



# Wisconsin Trout

Spring 2019

## Your help needed for stewardship, stamps, Bristol Bay, Clean Water Rule

Contacting our elected officials is something that every TU member can easily do to make a real difference, and it only takes a few minutes.



**THE STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM IS CRUCIAL FOR PUBLIC STREAM ACCESS**  
The State Council seeks a 10-year reauthorization of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program. The Governor's budget proposal only includes a two-year extension of stewardship funding at the current level of \$33 million per year, and suggests forming a blue-ribbon panel to make recommendations about the future of the program.

By Mike Kuhr, State Council Chair

Spring marks a peak season in our advocacy calendars. Nationally, we're celebrating the passage of the Natural Resources Management Act, which reauthorizes the Land and Water Conservation Act and offers public land and water protections through more than 100 other specific bills.

We can't afford to take a break, though. Public comment periods are now open on a newly proposed Clean Water Rule, which looks much different than the Clean Water Rule we supported in 2015, and the proposed Pebble Mine in Bristol

Bay. Please take a few minutes and go to [standup.tu.org](http://standup.tu.org) to weigh in on these critical issues.

### Stewardship and stamps

At the state level, we're heading into the heart of the budget season. Governor Evers has released his proposed budget, and the legislature's Joint Finance Committee is starting to craft their own version. The Governor's proposal did not include either of our top two priorities: A 10-year reauthorization of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program and an increase in the trout stamp fees.

The Governor's budget proposal

only includes a two-year extension of stewardship funding at the current level of \$33 million per year, and suggests forming a blue-ribbon panel to make recommendations about the future of the program.

The State Council has hired Brandon Scholz from The Capitol Group to lobby on our behalf in the State Capitol. But it's going to take more than a lobbyist and a few legislator meetings to reach our goals. It's going to take a collective effort of all of us at the grassroots level, together with the other voices in the conservation community, to ensure that the brightest days of Wisconsin trout fishing are still ahead of us.

### Please communicate with your elected officials

TU members and supporters are encouraged to seek out their elected officials and let them know that investments in public lands and access through the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program and stream restoration projects funded by trout stamps are having a positive impact on our quality of life while contributing to healthy, sustainable economies statewide.

The easiest way to share your opinions with your elected official is to send an email. You can find their contact information at [legis.wisconsin.gov](http://legis.wisconsin.gov).

But a 30-second phone call to their office will have more of an impact. Don't be nervous. You'll be talking to a staffer who's there to hear your comments and report them to your legislator. Just remember to be brief and polite.

My calls go something like this, and yours can, too: "Hello, my name is Mike Kuhr. I live in Monona with my wife and two daughters and I wanted to share my thoughts about two items I'd like to see in the

upcoming state budget. I'm an angler and a volunteer for Trout Unlimited. We value investments in public access to the outdoors and funding for stream restoration. I would urge Senator \_\_\_ (or Representative \_\_\_) to support a 10-year re-authorization of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program and a \$5 increase in the trout stamp fee from \$10 to \$15. Thank you for taking the time to speak with me about these issues today."

After you've done a few phone calls, we hope you'll consider attending a budget listening session. Many legislators will schedule these in the spring to gather input from constituents. This is a perfect time to reaffirm our commitment to the stewardship program and the trout stamp fee increase.

If you've already missed a scheduled listening session or your legislator has not hosted one, consider setting up a brief in-district meeting. Many legislators will make themselves available for 10 or 15 minutes at their district office, or a local coffee shop, to meet with constituents.

Ideally, these short visits will end with you offering to show your representative and their staff some of the latest restoration work taking place in the area. Better yet, offer to take them fishing sometime this summer. Often legislators need to see this type of work firsthand to understand how much of a positive impact we're having on our watersheds.

Additional talking points and a printable handout regarding our "budget asks" can be found on our website at [wicouncil.tu.org](http://wicouncil.tu.org). Just look for the "Advocacy - Stewardship and Trout Stamp Fee" blog post. Thank you for staying informed and speaking up on behalf of our coldwater resources.

## Trouble again with GLRI, win for LWCF

By Taylor Ridderbusch,  
TU Great Lakes Organizer

### Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

For the third consecutive year, the Trump Administration's budget proposal looks to cut critical programs that protect and restore coldwater resources and that form the foundation of multi-billion dollar commercial and recreational fishing economies. The proposal would significantly cut funding to the EPA and other agencies, essentially elim-

inating programs such as the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), Section 319, and the Chesapeake Bay Program.

In each of the past two years, members of Congress from Great Lakes states have worked together to push back against proposed cuts to GLRI funding, which has been critically important to the region. Since 2010, the GLRI has supported more than 4,700 projects, totaling

See *GLRI* on page 12



GLRI SUPPORTS RECONNECTION PROJECTS LIKE THIS ONE ON THE HUNTING RIVER IN NORTHERN WISCONSIN

Chair's Column

# “On Stewardship”

By Mike Kuhr, State Council Chair

Stewardship can be defined as “the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one’s care.” In today’s world, that can have many meanings: a parent-child relationship, a statewide public lands initiative, our belonging and sense of duty to an organization like Trout Unlimited, the care for our natural resources, and ultimately, the legacy we will pass on to future generations.

My daughter and I were fortunate to be at the confluence of these meanings on a recent trip to a local trout stream. We were taking advantage of unseasonably mild January weather, and the early catch-and-release trout season in Wisconsin. Fishing with kids can be tricky. You have to be ready to strike when just the right situation presents itself, even if that window is small.

I packed the car, including plenty of snacks, and we headed out to a nearby stream with plenty of public access. We’re fortunate to live in a state where the water belongs to all of us, and we’re allowed to legally fish any navigable stream as long as we keep our feet wet. But that’s not easy to do with a four-year-old. We needed access to the streambank.

Thankfully, for the last 30 years Wisconsin has been investing in public lands and public access through the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program. It’s one of the primary reasons our outdoor economy is thriving, and it makes excursions like the one my daughter and I were on possible.

At the time the Stewardship Program came into existence, I was more concerned with stats on a baseball card than public boat launches, county forests or private lands leased for public fishing access. Things sure do change. For the record I, still like baseball stats, just not in card form.

We pulled up to the parking area at the head of a trail that provides more than two miles of access to a really nice trout stream, accessible via a hiking and biking trail on lands purchased thru the Stewardship Program. We only fished a couple of pools on this afternoon, but it’s nice

to know that we could have went a lot further. It’s good to have goals.

We rigged up and fished the first pool and then the second with no success. My daughters’ attention soon turned to tossing rocks in the creek, then sticks, or anything else that would float. A real in-depth study of

“This Trout Unlimited organization has a way of digging real deep inside you, in a good way, if you let it.”

buoyancy.

We passed a sign describing trout habitat, complete with pictures of some of the DNR personnel and TU volunteers who worked on the stream restoration project. I paused for a moment and thought about all the work that has been done around our state to protect and restore our coldwater resources. I thought about all the chapter and State Council leaders who had come before me. Will my time as “steward” of this Council meet their expectations?

This Trout Unlimited organization has a way of digging real deep



“PUBLIC LANDS ARE THE BEST IDEA AMERICA EVER HAD” Council Chair Mike Kuhr and his daughter enjoy a day of “fishing” on lands purchased through the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program.

inside you, in a good way, if you let it. There are so many good people doing so many good things. It takes courage to show up at that first meeting, and even more courage to come back to the second. But for those who stick with it, the rewards are bountiful. “If you take care of the fish, the fishing will take care of itself.”

But we were here this day to fish, so back in the water goes the line. Soon enough, a 13-inch brown trout is brought to hand. I wet my hand and gently lift it from the water. My daughter dips her finger in the creek and gives the trout a “one finger touch” along the lateral line. We make a clean release, then watch for a minute as it hugs close to the bank before disappearing back into the

depths of the pool.

Children learn quickly that success brings rewards, and my daughter was soon swinging on the tree swing that she had been eyeing up since we arrived. Few things can match the joy of an ear-to-ear grin on a four-year-old, and the sound of the water rushing through the riffles in the trout stream nearby made this a near-perfect moment.

TU President Chris Wood was recently quoted as saying that “Public lands are the best idea America ever had.” Let’s be the best stewards we can be of this principle. Our kids and grandkids will surely thank us someday.

## Council meets June 1 in Viroqua

The State Council’s next meeting is Saturday, June 1 in Viroqua. Watch your email for more details. If you plan to attend, submit agenda items or ask questions about the meeting, please contact Council Chair Mike Kuhr at [mikek.trout@yahoo.com](mailto:mikek.trout@yahoo.com).



For over 25 years we have partnered with conservation groups to protect and enhance quality lake and river fishing. Through our fundraising efforts, we donate to children’s fishing programs, conservation groups like The River Alliance, and fund boat ramp improvements. Join us for interesting monthly programs.

**Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance**  
Join the fun - [wisconsin-smallmouth.com](http://wisconsin-smallmouth.com)

Central Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Presents

*Don Harmon III*

**FLY FISHING SCHOOL**

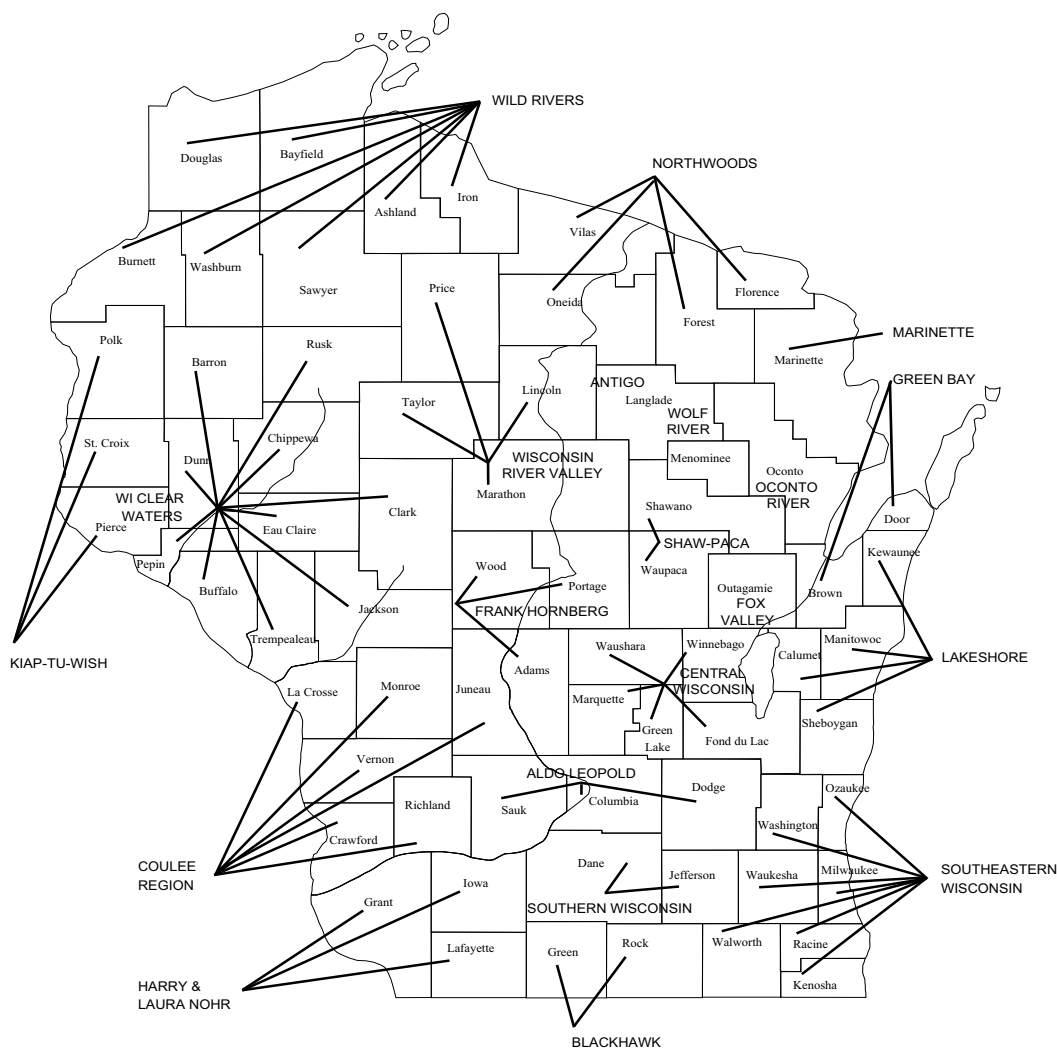
June 1 & 2, 2019 in Amherst, WI

**Come Discover Fly Fishing**

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

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

## Wisconsin TU Chapters, Presidents, and Websites



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

- Aldo Leopold (#375):** Mike Barniskis, 805 S. Center St., Beaver Dam WI 53916; barniskis@yahoo.com; aldoleopold.tu.org
- Antigo (#313):** Scott Henricks, 213 Mary St., Antigo, WI 54409-2536 (715) 623-3867; henricks51@yahoo.com
- Blackhawk (#390):** Dave Brethauer, 17348 W. Gepler Road, Brodhead, WI 53520; (608) 897-4166; dave.brethauer@gmail.com; www.BlackhawkTU.org
- Central Wisconsin (#117):** Laura Tucker; N5424 Sunny Hill Rd, Saxeville, 54976 (920) 622-5401; lbtucker1953@gmail.com; cwtu.org
- Coulee Region (#278):** Dave Krier; 704 Williams St., Viroqua, WI 54665; (612)-417-0652; dj\_trvlr@outlook.com; CouleeRegion-TU.org
- Fox Valley (#193):** Nate Ratliff, 199 Taylor Street, Little Chute, 54140 (920) 851-0502; nratliff@new.rr.com; www.foxvalleytu.org
- Frank Hornberg (#624):** Matt Salchert, 1800 Minnesota Ave., Stevens Point, WI 54481 (715) 321-1394; MattSalchert@Yahoo.com; www.Hornberg-TU.org
- Green Bay (#083):** Adrian Meseberg, 315 S Michigan St. De Pere, WI 54115; (920) 562-6129; christinaandadrian@hotmail.com; greenbaytu.org
- Harry & Laura Nohr (#257):** Tim Fraley, 2 Pagham Court, Madison, WI 53719; hm:(608) 271-1733; c:(608)220-0762; grizzly8589@gmail.com; www.NohrTU.org
- Kiap-TU-Wish (#168):** Scott Wagner, 1208 Highway 35 N. Hudson, WI 54016; 715-781-6874; jswagner@bremer.com; kiaptuwish.org
- Lakeshore (#423):** Myk Hranicka, N2766 Hopeman Heights, Waldo, WI 53093; 920-627-5779; Mhranicka@wi.rr.com; www.Wisconsin-TU.org/Lakeshore
- Marinette (#422):** Dale Lange, N2095 CTH BB, Marinette, WI; 715-582-1135; dhlange@centurytel.net, marinettecounty.tu.org
- Northwoods (#256):** Jay N. Joppa; 8570 Oak Park Circle, Minocqua, WI 54548; (715) 499-1022; jayjoppa@gmail.com; northwoods.tu.org
- Oconto River (#385):** Tom Klatt; 1677 Forest Glen Drive Green Bay, WI 54304 (920) 621-9266; tktklatt@gmail.com; ocontorivertu.com
- Shaw-Paca (#381):** Nate Sipple, 931 E. Fifth St., Shawano, WI 54166; (715) 304-7581; shawpacaTU@gmail.com; Wisconsin-TU.org/ShawPaca; www.facebook.com/shawpacatu
- Southeastern Wisconsin (#078):** Todd Durian; 4724 W. Blue Mound Road, Milwaukee, 53186; flyfishsensei@gmail.com; 414-403-5670; SEWTU.org; facebook.com/southeastwisconsintroutunlimited
- Southern Wisconsin (#061):** Amy Klusmeier; 608-215-1228; amy.klusmeier@gmail.com; P.O. Box 45555, Madison, WI 53744-5555; www.swtu.org
- Wild Rivers (#415):** Bob Rice 74355 Kaukamo Road, Iron River, WI 54847; (715) 292-1143; bobrice723@gmail.com www.wisconsintu.org/wildrivers
- Wisconsin Clear Waters (#255):** Dick Duplessie, 335 Corydon Road, Eau Claire, WI 54701 (715) 577-5805; rduplessie@weldriley.com; WisconsinTU.org/ClearWaters
- Wisconsin River Valley (#395):** Doug Brown, R4800 Timber Lane, Ringle, WI 54471; Dougb.witu@gmail.com; 715-899-0024; www.wrvtu.org
- Wolf River (#050):** Andy Killoren, N1493 Hwy 45, Fremont, WI 54940; (920) 667-5385; akilloren@centurytel.net; WolfriverTU.org

## State Council Leadership

**Chair:** Mike Kuhr, 6103 Queen-sway, Monona, WI 53716; (414) 588-4281; mikek.trout@yahoo.com

**Vice Chair:** Scott Allen; E4835 N. Stoney Ridge Road, Reedsburg, WI 53959; 608-495-1482;

**Secretary:** Bob Rice 74355 Kaukamo Road, Iron River, WI 54847; (715) 292-1143; bobrice723@gmail.com

**Treasurer:** Gary Stoychoff, 1326 14th Ave., Green Bay, WI 54304 garystoychoff@att.net

**National Trustee:** Henry Koltz, 2300 N. Mayfair Rd., Ste. 1175, Milwaukee, WI 53226 (414) 331-5679 (H); hek@sdelaw.com

**Vice Chair, Central Region:** Tom Lager, 1700 Spring Hill Ct., Neenah, WI 54956; tomkarinlager@new.rr.com

**Vice Chair, Northeast Region:** Dale Lange, See Marinette County above.

**Vice Chair, Southern Region:** Jim Wierzba, 2817 Country Club Drive, Mequon, WI 53092 (262) 238-0282; hoke4me@aol.com

**Vice Chair, Western Region:** Gary Horvath, 623 W. Pine Street, River Falls, WI 54806 (715)425-8489; magshorvath@comcast.net

**Awards:** Todd Franklin; Contact info at right

**Education:** Bob Haase, W7949 Treptow Ln., Eldorado, WI 54932 (920) 922-8003 (H); flytier@milwpc.com

**Friends of WITU and Watershed Access Fund:** Doug Brown, R4800 Timber Ln., Ringle, WI 54471 (715) 899-0024; Dougb.witu@gmail.com

**Legal Counsel:** Open

**Advocacy Chair:** Henry Koltz

**Membership:** Chair Paul Kruse, 500 Saint Jude St., Green Bay, WI 54303 (920) 639-2361; kruser2@new.rr.com;

**National Leadership Council Representative:** Linn Beck, 160 W. 19th Ave., Oshkosh, WI 54902 (920) 216-7408; chlbeck@att.net

**Trout In the Classroom Coordinator:** Greg Olson, 16370 Division St., Lakeland MN, 55043; driftless23@gmail.com

**Veterans Services Partnership Coordinator:** Mike Burda; 608-332-0397; northernlightsreef@yahoo.com.

**Website:** Brandon Schmalz, 1229 Goss Ave., Menasha, WI 54952; 920-851-8129; schmalz.dev@gmail.com

**Diversity Initiative:** Heidi Oberstadt, 456 Wadleigh St., Stevens Point, WI 54481; 715-573-5104; heidi.oberstadt@gmail.com

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

**Todd Franklin, Editor**  
1423 Storytown Road  
Oregon, WI 53575  
(608) 516-3647  
toddfranklinwistrout@gmail.com

### State Council Officers

Executive Committee includes officers and vice chairs

**Mike Kuhr, Chair**

**Scott Allen, Vice Chair**

**Bob Rice, Secretary**

**Gary Stoychoff, Treasurer**

## WITU Youth Fishing Camp spots available

*Enrollment is still open for this year's State Council Youth Fishing Camp.*



By Linn Beck

We have opened enrollment for the 2019 WITU Youth Fishing Camp at Pine Lake Bible Camp between Wild Rose and Waupaca. This year's camp will be held August 15-18. Check-in for the camp will be at 1 p.m. on Thursday. We'll wrap up shortly after lunch on Sunday, around 1 p.m.

All chapters have the opportunity to send one youth to the camp until registration closes on August 7, or until all spots are full. We will hold at least one position for each chapter until April 30. After that date any chapter that would like to send more than one youth to the camp can do so. We will close all registration for the camp on August 7. The registration fee is still only \$250.

We will be taking up to 20 youth for the camp. If anyone knows of a youth between the ages of 12 and 16 who you think would like to attend,

please contact your local chapter and give them their information. Or feel free to contact me at chlbeck@att.net and I will contact the chapter. If your chapter has a youth in mind, let me know ASAP.

This year the students will participate in an actual TU work day. This would be in conjunction with our normal streamside presentation on stream restoration, as well as a fish-shocking demonstration. The schedule will still have all the other elements we have been teaching all along. Stream/water safety, knot tying, fly tying, entomology with Tom Lager, and fly, bait and spin fishing.

Wayne Parmley will be contacting previous volunteers to determine your interest this year. If you haven't experienced the fun and satisfaction of volunteering at the camp, please feel free to contact Wayne Parmley and he can fill you in with the details. Come for a day or come for the weekend. Everyone is welcome.

## Please Vote at Spring Hearings April 8

Do not miss out on the opportunity to provide the Wisconsin DNR and the Natural Resources Board with your input regarding their decisions. Your opinion matters. Please provide it.

For the first time, voting online is acceptable. This voting change is important. Firstly, anyone who attends a county hearing will have the choice to fill out a paper ballot or receive a "random verifiable number" to vote online. Secondly, anyone who does not attend the spring hearings (regardless of state, or nation) can vote online without a verification number.

We have a lot of friends, family, and interested parties that recreate here in Wisconsin. If you know someone that hunts, traps or fishes here in Wisconsin, but lives out of state, please let them know about this important change, as they are our conservation partners.

Keep in mind that if you want to submit citizen resolutions or vote for delegates for the Conservation Congress, you must attend a spring hearing in person. You are allowed to vote for delegates in person, and then vote online for the advisory questions. Online voting will be allowed for 72 hours after the meetings.

There are six trout-related questions in the advisory question segment, and we encourage all TU members to voice their opinions.

Question #82 asks to increase the inland Trout Stamp fee from \$10 to \$15. Question #83 asks to increase the Great Lakes Trout & Salmon Stamp fee from \$10 to \$15. We strongly encourage you to vote "yes" to these two questions.

Sportsmen on your county delegation need your votes during the elections. These elections are the first order of business during each spring hearing. Some counties are always looking for new delegates. The more anglers that we elect as delegates, the more our voice is heard inside the Conservation Congress.

As anglers, we naturally gravitate to the fishing-based committees, and our passion for fishing gives us a great perspective as to where we want to guide the state. I highly recommend that you consider running for a delegate position or attending the spring hearings to support another angler's election.

If you are curious about running as a delegate, reach out to your local delegation. They can answer questions. I can answer questions, as well. Contact me any time at John\_Rennpferd@hotmail.com.

Tight lines, and I will see you on the water.

—John Rennpferd

## Wisconsin Great Lakes stream restoration program update

*TU's Great Lakes Stream Restoration Manager Chris Collier is settling into his new role in the north woods, focusing on reconnecting streams.*

By Chris Collier, TU Great Lakes Stream Restoration Manager

I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I am the new Great Lakes stream restoration manager, filling the role previously held by Laura MacFarland. The Council's annual meeting and banquet allowed me to meet many of you shortly after I started. I look forward to meeting more of you soon. We have an exciting program running in northern Wisconsin, and this summer's schedule looks to be a busy one.

But first a little about myself: I was born and raised in Toledo, Ohio, and have spent most of my life traveling around the Great Lakes to visit family and to vacation. I received a bachelor's of science degree in environmental science, specializing in watershed management, from Bowling Green State University. I also earned an M.S. in Ecology from the University of Toledo.

The first several years of my career were spent working for Black Swamp Conservancy (BSC), a land trust in northwest Ohio. My primary responsibilities at BSC included managing land protection projects, directing stream and wetland restoration efforts and monitoring protected properties. In 2018, I split time between Washington, D.C. and Ohio and gained invaluable experience developing conservation programs and participating in advocacy at federal and local levels. I am excited to put my experience to use for TU.

For the upcoming season we

have several exciting projects slated for northern Wisconsin. We are continuing our partnership with the U.S. Forest Service to complete a variety of road-stream crossing (RSX) restoration projects this spring and summer in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. Building off this RSX work, we are partnering with a broad coalition of experts and stakeholders to host tours of project sites this spring. We hope to organize an RSX design workshop this fall.

Our goal is to take the strategies we have been implementing in the national forest and show local governments how to implement these strategies. These projects will improve trout and aquatic organism passage outside of the forest boundaries and replace aging infrastructure with more cost-effective designs that can withstand increasingly damaging floods. Finally, we are going to continue our aquatic organism passage barrier surveys to identify future priority projects.

With these projects on the docket for this year, there are plenty of opportunities to get involved. If you or your chapter would like to volunteer with these projects, or learn more about this work, please contact me at (419) 296-4390 or at chris.collier@tu.org.

Laura, our partners and our members and volunteers have created an extremely successful program in northern Wisconsin. I am excited to have the opportunity to join this effort and continue to improve trout habitat and fishing in northern Wisconsin.

See you out there.



**TU'S CHRIS COLLIER WILL BE WORKING ON STREAMS IN THE NORTH**  
These projects will improve trout and aquatic organism passage outside of the forest boundaries and replace aging infrastructure with more cost-effective designs that can withstand increasingly damaging floods.

## Fly tyers needed for youth Expo in May



Bob Haase

### IT ALL STARTS WITH THAT FIRST FLY

Rand Vander Schaaf from the Central Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited helping one of the students tie a Panfish Bugger at the Outdoor Heritage Education Expo near Poynette. More volunteers are always needed.

By Bob Haase,  
WITU Youth Education Chair

This year's Outdoor Heritage Education Expo is May 15-16 at the MacKenzie Center near Poynette. Last year we set a record with 2,856 students and 561 teachers and chaperones attending. This year we are expecting even more students to attend.

This is a fantastic opportunity for Wisconsin TU to help teach kids how to tie their first fly. Last year we had 839 kids tie a fly during the two-day event. If we could get 16 tyers each day this year, we could teach 1,000 kids to tie a fly. We have them tie a bluegill fly and show them with a handout, how to use a spinning rod, rigged with a spinning float/bobber to catch fish on the fly they tied. If they can catch fish on something they made themselves, they might get hooked on fishing.

We provide all the materials and directions to tie the fly, and all the volunteers have to bring is their vise

and basic tying tools such as a scissors and bobbin.

If you don't tie flies, please come anyway. We'd like to teach kids how to tie some basic knots. We have knot-tying kits and some handouts on basic knots.

We've been looking for volunteers to create a simple display showing pictures of the trout we have in Wisconsin. The kids could then identify the species of brook, brown and rainbow trout. Part of the display could be pictures of the streams and maybe pictures of the insects that they feed on. It would only take one or two volunteers to help the kids identify the fish and answer questions they may have about the trout and the insects they eat.

Volunteers at these kinds of events always find the experience to be very rewarding and they often come back year after year to help out. If you'd like to volunteer, contact Bob Haase at 920-579-3858 or flytier@milwp.com.

## Driftless Habitat Maintenance Program now a reality



### NOT ENOUGH SATURDAYS TO KEEP UP

TU members showing up to clear brush on their Saturdays is one of the things that makes TU truly special. But there are more stream miles in need of maintenance in the Driftless Area than there are Saturdays or volunteers. Now DNR LTE crews will help fill a true need.

By Jerry Sapp, Chair, TUDARE  
Volunteer Steering Committee

Are you plagued by parsnip? Has your favorite stream become choked with willows? Have you seen washed out LUNKER structures? Volunteers spending Saturday mornings are doing a great job, but there are not enough Saturdays to do everything. TUDARE has done a great job of funding the restoration of trout streams in the Driftless, but none of the restoration money provides for maintenance. But the need for maintenance exceeds volunteer capacity.

The TUDARE Volunteer Steering Committee a year ago began discussing the idea that restoration without maintenance was a waste of money. Using the Limited Term Employee (LTE) program, similar to what has been going on in northeastern Wisconsin, TUDARE developed a plan to use college students interested in fisheries or biology studies to do stream maintenance work for the summer. TUDARE formed a connection with Dave Rowe, DNR fisheries supervisor in Fitchburg who has been especially supportive of this idea. Dave has set up a two-year pilot plan of stream work. The funding for the crew will be shared equally by state's trout stamp fund and TU chapters in Wisconsin and Illinois.

TUDARE's Jeff Hastings has set up an account specifically for donations. The total cost of the crew for one year is \$18,000. TUDARE has already received chapter pledges of

\$11,500. Surplus from this year will be held for next year. The DNR will hire, supervise, provide equipment and provide insurance for the crew.

According to Rowe, "This project is for a trout habitat maintenance crew to maintain the riparian vegetation on department-owned fisheries lands and fisheries easements in Southwestern Wisconsin. The main objective of this crew is to manage the regrowth of early successional woody trees and shrubs that grow after a property has had intensive habitat work completed or on properties that were once grazed by cattle and in the absence of cattle the grass land cover is succeeding to shrub and brush.

"The crew for accomplishing this work will be two summer LTEs that will work between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Their work will be coordinated and directed by area advanced fisheries technicians. The crew will work out of the Fitchburg office in the first year of the biennium (summer 2019) and the Dodgeville office in the second year (summer 2020).

We hope for additional crews in the future, not just in Wisconsin but in Minnesota and Iowa portions of the Driftless Area. Combining the efforts of Wisconsin DNR with Illinois and Wisconsin TU chapters, this first-year pilot program could be the beginning of habitat maintenance throughout the Driftless Area.

You can reach Gerald Sapp at [sapp375@aol.com](mailto:sapp375@aol.com)

# 5,000

That's how many trout enthusiasts receive a copy of Wisconsin Trout. Plus, copies are distributed at various TU events, fly shops, sporting goods stores and beyond.

## Advertise in Wisconsin Trout:

Four issues a year.

1/8-page ad for an entire year, as little as \$180.  
1/4-page ad for an entire year, as little as \$360  
1/2-page ad for an entire year, as little as \$633.50  
Full-page ad for an entire year, as little as \$1,188

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

## For Sale: Cabin on Driftless trout stream

Nicely finished cabin on 1.42 acres with frontage on Cooley Creek on Vernon/Crawford line. New well and septic. Full bathroom, kitchen, living room, one bedroom, walk-in closet. Pellet stove. Work bench. Shed. 100 yards from DNR hunting/fishing grounds with Cooley Creek running through it. Brook and brown trout. 15 minutes to Iowa for year-round trout fishing. Surrounded by trout streams, duck, deer, turkey hunting, morel mushrooms. 15 minutes to Lansing, Iowa. 30 minutes to Viroqua and Prairie du Chien. 45 minutes to LaCrosse. Asking \$125,000. Contact [toddfranklinwistrout@gmail.com](mailto:toddfranklinwistrout@gmail.com).

# 2019 State Council Awards

*The centerpiece of our annual banquet each February is the presentation of the State Council's prestigious awards. To see more detailed descriptions of the awards and awardees, go to [wicouncil.tu.org](http://wicouncil.tu.org).*



**GARY HORVATH, (RIGHT) RECEIVES THE GOLD TROUT AWARD FOR SERVICE FROM COUNCIL CHAIR LINN BECK.**



**RANDY ARNOLD RECEIVED THE COUNCIL'S PRESTIGIOUS JOAN AND LEE WULFF AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP**



**THE LAKESHORE CHAPTER RECEIVED THE STATE COUNCIL'S SILVER TROUT AWARD FOR CHAPTER MERIT**



**SARA RIGELMAN, LAND ACQUISITION SPECIALIST AND PARK PLANNER FOR THE DANE COUNTY LAND AND WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT, RECEIVED THE ROBERT HUNT RESOURCE PROFESSIONAL AWARD**



**ALTHOUGH HE WAS UNABLE TO ATTEND THE BANQUET, RICK FRYE'S AMAZING HISTORY OF SERVICE FOR YOUTH, VETERANS, CONSERVATION AND EVERYTHING TU EARNED HIM THE COUNCIL'S PRESTIGIOUS GOLD NET AWARD. RICK PASSED AWAY RECENTLY AND WILL LONG BE MISSED BY THOSE WHO HAD THE FORTUNE OF KNOWING HIM.**

**NOTE: JON P. WILCOX, A LONG-TIME TU SUPPORTER AND CHAMPION OF THE STATE'S TROUT STAMP PROGRAM, RECEIVED THE COUNCIL'S RESOURCE AWARD OF MERIT, BUT WAS UNABLE TO ATTEND. WE HOPE TO PRESENT THIS AWARD TO HIM AT A FUTURE CENTRAL WISCONSIN CHAPTER EVENT.**



**TOM SCHNADT RECEIVES HIS CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION FROM OUTGOING COUNCIL CHAIR LINN BECK.**



**TERRY CUMMINGS RECEIVED THE COUNCIL'S COVETED "MOST UNSUNG VALUABLE TROUTER" AWARD.**



**SALLY GAWLE OF THE ALDO LEOPOLD CHAPTER RECEIVED A CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION**



**THE MILWAUKEE RIVERKEEPER RECEIVED THE COUNCIL'S REEL PARTNER AWARD FOR ITS AMAZING, LONG-TIME EFFORTS ON THE MILWAUKEE RIVER, ESPECIALLY THE FIGHT TO REMOVE THE ESTABROOK PARK DAM.**



**SCOTT GRADY OF SCOTT'S ROD SHOP AND OSHKOSH BUSINESS SYSTEMS RECEIVED THE COUNCIL'S CORPORATE SPONSOR AWARD.**

## Hall of Fame induction April 13

The Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame will honor three new leaders who have contributed much to Wisconsin's Conservation Legacy. This year's ceremony will begin at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 13 at SentryWorld (the Atrium) in Stevens Point. The public is invited.

The inductees this year include:

Scott Craven is a well-known UW—Madison wildlife professor who advanced the public's understanding and appreciation for Wisconsin's wildlife and natural resources through public radio programs, UW—Extension and 4-H leadership efforts, and projects promoting hunter education and land stewardship.

Don Johnson was a popular newspaper columnist for the Milwaukee Sentinel who for more than 40 years enlightened readers about Wisconsin's great outdoors and encouraged them to get involved in key conservation and environmental policies affecting the state's wildlife, waterways, forests and parklands.

Aroline Schmitt was a pioneering woman and citizen conservationist, who worked in a man's world during the 1930-1960's to advance sustainable forestry and to promote fledgling conservation organizations and initiatives in Wisconsin and the na-

tion.

With the addition of our three new inductees, the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame now recognizes 99 men and women who have dedicated their lives to the advancement of Wisconsin's Conservation Legacy. Through their personal and professional efforts, dedication and love for nature, they have changed the world.

The Induction Ceremony will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 13, at SentryWorld (the Atrium) in Stevens Point. A coffee reception at 12:30 p.m. will precede the ceremony. The dinner, at 4:30 p.m., is also in the Atrium.

The Induction Ceremony and Coffee Reception are free and open to the public. The Ceremony includes tributes by invited speakers and the presentation of recognition plaques which will be displayed in the WCHF Visitor Center in Schmeckle Reserve.

Reservations for lunch (\$25 per person) may be made online at Eventbrite/ WCHF 2019 Induction Ceremony

<http://bit.ly/WCHF2019Registration> or by calling Schmeckle Reserve at 715-346-4992.



**LONGTIME TU LEADER AND VOLUNTEER LINDA LEHMAN OF THE WISCONSIN RIVER VALLEY CHAPTER RECEIVED THE COUNCIL'S TOMORROW'S ANGLER AWARD FOR HER MANY YEARS OF SERVICE WITH OUR FUTURE ANGLERS AND CONSERVATIONISTS.**

# TU CARES update

Central Area Restoration Effort for Sustainability secures funding, introduces logo.

By Tom Lager

Projects in the Central Region are being funded at levels exceeding \$60,000 in 2019. This includes funding from the four collaborating chapters — Central Wisconsin, Fox Valley, Frank Hornberg and Shaw-Paca, along with grants and support from the State Council.

It has been our practice for a number of years to provide direct funding for limited term employees (LTE) working under the supervision of Shawn Sullivan of the DNR Wild Rose Trout Habitat Restoration Crew. When this program started, the funding target was \$15,000 per year. Over time the target has gradually increased and is at \$27,625 for 2019.

Chapters are 98 percent of the way toward achieving this new goal. This level of investment is significant, as it assures year-round employment of a three-person crew, which is also funded by trout stamp revenue. Working year-round helps to maintain crew experience and efficiency by avoiding the need to hire and train new employees.

Terry Ziegler, a TU CARES Core Team member, introduced the Community Foundation of the Fox Valley to a TU CARES project replacing an obstructing culvert on the West Branch of the White River. Funds were secured totaling \$25,000 from an anonymous source within the Foundation. This project, to be completed in 2019, was first envisioned by CWTU's John Tucker and supported by the DNR's Scott Bunde. Bobbi Jo Fischer and her DNR support staff, along with TU, surveyed the crossing and designed

the improved culvert and means of placement that is strongly supported by Jeff Net of the Town of Wautoma.

The TU CARES ground water project, led by TU National's Eastern Angler Science Coordinator Jake Lemon, qualified for a DNR Surface Water Planning Grant and State Council support totaling \$10,500. The goal of this project is to partner with the DNR's Water Use Section to enhance capacity to collect water quantity data from critical headwater streams in the Central Sand Hills Region.

DNR currently works with UW--Stevens Point and county conservation staffs collecting data at base flow conditions to be utilized to understand the impacts

of groundwater withdrawals on stream flows. Some trout stream headwaters in the region have not been monitored and represent significant gaps in understanding potential risks to trout populations.

It is the goal of this project to identify gaps and prioritize streams for continuous flow monitoring, engage and train

volunteers how to use the meters and report data to the DNR Surface Water Integrated Monitoring System (SWIMS) database for management decisions. This pilot project will provide a model for volunteer collection of continuous flow data in Wisconsin. Three volunteer teams, made up of four people each, are being sought to be trained to install 10 continuous flow monitoring meters, conduct periodic calibration and retrieve data in high-priority headwater streams.



### NEW LOGO FOR TU CARES

Wayne Parmley created this logo for TU CARES



### SURVEYING FOR CULVERT REPLACEMENT ON W. BRANCH WHITE RIVER

The Community Foundation of the Fox Valley is providing TU CARES with \$25,000 to replace an obstructing culvert on the West Branch of the White River. This project, to be completed in 2019, was first envisioned by CWTU's John Tucker and supported by the DNR's Scott Bunde. Bobbi Jo Fischer and her DNR support staff, along with TU, surveyed the crossing and designed the improved culvert and means of placement that is strongly supported by Jeff Net of the Town of Wautoma. Here the TU CARES team helps the DNR with surveying of the existing culvert.

# Driftless Area flood cleanup weekend April 13-14



Duke Welter

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP LANDOWNERS WITH FLOOD CLEANUP

Coulee Region Trout Unlimited, with help from other chapters and groups, is planning a clean-up event for the weekend of April 13-14 2019. The purpose is to help Coulee Region landowners clean up after the devastating floods of 2018-19. Please contact Dale Jonson at 608-343-8484 or dalewj@trout.org for more information.



Bob Haase

### ANOTHER GREAT WOMEN'S CLINIC IN OSHKOSH

Mark Rhinerson shared his passion for fly tying at the Women's Fly Fishing Clinic held in Oshkosh in February. Amazing instructors Pam Van Erem, Tina Murray, Geri Meyer and Donna Smith, along with Corie Berrigan, Erica Hickey and Kristal Welter, provided a wonderful clinic for women interested in learning our sport. They covered topics including gear, bugs, flies, conservation, TU action items, opportunities available through TU for fishing and conservation, and casting instruction. Everyone left with a great Scott Rod instruction booklet, a few prizes and a fly box with a few flies. The State Council has sponsored this event for the past five years. Thank you to Bob Haase and his team of fly tyers for arranging fly-tying experiences for the women after the clinic and before the banquet.

There will be two more Women's clinics taught by Tina Murray and Pam Van Erem this spring, one in DePere, Wisconsin on April 13 at the Osprey Point/East River Conservancy ( <https://tinyurl.com/y7gskdktg> ) and one in Madison at a local park to be determined ( <https://tinyurl.com/ybv7nwoy> ).

# Our Readers Write

## Right to clean drinking water

Right to clean drinking water in Wisconsin directly affects trout streams. Well contamination studies have been completed in some counties in Wisconsin; other studies are currently in process. Now the Wisconsin legislature is weighing with a study of its own. This will lead to more studies to delay any meaningful solutions to our clean drinking water issues. Whether the cause is manure spreading, manure run-off or septic systems, all parties have to be part of the solution. It may be the right time for a moratorium on granting additional factory farm permits until the causes are determined, to make sure our drinking water is safe and guarantees clean fishable water.

When will the right of clean drinking water rise to the level of economic consideration in our state?  
—Dave Swanson, Platteville



# Donors contribute \$18,000 to Friends of Wisconsin TU in 2018

The 2018 Friends of Wisconsin TU campaign was another unbelievable success. More than 150 generous donors contributed more than \$18,000. This will support as many as nine grants for stream restoration and maintenance work across the state.

Stream restoration and maintenance plans for 2019 are taking place across the state, from the Driftless Area to the northeast corner of Wisconsin. Your donations are a critical part of this valued work and your support goes directly back into the streams.

Keep in mind that 100 percent of your donation goes into out streams, for restoration and maintenance work. Thanks to the efforts of our volunteer leaders, there are no overhead costs for this program.

The 2019 campaign fund will kick off soon, so please look for the donation letter in your mailbox.

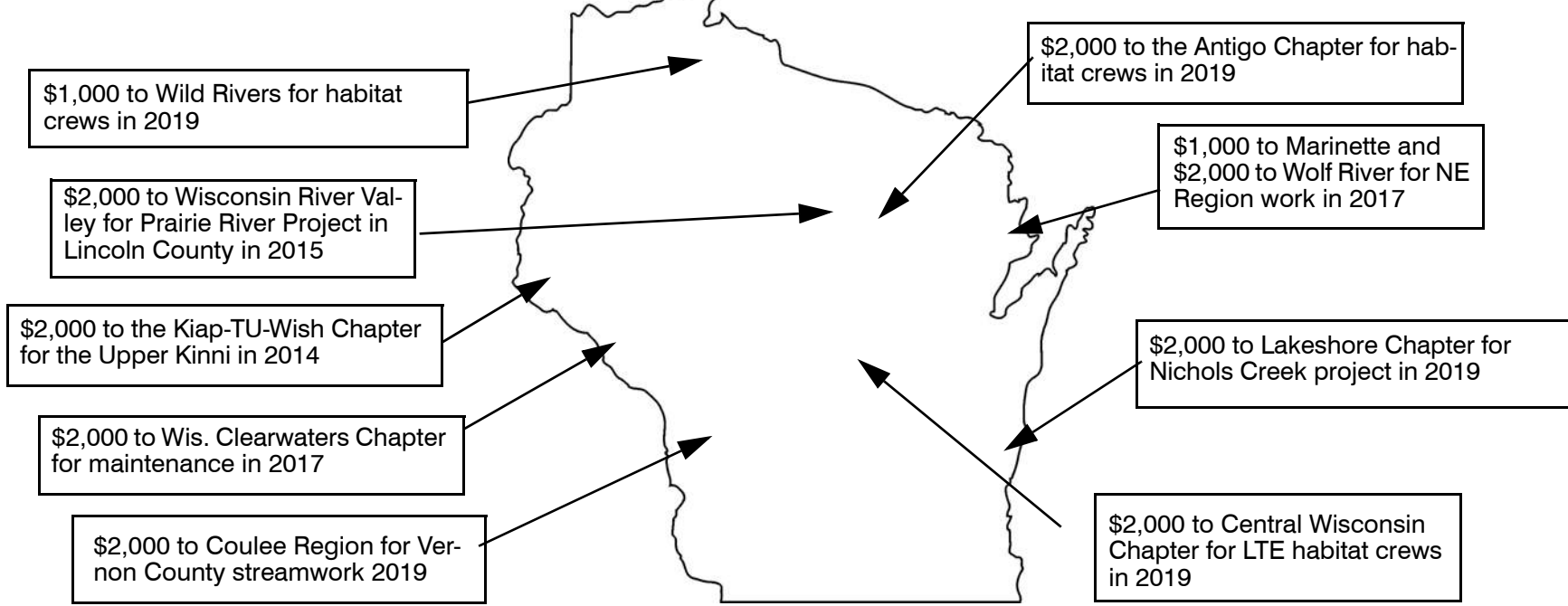
I hope you get out and enjoy the early trout season and that your 2019 fishing season treats you well.

*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.



### Here are our Friends of Wisconsin TU

- Edwin Barnes Middleton WI
- Charles Barnhill Madison WI
- Jeffrey Bartynski Eau Claire WI
- Jim Bayorgeon Appleton WI
- Kathleen & Paul Beckett Madison WI
- Jolene Berg Chippewa Falls WI
- Mark Berggren Madison WI
- Blaine Biedermann Fitchburg WI
- John Bleimehl Verona WI
- Stephen Born Madison WI
- Allon Bostwick Port Washington WI
- Rick Christopherson Norwalk WI
- Andrew Cook Sister Bay WI
- Terry Cummings Rhinelander WI
- Dan Ecklund Onalaska WI
- Dave Ehrenberg Manawa WI
- Richard Ela Madison WI
- Douglas Erdmann Wisconsin Rapids WI
- Kathy Ewen Neenah WI
- Joel Fisher Birnamwood WI
- William Flader M.D. Madison WI
- D. James Fruit Jr. Hartland WI
- Richard Galling Hartland WI
- Dan Geddes Appleton WI
- Giorgio Gimelli Madison WI
- John Gribb Mount Horeb WI
- John Gribbs Mount Horeb WI
- Gordon Grieshaber Mineral Point WI
- Dean Hagness Custer WI
- Shawn Hartnett Hudson WI
- Henry Haugley Sun Prairie WI
- Ashton Hawk Madison WI
- Stephen Hawk Madison WI
- Bill Heart Ashland WI
- Walter Heil DePere WI
- Charles Hodulik Madison WI
- Jeff Jackson Oconto Falls WI
- Charles James Milwaukee WI
- Thomas Janssen Appleton WI
- Daniel & Sheree Kehoe Madison WI
- Lane Kistler Milwaukee WI
- Ralph Klassy North Fond Du Lac WI
- Mark Kraft Madison WI
- Kevin Kramer Plymouth WI
- Cliff Kremmer Sparta WI

- Richard Lindroth Madison WI
- Thomas Lukas Manitowoc WI
- Larissa & Thomas Lyon Janesville WI
- Doug MacFarland Dousman WI
- Paul Mack New Richmond WI
- Anna Magnin Marshfield WI
- Jim & Billie March LaCrosse WI
- Bob Martini Rhinelander WI
- David Menke Bristol WI
- Tom Mertens Oneida WI
- Robert Moser Milwaukee WI
- John Murphy East Troy WI
- Herb Oechler Wauwatosa WI
- Cheryl & Winston Ostrow Viroqua WI
- Randall Rake Helena MT
- Gloria Roark New Berlin WI
- Mike San Dretto Neenah WI
- Sarah Sanford Robbinsdale MN
- Tom Schmidt St. Paul MN
- Jeff Schmoeger Lake Mills WI
- James School Kaukauna WI
- Robert Selk Madison WI
- John Shillinglaw Madison WI
- George Shinnors Antigo WI
- Micheal Stapleton Pardeeville WI
- Scot & Jo Stewart Oregon WI
- Gary Stoychoff Green Bay WI
- Rick Szymialis Waupaca WI
- Robert Tabbert Lac Du Flambeau WI
- Donald Thompson Cumberland WI
- Chuck Valliere Waunakee WI
- Eric Van Vugt Milwaukee WI
- Greg Vodak Stoughton WI
- Ken Voight Chippewa Falls WI
- Paul Williams Madison WI
- Donald Williams Fort Atkinson WI
- Dan Wisniewski Middleton WI
- Roland & Nancy Woodruff Oshkosh WI
- Norbert Wozniak Stevens Point WI
- Fred Young Roscoe IL
- Susan Zuege Eagle River WI
- Great Lakes Eco. Monitoring LLC Fitchburg WI
- State Bank of Cross Plains Cr Plains WI
- William Rogers Superior WI
- In memory of Thomas Zuege
- TROUT UNLIMITED CHAPTERS**
- Marinette County TU Marinette WI
- Aldo Leopold TU Watertown WI
- Antigo TU Antigo WI

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone #

## Recollections

# The Opener at Black Earth 1975- A Remembrance

By Rick Larkin

At about 10 p.m. on the Friday before the 1975 trout season opener, an old rusty car stuffed with a crew of UW-Madison undergraduate trout fishermen and one buddy from UW-Steven's Point headed west out of Madison, toward Cross Plains, Wisconsin. We were armed with spinning rods, nightcrawlers, cheese, marshmallows and canned sweet corn. We were further supported by a Coleman lantern, sandwiches, a couple cases of the cheapest beer available, some ratty sleeping bags, and an equally ratty tent.

We had heard on good authority that rainbow trout had been planted in great number in Salmo Pond, next to Black Earth Creek. We had also heard that trout were attracted to lantern light and you could sit on the bank and just haul them in. We were looking forward to a night of fun and a big trout supper on the Saturday night after the opener.

Upon arriving at the Salmo Pond parking lot, we realized most of Madison had the same intention. Cars overflowed the lot and the adjacent roads were full. Fishermen were shoulder to shoulder around the pond and what may have been a hundred Coleman lanterns lit up the darkness. There was no room. We needed a Plan B, which we did not have yet. So, as typical Wisconsin boys of that era did, we drove around until we found the little tavern just down Highway 14. Some of you, familiar with this particular area, may remember the place as The Ranch. It was across the highway from a DNR parking lot on Black Earth Creek. It's long gone.

As I remember, the place was empty and, having little money, we ordered a \$2 pitcher of beer and tried to formulate Plan B. The midnight opener was now less than an hour away. The bartender was a nice older woman. She listened to our moaning, groaning and general confusion. Eventually she spoke up, "Boys, if you want some trout, just go across the street and fish off the bridge over the creek. It's just down the trail from the parking lot." We finished the beer, thanked the nice lady, left a \$.25 tip, hopped in the car, and headed across the street. We had our Plan B.

We were amazed that the little

gravel parking lot was empty. The attentions of the Salmo Pond rainbow-catching mob apparently did not carry over to the creek. We parked the car, grabbed our stuff and headed down the trail in the dark, led by a small dim flashlight. It was 11:30 p.m. We found the bridge a little over a hundred yards away. The bridge was concrete and fairly wide, big enough to support a tractor. Below the bridge was a good sized pool with a riffle. It was bordered by some tall cedar trees and was very dark and deathly quiet save for the gurgle of the riffle. After a couple of seconds we heard a few splashes coming from below the riffle. Trout? We hoped. As we waited for midnight, some bats and small clouds of bugs became visible as the Coleman sputtered to life.

Now all we had to do was set up the rods, watch the bug and bat show, wait till midnight, and start catching trout. At midnight, at the season opening, we could hear the whoops and loud shouts coming from the trout crowd at Salmo Pond, a short distance to the east. I could imagine a hundred bobbers simultaneously plopping into the water. Our Coleman now cast its whitish yellow light on the pool and a school of small trout was now visible, finning close to the surface. A few were taking bugs drawn to the yellow lantern light. We started fishing, too, but soon found out that sticking a nightcrawler or a hunk of cheese below a bobber did not work at all in the current of the big hole. "Now what?" asked Gus as bobbered hook after bobbered hook whooshed through the current of the big pool without slowing down enough to attract a bite. "We need Plan C," offered Dave, who later became a dentist and was therefore the smartest guy in the bunch.

While we were not experienced stream fishermen, we all fished a good deal and knew what a Lindy rig or sliding sinker rig was. As dedicated readers of all manner of outdoor and fishing magazines, we were especially tuned into Fishing Facts Magazine, which was a cutting-edge publication of the day. We were, in particular, staunch disciples of Fishing Facts publisher George Pazic's "Nightcrawler Secrets" pamphlet. During the previous summers, this method produced walleyes, big bluegills, and bass for



THE BOYS WITH THE MAKINGS OF A BIG TROUT DINNER: CIRCA 1975

us in good numbers. We knew fishing success lay in small hooks, lighter line, and as little weight as possible. One of us brought along an "Ultimate Secrets" kit of "special" sliding sinkers and some number ten Mustad hooks. We guessed that the bait needed to be on or near the bottom so we set to work cobbling together sliding sinker bottom rigs.

We were right, and soon a fat little brown trout was caught, then another, followed by another. A rainbow, possibly a pond escapee, came next. The fish came in fits and starts with plenty of downtime between trout to eat bologna and Wonderbread sandwiches, washed down by bottles of Rhinelander or Fox Deluxe beer, cooled in a shallow riffle upstream from our bridge. We were catching trout, eating bologna sandwiches, and drinking beer in the middle of the night. Heaven must be such a place.

The noise from the shoulder-to-shoulder mob at the pond (including a loud argument and what sounded like a fistfight) was steady and punctuated with additional loud cheering when a trout was netted. It slowed down and steadily diminished as the night went by. By 3 a.m. most of the noise was gone as the planted rainbows were all caught or the beer ran out. We were left with the hiss of the lantern, the sound of the water, and the occasional whoosh of a bat going after a bug. The beautiful dark silence took over and we became part of it, save for an intermittent little whoop of our own as a trout splashed to the surface and was slid into our net. It was slow, steady and altogether pleasurable work.

We were poor college kids and we were there to catch a big trout dinner. I will not apologize for our little group taking a limit of trout. In those days, I recall, it was a six-inch minimum size with a limit of five trout. There were five of us and we needed 25. As the night progressed, we steadily caught more trout and carefully paid attention to the number of trout on the stringer. In the gray light of pre-dawn we counted 23 trout.

Almost all were brown trout with yellow and brown flanks speckled with back, brown and red spots. Two pale rainbows made up the rest. Most were little guys from six to 10 inches, with a couple pushing 12. One monster brown of 15 inches was the lone trophy. We thought they were some of the most beautiful fish we had ever seen. Nightcrawlers were the most effective bait with only two caught on cheese, and one on a marshmallow. The sweet-corn kernels went untouched. It was

now around 5 a.m. "Two more!" somebody said.

We sat on our little bridge. We had been up all night. Some of us fished while others watched the sun come up. The beer and sandwiches were long gone. We were pretty tired but pretty happy. At that time, we saw a lone guy wading up the stream in our direction waving a very long rod, a fly rod. We watched him slowing picking his way upstream towards us. His casting was slow with long sweeping motions. In the quiet, as he got closer, we could begin to hear the fly line as it swished back and forth. It was so different. At one point, his rod bent and he stripped in a splashing trout which he netted and immediately let go. After that, he just stood there for a while. "Odd", I thought, as I was looking forward to fried trout. I kept watching him as he resumed casting. His fishing was something different. Elegant is not a word typically used by a 20-year-old, but I thought this guy was elegant in the way he fished.

As the fly fisherman slowly approached the bridge, we added the final two trout to the stringer. It was time to go. We began to gather up our fish, garbage, gear and our very valuable returnable beer bottles. We stood on the bridge and waved to the guy with the fly rod who was now in earshot. We told him we were sorry but we already caught everything. He smiled and waved back and caught another trout just below the bridge where we fished.

Coffee was now the most important item on our agenda and we piled into the car. We made it back to Madison and Dave's apartment, had coffee, and slept for a couple hours. Remember when you could do that? Later that afternoon, we purchased flour, oil, a small sack of potatoes and an onion. You always need an onion. The total purchase was probably less than four bucks. I think the only food-related stuff Dave had in his apartment was salt, pepper, ketchup and instant coffee. The rest of our pooled funds went for more beer. The case cost us \$2.99.

We cleaned the trout and commenced to fry potatoes and the onion. The fried trout came next. We only had one pan. The dinner that followed that evening was one for the ages. Our five fishermen ate all 25 trout, now fried golden brown. Each of us ate about a pound of fried potatoes. The table was reduced to a mountain of trout bones, trout heads and tails, and a small forest of empty brown beer bottles.



THE BRIDGE TROUT CREW AFTER FISHING ALL NIGHT

See *OPENER*, page 12

## ESSAY

## “BRIDGES”

An essay by Greg Meyer

*“Sometimes, if you stand on the bottom rail of a bridge and lean over to watch the river slipping slowly away beneath you, you will suddenly know everything there is to be known.”*

—A. A. Milne (“Winnie-The-Pooh”)

Until recently, I hadn't thought much about generational stuff.

I had just returned from a trip to Florida, there to visit my frail dad who had made the small nursing home his final destination. You know the one. The one where he vowed he would never be—where we all vow we'll never be.

While we were having rambling conversation, my dad asked me if I had any kids, where his mom was, and where I lived now. At least he could still recall who I was, if only for the time being. For a brief moment, I had a vision of me lying there in his place. Which, by any reckoning, is not a particularly happy vision—if you know what I mean.

Sure, I have an estate plan that is mostly finished: My favorite hand-wrapped fly rod that I made is to be given to my firstborn son, although my daughter may be the one to carry-on (which is more than OK by me). All of my fly-fishing tackle and fly-tying goods are to be divided up between the kids, with the leftovers going to Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter of Trout Unlimited. My wife gets the IRA and all of the headaches that go with sorting stuff out at the end of things. But it's too early to think about that ... Right?

I really needed to get away. I needed to visit an old friend and go fly fishing.

I went to visit my old friend often. He would provide contentment and a calmness as I'd mull over the divorce I was experiencing, or contemplate a job change—willingly or otherwise.

More recently, my friend was there for me after my own mortality had suddenly flashed before me while I was at work one day. I found myself scared, on an ER gurney with wires and gadgets protruding from me, monitoring for a possible heart attack. Good thing I was told “it must be gas,” or “you're anxious about something.” Anxious. No shit.

Now I really needed to go fishing with my old friend. I started to get excited, looking forward to seeing him, looking for something different to change my outlook on things.

I hadn't seen him in quite a while. I had this nervousness, this anticipation I couldn't explain. It was a different feeling. Something didn't feel quite right.

But this was different. Really different.

A feeling similar to the time in my college days, when a pal and I went to roust up a friend to go celebrate the fourth of July. We arrived at his apartment only to find an envelope carefully placed next to a pile of photos, barely visible through the crack in his chain-linked locked door. Something just didn't feel right. The door was chained from the inside, so he had to be home—but he wasn't answering. “For Mom and Dad Only.....PLEASE,” was written on the envelope in his somewhat messy and smudged handwriting. We broke down the door. You know the rest.

I was having this same unexplainable feeling. Like I knew he was gone.

Having the same gut-punch feeling I had that day when I visited my dad lying there in that dank, urine-smelling “home.” It forced me to take pause, to reflect upon my fly-fishing days gone by. The beautiful places I had visited, the beautiful creatures I had been blessed to hold in my hand. My family. My friends. Those wonderful days I had fishing with my friend as he looked over the river. It made me contemplate what lies ahead for me and my own mortality—as well as my family and future generations of fly fishers.

Just this side of 90 years old, my friend had been there for me when I was a fly-fishing virgin trying to find my way, escaping the rigors of the corporate life. Often comforting me when I was having a bad day.

He had been with me for a few awesome days on the Rush River in western Wisconsin, where I had witnessed epic hatches that I had

not experienced anywhere else in the U.S: Not Montana, Wyoming, Yellowstone National Park, Utah—or even the Bighorn River.

He was there when I taught my six-year-old son to fish for trout with a cheap spinning rod and dangling a gob of wiggly nightcrawlers bought from the refrigerator of the “Whitehouse” porch near the banks of the Rush.

He was looking over us when I taught my nine-year-old daughter to fly fish down-and-across with a gaudy and impossibly pink, sparkly concoction we'd tied up the night before while she was sitting on my lap. He was there three years later when she caught that 19-inch brown on a dry fly.

He was also there when the snotty-nosed kid came up to me to display the beautiful (although dead), 26-inch brown trout that he'd just caught for supper. “On a water worm from the Whitehouse refrigerator,” he announced with pride.

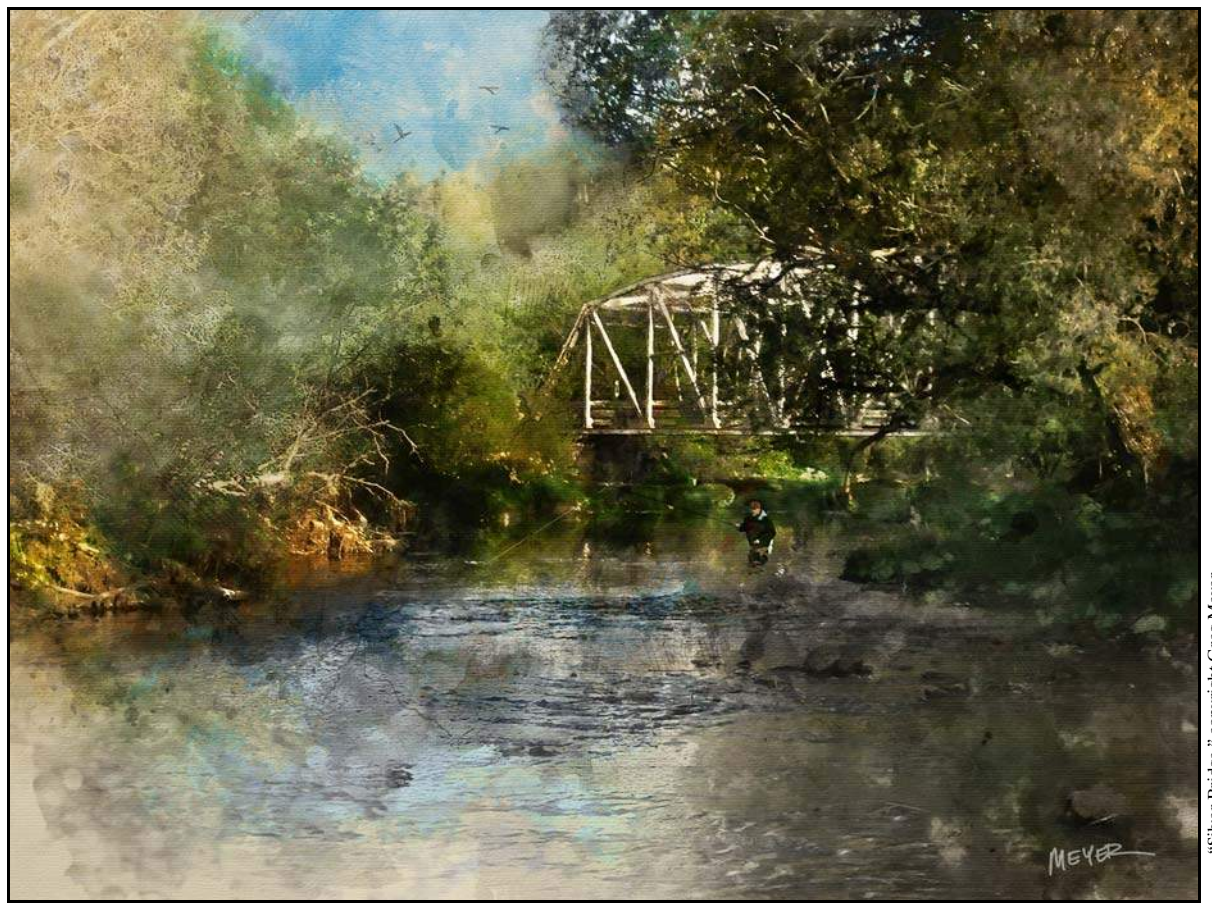
My friend taught me that I had better learn to throw a long leader and a slack line over the glassy pools of the Rush, as I cast over and over,

The drip, drip, drip, of the condensation provided by the morning's awakening. Rust streaking from each bolt. Swallows and cedar waxwings, active and diving to eat the day's insect hatch. Their echoes resonating within ear-shot of anyone trying to concentrate on that big nose poking through the surface film of the popular spring creek.

My friend who stood watch over one of best trout streams in the Midwest was one of a series of vanishing landmarks that define the “Driftless Area” fishing experience. Truss bridges. Round barns. Wooden stiles. Swinging gates. He was something picture cards are made of, and he held a special place in my heart and no doubt many others.

I had hoped he would be around to hold the same significance for my children and grandchildren. A place of reflection, contemplation, excitement.

Surrounded by an air of melancholy, I thought about this as I sat in my truck at that small park. I didn't fish that day. I thought about my friend, my father, my family, my gray-



“SILVER BRIDGE”

The Highway 63 “Silver Bridge” in Martell, WI, has come to pass and is no longer—replaced by a generic, slab concrete bridge. This historic landmark, along with many others, helped define the trout fishing experience in the Midwest. Let's be passionate and generously donate to Trout Unlimited to help ensure our trout fishing experiences are preserved for future generations.

—GM

hoping to poke that 20-incher lying beneath the old oak on the river bank. You know the one.

My friend was there to share this all with me, an irreplaceable part of my fly-fishing experiences.

With perfect predictability, the first week of March, I would take advantage of the early catch-and-release season to fish with my friend. After an often cold and bitter winter, it was good just to get out to shed that pent-up cabin fever. While I would usually fight cold hands, frozen guides, and not many fish—I had no expectations—it was just my friend and me. He was solid and quiet, never complained.

He was one of the few friends that really never let me down. He couldn't. It wasn't in him.

My heart sank as I pulled into the gravel lot of the small park next to the river. The place where my friend stood watch over the river for decades. The place where I went to visit him with perfect predictability, year after year—for more than 30 years. My friend, the old silver bridge, with all his personality, history, and stories—was gone. Replaced by an anonymous concrete slab. The product of a throw-away generation that tends to think we should always build new—instead of taking care of and improving what we have.

Oh, the stories he could've told. Now he was gone.

To this day I can vividly recall all his rust and imperfections, the moans-and-groans that come with age and being useful. I will miss the noisy semis with the familiar budump, budump sound emanating from each humming tire as it passed over my tired friend.

ing TU chapter, fly tying club and others. Who will be there to watch after them, our traditions—our rivers? Who will be there to teach history's lessons to drive the momentum to move forward, to bridge the gap between past and future anglers, to create a place to reflect and do good work?

Why can't we try to preserve such places, give them a facelift, to help carry on across generations—to preserve our stories? More than a landmark, my bridge was something memories are connected to. When all the old landmarks are gone, replaced with bland modern conveniences, how will the next generation connect with tradition—with stories? What will disappear next? Our rivers?

Who will be our bridge builders?

Let's build bridges with purpose, and where possible, direct our efforts into strengthening the bridges established by others. Bridges that have not just utility, but meaning. Ones that make our traditions, rivers, and efforts all the more productive. Like the ones that Trout Unlimited work hard to not only build, but to preserve along with our coldwater resources.

Over the years my old friend helped bridge the gap between communities, fly fishers and locals. He was a landmark of the Midwest's Driftless Area for generations of folks that would come together, drink a few beers, tell a few stories, remember old friends. A place where my buddies would announce “meet me at the Silver Bridge,” and I knew exactly where to be.

When it is time for me to cross the river for the last time, do me a favor: “Meet me at the Silver Bridge,” then I will be complete.

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GLRI, from page 1

363-62. The vote was a swift and bi-

more than \$2.43 billion, in the Great Lakes region, including TU projects improving stream connectivity and restoring instream habitat.

The President's budget proposes to reduce GLRI funding from \$300 million to \$30 million — a 90-percent reduction. This is not new territory. In each of the last two years, the administration proposed completely eliminating GLRI and a similar 90-percent reduction. But, due to a vocal sportsmen's community and a unified, bipartisan Great Lakes delegation, GLRI was fully funded at \$300 million both years.

#### Public lands

A major package of bills protecting hundreds of thousands of acres of public lands and providing permanent authorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LW-CF) passed the House with a vote of

## 5 Rivers Mid-West Rendezvous April 26-28

*College students from around the Midwest to converge in the Driftless Area.*

The 5 Rivers Mid-West Rendezvous is scheduled for the weekend of April 26-28 at Crooked Creek Canoe in Readstown, Wisconsin. We are expecting around 30-45 students from colleges around the Midwest in attendance. We are working with WI TU to get a few local volunteers and source a project for the students to visit/ help out with. We are still working on the finer details.

For more information contact TU Costa 5 Rivers Coordinator Andrew Loffredo [andrew.loffredo@tu.org](mailto:andrew.loffredo@tu.org) or 518-265-2705

### The Brookie

Over my shoulder to the west  
the skies fill with dark black thunderheads.  
The once clear stream is now gray and pocked  
with sprinkles of rain.  
Inside my waders I feel hugged by the fast current,  
and I can barely contain my excitement.  
I am standing in paradise!  
The only sounds I hear  
are water cascading over the rocks,  
a small choir of crickets,  
my own deep breath,  
and the pounding of my heart.  
The banks that rise above my head  
and are colored by the blossoms of rosinweed, goldenrod and  
Sweet Joe Pye.  
I face downstream and quietly float my line  
over the rocks and into the deep swirling hole beyond them.  
The bait today is a large and lively night crawler.  
I feel a rapid tug, and my line tightens.  
I see a flash as the trout jumps from the water.  
But then there is slack and momentary disappointment.  
Yet as the thunder rolls,  
oh, so very close,  
my rod bends like the willow in this wind,  
and I thank the spirits  
for this perfect brook trout  
and scoop it into my net.

By Billy Brewer

### OPENER, from page 10

The newspaper tablecloth was awash in grease stains and spilt beer. Happiness can be such a simple thing.

Dinner talk was a mix of recounting the great catch, lost fish, netting screw-ups, close calls with bats, and other fish stories, not to mention the magical night on the concrete bridge. I sat back and thought about the guy with the fly rod. I wanted one. I wanted to fish like that guy. He got the trout thing, the peace, the water, the dawn, and the beautiful fish. As we learned from more excursions to Black Earth and our bridge, trout are pitifully easy to catch on nightcrawlers. That spring, we explored more of the stream, found more deep pools, and caught bigger trout. Dave knocked off an honest 20-incher, which, by the way, proved to be less tasty than its 10-inch cousins. We were now fully taken by trout fishing and Mepp's spinners were added to our arsenal. "More sporting" was the consensus.

We began to see more fly fishermen working their craft in Black Earth Creek. I watched them carefully.

Forty three years later, all of us still trout fish, some more than others. While not rising to the level of our youthful passion, it still occupies too much of my time. My only regret is not stopping to thank the guy with the fly rod on that May morning back in 1975.

*Rick Larkin is a long-time member of SEWTU. He has fished and hunted Wisconsin his entire life and reportedly caught a perch off his uncle's dock at age two on a cane pole. While he will fish for anything that swims and once had a troiline license for Mississippi River catfish, he is especially fond of all things trout and the Driftless in particular. He embraces the Robert Traver concept of "Whiskey in a tin cup tastes better out there". He also enjoys building Lunker Structures, cutting down Buckthorn, and listening to bad jokes around the campfire at the West Fork Sportsman's Club.*

# Gill lice research

## Innovative caging study documenting the short-term dynamics of gill lice infection of brook trout in a Wisconsin stream.

By Matthew Mitro and Lavinia Unverdorben, DNR

The infection of brook trout by gill lice, an ectoparasitic copepod called *Salmincola edwardsii*, continues to be a concern among anglers in Wisconsin and an area of active research in the Wisconsin DNR. We recently published a peer-reviewed paper on the distribution, prevalence and maximum intensity of infection of gill lice in brook trout in Wisconsin streams. In addition, this past summer we conducted a study to document the short-term dynamics of gill lice infection of brook trout.

Little field-based information exists in the scientific literature on how brook trout become infected by gill lice. Observational data on infection dynamics would be useful for investigating ways we can disrupt the process to lessen the severity of parasite outbreaks in brook trout populations.

We used naive hatchery brook trout that had never been exposed to the parasite to study how they become infected when stocked in Ash Creek, a stream with an existing highly-infected population of wild brook trout. Our approach includ-

ed stocking brook trout in cages and directly in the stream.

Naive brook trout were placed in two cages or directly in Ash Creek on June 29, 2018. Each cage received 40 age-2 and 10 age-3 brook trout, and 100 brook trout (80 age-2 and 20 age-3) were stocked in the stream. Brook trout in the cages were inspected for signs of gill lice infection weekly. At the end of the nine-week study, all brook trout were removed from the cages and we electrofished a two-kilometer stretch of stream to recover the brook trout stocked directly in the stream.

### Hatchery fish did not fare well

The hatchery fish did not fare well in the stream, which has well-established populations of wild brook trout and brown trout. We recovered only nine of the trout stocked in the stream. All nine were infected, with the intensity of infection ranging from two to 56 mature female gill lice per fish.

The caged fish, in contrast, survived well, with 96 percent alive at the end of the nine-week study. There were no signs of infection in

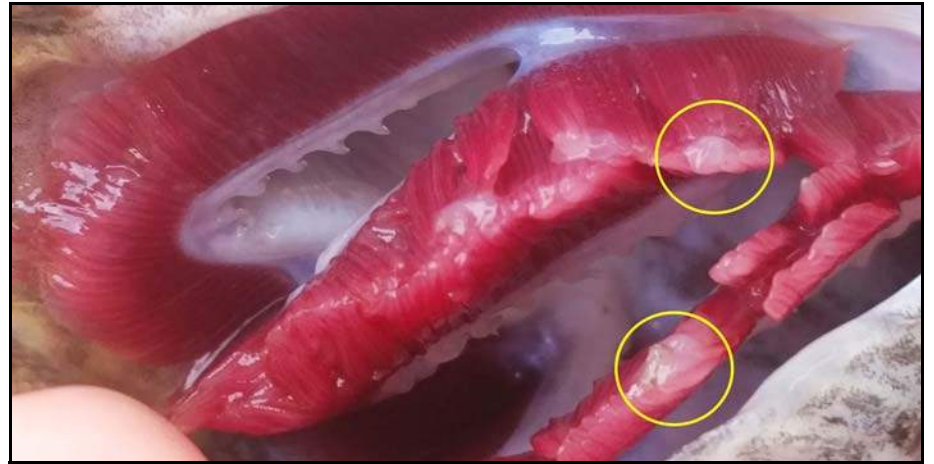
week one. By week two we saw the first signs of infection, indicated by hyperplasia and hypertrophy of gill lamellae (white gill tissue and clubbing of gills) in 45 percent of the caged brook trout. By week three 85 percent showed signs of infection.

### First observed in week four

The first observations of gill parasites occurred in week four, with 60 percent of the fish having gill lice

visible and 80 percent showing signs of infection. The parasites were immature and difficult to see. We continued to see only immature parasites in weeks five and six, with prevalence of immature parasites varying from 27 percent to 43 percent and signs of infection varying from 56 percent to 65 percent.

See *GILL LICE*, page 17



### IMMATURE GILL LICE

Here is a brook trout showing the first presence of immature gill lice in week four (26 days after start of study). Mature gill lice were first visible in week seven on 52 percent of the fish.



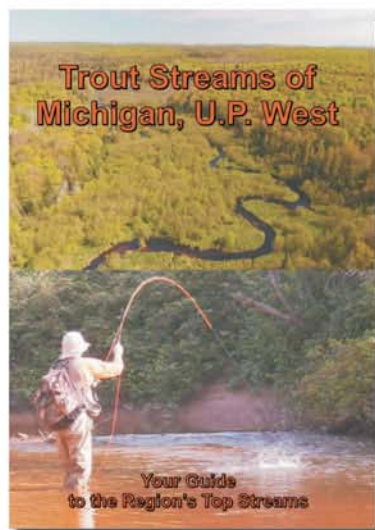
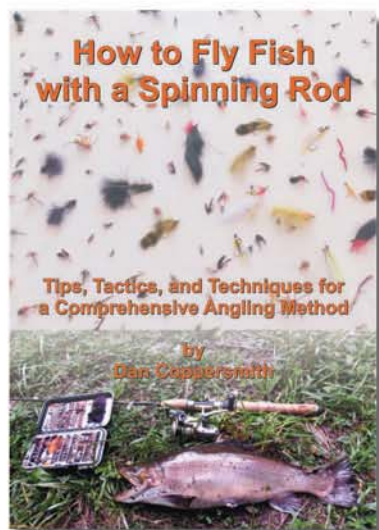
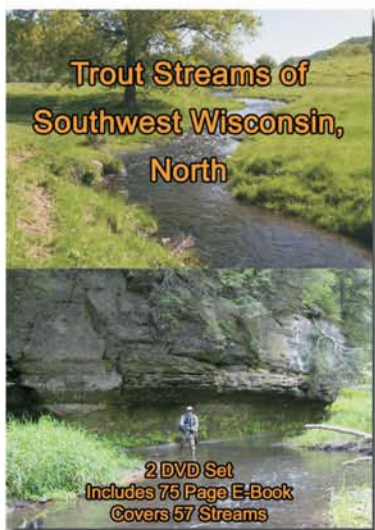
### FIRST SIGNS OF INFECTION

Brook trout showing first signs of infection in week two of the study.



### MATURE GILL LICE

Brook trout showing first presence of mature female gill lice in week seven, 47 days after start of study, or 27-40 days after infection.



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# Wisconsin's Fly Tyers

## Brian Van Erem's full-dress salmon flies: An attention to detail

Recognizing some of Wisconsin's great fly tyers, this series provides information on the role they played and are currently playing in the art of fly tying. We will learn more about them, the flies they tie and their tips to make us better tyers.



**BRIAN VAN EREM DISPLAYS HIS CREATIONS**

By Bob Haase

Brian Van Erem ties some of the most beautiful full-dress salmon flies. His experience and attention to detail has gained him recognition world wide, earning the title of overall champion in the Irish Open Fly Tying Competition three times. He has exhibited salmon flies and won medals in many other tying competitions worldwide.

The knowledge and experience in tying full-dress salmon flies has also carried over to the flies that he ties for fishing the tributaries and streams of Wisconsin. Brian currently resides in Green Bay and fishes for a variety of cold- and warm-water species. The flies that he ties for competition are much different than the flies he ties for fishing, but they all carry the quality that comes from paying attention to detail.

**Brian... how long have you been tying flies, and how did you get started?**

I started tying when I was around 12 and have been tying for around 40 years. A friend got a fly rod, I got one shortly after, and we had an Orvis catalog. There wasn't any YouTube, no fly shops in town, and we were both kind of self-taught. I learned how to palmer hackle by accident. It was trial by error with limited materials. We would sit up late at night and tie flies and go fishing the next morning.

**Did anybody in your family fish or tie flies?**

I grew up in a fishing family and learned to fish at an early age. I guess you might say that fly fishing

was my form of rebellion, as nobody else in the family fly fished or tied flies.

**Do you remember anyone who helped you along the way with your fly tying?**

During the time I lived in Florida, the owner of a small fly shop and I became good friends and he kind of got me tying again. His name was Vince, and he taught me a lot. It was a combination of things that helped me become as proficient as I am today.

**How has the supply and quality of tying materials changed?**

As kids we picked up all manner of feathers and furs along the way. We didn't have the fly shops or mail order that we have today. Today we

benefit from a wider selection of materials and better quality than ever before.

**You are known for your beautiful full-dress salmon flies. How did you transition into tying these?**

It was an outlet for me while I was in Florida because I had already tied all the salt water flies that I could use in a lifetime. I love tying flies and I wanted a challenge and wanted to play with that discipline but had no idea where to get started.

I started dabbling in it by picking out a couple patterns and started collecting materials and began tying. I had no idea if I was doing it right or doing it wrong, how good it was, and where the mistakes were.

That's where I discovered the competition where I could get some judges notes on what I wasn't doing right. The first year that I submitted

flies I had two that were in the top ten and thought that was kind of fun and maybe I should do that again. That led to more competitions, accumulating more materials, and knowing what I needed to do. After a few years I had the skills I needed to win my first overall champion title in an Irish competition.

Years later, competition became less important and I just wanted to perfect what I was doing.

**You pay a lot of attention to detail when you are tying full-dress salmon flies. Explain the importance of this and how you go about tying these flies.**

A lot of times I begin with a scaled sketch that I can hold behind the fly to help me maintain those proportions. I will have materials that I have carefully selected and prepped ahead of time. You have to kind of think in advance for each step of tying the fly. Tying a couple flies will teach you in a hurry what you didn't do the last time and need to do the next time. Learning how different materials act is probably the biggest difference. The stems of a pheasant feather and a waterfowl feather are completely different. A lot of it is material selection, acquisition and learning how to work with the different materials. The thread wraps should be side by side and not on top of the previous wrap because there is no additional friction there to hold the material.

I tie with a flat thread knowing that I can twist it as needed. Knowing how to keep a thread is really important – the first time you drag a thread that is sharp over a mar-

ried wing to set it, and it goes all over the place, you learn the importance of thread control. I think maintaining proper proportions may be one of the more difficult things to accomplish and working from a scaled sketch saves me a lot of heartache. Proportions in salmon flies are more visual and aesthetic, where in trout flies proportions are there to make that fly work right.

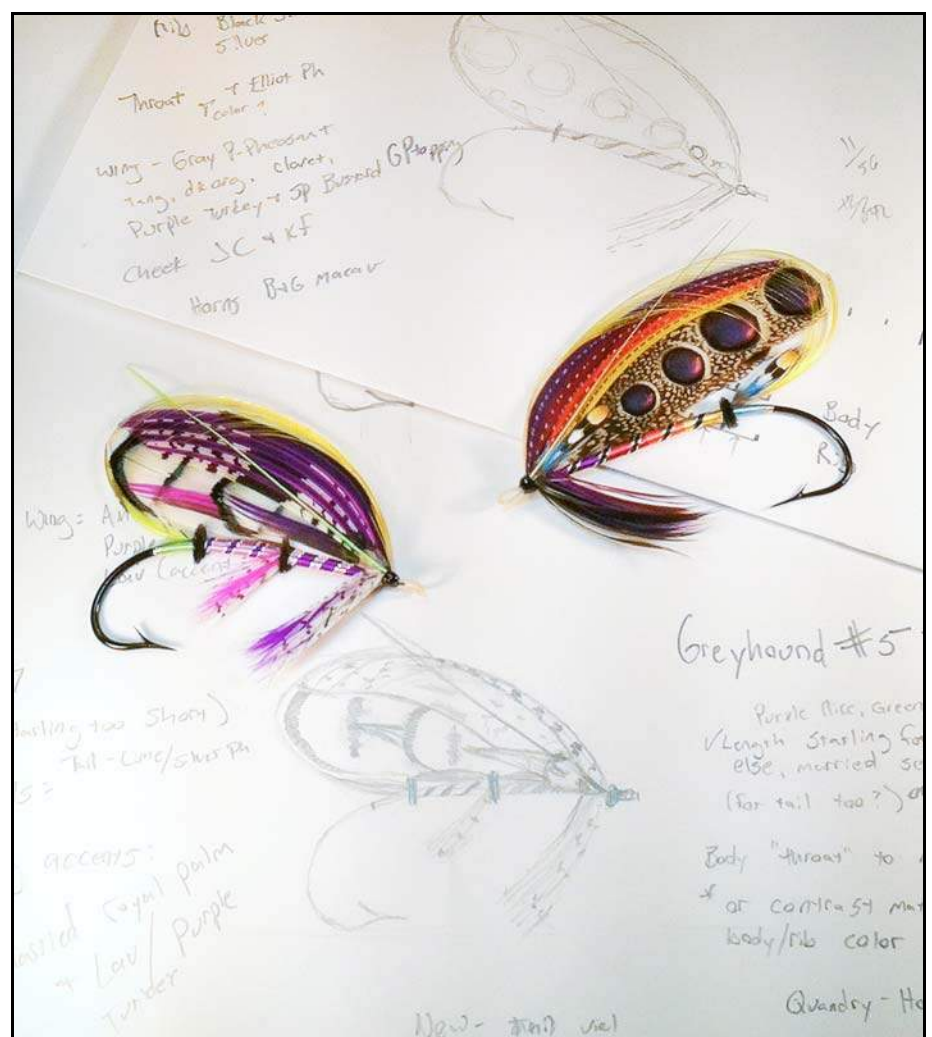
**Trout flies are tied to imitate a food source. What do full-dress salmon flies imitate?**

Nothing! We know that Atlantic salmon metabolism is completely shut off when they enter the river. There may be a knee-jerk response to something that may look like food, but I have looked at the Jock Scott and I

have compared it to everything in nature and it is not there. They are attractors and they work in the same way that they do in the trout world. If you are going to tie and fish an attractor, don't feel that you need to imitate anything specifically in nature.

**Many of the materials that were once commonly used for full-dressed salmon flies are no longer available and even illegal to possess. How do you go about finding substitutes for these materials?**

There are substitutes out there for a lot of the materials. There are pretty good substitutes out there for Indian Crow but not as good for Chatterer. Kingfisher is there, but may soon come under protection. There is a lot wrapped up in the tradition of salmon fly tying which



**"YOU PAY A LOT OF ATTENTION TO DETAIL," EXPLAINS BRIAN**

Brian uses sketches like these to help him maintain proportions in his flies



is fine, except when it turns kind of shady in the procurement of protected materials. I will tie with substitutes all that I can, and if I can't get materials to tie an original pattern, then I tend not to tie the pattern.

**What are the main differences between full dress salmon exhibition flies and the flies that we fish?**

Cost of materials. With fishing flies I can get by with "B" grade materials and can be a little more relaxed in tying them. Fishing flies need to be tied more durably than exhibition salmon flies. You normally don't use blind eye hooks for fishing flies. I would tie a salmon fly with a more sloped shoulder, but would tie a fishing fly a little flatter as it would fish better. I might leave out some exotics on fishing flies that I would use on exhibition flies. It is hard to turn out a full-dressed salmon fly in less than two hours. It

would have to be a very simple pattern. It is kind of fun though fishing a fly that you have put that much time into. Many of the more complicated flies that I tie take me up to six hours to tie, and I have spent as much as 12 hours on one fly.

**What are some other things that should be considered in thread control?**

Especially with exhibition flies, you learn to be a thread minimalist because every wrap of thread is added bulk that doesn't need to be there. A lot of time in salmon flies we will hold down the material with five wraps of thread, and then when we go to tying in the next material, we will back a couple of those wraps off before tying in the next material to reduce bulk. Thread wraps are always edge to edge and never on top of one another. We do a lot with soft loops and position the material as we are seating it with the thread. It

is important to learn thread control and know when and how to flatten and sharpen the thread.

**Do you have any tips for someone interested in learning how to tie full-dress salmon flies.**

I think it is best to find a mentor to learn from. As for books, Michael Radencich's "Tying the Classic Salmon Fly," is probably one of the best modern books on the subject. There are a handful of websites and videos that may be useful. Also, there are some Facebook groups of salmon fly tyers. Some of their input could also be helpful.

**What are some of your favorite flies for fishing the tribs here in Wisconsin.**

There are a lot of good flies, but some of my favorites are the Durham Ranger, Lee Blue & Gray, Floodtide, Akroyd and the Caron.

**Enjoy these photos, as they display examples of the beautiful flies that Brian ties. Many of the methods learned in tying full-dress salmon flies can also be applied to the fishing flies that many of us tie.**

**Paying attention to detail can be just as important in tying our fishing flies as in tying full-dress salmon flies. You can see the difference in the appearance, but even more importantly in the way they fish.**

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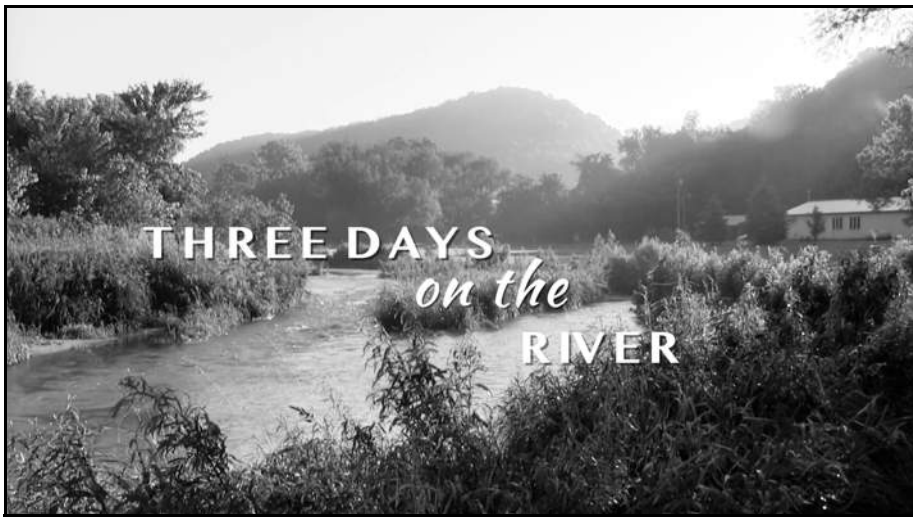
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# SWTU Women's Clinics featured in award-winning film

Short film about women's fly-fishing clinics earns first place at Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo's Video Showcase.



"Three Days on the River," a film about the Wisconsin Women's Fly Fishing Clinics offered by Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited (SWTU), recently won first place in the Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo Video Showcase in St Paul. There were many splendid films shown during the showcase. The film is 10 minutes long and can be viewed at <https://vimeo.com/325794212/50145f0cf9>

Gretta Wing Miller created "Three Days on the River" to showcase the Wisconsin Women's Fly Fishing Clinics, which have become a national model for women's fly-fishing clinics across the nation.

The beginners clinics are taught by women to women who are beginning their journey in fly fishing. The "Women's on the Water Skills Clinic" is an integrated clinic offering women the opportunity to hone their skills while on the water fishing. Riverbuddy Clinics are taught by women and are intended to promote confidence and build skills for women wanting to help the clinics

or take other women out on the water.

Gretta could not be present at the showcase due to a different screening held that evening in Madison. Tina Murray, who runs the Wisconsin Women's Fly Fishing Clinics accepted the award on her behalf. The award was presented by John Lenczewski of Minnesota TU and Brent Notbohm, an independent award-winning filmmaker. John and Brent thanked Gretta for sharing the story of the Wisconsin Women's Fly Fishing Clinics and Tina for building a community dedicated to bringing more women into the sport.

Gretta Wing Miller has been making documentaries since 1976 and is the owner/collaborator of Downtown Dailies in Madison, Wisconsin. Gretta met Tina Murray when she volunteered at Shabazz High School in Tina's video editing class. Gretta's other documentary films can be found online at: <https://vimeo.com/downtowndailies>, or contact her at [milug@mac.com](mailto:milug@mac.com)



## FIRST PLACE FILM AWARDED

Tina Murray, who runs the Wisconsin Women's Fly Fishing Clinics accepted the award on Gretta Wing Miller's behalf. The award was presented by John Lenczewski of Minnesota TU and Brent Notbohm, an independent award-winning filmmaker. John and Brent thanked Gretta for sharing the story of the Wisconsin Women's Fly Fishing Clinics and Tina for building a community dedicated to bringing more women into the sport.

The Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo is organized each March by Carl Heansel and Jade Czaia Thomson and was formerly run by Tom

Helgeson. Carl and Jade do a fantastic job bringing the Midwest together at the expo around all things Fly Fishing.

## GILL LICE, from page 13

There was most certainly observation error, as we had different people doing the inspections between week four and weeks five and six. But the gill lice life cycle does involve detaching and reattaching to the gills before reaching maturity, and this could have accounted for some of the variability. Successful immune response by the fish could also have been a factor.

Mature female gill lice were first visible in week seven on 52 percent of the fish, with 78 percent showing signs of infection. Mature female gill lice are identified by the presence of two egg sacs, which look like grains of rice. By week eight, 57 percent had mature female gill lice and 76 percent showed signs of infection. After nine weeks, 77 percent of the brook trout were infected with one to 41 mature female gill lice.

Based on our weekly sampling schedule and the timing of first signs of infection and first signs of mature female gill lice, it could have taken from 27 to 40 days for mature female gill lice to develop on an infected brook trout. Within two weeks of first detecting the presence of mature female gill lice, the prevalence of infection increased from 52 percent to 77 percent.

We were not that surprised to have recovered so few of the brook

trout stocked directly in the stream given the presence of wild brook trout and brown trout. A better recovery rate would have been helpful, though, in evaluating whether caged fish were less likely or more likely to become infected compared to those fish free to move in the stream. This study did provide proof of concept for using cages in a stream to test susceptibility of different strains of brook trout to gill lice infection.

The Wisconsin DNR has conducted extensive work regarding gill lice and brook trout which was recently published in the peer-reviewed Journal of Parasitology as a paper by Matthew Mitro and Joanna Griffin (2018, Vol. 104, No. 6, pages 628-638). This paper provides a first-of-its-kind statewide assessment of gill lice infecting brook trout.

A highlight of the paper is a table including observational data on brook trout and gill lice from more than 200 Wisconsin streams. Gill lice were present in 79 percent of streams and absent from 21 percent; prevalence of infection ranged from 0.4 percent to 100 percent where the parasite was present; and the maximum intensity of infection was low (1-5 mature female gill lice infecting a brook trout) in 31 percent of streams, moderate (6-14) in 35 percent of streams, and high (15 or

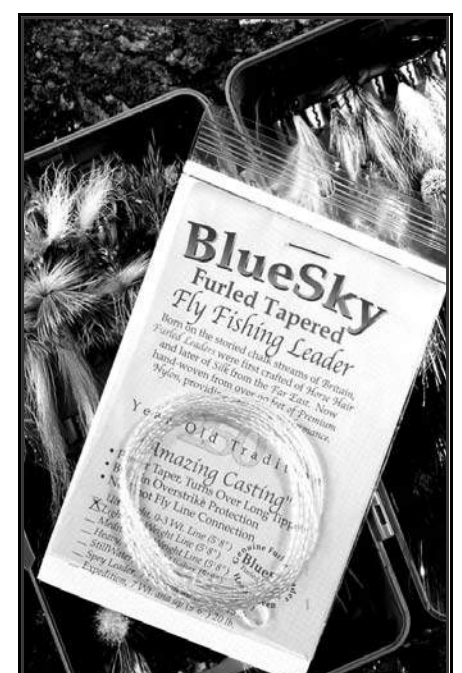
more) in 34 percent of streams.

Ash Creek is one of nine streams in which maximum intensity was high and prevalence exceeded 90 percent, which suggests outbreaks of infection as have occurred in Ash Creek are uncommon. The statewide data published in this paper provides an important baseline for ongoing and future studies of gill lice-brook trout dynamics. Please contact Matthew Mitro for additional details on this publication.

*Matt Mitro is the DNR's coldwater fisheries research scientist based in Madison and working on trout and streams statewide.*

*Lavinia Unverdorben is an undergraduate student at Juniata College in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania who spent the last summer working with Matt Mitro and the Wisconsin DNR studying gill lice infection of Wisconsin brook trout. In the future, she hopes*

*to pursue a Ph.D. in molecular microbiology with a focus on biomedical applications.*



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## Chapter News

### Aldo Leopold Chapter

At our January board meeting we collected flies for the WITU banquet. Since we haven't done this for a few years, our tyers went all out, and we ended up with an extra box to hold all the wonderful submittals. After the banquet, we were pleased to hear that the fly box and our raffle donations were all well received.

We were also pleased to learn that chapter board member Sally Gawle received a WITU Certificate of Appreciation for her contributions to TU, and that chapter past president Scott Allen has been elevated to Vice Chair of WITU, which is a tall order, to be sure, but a position that we know he will fill admirably. Congratulations to both Sally and Scott.

We have been closely following the development of a stream maintenance project spearheaded by the TUDARE Volunteer Steering Committee, and were pleased that a proposed work schedule prepared by the DNR's David Rowe included work on a number of Columbia and Sauk County streams. A consensus quickly developed in favor of a chapter financial contribution, which we hope to decide on soon so that we can help the project get off

the ground.

We have a maintenance project of our own scheduled for Saturday, April 27 on Bear Creek for the purpose of removing bankside willows on the upper pasture of the Fargen property. There have already been beaver problems downstream related to willow growth, and we hope to avoid such beaver activity higher up in the watershed. This particular section is fished regularly, and we hope this work will help protect the huge public investment made on this stream.

Chapter members are advised to mark their calendars for Tuesday, June 11 for our annual fundraising picnic at Habermann Park in Lodi. Yes, it may be a bit early to think about summer activities, but since it's often difficult to carve out the time for such things, we want our members to get this on the calendar now.

The next board meeting is April 10 at Suzy's Steakhouse in Portage. Chapter elections will be on the agenda, as well as planning for the chapter picnic. All are welcome at board meetings, and we'll get started at 5:30 p.m.

—Mike Stapleton

### Antigo Chapter

We are planning for our annual fundraising banquet Saturday, March 30 at Northstar Banquet Center. We again will have all the goodies, including live and silent auction, raffles, guns, rods and reels.

I'm very proud to tell everyone our chapter has been given a wonderful donation of \$5,000 to help further our mission of coldwater improvement and youth education. What a great donation that will be used in our chapter area. Thanks!

After our banquet, we start planning our Kids Fishing Day Saturday, June 8 at the City of Antigo Park. It will include a fish tank, presents, casting contest, as well as food and drinks for all. We also have girls and boys bikes to give away. It will be a great day for all.

There will be a TU work day with the DNR and the Green Bay, Wolf River and Antigo chapters on Saturday, June 15. This will be on the Evergreen River. We have approximately 300 evergreen trees to bundle and place into the river. Lunch will be provided. This is on a very nice piece of the river, and this work will provide needed cover for brook trout.

We're looking forward to seeing the work that our northeast region funded this past December. I would like to thank the Friends of Wisconsin TU grant program, which provided a \$2,000 grant to Antigo TU to help fund another summer brushing crew in our area.

Good luck fishing this summer.

—Scott Henricks

### Blackhawk Chapter

Dave Brethauer represented our chapter at the TU State Council meeting in February. At our February chapter meeting, Dave shared a lot of great information on opportunities to support TU conservation efforts this year. The Chapter committed an additional \$500 to the Green County Land and Water Conservation Department. The grant will support final costs of the Sawmill Creek project.

Once again, Ron Machajewski

and Don Studt conducted our Beginner Fly Tying classes in Janesville with Dave Brethauer on hand to help answer questions. These sessions are a great way for anyone interested to learn the basics of fly tying and pick-up some fishing tips from more experienced chapter members, and maybe share a fish story or two.

—Phil Kirker

### Central Wisconsin Chapter

The CWTU 2019 Masters Fly Tying Course was once again well attended. The participants met weekly at the Fin and Feather for five weeks of learning the art of tying flies. Coordinator Tom Meyer does a great job.

"Fly Tying – A New Experience" is a beginner course presented by CWTU and coordinated by Dave Pables. This year's course was held throughout January at the Fin and

Feather in Winneconne. Dave Pables is the lead instructor and presents a great course with the help of Grace Pables. Many of CWTU's volunteers helped with instruction, providing a successful event.

TroutFest has taken on a new look. Coordinated by Ira Giese, John Gremmer, Wayne Parmley and Bob Haase, the February event is always held at the Fin and Feather in



#### WEBER TACKLE COMPANY FLIES ON DISPLAY AT TROUTFEST

CWTU chapter member Dave Ehrenberg displayed a wide collection of Weber Tackle Company flies. This company was once located in Stevens Point and boasted they were the "World's Largest in Fly Tackle - Originators of American Style Fly Fishing Equipment."

Winneconne. There is no admission charge. More than 20 fly tyers with years of experience interacted with participants throughout the day.

Multiple educational sessions were presented, including presentations from Ira Giese, Bob Haase, Jeff Treu, John Gremmer, Tom Lager and many more. New members joined, new acquaintances were made. Youth fly-tying sessions were ongoing throughout the day.

The Riverkeepers represented by Bob Jozowski were present to educate the public on water monitoring and to register additional individuals to monitor Wisconsin streams. Riverkeepers do not have to be CWTU members. The public is welcome to join.

TU CARES, a new restoration program sponsored by the Central Wisconsin TU region made up of CWTU, Fox Valley TU, Shawpaca TU and Frank Hornberg TU, was also represented at the event.

Education is very important to CWTU. We present educational seminars from September through May and many people attend. This year the coordinators are John

Gremmer, Ira Giese, Jeff Treu, Bob Haase and Wayne Parmley. The committee does a great job providing seminars that are informative and keep the membership engaged.

CWTU has a premier fly fishing school. The 2019 Dan Harmon III Fly Fishing School June 1-2 is now coordinated by Jeff Treu and John Gremmer. We think it one of the best schools in the Midwest. We are still accepting reservations. It will be held at the Riverside Bible Camp in Amherst. For more information visit the CWTU website at [cwtu.org](http://cwtu.org).

We'll present topics including fly casting, reading the water, understanding fly hatches, selecting fly patterns, tackle selection, knot tying, fly tying and much more. It will include fishing for trout, streamside instruction, fly-casting practice, slides, videos, entomology, fishing literature, care of tackle and fly tying.

Fly fishing is a sport for a lifetime and is a captivating pursuit enjoyed by men and women for centuries. Come see and learn. Questions? Contact Scott Grady at 920-687-0987 or [oossg@vbe.com](mailto:oossg@vbe.com).



#### ALL DAY TYING AT CWTU'S TROUTFEST

TroutFest19 had several fly tyers of all ages demonstrating their skills and tips throughout the day.

# Chapter News



Our work days will soon be upon us. This year's planned work days will be held on May 18, June 16, July 20, August 17 and September 21. See our website for locations. Bird Creek, Wautoma restoration will be part of the planned restoration this year.

CWTU Work days are well attended. Anyone is welcome. Bring your waders and gloves. It is a great way to view mother nature from a different and close-up perspective. You will meet new people from all walks of life. Work day coordinator

Dennis Drazkowski does a wonderful job making sure the days go smoothly, providing coffee, fruit and rolls for the morning and a free "riverside" lunch for all volunteers. Everyone shares lots great stories.

We are making plans for our summer picnics in June, July and August. Watch the website for details.

Thanks to our CWTU members. And friends. We are very successful because of your support.

—Laura Tucker

## Coulee Region Chapter

Our chapter banquet in February went well, with more than 100 attendees at the Cedar Creek banquet hall in Onalaska. Many thanks to John Townsell and Bob Hubbard for their work to make it all go so well. Our attendees were well fed and many went home with some great prizes that were donated by our members and friends. Thanks to Rick Kyte for the glass fly rod he built for the banquet and to Jim Sobotta for the bamboo rod he donated as a prize.

At our March meeting, Jason Freund was our guest presenter and he shared a lot of information about tying and using streamer flies in the Driftless.

March 30 was the 5th annual Cozad Driftless 1Fly event that raises funds and awareness for CRTU youth outdoor events.

Our chapter, with help from other chapters and groups, are planning a clean-up event for the weekend of April 13-14 2019. With the purpose of helping Coulee Region landowners clean up after the devastating

floods of 2018-19. Please contact Dale Jonson at 608-343-8484, dalewjnson@gmail.com for more information.

Our last chapter meeting of the season is April 17 at the American Legion in Viroqua, with an optional dinner and beverages from 6-7 p.m. The meeting and presentation begin at 7 p.m. This will be one of those "can't miss" meetings as we are fortunate to have John Bethke as our presenter for the evening. John has fished the Coulee Region for decades and we look forward to learning about his experiences in tying and fishing.

We won't have another chapter meeting until September, but there will be a few work days and other events that happen over the summer. We are still working out the details, but we have a joint work day on the calendar for June 8 with our friends from SEWTU and other chapters. Keep your eye on the CRTU Facebook page and couleeregiontu.org for more information.

—Curt Rees

## Fox Valley Chapter

January and February have been a very busy time for our chapter. We had our chapter fundraiser in January and a chapter meeting in February. Some of us attended the State Council meeting and banquet in February. We're planning for an April chapter fishing weekend, the May 18 Special Needs and Handicapped/Disabilities Fishing Day, and this year's habitat days.

This is a busy schedule of events, but we do it to fulfill our promise to conserve, protect and restore the coldwater resources, fisheries and their watersheds here in Wisconsin.

We held our very successful annual fundraiser, Cabin Fever Day, in January at the Grand Meridian in Appleton. The chapter thanks all of the vendors, fly tyers and presenters, including Kyle Zempel, Tim Landwehr and Rod Johnson. We thank Scott Grady for donating his hand-made cane rod, chapter volunteers, and most importantly those individuals who attended the event.

Attendees came from Michigan, Minnesota, Illinois and Wisconsin. John Barkmeir, Norm Christnacht, Al Johnson, Tom Lager, Joe Bach, Chuck Knoeck, Steve Heuser, Roger Genske and Optima Graphics did a fantastic job making sure that the event was successful. Thanks to all of these individuals, the FVTU chapter was able to raise more than \$8,000 for the coldwater fisheries and their watersheds in Wisconsin. Thank you for your support. We will soon be in the early planning stages for the 19th annual CFD event which will be held in January, 2020

and again at the Grand Meridian in Appleton.

Our February chapter meeting featured a presentation by Chef Shelly Platten and several students at Fox Valley Technical College. The students from the Culinary Arts program at FVTC and chef's Shelly, John, Jeff and Aaron have been presenting a culinary program to the chapter for many years. While we were enjoying the meal, Roger Genske recognized several chapter members for their ongoing support of chapter activities, including John Barkmeier, Don Clouthier, Joe Bach, Terry Ziegler and Nate Ratliff.

Many chapter members attended the State Council annual meeting and banquet in February. Tom Lager presented an overview of the TU CARES project that is a priority Habitat Project in the Central Sands area.

Our March chapter meeting featured a presentation outlining habitat projects, as well as elections for officer and board positions.

Roger Genske, Dan Geddes and Don Clouthier are planning our fifth annual fishing trip to Southwest Wisconsin April 24-28. Fish, dine, fish, learn, fish and camp for one or all four days. This event is open to all who want to fish or just enjoy Southwest Wisconsin. You don't have to be a chapter member to participate. Details about the trip are on our website and Facebook page.

Our chapter habitat days for this year will begin in April. As we have done for many years, we plan to

meet with Elward Engle on Davies Creek. Davies Creek feeds the Pine River and this is the location of one of the first habitat projects we participated in years ago. Our May-through-September habitat days will be joint efforts with CWTU and other chapters in the region. All of these habitat days will be the third Saturday of the month, and perhaps a few additional days. Monitor our website and Facebook page for dates, times and event locations.

On May 18 we are sponsoring the 41st annual Fishing Day for People with Disabilities. We have partnered with the Appleton YMCA and we will again be using their Camp Shioc Pond. Our website and Facebook Page will include additional information and a map. Please call any FVTU board member if you know of a disabled or handicapped individual who would enjoy a couple of hours of fishing,

conversation and a picnic lunch on a mid-May morning.

We started a new event on Monday evenings from January through March at the Stone Yard on Edgewood Drive/JJ on the north side of Appleton. The event is called the Stone Fly Social and provides an opportunity to meet for a couple of hours and talk about fishing and tie flies.

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

As you plan for spring and summer that will come, enjoy our streams, creeks, rivers and lakes. And, as our late chapter president Tony Treml would say, "We'll see you on a trout stream."

—Rich Erickson

## Frank Hornberg Chapter

We had several great presentations lined up for February and March. Wisconsin DNR Fisheries Biologist Tim Parks was to talk about the Tomorrow River in February. The DNR has studied trout populations in this river for 30 years, and Tim was going to tell us about the most recent data. Unfortunately, the day of the meeting was during one of Wisconsin's epic 2019 winter storms. We had to cancel the meeting. We still hope to hear from Tim some time in the future.

The speaker for our March meeting was the DNR's Dan Baumann. He gave us an update on the Little Plover River Project, an en-

hancement project to restore the health of the river and watershed. It is directed by a partnership composed of the Village of Plover, local conservation and agricultural organizations, Portage County, the DNR and some faculty at UW—Stevens Point. At our January meeting we discussed specific aspects of this program, including pros and cons. Our March meeting was an opportunity for further discussion on the methods, motivations and objectives of the project.

Find up-to-date information on chapter events at [www.facebook.com/HornbergTU/](http://www.facebook.com/HornbergTU/).

—John Vollrath

## Green Bay Chapter

In January and February we had two guest speakers. In January Casey Hicks of the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters stopped in to share with us the leagues' work aimed at keeping our elected officials aware of, and focused on, important environmental and conservation issues. This included information on their upcoming Conservation Lobby Day at the Capitol. This is a great opportunity for folks to speak to our representatives regarding these issues.

Natalie Dutack and Falon French of the River Alliance of Wisconsin presented our February program. Falon explained the Alliance's Clean Water Farms pilot program. Natalie discussed aquatic invasive species education and outreach.

In January we signed letters of support for multiple conservation efforts. The first involved Asian carp. The second was for the Town of Beaver to remove and replace an

outdated culvert on the North Branch of Beaver Creek. The third was to help the Lakeshore Chapter secure funding for work on the Onion River and Nichols Creek.

We recently made several donations, including three fly rods to the Veterans Service Program we work closely with, Project Healing Waters. We sent \$100 to the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters to help sponsor their Conservation Lobby Day. We gave \$100 to the Outagamie Conservation Club for their Take-a-Kid-Fishing program. We donated \$500 to the River Alliance of Wisconsin for their Wild and Scenic Film Festival. We committed to supporting the North Branch of Beaver Creek culvert replacement project with \$5,000.

February featured our 44th Annual Conservation Banquet. Early indications look like it was another very successful event. We should have more to share in the next re-



### GREEN BAY TU HAD A SUCCESSFUL BANQUET IN FEBRUARY

February featured GBTU's 44th Annual Conservation Banquet. Early indications look like it was another very successful event. We should have more to share in the next report.



## Chapter News

port.

We have been discussing the possibility of purchasing a chapter work trailer. These conversations are in the information and estimate-gathering phase.

We took another step to improve our communications as we recently

created an Instagram account and recommitted to updating our chapter website.

For more information on what GBTU has going on, visit our website at [greenbaytu.org](http://greenbaytu.org).

—Adrian Meseberg

### Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter

Work on Six Mile Branch could not start in September due to heavy rains. We may bring in some rock and move some dirt yet before spring. We added a 660-foot section of Six Mile Branch that is on the west side of Q. This is a newly-eased stream running into the Blue River. Work on Blue River by and in the Snow Bottom Natural Area will have to wait until mid-2019 also. In 2020 and 2021 we will work on 7,700 feet of the Blue River north of the mouth of Six Mile Branch.

The Trout In the Classroom fish in Fennimore remained in the hatching basket until the last week of January. Since they have left the basket there has been a spike in mortality due to organics in the water as well as “pinheads” that won’t eat. As of February 19, there were approximately 60 fish remaining, and they are doing well. The levels of the tank are stable. The tank has completed the nitrogen cycle and gone through a 25 percent water change.

We hope to have many fish left

to release into a Driftless stream in May. Fisheries Biologist Bradd Simms and TIC coordinator Kurt Meyer will be in contact to set up a date for the 6th-grade students to do macro-invertebrate studies, water quality tests, and project wet activities on a Driftless trout stream when the fish are ready to be released.

Several of our members volunteered at the Grant County Sports Alliance Outdoor Skills Day in Fennimore in February. We offered fly casting and tying instruction and got several interested in the summer fish camp.

Tim, Todd and Gordon attended the State Council Banquet in February and reported on new Chair Mike Kuhr, the lobbyist at the capitol funded by TU license plate monies, Conservation Lobby Day and TU easement money available for easements.

Brian Larson received the Badger Fly Fisher’s Joan and Lee Wulff Conservation Leadership Award.

—Brian Larson



### NOHR CHAPTER’S TIC FRY LOOKING FORWARD TO RELEASE DAY

The Nohr Chapter’s Trout In the Classroom fish in Fennimore remained in the hatching basket until the last week of January. Those that survive will one day swim in an area stream.

### Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter

Since the first of the year, Kiap-TU-Wish has conducted 11 habitat workdays, the first three of which were held at Tiffany Creek on the campus of the Boyceville Middle/High School. This was not our usual box-elder-infested jungle, but a park-like setting with many mature silver maple and ash trees at the end of their lives. The school board requested that we remove the trees, and new trees will be planted in their place.

After completing the tree removal and brushing at Tiffany Creek, our volunteers then moved to the Von Holtum easement on Plum Creek, about three miles south of Plum City. This easement extends along almost a mile of Plum Creek

and a tributary stream. Nineteen volunteers showed up on the first Plum Creek work day to cut the box elders and burn slash from the downed trees. Since then we’ve conducted seven additional workdays for a total of 682 volunteer hours to date.

The heavy snow that fell in February made for difficult foot travel on site but didn’t stop our efforts. On the second week in March, a road was plowed along the edge of the easement and rock deliveries were made to prepare for this summer’s in-stream and bank work. Our tree removal at the Plum Creek site will continue through the end of March and possibly into early April. This stream restoration will be a



### NOHR’S CHAPTER’S BRIAN LARSON RECEIVES AWARD

Brian Larson received the Badger Fly Fisher’s Joan and Lee Wulff Conservation Leadership Award from previous recipient Tim Landwehr.



### KIAP LOGS ANOTHER 118 HOURS TACKLING BOX ELDER

At the Kiap Chapter’s February box-elder-removal day on Plum Creek, volunteers enjoy a hot dog, pastries and conversation around the fire following a hard morning of work. From left are Dan Duncan, son Joseph Duncan, Ted Higman, John Kaplan, Trish Hannah, Peter Borden, Charlie Schlatter, John Carr, Sydney Arnold, Loren Haas, DNR biologist Kasey Yallaly, Tony Randazzo and Clear Waters TU members Dale Dahlke and Matt Wysocki. Also participating in the workday were Paul and William Mahler, and myself who took the photo. The sticks stuck in the snowbank were used to roast our hot dogs. We logged 118 volunteer hours.

two-year project and we hope to finish about one-third of the easement this year.

TU’s national science team is currently partnering with MobileH2O, LLC to develop a customized mobile application (WiseH2O mApp) that can be used by anglers to monitor water quality and habitat conditions in Driftless Area trout streams. Kiap-TU-Wish members have been invited to participate in a pilot project that includes Pierce County. The project should kick off April 1.

To date, 31 chapter members have volunteered to participate in the program. Some are signed up as target anglers who will be monitoring at designated stream sites on a prescribed schedule. Other’s include general anglers who will make 1-5 observations during the entire course of the project on stream sites of their choice throughout Pierce County. A training session was held in March at the University of Wisconsin—River Falls.

All eight of our TIC programs are doing well. We held our egg delivery January 3 to schools in

Amery, Roberts, River Falls, North Hudson, Hudson and Prescott. The kids were all very excited and asked excellent questions. The eggs have hatched, the larvae have used up their egg sac, and the fry have left the friendly confines of the rearing basket to enter the big world of the aquarium. Feeding time is always a hit and the kids are doing a great job of keeping an eye on the water temperature and ammonia levels. All classrooms are reporting low mortality rates. Bugs in the Classroom sessions and trout release dates are currently being scheduled.

We had displays at the River Falls Film Festival and Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo. Chapter volunteers staffed the booth, recruited new members and answered questions about our mission and activities, including Randy Arnold, John Kaplan, Kent Johnson and Greg Olson.

—Maria Manion

Kurt Meyer

Randy Arnold

# Chapter News



## Lakeshore Chapter

We had a great start to 2019. Even though we have had some cold weather, we have seen some great participation from our membership on our monthly work days. While we wait for better temperatures to tackle bigger projects when the weather warms up, our team has been busy clearing streamside vegetation and building brush bundles needed for some of the work we have planned this summer.

Our efforts are starting to pay off in many ways. Not only have we welcomed many new members to LS-TU, but we have also been awarded two grants for our Nichols Creek restoration project. We have also applied for a surface water grant for our big Onion River project where we hope to add an additional 3,000 feet of improved trout water this summer.

We will have two Trout In the Classroom projects beginning in the

fall with Random Lake High School and Farnsworth Middle School in Sheboygan. We recently held a fly-tying class at the Random Lake High School and owe a big shout out of thanks to Bob Haase, who led the class and organized volunteers from our chapter and the Central Wisconsin Chapter.

Our efforts are being noticed: We received the Wisconsin State Council's Silver Trout Award for Chapter Merit at this year's State Council Banquet. Thanks to all of you who have supported us and gave us help when needed, including the many friends we have made throughout the state that come to our work days and are always offering their help and guidance.

2019 will be a great year and we cannot wait to share our future successes, as we are confident we will have many.

—Stephen Girardi

## Marinette County Chapter

We held our annual trout fishing classes in February and March. The sessions we well attended with participants as young as 10 years old. This year we had three father-son pairs. One of the young lads has attended the TU Summer camp and his brother wants to go this year. Marinette Chapter members serve as instructors.

The first night we cover trout

habitat and what trout need to survive and why habitat work and clean water is so important. The second night covers fly-fishing gear and other fishing gear. The third night students tie a Woolly Bugger and a caddis fly. The final night includes hands-on fly casting at the new Marinette Recreation Center, which hosted this year's event.

—Dale Lange



### YOUTH ENJOY MARINETTE TU FISHING CLASSES

Fly-tying class with TU members Mark Ritchie and John LeBeau helping.

## Northwoods Chapter

Despite nasty travel conditions, not to mention being on furlough, Sue Reinecke, fisheries biologist for the Chequamenon-Nicolet National Forest (CNNF), was the featured speaker at our January meeting.

Sue's presentation centered on CNNF's proposed habitat improvement project on the Border Brule River upstream from Highway 139. Excavators are planned to be used for a "Dig & Pile" project with the possibility of added logjams. CNNF is working on the permitting and design for a planned 2021 project.

During the past few years, our chapter has been interested in maximizing the potential of this fishery, and we're hoping that TU chapters along the river in both states can get involved with what could become a long-term, large-scale project.

This long, cold winter offered an opportunity to look into the potential for planning another future

project.

Selecting a time span with extended subfreezing, including sub-zero temperatures, we hired a pilot to conduct a flyover of Plum Creek near Sayner. Chapter Vice President Bill Sherer was our eyes in the sky looking for evidence of spring input into the creek. Bill reported that while most of our lakes and large rivers were icebound, Plum Creek was ice free. More to come on this.

We're planning our April 20 banquet and separate off-site Grand Prize Raffle. This year's prizes will be a Maxxon pontoon with electric motor, a complete 4-weight fly fishing outfit and a \$200 gift certificate from Mel's Trading Post in Rhineland.

—Terry Cummings

## Oconto River Chapter

Our banquet committee is preparing for our annual fundraising banquet April 25 at Romy's Holiday Inn at Kelly Lake. Banquet Chair Dan Sumnicht is gathering prizes. Call Dan for ticket information at 715-853-2463.

We're seeking young people from the Oconto River Watershed area to attend the environmental camps offered by UW-Stevens Point. Various camps for youth ages 7-15 are offered. An application is available from Moni Brunner at 920-855-6669. Campers will be announced at our banquet April 25. Youth can also apply for the WITU Fishing Camp.

Chapter members and area youth will join to clean boat landings along the main Oconto River in southwest Oconto County. The project takes place approximately two weeks before the fishing season opens.

We're planning to participate in DNR and U.S. Forest Service stream work days. We'll work with members from other chapters to place brush bundles, rocks and logs to improve habitat. We're also planning a Summer Outreach event which will include a family fishing day and picnic. The program will be designed as a fun day, share what TU is about and how we support our coldwater resources. Dates and locations will be published in the chapter newsletter.

We hold chapter meetings on even number months of February, April, June, August, October and December on the first Tuesday of the month. We hold them at the Lone Oak Gun club just North of Gillett on Hwy 32 starting at 7 p.m., eating at 6:30 p.m.

—Tom Klatt

## Shaw-Paca Chapter

Well, we made it through another winter and warmer days and rising trout are ahead. Our 36th annual conservation banquet will be at the Northwinds Banquet Hall in Marion Thursday, April 4. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., with a social hour until the dinner at 7 p.m. Tickets will be available at the door or you can reserve one by emailing us at shawpacatu@gmail.com.

The chapter once again sponsored a scholarship to a UW-Stevens Point student choosing to go into the field of fisheries manage-

ment. A local high school student was chosen who we felt was an outstanding candidate and will be a great asset to our natural resources. The chapter also renewed subscriptions to "Trout" magazine at almost a dozen local schools and libraries.

Between preparing for the banquet and readying gear for open water, we are looking forward to the months ahead. If anyone has anything they'd like to donate, or help they'd like to offer for the banquet, let us know. Tight lines!

—Nate Sipple

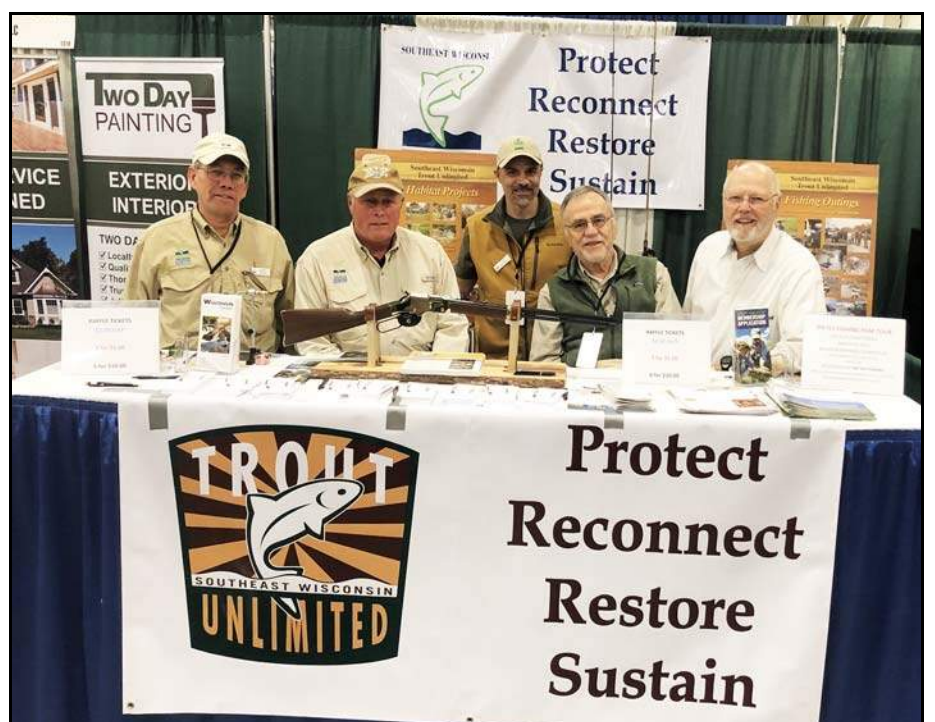
## Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter

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

We've had several great speakers at our recent meetings. In January,

our guest speaker had a last-minute cancelation and we were very fortunate to have SEWTU members Rick Carr, Rick Larkin and James Folda provide an outstanding presentation of their fishing journey in Colorado and the Yellowstone area. Their adventures involved back-country camping by horseback and trout being caught in places that the outdoor enthusiast dream about and create bucket lists to pursue.

At our February chapter meeting our speaker was Erik Helm, who is



### SEWTU VOLUNTEERS SPREADING THE WORD ABOUT TU

SEWTU took advantage of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Sport Show. It's a great outreach opportunity allowing the chapter to share the mission and goals of SEWTU to a large audience.



## Chapter News



### SEWTU ADOPTS ANOTHER WILDLIFE AREA

SEWTU will be adopting another fishery area called Tichigan, which is currently home to brook trout and has a unique story to be shared in a future issue of *Wisconsin Trout*.

the proprietor of Classical Angler which is a fly-fishing guide and instructional service based in the Driftless Area of Wisconsin. Erik has spent more than 17 years in the industry running the former Laacke and Joys Flyshop and the Milwaukee Orvis fishing business.

He has taught thousands of people of all ages and skill levels to cast a fly-rod and catch a fish. He also is a writer of fly-fishing essays and stories, and produces fine fly-fishing crafts. His presentation, entitled "What the Wise Old Trout Taught Me," attracted more than 50 members who did not want to miss his observations and tips.

We're very excited to welcome back Mat Wagner and Geri Meyer from The Driftless Angler. Mat and Geri are owners of the Driftless Angler, a full-service fly shop and guide service in Viroqua, Wisconsin. They will be speaking to us about fishing in the Driftless Area.

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

SEWTU members also organized and participated in six fly-tying sessions at Cabela's in Richfield. Thanks to organizer Jim Folda and all of the SEWTU volunteers who helped make these sessions successful.

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

Jim Folda also deserves a great amount of credit for coordinating, setting up, and running the SEW-

TU Booth at the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Sport Show. The March show is a great outreach opportunity which allows us to share the mission and goals of SEWTU to a large audience.

The following SEWTU members volunteered to help make the Sport Show a success: Janet Fischer, Al Dalphonso, Chuck Beeler, Chuck Staley, Dave Menke, Rick Carr, Andy Avgoulas, John Rennpferd, Ken Rizzo, Dave Wunrow, Dave Baumann, Bob Estland, Robert Crozier, Jay Zawerschnick, Herb Oechler, Rick Larkin, Ben Cheesman, Larry Wirth, John Koivisto, Robbie Crozier and possibly others who I might have missed.

Also, the following SEWTU members worked with Bob Haase in the youth activities fly tying booth for the show: Al Dalphonso, Janet Fischer, Andy Avgoulas and Ben Cheesman. Thanks everyone.

On March 13 The Fly Fishers Fly Shop owner Pat Ehler sponsored the IF4 Fly Fishing Film Tour. Pat, along with SEWTU member Stan Strelka and members of the Smallmouth Alliance, planned and organized this popular event that was held at the Bavarian Bierhaus in Glendale. This was a busy evening and Stan Strelka helped organize SEWTU volunteers to make things run smoothly by working at the admission table and running the SEWTU raffle. We'd like to thank the many SEWTU members who supported this event by attending and donating items for the raffle.

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

Here's a list of upcoming volunteer opportunities:

April 2, 16: Fly-Tying Workshop at Oak Creek Community Center  
Early April: Kid's Fishing Clinic in West Bend

April 23: Chapter meeting

April 27: Menomonee River Cleanup with Milwaukee Riverkeeper near Miller Park from 9 a.m. to noon.

May 7, 21: Fly Tying Workshop at Oak Creek Community Center

May 11: Scuppernong Creek work day near Ottawa Lake Campground from 9 a.m.-noon

May 18: Work day, location TBD 9 a.m.-noon

May 21: Chapter meeting

June 7-9: Driftless Area work day and annual fishing outing at the West Fork Sportsman's Club in Avalanche. Workday location to be determined

Early July: Annual Mid-Summer Casting Clinic at Greenfield Park

July 20: Tichigan Creek work day near Waterford from 9 a.m.-noon

August 17: Kids & Family Stream Exploration Day at Paradise Springs in the Kettle Moraine Southern Unit from 9 a.m.-noon

September 21: Bluff Creek work day near Whitewater from 9 a.m.-noon

Late September: Chapter meeting

Early October: Annual Fin and Feather Festival in Shorewood and Annual Root River Steelhead Facility Open House

October 19: Bluff Creek work day near Whitewater from 9 a.m.-noon

Late October: Annual fundraiser banquet

Late November: Chapter meeting

December 7: Scuppernong Riv-

er Workday #2 near Ottawa Lake Campground from 9 a.m.-noon (weather permitting)

Mid-December: Chapter meeting/holiday party

Also, The Kiwanis Free Youth Fishing Event is coming up soon, on Saturday, April 13 at Regner Park in West Bend. As in years past, SEWTU will be assisting with the event. The event will take place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. We are looking for some volunteers to help ensure the kids have a good time and help them learn the great sport of fishing. If you can volunteer, please contact Nick Schmal at minnkota98@gmail.com.

Additional news comes from Luke Roffler, senior fisheries biologist for Racine, Kenosha and Walworth Counties. Last year we were honored to win an external cooperator award that was announced at the DNR Statewide Fisheries Management meeting held in February 2018. Luke nominated SEWTU based on the fantastic support we have provided to the ongoing restoration effort at Bluff Creek, including the adoption agreement for the Bluff/Whitewater Fishery Area. SEWTU will be adopting another fishery area called Tichigan, which is currently home to brook trout and has a unique story to be shared in a future issue of *Wisconsin Trout*.

SEWTU members are providing outreach opportunities to help educate others about our mission, and are committed to conserve, protect and restore coldwater resources because our children deserve it. It is a pleasure working with such dedicated volunteers.

—Todd Durian

### Southern Wisconsin Chapter

Thanks to great attendees and generous raffle donors, we raised more than \$9,000 at our January Icebreaker event. It was frigid outside, but the warmth shared inside truly warmed our coldwater hearts. The focus was local, with Wisconsin guide and author Rich Osthoff and DNR Fisheries Supervisor David Rowe sharing stories and information.

First-year Icebreaker Chair Ben Lubchansky did a wonderful job, re-

ceiving help from many others including Pat Hasburgh, Henry Nehls-Lowe, Amy Klusmeier, Mary Ann Doll, Drew Kasel, Tom Parker, Chuck Bayuk and John and Rose Schweiger. We look forward to seeing everyone at next year's event.

Activity is ramping up in spring, including our Stream Team workdays. Check our website for the workday schedule, which will have us working to improve a wide variety of streams. From well-known



### SWTU ICEBREAKER FEATURED MANY FLY TYERS

Gathering 'round one of the many fly tying experts at the SWTU Icebreaker.

# Chapter News



## SWTU ICEBREAKER ATTENDEES ENJOY OSTHOFF PRESENTATION

fisheries to brand new easements, we'll be making a difference and would love your help.

Our free Riversmith Trout Fishing Clinic is set for Saturday, April 20 in Cross Plains. Anybody new to the pursuit of trout is encouraged to join us for some hands-on learning.

Those of you with some skills to pass along are encouraged to help us out. It's a great way to learn how to cast a fly rod, read the water and learn what trout eat. See our website for more information at swtu.org.

—Drew Kasel

## Wild Rivers Chapter

It's been a long winter. There have been a few changes in our leadership. I was elected to serve as chapter president again for the third time in 18 years. I care so much for our Wild Rivers chapter and the TU organization. TU is the premier conservation organization in the country, and it's amazing to think about all of the great conservation work that TU is involved in, from habitat restoration on so many wonderful trout streams in Wisconsin and throughout the country.

The youth and women initiatives, and the veteran programs are so important to get more people outside to enjoy our coldwater resources.

Sometimes I sit back and think about what rivers and experiences I would have missed and the people that I would not have met if I did not get involved in TU. It's been amazing. I encourage every TU member to step up and get more involved in your chapter leadership.

We welcomed two new board members at our February meeting. Kevin Seefeldt from Ashland and Allan Brew from Moquah were elected to the board. Welcome Kevin and Allan and thanks for stepping up. And a huge thanks to Bob Rice for serving as president for several terms.

We look forward to our 2019

## Wisconsin Clear Waters

It has been a busy year for our chapter, as many new members have stepped up to help energize chapter activities.

Our Hay Creek (Chippewa County) project got off to a great start with a well-attended initial

workday, followed by a second well-attended workday. Kudos to new board member Matt Wysocki for his good work in ramrodding our new brushing and work crews. With DNR assistance, Matt also set up chainsaw-training and first-aid class-

workday, followed by a second well-attended workday. Kudos to new board member Matt Wysocki for his good work in ramrodding our new brushing and work crews. With DNR assistance, Matt also set up chainsaw-training and first-aid class-



## WISCONSIN CLEARWATERS CHAPTER WORKS ON HAY CREEK

Our Hay Creek (Chippewa County) project got off to a great start with a well-attended initial workday, followed by a second well-attended workday. Kudos to new board member Matt Wysocki for his good work in ramrodding our new brushing and work crews.



## WISCONSIN CLEARWATERS CHAPTER CLEARS THE WAY

es for potential crew members. It is great to see members get enthused, and stream improvement taking off.

Vice President Jim Erickson put together a great series of programs for chapter meetings, and we've seen an increase in interest and attendance at meetings. Jim is also our banquet chair and put together a great set of raffle prizes and auction items for our March banquet. Thank you to our sponsors and the guides and businesses that donated trips and items to our auction.

Board member Tom Sather has taken responsibility for moving WCWTU into the social media world and oversees our Facebook page. Please "like" our page to receive all updated postings, pod casts and Instagram. He is ably assisted by Jesse Burgin.

We have updated, and continue to update, our website at wctu.com. Information about chapter meetings, activities, projects, issues affecting coldwater resources, board member information, contact information and sign-up opportunities are all available on the website. Plans include posting a chapter

newsletter on the site.

WCWTU has stressed to members the importance of our having up-to-date email addresses for chapter members. Cost factors dictate that communications be by email. We do try to use snail mail for important notices. However, snail mail really is cost prohibitive. If you have not given us your email address, please do so. This can be done online through the website or by emailing Dick Duplessie (address on website).

Board members met with the DNR in January to discuss potential projects and the considerations that are made in choosing projects. Board members recently toured potential project areas in Trempealeau and Buffalo counties with Rob Herman and representatives of Elk Creek Rod and Gun Club. We received several applications for financial assistance for stream projects.

We have a full set of spring and early-summer programs planned, such as fly-casting classes, a Driftless-Area camping trip, youth activities and more.

—Dick Duplessie

## Wisconsin River Valley Chapter

At our January "Lie & Tie" meeting we had the opportunity to meet Jacob, an Eagle Scout with an idea for a project. He wants to build four boot-cleaning stations to help stop the spread of invasive species. Two boot stations will be located on the Prairie River and the other two on the Plover River. He has submitted a design to the DNR for approval.

In March, Taylor Curran, Fisheries Technician at Antigo, gave a summary of trout habitat projects completed and being planned in Langlade and Lincoln counties. Tim Parks gave an update on trout management work in Portage and Marathon counties.

Does this happen to you? You are standing in the river watching the bugs flying off the water. You have the right color, the right size but not much success. Join us from 6-8:30 p.m. April 16 at Scanni's Alehouse, 1239 Schofield Avenue, Schofield. Bob Haase will be giving his presentation, "Is it the fly or is it the presentation?" to answer your questions and give you tips on making your fishing outings more successful. Please join us.

For the May meeting we are considering movie night. Check our web page as details progress.

We need your help getting youth involved in the outdoors. The Mid-

west Outdoor Heritage Education Expo 2019 is May 15-16 at the MacKenzie Center near Poynette. See the article in this Wisconsin Trout for more details. Contact Bob Haase to help.

Taylor County Sportsman's Youth Expo is Friday, May 17 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Taylor County Fairgrounds in Medford. This is the northern version of the Expo in Poynette. Last year 422 fifth graders attended.

Kiwanis Kids Day is Saturday, June 1 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at South Wood County Park on Wazeecha Lake, southeast of Wisconsin Rapids. This is a family event with lots of hands-on activities.

Sporting Heritage Day is usually around the end of August at the Marathon County School Forest.

If you are able to help at or have questions about any of the youth expos listed above, please email me at buglehman@yahoo.com.

—Linda Lehman



## Chapter News



**WOLF RIVER CHAPTER MEMBERS STAY WARM TYING FLIES**

### Wolf River Chapter

We held our annual Fly Tying Consortium in January at the Bear Paw Outdoor Adventure Resort, thanks to the organization of Zach Buchanan. Even with a morning low of 22 below zero, we had a nice turnout. We tied dry flies, nymphs, hoppers and streamers, and suggestions and advice flowed freely on how to tie the best fly for Wolf River trout.

In February we held our spring meeting and elections. Eighteen brave souls battled slick roads and a winter storm warning to elect two new board members, Clayton Bahrke and Travis Stuck. Then DNR Fisheries Technician Taylor Curran discussed stream restoration projects in Lincoln and Langlade counties. Scott VanLaanen of the Northern Oconto County Trout Alliance discussed the Lakewood Trout

Rearing Station and the volunteers who are raising brown trout. Last September the station released 15,567 brown trout into Wolf River at six locations from Military Park downstream to Gardner Dam Camp. For more information about NOCTA or facility tours contact Scott at noctroutalliance@gmail.com. We provided a pizza lunch to cap off the meeting and presentations.

The Wolf River Meet & Greet is May 18, including the legendary lunch at Livingston's. Join Wolf River Chapter members fly and spin casting on the spectacular Wolf River. For more information contact Travis Stuck at 920-202-0689 or stucktravis@gmail.com.

—Laurie Zen Netzow



**OAK BROOK TU CONTINUES TO SUPPORT WEISTER CREEK PROJECT**

The Oak Brook TU chapter will continue its financial support of the multi-phase Weister Creek restoration project within the Kickapoo Valley Reserve in 2019.

### Oak Brook Chapter

With very little coldwater trout habitat in our home state, the Oak Brook Chapter's conservation activities will again include financial and volunteer support for projects in both Wisconsin and Michigan.

"Our Wisconsin focus this year will include conservation financial commitments for the Trout Unlimited Driftless Area Restoration Effort (TUDARE); Kickapoo River watershed stream restorations in Vernon County, and continued stream improvement work near Sparta," said Conservation Committee Chair Dave Carlson. "A June chapter work day is currently being planned for the Sparta project."

We'll continue our financial support for TUDARE. Several creeks in the Kickapoo River watershed are scheduled for improvement work in 2019, including Warner Creek, Billings Creek, Tainter Creek and Weister Creek. Weister Creek is a great example of a stream restora-

tion in the Driftless Area supported by Oak Brook TU. For the past several years, Oak Brook TU and other organizations have provided financial support for this project within the Kickapoo Valley Reserve. It is a multi-year project with a total length of 2.6 miles that, in addition to stream improvement, provides habitat for hunting and is a demonstration site for many nongame wildlife habitat practices. Work on the final section should be completed this summer.

We will continue our multi-year support to reduce soil erosion and phosphorus discharge near the city of Sparta. Since 2014 we have provided volunteer manpower and financial support that has been leveraged with local government funds. This year, stream restoration work will continue on Beaver Creek, just north of Sparta.

—Jim Schmeideskamp

## Wild & Scenic Film Festival returns to Green Bay

Travel the world without a plane ticket when you attend the third annual Wild & Scenic Film Festival in Green Bay Thursday, April 25. River Alliance of Wisconsin will host an evening of 10 short- and medium-length award-winning environmental films at Green Bay's Backstage at the Meyer Theatre. Thank you to the Green Bay chapter of TU for sponsoring this event, and to the State Council for sponsoring our Madison event.

Revel in the wonders of our natural world as this year's films take you to Iceland, the Grand Canyon, Morocco and even the moon. If you love science, nature and conservation, this film fest is for you. Join hundreds of others to view 10 fascinating films selected from SYCRL's national Wild & Scenic Film Festival. This year's films promise a new look at environmental challenges, and innovative solutions, happening all around the world.

"The third annual Wild & Scenic Film Festival is the perfect way to celebrate the spring. Come together for an evening of films that are sure to entertain and awe you. River Alliance of Wisconsin aims to inspire people across the state to protect and restore Wisconsin's waters. The fan-favorite annual film festival is the perfect place to get inspired to take action," said River Alliance's

Communications Director Danika Laine.

Here's the complete 2019 Wild & Scenic film lineup:

Flipping the Switch – How one woman led a movement that exposed the Flint water crisis.

Brotherhood of Skiing – Since 1973, this ski club has overcome barriers by bringing soul and smiles to the slopes.

Your Rivers Need You – A man changes his tune on protecting the Wild & Scenic Red River.

Too Precious to Mine – Even the Grand Canyon is facing the threat of mining pollution.

The Last Green Thread – Three friends journey through a fragile stretch of Florida's wilderness corridor.

Chandalar – Veterans, youth & the healing powers of fly fishing.

You Can't Dam Your Way to Paradise – A pristine river gorge, and... another damn dam?

The Art of Fog Catching – A village fights water insecurity with the world's largest fog collection project.

My Mom Vala – The Icelandic mother-daughter fishing duo you didn't know you needed to meet.

A New View of the Moon – Become reacquainted with awe, just look up!

The signature VIP pre-party will

begin at 5:30 p.m. and will include a light dinner and a complimentary drink. Doors open to general ticket holders at 6:30 p.m., and the film screening begins at 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 the day of the show. A special VIP package is available for \$30 and includes pre-party (one free drink coupon and food). Tickets can be purchased online at <https://www.wisconsinrivers.org/wildandscenic-greenbay-2019/>

"The Wild & Scenic Film Festi-

val is about bringing people together," said Laine. "After an evening of incredible films, great company and fantastic raffle prizes, take the next step to learn about the rivers, lakes and watersheds around you and how you can help protect them."

This year's festival is presented with support from our local sponsors including Great Lakes Brewing Company, Nicolet National Bank and Green Bay Trout Unlimited.

—River Alliance of Wisconsin



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Video Review

# Videos cover spin fishing with flies, UP trout fishing

By Duke Welter

Suppose you've been chasing trout for some time, and if you're like 40 percent of trout anglers, you fish with a fly rod. Maybe you've wondered about learning to fish with another method. I did. Although I started trout fishing as a kid using bait, I started fly fishing in my 20s and did it exclusively for more than 30 years. But a half dozen years ago, I decided to try to learn spin fishing for trout.

With a new video, you just might be convinced to try another method. Dan Coppersmith offers, "How to Fly Fish with a Spinning Rod: Tips, Tactics and Techniques for a Comprehensive Angling Method." You can learn a potentially deadly option from it.

Coppersmith produces videos on trout fishing, notably a series mapping and showing fishing on the trout opportunities in a particular region. One of his earlier ones I reviewed for *Wisconsin Trout* back in 2012. It covered streams in part of the Driftless Area, and it was pretty rudimentary. It gave the title and location of a stream on the DNR's trout regs map and then a piece of video of the stream as it was fished by Coppersmith and his wife. Not much commentary; mostly just some background guitar music.

His videos have gotten way better. Recently he sent a couple and I viewed them for our readers. One covers the trout streams of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, an area where I've chased some trout, and the other is on fly fishing with a spinning rod. Well, sort of.

Coppersmith's method is to use a spinning rod with several baits. First, always, is a spinner, spoon or crank bait. He uses Mepps, Rooster Tails or another similar type of spinner, Dardevls

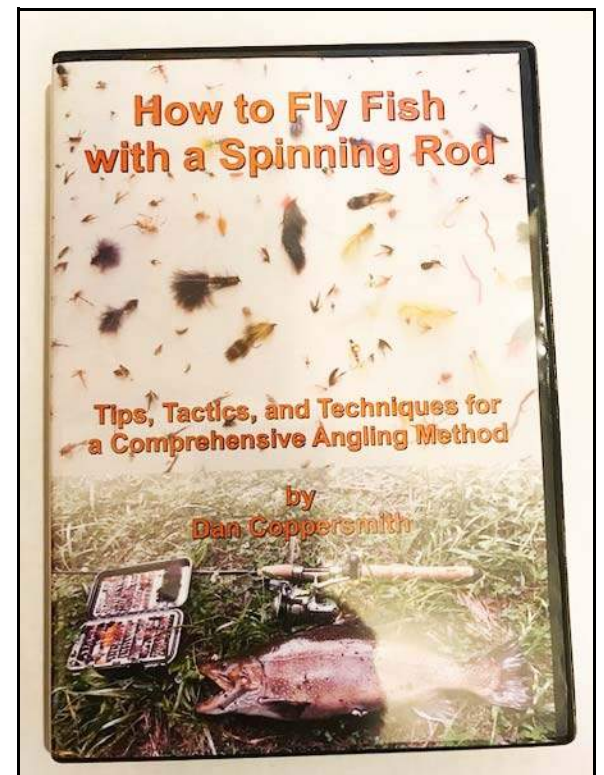
or other spoons or Rapalas or other crank baits. On some of these, he removes the treble hooks or cuts them down to double hooks, and then attaches a piece of mono leader and, usually, a woolly bugger as a second fly. The third fly can be a nymph, small streamer or wet fly. On the surface, he will use a floating crank bait often with hooks removed, followed by a dry fly. In some states, there is no limit on the number of flies or lures you can use, but you should check what's legal in your state.

Now, I remember that my learning to spin fish started out slowly. My buddies who fished that way seemed to unerringly hit a target zone on every cast, but at first, I was lucky to hit the water, or not cast the line over a branch. Once I learned to hit the water most of the time, it was hard to adjust to the sinking rate of the lure and keep it moving at a speed that attracted a strike. But eventually, I got to a point where, while not yet adept, I had moved beyond hopeless. And it gave me another tool to fish some kinds of water that lent itself to this style.

Coppersmith works through lures, rigging methods, various lines and casting techniques. There are some tricks to the casting, to avoid being tangled incessantly. As I watched, I was struck by how I'd think of a question and then, as if he had ESP, he'd answer it. Not bad scripting.

Now, there are lots of ways to spin fish for trout, and this is just one of them. But as a person with basic spin experience, I am looking forward to trying this one this spring around the neighborhood. You might too.

The UP trout fishing video covers a lot of water in a trout-rich region, much of it the home of brook trout. The video shows a stream on a map so you can locate it, then cuts to video of the pro-



ducer and his wife fishing it. Often they film several parts of a stream, and suggest some that aren't worth your while to explore.

They also look at predominant insect species to help you determine what flies you might use in your rig. The scenery in the UP can be spectacular, and the videos portray it accurately. When they filmed streams I have fished, I found the segments they chose accurately reflected the ones I had fished. They also go at it with a certain amount of humor and an attitude that if you miss one fish, there's always another waiting for you somewhere in that stream. If you're a UP trouter, or interested in exploring the possibility, this could be a good resource for you.

To purchase these videos go to [Coppersmithstudios.com](http://Coppersmithstudios.com); \$25 per video.

See the ad in this issue of *Wisconsin Trout*.

## Donations to Watershed Access Fund reach \$10,700

The 2018 fundraising campaign has come to a close and your generous donations have made it one of the best ever. We received more than 140 donations totaling more than \$10,700. These funds will one day secure permanent access to critical properties and streams across Wisconsin.

The 2019 Watershed Access Fund campaign begins this month. Please look for the request in the mail.

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season and enjoy the winter. Wishing you the best in the 2019 fishing season!

*Doug Brown, Wisconsin TU Watershed Access Fund Chair*

### 2018 Contributors

- |                         |                    |                        |                    |
|-------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Louis Arata             | Whitefish Bay WI   | Dan Grauer             | Wausau WI          |
| Charles Barnhill        | Madison WI         | Gordon Grieshaber      | Mineral Point WI   |
| Jim Bayorgeon           | Appleton WI        | Kathryn & James Groves | Webster WI         |
| Mark Beilluss           | New London WI      | Robert Haglund         | Green Bay WI       |
| Barry Benson            | Cambridge WI       | Dean Hagness           | Custer WI          |
| Jolene Berg             | Chippewa Falls WI  | Rob Hanson             | Oregon WI          |
| Richard Boda            | Boyceville WI      | Al Hauber              | Wausau WI          |
| Stephen Born            | Madison WI         | Ashton Hawk            | Madison WI         |
| Jim Brawner             | Pulaski WI         | John Hawk              | New Holstein WI    |
| Ed Brockner             | Beaver Dam WI      | Stephen Hawk           | Madison WI         |
| Damian Budzinski        | Eau Claire WI      | Bill Heart             | Ashland WI         |
| Linda & Dennis Buzzar   | DeForest WI        | Bob Hellyer            | Boulder Jct. WI    |
| Roger Clausen           | DeForest WI        | Cline Hickok           | Hudson WI          |
| David Coenen            | Combined Locks WI  | Perry Higgins          | Stratford WI       |
| Dana Corbett            | Madison WI         | Dan & Nancy Hill       | Spencer WI         |
| Robert Cowles           | Green Bay WI       | Jeff Jackson           | Oconto Falls WI    |
| Tom Crabb               | Monona WI          | Jeff Johnson           | St. Croix Falls WI |
| Ed Culhane              | Appleton WI        | Matthew Jones          | Oshkosh WI         |
| Terrence Cummings       | Rhineland WI       | Tom Kammerman          | Suring WI          |
| David Darling           | River Falls WI     | Steven Kennedy         | Amery WI           |
| Richard Diedrich        | Grafton WI         | Lee Kersten            | Marion WI          |
| Bob Disch               | Madison WI         | Lane Kistler           | Milwaukee WI       |
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| Richard Duplessie       | Eau Claire WI      | David Kronwall         | Lake Geneva WI     |
| David Egger             | Madison WI         | Peter Kurtz O.D.       | Menominee WI       |
| Steven Engelbert        | Janesville WI      | Linda Lehman           | Wausau WI          |
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| Paul Feldhake           | Port Washington WI | Don Malchow            | Tomah WI           |
| Cindy & Alan Finesilver | DePere WI          | Chad McGrath           | Park Falls WI      |
| Joel Fisher             | Biramwood WI       | Peter Meronek          | Stevens Point WI   |
| William Flader M.D.     | Madison WI         | Tom Mertens            | Oneida WI          |
| Dr. James Fruit Jr.     | Hartland WI        | Robert Meyer           | Strum WI           |
| Ralph Gaudio            | DeSoto WI          | Fred Mikofajewski      | Franklin WI        |
| John Ghastin            | Richland Center WI | Robert Moser           | Milwaukee WI       |
| Thomas Goodmann         | Miami FL           | Thomas Mrazek          | Fond Du Lac WI     |
| James Goodwin           | Sturgeon Bay WI    | Gene Mueller           | Monona WI          |

- |                         |                    |                             |                         |
|-------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| David Muresan           | Middleton WI       | Chuck Urban                 | Wauwatosa WI            |
| Patrick Murphy          | Pewaukee WI        | Dennis/Becky Vanden Bloomen | Eau Claire WI           |
| Richard Neitzel         | Tomah WI           | Dr. Condon Vander Ark       | McFarland WI            |
| Herb Oechler            | Wauwatosa WI       | Carol Vendt                 | Oconto WI               |
| James Olson             | Oconomowoc WI      | Karen & Martin Voss         | Eau Claire WI           |
| Cheryl & Winston Ostrow | Viroqua WI         | Richard Wachowski           | Eau Claire WI           |
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| Tom Ponty               | Eau Claire WI      | Charles Wiemerslage         | Hudson WI               |
| Scott Quandt D.D.S.     | Green Bay WI       | Stephen Wilke               | Marinette WI            |
| Randal Rake             | Helena MT          | Paul Williams               | Madison WI              |
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| John Serunian           | Madison WI         |                             |                         |
| Frederick Seybold       | Madison WI         |                             |                         |
| John Shillinglaw        | Madison WI         |                             |                         |
| George Shinnors         | Antigo WI          |                             |                         |
| David Slezewski         | Antigo WI          |                             |                         |
| Nancy Snyder            | Sun Prairie WI     |                             |                         |
| Michael Spakowicz       | Milwaukee WI       |                             |                         |
| Michael Staggs          | Madison WI         |                             |                         |
| Warren Stern            | Poynette WI        |                             |                         |
| Juergen Stuebs          | West Bend WI       |                             |                         |
| Robert Tabbert          | Wautoma WI         |                             |                         |
| Julie Templen           | Lafayette LA       |                             |                         |
| Steven Ugoretz          | Dubuque IA         |                             |                         |
|                         | Verona WI          |                             |                         |

- Companies/Organizations/Chapters
- Great Lakes Eco. Monitoring Fitchburg WI
  - Kinnickinni River Land Trust River Falls WI
  - Antigo Chapt. TU Antigo WI
  - Marinette County TU Chapt. Marinette WI

- In Memory of:
- Jack Saunders, Beaver Dam, WI., in memory of Earl Little
  - Susan Zuege, Eagle River, WI., in memory of Thomas Zuege
  - Carol Vendt, Oconto, WI., in memory of parents

## 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  
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R4800 Timber Ln.  
Ringle, WI 54471

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## Driftless Rambler

With Duke Welter  
TUDARE Outreach Coordinator

**New Zealand facing remarkably similar conservation challenges.**



### WELTER CATCHES "WALTER" IN THE DRIFTLESS AREA

April Fools! Duke Welter displays a healthy and handsome New Zealand brown trout. He also discovered the country's natural resources are facing challenges similar to here, from farm runoff to invasive species.

So, here you are in the back pages of *Wisconsin Trout*, wondering what you'll come across next, and you wandered on the Rambler. I've had a dilemma about what to share with you this issue. The source of the dilemma is a recent month-long sojourn in New Zealand, which I

think is one of the great trips of my life. The dilemma is: would you, the reader, like to hear more about some of the conservation issues our Kiwi friends are facing (many of which reflect issues right here in Wisconsin) or a selection of fishing-related stories, anecdotes, and les-

sons?

All right, all right. I have to anticipate that the vast majority of you would much rather talk conservation than fishing, so for now I'll focus on that. If our editor approves, I'll try to cover the other topic in a future issue of *Wisconsin Trout*.

In February and early March, my friend Fred Young, a long-time member of Blackhawk TU, and I took a tour around most of the South Island and part of the North Island. Fred's been there about 14 times in the past 25 years, and this was my fourth trip since 2004.

Even with my limited experience there, I could see changes. The more rural South Island, home to about a quarter of the country's 4 million people, has become more and more deluged with foreign visitors in that 15 years. Slow-moving rental vans clog highways and tourists stop in the middle of roads to snap pictures, sort of like the traffic jams around bison in Yellowstone. That's testing the long-time hospitality of the Kiwis, and bringing more Burger Kings and KFC outlets to the cities. But the residents are generally very friendly and welcoming, and these rural areas of mountains, foothills and rivers offer spectacular beauty and outdoor activities.

Another change in the past 15 years, especially since 2010, has been a dramatic increase in the dairy industry. The most often seen cows are black and white Friesians that come from the German area next to Schleswig-Holstein that gave us our own black and white cows.

And dairy farmers farm differently there: they've purchased many long-time sheep ranches and converted them. Hundred-year-old hedges that gave the sheep summer shade and winter shelter are being cut down and replaced with center-

pivot irrigation systems drawing from rivers and underground aquifers. In areas with only 15 inches of rain a year, they're drying up rivers and lowering groundwater levels.

Often, they spread liquified manure with spraying systems. Grazing is most often done by rotating a mob of cows in irrigated paddocks. Giant milk processing plants run by Fonterra, the country's largest company, turn milk into solids sold to China. In some more arid areas that look like dry Wyoming foothills, cows graze on more open pastures and those areas can look like overgrazed western lands. The New Zealand government's deal, critics say, was to encourage large-scale dairy farming to improve the country's balance of payments. Rebuilding Christchurch after heavy damage in the 2011 earthquake has been costly for the country.

Guides and environmentalists describe a loss of water quality on streams they have always known as clear and cold. On top of that is a growing public recognition that nitrate and coliform bacteria levels have risen in streams and groundwater. The public recognition came not as the result of complaints from anglers, but from mothers concerned about the impact of nitrates on their children. So, as one of my friends would say, anglers just acted as "the canary in the minefield." As a result, a new parliamentary administration has imposed a moratorium on new dairy operations, and a few farms have gone back to raising sheep.

Natural resource decision-making in the country is handled by several agencies. Regional fish and game councils are elected by residents and make decisions on many fish- and game-related matters, but they struggle to be heard by the national agencies charged with envi-

## New group promoting "Gateway to The Driftless"

Dane County organization is promoting the Black Earth Creek watershed and Lower Wisconsin State Riverway.



By Chris Long, Executive Director of Gateway to The Driftless

We are anglers. And often we are much more in our personal and family outdoor recreational pursuits.

Gateway to The Driftless is a new community nonprofit organization in northwest Dane County promoting the area encompassing the Black Earth Creek watershed and neighboring stretch of the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway to a regional audience of residents, visitors, employers and employees for its abundance of year-round outdoor recreational opportunities.

We have launched a web portal at [gatewaytothedriftless.com](http://gatewaytothedriftless.com) that features an interactive outdoor recreation map where users can search a wide range of public recreation sites by activity, including fishing, hunting, biking, paddling and camping, or by type of supporting public facilities, such as fishing and boating access, walking and biking trails, and parks and public lands. Each facility on the mobile-friendly Gate-

way site is fully described and mapped with driving directions.

The website also offers a searchable regional business and shopping directory, local employment opportunities, searchable property listings, and a community outdoor calendar.

The Driftless area is vast—parts of four states, 22,000 square miles. But we are the only part of this special place that's on the doorstep of Madison, Milwaukee and Chicago. Our urban proximity gives our communities a real opportunity to build a regional economy around quick and easy access to a wide range of outdoor recreation opportunities close to home for many people.

Launched in the spring of 2018, the Gateway organization's regional marketing and promotional efforts are supported by local government, businesses and other nonprofit organizations in Cross Plains, Black Earth and Mazomanie. The project is funded by donors and sponsors who see the area as ideally positioned to become a vibrant "gateway" connecting Dane

County's expanding urban center with the rural lifestyle and diverse natural resources found locally and throughout the Driftless region.

With Dane County now the fastest-growing county in Wisconsin, it is the Gateway organization's stated mission to support responsible growth and development in northwest Dane County, and to actively partner in community projects that preserve and enhance the region's natural resources, regional heritage and quality of life.

This effort is a regional community response to a critical question facing our special corner of the world: What do we want this place to look like in 20 years? We hope promoting economic growth around outdoor recreation and natural resources is the way to protect them.

Historic flooding in August of 2018 heavily damaged the Wolf Run Trail near Mazomanie, a popular community facility and regional economic asset. Gateway to The Driftless teamed up with the Wolf Run Association to organize the repair effort, in partnership with the Wis-

consin Department of Transportation, DNR, Dane County Land & Water Resources Department and local community supporters. The trail reopened to the public in late October. The Gateway organization is actively supporting development of the regional, year-round multi-use recreational trails envisioned from Middleton to Mazomanie and from Mazomanie to Sauk City, connecting there to the Great Sauk Trail, Devil's Lake State Park and Reedsburg.

The northwest Dane County part of the Driftless is loved by those of us who live here and by the larger community of outdoor people our project is speaking to. We hope Gateway to The Driftless is an idea whose time has come.

Christopher Long is a member of the Southern Wisconsin TU chapter and a board member of the Black Earth Creek Watershed Association. For more information about Gateway to The Driftless, contact him at [chris@gatewaytothedriftless.com](mailto:chris@gatewaytothedriftless.com).

## Trick out your ride!

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Duke Welter

**LARGE-SCALE DAIRY FARMS ARE SHOWING UP IN NEW ZEALAND**

Hundred-year-old hedges that gave the sheep summer shade and winter shelter are being cut down and replaced with center-pivot irrigation systems drawing from rivers and underground aquifers. In areas with only 15 inches of rain a year, they're drying up rivers and lowering groundwater levels.

ronmental protection, Environment New Zealand and the Department of Conservation.

You should remember that when people first settled New Zealand, it had been a place with no mammals other than a single bat species, abundant ground-nesting bird species, no snakes, and many plants found no other place on earth. Those first settlers-Polynesian raft sailors and later Europeans-brought ship rats with them, which did a number on many ground-nesting species. The Europeans brought in ferrets, mongoose and stoats (a weasel cousin) to predate on the rats but they liked the birds better. Later, rabbits and Australian opossums were brought in and their populations exploded. Today, if you own rural land, you probably are trapping these species, and markets are being built up for clothing made with rabbit and opossum fur and merino wool. (It's wonderfully soft and warm, by the way.)

Europeans sought to make New

Zealand "the most English place outside of England", and brought in hundreds of species of trees, flowers, birds, and other fauna. They also brought brown trout in the late 1860s and rainbows in the 1890s, both of which thrived-and did a number on the native fish species like koura and whitebait.

In recent decades a movement has begun to restore dwindling populations of native birds, plants, and an ancient lizard-like creature, the tuatara. A recently appointed minister of the environment has said she'd prefer to get rid of trout altogether, which would destroy a lucrative fishing industry with a reputation for some of the world's best trout fishing. Similarly, hunting is done for introduced elk, red stag, deer and tahr, also a lucrative industry.

The government supports a controversial program to poison wild mammals with 1080 poison, which can kill everything up to the size of your dog. It is spread by helicopters.

All over both islands, front lawns bristle with anti-1080 signs.

Several of the guides we spoke with are active writers on fishing and natural resource management. I asked two about a couple of species with which the U.S. and New Zealand have had an informal exchange program: didymo ("rock snot") and mud snails. We sent the former there via anglers' clothing, and in turn we've received mud snails back. Didymo, to the Kiwis, is the much bigger threat. It coats stream rocks and sweepers with a gunky algae carpet. Last trip, I kept a rainbow in a mountain river and found its gut full of globs of didymo. Looking closer into the clumps, I found that many of them contained caddis larvae. So those fish weren't becoming vegetarians; they were looking for insect protein.) The guides seemed determined not to see didymo spread, and many insisted on power-washing our waders and boots before moving to a new river system.

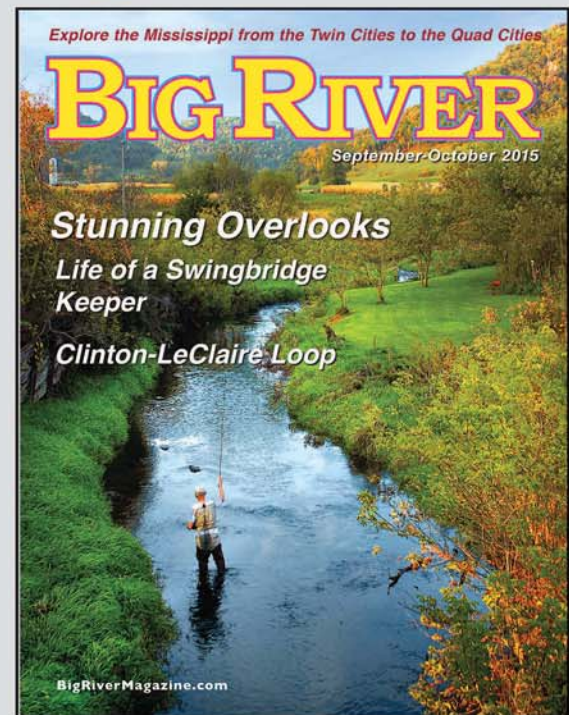
Mud snails have now been identi-

fied in a handful of Wisconsin trout streams, mostly near Madison. Biologists warn they can reproduce quickly and populate a single meter of stream bottom with thousands of their kinfolk, and can crowd out native species.

Interestingly, the guides I talked with seemed pretty benign about mud snails. They are often found on vegetation called oxygen weed, can be eaten by trout, and persist but don't take over the systems where they are found. Oxygen weed is an introduced nonnative member of the Elodea family, and the Kiwis are advised to control it with grass carp. Yeah, grass carp. Once you get going on these exotics and invasive species, life can get pretty ironic pretty quickly.

One species never introduced into New Zealand is the beaver. Their streams are doing fine without them.

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# 2019 Council Banquet one to remember

We hope you had as much fun at the 2019 Wisconsin TU Banquet as we had putting it on. It was a night to remember. For those who missed it, here are some of the highlights:

The day started in Oshkosh with a very well attended State Council meeting featuring presentations by John Lyons on climate change effects on brook trout and Wes Larsen speaking about brook trout genetics.

Meanwhile, in the convention center, more than a dozen women were getting an introduction to the sport of fly fishing. These "for women, by women" fishing clinics have become a special part of the banquet weekend. The Council would like to thank Tina Murray and all of the volunteers for another successful women's clinic.

Later, the banquet doors opened as the sun was setting. Attendees perused tables full of bucket raffle and silent auction items. Thanks to the generosity of all the chapters and individual donors, we were able

to give away more than \$20,000 worth of prizes.

Special raffles were held for a bamboo fly rod built by local legend Scott Grady and Randy Arnold's custom wood fly-tying desk. Live auction fishing trips featured days on the water with Charlie Peitte (Tight Lines Fly Fishing Co.), Wisconsin Fly Fishing Co., Duke Welter and Patrick Hager.

Highly sought after bucket raffle prizes included a Yeti 65 cooler, Nemo backpacking tent and a vintage Hardy reel. The silent auction featured two days of guided fishing in Bozeman Montana, a mousing trip with the Driftless Angler, and custom fly boxes filled by local members from the southern Wisconsin region chapters.

Our 50/50 raffle raised more than \$1,400 for our annual youth camp. After all the expenses were paid, Treasurer Gary Stoychoff reported that the banquet netted more than \$25,000. As our largest fundraiser of the year, this should



keep the Council on solid financial ground for the coming year.

Emcee Henry Koltz, auctioneer Ron Gardner, and awards ceremony host Steve Born did an excellent job engaging and entertaining the crowd. The Council would like to thank all of the volunteers who helped with set-up, selling tickets, tying flies, distributing prizes, and making sure the night ran smoothly. Our team effort really paid off. Special thanks to all of our Banquet Sponsors for their support.

Finally, the Council would like to

thank the members of the Banquet Committee for their hard work in preparation for the Banquet. Committee members include Scott Allen (prize management), Linn Beck (staffing), Todd Franklin (awards), Paul Kruse (prize acquisition), Jen Kuhr (tickets), Mike Kuhr (chair) and Jim Wierzba (advisory).

We had so much fun, we're already planning next year's event. Please join us in Oshkosh on Saturday, Feb. 1, 2020. We're sure it will be another night to remember.

—Mike Kuhr

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Jim Vanden Branden

### RIVER LEVEL:

Chelley & Linn Beck  
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Together, along with our donors and attendees, we raised over  
\$25,000 for coldwater conservation in Wisconsin.

**THANK YOU.**