Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited 1423 Storytown Road Oregon, WI 53575 wicouncil.tu.org

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Wisconsin Trout

Winter 2020

WITU Banquet February 1 in Oshkosh

By Scott Allen, Council Vice Chair and 2020 Banquet Committee Chair

The 2020 State Council Annual Meeting and Banquet is Saturday, February 1. Please save the date and plan to join us in Oshkosh at the Best Western Waterfront Hotel and Convention Center. Trout Unlimited CEO Chris Wood will be present to address the audience and meet and greet attendees.

A limited block of rooms has been set aside for both Friday and Saturday nights. Call the hotel at 855-230-1900 to make your room reservations today. Tell them you're in town for the TU banquet.

The banquet is our Council's biggest fundraiser for the year. Its success allows the Council to continue serving local chapters, fund programs like the Youth Camp and Women's Fly Fishing Clinic and veterans events, support other conservation organizations that share our mission, help administer our Friends of Wisconsin TU and Watershed Access Fund grant programs and much more.

Tickets are \$35 each. Details are on page 2. You may purchase tickets online at http://witu.bpt.me. While we do plan for a few walk-ups every year, we encourage you to order tickets in advance or make arrangements to pay at the door and RS-VP'ing me at jscottallen12@gmail. com. This event is open to the public, so please consider bringing family, friends, co-workers and neighbors. All are welcome.

Doors will open at 4:30 p.m. and there will be plenty of time to socialize, visit the cash bar or simply peruse the bucket raffle and silent auction prizes. Dinner seating will begin at 6:30 p.m. After dinner, we'll hold a live auction for several fishing trips with some of the top guides and destinations in the state. We'll also take time to recognize some of the best conservationists around with a short awards program. The evening will finish with the announcement of our silent auction and bucket raffle winners.

The Council would like to thank all of the chapters and individuals who donate prizes for the event. Your generosity makes for a successful banquet and an unforgettable evening for our guests. This year we've assembled more than \$15,000 worth of prizes and we're eager to give them away!

Chapter leaders should plan to attend the State Council meeting earlier in the day to discuss Council business. The meeting will start promptly at 9 a.m. and run until 3 p.m. Please RSVP to Council Chair Mike Kuhr at mikek.trout@yahoo.com if you plan on attending the meeting so we can prepare for lunch.

The State Council will also be sponsoring a Women's Fly Fishing Clinic for beginners during the day on Saturday, February 1. This free clinic for women will run from 9:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Register online at womensflyfishingclinic.event-brite.com

Much planning has already taken place and the Council is indebted to the work of the Banquet Committee. An event of this scale simply wouldn't happen without the efforts of Banquet Committee members



THE WITU BANQUET FEBRUARY 1 WILL FEATURE \$15,000 IN PRIZES

Carmen Hardin, Linn Beck, Todd Franklin, Paul Kruse and Mike Kuhr. We're focused on planning a fun, entertaining and successful banquet and hope you'll join us in Oshkosh on February 1 to celebrate cold, clean, fishable water in Wisconsin.

Also, the Awards Committee deserves a big thanks for organizing and presenting our annual awards: John Meachen, Jim Wierzba, Linn Beck, Scott Allen, Mike Kuhr, Todd Franklin and Henry Koltz.

Changes coming to Friends of WITU and Watershed Access Fund programs



FRIENDS OF WISCONSIN TU HELPS FUND HABITAT CREWS LIKE THESE A smiling Shawn Sullivan and an LTE crew on the Pine River.

By Kim McCarthy

The Friends of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited and Watershed Access Fund programs are very familiar to our membership as extremely successful habitat and access programs that have helped to fund many miles of habitat improvement and access throughout Wisconsin. The State Council is very appreciative for all of the support our members have given these programs over the years.

Like any programs that have been in place for a long time, updating is necessary to keep the programs relevant as times change. Friends and Watershed Access Fund have reached a moment in time where some areas of the programs need to be updated. This article will outline the changes that you will be noticing starting with this edition of Wisconsin Trout.

First, the basic intent of the pro-

grams will not change. We will still be asking members and supporters to make donations annually of \$100 or more. As always, the funds raised will be held separately from other State Council funds and will be designated only for habitat work or access

We will be changing the way we solicit and accept donations. In the past we have used annual mailings to ask donors for their support. The cost of those annual mailings has gotten increasingly expensive, and donors have not been able to use credit cards to make donations.

The new changes begin with this edition of *Wisconsin Trout*. The newspaper will now be used to make the annual appeal for support of the programs and will replace the printed letters that were used in the past.

See FRIENDS on page 3



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

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

Register by Dec. 31 to receive complimentary bucket raffle tickets

Name:

Phone or Email:

of tickets @ \$35 ea.:

My check (payable to Wisconsin TU) is enclosed
I am unable to attend but will support Wisconsin TU
with this donation

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

Chair's Column

One TU

By Mike Kuhr, State Council Chair

If you're active in this organization for any length of time, chances are you've heard the phrase "One TU." But what exactly does that mean? It feels good to say, but is it real? Is it just a marketing slogan?

In my 15 years of being involved in Trout Unlimited, I can honestly say it's not just a catch phrase. One TU is a philosophy that underscores all the good work we do together. It's the idea that our collective contributions can result in something much greater than our individual achievements.

We use lines on a map to organize ourselves into regions, state councils and local chapters. Meanwhile the world around us uses our data to stereotype and further divide us. Nature pays no attention to this. The trout don't care about these boundaries, unless they become physical in-stream impediments.

We strive to be as inclusive as possible, giving everyone an opportunity to do some good. We know to check our egos at the door, because the challenges facing our coldwater resources are complex, and require us to work collaboratively to achieve the best possible outcomes.

I recently attended the Wisconsin TU Northeast Regional Meeting. Leaders from six area chapters came together in December to

share ideas, learn from each other and hear about projects from area resource professionals. The chapters pooled their own resources and were able to support important habitat work in the area to be performed by TU National, the U.S. Forest Service, the DNR and the Oconto County Forestry Dept.

These future projects have volunteer components built into them. Our partners recognize the importance of allowing our members to take part in the restoration work. We're all in this together. I'm always excited to hear about chapters holding joint workdays.

The first TU workday I ever attended was a collaboration between the Southeastern and Ocooch Creek Chapters (now part of Coulee Region TU). I drove three hours to get there, and carved out a little camping and fishing time before and after the project. I left home on a Friday not really knowing anyone who would be there. I came home on Sunday having met what would turn out to be several life-long friends.

The "One TU" philosophy also applies outside our organization. The work we do in our communities is reflective of this. Just look at the Trout In the Classroom program. We're connecting kids to the natural world in a way that sparks a lifetime of curiosity. We're also helping them understand that our actions



VETERANS PROGRAMS CREATE HUMBLING EXPERIENCES

Veterans from both the SEWTU and SWTU Veterans On The Fly program enjoy a day of fishing at Rushing Waters Fisheries. Volunteers from both chapters assist in providing these veterans with some quality time on the water.

have consequences, for better or

And our Veterans Service Partnership programs create some of the most humbling, and rewarding, volunteer experiences you can find. Spending time on the water with our military veterans generates a unique camaraderie. It's a bond that's not likely to break, and elevates our sense of service.

Want to see the "One TU" model in action? Attend the Wisconsin TU Banquet in Oshkosh on Feb. 1. You'll join TU National staff (TU's Chris Wood is rumored to be in attendance), State Council leadership, chapter grassroots volunteers, and partners in the conservation community, as we celebrate cold, clean, fishable water in Wisconsin.

Sure, we'll honor some individual achievements during our awards ceremony, but these are people doing their work for all the right reasons. Their accomplishments are part of a larger coldwater conservation story. And we all have a role to play in that story.

"One TU" spans across time. One generation's work benefits the next. We do what we can to protect and enhance our coldwater resources while we're here, then pass on this legacy to our kids and grandkids in hopes that they will do the same.

So are we just the sum of our parts? I think we're something even greater, we're "One TU." See you in Oshkosh on February 1.

Much Respect, Mike Kuhr

Continued from FRIENDS, page 1

Using the newspaper to appeal for funding will allow us to reach a larger audience than we have been reaching and will eliminate the expense incurred for printing and postage.

As you go through this new edition of Wisconsin Trout, you will come to the page listing donors to the program and information about how the funds have been used. You will also find an inserted envelope. That envelope will be printed with instructions

about how to donate to the Friends of Wisconsin TU, either by mailing a check or by using a credit or debit card. Donors who would still like to send a check will simply fill in the requested information on the envelope and mail it as always. Those wishing to use their card will follow the directions on the envelope to make the card donation through our website. No matter which method of payment you choose, please be sure to provide all requested information.

In a future issue of Wisconsin

Trout we'll include an envelope for our Watershed Access Fund program.

Those of us involved with the Friends of Wisconsin TU and Watershed Access Fund programs are confident that the new system will meet the needs of more donors and have the potential to increase donations, while also cutting expenses.

Thanks to all of our donors who have supported Friends of Wisconsin TU and the Watershed Access Fund. These programs have supported amazing conservation work and would not be possible without your generosity.

Please take a look at the new envelopes in this edition. We hope you will continue your support for both of these very successful conservation programs.

Former State Council chair and NLC representative Kim McCarthy is the grant coordinator for the Friends of Wisconsin TU and Watershed Access Fund grant programs.



Women's Intro to Fly Fishing Clinic

Taught by Women of Wisconsin Women's Fly Fishing www.swtu.org/learn/womens-flyfishing-clinic/

Oshkosh, WI Feb 1, 2020, 9:30-4:30 pm

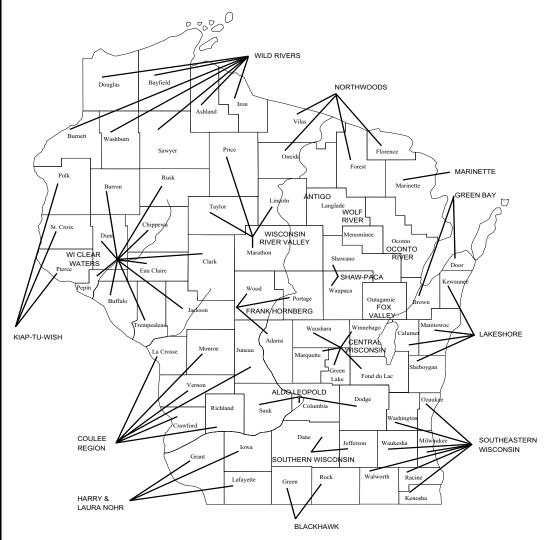
1 N Main St, Oshkosh, WI 54901

Register online: Cost \$15 Lunch included; no gear needed womensflyfishingclinic.eventbrite.com

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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.

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

Vice Chair, Southern Region: Jim Wierzba, 2817 Country Club 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

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Women's Initiatives:

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

Are you getting emails from TU?

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

WISCONSIN TROUT

Vol. 32, No. 1 — Winter 2020

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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

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Executive Committee includes officers and vice chairs

Mike Kuhr, Chair

Scott Allen, Vice Chair

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Gary Stoychoff, Treasurer

Clean Water Lobby Day January 30

Directed toward Wisconsin's legislature, this special event is timed to catalyze bipartisan interest in the water quality of our state.



GOVERNOR EVERS AT LAST YEAR'S CONSERVATION LOBBY DAY Governor Evers promotes "The Year of Clean Drinking Water" at Conservation Lobby Day 2019.

By Tom Lager

You are invited to attend Clean Water Lobby Day on January 30, 2020 in Madison.

This lobbying effort, directed toward Wisconsin's legislature, is a special event timed to catalyze bipartisan interest in the water quality of our state.

Bipartisan interest arose from The Year of Clean Drinking Water, the Speaker's Task Force on Water Quality, executive orders and other sources (i.e. Wisconsin's Greenfire) across the state.

Wisconsin Conservation Voters is organizing the lobby day as they have in past years and is focused on three topics: 1) PFAS (Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) from industry, 2) lead in drinking water from lead pipes and 3) nitrate pollution from CAFOs (concentrated animal feeding operations) and other sources.

From a Trout Unlimited perspective, all three points are imhowever, pollution in our streams specifically reduces the quality of trout habitat.

TU members have always made our voices known, and Clean Water Lobby Day is an-

other easy and effective means to have face-to-face contact with lawmakers.

The process is simple. Attendees are grouped by legisladistrict. league provides topic updates on each of the three points. They provide a short training session on how to talk to law-

"talk makers, along with sheets" on each subject. There is a meeting itinerary for each legislative group, and experienced attendees will accompany each group.

We meet at the Madison Concourse Hotel at 1 West Dayton Street before proceeding to the State Capitol. The event runs from 12:30 p.m. to 5 p.m., followed by a social hour. Busing and carpooling to Madison is being considered. Go to this website for details and regional organizers: https://con-

servationvoters.org/events/

clean-water-lobby-day

"TU members have

always made our

voices known, and

Clean Water Lobby

Day is another easy

and effective means

to have face-to-face

contact with

lawmakers.'

The advantage of this approach to advocacy is that you learn while being an advocate. You will develop a relationship

> with your legislator and their staff that you can, and should, continue back at home in your district.

> The most effective means to advocacy is relationship development, while constructively sharing

point of view and listening to your legislator's point of view. The Conservation Lobby Day provides the easiest process for doing so.



Split Bamboo Rods

New, repairs, restoration, appraisals Rodmaking Tools and Advice

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

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.

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 Fund 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

2019 Contributors

Henry Anderson	Madison W
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Charles Barnhill	Madison W
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Mark Beilfuss	New London W
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Antigo Chapter Great Lakes Eco. Monitoring LLCFitchburgWI
Kinnickinni River Land Trust River Falls WI Marinette County Chapter Marinette WI

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

Make your check payable to Wisconsin Trout Unlimited

TU Watershed Access Fund Attn: Doug Brown

R4800 Timber Ln. Ringle, WI 54471

Name

Address

City, State, Zip **Phone**



Come support our 2020 award winners

Do you know any of these people or organizations? The State Council is honored to recognize a superb group of individuals and organization at our annual awards banquet on February 1 in Oshkosh. We encourage friends, family and supporters of these award winners to attend the banquet and show their support.

- Lifetime Achievement Award: Dan Wisniewski, lifelong TU stalwart and public access advocate
- Resource Award of Merit: Joanna Griffin, former DNR Trout Coordinator
- Silver Trout Award for Chapter Merit: Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter
- Gold Net Award: Mary Ann Doll of the Southern Wisconsin Chapter
- Joan and Lee Wulff Award for Outstanding Conservation Leadership: Jerry Sapp, TUDARE leader
- Robert Hunt Resource Professional Award: Meg Galloway of the Wisconsin DNR
- Corporate Sponsor Award: Adventuron
- Special Appreciation Award: Gilliam Pomplun, reporter for the Crawford County Independent & Kickapoo Scout.
- Tomorrow's Angler Award: Jared and Renee Sagal
- Most Unsung Valuable Trouter: Cy Post of the Coulee Region Chapter

Driftless Symposium set for Feb 4-5 in La Crosse



CITIZEN MONITORING APP TEAM AT THE DRIFTLESS SYMPOSIUM

Get set for a fast-paced speakers' schedule at the upcoming Driftless Symposium February 4-5 in La Crosse. You will find registration information at https://gifts.tu.org/driftless2020.

The event will be held at the Radisson Hotel. Reservations for a block of discounted rooms can be made by calling 608-784-6680, held through January 21.

This event has become one of the best places for scientists, restoration practitioners, anglers and others to keep up with the latest Driftless Area research and news.

The 12th annual symposium, sponsored by the Driftless Area Restoration Effort and National Fish Habitat Program, will feature 24 speakers and two keynote speeches, focusing on riparian habitat restoration, science, monitoring, brook trout and other topics. A social event after Tuesday's program will be held at a nearby watering hole.

Watch for agenda information at the DARE Facebook page or the website above.

Board approves trout management plan

By Kirk Olson and Justin Haglund, DNR

The Wisconsin Natural Resources Board approved Wisconsin's first statewide inland trout management plan last month. The final version of the plan is the culmination of multiple years of effort by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Trout Team, external partner groups and interested members of the public.

A guide for the future

During the next decade, the trout management plan will serve as a guide to the department's trout management activities on streams, lakes and ponds, excluding the great lakes and their tributaries to the first impassible barrier. More specifically, the plan will be used to prioritize allocation of trout management resources, including where and how trout management resources are used.

It will also be used to identify constraints to achieving trout management objectives and to communicate statewide trout management activities and priorities within the DNR and to the general public.

Public involvement critical

Public involvement was critical in the development of the Trout Management Plan. Before drafting the plan, the DNR Trout Team enlisted the help of DNR Resource Sociologist Bob Holsman to develop a plan for public involvement.

Úsing this plan, the team created an advisory group, consisting of individuals representing diverse interests from each management district. As many as eight individuals were selected from each management district, with individuals belonging to one of the following groups: non-TU angler, TU angler, landowner,

business/tourism representative, non-consumptive user, Wisconsin Conservation Congress delegate, member at large and tribal member.

During the course of two meetings, advisory group members and members of the DNR Trout Team developed the vision statement and broad goals for the plan, which were the basis for the first draft authored by the Trout Team.

To ensure the plan was consistent with the broad goals developed in previous meetings, this draft was returned to the advisory group for review. After revising the plan based on comments from the advisory committee, the Trout Team sought additional public input at public meetings held throughout the state and through a web-based survey.

In total, 290 online responses and 34 paper responses were returned to the Trout Team. Public feedback was summarized into common themes and addressed by members of the trout team through written response and, if necessary, revisions to the plan.

Several topics of significant concern to members of the advisory group and the general public fell within the jurisdiction of other programs in the DNR and outside Fisheries Management authority. These topics included: funding for DNR trout management activities, angler recruitment and retention and water quality issues.

The importance of these topics to the advisory committee and general public were highlighted in several locations within the plan and, where appropriate, objectives and action items in the plan encouraged cross-collaboration with programs responsible for these topics (e.g. collaboration with DNR Water Resources staff to protect water quality on trout streams).

For those topics and action items that fell within the scope of fisheries

management authority, a strategic approach was developed to prioritize the work that was to be conducted. These strategies were based on the anticipated workload and realistic expectations of current fisheries management staff.

Three categories identified

This strategic approach included three categories: "core strategies," "to the extent feasible" "and additional resources required." "Core strategies" are strategies highest in priority, fully funded and staffed, and will be fully implemented throughout the term of this plan. "To the extent feasible" are strategies that are a priority, but only partially funded and staffed at this time. They will be partially implemented throughout the term of this plan. "Additional resources required" are strategies that are important, but are neither funded nor staffed at this time. They may be implemented if additional funding staff, and/or partnerships become available throughout the term of this plan.

These action items listed in the plan are nested within specific objectives. Objectives were written as broader concepts that are considered important to maintaining a successful trout management program. Each of the objectives are also nested within the four primary goals of the trout management plan:

- Protect, enhance and restore sustainable coldwater aquatic habitats and ecosystems,
- Protect, develop, enhance and restore trout populations and trout angling opportunities for the diverse preferences and needs of our participants,
- Collect, develop and use the best science to guide trout management decisions, and
- Maintain and expand partner-

ships and engage diverse anglers, stakeholders and the general public on trout management and angling opportunities.

These goals, objectives and action items all fall within the goals, objectives and strategies in the Fisheries Strategic Plan, entitled "In the Year 2025: A Ten-Year Strategic Plan for Fisheries Management in Wisconsin. 2015-2025."

Since the approval of the Wisconsin plan, DNR staff have been working hard to finalize the document for publishing on the inland trout management website at https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/trout/inlandtroutmanagementplan.html.

Fisheries management staff will begin incorporating the plan action items into biennial work planning and routine operations. Many of the actions are tasks that we are already doing, so addressing those will be as simple as continuing current operations. However, the plan also calls for new ideas and initiatives during the next 10 years.

Ambitious 10-year plan

During the upcoming months the Trout Team will be figuring out how to implement these new actions. This is an ambitious 10-year plan and we need to figure out which actions to start first and which ones can wait a few years.

We appreciate all the hard work, effort and comments submitted by the stakeholder team, general public and Trout Team staff during the creation of the state's first ever inland trout management plan. The department looks forward to providing our user groups with excellent trout fishing and fisheries resources for the future.

Kirk Olson and Justin Haglund are senior fisheries resource biologists with the DNR.

TIC program evolves into so much more

TU's Trout In the Classroom is expanding to a university-class endeavor for Chilton students.



EXCITED TO RELEASE THE TROUT THEY RAISED

Chilton High School students preparing to return their brown trout to Stony Brook after recording their size.

"Not only have the

students been

successfully raising

trout for the past four

years, but they also

added aquaponics to

the curriculum."

By Joe Bach

Trout In the Classroom in the Chilton school system started with a short phone conversation between Chilton Middle School Counselor Brad Bowman and Fox Valley Chapter President Joe Bach in the fall of 2015 to find out more.

Joe's research lead him the TU

National website and other TU chapters that have successfully implemented the pro-Joe contacted those chapters, listened carefully and took notes. He reached out to TU members in at least five different states, learning successes of the program

and tips on how to get the program started locally.

First task was funding

The first challenge was funding. Chilton teachers Tracy Bartels and Greg Sromek submitted a preliminary grant request and were invited to submit a formal grant request to the Chilton Area Community Foundation (CACF). With the grant approved by the CACF and some donated equipment, middle school and high school students began raising trout.

The students spent the winter months learning how to care for newly born trout, how to raise them to fingerling size, and getting ready to plant. Now, all that was needed was a local trout stream for a future home.

Where to release them?

A few years earlier Joe Bach and fellow fisherman Norm Christnacht had spent winter months exploring Wisconsin rivers and streams looking for the perfect place to fish for trout. They found in the fishing regulations only one trout stream in Calumet County, the home of Chilton schools. The stream was named

Stony Brook, and Joe and Norm explored the stream from its headwaters to its confluwith ence South Branch of Manitowoc the River.

The South Branch makes its way east to the Manitowoc River, and then into Lake Michigan. Howev-

er, all the land along Stony Brook was privately owned. There seemed to be no public place to plant trout. Joe recalled one farm that had an excellent site for planting trout.

One evening Joe knocked on the door of the landowner, dairy farmer Tim Sohrweide. After Joe introduced himself and his affiliation with TU, he was invited in to discuss using Tim's property to plant trout in Stony Brook. It was a blessed evening as Tim's daughter was a student participating in Trout in the Classroom. Tim agreed to allow the trout to be planted in Stony Brook on his property. As time passed and relationships developed, Tim and his father Dick, along with neighbor Andy Pethan, granted WITU easements to improve Stony Brook on their respective properties.

The students then began planting

trout in 2016. While all this was playing out, the energetic TIC teachers went to work developing and expanding the program. Not only have the students been successfully raising trout for the past four years, but they also added aquaponics to the curriculum. Aquaponics is where water from the aquarium is used to feed plants prior to filtering the water. Thus, the trout's waste fertilizes the plants.

The day of trout planting is a very special day for the students. Some students plant the trout so solemnly that it appears to be kind of a baptism for the young trout. Students also learned about the trout's environment, food supply and witnessed electro-shocking by DNR Senior Fisheries Biologist Adam Nickle and his crew from Oshkosh.

FVTU, WAV (Water Action Vollunteers) and Calumet County volunteers provided demonstrations of WAV stream monitoring and other aspects of trout habitat and environmental concerns.

DNR Senior Fish Biologist Adam Nickel took a great deal of interest in Stony Brook. DNR historical records show that stocked trout in past years had no real reproduction. Joe Bach started the Water Action Volunteers stream monitoring protocol, and after four years of data collection, proved that Stony Brook has all the attributes, including an enormous food supply, for trout to flourish. With the data collected, more interest ensued on expanding the Trout In the Classroom learning process.

In-the-field lab

In 2018, Adam Nickel used his resources, and along with students and teachers, a fish-tagging operation ensued. They installed two fish arrays in Stony Brook to track the movement of the planted trout. The students are essentially forming an in-the-field laboratory, as Tracy Bartels states. To everyone's delight, the October 2019 shocking efforts found brown trout up to 14.5 inches that were tagged and planted in the spring of 2018.

Calumet County Water Specialist Danielle Santry provided information and data, which helped convince Shawn Sullivan and Steve Devitt from the Wild Rose Habitat Station to look at Stony Brook as a

potential restoration project. Meanwhile, Tracy Hames, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Wetlands Association, explored Stony Brook and concured that it had the potential of becoming a trout steam, based on his observations and data provided by the county and WAV monitoring.

In the winter of 2018 Shawn Sullivan and Steve Devitt developed stream-improvement drawings and a cost estimate for the improve-

Improving Stony Brook

Enter Jim Kettler of the Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership (LNRP), a consortium of a dozen like-minded environmental groups. After a number of meetings with Bach and Santry, they concluded that Stony Brook and Trout In the Classroom have all the attributes to qualify for a grant for Shawn Sullivan's stream improve-

Jim Kettler used his resources to find a funding source for Sullivan's stream improvements. In the summer of 2019, the task was successfully completed and \$83,000 was raised to fund the project. The largest contributor, the Fund For Lake Michigan, saw Stony Brook as a freshwater resource needed for the health of Lake Michigan. Calumet County, FVTU, LNRP and the DNR all contributed to the financial funding of the stream improvements that were scheduled to start in Sep-

Weather was not kind to us. The first aspect of the stream improvements was to replace a farm bridge over Stony Brook that gives Tim Sohrweide access to his corn crop. The last week of August, Tim was planning to harvest his corn on September 9, and we could start stream improvements 10 days later. However, rains and wet fields would not allow harvest of Tim's corn until the last week of October. Unfortunately, this was past the closing date of allowed stream work in Wisconsin streams.

The next act in the "Life and Legend of Stony Brook" will begin this spring, with 1,100 feet of stream improvements.

Beautiful headwaters

Of special note in the life of Stony Brook are its wooded headwaters, which are a mile upstream from Tim's property. As Shawn Sullivan says, "The area is beautiful and serene and appears that it has not been disturbed by man." What a great field laboratory for our TIC

If you are interested in participating in the Stony Brook stream improvement project or would like to know more about this endeavor, contact Joe Bach of FVTU at joebach1g@gmail.com.



SMILES ABOUND ON TROUT RELEASE DAY

Beautiful smiles and beautiful trout that were raised by Chilton High School students and released into Stony Brook.

Climate change to impact trout distribution

A new scientific publication shows the predicted effects of climate change on trout distribution in Wisconsin.

By Matthew G. Mitro, Wisconsin DNR

A major goal in the Wisconsin Inland Trout Management Plan for 2020-2029 is to "collect, develop and use the best science to guide trout management decisions." Threats and challenges to sustaining wild trout fisheries including land use, water quality, climate change and invasive species are identified in the management plan, and scientists like myself have been collaborating with colleagues to address such research needs.

A group of us recently published a peer-reviewed paper that addressed the effects climate change may have on trout fisheries in Wisconsin streams.

John Lyons (retired DNR) presented this work at the International Charr Symposium in Duluth in June 2018, and we published the study in a special issue on the Charr Symposium in the scientific journal Hydrobiologia. In addition to John and I, our co-authors included Jana Stewart (USGS), Paul Cunningham (DNR), and Joanna Griffin (DNR).

The paper is titled, "Projected changes in Brook Trout and Brown Trout distribution in Wisconsin streams in the mid-twenty-first century in response to climate change." This work stretches back more than a decade and is a significant update to projections of trout loss attributable to climate change first presented in a 2010 paper in the Journal of Fish Biology (J. Lyons, J. Stewart, and M. Mitro) and in a report published in 2011 by the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts.

Our first modeling efforts related trout presence and absence to environmental attributes associated with stream reaches in a geographic information systems or GIS framework, with additional variables describing climate, stream flow and water temperature.

A major limitation of this modeling effort was that water temperature was assumed to increase the same in all streams in response to increasing air temperature. This was an unrealistic assumption, but it served to illustrate how sensitive trout distribution can be to changes in temperature.

We looked at three future scenarios with limited warming (1.8°F air and 1.4°F water), moderate warming (5.4°F air and 4.3°F wa-

ter), and major warming (9ºF air and 7.2ºF water). All three scenarios projected significant losses in habitat suitable for trout, with brook trout losing 44 percent, 94 percent, and 100 percent of current habitat and brown trout losing 8 percent, 33 percent, and 88 percent for the ascending warming scenarios.

It is important to note that these were not predictions of what will happen but rather were projections of what could happen under the constraints of the model. The models showed climate change having the potential to cause major declines in trout distribution, but these declines were likely overstated because of model limitations on how streams warm in response to a warming climate.

The model projections published in our new paper addressed the shortcomings of the earlier models by more realistically characterizing changes in stream temperature in response to climate warming.

Two important changes included (1) a soil-water-balance model integrated with an artificial neural network model to link precipitation to groundwater recharge and stream temperature (see the USGS report by Stewart and others, 2015) and (2) climate data including air temperature and precipitation projected for the mid-twenty-first century for the moderate-to-high A1B emissions scenario using general circulation climate models downscaled for Wisconsin (see the paper by Notaro and others, 2011, from the UW-Madison).

So, what do the updated models say for Wisconsin trout? Currently, models indicate about 21,300 miles of stream in Wisconsin are suitable for brook trout and 12,400 for brown trout.

Models project a decline of 68 percent in stream habitat suitable for brook trout by mid-century and a decline of 32 percent for brown trout. These projected declines are substantial. But they are lower than earlier estimates because the updated models accounted for projected increases in precipitation, which may help recharge groundwater and partially offset higher air tempera-

The newly-published model projections showed that projected losses may occur throughout Wisconsin where trout are currently found, but



FUTURE ANGLERS WILL SEE MORE BROWNS THAN BROOK TROUT

Models project a decline of 68 percent in stream habitat suitable for brook trout
by mid-century and a decline of 32 percent for brown trout.

some regions may be more resistant or resilient to climate warming than others.

Areas less vulnerable to coldwater habitat loss include the Driftless Area and the Lake Superior basin. Both areas are characterized by an abundance of cold groundwater feeding streams. Other areas that lack such groundwater, like the northern forested areas of Wisconsin, are more vulnerable to warming.

For anyone interested in more details about the models, projections and implications for trout management, I would encourage you to read the Hydrobiologia paper. The paper is available for viewing online at https://rdcu.be/ bMmX1 or from me upon request. Contact me at Matthew.Mitro@wisconsin.gov. Included in the paper are detailed color-coded maps that show current and projected distributions of trout habitat and trout sensitivity to loss or gain of habitat and a discussion on what the projections mean for trout management in Wisconsin.

Here is a list of the papers and reports referenced in this article:

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

Work groups key to TU's function and mission

By Linn Beck, NLC Representative

As the Wisconsin National Leadership Council (NLC) representative, my responsibilities are not only to report communications from TU National to the State Council and chapters, but also to inform TU national on any issues or announcements in Wisconsin. I also have another responsibility, which is just as important.

The NLC has 15 work groups that are just as important to Trout Unlimited as the chapter/council reporting is. These work groups are based on issues that are regional or organizational wide that are very important for the welfare of TU and our mission. The groups are mainly composed of NLC members but are also open to other TU members who may have an interest. Each group also has at least one TU National staff member for support. As an NLC member, you are required to be involved in at least two of the work groups.

The groups are separated into two categories — conservation and organizational. The organizational work groups are Communications, Diversity Initiative, Grass Roots, New Initiative and Youth Education. The conservation groups are TUDARE, Climate Change, Mining, Native Fish, Great Lakes, Delaware River, Access, Tail Waters, Land Conservancy and Responsible Energy. The priorities and focus of these groups are always changing, depending on the needs of Trout Unlimited and any time-sensitive issues.

I have chosen to be in the Youth Education Work Group, of which I am currently the chair. I'm also on the Mining Work Group, and I try to make as many of the TUDARE and Great Lakes work group calls as possible. You can check out any of the NLC work groups and their focus and history by going to tu.org/nlc. Each group meets by conference call once a month. If you'd like to join a conference call, contact the work group chair.

When I chose the two work groups to join, I selected those with which I could lend the most input. As chair of the Youth Education Work Group, I would love to see some or all our Youth Education Coordinators YEC, along with any interested TU members, join in on the calls. Obviously, this group is near to my heart because of my desire to get our youth involved in TU and fishing, while also helping them learn to take part in the conservation component of our mission.

The Headwaters Youth Program, which the Youth Education Work Group supports, has some phenomenal programs to take our youth from grade school all the way through their development in their adolescent years to the college level. On most of our calls we are tasking the group to come up with ideas and actions to better these programs, while informing members on the development and happenings within the programs.

If you are interested in the Youth Education Work Group or any of the other work groups, please contact me and I will provide the information and contacts that you need.

ESSAYS

That time I went fishing with Dry Fly Dick

By Jonathan Jacobs

First, a little background: While Dick Frantes was a pleasant and even jolly fellow in many respects, he was serious, as in all-caps, bold-face serious, about his angling. In the pre-internet age in which he operated, he took extraordinary pride in ferreting out information about places to fish and was parsimonious about sharing it. There are even stories, possibly fictional, about him requiring his guests to wear a blindfold on the way to secret waters.

Dick was generous enough to share two of his spots with me and the mere passage of 31 years is insufficient reason for me to name them here. Also, I was surprised when he called and offered to take me angling, as he had a tight angling coterie of which I was not a part. Looking back, I think his invitation was in some way an acknowledgment of my efforts as a Kiap-TU-Wish chapter officer. Further, one of his angling chums had recently fished around the last bend and another, Jim Humphrey, perhaps his closest collaborator, was unavailable because he was out of town attending his 50-year high school class reunion. Also, I suspect that the sainted Mrs. Frantes may have forbidden Dick to go out alone.

Dick rolled into my driveway at mid-afternoon on Wednesday, June 29, 1988, a sunny and temperate day. He was at the wheel of his Forrestal-class Chevrolet Suburban, which bore the Minnesota vanity plate "DRI FLY." A few years later the plate appeared on a humbler vehicle, a Chrysler K car of some sort, if I recall correctly. When I saw this, I told Dick that I was disappointed to see that the Suburban was no longer. He replied that he had sold it, "more or less by the pound," an ignominious end for such a noble example of vehicular excess.

He was wearing his standard angling getup – beat-up tennis shoes, ancient khaki pants, long-sleeved shirt with the phrase "Save A Worm's Life – Fly Fish" emblazoned across the back, and his trademark pith helmet, the one festooned with about as an odd assortment of flies as one could imagine.

We drove eastward on the Interstate with the truck's air conditioning on its "Meat Locker" setting. As we motored along, Dick told me how he had come to find the creek where he intended to have me fish. It started at a TU meeting where a DNR employee had presented a slide show on brook trout. There were slides that contrasted "bad" and "good" brook trout habitat. The slide showing "good" habitat had been taken from a highway bridge and in the background a railroad trestle was visible. With that to go on and the knowledge of the county where the slide had been taken, Dick proceeded to sift through topographic maps until he found a likely match. An exploratory trip confirmed his findings. We were headed there and, on the way, we drove over three or four tiny creeks that Dick said held brook trout. He offered me a pen and paper in case I wished to take notes.

We stopped at a bridge, and Dick described in detail the layout of the creek as I'd find it while moving upstream. These descriptions proved to be dead accurate. This was a small creek with room for but one

angler, so Dick intended to fish elsewhere. He was uncertain of the route to his intended destination, so he reached under the rear seat and retrieved from a stack of maps that would have done General Patton proud the relevant one and laid in a course. He wished me good luck, said that he'd return in three hours and motored off. It did not occur to me at the time that I was 40 miles from home and had placed my chances of returning there that night in the hands of a fellow who wasn't sure how to get where he wanted to go.

It did occur to me to go fishing. I'd been trout angling for only a few years then and had never fished water so small. Despite Dick's excellent instructions, I mostly waded where I ought to have been fishing and fished where I ought to have been wading, as evidenced by the number of brook trout that I kicked out from their cover.

Brookies can be a cooperative fish, though, and once I adjusted to the rhythms of the little creek, I caught a couple of willing risers. These were the first brook trout I'd caught in at least five years and I was thrilled. Time slipped by rapidly and I had to hurry to be back at the bridge within the three-hour time limit. Dick had already returned and was seated on the tailgate of the Suburban eating a sandwich. I dug my supper out of a cooler and joined him. The warmth of the early evening summer sun felt good and I slipped into a sort of reverie as I soaked in the view of the handsome countryside.

I snapped to when Dick informed me that we were off to another stream to try our hand at some brown-trout fishing. He showed no uncertainty about our route and the big Chevrolet carried us quickly to a small town where he deposited me in a little roadside park that abutted our target stream. He gave me a general idea of where I might find him upstream at the end of the evening and motored off again.

I tied a parachute Adams to my tippet and had at it. I caught two modest-sized browns in the first pool I fished, but caught nothing but chubs after that. Even though the fishing was slow and I was tired, I hesitated to quit the stream until darkness forced the issue. I felt a bit embarrassed walking through a residential neighborhood while decked out in wading gear, but when I finally found Dick sitting in the truck with the dome light on while he listened to a tape of polka music on a small boombox, I determined that my appearance and behavior were well within acceptable social norms for a fisherman.

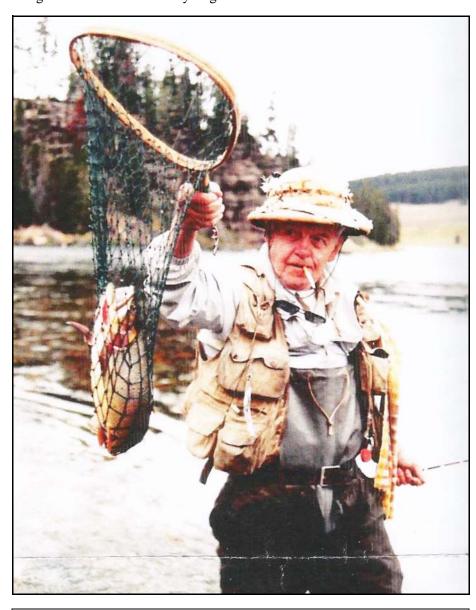
The ride home was a long one, but the trip went quickly as Dick told me about his experiences in trout fishing, a sport he'd taken up more than 40 years earlier, not long after the end of World War II.

While I often ran into Dick on stream after that, particularly on the Kinnickinnic River in Glen Park, that was the only time we ever fished together, and he was gone forever five years later. Writing about this has not made me melancholy, but I am struck with the thought that time is both linear and cyclical. The calendar says that 31 years have come and gone. That's the linear. The cyclical is this: There's a guy of a certain age with a

vintage SUV with vanity plates. His 50-year high school class reunion has come and gone. He's edging up on 40 years as a trout angler. Like Dick, he tends to ramble and take too long to make his point when he speaks at TU meetings. And as it was with Dry Fly Dick Frantes, his passion for the sport has cooled not at all, so he knows that the only thing better than the memory of go-

ing trout fishing is the prospect of going again.

Jonathan Jacobs received his first fly rod as a Christmas gift in 1958. He'll fish for nearly anything that swims, but prefers trout, smallmouth bass and muskellunge. He's been married to Karen for 49 years and his daughter Allison is very involved with his chapter.



"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.

Driftless Rambler

With Duke Welter TUDARE Outreach Coordinator

Counting our blessings

Last night's Coulee Region Trout Unlimited chapter meeting, on its surface, was a bustling affair at the Pearl Street Brewery in La Crosse. Board members Bob Hubbard worked on tying graphite and John Townsell demonstrated repairing bamboo rods. A goodly number of us tied flies, like Jason Freund's elk & CDC caddis, which were donated to our chapter's contribution to the Council banquet February 1. Others — maybe 50 in all — sipped a beer, wandered and talked, and tied musky flies.

Almost all of our board members were there. More importantly, there were lots of interested people who are working on our events and a bunch of Trout In the Classroom projects, and are just interested in finding out more about TU. Rick Kyte and Cy Post, our chapter copresidents this year and who are both past presidents from years ago, agreed to hold the reins as our board finds its way and vice-president Fred Spademan makes great strides to succeed them. This, I reflected, is a chapter firing on most of its cylinders, a welcome development.

And this morning, a few days before the Winter Solstice and a week before Christmas, I'm sitting here watching the squirrels frustrated by not being able to raid our bird feeders and just reflecting on how grateful I am. It's the morning after a momentous House vote and time elsewhere for wrangling on what comes next and what spins (fanciful, mean-spirited, thoughtful and otherwise) can be put on it, but I'm setting that aside and counting my

We could, of course, be beset by worries about what our leadership is, versus what it could be, at the state and national levels. We could be worrying about big problems ahead in our environment, or the ills of society. But I'm inclined right now to take a moment to look around and appreciate the multitude of things that give me hope for our natural and human world.

Maybe I'm prompted in part by the losses of some people this past week who have given us gifts in their lives. Two of my colleagues at the Capital Times in Madison in the Environmental Reporter Whitney Gould and City Editor Ron McRae, have both passed from cancers in the past week. Both were brilliant newspaper people and broke ground in their fields. Both were life-loving personalities with guts to do hard things for worthwhile reasons.

A good friend from one of our chapters passed suddenly over the weekend at 68, and his joy at the good things TU does permeated each event in which he participated. Another friend who has done remarkable things in the Chippewa Valley for conservation is struggling with a fast-moving cancer, so quickly we cannot publicly honor him for his good works. And a third dear friend, in Menomonie, is in the last cruel stages of Alzheimer's. Our memories of our 30 years of South Dakota pheasant hunting with our springers, and our 20 years of working on TU projects and chapter events, will have to be remembered going forward by only one of us. Our friendships were all enriched by good works we accomplished together.

So, now, I'm extra appreciative of the many, many good-hearted people who use their free time to benefit our resources and carry forward the mission of Trout Unlimited or the cause of clean water and healthy rivers. I apologize for not naming everyone to whom I am grateful, but rest assured your efforts are not unrecognized.

Around La Crosse, thoughts about environmental stewardship are often spurred by the work and words of Coulee TU's Rick Kyte and Tom Thibodeau, his cohort at the D.B. Reinhart Institute for Business Ethics and Leadership. They sponsor events, spur public discussions and stimulating leadership classes, and offer thoughtful homilies, such as Tom's at a recent Christmas concert at my favorite country bar and dance hall, Leo & Leona's in Newburg Corners. The String Ties have staged the concert for two dozen years now, a sort-ofbluegrass lineup playing everything from Elvis and the Beach Boys to the Nutcracker. Thibodeau so appreciates our natural world that his greetings are like a breath of outside air. And Rick, as a community columnist in the La Crosse Tribune and as a chapter leader, often brings up ideas that make us appreciate our Coulee world in new ways.

From Tomah, Brad Bryan is one of those energetic teachers who makes every one of our events and work days and is always thinking of better ways to engage his students in the natural world. Maybe it's a project to make trash bag holders for streamside parking lots in shop class, or signs to encourage thoughtful angler behavior. In any case, he encourages those young adults to be thinking of ways they can get involved.

Out toward Tainter Creek between Soldiers Grove and Gays Mills, a retired teacher who never stops teaching is Bruce Ristow, who now grazes beef and fishes (not necessarily in that order) along the streams. He's been a constant, quiet neighbor who talks with people about the benefits of sensible grazing and stream habitat projects in keeping the waters healthy and working ag lands productive. As a member of the watershed's Farmerled Council, he's become a respected leader, even if you won't find him behind a microphone or up on

I'd be remiss if I didn't mention my wife Kris, who has become a good trout angler and fly-tyer and is a chapter board member who's organized its meeting speakers this year. What a good companion with whom to share this interest! I am blessed, and am gratified, I think, that in her opinion I turned out better than she ever expected.

This year I've had several contacts with a younger person who's making a mark, and with whom our Wisconsin Clear Waters Chapter has had an ongoing role. Zach



Mohr met us out on Elk Creek when he was early in high school. He'd bike out to fish and then work with us on the project. The chapter not only fed him plenty of brats, but gave him his first fly rod. Now he's graduated from UW-Stevens Point in fisheries and is a key part of the western Wisconsin TU Trout Habitat projects crew.

ect, now in its 15th year, with Jeff Hastings and Paul Krahn and our volunteer steering committee and a pile of great volunteers, I'm excited to see TUDARE making progress

Working on the TUDARE proj-

to develop resources to help them move forward. You can expect some

TUDARE in the coming year. And

newsworthy

developments

across the region. From a position of having almost to hold bake sales to keep the lights on, and having our chapters and councils providing significant support every year, we are able now to look at the slower-developing niches and figure out how

See **RAMBLER**, page 17

please consider getting involved with the volunteer steering committee or one of our subregional project-planning efforts. In our southern Driftless area,

members of two TU chapters are leading the efforts toward healthy watersheds, both working pretty smoothly with agencies with a conservation focus. Southern Wisconsin TU has focused on the Sugar River-smack in the eventual path of Madison's development—and nearby tributaries in the Pecatonica River system. Topf Wells, a guy who knows how to get things done, helped get that Sugar River project going and moving forward. Now, if SWTU can just enlist Epic Systems of Verona, with its 12,000 employees who build electronic medical records systems, to lead the preservation of the Upper Sugar River, it would be an unbeatable partnership in a place where development pressures are increasing.



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A Celebration of All Things Trouty

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Central Wisconsin Trout Unlimited cwtu.org

Duke's Book Reviews

By Duke Welter

The books came thick and fast these past few months, a widely varied group. Chances are one or another will appeal to almost every one of our readers.

"Trout and Char of the World"

Most impressive is "Trout and Char of the World," edited by TU's long-time Senior Scientist Jack Williams and three co-editors. This volume grew from a World Trout Symposium held three years ago, and covers trout and char species worldwide. Chances are, you'll find much here to widen your view of the range of these species, the ecological impacts they've had and the management and other challenges they face.

The adaptable brown trout has lived in Europe and Eurasia for several million years, and is found from the British Isles to the Chinese border. No wonder it's been able to evolve in every continent except Antarctica. Rainbows are probably no less hardy.

We've heard before of the many subspecies of trout being sought out and named in Mexico's Sierra Nevada mountain range, and how some of them have adapted to live in higher temperatures as a survival strategy. Other subspecies in other remote areas, or places in which they have been introduced, have shown similar evolutionary skills. Learning about a branch of the softmouth trout family in Albania which live in a four-kilometer reach of one stream, it's hard to be optimistic that they will long survive the triple whammy of poachers, industry or climate change.

It's also clear that while trout have been introduced in many places where they did not previously exist, the ecological impacts are often seen as mixed or negative. (For more on that topic, see "An Entirely Synthetic Fish" by ecologist Anders Halvorsen.)

A thoughtful discussion of the transition of perceptions of introduced trout is seen in the chapter on New Zealand's trout. As that country was settled, acclimatization societies brought in as many species as they could from the British Isles. It wasn't only trout: Lombardy poplars, Australian Ringtail Opossums, English sparrows, hedgehogs, rabbits, gorse and other species have taken root alongside brown and rainbow (and a few brook) trout, with impacts ranging from benign to ecologically disastrous.

Native species like whitebait (galaxiids) were numerous before salmonids were introduced, but many localized populations have been extirpated and some subspecies are nearly extinct. Early on, the trouts' foothold was seen as a boon, then as an economic boost. Today trout are a source of debate between native species restoration fans and those who see them as a naturalized resident and a strong economic contributor.

As an aside, I've observed in four trips to New Zealand that its residents have a fierce attachment to their right to hunt and fish on lands open to the public. They were mostly shut off from those activities under aristocratic Britain rule. Since the country's founding, one of its guiding principles has been the exercise of that right by citizens. But there were few huntable species oth-

er than waterfowl at the time of European settlement in the mid-1850s, so introduced species such as trout, salmon, pheasant, red stag, deer and more were welcomed. Now the interest in restoring native species causes tension with that hunting and fishing ethic. Stay tuned.

This encyclopedic tour features articles written by salmonid experts from around the globe, and credits three researchers whose lifelong passion for trout led them to scientific discoveries they shared with the general public. One of them, Robert Behnke, wrote for TROUT magazine for years, spoke at numerous seminars and generally brought his knowledge to the public, rather than focusing on the world of academic scholarship. We need more people with both mindsets.

(American Fisheries Society, Bethesda MD, \$79, 831 pages)

Geology of the Driftless Area: The Career and Contributions of James C. Knox", Geological Society of America, Boulder CO, geosociety.org, Edited by Eric Carson, J. Elmo Rawling III, J. Michael Daniels and John W. Attig, 2019, \$30)

"Long Way Round: Through the Heartland by River"

John Hildebrand's "Long Way Round: Through the Heartland by River," recounts his trip by canoe a couple summers ago on a half-dozen Wisconsin rivers. The author of four other books, Hildebrand is skilled at weaving together a tale of travel through a geographic place with lots of other information: people, history, tidbits from other writers and a lot of good stories. As he walks the portage between the Bois

in terms that relate to our lives. He realizes, reading "Sand County Almanac," that a meaningful life isn't about "finding one good place, it's about trying to be a good citizen of wherever you find yourself." His relating of the Bad Axe River and Tyler Forks in the Penokee Mine dispute a few years ago talks about the role of Bad Axe band members and their historic relationship with the Kakagon Sloughs and the river along which their reservation lies. With other advocates, they beat back the mine proposal with stern resolve for protecting their home. One good place? Or where you find yourself? Maybe it can be both.

("Long Way Round: Through the Heartland by River." UW Press, Madison, uwpress.wisc.edu, 158 pages, \$26.95)

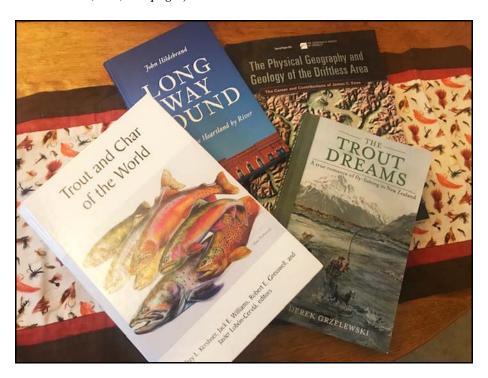
"The Trout Dreams"

A book that's mostly about New Zealand is Derek Grzelewski's "The Trout Dreams," his third book of troutish musings. It's an engaging personal tour around that country, although his first book with a romantic interest. His first two books, "Trout Diaries" (2011) and "Trout Bohemia" (2013), took him on explorations to places to meet interesting folks — guides, anglers, travelers — around the country. In "The Trout Dreams," he's courting with a lady from Colorado, who happens to be an enthusiastic, but budding, angler.

The author wanders around in his storytelling, covering ways to develop your trout-spotting skills, stand-up paddleboards, a cast of interesting characters, and the development, with fits and starts, of his romance. I won't give away much, but let's just say that he doesn't get unduly technical, but he somehow manages to get technical points across whenever necessary. He's a story-teller and you'll enjoy reading his books.

It's another fun tour, and it reminds me of a fellow who frequently visited that country. A few years ago, while fishing South Island with an avid lady angler, he was working to see if their relationship had what it took to be long-term. The lady caught lots of big fish, more than him. But, as he finally caught and played a slightly better trout, she turned to their guide, a big laconic guy, and asked him, "Well, what do you think? Husband material?"

"Not my type," said the guide. ("The Trout Dreams," Stackpole Books, Guilford, CT, 192 pages, \$24.95)



"The Physical Geography and Geology of the Driftless Area: The Career and Contributions of James C. Knox"

More scholarly is a special paper focusing on our Driftless Area and the scientific work of a late UW-Geography Professor James C. Knox. A thoughtful keynote speaker at our Driftless Symposia, Knox grew up in the Driftless Area and spent his career investigating its geologic clues. He died unexpectedly in 2012. Edited by four colleagues, the 156-page book includes a fond memoir/forward by his daughter, Lezlie, two of Knox' last papers and six chapters by other colleagues in geology, paleoarcheology, fluvial geomorphology and other disciplines.

Now, I'm mostly unqualified to review a publication focused on these disciplines. With a smattering of geology and geography courses, a lifetime of exploring these rivers and valleys, and a cursory knowledge of soils, I thought this would be entirely beyond my ken. But it's really a fascinating, multidisciplinary read, even to a non-initiated. While I was sometimes justly lost in the wilds of esoterica, there was plenty of good information on glacial impacts, botany, how floodplain systems have changed, and the prehistory of the area as evidenced by various archeological discoveries. Knox' last paper outlined the lead and zinc mining history of the area where he grew up, around Platteville and Mineral Point.

("The Physical Geography and

Brule and St. Croix Rivers near Solon Springs, a route marked with stone markers commemorating Daniel Greysolon, Sieur Dulhut in 1680 or Jonathan Carver in 1768, he was a little more touched by the entries of non-famous explorers in a little Portage cairn. The difference, he remarks, is the difference between Saints Days in the Catholic Church versus "Ordinary Days," where we all spend most of our lives. As we age, it's the ordinary days we have left that have the value, the poignancy. I get it.

The author teaches literature at UW-Eau Claire, and the good teacher's mentality of weaving lessons into accessible stories is evident here. For him, history is what people did and how we remember it





Healing Our Waters Coalition: The "HOW" of GLRI

The Healing Our Waters Coalition was instrumental in the formation of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, and continues to fight for the Great Lakes and the GLRI.

By Taylor Ridderbusch, TU Great Lakes Organizer

During the last three and a half years, you may have noticed frequent updates on the status of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) and the projects it supports here in Wisconsin.

For TU, the GLRI has been a fantastic source of funding for reconnecting streams throughout northeast Wisconsin and creating partnerships with the federal government, local municipalities and private foundations.

But the GLRI hasn't always been around and it was put into place thanks, in part, to the efforts of a regional coalition that is now known as the Healing Our Waters Coalition (HOW).

History of HOW

In 2004, a group of non-profit organizations began to notice how dire many of the region's environmental problems were and sought to change that through the formation of a coalition with a common, singular goal—restoring the Great Lakes.

In that same year, a major step towards ensuring the restoration and protection of the Great Lakes took place when President George W. Bush named the Great Lakes a "national treasure" in an executive order and created the Great Lakes Interagency Task Force, which was to be made up of 11 federal agency heads. This planted the seed for what would become the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

Five years later, in 2009, with help from HOW, Congress passed the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act and it was signed into law by President Barack Obama with a funding level of \$475 million.

160 Organizations

Today, the HOW Coalition is made up of more than 160 non-profit organizations which represent millions of Great Lakes residents who want to clean up toxic pollution that poses a threat to people and wildlife, reduce polluted runoff that causes harmful algal blooms that poison drinking water, stop invasive species that harm fish and wildlife and outdoor recreation, and reverse

habitat destruction that harms the environment and hurts the economy.

HOW has stayed steadfast in its work to safeguard the progress made by GLRI-funded projects, but it hasn't always been easy. GLRI saw funding cuts as low as \$285 million in 2013 but has maintained its funding at \$300 million since. As you may have seen in this publication in recent years, the GLRI has fallen under attack from the current White House budget proposals that recommended cutting the program by 90-100 percent for each of the last three fiscal years.

But HOW, along with TU, have been quick to act to remind our law-makers the critical progress we are making on the ground and how impactful these investments are. Building on the momentum in Congress, which has shown strong region-wide and bipartisan support for this program, TU and HOW hope to pass a GLRI reauthorization for FY2021-2026 that will included a stair-stepped increase in funding back to its original \$475 million.

Other HOW roles

Aside from its major role in the establishment and maintenance of the GLRI, HOW and its members tackle issues likes stopping Asian carp, increasing funding for the state revolving funds and seeking solutions to harmful algal blooms.

The HOW Coalition also acts as a regional convener. Each year HOW hosts Great Lakes Days in Washington, D.C., where stakeholders from the Great Lakes region meet with their legislators to tell GLRI success stories.

TU has played a key role in recent years as we hold a seat on the Coalition's Governance Board, which sets the HOW's agenda and presents our projects and brought our members to Capitol Hill.

HOW also hosts a bi-annual conference that seeks to demonstrate and share the wide range of work being done across the basin. In 2020, the HOW Conference will be hosted here in Wisconsin at the Pfister Hotel in Milwaukee. If you would like to learn more about the HOW Coalition or attend the upcoming conference, please visit their website at healthylakes.org.



COLBURN CREEK BEFORE AND AFTER

This project reconnected more than four miles of habitat for brook trout that spend time in the Rat River and its tributaries. The project design was complicated and only made possible through funding obtained from the Wisconsin DNR by the Wild Rivers Chapter.

Great Lakes Stream Restoration update

By Chris Collier, TU Great Lakes Stream Restoration Manager

As I write this article I'm staring at six inches of snow and realizing how quiet everything is with the few remaining geese, sandhill cranes and other "snowbirds" getting the message to head south. While I'll miss our warm-weather friends and warm days on the water, now is the time of the year to reflect on what we've accomplished and look forward to what's to come.

In 2019, we had another successful year reconnecting trout streams fragmented by poorly designed road-stream crossings (RSXs). We replaced seven crossings, opening more than 40 miles of spawning, rearing and summer habitat.

Colburn Creek project

One RSX project I want to highlight is Colburn Creek at Kufner Road (Forest Road 2363). This project reconnected more than four miles of habitat for brook trout that spend time in the Rat River and its tributaries.

The project design was complicated and only made possible through funding obtained from the Wisconsin DNR by the Wild Rivers Chapter. We owe a huge thank you to the Wild Rivers Chapter for acquiring these funds and partnering with us on this project.

Continuing with our work in 2019, I'd be remiss if I didn't take a moment to talk about our work with local communities. Building off our projects in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, we have made an effort to engage local, tribal and state officials and road managers to adopt design practices that promote fish passage. A big selling point to these partners is that fish-friendly designs also increase the flood resiliency of road infrastructure, decreasing maintenance costs

Interest in learning how to plan, design and fund these crossings has been overwhelming, which was highlighted by more than 80 town, county and tribal representatives attending our design workshop in Forest County last fall.

Following up on momentum from that workshop, we have already partnered with three communities to help assess crossings that they are concerned about, and we've started designing replacement structures. Partnering on projects outside of the national forest is key for our watershed-scale approach to coldwater conservation.

Looking ahead to 2020, we're continuing our partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and have identified several trout stream reconnection projects that should be constructed by late summer.

The Forest Service has also partnered with TU to remove a remnant logging dam degrading habitat on the North Branch Oconto River.

The DNR and Forest Service have brought us in on a new effort to inventory every crossing in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, and we are excited to get an updated picture on the state of RSXs in the National Forest.

Finally, we are continuing our work with communities by planning another RSX tour and design workshop that will likely be hosted in the northwest part of the state.

Before we jump to 2020 though, it is time to settle into another winter. Work might be more office-based in the northwoods, but TU and our partners have rapidly filling schedules as we lay the groundwork for an exciting and productive 2020.

If you or your chapters are interested in learning more about our work, I'm happy to talk in more detail or give a presentation at a chapter meeting. Drop me a line at chris.collier@tu.org or (419) 296-4390.

In the meantime, I hope everyone had a great holiday season and I'll see you at the annual meeting and banquet in February.

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Kiap and Clear Waters projects featured on October **TUDARE Bus Tour**



BROOK TROUT DISPLAYS SPAWNING COLORS

DNR Biologist Kasey Yallally displays a spawning-colored brook trout. She has worked hard to obtain DNR streambank fishing easements on Plum Creek and other area streams, and more habitat work can now be done where public access is ensured.

In western Wisconsin, TU's two local chapters (Kiap-TU-Wish and Wisconsin Clear Waters) have energetic project groups working with the DNR's Trout Habitat Crew. In October, DARE's annual bus tour of projects featured several streams with innovative restoration techniques.

On Plum Creek, a first major project on the Jeff Von Holtum property four miles downstream from Plum City was just being finished up as more than 75 tour participants walked streamside. DNR crew leader Nate Anderson discussed work being done to benefit brook and brown trout on about a half mile of restoration.

DNR biologist Kasey Yallally has worked hard to obtain DNR streambank fishing easements on Plum and other area streams, and more habitat work can now be done where public access is ensured.

Last winter KTU Project Manager Randy Arnold and his hard-working crew cleared hundreds and hundreds of softwoods from the corridor for the start of the project. Von Holtum spoke about how pleased he was with the restoration results, and how he's looking for ward to another similar reach being done next year.

Near Knapp, the tour visited work done this season on Wilson Creek and last year on Hay Creek, with a stopover to see 2014 work just upstream on Wilson Creek.

During the past winter, Wisconsin Clear Waters Chapter volunteers, organized by Matt Wysocki and augmented by Randy Arnold and the Kiap crew, cleared a halfmile of the stream corridor, allowing almost 4,800 feet of restoration

The newer and older Wilson projects gave a chance to compare different design techniques, narrower and deeper on the older work and wider on the new work. The work will hopefully benefit brook trout, which compete with the browns for habitat primacy.

Hay Creek features an ERO structure, designed by Kiap-TU-Wish member Loren Haas. Participants had suggestions for tweaking the design, and other crews are likely to give it a try next season.

At Gilbert Creek, Yallally and the survey crew did an electroshocking survey and brought up about 75 trout from about 100 feet of the South Branch, where restoration was done in 2005. The work is holding up nicely, with good vegetation for wildlife and terrestrial insects.

Brookies were putting on their spectacular spawning colors as the spawning season got under way. Trout populations on Gilbert Creek have gone from 100 per mile before restoration to more than 2,500 at this time, with both brook trout and brown trout.



KIAP AND CLEARWATERS CHAPTERS SHOW OFF THEIR WORK

In October, TUDARE's annual bus tour of projects in the northern Driftless Area featured several streams with innovative restoration techniques.

Wisconsin's Fly Tyers, with words and photos by Bob Haase Dick Berge - 75 Years of Learning and Sharing

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



A NATURAL TEACHER WITH 75 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

After 75 years of tying, one thing that hasn't changed is Dick Berge's love of tying and sharing his skills with others.

When Dick Berge was about eight years old, he received a fly-tying kit for Christmas. That was about 75 years ago and he is still tying. Materials and tying methods have changed a lot in that time. But the one thing that hasn't changed is his love of tying and sharing his skills with others.

One thing that I enjoy about writing this Wisconsin Fly Tiers series is visiting their homes and looking at their tying station and how they organize their materials. I was really impressed when I saw Dick's tying station neatly organized, and the bench with his beautiful lake view. The bench was at a comfortable tying height, with a comfortable chair, and great lighting.

The thing that impressed me more than his tying area was learning how much he was involved in teaching others to tie. Dick retired from a career in teaching, but never retired from teaching others to tie flies. It shortens the learning curve when you have someone like Dick teaching you the basics of thread control, proportions, characteristics of materials and other things that go into tying a quality fly.

Did someone help you get started tying, or did you learn on your own from that first tying kit?

I did not know anyone at the time who could help teach me, so I followed the instructions in the tying kit. Later on, I read books, especially Paul Young's "Making and Using the Fly and Leader." I found the whole process fascinating. I remember looking forward to the monthly fly pattern articles in Field & Stream. Much later via Trout Unlimited, I met and learned from Lowell Ginrich and his brother Bob. I also learned from Bob Brunsell, Larry Meicher and others.

Do you remember some of the first flies you tied?

I am not sure, but probably chenille-bodied woolly worms. I looked

at flies in the hardware store and tried to duplicate them. Many of the flies were wet patterns, bees, coachman's and winged patterns.

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

Much later after reading Paul Young's book, I read Eric Leiser, Gary Borger, Jack Dennis, Swisher Richards, Gary La Fontaine, Ernest Schwiebert, Herter's Fly Tying Manual and many others. I used the A.K Best book on production tying to set up my present tying station. I now use the internet and YouTube to find new ideas, and find them to be great learning tools.

I met many tiers at shows and related events and picked up numerous tying tips from them. People like Royce Dam were very helpful, and I probably would not have met him without attending these events.

I know you helped a lot of people get started in tying and develop their tying skills because your name has come up when asked "how did you get started in tying." Could you tell us some of the things you did to help others develop their tying skills?

I believe if you have a gift, you should share it with others. For many years I was a member of the Southern Wisconsin Chapter. I met so many great people there such as Steve Born, and developed lifelong friendships. We held a 10-week flytying class that was free to the public. We had a basic course and an advanced course, and we taught a lot of people how to tie flies. I was one of the leaders that developed and helped teach the courses. I remember one kid who lived in a broken home where he had to deal with a lot of problems. He had a passion for tying flies and fishing. I think it helped him settle his demons, and now he is a very successful guide in

I now live in northern Wisconsin

and several of us run a class at Ashland High School. The kids look forward to it as part of their natural resources class. I have also produced a monthly "fly of the month" article for our chapter newsletter for the past 20 years. We also have tying sessions where the public is invited

Teaching others to tie and sharing your knowledge helps grow the art of fly tying. I believe it also leads to an appreciation and concern for our lakes and rivers. It can teach young people patience and craftsmanship.

What are some of your favorite fly patterns to tie?

I enjoy the challenge of tying delicate dry flies such as the Parachute Adams, Classic Catskill patterns, and other dry fly patterns like the Wulff patterns. It is fun to sculpt feathers and hair into something delicate and graceful. I like tying dry flies, but enjoy tying all kinds of different flies. Some of my favorite fly patterns include my Brown Drake Spinner, Stonefly Nymph, Diving Water Beetle, my Foam Body Hex Spinner and the Gary Borger Leech.

What are some of the major changes you have seen since you first began tying?

All the equipment, vises, bobbins, threads, cements and materials are better. The hackle we have today is far superior to what we had years ago. The increased interest in tying has led to all kinds of new materials, providing us with many more choices. I think there is a kind of renaissance in fly tying today. Books were the foundation of my learning, but now we also have a lot of other resources from the tying shows and demonstrations, to the internet, and YouTube, which connects tiers to experts all over the world. I continue to learn a lot from YouTube, especially "In the Riffle."

How important do you feel it is to test the flies you tie on the stream and apply what you have learned there to the tying bench?

I feel it is very important to test your flies by fishing them. You learn about durability, over and underdressing them, color patterns, the way they look and act on the water, and their overall effectiveness. Through direct observation of insects, I have developed several patterns such as my Brown Drake Spinner. I observed the spinners drifting in the current and flexing their wings as they were dropping their eggs and dying. I discovered that fishing and observing what was

going on would help me tie better and more effective flies. Besides being helpful, it is also a very enjoyable activity.

Sometimes a scissors carried with you on the stream can be used to modify your flies on the stream.

What are some of the things you consider when selecting various materials, both natural and synthetic?

I use both natural and synthetic materials, but lean a little more toward the natural. I like blending my own dubbing using natural materials and adding sparkle yarn or ice dub to the mix. I am finding it difficult to find certain materials like good grizzly hackle in the right size or good quality peacock herl. I like being able to look and feel the materials in a fly shop before purchasing them. Knowing the characteristics of the materials, how they act in the water, and your experience using them on various fly patterns, is a skill that you acquire over time.

Do you have any tips for someone just getting started in tying, or for those that may have tied for a while and want to improve their skills?

Don't use too heavy of a thread. You may want to start out with a 6/0, but learn to use the smallest diameter thread that will allow you to apply the necessary tension to secure the materials. Learn how to apply the correct amount of tension for the thread being used and keep wraps from crowding the hook eye. Learn to whip finish. I double whip finish my flies for more durability.

Beginners should take a class if possible. Taking a class will help you select the right equipment and materials to get started. Get some help and advice when selecting a tying vise, and get the best you can afford. It doesn't have to be the most expensive, but get a good one that holds the hooks securely.

Why do you tie your own flies rather than purchase them?

I tie so much that if I don't tie for a while, I miss it. Since I am a production tier, I tie most every day during the winter. Fly tying is a unique hobby that allows a person to tie for the art of it, or tie for the function of fishing, or both. An example is my friend, Jim Emerson, who loves to tie British-style wet flies and has become a master of tying that style.

I think my early interest in fly tying may have led me into my career as an art teacher. It gave me a feel for the craftsmanship and beauty that I was able to express both in my art work and my fly tying.

Does your fishing car have a TU license plate yet?

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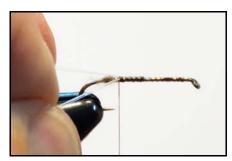
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Dick's Brown Drake Spinner

Easy to tie, and fish love it!



The Brown Drake Spinner is an easy pattern to tie and the fish love it!



Step 1 - Start the thread and wrap to the bend of the hook. Make a small dubbing bump at the bend of the hook to help support and split the tail. Tie in tailing material using barbs of a feather, microfibits or other tailing material. Use about two fibers on each side of the hook, at a length about 1-1/2 times the length of the hook shank.

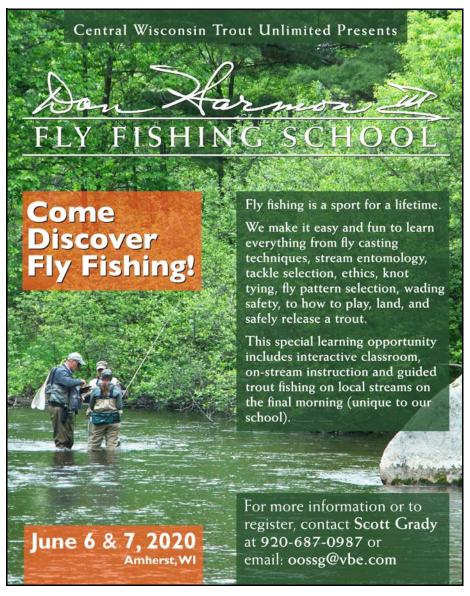


Step 3 - Wrap the hackle as shown making the number of wraps that you feel is appropriate based on the hackle being used.

Tie off the thread using a couple of whip finishes.



Step 2 - Dub the body, being careful not to crowd the eye of the hook. Tie in an appropriate size hackle for the hook size being used. Add additional dubbing to the eye of the hook and reposition the thread to the tie in point of the hackle.





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

Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance

Join the fun - wisconsinsmallmouth.com



Registration open for 2020 State Council Youth Fishing Camp



First off, thank you all again for making our 2019 youth camp a great success. We are very happy that all the chapters are starting to get involved, and we're looking forward to having some of the chapters that have not sponsored a youth to do so this year. Please remember we are doing the camp not only for the youth, but also for our chapters.

I hope all of you have had a safe and happy holiday season. We will be opening the registration for the youth camp starting with our annual business meeting on Saturday, February 1. We will have new brochures for this camp available at the meet-

This year's camp is Thursday, August 13 through Sunday, August 16. Sign-in will begin at 1 p.m. on Thursday and the camp will wind up

after our awards presentation around 1 p.m. on Sunday. The camp fee for sponsoring chapters will still be \$250 per youth. It is open for all youth ages 12-16.

Open enrollment will be available for all the chapters until May 1, and chapters can enroll one student. After May 1 we will open the enrollment up to additional students from participating chapters, and enrollment will close when we reach 20. Last year's registration was full by the end of May, so if you have a youth in mind, don't hesitate to get them signed up. Please email me as soon as you have your candidate, and I will send you the paperwork we need to complete registration.

We are not making any changes to the curriculum this year as we feel we are dialed into meeting our expectations, and hopefully the expectations of the students.

The only thing we will be changing is the opportunity for more of our past youth attendees to become junior mentors. We have expanded the number of mentors from four to eight and we are really looking forward to having them become a part of this great camp.

We still need adult volunteers to help with the mentoring and development of our campers. All of our members are welcome and encouraged to participate with the camp. With the interest in the camp really taking off and with the camp filling up so quickly, we are also encouraging members to attend and experience the camp. We hope that our chapters can take what they learn and offer a day camp for the youth

in their areas. This way the youth who may have wanted to attend and weren't able to will have a chance to experience the basics, and then attend the WITU camp the next year.

For all of you who have volunteered in the past, and for those of you who would be interested in helping out for this year's camp, please contact Wayne Parmley at 920-540-2315 or ley@gmail.com.

For registering a youth camper, or for anyone interested in attending the camp to learn more about the program for their chapter, please contact Linn Beck at 920-216-7408 or chlbeck@att.net.

—Linn Beck



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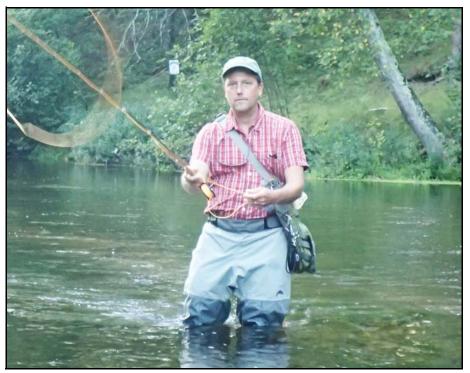






Get to know Scott Allen, Wisconsin TU's Vice Chair and 2020 Banquet Chair

Interview by Mike Kuhr, Council Chair



SCOTT ALLEN FISHING A FAVORITE NORTHERN WISCONSIN RIVER

Unfortunately, he was unable to recall the name of the river. But he did say his dream trip would be here, versus a far-away place.

Hi Scott, thanks for volunteering to be our new State Council banquet chair. You've done some great work with the Aldo Leopold Chapter, and we're excited to have you helping at the state level. When and why did you decide to join TU?

I've maintained my continuous membership for about 15 years and became an active member as work and family demands lessened about 10 years ago. The "habitat before hobby" ethic of TU appealed to me. We need clean water before we can have good fishing. Although I've been a fisher my entire life, I didn't begin to look upon fishing with the critical eye until moving to the Driftless Area in 1996. My first thoughts were "Hey, where are the lakes around here?" Getting to know the area better impressed upon me the importance of the connection between land use and sport fishing.

Prior to that awakening it was more a matter of hitting the rivers and lakes with the best catch potential. A major manure spill fish kill on Willow Creek in Richland County about 12 years ago, just down the road from me, was my first intimate observation of the fragility of aquat-

Out to the west toward Dodgeville, the Harry & Laura Nohr

chapter's restoration work has long

been the envy of the rest of the region. This little rural chapter has

RAMBLER, from page 10

ic habitat. It really angered me, yet at the same time gave me pause. and certainly not by picking fights, but rather by patiently staying the course and extending a hand to

Have you always lived in Wis-

I grew up in the Chicago area, my parents were from southern Indiana and could not believe of a better place to live than Chicago in the 1950's. No one ever told me to agree with everything my parents believe. I went to school at UW-Stevens Point, married a Wisconsin girl, and heat with wood like they used to do in southern Indiana. Including college, I've lived here for more than 40 years. Many things have changed, mostly for the better.

Can you recall a moment in your childhood when you made a special connection with fishing or the out-

Landing my first northern pike by myself at about age six. My grandfather was principal of a very rural school district northwest of

You don't solve problems overnight mend fences.

Duluth, and my parents let me

there was no restoration program, no public fishing easement, no public discussion for watershed work. Buffalo County, everyone would tell you, produced more big bucks than any other county in the America. But nobody talked about trout. But the county's rod & gun clubs, important social institutions and TU worked together to develop capacity, funding and public support, with help from NRCS leader Todd Mau, who is now a Wisconsin Clear Waters Chapter board member. Now they have more than 10 miles of public fishing easements and close to nine miles of restoration. The partnership has had a huge effect. County conservationist Carrie Olson's efforts mean the Land Conservation Department is now holding easements and further benefiting the county. It's being noticed.

Up toward the northern part of our Driftless Area, good friends

spend summers up there. He knew everyone within a 60-mile radius, and I mean everyone. Do you think we had a shortage of lakes and rivers to fish? I didn't know you needed a license to fish until I started college. I caught my first trout on a spinner in a small lake in the Savanna State Forest in Minnesota. I was about 12 years old. My grandfather allowed me to hike in alone to see if there were fish in the lake. Expecting a crappie, a brook trout hit my first cast. That one I remember.

Now I know you're involved with Trout In the Classroom locally. What do you think the kids enjoy most about the TIC programs?

Acquiring the trout, raising them at school and releasing them to the wild is fun, and I think that's very memorable for them. Of course the field trips to Nevin Hatchery and visiting a trout stream alongside a DNR biologist is an eye opener for them and the adults. Like so many adults, the kids have little knowledge of trout and the extensive habitat in Wisconsin but they sure know a lot more by the end of the school

We all know that volunteering for TU is extremely satisfying, but it doesn't pay the bills. What do (or did you do) for a living?

I was an environmental analytical chemist for 15 years after college, which is a warm and fuzzy label for testing hazardous waste and landfill monitoring wells. I gegan cobbling furniture and cabinetry for my own use when I started to receive commissions that I couldn't say no to. Along a winding bumpy path I found myself earning a living as a custom cabinet maker with most of my customers in metro Boston and New York City. The work was fun, but the money was slim. I got to fish for stripers off Montauk and Provincetown, wined and dined in The Hamptons many times. I was commissioned by the founders of dot com's and a certain custard-hamburger chain. But it wore me out, so I passed the income torch to my wife Meg for a few years, then I went fishing.

Woodworking, cool! Ever do fishing related stuff - bamboo rods or maybe a fly tying bench (I'm asking for a friend, of course)?

I've embarrassed myself with bamboo rod building, but it's a fun hobby. When time permits I build tying-related furniture some of which I've donated to the Aldo Leopold Chapter fundraiser. For now my woodworking is devoted to renovating an 1880's farm house that is

from the Kiap-TU-Wish and Wisconsin Clear Waters chapter have an enviable record for implementing the full range of what TU does. They have solid relationships with the DNR and other conservation agencies and groups, and are getting remarkable things done with great enthusiasm. I love joining them for their banquets whenever possible, because they celebrate so well and honor representative heroes in their

Kiap-TU-Wish now has an opportunity to lead toward ensuring the future of an iconic and outstanding western Wisconsin trout river. the Kinnickinnic. With the benefit of Kiap's voices and 28 years of thermal and other monitoring by Kent Johnson and his team (which shows that the river below the dams is almost five degrees warmer in summer than above), the city, after a robust discussion, decided to rerunning only about 20 years behind schedule. And yes, I'm still married.

All good things take time. I probably shouldn't say this, since we're both leaders for TU, but you and I have fished together a number of times - and more often than not we're chasing warm water fish like smallmouth bass. If you could go anywhere in the world on an all-expense, paid seven-day fishing trip, where would you go?

The top of my list right now would be to float the entire length of that stunning river in Northern Wisconsin for smallmouth and musky, a portion of which I floated last summer, the name of it is evading me right now. It'll come to me. There are stretches too long for a two-day float, but some day I'll muster some troops to float the entire length. But seven days, hmmm, the remaining days I would fish that other incredible river up north.

OK, ok, if you're not going to spill the beans, we'll change subjects. I understand you ski the Birkebeiner cross country race in the winter - are you competitive with your skiing or is it more of a personal challenge?

At age 60 I do plan on winning the Birkebeiner if only 6,000 other skiers would quit showing up on race day. Let's put it this way; I'm competitive with myself. I like to set a realistic goal and see what I can do. Flying down hills elbow to elbow on skis that are not designed for turning or stopping is the most fun I'll ever have without smiling. It's not too different from that feeling of having a trophy fish on the line and landing it. And skiing has its own issues of access, "habitat conditions," and the effects of climate change.

I have the pleasure of passing the Banquet Chair torch off to you this year. It's a big job, and can be stressful leading up to and during the event, but it's so rewarding to see all the volunteers coming together to make it such an enjoyable evening for everyone. You've been to a few of these now, what's your favorite part of our banquet?

The people of course. TU is about people -- happy, smiling, hardworking people who can put a common cause before their personal needs.

Well said. Thanks for spending some time with us, Scott. We're looking forward to the upcoming banquet and we want to thank you for stepping up into leadership roles for the State Council.

move the two dams and their algaefilled impoundments and restore the corridor. It's a chance to change the city's vision to one of featuring the restored river rather than ignoring those unused impoundments. Kiap has a chance to lead TU at every level in ensuring that vision comes to fruition. My own personal plan is to keep working with Kiap-TU-Wish to raise the money needed to free the Kinni, even as I ease away from other TUDARE work early next summer. I'm confident they will, with all of our help.

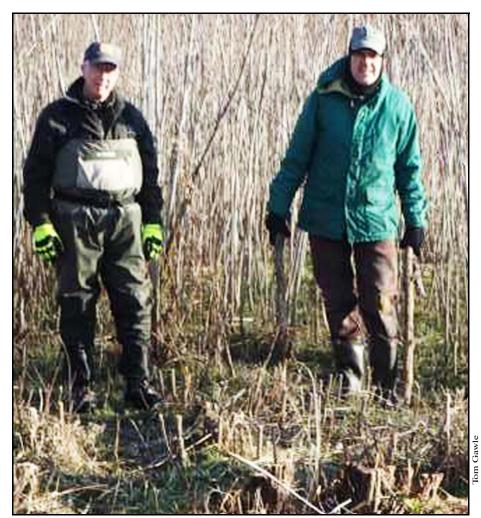
So this morning, looking around my neighborhood, it's a chance to reflect on the blessings bestowed by the people of TU, and the good works we do in support of healthy rivers, and to be grateful to be part of it. Thank you all for your efforts. May 2020 be a rich and rewarding year for all of us.

more water than you can shake a rod at, and most of it will benefit from habitat work. They've long nurtured their relationships with our Chicago TU chapters and built around that program successful satellites in monitoring (with UW-Platteville), coldwater ecology (with local school teachers), and now the

first Driftless Area TU-DNR maintenance crew. This is an idea borrowed from our northeastern-Wisconsin chapters and the Central Sands TUCARES initiative.

Even in Driftless places at the fringe of TU's practical reach, what we do has an impact. Buffalo County is a prime example. Ten years ago,





PLENTY OF WORK TO DO: ALDO LEOPOLD CHAPTER TACKLES WILLOWS Randall Durner and Mike Barniskis stand in front of the willow grove to be removed on Bear Creek during a recent Aldo Leopold Chapter work day.

Aldo Leopold Chapter

In early December a few chapter members gathered to clear a section of willow along Bear Creek. The weather was cooperative, the saw blades were sharp and the willow was defeated. That bank section is now much less inviting to beavers, but much more amenable to casting.

A few years ago our chapter installed four Leopold benches along Lodi Spring Creek and Rowan Creek. The benches were memorials to long-time chapter treasurer Steve Hill. Time has taken its toll on the benches, so this winter Eric Lorenzen will lead an effort to build four new replacement benches that will be installed next spring.

About a year ago the chapter committed \$250 to The River Alliance for an Aquatic Invasive Species education and prevention grant match. They received the grant and we recently disbursed the funds.

This past spring we pledged \$500 to the The Riverland Conservancy for a wetland restoration project along Manley Creek, as part of a North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant. They received the grant and we have disbursed those funds as well.

In July, long time Sauk County Land and Water Conservation Department leader Brent Bergstrom retired. He was instrumental in our Bear Creek project, but Brent's legacy includes incredible improvements in many watersheds including Dell Creek, Otter Creek, Narrows Creek and the Baraboo River. The department has been reorganized as the Sauk County Land Resources and Environment Department and has a new head, Lisa Wilson. I will be meeting with her soon to discuss project and partnering opportunities in Sauk County. I look forward



LOPING WILLOWS CAN BE SO SATISFYING

John Grady works the creek edge to hand remove willows at a recent Aldo Leopold Chapter work day on Bear Creek in western Sauk County. A few years back the chapter was a partner in a four-year restoration project there.



SIGNS THAT BEAVERS ARE IN THE BEAR CREEK AREA

The Aldo Leopold Chapter took out plenty of willows, hopefully making the area less appealing to beavers.

to continuing our long history of collaboration with Sauk County.

In January, February and March we will be hosting our Bar Flies events, tying flies and enjoying a libation or two. We will be meeting in Columbia County on Thursday, January 23, Thursday, February 20, and Thursday, March 19 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at The Ballroom, 112 E. Cook St., Portage. In Dodge County we will meet on Wednesday, January 22, Wednesday, February 19, and

Wednesday, March 18, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at Ooga Brewing, 301 S. Spring St., Beaver Dam. In Sauk County we will meet on Wednesday, January 15, Wednesday, February 12, and Wednesday, March 11, from 6:30 to 9p.m. at Tumbled Rock Brewery and Kitchen, S5718 State Highway 136 at Highway DL, Baraboo. Please join us.

—Mike Barniskis

Central Wisconsin Chapter

Ron Neuman was named River Keeper of the Year for 2019 and recognized at the Annual Conservation Banquet and at the River Keepers Wrap Up meeting. Ron has been a Water Action Volunteer (WAV) monitor with CWTU for more than 10 years and has participated in special Total Phosphorus testing on Carpenter Creek. Contratulations, Ron.

This year 100 people gathered at the CWTU annual banquet, the

chapter's largest social and fundraising event, to celebrate the organization's successes and recognize the volunteers who contribute so much to the preservation of our coldwater trout resources.

A big thanks to Laura Tucker, who has tirelessly championed and managed our annual banquets for the last 10 years. Without her efforts and contributions, these events would not have succeeded as they have.



RON NEUMAN NAMED RIVER KEEPER OF THE YEAR BY CWTU

Ron Neuman was named River Keeper of the Year for 2019 and recognized at the CWTU Annual Conservation Banquet and at the River Keepers Wrap Up meeting. Ron has been a WAV monitor with CWTU for more than 10 years and has participated in special total phosphorus testing on Carpenter Creek.





JON WILCOX RECEIVES STATE COUNCIL AWARD

Linn Beck presented the State Council Resource Award of Merit to Jon Wilcox for his contributions to Trout Unlimited and the preservation of our coldwater resources. Jon has been a very important leader and contributor to Trout Unlimited for decades and was instrumental in pushing to get the Trout Stamp bill passed in 1978. John was unable to attend the State Council banquet last February to receive this award.

We presented the State Council Resource Award of Merit to Jon Wilcox for his contributions to Trout Unlimited and the preservation of our coldwater resources. Jon has been a very important leader and contributor to Trout Unlimited for decades and was instrumental in pushing to get the Trout Stamp bill passed in 1978. John was unable to attend the State Council banquet last February to receive this award.

We awarded the CWTU Brookie to Dennis Drazkowski. Dennis has been the CWTU workday coordinator for five years. He is stepping down from this position, but his contributions have been especially outstanding. He received the award for his tireless efforts in making the workdays successful. This year the program focused on the restoration of Bird Creek. This was a significant achievement of CWTU in conjunction with Shawn Sullivan and his volunteer workers of the Wisconsin DNR

We presented the Distinguished Service Award to Dave and Grace Pable, who have championed our fly-tying classes. These classes have introduced many new members to our sport and the art of tying flies. We presented the Award of Excellence to Bob Smaglik. Bob directed and coordinated TroutFest for 10 years, and was instrumental in growing it to be the successful event it is today.

We presented the Past President's Net to Laura Tucker.

We recognized the achievements of our River Keepers, which includes 30 teams, 40 monitoring sites, 75 volunteers and 1,100 volunteer hours. The River Keeper of the Year for 2019 was Ron Neuman. We thank him for his hard work and dedication.

We also highlighted other CW-TU activities, including the Dan Harmon III Fly Fishing School, various fly-tying classes, TUCARES and TroutFest.

John Gremmer and Wayne Parmley produced an outstanding CW-TU 2020 calendar, and Tom Meyer, with the assistance of Scott Grady, published "The Founders and Legends of CWTU" book. Both of these were handed out to those who attended the banquet. Some of these items are still available for sale.

We raffled off a rich assortment of items, such as a kayak donated by Adventure Outfitters of Waupaca,



DENNIS DRAZKOWSKI AWARDED CWTU'S BROOKIE

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exceptional fly rods from Orvis and St. Croix, a signed Green Bay Packers football donated by Bergstrom of Oshkosh and so many others. Many thanks to our sponsors, Tight Lines of De Pere and the many other businesses that donated items for the auction and raffle, as well as all our volunteers and attendees.

The CWTU fly tying classes will continue, with both the master and beginner classes starting back up in January 2020. Also on the horizon is CWTU TroutFest20 at the Fin 'N' Feather in Winneconne on February 22

The chapter will present its monthly programs following board meetings the second Tuesday of the month at the Fin 'N' Feather. As always, we hope you will join us in our activities.

-Wayne Parmley

Coulee Region Chapter

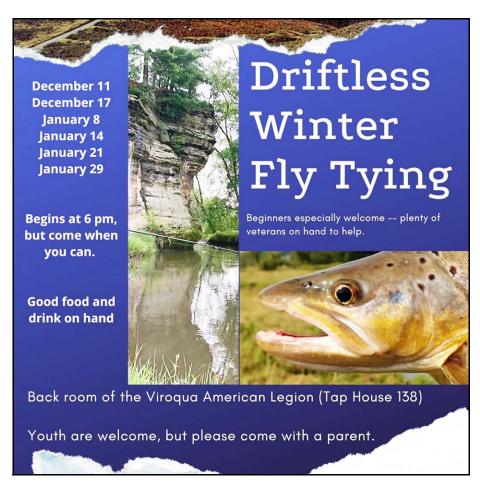
We had a very informative presentation at our November meeting. Dan Baumgardt and Molly Aufforth from the National Weather Service (NWS) of La Crosse shared information about the NWS, in addition to their research on the increase of significant rain events in southwest Wisconsin during the past 20 years. The slide show from their presentation can be found at https://bit.ly/36hD0D9. We highly recommend that TU chapters contact their local

NWS office for possible presenters for their meetings.

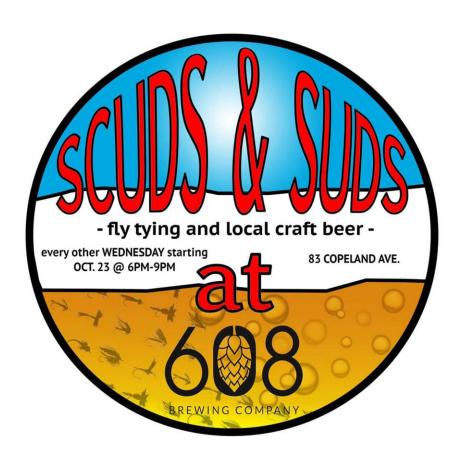
Our December meeting was a fun gathering at the Pearl Street Brewery (PSB) tasting room in La Crosse. We enjoyed PSB products, tied flies, learned about bamboo rod building and started planning for the new season. Our next meeting is January 15 at the American Legion in Viroqua. Our guest presenters are Severin Tubbin, who attended the TU Teen Summit last summer



PAST PRESIDENT LAURA TUCKER RECEIVES NET
Dan Harmon III presented CWTU's Past President's Net to Laura Tucker.







with the chapter's assistance, and Kristina Pechacek who is a graduate student at UW-La Crosse. Kristina will present her study of brook trout on Cook and Mapledale Creeks.

Our annual chapter banquet is Friday, February 28 at the Cedar Creek Country Club in Onalaska. Tickets are \$45 for adults and \$20 for attendees under the age of 18. Ticket information will soon be available on our website www.couleeregiontu.com, and on our Facebook page. We are seeking donated items to use as raffle and auction items. If you have anything you would like to donate, please contact John Townsell at bookmasterjt@yahoo.com or Bob Hubbard at rxhubbard@yahoo.com. We certainly enjoy out-of-town guests at our banquet. If you find yourself in southern Wisconsin that weekend,

come join us. Contact Curt Rees for tickets at curtrees@gmail.com or 608-317-3747.

There are several opportunities for fly-tying gatherings in coulee country. Jason Freund and Jeff Henderson have teamed up with Island Outdoors of La Crosse to coordinate Scuds and Suds tying night at 608 Brewing in La Crosse (83 Copeland Avenue). Bob Blumreich and Duke Welter have organized a winter tying night at the Legion in Viroqua on a variety of dates. No matter your experience, these events are for everyone, especially beginners.

Keep up with all that is happening with the Coulee Region Chapter by following our Facebook page, Instagram account (@couleeregiontu) and www.couleeregiontu.com.

—Curt Rees

Fox Valley Chapter

The Fox Valley Chapter will have a busy January. Our Cabin Fever Day fundraiser is Saturday, January 19 at the Grand Meridian Hall. See our ad in this issue of *Wisconsin Trout* for details.

2019 was the first year we conducted a fishing contest we called "First Fish of the Year Catching Contest." We had two winners. On January 5 Dan Geddes caught a nice brown trout while fishing the Mecan River. Then on January 15, in 20-degree weather, Chris Firkus landed a rare tiger trout, special enough for Chris to be declared co-winner of the Catching Contest. Congratulations to both hardy anglers, who tell me real anglers fish in January, while anyone can wet a line in May.

FVTU wishes to thank two departing board members for their many contributions. Terry Ziegler managed our habitat efforts and did a wonderful job organizing stream improvement events under very difficult weather conditions. Dani Long managed various aspects of our fishing outings, until the demands of work and home forced her reluctant early retirement.

Joe Bach continues to lead and report on TIC activities with Chilton Middle and High School students. See the article in this issue of *Wisconsin Trout* and read about the five-

year story of this amazing TU school partnership. Recent successes include the receipt of an \$83,000 stream improvement grant raised mostly from the Fund for Lake Michigan, but also from Calumet County, FVTU, LNRP and the DNR. The project is scheduled to improve 1,100 ft. of Stony Brook, which will truly take TIC from the classroom to the stream. Jim Kettler from Lakeshore Natural Resources Partnership and Shawn Sullivan of the DNR have been instrumental in guiding this project. This effort seeks to foster natural trout reproduction in Stony Brook, the only trout stream in Calumet County.

Jeff Moureau leads our Veteran Service Partnership Programs. He and his team are working to help vets, especially those experiencing PTSD, by introducing them to Elias Macias, a local war veteran, who is profiled in the film Lionhearted, which can be viewed at Lionheartedfilm.com.

Tom Lager, our former chapter president, started a campaign to solicit donations to FVTU from our members as part of Giving Tuesday. In this effort, Tom launched two broadcast emails and reports that more than \$500 was received or pledged as a result.

—Don Clouthier

Frank Hornberg Chapter

We had our final work evening of the year in the last week of September. Student members of the UW-Stevens Point Fly Fishing Club volunteered to help us cut up and remove trees blocking the Tomorrow River upstream from the Lake Myers Road crossing. We are pleased to report that many sections of the river are now free from obstructions caused by the huge July 20 windstorm.

We held our chapter Christmas dinner in December at Shooters Supper Club in Plover. This is an annual tradition, and it is a great opportunity to make new acquaintances and to renew long-time friendships. We always look forward to Shooters' all-you-can-eat chicken buffet.

At its monthly meetings, the Hornberg board of directors receives regular updates on several regional projects. One of them is a rehabilitation project on the Plover River in Hatley. This is now in the planning stage, where riparian land owners are being contacted for their advice and consent.

Another is the ongoing project on the Little Plover River. One of the latest phases of the project is the creation of a wetland area just east of Kennedy Avenue. A project still in the planning stage is a fish survey in the Springville Pond in Plover, seeing how population variations in the pond correlate with variations in the Little Plover, the feeder stream for the pond.

We are already thinking of several speakers for our Spring 2020 public meetings. We expect to make final decisions early in the year. Stay tuned.

—John Vollrath

Green Bay Chapter

The Green Bay Trout Unlimited Board of Directors crafted its 2019-20 annual budget in September. We presented it to our membership at our October meeting, where it was passed unanimously.

In October, UW-Green Bay Professor Mike Holly gave a presentation titled "PFAS Environmental Sources, Fate and Treatment." PFAS is a group of contaminates that are a serious concern for our trout streams. It was an eye-opening speech. We had around 20 folks attend the program.

At our November meeting St. Norbert Professor Nelson Ham presentated "A Geological History of Northeast Wisconsin Trout Streams." He emphasized the importance of understanding the ecological history of our trout streams, especially in the application of future management decisions. About 30 people attended.

During our November meeting we also established an alternative fundraising committee. Currently our February Conservation Banquet is our primary fundraiser. We are excited to explore additional ways to raise revenue in order to accomplish the TU mission. One of the members, Kim McCarthy, has already got the ball rolling. Kim completed and submitted an application to the DNR's R3 grant program seeking funding reimbursement for our Veteran's Service Partnership.

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.

GBTU held our 2018-19 Holiday Party and Awards Dinner on December 5. More on this event will be provided in our next Trout Unlimited quarterly report.

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

Stream work on the Blue River north of Bower Rd did not get completed but we did get a good jump on it. We only had a couple weeks in August, with wet conditions the rest of the summer and fall. We look forward to working this year on a segment of Six Mile Branch and 7,700 feet of the Blue River downstream from the entrance of Six Mile Branch.

We're getting ready for our participation in the Grant County Sports Association Outdoor Skills Day on January 25. About 500 people typically attend, most of them

We have a Lie and Tie day scheduled at The Hollow on January 11 from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. We'll do instruction, general tying and fill a fly box for the State Council Banquet in February. We are also going to do a box of board member flies for our banquet in early May.

—Brian Larson

Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter

We have eight Trout in the Class-room (TIC) programs that we are sponsoring again this year in the following school districts: Amery (2), River Falls (2), Hammond, Hudson, Prescott and Ellsworth. The eggs are set to be delivered after Christmas break. We will be doing Bugs in the Classroom (BIC) with Dean Hansen for these schools in early May, with the trout release in Willow River State Park at the end of the school year. In October we assisted Dean with a BIC program at Stillwater (Minnesota) High School.

With the arrival of snow and the

onset of winter weather, the chapter is again poised for another banner year of brush and tree removal work on local area streams.

The recent Driftless Area Fall Bus Tour showed attendees projects which have involved extensive brushing work during the past two winters, including Wilson and Hay Creeks near Knapp and Plum Creek, just south of Plum City.

We hold workdays every weekend from December through March, except for the weekend of the state banquet in Oshkosh, which is February 1. Volunteers logged



more than 2,000 hours and consumed countless donuts and hotdogs roasted over a bonfire of burning box elder trees.

Our chapter is currently working with the teaching staff at Green-wood Elementary in River Falls as we try to coordinate a fourth-grade student service/learning project where the kids will come out streamside to help with dragging, stacking and burning of buckthorn and box elder which has been cut by volunteers on an easement of the upper Kinni near the school.

Fifteen members of our chapter and the Wisconsin Clear Waters chapter attended CPR/First Aid training required by the DNR as we prepared ourselves to handle any emergency medical situations which might arise in the field.

To effectively evaluate our work on local streams, we continue to maintain a robust monitoring effort. And although summer is the peak of the Kiap-TU-Wish monitoring year, monitoring will continue during the winter months at a number of streams and rivers. These include three restoration project locations (Pine Creek, Plum Creek and the Trimbelle River) and the Willow River, where the Little Falls Dam is being replaced in Willow River State Park.

Deployment of 21 temperature loggers will continue through the winter, to evaluate the year-round impacts of climate change, to provide background data for assessing the future impacts of the new Willow River dam, and to evaluate the ability of our stream restoration projects to improve temperature regimes.

In January, water samples will be collected and analyzed at the Pine Creek and the Trimbelle River project locations, to better understand water quality during winter baseflow conditions, when watershed contributions of pollutants are minimal. To complement stream temperature and water chemistry data, two weather stations are operated yearround, providing data on air temperature, relative humidity and dew point. Kiap-TU-Wish also provides financial and volunteer monitoring support to the U.S. Geological Survey, for their year-round operation and maintenance of the Kinnickinnic River flow-gaging station.

National Trout Unlimited is placing a high priority on angler science and the benefits it provides for angler education and coldwater resource management. Trout Unlimited's national science team is currently partnering with Mobile-H2O, LLC to develop a customized (WiseH2O mobile application mApp) that can be used by anglers to monitor water quality and habitat conditions in Driftless Area trout streams. Last spring, summer and fall, Kiap-TU-Wish anglers tested the mApp on 10 local streams and rivers, making 83 observations and providing feedback to the developers on mApp improvements. With the monitoring year complete at the end of the angling season, MobileH2O has prepared a project report, including monitoring results, recommendations and next steps. The project report is available at https://www.mobileh2o.com/reports.

The project team, including MobileH2O (Carter and Sarah Borden), Dan Dauwalter (TU National Science Team) and Kent Johnson (Kiap-TU-Wish Project Leader), is discussing next steps for a broader

rollout of the mApp across the Driftless Area, hopefully in 2020. Stay tuned, as this will be a great opportunity for anglers to evaluate the well-being of our precious coldwater resources.

Many people contributed to important aspects of this project, including TU National Science Team members Jacob Lemon and Matt Barney, TUDARE Project Manager Jeff Hastings and the DNR's Michael Miller. They provided valuable feedback as Advisory Team members, as did participants during a workshop at the 2019 Driftless Area Symposium in La Crosse.

The project team would especially like to thank the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter members who expressed their interest in the project, attended project workshops in River Falls, participated in on-site training sessions, took time to fill out a project survey and collected data using the WiseH2O mApp. Kiap-TU-Wish Stream Monitoring Coordinator John Kaplan deserves special thanks for his project support and training. This project was funded by TU's Coldwater Conservation Fund and the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter.

In December, Kiap-TU-Wish's Habitat Maintenance Committee met with the DNR's Kasey Yallaly, Heath Benike and Nate Anderson to discuss what sections of local streams need brushing work by Kiap members in 2020, and which stream sections require moving to promote prairie habitat and fishing access. With input from the chapter, Kasey prepared a spreadsheet outlining future mowing and brushing projects through 2023. Besides brushing and mowing, the group discussed future habitat restoration projects and possibly adding Elevated Riparian Optimization (ERO) Structures to existing projects.

Heath said Kasey and Nate have done an excellent job of adding new easements on local streams. The new easements include sections of Plum Creek, Wilson Creek, South Fork of Hay Creek and the Trimbelle River. If you go to the DNR's Trout Regulation and Opportunities User Tool (T. R. O. U. T.) the easements can be located there.

New member Dustin Wing approached Kiap-TU-Wish president Scott Wagner in September with a plan to begin a Veterans Services Partnership (VSP) program for our chapter. After leaving the Marine Corps in 2003, Dustin has traveled widely in search of adventure akin to what he had experienced in the military. He found plenty of adventure, but missed the comradery that came from the shared experience of being focused on a mission greater than one's self.

Now he's on a mission to settle down near Prescott, Wisconsin with his family. He hopes to help veterans, especially those who served after 9/11, reconnect through a love for the outdoors and a desire to help fellow service members and their families that have sacrificed so much for our country.

With approval from the Kiap-TU-Wish board, Dustin has assembled a sub-committee to form a plan to put Kiap's active members to work in the VSP. In addition to the five Kiap members willing to volunteer and serve on the sub-committee, we also have several other veteran and non-veteran members willing and ready to support our mission. With many years of experience trout fishing, teaching fly tying

and casting, as well as having a proguide with experience in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Alaska, we hope to provide a wide array of opportunities for service members and their families in the upcoming years.

Our VSP subcommittee will begin meeting after the busy holidays. Stay tuned for news of a kickoff event soon. We also look forward to working with other Wisconsin TU chapters and partner organizations in our region. Anyone with advice or an interest with working with Kiap-TU-Wish's VSP program, contact Dustin at dustinrwing@gmail. com.

We held our annual Holiday Conservation Banquet in December, and hosted 118 guests. We treated attendees to an excellent dinner and more than 20 tables of donated items for the silent auction and multiple raffles. The most important item in the raffles was a gorgeous custom Norling Cane Rod, but other items were equally valuable in the chapter's efforts to fund stream work in our western Wisconsin area. The banquet was also an important opportunity to recognize the chapter's many volunteers. Honorees included: Bob Trevis (Gold Trout), Debra Alwin, Ken Hanson (Silver Trout), Trish Hanna, Dave Kozlovsky, Jim Tatzel, Mark Peerenboom, Gary Horvath, Kent Johnson, Dan Wilcox. —Gary Horvath

Lakeshore Chapter

As 2019 comes to a close, the Lakeshore Chapter is looking back on our year and celebrating our successes. We have had a busy and productive year, improving 900 feet of shoreline, improving or replacing 400 feet of structures and installing 288 feet of new structures on the Onion Creek and Nichols Creek projects. We have also brushed out two miles on three other area streams that we hope will become healthy trout streams in the future. All this work came to more than 2,160 volunteer hours.

2020 looks to be another great year for us as we begin two TIC

projects and have plans to improve more than one mile of the Onion River.

We would like to thank all of our friends and volunteers who continue to help us meet our goals as well as our corporate sponsors, including Aventuron, which has been our biggest corporate sponsor and has helped us meet many of our goals.

We wish all of our fellow TU friends a happy holiday season and wishing you much success in your 2020 projects.

—Stephen Girardi

Marinette County Chapter

The Marinette County Chapter will be holding its annual trout fishing program on February 18, 25 and March 3 and 10. The program is free to the public and will be held at the Marinette Community Rec. Center from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The program covers trout habitat and what they need to survive, fly casting and fishing gear, fly tying and then we will be casting the last night indoors at the rec center.

The annual fundraising banquet will be Monday April 27 at Embers 1871 in Peshtigo. Tickets are available from Banquet Chairman Dale Lange at 715-923-4895. Donations accepted.

—Dale Lange

Northwoods Chapter

The Northwoods Chapter has shifted the location for our Trout In the Classroom program from the Wabeno School District to James Williams Middle School in Rhinelander. We held our annual Christmas dinner on December 17 at the Blue Heron restaurant in Eagle River.

—Terry Cummings

Oconto River Chapter

The McCaslin Lions sponsored a youth fishing tank with brook trout at Lakewood Mardi Gras in July. More than 80 happy youth caught fish. Oconto River Chapter members Dave and Kathy Kalous and Tom and Kay Klatt assisted with fishing and fish cleaning.

On November 14 the chapter kicked off its Trout In the Classroom project by delivering "eyed" eggs to the students in eight local schools. This year's participants include Gillett, Lena, Marion, Menominee Indian (Keshena), Oconto, Oconto Falls, Pulaski and White Lake.

The Oconto River Chapter has participated in TIC for years. The chapter typically buys the equipment needed, including a chiller to keep water temps in the 58-degree range. The schools involved use the TIC program in a variety of classes, such as general science, biology and aquaculture. They may use it at a middle school, high school, or both. TU National provides a website for the instructors to use for informa-

tion ideas. We owe a special thanks to our delivery guys, Dick and Todd Pamperin, Lyman Wocking and Dale Halla. Also, we thank the teachers who use these trout to instruct young minds. And we thank Tim Winkle at Silver Moon Springs Trout Hatchery for supplying the eggs.

A dozen members attended our October meeting and planned a very active schedule of events for 2020. Much of the discussion centered around chapter outreach and publicity. We had offered family fishing day and fish frying events at the river, which had low attendance. The board believes we should be presenting our mission at where the people gather. We could outreach to people at community events and celebrations by using our kids fishing tank as a draw.

Also, the chapter will develop a TU presentation to use at youth groups and community service group meetings. We need to place chapter activities on the chapter Facebook page once a month and





SEWTU VOLUNTEERS AT THE SHOREWOOD FISH & FEATHER FESTIVAL

ask members to share with friends once each month. Our website can be improved with more information and updated on a regular timetable. Chapter member Layman Wocking has volunteered his pond for future Special Needs Fishing Day events starting in September. Winter and

summer fishing will continue by registering fish at local establishments or by providing photo with tape measure. Other topics and events were presented at out December meeting.

—Tom Klatt

Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter

Fall was busy for SEWTU, including four workdays, the education committee participated in two public outreach and casting classes, our fundraising committee executed another successful habitat fundraiser, and we held three membership meetings.

In September and October the habitat committee returned to the Whitewater and Bluff Creek watershed to touch up work from past years. This watershed has amazing public access, three different parking lots at trailheads, and it presents a great break from the city with its scenic views of the Kettle Moraine State Forest.

In October the habitat committee leadership teamed up with 39 biology students from Oconomowoc High School to backfill previously done work on the Scuppernong River and learn about the many years of restoration that have restored this river into a brook trout fishery. Additionally, the habitat committee and many volunteers returned to the Scuppernong River in December to do additional work, extending habitat improvements downstream.

Our public outreach efforts continued with another successful set of October days spent teaching others about Trout Unlimited at the Shorewood Fin & Feather Festival and the annual DNR Root River Open

House. This year we had good weather, and hundreds of children had the opportunity to cast a fly rod.

We had another successful habitat fundraiser in October. This is a big lift for the fundraising committee, and for the chapter in general. The board and I thank all of you for your generosity. Everything that our membership, their families and our supporters have done has provided the resources and funds that made 2019 a success, and have set up 2020 to be just as successful.

Our membership meetings have been a success. We literally ran out of table space in September. In November we packed the side room at the Thunder Bay Grille. A big thank you to Andy Avgoulas for sharing all his tributary fishing secrets, and a big thank you to Linn Beck for sharing with us the mission of TU CARES. Looking forward to 2020, we may move locations as our membership meeting needs are outgrowing what the Thunder Bay Grille can provide. Please keep an eye on our emails, website and Instagram for more information.

Thank you for a great 2019. I wish you a happy new year and I look forward to seeing you on the water in 2020.

—John Rennpferd

Southeast W consiner Tro Unit ited

SEWTU HOLDS BLUFF CREEK WORK DAYS

In September and October SEWTU returned to the Whitewater and Bluff Creek watershed to touch up work from past years. This watershed has amazing public access, three different parking lots at trailheads, and it presents a great break from the city with its scenic views of the Kettle Moraine State Forest.

Southern Wisconsin Chapter

Stream easements and workdays and a 50th Anniversary Celebration. SWTU has a lot going on and you are encouraged to check in on all of our activities at swtu.org.

But right now our focus is on welcoming you to join our annual day-long Icebreaker event on Saturday, January 25. See our advertisement in this issue of *Wisconsin Trout* for details.

We're excited to announce featured speakers Carl Haensel and Jade Tomanson of Namebini Fly Fishing. They will talk and take your questions on topics around "Exciting and Accessible: Trips and Tactics for the Adventurous and DIY Angler in the Upper Midwest."

Among their credits, aside from their guiding business, are numerous articles for Eastern and Western Fly Fishing, experience as a fisheries biologist and lead organizers of the Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo.

The Icebreaker is for everyone. Whether you spin fish, cast a fly 50 yards or never picked up a fly rod,

County.

this event is for you. It will again be held at the headquarters of American Family Insurance, right off the interstate on the east side of Madison. The address is 6000 American Parkway, Madison WI 53783.

The event will also feature some of the region's most innovative fly tyers and a legendary array of silent auction and bucket raffle items, including flies, custom rods, fine woodworking, guided trips, outdoor gear and so much more.

Kids are welcome, and those under 12 get in free when accompanied by a parent. We also again invite both retired and active military personnel to our event; they will receive free admission with their military ID.

We'll see you on Saturday, January 25 in a friendly, roomy, professional and relaxed atmosphere. Learn more about us, our events and activities at swtu.org or by finding us on Facebook.

—Drew Kasel



SWTU TACKLES STRETCH OF KITTLESON VALLEY CREEKSWTU brought out the big toys for a workday at Kittleson Valley Creek in Dane



SWTU HONORS LANDOWNERS, OTHERS AT 50TH CELEBRATIONSWTU had a grand time celebrating its 50th anniversary. The chapter presented numerous awards, including to some outstanding conservation-minded landowners.

Wild Rivers Chapter

Wild Rivers, along with Big Water Film Festival, sponsored a screening of Chasing the Taper in November. Chasing the Taper is a documentary on the art of bamboo fly rod building. It is an intimate look into the obsessive and vanishing art of bamboo fly rod making, through the eyes of some of the greatest living rod makers in the world, as they struggle to preserve this magnificent, yet economically unsustainable labor of love. It was an honor to be part of the festival and introduce many non-members to the art of bamboo rod construc-

In September Wild Rivers Chapter members volunteered at the annual Iron River Fish Hatchery Open House. Dick Berge, Chuck Campbell, Jim Emerson and Bob Traczyk volunteered to provide fly tying and casting to the visitors. Like last year,

the weather could have been better, as it was a bit rainy. Jim and Dick taught both children and adults how to tie a basic woolly bugger fly. Chuck and Bob introduced fly casting to some enthusiastic youths and a few adults.

In October a group of Wild Rivers Chapter members met in Delta for our annual Highway Clean Up on Highway H near the Delta Diner and the headwaters of the White River. After the cleanup, members gathered at the Delta Diner for lunch. Thanks to past chapter President Chuck Campbell, who has organized this event for many years.

Wild Rivers is also helping to sponsor three Trout In the Classroom programs. We have a tank in Hayward, Hurley and a new one this year in Phillips.

For the second year, the DNR is providing self-sampling kits to



ruffed grouse hunters. We're helping the DNR to get these kits out to local hunters to provide a good sample size for analysis of West Nile Virus in these birds. I have a dozen West Nile Virus Grouse test kits for the hunters among us. Hopefully, results may help gain more knowl-

edge about unexplained declining populations of grouse. Members can also contact Kevin if they want a kit or two at 715-292-1614. For more information go to https://dnr.wi.gov/news/Weekly/Article/?id=4617

—Bill Heart

Wisconsin Clear Waters Chapter

In September our board nominated new officers and elected Jim Erickson as president, Bill Heth as vice president and Tom Sather as secretary. We also elected Jim Embke as a non-board-member treasurer.

During the past summer, Bill Heth and his committee established a Clear Waters TU Strategic Plan. The basis of the plan is to incorporate surrounding watersheds, not just a single stream, and develop solutions through education and partnerships with current and future national and state government agencies and non-profit organizations that adhere to the guidelines of environmental procedures that improve and protect our cherished resources.

Following the Strategic Plan guidelines, one of the goals is to promote and improve brook trout habitat. Last summer, Clear Waters TU was one of the partners with the DNR, providing funding and labor to rehabilitate 1,220 feet for brook trout habitat on Hay Creek in Chippewa County.

Our chapter has a potential stream restoration project for 2020 -22. The proposal came from Rusk County Land Conservationist Nick Stadnyk, asking if we're interested in partnering to rehabilitate Devil's Creek back to a class-one trout stream. Rusk County will apply for survey funding, scheduled for early 2020. If the survey comes back favorable, board members Steve Gausman and Bill Heth will represent the Clear Waters Chapter and begin working with Rusk County to develop a working model and present the model to Rusk County landowners and partners. This is an exciting project that coincides with our Strategic Plan.

Education is a large part of the

Strategic Plan, and Dale Dahlke and his committee took on the task of adding four Trout In the Classrooms in the fall of 2019. The base funding began with donations from West-Consin Credit Union and the Tom Ponty Memorial Fund. We have started to purchase and are working on the installation for the first batch of eggs, which are expected to arrive in January.

Our chapter has added an online donation link to our website at www.wcwtu.com/tic to match the WestConsin Credit Union and Tom Ponty Memorial Fund donation. We are still collecting donations and are accepting contributions. Our new schools include Whitehall High School, Boycevelle High School, Bloomer Grade School and Eau Claire Delong Middle School.

Board Member Dale Dahlke, Menomonie High School Environmental Biology teacher Nate McMahon and 65 Menomonie High School environmental science students went on a fall field trip to Ruenger's Hay Creek in Dunn County and learned about the 2017-2018 Hay Creek stream restoration and the restoration's impact on spawning brook trout.

The DNR's Nate Anderson joined the students and explained new restoration practices and compared it to a degraded Hay Creek downstream stretch. The students' next stop was Menomonie School District's environmental site. They participated in ecological stations, forestry, eradication of invasive buckthorn and coldwater invertebrate study.

We also introduced students to the valuable partnerships of the Wisconsin Clear Waters Chapter, the DNR and other organizations. —Jim Erickson

Wisconsin River Valley Chapter

Holiday greetings from the Wisconsin River Valley Chapter. I know we all hate shoveling the white stuff, but I have to admit there are those times when the sun hits the snowflakes just right, making it so sparkly it almost seems like you have walked into a Christmas card. I still think it's pretty, but I don't really like driving in it.

In October we assisted some Wausau East High School students with their annual stream study. With September rains totaling 7.66 inches (normal is 3.9 inches), we knew the water levels on the Plover were going to be higher than usual, and possibly too deep to keep everyone safe and dry in the pools south of the bridge. So we concentrated our critter catching to the riffle area north of the Highway N bridge. The water there was high, but manageable, and the groups were able to find a good variety of aquatic critters.

After our first day on the stream was wrapped up, more clouds drifted in overnight and dropped another 1.73 inches of rain. When we returned on Thursday the water was

over the banks in a few places and where the water had been just past our knees on Tuesday was now nearly to our waist and the logs and boulders submerged. A few guys went out in search of more shallow areas in hopes of moving the group but we decided to stay put and carefully assist the students over the logs and around the rocks and still found a good variety of aquatic bugs and minnows.

The physics students had a more difficult task of trying to measure the width of the river with the additional water. We broke for lunch and the critters were separated and put into several different baggies to be passed around the group so they could get a better look. DNR Fisheries Biologist Tim Parks talked about the critters we gathered and their importance to the ecosystem.

Normally the day ends with the DNR crew shocking a section of stream to show us trout that had been hiding in the areas we had been collecting. But for the first time in the 15 years I have been helping, it was just too deep for a

shocking demo. Many thanks to Kirk Stark, John Meachen and Al Hauber for keeping the kids safe and sharing your critter knowledge. Also a big thanks is due to Jacob Pease, whose boot-washing station was well used and much appreciated.

The first season of maintaining wash stations for waders and boots came to a close recently as Kirk Stark, Paul Dedo, John Meachen and the DNR fisheries staff removed four stations, two each from the Plover and Prairie Rivers. The stations were built and installed by Jacob Pease, an Eagle Scout working on his final project.

This spring and summer will bring some work day projects to our

area on the Prairie River for a onemile project north of Gleason, proposed by the DNR's Taylor Curran.

The Plover River project is still progressing, and we will likely need some help doing some stream work and will keep you posted with information as soon as plans are in place.

Last, but not least, you will see our advertisement in this newsletter that we will be hosting the F3T film tour in Wausau on February 5. We are very excited to be a part of this and hope to see many of you there. We have already secured a few sponsors, thanks to John Meachen. Eric Pease is directing us in this endeavor. All proceeds will be directed to stream projects.

—Linda Lehman and Kirk Stark

Wolf River Chapter

I see the Wolf River froze last night, as I look out my window. Yesterday, slush, also known as frazil, flowed down the river. This morning the Wolf stopped flowing and now sparkles in the sunlight like hard diamonds scattered. I sat on my screen porch, listening to the snaps, pops and crackles for as long as I could with the temperature at 9 degrees. Brrrrr.

The Wolf River Chapter has several events scheduled in the upcoming months. First up is the Fly Tying Rendezvous on February 8, 2020 at the Bear Paw Outdoor Adventure Resort. Come tie your favorite Wolf River patterns from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please bring your own vise and materials. For more information contact Zach Buchanan at zbuck50@gmail.com.

On February 29 the Wolf River

Chapter will hold the Spring Meeting at the Bear Paw Outdoor Adventure Resort at 10 a.m. We'll be holding elections for all officers and some director position. Also, Brian Biermier will continue briefing the chapter about necessary trout habitat restoration on Nine Mile Creek, a spring-fed coldwater tributary of the Wolf River.

Mark your calendars for the Wolf River Meet and Greet on May 16. Fly or spin cast the mighty Wolf River with experienced chapter members and enjoy lunch along the Wolf River at the Livingston's, and then fish the late afternoon hatch. Contact Travis Stuck for more information at stucktravis@gmail.com.

—Laurie Zen Netzow



WOLF RIVER FREEZUP

Items needed for Youth Camp

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

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

Cash donations would also be greatly

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

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

-Linn Beck

Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame to induct Stephen Born



BORN TO JOIN HISTORIC GROUP OF CONSERVATION LEADERS

When inducted into the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame in April, former State Council chair, national and local TU leader Stephen Born will join fellow inductees Aldo Leopold, John Muir, Gaylor Nelson, Increase Lapham, Gordon MacQuarrie, Sigurd Olson and many more of the most notable figures in Wisconsin's conservation history. In recent years he's been the beloved emcee for our State Council Awards Banquets. He retired from that role after last year's awards banquet.

The Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame (WCHF) has announced the selection of three conservation leaders for induction into the Hall of Fame on April 25 at SentryWorld's Atrium in Stevens Point. The 2020 induction ceremony will celebrate our 100th inductee into the Hall of Fame.

The inductees this year will be:

- Stephen Born, a well-known UW-Madison professor who specialized in environmental planning and worked on almost every aspect of water management, from the Great Lakes to inland lakes to groundwater and rivers and watersheds, and is an expert fly fisher
- Jens Jensen, a landscape architect who developed many of our midwest parks, focusing on indigenous plants and ecological processes of this region's prairie landscape, and also founded the "school of the soil" in Door County known as The Clearing
- Stanley Temple, a UW-Madison professor who worked in the areas of habitat fragmentation, invasive species and other factors leading to species declines, and now serves as a senior fellow with The Leopold Foundation, researching, writing and speaking about Aldo Leopold.

Stephen Born

Stephen Born's impact on conservation in Wisconsin and beyond is so broad and varied it almost defies description, except to say he has been tireless in his work.

A resident of Wisconsin since 1969, he was a faculty member in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at UW-Madison for 36 years, a director of state planning and energy offices and a founder of non-governmental conservation organizations like the River Alliance of Wisconsin.

An intrepid angler, he is also coauthor of "Wisconsin's Trout Streams: The Anglers Guide," a seminal work which focuses not only on where to fish, but also on stream ecology and the story of how these coldwater treasures were saved and restored.

His broad range of services included co-chairing the Waters of Wisconsin Initiative of the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters. He has served on national and state Trout Unlimited senior leadership boards, including chair of the Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited.

He was a chief advisor to former Governor Patrick Lucey on the decision not to dam the Kickapoo River in the 1970s, which lead to the creation of the 8,500-acre Kickapoo Reserve. He served on Gov. Tommy Thompson's Blue Ribbon Stewardship Task Force. He also had key roles in development of policy on Wisconsin's groundwater and coastal resources.

These are but a few of his contributions to state and national conservation causes. Born is simply a force of nature when it comes to bringing people with differing views and ideologies together to forge unified and strong coalitions to protect Wisconsin's natural resources. Since he continues to serve a number of nonprofit groups as a board member or other volunteer, his resume is still under construction.

Jens Jensen

Danish born Jens Jensen was a landscape architect and a tireless

advocate for conservation of our natural heritage. Aesthetics, in his work, always came second to protecting nature. Through his vocation and avocation, his aim was to bring people and nature together. Upon his death, the New York Times called him "dean of American landscape architecture."

In 1913 Jensen initiated Friends of Our Native Landscape. There were chapters in Wisconsin, Illinois and Michigan, with several hundred members, including Aldo Leopold. Jensen was a persistent proponent for national parks, forest preserves, state parks, state forests, scenic areas, county parks and sanctuaries with notable successes in Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota and Florida.

He was a strong proponent of urban planning and railed against urban sprawl, especially when it intruded on natural areas. He was instrumental in development of a plan for parks throughout Chicago and in establishing the Cook County Forest Preserve, a collection of dozens of wetlands, forests, and prairies, throughout greater Chicago. Jensen campaigned against urban sprawl along the southern Lake Michigan shoreline, leading to creation of Indiana Dunes National Park, contiguous with Indiana Dunes State Natural Area.

Jensen moved to Door County in Wisconsin in 1935, where he zeal-ously continued his advocacy for protection of natural areas. He was a principal proponent of The Ridges Sanctuary, Cave Point county park, Whitefish Dunes state park, and Ellison Bay Bluff county park among others.

One of Jensen's many legacies is The Clearing, established on his Door County property in 1935 with the aim of immersing people in nature for "spiritual renewal." Thousands have attended a short-course at The Clearing, now a non-profit school, where Jensen's philosophy of working with nature is the pervasive theme.

Stanley Temple

Stanley Temple's impact on Wisconsin's natural resources has been

wide. He has worked as a scientist, communicator and teacher. During his 32 years on the faculty of the UW-Madison Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology, he worked on endangered species such as peregrine falcon, trumpeter swan and California condor.

His research on habitat fragmentation has helped manage areas such as the Baraboo Hills. Temple's work has been instrumental in the areas of habitat fragmentation, invasive species and factors leading to species declines.

Now that he is retired, he helps spread Aldo Leopold's Land Ethic as a Senior Fellow for the Aldo Leopold Foundation, researching, writing and speaking about Leopold.

Using Leopold's original botanical records and more recent surveys, Temple co-published new research on climate change impacts on plant phenology through the paper "Record-Breaking Early Flowering in the Eastern United States."

He brought the passenger pigeon alive to Wisconsinites with presentations and articles during the 100th anniversary of the passing of the pigeons in 2014, and he has advised organizations such as The Nature Conservancy, International Crane Foundation, Wisconsin Society for Ornithology and Aldo Leopold Foundation.

Temple created and was the first editor of the peer-reviewed journal "Bird Conservation," published by Bird Conservation International, He served as the editor of the Wisconsin ornithological journal and "The Passenger Pigeon," published by the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, and served as associate editor of the peer-reviewed scientific publication of the American Ornithological Society (AOS), The Auk and the scientific journal of the Ecological Society of America Ecological Applications.

Temple continues his life work today on behalf of Wisconsin's natural resources. He is frequently cited as an expert not only on the state's natural history, but as one who has worked to protect it.

6,500

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

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Contact Todd Franklin at toddfranklinwistrout@gmail.com.

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 northern counties.
- \$2,000 to Lakeshore TU to fund a project on

Nichols Creek

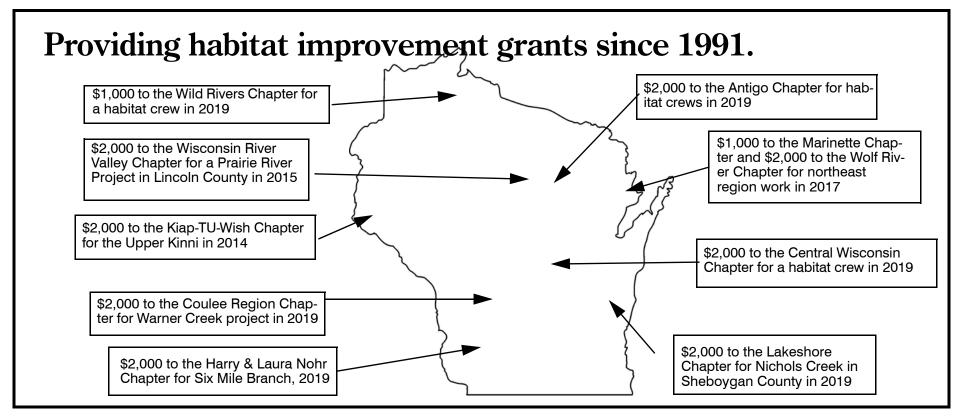
• \$2,000 to Harry and Laura Nohr TU to help fund a project on Six Mile Branch.

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 a page-one 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.



Here are our Friends of Wisconsin TU

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

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

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NE Region approves funding and projects

By Dale Lange, WITU NE Region Vice President

The Wisconsin TU Northeast Region met in early December, with all but one regional chapter present. This annual meeting is where the region's chapters put funds together and develop a plan for the next year's work. The cooperative funding has supported a vast amount of habitat work over the years, with more than 35 miles of streams in the northeast being improved, as well as stream surveys.

The group discussed next summer's TU work projects, which are usually spearheaded by the Green Bay Chapter, with additional support from the other regional chapters. Our partnering government agencies reported on what projects were completed or worked on.

The Northeast Region funds two fulltime crews to do habitat and stream work over the summer using limited term employees. One crew is under the supervision of the DNR in Antigo and the other is with the DNR in Lakewood. The crews work on brushing, brush bundling, surveying and other habitat stream work along with dredging spring ponds, and dam removal. Beaver control is also part of the projects in the area.

The regional chapters, along with the Oakbrook Chapter of Illinois and the Friends of Wisconsin TU grant program, are contributing \$40,000.

Donate to WITU 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.

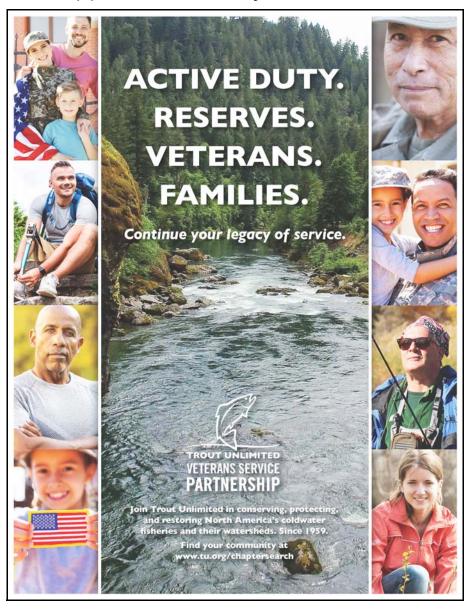
If you are a Thrivent member and have the ability to make Thrivent Choice donations, we would be honored if you'd consider including the Wisconsin Council of TU within your charitable planning, and making a donation to our cause.





TU a perfect community for veterans

Our goals are to bring the full weight of TU's 300,000 members and supporters to engage and support local military and veteran families through angling and community.



The Veterans Service Partnership (VSP) is a TU initiative to serve veterans, active duty military and their families by engaging them through the recreational therapy of angling and with the sustaining support of the TU community. Our goals are to bring the full weight of TU's 300,000 members and supporters to deploy across the nation to engage and support local military and veteran families through angling and community.

Each chapter is a ready-made community of passionate conservationists and anglers. Each participant in the VSP program receives a complimentary membership to TU and is automatically assigned to a TU chapter. For many served by TU's VSP, they are quickly integrated into their chapter community, which becomes a safe haven where veterans can serve and be served in return. The chapter is a place where friends are made, where someone comes to learn fly tying and then returns to teach it. And it's a place where a passion is born and a commitment to protect the resource is fostered.

Several Wisconsin TU chapters run a veterans program called Veterans On the Fly. TU volunteers, many veterans themselves, teach other veterans and their family members how to fly fish. If you're a veteran, we encourage you to give it a try. If you're a volunteer, you won't find a better way of giving back than by spending some time on the water with our veterans.

Milwaukee Veterans On The Fly:

Run by the Southeast Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited (SEWTU) Program Lead: John Graba, grabajohn@yahoo.com, (262) 412-6036 https://mediamilwaukee.com/features/veterans-on-the-fly-brings-camara derie-and-peace-to-local-vets?fblid=IwAR3quRjsww1EBUIXEMp_Lf6 toOCGUNiOR4jyBtRig2P1iTk2Nxlf5qqaX6w

Madison Veterans On The Fly:

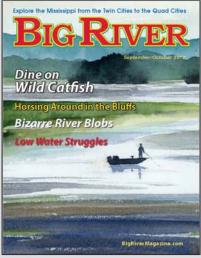
Run by the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited (SWTU) Program Lead: Mike Johnson, mike@thosejohnsons.com, (262) 327-0849 https://www.facebook.com/swtuveteransonthefly/

Green Bay Veterans On The Fly:

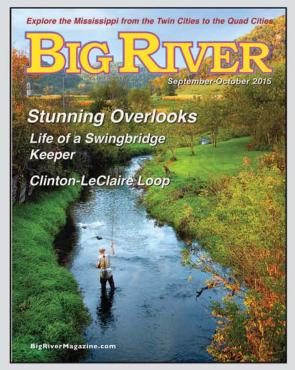
Run by the Green Bay Chapter of Trout Unlimited (GBTU) Program Lead: Gary Gillis, cabinfever78@sbcglobal.net, (920) 328-8377

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Levels of Sponsorship:
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For more info visit: http://wicouncil.tu.org or contact Mike Kuhr at mikek.trout@yahoo.com

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1 pm: LARRY MANN & WENDY WILLIAMSON
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