



Wisconsin Trout

Fall 2019

Banquet February 1

Join us at the 2020 Wisconsin State Council Banquet Saturday, February 1 at the Oshkosh Best Western Premier Waterfront Hotel and Convention Center.

This banquet is a major fundraiser for the Council and has seen growing attendance each year. So get your tickets soon.

There will be a block of hotel rooms available with reduced rates for banquet attendees.

The evening will feature our annual awards presentation, plus thousands of dollars worth of prizes.

For more information see the advertisement on page 2.

We are also inviting groups and individuals to be sponsors of the banquet. For more information see the advertisement on page 32.

Daytime activities include the Council meeting and Women's Fishing Clinic. See the Winter issue of *Wisconsin Trout* for more details.



Bob Haase

THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE STATE COUNCIL YOUTH CAMP IS FISHING ON SUNDAY

Kyle Siebers left, mentors Colton Mielke on the Pine River near Wild Rose. Kyle works with the DNR and volunteered his time to help mentor a student Sunday morning. Members of the DNR habitat crew from Wild Rose volunteer their time for mentoring and presenting programs as part of the camp. For a complete report and more photos, turn to page 14.

Council meets Oct. 12 in Antigo

Join us in Antigo for our Fall State Council Meeting on Saturday, Oct. 12. We'll start at 9 a.m. and run until about 1:30 p.m. That should give you plenty of time to get out and enjoy the last weekend of the inland trout season.

The meeting will be held in the banquet facility at Game On Sports Bar, 623 Edison St. in Antigo. Please RSVP to Mike Kuhr at mikek.trout@yahoo.com or (414) 588-4281. The Antigo TU Chapter has generously offered to provide lunch, but we'll need an accurate head count.



YOU HAVE TO SELECT THE CORRECT FLY

Ira Giese helps Caden McGuire select a good fly to start out with. Students were paired with volunteer fishing mentors and spent Sunday morning fishing streams in the Wild Rose area.

Driftless Projects Bus Tour October 16

This year's fall bus tour will focus on northern Driftless Area Wisconsin projects.

Join the Annual Driftless Projects Bus Tour on Wednesday, October 16 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This year we will focus on projects carried out with the strong partnership led by the Kiap-TU-Wish and Wisconsin Clear Waters TU chapters, Wisconsin DNR and others in the northern Driftless Area between Hudson and Menomonie, Wisconsin. We'll visit a brand-new and innovative project on Wilson Creek near Knapp, an established project on Gilbert Creek, and the first major project along Plum Creek near Plum City. Traveling on a chartered 56-person tour bus, we'll be able to see work done by DNR's Eau Claire Trout Habitat Projects crew and dedicated—and very busy—TU volunteers.

Who will be interested? Anybody who is curious about stream and watershed projects across the Driftless Area, such as landowners, project designers, biologists, anglers, ecologists, contractors, engineers, guides, media representatives and more. We've invited project managers, designers and the equipment operators and biologists to be on hand to discuss the impacts on the streams and their watersheds. Come and ask questions and see innovative restoration practices in use on these streams.

The tour is free, but freewill donations are welcome to help defray costs of the bus and a tasty lunch.

Advance signup is necessary to allow us to plan lunches and know when the bus is full. Once all seats are reserved, you are welcome to follow in a private vehicle but we ask that you sign up—sooner better than later—if you want to join us for lunch.

We will be leaving from the Carmichael Road Park & Ride Lot, Exit 2, Hudson, Wisconsin. We will visit: Wilson Creek along County Highway O, near Knapp; Gilbert Creek below Highway 29, near Menomonie; and Plum Creek below County Highway U, near Plum City. Lunch will be provided.

To register or for more information contact Duke Welter, TU Driftless Area Restoration Effort at dwelter@tu.org or 715-579-7538. Or contact Jeff Hastings at 608-606-4158.

2020 Wisconsin TU State Council Banquet

Saturday, Feb. 1, 2020

Best Western Premier Waterfront Hotel and
Convention Center
1 North Main St., Oshkosh, WI 54901
Doors & Cash Bar @ 4:30 pm
Dinner Seating @ 6:30 pm

For more info or to purchase tickets visit:
<http://wiscotu.brownpapertickets.com>

Register by Dec. 31 to receive complimentary bucket raffle tickets

Name: _____

Phone or Email: _____

of tickets @ \$35 ea.: _____

My check (payable to Wisconsin TU) is enclosed

I am unable to attend but will support Wisconsin TU with this donation

Mail to: Jen Kuhr 6103 Queens Way Monona, WI 53716

Chair's Column

Why TU?

By Mike Kuhr Wisconsin TU State Council Chair

On a recent canoe trip down the Bois Brule River, I was asked why I volunteer, and more specifically, why I do it for TU. I gave a simplistic fatherly response: "I'm doing this for my kids – so they can have the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors just like I have." Upon further reflection, I realized it's much more than that.

Don't get me wrong. Kids are a big part of my drive to volunteer. Not just my kids, but your children and grandchildren too. I'm not sure either of my daughters will be hardcore trout anglers in 30 years, but I know that our efforts mean that someone's kids will be.

And regardless of how much they get out on the water, we all have a right to access and use these public places. We owe it to the next generation to leave our public lands and waters a little better than we found them, right?

My volunteering motivation has certainly evolved over the years.

I was drawn to TU in my mid 20's. Having recently moved to Milwaukee and not knowing anyone in the area who fished, I'd sit and stare at the Milwaukee River flowing through town and think that there must be people out there who know how to approach this.

At the third SEWTU meeting I attended, John Knitter sat down next to me. He was a Vietnam Veteran, short in stature with a big heart and an even bigger belly. He opened up his fly box and started

telling stories about the river. I was hooked.

Our chapter was in a lull at the time. We didn't have any habitat workdays coming up. The old guard was diligently holding the organization together, waiting for the next wave of new volunteers to come along and move the chapter forward.

John also volunteered for a local non-profit, Milwaukee Riverkeeper, and he was the site captain for one of the spring clean-up spots on the river. For three hours on a Saturday in April, us anglers would get together and pull garbage out of the water. Plastic bags, tires, candy wrappers, shopping carts, toilets, box spring mattresses – they all have a way of accumulating in urban waterbodies. Getting some of it out of the river every now and then was the least we could do.

It was about this time that folks named Vetrano, Koltz, Durian, Freund and others became active in moving that local chapter forward. We started having monthly workdays – on actual trout streams.

We continued cleaning up the garbage, but we were also creating vortex weirs, plunge pools, and better spawning habitat. Better habitat meant more and larger fish. We were ensuring success on our future fishing outings.

Then the Recession hit, and on a personal level, things got real serious, real fast. I was laid off just before Christmas of 2009, as jobs in the architectural field were drying up faster than the Colorado River in a drought year. We were three years



FLOATING ON THE BOIS BRULE INSPIRES INTROSPECTION

On a recent canoe trip down the Bois Brule River, someone asked Mike Kuhr why he volunteers for TU. His motivations can inspire all of us.

into our first mortgage with a 1-year-old baby at home. For the first time in my adult life I was generating no income. My self-esteem was at an all-time low.

Our TU Chapter President Henry Koltz called me on the eve of my best friend's wedding. I remember that night well. I was wearing a smile on the outside, but inside I was in a pretty dark place. He said he needed me to help get the chapter involved in a program called Project Healing Waters. I knew nothing about it but eagerly jumped at the opportunity.

Soon I was waist deep in memorandums of agreement, volunteer spreadsheets, program budgets, and dirty diapers (at home). It was exactly what I needed when I needed it most. I had the best people on my side (TU volunteers) working within

the VA hospital to do what we could to help reconnect military veterans to the outdoors.

I'm not sure where I'd be right now if Henry hadn't made that call, or if John hadn't opened his fly box and started telling stories at the Bavarian Wurst Haus. But I do know the best thing TU has to offer is its people. Volunteers standing shoulder to shoulder doing what needs to be done.

So ask me again, why do I do it? For the fish. For the water. For my friends. For the kids. For myself. It's all of the above. Because someone before us took up the task of making things a little bit better and someone after us will do the same.

Right now is our time. Let's pull up our sleeves, get in the water and roll some rock.

WITU hosts "Partners Paddle"

By Mike Kuhr, State Council Chair

It's known as the President's River, but on this sunny day in August, the Bois Brule River in Northern Wisconsin welcomed U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin (D-Wisconsin), several of her staff, and a number of conservationists for a paddle down its famed trout waters.

Senator Baldwin was just finishing up a weeklong tour of Wisconsin's Northwoods, highlighting the importance of clean water at every stop. Wisconsin TU was eager to share our conservation success stories and we could think of no better way than to spend some time on the water together canoeing the Bois Brule.

State Council Chair Mike Kuhr and Secretary Bob Rice (a recent president of the local Wild Rivers Chapter) were in the stern of two canoes to talk about the importance of watershed restoration, public land and water access, and the thriving outdoor recreation economy in Wisconsin. It's estimated that consumers spend \$17.9 billion annually in Wisconsin on outdoor recreation, according to the Outdoor Industry Association.

As we put in at the Stone's Bridge Landing, we thanked Sen. Baldwin for her support of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), a federal program aimed at protecting and restoring the largest system of fresh surface water in the world. TU's Great Lakes Stream Restoration Manager, Chris Collier, attended and provided insights from his experience working directly on GLRI-funded stream projects in Wisconsin.

One of TU's best GLRI project partners is the U.S. Forest Service. We invited one of their fisheries biologists, Sue Reinecke, to come paddle with us. Sue has spent decades improving the waters in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. Many of these projects have included support from local TU chapters and in recent years leveraged GLRI funds to accomplish their goals.

We were happy to have Bryce Schmidt from Wisconsin Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (BHA) along as well. Threats to our public lands seem to be coming at us faster than the next set of rapids and we're glad to have the good people of BHA on our side. Bryce highlighted the importance of the recent permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund and thanked Sen. Baldwin for her support. These investments in public land and water access are giving all Americans an opportunity to enjoy the outdoors.

Bob Banks, from the Brule River Coalition, was our guide on the Bois Brule. Bob seems to know every rock, bend and downed tree in the river. He's well versed in the history of the Brule, threats to its health, and local conservation efforts to preserve and enhance it. He was quick to point out a pair of osprey overhead, and the many springs and seeps below whose sandy upwelling were quite visible.

Halfway through the four-hour canoe trip, our party took a break at the



CHAIR MIKE KUHR PADDLES SEN. TAMMY BALDWIN ON THE BOIS BRULE

"Summer White House," located on the Cedar Island Conservancy property. Yes, this was the place President Calvin Coolidge famously spent the summer of 1928, hence the nickname. The caretakers had a lite lunch ready for us, and after a quick tour of the building, a history lesson and a group photo on the shore, we were back on our way downstream.

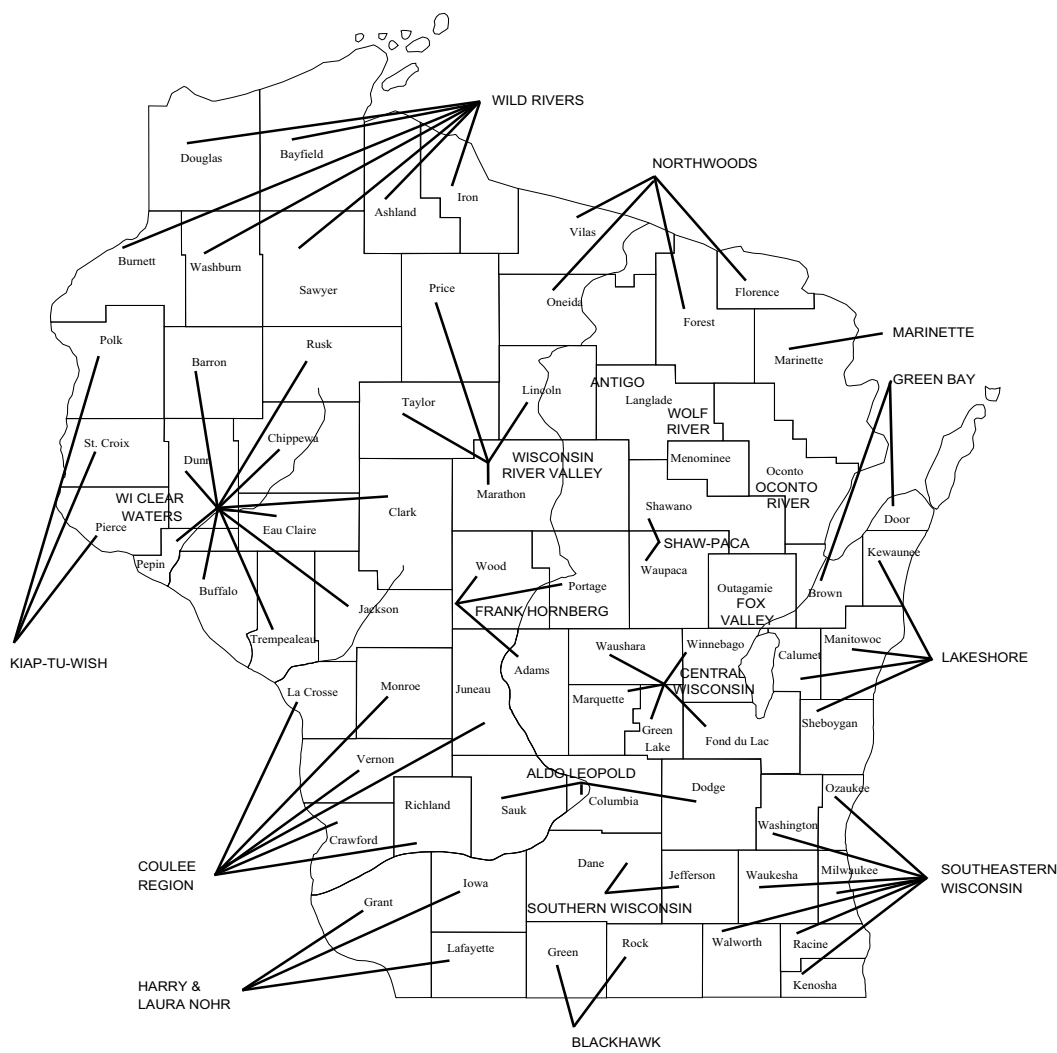
This stretch of the river is home to a good population of native brook trout and some wary brown trout. We passed several anglers out wetting a line under the bluebird skies. We also pointed out several wing dams and piles of spawning gravel – restoration projects the Brule River Sportsmen's Club and local TU chapter have taken up over the years.

The shoreline is mostly protected, either state forest or conservation easement land. There is private property in areas, but the quaint cabins do not detract from the natural beauty of the Bois Brule. Before long, the Winneboujou landing was in sight and our nine-mile paddle had come to an end. The fine folks at Brule River Canoe Rental had a shuttle waiting to take us back to the shop. If you're in the area, we highly recommend them.

Wisconsin TU would like to thank Brule River Canoe Rental, Great Lakes Advocacy Organizer Taylor Ridderbusch and Kelly Westlund from Sen. Baldwin's Ashland office for their help in bringing together our partners to paddle the Bois Brule River.

The eleven of us left with renewed spirits, ready to move organizations, agencies and legislative bodies with a common goal of making sure that the next generation of Americans will have the opportunity to experience all that our woods and waters offer.

Wisconsin TU Chapters, Presidents, and Websites



Visit the Wisconsin State Council's web site at wicouncil.tu.org, or find us on Facebook.

- Aldo Leopold (#375):** Mike Barniskis, 805 S. Center St., Beaver Dam WI 53916; barniskis@yahoo.com; aldoleopold.tu.org
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State Council Leadership

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Vice Chair, Northeast Region: Dale Lange, See Marinette Coun-ty above.

Vice Chair, Southern Region: Scot Stewart, 345 Pine Way, Oregon, WI 53575 (608) 345-8694; scotstewart2@gmail.com

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Friends of WITU and Watershed Access Fund Grant Coordinator: Kim McCarthy, 736 Meadow-brook Court, Green Bay, WI 54313; 920-639-3697; kjmccarthy75@gmail.com.

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Advocacy Chair: Henry Koltz

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Veterans Services Partnership Co-ordinator: Mike Burda; 608-332-0397; northernlightsreef@ya-hoo.com.

Website: Brandon Schmalz schmalz.dev@gmail.com

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

Are you getting emails from TU?

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

WISCONSIN TROUT

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

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State Council Officers

Executive Committee includes officers and vice chairs

Mike Kuhr, Chair

Scott Allen, Vice Chair

Bob Rice, Secretary

Gary Stoychoff, Treasurer

Clean Water Rule rollback proposed

Also, updates on Asian carp and the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

By Taylor Ridderbusch, TU Great Lakes Organizer

On September 12 the Environmental Protection Agency and Army Corps of Engineers announced a rollback of protections for millions of miles of streams that provide drinking water for one in three Americans and critical water and habitat for fish and wildlife populations.

The final rule, which “repeals” the 2015 Clean Water Rule, making way for the anticipated “replacement” rule, takes another step toward eliminating protection for millions of stream miles and many wetlands, a critical component to functioning watersheds. The replacement rule is expected to be finalized later in 2019 by the agencies.

The final rule will undermine common sense regulation of a host of development activities, such as pipeline construction that will, over time, degrade hunting and fishing opportunities in every state in the country.

Using the Clean Water Act to protect headwater streams is especially valuable to Trout Unlimited. At a basic level, 59 percent of rivers and stream miles in the lower 48 states are intermittent or ephemeral (i.e., they are small or headwater streams that do not flow year-round). In Wisconsin, there are 81,571 miles of streams mapped by the U.S. Geological Survey. Of that total 58 percent are mapped as “intermittent,” while ephemeral streams are not mapped. TU estimates that for every mile of mapped stream in Wisconsin, there are 1.4 miles of unmapped ephemeral streams. That means there are poten-

tially more than 114,000 miles of ephemeral streams in the state that could lose Clean Water Act protections.

TU members, and sportsmen and women nationwide, want to move forward with progress on cleaning up our nation’s waters, not go backwards. Please join us in writing to tell the agencies that the Clean Water Act needs to be improved, not weakened. The proposed replacement rule should be rejected.

“There are potentially more than 114,000 miles of ephemeral streams in the state that could lose Clean Water Act protections.”

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, Ill. 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.

As of September 13, the Senate Energy and Water Committee submitted a report recommending full funding for continuing the work of the Great Lakes—Mississippi River Interbasin Study and for electric barrier operation. The report language included a recommendation to begin pre-construction engineering and design, as well as directing the Corps to provide quarterly updates on the project to Congress.

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

Great Lakes senators, including Sen. Tammy Baldwin, have introduced a GLRI reau-

thorization bill (S. 2295) that would increase GLRI funding from \$300 million to \$475 million by 2026. TU will support reauthorization efforts by continuing to demonstrate to Congress how effective GLRI can be at restoring river systems and detailing the need for more funding for expanded restoration efforts across the region.



HELP US RECOGNIZE THOSE WHO DESERVE IT!

Do you know an individual or organization deserving of recognition from the State Council? Please let us know. Details below.

Nominations sought for 2020 State Council awards

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

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

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

Please submit your nominations, including a short narrative, to Awards Committee Chair Todd Franklin by November 1, 2019. Please contact Todd if you have any questions. His email address is toddfranklinwistrout@gmail.com and his other contact information is on page 4.

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

Wisconsin State Council Awards

Resource Award of Merit

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

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

Gold Trout Award for Service

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

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

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

Silver Trout Award for Chapter Merit

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

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

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

Gold Net Award

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

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

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

Joan and Lee Wulff Award for Outstanding Conservation Leadership

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

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

Robert Hunt Resource Professional Award

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

Corporate Sponsor Award

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

Certificate of Appreciation

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

Tomorrow’s Angler Award

Individuals who have significantly contributed to youth education.

SPECIAL AWARDS:

Jeffrey Carlson Leadership Award

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

Unsung Valuable Trout

Reel Partner Award

Reel Recovery hooks cancer survivors up with trout



Jeremy Southworth

HIS FIRST TROUT WAS A BROOKIE!

Reel Recovery participant Douglass Mann caught his first trout on the fly, and it was a beautiful brook trout.

By Jeremy Southworth

Each September since 2012, the Driftless Area near Onalaska has welcomed a new group of men who have been affected by cancer. Reel Recovery is an organization that started in 2003 in

Loveland, Colorado with a group of fly-fisherman who had a friend who had brain cancer named Stu Brown who, while fishing, was able to briefly forget about his battle with cancer. Seeing how fly fishing had a positive impact on Stu, they looked for a way to

share this experience with others across the country. So began Reel Recovery, the non-profit organization which provides three-day retreats completely free, providing all the gear as well.

In 2019 Reel Recovery will host 32 retreats across the country with the Wisconsin retreat being the 316th since its inception in 2003 and will have served more than 3,500 men effected by cancer. Each retreat combines several "courageous conversations" with fly-fishing instruction and time on streams putting their new skills to use. The "courageous conversations" are guided by a licensed facilitator asking open-ended questions that allow the participants an opportunity to share their stories of cancer with others who have traveled down similar paths.

In early September the Midwest Reel Recovery Retreat welcomed its newest group of men to their Onalaska retreat, which has been made possible through generous donations and great financial support from the members of UA 434, which hosts a charity golf outing each summer in Tomah. This group has also been extremely successful due in part to the generosity of our volunteer staff made up of fly-fishing enthusiasts from many local TU chapters including but not limited to the Coulee Region, Southeast Wisconsin, Wisconsin Clear Waters, Fox Valley chapter in Wisconsin and the Hiawatha Chapter from Minnesota. Thank you to those volunteers who truly make the event what it is.

The weather cooperated for the entire retreat, and all participants went home with newfound friendships, a support group and new fly-fishing skills and stories of both missed and caught trout. Everyone had a great time, which

was apparent by the many laughs, stories being told and hugs and hand-shakes that took place amongst the participants and volunteers.

If you are interested in volunteering in any capacity (fishing buddy, coordinator, fundraiser, etc.) please visit reelrecovery.org for more information. Do you know of a man that has been affected by cancer that you feel would or could benefit from attending one of these retreats? If so, please share this organization with them as well.

The Midwest Retreat is actively looking for a new State Coordinator to organize the Midwest retreat. There are a lot of really good members of the Wisconsin TU community who would do well in that role, and the retreat can move to any location if the new coordinator chooses to move it.

The national organization does a really good job of helping coordinators transition into the role and helps them along the way with any questions or concerns that arise. Interested individuals just need to sign up on the regular volunteer page for Reel Recovery and the national individuals will help them from there.



Scott W. Grady
Rodmaker

Split Bamboo Rods

New, repairs, restoration, appraisals
Rodmaking Tools and Advice

Call or email Scott for details at
920/687-0987 or oossg@vbe.com

Wisconsin Great Lakes Stream Restoration Program update

By Chris Collier, Great Lakes Stream Restoration Manager

Summer is quickly coming to a close, which also means wrapping up construction season on road-stream crossing projects.

In partnership with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), we replaced six crossings, reconnecting more than 30 miles of coldwater habitat this year.

We also signed an agreement to extend our partnership on these projects with the USFS for five more years. The agreement sets us up to continue surveying, designing, and replacing road-stream crossings, assisting with design work on spring pond habitat projects, and starting a multi-year habitat improvement effort on the Border Brule River.

Needless to say, we are excited to see our partnership continue to grow.

In late July we joined USFS staff to collect in-stream habitat data for future restoration projects on the Border Brule.

The goal of this project is to restore year-round brook trout habitat to the river. The present day state of the river, degraded primarily by logging practices, severely limits brook trout habitat in what should be a prime trout river.

Data we collected included in-

stream large-wood structure and stream-bed composition. This information will help us design restoration projects to improve the river to conditions more supportive of brook trout. Look for updates on this exciting project over the next several years.

Road-stream crossings and river habitat work with the USFS were not the only projects keeping us busy this summer. Our interns, Jake and Maddi, had a very productive season inventorying more than 75 crossings in northeast Wisconsin. The data they collected will help us continue to identify fish passage barriers and plan projects for years to come.

Jake and Maddi also helped with the Border Brule surveys, assisted partners on trout surveys, and helped on a project to determine if natural stream structures or a culvert is blocking fish passage near Barney Springs. Jake and Maddi worked tirelessly this summer and I count myself lucky to have had two exceptional interns. A big thank you to both of them. We all wish them good luck as they continue on with school and their careers.

While the busy summer season is coming to a close, work doesn't stop with cooler temperatures and fall colors. At the end of September we will be hosting a road-stream crossing workshop to teach tribal, local



Eric Cromell, U.S. Forest Service

NEW CROSSING INSTALLED ON SOUTH OTTER CREEK

and state officials the specifics of designing crossings that improve fish passage and flood resiliency. This workshop is aimed to build on our effort to engage local governments and encourage use of more effective road-stream-crossing designs.

We are going to be completing several road-stream-crossing surveys in October and November to

start designing crossings for future construction projects.

As a final note, if you or your chapter are interested in learning more about any of the projects or finding a way to get involved with them, please contact me at (419) 296-4390 or chris.collier@tu.org. I hope you all have a great fall on the water. See you out there!

Sharing the joys of fishing

This “River Buddy” embraces his opportunity to share his fishing and outdoor passions with aspiring women anglers.

By Bill Heart

In early June I attended my third Women’s Fly Fishing Clinic at the West Fork Sports Club in Avalanche, where I served as a “River Buddy.” Tina Murray from the Southern Wisconsin Chapter started this wonderful event in 2009, and it has been a successful event ever since. This year more than 75 women and nearly 25 men spent three days in the Driftless Area learning all about fly fishing for trout. Almost all aspects of trout fishing are covered, from stream shocking and entomology, fish identification, fly tying and casting technique, conservation and fishing etiquette. It’s a great primer for aspiring anglers.

This event continues to amaze me and has delivered some amazing situations that rise above just fly fishing. The anglers are matched up with the River Buddies by luck of a draw with numbered poker chips, so you never know who you will be fishing with. One of my first anglers was a young woman who had just recently retired from the Army. All of the rivers were fairly high after a hard morning rain, so as we left for the on-stream portion of the clinic, I decided to make about a 45-minute drive to one of my favorite headwater rivers, so we had time to talk about fishing and life. It turns out that this student angler didn’t just retire from the Army, she was involved in a road-side bomb incident and was seriously injured. Here I was taking a wounded veteran/woman fly fishing. How special was that?

But then we started talking about fishing and she asked what style of fishing that I enjoyed most. She just smiled when I told her that I loved fishing with streamers, and it turned out that was exactly what she wanted to work on. We geared up and started walking upstream and casting into likely holes and deeper runs. After a few snags in the grass along the stream, we finally were able to catch a number of nice little brown trout.

On the drive back we stopped at a neat little place that I try to stop at often, just because it’s so beautiful. It’s a brushy little spot on another headwater stream which is pretty much unfishable, but if you quietly crawl into the brush to the stream there are usually a number small brook and brown trout just lazily swimming in a deep crystal clear hole. I can lay there for an hour just watching those little trout feed and hang out in a secluded place.

It seems that every year has a group of very special women who are excited about learning how to spend more time on our beautiful trout streams in the Driftless Area. This past June I took another student to a totally different part of the Driftless Area on another small headwater stream, where she was able to land a number of nice browns that were taking small Parachute Adams. As we were fishing, a small rain shower showed up and when we looked to the south, there was a beautiful full rainbow arcing over one of the Driftless Area ridges. We just stopped fishing and en-

joyed the view. Like I said earlier, it’s not just about the fishing.

I will definitely be volunteering for this event again, and I hope you’ll consider doing the same. Next year the Women’s on the Water Skills Clinic will be June 17-19 and

the Women’s Basics Clinics will be June 19-21. Riverbuddy Training Clinics are June 19 and June 20. For more information go to Wisconsin-womensflyfishing@gmail.com. Registration information will be available soon.



Pam Van Ercom

THE FISH WEREN'T THE ONLY ONES SHOCKED

Fish shocking pulled up a beautiful fish, and you can see the amazement on the faces of Hillary Pennella of Minnesota and Lisa Gilmore of Illinois.



Amy Priester

WOMEN'S ON THE WATER SKILLS CLINIC PARTICIPANTS



WOMEN'S BASIC SKILLS CLINIC PARTICIPANTS



RIVERBUDDIES CELEBRATED 10 YEARS OF SUCCESS

Book Review

“The Feather Thief” — Beauty, Obsession, and the Natural History Heist of the Century

By Mike Stapleton

In 2007, 17-year-old Edwin Rist of Claverick, New York, was an up-and-coming flute player about to begin his enrollment in the prestigious Royal Academy of Music in England. At the same time, the multi-talented Rist was also developing an international reputation as one of the finest young tyers of classic Victorian salmon flies in the world.

Four years later, in 2011, Rist was also a convicted thief, having been found guilty of breaking into the British Museum of Natural History in Tring, England, in 2009, to steal a suitcase full of rare, valuable and historically significant bird skins of the type coveted worldwide by tyers of classic Victorian salmon flies.

The story of this unusual burglary, with many significant twists and turns, extensive historical information on the exotic feathers coveted by fly tyers, and the author’s own investigation is chronicled by Kirk Wallace Johnson in “The Feather Thief” (Viking, an imprint of Penguin Random House LLC, 248 pages, 2018, \$27.00).

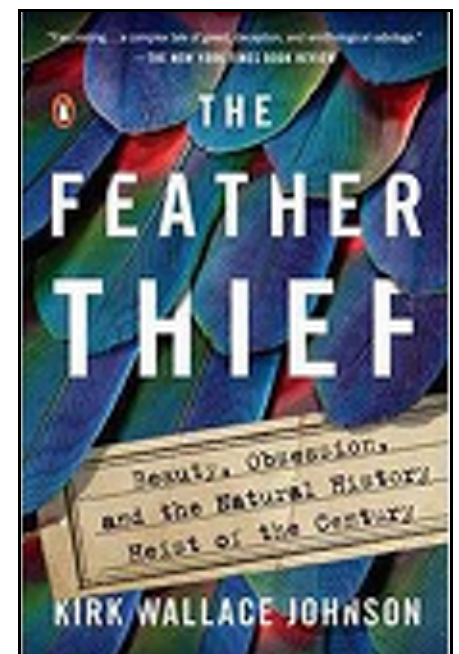
If you don’t quite understand how an interest in fly tying could lead one to acquiring such a serious criminal record, you are likely one who ties or purchases flies that are both affordable and actually intended to be shown to a live fish.

In “The Feather Thief,” you learn that in the tying of classic salmon flies today, the tying alone is an art as well as an end in itself. Most flies — at least those tied with

the originally prescribed materials — will never be shown to a live salmon. You would also discover that the cost of those materials is no object to those who obsessively pursue the tying of the Victorian patterns on a world-class level.

The author delves deeply into the world of classic Victorian salmon flies, where fishing is no longer part of the equation. For today’s tyers, it’s about recreating classic and some more recent patterns with authentic, scarce materials, with the best of those flies being avidly sought by collectors. One tyer is said to have his creations snapped up by private collectors for as much as \$2,000 apiece.

See *FEATHER*, page 28



Driftless Rambler

With Duke Welter
TUDARE Outreach Coordinator

Projects and paddlers

After a 2018 season in these parts marked by disastrous flooding, 2019 has—thus far at least—given us a breather and a good opportunity to get stream projects done. Without being interrupted by record-setting rainfalls and numerous flood-control-dam failures, crews have completed dozens of projects in Wisconsin and Minnesota, and a good handful in Iowa as well.

In the past couple of weeks I've visited at least 10 sites across the Wisconsin Driftless Area, and know of at least a dozen other projects where good habitat restoration work is going on.

What's contributed to this plethora of projects, besides the clement weather? First, many of the projects are using funding obtained in a \$9.3 million grant from the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for the next five years. Private landowners can get the majority of costs for projects on working ag lands, and we are finding the rest of the dollars from other sources, including TU chapters, foundations and local conservation clubs.

All the funding earmarked for Iowa for five years will get used this year. Wisconsin also used a lot, and Minnesota a small amount. Jeff Hastings, our DARE project manager, is looking at ways to expand that funding.

Second, DNR crews and county conservation departments are getting projects going with plenty of help from TU chapters. The Harry & Laura Nohr chapter's outstanding Blue River project has done almost 20 miles of work since 2003, with significant contributions from Iowa and Grant counties' NRCS leader, Joe Schmelz, and DNR Fisheries Biologist Bradd Sims. Their 2019 project was well under way when I fished just upstream last week.

In the northern Driftless Area, DNR Habitat Crew Leader Nate Anderson and his team were bopping from one project to another: Hay Creek in Chippewa County, Wilson Creek in Dunn and on to Plum Creek in Pierce County. The

Kiap-TU-Wish and Wisconsin Clear Waters chapters' volunteers labored mightily all winter to clear box elders, with Randy Arnold and Matt Wsocki organizing. I can't tell you how many thousands of box elders Randy has tipped over, but it is well into the tens of thousands.

In Buffalo and Trempealeau counties the DNR crew and private contractors are working on at least three projects, with more in the works. And Monroe County has a half-dozen projects this season, continuing their strong program that's completed more than 90 projects in recent years. Monroe and Buffalo counties now have their easements and projects available on line.

Closer to home, the DNR's Trout Habitat Crew finished off the five-year project on Weister Creek, which has benefited from more than \$50,000 contributed by TU chapters in Wisconsin and Illinois.

Now the crew has moved on to several years of repair work on iconic streams like Timber Coulee, Bohemian Valley and Rullands Coulee. In that area and the West Fork of the Kickapoo, a half dozen flood control dams breached last Labor Day and sent walls of water down the valleys. They're not being replaced for now, as the counties and NRCS study the failures and land use and decide what their options are.

DARE has finished two new projects on Tainter Creek, almost a mile of work at Star Valley and Towerville, and has one on Warner Creek east of Ontario yet to finish. For next year at least one Tainter Creek project has been lined up by DARE Project Specialist Paul Krahn, and maybe one or two others. Vernon County's Land Conservation Department Tech Matt Albright has carried out projects on Billings and Warner Creeks.

So, the Wisconsin Driftless restoration program is firing on almost all cylinders, and the results are looking very good. It's heartening to see after a challenging 2018 season.



Paddlers and anglers

Message to paddlers and anglers: "For the sake of our rivers, can we please just get along?"

Across the country, anglers and paddlers are both using public waters for their own favorite sports. In some places, they seem to work together and accommodate each other's presence. That's been evident for decades on the Wolf River, a whitewater haven, a place for good fishing and the home of one of Wisconsin TU's first chapters.

I remember fishing the Wolf about 25 years ago, concentrating on a pod of trout feeding on an afternoon hatch of sulfurs. Suddenly I felt a bump on my upstream side and saw the source: a four-person raft whose occupants couldn't avoid me on a 50-foot wide channel. They apologized, I grumpily acknowledged them and stood, rod under my arm, as three more rafts drifted past. "Dammit," I thought. "Those trout are gonna be gone for the rest of the day."

But they weren't. In five minutes the trout were back up and feeding.

The late Herb Buettner was both the TU chapter president and the operator of a lodging place and restaurant catering to the kayak and canoe paddlers. He suggested to both that the anglers should be able to fish before 10 a.m. or so and after 6 or so, and not be upset by paddlers between times. Best fishing was early and late anyway, he reasoned. It seemed to work.

About 15 years ago I was fishing the Farmington River in northwest Connecticut. It's a good fishing river and a good paddling river. I still have a photograph of another angler surrounded by about 15 kayakers.

Despite the kayakers, we kept catching trout, and nice ones at that. In mid-afternoon, along came a father and 13-year-old son in their small kayaks. The son came first, and asked me how the fishing was. "It's all right," I told him, and asked him about the kayaking. It, too, was fine, he said. We wished each other

a nice afternoon and he drifted on. But from below me, he shouted back to his dad over his shoulder:

"See, Dad? I told you all these fishermen weren't assholes."

We have some places in Wisconsin where we hear long-time TU members, some of whom I consider good friends and long-time allies, grouching about having to tolerate increasing numbers of paddlers on "their" streams.

One livery I know of also has a fly shop and offers fly-fishing classes. I'd like to urge the complaining anglers, and the liveries, to work to find solutions, preferably those that don't include firearms, to the crowding problem. How many streams are available in their areas to fish, compared to those available to paddlers? Can anglers and paddlers agree on hours when their favored activity has primacy, as on lakes which limit water skiing after 4 p.m. or before 11 a.m.? Maybe the paddlers aren't on the water at prime time for parts of the season, and maybe the fish will come back to feed after they pass. Maybe some sort of a modified "beat" system could be considered. I don't have a solution to suggest, but I urge everyone to sit down and talk it over until they reach an accommodation.

Is there an upper limit to be placed on recently-crowded rivers? Maybe there should be. A park ranger on the Namekagon River, a national Wild & Scenic designee, told me that the previous Fourth of July weekend he had counted over 5,000 inner tubers going under the bridge near Earl.

We are involved in many struggles involving waters in Wisconsin, from pollution to dewatering to dam removals. In the interstitial times, we ought to be able to work as a river community with other users who are just as concerned about those issues as we are. "A river can't have too many friends" is just an empty slogan if we limit those "friends" only to those who use it just as we do.



REMOVING A CENTURY'S WORTH OF EROSION ALONG TAINTER CREEK



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Friends grant program going strong

The program is funded by supporters who donate \$100 or more annually, with the knowledge that their generous gifts will only be used for habitat work.

Few members of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited have not heard of the Friends of Wisconsin TU grant program. This wildly successful habitat program has been operating for many years and has been a huge part of helping chapters with their habitat improvement work.

The program is completely funded by generous members who donate \$100 or more annually, with the knowledge that their generous gifts will only be used for habitat work. State chapters then apply for grants from the fund to assist them in their projects. Chapters may apply for up to \$2,000 in a single grant request. The requesting chapter must match the grant on a dollar-for-dollar basis, so a \$2,000 Friends Grant will put \$4,000 into the chapter's project.

The Friends program has helped to fund habitat work in all areas of Wisconsin. In 2019 the program has awarded six grants. Antigo is using \$2,000 to help fund a hired habitat crew that annually does more than 15 miles of habitat work. The Central Wisconsin Chapter is using \$2,000 to fund a habitat crew based in Wild Rose that does several miles of work per

season. The Coulee Region Chapter has been awarded \$2,000 to help with a new project on Warner Creek. The Wild Rivers Chapter has been awarded \$1,000 to help finance a hired crew based in Lakewood that does miles of work annually. The Lakeshore Chapter has been awarded \$2,000 to help with their habitat work on Nichols Creek. The Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter is using their \$2,000 grant for a project on Six Mile Branch. That's an amazing amount of work for just one year.

The continued success of Friends of Wisconsin TU is completely dependent on the continued support of our chapters and members. The State Council would like to extend a sincere thank you to all of the chapters and members who support this program. Without that support, there would be no Friends program and much great habitat work would not be completed. If you or your chapter has not been a contributor, we would appreciate your support in the future.

—Kim McCarthy, Friends of Wisconsin TU Coordinator

Back Forty Mine update

The Back Forty legal proceedings that were mentioned in the last issue of *Wisconsin Trout* took place this summer and have already made an impact. Testimony from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and correspondence with EPA staff revealed that both agencies had concerns about this project, but approved mining permits anyway.

The Detroit Free Press reported, "Over and over, Michigan environmental regulators sounded alarms as they reviewed a proposed large, open-pit ore mine in the Upper Peninsula near the Menominee River, prized for walleye fishing and a major tributary to Lake Michigan." You can read the full article, "Upper Peninsula mine approved despite major concerns from DEQ and EPA staff, records show" at <https://www.freep.com/story/news/local/michigan/2019/08/13/back-forty-mine-menominee-river-upper-peninsula/1935792001/>.

In an August 30 letter to the editor in the Eagle Herald, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin Chairman Douglas Cox asked for Michigan's Governor Whitmer to act. (Note: MDEQ is now called Michigan's Department of Environment, Great Lakes & Energy (EGLE):

"Michigan's Department of Environment, Great Lakes & Energy (EGLE), has granted multiple permits needed for the mine to move forward. Recent reporting in the Detroit Free Press and other outlets reveal approval was granted despite serious concerns flagged by regulatory staff, and a staff recommendation to deny at least one of the permits necessary for the mine.

EGLE staff have gone on the record to state that the agency has never issued permits in this manner before. This flawed process denies the public an opportunity to review the facts and weigh in. In light of this new information, Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer can compel regulators to revisit whether permits were improperly issued. It is important for anyone concerned about the Back Forty project and its potential impacts to make their voice heard."

The contested case hearing for the wetland permit will continue this fall. It is not known when the judge will make a ruling. Assumptions are that an appeal will be filed either way. The federal court cases are still pending as well. You can stay informed by going to <http://jointherivercoalition.org/> or <http://www.noback40.org/>.

—River Alliance of Wisconsin

Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter testing monitoring app

National Trout Unlimited is placing a high priority on angler science and the benefits it provides for angler education and coldwater resource management.

Trout Unlimited's national science team is currently partnering with MobileH2O, LLC to develop a customized mobile application (WiseH2O mApp) that can be used by anglers to monitor water quality and habitat conditions in Driftless Area trout streams.

Throughout the spring and summer, Kiap-TU-Wish anglers tested the mApp on 10 local streams and rivers, making 80 observations (as of August 31) and providing feedback to the developers on mApp improvements. At the conclusion of the 2019 monitoring year, MobileH2O will prepare an evaluation report, along with recommendations and next steps for a broader rollout of the mApp across the Driftless Area, hopefully in 2020.

Stay tuned, as this will be a great opportunity for anglers to evaluate the well-being of our coldwater resources.

—Kent Johnson and John Kaplan



Tina Murray

Teens and streams

Students learn about conservation, science, fishing and the satisfaction of hard work.

SWTU's youth program, Project Green Teen from Shabazz High School, spent seven days in the Driftless Area learning about conservation issues, science of streams and trout fishing. Thank you to all the volunteers from around the state who came out to help 13 teenagers catch more than 80 trout.

The students worked with the West Fork Sports Club taking down the little blue cabin and rebuilding the garbage area, which were destroyed by recent flooding. Thanks to Paul Krahn and BlackHawk TU for a donation and the use of the tools to do the work.

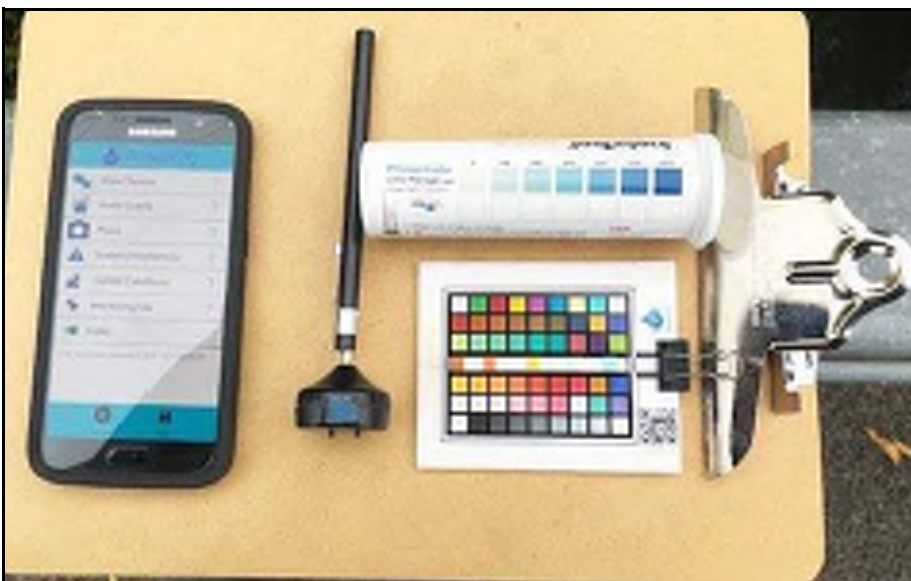
Students also spent time working with TU's Paul Krahn helping local landowners remove debris

from fences and reclaiming buried barbed wire from fields. It was grueling work, but all the students gave it 100 percent and made a difference for the landowners.

If you are able to volunteer as a mentor next year (May 8-15), please contact Dave Fowler at dkfowler82@gmail.com. Dave also coordinates two sessions of fly tying at Shabazz and two casting clinics before the students head out on the trip to Av-alanche, and can always use more volunteers.

For general inquiries about Project Green Teen please contact Brian Counselman at Shabazz High School at bdcounselman@madison.k12.wi.us or 608-204-2440 ext. 2468.

—Tina Murray



MOBILE WATER MONITORING APP AND TOOLS

At the left is the WiseH2O mApp on a mobile phone. In the center is a digital thermometer for the mApp water temperature measurement. In the upper right are test strips and a color chart for an mApp orthophosphate measurement by user. In the lower right is a 5-in-1 test strip and color chart, photographed by phone camera for measurement of pH, alkalinity, hardness, nitrite nitrogen, and nitrate nitrogen.

Genetic considerations of brook trout management in Wisconsin

Researchers include: Brad Erdman, Ph.D. student at University of Maine; Wisconsin DNR Fisheries Research Scientist Matthew Miuro; Wisconsin DNR Staff Specialist Joanna Griffin; Wisconsin Cooperative Fishery Research Unit Assistant Leader Wes Larson, Stevens Point; DNR Fisheries Supervisor David Rowe.

When most people hear the term “genetics,” they think about mad scientists toiling away in white lab coats or forensic science fantastically portrayed in popular media. However, genetics also plays a pivotal role in conservation science.

The reason that genetics is critically important in a conservation context is that a species' genome contains the raw material for natural selection to act upon. Throughout time these selective pressures help species adapt to their local environments and culminate in populations which are adapted to the specific stream networks in which they reside.

While wild trout have benefitted from the pressures of natural selection, hatchery-reared trout have not. In fact, whether intentional or not, hatchery-reared trout have been selected for traits which allow them to excel in a hatchery environment instead of the natural environment. This is particularly problematic for strains that have been kept in a hatchery for multiple generations as these traits appear to be heritable and can accumulate over time.

Thus, these domesticated strains typically survive poorly compared to their native counterparts when they are stocked into the wild. As such, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' “wild” trout stocking program seeks to limit the effects of domestication by obtaining fertilized trout eggs from wild broodstock.

Long history of stocking

Much like other midwestern states, Wisconsin has a long history of fish propagation. In fact, brook trout stocking began in the late 19th century through the partnership of many private hatcheries, conservation groups, and eventually the Wisconsin State Conservation Commission.

Initially, these hatcheries focused on stocking fertilized eggs and fry; however, improvements in hatchery infrastructure in the 1920's enabled the commission to shift their focus toward rearing fingerlings which exhibited higher survival rates. This trend continued throughout the 20th and 21st centuries with the DNR currently emphasizing the culture of fingerling and catchable-sized brook trout.

Much like the propagation methods, strains of brook trout used in Wisconsin hatcheries have also changed through time.

The earliest documented hatchery strain in Wisconsin was established prior to 1925 and is known as the Osceola strain. The origin of this strain is unknown, but there is speculation that it was derived from a source population located near the Osceola State Trout Hatchery in northwest Wisconsin. However, the use of this strain occurred during a time period where brook trout were readily transferred across state and country borders. Indeed, state records indicate that the Wisconsin State Conservation Commission was transferring eggs with Montana and Canada during this time, thereby leading to the possibility that the Osceola strain underwent periodic infusions of wild genes originating from divergent sources.

After approximately 50 years of being kept in captivity, the Osceola strain was abandoned in the 1970's in favor of the newly established St. Croix Falls strain. The source population of the St. Croix Falls strain is also unknown, though it is known to have originated from the Paint Bank Trout Hatchery in Virginia before being transferred to the Nashua National Fish Hatchery in New Hampshire and ultimately the St. Croix Falls Hatchery in Wisconsin.

One of the earliest brook trout genetics studies in Wisconsin was conducted by Charles Krueger and Bruce Menzel of Iowa State University in 1979.

Their study sought to investigate the long-term genetic effects of stocking the Osceola strain on brook trout populations in the Wolf and Fox River drainages using two genetic markers. They identified the Osceola strain as being divergent from other wild populations and



Matt Miuro

STRIVING FOR WILD BROOK TROUT

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' wild trout stocking program seeks to limit the effects of domestication by obtaining fertilized trout eggs from wild broodstock.

that the frequency of wild genetic variants decreased with increasing stocking intensity.

The authors ultimately concluded that the reduction of wild variants could be attributed to interbreeding of wild and hatchery fish, differential mortality resulting from increased angling pressure, or ecological interactions between wild and hatchery fish.

A later brook trout genetics study, conducted by Robert Fields and Dave Phillip of the Illinois Natural History Survey in 1993, sought to improve on the inferences made by Krueger and Menzel. Ultimately, they had five objectives: 1) determine the best genetic techniques to assess genetic differentiation among populations, 2) define genetic differences between hatchery strains and wild populations, 3) examine the genetic variability among the wild populations, 4) determine which geographic areas support native populations, and 5) identify wild populations for preservation and management.

For the purposes of their study, they specifically targeted putatively-native populations with no documented stocking histories to gain an understanding of natural population structure. Unfortunately, no Osceola strain brook trout were available for genotyping so it was not possible to ascertain the genetic identity of this strain or discern them from wild brook trout. However, they were able to obtain samples of the St. Croix Falls strain and did not observe any fixed genetic variants that could be used to differentiate hatchery and wild fish. Despite the lack of fixed genetic variants, they were able to use the frequencies of shared genetic characters to conclude that historical stocking events had not significantly impaired their sampled populations.

Further, they divided the state into seven zones which correspond to genetic similarities and differences within and among zones, respectively. They go on to recommend that trout should not be moved across zones and to identify potential broodstocks to be used for restoration efforts.

Continued developments in genetic techniques led Michael Hughes to complete a thesis at UW-Stevens Point in 2007 where he and his supervisor, Brian Sloss, used new genetic markers to characterize brook trout populations in southwest Wisconsin, as well as investi-

gate the suitability of Ash Creek as a potential broodstock for the DNR's wild trout stocking program in the Driftless Area.

They compared the genetic diversity of Ash Creek to other wild populations and found that populations were highly differentiated. Interestingly, this divergence was not correlated to geographic distance which suggests that either the populations are reproductively isolated and prone to genetic drift (fluctuations of genetic variant frequencies which are exacerbated in small populations) or that decades of hatchery supplementation has served to homogenize the regional gene pool. Ultimately, they were not able to give a solid determination of the suitability of Ash Creek as a broodstock.

New techniques available

As conservation genetics is a rapidly advancing field, the DNR has continued to utilize new techniques to better understand brook trout population genetics across Wisconsin.

The most recent effort has been led by the authors of this article and is a partnership between UW-Stevens Point, the DNR, and the University of Maine. To date, we have amassed and analyzed genetic data from 3,526 trout originating from 69 populations located in the Mississippi River basin. We have also leveraged other brook trout genetic datasets from Minnesota, Michigan, Iowa and eastern hatchery strains to gain a more comprehensive understanding of brook trout population structure throughout the Midwest.

We are currently using this data for three primary objectives: 1) identifying native and domestic populations based on their relatedness to hatchery strains and other inland Wisconsin trout populations, 2) investigating the spatial structuring of brook trout populations in the Midwest and Wisconsin, and 3) identifying suitable populations to collect broodstock for the wild trout stocking program.

Classifying populations as either native or domestic is typically relatively straightforward if the hatchery strain(s) used are highly divergent from native populations. However, the high levels of differentiation observed in Wisconsin trout populations has made this objective rather difficult as wild populations are often more genetically divergent from each other than the



Justin Haglund

COLLECTING TISSUE SAMPLES FROM BROOK TROUT

Staff collect a tissue sample from brook trout on southwest Wisconsin stream. A small piece of fin is collected, preserved and then sent to UW—Stevens Point for analysis. Staff try to sample up to 50 individuals per stream.

Native or domestic brook trout?

County	Stream/Spring Pond	Genetics Classification
Adams	Big Roche a Cri Creek	Native
Barron	Doritty Creek	Native
Barron	Engle Creek	Native
Barron	Hickey Creek	Native
Bayfield	Big Brook	Native
Burnett	Clemens Creek	Native
Burnett	North Fork of the Clam River	Native
Chippewa	Hay Creek	Native
Chippewa	McCann Creek	Native
Chippewa	Upper Duncan Creek	Native
Columbia	Hinkson Creek	Domestic
Crawford	Gran Grae Creek	Native
Crawford	Nederlo Creek	Domestic
Crawford	Rush Creek	Domestic
Dunn	Cady Creek	Native
Dunn/Chippewa	Eighteen Mile Creek	Domestic
Dunn	North Branch Gilbert	Native
Dunn	South Fork Hay River	Native
Dunn	Upper Pine Creek	Domestic
Dunn	Wilson Creek	Native
Eau Claire	Beaver Creek	Native
Grant	Big Spring Branch	Native
Green/Dane	Story Creek	Domestic
Iowa	Harker Creek	Domestic
Iowa	Lowery Creek	Native
Iowa	Pompey Pillar Creek	Domestic
Juneau	Hoton Creek	Domestic
La Crosse	Johns Coulee Creek	Domestic
Langlade	East Branch Eau Claire River	Native
Lincoln	Prairie River	Native
Marathon	Big Cain Creek	Native
Monroe	Clear Creek	Domestic
Monroe	La Cross River, South Fork	Domestic
Monroe	Rathbone Creek	Domestic
Monroe	Soper Creek	Native
Monroe	Squaw Creek	Native
Pierce	Cave Creek	Native
Pierce	Pine Creek	Native
Pierce	South Fork Kinnickinnic River	Domestic
Portage	Little Plover River	Native
Price	Foulds Spring Pond	Native
Richland	Ash Creek	Domestic
Richland	Brush Creek	Domestic
Richland	Fancy Creek	Domestic
Richland	Grinsell Branch	Native
Richland	Horse Creek	Domestic
Richland	Hynek Hollow Creek	Domestic
Richland	Melanthon Creek	Native
Richland	Unnamed Trib to Pine River	Domestic
Richland	West Branch Mill Creek	Domestic
Richland	Willow Creek	Domestic
Sauk	Clark Creek	Domestic
Sauk	Little Baraboo River	Domestic
Sauk	Manley Creek	Domestic
Sauk	Parfrey's Glen Creek	Domestic
Sawyer	Hatchery Creek	Domestic
Trempealeau	Elk Creek	Domestic
Trempealeau	Joe Coulee Creek	Native
Trempealeau	King Creek	Native
Vernon	N. Fork of the Bad Axe River (Esofea Branch)	Domestic
Vernon	North Chipmunk Coulee Creek	Domestic
Vernon	Seas Branch	Native
Vernon	Tainter Creek	Domestic
Vernon	Unnamed Trib to Maple Dale Creek	Native
Vilas	Plum Creek	Native
Washburn	Beaver Brook	Native
Washburn	Little Bean Brook	Native
Washburn	Sawyer Creek	Native
Wood	Sevenmile Creek	Native

St. Croix Falls hatchery strain.

This has led us to pioneer a novel approach which takes advantage of the full dataset rather than simply comparing each population to the hatchery strain. In total, we have identified 38 native populations and 31 domestic populations from inland Wisconsin waters (i.e. Mississippi River basin). Interestingly, most domestic populations are located in the Driftless Region. This may be attributed to poor land-use practices in the mid-20th century which largely extirpated brook trout from this region. As land-use practices and stream conditions improved in the latter part of the 20th century, wild brook trout populations became reestablished, perhaps from hatchery fish.

When assessing population structure, we expect to see genetic clusters which correspond to river basins because the hierarchical dendritic structure of flowing waters makes it much more likely that a trout will move the relatively short distance within a river system rather than making the long migration between major river networks. We observed a relatively weak pattern of structuring-by-drainage, although, there was some evidence of Lake Superior, Lake Michigan, and St. Croix drainage clusters. This lack of spatial structuring is likely due to either genetic drift, the homogenization of the regional gene pool following more than a century of hatchery supplementation, complex post-glacial hydrological and colonization patterns, or interactions thereof.

Identifying broodstock streams

Another area that the team has been working on is identifying streams to collect broodstock for the wild trout stocking program. As a large body of evidence suggests that regionally-derived, undomesticated fish survive much better than their domesticated counterparts when stocked into the wild, it is important to determine the genetic ancestry of source populations before bringing fertilized eggs back to the hatchery.

We have leveraged our full ge-

netic dataset to identify four native brook trout populations for use in the wild trout stocking program: Cady Creek, Lowery Creek, Melanthon Creek, and the South Fork of the Hay River. Without the aid of genetics, it would have been much more difficult, if not impossible, to determine the ancestry of these populations. Our hope is that this approach will aid in increasing the efficacy of the wild trout stocking program and ultimately provide higher quality trout for supplementation and restoration goals.

Additionally, we are using genetic techniques to ensure that hatchery-reared trout retain levels of genetic diversity representative of their source populations. As mentioned previously, maintaining high levels of genetic diversity is imperative as this diversity is ultimately what allows trout to adapt to the streams that they're stocked in. The results of our tests are encouraging and indicate that the propagation program is adequately conserving genetic diversity through multiple generations. We look forward to continuing this monitoring effort to ensure that the propagation program produces high-quality trout for anglers and ecosystems alike.

It is important to note that the results discussed thus far have used genetic techniques that examined a limited number (< 12) of genetic markers. However, exciting new technological developments have ushered in a genomic revolution. Broadly speaking, genetic techniques assess relatively few genetic markers (typically less than 100) while genomic techniques afford the opportunity to simultaneously assess thousands of markers located throughout the genome.

The DNR has acknowledged the utility of these new genomic approaches and our team is working on a pilot project to investigate fine-scale population structure and hatchery introgression in a relatively small watershed. We hypothesize that these new techniques will provide much more inferential power and allow us to tease out finer details which the previously used genetic techniques could not.

48th

CWTU

Central Wisconsin Trout Unlimited

Annual Conservation Banquet

Saturday
October 26, 2019 4:30-9:30 pm

Oshkosh Best Western Premier Waterfront
Hotel/Convention Center

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Call John Tucker 920-475-2271
or email lbtucker1953@gmail.com

Adult Tickets: \$40.00
Students/Youth \$15.00

TU CARES having public outreach success

TU CARES (Trout Unlimited Central Area Restoration Effort for Sustainability) is taking steps to increase local awareness of trout streams and those organizations, agencies and individuals who tend to their protection and maintenance.

TU CARES conducted a Stream and Habitat Day in September at Wautoma's Bird Creek Park. Laura and John Tucker lead the event with representatives of the Central Region TU chapters and DNR's Trout Stream Habitat Management Team from Wild Rose. Bird Creek, Wautoma's in-town trout stream, was the focus stream and setting for demonstrating habitat improvement, trout populations captured via electroshocking, water monitoring, bug collecting and plant walks.

The Lunch & Learn session included introduction to TU CARES by Mike Sandretto. John Gremmer highlighted the iconic mayfly event of the Central Region with a video on "The Hex Phenomenon," and Shawn Sullivan described the Bird Creek restoration plan with the passion so characteristic of this leader of the Trout Stream Habitat Management Team. There will be conservation booths, fly tying and casting, and many activities for children. It is our hope the Stream and Field Day will be-

come an annual event and will receive support and attendance from the public throughout the Central Region.

Another part of TU CARES's outreach is a collaboration with the local newspaper, the Waushara Argus. Mary Kunasch, Senior Publisher, has graciously agreed to publish a monthly column titled *Trout Stream Reflections*, which I have authored for several months now. The column focuses on trout streams and the people who devote their personal energies for their protection, enhancement and appreciation through various organizations (TU CARES and TU Chapters), agencies (DNR, county land and water departments) and as individuals.

Local business and community leaders are included in these efforts through a series of TU CARES presentations recently made to the Rotary and Kiwanis clubs of Wautoma.

While the initial emphasis of TU CARES's outreach has been centered on the Wautoma area, it is our plan to demonstrate and include participation and inclusion of all communities and organizations within the Central Sand Hills Ecological Region. Follow TU CARES at <https://www.facebook.com/centralsandsregion-TU>.

—Tom Lager

Fall 2019 NLC report

By Linn Beck, National Leadership Council Representative

The TU National Leadership Council held its quarterly teleconference in September. These calls are conducted to take care of business pertinent to the continued success of Trout Unlimited.

Chris Wood and Steve Moyer updated us on TU's involvement with public comments on rules which would modify regulations in portions of the Endangered Species Act. The three rules will be published in the Federal Register, taking effect during the week of October 14, 2019. Clean Water Act, and the Environmental Policy Act.

There were several items that were on the agenda that needed to be voted on: Approve submission of three nominees to the Board of Trustees (BOT); approve re-nomination of four current Grass Roots Trustees for the BOT; approve re-nomination of current NLC Chair and Secretary NLC officers, and Embrace-A-Stream (EAS) committee member changes.

The NLC Representatives voted on and approved the following:

- Approved the chartering of a new chapter, the Donnesee Chapter, in Maine.
- Submission of Mac Cunningham, Kathy Scott and Terry Turner as Grassroots Trustees to the Board of Trustees.
- Approval of four current

Grassroots Trustees for re-nomination – Tom Jones, Henry Koltz, Kerri Russell and Jeff Witten.

- Approval of re-nomination of current NLC Chair and Secretary – Jim Walker and Rich Thomas respectively.

Voted to approve new EAS Committee representatives:

- Mike Kuhr (Wisconsin) to fill the representative role for the Upper Great Lakes Region.
- Mike Kruse (Missouri) to fill the representative role as Midwest Regional Representative.

Voted to approve current EAS representatives for a 2nd two-year term:

- Brian Bernstein (Maryland) filling the representative role for the Mid-Atlantic Region.
- Andy Brunelle (Idaho) filling the representative role for the Northern Rockies Region.
- Tom McInnis (South Carolina) filling the representative role for the Southeast Region.

Congratulations to Mike Kuhr for his nomination to the EAS Committee and Henry Koltz on re-nomination to the TU Board of Trustees.

Final order of business was to remind the NLC representatives to make sure all councils and chapters are staying current with leadership changes.

Donations to Watershed Access Fund reach \$10,700

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

The 2019 Watershed Access Fund campaign is under way.

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

Doug Brown, Wisconsin TU Watershed Access Fund

2018 Contributors

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

David Muresan	Middleton WI	Chuck Urban	Wauwatosa WI
Patrick Murphy	Pewaukee WI	Dennis/Becky Vanden Bloomen	Eau Claire WI
Richard Neitzel	Tomah WI	Dr. Condon Vander Ark	McFarland WI
Herb Oechler	Wauwatosa WI	Carol Vendt	Oconto WI
James Olson	Oconomowoc WI	Karen & Martin Voss	Eau Claire WI
Cheryl & Winston Ostrow	Viroqua WI	Richard Wachowski	Eau Claire WI
Craig Pannemann	Port Washington WI	Rodd Wangen	Oregon WI
William Pearson III	Eau Claire WI	Tom Wasilewski	Brookfield WI
Donald Persons	Janesville WI	Donald Welhouse	Kaukauna WI
Ray Piehl	Wautoma WI	Dennis Wiecek	Minocqua WI
Tom Ponty	Eau Claire WI	Charles Wiemerslage	Hudson WI
Scott Quandt D.D.S.	Green Bay WI	Stephen Wilke	Marinette WI
Randal Rake	Helena MT	Paul Williams	Madison WI
Bob Retko	Cedarburg WI	Dan Wisniewski	Middleton WI
Ken Rizzo	Oconomowoc WI	Ron Wojack	Greenfield WI
James Robertson	Green Bay WI	Jaren Wunderlich	DePere WI
Richard Rowe	Neenah WI	Robert Wyman	Beaver Dam WI
Rosemary Ryan	Wauwatosa WI	Fred Young	Roscoe IL
Michael Sandretto	Neenah WI	Benjamin Ziegler	Madison WI
David Schiebel	Abrams WI		
Jeff Schimpff	Madison WI		
Mary & Jeff Schmoeger	Lake Mills WI		
Richard Schumann	Hartford WI		
John Serunian	Madison WI		
Frederick Seybold	Madison WI		
John Shillinglaw	Madison WI		
George Shinnars	Antigo WI		
David Slezewski	Sun Prairie WI		
Nancy Snyder	Milwaukee WI		
Michael Spakowicz	Madison WI		
Michael Staggs	Poynette WI		
Warren Stern	West Bend WI		
Juergen Stuebs	Wautoma WI		
Robert Tabbert	Lafayette LA		
Julie Templen	Dubuque IA		
Steven Ugoretz	Verona WI		

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

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

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

Make your check payable to Wisconsin Trout Unlimited

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

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____



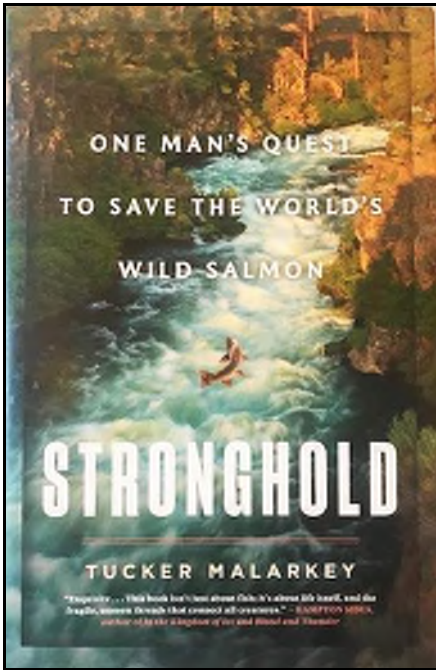
Book Reviews

Mystery, salmon, brook trout

Three different books offer rewarding reading, and possible Christmas gift ideas.

By Duke Welter

Among the books wandering our way recently are three of note to Wisconsin Trout readers, each with its own focus: the Pacific Rim, the places brook trout swim and a fictional county suspiciously like my home. For different reasons, they all offered absorbing reading.



“Stronghold: One Man’s Quest to Save the World’s Wild Salmon”

If you’re lucky in your life, you find passion and purpose. Guido Rahr, Jr. found both. From a passion for exploring the outdoors and being entranced by salmonids, he moved on to establish the Wild Salmon Center and has worked most of his adult life to protect and restore them. His cousin, Tucker Malarkey, is a novelist and former Washington Post writer, and she’s done a worthy job describing her unorthodox relative’s journey.

Rahr’s name may be familiar to Wisconsinites. The Rahr family has supplied malt to breweries for a century or so from the Manitowoc area. And Guido Rahr, Sr., was a conservation hero in the state, serving on the Wisconsin Conservation Commission for 23 years, spearheading numerous conservation and public lands initiatives and being inducted into the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame. So young Guido’s conservation pedigree was gold-plated.

From a passionate pursuit of trout and salmon, Guido Jr. learned about the threats they face across the northern Pacific Rim, overharvest and habitat loss chief among them. He worked through a variety of conservation organizations but didn’t quite fit in, until he found a few wealthy individuals and their foundations who would support work for protection. They grew their

reach and built up a lode of science to support conservation measures, worked with multiple governments, and expanded protections. His work with Russian oligarchs who have protected some of Kamchatka’s important rivers might raise your eyebrows, but they had some successes.

Rahr’s work internationally illustrates that the salmon essentially populate a northern Pacific ecosystem, posing problems in getting governments to work together to conserve populations. Protein-hungry consumer markets in countries like Japan and Korea aren’t often willing to cooperate, and their governments may sit on sidelines when they should be proactive. Similarly, U.S. attempts to address problems with Columbia River and Bristol Bay salmon threats have been stymied by some parties for whom protecting salmon isn’t a priority at all. So we have a million comments from people who decry the Pebble Mine and some Alaskans—business operators and state agency decision-makers—for whom the lure of money for the treasury outweighs the potential loss of the world’s most productive salmon fishery. And we struggle to accomplish removal of the four Snake River dams in Idaho because of a few grain barge shippers. But, like Rahr, conservation groups like Spokane-based Save Our Wild Salmon persist and make progress.

I started out skeptical that “Stronghold” would just be a personal memoir of a well-heeled conservationist, but the book inspired me—and should inspire others—in finding purpose in the protection and restoration of threatened natural resources in challenged ecosystems. We need more who do.

“Stronghold: One Man’s Quest to Save the World’s Wild Salmon,” by Tucker Malarkey, Spiegel & Grau, New York, 2019, 338 pages, \$28.00.

“Squaretail: The Definitive Guide to Brook Trout and Where to Find Them”

You probably have seen that 1976 New Yorker cover, “View of the World from 9th Avenue,” which shows the world in great detail between 9th Avenue in Manhattan to the Hudson River, and everything west to the Pacific as a few humps or names on the map: “Chicago,” “Nebraska,” “Texas” and so on.

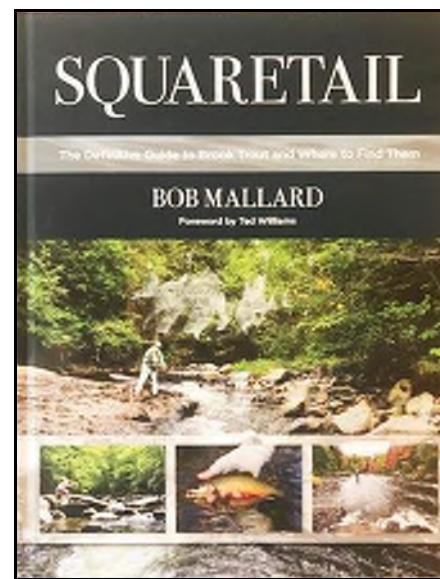
Bob Mallard’s book cover might have illustrated Maine in great detail, northeastern states as far as New York and New Jersey in abbreviated form, and the rest of brook trout country as a few humps or names: “Labrador,” “Nipigon,” “Appalachian Mountains”.

Mallard is a Mainer, a long-time and widely published outdoor writer, and is well-versed in the brook

trout of his familiar areas. And we are lucky that he lives in one of the undeniable strongholds of *salvelinus fontinalis*, and that he writes so well about the ponds and streams of Maine. There, he says, he “lives within striking distance of roughly 90 percent of the nation’s remaining wild native pond-dwelling brook trout, sea-run brook trout, and large river-dwelling brook trout...” Thus, his book is rich in information about the Northeast, and you would be well-served to plan a trip to that area to enjoy brook trout (as well as the landlocked salmon frequenting many of the same waters).

The book covers well the threats to brook trout across their range, some ways to successfully fish them, and some of the history and role of brook trout in American angling. It also mentions a few far-off places where brook trout can be found, including spots in South America where the world record might someday be caught.

For two decades, the seminal book on the subject has been Ted Karas’ “Brook Trout” (1997). Karas died a few years ago, but he was a biologist and an avid angler and wrote authoritatively. I’d suggest that Mallard’s book is more of a where-to than Karas’ encyclopedic book, and probably more written for a curious angler willing to travel to see more of the home waters of the species.



The incomparable Ted Williams fishes with Mallard and wrote the introduction. Both he and Mallard decry hatchery-centric trout management and urge anglers and others to support wild fish and restoration measures. Since TU began in 1959 with some of the same foci, we should be walking these paths together.

And we should invite Mallard to join us here in the Midwest, where we are restoring habitat for and learning about the genetics of our native brook trout (even though many carry genes from introduced



brookies from New York and New Hampshire). Here, we can seek coasters in Lake Superior and chase healthy brookies in spring ponds in Langlade County and in streams restored through Driftless Area partnerships. If he visited, he might find enough for another chapter or two. In the meantime, I’m tempted to take another eastern trip to explore more waters of Maine and the Northeastern states.

“Squaretail: The Definitive Guide to Brook Trout and Where to Find Them,” by Bob Mallard, Stackpole Books, Latham, MD, 222 pages, \$39.95

“Bad Axe County”

John Galligan published four books a decade or so ago about a peripatetic angler nicknamed the Dawg who kept on finding dead bodies in the streams he fished. Hailing from Madison at the time, the author sited two of the books on Black Earth Creek and the West Fork of the Kickapoo, or streams resembling them under other aliases. They were good reads.

Now he’s back with a suspenseful story in which anglers and trout play a minuscule role, but the place it all happens sounds suspiciously like the heart of the Driftless Area, a fictional “Bad Axe County,” which is what Vernon County was called when it was organized in the 1850s.

Instead of idyllic trout streams, you’ll read about a seamy underbelly of lawless parties way up the coulees, sex trafficking, drug dealing and official corruption. Acting Sheriff Heidi Kick, a former Wisconsin Dairy Queen, is trying to drain this cesspool and keep her life on track. It’s another well-written story and good read, but you may hear about sides of our rural paradise you wouldn’t have thought existed.

“Bad Axe County,” John Galligan, Atria Books, New York, 2019, 326 pages, \$26.

Donate to Wisconsin TU via Thrivent Lutheran Financial

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

The Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited is now a

listed entity within the Thrivent Choice program.

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

Youth camp continues its success

The students attended the Central Wisconsin Chapter workday on Bird Creek in Wautoma.

By Linn Beck,
Photos from Bob Haase

The time has really flown by since we had our first WITU Youth Fishing Camp six short years ago. This year's camp brought back a lot of memories as I looked around at our volunteers and mentors. I began thinking back to our first camp, when I was wondering how we'd have enough volunteers to serve 20 students. This year I looked around the room and saw many faces that were there that first year, and who have been with us ever since. Even better is that there are new faces among the volunteers and several young members who attended as students and now return as mentors. How could any volunteer organization expect any more from their membership?

This year's camp had an amazing group of 21 students,

and they were sponsored by 13 of our 21 chapters. We had our usual stellar curriculum consisting of entomology with Tom Lager and Bruce Markert, knot and fly tying with Bob Haase, fly-casting instruction with Dan Harmon III, spin fishing with Mike Stary and Dallas Moe, bait fishing with Mike Arrowwood, along with presentations on water safety, poisonous and invasive plants, and fishing in general.

One thing we tried this year was providing breakfast both Saturday and Sunday to free up some extra time for attending a workday on Saturday and more fishing time for Sunday morning.

All went well and we were able to pull it off. The students attended the Central Wisconsin Chapter workday on Bird Creek in Wautoma. They were treated to another great presentation from Shawn Sullivan and his crew, along with a stream-shocking survey from Scott Bunde and his guys. Then the students broke into groups to do brushing and general stream cleanup.

A big thank you to Dennis Drazkowski and CWTU for providing the opportunity, and for the great lunch. The lunch wasn't a small feat as the group of volunteers totaled more than 90 people. Hats off to Dennis and his crew for all the hard

work. Sunday brought some good weather conditions that turned tough. The day started out with overcast and a light rain and then turned into a very windy morning, making it a little rough for all. But students caught plenty of fish, and all enjoyed the outing.

Thanks again to everyone who makes this camp possible. Please know that the WITU Youth Camp committee appreciates all that the State Council, our chapters, The Future Angler Foundation, Wisconsin DNR, and our individual contributors have done to make this camp a huge success. Thank you all for your contributions of time, monetary donations and all the gear. Please know that this "thank you" is for all of you. We couldn't provide this amazing youth experience without you.

This year's camp had an amazing group of 21 students, and they were sponsored by 13 of our 21 chapters.



STUDENTS HELPING EACH OTHER OUT

Brayden Vielbaum (left) helps Harlon Meade net and remove the hook from the brook trout he just caught. All the students got to fish the Wild Rose Mill Pond for bluegills, bass and trout. Their mentor, Terry Cummings (not shown) helped them remove the hooks and properly release the fish.



THE KIDS LOVED THE AQUATIC INSECTS

Tom Lager and Bruce Markert put on an excellent program on aquatic insects. They collected insects for the kids to identify using identification charts and microscopes and also provided a lot of support information and help with the identification process. You can see from this image the interest they had in this program. From left to right are Ethan Fern-Denzer, Adrian Cristner, Ayden WagenKnecht and Nickolas St. Piere.



WITU YOUTH CAMP FEATURED A GRAND CAST OF STUDENTS, MENTORS, INSTRUCTORS AND OTHER VOLUNTEERS

Here are the students and some of the volunteers from our 2019 Youth Trout Fishing Camp. Not all the volunteers are shown as many of them come to help out for just one part of the program. We thank everyone who participated in making this year's camp another great success.

Back row: Steve Devitt, Jarad Sagal, Clay Parley, Gabe Stelzer, Mike Endries, Zach Klingseisen, Bill Zimmerman, Don Putting, Graeme Hodson, Ethan Sullivan, Kyle Kossel, Terry Cummings, Wayne Parmley, Doug Erdman, Chuck Miner, Kyle Siebers and Bob Haase

Middle Row: Dennis Johnson, Linn Beck, Cayden McQuire, Nicholas St. Piere, Tristen Thix, Ethan Fern-Denzer, Colton Smith, Ethan McCann, Kane Albright, Michael Russ and Linda Lehman.

Front Row: Will Folliet, Mike Stary, Ayden Wagenknecht, Jared Trumm-Niles, Alex Crossman, Adrian Cristner, Amelia Janquart, Colton Mielke, Chayce Fern-Denzer, Devon Nygren, Brayden Vielbaum, Trevor Hinz and Emily Hodson.

Wisconsin teens inspired by TU, cutthroat, Montana

By Severin Tubbin, 2019 TU Teen Summitteer

I had the privilege of attending the TU Teen Summit in Missoula, Montana this summer. TU's Teen Summit is a gathering of teen leaders from across the country. They brainstorm ideas about how to encourage youth to enjoy the outdoors. The summit was a life-changing event for me that really opened my eyes to many things. I learned that we need to keep the family tradition of fishing alive so that people for generations to come will continue to enjoy the outdoors.

What TU is doing to help conservation and get kids outside is amazing. Most of my friends are stuck to their PS4 or some kind of gaming device. I really enjoy being outside, so it was great to meet kids with the same interests.

TU first caught my eye when fly fisherman would come to a stream on my parents' property to fish. I have learned that TU isn't just about fly fishing. It's about conservation and making the world a place for people to enjoy the outdoors.

At the summit we worked on some great conservation projects. One of our conservation projects was to move boulders so bull trout could pass through the creek. It was very labor intensive and was a lot of hard work. A few fingers were injured here and there. Some rocks were so big we needed three people to move them, and it could take 15 minutes. We managed to get a lot of the creek's boulders moved, but in the end, it was cool to see that we had made a positive mark in Montana.

At the summit there were lots of

big questions. One of our questions was, "How do we make the outdoors more inviting to youth?" This question bothered us almost the entire time. At the end of the summit we came up with some really great ideas. We decided that we were going to post a lot more on our Instagram page and we were going to do some giveaways.

Where I live in the Driftless Area, many streams are stocked to ensure good fishing. Montana does not stock streams and rivers, which made the fishing even more challenging and fun. When I caught my first pure cutthroat trout, it was a day that I will remember for the rest of my life. When you are fishing in a place that is so beautiful and you catch a fish that is so beautiful, it makes you think about how much work goes into taking care of our natural resources. It changed how I look at conservation and made me really see that if we don't take care of where we live, someday there might not be streams and rivers to fish.

My favorite part of the Trout Unlimited Teen Summit was fishing in a place that was so beautiful and majestic. Meeting kids that have the same interests was pretty cool, and now I have friends from all around the country. We left with an important job. We now have the task of taking all that we learned back to our communities and getting other teens excited about fishing and conservation. Thank you, Trout Unlimited, for the wonderful opportunity. I look forward to carrying the mission forward and making a difference where I live.

Severin Tubbin is ninth-grader from Viroqua.



Aled Griffiths

TU TEEN SUMMIT FEATURED A CAMP WITH A VIEW

Camp Watanopa in Georgetown Lake, Montana is where TU Teen Summitteers stayed in bunk-style cabins and had a great view of the lake. Moose were seen almost every day and enjoyed taking a sip of water while we waded in the lake.

By Aled Griffiths, 2019 Teen Summitteer

One of the most enriching opportunities for youth in Trout Unlimited is the annual TU Teen Summit. The Summit is a five-day camp for youth interested in building leadership skills and expanding conservation efforts in their local communities.

I had the honor of participating in my second Summit this past summer at Camp Watanopa on Georgetown Lake in western Montana.

During the Summit, 25 teens from around the United States participated in a stream restoration project, heard guest speakers on topics such as fish identification, and learned about the local mining history and its impact on coldwater fisheries.

We also discussed strategies for being conservation leaders in our communities and engaging more youth in TU. We enjoyed learning new fly-tying patterns and, of course, fishing the beautiful Rock Creek, Georgetown Lake, and Silverbow Creek.

It was interesting to learn that the now thriving creeks and rivers of Montana were once severely contaminated from decades of copper mining and about how TU has played a critical role in restoring them.

Every summitteer is expected to take what they learn from the summit back to their TU chapters and communities. This includes leading outreach initiatives to educate young people about our watersheds and get more youth committed to local conservation efforts.

According to Trout Unlimited, currently the average age of a TU member is 62 years old. While the organization benefits from its members' wisdom and experience, having youth involvement is vital to TU's ability to further its mission.

Two activities I have undertaken since returning from the Montana summit are giving a presentation at the Wisconsin TU Youth Camp and collaborating with other summitteers to promote TU on Youtube and other social media.

Since joining TU in middle school with an interest in fishing and fly tying, I have grown in my understanding of TU's mission to conserve, protect and restore coldwater fisheries and their watersheds. I encourage like-minded young people to find out about their local TU chapter and attend a meeting. Participating in chapter work projects and attending a youth TU camp are excellent ways to get involved in the organization. I appreciate the support the Green Bay Chapter has given me and look forward to continuing to share my summit experiences for the benefit of my chapter and community.



SEVERIN TUBBIN WITH A MONTANA CUTTHROAT



TEENS CATCH MONTANA CUTTHROAT TROUT
Aled Griffiths shows off a cutthroat trout caught in Montana's Rock Creek.

Aled Griffiths is a junior at Green Bay East High School. He is an active member of the Green Bay TU chapter, along with his dad, Ian Griffiths. Together they have participated in numerous TU restoration projects in the Oconto River watershed and helped youth through learn-to-fish programs like Kids' Fishing Day. Aled has also led the fly fishing merit badge for his Boy Scout troop and assisted his TU chapter with merit badge instruction for another local troop. He attended the 2017 Wisconsin TU Youth Camp and has presented his summit experience with new campers for the past two summers. This was Aled's second TU Teen Summit.

Backwater memories with my veteran family

Veterans enjoy donated fly-fishing float trip in Northern Wisconsin.

By Matthew Cade

Fly fishing saves lives. These four words resonate with anyone who spends time on the water with a stick in hand chasing any species of fish. It is not necessarily the moment of the catch nor is it necessarily the fact that you are catching anything. It is simply those moments to be in that particular place on the water, in rhythm with your fly rod and line and your thoughts with Mother Nature.

The State Council and several participating state chapters recently raised \$2,000 to fund a trip to send 10 Veterans to the Northwoods of Wisconsin to fish the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway and stay at the Heartwood Conference Center in Trego.

Organized by Mike Burda and Mike Johnson (two representatives of Veterans on the Fly, a TU sponsored group) this trip would be an opportunity to fish alongside some of the best guides in Wisconsin from Hayward Fly Fishing Company. Larry Mann and Wendy Williamson, owners of Hayward Fly Fishing Company had donated four boats for this trip with their own guides to navigate the waters for the participants of this trip.

Frederic, Wisconsin native and river rat Jeff Butler also generously donated his time and a fifth boat, the USS Driftwood.

With these generous donations, these individuals had recognized that fly fishing does save lives and quite often it is therapeutic to our nation's veterans. These individuals were giving back to a community of veterans and giving them a small moment of reprieve and a once-in-a-lifetime chance to experience something truly magical with this fishing excursion.

A special opportunity

When invited by the Milwaukee Chapter of Veterans on the Fly, I found myself speechless. Here was an opportunity to leave the stresses

of everyday life, a chance to let go and spend a few days on the backwaters of the Chippewa and Namekagon with others just like myself. It was an opportunity to spend a few days with lifetime friends floating on a winding river with nothing around us but heaven on earth.

Before I go further into this trip, I want to segue or pivot into how Veterans on the Fly has been a huge part of my own therapy. Because that is what this is truly about. This isn't another fishing story of water droplets popping from a line as my rod was bent over by a smallie with a Murdich Slider at its lip tearing back under a fallen limb as I fought to bring it boat side. No, that would be an added bonus, and it did happen, a lot.

This was a trip where I may find the occasional fish getting in the way of my fly while I just simply relaxed for a moment and put things to the side. This trip was a moment in time where I would reflect and find peace with others seeking out the same thing.

After leaving the Coast Guard with my 12 years of enlistment, I have found that I still need to spend time around my brothers and sisters discovered through mutual sacrifices in our military service. We all have our little nuances, our own quirks that we work through, and for many of us it helps to find the camaraderie of being around those who have similar life experiences.

Anyone who has put on the uniform of any military branch and strapped up their boots for this nation have walked a different path in life than most. I can say that I am honored to have done so, but I may not always want to talk about what I have experienced while making the sacrifices that I have made to our country. There are plenty of stories to be shared with others when I feel the time is appropriate, but for the most part, it does not need to be said. It makes up who I am, and it has brought me to this juncture in life.

What Veterans on the Fly and



Wendy Williamson

SMALLIES COOPERATED FOR HAYWARD VETERANS TRIP

Matthew Cade, a 12-year U.S. Coast Guard veteran and story author, found several dandy smallmouth at the end of his line with Hayward Fly Fishing Company's Wendy Williamson at the oars.

other Veterans Service Partnerships offered through Trout Unlimited have created are experiences like the aforementioned opportunity above and it has been a lifeline for many like myself. Often, I have found myself with other veterans taking moments of escape with a fly vise or fly rod and reel and enjoying the sanctity of being in tune with myself harnessed through fly fishing. Not necessarily forgetting my past, but just putting it to the side and focusing on the harmony of tying some buggy-looking fly or the roll of my loop in a cast.

Arriving in the northwoods

After arriving in Trego, I was welcomed by Burda and Johnson with warm hugs and I was quickly introduced to the other veterans who I would be sharing the water with the next day.

The evening was spent enjoying fantastic food around the communal table at the cabin we were staying in. With all of us gathered around in the community room, an outsider would not be able to tell that this was the first time that many of us had met. Light conversation was intermingled with laughter and banter between us all.

Expectations of what the next day may bring had a few people outside practicing their casts on the lawn and swapping fishy stories of what previous summertime adventures had brought. Guys who did not have a lot of experience drifted over to those with a little salt to them and listened to any advice they could find. All the while everyone seemed at ease and were excited for the upcoming float.

Getting to bed too late after staying up to watch the ballgame, and getting up early to welcome my brothers with the smell of warm coffee, I found myself walking outside to catch the rising sun. I spent that moment knowing that I was going to spend the day being a River Rat chasing smallies on the fly, and just letting the float be a float.

I was going to share the boat with my veteran brother from Milwaukee and we had Wendy as our guide. I knew that this day would be one that I would cherish forever.

For those few hours drifting with two other boats on the Namekagon, there was nothing else in the world.

It was a moment that was locked into that 15 feet of drift boat and the river that was pushing us along. It was the silent cast into the rushes and along the banks, the sip of a fish under the surface taking a popper and the crushing strike of a bronze-back taking a Murdich Minnow. It was a time that was our moment to be in our own thoughts and focus solely on fishing.

For me, fly fishing has saved my life in more ways than I can explain in this article. I truly believe that it has saved my fellow veteran brothers' and sisters' lives as well. I have had heard that there may be future trips just like this one. I hope so. I pray that others can experience that moment locked into that 15 feet of drift boat while making that silent cast across the next ripple, focusing and escaping in a way that only fly fishing can offer.

Sadly we lose 22 Veterans a day to suicide. If you or anyone you know is suffering from depression or having suicidal thoughts, please reach out to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at (800) 273-8255. Todd "TJ" Ennis (U.S. Army) will be greatly missed by his Veteran Brothers. R.I.P. Todd, Until Valhalla. December 17, 1985 – September 03, 2019.



ALL SMILES FOR THESE VETERANS

Mike Johnson snaps a quick selfie at a recent fishing outing near Hayward.



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Snapshot Day 2019: Volunteer monitors protecting our waters

Snapshot Day is a statewide initiative organized by River Alliance in coordination with the DNR and UW-Extension. Volunteers search statewide for aquatic invasive species.

By Natalie Dutack, Aquatic Invasive Species & Watershed Groups Manager, River Alliance of Wisconsin

In mid August, volunteers, Aquatic Invasive Species coordinators and local conservation groups worked together to help search for invasive species in Wisconsin's waters.

Completing its sixth successful year, Snapshot Day is a statewide initiative organized by River Alliance in coordination with the DNR and UW-Extension, where passionate community members help gather critical data on aquatic invasive species (AIS).

Results are submitted to the DNR and used for important prevention and management efforts. This early detection initiative is vital in identifying new invaders and monitoring the movements of existing invasive populations in rivers and lakes across Wisconsin.

This year, volunteers met at their training sites, received a brief training on species identification and

monitoring protocols, were equipped with the tools needed to find them, and travelled to their assigned sites for our "AIS scavenger hunt."

The immersive process of getting to know our waters by wading in and gathering unique specimens creates an educational experience like no other. It changes the way we look at a river or lake and opens our eyes to the diverse species within them.

"We didn't know the first thing about any invasive species," shared a passionate volunteer from the Surging event. "The kids have been snorkeling and searching at our favorite lakes since Snapshot Day and are identifying native versus invasive species!"

While data is still coming in, this year 170 volunteers helped monitor more than 155 sites (and counting).

One big discovery for 2019 has just been verified in two new waterbodies. At the Waukesha event a Snapshot Day volunteer found an unusual specimen on Pewaukee Lake. This turned out to be Starry

Stonewort, a submerged macro alga that has recently made its way into several southeast Wisconsin lakes. A few days later the same volunteer found a specimen in Lower Nemahbin Lake.

DNR and partners are working to determine the full impacts of this prohibited species with concerns over its potential to reduce the diversity of native plants and impair fish spawning, as it forms dense mats in affected waterways.

This is a different kind of success story and one which shows how important our volunteers are. While finding a prohibited species may seem like bad news, this early detection will allow for management and prevention efforts, before a population further establishes.

For example, last year Snapshot volunteers found a new population of New Zealand Mudsnails (NZMS) in Brewery Creek. This led to Wader Wash Station and educational sign installation along both Black Earth and Brewery Creeks. These tools help anglers prevent the spread and

learn more about this tiny invader.

How can you help?

River Alliance would like to invite you to join us in 2020 on August 15, when we conduct our 7th annual Snapshot Day. We only had two Snapshot events in the entire Driftless Area this year, even though there is a bounty of rivers and streams and growing concerns about NZMS. Our goal is to add more sites in this region, creating a comprehensive network of volunteers, anglers and paddlers to help combat AIS.

In addition, help is still needed to add more river sites statewide. If your local chapter would be interested in hosting or joining a Snapshot event or if you are interested in potential monitoring opportunities, please contact me at ndutack@wisconsinrivers.org or 608-257-2424 x 111. Thank you for your continued efforts to protect Wisconsin's rivers.

ESSAY

"It's Complicated"

By Erik Helm

"You must really like to eat fish," the friend of a friend says to me while sipping her latte, her hair cascading down and framing her pretty, but doubtful, face.

"Um, well... actually I release most of the fish I catch," I mumble, aware where this is inevitably going to end up. The setting: an upscale coffee shop somewhere in the concrete suburbs.

"So, you like to fish, and you admit you like to eat fish, but instead you release them?" she asked.

"Well... see, it is all about nature, and beauty, environmental stewardship, appreciation of the fish and the river... See, fly-fishing is more than just fishing..."

Really though, when it comes down to it, I reflect, it is just a simple game with rules that a four-year-old could grasp: Go down to lake or river with rod and reel. Catch fish. Repeat.

Being romantics, we always want to make more out of it. Take a simple essence and surround it with volumes of philosophy and make it into some sort of metaphysical and existential reflection and journey. We make it into a metaphor, and find life-lessons in it. Assigning anthropomorphic qualities to things we see around us. Our flies are art, not craft we argue to ourselves, as if just accused anonymously by an upstart and impudent child.

We're not just fishing see... we are, well, experiencing some sort of primal harmony. "It's all poetry," we murmur out loud, even if the hypocrisy peeks its irritating head through a tiny doorway in our brain, reminding us that the last time we attempted to read Robert Frost, we fell asleep.

It just has to be more than a simple game of cat and mouse. We refuse any assertion that at times it can be quite easy. "Takes years and

skill," we argue to the trees while raising fish after fish with a fly that the carefully tied hackle fell off of upon the first cast.

We have been caught by family members while lying in the filled bathtub with scuba gear, congratulating ourselves on the latest revelation or innovation in fly design. We have been admonished and punished by angry spouses when our latest attempts at dying hackle stained the sink a very interesting shade of blue-dun.

"Normal or mundane" folks refer to them as bugs, but we know better. They are Ephemereella subvaria. It makes a difference we reflect... Appreciation and knowledge and such...

There was once a time when we contemplated homicide as a careless aunt referred to our cherished bamboo fly rod as a "fishing pole."

We don't just take a drink from the river. We sip of the essence of life, forgetting while we do so, that the last time we did this we ended up with the runs for a week.

What other kind of sport could so inspire, that we could be found late upon a cold winter morning, seated in front of the fireplace in the study, dressed only in a robe and our underwear, surrounded by tackle and fly-boxes, dreaming dreams of spring.

I once read somewhere that a newlywed bride told her friend, "My husband does not drink,

smoke, or chase women, instead, he fly-fishes."

Several years later, she admitted to the same friend that if it were up to her, she wished he did a few of those other things, and a bit less fishing.

"It's complicated," I try to explain to the friend of a friend. "It's sublime." Hearing those words

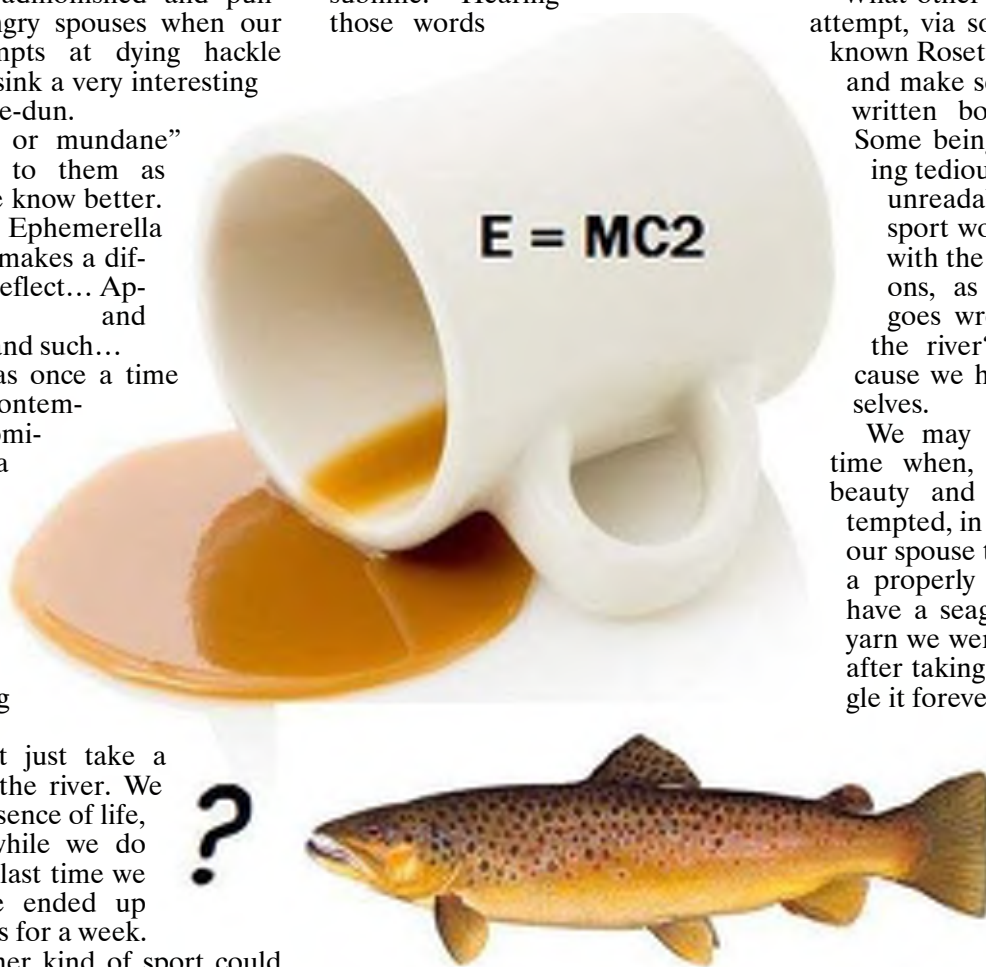
"Perhaps it is a journey in humility," I reason out loud, remembering when arrogance kept us from talking to that guy with the spinning rod that was out-fishing us 10 to one. Pride before the fall? Arrogance before humility, or humbleness only because of prior arrogance... More philosophy.

What other sport would have us attempt, via some hidden and unknown Rosetta Stone, to decipher and make sense of the many ill-written books on fly-fishing? Some being tomes of astounding tediousness and practically unreadable. What other sport would have us chuckle with the fine author Nick Lyons, as everything possible goes wrong and he falls in the river? Perhaps it is because we have been there ourselves.

We may reflect back to the time when, on the subject of beauty and fly-casting, we attempted, in a local park, to show our spouse the inherent ballet in a properly made loop, only to have a seagull eat the piece of yarn we were using as a fly, and after taking out all the line, tangle it forever in a large oak tree.

"It's complicated..." I mumble through current muffin crumbs, watching the departing back of the friend of a friend, and looking down at the spilled coffee, and the single word traced with it on the table: "Crazy."

After much reflection, I have come to completely agree.



from my mouth with the clarity of an out-of-body experience, I smile about how I am going to explain why it is "sublime" to match wits with a creature with a brain the size of a match-head, attempt to fool it with a bit of old string and some smelly fur, and end up coming up short most of the time.

Wisconsin's Fly Tyers, with words and photos by Bob Haase

Jerry Smet: Teaching young and old to tie

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.



HE HAS A GIFT FOR TEACHING KIDS

Jerry Smet has a special talent when it comes to tying flies with kids, and having a lot of grandchildren gives him plenty of practice.

I don't know how many people Jerry has taught how to tie a fly, but it is a lot. Wisconsin TU has a youth fly-tying program that teaches kids how to tie a fly, and Jerry is at most of these events. This includes the Milwaukee Sentinal Sport Show, Midwest Outdoor Heritage Education Expo, and many other events across the state.

In 2018 more than 2,600 kids and adults tied a fly through this program. He has taught people of all ages to tie a fly, from four years old to 80. Jerry has a special talent when it comes to tying flies with kids, and having a lot of grandchildren gives him plenty of practice.

I have learned a lot from Jerry, especially how he communicates with kids while teaching them. There are a lot of great fly tyers in Wisconsin, but I don't know of anyone who is better at teaching kids. Jerry has also spent hundreds of hours over the years helping us organize and package the materials for Wisconsin TU's tying events.

Jerry, how long have you been tying flies and how did you first get started?

I have been tying for around 17 years. I got started when I saw an article in the Fond du Lac paper inviting people to attend a meeting of the Winnebago Streamers fly tying club. They had different tyers come in and share their tying methods and fly patterns and it was a good learning experience, but they disbanded a few years ago.

Do you remember who taught you to tie your first flies?

I don't remember, but it was kind of a group effort of everyone in the club. I do remember that the first fly I tied was a woolly bugger and I went down to a local pond and caught 22 small bass and that got

me hooked. That was followed up with a bumble bee pattern. I just thought the bumble bee would be a nice fly to tie. It turned out to be the worst batch of garbage that I had ever seen in my life, and the more I tried the worse it got. A few months later I gave it a try and caught about twenty fish on it. As I continued to tie, a lot of people helped me and the flies turned out a lot better. I continue to learn from a number of different tyers and the internet.



MOP FLY

What are some of the things that helped you along the way become a better tyer?

Royce Dam came to one of our meetings and there were a few kids in attendance. He asked the adults to step back and let the kids tie, and he helped each one of the kids tie a fly. By the time he helped each kid tie a fly, they all learned the steps in tying a fly. They came to the next meeting anxious to show the flies that they tied. The kids and I learned a lot from Royce.

You have helped with the TU Youth Fly Tying Program for a long time. How did you get started with that?

You had a lot to do with that, along with some other members of TU that were also members of Winnebago Streamers. I ended up joining TU and got involved with the youth tying program. I had a background in teaching for Moraine Park Technical College and this helped me teach the kids as well as adults. Most of the time we were working with kids, but we also helped many kids as old as 80 tie a fly at some of the sport shows.

You are never too young or old to start tying flies. Getting involved in the TU youth-tying program helped me become a better tyer because of questions that were sometimes asked at the different tying

events. Sometimes it involved helping learn how to make a whip finish knot and other times there were questions on tying techniques, materials used or specific fly patterns.

Do you know how many kids and adults you have helped tie a fly?

No. We often tie as a group at these larger events and it would be difficult to even guess the number, but it is a lot. We have many dedicated volunteers who help with the tying programs and we share information and learn from each other. You might be a right-handed tyer and have a left-handed student and you learn how to accommodate these differences. As a group we are averaging more than 2,500 kids and adults a year.

The first time I was asked to teach others at a large event, I felt that I was an amateur and was not confident that I could do that. If you ever have the opportunity to teach others to tie, please consider doing it. I have learned a lot from other tyers, such as those sitting next to me when I was teaching others to tie. During the times that we were not teaching someone to tie, we would share tying techniques and patterns. If you want to become a better tyer, teach others to tie and you will learn from the questions they ask.

You have a great talent in your ability to communicate with the kids as you are teaching them to tie. Could you share some of your communications techniques with us?

First of all make them feel that you really want to be there and maybe start out with something like this: "Hi... my name is Jerry. What is your name? Where do you go to school? What grade are you in? We're going to teach you how to tie a bluegill fly today. Have you ever tied a fly before? Are you right handed or left handed? We will do this together and I will help you tie a fly so you can catch a fish on it. Do you fish? What is your favorite fish to catch?"

You need to interact with them as you are teaching them how to tie a fly. And listen to their stories about the fish they may have caught and fishing experience they have had.

Let them know that they are going to keep the fly so they can fish with it. If they can catch a fish on a fly they tied themselves, they will most likely become hooked on fishing and maybe even fly tying. We often hand out a sheet of paper showing how they can use a spinning rod and spinning bubble to catch fish on the fly they tied. Compliment them as they complete the different steps of tying a fly and when they finish. Based on the number of students and time available, you can alter the pace to allow for more questions and interaction with the students.

When you are teaching a child to tie a fly, do you prefer to have two vises, one for you to demonstrate on and the other for the child to tie on, or just use one vise?

I prefer to use one vise and have it positioned so that it is convenient for the student to reach and tie on. It is easier to help them if they have problems performing the different steps of tying the fly. Let them do as much as possible, based on their age and abilities. You might start the thread for them and explain the steps and sometimes demonstrate the steps and then have them do what you just showed them. You can demonstrate the step, unwrap the thread, and have them perform the step. If you were using two vises you would need two sets of materials for every fly you tie.

What would you say to someone who has never taught someone how to tie a fly to convince them to give it a try?

If you enjoy tying flies, share your knowledge on tying with

others so that they can also enjoy tying flies like you do. Maybe start out by teaching your children and grandchildren or a neighbor kid how to tie a fly. If you are not sure about teaching at a fly-tying event, you could go along and observe how other instructors are teaching and give it a try. If you don't feel comfortable teaching children, start out by teaching a friend or fishing partner how to tie a fly. Your fishing partner might also become your fly-tying partner.

What kind of events have you tied at, and what are some other events that chapters might want to consider teaching fly tying at?

There are a lot of opportunities to teach kids and adults to tie. We have tied at sport shows, youth outdoor programs like the Outdoor Education Expo, 4H clubs, scouts, libraries and chapter programs. After-school programs are another opportunity.

What kind of flies do you normally tie?

We try to tie bluegill flies using patterns that are simple to tie and we know catch fish.

The three patterns we use most often are the Panfish Bugger, Garts Panfish Gurgler and the Mop Fly. (Bob Haase has the recipe and can email the directions to you.) We not only want them to tie a fly, but we also want them to catch fish on them, so they become hooked on fishing.

Do you have any other tips for teaching others to tie?

Make it simple. You may want to consider using a basic vise and tying tools, or not use all the features of a rotary vise so that they don't feel



GART'S PANFISH GURGLER



PANFISH BUGGER

Volunteers play crucial role in DNR stream monitoring

Parker Wyngaard, DNR Volunteer Monitoring Program Coordinator

In many parts of the state, excessive phosphorus and sediment have been impacting trout streams, leading some to become impaired. "Impaired" waterbodies are those do not meet the state water quality standards. These impairments cause negative effects such as excessive algae growth, reduced submerged vegetation, oxygen depletion, water clarity problems and loss of habitat.

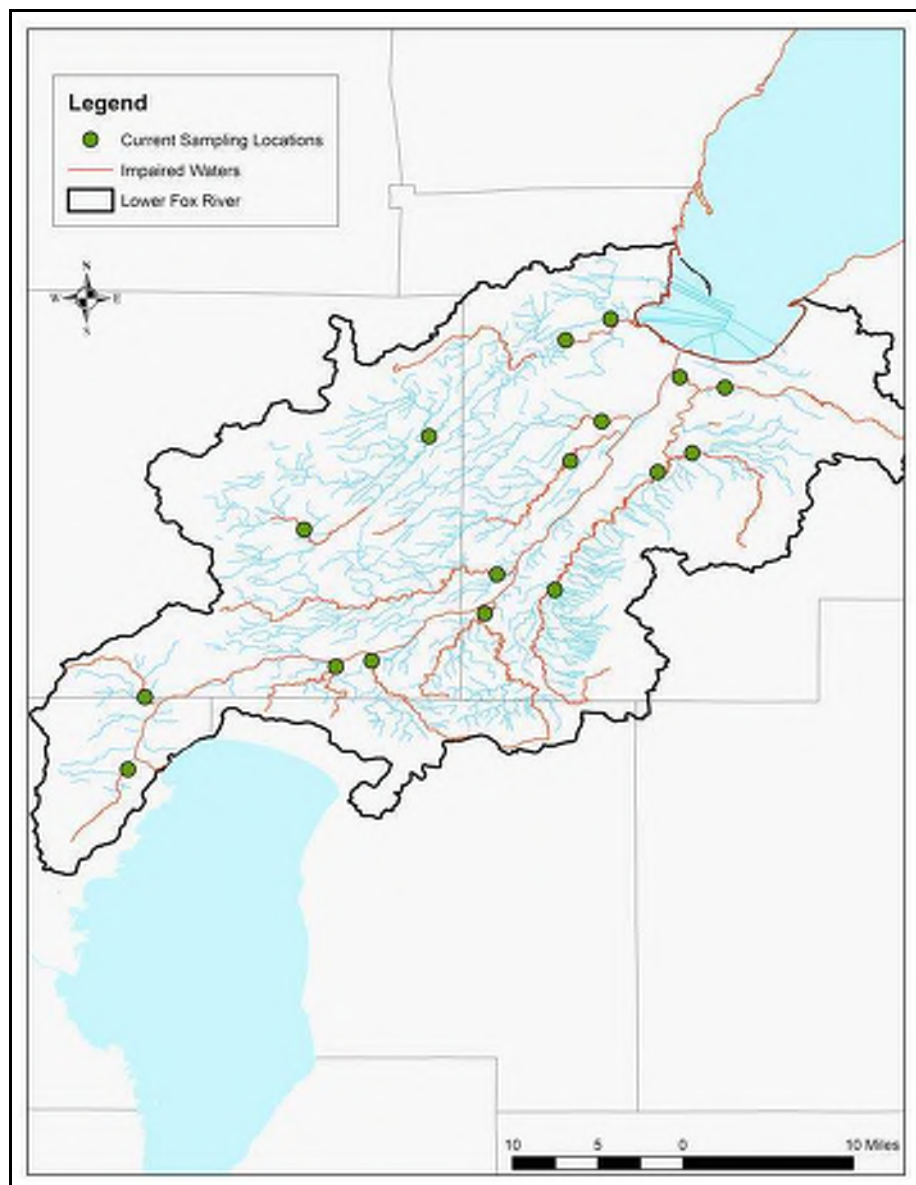
Many of these issues have been identified in watersheds throughout the state. As a result, several Total

Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) have been developed to begin to counteract the effects of the phosphorus and sediment impairments. TMDLs calculate the amount of a pollutant a water body can receive and still safely meet water quality standards set by the state. Limits based on the TMDL are then set for pollutant dischargers to follow for the duration of the plan. In many TMDLs, water quality monitoring is an important step in tracking the success of the TMDL.

Two of Wisconsin's TMDLs, the Lower Fox River TMDL and the Upper Fox-Wolf River TMDL, have



VOLUNTEERS PREPARING FOR WATER SAMPLE COLLECTION



developed volunteer monitoring programs to achieve some of the monitoring goals outlined in the TMDLs. In total, there are roughly 26 known trout streams that are impaired within the two basins.

As part of the stream monitoring program, volunteers sample tributary streams for the impairments that cause harm to trout stream habitat. From May to October, which is the primary "growing season" of many aquatic plants and algae, volunteers sample select tributary streams once a month for total phosphorus, dissolved reactive phosphorus, total suspended solids, turbidity and flow.

The program uses volunteers of all ages and professions to help the DNR cover more area with the monitoring efforts in the streams. The volunteers receive training and all necessary supplies every spring to conduct water sampling. Locations of high-priority sites within the basin are selected for long-term monitoring. There are currently 17 sites in the Lower Fox River Basin and specific site locations are currently being developed and chosen for the Upper Fox-Wolf River Basin. Once the samples are collected, the volunteers ship them to the Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene in

Madison where the water from the samples are analyzed for the previously mentioned parameters. The results from the tests are then sent to the DNR Volunteer Monitoring Program coordinator for data analysis.

The two primary goals of the program are to engage the public in citizen science and collect reliable data. Over the duration of the monitoring program in the Lower Fox River Basin, we have had many volunteers become engaged in the program. The program has given them some background knowledge on how to begin identifying problems in our lakes, rivers and streams, as well as giving them the ability to educate others around them. By building a network within the community, the water quality issues throughout the state may be resolved more quickly and our water kept safe for future generations.

If you or anyone that you know would be interested in supporting or volunteering for the program, please contact me, Parker Wyngaard, Volunteer Monitoring Program Coordinator, at Parker.Wyngaard@wisconsin.gov or 920-424-3061.

See *SMET*, page 19
SMET, from page 18

that they need a more expensive vise to get started.

If you are teaching a class, you can and should cover the different kinds of vises and tying tools, and how to use them correctly.

If you are tying at a one-time event, concentrate on the steps and methods of tying a fly, and not so much on the equipment. In a class you would have time to show them how to use a whip finisher, but at a one-time tying event, consider showing them how to make a series of half-hitches.

Select fly patterns that are not very complicated to tie and/or substitute materials to make the pattern easier to tie. If a pattern calls for a dubbed body you could substitute chenille or yarn for the dubbed body.

Help them develop confi-

dence in tying a simple fly and then advancing to more complicated flies as their skills improve. Most importantly, keep it fun.

Explain how they can use the fly they tied using a spinning rod and a spinning float to catch fish such as bluegills. Catching a fish on the fly they tied themselves is a good way to get kids hooked on fishing and fly tying.

If you like to tie, share your skills with others by volunteering to help tie at one of the youth or adult tying programs sponsored by your chapter or the State Council.

If any person or chapter would like to get more involved in teaching others to tie, Bob and Jerry would be happy to help you get started, and help with the organization of materials and other aspects of tying at a tying event. You can contact Bob at 920-579-3858 or flytiner@milwpc.com.

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

Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance
 Join the fun - wisconsin-smallmouth.com



Chapter News

Aldo Leopold Chapter

Our June picnic fundraiser was a great success. Everyone spent a beautiful evening together sharing good food and stories. Thank you to the many people and companies that donated raffle prizes. Thanks to your generosity, we raised about \$1,100 at the picnic raffle. We raised another \$1,400 from our fundraising letter. Both were excellent results.

We have a planned work day on December 7, when we plan to clear a bunch of willows and other woody brush from the north Fargen pasture on Bear Creek. The main willow area we will work in is pretty wet and soft so summer work is not ideal. In December we will have frozen ground, most hunting seasons are over, and unless it is truly arctic, a bit of work on a Saturday in December should be brisk enough to keep you warmed. So dress in layers, grab a hot beverage, and head on over to Bear Creek on December 7.

This winter there will be a number of opportunities to get together. We will be hosting a series of fly-tying gatherings we are calling "Bar Flies." Yes, tying flies in bars. These

aren't classes, just a group of TU members getting together to share the crafts of tying, storytelling, fermentation and distillation.

We'll host this event three nights, one each in the months of January, February and March, in each of our three counties. The current schedule is for meetings in Sauk County on January 14, February 11 and March 10 starting at 6:30 p.m. Location to be determined. Dodge County Bar Flies events will be on January 22, February 19 and March 18 at Ooga Brewing in downtown Beaver Dam. Columbia County dates and location to be determined. Follow our Facebook page for additional details as they develop.

Fishing? Camping? Togetherness? We've set the weekend of May 16, 2020 for an ALCTU fishing weekend. Chapter members will gather together to fish and camp. Final location may change but for now the West Fork Sportsman's Club is the likely home base for this event. More details will be provided as the date gets closer.

—Mike Barniskis

Antigo Chapter

I hope everyone had a great summer. We had our annual Kid's Fishing day June. It was a just a great day again for all who were there, with a fish tank, prizes and hamburgers and hot dogs for all. About 375 kids were there, along with local DNR representatives to help run a casting contest.

We partnered with the Green Bay, Wolf River and other northeast region chapters in mid June on a work day on the Evergreen River. We helped to provide and cook the lunch for the workers. Thank you to our chapter members for their support and hard work.

We were proud to help send two kids to summer camp this year and the thank you notes sent back were great. The boys had a good time and loved the opportunity.

In August chapter members repainted the fishing dock on the East Branch of the Eau Claire. This is north of Antigo at the intersection of Highways 45 and C. The old boards took a big drink. I think we

used eight gallons of stain.

Our chapter has set up our fourth TIC program this fall at Elcho High School, to go along with our TIC programs at Antigo, Wittenberg-Birnamwood and Bowler high schools.

The Antigo Chapter is working with local science teacher Mike Werdo to help provide 30 pairs of rubber boots for kids in a water and forest class this year.

In September we were involved with a culvert replacement on Crestwood Road, on a small feeder creek of the Red River in southern Langlade County. We worked with the town of Norwood and the DNR to replace this culvert with a new and properly set one.

We have the plans in place to host the fall State Council meeting in Antigo on Saturday, October 12 at Game On banquet center on Edison Street in Antigo. We hope to see you there.

—Scott Henricks

Blackhawk Chapter

In June The Blackhawk Chapter held its annual picnic and fly-casting clinic with 21 members and guests attending. We had a great clinic this year with Craig Amacker of Madison Fly Fishing Company teaching traditional fly-casting techniques and Matt Sment demonstrating the technique of Tenkara fly fishing. Tenkara shines in small streams, where the long rod and light line provide the best possible fly presentation.

On September 7, six chapter members (Dave Brethauer, Don Studt, Dave Durant, Josh Glovinsky, Terry Vaughn and Joel Vaughn) volunteered at the Rock County Youth Outdoor Day organized by Pheasants Forever. Approximately 70 future outdoor enthusiasts attended the free event which included lunch and a prize drawing where all received a gift. Participants enjoyed 10 stations in small groups and learned various outdoor skills

including game cleaning, cooking, fly casting, shooting and a pheasant hunt. The Blackhawk TU group introduced participants to Trout Unlimited and fly fishing before conducting a hands-on casting clinic.

This was a great opportunity for everyone to share their expertise and love for the outdoors.

—Phil Kirker

Central Wisconsin Chapter

It has been a busy summer for The Central Wisconsin Chapter. The chapter held its monthly meetings as picnics. Work days were held monthly from May through September. TU CARES and our River Keepers had full programs. The Dan Harmon III Fly Fishing School was a sellout and a tremendous success.

CWTU received a donation of 10 L.L.Bean Quest fly rod packages from L.L.Bean to support our activities. These will be used by the chapter at next year's Dan Harmon III Fly Fishing School, in our youth activities and veterans outreach. We hope to connect more people to

fishing in the hope that they, too, will come to care as much about conserving our local rivers as possible.

This year the majority of our work days were focused on the DNR stream restoration project on Bird Creek in Wautoma. During the winter the DNR was able to remove the heavy buckthorn and honeysuckle growth that had choked the stream and restricted access to the creek. We worked with them on stream bank restoration and additional vegetation removal. The DNR crew, led by Shawn Sullivan, divided attendees into three work groups. Each of the groups selec-



CWTU DEDICATES ALDO LEOPOLD BENCH TO JEFFREY JON WILCOX

Jon and Jane Ann Wilcox are pictured at the memorial bench dedicated to their son, Jeffrey Jon Wilcox. The memorial was established in their son's name by CWTU for trout stream habitat improvement.

tively cut down invasive species of buckthorn and honeysuckle shrubbery and then formed brush bundles from them. These bundles were strategically placed within the stream to create meanders, fish and animal cover, and increase stream velocity to scour out silt and keep the stream cold.

The August work day at Bird Creek included Youth Fishing Camp students. A DNR shocking demonstration showed a plentiful population of brown trout in a very healthy stream. It was a great educational opportunity for the campers, who also contributed to the stream restoration work. The turnout for this event was outstanding. In addi-

tion to the youth campers from all over the state, there were representatives from statewide TU chapters as well. More than 90 people attended.

In September, TU CARES will hold a Stream & Field Day awareness event at the park near Bird Creek in Wautoma. It will be a part of the chapter's last work day of the year. It will involve each of the TU CARES chapters and the DNR. The program will include tours of Bird Creek, food, games, information booths, presentations and much more.

Our thanks to CWTU's long-serving work day coordinator, Dennis Draskowski, who is stepping



Bob Hanse

CWTU/WITU YOUTH CAMP WORK DAY AT BIRD CREEK

In addition to the youth campers from all over the state, there were representatives from statewide TU chapters. More than 90 people attended.

Chapter News



CWTU PRESENTED AN ALDO LEOPOLD BENCH TO THE TUCKERS

This bench was presented to John and Laura Tucker, who were both past presidents of CWTU.

down after five years of service. He has done an outstanding job and will be missed. We do hope that next summer he will continue to enjoy our work days as a participant rather than as the coordinator.

Our picnic board meetings were hosted by Harvey Jones and John and Laura Tucker as well as an event at the Bird Creek Park shelter.

At our June meeting, an Aldo Leopold bench was dedicated to the memory of Jeffrey Jon Wilcox, the son of Jon and Jane Ann Wilcox. CWTU established the memorial in Jeffrey's name for trout stream habitat improvement. Jeffrey used to fish the creek back in the day when it was surrounded by meadows rather than buckthorn thickets. It will

be installed at a site selected by the DNR at Bird Creek Park, Wautoma. Retired Justice Jon Wilcox was a leading supporter of Wisconsin's trout stamp program which has done so much to improve trout habitat in our state.

At the August meeting, another Aldo Leopold bench was presented to John and Laura Tucker in recognition of their outstanding service as presidents of CWTU, their countless hours of volunteer activity and generous donations to the chapter.

TU CARES (TU Central Area Restoration Effort for Sustainability) is a collective effort of the Central Sands area chapters: Central Wisconsin, Fox Valley, Frank Hornberg and Shaw-Paca. The current



TIGER TROUT IN THE DRIFTLESS AREA

Coulee Region Chapter leader Curt Rees finally caught his first tiger trout, recently, and thanks his net man and photographer, Mike Juran.

Mike Juran

project is the replacement of a "hung culvert" on a tributary of the White River that is being funded by a grant obtained by TU CARES.

CWTU River Keepers was very active in 2019. Three new teams were added and monitor Carpenter Creek in Pine River, Radley Creek in Waupaca and Willow Creek in Wild Rose. There are currently 85 volunteers providing valuable WAV data on 40 monitoring sites in the DNR's Central Sands Region. We are planning to have our annual appreciation dinner and training meeting on Monday, November 11 at the Fin 'N' Feather in Winneconne. At

this meeting we will hear updates on the WAV program from the DNR and UW-Extension and collect dissolved oxygen kits from each team to refurbish with new chemicals for the 2020 season.

Preparations are under way for the CWTU Banquet that will be held at the Best Western in Oshkosh on October 26. This event, organized by Laura Tucker and her committee, is the chapter's most important fundraiser and a very special event for the chapter. We welcome everyone to attend.

—Stan Cichowski

Coulee Region Chapter

In September we hosted two screenings of the Patagonia film, "Artifishal," which discusses the work to save wild salmon and the threats from fish hatcheries and fish farms. Our October 16 meeting is at the American Legion in Viroqua. Our guest presenters are DNR fisheries biologist Kirk Olson and DNR warden Shawna Stringham. They will share information on fish kills on Otter and Bostwick Creeks.

The November 20 meeting is at the Westview Inn in West Salem. Molly Aufforth and Jeff Boyne from the National Weather Service in La crosse will be speaking about high rates of precipitation, flooding and other atmospheric trends in the area.

Our meetings are typically on the third Wednesday of the month. Social time is from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. fol-

lowed by the presentation. Keep your eye on our Facebook page (Coulee Region TU) or on our website at couleeregiontu.org. TU membership is not required to attend our meetings, so bring a friend who would enjoy learning more about conservation, fishing and other activities related to our coldwater habitats.

Fall fishing has been excellent this year with hoppers, hippie stompers and other terrestrials being used successfully. Even with football on TV and hunting season soon to begin, make some time to get out on the water in the Driftless Area. After the heavy rains and flooding over the past couple summers, the streams look different than you might remember, but the fishing remains excellent.

—Curt Rees



HIPPIE STOMPER FLIES WORKING WELL IN THE DRIFTLESS

Hippie stompers have been working well in the Coulee Region, according to chapter leader Curt Rees.

Fox Valley Chapter

Cabin Fever Day, our annual fundraiser, will be January 18, 2020, again at Appleton's Grand Meridian. See our ad in this issue announcing this fun event.

Terry Ziegler is our habitat champion. He reports weather was the big story this summer as it hampered or forced cancellations of a number of our habitat projects. Terry worked long and hard to get hab-

itat projects rescheduled, as high water and storms forced schedule changes on Bird Creek (Wautoma) and Humphrey Creek.

In July, habitat work on Bird Creek had to be cut short for safety reasons due to strong area storms. Habitat work was rescheduled for the following Tuesday at Humphrey Creek with Rawhide Boys Ranch personnel, but storms knocked out



Chapter News



FVTU MEMBERS ENJOY VETERANS FISHING TRIP NEAR HAYWARD

Thanks to Larry Mann, Hayward Fly Fishing Company, and a group of volunteers, two FVTU member veterans enjoyed a float trip on the scenic waters of the Hayward area. Pictured here, past FVTU president Joe Bach and new member Bill Albright spent the day with a local guide fly fishing and catching smallmouth bass.

their power, forcing their participation to be cancelled.

In August, FVTU and CWTU work crews augmented by TU Youth Camp participants created a 70-plus-person work brigade focused on Bird Creek. This crew also included DNR personnel essential to the project. Unfortunately Rawhide participation on Humphrey creek in August had to be cancelled due to a special event honoring Bart Star, whose efforts helped launch the institution.

September's habitat work focused on Bird Creek and included presentations on TU and TU CARES. Also in September, the Rawhide boys restarted work on Humphrey Creek.

Jeff Moureau is our veterans outreach champion. I have condensed his report for this issue. July 15 was a very special day for a group of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited military veterans. Thanks to Larry Mann, Hayward Fly Fishing Company, and a group of volunteers, two FVTU member veterans enjoyed a float trip on the scenic waters of the Hayward area. Past FVTU President Joe Bach and new member Bill Albright spent the day with a local guide fly fishing and catching smallmouth bass. In appreciation for their military service, a total of 10 veterans, representing five Wisconsin

TU chapters, participated in the trip.

With all expenses paid, the group met at the Heartwood Conference Center & Retreat for dinner and to connect with the volunteers and guides and plan the float trip. Some of the best guides in the state donated their drift boats, gear and expertise to make this awesome trip possible. Great weather prevailed and participants caught and released many bass.

FVTU would like to recognize and thank Larry Mann, Jeff Butler, Mike Johnson, Mike Burda, (Wisconsin TU VSP coordinator), the guides and all the volunteers who made this special veterans event possible. Thanks to all military veterans for their service.

Dan Geddes, our chapter meeting planner, has set up our next few meetings at the Capital Center. The October meeting will be about fly tying materials, presented by Bob Haase. In the November meeting, Dan Boggs will discuss fly fishing for musky, while the December meeting will be our annual "Tie and Lie" night.

FVTU President Nate Ratliff helped organize a fly-casting clinic to help people suffering from Parkinson's disease. Our chapter was contacted by the Wisconsin Parkinson's Association (WPA) to host a

local fly-casting clinic in September at the Appleton Memorial Park pond. According to Carolyn Hahn of the WPA, the act of fly casting is a gentle action requiring different muscles. It helps people with Parkinson's use new muscles and learn how to use them effectively in a sport or activity that's new to them. Six FVTU volunteers helped teach

and coach about 15 people with Parkinson's disease.

FVTU and Wisconsin Trout say good bye and good luck to long term retiring long-time contributor Rich Erickson, who has written our chapter reports for *Wisconsin Trout* for 18 years

Let's go fishin'!
—Don Clouthier



FRANK HORNBERG CHAPTER CLEANS UP TOMORROW RIVER

At the annual river clean up day, Kerry Brimmer and Bob Lane remove a tree blocking the Tomorrow River.



FRANK HORNBERG CHAPTER ON THE LITTLE PLOVER

Workers gather for a picture before placing brush bundles in the Little Plover River in Portage County.

Frank Hornberg Chapter

Doug Erdmann represented our chapter at three work events this summer. The June workday was on Bird Creek by Wautoma. The Central Wisconsin and Fox Valley Chapters were the sponsors. Buckthorn and overhanging brush were removed from the stream. The July workday was on the West Branch of the White River in Waushara County. The Central Wisconsin Chapter was the sponsor. About three dozen people showed up to help out. The Fox Valley Chapter, the DNR and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service also participated.

The August workday was back on Bird Creek. More than 80 people participated, including students from the Wisconsin TU Youth Fishing Camp. The DNR conducted a stream-shocking survey, which turned up an amazing number of brown trout.

Chuck Minor, who also participated in the August workday, was a mentor at the youth camp for the entire four days. Chuck tells us that "the kids learned a lot about trout over the four days and I learned a lot. I would encourage others to volunteer as a mentor or volunteer just to be a fishing mentor on the last day."

On July 25 the Center for Water-

shed Science and Education at UW-Stevens Point held a reception at the Rising Star Mill in Nelsonville. The occasion was the release of a 2019 State of the River Report on the Tomorrow River. The report is a comprehensive account of the past and present status of the river. Matt Salchert was the designated representative for our chapter at this event. The Hornberg Chapter provided a number of the color photographs in the report. Several past and present members, including Stu Nelson (on the cover), Wyatt Bohm and Jim Gitter, are subjects in the photographs.

The brushing project on the Little Plover River continues. We held a work event in August at the Kennedy Avenue crossing. Members from three TU chapters, including Frank Hornberg, were in attendance. Other volunteers included several teenagers, UW-Stevens Point students and professors, members of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation and State Sen. Patrik Testin. Teams of workers placed brush bundles at strategic locations to narrow the channel and redirect the flow.

Also in August, for the 14th consecutive year, the Hornberg Chapter co-sponsored the annual Tomorrow/Waupaca River Cleanup



FOX VALLEY CHAPTER HELPS PARKINSONS GROUP

FVTU President Nate Ratliff helped organize a fly-casting clinic to help people suffering from Parkinson's disease.

Chapter News



Day headed up by the local Friends of the Tomorrow/Waupaca River (FOTWR) organization. We had our work cut out for us after the recent storms that raked large portions of Wisconsin, but most stretches of the river are again open to navigability due to this in-

credible chainsaw volunteer effort. As always, FOTWR prepared and served a wonderful lunch.

Thanks are due to Doug Erdmann and Stu Grimstad for their contributions to this report.

—John Vollrath

Green Bay Chapter

The Green Bay Chapter held its final three chapter work projects of the summer. First was our June 15 effort on the Evergreen River in Langlade County. Nearly 30 folks showed up, including members from the DNR, plus the Oconto, Antigo and the Northwoods chapters of TU.

For our July workday we went to Swanson Creek. Despite area tornado warnings, about 10 individuals made the trip up north. The final GBTU work project of 2019 was a return trip to the Evergreen River. Approximately 13 people came out to put finishing touches on our work from June.

We were part of two big outreach/education events. In June we helped a group of about 18 Pulaski Boy Scouts learn all about fly fishing. Several of the scouts were awarded their Boy Scout Fly Fishing Merit Badge for their involve-

ment. Dan Simons played a huge role in connecting our two groups. Eight GBTU volunteers came out to make the day a memorable one for the scouts.

On July 10 we partnered with the Brown County Health and Human Services PALS program, Green Bay Exchange Club and the Brown County Izaak Walton League to hold the 28th annual Kids Fishing Day. This year we had around 45 kids and 30 adults join us. Participants caught bluegill, bass, trout and perch. Food was provided.

GBTU recently donated/committed funds for several good causes. We gave \$100 to help sponsor the Brown County Izaak Walton Leagues' Annual Trout Boil and Pig Roast. We helped send two area veterans on a guided fishing trip with the Hayward Fly Fishing Company through our Veterans' Service

Program with \$200 (\$100 for each veteran). Our chapter committed \$2,000 towards a 40-acre land purchase on the South Branch of the Oconto River to provide future

public fishing access.

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

—Adrian Meseberg

Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter

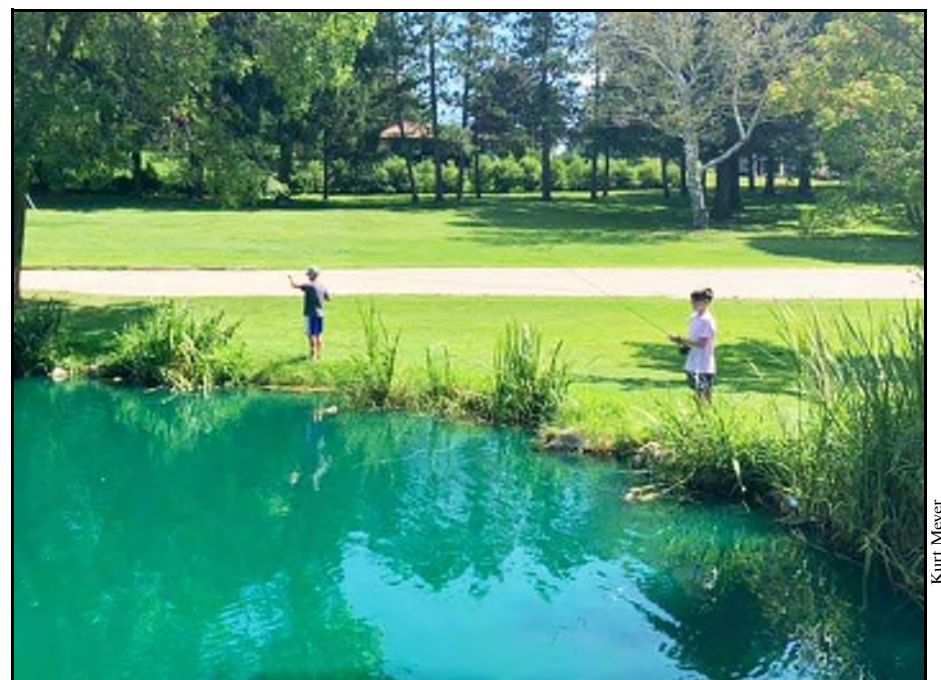
Stream work finally started on the Blue River north of Bower Road. It has been a very wet early season.

We had the Second Annual Summer Social in August at the Bowers Road access to the Blue River. We had some casting instruction early, a tour of the work done north of Bower Road, and then enjoyed good food. Landowners who had stream restoration work or who may be considering a project were invited to discuss their experience. Bradd Sims and other DNR staff provided a stream-shocking demonstration. For women and girls interested in

coldwater fly fishing, our women's advocate (Carol Murphy) and others were available to answer questions. Pictures can be seen in two postings on our Facebook page.

Kurt Meyer, a chapter board member and Fennimore school teacher, had six kids in his summer fly-fishing and fly-tying program. The chapter supplies the rods and tying equipment and Kurt supplies the enthusiasm. The class finished by fishing the Lancaster park pond.

—Brian Larson



Kurt Meyer

SUMMER FISHING PROGRAM

Kurt Meyer, a Nohr Chapter board member and Fennimore school teacher, had six kids in his summer fly-fishing and fly-tying program. The chapter supplies the rods and tying equipment and Kurt supplies the enthusiasm. The class finished by fishing the Lancaster park pond.

Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter

The chapter had an active summer working on a number of fronts. Our monitoring team was busy working with chapter members on deployment of 29 temperature loggers in five local rivers, to evaluate the impacts of stormwater runoff, hydropower facilities and climate change.

It is hoped this data will be used to assess the ability of our stream restoration projects to improve temperature regimes. Numerous water samples were collected and analyzed on several streams, to better understand watershed impacts on water quality.

To complement stream temperature and water chemistry data, two weather stations were operated, providing data on air temperature, relative humidity, dew point and rainfall amounts. Kiap-TU-Wish also continued to provide financial and volunteer monitoring support for USGS operation and maintenance of their Kinnickinnic River flow-gaging station.

National Trout Unlimited is placing a high priority on Angler Science and the benefits it provides for angler education and coldwater resource management. Trout Unlimited's national science team is

currently collaborating with MobileH2O, LLC to develop a customized mobile application (WiseH2O mApp) that can be used by anglers to monitor water quality and habitat conditions in Driftless Area trout streams. Throughout the spring and summer, Kiap-TU-Wish anglers tested the mApp on 10 local streams and rivers, making 80 observations (as of August 31) and providing feedback to the developers on mApp improvements. At the conclusion of the 2019 monitoring year, MobileH2O will prepare an evaluation report, along with recommendations and next steps for a broader rollout of the mApp across the Driftless Area, hopefully in 2020. Stay tuned, as this will be a great opportunity for anglers to evaluate the wellbeing of our precious coldwater resources. Chapters in the Driftless Area that are interested in working with the application should contact Kent Johnson at d.kent.johnson@gmail.com.

Thanks to the efforts of chapter member Mark Pereenboom, Andrew Jenks, a Research Fellow at the Forest Resource Department of the University of Minnesota, shot drone footage under the direction of Loren Haas, Kiap-TU-Wish's



GREEN BAY CHAPTER TEACHES BOY SCOUTS

GBTU member Dan Simon teaching the Pulaski Boy Scouts one of the many aspects of fly fishing.



Adrian Meseberg

RELOCATING SEDIMENT ON THE EVERGREEN

GBTU members Jeff House and Pat Hill operate the discharge tube relocating sediment from the bottom of the Evergreen River to the banks, deepening the river and narrowing the channel.



Chapter News



PREPARING THE DRONE AT PLUM CREEK

Andrew Jenks, a Research Fellow at the Forest Resource Department of the University of Minnesota, prepares a drone at Plum Creek. The Kiap Chapter hopes to use drones more in the future.



GREAT TURNOUT AT THE RIVER FALLS FLY FISHING CLINIC

Kiap Chapter board member and newsletter editor Maria Manion (right) instructs students at the River Falls Fly Fishing Clinic in June.



KINNI CORRIDOR COLLABORATIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The newly formed Kinni Corridor Collaborative Board of Directors. Pictured (left to right): Nate Pachl, Duke Welter, Michelle Mayer, Judie Foster Babcock, Katelyn Meyer, Matt Johnson, Scott Eickschen and Ben Blauert.

Project Manager of the chapter's current restoration project on Plum Creek. This site is the Von Holtum Easement, which is south of Plum City on County Highway U, below the bridge downstream of 145th Avenue intersection.

It is the intention of the chapter to shoot more drone video of this site after the DNR's work this fall for potential educational use. The DNR will use heavy equipment to remove the stumps from the chapter's box-elder-cutting that we conducted last winter. Equipment crews will also slope or reduce the eroded banks and install rock rip-rap.

Two winters ago Chapter Habitat Coordinator Randy Arnold organized workdays utilizing members of both Kiap-TU-Wish and Wisconsin Clear Waters chapters to remove some 3,000 trees from the Klingman easement on Wilson Creek. Nate Anderson and his DNR crew wrapped up the in-stream and bank restoration there, and two workdays were held in June to seed/mulch the restored areas. Members of both chapters showed up to seed the area and spread some 400 bales of straw.

Randy personally installed eight bluebird nest boxes on the Gene Ruenger easement on Hay Creek and also put up another 10 nest boxes at the Gutting easement on the Trimbelle.

On a rain-soaked Saturday in early July, Loren Haas and Randy met up with members of the Olivet Otters 4-H club to plant 250 prairie 'plugs' at the Holst easement on the Trimbelle River where earlier this spring a commemorative plaque had been installed honoring Mike Holst. Mike was a quarry owner and TU champion who supplied rock for many stream improvement projects, who passed away the previous year. Caitlin Nagorka of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provided the prairie plugs to the chapter.

Another summer project was also a joint venture with the Wisconsin Clear Waters Chapter when we showed up to seed and mulch the newly restored stretch of Tiffany Creek running through the campus of the Boyceville Middle/High School. Randy organized the workdays there this past winter where members of both chapters and some staff and students from the school helped remove the unwanted trees from the site to ready it for Nate

and his DNR crew.

Fifteen volunteers turned out in early August to assist Area Fish Manager Kasey Yallaly and her DNR shocking crew to complete their annual fish surveys on the Kinni, Rush, and Willow Rivers.

A healthy prairie riparian corridor is a major contributor to a healthy trout stream. Creating healthy prairies within the corridor can be accomplished by a number of means including grazing, fire or mowing and preferably all three. In a quest to promote prairie health the maintenance committee has created three basic mowing strategies: total site mowing every three or four years, invasive control mowing and treatment as needed, and fisherman's stream access via a five-foot-wide path, 10 feet from the water edge, or small stream bank edge mowing.

High summer rain totals created extremely healthy riparian growth with many stream banks covered by grass as high as six feet, and sometimes higher. A contractor was hired and \$8,000 from Kiap-TU-Wish was spent to mow five stream easements in August. The five streams mowed are: South Fork of the Kinnickinnic River on Highway 29, the Kinnickinnic River Christiansen access near County Highway J, the Trimbelle River DOT County Highway W access, Parker Creek and Cady creek.

As good stewards of Kiap-TU-Wish member dollars, Randy Arnold and Loren Haas continue to explore the option of renting versus buying versus contracting to meet the future mowing needs along our riparian corridors.

This is the second year trout habitat work was showcased by the Wisconsin Natural Resources Foundation (NRF). On July 13 Kiap-TU-Wish members led a field trip for the NRF about trout stream habitat improvement in the northern Driftless Area. This was the second year for this field trip, touring stream sites in Pierce County in need of habitat improvement work, and sites that have been improved with the planning, financial and field work contributions by Kiap-TU-Wish, the DNR and many other partners.

Many participants on the field trip are not trout anglers, and this has been an outreach to a new audience. Participants have enjoyed the



LOTS OF EXCITEMENT AT "BUGS IN THE CLASSROOM"

"Bugs in the Classroom" instructor Dean Hansen holding the students' attention once again.

Chapter News



tour, learning what we do to improve the trout streams, and in the process also supporting pollinators, birds and other wildlife, and prairie restoration.

On the educational front, the chapter completed another River Falls Fly Fishing Clinic in June with 28 folks participating, our largest group in the 20-plus years we've been putting the event on. We had 12 volunteers acting as teachers and mentors. Activities provided for the students included a couple hours of casting instruction interspersed with lessons in equipment, entomology, fly selection, fishing strategies, a little bit of safety and a little bit of ecology before finally going fishing.

We hope that the students came away with knowledge of fly-fishing sufficient to allow them to enjoy the fantastic resource in their backyard, the Kinnickinnic River, and recognize the threats facing it. Special thanks goes out to Brian Smolinski from Lund's Fly Shop who helped tremendously by ordering and organizing all the food for the students and instructors. Dean Hansen supplied insects for the entomology portion of the class and Jim Kojis assisted him. Thank you to everyone who acted as instructors and mentors.

Other outreach included participation in a celebration of the St. Croix Fish Hatchery's 100th birthday in July in St. Croix Falls. Perry Palin and Gary Horvath spent the day manning our new chapter display, and it was a big hit. They met many nice people and got a tour of the hatchery, which raises brook and brown trout for distribution statewide. That same day Past President Tom Schnadt gave a presentation on our chapter's efforts to promote coldwater conservation via education, monitoring, advocacy and stream restoration at the Willow River State Park.

This year all our Trout In the Classroom (TIC) programs will be back with the exception of North Hudson Elementary, due to the teacher moving. We have already picked up a new classroom in Ellsworth, with the other programs returning in Hudson, River Falls (2), Amery (2), Hammond, and Prescott. Dean Hansen will also be back on board presenting Bugs in the Classroom (BIC) to these classes, as well as collecting bugs for the TIC releases and ECO Day at Rocky Branch Elementary in River Falls. Special thanks to all the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter members who volunteer for TIC/BIC. These programs would not be possible without them.

In September chapter members participated in the Kinnickinnic

Lakeshore Chapter

As we watch the leaves begin to turn, the members of Lakeshore TU can reflect back on an amazing summer. We not only secured funding for an Onion River restoration project, but we secured funds to do some work on another small local stream. Needless to say, having two projects has kept us all busy.

Since early May we have held six work days that have brought out several dozen people each month to work on our local streams. We have fixed a dozen damaged LUNKER structures, installed three dozen half logs, and stabilized hundreds of feet of eroded stream bank. We have a

Pheasants Forever Game Fair. Thirty-seven boys and seventeen girls took part in this event designed to exhibit a range of outdoor activities. Nancy Willette, a certified casting instructor, provided enthusiastic hands-on fly-casting lessons.

Thirteen boys and girls opted to try fly-fishing with a mentor on the Willow River or the adjacent lake. Chapter member Ed Constantini helped more than 20 youngsters tie a wooly bugger. Our instructors and mentors included Randy Arnold, John Kaplan, Dan Donahue, Bruce Maher, Linda Radimecky and Mark Pereenboom. They tailored fishing instructions to the level of interest and enthusiasm of their students.

Bob Trevis's 12-pack of flies was a big hit for the kids that participated in fly-fishing. A thanks to Lund's Fly-Fishing for donating a beginner's rod and reel for the raffle. The five pair of waders loaned to us from St. Croix Environmental Education allowed the students to get in the Willow River and get a genuine feel for fly-fishing.

The chapter continued its advocacy efforts on two fronts. Gary Horvath worked with the Kinni Corridor Collaborative to help implement the City Council adopted plan. This phase of the effort involved starting up a new non-profit called the Kinni Corridor Collaborative. This involved drafting by-laws and electing a board of directors. We were very pleased to see Wisconsin TU legend Duke Welter seated on the board. The chapter looks forward to working with this group to help fund dam removals and the other aspects of the Kinni Corridor Plan.

Finally, chapter members Kent Johnson, Dan Wilcox and Gary Horvath worked on issues surrounding the pending conditional use permit for the proposed Western Wisconsin Biogas and Nutrient Recovery Project in Hammond Wisconsin. While the chapter supports the concept of bio-digesters as an alternative to direct land application of manure, Kent, Dan, and Gary did not feel the logistics of this particular facility, with its reliance on an import of 70 percent of nutrients into the county, made sense to St. Croix County. The potential nutrient-related impacts on the county's outstanding and exceptional resource waters, including our valued trout streams, combined with the impacts to the county's ability to achieve targeted phosphorus load reductions for waters already designated as impaired, led us to oppose this project. As of this writing, the project will likely not move forward. —Gary Horvath and Tom Schnadt

lot of dedicated folks who have taken it upon themselves to go stream-side to tackle small projects on their own, often after working all day. All this is prep for some major projects we have planned for 2020. However, these efforts are already paying off. We are already seeing plenty of fish moving into the areas where we have done most of the work, which is a great reward for our efforts.

Looking to the future, autumn and winter promise to be fun and busy seasons. We are going to try to add more fun to our monthly meetings with fly-tying classes, spouses night, speakers and just general get-

to-know-you events starting with September when we hold our first stream-side meeting and cookout. We will also be starting two Trout In the Classroom programs and have many more work days planned

throughout the year. Winter doesn't slow us down.

Happy fishing!
—Stephen Girardi

Marinette County Chapter

This summer the Marinette County Chapter took part in a City Family Fun Day held in Menominee, Michigan. It included casting and fly-tying demos. Later in June we sponsored a Kids Fishing day in the Coleman-Pound area, and it was well attended. We were also involved with a kids fishing event in

early August in the Marinette Area.

Regular chapter meetings will begin again in October. The chapter is also working with the DNR on water temperature monitors and looking into some grants for land purchases for stream access.

—Dale Lange

Northwoods Chapter

On Labor Day we held the drawing for our summer-long Grand Raffle. The first prize was a Maxxon XRW-240 solo pontoon equipped with an electric trolling motor. Second prize was a complete 4-weight fly fishing combo featuring a Redington Classic Trout rod, Sage 2230 reel, Scientific Anglers Wavelength Trout line and leader. Third prize was a \$200 gift certificate for Mel's

Trading Post in Rhinelander.

For some time we've been planning to evaluate the status of our past work projects. With the exception of one site that I can longer find, this summer all of the sites for work days held since 2004 were visited. A report will be presented to our board at our next meeting.

—Terry Cummings

Oconto River Chapter

The chapter continued to work stream projects with the Green Bay, Marinette and Wolf River chapters. May's project include brushing, bundling and structure rehab work on the South Branch of the Oconto River. Projects on the Evergreen River were completed in June and August. July found the crew doing rehab projects on Swanson Creek.

In June several chapter members and some of Don Wagner's family installed the "Memorial Bench" that we will be placing in honor of our life-long original chapter member, who is now departed. The bench has been placed overlooking the South Branch of the Oconto River off of the Spruce Road parking lot. A formal dedication ceremony and lunch took place in July, with approximately 40 of Don's family and friends.

In early August chapter mem-

bers participated in the Suring Sportsmen's Youth Day. Nearly 40 kids participated in the event. Our chapter provided the opportunity for each child to catch a trout. Other members ran a casting contest and gave away rod and reel combos for prizes. Still others offered to teach fly casting to those who wanted to learn another type of fishing.

We held a family fishing and fish fry cookout in August at Underhill Park. The attendance was small, but the enthusiasm was great as youth took turns trying to catch the golden trout in the youth fishing pond. We served a great meal of fried fish with all the extras.

Our next two chapter membership meetings are October 1 and December 3 at the Lone Oak Gun club just North of Gillett starting at 7 p.m.

—Tom Klatt

Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter

The summer was relaxing, and we continued the tradition of no membership meetings in June, July and August. Starting in September our membership meetings will resume on the fourth Tuesday of each month. We all look forward to hearing about everyone's summer fishing exploits. Check the chapter website for more detailed information about our monthly membership meetings.

We are ramping up the fall habitat fundraiser. This is our main fundraiser for all the projects that we commit to throughout the year. Save the evening of October 22. I hope to see you at the fundraiser at the New Berlin Hills Golf Course. This is a great meeting to attend, with great food, great laughs. And it's all for a great cause.

The habitat committee has been hard at work executing our summer restoration projects. In June we teamed up with several other chapters to build LUNKER structures for Warner Creek in Monroe County. Our commitment to the Driftless Area continues, and it was a great day as we did a lot of work and ate a

lot of brats.

In July we worked right here in our backyard on Tichigan Creek. This creek is what Trout Unlimited is all about. The DNR discovered coldwater sources in what had been converted to a duck pond. This stream was warm water with a put-and-take sacrificial rainbow trout stocking effort just a few years ago. Today there are brook trout in this stream. The DNR, Trout Unlimited, the local school's conservation club and many dedicated volunteers have raised this stream up, and put a lot of work into restoring this to coldwater habitat. This stream is getting the full works, Trout In-the-Classroom brookies have been going into this location, we're advocating for this location, and our habitat committee, volunteers, and the DNR are doing an amazing amount of work to physically restore and bring a Southeastern Wisconsin Trout Stream back to life. This is what we're about, and it's working.

In August we held our annual family day at Paradise Springs. Outreach to families and their children is important. A lot of what we do is



Chapter News

for future generations, and this event is dedicated to igniting that spark in those future anglers.

In October we return to Bluff Creek in Walworth County. We are building upon our past success at this location to dress up some stream banks and clear out weed beds now that the remainder of the creek is complete. If you have not been to this location recently, please come out, if not to work, then to at least see what's been do-

ne. The DNR performed a miracle on this creek and brought it back from a straight ditch.

With fall around the corner, Greg Schick is starting the Oak Creek Fly-Tying sessions back up. Check our website for a list of the announced dates, which are normally the first and third Tuesday of the month).

Tight lines!
—John Rennpferd



SWTU MEMBERS WORK ON SUGAR RIVER NORTH OF PAOLI

SWTU members working along Dane County's Davidson Property on the Sugar River, just north of Paoli. They transformed mountains of brush from an earlier workday into a massive brush bundle to rejuvenate and stabilize a stream bank, provide a bit deeper and cleaner channel, create safe refuges for small trout and feeding areas for bigger ones.

Southern Wisconsin Chapter

A pretty cool thing happened at SWTU's "Apps and Maps"-themed chapter meeting in September. Board member Pat Hasburgh unveiled the all-new Madison Area Trout Streams map created for our members and available for download on swtu.org. Pat put a ton of work into this map which points the way to a great many Madison-area trout fishing opportunities. Another board member, Curt Riedl, spoke at the meeting on other online tools like the USGS website, the DNR T.R.O.U.T tool and various weather apps.

These powerful digital tools were undreamt of 50 years ago, the year of our chapter's founding. We're celebrating this Golden Anniversary with a banquet on Thursday, 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.

Wild Rivers Chapter

Wild Rivers usually has a pretty quiet summer. July featured a picnic at the Grand View Park. Scott Toshner, the fish manager for the White River, gave a great talk about the condition of the White after another huge storm event. The South Fork of the White was really hit. There was a lot of damage in the headwaters, which is going to take years to repair. The old Town of Delta dump, which has been closed for decades, was blown open by the flood. Much of the spawning area and the fish cover that we helped install 10 or 15

years ago was badly damaged.

In Scott's fish survey this year, there seems to be very few small fish that survived the floods, but a fairly large population of 15-17-inch fish is still in the system. After fishing the hex hatch in July it seems to agree with those numbers. It's going to be an interesting next couple of years for the White River.

In August we again held our annual bass outing in some of the warm water rivers south of Hayward. Board member Jason Stewart did much of the planning for this



WILD RIVERS CHAPTER BASS OUTING HAD MORE THAN BASS

The catch of the day at the Wild Rivers Chapter bass outing was caught by Kyle Magyera from the Wisconsin Wetland Association, with a really nice 40-inch tiger musky. After fishing, we all met at a local watering hole for dinner and Kyle had the biggest smile by far.

event. We had five boats out on four different rivers. Thanks to Jason, Weston Their, Kelly McKnight, Scot Hultman and Don Luke for supplying the boats. I think Dick Berge caught the largest smallmouth at 19 inches, But the catch of the day was caught by Kyle Magyera

from the Wisconsin Wetland Association, with a really nice 40-inch tiger musky. After fishing, we all met at a local watering hole for dinner and Kyle had the biggest smile by far.

—Bill Heart

Wisconsin Clear Waters Chapter

WCWTU had an active Spring and Summer on many fronts. In May many camping and non-camping members enjoyed our annual chapter outing to the Driftless Area. We even had a couple of "glampers." The fish were cooperative and all who attended had a good time.

Our chapter sponsored two students at the Wisconsin TU Youth Fishing Camp in August.

Chapter volunteers staffed various youth programs, giving area youth fishing opportunities, casting instruction and conservation information. Chapter volunteers, led by Greg Lynch and Lon Christianson, provided free fly-casting lessons. The chapter also provided equipment for use by the attendees.

The Wilson Creek project in Dunn County was completed with the able and gracious assistance of Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter members, with July seeding and mulching workdays.

We completed work on our Hay Creek project in Chippewa County with an August seeding and mulching day.

We provided grants to support projects on Waumandee Creek, Traverse Valley Creek and an unnamed tributary of Elk Creek, all located in Buffalo and Trempealeau counties.

The board approved Trout In the Classroom projects for Boyceville and Whitehall High schools.

Note that, in addition to the above, DNR work crews completed work on Tiffany Creek in Boyceville and continue to work on Plum Creek in Pepin County. Our chapter has taken the lead on the Plum Creek project and provided much of the tree-cutting expertise on the Boyceville school property project.

In September we elected new board members and officers. Visit our website for updates at wcwtu.com.

We will continue to hold our chapter meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at Modicum Brewing in Altoona. In October our host Modicum Brewing will discuss techniques for brewing beer, followed by social time and fish tales by attendees.

In November, Gabe from Dry Fly Sales will discuss how to repair



WISCONSIN CLEARWATERS CHAPTER SEEDING HAY CREEK

At this workday on Hay Creek in Chippewa County, former chapter President Tim Meyer directs the blower with assistance from other volunteers.

Chapter News



Crystal Welter

WISCONSIN CLEAR WATERS CHAPTER OUTING IN DRIFTLESS AREA

Attendees at the chapter's Driftless Area fishing trip included Lon Christianson, Nancy Christianson, Duke Welter, Ed Michefske, Steve Gausman, Kitt Duplessie, Dick Duplessie and Mike Shanley.

your waders and more. In December Jeff Treu will present "Adventures in Steelhead Fishing." The January meeting will include the annual fish managers and biologists meeting. February will feature speed fly tying. March is our annual banquet. In April is a Spring Surprise. Please see our website for updates.

Workdays will begin after Octo-

ber 15. Matt Wysocki is our able workday coordinator. Please check our website for information and add your name to Matt's list of volunteers/interested parties to receive email notices of upcoming work days. Rumor has it that an "old guy" midweek work crew may be established.

—Dick Duplessie

Wisconsin River Valley Chapter

Many thanks to Eagle Scout Jacob Pease for his hard work and determination to design and build four boot-washing stations to combat the spread of aquatic invasive species. His designs were approved by the DNR and in August were dispersed at two locations on the Prairie River and also two locations on the Plover River. If you are fishing in these areas, please use them to clean your boots. Thank you, Jacob.

In early August, Kirk Stark attended a work day on the Little Plover River. Also in attendance was David Palme, a graduate student, and Dana Anderson with four kids from the K.A.M.O. group (Kids and Mentors Outdoors/Yellow River Chapter). The kids were a great help with brush bundling and worked very hard. I heard that when the work was done they found several limbs to pile up for a makeshift couch to take a break.

In late August we got together for the Wausau Noon Optimists, Sporting Heritage youth day at the Wausau School Forest. About 160 kids attended the event with their grown-ups. Attendance was up by about 30 kids from last year. Bob Pils, Henry Kanemoto, John Meachen, Linda Lehman and Robert Pankratz shared their fly-tying skills to excited youngsters. Pankratz' display of his collection of bass, pike and musky flies drew a lot of attention, as well as Henry's collection of trout flies and pictures of the beautiful trout that they can catch.

After lunch we assembled in the yard for casting. This year I wanted to try something different. I found a collection of poker chips at the local GoodWill store and purchased a few yards of self-adhesive velcro to make a different kind of target to cast to. I cut the velcro into pieces and stuck them on one side of the poker chip. I then created a fuzzy yarn fly that would stick to the velcro. When the kids caught a poker chip they could win a piece of candy. On each piece of candy was a length and a species of game fish. (ie. 18-

inch smallmouth bass). It turned out to be a lot of fun for the kids. Even after the event wrapped up, there were kids that lingered to keep casting.

In September there was a meeting at the Hatley village hall with chapter members John Meachen and Kirk Stark, along with staff from the DNR fisheries department, village board members and nearly a dozen resident landowners along the Plover River. The DNR provided a presentation to all to gain interest with the land owners. Feedback was quite positive and I believe the landowners will be a great help in aiding with the project development. The next step will be for the DNR to meet individually with the land owners and discuss getting their volunteering for easements on their properties. The easements will make it possible to complete stream work improvement. The project has a potential start in the spring or summer of 2020.

On October 1 and October 3 we will be assisting the Wausau East High School biology, chemistry and physics students with the annual Plover River Stream Study. We will meet at the intersection of County Highways Y and N. We'll help student identify aquatic insects and minnow species and occasionally help them out of some sticky mud. After the critters are collected, the DNR staff sorts them into separate baggies and passes them around to the students to get a good look at them and discuss their characteristics and their importance to the river ecology. Then they are released back into the river.

The DNR staff then gives a shocking demonstration on a small section of stream and show the students the brown trout, brook trout and some of the other finned friends that live there. The colors on a male brook trout in the fall are stunning and beautiful and I never tire of seeing them.

Presentations that we have coming up are as follows.

On October 15 Craig Cook from Fall Line Outfitters will come and talk to our group.

On November 11 David Palme, grad student, will have a presentation on the Little Plover River.

On December 11 Bob Haase will give tips on how to plan a western

trip on a budget.

We meet at Sconnies Restaurant in Schofield. Check our website or Facebook Page to be sure of the time and in case there might have been a last-minute change. We hope you join us.

—Linda Lehman

Wolf River Chapter

From the anglers I talked to, the trout and even the smallies were elusive on the Wolf River this past summer.

Many reasons may have played into this troubling dilemma, such as high water, many bad storms, really high water, poor fly choices and just not getting to the right spot.

On July 19, most of Langlade County was devastated by 100 mph straight line winds and possible tornados. To put it bluntly, the woods around the Wolf River are in rough shape and much care needs to be taken if walking along the shoreline or walking through the woods to your favorite location along the Wolf or even Nine Mile Creek.

There are widow makers (trees leaning at weird angles, branches and limbs hanging by a thread and trees ready to drop over even in dead calm air) everywhere. Please be careful if fishing this fall, and be sure to look up to make sure you are not going to get conked on the head by falling branches, limbs or trees.

September 6 and 7 were busy days for 11 members of the Wolf River Chapter and a borrowed TU member from the Madison area who we have now convinced to transfer to our chapter. We were offered the opportunity to volunteer as a group at the Wolfman Triathlon in the Town of Wolf River, and based out of Gardner Dam Scout Camp on the Wolf River. The race consists of 3.5 miles of whitewater

paddling (Irrigation Ditch to Langlade DNR landing), 13 or so miles of mountain biking through the national forest and tough single track with river crossings to Herb's Landing, and a three-mile run through the woods ending at Gardner Dam and culminating with good music and a pig roast.

Susie Livingston and I were assigned to do our volunteer hours Friday evening selling swag to the competitors checking in to get their race times, numbers and equipment checked. We sold beanies, pint glasses, T-shirts, stickers, mugs and dry and mesh bags. We had a lot of laughs, mosquito bites and were both really chilly by the time we got home.

For more than three hours on Saturday morning Andy Killoren, Travis Stuck, Scott VanLaanen and Zach Buchanan donned their waders to assist the racers in canoes and kayaks in the Wolf River to the start line. Meanwhile Bill Kallner and Bill Livingston lined the competitors up in order of start time from the parking lot down the trail to the water.

Dan Puser, who graciously at the last minute replaced Lu Ann Killoren, who broke her leg in Iceland, sold coffee and bakery goods in the parking lot at the Ditch. John Rose, an experienced kayaker, paddled down river to Larzelere Rapids as a safety boater, just in case someone really needed help. And yes there



ELUSIVE WOLF RIVER RAINBOW CAUGHT AFTER WOLFMAN TRIATHLON

Dan Puser slipped into the Wolf River for some fishing after the Wolfman Triathlon to catch this beautiful elusive 15-inch rainbow trout at an undisclosed, secret location on the Wolf River while fishing with Zach Buchanan and using a Zach Buchanan Wolfhound.



Chapter News

was some carnage, but everyone got safely back in their equipment and continued on.

Chuck Valliere's volunteer time was a little later as his position was by the cornfield and cemetery, directing the bikers into the cornfield and away from the cemetery. Julie Rose was posted at the shower house at Gardner Dam directing the right way to go. While this was going on, I set up a Wolf River Chapter informational booth equipped with membership brochures, a donation creel, a large poster showing what we have been doing for the trout, lawn trout and fly rods.

The pig roast was served at 12:30 p.m. and, while eating, I noticed Dan and Zach were missing. Oh yah, they went fishing. The rest of the guys were busy talking about how bad the fishing was all summer,

going on and on and on. Zach and Dan showed up and, lo and behold, Dan caught a 15-inch rainbow on a Zach Buchanan Wolfhound, a five-inch streamer designed and tied by Zach. Not long after that, Travis finished eating, took some practice casts for lawn trout (he successfully caught all the lawn trout) and the waders were back on to go fishing. I never heard how he did, but I hope the rainbow were rising for him, too.

Just before the awards were handed out to the competitors, the volunteer groups each received a donation of \$500, including the Wolf River Chapter. What a great experience and wonderful way to bring a nice donation into the chapter to pay for trout habitat restoration.

—Laurie Zen Netzow



WOLF RIVER CHAPTER MANS BOOTH AT TRIATHLON

Bill Kallner, Travis Stuck, Chuck Valliere, Bill Livingston and Andy Killoren man the Wolf River Chapter Booth at the Wolfman Triathlon.

Website provides Midwest fishing information



OAKBROOK WEBSITE FEATURES MIDWEST FISHING INFORMATION

The Northern Illinois Rivers page on the Oakbrook Chapter website includes information on a chapter-preferred guide with private property access to select Illinois River tributaries and premium smallmouth fisheries.

FEATHER, from page 7

Try getting into that price range with your best trout flies.

Edwin Rist started out in 1999 as a tyer of trout flies, and won local competitions for his creations. Upon seeing a display of the classic Victorian salmon flies for the first time, however, his interest in drab imitative trout flies quickly faded, and he shifted his attention to the gaudy salmon flies.

Despite his obsession with fly tying, he somehow managed to keep up with his musical studies and training, which led him to the Royal Academy of Music in London in 2007. The burglary of the British Museum in Tring occurred later that same year.

"The Feather Thief" is so much more than just the story of a burglary. The basis for the scientific value of the bird skins is established in the very first chapter through a brief telling of the story of Alfred Russel Wallace, who in the mid 1800's personally collected a number of the rare bird skins stolen in the burglary. There are interesting connections between Wallace and the theory of evolution, Darwin's "On the Origin of Species" (1859), and Wallace's

own stature within the scientific community both then and now.

The excesses of the feather trade fueled by women's fashion in the late 1800's must be included in Chapter 3, "The Feather Fever," due to it being more to blame for the scarcity (or extinction) of these birds than the much more limited demand by the fly tiers of that period (who back then, actually fished with such flies). The author also traces the development of laws prohibiting the harvest, trafficking and in many cases even the possession of these exotic feathers.

Upon Rist's arrest by British police, over a year after the date of the burglary, he immediately confessed to the offense (many of the bird skins were still in his possession). The prosecution's case, being pretty much open-and-shut, does result in his conviction; however, the sentencing portion of his case has its own twists and turns.

Upon his conviction in 2011, the police, having solved the crime, no longer pursued the recovery of still-missing bird skins, which lead to the author's own obsession (which he admits to) with determining where they may have ended up.

Johnson invests considerable

Chicago's Oak Brook Chapter website features more than 18 pages of relevant and timely fishing information for rivers and streams in six Midwest states: Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri and Wisconsin.

Visitors can find information on area guides, fly shops, lodging and restaurants, as well as fishing reports, real-time USGS river flows, weather information and state fishing license links. The website's most popular 2019 web pages, after its home page, are the chapter's youth fly fishing classes, annual summer youth camp, and fishing information on the Wisconsin Driftless Area and Michigan's Dowagiac, Muskegon and St. Joseph Rivers.

Besides the Driftless Area, Wisconsin-specific pages feature the Lower Wisconsin River, northern Wisconsin rivers and streams, Sheboygan River and southern county streams.

"Our website is a great way for our chapter to promote our business partners, whether they are our preferred guides, retailers, or conservation-oriented non-profits who support our education and fundraising programs," said Jim Schmiedeskamp, Oak Brook TU Communications Chair. "And by being mobile-responsive, visitors can access information on the go through their smartphones and tablets."

Other timely content of interest are the chapter's bimonthly newsletter, chapter meetings and events calendar, and local events hosted by area retailers and fly fishing shops. Visitors can follow the chapter on Facebook and Instagram through links on the website.

The Oak Brook Chapter is comprised of more than 1,200 members from Chicago's western and south suburbs and downstate Illinois. For more information about the Oak Brook Chapter visit obt.org.

—Jim Schmiedeskamp

time and expense in immersing himself in the salmon-fly-tying community, tracking online sales of materials, attending fly tying shows, and interviewing those willing to talk to him (not everyone would). He leaves an impression that the tying community doesn't really want to know the full story of the unrecovered bird skins.

I must admit that having read about the outrageous (from my point of view) prices being paid for the exotic bird skins and feathers described in this book, I feel a bit less constrained about paying for my own materials so that I may continue to tie flies that might actually catch fish for me, even though my checkbook does not always allow me to pull the trigger on a purchase whenever I want.

It's one thing to pull the trigger on the purchase of a Whiting saddle patch that can produce several hundred flies; it's quite another to spend a like amount that may net you a small plastic bag containing a dozen or less individual feathers.

The tying of classic salmon flies, however, is a very big deal to those who have more than just a passing interest in it, and apparently it becomes an obsession to its most dedi-

cated practitioners. You find a way to justify the cost of that which you are passionate about.

For fly tyers of any level, of flies fishable, saleable or possibly collectible, obtaining this glimpse into the absorbing and obsessive world of classic Victorian salmon flies is time well spent. I highly recommend reading "The Feather Thief."

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

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

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

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

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

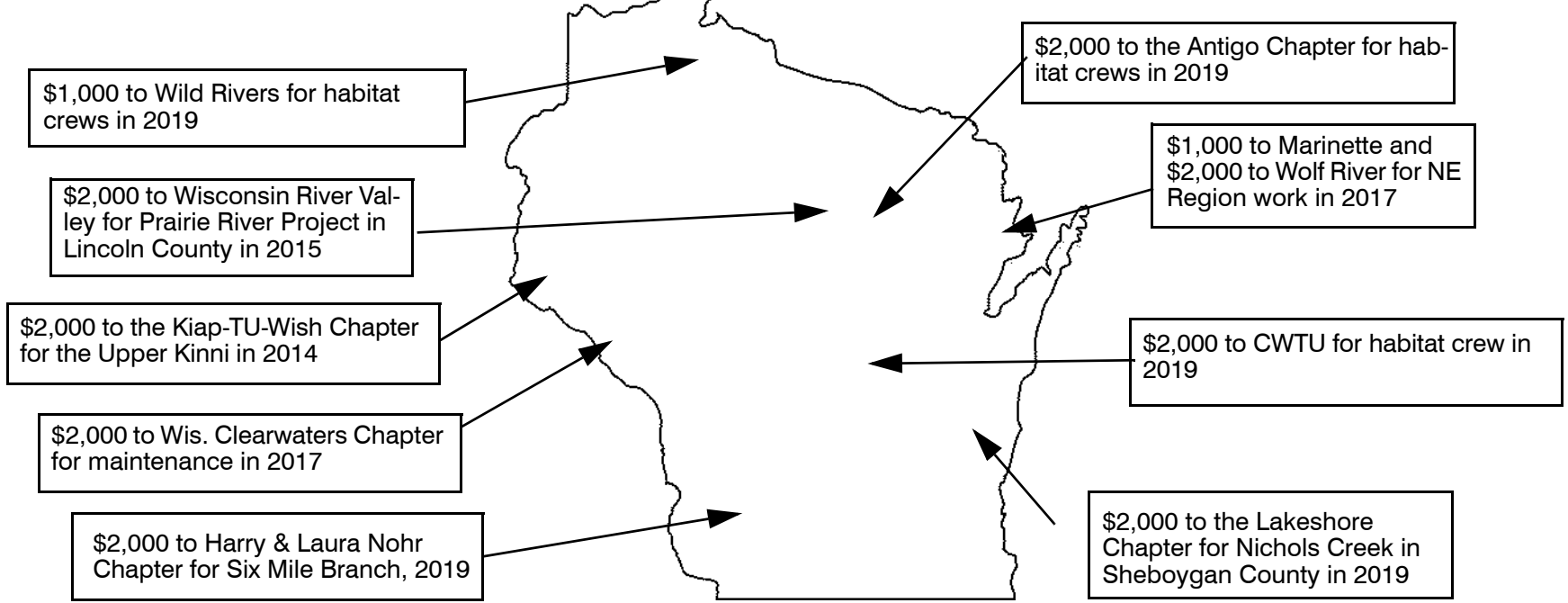
I hope you get out and enjoy the early trout season and that your 2019 fishing season treats you well.

Doug Brown,
Friends of Wisconsin TU



Friends of Wisconsin TU grants support several DNR LTE crews like this one.

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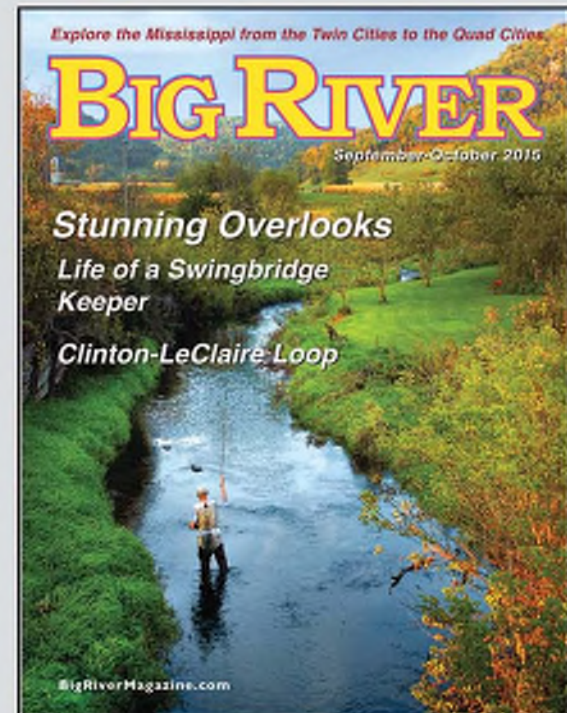
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