



# Wisconsin Trout

Spring 2022

## Kinni dam removal process making strides

*Fundraising effort seeks donations from organizations, chapters and individuals.*

By Duke Welter,  
KinniCC Fundraising Chair

As early season Kinnickinnic River anglers caught trout and observed spawning beds where a dam and impoundment had barred trout for more than a hundred years, progress came in early March on key steps to advance removal of the Powell Falls Dam.

On February 28 the federal permitting agency approved letting the city surrender the federal dam license. On March 1 the DNR took oversight of the remaining removal process. And on March 2 the city submitted an application for a \$1 million grant for dam removal funding from the DNR Municipal Dam Grant program.

“Getting to this point was the culmination of many peoples’ efforts who all feel passionately about the Kinni,” said Gary Horvath, Kiap-

TU-Wish Chapter vice president and a long-time participant in the River Falls dams issue. “I am optimistic that this passion will continue with the fundraising effort and that we may see the dam come out much earlier than expected.”

The River Falls City Council, after a four-year public discussion, voted in 2018 to remove both dams it owns on the river. Powell Falls Dam, the lower, would be removed by 2026 unless funding came through and roadblocks were removed to enable removal to happen sooner. Junction Falls, the upper dam which inundates the falls which gave the city its name, is being relicensed until 2046 but could come out when funding is available.

### Flooding damages dam

Flooding on the river in June 2020 brought flows six to eight feet



EVERETT OBRIEN TRIES HIS LUCK ON THE LOWER KINNICKINNIC RIVER

above the dams, washed a significant amount of sediment downstream, and damaged the Powell Falls Dam. Rather than repair it, the city council decided to draw down the impoundment and let the river cut a new channel through the accumulated sediment. Now banks up to 13 feet edge the river above the drawn-down dam.

To obtain final FERC approval, the city removed the turbine to allow high waters to flow through the dam, and sandbagged the damaged wing wall where the dam meets the sandstone bluff.

The Kinni is home to healthy brown and brook trout populations in the 20 miles above the dams, and a smaller population of browns in the seven miles of the lower Kinni, known as the “Kinni Canyon”, one of the most scenic river reaches in the upper Midwest.

### Impoundments warm the river by four degrees

But the 15-acre impoundments above the two dams warm the river so that the lower Kinni is four degrees Fahrenheit warmer than the upper reach during the summer, based on 27 years of temperature data collected by the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter of Trout Unlimited. According to Kiap-TU-Wish monitoring leader Kent Johnson: “Throughout the summer period, the downstream temperature more frequently exceeds the critical tem-

perature thresholds that support healthy coldwater trout and insect communities in the Kinni, and is likely to increase as climate warms. Unless the two dams are removed, trout in the lower Kinni are at risk over time.”

A new nonprofit was formed at the city’s request to help implement the Kinni Corridor Plan, which was developed with hundreds of hours of citizen input and help from Kiap-TU-Wish TU members. That nonprofit, Kinni Corridor Collaborative, Inc. (KinniCC) is leading the fundraising effort.

Judie Foster Babcock is president of KinniCC and had this to say: “The cold, clean waters of the Kinni are a critical resource to sustain as climate change impacts the Driftless Region. KinniCC is proud to support this transformative investment for River Falls. My family settled here in 1848 and used dams to power the industry of River Falls at the beginning of the 19th century.

“Now I and other community members are leading the effort to restore the Kinni, section by section to leverage economic and ecological benefits for the current and future generations. We are actively raising funds to enhance the fishery and recreation along with supporting a systematic monitoring of river conditions pre- and post-dam removal.” Foster Babcock is a fifth generation descendant of the founder of River Falls, Joel Foster.

See *KINNI*, page 25



Duke Welter

### A RIVER REAPPEARS

Flooding on the river in June 2020 brought flows six to eight feet above the dams, washed a significant amount of sediment downstream, and damaged the Powell Falls Dam. Rather than repair it, the city council decided to draw down the impoundment and let the river cut a new channel through the accumulated sediment. Now banks up to 13 feet edge the river above the drawn-down dam.

## Council on-line auction April 10-17

*Numerous guided trip, fly boxes, Tenkara rod among auction items.*

Since we were forced to cancel our annual and largest fundraiser for the second year in a row, the Council hopes to generate some much-needed revenue via an on-line auction. The auction features some great guided fishing trips, including a trip in Montana for two and trips in Wisconsin with the likes of Erik Helm of Classic Angler, Scot Stewart, Gordy Martin of Tie 1 On and the Driftless Angler. There is also a Tenkara rod and some jam-packed fly boxes. We encourage everyone to bid high and bid often.

Thank you to the bidders for supporting Wisconsin TU.

The auction begins at 6 p.m. April 10 and ends at 6 p.m. April 17.

For more details see the ad on page 4 of this issue of *Wisconsin Trout* or go to the auction site at <https://go.tulocalevents.org/856271>.

If you have any questions please contact Scott Allen at [jscottallen12@gmail.com](mailto:jscottallen12@gmail.com).

## Next Council meeting June 4 in Avalanche

**Join us at the West Fork Sports Club on Saturday, June 4 at 9 a.m. for our next State Council meeting. Camping is available at the club, so you can make a weekend of it and enjoy the wonderful Driftless Area trout fishing.**

**Be sure to let Council Chair Scott Allen know you’re coming to the meeting so we have a head count for lunch. During the lunch hour we plan to present several of our State Council awards.**

**If you have items you’d like on the meeting agenda, send them to Scott Allen at [jscottallen12@gmail.com](mailto:jscottallen12@gmail.com).**



## 2021-2022 Legislative review

*We're tracking several bills that affect our coldwater resources.*

By Mike Kuhr, WITU Advocacy Chair

With the coming of spring, both the State Assembly and State Senate have essentially wrapped up their work for the current legislative session. As the taillights leave the State Capitol in Madison, we'll take some time to reflect on the bills that moved, or didn't move, during this session. We look forward to spending some much-needed time on the water chasing trout and improving the streams and rivers in our local communities.

Summer is a great time to get your elected officials out for a streamside walk to showcase local stream improvements, TU volunteer efforts and the importance of trout stamp dollars and the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program. If you would like to host a streamside walk with your elected representative, please contact Mike Kuhr at [mikek.trout@yahoo.com](mailto:mikek.trout@yahoo.com) to make arrangements.

### Bills we are following:

- SB 91/AB 85 – Hydrologic Restoration. This bill has been signed into law as 2021 ACT 77. Along with many of our conservation partners, we supported this bill to create a simplified permitting process for those doing wetlands and stream restoration work that provides a net benefit to watersheds. It does not apply to required wetlands mitigation projects.
- SB 664/AB 693 – Stewardship Funding for water infrastructure projects in the state park system. This bill has been signed into law as 2021 ACT 173. We supported this bill, which essentially allows money left over in certain subprograms of the Stewardship Program account to be used on high-priority water infrastructure projects in the state park system. If this bill were not enacted into law, the subprograms would lose any unobligated money in the following year.
- SB 612/AB 673 – Stocking Brook Trout in Lake Michigan. This bill would require the DNR to stock 100,000 brook trout annually into Lake Michigan. The Council opposed this bill for several reasons. First, the DNR is already stocking brook trout in Lake Michigan and studying the rate of return to determine future feasibility of future stocking. Second, the stocking quota num-

ber was arbitrarily chosen and not based on science. We firmly believe that stocking quotas should be determined by fisheries biologists and management supervisors, not legislators. We also believe these numbers should be flexible and allowed to change over time as conditions change. This bill has passed both the Senate and Assembly. We have asked the Governor to veto it.

- SB 839/AB 905 - Financial assistance limits for dam removal. We supported this bill, which would have clarified that dam removal projects are not subject to the same match requirement as dam repair projects under the Dam Safety Program. This is historically how the program has been administered. Changes to the program were made in the last budget and it was not entirely clear whether the dam removal projects were still exempt from the match requirement. This bill passed the Senate but was not voted on in the Assembly. We will continue to work with the legislature and insist on providing clarity regarding dam removal projects in the Dam Safety Program.
- SB 802/AB 852 – Sale of Public Land acquired with Knowles Nelson Stewardship dollars. WITU and many of our conservation partners stood in opposition to this bill, which would have allowed local units of government and non-profit conservation organizations to sell public lands that had been previously purchased with Stewardship Program funding. The expectation that donors have when using the Stewardship Program is that those public lands will become a lasting legacy held in perpetuity. This bill would have undermined the integrity of our public lands initiative. This bill was not advanced out of either the Senate or Assembly committees. We remain steadfast in our opposition to the selling off of public lands.

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited would like to acknowledge the effort by lobbyist Brandon Scholz of The Capitol Group. We are thankful to have his watchful eye and guidance on political happenings in and around our state capitol.

*Former Council Chair Mike Kuhr is the WITU Advocacy Chair. Reach him at [mikek.trout@yahoo.com](mailto:mikek.trout@yahoo.com).*

## TU annual meeting in Maine

After two years of virtual events, TU's national meeting is getting back together in person for a week unlike any other to celebrate conservation, community, fishing and fun.

To be held in Portland, Maine from July 20-24, the event is called CX3 Portland: Community. Coldwater. Conservation. Formerly our Annual Meeting, this new event will be twice as big, with two extra days of fun, family-friendly activity.

Along with the volunteer leadership gatherings always featured at the event, it will be a week full of hands-on activities and nearly endless opportunities to connect with people who share your passion for cold, clean rivers and streams and the trout and salmon that live in them.

From seeking striped bass at sunrise along the shores of Casco Bay to strolling along the Back Cove trail with your family on a fun seaside scavenger hunt, you'll find countless ways to explore all Portland has to offer. Conservation activities like tree planting, trash cleanups and community science studies will help make for a meaningful and impactful experience as well.

Special activities and environmental education experiences for kids and families will be front and center, so plan your family's summer vacation around this great destination. We're also hosting our annual Volunteer Awards at this event, so be sure to nominate deserving volunteers and partners before May 1 at [tu.org/awards](http://tu.org/awards).

## Envelope available for WITU Friends and Watershed programs

Inside this edition of *Wisconsin Trout* you will find an envelope for making donations to our Friends of Wisconsin TU and Watershed Access Fund grant programs. We were unable to get an envelope into the previous edition because of supply chain issues. Our supplier simply did not have envelopes available.

You will notice that the envelope provides three options for directing your donation: Friends of Wisconsin TU, Watershed Access Fund or Council general revenue.

The lack of an envelope in the previous issue has had a negative impact on donations. The January-February time period has traditionally been the busiest time of the year for donations to those funds. But this year, without the envelopes, we have seen donations fall off to about 50 percent of what we normally see at that time of the year.

This shortfall will not impact the grants that were awarded following the January 15 application deadline. There are adequate funds in the account to fully honor the \$18,000 in funding that was awarded to nine chapters. If your chapter was awarded a grant and you have not already done so, please remember that you need to contact our Council treasurer with instructions about where the

grant funds should be sent.

The concern would be for grants that may be requested in the future. The manner in which the funds operate is that donations one year are used to fund requests that come in the next year. Our hope is that by getting back to providing an envelope for our donors we will see a more normal number of donations and perhaps be able to catch up after the slow start to the year.

We have never had to turn down a chapter request for a Friends grant due to a lack of funding. And since we started the Watershed program in 2010 we have been able to partner on important access acquisitions every time we have had a good opportunity. This is all because we have very dedicated members and supporters who believe strongly in habitat improvement and public access.

If you have been a previous donor, we hope you will continue to donate. If you have not made donations in the past, we hope you find the Friends and Watershed programs to be worthy of donations in the future. You can also choose to have donations go to our general fund, which has suffered from not having banquets the past two years.

Thank you again to all of you who have supported the programs.

## 5 Rivers event April 22-24

TU Costa 5 Rivers College Clubs will be holding their first Midwest outing at the West Fork Sports Club April 22-24 in Avalanche, Wisconsin. Wisconsin last hosted this event in 2019. Costa 5 Rivers is a National TU program for youth under the Headwater Youth Program. There are currently 10 clubs at universities and colleges across the Midwest. At least five of them will have representatives at this event, which expects 30-50 attendees.

A key initiative is conservation, as the main goal of 5 Rivers is to engage college students and young anglers in TU's conservation mission. By exposing students to unique fisheries, ecological challenges and restoration opportunities, we hope to inspire them to stay involved with TU's conservation efforts and find other ways to support conservation both during their time in college and after they graduate.

Establishing the connection between fishing and fisheries conservation among college students is a critical step in shaping the next generation of conservationists, according to TU Costa 5 Rivers Coordinator Libby Glaser, who can be reached at [libby.glaser@tu.org](mailto:libby.glaser@tu.org)

Organizers are still developing the agenda for the event. At this point we know that Mike Miller of the DNR will present a session on entomology and that TUDARE's Paul Krahn will discuss TU history and best conservation practices. We are also planning an educational conservation project with Paul Krahn and Tina Murray.

We're seeking volunteers for sessions on casting, knot tying, etc. Contact Tina if you are interested. Meals are being prepared by Val Hein Hastra.

The educational conservation project will focus on understanding riparian needs around water and habitat and building the new style

LUNKERS to be later placed in the West Fork of the Kickapoo River.

The project will cost \$13,500 to complete. We have raised \$2,200 of this for rock and the Blackhawk Chapter is allowing us the use of their Stream Restoration Trailer and tools.

We ask chapters to consider donating financially to this educational mission. To contribute, please contact Tina Murray at [tmurrayt@gmail.com](mailto:tmurrayt@gmail.com)

This is where the magical symbiosis of various conservation groups working together benefits the greater good for both habitat and species. Twenty years ago the West Fork Sports Club partnered and lead TU's Headwater Initiative, which 17 years ago became TU DARE. And we all know the good work TU DARE has done protecting waterways and everyone downstream. The ability for the club to host large groups and be connected to conservation opportunities is quite special. Many chapters utilize these unique resources.

A few volunteers are needed Saturday, April 23 and Sunday April 24 until noon. Contact Libby Glaser if you are interested.

We are also looking for donated flies that fish well in this area, as students will be coming from out of the area. If you have fly boxes, hats or other items that will work as prizes, please reach out to Libby. Some of you have shared extra flies with Tina Murray (Wisconsin Women's Clinics and Vets programs) and she will be bringing them to this event to share. If you have flies, please get them to Tina Murray or Mike Kuhr before April 13. Mike Kuhr's email address is [mikek.trout@yahoo.com](mailto:mikek.trout@yahoo.com)

Learn more at <https://www.tu.org/conservation/outreach-education/headwaters-youth-program/explore-fishing/tu-costa-5-rivers-college-clubs/>



## Chair's Column

## Embark

New Council chair honored to take the helm.

By Scott Allen, State Council Chair

Just four hundred years ago—how time flies—Etienne Brule was served paddling orders on the banks of the St. Lawrence by Samuel de Champlain with the directive of finding a route to the Orient, or to just find something and return to New France alive with his scalp attached. He is acknowledged as the first non-indigenous person to lay eyes on today's Lake Superior.

Landing at the current site of Sault St. Marie in 1621 proved Etienne's lucky year, although the confluence of lakes Superior, Michigan and Huron proved the limit of his western sojourn, he did set his eyes on three of the Great Lakes. Not bad for someone paddling without an itinerary. Pressing inland provided a showcase of the coveted beaver of the day. His reconnaissance, although not well recorded for posterity, would have certainly stirred the pot back in fishing camp at Montreal. If the trees could talk, how I would lend them my ear.

What little is known of Brule is he did clear a path for later explorers and traders like Nicolet and the fur companies that exploited the resources, notably beaver, of the Great Lakes region. Rapidly declining beaver populations fueled the "Beaver Wars" 20 years later, further dividing indigenous and European enclaves and, as the sword swings in two directions, made the

bed for Etienne's end at the hands of the Huron.

There's an explorer in each of us. Every time I string up a rod, Heraclitus whispers in my ear, "you never step into the same river twice." Not even a rookie explorer of Etienne's day would dare shove off unless well provisioned and, above all, accompanied by a trustworthy entourage. None of us can do it alone.

On a personal level I feel a kindred spirit with Etienne. After all, there are only four centuries between us. I too have been handed my commission as Council Chair and charged with pressing over the horizon in quest of a meaningful end; water quality, opportunity for the next generation and quality of life for this generation. Etienne plied forth with no greater sense of direction than his compass could provide, but more so, with a deliberate destiny. Unlike Ol' Etty, I have predecessors who have provided a detailed map of programs and policies which make possible a well provisioned purposeful journey into the near future by grasping the paddle handed to me. And I wouldn't dare try it alone.

Sam Champlain was no slouch himself within this voyageur theme, dabbling in futures of terra firma and having the chops and hardware to prove it, a tough act to follow for Etienne. But with the passing of the torch passes the energy and optimism it contains, and I am thankful



Todd Franklin

### NEW COUNCIL CHAIR SCOTT ALLEN WILL BUILD ON TU'S STRENGTHS

to follow in the footsteps of Mike Kuhr. Is there a tougher act to follow? It's my duty to continue to build on the strengths of Trout Unlimited: youth camps; women's and veteran's programs; habitat and access funding; strengthening partner-

ships with allied organizations; legislative and financial strength. Now I'll settle into my well provisioned canoe provided by Mike, a trustworthy cadre of men and women to my sides and shove off.

And did I mention beaver?

## Enrollment open for 2022 WITU Youth Camp

We have opened the enrollment up for the remaining two open roster spots for the 2022 WITU Youth Camp, which is August 18-21 at the Pine Lake Bible Camp near Waupaca.

The camp only has two open spots because last year's camp was cancelled. All but two who had planned to attend last year are planning to attend this year. If your chapter has anyone interested in attending, please contact me and we will get them signed up.

We will use the same curriculum that we have used in the past: casting classes for spin and fly casting, entomology, fly tying, knot tying, water safety and half day seminar with the DNR at a chapter workday learning about conservation. This will be followed on Sunday with a mentor fish-a-long where the youth will be able to apply all the techniques they learned.

We could use additional volunteers and committee members. As with any annual event, there are periodic turnovers, and we need to replace open positions. The WITU Youth Camp committee is looking for some members to join our staff. It is always nice to have great people with new ideas and a passion to work with our youth while having fun doing it. The committee meets once a month beginning in February and meets each month until the camp. Then we have a follow-up meeting in September or October to revisit that year's camp and discuss possible changes for the future camps.

If not interested in joining the committee, we are also looking for additional volunteers, even for just one or two days. If you are interested or have any questions please contact me at 920-216-7408 or chlbeck@att.net.

WITU Youth Camp Coordinator Linn Beck

## Still a chance to stop invasive carp in the Great Lakes

TU members urged to contact their representatives.

By Jamie Vaughn, TU Great Lakes Engagement Coordinator

Invasive carp remain one of the most serious threats to the Great Lakes region, but with a little help from Congress, there's still a chance to stop their spread.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has developed a plan to stop their movement with the Brandon Road Lock and Dam project located in Illinois, which will employ multiple innovative measures to prevent the further movement of invasive carp. Those measures include air-bubble curtains, electrical barriers and acoustic fish deterrents. The proposed project represents our last, best chance to block carp from entering the Great Lakes.

While there's a sound plan in place, the project needs full funding to begin construction. Partial federal funding was provided in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, but additional funding is still needed. Fully funding the project with federal dollars is possible with a cost-share adjustment in the Water Resources Development Act of 2022, which usually requires 20 percent non-federal cost share funding for such projects.

The risk is simply far too great to delay the project to raise the remaining funds from other sources. There is a precedent for such an adjustment; the electrical barriers in Romeoville, Illinois were 100 percent federally funded thanks to a similar cost-share adjustment. Because the timely success of this project is of national significance, Trout Unlimited is urging Congress to act now and provide 100 percent of the funding for the Brandon Road Lock and Dam Project. Trout Unlimited members can reach out to their U.S. Representatives and ask them to support this vital investment to protect the health of the Great Lakes for future generations.

WITU Online Auction Starts Sunday, April 10  
<https://go.tulocalevents.org/856271>



Support cold water conservation in WI!  
 Here's a sample of what's on the auction block:

#### Guided Fishing Trips:

- 2 Days Guided Fishing in Bozeman Montana with Legendary guide Dave Kumlien!
- Driftless Angler Wade Trip for 2!
- 1/2 Day on Sheboygan River w/ Gordy Martin (Tie 1 On Guide Service)
- Driftless Wade Fishing or Master Fly Casting Class w/ Erik Helm (Classic Angler)
- Fish the Northern Driftless w/ Retired Biologist Scot Stewart
- Fully Loaded Fly Boxes
- Wild Water 12' Tenkara Rod

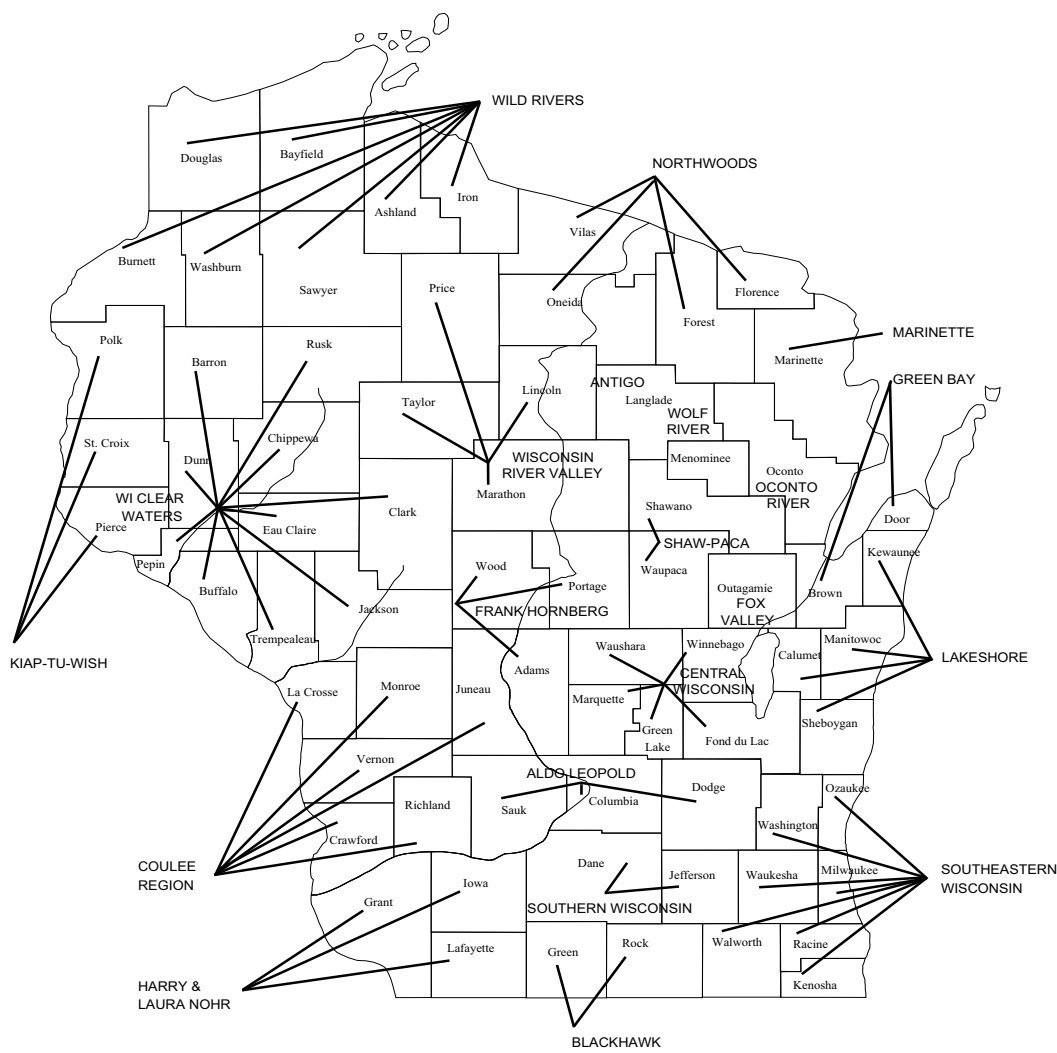


Thank you to all of our donors.

Bidding closes @ 6pm on Sunday, April 17  
 Contact Scott Allen [jscottallen12@gmail.com](mailto:jscottallen12@gmail.com) for more info



## Wisconsin TU Chapters, Presidents, and Websites



- Aldo Leopold (#375):** Mike Barniskis, 805 S. Center St., Beaver Dam WI 53916; barniskis@yahoo.com; aldoleopold.tu.org
- Antigo (#313):** Scott Henricks, 213 Mary St., Antigo, WI 54409-2536 715-623-3867; henricks51@yahoo.com
- Blackhawk (#390):** Dave Brethauer; 17348 W. Gepler Road, Brodhead, WI 53520; 608-897-4166; dave.brethauer@gmail.com; www.BlackhawkTU.org
- Central Wisconsin (#117):** Wayne Parmley; 1663 Michigan St., Oshkosh, WI, 54902; 920-540-2315; wparmley@gmail.com; cwtu.org
- Coulee Region (#278):** Fred Spademan; fred@spademan.com; 429 2nd St. North, LaCrosse, 54601; 248-408-3873; CouleeRegion-TU.org
- Fox Valley (#193):** Tony Pudlo.; 1148 West Ridgeview Drive, Appleton, WI 54914-1463; (920) 427-3426; mr.tony54381@gmail.com; www.foxvalleytu.org
- Frank Hornberg (#624):** Doug Erdmann, 1523 Rosewood Ave., Wisconsin Rapids, 54494; 715-712-3134; Derdmann55@charter.net; www.Facebook.com/HornbergTU
- Green Bay (#083):** Adrian Meseberg, 315 S Michigan St. De Pere, WI 54115; 920-562-6129; christinaandadrian@hotmail.com; greenbaytu.org
- Harry & Laura Nohr (#257):** Don Pluemer; www.NohrTU.org
- Kiap-TU-Wish (#168):** Greg Olson; Driftless23@gmail.com; 612-300-8970; P.O. Box 483, Hudson, WI 54016-0483; kiaptuwish.org
- Lakeshore (#423):** Myk Hranicka, N2766 Hopeman Heights, Waldo, WI 53093; 920-627-5779; jdrflooring@gmail.com; www.Wisconsin-TU.org/Lakeshore
- Marinette (#422):** Dale Lange, N2095 CTH BB, Marinette, WI; 715-582-1135; dhlange@centurytel.net, marinettecounty.tu.org
- Northwoods (#256):** Jay N. Joppa; 5631 Mohawk Shores Drive, Rhinelander, WI 54501; 715-499-1022; jayjoppa@gmail.com; northwoods.tu.org
- Oconto River (#385):** Wayne Czypinski; 920-590-2748; wczypinski@yahoo.com; ocontorivertu.com
- Shaw-Paca (#381):** Kyle Kossel, E2392 Cardinal Court, Waupaca, WI 54981; 920-379-5741; kylekossel@yahoo.com; shawpaca.tu.org
- Southeastern Wisconsin (#078):** Andy Avgoulas; andyavgoulas@yahoo.com; 262-893-4965; sewtu.tu.org; www.facebook.com/southeastwisconsintroutunlimited; SoutheasternWITU on Instagram
- Southern Wisconsin (#061):** Jim Hess; jim.hess@tds.net; P.O. Box 45555, Madison, WI 53744-5555; www.swtu.org
- Wild Rivers (#415):** Kevin Seefeldt; Ashland, WI; 715-292-1614; kseef09@gmail.com; www.wisconsin.tu.org/wildrivers
- Wisconsin Clear Waters (#255):** Bill Heth; wlcaddis@gmail.com; wctu.com
- Wisconsin River Valley (#395):** Kirk Stark; 811 2nd Street, Rothschild, WI 54474; 715-432-0560; kfjgstartk@gmail.com; wrvtu.org
- Wolf River (#050):** Chuck Valliere, 5040 Hardy Trail, Waunakee, WI 53597; 608-836-1908 or 608-332-9652; woodtickchuck1950@gmail.com; WolfriverTU.org

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

## State Council Leadership

**Chair:** Scott Allen; E4835 N. Stoney Ridge Road, Reedsburg, WI 53959; 608-495-9385; jscottallen12@gmail.com

**Vice Chair:** Myk Hranicka, N2766 Hopeman Heights, Waldo, WI 53093; 920-627-5779; jdrflooring@gmail.com;

**Secretary:** Boyd Roessler, 212 South James Street, Waukesha, WI 53186; 262-896-0471; boydroessler@sbcglobal.net

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

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

**Vice Chair, Northeast Region:** Dale Lange, See Marinette 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; garyjhorvath42@comcast.net

**Advisor:** Henry Koltz, (414) 331-5679 (H); hek@sdelaw.com

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

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

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

**Advocacy Chair:** Mike Kuhr, mikek.trout@yahoo.com; 414-588-4281

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

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

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

**Veterans Services Partnership Coordinator:** Mike Johnson; 1070 Bonnie Brae Lane, Lake Geneva, WI 53147; 262-327-0849; Mike@thosejohnsons.com

**Website:** Brandon Schmalz schmalz.dev@gmail.com

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

**Legal Counsel:** Open

**Communications:** Open

## Are you getting emails from TU?

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

## WISCONSIN TROUT

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

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Oregon, WI 53575  
(608) 516-3647  
toddfranklinwistrout@gmail.com

### State Council Officers

Executive Committee includes officers and vice chairs

**Scott Allen, Chair**

**Myk Hranicka, Vice Chair**

**Boyd Roessler, Secretary**

**Gary Stoychoff, Treasurer**



## Important land purchase secured on Dell Creek

*Partnership of land trust, two chapters, DNR and State Council secures a 40-acre parcel with 2,000 feet of frontage.*

By Topf Wells

Groundswell Conservancy and the DNR wildlife and fish biologists had worked for months to purchase a 40-acre inholding in the DNR's Dell Creek Hunting and Fishing Area. The 40 acres has more than 2,000 feet of double-streambank frontage and a tributary. The land has some higher spots with oaks and creek bottom.

Wildlife biologist Nancy Frost had advocated for this purchase for years because it would offer excellent hunting, and because it filled a gap in a large tract of DNR-owned lands. DNR fish biologist Nate Nye had just completed an extensive survey of Dell Creek and its tributaries and knew that the creek is a good and improving trout stream. Groundswell Conservancy took the lead on this purchase, as it typically and wonderfully does to improve natural resources in a broad swath of southern Wisconsin, and had all the funding lined up.

But when an essential grant fell through, Nye contacted the Aldo Leopold and Southern Wisconsin TU (SWTU) chapters to see if they could plug the gap. After reviewing Nate's and Nancy's information about the creek and property, Aldo Leopold Chapter President Mike Barniskis and Southern Wisconsin Chapter President Jim Hess recommended to their boards that both should help. The two, along with Topf Wells of SWTU, contacted then-State Council Chair Mike Kuhr, as well as Bob Harrison, president of TU's good friend and staunch ally, the Badger Fly Fishers (BFF).

Thereafter ensued a whirlwind of incredibly positive and focused activity. Groundswell Executive Director Jim Welsh found another donation and negotiated with the

conservation-minded owner so that the gap TU had to fill was \$20,000. Kuhr contacted Kim McCarthy of Wisconsin TU's Watershed Access Fund, and he and Kuhr immediately responded with an offer to help.

Within 10 days the chapters' and BFF's boards had allocated funds, while the Council's Watershed Access Fund was able to cover the difference. Groundswell had the \$20,000, and by the end of January Groundswell had secured the property, which will soon be open to the public.

Everyone involved is excited to check out the new property. A joint workday there is even being considered, and everyone's excited about a new stop on their spring and summer fishing tours.

Lots of thanks are due, including Groundswell, Nancy Frost and Nate Nye for the hard, persistent work to make this purchase possible. Thanks also go out to the Aldo Leopold and Southern Wisconsin chapters and the Badger Fly Fishers. All showed great and quick leadership on this opportunity and all three had to use reserves that have been strained by pandemic challenges.

Thanks also to Mike Kuhr, Kim McCarthy and the State Council's Watershed Access Fund. Their response was immediate, positive and enthusiastic. "Let's get this done," was McCarthy's mantra. All of his questions and suggestions were extremely helpful. The landowner needed to have the purchase closed by the end of January and McCarthy instantly recognized and acted on the need to work quickly.

As you read this, the purchase should be completed. While that is good in and of itself, it's a positive step forward for this area. For some time the DNR has not been purchasing parcels with trout streams in southern Wisconsin, focusing in-



Jim Welsh/Groundswell

### ACCESS FUND SUPPORTED DELL CREEK ACQUISITION

The State Council's Watershed Access Fund helped secure the purchase of private land along Sauk County's Dell Creek when another grant fell through. This is exactly the type of situation the founders of the Watershed Access Fund envisioned when they created the program in 2010.

stead on easements. While easements are all well and good, sometimes landowners want or need to sell the land, and not an easement. Thankfully the DNR and conservation organizations found a way to make this happen.

Due to the pandemic, the State Council had to cancel its largest fundraiser, its February banquet. It could really use some additional donations. This situation shows how valuable the Council is to chapters. Simply put, the Aldo Leopold and Southern Wisconsin chapters could not have made this purchase without the State Council's Watershed Access Fund. The State Council deserves our support and will make good use of any donations you can

make.

Finally, I remember Dan Wisniewski, my sadly departed good friend and fishing partner, who always believed that land trusts would be a great ally to TU in conserving Wisconsin trout streams and making them available to the public. Dan's belief is wholly validated by Groundswell's leadership in this transaction.

*Topf Wells has been a member of the Southern Wisconsin Chapter for about 40 years and currently serves as vice president. He is very grateful for the DNR's, TU's and Wisconsin land trusts' efforts to preserve our trout streams and improve the public's access to them.*

## Watershed Access Fund continues to add public water

By Kim McCarthy, Grant Fund Coordinator

The Watershed Access Fund is again a key participant in the addition of another important privately held stream segment to the publicly available fishing waters in Wisconsin. This issue of *Wisconsin Trout* has an excellent article by Topf Wells about the acquisition of a parcel on Dell Creek in Sauk County.

But I wanted to explain the Watershed Access Fund's history and how this program is functioning precisely as the Council envisioned it when it was established in 2010.

In 2010 the need for some kind of State Council program to assist in obtaining fishing access had become obvious. There had been several occasions when the Council had been approached about helping to fund various acquisitions. Unfortunately, we were unable to help because we had no funding source.

State Council leadership watched opportunities disappear and concluded that a funding mechanism for access acquisition was needed. A settlement from an easement dispute and the entire proceeds from a State Council banquet were used to establish the new Watershed Access Fund. Following the establishment of the Fund, it has been supported completely by donations from members and friends.

The Fund is designed to assist partners in purchasing easements or land that has trout water flowing through it. Council leadership real-

ized that, in most situations, we would never have the resources to engage in acquisitions by ourselves, so, right from the start, we knew that partnerships would be essential to using the fund effectively. We have partnered with land trusts, the DNR, counties, other sporting groups and numerous TU chapters in successfully completing several acquisitions throughout Wisconsin.

The one thing that has been a constant in the majority of our acquisition partnerships has been the fact that our Watershed Access Fund has made the difference between success and failure. Most of our partnerships have formed when it looked like an opportunity would be lost because available funding had either fallen through or simply was not enough. With this Fund we have been able to step in and make up funding shortages that brought deals to a successful conclusion.

Looking to the future, it is a certainty that more opportunities to make trout water public will appear. As more trout anglers seek quality fishing experiences, adding available water to public holdings will remain a critical objective. The Watershed Access Fund's ability to continue playing an important role in adding public water will depend on the continuing generosity of our donors. If you have been a supporter of Watershed we say THANK YOU! If you have not yet done so, please consider becoming a donor.

## Celebration of life for Tim Fraley April 30

**The Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter invites friends of Tim Fraley to a celebration of his life on April 30. It will be held in Brigham Park, west of Madison, near Blue Mounds.**

**The event begins at 11a.m., with lunch served at noon.**

**BYOB.**



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# 2022 State Council Award Winners

Due to the pandemic, we were unable to hold our annual Awards Banquet in Oshkosh this year. In spite of that, special people continue to do amazing things to support our coldwater resources.

We recognize the following individuals and one business for their contributions.

Thank you to our State Council Awards Committee members: Chair Todd Franklin, Mike Kuhr, Linn Beck, Kim McCarthy, Scott Allen, Jim Wierzba, John Meachen



**RESOURCE AWARD OF MERIT: TODD AMBS**

## Resource Award of Merit: Todd Ambs

Our highest award, the Resource Award of Merit recognizes a person, corporation or organization for outstanding contributions to conservation and may be a nonmember. Award can be presented posthumously.

Recently retired from the DNR, Todd Ambs has had a remarkable career as a governmental official with a principled belief in public service, as a leader of non-governmental organizations and as a reasoned and committed voice for the waters and natural resources of Wisconsin and beyond.

Beginning his public policy career with the Ohio Attorney General's Office, and then the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Todd brought his talents and leadership skills to the environmental and conservation arena in the 1990s. He was the second director of the River Alliance of Wisconsin, where he dramatically strengthened the statewide advocacy organization, promoting watershed stewardship and grassroots engagement and helping lead battles for dam removal and river protection throughout the state.

From 2003-10, Todd served as the administrator of the Water Division in the DNR. In that role he was a champion for good science and good data for sound water management. He helped lead the DNR's efforts for stronger clean-water programs, groundwater protection and guardianship of our navigable waters under the Public Trust Doctrine. He respected the diverse viewpoints of all he worked with, inside and outside the DNR, making him a powerful and effective voice in crafting solutions to tough water challenges. One of his signature accomplishments was playing a pivotal role in negotiating the Great Lakes Compact, which was signed into federal law in 2008.

Todd then shifted to the presidency of the River Network, a national organization for building the capacity of local watershed groups throughout the country to help them protect their rivers and streams. His next stint was as the director of the Great Lakes Coalition, where he worked with a bi-partisan group of elected officials to secure \$1.5 billion of federal funding for infrastructure and clean-water initiatives. After five years, in 2019 Todd accepted the appointment to assistant deputy secretary, then deputy secretary with the DNR, where he was a strong voice for water resources and science-based environmental policy and programs in an often contentious and challenging political environment.

A lifelong lover of rivers and streams, an avid paddler, a sometimes successful trout angler, a staunch conservationist, and all-around good guy, Todd Ambs is highly deserving of the Wisconsin State Council's Resource Award of Merit.

Thank you to Stephen Born for this nomination.

## Silver Trout Chapter of the Year Award: WI Clear Waters

The Silver Trout Award recognizes the chapter that over the last year took innovative and thoughtful approaches to building community and advancing our mission. Criteria we consider include conservation impact, communications, member and community engagement, fundraising and volunteer leadership development.

As one of the most active and creative chapters in the state, the Wisconsin Clear Waters Chapter strategically maneuvered through the pandemic during 2021 and continued to do stream work, engage youth, created a new style of fundraiser and so much more. It is most deserving of the Council's Silver Trout Chapter of the Year Award.

Under the leadership of Jillian Heth of Eau Claire, whose father Bill is a board member, the chapter hosted its first ever Stream Girls event last summer. Involving the Girls Scouts and TU, this was the first such event in Wis-



**SILVER TROUT CHAPTER OF THE YEAR: WISCONSIN CLEAR WATERS**

consin since it was first introduced in the Stevens Point area several years ago, and which has since spread to eight other states.

The girls came together for five nights and did activities that included collecting and identifying stream insects, measuring stream flow, but also fly tying and casting fly rods. The scouts each had a notebook for recording observations and making sketches. At the end of each session there was a "moment of reflection," where they wrote in their notebooks. The chapter plans to do it again this year, but would like to make it a weekend program with the Girl Scouts staying overnight at Beaver Creek Reserve.

The chapter's TIC program did have some COVID challenges, but Dale Dahlke and Peter Jonas did a great job. A partner challenge helped to raise funds for additional tanks and now there are tanks installed in 10 classrooms in various schools.

Because of the pandemic, the chapter created what it calls "The Silent Auction," an outdoor event with tables filled with silent auction items and rummage sale bins. It also include raffle items, vendor tables, DNR representatives, a custom rod builder, a Wisconsin Clear Waters Project table and a Free the Kinni table. Many youngsters participated in the auction, fly tying and casting. Plans are in the works for the second year of what chapter leaders hope will become an annual event.

And you can't keep Wisconsin Clear Waters members out of the streams. Alders and box elders aren't safe when these folks get together, whether it's on Duncan Creek north of Chippewa Falls or various streams in Dunn County, such as Knight's Creek. Meanwhile, trees were added near Hay Creek, where the chapter and DNR members planted 400 saplings on two locations.

On Gilbert Creek, a new landowner has accepted a DNR easement offer to continue the rehabilitation to connect the "Triangle." Gilbert Creek is a Brook Trout Reserve Stream, and the chapter is very fortunate to be part of working with past restorations and the next mile and a half to tie the headwaters to existing restorations.

Then there's McCann Creek in Chippewa County, known for its brook trout. The chapter has plans for renovations to create more pool areas, narrow channels, increase flow and improve the overall habitat. Already this past winter chapter members have been brushing the area.

The chapter's long partnership with the DNR to fund trout transfers in Elk and Duncan creeks has proven successful as well, with improved size structures.

When they became aware of a proposal to make cuts to the popular Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program, chapter leaders knew they needed to do some educating. Much of the public access on Gilbert Creek was acquired through this stewardship program, and recent restoration work made a perfect location for a stream walk with state legislators. Jim Erickson contacted then Council Chair Mike Kuhr and they met on-site with Sen. Rob Stafsholt (R-New Richmond), Sen. Kathy Bernier (R-Chippewa Falls), staffer Nathan Duerkop and Sen. Jeff Smith (D-Eau Claire) and showed the value of Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program acquisitions, Trout Stamp investments and local volunteer efforts.

As for communications, the Wisconsin Clear Waters Chapter has been striving to improve its exposure in the social media landscape via a great website, Facebook page and Instagram page. They've also come up with creative online programs like Two Tips, a Tie and A Tune. The Wisconsin Clear Waters Chapter is most deserving of this year's Silver Trout Chapter of the Year Award.

## Distinguished Service-Leadership: J. Scott Wagner

In memory of Jeff Carlson, this award recognizes an individual whose enthusiasm, persistence and leadership have inspired generations of conservationists. This award is for an individual whose leadership has enriched the TU community whether at the chapter, council, NLC or trustee level. A key attribute of leadership recognized by this award is the sharing of ideas, experiences and knowledge with others to nurture and mentor the next generation of coldwater conservationists and leaders.

Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter Past President Scott Wagner exemplifies this award.

Scott has helped the chapter make great strides towards improving diversity and encouraging youth to become conservationists. At chapter meetings, banquets, and workdays he ensures women and youth feel welcome and a part of the chapter. Kiap has sent three youths to the Council's youth camp each year. Scott encouraged Greg Olson to expand the efforts of Trout in the Classroom. Programs such as Kiap on Tap and other more socially focused meetings illustrate the success of his efforts to accomplish more diverse chapter meetings. Scott and others readily encourage women to consider serving on the board and as chapter officers. The chapter currently has four women on the board, one of whom is a chapter officer.

Scott led the chapter to catch up on maintenance by setting up semi-annual meetings with DNR staff to identify and rank maintenance of habitat and brushing projects. He focused and led the discussions at the meetings and helped to set up a spreadsheet that identified and ranked maintenance needs.

Scott improved Kiap's financial accounting. He modified the financial spreadsheets and accounting ledgers so they gave a clearer picture of our finances and allowed the chapter to highlight its accomplishments. He served as





**DISTINGUISHED SERVICE - LEADERSHIP: SCOTT WAGNER**

a mentor to our treasurer, Suzanne Constantini.

As president and as a board member, Scott was involved with his chapter's conservation banquet. This last year Scott identified the virtual banquet as a tool to continue through the pandemic. Not only did this platform allow them to continue fundraising, but it also set a record of \$10,000 for their banquets.

Scott was influential in the River Falls dam removal decision and progress to date. His relationship with Scott Morrissette was key in getting approval by River Falls to agree to remove both dams.

Scott is most deserving of the Council's Distinguished Service Award for Leadership.

*Thank you to Scot Stewart for this nomination.*



**DISTINGUISHED SERVICE - YOUTH EDUCATION: KURT MEYER**

#### **Distinguished Service-Youth Education: Kurt Meyer**

*This award recognizes the fundamental importance of creating a new generation of conservationists in a manner that sustains TU's conservation legacy. The award honors individuals who demonstrate exemplary leadership and a deep passion for inspiring young people to become thoughtful, responsible stewards of our coldwater fisheries. Adults and youth are eligible.*

The Council's Distinguished Service Award for Youth Education goes to Kurt M. Meyer, the youth education coordinator and board member for the Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter.

Kurt continuously exhibits the traits of a highly valued Trout Unlimited and community volunteer. He has the heart, enthusiasm and leadership qualities that inspire our youth to become the next champions and stewards of coldwater conservation. A pure love of the outdoors and helping others is shown in his commitment to young people and his community.

Kurt leads numerous youth programs that he has helped to create, and continues to be a mentor with. This includes the TIC program, serving as summer camp liaison and leader and guiding a student team for the chapter's Water Action Volunteer program. He is an instrumental volunteer at the Grant County Outdoor Youth days, where he teaches the art of fly tying. Kurt also annually leads a team of young students on tying a fly, then taking them to the local lake to fish. The excitement level on the kids' faces when they hook up with a fish using their own fly is priceless. Most recently, Kurt has become the lead mentor for the Fennimore Area Mayfly Project, which pairs anglers with at-risk youth.

Kurt tirelessly gives back to his community. He is the middle school science teacher at Fennimore Middle School. In his academic role, Kurt chaperones yearly trips to Wyalusing State Park with the school's 6th graders for outdoor education opportunities. He also chaperones a yearly trip to Washington, D.C. with the 7th graders. Kurt is known as the "Voice of the Eagles" as he announces volleyball and basketball games at Fennimore High School. Recently Kurt also volunteered in Fennimore High School's "Grease" production as Johnny Casino. Other community involvements include teaching piano and guitar to local youth while also appearing in many community plays with the Lancaster Community Players.

We believe Kurt perfectly embodies what this award is recognizing: inspiring young people to become our next passionate, responsible stewards of our coldwater fisheries. Kurt, his wife Allison (also a Fennimore school teacher), two daughters, dog Scout and cat Jerry, live in Fennimore.

*Thank you to the Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter for this nomination.*



**ROBERT HUNT RESOURCE PROFESSIONAL AWARD: JEFFREY REISSMANN**

#### **Robert Hunt Resource Professional Award: Jeffrey Reissmann**

*In honor of Robert Hunt, this award recognizes a conservation professional who has shown concern for our coldwater resources over and above his or her normal duties.*

Jeffrey Reissmann, the DNR spring pond habitat crew leader out of Antigo, started as a Limited Term Employee with the DNR in the late 1980s. He was hired as a permanent employee in 1991, and then spent his entire career focusing on enhancing the spring pond resources of northern Wisconsin. Jeff has led the restoration and habitat enhancement of more than 30 spring ponds in Langlade, Oconto, Forest, Marathon, Oneida and Vilas counties.

What makes Jeff's work exceptional is that the cutterhead hydraulic dredge used to rehabilitate spring ponds is built on a 1944 Military LVT (landing vehicle tracked). National Dredge of Beloit, Wisconsin converted the LVT to a cutterhead dredge in the early 1960s. There is no service or parts department for Jeff to rely on for service advice or many of the needed parts. Jeff has routinely fabricated custom parts for the machine. His technical, welding, and mechanical expertise were a perfect fit for keeping a 1944 vintage machine operating in remote, environmentally sensitive spring ponds on a daily basis. Jeff made many other contributions to the fisheries program in the Antigo Area with his technician skills. He worked closely with TU chapters, county forestry departments and the U.S. Forest Service. He has the respect of his partners, colleagues and TU chapters throughout the Wisconsin trout program.

Dredging spring ponds is hard, dirty, loud work that few people could or would do, and he's done it for more than 30 years. The spring ponds rehabilitated by Jeff's efforts produce excellent native brook trout populations and some of the largest inland brown trout in the state. The groundwater upwelling in the ponds is the lifeblood of northeastern Wisconsin trout streams. Spring ponds offer excellent spawning habitat, thermal refuge and they have a unique beauty with aquamarine water and white-cedar-lined shores. The spring ponds and native brook trout of northeastern Wisconsin are much improved thanks to Jeffrey Reissmann's long commitment.

He is most deserving of the Council's Robert Hunt Resource Professional Award.

*Thank you to Pete Segerson, Dave Seibel and Scott Henricks for this nomination.*

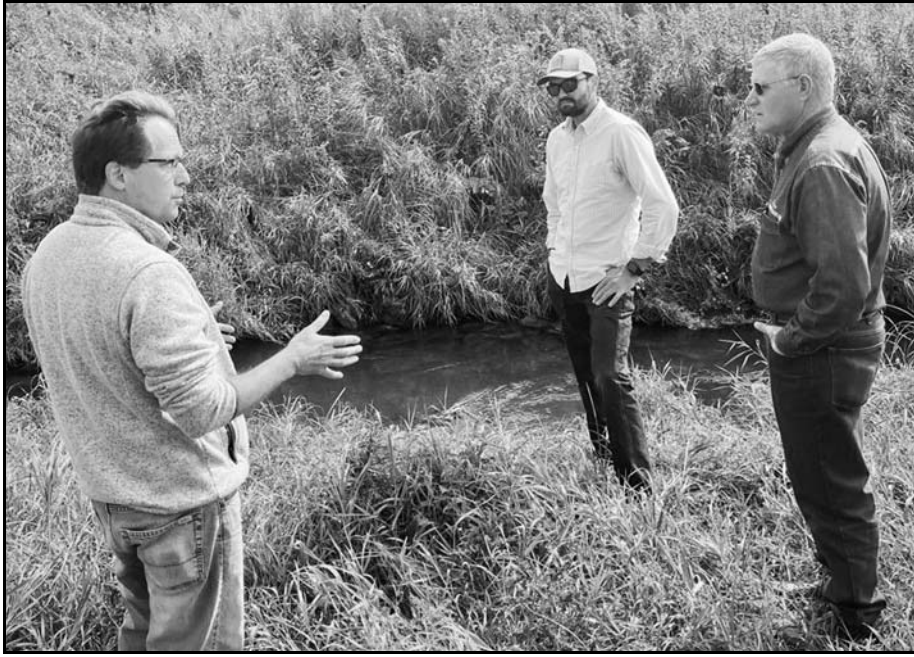
#### **Reel Partner Award: Gathering Waters**

*This award recognizes businesses or organizations that have served as partners with the Council or its chapters in forwarding our mission.*

Gathering Waters understands that what happens on our land directly impacts the health of our waterways. As a non-profit organization representing Wisconsin's land trusts, their mission is to help land trusts, landowners and communities protect the places that make Wisconsin special.

When the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program was up for reauthorization a few years back, it was the folks at Gathering Waters leading the charge. They quickly built a coalition of advocates and organizations, includ-





### REEL PARTNER AWARD: GATHERING WATERS

Charles Carlin of Gathering Waters (center), along with Council Chair Scott Allen (left) discuss stream work and Stewardship Program benefits with State Sen. Howard Marklein (R-Spring Green)

ing TU, to press legislators to continue funding Wisconsin's iconic public lands initiative. The most recent state budget included a four-year reauthorization of the program.

Gathering Waters helped TU get the message across to legislators that public lands are good for our environment and our economy. They assembled a GIS map showing Stewardship investments through the years, such as public hunting and fishing grounds, streambank easements and local parks – all sortable by legislative district. They created a website dedicated to the Stewardship program which hosted these maps, in addition to an action alert page specifically set up for TU members.

The people at Gathering Waters know the landscape of Wisconsin well, and they also understand the inner workings of our state legislature. Our organizations have had many joint meetings with legislators, in the Capitol and on stream-side touring projects such as Bear Creek in the Driftless Area and the Pine River in the Central Sands Region. Together, we're able to tell the story of how investments in public land leads to a better economy and environment for our state.

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited will continue to advocate for public lands and public fishing access to our waters. Thanks to "Reel" partners like Gathering Waters, we are getting that message across to key policymakers in Wisconsin.

*Thank you to past Council Chair Mike Kuhr for this nomination.*



### DISTINGUISHED SERVICE - VETERAN'S SERVICES: SCOTT GROFF

#### Distinguished Service-Veteran's Services: Scott Groff

*This award recognizes an individual who embodies the TU community-building spirit with regards to nurturing veterans' healing and involving veterans in their chapter events, activities and operations.*

Scott is a great help not only in our chapter Veterans on the Fly group, but in the Madison veterans community. He works tirelessly with the Operation Ruck 22 to raise funds to combat veteran suicide by helping to fund our group. By always being at our events, helping to transport gear, and by adding a veteran point of view, he makes what we do a success.

He has made Southern Wisconsin TU and VOTF a priority in his life with his actions and words. And is working on our statewide trips to grow the veteran/TU involvement.

Scott is an educator in Madison and very active with the VFW community around Madison. His fundraising with Operation Ruck 22 is what allowed us to purchase fly rods and other gear to help our program grow. The program couldn't do what it does without him.

*Thank you to Mike Johnson for this nomination.*

## Service Partnership fishing trip for heroes August 15-18

The Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Service Partnership is excited to announce that we will join American Hero Outdoors (AHO) for a warm-water fishing trip with Hayward Fly Fishing Company August 15-18, 2022.

North Dakota-based American Hero Outdoors is an organization much like our own, in that we both serve our nation's heroes and focus on the therapeutic richness of the outdoors. AHO believes that the United States remains a land of opportunity and prosperity because of the selflessness of our military personnel and wishes to celebrate their sacrifices by sharing the opportunities of fishing and hunting with them.

AHO will film this trip for a future episode of their television series and focus not only on the work that both our organizations do with our veteran and first responder community, but will also focus on

the Dairyland Outdoor Veteran Retreat (DOVR) in Dairyland.

DOVR will provide cabins for the eight heroes who will be hosted on this trip of three nights and two days of fishing in the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway. Their facility has three cabins that will house our heroes and offers a safe, inclusive and calming wilderness immersion while they "return, rest and renew" among a welcoming community of like-minded family and friends.

AHO and the Wisconsin TU Service Partnership will each sponsor four heroes for this trip. Donations will be greatly appreciated to help fund food, travel and other expenses. Donations can be made to Wisconsin TU with an earmark to the Service Partnership. Chapters that are interested in sending a hero on this trip please contact Matthew Cade at [mcsade0782@gmail.com](mailto:mscade0782@gmail.com) or 414-982 9784.

## CAFO concerns continue

### Council's CAFO report available for review and feedback.

By Jason G. Freund

Controlled Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) not only have a significant effect on our state's waterways, but these types of agricultural operations continue to appear on the landscape. A recent Wisconsin Public Radio story explained how the number of farms is decreasing in the state but the average size is increasing. Farm consolidation is not new but it seems to be occurring at an increasing rate as a number of economic factors are "squeezing" smaller agricultural producers. Two U.S. Secretaries of the U.S. Department of Agriculture have famously stated to farmers: "Get big or get out."

A recent study conducted by the Environmental Working Group and Midwest Environmental Advocates has received notable attention. They studied manure and fertilizer over-application and its effects in nine Wisconsin counties, including Adams, Dane, Green, Juneau, Keweenaw, Lafayette, Portage, Rock and Wood, and found that eight of the nine counties saw over-application of manure, based on University of Wisconsin standards. In four counties, over-application rates were more than 50 percent higher than those standards. The current amount of manure being produced would require 64 percent additional acres in order to be spread within those standards.

The study goes on to show that while only 3 percent of farm operations were CAFOs, those operations were responsible for 25 percent of the state's cows and a third of the manure produced in the nine counties studied. And to tie those last few ideas together, the biggest hurdle in spreading manure at rates that do not exceed what can be taken up by plants are the costs of moving the manure from the production sites to fields where nutrients are not over-applied.

CAFO supporters, and often those charged with overseeing CA-

FOs, claim that CAFOs are better regulated and site visits are required to assess their adherence to rules specific to CAFOs and management plans. They are required to have manure management plans that prescribe where and how much manure can be applied. But some experts believe that these restrictions are not strong enough to prevent over-application, as the study shows.

Meanwhile, funding for CAFO oversight is severely lacking. Density of animals seems to be the most important factor affecting groundwater and stream pollutants coming from animal agriculture operations.

We do not yet know how two Wisconsin Supreme Court rulings may change how the state regulates CAFO siting and groundwater withdrawals. But it does provide the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) and the DNR the opportunity to better manage animal density, groundwater withdrawals, and over-application of manure. It will likely be organizations like Trout Unlimited, the River Alliance and other environmental groups that will need to push these regulatory agencies to change the status quo.

#### Council's CAFO Report

We need feedback on the Council's CAFO Committee report, which is published on the Council website at [wicouncil.tu.org](http://wicouncil.tu.org). Officially titled "CAFO Information and Strategies for Protecting Trout Streams," the document is available on the website's Coldwater Advocacy page at <https://wicouncil.tu.org/wicouncil/coldwater-advocacy>. The committee published the report as a "living document" that we can update as needed. For more information contact CAFO Committee Chair Linn Beck at [chlbeck@att.net](mailto:chlbeck@att.net).

*Jason Freund is a member of the Coulee Region Chapter and the Council's CAFO Committee.*



# The Fishing Gene

Author finds that sharing the fishing gene with his son and grandson is nothing short of a blessing from above.

By Don Wisner

As I write this, my grandson Henry is 21, my son Stephen is 55 and I am 81. Together we add up to more than 150 years of fly fishing. I am sure there are other three-generation families that gather together to swap stories of rivers waded, waters rowed, fish caught, fish released and too many big-time misses. I think what makes our experience unusual is that we are still doing it, and we are still doing it together.

Even though more than 60 years separate us, we are often in the same drift boat on various Wisconsin rivers. As a threesome we pose a formidable force to the smallmouth bass, northern pike and muskies that haunt our waters. Henry has the eye of an osprey, while I see dimly through bifocal Oakleys. Stephen hears the tiny variants trout make feeding on the surface on moving water, while my ears sport trumpets, courtesy of Miracle Ear. My donation to our fishing composition these days is best described in the words of Henry: "Grandpa, you can still row." They never disparage my miles of river and hours spent on the sticks. For as long as I am on the oars, they can fish.

Walter Isaacson, author of the *The Code Breaker*, calls this period of history "the age of the gene." I am convinced that somewhere in the twisted helical structure of our DNA there lies a transmitted piece of heredity my wife calls "the fishing gene." This genetic material reveals itself by its inheritor's passionate desire to be on moving water. Unlike more serious addictions that often skip a generation or two, Henry, Stephen and I appear to possess genetic material in unbroken lineage. The three of us seem helpless to resist this obsession for all things piscatorial.

Along with our genetic predisposition to chase finny creatures, we share a few other traits. Each of us is intensely curious about the world around us and what lies around the next bend. We seize any opportunity to be active, rather than passive, in our pursuits. I am certain that curiosity led Stephen to jump on his sport bike a few years ago and, 14,000 miles and four months later, arrive in Santiago, Chile. Curiosity leads Henry, while not chasing a UW-Eau Claire bachelor's degree, to explore any local water where he can bike or bum a ride. I think it was

the same curiosity that led me during my seminary teaching stint to head west to Idaho's Henry's Fork, rather than summer amidst the malls of St. Paul.

Along with curiosity, each of us appreciates the web of skills that fly fishing requires. To do it well, or at least on the level to which we aspire, one must integrate a physics professor's grasp of the elements of a graceful cast, the entomologist's understanding of the life cycles of bugs and a limnologist's mastery of moving water. When these things are mastered and woven together, they create a beautiful tapestry.

While the fishing gene has gifted us with more than a few common traits, our experiences together are flavored by some mutations. I am fairly certain that when I introduced Stephen, and Stephen introduced Henry, to cast with a fly, neither of them grasped any sense of the art or beauty of this new activity. I think it was all about the fun of doing something new. In hindsight, by learning to fish with something other than a worm and a cane pole, each might have sensed the great delight it brought to his parent when a Wilson Creek brook trout dangled from the fly.

Over the years Stephen, Henry and I have found ourselves in the company of folks that have owned these skills and were generous enough to share them. On the banks of some of America's great rivers we learned from these giants. Mel Kreiger, fishing coach to world champions, refined our ability to double haul and roll cast. Mike Lawson, owner of Henry's Fork Angler, Stephen and my boss, mentored us as guides and sharing his knowledge of reading water. Tom Helgeson, publisher of "Midwest Fly Fishing," brought the package together and modeled the gestalt of it all. And on many occasions we read out loud from the books of Robert Traver, the Michigan judge, reprobate fly fisher and recognized-curmudgeon, who surrounded us with stories of trout magic and madness.

What prompts this writing is not simply my musing on the fishing gene, but my need to express the delight I experience in moments spent with my son and grandson. It is rare when three generations get to cast a fly, set a hook, play and land a fish, and then release it to be caught another day. It is more than our float-



Stephen Wisner

## MASTER OF THE "STICKS" WITH GRANDSON HENRY

My donation to our fishing composition these days is best described by Henry: "Grandpa, you can still row." They never disparage my miles of river and hours spent on the sticks. As long as I am on the oars, they can fish.

ing and rowing. It is more than words shared and scenery passed. It is more than the Slim Jim's and stale Wheat Thins we pass off for shore lunches. It is more than stream flows and cubic feet per seconds of water. It is more than rafts, jon boats and drifters.

In my old age, I know what it is. It is a blessing.

The concept of blessing has fallen on hard times these days. It has become the equivalent of good luck like a pat on the head, a payoff for a benevolent deed or an additional reward for a life of privilege. Yet blessing in its proper, Hebrew, biblical sense refers to being inseparably connected to what God is doing creatively in the world. Blessing involves God's desire to bring us together into one. Not the same, but one.

When I get off the water with Henry, Stephen or both, I often pause before putting the car into gear and offer a brief prayer of gratitude for another day of grace. I have been doubly blessed. Indeed,

we are not the same.

After time shared on the water, we are one.

Wisner, longtime campus pastor and liturgical scholar, is a native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and now resides in Eau Claire. He served Dr. Martin Luther Church in Oconomowoc for two years, Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Wisconsin-Stout for eight years and Lutheran Campus Ministry and University Lutheran Church, Ecumenical Religious Center in Eau Claire for 22 years. He taught worship and liturgical studies at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minn., for 11 years.

During this time, he was the summer pastor at Chapel in the Pines and guided fly fishers for Henry's Fork Anglers in Idaho.

Stephen teaches in the Chippewa School district and is owner of Eau Claire Anglers

Henry is a student at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

## PFAS fish consumption advisory issued for Black Earth Creek

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Department of Health Services (DHS) announced a new PFAS-based consumption advisory for Black Earth Creek to the confluence with Blue Mound Creek in Dane County, following results of fish sampling conducted in 2020.

Elevated levels of PFOS (perfluorooctane sulfonate), a type of PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances), were found in brown trout sampled from Black Earth Creek near Cross Plains. As a result, the DNR and DHS recommend consuming no more than one meal per week for brown trout harvested from Black Earth Creek.

PFAS are a group of human-made chemicals that have been used for decades in various products, such as non-stick cookware, fast food wrappers, stain-resistant sprays

and certain types of firefighting foams that have made their way into the environment.

Health risks may increase when fish with high levels of PFAS are consumed. These can include increased cholesterol levels, decreased immune response and decreased fertility in women, among other health effects. More information is available on the DHS website.

Following fish consumption advisories will help protect you from consuming excess PFOS, Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) and mercury. A complete list of up-to-date consumption advisories can be found in the DNR's Choose Wisely booklet.

You can find additional fish consumption advice and information on the effects of PFAS on the DNR's website.

## Got your TU plates?

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





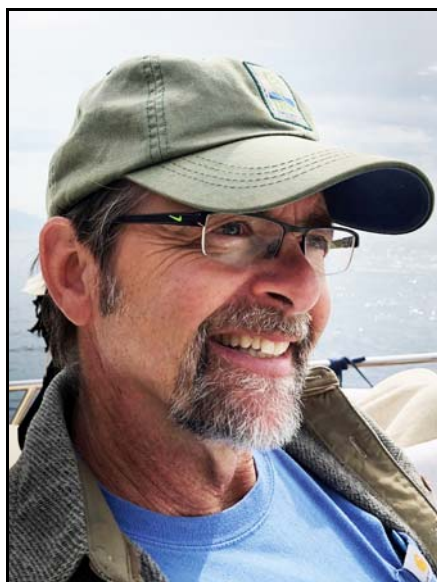
# Hastings retires

My last day with Trout Unlimited will be at the end of April. I started my career with Trout Unlimited 16 years ago, after working for Vernon County Land and Water Conservation Department for more than 20. It's been a very exciting and a fulfilling 40-plus years doing conservation work, all in the Driftless Area.

By the time this article hits the press we will have likely already offered the Project Manager position to my replacement, who I'm sure will be excited and enthusiastic to continue the work building partnerships, writing grants, hosting field days and developing the symposiums. The best part of this job has been building the partnerships and friendships with other like-minded folks to accelerate coldwater restoration projects. Finding something in common with your partners and talking about fishing, hunting, grandchildren, etc. has been a very enjoyable part of this job and the start of many friendships.

TUDARE has always been about building capacity of groups to do stream restoration, and we have tried to bring additional funding and technical assistance to as many projects and parts of the Driftless Area as we can. As a Driftless partnership we have seen a substantial increase in the number of projects completed each year and a huge increase in funding.

Wisconsin TU Council and chapters have been both financially and



TUDARE'S JEFF HASTINGS

hands-on supportive of the TUDARE project since its inception and I am very grateful to all of you for helping make TUDARE the success it is, one of Trout Unlimited's most successful long-term projects.

My wife (Moirra) and I plan to do some traveling, continue with our Christmas tree farm, spend more time with family and friends, fish, hunt, and work on a future project list that covers two pages. I look forward to bumping into you again on a stream, symposium or chapter meeting. Take care.

*Sincerely, Jeff Hastings, retired.*

# Mining update

*What's new at the Back 40? Menominee hope to rename the area, which is sacred, and their spiritual home.*

**By Johnson Bridgwater, Water Advocates Organizer, River Alliance of Wisconsin**

There are two pieces of news to share related to the ongoing attempts to open the "Back 40" mine along the Menominee River.

First, a formal effort to name the Anaem Omot area, which includes Sixty Islands and The Dog's Belly, in Lake and Holmes townships, Wisconsin, is well underway, with the item discussed formally on the Michigan side recently. The Menominee consider this area as sacred, as their spiritual home.

The subject is hitting resistance on the Michigan side from some county supervisors and from people who have been employed by mining interests in recent years. Happily, on the Wisconsin side, Kara O'Keeffe, a spokesperson for the Wisconsin Historical Society, said Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Review Board unanimously supported the recommendation to list Anaem Omot in the National Register of Historic Places on Nov. 19, 2021.

This process will continue to play out over the next few months. While the formal approval of the historic status designation would not prevent mining in the area, the cultural significance of this action and the message it would send are reason

enough to support this action.

On a much happier note, the Coalition to Save the Menominee River, Inc. is gearing up for its Second Annual Water Celebration, so mark your calendars and save the date. The event is set for Saturday, July 23 on Stephenson Island in Marinette, Wisconsin. For further details please visit [jointherivercoalition.org](http://jointherivercoalition.org).

## Flambeau Mine is still in the news

As mentioned in the last issue, the owners of the Flambeau Mine have now applied for a final "Certificate of Completion" for a parcel of land that was previously part of the Flambeau Mine operations footprint near Ladysmith in Rusk County. At this time, the request is being formally reviewed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, with no further action occurring since the update in the last issue of *Wisconsin Trout*.

At some point soon the DNR will issue its formal review and then open a comment period for public input, so stay tuned. You can also visit the DNR Flambeau Mine web page for more information at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Mines/Flambeau.html>

## Watershed Access Fund: Dell Creek parcel secured

The Council is pleased to announce that Watershed Access Fund (WAF) grant money has once again played a major role in acquiring a prime fishing area.

WAF, together with a group of partners, worked successfully to purchase a 40-acre parcel on Dell Creek in Sauk County. This purchase will connect lands already in public hands and create a long continuous stretch of publicly held trout water.

Thank you to our donors who make this type of purchase possible.

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Make your check payable to Wisconsin Trout Unlimited

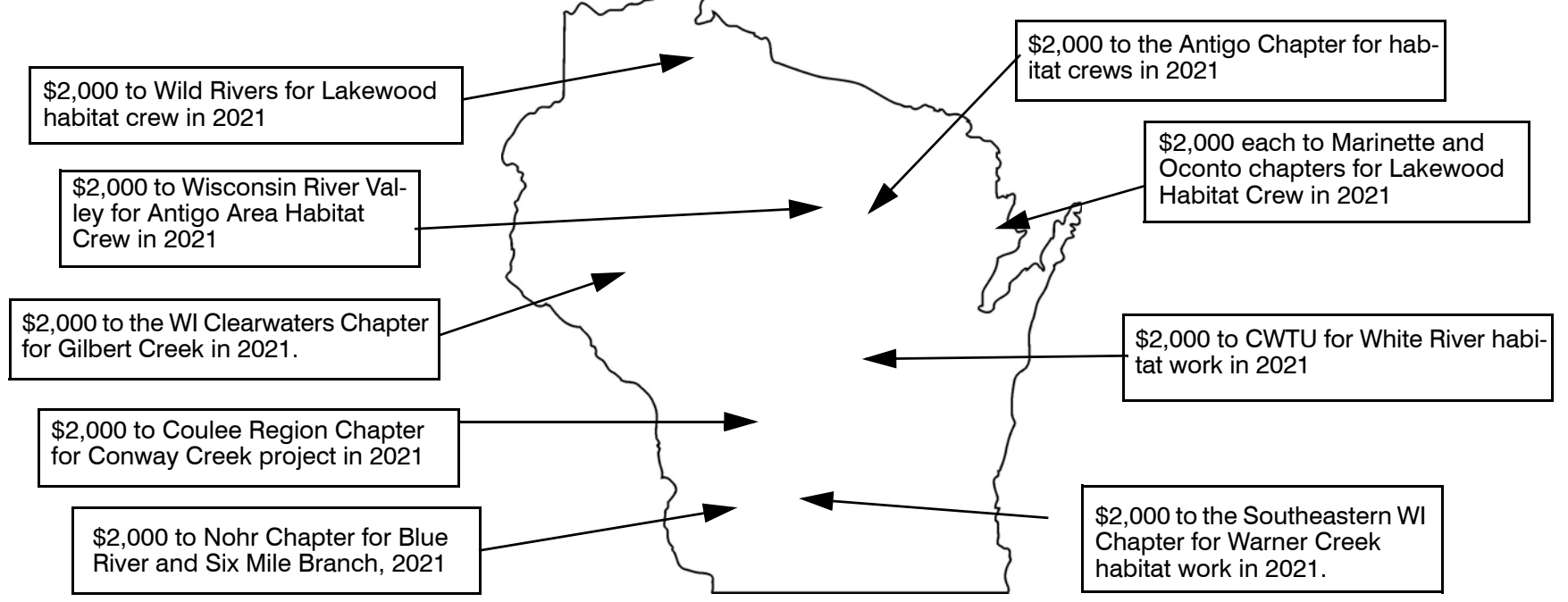
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# Please support Friends of Wisconsin TU in 2022

2022 looks to be another very good year for the Friends of Wisconsin TU grant program and the habitat work it sponsors. The State Council has awarded grants totaling \$18,000 to nine chapters for the 2022 work season. Thank you to those who support the Friends of Wisconsin Trout grant program with your contributions.

## Providing habitat improvement grants since 1991.



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# Flies of the Wolf River

*A trip into the history of Wolf River fly fishing, and the legendary fly tyers and fly fishermen who created some of the classic Wolf River flies.*

By Jason G. Freund

Wisconsin's Wolf River is probably the largest and most historically well-known trout stream in the state. Many believe the best days of the Wolf are in the rear view. Some claim the river to be the first victim of climate change. Others would say that the river was always dependent upon stocking and reduced stocking is at least part of the reason for perceived declines. My truth would be that the river was always relatively seasonal, reduced stocking and climate change are both current issues, and the river is far from "dead," as some may think.

Thirty and more years ago, a favorite joke on the river was that the Potamanthus hatch was of the species "neglectus" as the hatch, or at least the fishing of it, was so hit and miss due to summer river temperatures. Climate change has probably accelerated the summer warming and the river is not stocked as heavily as it once was. Like many rivers of the Wolf's size, summer means warm water and trout head to cold-water inputs and the river's tributaries. The Wolf River Chapter of Trout Unlimited is the 50th TU chapter in the nation and the oldest in Wisconsin, which gives some idea of the river's historical significance.

What makes the Wolf River so unique is that it has some of the best mayfly hatches in Wisconsin and the Midwest. My understanding is that river still has spectacular hatches in May and early June. The Brown Drake (*Ephemera simulans*) and sulphur (*Ephemerella dorothea*) hatches are legendary.

I do not fish the Wolf as much as I once did but I typically take part in an August weekend gathering with friends on the river where we chase smallmouth and on occasion, when the water temperatures are just right, a few trout are caught. The river provides some great summer smallmouth bass fishing, and with some proper planning, some of the most beautiful floats in the Midwest. It also has some of the best

whitewater in the Midwest, so do some scouting first.

Most of what I know of the Wolf River and its historic fly patterns comes from my time spent with George Close, my dad's uncle by marriage. George was born in Texas but grew up in my hometown of Waterloo, Wisconsin, where he met my grandmother's sister, Betty. They eventually moved to Kiel, where they settled and raised their family. They had a cottage on the Wolf River near Langlade.

George was one of my mentors. We built my first fly rod together and I learned to tie flies from him before I had ever fly fished. George was a creative and innovative fly tyer who was the generation behind Ed Haaga and Cap Buettner, the two names probably most associated with the history of the Wolf River's fly fishing. I won't write about the history of the Wolf, as others know it much better than I, do but I can offer some insights on the flies that I learned to tie from George.

This is in no way meant to be a comprehensive list of all the patterns of the Wolf River, but a quick introduction with links to some other sources to learn more and see more photos of these flies. I can share what I know and remember from when George Close taught me these patterns.



**CLOSE CARPET FLY**

Additionally, this past winter we held a Saturday night session that you can now find on YouTube where we learned more about some of these flies from people that had known Ed Haaga, Cap Buettner, George Close and other anglers and tyers of the Wolf River.

The first two flies, Cap's Hair-wing and the Close Carpet fly, were developed to match the river's brown drake hatch and share a lot of similarities. Both use deer hair for the tail and body and thread as the segmentation for the body. The key to tying a good body and tail is to use deer hair that is not hollow and to loosen thread tension as you move rearward to reduce the tail flare. Dan Ferron shared that Ed Haaga added moose mane to the



**GEORGE CLOSE AT THE VISE IN THEIR KIEL, WISCONSIN HOME.**

tail to make it easier to tie and so the tail would flare less. While the wings of each are deer hair, the hair-wing is a divided upright wing like a Wulff-style fly, whereas the Carpet Fly is tied in the "compara" style. The Close Carpet Fly certainly borrows heavily from Cap's Hair-wing, as the tail and body are the same.

## Cap's Hair-wing

(aka the Adams Hair-wing, Hair-wing Adams, or The Ed Haaga Fly)

**Hook:** Mustad 94840 or equivalent, size #10-16

**Thread:** 6/0 black

**Tail/body:** Deer hair or moose hair

**Wing:** Deer hair, divided

**Hackle:** Brown and Grizzly

**Head:** Thread - color of your choice

## Close Carpet Fly

Pattern taken from George Close's article in "The Hornberg Fly Fishers Handbook." For more information go to <https://wiflyfisher.com/Patterns/Caps-Hairwing-fly-pattern.asp>

**Hook:** Mustad 94840 or equivalent, size #10-16

**Thread:** 6/0 Brown (or your choice to match naturals)

**Tail/Body:** Deer hair (non-hollow)

**Wing:** Comparadun deer hair

**Thorax:** Antron carpet fibers in a dubbing loop

**Head:** Thread in color of your choice

For more information go to <https://wiflyfisher.com/Patterns/Close-Carpet-Fly-pattern.asp> and [https://www.flytierspage.com/jfreund/close\\_carpet\\_fly.htm](https://www.flytierspage.com/jfreund/close_carpet_fly.htm)

Both of these flies are pretty easily adapted to imitate a variety of larger mayflies. Change the size and thread color to match the insect you are trying to imitate. Both tyers typically treated the body with flexament to make the flies more durable. I doubt either of them would have an issue with a little UV resin playing that role today. I have used the Close Carpet fly as a White Fly (*Ephoron leukon*) imitation with good success. If you do not have "the carpet," it is an antron carpet that George used in a dubbing loop and there are many rea-

sonable substitutes for the carpet fibers. The more important idea is that the fly was created to provide a lower-floating Brown Drake imitation for when fish were not eating the higher-riding hair-wing fly that had been used for many years. George also tied it with spinner-style wings tied of deer hair.

Talasek's Killer is a wet fly created by Neil Sandvige for Bob Talasek, who owned the fly shop that Cap Buettner once owned and Ed Haaga had tied for on the east bank of the river. I had met Bob on a trip to the shop with George the day after fishing the "Oxbow," where George landed and I photographed a 19.5-inch brown trout that George caught on a woodchuck Muddler, another favorite pattern of his. The Sulphur hatch that evening never really materialized but he saw a commotion in the riffle, put on a muddler, and swung it in front of the big brown's face. It made for a much more interesting evening than did waiting for a hatch that never materialized that evening. And so it goes...

## Talasek's Killer (wet fly)

**Hook:** Mustad 3906B or equivalent, sizes #12-16

**Thread:** 6/0 black

**Tail:** Brown hackle fibers

**Body:** Black (silk) floss

**Rib:** Flat silver tinsel

**Hackle:** Brown

**Wing:** wood duck flank fibers, wet fly style

This one is a pretty straight-forward wet fly and the wing is much simpler to set than most wet flies. It is generally fished in that down-and-across style associated with wet flies. I tied this one with what I had available. In place of brown hackle I used a lighter mottled brown soft hackle for the collar and Coq de Leon fibers for the tail. Play around with the wing position. This one has a pretty highly cocked wing. On the original, as I remember it, the wing was set lower.

I hope this is a bit of what keeps the history of the Wolf River and its flies alive. I think it is important that we have some idea of the history of our rivers and their fly patterns. The Wolf may not be the place that attracts anglers from across the state and the Midwest as it once did.



**ED HAAGA WITH A SHADOW BOX OF HIS WOLF RIVER FLIES**

Photo by George Close.





**CAP BUETTNER IN THE CLOSE CABIN ON THE WOLF RIVER**  
Photo by George Close.

However, many of the characteristics that once made it “THE” trout fishery of Wisconsin are still present. The river flows through an amazingly wild corridor known as much for its whitewater and scenery as its fish. The hatches that earned the river its great fame are still there and these hatches and the abundance forage fishes still help pro-

duce fish that grow quickly and large. And the bonus smallmouth bass fishing that was always present has gotten better and is more appreciated today.

For the YouTube video go to <https://youtu.be/WG3nPERXKeo>

*Jason Freund is a Ph.D. fisheries ecologist who teaches Biology at the*

## WI teen among TU Youth Essay contest winners

*Wyatt Kauth, a high school junior from Oostberg, was among six finalists in TU National's Youth Essay contest. Here is his winning essay.*

By Wyatt Kauth

Even before I could tie my own shoes, I loved fishing. The one by my side teaching me and instilling the love of fishing was my father. He was the most important person in my life not only because he was showing me the outdoors and captivating me with these amazing stories of fish as big as me and how he caught them, but because he was my dad.

For as long as I can remember, he was taking me to preschool, McDonalds, or to shoot archery. He taught me everything that he could before he passed. I was 7-years-old when I had to say goodbye to him.

From that moment forward I knew that he did everything that he did for a reason. He wanted me to have something to hold onto him, and that something was the outdoors. He made me the person I am today by showing me how to find myself in the outdoors.

When I go fishing, hunting or even just for a walk in the woods I can feel just that little bit closer to him. It is difficult sometimes but when I am feeling down, I go into the woods or by the water and I can feel myself drift away. I like to think that everyone has that one special thing that they just drift away in. For some it's music or running or maybe even cooking. For me that special thing is fishing.

In that special zone I am not worried about what happened yesterday, I'm not anticipating what comes tomorrow, I am focusing on the constant flow of the water and what lies beneath it. It's just me and my line. That's all that I have to worry about.



I will always remember the adrenaline rush from hooking a trout for the very first time. It was my first time fly fishing, I wasn't great at it but I understood enough to get my fly out there and near the fish. It was just a matter of time and soon enough a fish grabbed it. I picked up the slack and lifted my rod, I could feel the trout through the line. I could feel every movement that the fish made. I will never forget that, I will do whatever it takes to get more people to feel what fly fishing really is all about.

Green spaces allow the opportunity to experience the outdoors not only for me but for the generations to come. They have been providing young men and women like me with these opportunities to get hooked on fishing for decades. They keep this art alive and that is why it pains me to see them in shambles.

People disrespect these spaces because they don't recognize what they have until they have lost it. Littering, illegal dumping, disrespecting the land, these are all things that I see people doing to these spaces. To those few that clean up the other people's messes and treat these spaces with the respect that they deserve, Thank You.

Before there were vast cities and endless roads there were massive forests and beautiful winding streams. That doesn't have to be stuck in the past. If everyone takes even the smallest effort to clean up their mess and better these spaces, we can have them for the generations to come. Thank you for doing your part and preserving these spaces and the beautiful animals that live in them. I greatly appreciate the opportunity that you have given me to share my story and I anticipate hearing the stories from my fellow anglers.



**A WOLF RIVER FLY ASSORTMENT**

*University of Wisconsin - La Crosse and is a chapter leader with the Coulee Region Chapter. He is a member of the CAFO and Priority Waters committees of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited. He has written many articles about fly fishing, fly tying and much*

*more, which are available on his website/blog at [thescientificflyangler.com](https://www.thescientificflyangler.com). This article and additional photos, including photos of the fly patterns is at <https://www.thescientificflyangler.com/post/flies-of-the-wolf-river>*



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THEODORE GORDON: HIS LOST FLIES AND LAST SENTIMENTS  
JOHN GUBBINS

In John Gubbins's beautiful new book, what begins as a story of adventure in the wilderness of Alaska, rife with both camaraderie and loneliness, soon becomes much more, as memory and destiny intrude, carrying with them the sort of heartache and soul-sickness that in Gubbins's careful hands, burst with an electric and affirming humanity.

**Matthew Gavin Frank**  
Professor, MFA Program in Creative Writing, N. Michigan University, Marquette, MI

**Winner: 2020 IPPY Bronze Award**  
**2020 Finalist Indie Award**

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

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

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# Wisconsin salmonids: past, present and future

## The other Salmonids

By John Lyons

Photos by John Lyons, except as indicated.

Ask any serious angler about the trout and salmon that occur in Wisconsin, and he or she can probably list the big six – brook trout, brown trout, rainbow trout, lake trout, coho salmon and Chinook salmon – the subjects of the first five articles in this series. But what most anglers don't realize is that another 10 members of the trout and salmon family are or were once found in Wisconsin waters. This final article talks about them.

Trout and salmon are part of the family of fishes known as the Salmonidae. This family has 50-100 species, depending on which ichthyologist you consult, and is native to temperate and arctic regions of the northern hemisphere. Many species have been widely introduced into suitable habitats in the southern hemisphere.

The Salmonidae is divided into three subfamilies, Thymallinae, the graylings, Coregoninae, the ciscoes and whitefishes, and Salmoninae, the trout, charrs, salmon, and closely related forms like taimen. Let's look at each of these subfamilies in Wisconsin.

### The graylings

Arctic grayling (*Thymallus arcticus*) non-native/not established: The arctic grayling is found, not surprisingly, in the Arctic. But two populations are known from more temperate areas, both isolated "glacial relicts" from the last ice age, one in the Upper Missouri River basin in the Rocky Mountains of Montana and Wyoming and the other in the northern Lower Peninsula and eastern Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

The Rocky Mountain population is still hanging on, but the Michigan population is long gone. Arctic grayling require very cold and very clean water, and 200 years ago, the sandy aquifers of northern Michigan provided ideal conditions.

The fabled Ausable and Manistee Rivers once held vast numbers of grayling, so many that the small city that arose at their headwaters was named Grayling. But timber clear-cutting and subsequent farming soiled and warmed the waters and rapacious fishing harvest and introduced brown and rainbow trout

doomed the species. By the late 1800's grayling were gone from the Lower Peninsula, and the last report from the Upper Peninsula was in 1936.

Michigan has been trying to reintroduce grayling ever since, and the latest effort, the Michigan Arctic Grayling Initiative (<https://www.mi-grayling.org/>) began in 2016.

Wisconsin never had native grayling. The nearest UP populations were more than 50 miles east, but they were always a desired species in the state, and stocking attempts began in the late 1800's with Michigan eggs.

As the Michigan populations disappeared, eggs and fry from Montana and Wyoming were substituted. But the result was always the same: unsuccessful. By the time grayling stocking began, Wisconsin streams had suffered the same degradation as Michigan streams, and their habitat was unsuitable.

In the 1950's and 60's, grayling stocking efforts switched to small lakes that had been poisoned to remove other species, but here, too, results were dismal.

The last record of official stocking I can find is from Little John Junior Lake in Vilas County in 1964. In the mid 1990's, I received credible reports of an angler catching a grayling from a stretch of Waupee Creek in Oconto County, presumably the result of an undocumented and illegal private stocking. But when I surveyed the stream in 1997, I found no grayling and water temperatures that were too warm for long-term grayling survival.

### The ciscoes and whitefishes

Cisco (*Coregonus artedii*) native: The cisco is one of the most variable of Wisconsin salmonids and an important commercial fishing species. Historically there were at least eight different forms in the Great Lakes: the lake herring, deepwater cisco, shortnose cisco, shortjaw cisco, longjaw cisco, blackfin cisco, kiyi and bloater chub. The latter seven were often referred to collectively as deepwater ciscoes or chubs.

They all looked pretty similar but differed in where they lived (midwater or closer to the bottom at depths of 30 to more than 500 feet), when they spawned (different times in the fall and possibly in the spring in some populations), what they primarily ate (plankton, amphipods,



### VARIOUS TYPES OF CISCOES

Top: lake herring from Lake Superior. Middle: bloater chub from Lake Michigan. Bottom: inland cisco from Spencer Lake, Waupaca County.

opossum shrimp or aquatic insects), how big they grew (8 to 20 inches), and how they were prepared for human consumption (whole versus filleted, smoked versus fresh).

These eight Great Lakes forms in turn differed somewhat from the inland cisco, which once occurred in about 140 deep Wisconsin lakes and lake chains. For many years, the various ciscoes and chubs were considered different species or subspecies, but now ichthyologists classify them all as morphological and life-history variations of a single species, known officially as the cisco. However, in the Great Lakes they are still named, monitored and managed separately for fisheries management purposes.

Unfortunately, many of the Great Lakes forms have been lost. The main reasons are past overfishing and the food web changes over the last 80 years brought on by a long list of non-native invasive species such as the rainbow smelt, alewife, sea lamprey, zebra mussel, quagga mussel, round goby and spiny water flea.

In Wisconsin waters of Lake Michigan, only the bloater chub remains, and its numbers are much reduced from past levels. This is the species you typically get when you purchase a "smoked chub" at the market. As bloater chub numbers have declined, their price has skyrocketed, and now you will pay five to 10 times as much as you would have just 20 years ago if you can find the fish for sale at all.

Things are better in Lake Superior, where the lake herring, often sold fresh, bloater chub, sold smoked, and kiyi, found in water deeper than 200 feet and rarely fished, are relatively common, and the shortjaw cisco is rare.

The other forms are either gone forever or barely holding on in other parts of the Great Lakes or in lakes further north in Canada.

The situation has also deteriorated for inland cisco. Of the original 140 lakes, about 40 have completely lost the species and another 45 have low populations. Declines have been caused by deteriorating water quality in the colder, deeper parts of the lakes, caused by excessive runoff of nutrients from the surrounding watershed and in some lakes by the invasion of non-native rainbow smelt.

Climate warming is an additional stressor, and the projection is that 70 percent of the remaining lakes could lose their cisco by the end of this century.

A few large populations do remain, most notably Geneva Lake, Walworth County, Okauchee Lake, Waukesha County, Big Green Lake, Green Lake County, Elkhart Lake, Sheboygan County, Spencer Lake, Waupaca County, Big Carr Lake, Oneida County, Plum Lake, Vilas County, and Whitefish Lake, Sawyer County.

Atkins Lake in Bayfield County has an unusual dwarf form that matures as small as four inches and rarely exceeds seven inches. Other cisco populations first mature at about eight inches and can grow as large as 18-20. Some inland lakes have recreational fisheries, either through the ice with hook and line or during fall spawning on near-shore rocky shoals with dip nets or small seines.

**Lake whitefish (*Coregonus clupeaformis*), native:** The lake whitefish has long been the backbone of commercial fisheries in both Lake Michigan and Lake Superior and is also known historically from nine inland lakes.

Lake whitefish are still common in both Great Lakes, where they occur near the bottom in from 20 to 200 feet of water, although they have declined in number since heavy fishing began 200 years ago.

Of the nine inland lakes, six still have small populations: Keyes Lake, Florence County, Butternut and Franklin lakes, Forest County, Trout and Little Star lakes, Vilas County, and Whitefish Lake, Sawyer County.

Lake whitefish have been lost from Lake Lucerne, Forest County, owing to non-native rainbow smelt, and from Lac Courte Oreilles and Grindstone lakes, Sawyer County, because of declines in water quality in deep cold areas from excessive nutrient inputs.

Lake whitefish have undergone a major distributional change in Lake Michigan over the last 30 years. In the past, most lake whitefish spawning occurred on the Lake Michigan side of Door County and in northern Green Bay along the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Lake whitefish were common on the Wisconsin side of Lake Michigan, but uncom-



ARCTIC GRAYLING FROM ALASKA





**ROUND WHITEFISH FROM LAKE MICHIGAN**

Top: round whitefish being gill netted from Lake Michigan by a WDNR research vessel. Bottom: the round whitefish from the gill net.



**LAKE WHITEFISH FROM VARIOUS LAKES**

Top: Whitefish Lake, Sawyer County. Bottom Left: through the ice from Green Bay. Lower Right: Lake Superior



**PYGMY AND ROUND WHITEFISH**

Top: adult pygmy whitefish from Lake Superior. Bottom: juvenile round whitefish from Lake Superior.

mon in the Wisconsin waters of Green Bay.

Then in the 1980's and 1990's, after pollution abatement that had started in the 1970's had improved water quality, lake whitefish began running up the major Green Bay tributaries in the fall to spawn. The first runs were in the Menominee River on the border with the UP, and from there they spread south to the Peshtigo and Oconto rivers, and finally to Fox River in the city of Green Bay. Lake whitefish now lay their eggs not far from Lambeau Field.

At the same time, spawning de-

clined along the Lake Michigan side of Door County, and lake whitefish numbers decreased in Lake Michigan and increased dramatically in central and southern Green Bay.

This indicates that lake whitefish were moving towards Green Bay from Lake Michigan rather than just getting more widespread and abundant. No one is quite sure why this shift has occurred, but it probably is connected with the major food web changes in the lake caused by non-native quagga mussels, round goby and other invasive species. What is interesting is that lake whitefish, which once fed mainly on

amphipods and opossum shrimp, now feed substantially on quagga mussels and small round gobies.

The change in lake whitefish distribution has not gone unnoticed by anglers, and a major sport fishery has developed through the ice on the east side of Green Bay. Shanties and guides are available for hire, thousands of anglers participate, and tens of thousands of lake whitefish are harvested each year.

**Pygmy whitefish (*Prosopium coulterii*), native:** This small (usually less than six inches), bottom-oriented whitefish has an unusual native range. Most populations are found in mountain lakes and rivers in the northern Rockies from Montana to the Yukon and Alaska, but a single glacial relict population occurs in Lake Superior. No other fish species has this distribution.

Too small to be captured in most fishermen's nets and similar in appearance to juvenile round whitefish, the pygmy whitefish wasn't discovered in Lake Superior until 1953. It is normally only seen in fine-mesh bottom trawls during scientific surveys to assess prey abundance for larger commercial and sportfish species.

Analyses of trawl catch data indicate that the pygmy whitefish is moderately common near the bottom in 25 to 250 feet of water. It spawns on rocky shoals in the fall. The population size fluctuates from year to year for reasons that aren't clear, and numbers appear to be relatively low at the moment.

**Round whitefish (*Prosopium cylindraceum*), native:** This large (sometimes more than 24 inches) bottom-oriented whitefish is found mainly in arctic Canada, Alaska and Siberia, but reaches the southern edge of its range in the northeastern U.S. and the Great Lakes.

In Wisconsin, it is common in both Lake Superior and Lake Michigan, where it is sometimes called the Menominee whitefish. There it occurs near the bottom in 10 to 200 feet of water. The round whitefish spawns on rocky shoals in the fall. During spring, a few individuals will sometimes venture into Lake Superior tributaries, presumably following sucker spawning runs to feed on their eggs. On rare occasions they are caught there by steelhead anglers. Small numbers are harvested by commercial fishers from the Great Lakes and sold smoked, but I have to say I don't find them very tasty. To me they are quite bland, and I'd much rather have a smoked chub, lake whitefish or lake trout.

**The trout, charrs and salmon**

**Cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkii*), non-native/not established:** This species is widely distributed throughout the western United States and Canada and has many different subspecies. In 1959, a private and poorly documented introduction of cutthroat trout occurred in Wisconsin, probably of the Yellowstone subspecies, which was widely propagated and stocked in the west in those days. It was put into "a Washington County lake," possibly Big Cedar Lake, the deepest and coldest lake in this part of the state. However, the introduction was a failure.

**Pink salmon (*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*), non-native/established:** The pink salmon is native to the Pacific Northwest, Alaska, northeastern Asia and the north Pacific Ocean. Spawning males develop a pronounced hump behind the head, giving them the colloquial name "humpy." The pink salmon is the smallest of the Pacific salmon, typically reaching only four to six pounds, and while quite important commercially, it is of secondary interest to most anglers compared to Chinook, coho, sockeye and chum salmon.

Consequently, there have been few efforts to stock it elsewhere for sport fishing. The pink salmon's arrival and establishment in the Great Lakes was unplanned.

In the early 1950's, the Canadian government undertook a project to introduce pink salmon into the James Bay-Hudson Bay system in northern Canada to provide a new subsistence and commercial fishery.

Fertilized eggs from the west coast were brought to a hatchery in Thunder Bay, Ontario, on the northern shore of Lake Superior. The eggs were hatched and raised to a size at which they could tolerate long-distance transport. They were then loaded on to a seaplane and flown to the stocking site on James Bay.

But there was not enough room on the plane for all the pink salmon in the hatchery. Rather than destroy the extra fish, they were released into a Lake Superior tributary, the expectation being that a few might survive and grow large enough to be caught, but that the species would not become established.

As you might have guessed, things didn't turn out as intended. The carefully plotted introduction of pink salmon into James Bay was a failure, but the ad-hoc release into



**PINK SALMON**

Top: spawning-run male from the Sioux River, Bayfield County. Bottom: spawning-run male from Seward, Alaska. Note the larger size and more pronounced hump.



Lake Superior was a success. Spawning runs soon developed along the north shore of the lake and from there spread to Lake Huron and Lake Michigan.

Small numbers of pink salmon began showing up in the Wisconsin waters of Lake Superior and Lake Michigan by the late 1960's. Spawning runs developed in a few tributaries, and it looked like a new species had been added to the state's fish fauna.

But then from the late 1970's through the late 1990's, the pink salmon runs stopped in Wisconsin, and no one could figure out why. Pink salmon were almost never seen in Lake Michigan nor in the Wisconsin waters of Lake Superior, even though spawning runs, sometimes quite large, still occurred in north-shore tributaries of Lake Superior in Minnesota, within sight of the Wisconsin coastline.

The thinking was that perhaps the sandier, slower moving, and more turbid Wisconsin tributaries were ultimately unsuitable compared to the rockier, faster-moving, clear-water tributaries in Minnesota.

But then the situation changed again. In the late 1990's, small numbers of spawning pink salmon began to be seen again at the counting weir on the Bois Brule River, Douglas County, a Lake Superior tributary.

In 2007, noticeable runs also appeared in three other Lake Superior tributaries, the Pike, Sioux and Onion rivers, Bayfield County, and in the Menominee and Peshtigo rivers, Marinette County, and the Oconto River, Oconto County, flowing into Green Bay.

Since then, spawning runs have occurred every year in these seven streams and sometimes also in other Lake Superior and Lake Michigan tributaries. Why the pink salmon re-established themselves in Wisconsin after a 20-year hiatus is a mystery.

Pink salmon spawning runs in Wisconsin are not large, probably less than 150 fish per stream in most years, but they are completely self-sustaining and are all derived from that single release at Thunder Bay in the early 1950's.

Pink salmon have managed to reproduce successfully in many Great Lakes tributaries where other salmon and trout could not because of their unique life history. Pink salmon spawn in the lowermost suitable reaches of tributaries and do not move far inland like the other salmon and trout.

Similar to those other species, they spawn in the fall and their eggs

hatch in the late winter or early spring. However, upon hatching, pink salmon larvae immediately drift downstream into the lake.

The larvae of other salmon and trout remain in the stream for months to years, and they require cold water to survive. Pink salmon larvae are gone from the tributaries by April, when the water is still cold, and thus they can reproduce successfully in warmwater systems like the Menominee, Peshtigo and Oconto, where other salmon and trout larvae would perish.

Lake whitefish larvae also drift down to the lake upon hatching, allowing them to use these and other warmwater tributaries for spawning as well.

Pink salmon are shorter lived than other Great Lakes salmon and trout. Pink salmon only rarely survive longer than two years compared to three to eight years for other species. Although pink salmon spawning runs occur each year, abundance is greatest in odd-numbered years. 2021 had particularly large runs in Lake Michigan, with over 900 fish seen in the Menominee, and double figures observed in the Sheboygan and Milwaukee rivers for the first time.

Pink salmon in the Great Lakes don't reach nearly the same size as in the Pacific Northwest. In 2013, spawning fish from the Sioux River ranged from 13.5-16.5 inches and 0.7-1.5 pounds. Spawning fish from the Menominee were larger, reflecting the more fertile waters of Green Bay and Lake Michigan compared to Lake Superior, ranging from 16.5-23.0 inches and 1.5-3.3 pounds. But in the Pacific, pink salmon are typically 24-26 inches and 4 to 6 pounds.

Few anglers target pink salmon because of their relative scarcity and small size, but they can be caught both by trolling in the lakes and by fishing the spawning runs in the tributaries. Although pink salmon are much smaller, the same techniques used for Chinook and coho salmon and rainbow and brown trout will work for them. On light tackle, they can be a lot of fun, and they are an interesting addition to the fisheries of the streams where they occur.

**Kokanee Salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*), non-native/established:** The kokanee salmon is the freshwater form of the famous sockeye or red salmon of the Pacific Northwest, Alaska, northeastern Asia and the north Pacific Ocean. The sockeye spawns and spends its early life in freshwater and then migrates to the ocean for several years

to grow to large size, 5-10 pounds, before returning to the river of its birth to spawn and die.

The kokanee substitutes a lake for the ocean and does not grow nearly as large, reaching only one to two pounds. Some kokanee spend their whole lives in lakes, spawning on gravelly shorelines with spring inputs, whereas other populations run into tributaries to spawn.

Kokanee are a popular sportfish, and they are also valued as prey for large lake and rainbow trout. As a result, they are widely stocked in many areas of the Rockies where they did not occur naturally. There have also been at least 50 attempts to introduce them east of the Rockies, but only four have been successful, in a Berkshire Mountains lake in Connecticut, an Adirondack Mountains lake in New York, a Smoky Mountains reservoir in North Carolina, and Florence and Upper Bass lakes in Langlade and Menominee counties in Wisconsin.

Florence and Upper Bass lakes, which are in close proximity and connected by a channel, are surprising sites for kokanee to have become established. They are smaller, shallower, at lower elevation and latitude, and more productive than nearly all other waters where kokanee occur.

But kokanee have thrived in Florence and Upper Bass since the early 1960's, when they were brought from Washington State to a private fish hatchery along Drew Creek, the inlet to Florence Lake, and then escaped and moved downstream into the lakes. Escapees from this same fish hatchery were also the source for one of the only established inland populations of rainbow trout in Wisconsin.

Both lakes are surrounded by private or reservation lands without any public access, and they see little fishing pressure. Consequently, they provide an opportunity to learn about a largely unfished kokanee population in a somewhat unusual environmental setting.

I've studied the kokanee in Florence Lake since 1999 in collaboration with DNR fish manager Dave Seibel. We've found that this population spends its entire life in this 50-acre, 30-foot-deep lake and rarely enters Drew Creek, and that it spawns along steep lake shorelines with spring seepage.

Until they reach maturity, the kokanee are a bright silver with few spots and live in open water offshore, feeding on tiny zooplankton and aquatic insects. They can sometimes be seen rising to emerging

midges in the middle of the lake in the evening.

When they've reached 12-17 inches and 0.5 to 1.5 pounds in the fall of their third or fourth year of life, which is relatively fast growth for kokanee, they mature and change dramatically in appearance. Both sexes transform from silver to a dark orange or red body with a greenish head. The males also develop a bend and hook to their jaws, and their teeth become sharp and prominent.

For both sexes, the scales, once easily removed, now become fused and hardened into a largely impervious covering. These scale changes protect the fish from injury as the females defend their spawning areas and the males use their modified jaws and teeth to fight for access to females. It's a thrilling sight to see groups of bright red fish chasing each other in the shallows. After spawning, the fins, body, and internal organs of the fish gradually decay, and within a few weeks all the adults have died.

Summer habitat conditions for kokanee salmon in Florence Lake are already marginal and likely to worsen as the climate warms. During July and August, the surface of the lake is too warm for kokanee, and the deeper waters lack adequate dissolved oxygen. Kokanee are at times restricted to a band of water only 3-4 feet thick where the water is sufficiently cold and oxygenated. Longer and hotter summers will lead to a shrinking of this band of water, and if global warming is not checked, suitable habitat will eventually disappear, along with the kokanee.

**Arctic char (*Salvelinus alpinus*), non-native/not established:** Like the arctic grayling, this species is primarily native to the arctic, with a few glacial relict populations known from New England and Quebec. The species never occurred naturally in the Midwest, and to my knowledge has never been officially stocked in Wisconsin waters. However, I collected one once in a Wisconsin stream. Here's the story.

During the late 1990's and early 2000's, arctic char became a popular species for aquaculture, and farmed arctic char filets from Canada and Europe showed up for sale in Wisconsin supermarkets and on restaurant menus. Wisconsin fish farmers began to experiment with the species. But it required colder and cleaner water than most facilities had available, and the more tolerant rainbow trout remained easier



#### KOKANEE SALMON FROM FLORENCE LAKE IN LANGLADE COUNTY

Kokanee salmon from Florence Lake, Langlade County. Top: immature fish.. Bottom: mature spawning male.



#### ARTIC CHAR

Left: jar holding the preserved specimen from the West Branch of the Red River, Langlade County, at the UW Zoological Museum. Right: the preserved specimen.



to raise and more profitable, so most farms soon dropped the arctic char. Apparently at least one farm dropped them into the wild.

In 2008, I surveyed the West Branch of the Red River in Langlade County. We caught lots of small brook trout, but one didn't look right. I examined it closely and realized it was an arctic char, which I later confirmed back at my lab. Just up from the banks was a fish farm with a small outlet pipe that was discharging water into the stream.

When I asked a worker what they raised there, he said just fathead minnows for bait. He seemed a little nervous when I inquired if they had any arctic char in their facility, but he said no. But I guess that was true if they'd already released them all into the stream through the pipe. Fortunately, arctic char never became established in the stream.

**Atlantic Salmon (*Salmo salar*), non-native/not-established:** The Atlantic salmon is sometimes termed the "king of fish" or "the fish of kings," and it has long been one of the most sought after and prestigious gamefish and food fish in northern Europe and northeastern North America, where it is native. It was one of the first and most-widely stocked species in Wisconsin during the 1800's and early 1900's.

Eggs and fry and later fingerlings

were added to inland lakes and to Lakes Michigan and Superior. All introductions were unsuccessful, yet so powerful was the allure of this species that sporadic stockings continued through the 1970's.

Michigan and Minnesota were similarly enamored and similarly ineffective. Only a few fish have ever graced an angler's line in Wisconsin. Today, Atlantic salmon are still stocked in the St. Marys River at Sault St. Marie on the border between Michigan and Ontario. On rare occasions one makes its way to Wisconsin waters, the most recent I'm aware of from the Menominee River on the Wisconsin-Michigan border in 2018.

Atlantic salmon have become one of the world's premier aquaculture species, and farm-raised fish are widely available in Wisconsin markets and restaurants.

Most of these fish come from net-pens in coastal ocean areas, and these operations may pollute surrounding waters and harm native fishes. In response, some fish farmers are moving to land-based, self-contained, recirculating systems.

One Wisconsin example is Superior Fresh in Hixton in Jackson County, which raises Atlantic salmon together with organic leafy salad greens in an integrated aquaponics system. Waste from salmon produc-



**ATLANTIC SALMON NOW A PREMIER AQUACULTURE SPECIES**

Top: Atlantic salmon from a hatchery in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. Photo by Kyle Piller. Lower Left: Atlantic salmon fillet from Superior Fresh fish farm in Hixton, Jackson County, photographed in Willy Street Coop food market in Madison. Lower Right: packaged organic greens grown in an integrated hydroponics system with Atlantic salmon at Superior Fresh.

tion fertilizes the greens and nutrient uptake by the greens helps purify the water where the salmon are raised.

*John Lyons is Curator of Fishes, University of Wisconsin Zoological Museum and a member of the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited.*

# Spring is here! Look for the signs

**Ellen Voss, AIS Program Director, River Alliance of Wisconsin**

Despite some lingering snow, all signs are pointing to imminent spring! I saw my first robin of the year the other day, and I've heard rumors that the sandhill cranes are back. As the days get longer and warmer, I find myself looking for any opportunity to get out of the house after way too many hours spent inside this long, cold winter.

If you're looking for a good reason to get outside and want to help your favorite stream at the same time, here are some ideas for aquatic invasive species sign projects that can be done solo or with your local chapter.

Know of a stream access point that could use some signage?

Signs are a small way to remind anglers, paddlers and others about

simple things they can do to protect our streams and rivers. Be in touch if you'd be interested in installing small stream access signs on stiles or bridges yourself or as a group project. Otherwise, just let me know the GPS locations, and I'll take care of the rest.

See an old sign that needs to be repaired or replaced?

I saw a stream access sign recently that definitely got hit by a plow this winter. In summer, grass and bushes can grow tall and sometimes cover up sign messaging. If you know of a sign, signpost, or brush (some of the older signs have hand brushes attached) that needs a little maintenance or even replacement, please let me know.

Are you handy with a saw and drill?

Consider building a wader wash station as a group project with your

local chapter. Providing folks with the necessary information and tools is one way to encourage anglers to decontaminate their gear. If you know of a heavily accessed stream location that could benefit from one of these stations, let me know.

Have you spotted a wader wash station in need of TLC?

Wader wash stations only get used if they stay in good shape. If you know of a station that has been orphaned or needs cleaning, contact

me about becoming a station steward.

We can't fix something we don't know is a problem, so while you're out fishing, please keep an eye out for the signs. And if you're looking for other opportunities to get involved, reach out to me at [evoss@wisconsinrivers.org](mailto:evoss@wisconsinrivers.org)

Thank you for your continued efforts to protect Wisconsin's rivers and streams.

**HAVE YOU SEEN ME?**

ARE THERE WADER WASH STATIONS IN YOUR COMMUNITY? KNOW A SITE THAT COULD USE ONE?

HAVE YOU SPOTTED AN ORPHANED STATION? OR ONE THAT COULD JUST USE SOME TLC?

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A STATION STEWARD OR BUILDING MORE? LET US KNOW!

WADER WASH STATIONS

**STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!**  
Prevent the spread of invasive species. It's the Law!

**WATER USERS: Do your part to protect WI waters!**

Before entering and leaving here **YOU MUST**

- ✓ **INSPECT** all equipment, including boots & waders
- ✓ **REMOVE** all plants, animals & mud
- ✓ **DRAIN** all water from footwear, equipment and gear
- ✓ **NEVER MOVE** live fish, bugs & snails

When possible, use rubber-soled footwear and scrub **ALL** gear clean with a brush.

Logos: Play Clean Go, UW Extension, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Sea Grant University of Wisconsin, River Alliance of Wisconsin.

**KNOW A POPULAR FISHING SPOT THAT NEEDS A SIGN?**

These small signs are available for installation at stream access points like bridges and stiles. Note the pencils for scale.





## Chapter News



THE CENTRAL WISCONSIN CHAPTER UNVEILED ITS BANQUET LOGO

### Central Wisconsin Chapter

CWTU sent a questionnaire to all of its members in December and about 20 percent of them responded. The information and insight gathered will be a huge help for our board's focus on membership interests and also for generating new ideas for the future. The respondents included a cross-section of our current membership, from our newest members to our longest-term members. We were happy to see so many new members complete the questionnaire because with so few in-person activities, most of these new members haven't gotten to attend any activities or meet us.

The top two reasons for joining CWTU include wanting to participate in conservation projects and wanting to improve their fishing skills or learn more about fishing. All the other reasons for joining, in general, were not too far behind. With that noted, work days were checked as something many respondents were already involved in as well as being the main thing they were planning to participate in. Another piece of good news to surface was the overall interest in our annual banquet. It topped the list for CWTU events attended in the past, as well as what would be attended in the future.

With that good information, we are hoping for a large turnout at our April 30 banquet, which will take place at a new location, Mt. Morris Camp and Retreat in Wautoma. Doors will open at 3 p.m., with dinner served at 5:30 p.m., catered by Rockman's Catering. The banquet is open to the public, and tickets for the event are \$50 each for adults and \$15 each for students or youth. The evening includes dinner, door prizes, silent and live auctions, youth raffles and more.

The event's grand prize is an Old Town Sportsman Bigwater PDL 132 Fishing Kayak and paddle (retail value \$2,599). Additional prizes include Orvis & TFO rods, fishing trips, reels, hand-tied flies, handmade fishing net, Yeti items, packs, Trout Stamp collection, original art, framed prints, roof-top rod holder, pheasant hunt, gift baskets, hot air balloon ride, jewelry, Packers and Bucks items, gift certificates and more. For more information on the banquet visit our website at [centralwisconsintu.org](http://centralwisconsintu.org) or call Laura Tucker at 920-540-5293.

We held our annual Master's Fly Tying Class in January with a great lineup of guest instructors. The first

class was the team of past Council Chair Mike Kuhr and Jason Freund, professor of biology at UW-La Crosse. Mike taught the famous "Milwaukee Leech," which he is credited with naming. Jason tied a couple of famous Wolf River flies, the "Close Carpet Fly" and "Cap's Hair Wing." Both of those flies are Wolf River fly patterns where Jason grew up fishing. George Close, is Jason's uncle, so he has a close connection and some great stories.

The second night we brought in Dylan Kobyleski, a young guide from Michigan's Upper Peninsula, who owns a fly-tying business called Stream Stalker Flies, specializing in musky, pike and bass flies. Musky and pike flies were on the menu that evening, including the "Buford War Machine" and the "Fish Skull Deceiver Minnow."

The third night featured our own Bob Haase, who taught familiar patterns, but with new twists and alternative materials. The flies of the night were the mini-mop fly, foam beetle and caddis flies. Bob shared a wide range of tips and tricks as always.

Our last night was helmed by John Simonson, whose home water is the Namekagon River in northern Wisconsin. We tied three amazing fish-catching patterns, the "Mammoth Girdle Bug" which represents the largest Wisconsin stonefly, and two excellent caddis patterns, the "Iris Caddis" and the "Green Caddis Larva." John also shared a lot of great information on these insects and a few great fishing stories. We wrapped up the last night with the fly exchange board that included 14 different flies tied by 14 of the attendees of the class of which each participant receives.

This year our annual Dan Harmon III Fly Fishing School will take place June 4-5. The school coincides with the state's annual Wisconsin Free Fun Weekend where participants may fish without a fishing license or trout/salmon stamps.

Established in 1976, CWTU's Annual Fly Fishing School is the first and longest-running instructional program of its kind in our area. This school is perfect for those who want to make their first steps into the river as productive and educational as possible. Learn to fly fish or hone existing skills through group sessions and individual guidance from a team of instructors consisting of some of the most experienced fly fishers and fly tyers in Central Wis-

consin, whose combined fishing experience totals more than 500 years.

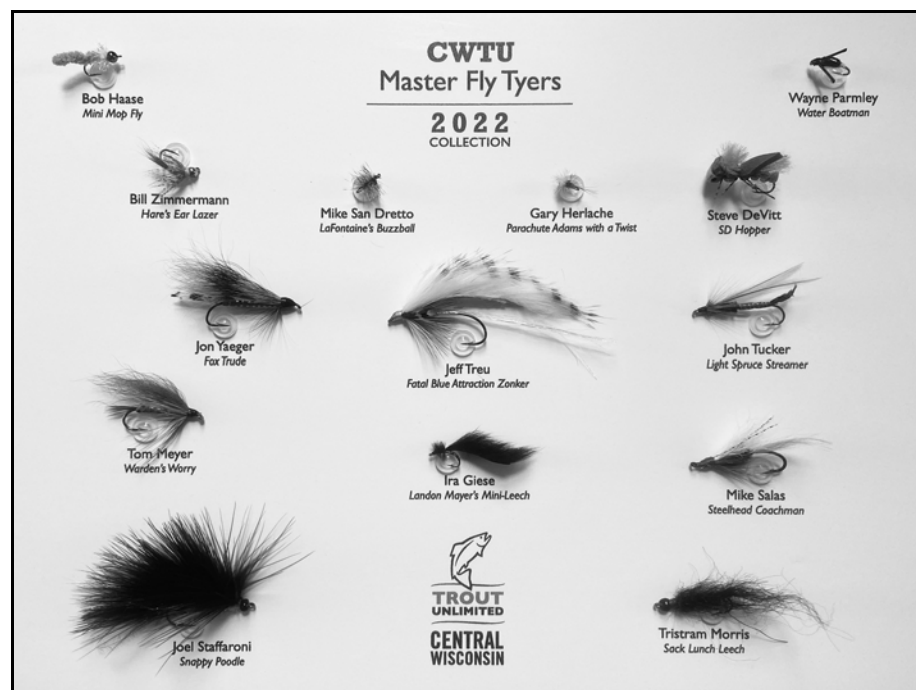
Topics include various fly-casting techniques, stream entomology, tackle selection, trout stream ethics, knot tying, fly pattern selection, wading safety and how to play, land and safely release a trout. The school includes an interactive classroom, on-stream instruction and one-to-one guided trout fishing on a local stream on the final morning. The two-day school takes place at the Riverside Bible Camp on the Tomorrow River in Amherst. For more information and how to register, visit our website at [centralwisconsintu.org](http://centralwisconsintu.org).

CWTU is also gearing up for another season of stream restoration with the first 2022 work day taking place Saturday, May 21 on the West Branch of the White River in the Younglove project area. This will be the location for most of 2022. Chad

Tucker is the new work day coordinator and will be keeping everyone informed throughout the season.

Our chapter also held our annual elections in March. We had a few spots open on the board. Jeff Treu and Dennis Drazkowski are ending their terms and will be missed as long-time board members and huge contributors. John Tucker's term was up, but we voted him back on as he is still the chapter environmental watch-dog and brings a lot of past experience to the board. We welcome Jim Danhauer as a new member to the board. The remaining spot will remain open for now, but as we finally get back to meeting in person and putting on activities and events, we will soon find that someone to join.

—Wayne Parmley



THE FLY EXCHANGE BOARD FROM CWTU'S MASTER'S FLY TYING CLASS

### Coulee Region Chapter

Coulee Region has been busy preparing for this year's banquet, which will be held in-person on March 25 at Cedar Creek in Onalaska. The event promises the same great food and comradery as in years past. Top prize items this year include a handmade bamboo rod, other custom rods, guided fishing days, and dinner for two at the Driftless Cafe in Viroqua.

Our chapter recently installed its current executive board with Fred Spademan as president, Jason Freund as vice president, Curt Rees as treasurer, and Brad Bryan as secretary.

We have enjoyed a number of high-quality speakers at membership meetings this past winter.

Jeff Hastings, project manager with TU-DARE spoke at our January meeting about ongoing efforts to expand watershed restoration and grow partnerships in the area.

In February, we celebrated our women of fly fishing with speakers Marlene Huston and Donna Smith. They engaged the audience with information on the past, present, and future of women in fly fishing and trout angling. We were joined by a number of guests for that event both in person and on-line.

Looking ahead, our April membership meeting will feature our own Jason Freund who will present on spring and early summer flies for the Driftless Area. Check our Facebook page for the both physical lo-

cation and link to the webcast.

We are in the early stages of planning for a free-to-the-public picnic on May 18 at the shelter in Veterans Memorial Park in Coon Valley. We intend to offer free casting lessons, hot dogs, brats and soft beverages for the public's enjoyment. Come join us from 5 p.m. until dusk.

Our chapter was able to provide some needed assistance to the Wisconsin DNR in providing materials for the streambank stabilization and habitat improvement project on Rullands Coulee Creek.

We were able to contribute \$5,178, which combined with DNR funding of \$18,659 to enable crews to stabilize 2,880 feet of streambank to a greater degree of fortification than would have otherwise occurred. Work will begin this summer.

The project starts 600 feet upstream from the bridge on County Road P, in Monroe County, where permitting for such work is less costly. The 600 feet of stream in Vernon County directly downstream will, for now, remain unstabilized, and serve as a basis for comparative analysis of improved and unimproved streambank. The project will attempt to mitigate the effects of flooding events in 2018 and 2019.

CRTU was also able to contribute \$750 toward TU DARE for a restoration project on Citron Creek in Crawford County. That project



# Chapter News



total is approximately \$7,500.

Anglers will benefit from other DNR projects in the area including 7,000-8,000 feet of brush work on Coles Valley Creek near Sparta and 4,300 feet of mowed bank on Bohemian Valley Creek on the DNR property there. Brushing operations are about to begin on Sugar Creek as well.

We recently received a grant from chainsaw manufacturer Stihl for \$1,500. A training, safety, and workday will be conducted on April 6 in or around Viroqua as a result.

Owing to previous successful partnerships, we are also looking forward to helping with a number of other projects. Planning is under way for the Tainter Creek Stream

Day Saturday, June 4 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in partnership with the Farmer-Led Watershed Council and Valley Stewardship Network. Volunteers are needed to help teach kids casting spin and fly gear, fly-tying, sampling stream bugs, flipping burgers and just helping out. Contact the chapter if you'd like to help out at this fun, family-oriented event.

Our area will also play host to the State Council on the first Saturday in June at the West Fork Sports Club. Planning for another STREAM Girls event in August is also underway. Check our Facebook page for details on all these events and activities.

—Brad Bryan

## Fox Valley Chapter

The Fox Valley Chapter is looking to the future. The pandemic has receded and it is time for normalcy to return. We are pleased and excited to announce the selection of Tony Pudlo as our new chapter president. He will be assisted by our new Chapter Vice President Jerome Herro. Both of these new officers are experienced leaders, expert anglers and great guys. We are lucky to have them lead our chapter. Graeme Hodson retires as our president. We thank him for his leadership during the difficult and challenging pandemic period.

The mission of our chapter is habitat work; however, last year the pandemic forced us to delay that important work. Jerome Herro leads this effort and has scheduled this year's post-pandemic habitat work days for every third Saturday from May through September. We are fortunate to partner with the Central Wisconsin Chapter, a partnership we have enjoyed for more than 15 years. Please join us.

We are conducting our "Get Ready for Spring" Fundraiser to make up for the loss of revenue after cancelling our only and annual fundraiser, Cabin Fever Day (CFD). That effort is led by John Barkmeier and promises to be very successful. Meanwhile, Jeff Moureau is leading an effort to sell new top quality

fishing gear the chapter purchased to raffle at the cancelled CFD fundraiser. Both these efforts are in progress and should be completed by the time you receive this newspaper. The highlight of CFD is the raffle of a handmade Scott Grady cane rod. This year's proud winner of the raffle-by-mail was our longtime treasurer and board member Al Johnson.

Jerome Herro also leads our chapter's oldest activity: "Fishing Day for People with Disabilities." After the pandemic cancelled the past two years, the event this year will be May 14 at Camp Shioc, the YMCA camp in Shioction. We are proud to receive an award from the YMCA for the many years we have sponsored this event.

April Angling Adventure has survived the pandemic and returns this year thanks to former chapter President Nate Ratliff's leadership and organization. This is a very popular chapter meeting held along a Driftless Area trout stream, next to a campfire. AAA is scheduled for the weekend of April 22-24 and located at Esofea Rentz Campground in Vernon County, near Westby. Come and join us. Visit our web site at foxvalleytu.org for more information.

—Don Clouthier

## Frank Hornberg Chapter

In December Josh Raabe, Associate Professor at UW-Stevens Point, gave an informative presentation on brook trout movements, survival, spawning habits and diets on the Little Plover River. A special thanks to Craig Cook from Fall Line Outfitters for hosting this event.

The Frank Hornberg Chapter teamed up with our local TU Costa 5 Rivers College Club — the UWSP Flyfishing Club — for a fly-tying night at Fall Line Outfitters in February. During this open tying night, 23 attendees tied everything from small dries to salmon and musky flies. We look forward to working with the UWSP Flyfishing Club on future projects.

Our chapter donated \$2,000 to the DNR for the central Wisconsin

work crew. Under the leadership of Fisheries Biologist Shawn Sullivan, this work crew has completed miles of habitat improvement in central Wisconsin.

If you are at the age where you have to take a required minimum distribution (RMD) from your IRA, please consider making a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from your IRA to the Frank Hornberg Chapter. You do not need to itemize your tax return to make a QCD. We are a 501 c (3) organization and doing this will lower your taxable income while fulfilling an important need for our chapter. Please contact your tax advisor to find out if this may be right for you.

—Doug Erdmann

## Green Bay Chapter

The Green Bay Chapter (GBTU) has remained very busy on its mission of conserving, protecting, restoring and reconnecting our coldwater resources.

For starters, we brought back our Veteran's Service Program. Meetings are held every other Tuesday at

Tight Lines Fly Fishing Company in De Pere. This is an awesome way to try to give something back to our veterans who have given so much to us and our country. We learn something new every night, and with every fly pattern. The program would not be possible without Paul, Gary,



### GREEN BAY CHAPTER WORKING WITH VETERANS

GBTU members work with area veterans tying fanned-winged royal coachman Christmas ornaments in December.

Adrian Meseberg



### GBTU MEMBERS TEACHING VETERANS HOW TO TIE A GURGLER

Jim and the other volunteers who willingly give their time. We also couldn't provide this same experience without Tim Landwehr allowing us to use his shop. We are very grateful for everyone involved in making this possible.

We held general board of directors (BOD) meetings, which are open to the public, in January and February. Our February meeting started with a board meeting, followed by our first ever hybrid in-person/virtual guest speaker. Central TU's Jeff Treu shared his steelhead knowledge as our presenter. I think the 20 folks in attendance and the six virtual participants were chopping-at-the-bit to jump in a river and have a steelhead exploding out of the water on the end of our lines. Thank you, Jeff, for joining us. Thank you, Mike Kuhr, for helping us with the Council's Zoom account.

Now for the biggie. After holding six meetings starting in October 2021, numerous sponsorship and donation requests, message sharing through our website, social media, and word-of-mouth plus much more...for the first time in two years we held our Annual Conserva-

tion Banquet. Early indications look like it was a big success. Approximately 300 supporters came out to make the evening a true party. Guests were treated to all-you-can eat dinner of chicken, cod, biscuits, veggies, mashed potatoes, gravy, and more.

We had several Lombardi Middle School FFA students volunteer, which not only gave them valuable community service credits, but they were also a huge help in making the event run smoothly. Banquet chair and Master of Ceremonies Carla Zimmerman kept things fun, light, and fast-paced. Silent, special, and live auctions, bucket and 50/50 raffles, and door prizes provided plenty of opportunities for attendees to take something home.

By our next chapter report we should have a better idea of exactly how things went. There were so many who helped pull this off. An absolutely huge thanks to our banquet chair, Carla, our banquet committee, volunteers, the FFA kiddos, Stadium View, our donors, sponsors, supporters and anyone I may have forgotten. We couldn't do it without all of you.

Now we move into the warmer



### ENJOYING GBTU'S 46TH ANNUAL CONSERVATION BANQUET

Adrian Meseberg





## Chapter News

weather. Our Trout Education Trail Committee is set to resume meetings, we have summer work projects, youth education events, a chapter picnic, elections and much more on the horizon. And there's more to

come. For more GBTU Chapter information, please visit our website at [greenbaytu.org](http://greenbaytu.org) or check us out on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook.  
—*Adrian Meseberg*

### Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter

We are planning the 2022 banquet on our regular schedule this year, the first Friday in May.

We had several work days putting in stiles on the Blue River this past fall. If you are interested in work days, please contact Ted Swenson at [swensonted@gmail.com](mailto:swensonted@gmail.com). We have a couple work days planned and he can help you understand what to expect for those days as well as keep you in the loop as more work days get scheduled. Also stay connected on our Facebook page.

Our TIC program in Fennimore got its trout eggs all hatched, although we had some losses due to too many fish for the tank size.

Work on the second half of the Blue River project on the Zadrzil

property will continue as soon the contractor can get in and deposit dirt spoil on nearby fields. We are working on funding for the only eased section of Big Spring that we have not worked on. It is just above the confluence with Six Mile Branch.

If anyone is interested in joining our WAV (Water Action Volunteers) water monitoring team, please contact Carol Murphy at [Nohrgirl@gmail.com](mailto:Nohrgirl@gmail.com). Training sessions are coming up.

On March 5 we had a Lie and Tie at The Hollow in Montfort, and we had a board meeting, both live and on Zoom.

—*Brian Larson*

### Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter

Hybrid meetings continued this winter with in-person speakers and dinner guests meeting at Juniors in River Falls while still streaming on Zoom. In January we heard from Brian Vander Maazen, a St. Croix River Guide. He gave a presentation on fishing the big river. Brian, who hosts the "Amaazen Outdoors Podcast," talked about fishing locations, techniques, flies and tips and tricks for taking musky and small-mouth bass on the fly in the St. Croix River.

In February Scot Stewart presented "Euro Nymphing Overview." Well known in the TU community, Scot, a former DNR fisheries manager and supervisor, has been teaching fly fishing for many years.

We held our Spring Fundraising Auction and 4 x 100 raffle drawing in early February. This was preceded by a "State of the Chapter" address and an announcement of our 50th anniversary logo design contest winner. The logo designed by Char-

lie and Leo Witzke, had that early 70's look and feel and will be put on hats that will be available for purchase.

We were extremely thankful for the generous donations of gifts for the 4 x 100 raffle. Ken Schwinghammer won the Fishpond Dry Bag donated by Mend Provisions. Andrew Butterbrodt won the painting donated by Joshua Cunningham. Clint Nievinski won the Scott Centric 5-weight rod donated by Tom Schnadt. Gary Horvath won the Norling Bamboo 5-weight rod donated by Dave Sr. and Dave Jr. Norling. Between the raffle, online auction and a donation of \$300 from Twin Cities TU, we raised \$14,074.

In March we held our annual "Dry Fly Dick Frantes" fly-tying meeting. This was an open tie with such Kiap fly-tying luminaries as Jonathon Jacobs, Scot Stewart and others. Fly tyer extraordinaire Scott Hanson was on hand tying at Juniors and live via Zoom.

On March 4 the annual River

Falls Fly Fishing Film Festival was held at Tattersall Distilling in River Falls. It was a great night with plenty of food and drink. The films were entertaining, and the raffles and silent auction items were a big hit. All proceeds from this year's festival will help support the Rhinos Cancer Foundation and the Kiap-Tu-Wish Chapter.

Our chapter will direct any funds raised from this event to the Powell Dam removal and river restoration. A number of chapter members are represented on the Kinni Corridor Collaborative Fundraising Committee's capital campaign. For more information go to [kinnicc.org](http://kinnicc.org).

Kiap TU Wish is busy planning and preparing for our first STREAM Girls program, the Trout Unlimited watershed STEM program for girls. The Ellsworth Rod and Gun Club has generously donated the use of their club on May 21, 2022, 9-5 p.m. for this one-day event. We are working with the Girl Scouts River Valleys, which serves more than 19,000 girls through a 49-county council that spans Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa. We are excited to partner with these and other organizations to offer this opportunity for young women in our community. Chapter board members Linda Radimecky and Michele Bevis are leading this effort.

Since beginning our winter maintenance brushing in late October, we have held 17 workdays with volunteers committing 1,247 hours to help clear buckthorn, box elder and honeysuckle from two sites along the Kinnickinnic River.

At the first site on River Drive, we tackled some old growth buckthorn with trunks on some of the plants measuring 12 inches in diameter. After first clearing the bank near the road, we used a Jon boat to ferry volunteers and equipment across the river to reach the far bank and complete the clearing there.

We were helped on one workday by the third-grade class from Greenwood Elementary School in River Falls, with more than 58 students, eight parent chaperones and three teachers helping to help drag cut box elder and buckthorn slash over to a huge bonfire. Half of the class hauled brush for an hour while former DNR fisheries biologist Marty Engel took the other group of students downstream where he plucked some rocks out of the river and explained to the students the various nymphs which were present on the rocks. After an hour, the two groups of students switched roles.

These students also have a Trout

In the Classroom (TIC) program going back at their school.

This past weekend, we began maintenance brush and tree removal at another site along the Kinni near the DNR parking lot on Hwy 65. We will continue there for several more weeks until the snow disappears, or the ground becomes so dry that our bonfires will create a fire hazard. We hoped to be joined on March 26 by kids enrolled in the River Falls summer traveling baseball league, who wish to help with dragging and burning slash at this site as part of a community service day.

A month ago, members of our future projects team — Loren Haas, Scott Wagner, Tom Schnadt and Randy Arnold — visited a half dozen locations in our chapter area to select a stretch of stream to undergo major restoration by the DNR's Nate Anderson and his crew in the summer of 2023.

The site which we selected is a section on Parker Creek beginning at the bridge at Pleasant Avenue and continuing downstream for 4,200 feet. Parker Creek is a tributary of the Kinni and several restoration projects have already been completed here just upstream of Pleasant Avenue.

Randy Arnold will be seeking help from chapter members who are out angling in the coming weeks to take a few moments and close the bluebird nest boxes which we have in place at multiple restoration sites. The boxes were opened in the fall and cleaned out to keep mice or other birds from taking them over during the winter months. Randy has new nest boxes ready to install this spring along the section of Cady Creek where restoration was just completed late last fall by Nate Anderson and his crew.

We are very happy to report that two of our Trout In the Classroom programs are allowing visitors inside their classrooms, so we will be doing "Bugs in the Classroom" for the first time in a couple of years. Chapter member Dean Hanson brings in samples of all kinds of aquatic insects for the kids to handle, observe and identify. In addition, one of our schools is holding their ECO Day again, where aquatic bug collection on the Kinni is part of the program. As of now, we will be able to assist our sponsored classrooms with their trout release in Willow River State Park at the end of the school year, which will include bug collection and fly-casting instruction.

—*Gary Horvath*

### Lakeshore Chapter

We have had a very exciting couple of months, but winter has made it hard to get a lot of stream work done. We did manage to fell quite a few trees, but we have a long way to go before things will get easier because of the many dead ash trees.

We are getting reorganized as a chapter, and having in-person meetings has helped a great deal with this. We have had a lot of new members and board members wanting to take on new roles and leadership positions, so much so that I felt for the first time after more than five years that I was comfortable enough to step down from the president position. We elected Al Wortz as the new interim president until our May

elections. Al has been on the board as secretary for two years and is a huge asset to our chapter. I look forward to seeing what his leadership will add to our chapter. I will stay on as a board member and help Al with the transition. Congratulations, Al. This is well deserved.

Two months ago we had some very exciting news. Our friends at Aventuron decided for Giving Tuesday they would donate a portion of their earnings to our chapter. Their donation ended up being just under \$7,400. Aventuron won the Corporate Sponsorship Award a few years back and since then has done nothing but continue their support for TU and our chapter. We are so in-



KIAP TU WISH CHAPTER UNVEILED ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY LOGO



# Chapter News



## LAKESHORE CHAPTER RECEIVES LARGEST EVER DONATION

Myk Hranicka receives the largest one-time donation to the Lakeshore Chapter from Anton Pohl and Carl Martens, owner of Aventuron.

credibly fortunate to have them supporting us like they do and we will definitely continue our support for them. Thank you Carl, Kathryn and Anton.

For the first time, our TIC tanks received fish. With a lot of trial and error, things are really going well. One of our new chillers broke and we had to do some very quick problem solving, but luckily no fish were lost. I've received nothing but great feedback from the teachers, so hopefully things continue to go well.

Random Lake, one of our TIC schools, is having their 4th annual Conservation Fair on April 30. We will have a booth at the fair and will be doing either fly-tying clinics or fly-casting clinics, depending on the weather. All donations and raffles go towards Random Lakes outdoors skills program that Natalie Weeks teaches at the high school. Natalie also runs the fair and is certified to teach other teachers how to bring the outdoor skills program into their schools. This is a credited high school class, so if anyone is interested, please feel free to contact me.

Most of us are just looking forward to the spring fishing season and having a fish bending our rod with every cast. But we do have a lot of work to do and we are continuing our second Saturday of the month workdays to keep up with our busy schedule. Like our old DNR biologist John Nelson used to say, "you're never finished working on a stream until it's dry."

As for me, I'm looking forward to new challenges as the new vice chair for the State Council. I'm excited about being able to focus solely on workdays for Lakeshore and be able to contribute to TU in other ways. This organization has taught me so much about myself and has made me so proud to be a part of it. It's not always easy, but it's worth it.

I'd like to thank my entire board for always being there and doing their part to make our chapter what it is today. Steve, Miles, Chris, Al and Herb, you are all great and contribute what you can, which is all I've ever asked of you. Thanks for all you do.

—Myk Hranicka

## Marinette County Chapter

The Marinette County Chapter has been busy with several functions. The first was teaching fly casting at the Fishing, Hunting and Camping Outdoor Show at the Marinette City Recreation Center in February. The outdoor show hosted various fishing and hunting vendors and guest speakers. Chapter President Dale Lange was the presenter on trout fishing. The event was well attended despite the weather. It allowed exposure of the Marinette Chapter and brought in-

terest in the chapter and its fundraising and habitat work in northeast Wisconsin.

The second event was our annual trout fishing program, which covers trout and their habitat, fly fishing gear, fly tying and fly casting. We will hold our 38th annual fundraising banquet on Monday, April 25 at Embers 1871 in Peshtigo. For ticket information or to make a donation to the banquet, contact Dale Lange at 715-582-1135.

—Dale Lange

## Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter

Our chapter is looking to fully engage our mission and bring the joy of fishing, conservation and unrestricted passion for the outdoors to our youth and college students. How can you help the chapter help our youth? Our 2022 roadmap includes recruiting chapter members who are teachers or college professors to the Education Committee. The roadmap includes adding to this committee chapter members who are Boy Scouts of America (BSA) scouting merit badge counselors. TU and BSA can provide you with training as a merit badge counselor.

If you are an educator, or if you are involved with the Scouting movement, please reach out to me or anyone on the board of directors.

We have resources to help you do what you already do best. Membership on our committee doesn't mean you have to take on more. It just means you have a direct link to chapter leaders to help you do what you're already doing for our youth. Remember that the members tell the committees what they want, and the committees tell the SEWTU board. We're a grassroots organization.

Are you a member of a school fishing or conservation club? If you have a favorite youth fishing, or youth cold water conservation event then come on and join the Education Committee and champion your cause. The committee has resources, we just don't have you. Contact John R. Rennpferd at John\_Renn

pferd@hotmail.com or 414-491-2897.

Our Habitat Committee has been busy planning the 2022 workday schedule. On April 23 we'll participate in the Milwaukee River watershed debris and litter clean-up. The chapter's kick-off workday will be at Paradise Springs/Creek complex on May 14 in the Southern Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest. The chapter's veteran group will be joining our forces that day to clean brush and debris from Paradise Creek. Matt Cade will be spearheading the veteran's effort that day.

Other workdays are planned at Bluff Creek in Walworth County and Tichigan and Karcher creeks in Racine County. Go to [sewtu.tu.org](http://sewtu.tu.org) for more information.

We received a Friends of Wisconsin Trout grant to purchase materials for an expansion of the Scuppernong River habitat restoration project in cooperation with the DNR. SEWTU signage is being developed to be posted near the cold-water resources that TU supports and maintains in southeast Wisconsin.

Our chapter will continue to have membership meetings on the fourth Tuesday of each month through May. George Kaider from In the Flow Fishing will speak at our April 26 meeting. Go to [intheflowfishing.com](http://intheflowfishing.com) for more information. So come to the Bavarian Bierhaus in Glendale at 5:30 p.m. for some good food and conversation with your fellow TU members and then listen to George talk fishing southern Wisconsin waters for trout, bass and pike.

We are working on solidifying our speaker for our May 24 meeting. Please check our website or social media for more information.

Please watch for our email blasts for specific information of each upcoming event, as well as our Facebook, Instagram and website pages.

Due to weather we had to cancel our February meeting, so before coming to a meeting or event, make sure to check our social media sites for up-to-date information. If you have any doubt if an event is on or off, please call or text Andy Avgoulas at 262-893-4965.

Greg Schick's fly-tying workshops will continue on the first and third Thursdays each month through June at the Oak Creek Community Center at 8580 South Howell Avenue from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Please bring your own vise and tying supplies. The workshops are intended for the advanced novice fly tyer. For more information or questions, please contact Greg at [g.a.schick@wi.rr.com](mailto:g.a.schick@wi.rr.com). If you are in need of basic fly-tying lessons, contact Andy at [andyavgoulas@yahoo.com](mailto:andyavgoulas@yahoo.com) or 262-893-4965.

Not getting our emails? Have a suggestion or question? Need some fishing tips? Want to help out? Please reach out to Andy via email at [andyavgoulas@yahoo.com](mailto:andyavgoulas@yahoo.com) or 262-893-4965.

For general inquiries, please email us at [southeasternwisconsin-tu@gmail.com](mailto:southeasternwisconsin-tu@gmail.com).

On a personal note, since suffering a rotator cuff tear last August and having surgery in September, I made my first cast down in Florida in February. It was such a great feeling to just be out doing what I love again. Although I made a few casts with my fly rod, the conditions were more suited for spinning gear, so I adapted and was rewarded with some nice trout and redbfish. Below is a picture of me and my lovely wife Kathy showing off our double-header. I now have my sights set on the steelhead run, which should be in full swing as you read this.

Our winter was long and brutal, but spring is here, and the trout are hungry, so call a friend and get out on the water.

—Andy Avgoulas,  
John R. Rennpferd

## Southern Wisconsin Chapter

After more than two years of the pandemic, SWTU is excited to share news of three in-person events: an all-new fundraiser, in-person monthly meetings and

stream workdays.

Many of you will recall our annual January fundraiser, the Icebreaker. Well, the Icebreaker location was put on ice due to the pandemic,



## SEWTU'S PRESIDENT GETS BACK INTO THE SWING

Since suffering a rotator cuff tear last Andy Avgoulas made his first cast in Florida in February. According to Andy, "It was such a great feeling to just be out doing what I love again. Although I made a few casts with my fly rod, the conditions were more suited for spinning gear, so I adapted and was rewarded with some nice trout and redbfish, including this double with my wife Kathy."





## Chapter News

and so we've created a new event: The Spring Fair Fundraiser. This ticketed event is April 23 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Tenney Park in Madison. You won't want to miss the delectable street food, local beer and wine, fair games, conservation highlights, a B.E.A.C "Drinking With Scissors" open tie area and Iron Fly event, bucket raffle, silent auction and more. Please buy your tickets in advance. Tickets include admission, food, two drink tickets and your bucket raffle tickets. There are three admission levels depending on the number of bucket raffle tickets you would like.

As this is our first major fundraiser in more than two years, and in that time our chapter's actions in outreach, access and conservation have only increased, we need your most generous support of our Spring Fair Fundraiser. Please visit [swtu.org](http://swtu.org) for details and to get your tickets.

We are beyond excited to resume our in-person monthly meet-

ings. Every time we got close to gathering again, the pandemic had other plans. As of this writing, we have a meeting set for April 7 and are planning our monthly gatherings throughout the summer. Please visit our website for specifics on when and where. We'd love to have you join us.

Jim Hess is stepping down as chapter president, having served his two terms with thoughtful insight and strong leadership. While we'll miss him as president, we're excited that Jim will continue as our Conservation Committee chair. He is busy planning Saturdays in spring for us to gather and make a difference for our coldwater resource. More information on specific dates, locations and work focus are on our website.

Those are the three big events to share, but we have much more going on and encourage you to visit [swtu.org](http://swtu.org) for more information.

—Drew Kasel

### Wisconsin River Valley Chapter

Hello and greetings from the Wisconsin River Valley Chapter. As we get a little more daylight every day, it is hard not to get excited for spring. Perhaps I mention too often how much I miss the sound of the birds and so look forward to their return. Their songs are so happy, and I can't help but smile.

In January Craig Cook from Fall Line Outfitters gave a presentation on the fly shop industry and current fly-fishing information and trends. The presentation was at Sconnies. Thank you to Craig and all who attended either in person or virtually. You can find Craig's shop at 904 Main Street in Stevens Point. In case you may have missed the presentation, the recording is available to watch on YouTube. You can search for our channel at WRV Trout Unlimited. Please subscribe and you will be alerted to upcoming events that you can watch live.

In January we also had a Fly Tying Night, "Hackle and Hops," at the Sawmill Brewery in Merrill. There were 10 tyers getting their fly boxes ready for the spring. The pizza, conversation and some tasty craft beer made for an enjoyable evening. Thanks to Sawmill Brewery for providing a space for this event.

We had planned on the Fly Fishing Film tour for February but as with many other events was canceled due to the pandemic.

In March DNR Fisheries Technician Taylor Curran gave a presentation on the completion of the Prairie River Project. The project started at Dags Road downstream to Gross Bridge. There has also been access parking added off of Hwy 17 across from Gross Lane. The cost of the project was \$45,000 and was largely paid for through trout stamp dollars.

Other projects from last year included dredging work on Stillhouse Springs and Lost Springs, west of White Lake.

In March we held our second Hackle and Hops event at the Sawmill Brewery. On May 12 Heidi Oberstadt will give a presentation on diversity with Trout Unlimited.

On July 16 our chapter and Bull Falls Harley Davidson dealership of Wausau are teaming up to sponsor the "Summer Watershed Ride

2022" event. This event is a loop ride starting at the dealership, then travels north along the Plover River to Fishers Bar in Gleason and then south along the Prairie River back to the dealership. There will be opportunities to play fundraising games at Fishers Bar, such as a horseshoe toss and corn hole. This is approximately a three-hour ride and is open to all motorcyclists. Kickstands go up at noon.

As a part of the fundraising, the participant must purchase a "July Ride Card" from Bull Falls Harley Davidson, with proceeds benefiting our chapter. The ride route will be printed on the ride card. There will be burgers and hot dogs available at the dealership prior to the ride. Participants do not have to ride on July 16. They can ride anytime during the month of July, although event games and food will only be available on July 16.

Looking for summertime activities? Consider joining a stream monitoring team. We had six teams last summer in various locations collecting stream data. Monthly data collection consists of stream width, depth, flow rate, dissolved oxygen test and temperature.

In May and October, you use a D-net to search for invertebrates. In July you do a stream assessment upstream and downstream from your testing area and measure the depth of some pools and what the shoreline and streambed consists of. You add this information to the state database, and the information is then used by the DNR.

With the completion of the Prairie River Project, we will be planting 2,100 trees on May 21. See our newsletters and Facebook page for more information. Your help is very much appreciated, and we would love to see you there.

Our Trout In the Classroom project in teacher Meghan Brandenburg's fourth-grade class in Marathon is seeing success. The little trout look well fed but unfortunately one of the little trout fell victim to cannibalism. Have a wonderful spring.

—Linda Lehman

### Wolf River Chapter

Greetings from the still frozen Wolf River, although by the time you read this the ice will have broken up into slabs and floated downstream. I will miss the wildlife travel corridor that the Wolf River becomes during the winter for deer, turkey, coyotes, fox, raccoons, and the occasional otter sliding on the ice back into an open water spot.

I haven't seen an eagle for several weeks now, but I know they will return to their favorite fish-viewing tree soon. And that will signal to many of you that it is time to fish the Wolf River.

The Wolf River Chapter held its spring meeting on April 2 at the Bear Paw Outdoor Adventure Resort. Owners Tom and Eric are chapter members who give us a great place to meet. Thank you Tom and Eric. We held elections and did some long-range planning for Wolf River and Nine Mile Creek work days.

If you find yourself in the area fishing the Wolf River, make sure to stop in to see chapter member Mike Klimoski at Mike's Service at Langlade.

Copies of our chapter newsletter, The Wolf River Hatch, are available there for a donation. Our newsletter is professionally printed by the Witthuhn Printing Company. Alice at Mike's Service will show you where they are.

Be sure to check out the flies and fishing necessities Mike has and if they are available, Mike and Alice are incredible sources of information about the area.

For those of you who have a subscription for The Wolf River Hatch, please make sure to put my email address, [lznzow@me.com](mailto:lznzow@me.com), in your contacts so that the next issue does not end up in your junk or spam folder.

The next issue should go out around May 1, just before opening fishing day. If you don't receive your email copy, don't hesitate to email me and I will get the newsletter emailed out to you.

Chapter Vice President Zach Buchanan has become our social media director. If you have interesting photos concerning the Wolf River please send them to him at

[zbuck50@gmail.com](mailto:zbuck50@gmail.com).

If you follow Instagram, our handle is [wolf\\_river\\_tu\\_050](https://www.instagram.com/wolf_river_tu_050). Check out our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/Wolf-River-Chapter-Trout-Unlimited](https://www.facebook.com/Wolf-River-Chapter-Trout-Unlimited). Thanks, Zach, for keeping the chapter up-to-date with social media.

Also a big thank you to Andy Kiloren for overseeing our website rebuild. You can find it at [www.wolfrivertu.org](http://www.wolfrivertu.org). Please keep in mind that it is still a work in progress, but soon you will find valuable information on the site, including archived newsletters and event announcements.

The Wolf River Meet and Greet is returning May 21. Please contact Bill Livingston for more information and to register at [wolfriverfish@gmail.com](mailto:wolfriverfish@gmail.com). This event will introduce you to the Wolf River and chapter members who love to fish this beautiful river. Lunch is a highlight of this event at the Livingstons on the banks of the Wolf River. Please register by May 1 as space is limited.

Wolf River champion and former chapter member Helen Sanvidge passed away peacefully February 18. She was within days of her 98th birthday.

Helen loved the Wolf River and successfully led the fight to save the river from a dam being built in Pearson during the late 1950s. In 1997, Dave Habeck, working with an oral history group, wrote a song about Helen entitled "Caretaker of the River." The chorus words are as follows:

These are the words that Helen said;

"You don't own the river. It is loaned to you.

You better take care of it. It's up to you."

Please remember Helen when you are out fishing or enjoying the Wolf River fisheries. She took care of the river so that we can continue to enjoy it, and we need to continue to take care of it. Watch for the entire printing of the "Caretaker of the river" lyrics in The Wolf River Hatch Spring issue.

—Laurie Zen Netzow

### Oak Brook Chapter (Illinois)

For the 18<sup>th</sup> year, our Education Committee will begin offering its traditional all-day classes, after offering the classes the past two years on a limited basis due to the pandemic.

The fly-fishing classes are designed around the requirements of the Boy Scouts of America Fly Fishing Merit Badge, so scouts who successfully complete the class will have met all the requirements for the merit badge.

The sessions provide a basic understanding of fly tackle, outdoor ethics code, outdoor safety, fly tying, basic fly-fishing knots, casting, and, of course, fishing while practicing catch-and-release techniques.

The morning portion of the program begins at Camp Sagawau Envi-

ronmental Education Center in Lemont, Illinois and then in the afternoon move a short drive to Maple Lake in Willow Springs, Illinois.

The classes are May 7, June 4, July 9, August 6 and September 17. Visit our website at [obtu.org](http://obtu.org) for more information.

—Stan Zarnoweicki



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# Why I fly fish

*It is an adrenaline rush, a pleasing sensation, an hypnotic art form and so much more.*

By Dr. Henry Kanemoto

I flyfish because it takes me into a place filled with cool, flowing waters inhabited by beautiful iridescent creatures usually surrounded by a cathedral of green. It removes me from my usual work, which is stressful and hurried, and performed in darkened air-conditioned rooms with artificial lighting. I can escape, if only for a short time, from emergencies and beepers and the rest of our high tech world. I can return to a more peaceful place, and in my mind to a much simpler time.

I am linked by tradition to the greats of flyfishing, such as Halford and Skues, Gordon and Wulff, and even back to the apostles, who Norman Maclean considered fishers of men. I am part of a tradition, which like a flowing river, joins me to the past, even as it carries me into the future. I have the benefit of their knowledge and I can learn from their writings. And their wisdom often extends beyond flyfishing into how to live a good life, and how to conduct yourself before other men and women.

Flyfishing is, for me, a metaphor for life itself. If you are a strict moralist you set for yourself a code of conduct: Upstream, dry fly only, to rising trout. You resist temptation when the fish are feeding subsurface, or you may sin and fish to the nymphing trout, resolving next time do better.

The fish carry no prejudice. They care not about the color of your skin, your gender, your handicaps, or your station in life. All of us are equal before the fish, and all are judged equally. You have total control of your actions, unlike the real

world where your actions are tempered by the needs or influences of others. You must accept responsibility for what follows, and this is not an insignificant lesson in today's world.

The fish is your adversary, and by him you will be judged. There is instant feedback, either a satisfying tug at the end of the line or silence and rejection. This, too, is unlike the real world, where the result of your actions is often separated from the action itself.

Flyfishing allows me to satisfy a natural predatory instinct, which dates back to the time when our ancestors were hunters and gatherers. It is a challenge to fish with the fly. There is the thrill of stalking a truly large fish, the anticipation of the cast, the suspense of the drift, and the subsequent elation at a hookup or disappointment at the rejection. There is the adrenaline rush of the fight and the satisfaction of the catch. You can act as God and give the fish back his freedom and life, or you can exercise your ultimate right as a predator and kill him for the table. Life and death, another lesson not easily learned. Perhaps that is why I release almost all my fish now, as I deal with death in my real job every day.

There is always the anticipation of a new day, a new adventure. Every trip is different with unexpected challenges to be met. Conditions change. Every day is different, and yet it is also strangely the same. Putting on the waders and vest, stringing the rod, checking the leader. The walk to the stream, scanning the water for rises, checking the bushes for prior hatches. The first step into the water, the approach to

the lie, the deep breath before the first cast. Each action a ritual behavior we follow, which comforts us.

Flycasting itself is a pleasing sensation. It is relaxing. There is an almost hypnotic cadence to the cast. The back and forth motion of the rod with the tug of line against rod just before we release the cast. Casting is an art and as Norman Maclean states "art comes by grace, and grace does not come easily." So much of what I do is not art and is not graceful at all. In much of our modern life, we are surrounded by pettiness and ugliness. By contrast, the flycast, in and of itself, is a thing of beauty. It is pure in its simplicity and yet difficult to master. It remains one of the few artistic things I have learned. It is a right-brain exercise, and much of what I do is left-brain exercise. A good and peaceful life is composed of balance, and fly-

fishing gives my life balance.

We search for perfection in all we do. In flyfishing there is the promise of constant improvement, but perfection can rarely be attained. Therein lies the challenge of flyfishing: To improve, to attain a state of grace.

There is also the comradeship with other flyfishers. There is the sharing, both literally and figuratively, of sustenance. This shared experience makes our own experiences so much richer. Because of this comradeship, we are fishing for our friends as well as with our friends. I fish with the friends who accompany me, but I also fish for my new friends I have met in this virtual flyshop.

So my friends, that is why I flyfish. Until we meet again, I remain your companion.



THE PLOVER RIVER, A FAVORITE PLACE FOR AUTHOR HENRY KANEMOTO

## West Fork Sports Club summer events

*Volunteer help sought for various activities.*

Spring trout season is upon us and we hope you will come and support the West Fork Sports Club and enjoy the park this year. It is in great shape. You can check for new events and details at <https://westforksportsclub.org/events/>. The club is located at S3649 County Rd S, Viroqua, WI 54665.

Thank you to all who utilize the club by camping, reserving cabins and holding events in the clubhouse. It is a special and affordable resource, and we hope to keep it that way well into the future. It takes a community to care for it.

### Upcoming events

- Saturday, April 2; 10 a.m.-noon: We will be releasing 2,200 brook trout into the West Fork of the Kickapoo River. Families interested in helping release fish please contact Colleen Kinsey at [kinseycoco@gmail.com](mailto:kinseycoco@gmail.com)
- Friday, April 22 through Sunday, April 24: Costa TU 5 Rivers College Program. <https://www.tu.org/conservation/outreach-education/headwaters-youth-program/explore-fishing/tu-costa-5-rivers-college-clubs/>
- May 20-22: HeddonFest Classic Anglers and GEAR Swap with raffles and prizes; tables still available. Contact Warran Frank at [blackdog1101@outlook.com](mailto:blackdog1101@outlook.com)
- June 3-5: State Council weekend with Council meeting at 9 a.m.

on Saturday, June 4 in the clubhouse. Meeting to include Council Award presentations. Contact Chair Scott Allen at [jscottallen12@gmail.com](mailto:jscottallen12@gmail.com); meal provided by 608 Kitchens and Jason Fruend

- June 11, 7 p.m. Clubhouse: West Fork Sports Club Member Board Meeting. Three positions up for election. Please consider running as Tina Murray is stepping down. [westforksportsclub@gmail.com](mailto:westforksportsclub@gmail.com)
- June 15-17: Southern Wisconsin Chapter's Wisconsin Women Fly Fishing - Women's on the Water Skills Clinic (WOWSCi) <https://www.swtu.org/learn/womens-fly-fishing-clinic/> or [wisconsinwomenflyfishing@gmail.com](mailto:wisconsinwomenflyfishing@gmail.com)
- June 17-19: SWTU - Wisconsin Women Fly Fishing Basics Clinic [wisconsinwomenflyfishing@gmail.com](mailto:wisconsinwomenflyfishing@gmail.com) or <https://www.swtu.org/learn/womens-fly-fishing-clinic/>. Watch a short video on the clinics at <https://vimeo.com/325794212/50145f0cf9>
- July 9, 16, 23, 30: Music in the Park with local bands; camping on site.
- August 12-14: Southeast Wisconsin Chapter event
- September 9-11: Gary Borger Chapter event
- September 21 - 23: Bamboo Rod Makers Conclave; Contact Scott Grady at [oossg@vbe.com](mailto:oossg@vbe.com)

Please consider attending the West Fork Sports Club annual member meeting at 7 p.m. June 11 in the clubhouse. Three positions are up for election. Member attendance is very much appreciated. To have a vote, members must have a valid membership by April 1. The club has more than 700 members from across the nation. Please consider running for the board

### Volunteers needed

The club will have a camp host this year. Val Hein will be on site to help answer questions and keep the facilities clean for your enjoyment. Please consider donating an hour or two to an ongoing project such as painting picnic tables, carpentry, tending the prairie or picking up sticks for the mower folks. If you have a trade skill, there are always general improvement needs.

### Chapter outings

Many chapters have weekend outings at the West Fork. If you are planning an outing please check the calendar at <https://westforksportsclub.org/events/> and then email us at [westforksportsclub@gmail.com](mailto:westforksportsclub@gmail.com) so we can add your event to the calendar. You can make reservations for the clubhouse and cabins online.

### Signage help sought

Trout Unlimited's Kickapoo Home Rivers Initiative (HRI) was only the second such effort in the nation, and it was the forerunner of the TU Driftless Area Restoration Effort. Laura Hewitt directed the HRI beginning in 1994 and it continued for several years. It partnered with the DNR, Vernon County Land Conservation Department, West Fork Sports Club and others in various stream restoration projects, all on sites with public fishing easements. This partnership also spawned a watershed committee which could be seen as the progenitor of the Valley Stewardship Network.

We are trying to replace these signs, which decayed due to years of sun exposure. The signs honor the partnerships and good work of the agencies that started the work to protect and improve the waters we all love to fish. If you have any info on the wording or photos on this sign, or if you took pictures of these signs with readable information, please send them to us at [westforksportsclub@gmail.com](mailto:westforksportsclub@gmail.com).



# Chapters sought to test macroinvertebrate index

By Mike Miller,  
Stream Ecologist, DNR

I am looking for TU chapters interested in testing a revised macroinvertebrate index that can be used by TU members and other citizen scientists to assess stream health.

Many TU members, fly fishers in particular, have a strong interest in knowing what invertebrates live in the streams they fish, and what this information can tell them about the health of their home waters. In addition to being a primary food source for trout, aquatic invertebrates are proverbial canaries in a coal mine that are used to assess stream health.

Each year hundreds of citizen scientists across Wisconsin collect invertebrate samples from streams to evaluate their waters to inform and inspire current and future generations of natural resources advocates, and to add to our collective knowledge of the condition of the state's waters.

The Water Action Volunteers (WAV) stream monitoring program, which includes many TU members, is an ongoing partnership among citizens, University of Wisconsin-Extension and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Data generated by trained volunteer monitors is entered into a statewide database used for natural resource assessment and advocacy. The program aims to preserve, restore and protect Wisconsin's streams and rivers by educating and empowering volunteers to gather high-quality data to be more knowledgeable about the waters they cherish.

Started in 1990's, the WAV program developed stream habitat, water chemistry and macroinvertebrate survey and data interpretation tools for use by citizen scientists. Aquatic macroinvertebrates including insects, crustaceans, mollusks, worms and leeches make ideal biological indicators of stream health and are particularly well-suited for

use by volunteer monitors.

The current WAV biotic index is a simplified version of Hilsenhoff's Biotic Index (HBI). University of Wisconsin entomology professor William Hilsenhoff developed his index in the early 1980's. He collected aquatic invertebrate samples from numerous streams across Wisconsin that had wide-ranging environmental qualities based on various physical and chemical measures.

Hilsenhoff assigned environmental tolerance values to each of the macroinvertebrate species he collected, based on the environmental conditions found at each of the study sites where specific macroinvertebrates were found to predominate. While "tolerant" macroinvertebrates are often found in higher-quality streams, they tend to be less common than more sensitive species, and "intolerant" macroinvertebrates are rarely found or are uncommon at degraded stream sites.

Being an experienced entomologist and taxonomist, Hilsenhoff was able to identify most of the aquatic invertebrates he collected to the genus or species, which are the most precise levels of organism classification possible. The WAV index only requires macroinvertebrates to be identified to the coarser Order level, to be able to compute a water quality index score. Order-level identifications don't require using a microscope, extensive knowledge of macroinvertebrate anatomy or the use of taxonomic identification keys, and have the added benefit of the collector being able to return the animals to the stream alive.

A downside of order-level biotic indexes is that they are less precise measures of stream health than indexes that use genus or species identifications such as the HBI. For example, mayflies are in the Order Ephemeroptera ("short-lived on the wing"). Within the Order Ephemeroptera there are thought to be 21 different families and 150 species

inhabiting Wisconsin waters, and while in general mayflies are indicative of healthy streams, these families do vary in their respective tolerances to environmental degradation. Mayflies in the family Baetidae ("blue-winged olives"), are relatively tolerant of environmental degradation and are found in streams with widely varying environmental quality, compared to mayflies in the Heptageniidae family ("flathead mayflies") of which there are also 36 species and include Light Cahills and March Browns that are thought to be more sensitive to environmental degradation.

After many years of studying streams, I noticed the WAV index routinely underrates the health of streams based on comparisons with lab-analyzed macroinvertebrate samples collected by DNR biologists, and when comparing WAV scores with other stream measures such as water chemistry and fish assemblage data collected at the same sites at which WAV surveys were done.

Former Cornell University Professor Bobbi Peckarsky, and now an honorary fellow at UW-Madison, and I have been developing a revised WAV index. We mined data from the DNR's macroinvertebrate sampling database, which included invertebrate species identifications and specimen counts from thousands of stream sites, to identify the macroinvertebrate Orders most common to streams across the state and revise, when necessary, the environmental tolerance values for the invertebrates we are proposing to use in the revised index.

Other proposed refinements include more life-like specimen drawings on the field datasheet, more evenness in the number of organisms in each tolerance-value group on the datasheet to reduce scoring bias, and a "weighting" factor to place more importance (weight) on the one invertebrate Order most common in each sample, since the

dominant animal (and its environmental tolerance) can provide additional information about the quality of a stream site.

Factors that can affect the ability of a biotic index to be used to accurately assess a stream site include the accuracy of the index itself, whether the stream sample collected is representative of the organisms present at the site, the collector's ability to sort and identify the animals collected, and the collector's ability to accurately calculate an index score.

Peckarsky and I have done "desktop" analyses of the proposed revised index and have a good understanding of the accuracy of the index itself and are aware of the macroinvertebrate specimens most often misidentified by citizen scientists. Field testing with TU chapters will help evaluate sources of error when it's used in the field and perhaps identify ways to make the index more user-friendly and less prone to user errors, in addition to evaluating the accuracy and precision of the biotic index itself.

To test the overall rigor of the revised index, interested TU chapters would receive a list of stream locations as close as possible to their home waters, where DNR biologists have relatively recently collected macroinvertebrate samples that were processed in an entomology lab. TU members would then collect macroinvertebrate samples from the same sites and use both the current and draft alternative WAV index to calculate index scores to be compared to the DNR index score for that site.

To assess identification errors by stream monitors, I would like to have each volunteer place individual specimens of the macroinvertebrates used in their index scoring for the site into individual compartments of a water-filled white plastic

See **MACRO**, page 25

**Group 1.** These animals are most sensitive to pollution. Circle the name of each animal found.

Mayfly Stonefly Dobsonfly Caddisfly

No. of Group 1 animals found:

---

**Group 2.** These animals are less sensitive to pollution than Group 1. Circle the name of each animal found.

Riffle Beetle Freshwater Shrimp or Scud Dragonfly Crane Fly Damselfly

No. of Group 2 animals found:

---

**Group 3.** These animals are more tolerant of pollution than Groups 1 or 2. Circle the name of each animal found.

Crayfish Planaria Mussel Black Fly Fingernail Clam Water Mite

No. of Group 3 animals found:

---

**Group 4.** These animals are most tolerant of pollution. Circle the name of each animal found.

Midge Leech Aquatic Worm Sow Bug Snail

No. of Group 4 animals found:

### Recording Form for the Citizen Monitoring Biotic Index

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Watershed and Stream Names: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Site: \_\_\_\_\_ (County, Township, Range, Section, Road, Intersection, Other)

At this point, you should have collected a wide variety of aquatic macroinvertebrates from your three sites. You will now categorize your sample, using the *Key to Macroinvertebrate Life in the River* to help you identify the macroinvertebrates found. **The number of animals found is not important; rather, the variety of types of macroinvertebrates and their tolerance to pollution tells us the biotic index score.** Before you begin, check off the habitats from which you collected your sample (see right).

Riffles  
 Undercut banks  
 Snag areas, tree roots, submerged logs  
 Leaf packs

- You should have removed large debris (e.g. leaves, rocks, sticks) from your sample and placed this material in a separate basin (after removing macroinvertebrates from it).
- Check the basin with the debris to see if any aquatic macroinvertebrates crawled out. Add these animals to your sample.
- Fill the ice cube tray half-full with water.
- Using plastic spoons or tweezers, (be careful not to kill the critters – ideally, you want to put them back in their habitat after you're finished) sort out the macroinvertebrates and place ones that look alike together in their own ice cube tray compartments. Sorting and placing similar looking macroinvertebrates together will help insure that you find all varieties of species in the sample.
- Refer to the *Key to Macroinvertebrate Life in the River* and the *Citizen Monitoring Biotic Index* to identify the aquatic macroinvertebrates:
  - On the back of this page, circle the animals on the index that match those found in your sample.
  - Count the number of types of animals that are circled in each group and write that number in the box provided. Do not count individual animals in your sample. Only count the number of types of animals circled in each group.
  - Enter each boxed number in the first space provided.
  - Decide which animal is the most common; add 1 for that animal's group in the second space provided (shaded area). Add zero for all other groups.
  - Multiply the entered sum by the group value.
  - Total the number of animals circled (a).
  - Total the calculated values for all groups (b).
  - Divide the total values by the total number of types of animals that were found:  $TOTAL\ VALUES\ (b) / TOTAL\ ANIMALS\ (a)$
  - Record this number as the Index score. **SHOW ALL MATH** (Use space below to do your math computations)

No. of animals circled from group 1	_____	+ _____	= _____	× 4 = _____
No. of animals circled from group 2	_____	+ _____	= _____	× 3 = _____
No. of animals circled from group 3	_____	+ _____	= _____	× 2 = _____
No. of animals circled from group 4	_____	+ _____	= _____	× 1 = _____

**(b) total values** \_\_\_\_\_ +  
**(a) total animals** \_\_\_\_\_ =

**Index score:**

**How healthy is the stream?**

Excellent \_\_\_\_\_ 3.6+  
 Good \_\_\_\_\_ 2.6 - 3.5  
 Fair \_\_\_\_\_ 2.1 - 2.5  
 Poor \_\_\_\_\_ 1.0 - 2.0

Call your local Monitoring Coordinator if you have questions about sampling or determining the Biotic Index Score. **Return form to:**



**MACRO**, from page 24

ice cube tray and provide a photograph of the specimens along with a list of the names of the animals they've identified in a sequential order corresponding to the ice compartments, e.g. with the ice cube tray oriented horizontally, starting with the top row of compartments moving left to right, naming the animals identified, then onto the bottom row, left to right.

Being uncertain of the level of interest by TU members to partici-

**KINNI**, from page 1

TU donations to fund lobbying efforts last year helped the state increase overall dam grant funding in the current state budget from \$2 to \$5 million a year, and the cap per project from \$400,000 to \$1 million. River Falls Assembly Rep. Shannon Zimmerman provided key support to the program funding hike.

"I'm thrilled to see the process of removing the Powell Falls dam continuing to move forward. Removal of the dam is a priority in the long-term restoration of the Kinnickinnic. It is exciting to envision what the future of the Kinni corridor holds and I've been fortunate to be able to play a small role in this transformation," said Rep. Zimmerman, when advised of the transfer of the dam oversight.

If the state grant is approved, two thirds of the funding for dam removal and river restoration will come from the city and state. The rest is up to contributions. The remainder of the \$3.3 million project cost is being raised now by volunteer fundraisers who seek support from TU at all its levels, as well as foundations, businesses, individuals, tribes and other government funding sources. Twin Cities TU President Bob Luck and Kiap-TU-Wish TU President Greg Olson lead the TU team.

Both chapters have pledged their support and dollars and asked their members to step up and match their chapters' dollars. Their goal is to raise \$200,000 by the end of November, 2022 so that demolition and restoration can begin next winter. Other teams will be seeking to raise another \$800,000 to complete the necessary funding by the end of November.

Wisconsin TU has offered a special Friends of Wisconsin TU grant process to help contribute. If five TU chapters will donate at least \$2,000 each, the Friends program will contribute \$10,000 in matching funds. Chapters can donate more, of course.

**Kinni among the state's most revered waters**

The Kinni is one of the state's most revered waters. Author after author have offered praise, such as the late Jim Humphrey and Bill Shogren in their book, "Trout Streams of Minnesota and Wisconsin" (1995 and 2005):

"It is the premier trout stream of west central Wisconsin...This is (the authors') home stream. (Humphrey) numbers the Kinni among his baker's dozen of the best trout streams anywhere...Twenty miles of superb trout water await the fly-fisher who is willing to tread lightly the deep and narrow track of the upper river...These marvelous miles are the precious jewels of the fly-fisher's memory. We'll give two hours of our lives, anytime, to fish our separate 100 yards of the Kinnickinnic on a sultry summer evening, with rising expectations when the bats begin to

pate, I am hoping those individuals interested in participating could check with their respective TU chapters to determine if others in the chapter are interested.

After identifying interested chapters this spring, we will send sampling site locations to the chapters this summer and hope they will submit their information in the Fall.

For more information contact Mike Miller, Stream Ecologist, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, at [michaela.miller@wisconsin.gov](mailto:michaela.miller@wisconsin.gov).

play."

For them, obviously, there was no other stream matching the Kinni in the gloaming.

In "Exploring Wisconsin Trout Streams: An Angler's Guide," the four authors called the river, "One of Wisconsin's most enchanting, most productive, trout streams...lying in an 'exquisite valley.'" It's the only exceptional resource water in the state flowing through a town of over 10,000, they say, and with a little care it can remain a first-class coldwater resource. Dam removal will be a key to the river's future.

How can *Wisconsin Trout* readers and TU supporters help with this important project? Chapters across the state are welcome to offer their support, joining chapters already contributing from Wisconsin, Minnesota and Illinois. We hope chapters will encourage their members to donate, as well. If you know of a business or an individual who might want to discuss the project and a possible donation, contact Duke Welter, KinniCC Fund-Raising Chair, at [dweltertu@gmail.com](mailto:dweltertu@gmail.com) or 715-579-7538 and the information will go to the proper team in the fundraising effort.

Across the state, we haven't had a chance to step in very many dam removals, so this is a chance to make sure your dollars will directly work to free this river. Besides anglers, people who enjoy the river in other ways, such as paddlers, are encouraged to support this cause and ask the businesses that serve them to do the same.

**How to make a donation**

If you wish to make a donation, here are several options:

- Go to [KinniCC.org](http://KinniCC.org) and donate to the 501c(3) nonprofit. Donations will be held by the St. Croix Valley Foundation until put into the project.
- Go to [twincitiestu.org/donate](http://twincitiestu.org/donate) and specify your donation should go to support the Kinni Dam Removal project
- Go to [Kiaptuwish.org/donate](http://Kiaptuwish.org/donate) and specify Kinni Dam Removal project.
- Through the KinniCC website, go to Donate Now and contribute online, or text KinniCC to 844-844-6844.

Your employer may also match your donations, so see if that's an option.

**Dam removal project is drawing national attention**

The project is drawing attention from national media and river groups. American Rivers included the Powell Falls Dam removal project on its list of "25 dams to watch in 2022" after including the Kinni on an earlier list of America's most endangered rivers. Watch for reports on the Kinni in other national media in coming months.

# Wisconsin Women's Fly Fishing Clinics in June

## Volunteer guides sought.

The Southern Wisconsin Chapter is proud to offer its women's clinics, including the "By Women for Women Beginner Fly Fishing Clinic" June 17-19 at the West Fork Sports Club in Avalanche. This basic clinic is designed to give a broad view of fly fishing and offer an opportunity to try it in a safe and fun environment. Skill level is not important. It is for women who know very little to those who would simply like a refresher. Participants learn how to choose proper equipment, tie knots, cast, read water, select the proper fly and spend some time on the water. Equipment is available for use.

To register for the basic clinic go to <https://web.cvent.com/event/4fbb7fc9-d15b-4526-9e5d-98f246b424eb/summary>

**Intermediate clinic**

The "On the Water Skills Intermediate Clinic" precedes the basic clinic and will be held June 15-17 at the same location. It includes personalized streamside instruction, tune-up workshops by women instructors to refresh skills in casting, matching the hatch and reading the water. It provides a chance to fish Wisconsin's finest trout streams with experienced anglers.

Most of the "guides" are volunteers from TU chapters, including men and women, who have experience instructing and know these waters well.

Participants must be 18 years of age or older. The registration fee includes membership to the West Fork Sports Club, camping, two skills tune-up clinics taught by women instructors, most meals, three half-day guided fishing trips with volunteer guides and fly-fishing equipment, if needed.

To register for the intermediate clinic go to <https://web.cvent.com/event/de4bd061-e806-41e9-87fa-aa3b10cb7abf/summary>

The fee for the clinics is \$315 for first-time participants and \$345 for returning participants. Payment must be made at time of registration. We cannot offer refunds if you cancel as we are a non-profit organization and make every attempt to keep the registration costs as low as possible. We depend upon every budgeted registration fee to be able to provide camping, facilities, meals and equipment to our participants.

**Fishing guides/buddies needed**

Fishing guides/buddies are needed to take women out to work on fishing their skills. If you can help, please contact Tom Thrall at [tpthrall@gmail.com](mailto:tpthrall@gmail.com) or 608-219-4249.

**Movie about women's clinics available for viewing on line**

Three Days on the River is a movie about our Women's Fly Fishing Clinics. It was created by Gretta Wing-Miller of Madison's Downtown Dailies, the Women's Fly Fishing Clinics and SWTU. The feature is 28 minutes long and can be viewed at <https://vimeo.com/325794212/50145f0cf9>.

# Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Convention April 6-8

*This year's theme is "Protecting What We Love for the Future."*

The 44th annual Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Convention is April 6-8 at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Stevens Point.

This year's statewide convention is again part of Wisconsin Water Week, and brought to you by the DNR, Extension Lakes, Wisconsin Lakes and Water Action Volunteers.

There will be more than 80 hands-on workshops and engaging presentations during this year's event, which will be centered around the theme of protecting our water resources. The event will focus on success stories and recommendations of resilience, adaptation and action in a changing climate.

It will also highlight efforts and ideas that support diversity, equity and inclusion in water resource protection and management. Join this unique group of citizen scientists, businesses, and lake, river and wetland professionals. This event will also have a virtual component for those unable to attend in person.

Learn from respected experts, grassroots organizers and passionate water advocates. Engage in the workshops and interactive discussion sessions. Enhance your network of water-focused professionals.

**Presentations will include:**

- Keynote speaker Charlie Woolley, Regional Director of the U.S. Forest Service
- Oconomowoc Watershed Protection Project and Tall Pines Conservancy: A Partnership to Protect and Improve Soil and Water Quality in the Oconomowoc River Watershed
- How Trout in the Classroom Program Catalyzed the Restoration of Calumet County's Only Trout Stream
- Groundwater Management and Evolution of Groundwater Quantity Management in Wisconsin
- Volunteer Management for Water Organizations
- After Phragmites: Effects of Multi-Year Herbicide Treatment in Wisconsin's Lake Michigan Basin
- Sniffing for Snails: Using K9s for the Early Detection of New Zealand Mudsnailed in Wisconsin

For more information go to <https://wisconsinwaterweek.org/home/lakes-and-rivers-convention/>



# Priority waters update

By Chris Collier, Great Lakes Stream Restoration Manager

I want to thank everyone who has participated in the priority waters process. From chapter members to State Council leaders to TU National staff, the Wisconsin priority waters process has been a model of TU's goal. That goal is to increase collaboration between volunteers, members, chapters, the state council and staff for the benefit of coldwater resources. This has also been an educational process, helping me learn more about the state's coldwater systems, and I am excited to share this update with you.

First and foremost, the priority waters plan should be viewed as adding another layer to coldwater conservation in Wisconsin, not reinventing how we work. This means that chapter and council priorities will not be impacted by the waters selected through this process. Funding through programs like the Friends of Wisconsin TU grant program will also not be influenced by the priority waters plan. Instead, the priority waters designation should be viewed as a way we can work together to amplify our coldwater conservation programs.

What TU is planning to use the selected priority waters for is to increase collaboration in these designated areas. I'll use an example from my work area in the northeast. We are proposing that the Menominee-Oconto-Peshtigo watersheds be listed as the Green Bay Headwaters Priority Water. With several chapters working in this area, there are excellent opportunities to work with chapter leaders and identify areas where TU National and chapters

could complement each other. Another example could be working with chapters to organize a bus tour to showcase restoration projects being completed in the region. There are so many ways we can sync our efforts as an organization to build capacity across the state.

So, what are the candidate waters for Wisconsin? Our committee identified four candidate waters, the Green Bay headwaters, the Driftless Area, the Central Sands and what we are referring to as the Wild Rivers priority water (Bois Brule River, Bad-White-Marengo Rivers and the Namekagon River). If you have any questions contact me at [chris.collier@tu.org](mailto:chris.collier@tu.org)

These waters were selected after an in-depth analysis of factors including, but not limited to, coldwater habitat quality, coldwater habitat quantity, expected climate resiliency, trout population data (wild and native), protected lands and public access availability. We are blessed in Wisconsin because many miles of trout streams fall under those categories. The problem is if we prioritized everything, then nothing is prioritized.

That led us to our final question, and probably our most in-depth discussion as a group: Where could TU add the most value by listing an area as priority water? That question is how we arrived at our four candidate waters. Based on current staffing levels, active partnerships, shovel-ready projects, active and potential partnerships and funding opportunities, we believe that these four areas hold the most potential to launch the priority waters initiative.

These candidate waters were



Tom Lager

**MEGAN RIVER, PART OF THE CENTRAL SANDS PRIORITY WATER**

presented to chapter and council leaders at the February annual meeting in Oshkosh. Since that time, the priority waters committee has been in conversations with chapter leadership and external partners, including the DNR, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and others. We submitted our candidate priority waters to TU National at the end of March. There will also be an appendix to the Wisconsin section of the plan that highlights waters of regional significance that could become priority waters in the future.

Examples of waters being considered for this appendix are spring ponds, the Upper Wolf River, Upper Wisconsin River Valley and Lake Superior tributaries.

Thanks to everyone for your support and participation in this effort. It's been a difficult process and I realize some of you think we omitted what should be a priority water. Let's talk. I'm always happy to talk more about this process. It's meant to be updated over time. I can't wait to continue working with you to implement this plan.



Bill Heart

**WREN FALLS TYLER FORKS, PART OF WILD RIVERS PRIORITY WATER**



Bill Heart

**BIBON MARSH BROWN TROUT**

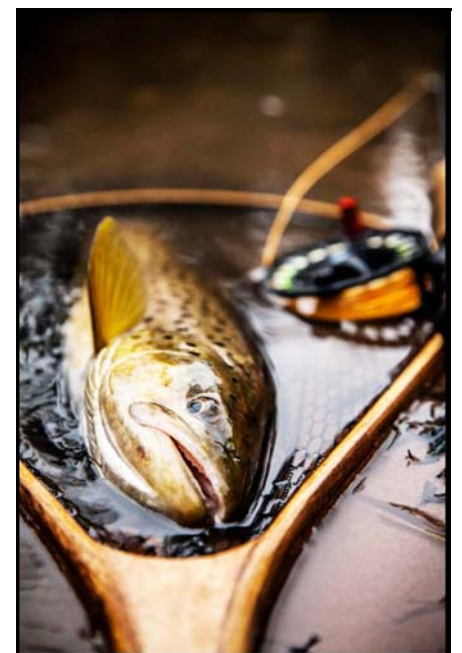
A beautiful brown trout caught in the White River's Bibon Marsh, which makes up part of the Wild Rivers Priority Water.



**CARTOGRAPHY: ANOTHER LEARNING COMPONENT OF TIC**

**TIC UPDATE**

Teacher Steve Papp's classroom at Greenwood Elementary in River Falls placed a Wisconsin map as a backdrop to the Trout In the Classroom tank. Perhaps the trout will enjoy seeing all the little blue squiggly lines on the map and dream about where they may some day find a new home. Many schools have been allowing visitors this spring and chapters have used the opportunity to make presentations to their TIC classes and have hopes of assisting in releasing the trout at an end of the school year field trip. We continue to work on streamlining the TIC process with the DNR with hope that by summer we will have that process in place. Stay tuned for more updates.  
—Greg Olson, WITU TIC Coordinator



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# Wisconsin Great Lakes Stream Restoration Program update



**NORTHWOODS BROOK TROUT FROM A CULVERT PROJECT SITE**  
Shown here are two northwoods brook trout that we sampled in 2021 at one of our culvert project sites.

## ELECTROFISHING AS PART OF TROUT MOVEMENT STUDY

TU and U.S. Forest Service staff electrofish for brook trout in an Oconto County trout stream as part of a trout movement study.

By Chris Collier, Great Lakes Stream Restoration Manager

I'm writing this article after another dog walk where it probably would have been more appropriate to have skis or skates on rather than shoes. Maybe next year I'll look into dogsledding with our labs. Despite the icy and snowy conditions outside, warmer temperatures and increasing daylight shows us that spring is just around the corner. With spring comes field season and after spending winter mostly inside writing grants, processing data, and filling out reports, I promise you that we are excited to get back out there.

First up in our field season plans is diving back into the exciting science work Danielle has been leading since coming on board. We will be deploying monitoring arrays to track brook trout movement, electrofishing streams to monitor trout populations, and deploying temper-

ature loggers at project sites to track increased stream temperatures caused (at least in part) by culverts.

A new project we will be launching this year is deploying temperature loggers in three sub-watersheds of the upper Wolf River. This study will focus on collecting temperature data in the Wolf and Hunting rivers, and from headwater tributaries. We plan to use this data to identify potentially climate-resilient habitat and develop projects to protect those areas.

Alongside those studies we are going to survey several crossings this spring. Interestingly, this work is going to be happening in both of Wisconsin's Brule River watersheds. First, we are continuing a partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to survey two crossings on important tributaries to the Bois Brule River. Second, we are working with the U.S. Forest Service to survey several crossings on

tributaries to the "Border Brule." Both efforts are gaining momentum faster than expected due to the potential funding through the infrastructure bill.

With all this awesome work, it's going to take more than just Danielle and me in the field this year. To expand our seasonal capacity, we are bringing on two interns and one full-time seasonal technician. Having these seasonal staff will allow us to focus on our growing field efforts without sacrificing grant writing and fundraising efforts. I look forward to introducing our seasonal team to you in the summer issue of Wisconsin Trout.

Looking forward to summer, we have several road-stream crossing

replacement projects that will hit the ground between May and September. We are also going to be looking at our past culvert projects through new monitoring protocols to see how they are performing. Expect to see cool pictures and hear more about this work in the fall issue.

If you would like to learn more about these projects or are interested in helping with some of this work (We have opportunities for volunteers.) please reach out to me at [chris.collier@tu.org](mailto:chris.collier@tu.org).

See you on the water.

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*Don Harmon III*

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

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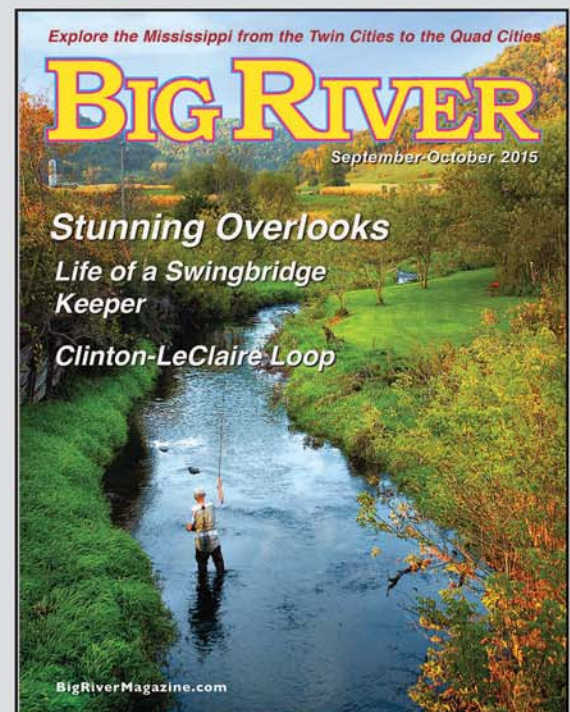
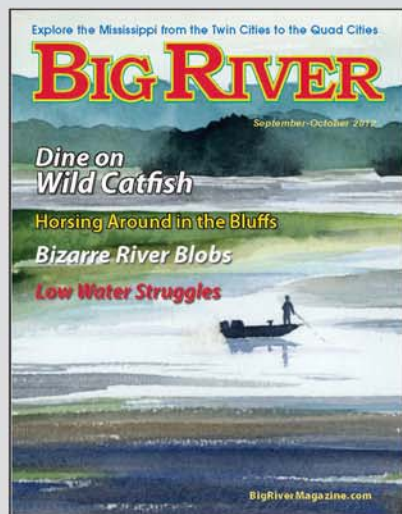
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