



Wisconsin Trout

Fall 2022



Bob Haase

Council leaders attend national meeting

Past Council Chair Linn Beck receives youth education award at Maine event.

By Scott Allen, Council Chair

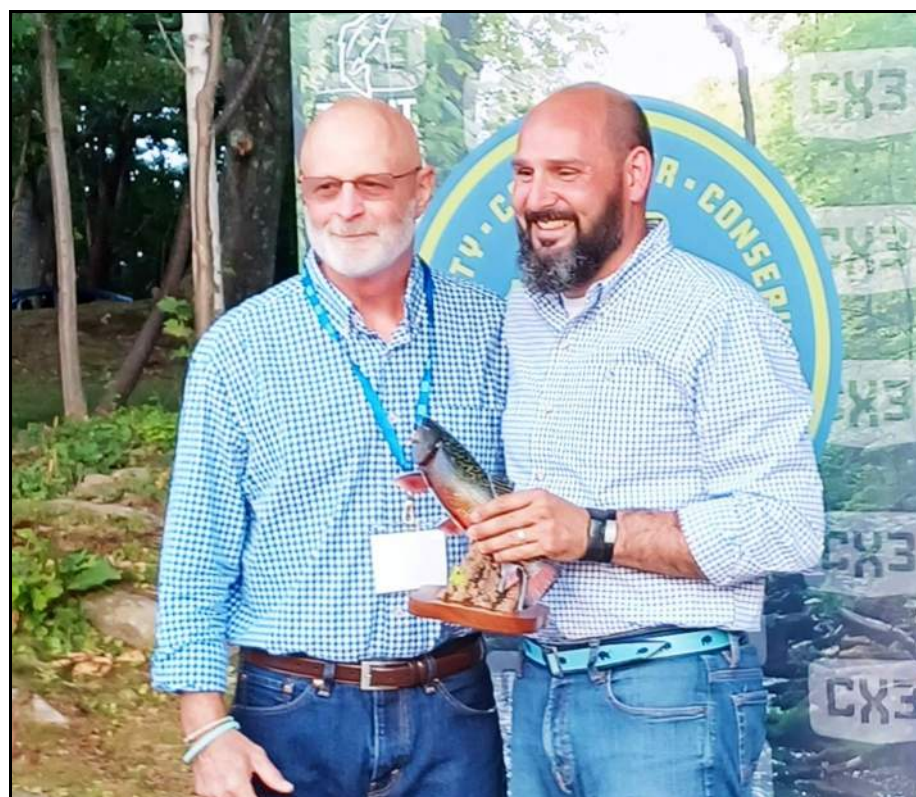
CX3—Community, Coldwater, Conservation—the new moniker of the Trout Unlimited annual national meeting, took place in Portland, Maine in July. Wisconsin Council Chair Scott Allen and past Chairs Mike Kuhr and Linn Beck attended. It was four days of seminars, presentations, field trips and fishing the surf for striped bass at sunrise. Additionally, there was no shortage of excellent food, laughter and networking. It was truly a memorable, albeit tiring, event.

Mike Kuhr attended in his role as member of the Embrace-A-Stream Committee. The EAS Committee awarded grants totaling \$85,000 to 13 TU chapters across the country. Here in the Midwest, the Iowa Driftless TU Chapter received \$10,000 toward their Casey Springs Creek project just outside of Decorah, Iowa. Does your chapter have an upcoming project that might be a good fit for EAS funds? It's not too early to start thinking about 2023 grant applications. Mike Kuhr is the regional representative for Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan and Iowa on the Embrace-A-Stream Committee. You can reach him at mikek.trout@yahoo.com.

I attended several seminars and discussions for council chairs, which was a great opportunity to shake hands with chairs from around the country, share experiences and offer advice. A field trip took me to the Androscoggin River in central Maine near Augusta to view dam removal and fish ladder sites for Atlantic salmon reintroduction. Habitat improvement in Maine, I learned, takes place in courtrooms with enforcement of the Endangered Species Act. The water quality is good in Maine, but of little good for salmon with dams in the way of spawning. The next day we visited a dam-removal site on the Presumpscot River to view habitat improvement of spawning beds for lamprey eel. That's correct, lamprey. Lamprey, when in their native range, cohabitate with Atlantic salmon and enhance salmon redds.

The highlight of the event was the awards banquet held on Peaks Island in Casco Bay. We were ferried to the island for an incredible “lawbstuh dinna” on the seashore, hosted by the local Lions Club. Wisconsin past Chair Linn Beck was awarded the Distinguished Service Award for Youth Education, presented to him by Jeff Yates of TU National. This is one of the highest honors awarded by TU National. We are all proud of Linn. Linn now oversees the TU Youth Camp and is the National Leadership Council representative for Wisconsin.

Cx3 2023 will head to the other side of the continent in Spokane, Washington.



LINN BECK RECEIVES NATIONAL YOUTH EDUCATION AWARD IN MAINE
Following a traditional Maine lobster dinner, TU National's Jeff Yates presents past Council Chair Linn Beck with the prestigious Distinguished Service Award for Youth Education. Linn's efforts helped the State Council establish a Youth Fishing Camp, which he has helped organize since its inception.

COUNCIL YOUTH CAMP RETURNS, COMPLETE WITH BIG SMILES

Mentor Dallas Moe and camper Rhett Probst find success on the West Branch of the White River. The campers enjoyed some bass fishing on Saturday and trout fishing on Sunday, with one camper catching a 19-inch brown trout. For more information and photos about the return of the Youth Fishing Camp, see the article on page 16.

Friends of Wisconsin TU and Watershed Access Fund

Please take advantage of the donation envelope in this issue of Wisconsin Trout.

By Kim McCarthy, Grant Coordinator for the Friends of Wisconsin TU and Watershed Access Fund

As 2022 comes to an end, the Council's Friends of Wisconsin TU and Watershed Access Fund programs have once again had very successful years. Chapters were awarded \$18,000 from Friends of Wisconsin TU for local habitat work, and the Watershed Access Fund was able to contribute \$13,000 in a partnership with chapters and a land trust to complete another important land acquisition.

The task now is to replenish the accounts and get ready for what we hope will be another successful year in 2023. To make it easier for members and friends to make donations, we are including a donation envelope in this edition of the newspaper. Please be aware that the envelope is only for donations and cannot be used for any membership issues.

So far in 2022, donations are down slightly from previous years. If you have not already donated to either program, please know that your donations are needed and will be greatly appreciated.

We also want to remind everyone that donations from Individual Retirement Account (IRA) Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) are a nice way to lower the tax liability on your required distributions and do some great work for trout at the same time. If you have considered making charitable donations from your IRA distributions, we can assure you that IRA required distributions are tax exempt if donated to the Friends of Wisconsin TU or Watershed Access Fund, because both programs are part of the Council, which is a 501(c)(3) organization.

Thanks to all of you who support the Friends and Watershed grant programs. Both programs have been successful for a long time. We need your help to continue the success of the programs into the future.

2023 Wisconsin TU State Council Banquet

Saturday, Feb. 4, 2023

Best Western Premier Waterfront Hotel and Convention Center

1 North Main St., Oshkosh, WI 54901

Doors Open, with Cash Bar @ 4:30 p.m.

Dinner Seating @ 6:30 p.m.

For more info or to purchase tickets visit:

<http://wistrout.brownpapertickets.com>

Register by Dec. 31 to receive complimentary bucket raffle tickets

Name: _____

Phone or Email: _____

of tickets @ \$40 ea.: _____

_____ My check (payable to Wisconsin TU) is enclosed

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

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

Chair's Column

The door is open

By Scott Allen, Council Chair

The front door is open. "Fishing is the front door to TU," said CEO Chris Wood in his "State of TU" at July's annual meeting in Maine. I couldn't agree more. For most of us it is fishing that landed us at the doorstep of TU. What lay across the threshold few of us held any vision, but hey, the place has curb appeal.

With summer behind us, so are several successful "Front Door" programs put together by tireless volunteers: a Service Partnership fishing trip for veterans, a 5Rivers gathering of college students in Vernon County, the Council's Youth Fishing Camp, the Women's Fishing Clinic in Vernon County and Trout In The Classroom programs throughout the state.

There isn't enough room on this page or this entire newspaper, for that matter, to list all of the habitat work completed this summer by committed chapters. It's habitat work that reconnects streams to floodplains, enhances quality of life for villages and communities (the hominid type).

There are times TU appears to be moving in many divergent directions but all are focused on fishing and fishing is focused on clean water. Those multiple directions are the headwaters and well springs of

TU, the diversity of TU. As we have learned from healthy ecosystems, a monoculture is a stage set for collapse, but diversity begets resiliency. Diversity means much more than gender, ethnicity or age. It also means learning from our mistakes and building on our successes. It means looking beyond our personal needs and working hard for a common good.

Our successes in TU rarely come to us as guided trophies, sometimes hardly an acknowledgement. Yet, for certain we, meaning all of TU, do our best to recognize those members who know how to put the ideals of this organization ahead of their own.

It was the summer of 2015 that a young man named Gabe Stelzer attended the youth fishing camp in Waupaca organized by Linn Beck. Past Chair Mike Kuhr and I were recently honored to have Gabe as our guide on an unforgettable fishing trip on the Menominee River. Now it was Gabe's turn as a professional guide to teach the old fellas a few things about technique and the river (If you have an hour to kill, ask Mike about the ant hatch). The TU Youth Camp spearheaded by Linn Beck is but one facet of TU's diversity that is now showing a generous return. Linn was awarded TU National Distinguished Service Award for Youth Education at the national



Mike Kuhr

FORMER YOUTH CAMPER NOW GUIDING THE OLD FELLAS

Gabe Stelzer, a guide on the Menominee River, was a student at an early Council Youth Fishing Camp. He recently guided Council Chair Scott Allen (shown here) and Past Chair Mike Kuhr on an epic smallmouth bass outing.

meeting in Maine last July for his herculean effort put into the camp.

Maintaining a clean and visible welcome mat at the front door is proving its worth, as well. Did you know Wisconsin TU is growing? In my 10 years as an active member of the Aldo Leopold Chapter, it has doubled in membership, while statewide our membership has reached

6,400 members. It is that growth which is a trophy for all of us to hold and display.

I needn't remind you of the worth of wetting a line, but please remember to help someone learn to fish. Keep the front door open. We are here to serve; we are here to get things done.

Chapters with TIC programs: Please act now

We recently asked chapters with Trout In the Classroom (TIC) programs to start the registration process before the school year began, but we've only heard from a few TIC programs thus far. We need to inform the DNR how many programs will be asking for

free eggs before the school year begins, so they can plan on how many extra eggs to produce.

We may be at risk of not having enough eggs for all the programs in the state. A new, simpler application form is under legal review at the state, but it will not

be ready for this year. Unfortunately, all TIC schools (new and old) will have to register as a fish farm again and should start the process as soon as possible. PLEASE DO NOT REGISTER ON YOUR OWN. This caused problems last year.

Please contact me, Greg Olson, at driftless23@gmail.com before starting the fish farm registration. I will put you in touch with someone from the DNR who can do this for you with a few simple questions. Thank you!



Memories, keep them forever

I would like to wish a sincere thank you to all those in the Trout Unlimited fraternity who made a donation to the American Cancer Society in Janice's memory. The gesture is very much appreciated by myself and the rest of the family. Janice loved to travel; the picture was taken just before she waded into the Pacific Ocean, where she thought it was very cold. Memories, keep them forever.

—Gary Stoychoff



REMEMBERING A LEGEND: DAN WISNIEWSKI

A gorgeous September day greeted friends and family of Dan Wisniewski along Black Earth Creek's Salmo Pond. They were there to honor Dan as a new accessible fishing area was dedicated to his memory.

Wisniewski, one of only two people to ever receive the State Council's Lifetime Achievement Award, was a tireless advocate for public lands and public access to trout streams. He preserved thousands of acres of lands and water across Wisconsin and played important roles in the TU community at the local, state and national level.

A plaque was also placed on a granite boulder at Salmo Pond, highlighting his lifetime of achievements.

On the previous day, hundreds gathered for a ceremony of life and shared countless fond memories of a man few can compare to. TU's own Duke Welter was among those who spoke about Dan's endearing personality, fishing prowess, conservation accomplishments and his inspiring efforts. The crowd included many dignitaries, including two former Wisconsin governors.

Kinni Dam update

Dam removal project focus may shift. Army Corps considering taking out both dams.

By Duke Welter

While volunteers have worked hard to find funding for the Kinnickinnic River Dam removal project, the City of River Falls considers allying with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) to take out both dams rather than one at a time.

COE officials from the St. Paul office have approached the city and expressed interest in taking on the project to remove both the upper (Junction Falls) and lower (Powell Falls) dams and ecologically restore the 1.5-mile corridor through the city. The city's focus since 2019 has been to remove the lower dam first, in the next two years, and then get to the upper dam when money can be raised for it.

If the city council agrees at its September 27 meeting to undertake a feasibility study with the Corps, the city could be expected to contribute half the cost of that study. Supporters of dam removal might wish to consider attending that meeting to show the flag for removal of both dams. Watch the Kiap-TU-Wish TU and KinniCC websites for updates on that meeting.

Estimates vary for the total project and study cost. In many cases a COE feasibility study costs about \$750,000. But in River Falls, much of the river research has already been done as part of the relicensing of the upper dam and delicensing of the lower dam. Hence, the study could cost much less and take signif-

icantly less time than the three years such studies normally take.

The Kinni Corridor Collaborative (KinniCC), a free-standing non-profit formed at the city's request to raise funds and educate the public about the project and the river, has worked since last February to reach a target of \$1 million to enable the Powell Falls removal to take place this winter. City Municipal Utilities Director Kevin Westhuis told a KinniCC-led meeting last May that by May 2023, the lower dam would be removed and corridor restoration under way. However, in June the city paused the Powell Falls project to allow it to consider allying with the COE to remove both dams.

Pledges and monies received for the project by KinniCC to date are more than \$280,000.

The city has asked KinniCC to pay \$175,000, or half of the study costs, and essentially to become solely a fundraising arm rather than a fundraiser and voice of the community. KinniCC has agreed it would contribute when study costs are finally determined, but needs assurances it will remain a partner at the table as the project is discussed. COE policy requires that community support be a major component of such projects, so the city needs to keep KinniCC actively involved.

KinniCC fundraising leaders, including volunteers from Kiap-TU-Wish and Twin Cities chapters, plan to contact donors through their groups to inform them of the poten-

tial shift of direction and ask them to support it.

Some of those donors already contacted have viewed the shift as constructive. One long-time TU chapter board member, when discussing whether his chapter's \$5,000 contribution could be applied to the COE effort, said, "We made that contribution to go to restoring the Kinni, and this shift to work with the Corps will be restoring it sooner and better."

If the COE takes on the project, its leaders have suggested both dams might be removed by 2029 and the corridor restored as riparian area and city parkland. Rather than having a \$3.3 million target for the lower dam removal (the bulk of which has already been raised) and an indefinite price and time period for the upper dam, the COE would bring \$10 million to the project, to be matched with \$3.5 million from the city and other sources. The city already has secured a \$1-million Municipal Dam Grant from the DNR, partly as a result of TU's efforts to modify the grant program in the last state budget. If the second dam is targeted for removal, it will be eligible for another \$1 million from the DNR. It will first have to surrender the federal generating license, which was also done with the lower dam at KinniCC's suggestion.

More work than removal of two dams and corridor restoration might also be in the works. The city has asked COE to consider including

work on stormwater outlets it promised to modify some 15 years ago, after TU thermal research suggested runoff was a major factor in raising summertime water temperatures in the river. About 175 acres send stormwater outflows into the upper impoundment.

Getting that runoff filtered in settling basins and then cooled in the ground before it gets to the river will be a major factor in keeping river temperatures cooler. It remains to be seen whether the COE will agree to do the stormwater modifications or agree to infrastructure changes to enable a future riverwalk between the river and the back side of downtown businesses.

Many river restoration experts would favor removing the upper dam first and using the lower dam as a sediment trap. Then sediment would be removed and the lower dam demolished. Here, the city council supported removal of the lower dam sooner because it generated less money, \$25,000 a year, compared to the upper dam which generated about \$50,000 a year. Between them, the two dams provide 1.5 percent of the city's electrical needs. The utility is moving toward more energy from solar farms.

The council resolution in 2019 supported removing the lower dam by 2026 and the upper dam by approximately 2040. COE involvement would allow a free-flowing Kinnickinnic River much sooner.

Watershed Access Fund: Dell Creek parcel secured

2022 saw another acquisition, this one along Dell Creek. It was completed using funds from the Watershed Access Fund, in partnership with chapters and a land trust. We are always looking for opportunities to add more public access for trout fishing. Please consider becoming a donor to this important fund.

Our WAF Contributors

- | | |
|--|--|
| Jim Bayorgeon Appleton, WI | Bob Hellyer Boulder Jct., WI |
| Mark Beilfuss New London, WI | Kurt Helker Monona, WI |
| Scott Berglund Trego, WI | Jerome Herro Kimberly, WI |
| Stephen Born Madison, WI | John & Judith Hutchinson Sun Prairie, WI |
| Linda and Dennis Buzzar DeForest, WI | Thomas Janssen Appleton, WI |
| John Carr Rice Lake, WI | Jeff Johnson St. Croix Falls, WI |
| Andrew Cook Sheldon, SC | Paul Julius Cross Plains, WI |
| Terry Cummings Rhinelander | Steven Kennedy Amery, WI |
| Katherine Duplessie Eau Claire | Peter Kurtz O.D. Menominee |
| Tom Ellis Pewaukee WI | James Laudon Rochester, MN |
| John & Kathleen Ewen Neenah, WI | David Lenz Middleton, WI |
| Joel Fisher Birnamwood, WI | John Lindberg Wautoma, WI |
| William Flader Madison, WI | Thomas and Larissa Lyon Janesville, WI |
| Tim Fraley Madison, WI | Paul and Nichelle Martin Baraboo, WI |
| Ron French Fitchburg, WI | Bob Mazanec St. Paul, MN |
| Daniel Geddes Appleton, WI | Jeanne & Kim McCarthy Green Bay, WI |
| Gary Gillis Suamico, WI | Carolyn McGuire Marinette |
| Gordon Grieshaber Mineral Point, WI | Rodney & Paula McKenzie Madison, WI |
| Dean and Sandy Hagness Jerry Hamm Neilsville, WI | Peter Meronek Stevens Point |
| Ricky Hancock Milwaukee WI | Robert Moser Milwaukee, WI |
| Henry Haugley Sun Prairie, WI | Gene Mueller Monona, WI |

- | | |
|---|--|
| David Muresan Middleton, WI | David Wahl Lakewood Ranch, FL |
| Eric Nelson Chili, WI | Donald Wellhouse Kaukauna |
| Herb Oechler Wauwatosa, WI | Paul Wiemerslage Hudson, WI |
| Jerry Osborn Madison, WI | Paul Williams Madison, WI |
| Cheryl and Winston Ostrow Viroqua, WI | Bill & Jane Wisler Dodgeville |
| Randal Rake Helena, MT | |
| Ron Rellatz Merton, WI | TU CHAPTERS |
| Bob Retko Viroqua, WI | Antigo Chapter Antigo, WI |
| Ken Rizzo Oconomowoc, WI | Coulee Chapter LaCrosse, WI |
| David Rhode Waukesha, WI | Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter Hudson |
| James Ruether Mosinee, WI | Marinette Chapter Marinette, WI |
| Mike Ryan Rosholt, WI | |
| Jack Saltes Mount Horeb, WI | BUSINESSES |
| Charlie Sanders Middleton, WI | Great Lakes Eco Monitoring LLC Fitchburg, WI |
| Jack Saunders Beaver Dam, WI | |
| Jered Schmudlach Poynette, WI | |
| Michael Staggs Poynette, WI | |
| Mike Stapleton Pardeeville, WI | |
| Warren Stern West Bend, WI | |
| Graydon Stone Spooner, WI | |
| Ronald Suslick Peshtigo, WI | |
| John Tweddale Madison, WI | |
| Dennis, Becky Vanden Bloomen Eau Claire, WI | |
| Carol Vendt Oconto, WI | |
| Richard Wachowski Eau Claire | |

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

Make your check payable to Wisconsin Trout Unlimited

MAIL TO: Kim McCarthy
736 Meadowbrook Court
Green Bay WI 54313

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone _____

RECOLLECTIONS

“Don’t Worry About It!”

A true story of good fishing, old stories, rough back roads and countless memories.

By Tom Meyer, CWTU member

It was about 8 p.m. on June 8, 2021 and I was in my waders standing in the Escanaba River in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula with my fly rod. I had checked my leader for wind knots and frays, tied on the fly I wanted, and treated the fly with floatant. I was waiting for the evening hatch, probably light sulfurs or brown drakes. I was with four of my TU buddies and we were spread out along the river, each separated by about 150 yards.

Waiting for a hatch is always a reflective time to think about things and sometimes just relax and enjoy the wildlife and scenery. But it was also a significant day — the day my dad died eight years ago. I was also thinking about him. Here I was, engaged in one of the passions that my dad had instilled in me and taught me — trout fishing. The next day I was going to meet my brother Tim in Iron River, Michigan and we were going to float the Brule River at Pentoga, Michigan, where my dad and grandpa used to fish and hunt from the 1930’s to 1957. It was to be a nostalgic adventure for us.

As it got dark a few fish were rising to unknown bugs, but there were so many in the air and on the water that it was impossible to determine what the trout were feeding on.

About 15 yards in front of me I heard a deep slurping sound and saw a boil. I edged a bit closer to the spot where the rise occurred and cast my fly about three feet upriver from the rise.

As the fly floated to the spot of the rise, the fish aggressively took my fly and the fight was on. It turned out to be a rainbow trout about 19 inches long. I admired it briefly and let it slide out of my net back into the river. That turned out to be the only fish I caught that night. My friends Jeff Treu, Mike Salas, Tom Towne and Rudy Carriello each caught at least one fish and

lost a fish or two. Don Dameworth, a local resident from Marquette, Michigan, left the river at dark. He seemed to know how difficult it was to match the hatch.

The next morning I left my TU friends at the lodge we had rented on the Escanaba River and drove to the Dark Waters fly shop in Iron River to meet up with my brother. Seth Waters, a friend of ours and a fishing guide, owns the shop and was going to guide us down the Brule in his inflatable drift boat the next day. Seth gave Tim directions to a favorite brook trout fishing spot on a local creek and Tim decided to fish that afternoon.

The search for Pentoga

I was tired and saving up my energy for the evening hatch, so I decided to drive to Pentoga. I looked over my maps and drove to the road I thought was the most likely route that my dad and grandpa would have taken from Wisconsin.

The Brule River is the border between Wisconsin and Michigan’s Upper Peninsula and the land south of the Brule is mostly Nicolet National Forest land. Dad said that during the deer season they stayed in a house in Pentoga, Michigan, but would walk across the bridge each day and hunt in Wisconsin.

I turned off the highway on a road that had no name but only a four-digit number. It connected to a road called Pentoga Road, so I thought it must be the right route.

The asphalt ran out after only 100 yards, and the road was now gravel with pot holes and exposed rocks. As I continued deeper into the Nicolet Forest, the road got narrower and had bigger pot holes, some with water and mud, and I started to become concerned about getting stuck or getting a flat. There were some branches across the road, but I was able to get around them so far.

I was on this road for about 10

miles, which seemed like forever since I was restricted to about 20 mph. I finally came to an intersecting road that I thought was Pentoga road but it had no sign or marking of any kind. Was this the road dad was on when he got out of the army and drove up in the night in November by himself encountering the old man that drove off the road?

This was a story he told around the campfire when we were kids. He saw fresh tracks in the snow leading off the road and saw a truck on its side in the woods with the headlights still on. He stopped to offer help and a drunken old man carrying a rifle appeared from behind a tree and made some kind of a grunt. My dad actually ended up giving the man a ride a few miles up the road. Whenever dad asked the guy a question like where he was going, if he was injured or why he was carrying a rifle the guy would just say, “Don’t worry about it.”

I seemed to be getting into a more remote area with the road continuing to get more narrow and questioned whether this was even Pentoga Road. I thought of more stories that Tim and I listened to for years at deer-hunting time.

There was one about a hunter in the deer camp who wounded a buck and followed him too late one evening until it got dark and he got lost. My grandpa, dad and others had to go out and find him and then find a way back themselves. When they finally found the guy, he was panicked and making crazy comments about how everyone was going to die in the woods. Grandpa had to grab him by the coat and slap him to calm him down. Grandpa eventually led the group back in the dark.

One year a hunter was cleaning his rifle in the house and it accidentally went off and shot a hole in the ceiling. No-one was hurt but that guy was not invited back the next year. There were so many stories.

As young boys, my brother and I couldn’t get enough of these fishing and hunting stories about Pentoga and other places. My grandpa and dad were larger than life to us and even to this day we continue to be fascinated by the adventures we heard about 60 years ago.

Times have changed, as have the cars

So here I was with my four-wheel-drive truck, navigation device, cell phone (although no service), and a number of paper maps. I thought of them driving a Ford Model T on this road without any electronic aids, or my dad with a 1940 vintage car, by himself in the night. But then I realized, he had just gotten out of the army, where he fought three major battles with the Germans who were shooting at him and trying to drop bombs on him. He probably wasn’t afraid of that old backwoods guy with a rifle.

My grandpa also had been in the military in WWI and lived a hard life. Driving on bad roads and the thought of maybe breaking down and having to walk wasn’t a big deal. In this day and age, we are kind of spoiled and used to having easy travel and the comforts that technology brings, which previous generations couldn’t imagine.

Looking for the river

I kept looking for the river to show up on my navigation device. I would then be confident that I was on the right road and hopefully the bridge over the river would be drivable and I could enter Pentoga, Michigan and try to find the house that the group stayed in. The road was rough and slow going. I had only traveled about six or seven miles on what I hoped was Pentoga Road. I finally saw a river on my navigation device. It was a relief to finally get to the Brule River and to find that there was a bridge. The bridge was drivable, but had loose boards across some steel beams that were probably 100 years old.

More time to remember fish tales

I took a moment to walk along the river for a short distance. I remembered stories my grandpa told about fishing the Brule. He was as adept in the trout stream as he was in the woods as a hunter. He fished with a fly rod, but not the conventional way by today’s standards.

He used flies that had squirrel tail wrapped around single hooks. There was a shank attached to the eye of the hook and single spinner blade was attached to the shank. He would fish downstream and let the fly dangle and spin into the deep holes and undercut banks. He often would put live bait on the hooks, such as minnows or grasshoppers.

Those were post-Depression years. They were fishing for meat and often kept and ate everything they caught. I admit I cringe sometimes when looking at the old photos of numerous large trout hanging from a stick or layed out on a newspaper. I still have his steel Heddon fly rod and a box of his old flies including some with the spinner blades.

Into Michigan

I crossed the bridge safely and drove into what appeared to be an old abandoned town of about five houses and a couple of outbuildings. It seemed a couple of the houses had people recently living there but I never saw anyone. I took a few photos of the barn that I think was in some of the old deer camp photos.

Continuing north into Michigan I was glad the roads were now asphalt so I took an alternate route, staying on asphalt roads, back to the small log cabin Tim and I rented on the Brule River about 25 miles upriver from Pentoga.

Seth Waters and his friend Dylan joined us on the Brule River that night and we had a very heavy brown drake hatch. Between the four of us we caught nine fish, including two in the 20-inch range. The next morning Tim and I drove back to Pentoga together since our float trip was not to begin until 4 p.m., in order to catch the evening brown drake hatch. We drove on the good roads on the Michigan side.

Tim remembered that the first few years the hunters took the train to Pentoga for the deer hunts. We are not sure where they got on the train. Being a soil scientist, Tim easily found the old railroad right of



PENTOGA BRIDGE: HARD TO FIND, BUT WELL WORTH THE ROUGH ROADS

The author’s father told him that during the deer season they stayed in a house in Pentoga and would walk across the bridge each day to hunt. He father was also a skilled fly fisherman on the Brule River that flows below it.

way that came right through Pentoga. We figured that when the railroad stopped coming there was probably when the town was abandoned. It turned out that some severe storms were in the forecast for later that day so we had to cancel the float down to Pentoga. We will eventually work that trip into our future plans.

Instead we went on another adventure to the Ontonagon River with Seth Waters to fish wild brook trout. We drove into a remote area deep into the Michigan woods on a broken-down, rutted road, similar to the road I was on the day before in the Nicolet Forest. When we finally got to the fishing area 10 miles from any sign of civilization, Seth showed us a satellite phone he had that was good for a one-time use. He showed us how to turn it on. He said within 10 minutes of turning it on a Coast Guard helicopter will hover over the top of us. I had my doubts about the 10 minutes but I still think it's a good idea to have it, especially for him being a guide.

He also showed us an electric chainsaw he has with him at all times in case a storm would cause a tree to fall and block the road. In his backpack he had a drone camera and a couple other hi-tech cameras for making videos. I wondered what our grandparents would have thought about that.

We ended up catching about 40 beautiful wild native brook trout



WAS THIS THE BARN FROM THOSE OLD DEER CAMP PHOTOS?

I crossed the bridge safely and drove into what appeared to be an old abandoned town of about five houses and a couple out buildings. It seemed a couple of the houses had people recently living there but I never saw anyone. I took a few photos of the barn that I think was in some of the old deer camp photos.

without the aid of the satellite phone or the drone camera. The mosquitos were fierce but we sprayed up and had head nets for protection.

We were back to our cabin on the Brule in time to catch the evening brown drake hatch again. There was a much lighter hatch that night but we still landed four nice browns between the three of us. The next time

we have a family get-together around a campfire, I think I'll tell this story to my nieces and nephews and their children.

Tom Meyer is a long-time member of the Central Wisconsin Chapter, currently serving as Vice President. He is the author of a book published in 2019, The Founders and Legends of CWTU, which is dedicated to his late

friend and mentor Doc Poullette.

Tom is an avid fly fisherman and current coordinator of the Master's Fly Tying Class. He is retired and living outside of Wild Rose with his wife Karen. He likes to enjoy "happy hour" after fishing with a "Brownie," an affectionate term for a brandy Manhattan, a family tradition. Also see his article on the Seven Pines Lodge on page 14.

Council seeking award nominations

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

We are currently seeking nominations for our 2023 awards, which we will bestow at our awards banquet February 4, 2023. We rely on you, our members and leaders, to let us know about those who deserve special recognition. So please take time to nominate individuals, groups or others you feel qualify for one of our awards.

Please submit your nominations, including a short narrative, to Awards Committee Chair Todd Franklin by December 1, 2022. Please contact Todd if you have any questions. His email address is toddfranklinwis-trout@gmail.com and his other contact information is on page 4.

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

State Council Awards for 2022

Resource Award of Merit

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

Silver Trout Chapter of the Year Award

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.

Distinguished Service-Leadership

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 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.

Distinguished Service-Youth Education

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.

Distinguished Service-Service Partnership

This award recognizes an individual who embodies the TU community-building spirit with regards to nurturing and healing veterans and first responders and involving them in TU events, activities and operations.

Reel Partner Award

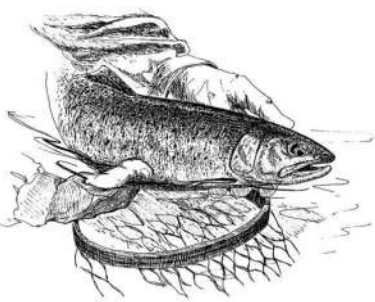
This award recognizes businesses or organizations that have served as partners with the Council or its chapters in forwarding our mission.

Robert Hunt Resource Professional Award

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.

Consider Proper Release

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



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



MIKE'S SERVICE
AT LANGLADE
JUNCTION OF HWY. 55 AND 64



Fly Shop & Sporting Goods

Need a special pattern? Ask Mike!

• Custom Tied Flies •

MICHAEL & ALICE KLIMOSKI
Owners

(715) 882-8901
4505 STATE ROAD 55
WHITE LAKE, WISCONSIN 54491

The outdoors heals

By Scott Groff

The outdoors heals. On the night Rod Wilson received his award, I was sitting in a drift boat with the sun going down behind me and veterans, volunteers and family leaning against the boat listening to Rod's brother talk about how the Dairyland Outdoor Veterans Retreat (D.O.V.R.) started.

When people who don't usually talk that much start a story, you need to stop and truly listen. This happened before we even got on the water. The northern woods of Wisconsin are magical. Like D.O.V.R., Veterans on the Fly, Wisconsin Hero Outdoors TV, Wisconsin Trout Unlimited, Hayward Fly Fishing Co. and the amazing volunteers that provided food, comfort and warm, dry places to sleep, people care for one another.

D.O.V.R. was started because a young local Marine, Sgt. Chad M. Allen, was killed in action in Afghanistan in 2007. The community wanted to create a place for veter-

ans and their families to return, rest and renew. Six boats floated the legendary Namekagon and St. Croix Rivers. It was like an aquarium. Beautiful Wisconsin fish were everywhere during the entire float each of the days. Everyone caught fish. Some caught more. Way more. Some caught bigger. Much bigger.

One of the participants was the grandson of a Vietnam veteran who passed away just before the trip. The grandson wrote, "What a wonderful, peaceful place for veterans and families. Thank you, Grandpa (Gary Gillis), for letting me take your spot. Rest in Peace and God Bless."

This experience brought veterans, family members and the community together in the outdoors and on the water to talk, reflect, hug, heal and come home. We are so grateful for this experience, and we hope there are many more to come. There are so many veterans, families, and communities that can benefit from a life-changing experience like the one we shared at D.O.V.R.



Gunnar Hanson

VOTF GATHERING AT DAIRYLAND OUTDOORS VETERANS RETREAT
Anglers from across Wisconsin gathered at Dairyland Outdoors Veterans Retreat with Veterans On The Fly.

Growing VOTF for tomorrow's betterment

By Matthew Cade

We are now on the other side of the pandemic that hampered so many gatherings and functions and prevented the socialization that is needed by so many.

The Service Partnership and Veterans on the Fly (VOTF) stood vigilant during the height of the lockdowns and offered vises and rods and reels to folks to take a break from the stresses that weighed them down. But the classes and streamside gatherings took a hit and left many of us wondering when we would be able to get back together again.

At the beginning of August VOTF marked a momentous occasion by finally converging at the Dairyland Outdoors Veterans Retreat (DOVR) for what we hope can return to an annual event. Folks from across the state came together to gather around the campfire and share fishy stories. Anglers took to drift boats and chased warm-water species. And all of this was done with the camaraderie found in serving together as soldiers, sailors and/or first responders.

It was accomplished by a team of wonderful people including Jeff Butler, Michael Johnson, Gary Gillis (Rest in peace, my friend.) and Hannah and Sam Floberg of American Heroes Outdoors, by bringing our heroes together.

I cannot thank them enough for their sacrificed time and dedication in helping to bring together an event like this. I cannot thank them enough in seeing other VOTF

events coming together across the state.

But as we go forward and close 2022 out with colder weather and tying flies, I want to challenge each of the 21 chapters in Wisconsin to have their veterans and first responders step up and host an occasional night to come together and be there for our friends, our brothers and sisters in arms. I want to see more events created for our community and the betterment of Trout Unlimited as a whole.

The beauty of the VOTF program is that there is not a need of any formality of an event. It can be friends gathering for the sake of building the community of VOTF and fostering an environment that allows events like the one at DOVR to build into events across all of Wisconsin and find a growing network of like-minded folks to charge forward.

As the co-chair of the Service Partnership and a 12-year U.S. Coast Guard veteran, I want to look back next year and be able to see a considerable growth in our program and admire the love shared between our heroes in the threads of fishing and preserving our waters for tomorrow's generations. So please step up and invite another hero to sit next you at the vise and tie flies for next year's streamside gatherings.

If you or any individuals in your chapters would like to discuss a vision for VOTF in your chapter, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at mccade0782@gmail.com or (414) 982 9784.



Gunnar Hanson

VETERANS ENJOY NORTHWOODS TRIP

Two Veterans On The Fly participants target smallmouth bass with Hayward Fly Fishing Company.

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

Remember TU as part of your legacy.

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

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

Thank you for considering Trout Unlimited in your estate planning.

What did the Driftless Area look like in the past?

Before settlement, oak savannas once dominated. Today's landscape is much different.

Words and photos By Jason Freund

What did the Driftless Area look like before we arrived? I can't be the only person who has this impossible wish to go back in time and see what the world looked like before our human population boomed and moved into nearly every nook and cranny of the earth.

In graduate school in West Virginia, I borrowed a book by P. Pendelton Kennedy entitled "The Blackwater Chronicle." about his travels over Backbone Mountain and into "the land of Canaan." Kennedy's words and David Hunter Strother's (Porte Crayon) illustrations brought this presettlement landscape to life. It was amazing to read and see what this landscape that I knew pretty well looked like about 150 years earlier. I have always wanted to find something similar for Wisconsin and the Driftless Area but have not really found it.

So what did the Driftless Area look like before Europeans made their way here? Well, the Driftless Area is a pretty big place, and it depends where you are talking about. And I think that point is generally lost in the conversation. I hear a lot of people say the Driftless Area used to prairie or savanna. Although true for parts of the Driftless Area, that's not all of it. As you will see, yes, much of the area was savanna but there are places within the Driftless Area that were dominated by closed mesic forests. Even those savannas are human influenced, as their fires kept the oak trees dominant and sparse.

There are significant elevation changes over small distances in the Driftless. We think of elevation altering the weather and precipitation only in the western United States, where the mountains are significant, but that is hardly true. The Ocooch Mountains, as the hills here were sometimes called, are certainly small compared to the Rockies and other western mountains, but they still affect the weather.

I have been camping and watched storms either fail to deliver as they were diverted or get stuck in a valley and deliver significant rainfall. The Kickapoo River and some of the watersheds to its east and southeast are quite different from the surrounding watersheds. I live in La Crosse, which is always a few degrees warmer than the surrounding landscape due to the bluff reflecting heat and the sand valley holding that heat. Temperature and precipitation are by far the two most non-directly human-caused predictors of vegetation.

Fire has been important in determining almost all of the plant communities and their locations. Before the coming of Europeans and later, us Americans, the prairies and the open woodlands burned almost every year.

Prairies, oak savannas dominated the landscape

Thus most of the southern part of the state was covered with prairie or oak savanna, an orchard-like community with a few large bur or white oaks growing in fields of grass. Only in the more protected places did forests survive. Some of these were oak but many were sugar maple-basswood-slippery elm forests. The lowlands were occupied by river bottom forest, and sedge meadow.

With settlement, the fires were stopped, and the oak savannas grew up to the dense white oak-black oak forests found today. Some of these remnant oaks are still alive in Driftless Area forests. Most of the prairies have been cultivated, and at present, with the oak savannas, are among the rarest of our plant communities.

The Driftless Area had a diversity of plant communities, although nearly 70 percent was savanna, which have moderate-to-low density tree canopies with well developed understories dominated by prairie grasses. True prairies, those areas without trees, were much less common. Closed forests, which most of today's Driftless Area forest would be described as, were generally quite localized. Savannas were maintained by fire and in the absence of fire, these savannas evolved into the closed forests we see today.

Shea et al. 2014 used 19th Century Public Land Survey System (PLSS) data to reconstruct vegetation and a finer resolution. Most evident from their findings is the heterogeneity across the Driftless Area. Prairies made up about 5.9 percent of the land area. White oak 22.6 percent, bur oak 16.3 percent and the combination of the two oak species (14.3 percent) were dominant over half of the Driftless Area.

Savannas, which Shea et al. (2014) defined as tree densities from 0.5 to 47 trees per hectare (less than 20 trees per acre), dominate the landscape. Within this savanna-dominated land, two large patches of closed forest are evident along with a smattering of smaller prairie patches. Open woodlands (47 to 99 trees per hectare) were present mostly along the edges of the closed forests and in the larger river drainages, the Mississippi River, in par-



FORESTS OF WILDCAT MOUNTAIN STATE PARK

Unlike much of the Driftless Area, this was likely historically a Sugar Maple, Basswood, elm forest.

ticular.

The Kickapoo River is the largest river fully contained within the Driftless Area. The watershed sticks out as quite unique. Closed forest of sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), American basswood (*Tilia americana*), American (*Ulmus americana*) and slippery (*U. rubra*) elm, and a few other species, along with the oaks, dominated the slopes of the Kickapoo and a few other Driftless Area watersheds to its southeast.

Changes to the Driftless Area landscape

The area is now dominated by agriculture instead of savannas, which were easily converted into today's farm fields. Thankfully, a few of the magnificent bur oaks have been saved and provide us with a more interesting landscape. By far the most drastic change to the Driftless Area flora are the decline of white oak (*Quercus alba*) and the expansion of softwoods such as boxelder, butternut, elms and black cherry, which were once rare, and "other" often non-native species. We have more closed forests today, particularly on hillsides. The flatter plateaus and valley bottoms have largely been converted to agricultural lands, with an occasional bur oak standing out as a remnant of the savanna that once existed.

Scientists have often written

about the homogenization of fauna and flora as humans change our world and move species outside of their native ranges. We are certainly seeing this homogenization of vegetation in the Driftless Area, most likely due to a number of human impacts such as forest clearing, timber harvesting, a changing climate and introduced species.

The Driftless Area is more than just the vegetation but that is certainly the most logical place to begin a story about what the area once looked like. It was not a homogeneous landscape, but unfortunately it is becoming more so today, much like the rest of our world.

To see a version of this article with additional text and images, and many other amazing articles, visit Jason Freund's blog at <https://www.thescientificangler.com>.

Literature cited

Knoot, T.G., M.E. Shea, L.A. Schulte, J.C. Tyndall, M.D. Nelson, C.H. Perry, and B.J. Palik. 2015. Forest change in the Driftless Area of the Midwest: from a preferred to underdesirable future. *Forest Ecology and Management* 341: 110-120.

Shea, M.E., L.A. Schulte, and B.J. Palik. 2014. Reconstructing vegetation past: pre-Euro-American vegetation for the Midwest Driftless Area, USA. *Ecological Restoration* 32: 417-433.

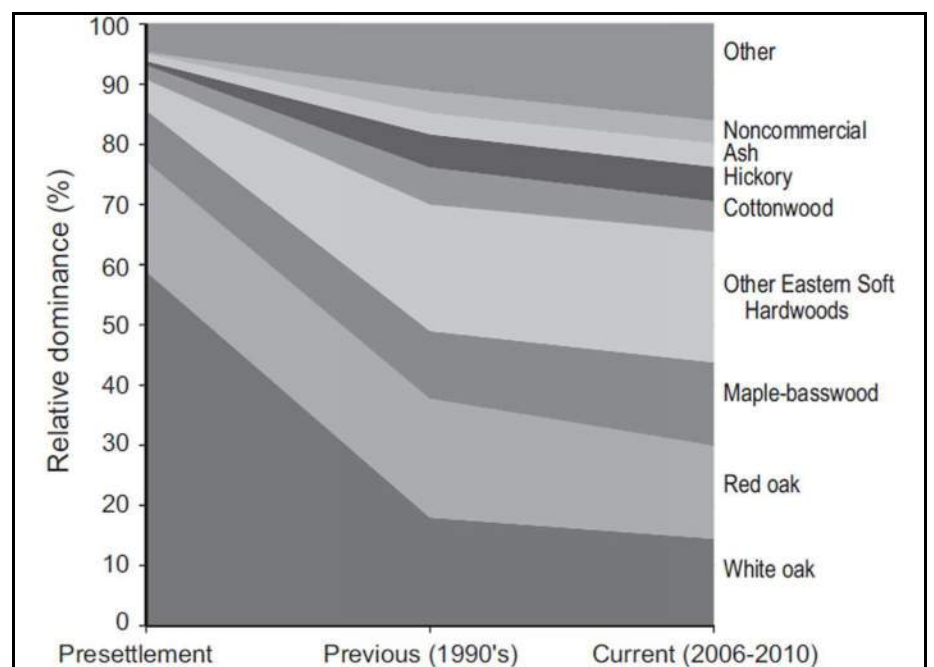


Fig. 2. Mean relative dominance over three time periods and across subsections for tree species groups that were considered to be represented across the Driftless Area of the Midwestern U.S.; species groups are organized according to dominance at presettlement. Presettlement relative dominance was derived from Public Land Survey records collected in the Driftless Area from 1832 to 1857. "Previous" periodic FIA inventories, by the state and year in which they were conducted, refer to: Iowa, 1990; Minnesota, 1990; and Wisconsin, 1996. "Current" annual FIA inventories were conducted from 2006 to 2010.



TYPICAL DRIFTLESS AREA VALLEY TODAY

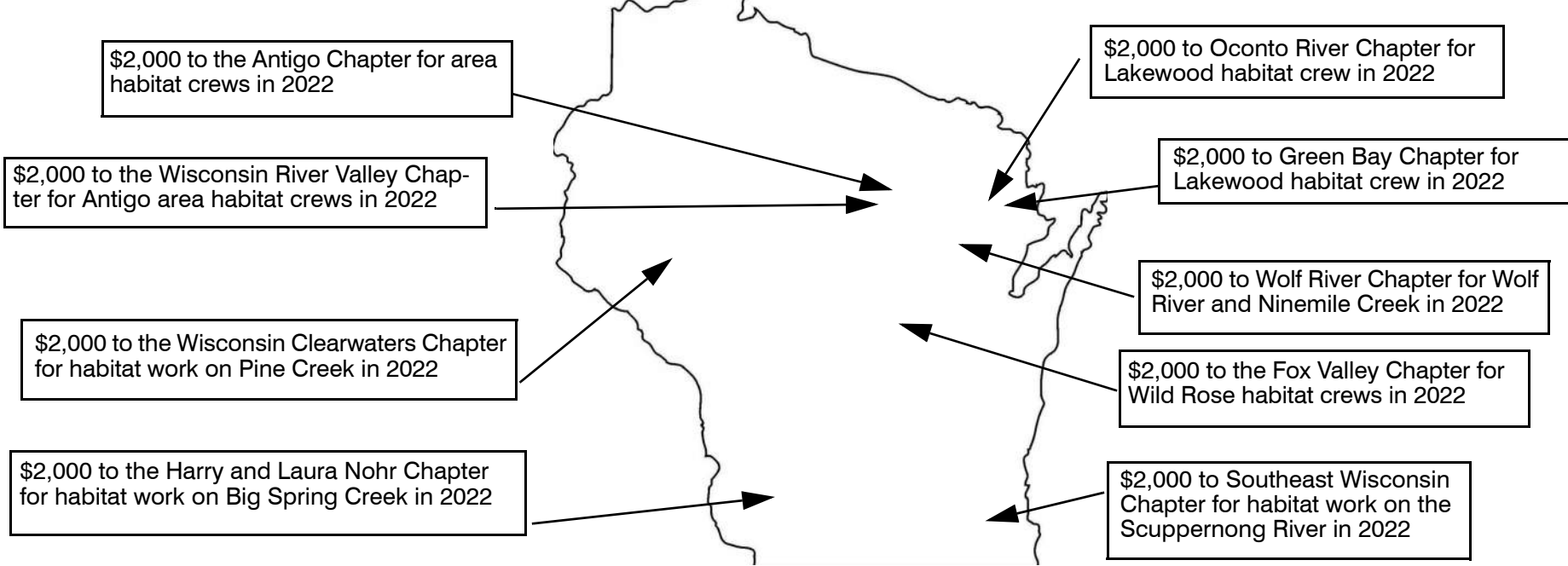
A typical Driftless Area valley is grazed, the hillsides are forested, and out of view is the plateau which is largely converted to row-crop agriculture.

Please support Friends of Wis. TU in 2022

As the 2022 habitat season draws to a close with nine chapters having been awarded grants for habitat work, we are already looking forward to again supporting the work of many of our state chapters

in 2023. Please consider donating to Friends of Wisconsin TU so we can continue supporting the good work being done by our local chapters and their partners.

Providing habitat improvement grants since 1991.



Our Friends of Wisconsin TU

Dennis Anderson St. Paul, MN
 Jason Anderson Independence, KY
 Gary Anoszko Dousman, WI
 Charles Barnhill Madison, WI
 Jim Bayorgeon Appleton, WI
 Mark Beilfuss New London, WI
 Steve Bien Jay, ME
 Stephen Born Madison, WI
 Jason Bougie Freedom, WI
 Stuart Brandes Monona, WI
 Dennis & Linda Buzzar DeForest, WI
 Rick Christopherson Norwalk, WI
 Ned Cochrane Florence, WI
 Andrew Cook Sheldon, SC
 Dana Corbett Madison, WI
 Terry Cummings Rhinelander, WI
 Terry Cummings in memory of Rhinelander, WI
 Bob Tabbert Rhinelander, WI
 Bruce Davidson Marinette, WI
 Mark Dolenshek Wausau, WI
 Walter Dowty Big Bend, WI
 Katherine Duplessie Eau Claire, WI
 Richard Ela Madison, WI
 Lawrence Euler Madison, WI
 John & Kathleen Ewen Neenah, WI
 Alan & Cindy Finesilver Madison, WI
 William Flader Madison, WI
 Eric Forsgren Freemont, WI
 Jerome Fox Two Rivers, WI
 Joen Francoeur, in Honor of Richard Schumann Waukesha, WI
 Richard and Judith Galling Hartland, WI
 Dan Geddes Milwaukee, WI
 Gary Gillis Suamico, WI
 Christopher Gorzek Eau Claire, WI
 Gordon Grieshaber Mineral Point, WI
 Henry Haugley Sun Prairie, WI
 Bill Heart Ashland, WI
 Mark Heifner Appleton, WI
 Wally Heil DePere, WI
 Kurt Helker Monona, WI
 Robery Hellyer Boulder Junction, WI
 John & Judith Hutchinson Sun Prairie, WI
 Jeff Jackson Oconto Falls, WI
 Thomas Janssen Appleton, WI
 Paul Julius Cross Plains, WI
 Daniel and Sheree Kehoe Madison, WI
 James Kellner Saukville, WI
 Grace & John Kenealy Waukesha, WI
 Ralph Klassy North Fond Du Lac, WI
 Kay Koltz Eagle, WI
 Cliff Kremmer Sparta, WI
 Larry Krueger Dane, WI
 Joseph Kubale Dane, WI
 Alexander and Sharon Rae Landergott Cudahy, WI
 Durtka Jr. Rockford, IL
 Jack Lenox Wautoma, WI
 John Lindberg Marshfield, WI
 Randy Lueth Stillwater, MN
 Herb Lundberg Janesville
 Thomas and Larissa Lyon LaCrosse, WI
 Jim and Billie March Baraboo, WI
 Paul and Nichelle Martin Rhinelander, WI
 Bob Martini Rhinelander, WI
 Kim McCarthy Green Bay, WI

Carolyn McGuire Marinette, WI
 Peter Meronek Stevens Point, WI
 Fred Mikolajewski Franklin, WI
 Robert Moser Milwaukee, WI
 Thomas Mrazek Fond du Lac, WI
 John Murphy East Troy, WI
 Herb Oechler Wauwatosa, WI
 Cheryl and Winston Ostrow Viroqua, WI
 Tom Parker Fitchburg, WI
 Lana Parmley in memory of Ladysmith, WI
 Robert Tabbert
 Wayne Parmley in memory of Robert Tabbert Oshkosh, WI
 Donald Persons Janesville, WI
 Harry Peterson Middleton, WI
 Ray Piehl Wautoma, WI
 Randall Rake Helena, MT
 Ronald Rellatz Merton, WI
 Bob Retko Viroqua, WI
 Gloria Roark New Berlin, WI
 Bill & Lynn Rogers Superior, WI
 Frank Roznik Maribel, WI
 Tom Ryan Whitefish Bay, WI
 Jack Saltes Mount Horeb, WI
 Mike San Dretto Neenah, WI
 James School Kaukauna, WI
 Paul Schroeder Wausaukee, WI
 Robert Selk Madison, WI
 Frederick Seybold Madison, WI
 Bill Sonzogni Verona, WI
 Michael Staggs Poynette, WI
 Michael Stapleton Pardeeville, WI
 Mark Steffensen Waupaca, WI
 Scot and Jo Stewart Somerset, WI
 Gary Stoychoff Green Bay, WI
 Robert Swann Edgerton, WI
 Rick Szymialis Waupaca, WI
 Ky Terrill Chippewa Falls, WI
 Donald Thompson Cumberland, WI
 James Ubich Sun Prairie, WI
 Dennis Vanden Bloomen and Gretchen Vanden Bloomen Eau Claire, WI
 Carol Vendt Oconto, WI
 Scott Venne Fond du Lac, WI
 Dave Vogt Presque Isle, WI
 Ken Voight Chippewa Falls, WI
 David Wahl Sterling, IL

Raymond Weiss in memory of Todd Durian Grafton, WI
 Arnold Wenn Stoughton, WI
 Paul Wiemerslage Hudson, WI
 Paul Williams Madison, WI
 Norbert Wozniak Stevens Point, WI

CHAPTERS
 Aldo Leopold Watertown, WI
 Antigo Antigo, WI
 Kiap-TU-Wish Hudson, WI
 Marinette County Marinette, WI
 Southeast Wisconsin Milwaukee, WI
 Wolf River White Lake, WI

*Yes, I want to join the "Friends" of Wisconsin TU.
 Enclosed is my check for \$100 or more, payable to Wisconsin Trout Unlimited.*

MAIL TO: Kim McCarthy
 736 Meadowbrook Court
 Green Bay, WI 54313

 Name

 Address

 City, State Zip

 Phone #

Trout-beaver study update

Ongoing research is expanding our knowledge of the relationship between beaver and trout in Wisconsin trout streams.

By **Matthew Mitro, Wisconsin DNR Office of Applied Science, Fisheries Research Section**

The trout-beaver study I have been leading out of the Wisconsin DNR's Office of Applied Science has continued to progress in 2022.

As I write this, my field crew and I are about to make our last summer field trip up north to work on our Lake Superior tributary study sites.

Summer is when we focus on stream habitat surveys, which involve surveying riparian vegetation and stream canopy cover, and fish community surveys, which include non-game fishes in addition to trout.

Then we'll transition to our autumn field work involving studies of temporal trends in Driftless Area trout populations, survival and reproductive success of stocked brook trout, and additional trout-beaver study surveys, including capturing aerial images of streams affected by beaver, following leaf season.

Research recap

First, here is a recap of what we are studying and why, and how we got to where we are at in 2022:

Brook trout and American beaver have a storied history in Wisconsin and other Upper Midwest states in the western Great Lakes region of the United States. Both species are native to the region, but changes in land use through the 19th and 20th centuries have altered the population dynamics of these species and how they interact.

During this period, populations of both beaver and trout were alternately decimated and recovered. Beavers are generally considered to have negative effects on trout in Wisconsin streams, and this is reflected in management actions that maintain free-flowing conditions in select coldwater trout streams by controlling beaver.

Low gradient streams here

Trout streams in Wisconsin and other Upper Midwest states are generally of low gradient compared to streams in the Intermountain West and Appalachian Mountain streams in the East. As such, beaver dams in Wisconsin tend to back up streams and flood large areas.

New beaver dams may create deep pools, supporting the growth of larger trout, and open the riparian canopy, offering easy access to angling. However, in low-gradient meandering streams, beaver ponds extending far outside the original stream channel may be largely shallow. As sediment settles behind beaver dams, initially deep pools fill to become shallow, saucer-shaped ponds, and initially improved trout fisheries may be lost.

Coarse spawning substrates may become buried in silt and detritus, and dams may become "mortared," making it difficult for larger trout to traverse for access to seasonally important habitat. Such hardened dams may also achieve a level of "permanence" because flooding in low gradient watersheds may generally be insufficient to dislodge dams.

The scientific literature is somewhat equivocal about the effects of beaver dam construction or removal on coldwater streams and trout populations therein. Wisconsin's beaver

control efforts to maintain free-flowing conditions on trout streams are largely based on research on the Pemonee River and seven of its tributaries in northeastern Wisconsin from 1982 to 2000, conducted by now-retired DNR fisheries scientist Ed Avery.

Avery's 18-year study showed that the removal of 546 beaver dams by 1986 and the maintenance of free-flowing conditions through 2000 resulted in decreases in stream temperatures and increases in brook trout abundance and size structure. Although the data suggest the removal of beaver dams improved the trout fishery in the Pemonee River system, questions have been raised about the extent to which the study results can be generalized to coldwater streams elsewhere in Wisconsin.

Studies on the influence of beaver dams on Midwestern trout streams have been limited, as documented in a 2018 scientific review article by Sean Johnson-Bice and others from Minnesota. Research is critically needed to better understand the effects of beaver dam construction on coldwater stream habitat and existing trout populations and to better understand the effects of removing beaver dams to restore coldwater streams in different regions throughout Wisconsin.

In the DNR's current trout-beaver study, we are testing for the effects of beaver dam construction and beaver dam removal on coldwater stream habitat and trout populations in different ecological regions and beaver management zones (BMZ) across Wisconsin. Specific study objectives include (1) quantifying the effects of beaver recolonization of free-flowing streams on stream habitat, trout populations, and fish community structure and (2) quantifying the effects of removing beavers and beaver dams, creating free-flowing conditions in streams currently colonized by beaver.

In autumn 2018, we began the process of identifying potential study streams in different regions and management zones of Wisconsin by (1) using a list of streams the Wisconsin DNR has contracted with Wildlife Services (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Wildlife Services) to maintain under free-flowing conditions; (2) consulting with regional biologists; and (3) conducting field assessments of stream suitability for the study.

We are studying how stream habitat, trout populations and fish communities respond to beaver colonization of streams and to the removal of beaver and beaver structures to restore free-flowing conditions.

As of the start of 2022, we had 24 recolonization streams and three removal streams. Beaver recolonization began on two streams prior to the start of this study: Elk Creek in Richland County in 2016 and Big Spring Branch in Iowa County in 2018.

We removed beaver control from 10 streams beginning in 2020; from eight streams in 2021; and from four streams in 2022.

Finding trout streams long colonized by beaver and suitable for studying the removal of beaver dams has been challenging. We re-

moved beavers and beaver dams from one stream in 2022. Two potential removal streams have been dropped from the study in 2022, and three recolonization streams will be dropped in 2023.

Study streams were selected to represent different ecological landscapes and salmonid fisheries across Wisconsin in areas where classified trout waters are managed to control beaver activity.

Brook trout predominate in northern Wisconsin streams (BMZ A and B), and brown trout are dominant in Driftless Area streams in southwestern Wisconsin (BMZ C). Lake Superior tributaries also provide spawning and nursery habitat for lake-run salmonids including Coho salmon, steelhead trout and brown trout.

Stream gradient is relatively higher in Driftless Area streams and Lake Superior tributaries and is relatively lower elsewhere in northern Wisconsin streams.

As we are still in the early stages of an ongoing study, here I will present preliminary results from a subset of study streams to illustrate the data we are collecting.

Beaver recolonization

As of 2022, beavers are present and have built dams on 12 of the 24 study streams designated for recolonization by removing beaver control. Three of these streams are in BMZ A in the northwestern part of the state, one is in BMZ B in the northeast, and eight are in BMZ C in the Driftless Area. To date, there has been no beaver activity on any of the Lake Superior tributaries in our study area.

Because we now have sustained beaver activity on 8 of our 11 Driftless Area study streams, we will drop the remaining three from the study. There had been beaver activity on two of these three streams, but it was in areas causing nuisance to a county road and an adjacent landowner which resulted in the removal of the beaver and dams.

Substrate composition

Lepage Creek (Florence County, BMZ B) supports a wild brook trout fishery and has been maintained in free-flowing condition by controlling beaver. A new beaver dam less than one year old was found in 2019 and scheduled for removal. We surveyed the stream habitat upstream and downstream of the dam prior to its removal in September 2019 and post-removal in September 2020.

Downstream of the beaver dam, the stream had a mean width of 2.8 meters, and its substrate comprised a mix of rubble/cobble (2 percent), gravel (25 percent), sand (47 percent), silt (15 percent) and detritus (11 percent). The beaver dam was 70 meters long and the mean width of the stream within 0 to 60 meters upstream of the dam was 50 meters. Upstream of the beaver dam, the substrate comprised a mix of gravel (1 percent, only present at the furthest upstream transect 180 meters from the dam), sand (26 percent), silt (45 percent) and detritus (29 percent). One-year post dam removal, coarser substrates again became visible (6 percent gravel, 74 percent sand, 10 percent silt, and 11 percent detritus).

We similarly observed rapid de-

position of fine substrates upstream of beaver dams in other parts of the state. West Branch Tainter Creek (Vernon County, BMZ C) is a relatively high gradient Driftless Area stream with a typically coarse substrate (14 percent boulder, 43 percent rubble/cobble, 19 percent gravel, 10 percent sand, 14 percent silt, and 1 percent detritus), but within a year of a beaver dam being built, fine substrates predominated in proximity to the dam (1 percent boulder, 16 percent rubble/cobble, 4 percent gravel, 7 percent sand, 71 percent silt, 1 percent clay, and 1 percent detritus).

Trout size structure and relative abundance

We observed changes in trout size structure and relative abundance upstream of newly formed beaver dams that created deep pool habitat previously not present.

For example, there was an increased abundance of larger trout \geq age-2 and a significantly lower abundance of age-0 trout upstream of a beaver dam on Big Spring Branch (Iowa County, BMZ C). In Driftless Area streams in southwest Wisconsin where brown trout predominate, trout survey data suggest brook trout respond favorably to pools formed by newly built beaver dams. Trout populations were comprised of 11 percent brook trout versus 89 percent brown trout upstream of a beaver dam in West Branch Tainter Creek (Vernon County, BMZ C), compared to 2 percent brook trout and 98 percent brown trout downstream of the beaver dam.

In Big Spring Branch (Iowa County, BMZ C), brook trout constituted 3 percent of the trout population upstream of a beaver dam versus <1 percent downstream of the dam.

Fish community structure

Fish community structure varied widely among streams and ecological regions and was related to stream temperature. In colder streams, only salmonids and either mottled sculpin or slimy sculpin were typically present. These streams were widely distributed throughout the Driftless Area in southwest Wisconsin, along the shore of Lake Superior and in scattered locations across northern Wisconsin.

Many other streams, typically distributed across northern Wisconsin, were of marginal quality and, while trout were often present, many coolwater fish species such as northern redbelly dace, central mudminnow, creek chub and white sucker, and warmwater fish species such as green sunfish, fantail darter and horny head chub were also present, often in large numbers.

In marginal-quality trout streams where non-salmonid fishes were present, they tended to increase in abundance following the construction of beaver dams, with some streams having as many as 17 coolwater and warmwater fish species present (e.g., Armstrong Creek in Lincoln County, BMZ B).

See **BEAVER**, page 12

TU CARES continues its progress in 2022

By Tom Lager

In the Central Region of Wisconsin, TU CARES continues to make progress on our priorities. Some undertakings are slower than others, as challenges are encountered.

There are two projects under way on the West Branch of the White River (WBWR) in Waushara County. The project at Cottonville Avenue, which is in its second year, and will restore 3,400 linear feet of stream, is progressing well.

DNR trout team developing new methods

Shawn Sullivan, Steve DeVitt and Kyle Seibers of the DNR Trout Habitat Restoration Team in Wild Rose are developing new stream restoration methods that are uniquely taking into account the hydraulics and geomorphology common to watersheds in the Central Sand Hills Ecological Landscape. There are no names for the methods or structures yet. However, some of the benefits are:

- Greater resiliency to natural forces of the stream, thereby providing long-term effectiveness and reduced need for maintenance.
- Use of buckthorn and emerald-ash-borer-killed trees available within the riparian corridor reduce cut lumber material costs.
- Recycle rock from old structures into new features of a stream and provide an aesthetically pleasing restoration of natural materials that blend into the natural geometry of the stream.

These new methods reflect learning obtained over years of work in the Central Sands and are modifications or replacements to the 1980's structures that are in various states of decay in our streams. TU CARES is fortunate to partner with this development and provide funding support. Shawn and his team will provide future updates on their advancements.

Dam removal project

The other project on the WBWR is removal of the 13th Avenue Dam and replacement of the road crossing. It is now planned to be a 2024 project. The Municipal Dam Removal Grant request has been approved to cover costs of dam removal. The remaining challenge is to redesign a cost-effective road-crossing structure that benefits the brook trout population and stream quality, meets local traffic needs and can qualify for competitive grants.

Previous grant applications for the road crossing portion of the project were unsuccessful due to high cost versus the benefits for the brook trout population and stream quality. Sustain Our Great Lakes and other similar grant sources, as well as discussions with senior TU National leadership were pursued in search of funding sources. Following the redesign and cost analysis, we will begin reapplying for grants. Dave Bolha and Adam Nickel of the DNR conducted a fisheries population survey and are monitoring stream temperature dynamics to



Steve DeVitt, DNR

TU CARES WORKING ON WEST BRANCH WHITE RIVER

Trout habitat restoration developments continue on the West Branch of the White River in Waushara County.

further delineate the project benefits for brook trout and stream quality.

Strategic plan

Mike San Dretto is leading strategic plan development for the Priority Waters of Wisconsin's Central Sands (parts of the Wolf River, Upper Fox and Castle Rock HUC-8 watersheds). Development is centering around the following

- Reconnect stream flow obstructions
- Streambank stabilization and in-stream flow improvement
- Riparian invasive species control
- Ensure adequate ground water quantity and quality
- Improve accessibility for stream visitors.

TU CARES represents the input

from the four regional TU chapters to this national program and the out-comes will serve to guide future TU CARES direction. Participating with Mike are John Tucker, Doug Erdmann, Chris Firkus, Linn Beck and Tom Lager, with guidance from TU Great Lakes Stream Restoration Manager Chris Collier.

With fewer Covid restrictions, the 7th Central Regional Annual Meeting of DNR, TU and interested groups will again convene on January 7, 2023. The goal is to share project updates across the Central Region from the preceding year, share plans for 2023, look for benefits of collaboration, new method developments and identify issues of common interest.

Follow TU CARES at <https://www.facebook.com/centralsandsregionTU>

BEAVER, from page 11

Progress to date

The legacy of beaver control and stream habitat improvement as tools for managing trout in Wisconsin has challenged our ability to conduct this study. Since 1974 Wisconsin has funded a stream habitat development program using trout angler license fees to invest in improving stream habitat to support better trout fisheries.

We are generally reluctant to allow beaver to recolonize streams for study purposes, where doing so may threaten to undo efforts that have fixed streambank erosion or improved adult trout habitat availability by installing instream structures, all at significant expense. Many such streams are our best trout streams. Consequently, with few exceptions, most of our study streams are lesser quality trout streams.

Conversely, beaver control on trout streams has been so pervasive that we had difficulty finding trout streams heavily colonized by beaver where longstanding dams could be removed to recreate free-flowing conditions. Heavy rain events causing excessive flooding in high gradient streams, which can limit the longevity of beaver dams (for example, in Driftless Area streams in southwest Wisconsin), have also reduced the availability of trout streams heavily colonized by beavers for this study.

One heavily colonized stream from which we removed beavers and an extensive network of beaver dams with the assistance of Wildlife Services was Armstrong Creek (Lincoln County, BMZ B). The removal occurred from a 2-km headwater reach on county forest land in May 2022. Armstrong Creek is classified as a trout stream, but we were unable to find any trout in our surveys

of the stream. We will monitor Armstrong Creek over the next few years to determine if the restoration of free-flowing conditions leads to cooler summer temperatures more conducive to supporting trout.

Pools formed behind beaver dams in streams that remain thermally suitable for trout appear to quickly lead to an increased abundance of larger trout. This is somewhat expected and is a reason why some anglers prefer to fish streams with beaver dams.

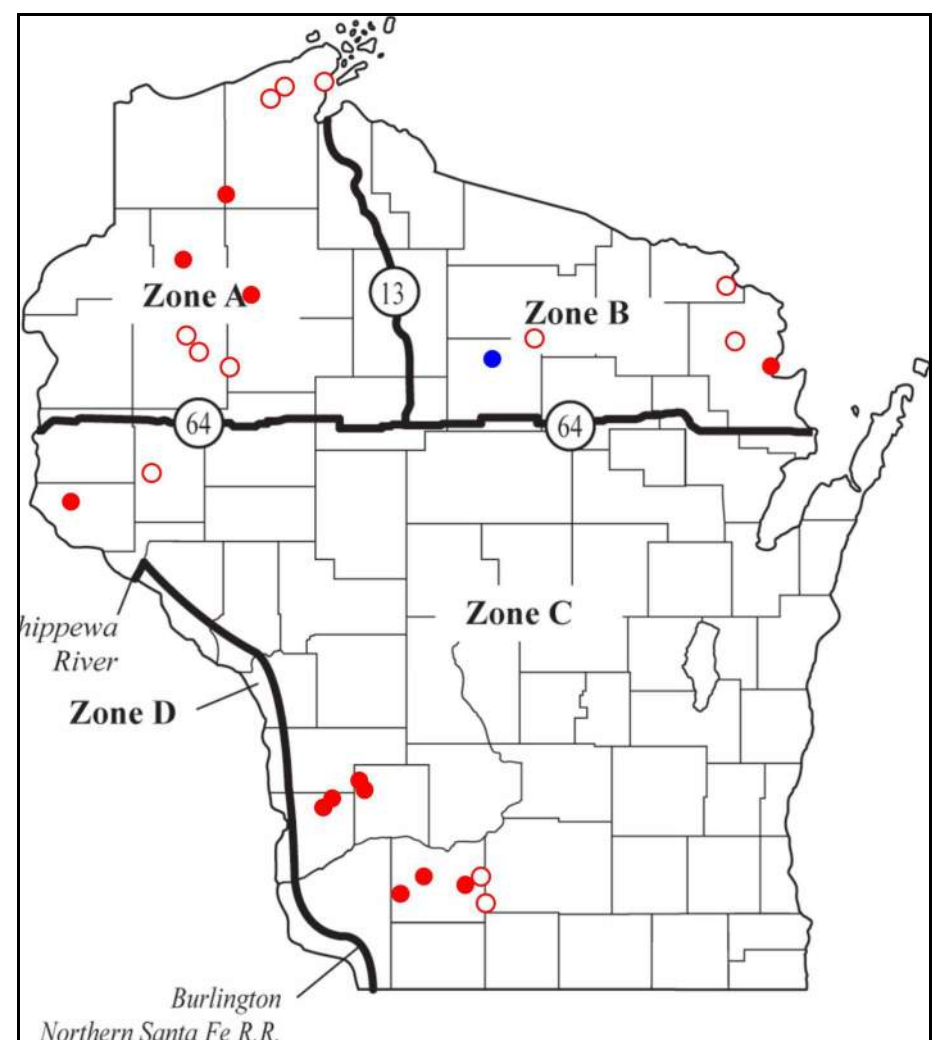
However, the pool habitat and abundance of large trout may be transient. Brook trout appear to benefit from newly created pool habitat, but in streams in which brown trout predominate, the effect appears relatively small. However, given that brook trout tend to be more susceptible than brown trout to being caught by anglers, the effect of beaver dams on improving brook trout abundance, small though it may be, may be noticeable to anglers.

During the to-date short-term length of this study, beaver dams, where they have occurred on study streams, have led to significant changes in the physical structure of streams. Beaver dams, and in some cases series of beaver dams, have created lengthy pools that have obscured formerly present riffles and runs. Fines like silt and detritus have quickly accumulated and covered coarser substrates like rubble/cobble and gravel.

The long-term effects of these changes are still to be determined. Gravel substrates, for example, are critical to supporting natural reproduction of trout. The loss of spawning opportunities may lead to long-term decreases in recruitment and population growth, depending on the extent to which movement among habitat types is limited.

Though still in its early stages, this study has begun to fill the gap in our knowledge about how beavers influence habitat quality, trout population attributes and fish community structure in Wisconsin's

coldwater streams. In future study updates I will address other aspects of this study, including how beaver dams may or may not affect trout movement and stream temperature.



TROUT-BEAVER STUDY MAP

Red circles indicate study streams for which beaver control was removed. Solid red circles indicate streams with beaver activity, including dams. Open circles indicate streams where we do not have beaver or beaver dams currently present. The blue circle indicates a study stream where beaver and beaver dams were removed from a designated reach to restore free-flowing conditions.

Wisconsin's inland trout stamp funding is money well spent

By Mike Kuhr,
Council Advocacy Chair

Former Wisconsin Clear Waters TU Chapter President Jim Erickson recently had a conversation about coldwater conservation with his elected official at a local farmers market. That discussion led to a mid-September stream walk at Pine Creek, just south of Eau Claire.

In attendance along with Jim were State Sen. Jeff Smith (D-Brunswick), State Assembly Rep. Jesse James (R-Altoona), Wisconsin TU Advocacy Chair Mike Kuhr and DNR Fisheries NR Regional Supervisor Dan Hatleli.

The group met at the Pine Creek public hunting and fishing grounds in Trempealeau County. During the short walk to the creek, Jim gave an overview of the Wisconsin Clear Waters Chapter activities. Once streamside, discussions pivoted to the benefits of trout stream restoration, public lands and access to our coldwater resources.

Pine Creek is a Class I brook trout stream and a tributary to the Buffalo River. Its gentle meanders and gurgling riffles made a perfect backdrop for the unfolding story. The public lands were acquired by the state through the Knowles Nelson Stewardship program, and funds generated by the inland trout stamp fee were used to improve the stream.

The group crossed the stream at a shallow gravel access road crossing and hiked downstream to a private landowner's property. The land is used for agricultural purposes, and recently the owner agreed to a public fishing access easement on both sides of the creek.

It was explained that once the public access was acquired, the DNR went to work on the property using trout stamp dollars to fund the restoration work. The banks were tapered back to help reduce erosion and improve flood resiliency. In-stream habitat like logs, root wads and rock weirs were put in to help bolster the trout populations.

Jim and Mike made sure to point out that many trout anglers seek out these streams with public access and restoration work for recreational opportunities, which in turn generates economic activity in our local economies.

Wisconsin's inland trout stamp fee was last raised to \$10 in 2006. Funds generated from this user fee are segregated, meaning they can only be spent on trout stream restoration and management projects. The cost of materials and equipment to do the work has been increasing, and a potential increase of the fee from \$10 to \$15 was discussed.

A trout stamp fee increase would be a much needed investment in our coldwater resources at a critical

time for Wisconsin's trout populations. It would also be a signal to future generations that we're serious about providing them with access to cold, clean, fishable water in Wisconsin.

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited would like to thank Sen. Smith and Rep. James for spending some time

with us on the trout stream. The candid discussions give hope that an increase could be included in a future state budget.

If your chapter would like to do a similar streamside walk in your area and chat with local elected officials, contact Advocacy Chair Mike Kuhr at mikek.trout@yahoo.com.



Dan Hatleli

SHOWING LEGISLATORS THE VALUE OF TROUT STAMP FUNDING
Rep. Jesse James, Mike Kuhr, Jim Erickson, Sen. Jeff Smith on Pine Creek

Wisconsin TU needs your support

We're seeking individuals, organizations, and businesses to Sponsor our 2023 State Council Banquet to be held on Sat. Feb. 4 in Oshkosh

Levels of Sponsorship:
 Headwaters = \$100
 Tributary = \$250
 River = \$500
 Watershed = \$1,000
 all levels include tickets to the event!

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

“The Way of a Trout”

Seven Pines Lodge, an historic favorite among trout-fishing presidents and the location of a classic TU film, now sits vacant. Will it be revived?

By Tom Meyer,
Central Wisconsin Chapter

In 1897 Charles Lewis, a millionaire grain broker from Minnesota, leased 80 acres of land in Polk County Wisconsin. Knapp Creek, a spring-fed trout stream ran through the property. In 1903 when the logging industry's practice of clear cutting lands became uncomfortably close, Lewis purchased the land and built an Adirondack-style log lodge near the banks of Knapp Creek.

He named it Seven Pines Lodge for the huge stately pine trees which surrounded the building site. The lodge was mostly built from white pine logs harvested near the site.

The lodge reflected a rustic life-style that came into vogue for wealthy Americans in the early 1900's. Lewis entertained many of his wealthy friends, customers and even a couple of U.S. presidents at Seven Pines.

Theodore Roosevelt often stayed there and gave Lewis a mounted bison head as a gift, which still hangs in what looks like an added room in the main lodge. Calvin Coolidge, the famous trout-fishing president, who often stayed in a lodge on the Bois Brule River 80 miles away, also stayed at Seven Pines and fished Knapp Creek. The lodge was sometimes referred to as the “Summer White House” during the 30th president's term from 1923-1929.

Charles Lewis died in 1932 and the nearby unincorporated town was named after him. The lodge was then opened up for overnight guests and was known for its fine cuisine. Guests would often request to stay in the room that the presidents slept in.

The lodge has since changed hands many times but the name has never changed and it is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places. As recently as 2007 the lodge was listed in Field and Stream magazine in the top 25 fishing lodges in the world.

When the lodge was last for sale in 2013 it was listed for \$1.1 million

and boasted the main lodge with a large conference room, caretaker's house, gatehouse, lake water tower and trout stream frontage.

The lodge has been closed for several years. At one time there was an effort underway to raise \$5.4 million to restore the lodge. The latest records I could find indicate it is currently owned by Jay and Jim Howard, developers that call their company Resort Project Development.

Film shot on grounds

In 1969 Trout Unlimited, in conjunction with Scientific Anglers and the 3M Corporation, produced a film which was shot on Knapp Creek, on the grounds of the lodge. The 30-minute film, “The Way of a Trout,” was shown throughout the country, including at the first Central Wisconsin Chapter meeting in 1971.

Bob Hunt, who was with the DNR at the time, brought the film to the meeting and introduced it as the latest educational film about trout and their habits and habitat.

Tom Poullette, the first president and a founder of CWTU, said years later that the film was shown so many times at different events that the reel of tape wore out.

In 1972 TU Executive Director R.P. Van Gytenbeek wrote a book, “The Way of a Trout,” which was based on the film and had still photos throughout the book which were taken by the filmmaker. In the book Van Gytenbeek credits James Wilkie, a brilliant amateur photographer, with a deep interest in nature and conservation, for the success of the film.

In 1971 it won the Outdoor Writer's Association “Film of the Year award.” Wilkie donated it to Trout Unlimited in the hope that it would stimulate interest in the organization and its cause. Van Gytenbeek appeared as the keynote speaker at CWTU's second banquet in 1973. His book is still available on Amazon.



THEODORE ROOSEVELT'S BISON STILL HANGS OVER THE FIREPLACE

President Theodore Roosevelt often stayed at the lodge and gave Lewis a mounted bison head as a gift, which still hangs in what looks like an added room in the main lodge.

It should not to be confused with other books, such as “The Ways of Trout,” by Leonard M. Wright Jr. which came out in 1985, or “The Way of the Trout,” by M. R. Montgomery in 1991. Neither had connections to the film.

With all the available content on the internet these days, we have become spoiled with the quality of film making, unique underwater shots, drone videos and classic slow motion big fish releases. There is no shortage of professional guides and expert fisherman now producing videos. “The Way of a Trout,” while not up to today's quality standards as to cinematography, is still unique, educational and entertaining. It takes the viewer through the complex, intricately balanced world and life cycle of a rainbow trout.

More recently, TU East Regional Communications Director Mark Taylor posted the film on TU's YouTube channel and included some comments. He says, “the era's

unique flavor is impossible to miss, from the filming style, the narration and the background music.” He calls it a “timeless classic,” and I would agree. To view the video, search for “The Way of a Trout” on YouTube.

Status of lodge unknown

I contacted the Historical Society and Polk County Clerk's office but was unable to obtain current information as to the status of the lodge. Calls to the Resorts Projects Development went unanswered.

In July 2021, on our way to Hayward for a trip on the Namekagon River, my wife and I detoured a few miles and drove to Knapp Creek and the Seven Pines Lodge. Public information disclosed that only 10 acres and the lodge have been listed on the Historical Register. The owner's website also disclosed a plan to develop 26 acres for luxury log home sites and the remaining



INTERIOR STILL INTACT

The inside of the lodge, while dusty and in need of attention, is still intact and has a very cool rustic and nostalgic feel to it. It looked like many of the original furniture pieces shown in archived photos were still there.



KNAPP CREEK FLOWS COLD AND CLEAR THROUGH THE PROPERTY

Knapp Creek, the reason the lodge was built and the film was shot at that location, had cold, clear water with some riffles and pools.

for “Glamping at its Finest.”

However, we did not see any evidence of construction or excavation that was underway. A gate closed off the driveway for the entrance to the old lodge but there were no posted signs. The grounds appeared to be somewhat maintained but no one was around, so we walked around the gate with hopes of getting some photos. It was kind of eerie to see the historic lodge, which still sits hauntingly among some huge white pines, sadly neglected and in disrepair.

Inside still intact

I peeked inside a window and could see the old mounted Bison Head still hanging on the back side of one of the fireplaces. I envisioned Republican President Theodore Roosevelt, arguably the most conservation-minded U.S. president ever, sitting next to the fireplace smoking a cigar, talking politics...or maybe just talking about trout fishing.

The inside of the lodge, while dusty and in need of attention, was still intact and had a very cool rustic and nostalgic feel to it. It looked like many of the original furniture pieces that I saw in archived photos were still there. Renovation of the main lodge had been started at one time but appeared to be halted. Some parts of the lodge were open to the outside elements.

There are several outbuildings, also sitting among the majestic white pines scattered throughout the grounds, some of them seemed to also be of the original design but others were probably built more recently, like maybe only 75 years ago.

Somewhat forgotten in this story is Knapp Creek, the reason the lodge was built and the film was shot at that location. It looked very fishy and had cold, clear water with some riffles and pools. I wanted to string up my fly rod and take a few casts but time constraints and the fact that it was 90 degrees and a bright sunny day made me decide against that.

Walking along the river I also envisioned President Calvin Coolidge, also known as “Silent Cal,” casting his bamboo fly rod at the rocky section of the river near the lodge. There was an archived photo of the president netting a fish at that exact location. After researching the history behind the film and seeing the resort in person, I really hope the Seven Pines Resort is preserved for years to come.



THE ADIRONDACK-STYLE LOG LODGE WAS BUILT IN 1903 ON THE BANKS OF KNAPP CREEK



BlueSky
 FURLED LEADERS
 Proud to be Celebrating 20 Years of Business
 20% off code use **20yr** at checkout
 Furlleaders.com




INTERNATIONAL FLY FISHING FILM FEST (IF4) FUNDRAISER

The IF4 is an internationally recognized collection of professionally produced fly fishing videos.

Hosted by Southeast Wisconsin Trout Unlimited
Proceeds from this event will help fund SEWTU's habitat projects and activities.
Thanks to the Bavarian Bierhaus for helping to sponsor this event!

October 27th 2022
Bavarian Bierhaus
700 W Lexington Blvd, Glendale, WI 53217

Doors open at 5:30. Film begins at 7:00.
 Cash bar and food service will be available.

General Admission of \$15 includes one entry for a chance to win the Door Prize - a fishing kayak, flyrod and reel outfit, fishing net, PFD, and other great items.

Bucket Raffles! Silent Auctions! Online Auctions! —Guided fishing trips, another kayak package, more rod and reel packages, power equipment and much, much more!

Must Register in Advance. Bucket raffle tickets are available online at a discount or on the day of the event at regular prices.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit SEWTU.TU.ORG.
 Email southeasternwisconsintu@gmail.com with questions.




2021 stream restoration work day at Onion River. Help us continue to fund other habitat projects.



Image shown not actual door prize items.



Bob Haase

COUNCIL YOUTH CAMP STUDENTS WORK ON BIRD CREEK IN WAUTOMA, FOLLOWING AN ELECTROSHOCKING DEMO TO SEE WHAT WAS IN THE STREAM.

Wonderful to be back

After a two-year hiatus, the Wisconsin TU Youth Fishing Camp makes a welcomed return.

By Linn Beck

What a wonderful feeling to be able to get back on track with the Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Youth Fishing Camp. After a two-year hiatus, we were back in full swing. Everything went great, just like we were never away.

We went into the planning of the camp a little light on mentors, but we had six great guys step up and join us for the whole weekend and the fish-a-long on Sunday, along with some new mentors for Sunday morning. Thank you all for joining us and helping to make it a fantastic weekend for our campers. They all had a blast.

The youth were able to enjoy a Central Wisconsin Chapter workday with Shawn Sullivan of the DNR doing another stellar job on the conservation aspect. Several parents said that they thought their kids would have enjoyed the fishing more, but the highlight for them was the conservation portion. Of course, the campers had plenty of

time to fish, with most of them catching some bass on Saturday night and trout on Sunday morning. The largest was a 19-inch brown trout caught by Caleb Frank.

This year we were joined by a special guest, Tara Granke, coordinator for the Trout Unlimited Headwaters Youth Programs. One of her goals was to visit all the Trout Unlimited youth camps, and we had been planning on her attending our camp since 2018. She was able to talk to the campers and explain the youth programs offered by Trout Unlimited a bit more in depth than we could get into, including the Teen Summit and the possibility of attending other youth camps across the country.

One thing I want to mention which is bittersweet. I was contacted by Jim Hauer and Nate Register of the Classic Angler's with an opportunity for us. The group was going to disband, and they had some monies left in their account. They said that the camp was in the running for these monies and in the end, they

contacted me and awarded these funds to the WITU Youth Camp. The amount donated was a little over \$1,885. So, I had mixed feelings about this, very saddened by the fact the Classic Angler's is no more but very appreciative that we were the recipients. Thank you,

Again, I want to thank everyone, including our youth camp committee, the mentors and guides, for their hard work and time donated, and especially the chapters for sponsoring this year's youth. And I want to thank our campers, all of whom

were on their best behavior and eager to learn.

One very important thing for all of us to remember and appreciate, none of our council and chapter functions or activities would be possible without all of you pitching in and helping.

Chapter leaders, please start thinking of youth for next year's camp. The camp will be held August 17-20, 2023. We will open registration starting at the annual meeting in February. We hope to see you all next year.



Bob Haase

2022 COUNCIL YOUTH FISHING CAMP STUDENTS AND TU VOLUNTEERS



Bob Haase

ESSENTIAL PRE-FISHING DEMO

Along the Waupaca River, Wayne Parmley demonstrated how to fish buggers and streamers upstream, downstream and swinging them. The kids got a chance to fish until dark with their mentors, giving them a chance to apply what they had learned. The next morning they fished the trout streams around Wautoma. One camper caught a 19-inch brown trout, his first fish on a fly rod.

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR WISCONSIN TROUT UNLIMITED
Start everyday with "Rising Trout"




We're proud to partner with Luna Coffee Roasters in De Pere to bring you this special breakfast blend of coffee. Whole Bean or Ground. Shipping available nationwide!



lunacafe.com/shop/fundraising

42% of sales will directly support Wisconsin Trout Unlimited's work to ensure future generations access to cold, clean, fishable water.

Snapshot Day 2022

Volunteers search for aquatic invasive species across the state. Statewide scavenger hunt for AIS supplies data to the DNR that ultimately helps guide management efforts.

By Ellen Voss, Aquatic Invasive Species Program Director, River Alliance of Wisconsin

Asking folks to volunteer their time on a Saturday morning in summer is a big ask. Yet once again, dedicated water lovers braved the weather and showed up in force across the state to help find aquatic invasive species (AIS) during the 9th annual Snapshot Day.

On an August Saturday, 109 monitors put on their waders and water shoes, grabbed their rakes and binoculars and explored 92 different monitoring sites in 23 locations across Wisconsin. In total, 30 lakes, 33 streams/ rivers, and one wetland were monitored, and 14 different species were found, everything from snails to mussels to aquatic plants.

Statewide scavenger hunt

Every year, Snapshot Day, a statewide scavenger hunt for AIS, supplies a vast amount of data to the DNR that ultimately helps guide management efforts. Early identification is a key factor in stopping the spread of these pesky plant, algae and animal species from spreading throughout the beautiful waters of Wisconsin. The sooner we know where they are, the better the chance we have at getting ahead of the problem.

Notably, many of the Snapshot

Day species that were found had never been documented in that waterbody before, including two prohibited species: Asiatic clam and faucet snail. For a list of species found, see the chart on page 24.

Even if you missed this year's event, there are still opportunities to look for invasive species every time you're out fishing.

Keep a careful eye out for New Zealand mudsnails, but any and all AIS reports are welcomed. In early September, volunteers and staff unfortunately found two new occurrences of New Zealand mudsnails, one near the Rock-Walworth County border at the Highway C access point of the Turtle Creek Wildlife Area, and another in Dane County, in Fryes Feeder Creek in Donald County Park.

In response, a boot brush station and AIS signage were quickly installed. This snail is likely already in places that we don't know about yet, so extra eyes on the water are a big help.

Always keep a lookout

So, please keep a lookout for AIS while you enjoy the last days of trout fishing this fall, but mark your calendar and plan to join us for the 10th annual Snapshot Day in 2023, which is tentatively planned for the third Saturday in August. Events are being planned in all parts of the state, and we hope to see you then.

This year's participants had great



Garrett Hopkins

IS THIS AN INVASIVE PLANT?

Snapshot Day volunteer Malachi and site leader Addie Schlusssel identify an aquatic plant that he found in Kiwanis Pond in Janesville.

things to say about volunteering at Snapshot Day, such as:

"I loved having an excuse to explore more natural sites around where I live. It's also fun to take part in what is essentially an outdoor scavenger hunt."

"It was a fun learning experience, and I really enjoyed being outside on the water."

"I enjoyed working with others that were interested in invasive species and learning from them."

Scott's ROD SHOP **Scott W. Grady** Rodmaker

Split Bamboo Rods
New, repairs, restoration, appraisals
Rodmaking Tools and Advice

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

Proceeds will support our Fox Valley TU stream habitat work
Watch your email and visit our website at foxvalleyTU.com for upcoming details

Bring your family and friends to join in the fun!

We're back - BETTER than EVER!

CABIN FEVER DAY
food, friends & raffles!

Saturday, January 21, 2023
Noon - 4 pm
The Grand Meridian, Appleton

NEW THIS YEAR! NOON BUFFET BANQUET!

A gathering of friends for a NOON BUFFET BANQUET with speakers, used equipment, and bucket raffles

Special drawing for a Youth Fly Fishing Package!

Tickets to this event must be purchased 2 weeks prior to the event



Chapter News

Aldo Leopold Chapter

We are getting back on track and doing a lot of future planning. Our September chapter outing was cancelled, with hopes of rescheduling it for spring 2023. Chapter members should keep an eye out for a survey before the end of the year. We will gather information on how to better serve you, find out what is important to you and get your opinion on various topics. Those who respond will have a chance to win prizes.

Our winter "Bar Flies" events run from December through March from 6-9 p.m.

In Columbia County, we will have a new location and meet at KD's Bar & Grill in Lodi. These events will be Tuesday nights, Dec.

6, Jan. 10, Feb. 7 and March 7.

In Sauk County we'll hold them in Baraboo at a location to be determined, so stay tuned to our Facebook page for updates. These will be on Wednesday nights, Dec. 14, Jan. 18, Feb. 15 and March 15.

In Dodge County we will again meet at Ooga Brewing in Beaver Dam. These will be Thursday nights Dec. 8, Jan. 26, Feb. 23 and March 23. Members and non-members are welcome to attend, and feel free to bring family and friends. Next spring we plan to start stream work on Dell Creek. Tentative dates are March 18 and April 15. Stay tuned for more information.

—Dan Endres

Blackhawk Chapter

The Blackhawk chapter is back to regularly scheduled meetings on the third Monday of the month. We meet at 6 p.m. for dinner, stories and lies. The chapter meeting follows at 7 p.m. Because it is difficult to get presenters for our small group, we've started a program of having a member or two tie a favorite fly and give some tips on where and how to fish it. Giving away flies is always a good way to get people excited about getting out on the stream.

We are hoping to get in a clinic with a local high school fishing club this fall. The kids are eager to try new things and hopefully this will in-

terest some of the younger generation in TU and coldwater conservation.

We sent donations to the Kinnickinnick dam removal project and the council's youth camp. Hopefully next year we'll do some stream work. We are very willing to partner with other chapters, so if your chapter needs volunteers, let me know.

Our annual banquet is in April of 2023. After a three-year Covid hiatus, we're excited to bring chapter supporters together again for a good time, and to raffle off a lot of stuff that's been sitting in peoples closets for a couple years.

—Dave Brethauer

Central Wisconsin Chapter

Work days for the summer will be wrapping up in September on the Younglove section of the West Branch of the White River, which was the location for all work days except for August. That month we took a departure and spent time on Bird Creek in Bird Creek Park in Wautoma. We were joined by the 18 students who were attending the council's Youth Trout Fishing Camp, along with about 25 adult mentors from all over the state.

Local DNR staff did stream shocking and discussed all that goes into stream restoration. Then everyone pitched in a few hours of hard work. Also, two benches were set in place, including the Jeffrey Jon Wilcox memorial bench and a second one near the Tom Poullette memori-

al stone.

If you have a chance, please visit Bird Creek Park and see the great work that has been accomplished over the past several years. We then served a big lunch of brats, burgers and the fixings. Thanks to everyone who helped make this event so successful. Many students say this is one of their favorite camp activities, but at a distant second to fishing. Contact CWTU work day coordinator Chad Tucker for information on CWTU work days at 920-540-4665 or chadmtucker1@gmail.com.

CWTU sponsored two students at the camp this year: Brewer Feiter and Cody Emig. They both reported they had a great time and learned a lot. Having been involved with this camp from its inception in 2014, it's

been very rewarding to be a part of it. As we know, these kids are the future of TU and to see their enthusiasm and see them becoming junior mentors and leaders is even better. It shows the success of this camp.

John and Laura Tucker hosted a picnic at their home on the Pine River in August. The weather, camaraderie and food was great, including Laura's pies. Al Sanders broke out his fiddle for a little after-dinner music before the board meeting started. A big thanks to the Tuckers for hosting another great chapter picnic.

September will bring back in-person board meetings and educational programs at the Fin 'N Feather in Winneconne the second Wednesday of the month. Meetings are at 6:30 p.m. and programs begin at 7:30 p.m. The September program was "The Holy Water of the Au Sable River – Birthplace of Trout Unlimited" presented by Tom Meyer. October is yet to be determined, but for November it will be "Famous Trout Flies of Michigan." The December program will be "Labrador: Place, People & Possibilities," presented by Wayne Parmley.

TroutFest 2023 is Saturday, Feb.

Coulee Region Chapter

At our first membership meeting of the season in September, P.J. Smith of P.J.'s Guide Service discussed fall fishing in the Coulee Region at Gasser's Bar & Grill in Viroqua. Our October 19 meeting at the Westview Inn in West Salem will feature new TUDARE Project Manager Sara Strassman, who replaced Jeff Hastings. CRTU and TUDARE are frequent partners on projects in the region. On November 19 Jeff and Lynette Moore will show a video of their recent fishing trip to West Yellowstone at Gasser's.

As always, our meetings begin at 7 p.m. with a social hour beginning at 6 p.m.

Anyone can attend our meetings online by registering through our Facebook page.

David Jones won the Bill Lamberson bamboo fly rod in our September raffle. We thank Mat and Geri at Driftless Angler for helping us sell tickets and for hosting the event. Be sure to stop in to the Driftless Angler. It's a good shop with friendly folks, finely tied flies and other necessities, like those indispensable maps. Proceeds from the raffle are for education and stream projects.

We are seeking help for a Project Healing Waters event in the Coulee Region. Several of our members have been working with the Tomah VA and we would like to expand our involvement. There is a great deal of need and it is a fantastic program.

In August the Monroe County Land Conservation Department

wrapped up 440 feet of stream restoration on the Little La Crosse River. They installed habitat structures to provide better cover for trout and non-game species.

CRTU members were busy with a number of events, state meetings, projects and partnerships over the summer. Our August STREAM Girls program was successful for a second year thanks to our volunteers. In June, despite a little rain, the Coon Valley Trout Fest was as successful as always, bringing together young and old, and experienced and inexperienced anglers for common enjoyment of outdoor recreation through fishing.

June and July brought some periodic rains, which caused minor flooding and forced anglers to find smaller waters or venture north or south to areas less affected by the heaviest of the downpours. However, just like finding a vacant bridge near town on a Friday after work, it has become the custom to search on for the next bridge or easement.

—Wayne Parmley

The TV meteorologists said the region was drier than average by late summer and the creeks at times ran gin clear and low. The poetry of a late summer's afternoon, fishing thigh-deep, alone in a stream somewhere between Viroqua and Crawford counties, with bees humming along the streambanks and grasshoppers leaping almost suicidally into the waters, is sustenance enough to endure us through the long, cold winter.

—Brad Bryan

Fox Valley Chapter

Cabin Fever Day (CFD) is January 21, 2023 at the Grand Meridian in Appleton. It will be entirely new, substantially different and more exciting. The new CFD will start at Noon and finish by 4 p.m. It will feature high-value prizes, a wonderful bucket raffle, Scott Grady Bamboo Rod Raffle, along with expert and entertaining speakers. Proceeds will fund our mission of local stream improvement and habitat work. Please

find the detailed ad announcing Cabin Fever Day in this issue of Wisconsin Trout.

Autumn Angling Adventure, our annual Fall Fishing Outing, is scheduled for the weekend of September 24-25 in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, and will be based in Land O' Lakes, Wisconsin. Fox Valley TU anglers will meet at the Borderline RV campground in Land o Lakes and will celebrate the event Satur-



Bob Haase

YOUTH CAMP STUDENTS AND CWTU TEAM UP ON BIRD CREEK

Students at the Council's Youth Camp get dirty with some hands-on stream habitat work. Some students find this to be their favorite part of the camp, aside from the fishing.

Chapter News



day evening with a communal dinner and campfire. We'll focus on the East and Middle branches of the Ontonagon, Cooks Run, South Branch of the Paint, Perch Creek and perhaps the Jumbo River.

We held a joint work day in August at Bird Creek near Wautoma and were joined by volunteer leaders and youth from the council's Youth Fishing Camp held that weekend at the Pine Lake Bible Camp. The young anglers were a great help and were delighted to witness stream shocking by Shawn Sullivan's DNR habitat crew. Everyone bundled brush and installed them to narrow and deepen the

stream, while reducing erosion.

Former FVTU President Joe Bach reported about continued improvements to Stony Brook Creek in Calumet County. In August the Hilbert road crew removed a six-foot culvert on Long Road, replacing it with a bottomless culvert. They significantly improve stream habitat by allowing consistent water flows, create riffles to add oxygen and provide homes for macroinvertebrates with the natural substrates. They also allow fish and other wildlife to move freely in search of food, shelter and mates and to avoid predators.

—Don Clouthier

Frank Hornberg Chapter

Our June workday on the Little Wolf River was a joint effort with the Shaw-Paca Chapter. We brushed the stream to improve fishability and opened up a trail along the stream. This is the third time we worked on this stream.

Fall Line Outfitters in Stevens Point sponsored our brat fry in July. We raised \$630 for our chapter. A big thanks to Craig Cook for his support. This will be an annual event for us.

In August we were in Waupaca County, working on Flume Creek at Drake Road. Twelve people participated, with help from the DNR, Shaw-Paca Chapter and the Green Bay Chapter. We removed downed ash trees, which were slowing the flow and causing the stream to silt

in. We also removed tag alders to improve casting room. This is a nice stream and is worth checking out. We finished our day with lunch at Lake Helen County Park.

On Tuesday, Oct. 18 at 7 p.m. we will have a chapter meeting in the community room next to PJ's Restaurant at Sentry. Following the meeting, Bobby Davis will give a presentation on fishing around Ketchikan, Alaska.

I ask that each Frank Hornberg Chapter member participate in one activity in the coming year. Currently, only a small percentage of our 209 members are actively participating. We could accomplish so much more with a small investment of your time. Please think about it.

—Doug Erdmann

Green Bay Chapter

Following our 2022-23 meeting season, which ended in April, GBTU kicked into our summer work project and education mode. In May the Green Bay, Northwoods, Wisconsin River Valley and Oconto River chapters joined the DNR to plant about 1,500 trees along the Prairie River. This has been a multi-year project to improve the Prairie River with dredging to add river depth and using that sediment to create point bars and islands to increase meandering. The purpose of the trees is to provide long-term stability to the latter. In 2021 we helped plant about 1,000 trees further upstream from this workday site.

For our second habitat improvement project of the summer, we partnered with the Marinette Chapter and the DNR to improve fishability along Beaver Creek. We spread wood chips and trimmed grass and weeds on the trail.

In July six members and four DNR employees continued to improve the Trout Educational Trail across from the Northeast Wisconsin Zoo (NEW Zoo) in Northern Brown County. We cut and treated invasive buckthorn, removed about 15 old signs and installed our first wave of six new signs. Our goal is to have the next wave of new signs ready next summer.

For our final conservation improvement project of 2022, eight TU members and three DNR employees cleaned up the Wausaukee River. We worked along the Evergreen Campground. At the end of the day we removed nearly enough tires to equip a semi, as well as a bunch of other junk.

All our work projects ended with GBTU Habitat Improvement Coordinator, Paul Kruse, breaking out the chapter's Blackstone grille for his famous burgers and more. Dinner is always on the chapter.

As for summer education events, GBTU was part of three this year. In our summer report, we covered teaming with the Outagamie County Conservation Club for their Take-a-Kid-Fishing-Day in June.

In July we joined the Brown County PALS program and Izaak

Walton League of Brown County for our 31st year hosting the Brown County Kids-Fishing-Day. Six GBTU members helped 20-30 area youth bait hooks, remove and release fish and untangle lines. The day commenced with a free lunch.

In August longtime GBTU member and donor Al Jamir brought back the second annual Cops and Bobbers Day. Last year's event saw

about 75 kids. While it is hard for GBTU volunteers to make it out because it's on a week day, Al continues making this awesome concept work help to build relationships between law enforcement and our youth.

GBTU continues to run our Veteran's Service Program every other Tuesday. They are held at Tight Lines Fly Shop in De Pere.



Paul Kruse



Dave Ostaneck

BIGGEST BLUEGILL BRINGS A SMILE

This excited youngster caught the biggest bluegill at the Kid's Fishing Day, sponsored by GBTU, Brown County PALS and the Izaak Walton League.



Adrian Meseberg

GBTU VOLUNTEERS WORKED ON THE TROUT EDUCATION TRAIL



Tom Schnadt

KIAP PRESIDENT GREG OLSON TEACHING THE ART OF FLY TYING

Kiap volunteers provided plenty of support at the recent Pheasants Forever Youth Game Fair.



Chapter News

Next comes our meeting season, Northeast Regional Meeting commitments, Trout-In-the-Classroom efforts and much more. Look for that in our next report.

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

—Adrian Meseberg

Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter

In September the chapter kicked off this year's meeting schedule with an open house and gear swap at Rush River brewing. This was our first time hosting the gear swap where the chapter received a small portion of the sales receipts. We also sold our 50th anniversary hats and some flies tied by Paul Johnson. Adding \$476 to our coffers. The event was well attended, and we received many favorable reviews.

Past Treasurer Hap Lutter passed away in 2009 and his legacy continues with the Kiap-TU-Wish Hap Lutter Memorial Appeal. Again, this year Suzanne Constantini and Bob Trevis prepared our appeal mailing this past July. The appeal contributions are used to fund habitat and restoration work,

education and youth outreach such as Trout In the classroom, Stream Girls, Veterans and First Responders, stream monitoring and operational expenses. To date we have received \$8,035. A big thank you to all donators.

Our Trout In the Classroom program will continue again this fall with six schools participating. These include two in River Falls, along with Amery, Hammond, Prescott, and Ellsworth. We are also assisting the Ellsworth Rod & Gun club in setting up a second program in Ellsworth. We are hopeful to continue Bugs in the Classroom again next spring.

The DNR finished work on a large easement on the Halvorson farm on the Trimble River. Chap-

ter volunteers assisted on two mulching days along the stream-bank. The chapter also provided volunteers to assist Area Fish Manager Kasey Yallaly with population assessments on the Rush and Kinnickinnic rivers.

The chapter again participated in this year's Pheasants Forever Youth Game Fair in September. Seventy

young folks signed up to tie flies, cast and fish on Game Unlimited's grounds. Volunteers participating included Tom Schnadt, Randy Arnold, Dan Donahue, Jon Jacobs, Gary Horvath, Greg Olson, Ted Hanna, and Jeff Himes. Bob Trevisput together six-pack fly boxes to give to students.

—Gary Horvath

Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter

We had several work days putting in stiles and working with SWTU on brush clearing. If you are interested in work days, please contact Ted Swenson at swensonted@gmail.com or 608 469-2038.

Work on the second half of the Blue River project on the Zadrazil property has concluded. We are now working on the only eased section of Big Spring that we have not worked on. It is just above the confluence with Six Mile Branch.

In September about 65 people

attended our annual picnic/landowner's appreciation gathering on the Blue River property.

We looked at the work done, DNR employees performed a stream shocking demonstration with browns, suckers, dace, sculpins, a green sunfish and even a rainbow netted, and we had a great meal before rain sent most of us home.

—Brian Larson



Tom Schnadt

CASTING LESSON FROM A KIAP CASTING MASTER

Randy Arnold helps a new fly angler with his technique at the recent Pheasants Forever Youth Game Fair.



Carol Murphy

NOHR EVENT INCLUDES SHOCKING DEMONSTRATION

DNR crew show everyone what kind of fish lurk in the depths of the Blue River at the chapter's recent picnic and landowner appreciation event. Browns, suckers, dace, sculpins, a green sunfish and even a rainbow was netted.

Lakeshore Chapter

It has been a busy summer for the Lakeshore Chapter. We continued our work on the Onion River watershed with workdays in June and August.

We had solid turnouts for each day and got significant work done on the river. Our total volunteer hours of stream work was more than 120 hours. Our focus for the work days was primarily improvement of about 30 existing bank covers upstream from County E.

We replaced cap rocks that had fallen into the river, removed sediment and debris from under the

structures and generally prepared the structures for extensive rehabilitation in 2023. We also removed fallen trees from the river, removed the resulting logjams and cleared some of the trails along the stream banks. We are working hard to keep up with the impact that the ash border damage is having on the river.

We are also in the process of obtaining a new permit to perform significant repairs to more than 32 existing bank structures. These structures are the original work done by our chapter and the DNR in the late 90's, which made the Onion



Tom Schnadt

FIRST FISH ON A FLY!

This young fellow was all smiles at the recent Pheasants Forever Youth Game Fair. Kiap-TU-Wish volunteers provided plenty of help for the event.



LAKESHORE CHAPTER CONTINUES ITS WORK ON THE ONION RIVER

Chapter News



River the gem it is today. We will also add new bank stabilization elements in areas that are seeing erosion and widening of the stream.

Our chapter was also awarded one of the six Next Generation Gear Grants offered by Bass Pro/Cabelas through Trout Unlimited. The equipment awarded in the gear grant will be used for our new Stream Girls partnership with the Manitou Council of Girl Scouts and for a partnership with Camp Y-koda to offer a fly-fishing camp next summer. Both organizations will be offering summer camps next year in

partnership with our chapter. We are grateful to Bass Pro and TU for these resources that will enable us to conduct these important and exciting youth camps.

Chapter meetings start again in September on the third Tuesday of the month at Camp Y-koda in Sheboygan Falls. Our September speaker was Bryan Maitland, who presented research results entitled "Climate change, extreme seasonal weather, and trout populations in Wisconsin streams." It was a great way to start our meeting year.

—Al Wortz

Marinette County Chapter

Marinette County Chapter summer activities included teaming up with the Green Bay chapter and others in northeastern Wisconsin in June, when trails and access to the North Branch of Beaver creek were done. In July we put on a fly-fishing program at the Stephenson Public Library with demos and casting time on the water. The crowd was small but that was made up by their desire to learn the artful skill.

In August we sponsored this year's Kids' Fishing Derby, hosted

at Stephenson Island in Marinette. There were 36 participants at the free event, and all received either a rod and reel combo or a tackle box, and awardees received prizes in addition to certificates. Prizes were awarded for the first fish, most fish, largest fish, longest fish and smallest fish. Please see the Marinette Recreation Department's Facebook page for a full list of details and photos.

—Dale Lange



MARINETTE CHAPTER SPONSORS KIDS FISHING DERBY

Bentley and Jeff Snouwaert of Marinette were among many who enjoyed the event on Stephenson Island in Marinette.

Northwoods Chapter

The Northwoods Chapter is in a rebuilding phase. Many of our leaders are aging and we are in search of newer, younger members willing to take leadership roles in chapter projects like stream improvement, programs for our monthly meetings and fundraising.

We are currently planning next year's stream improvement schedule and are working with the DNR, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Forest Service to identify and prioritize locations, dates and any needed funding. Those meetings will take place this fall and winter, with a goal of setting workdays well ahead of spring. Almost all the coldwater specialists for the counties in our area have changed in the past year, so it will be a time of building new partnerships and working relationships.

The Wisconsin River Valley Chapter has invited us to participate in some joint ventures, including

stream workdays, sharing speakers and participating in their monthly fly-tying sessions in Merrill. The Aspirus Healthcare System, which includes hospitals, clinics and wellness facilities and has 11,000 employees in Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan has recently reached out to our chapter, offering to promote our workdays and programs as part of their Employee Wellness activities. This is a very special opportunity to involve new individuals and families in Trout Unlimited activities.

Our fall meetings are on October 12, November 2 and December 7 at the Rhinelander Airport meeting room.

We are excited about our new partnerships and the future of protecting coldwater resources in the Northwoods.

—Mike Pierce

Oconto River Watershed Chapter

At our July meeting we awarded the \$500 Don Wagner Memorial College Scholarship to Kayla Reed of Sobieski. We grant this scholarship to students anticipating a career in a conservation-related field. A graduate of Pulaski High School, Reed is majoring in aquatic science and fisheries and water resources at UW-Stevens Point.

Applicants are judged by their academic records, community involvement and commitment to a conservation-related field. Reed has received several academic honors and has worked in the field of her major. These work positions were provided through UW-Stevens Point, Michigan State, UW-Green Bay and UW-Oshkosh and the DNR. We congratulate Kayla on her achievements and wish her the best of luck in her future conservation efforts.

Some chapter members joined other TU members and DNR personnel to conduct northeastern Wisconsin stream-restoration projects at Haller Creek and the Wausaukee River. The Haller Creek project include rebuilding and updating signage for the Trout Educational Trail at the Reforestation Camp in Brown County. Volunteers also re-

moved buckthorn and other invasive species from the stream bank. The Wausaukee River project involved cleaning up the riverbanks by removing numerous tires, junk and trash from in the river. The river area cleaned was near the Evergreen Campground in Wausaukee. Additional fishability brushing was completed in the campground and downstream.

Our chapter participated in the Suring Youth Day event consisting of slingshot, archery, shotgun, .22 rifle and pistol (depending on age), trout fishing and casting. Chapter members helped youth with trout fishing and the casting. Most of the kids catch a trout which is cleaned and even cooked if they so choose. The casting is somewhat of a contest where each participant gets a free raffle ticket with extra tickets awarded for hitting the target. The tickets are used to draw for prizes at the end of the day. Fishing rod/reels were awarded to some lucky kids. Thanks to those members who volunteered to assist in this event.

Our chapter's next meeting is October 11 when we start planning for events and fundraising for 2023.

—Tom Klatt

Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter

SEWTU is hosting the IF4 Film Festival as our fall fundraising event on Thursday, October 27 at the Bavarian Bierhaus. Space is limited so get your tickets now before they are all gone. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. with the films starting around 7 p.m. Come early for food and drink and to participate in the raffles and auctions. General admission will be \$15 for adults and \$5 for students and children. If you order your tickets in advance you will be able to select from various packages of tickets to use in our bucket raffles. (Tickets for the raffle will also be available at the event but not in special discount packages).

This year all ticketed guests will be entered into a drawing for our Grand Prize Package consisting of a new fishing kayak and all you need to get out on the water and catch fish, including paddle, fly rod/reel, line, personal floatation device, net, flies, chest pack and more. This prize package is valued at approximately \$2,100. We will also have additional fishing packages in our bucket raffles, guided fishing trips, wine, tools and much more. Our prize list continues to grow so don't miss this important event to help fund our chapter's projects.

To sign up or get tickets online go to <https://www.showclix.com/event/if42022glendalewi> or FlyFilmFest.com. If you have any questions on the event contact Stan Strelka at sbstrelka@gmail.com or Andy Avgoulas at andyavgoulas@yahoo.com.

Our summer workday schedule kicked off with 21 volunteers from four chapters including Southeastern Wisconsin, Southern Wisconsin, Oakbrook Illinois, and Lee Wulff Illinois participating in a June Bluff Creek work day.

The workers installed biologists and cleared brush downstream from where the creek crosses Highway P. Clearing the brush helped to improve fishing access and aid in the establishment of a native savannah prairie.

In July we also had 21 volunteers participate in a work day at Karcher Creek in southwest Racine County. Karcher creek is spring fed and stocked with brook trout, which have carried over well from last year. It is one of SEWTU's coldwater resources that is located very close to the Illinois border. Volunteers from SEWTU and Oakbrook chapters combined forces to install biologists to control erosion and form



SEWTU INSTALLING BIOLOGS ON BLUFF CREEK



Chapter News



SEWTU HOLDS MENTORSHIP/CHAPTER OUTING

SEWTU's Habitat committee organized a mentorship and chapter outing in August. Twelve SEWTU members met at the West Fork Sports Club on the West Fork of the Kickapoo River for two days of mentored and social fishing. A mix of younger and older members with varying degrees of experience got together to learn new spots, try some new flies and techniques, and catch some fish.

pools. We also did some general brushing and tried out a newly purchased powered brush cutter.

Moving into August, SEWTU's Habitat committee organized a mentorship and chapter outing in August. Twelve SEWTU members met at the West Fork Sports Club on the West Fork of the Kickapoo River for two days of mentored and social fishing. A mix of younger and older members with varying degrees of experience got together to learn new spots, try some new flies and techniques, and catch some fish, all while dodging raindrops and enjoying some good food and great camaraderie. All of those attending had a great time, so we are looking to make this an annual event.

We rounded out the summer working on one of our favorite streams, the Scuppernong River, where 21 volunteers worked with Ben Heussner of the DNR to cut down brush and create brush bundles to be used as fill for future work on the stream.

Upcoming Events:

- Bluff Creek work day in Walworth County on Oct. 22 from 9 a.m.-noon
- iF4 Film Festival and Fall Fund-

Southern Wisconsin Chapter

Summer for SWTU was a time for fishing, traveling, picnics and wading into a dense field of wild parsnip? Such was a special – and especially heroic – Stream Team workday at our prairie planting at the Basco Wildlife Unit.

The day didn't get as warm as expected, which was a good thing as the volunteer crew was covered from fingertip to toe for protection against the painful sap. A very special thanks to all who took to a field of wild parsnip wielding a variety of sharp implements: Mark Maffitt, Bob Harrison, Jim O'Brien, Jim Hill, Bob Brewer, Kieth Katers, Carl Fernandez and Jim Beecher. Thank you one and all.

Towering cup plants and sunflowers created an impenetrable wall to get to the painful invasives. Jim Hess stood on his tractor to find a path and mow through dense thickets of parsnip and create space

raiser at the Bavarian Bierhaus on Oct. 27 from 5:30 p.m.-10 p.m.

- Chapter meeting with guest speaker TU Great Lakes Engagement Coordinator Jamie Vaughn November 15 from 5:30 p.m.-8 p.m.
- Habitat Committee event or CPR training on Dec. 3. Time to be determined
- Chapter Holiday meeting Dec. 20 from 5:30 p.m.-8 p.m.

Our chapter meetings will continue to be at the Bavarian Bierhaus in Glendale starting at 5:30 p.m. for dinner and socializing with your fellow TU members, with our programs kicking off at 7 p.m.

Please look for our email blasts on the specifics of each upcoming event as well as Facebook, Instagram and our website.

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 or by phone at 262-893-4965. For general inquiries, please send an email to our mailbox at southernwisconsin@sewtu.org.

—Andy Avgoulas

for the crew to take out individual stalks while preserving native prairie plants.

We also want you to know that Jim Hess has also arranged a great slate of non-parsnip-focused stream workdays for the fall, and we welcome any and all helpers. Dates and details are in our latest newsletter.

Indoor activities continue as well, including chapter meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at Schwoegler's Bowling Alley on Madison's west side. Many thanks to our summertime presenters and we look forward to a great fall slate. Again, find dates and details in our newsletter.

As always, please stop on by sewtu.org to learn more about us and what we're up to.

—Drew Kasel



A PARTICULARLY DEDICATED SWTU CREW TACKLES WILD PARSNIP

Wild Rivers Chapter

The Wild Rivers Chapter held its annual member picnic in July on the Namekagon River. Members were joined by partners from the DNR, Wild Rivers Conservancy, Landmark Conservancy, Hayward Fly Shop and the Friends of the Yellow River, who all presented on what is new in their realms.

Also noteworthy are some very generous donations that we've received recently to help our conservation and education work. Thank you.

Wild Rivers gave input and support this summer in the Superior Rivers Watershed Association's Marengo River Strategic Plan, a river system identified by TU National as a Priority Water. We are also looking at our own strategic plan for updates this year.

We have an upcoming member meeting on the Brule River on October 4 with social time on the river as the main event.

—Kevin Seefeldt

Wisconsin Clear Waters

In addition to our ongoing stream projects on Pine Creek, the North Branch of the Trempealeau River and Traverse Valley Creek, our chapter did the following activities.

- Provided \$2,000 for intern Parker Verdon to work with DNR fisheries biologist Kasey Yallaly
- Volunteered with seeding and mulching on Gilbert Creek with the DNR habitat crew and on Chimney Rock Creek with a private landowner.
- Held an outdoor silent auction to raise funds for the Kinni dam removal.
- Although not run by TU, several

of our members volunteered as fly-fishing buddies for a Reel Recovery event, which was held in Eau Claire for the first time.

- In partnership with the Girl Scouts and the TU 5Rivers club at UW-Stout, our second annual STREAM Girls weekend was held at Beaver Creek Reserve.

Chapter members Matt Wysocki (seeding and mulching), Tom Sather (Reel Recovery), Jim Erickson (auction) and Laken Macal (STREAM Girls) put in extraordinary effort to make these events successful.

—Bill Heth

Wisconsin River Valley Chapter

We are getting the first glimpses of the fall colors, feeling that little bite in the evening air, subtracting a few minutes of daylight every day. Thankfully there are several things on the calendar for fall and winter to keep us thinking about our finned little friends and the coldwater streams they live in. But first, a few notes from the summer.

President Kirk Stark stepped down from the board after serving this chapter as president for several years. Kirk oversaw and guided this chapter through some growth and activity. He was a tireless worker, and he will be missed at the helm of this group. Kirk has assured us that we haven't seen the last of him. Whenever there is work to be done, he will be there. Thank you, Kirk.

Jason Brandt also had to step down from the board this summer due to personal reasons. Jason is a young dad with an important, demanding job that made it tough to participate as he liked. Jason has been an active leader on the board, and we will miss his ideas and spirit. Thank you, Jason.

Our chapter and Bull Falls Har-

ley Davidson teamed up to sponsor the July Summer Watershed Ride 2022, a motorcycle run that traveled along the Plover and Prairie river watersheds in our chapter. Many thanks to Pat Esselman, John Meachen and Pookie. Also, to Bull Falls Harley Davidson, Fishers Bar in Gleason and all the riders who participated in this event.

In August I helped out at the Council's Youth Camp. After two years we were finally able to resume the camp. The weather was beautiful, and it was wonderful to see the volunteers and meet the students. I love hearing their fishing stories and seeing the excitement in their faces as they go through the activities at camp.

I was fortunate to be able to mentor and room with the only young lady at the camp this year. It was a joy to spend time with Malayna. I truly hope we get an opportunity to fish together again. I look forward to returning to camp next year and I hope you will, too.

Sporting Heritage Day in August was the last youth event before school starts. Thank you to Bob Pils

Chapter News



Bob Haase

THE GLAMOUR GIRLS

Longtime Wisconsin River Valley Chapter volunteer Linda Lehman always enjoys helping at the Council's Youth Fishing Camp. She was teamed up with Malayna Preder, the only girl at this year's camp, and they both had an experience they will never forget.

and John Meachen for demonstrating their tying skills. We had several families stop by to watch and to chat and even practice a few fishing knots. Unfortunately, the rainy forecast prevented us from doing any casting this year.

Here is a look at what's to come for the fall. Since Kirk has stepped down as president, John Meachen has stepped up to take the lead of the chapter and has put together a great schedule to try to connect with more members in the Merrill/Tomahawk and Marshfield areas as well as Wausau. We are bringing back "Hackle and Hops," an open fly-tying night at the Sawmill Brewery in Merrill. We will be sponsoring this with the Northwoods Chapter on the third Mondays of the month from 6-8 p.m. September through April.

Here is a look at what's to come for the fall and beyond:

- October 10 at the Sawmill Brewery in Merrill. Fall Line Outfitters presents "Fishing and Guiding in North Central Wisconsin."
- November 14 at Nutz Deep II in Marshfield. "Stream Projects and Fishing with Wisconsin Riv-

er Valley Trout Unlimited."

- December 12 at The Bar in Rothschild. "WRVTU 40th Birthday Party; 1962-2022; Looking Back and Forward."
- January 9 at the Sawmill Brewery in Merrill. Antigo/Wausau DNR presents "A Night with the DNR," discussing projects and issues effecting coldwater resources.
- February, date and location to be determined, Wausau. F3T: "Fly Fishing Film Tour" More information to come.
- March 13 at Nutz Deep II in Marshfield. Fall Line Outfitters presents "Fishing into 2023," discussing what's new in the industry, with tips on locations and methods.
- April 10 at Sawmill Brewery in Merrill. Carmen Hardin will discuss "Tips for Trips - Where to find beer, bathrooms and fish."
- May 8 at The Bar in Rothschild. WRVTU: "Hexteria" - Fishing the Hex Hatch.

We are currently having issues with our Facebook page so please watch for updates on our website at wrvtu.org or through emails.

—Linda Lehman

Wolf River Chapter

The Wolf River Chapter has had a busy summer improving coldwater flow in the Wolf River. John Carbonari worked with Tim Waters, Brian Biermier, Steve Brasch and Eric Scharenbrock during the week, brushing and removing old beaver wood from feeder creeks to the Wolf River on numerous days throughout the summer.

In July Andy Killoren led a crew on Nine Mile Creek brushing and removing old beaver wood. The Pilings at Pearson, which have been collecting debris and acting as a dam on the Wolf and Hunting rivers, was the focus of attention on an August work day. Eight of us drove miles through fields of wildflowers to get to just about a quarter mile below the Highway T bridge on the Wolf River and just below the confluence with the Hunting River. Steve Brasch took the easy way and paddled his kayak down to us.

Bow saws were the tools of the day. Part of the work crew sat in the river and sawed underwater as close to the bottom as possible while the rest of the work crew pulled on the

"post" to keep the saws from binding up when necessary. August 20 was our last official work day on the Wolf River with a small crew paddling down the Wolf River from below the now-under-construction Highway T bridge down to the confluence of the Wolf and Hunting Rivers to remove log debris that had collected.

In September the Wolf River Chapter Volunteer Team, consisting of 15 chapter members, worked various jobs at the Wolfman Triathlon for a few hours in exchange for a \$500 donation to the chapter. Thank you to the team for your commitment to this fundraising tool.

By the time you read this, we will have had our autumn meeting at the Bear Paw on October 1. Watch for the next issue of the Wolf River Hatch, which should be available the middle of November. If you are not on the mailing list, you can view a copy on our website, wolfriver-tu.org or pick up a hard copy at Mike's Service at Langlade.

—Laurie Zen Netzow

Oak Brook Chapter

We continue to enjoy great relationships with our colleagues in Wisconsin. With little trout habitat in Illinois, we concentrate much of our attention to our good neighbors to the north. We have been involved in Wisconsin since our founding 49 years ago, and we continued those efforts again this year.

We contributed funding to several Wisconsin TU projects this year, including Kinnickinnic River Powell Falls dam removal, habitat restoration on Timber Coulee Creek, Monroe County efforts to assess stream crossings, and installation of easement signage, and continuation of our annual contribution to TUDARE to fund administrative costs not funded by other grants. In addition, we have committed to provide a significant grant toward planned efforts to improve brook trout habitat on Traverse Valley Creek.

We have assisted SEWTU with workdays on Bluff Creek and Karcher Creek, with another workday planned at Tichigan Creek on October 22.

Upcoming speakers

Wisconsin has teamed with OBTU to promote the good work of TU: We are most grateful and want to publicly thank the following who have agreed to speak at our chapter meetings during 2022:

- Duke Welter spoke last winter on the Kinnickinnic Power Falls Removal and restoration efforts.
- Jeff Hastings provided an update on TUDARE accomplishments and plans
- Erick Olson is scheduled to speak in September on a Driftless Area brook trout restoration project. Erick is a Wisconsin DNR fish habitat specialist and member of the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter
- Nate Andersen and Loren Haas will speak in October regarding the latest in habitat improvement designs. Nate and Loren are also Kiap-TU-Wish members who help lead Wisconsin Drift-

less project efforts.

OBTU had two chapter fishing outings in Wisconsin in 2022. In April we had a group outing based at the Fenway House Hotel in Fenimore. In September we had a trip based at Nature Nooks Retreat near Viroqua. Many of our members are also organizing individual trips which we hope is having a positive impact on the Wisconsin economy as well as building a larger constituency for taking care of our environment.

If you have an interest in learning more about OBTU, we invite you to visit our obtu.org web site. We are always on the lookout for good opportunities to contribute to the TU mission in Wisconsin. Don't hesitate to reach out to any of our board members if you would like to connect with us.

Education news

Over the years OBTU has developed strong education programs to serve our market. While we have had to curtail many of our education activities during the past two years, OBTU education programs have come back to full speed, and then some in 2022. Our youth education programs have directly reached more than 1,000 participants in 2022.

Trout In the Classroom

This past year our chapter's 14 participating schools successfully raised rainbow trout from eggs provided by the Illinois DNR, learned about trout development, water quality and environmental issues, and the challenges coldwater fishes face in today's world.

They conducted release field trips in May, either to Lake Michigan, or to Waddams Creek in Stephenson County in northwestern Illinois. For the 2022-23 school year, OBTU welcomes back two schools that remained on hiatus after COVID - Burroughs School in Chicago and Gwendolyn Brooks Middle



WOLF RIVER CHAPTER REMOVES PILINGS AT PEARSON

Remnants from logging days, the pilings impede the flow of the Wolf River below the confluence of the Hunting and Wolf Rivers. Removing them will increase the flow, which helps maintain a better temperature for trout.

Doug Moldenhauer, John Carbonari and Nathan Schmidt are shown sawing the pilings off. Along with Zach Buchanan, Andy Killoren, John Rose and Steve Brasch, they removed about 20 pilings.



Chapter News

School in Oak Park. As well, Bednarcik Junior High in Aurora joins the program as the recipient of our annual TIC grant from OBTU. And we received word that St. John the Baptist School in Winfield will start the program this year.

This brings our total number of schools to 18, so we definitely will need help from OBTU volunteers to deliver trout eggs, help out during the school year by visiting the schools and talking to the students, assisting with our “Wet Bugs” presentations in the spring, and ultimately with the trout-release field trips. Combined with the other three Illinois chapters, our state-wide TIC program is now well established in 30 greater Chicago area schools and growing.

Youth Fly Fishing Training Program

OBTU is in its 18th year of hosting Youth Fly Fishing Classes and has completed monthly sessions from May through September. Approximately 60 youth participated in the program in 2022. The Youth Fly Fishing Classes are designed around the requirements of the BSA Fly Fishing Merit Badge, so scouts who successfully complete the class will have met the requirements for the merit badge. Since its inception, this program has introduced more than 1,000 youth to fly fishing, as well as the conservation work of TU.

Fly-casting Tuesdays

Stan Zarnowiecki continued this summer organizing Fly Casting Tuesdays at the Oak Brook Park District. These evening gatherings were a great opportunity for new fly casters to learn the basics of fly casting, and others to hone their skills, and just get together.

STREAM Girls

OBTU volunteers conducted our first STREAM Girls program in June at Camp Dean in Big Rock, Illinois. This program allows girls 11-14 years old to encounter a stream

and utilize STEM skills plus art and some recreation to better understand what a stream is, and the animals that live in it. One of the hallmarks of the STREAM Girls program, as we are conducting it, is to have our volunteer staff primarily women. We will conduct a second program on Saturday, October 1, 2022 at Blackwell Forest Preserve in Warrenville.

Big news for STREAM Girls is that OBTU has been selected as one of only six TU chapters or councils to receive the TU Next Gen Gear Grant for 2022. This equipment, for the STREAM Girls program, includes 10 TFO fly rod outfits, macroinvertebrate sampling equipment and 10 sets of waders and fly-tying kits from Bass Pro Shops/Cabela’s.

Youth Camp

Campers from several states have attended the Illinois Camp and we would welcome applications from young men and women aged 13 to 18 from Wisconsin.

After a two-year hiatus, we held the camp on the Au Sable River near Grayling, Michigan. For 14 years, the Illinois Council has offered an intensive six-day camp which provides participants a thorough introduction to fly fishing as well as coldwater conservation.

The camp faculty includes professors from two universities, Michigan DNR professionals, naturalists and historians as well as several mentors from TU. Students participate in entomology surveys, fish electro-shocking surveys, hands-on stream improvement project work, water quality testing, a study of cold water conservation and the history of the founding of TU emanating from restoration of the Au Sable river which had been destroyed by logging, overfishing, and abuse of the environment.

For info on all of our activities events, go to obtu.org.
—Willie Beshire



OBTU HELD A SUCCESSFUL PILOT STREAM GIRLS SESSION IN JUNE

Oconto River Chapter

Work projects included the planting of more than 1,000 trees over a section of the Prairie River in partnership with DNR crew and the Green Bay and Wild Rivers chapters.

In August, we also helped the Green Bay Chapter replace signage along an educational tour of Halley Creek with a dozen beautiful informative new permanent signs depicting the habitat work TU chapters do along coldwater trout streams in northeast Wisconsin.

Also in August we partnered with the Green Bay Chapter to clean up a half-mile section of the Wausaukee River flowing through Evergreen State Park. We hauled out a total of 12 old tires, barbed wire and 10 bags of refuse that were strewn in and along the stream.

We worked with the Suring and Oconto Sportsmens Clubs Youth days in August to teach fly- and spin-fishing techniques and fly tying. In September our members also worked with classes of teens from

Gillett High School to introduce fly casting and spin fishing at Lyman Wocking's pond west of Gillett. They caught and released more than 154 fish.

Wocking Pond was also the hosting site of a September veterans fly-fishing outing with Paul Kruse of the Green Bay Chapter. Eight vets had the opportunity to use the flies they tied from Paul's tying sessions at Tight Lines Fly Shop on the abundant fish at the pond, followed by a waterside picnic. Introducing veterans to a lifelong love of flyfishing is great way to thank them for their service to our country.

Our Trout In the Classroom project, headed by Dale Halla, now includes 10 area schools. Since we were unable to hold our annual banquet because of the pandemic, we are sponsoring a cash raffle to help fund our TIC project. \$2,000 in cash prizes will be awarded at our annual Christmas party on December 13.

—Wayne Wczypinski

Mining update

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

Some days, it is important to get back to the basics. Given the recent media attention surrounding the Reef Deposit in Marathon County, we wanted to remind all of you that there is no such thing as a safe sulfide mining operation, which is what the Reef Deposit would be if mined.

River Alliance of Wisconsin is opposed to sulfide mining, and we created a short video to highlight why there is no such thing as “a safe sulfide mine.” You can view it at <https://vimeo.com/232569399>

Also, there have been important governmental and legislative actions recently that have highlighted the issues of “critical minerals” and “green mining.” We have prepared a FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) that explains the basic concepts and how they relate to mining in Wisconsin. You can find it at <https://wisconsinrivers.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Mining-and-the-Defense-Production-Act-09-08-2022.pdf>

Marathon County's Reef Deposit

Since our last update, GreenLight Metals, the company pursuing exploration at the Reef Deposit northeast of Wausau in Marathon County, made a presentation to the Marathon County Environmental Resources Committee as well as the Metallic Mining Committee. At this time, they indicate they will be able to complete all of the requirements for both DNR and Marathon County to allow them to pursue “winter time exploration.” River Alliance is communicating with local advocates, and we will keep you updated

Flambeau Mine closure

At this time, we are still awaiting further action from the DNR on our submission of comments pertaining to the issue of “Stream C” and Flambeau Mining Company's petition for a certificate of completion of reclamation for the remaining 32 acres of the permitted mine site, referred to as the industrial outlot.

Find more information at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Mines/Flambeau.html>

Snapshot Day Results

Volunteers found the following invasive species in Wisconsin's Waters on Snapshot Day. To read an article with all the details, go to page 17.

Species	NR40 Status	# Sites Found	# New to Waterbody
Aquatic forget me not	Restricted	4	2
Asiatic clam	Prohibited	3	1
Banded mystery snail	Restricted	4	1
Chinese mystery snail	Restricted	13	5
Curly leaf pondweed	Restricted	4	2
Eurasian watermilfoil	Restricted	8	2
Faucet snail	Prohibited	1	1
Flowering rush	Restricted	2	0
Narrow leaf cattail	Restricted	1	1
Non-native Phragmites	Restricted	1	0
Purple loosestrife	Restricted	17	7
Rusty crayfish	Restricted	2	0
Yellow iris	Restricted	5	1
Zebra mussel	Restricted	3	0

The life of a TU field tech

A field tech provides her perspective on the tough-but-satisfying work.

By Emma Balliet, Lead Seasonal Tech for Trout Unlimited Great Lakes

This is my second summer working as a field technician for TU in the Great Lakes region. Last summer I had the privilege of working all over the western Upper Peninsula of Michigan as an aquatic resources field tech. This summer I am the lead seasonal tech for the Great Lakes team in northern Wisconsin. I'm a proud Michigan gal hanging out in northeast Wisconsin for the summer.

A typical week for me begins on Sunday afternoon when I start prepping gear and meals for the week. I make sure all of my camping and work gear is clean, organized and ready to go.

Then I make lists of how many breakfasts, lunches and dinners I will need to prep to get through the week and come up with a cost-effective, but still delicious, combination of foods that will keep me fueled and happy. Some people can live off of PB&J for entire weeks at a time, but I am not one of those people. For me, it's more like yogurt and granola bars for the morning, chicken, tuna or antipasto salad for lunch and dinner and possibly something hearty that I can cook at the campsite for a "bonus" warm meal.

When Monday morning comes, I hop in the work truck and take off to northeast Wisconsin. I typically work four 10-hour days, which I think is pretty common in the field-work world. I assist my wonderful boss on many different projects throughout the week while camping every night in between. I like to joke that my boss is the brains and I am the muscle. She plans all of our fieldwork and I am the sidekick who assists her in the execution of all of our projects.

I am definitely a regular at the National Forest campgrounds in the Wabeno area. We do a ton of work in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest and surrounding areas, and I thoroughly enjoy all of my time working and camping there. Generally speaking, it is very similar to the western upper peninsula, which is obviously not surprising, but is very enjoyable with the beautiful rivers and lakes, forests and plentiful wildlife to observe.

On Monday nights I like to stick around at camp, kayak whichever lake I'm camped at and read a good book. Tuesdays I like to find a local dive to grab some dinner, a tradition

that was started with my crew last summer, and Wednesday nights are usually a fire-and-chill kind of evening before wrapping up the week the following day. I usually do not have cell phone service, therefore no electronic distractions and am able to have a pretty peaceful, quiet, early bedtime existence throughout the week.

It is not always enjoyable to crawl into a tent covered in sweat and fish slime at the end of the day, but I could never imagine myself in a world where I worked indoors all the time. I would choose this over an office every day, forever.

Last summer, I was specifically working on one project — the Great Lakes Road-Stream Crossing Inventory — so my weeks were very regimented and monotonous. This important work inventories and assesses the condition and quality of road-stream crossings (culverts, bridges, fords and dams) across the region to find potential or existing insufficiencies and new projects can be planned and put into action. I was able to use everything I learned last summer again this year, as it is an ongoing project. I can also share my knowledge with our two seasonal technicians as they completed surveys in our priority watersheds.

We complete these road-crossing surveys using ArcGIS mapping and survey templates usually on an iPad. It is a lot of driving around, stopping when a stream crosses a road and completing a series of measurements, questionnaires and photos.

We measure things like the depth and water velocity at the inlet and outlet of the crossing. We check to see if culverts are perched above the stream surface, or in line with it (at stream-grade). We go to a "reference reach," either upstream or downstream of the crossing where the stream no longer seems to be influenced by the crossing and take measurements to see how the stream exists naturally compared to the conditions at the crossing. It is typically an extremely messy process that includes a lot of mud and bushwacking.

This summer I've been able to assist on many different projects in addition to the road-stream Inventory and pick up tons of new skills along the way. This includes electrofishing. We are working on a brook trout monitoring project all across the Great Lakes region to assess the need for projects, and to have data to show the effectiveness of our



TECH'S LIFE INCLUDES PLENTY OF HARD WORK AND SMILES

Project Coordinator Danielle Nelson and Lead Seasonal Tech for Trout Unlimited Great Lakes Emma Balliet.

projects, post-construction.

Electrofishing is a fun, laborious method that shows the fish composition and health of a stretch of stream. Someone wears a backpack that sends out electrical impulses, which stuns fish and allows them to be netted. There are usually a few people following very close to the person with the backpack, netting the fish. Once captured, the fish are transferred to aerated vessels on a nearby bank and measured and weighed to get population data before releasing them back into the stretch of stream they came from. This technique also includes a ton of mud and bushwacking, two main parts of a technician's daily life.

There are many other projects I have had the privilege of assisting with this summer, with the instruction of an awesome fish biologist from the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, such as fyke netting and barge shocking. I have spent an incredible amount of time counting and measuring fish this summer, which is not something I knew would be a part of my life, but am so thankful it has been.

The best part of this summer has definitely been the relationships I have been able to form, and all of the wonderful people I have crossed paths and been able to work with. TU has so many strong partnerships, and I have really benefitted from getting to meet people from all levels and kinds of organizations including the U.S. Fish & Wildlife, DNR and U.S. Forest Service. It is encouraging and rewarding to be immersed in the conservation world with so many highly intelligent, edu-

cated and motivated people.

Now well into my second summer of field work, I have picked up many important lessons along the way: It is extremely important to have a good temperament and to try your best to always have a good attitude, no matter the situation. Not much of the work we do is what I would label as "easy" and a lot of people I know would never dream of crawling through a stream, but it is a regular part of life for us, and without a good temperament and attitude, a whole day or project can quickly go down the drain.

Patience and attention to detail are also very important. There are many times when something does not go as planned, and you have to just keep moving forward. Attention to detail comes in handy here because sometimes you can avoid needing the above-mentioned patience by following protocols and recording data precisely the first time. Finally, it sure helps to have a great sense of humor. Humor is about the only thing that can get you through the day when you've found three ticks on you, have overtopped your waders, and have six hours of wading and bushwacking to go. Oh yes, and water. Water is everything.

I am excited to finish this field season and see what is in store for me next. I would like to thank TU for giving me (and countless others) so many opportunities. I have learned immeasurable amounts and am eternally thankful to everyone who has taught and guided me along the way. Trout Unlimited is an amazing organization to be a part of.

Great Lakes Stream Restoration update

Science and monitoring are key to the efforts of our Great Lakes team.

By Danielle Nelson, TU Northern Wisconsin Project Coordinator

It's been an exciting and busy summer for our brook trout monitoring projects in northern Wisconsin. I'm writing this during a rare stretch of days in my home office. Most of my field season is spent bouncing between projects throughout northeast Wisconsin, with occasional trips farther afield. As field season winds down, I thought this would be a great opportunity to share some of the exciting things we've been up to in the field.

This summer we had another great group for our field crew. Lead Season Technician Emma and stu-

dent Seasonal Technicians Kyle and Carter spent the summer completing road-stream crossing inventories, working with partners on habitat restoration projects, and working with me on brook trout monitoring initiatives.

Road-stream crossing inventories may not be the most exciting work in the world, but it's really important data that Chris Collier and I, along with other partners across the state, use to prioritize crossing replacement projects. These inventories show us where critical brook trout habitat might be cut off because of poorly designed or dysfunctional culverts. From there we can begin to think about designing more

fish-friendly culverts to reconnect stream segments and give our brook trout more room to roam.

Speaking of culvert replacements, that's another area where we collect lots of data. Before and after culverts are replaced, we collect monitoring data so we can demonstrate results after we replace old or poorly designed structures with fish-friendly culverts. We currently use two methods to monitor these culvert replacement projects.

The first one, RFID monitoring, was started last season. This monitoring method is more expensive but provides a tremendous amount of brook trout movement data. First, we implant small radio transponders

into brook trout upstream and downstream of a crossing where we plan to install a new fish-friendly structure. Then, we construct an antenna that loops around the stream both upstream and downstream of the existing culvert. Once the antenna is turned on, it records a line of data every time a brook trout passes through or even gets near one of the antenna loops.

From some 200,000 lines of data collected from about 150 tagged brook trout at just one RFID site last season, we can tell that brook trout aren't moving through the existing culvert but hanging out near the upstream and downstream ends. This crossing is being replaced as I

type this, so I'm eager to get out in the field soon to rebuild our antennas and watch our brook trout happily swim right through. This amazing technology gives us a small glimpse into the lives of those 150 tagged brook trout and can show us with incredible accuracy how and when they move around in that small segment of the stream.

The other way we monitor these culvert replacement projects is new this year. Our colleagues in Michigan recently expanded a project to our side of Lake Michigan that collects fish abundance data over the course of 3-5 years, starting one year before a culvert is replaced. This type of data collection involves a day or two of intense field work to collect a lot of data and provides a snapshot in time of what the stream habitat looked like and what fish were there before and after a culvert replacement.

During these monitoring days, we take all the extra hands we can find and make three electrofishing passes upstream and downstream of the culvert. Nets are placed at both ends so fish don't swim out of our reaches because the goal is to get an idea of everything that's currently in a section of stream. Once we've removed all the fish from the stream and placed them in aerated coolers, we measure and weigh the brook trout and identify and count everything else we found. Using this method, we've had some days where we're identifying and counting more than 100 fish.

I've found it really interesting to see the differences between our sites shine through in the makeup of the fish community. Some of our colder, faster-moving streams are home to almost exclusively brook trout and mottled sculpin. A recent trip to the warmer, slower North Branch of the Oconto River netted a list of 11 unique fish species in-

cluding everything from panfish to brook trout. Just about every day of electroshocking brings some sort of surprise.

In addition to all the fish monitoring this year, we've also added a temperature monitoring project to our list. For this project, we deployed about 25 small temperature loggers in the Upper Wolf River and several of its tributaries. This meant a couple weeks of dragging cement blocks and supplies around, but I certainly won't complain about kayaking for work, even if my kayak was full of cement blocks.

The goal of this project is to collect water-temperature data continuously for at least two full years so we can compare water temperatures to temperatures from our air temperature loggers also deployed throughout that area. By comparing air temperature and water temperature, we can generally infer how much groundwater influence is present in these tributaries and the main stem of the Wolf River.

This data is an important first step in prioritizing trout waters based on their climate resiliency. If smaller tributaries to the Wolf River are substantially groundwater influenced, they can provide important refuge habitat during our increasingly hot summers, benefiting all coldwater-loving species in the warming main stem of the iconic Wolf River.

All of these exciting field projects means tons of data, and I'm excited for what we'll find during the winter data-crunching season. No matter what we find, it will tell the story of what is happening in our northeast Wisconsin trout streams and provide us with the insights we need to make responsible conservation decisions. I'm looking forward to football and flannel season, but our busy summer field season isn't over just yet.



Danielle Nelson

THE DOWNSTREAM RFID ANTENNA AT MCDONALD CREEK

The antenna runs along a rope above the stream and is housed in garden hose at the bottom of the stream to protect the wiring from damage. This portion of the antenna is then wired to a receiver that stores the data.



Danielle Nelson

GREAT LAKES TEAM ELECTROSHOCKING BARNEY SPRING

TU Lead Seasonal Technician Emma (left), strategizes electroshocking on Barney Spring with seasonal technicians Kyle and Carter and Great Lakes Stream Restoration Manager Chris Collier.

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited
Flash Sale: Now through Oct.23

<https://witrounlimitedfall22webstore.itemorder.com>

In honor of the work TU is doing in Wisconsin, we're making WI TU embroidered apparel available for a limited time.
For every item sold, \$5 will be donated back to Wisconsin Trout Unlimited!
Online orders only.
Sale ends October 23, 2022.
Orders ship approx. 4 weeks after (expect late November delivery)

<https://witrounlimitedfall22webstore.itemorder.com>

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited:
working to ensure future generations
access to cold, clean, fishable water.

Erik Helm's
Classical Angler
Fly fishing service

Guided Trips
Trout Master Classes
Schools

Serving the Driftless area
of Southwest Wisconsin

Classicalangler.com : 414-331-9102
Come explore the spring creeks and fly angling at its best with Classical Angler

Great Lakes, Priority Waters updates

TU adds capacity in the Great Lakes. Meanwhile, TU's Priority Waters efforts continue.

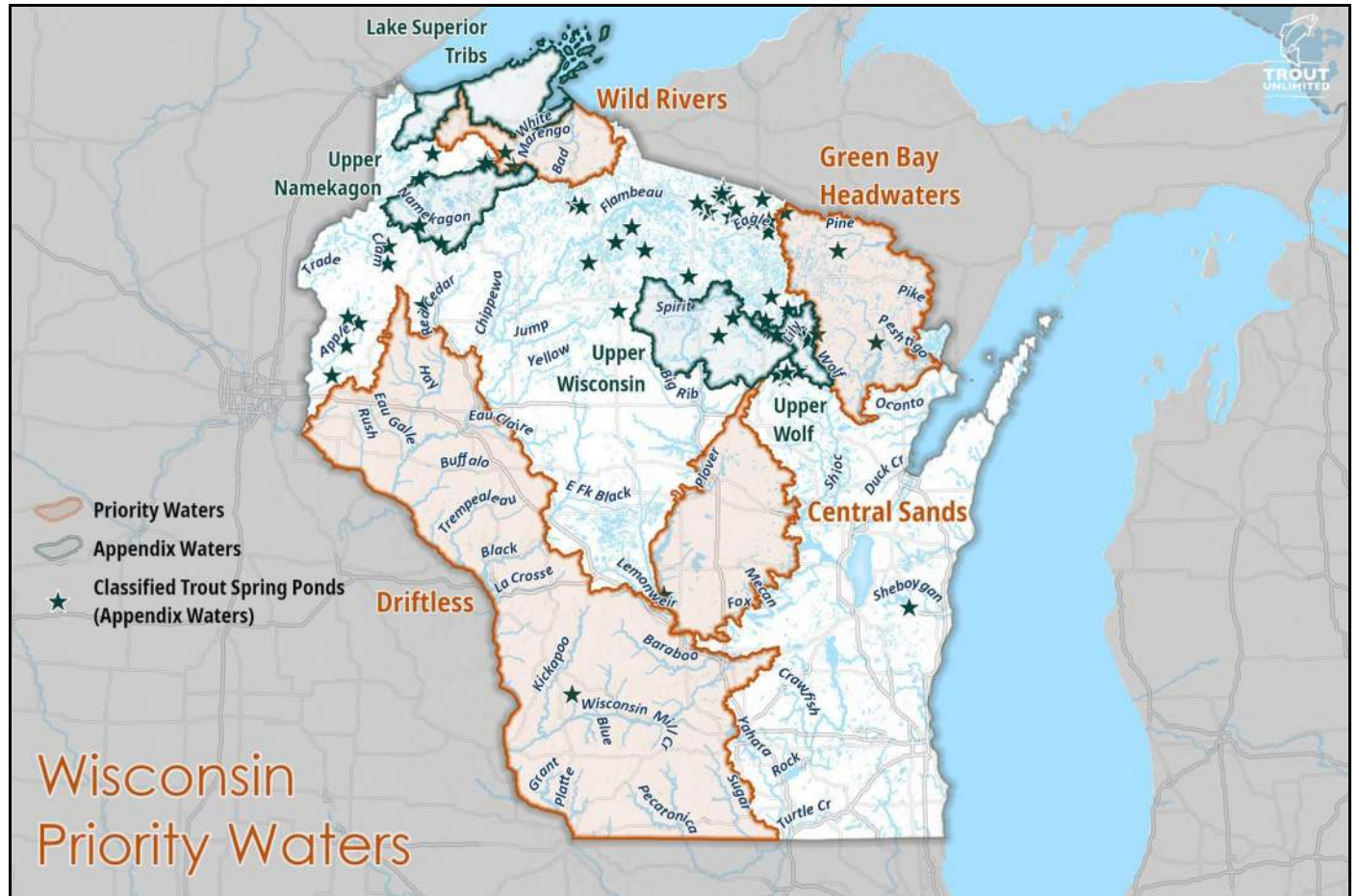
By Chris Collier, TU Great Lakes Stream Restoration Manager

While Danielle takes the reigns of the regular Great Lakes Restoration Update (and she has some exciting project updates to share), I wanted to take some time to introduce a new face on the Great Lakes team and give a quick Priority Waters update.

First, I want to introduce Scott Allen (no, not the council chair), our new Stream Restoration Specialist. Scott joined the TU team in July and is helping to build our capacity designing and implementing aquatic organism passage and habitat restoration projects. He is a professional engineer and certified floodplain manager with expertise in water resources engineering, design and construction. Originally from the Madison area, Scott is a lifelong fisherman with a deep-rooted passion for protecting and restoring natural resources, and he's excited to leverage his professional expertise on behalf of Wisconsin's cold-water fisheries.

Scott is the second restoration specialist on the Great Lakes team, joining Chad Kotke who is based in Michigan. Scott and Chad will be working across Wisconsin, Michigan's Upper Peninsula and lower Michigan to help direct our growing project lists. I am especially excited to have Scott based in Wisconsin to bring his expertise into the field. This is exciting growth for our team as we attempt to take on watershed-scale projects and start acting upon our Priority Waters plans.

Speaking of Priority Waters, I wanted to give you all another update on that process. Not much has happened since the summer update due to busy schedules with field season, vacation, fishing and other efforts to take advantage of summer weather. As we transition into fall, our team of TU staff and chapter representatives will come together to craft strategic action plans for each Priority Water and Waters of Special Opportunity (formally known as the Appendix Waters). These plans will include (1) problems faced by those waters, (2) opportunities to restore and protect coldwater habitat (including five year goals, conservation strategies, and top priority projects) and (3) lists of partners, communities and funding programs that could help move our efforts forward.



PRIORITY WATERS AND WATERS OF SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY IN WISCONSIN

opportunities to restore and protect coldwater habitat (including five year goals, conservation strategies, and top priority projects) and (3) lists of partners, communities and funding programs that could help move our efforts forward.

The Priority Waters we selected include the Driftless Region, Central Sands, Green Bay Headwaters (Brule-Menominee-Oconto-Peshigo) and Wild Rivers (Bois Brule and Bad-White-Marengo). The Waters of Special Opportunity include the upper Namekagon, upper Wolf, upper Wisconsin River Tributaries, spring ponds and Lake Superior Tributaries. These waters were selected using a variety of scientific and social parameters including wild trout populations, miles of trout streams, habitat quality and connectivity, expected climate resiliency, conservation and restoration opportunities, shovel-ready projects and

potential partnerships.

Between strategizing how Trout Unlimited can foster even more collaboration and conservation victories across the state and adding capacity to the Great Lakes team, I am extremely excited to see how the efforts of TU in Wisconsin continue to evolve. I look forward to working with you to foster this growth and ensure that future generations will be able to experience the coldwater streams we enjoy.

As we leave summer, I would like to offer to speak at upcoming chapter meetings about our work in the Great Lakes Basin and/or the Priority Waters effort you've seen and heard updates on. Feel free to email me at chris.collier@tu.org and we can get something on the calendar.

I hope you all have the chance for a few more days on the water as another trout season draws to a close.



NEW MEMBER OF TU GREAT LAKES TEAM

TU's new Great Lakes Stream Restoration Specialist, Scott Allen, with an Alaskan Rainbow.



HAVE YOU ADORNED YOUR CAR WITH TU PLATES YET?



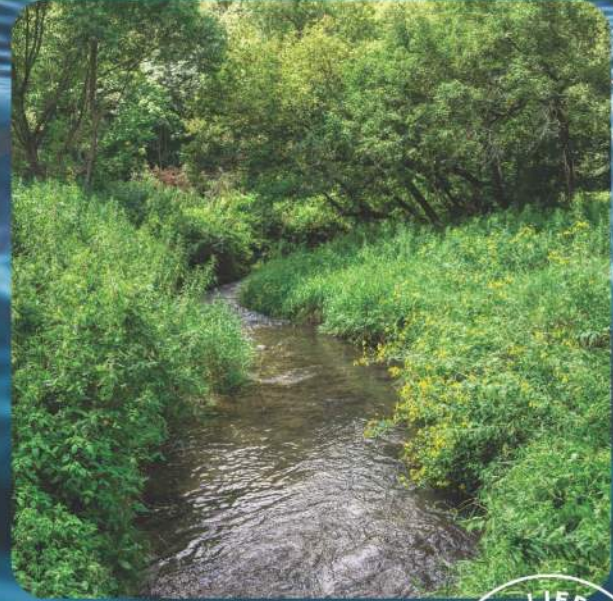
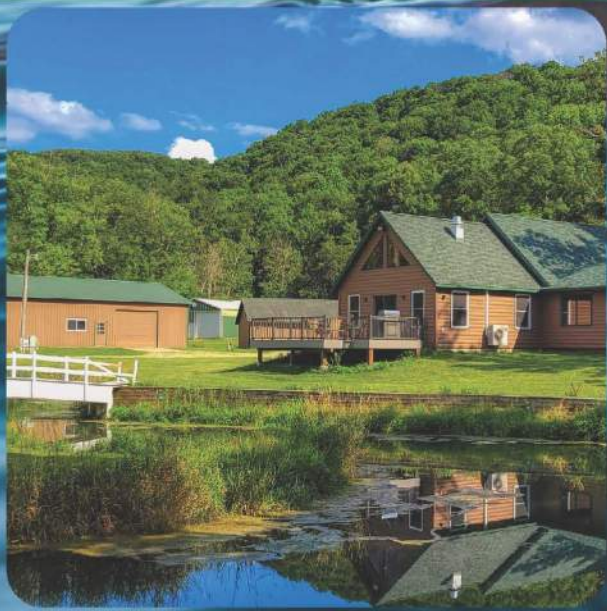
For over 25 years we have partnered with conservation groups to protect and enhance quality lake and river fishing. Through our fundraising efforts, we donate to children's fishing programs, conservation groups like The River Alliance, and fund boat ramp improvements.

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



Your Lifestyle. Our Mission.

**Rare 87 Acre Private Retreat with a Trout Stream
in LaCrosse County, WI
W709 Muenzenburger Rd, Cashton WI 54623
on Coon Creek Class 1 Trout Stream!**



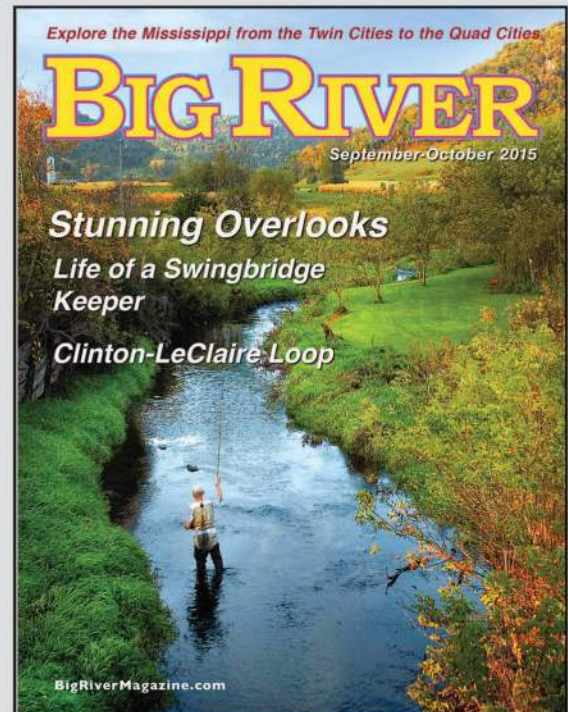
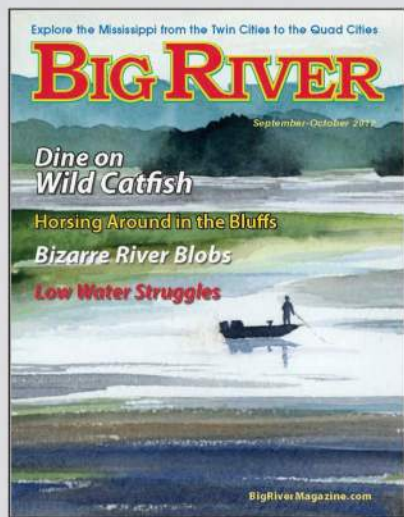
Call Us!

608-742-5000

Midwestlifestyleproperties.com



BIG RIVER Magazine



Subscribe Today!
www.BigRivermagazine.com
or 800-303-8201

**And bring the Mississippi River
to your door all year.**