folks were in their warm homes watching parades and football games, a crew was cutting trees on Wilson Creek. By the time they quit in early afternoon, it had warmed up to 5 below.

They stayed warm, said their leader, Randy Arnold of Minnetonka. "As soon as you get one fire going, and people are working, then pretty soon people are down to their shirt sleeves," he said.

Well, pretty soon he's down to his shirt sleeves.

With broad shoulders and long hair, he would not look out of place at a Grateful Dead concert, except that he usually has a chainsaw in his hands. He owns 20, although he doesn't bring them all to the work days.

The placement of the bonfires is important, he explained. You want enough dead wood nearby to get a fire going, but you want the fire centrally located so that people don't have to drag logs and branches more than 30 or 40 feet.

"I'm a fan of more fires and less dragging," he said.

The first time I worked on the project, I suggested we leave the piles of branches for rabbit habitat, but he said that wouldn't work here. The goal is to have a cleared surface where the DNR can plant native grasses, he said.

The drive to Knapp from Minnetonka, which is on the western side of the Twin Cities, takes about an hour and 20 minutes, he said.

But it's a labor of love.

"I enjoy getting out there and working. It's not drudgery to me," he said. "We've got eager volunteers. For the most part, they enjoy it too."

And it is rewarding to see the finished product, he said. This will one day be a gravel-bottom creek with grass banks arising from the former box elder jungle.

The volunteers conclude their day by roasting hotdogs over the embers of one of their bonfires. The hotdogs sort of have a box elder flavor.

As of mid-January they had logged more than 500 hours of volunteer work, but the Kiap-TU-Wish crew hopes to move on to a second project before the winter ends. They

are planning to start work on a section of the Trimbelle River in Pierce County, which is closer to where their members live.

"There's a thousand box elders there that need to come down," he said.

So little time, so many box elders.

## Partnerships

Work being done this winter on Wilson Creek is part of a larger clean water project, the Wilson and Annis Creek Watershed Partnership, explains Chris Gaetzke, Conservation Planner for the Dunn County Environmental Services Department.

The watershed covers 33,000 acres, including a portion of eastern St. Croix County.

"We've got farmers involved, rural landowners and nonprofit agencies, state and federal agencies involved," he said. "We're getting people to know each other," he said. Volunteers monitor water quality and UW-Stout students are also involved, Gaetzke said.

The estimated cost of this 2,000-foot section of the Wilson Creek project is \$160,000. The major funding source is a federal grant through the farm bill, but funding sources also include state trout stamp dollars and smaller grants.

So far, the watershed partnership has lined up eight streambank easements, totaling about 14,000 feet of stream, with two more easements in the works. The partnership is also encouraging conservation

measures on the uplands to reduce runoff into Wilson and Annis creeks.



**LONG TIME CREW LEADER RANDY ARNOLD**

The drive to Knapp from Minnetonka, which is on the western side of the Twin Cities, to Wilson Creek takes about an hour and 20 minutes. But for Arnold, it's a labor of love. "I enjoy getting out there and working. It's not drudgery to me," he said. "We've got eager volunteers. For the most part, they enjoy it too."

*Joe Knight was the outdoors editor and reporter for the Eau Claire Leader-Telegram for 34 years, retiring two years ago. He is currently a board member for the Wisconsin Clear Waters Chapter of TU.*

# Free pollinator seeds available

By Jeff Hastings, TUDARE

You probably are aware that bees are disappearing and bats are dying. These animals face habitat loss, disease, parasites and constant environmental challenges that have contributed to the decline of many species of pollinators. We have an opportunity every time we seed one of our projects to provide additional habitat for these species. During the past six months TUDARE has been working with The Prairie Enthusiasts and the Empire-Sauk chapter to gather and process milkweed for our Trout Unlimited projects.

Our Midwest projects are in the heart of the migratory route of the monarch butterfly, a species that benefits greatly from milkweed. Monarch populations have decreased significantly during the past two decades, in part because of the decrease in native plants, particularly milkweed, on which their caterpillars feed. Agriculture and development have removed much of the native milkweed that once was so commonly found throughout the Midwest.

Because monarch butterflies are

always on the move, they need to have the right plants at the right time along their migration route. Caterpillars need to feed on milkweed to complete their life cycle, and adult butterflies need the right nectar-producing plants in bloom for needed energy. Milkweed not only provides food for monarchs, but it also supports other pollinators such as honey bees, which are vital to agriculture.

If your chapter would like some additional pollinator seed to enhance your projects this summer, let us know and we will arrange to get it to your chapter. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has also provided us with another \$5,000 to add additional pollinator plants, which we will be available at our Westby spring workshop and state council meeting in Viroqua May 12.

Let me know ahead of these upcoming meetings how many acres your project will be. Please understand that this seed will enhance your plantings, and is not intended to cover all your planting needs.

Jeff Hastings, [jhastings@tu.org](mailto:jhastings@tu.org)  
608-606-4158

# Driftless Rambler

With Duke Welter  
TUDARE Outreach Coordinator

## Driftless stream etiquette

Across Wisconsin, trout anglers encounter each other with varying regularity. A steelhead angler on the Brule, Root or Sheboygan may be used to seeing more anglers close by than a solo angler on a Driftless stream. But in each of these situations, always assume there may be rules of etiquette that you may not be aware of.

Bear with me, if I seem a little preachy on this topic, but it's important that all of us anglers to err toward the side of being good citizens. We all pay the price for a jerk's actions.

The encounters vary, as do the streams and angling conditions. But, whether it's angler-angler or angler-landowner, we need to keep in mind that common courtesy and good relations should underpin any encounter. Nobody — at least nobody I will voluntarily fish with more than once — intends to be a jerk, but thoughtless actions hurt all of us. A jerk angler's action can sour a landowner's attitude toward all anglers, for years to come.

"I came along with my tractor and corn planter and there was this guy's SUV parked where I need to get into my field," one farmer told me. "The guy was in the water nearby, and I asked him to please come and move his car. He wouldn't. So now my land is posted."

Basics: Abide by the fishing regulations. If you don't understand them, get a 12-year-old to help you. Don't jump into a hole being fished by another angler. When you encounter another fisher, don't shout but greet them quietly and stay away from the stream they're fishing. They got there first, and only a boor would challenge them or disturb the hole. Don't litter, and pick up litter you find. Obey those regulations, and report those who don't.

Here in the Driftless Area some unofficial rules are starting to assert themselves. They reflect the kind of streams and the relationships between landowners and anglers, as well as anglers to anglers.

Our streams are pretty small, usually less than 20 feet in width. Almost all of our 6,000 miles of streams flow through private lands, most often these are working agricultural lands. With all this trout water, we don't really need to see other anglers very often. That brings me to one rule I've developed: Whenever possible, if you see a car parked along a stream or access site, drive on past and find another place with no car. Now, that might not work on a stream like the Rush River, where bridges can be a couple miles apart and you can lose a lot of anglers. But on Bohemian Valley or the Blue River, there's no need to crowd. Look and drive a little farther.

Landowners have their likes and dislikes. Many like to have anglers stop by and ask for permission to

fish, especially on land with no easements. They seldom say "No." One Bohemian Valley landowner told me last year how he liked those Chicago anglers, because so often they stopped by to say thanks. Farmers don't like to have anglers go through gates and leave them open. If you find it closed, close it after you go through, and make sure it's latched. They don't like anglers bringing dogs into their pastures. Livestock are unpredictable and dogs can make them more so. In my area, the sign landowners request most is one that says, "NO DOGS, PLEASE." Leave your dog at home or in your truck or car.

Landowners also don't like you walking through crop fields, unless you're extremely careful not to crush crops. If there's a two-track or driveway down to the stream, and it goes through the landowner's front yard, don't go speeding through at the risk of their kids or chickens. Seven mph is plenty, and doesn't raise dust. And, as I said before, they don't like anglers who park in a place that blocks their field or road access for their trucks or farm equipment. There are no better ways to have "No Trespassing" signs put up than to violate a farmer's good hospitality with these mistakes.

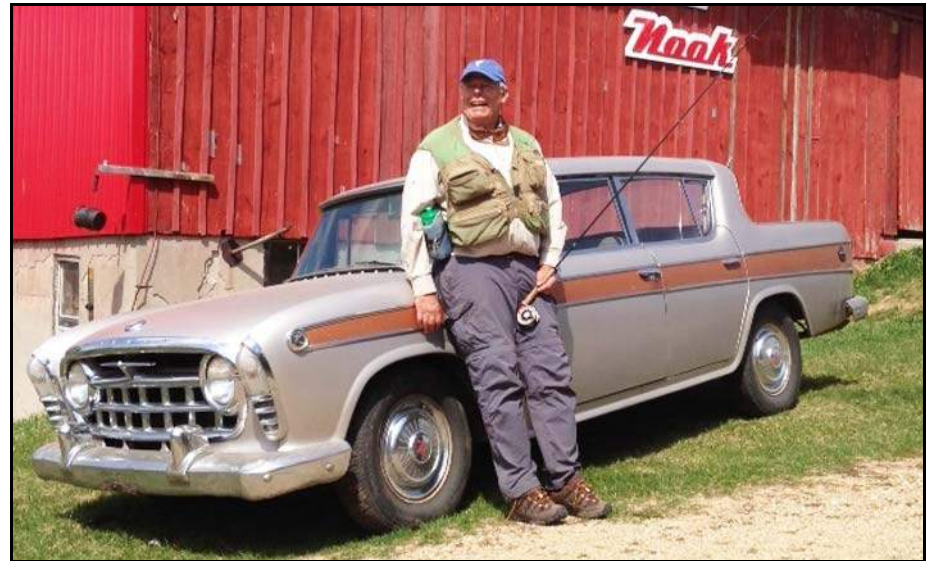
I remember fishing some years back with a couple of very experienced anglers who said a particular pasture was OK to fish. It wasn't posted and wasn't eased. But no gate presented itself, and we finally crawled under the fence. I found later that this landowner liked to have people stop by and get their OK to fish. Turned out we crawled through a patch of poison ivy under that fence. Perhaps that was just punishment for our

oversight.

Maybe you've encountered a gastric emergency while out on the stream. If you do, follow the "Leave No Trace" rules. For solid human waste, get back as far from the water as possible (200 feet suggested), dig a cathole 6-8 inches deep, do your job, and then bury the hole and cover it with a soil and/or rock. Bring a plastic bag to carry out toilet paper and hygiene products.

What about etiquette among anglers? We talked about avoiding crowding, which is an easy thing to do. But if you're on the stream and another angler comes in view, stop and talk with them. If they're fishing upstream, give them the right of way if you are fishing downstream. Don't rush down to the water and jump into a hole above them, as a couple of guys did to me last season. Disgusted, I asked one why they'd done that. "We just wanted to fish these holes," he said.

If you must pass a slow-moving angler, step back from the stream at least 50 feet, ask them if it's OK you move on above them and how far up they plan to fish. Above some landmark you can both see, go on back



in and fish upstream. But don't "high-hole" them, jumping in just above. That's truly rude.

One smart move, for several reasons, was shown me by a very good trout angler in Chippewa County. He usually fishes alone. He has a home-made sign he puts on his dashboard. On one side it says he's fishing upstream, and on the other side it says he's fishing downstream. Both sides have his name, cell number and an emergency contact. I've had local police check my car out when I've been on the stream. This sign makes that unnecessary.

A couple of women anglers with whom I've discussed this pointed out to me that they'd feel uncomfortable putting their name on that sign. "I don't want to let somebody think there's a lone woman fishing up there," one said. She had a good point. Leave off your name, if you wish.

What about fishing a piece of water that was shown you by a friend? Yes, it's all public water around here. But I stick to a rule that if I ever desire to go back to that water, alone or with someone else, I'll ask the person who showed it to me first. I don't abuse the gift they gave me, but they most often say sure, go ahead. Still, exploring is something we all ought to be doing, and it removes that complication if we find our own spots.

Competing for numbers with

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your fellow anglers might suit some people fine, but to me it's not what this is about. I usually judge an outing by the joy I find in it, whether I caught "enough" fish to be happy. That could be a very small number. If you need to count, take up golf.

Similarly, who needs to whoop and holler when they catch a fish? As one of my most gentlemanly angling friends, the late Bob Hunt, said, "it's boorish and stupid."

Bob always showed great respect and courtesy to other anglers and landowners, a great role model. If we're arrogant or impolite, we may spoil the hospitality for other anglers by our actions. Who wants that as a legacy? You parked across a farmer's field road so he couldn't get the combine in, and now it's posted? Good work, bucko. He'll mention you to lots of his neighbors.

One courtesy Bob often showed to landowners when they gave him permission was to ask if they'd like to have a couple of fish for dinner. Often they'd smile and say, "Sure." He'd catch and clean a couple, put them in a clean bread bag he carried in his vest, and drop them off after fishing. These days I ask the same question when I'm fishing a stream with plenty of trout to spare.

No, we don't go out there intending to breed conflict or upset other people. Let's make sure we don't do it unintentionally, either.



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# Wisconsin's Fly Tyers

## John Gribb: Unique dry fly designs

*Wisconsin's Fly Tyers is a new series that will highlight some of Wisconsin's great fly tyers. Most people do not realize how many great fly tyers we have in Wisconsin. Some are well known and others are less known, but some are the best fly tyers in the United States. Bob Haase interviews a different tyer for each issue of Wisconsin Trout to talk about their favorite flies, how they tie them, and how they fish them. It will provide an opportunity for us to learn about these amazing people, along with tying tips and information that will make us better tyers and fly fishers. The question-and-answer article will be followed by step-by-step instructions on how to tie one of their favorite flies.*

John Gribb may be best known for his use of old seatbelt fibers for dry flies, but his creativity does not stop there. He is always searching for new tying materials, new tying methods, and even new ways to dispense his flies. John is a dry fly fisherman and what he learns fishing dries on the stream usually comes back to the tying bench and results in new patterns, new materials and flies that catch fish.

### John ... how did you get started fly fishing and fly tying?

I started shortly after retiring from veterinary practice in the Mt. Horeb area in the early 1980s. I took a fly-tying class offered locally, and then purchased a vise and materials. I enjoyed the sport so much from the very start, both fly fishing and fly tying.

### You have developed a reputation for creativity in your tying by your use of different kinds of tying materials and tying methods. How do you come up with these creative ideas such as using seat belts from old cars?

It's sort of in my DNA. My father was very creative, and like the saying goes, the apple doesn't fall far from the tree. I always try to do things easier and faster, and hopefully better. No matter how good a fly is, it can always be improved. Most tyers improve flies in some way or another every time they sit down at their vise.

It was my dog that gave me the idea to use seat belt fibers. Back in the day I had one of those cab-and-a-half Fords and while I wasn't paying attention, my dog in the back seat chewed up a seatbelt. I looked at the frayed fibers and thought that maybe it would work for my fly tying. That was the start of the "Seatbelt Caddis." Now I find that macramé rope fibers are much better and they are waterproof and easier to work with.

### You seem to have an understanding of the characteristics of the various materials you use. How do you go about selecting the materials you use to tie flies?

I believe that you have to experiment. You just try things out until your fly achieves the look that you are going for, and then test the fly out on the stream. You have to make sure that it fools the fish, too.

### You are tying a lot with polypropylene yarn now. How did you end up using this material for most of the flies you tie today? What are the characteristics that makes you like it so well?

Poly is versatile. It is waterproof, colorfast, cheap, very life like, and most importantly, it is very easy to work with.

### There are a lot of fly anglers who don't tie their own flies. In your opinion, what are some of the advantages of tying your own flies?

Tying flies is my way of relaxing. I

tie so many flies that I give away more than I could ever fish with. It's my way of hooking kids into a lifetime of enjoyment. Since I only fish dry flies, each fish fooled by one of my flies is a triumph. There are days that I catch 30 fish, and other days I'm lucky to catch one fish. I rarely get skunked more than one or two days during a fishing season.

### Do you think that the time you spend on the stream fishing helps you design and tie more effective flies?

There is no question that certain flies catch more fish consistently. Another one of my more effective patterns is a simple foam pattern called a "Skidding Caddis." It seems to bring up fish at will. As to patterns, most of the flies that I fish resemble existing patterns in name only. My materials and design usually make them quite different.

### Having fished with you, I can attest to your skill at designing and catching fish on dry flies. How did you decide on making dry fly fishing your method of choice?

I only fish dries because I'd rather get skunked than fish nymphs. I'll cast 40 feet over and over instead of watching an indicator and standing in the same spot any day.

### Can you share with us some of the techniques you use fishing dries that might help us become better dry-fly anglers?

Other than being able to cast a fair distance, the leader design is the most important factor in dry fly fishing. I make my own two-part, 13 foot leaders using Trilene XL. The first part of the leader is made of 16 inches of 25-pound mono, 20 inches of 20-pound mono, 20 inches of 14-pound mono, 20 inches of 12-pound mono, and a loop. The second part is made of 16 inches of 10 pound mono, 13 inches of 8-pound mono and 19 inches of 6-pound mono, with a perfection loop to which a 25-inch tippet (4lb P-Line fluorocarbon coated spinning line) is attached. The leader is a Harvey-style soft leader.

Some other tips I have are to practice casting, using soft leaders as explained above, and tie your own flies if possible.

### As we get older we seem to have a more difficult time seeing where our dry fly is in the water. Do you need to see the fly to be effective fishing dries?

Most times I see the fly on the water or at least know about where it is. If I see a rise, I pick up the fly, and if I don't come up with a fish, I lay it back down where the fish rose. I never make a false cast ... never!

### What are some of your favorite fly patterns and how do you fish them?

I fish mostly poly flies and poly extended body flies and some foam flies, and never under the surface!



### You give away a lot of your flies at sport show and you have a very creative way of putting your flies in match-book-style holders. How did you come up with that idea?

I smoked 30 years ago and used paper matches to light up. It occurred to me that matchbooks would be a good style of container for protecting the flies that I give away, and I've used them ever since.

### Do you have any advice for someone who is just starting out tying flies?

Tie simple flies and lots of them!

### John's matchbook fly box

John uses this to give away many of the flies that he ties at the many shows he attends. Just print your contact information on a piece of card stock and trim to size. Fold it

over as shown and staple in a piece of foam to hook your flies on. Let the foam extend a little beyond the paper so that you can hook the fly. If you are tying at a show and want to share your favorite patterns with someone else, this is a great way to do it.



## CWTU hosting 41st fly fishing school

The Central Wisconsin Trout Unlimited (CWTU) chapter will hold its 41st annual Fly Fishing School June 2-3, 2018, at Riverside Bible Camp near Amherst. Established in 1976, the CWTU school is the first and longest running instructional program of its kind in the area.

"The school offers something for everyone, whether you're just beginning your fly fishing journey or you've have a few years of experience, but want to hone your skills," says organizer Jeff Treu. "Our instructors, who have nearly 500 years of combined experience, provide both group and individual instruction."

Topics covered include fly-casting techniques, stream entomology, tackle and fly pattern selection, knot tying and, most importantly, how to play, land and safely release a trout. These topics are presented in a fun,

easy-to-learn way via an interactive classroom setting, on-stream instruction and a one-on-one guided fishing experience on the final morning of the school.

The cost of the school is \$195 per person, which includes meals and instructional materials. Because the course is offered over the state's free fishing weekend, a valid license and trout stamp are not needed. The registration confirmation package contains a list of items participants will need, but fly rods and reels are available to use for the course. Enrollment is limited to 24 students to ensure low student-instructor ratios. The course is offered to adults ages 18 and older.

For more information or to enroll contact Scott Grady at 920-687-0987 or oossg@vbe.com or visit CWTU.org. The registration form is under the Activities tab: CWTU Fly Fishing School.



# John Gribb's Poly Caddis

*Explained by John Gribb*



John Gribb's Poly Caddis is a simple, easy-to-tie caddis pattern that floats nice and catches fish. What more would you want in a fly? You can dub a body, or get more elaborate if you want, but this is a great fly for new fly tyers. You don't need many materials, it's inexpensive to tie and it catches fish. You may want to consider this as a pattern for beginning fly-tying classes, youth-tying programs, veteran's programs and for anyone who enjoys catching fish on dry flies.



**Step 1** - Start the thread and wrap the thread down the shank about a quarter of an inch, then wrap back

**MATERIALS LIST**  
**Gribb's Poly Caddis**  
**Hook:** Any standard dry fly hook.  
**Thread:** Various caddis colors tan to brown.  
**Body:** Bare hook shank. Can dub as desired.  
**Wings:** Poly macramé' yarn  
**Legs:** Dry fly hackle

and stop about an eighth inch from the hook eye. Use proper thread tension to obtain a secure thread base to avoid putting too much thread on the hook shank. Then tie in a piece of macramé yarn, as shown, in your desired color.



**Step 2** - Grasp the yarn protruding forward with your thumb and forefinger and fold it back as shown. Wrap your thread over it to form a head, as shown. Make just enough wraps to secure it down tightly.

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**Step 3** - Take a scissors, and while holding the yarn, come up under the yarn and cut off the yarn at an angle, as shown.

**Step 4** - Tie in an appropriate-size dry-fly hackle between the head and the wing and make a few wraps of the hackle to form legs. Tie off the hackle and then tie off your thread with a whip finish or series of half hitches. You can fine tune it by making last-minute cuts to shape the wings, and by trimming some of the hackle off under the hook, using a v-shaped cut, to help it float upright.



**Step 5** – Go catch some fish, and please use barbless hooks.

# Dane County secures important Sugar River easement

By Topf Wells

Access to the Sugar River and other natural resources will improve thanks to recent Dane County actions. The county has agreed with the Ziegler family to purchase 60 acres along the river off State Highway 69 between Verona and Paoli. Within the 60 acres are about 2/3 of a mile of river and its two stream banks, an intact wetland, a farm bridge (good for hikers), safe and easily reached access for paddlers, two Native American Indian mounds, and a 19th-century stone house that served as one of the first stage coach stops in Dane County.

The river is lined with mature hard woods, including some grand oak trees. The purchase also includes public hunting rights on another 120 acres.

The combination of valuable natural resources and unique cultural resources made this a complex transaction, taking several years of negotiation, dozens of hours of county staff time and the strong support of County Executive Joe Parisi and his staff. Laura Hicklin, Jan Zimmerman, and Sara Rigelman of Dane County's Land and Water Resources Department deserve thanks for their combined efforts. We also owe the Ziegler family our appreciation.

This purchase continues the county's strong effort to protect the Sugar River's natural resources and make them available to the public. This property will be within three miles of almost 500 acres of land and more than four miles of

the Sugar River that is open to the public for a wide variety of outdoor recreation. Those of us lucky enough to fish, paddle or hike these lands and waters have been grateful for those opportunities. TU has had several work days on these lands and recently completed a major stream restoration on one section.

The County Board approved the purchase on February 15. Many members of the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of TU contacted board members and asked that they support the acquisition. Several board members replied that they were pleased to do so and the measure passed easily. County Executive Parisi will soon sign the final authorization for the purchase and the Land and Water Resources Department will arrange the closing with the Ziegler family. We hope the property will be available to the public sometime this spring.

Our TU Chapter continues to be grateful for the great work of county staff and elected officials for their efforts to conserve the Sugar River and allow the public to enjoy it.

*Topf Wells is a long time member of the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited and currently serves on its board. He worked for Dane County for 15 years and was one of the Dane County staff who created the county trout stream restoration and easement programs. He has been one of the most active SWTU volunteers on various Sugar River projects as well as other efforts relating to streambank easements in Dane County.*

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# Consider being a volunteer monitor

*Get to know your local stream as a Water Action Volunteer (WAV)*

Imagine joining a network of more than 500 citizen scientist volunteers across the state, learning about water quality and aquatic life in your local streams and collecting valuable scientific data to inform stream management decisions. No need to imagine. You can do it now, as a WAV volunteer.

### What do WAV volunteers do?

As a WAV volunteer you'll learn how to measure six important elements of stream health using scientific tools and techniques. You'll monitor dissolved oxygen, temperature, transparency and flow once a month from May-October, or as weather permits. You'll also monitor habitat once a year and macroinvertebrates each spring and fall. Your local WAV program may offer training and materials to monitor additional variables or may monitor on a different schedule, based on goals of the program.

### How much time is required?

Not much. Before you begin monitoring, WAV will teach you about the scientific tools and techniques that you'll use. After the initial six-hour training, you can expect to spend 6-10 hours per year monitoring your local stream.

### Where will I monitor?

You'll monitor one or more sites

as an individual or part of a 2-3 person team. Volunteers monitor wadeable streams and rivers, often located near their home or of personal interest to them. Some programs work with local and state agencies to coordinate monitoring locations.

### What happens to collected data?

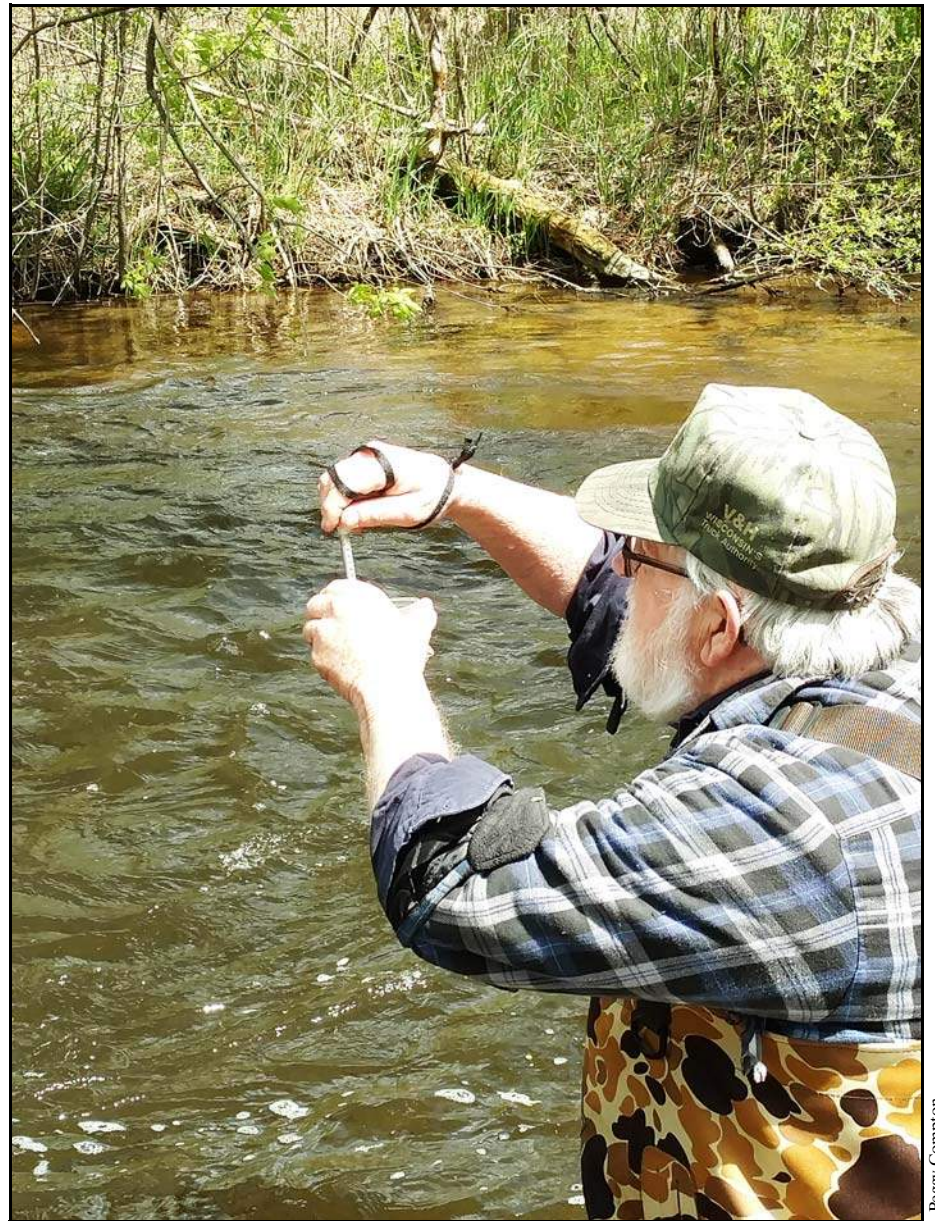
The data you collect is entered into the DNR's Surface Water Integrated Monitoring System (SWIMS) online database. Anyone with web access can view the data in the database, which is searchable by county, stream or site name.

### How can I get involved?

The Water Action Volunteers program relies on local groups to coordinate efforts and enhance the reach of volunteer stream monitoring.

The Central Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Chapter is an exceptional partner organization with more than two dozen sites monitored by small teams of citizens.

If your TU chapter would like to get started in WAV stream monitoring, contact Peggy Compton, UW-Extension Water Action Volunteers Coordinator. [Peggy.compton@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:Peggy.compton@ces.uwex.edu). Learn more about WAV at <http://watermonitoring.uwex.edu/wav/index.html>



Peggy Compton

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# Chapter News



## TYING THAT FIRST FLY IS CHALLENGING

Sally Gawle assists Brodie Ruff as he ties a fly at the ALCTU Fly Tying Class in Baraboo.

### Aldo Leopold Chapter

The Aldo Leopold Chapter recently wrapped up its 2018 Beginner Fly Tying Class, held at the Baraboo Public Library, on March 31 after five weekly sessions. Although attendance was down, the group included several young tyers, always a good thing, and we anticipate picking up a few new members from among the attendees.

A highlight of the tying class was having a reporter from the Baraboo News Republic at one of the sessions, which resulted in a feature article in the newspaper the following day. That's great publicity for ALCTU, and a great day for some young tyers who saw themselves pictured in the newspaper.

Thanks to chapter members Tom and Sally Gawle, Jim Peters, Dave Murphy, Jared Sagal, Rene Sagal, Bob Asam and Mike Stapleton for volunteering their time demonstrating the tying techniques and assisting the students with their tying efforts.

Two fifth-grade classes from Reedsburg visited the Nevin Fish Hatchery in Fitchburg in February as part of a TIC project, and had received rainbow trout fry for their classroom aquarium two weeks earlier. The release of the fish into Dell Creek is expected in late May. Thanks to Scott Allen once again for overseeing this activity for us.

We recently learned of the retirement of Linda Lynch, executive

director of the Riverland Conservancy of Merrimac in Sauk County. Linda has carefully guided the management of the conservancy's property through which flows Manley Creek, a small brook trout stream which has been the site of several chapter workdays over the years.

We thank Linda for her dedication in the rehabilitation and protection of Manley Creek and the conservancy's long-time partnership with TU. We wish Linda many happy years in retirement. We also welcome Jessica Renley, who recently assumed the position of executive director.

Aldo chapter members are reminded to mark their calendars for Tuesday, June 12, which will be the date for our annual fundraiser picnic, once again to be held at Haberman Park in Lodi. Great food, fish tales, bucket raffles and silent auctions for great fishing gear and other items. Our grand prize this year will be a custom-built Paul Douglass bamboo rod, two-piece, 6'-8", 4 wt., in a wood and glass display case. More info on the picnic and prize list will be included in the next chapter newsletter and by email.

Chapter elections will be Wednesday, April 12 at our quarterly meeting at Suzy's Steakhouse in Portage.

—Mike Stapleton

### Antigo Chapter

It's time to start thinking of spring. We hope all is well with everyone. We all just turned our clocks forward, so the snow should be melting soon.

Our annual fundraising banquet was Saturday, March 24 at the Northstar Banquet Center. Preparing for this event took a lot of our time since the start of the year.

We have been in contact with our two TIC schools, one in Antigo High School and the second in Wittenberg-Birnamwood High School. The fry are doing well. We stopped the other day to see the fish and they looked great. We can't say thanks enough to the great teachers who work with the kids and teach the program with TU.



## BLACKHAWK BUSY TEACHING FLY TYING

Harley Whitt (left) and Don Studt examine a prince nymph.

We will be looking to set up our first workday, weather permitting, at the end of April. We'll walk down stream on the east branch of the Eau Claire river to check on the half logs Antigo placed there about 30 years ago. It should be a good time

and a good excuse to get some volunteers together for pizza.

Then we'll start planning our annual Kids Fishing Day on June 2.

Have a great spring. We look forward to the smell of green grass.  
—Scott Henricks

### Blackhawk Chapter

The Blackhawk chapter welcomed a new leadership team to start 2018. Dave Brethauer assumed the duties of president, Anita Vaughan is our new treasurer and Phil Kirker our new secretary. Ron Machajewski continues as vice president. Dave represented the Blackhawk Chapter at the state council meeting in February.

The chapter committed \$5,000 for the next phase of the Weister Creek stream restoration project. The chapter also awarded \$750 to Shabazz High School's Project Green Teen. The award will help with the cost of the group's trip to the Driftless Area May 11-18. In addition to the grant, chapter members will help the students build LUNKER structures.

For the past 10 weeks, Ron Machajewski and Don Studt ran the chapter's beginner fly-tying class in

Janesville with Dave Brethauer on hand to help answer questions. The group produced many fine-looking flies and can't wait to try them out on the fish in our local waters.

In addition to the beginner class, chapter members participated in several fly-tying demonstrations. Dave Brethauer and Dave Patrick held a fly-tying demonstration at the Madison Orvis store in February.

Chapter members Joel Vaughn, Dave Patrick, Don Studt, Harley Whitt and Ron Machajewski participated in the Cabela's Outdoor Days in late March. They demonstrated fly-tying techniques and answered questions about rod selection, rigging and basic casting. These are great opportunities to share our passion for the sport of fly fishing and emphasize the importance of protecting our coldwater habitat.

—Phil Kirker

### Central Wisconsin Chapter

The CWTU Masters Fly Tying Course was well attended, with 25 participants meeting weekly at the Fin and Feather for five weeks of learning the art of tying flies. This is coordinated by Tom Meyer.

Fly Tying - A New Experience is a course presented by CWTU and coordinated by Dave Pables. This year's course was held throughout January at the Fin and Feather in Winneconne. Dave Pables is the lead instructor. Many of CWTU's volunteers helped with instruction, providing a successful event.

Many thanks to Grace Pable, Mike SanDretto, Jim Murphy, Frank Jarvenpaa, Dave Johnson and John Gremmer for their assistance. The brochure has a new face thanks to Wayne Parmley.

More than 200 attended Trout Fest, which was coordinated once again by Bob Smaglik. It was held in February at the Fin and Feather in Winneconne. This community event featured more than 20 fly tyers and many educational sessions, including presentations from Henry Koltz, Ira Giese, Bob Haase and many more. New members joined and new acquaintances were made.

Youth fly tying sessions were ongoing throughout the day. The River Keepers, represented by Bob Jozwowski, discussed water monitoring. River Keepers do not have to be CWTU members. Anyone is welcome to join. Mike SanDretto represented TU CARES, a new restoration program sponsored by the Central Wisconsin TU region, made



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up of the Central Wisconsin, Fox Valley, Shaw-paca and Frank Hornberg chapters.

Education is very important to CWTU. Educational seminars are presented from September through May and are well attended. This year the coordinators are John Gremmer, Ira Giese, Jeff Treu, Bob Haase and others. Jeff Treu has been the coordinator and has done an outstanding job providing seminars that are informative and keep the membership interacting. He is now going to direct the CWTU Fly Fishing School. Thanks you, Jeff.

CWTU has a great Fly Fishing School. The 2018 Fly Fishing School will have a new look. Jeff Treu is the new Fly Fishing School Director, replacing Dan Harmon, who has been the Fly Fishing School director for more than 40 years.

He decided to retire. CWTU is grateful for his relentless energy providing a premier school. We think it one of the best schools in the Midwest.

The 41st Annual CWTU Fly Fishing School is June 2-3 and reservations are still being accepted. It will be held at the Riverside Bible Camp in Amherst. For more information visit the CWTU website at [cwtu.org](http://cwtu.org). It covers fly casting, reading the water, understanding fly hatches, selecting fly patterns, tack-

le selection, know tying, fly-tying demonstrations and much more. For information contact Scott Grady at 920-687-0987 or [oossg@vbe.com](mailto:oossg@vbe.com).

The 2018 CWTU River Restoration work days will soon be upon us. This year's planned work days will be held on:

- June 16, West Branch of the White River
- July 21, West Branch of the White River
- August 18, Pine River
- September 15, Pine River

Everyone is welcome at our workdays. Just bring your waders and gloves. It is a great way to view mother nature from a different and close-up perspective. You will meet new people from all walks of life. Coordinator Dennis Drazkowski does a wonderful job of making sure the days go smoothly, providing coffee, fruit and rolls in the morning and a free "riverside" lunch for all volunteers. There are lots of great stories told at lunch.

Plans are being made for CWTU's summer picnics in June, July and August. Watch our website for details.

—Laura Tucker

There will be an optional dinner and drinks from 6-7 p.m. and then we'll hear from Kirk at approximately 7:15 p.m.

We will join with our friends from SEWTU for a work day on Warner Creek on June 9. Details are still being worked out, but we will likely be building LUNKER structures in the morning, enjoying a brat lunch at noon, and then fishing in the afternoon. Once details are fi-

nalized, we will share them at [couleeregiontu.org](http://couleeregiontu.org) and our Facebook page.

Checking in with our two new Trout In the Classroom projects at La Crosse Central High School and Longfellow Middle School, we learned that the brook trout fry were received in early March and so far all of them have survived the first few weeks in the TIC tanks.

—Curt Rees

### Fox Valley Chapter

The winter months of January and February have been a very busy time for the Fox Valley TU chapter. We had our chapter fundraiser in January and attended the state council meeting and banquet in February. We're planning for an April chapter fishing weekend, the May 19 Special Needs and Handicapped/Disabilities Fishing Day and this year's Habitat Days.

We participate in these events so we can continue to fulfill our promise to conserve, protect and restore our coldwater resources, fisheries and their watersheds here in Wisconsin.

In January we held our 17th annual chapter fundraiser, 'Cabin Fever Day' at the Grand Meridian in Appleton. The chapter thanks all of the vendors, fly tyers and presenters, including Mike Kuhr, Ray Rivard and Randy Berndt. Thanks to Scott Grady for donating a handmade cane rod, to chapter volunteers, and most importantly to those individuals who attended the event.

Attendees came from Michigan, Minnesota, Illinois and Wisconsin.

Norm Christnacht, Al Johnson, Tom Lager, Joe Bach, Chuck Knoeck, Steve Heuser, Roger Genske and Optima Graphics did a fantastic job making sure that the event was successful. Thanks to all of these individuals, we raised more than \$10,000 for the coldwater fisheries and their watersheds in Wisconsin. Next year's event will be January 19, 2019 at the Grand Meridian in Appleton.

Our February chapter meeting featured a presentation by Chef John Balistri and several students at Fox Valley Technical College. The

students from the Culinary Arts program at FVTC and chefs John, Jeff and Aaron have been presenting a culinary program to the chapter for many years.

While we were enjoying the meal, Roger Genske and Tom Lager made presentations, thanking members for their support of chapter activities. They included Jim Oates, Bob Kinderman, Jim Jenkin, Steve Heuser and Bill and Linda Walters, owners of Optima Graphics.

Several chapter members attended the state council meeting and banquet in Oshkosh in February.

Tom Lager presented an overview of the TU CARES project, which is gaining momentum and will be a priority habitat project in the Central Sands area of Wisconsin.

Our March chapter meeting featured a presentation entitled Fishing the Adirondacks by chapter member Keith Bassage. Keith spent 20 years working as a forest ranger for the state of New York in Adirondack Park. The March meeting also included elections for officer and board positions.

Roger Genske, Dan Geddes and Don Clouthier are planning our fourth annual fishing trip to southwest Wisconsin April 26-29. Fish, dine, fish, learn, fish and camp for one or all four days. This event is open to all who want to fish or just enjoy southwest Wisconsin. You do not need to be a chapter member to participate. Details about the trip are online and on our Facebook page.

Our chapter habitat days begin in April. As we have done for years, we plan to meet with Elward Engle on Davies Creek. Davies Creek feeds



COULEE CHAPTER'S TIC TANK

### Coulee Region Chapter

We had a successful banquet in February, with more than 100 attendees joining us for dinner and a chance at some great prizes. Sought-after prizes were a 3-weight rod built by Rick Kyte, an Orvis Helios rod provided by The Driftless Angler and guided trout trips from Duke Welter and Mark Kowaliw.

Duke Welter was our guest speaker and highlighted all the great work happening in our streams and classrooms on behalf of TU. We all had a good time and raised funds to support our work with conservation,

veterans outreach and youth outdoor activities.

Our March chapter meeting featured DNR wardens Shawna Stringham, Greg Koelker, and Dave Mathes. They shared stories from their time in the field and then we also heard about topics to be considered at the upcoming Conservation Congress hearings.

April 18 will be our last chapter meeting of the year and we will hear from DNR fisheries biologist Kirk Olson. This meeting will be at the West View Inn in West Salem.



COULEE CHAPTER'S POPULAR FLY-TYING CLUB

The fly tying club that Scott Linssen and Paul Halter lead at Central High School has been very successful.



JIM JENKIN RECOGNIZED

Long-time FVTU member Jim Jenkin is recognized by Roger Genske (right) for many years of service in all of the key chapter leadership positions, as he and Debbie relocate back home to Michigan's upper peninsula. We will miss his leadership intuition and critical thinking.

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the Pine River, and this location is one of our first habitat projects from years ago. Our May-September habitat days will be joint efforts with several TU chapters. All of these habitat days will be the third Saturday of the month, and we may add some days. Watch our website and Facebook page for dates, times and event locations.

May 19 is our 40th annual Fishing Day for People with Disabilities, at the same pond that we used last year. We have partnered with the Appleton YMCA and we will be us-

ing their Camp Shioc Pond. Look for information and a map on our website and Facebook page. Please contact a chapter board member if you know of a disabled or handicapped individual who would enjoy a couple of hours of fishing, conversation and a picnic lunch on a mid-May morning.

The chapter will be involved in other activities throughout the spring and summer months so again please check our website at foxvalleytu.org and our Facebook page.

—Rich Erickson

## Frank Hornberg Chapter

During the month of February the Hornberg Chapter concentrated on fly tying. We had a fly-tying evening social event at Clancey's Stone Lion in Custer. We had two fly tying workshops for the Boy Scout troop sponsored by the Methodist Church in Stevens Point. The scouts earn merit badges for their participation. We were happy to assist.

One of the chapter's main events is the annual fly-fishing school, which will be May 21 in Nelsonville

on the banks of the Tomorrow River. Lunch and equipment will be provided. We welcome applications from fly fishers at any level of knowledge and skill. For more information contact Ken at Frankhornberg.tu@gmail.com.

We expect to have several work days this summer. We will be making repairs to some structures installed years ago.

—John Vollrath



John Vollrath

### FRANK HORNBERG CHAPTER HOSTS FLY TYING NIGHT

Long-time chapter leader Matt Salchert helps out attendees at the Frank Hornberg Chapter's recent fly tying night at Clancey's.

## Green Bay Chapter

Green Bay Trout Unlimited had another successful fundraising banquet this February with several hundred in attendance and tens of thousands raised for the coldwater resource. This is Green Bay's main fundraiser. Thank you to all GBTU members who participated on the banquet committee and made the event happen.

We also made a \$15,000 commitment to the northeast region funding project in 2018 and a \$4,000 commitment to a culvert removal project on Colburn Creek in Forest County with TU's Great Lakes Res-

toration Initiative program.

This funding would not be possible without the great work at our fundraising banquet every year by chapter members, and the generosity for the resource that's shown at the event. GBTU is excited to announce a new Veteran's Services Program in Green Bay and we have already had a couple of successful events. The chapter will hold its annual meeting April 5 and is excited to kick off the work project schedule this summer.

—Staush Gruszynski

## Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter

The Grant County Sports Alliance Outdoor Skills Day was held in February in Fennimore at Southwest Wisconsin Technical College. More than 300 participants learned fly tying and casting from eight of our members. We discovered three prospective campers for this year's WITU Youth Fishing Camp.

The Fly Fishers of UW-Platteville, a TU Costa 5 Rivers college club, successfully partook in the on-campus Boy Scout Merit Badge Midway in February. They taught younger people the details and process of the sport, and gave them

hands-on experience with fly tying, knots, gear and casting.

They commented, "We would like to thank the Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter of Trout Unlimited for lending rods for casting and the scout leaders that hooked us up to be a part of an awesome event. We look forward to next year!"

Our February board meeting included a "Lie and Tie" session. We had eight tyers and visitors from the Bold Betties women's outdoor group. They were very inquisitive about fly tying, with a couple of them tying their first fly under the



Brian Larson

### HARRY AND LAURA NOHR CHAPTER HELP TEACH YOUTH

Nohr members helped out at the Grant County Sports Alliance Outdoor Skills Day, teaching tying and casting. Casting mentors are (from left) Bryan Trapper Voldahl, Michael Stallsmith and Gary Kruse.

watchful eye of John Gribb.

The chapter recently finished a CAFO policy paper, which is on our web site at nohrtu.org. We are forwarding the policy to our state legislators, county governments and city governments in our area. We encourage other chapters to create a policy paper on CAFOs and forward to their various government entities.

We are preparing for our annual

meeting that will include a report by our UW-Platteville student intern and assistant. The intern report will cover various stream sections in our area, showing stream health, invertebrate populations and fish counts. The meeting will be held in early April at UW-Platteville.

We are also starting to work on our annual banquet scheduled for May 4.

—Brian Larson

## Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter

We recently elected new officers. Scott Wagner is now president; Gary Horvath is vice president; Suzanne Constantini is the treasurer; and Allison Jacobs is our secretary. Tom Schnadt is now an ex officio.

For more than three years, the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter has been involved in discussions and study regarding the potential relicensing and/or removal of hydropower dams on the Kinnickinnic River in River Falls.

On February 28, the city council approved a resolution that supports a long-term vision of a free-flowing Kinnickinnic River, but also approves the relicensing of the hydroelectric project for the final time. The resolution as passed calls on the city to complete the necessary steps to remove the Powell Dam and complete river restoration with a target date of 2026 and take steps to remove the Junction Falls Dam and achieve river restoration some time between 2035 and 2040.

The acknowledgement and commitment by the City of River Falls to remove a currently licensed hydroelectric facility is a big win for the Kinnickinnic River.

In other chapter news, volunteers continue winter brushing efforts, enjoy progress of our TIC projects and have plans to participate in upcoming local school events.

The main focus of this winter's stream work was intended to take place on the Trimble River's Gutting easement just outside of Beldenville. However, due to hold-ups in securing funding, we were unable to begin work. Instead, we spent our winter working days on two Dunn County sites just outside of Knapp.

Starting on the second Saturday in December and continuing each Saturday through February 10, including a couple of mid-week days, Kiap-TU-Wish volunteers contributed 1,004 hours removing box elder, buckthorn and other unwanted

brush from the Klingman easement on Wilson Creek, just east of Knapp.

The volunteer groups ranged from one to 32 people and cleared approximately 2,000 unwanted trees from the property to prep it for bank restoration work this summer by the DNR's Nate Anderson and crew. Workdays began around 8 a.m., with a lunch break of hot dogs and cookies or doughnuts in the early afternoon.

Temps on our coldest workday started at 15 degrees below zero, but when a bonfire was burning and volunteers were piling cut limbs on the flames, nobody seemed to care. Layers of clothing were shed and hung on nearby tree branches.

In February we shifted our focus and began clearing box elder trees from the Ruenger easement on Hay Creek, about 2-1/2 miles south of the Wilson Creek site and within spitting distance of Knapp. As of March 3, we had worked three consecutive weekends at Hay Creek and had amassed 240 volunteer hours. We'll work there for as long as there are box elders left to fell and a layer of snow to accommodate bonfires for burning slash.

When not working streamside, Kiap-TU-Wish members can learn about progress of our four TIC programs going this year, including two in Amery and two in River Falls. In all classrooms, the eggs have hatched, the fry have consumed their egg sacs and they now are swimming freely about the tank. The kids are doing a great job of monitoring pH, nitrates, and ammonia and adjusting the water chemistry as necessary. The survival rate of this year's eggs and fry has been phenomenal.

The Rocky Branch Elementary (River Falls) fifth graders have been teaching the entire school about trout. The trout tank attracts so much attention that it has become a bottleneck in the hallway. The Greenwood Elementary (River



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### LAKESHORE CHAPTER MEMBERS WORK ON NICHOLS CREEK

At a workday last fall, Lakeshore Chapter members worked on brushing and debris removal on Nichols Creek, near Cascade.

Falls) and Amery kids have really been enjoying feeding time. Next year we hope to have the Hudson program going again and a new program started at St. Croix Central Elementary. Our chapter looks forward to assisting with Bugs in the Classroom and the trout releases into the Willow River toward the end of the school year.

On April 27 Kiap is going to participate in Rocky Branch Elementary School's Eco Day. The chapter

will display its stream restoration diorama and offer a beginners fishing seminar. The chapter will also be working with Jeremy Carlson at Meyer Middle School in River Falls on their May 11 Service Day. Chapter member Dan Wilcox and the Bureau of Fisheries and Wildlife biologist Caitlin Smith are sourcing pollinator seeds to plant on one of the chapter's recently completed projects.

—*Maria Manion*

### Lakeshore Chapter

There's a lot of fun and exciting stuff coming this spring and summer for the Lakeshore TU chapter.

We are most excited about our new DNR Fisheries Biologist, Adeline Dutton (Addie) who joined the DNR Plymouth office in January. We are already working with her on developing some long-range plans to address some coldwater needs, starting with some work days to brush out and clear some of the local streams. She also has some trout stamp money lined up for some brush bundling on our jewel, the Onion River.

This project will take place in July and will require "all hands on deck" to help Addie get the work done in a timely manner.

We continue to hold our monthly work days brushing out Nichols Creek, while we work with Addie on developing a long term plan for permitting so we can give this little gem some long-needed attention. In addition to some old LUNKER struc-

tures that have collapsed, some bank stabilization and seeding is needed. Hopefully, we will be able to address some of this work throughout the year.

All the excitement generated by our work has attracted new members. In the last six months we have seen about one new member a month start coming to our meetings, thanks to Myk Hranicka's steady Facebook postings. Once folks see the work that we are doing, they show up and ask how they can help. There's nothing better than a few pictures and a regularly planned work day to get people involved.

Myk and I attended our first state meeting as chapter officers. What a gas! We met a lot of great people who all offered us help and guidance as we continue to feel our way through managing and growing our chapter.

—*Stephen Girardi*

### Northwoods Chapter

We've been planning for our upcoming banquet on April 28. This year we're having a grand prize raffle leading up to the banquet. One doesn't need to attend the banquet to participate in the raffle for some truly great prizes. Our banquet will

be a buffet dinner at the Quality Inn in Rhinelander, and it will feature our customary wide array of bucket raffles. See our ad on page 13 in this edition of *Wisconsin Trout* for details on the raffle and banquet.

—*Terry Cummings*

### Oconto River Chapter

The banquet committee is preparing for our annual fundraising banquet April 26 at Romy's Holiday Inn at Kelly Lake. Banquet Chair Dan Sunnicht is gathering prizes and we'll be sending invitation letters soon. For tickets call Dan at 715-853-2463.

We are seeking young conserva-

tionists from the Oconto River area to attend the environmental camps offered by UW-Stevens Point. Various camps are available for youth from 7-15. For an application contact Moni Brunner at 920-855-6669. Campers will be announced at the chapter banquet April 26. Youth can also apply for the WITU Youth

Fishing Camp to be held in July.

Chapter members and area youth will join to clean boat landings along the main Oconto River in southwestern Oconto County about two weeks before the fishing season opens.

We are planning to participate in DNR and U.S. Forest Service work days in our area. Members will work with members from other Wisconsin chapters to place brush bundles, rocks and logs to improve habitat. We are also planning a summer out-

reach event which will include a family fishing day, picnic and youth contests. The program will be designed as a fun day, while sharing what TU is about and how we support our coldwater resources. The dates and locations will be published in our newsletter.

Our chapter meetings are at 7 p.m. monthly (excluding May & November) on the first Wednesday of each month at the Lone Oak Gun club just North of Gillett.

—*Tom Klatt*

### Shaw-Paca Chapter

The ShawPaca Chapter has been busy at work planning its 35th Annual Banquet April 5 at Northwinds Banquet Hall in Marion. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., followed by a cash bar, raffle ticket sales and a social hour. Once again, there will be several dozen bucket raffle items, silent auctions and lots of great door prizes.

Get there early and get your tickets in. Tickets will be available at the door the night of the event. Artist Virgil Beck will once again be at the event doing a live painting, which will be offered through a special raffle with limited tickets available. This is the chapter's sole banquet

and funding event, so come out and support our chapter and all the work we do in the Shawano and Waupaca county area.

Some of the chapter members have been taking advantage of the unseasonably warm February and March temperatures for some early trout fishing. Reports of successful fishing with sub-surface flies have been common, and there have been some reports of trout taking dry flies. The early trout season is great opportunity to get out and knock off the cabin fever blues on one of our many trout streams.

—*Nate Sipple*

### Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter

The Southeast Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited (SEWTU) holds chapter membership meetings the fourth Tuesday of each month at Thunder Bay Grille in Pewaukee. The meetings begin at 7 p.m., but many members arrive for an optional dinner and socializing period that begins around 6 p.m. The meetings are open to the public and include chapter committee updates and news, as well as guest speakers. Please feel free to stop by and join us.

We've had great speakers at our recent meetings. In January, our guest was Bill Engber who has fished in Canada, Mexico, Alaska, Nunavut, Brazil, Peru, Argentina, Tierra del Fuego and Iceland. Bill spoke to us about fly fishing for Atlantic salmon and sea-run brown trout in Iceland. He shared the story about this tiny island nation and its fascinating history, while taking us on visits to some of its famous sites. He then shared the wonderful angling opportunities, techniques, equipment, flies, and pictures of many "big" fish.

Erik Helm spoke at our February meeting. He is the proprietor of The Classical Angler, where he's a fly-fishing guide and instructor in the

Driftless Area. He has spent more than 17 years in the industry, running the former Laacke and Joys Flyshop and the Milwaukee Orvis store. He has taught thousands of people of all ages and skill levels to cast a fly rod and catch a fish. He also is a writer of fly-fishing essays and stories, and produces fine fly-fishing crafts.

His presentation, entitled "Whispers from the Driftless," attracted more than 70 members who did not want to miss the set of observations and tips to make their next trip to the bluff lands, hills and valleys of southwest Wisconsin more fruitful and enjoyable.

At our March meeting chapter members Andy Avgoulas and Todd Durian presented on steelhead fishing, combined with a presentation from the DNR fisheries biologist, with information and insights on the stocking and health of the Wisconsin steelhead fishery.

SEWTU continues to be active in outreach programs, particularly fly-tying opportunities. The Oak Creek Fly Tying group, led by Greg Schick, continues to meet on the first and third Tuesdays of each month.

SEWTU members also organized and participated in six fly-tying ses-



### SEWTU AT THE MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINAL SPORTS SHOW

SEWTU Habitat Committee co-chair Andy Avgoulas teaching youth to tie flies at the Milwaukee Sport Show.

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sions at Cabela's in Richfield. Thanks go out to organizer Al Dalphonso and all of the SEWTU volunteers who helped make these sessions successful.

John Graba continues to organize and lead weekly fly-tying opportunities for TU Veteran's Services Partnership. Many other SEWTU members visit the Milwaukee VA Hospital's Spinal Cord Injury Unit two times a month to provide lessons and opportunities for tying flies.

Jim Folda deserves a great amount of credit for coordinating, setting up and running the SEWTU booth at the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Sport Show in March. It's a great opportunity to share the mission and goals of SEWTU to a larger audience. The following SEWTU members volunteered to help at the Sport Show: Al Dalphonso, Stan Strelka, Rick Carr, Tom Albrecht, Chuck Urban, Andy Avgoulas, John Rennpferd, Dave Wunrow, Dave Baumann, Bob Estland, Jay Zawerschnick, Herb Oechler, Rick Larkin, Ben Cheesman, Kent Hepppe, John Koivisto, Robbie Crozier and Todd Durian. Thanks, everyone.

Now that spring is arriving, SEWTU activities, such as workdays and outreach programs, will increase. Our habitat committee has worked hard to prepare the following list of opportunities for our members to participate, and we invite you to come join in the fun.

SEWTU 2018 Calendar of events:

## March

Now through May - Fly Tying Workshops @ the Oak Creek Community Center

7-11 - Milwaukee Journal/Sentinel Sport Show

27 - March chapter meeting, guest speaker TBD

## April

14 - Kid's Fishing Clinic, West Bend

18 - International Fly Fishing Film Festival at the Bavarian Bierhaus, 7 p.m.; hosted by the Fly Fishers

21 - Menomonee River cleanup near Miller Park with Milwaukee Rivekeepers

24 - April chapter meeting, guest speaker TBD

## May

12 - Rosenow Creek workday, Oconomowoc

19 - Onion River or Nichols Creek Workday with Lakeshore Chapter, Sheboygan

22 - May chapter meeting, guest speaker TBD

## June

9 - Driftless Area workday/annual fishing outing

## July

Early July - Annual Mid-Summer Casting Clinic, Greenfield Park

SEWTU efforts don't go unnoticed. Recently we were congratulated by Luke Roffler, senior fisheries biologist for Racine, Kenosha and Walworth Counties, for winning an external cooperator award. This was announced at the DNR Statewide Fisheries Management meeting held at the end of February. Luke nominated SEWTU based on the fantastic support we have provided to the ongoing restoration effort at Bluff Creek, including the recent adoption agreement for the Bluff/Whitewater Fishery Area.

Justine Hasz, the director of the Fisheries Management Bureau, will present the award at our April 24 membership meeting.

2019 event. It's tentatively set for Saturday, January 26. Mark your calendars!

Our first wokday of the year was along, but not on, a stream. The Neperud family was generous in working to ensure their land would be accessible to all, including a gorgeous stretch of the Sugar River. While we have worked along the stream, this workday was in the old

family fruit orchard. Volunteers got a lesson in how to prune and set out to snip, lop and cut at the orchard. We are always excited to partner with others to foster a more holistic approach to the land.

We have a variety of "Stream Team" workdays set for spring. Learn about them and everything else we're doing at swtu.org.

—Drew Kasel

## Wild Rivers Chapter

We've had a good old fashioned northern winter this year, and the snow is still beyond knee deep in Wild Rivers chapter territory. While we've been enjoying winter's dormant torpor, we've been gathering for tying events on occasion and readying ourselves for the coming season for habitat work and for getting our feet wet in local streams.

We are excited to support partnerships for habitat improvement this summer.

We will be supporting the U.S. Forest Service for a dam removal in the Nicolet National Forest, lending manpower and financial support with the DNR in beaver abatement work on a small spring-fed brook trout stream in Sawyer County.

We'll partner with multiple conservation groups in northwest Wisconsin to enable the DNR to do a major hydrological restoration project on a tributary to the Brule River to alleviate massive sediment introductions in the Bois Brule River.

We'll also partner with Laura MacFarland in her work to restore fish passage on trout streams in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest and adjacent properties.

Our annual expo was March 31 at Northland College. This expo is our major fundraiser each year. The event included a live auction and bucket raffles.

Funds raised help us support our partners who are working hard to conserve, protect and restore the coldwater fisheries and their watersheds in northwest Wisconsin.

In addition to the auction activities, each year our expo offers a place for our partners to have display tables showing off their conservation efforts in our area.

Fishing guide Weston Thier discussed angling and cultural experiences from his recent winter fishing adventures in South America. A second presentation was from one of our partners on conservation work being done in the area.

Our chapter received the Silver Trout Award for chapter excellence by WITU at the Council banquet in Oshkosh. We are grateful for the recognition and love being able to do what we do with so many other people in the Wisconsin who are committed to the mission of TU.

—Bob Rice

## Wisconsin Clear Waters

We recently held our annual banquet. Jim Erickson, as usual, has done yeoman's work organizing and producing this event. Treasurer Dave Zoellick and board member Joe Knight were honored for their outstanding assistance to the chapter.

Our board will soon review requests for funding stream projects and make decisions as to grant support. Projects requesting funding assistance this year are in Dunn, Trempealeau and Buffalo Counties

Jim Erickson has also been responsible for finding great speakers for our meetings. Our final chapter meeting for the Spring season is April 12. Chapter members Dale Dahlke and Jeff Bartynski will present the "Night of the Blue Wing Olive."

Other upcoming chapter events include free fly-casting lessons to the general public, at locations in Eau Claire. Watch for dates to be announced. We're doing an Introduction to Fly Fishing in conjunction with Beaver Creek Reserve on June 9.

We'll be working on Sand Creek with the DNR, working on various youth activities, planning for our annual camping trip to the Driftless Area May 17-19 and continuing brushing opportunities on local streams.

We invested in new brushing equipment and we are setting up a crew of volunteers to do brushing work and clean up on local streams. Gary Welch is oversee-

ing this process. We'll start by working on streams that have been worked on in the past, but need some TLC. We are creating a list of volunteers who would be available to help with these efforts to make fishing more enjoyable.

If you're interested in learning how to safely operate a chain saw, we are seeking members to participate in a one-day course in chainsaw safety, which is required by the DNR to operate chainsaws on DNR easements. It is a great course and worth attending for anyone who uses a chain saw.

At our work days we concentrate on clearing smaller brush and debris, as opposed to large trees and deadfalls.

We also need people to help haul cut brush to burn piles. This can be done by anyone, young or old.

A special thanks to the Kiap-Tu-Wish work crews for their amazing efforts on Wilson Creek.

Finally, 2018 will be a year of change for our chapter. Treasurer Dave Zoellick and Banquet Chair Jim Erickson are stepping down from their positions. This is great opportunity for someone to get active (or get re-active) in TU. You will find it rewarding and make many new friends and fishing buddies. Please volunteer. Just contact any officer or board members.

—Dick Duplessie



Jim Beecher

## SWTU VOLUNTEERS CREATE YET ANOTHER AMAZING ICEBREAKER

Working hard while also enjoying themselves at the SWTU Icebreaker are SWTU Chapter President Matt Sment, event Chair Amy Klusmeier, Jacquie and Tucker Nelson and Drew Kasel.

SEWTU members are committed to providing outreach opportunities to help educate others about our mission, and are committed to conserve, protect and restore cold-

water resources because, we believe, that our children deserve it.

It is a pleasure working with such dedicated volunteers.

—Todd Durian

## Southern Wisconsin Chapter

SWTU was excited to raise more than \$5,000 for coldwater resources at our January Icebreaker event. It was a wonderful day. Jacquie and Tucker Nelson provided informative keynotes, prizes were won, friendships rekindled and plans laid for fishing trips near and far.

We also had a fun smallmouth bass fishing panel with great discussion of the intersection of cold- and warm-water interests. The local bass

panelists included Tim Landwehr, Kyle Zempel and the Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance.

We thank all who attended and helped create a successful fundraiser. In particular, we want to express our deep appreciation to Amy Klusmeier, who has gone above and beyond in chairing the event for the past several years.

She has turned the reigns over to Ben Lubchansky, who will chair our

# Chapter News

## Wisconsin River Valley Chapter

We have had a productive winter with various presentations and planning for our summer events. In January, we met our new DNR fisheries biologist from the DNR, Tim Waters, as well as the new regional supervisor, Al Nieber. Both are stationed in Wausau. Tim gave an interesting presentation on Lake Trout and Cisco relationships. Tim and Al are both excited for the future of working on our coldwater resources and fostering their relationship with our chapter.

At our February meeting Abe Dows from Great Northern Flyfishing in Plover gave an excellent presentation on chasing smallies and musky, primarily the Wisconsin River. He also highlighted other streams in northern and central Wisconsin to pursue these game fish.

Our March meeting featured Laura MacFarland of National TU. She gave an excellent presentation on a variety of issues and discussed a

partnership with WRVTU, the U.S. Forest Service and the Trout and Salmon Foundation to work on a brook trout stream in Price County. Laura was instrumental in securing a \$2,000 grant from the Trout and Salmon Foundation for assisting in the work.

Our future presentations include "Tie, Fly and Lie Night" April 24. We will be tying flies and teaching those who are interested in learning how. We will also be spinning tales of fish that got away.

In May Carmen Hardin will give a presentation on planning and going solo for various trips across the country. Her last expedition was to Montana, Alberta and British Columbia.

June 23 is our chapter picnic and fundraiser. Watch for details.

We hope you all had a good winter and enjoy the upcoming fishing season.

—Doug Brown

## Wolf River Chapter

Our Wolf River Chapter Fly Tying Consortium was in January at the Bear Paw Outdoor Adventure Resort. It was a success, thanks to Zach Buchanan. Many people stopped in to tie and to watch the tyers. We tied dry flies, nymphs, hoppers and streamers. We'll be having it again next year around the same time.

In late March we held our annual spring membership meeting and

## Oak Brook Chapter

The Oak Brook (Chicago) Chapter (OBTU) has announced its 2018 conservation activities, which include financial and volunteer support for projects in Wisconsin and Michigan.

Wisconsin financial commitments this year include TUDARE, Weister Creek restoration in Vernon County and continued stream restoration work in Sparta.

"We plan to continue the important conservation work on our chapter's priority projects in support of the Wisconsin's Driftless Area," said Conservation Committee Chair Dave Carlson.

"Several work days are planned, which provide an opportunity for fun and friendship along with making a valuable contribution to stream conservation.

Weister Creek is a great example of a stream restoration in the Driftless Area. For the past several years OBTU and other organizations have provided financial support for this project within the Kickapoo Valley Reserve.

It is a big project with a total length of 2.6 miles. In addition to stream improvement, it provides habitat for hunting and is a demonstration site for many non-game wildlife habitat practices. Work on the phase 4 section is well under way, with in-stream work to be completed this summer.

Fundraising has begun for the phase 5 final section, which is expected to be completed next year.

Other stream restoration projects in the Driftless Area encompass work to reduce soil erosion and phosphorus discharge near Sparta. Since 2014, OBTU has provided both volunteer manpower and finan-

board member elections. Tim Waters spoke about fishing the Wolf River while we waited for our pizza lunch.

The Wolf River Meet & Greet is May 19. Join Wolf River Chapter members fly and spin casting on the Wolf River. For more information contact Travis Stuck at 920-202-0689.

—Laurie Zen Netzow



### WOLF RIVER CHAPTER MEMBERS ENJOY COLD-WEATHER FLY TYING

Zach Buchanan, Clayton Bahrke, Travis Stuck, Andy Killoren and Brad Anderson share fishing stories while tying flies on a cold January day.

cial support that has been leveraged with local government funds.

This year, we will continue stream restoration on Beaver Creek near Sparta. A work day to build LUNKER structures is scheduled for Saturday, June 23, and includes an opportunity for volunteers to do some fishing in the Driftless Area before and after our project work.

We were also proud to accept Wisconsin TU's Reel Partner Award in recognition of the Oak Brook TU chapter's financial and volunteer support of Wisconsin stream restoration projects over the years. This took place at the Wisconsin TU annual banquet in February.

—Jim Schmiedeskamp

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# Trout love trees

By Jamie Ruppel, Project Coordinator, DNR Trout Stream Habitat Management

Trees have been a significant factor in human development since the dawn of man. We use trees for lumber to build structures, as a source of heat in the winter and find comfort in their shade during hot summer days.

The benefits of trees in urban areas have been researched at length, and include many economic, sociological and environmental benefits to cities and towns across this wonderful world we live in.

People, trout, birds, deer and all types of wildlife are just plain happier when they live in an area with a higher density of canopy cover. My own extensive research has found that trout fishing makes people just plain happier too. You know what else makes people happier? Trout fishing in beautiful places.

Trout are very specialized fish species that require clean, cold water to thrive. They are highly sensitive to land use changes, and thus are an indicator species of environmental degradation.

The presence of brook trout, the only native trout (actually, char) species in Wisconsin streams, indicates that a watershed is healthy enough to support them. Brook trout co-evolved under the comfort of a canopy of trees for longer than I care to speculate, and have had that cover to help keep them cool and happy.

I personally love trees. I love them to the point that I have started a small nursery of native trees and shrubs in my yard. Having said that, I think trout love trees even more than I do, and I'm not sure they even know what trees are.

Trout love trees for a variety of reasons. Trees near streams and rivers provide shade for trout. Tree canopies buffer the temperature of the water, keeping it cooler, and slowing the rate at which the water changes temperatures on a daily basis.

This thermal buffering can, and does, reduce heat stress to trout in marginal waters during the hot later summer months. Less stress equals healthier fish, which equals better fishing. Canopy cover also provides a refuge from birds of prey, and often, trout anglers.

Trees that end up in streams and rivers also provide holding cover and feeding cover for trout of all age classes. Large woody debris provides niches for larger fish to find a feeding lie, and the smaller brush provides a niche for young trout. Complexes of wood in the water will also give trout a refuge from otters, mink, heron, kingfishers and the occasional muskrat, as well as creating habitat for macro invertebrates which are a major food source for trout throughout the year. I think it's safe to say, trees in the water make trout happy.

## Why plant trees near trout streams?

Often, managing trout habitat requires the removal of trees for the work to be completed. Whether it is for equipment access, site preparation for the installation of a habitat project, overhead bank cover, angler access trails or improving parking areas, it is frequently necessary to remove trees and shrubs.

Once the work has been completed, trees and shrubs can be

planted as seedlings, and the site will bounce back to its natural dynamic a bit sooner than allowing natural regeneration.

Trout habitat management isn't just in-stream work. Managing invasive species adjacent to trout streams is an important factor when considering an ecologically integrated habitat management plan. Some of the fisheries properties in the Central Sands region of Wisconsin are inundated with glossy buckthorn, common buckthorn, Eurasian honeysuckles, barberries, wild parsnip and many more.

After a crew goes in and mechanically removes these species, the site can be relatively devoid of desirable species in the understory. Planting a mix of desirable native trees and shrubs is the last step in trying to fill these niches to prevent reinvasion of invasive plant species. Often, here in the Central Sands region, after work is completed, a monoculture of reed canary grass takes over. This removes the interstitial spaces where native species would establish. By planting native trees and shrubs, when these plants develop any sort of a canopy, it pushes back the reed canary grass, and allows a niche for native species to establish.

Land use changes near trout streams have also been an issue since European settlers began farming the land around streams, rivers and lakes. Working with farmers and private landowners to place riparian buffer strips consisting of shrubs, grasses and scattered trees provides sediment traps, thermal buffers and erosion control measures that benefit landowners, trout and trout fishermen at the same time.

Trees and shrubs also provide habitat and food for a wide range of birds, mammals, insects, arachnids and reptiles. If you plant them, they will come, and increase the diversity of any site. This benefits all user groups that visit public land, regardless of why they are venturing into the woods, meadows or streams.

When planting trees or shrubs, you should always consider what you are planting, why you are planting it, and where you are planting it. Some species will work well in one area, and others will not. In the glaciated portions of Wisconsin, much of the flowing water is surrounded by wetland-dominated riparian areas. Streams and rivers in this area are low gradient, and the sand-dominated soils in Central Wisconsin allow rain events to percolate down, slowly infiltrating, and upwelling into adjoining wetlands.

In contrast, The Driftless region of Wisconsin has higher gradient streams, finer soils and limestone- and sandstone-dominated bedrock. Stream corridors are also not typically surrounded by wetland areas, and thus the vegetative communities are strikingly different.

In the beautiful bluff country of southwestern Wisconsin, favoring grasses to stabilize banks during run-off events is desirable to prevent erosion.

This doesn't mean that there would be no benefit to these community types from planting scattered trees and shrubs that provide shade to creeks and streams, forage for wildlife and increasing biodiversity of the site. Again, it's all about where and why you are planting woody species on any given site.

Lastly, why not plant trees? A



## 15 PEOPLE, 2,500 TREES PLANTED

In the Spring of 2017, 15 people, including TU and Rawhide volunteers, along with DNR crews, planted 2,500 trees along the Pine River.

wise man once said," The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is today." Trees take a significant investment of time to establish, grow and mature, but, it is relatively easy to plant a tree, and then it is just a matter of enjoying watching it grow.

We decided in 2016 to try our first tree planting on a couple of the streams around Waushara and Marquette counties. We ordered a mix of species from red osier dogwood to white oak. Our crew then partnered with the Rawhide About Face Program, which mentors youth with the goal of building character, mind and body.

We ordered a bunch of trees, got some volunteers, went to the White River and Chaffee Creek and planted about 1,500 trees and shrubs. It was a fun day for the volunteers and our crew. The great part is that from that one day of work, many generations of outdoorsmen, trout and multitudes of other wildlife, will be able to enjoy these trees, regardless of the reason they are visiting that public land.

Last spring, we decided to go a bit bigger. We invited the Fox Valley and Central Wisconsin TU chapters, as well as the Rawhide Boys Ranch About Face program. We scheduled our planting day for the third Tuesday in April. April is the ideal time of year to plant in the Central Sands because spring rains keep root systems moist while they are establishing on the site.

We met at our planting site next to the 19th Ave bridge on the Pine River with a huge stack of trees (roughly 5,000 trees) and planting bars (sometimes called a dibble), went over our goals for the day, and started planting. We had six TU vol-

unteers from TU and four from Rawhide, along with our crew of five. That's 2,500 trees planted in about six hours with 15 people. That, to me, is a huge success.

The planting design was based on angler access, future equipment access, and maintaining the fishability of the river.

The edge of the river was planted primarily with native wetland shrubs, staying back about six feet or so from the top of the bank, and placing a few trees that will grow and later become large woody debris recruitment.

Then a 25-foot buffer was maintained for angler and equipment access, and a mix of tree species were planted well back to, and into the woodland edge.

The canopies of the closest trees will provide thermal cover when mature, and keep the river edge clean enough to dunk some nightcrawlers, while the streamside shrubs will eventually drape into the edge of the water and provide a place for all sorts of wildlife.

I probably won't get to enjoy the full extent of this planting within my lifetime, but many generations of trout and people will enjoy it, and that's the thought process I believe we need right now. So, go and plant a tree with your children, grandchildren, siblings and friends, and enjoy watching them grow.

We just ordered our trees for our spring 2018 planting. We will be planting on April 21. Our site for next spring is located on the Pine River near Wild Rose, and all are welcome to attend.

Thanks again goes out to TU, the Rawhide Boys Ranch About Face Program and the Wisconsin State Reforestation Program.

## Our Choice

*Life requires  
Making choices.  
We of TU  
Chose  
To spend our time  
Seeking to protect  
Our coldwater  
Resources,  
And the lovely  
Trout that swim  
Therein.  
Looking back,  
We could not  
Have made a better  
Choice.*

2018

A poem for the WITU 2018 Banquet, by Dan Holland

# Spring 2018 Update: Friends of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited

The 2017 fundraising campaign came to an end and once again, the continued support for this program is wonderful. Through your generation donations, we have raised more than \$20,000.

An enormous amount of in-stream work will be accomplished because of this. A particular huge thank you to the SEWTU Chapter for its very generous \$5,000 contribution to this fund.

In February at the State Council meeting in Oshkosh, WITU announced the awards of three Friends Grants. Fox Valley, Antigo and Wild Rivers chapters will each receive \$2,000

grants. The next grant application period is currently open, and grants will be voted on at the next State Council meeting in Viroqua May 12.

All across the state, many of streams have directly benefited from the Friends of Wisconsin TU program.

I hope you all had a wonderful winter and enjoy the upcoming season and get out to see the magnificent work we've done on our cold-water resources.

*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 dam removal project in 2018

\$2,000 to Antigo Chapter for habitat crew for Antigo DNR in 2018

\$2,000 to the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter for Parker Creek culvert in 2017

\$2,000 to Wis. Clearwaters Chapter for stream maintenance, 2017

\$2,000 to Nohr Chapter for Grant County stream work, 2017

\$2,000 to CWTU for Wild Rose DNR habitat crews in 2017

\$1,000 to Marinette and \$2,000 to Wolf River for DNR crews in 2017

\$2,000 to Fox Valley Chapter for DNR habitat crew in 2018.

\$2,000 to ALTU for Little Willow Creek in Richland County in 2017

### 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
- Ed Chiera Beloit WI
- Russel Cison Phillips WI
- Andrew Cook II Sister Bay WI
- Ed Eggers Genoa WI
- Chuck Egle Amhurst Junction WI
- Richard Ela Madison WI
- John Ewen Neenah WI
- Richard Farrenkopf Men. Falls WI
- Alan Finesilver Depere WI
- Joel Fisher Birnamwood WI
- William Flader MD Madison WI
- Richard Gallig Hartland WI
- Lyn & Scott Geboy Fox Point WI
- Dan Geddes Appleton WI
- Jack Gribble Gordon WI
- Gordon Grieshaber Mineral Point WI
- Carl Hash Wausau WI
- Scott Hathaway Shawano WI
- Ashton Hawk Denver CO
- Stephen Hawk Madison WI
- William Heart Ashland WI
- Wally Heil De Pere WI
- Bob Hellyer Boulder Junction WI
- Charles Hodulik Madison WI
- Gareth Horvath River Falls WI
- Jeff Jackson Oconto Falls WI
- Charles Jorgenson Oconomowoc WI
- Jeff Keller Burlington WI
- John Kenealy III Waukesha WI
- Lane Kistler Milwaukee WI
- Barb and Joe Kruse LaCrosse WI
- Thomas Lukas Manitowoc WI
- Douglas MacFarland Dousman WI
- Brian Madsen Ellsworth WI
- Anna Magnin Marshfield WI
- Kevin Mahaney Middleton WI
- Jim & Billie March LaCrosse WI

- Bob Martini Rhinelander WI
- Kim McCarthy Green Bay WI
- David Menke Bristol WI
- Cris Meyer Middleton WI
- Robert Moser Milwaukee WI
- William Nielsen Eau Claire WI
- Herb Oechler Wauwatosa WI
- Cheryl and Winston Ostrow De Pere WI
- Donald Persons Janesville WI
- Ray D. Piehl Wautoma WI
- Michael Polelle Madison WI
- Dr. Scott Quandt Green Bay WI
- Ron Rellatz Merton WI
- Bob Retko Cedarburg WI
- Steve Robertson Verona WI
- Michael San Dretto Neenah WI
- Mary & Jeff Schmoeger Lake Mills WI
- Tom Schnadt St. Paul MN
- James School Kaukauna WI
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- John Shillinglaw Madison WI
- George Shinnars Antigo WI
- Art Sonneland Depere WI
- Michael Staggs Poynette WI
- Michael Stapleton Pardeeville WI
- Gary Stoychoff Green Bay WI
- Rick Szymialis Waupaca WI
- Robert Tabbert Lafayette LA
- Julie & Todd Templen Dubuque IA
- Dennis, Becky Vanden Bloomen E. Claire
- Greg Vodak Stoughton WI

- Ken Voight Sugar Grove IL
- Don Wagner Gillett WI
- David Wahl Sterling IL
- Donald Welhouse Kaukauna WI
- Paul Williams Madison WI
- Donald Williams MD 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

- Antigo Chapter
- Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter
- Marinette County Chapter
- SEWTU Chapter

In Memory of Chuck Wineland. Donation from Paul Neuman of McFarland

In Memory of Charles Jacobson, donation from Ardis Jacobson, Madison.

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

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% Doug Brown  
R4800 Timber Lane  
Ringle, WI 54471

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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City, State Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

# Gas station flies

*A recollection of "North Woods" flies and fly shops of years past.*

Words and photo By Erik Helm

A number of years ago I drove to the Brule river in far northern Wisconsin, passing through towns on the way that held memories of youthful vacations. I had not seen this landscape in almost 40 years. Back in the day, the mid-1970s to be exact, our little family of three and our defective Volvo would take an annual vacation by driving to see relatives "Up North."

## A catch-all phrase

"Up North" was a catch-all phrase for going somewhere rural where men went when they wanted to re-visit what it meant to be a man: away from the city, a place of muskies and trout, deer and cabins.

To a 10-year old boy it was something exotic fed and conjured by elders in tales punctuated by beer and smoke with the spreading of hands and arms in measurement.

My "reality" of Up North was absorbed and simmered gently during the timeless hours of childhood summers reading *Outdoor Life* and listening to dad. When I closed my eyes I saw rivers, smelled pipe smoke, heard winds through pine trees, and imagined groups of men wearing red and black checked wool hunting jackets.

For my mother, Up North meant time to spend painting landscapes and visiting local art and craft shops. For my father, it was a time to re-visit his dreams. He was an armchair fisherman and outdoorsman, so most of his dreams would be unfulfilled. Much later in life, I came to learn that perhaps a man with dreams is already fulfilled.

In those summers sitting and listening to him talk of the north woods, names began to be whispered: Brule, Namekagon, Wolf, and Peshtigo. These were rivers of legend, and I can still hear Dad's voice as we peeked through the birches and pines in our first and only glance at the rushing holy waters of the Wolf River.

Maybe just attending this church by visiting was as good as participating in the worship or fishing. I never will know for sure, but Dad lowered his voice to a whisper when pointing out a rising trout to a wide-eyed and eared ten-year old. We never fished, but what I caught that day will be with me always.

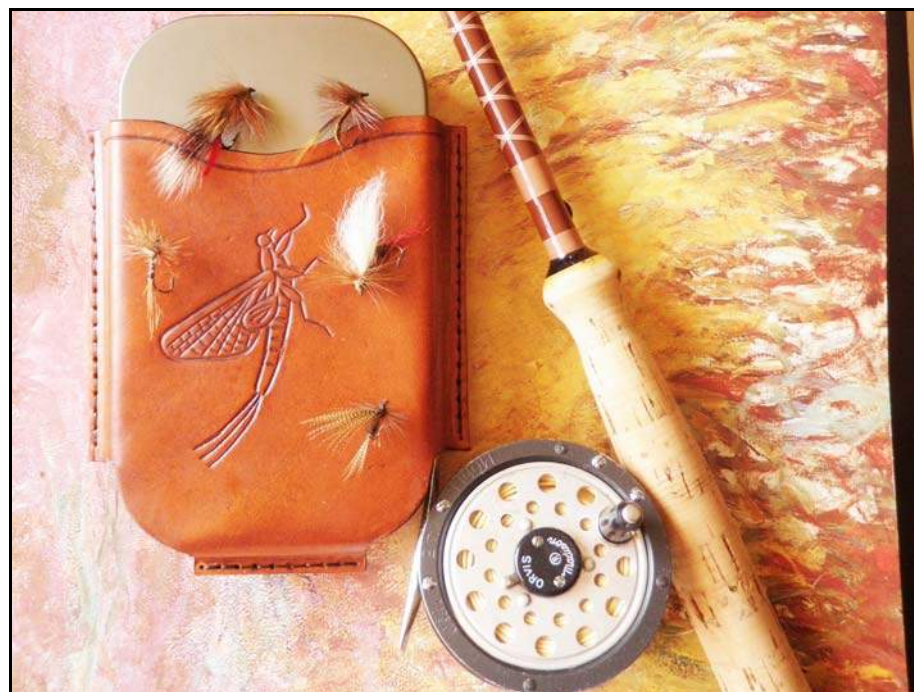
As I drove through the towns again, I was out of place in time. My snapshot of Up North was decades old. I couldn't believe how much it had changed. Most of those small hardware stores, and mom and pop places had been replaced for the most part with a plastic sameness as Kwik e Marts grew like cancers on my memories.

Back home some time later, I was going through old fly-boxes owned by a Wisconsin fisherman. Many of the flies were patterns I didn't recognize, and with my penchant for history and old-things, that takes a bit of doing. When I say 'Old' it is rather relative, for most of these flies were purchased and fished during my lifetime, in fact in the very period of those youthful vacations. Old is relative, but I was alarmed by the amount of gray in my beard this morning when I shaved; like rust on those hooks of those flies...

These flies were not commercial patterns in the strict sense; they

were 'Gas-station flies.' They were not perfect by any standard, yet some of them were. Tails were often too long or short, wings too bulky, materials set off-kilter, and heads too obese. They would never make the quality test of a modern overseas fly company today.

Maybe that is a good thing. Today flies are tied in an almost clinical perfection in Asia and Africa by people who have never seen a trout stream. That kind of perfection can be flawed in economy of scale. How many hundred dozen do you want? Regional patterns and local ties like I held in my hand slowly disappeared or became scarce in that economy. These were unique and like a mirror in time. They held a place on a map...



## Local fly shops abounded

Back when these flies were created, every great river had a local shop. I am not talking about a modern fly-shop in any sense. These shops were often places that sold gas, bottles of cold pop, flasks of brandy and bourbon, and sporting tackle. They were small operations run by locals. In a rural economy back then, they could exist on a shoestring, or maybe by selling a few shoestrings.

When one left the city and drove Up North, one always stopped at the local shop to fill up the Buick, add a quart of oil, pick up a needed item forgotten or worn-out, and to find out the local forecast for the fishing conditions and see what "They were biting on."

The guy you went to talk to always knew your name as you knew his. Norm or Stumpy would be behind the counter. The flies that were working would be in a cardboard tray on the counter. They were tied by guys that fished the river every day. They knew exactly what was working, and the patterns were made up on the spot.

"The Woodcock Special" may be a great stone-fly imitation, but it could also be because somebody's brother shot three woodcock last week. These people hunted. Other than a few materials such as the hooks, floss, and hackle, the materials used most likely saw the front porch of a hunting cabin, and spent a few weeks in borax and salt. The flies smelled like wood-smoke and deer hair.

You purchased a half-dozen of each and clipping them into the tin

fly-box, knew that you had the hatch all figured out because you trusted an authentic local expert.

## Authentic

That word summons so many images and feelings in me as I close my eyes...because I was there. I may just have been a little punter, but little punters have big eyes. What I saw and experienced as I walked through these local 'sporting-goods' stores was real, authentic, rural, honest, local. I didn't know it at the time, but I was breathing in history along with the dust. Yes...dust. Much of the shelving was covered with a fine powdering of dust. It lay on the boxes of muck-boots, the barrel of nets, and on the tackle that was timeless.

I have grown to like dust. Dust is

was and is the perfect tool for the rivers it was born on. It was designed for brushy rivers with big trout and sweepers and log hazards. Throwing big size 2 hex nymphs on the Bibon marsh at night and catching alligators of brown trout as long as your arm while keeping them out of the rushes and cattails? Here is your rod. This wasn't the Missouri river, and not all rods had to be 9 foot 5 weights. This was a specialty rod.

When we look at the history of fly-fishing, we see as we descend the map a growing myopia of fishing culture, equipment and tactics. These were grown locally and fed on long studies and days a field.

The Letort and her micro-terrestrials and the rods to match. The Au Sable and the midge rod and long boat. The Wolf and her huge trout and deep rocky runs grew the large weighted stoneflies that made the rod in front of me a necessity.

Each local fishery grew in myopia then, there was no internet, thank god, for if there was, Marinaro, Fox, Flick, and the other local experts would all be told that they were doing it wrong. Instead, the local tackle and flies grew in a vacuum of sorts. The river grew the fish, which grew the fishermen, who grew the fly patterns and tackle, which became part of our history and culture. Yankee ingenuity at its best.

When we hold one of these flies in our hands, we must be aware that there was experimentation here and serendipity. They were purpose-built by a tier who lived in a small cabin and traded them for gas and cigarette money. That kind of small economy and craft is what made America rich...not monetarily, but culturally. These flies are a time machine, with rusty hooks, faded colors, and hackle chewed by bugs and fish alike, small pieces of gut and nylon attesting to memories made on the rivers. The rivers grew all of this. We are all children of rivers.

A fly is an artificial deception to the trout, but also a word that means to travel through the air. This spring, a few of these that are in better condition will do just that at the end of my rod, a fresh leader, and a fresh perspective into local history.

The honesty of knowledge that led to their creation in less complicated times will still deceive the fish, but my memories from those childhood travels through the gas station sporting-goods stores will never deceive me or fade. The hooks on these old flies may need sharpening a bit, but my memories are as sharp as ever. I can still smell the pipe-smoke and the dust. I can still see the Wolf River through the pines and hear dad's voice... whispering.

Dedicated to my father and all the other dreamers back in the day, To the moms and pops that ran these small shops, the flies and tyers, and to Joe Balestrieri, and Bob Blumreich who remember Up North.

*Erik Helm is the proprietor of Classical Angler, a fly-fishing guide and instructional service based in the Driftless area of Wisconsin. He also is a writer of fly-fishing essays and stories, and produces fine fly-fishing crafts. Erik has been in the fly-fishing industry for 17 years, formerly with Laacke and Joys and with Orvis in Milwaukee. He now lives in Soldiers Grove Wisconsin, in the heart of the driftless.*

*He can be found at [Classicalangler.com](http://Classicalangler.com)*

the most authentic thing of all, for all life is made of it. To a modern retailer, these places would need a massive cleaning and refit.

There were no merchandising standards other than "The hip waders are in the back aisle under the shotgun shells." Fish mounts and old bowling trophies sat or hung crookedly.

There was no product rotation, so as a kid, I could always find an old Daredevil spoon or cap-pistol that was priced sometime in the past decade, and would be cheap enough for a pestered parent to buy. If you asked for something, the owner would furrow his brows, ask his wife, and she would root through an old box and find it. It was like a kind of magic. Muskie plugs and bucktail streamers appearing out of the primordial lost spaces of dust. The clutter was beautiful.

The fly-fisher never used all those local flies, but it was always a part of consideration and good conduct that one made a purchase of a few things to support the local store. The excess flies got stored away and now sit in front of me along with a fiberglass fly rod made locally for fishing the northern Wisconsin rivers. It is an odd rod by today's standards.

## Standards

Standards that have in time made these purpose-made rods look obscure...but they weren't.

This rod is a seven footer for a seven-weight fly line. Short and with authority. It was designed and built off a Fisher glass blank by a man who owned a local shop like this. It

## Wisconsin Trout's Todd Franklin to receive award from the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation



The Wisconsin Wildlife Federation selected *Wisconsin Trout* Editor Todd Franklin as its Conservation Communicator of the Year.

The WWF will present the award at its Annual Award Banquet Saturday, April 21 at The Hotel Mead in Wisconsin Rapids.

## Westby Workshop April 7-8

*Learn chapter building, project planning and more.*

There's still time to sign up for the ninth Westby Workshop, where new and veteran TU leaders and interested members can learn about ways chapters can invite more people to get involved with TU's mission, plus learning how to plan projects from start to finish.

On April 7-8, Living Waters Bible Camp outside Westby will be a beehive of activity as experienced speakers share the lessons they've learned. Want to encourage women and young people to get involved with protecting our streams? A National TU trainer, Leadership Development Manager Lisa Beranek, and leaders from other conservation groups, will have ideas to share. Is your chapter located far from trout resources but willing to travel? Developing a "TU traveling team" will be the subject of another session.

You'll also have the chance to discuss past and future restoration

techniques, learn how to organize your own project from experts, and tour a nearby trout stream restoration project.

This workshop will be of interest for TU folks and other conservationists from across the Midwest. More than 500 volunteers have been trained at past workshops.

On top of all that, there's a dandy grilled chicken dinner Saturday night with "soon to be world famous" chicken, at the Viroqua American Legion Hall, and abundant fishing opportunities. Who could ask for more?

Many chapters help pay the expenses of participants. It never hurts to ask your board for their support.

For registration information, go to [darestoration.com](http://darestoration.com). Questions? Contact Jeff Hastings at [jhastings@tu.org](mailto:jhastings@tu.org) or Duke Welter at [dwelter@tu.org](mailto:dwelter@tu.org).

### BANQUET, from page 1

Whether arranging prizes, staffing entry tables, selling raffle tickets or demonstrating how to tie some cool-looking flies, we had an enthusiastic group willing to donate their time.

This group consisted of Stan Strelka, Scott Allen, Taylor Ridderbusch, Gary Stoychoff, Kim McCarthy, Jen Kuhr, John and Laura Tucker, Boyd Roessler, Rick Frye, Ed Koscik, Jason Freund, Nate Ratliff, the Hodson family, Brian Oberstadt, Bob Haase, Mark Rhinerson and Clay Parmley, among others. The Council would also like to thank the numerous volunteers who tied flies with the Women's Fly Fishing Clinic and those who assisted with prize distribution at the end of

the evening.

We'd like to thank Henry Koltz for being our Master of Ceremonies for the evening. Hank did a great job of entertaining the crowd, touting our successes and keeping the event moving along.

We also have a very generous group of donors that provided live auction prizes. Guided trips and "fish-alongs" with Charlie Piette (Tight Lines Fly Fishing Co.), Erik Helm (Classical Angler), Duke Welter and Patrick Hager really got the bids coming in.

The 50/50 raffle was popular and all the proceeds support our Annual Youth Camp. We raised more than \$375 for the camp this year, and the lucky winner ended up with a pocket full of cash.

Wisconsin TU has become a force in the conservation community because of the efforts of many of our members, conservation professionals, corporate sponsors and others. We honored many of these efforts during the awards ceremony. The Council thanks our Awards MC Steve Born for sharing his wit, wisdom and humor while presenting the various awards. Wayne Parmley did a masterful job of putting together our colorful printed banquet program.

There was plenty to see, too. Local artist Adam Zins ([azcreativeart.com](http://azcreativeart.com)) had a masterpiece on display: A 3-foot by 5-foot brook trout painting. Pictures don't do it justice. He also brought postcards of his other works that were set out

on each of the tables.

Darrell Toliver brought and displayed an entire collection of framed Wisconsin trout stamp prints. It was awe-inspiring.

We'd also like to thank our partners, including The River Alliance of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Wetlands Association and Project Green Teen, for their presence at the banquet.

If you missed the 2018 State Council Banquet, please make plans to join us on Saturday, Feb. 2, 2019 in Oshkosh. It's sure to be another fun evening. If you'd like to get involved with banquet planning or banquet awards, contact Mike Kuhr at [mikek.trout@yahoo.com](mailto:mikek.trout@yahoo.com).

## Kent Johnson receives Ford Award

*Honored for his lifetime of accomplishments of improving water quality.*

Last October Kent Johnson received Minnesota's most distinguished award for protecting clean water. At the annual Minnesota Water Resources conference, Johnson received the Dave Ford Award, which is bestowed by the conference's planning committee to recognize individuals whose lifetime accomplishments have contributed to improving Minnesota's water quality.

### Professional experience

Until his retirement in June 2017, Kent Johnson worked for the Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) in St. Paul. In 1979 he was hired as an aquatic biologist to cultivate a biological monitoring program for Twin Cities rivers. For much of his 38-year tenure with MCES, Johnson managed the Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Section that operates and oversees, with the help of volunteers and partners, a large network of river, stream and lake monitoring stations in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. Under his leadership and passion for good science and clean water, the MCES network has grown to become one of the most comprehensive surface water monitoring programs for a metropolitan area in the nation.

Throughout his career, Johnson has been involved in a number of professional organizations, includ-

ing the Mississippi River Research Consortium (President and Executive Board), the Midwest Chapter of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (Executive Board and Membership Committee), and the Upper Mississippi River Conservation Committee.

### Academic background

Johnson earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in biology at St. Olaf College (1974). While at St. Olaf, he was advised and mentored by James Zischke (Biology Department), who spurred Johnson's life-long interest in water. Since graduation, he has returned to Northfield to speak to St. Olaf classes about water quality and advise a community group working to restore Rice Creek, the only trout stream in Rice County.

In 1980 Johnson obtained a Master of Science Degree in aquatic biology at Michigan Technological University (MTU), where his thesis work focused on the ecological relationships of aquatic invertebrates in an Isle Royale river. While at MTU, he was advised and mentored by Kenneth Kraft (Biology Department). Johnson continues his academic connections as a visiting lecturer in landscape architecture, water resources management, and river ecology at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities and University of Wisconsin-River Falls. As a biologist and trout angler, Kent has



remained a life-long student of aquatic insects. He even has a metric named after him (Johnson Mayfly Emergence Scale).

### Volunteer efforts

Beyond his professional contributions to water resources at the Metropolitan Council, Johnson has devoted countless hours as a volunteer to protect and restore his favorite aquatic ecosystems: trout streams.

He has served on the conservation committee of the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust (KRLT) since

2006 and was a KRLT board member from 2006 to 2012.

He has been a long-time member of the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter of Trout Unlimited, serving on the chapter's executive board from 1990 to 2010.

His TU volunteer work has focused on the protection, restoration and monitoring of coldwater streams in western Wisconsin, where he has been evaluating the impacts of stormwater, hydropower and climate change, as well as the success of stream restoration projects.

To honor his TU volunteer work as a steward of the Kinnickinnic River, Wisconsin Trout Unlimited presented him with the "Jeffrey Carlson Volunteer Award" in February 2013. This is the highest individual award given by Wisconsin Trout Unlimited, to honor the most outstanding TU volunteer contributor in the state.

The Dave Ford Award honors the longtime Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Water Division engineer who passed away in 2003. Ford is remembered for his excellent theoretical understanding and practical knowledge to effectively use models to address a variety of water resource management issues. He was first and foremost a teacher, a mentor, a cooperater and a friend to many in the water resources community.

# Update on Great Lakes health

*Challenges include climate change, invasive species, pollution.*

By Jim Schmiedeskamp,  
Oak Brook Trout Unlimited

Joel Brammeier, president and CEO of the Alliance for the Great Lakes, oversees a staff of more than 25 professionals and 15,000 volunteers dedicated to protecting and restoring the Great Lakes. Joel has a strong track record of advancing critical conservation efforts and is the author of a first-of-its-kind report describing options for separating the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River basins to stop the spread of invasive species.

"The Alliance for the Great Lakes works to protect the Great Lakes for today and tomorrow," according to Brammeier. "We involve tens of thousands of people each year in advocacy, volunteering, education and research to ensure the lakes are healthy and safe for all. Our funding comes from a mix of sources including individual donors and foundations."

Overall the Great Lakes remain a high-quality drinking water source for many of the 40 million people who live near them. Yet, the pollution problems facing the Great Lakes, from invasive species to nutrient pollution, often have uneven impacts around the region.

For instance, nutrient pollution does not impact many areas of the Great Lakes, but in areas where it does, such as western Lake Erie, the impacts to drinking water, the local economy and recreation opportunities are severe. Western Lake Erie is plagued each year by massive harmful algae blooms. These can turn toxic and affect drinking water. For instance, in 2014 the residents of Toledo, Ohio were without safe drinking water flowing from their taps for more than two days due to toxic algae in the city's water supply. Without urgent action by Ohio, Michigan and Ontario, the problem may continue to worsen.

Nutrient pollution is just one of many issues effecting the health of the Great Lakes. The joint US EPA and Environment Canada study is a helpful resource for more detail on the threats to each lake.

## Climate change impact on the Great Lakes

There are a variety of projected impacts on the Great Lakes, all of which are interconnected and complex. To name a few: shorter, more intense storm events that increase the amount of runoff into the lakes; less ice coverage and higher average annual water temperatures leading to lower overall lake levels; increased algae blooms due to warmer water temperatures; and habitat more hospitable to southern invasive species.

"At the Alliance for the Great Lakes, we are focused on working with local communities to help them find and develop opportunities to be more resilient to these climate-related challenges," said Brammeier. "For instance, preserving and restoring natural shorelines like sand dunes and wetlands can absorb and buffer communities against storm surges. And green infrastructure, also referred to as nature-based infrastructure, with less impervious surfaces can slow down and filter runoff from storm events."

## Current status of invasive species threats for the Great Lakes

There more than 180 invasive species in the Great Lakes and because each lake has unique characteristics, the status and impact varies greatly. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Environment Canada recently evaluated these impacts on each of the Great Lakes.

"As a whole, all of the Great Lakes are deteriorating based on the impact of aquatic invasive species," said Brammeier. "As existing



## CARP THREAT LOOMS LARGE

Invasive species threaten the Great Lakes such as the Asian carp, which have been found in the Chicago Area Waterway System nine miles from Lake Michigan.

species continue to spread, new species are discovered, and new threats linger at the edges of the basin. Consequently, invasive species present a serious challenge to all five Great Lakes."

## Current Administration Proposed Funding Plans Impact on the Great Lakes

The White House's proposed budget released on February 12, 2017 recommended significant cuts to the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)—from \$300 million annually to \$30 million—and included major cuts to EPA and other agencies that protect the Great Lakes. However, it is important to remember that while the Administration proposes a budget, Congress ultimately holds the purse strings. And, the outcry from many Great Lakes legislators of both parties was swift with vows to restore full funding for the program as the budget winds through Congress.

"The GLRI supports efforts to clean up toxic pollution, restore fish and wildlife habitat, combat invasive species like Asian carp, and prevent polluted runoff from farms and cities," said Brammeier. "And we feel it is equally important to fully fund agencies, such as the EPA, that play a critical role in safeguarding our nation's water resources. To successfully implement the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, protect public health, and keep our water clean, the EPA must receive funding commensurate with its critical responsibilities."

## Illinois asian carp discovery update

Last June, a live adult silver carp was found just nine miles from Lake Michigan in the Chicago waterways. The fish was found north of the electric barriers, which is the last

line of defense before the lake. The finding triggered a two-week intensive monitoring effort coordinated by the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee (ACRCC), and no additional Asian carp were found. However, agency officials confirmed the fish spent the majority of its life below the electric barriers. Researchers have clearly documented that the electric barriers are not fool proof and that fish can be carried through them when vessels pass through.

"The announcement by the ACRCC that monitoring efforts did

measures to block the migration of Asian Carp to Lake Michigan via the Chicago Area Waterway System. The report can be viewed at: <http://glmris.anl.gov/brandon-rd/>

During the comment period environmental and conservation groups, representing hundreds of thousands of residents of the Great Lakes and Mississippi River regions, delivered a letter to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers demanding additional protections against Asian carp. And, the groups delivered more than 10,000 letters from concerned residents around the country to the Corps, urging swift action to keep asian carp out of the Great Lakes.

## Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin and Ontario step up, while Illinois stalls

Unfortunately, the state of Illinois has consistently stalled progress on, and even attempted to block, efforts to build additional Asian carp control measures at the Brandon Road Lock & Dam. In February, Michigan Governor Rick Snyder announced a new partnership with the states of Ohio and Wisconsin and the province of Ontario to support efforts to keep Asian carp out of the Great Lakes. The states and province have pledged to help cover a portion of the costs of the Brandon Road project. Typically, federal projects require a non-federal funding match and Illinois has indicated an unwillingness to serve as this match.

The partnership shows that some jurisdictions in the region are willing to commit resources to ensure that the Brandon Road study is complete. Additionally, this commitment gives the states and province an important seat at the table to represent the region, and removes one of the final barriers on the Brandon Road Lock & Dam project.

"Conservation organizations and interested individuals will be important in ensuring the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers moves beyond just study and into actual construction of control measures at the Brandon Road facility," said Brammeier. "You can sign up for our email list to receive action alerts on this and other Great Lakes issues. <https://greatlakes.org/subscribe/>"

not turn up additional Asian carp north of the electric barrier appeared to be met by the State of Illinois and the Trump Administration with a collective yawn," said Brammeier. "However, we are not as relieved. The finding of an adult Asian carp north of the electric barrier should be a wake-up call. Despite clear evidence that the electric barrier is not a foolproof solution, agencies have done little to implement best practices to reduce risk. Studies have shown that barges can pull fish through the barrier, increasing risk."

## Brandon Road Study

The U.S. Army Corp of Engineers released its "Brandon Road Study" last August, thanks to public pressure from members of Congress and thousands of Great Lakes residents. The recommendations include actions supporting additional

Support Wisconsin TU and get your Wisconsin TU license plate now. Go to [www.dot.state.wi.us/drivers/vehicles/personal/special/trout.htm](http://www.dot.state.wi.us/drivers/vehicles/personal/special/trout.htm)



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# Angling for Shenanigans!

"I fished all over the world with my husband, but he passed away. I don't think I know enough to go on my own."

"The boat is in the driveway. I'd like to go fishing but my partner is working, and I don't know how to back it up."

"Whenever I get together with certain friends, things get creatively fun, to the point that occasionally the sheriff gets called."

"My friends and I support one another to the point of trying new things that we otherwise wouldn't do alone."

Having had the pleasure of creating the Wisconsin Women's Fly Fishing Clinics over the years, I have heard these and many other aspects of what holds women back from adventuring.

I began to wonder, what are the things that hold women back? And what would be needed to restart their sense of adventure and play? My thoughts won't resound 100 percent for every woman or man or human being, but hopefully, they will hit on some fraction of truth for everyone, if they think about it for a minute.

## What holds women back from doing the things they love?

Not having buddies who play at the same level, not having knowledge or experience, not having opportunities, not having people who that while teaching them will catch them doing something "right" versus "wrong," not feeling confident in their abilities, not being competent to the point of independence.

It all boils down to confidence or competence. Not having one or both has the power to stop any person, particularly women, from taking risks, learning new skill sets, and in particular, from functioning outside our comfort zones. New understanding and opportunities to utilize our new skills lead us to successful experiences where we thrive, learn new things about our abilities and help us be better people for ourselves, our people and in the world. It uncovers parts of us we buried because life got demanding. It allows us to reflect and grow.

## How does this look in real life?

Women rarely believe they know everything they need to know about anything, including things they are experts on. This is why women often hear from male counterparts that they would teach a woman over a man any day. Women listen. It is because we don't already think we know the answer and are open to other opinions.

Women often believe that because they don't know everything they think they should, they won't be "good enough." So why risk being humiliated? Our actions are judged constantly from our very beginnings. What we know, how we say it and how we do it have been monitored and socially-manipulated to fit social constructs our whole lives, conditioning us to be wary before trying something new. Advice for women is plentiful, even when it

isn't asked for. On the other hand, a woman who knows a lot or "too much" can be viewed as "too forward." Many competent and confident women "hold back" so as to not "stick out" in the community in what is perceived as a negative way.

All humans desire to be accepted and acknowledged for our skills, but for women, the social construct of the range of acceptable knowledge, actions and expressions has been limited by unspoken social mores. All of this results in fewer experiences in life in which we are expanding our knowledge base and feeling confident and competent.

## What is the focus of Shenanigans?

Shenanigansflyfishing.com is designed to empower women in all areas of life through adventure activities. You will see the obvious fly-fishing schools, guiding and fishing, but also other skills women want to learn, such as backing-up boats, kayaking and caving. I love taking people caving and I have options that meet every ability, so anyone can do it. I will also create custom adventures for desired "bucket list" items.

Another important aspect that Shenanigans will address is that women don't typically travel alone. It simply isn't safe. Having a travel companion removes barriers and allows more freedom to travel to desired places more confidently, which increases enjoyment.

Connect me to women you know who are limiting themselves because they don't have a travel companion. For those who are unfamiliar with travel logistics, I will also offer concierge services. It could be scuba diving in Honduras, fishing for stripers off the coast of Maine, or simply visiting a country on a bucket list. By contacting me at shenanigansff@gmail.com with your desired destination and dates, we can work out a plan to make that trip a reality.

And finally, Shenanigans will offer communication services to other small businesses who would like to become more welcoming to women clients. Knowing the communication intricacies that women want to see, and the information they want to know before committing their time and money, can put a business on the radar of women fly fishers, who happen to be the fastest growing sector of anglers. Shenanigans consulting will show small businesses how to decrease barriers for women clients, refine communication styles and increase profitability.

Connecting women to opportunities is important to me. Through our Wisconsin Women's Fly Fishing Clinics, we have made connections all over the world. With a little organizing, we can create a wide range of women's activities, anywhere, for any reason, building confidence and competence, expand our connections and have a lot of fun doing it.

shenanigans: silly or high-spirited behavior; mischief. Shenanigans start out as ordinary activities but then seem to incorporate unique characteristics, like taking a shortcut or meeting a new landowner or fishing past dark. Shenanigans have us noticing things we otherwise wouldn't, and revive senses that have gone stagnant. Examples



would be seeing giant frogs going after musky flies or catching a bass in a trout stream. A Shenanigan is rarely planned, adds vitality to our lives and always affords good stories and fond memories.

I hope my fishing community, which has watched me donate countless hours to make fly fishing opportunities available for both

youth and women, will support me in this new endeavor by referring people, using my services and sharing a Shenanigan with me.

Tina Murray  
Shenanigans Fly Fishing  
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shenanigansflyfishing.com  
www.facebook.com/shenanigansflyfishing/

## Attend Spring Hearings April 9

DNR spring wildlife & fisheries public hearing and annual Conservation Congress county meeting

On Monday, April 9, there will be 72 public hearings, one in each county starting at 7 p.m., where individuals interested in natural resources management have an opportunity to provide their input by non-binding vote and testimony to the Department of Natural Resources, Natural Resources Board and the Conservation Congress on proposed rule changes and advisory questions relating to fish and wildlife management in Wisconsin. County residents have the option to run for a seat on the Conservation Congress and to elect delegates from their county to represent their county views regarding natural resources on the Conservation Congress. Also, individuals have the opportunity to bring forth new conservation issues of a statewide nature to the attention of the Conservation Congress through the citizen resolution process.

For information about the hearings, including a list of locations, go to <https://dnr.wi.gov/about/wcc/springhearing.html>

Please arrive by 6:45 p.m. so you will have time to register and receive your materials. During the Spring Hearings, county residents elect delegates to represent their county's interests related to conservation matters.

The first agenda item will be the election of delegates. Shortly after 7 p.m. individuals who would like to be delegates will introduce themselves. If you are a resident, you will be instructed where to record your vote and when.

After the delegate election they will start going through the questions one at a time.

A DNR warden will introduce the department advisory questions. These changes could lead to future

proposed rule changes pertaining to hunting, fishing and trapping, if supported. After the DNR warden is finished with the DNR advisory questions, the Conservation Congress chair for the county will begin introducing the citizen resolutions. Any citizen can introduce an idea or concern, called a resolution, to the audience. There is a sample resolution and guidelines located within your questionnaire. The resolution should identify the problem or concern you would like addressed. If you would like to introduce a resolution, you may contact the DNR warden or Conservation Congress delegate for guidance.

You may vote on any of the local resolutions introduced. After the citizen resolutions are complete, the county chair will begin the Conservation Congress advisory questions. These advisory questions ask for opinions and feedback, but do not immediately result in changes to laws. The votes tallied from these advisory questions assist the Congress and DNR in determining if these questions should be moved forward into the rulemaking process.

This year, the WCC will be asking citizens for ideas and input relating to the simplification of hunting, fishing, and trapping rules and regulations in a town-hall forum following the advisory questions. There will also be a page in the back of your questionnaire where you can write comments or ideas for simplification you'd like to propose. When the hearing is over, or when you decide to leave (you can fill out your ballot and leave at any time) please turn in your completed ballot at the door.

Contact Kari Lee-Zimmermann (608-266-0580) if you have questions, or if you would like to share any observations, questions or concerns regarding your experience at the hearings.

**FIXING ROADS**, from page 12

native fish and other aquatic organisms even during summer low flow periods. Dave Seibel, who has worked in Langlade and Lincoln Counties for many years, was a strong advocate for this project and indicated that this site was the highest-priority road-stream barrier and the only aquatic connectivity barrier on the entire Hunting River system.

In 2006, the Town of Elcho and DNR began working together to evaluate potential options at this high-priority crossing. The town's patience as the project progressed over a decade was key to a successful outcome. That patience provided the time needed to work with partners that could assist with cost share and the technical design necessary to implementing a feasible plan.

Langlade LCD and DATCP provided the technical assistance needed to estimate flood flows and develop design plans. In addition to funding from a DNR River Protection Grant and the LCD and DATCP water quality protection program, TU State Council and the Marinette, Wolf River, Antigo, Green Bay and Wild River chapters all pitched in to come up with the \$115,000 necessary for design and construction costs on the project.

In August 2017, crews installed the new Hunting River culvert, and the river response was immediate. The new 27-foot wide by almost 8-foot tall aluminum box culvert was designed based on river characteristics and modeled flood flows. After installation, the surface of the river upstream dropped 6-12 inches, which narrowed the channel and exposed many boulders and riffle habitat. In addition to the conditions observed adjacent to the road crossing, the APHIS beaver control expert that works on the Hunting River reported that approximately 2.5 miles upstream, the water level dropped about 6 inches. The newly connected river has meant that trout are now being observed in upstream reaches for the first time.

**How can you support connectivity and flood resiliency efforts?**

This project succeeded because of readers like you. There are a variety of ways we can work together to support these efforts.

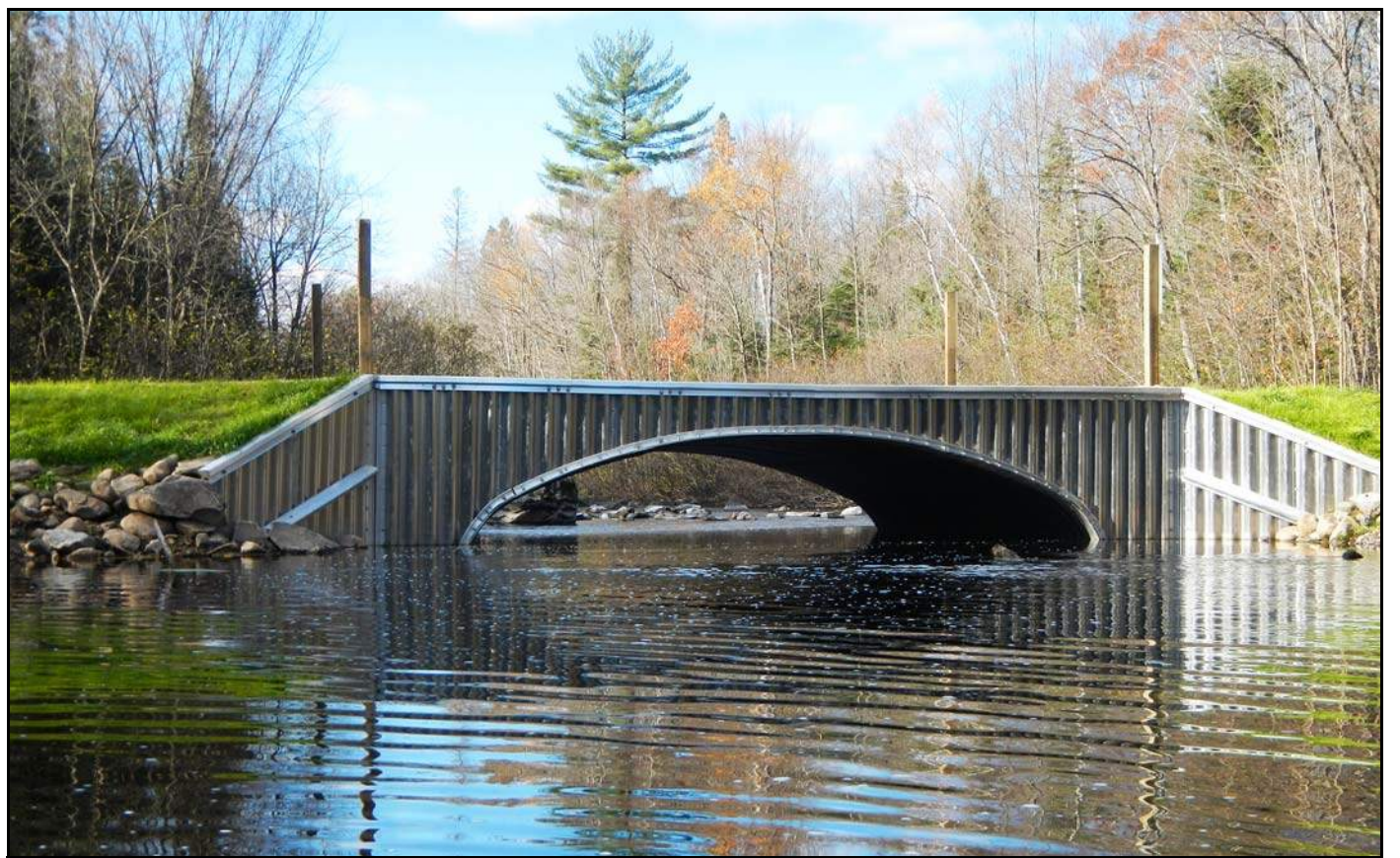
Aquatic connectivity and the resiliency of road stream crossings is of concern to many beyond TU. Successful local projects include a myriad of partners, including other organizations, like The Nature Conservancy and local watershed groups, and representatives from agencies including DNR, U.S. Forest Service, DATCP, Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service.

It is important to determine early

on if others share your concerns locally and to explore what they are doing to address the issue. Your local DNR transportation liaison can let you know who the key stakeholders are in your area. They can provide insight into which municipalities are most engaged in fish-friendly culvert design and where there may be a need for additional education and outreach.

Next, strive to identify and engage other potential partners. Remember this issue resonates with those who are concerned about the health of our rivers, the integrity of our roads and resilience against floods.

Local engagement in your municipality about the importance of making improvements at problem sites is also helpful. Most public road stream crossings in Wisconsin are on town roads, followed by county high-

**TROUT ALREADY USING UPSTREAM REACHES VIA NEW BOX CULVERT**

In August 2017, crews installed the new Hunting River culvert, and the river response was immediate. The new 27-foot wide by almost 8-foot tall aluminum box culvert was designed based on river characteristics and modeled flood flows. The newly connected river has meant that trout are now being observed in upstream reaches for the first time.

ways. Attending town board and county highway department meetings and having informed dialogue with representatives is important.

Maintaining transportation infrastructure is a challenging and often thankless task. Many times, road departments only hear complaints and concerns about the road surface and not what's underneath. Early warning is also important; it is difficult to put all the needed pieces into place when a road crossing is in dire need of replacement. The earlier that sites are identified, the better.

Unfortunately, limited funding and limited access to engineering services mean that it isn't possible to

replace all road stream crossings that are serving as barriers to fish passage or impacting instream habitat. Therefore, thoughtful planning is imperative to ensure that highest-priority crossings receive a portion of the limited funding. Often, the first step is to inventory and assess road stream crossings within a watershed. Trout Unlimited volunteers and watershed organizations have assisted with inventories. These efforts have directly led to the allocation of state and federal funding to projects.

Collaboration is key to successful. The Hunting River project would not have been possible without the

contributions of many stakeholders. The authors would like to acknowledge and thank TU members and TU Marinette, Wolf River, Antigo, Green Bay and Wild River chapters, along with a great project team, including Jeff McKinney of the Town of Elcho, Molly McKay from Langlade County LCD, Stacy Dehne of DATCP, Dave Seibel from the DNR, DNR River Protection grant staff, Stibbe Excavating and Grading and Eric Strum of Contech Engineered Solutions. We encourage readers to build partnerships like the ones that supported the Hunting River project, collaborating to help fix roads to fix Wisconsin rivers.

## WITU invited to join the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame Foundation

I was thrilled when we received a letter from Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame (WCHF) inviting Wisconsin TU to become an "Organizational Member" of the WCHF Foundation.

Periodically, WCHF invites statewide conservation organizations to better the diversity and success of conservation efforts in Wisconsin. Wisconsin TU was selected because of our success in conserving, protecting and restoring Wisconsin's coldwater fisheries and

their watersheds. Also, by contributions of TU leaders already inducted in the WCHF.

The WCHF Foundation was formed in 1985 as a cooperative venture of the 16 statewide conservation organizations to promote the "Conservation Idea" by recognizing individuals who have contributed significantly to the advancement of conservation and the nation. Over the past 33 years, the WCHF has grown to 31 Organizational Voting Members. During this time, the

WCHF has inducted 91 conservation leaders during its annual spring induction ceremonies. As an organizational member in the WCHF, WITU responsibilities included selecting a representative to serve on the Board of Directors, participate in the WCHF induction selection process and ceremony, and by paying an annual due. Linn Beck is going to be our representative on the Board of Directors, who will have an additional set of responsibilities.

This year's inductees include Roy and Charlotte Lukes, George Meyer, and Arlie Schorger. The 34th Annual induction ceremony will be held Saturday, April 14, starting at 9 a.m. at the Sentry Theatre at Sentry Headquarters in Stevens Point Wisconsin. There is a luncheon is \$25 per person and you can register on line at <http://bit.ly/WCHF2018Registration> or you can call 715-346-4992. Please come out to support the WCHF.

—Linn Beck, Council Chair

### Please help

*Wisconsin Trout wants your feedback*

As a Wisconsin TU member, Wisconsin Trout is *your* publication. We welcome your suggestions and hope you will take a few minutes to give us your feedback.

What do you like about Wisconsin Trout?

Is there anything you'd like to see more of?

Are there any specific topics you'd like us to cover?

Do you like the addition of color to select pages?

Please share your ideas, suggestions, comments and criticisms by sending them to [toddfranklinwistrout@gmail.com](mailto:toddfranklinwistrout@gmail.com).



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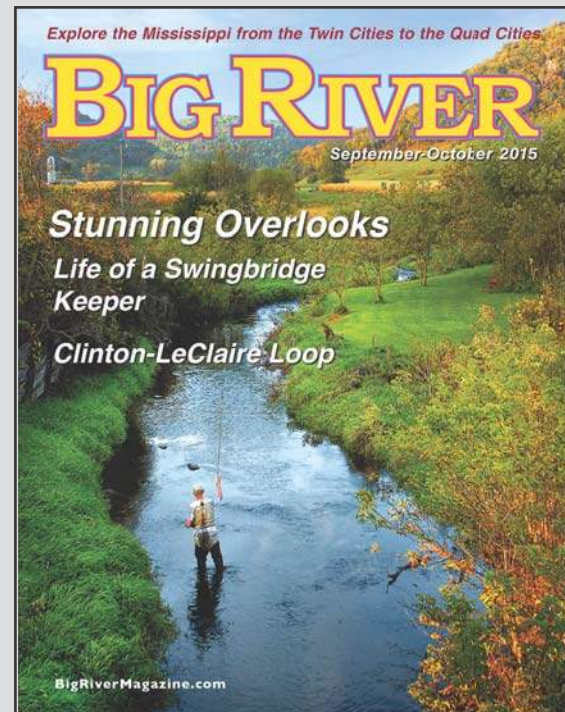
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