



Wisconsin Trout

Summer 2019

JFC's budget fails to meet WITU priorities

By Mike Kuhr

As we head into the peak of summer, activity at our state capitol is beginning to wind down for the session. Our biennial state budget is mostly written and at this moment does not include either of our top two priorities: A 10-year extension of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program and a \$5 increase in the trout stamps.

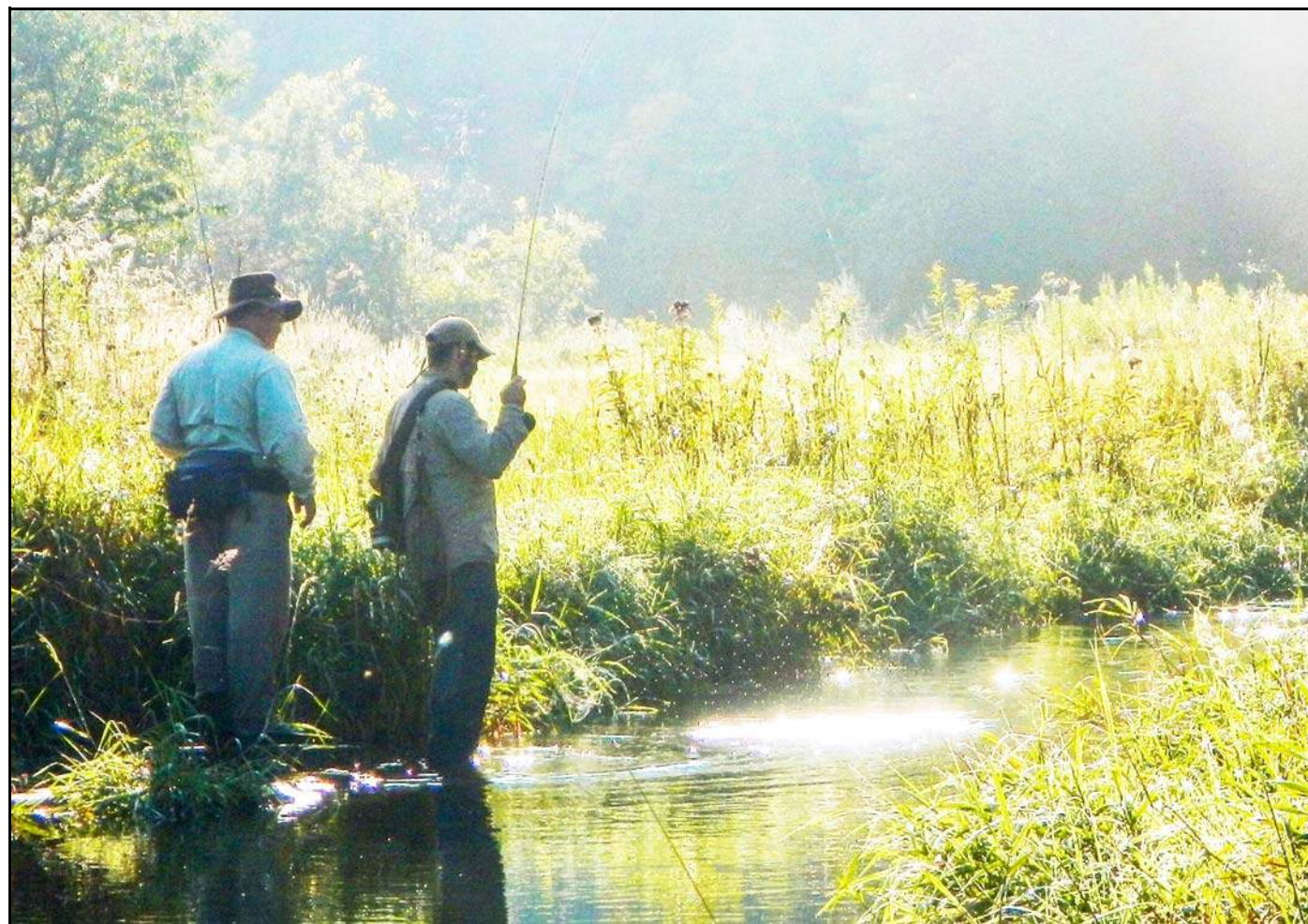
We're disappointed that the budget as drafted by the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) does not prioritize the needed investments in Wisconsin's outdoor recreation economy. We maintain our belief that a long-term reauthorization of the stewardship program and an increase in the amount of trout stamp funding available for restoration work is in the best interest of trout enthusiasts across Wisconsin.

The JFC rejected a 10-year stewardship fund reauthorization proposal (at current funding levels) on a 12-4 party-line vote. The committee then approved a two-year extension at current funding levels (\$33 million per year) on the same party-line vote.

We expect the JFC budget to be approved by both houses of the legislature and sent to Governor Evers' desk. The governor can take out language through the line-item veto process, but cannot add anything.

Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited is proud to be a part of "Team Knowles-Nelson," a consortium of more than 50 different groups advocating for a 10-year re-authorization of Wisconsin's iconic public lands initiative at current funding levels. Team partners range from hunting,



KNOWLES-NELSON STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM MAKES THIS POSSIBLE

Jason Freund and Ben Lubchansky enjoy some quality time on the water. Stream access provided by local landowners and the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program.

fishing and conservation organizations to business advocates and local government groups.

Opponents argue that the 30-year-old program has run its course, is costing too much in debt service, and that we have more than enough public lands to satisfy Wisconsinites. We respectfully disagree.

The stewardship program was established in 1989 with a spending commitment of \$25 million per year

for 10 years. It was reauthorized in 10-year increments in 1999 at \$60 million per year and 2009 at \$86 million per year. Since 2009, funding has been reduced to approximately \$33 million per year.

The state borrows money in the form of bonds to cover the costs of the program, as a homeowner takes out a mortgage to purchase a property. Bonds are repaid at a low interest rate over the course of 20

years, spreading out the cost of purchases to both current and future beneficiaries of the program.

The program has been right-sized in recent years with overall spending cuts, more oversight and the prioritization of conservation and public access easements. The high-interest-generating years of the early 2000's will be paid off during

See **STEWARDSHIP, PAGE 8**

Good news on the conservation front from D.C.

LWCF, GLRI funding proposals look promising; Corps approves final asian carp plan.

By Taylor Ridderbusch, TU Great Lakes Organizer

Land and Water Conservation Fund

A bipartisan coalition introduced legislation on June 11 to permanently and fully fund the popular Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The move comes on the heels of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act, which permanently authorized the program in February.

Since 1965, LWCF has been one of America's most successful conservation and recreation programs, funding access sites to rivers across Wisconsin and around the country. LWCF is also the primary funding source to acquire and conserve new

public lands essential for sustaining our outdoor traditions and protecting fish and wildlife habitat.

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

The U.S. House of Representatives is bringing to the floor a proposed \$320 million for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative in the new fiscal year, an increase of \$20 million from FY2019. Chairwoman McCollum and Ranking Member Joyce continue to show their support for Great Lakes programs, offering a Manager's amendment in full committee, increasing GLRI funding from an original \$305 to \$320 million.

Moreover, in a change of heart after visiting Michigan and talking with federal representatives from

the state, the Trump Administration decided to reverse course on its recommended appropriations for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. After initially suggesting to fund the program at \$30 million, a 90 percent cut from its current funding levels, the administration amended their proposal to reflect full appropriations at \$300 million.

Asian carp

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has approved its final plan recommendation for addressing Asian carp at Brandon Road Lock and Dam near Joliet, Illinois. Lt. Gen. Todd Semonite, the commanding general of the Corps of Engineers, signed the report, which will now be sent to Congress for approval and funding.

Asian carp are currently one of the most serious threats the health of the Great Lakes. If the non-native fish makes it into the Great Lakes system, they could significantly disrupt the ecosystem, and potentially devastate a multi-billion dollar recreational and commercial fishing economy.

The Corps' plan seeks to prevent them from making it farther up the Chicago Waterway by installing technology at the Brandon Road Lock and Dam. Proposed actions include: complex noise, a bubble curtain, an engineered channel, an electric barrier and a flushing lock. Additionally, the plan calls for continued nonstructural activities like overfishing.

Chair's Column

We all need a mentor

By Mike Kuhr, State Council Chair

Another Father's Day has come and gone and I again feel fortunate to have been in the middle of three generations of Kuhrs sharing space in a boat on the water. A cold front had the bluegills tightlipped, but we found some small perch to keep our 4 year old occupied. I doubt she'll remember much other than being buzzed by a dozen pelicans and a really fast boat ride. I'll certainly remember sharing those moments with her.

Mentors come in all forms - parental figures, friends, teachers, colleagues, neighbors, co-workers and fellow volunteers. Sometimes seeing a complete stranger out doing the right thing can be enough to inspire us. Let's face it, none of us would be where we are if it weren't for those mentors helping us along the way.

Aside from my father (that probably deserves an entire column in itself), my early trout fishing mentors are friends that I still meet up with. Jon, Travis and I (along with a few others mixed in) have been fishing together on the opening weekend in May since our mid 20's.

They didn't put the fish in my creel, but they taught me the basics. They'd bring me along, show me how to read the maps, find good fishy-looking water, then leave me there to figure out the rest of the puzzle on my own. Looking back now, it's exactly what I needed.

They also introduced me to this organization with the initials TU. The "Save the Wolf River, Stop Exxon Mining" bumper stickers led me to an awareness of the impacts that our choices as a society can have on our natural resources. Much like the "No Pebble Mine" situation of today, it was just the wrong type of mine in the wrong place.

Years later I would find myself alongside other volunteers teaching veterans at the VA Hospital in Milwaukee how to tie flies. One day a WWII veteran named Royce walked over and stopped me in the middle of tying and said "kid, you don't know the first thing about tying flies, do ya?" I promptly replied, "No, sir. I really don't. Can you teach me?" For the next six weeks I was not allowed to pick up the bobbin. I'd just show up, sit, watch and listen. Thank you, Mr. Dam.



COUNCIL CHAIR MIKE KUHR MENTORING AT THE WOMEN'S CLINICS

The Wisconsin Women's Fly Fishing Clinics, which take place every June in Avalanche, offer another chance for us anglers to share our knowledge with others new to the sport. I was able to help with the "On The Water Intermediate Skills" class this year and had a blast!

We recently held a fishing outing for some of our Veterans On The Fly participants at Rushing Waters Fisheries, which is a trout farm. This isn't fishing. It's catching, but it's a good way for the veterans to hone their skills. It also feels pretty good to spend four stress-free hours sharing stories, smiles, high fives and fish slime.

Some things are easily learned, and some important life lessons will come from little league coaches and serve you well for years to come. But you can't teach things like respect or humility. These characteristics are earned over time through shared experiences. If you ever have the opportunity to work with our military veterans through one of TU's Veteran Services Partnership programs, please take it.

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ery June in Avalanche, offer another chance for us anglers to share our knowledge with others new to the sport. I was able to help with the "On The Water Intermediate Skills" class this year and had a blast!

For most of us who aren't professional guides, we get to experience the joy of walking streamside with an angler and calling out all the things they're doing right. No need for criticism, these women will recognize when something's not working and ask how to correct it. It also allows us to show off the restoration work being done on trout streams in Wisconsin.

One of the best ways to reaffirm your knowledge is by teaching it to someone else. Wisconsin TU's upcoming Annual Youth Camp is a perfect example. You don't need to be an expert. You just need a positive attitude and a willingness to

share your passion and experience with the next generation. Keep an open mind, and these new anglers and conservationists will convince you that there's plenty of reason to be hopeful for the future.

If your schedule won't allow you to participate in one of these state or regional events, keep it local. Take a kid fishing, hike the local streambank with your neighbor, maybe have coffee with an elected official and talk about why cold, clean, fishable water matters to you. Show up at one of your local TU events this summer, make a new friend and volunteer together.

Be a mentor when you can, and let yourself be inspired by the work of those around you. We're all in this together.

Fall Council meeting October 12 in Antigo

The fall meeting, which moves around the state each year, will be held October 12 in Antigo. Keep an eye on your email for announcements about the meeting location, etc.

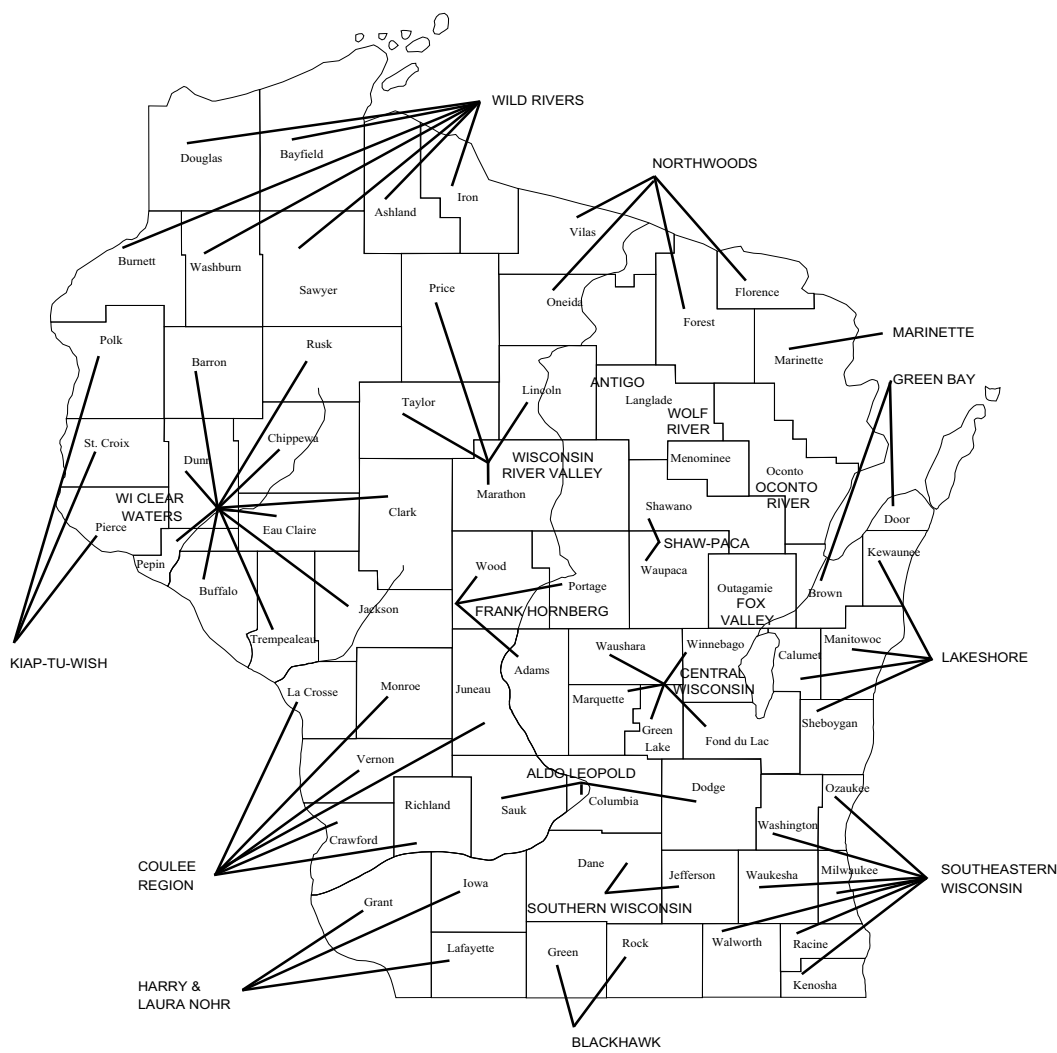
If you have any questions or would like to submit an item to be placed on the meeting agenda, contact State Council Chair Mike Kuhr at mikek.trout@yahoo.com.

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Are you getting emails from TU?

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

WISCONSIN TROUT

Vol. 31, No. 3 — Summer 2019

Wisconsin Trout is the official publication of the Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited and is distributed to the members of Wisconsin's 21 TU chapters. Non-member subscriptions are \$12.50/year. Publication dates are the first weeks of January, April, July and October. Deadlines for articles and advertisements are the 10th of December, March, June and September. For a current advertising rate sheet, contact the editor.

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

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Update: DNR Inland Trout Management Plan

By Kent Johnson

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is in the process of creating a Wisconsin Inland Trout Management Plan: 2020-2029. Currently, no inland trout management plan exists, so this new plan will support the 10-Year Strategic Plan for Fisheries Management in Wisconsin: 2015-2025.

The scope of the new plan covers inland trout waters only, excluding the Great Lakes, but including Great Lakes tributaries. Inland brook, brown, rainbow and lake trout will be included in the management plan.

The draft "Wisconsin Inland Trout Management Plan: 2020-2029" is now complete, and the plan is available for public review and comment, as of May 17, 2019. The following DNR website hosts the draft plan and provides all of the pertinent information, including details on four regional public meetings: <https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/trout/inlandtroutmanagementplan.html>.

With the draft Wisconsin Inland Trout Management Plan available for public review, please take some time to lend your expertise, experience and support via your comments.

Given Trout Unlimited's passionate support for trout management in Wisconsin, your feedback on this plan is critical. As a part of this feedback, please suggest how Wisconsin TU and local chapters can contribute to plan implementation, especially in a time when resources are challenging for everybody. The public comment period is open until July 5, 2019.

Collectively, we can make this a strong plan for the future of trout management in Wisconsin. Our coldwater fisheries need your voice for protection and restoration.

Thanks for your input and support.

Kent Johnson of the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter is TU's west district stakeholder team representative for the Wisconsin Inland Trout Management Plan.

Conservation Lobby Day: Advocacy made easier



Tom Lager

CONSERVATION LOBBY DAY: LEARNING WHILE ADVOCATING

About 400 Wisconsinites participated in Conservation Lobby Day in March.

Lobbying on behalf of our coldwater resources to our elected officials does not come easy for many of us. Fortunately there is an easier way to get started and to be effective immediately. Conservation Lobby Day is the solution, and it is usually held in Madison during March. The Wisconsin Conservation Voters has been the force behind this effort for years and has done a great job with partners to create a learning process to not only teach best practices but obtain meaningful outcomes with Wisconsin legislators from the start.

This is a popular event with conservation-minded Wisconsinites. This past March there were more than 400 attendees from many conservation groups, including Wisconsin Trout Unlimited.

The process is comprised of several sessions. The morning session starts with a welcoming setting at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center, where attendees are seated together by legislative district. They provide morning beverages and presentations of shared conservation priorities by motivational speakers. Each attendee is provided with a tailored itinerary for group meetings with his or her legislator in their offices, and best practices are demonstrated showing how to conduct your face-to-face meetings, and the use of

supplied "talk sheets."

The afternoon session starts with a provided box lunch. Attendees walk to the capitol for pre-arranged meetings in legislators' offices, conduct the meeting and document meeting outcomes. During the whole process, attendees are grouped together by legislative district, enabling development of relationships and effective planning for the meetings.

In some cases, they provide regional bus transportation to and from Madison. The only fee for the whole day is "a donation request" for bus transportation. This is a one-day event and by 5 p.m. you can be on your way home.

The advantage to this approach to advocacy is that you learn while being an advocate. You will develop a relationship with your legislator and their staff that you can, and should, continue back at home in your district. The most effective means to advocacy is relationship development while constructively sharing your point of view and listening to your legislator's point of view. The Conservation Lobby Day provides the easiest process for doing so.

Watch for announcements about next year's Conservation Lobby Day in a future issue of *Wisconsin Trout*.

—Tom Lager

Wisconsin Great Lakes Stream Restoration Program update

By Chris Collier, Great Lakes Stream Restoration Manager

Warm weather is upon us and even continuing high flows in the Northwoods can't keep us from getting on the water.

To kick off the 2019 field season, we worked with the DNR, Forest County Conservation Office and other partners to host a road-stream-crossing (RSX) tour as part of a new initiative to engage local municipalities to install fish-friendly road infrastructure. More than 50 town, county, federal and tribal representatives attended the event, where we showed common problems found at RSX sites and how to solve those problems.

It was a very engaged group that wants to find ways to improve our road infrastructure. The next step is a two-day workshop in the fall that will provide a more detailed look at how to prioritize, design and implement RSX projects for flood resiliency and fish passage.

We are excited to have two new interns working with us in the Northwoods. Maddi Quamme from UW-Green Bay and Jake Hollfelder from UW-Stevens Point are evaluating crossings with the Forest Service, counties, towns and other partners. Along with assessing RSX sites, Maddi and Jake will be helping the Forest Service and DNR on

habitat restoration projects. In late May they joined the Forest Service to complete a pebble count on Rock Creek. The data gathered from this survey will help design a culvert replacement near the confluence of Rock Creek and the Peshtigo River that will open nine miles of Class 1 trout stream. We are extremely excited to have Maddi and Jake on board.

While high flows haven't kept us off the water, it has slowed construction to replace problem culverts. One of these crossings is on Colburn Creek in the National Forest. This will open 0.67 miles of Colburn Creek to the Rat River, along with 1.15 miles of Mexico Creek and 1.22 miles of Johnson Creek. A significant portion of the funds are coming from a Wisconsin DNR River Management Grant awarded to the Wild Rivers Chapter. TU National and the Forest Service thank the Wild Rivers Chapter for helping get this project funded. While high water has briefly delayed these projects, I look forward to providing updates as the crossings are replaced.

As a final note, if you or your chapter are interested in organizing a volunteer event please contact me at (419) 296-4390 or at chris.collier@tu.org. I am happy to find ways to bring our members into the fold on these projects.

See you out there.



Chris Collier

GREAT TURNOUT FOR ROAD-STREAM-CROSSING TOUR

This spring, TU worked with the DNR, Forest County and other partners to host a road-stream-crossing (RSX) tour as part of a new initiative to engage local municipalities to install fish-friendly road infrastructure.



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Getting started with Trout In the Classroom

By Kim McCarthy

Many chapter leaders wonder how to increase our youth education activities. It's a question often asked as TU National continues to place emphasis on introducing kids to conservation. The good news is that there is an excellent TU program available to educate kids about trout, as well as the environmental needs that trout must have to survive and thrive.

TU's Trout In the Classroom (TIC) program is one of the best ways for chapters to interact with students and increase their youth education work. Most of our chapters have certainly heard of TIC, and several chapters are already involved in the program. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has recently taken a more active approach to helping chapters set up TIC programs. The DNR thinks highly of TIC and has taken steps to facilitate getting TIC into more schools.

There are some misconceptions floating around about TIC in the schools. Some of those date back to the time when the fish disease VHS was discovered in Wisconsin. Initial precautions because of VHS did make it more difficult to place TIC tanks in schools. But the DNR has now set up a much more user-friendly set of steps to facilitate TIC tanks:

Find a teacher willing to participate in the program.

Plan on initial funding of \$1,200 to \$1,500 for the equipment. Some chapters are able to find tanks sold locally for much less.

Make contact with the local DNR fish biologist. Arrange a visit. During the visit, forms for a cooperative agreement between the school and DNR will be completed.

After the proper forms are completed, the DNR will process the forms free of charge and the school will actually be licensed as a Wisconsin Fish Farm. The license is good for one year and would have to be renewed for each school year.

At the appropriate time, schools can obtain eggs or fry from DNR hatcheries at no charge. Because DNR is providing the eggs or fry, batches of fish raised and released do not have to be tested for VHS. If fish come from any other source, they would still require testing.

As fish approach release size, a release site is coordinated with the local fish manager.

That's it. Let's get a bunch of tanks out there. TIC is becoming incredibly popular. At this time Pennsylvania has more than 400 tanks in operation around their state. Chapters are discovering that they can build their entire youth education program around TIC tanks. Wisconsin is seeing a very nice increase in the number of tanks around the state. For more information about TIC, check it out on the TU National website.

Past State Council Chair Kim McCarthy recently completed his term as a representative of TU's National Leadership Council, where he worked closely with TU's educational programs, especially Trout In the Classroom.




ALL SMILES ON TROUT RELEASE DAY FOR TIC STUDENTS

Students from Pineview School in Reedsburg, with help from DNR Fish Manager Nate Nye, released their Trout In the Classroom frye into Sauk County's Dell Creek. Scott Allen has been spearheading the effort for the Aldo Leopold Chapter.

Consider Proper Release

It's working...so let's keep up the good work!



1. **Don't play fish to exhaustion.** Instead, use a landing net to bring fish under control before they're played out.
2. **Handle fish in the net.** Grasp them across the back and head for firm but gentle control. Use the net fabric as your "glove."
3. **Turn fish belly up while removing hooks.** This disorients fish momentarily for easier, quicker handling.
4. **Don't remove swallowed hooks.** Just cut the line... doing so saves two-thirds of deeply hooked trout.
5. **Don't keep fish out of the water more than 10-15 seconds.** Fragile gills are damaged after that...especially in cold weather.

Veterans fishing trip planned in Hayward

By Michael Burda WITU Veterans Services Partnership Coordinator.

Larry Mann of Hayward Flyfishing Co. has offered to take 10 veterans from our Wisconsin veterans programs on a guided bass-fishing trip. Larry has graciously offered five drift boats with guides and gear at no charge. The State Council is paying for the lodging for the crew and some of our chapters are providing support.

We will be staying at the Heartwood Conference Center and Retreat in Trego. This is very close to where we will meet the guides. Everyone will arrive on Sunday, July 14. Monday, July 15 is the fishing day. We return on Tuesday.

We are asking each vet for \$100 to cover guide tips and food. Any money not spent will be applied to next year, as we hope to make this an annual event. The Wild Rivers Chapter has offered to provide our lunch on the water. Myself and Michael Johnson will do the cooking and make it a smooth outing. Volunteers should check in by 6 p.m. on Sunday, as we will have a great barbecue.

If you are interested in volunteering for this event or would like to make a financial donation, please contact me at 608-332-0394 or northernlight-sreef@yahoo.com. Thanks kindly.

WCC online voting option goes well

By John Rennpferd

This past April the Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC) Spring Hearing process was a little different from previous years. This was the first year that the WCC and the DNR accepted online input during the spring WCC public hearings. Why did the WCC do this? How did it work? What can we expect in the future? What should we do about these changes?

The WCC is trying to solve two problems. The first problem is that WCC wants to get as much input from stakeholders as possible. The spring hearings only work if we participate, and our participation is paramount. However, schedules conflict, and the first Monday in April conflicts with a lot of our schedules. Seeking online input allows the WCC to gather input from stakeholders who cannot participate in person.

The second problem is that the standard for the security of voting machines changed recently, and the WCC can no longer use municipal or county voting machines to tally the votes from the old spring hearing input forms. The old process was no longer an option, and adding online input means more voices are heard.

The new process went well. The WCC had the fourth-largest response rate in the history of the spring hearings. Controls on the process detected anomalies in less

than one half of 1 percent of the responses. The overwhelming majority of online input came from Wisconsin residents (with roughly 150 responses from bordering states, and smidges of responses from afar). By all measures the process was a success.

The ad hoc online input committee is going to meet again in the future to make recommendations for improvements. The WCC is going to continue to seek input from stakeholders (you). The WCC and the DNR are going to have the ability to dig a little deeper, due to the extra information that stakeholders can submit online (geospatial, connections to customer ID numbers, etc.). Based on all of this, we can expect improvements that benefit the sporting community.

What should we do with these changes? I think we should support these changes. We must remember that there was not a "no change" option. Change can be scary, but it can provide opportunity. In this case you can provide input from the comfort of your home. Spread the word about this new online input option. There are thousands of trout anglers here in Wisconsin, and most years there are multiple trout questions that the WCC the DNR seek input on. You are a trout expert, so provide your valuable input.

Southeast Wisconsin Chapter President John Rennpferd is an active TU leader at the local and state level.

Support TU and get your WITU license plates now. Go to: www.dot.state.wi.us/drivers/vehicles/personal/special/trout.htm



Linn Beck starts term on NLC

National Leadership Council sets the direction of TU.

By Linn Beck, National Leadership Council Representative

In February the Council elected me to take Kim McCarthy's place on TU's National Leadership Council.

I would like to give you a little background of the National Leadership Council (NLC). The NLC is the volunteer body that sets the direction of TU and is made up of one representative elected from each state of TU's 36 councils. The NLC has a chair and secretary that are elected annually, and their positions also serve on the Board of Trustees. The current NLC chair is Jim Walker and the secretary is Rich Thomas. In addition, the NLC nominates grassroots trustees to serve on the board, as well as Embrace-a-Stream Committee members. The NLC has three purposes:

- Establish the National Conservation Agenda (NCA) - The purpose of the National Conservation Agenda (NCA) is to chart the course for all components of TU – national staff, councils, chapters and members – to work together to implement TU's mission.
- Facilitate implementation of the National Conservation Agenda (NCA)
- Build the organizational capacity of TU

The NLC accomplishes these three responsibilities by being a channel between the state councils and TU national. NLC representatives bring issues and concerns from their states to the national level and

then bring decisions and initiatives from the national level back to their councils. The NLC meets annually in person at the Annual Meeting and via teleconferences throughout the year.

Currently there are 10 conservation work groups and five organizational work groups. You can find each of these work groups and their descriptions on the TU national website under National Leadership Council. Each NLC member is required to be involved with two work groups. I am currently involved with the Youth Education and Mining work groups and serving as work group chair on the Youth Education work group.

Jim and Rich are looking to meet with each of the NLC members to exchange ideas, answer questions and discuss suggestions on how to improve the NLC. This will also help with organizational planning as TU enters the next National Strategic Planning period. They are also inviting council chairs from each state to participate, anticipating that this will help create and improve on the knowledge sharing between the NLC and the state councils. Mike Kuhr and I are scheduled to meet with Jim and Rich on June 20 to provide our input.

Update your leadership info on TU website

We remind all the chapters and councils to update their leader information in the leader section on the national website.

Banquet Committee seeks coordinators

The Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Banquet Committee is currently searching to fill two important volunteer positions that are crucial to our successful annual banquets. We will provide all the support and training you need to succeed.

Sponsorship Coordinator

The Sponsorship Coordinator keeps track of and promotes banquet sponsorships from individuals and businesses, collects funds for sponsorships to give to our treasurer, provides list of sponsors for the printed banquet program and provides a list of sponsors and their guests to be added to the official guest list. The time commitment is as follows:

- Participate in four Banquet Committee Conference calls in November, December, January and February.
- Provide a "Seeking Sponsors" advertisement for the Fall issue of Wisconsin Trout. We currently have a template for this.
- Around the third week of September, reach out to past sponsors and plan to do two or three email announcements in November and December seeking additional sponsors for the banquet.
- Around the second week of January, provide our ticket coordinator a list of sponsors and guests and create a final sponsor list for the banquet program.
- After the banquet, send thank-you letters to sponsors and create a "thank-you" advertisement for the spring issue of *Wisconsin Trout*. We already have a template for this.

Prize Management Coordinator

The prize management coordinator will maintain the prize spreadsheet and determine which items go into the various auctions and raffles and lead the prize team in displaying the auction and raffle items. Other requirements of this position include:

- Participate in four Banquet Committee conference calls in November, December, January and February.
- First week on January. Start deciding which items will be in the bucket raffles and which will be silent auction prizes.
- Third week of January. Help determine if additional money should be spent to acquire additional prizes.
- Fourth week of January. Prize team should assign starting bids and minimum increase amounts for silent auction items.
- Friday night and Saturday morning before the banquet. Gather prizes outside the Council meeting room.
- Saturday morning of banquet day. Prize team takes prizes over to banquet room and starts setting up bucket raffle and silent auction tables.
- Saturday afternoon on banquet day. Prize team double checks all prizes and prize description sheets.

If you have any interest in being an important part of our annual banquet, please contact Banquet Chair Scott Allen at jscottallen12@gmail.com

TU volunteers help with BHA Rendezvous

Casting instruction provided at Backcountry Hunters and Anglers event.

By Terry Cummings

I didn't know much about the Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (BHA). When TU received a request for a fly-casting demonstration at the Wisconsin BHA's Second Annual Rendezvous, I joined Hannah Matousek and Bonnie Richards as volunteer casters. I was quite curious to learn more about this new (to me) organization, and since I enjoy teaching fly casting, I looked forward to attending the event in June.

The Wisconsin BHA State Rendezvous took place at the George W. Mead Wildlife Area northwest of Stevens Point. The event included presentations and demonstrations on wildlife, hunting, conservation, trapping and fishing. Participating organizations included the DNR, Wisconsin Muzzleloaders, Wisconsin Traditional Archers and TU.

The schedule had us making a casting demonstration both in the morning and the afternoon. With a time slot of 75 minutes, we were able to make a formal presentation and then Hannah, Bonnie and I were able to work with individuals. Six to eight people showed up at each session. Our booth remained open the entire time, enabling us to answer questions and provide one-on-one instruction to those who stopped by.

During the evening cookout,

Chair of WI BHA's Board of Directors T.J. Hauge graciously allowed me to interview him. He said BHA was started in Oregon in 2004 in response to western threats to access to public lands. The group has grown impressively on the national level to more than 35,000 members. In Wisconsin, BHA is only four years old, but it has also shown remarkable growth from about 50 original members to the current membership of 1,500. While we may not have western issues such as ranchers preventing access to public land, our legislature's action to sell off 10,000 acres of state land was a motivator for the growth of Wisconsin BHA.

Besides access issues, Wisconsin BHA has been involved in conservation projects at the Goose Lake Wildlife Area and with TU's Southeast Wisconsin Chapter at the Tichigan Wildlife Area. They donated a deer carcass dumpster at Goose Lake. Additionally BHA membership has actively reached out to the governor and legislature to seek reauthorization of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund and meaningful action in CWD management.

With the mission statement "The Sportsmen's Voice for Our Wild Public Lands, Waters and Wildlife," I left thinking with so many outdoors and conservation groups

seemingly duplicating efforts, BHA is unique and filling a critical niche.

The rendezvous was a fun and informative experience. I would be negligent not to mention how impressive the Stanton W. Mead Education and Visitor Center is and how beautiful the Mead Wildlife Area is. We are certainly blessed

that our past leaders had such foresight. My only regret is BHA ran out of my size for their signature Public Land Owner t-shirt.

Terry Cummings is the Treasurer of Northwoods Chapter and a FFF Certified Casting Instructor.



A BEAUTIFUL LOCATION FOR A CASTING DEMO

Hannah Matousek shares her casting technique at the Backcountry Hunters and Anglers' Second Annual Rendezvous at the George W. Mead Wildlife Area.

Back Forty Mine update

By Allison Werner,
River Alliance of Wisconsin

Over the last few months, there has been a lot of activity around the Back Forty project and mining in general in Michigan and Wisconsin.

Courts and hearings

The wetland permit granted by Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to Aquila Resources was challenged in Michigan court. The wetland permit was challenged by Tom Boerner, The Coalition to SAVE the Menominee River and the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin in 2018.

Since all three challenges were similar, the three contested cases were consolidated. Administrative Law Judge Daniel Pulter heard the start of the contested case in Lansing, MI in early June and the case will continue in August.

On June 25 Michigan regulators held a public hearing on the dam safety permit, air quality permit and an amendment to the mining permit that was granted to Aquila in December of 2016. This was the last public hearing for permits related to the Back Forty proposal.

The Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin appealed a December 2018 decision from the Federal District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin that dismissed the tribe's claims against the federal government.

The Tribe went to court in January of 2018 asserting that the federal government had improperly abandoned its obligation to exercise jurisdiction over Clean Water Act permitting for the mine, by allowing the State of Michigan to oversee

and control what should have been a federal permitting process.

The tribe further asserted its rights under the National Historic Preservation Act to consult on the protection of its cultural and historical sites. In December, the court rejected the tribe's claims on a preliminary motion by the federal agencies and the mining company and dismissed the case, disallowing full briefing and hearing of the issues.

Legislative support

At a fundraiser for the Coalition to Save the Menominee, Congressman Gallagher spoke and shared his opposition to the project and his willingness to work to stop the mine proposal. He also sent a letter to the Wisconsin DNR, along with Representatives Kitchens and Mursau, expressing their concerns about the Back Forty proposal and asking them to prioritize reviewing the permits. Governor

Evers also showed his solidarity on this issue at an event in Green Bay.

Wisconsin mining activity

Aquila Resources held a meeting in March with representatives from Lincoln, Price and Taylor Counties to let them know that the company planned to begin aeromagnetic surveying in the area in the near future. The Bend deposit is a copper and gold deposit located in the Chequamegon National Forest in Taylor County and is controlled by Aquila Resources. No new permit applications have been submitted on the Bend deposit or other Wisconsin deposits.

The tribe further asserted its rights under the National Historic Preservation Act to consult on the protection of its cultural and historical sites.



Menikanaehkem

STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST THE BACK FORTY MINE

Governor Evers stands with Menikanaehkem representatives against the Back 40 Mine at the press conference to announce a bill that addresses water contaminants.



Coalition to Save the Menominee

SUPPORT FROM CONGRESS

Congressman Mike Gallagher stands with Coalition to Save the Menominee River leaders Dale and Lea Jane Burie at an event in May 2019.

Lake Michigan Fisheries Forum needs our input

By John Rennpferd

The DNR's Lake Michigan fisheries staff has been organizing meetings and has been working with the Sea Grant Institute to gather stakeholder input on how we want the DNR to manage the salmon and trout in Lake Michigan. This process has been ongoing for several years. Recently the DNR began gathering stakeholder input for the next three-year plan. Those of us who are advocates for native cold-water species need to speak up. Those of us who are advocates for shore and tributary fishing need to speak up.

Through June 30 the DNR is taking public comments on their information and plan, which can be found at dnr.wi.gov/topic/Fishing/lakemichigan/LakeMichiganSalmonandTroutMeetings.html

In August or September the DNR will hold another informational meeting in Cleveland, Wisconsin to discuss the process more. Then a second comment period will open through October 2019. The fisheries staff will then provide a final decision and detailed briefing of how they made their decisions for the next three years of Lake Michigan salmon and trout management in

December 2019.

What does this mean to you? It means that if you don't comment, the offshore fishing community will have all the voice. We should not begrudge the offshore fishing community, or their voice; they are organized, passionate, and in the years that I have attended these meetings, they have always shown up in mass numbers to voice their opinions and desires.

Before we send in our comments, let us talk about the state of Lake Michigan. The good news is that the Clean Water Act works. In 2017 Lake Michigan hit what might be considered its natural state for biomass. The bad news is that invasive zebra and quagga mussels have been doing their best to filter out the remaining biomass and then deposit their waste in a dead-end cycle on the bed of Lake Michigan.

Regarding the food chain, the lake requires a certain amount of nutrients to support life such as plankton, zoo plankton and bait fish, which in turn support larger fish including salmon and trout. The invasive mussels are filtering the lake and reducing the available biomass that supports the fishery. The available biomass to support the fishery is greatly reduced compared

to the peak fishing days of Lake Michigan, and there isn't anything that we can do to fix it. A smaller fishery is the new normal on Lake Michigan and its tributaries.

As for natural reproduction and migration, the good news is that there are signs that lake trout are naturally reproducing in Lake Michigan. We are also hearing about natural reproduction of introduced species (salmon and trout) on the Michigan side of the lake. There is a possibility that at least 50 percent of the salmon in Lake Michigan are naturally reproducing in Michigan rivers. Then there are the "bonus" fish that are migrating out of Lake Huron to feed in Lake Michigan. So, we already have a lot of fish showing up to feed on the limited bait fish biomass in Lake Michigan.

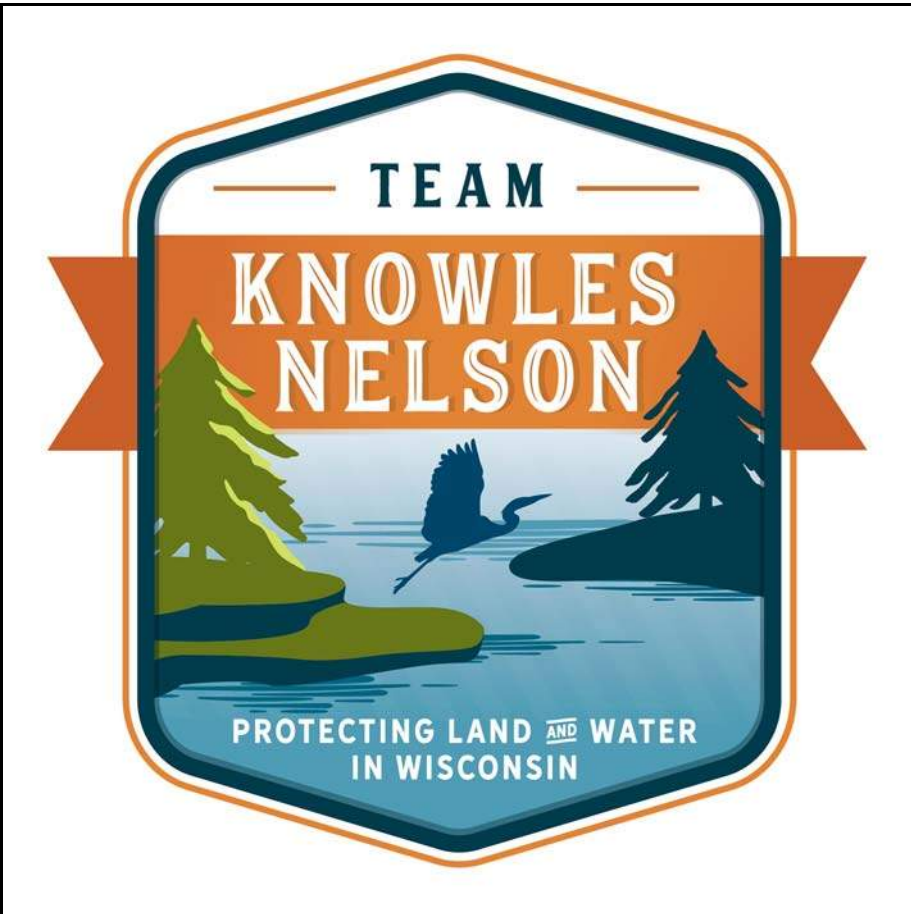
The DNR objective is to control the predator-to-prey ratio to prevent a fisheries collapse. The DNR cannot increase stocking above a certain threshold, otherwise Lake Michigan fisheries could crash like Lake Huron's fisheries crashed. The DNR has done a very good job keeping the Lake Michigan fishery from crashing, but it means they must limit how much they stock.

When you make your comment, remember that there is not an un-

limited amount of fish to stock, and that the DNR has to plan things out far into the future to have fish in place to stock as desired. What makes a good comment is to state what you prefer to get stocked, and what shouldn't get stocked, in order to keep the predator-prey ratio in balance. As an example, you might state "I am a shore angler, and I prefer native species that stay close to shore. I would like to see coaster brook trout reintroduced, and to balance that reintroduction, I would like to see coho salmon stocking reduced."

I hope that you advocate for native species, and I hope that you participate in the process by reviewing the available materials, attending future meetings, and commenting. If you are passionate about Lake Michigan fisheries and are a member of a chapter that is adjacent to Lake Michigan or one of its tributaries, please contact me and your chapter leadership about how you can join the Lake Michigan Fisheries Forum.

Southeast Wisconsin Chapter President John Rennpferd is an active TU volunteer leader at the state and chapter level.



WISCONSIN TU JOINS “TEAM KNOWLES-NELSON”

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited is proud to be a part of “Team Knowles-Nelson,” a consortium of more than 50 different groups advocating for a 10-year re-authorization of Wisconsin’s iconic public lands initiative at current funding levels. Team partners range from hunting, fishing and conservation organizations to business advocates and local government groups.

STEWARDSHIP, FROM PAGE 1

the coming decade, greatly reducing the overall debt service required to maintain the current program. This will put stewardship on sound financial footing and allow for smart investments moving forward.

Ideally, a “Stewardship for the Future” plan will include a 10-year commitment to funding public access and land conservation opportunities as they arise. It should maintain or slightly increase current funding levels and continue to provide legislative oversight of large purchases.

The stewardship program can play a vital role in creating a more sustainable Wisconsin. Conservation easements can build flood and natural disaster resiliency into our local communities, while increasing public access will continue to ensure our outdoor recreation economy is healthy and vibrant.

According to the DNR’s website, “The program has been an outstanding success.

Perhaps we can provide no greater gift to the citizens of the 21st century, for the places we save today will be a permanent and lasting investment in their future.”

Trout stamp fees

Wisconsin TU continues to advocate for a \$5 increase in both the inland and Great Lakes trout stamps. This funding gets segregated into their own accounts and is used specifically for trout stream restoration (inland) and fisheries management (Great Lakes).

Both stamps have been at \$10 since 2006, while project costs continue to rise and neighboring states such as Iowa, with a \$14.50 stamp, have already adjusted.

In April, at the Wisconsin Conservation Congress Spring Hearings, more than 7,500 Wisconsinites weighed in on outdoor resource

management questions. Participants were asked their opinion on the proposed \$5 Stamp increases. More than 70 percent supported the inland trout stamp increase and more than 75 percent supported the Great Lakes stamp increase.

Recent audits of the trout stamp programs have shown in recent years that expenditures are meeting or exceeding revenues in both the inland and Great Lakes accounts. The inland account maintains a small balance to cover the costs of ongoing projects in case something changes during the budget process. The Great Lakes account is currently showing a surplus, but those funds are going to be put towards an upgrade in the Kettle Moraine Springs Hatchery.

Recent flooding, a backlog of project maintenance issues, and continued degradation of our coldwater resources shows there is a need to put more funding into trout stream restoration projects.

For an additional \$5 per angler (about the cost of a new spinner or a couple of flies) we could greatly increase the amount of work being done on the ground.

Wisconsin TU, along with our partners in the sporting community, will continue to educate legislators about the benefits of the proposed stamp increases.

We would like to thank those of you who actively engaged with your legislators on behalf of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited’s advocacy priorities in recent years. While we don’t have clear victories to celebrate, we continue to build our reputation in and around the capitol as a well-respected and thoughtful group of conservationists. We hope you will continue to work with us in advocating for cold, clean, fishable water in Wisconsin.

Recent audits of the trout stamp programs have shown that expenditures are meeting or exceeding revenues in both the inland and Great Lakes accounts.

Looking to get involved? Tell us about your skills.

Wisconsin TU membership skills inventory

TU’s strength comes from volunteers like you. Wisconsin TU is creating a list to inventory the skills of our members who want to share their time with their chapter or the State Council in support of the many activities that TU performs. By completing this questionnaire you are not obligating yourself to volunteer. You can also remove yourself from this list any time you want.

Your chapter and the Council will use this inventory to develop a list of people to call when help is needed.

Even if you can only help one time a year, every little bit of volunteerism helps your chapter and council accomplish even more. Volunteering is a great way to meet fellow members and find new people to fish with.

Please consider completing this Skills Inventory form.

Name: _____
 Chapter: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____
 E-mail: _____

Please put a “C” on the line in front of the volunteer activity if you are willing to volunteer to help on a chapter level. Put a “S” on the line if you are willing to help volunteer for that activity on a statewide basis. Put a “C” and a “S” if you are willing to volunteer to help with that activity on both a chapter and statewide level. An “S” also means you would be willing to help out with activities in nearby chapters, as chapter cooperation seems to be a growing trend.

- _____ I would like to help with stream work activities.
- _____ My age and health would allow me to perform most physical activities.
- _____ My age and health might limit my physical activities but I could do light duty activities and things like preparing or serving food, etc.
- _____ I have photographic skills and could take pictures to document the work performed.
- _____ I would like to attend a work day to see what is involved before committing to help in this area.
- _____ I would like to help with stream water monitoring to help assess the health of our streams. This would be part of the State Water Action Volunteer program and training would be provided for those who are interested.
- _____ I tie flies and would like to help teach others to tie flies. This might be at chapter activities, youth fly tying programs, workshops, shows, etc. This might be at activities like our Youth Trout Camp, Milwaukee Sentinel Sport Show, Outdoor Heritage Education Expo in Poynette, or other programs like this.
- _____ I fly fish and would be willing to help teach others how to fly fish for trout.
- _____ I can help teach others how to fly cast.
- _____ I fish with spinning gear and would be willing to teach others how to spin fish for trout.
- _____ I fish with live bait and would be willing to teach others how to fish with live bait for trout.
- _____ I would like to help out with special events such as chapter banquets, State Council banquet, shows, workshops and other fundraising activities.
- _____ I am a photographer and would be willing to take pictures of work days, stream monitoring, and other chapter activities to be used for publicity and promotional activities.
- _____ I am a writer and can help write articles about chapter activities, trout fishing and other educational activities for publicity and promotional activities.
- _____ I use and am familiar with social media as a means of communications and can help others understand and use social media for publicity and promotional activities
- _____ I have experience in writing for and working with grants and other funding sources and would be willing to help write for grants to help TU fund programs to preserve, protect and enhance our coldwater streams.
- _____ I have skills in other areas that might help with the mission and activities of Trout Unlimited and have listed them below.

Please return completed forms to your local chapter. Chapters should forward information on state-level volunteers to Bob Haase. His contact information is on page 3.



DOING THE "RIVER POOL DANCE" WITH THE STREAM GIRLS

After completing their questions, girls did a song and dance called the "River Pool Dance," with Tom happily dancing and singing along.

Tom Poullette passes

Founding member of Central Wisconsin Chapter and former State Council Chair.

In May, a great man passed away, and he will be sorely missed. Thomas William Poullette, 86 of Naples, Fla., formerly of Waupaca and Wautoma, died unexpectedly on Tuesday, May 7 in Kenosha.

In 1971, Tom was a founding member of the Central Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited. He served as president of the organization for two years and then went on to serve as State Council vice-chair from 1973-1974 and council chair from 1975-1976. An avid fisherman who loved to teach others about his sport, he worked diligently to protect the resources he loved. He was a man of true conviction in preserving the world around us and saving its beauty for future generations.

One of my fondest memories of Tom was when Wisconsin Trout Unlimited was involved with the inaugural Stream Girls program, and he graciously agreed to help. Tom was put in charge of the "River Pool" station where the girls learned the dynamics of a river with riffle runs and pools. After completing their questions, girls did a song and dance called the "River Pool Dance," with Tom happily dancing and singing along. He later did this with subsequent groups of girl scouts.

—Linn Beck

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

William Shakespeare

Remember TU as Part of Your Legacy

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

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

Thank you for considering Trout Unlimited in your estate planning.



Support Wisconsin TU and get your Wisconsin TU license plates now. Go to www.dot.state.wi.us/drivers/vehicles/personal/special/trout.htm

Items needed for Youth Camp

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

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

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

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

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.

Driftless Area restoration success and challenges

An interview with TUDARE's Jeff Hastings.

By Jim Schmiedeskamp,
Oak Brook Chapter

Jeff Hastings is one of the world's most knowledgeable experts on coldwater stream restoration and upland watershed management. He has been the project manager for TUDARE (Trout Unlimited Driftless Area Restoration Effort) for more than 10 years and prior to that worked for Wisconsin county land and water conservation departments for more than 25 years. Originally from Winslow in northwest Illinois, Jeff currently makes his home outside of Westby, Wisconsin on a small Christmas tree farm.

How do you describe or define the Driftless Area and its unique conservation challenges?

The Driftless Area is a challenging place to do conservation work, regardless if it is road construction, growing crops or doing stream restoration. We are blessed with more than 4,500 miles of coldwater, spring-fed streams, but we are dealing with stream banks up to 10 feet high with high erodibility.

These soils were washed off the ridgetops between 1850 to the 1930s. These banks are unstable and with each rainfall event and spring thaw, they deposit tons and tons of sediment into our streams. In some streams as much as 80 percent of the sediment reaching the stream comes directly off the eroding banks.

All said, we are living in an awesome part of the Midwest, with some of the highest biodiversity in plants and animals like nowhere else.

The four-state region (Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and Illinois) that makes up the Driftless Area has more than 600 streams covering more than 4,500 miles. To date, our partners have improved more than 650 miles. Although we take on project management of individual streams, our primary responsibility is to act as a catalyst and accelerate stream projects throughout the four-state area.

What is TUDARE, how is it funded and how is it organized?

TUDARE has three Trout Unlimited employees: Duke Welter, Paul Krahn and myself. Duke handles most of our outreach and long-range planning with organizations and environmental policy concerns; Stream Restoration Specialist Paul Krahn works on all aspects of a restoration project. He prioritizes working with county field offices (federal and county) to help them build capacity to do stream restoration projects on their own. My role is to work on all aspects of project management. I also spend a great deal of time writing and managing federal and state grants.

We rely on funding from TU chapters, foundations and other miscellaneous grants to fund our staffing. We receive no direct funding from the national Trout Unlimited office for our salary, travel and miscellaneous expenses.

Where is TUDARE's work currently focused? How does it compare across the four states?

The need to do stream projects in each state varies widely, and sometimes even within the states. For example, in Minnesota we are working with the Minnesota TU Council to develop projects through the Clean Water, Land and Legacy amendment. To date we have secured 10 awards totaling over \$20 million dollars just for coldwater stream restoration projects. This program has been so successful for getting projects off the ground that we will likely be hiring a full-time position to deal just with this program. However, very few county field offices get involved with stream projects.

In Wisconsin, we use Farm Bill dollars (federal conservation dollars) as the foundation for most of our projects. We have been working with TU chapters as well as county, federal and even state habitat crews to use these dollars for 50-75 percent of the cost of a project, and then raise the rest of the expenses through TU chapters, trout stamps, etc. We are fortunate in Wisconsin

to have so many county and federal employees available in the county field offices to help deliver the technical assistance needed to use these dollars.

In Minnesota, we typically must use private consultants at \$50,000 to \$75,000 per mile of improved stream. We have been discussing getting our own licensed engineer on staff to help with this workload, be more cost efficient, and more responsive to our needs.

In Illinois, we have few if any coldwater streams, but there are areas where we think brown trout would survive. We are currently working with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to improve a couple of streams and hopefully introduce some wild brown trout from Wisconsin.

Iowa is a mixed bag, with some county field offices having the technical expertise, and others not. Several Iowa county field offices have utilized close to \$1 million of our latest Regional Conservation Partnership Program award to fund 12 projects.

What are some examples of current projects TUDARE is working on now, including costs? How have projects changed since you first started at TUDARE 10 years ago?

Two things come to mind when I think of how we do projects now versus 10 years ago. We are trying to use more wood, such as dead or cut trees, in our projects, when the wood is available. Banks can be stabilized with wood tied deeply into the bank, and we try to use the wood that is on-site when possible. Rock still rules when it comes to availability and stabilizing most of our high-gradient streams.

However, for the past 10 years we have had major flooding events that exceeded the designs of our projects. We have several streams with narrow valleys and stream gradients exceeding 1 percent, which are going to be more challenging to work on. Other conservation practices are equally challenged with these high rainfall events as dams and waterways are not designed to take these high-volume events of 8 to 15 inches in a 24-hour period. We devoted our last Driftless Area Symposium and a paper entitled "Driftless Symposium Proceedings" to working with Driftless Area streams with a changing climate.

How does the project selection process work and who does the planning and actual stream restoration project work?

For the most part, TUDARE does not typically select projects because we do not hold the majority of the funding. However, TUDARE is part of a National Fish Habitat



TUDARE PROJECT MANAGER
JEFF HASTINGS

Partnership that does solicit for brook trout projects. Through this fish habitat partnership, we are able to fund two to five projects each year and contribute in the range of \$40,000 each.

We also work with the Minnesota TU Council and administer Clean Water, Land and Legacy amendment dollars that fund three to six projects a year. These projects are solicited through proposals from Minnesota chapters working off a list provided by the state's DNR fisheries staff. Most projects are completed by county field office staff working with private landowners utilizing Farm Bill dollars.

For example, in Iowa 12 projects were awarded contracts in the last round of Regional Conservation Partnership Program funds (part of the \$9.2M TUDARE was awarded) from the Natural Resources Conservation Service to do stream bank stabilization with habitat included for fish and wildlife. Farm Bill dollars typically cover 50-75 percent of the costs with the landowner paying the rest, or a conservation group/TU chapter paying the landowner's share. We have encouraged TU chapters to work with local field offices on projects that have perpetual easements.

How much does it cost to improve a typical section of a stream?

This varies greatly depending on several factors such as where in the watershed the work is happening, how tall the banks are and the size of the stream. Typically it will range from \$100,000 to \$250,000 per mile.

How does funding for stream improvement projects generally work, including NRCS grants, and how TU chapter contributions fit in?

Historically TU chapters used to work hard through fundraisers to develop projects in the \$5,000 to \$10,000 range and were only able to do an eroding bank or two. When I used to work for Vernon County Land and Water Conservation Department, I would have landowners

The bottom line is to try and spend as few dollars as possible to stabilize the banks, narrow the stream and replace lost habitat.



READSTOWN BUSINESSES WERE DELUGED FROM THE DRIFTLESS AREA FLOODS OF AUGUST 2018

identify projects to stabilize their streambanks. When I conveyed to a landowner the cost would be in the range of \$45,000 to \$65,000 (with their share around \$16,000 and the Farm Bill program dollars covering the remaining), they would tell me the cost was too high.

Working in Vernon County with so much good water and a lot of easements, I would tell the landowner if you give Vernon County an easement (for \$50), I would fund their share of the project costs. Blackhawk, Coulee and other TU chapters and conservation organizations would often contribute \$3,000 to \$6,000 and soon I would have the landowner's share. Monroe County has secured over 80 perpetual county easements this way.

I don't think it is realistic for a TU chapter to do all aspects of a restoration project, but by partnering with a county field office, they can get very involved with contributing both time and money. The local county field office will help you secure the Farm Bill dollars, design and provide oversight of construction, permits, etc.

The Driftless Area utilizes the lion share of the state's Farm Bill allocation, so stream restoration projects are always competing against other conservation projects (waterways, dams, cover crops, etc.) for limited dollars. So for the past several years, I have pursued designated dollars for stream bank stabilization and habitat.

Wisconsin recently totaled up the number of contracts for coldwater projects from 2004 through 2018 with the number of contracts totaling more than 200, worth approximately \$5 million. The Regional Conservation Partnership Program award covered more than 50 contracts in the first year. In the next two years we will see the number of

projects jumping to an all-time high as county field offices develop projects for this next round of RCPP dollars. In the first sign-up, Wisconsin executed contracts for 32 projects; Iowa 12 projects; and Minnesota several miles of projects. Illinois is waiting until 2020 to implement.

With the record-breaking rain-falls last summer in Wisconsin's Driftless Area over a couple of days, how badly did the flooding harm restoration project work completed over the past few years? How about damage to older projects?



AUGUST 2018, POST FLOOD: COON VALLEY VETERANS MEMORIAL

I used to say I knew of a handful of streams where the typical restoration work we do would suffer damage after each major rainfall event, such as Upper Reads Creek in Vernon County and Big Spring Branch in Iowa County. However, the 15-plus inches we received last fall opened the door for a number of streams. Both old and some new work in Wisconsin was pretty much blown out.

The fact is no one builds for

these kinds of events. Much of the work up in the Timber Coulee tributaries was stable for more than 30 years.

It wasn't just stream projects that suffered major damage. NRCS lost several large flood control dams (a first in the nation); barns were washed off foundations; and every conservation practice suffered.

We recently toured these project sites with USGS, NRCS, DNR, TU and private consultants and came to the opinion that in some of these high-gradient streams with narrow valleys, we need a different approach such as reshaping the banks,

project and Timber Coulee main stem are projects that look fine. No one wants to walk away from these great streams that are so volatile, but we do need to come back with a different approach. We are currently working with USGS to come up with some sort of model or formula to try and predict where these high-risk areas are.

Do you have any historical information documenting the impact of climate change on average annual rainfall and water temperatures?

The Driftless Master Plan (for Wisconsin) has several great sections on predictions and is available at https://dnr.wi.gov/files/pdf/pubs/lf/lf0071_ExecSum.pdf

Has the flooding changed the priorities of TUDARE projects during the next year or two?

I wouldn't say the flooding has changed our priorities, but I would say it has changed our approach in that we will review each stream or watershed differently.

Do we know the impact of this massive flooding on both aquatic insect and trout populations in Driftless Area streams?

Research from both Minnesota and Wisconsin shows that the fish populations are stable for the adult fish as they seem to find cover and ride out the storms. The fry are the most susceptible to being lost, and major flood events can wipe out a whole age class.

Are building and installing LUNKER structures still the most effective stream restoration improvement tactics for Driftless Area streams?

Providing overhead cover still seems to be the most impactful factor, but this can be also be done with

getting the water back to the appropriate width, adding some additional habitat (no LUNKERS), and understand realistically the next big rainfall event may be coming soon.

The bottom line is to try and spend as few dollars as possible to stabilize the banks, narrow the stream and replace lost habitat.

I forgot to mention that there is a point in the watershed where everything including traditional work holds up fine. The Weister Creek

Stories from the flood

The Driftless Writing Center, in collaboration with area libraries and historical societies, has embarked on an ambitious project to collect hundreds of stories from those who survived the 2018 flooding.

During the past 11 years, Wisconsin's Kickapoo River and Coon Creek watersheds have experienced five floods of a magnitude forecast to occur only once in 100 years. The flood of August 2018 was the worst on record. Dams were compromised. Rivers rose above historical marks by more than two feet in some locations. Homes and businesses were deluged. Many were total losses, to be condemned or abandoned. Farmers lost crops and acreage as topsoil washed downstream.

The Driftless Writing Center (DWC), in collaboration with area libraries and historical societies, has embarked on an ambitious project to collect hundreds of stories from those who survived the 2018 flooding.

"Stories from the Flood" invites residents to share their experiences in written, audio or video form. The narratives will become part of an archive housed at the Vernon County Historical Society and UW-La Crosse. They will also contribute to a findings report that DWC will distribute to local, state and national policymakers and media.

Interviewers are hearing from evacuees, business owners, first responders and people of all backgrounds. Together, the stories highlight the strength and resilience of the small communities in the Kickapoo River and Coon Creek watersheds.

Recently, Judy Mixter of Coon Valley described how Coon Creek rose on the night of August 27 and rushed around her house. After floodwaters caused one of their basement walls to collapse, she and her husband called for help. A city tractor with a loader came to rescue them. In the following days, she said, numerous individuals and organizations helped them with food, cleanup and replacing necessities such as their furnace. Mixter felt overwhelmed and humbled by everyone's generosity.

DWC Board Chair Jennifer Morales said "We've heard from people

who lost everything but what they were wearing that night, from EMS personnel who evacuated a village in the dark, and from neighbors who donated their time and resources after the water went down. We've also heard from people who are frustrated about some of the bureaucracy that's followed the recovery efforts. We hope the information we gather can help inform elected officials at all levels about ways to improve flood responses."

FLOODS IMPACTED LIVES, TOO

Recently, Judy Mixter (left) of Coon Valley, with daughter Jennifer Guinn, described how Coon Creek rose on the night of August 27 and rushed around her house.

A city tractor with a loader came to rescue them.

In the following days, she said, numerous individuals and organizations helped them with food, cleanup and replacing necessities such as their furnace. Mixter felt overwhelmed and humbled by everyone's generosity.

Photo by Tim Hundt.



the Wisconsin Humanities Council, with funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the State of Wisconsin. DWC is seeking additional support from individuals and businesses to complete the project.

The Driftless Writing Center is a nonprofit organization that connects writers, readers, and audiences through workshops, discussions, and public performances. It celebrates the unique culture of the Driftless region and seeks to enhance the creative expression of the people who live there.

Submitted by Tamara Dean, a writer who lives on the West Fork of the Kickapoo River. She serves on the boards of the River Alliance of Wisconsin and the Driftless Writing Center. More about her and her work is online at www.tamaradean.media.

deep pools using a practice called a vortex weir, which consists of placing large "cover rock"/boulders, root wads, and in many small streams tall overhanging grass. We still utilize LUNKERs in a lot of our projects, but probably fewer per mile than we used to.

How much of your time is spent seeking financial support for TUDARE projects and where has most of the money been coming from?

I spend over half of my time pursuing grants and managing them after we receive them. I've had my most success with Farm Bill grants, achieving approximately \$20 million, with the last two Regional Conservation Partnership Program awards of \$2.9 and \$9.2 million.

But the Driftless Area Landscape Conservation Initiative also delivered over 25 miles.

The other major success has been the Clean Water, Land and Legacy amendment in Minnesota, where TUDARE upfronts the dollars that I help administer. So far, we have received 10 rounds of funding and Minnesota TU Executive Director John Lenczewski applied for round 11. Each round of funding has been around \$2 million.

The rest of the funding that supports TUDARE and its staff comes from TU chapter dollars, Fish and Wildlife Service, foundations, private companies and donations.

TUDARE introduced a riparian habitat guide in 2007 that provides detailed information about the habitat needs of a wide variety of Driftless Area non-game fish, amphibian, invertebrate, reptile, bird, and mammal species. The guide describes specific habitat features and provides associated designs that can be integrated into upland, riparian, wetland and in-stream projects where appropriate. How successful has the riparian habitat approach been since its introduction 10 years ago?

The Nongame Habitat guide started back when I was working for the county and I was designing a stream restoration project for a landowner on the West Fork of the Kickapoo. He asked me what we could do for the non-game species, such as turtles, snakes and birds. I didn't know, so I asked Bob Hay, former Wisconsin DNR state herpetologist.

He was great and came to Vernon County and walked with several other folks I had assembled to see what we could do. The ideas started to flow so we brainstormed and came up with our first habitat guide in 2007.

The primary purpose of the guide was to encourage folks doing stream restoration to consider what other critters might be using their project site and develop some additional habitat for them. After the guide was published, we developed several workshops throughout the

I am very pleased at the response from folks doing stream work and how they have including habitat considerations in their project planning.

where and when to utilize various habitat features.

How does habitat improvement affect the resilience of fish populations?

There are literally hundreds of ways stream restoration projects in the Driftless Area are helping our fish be more resilient to climate change, high rain events, less rain, and warmer temperatures. I could devote several articles to this alone. The cover helps them find areas of lower disturbance during flooding events; the overhead cover such as deep pools LUNKERs, provides protection from predators; bank stabilization improves water quality which leads to more successful hatches, strong macroinvertebrate populations, cooler temperatures, more oxygen; new seedlings provide pollinator habitat, more insects in general, and less invasive plants.

I could go on and on, but the bottom line is a self-sustaining population of fish.



Tim Hundt

AUGUST 2018 DRIFTLESS AREA FLOODS DEVASTATED FARMS

Like so many farms, homes and businesses, Steve Fortney's farm near Soldiers Grove was devastated by the floods.

Watershed Access Fund

The 2018 fundraising campaign came to a close and your generous donations have made it one of the best ever, with more than 140 donations exceeding \$10,700. This will go a long way in securing future permanent access to critical properties and streams across the Badger State.

This grant program recently helped secure a stretch on the South Branch of the Oconto River. Oconto County Forestry Department is acquiring a private parcel with Knowles-Nelson Stewardship funding and the Watershed Program is helping them make this happen. \$15,000 has been committed by the State Council and the Marinette TU Chapter is kicking in \$5,000. A parking lot will provide access to the stream.

There are some potential projects we are engaged with to secure in 2019 and without this program, we would not be in position to provide the needed support. Please consider supporting this important program so valuable trout streams across this state can be protected for your permanent access and enjoyment. Wishing you the best in the 2019 fishing season!

—Doug Brown

2018 Contributors

- | | | | |
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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
 Attn: Doug Brown
 R4800 Timber Ln.
 Ringle, WI 54471

Name _____
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 City, State, Zip _____
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Recollections

The Elephant Hole: Spring of 1976

By Rick Larkin

It was May of 1976 and my trout fishing friends and I were rapidly approaching college graduation. We were, of course, in a state of general panic. We missed the trout opener due to the need to take makeup exams, hand in late papers, and go to college job recruiters in the hope that employment would end our collective poverty. I remember a time of hectic misery, made worse by missing the trout opener.

Once it became clear that most of us were, indeed, going to actually graduate, a weekend trout road trip seemed in order. Dave suggested we visit his grandfather in La Crosse for the coming weekend and fish for trout at Camp McCoy. We could stay in the basement, fish with Grandpa, and Grandma would feed us. Dave's grandfather was a fly fisherman and reportedly knew Camp McCoy like the back of his hand. Dave said we could get camp fishing permits for cheap and fish the streams and stocked ponds of the camp.

Dave now had an enormous older Pontiac Bonneville we named the "Wide Tracker," a gift from grandfather. This car replaced a rusty junk heap which died ingloriously on an ice fishing misadventure the previous winter. We now had a gigantic cool ride.

After a number of misfires, we left Madison around 9 a.m. After a number of stops for cultural research, which included a cheese factory for fresh cheese curds, we then squeaked our way up Highway 14 and pulled into his grandparents' driveway in LaCrosse at about midnight. We snuck in the back door, went down the stairs, and settled into a row of old beds set up in the old rec room. Dave was one of a number of grandkids and the basement dormitory was prepared for their weekend visits. His grandfather ("Doc") was about 80 and his child bride, Frieda, was only about 75, so they were fast asleep.

They also got up early. About 6 a.m. I heard somebody rustling around upstairs. Soon, I could smell coffee. Then Doc came stomping down the stairs. I had never seen him before. "Daylight in the swamp! Time to fish for trout!" he bellowed. "I don't care if you stopped in every tavern between Madison and La

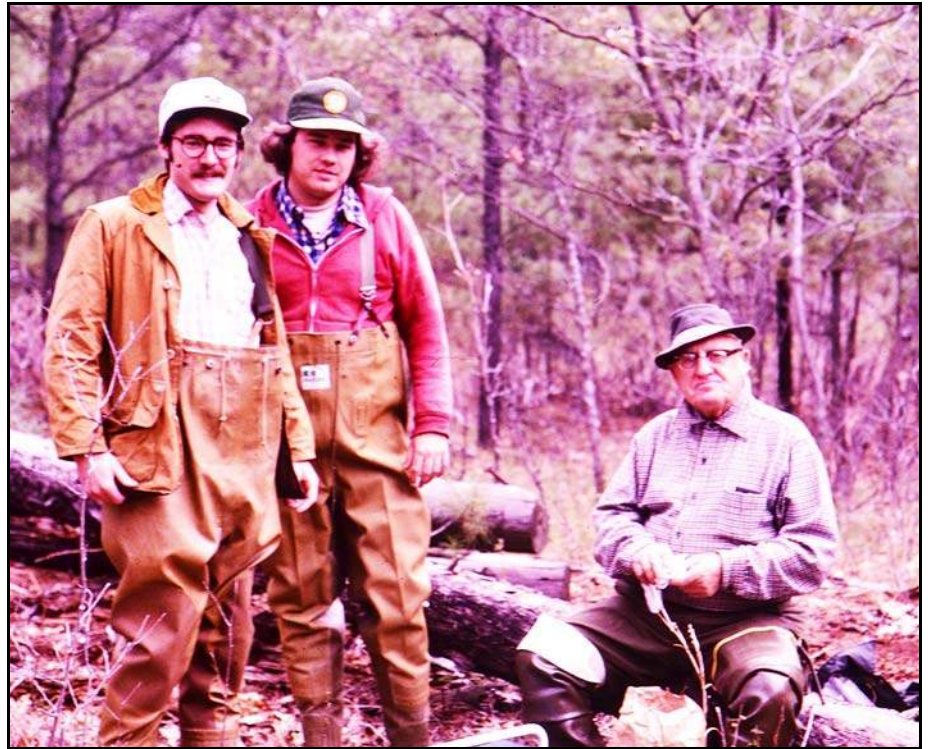
Crosse. The trout are waiting!" He was not totally correct, but very close. I think it was probably every other tavern.

Doc was a retired dentist. He was short, rotund and loud, owing to bad hearing. All in all, he was a robust 80-year old. He was a veteran of the Wisconsin 32nd "Red Arrow" Division infantry in World War I. In addition to his rifle, he carried a trombone in the 32nd Division marching band. The 32nd was named "Les Terribles" by the French. History tells us they were fierce fighters and took heavy casualties, distinguishing themselves in the Meuse-Argonne offensive of 1918. I bet the band was pretty good, too. After the war, he went to college and later went to dental school at Marquette. He settled in La Crosse in a house at the foot of Granddad's Bluff.

Doc was the post dentist at Camp McCoy during World War II and said he fished the camp a lot during the war. Dave said Doc had trouble sleeping during those war years and often fished at night for big browns with big flies. After the war, he settled his family in La Crosse. Later, he retired from his dental practice to trout fish, golf and tend to his roses. He fished several times a week, usually Camp McCoy, but also in the streams to the south of La Crosse in Coon Valley and Westby. At breakfast, he told us stories.

He told one about fishing with an old Norwegian farmer in a big, slow, muddy stream which held giant brown trout. The wall of the old farmer's shed displayed the stretched salted skins of brown trout longer than your arm. The old farmer used cut bait and a cane pole. Doc also told one about spotting a very large brown trout finning behind a big boulder on the La Crosse River. The big fish refused every fly in his box. Doc went back to his car to get another box of flies to show the big trout something different. It was a long walk. When he was almost back to the stream, a kid emerged from the bushes, carrying the big fish on a willow stick. The kid explained the big trout fell for a ball of cheese.

Doc gave special reverence to brook trout. He called them "natives." When speaking about them, his tone changed. Rather than mor-



DOC AND OUR CREW OF "JANGLEBUGGERS"

Note the stylish 1970's fishing attire and canvas waders. We were set for our adventure fishing the trout waters of Fort McCoy with Doc.

tal combat with a big cunning brown, the brookie was accorded special status. In his stories, brookies gently sipped flies. They were delicate, rare and beautiful, with white-tipped orange fins and wormy-patterned green sides. They looked like no other trout. In his stories, browns took large flies with aggressive, line-stripping strikes indicating a sort of nastiness. Rainbows, he said, usually lasted for only a short time after being poured out of the DNR stocking truck and were "good eating." Rainbows and brookies were Grandma's favorites. She turned up her nose at brown trout. We were a rapt audience for all of it.

We had changed during the year between trout seasons. Dave now sported a Fenwick fiberglass fly rod, given to him by Doc. I had a white fiberglass Shakespeare "Wonder Rod," a six weight with level line and a little round metal eyelet to tie on the leader. We knew nothing of taper and tippets. We just stripped four or six pound mono off our spinning rods. We also knew nothing about flies. We were counting on Doc. We also each owned cheap rubber or canvas waders, purchased at a closeout sale at a Madison sporting goods store. We were ready.

Doc said we were going to fly fish and bait would not be allowed. "Janglebugs" (worms) were forbidden. Actually, Doc allowed that, if we proved hopeless, we could use them. Despite this enjoiner, you could tell he was exited to fish with this motley pack of college kids. Coffee was finished. It was time to go. Doc had Dave drive his old "Wide Tracker," which gave him time for more stories.

At the Camp McCoy main gate, we got our permits, and, under Doc's direction, headed off on a sand road to a pond. The Alderwood Pond was a few acres in size and rising trout dimpled the surface. It was fairly open so novice fly fishermen like us stood a fair chance of actually delivering a fly to a fish. It was also the site of an outhouse where Doc liked to read the La Crosse Tribune in the morning.

Soon we were thrashing the water with Doc's flies, trying to catch

trout. Our success was limited to a small rainbow or two with numerous misses. This lack of success wasn't being helped by the booming artillery fire and earth-shuddering impacts from the live fire range, hopefully a safe distance away. Still, it was suboptimal for trout. Usually, we would be casting to rising trout and a round would come in, fired by some enthusiastic national guardsmen. The shell impact shook the ground and would put the trout down for a few minutes. After a few minutes, they would begin rising again and we would resume casting. Doc emerged from the reading room and chuckled at our futile little group. "Time to go to the Elephant Hole," he said, and we drove down another sand road.

The Elephant Hole was a widening in a sandy area where a small clear stream crossed a big grassy meadow. To us, it looked like it was where tanks and armored vehicles on maneuver crossed the stream, leaving big deep ruts. We hoped that trout with elephantine size characteristics were living there. The ruts had filled with black mucky soil, creating a perfect place for bugs to hatch. The surface of the Elephant Hole was even more dimpled with rising fish than the Alderwood Pond was. Doc now wiggled into a pair of canvas waders. "Time to watch and learn." He laughed. "Bet I can get three brookies on three casts! Any takers?" The Camp McCoy limit in those days was three trout. Nobody wanted a piece of Doc's bet. He waded out a few feet to cast into the biggest rutted pool.

Doc's strategy was simple. He would keep a fly aloft until a brookie rose within his range and then plop the fly in the rise ring. He was deadly accurate and the fish would invariably hit the fly. They didn't really hit the fly. They plastered it. So much for delicate sips. Doc went three for three. We were in awe of the rotund old man. While we learned later that a hungry brookie, under the right circumstances, will attack anything buggy, our memory of that incident was undiminished. Doc was the trout god. We still talk about him today.

See *Elephant Hole*, page 17



FISHING THE ALDERWOOD POND AT FORT MCCOY

The Alderwood Pond was a few acres in size and rising trout dimpled the surface. It was fairly open so novice fly fishermen like us stood a fair chance of actually delivering a fly to a fish. It was also the site of an outhouse where Doc liked to read the La Crosse Tribune in the morning.

Wisconsin's Fly Tyers

Tom Steinberg: Perfecting the art of spinning and stacking hair

Recognizing some of Wisconsin's great fly tyers, this series shows the role they play in the art of fly tying. Through this series we will learn more about them, the flies they tie and their tips to make us better tyers.

Words and photos by Bob Haase

Tom Steinberg ties all kinds of flies, but he has perfected the art of spinning and stacking hair. His flies are a work of art, with impressive creativity and detail.

The creativity that Tom brings to his flies is also visible when you look at his tying station.

It includes everything from cable clamps to hold his scissors to multi-hair stackers that can stack a number of clumps of hair at a time. He even modified the little plastic insert that pizza shops put in the center of your pizza when they deliver it into a tool for holding his razor blades for trimming hair.

Do you remember when and how you got started tying flies?

I have been tying for about 30 years. The reason I started tying flies was because of my hands. I had carpal tunnel surgery and my doctor told me to find ways to keep exercising or using my hands. Ron McCormick told me about a fly-tying class at the vocational school in Manitowoc, so I decided to take the class. I tied one fly and got hooked.

Do you remember who taught you how to tie your first fly?

Yes I do. It was Jeff Priess, a member of Lakeshore Chapter of TU and the Helen Shaw chapter of the Federation of Fly Fishers. He helped a lot of people like me get started.

You are known for your skills at spinning and stacking deer hair and creating beautiful looking hair bugs. How did you get started spinning and stacking hair?

I was tying woolly buggers and elk hair caddis's and started getting

interested in tying hair bugs shortly after the Helen Shaw chapter of FFF was formed. I was one of the founding members and we brought in guest tyers. Pat Ehlers from Milwaukee was one of those tyers. He demonstrated how to tie hair bugs and he tied a sunfish pattern. I decided I wanted to

learn how to do that, but was having problems learning how. Then we had Royce Dam come to some of the meetings. He took the time to teach me different tying techniques and helped me with tying hair bugs. Royce gave me some VHS tapes of Billy Munn and Jimmy Nix on spinning and stacking hair. Later on I got some stuff from Dave Whitlock and Chris Helm that helped me a lot. That is how I got started.

You are known for your skills with spinning and stacking hair. What other patterns or styles of flies do you like tying?

I tie musky flies, trout flies, minnow patterns, and a lot of different styles of bass flies. I save articles about fly patterns from different magazines and often tie them. I have a collection of all the Fly Tyer magazines from the first issues to the present, and often refer back to them.

Some people get confused with the difference between spinning and stacking. Could you explain the difference and advantages of each?

Spinning is taking a bunch of hair and spinning it as you tie it down so that it goes completely around the hook shank. Stacking is when you take a bunch of hair and tie in down in one location such as on the top or bottom of the hook shank. When you spin hair around



the hook you cannot get it as dense as when you stack it. When you tie down the hair to be stacked, it becomes folded putting a lot more hair in one location as compared to distributing the same amount of hair completely around the hook shank. When you stack it you can place colors, eyes or stripes, in exact locations to create details in the fly. If you stack one color of hair on the bottom and multiple colors on the top, the total amount of hair stacked on the top should equal the amount of hair stacked on the bottom. I think the stacked flies float better because the hair is more compressed.

You sometimes hear people talk about deer hair being hollow and that is what makes it float, but the hair isn't hollow is it?

Deer hair is not hollow like a straw or it would compress like a straw. The molecular structure of the hair, the way the cells line up, gives it the characteristics that helps it float and flare, making it ideal for tying hair bugs. The hair off different parts of the body of a deer or elk is different, and certain parts of the body hair works best for specific tying techniques. You need to learn to identify the differences and know what to look for when purchasing deer hair and using the hair for specific applications. There is even a difference in the hair of soft-tanned and hard-tanned deer hair. The soft-tanned hair is more flexible and the hard-tanned is a little stiffer and works better for spinning. Understanding the characteristics of the hair is important, whether you are using deer, elk, caribou or antelope.

What type of thread do you prefer when spinning and stacking hair?

I usually use GSP (gel spun polyethylene). Thread control is very important. You can't keep the thread sharp. You need to flatten it so that it doesn't cut through the hair. You also need to learn other techniques of thread control such as using the right amount of pressure. Thread control is critical for tying hair bugs and all kinds of fly tying.

What is your favorite tool for packing the hair?

I like to use the Brassie packing tool. They come in three different sizes and they seem to work best for me in packing the hair. I have used a variety of packing tools and the Brassie is still my favorite.

How do you go about trimming the hair? Can you give us some tips on trimming the hair?

I use a double-edge razor blade for trimming hair. I have a tool for holding the blade, which was an old razor, but most of the time I hold the blade in my fingers. That allows me to control the radius to match

the shape of the body. I start out by making the shape square so that I have the same amount of space on the sides and then I round off the body. By starting out with a

square shape it helps maintain correct proportions so that one side is not offset from the hook shank more than the other. You need to use a sharp razor blade. Double edge razor blades are getting harder to find so pick some up while you still can.

Do you ever use a water-proofer on the hair to keep the hair from absorbing water?

I use a Scotch Guard water-proofer that is used for treating tents to keep them from leaking. I think most Scotch Guard or similar products would work to keep the hair from absorbing water and helps them float better.

What are some of the more common mistakes people make when tying hair bugs?

One mistake is using the wrong hair and trying to get it to flare properly. Another mistake is using the wrong amount of hair or the wrong proportion of hair on the top compared to the bottom.

Do you have any tips for people just getting started tying hair bugs, or that want to improve the quality of the hair bugs they are tying?

An important part of tying hair bugs is tying on the first wraps of



MULTIPLE HAIR STACKER

You can place a clump of hair in each one of these and tamp it on the table and stack the hair on all of them at one time. You can use rifle or pistol cartridges and flare the end with a flaring tool or other device. Then just pick the hair up by the ends sticking out and tie it in.



thread. Make 5 or 6 wraps of thread where you are going to start at the bend of the hook, then put a drop of super glue on the wraps. Wrap over GSP, then tie down your first clump of hair.

This becomes an anchor point and keeps the materials from spinning on the hook shank. If the hair slips there, then everything will want to spin on the hook shank the rest of the way up the hook. You want to spin the hair, but you don't want the hair to spin on the hook shank. I put a half hitch in after I tie in the hair to hold things in place while I pack the hair.



give you is to put a hook in the vise and practice spinning and stacking the hair until you get it right, rather than tying a complete fly. Practice, practice, and practice... cut it off the hook and practice some more until you get the technique down.

If things are not going right, just walk away from the vise and come back later and try it again. Don't get frustrated, keep trying until you accomplish what you are trying to do and get it right.

Everybody does not tie flies such as hair-bugs the same way. You might think you are tying it wrong, but you might be tying it a better way. Learn the basics and then learn



what works best for you. Experiment and keep it fun.

Hair bugs are commonly used for bass, but do you also use hair bugs for trout and panfish?

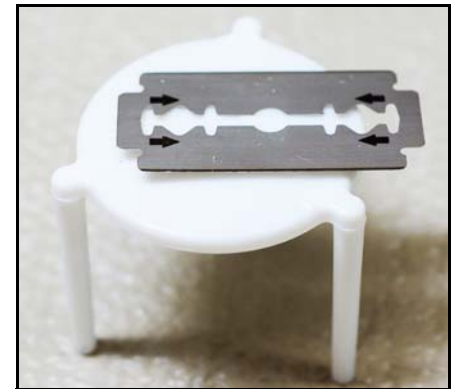
Yes. I tie little divers on small #8 hooks and they work great for panfish and for trout. Mouse patterns also work good for trout.

Enjoy the photos

Rather than show the step-by-step methods of tying a hair bug, we are simply providing photos of a few of the flies that Tom has tied and a couple of the things Tom has designed or modified to make his tying easier. If you have never tied hair bugs, you might want to give it a try. What you learn in tying hair bugs can help with all the flies you tie, such as forming the head of a muddler minnow, or selecting hair and tying flies like comparaduns or the elk hair caddis.

Try making this pizza box device razor blade holder

Use the little plastic device that is sometimes placed in the center of your pizza. Glue a small magnet on the bottom to keep the razor blade in place and slightly offset so you can grab it easily.



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TU members helped 892 kids tie a fly

TU volunteers help make the 2019 Midwest Outdoor Heritage Expo a great success.



Bob Haase



Bob Haase

GETTING KIDS HOOKED ON FISHING

Robert Burke (left photo) and Ralph Klassy (right photo) of the Central Wisconsin Chapter show these youngsters the art of tying a fly for catching bluegills. The kids also receive a handout on how to fish their fly using a bobber and spinning gear.

By Bob Haase, WITU Education Chair

The 2019 Midwest Outdoor Heritage Education Expo took place at the MacKenzie Center near Poynette in May.

About 3,000 students and chaperones attended the event, and we helped 892 kids tie their first fly.

We teach them how to tie a bluegill fly and we also give them a handout showing how they can use a bobber or spinning float with their spinning rods to use the fly to catch panfish. We want them to catch a fish on the fly they tied and get hooked on fishing.

We had 17 volunteer tyers on Wednesday, and 15 on Thursday. This year's volunteer tyers included

the following from the Central Wisconsin Chapter: Jerry Smet, Rand Vander Schaff, Bob Haase, Ralph Klassy, Bill Millonig, Mike SanDretto, Jim Murphy, Tom Connelly, Bob Burke, Dave Ehrenburg, Gary Kemnitz, and Dave LaPine.

From the Aldo Leopold Chapter were Mike Stapleton, Bob Asam and Bob Moss. Scot Stewart volunteered from the Southern Wisconsin Chapter. Dave Brethbauer from the Blackhawk Chapter and Linda Lehman from the Wisconsin River Valley Chapter also volunteered.

This is a great event for fourth-, fifth- and sixth-grade students, who are bussed in from all over the state. Although most are from the southern half of the state, there was a bus

load of kids from Ashland. They can shoot BB guns with the conservation wardens, shoot archery, identify animal tracks, watch dog field trials, identify aquatic insect, identify fish, tie a fly and or a lot of other activities.

This year there was also a walk-through trailer that had a display of fish and wildlife. It was sponsored by the Outdoor Heritage Foundation and the Wisconsin Conservation Congress. This trailer is available for events like this, and other events such as county fairs, sporting events and school events.

There are two trailers now, and two more being planned so that they can cover the entire state. Trout Unlimited has been invited to be part

of this, and we hope to display conservation work such as our stream restoration and water monitoring programs, trout identification, or other similar materials.

It is impressive to see 892 kids tie a fly in two days, but even more impressive to watch the way our TU volunteers work with these kids, helping them tie their first fly. It's great to see the look on their faces as they tie the fly and make comments like "My dad is taking me fishing this weekend and I am going to catch a fish on this fly." I would like to thank all the volunteer tyers who took the time to help this year, and we invite other fly tyers to volunteer for the event next May.

Elephant Hole, from page 13

"OK, Janglebuggers, your turn," said Doc, and we spread out along the Elephant Hole armed with Doc's flies. At 80, his eyes were not what they used to be and he used flies he could see. Most of his dries were no smaller than about size ten or maybe twelve. He liked general buggy attractor patterns tied by a friend. As he explained, "I like gray flies and brown flies. If they don't work, I go to black. If black doesn't work, then I go back to gray or brown ones." He was either not much of an entomologist, or, of the opinion that the assembled rabble of rookie college fly fishermen were too dumb to know or care. Of course, the brook trout were not too picky, either.

We lathered the water and those mysterious and ethereal brookies ate our brown and gray flies with reckless abandon. Our primitive fly gear, big flies and crude casting were good enough. No Janglebugs were needed. Doc stood hands folded, watched and smiled. Maybe it was because Grandma gave Doc orders to catch enough for a fish fry before we left. Or, maybe it was because he was a new fly fisherman once himself. We filled our limit and even let a few go. All were beautiful brook trout. We filled the ice chest. It was time to celebrate. There was a supper club in nearby Sparta. "Steaks are on me," Doc said. The brook trout would be for breakfast tomorrow.

The name of that particular supper club in Sparta escapes me, but I remember that in 1976, it was still

old school. The relish tray had pickled herring, liver paste, pickles, olives, radishes, cheddar cheese spread, and the some magnificently stinky Limburger. We ate everything. Doc had a brandy Manhattan. We each managed a beer, a miracle considering our previous evening's performance. I remember the T-bones were about six bucks and we got a salad smothered in bleu cheese or Thousand Island dressing, not to mention a big baked potato swimming in butter and sour cream. Doc ordered some apple pie with a slice of cheddar on top for desert. We had pie, too. If trout fishing produced some sort of reverential afterglow, this was it.

All was pretty quiet on the drive back to La Crosse. When we got into town, Doc came to life and wanted Dave to stop at his American Legion Post. He said he wanted one more Manhattan. He also said Grandma would kill him, but he said he needed to go. So we went. We would be guilty of contributing to the delinquency of an 80-year-old. Once inside, Doc proudly introduced his grandson and the rest of us to some of his old buddies. This included some 32nd Division WWI vets. He told all those assembled about the grand day of fishing with the boys. It was quite a sight, the round and ruddy little old man and the gangly college kids. He sort of glowed a little. I don't think it was the Manhattan.

At the bar, there was a woman who looked even older than Doc, who said, "Boys, that's Mary. Mary was one of our division's nurses in France." Doc waved and Mary smiled. That was all. On the way

home Doc said, "Do not tell your grandmother." He winked. "Grandma can be a jealous woman," he joked. With that, we drove back to the house, tired but still feeling the trout afterglow.

The next day, after a memorable breakfast of fresh trout, we drove back to Madison to get ready "to become adults" as we joked in the car. As we drove back, we had a feeling of "mission accomplished". We now considered ourselves fly fishermen, plus, grandma Frieda was very pleased with the trout, which provided a nice fish fry, and extras for the freezer. We all agreed we could probably come back some time.

Somewhere on Highway 14, somebody quizzically asked, "What was the Mary thing?" Being young college guys, we all suspected that there was more to the story, but we would never know. Dave said Doc never told him much about World War I. We also wanted to know why it was called the Elephant Hole as the brookies, while nice, were not exactly elephantine. Dave said Doc thought it looked more like an African watering hole used by elephants than a trout stream. More importantly, we never got the name of the meadow stream where the Elephant Hole was or exactly where it was located inside the camp on that maze of sand roads. And we never would.

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 trotline 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.



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Chapter News



Sally Gawle

ALDO LEOPOLD CHAPTER HOLDS SUCCESSFUL PICNIC

Renee Sagal and Jared Sagal (foreground) and Robyn and Jim Klingbeil enjoy themselves at ALCTU's recent fundraiser picnic.

Aldo Leopold Chapter

On April 17 we had our chapter elections. I am honored to be elected as president for the next few years, taking the reins from Mike Stapleton. I want to thank Mike for the past couple years of service to the chapter. Mike has been an active TU member in two chapters, serving in various positions in both the Central chapter and ALCTU. His is a fine example of service to TU, for which he deserves many thanks.

Other changes to the chapter's board and officers include the election of Dan Endres to the vice president position. Thank you Dan for stepping into this position. Eric Lorenzen has rejoined the board after a few years absence. Welcome back, Eric.

Board member Scott Allen has recently taken on the position of vice chair of Wisconsin State Council. I wish Scott the best of luck in this new responsibility.

In early June, Tom and Sally Gawle installed temperature loggers in Bear Creek. This will be the fifth year they have installed and monitored the loggers, giving us an excellent data record of the stream's temperature profile. Their dedication and commitment to this effort is very appreciated.

ALCTU is supporting the proposal to create a stream maintenance crew as a joint project between TUDARE and the DNR. Chapter donations matched by Trout Stamp funds will put a two-person LTE crew in the field to do maintenance work, mostly woody vegetation management and some invasive weed control, on Driftless Area streams over a two-year period. Work on Columbia and Sauk county streams will occur in the second year, 2020. ALCTU has pledged \$2,000 toward this effort and total TU pledges to date have already exceeded the required funding for 2019.

Recent chapter meetings have focused on maintaining the quality of habitat improvements already completed, something that has been often lacking in the past. Having completed a large-scale restoration project on Bear Creek, we are concerned that without regular maintenance we could see a degradation of the habitat work. There has already been beaver activity in a few locations within our project area and unchecked beaver dams can lead to degradation of our work. To that end we have been working with the DNR to remove beaver and beaver dams in our Bear Creek project ar-

ea. We are planning to do willow cleaning on the Fargen north pasture on Bear Creek later this summer. This area has seen a lot of willow growth, and we know beaver love willow, so removing it should help keep them away.

Now in its fourth year in Reedsburg, our chapter's Trout In The Classroom provided the opportunity for two fifth-grade classes at Pinewick School to visit Nevin Hatchery, raise 30 rainbow trout in a coldwater aquarium and view a DNR electroshocking fish survey at Dell Creek in May. The Dell Creek

field trip was also release day for the trout, and gave the kids a chance to see DNR biologists at work in the field. There is never a shortage of questions for biologist Nate Nye and his staff.

By the time you read this we will have had our annual chapter picnic on June 11. This is our annual fundraiser that is also a great time to hang out with fellow trout nuts. A lot of stories, some of them true, are shared over dinner, followed by a great raffle.

—Mike Barniskis

Blackhawk Chapter

The Blackhawk Chapter held its annual fundraising banquet April 29 at Boundaries in Beloit. Thanks to everyone's hard work, the chapter had another successful banquet. The funds raised at this year's banquet will help the chapter's conservation efforts in the coming year.

The chapter committed \$750 to support the Shabazz High School Project Green Team activities in May. Part of the work was flood clean-up and repair at the West Fork Sportsman's Club campground.

—Phil Kirker



John Gremmer

CWTU FEATURED AN EVENING WITH LINN BECK

Stan Cichowski, Linn Beck and Chelley Beck pose with a cake made in Linn Beck's honor. The chapter's recent meeting included an evening with Linn, a past president of CWTU and past Council chair. Linn traced his involvement with TU, his commitment to the environment and our coldwater fisheries.

Central Wisconsin Chapter

In April, the Central Wisconsin Chapter elected a new slate of officers, headed by President Stan Cichowski, Vice President/Secretary Wayne Parmley and Treasurer Joe Peikert.

The meeting in May was an entertaining and informative evening with Linn Beck, a past president of CWTU as well as the WITU council chair the past four years. He is now on the TU National Leadership Council. Linn traced his involvement with Trout Unlimited, his commitment to the environment and the coldwater fisheries of Wisconsin. He reminisced about growing up in Oshkosh, his dedication to the community and his plans for the future with his new role at Trout Unlimited National.

On May 18 CWTU hosted its first habitat and restoration workday of the 2019 season at Bird Creek in Wautoma. We were joined by members from the Elliott Donnelley, Fox Valley, Frank Hornberg and Shaw-Paca chapters. The Elliott Donnelley Chapter presented CWTU with a generous donation of

\$4,000 for future stream habitat and restoration efforts. CWTU has raised a total of \$8,000 to support the Bird Creek restoration work. This includes a TU Embrace-a-Stream grant and a Trout and Salmon Foundation grant, along with matching funds from CWTU.

Over the years, Bird Creek has suffered from considerable brush overgrowth along with bank erosion and areas of stream widening. During the winter the DNR was able to use heavy machinery to remove the massive infestation of buckthorn which had effectively blocked access to the stream and made it difficult to fish. This project will improve access to the creek and its fishability.

Despite the cold and blustery day, a total of 37 people participated. The DNR crew, led by Supervisor Shawn Sullivan, directed the work crews to the site along Bird Creek northward from Hwy. 21. The crews created brush bundles from adjacent vegetation, primarily using invasive species, and placed those bundles in Bird Creek to help reduce erosion. Several stream



Kurt Buggs

BLACKHAWK CHAPTER HOLDS BANQUET IN BELOIT

Blackhawk Chapter Treasurer Anita Vaughn and President Dave Brethauer are enjoying the chapter's recent banquet.

Chapter News



Dennis Drackowski

BIRD CREEK WORK DAY CREW

blockages were removed which reduced the water level by several inches in some sections of the creek.

It is almost like opening new trout waters for the Central Region, the city of Wautoma, and our fishermen. The DNR and CWTU will continue work on Bird Creek during our workdays this summer. We welcome volunteers from all chapters who would like to join our workday crews.

May 25 was our "Sip and Grin" event in conjunction with 22 Lakes Brewery in Waupaca. The brewery created "Stream Born Brown," a special batch of brew for the event. In addition, we had generous donations of pulled pork and beef and we were able to complement the new brew with an equally delicious lunch.

This event was a successful chapter fundraiser and social event that recruited new members for CWTU. We also offered fly-tying demonstrations to introduce a younger group to local opportunities for fly fishing. Again, due to generous donations from our commercial supporters, we were able to hold a very

successful bucket raffle at the event. Our thanks to Mike Salas for coordinating the event.

We held our 43rd Dan Harmon III Fly Fishing School June 1-2 on the banks of the Tomorrow River at the Riverside Bible Camp near Waupaca. There were 24 students and 19 chapter members who worked as school staff. Jeff Treu is the school director.

Dan Harmon III taught lessons on knot tying and stream entomology. Dave Johnson introduced the basics of fly rods and collecting macro invertebrates. Russ Bouck gave a presentation on flies and demonstrated fly tying. John Gremmer taught the fundamentals of fly casting. Ira Giese presented a lesson on fly-fishing equipment and the fundamentals of wading. Wayne Parmley presented a program on selecting flies and how best to use them. A special thanks to Sue Bouck and Scott Grady for their hours spent in the school's administration.

A major part of the school is putting the students on the water to fish with a guide. The school provided



COULEE REGION CHAPTER HOLDS WORK DAY ON WARNER CREEK

The Coulee Region Chapter's June 9 work day on Warner Creek was a group effort with members from SEWTU, Blackhawk and TUDARE. Many thanks to Paul Krahn and Jason Freund for their work to make this day happen.

Coulee Region Chapter

We had another great turnout for the Cozad's Driftless 1 Fly on March 30. There were a dozen teams of four anglers, along with countless stream judges and other volunteers. Fishing was good and the camaraderie was outstanding. Ger Moua was the top angler for the day, followed by Norm Yackle, Jacob Khang, Eric Rauch and Choua Khang. The top team was Family Fly Fishers. All the money raised from entry fees, raffles and auction was donated to CRTU to support youth outdoor activities. Many thanks to Pete Cozad and the rest of the organizers for all their

hard work for a great cause.

Troutfest will be July 27 in Coon Valley. It is a fun, community-wide celebration, and CRTU will host the youth fishing event on Coon Creek. We will stock extra fish in the creek and provide rods, reels and bait to make sure the kids have a good time.

The June 9 work day on Warner Creek was a group effort with members from SEWTU, Blackhawk and TUDARE. Many thanks to Paul Krahn and Jason Freund for their work to make this day happen.

—Curt Rees

Fox Valley Chapter

The late spring and summer activities for the Fox Valley Chapter are now well under way. These activities offer many options for the chapter members to enhance the coldwater resources in Central Wisconsin.

We held our Annual April Angling Adventure (Quad A) #5 in late April. About three dozen anglers spent the weekend at the county park on the north fork of the Bad Axe River, southwest of Westby. A number of them spent an entire week fishing the Driftless Area. Event organizer Roger Genske said the weather made for interesting fishing conditions, but many very nice fish were caught and released. Plans are being made at this time for Quad A # 6 in 2020, so check the website in a couple of months so you can start planning for the event.

Our 41st Annual Fishing Day for People with Disabilities was in May at YMCA's Camp Shioc, near Shiocton. We had more than 25 "fisherpeople," along with family members and helpers, participate. They caught numerous rainbow trout, bluegills and bass, resulting in smiles, laughs and a lot of hooting and hollering. After fishing, we served a delicious lunch of grilled brats and burgers. FVTU members, friends and family were on hand to help with the fishing, fish cleaning, grilling, serving, and clean-up. Camp Shioc staff, including Camp Director Kim Norton, ensured everything went smoothly. The rainbow trout were supplied by

Wilderness Springs Trout Farm of New London. Each year this event is eagerly anticipated by the "fisherpeople" and continues to bring joy to all who attend. Our members and the leadership of Jerome Herro did a great job in making this event a success. We are lucky to have them as members of our organization.

May 18 was also the first habitat day of the season, and it was a joint effort with the Central Wisconsin Chapter and the DNR crew from Wild Rose, working on Bird Creek in Wautoma. FVTU will be partnering with CWTU and the DNR crew working on various habitat projects this summer. The remaining dates are July 20, August 17 and September 21. The specific location of the various habitat projects will be posted on the FVTU website and Facebook page, and on the CWTU website.

Fox Valley TU is partnering with the young men from Rawhide Academy near New London to do habitat work on the Davies Creek. Most of the work will be creating brush bundles to be placed in the stream, and removal of blow-downs that are impeding stream flow. Our first outing was on May 14, our second was on June 25, and future outings are planned for July 23, August 13 and September 24. Please consider the opportunity to work with these young men on a habitat project.

On May 21 a "Fishing Exploration Day" was presented at the Fox River Academy, which is an environmental school in the Appleton Area School District. Chapter mem-



John Gremmer

CWTU'S 43RD ANNUAL DAN HARMON III FLY FISHING SCHOOL

CWTU held its 43rd Dan Harmon III Fly Fishing School June 1-2 on the banks of the Tomorrow River at the Riverside Bible Camp near Waupaca. There were 24 students and 19 chapter member who worked as school staff.

one experienced guide for every two students. It is a highlight of the school and many of the students caught fish on their first time out.

Our fishing guides included: Ira Giese, Bob Hasse, John Tucker, Tom Meyer, Gary Herlache, Rick Fahrenkrug, Wayne Parmley, Tracy Moran, Dave Johnson, Clay Parmley, Jim Murphy and Bill Zimmerman.

The Dan Harmon III Fly Fishing School is a fabulous event for CWTU. It has great history, the students always rate it highly and it is a fun event that is hugely supported by the chapter members. We would argue that our school is as good as it

gets. It is a credit to TU, CWTU, Jeff Treu and all the people involved. The school has a great location on the Tomorrow River, fabulous food, an intelligent curriculum and an experienced, passionate staff. The camp facilities are comfortable and the dining provided by Laura Tucker and Shan Moran was over the top.

We encourage anyone wishing to attend next year's session to contact CWTU early, as this year sold out quickly.

—Stan Cichowski



Chapter News



Bonnie Richards

FOX VALLEY CHAPTER MEMBERS HELP THEIR "FISHERPEOPLE"

Jerome Herro nets a trout for one of the anglers, with help from Ben, an annual regular at FVTU's Annual Fishing Day for People with Disabilities.

ber Tony Pudlo and a student who is in the program, Eli Lemke, organized the events for the day. Eli is a member of the school's Fishing Club and he was one of the youth fly tyers at the 2019 Cabin Fever Day. A number of chapter members also assisted with fly casting demos and teaching casting techniques with the students.

Chapter member Tom Lager continues his leadership of the TU-CARES project and he has updates dealing with the project in the newsletter.

There are a number of chapter members who will be involved with the Wisconsin TU Youth Fishing Camp August 15-18 at the Pine Lake Camp. FVTU will again be sponsoring a camper this summer.

There are many opportunities for chapter members to become in-

involved with one or more events this summer, so please pick a date and join in. Also check out other state chapters and their websites. Maybe one of their activities would be something that is of interest to you. Stream work and habitat work is, to me, the most important aspect of TU. Join in this summer.

For the past 18 years I have enjoyed presenting Fox Valley TU chapter news to the rest of the state in these quarterly *Wisconsin Trout* newspapers and the chapter Trout Talk. It is now time for me to pass this opportunity on to another chapter member. Former chapter president Tony would close his writings with, "We'll see you on a trout stream" and our Bug Guy, Tom, states, "Pick up a rock and enjoy His creation." Carpe diem.
—Rich Erickson



John Vollrath

FRANK HORNBERG CHAPTER CALLS IN THE BIG RIG

The Frank Hornberg Chapter called in a tow truck to clear logs from the Tomorrow River.

Frank Hornberg Chapter

Our May chapter meeting was a very profitable and educational three-hour event. Dan Dieterich, representing the local chapter of the Citizens' Climate Lobby, gave a detailed presentation on the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act. He explained several key fea-

tures of this proposed legislation supported by Trout Unlimited. He listed some advantages of the carbon dividend approach over other ways of reducing total carbon emissions. He explained some details, such as the treatment of products imported and exported from this

country.

Our next speaker was Tim Parks, a fisheries biologist from the Bureau of Fisheries Management, working out of the Wausau office of the DNR. This is the presentation we had to cancel in both February and April because of winter weather. Tim gave us a detailed look at the historical status of brook and brown trout in the Tomorrow River.

In general, his data show that the population of browns is stable to increasing, and the population of brook trout is stable to declining. Tim described the changes in trout regulations in the last few years. He contributed to the ongoing discussion of where the Tomorrow River changes into the Waupaca River. He accepted suggestions from the audience on matters such as posting fishing regulations at road crossings. Finally, he gave us ideas on how to deal with the present situation of the Amherst mill pond. It was a useful, candid discussion.

Under the leadership of Stu Grimstad, in May we were able to solve a problem at the Lake Meyers Road crossing on the Tomorrow River. Winter water runoff dislodged a 15-foot-long, 30-inch diameter oak log, along with two large

dead evergreen logs, totally blocking the upstream ends of the culverts there. Stu engaged the services of Johnson Towing of Amherst to winch the logs out of the river. Rob Helbach, the owner of Johnson Towing, agreed to do this at no cost. After an hour and a half, working with chains and cables in cold water and mud, we had the river running free again. It was a job well done. Our thanks to Stu, Rob, Dan Peterson and towing operator Saxon Swan.

This year our chapter will again participate in the River Keepers Program organized by the Central Wisconsin Chapter. Ken Pierce continues as our leader. Our location is on the Ruby Coffee Roasters property in Nelsonville. We thank the owner, Jered Linzmeier, for keeping a path mowed for access to the river there.

Doug Erdmann represented our chapter at the May work day on Bird Creek, just west of Wautoma. The Central Wisconsin Chapter sponsored this work day. Forty workers brushed the bank and installed brush bundles from State Highway 21 to West River Street.

—John Vollrath

Green Bay Chapter

The Green Bay Chapter enjoyed visits from two separate guest speakers recently. In March we were joined by Tight Lines Fly Fishing Company fishing guide Nate Sipple. Nate's presentation was titled "Muskie on the Fly." Fly fishing has certainly expanded beyond trout over the past several years and in Green Bay fly fishing for musky has been gaining steam.

In April we welcomed Door County Land Trust's Executive Director Tom Clay. GBTU is made up of Brown and Door counties. It was wonderful to have a representative of a Door County conservation group join us, as we share many of the same goals.

GBTU recently participated in three separate outreach/education opportunities. On April 27 six chapter volunteers (Kim M., Gary G., Jim, V.B., Doug S., Dave O. and Adrian M.) came out for the Northeast Wisconsin (NEW) Zoo's Party for the Planet to teach fly-tying. On May 1 three chapter members (Dave

O., Jack K. and Adrian M.) taught several youngsters fly tying at Eisenhower Elementary school in Green Bay. Finally, on June 1, four chapter volunteers (Dave O, Jack K, Doug S and Adrian M) worked with kid at the Outagamie County Conservation Club's Take-a-Kid Fishing Day. For this event we covered both fly-tying and casting.

On May 18 we kicked off our work project season with our first outing of the year. We worked on the 1st South Branch of the Oconto River. Around 15-20 GBTU volunteers came out and were joined by members of neighboring chapters and the Wisconsin DNR. The Livingston family of the Wolf River chapter provided lunch afterward. Following lunch, folks were welcome to join Wolf River chapter members fishing the Wolf River for their annual meet-and-greet. We typically hold four work project days throughout the summer.

About 25 members, family and friends came out for a BBQ on June



Dave Ostaneck

SHARING THE JOYS OF FLY TYING

GBTU chapter member Jim Vanden Branden showed a young girl how to tie a wooly bugger at the NEW Zoo's Party for the Planet.

Chapter News



SUCCESSFUL GBTU WORK DAY ON THE SOUTH BRANCH OCONTO

The Green Bay Chapter held its first work day of the season on the 1st South Branch of the Oconto River.



Adrian Meseberg

DOUG SEIDL SHOWS OFF THE NEW GREEN BAY CHAPTER TRAILER

1 for our Annual Chapter Picnic. This is a potluck-style affair with the chapter providing the burgers, brats, buns and beverages. Paul K. and John D. grilled up the burgers and brats. The food was great and the company was even better.

After many months of planning, budgeting and information gathering, GBTU purchased a chapter work trailer. Chapter Vice President Doug Seidl was the driving force in seeing the work trailer through from an idea to reality. The trailer looks great and gives us a place to store our inventory while also driving attention to our chapter and the work we do.

At the Council meeting in Viroqua, Melis Arik delivered four pairs

of lightly used waders and three pairs of boots to WITU to be used in their youth fishing camp. The attire was given to GBTU as a generous donation from chapter member Bob Juidici. Remembering that Bob Haase asked about youth waders and boots for the youth camp at the WITU Oshkosh meeting in February, we decided this would be a great home for them. This way they can be used by the next generation of trout fishermen. GBTU has sponsored several kids at the camp since its inception a few years ago.

For more information on these stories and more, please visit our website at greenbaytu.org.
—Adrian Meseberg

Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter

Our annual banquet on May 3 was well attended, up about 20 percent from last year. Kurt Meyer got our Golden Net award for his work with youth, TIC, Grant County Outdoor Skills Day, and his summer fly fishing and tying program in Fennimore. Anton Pohl got our Friends of TU award for his work forming and serving as president of UW-Platteville's 5 Rivers Chapter.

The Dieter family got the Landowners award. We will be working on their land this summer just north of Bower Road.

The Fennimore and Iowa Grant

schools got our school grants to take a joint trip to Lake Superior. On June 17-19, 6th and 7th grade students travelled to Ashland, Wisconsin, to learn about climate change. They visited the Red Cliff Fish Hatchery to learn about coarcted brook trout and walleye stocking practices.

The students also travelled to Stockton Island, where they learned how the warming climate is affecting some of the northern tree species. They also had a chance to kayak and visit the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission

(GLIFWC). The students learned about harvesting wild rice and the effects of climate change on the rice beds. They spent their evenings at Northland College, where they learned about sustainable energy from trash, and the trials of dorm life.

In May we had a picnic at Gene Mazewski's property on the Platte River. There was lots of discussion of wind, weather, fishing and stream impacts. Several DNR staff stopped by for a chat.

On May 17 Fennimore 6th graders took the day to say goodbye to the 41 brown trout fry they raised in the classroom since November as part of Trout In the Classroom. The class released the trout into Borah Creek. Prior to the release, the students watched the DNR's Bradd

Simms and his assistant shock the stream and show the students the variety of sizes of trout. They learned what a young-of-the-year trout looks like, which was actually hatched in the wild. They also were able to see some of the other species of fish that live in a local coldwater stream.

Following the release, John Schindler, a landowner on Borah Creek, showed the students a nearby spring that was bubbling up through the sand, feeding the creek fresh cold water.

We are sponsoring a camper at this summer's WITU fishing camp. Jared, a 6th grader, will be attending. He agreed to come to a meeting after the camp to give us a short presentation.

—Brian Larson

Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter

Kiap's 2019 Trout In the Classroom (TIC) program was a rousing success. Eight schools received their trout eggs in January and successfully raised them to fry. The students were enthused about watching the trout grow, but more importantly were very involved in monitoring the water chemistry, temperature and health of the trout. Joe Young, 5th grade teacher from Rocky Branch Elementary, likes how the program incorporates math, and analytical and writing skills, into the students' daily curriculum.

As a bonus, Dean Hansen, with the help of Kiap volunteers, taught eight Bugs-In-the-Classroom (BIC) sessions. The BIC sessions allowed 4th and 5th graders to handle and study the invertebrate stage of stoneflies, mayflies, caddis and hellgrammites. Students enjoyed the chance to identify the bugs, count the number of wing pads, leg, and tails and learn the specific niche each insect occupied in a stream.

In May, most of the fry were released in the Willow River at Willow River State Park or at a separate location near Amery. After releasing the fry, the students worked with Dean Hansen and Greg Olson to capture insects in the stream and identify the insects that would be the food source for the released trout. Students were also given the chance to try fly casting. Kudos to Greg Olson for his leadership in growing the TIC program and intro-

ducing students to coldwater ecology. Thanks to more than 20 Kiap volunteers who assisted in both TIC and BIC. Without their involvement, we wouldn't be able to introduce a new generation to coldwater conservation.

Kiap participated in three Pheasants Forever prairie planting and pollinator events in May. More than 200 fourth- and fifth-grade students at three schools (Somerset Elementary, Greenwood Elementary, and Hudson Prairie Elementary) participated in prairie planting, plant identification, bee keeping and Kiap's coldwater habitat restoration and ecology station. Kudos to Dean Hansen, Loren Haas, Tom Schnadt and Dan Wilcox. Each brought thoughtful insight into the discussion.

The 2019 Fly Fishing for Trout Clinic in River Falls was a hit. Twenty-eight students spent a Saturday afternoon and evening learning about casting, equipment, knot tying, entomology, fly selection, fishing strategies and ecology. After supper, Kiap-TU-Wish volunteers took the students fishing, and several students caught a fish or two.

Thank you to mentor/hosts: Maria Manion, Joe Schreifels, Tim Christensen, Steve Cox, Bob Peterfeso, Charlie Schlatter and Bob Torres. Thanks to Mitch Abbett for teaching the equipment section, Jim Kojis for his help with casting and entomology, Tom Schnadt for han-



Tom Schnadt

KIAP HOLDS BUGS IN THE CLASSROOM SESSION

Kids enjoy the bugs at a recent BIC session with Dean Hansen and the fourth-grade students at Rocky Branch Elementary school.



Chapter News



John Zanopa

KIAP TEACHES KIDS AT RECENT PHEASANTS FOREVER EVENT

Kiap-TU-Wish board member Loren Haas talks about stream restoration work with kids at one of the Pheasants Forever Prairie Planting and Pollinator events in May.



Maria Manion

GETTING READY TO CATCH HER FIRST TROUT

Abbey Holden, a participant at the River Falls Fly Fishing Clinic, ties on a fly just before catching her first trout.

dling our door prizes and Scott Thorpe for his masterful presentation on fishing strategies. A special thanks to Gary Richardson for shooting photos, Dean Hansen for the loan of some live insect samples, and event co-chairs Mike Alwin and Brian Smolinski. The clinic continues to grow and is an important event for building support for conservation efforts.

Kiap-TU-Wish project work continues. The winter brushing season

was busy with tree removal on Tiffany Creek and Plum Creek, and maintenance brushing along Parker Creek, which was one of the chapter's major restoration projects nearly nine years ago.

Dennis Anderson, an outdoor writer for the Minneapolis StarTribune, attended one of the workdays and wrote up a nice article about the work. Following this, Randy Arnold and other Kiap-TU-Wish volunteers assisted the Wisconsin

Clearwaters Chapter with maintenance work on a previously restored section of Hay Creek south of Bloomer, and with tree and brush removal for the creation of an access and parking lot on Tiffany Creek just outside of Menominee.

Moving into spring, chapter members cleaned and closed up multiple bluebird houses on restoration sites including Pine Creek, the Red Cabin site on the Kinni, and two sites on the Trimbelle. An additional 20 bluebird houses were placed this spring on the Ruenger easement on Hay Creek and on the Gutting easement on the Trimbelle, both sites of restoration work last summer.

A memorial plaque was installed at the Holst easement on the Trimbelle in honor of Mike Holst, owner

of the Holst quarry, which has supplied rock for many of the chapter's past projects. Mike was the driving force behind restoration work along the Trimbelle which runs through his property. Mike passed away just over a year ago but was able to see his restoration dream materialize.

This summer, Kiap-TU-Wish will be assisting the DNR crew with continuation of the restoration work at Wilson Creek just downstream of Knapp. The chapter also anticipates some seeding/mulching workdays on Plum Creek later this summer after the DNR crew has finished restoring 1,800 feet of streambank which we cleared of box elder last winter.

—Mike Alwin, Randy Arnold, and Tom Schnadt

Lakeshore Chapter

Lakeshore Trout Unlimited has had a busy spring. In early 2019, we were awarded a Surface Water Grant from the state for our planned expansion and repair work on the Onion River. So far, we have had several work days and have repaired several LUNKER structures, installed brush bundles and coir logs on stream banks and installed 27 half logs that some club members report have already produced fish.

We have also recently partnered with the Great Lakes Conservancy to assist them in brushing and removing years of debris, garbage and downed trees from Willow Creek on a beautiful piece of land that they acquired in the city of Sheboygan. On top of this we have several

scheduled work days planned on our Nichols Creek project, where we plan to repair streambanks and install structure in this long-neglected stream.

We will have three Trout In the Classroom projects starting this fall with several area schools and have been fortunate to get funding from several area businesses to cover half of those expenses. We continue to see good growth in membership as we have at least one new person show up every month. Hopefully, this trend continues so we can accomplish more great things for our region. Enjoy the summer and tight lines.

—Stephen Girardi

Marinette County Chapter

The Marinette County Chapter had a very successful banquet in April. It was well attended and felt like the good old days. Our chapter had several of its members busy on June 1 with community events. One was Family Fun Day in Menominee, Michigan, which is just across the river from Marinette. At Family Fun Day we had fly-casting and fly-tying demos. Also on June 1 we held a Kids Fishing day in the Coleman

and Pound area. This is located near the center of Marinette County. We hope to get a crew together and do a trail brushing project for access to one or two of the streams in our area. We are working with the other chapters in our region on summer work projects, if the water levels ever come down.

—Dale Lange



MARINETTE CHAPTER'S PETE KURTZ SHOWS FLY TYING

Family Fun Day in Menominee, Michigan allowed Marinette chapter members to help out showing fly tying and casting.

Chapter News



Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter

Spring has been busy for SEW-TU. In April we held our annual chapter update meeting. We also elected our officers for the next two years. Andy, Jim, Stan and I are honored that you elected us. The chapter thanks outgoing President Todd Durian for his hard work the past two years, and I personally thank Todd for the mentorship.

Our chapter meetings have been well attended, and our presentations have been interesting. In April, Craig Amacker from the Madison Fly Fishing Company presented on fishing the Driftless Area spring creeks, and in May John Klinzing from the Glendale Orvis store treated us to a presentation on all the species available on the fly in the Milwaukee river watershed.

Our Habitat Committee has been hard at work planning and executing our restoration projects. Andy Avouglas has stepped up to become the chapter vice president, and we thank him for leading the habitat committee the last two years. At the same time, we welcome new Habitat Committee co-chairs Ken Rizzo and Rick Larkin. Ken and Rick are experienced leaders with passion and insight. We look forward to their direction and vision.

In April the membership teamed up with Milwaukee Riverkeeper to clean up the Menomonee River near Miller Park. Seasonally the Menomonee River provides outstanding salmon and steelhead fishing opportunities. In May the committee pulled a double header; first they worked on the Scuppernong River, while also supporting the DNRs #OutWIGo campaign. The plan being executed at the Scuppernong River is to provide southeastern Wisconsin with a coldwater brook trout fishery, and the DNR #OutWIGo campaign is inspiring future anglers.

Following up on our successes mid-month, our members headed north to team up with the Lakeshore Chapter to stabilize the banks of the Onion River. The Onion River is a great fishery just 45 minutes from downtown Milwaukee. The annual chapter Driftless Area outing was a phenomenal experience. There was fishing, habitat work (we built LUNKERS for Warner Creek), exploring the Driftless Area, a healthy dose of storytelling, and

jokes around the fire. It was hot, the fishing was tough, but the memories will carry on for years. I thank Rick Larkin for going above and beyond to organize this year's outing. I also want to thank all the people who supported this effort. The outing was a team effort, a big lift, and very big success. Everyone with pictures please reach out to me so we can get them on the chapter website.

Now that summer is upon us, the Oak Creek Fly Tying group is in hiatus until September. A big thank you to Greg Schick for organizing those sessions. The sessions are great for beginners and experts. We hope to see a big crowd return in the fall.

John Graba has been leading the Veterans on the Fly program here in the Milwaukee metro area. Every Monday John and many dedicated volunteers are giving back to help those who gave so much for all of us. If you are interested in learning more about our veterans' service program, please ask.

Looking forward into the summer, we have a loaded calendar of events, which you can find on our website. We are adding more as we gather additional information. Our next big event is the July workday out at Tichigan Creek near Watford. We're really bringing the "restore" from our mission statement on this one. In partnership with the DNR, and the local youth conservation club, we're taking this stream from marginal trout water with a duck pond to its natural coldwater state, with brook trout. We're making some history on this one, so RS-VP to get in on this.

On the following week we are holding our July casting clinic, which is a great evening where we all get to take advantage of all the experience in the chapter. Get your favorite rod ready and come out for a good time. In August we're holding our annual family day at Paradise Springs. If you have kids, grandkids, nieces or nephews, bring them out.

My first two months as chapter president have gone by quickly. This is a big chapter, with an ambitious plan to conserve, protect and restore. You have placed a big challenge before me. However, I want to challenge you back. I want to see you at one of our many chapter activities. I want to hear about your passion for trout, and I want to hear



SEW-TU HELPS WITH MEMOMONEE RIVER CLEANUP

In April the SEW-TU membership teamed up with Milwaukee Riverkeeper to clean up the Menomonee River near Miller Park.

your plan for the future of trout. Please check our recently updated website at sewtu.tu.org, get out fish-

ing, and have an adventure.
—John Rennpferd

Southern Wisconsin Chapter

SWTU turns 50 this year, and we're celebrating with a special Golden Anniversary Banquet and Celebration October 24. It will be at the Lussier Family Heritage Center in southeast Madison and feature a tasty meal from 608 Community Kitchen. Watch swtu.org for details on tickets and more.

Our age isn't showing because we're ready for a summer break. While the spring weather may have been lacking, we were full up with action and activity.

Our annual Riversmith Casting Clinic gave seasoned members a chance to pass on some knowledge, while introducing our sport to those interested to try. The free clinic offered 30 community members an opportunity to learn how to cast a fly rod, read the water and understand the wiggly little critters that trout eat. Thanks to all who showed up to learn or teach.

Our trusty Stream Team has been sawing, hacking, stacking, planting and more along some

beautiful stretches of water that needed a little TLC, and a lot less honeysuckle. Improved streams include Gordon Creek, the Sugar River and Steiner Branch in the Yellowstone Wildlife Area.

The workdays are led by Conservation Committee Chair Jim Hess, who has now served the maximum number of years on our board of directors. We thank Jim for his service on the board and are excited to welcome Curt Reidl to our leadership group. Curt is an active chapter member and workday participant.

At press time, our outings with Project Green Teen and the Women's Fishing Clinics are taking place or just wrapping up. We'll share more on those this fall.

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



SEW-TU CONTINUES WORK ON SCUPPERNONG

SEW-TU Chapter members set more coir logs to re-meander the river, and narrow it up.



SWTU'S RIVERSMITH FISHING CLINIC HAD GREAT WEATHER

Trout fishing guide and longtime TU supporter Jim Bartelt shares his casting expertise at SWTU's annual free Riversmith Fishing Clinic.



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Jim Beecher

SWTU'S STREAM TEAM ON THE STEINER BRANCH

Jim Hess (in white) and some of the SWTU Stream Team take a moment to catch their breath and marvel at the difference they're making on a workday at the Steiner Branch in the Yellowstone Wildlife Area.

Wild Rivers Chapter

Much of Wild River's activities this spring centered on youth activities.

Sandy Naas, the Ag, Food & Natural Resource Teacher/FFA Advisor and Natural Resource/Environmental Science teacher has for many years asked Wild Rivers members to assist her with her classes to teach about macroinvertebrates, fly tying and fly fishing in the ponds at the Bayfield Hatchery, where they catch many of the large brook trout stock.

This spring there were 36 students interested in her classes. Thanks much to the Wild Rivers volunteers including Bob Traczyk, Dick Berge, Chuck Campbell, Jim Emerson and Luke Kavajecz.

June 1 was the Annual Kids Fishing Day at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center. Unfortunately it happened the same day as the State Council meeting, so I missed this event for the first time in almost two decades.

The event is coordinated by Su-

san Nelson from the Chequamegon-



Nicolet National Forest and has turned out to be a very popular event. The NGLVC staff does a great job of setting up a number of different learning stations for the young attendees to learn everything concerning fishing, including knots, identification of fish, casting skills and much more.

Our chapter volunteers set up on



Wes Domine



Wes Domine

CLEARWATERS CHAPTER HELPS WITH TROUT DAY

At the recent Buffalo County Trout Day Celebration, an electronic stream fish survey conducted by the DNR impressed young and old spectators with views of many brook trout now thriving in Trout Creek.

one end of a spring pond that holds some very nice brook trout and pan fish.

Most of the fishing is done with small spinning rods and night crawlers and we just help with casting, untangling lines and baiting hooks. It really is fun.

Thank you to this year's volun-

teers, including Jim Emerson and Metro Maznio and first-timers Matt Norton and Mark Mackey. And a special thanks to Sandy Nass and three of her Ashland High School students: Hunter Fisk, Johnny Hobart and Ethan Gessert.

—Bill Heart

Wisconsin Clear Waters

Our spring season kicked off with our annual banquet in late March. Many thanks to our banquet chairman Jim Erickson and to our volunteers and attendees.

Mother Nature played havoc with our regularly scheduled meetings and programs, with many being cancelled due to seemingly endless snowstorms. Programs and meetings will begin again in October.

The WCWTU board approved financial grants for 2019 projects on Traverse Valley Creek and Elk Creek in Trempealeau/Jackson Counties, and on Waumandee Creek in Buffalo County. Work continues on projects on Wilson Creek in Dunn County and Hay Creek in Chippewa County.

The chapter continued its support for Trout Day festivities in our

southern counties with financial assistance and prize items for participants.

The 7th annual Buffalo County Trout Day Celebration was June 8 on Trout Creek near Alma on County II at the family farm of Barry Johnson. The free and family friendly event is held annually in recognition of successful stream restoration projects completed or underway on Buffalo County streams. This year more than 50 attending youths were gifted new fishing equipment items, plus free hotdogs and brats.

Restoration projects stabilize stream banks and reduce sedimentation, thereby improving water quality and creating healthy habitat for fish and numerous other wildlife. Event demonstrations included



WILD RIVERS CHAPTER HELPS WITH YOUTH EVENT

Sandy Nass has for many years asked Wild Rivers members to assist her with her classes to learn about macroinvertebrates, fly tying and fly fishing in the ponds at the Bayfield Hatchery,

Chapter News



water-quality monitoring methods and sampling of present aquatic invertebrates. An electronic stream fish survey conducted by the DNR impressed young and old spectators with views of many brook trout now thriving within the restored stream area. Land conservation professionals were on hand to explain stream restoration activities including bank stabilization, rip rapping, access easements, funding sources, as well as the unique geology of the Driftless Area region. The trout were cooperative this day with trout being caught and tallied during the survey.

Trout Day 2019 was hosted by the Alma Rod & Gun Club with sponsor help from the Fountain City Rod & Gun, Waumandee Rod & Gun Club, Mondovi Conservation Club, Arcadia Sportsmen's Club, the Buffalo County Conservation Alliance, our chapter, the DNR and the Buffalo County Land Conservation Department.

Members of the above-mentioned conservation clubs and agencies are most grateful to the landowners who make these stream restoration projects possible. Their

openness to work with conservation agencies and further grant easements allowing public fishing access is a very significant gift to our communities.

We again offered free fly-casting lessons in Eau Claire. Chapter members Greg Lynch, Lon Christanson and Mike Shanley taught the classes.

WCWTU continued workdays under the able leadership of Matt Wysocki. Workdays will begin again in the fall. However, we do anticipate a summer/late summer/early fall workday to assist with seeding on the Hay Creek (Chippewa County) project after the heavy equipment work is completed.

The WCWTU board has approved establishing two Trout In the Classroom school sites for the upcoming year. Expect to see announcements on the web site and social media sites.

Finally, WCWTU has begun a long-term planning process, which will continue into the next year.

—Dick Duplessie and Wes Domine

Wisconsin River Valley Chapter

At last the days of summer have arrived and as I write this, I have still not wet a line, but have high hopes for getting out in the coming week. This is what is going on in our neck of the woods.

In the last issue I told you about Jacob Pease, an Eagle Scout with an idea on trying to make a difference to conquer invasive species. The design for his boot-wash stations has been approved by the DNR. The next step is to establish the locations. Two will go on the Prairie River, and two will go on the Plover River. When that has been decided and approved by the DNR, we will post the information on our website and Facebook page.

In March we had a group that met at Scanni's to listen to Taylor Curran and Tim Parks from the DNR share with us the current projects being planned or being completed by the fisheries staff. Many thanks to Taylor and Tim for making time to talk with our group and answer questions. It is very much appreciated.

Our thanks to Bob Haase for his April presentation on "Is it the Fly

or is it the Presentation" program. We had another good-sized group. I can't speak for everyone, but I know that I took three pages of notes for myself, so I am hoping for more fishing stories to share. Thank you to everyone who attended.

April 27 was the Rich Chronquist Central Wisconsin Outdoor Youth Day at the George W. Mead Wildlife Center. This was the first time for me at this event and the first time it had been held at the Mead Wildlife Area. It was cloudy and overcast, but a well-attended event. I was fortunate and thankful to be set up close the "Build your own Pudgy Pie" station with a nice warm campfire. It doesn't get much better than that.

I had a young man Christopher and his dad that were planning a fishing trip west. Chris is a very good caster and I'm sure he'll have success on his trip. He needed no help from me. I hope he and his dad have a great trip. I also had the youngest caster I have ever worked with. This young lady was just three years old and could not quite hold a rod by herself. As she waited in line to

watch her siblings try to hit the target, she was anxious to have a turn. As I was helping her, her mother was watching from just beyond the target zone and commented on the big smile that was on my tiny student's face. We worked together and hit the target. Mission accomplished. It was awesome.

In May I headed down to the MacKenzie Center in Poynette for the Wisconsin Outdoor Education Expo. On Wednesday the weather was beautiful, sunny and 80 degrees and surrounded by happy, energetic kids anxious for summer vacation. It feels good to be surrounded by that energy and curiosity and is probably one of the reasons I enjoy helping out. On top of that, there was the scent of apple tree blossoms and the birds were filling the air with their beautiful song. Even the tiny tadpoles were swimming in the pond. These are little treasures to be thankful for.

On day two we were challenged with stormy weather in the morning, but it cleared up in the afternoon. Tying flies in the tent was a challenge without a light. I was able to rig up a tying lamp for myself from the emergency flashlight in my car. It was another great year at the MacKenzie Center.

On May 17 we headed to a smaller, northern version of the Expo called the Taylor County Sportman's Youth Expo. Many thanks to Kirk Stark for helping me with casting with kids. A special shout out to the kids from Phillips. I was casting with a group of six kids and their chaperone and despite the crosswinds we had to deal with, each of them hit the target. Good job!

Thanks also go to Bob Pils, Henry Kanemoto and John Meachan for demonstrating fly tying to the kids

attending the Expo. Thank you so much for supporting this event.

In May we had been thinking of a movie night but the weather was turning summer-like so we decided on a picnic. We had hit a high of 80 degrees just five days before, so naturally on picnic day it would be overcast, windy and feeling like low 50's. On May 21 we gathered at Legion Memorial Park in Hatley on the shore of the Plover River for a picnic and raffle. Many thanks for all the people who ventured out and to John Meachan and our chapter President Kirk for their grilling skills. Not only were the hamburgers tasty, but made good hand warmers.

On June 1 Henry Kanemoto and I volunteered for Kiwanis Kids day in Wisconsin Rapids to demonstrate and to help kids tie flies. Stormy weather was a challenge in the morning, but weather improved in the afternoon and we had some curious kids checking things out.

Upcoming events included the Sporting Heritage Day August 24 at the Wausau School Forest on Hwy KK in Mosinee. This event is hosted by the Wausau Noon Optimists and you can find information on their Facebook page under Events. This event usually has around 200 kids accompanied by a parent or guardian. If you are able to demonstrate fly tying or help teach a kid, or a grown-up, how to cast, please let me know.

After the Bob Haase presentation I was very happy to meet Dana Anderson from kamokids.org, an organization that matches mentors with kids. They can take them canoeing, fishing, camping, wildlife viewing and hiking. Mentors are required to pass a background check.

Have a great summer, everyone.

—Linda Lehman

Wolf River Chapter

Greetings from the mighty Wolf River. Spring is always a busy time for the Wolf River Chapter. After the snow finally melted, 34 beaver were relocated from upper Ninemile Creek to prepare for more summertime beaver dam removal to ensure coldwater flow into the Wolf River. Andy Killoren is planning numerous work days to get this challenging work done. Mosquitoes will definitely be a factor this year, so be prepared.

The Wolf River Meet & Greet in May was well attended and enjoyed by many. Three new mem-

bers joined the chapter during the event. The river was running quite high and fast, so high that only the truly brave were willing to wade. A few fish were caught that day and the legendary lunch at Livingston's was moved into the garage as the weather was a little inclement. The Green Bay Chapter joined us for lunch after working on a local project in the morning. Everyone had a great time and a lot of laughs.

According to Tim Waters, the Wolf ran high all spring. Very high. This limited the places to fish. He said surface action began in late



WISCONSIN RIVER VALLEY CHAPTER TEACHES YOUTH

Kirk Stark instructs on casting at the Taylor County Sportsman's Youth Expo.



FISHING THE WOLF RIVER DURING THE MEET AND GREET

Caitlin Brotz fishes the Wolf River during the Wolf River Chapter's annual Meet & Greet event.

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

The 2018 Friends of Wisconsin TU campaign has been another unbelievable success. We surpassed 150 generous donators and have raised more than \$18,000!

For 2019, six grants have been issued. Wild Rivers, CWTU and Antigo Chapters received a combined \$5,000 to support multiple habitat crews. Coulee Chapter received \$2,000 for work on Vernon County stream repairs from recent flooding. Lakeshore Chapter received \$2,000 for work on Nichols Creek. And lastly, the Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter received \$2,000 for work to be done on Six Mile Creek.

A common question/comment I receive is from generous donators wanting to ensure their money is spent on habitat work. There are no overhead costs for this program. All funds go directly back into various grants for stream work.

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

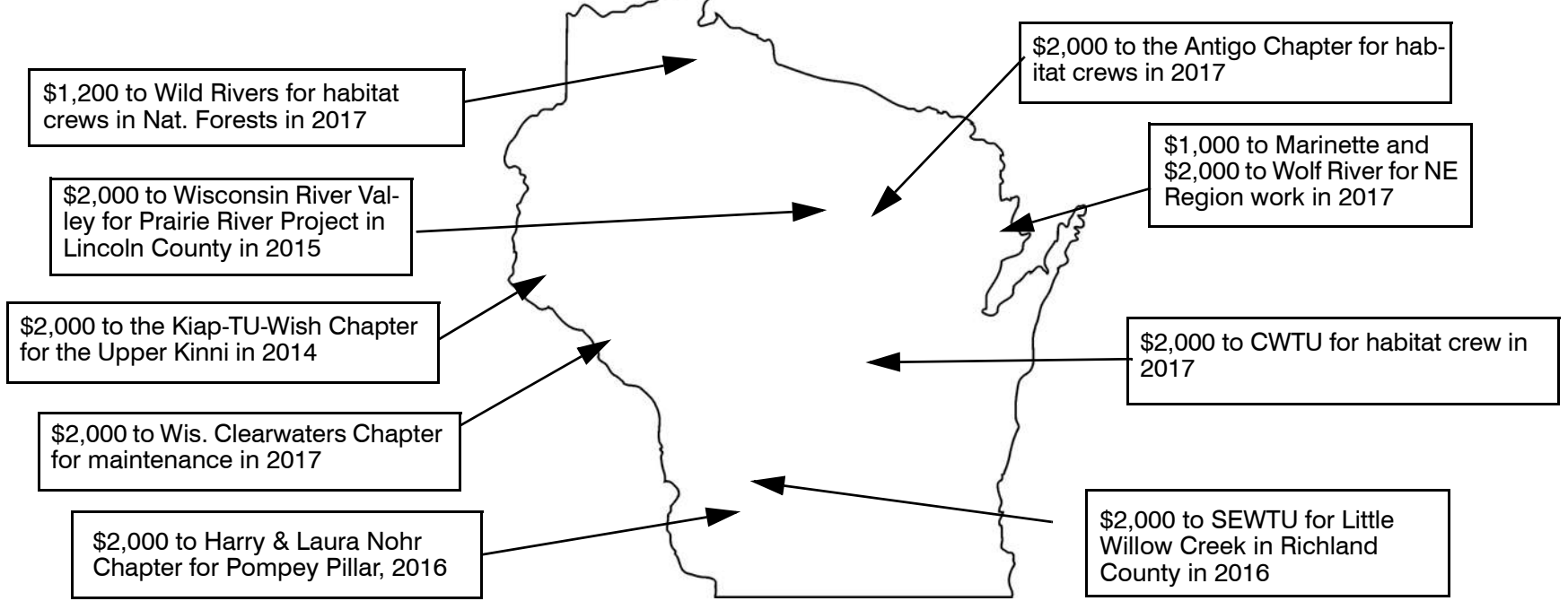
I hope you are enjoying your fishing season and getting out to enjoy our wonderful trout streams.

Doug Brown



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
- 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
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Yes, I want to join the "Friends" of Wisconsin TU.
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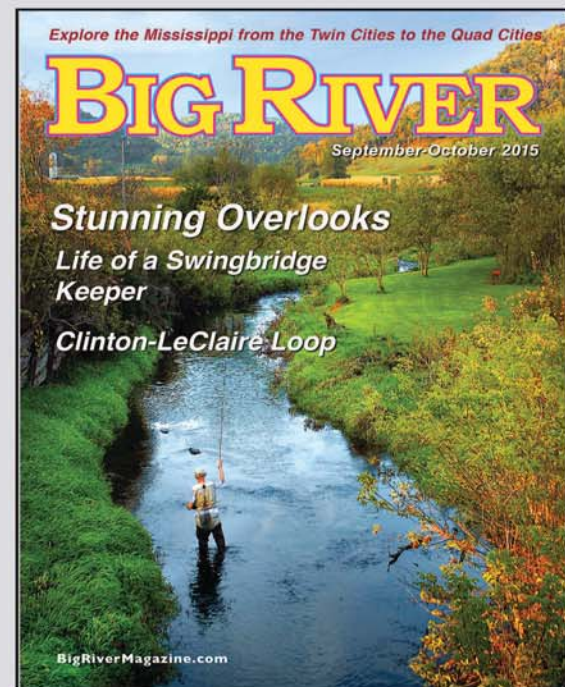
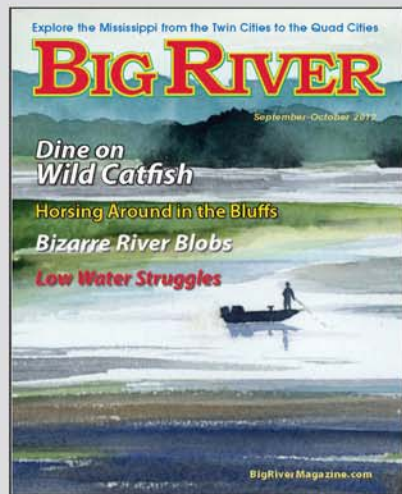
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With easements, landowners deserve our utmost respect

This spring the weather discombobulated our fishing in these parts. More than normal rain, late snowfalls, cool days and very little sunshine all made a fishing outing or visit an unpredictable crapshoot. There were some days when a hatch came off when you'd expect it and the fishing was excellent, followed by days when almost nothing happened.

Now, in early June, we're mostly combobulated. Hatches seem to be catching up and may be telescoping into a shorter period. Spring ephemerals—the clock by which I watch for most hatches—are late but progressing fast. Morel season (My old legal secretary who couldn't spell made it moral mushrooms.) went quite late, and even now people are still finding them.

Our area has been busy with angling groups, visiting TU members from around the country, including some staff groups and chapter visits. License plates from states like Missouri, Ohio, Michigan and Nebraska are parked in some of my favorite parking spots, but that just means the "signature" streams are busy. Go one or two streams over, and, you might have it to yourself.

But with angling pressure also comes a need for some basic courtesy from each of us. We've had some problems with that and some pushback from landowners here

around Vernon County. Here's a lesson for us all.

One landowner bought his property on the Esofea Branch of the North Fork Bad Axe some 15 years after a previous owner had granted a fishing easement to Vernon County and former county conservationist Jeff Hastings (now TUDARE's Project Manager) and the NRCS had combined to do a nice project through a half mile of stream.

NRCS dollars, county dollars and TU dollars went into the project costs, and it cost the landowner

not a penny. The stretch fishes very well and has been regularly used. The new owner found lots to complain about. People were using the easement for purposes other than fishing. They picnicked, pooped, hunted morels, talked to his daughter, used his driveway,

petted his horse, and walked through his yard.

This landowner had no signs marking the easement, for which I fault the county conservation department (and maybe TU itself?). And when we anglers used the easement for many purposes other than the legal one, he was taking note.

The easement was a form used by Vernon County for many years, giving a 20-year term with a 20-year renewal unless a landowner objected and gave the county the time to cure his complaints.

The county didn't do anything but offer signage, which the land-

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owner declined. When the county conservationist expressed his intent to cancel the easement when 20 years ended in April, TU asked the county land conservation committee (made up of county board members who are all landowners, including one with a perpetual DNR easement), not to cancel it.

Several TU members who regularly visit the area wrote to the committee and urged the easement be kept. The committee disagreed, listened to the complaining landowner, and cancelled the easement.

So we lost that one, including some funds contributed by TU chapters. What's that tell us? Well, the county has some two dozen easements, all of the 20-and-20 variety. Other counties have adopted a perpetual easement requirement, which is in line with Wisconsin TU policy which says if we are to contribute to a project, hours or dollars, it must have a legal, perpetual easement in place. Monroe County has about 85 such easements, and they are getting no complaints from landowners.

Vernon County's conservationist now tells us he is striving for perpetual easements, but doesn't have an easement form to offer yet.

We also think the counties around here could do a much better job of informing anglers where easements are located. Monroe County has its easements mapped on the recreation map on its website. Buf-

falo County maps its easements through the UW-Extension website, and will soon have a folder available showing all easements. But it's not often you can find a printed copy of maps showing where all the easements in a county are located. Wouldn't you pay five or ten bucks for such a folder? I sure would.

Anglers need to know where landowners want them to park and how to access the streambank easement. In some cases, the county expects you'll knock on a door and ask. Anglers need to be reminded they've been granted a privilege and ought to be thankful for it. Also, they ought to thank the landowner when they get the chance. That goes a long, long way. Besides, these are good folks who are conservation-minded and generally hospitable, and can be very interesting.

Meanwhile, what should anglers do? Doggonit, act like a guest, not like some privileged grandee. If you want to have a picnic, keep the folding tables and the candelabra in the car until you find a piece of undoubtedly public ground to dine on. Or, ask the landowner. We've had a landowner decline to sell an easement to DNR because an out-of-state angler wouldn't listen when the landowner said there wasn't an easement on that reach. "Now, I just call the sheriff and have them cited for trespassing," the landowner said. Landowners often mention dogs when we talk. They don't want dogs in their pastures, or along the easement. The only signs our county posts right now say, "No Dogs".

Some visiting anglers assume there's an easement and go fishing, without actually knowing what the easement terms are. Some easements are 66 feet on each side of the stream (like most DNR easements), but county-held or club-held easements might be 33 feet.

Often, too, an angler access path from the road to the easement is poorly marked. If you can see a small feeder stream and don't know where the access path is located, wade in the feeder to the stream you want to fish. In the case of DNR easements, they can all be found on the DNR website.

Another thing that sets landowners off is anglers who poop in their woods and leave a pile topped by toilet paper next to a tree. Walking a path away from a stream and finding a pile is a disgusting commentary on anglers' attitudes.

Check out the "Leave No Trace" website (leavenotrace.org) and find out about disposing of your waste properly. A cat hole about 6-8 inches deep in an unobtrusive place should handle most everything you need to leave, organically speaking. When you're done, cover it up with dirt and bark or duff so there is no sign you were there. Of course, you can carry a plastic bag to carry your stuff out, but we should have good degradation here in cat holes.



TAINTER CREEK STREAM DAY A BIG SUCCESS

Nearly 100 Tainter Creek Stream Day participants watched DNR Fisheries Biologist Kirk Olson (Center) and Technician Todd Mauel (left) report on the stream's trout population as host landowner Mark Olson (right) helped out.