



# Wisconsin Trout

Summer 2018



## WITU chapters committed to serving veterans

*Three chapters make difficult decision to cut ties with Project Healing Waters.*

By Mike Kuhr, Council Vice Chair and VSP Coordinator

With the recent rise in popularity of TU's Veterans Service Partnership (VSP), many chapters have increased efforts to serve our military veterans and welcome them into our TU community. Here in Wisconsin, some of our chapters have been working specifically with veterans for more than a decade.

Our most popular programs involved a partnership between TU chapters in Milwaukee (SEWTU), Madison (SWTU) and Green Bay (GBTU) and the Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing (PHWFF) organization. These local chapters have been providing fly-fishing instruction to local veterans at VA hospitals as part of their recreational therapy programs.

According to their mission statement, Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc. is dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled active military ser-

vice personnel and disabled veterans through fly fishing and associated activities including education and outings.

Over the last year, the PHWFF organization has become more stringent about enforcing a policy asking local volunteers to verify the disability status of veterans before allowing them to participate. This has put our volunteers in a difficult position. If veterans are receiving treatment at the VA hospital for some reason, we've always welcomed them to join our fly fishing classes, regardless of their disability status. Sometimes we've even invited VA staff or a veterans spouse or children to participate.

The program leads and volunteers at each of these three programs – Milwaukee, Madison and Green Bay -- have made the difficult decision to cut ties with the PHWFF organization. However, our commitment to serving veterans in these lo

See *VSP*, page 4

### A BEAUTIFUL RAINBOW TROUT

Veterans from the Milwaukee VA hospital recently participated in SEWTU's Veterans On The Fly program at Rushing Waters Fisheries in Palmyra.



## Wisconsin TU announces policy priorities

By Matt Krueger and Mike Kuhr

Even though legislators have left the Capitol to focus on in-district events through the upcoming election season, the WITU Advocacy Committee remains active. The Committee has outlined its conservation policy objectives for the next year and re-authorization of the state's stewardship program tops the list. Other priorities include protecting groundwater and surface water resources, increasing the

trout stamp fee, and fully funding natural resource agencies and critical related programs.

According to Council Chair Linn Beck: "not only do we fight for our coldwater resources and the trout, but in the long run, we are fighting for the most important resource that all of us need: water."

The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program has protected and provided public access to hundreds of miles of trout streams, via streambank easements. This vital program allows WITU to leverage hundreds of thousands of non-state dollars to restore and improve fishing on these streams, which draw out-of-state anglers from all over the country. It is about as good a return on investment as one can find. WITU supports re-authorizing the stewardship program at current funding levels.

Protections for groundwater supply have been eliminated in recent years, endangering the supply of vital flow to the spring-fed streams that support trout in Wisconsin. Sportfishing is annually a \$2 billion industry Wisconsin, and in order for it to remain vital, WITU believes that both periodic review and the consideration of cumulative impacts should be allowed for within the high-capacity well-permitting process.

Every year, trout anglers pay an extra \$10 fee on their fishing license for a trout stamp, and the funds go directly into habitat work that makes fishing better. Most anglers happily support paying the fee, particularly as they are aware that funding for natural resources has been reduced in recent years. However, the trout stamp fee has not been raised since 2006. WITU supports a moderate increase to the trout stamp fee, provided it continues to be managed in a segregated account that directly funds trout stream habitat improvements.

WITU has a strong partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Whether fisheries biologists improving trout habitat in streams, technicians operating heavy equipment to restore a degraded stream, or runoff management specialists working with landowners to minimize erosion from uplands, DNR staff do essential work in protecting and restoring trout streams.

In recent years, funding has been slashed to these critical areas of DNR, and recent heavy equipment sales are making restoration projects more expensive to undertake. WITU supports fully funding biologist and technician positions in the Fisheries Bureau, nonpoint source pollution management specialists in the Runoff Management Bureau, and review of the heavy equipment sales so that our trout streams can thrive, and Wisconsin can continue to attract more than 335,000 annual angling visitors.

The funding for county conservation departments that work with private landowners to reduce polluted runoff to trout streams is at 60 percent of what it was 20 years ago. WITU supports fully funding county conservation departments, and the state funds they utilize to implement conservation on private lands.

Keep an eye out for upcoming action alerts to find out what you can do to push for these important policies. We'd also recommend inviting your elected officials out to a stream restoration project this summer. It's a great way to showcase the work we're doing while strengthening relationships with decision makers.



## Chairman's Column

# The time is now



**COUNCIL CHAIR LINN BECK ENJOYING HIMSELF ON A WESTERN RIVER**

Linn Beck encourages all members to think about how they can offer their skills and abilities to further our mission as dedicated TU members.

## Letters

Recently a letter from the "Pine Melanchthon Group" was sent to all of the Natural Resource Board members, the Trout Management Plan Team, DNR Secretary Dan Meyer and biologists in the Bureau of Fish Management.

In it was the claim that the 1990 Trout Regulations were the reason that trout harvest has declined in Southern Wisconsin trout streams despite increasing populations of brown trout.

Normally, I would not comment on a letter of this type except that the return address was mine and I neither wrote the letter nor was contacted by the group for permission to use my return address.

My legal counsel has indicated this could be fraudulent in that the author intentionally posed as me to present a position he espouses as coming from me. It could be libelous in that it was intentional (yes), false (yes) and damaging to my reputation if there were people that thought it came from me (likely, yes).

At the very least he misappropriated my identity by using my address to identify me as the sender.

The trout resource in Southern Wisconsin continues to be managed by professional biologists who have the best interests of both the anglers and the resource in mind. There are also almost limitless opportunities for those who want to keep fish to do so. I wish the Pine Melanchthon Group would just go fishing instead of using potentially illegal methods in an attempt to get their point across.

David Vetrano  
Fisheries Biologist (retired)

**Scott's** Scott W. Grady  
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By Linn Beck

Everyone talks about timing in their lives. Whether it is the right time, wrong time, bad time, or I really need to make some time. If you have time to spare to help our waters, our kids and our veterans, we will always welcome your help.

We've been dealing with many issues lately, from mining and CAFO's to high-capacity wells, which all very important environmental issues revolving around water. They are constantly needing our attention, and we have plans to deal with these issues. Our members have done a fantastic amount of advocating for our coldwater resources, but we still need to be vigilant and think of ways to get a head of these issues, and not have to be reactive.

One thing that comes to mind is water monitoring. There are a lot of teams out there taking flow readings, dissolved oxygen, macro invertebrate studies and phosphorous numbers on quite a few of our streams, but there are a lot of streams that need the same attention.

This recorded data will provide a baseline when discussing such things as water withdrawals, or determining sources of contaminants. The insect recording will give an indication of the health of the stream and provide a great baseline. Having good baseline data on a section of water or a watershed could make a difference on a decision that might further impact that stream or watershed.

Why am I writing this? Earlier this spring we were contacted by Jake Lemmon, the Eastern Angler Science Coordinator for TU National. We are working with Jake to develop a plan of attack. My hope is that our chapters can identify waters in their areas that at some point may need protection, and we can set up a program to get these waters monitored and thereby provide some protection for them. Of course, at some point there will be an ask for volunteers to help for the monitor-

ing. I can tell you from experience it takes about a half hour to do, which leaves time for fishing if you are going to be at the stream anyway. There will be more to follow on this as our plan develops.

Another concern coming from chapter leaders is how do our chapters fill important vacancies? Our chapter leaders make the ask all the time from their membership to join them on their boards, committees and the chapter activities. This takes me back to right time, wrong time, or possibly making the time to help.

I know a lot of our members have other obligations. I was in that position also. I used to sit around and complain to my wife about the state of the streams I fished, what was being done to fix these issues and of course why isn't this being fixed in my timeline. Hey, I'm human. Then one day she turned to me and told me that I should quite complaining about things and do something about it.

So, I started first with getting to a chapter meeting, feeling out the waters. Then after a couple of meetings and hearing the issues, I thought that I could get involved and try and help on a problem area. Nothing big at first. Just a workday here and there. Next thing some more time freed up and I was asked to sit on the board. You can probably guess what happened from there. I became work day chair, vice-president, then president, state council vice-chair and now chair.

I am not saying that this the route I would like to see all of you take, but it was funny how I thought I didn't have any free time to help and just by attending a couple of meetings I really felt that I could make a difference. The best thing about all this was finally my wife could sit next to me and not listen to me carry on about what needs to be done.

There's no better time than now, so I am asking to please help wherever you can to make a difference. I am sure any time you can give would be greatly appreciated.

## Back 40 Project receives permit

On June 4 the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality approved Aquila Resources' wetland permit for the Back 40 Project with significant conditions. The extensive conditions and MDEQ's own comments have led many to believe this permit did not get approved by its merits.

In their letter approving the wetland permit MDEQ stated, "We have determined that the project as proposed could not be permitted without additional supporting documentation because the hydrologic modeling provided does not define the anticipated impacts to aquatic resources described in the application."

They continue, "However, based on the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) recommendations, the MDEQ can issue a permit with conditions that require revised groundwater and wetland modeling to demonstrate existing and future site conditions and impacts proposed by the project."

These conditions, and the conditions on the three other Back 40 permits, require a lot of work from Aquila Resources. Many of these conditions include information that has been requested from Aquila Resources for some time and they haven't satisfactory provided the required information. All of the partners that have been working together to stop this proposal are reviewing the permit details and all of the options available next.

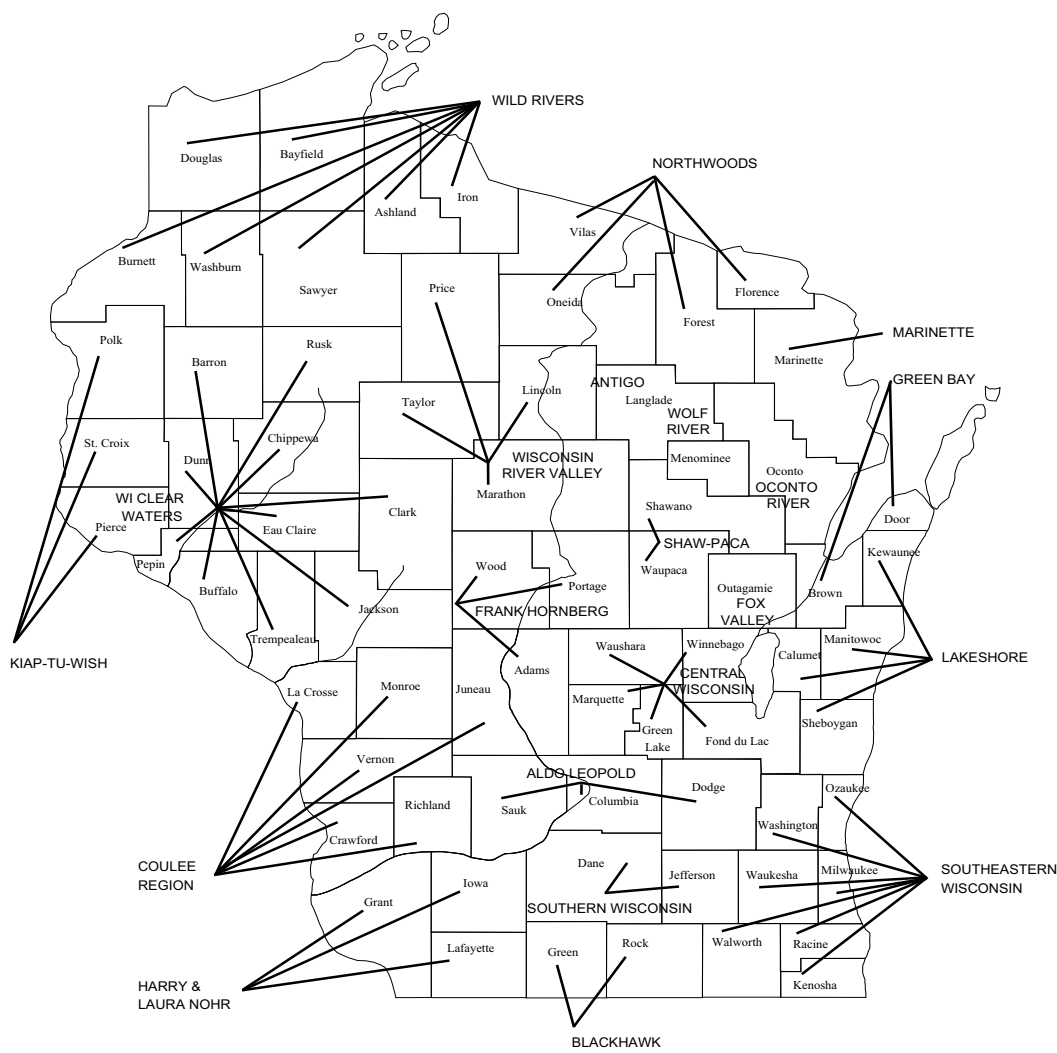
You can learn more about the deficiencies in the permit in the press release from the Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition, <http://savethewildup.org/>.

If you want to stay up-to-date on this topic, you can sign up for email alerts from the River Alliance of Wisconsin, <https://www.wisconsinrivers.org/back-forty/>

—Allison Werner, Wisconsin River Alliance



## Wisconsin TU Chapters, Presidents, and Websites



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## Are you getting emails from TU?

If you are currently not receiving news and event-related email messages from your chapter, the state council and TU National, then you are truly missing out on what's happening at all three levels. TU National manages the mailing list for the council and chapters, so update your address by going to [www.tu.org](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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### State Council Officers

Executive Committee includes officers and vice chairs

**Linn Beck, Chair**

**Mike Kuhr, Vice Chair**

**Tom Lager, Secretary**

**Gary Stoychoff, Treasurer**

VSP, from page 1

cations has remained strong, and all three programs continue to operate under the TU Veterans Service Partnership umbrella.

By running these programs solely through our local chapters, we're able to tailor each program to meet the needs of the unique patient populations at the VA hospitals. It also allows us to open the programs to all veterans, and not just those with disabilities.

PHWFF did give our programs some name credibility, and they generously supported each program with annual funding for certain activities. Our chapters seem confident that they can make up the funding gap with local donations. In a re-branding effort, we've titled the new programs Veterans On The Fly.

Wisconsin TU friend Eric Christensen created a catchy logo for our Veterans On The Fly programs to use. While not required, we've offered it for use to our chapters that are teaching veterans to fly fish. SEWTU, SWTU and GBTU have all adopted the name and logo for their programs.

I've personally watched the transition in Madison, and the SWTU-Veterans On The Fly program is doing great. Aside from the name change, I don't think any of the veterans noticed a difference in the quality of the program being provided. We have the same great TU volunteers, providing the same fly-fishing instruction, and the same willingness to share their passion for the outdoors with our veterans.

GBTU leaders Paul Kruse and Gary Gillis, SEWTU leader John Graba and SWTU leaders Steve Davis and Mike Johnson deserve a tremendous amount of credit for navigating their respective programs through a very difficult situation. Our volunteer support has been tremendous.

SWTU recently wrapped up an eight-week fly-fishing course which featured trips to places like Black Earth Creek and Salmo Pond. They will start another eight-week course in July. SEWTU just welcomed 14

new veteran participants by sending them on a trip to Rushing Waters Fisheries for a day of trout catching. Several SWTU participants made the trip as well. Literally hundreds of rainbow trout were brought to hand.

GBTU's Veterans On The Fly program has a consistent group of vets that meet every other week at Tight Lines Fly Shop in De Pere. Fly-casting lessons with hula-hoop targets and several trips to local bass and bluegill ponds have been popular so far.

Other chapters have found success with TU's Veterans Service Partnership as well. Last summer, volunteers from Northwoods and the Wisconsin River Valley chapters did some fly tying and fishing with veterans and their families at Camp American Legion near Minocqua.

This spring the Coulee Region Chapter held a fly-tying class at the VA hospital in Tomah and also put together an outing for veterans on the West Fork of the Kickapoo River. CRTU's VSP Coordinator Will Lusignan expects even more activities for veterans in the future.

Fox Valley Chapter VSP Coordinator Jeff Moureau has been taking a slightly different approach. He and others from FVTU have spent the last few months reaching out to the veteran community at the local VA Clinic, American Legion and Fox Valley Technical College. Their efforts include inviting veterans to various chapter activities, from chapter meetings to fishing outings to workdays, and they even offered veterans free admission to their incredibly popular Cabin Fever Day event. The groundwork has been laid for another successful VSP program.

To all those dedicated volunteers and supporters who make our work with veterans possible, we salute you.

To find out more about how you can help your chapter serve veterans in your community, contact Council VSP Coordinator Mike Kuhr at [mikek.trout@yahoo.com](mailto:mikek.trout@yahoo.com).



Mike Kuhr

**PLENTY OF BENT RODS IN PALMYRA**

Veterans from both the Milwaukee and the Madison VA hospital and volunteers from SEWTU & SEWTU enjoyed great fishing together at Rushing Waters in Palmyra.

To find out more about how you can help your chapter serve veterans in your community, contact Council VSP Coordinator Mike Kuhr at [mikek.trout@yahoo.com](mailto:mikek.trout@yahoo.com).



Mike Kuhr

**A PLEASANT DAY OF FISHING IN PALMYRA**

Veterans from the Milwaukee VA hospital recently participated in SEWTU's Veterans On The Fly program at Rushing Waters Fisheries in Palmyra.

# Next Council meeting October 6

The State Council will hold its fall meeting on Saturday, October 6 in Rhinelander. The meeting will be held from 9 a.m. until about 2 p.m. at the James William Middle School, 915 Acacia Lane.

The Council requests that each chapter have at least one member in attendance. If you plan to attend, please inform Council Chair Linn Beck so we can estimate food for lunch, which is always provided at Council meetings.

If you have any items to be added to the agenda, please contact Linn Beck. His email address is [chlbeck@att.net](mailto:chlbeck@att.net).



**NEW LOGO FOR VETERAN'S PROGRAM**

Wisconsin TU friend Eric Christensen created a catchy logo for our Veterans On The Fly programs to use. While not required, we've offered it for use to our chapters that are teaching veterans to fly fish. SEWTU, SWTU and GBTU have all adopted the name and logo for their programs.

# Streambank Protection Program update

By Paul Cunningham, DNR

The Streambank Protection (SBP) Program purchases easements directly from landowners. In return for payment, the landowner allows public fishing and hiking, and DNR management activities along the stream corridor on their property. The easement area is generally 66 feet of land from the stream bank on either side of the stream. Easements are perpetual and remain on the land even if it sold or deeded to an heir. The SBP program has been popular with landowners and anglers. Landowners enjoy the ability to sell part of their rights in their property and in some cases get assistance from the DNR or local conservation clubs in restoring the stream corridor, while anglers enjoy access to streams that provide high-quality recreational experiences.

As part of the re-tooling of the Streambank Protection Program, the DNR set forth a goal to purchase stream bank easements along 100 miles of stream. The Natural Resources Board approved this new strategy in October 2013. Since June of 2014, nine Local Implementation Teams have worked with con-

servation partners across the state to buy easements directly from landowners within their focus areas.

To date, the DNR has acquired streambank easements from 125 landowners along 52.2 miles of stream at a cost \$2.94 million. We are now more than halfway home toward accomplishing our 100-mile goal. The ability of the department to meet this 100-mile goal is influenced by the staffing and effectiveness of the department's local implementation teams, our outreach efforts, coalition building, a streamlined acquisition process, local real estate market, and of course, funding.

Recent SBP easement acquisitions are found in 27 counties across the state, although Crawford, Dane, Dunn, Eau Claire, Grant and Pierce counties hold a larger share of the new acquisition projects.

Once the easements are purchased their specific locations are available via the Department's Public Access Lands Mapping Application; Public Access Lands Mapping Application or the Trout Viewer. Bureau of Fisheries Management staff have made a couple new enhancements to the Trout Viewer; we added habitat project locations and



**Streambank Protection Program**  
Providing angling access and protecting habitat along premier streams in our State

Photo by Tim Romano

also show county-owned fishing easements.

I would also like to give a big thanks to the Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Chapter for co-sponsoring the Pecatonica Watershed Streambank Supper in January. It was a great event, and time

well spent visiting with trout stream landowners discussing conservation options for their property.

For more information about the Streambank Protection Program please visit the DNR's website at <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/StreamBank/>

## More than 100 miles of improved trout habitat added to online T.R.O.U.T. tool

*Partnerships with fishing clubs, local governments benefit fish and anglers.*

More than 400 projects improving trout habitat on more than 100 miles of streams are now easier for inland anglers to find and fish.

The project locations and details have been added to the Department of Natural Resources' online T.R.O.U.T. tool, giving anglers a ready resource to help guide them to stream segments where fish populations and angler access are benefitting from the projects, says Joanna Griffin, Department of Natural Resources trout team coordinator.

"These projects occur on trout streams all over the state in inland brook trout and brown trout streams and Lake Superior tributaries," she says. "They would not have been possible without the help and support from our partners."

### Trout habitat work benefits fish and anglers

Griffin says the projects were conducted from 2011 through 2016 and range from brush removal and access to maintenance and larger in-stream habitat improvements. Much of the work is funded through trout stamp revenues: anglers fishing inland waters for trout are required to buy a \$10 inland trout stamp and the resulting revenues are used to support trout habitat improvement and habitat maintenance projects, and trout population surveys.

Increasingly, fishing clubs, other conservation groups and federal, tribal and local entities are playing a bigger role in providing funding and labor. These examples illustrate the importance of these partnerships for fish and anglers, Griffin says:

- DNR staff and multiple partners teamed up in 2015-6 to improve fishing access and wild brown and brook trout populations on the Upper Kinnickinnic River.

Their efforts resulted in 1,572 feet of riprap along two banks, nine lunger covers installed, one riffle, one plunge pool, 17 root wads installed, and two cattle crossings upgraded. Trout stamp revenues and fisheries land funds covered about one-third of the cost; other partners contributing funds included the St. Croix Conservation Fund, Fairmount Santrol, Friends of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited, Patagonia, Embrace A Stream, Carpicide Tournament, and Kiap-TU-Wish chapter of Trout Unlimited. Partners contributed more than 1,200 volunteer hours cutting and burning trees, removing fence, building lunkers and seeding and mulching. Surveys after project completion showed the fish numbers more than doubled in the section with habitat work.

- Phase II of the Fall Creek trout habitat improvement project was completed downstream of County Highway T in Pepin County in fall 2017, stabilizing more than 1,700 feet of bank and adding trout habitat including root wads, plunge pools, boulder clusters and riffles. Financial support for this project was provided by Pepin County, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Rock Falls Sportsman's Club, Durand Sportsman's Club, Clear Waters Chapter of Trout Unlimited and Xcel Energy. Fisheries biologists expect a similar boost in trout populations to what habitat improvement work immediately upstream yielded: recent survey data found a five-fold increase in brook trout over eight inches long.
- A stretch of Buckhorn Creek in Sawyer County that was the bed of an old beaver pond has been transformed, thanks to the efforts of DNR staff, the Wild Riv-

er Chapter of Trout Unlimited and the Lac Courte Oreilles Youth Conservation Corps. The bed of the beaver dam was removed, brush bundles were used to re-channelize the stream and scour out the 6-10 inches of muck that had been covering the old stream bed. Now, native brook trout are moving back into the area and are successfully spawning.

Such partnerships and anglers' purchase of trout stamps have paid off over the years: habitat improvements have played an important role in increasing angler opportunities and the mileage of Class 1 trout streams from 3,536 miles in 1980 to more than 5,000 today. To access the online tool, search the DNR website at [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) and use the keyword "trout."

Source: Wisconsin DNR

## The reliables!

We'd like to thank and recognize WITU's most consistent financial supporters. The following people have made donations to our Friends of Wisconsin TU grant program for at least five consecutive years.

Edwin Barnes

Charles Barnhill

John & Susan Bleimehl

Stephen Born

Andrew Cook II

Richard DuPlessie

Ashton Hawk

Stephen Hawk

Bill Heart

Walter Heil Jr.

Bob Hellyer

Jeff Jackson

John Kenealy III

Lane Kistler

Barb & Joe Kruse

Doug MacFarland

Cris Meyer

Cherly & Winston

Ostrow

Ron Rellatz

Bob Retko

James School

Robert Selk

John Shillinglaw

Gary Stoychoff

Greg Vodak

Don Wagner

Dan Wisniewski

Robert Wyman

Fred Young



# WITU Youth Camp V shaping up nicely

This year's camp is well on its way and is experiencing a very exciting first. The camp was full to capacity by mid-May. I reported at the spring Council meeting that we had two spots open and by the time I returned home and opened my computer and got into my emails we were full. A huge "thank you" goes out to the chapters for making this happen.

There are some changes this year. In February at CWTU's Trout-Fest, Shawn Sullivan said that after talking to his crew, all of them agreed that they wanted to be more involved after hearing the stories of how much fun it was for the volunteers at the camp. Everyone working out of the Wild Rose DNR office has graciously offered their time to help with the various activities and presentations.

Each year the enthusiasm grows. With a major focus of teaching all aspects of fishing, we were able to

work out a couple of conservation opportunities for the camp this year. In working with Shawn, we were able to build on his conservation talk and this year's youth will have the opportunity to see a TU work day in progress. Students will get to see the work being done and really understand why it is being done.

Jim Wierzba of SEWTU and our Southern Regional vice president, has set up the opportunity for the youth camp attendees to join the Wisconsin Conservation Congress as youth delegates and will contact them all with the opportunity to take their conservation interests one step farther after completion of the camp.

We are still in need of some volunteers as mentors. Contact Wayne Parmley at 920-540-2315 or [wparmley@gmail.com](mailto:wparmley@gmail.com). This year's camp should be very exciting and informative, thanks to all our volunteers.

# Attention Wisconsin TU members Council requests bylaw amendment

The Wisconsin Trout Unlimited State Council would like to make an amendment to our bylaws. We would like to address item B in Article III Section 2 which reads:

"B. Officers may serve for multiple terms, except that the Chair may not serve more than two consecutive terms. As provided in the Bylaws of Trout Unlimited, the NLC Representative shall serve a maximum of five consecutive one year terms."

We would like to amend this section to:

"B. Officers may serve for multiple terms, except that the Chair may not serve more than one 3-year term. As provided in the Bylaws of Trout Unlimited, the NLC Representative shall serve a maximum of five consecutive one year."

With this announcement we would like to call a special meeting at the October 6 meeting for this purpose, per Article VI listed below:

"These bylaws may be added to, amended or repealed in whole or in part, by a two-thirds majority vote of the Council members at the Annual Meeting or a special meeting called for that purpose, provided that notice of the proposed changes has been provided at least 45 days prior to the meeting."

# Road-stream crossing workshop Oct 2-4

Professionals can learn about inventorying, assessing, designing and constructing proper road-stream crossings.



There will be a workshop for those who deal with road/stream crossings on October 2-4 at the

University of Wisconsin-Platteville. Those who can benefit from this workshop include designers or installers of road-stream crossings, managers of road systems with stream crossings, regulators of municipal or private road-stream crossings and private and public partners interested in protecting and enhancing stream connectivity

The workshop is \$125 per person and includes three days of lunches, snacks and beverages, workshop binder and transportation to field sites. Please enroll by September 14, 2018. Enroll early, as the limit is 40 attendees. To enroll, visit <https://gifts.tu.org/road-stream-workshop>. Twenty Professional Development Hours (PDH's) are available. Payment can be made with credit card via the registration link below. Additional information can be found in the "Learning" tab at <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic.Sectors/Transportation.html>.



## REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS, WOMEN'S OPPORTUNITIES HIGHLIGHT THE TALKS AT THE RECENT TUDARE WESTBY WORKSHOP

Regional restoration partnerships and women's opportunities highlighted the talks at the TUDARE Westby Workshop in early April, and attendees were excited about the ideas they heard and took home. A women's panel organized by Amy Klusmeier of Southern Wisconsin TU featured (left to right) Klusmeier, Valley Stewardship Network Director Shelley Brenneman, TU's National Leadership Development Manager Lisa Beranek and Lysianne Unruh, Ice Age Trail Alliance. They brought numerous ideas for developing successful events for women and families.

Building on lessons learned from TUDARE, two strong sub-regional partnerships are being built in northeast Wisconsin and central Wisconsin. Kim McCarthy and Tom Lager described those efforts, and Iowa Driftless TU's Gary Arner reported on a new effort to organize around restoration efforts in northeast Iowa's Driftless streams. A dinner catered by the Rockton Tavern and featuring their "soon to be world famous" grilled chicken was the featured event Saturday evening. The first Westby Workshop was conducted by TUDARE in 2006. Since then, we've trained more than 500 volunteers how to organize and carry out restoration projects.

—Duke Welter, TUDARE



We're Celebrating 25 Years

By partnering with conservation groups we protect and enhance quality lake and river fishing. Through our fundraising efforts, we donate to children's fishing programs, conservation groups such as The River Alliance. We fund boat ramp improvements and work in cooperation with the Fisheries Bureau, Conservation Congress, and the Natural Resources Board.

**Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance**

Join the fun - [wisconsin-smallmouth.com](http://wisconsin-smallmouth.com)





Bob Haase

### FULL CONCENTRATION REQUIRED

All concentration is on tying the fly. Bill Millonig from the Central Wisconsin Chapter is shown helping this child tie his first fly. It is great to see the expressions on their faces as they tie the fly and you can only imagine the excitement they might have catching a fish on the fly they tied.



Bob Haase

### KIDS JUST LOVE THE HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES

Dave Brethbauer from the Blackhawk Chapter sure had the attention of this student learning to tie his first fly. Hands-on activities like this are very popular with the kids.

## Midwest Outdoor Heritage Expo report

By Bob Haase, WITU Education Chair

The Midwest Outdoor Heritage Education Expo seems to get better every year. It is well organized, from the coordination with the schools to the events taking place on the grounds. Every year it seems like they add a few more events for the kids to participate in, and everything just seems to flow smoothly. The only thing that I see that they could improve on is making a program like this available for the northern half of the state.

We helped 839 kids tie a fly this year, and many spoke of being able to use it when they go fishing with their dad or grandfather. We provide handouts showing how they can take the fly they tied and put it behind a spinning float or small bobber to catch bluegills. We are not trying to make them fly tyers or fly fishers. We are just trying to get them hooked on fishing.

A special thanks goes out to all the volunteers. Some traveled quite a distance and some took vacation to spend the day helping the kids tie flies. This

year's volunteers included: Jerry Smet, Rand Vander Schaaf, Tom Connelly, Bob Haase, Bill Millonig, Mike San Dretto, Jim Murphy, John Tucker, Bob Burke, Dave Ehrenberg, Ira Giese, Linda Lehman, Jarad Sagal, Mike Stapleton, Julie Vandenberg, Dave Brethbauer and Bob Asam. The next time you see these volunteers, please thank them for their service. These kids will always remember this day.

This event usually takes place the third Wednesday and Thursday in May. Put those dates on your calendar for next year and make plans to volunteer with fly tying, or perhaps help us introduce a new activity, such as knot tying. Maybe TU could put together a display showing the work we do on our streams, or water monitoring. Maybe we could have a display showing the different kinds of fish we have in Wisconsin waters and have the kids identify them. We have almost a year to think about the things we can do for next year, in addition to the fly tying.

## Fishing community loses two important friends

On May 20 we lost two important friends and members of the fly fishing community. Brian Schumacher and his wife Janet Veit drowned while fly fishing in Iceland. Both were friends of mine and to so many more people here in the La Crosse and La Crescent area of the Driftless.

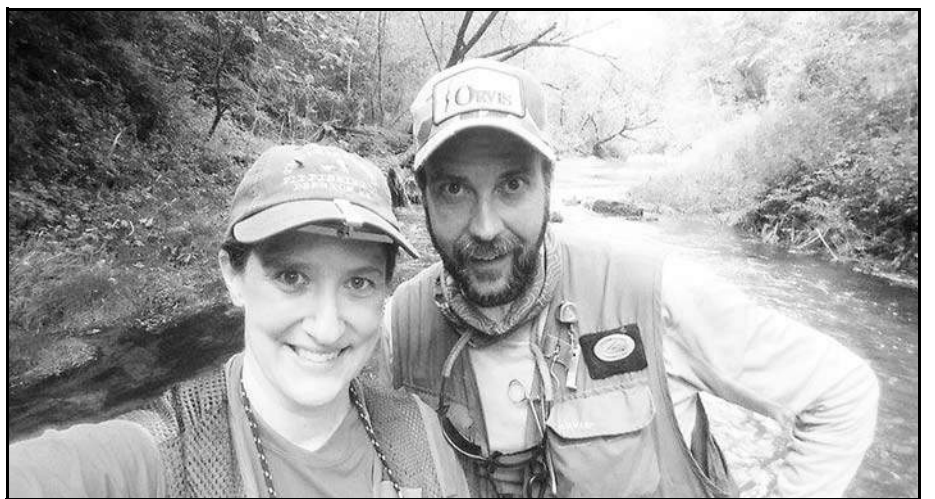
No matter how you knew Janet and Brian, you loved them. They enjoyed life and were role models for how to balance work and play. Brian had a successful career as a histotechnologist at Gundersen Health. My friend Jason and I would always kid him that histotechnologist was not a real job, and that he just made that word up. Janet was a beloved veterinarian at Hillside Animal Hospital and was kind and patient with her furry patients, including my own dog. She was compassionate with her patients and their owners, especially when pets were coming to the end of their lives.

I met Brian and Janet about five years ago when they attended the annual Coulee Region TU banquet. Both had just begun fly fishing after attending Trout Fest in Coon Valley. They loved the outdoors and adding fly fishing to their hobbies was the next step. The CRTU chapter offered fly casting demos to the Trout Fest attendees and Janet and Brian were eager learners.

Mel Haynor, owner of the Driftless Fly Fishing Company, was another important fishing mentor to Brian. For anyone who knew Brian, it is no surprise that he put 110 percent into his efforts to become an excellent angler. He was so successful that he was soon employed as a guide by Mel at his fly shop in Preston. Brian certainly loved catching his own fish, but he had great pride in helping other anglers find success on the streams in southeast Minnesota. Of course, Janet was also a quick learner with a fly rod and was preparing to join Brian and Mel as a guide later this summer.

Their outdoor activities took them all over the country, from the Sierra Nevadas of California to the Androscoggin River in New Hampshire and so many other trout waters in between. Their trip to Iceland was something they had planned for a long time, and they spent the last several months preparing all the right gear and tackle to ensure they found fish success. The preparation paid off as Janet landed a 27-inch, six-pound brown on one of their first outings in Iceland. My last communication with Janet was about this fish in the comments of her Instagram account. She exclaimed about this fish, "They fight! Took her to the backing."

Aside from their personal enjoyment with fly fishing and other outdoor activities, both Janet and Brian gave a lot back to the outdoor community. Brian loved writing articles for Midwest Hunting and Fishing to help others find success on the stream and in the field. He was also a key member of the Coulee Kennel Club and enjoyed time with other dog owners. Brian was an active member of the Win-Cres TU chapter of Minnesota. Brian and Janet were both very generous with their support of the Coulee Region chapter. In addition to attending our chapter banquet, they always donated an amazing raffle/auction prize or two. Last year they gave us an incredible bottle of small batch rye whiskey. This year, Brian tracked down a talented potter in



### FISHING COMMUNITY LOSES TWO IMPORTANT FRIENDS

The fly fishing community in the Driftless Area lost two important friends recently. Brian Schumacher and his wife Janet Veit drowned while fly fishing in Iceland. Relatively new to fly fishing, they took to it quickly and began writing, guiding, supporting TU activities and Reel Recovery, and much more.

New Mexico to provide two trout print tumblers that we used as prizes.

They also gave a lot of their time to help others enjoy the outdoors. Janet was a mentor in several women's fly-fishing clinics to help new anglers find success on the water. They both were on-the-stream volunteers for the local Reel Recovery retreats for men dealing with cancer. The past two years I was happy to have had them both as team members during the Cozad's Driftless 1Fly contest, an event that raises several thousand dollars each year for the Coulee chapter to fund youth outdoor activities. They were talented and fun teammates, but more importantly they were great mentors to my teenage son Gavin, who was just learning to fly fish.

We will miss Brian and Janet, but their memory should inspire us all to be as generous as they were with their time, talents and resources.

Memorial donations can be sent to the Win-Cres TU Chapter at 2199 Clinton Drive, Winona, Minnesota, 55987. Another option is to help fund a veterinary scholarship in Janet's name at the University of Minnesota. Donations can be made online at <https://crowdfund.umn.edu/VeitScholarship> or mailed to Hillside Animal Hospital, W5706 State Hwy 33, LaCrosse, Wisconsin 54601.

# Kinni included on endangered rivers list

*Selection based on factors including major decisions that the public can influence.*

The group American Rivers has included the Kinnickinnic River in its annual list of 10 most endangered rivers in the U.S., based on factors such as major decisions (that the public can help influence) in the coming year, the significance of the river to human and natural communities and the magnitude of the threat to the river and associated communities, especially in light of a changing climate.

The Kinnickinnic River (the "Kinni") is an Outstanding Resource Water and one of the best trout streams in the Midwest. Two dams disrupt a full mile of the Kinni in the heart of River Falls, Wisconsin, destroying habitat and warming the river by more than 4.5 degrees Fahrenheit.

Removing these dams would revitalize and restore the Lower Kinni's coldwater habitat, resurrect an entire mile of this world-class stream and fully restore the historic Junction Falls waterfall in the heart of the city. The City of River Falls must remove these dams before the river deteriorates under another 20 or more years of hydropower operation.

The Kinnickinnic River is the last major tributary to the Wild and Scenic St. Croix River before its confluence with the Mississippi River. The Lower Kinni drops more than 70 feet through a deep gorge. The Kinni is an extremely popular kayaking and trout fishing destination, drawing people from across Wisconsin and the Midwest to recreate on the free-flowing sections of the river.

This river anchors the local community's identity as the City of River Falls and is also home to three endangered mussel species: Higgins eye pearlymussel, spectaclecase mussel and snuffbox mussel.

## The threat

Two dams disrupt a full mile of the Kinnickinnic in the heart of River Falls, which in the absence of the dams would feature a beautiful drop of cascades and waterfalls. The Upper Dam destroys the falls, diverting all of the water from the Kinni's banks where the dry ledges of the waterfall sit today. The two dams on the Kinni support an outdated hydroelectric facility that causes fluctuations in flow, increases in water temperature, and directly impacts trout, macroinvertebrates, mussels and other wildlife.

The hydroelectric facility currently produces less than 2 percent (0.375 MW) of the electricity for the City of River Falls with a population of 15,000. The power could easily be replaced with conservation and efficiency measures. These dams do not provide recreation opportunities, flood control, irrigation, water storage, water supply, drinking water, navigation, quality fish habitat or aesthetic appeal. Further, the dams compound the impacts of increasing development and agricultural groundwater depletion

throughout the watershed.

Dam operations cause significant flow fluctuations in the Lower Kinni that stress vital reproductive sites for macroinvertebrates and trout. There is also a well-documented annual warming trend of the Kinni recorded since 1992, and the Lower Kinni is 4.5 degrees Fahrenheit warmer downstream of the dams than above the dams, which is a result of thermal pollution from the impoundments.

The combination of broader climate trends in warming and warming caused directly by the dams, presents an alarming threat to the sustainable future of the river.

The future of the Kinni is uncertain because the City of River Falls is considering relicensing this hydroelectric facility with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for continued operation of the Upper Dam through the year 2040.

The City Council passed a non-binding resolution on February 27, 2018, establishing a policy framework that acknowledges the fact that both dams should be removed from the Kinni. However, their current plan is to remove the Lower Dam in 2023 and postpone the removal of the Upper Dam until a target date of 2040. This more than 20-year delay in the complete restoration of the Kinnickinnic River is unacceptable.

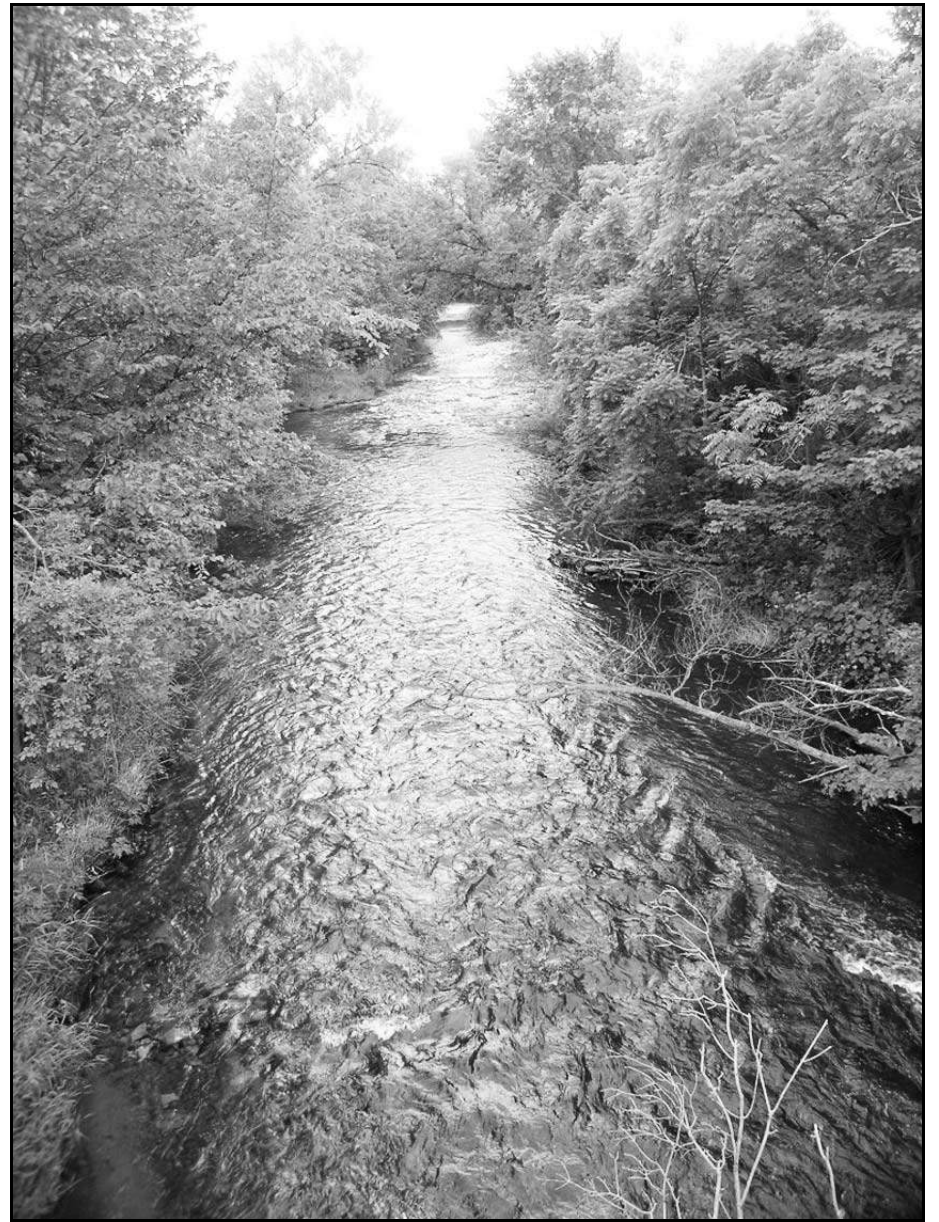
## What must be done

The Kinnickinnic River dams must be removed in order to achieve the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) goal of providing optimal temperatures for coldwater trout habitat in the Lower Kinni. In 1998, Wisconsin DNR's Kinnickinnic River Priority Watershed Report concluded that, "In order to achieve this long-term goal it would likely be necessary to alter, modify or remove the Kinnickinnic River impoundments in River Falls."

If the dam relicensing moves forward, it will be more than 40 years until potential restoration from the time of this report.

The time to restore the Kinnickinnic River is now. We cannot wait another 20 or more years to restore this special place and expect that the quality habitat that exists outside of the impoundments today will be attainable in the future. The City Council of River Falls must vote to remove both of these dams now before this opportunity passes by. Splitting the restoration of the Kinnickinnic River through dam removal into two projects, separated by two decades, will allow the continued degradation of this beautiful river and miss an amazing opportunity for our community to restore this river now.

The removal of these dams will restore a full mile of the Kinnickinnic's most scenic terrain, and is key to the preservation of the coldwater resource that is the Lower Kinni. This project would restore urban trout



stream habitat, provide whitewater and recreational kayaking opportunities, reveal the majestic Junction Falls Waterfall, and help pave the way for future river restoration projects.

--Source: American Rivers

*NOTE: The Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter has been actively involved in efforts to remove these dams. If you'd like more information on how you can help, contact Gary Horvath. His contact information is on page 3.*

## About the America's Most Endangered Rivers report

The America's Most Endangered Rivers report is one of the best-known and longest-lived annual reports in the environmental movement. Each year since 1984, grassroots river conservationists have teamed up with American Rivers to use the report to save their local rivers, consistently scoring policy successes that benefit these rivers and the communities through which they flow.

American Rivers reviews nominations for the America's Most Endangered Rivers report from river groups and concerned citizens across the country. Rivers are selected based upon the following criteria:

- A major decision (that the public can help influence) in the coming year on the proposed action
- The significance of the river to human and natural communities
- The magnitude of the threat to the river and associated communities, especially in light of a changing climate.

The report highlights 10 rivers whose fate will be decided in the coming year, and encourages decision-makers to do the right thing

for the rivers and the communities they support. The report is not a list of the nation's "worst" or most polluted rivers, but rather it highlights rivers confronted by critical decisions that will determine their future. The report presents alternatives to proposals that would damage rivers, identifies those who make the crucial decisions, and points out opportunities for the public to take action on behalf of each listed river.

Rivers American Rivers protects wild rivers, restores damaged rivers, and conserves clean water for people and nature. Since 1973, American Rivers has protected and restored more than 150,000 miles of rivers through advocacy efforts, on-the-ground projects, and an annual America's Most Endangered Rivers campaign. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., American Rivers has offices across the country and more than 275,000 members, supporters and volunteers. Rivers connect us to each other, nature and future generations. Find your connections at [AmericanRivers.org](http://AmericanRivers.org), [Facebook.com/AmericanRivers](https://www.facebook.com/AmericanRivers), and [Twitter.com/AmericanRivers](https://twitter.com/AmericanRivers).

Source: American Rivers



# Nominations sought for 2019 State Council awards

The Wisconsin State Council of TU believes it is important to recognize the outstanding efforts of our members and the broader conservation community, and we have been presenting a number of awards since 1983.

We are currently seeking nominations for awards to be presented in February at the annual meeting and banquet in Oshkosh. We rely on you, our members and leaders, to let us know about

those who deserve special recognition. So please take time nominate individuals, groups or others you feel qualify for one of our awards.

Please submit your nominations, including a short narrative, to Awards Committee Chair Todd Franklin by December 10, 2018. Please contact Todd if you have any questions. His email address is toddfranklinwistrout@gmail.com and his other contact information is on page 2.

The awards committee also includes Bill Heart, Mike Kuhr and Henry Koltz. We welcome additional members to this committee, so please consider it. It takes very little time, and is one of the most rewarding things we do for TU: recognizing those members, chapters, groups, businesses and professionals that support our mission.

## Wisconsin State Council Awards

### Resource Award of Merit

Recipient can be a person, corporation or organization and may be a nonmember. Award can be presented posthumously.

Award is given for outstanding contributions to conservation (does not need to be given for trout or salmon contributions).

### Gold Trout Award for Service

Recipient must be a member in good standing of Wisconsin TU.

Award will be presented to any person who has been an officer of the State Council, a national director, or any committee chairperson.

This individual must have served at least one year of his or her term.

### Silver Trout Award for Chapter Merit

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

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

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

### Gold Net Award

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

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

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

### Joan and Lee Wulff Award for Outstanding Conservation Leadership

Recipient to be an individual who has demonstrated outstanding service in the field of conservation. WITU's Executive Committee will choose the

recipient. The traveling award, a framed collection of flies tied by Lee Wulff, remains with the recipient for one year.

### Robert Hunt Resource Professional Award

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

### Corporate Sponsor Award

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

### Certificate of Appreciation

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

### Tomorrow's Angler Award

Individuals who have significantly contributed to youth education.

### SPECIAL AWARDS:

#### Jeffrey Carlson Leadership Award

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

#### Unsung Valuable Trout

#### Reel Partner Award

## Donate to Council via Thrivent Lutheran Financial

If you are a TU member and have investments with Thrivent Lutheran Financial, you may have the ability to make charitable donations to groups of your choosing through Thrivent Financial's Thrivent Choice program.

The Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited is now a listed entity within the Thrivent Choice program.

If you are a Thrivent member and have the ability to make Thrivent Choice donations, we would be honored if you'd consider including the Wisconsin Council of TU within your charitable planning, and making a donation to our cause.

*"The meaning of life is to find your gift.  
The purpose of life is to give it away."*

*William Shakespeare*

## Remember TU as Part of Your Legacy

*Have you considered making Trout Unlimited part of your legacy? For loyal TU members, making a bequest to TU in your will or trust is a wonderful way to continue supporting clean water and healthy trout populations. Help assure that TU is able to continue its good work now and into the future.*

*Should you decide that TU is worthy of a legacy bequest, be sure to specify in your will or trust if the bequest is intended to benefit National TU, the State Council or your local chapter.*

*Thank you for considering Trout Unlimited in your estate planning.*

## Items needed for Youth Camp

Our youth fishing camp is in need of some items, such as waders and wading boots of all sizes. They don't need to be new. We can repair them. They just need enough life to inspire a youngster.

We could also use rods, reels, flies, lures and nets for the fishing outings and other small items that can be given away as prizes.

Cash donations would also be greatly appreciated. You can mail any items or donations to me, Linn Beck at 160 W. 19th Ave., Oshkosh, WI 54902.

Thank you for considering this and thank you in advance for your donations.



# Returning to Bear Creek: full circle for the future

*“Fishing for Dinner” program provides memories, fishing lessons and a tasty trout dinner.*

By John Motoviloff

Since first fishing Bear Creek near La Farge when I moved to Wisconsin in the early 1990s—flushing the smell of wild mint as I stalked the stream’s wary browns—I knew this was the start of something. What I didn’t realize then was how big this thing was, and that it would shapeshift like the bends so many other spring creeks and turn from an infatuation into an abiding love and from a hobby to my current job recruiting new hunters and anglers for the National Wild Turkey Federation. More on that later.

On Friday evening May 18, I was helping teach a class called Fish for Dinner at Driftless Folk School outside La Farge and with great angling companions including Theresa Stabo, DNR R3 Coordinator and Fishing for Dinner’s creator; Dave Vetrano, retired DNR fisheries biologist (and synonymous with Driftless wild trout restoration); Duke Welter, former Wisconsin TU chair and current TU DARE Coordinator; plus, TU volunteers Bruce Ristow and Dale Jonson of the Coulee Chapter.

It had been a long evening of learning as I watched from my sleeping quarters on the porch of the instructor’s cabin.

Twelve adult students plus a father-daughter pair settled down for the night in their tents. Spring peepers called from the wet meadow flanking Middle Bear Creek below, and lights in the tents glowed like Japanese lanterns. As these flickered out I remembered a detail from my nature-starved childhood in New Jersey some 40 years ago—how my pet toads glowed ever so briefly when I fed them fireflies and just how happy this made me.

Sleep was still in my eyes Saturday morning as sun filtered through the white pine canopy that shaded the folk school. I joined Theresa, her husband and former DNR employee Jeff Schimpf and my counterpart from Pheasants Forever,

Marty Moses, in preparing coffee and a hearty breakfast.

Soon trout camp was abuzz with stream names: Otter, Camp, Jug, Kickapoo, Warner, Weister, Billings, Bishop’s Branch. Duke, Bruce, Dale, Jeff, Marty and I gathered with our mentees. Bruce was so confident, and secretive, about the stream where he was taking mentees that he renamed it the Stream of Instant Gratification.

The groups departed around 8 a.m., with the skies still slightly overcast, and were to return to camp around 3 p.m. I took Annika Merksman and Marcus Gardner, a couple who lives on an organic farm near Newton, to Bishop’s Branch

where they practiced skills learned in class: reading water, knot tying, stalking, fish ID. Neither Marcus nor Annika had much angling experience, but they caught brown trout that helped provide for the night’s dinner. Interestingly, Bishop’s Branch was one of the restoration success stories Dave had talked about in his presentation.

Mentor-mentee parties began to trickle back to camp. Like returning anglers to any

trout camp, they shared beverages and stories. Some had fished worms, other fished spinners. Others, still, flies. While good-natured competition is the rule in many hunting and angling camps, with participants jostling for the biggest buck or the fish, cooperation was the rule here. Everyone helped clean fish; everyone helped cook; everyone washed dishes.

Duke fried fillets for his famous Parmesan-Crusted Trout. I dredged whole fish for one of my specialties, Simple Fried Trout. Theresa cooked on soaked cedar planks as Dale grilled his mentees’ catch over a wood fire. Now, I am veteran of many camps, from deer to duck and squirrel to salmon. And they have always been, without exception, high points of the years they occurred.

*Neither Marcus nor Annika had much angling experience, but they caught brown trout that helped provide for the night’s dinner.*



## FILLET MASTER WELTER PREPARES FRESH TROUT

TUDARE’s Duke Welter prepares trout filets for his parmesan crusted trout filets. Welter helped out at the recent “Fishing for Dinner” program, which introduces people to the joys of catching and eating fresh fish.

But, as I reflected on own journey, from first fishing these creeks decades ago, to taking friends and family to enjoy them in interceding years, to building a cabin here, to being inspired to write four books (*Driftless Stories*, *Fly Fisher’s Guide to Wisconsin and Iowa*, and two cookbooks) to working now leading conservation-skills classes, the joy I felt here was different. It wasn’t running my own race, but rather taking part in a relay with other run-

ners.

It doesn’t matter that these other runners may wear one kind of shoes or shorts, or fish with one type of gear instead of another. And it doesn’t really matter whether an angler decides to practice catch and release or keep an occasional fish for dinner.

What matters is that there are runners to take the baton, that the race continues, and that we’re all on the same team.

## Simple fried trout

While there are fancier ways to cook your catch, few are as good or dependable.

- 1 gutted trout per person
- Equal parts flour and cornmeal for dredging
- Cajun or Old Bay seasoning
- Equal parts butter and peanut oil.

Begin by making sure the all the inside matter and blood are scraped away from the trout. Remove gills. Rinse under cold water and pat dry inside and out.

Season fish inside and out with seasoning of choice.

Mix cornmeal and flour together in baking dish; add seasoning to taste. Mix throughout.

Dredge fish in mixture.

Heat skillet until it begins to gray over. Add butter and oil.

Fry fish to golden brown on one side, about 5 minutes. Repeat on other side.

Remove to warm platter. Serve with lemon wedges.

## Parmesan crusted trout filets

These filets are perfect for appetizers after a good day of fishing.

- 1 trout per person, 10-13 inches
- Cracker crumbs, ¼ c. per fish
- Grated parmesan cheese, 1/8-1/4 c. per fish
- Salt & Pepper
- (Optional) seasoned salt or Cajun spice mix Olive oil & butter

Kill trout promptly after you decide to keep it. Examine stomach contents to see what it’s been feeding on. Fillet and trim off ribs and fins, leaving skin intact. Cut into 1 ½ inch chunks. In plastic bag or other container, mix cracker crumbs, parmesan and spices. Heat oil & butter in pan to medium-hot. Shake trout chunks in breading mix and cook in hot pan until golden brown. Serve with crackers, lemon and libation of your choice.



## TASTY TROUT

Attendees at the recent “Fishing for Dinner” program enjoyed a variety of trout preparations, including grilled trout, fire-cooked trout, pan-fried trout and more.



**GUEST EDITORIAL**

# ATV bridge planned over Wolf River

*Master Plan Amendment proposed for the Upper Wolf River State Fishery Area to allow ATV/UTV use.*

By **Tim Waters and Laurie Zen Netzow**

The Wolf River in Langlade County, designated as an Outstanding Resource Water, located in Eastern Langlade County is a special place. Undeveloped forests stretch for miles along a free-flowing wild river and serenity permeates the very air. Bears lumber through the woods, searching for food. Turkeys strut, dance and gobble in the field, and eagles soar high above the tall hemlocks that line the winding river.

The great attraction of the area is the peace and quiet. People travel hundreds of miles to enjoy the quiet sports like hiking, kayaking, canoeing, mountain biking, rafting and fishing. The Wolf River is the largest free-stone river in the midwest that still holds trout.

Forces have been pushing “progress” for the better part of a century. From the loggers of the 1870’s “improving” the Wolf by building dams and blasting boulders to the well known Crandon Mine proposal at the headwaters of the Wolf, man has continually jeopardized the natural beauty of eastern Langlade County.

The Upper Wolf River State Fishery Area (UWRSEFA) along the river provide public access. These lands were purchased by the DNR starting in 1967 to protect them from development. There is a movement in the county by ATV clubs and the DNR to open part of the area to motorized vehicles, namely ATVs/UTVs. Snowmobiles were included as an allowed recreational activity on trails in the UWRSEFA from the beginning.

Snowmobiles are unique in that they are only used in the winter months on frozen snow covered ground. During Spring, Summer and Fall there is no evidence of their previous use as when the snow melts and the ground thaws the tracks disappear.

ATVs/UTVs however leave per-

manent scarring to the trails they ride on and unfortunately, they are not policed as closely as they need to be because they do go on trails that are closed to them and sometimes even travel off the trail for more excitement or just because that is what those types of vehicles are designed to do.

The old railroad grade north of Highway 64 to Lily is a perfect example of this. It has a section of trail closed to ATVs/UTVs. It is open to snowmobiles, mountain bikers and hikers. It travels alongside the Wolf River and crosses the river on an old railroad trestle bridge near the mouth of Ninemile Creek then continues on up to Lily.

There is documented evidence that the ATVs/UTVs are already using this trail illegally scarring the earth by ripping up the trail, potentially adding silt runoff into the river and ruining the enjoyment of legal users with the roar of four wheeler engines among other issues such as running legal users off the trail. There is very little enforcement now of the ATV laws and regulations.

The proposed Wisconsin DNR amendment change to the 1979 Upper Wolf River State Fishery Area Master Plan to allow a bridge to be built for ATV/UTV, snowmobiles and pedestrians to cross the river near the intersection of Highways 64/55 and a connector trail to go through the Langlade Ranger (unmanned) Station to join trail systems in Langlade County and Oconto County needs to be stopped now.

To read the proposed amendment go to [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) and search property planning and look for Upper Wolf River State Fishery Area.

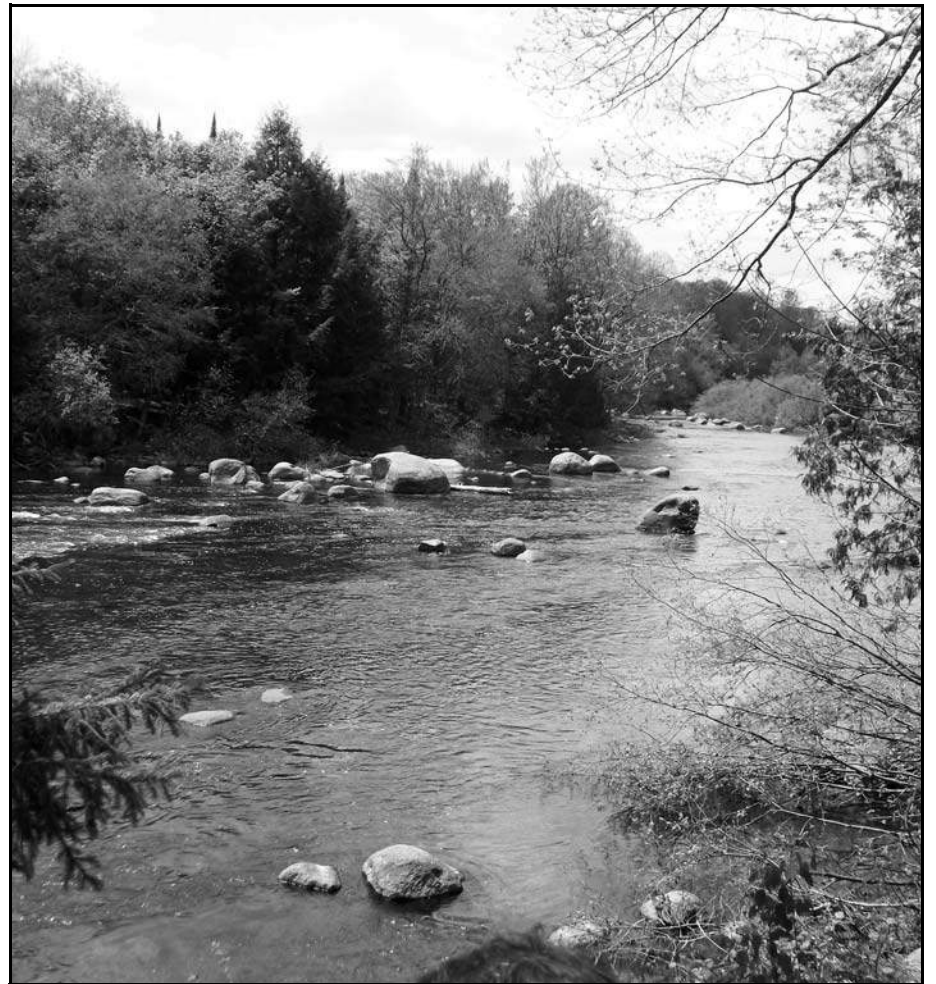
Please help to protect the Wolf River from ATV/UTV use by filling out the public input survey before July 10, 2018, before permanent damage is done.

The ATV/UTV user should trailer their vehicles from trail to trail just as boat owners trailer from lake to lake. A bridge should be built for snowmobiles and pedestrians only, for safety, which would not require an amendment change.

Also please take into account that there already is an ATV bridge crossing the Wolf River at County Road A in Pearson that is advertised by the ATV clubs as having access to White Lake, Pearson, Pickerel and all other trails in the system.

A bridge at Highways 64/55 intersection will potentially overrun the Town of Wolf River with ATV traffic. From the East in Oconto County, the proposed trail to connect with the bridge will go through a residential neighborhood as does the trail from the West. This will undoubtedly change the character of the area between the roar of their engines and dust rolling across Highways 64 and 55.

Silent sports folks, who use this area where the proposed bridge and trail are to be placed, will begin or end their experience to the din of ATV/UTV engines and dust filled air. Fun for the ATVer, but not so much for others trying to enjoy the area fishing, canoeing, kayaking, rafting and tubing. Sound travels a long way over water so the roar of ATVs/UTVs will extend well beyond the borders of the unmanned DNR Langlade Ranger Station. Of



course, it will allow the people to gain access to the taverns along Highway 55 from White Lake via their ATVs/UTVs. This is not a valid reason to amend the recreation portion of the UWRSEFA Master Plan.

Other areas that have more intensive ATV traffic such as the Highway 32 corridor in Oconto County will make people think twice about allowing ATVs anywhere near the Wolf River. If you travel by car on Highway 32 be prepared to wash your car because you will feel like you have been through a dust storm in Oklahoma in the 1930s. The dust rolls across Highway 32 from the ATV/UTV trail from south of

Mountain to well past Townsend, lowering visibility for car traffic and forcing windows closed from the dust.

Please help to protect the Wolf River, as many have done before us, by voicing your opinion to stop the WI DNR from amending the Master Plan for the Upper Wolf River State Fishery Area to allow ATV/UTV as an allowed recreational activity. If history repeats itself, and it certainly does, the ATV clubs will not stop requesting more and more trails further destroying a beautiful, wild river full of trout and small mouth bass.



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*Contact Todd Franklin at [toddfranklinwistroutrout@gmail.com](mailto:toddfranklinwistroutrout@gmail.com).*



# Summer 2018 Friends of Wisconsin Trout Update

The 2018 fundraising campaign is in full swing and the immediate response is always impressive. It looks to be another great year raising money for so many projects across this state to help improve our coldwater resources. The 2017 campaign closed with more than \$20,000 in donations.

In May the State Council approved three Friends grants, including one to support a Wisconsin Clear Waters Chapter habitat project on 1,500 feet of Hay Creek in Chippewa County. Hay Creek is an important coldwater feeder to Duncan Creek. Funding to the Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter will be used on multiple projects,

most notably on the Blue River and Six Mile Branch. The Fox Valley Chapter will use its grant to help fund a DNR habitat crew that will work on the White River, West Branch White River, Bird Creek and portions within the Pine River watershed.

In February, the Council approved Friends grants for the Fox Valley, Antigo and Wild Rivers chapters.

I hope you all get out this season and enjoy some of our fine coldwater streams.

*Doug Brown, Chairman  
Friends of Wisconsin TU*



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Here are our Friends of Wisconsin TU

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- Jolene Berg Chippewa Falls WI
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Special Thanks to Todd Hanson for the donation from the sale of his books.

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# New Zealand mudsnail update

By Natalie Dutack,  
River Alliance of Wisconsin

Summer Greetings from River Alliance. With the spread of New Zealand Mudsnail (NZMS) into two more southern Wisconsin streams, this brings the statewide total to four creeks: Black Earth (2013), Badger Mill (2016), Rowan (2017), and Mount Vernon (2017).

If you have been following the NZMS story you know that this tiny, rapidly reproducing invasive can outcompete native species that serve as food for fish and change the nutrient flows in streams. Coming in at only 4-6 mm in length, it can be very hard to detect and therefore easily spread by recreational water users. This means paddlers and anglers need to be vigilant to help prevent the further spread of NZMS.

We already have some great tools in our NZMS prevention kit. Implementing clean angling practices is still critical. Anglers should inspect all fishing equipment pre- and post-trip and remove any plant/animal debris before leaving the site; then drain all gear and dry for up to 26 days before the next trip.

Scrub boots and waders with a boot brush or soak in 120°F water. If possible, disinfect equipment with bleach (2 tablespoons of bleach per gallon of water). In addition, it is strongly recommended

to switch to rubber soled waders, as felt waders can harbor aquatic invasive hitchhikers. Otherwise, consider investing in a separate set of waders for use in NZMS-infested streams.

Continued installation of wader wash stations is another great method of prevention. Signage helps promote NZMS education and outreach and each station comes with both a 3-headed boot scrubber and long handled boot brush to help implement clean angling practices. Stations should be placed at high access points, in a highly visible location, away from bare soil where seeds can germinate – the more stations we can install the better.

We have two new additions to our toolkit including new eye-catching signs for the wader wash stations. Our first order of 10 will go to the Coulee Region Chapter.

Our second new “tool” is a new decontamination method reported on by the DNR at the recent Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Convention. Recent tests of hand-held steam cleaners have shown a 100-percent kill rate when NZMS were exposed to steam at a distance of about three centimeters for five seconds or longer. These results, while still preliminary and set to undergo further analysis, are extremely promising. The compact cleaners can be powered using your vehicle and a 750-watt power

## Help protect our fishing areas

WADER CLEANING STATION

Take these steps **BEFORE** and **AFTER** visiting the river to stop **INVASIVE SPECIES** that could be hitchhiking on your gear.

- 1 Drain all water from your waders, boots and gear.
- 2 Use the three-sided boot brush below to remove mud and debris from your boots.
- 3 Use the long-handled brush to scrub off any remaining mud and debris from your waders and boots.

**DIRTY WADERS AND BOOTS SPREAD THESE INVASIVE SPECIES AND MORE!**

**STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!**  
Prevent the spread of invasive species. It's the Law!

**NEW SIGNS FOR WADER WASH STATIONS**  
These new eye-catching signs for wader wash stations will start making their appearances soon. The first order of 10 will go to the Coulee Region Chapter.

For more information, contact the River Alliance of Wisconsin at (608) 257-2424 or visit [www.wisconsinrivers.org](http://www.wisconsinrivers.org)

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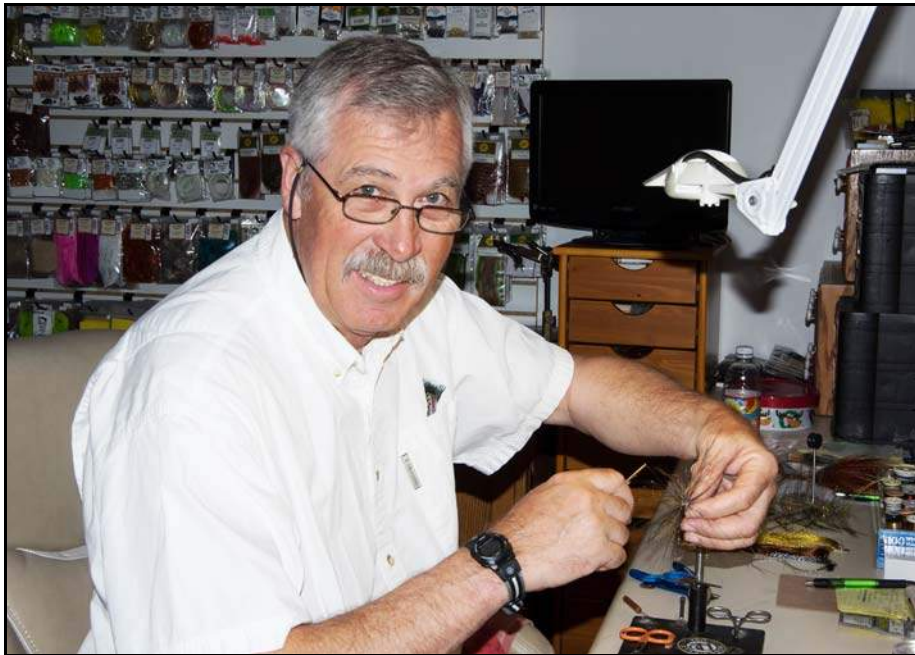
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# Wisconsin's Fly Tyers

## Bill Sherer: Blending creativity and functionality in tying

Many people do not realize how many great fly tyers we have in Wisconsin. Some are well known and others may be less known, but they are some of the best in the country. Bob Haase is interviewing a different tyer for each issue of Wisconsin Trout to discuss their favorite flies, how they tie them and how they fish them. This includes their tying tips and information that will make us better tyers and fly fishers. It will be done in a question & answer format and feature all kinds of flies and targeted species, not just trout.



Bill Sherer has been tying flies for more than 55 years and incorporates creativity and functionality in his flies. He is known for his creative musky and bass fly patterns, but you will also find the same creativity and quality in his

### By Bob Haase

Bill Sherer has been tying flies for more than 55 years and incorporates creativity and functionality in his flies. He is known for his creative musky and bass fly patterns, but you will also find the same creativity and quality in his trout flies.

Bill, along with his wife, Dawn, own the We Tie It fly shop in Boulder Junction. Bill is also a full time guide, helping anglers find trout, bass and muskies in Northern Wisconsin. Check out their website at [wetieit@wetieit.com](mailto:wetieit@wetieit.com) or call him at 715-385-0171.

### How long have you been tying flies and how did you get started?

I have been tying flies for 55 years or so. My grandfather started me tying flies. My folks owned a summer camp and one of the activities we had at summer camp on rainy days was to tie flies. I just sort of gravitated toward the fly tying and loved it. I started tying warm water flies and was never really introduced to trout flies until my teenage years.

### Can you remember some of the tyers who helped you get started, or who helped you develop the skills you have today?

I was fortunate to have some good teachers such as Ron Brown, Royce Damm, Lefty Kreh, Chris Helm, and Dave Whitlock. Out of all of them I would say that Royce was probably my biggest influence. He really pushed me toward the more creative side and toward the commercial side.

### You tie all kinds of flies, from smaller trout flies to bass flies and large musky-pike flies. Do you think that tying flies for various species of fish has helped you with your fly design?

Absolutely. I do a lot of observation. I have just sat by a stream and watched how the food interacts. Whether it's a bait fish, a bug, or a big fish chasing a little fish, I have always tried to envision what is it that the fish sees. People say that you have to think like a fish, but I believe you also have to think like their food. What is it that the fish sees about their food? That's the key. The fish have different observations and they are the final judge on what they are going to eat. A lot of the characteristics that make a fly work for one specific species will carry over to a different species.

### It is one thing to tie a beautiful fly and yet another to tie flies that are just as appealing to the fish as they are to the fisherman. Do you think your experience as a guide and your time on the water contributes to your fly designs?

It does. One of the things I learned as I got into the commercial aspect of fly tying is that you have to catch the fisherman before you catch the fish. There are a number of flies out there that catch fish but first they caught fisherman. They may not be the best choice but the fly was glitzy, it had bigger eyes, and all the bells and whistles that the magazines say that you have to put into your flies.

But it seems to me that sometimes the simpler flies catch more fish. The fly that the average fly tier can and does tie are still some of the best and most productive flies.

As far as fly design goes, I observe a lot of things when I am out fishing. Last year it seemed like if a musky-pike fly didn't have orange on its belly the fish were not going to eat it. I never experienced it before to be that pronounced. We put 75 muskies in the boat in October last year just because of that observation.

That is the beauty of tying your own flies is that you can make those

little modifications that the fish want for that particular situation.

### Every year we see more and more synthetic materials used in fly tying. What are some of the advantages of using synthetic materials?

The synthetics are usually lighter in weight. They sometimes have a problem in movement and have problems making the same fine taper as natural materials. That can be overcome with the movement or addition of other materials.

I tie some flies that are all synthetics and many others that are a combination of synthetic and natural materials. The synthetics make the fly lighter because they don't soak up and hold water as much as most natural materials. Especially with larger flies we want to consider not just the physical weight of the fly, but the weight of the fly in the water. Do we want it to sink, do we want it to float, or do we want to make it more neutral? The flies that are more neutral or sink more slowly are often the flies that catch more fish.

I like the fly that seems to hover for a while and kick side to side with the stripping action you impart on the fly. That is something that I really believe in is that you have to be the bait. You have to start it and stop it and impart the action the fish want in a fly to entice them to take it.

### How important is it to fully understand the characteristics of the materials we tie with as we design and tie our flies?

It's a huge importance. Certain materials just don't work well for what we want to achieve. The synthetics give us the ability to create

more seeming movement with less material. One of the things I believe in is sparseness. There are times, maybe more so with musky flies, that we want to achieve a large silhouette and need to use more or denser materials. If we look at every single fly that has ever been made in the history of fly tying, it seems like it is the sparse flies that catch more fish.

I think it is also important to use materials that can create motion or the illusion of motion. We don't have a 5:1 gear ratio in our fly reels that we can illicit a strike based on a predator response. We are trying to get that fish into a feeding mode and want them to take it as a natural food source. We can't move it fast enough for a long enough period of time to trigger a predator reaction response. We need to create the illusion of motion in the flies we tie or create that movement in the way we fish the fly using a slower presentation.

### You recently developed a dubbing brush maker called the "X-treme Dubber" that can make large 8-inch diameter dubbing brushes for musky-pike flies, or smaller sizes for bass and trout. I have been using your X-treme Dubber to make small dubbing brushes for trout flies down to size 18 with a variety of materials. I do this to create that illusion of motion we just talked about. What are some of the advantages of making and using dubbing brushes in our tying?

We can make a great big fly with a larger profile with less materials. We can make a real small fly that has the right kind of material in the right places to make it look alive also. It can add movement that creates a trigger to the outline or



### THE "PADDLE TAIL"

The "Paddle Tail" fly is an example of how Bill incorporates creativity and functionality into a fly. The finished fly is shown above and a partially finished fly is shown below to show how it is assembled. See the photo with the hook with the weed guard to see how the weed guard is attached. A microfiber strip with a short strip of rabbit zonker is attached to both sides of the strip at the end. The microfiber provides excellent motion and doesn't shrink up like many other materials. The short pieces of zonker help give a little kick or action to the tail. A combination of dubbing brushes and other synthetic and natural material make up the remainder of the fly. Bill's large synthetic dubbing brushes provide enough length to give good action without absorbing water, making a large fly like this easier to cast. The weed guard on the hook was designed and produced by Bill using a special coated wire to allow bringing the fly through the weeds. You can even cast this into a downed tree without getting snagged.



profile of the fly. We can incorporate different kinds of materials into the brush to create exactly what we need for the fly we are designing. It is always a challenge to the thinking fly tyer to think ahead to the fishing situation and not just to the design of the fly. Dubbing brushes give us more options.

**Why not just buy your flies rather than tie them yourself?**

Sometimes you have to adjust to the fishing situations you have. That means that you have to change the characteristics of the fly such as the color, shape or size of the fly.

Some shops may not have what you are looking for and it may take a longer time to have someone custom tie it for you. The best way to get the fly you want in a timely manner is to tie your own. Trout can be picky eaters.

We have all seen it where a fish will only take a fly that acts a certain way in the water and tying our own flies allows us to create flies that we cannot purchase. The fish in pressured waters seem to get a more discerning palette and they also require better presentations. This means putting the fly in the right place on the first cast. The first cast counts and it shouldn't take three casts to get it there.

**We have a lot of new materials that become available to fly tyers every year. How can we find out about these materials and determine if they might work for the flies we tie?**

Some of it is trial and error. You might have heard about it from someone else or seen it online. May-

be it doesn't fit your style of tying but it might work great for someone else tying a different style of flies. Being an industry insider I get to see some of the new materials before they become available to the public. I get samples sent to me and some of these might be new or just a different color of an existing material. Sometimes it may be an older material that we no longer use but now find a use for it in the flies we design. It isn't just using new materials. It's finding and using the materials that work for us for the flies we tie.

**Do you have any other tips or advice for the average or experienced tyer?**

Slow down. When I was younger I could crank out flies faster than I do now, but they were not as good, or as durable. More wraps of thread does not make a fly stronger. Some of my older mentors actually counted the number of wraps that they were going to use.

Using the proper size thread, based on the hook diameter, makes a huge difference. Don't use brand "A" thread just because a friend does. You might find a different brand or kind of thread works better for your application. You and I both know that thread control is the core key to creating really good flies. Using the right thread, proper thread tension, and the correct number of wraps will help you tie a better fly.

Rather than step-by-step directions on how to tie one of Bill's favorite flies, I asked him to show us some of the creative things he has done with his musky-pike fly designs.



**BP MUSKY FLY**

Bill designed the BP Musky Fly using foam head and a plastic lip to make it wiggle, causing the tail and marabou to move in the water. The way he forms the foam head and makes the diving lip makes this fly work exceptionally well. Again, the design and material selection helps create motion.



**BILL'S RAT**

Bill's Rat pattern is a little different style of rat/mouse design that can be used for musky, pike or bass. The first time I saw this fly I thought of down-sizing just a little to search out big brown trout at night. It is similar to other mouse patterns, but notice where the hook is at and the hair is sparse enough at the end to allow for a good hook up.

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# Driftless Rambler

With Duke Welter  
TUDARE Outreach Coordinator



Excuse me for actually rambling in this column. I'll try to keep it brief while discussing several topics on my mind these days.

Spring weather was mercurial here in the Wisconsin Driftless Area this spring. We had a gradual melt from the winter's snow, followed by rain, hot weather, then a foot of snow around April 20 in Viroqua. After that, finally, actual spring weather.

By now, mid-June, things are on a more normal course, with the blossoms, bug emergences and crops coming in a succession you'd expect. It has seemed to me that we're seeing more caddis and craneflies and fewer mayflies in recent years. Those first two species are more tolerant of somewhat degraded coldwater conditions, the third less tolerant. Some research in Iowa suggests some suppression of caddis species may be going on as a result of agricultural chemical use.

## Area couple dies in fishing accident, and will be missed. We all need to be more careful anglers.

This afternoon we're on our way to La Crescent, Minnesota for the joint funeral of a couple of friends, Janet Veit and her husband, Brian Schumacher. While on a dream fishing vacation in Iceland a month ago, they both drowned in an icy cold river. One fell in and the other tried a rescue, unsuccessfully. They were swept into the lake just downstream. The shocking news of their loss swept over our community.

Janet and Brian were widely liked and respected in our area and our community. In addition to his day job at Gunderson Lutheran in LaCrosse, Brian guided for the fly shop in Preston, Minnesota and was becoming a well-known angling writer.

Occasionally he ran his articles past me for some suggestions, and he was finding his voice. He also loved working with his bird dogs. Janet used her days off from vet practice for fishing, and regularly offered trout pictures that made us drool.

But she also taught novice women anglers and was a valued part of the effort to welcome more women into this sport. Both these delightful people will be sorely missed.

My New Year's resolution this year is to remember that I'm no longer 29, and to stop thinking like I can physically do at my age what I easily did at that earlier age. Last year Kris and I found ourselves in a

couple of situations highlighting the chronological facts, or alternately that our assumptions can get us into trouble. We both needed to better anticipate those situations and our limitations. The loss of these friends provided a kick in the pants for that preparation. The actual plan is to equip ourselves, before our western trip later this summer, with inflatable PFDs. It's a start.

## Hog operation decides against opening plant

Over this way in western Wisconsin we need some encouraging news to brighten our days. Some months ago I mentioned a controversial pork-slaughtering operation proposed for a facility between Westby and Viroqua.

A local butcher shop had been purchased by an Iowa pork processing operation, which announced plans to slaughter 750 hogs a day. That could have been up to 270,000 pigs a year, and they would have had to set up a batch of pig farms to provide the animals. Citizens were appalled, and the issue became a discussion point in the many spring elections in these parts.

In May, the Iowa company announced that it wouldn't open the plant, and would put it up for sale. What made the difference, most likely, was the refusal by all the larger local wastewater treatment plants that they wouldn't accept the wastewater and offal from the plant. Hauling it more than 45 or so miles would have been prohibitively expensive.

They've invited the citizens group formed to oppose them to help find a buyer. We hope to see a new owner committed to handling local meat from our many sustainable producers and area hunters. Any ideas?

## Stream days

More encouraging news comes from Buffalo and Crawford counties. Saturday, Buffalo County conservation clubs and restoration partners held their sixth annual stream day at the confluence of Waumandee and Danuser Valley Creeks, near the crossroads town of Montana. Each year since 2013, the local rod & gun clubs, with aid from the Wisconsin Clear Waters Chapter of TU and TUDARE, DNR and others, have held one of these events on a stretch of local stream restored by this team of partners.

I've talked with landowners who are excited about the improvement in these streams, and glad they do-

nated easements to enable the projects. Many, many parents and grandparents bring out the kids, and the fishing lures and baits are flying throughout. When a hundred people follow the DNR's electroshocking team up the stream, it's like biologist Dan Hatleli is the Pied Piper of Buffalo County.

And you can rest assured that the community is supportive, not only of these events, but of the community conservation impulse that these projects represent. I think the clubs will also benefit from the exposure to a wider public that sees them as being actively focused on the wider-scale betterment of their community, and will be inclined to join and participate in those clubs' efforts. That's great news in so very many ways.

## Tainter Creek stream/field day a huge success

And finally, the Tainter Creek Farmer-Led Watershed Council is a group of conservation-minded farmers working together in Vernon and Crawford counties to take care of this major Kickapoo River sub-watershed. They include farmers of most varieties found in this area: beef grazers, small and medium dairies, row-crop growers and sustainable organic growers.

They work with Valley Stewardship Network and TU to encourage cover crops and other ag practices that eventually protect the stream's quality, and to recruit volunteer stream monitors who keep track of that quality. And they support stream restoration too, on a stream with several miles of past restoration and stream easements.

A large restoration project being organized by TUDARE and designed by Stream Project Specialist Paul Krahn is on the drawing boards to obtain easements and raise funds for work expected to begin this fall.

In early June the watershed council hosted its own stream/field day along the creek on restored water on the Bruce and Sue Ristow farm. The Ristows are long-time stream monitors and their near-stream area is grazed by Angus cattle. More than 150 people, the majority seeming to be kids, coursed up and down the stream with their fishing rods, and fish were caught by them as well as DNR biologist Kirk Olson and the fish population survey team, with help from retired biologist Dave Vetrano.

A pile of spin and fly rods and other gear were given out to lucky kids and a tasty lunch was served. Not a single business we approached, from Cabela's to Organic Valley to Culvers and local grocers, hesitated in offering their support. Landowners, anglers, kids all had a good time. The future of this watershed looks bright with this coalition working together.

Plenty of Driftless Area watersheds need work, upland and near-stream. The ones where that work is most likely to happen are those with friends. Buffalo County and Tainter Creek are models, as are places like the Blue River in Grant County, the Sugar River and Gordon Creek in southwest Dane County, and several rivers in west central Wisconsin where the Kiap-TU-Wish and Wisconsin Clear Waters chapters have great restoration efforts moving forward. There's room for more.



## NEW FISHING RODS BROUGHT PLENTY OF SMILES TO THESE KIDS

Lucky kids celebrated winning their first spin or fly rods at the Tainter Creek Stream Day in Crawford County June 2. With them in the right background is Viroqua trout writer Jay Thurston, who demonstrated his spin-casting techniques. Trout were caught on the Class I stream, and more than 150 area residents attended.



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# “Hatley Project” in planning stages

## Making a Destination II update

On Thursday June 7, representatives from the Village of Hatley, the Department of Natural Resources, and TU met in Hatley (Marathon County). Joe Szews, Brian Janikowski and Robert Combs represented the village. DNR employees there included Al Niebuhr, Tim Parks and Jason Spaeth. TU members were Kirk Stark of the Wisconsin River Valley Chapter and myself.

We walked the Plover River from the village limits at the south end of Veteran’s Park upstream to the wooden bridge crossing of the Ice Age Trail. It was decided that the river between those two points would provide a suitable site for a major rehabilitation project similar to the one recently completed in downtown Waupaca.

Because of DNR projects already under construction, the necessity to put together a rehabilitation plan, and the need to procure easements and public support from the Hatley community, the projected start date would be in 2020. As of this writing, there seems to be considerable public enthusiasm for what has been dubbed the “Hatley Project.” Assuming continued interest, we hope to enlist the help of members of the Wisconsin River Valley, Frank Hornberg, Green Bay, and Shaw-paca chapters.

Given the huge amount of deadfall in the river, the efforts of many people will be required to prepare the river for the actual installation of the DNR’s rehabilitation plan. I suspect there will be no shortage of willing and able-bodied TU members when that time arrives.

—Dan Holland, Frank Hornberg Chapter

## GIANTS, from page 28

There is no stocking on Local. In 10 years of fishing here, I’ve never even seen a rainbow in this stream. None of this made sense. It was my first outing of the year, so hallucination and exaggeration were not out of the question.

A day later and I was still unsettled and disappointed about the one that got away. I texted my tale to my friend Mike to try and make sense of what happened. Giant fish, not a brown, too big for a brook. He’s a good friend, so he took in my outrageous story without too much critique. I had shared the same story to my high school son Gavin who has fished this portion of Local with me many times. He chatted with a friend of his, Henry, who lives within walking distance of this section and fishes it at least once a week. Henry tells him, “Oh yah. There’s a giant rainbow in the stream that I have seen several times in the past few months. Probably about 28 inches. Actually there are a bunch of big rainbows in there.”

Multiple rainbows over 20? Teenage boys are not a reliable source of information, are they? How could a trophy rainbow live here in Local Creek?

I shared the ludicrous teenager talk about a 25”+ rainbow to Mike. He does some back channel research with a DNR friend and informed me that the big rains in July wiped out several private ponds upstream. Stocked fish (mostly rainbows, but a few browns and brooks) in those ponds were washed out and ended up in the creek. This crazy fish tale has become somewhat reasonable. Private pond monsters have escaped and now patrol Local. None of this could actually be verified, but it helped make some sense of the big one I lost. Even if they are non-native pond pets, raised on fish pellets and dog food, I still wanted to catch one of them.

Over the subsequent months, I fished Local several more times, looking for one of the giant escapees. I caught a few decent wild browns and brooks, but not the fish I had hooked back in January. Spring arrived and the memory of the January encounter started to fade from memory when I ran into another fish friend, Eric. We chatted about where we have been fishing and what sections have been good. He knows my angling tendencies and admiration for Local Creek and quietly/secretly asks, “Do you know about the big rainbows on Local?” I think he’s pulling my leg. I may have told my story to too many people and word got to him. He’s not messing with me. Eric saw the beast just the previous week with his own eyes. He also mentioned seeing plenty of the other big pondees. He got me excited again to head back to Local.

I shared the news of the pond escapees with a few other close friends who regularly frequent that section of Local. My tip pays off. My friend David texts me a photo of a 21” rainbow he caught. While the photo is closely cropped, I know exactly which hole on Local that fish came from. Aside from the big ‘bow, he sends me a photo of a 16” brook that also looks like a former pond resident. Two days later, I was sent photos of a 23” rainbow caught on Local by Mike’s friend. I felt justified that my tale about these fish finally had truth to it, but I was also becoming jealous that other people were catching them.

My son, Gavin, and I hit the water two days later with a precise game plan of what holes to work, which banks we will cast from, and who gets to throw to each spot first. The weather was a beautiful blue bird day and there hadn’t been any rain for a week. The sky was blue, the sun was bright, and the water was crystal clear. Terrible trout conditions.

We worked the magic stretch where the beasts live, now known as Rainbow Run, and didn’t catch a thing. However, due to the bright sky and clear water, we were easily able to see to the bottom of the run. First we saw the typical skiddish 10-13” fish that are so common in the Driftless. They zipped up and down the pool, letting us know that they were on high alert to our predatory presence. Then, we saw the big rainbows that we were after. They didn’t zip. They slowly cruised as if to say, “We see you, you see us, we aren’t biting.”

We were easily able to spot several rainbows over 20 inches. Several others in the 16-plus range accompanied the big ones. It was cruel and beautiful at the same time. The fish were vibrantly marked, red stripes very evident, more colorful than the typical stockers I’ve seen in other area streams. We

## National Leadership Council report

From WITU’s NLC Representative Kim McCarthy  
New stickers to promote TU’s involvement with Trout In the Classroom; backup power for tanks discussed.

The NLC Youth Education Work Group has been working on issues involving Trout In the Classroom. The first issue involves using TIC as a marketing tool. We all know what a fantastic educational tool TIC is for teaching students about what trout need to thrive. Our chapters have done an incredible job of working with the schools to provide this learning experience for lots of students.

But, recently the NLC began to think about the marketing opportunity we may be missing. In many cases the tank setups are unmarked. In those cases parents, staff and visitors are unlikely to know that the learning experience is actually being provided by TU. The Youth Education Work Group believes that getting the tanks marked could attract people to TU. This group is actively working on tank stickers that would provide information about the life cycle of trout, announce that TIC is a TU program and provide contact information.

The second TIC issue involves power outages that lead to dead trout. Some areas have had power outages turn off tank electronics long enough to kill most or all of the fish. I did a quick survey of chapters at the last council meeting and this has not been a big issue in Wisconsin, but certainly is something that could impact any tank at any time. By now most of you involved with TIC have been contacted by Mack Martin. Mack is investigating what kinds of power requirements would be needed to protect the fish populations in tanks around the country. After power needs are determined, the NLC can begin to look at the costs involved to provide backup power.

Thanks to those of you who’ve put so much work into our TIC program.  
—Kim McCarthy is the WITU representative to the TU National Leadership Council.



David Nash and Eric Misch

### IS THIS A PRIVATE POND ESCAPEE?

Private pond trout are occasionally washed downstream during flood events. These hand-fed giants may be what haunts author Curt Rees.

stopped casting because we knew that it wouldn’t work at this time. We just quietly watched these western fish slide up and down the run. Rain was forecasted in the next couple days and we would come back when the sun was setting and there was a stain to the water.

We came back a few days later after a healthy rain. The water looked perfect and more rain was expected in a few hours. The sky was overcast, and a few raindrops dimpled the water. Perfect conditions to catch one of these big ones. Gavin and I eagerly got out of the car, geared up, and skipped most of the pools that usually produce good wild fish. The rainbows were the only thing on our mind. Just when we got to the run where the big ones hang, the sky to the west of us lit up pink with lightning. I tried to ignore it, thinking it was just one strike. More lightning comes and the western sky was looking ominous. I wanted to keep fishing, but thankfully 15-year-old Gavin had the common sense that evening. “Dad, I don’t want to die.” I had no good response to that, so we skulked back to the car and then home.

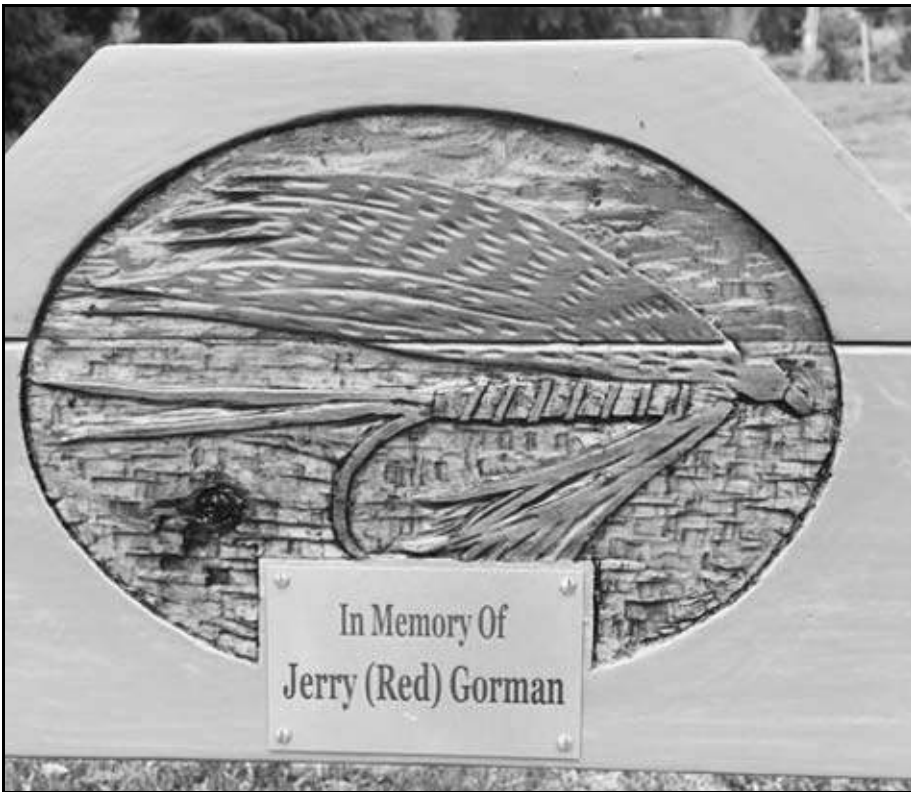
Work, school, and track meets kept us away for a handful of days, but it didn’t keep the fish out of our minds. Gavin called me in the middle of the school day, “Dad, I talked to Henry (Local resident) and Rob during study hall. They caught 3 over 20 inches last night.” Happy for them, but torture for us. We had a plan to get back in a couple days when the calendar and weather cleared up. But before that happened, my good friend Mike who I mentioned above texted me a photo of a 21” rainbow he caught on Local. Et tu Brute? While this is public water, I can’t help but think these fish are MINE. I saw the first big one five months ago and have been chasing them ever since. Just because I tell people about these freak immigrants to Local, it doesn’t mean that they have to catch them, does it? Or at least if they catch them, could they have the decency to not send me photos?

Epilogue: I had hoped by the time this article went to print, I would add one more paragraph describing my triumph of finally catching one of these rainbows. This is not the case. I am haunted by waters, patrolled by hand-fed giants.





## Chapter News



### ALTU HONORS JERRY GORMAN WITH LEOPOLD BENCH

The Leopold bench memorial to Jerry Gorman, located in Poynette's Pauquette Park, contains a carving of Jerry's favorite fly, The Professor.

#### Aldo Leopold Chapter

The Aldo Leopold Chapter has made it through the extended winter in pretty good condition, and has made good use of the better weather we've enjoyed since the snow finally departed.

Several chapter members attended the Midwest Outdoor Heritage Education Exposition (MOHEE) at Poynette's MacKenzie Center in May, helping many busloads full of eager grade schoolers tie their first fly. Once the kids arrived, action under the TU tent was fast and furious, with lots of really good looking flies being constructed, and sometimes the best part (for us) was having a youngster's jaw drop when they realized that they actually got to take their creation home with them.

Thanks to Bob Asam, Jared Sagal and Mike Stapleton for representing ALCTU. We also thank CWTU member Bob Haase for his hard work in organizing what has become one of the most enjoyable TU events of the entire year.

Another year of TIC is under our belts as fifth graders from Pineview School in Reedsburg, once again

under the guidance of Scott Allen, released their fish into Sauk County's Dell Creek in late May. Of the 20 trout fry received by the class, all were successfully raised to a length of five inches and were released into the stream following an electroshocking demonstration by DNR Fish Manager Nate Nye. Thanks to Nate for his highly educational demo and to Scott Allen for all of his time coordinating TIC on behalf of the chapter.

The annual ALCTU picnic was held recently in Lodi. This is our major fundraiser for the year, and we had an impressive lineup of raffle and silent auction items to tempt our attendees, including a Paul Douglas custom bamboo rod and a full day's guided angling with Driftless Angler of Viroqua as our two grand prizes.

Board member and Water Action Volunteer Sally Gawle sampled insects in Spring Creek prior to the drawing of the prize winners, and we had boot brushes for distribution to all of our attendees.

The chapter recently placed an

Aldo Leopold bench in Poynette's Pauquette Park as a memorial to Jerry Gorman of Beaver Dam, who passed away in June of 2017. Jerry was a long-time TU member, and one of his favorite angling haunts was Rowan Creek. The creek flows within a long cast of where the

bench is located. Thanks to Tom Gawle for his artistry in constructing the bench and Mike Stapleton for shepherding the project through the Village of Poynette Parks Commission, which granted its approval for the placement.

—Mike Stapleton



### ANTIGO CHAPTER HOLDS SUCCESSFUL KID'S FISHING DAY

The Antigo Chapter had more than 400 kids show up at their annual Kid's Fishing Day and they all caught nice brook and rainbow trout, provided by Silver Moon Springs.

#### Antigo Chapter

I hope you are all having a great summer. We held our annual Kid's Fishing Day in early June, and the kids and TU members had a great time.

A big thank you to all the helpers that make it possible and to the sponsors who help fund the event. We had more than 400 kids show up and they all caught nice brook and rainbow trout provided by Silver Moon Springs.

Thanks to our local DNR representatives for again running our casting contest. Each kid received a prize for the prize fish tank and then we had a drawing for a girls and boys bike. Everyone had hamburgers and hot dogs until we ran out of food. Also, thanks to the Antigo

Fire Department for bringing and manning their fire safety house for the kids to go through.

We held a work day on the Evergreen River in early June, and we have two signs to repaint at project sites soon.

Antigo TU helped fund one brushing crew for the summer again and we are paying \$3,000 for fuel for the DNR's dredge, which is in the Mayking Flowage again this year.

We are happy to say that for the coming school year we have a third high school signed up for the TIC program. We are happy to welcome the Bowler school district this year along with Antigo and Witt-Burn school districts.

—Scott Henricks

#### Central Wisconsin Chapter

Bob Haase, with the support of CWTU members, coordinated a fly-tying experience for students attending the Midwest Outdoor Heritage Education Expo at the MacKenzie Center in Poynette. About 3,000 students grades 4-6, and their chaperones came from across the state.

The goal of the event is to introduce youth to outdoor sports and conservation. Nearly 50 different activities include archery, trapping, fly tying, dog trials, insect identification and much more. A school curriculum is available to add further education to the activities.

Bob has been organizing the fly-tying instruction for more than 12 years. This year he was supported by 16 volunteer fly tyers from various TU chapters. Ten came from CWTU, including Ira Giese, Jerry Smet, Tom Konnelly, Bill Millonig, Mike SanDretto, Jim Murphy, Dave Ehrenberg, Bob Burke, and John Tucker. About 900 youth tied flies over the two days. They were busy. We taught them to tie a fly they can use with a bobber and spin rod to catch bluegills. Bob Haase donates all the fly-tying kits with the monies received from his book, "Fly Tying Tips and Techniques," published in 2017. This is such a great gift to our

youth.

The UW-Extension and the DNR recognized CWTU for our efforts leading to increased participation in stream monitoring, collecting stream data and sharing their knowledge and data. We received these awards in April at the Water Action Volunteers Symposium in Stevens Point.

CWTU Riverkeepers earned the Outstanding Organization Award. The chapter has been involved in water monitoring for more than a decade, modeling the positive impacts of gaining and sharing knowledge through citizen science. The Riverkeepers have 30 teams, 80 volunteers and monitor 36 sites in multiple counties, while continuing to seek new volunteers and new stream sites.

They work closely with DNR staff to monitor high-priority streams where data is needed, and where their monitoring can save DNR staff time and money. CWTU is also involved in the assessment of fish habitat structures, streambank restoration and the expansion of water quality projects. Many thanks to Bob Jozowski for his intense efforts as CWTU Riverkeeper coordinator.



### ALTU, PINEVILLE SCHOOL FIFTH GRADERS WRAP UP TIC

Two classes of smiling fifth graders from Pineview School in Reedsburg line the bank behind DNR Fish Manager Nate Nye as they celebrate the release of their TIC trout fingerlings into Dell Creek.

Mike Stapleton

Phil Kirker



# Chapter News



Doug Moore

### CWTU RIVERKEEPERS EARN OUTSTANDING ORGANIZATION AWARD

CWTU's Riverkeepers were recognized as Most Outstanding Organization by the DNR and UW-Extension. From left are UW-Extension Water Action Volunteers Coordinator Peggy Compton, Coordinator for Central Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Riverkeepers Bob Jozowski, DNR Water Action Volunteers Coordinator Ilana Haines and DNR Section Chief Tim Asplund.

The 2018 CWTU Annual Bob Hunt Commemorative Educational Series Meeting was held in May at the Fin 'n Feather in Winneconne. Elward Engle shared his wealth of knowledge and understanding of our Central Wisconsin trout waters.

CWTU's first river restoration work day of the 2018 season was held May 19 on the White River in collaboration with the Elliott Donnelley Chapter. Work day coordinator Dennis Drazkowski planned a great project and always serves a tasty shore-side lunch after the hard work.

This year's upcoming work day schedule is:

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

Come join the fun. All are welcome to attend.

The picnics this summer will include casting at each event. Attendees are encouraged to bring their fishing equipment.

The dates are:

- June 12 picnic; Bird Creek, Wautoma with Shawn Sullivan. Program: 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. Open to the public. Presenter: Shawn Sullivan, Bird Creek will discuss the importance of the White River Watershed and Restoration Plans
- July 10 picnic at the Tuckers
- Aug 14 picnic at Harvey Jones

home on the Pine River.

We held the CWTU Dan Harmon III Annual Fly Fishing School at the Riverside Bible Camp on the Waupaca River in Amherst in early June. Twenty students attended this year. There is nothing better than being next to the water and learning about fly fishing from some of the best mentors.

Jeff Treu, John Gremmer and many others worked hard to provide a memorable hands-on experience of a lifetime, carrying on the experience created by Dan Harmon III. Russ Bouck tied flies throughout the day for a free raffle for attendees. What a gift. And we had plenty of good food.

Our chapter will be receiving the DNR's esteemed External Partners award from senior administrators of the DNR. CWTU is being recognized for the outstanding partnership we have developed with the DNR Fisheries Unit and the quality work we have performed toward our mutual mission of conserving, protecting and restoring Wisconsin's coldwater fisheries.

Thanks again to all our volunteers for making our chapter awesome. The chapter would not be successful without the talent and effort of our members. Their work is what makes CWTU successful, and they make the chapter fun to be a part of.

—Laura Tucker



### CWTU AND ELLIOT DONNELLEY CHAPTERS TEAM UP ON WHITE RIVER

CWTU's first river restoration work day of the 2018 season was held May 19 on the White River in collaboration with the Elliott Donnelley Chapter. Work day coordinator Dennis Drazkowski planned a great project and always serves a tasty shore-side lunch after the hard work.



### CWTU HOLD BOB HUNT EDUCATIONAL MEETING

CWTU held its 2018 CWTU Annual Bob Hunt Commemorative Educational Series Meeting in May at the Fin 'n Feather in Winneconne. Elward Engle shared his wealth of knowledge and understanding of our Central Wisconsin trout waters. Here Elward and Bob's wife Phyllis pose with a beautiful cake that has a river running through it.

### Coulee Region Chapter

Summer is here so that means we won't have our regular chapter meetings until September. However, we have been and will be busy with several outdoor events in our area.

TUDARE coordinated a stream-side celebration on Tainter Creek in early June. There were educational events on fishing, stream ecology, conservation and more, for kids and adults. Jeff Hastings, Duke Welter and Paul Krahn did all the heavy lifting, but we had plenty of CRTU members in attendance to help make the day a success.

On June 9 CRTU teamed up with SEWTU for a work day on Mormon Creek in La Crosse County. Thank you Jason Freund for coordinating this effort. We had more

than 40 strong-backed volunteers clear willows and other debris on both sides of the stream on a half-mile section. The good folks from SEWTU brought their work trailer and 20 members, and CRTU provided the food for a tasty brat lunch.

Special thanks to Boy Scout Troop 168 of Onalaska for providing plenty of help on this work day. We were also fortunate to have the landowner, Pat Kammel, join us for the work and lunch. This section of land has been in Pat's family for more than 50 years and he is a great caretaker of it.

Cy Post and Fred Spademan will lead the charge for the Youth Outdoor Fest in La Crosse on July 7. This event is coordinated by the La Crosse Park and Recreation Depart-



### CWTU HOLDS FLY FISHING SCHOOL

CWTU held its Dan Harmon III Annual Fly Fishing School at the Riverside Bible Camp on the Waupaca River in Amherst in early June. Twenty students attended this year.





## Chapter News



### CRTU AND SEWTU TEAM UP ON MORMOM CREEK

Landowner Pat Kammel (right) talking to SEWTU members during a joint CRTU/SEWTU workday in June.

ment and brings out nearly 3,000 people each year to learn about all of the outdoor recreation opportunities in the area.

The CRTU crew will offer fly-casting demos and help kids tie their own flies. July 28 is Trout Fest in Coon Valley. This community celebration takes place right on Coon Creek and CRTU will again provide fishing opportunities for the kids beginning at 10 a.m. We stock extra fish in the creek and provide tackle and assistance to make sure kids and their families have fun catching fish.

We have had a few changes in chapter leadership. Dave Krier is the new president, replacing Curt Rees, who held the position for three years. Dave lives in Viroqua and is very connected to the trout fishing and the conservation community. Dave had previously served as the chapter events coordinator,

arranging all of the presenters and locations for the monthly chapter meetings.

Curt is back to his previous role as secretary and will focus on communications and social media for the chapter. Duane Meighan was selected as the co-coordinator for the chapter Veterans Service Project, serving alongside Will Lusignan. John "Lucky" Townsell was elected to the board of directors. John has been a constant volunteer and contributor to the chapter in his two years living in the area.

Dave, Curt, and treasurer Mark Kowaliw spent a steamy day on Hornby Creek at the end of May, planning and budgeting for the upcoming year. The fish were willing and we got a lot accomplished to ensure another good year with chapter activities and resources.

—Curt Rees

### Fox Valley Chapter

The late Spring and Summer activities for the Fox Valley Trout Unlimited Chapter are now well underway. These activities offer many options for chapter members to enhance the coldwater resources in Central Wisconsin.

The Annual April Angling Adventure was at the end of April. About three dozen anglers spent the weekend based at the West Fork Sportman's Club campground on the West Fork of the Kickapoo Riv-

er in Avalanche. Event organizer Roger Genske said the weather was great and that many nice fish were caught and released. Plans are being made at this time for "Quad A- # 5" in 2019, so check the website in a couple of months so you can start planning for the event.

On May 12 the chapter held the rescheduled tree-planting habitat day on the Pine River just northeast of Wild Rose. We also planted some trees and did some brushing on Da-



### FVTU'S FISHING DAY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

FVTU held its 40th annual Fishing Day for People with Disabilities. The chapter served a picnic lunch and everyone enjoyed a piece of cake for dessert.

vies Creek near where it meets the Pine River. Volunteers planted a variety of trees and shrubs after they received instructions from the DNR crew, who also assisted with the day's activity.

We held our 40th annual Fishing Day for People with Disabilities on May 19. The chapter has been involved with this very successful community outreach program since Del Schwaller planned the inaugural event in 1979. The event was again held at the Appleton YMCA day camp called Camp Shioic, just north of Appleton.

Attendees included 55 happy anglers, family members or caregivers, chapter members and friends of TU. They caught some very nice rainbow trout, and several caught their limit of five. The fish were cleaned and iced by chapter members Dick Stielow, Todd Calder and Todd's daughter Caitie. We served a picnic lunch and everyone enjoyed a piece of cake for dessert. The huge cake was a thank-you from one of the attendees who has taken part in the event for a number of years.

May 19 was also a joint habitat day with the Central Wisconsin Chapter on the West Branch of the White River. The work that is being completed on that section of the White River is in the TU CARES project that has been in the plan-

ning stages for several years. Tom Lager is the coordinator of the project and provides regular updates in Wisconsin Trout.

July 30 will be the third and final work day with the young men from Rawhide Academy, located just south of New London. The habitat work is on Davies Creek, creating brush bundles to be placed in the stream and removal of blow downs that are impeding stream flow.

For our July 21 and August 18 habitat days, we again will partner with the Central Wisconsin chapter and continue with the habitat work on the West Branch of the White River. Please check out our website or the CWTU website for specific information about the work to be completed on those dates.

There are a number of chapter members who will be involved with the Wisconsin TU Youth Fishing Camp July 26-29 at the Pine Lake Camp. FVTU is sponsoring two young people, who just happen to be friends, for the camp this year.

There are many opportunities for chapter members to become involved with one or more events this summer, so please pick a date and join in. Also, check out other state chapters and their websites. Maybe one of their activities would be something that is of interest to you.

—Rich Erickson



### HORNBERG CHAPTER HOSTS FLY FISHING SCHOOL

The annual Frank Hornberg Fly Fishing School was held in May at the Ken Pierce and Brenda Gingles property in Nelsonville. This location is ideal, since their back yard fronts the Tomorrow River, and the weather was perfect.

### Frank Hornberg Chapter

The annual Frank Hornberg Fly Fishing School was held in May at the Ken Pierce and Brenda Gingles property in Nelsonville. This location is ideal, since their back yard fronts the Tomorrow River, and the weather was perfect.

Instructors this year were Matt Salchert, Stu Grimstad, Wyatt Bohm and Jan Tully. Dan Holland took charge of purchasing the hot lunch. Brenda Gingles, Julie Meadows and Dan Holland contributed salads. Patty Holland and Julie Meadows did the cooking. Our thanks to all the chapter members who helped make this year's school a resounding success.

Our River Keepers group had its first river survey on May 17. Ken Pierce organizes this activity, with the assistance of Rick Foris, Mary Jo Phankuch, John Vollrath and Jim Zack. Our location is the same as previous years, just downstream from the highway bridge in Nelson-

ville. It was not surprising to find the river running higher than normal, thanks to the generous amounts of rain this Spring.

Stu Grimstad represented our chapter at the Little Plover River Appreciation Day May 4. Grade school students always appreciate his demonstration of fly-casting skills.

Dan Holloway is the new treasurer of the Hornberg Chapter. He replaces Jean Klein, who served in that capacity for several years. Our thanks to Jean for faithfully executing the duties of the office.

Our chapter scheduled a work evening and a work day in June as we needed to do some repair work on the Tomorrow River as it runs through the Lea property. We expect to have more work days this summer, as time permits.

—John Vollrath



# Chapter News



### NOHR CHAPTER GIVES LANDOWNER APPRECIATION AWARD

Mary Grimm, shown here with Tim Fraley, was honored by the Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter with the Landowner Appreciation Award.

### Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter

We had our annual meeting in April at UW-Platteville, which began with a report by our student intern. We also heard a short report by the Oversight Professor, Kris Wright. Overall review shows a slight increase in trout size and numbers and a decrease in numbers of warmer water species.

About 75 people attended our annual banquet May 4, and we took in about \$7,500. We had attendance

from a couple other chapters and our college-related chapter.

We gave out two school grants of \$600 each to Eric Erickson of Black Hawk High School in South Wayne, who will teach a new ecology course focusing on impacts on healthy waterways and stream beds.

Linda Ihm and Donna Williams-Richter of Fennimore Community Schools with students from Fennimore Middle School and Iowa



### NOHR CHAPTER ANNOUNCES SCHOOL GRANTS

At its recent banquet, Susan Carpenter announces school grants from the Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter. They gave out two school grants of \$600 each. One went to Eric Erickson of Black Hawk High School in South Wayne, who will teach a new ecology course focusing on impacts on healthy waterways and stream beds. Another went to Linda Ihm and Donna Williams-Richter of Fennimore Community Schools with students from Fennimore Middle School and Iowa Grant Middle School. They will use our grant to partially support a Lake Superior field trip which focuses on climate changes in northern Wisconsin.

Grant Middle School, will use our grant to partially support a Lake Superior field trip which focuses on climate changes in northern Wisconsin.

We gave out the following chapter awards:

- Friend of Nohr TU to DNR Fisheries Biologist Brad Simms and-NRCS District Conservationist Joe Schmelz.
- Golden Net Award to Gene Mazewski.
- Service Award for 20 years of being secretary to Gordon Grieshaber.

- Landowner Appreciation to Mary Grimm.

We have approved our support for Trout In the Classroom for Fennimore K-12, with Kurt Meyer heading it up. The TIC program at North Crawford, which we set up with the Coulee Region Chapter is still going.

We are sending three kids to the WITU Youth Fishing Camp, including Trent Hill, Isaac Wheeler Bonilla and Chloe Landon. We will sponsor all three or share that sponsorship with another chapter.

—Brian Larson

### Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter

Kiap-TU-Wish sponsored a Fly Fishing for Trout clinic in River Falls on June 2. The 15 people who attended had a great time fishing and learning about the river, the fish and the aquatic life in the Kinnickinnic River.

During the afternoon participants learned casting skills, some entomology, knot tying, fishing strategies, safety and a lesson in courtesy. After supper, which was supplied by the chapter, students fished with volunteer guides. Due to the outstanding volunteerism demonstrated by the chapter membership, the guide-to-student ratio was 1:1.

Many thanks to members Scott Thorpe, Maria Manion, Mitch Ab-

bett, Mark Peerenboom, Jim Kojis, Ed Constantini, Sarah Sanford, Ron Kuehn, Scott Holway, Charles Condon, Ryan Myers and Tim Christensen. We also had help from Bill Hinton and Joe Schreifels. Special thanks to Gary Horvath for the ecology lesson, Brian Smolinski for the food, and Joe Gathman for the terrific lesson on stream invertebrates.

In mid to late May, Kiap-TU-Wish volunteers participated in a number of youth education opportunities. Volunteers assisted with the release of brown trout into the Willow River by the Amery Intermediate and Greenwood Elementary schools. On release day, and under the tutelage of Dean Hansen, the kids were able to find and identify



### NOHR CHAPTER HONORS GORDON GRIESHABER

At its annual banquet recently, the Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter presented its Service Award to Gordon Grieshaber for 20 years of being chapter secretary.





## Chapter News



### KIAP-TU-WISH FLY FISHING CLINIC A SUCCESS

Kiap-TU-Wish volunteer guide, Sarah Sanford, consulting with a fly fishing clinic attendee.

many different species of aquatic insects, as well as a crayfish and a rainbow darter.

John Carlson taught fly tying. Tom Carlson, Tom Schnadt, Bill Hinton and Greg Olson taught fly rod casting. All 90 kids had a great time and their enthusiasm was contagious! In total, the chapter had 4 programs releasing fish into the Willow: Amery Intermediate School, Greenwood Elementary School, Rocky Run Elementary, and Amery High School.

Prior to their release day, Greenwood Elementary went through our Bugs in the Classroom program led by Dean Hansen and assisted by chapter members Perry Palin and Mark Peerenboom.

Rocky Branch Elementary had an ECO Day, with chapter members Dean Hansen and Tom Schnadt helping kids collect and identify stream insects from the Kinnickinnic River.

On May 21 Fairmount Santrol sponsored a field day for 145 Ellsworth eighth graders. The Pine Creek restoration project was the focus of the field day. Michelle Maxson and Mark Peerenboom showed students how to capture and identify invertebrates and relate the species mix to overall stream health. Tom Schnadt led a discussion on how and why stream restoration is necessary in the Driftless Area.

In project work, John Carlson, Tom Schnadt, Gary Horvath, Bob Diesch and many other Kiap-TU-Wish members raised funds to replace a perched culvert on Parker

Creek in Polk County. This perched culvert prevented brook trout from returning upstream to their spawning beds, once they had passed downstream through the culvert and into the Apple River.

Kiap-TU-Wish board member John Carlson spearheaded this multi-year project, which involved Polk County, the Town of Alden, DNR, Star Prairie Fish & Game, Bosch Foundation and several other entities. The culvert was replaced with a fish-friendly culvert last fall.

Kiap-TU-Wish board members and DNR employees met onsite to review the culvert project this spring. As noted by DNR specialist Jon Simonson, "My take is that this looks like a very successful culvert replacement project! Great work! It will be really neat to watch the exposed sediment upstream establish with vegetation and continue to restore itself!"

Kiap-TU-Wish volunteer coordinator Randy Arnold totaled the results of the 2017-2018 winter brushing season. Roughly 120 volunteers spent approximately 2,300 hours working on easements along the Kinnickinnic River, Wilson Creek, Hay Creek and the Trimbelle River. More than 2,000 box elders were cleared on just one easement alone.

The chapter began work on the Kaplan easement on the upper Kinnickinnic, a 15-acre tract owned by Kiap-TU-Wish member John Kaplan. The site had been cleared of box elders about a decade ago and needed work again.



### PERUSING ALL THOSE AMAZING FLIES IN THE FLY BOXES

Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter fly fishing clinic attendees peruse the fly box of Kiap-TU-Wish volunteer Ed Constantini.

An NRCS funding delay prevented work from starting on the Gutting easement along the Trimbelle, so Kiap-TU-Wish assisted the Wisconsin Clear Waters Chapter and brushed along the Klingman easement on Wilson Creek, another NRCS-funded stream restoration project with bank work scheduled for this summer.

At the request of the DNR's Nate Anderson, Kiap-TU-Wish then moved to the Ruenger easement on Hay Creek. Volunteers removed hundreds of mature box elder trees and the Ruengers assisted on many of the workdays, even providing freshly baked cookies courtesy of Barb Ruenger and her grandchildren. Fairmount Santrol (now Covia) volunteers turned out for one mid-week workday to finish up at this site.

Finally, late in the season, the chapter shifted work to the Gutting easement along the Trimbelle River,

where over the course of seven workdays volunteers logged 600 hours removing about 1,000 box elder trees.

We thank all the volunteers who spent time working on these rivers. Clear sites makes it easier for the restoration crews when they work on these rivers during the summer. Special thanks to volunteers who participated on more than eight workdays, some of which never got above 10 degrees: John Rock, Jim Tatzel, Charlie Schlatter, Scott Wagner, Matt Wysocki, Dale Dahlke, Dave Gregg, Loren Haas, Dave Kozlovsky, John Skelton and Pete Kilibarda. On two separate occasions, only a single volunteer turned out to help: Mark Peerenboom on one day and Pete Kilibarda on the other.

—Mike Alwin, Scott Wagner, Greg Olson, Tom Schnadt, Randy Arnold, Maria Manion

### Northwoods Chapter

In late April we held our main fundraising event, the 42nd Annual Conservation Banquet at Rhinelanders Quality Inn. Many chapter members took on additional responsibilities to boost attendance. The effort paid off in getting a 70 percent increase in attendance. Also, thanks to the generosity of Laura and David MacFarland and Bill Sherer, our grand prize raffle leading up to the banquet was a success.

In May we held our annual election, and existing officers and board were retained intact. Plus, we added one new member to our board. For the next term we will be represented

by President Jay Joppa, Vice President Bill Sherer, Secretary John Zato, Treasurer Terry Cummings, Board of Directors Mick Mlinar, Dave Tipple, Jack Loomis and Duke Andrews.

We are anxiously looking forward to teaming up with the summer crew from the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest to work on area streams this summer. As needed, the chapter will continue to assist Laura MacFarland as she inventories culverts for their ability to allow unhindered passage of fish and aquatic life.

—Terry Cummings

### Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter

It's been a busy spring for the Southeast Wisconsin Chapter of TU (SEWTU). Our chapter, with the support of many dedicated members, has been very active with habitat projects, outreach programs and chapter meetings.

A number of talented and dedicated volunteers, led by John Schick, continued to host fly-tying workshops at the Oak Creek Community Center the first and third

Tuesday of the month during April and May. To be informed about what is being planned for each session John has created the Fly Tying email list that members can be added to by sending a request to g.a.schick@wi.rr.com.

Our first habitat workday of 2018, organized by our conservation-chair and habitat committee co-chair Andy Avgoulas, was our annual Menominee River Clean-up Day



# Chapter News



## SEWTU MEMBERS HELP STOCK PARADISE SPRINGS

SEWTU helped the DNR to stock Paradise Springs with trout. On May 14 members Stan Strelka and Ken Rizzo arrived to provide help with the stocking of approximately 170 trout.

on April 21. Each year we assist the Milwaukee River Keepers and many other volunteer organizations to clean up the Menomonee River by pulling tremendous amounts of trash from the river, its banks, the Hank Aaron Trail, and Miller Park, which abuts the river at this location.

Like in past years, we teamed up with the Milwaukee River Keepers and the DNR on Saturday morning for the annual cleanup of the Menomonee River. This stretch of the river and trail is popular with recreational hikers, bicyclists, bird watchers, dog walkers and other outdoor enthusiasts.

As many of our members know, this river has an excellent spring and fall run of steelhead and other salmonid species. Unfortunately, this river collects more than its fair share of junk, so we are excited and proud to be working with the River Keepers to give it a good spring cleaning each year.

On May 12 we headed back to the northeast side of Oconomowoc to work on spring-fed Rosenow Creek, which maintains a healthy population of naturally reproducing brook trout. A big thanks goes out to the many years of work by TU, the DNR and ecology students from Oconomowoc High School. This is an important workday for our chapter, because it's a stream in our own community.

SEWTU had its last Rosenow Creek workday in July 2015. The stream is in relatively good shape but some fallen trees needed to be removed from the stream and bank areas along with some brushing and debris removal needed to maintain this nearly urban quality fishery. A special thank you goes to Ken Rizzo for providing outstanding leadership and organization for a successful workday.

On May 19 we were led and coordinated by Jim Hartman to team up with the Lakeshore Chapter on a joint work day on the Onion River, which is a great brown trout fishery a short distance from Milwaukee. This was the fifth year in a row that the two chapters donned waders, gloves, boots and protective glasses and armed with pry bars, hand saws, loppers and other work tools, joined forces to work on streams.

The Lakeshore Chapter is much smaller in size than SEWTU, but they have many volunteers who are passionate about coldwater resources, with the Onion being a favorite stream.

This year our summer fishing outing and workday in the Driftless Area took place in early June. Just

as in recent years, the offered our membership several opportunities to get outdoors and work on streams or just participate in some fun and camaraderie. We joined the Aldo Leopold and Coulee Region chapters. We headed back to the West Fork Sportsman's Club on banks of the West Fork of the Kickapoo River for a weekend of stream work, camping and fishing.

Saturday morning stream work was on Mormon Coulee Creek and primarily consisted of clearing brush from the creek, removing downed trees and smaller willows and box elders. Saturday night was an evening of fishing and camping, and many volunteers fished the evening hatch. On Sunday there was show and tell in the West Fork and bug samplings took place to give people an idea of what to imitate while fishing. Thank you to all of the TU members who showed up to make this special event, especially Jason Freund and Rick Larkin for their leadership and coordination of this productive and fun weekend.

Another exciting opportunity for SEWTU was helping the DNR to stock Paradise Springs with trout. On May 14 members Stan Strelka and Ken Rizzo arrived to provide help with the stocking of approximately 170 trout into Paradise Springs. This is a special place for our chapter because it lends itself to being the perfect outside venue for enriching youth education and making our annual family day a success.

SEWTU continues to be very active in educational and outreach programs in our area. On April 14 Rick Frye, who chairs our education committee, and board member Nick Schmal, worked with the West Bend Early Risers Kiwanis Club and the DNR to help coordinate SEWTU support for their annual Kid's Fishing Day. The day is always a success for about 250 children.

Several additional events that took place in April were The Fly Fishers open house and IF4 Film Festival. Pat Ehlers has been a strong supporter of SEWTU for many years and he, along with his staff, continue to provide opportunities for our members to get together and share stories and learn new things while enjoying a few good beverages and delicious food.

Pat continues to host The International Fly Fishing Film tour as a significant fundraiser to help our habitat committee and chapter do stream restoration efforts. Please make sure to continue supporting Pat by visiting his store at 9617 West Greenfield Avenue in West Allis, and surfing his on-line store to pur-



## PARADISE SPRINGS: TROUT FISHING CLOSE TO HOME FOR SEWTU

SEWTU recently helped stock Paradise Springs. This is a special place for the chapter because it lends itself to being the perfect outside venue for enriching youth education and making the annual family day a success.

chase your fishing and tying equipment and materials.

SEWTU chapter meetings are great opportunities to learn about SEWTU events, and they also provide insightful informative guest speakers.

In April Jim Bartelt from Spring Creek Specialties talked about fishing and guiding in spring creeks. Jim has a lifetime of fly-fishing experience and has been guiding anglers for trout on spring creeks since 1990. He is a professional fly-casting instructor and veteran Fly Fishing School Instructor. He has spent his entire career sharing knowledge with others, and we are very fortunate he comes to share his experiences and tips with us.

Matt Brush and John Klinzing of the Orvis Milwaukee store were our guest speakers for the May chapter meeting. Matt and John delivered a two-part presentation. The first portion was a short segment focused on trout fishing in Colorado, presented by Matt and highlighting his experience as an Orvis Endorsed Guide at Fly Fishing Outfitters in Beaver Creek. The second portion gave SEWTU members the opportunity to cast the new Helios 3 rods.

John Klinzing is the newly appointed Fishing Manager at the Orvis Milwaukee store, and with just over five years invested in the sport of fly fishing, he encompasses a wealth of knowledge that he is excited to share with newcomers and skilled anglers alike.

Now that summer is here, we will be taking a break from our monthly chapter meetings. We will be busy at workdays, fishing and vacationing with family and friends. Our monthly meetings will resume in September.

Here is a list of upcoming workdays, meetings and events:

- Early July - Annual Mid-Summer Casting Clinic, Greenfield Park
- July 21 - Scuppernong River workday #1, Kettle Moraine Southern Unit
- August 18 - Family Stream Exploration Day at Paradise Springs, Kettle Moraine Southern Unit
- September 22 - Bluff Creek workday #1, Whitewater
- Late September - chapter meeting
- Early October - Annual Fin and Feather Festival in Shorewood
- Early October - Annual Root River Steelhead Facility Open House
- October 20 - Bluff Creek Workday #2, Whitewater
- Late October - Annual fundraiser/banquet
- Late November - chapter meeting
- December 1 - Scuppernong River Workday #2, Kettle Moraine Southern Unit
- Mid-December - chapter meeting/holiday party

SEWTU members should watch for monthly email updates from Southeastern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited for the latest opportunities and updates to participate in activities, courtesy of Tony Olveda.

Our members are committed to providing outreach opportunities to help educate others about our mission, and committed to conserve, protect and restore coldwater resources.

I hope everyone has a great summer and I wish for you to enjoy tight lines, with many fishing opportunities.

—Todd Durian

## Southern Wisconsin Chapter

A busy spring has SWTU ready for a bit of a summer break.

We had a great group of eager-to-learn people for our annual River-smith Casting Clinic. A fun group spanning ages and experience learned about casting, bugs, stream ecology, reading the water, gear and more. Many thanks to Tristan Kloss for organizing it, and to the volunteer crew who lent their time and talents.

Our Stream Team has hacked, sawed, cleared, burnt and planted along a variety of tremendous

stretches of cold water. We are lucky to have Jim Hess as our Conservation Committee Chair and congratulate him on his recent recognition. At the Summit for Natural Resources Volunteer banquet, Jim was awarded for his outstanding achievement in citizen-based monitoring.

We were surprised to learn that his coldwater restoration work is just a slice of Jim's volunteering! Among other things, Jim monitors bats, insects/bees, rare plants, 27 bluebird boxes and nine kestrel boxes, eight





## Chapter News



### SWTU GETS HELP FROM FOURTH GRADERS

An enthusiastic group of 4th graders from Lincoln Elementary School haul prairie seed to scatter at the Neperud property. It was a field trip to remember, for the students and the members of SWTU.



### SWTU INSTALLS BRUSH BUNDLES ON SARABACHER EASEMENT

The rainy spring delayed a SWTU workday until June, when our hearty crew had perfect weather for installing brush bundles on the Sarabacher easement. These should be tremendous for stream and fish health.



### LEARNING IN FOR A CLOSER LOOK

At SWTU's recent Casting Clinic, students young and old got lessons on casting, Tenkara, reading the water, gear and entomology. That's Mike Burda in the black coat sharing some insights on the little critters trout love to eat.

of which host breeding pairs. Jim plans to add monarch monitoring to his duties this year. He and his wife Marci are also actively involved in the Prairie Enthusiasts and in conducting prescribed burns.

Jim is also on our board of directors, which saw some changes this spring. We thank Matt Sment, Tristan Kloss and Mike Burda for their great service to the resource. We are excited to have several new board members and a new President, Amy Klusmeier. Read our June newsletter or visit the "Contact us" tab on swtu.org to learn more

about the amazing women and men who lead our efforts.

It's also not too early to mark your calendar for our annual Ice-breaker fundraiser. It will be Saturday, January 26, 2019 and once again at American Family Insurance, Madison. Our new event chair is Ben Lubchansky and we look forward to the great event.

Please stop by swtu.org for more news about our chapter and to check out our calendar of events. You can also find us on Facebook.

—Drew Kasel



### SWTU'S JIM HESS AWARDED FOR MONITORING EFFORTS

SWTU is lucky to have Jim Hess as its Conservation Committee Chair and congratulate him on his recent recognition. At the Summit for Natural Resources Volunteer banquet, Jim was awarded for his outstanding achievement in citizen-based monitoring.

## Wild Rivers Chapter

I love this time of year, when the demands of raising pigs and growing produce compete with getting on the river once in a while. This summer, the pigs and produce are winning, but every once in a while, I have been able to grab a rod and hit my favorite stream.

In April, Bob Haase visited Wild Rivers territory to present some of his great ideas about tying innovations and thinking through factors involved in both tying and presentation to trout. Bob had to hit the road fast after the presentation because our final winter storm was on its way, but it was great to have him join our chapter meeting.

In May, Nancy Larson from Project Greenfire presented to the chapter on the mission of the organization. Project Greenfire is a group of scientists (mostly retired DNR) who are working to ensure that relevant science is being considered by lawmakers and citizens as policy changes are sought.

During the first week of June I was fortunate to attend the partners meeting held annually to celebrate the partnership between Great Lakes area tribal members and fisheries professionals from the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, the DNR and federal agencies and to acknowledge the accomplishment of all of these partners in developing a fisheries assessment of the Wisconsin Ceded Territories.

The event is a fun day fishing and socializing and networking with some of the partners, and having a

few Green Bay Packers join in on all the fun. It is an honor for Trout Unlimited to be invited to the event. I enjoyed catching up with many of the Wild Rivers Chapter's partners in our little piece of fisheries conservation, as well as meeting lots of new people. A big thanks to the Lac Courte Oreilles band of Ojibwe for hosting the event at The Landing on the Chippewa Flowage.

Our chapter is excited to hear of successful work on habitat improvement projects in the Chequamegon Nicolet National Forest, which we are fortunate to be partners in the completion of. We are looking forward to a later summer date for some post-beaver removal habitat improvement in Sawyer County with DNR fisheries biologist Max Wolter.

Finally, the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program is awarding a \$362,900 grant to the Bayfield Regional Conservancy to purchase 590 acres of forested land adjacent to Copper Falls State Park that has the Tyler Forks and two tributaries of class 1 trout water running through the property. Our chapter, along with the Wisconsin State Council, partnered with the Bayfield Regional Conservancy to see this important conservation opportunity come to be. Congratulations to the Bayfield Regional Conservancy, and thanks to the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program, for recognizing the importance of protecting this large parcel of land in Ashland County.

—Bob Rice



# Chapter News



## Wisconsin Clear Waters

WCWTU has had an active spring calendar, including the recent chapter camping and fishing trip to the Driftless Area and the beginning of the summer activities.

June 2 was the Knapp Youth Day. Dale Dahlke organizes and oversees volunteers for this youth fishing event at Knapp Pond. The family fun fishing day started with a thunder storm that ended just in time for 30 kids to enjoy some great fishing action with their parents and six chapter volunteers.

While an extreme heat wave kept the trout deep and out of reach, the bluegills were very cooperative. We provided the spinning and fly rods, worms and flies, and prizes, while the local Menomonie Burger King provided free Whoppers and ice cream cones. The morning's event concluded with the casting contest. Categories included age group spin casting and fly-rod casting. As smiling faces returned to their cars, the rain, with exquisite timing, returned.

Fly-casting lessons were taught by volunteers Greg Lynch and Lon Christianson. This was a free multiple night course that teaches fly casting and educates as to the benefit of TU.

June 9 was our trout fishing lesson and outing at Beaver Creek reserve. We pay for the complete cost associated with this class, provide the volunteers to teach class and organize a trip to a local pond to put newly acquired skills to use.

Also on June 9 we co-sponsored the Trout Day Celebration in Buffalo County, along with associated area outdoor clubs. This is a well-attended local event that celebrates the work of local landowners and clubs rehabilitating streams in the Buffalo, Trempealeau, and Pepin Country area.

In late June we held our final work days on the Sand Creek project in Chippewa County. Nate Anderson of the DNR has been busy placing rock and doing instream work on a parcel that connects two prior project areas. Once Nate gives the word, volunteers will assist in seeding and mulching new work to complete the project.

Nate Anderson will begin work on Wilson Creek after completion of the Sand Creek project. The Kiap-TU-Wish chapter and our chapter volunteers did yeoman's work brushing this section in preparation for Nate's work.

We hope to establish a more active brushing crew in the upcoming season. Many area streams are in great need of brushing and cleanup. Gary Welch and Frank Lowry have agreed to help organize workdays and bushing crews. See our website for updates as they become available.

On June 6 we announced a new project on Hay Creek in Chippewa

County. This is a Class I trout stream that meanders for six miles through western Chippewa County before it empties into Duncan Creek.

It is home to a native brook trout population that is sustained entirely by natural reproduction. The density is well above the average for western Wisconsin with about 2,500 brook trout per mile. However, due to a lack of habitat, there is about 1,200 brook trout per mile in the proposed project site downstream of 93rd Street. The proposed site for the habitat improvement project has the potential to have a brook trout density equal to or above that of the rest of the stream if the right practices are implemented.

This habitat project will add to the long history of trout habitat work that was completed in Hay Creek the 1960s and 1970s. Much of the habitat work is accessible to the public, including the proposed site, because easements provide angler access along almost the entirety of the stream.

Hay Creek has excellent water quality and has been designated a brook trout reserve stream by the Wisconsin DNR. Brook trout reserve streams are streams where brook trout will likely persist into the future given the current climatic projections. Reserve streams have healthy brook trout populations, strong ground water input, and low catches of non-native salmonids. Reserve streams are given priority when it comes to easement acquisition, trout habitat improvement projects and native plantings that will provide future shading. Additionally, Hay Creek is an important coldwater tributary of Duncan Creek, which is thermally challenged due to an upstream impoundment. Hay Creek likely provides thermal refuge for trout from Duncan Creek during warm stretches in the summer and it also is a seed source for brook trout recruitment into Duncan Creek.

Hay Creek work should begin in late 2018 or early 2019. It is hoped that the project can be completed in 2019.

Finally, the fall season will begin with the election of a new board and new officers. Several long-time board members' terms expire, so there is opportunity for new faces to get actively involved (or re-involved) in TU. Please contact chapter President Dick Duplessie if you would like to help out.

An interesting fall meeting/program schedule had been set up by Jim Erickson. Please see [wcwtu.com](http://wcwtu.com) for a list of meetings and topics. The location of chapter meetings has changed. The new location is at the MODICUM, 3732 Spooner Avenue, Altoona.

—Dick Duplessie

## Wisconsin River Valley Chapter

Hello everyone. After the stunning 30 inches of snow in late April I was concerned what the weather would be like to travel to Poynette for the Midwest Outdoor Education Expo in mid-May. I haven't been able to make it to this one for the last two years and it was great to be able to participate and tie flies with the students again. The weather was beautiful. I like to bring a few colors of crystal flash for kids that want to

add a little sparkle to their creation and am always asked "what is that?" One of the girls visiting my station didn't think the name crystal flash had enough pizzazz and suggested "Unicorn Hair" instead. I liked the suggestion and have been sharing her story.

On May 18 we traveled to Medford for the Taylor County Sportsman's Youth Expo. Many thanks to Henry Kannemoto, Bob Pils and

Gene Koshak, who had a busy day demonstrating their fly-tying skills to the 5th and 6th graders from schools in the area. I stayed busy on the other end of the fairgrounds with fly casting. One of the boys who came to try out told me that he was sure he was not going to do well actually turned out to be the best caster of the day. On top of a fairly strong cross wind, he was able to hit the frizbee target three times in a row. I think he was pleased with his success, he stopped again a few hours later and hit the target again.

On June 2 I traveled to Wisconsin Rapids for Kiwanis Kids day for more fly tying. I have had kids as young as three years old sit on my lap to tie Emu bluegill buggers. It was an overcast day but it didn't seem to slow any of the kids down. They told me that they had partici-

pated in climbing a rock wall, shooting a BB gun and tasting the sweet treats being offered by the beekeeper set up in the parking lot. Many students had to wait in line but were patient and passed the time watching the "bugs of the Underworld." I had about 30 kids sit with me and all were pretty pleased with their creations.

We held our first Wisconsin River Valley Fundraiser picnic June 23 at Prairie Trails Park near Merrill. A free picnic meal was provided and there were raffles with nice prizes, including door prizes for the kids.

On July 21 we will have a workday in northeast Price County. Part of the funding for this trout day is a grant from the Great Lake Trout and Salmon Foundation.

—Linda Lehman

## Wolf River Chapter

May was a busy month for the Wolf River Chapter. On May 5 we gathered at Herb's Landing, a well known fishing and rafting access to the Wolf River near White Lake, to dedicate a bench and plaque commemorating Herb Buettner. The event was well attended by Herb Buettner's family, friends and the Wolf River Chapter.

May 5 was chosen for the dedication as it is the opening day of regular trout fishing on the Wolf River, and Herb was a dedicated trout. Andy Buettner, Herb's son, brought

two of Herb's fly rods and his fishing vest to the dedication. As Bill Kallner dedicated Herb's bench, he reminded the group of how throughout his life Herb worked to protect the beautiful and wild river by preventing any more dams on the river, sanitary sewer dumping, a chemical/hazardous waste dump in Lily and, most importantly, the Crandon Mine from opening at the headwaters of the Wolf River.

He also worked with DNR officials through the Wolf River Chapter to improve trout fishing. The



### WOLF RIVER CHAPTER HONORS HERB BUETTNER

John Rose, Laurie Netzow, Zach Buchanan, Andy Killoren, Bill Livingston, Bill Kallner pose with the bench dedicated to Herb Buettner at Herb's Landing.



### WOLF RIVER CHAPTER MEET & GREET ALONG THE WOLF RIVER

The Wolf River Meet & Greet in May, with lead organizer Travis Stuck, was well attended. Trout were caught and there were rave reviews about lunch at the Livingston's on the banks of the Wolf River. It is a great event to learn where the access points are, what flies work and a great way to meet other trouters.





# Chapter News

bench and plaque were donated by the Wolf River Chapter.

The fishing was great in May, even if the river levels were on the high side. Many fishermen enjoyed reeling in nice-sized browns, rainbows and brookies and maybe got a little water in their waders. Most commented on how great the fishing was, how big the trout were and how the new regulations on the Wolf are working.

The Wolf River Meet & Greet in May, with lead organizer Travis Stuck, was well attended. Trout

were caught and there were rave reviews about lunch at the Livingston's on the banks of the Wolf River. If you are not familiar with fishing the Wolf River, this is a great way to learn where the access points are, what flies work and a great way to meet other troutiers. Spin and fly-casters are all welcome. Also, the Green Bay Chapter, which had been working in the area on stream restoration, joined us for lunch. Thanks to all who made this annual event an enjoyable affair.

—Laurie Zen Netzow

## Oak Brook Chapter

The Oak Brook (Chicago) Trout Unlimited chapter (OBTU) will return to Sparta for a stream restoration work day in the heart of the Driftless Area. The work day will be focused on building LUNKER structures for installation in Beaver Creek north of town. Since 2014, OBTU has provided both volunteer manpower and financial support that has been leveraged with local government funds.

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

We are also continuing our financial support of Weister Creek in Vernon County. 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.

Weister Creek is another example of a stream restoration in the Driftless Area supported by OBTU. For the past several years OBTU and other organizations have provided financial support for this project, which is within the Kickapoo Valley Reserve. It is a big project with a total length of 2.6 miles. In addition to stream improvement, the project provides habitat for hunting, and is a demonstration site for many nongame wildlife habitat practices.

We have continued financial support of the Trout Unlimited



### OBTU CONTINUES ITS SUPPORT OF WEISTER CREEK PROJECT

The phase 4 section of the 2.6-mile Weister Creek multi-year project will be completed this summer, with support from the Oak Brook Chapter. For the past several years OBTU and other organizations have provided financial support for this project, which is within the Kickapoo Valley Reserve. It is a big project with a total length of 2.6 miles. In addition to stream improvement, the project provides habitat for hunting, and is a demonstration site for many nongame wildlife habitat practices.

Driftless Area Restoration Effort (TUDARE) initiative and hosted Duke Welter, TUDARE's Outreach Coordinator, as the chapter's featured speaker at a recent

membership meeting. He highlighted TUDARE's past accomplishments and top priorities over the next 10 years.

—Jim Schmiedeskamp

# Watershed Access Fund

## Summer 2018 update

The 2018 Watershed Access Fund campaign is off to an incredible start with more than \$10,000 in donations! Thank you all for continuing to support this important program, which permanently protects access to our favorite trout streams.

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.

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	New Richmond 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 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	Peshtigo 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
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

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_





# Wisconsin's Great Lakes stream restoration program update



### OTTER CREEK CULVERT REPLACEMENT IN THE WORKS

This set of culverts on Otter Creek in Forest County is slated to be replaced in 2018. This project is anticipated to improve habitat for the yellow rail, a state-threatened bird, in addition to improving instream habitat and aquatic organism passage.

By Laura MacFarland, Great Lakes Stream Restoration Manager

For the third year, Trout Unlimited staff and volunteers are assisting the U.S. Forest Service and local municipalities in northern Wisconsin to identify and replace road-stream crossings that are barriers to trout movement, are degrading trout habitat and/or are at risk of failure.

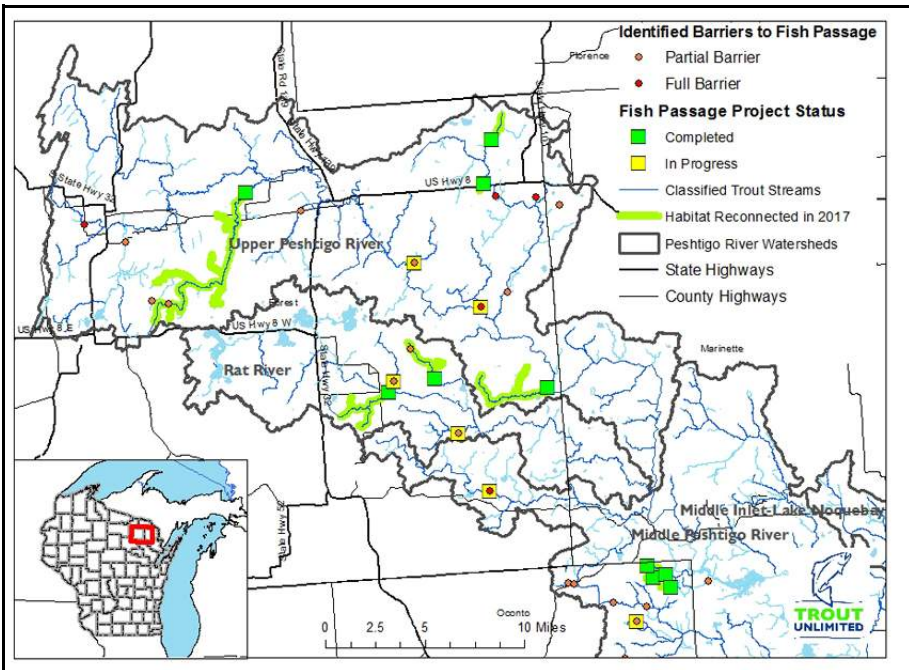
While it would be tough to beat last year's stats (11 barriers removed to reconnect 42 miles of coldwater habitat), we have some exciting projects slated this summer in collaboration with the Forest Service. If all goes as planned, five additional road stream crossings will be replaced on the South Branch Popple River, Stoney Creek, Otter Creek, an unnamed tributary to the north fork of the Thunder River and Jones Creek.

We also continue to partner with the Forest Service, Forest County

Potawatomi Community, DNR, Town of Wabeno and the Friends of Wabeno to improve trout habitat on the North Branch Oconto River. This will entail brush bunding, large wood additions, the removal of remnant dam material and the replacement of one road stream crossing.

We are excited to welcome two summer interns to our team, Tyler Twite and Spencer Davis. Both are students at UW-Stevens Point. Tyler and Spencer will be spending the summer assisting us to document geomorphic changes at our 2017 project locations, survey 2019/2020 projects, and fill in gaps within our existing road-stream crossing inventories.

Thank you to the Wisconsin State Council and chapters including Southeast Wisconsin, Green Bay, Wild Rivers, Marinette, Northwoods, Antigo and Oconto River. They continue to provide financial support for this program. None of this would be possible without you.



### PESHTIGO RIVER WATERSHED SEEING RESULTS

Trout Unlimited is partnering with the U.S. Forest Service to continue to eliminate fish-passage barriers within coldwater streams within the Peshtigo River watershed. It is our hope that by 2020 we can eliminate those projects



### LEARNING THE ART OF SURVEYING

TU Stream Restoration Specialist Greg Orum instructs TU Interns Tyler and Spencer on how to operate a surveyor's total station.



## RESTORING STREAMS, WORKING WITH KIDS, WORKING WITH VETERANS

That's what we do, and your purchase of a Wisconsin TU license plate supports our efforts.

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)



# FISH STORIES

## Patrolled by hand-fed giants

By Curt Reese

Trout people never give specific stream location information, unless it is for a work day to clear brush or build LUNKER structures. I won't break that secrecy protocol here, but think it is important to provide some details to give context to the following fish story.

I live in western Wisconsin and there's a healthy stream in the area that I'll call Local Creek for this story. It's my favorite stream to fish because it is a close drive from home and it has a healthy population of browns and brooks.

In early season 2018 I was fishing with my friend Chris. He's from Minnesota, but was coming through the area from a work trip and wanted to connect and fish my local water. We met on Local Creek and netted a couple browns on one section and then we moved upstream to look for brookies. The scenery and conversation were great, but the fishing was not. The warm afternoon had led to snow melt which dropped the temp of the stream, and the fish just weren't that active.

Chris and I walked and talked a lot and realized the end of our day was just a few minutes away. I tied on a crystal white woolly bugger to work one last run while Chris watched my turn to cast. I stood in the stream and made a cast into the right edge of the run.

My fly hit the water and moments later I had a good fish on. Its extremely large red-cheeked head rose out of the water, and then made a run past me and then back upstream. This was easily the biggest fish I had ever hooked in the Driftless. It all happened so fast, but my estimation on size was that 25 inches would be a conservative estimate of this leviathan. While I was foolishly planning my Instagram captions for this monster, the hook came loose and I had my bugger back in my hand, no fish.

What just happened? I looked over my left shoulder to make eye contact with Chris to see if I imagined this. He was 20 feet away on top of the bank, having viewed the whole incident.

"Was that a big fish?" I asked for reassurance. "Bigger than big." Chris said. "Are there salmon or steelhead here in this stream?" he joked.

This didn't make sense. The fish I had hooked was not a brown, which can grow to great size here in the Driftless. Could a brookie get that big here? Probably not. Definitely not. I've caught a 14" brook here in the past, but our native fish certainly don't grow to more than 20" in this part of the world. Rainbow? Why would a rainbow of that size be here? Why would any rainbow be here in Local Creek?

See **GIANTS**, page 17

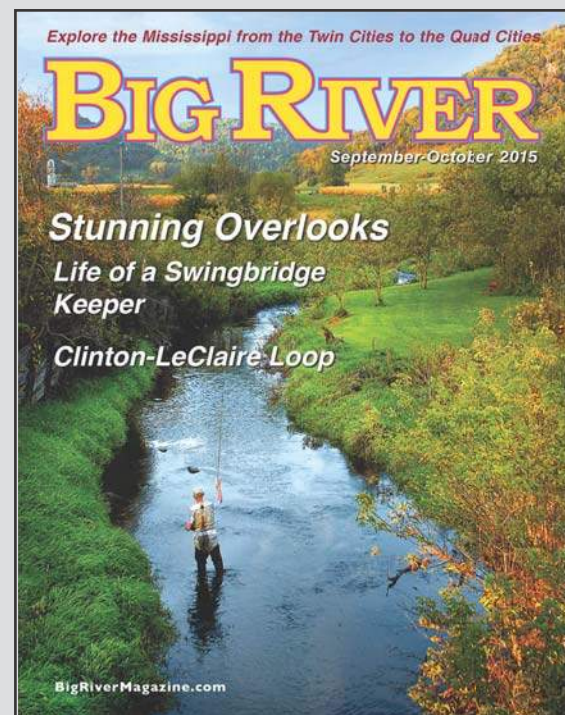


David Nash and Eric Misch

### IS THERE A TROUT (OK, CHAR) AS BEAUTIFUL AS THIS?

The 20-plus-inch fish that haunts the author was probably not a brook trout. As it turns out, there are a few giant rainbows lurking in his favorite local stream.

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