Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited 1423 Storytown Road Oregon, WI 53575 wicouncil.tu.org NONPROFIT ORG. U.S. POSTAGE PAID PERMIT NO. 1 MADISON, WI



# Wisconsyn Trout

Spring 2020

Advocacy update

## WITU watching conservation, water-related bills

By Mike Kuhr, Council Chair

By the time you read this, our State Assembly and Senate will have wrapped up their work in the 2019-2020 session.

#### Knowles Nelson Stewardship Program

In January, TU's Taylor Ridderbusch and Council Chair Mike Kuhr made 12 legislative office visits regarding the Stewardship Program. The intent of these meetings was to lay the groundwork for on-stream site visits later this summer.

Reauthorization of the Stewardship Program will be our number one priority heading into the next budget cycle. If you have a recent restoration project with public access acquired through the Stewardship Program that would make a good showcase project, please let Taylor or Mike know.

## **Increase funding for county conservation staff**

AB 790/SB 723 would increase funding for county conservation staff by \$2.9 million per year. By statute, each county is entitled to an average of three conservation staff with a goal that the state will fund 100 percent of the first position, 70 percent of the second, and 50 percent of each additional position. The increased funding will bring the state much closer to fulfilling its obligation.

This funding increase was asked for at every public meeting held by the Water Quality Task Force last year.

County conservationists are often the first line of defense against non-point source pollution in our waterways. Many are also capable of carrying out trout stream restoration projects. The bill has passed the Assembly, and we'll soon find out if the Senate supports this as well.

## 2019 Act 151 – creating a Clean Water Clearinghouse

WITU was supportive of legislation recently signed into law by Gov. Evers that creates a clearinghouse to manage a water-pollution credittrading program in Wisconsin. Credits generated by restoration work on the ground, such as bank tapering and buffer strips that reduce phosphorus runoff, will soon be able to earn credit and be traded in this new marketplace.

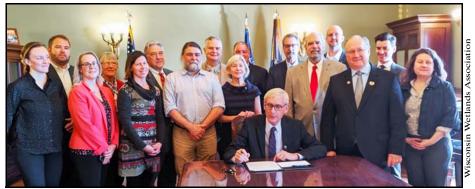
WITU has formed an ad-hoc committee, led by Duke Welter, to take a closer look at the potential for our chapters to engage in this type of credit trading. We expect an update from the committee at our next Council meeting in June.

#### 2019 Act 157 – Pilot flood reduction projects in Ashland County

WITU was supportive of this new law which will fund up to three pilot flood reduction projects in Ashland County. The projects will use natural flood reduction strategies, such as improving and enhancing wetlands, to reduce the impacts of flooding. The success of these projects should lead to more wetland restoration on the landscape to help reduce the impacts of extreme flooding events.

## Reduced-rate first-time fishing license

WITU was also supportive of Act



#### **GOVERNOR SIGNS FLOOD REDUCTION BILL**

Conservation partners, including TU, along with legislative authors, gather around Gov. Evers as he signs Wisconsin 2019 Act 157 into law. WITU was supportive of this new law, which will fund up to three pilot flood reduction projects in Ashland County. The projects will use natural flood reduction strategies, such as improving and enhancing wetlands, to reduce the impacts of flooding.

160, which reduces the first-time-buyer fishing-license rate for teenagers and seniors to \$5. A few years ago, a law was enacted that created the \$5 first time buyer reduced rate, but because of legal technicalities, it did not apply to teens or seniors. This law fixes that flaw. The reduced rate also applies to anyone who has not bought a fishing license in the last 10 years.

## Hydrologic restoration bill streamlines permitting

WITU supports AB 701 / SB 631 which streamlines the permitting process for wetland, stream and floodplain restoration projects and creates a Hydrologic Restoration and Management Advisory Council.

There was one piece of language in the original bill that WITU took issue with. It would have streamlined the permitting process for any "low-risk dam." We felt that any new obstruction to free-flowing water should be given greater scrutiny than the bill's general permit. We worked with our partners at the Wisconsin Wetlands Association and several legislators to have this language removed.

The bill passed the Assembly and we fully expected this to pass the Senate when they met at the end of March.

We would like to thank those of you who actively engage with your legislators on behalf of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited's advocacy priorities.

We'd especially like to thank Brandon Scholz of The Capitol Group for doing a fantastic job lobbying in the Capitol on our behalf. Our reputation as a thoughtful, pragmatic and dedicated organization continues to build inside the State Capitol.

## Banquet nets nearly \$25K

By Scott Allen, Council Vice Chair and Banquet Chair

The 2020 State Council fundraising and awards banquet in early February was a rousing success. About 250 members and guests attended the event to honor dedicated volunteers and conservation professionals receiving recognition.

They also had a chance to take home some of the \$24,000 worth of raffle and auction donations. Raffle sales, silent auctions and live auctions generated close to \$25,000 for the Council and our conservation causes.

Volunteer efforts and local chapter support were again keys to the banquet's success. The Banquet Committee was outstanding in both planning and execution. The Council is fortunate to have Carmen Hardin as prize coordinator, Linn Beck



#### AWARD PRESENTATIONS HIGHLIGHT WITU BANQUET

TU CEO Chris Wood (far left) saw firsthand the types of amazing conservation leaders were are blessed with here in Wisconsin, as we recognized them with our annual awards. More award details and photos on page 12.

as volunteer coordinator, Paul Kruse as donations acquisition coordinator and Todd Franklin in charge of awards.

Our donors really came though this year with an amazing array of prizes. We'd like to thank the individual donors and all the chapters that made prize and cash contributions.

See **BANQUET**, page 9

# COVID-19 update

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited is taking the outbreak of COVID-19 seriously and we're encouraged to see that our chapters have taken action to help mitigate the spread and exposure to COVID-19. Many chapters have cancelled upcoming banquets and chapter gatherings. Be sure to keep an eye on your chapter's websites, Facebook pages and other social media for updates on the status of events and activities.

As of this printing, the State Council is still planning to hold our next meeting in Viroqua on Saturday, June 6, but this could change as the situation plays out.

# Council turns 50 this year

A small group of passionate people who could see the potential of Trout Unlimited met in Madison in July of 1970 and formed the Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited. For half a century the Council has had a significant impact on our coldwater resources, as well as youth education, veterans activities and much more.

During the next year, Wisconsin Trout will feature articles, reports, photos and more highlighting the many accomplishments of our Council and its chapters.

We encourage you to submit 250-500 word reflections about our history to toddfranklinwistrout@gmail.com

If you have an interest in our Council history and you would like to participate, or if you have documents, articles, photographs you'd like to share, send them to Todd Franklin at toddfranklinwistrout@gmail.com or Todd Franklin, 1423 Storytown Road, Oregon, WI 52575



**EXCITED BANQUET WINNERS** 

Nate Ratliff and Bonnie Richards celebrate their good fortune. There were lots of smiles at our annual banquet in February.





#### Chair's Column

## The Wolf is calling...again

By Mike Kuhr, Council Chair

Do you have a favorite river? I have many, and whichever one I find myself standing in at the time often rises to the top of the list. But there are a couple of rivers that I feel a much deeper connection to, such as the Wolf River.

I grew up in the Fox Valley, and the Wolf River is well known there for its spring white bass and walleye runs. Slightly further upstream, near New London, native sturgeon make their own epic spawning runs. My connection with the Wolf starts even further upstream, in Langlade County.

In my late teens and early twenties, my friends and I spent just about every weekend camping near the Wolf. The first stop was always the Highway M Bridge, to see which rocks were above the waterline in the brawling freestone river. This was before we all had USGS stream-gauge data at our fingertips.

There's no shortage of public lands along the Wolf. We'd often hike the shorelines and go rafting during the day. Evenings were for trout fishing, and all too soon darkness brought us back to campfires, cards and cold beverages.

Trips to the Wolf became less frequent as I reached my late twenties, mostly because I had moved to the Milwaukee area. Priorities changed too, as there was much more fishing to do and less late-night partying.

My first exposure to mayfly hatches occurred on the Wolf. Sulpher and brown drake hatches can turn a slow day into frantic action. My favorite hatch is the Ephoron Leukon, or the white fly. They typically hatch in August, and it can look like a blizzard in reverse, with thousands of large, white mayflies taking to the evening sky.

One of the first camping trips I

took with my future wife was up to the Wolf River. That was the Memorial Day Weekend we woke to two inches of snow covering the campsite. We packed up the tent and spent the rest of the weekend at a friend's nearby cabin, but we've been back with the tent plenty of times since.

The first time I filled my waders with cold trout water was on the Wolf. I tried crossing the swift run off of Buettner Road when the water was a little higher than usual. Oops. I'm thankful all I ended up with was wet clothes, and an increased respect for moving water.

The strangest thing I ever caught fishing was also on the Wolf. The white mayflies were hatching and I was down to my last dry fly, which was unfortunately hung up on an obstruction about 40 feet across the river. I waded upstream about a hundred feet to cross at a riffle, and then came down the other side to retrieve my fly. As I reached down, the head of an adult snapping turtle rose to meet me, with my fly clearly lodged in the corner of its mouth. I lost the fly, but kept my fingers intact.

The Wolf is where I was exposed to Trout Unlimited, threats to our natural resources and the proposed Crandon Mine. Wisconsin is an incredibly water-rich state, a fact that seems hard to grasp for out-of-state mining interests.

There is a sizable deposit of zinc and copper near the headwaters of the Wolf River. Unfortunately, those metals are locked up in rock that's high in sulfur. When the ore is dug out and the sulfides are exposed to air and water, sulfuric acid becomes the toxic byproduct. I was sure the sulfide mining threat to the Wolf ended when the tribes stepped in and purchased the land slated for the mine in 2003.



THE WOLF RIVER IS ONE OF OUR TREASURES

Unfortunately, there is a sizable deposit of zinc and copper near the headwaters of the Wolf River. Those metals are locked up in rock that's high in sulfur. When the ore is dug out and the sulfides are exposed to air and water, sulfuric acid becomes the toxic byproduct.

Fast forward 10 years, and I find myself getting involved with TU at the State Council level as we're assisting the Wild Rivers Chapter fight off the threat of a sulfide mining project in the Penokee Hills. Lessons learned from the past are paying dividends. To date, the Penokees and its waterways are safe.

But we lost some traction along the way. Wisconsin's "Prove It First" law was repealed in the run up to the mine in the Penokees. The law had required sulfide mining companies to show examples of other sulfide mines that had operated safely before obtaining permits to mine in our state.

Now, with the Back 40 Mine looming on the Michigan side of the Menominee River, sulfide mining is front and center in our minds. Part of the Back 40 project includes a processing facility, which will make sulfide mining in Wisconsin much

more economically feasible.

I was shocked to hear recently that in February that Badger Minerals, a subsidiary of a Canadian mining company, received a permit to do exploratory drilling in southeast Oneida County, very near the headwaters of the Wolf River. (See Allison Werner's article about this on page 6).

The wild and scenic Wolf River deserves all the protection we can give it. If the metals cannot be extracted without harming the surrounding lands and waterways, then they shouldn't be extracted at all. Our thriving outdoor recreation economy is not worth risk for short-term economic gains by a foreign mining company.

Forgive me if this fight seems personal, but for me and thousands of others who live, work and play near the Wolf River, it is.

## WITU helps acquire South Branch Oconto River property

By Kim McCarthy, Watershed Access Fund Coordinator

The State Council is happy to announce that another prime piece of trout water is now publicly accessible, and that our Watershed Access Fund grant program played a key role in the acquisition.

The new addition to public trout waters is a 37-acre parcel on the South Branch of the Oconto River just below County Highway AA in Oconto County. The river flows through most of the parcel.

The South Branch is one of the prime trout streams in northeastern Wisconsin. It holds a very good population of brook and brown trout, with many brown trout exceeding 20 inches.

The purchase will provide an access point in an area that was not easily accessible in the past and will make it possible to launch small craft for drifting the river.

Ownership of the property will be held by Oconto County, and the parcel will become part of the Oconto County Forest holdings.

This purchase is a great example of the WITU Watershed Access Fund working exactly the way it was envisioned when we started it about 10 years ago.

In this case, the process began when the landowner approached Oconto County about possibly selling the parcel to the county. The county budget did not allow for the county to make the purchase on its own. The county forester saw great potential in the property and knew he would need funding support in order to make the purchase.

When they contacted us, we approved a \$15,000 Watershed Access Fund grant. The Marinette and Oconto River chapters contributed \$5,000 each and the Green Bay Chapter contributed \$2,000. Other partners in the fundraising effort are the Wisconsin Stewardship Fund, Oconto County and Oconto County Conservation clubs.

The fundraising effort is a good example of conservation and government groups forming a partnership to get an important piece of trout water into public ownership. TU contributions were critical to the purchase, and the WITU Watershed Access Fund was the core of the TU contribution.

We're hoping the parcel will be open to the public by the time the general fishing season opens in May.

This is just the latest success story for the Watershed Access Fund. Other important acquisitions have taken place around the state.

The fund played a key role in adding more than 500 acres along the Tyler Fork in northern Wisconsin to publicly accessible waters. It was also a key in adding a section of the White River in Central Wisconsin to accessible trout waters. Several years ago, the program was solely



WITU WATERSHED ACCESS FUND SECURES IMPORTANT ACCESS
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The Council's Watershed Access Fund helped secure a 37-acre parcel on the South Branch of the Oconto River just below County Highway AA in Oconto County. The river flows through most of the parcel.

responsible for obtaining a key easement along the North Fork of the Bad Axe River in southwestern Wisconsin.

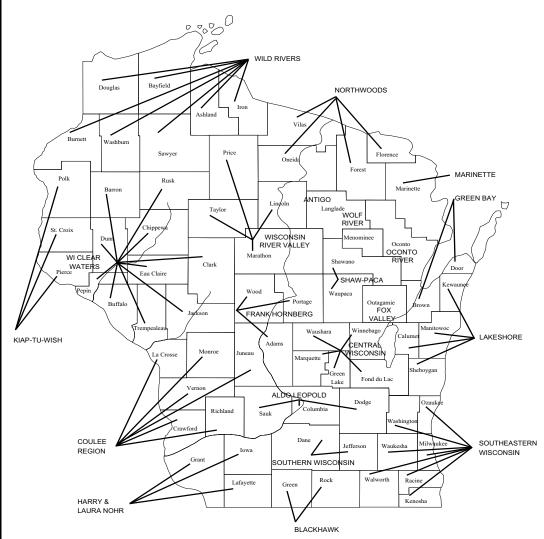
We created the Watershed Access Fund as an available funding source to tap when important pieces of trout water became available through easement or purchase. The program's founders knew that these opportunities would not come on any regular basis, but we knew opportunities would come. And they certainly have. We're already working on our next easement. Stay tuned.

The State Council wants to express its gratitude to all of the chapters and members whose contributions to the Watershed Access Fund have made the acquisitions possible. We hope our donors continue their support, and that new donors recognize the importance of this amazing grant program.

Future issues of Wisconsin Trout will include envelopes for making contributions to our Watershed Access Fund and Friends of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited grant programs. We appreciate your support.

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## 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; áldoleopold.tu.org

Antigo (#313): Scott Henricks, 213 Mary St., Antigo, WI 54409-2536 (715) 623-3867; henricks51@yahoo.com

Blackhawk (#390): Dave Brethauer; 17348 W. Gepler Road, Brodhead, WI 53520; (608) 897-4166; dave.brethauer@gmail.com; www.BlackhawkTU.org

Central Wisconsin (#117): Stan Cichowski; 6395 E. Decorah, Oshkosh, WI 54902; 708-362-9001; stanleycichowski@att.net; cwtu.org, Coulee Region (#278): Rick Kyte and Cy Post; RLKYTE@viter-

bo.edu or tcpaws@centurytel.net; CouleeRegionTU.org Fox Valley (#193): Nate Ratliff, 199 Taylor Street, Little Chute, 54140 (920) 851-0502; nratliff@new.rr.com;

www.foxvalleytu.org

Frank Hornberg (#624): Matt Salchert, 1800 Minnesota Ave., Stevens Point, WI 54481 (715) 321-1394; MattSalchert@Yahoo.com; www.Hornberg-TU.org

Green Bay (#083): Adrian Meseberg, 315 S Michigan St. De Pere, WI 54115; (920) 562-6129; christinaandadrian@hotmail.com;

Harry & Laura Nohr (#257): Tim Fraley, 2 Pagham Court, Madison, WI 53719; hm:(608) 271-1733; c:(608)220-0762; grizzly8589@gmail.com; www.NohrTU.org

Kiap-TU-Wish (#168): Scott Wagner, 1208 Highway 35 N. Hudson, WI 54016; 715-781-6874; jswagner@bremer.com; kiaptuwish.org

Lakeshore (#423): Myk Hranicka, N2766 Hopeman Heights, Waldo, WI 53093; 920-627-5779; jdrflooring@gmail.com; www.Wisconsin-TU.org/Lakeshore

Marinette (#422): Dale Lange, N2095 CTH BB, Marinette, WI; 715-582-1135; dhlange@centurytel.net, marinettecounty.tu.org.

Northwoods (#256): Jay N. Joppa; 8570 Oak Park Circle, Minocqua, WI 54548; (715) 499-1022; jayjoppa@gmail.com; northwoods.tu.org

Oconto River (#385): Wayne Czypinski; 920-590-2748; wczypinski@yahoo.com; ocontorivertu.com

Shaw-Paca (#381): Kyle Kossel, E2392 Cardinal Court, Waupaca, WI 54981; (920) 379-5741; kylekossel@yahoo.com; shawpa-

Southeastern Wisconsin (#078): John Rennpferd; P.O. Box 86, Brookfield, WI 53008; John Rennpferd@hotmail.com; 414-745-8488; sewtu.tu.org; www.facebook.com/southeastwisconsintroutunlimited; SoutheasternWITU on Instragram

Southern Wisconsin (#061): Amy Klusmeier; 608-215-1228; amy.klusmeier@gmail.com; P.O. Box 45555, Madison, WI 53744-5555; www.swtu.org

Wild Rivers (#415): Bill Heart; 29450 Verners Road, Ashland WI 54806; (715) 209-0431; wwheart@centurytel.net www.wisconsintu.org/wildrivers

Wisconsin Clear Waters (#255): Jim Erickson; 341 Garfield Ave., Eau Claire, 53701; 715-559-1864; ttangler@outlook.com; WisconsinTU.org/ClearWaters

Wisconsin River Valley (#395): Kirk Stark; 811 2nd Street, Rothschild, WI 54474; 715-432-0560; kfjgstark@gmail.com; wrvtu.org Wolf River (#050): Chuck Valliere, 5040 Hardy Trail, Waunakee, WI 53597; 608-836-1908 or 608-332-9652

woodtickchuck1950@gmail.com; WolfriverTU.org

## **State Council Leadership**

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

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

Secretary: Bob Rice 74355 Kaukamo Road, Iron River, WI 54847; (715) 292-1143;

bobrice723@gmail.com

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

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

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

Vice Chair, Southern Region: Jim Wierzba, 2817 Country Člub Drive, Mequon, WI 53092; 414-688-3606; hoke4me@aol.com

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

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

Awards: Todd Franklin; Contact info at right

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

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

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

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

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

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

Website: Brandon Schmalz schmalz.dev@gmail.com

**Women's Initiatives:** Heidi Oberstadt, 456 Wadleigh St., Stevens Point, WI 54481; 715-573-5104; heidi.oberstadt@gmail.com

**Legal Counsel:** Open **Communications: Open** 

## Are you getting emails from TU?

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

#### WISCONSIN TROUT

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

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

#### **State Council Officers**

Executive Committee includes officers and vice chairs

Mike Kuhr, Chair Scott Allen, Vice Chair

**Bob Rice, Secretary Gary Stoychoff, Treasurer** 

## Stream project work still being planned

Volunteers and DNR fisheries personnel are "hopeful" and "cautiously optimistic" that stream project work will go forward this year, despite the pandemic.

By Duke Welter

As governments, society and our volunteers poise to await the impacts of Covid-19, it may seem inconsequential to wonder what faces TU and its projects in coming weeks. Across western and southwestern Wisconsin, volunteers and DNR fisheries personnel are waiting as well. Their attitudes could be described as "hopeful" and "cautiously optimistic" for the coming season.

Along at least a dozen trout streams from Menomonie to Fennimore, tons of rock were hauled during the winter and await the day when heavy equipment crews will come to install them on habitat projects.

Meanwhile, TU chapters with vibrant volunteer project teams operate day to day, with most work days now being cancelled. Volunteers should check their email and chapter Facebook pages for up-to-date news

#### **Safety first**

Everyone we talked with was opposed to any project that exposed volunteers, staff or the public to the coronavirus. As society grappled with emerging news and governments struggled to find effective ways to address the pandemic, it was apparent that they are working to keep people safe.

DNR Fisheries leaders are working to respond to a wide range of springtime demands in a fluid environment. Their field staff this time of year are usually busy stocking coop pond trout raised by local clubs into streams, surveying lake fish populations with fyke nets, and preparing to get heavy equipment onto projects around May 1. Surveys have been called off because they bring staff into too-close contact. But coop trout stocking can go on with one or two staff members netting trout in rearing ponds and transporting them to selected streams for release.

#### TIC trout get early release

DNR also approved TU's Trout In the Classroom programs to release their trout into planned release streams. With schools closed, teachers and TU volunteers can handle the releases. We hope they are videotaping the releases to show to students online. Some of them have live-streamed their releases.

#### Rock is lined up

DNR La Crosse Fisheries Crew Leader Mike Leonard has rock lined up for projects on Billings, Bohemian Valley and Tainter Creeks. He and TUDARE Project Specialist Paul Krahn are working to round up funding for more projects in coming seasons. "Everything's up in the air right now, just day to day," Leonard said, "But we're hopeful we will be able to do these projects with our crew."

Four DARE-led projects are moving forward so far, Krahn said. They include Swinns Valley in Buffalo County, Warner Creek in Vernon and Conway and Citron creeks in Crawford County. Flood damage has raised estimates of costs on several of those projects, so fundraising continues. But volunteer work days are a no-go.

In the Menomonie-River Falls area, the DNR's trout habitat crew is ready to go on Plum, Gilbert and McCann creeks, as long as the department gives the go-ahead.

The area has two busy TU volunteer habitat crews led by the indefatigable Randy Arnold of Kiap-TU-Wish TU and Matt Wysocki of the Wisconsin Clearwaters Chapter. They have worked all winter clearing brush along those and other streams, but work days are day-to-day now. Check the chapter Facebook pages or get on their email lists for up-to-date information.

In Buffalo County, a DNR crew plans to work on Waumandee Creek



ROCKS WAITING ALONG BOHEMIAN VALLEY CREEK

DNR La Crosse Fisheries Crew Leader Mike Leonard has rock lined up for projects on Billings, Bohemian Valley and Tainter Creeks.

near Montana, and in Trempealeau County on Elk Creek near Elk Creek. "If we get the green light from the department, those will all be ready to start in May," said regional Fisheries Supervisor Heath Beneke.

The Harry & Laura Nohr TU chapter plans to continue work on the Blue River and a section of Six-Mile Creek. Project manager Don Pluemer said the chapter no longer holds LUNKER-building work days with volunteers, and he generally seeds and mulches projects as they're at that stage. The chapter has called off its annual banquet and other upcoming meetings.

Southern Wisconsin TU is "cautiously optimistic" projects on Kittleson Creek in southwestern Dane County and on Willow Creek in Richland County will be able to proceed, said SWTU project leader

Topf Wells. Both streams have had other work done and have significant potential.

#### **Potential loss of funding**

Wells, a long-time policy maker in Madison, also wonders if a proposed trillion-dollar Covid-19 response plan might have a longer term spillover impact on other programs like conservation. A potential loss of federal funding for Farm Bill conservation programs could severely impact watershed restoration work across the region. A parallel can be found in the drying up of some federal conservation programs when the post- 9/11 wars in Iraq and Afghanistan drew dollars away for a multi-trillion-dollar military effort.



WITU BANQUET FEATURED AN AMAZING ARRAY OF RAFFLES
WITU banquet attendees crowded the raffle prize and silent auction tables at
our successful banquet and awards ceremony in February.



VETERANS SERVICE LEADERS ENJOYING THE BANQUET Jeff Butler, Matthew Cade and Mike Johnson.

## **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.

# State Council is seeking volunteers for communications plan

Hello to all you *Wisconsin Trout* readers. I recently completed grad school and also started providing communication consulting to organizations. At our State Council meeting in February, I offered to lead a new communication committee to help us better communicate with our members and share the mission of TU with people outside of our organization. We currently have a public relations plan, which I created several years ago, and we're ready to expand our reach.

If you're interested in helping improve our communications, please send me an email at heidi.oberstadt@gmail.com. As we look forward, be sure to share with WITU leadership your feedback about what you want to hear from us, how you want to hear it and how we can best serve our members.

— Heidi Oberstadt.

# 2020 WITU Youth Camp filling up fast

By Linn Beck

Our chapters have already sponsored seven students for this year's camp, and we expect the remaining slots to fill quickly. We encourage chapters to contact us soon about youth they're like to sponsor.

We reserve one spot for each chapter until May 31. Then other chapters have the opportunity to sponsor additional students. The cost is still just \$250 per student.

This year we plan to bring more of the past attendees back as junior mentors, from four to 10. We hope this helps us further engage these passionate young leaders.

All costs except travel to the camp will be reimbursed by the Council.

After the camp, these students

often become very interested in their local chapters, and we encourage you to keep them engaged long after the camp is over.

This year's camp is August 13-16 at the Pine Lake Bible Camp, between Waupaca and Wild Rose, on County Highway K. The curriculum will be the same as last year with a balance of angling skills and conservation. Please contact me for brochures or a PDF of the brochure.

We are always looking for volunteers to help get our youth excited in the outdoors. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Wayne Parmley at wparmley@gmail.com or 920-540-2315.

Otherwise, please contact me, Linn Beck, at chlbeck@att.net or 920-216-7408.

#### Mining update

## Mining in Oneida County being explored

By Allison Werner, River Alliance of Wisconsin

Mining interests continue to pursue potential projects in Wisconsin.

A new company, Badger Minerals, applied for an exploration license from the DNR in January.

While Badger Minerals is new, the name behind the company, Tom Quigley, is not. Quigley is a geologist and former vice president of exploration and senior technical advisor at Aquila Resources, the company behind the Back 40 project in Michigan.

The exploration is proposed for a previously explored site in Oneida County. The DNR's summary of the location is:

"The Shoepke site was previously explored in the late 1970's by Noranda, Inc. and is located in the town of Shoepke in southeast Oneida County

Badger Minerals, LLC, a subsidiary of Can-American Minerals, Inc. of Thunder Bay, Ontario did explorations in February and March to evaluate the mineral potential of the area and was issued a metallic mineral exploration license on February 11

The three planned drilling sites are located on private parcels owned by Badger Minerals and Heartwood Forestland Group. Exploration drill-ing includes up to 10 bore holes totaling a maximum of 4,000 linear feet of borehole, including rock core samples."

While Badger Minerals was planning to conduct exploration drilling in March, they still need a few state and local permits. The DNR has been posting information about this mine site on their website at https://

dnr.wi.gov/topic/Mines/Projects.html. Go to the Shoepke Site tab.

There has been an immediate response to oppose the exploration proposal.

The Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin and The Sokaogon Chippewa Community Mole Lake Band of Lake Superior Chippewa have a lot of experience with working to stop mining proposals. The tribes, along with local residents and groups, have been working on resolutions against mining at this site.

On March 8 the tribal community led 200 people on the "Wolf River Water Walk" to show opposition to mining in this highly sensitive area. You can learn more and get involved with their efforts by going to the "Protect the Wolf" page on Facebook. This is just the beginning of a very long process.

Regarding the Back Forty project, Aquila Resources does not have all of the permits they need to move forward with this project.

Only one of the five required permits has been both issued and deemed effective. The one permit is the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. Three of the permits are either being contested in court and/or have many conditions that have yet to be met by Aquila Resources.

The dam safety permit application was withdrawn by Aquila Resources in December and will need to be resubmitted with the additional information the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) has requested. If you'd like to stay up-to-date on the Back Forty project, go to jointherivercoalition.org.

#### **Book Review:**

## The American Fly Fishing Experience

## Theodore Gordon: His Lost Flies and Last Sentiments

By Duke Welter

Of the long line of American fishing writers, Theodore Gordon stands out among the most original and influential. John Gubbins' new novel works to illuminate his life and fill in some of the biographical gaps in a most entertaining fashion. In an earlier novel, Profound River, he explored the fishing

life of Dame Julianna Berners, a fourteenth century abbess in England who wrote the first fishing book in print.

Gordon is generally credited with introducing and first writing about the use of dry flies to fish for trout from the 1880s until his death in 1915. Through his correspondence with English anglers like F. M. Halford, the maven of dry fly dogma, he received newly-tied dry flies and fished them in the Catskills. But what Gordon did that was ground-breaking was to adapt those flies to match the insects found in his American streams rather than fish the flies that imitated English insects.

Gordon never got around to writing the book containing all his accumulated fishing knowledge. He wrote for American and English fishing magazines and for the London Times. He corresponded with many influential figures in both countries, exchanging ideas and flies and selling them the marketable versions of the flies he'd developed in Catskills streams. But, Gubbins writes, Gordon kept his own set of patterns for his own use. Those flies showed great sensitivity to colors and light refraction and were slim and streamlined. His for-sale flies, on the other hand, reflected the preferences of their buyers. "Mr. B wants a

heavier hackled fly, so I use a double hackle on those I tie for him."

Other writers have plowed Gordon's surviving correspondence, notably that with G.E.M. Skues, the English angler who worked to counter Halford's dry-fly-only code and fished plenty of subsurface flies. Arnold Gingrich, John McDonald and Ernest Schwiebert each wrote books or sections of books on

Gordon, fitting his angling contributions into the firmament of the eastern bow-tie crowd's view of fly fishing. Gubbins, telling Gordon's story in Gordon's voice, instead takes the tack of describing his relations with a few close friends and customers and hinting at Gordon's attitudes. It's a worthy approach. Others have said the best truth is to be found in fiction, and it might be found here.

Some of you, familiar with Gordon's life, might be wondering if the book addresses one of his unparawayed secrets.

Some of you, familiar with Gordon's life, might be wondering if the book addresses one of his unanswered secrets. He spent time in the 1890s with a woman, not identified in print, who was an avid angler and a lovely companion. For a couple of seasons they were companions, but they broke it off and she moved to somewhere never disclosed. There's just one picture of them extant, and it's locked up in the Anglers Club of New York. Gubbins, in a touching passage, does include her in a story that if it did not actually happen, you wonder if it could have, and maybe wish for a different ending.

Gordon, born just before the Civil War and dying at the start of WWI, spanned a tumultuous time in American history. His life wasn't a commercial success; his family's investments tanked in the Panic of 1893 and he barely survived on income from tying flies and writing articles. His health throughout his life was a mess. He struggled with diseases from childhood on, and eventually tuberculosis and probably his endless one-hand-rolled cigarettes killed him.

Aside from the interesting biography of Gordon, Gubbins also includes information on the dry flies Gordon de-

veloped, the Quill Gordon and the Gordon, as well as the wet Bumblepuppy (surely one of the most chuckle-worthy fly names in the tying firmament), and thought-provoking reading on his approaches to imitation. That's a lot to pack into one book, but it's nicely done.

(Brule River Press, Ishpeming MI, 2019, 214 p., \$18)



## Driftless Rambler

With Duke Welter Retired TUDARE Outreach Coordinator

## "Retirement" calls

After 10 years of enjoying the greatest job in the world, I'll be retiring from TUDARE this month. It's been a joy working with committed volunteers from across the region on restoration efforts in the Driftless Area, and a great partnership with Jeff Hastings as a project manager who's always figuring out ways to get good things done.

What we've all accomplished, working together, makes a pretty good list: more than \$70 million assembled for projects so far, 350 projects funded and more than 500 miles of public access added. Tons and tons of sediment held up and tons of phosphorus not going toward the Gulf of Mexico. Impressive gains for habitat for trout, butterflies, turtles, frogs, songbirds and, yes, snakes. Healthy TU chapters and other conservation partners are working together as never before. And, finally, a there's been a wide acceptance across TU that such a regional initiative can have wide application and impacts. Using some of the same organizing principles, similar efforts are finding success in central and northeast Wisconsin.

#### Third time at retirement

My wife Kris wryly and aptly observes that this is my third try at retirement. I flunked retiring from both newspapering and law, and now I'm poised, well, maybe to fail

Already I've been planning to stay on a way part-time basis and work with our friends in the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter to raise funds for removing the two dams on the Kinnickinnic River in River Falls. We're looking at \$2 million for the first removal and restoration and \$3 million for the second. If you have a lead for a financial supporter for that effort, please let me know.

I'm optimistic Gary Horvath and Kent Johnson will, fairly soon, get to take that first satisfying swing of a maul to bust the first dam. They've been waiting for decades for that moment.

#### What lies ahead for TU?

The prospect of retirement makes me ponder what could lie ahead for TU around here. We are well-known for our efforts in the communities where we live and work for healthy streams. As one of our departed leaders used to say, "TU people are do-ers. We get things done."

It's been 30 years that I've been serving as a TU chapter board member or officer, eight years on the National Board of Trustees, three years as State Council Chair, three years chairing the National Leadership Council, and 17 years advocating for Driftless Area restoration. I'm looking forward for someone with new ideas, skills and energy to join the DARE work and advance it in big steps.

I'm hoping our future leaders can overcome some of our challenges, including our own attitudes that might limit TU's effectiveness, such

- Trying to get more women of all ages involved in what TU does, feeling welcomed and having fun. When I visit college environmental science classes, most of those students are eager young women. They're populating our resource agencies and doing a great job. They're active in land conservancies and prairie restoration and teaching. But they don't often come to TU. Why not?
- We're teaching women to fish. But why aren't more women participating in conservation projects, stepping into leadership positions in TU and welcoming other women? One friend in her 50s took some women's classes and joined TU recently. But when she came to her first TU chapter meeting, she was asked



by one of the guys, "Whatever would lead you to come to our meeting?" She hasn't gone back, and I don't blame her. Maybe she will join a chapter where she feels welcome

feels welcome.

When are we going to take off the fly-fishing label? It's not only public perception that leads people who fish with other methods to shy away from TU. It's our own myopia. When is the last time your chapter held an event featuring a spin or bait angler as a speaker, or a class to teach those methods? Some of my most dedicated conservation friends in the restoration world are non-fly anglers. Tying TU to fly fishing only serves to limit our potential membership to a portion of the trout-fishing population.

- How can we welcome anglers who treasure resources in ways other than our dogma dictates? I've been impressed with the Wisconsin DNR's "Fishing for Dinner" classes, which draw families and couples and people who want to know from whence comes their food and want to learn several methods to catch trout. Most TU classes instead teach fly-fishing and assume we will all catch and release all trout. We say we are a conservation organization, but too often we act like a fishing club.
- Our tribes treasure our resources in ways that should inspire our own conservation efforts, and sometimes we have worked successfully together. The Forest County Potawatomie ended the Crandon Mine fight by buying the mine site. The Bad River

Band of Lake Superior Chippewa fought the Penokee Mine with the Wild Rivers Chapter and others, and prevailed. But there are many more tribes with strong environmental commitment, and we don't often enough develop partnerships before a crisis arises. That should be an important part of what we do.

Sometimes, when I see the impacts of climate change buffeting our waters and our world, I wonder pessimistically if we aren't in fact facing insurmountable challenges. But then I remember how we need to be optimists and hard-working realists at the same time, and do what we can to buffer the world we value.

I think the work we're doing now is valuable for our Driftless streams, and it is appearing to hold up pretty well as designers take into account the more intense rain events we are seeing each year. That gives me grounds for optimism. And meanwhile, we can chip away at policies at every level that would further enable the adverse changes and remove environmental protections.

#### Time for a rest

I am joyous that I have worked in such beautiful places, with such dedicated people, and we have had an impact on our world. Samuel Johnson said, "It is better to have lived rich than to die rich," and I think I will accomplish that, but without a moment's regret. It's time for me to take a rest. Thanks to everyone for all you do for coldwater and TU. You are do-ers.

## Researchers puzzled by mayfly collapse

By Duke Welter

Scientists studying the Upper Mississippi River report an enormous dropoff of more than 52 percent in the river's large mayfly population. Regional residents may be familiar with the annual Hexagenia Limbata hatch, which coats roads and bridges with the bugs and sometimes requires removal by snowplows.

Lake Erie, also part of the study, showed an 84-percent reduction in mayflies between 2015 and 2019. New studies reported in National Geographic and Smithsonian magazines also reported huge reductions in mayfly populations in Lake Erie.

The Mississippi River reductions were compared to 2012 levels. The studies were reported in January in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. Scientists studied weather radar to determine population drop-offs.

#### **Causes not clear**

The causes are not yet clear, but the most likely suspects are neonicotinoid pesticides used by corn and bean farmers in the Upper Mississippi River basin, and fertilizers and phosphorus that cause huge algae blooms on Lake Erie.

Around the world, various studies have shown long-term reductions of insect populations, with much more significant recent drops. First reported was a New York Times study in 2018 of a centuries-old German entomology club's records which showed what is now described as a "shifting baseline syndrome." Over decades, too long to conveniently study in a single person's lifetime, records demonstrated steady declines in a variety of species. In German and Denmark, studies of squashed bugs on windshields are revealing declining num-

However, recently more effective pesticides have been implicated in the loss of various aquatic and terrestrial species. Awareness of the crucial role of insects in the lives of our plants as part of the natural food web has led to concerns that a crisis is looming. As a result, new emphasis on addressing causes of the declines and improving habitat has developed. We're planting more plants for pollinators across our region, but that only addresses part of the problem.

#### **Mayflies are important**

Mayfly emergences along the Mississippi River usually occur from mid-June to mid-July, often with a pair of peaks. They generally begin at or near dusk and continue for several hours. The weather service suggests that radar images showing the emergence traveling upstream indicate southerly winds.

There are several Hexagenia subspecies, with limbata being the yellower and earlier one. The bilineata subspecies is black/brown and may be larger. They are considered "bur-

rowing" mayflies as nymphs, and may live in silt 40 or more feet down. The nymphs live two or three years in the silt of the river, then emerge, spawn and die in a day or two. As nymphs, emergers or adults, Hexagenia are an important food species for many fish species. Scientists are concerned a mayfly collapse could signal threats to other insect species as well (caddis and stoneflies are under threat) and a larger collapse of the aquatic food chain.

Mayflies are generally considered to be among the aquatic species more intolerant of pollution and degraded water quality, more so than stoneflies and less so than caddis. If they are actually decreasing in numbers, scientists will be looking for the reasons. Past studies have shown some variability from year to year, ranging from highs in the La Crosse area from 2000 to 2002 of 15 to 54 billion mayflies. From 2012 to 2020, La Crosse has seen from 3 to 8 billion mayflies a season.

## **Driftless Symposium a hit with attendees**



#### TU DARE'S JEFF HASTINGS KICKS OFF 2020 DRIFTLESS SYMPOSIUM

DARE Project Manager Jeff Hastings kicked off the 2020 Driftless Symposium in LaCrosse in February. Among the numerous speakers were fisheries biologists, a hydrogeologist/engineer, a botanist and a watershed restoration specialist.

#### By Duke Welter

Scientists, biologists, anglers and landowners all contributed to the discussions at the Driftless Symposium in La Crosse in early February, with a crowd of nearly 200 attendees. Speakers included:

- A Wisconsin DNR Driftless Area fisheries biologist who pointed out that 34 percent of the stream miles in his counties have public access, and that he's shooting for 50 percent.
- A longtime trout angler/hydrogeologist/engineer who said "Bad land use is a political position...Fish kills are political problems."
- A botanist specializing in high-

way projects who said "They're my waters. Keep your own manure on your own land. Don't dork it up."

- Another fisheries biologist studying comparative preferences of brook versus brown trout, who said "Brookies like lower-ph waters like sandstone bedrock, while browns like higher-ph waters like those with limestone-dolomite bedrock. Brown trout like shade, while brook trout like log iams
- A watershed restoration specialist who said Driftless Area streams have the same gravel base they had in the 1830s. What's different is the deposited soil in the valley floors, which



#### ATTENDEES HEAR UPDATES ON PROJECTS AND FLOOD IMPACTS

DNR Habitat Crew leader Mike Leonard and DARE's Jeff Hastings answered questions about habitat projects at the Driftless Symposium. Leonard, a natural public speaker, reported on impacts of flooding on area projects and DNR's upcoming project plans.

makes the streams look like they're deeply incised.

 As for dam removals, the last dam on the Root River at Hokah washed out in 2007. With the dam gone, sturgeon from the Mississippi River have access to 115 miles of spawning water upstream.

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



# Watershed Access Fund: Obtaining public access

Thanks to our Watershed Access Fund donors, the fund has been able to add several prime fishing waters to those available to the public for trout fishing, including a parcel on the South Branch Oconto River.

From the North Fork of the Bad Axe in Southwestern Wisconsin to the White River in Central Wisconsin, to the Tyler Forks River in Northern Wisconsin, Watershed Access Funding support has been instrumental in putting together funding packages that have made easements and purchases possible. The fund has partnered with the state Stewardship Program, Trout Unlimited chapters, land trusts and sportsman's clubs to add fishable water throughout the state.

Additional acquisitions are under discussion and it is likely that more announcements about successful acquisitions will be coming during 2020. Please consider supporting the Watershed Access Fund with a donation of \$100 or more.

#### **Our WAF Contributors**

Henry Anderson	Madison W
Louis Arata	Whitefish Bay W
Charles Barnhill	Madison W
Jim Bayorgeon	Appleton W
Mark Beilfuss	New London W
Barry Benson	Cambridge W
Jolene Berg	Chippewa Falls W
Steve Bien, in memory of	
Richard Boda	Boyceville W
Stephen Born	Madison W
Jim Brawner	Pulaski W
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Damian Budzinski	Eau Claire W.
Linda & Dennis Buzzar	DeForest W
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Paul Feldhake	Port Washington W
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Richard Galling	Hartland W
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Antigo Chapter Antigo WI
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#### 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:

Kim McCarthy 736 Meadowbrook Court

Green Bay WI 54313

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Phone



## TU seeking seasonal intern

#### **POSITION SUMMARY**

**DEPARTMENT: Eastern Conservation** 

REPORTS TO: Great Lakes Stream Restoration Manager, Chris Collier

POSITION TYPE/HOURS: Seasonal Intern

The Aquatic Resource Seasonal Intern will report directly to Great Lakes Stream Restoration Manager Chris Collier and will assist with projects to restore aquatic connectivity and in-stream habitat in Northern Wisconsin. The position will require frequent overnight travel including camping in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest and will work three days a week, not to exceed 30 hours per week. This position is expected to last from May 2020 through August 2020. Some weekend work will be required. This position is not eligible for benefits. The position is based in Rhinelander, Wisconsin.

#### **DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Conduct a variety of stream surveys including aquatic organism passage assessments and habitat assessments.

Assist with data entry and database management, as well as project reporting. Complete fish surveys through electrofishing, mark and recapture, and fyke-

Coordinate education and outreach efforts with project partners and the general public.

Assist in project implementation and on-site construction. (This is not an all-inclusive list of duties and responsibilities.)

#### **QUALIFICATIONS**

Ideally working towards or completed a B.S. in a field related to fisheries management, aquatic ecology, watershed management, geomorphology or biological systems engineering.

A working knowledge of principles and practices of fisheries and aquatic resource management.

Outstanding interpersonal and written communication skills.

Demonstrated ability to work effectively as both a team player and independently.

Proficient with Microsoft Office programs.

Ability to problem solve and think creatively to achieve a conservation mission. Strong organizational skills with exceptional attention to detail.

Willingness to travel (frequently overnight) and capable of hiking and carrying equipment in difficult terrain and working in inclement conditions and remote

Experience and comfort with backcountry camping.

Valid driver's license and a reliable vehicle.

Passion for protecting and restoring trout populations and their watersheds. Self-motivated and highly energetic, with excellent time-management skills.

#### **HOW TO APPLY**

Please send a letter of interest and resume to Chris Collier at chris.collier@tu.org. No phone calls please. Open until filled. TU is an Equal Employment Opportunity & Affirmative Action Employer pursuant to Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act & Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Assistant Act.

TU hires staff without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, age, gender, sexual orientation, marital status or disability.

#### **ABOUT TROUT UNLIMITED**

Trout Unlimited is a national organization with 300,000 members and supporters organized into more than 400 chapters and councils nationwide. These dedicated grassroots volunteers are matched by a respected staff of organizers, lawyers, policy experts and scientists who work out of more than 45 offices across the country. Our mission is to conserve, protect and restore North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds.

Outdoor Heritage Education Center's (OHEC) 2020 Midwest Outdoor Heritage Education Expo (MOHEE), which was schedule for May, has been canceled due to multiple factors resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Looking ahead at next year, OHEC and its partners look forward to a healthy and safe MOHEE May 19-20, 2021 at the Wisconsin DNR's MacKenzie Center in Poynette.

**Education Expo cancelled** 

This event brings in more than 3,500 students and teachers. We're hoping these kids get hooked on fishing by catching fish on a fly they tied themselves. We help them tie a panfish fly and show them how to use that fly on a

Please consider helping us teach our youngsters about the outdoors at next year's event. This event features many activities for the kids, so we need to have plenty of volunteers. Last year we had about 13 instructors each day and we taught about 900 kids. With just a few more instructors, we could reach the 1,000 mark.

We provide all the materials and directions. Volunteers just need to bring a vise and tying tools. We'll gladly email you the pattern so you can practice tying the flv.

If you don't tie flies, you can help teach kids to tie basic knots.

Volunteers find the experience very rewarding. To volunteer, contact Bob Haase at 920-579-3858 or flytier@milwp.com.



**WE'LL MISS THE CHANCE TO TEACH HUNDREDS OF KIDS THIS YEAR** 

At last year's expo, Dave Ehrenberg of the Central Wisconsin Chapter teaches an interested youngster the simple art of tying a panfish fly. The 2020 event has been cancelled, but we can use your help at next year's event.

## **Wisconsin Conservation Hall** of Fame ceremony cancelled

Wisconsin Conservation The Hall of Fame has cancelled its 2020 induction ceremony, which had been scheduled for April 25 in Stevens Point.

Long-time TU leader and former State Council Chair Stephen Born was to be among three people inducted into this prestigious group at the ceremony.

We do not know at this point when or if the event will be rescheduled.

Born is a well-known UW-Madison professor who specialized in environmental planning and worked on almost every aspect of water management, the Great Lakes, inland lakes, groundwater, rivers and watersheds, in addition to loving all things trout.

The other two inductees include: Jens Jensen, a landscape archi-

tect of the Upper Midwest who developed public parks, preserves, and private estates, focusing on indigenous plants and the location's ecological features, who also founded the "school of the soil" in Door County known as The Clearing.

Stanley Temple, a UW-Madison professor who studied endangered birds, habitat fragmentation, invasive species and other factors leading to species declines, and now serves as a Senior Fellow with the Aldo Leopold Foundation, researching, writing and speaking about Aldo Leop-

#### **BANQUET**, from page 1

The Council would also like to thank our sponsors for their generous support. Please see our sponsor "Thank-You" ad on page 2.

The Council would like to thank the many volunteers who performed so many tasks leading up to and during the banquet. Their efforts are critical to making an event like this run smoothly. Whether arranging prizes, staffing entry tables, selling raffle tickets or demonstrating how to tie some cool-looking flies, we had an enthusiastic group willing to donate their time.

We'd like to thank Henry Koltz for being our Master of Ceremonies for the evening. Hank did a great job of entertaining the crowd, touting our successes and keeping the event moving along. Auctioneer Ron Gardner tossed tight loops to the audience and landed record amounts for several guided trips.

We also have a very generous group of Wisconsin fishing guides who donated guided trips: Dave Barron of Jaquish Hollow Angler; Erik Helm of Classical Angler; Hunter Dorn of Wisconsin Fly Fishing Company; Craig Amacker of Madison Fly Fishing Company. Also, Duke Welter donated two oneday Driftless Area hosted trips.

The 50/50 raffle was popular again, with proceeds supporting the WITU Youth Fishing Camp. We raised more than \$780 for the camp

this year, and the lucky winner ended up with a pocket full of cash. Special thanks to Nate Ratliff and Bonnie Richards for handling the ticket sales.

Wisconsin TU has become a force in the conservation community because of the efforts of many of our members, conservation professionals, corporate sponsors and others. We honored many of these efforts during the awards ceremony.

There was plenty to see, too. Local artist Adam Zins (azcreativeart.com) displayed his original trout-inspired paintings, donated a cash commission from the sale of his largest displayed painting, and also donated a framed print. Thank you Adam and Tanya Zins!

Volunteers who made the banquet a success include Carmen Hardin, Paul Kruse, Boyd Roessler, Mike Stupich, Jen Kuhr, Jason Freund, Mike Kuhr, Gary Stoychoff, Laura and John Tucker, Gary Horvath, Scott Wagner, Nate Ratliff, Bonnie Richards. Scott Grady, Myk Hranika, Terry Cummings, Henry Koltz, Ron Gardner, Wayne Parmley and Linn Beck.

Please make plans to join us on Saturday, February 6, 2021 in Oshkosh. It's sure to be another fun evening. If you'd like to get involved with banquet planning or banquet awards, contact Scott Allen at jscottallen12@gmail.com or 608-495-1482.

# Wisconsin's Fly Tiers, with words and photos by Bob Haase Tim Landwehr: Tightlines Fly Shop

Recognizing some of Wisconsin's great fly tiers, 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 tiers.

We are fortunate here in Wisconsin to have a number of good fly shops. It is nice to be able to go into a shop and look and feel the tying materials before purchasing them. Most of these shops have knowledgeable staff who you can talk to about fly tying and fly fishing, and even get fishing reports.

Tightlines Fly Shops in DePere is one of the best shops in the state. Tim Landwehr and his staff do a great job serving the needs of area tiers and fly fishers. They have a them more durable. They were kind of archaic. I remember as a kid walking to the DePere library, and found a Jack Dennis's original flytying book. I just poured through that trying to get as much information as I could.

## Do you recall some of the first patterns you started tying?

I started tying streamer patterns using some of the feathers that were available in that kit. I do remember, and can visually see it in my head,

**TYING A FAVORITE BASS BUG** 

Tim Landwehr finishes tying a bass fly called the "Bart O Minnow," designed by his cousin, Bart. Tightlines has a fly-tying station in the shop where they demonstrate tying techniques and solve tying problems for their customers.

great selection of materials and provide guide service on Wisconsin waters, and even sponsor trips to destinations all over the world. The shop also holds fly-fishing classes for those who want to learn the art of tying flies and they can help with any tying problems you might have. When you're in the area, stop in and say hello. They usually have a pot of coffee going, and really make you feel at home. You can't get that online.

## Tim... how long have you been tying flies and how did you first get started?

I started tying flies when I was around nine years old. My dad had an old Mepps spinner-making kit and I went down in the basement and started tying feathers and hair on the hooks. I never had any formal instructions and kind of learned on my own. Fast forward to about six years ago and I for some reason remembered the smell of that spinner-making kit, the smell of the laquer, the memories of how I got started, and how things have changed over time. Fly-tying kits don't always have the best tools, or the materials we need the most, but they got a lot of us started tying.

## What do you remember about your first experiences tying flies?

I tried to tie flies from memory and patterns that I had seen, and basically started lashing thread onto a hook. The only tip that I remember getting from my dad was to use varnish to coat the heads to make the first dry fly that I ever tied. It was an Adams Irresistible that I found in the Jack Dennis book, which was probably not a good choice for learning to tie my first dry fly. I had to learn how to spin deer hair and wrap hackle in order to tie that fly.

## What are some of the things that have changed since you first started tying flies?

Things have changed so much in the 40-some years that I have tied. I learned how to make a whip finish from a two-dimentional photo, and I think it took me weeks to learn how to do it. There wasn't anybody to help you learn at that time. Now with the video era, YouTube, and the apps that are available, it makes it a lot easier to learn things like that. Now is the best time to learn how to tie flies because of the information available and the quality of the materials. I think it took me four feathers to tie that first Adams because of the short, poor quality

## Were there any particular tiers who you learned from?

My cousin Bart and I learned to fly fish together and I think we learned how to tie flies before we learned how to fly fish, and basically learned on our own. I didn't have anybody to go to for help. There weren't these clubs, these groups, TU youth programs or other resources like we have today.

Some of the guys that I emulated were those who wrote books like

Jack Dennis and Dave Whitlock. s I got older and in to my late teens, I became friends with some of the old Hornberg group like Jack Holewinsky, Don Larmouth, Gary Gillis, and Jim Hauer, and they welcomed me at the meetings and kept that fire going. Two of them are working for me today.

#### You operate a retail fly shop in DePere and you also have an online presence. How has this helped you keep up with all the changes in fly tying materials and techniques?

Owning the fly shop has given me insight into all the new fabrics and synthetics, and the improved quality of some of the natural materials such as the dying processes that are used today. It is a very good time to be a fly tier.

We have a big online presence, but you can't beat being able to walk into a fly shop, see and handle maybe six different packs of materials, and select what you feel is the best one. When a person can see and handle all the different tying materials, then evaluate them as they tie with them, it helps them better understand the differences and what to look for when selecting fly-tying materials. Selecting materials and understanding densities of materials is really challenging and something you learn over time.

Another advantage of being able to walk into a retail shop is being able to talk to someone that is an experienced tier and can help with selection of materials and tying problems, and teach them additional tying techiques. A huge portion of our customers now are conventional anglers who come in and are tying bucktail streamers, marabou jigs or musky/pike flies. Many of them have not had any formal training and we can sit down with them at our tying station and help them learn how to

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use the right threads and materials, use the right knots or other tying techniques.

#### Were there any books, videos or other resources that helped you become a better tier?

A lot of the books that I purchased when I first started to tie were English soft hackle and wet fly books, which were great but did not have a lot of Americanized crossover. It was neat stuff, but I think

Jack Dennis's book helped me more than anything at the time. There was not much available then compared to all the books and other resources we have today.

#### Many tiers develop a preference for particular styles or kind of flies. What are some of your favorite styles or patterns of flies to tie?

Like many tiers everything was a trout fly for me or a bastardized panfish pattern from a trout fly. What I really enjoy tying now, just because I like the diversion, is tying saltwater flies. It is just so out of the box compared to what I normally tie. I have an international travel business so I get to travel all over the world fishing both fresh and salt

water. It is kind of fun to crack open a beer, sit at the vise and tie something that you never would tie otherwise

I burned myself out on trout flies because I was tying out of necessity. I am fishing with a client tomorrow so I need another dozen of these flies. There is a difference between being able to tie creatively the flies you want, compared to tying quantities of the same fly. I did one production order in my entire life when I was 17 years old. It was for 12 dozen size 16 Royal Wulff's and I painfully got through that order, received my payment and that was it.

## Why do you tie your own flies rather than just going out and buying them?

There's nothing better than catching something on your own creation. It is something like our sport of fly fishing, traditional bowhunting or many other sports where you emerge yourself in the deepness of the sport. Fly tying allows you to come into that realm. Not only do you present the fly on a more challenging tool, but you actually create the bait/fly to trick the fish.

I think the ability to tie your own fly and have an understanding of how it floats, how it sits on the water and how it absorbs water helps you understand the characteristics of a fly. It forces you to become a half-assed entomologist because you will develop an understanding of the mayfly, the caddis fly. It forces you into learning more about the bugs. Tying makes you a far better angler.

As I get older, my eyes are not what they used to be when I was 20, so I can put a hot spot on them so that I can see them easier when I am fishing them. All my blue wing olive patterns are tied with a parachute style of post so that I can see a #20

or #22. By tying your own flies you can create exactly what you want.

#### Tim, you have an online business as well as a retail business. How has that affected sales and the way you do business?

We live in an Amazon world now, and that is how many people buy their stuff. The fly-fishing business has become a lot harder in the last eight years and has become much harder than it has ever been.

We sell a lot of stuff online, but it still only represents about 15

percent of our business. People still want to come in and touch and feel the products, and talk to me or our staff about the products.

Social media is far more important than the online presence and is a whole different animal. Your perception of a shop and its employees digitally is based on what you see and what their marketing is. It is not a reality of who they are and what they do. It is a facade.

If you walk into a fly shop you quickly learn and understand the personality of the shop, what the shop is. You can't get that online. You can't smell it, touch it, taste it, and it is still one of my favorite places to go into, even though I own one.

You provide a guide service and spend a lot of time on the water. How does the time on the water help you at the tying bench?

You can sit at the tying bench and be creative in your own head without the practical experience of what you learn on the stream, and to tie.

Some clubs are more active now than I have ever seen before with youth tying programs, and other related programs. Get involved with these clubs and Trout Unlimited chapters. We have seen a different camaraderie in the last 10 or 15



#### SELECTING THE RIGHT BUCKTAIL TAKES SOME LEARNING

Tim Landwehr shows a customer what to look for when selecting a bucktail. There is quite a bit of difference in the length of the hair, crinkled or straight, and the thickness of the fibers, which can cause the hair lay straight or flare more. An advantage to shopping in a fly shop is that staff can help you learn what to look for, and help select the product that best fits your tying needs.

think in your own mind what should work and would work. A perfect example would be Charlie's fly, the old Mister Wiggly. We have a whole chapter on it in our book, "Smallmouth – Modern Fly Fishing Methods, Tactics, and Techniques." The Wiggly style of flies are now a category of flies because they enter the water quieter and are something completely different than anything else.

That fly was developed from the river, in what we needed from the river, and then developed at the vise. We knew what we needed to do and what we needed to achieve because of the time we spent on the water. We could go back, sit around as a group at the tying table, have a beer, BS a little, brainstorm and come up with the fly that was needed.

## What are some of the major changes you have seen in fly tying and fly tying materials over the years?

Although materials have changed, there haven't been huge changes the last 10 years. Dahlberg Divers have been a game changer because of the style of the head, the sound that the Dahlberg Diver makes, and there have been a lot of variations and changes based on that.

More recently one of the biggest change has been those by a very innovative tier, Blane Chocklett. Blane Chocklett came out with the true "Game Changer" style of patterns. The Game Changer uses multiple shanks that has a different swim profile and has transitioned into musky flies and small streamer patterns. That is one of the biggest fly pattern changes in the last 10 years.

#### Do you have any tips for someone just getting started in fly tying?

Start assembling your kit of fly tying tools and materials by picking six or seven different patterns that you are interesting in tying. Buy the materials for those and learn to tie those well, and then expand your kit as you add fly patterns that you want years and I have watched the Green Bay, Central Wisconsin and Fox Valley chapters just explode into a group of friends that share so much information. Get involved in those groups.

Take a basic tying class to learn the fundamentals. Purchase a good vise and materials, and once a class is over, keep practicing and work at perfecting your tying skills. The more you tie, the better you will become at tying flies.

# Are there any people who you have met over the years, either through fly tying or fly fishing, who kind of stand out and have become good friends?

I think about my whole life in general. I worked in a bank for a few years, and moved to Montana and lived in a tent for about a year. I met my wife out there, my kids came, and because of this whole circle we opened the fly shop here.

Some of my bests friends guide for me and my entire life is wrapped around a circle of people I have met because of this sport. It becomes a family.

The whole old Mr. Wiggly fly phenomenon with that smallmouth thing happened because of a guy, Jack Allen, who passed away a few years ago. Jack was one of Dave Whitlock's best friends and he was the guy who brought that style of fishing to the Menominee River with us. That changed the face of smallmouth fishing, not just in northeastern Wisconsin, but in the country.

There are so many things that have been touched by people and the sport. My whole life revolves around the silly sport of a plastic string and a graphite fly rod.

In the sport of fly tying and fly fishing, you meet very passionate people. Because they are so passionate about the sport of fly fishing and all the facets of it, you find very likeminded people. The common denominator is that you just become friends instantaneously, and you don't just become an acquaintance, you become good friends.

You have the opportunity to fish all over the world. How well do flies that work here in Wisconsin work in other states and countries?

Absolutely, there are a ton of crossovers. In the trout world, for the most part, bugs are bugs, and we have similar hatches. What makes certain patterns popular in one area isn't necessarily that the pattern works so well, but rather it becomes a traditional pattern for that area.

A perfect example of that is John Bethke's Pink Squirrel. The Pink Squirrel works all over the place, but its roots are in the Spring Creek area of Southwest Wisconsin.

I just got back from Patagonia and the pattern that worked best there is Andrew Grillos Hippy Stomper, which is a basic attractor pattern that works just as well here as it does in other places.

As we get into different species of fish that we don't have here, you have patterns that work better for that species, in that area. You may

My entire life is

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sport.

want to absorb the culture of the area you are fishing because that is part of the fun part of the sport.

We are often told to "match the hatch," but flies that don't match the hatch often work very well. What is your opinion on tying and fishing flies th

and fishing flies that match the hatch?

Look at the popularity of foamstyle flies used in Jackson Hole's "One Fly" tournament, such as the Chernobyl ant. Other than large stoneflies, the Chernobyl ant looks like nothing in nature, and yet it catches fish all over the place.

The Purple Peril and Purple Haze dry flies, the purple dry flies are the same thing. There are not many purple mayflies in nature.

We give trout an awful lot of credit, but as long as you stick with the insect's profile and prey a little on their curiosity, that works too. If we look at the attractor patterns we fish now, they often do not look anything like the real thing.

## Do you think trout become conditioned to a particular fly pattern?

A lot of those streams that are heavily pressured, such as the Big Horn River in Montana, can see on a Saturday 300 river boats on 13 miles of stream. Many of those fish have been caught over and over again and I know that their brain is itty-bitty, but they do learn and become conditioned.

I've watched those feeding behaviors where things are good but the fish refuse, deny, deny, look at it, and then refuse. You change to a different fly and then maybe catch one. I just like figuring out on my own and I guess I don't care as much if I'm catching fish and nobody else is. That doesn't bother me either way. I like the idea of fishing the fish and just the satisfaction of "I got 'em to bite."

The guys who think they can crack the "code" are mislead. Maybe they did for that hour or that run, but that is why we keep getting sucked back into it, because that is the fun part of it.

We never want to fully crack the code. The biggest tragedy of our entire sport would be cracking the code, because then we would be just "fish catching" and not actually going "fishing."

The act of fishing, and the small little pieces of frustration that come along with it, is what keeps us involved.

The best part of the sport, and I have buried my life in it for an awful long time, is that you will never be a complete angler.

You may become a well rounded fisherman, but when we think we know we got it figured out, we are misleading ourselves. If you are into this sport and into life-long learning, want to meet wonderful people, get these cool little episodes in your lifetime where you crack the

code for that day, then it is the right sport for you.

## If you had to fish one fly for the rest of your life, what fly would it be?

That is a loaded question, because one fly might catch more fish, but another fly might be more fun to fish, so I am going to give you two answers.

If I had to use one fly to catch fish all the time it would probably be an Elk Hair Caddis variation. This is because I can skitter it, I can dive it, it can be dragged, and it is my most effective searching dry fly, period.

For fun it would be a size #18 BWO parachute of some nature because I love fishing riffle fish that are feeding on olives.

## Is there anything else that you would like to add to what we talked about so far?

Fly fishing and fly tying is one of those sports that I am just lucky to have been around, and the fly shop has been such a cool thing because of the people that I have met. It is not like any other job in that everyone is happy to come in. It is such a cool life style that has allowed me to meet so many wonderful people and travel all over the world fishing.



## 2020 State Council Awards

The centerpiece of our annual banquet each February is the presentation of the State Council's prestigious awards. To see more detailed descriptions of the awards and awardees, go to wicouncil.tu.org. Council Chair Mike Kuhr presented the awards.



FOR ONLY THE SECOND TIME IN THE COUNCIL'S HISTORY, WE AWARDED A LIFETIME ACHIEVMENT AWARD TO DAN WISNIEWSKI, WHO HAS BEEN INVOLVED WITH TU FOR MORE THAN 40 YEARS. FOR DECADES HE LED EFFORTS AT THE LOCAL, STATE AND NATIONAL LEVEL TO PRESERVE, PROTECT AND EXPAND PUBLIC LANDS AND PUBLIC ACCESS.



TIRELESS DRIFTLESS AREA ADVOCATE JERRY SAPP EARNED THE PRESTIGIOUS JOAN AND LEE WULFF AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP. FROM CHAIRING THE TUDARE VOLUNTEER STEERING COMMITTEE TO ILLINOIS STATE COUNCIL CHAIR AND NLC REPRESENTATIVE, HE'S A DEDICATED TU SUPPORTER.



JOANNA GRIFFIN, FORMER COORDINATOR OF THE DNR'S INLAND TROUT PROGRAM, RECEIVED OUR COVETED RESOURCE AWARD OF MERIT. SHE HAS BEEN A DEDICATED ADVOCATE FOR WISCONSIN'S TROUT AND THE VARIOUS STAKEHOLDERS.



RETIRED DNR DAM AND FLOODPLAIN SECTION CHIEF MEG GALLOWAY RECEIVED THE ROBERT HUNT RESOURCE PROFESSIONAL AWARD FOR HER DECADES OF WORK ON DAM REMOVALS. MANY RIVERS ARE NOW FREE FLOWING THANKS TO HER EFFORTS.



GILLIAN POMPLUN, A REPORTER FOR THE CRAWFORD COUNTY INDEPENDENT AND KICKAPOO SCOUT IN GAYS MILLS, RECEIVED OUR SPECIAL APPRECIATION AWARD. SHE WAS UNABLE TO ATTEND THE BANQUET AND RECEIVED HER AWARD FROM DUKE WELTER DURING A COULEE CHAPTER EVENT.



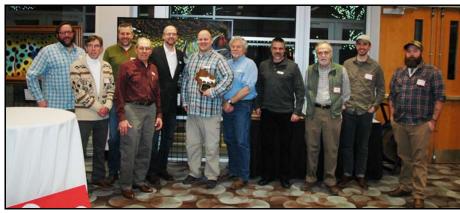
THE COULEE REGION CHAPTER'S LONG-TIME STALWART CY POST RECEIVED THE UNSUNG VALUABLE TROUTER AWARD.



RENEE AND JARED SEGAL RECEIVED THE TOMORROW'S ANGLER AWARD FOR YEARS OF VOLUNTEERING AT YOUTH EVENTS.



AVENTURON RECEIVED THE COUNCIL'S BUSINESS APPRECIATION AWARD FOR ITS AMAZING SUPPORT OF TROUT UNLIMITED.



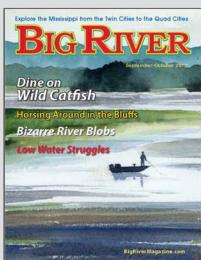
THE SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN CHAPTER EARNED THE SILVER TROUT AWARD FOR CHAPTER MERIT.



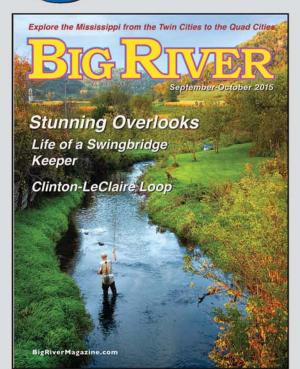
SWTU'S MARY ANN DOLL RECEIVED THE PRIZED GOLD NET AWARD FOR ALL HER AMAZING EFFORTS IN THE SOUTHERN WISCONSIN CHAPTER.

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## TU's Wood shares his thoughts on Wisconsin

TU President/CEO Chris Wood attended our banquet in February and spoke highly of our members and leaders, our chapters, the Council, our conservation ethic and much more. But we had a few more questions for him, so we asked.

As Midwesterners who are passionate about our trout fishing and amazing resources, we still recognize that our region is still largely "flyover" country to many. Most of us don't mind that at all. Your thoughts?

If I were you all, I would want to keep it that way. If I could fish one afternoon for trout in the lower 48, it would be in the Driftless. I look at how towns such as Viroqua and TU Businesses such as the Driftless Angler are catering to tourists and flat-landers like me, and I don't think it will be flyover country for much longer.

You're obviously familiar with all of TU's state councils. We're always striving to be the best we can. How are we doing?

As I mentioned at your banquet, Wisconsin is known for some amazing conservationists, such as the legendary Aldo Leopold and his daughter, Nina Leopold Bradley, to Pearl Pohl to my friend and former boss, Mike Dombeck. There's something in the air or water in Wisconsin that breeds great conservationists. I tried to celebrate some of these people such as Mike Kuhr, Linn Beck, Heidi Oberstadt, Mike Burda, and others at the banquet. Wisconsin TU makes the organization darn proud. You all rock!

You must see many council and chapter publications. Although Wisconsin Trout is currently in its traditional newspaper format (although now with color), which is perhaps "old school," how does it compare in regard to content, function and purpose? Any suggestions or recommendations for improvement?

Wisconsin Trout has one of the meatiest newsletters in the organization. I always read it and then pass it on to others in the office. But we are living in a digital world. There may be relatively cheap and effective ways to make it available. I would find ways to re-purpose your columns as Facebook or Instagram posts. Maybe see if TU.ORG can use them on their blog, or otherwise get your great information out there further and wider. That said, be wary of losing your status as fly-over country the more you share...

#### A woman I know recently took over the duties of planning her chapter's



**WOOD ENJOYS AN EVENING IN WISCONSIN** 

Chris Wood (left) and Linn and Chelley Beck enjoyed a chance to chat about all things important -- family, friends and TU.

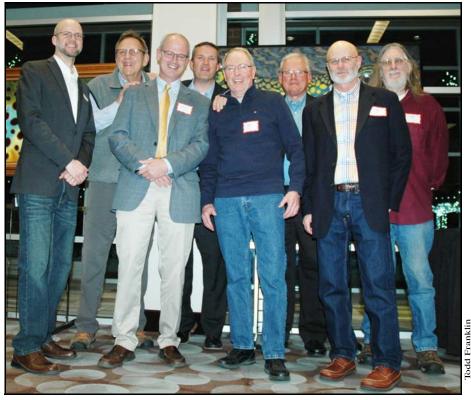
programs at meetings. Topics have included fish kills and CAFOs, threats to wild salmon, how climate change is spawning our devastating floods, and youth reporting on the TU teen summit. Attendance has been up and with a younger group and more women in the audience. She wonders, "If we can appeal to this different audience to highlight these issues, how then do we engage them further in TU?"

However she thinks! That sounds glib, but I mean it. One of the enduring values of TU is that we meet people where they are when it comes to conservation. I have seen the Maryland chapter engage dozens of kids of color in urban fishing through CityCatch; watched Nichol DeMol and Jamie Vaughn in the Rogue-Grand basins in Michigan engage more than 6,500 kids in caring for their watershed through rain gardens and tree plantings. I have seen Jeff Hastings and Duke Welter engage literally hundreds of partners in the Driftless Area restoration work. We need to meet people where they are. We should focus on planned giving and youth programs for the boomers to help them better extend their legacy. The Gen X'ers like me, are likely ready to step up into volunteer leadership, and as donors. The Y and Z gang love so-called experiential learning, so get them out rolling rocks, building structures, and otherwise involved in protecting and restoring the places they love, live and fish. We all have a role to play.

Our Central Sands (TUCARES) projects is succeeding with the benefits of lessons learned from TUDARE. What lessons can WITU and its chapters learn from the best in TU and what lessons can we offer on what WITU is doing for other chapters and councils?

I want to learn more about TUCARES. Perhaps we can do a tour when things settle a bit? TUDARE was a true lesson for the organization. Duke approached me too many years ago to mention, at a board meeting, and said, "hey, we want to aggregate up what the chapters are doing piecemeal into a home rivers initiative. Are you ok with that?" I was a bobblehead in agreement

We have moved from a mile or two of stream restoration in the Driftless Area to more than 20 per year now. We are seeing tenfold increases in fish



A CHANCE TO CATCH UP WITH PAST COUNCIL CHAIRS

TU President and CEO Chris Wood hams it up, along with a gang of former State Council chairs. From left, current Council Chair Mike Kuhr, past Council Chair Stephen Born, Chris Wood and former chairs Henry Koltz, Kim McCarthy, Jon Christiansen, Linn Beck and Bill Heart.

production in restored streams. It is due in large part to Duke's vision, Jeff Hasting's tireless work and the unending commitment of our volunteers. When TU connects the tireless passion of the volunteers with the expertise of national staff, we are unstoppable.

Consider Taylor Ridderbush's work in the Great Lakes states. The president wanted to eliminate the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). Taylor organized volunteers from the Great Lake states to descend on Capitol Hill and explain how GLRI helped fish, communities and people. It was fully funded. We can do this over and over again.

## What's been TU's experience with inviting women into the organization? What percent of our members now are women?

This is an area we have struggled with. About seven percent of our members are women, while 30 percent of fly-fishers are women. We have got to diversify as an organization if we want to remain relevant into the future, and to be clear, that means we need to get younger while we bring more women and people of color into the organization.

Nine months ago, I asked a team of TU employees to look at how we could diversify and grow our membership. A few months later, I brought to them a list of women fly-fishing groups, and asked them to actively, and aggressively, offer them free memberships into our chapters and organization. Hopefully, that will yield fruit. But here is the key to bringing women, younger people and people of color into the organization: if a stranger, white guy, black woman, brown kid walks in the door at a chapter meeting or onto the picnic field, have a few people prepared to rush over and greet them. "Welcome friend. We are so glad you are here," may be the most important words a visitor can hear.

I cannot tell you how many chapter meetings I have been the banquet speaker where I walked around the room for 15-30 minutes before anyone thought to ask "who is that dork in the jacket and tie?"



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

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## **Bringing Arctic grayling back to Michigan**

Grayling reintroduction initiative working to restore species in Michigan.



WILL ARCTIC GRAYLING SWIM IN MICHIGAN WATERS AGAIN?

The last Arctic grayling on record in Michigan were taken in 1936 but natural resource managers have repeatedly looked for options to reintroduce it.

#### By Jim Schmiedeskamp

The reintroduction of Arctic grayling—a historical species that was extirpated in the early 1900s—to their native Michigan rivers and streams is being led by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, in partnership with the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians (LRBOI).

Michigan's history with the Arctic grayling is long and storied. A striking fish with a sail-like dorsal fin and a slate blue color on its body, it was virtually the only native stream salmonid in the Lower Peninsula until the resident population died off nearly a century ago.

Michigan's Arctic Grayling Initiative consists of more than 40 organizations in addition to the DNR's and LRBOI's foundational partnership and is committed to reintroducing this culturally significant species.

"Our formal mission as an initiative is to restore self-sustaining populations of Arctic grayling within its historic range in Michigan," said DNR Fisheries Division Assistant Chief Todd Grischke.

"The fact we have a town named after this fish indicates to me just how iconic it was and still is to many in this state," Grischke said. "When you add in other factors, such as the fact they're only native to Michigan and Montana out of all the lower 48 states, it just adds to their legendary status."

## 19th century extinction causes

In the 19th century, northern Michigan streams were filled with arctic grayling, offering anglers plenty of opportunity to catch these unique fish. But a variety of factors slowly erased their presence, including the cutting of Michigan's vast virgin forest in the 1800s.

"Logging practices during that time period used streams to transport trees that were harvested. The streams carried logs to mills for processing," explained Grischke. "These practices greatly impacted the physical nature of those streams and basically destroyed stream habitats for fish, including grayling spawning areas."

Additionally, the physical cutting of the trees caused blockages in many of those same streams, often displacing grayling from where they lived.

But this was just one issue that affected Michigan's arctic grayling. Another was the introduction of non-native fish species.

"Other species of trout were introduced into Michigan's waters to create additional opportunities for

anglers to pursue, but a consequence of this action was that grayling couldn't compete with more aggressive fish like brown, rainbow or brook trout," Grischke said.

The final nail in the coffin was overfishing that occurred readily with people harvesting the grayling in large quantities with no possession limits or other regulations to stop them.

The last Arctic grayling on record in Michigan were taken in 1936, but since that time natural resource managers have repeatedly looked for options to reintroduce it.

#### **Previous attempts fail**

"In the late 1800s and early 1900s, millions of Arctic grayling fry were stocked into Michigan streams, but that didn't work," said Grischke. "And then in the 1980s, the DNR stocked hatchery-reared yearlings into lakes and streams, but again to no avail."

In each of these previous reintroduction efforts something critical was missing that prevented these populations from flourishing, but the Michigan Arctic Grayling Initiative hopes to rectify that.

"We have learned from these previous reintroduction events and plan to capitalize on new approaches, dedicated partnerships and advanced technology," Grischke explained.

#### Initiative's action plan

Much of the initiative's focus is detailed in its official Action Plan, unveiled in July 2017 and reflective of the vast work to be done by the various partners. The group is gleaning as much information as possible from the state of Montana and their successful effort at re-establishing stable Arctic grayling populations.

"Within our Action Plan we've identified four focus areas and associated goals that were developed by all the partners and that we believe will give us the best chance of success moving forward," said Grischke.

The four focus areas on the Action Plan include research, management, fish production and outreach and education.

#### **Research focus**

This component actually began prior to the foundational partnership. In 2013, Michigan Technological University and the LRBOI completed research on the Manistee River that evaluated current conditions for arctic grayling suitability. Then, immediately after forming the official partnership, the

DNR received a grant from Consumers Energy Foundation to fund a comprehensive habitat evaluation in the Upper Manistee watershed. This work was performed in 2017.

Also in 2017, the LRBOI initiated research on in-stream remote site incubators (RSIs). RSIs allow fish to be reared and released directly into streams to better allow them to imprint to the waters they will hopefully reproduce in later on. Better imprinting means the initiative will be one-step closer to establishing a self-sustaining population of Arctic grayling, which is the ultimate outcome of this effort. This technology was pivotal to the success of Montana's arctic grayling reintroduction efforts.

Additional research began in 2018 with Michigan State University and Nicole Watson, which has looked at understanding imprinting through thyroid hormone analysis and water choice trials; and to understand the relationships between young resident trout and grayling including competition and predation. The third year of Nicole Watson's work at Michigan State University will start in the spring of this year.

According to Grischke, much more research is needed during the next five to 15 years as the initiative addresses river habitats, genetics, inter-species competition, RSI technology and function.

"A best-case scenario would be arctic grayling being introduced into Michigan waters in the next 3-5 years," said Grischke. In the meantime, additional streams are being evaluated for the initial introduction.

## Management, production and education phases

Goals for the management focus area will include evaluating key habitat criteria, establishing population goals and working on regulations related to fishing for grayling.

The fish production focus area's work will center on experimenting with remote site incubator designs,

ensuring fish health standards are upheld, and developing and maintaining a genetically diverse brood stock, which will be housed at a state hatchery facility.

Lastly, goals for the outreach and education focus area will be concentrated on informing the public on this initiative's efforts, identifying future partners and creating a stewardship plan.

"The goals of these focus areas will be accomplished by partner representatives working together," Grischke shared. "The only way this initiative will be successful is if we continue to work together towards our mission."

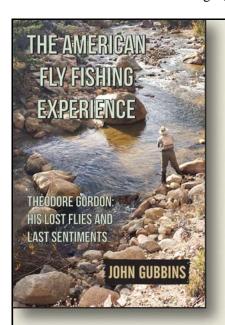
#### **Funding another priority**

Funding is needed for each of these four focus areas, but primarily in the areas of research and fish production. The initiative has raised approximately \$700,000 to date, with a goal of \$1.2 million. In the next 2-3 years, most of the funding will go towards stream habitat evaluations, fish rearing, equipment and travel. According to Grischke, funding is not "complete" for any of the focus areas at this point in time and will focus on private donations, Trout Unlimited national and local chapter support, foundations and company sponsors.

Individual donors can contribute directly to the State of Michigan with checks payable to Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Fisheries Division, and mailed to: Cashiers Office, Attn: MDNR Fisheries Division, PO Box 30451, Lansing, MI 48909-7951. The donations should indicate that the money is to be used for the Arctic Grayling Initiative.

To learn more about Nicole Watson's research work, see her bylined article which appeared in the summer issue of Michigan Trout Magazine (http://www.michigantu.org/).

To learn more about Michigan's Arctic Grayling Initiative, visit migrayling.org.



John Gubbins has done a fine and masterful job as biographer of the rather clandestine life of Theodore Gordon, one of America's truly great flyfishers....anyone interested in...some really great angling tactics and ideas will find this book not only informative, but also fun to read. Gary Borger, Author of Presentations, Nymphing, and Designing Trout Flies

John Gubbins has given us a great insight into Gordon's life, as an angler, a fly tier, a writer, a person of many secrets, and most importantly to me, a conservationist. I found it hard to put this book down once I started to read it.

Bert Darrow, Author, Guide & President of Theodore Gordon Flyfishers

John Gubbins has taken all that Gordon has written by and about Gordon, filled in a few gaps and reveals him a real human being...not only did [he] read everything available about Gordon, he painstakingly tied the flies Gordon developed and fished them. The flies work. So does the book. Harry Peterson, President Emeritus, Western Colorado University

#### The American Fly Fishing Experience Theodore Gordon: His Lost Flies and Last Sentiments by John Gubbins

For Books and Inquiries: Amazon - Kindle and Paperback John Gubbins, 665 Tony's Lane, Ishpeming MI 49849 PH: 906-869-6679 • profoundriver@gmail.com (paperback with endorsement gratis)

## Veterans to return to Hayward in Summer 2020

The Veterans Service Partnership is a cause that TU has taken up to provide healing, rehabilitation, hope and community to all veterans and their families.

By Matthew Cade

Last July, 10 Wisconsin veterans drifted the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway on the annual Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Veterans Service Partnership Hayward Float. They washed away the daily stresses of life with the waters of the Namekagon and Chippewa rivers for a few hours, balancing it with the rhythmic cast of a fly rod and reel. They were taking pause to reflect on

the beauty of their surroundings and the beauty of a nation that they had already sacrificed so much for in their service as past members of the Armed Forces.

These veterans had gathered in Trego to spend two nights in a cabin secluded in the northwoods to bond with the camaraderie found in the commonali-

ty of serving in the military. Along with this opportunity, the Hayward Fly Fishing Company and other VSP representatives provided their boats and guides for these veterans to float through the local waters nearby.

"It's just a boat ride," said Larry Mann, owner of Hayward Fly Fishing Co. "If a fish happens to get in the way, so be it."

It was with the efforts of several chapters' Veterans Service Partnership programs and the Wisconsin TU State Council that enough money was raised for these veterans to attend this once-in-a-lifetime experience at no cost to the veterans.

The Veterans Service Partnership is a cause that TU has taken up to provide healing, rehabilitation, hope and community to all veterans and their families who have sacrificed so much to protect the freedoms we all enjoy. Not only is the VSP creating these wonderful opportunities, but it also gives these well-tested leaders an opportunity to lead this organization into the future with a complimentary one-year membership.

Veterans are showing time and time again that they will return and create a community within our

chapters and create new events to invite new veter-Chapters across Wisconsin are seeing new activity in their VSP programs that are inviting people to come and tie flies or other events in efforts to protect the resources that provide the opportunities like the one experienced last year in Hayward.

"We've seen guys from just this last trip step up and help take charge with their own VSP programs," said SWTU VSP Program Lead, Mike Johnson. "These are our next leaders and we need to foster these opportunities for them to grow within the organization."

Many VSP programs are currently raising funds for another trip to send 10 veterans back to Hayward in July. It is their hope that they can raise \$5,000 and that they are able to extend this trip to two days of fishing and two nights again in Trego. The money raised will cover all costs for the boats and guides, plus food and lodging for the veterans.

Persons interested in donating for this trip may do so at https://wic-



VETERANS LOOK FORWARD TO ANOTHER NORTHERN ADVENTURE
Hayward Fly Fishing Co welcomed both new and experienced anglers on last
year's veteran's fishing trip. Here, Wendy Williamson gives a shore-side
casting lesson.

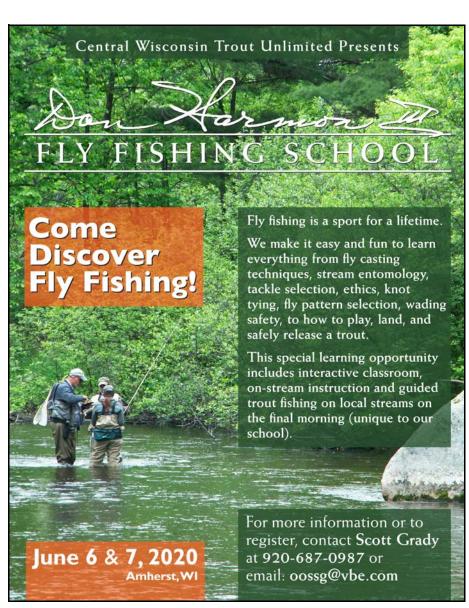
ouncil.tu.org/donate-to-witu and selecting the Veterans Fishing Outing option. More information may also be found by contacting the Wisconsin TU Veterans Service Partnership lead representative, Mike Burda, at northernlightsreef@yahoo.com, or the SWTU VSP representative, Mike Johnson, at mike@thosejohnsons.com, or the SEWTU VSP representative, Matthew Cade at mscade0782@gmail.



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# **TU National Leadership Council report**

By Linn Beck, Wisconsin TU's National Leadership Council Representative

Everything included in this report was reported and taken from our minutes for our NLC meeting on December 3, 2019.

TU President and CEO Chris Wood praised the hardworking and innovative TU staff, especially Steve Moyer, for their attention toward continued support and advocacy to the Public Lands Renewable Energy Development Act. This bi-partisansupported bill will treat renewable energy, such as wind, solar and geothermal from public lands as a leasable mineral, just as with coal and gas. This would allow for acquired revenue streams to be funneled back into fish and wildlife restoration and conservation. These new revenue streams would help support cleanup efforts and improvement of resources used to produce these energy sources.

Another TU priority is the continued focus on "Good Samaritan" legislation.

Wood also discussed the future revamping of TU's Membership Marketing Model, based on inspiration from the NLC and board of trustees. This would change from a revenue-based membership marketing model to one that focuses on four discrete goals:

• 1. Grow the number of members

and supporters

- 2. Diversify our membership and supporters by attracting a younger membership base, bring more women into the organization, increase our minority makeup.
- 3. Increase membership satisfaction
- 4. Increase member engagement

As chair of the NLC Youth Education Workgroup, I'm leading our efforts to develop a base plan to guide our future efforts. One of our main goals is to improve communications between the TU Headwaters Youth Group and chapters and councils. Be sure your chapter has a youth education contact involved in this process. If your chapter does not have one, please consider volunteering for this important role. These chapter education coordinators help us develop our youth programs.

The NLC Youth Education Workgroup will have an important teleconference on Wednesday, May 6. This will be a question-and-answer session regarding anything related to our TU Headwaters Youth Programs. It will be an open forum and very informative. We encourage all of our chapter education representatives to participate. Watch for an email from TU National.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact me.

# Another way to support Wisconsin Trout Unlimited

By Kim McCarthy, Watershed Access Fund and Friends of Wisconsin Trout Coordinator and past council chair

WITU has long had a large number of generous supporters backing our efforts with financial contributions. A recent change in tax law gives donors a new tax-advantaged method to donate to charitable organizations like TU.

If you need to start taking required minimum distributions (RMD) from your IRA accounts, your RMD can lower your tax obligations while benefitting your favorite charitable causes, such as TU.

The IRS now allows owners of IRA accounts who are required to withdraw RMDs to donate from the required RMDs and then deduct the amount of the donations from taxable income. For example, if you have a required RMD of \$10,000, you can direct your financial institution to pass \$1,000 to Trout Unlimited. The amount subject to income tax is \$9,000.

This is not an itemized deduction. This method of giving is a straightforward reduction in income subject to tax. Many people have found that itemizing is no longer an option because of the large increase in the standard deduction. So, the ability to donate from your RMD allows people to still support groups like Trout Unlimited and realize a

tax benefit at the same time.

If you decide that donating a portion of your IRA RMD is a good way for you to support Trout Unlimited, we strongly suggest that you contact the financial institution that manages your IRA to get the details about how your particular institution processes this kind of donation. As with all tax situations, there are rules governing how to make this contribution.

If, after talking to your financial institution, you make the decision that a donation to TU from your RMD works financially for you, we will need to know how to direct the funds. For example, your donation can be directed to the general funding of the State Council. As State Council obligations have increased recently, the need for general purpose revenue has increased. You could also direct the State Council to use the funding for either the Friends of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited program or the Watershed Access Fund.

Send IRA contributions to Wisconsin Trout Unlimited, Attn: Kim McCarthy, 736 Meadowbrook Court, Green Bay, WI 54313. Make checks out to Friends of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited, Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Watershed Access Fund or Wisconsin Trout Unlimited.

Thank you for considering a gift to TU from your IRA distribution.

# Wisconsin Great Lakes Stream Restoration Program update

By Chris Collier, Great Lakes Stream Restoration Manager

In the last Great Lakes update I remarked on the growing piles of snow outside my window. That snow is still there, but it's starting to melt, and while we could always get a few March or April snow-storms, the muddy path to my car and growing number of bird calls makes spring's arrival unmistakable. All this makes my cabin fever reach a fever pitch as my wife and I imagine days on the trail with our dog, Beau, and getting our kayaks out of winter storage.

My growing sense of cabin fever doesn't stop with plans for summer

adventures. It also includes excitement over another field season in the northwoods. Our partnership projects with the U.S. Forest Service include seven barrier replacements and a remnant logging dam removal that should be completed in 2020. We are also working with the Forest Service to explore opportunities to partner on a forest-wide road-stream-crossing inventory effort and in-stream habitat restoration projects.

Building off these Forest Service projects, we are continuing to engage tribes and our communities to adopt fish-friendly road infrastructure across the northern Great Lakes. On May 12 we are hosting a project tour in Hayward to show our new partners what problem crossings look like and how they can fix those problems. Our messaging has been well received, and who can argue with cleaner water, more trout and improved flood resiliency?

Tying together our north woods projects is the return of our summer intern program. We are once again looking to bring on two part-time interns to help us inventory stream crossings, assist with habitat restoration projects and join our partners on trout surveys. It's an exciting opportunity for college students to gain hands-on experience with cold-

water conservation. If you know anyone who might be interested, point them to TU's website or see the job posting in this issue of *Wisconsin Trout*.

I hope everyone enjoys the warming weather. While we might not be fully out of winter's grasp, the first sandhill cranes have started breaking the morning calm with their prehistoric calls. If that's not a sign of spring, then I don't know what is. If you or your chapters are interested in learning more about our work, drop me a line and I will be happy to set something up.



**INTERNS SOUGHT FOR 2020 SEASON** 

Our 2019 interns, Maddi and Jake, completing a pebble count in the national forest. This is the kind of hands-on experience interns gain with us.



A CROSSING WE HOPE TO REPLACE IN 2020



#### **Editor's Note:**

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, many chapter events during the next several months have been cancelled or postponed. The dates and information about events in these chapter reports is likely to change, and it is unknown how long this situation will continue, so be sure to keep abreast of your chapter's activities via websites, Facebook, etc.

#### Aldo Leopold Chapter

Our January and February Bar Flies events were a great success, with numerous chapter members meeting to tie flies, share stories and experiences and learn new patterns and techniques. We held sessions in three locations, Ooga Brewing in Beaver Dam, Tumbled Rocks Brewery in Baraboo and The Ballroom in Portage. Attendance has been very good. It was a great way to spend winter evenings, and hope to continue them next winter. We cancelled the March sessions due to the Corona virus emergency.

The weekend of May 15-17 we'll host a chapter fishing outing. As of March 17, we are still planning to host this event but given the un-

knowns regarding the pandemic, we may need to cancel this event. Please watch our Facebook, Insta-

Nate Nye drove to participating schools in Sauk County to scoop up the trout fingerlings and release them.

gram accounts and web page for updates. If the event does occur, we will be staying at the West Fork Sportsman's Club. Chapter members will be available to take people out on the stream, help with casting and share their experience with anyone who wants to attend. The DNR has canceled all Trout In the Classroom projects for this year. In our chapter, DNR biologist

-Mike Barniskis



ALDO LEOPOLD CHAPTER HOSTS BAR FLIES EVENTS

Chapter members and friends tie flies and share a drink at Aldo Leopold Chapter's Bar Flies event recently.

#### Antigo Chapter

We hope spring finds you all well. We attended the WITU Northeast Region meeting in early December with our fellow chapters, the U.S. Forest Service and DNR. We committed \$8,000 to requested projects for 2020. We plan to help funding the Antigo DNR summer streambrushing crew, fuel for a springpond dredging project and funding for the Great Lakes and the U.S. Forest Service in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. We also applied for a Friends of Wisconsin TU grant for 2020 and received notice of approval in March.

Our TIC programs are under way with four high schools, and we hope to involve another school this fall.

Our Kid's Fishing Day is Saturday, June 13 on the east side of City Park. We'll have a fishing tank full of trout, prizes, DNR casting contest, hamburgers, hot dogs and soda for all. The largest fish will be mounted free. We're hoping for about 400 kids to participate.

We hope to participate with some area chapters in mid June for a work day. I might have those guys with a grill ready, too. We're also planning a small work day on the upper East Branch of the Eau Claire River.

We donated 30 pairs of rubber boots and 10 collection nets to Antigo science teacher Mike Wedro to support the new Field & Water science building at Nobouken Lake, north of Antigo.

Think spring and tight lines. -Scott Henricks

#### **Blackhawk Chapter**

The Blackhawk Chapter is excited to support two stream-restoration projects in the Driftless Area this year. We committed \$2,000 to clear box elders, slope banks and install fish habitat on Conway Creek. We earmarked an additional \$2,000 to complete the funding for a project on Esofea Branch (aka the South Branch of the North Fork of the Bad Axe River), on property just purchased by Vernon County, to add to the Esofea-Rentz County

We would like to thank the Southern Wisconsin Chapter for

hosting two of our members in their recent chainsaw certification class: Anita Vaughan and Dave Brethauer. Participants learned how to safely handle a chainsaw and braved the cold weather to cut down a tree

Ron Machajewski and Don Studt did a fantastic job again this year with their annual Beginner Fly-Tying classes. These sessions are a great way to learn the basics of fly tying from experienced chapter members. Keep an eye out for details on the 2021 session!

Plans for our annual banquet and all chapter events are on hold until further notice. Please stay safe and healthy.

—Phil Kirker

#### **Central Wisconsin Chapter**

With ice covering the streams, Central Wisconsin Chapter activities turned indoors. The sold- out CWTU masters fly-tying class started in January. Tom Meyers put together a series of five classes at the Fin 'n Feather in Winneconne, with different instructors for each class. Thanks to Tom and the following instructors:

- Seth Waters of Dark Waters Fly Shop in Iron Mountain, Mich.
- Tracy Moran, fly fishing instructor and Master Fly Tyer
- Duke Welter, Outreach Coordinator for TUDARE.
- John Gremmer, Master's Class Founder and Jeff Treu, Master Fly Tyer
- Pat Ehlers, The Fly Fisher's shop in Brookfield

Dave Ehrenberg did a great job together fly exchange for the class. Each participant tied specific flies that were mounted on a board and given to the participants. Two more were prepared as a donation to the chapter. A special thanks go to Duke Welter, who donated another fly board collection, "Duke's Rambling Dozen," to the chapter.

We raffled both of those boards at TroutFest20 as fundraisers.

In addition to the master's class, Dave Pable led our beginning fly-tying class of 13 from the cities of Hortonville, Oshkosh, Winneconne, Neenah, Fox Crossing, Saxeville, Fremont and others. We had participants from age 12 to

more than 70. It was a great family activity.

Each class had five support instructors and began with an explanation of materials and flies to be tied. Demonstration flies brought in by all of the instructors each week and were divided amongst the participants for them to keep. The first week covered tools, half-hitch and whip-finish knots. During the following four weeks, participants tied various patterns, and we offered handouts and other-fly-tying information.

Thanks go to the Fin 'n Feather for the use of their facility and thanks to Dave & Grace Pable, John and Laura Tucker and Nancy Slattery for donating materials. Thanks also go to Tim and Charlie of Tight Lines Fly Shop, which sold us the tool kits used in this course and repaired our bobbins. This course takes a lot of effort, so a huge thanks goes to instructors Grace Pable, Mike San Dretto, Dave Johnson, John Gremmer and Wayne Parmley. Wayne also made the brochures with the course info.

We held a successful TroutFest at the Fin 'N' Feather in Winneconne, with a many vendors, members and the public. Thanks to all our members who contributed to the success of this event, which was headed by John Gremmer and Vice President Wayne Parmley.

There were also informative presentations by Pam Van Erem from Women in Fly Fishing, Tim Landwehr of Tight Lines Fly Shop, Seth



CWTU'S FLY FISHING SCHOOL IS TENTATIVELY PLANNED FOR JUNE



CWTU HOLDS SUCCESSFUL BEGINNING FLY-TYING CLASS



Waters of Modern Smallmouth, the owner of Dark Water's Fly Shop Fly Fishing in Michigan's Upper Peninsula and Kyle Zempel, owner of Black Earth Angling Co.

Bob Haase organized 18 fly tyers to provide demonstrations throughout the day. Fifteen vendors and exhibitors also supported the event. Thanks to feather salesman Dave Roberts, Tight Lines Fly Shop, Russ Bouck, Scott Grady, Blue Sky Leaders, Kyle Zempel, Seth Waters Dark Waters Guide Service, DNR, Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator Anna Crisar, CWTU River Keepers, CWTU Dan Harmon III Fly Fishing School, TUCARES, artist Charles Mitchell, Bill Millonig of Kettle Moraine Studio and artist Adam Zins.

The chapter will hold a beer social called "Hops & Hackles," organized by Mike Salas, on May 2 from noon to 3 p.m. at the Ding Tavern, W4890 Portage Street in Wild Rose. Two craft beers will be made especially for CWTU: Brookie Brew and Double Haul Ale. There will also be pulled pork sandwiches, fly-tying demos and raffles. Since it's opening weekend, you can fish the Pine

River from the dock.

CWTU work days start May 16 and will be held into September. This and the chapter's River Keeper's are our most important handson river-conservation activities. We encourage everyone to join us in this important work.

The Dan Harmon III Fly Fishing School, led by Jeff Treu, is scheduled for June 6-7. The school has been held for more than 40 years. It is an outstanding opportunity to learn the sport. Meals are included in the tuition, along with very reasonable overnight accommodations, if needed. It is a real bargain that has always been well received. There are a few spaces still available. If you are interested, contact Scott Grady at 920-687-0987 or oossg@vbe.com.

The chapter will be presenting its monthly programs following our board meetings the evening of each second Tuesday of the month at the Fin 'n Feather. As always, we hope you will join us in our activities. Follow us on Facebook or Instagram or visit cwtu.org.

—Wayne Parmley

the Tim Erickson property. CRTU is a partner with the Tainter Creek Farmer-Led Watershed Council on that event, as well as Valley Stewardship Network and the Vernon County Land Conservation Department. Volunteers will be welcome to

help with casting games, entomology, fly-tying, setup and takedown and cooking. For more information contact Duke Welter at 715-579-7538 or jweltertu@gmail.com.

—Curt Řees



HAMMING IT UP AT FVTU'S CABIN FEVER DAY

Tony Pudlo, Tony Garvey and Nate Ratliff get into it at the FVTU display.

#### **Fox Valley Chapter**

Our 19th Annual FVTU fundraiser Cabin Fever Day provided record-breaking income and profit, in spite of the snow. Our Cabin Fever Day Chairman was John Barkmeier. While attendance suffered from poor driving conditions, more than 200 members and their families enjoyed three excellent speakers. Luke Kavajecz spoke about fishing Lake Superior and the Apostle Islands, Tina Murray spoke about enjoying the sport and Larry Mann of Hayward Fly Fishing Company spoke about musky fishing.

about musky fishing.
Our "Flea Shop" used equipment sale saw record demand, sales and income. Jeff, Luann and Cole Moureau brought in more than \$1,500

We sincerely thank expert cane rod builder Scott Grady for his annual donation of a hand built cane rod, which Dick Stielow paired with a beautiful Hardy Reel, both of which combined to produced record raffle income. Doug Erdmann of Wisconsin Rapids was the lucky winner. Congratulations, Doug.

Equally successful was the huge bucket and silent auction raffle managed and organized by former chapter president Tom Lager. Tom needed many members to assist him in this large and detailed undertaking, which followed a successful system established by Rich Erickson. The signage produced by Chuck Knoeck was excellent.

Local expert Jim Oates conducted our fly-casting clinic. Beginners and experienced fly anglers learned from his coaching and instruction. In Jim's casting lane, customers of the Flea Shop were able to try out used rods.

Steve Heuser, our web designer from Brook Web Works, LLC., proved to be essential to the success of CFD by providing expert IT and tech support throughout the day. He also coordinated the bank of expert fly tyers, along with Graeme Hodson, who organized the youth fly tyers

Al Johnson organized the "front" office with the help of many, including Linda and Bill Walters of Optima Graphics, who did the design, layout and production of the many printed items needed to promote and operate CFD.

Congratulations to Chris Firkus,

winner of our "2020 First Fish of the Year Catching Contest." He caught his first trout January 4 at an undisclosed section of the Mecan River in Marquette County. He said he caught the trout midday with 40-degree water temps under overcast skies and 29-degree air temps. The magic fly was a size-10 yellow and brown streamer presented under a downed tree on the opposite bank. Runner up is Dan Geddes, who also caught a brown trout fishing the same river the very next day. These guys are not fair-weather anglers. Congratulations to both.

At the February chapter meeting, Mark Kornis from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provided an excellent presentation on tagging studies currently being conducted on chinook salmon, lake trout and steelhead in Lake Michigan. Jeff Treu followed up with a presentation on fly fishing for Great Lakes steelhead.

We held our annual awards and appreciation dinner in February at Ione's Bistro at Fox Valley Technical College in Appleton, with an amazing four-course dinner. Award winners included Scott Grady, for 19 years of rod making for a raffle held at the annual Cabin Fever Day event; Tom Lager for leadership of the TUCARES project; long-time CFD contributors and TU champions Tom Beyer and Barb Bermel; and Danielle Santry of the Calumet County Stony Brook Trout In the Classroom Project.

Tuesday Habitat Improvement Days will be held the first Tuesday of the month from May to September and Joint Habitat Days with the Central Wisconsin Chapter will be held on the third Saturday of the month during the same time period. You can find more information on the FVTU website and Facebook page.

The 42nd Annual Fishing Day for People with Disabilities is Saturday, May 30 at the YMCA Camp Shioc near Shiocton. For more information contact Jerome Herro at jeromeherro@gmail.

—Don Clouthier and Jerome Herro



CWTU'S TROUTFEST20 INCLUDED A TIM LANDWEHR PRESENTATION

#### **Coulee Region Chapter**

In late February we hosted our 20th chapter banquet at Cedar Creek in Onalaska. We were sold out, at 120 attendees, and enjoyed great food, fish talk and prizes. Top prizes included a custom-built 3-weight rod by Rick Kyte, a multinight stay at the Logan Mill Lodge in Westby, hand-carved teal by Bill Liska, and so much more. Duke Welter was our guest speaker and did a great job talking about the mission of TU and how it comes to life in all that we do in the Coulee Region TU.

Due to the pandemic, we cancelled our March chapter meeting, when Jim Bartelt was to be our guest presenter. Our next chapter meeting is scheduled for April 15 at the American Legion in Viroqua, but double check before you come,

in case we also cancel that meeting. Duke Welter is to be our featured speaker and he will discuss what's happening in the Driftless Area and how we can help.

Coon Creek Trout Fest has been cancelled until further notice.

Along with members of SEWTU, volunteers will do brushing along the north fork of the Bad Axe River just upstream from Rentz Memorial Park on June 6. We'll provide most tools, but bring your work gloves and eye protection. Work begins at 9 a.m. and lunch will be served when the work is done, usually about noon. For more information contact Jason Freund 262-490-6225 or jason.freund4@gmail.com.

Tainter Creek Stream Day is Saturday June 6 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. off of West Tainter Hollow Road on



**COULEE CHAPTER SELLS OUT 20TH BANQUET** 

In late February the chapter hosted its 20th chapter banquet at Cedar Creek in Onalaska, They were sold out, with 120 attendees.



#### Frank Hornberg Chapter

In January our chapter, along with the UW—Stevens Point Fly Fishing Club, participated in a flytying evening at Fall Line Outfitters Co. in Stevens Point. The room was packed with 28 people tying trout and musky flies. Monica Trzebiatowski of the Worth Company started the evening with a presentation on the history of the Worth Company and how at one time it employed 200 women who tied flies. Worth Company was among several companies that tied millions of flies

each year in Stevens Point and in the 1930's it was known as the fly-tying capital of the world.

Ryan Koehnlein of the UW—Stevens Point Fly Fishing Club gave a presentation on equipment and materials for the novice fly tier, including how to tie ant and beetle patterns. We give a special thanks to Craig Cook of Fall Line Outfitters Co. for hosting the event and for providing the great food and beverages.

—John Vollrath



**GREEN BAY CHAPTER AWARDEES** 

At its annual holiday party and awards dinner, the Green Bay Chapter recognized a variety of amazing leaders. From left are Carla Zimmerman, Tim Landwehr, Charlie Piette, Gary Gillis, Wally Heil and Jose Diaz.

#### **Green Bay Chapter**

In December we held our annual holiday party and awards dinner, including an all-you-can-eat buffet of broasted chicken, BBQ ribs, mashed potatoes, gravy, dressing, vegetables, coleslaw, dinner rolls, butter, coffee, milk and assorted desserts. The barbershop quartet Something Old, Something New treated us to excellent entertainment.

We presented our 2019 awards. The first was for the President's Club. This award comes with a personalized GBTU jacket. We give this award to a "newer" member who has demonstrated a high level of activity within the chapter during the past year. We recognized veteran's service leader Gary Gillis and membership chair Jose Diaz.

The Business of the Year award went to Tight Lines Fly Fishing Co., which has donated to our banquet for years and always provide guest speakers for our meetings. They let us use their shop as a home base for our Veteran's Service Partnership. Tight Lines has donated unbelievable amounts of money to the improvement and protection of our coldwater resources, including their partnership with the Fly-Fishing Film Tour.

Distinguished The Service Award is for those who give freely of their time, money and talent for many years. This year's award went to Wally Heil. Wally joined GBTU in 1979 and was awarded to the President's Club in 1987, Member of the Year in 2001 and the Silver Trout in 2012. He is currently on our board and has served on the Conservation Banquet Committee for many years, running the popular bucket raffle. He attended our first two work projects of 2019 and is at most meetings. Wally is the epitome of what this award stands for, and has a GBTU career we can all be proud of.

We presented Member of the Year to Carla Zimmerman, who joined GBTU in 2016. She quickly became an active board member and leader of our Conservation Banquet Committee. The banquet is our premier fundraiser and she has done an exceptional job. Carla is also a member of our alternative fundraising committee.

At the WITU Northeast Regional meeting in December, we joined six other chapters to fund conservation agencies, including TU, the DNR and the U.S. Forest Service in their efforts to improve Wisconsin trout streams. The regional agencies were looking for \$40,000 for their work. Everything was funded, and we donated \$14,500, of which \$2,000 came from a Friends of Wisconsin TU grant.

We've had three meetings in the past couple months. In January DNR Fisheries Supervisor Shawn Sullivan offered a great presentation. Shawn's is an awesome story. He began his fisheries career as a TU-funded DNR Limited-Term Employee. He has gone on to become a full-time DNR fisheries leader.

Our February meeting featured two guest speakers. First up was GBTU teen leader and Green Bay East student Aled Griffiths, who shared his experience at the National TU summit in Montana. Aled has attended the last two National TU summits and we are very proud of his efforts.

Rivers North Fly-Fishing Guide Brad Petzke, who guides in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, provided a great presentation.

In March U.S. Forest Service Technician Nick Berndt offered a presentation called "Using Fin Clips to Assess Brook Trout Movement through Culverts and Natural Barriers." Last summer Nick used fin clips to follow brook trout movement in northwest Oconto County. It was a pleasure to hear what he learned.

We were honored in March by

the Brown County Conservation Alliance as Brown County Conservation Organization of the Year. We are very proud of this recognition.

In February more than 280 people attended our 45th Annual Conservation Banquet at Stadium View Bar and Grill.

Our Veteran's Service Partnership continues to positively serve our veterans. The program holds regular meetings at Tight Lines Fly Fishing Co. in De Pere.

For more information on these stories and more, please visit our website at greenbaytu.org or check our social media on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.

—Adrian Meseberg

#### Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter

In January we participated in the Grant County Sports Association Outdoor Skills Day. While not as busy as past years, about 250 kids attended. Also in January we held our Lie 'N Tie at The Hollow in Montfort. We offered tying instructions and filled a fly box for the WITU Council Banquet.

In February Brian Larson passed on the Joan and Lee Wulff Conservation Leadership Award to Jim Hess at the Badger Fly Fishers Spring Opener.

We had a second Lie 'N Tie in March, following a board meeting. The board wanted to tie flies for a board fly box to be raffled off at our banquet and to meet with members. We also helped folks with patterns and techniques.

This year's annual banquet, normally scheduled for the Friday be-

fore the regular season, has been postponed until late summer or early fall.

In our TIC tank, we had approximately 50 healthy brown trout, and the intent was to release the trout on May 15 with the help of fisheries biologist Brad Sims. He was going to do a stream-shocking demo and visit an artesian spring nearby.

However. due to school closures, we will not be able to do that. My current plan is to take my colleague and my daughters and release the trout in late March or early April. We were lucky as we still had access to the school to feed and monitor the trout. I plan to livestream the release on Facebook live and get an exact count of the trout we release.

-Brian Larson



NOHR MEMBERS VOLUNTEER AT OUTDOOR SKILLS DAY

In January members of the Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter volunteered during the Grant County Sports Association Outdoor Skills Day. While not as busy as past years, about 250 kids attended. Here Tim Fraley shares his tying skills.

#### **Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter**

The majority of our eight classrooms, have successfully released their fry in the Willow River, unfortunately without the children present.

However, some filmed the event and sent the video to their students. A couple of classrooms have trained the custodial staff at the school to care for the trout during their absence in hopes that they will be able to return to class by the end of the school year.

Our Bugs in the Classroom and field trips to collect bugs from the area streams are on hold for now, depending if/when the teachers and kids are able to return.

The chapter had an information booth at this year's River Falls Fly Fishing Film Festival in February at the University of Wisconsin—River Falls

Proceeds supported the Kinnickinnic River Land Trust (KRLT). This year the KRLT will dedicate proceeds to their Community Forest Campaign.

This is an effort to purchase a 40-acre property near River Falls. Lo-

cated in the lower Kinnickinnic River canyon, this property would become KRLT's fourth preserve: A Community Forest.

KRLT ownership will protect this property in perpetuity and provide public access to 1,500 feet of Kinnickinnic River and Rocky Branch Creek trout waters, with a potential for DNR restoration work to improve trout habitat, stabilize stream banks and reduce erosion.

In addition, this property will provide public access to the River Falls School Forest, which has been landlocked for decades, and will connect the school forest with public parks owned by the City of River Falls and River Falls Township.

The combination of River Falls School Forest, KRLT Community Forest and public parks will create substantial educational and recreational benefits, including a lengthy continuum of river access for anglers.

Kiap-TU-Wish is supporting the effort by KRLT to raise the \$400,000 needed to cover the purchase price and associated transac-





KIAP CHAPTER GIVES KIDS A CHANCE TO GET INVOLVED

Greenwood Elementary 4th graders work on the Kinni service learning project.

costs. Kiap-TU-Wish has requested \$15,000 from Wisconsin Trout Unlimited's Watershed Access Fund to help acquire this remarkable property. Kiap-TU-Wish will contribute a 50-percent match to this grant of \$7,500, providing a total of \$22,500 for property acquisition. Other potential funding partners include the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program, U.S. Forest Service/USDA Community Forest Program, and also corporate and non-profit organizations, and individuals. KRLT hopes to close on the property by September 30, 2020. You can find more information on this acquisition at https://kinniriv-

We held the Greenwood Elementary service and learning project in December on the Oscar Lee easement on the upper Kinni. Sixtysix fourth-grade students, 20 chaperones and the fourth-grade teaching staff from Greenwood Elementary School arrived with seven TU volunteers at the Oscar Lee easement on the upper Kinni to participate in a service and learning project.

Students enjoyed dragging and burning buckthorn and box elder under the watchful eyes of the adults. This event was a success thanks to nearly 200 volunteer hours, in addition to the number of hours which teacher Stephan Papp and Habitat Coordinator Randy Arnold spent planning and coordinating the event. Thanks to the DNR's Kasey Yallaly for taking half of the class at a time on a nature walk on the Oscar Lee easement, which is adjacent to the Gibson easement, where the actual trees and brush were cut. It was encouraging seeing the fourth graders and parents embody service, cooperation and community service in working for a common good.

Work continued at this location

for a few more workdays in early January to clear remaining buckthorn and box elders. Randy Arnold managed to fell the mother of all buckthorn trees on this heavily infested stretch of the Kinni. Volunteers then moved to the Trimbelle River to perform maintenance on the Treudeau easement just upstream of the Hwy 65 bridge. Work wrapped up on a couple of sites along the Kinni, where volunteers did maintenance cutting.

Volunteers turning out to at least one event included Tom Anderson, Dave Gregg, Brody Hetland, Tony Randzzo, John Skelton, Dustin Wing, Randy Arnold, Ed Constantini, John Kaplan, Sarah Sanford, Loren Haas, Pete Kilibarda, Charlie Schlatter, Dan Schlatter, Dave Koslovsky, Sydney Arnold. Matt Wysocki, Jeff Rivard, Bill Piotrowski, Paul Mahler, Will Mahler, Rowan Janquart, Matt Janquart, Jim Tatzel, Blake Storholm, Vince Seidling, Jeff Jackson, Pat Sexton, Loren Carver, John Carr, Phil Plumbo, Scott Wagner, Alan Hopeman, MacKenzie Zajek, Dave Kozlovsky, Don Bushek, Trish Hannah, Brian Schils and Keith Stein.

We would like to thank the employees from UNFI in Prescott, led by Josie Tucker, including Tatianer Tucker, Dakota Cole and Lancre K.

As of this writing it is 56 degrees and rivers are beginning to rise. This may be premature, but it signals the arrival of spring and the beginning of a busy schedule for the Kiap-TU-Wish monitoring team during the April-October 2020 period. Chapter members will deploy 30 temperature loggers in five local rivers to evaluate the impacts of stormwater runoff, hydropower facilities and climate change, and to assess the ability of our stream-restoration projects to improve temperature regimes.

Numerous water samples will be



KIAP STUDENTS CHECKING OUT THE NEWLY ARRIVED EGGS

collected and analyzed on several streams to better understand watershed impacts on water quality, as well as the ability of restored river reaches to improve water quality.

To complement stream temperature and water chemistry data, we'll operate two weather stations to provide data on air temperature, relative humidity, dew point and rainfall amounts. Kiap-TU-Wish also continues to provide financial and volunteer monitoring support for USGS operation and maintenance of the Kinnickinnic River flow-gaging station (https://waterdata.usgs.gov/wi/nwis/uv?site\_no=05342000).

TU's national science team is currently partnering with Mobile H2O, LLC to develop and implement a customized mobile application called WiseH2O mApp, which can be used by anglers to monitor water quality and habitat conditions.

In 2019, Kiap-TU-Wish anglers successfully completed a pilot project using the app. The 2019 mApp project report is available on the MobileH2O website at https://www.mobileh2o.com/anglerscience. It includes an interactive map to view 2019 mApp observations. A video of the app is here: https://www.mobileh2o.com/mh2oapp. In 2020, Kiap-TU-Wish anglers will again have the opportunity to monitor Pierce County trout streams and rivers using the app.

The iPhone version of the app is now available and the 2-in-1 test strips can be used to measure nitrite/nitrate concentrations. The app also has an updated look that should be more user-friendly. With these additions and improvements, we hope to implement the Kiap-TU-Wish mApp monitoring plan in 2020.

—Gary Horvath



LAKESHORE'S "CHAINSAW QUEEN" ON THE ONION RIVER

At the Lakeshore Chapter's February work day, Jaidyn Hranicka puts in some hard work. Daughter of chapter leader Myk Hranicka, she works for Quercus Land Stewardship service doing land management. She was home for the weekend and likes to help at workdays. Myk calls her "the chainsaw queen."

#### **Lakeshore Chapter**

I'm sure most chapters are looking forward to spring and a fresh start to tackle new projects in and around their streams. We at the Lakeshore Chapter have been brushing our streams all winter in preparation for this spring's workdays. After fulfilling our grant work on the north branch of the Milwaukee River in late October, we've set our sights on completing other projects on the Onion River.

We started our brushing season in December. We've cleaned and cleared a lot of brush, downed trees and debris from the Onion River and Mill Creek. Our last brushing workday was to be March 14, then we planned to start doing LUNKER and bank repairs on the Onion. But that all depends on the status of the Covid-19 pandemic.

We have a lot to be proud. Last year 33 chapter members helped on at least one workday. We even had quite a few non-members help out at our work days. We logged 1,300 workday volunteer hours for 2019, well exceeding our expectations. We aim to maintain and even grow our plans and ideas, coming up with new projects for years to come. Some of these projects could really put our area back on the map.

We've been putting together plans for a kids casting and fly-tying

event. Our set date for this event is May 30, depending on the pandemic. More details will be posted on our social media pages soon.

We had planned to have a booth at the Random Lake Conservation Fair on April 18<sup>3</sup> but it was cancelled due to the pandemic. This would have been our second year at this event.

We are looking into possibly hosting a fly fishing film festival in Sheboygan in the future. We are hoping to keep our goal of having a banquet again sometime in 2021 or 2022.

We also received donations for two more TIC classrooms this year.

Our board discussed making our meetings a bit more fun, so we've had some great presentations done recently and fly-tying sessions after our meetings. We've seen interest and attendance increase. It's great to see everyone just having fun.

This looks to be another great year for the Lakeshore Chapter. We have some really dedicated individuals who want to not just see, but be a part of the conservation, work, planning, fundraising, etc, and enjoy the camaraderie that comes with it. I couldn't be more proud of my chapter and what everyone has accomplished. Let's keep the bail spinning. —Myk Hranicka

#### **Marinette County Chapter**

For now we're still planning on holding our banquet on May 11, but were' prepared to reschedule it if necessary.

We held our annual Trout Fishing class in February and March. The class was very well attended and had a wide variety of ages and skill



levels for the fly tying and casting that was done on the last night. The first two nights talked about trout habitat and where the trout like to hide and the gear and all of the jargon connected with fly rods and equipment. A lot of the attendees had fished before and commented

on how much they learned.

A thank you to the Marinette Recreational Center for providing the classroom and casting facilities and to Marinette County Chapter members who helped: John LeBeau, Peter Kurtz and Dale Lange.

—Dale Lange

#### **Oconto River Chapter**

The chapter is seeking young people from the Oconto River Watershed area to attend the environmental camps offered by UW – Stevens Point. There are various camps for students aged 7-15. An application is available from Tom Klatt at 920-621-9266.

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

Plans are being made to participate in DNR and U.S. Forest Service stream restoration workdays planned in our area. Members will work with several other northeast

Wisconsin chapters placing brush bundles, rocks and logs to improve fish habitat.

We are also planning a summer outreach event which will include a fishing tank for youth. The program will be designed as a fun day, share what TU is about and how we support our coldwater resources. Dates and locations will be published in the chapter newsletter.

Our chapter meetings are held February, April, June, July, August, October and December on the second Tuesday of the month. Meetings are held at the Lone Oak Gun club just north of Gillett on Hwy 32 starting at 7 p.m.

—Tom Klatt

#### Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter

We have moved our chapter meeting location. We are still meeting on the fourth Tuesday of each month from September through May. However, we are now meeting at the Bavarian Bierhaus at 700 W Lexington Blvd. in Glendale.

This was a tough decision for the officers and board of directors. The reality of this move is that our facility needs outgrew what the Thunder Bay Grille could provide. We wish the Thunder Bay Grille the best, yet at the same time we are very excited about the new meeting location. It has many large rooms that can facilitate our meetings, and offers a very large menu of food and drink.

Our meetings have been going well with the first quarter of 2020 focused on tributary fishing, and the state of Lake Michigan. In April we had planned a presentation by Bob Haase, but it could be cancelled.

In May we will hear about TUDARE, and the importance of that program. This is an outstanding time to hear about the important mission of TUDARE. Our speaker Duke Welter brings an understanding of the Driftless Area, what we can do to help, and why all anglers of four-state region have a stake in this important region.

It has been the off season for the habitat committee. The committee has not let any dust settle on them. Not only did the committee lock in the 2020 workdays with our partners, they also spent the last two months adding additional training

to the habitat crew's toolbox. The committee conducted another successful FISTA chainsaw training operation. Thank you to dedicated TU member Rick Carr for donating his time and property to make that workday a success.

The committee also coordinated and conducted a CPR, AED and First Aid training day to bring our chainsaw operators into full DNR compliance for our workdays. Ken, Rick and the whole committee have really been stepping up.

With the habitat committee primed and ready we are getting ready for our workday season to kick off. In April we ease into the workday schedule with our annual Menomonee River Cleanup, if you have never been to a workday please come to this one, all you need to know is how-to pick-up garbage. We go full steam into May with our Rosenow Creek, and Onion River workdays. Then as we transition away from membership meetings to outings we head into June with our annual Driftless outing.

It has been a great winter. Steelhead season is about to kick off, and I have my eye on the inland season as temperatures warm. Tight lines to everyone, and I hope to see you at a workday. 2020 is shaping up to be another great year for SEWTU, and TU in general.

Monitor sewtu.tu.org for any chapter event changes that the current pandemic forces us to take.

—John Rennpford

#### **NEWLY TRAINED SEWTU MEMBERS**

This crew from the Southeast Wisconsin Chapter went through CPR, AED and First Aid training to bring our chainsaw operators into full DNR compliance.

#### **Southern Wisconsin Chapter**

Thanks to all who travelled lessthan-great roads for the SWTU Icebreaker. The weather hindered attendance, but nothing hindered the laughter, learning and camaraderie of the event.

We were treated to three tremendous presentations from Carl Haensel and Jade Thomason. This married couple were terrific speakers with great information backed up by tremendous visuals.

We also thank all who helped make the day happen under the leadership of Icebreaker Chair Ben Lubchansky. Ben is in his second year in the role and catching his stride. We look forward to seeing everyone at next year's event.

As of press time, we do plan to

go ahead with our Stream Team Workdays ... outdoors on large parcels with people spread out and no shared food or drink. Those not feeling well or back from travels should not participate.

We did postpone our annual March Meicher Madness Auction and are assessing future events such as chapter meetings and the annual casting clinic.

Given the speed of change at this time, please visit swtu.org for the latest on our plans and activities.

—Drew Kasel



WINTERY WEATHER DIDN'T STOP SWTU'S ICEBREAKER



MANY TEACHING MOMENTS FOR FLY TYERS AT THE SWTU ICEBREAKER

#### **Wild Rivers Chapter**

The Wild River Trout Unlimited Fishing Expo planned for Saturday, April 4 will be postponed until a time when this virus is under control. The Expo is not so important to put any of our attendees, fishery biologists and other organizational colleagues at risk. We will reschedule sometime later in the year once this issue is over.

Well it's starting to look as though winter is waning in northern Wisconsin. Temps were in the 50s the last couple of days. I'm thinking about tapping my maple trees soon. The winter has taken a little toll for Wild Rivers. Two of our regular volunteers at Ashland High School Fly Tying for Sandra Naas's Natural Resources Class are a little nicked up. Dick Berge broke his lower tibia from a fall on the ice and is in a cast, and Chuck Campbell hurt his back, probably shoveling snow. So, I volunteered to help Bob Traczyk and Jim Emerson for the last six or seven sessions. It was very enjoyable helping the two classes tie flies.

Later this spring we will be giving the class casting instruction, and then travel up to the Bayfield Hatchery where the students get to cast their flies into the outdoor ponds that teem with large hatchery trout. I'm looking forward to that. Thanks to Bob Traczyk, Jim Emerson, Dick Berge, Chuck Campbell and Luke Kavajecz for volunteering for many years.

Not sure why this is, but it seems that northern Wisconsin is always under some type of environmental attack. Now there is a proposed oil pipeline that Enbridge is trying to construct across Douglas, Bayfield, Ashland and Iron Counties. The oil they propose to send is from the tar sands in western Canada. They plan to use a 60-year old pipeline that starts in Superior, cross Northern Douglas and Bayfield Counties, including the Brule River, in a 60year-old pipeline, into the UP of Michigan down to the Mackinaw Bridge. This is Canadian oil to be shipped across the northern United States because Canada will not allow the pipeline to cross Canada.

The pipeline was first scheduled to cross through northern Ashland County, but the Bad River Tribe refused to allow the old pipeline to go through the reservation, in fear of any pipeline failure that would pollute the Bad River, including the wild rice beds, into Lake Superior.





**DICK BERGE NEVER TIRES OF TEACHING OUR YOUTH** 

Wild Rivers Chapter's Dick Berge teaches fly tying to Sandy Naas' ecology class at Ashland High School

There is a current pipeline running through the reservation that is exposed and is a threat to rupture. So, Enbridge is currently planning a relocation in Ashland County, south along Highway 112, crossing the White River down to Sanborn and the Marengo River and angling southeast to the Bad River in Mel-

len, where it will cross under the Bad River very near Copper Falls State Park, and then back up to Highway 2 east of the reservation. This reroute would be affecting more than 130 acres of wetlands and 180 streams, with many of them being class one and two trout streams. —Bill Heart

#### **Wisconsin Clear Waters**

Our January chapter meeting featured three DNR fish biologists who work in our nine-county area. They presented reports on new brook trout projects and removal of brown trout from a brook trout reserve stream. They also presented updated news on brown trout transfers. Hint: we need to eat more fish. The little buggers are producing faster than we can economically move the trout.

We're hoping that habitat work will continue in Buffalo, Jackson and Trempealeau counties.

In February we had our Second Annual Speed Fly Tying event. Last year it was canceled because of a blizzard, but this year it was just frigid. We invited three fly tyers: Brian Symolinski of Lund's Fly Shop in River Falls, author and guide Rich Ostoff and Ben Lester, Fontinalis Guide. Everyone who attended had the opportunity to sit with each of the tyers for 30 minutes and then ro-

tate to the next table. A special thank you goes out to the Modicum Brewery for hosting the event.

Last fall Rusk County contacted our chapter about partnering with the county to restore five miles of Devils Creek to the Class I trout stream status it once had in the 1990s. Currently, Devils Creek has 15 miles of Class I trout stream.

The first step was to secure a grant for DNR evaluation, which was approved. In the next stage, the DNR will conduct an assessment and will provide Rusk County their findings. If the findings are positive, Devils Creek partners can start the process of restoring five miles of the Class III Trout stream. It will be a fascinating and challenging project.

With schools closed due to the Covid-19 virus, Matt Dommer released our TIC brown trout into Duncan Creek and live-streamed it on Facebook.

—Jim Erickson



#### **HOW FAST CAN YOU TIE?**

Fly tyers Brian Symolinski of Lund's Fly Shop in River Falls, author and guide Rich Ostoff and Ben Lester, Fontinalis Guide, took part in the Wisconsin Clear Water Chapter's Speed Tying event.

#### Wisconsin River Valley Chapter

Spring ahead! These are typically wonderful words when you put them together, but nobody saw this pandemic coming. Stay safe and healthy until we ride this thing out.

In February we held our first Fly Fishing Film Tour in Wausau, and it was a wonderful success, with more than 200 attendees.

A group of students from Steven Point added some wonderful sound effects whenever the film clips would show a missed hookup. "Aaaaahhh!" It was great! No spoilers, but I want to be Mary when I grow up. Hopefully you have seen or will be attending a future showing.

Many thanks to Eric Pease for all his work on putting this together. Also thanks go out to John Meachen, Kirk Stark, Bob Pils and Frank Kruzka for finding sponsorship and getting the word out on this event.

The funds raised will help fund our Trout In the Classroom for Megan Brandenburg's class at Marathon Elementary and to help provide funding for upcoming local stream projects that will include access for fellow stream lovers with disabilities, and to improve habitat on the waters we love so much.

Many thanks to our sponsors: Craig Cook and Fall Line Outfitters, Justin Gaiche and Chase Outdoors, Dan Renzoni and Silent Glide Canoe and Kayak Shop, Bull Falls Harley Davidson, Dan Boggs from Flying Musky Guide Co. Stephen Wisner from Eau Claire Anglers, Fly Fishing Club of UW-SP, Wisconsin DNR, Tom Lager and TU-CARES, Wisconsin Hero Outdoors and Veterans On the Fly, Sconni's Alehouse & Eatery and Mel's Trading Post.

Our media sponsor was WAOW Channel 9.

Individual sponsors included Bob Pankratz, Linda Lehman, Paul and Jean Dedo, John and Jill MacPherson, Doug and Marsha Berg, John and Jan Meachen, Jason and Jolene Brandt, Kirk and Judy Stark, Henry and Bonnie Kanemoto, Al and Paula Hauber, Eric and Dana Pease, Robert Pils, Gene and Cheryl Koshak and Perry Nikolai. A big shout out to all of you that attended the event. Thank you so much.

In January Dave Seibel and Taylor Curran presented a slide show on completed and upcoming stream projects in our area.

The COVID-19 outbreak is a rapidly changing situation from a public health perspective, so please follow the social distancing guidelines that have been recommended by the CDC and Federal authorities. It is likely that the event dates listed may be canceled. Our April 23 Hackle, Hops and Harmony Fly Tying Event is cancelled.

During the month of June, 50 cents will be donated to our chapter for every pint of Odell's beer sold at Sconni's. So head on over, shoot some pool, order some food (flat bread pizza is my favorite) and order a pint of Odell's. Please check our website and Facebook page for changes with this event as we ride out this crisis.

The Taylor County Sportsman's Youth Expo is tentatively scheduled for May 15. Last year 391 fifth graders attended this youth expo at the Taylor County Fairgrounds in Medford.

Youth Day at the Mead Wildlife Education Center is May 16 from 9-2 p.m. I first got word of this event last year and had a great time. I'm glad the date was moved into May this year. Last year it was April and was a bit chilly.

June 6 is the Kiwanis Kids Summer Youth Day in Wisconsin Rapids at Wood County South Park, 6411 S Park Road, from 9 a.m. -3 p.m.

If you are able to show kids, and sometimes their mentors, how to cast or tie flies, please let us know.

Stay safe and be well and remember social distancing is easy to do on a trout stream.

—Linda Lehman and Kirk Stark

#### Wolf River Chapter

The Wolf River is once again threatened by potential metallic sulfide mining. The DNR announced in February that a Metallic Mineral Exploration License application and Notice of Intent to Drill from Badger Minerals, LLC, a subsidiary of Can-American Minerals, Inc. of Thunder Bay, Ontario, had been received on January 29. The exploration license was issued February 11.

According to the DNR, the three planned drilling sites are located on private parcels owned by Badger Minerals and Heartwood Forestland Group in Schoepke Township, Oneida County.

The proposed sites are located directly adjacent to the sites previously explored by Noranda in the late 1970's.

Unfortunately these sites are within the Wolf River watershed. Several drill sites are very close (less than 1,000 feet) to Stockley Creek, a tributary to the Wolf River and several sites are on a peninsula of land between Stockley Creek and the Wolf River.

One of the immediate concerns is that the drilling sites are in a wetland within the Wolf River Watershed. Also concerning is the fact that the type of drilling mud used is



POTENTIAL MINE INSPIRES WOLF RIVER WATER WALK

More than 200 people, including numerous Wolf River Chapter members, participated in the Wolf River Water Walk, which ended at the exploratory drilling site to hang prayer ribbons.





PRAYERS FOR THE WOLF RIVER

Jocelyn Graverson, 10, and Deklan Graverson, 8, hang prayer ribbons to protect the Wolf River during the Wolf River Water Walk.

toxic to fish and this delicate environment, let alone the possibility of an open pit copper mine in the future.

The risk of destroying the Wolf River water quality and environment for future generations far outweighs the promise of some shortterm economic development.

Action against mining efforts in this area is already cropping up. At least 14 concerned Wolf River Chapter members, myself included, went to the Wolf River Water Walk based out of the Mole Lake Casino in early March.

More than 200 people gathered to listen to speakers from the Sokaogon Ojibewe, Menominee Nation and other concerned citizens explain why we cannot let metallic mining happen in the Wolf River watershed and Wisconsin. The emotionally moving speeches from the adult and children speakers were indicative of how critical opposing metallic sulfide mining is to people who believe in protecting the Wolf River

The majority of the people then shuttled to the walk area which ended at the exploratory drilling site to hang prayer ribbons.

I will do my best to keep Wolf River Chapter members informed on the situation. What can you do? Stay informed on what is happening, as this is a very fluid situation. Write your legislators and the Governor to re-tighten metallic sulfide mining laws.

We held the Fly Tying Rendezvous at the Bear Paw Outdoor Adventure Resort in early February. About 20 people attended this fun event, with about six of them tying flies. Zach Buchanan, as always, shared his tying style of large streamers while Chuck Valliere tied red, white and blue patriotic flies. New chapter member Duane Sawyer got lots of fly-tying tips. TU life members Tom Kreif and Eric Scharenbrock hosted the event and served up a delicious lunch.

Much was discussed during our

February meeting at the Bear Paw Outdoor Adventure Resort, with at least 25 chapter members present. We held elections for officers, welcoming Chuck Valliere as president, Zach Buchanan as vice president and Bill Livingston as treasurer. I agreed to continue as secretary. We elected Andy Killoren and Jon Graverson to board positions.

Following the elections, Brian Biermier discussed what needs to be done on Nine Mile Creek concerning the beaver population and beaver dams. He brought aerial pictures that he took last fall, which showed how much destruction happened during the July 2019 blowdown. If you are fishing in the area please be very careful of any type of burning. The storm damage left this area ripe for wildfires and falling trees and limbs.

The Wolf River Meet & Greet will be held May 16, rain or shine, depending on the COVID-19 situation. Come and get introduced to fishing the Wolf River with Wolf River Chapter members and have lunch at the Livingston's on the beautiful banks of the Wolf River. Contact Travis Stuck at (920)202-0689 or stucktravis@gmail.com for more information or to register by May 1, 2020. This event fills up fast so don't wait to register.

Travis Stuck also spoke about the recent changes to Wetland Protection Laws, which led the chapter to discuss the potential for metallic sulfide mining in the Wolf River watershed. County Board Supervisor and chapter members Bill Livingston filled us in on what Langlade County is resolving to do and suggested that the chapter develop a resolution showing our opposition to metallic sulfide mining in the Wolf River watershed and Wisconsin, which we are now working on. Following the meeting, we enjoyed a pizza lunch

—Laurie Zen Netzow

#### Oak Brook Chapter

Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's Outdoor Fund has awarded a financial grant to support the Oak Brook chapter of Trout Unlimited with its purchase of an aquarium setup for schools and 2020 program-wide sup-

port for its "live bugs" entomology classes at other Chicago-area participating schools.

Guided by the visionary leadership of Bass Pro founder, Johnny Morris, the Outdoor Fund



#### BASS PRO SHOPS AND CABELA'S GIVE GRANT TO OAKBROOK TU

Bolingbrook Bass Pro Shops Store Manager Marty Nealon (right) presents a Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's Outdoor Fund financial grant to Marvin Strauch (left) and Willie Beshire (center) of the Oak Brook Chapter. The grant will pay for the purchase of an aquarium setup for a local school and 2020 programwide support for its "live bugs" entomology classes at other Chicago area participating schools.

empowers Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's Outdoor Fund encourage 200 million annual customers to support conservation efforts by rounding up their purchases. Rallying passionate customers alongside dedicated team members, industry partners and leading conservation organizations like Trout Unlimited, Bass Pro is creating North America's largest conservation movement to collectively shape the future of the outdoors and all who love it for generations to come.

The Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's Outdoor Fund grant of \$2,936 covers the expense for the program's setup of one aquarium and annual April visit to other participating

schools by Minnesota entomologist Dean Hansen, who brings his "live bug" collection for his students to hold, inspect and identify by species.

"Our Oak Brook Trout Unlimited chapter is thrilled with the opportunity to partner with Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's—great organizations that share the vision of preserving our outdoor traditions and natural resources for generations to come," said Marvin Strauch, Oak Brook Trout Unlimited Chapter Youth Education Director. "This partnership will allow us to continue to grow our mission and engage even more youth and their communities with the outdoors."

—Jim Schmiedeskamp

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

William Shakespeare

# Remember TU as Part of Your Legacy

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

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

Thank you for considering Trout Unlimited in your estate planning.

## Please support Friends of Wisconsin TU in 2020

2019 was another strong year for the Friends of Wisconsin TU Habitat program. Thanks to the incredible generosity of our donors the Friends program was able to fund six grant requests spread over a large area of the state.

- \$2,000 to Antigo TU to help fund a hired crew working in the Antigo Area.
- \$2,000 to Central Wisconsin TU to fund a hired crew working out of Wild Rose.
- \$2,000 to Coulee Region TU for a project on Warner Creek.
- \$1,000 to Wild Rivers TU to fund a hired crew working in the northeastern counties.
- \$2,000 to Lakeshore TU to fund a project on

Nichols Creek

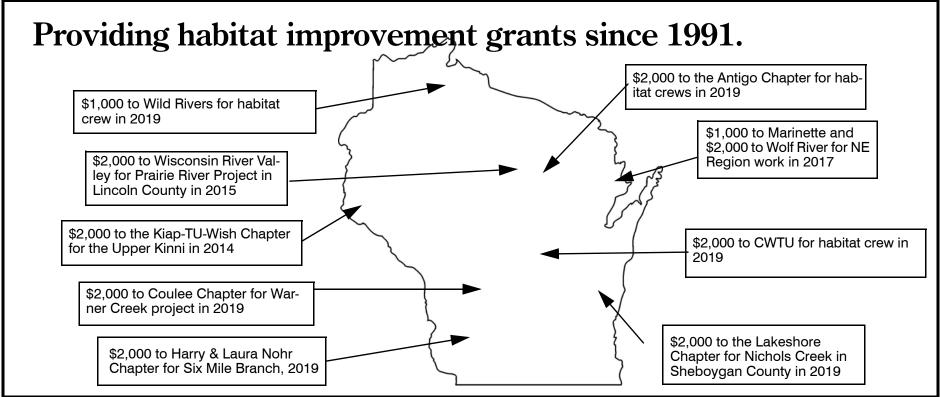
• \$,2000 to Harry and Laura Nohr TU to help fund a project on Six Mile Branch.

Starting with this edition of the newspaper there will be changes to Friends that will allow donors to use a credit card or to continue mailing checks. Please check out the envelope included in this edition of the paper along with the longer article about the changes to the donation procedures.

Thank you again for your support of this important program. With your continued help we once again expect Friends to play a key role in many miles of habitat work in 2020.



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



#### James Kellner Saukville WI Mike San Dretto Neenah WI Here are our Waukesha Wi Middleton WI Milwaukee WI Neshkoro WI Friends of Wisconsin TU Daniel King Lane Kistler Sarah Sanford Tom Schmidt Robbinsdale MN St. Paul MN Madison WI Mukwonago WI Wisconsin Rapids WI Ralph Klassy Gerald Kobus Micheal Koltz North Fond Du Lac WI Milwaukee WI Eagle WI Lake Mills WI Kaukauna WI Appleton WI Madison WI Madison WI Madison WI Jason & Kimberly Anderson Randy Balko James School Daniel Schultz Middleton WI Madison WI Eau Claire WI Madison WI Marshfield WI Plymouth WI Frederick Seybold John Shillinglaw Roger Kragstad Kevin Kramer Charles Barnhill Jeffrey Bartynski Appleton WI Waunakee WI Madison WI Sparta WI Menominee MI LaCrosse WI George Shinners John Skaar Michael Staggs Antigo WI Gleason WI Poynette WI Cliff Kremmer Peter Kurtz O.D. Richard Kyte Chuck Bayuk Kathleen & Paul Beckett Madison WI Chippewa Falls WI Madison WI Fitchburg WI Verona WI Laona WI Boyceville WI Wautoma WI Madison WI Manitowoc WI Micheal Stapleton Pardeeville WI Scot & Jo Stewart Gary Stoychoff Oregon WI Green Bay WI Mark Berggren Blaine Biedermann Richard Lindroth Thomas Lukas Wautoma WI Waupaca WI Lac Du Flambeau WI Larissa & Thomas Lyon Janesville WI Juergen Stuebs Doug MacFarland Paul Mack Dousman WI New Richmond WI Allen Bluhm Richard Boda Rick Szymialis Bob Tabbert Madison WI Port Washington WI Appleton WI Monona WI Ellsworth WI Beaver Dam WI Anna Magnin Donald Malchow Richard Mandelin Marshfield WI Tomah WI Montreal WI Donald Thompson Cumberland WI Allon Bostwick Tom Branagan John Townsell Jr. Steven Ugoretz West Salem WI Verona WI LaCrosse WI Baraboo WI Rhinelander WI Waunakee WI Milwaukee WI Oconto WI Jim & Billie March Chuck Valliere Eric Van Vugt Carol Vendt Paul & Nichelle Martin Bob Martini Jerry Bristol Ed Brockner Stoughton WI Stoughton WI Chippewa Falls WI Sturgeon Bay WI Madison WI Fort Atkinson WI Middleton WI Fond Du Lac WI Beloit WI Norwalk WI Bristol WI Oneida WI Middleton WI Greg Vodak Ken Voight Mike Wagner David Menke Tom Mertens Christopher Meyer Ed Chiera Rick Christopherson Sister Bay WI Rhinelander WI Waunakee WI Milwaukee WI Fond Du Lac WI Monona WI Paul Williams Donald Williams Robert Moser Thomas Mrazek Gene Mueller Terry Cummings James Davis Dan Wisniewski East Troy WI Shawano WI Glendale WI Stevens Point WI Oshkosh WI Stevens Point WI Roland & Nancy Woodruff Norbert Wozniak Richard Duplessie Dan Ecklund Eau Claire WI Onalaska WI Duane Mussack Dick Nelson Manawa WI Madison WI Wisconsin Rapids WI Oshkosh WI Wauwatosa WI Micheal Niemczyk Benjamin Wurl-Koth Madison WI Herb Oechler Roscoe II Richard Ela Fred Young Douglas Erdmann David Olk Racine W Susan Zuege, in memory of Thomas Zuege Eagle River WI Neenah WI Kathy Ewen James Olson Oconomowoc WI John Ewen Neenah WI Cheryl & Winston Ostrow Viroqua WI Janesville WI Great Lakes Eco. Monitoring LLC Fitchburg WI Cross Plains WI Paul Feldhake Port Washington WI Donald Persons State Bank of Cross Plains Birnamwood WI Madison WI Chippewa Falls WI Helena MT William Flader M.D. David Frasch Merton WI New Berlin WI TROUT UNLIMITED CHAPTERS Marinette County TU Aldo Leopold TU Ronald Rellatz Gloria Roark Marinette WI Watertown WI Antigo WI LaCrosse WI Hartland WI Hartland WI Eau Claire WI Superior WI Waukesha WI Jason Freund James Roden D. James Fruit Jr. Richard Galling William Rogers David Rohde Antigo TŬ Appleton WI Superior WI Madison WI Daniel Geddes Mount Horeb WI Ralph Geiger Giorgio Gimelli Eau Claire WI Mount Horeb Wi Mineral Point WI Brian Graff Yes, I want to join the "Friends" of Wisconsin TU. John Gribb Gordon Grieshaber Custer WI Sun Prairie WI Appleton WI Mt. Horeb WI Hudson WI Sun Prairie WI Enclosed is my check, payable to Wisconsin Trout Unlimited. Dean Hagness Paul Hallingstad John Hammond **MAIL TO:** Patrick Handrick Kim McCarthy Shawn Hartnett Henry Haugley 736 Meadowbrook Court Madison WI Madison WI Ashland WI Ashton Hawk Green Bay WI 54313 Stephen Hawk Bill Heart DePere WI Kimberly WI Madison WI Walter Heil Jerome Herro Charles Hodulik Name Hartford WI Oconto Falls WI Milwaukee WI Robert Howell Jeff Jackson Charles James Address Appleton WI Oshkosh WI Suring WI Thomas Janssen Matthew Jones Thomas Kammerman City, State Zip Phone #

Wisconsin Rapids WI Madison WI

Gary Karnes Daniel & Sheree Kehoe

## Saving the last trout stream in Calumet County

#### By Brad Howard Bowman

A beautiful trout stream cannot be allowed to merely slip away. It must be preserved for future generations. I have worked with many people who believe this to be true, and who have demonstrated their work on Stony Brook.

Our team consisted of the students and educators of Chilton Public Schools, Calumet County landowners, the Fox Valley Chapter of TU, DNR, Calumet County, the Fund for Lake Michigan, the Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance and the Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership.

Stony Brook, which has characteristics of the streams in southwest Wisconsin's Driftless Area, begins in central Calumet County in a spring-fed woodland west of Chil-



**HEALTHY BROWN TROUT** 

ton. It flows east and south through farmland, crossing under County Highway F, Court Road, Quinney Road and Stony Brook Road before emptying into the South Branch of the Manitowoc River south of Highway 151.

My interest began after years of driving past Stony Brook and wondering, "could that little stream hold trout?" I decided to stop and have a look. The stream looked good to my trout-bum eye and I became curious and excited. In the weeks that followed, I researched the history of Stony Brook and made time on my drive into school to take stream temperatures.

I learned that the stream had been actively managed and stocked by the DNR during the 1970's, but little care or management had occurred in the decades since that time. However, my temperature readings of mid-60 degrees in May were encouraging. "This water could sustain trout," I thought to myself. Looking back, this was the beginning of Chilton Public School's Trout In the Classroom Program and the Stony Brook Project.

As a longtime TU member, I had worked with other stream restoration projects in Wisconsin. I am also passionate about providing experiential, hands-on learning for students. I believe that all meaningful learning and growth is a result of positive relationships, collaboration and community building. By taking classroom learning into the real, natural world, students have an opportunity to make a first-hand connection with science and the environment.

Their knowledge becomes solidified, reinforced and real because it is connected to an experience with an emotional tie. TIC does just that.

TIC is a nationally recognized program and curriculum that is designed to make connections between classroom learning and the natural environment and promotes stewardship for streams and surrounding landscapes. TIC is an environmental education program sponsored and supported by Trout Unlimited in which students in grades k-12 are able to:

- raise trout fry to releasable size.
- monitor aquarium tank water quality.
- engage in stream habitat studies.learn to appreciate water re-
- sources.
- begin to foster a conservation ethic.
- grow to understand ecosystems.

Most programs, including ours, end the year by releasing their trout in a state-approved stream near the school. In our case, Stony Brook is just six miles away.

Stony Brook was worth saving, and I began to reach out to others to make it happen. I introduced the idea of TIC to science teachers Greg Sromek and Tracy Bartels. I also contacted then Fox Valley Chapter President Joe Bach.

Joe had explored the watershed a few years earlier and showed interest immediately. He began doing research, contacting existing TIC programs and gathering knowledge to successfully begin a local program. Joe's positive influence and energy cannot be overstated.

Together with Greg Sromek and Tracy Bartels, we wrote a grant through the Chilton Community Foundation to fund the initial start-up costs. Little by little, the idea of involving students in the revival of Stony Brook took hold in our school district and the Chilton community.

#### TIC begins in 2015

In April of 2015 the Chilton Community Foundation awarded a grant to the School District of Chilton to begin a TIC program. The funds from the grant allowed for the purchase of two 55-gallon tanks, chillers, filter systems and chemicals.

One of the landowners along Stony Brook had a sixth-grade daughter at the middle school. With this connection in mind, Joe knocked on the door of dairy farmer Tim Sohrwiede. Joe began conversations that would eventually lead to both a conservation easement on the property and the future TIC release and field trip site. Tim's father, Dick, and neighbor Andy Pethan, have become supporters of the program and have also granted conservation easements.



FISHERIES BIOLOGIST ADAM NICKEL ELECTROSHOCKING

Teachers began incorporating TIC lessons into the curriculum and began the process of stabilizing tank water for the trout fry, which would arrive early in 2016.

#### 2016: Water quality testing

In January of 2016, water quality tests became part of the classroom routine. Students and teachers finetuned tank water and procedures in preparation for the arrival of our first batch of brown trout fry.

In February, we introduced our first trout from the Wild Rose Hatchery into their new temporary home in the classroom.

From February until April, students learned about and cared for the trout fry. Students performed daily tank cleaning, tested water quality and added the proper amount of trout food to the tanks. There was minimal loss of fish, and students enjoyed watching trout double in size.

On a brisk day in April, students in sixth and tenth grade traveled to the Sohrweide farm release site. In addition to the actual trout release, the following educational demonstrations were developed and presented:

- Calumet County Water Resources Specialist Danelle Santry presented information about habitat parameters.
- Joe Bach and Norm Christnacht of Fox Valley TU used kick nets to show and identify aquatic organisms.
- Judith Hartl from Groundwater

enormous food supply, for trout to flourish.

#### 2017

During the 2017 school year, Tracy Bartels began to implement aquaponics into the TIC process. Aquaponics is a process that uses aquarium water to feed plants before the filtering process. In this way, the waste from the fish fertilizes the plants, is filtered and returned to the tank. Starting in 2017, Karen Doering and Christopher Acy from Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance taught students about aquatic invasive species as part of TIC release day.

News of our successful program continued to spread within our community and several unconfirmed trout sightings were reported by landowners and their neighbors. I spent a few hours on the banks of Stony Brook with polarized sunglasses. At this point, I couldn't confirm that our trout were surviving... but I sensed they were.

#### 2018

Early in 2018, work began on signage to identify our field site at the Sohrwiede farm. The three-by-sixfoot sign, designed and built by Chilton students, recognized our original stakeholders: Chilton Public Schools, Fox Valley TU, DNR, Calumet County, Groundwater Guardians, Chilton Community Foundation, Winnebago Waterways Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance Pro-



Tracy

SOPHOMORE BIOLOGY STUDENTS SHOWING OFF THEIR EFFORTS

Guardians did water temperature, turbidity-transparency and flow rate demonstrations

- Korin Doering of Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance discussed invasive species.
- DNR Senior Fisheries Biologist Adam Nickel and his crew from Oshkosh performed electroshocking along two sections of Stony Brook.

#### Release day

Release day is special for students, who have the opportunity to plant trout in the stream. They do so with care and respect often saying things like "good luck," "have a good life," or "I hope you don't get eaten up" as they cautiously place the fish in their new home. It is visceral, hands on experience. Care for the environment is embedded at a deep level for students. Observers have reflected that the process feels like watching a First Communion.

During the summer of 2016, Joe Bach, who is also a trained WAV (Water Action Volunteer) continued his investigation of Stony Brook. Joe, often working with students, collected data over several years that determined Stony Brook has all the attributes, including an

gram and the Sohrwiede family. Plans are under way to update or replace the original sign to include Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership and the Fund for Lake Michigan, which are our latest stakeholders.

Senior Fisheries Biologist Adam Nickel acquired, on loan, the equipment necessary to implement a PIT (Passive Integrated Transponder) tag array on Stony Brook. Adam, Tracy Bartels and several students placed two different arrays across the stream designed to detect fish movement.

Select fish were "tagged" (a small transponder inserted under the skin of the trout) and released. It detects and records fish movement. We found that the majority of planted trout were staying in Stony Brook and not migrating downstream to the Manitowoc River. We now had further proof that planted TIC trout were indeed making their home in Stony Brook.

During the winter months, stakeholders were hard at work making connections and extending the vision for the Stony Brook project. It was decided to begin planting brook trout in addition to brown trout and to "hold" a select number of brown



BRAD BOWMAN WITH THE STONY BROOK STAKEHOLDERS SIGNAGE

trout in the classroom for a greater time period to allow for greater growth before their release. These select fish were also tagged for use in the PIT tag array.

Calumet County Water Resources Specialist Danielle Santry provided and presented information to Shawn Sullivan and Steve Devitt of the Wild Rose Habitat Station to raise the question of restoring Stony Brook to a Class I Trout Stream.

Discussion continued with Executive Director of the Wisconsin Wetland Association Tracy Hames. Considering the WAV monitoring data, it was concluded that Stony Brook does, indeed, have the potential to become a Class I Trout Stream. Shawn Sullivan and Steve Devitt developed stream improvement drawings and a cost estimate that began a new phase of the Stony Brook project.

#### 2019

Through several discussions facilitated by Joe Bach and Danielle Santry with Jim Kettler of Lakeshore Natural Resources Partnership, Stony Brook's potential was highlighted and funding sources were explored. Eventually, through a combination of funds from The Fund for Lake Michigan, Calumet County, Lakeshore Natural Resources Partnership, DNR and Fox Valley TU, more than \$83,000 was raised for stream improvement.

Because of an unusually wet fall, the scheduled start date of September 1 for improvement work needed to be postponed. Work will now begin in the spring of 2020 and will include culvert replacement and LUNKER structure installation. Discussion is under way for high school students to assemble the LUNKER structures.

To everyone's delight, electroshocking efforts revealed several healthy brown trout in August of 2019, the largest of which measured 14.5 inches. These beautiful fish were tagged and returned to Stony Brook. Additionally, TIC-raised brook trout were found in the headwaters. This good news added to our excitement and enthusiasm about Stony Brook's potential and future.

This project has been a dream and a goal for more than a decade and to see it come to life is an honor. The Stony Brook/TIC project is a true collaborative effort benefiting students, teachers, the Chilton community and the larger environment that we all share. It is very likely that lessons and experiences from our lo-

our students. I am thrilled with the success, follow through and growth of our TIC program. I cannot thank our stake-

cal project will be remembered and

carried forward into the future by

holders enough. To date, several hundred students have been positively impacted by our program. This has been and will continue to be a collaborative effort in our community. My sincere thanks go out to all of our stakeholders for helping to teach our students a sense of environmental responsibility and, in the process, save the last trout stream in Calumet County.

If you would like to learn more or help with the Stony Brook project, please contact one of our local stakeholders:

- Brad Bowman, school counselor/ TIC facilitator; 920-849-9152, bowmanb@chiltonsd.org
- Joe Bach, Fox Valley Trout Unlimited; joebach1g@gmail.com
- DNR Senior Fisheries Biologist Adam Nickel; Adam.Nickel@wisconsin.gov
- Calumet County Water Resource Specialist Danielle Santry; danielle.santry@calumetcounty.org
- Greg Sromek, grade six science; sromekg@chiltonsd.org
- Tracy Bartels, high school science; bartelst@chiltonsd.org
- Brittany Mayer, high school science; mayerb@chiltonsd.org
- Judy Hartl, Calumet County Groundwater Guardians; judithhartl@gmail.com
- Christopher Acy, Fox-Wolf Wa-

tershed Alliance; Chris@fwwa.org

#### Related reference websites

- Trout Unlimited, Trout in the Classroom: http://www.troutintheclassroom.org
- Chilton Public Schools: http:// 146.66.103.48/~chilton4/
- Fox Valley Trout Unlimited: https://foxvalleytu.org
- Wisconsin https:// dnr.wi.gov/
- Calumet County Land and Water Conservation: http://www.co.calumet.wi.us/index.aspx?nid=489
- Chilton Area Community Foundation: https://www.cffoxvalley.org/partners/our-partnerfunds/chilton-area-communityfoundation/)
- Fund for Lake Michigan: https:// fundforlakemichigan.org/
- Lakeshore Natural Resources Partnership: https://www.lnrp.org/
- Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance: https://fwwa.org/

Author Brad Bowman is a school counselor and Trout In the Classroom facilitator. He can be reached at bowmanb@chiltonsd.org or 920-849-9152.

## Wisconsin Inland Trout Stamp by the Numbers Anglers Investment in Habitat is Paying Dividends

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited supports an increase in the Inland Trout Stamp Fee to help make trout fishing even better in Wisconsin.



Wisconsin has over 13,000 miles of classified trout steams and about 1,000 spring ponds.

The Inland Trout Stamp was \$7.25 in 1992 and raised to it's current price of \$10 in 2006.

On average, Trout Stamp funds improve and maintain 25 miles of trout streams and I spring pond every year. (source: WI Inland Trout Management Plan, 2019-2029).

If we keep pace for the next 20 years, that's 500 miles of improvements and 20 spring ponds.

If we increase the Trout Stamp to \$15, that's 750 miles of improvements and 30 spring ponds. (Estimates DO NOT account for rising costs of materials and labor)

#### Outpaced by Inflation:

\$7.25 Fee in 1992 adjusted for inflation would be \$12.86 in 2018. \$10 Fee in 2006 adjusted for inflation would be \$12.38 in 2018.

Table 6: Annual Inland Waters Trout Stamp account activities, fiscal years 2011-2018 Beginning cash balance \$394,044 \$351,350 \$402,377 \$508,242 \$666,611 \$627,515 \$552,282 \$389,738 \$1,498,739 \$1,570,291 \$1,506,574 \$1,549,946 \$1,609,090 \$1,582,639 \$1,591,126 \$1,616,529 \$1,892,783 \$1,921,641 \$1,908,951 \$2,058,188 \$2,275,701 \$2,210,154 \$2,143,408 \$2,006,267

Total available funds Total expenditu Cash balance \$1,541,433 \$1,519,264 \$1,400,709 \$1,391,578 \$1,648,186 \$1,657,872 \$1,753,670 \$1,661,315 \$351,349 \$402,377 \$508,242 \$666,611 \$627,515 \$552,282 \$389,738 \$344,952

ource: Wisconsin Inland Trout 1anagement Plan, 2020 - 2029 Note: Cash Balance includes funds allocated owards restoration projects in the following F.Y.

#### 2019 Spring Hearing Results

Question #82. Would you favor a legislative change to an increase in the Inland Trout Stamp from \$10 to \$15 to allow more trout stream restoration? 70.3% answered YES

What Our Neighbors are Doing: lowa: \$14.50 trout stamp

Minnesota: \$10.75 trout stamp plus a 0.375% Legacy Fund sales tax to support conservation work

Michigan: In 2014, the Trout Stamp was eliminated. At the same time, the general fishing license was increased from \$15 to \$26 for residents and from \$42 to \$76 for non-residents.



(5324 Y, 2241 N)

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization which consists of approximately 5,200 members in 21 local chapters working to ensure that future generations have access to cold, clean, fishable water. https://wicouncil.tu.org

# **Mother's Day weekend "Fishing for Dinner" class**

#### By Theresa Stabo, R3 Coordinator, Wisconsin DNR

Help spread the word about an opportunity to learn to fish and to consider volunteering as instructors.

This May, in partnership with Trout Unlimited, National Wild Turkey Federation and Pheasants Forever, the DNR will offer a Fishing for Dinner class to help beginners get off to a good start. This class is geared for adults but may be suitable for families with older children.

Unless it is cancelled due to the Corona Virus pandemic, the class begins Friday, May 8, at 5 p.m. and ends Sunday afternoon when the fish are done biting.

Yes, we know that's Mother's Day weekend, but that's just how it worked out. We're billing it as a "Mother's Day Special." Like mom, the waters nurture and soothe us, so what better place to be on Mother's Day? It's up to mom if she wants to come along. If not, we'll remind participants to give her a call or pause to think of her.

Our base camp will be near Ferryville at the Sugar River Bible Camp. The cost is \$50 per person and includes overnight accommodations, food, supplies and instruction.

This class is part of the DNR's Angler Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation (R3) outreach initiative and is supported through your purchase of fishing licenses and gear, which contribute to the Sport Fish Restoration (SFR) Program. Funding for this program is authorized by the Sport Fish Restoration

Act (Dingell-Johnson DJ) of 1950, created to restore and better manage America's declining fisheries. The SFR fund also supports programs such as Fishing for Dinner and Angler Education, now collectively known as Angler R3.

A classroom session will cover fish biology, regulations, preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species, and a review of the Public Trust Doctrine. An evening casting clinic will get you ready for the next two days on the stream. Saturday night will feature a dinner of fresh-caught trout with participants learning fish-cleaning and cooking skills. Sunday will be another day of fishing on the trout streams.

Techniques will focus on spinning gear, but we'll also dabble in fly fishing gear. All equipment (except waders, which may not be necessary) is provided, but participants are encouraged to bring their own if they have it so that they can learn to use what they have.

Check the DNR's website at dnr.wi.gov for registration information. Search for Fishing for Dinner. For additional questions about who may be eligible to attend, please contact one of these R3 coordinators:

Theresa Stabo, WDNR, Theresa.Stabo@wisconsin.gov, 608-577-6332

John Motoviloff, NWTF, jmotoviloff@nwtf.net, 608-419-0041

Marty Moses, PF, mmoses@pheasantsforever.org, 608-712-8625



PARTICIPANTS LEARN FROM THE MASTER: VETRANO

The Fishing for Dinner program will take place near Ferryville at the Sugar River Bible Camp. The cost is \$50 per person and includes overnight accommodations, food, supplies and instruction.



HAPPY PARTICIPANTS SHOW OFF THEIR TROUT

