



Wisconsin Trout

Spring 2023

Inland Trout Stamp needs a raise

It's time for us to make the investment in our trout-fishing future.

By Mike Kuhr,
Council Advocacy Chair

It's time for a change. The weather's changing, a new batch of young-of-the-year trout are acclimating to their surroundings, and we're coming out of our winter doldrums.

About the only thing that hasn't changed in quite a while is the cost of our Inland Trout Stamp. In fact, it's been stuck at \$10 since 2006. As trout anglers in Wisconsin, we pool our resources and fund critical stream improvement projects and trout management with this annual purchase of the Inland Trout Stamp.

Project materials and equipment are getting more expensive, and if we're going to rise up and give our trout a fighting chance to flourish in the future, we're going to have to start making more of an investment now.

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited worked to educate the Governor and his administration about this issue and we're thrilled to see a modest \$5 increase in the Inland Trout Stamp included in his proposed budget that was released in February.

We're also very much aware of the current state of politics and realize that Republicans in the Legislature are very likely to set that budget aside and write their own version, much like they did two years ago.

What does this mean for the trout stamp? It means that as of right now, we're still stuck in 2006. Now it's time for us as anglers to let



lawmakers know that we're ready and willing to support a modest increase in the Inland Trout Stamp.

As the budget session progresses over the next few months, we'll be reaching out to you at various points and asking you to let your voice be heard. Our State Senators and Assembly Representatives need to hear from us over and over again that they need to include an Inland Trout Stamp increase in the budget.

We've been working with TU's Great Lakes Engagement Coordinator, Jamie Vaughan, to set up user friendly Action Alerts. Please

take a few minutes to engage on this issue. It's not going to happen unless we all speak up. You will be able to find the latest Action Alert as a blog post on our website at <https://wicouncil.tu.org>.

In a typical year, the DNR estimates 25 miles of stream improvements and one spring pond is improved annually with the funds raised through the Trout Stamp. If we all chip in an extra \$5 per year, we could fund 35-40 miles of improvements per year.

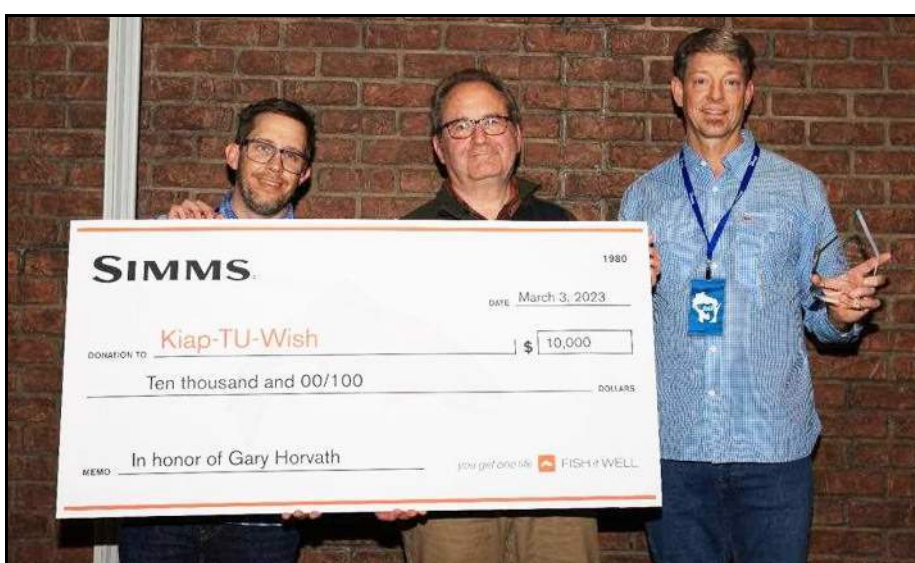
Let's get this done. A \$15 Inland Trout Stamp would still be one of

the best values around. For less than the cost of a Friday night fish fry, an angler gets access to more than 13,000 miles of designated Wisconsin trout waters, and has the ability to harvest trout six months out of the year.

Better yet, that additional investment and the improvements that are funded will become the down payment on our legacy that will see trout populations thriving for future generations to enjoy.

Kinni dam update

Corps, River Falls agree to feasibility study for Kinni Dams removal; Fly Fish Journal names Gary Horvath Conservationist of the Year.



GARY HORVATH NAMED CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR BY FFJ
Simms Marketing Director John Frazier (left), Gary Horvath (smiling at center) and Fly Fisherman magazine Editor Ross Purnell (right) at the March R4F Festival, presenting the 2023 Conservationist of the Year Award and a check toward Kinni dam removal.

By Duke Welter

The Kinni River dams removal effort moved forward Feb. 28 as the city, which owns the Junction Falls and Powell Falls dams, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers signed a contract for a study of the feasibility of removing both dams and ecologically restoring the 1.5-mile reach the dams have inundated.

That's a major step forward. Once it determines the feasibility of its involvement in the project, the Corps would bring \$10 million to the effort. Early estimates of costs to remove both dams run in the \$13-15-million range.

Major national recognition also came to a long-time advocate for dam removal. Kiap-TU-Wish leader Gary Horvath of River Falls was named "Conservationist of the Year" by Fly Fisherman magazine.

Editor Ross Purnell presented

the award to Horvath in March at the River Falls Fly Fishing Film Festival (R4F). The award was accompanied by a check for \$10,000 donated by Simms Fishing Products and presented by Simms Marketing Manager John Frazier.

"I never expected this," Horvath said, "but I am honored and appreciate the support for the Kinni."

For more than 30 years, Horvath has worked toward the eventual removal of the dams. Meanwhile, he has served as Kiap-TU-Wish president (twice), vice-president and board member. His TU license plate reads "NO DAMS."

While presenting the award to Gary Horvath, Simms' John Frazier said, "We have partnered with Fly Fisherman on the Conservationist of the Year award for many years. It always feels great to celebrate the achievements of individuals such as Gary Horvath, but it's also funda-

Jim Andersen

mentally essential to amplify their successes in a way that illustrates the fact that positive steps forward in the conservation landscape can happen, and they are happening. It's our hope that highlighting these individuals and more importantly, their achievements will serve as an inspiration to others to engage, get involved, and take action." The audience of over 500 enthusiasts gave a standing ovation to Horvath.

One more important step, made possible in large part by TU's support, took place with the signing of the City-Corps feasibility study contract: payment to the city of \$50,000 toward its share of the study costs by Kinni Corridor Collaborative (KinniCC), the nonprofit formed at the city's request to help raise funds and education the public about the project. TU members have worked on the KinniCC fundraising team, especially from the Kiap-TU-Wish and Twin Cities chapters.

To encourage the city to enter into the study, KinniCC pledged to raise half, or \$175,000, of the city's \$350,000 share of the study costs. The Corps will cover the remaining \$450,000 for study costs.

A second payment of \$50,000 is expected to be made shortly by Kin-

niCC, which are funds raised mostly by the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter. The remaining \$75,000 of the pledge, nearly \$40,000, has also been raised. The remainder, we hope, will be raised by mid-year.

TU members who want to support the effort can go to the Twin Cities Chapter website and bid on three items: Bamboo rods built by Dave Norling and Paul Douglas and a print by renowned artist Bob White.

The Corps study team consists of experts in fields like hydrology, sediment management, dam removal engineering, endangered species and others. Normally a study team takes about three years to complete this type of study. However, in this project, most of the usual study topics have been covered in the course of relicensing or delicensing the two dams over the past three years. The Corps paid for some of those studies and its experts have been reviewing the findings.

Some informal estimates suggest that the rest of the study could be done in 12-18 months. The study will consider several alternatives for action, or no action at all, including removing one or both dams. Corps personnel have suggested that removing only one of the two dams

would not be of sufficient ecological benefit to the river to warrant Corps involvement. A final suggestion, though not yet a formal recommendation, would set a timeline of about seven years to complete the project.

While the lower (Powell Falls) dam had been slated for removal this winter, it would be a benefit to the river to remove the upper dam first and use the lower dam as a sediment trap. The upper impoundment, about 15 acres and about 20 feet deep, is almost 90 percent filled with sediment, and with removal, the river would cut through that sediment to make a new channel. That slug of sediment would take time to work downriver to the St. Croix River seven miles downstream. If much can be captured, it will have less impact on the lower Kinni. The Corps favors removing the upper dam first.

When the City Council voted in 2018 to remove both dams, it adopted a timeline of removal of the Powell Falls dam by 2026 and Junction Falls dam by 2046 or sooner, if the money could be found. Dam removal supporters, including the State Council and its chapters, helped advocate for an increase in state support, which has led to a \$1-million DNR grant and the prospect of a second. The city, whose utilities

have dammed the river since the early 1900s, is expected to support removal with utility funding and its capital projects budget. Still, there may be some funds left to raise when the project is under way.

For now, KinniCC and its team of volunteer fundraisers will work to raise the remaining \$35,000 toward the feasibility study. Hopefully, support for a free-flowing Kinnickinnic River will continue from TU members and chapters, outdoor businesses, foundations and individuals.



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Wisconsin Trout Unlimited

would like to thank the following

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Brandon Scholz
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Together, along with our donors and attendees, we raised over
\$25,000 for cold water conservation in Wisconsin.

THANK YOU.

Chair's Column

The worth of water: priceless

By Scott Allen, Council Chair

Two amorous teenage brook trout were swimming downstream in search of adventure when they crossed current with an old brown trout. The sage elder asks "where are you kids headed? There's some dangerous water downstream, you know." To that, the young trout responded in unison "what's water?"

Somewhere in Sawyer County, Wisconsin within a recycling bin, is a number bib for the Birkebeiner ski race with my name on it. In my corner of the state the snow dried up many weeks before the event, and with it my anticipation of the coming day. With similarity to my two naive young trout, water was something I felt I could take for granted when registering for a ski race in June. Whether enduring drought or inundation, bare ground or blizzard, pristine or polluted, we are too often reminded of the centrality of water and our unwillingness (as a society) to confront it. It is now March and I'm skiing, and fishing, again. When the well runs dry you know the worth of water.

The worth of water. What price do we place on clean

cold water in Wisconsin? That's anyone's estimate, but for certain money plays a pivotal role in maintaining and protecting our coldwater heritage.

I was invited by Governor Evers to submit inclusions to his executive budget. I requested a \$5 increase to the trout stamp fee which was accepted and is now included in Governor Evers' 2023-2025 budget. This 50-percent increase will insure long overdue funding of trout habitat, DNR hatcheries and stocking programs. This single line in a budget is not something we can take for granted, as we need to contact our legislators to request their support of the fee increase. That one line in a budget is our water.

After a two-year pandemic pause, the Wisconsin Council Awards and Fundraising Banquet returned with vigor. Attendance was near capacity and thanks entirely to the enthusiasm of the attendees we set a fundraising record of \$26,000. And of greatest importance was the recognition of Gary Stoychoff for his 50 years of service to the Council and Green Bay Chapter. Please take a little time to read about this year's award winners in this issue. They are priceless. They are the worth of water.



DISCUSSING A TROUT STAMP FEE INCREASE WITH LEGISLATORS

In late March TU members met with the staff of Sen. Howard Marklein (SD 17) and Rep. Mark Born (AD 39) to discuss the importance of an increase in the trout stamp fee. Pictured from left to right are Brandon Scholz of the Capitol Group, Mike Mooney of the Nohr Chapter, Sen. Marklein, Council Chair Scott Allen, and Council Advocacy Chair Mike Kuhr.

We are working to increase the trout stamp fee from \$10 to \$15, which will greatly increase funds for coldwater conservation. Please contact your Assembly and Senate representatives and ask them to support the increase.

Council meeting June 3

Join us at the famed West Fork Sports Club for a Council meeting on Saturday, June 3 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

As always, the Council will provide lunch, so please let Council Chair Scott Allen know if you plan to attend, so we can plan accordingly. Also, if you have any items you'd like to include on the agenda, please let Scott know. You can reach him at jscottallen12@gmail.com

The weekend isn't all business, of course. Many attendees will be camping and fishing in the countless amazing trout streams in this area. Join us!

The West Fork Sports Club address is S3469 County Highway S, Viroqua, Wisconsin. It is located near the tiny hamlet of Avalanche.

2023 Youth Camp filling fast

We are excited to have such an interest in the camp so early. To date we have 12 spots spoken for, with five of these spots reserved for young ladies. Thank you to the chapters that have helped fill these spots. That leaves us with eight openings before we reach our limit of 20. Chapter leaders, if you have someone in mind or are actively searching for a youth and haven't contacted me, please reach out so I can reserve a spot for you. You will have until April 15, and then we will open it up for chapters that have a youth registered to send additional youth. Those of you who have contacted me, and I have responded back to, are included in the 12 spots taken.

This year's camp is Thursday, August 17 through Sunday, August 20 at Pine Lake Bible Camp in Waupaca. We have printed brochures available, and a PDF that I can email to interested parents.

This year will be no different than any other camp, with one exception. We are always looking for volunteers to help with mentoring and taking the youth fishing on Sunday morning. The exception is we are in need of a few more women volunteers, especially with the influx of young ladies joining us. The mentoring part is very easy. You just need to help the youth as we go through our presentations and hands-on clinics. Expertise isn't crucial. You'll learn as you go. We have already selected the fishing spots for the always-anticipated Sunday excursion. This is a great opportunity for you to get to know our Central Sands streams and how they fish. You are welcome to come for a day or the weekend, or just help with a youth on Sunday morning. If you are interested in joining our great team, call me at 920-216-7408 or email me at chlbeck@att.net.

Thank you, Linn Beck.



SCENES FROM THE 2022 STATE COUNCIL YOUTH FISHING CAMP



Wild Rivers Chapter of Trout Unlimited
Conserving and protecting the waters in Northwest Wisconsin

WRTU EXPO 2023
APRIL 8, 2023

Wild Rivers TU Educational Conservation Expo and Fundraiser at Northland College's Ponzio Campus Center in Ashland, Wisconsin
Saturday April 8th, 2023
From 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm
Free to The Public

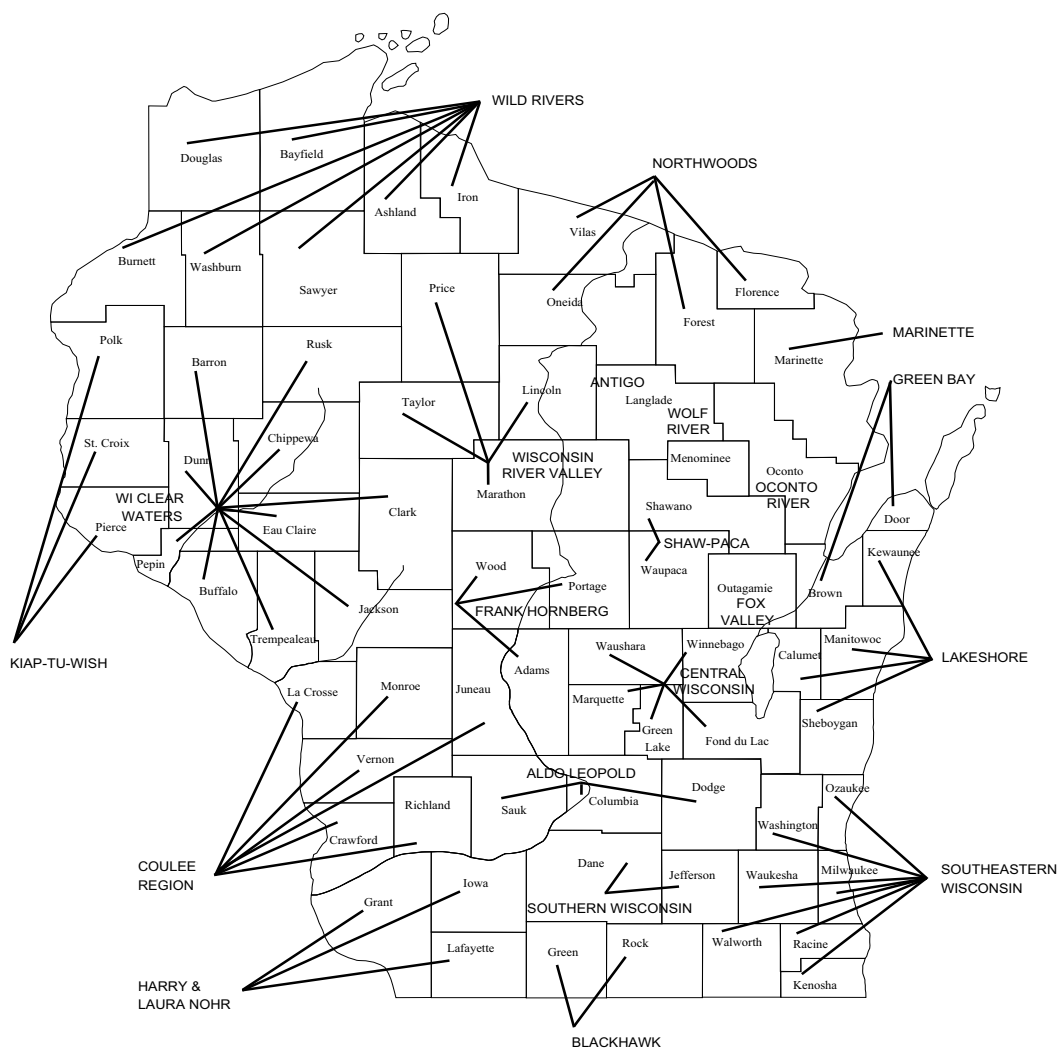
Come Talk to The Experts

The Expo will feature numerous displays hosted by local Federal, Tribal, State, & County natural resource agencies. Plus, Northwest Wisconsin conservation non-profit groups

Tenkara Demo + Lure & Fly Tying
Many fishing items will be auctioned off
Raffling a donated Mohawk Solo 13 Canoe

Your support helps fund our cold-water watershed projects for 2023
See us on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/wildrivers.tu/>
For questions email us at: tu.wildrivers@gmail.com

Wisconsin TU Chapters, Presidents, and Websites



- Aldo Leopold (#375):** Dan Endres; 608-963-1374; dtendres9@gmail.com; aldoleopold.tu.org
- Antigo (#313):** Scott Henricks, 213 Mary St., Antigo, WI 54409-2536 715-623-3867; henricks51@yahoo.com
- Blackhawk (#390):** Dave Brethauer; 17348 W. Gepler Road, Brodhead, WI 53520; 608-897-4166; dave.brethauer@gmail.com; www.BlackhawkTU.org
- Central Wisconsin (#117):** Linn Beck, 160 W. 19th Ave. Oshkosh, WI, 54902; 920-216-7408; chlbeck@att.net; centralwisconsintu.org
- Coulee Region (#278):** Fred Spademan; fred@spademan.com; 429 2nd St. North, LaCrosse, 54601; 248-408-3873; CouleeRegion-TU.org
- Fox Valley (#193):** Tony Pudlo; mr.tony54381@gmail.com; (920) 427-3426; www.foxvalleytu.org
- Frank Hornberg (#624):** Doug Erdmann, 1523 Rosewood Ave., Wisconsin Rapids, 54494; 715-712-3134; Derdmann55@charter.net; www.Facebook.com/HornbergTU
- Green Bay (#083):** Adrian Meseberg, 315 S Michigan St. De Pere, WI 54115; 920-562-6129; christinaandadrian@hotmail.com; greenbaytu.org
- Harry & Laura Nohr (#257):** Carol Murphy; clmurph17@gmail.com; nohrtu.com
- Kiap-TU-Wish (#168):** Greg Olson; Driftless23@gmail.com; 612-300-8970; P.O. Box 483, Hudson, WI 54016-0483; kiaptuwish.org
- Lakeshore (#423):** Al Wortz; alwortz@gmail.com; www.WisconsinTU.org/Lakeshore
- Marinette (#422):** Dale Lange, N2095 CTH BB, Marinette, WI; 715-582-1135; dhlange@centurytel.net, marinettecounty.tu.org.
- Northwoods (#256):** northwoods.tu.org
- Oconto River (#385):** Wayne Czypinski; 920-590-2748; wczypinski@yahoo.com; ocontorivertu.com
- Shaw-Paca (#381):** Kyle Kossel, E2392 Cardinal Court, Waupaca, WI 54981; 920-379-5741; kylekossel@yahoo.com; shawpaca.tu.org
- Southeastern Wisconsin (#078):** Andy Avgoulas; andyavgoulas@yahoo.com; 262-893-4965; sewtu.tu.org; www.facebook.com/southeastwisconsintroutunlimited; SoutheasternWITU on Instagram
- Southern Wisconsin (#061):** Jim Hess; jim.hess@tds.net; P.O. Box 45555, Madison, WI 53744-5555; www.swtu.org
- Wild Rivers (#415):** Kevin Seefeldt; Ashland, WI; 715-292-1614; kseef09@gmail.com; www.wisconsintu.org/wildrivers
- Wisconsin Clear Waters (#255):** Bill Heth; wlccaddis@gmail.com; wcwtu.org
- Wisconsin River Valley (#395):** John Meachen; troutrev@gmail.com; wrvtu.org
- Wolf River (#050):** Chuck Valliere, 5040 Hardy Trail, Waunakee, WI 53597; 608-836-1908 or 608-332-9652; woodtickchuck1950@gmail.com; WolfriverTU.org

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

State Council Leadership

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

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

Secretary: Boyd Roessler, boydroessler@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer: Scott Wagner, 1208 Highway 35 North, Hudson, WI 54016; jswagner@bremer.com; 715-781-6874

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

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

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

Vice Chair, Western Region: Gary Horvath, 623 W. Pine Street, River Falls, WI 54806 (715)425-8489; garyjhorvath42@comcast.net

Awards: Todd Franklin; Contact info at right

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

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

Advocacy Coordinator: Mike Kuhr

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

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

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

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

Webmaster: Brandon Schmalz schmalz.dev@gmail.com

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

Legal Counsel: Open
Communications: Open

Are you getting emails from TU?

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

WISCONSIN TROUT

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

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State Council Officers

Executive Committee includes officers and vice chairs

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Boyd Roessler, Secretary

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Volunteer to help protect your favorite stream

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

When it comes to conservation leadership, it's hard to imagine more committed and enthusiastic partners than Trout Unlimited chapters. Members like you take their passion for recreational fishing and steer it into action to protect and restore our coldwater resources.

If you're itching to get outside after a long, cold winter cooped up, there are lots of ways to get out on the water and protect your favorite stream at the same time. Here are a few to consider:

Take the River: 30 Challenge

River Alliance turns 30 this year, and to celebrate, we're encouraging folks to take the River: 30 Challenge. Whether you fish 30 streams, fish 30 times, or wade 30 miles, let us know how you plan to enjoy Wisconsin's flowing water this year. Visit <https://wisconsinrivers.org/river30/> to learn more.

Look for invasive species while you fish

There are undoubtedly aquatic invasive species (AIS) out on the landscape that we don't currently know about, and reporting them is a first step in containing their spread.

Maintaining and restoring our waters and landscapes can reduce the impacts even when other management options aren't yet available. Please reach out if you find a species you think might be invasive.

Collect snails and bugs

River Alliance is once again partnering with Conservation Dogs Collective to train canines to sniff out invasive New Zealand mudsnails as an early detection method to protect our trout waters. As part of the scent-training process, we'll be collecting snails and other stream specimens to teach the dogs what streams smell like. E-mail me to learn more.

Build a decontamination station

Now that lumber is affordable again, it's a great time to put your carpentry skills to work and help build boot-brush stations at popular stream access points. I can provide signs and brushes, and your chapter's donation of lumber and volunteer time could go a long way towards keeping snails and other AIS from invading your favorite fishing spot. Reach out to learn more.

Install and repair AIS signs

Last year, members of the Gary Borger and Lee Wulff Chapters began



YOU CAN INSTALL AND REPAIR AIS SIGNS ON YOUR STREAMS

Me and my trusty field assistant Loki Monster Mash replacing a damaged stream sign in Crawford County.

adding AIS signage to the stiles they've been building throughout the Driftless Area. They'll be continuing their efforts this summer, and there are ample opportunities to help. There are also many examples (see photo) of signs that need to be replaced or removed. Let me know if you're able to help.

Being a responsible angler means keeping our trout waters as

good as they can be not just now but for generations to come. Get in touch with me at evoss@wisconsinrivers.org to learn more about these hands-on AIS volunteer opportunities that can be done solo or with your chapter buddies this summer.

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

West Fork Sports Club plans project

Donations sought for project on club property.

Reservations available

Reservations for next year are open online at westforksportsclub.org. If you are planning an event that does not require reserving buildings, but includes more than 12 people camping, please email westforksportsclub@gmail.com before April 1.

Support sought for project

The West Fork Sports Club and TUDARE would like to invite members and chapters to help support restoration efforts on the West Fork of the Kickapoo River on the club property. TUDARE helped form and get approval for a three-year stream restoration plan to help protect habitat, reduce sediment, deepen the stream, decrease water temperatures and return a meander.

The project will install wing dams, three new-style LUNKER structures and rock boulders in stream. The project area has a DNR easement and access.

The contractor and most supplies are already lined up. The WFSC will match dollar for dollar up to \$8,000 for this project in donations. The total cost of the project keeps fluctuating because of the price of rock, but is estimated to be between \$15,000 and \$20,000 to do properly, including sloping severely degraded banks on the DNR property.

Thinking about access for elderly anglers

The WFSC is acutely aware that many older anglers struggle with access and mobility, and we have tried to incorporate this element into our projects. Stream restoration proj-

ects offer the opportunity make the banks more friendly and the club will try to mow fairly close to the water. We hope to make the park more senior friendly through these projects.

The West Fork Sports Club was one of the early partners of TUDARE and continues with educational opportunities and conservation efforts. Each April the club releases brook trout into the watershed, and this year we hosted the TU 5 Rivers rendezvous and facilitated 10 chapter events.

The club is perfect for large events

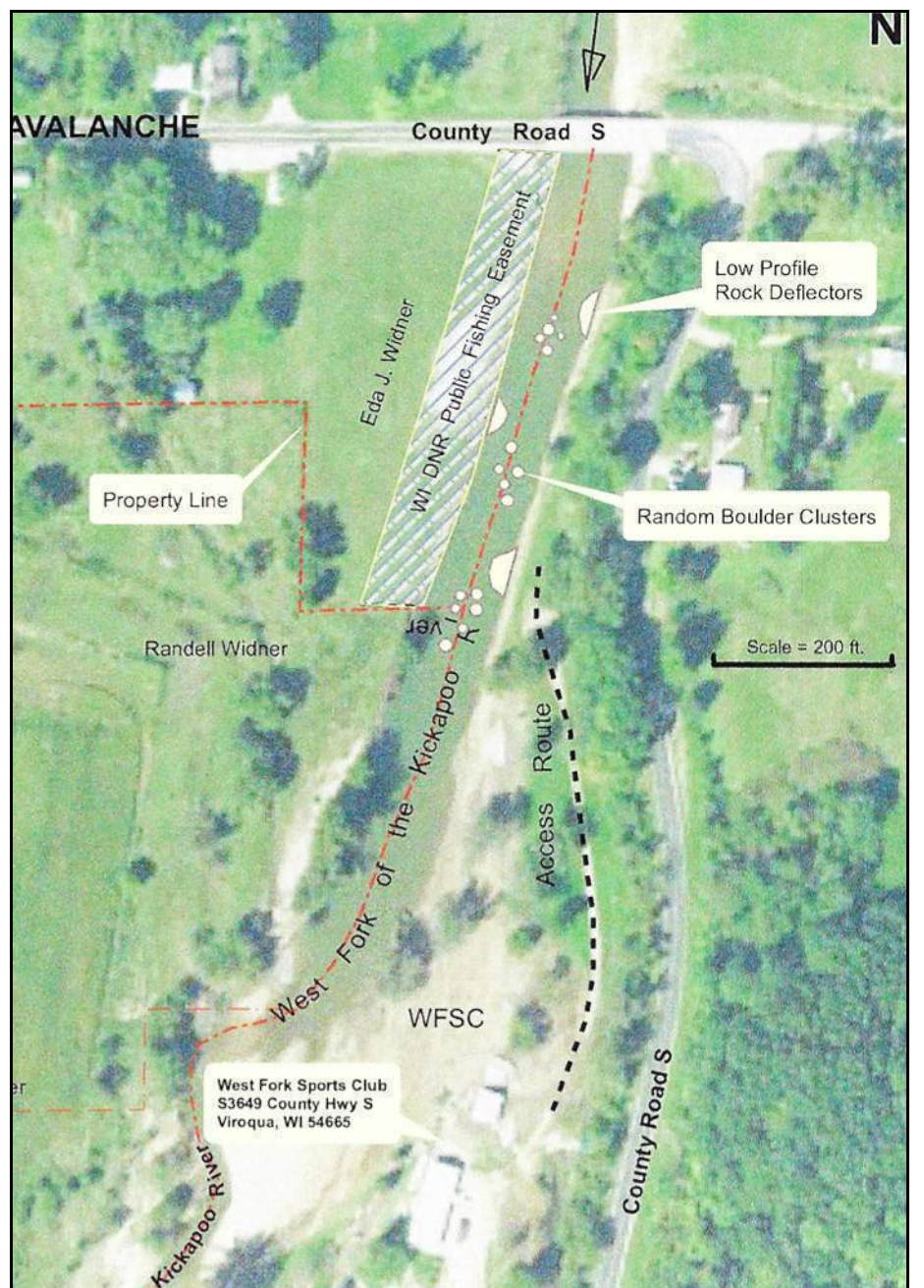
The WFSC is one of the few places large groups can gather and hold their events, such as the Bamboo Rod Makers, Heddon Fest, the TU summer state council meeting and so much more, such as women's clinics and youth environmental education events. Others groups utilizing the club include 4H, the scouts and other youth groups.

Stop in this year

If you haven't visited the club in a while, please consider stopping in in 2023. Donations for this project can be sent to TUDARE, Sara Strassman, Trout Unlimited Driftless Area Program Manager, 516 23rd St. N, La Crosse, WI 54601

Thank you in advance for helping the river be its best and protecting habitat.

Tina Murray, WFSC past president and current chair of the Stream Restoration Committee.



PLANS IN WORKS FOR STREAM PROJECT ON WEST FORK KICKAPOO

Honoring our TU champions

We introduce our 2023 State Council Awards recipients.

At our 2023 State Council Awards Banquet last February in Oshkosh, we honored the following TU champions and bestowed our Council awards.



RESOURCE AWARD OF MERIT: MIKE KUHR

Mike Kuhr emerged as a TU leader in the Southeast Wisconsin Chapter, serving as its vice president and then president. In that role he continued to lead the chapter's many efforts that earned it the Golden Trout Award from Trout Unlimited National. He also began to get more involved with the State Council. He and his wife Jen have been a major part of the Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Annual Banquet for more than a decade.

Mike and his family then moved to the Madison area, where he continued his work with the State Council. He took on the vice-chair and chair positions with Wisconsin TU, where he worked with chapters on a host of initiatives. He led us through COVID, a time of great uncertainty, and no banquets, better than anyone could have. He has also worked behind the scenes, meeting with chapters, leaders of other conservation organizations, politicians and others to further advocate for our coldwater resources. Mike has increasingly taken on roles at the regional and national levels of TU and currently serves as the Great Lakes region's Embrace-A-Stream representative.

He is receiving the Resource Award of Merit for the amazing volunteer efforts he has made on behalf of coldwater resources in the state. While he has served in leadership roles, so much of what Mike has done has been rather quietly behind the scenes. Mike is a regular visitor to the State Capitol in Madison, advocating on behalf of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited and our coldwater resources. He has worked to improve the advocacy programs of the state's chapters, which is probably one of the most important things Wisconsin TU does.

But there is nothing more valuable than the advocacy efforts that he's accomplished. Mike thrives in this role because he is able to listen to others before feeling the need to speak. He can converse with anyone, and is always able to look at every angle and see things from different perspectives, always with an eye on what is best for Wisconsin Trout Unlimited and the state's coldwater resources.

There is nobody more deserving of our Resource Award of Merit than Mike Kuhr.



SILVER TROUT CHAPTER OF THE YEAR AWARD: KIAP TU WISH CHAPTER

The Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter is celebrating 50 years of protecting, reconnecting and restoring coldwater fisheries, providing leadership in working with partners to continually improve the health of our coldwater streams and providing high-quality recreational fishing experiences for the greater community.

During those 50 years there have existed two dams on the Kinnickinnic River within the City of River Falls. The chapter continues to assist in the development of plans to one day remove those dams, such as providing important stream data for feasibility studies. Chapter board members serve on project teams, provide outreach and help plan for restoration projects and

recreational development. They're also helping with fundraising from local, state and federal stakeholders to ensure that the removal of the dams becomes a reality. The chapter has pledged \$47,800 toward the removal of the Powell Falls Dam and Junction Falls Dam feasibility study and subsequent stream habitat restoration.

The chapter has collaborated with the DNR and Pierce County to seek additional stream conservation easements and plan and prioritize stream restoration projects. The chapter modernized its award-winning RIPRAP newsletter and transitioned to an easily accessible online format and facilitated the implementation of hybrid chapter meetings, which kept attendance steady through the pandemic. Meanwhile they are upgrading their equipment to further improve their meetings for virtual attendees.

Last year they sponsored a logo contest to commemorate their 50 year anniversary and now have two dynamic new logos for hats, patches and stickers.

Chapter members attended city and town hall meetings and tracked the progress of three significant conservation concerns: the ongoing work to remove the Kinnickinnic River dams, a proposed biodigester plant and a race-track and residential development proposal adjacent to the South Fork of the Kinnickinnic River.

Several Board members are serving on stakeholder/partner boards to provide the chapter's perspectives and expertise on conservation and recreational planning and fundraising.

To get members back in the swing of in-person meetings, the chapter sponsored several social gatherings in addition to monthly meetings including a gear swap and holiday banquet, which returned after a two-year hiatus.

Kiap-TU-Wish presented its first STREAM Girls event in May, where Girl Scouts engaged in a full day of coldwater ecology and fly-fishing instruction.

The chapter board is a strong and diverse group with varied skills, nearly half of whom are women.

Chapter members and local volunteers work through fall and winter removing trees and brush from project sites as well as maintaining the health of completed stream projects with follow-up brushing and herbicide applications. Last year they cleared 5,700 feet of brush on eight streams. In spring and summer they seed and mulch project shorelines. They also plant native trees and shrubs and install bluebird houses. Several volunteers assisted the DNR with stream shocking surveys.

Chapter volunteers supported numerous youth-focused events at Greenwood, Amery and Rocky Branch Elementary, the Renaissance Charter Academy and the Pheasants Forever Youth Game Fair, as well as fly-casting instruction at the Minnesota State Fair and the City of River Falls Earth Day event. Kiap-TU-Wish has six schools participating with Trout In the Classroom (TIC), which includes the TIC component of "Bugs in the Classroom."

Other chapter volunteerism includes adult events such as Reel Recovery Day, Casting for Recovery and the Women's Fly-Fishing Clinics in Avalanche.

As one of our most active and progressive chapters, Kiap-TU-Wish is most deserving of our Silver Trout Chapter of the Year Award.



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE-LEADERSHIP: WAYNE PARMLEY

Wayne has been in leadership positions in the Central Wisconsin Chapter for several years, going from chapter secretary to vice president to president in March of 2021. He has overseen every aspect of the activities of CWTU, and there are many.

Along with Bob Haase and Linn Beck, Wayne was involved in all of the aspects of the WITU Youth Camp, and is still very involved.

Wayne is one of those leaders who is always calm and reserved. He quietly makes phone calls and sends emails to advance TU's goals. He knows how to gain respect and lead by example. He recruits members for various tasks and always seems to find the right person for the job. He is very talented in all aspects of communications with the media and advertising. He does all the posting and communication with the Facebook page, our website and our monthly newsletter.

He sets the agenda for our monthly meetings as well as runs the meetings in a professional manner at all times. Not only does he come up with ideas for after-meeting programs, but he also presents them. These include "The Wyoming Cutt-Slam," "Famous Michigan Flies" and "Labrador, Place, People and Possibilities." He has overseen our 50th anniversary annual banquet, Troutfest, Riverkeepers program, and assists as an instructor in all of our fly-tying classes. He also is an instructor and a guide at our annual two-day Fly

Fishing School in Amherst. He designs and orders all of our printing needs, as well as writes the monthly newsletter, quarterly report for *Wisconsin Trout* and communicates with National TU leaders as well.

Currently Wayne is working on implementing a Trout In the Classroom program in Fond du Lac. He writes all the ads for our events and sends them to local media. He also designs the brochures, banners and posters for various events and arranges for printing them, including the State Council's Awards Banquet Program. I don't know how he finds the time, but he does, and all while dealing with a son with special needs and another in college. During Wayne's term as president he also had to deal with the illness and eventual death of his father, whom he was very close to. Oh yeah, and there was Covid!

By the way, Wayne is still working full time as a Graphic Designer. Wayne loves to fish spring ponds and often goes on wilderness canoe/fishing trips with his son, Clay. One of the traits I admire in Wayne is that he never seeks the spotlight and never looks to take credit for anything. Wayne is truly a distinguished leader who is most deserving of this Distinguished Service – Leadership Award.



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE-YOUTH EDUCATION: MIKE STARY & DALLAS MOE

Mike and Dallas are an integral part of the Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Youth Camp. Both joined the mentor roster of the camp in our first year in 2014 and have been involved with the camp every year. Mike took his involvement a step farther in 2018 when he joined the Youth Camp Committee, with Dallas joining the committee in 2020. Dallas and Mike have had a lot of great ideas and really work hard to stay involved.

They both brought a different flavor to the camp as they are spin fishermen. They developed several great programs, one on the aspects of spin fishing, another on rods, reels and types of baits and the last one on spin casting. We didn't know how this was going to go over, as all the attendees that first year were fly fishermen and not very experienced in spin fishing. The apprehension was gone as soon as they started their fishing program. All the kids had questions and were completely involved in the presentation. Every year the kids in attendance thoroughly enjoy Dallas and Mike's presentations, and questions usually abound.

Dallas does one other thing at the camp which is probably one of the most important things we present: A water-safety program including what to do if you fall in the water and fill your waders.

Both of them are very deserving of this award, and Trout Unlimited is lucky to have them involved in our youth activities.



REEL PARTNER: FALL LINE OUTFITTERS/CRAIG COOK

After serving more than 20 years of active duty in the U.S. military, Craig and his wife decided to settle in central Wisconsin and commit to an adventure that would change their lives and the lives of those around them. Craig founded Fall Line Outfitters of Stevens Point. The store which they created provides apparel, gear, footwear and equipment for enjoying the outdoors, from fly fishing to camping. While the gear and services that they provide are top notch, so also is their commitment to serve the greater community.

Craig and his staff constantly try to be good stewards by supporting local organizations such as law enforcement, fire, veteran organizations and the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Fly Fishing Club with in-store discounts and donations. Craig continues the legacy of Stevens Point as being the Fly Tying Capital of the World by his generous time and monetary contributions to the Frank Hornberg, Wisconsin River Valley and other TU chapters. Quite often the first words out of Craig's mouth are, "What do you need?" and "How can I help?"

Craig Cook of fall Line Outfitters exemplifies what it means to be a business partner supporting the work of Trout Unlimited and is most deserving of the State Council's Reel Partner Award.



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE-SERVICE PARTNERSHIP: MATTHEW CADE

Matthew Cade has taken TU's Service Partnership program to heart. In service to our military veteran and first responder community, Matt has come to realize the importance of building partnerships. These partnerships were on display last August, when veterans from around the state were brought together in Hayward, WI to share a few days of fishing together.

Matt helped lead the planning process for the three-day event. He connected with partners, including American Heroes Outdoors, Dairyland Outdoors Veteran Retreat (D.O.V.R.), and Hayward Fly Fishing Company to make sure the veterans participating in the event were treated to outstanding accommodations.

As good as the time together on the water is, Matt knows the camaraderie shared around the campfire in the evenings is equally important. As one attendee stated, "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."

Matt Cade is the consummate veteran's advocate. He always goes above and beyond to gather veterans and civilians together to serve the community and other veterans. In organizing large retreats to help vets enjoy the outdoors or small fishing days just to get together and relax, he is always thinking of the next trip.

Matt is an avid writer, and he excels at telling the tales of our TU Veterans On The Fly and Service Partnership programs. Both by his deeds and his words, he is an asset to our Trout Unlimited family.

A 12-year Coast Guard veteran himself, he continues to help create events that allow our veteran and first responder communities to come together and enjoy outdoor pursuits. He's already working on plans for trips in the coming year to get more veterans the time on the water that they deserve.

With his knack for building partnerships, we know Wisconsin TU's Service Partnership programs are in good hands and Matthew Cade is most deserving of this award.



ROBERT HUNT RESOURCE PROFESSIONAL AWARD: MATTHEW MITRO

Matthew Mitro is a fisheries research scientist with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Based in Madison, he has been working with the DNR on statewide fisheries issues since 2003. His current research is focused on trout in Wisconsin's inland streams, on issues including stream habitat restoration, propagation and stocking, trout population response to environmental change, age and growth, trout-parasite dynamics and beaver effects on coldwater stream habitat and trout populations.

Matthew leads the DNR's coldwater fisheries research program, working in cooperation with Fisheries Management to prioritize and conduct research and make management recommendations on issues pertaining to Wisconsin's inland streams.

He has produced research and management recommendations on trout stocking and propagation, stream monitoring, stream habitat development and restoration, angling regulations, fish ageing, population modeling, fish diseases and parasites and aquatic invasive species.

He developed first-of-its-kind statewide baseline data on gill lice parasite prevalence in streams in cooperation with Fisheries Management and Fish Health and in collaboration with citizen monitors and organizations including TU and the River Alliance of Wisconsin.

He has provided technical and scientific support to the DNR Trout Team, Streams Baseline Monitoring Program, Fish Age Task Group, Beaver Management Task Force, Driftless Master Plan, VHS Response Team, New Zealand Mudsail Team and Manual Code revisions for boat and gear disinfection and decontamination.

He established a fish ageing lab at the DNR Science Operations Center and worked with DNR Fisheries Management and UW-Stevens Point to establish the Fisheries Analysis Center.

Matthew chaired the fisheries working group for the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts to produce Wisconsin's first assessment to identify adaptation strategies to protect coldwater fisheries resources.

He represented DNR Fisheries Management on the steering committee and science and assessment team for the Fishers & Farmers Partnership for the Upper Mississippi River Basin, working with partners in five states to foster collaboration between state agencies and agricultural communities on land and stream management issues.

He partnered with TU DARE to implement citizen monitoring of stream temperature and to evaluate stream habitat projects.

He provided technical assistance in developing and analyzing multiple surveys of angler effort, catch and harvest and angler preferences related to DNR fisheries management programs

He also provided educational outreach to angler groups and public schools.

Matt has also worked for the EPA's Atlantic Ecology Division, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, and he earned his Ph. D. in fisheries at Montana State University, studying rainbow trout recruitment in the Henry's Fork.

In the field of trout research, there is nobody more deserving of our Robert Hunt Resource Professional Award than Matthew Mitro.



Bob Haase

CONNECTING KIDS TO THE OUTDOORS IS SO IMPORTANT

Besides making a difference with our youth, volunteering at youth events is another great way to make new friends in the TU community. Events this year that could use your help include two Midwest Outdoor Heritage Education Expos. Here, Dave Brethauer of the Blackhawk Chapter is teaching the art of fly tying, and so much more.

WANTED: Fly tyers

Many of the fly tyers who have volunteered their time to help with youth fly-tying programs have gotten older and can no longer help. Many younger tyers have jobs that prevent them from helping during the week, when some of these programs take place. Others may not be aware of the need, or the programs that exist. And some folks aren't comfortable tying with kids, or participating in programs like this because of Covid-19 or other health issues.

But we could really use some younger members to help us carry on this wonderful TU mission.

I've met some of my best friends through TU, many at events such as youth fly-tying programs. These programs include the Milwaukee Sentinel Show and Midwest Outdoor Heritage Education Expo.

The kids we teach may one day become TU members. We can get them interested by helping them tie

a fly and talking to them about fishing, conservation and the great outdoors. We need to use every avenue we have to try to recruit new members by planting these seeds at this young age.

We are in serious need of volunteers to help at these youth fly-tying events. If you could help for one day, two days or whatever your schedule allows, please contact Bob Haase at 920-579-3858 or flytiter@milwpc.com.

Some of the shows in 2023 include:

- Midwest Outdoor Heritage Education Expo, May 10, Havenwoods State Park, Milwaukee
- Midwest Outdoor Heritage Education Expo, May 17 & 18, MacKenzie Center, Poynette

More information about these events will appear in the next issue of *Wisconsin Trout*.



LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD: GARY STOYCHOFF

There are many wonderful Trout Unlimited members who have done incredible things for trout while serving in various leadership positions. But, if someone were to sit down and compile a list of all of those members who have served in elected leadership positions for 50 consecutive years, they'd have a very short list. But Gary Stoychoff would be on it.

A few years after the Green Bay Chapter was formed in 1969, its original treasurer became ill, and the chapter asked Gary to help out. He vividly remembers answering that he would take the position for one month to help the chapter. Well, 50 have since passed, and he recently completed his career as a treasurer for Trout Unlimited.

During those early years in Green Bay, Gary was far more than a treasurer. The chapter struggled in the early years with a hat being passed to pay for newsletters, trout boils conducted around the state to make a few dollars, and eventually beginning an annual banquet that went from breaking even the first year to becoming one of the most successful banquets in the country.

There were also a number of conservation battles and habitat projects. Gary was an important part of just about everything in those early years. A now retired fish manager once commented that Gary was one of the only members who could get rocks placed by hand correctly on an instream structure. Work in northeastern Wisconsin was primarily done by hand in the early years and Gary was one of those members who loved throwing rocks, or standing slightly over wader height anchoring half logs to the stream bottom.

Gary got his start in Green Bay in 1973 and continued in that role until 2013. In 2008 he was asked if he would be interested in becoming the State Council treasurer, and he again agreed to serve, this time without the one-month stipulation. Gary has served as the Council treasurer during the terms of six Council chairs. As a past president for the Green Bay Chapter and a former State Council Chair, I was most appreciative for the good work and support from Gary.

Gary will tell you that one of his fondest memories from all those years dedicated to Trout Unlimited are all of the people that he worked with, fished with, played with and most importantly, accomplished a great deal of good work for trout.

Thanks, Gary! All of us who have had the pleasure to work with you have seen your good work many times. Few people have shown the dedication to Trout Unlimited that you have. This is only the third time the Council has bestowed The Lifetime Achievement Award, and you are a most deserving recipient.

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

William Shakespeare

Remember TU as Part of Your Legacy

Have you considered making Trout Unlimited part of your legacy? For loyal TU members, making a bequest to TU in your will or trust is a wonderful way to continue supporting clean water and healthy trout populations.

Help assure that TU is able to continue its good work now and into the future.

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

Thank you for considering Trout Unlimited in your estate planning.

Assessing stream health

UW-Madison engineering students are advancing technologies to assess stream health.

By Mike Miller

A team of UW-Madison engineering students have begun development of a digital insect light trap that will use low-cost cameras and micro-computers to assess insect populations cheaper, faster and better than current methods.

Dubbed the “Wisconsin Night Life,” this device will be used to assess the health of trout streams and other aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems by monitoring the insect life found in these different environments.

Aquatic insects and other invertebrates are key links in food webs and sensitive indicators of environmental health. Both angler observations and scientific studies indicate insect species diversity and populations are declining worldwide.

While there’s debate among scientists regarding the magnitude and rate of these declines and what factors may be most responsible, there is little dispute that the amount of monitoring data currently available is woefully inadequate to document insect populations and how they may vary geographically and over time.

The DNR collects about 400 aquatic invertebrate samples annually, which equates to about one sample for every 100 miles of streams in the state. These samples are processed at two state university labs, costing hundreds of dollars per sample and with a six-to-eight-month turnaround for the resulting data.

Aquatic insect data lacking

While some adult insect species such as emerald ash borers and gypsy moths are tracked by state and federal agencies, there are no systematic efforts to track adult aquatic insects in Wisconsin. Better monitoring data are fundamentally important to improve our understanding of insect diversity and population trends in both aquatic and terrestrial environments.

For more than 100 years lighted insect traps have been used to assess insect populations. Traps are often comprised of white bedsheets suspended by a rope and illuminated

with gas lanterns or electric lamps. During the night, entomologists either pluck the specimens of interest off the sheet, or the sheet is draped in a tub of alcohol to trap the insects drawn to the light. After the night’s trapping, entomologists then sieve the drowned insects out of the tub and begin the laborious task of sorting and identifying the specimens collected.

With global concerns of declining wildlife populations, new camera trap technologies are being developed to improve assessment of animal species worldwide. Like trail cams, camera traps collect imagery data, but with the addition of micro-computers and artificial intelligence technologies, the images gathered in the field to identify and count the animals of interest. Some of these devices transmit sampling data collected in remote field locations to researcher’s office computers via cellular links.

Wisconsin Night Life

At night the autonomous Wisconsin Night Life will power up, insects attracted to a stage lit by LEDs will be photographed and the imagery data will be captured on an on-board computer. A primary goal of the project is to ultimately use artificial intelligence (AI) to automatically identify and quantify the flying insects drawn to the trap. Insect population data collected by these field devices will then be transmitted to a computer server via a cellular link.

The major task in this effort will be the collection of the hundreds of photographs necessary to develop the computer algorithms used to identify and count the insects. Images of individual adult aquatic insects will be identified and labeled, and this information is then fed into a computer “Deep Learning” program to train a computer to identify and count specimens. The resulting algorithms will then be used to identify and count the insects captured in subsequent photographs.

The plan is to design a low-cost, open-source and relatively easy-to-build device to help develop a consortium of state and federal agen-



DESIGN TEAM WORKING ON “WISCONSIN NIGHT LIFE” DEVICE

The UW-Madison student engineering design team includes (left to right) Vinay Deshmukh, Dara Safe, Mason Morrow and Surya Anumolu. Project support will be provided by engineering professor Michael Cheadle, entomology professor James Crall, and stream ecologist Mike Miller of the DNR.

cies, and organizations like TU, to work on the project. Collaboration on crowdsourcing of the annotated images will help expedite the Deep Learning process.

Initially the insect taxonomic identifications will be relatively coarse. Distinguishing, for example: mayflies, caddisflies, midges, etc. Knowing the numbers and proportions of each of these insect groups, and how these populations differ over time and among locations can provide powerful information on the conditions of streams and other aquatic and terrestrial environments.

Imagery data collected at stream sites will be compared to what immature aquatic insects are found at these same locations using traditional aquatic kick net methods, to assess how representative the light trap samples are to what is found in

the streams.

The UW-Madison student engineering design team includes Vinay Deshmukh, Dara Safe, Mason Morrow and Surya Anumolu. Project support will be provided by engineering professor Michael Cheadle, entomology professor James Crall, and stream ecologist Mike Miller of the DNR. Once the prototypes are working well (bugs worked in), we hope there will be interest among TU chapters in Wisconsin and elsewhere to deploy some of these traps to assist in device testing and image collection.

Mike Miller is a stream ecologist working for the Department of Natural Resource’s Water Quality Bureau and teaches about aquatic resources at UW Madison. Despite living 100 miles away, he considers the Driftless Area his home waters.



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any member of that committee can veto such purchases anonymously, and without stating a reason. At least one member, State Sen. Mary Felzkowski, has, at least for now, vetoed the purchase. It should be noted that she announced that she did so. The Joint Finance Committee is required to have meetings on purchases after a member exercises veto power. That requirement has regularly been ignored. To my knowledge, no meetings have been set.

Some have raised concerns about limiting the potential for development of the land. In response to that, The Conservation Fund has indicated that it is willing to exempt from the easement those lands which are adjacent to the main state and county highways in the area. Much of the rest of the land is relatively remote wetland that would not be amenable to development. Some have also questioned the impact on the local tax base. In that regard it is worth noting that most if not all of the land is currently enrolled in the Open Managed Forest Land tax program, and will likely stay that way in the future even if the easement is purchased.

This project represents a unique opportunity for Wisconsin to protect a wonderful tract of wild land that will be able to be used for many forms of recreation. It also represents an opportunity to help preserve the clean water of the Wolf River downstream from the forest. It’s unlikely that a chance like this will ever come along in Wisconsin again.

If you are willing to support this project, please write to the governor and your legislators. You can do so quickly at this link: <https://knowlesnelson.org/>
Tom Wiensch, Rhinelander

Letter to the Editor

A call to protect the Pelican Forest

East of Rhinelander lies 70,000 acres of wild land known as The Pelican Forest, a richly diverse tract of land which contains some of the few moose that live in our state. The Forest has been so named because much of the headwaters of the Pelican River springs from the forest. The land is excellent for hunting, berry picking, hiking, and provides water access to the Upper Pelican River. Unfortunately, most of the land has been gated for years. Importantly, the forest also contains the headwaters of the Wolf River, Wisconsin’s largest trout stream. Mining exploration has been done near the headwaters of the Wolf River in recent years. The most recent mining company to explore has discontinued its efforts – for now.

Recently that land was purchased by The Conservation Fund. The Conservation Fund operates by purchasing land, securing conservation easements, and then selling the land (with the easements remaining in place.) Conservation easements ensure public access for recreation, and ensure against development, while allowing logging – an activity important to the economy of Northern Wisconsin.

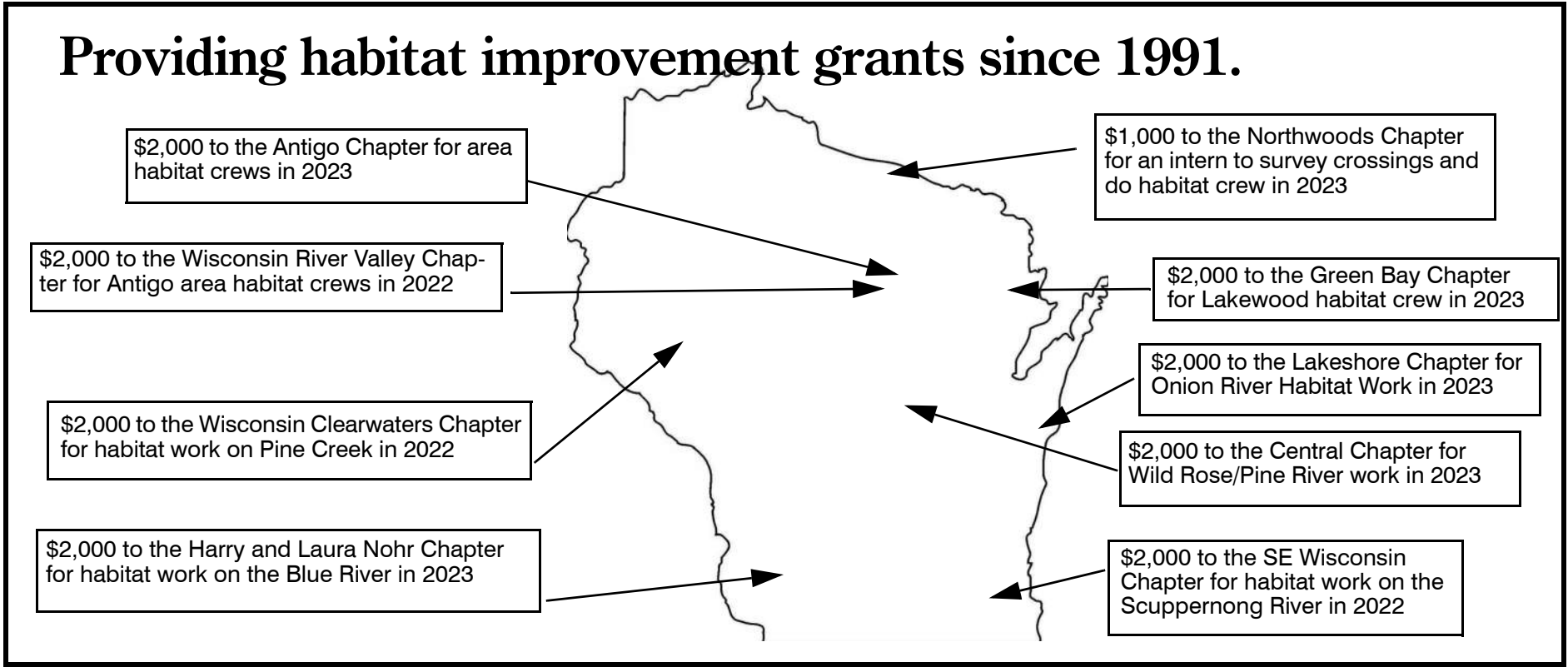
It has been proposed that the State of Wisconsin purchase a conservation easement on the Pelican Forest land. Although the cost of the easement will be \$15.5 million, the federal government will pay most of the cost. The cost to the State of Wisconsin will be about \$4 million, a bargain, especially in light of the \$7 billion budget surplus that the state currently enjoys.

The easement purchase was approved by the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board. State law requires approval of such purchases by the Wisconsin Joint Finance Committee. Sadly, in the case of lands north of Highway 64,

Please support Friends of Wis. TU in 2023

Chapters that are receiving Friends Grants in 2023 are Northwoods, Antigo, Central Wisconsin, Green Bay, Harry and Laura Nohr and Lakeshore. Thanks for supporting Friends of Wisconsin TU!

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- William Zwicky Chicago, IL

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 #

Council grant program update

By Kim McCarthy,
Grant Program Coordinator

The deadline for chapters to request Friends of Wisconsin TU grants ended on January 15. The Council vice chairs carefully looked over applications and the Council is happy to announce that for the 2023 season six Friends grants have been approved. Chapters receiving Friends grants in 2023 are: Northwoods, Antigo, Central Wisconsin, Green Bay, Harry and Laura Nohr and Lakeshore. Congratulations to those chapters for submitting well written grants for projects that will greatly enhance the trout resource throughout the state.

Chapters that have not already received the grant funding from the Council treasurer should contact new State Council Treasurer Scott Wagner. His contact information is on page 4.

The Council would like to thank all of our donors who make the Friends of Wisconsin TU grant program possible. This program has made trout fishing better throughout the state and is completely dependent on our loyal donors.

Watershed Access Fund

After a few quiet months we are happy to report that the Watershed Access Fund is again actively engaged in discussions about another acquisition. We are not able to share details at this time, but we can report that a partnership is forming around the acquisition of an impor-

tant piece of property in western Wisconsin. Key partners are working hard to raise the remaining funds for the project to be completed, and the hope is that we can bring this acquisition to completion by the end of this year.

For those of you who are not familiar with the Watershed Access Fund, here is a brief description: In 2010 the State Council had started receiving requests from individuals and groups that were trying to acquire key pieces of privately held trout waters. We were unable to join in the efforts and started the Watershed Access Fund to allow participation in efforts to make more water available to the public. The fund was started with a settlement from an easement dispute and the entire proceeds from a Council banquet. Since that early funding, the fund has been completely donor funded and has participated in a number of acquisitions around the state. The fund has worked with chapters, land trusts, counties, landowners and the DNR to acquire several important parcels.

The Watershed Access Fund has developed a loyal group of donors who have made acquisitions possible. We sincerely thank them. In order to grow the program we would like to enlarge our donor base. If you would like to participate in increasing the amount of trout water available to the public, please consider a donation to the Watershed Access Fund.

How you can help support TU's future

As I was recently gazing out my window looking at a lot of snow that needs to melt so I can get serious about spring trout fishing, my mind turned to the future of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited. As a former State Council chair and current grant coordinator for the Friends of Wisconsin TU and Watershed Access Fund grant programs, that kind of thought process happens to me a lot. Wisconsin TU is an important part of the trout fishing and conservation community. The group consists of individuals who care deeply about chasing trout and saving them for future generations.

But passion alone is not going to make fishing better or guarantee that trout fishing as we know it will be around for future generations. That kind of guarantee is going to come at a financial cost. That cost is rising along with the price of everything else. Habitat work and land acquisition are getting more expensive every year. If you have looked at the price of a fly rod or waders lately, it should be no surprise that maintaining fish populations is also getting more expensive.

In addition to habitat work and land acquisition, the Council has had to broaden the scope of its activities. With our world changing, Trout Unlimited has seen the need to greatly increase its efforts in the area of youth education and initiatives for women, veterans and minorities.

Fortunately, Uncle Sam has created a way for those of us who are sneaking up in age to help Trout Unlimited and save some tax dollars at the same time. Many of you who are reading this probably have a regular IRA and are forced to take Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) every year. In some cases individuals find themselves not needing the entire RMD but being pushed into a high tax bracket because the entire RMD is fully taxable.

It is now possible to send some (or all) of a RMD to a charity like Wisconsin TU and subtract the donation from the taxable amount of the RMD. If this idea appeals to you, check with your financial institution and tax advisor because different financial institutions do this in different ways.

Wills and trusts are another great way to honor TU and make sure it is able to continue its good work into the future. If you have already included TU in your estate planning or intend to do so in the future, there is something important to be aware of in the wording you use in the will or trust. If you simply state TU in the document, the bequest will go to the national organization. If your intent is to keep the bequest more local you must be more specific, such as Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited or Wisconsin State Council Watershed Access Fund or your local chapter's name.

Thanks for considering TU in your planning. I hope by the time you read this all of the snow I'm looking at will be gone and we will all be fishing.

—Kim McCarthy

Watershed Access Fund: Obtaining public access

The Watershed Access Fund continues to help acquire public fishing areas around the state. As a donor to the Watershed Access Fund you will have your name added to the list and will see it appear in Wisconsin Trout for a year following your generous donation.

Our WAF Contributors

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

Make your check payable to Wisconsin Trout Unlimited

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

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

TU CARES update

By Tom Lager

The 7th Central Regional Annual Meeting of the DNR, TU and interested groups convened in January to share project updates from the Central Region during the preceding year, share plans for 2023, look for benefits of collaboration, new method developments and identify issues of common interest.

The DNR's Wild Rose Trout Stream Habitat Management Crew did not request Limited Term Employee (LTE) funds for 2023, due a rare one-time situation in which the LTE crew is funded by increased Trout Stamp funds and other DNR sources. Numerous other funding needs were shared, ranging from fisheries surveys and developing a video documenting stream restoration, methods of restoration and accomplishments for use in publicizing and promoting the Central Region and the DNR, TU chapters and county-based partners.

Funding support for the 13th Avenue Dam Removal and Road Crossing Replacement Project continues to be very challenging. Funding of approximately \$670,000 for the dam removal portion of the project has been successfully obtained through a DNR Municipal Dam Removal Grant.

However, replacing the road crossing over the deep and wide ravine where a Class I trout stream flows is very expensive, exceeding the cost of dam removal. The TU CARES Team, with extensive support from numerous DNR departments, Town of Wautoma and their engineering firm has filed a pre-proposal request for a Sustain Our Great Lakes (SOGL) grant to cover a portion of the road replacement and extensive stream restoration at the dam site and extending 4.5 miles downstream.

Grant writing is always a challenge and with much appreciation I acknowledge the guidance TU Great Lakes Stream Restoration Manager Chris Collier and TU Great Lakes Engagement Coordinator Jamie Vaughan provided in

developing and preparing the pre-proposal application. Based on their guidance, future downstream restoration plans were bundled into the overall project plan. Shawn Sullivan and Steve DeVitt of the DNR's Trout Habitat Management team in Wild Rose were very instrumental in delineating the future restoration plan into a form usable in the pre-proposal SOGL application.

Even though the 2022 road crossing structure was redesigned to lower costs for 2023 grant applications, the likelihood of being awarded funding from SOGL is problematic due to the high overall project cost, considering the magnitude of the benefit. The project benefit focuses on brook trout access to headwater habitat for all stages of their life cycle, achieved by removal of the barrier to passage, eliminating a solar heat sink upstream of the road crossing and restoring habitat along 4.5 miles of the West Branch White River. Other grant sources are being pursued as well as SOGL, but none from Department of Transportation (DOT) sources since the old road crossing perched on the top of the dam does not fit into DOT bridge criteria.

Although the project has consumed an inordinate amount of TU CARES time and resources, progress continues with other projects. The Younglove Project, under DNR leadership, is going very well. A road was installed for summer and winter access to work sites and angler access paths were installed in the easement. A riffle/ford was installed, the new parking lot site was prepped, emerald-ash-borer-killed ash trees were staged throughout the stream corridor for additional log sill installation, along with rock to be used in further bank cover modification. Also, herbicide applications will continue in 2023. Winter work was slowed due to warm temperatures. Development and application of new methods for trout habitat restoration are requiring more time than originally estimated, but create improved durable features for long term benefit.



Tom Lager

HABITAT RESTORATION WORK ON THE WEST BRANCH WHITE RIVER

Future work

Future work in the Central Sand Hills Region is to be focused on the Priority Waters initiative. The opportunity has great long-term potential that requires careful planning. Mike San Dretto led our team in developing the strategic plans for our "priority" and "home" waters for the Central Sands Region. The five-year conservation goals for the Central Sands are:

- Improve habitat connectivity through removal of aquatic organism passage barriers.
- Promote temperature resiliency and reduce sediment pollution through streambank stabilization and instream habitat improvement.
- Improve ecosystem health and recreational opportunities

through riparian invasive species control.

- Promote projects and public policy that support adequate groundwater quantity and quality for native and wild fish.
- Improve accessibility for recreation, education and public support.

The likely next step, which we are planning to establish over the following month or so, is to begin to envision where to start, while being mindful of the TU CARES members, with partners, capabilities and capacity for conducting future projects.

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

Women's Fishing Clinics June 14-18

Wisconsin Women's Fly Fishing Clinics 2023 will be:

- June 14-16: On the Water Skills Clinic - Intermediate
- June 16-18: By Women For Women Basics Clinic

The Wisconsin Women's Clinics held each June are open for registration. For more information go to <https://www.swtu.org/learn/womens-flyfishing-clinic/>

For those guides/mentors who want to work with the Intermediate Women on the Water June 14 - 16th please contact Tom Thrall at tpthrall@gmail.com. We will need at least 20 guides/mentors from 4:30 p.m. on the 14th and from 10 a.m. for the full day on June 15. Fishing Friday morning is by arrangement with the women you take out. Emails with locations and info will be sent to those signing up to help in February and May.

For those who have flies, gear or donations for raffle, please email us at wisconsinwomenflyfishing@gmail.com. Your support is what makes the clinics so successful.

Mining updates and news

By Johnson Bridgwater, River Alliance of Wisconsin

Hello and welcome to an incredibly busy mining update. Although our primary focus for the mining update is the health of Wisconsin waters, recent activity regionally and nationally is becoming important to our local efforts here in the Badger State.

Currently, the U.S. House of Representatives is working on legislation aimed at "streamlining" federal mining processes and administration, which in this case also means seeking to weaken protections for air, land and water relative to mining projects and approvals. Should you wish to learn more about House efforts involving mining and related topics, you can visit the U.S. House of Representatives Natural Resources Committee main web page at <https://naturalresources.house.gov/>

Adding Cu to "Critical" list

The other major development at the federal level is a concerted effort to have copper (Cu) added to

the United States official "Critical Minerals List." Given the presence of copper in known deposits in and around Wisconsin, we are carefully watching this development. If copper was added to the official U.S. Critical Minerals List, it would not only spur intense interest in all known deposits, but most likely lead to pressure to find new deposits in the national interest and open them as rapidly as possible. For a brief look at what "critical minerals" are, please visit this River Alliance web page: <https://tinyurl.com/2vvdvfmk>

Bend Deposit; Yellow River, Taylor County

At the local level, there was some activity regarding the Bend Deposit on the Yellow River in Taylor County. Green Light Metals (GLM) out of Canada recently responded to a second request for more information from the DNR, and the DNR replied to GLM on March 7. Due to issues of seasonal variation in the soil, and frozen ground conditions considered essential to minimize impacts, it is possible this exploration project, if permitted, may not

proceed until next winter. You can follow all developments on this Wisconsin DNR web page: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Mines/Projects.html>

Back 40; Menominee River, Marinette County

There was a lot of good news from the Coalition to Save the Menominee River in Marinette, Wisconsin. Gold Resources Corporation of Colorado, the company currently trying to open the Back 40 Mine, had a disastrous financial year in 2022, and they had to suspend their stock dividends last quarter. They are also a full year behind schedule on promised feasibility and economic analyses for their Back 40 proposal.

Lastly, though not a direct impact on whether a mine is opened or not, the federal government has officially taken up the issue of official historic status designation for the Dog's Belly, an area of sacred Menominee land on the Menominee River, in the vicinity of the proposed mine site. By the time you read this, it is possible that the Na-

tional Park Service will have issued its decision.

Closed Flambeau Mine update

In December of 2022, Wisconsin DNR issued a final Certification of Completion of Reclamation for the remaining 32 acres of the former Flambeau Mine site, in Rusk County, referred to as the industrial outlot, along with a Revised Mining Permit. It is important to note that despite the mine now officially being closed and reclamation "officially completed," it has been agreed in principle to conduct a long-term monitoring study on Stream C due to the fact that the elevated copper levels in that stream have still not been addressed. More information on the study will be in our next mining update. Additional information on the Flambeau Mine is at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Mines/Flambeau.html>

For more information contact Johnson Bridgwater, Water Advocates Organizer, River Alliance of Wisconsin, at jbridgwater@wisconsinrivers.org.

Watershed Council celebrates successful grazing project

By Gillian Pomplun

In a gala event, more than 50 members of the Tainter Creek Watershed Council, along with friends and supporters, gathered at the Kickapoo Creekside Restaurant in Readstown recently to celebrate successful completion of a three-year grazing project in the watershed. Participants enjoyed fellowship, live music and a great meal.

The project was overseen by the Wallace Center Pasture Project, with \$1.15 million in funding from the U.S. EPA Gulf of Mexico Division Farmer to Farmer Program. The funding was made available from EPA to study what positive effects increased adoption of managed intentional grazing in a watershed could have on water quality.

Ultimately, EPA's goal is to reduce nutrient loading in the upper reaches of the Mississippi River Basin to reduce the hypoxic or 'dead zone' in the Gulf of Mexico.

"The Wallace Center Pasture Project used the funding in the Upper Midwest, in Indiana, Illinois and the Tainter Creek Watershed to make the connection between increased adoption of regenerative agricultural practices, water quality, and reduction of the hypoxic zone in the Gulf of Mexico," Wallace Center's Elisabeth Spratt explained. "The Tainter Creek project was the furthest to the north project funded through this program by EPA."

Spratt said that going into the project back in 2019, goals included reduction of phosphorous and sediment leaving farm fields in the watershed by five percent. This meant the goal was to prevent 1,700 pounds of phosphorous, and 940 tons of sediment, from leaving farm fields in the watershed each year.

Spratt explained that at the front end, the Wallace Center estimated that to achieve these goals would require either conversion of 550 acres of cropland from row crops to managed grazing or installation of 2,500 acres of grazed cover crops.

Implementation

Locally, the program was implemented by Valley Stewardship Network (VSN), with technical support from two experienced local grazers – Jim Munsch of Coon Valley and Dennis Rooney of Steuben. VSN employees Dani Heisler and Monique Hassman worked extensively on the program, coordinating with farmer participants and Munsch and Rooney, creating maps to support the project, and more.

Funds from the project, described by some as 'EQIP-Light,' were made available to farmers to pay for:

- new permanent perimeter fencing
- replacing old perimeter fencing
- temporary fencing
- water systems and pads
- grazable seed
- agronomy equipment rental and services
- livestock equipment rental

Actual projects undertaken on watershed council farms include grazing cover crops, conversion of row crop land to managed grazing, repair of flood-damaged fencing, grazing of prairie seed plantings, repair of heavy use areas, decreasing of paddock sizes, and adding water tanks and a pipeline.

Education events

In addition to providing funding and technical assistance, the project held a series of educational events designed to help farmers understand the benefits for their farm bottom lines and stream water quality that can result from managed intentional grazing.

Those events included a fencing and grazing economics workshop held at the farm of Jeremy and Jessie Nagel, and an overview of the economics and opportunities of grassfed beef farming with Rod Ofte and Jim Munsch of the Wisconsin Grassfed Beef Cooperative. Pasture walks to view current or planned projects in the watershed took place at the farms of Jeff Ostrem and Rob and Gail Klinkner.

An event of the Coon Creek Community Watershed Council, held at the farm of Jim Munsch, detailed the tools developed by Grassland 2.0 to help measure the economic and ecological benefits of grazing.

Farmers can be proud

"The farmers of the Tainter Creek Watershed can be very proud of what they have accomplished through participating in this project and being willing to make changes on some of their working land," Heisler said. "Along the way, there were many challenges that sometimes seemed like we were trying to build the plane while flying it, but the success we're celebrating tonight makes all of that worthwhile."

Heisler said that between July of 2019 and July of 2022, VSN had received 26 applications from farmers in the Tainter Creek Watershed to participate in the program. She said that in the course of initial investigatory work they found that not every applicant found the program a good fit for them, and others began the process and came out of it with a plan they can implement in the future.

In all, a total of 10 projects were implemented in the watershed, with four additional farms having achieved creation of a grazing plan for their farm. Total funding spent in the watershed on the various practices funded by the project was \$173,000, and the project was implemented on a total of 986 acres in the watershed. Through the project, a total of 1,640 acres in the watershed came out of the project with a grazing plan.

"We blew our initial goals out of the water with this project, and it has been a wild success," Heisler told the group. "Through this project in the Tainter Creek Watershed, we achieved 135 percent of our goal for reduction of phosphorous leaving fields in the watershed, and 170 percent of our goal for reduction of sediment leaving fields in the watershed."

Heisler said this meant that phosphorous leaving farm fields in the watershed each year is reduced by 2,300 pounds (initial goal was 1,700 pounds). Reduction of sediment leaving fields in the watershed each year as a result of the project is reduced by an estimated 1,600 tons (initial goal was 940 tons).

"This project was a great success," Spratt told the group. "Now, the Wallace Center Pasture Project can use the results of this project on



TANTIER CREEK WATERSHED COUNCIL CELEBRATES

Watershed Council members Karen and Chuck Bolstad discuss their successes with Elizabeth Spratt of the Wallace Center Pasture Project.

a national basis to promote the positive benefits of regenerative agricultural practices."

Tainter Creek Watershed farmer Chuck Bolstad shared in the celebration of success.

"I'm proud of what the Tainter Creek Watershed Council has been able to accomplish since we first came together in 2017," Bolstad said. "We've come a long way since that first meeting attended by Grant Rudrud, Jeff Ostrem, Bruce and Sue Ristow, Berent and Luther Froiland, and my wife Karen and I. And we couldn't have done it without all the support from Vernon County, VSN and the Wallace Center Pasture Project."

Jim Munsch summarized the role he and Dennis Rooney played in the successful project.

"Two grazers, each with 30-40 years of experience, had a great time with two women – Dani and Monique – telling us what we had to do," Munsch said laughing.

Measuring success

A major part of the reason that the Tainter Creek Watershed was selected as the location for this project was because of the long-term water quality monitoring efforts by VSN in the watershed. This provided a

baseline picture of water quality in Tainter Creek to compare to measurements taken after implementation of the grazing projects.

"We kicked off the project in July of 2019, but in reality most of the projects weren't implemented until the 2021 and 2022 growing seasons," Heisler pointed out. "So for purposes of measuring the impacts of the project on water quality, we won't start to count the actual measurements until 2021."

Heisler explained that the 2019 and 2020 water quality measurements will be considered to be 'pre-implementation period measurements.' She said that drought or near-drought conditions in the watershed in 2022 had complicated measurements, and caused the group to adopt a 'chasing rainstorms' approach to measuring water quality.

Nevertheless, initial measurements indicate that water quality in Tainter Creek appears to be improving as compared to the 'control' watershed, Halls Branch Creek. Halls Branch Creek was selected as a nearby, very similar watershed to

Tainter Creek. In Halls Branch Creek Watershed, there is no watershed council operating, and so it is considered to represent what a local watershed would be like without conservation interventions such as have been implemented in the Tainter Creek Watershed.

"We also have to acknowledge that lots of other good work has been implemented in the watershed that didn't result from this project," Heisler said. "That includes other initiatives by the watershed council such as increasing acres planted in cover crops, projects implemented by producers outside of the watershed council's efforts, and streambank restoration projects undertaken by Wisconsin DNR and the Trout Unlimited Driftless Area Restoration Effort."

Grasslands 2.0

Heisler made it clear that monitoring the positive impacts of the project on water quality in the creek would be a long-term project. In the interim, another facet of the project was collaboration with UW-Madison and the Grasslands 2.0 project, and the Wallace Center Pasture Project, on development of the 'Grazescape' tool, which allows the positive impacts of implementation of managed rotational grazing to be modeled.

"The positive impacts of the project as modeled through 'Grazescape' give us an estimate, and something to compare future water quality measurements to," Heisler explained.

Grassland 2.0 is a collaborative group of producers, researchers, and public and private sector folks working to develop pathways for producers to achieve increased profitability, production stability, and nutrient and water efficiency, while improving water quality, soil health, biodiversity, and climate resiliency through grassland-based agriculture.

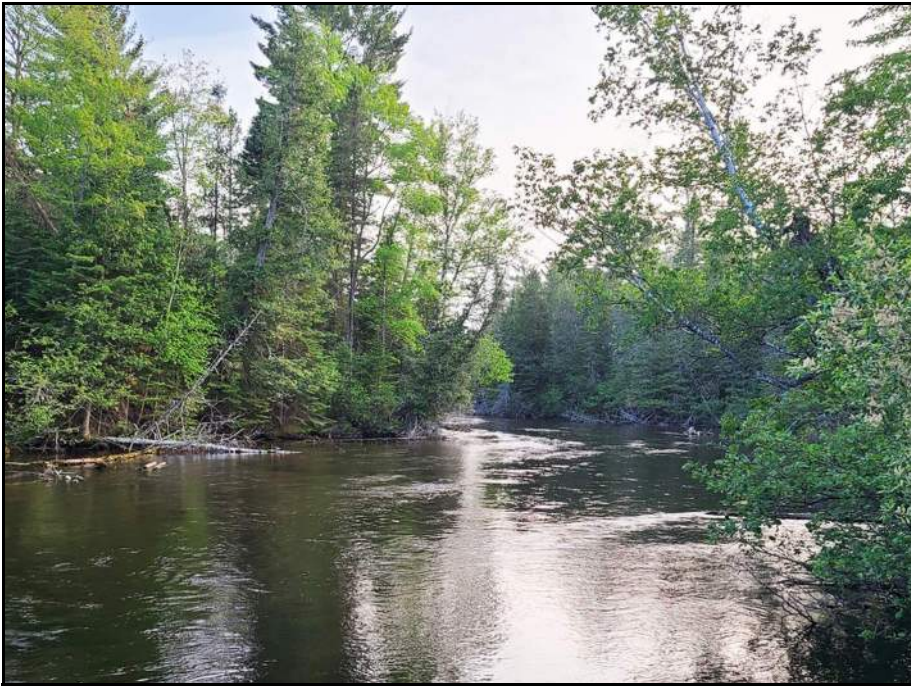
The program spans multiple states, and taps a variety of different subject matter experts. One of the tactics used in Grassland 2.0's work is to convene 'learning hubs,' where they can take a deep dive into a region, work with local producers, share information and learn. One of those learning hubs was convened in the Driftless Region.

Local grazers Jim Munsch and Dennis Rooney, along with many Driftless Region producers, worked with Grassland 2.0 to develop the 'Grazescape' tool, which is based on a SnapPlus meta-model.

"We blew our initial goals out of the water with this project, and it has been a wild success."

The River of Sand

History flows through the waters of Michigan's famed Au Sable.



Tom Meyer

AU SABLE IS FRENCH FOR "RIVER OF SAND"

The river starts at the confluence of Kolke and Bradford creeks north of Grayling. It runs south to Grayling and then turns east and, after 138 miles, it flows into Lake Huron.

By Tom Meyer

One day in the summer of 1950 two men named George had a chance meeting near Burton's Landing Bridge on the Au Sable River in Michigan. Both men were there fly fishing for trout and they shared concerns about problems with the river which they loved.

Au Sable is a French term meaning "river of sand." It starts at the confluence of Kolke and Bradford creeks north of Grayling. It runs south to Grayling and then turns east and, after 138 miles, it flows into Lake Huron.

Along the way, starting in the town of Mio, about 25 miles east of Grayling, is the first of six dams. The river had been ravaged by the logging industry in the late 1800's and early 1900's. Even though there had not been a log float since 1910 when the building of railroads eliminated the need for floating the logs

downriver to the saw mills, the damage was still evident. Banks were eroding from logs being slid down into the river and boulders in mid river that caused logjams were dynamited.

Once filled with grayling

The Au Sable originally had a prolific population of its native fish, arctic grayling. It was thought to be a bad day if a fisherman didn't catch 50 to 150 grayling per day. Fishermen and women would travel by railroad to catch and keep large numbers of grayling. The average size was 12-15 inches. They were good eating, and easy and fun to catch. So the overharvesting and the destruction of the river due to the logging industry caused the grayling to become extinct in the Au Sable River shortly after 1900. In 1889 the planting of German brown, rainbow and brook trout was underway. The

Au Sable River was redefining itself as a trout stream and beginning a new era.

Getting back to the meeting of the Georges in 1950, the more recent concern to them were the 100 or so cabins along the main branch of the river that built break walls. The men felt the break walls were limiting the natural flow and filtration. Some cabins were dumping sewage directly into the river and some businesses in Grayling were dumping waste water and toxic chemicals directly into the river.

They were also concerned with the regulations on the river, or lack of regulations. The north branch had prolific brook trout numbers but the creel limit was set at 50 fish per day. The Georges envisioned a fly-fishing-only section and catch-and-release sections.

Both Georges owned cabins on the river. George Griffith (1901 - 1998) bought a small cabin above Wakeley Bridge which he called

acres of land, covering 14 miles of river.

George Mason was the treasurer of Ducks Unlimited and suggested to George Griffith that maybe he should start a "Trout Unlimited" organization to deal with the aforementioned issues.

George Mason (1991-1954) died in 1954 at age 63 and never did live to see the formation of TU, but still became an important part of TU's history.

His family donated all of the 1,500 acres on the south branch to the state of Michigan with the stipulation that it never be developed and that it would be designated as catch-and-release and fly-fishing only. The state added on to the Mason property and acquired another 3,000 acres, which connected to George Mason's 1,500 acres.

Today that section of the south branch is referred to as the "Mason Tract." It has numerous rustic access points and a wonderful hiking



Tom Meyer

125-YEAR-OLD WA WA SUM LODGE

Wa Wa Sum Lodge is a 125-year-old log-cabin resort owned by Michigan State University. MSU will only rent the resort to non-profits such as Trout Unlimited and academic groups. Michigan TU maintains the river frontage.

"The Barbless Hook." In 1950 Griffith, a hosiery salesman by profession, was the Michigan State Conservation Commissioner.

He was also a part-time guide on the Au Sable and was known as a master Au Sable boatsman who could fish with one hand and maneuver the boat with the pole in his other. Traditional Au Sable boats, which are still in use today, are 22-24-foot, narrow, wooden canoe-like watercraft steered with only a long pole.

While George Griffith had two good arms, he only had one eye. In 1953 he would lose his left eye while fishing in a rain storm during the hex hatch on the Au Sable and accidentally hooking a fly in his eye. The eye became infected and his doctor removed it to prevent the spreading of the infection to his right eye. (That is a good reminder to always wear some type of eye protection while fishing.)

George Mason was the CEO of American Motors in Detroit and also owned a cabin on the south branch of the Au Sable on 1,500

trail along the river but there is still no overnight camping allowed and no development. The only building is a small chapel called the "Mason Chapel" or "Fishermen's Chapel." It is a rest spot for those who float the river and there is access by road as well. The south branch is a beautiful, wild rustic trout stream that is well worth a visit.

In July of 1959, five years after the death of George Mason, George Griffith invited 60 of his friends and associates to a meeting at his cabin to establish a Trout Unlimited organization in Michigan. Sixteen men showed up and it was a contentious meeting, George Griffith would later say in his book, "For the Love of Trout," published in 1993. Some of those who attended were vacationing guests of their hosts and never again played a role in TU. George Griffith helped make sure the momentum surged and on that day "Trout Unlimited" was born.

One of the attendees was Art Neuman (1916-2016), a Saginaw Michigan toolmaker who also started a rod-building and tackle busi-



GEORGE W. MASON CONCEIVED THE IDEA OF TROUT UNLIMITED

ness called the Wanigas Rod Company. Art was the original vice president of TU and later became the executive director. He has been credited with taking TU from a Michigan organization to a national organization. In the town of Lovell on the north branch there is a museum which was funded by Trout Unlimited with a replica model of Art Neuman's rod shop.

Others who attended were Fred Bear (1902-1988), known for his archery business but with a passion for trout fishing. In the town of Grayling there was a Fred Bear Museum and TU meetings and events were often held there. Today there is a display in Detroit at the Michigan Conservation Museum about the beginning of TU, which also has a replica of George Griffith's Au Sable boat.

Also at the original meeting was Chuck Piper, Fred Bears's vice president and Vic Beresford, the editor of "Michigan Out-of-Doors," who was just fired for publishing an editorial criticizing the Michigan House of Representatives for not supporting the conservation agenda. The meeting at George Griffith's cabin led to the organizational meeting on September 5, 1959. Trout, Unlimited (The comma was removed in later years) was off and running.

Rusty Gates

Rusty Gates (1955-2009) was not at the original TU meeting, but would later become an iconic figure in the area. He was a fishing guide, conservationist and author.

He owned Gates Lodge, just below Stephan's bridge on the main branch of the Au Sable. It is still called Gates Au Sable Lodge but the present owner is Josh Greenberg. It has a restaurant, fly shop and at least 24 motel-style rooms. It is a must-stop if you visit the area.

In the 1980's there was some disagreement even within the TU chapters regarding certain issues involving regulations on the Au Sable River. As a result, Rusty founded a new organization called Anglers of the Au Sable in 1987. He served as president until his death. The organization took on issues such as oil and gas exploration, chemical pollution and a threatened expansion of Camp Grayling, Michigan's National Guard training camp.

Rusty Gates was the moving force to establish catch-and-release rules on a stretch of the main branch. There are currently more than 1,100 members of the organization and each year they contribute \$50,000 for stream projects and cleanup.

I became interested in the history of the area about 12 years ago when a member of our chapter, who grew up in Michigan, put on a program

about fishing the Au Sable after a board meeting. Since then I had hoped to someday fish the Au Sable and see the historic sites where TU was started.

CWTU has a deep connection with the Chicago chapter of TU, the Elliott Donnelley Chapter. In George Griffith's book he says this about Elliott Donnelley. "His many talents were so recognized that we elected him president of TU. He was to play a strong role in TU's success for many years." A group of Elliott Donnelley chapter members make the journey up to Central Wisconsin each year for one of our chapter's workdays. They don't have home waters themselves in Chicago so they generously put their efforts and funds into Wisconsin and Michigan TU activities.

Wa Wa Sum Lodge

Over the years CWTU members and EDTU members have become friends and in June of 2022 I was invited to join the group on their annual trip to the Au Sable. There were 10 guys in the group and we all stayed at the Wa Wa Sum Lodge, a 125-year-old log-cabin resort owned by Michigan State University. MSU will only rent the resort, which has eight bedrooms and 27 beds in total, to non-profits such as Trout Unlimited and academic groups. The lodge is located about 2-3 miles east of Grayling on the north side of the Au Sable River.

Late May through September is considered prime time due to the associated hatches. There is a waiting list for most days in June, July and August. The EDTU group, headed by Jeff Goad and Doug Conover, have been doing this annual trip for years. For me, just being there on the famous Au Sable and staying in that iconic lodge was worth the trip.

Inside the lodge you can just feel the history. Numerous well known people have stayed in this lodge during its many years of existence. It was originally built in 1897 and owned by the Stranahan family, who owned Champion Spark Plugs. In 1964, the family wanted to donate it to Trout Unlimited, but owning it would have violated TU's tax-exempt non-profit status, so it was donated to MSU. TU was designated as the caretaker of the river frontage.

When the lodge was built there was a vast clear-cut area that had been burned over across the river from the build site. In 1905 Chief David Shoppenagon of the Chippewa Indian tribe, who was a local fishing guide and legendary figure, told Duane Stranahan Sr. that the Indian name for the burned over, clear cut area was Wa Wa Sum. From then on that was the official name. The Stranahan's son Duane

Jr. would later serve as TU's Executive Director.

The hope for the EDTU members who make the trip is always to hit the Hex hatch while they are there, and sometimes they do. The area is also famous for its brown drake hatches and mahogany (Isonichia) hatches during June and into July. As it turned out we happened to arrive between the brown drake and hex hatch.

The fishing was tough, which I'm told is often the case. There were some fish caught during this four-night, three-day fishing trip, but mostly small fish. You always hope to catch a lot of fish and the bigger the better but it's not always about catching fish. I enjoyed my time with new friends and exploring the historic sites.

Having said that the river looked great and I have no doubt that once you get to know the area and the diverse water in the main, north and south branches, the fishing can be great. Sometimes weather and timing are a factor. During our stay in mid June, the temperature dropped into the low 30's each night. I have

Bridge, that is referred to as "The Holy Water." It is designated as flies only and catch and release. The 14 miles of the Mason Tract is also still designated flies only and catch and release.

The Au Sable River is arguably considered to be the best trout fishery east of the Rockies. The Michigan State DNR has designated it as a blue ribbon trout stream. Just above Wakeley bridge is the Barless Hook cabin, which is privately owned. If you float by it there is a plaque dedicated to the site where TU was formed. Tradition has it to bow your head as you pass. Michigan Trout Unlimited currently maintains a number of the public access spots along the Au Sable.

A sign with George Griffith's favorite quote and what became his motto to live by was posted at the Mason Chapel after some vandalism and littering was discovered. "Don't let it be said, and said to your shame, that all was beauty here, before you came."

Today from Maine to California, there are more than 300,000 TU members and more than 400 chap-



TRADITIONAL AU SABLE BOATS WERE STEERED WITH A LONG POLE

Today there is a display in Detroit at the Michigan Conservation Museum about the beginning of TU, which also has a replica of George Griffith's Au Sable boat. Griffith was part-time guide on the Au Sable and was known as a master Au Sable boatsman who could fish with one hand and maneuver the boat with the pole in his other. Traditional Au Sable boats, which are still in use today, are 22-24-foot, narrow, wooden canoe-like watercraft.

more excuses if you haven't heard enough.

There is no doubt that the efforts and passion of the men mentioned in this article resulted in saving and protecting the Au Sable River and other Michigan trout streams. To this day there is a 12-mile stretch between Burton's landing, where the two Georges met, and Wakeley

ters. I think all of us are thankful for that idea that was spawned more than 72 years ago at that chance meeting on the River of Sand.

Tom Meyer is an active member and leader in the Central Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited. You can reach him at tommeyer241@gmail.com.



AN HISTORIC SITE FOR TROUT UNLIMITED

Just past the Barless Hook cabin is a plaque dedicated to the site where TU was formed. Tradition has it to bow your head as you pass.



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

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

Wisconsin Fly Tyers – With words and photos by Bob Haase

Tim Johnson: Simplifying the art of fly tying

This series recognizes some of Wisconsin's great fly tyers. This series will provide information on the role they played and are currently playing in the art of fly tying and fly fishing. Through this series we will learn more about them, the flies they tie and tips to make us better fly tyers.

There are not a lot of fly tyers who get into tying elaborate flies, such as full-dress salmon flies. Some tyers concentrate on trout flies, panfish flies, bass flies and musky or pike flies. They concentrate their time on tying flies to fool fish, rather than for show. Salmon fly tyers also tie flies to catch fish, but they also receive personal satisfaction in tying those beautiful flies that we often see framed and on the wall.

Tim is concerned that most people look at these flies, the complexity of tying, the cost of materials, and never try tying them. A lot of the techniques learned in tying these beautiful salmon flies carry over to every fly a person ties, regardless if it is a small trout fly or a big musky fly. He likes to break things down and make complex tying steps simpler. In terms of cost, he advocates substituting materials to reduce cost. Instead of spending \$100 or more for a speckled bustard feather, substitute a wild turkey feather from a bird your friend shot, which doesn't cost anything. Tim stresses the important of passing the art of fly tying on to other people and sharing our skills and experience with others, especially our youth.

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

I have been tying flies for around 45 years. My dad bought me a fly-tying kit when I was around 12 years old. I got started looking at old magazines like Field & Stream and Sports Afield. I also went to the library to try to find more information on tying. We didn't have the internet, YouTube and fly-tying shows.

Did you fish before you started tying flies, or did fly tying get you started in fly fishing?

I played around tying flies, but I didn't get serious about it until after I started fly fishing. I got my first fly rod when I was around 18 years old. Before that I would tie a fly behind a little bobber they made for spin fishing with flies. Most people probably don't realize that the jigs we use today for things like walleye fishing were designed by a fly tyer who crimped a split shot onto a hook. In a way, that was fly fishing also.



You are known for tying those beautiful full-dress salmon flies. How did you transition from tying basic fishing flies to tying those beautiful salmon flies?

I think it was about 25 years ago. I remember when I got started I said that I would never get into doing that because they were too complicated. But they really aren't that complicated. It's about learning the techniques

and applying those techniques to the different patterns. The advanced techniques that you learn in tying salmon flies apply to most other flies, and they make you a better tyer. If you want to become a better tyer, it is a good way to advance your tying skills. One key to becoming a better fly tyer is to tie 20 of one pattern and throw them down on the table. Then compare them and tie them over and over until you can get them to all look alike. You're looking for consistency.

My friend George Close said when people would ask him to tie 10 different patterns for them, he would tell them "Why don't you come over and let me teach you 10 different techniques, and then you can tie all kinds of patterns."

I know that Royce Dam played an important role in your transition into tying salmon flies. What are some of the things you learned from Royce?

Proportions! That is the rule of thumb, and less is best when it comes to materials.

He was fun to be around. He was a character. He was a salty sailor at first, and as he got older he mellowed. I can remember at first he wanted to charge for teaching you. Then he would just say why don't you just come over and tie. I was kind of an apprentice.

He probably taught thousands of people over his life time, both here and even in other countries. He was an internationally known tyer. How many people win the Buz Buszek Award? Royce always said that all flies were invented by somebody. Don't get caught in that pattern rut. Be innovative and be creative.

Like Royce, you like to share your tying skills and promote fly tying. What do you think we need to do to get more people involved in tying?

We need to get more youth involved. We need to pass it on to our kids. Most of us started tying when we were younger. It is something you can do all your life. You need to pass that torch. I think the world would be a better place if it had more fly tyers in it.

Most people don't tie flies to save money, it goes well beyond that. Why do you tie your own flies rather than purchase them from other sources?

Look at the friends you make. You make life-long friends. Look at the fun you have and the comradery and laughs it brings. In the long run you are not going to save money, but look at the skills you acquire related to tying and fishing. There's a satisfaction of accomplishment you get when learning new skills and designing your own flies.



A PASSION FOR SHARING HIS PASSION

Tim stresses the important of passing the art of fly tying on to other people and sharing our skills and experience with others, especially our youth.

How important is that personal transfer of knowledge, compared to learning on YouTube or reading it in books?

That YouTube video is not going to critique you and help you improve based on things you might be doing wrong, or show you better and simpler ways of doing things. The best way is hands on with someone with experience. Most fly tyers are not secretive about how they do things, and they want to share with just about any tyer who wants help. Tying with others helps you learn new techniques. You learn from them and they learn from you.

Fly tying materials, especially for full-dress salmon flies, can get expensive. What are some of the things people can do to cut costs?

You need to support your local fly shop if you are lucky enough to still have one. You can purchase online, but the right shop can help you when you have problems or questions. Having said that, there are a lot of sources of free or low-cost materials. If you hunt you have deer tails, squirrel tails and fur from other animals. You have feathers from ducks, pheasants, grouse and other birds. If you don't hunt, get to know people who hunt and trap. Get to know taxidermists in your area and you can get trim pieces that they would normally throw away. Join a fly-fishing or fly-tying club, and get to know the members who tie. They might have extra materials that they might sell you at a good price, or even give you extra materials that they don't need anymore. Go to poultry swap meets. Road kills.



What are some of the major changes you have seen in fly tying since you started tying?

Look at the availability and variety of materials. Look at the internet. The variety of sources available today to purchase materials is amazing. In the past we didn't have as many sources of information on tying. We were often limited to what was available at the local library or in sporting magazines. Now we have fly-tying shows with demonstration tyers to answer your questions about tying and showing you new techniques. YouTube has all kinds of information on tying that we never had available to us. And, of course, now there are many synthetic materials.

When you go to a fly show, most of the people there are older. How do we get more younger people involved in fly fishing and fly tying?

We need to get more fly-tying clubs going. Clubs can really expedite the learning curve in tying. I know clubs are not as popular as they used to be, but they are still valuable. Maybe make them more family oriented. Use social media to promote them, but meet in person to provide one-on-one help. Social media is cold, and it's not like getting together in person. Some schools used to have after-school programs for fly tying. I don't know if that is possible, but we could investigate working with schools to provide after-school fly-tying programs. Some communities have community activity centers. If a club could meet there, they might be able to attract others that are there for other reasons.

Is there anything else that you would like to share about yourself or fly-tying techniques?

Most fly tyers overthink things. Observe nature and look at the way a fish looks. Light on the bottom and dark on top. There is a reason for these things. Look at the insects. If you don't have the materials, then substitute. Learn how to read water. Look at what the other fishermen are doing and learn from them. Observe other tyers and learn from them. Simplify your fly boxes. Just tie flies. And pass it on. It isn't the fish, it is the time you spend with others.



2ND ANNUAL
Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Chapter
 PRESENTS
THE SPRING FAIR
FUNDRAISER

SWTU SUPPORTS
 STREAM CONSERVATION, IMPROVEMENT, AND PUBLIC ACCESS

Saturday, April 22nd
4PM to 8PM

The East Side Club
Madison, Wisconsin

AMAZING PRIZES
 RODS, GEAR, GUIDED TRIPS, ART, AND MORE

Bucket Raffles & Silent Auctions

SWTU Conservation Project Highlights

MOUTHWATERING
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CRAFT BEER, WINE, & COCKTAILS

TICKETS REQUIRED



[HTTPS://SWTU.ORG/SPRINGFUNDRAISER](https://swtu.org/springfundraiser)



Chapter News

Aldo Leopold Chapter

Spring is coming and so are some fun activities for the Aldo Leopold Chapter. By the time you read this, we will have had our first workday on Dell Creek in March. Our second is slated for April 15 at 9 a.m. The main focus of these workdays is to remove brush from the stream corridor to make it more fishable.

We are also planning a chapter outing at the West Fork Sports Club May 19-21. Our chapter picnic is

June 7 at 6 p.m. at Haberman Park in Lodi. Come for the food and camaraderie, buy some bucket raffle tickets and stay for the prizes. Everyone is invited to attend any of these events, especially our friends from other chapters. For more details contact Dan Endres at dtendres9@gmail.com or 608-963-1374.

—Dan Endres

Antigo Chapter

Welcome to early spring. Our northeast TU region held our annual meeting in December and again decided to support our DNR fish mangers, U.S. Forest Service and National TU personnel. The Antigo Chapter helped fund seasonal DNR brushing crews and applied for a \$2,000 grant from State Council.

We plan to place additional waste-line boxes at spring and stream access points this summer, to enhance the 21 we placed last year. And we will sponsor a \$250 scholarship to a senior student for college studies in natural resources.

We have ordered a very nice park

bench with a TU logo that will be placed at the Remington Lake fishing area.

Our annual Kids fishing day is the second Saturday in June. We also held our annual banquet on March 25 at the Northstar Banquet Center.

We will have some work days this summer to clean and brush our parking and stream access sites. We will also place more wood chips on the fisherman and canoe access point on River Road on the East Branch of the Eau Claire River.

—Scott Henricks

Blackhawk Chapter

The Blackhawk chapter has been meeting this winter and planning our spring banquet. Our main fundraiser hasn't happened since 2019 because of the pandemic and we are really looking forward to seeing our supporters again at the banquet. The banquet is Monday, April 17 at Boundaries Bar & Grill between Janesville and Beloit. We'll have many great raffle, drawing and door prizes. Reservation forms and information is on the Blackhawk TU Facebook page.

We didn't have any coldwater stream projects last fall or winter, but members did work on hard-water conservation projects. With the help of Tom Kautz, local sportsmen built log cribs on the ice of a local lake to provide fish habitat. Because of our unseasonable winter and lack of great ice cover, the project was a

little challenging as they had to build the cribs but not fall through the ice with them. The project has been going on for years on various lakes in the area and is a great boon for fish and anglers. It's not trout habitat, but it is winter in Wisconsin, and every fish needs a home.

We have not been able to organize our own work days for the spring but are coordinating with other chapters and organizations to provide member help on projects. We have and still are able to provide financial support for projects, and we continue to search for activities to help our coldwater streams and get our members involved. If other chapters in our area need help with projects and work days, please reach out to us.

—Dave Brethauer

Central Wisconsin Chapter

December's presentation was going to be "Labrador: Place, People & Possibilities" presented by Wayne Parmley, but was cancelled due to weather. Plans are being made to reschedule it for Wednesday, April 12. January's program was "Exploring Trout Trends in the Upper White River Watershed" by Adam Nickel, Senior Fisheries Biologist with the DNR stationed in Wautoma.

The 7th Annual Central Regional Meeting of DNR Fisheries and Habitat Restoration Team and Trout Unlimited was held in January at Christianos in Wautoma.

A few proposals that would need funding include having fisheries crews conduct more research and surveys in the area for pre- and post-habitat work, the 13th Avenue Dam Removal & Road Crossing Replacement Project, old Wild Rose Hatchery to remove in-stream hatchery structure and video documenting stream restoration, methods and streams to promote the Central Region accomplishments.

For the Wild Rose Hatchery structure removal project, CWTU filed for a Wisconsin Friends Grant of \$2,000, equally matched with chapter funds for a total of \$4,000. If you are interested in reading the summary notes or getting links to some of the presentations, contact Tom Lager, Vice Chair Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Central Region.

TroutFest 23 was a big hit. We had a great turnout and CWTU raised more money than we thought possible. The heroes of TroutFest this year were Russ and Sue Bouck. Even though they were not able to attend, their generous donation resulted in the largest used gear sale anyone can remember. It is wonderful to know that many of their rods, reels and other items will live on to be part of many adventures for others. We had a great mix of longtime vendors, and some new faces, and they all want to come back next year. Thanks to those vendors that gave donations for prizes, both for TroutFest and our April banquet. The programs were well attended



DNR'S ADAM NICKEL DISCUSSES THE UPPER WHITE RIVER

Adam Nickel, Senior Fisheries Biologist with the DNR, stationed in Wautoma, presented a program entitled "Exploring Trout Trends in the Upper White River Watershed" to the Central Chapter members.



BEHIND THE VISE: BOB HAASE IN HIS ELEMENT AT TROUTFEST 23



TROUTFEST 23 FEATURED 10 FLY TYERS

Tracy Moran demonstrated some of his favorite fly patterns at TroutFest 23. He was one of 10 fly tyers at the event.

and the traffic kept flowing all day. Programs included CWTU River Keepers by Bob Jozowski, Trout Management in Northeast Wisconsin by David Boyarski, DNR, Fly Fishing Isle Royale by Seth Waters and Atlantic Salmon Fishing in Newfoundland by Tim Pantzlauff.

Unfortunately, Tom Lager's presentation on The Giant Mayflies of Wisconsin was canceled due to illness, but it will be rescheduled for a

later date as a monthly program, tentatively for Wednesday, April 12.

Bob Jozowski noted that he signed up 14 new River Keepers as a result of the presentation and booth.

Big thanks to all the great volunteers: Mike Salas and his team put on the food and drink, and we were smelling the grilled burgers and brats all day. Thanks to Ira Giese for heading up the used gear sale,

Chapter News



and Tom Meyer for all he did organizing the prizes and keeping things moving all day. Thanks to Bob Haase for pulling a nice group of fly tyers together, Joe Peikert for teaching fly tying to both kids and adults alike, the check-in desk crew of Stan Cichowski, John Tucker and John Gremmer. Thanks to Mark Hoffman for taking photos and video clips.

Other helpers include Laura Tucker, Chad Tucker, Chris Northway (and his grandson), Harvey Jones, Mike San Dretto, Linn Beck, Jim Danhauer, Bob Jozwowski, Bill Zimmerman and more. I am sure I forgot a few people. TroutFest at its heart is all about community and sharing the passions of our local coldwaters and love of angling; the funds raised were just a bonus.

The CWTU annual banquet is Saturday, April 29, 2023, at Mt. Morris Camp and Conference Center near Wautoma. We have a robust committee working to pull this event together. Our grand prize raf-

file item is an Old Town Sportsman 106 Fishing Kayak and Paddle. For more information or tickets visit cw-tu.org.

On March 8, CWTU held its annual election for new officers and board members. Linn Beck will be the new chapter president, Shawn Sullivan as vice president, Laura Tucker will continue her role as secretary and Joe Peikert will stay on as treasurer. Several board members renewed their terms for three more years to remain on the board: Stan Cichowski, Bob Haase, Tom Meyer and Wayne Parmley. And a big welcome to long-time active member John Gremmer back onto the board. We still have three openings on the board, and we have some members in mind and hope to have them filled in the next month or two. And a big thanks to all the board members moving on, including Mike San Dretto, David Pable, Scott Bahn and Mike Salas.

—Wayne Parmley

Coulee Region Chapter

The CRTU annual banquet went off without a hitch again this year. We had a good crowd, excellent food and great prizes, which combined for a very enjoyable evening. Emcee extraordinaire and CRTU Treasurer Curt Rees acted as master of ceremonies. Board members Bob Hubbard and John Townsell did much of the leg work leading up to the event. Our Youth Coordinator Brad Berger stepped up to organize and collect donations beforehand and all hands were on deck the evening of the event. A Rick Kyte fiberglass rod and a fish-along with the Welters were our most coveted offerings. Our many thanks to all donors and volunteers who made the event possible.

At our most recent meeting, the board approved the purchase of a dozen water quality test kits through MobileH2O to distribute to members. Officially dubbed The Angler Science Driftless Area Program, the kits allow volunteers to conduct stream-side observations and upload that information to a mobile

app. Last year, there were 451 recorded observations in the Driftless Area. We are excited to participate in this program.

We continue to put donor dollars to good use. The board recently approved a \$2,000 contribution to the dam removal on the Kinnickinnic River and \$2,500 to Monroe County for brush removal on Coles Valley Creek, The Little La Crosse River and Billings Creek. The contribution to the latter will improve angler access on those waterways.

Our April member meeting will be at Gassers in Viroqua where the folks from Driftless Angler will present on their recent fishing trips and offer some tips on fishing in our area. Give them a follow on Facebook for frequent stream reports and tackle tips. Owing to the success of last year's picnic, we will be holding another one May 17 at the shelter in Coon Valley Veterans Memorial Park. Food, soft drinks and free fly rod casting instruction will be provided.

—Brad Bryan

Fox Valley Chapter

FVTU will hold our much anticipated 43rd Annual Fishing Day for People with Disabilities June 10 at the YMCA Camp Shioc, near Shiocton, in Outagamie County. Our chapter stocks the camp pond with trout and 25-30 anglers catch many of them. After the fishing everyone enjoys brats, burgers and hotdogs, cake and ice cream.

Like many other chapters around the country, FVTU is taking our 12-page full color newsletter, Trout Talk, from print to the digital world. We will save more than \$3,000 annually with this move from print and mail to digital, via email. Those dollars saved will be spent on stream and habitat improvements. The Fall issue of Trout Talk will be our first all-digital effort. This edition will coordinate the transition with our digital communication expert Nate Ratliff, our web master Graeme Hodson and our Membership Chair Chris Firkus, who is working hard to collect the email addresses of all our members.

It is Spring now, so April Angling Adventure is around the corner.

This fun, fishing, fellowship four-day event is scheduled for Thursday, April 20 to Sunday April 23. The event will be headquartered at Es-foea/Rentz Memorial County Park in Vernon County, where most of those who are camping will pitch their tent. Nate Ratliff is again organizing this fun event which will include an in-person chapter meeting at West Fork Sports club and a virtual version for those unable to attend in person. Last year Chris Firkus won the fishing contest. Complete details can be found at www.foxvalleytu.org.

FVTU will once again partner with the Central Wisconsin Chapter to work with the Wild Rose DNR crew on a variety of stream-improvement projects from May until September. Please join us every third Saturday from May to September. Please check our website for locations, times and directions. This fun event starts with coffee and ends with a tasty lunch. Please help improve our trout streams in the Central Sands Region.

FVTU invites all sportsmen to

test their luck at winning fishing gear of exceptional quality in our Spring Sweepstakes. This important spring fundraiser starts March 17 and ends April 23 with drawings on April 26. You must play to win, so visit our website, click the Spring

Fundraiser 2023 Sweepstakes button and view the great gear and learn how you can enter the Sweepstakes. Good luck! Check our website for complete details at www.foxvalleytu.org.

—Don Clouthier

Frank Hornberg Chapter

We started the year by attending the International Flyfishing Film Festival at UWSP-Wausau in February. The event was sponsored by the Wisconsin River Valley Chapter and was well attended. There were several short films from around the world on flyfishing for various fish species. I was really impressed with the quality of the content. We also raised money for our chapter by having a raffle for a framed Adam Zins' tiger trout print. Thank you, Adam, for donating that print.

There will be a Water Appreciation Day on Friday, May 5 from 11 a.m.-2:45 p.m. at the Little Plover River Park in Stevens Point. We will be introducing fourth graders to fly casting. If you can help for that day, please contact Doug Erdmann at 715-712-3134. Our local 5 Rivers Chapter, the UW-SP Flyfishing Club, will be doing a fly-tying demo for the kids.

We approved funding a \$400 scholarship for a UW-SP college of Natural Resources major. Criteria includes: 1) Fisheries/Water Resources major, 2) Junior or Senior status, 3) GPA 3.0 or better, 4) Central Wisconsin resident preferred, 5) Member of Fisheries Society or AWRA.

Green Bay Chapter

Since our last report, Green Bay Trout Unlimited (GBTU) hosted two guest speakers. We were joined at our February meeting by DNR fish biologist Christopher "Chip" Long. He talked about a road/stream crossing removal/replacement project on the North Branch of Beaver Creek, which we helped fund in 2019.

In March we welcomed the DNR Advanced Fisheries Technician from the Antigo office, Taylor Curran. Taylor's presentation was entitled "Trout Habitat Restoration Techniques in Lincoln and Langlade Counties." His background is truly a Trout Unlimited success story. He started as a limited term employee funded by TU. Today he has been responsible for many miles of improved trout habitat.

We hope to see you at future meetings. Our guest speaker meetings feature free food, drinks (non-alcoholic), door prizes and amazing people.

GBTU's Conservation Banquet Committee has been hard at work

planning, gathering prizes and more. Our 47th Annual Banquet will be at Stadium View Bar and Grille on Thursday, April 13. Doors open at 5 p.m. and dinner will be served at 6:30 pm. Tickets are \$45, or \$315 for a table of eight. Sponsorship packages are also available. Please contact Dave Ostanek at 920-562-6129 for more information. We hope to see you there.

GBTU continues to run our Veteran's Service Program. They are held at Tight Lines Fly Shop in De Pere Monday's starting at 4:30 p.m. If you are a veteran who would like to participate, or if you would like to volunteer, please contact GBTU Veteran's Program Coordinator Paul Kruse at kruser2@new.rr.com or 920-639-2361.

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

—Adrian Meseberg

Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter

We are doing stream restoration on the only eased section of Big Spring that we have not worked on. It is just above the confluence with Six Mile Branch. We expect to finish up in the spring when it dries out.

Our next slated stile locations are on Gordon Creek, where we will be putting in two brand new stiles south of County A and rebuild four additional stiles that have rotten cross boards. If you are interested in work days, please contact Ted Swenson at swensonted@gmail.com or

608 469-2038.

We will conduct tree planting this spring. We are planning on Saturday, May 13. We will work with the facilities and lands crew to prep the site that week, which will include drilling the holes, making cages, and prepping the sites. We will plant trees by hand, fill in the holes, water, and put matting/cages around each tree. This is a DNR-planned project.

We had a "Lie And Tie" gathering at the Dodger Bowl in February.



Chapter News

There were several master fly tyers from the area and two talks by local guide and fly tyer Dale Osthoff, son of Rich with Dodgeville family connections. His presentations were

“Fly-Fishing Alpine Lake” and “Active Techniques for Small Stream Fly-Fishing.”

—Brian Larson

Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter

A new year of chapter meetings kicked off in January with Kasey Yallaly and Nate Anderson of the DNR presenting “Understanding Easements and New Trout Stream Fishing Regulation Change Proposals.” As always Nate and Kasey drew in members eager to learn the latest news.

In January we also started offering a book sale/swap.

A contingent of Kiap TU Wish members trekked over to Oshkosh to attend the State Council meeting and banquet. Those attending were: Tom Schnadt, Scott Wagner, Gary Horvath, John Jacobs, Greg Dietl, Ben Belt, John Hanson, Randy Arnold, Ken Hanson, and Scot Stewart. We were honored to accept the Council’s Silver Trout Award for chapter merit.

Our February meeting was a presentation by local River Falls angler Pat Houlton talking about “Big Browns in the Driftless: Winter to Fall.” This was a popular presentation with many questions and great practical advice.

The “Dry Fly” Dick Frantes Fly Tying Meeting was held in early March. This was an open tying event. We were pleased to have a group of tyers from Lund’s Fly Shop join us. We had special guest Paul Johnson of YouTube fame tying hopper patterns. Our February speaker Pat Houlton joined us to show us his mini leech and articulat-

ed streamer patterns for large trout. Rounding out the tyers were Jon Jacobs, Mike Alwin, Bob Trevis, Greg Olson, Randy Arnold and Scott Stewart.

Planned events coming up include having booths at the 2023 Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo at Hamlin University in St. Paul on March 17-19, and at the City of River Falls Earth Day event in April.

As of this writing, our Kiap TU Wish 2023 Spring Fundraiser Auction is live online. We are very grateful to have more than 80 items offered for bid. This is by far our biggest and best auction. This is one of two major fundraisers of the year, which help pay for all our programs. Many thanks to everyone who contributed to this event. We will report on it in the next issue.

Our chapter had a booth at the River Falls Fly Fishing Festival-R4F in March. This was a well-attended event and of great interest to our area’s angling community.

Chapter Vice President Gary Horvath was presented an award as Fly Fisherman magazine’s Conservationist of the Year by editor Ross Purnell, along with John Frazier of Simms Fishing Products. Gary also accepted a check to Kiap TU Wish for \$10,000 from Simms.

This money will go towards the Kinni Corridor Collaborative’s (KinniCC) fundraising effort to match the City of River Falls’ share

of costs for the feasibility study for the Kinnickinnic River Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration.

The City of River Falls inked the agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District Office recently and announced the fact at their February City Council meeting. The KinniCC presented the first installment of \$50,000 that evening.

All five of our Trout In the Classroom programs are reporting healthy trout. Some are a little too healthy as there are some cannibals in the mix. All classrooms want to participate in Bugs in the Classroom with Dean Hansen this April, and we are looking forward to the trout release parties at Willow River State Park, at the end of the school year.

Workdays have continued at Cady Creek with a workday nearly

every week since the first of December. We are working to clear box elders from the stream corridor between the upper two DNR angler access parking lots, a distance of more than a third of a mile. Box elder trees which were left standing when the restoration work was completed here in 2001 have grown with some trunks exceeding 20" in diameter. Turnout for workdays has averaged about 12-14 volunteers. Habitat Coordinator Randy Arnold expected work here to continue through March while snow was still on the ground. Once the box elders are cleared, the DNR hopes to periodically mow the corridor on one side of the stream to allow access.

—Gary Horvath



LAKESHORE CHAPTER EARNS TWO RECOGNITIONS

Lakeshore TU was recognized in March as the Water Conservationists of the Year by the Sheboygan County Conservation Association (SCCA) for its work in coldwater conservation and habitat improvements on the Onion River watershed. Larry Doebert Was installed into the Sheboygan County Conservation Association Hall of Fame.

Lakeshore Chapter

Hello, Wisconsin TU members. Lakeshore TU was recognized in March as the Water Conservationists of the Year by the Sheboygan County Conservation Association (SCCA) for its work in coldwater conservation and habitat improvements on the Onion River watershed. The SCCA is an association of 26 conservation organizations and clubs in Sheboygan County. The award recognizes our conservation work in 2022 and our decades-long commitment to the stewardship of our coldwater resources.

In the late 1990’s Lakeshore TU, led by restoration manager Larry Doebert and other visionaries, was the driving force behind transforming a put-and-take, threatened class-two trout stream into a class-one brown trout fishery. In the years since the original work was done, Lakeshore TU has steadily expanded habitat restoration both upstream and downstream of the original restoration areas. Upstream restorations now reach into Ben Nutt Creek and Mill creek. Downstream restorations reach below County U.

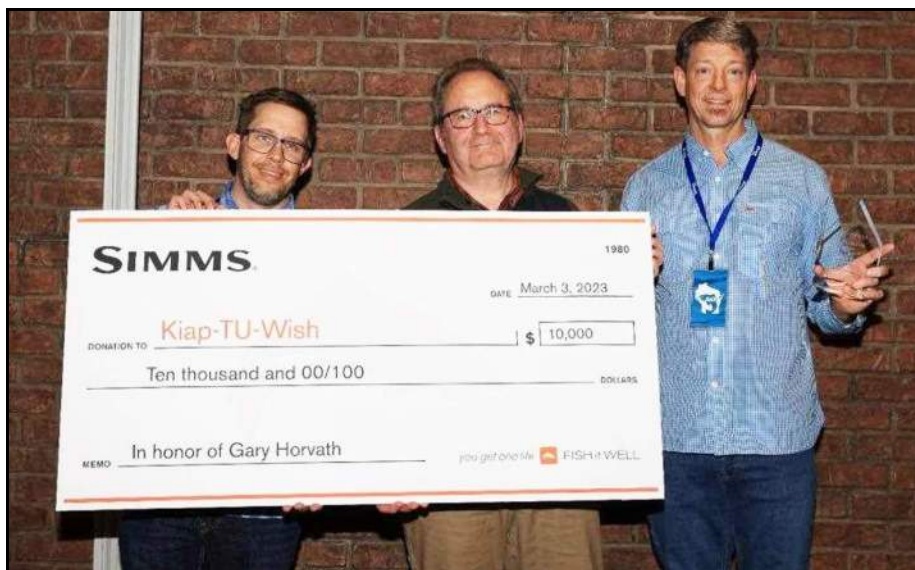
The chapter barely missed a workday throughout COVID, came into 2022 with significant momentum and a new DNR fish biologist to work with after a two-year vacancy. We made the most of our opportunity, logging more than 400 hours of work by our members and friends

on the Onion River watershed. The award recognizes the work that is supported by the financial contributions of local businesses, Trout Unlimited, the SCCA, the DNR and like-minded donors. We share this recognition and our gratitude with all of you.

Also, recognized at the SCCA banquet was our own Larry Doebert who was installed into the Sheboygan County Conservation Association Hall of Fame. Since 1983 the SCCA has installed only 28 Sheboygan County conservation giants into the Hall. It is with great pride that we now recognize Larry as one of this group. As restoration manager for Lakeshore TU, Larry has for decades made extraordinary contributions to the restoration of Sheboygan County’s coldwater resources and outdoor recreation opportunities. His vision, leadership, can-do attitude, ability to make connections and tireless commitment have made a significant and lasting impact on Sheboygan County, the State of Wisconsin and the environment as a whole.

Larry remains an active board member and inspirational leader in our chapter. Larry, thank you for all that you have done for LSTU, our natural resources and the future of the environment and sport.

Finally, Lakeshore TU is proud to spotlight an amazing sponsor, Aventuron, for their dedicated part-



GARY HORVATH RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD

Simms Marketing Director John Frazier (left), Gary Horvath (smiling at center) and Fly Fisherman Magazine Editor Ross Purnell (right) at the recent R4F Festival, delivering the 2023 Conservationist of the Year Award to Gary.



KIAP BRUSHING CREW ATTACKS CADY CREEK

Kiap TU Wish volunteers at a recent Cady Creek habitat work day include, from left to right, Scott Larson, Loren Haas, James Patterson, Ben Toppel, Keith Stein, Dave Gregg, John Skelton, Jim Tatzel, Tom Schnadt, Pat Saxton, Mary Lilly, Jeff Dahl, Trish Hannah, Rainbow Barry, Bob Kiner and Jeff Himes.

Jim Andersen

Randy Arnold

Chapter News



nership, generosity and commitment to coldwater conservation. Those core principles gained them the accolade of Wisconsin TU Corporate Sponsor of the Year in 2019 and continue into 2023. Founded as an on-line outdoor adventure store in 2016 by Kathryn and Carl Martens, their dedication to incredible products, unparalleled customer service and old-fashioned values quickly gained them notoriety as extraordinary retailers.

They have deep knowledge, a friendly manner and willingness to share information. Located in downtown Sheboygan, they carry brands like Simms, Redington, T&T,

Fishpond, Douglas, TFO, Ross Reels and Yeti. They also have an extensive assortment of flies for everything from inland brown trout to smallies and steelhead. Also featured in the shop are multiple vintage 20th Century canoes, restored to their original fishable glory. There's even one that has lineage on the Au Sable, with ownership tracked back to one of the founding fathers of TU. If you are in the Sheboygan area stop in at Aventuron. Or check them out online at www.aventuron.com.

Happy Spring everyone.
—Al Wertz



MARINETTE COUNTY CHAPTER HOLDS TROUT FISHING PROGRAM
Fly-tying instructors Pete Kurtz and John LeBeau assist Anita and Howard Ballard as they learn to tie flies.

Marinette County Chapter

The Marinette County Chapter has been very busy this winter with activities for the community. Along with monthly meetings, the chapter participated in the Fishing, Boating and Camping Show at the Marinette Community Center in February with casting demonstrations and lessons.

We started the four-week trout fishing program in February, which

includes trout habitat and identification, equipment and gear, fly tying and casting lessons. The chapter is also busy getting ready for our annual fundraising banquet on Monday, April 24 at Ember's 1871 in Peshtigo. For ticket information contact Dale Lange at 715-582-1135.

—Dale Lange

Northwoods Chapter

Students are learning and enjoying the chapter's TIC project at Land O' Lakes Elementary School. One of their trout is completely black and the kids affectionately named it "Crispy Bacon." A biologist thinks the trout is likely melanistic, meaning it has a genetic mutation giving it more dark pigment than most other fish. The kids just finished their informational writing project about brown trout, and they are doing a great job of testing the water and taking care of the fish. The teacher reports it has been a great learning experience for everyone involved.

The Northwoods Chapter has had some growing pains over the past year as we attempt to grow and invigorate a chapter which is experiencing an aging out process of our founders and energetic supporters.

Our process is threefold:

- Identify current members who will take on leadership roles.
- Grow our membership base to include teachers, students, and community members who are enthusiastic about our stream conservation efforts.
- Find innovative fundraising possibilities outside the conventional member banquet and raffle

events. None of these has been fully formed, yet. But we are confident that we have the people and dedication to do the job in 2023.

In January our chapter President Mike Pierce was diagnosed with Covid-19. Subsequent tests during and after his recovery showed heart issues and neurological issues that make it impossible for him to continue as president. On Wednesday, April 5 the chapter will meet in the meeting room of the Rhinelander Airport at 7 p.m. to find a replacement for Mike and formulate a plan to keep moving forward.

We ask all interested members of the Northwoods Chapter to attend this meeting and consider stepping up to fill a position to support the good this chapter does.

Some of the needs include someone to take over the Facebook page, bring it up to date, and work with a webpage designer to construct a webpage for the chapter. We are also seeking at least one person to work with the U.S. Forest Service and DNR, setting up and organizing stream workdays. We'll need someone to explore and implement fundraising events. Additionally, we also

need a member who will volunteer to take over as president of the chapter. We have lots of good ideas and projects. All we need are active members who will get involved to

get the word out, raise funds and coordinate stream work days.

—Mike Pierce

Oconto River Watershed Chapter

The Oconto River Watershed Chapter maintains 10 participating schools this year. Thanks to all those instructors who bring this program to their students. Without them, the program would not be as successful as it has been. Each school may approach the TIC program differently. Some have them in middle school science, others in high school science or agriculture.

Eggs were divided so that each school would get approximately 250 eggs. Each school placed their eggs in an aquarium basket or welling jar. Eggs hatch around Christmas and the fry should be swimming up to take food several weeks later.

The chapter is accepting applications for the Don Wagner Memorial Scholarship program. The \$1,000 college scholarship is available to anyone who completed his/her first year of college and has attained sophomore status and who is enrolled in a course associated with environmental sciences or aquaculture (including, but not limited to an emphasis in fisheries).

Special consideration will be afforded to candidates who are juniors or seniors. Also, candidates from the Shawano and Oconto County area, where the Oconto River flows, will be given priority. Also, special attention will be given to those who have worked in the

field.

The scholarship will typically be awarded at UW-SP, through the financial aids office, but could on occasion be awarded at any other accredited college of environmental studies. Send an application of an educational resume for consideration to Oconto River Trout Unlimited, P.O. Box 252, Gillett, WI 54124 by May 1, 2023.

Our fundraiser banquet and drawing are scheduled for Thursday, April 27 at Romy's Holiday Inn Supper Club at Kelly Lake. Funds raised at the banquet will go to support coldwater stream restoration projects within the Oconto River watershed in Oconto County and the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest, TIC projects at area schools, the NOCTA Lakewood trout-rearing station, trout stocking in the northern main Oconto River and college scholarships. Tickets and reservations are available at Meunier's True Value, 131 Main St., Gillett (920-855-2844).

Other chapter activities for 2023 include boat-landing cleanups, trout stockings with the DNR permit, summer stream restoration projects, youth education activities, and a member fishing day. Follow us at Ocontorivertu.com.

—Tom Klatt

Shaw-Paca Chapter

The Shaw-paca Chapter is looking for help in fundraising events and also in chapter leadership.

Reach out to me at kylekossel@yahoo.com for more details.

—Kyle Kossel

Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter

We recently wrapped up four days of fly tying for kids, and kids at heart, at the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Sports Show.

We again partnered with our good friend Dan Small of Wisconsin Outdoors, and our volunteers ran four tying stations throughout the show. It was a great time to get our message of coldwater conservation, as well as some flies, out into the public.

Thanks to the following volunteers for giving up their time for the event: Andy Avgoulas, Janet Fischer, Jim Folda, Rick Larkin, Scott Lyman, Herb Oechler, Ken Rizzo, Greg Schick and Joe Schroeder.

A special thank you goes out to our newest board member and longtime volunteer Chuck Staley, who was thrown into the proverbial fire by yours truly to run the sport show as his first assignment with resounding success.

Special mention also goes out to Al Dalphonso, who also volunteered but was unable to attend due to illness. Finally, we would like to send gratitude to Bob Haase who put all the materials together and got us going on Thursday. This event was a testament to a lot of hard work and great partnerships all around.

On the habitat front, the SEWTU Habitat group was busy organizing the 2023 workday schedule in January and February. SEWTU has

seven workdays scheduled this year.

For the first time a workday is scheduled during the month of April. SEWTU will partner with the Oakbrook Chapter on April 15 for a workday at Bluff Creek in northwest Walworth County near White-water.

Our Driftless Area workday and weekend outing will occur the weekend of August 12. All the other workdays are at familiar coldwater resources in southeast Wisconsin.

Please check our website and our email blasts for a complete list of upcoming events throughout the spring, summer and fall.

Our membership meetings have moved to a new home, the Explorium Brewpub in the Southridge Mall in Greendale. Approximately 43 members came to hear Joe Davies of Milwaukee River Fly Fishing give us a talk on how he pursues the bronze backs on the biggest river in our chapter. We will finish out our spring schedule here with our April and May meetings.

In April we have our annual meeting and elections and in May we have Dave Barron of Jacquish Hollow Angler as our guest speaker.

SEWTU has been working on several new partnerships with other organizations in our area and around the state. We are in need of some additional support and volunteers for fly tying and fly casting



Chapter News

SOUTHEAST CHAPTER MEMBERS HELP OUT AT FOUR-DAY SHOW

The chapter recently wrapped up four days of fly tying for kids, and kids at heart, at the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Sports Show. Below are some images from the event. Photos by Andy Avgoulas and Lauren Voss. They again partnered with good friend Dan Small of Wisconsin Outdoors, and their volunteers ran four tying stations throughout the show. It was a great time to get the TU message of coldwater conservation, as well as some flies, out into the public.



clinics that are coming up. If you are interested in helping with these fun events, please contact me via my personal email or through our general chapter email box.

Finally, as this is my last article I will be writing as chapter president, I want to thank all the members of the board for their dedication and support. I offer a special thanks to Rick Larkin for being a very engaged and supportive vice president throughout my two-year term. I will remain engaged and active in the chapter, and I look forward to seeing you all at future events and workdays.

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 262-893-4965.

For general inquiries, please send an email to our mailbox at: southeasternwisconsintu@gmail.com.

—Andy Avgoulas

Southern Wisconsin Chapter

Tickets! Get your tickets while you can!

SWTU is gearing up for its second Spring Fair Fundraiser on Saturday, April 22, from 4 to 8 p.m. at the East Side Club in Madison, on the shores of Lake Monona.

Last year's event was a tremendous success as measured in smiles, prizes, finger-licking food and money raised to fund workdays, projects, teaching, veteran's programs, youth outreach and more.

Advanced ticket purchase is required. Your ticket will get you (and another person 12 and under) into the event, feed you extremely well, allow you into casting contests and rod demos and set you up with tickets for an amazing array of bucket raffle items. We'll also have a silent auction and cash bar. We would love to see you there. Learn more and get your tickets by visiting swtu.org/

springfundraiser.

Another place we'd love to see you this spring is at a stream workday. Jim Hess once again has an amazing array of events planned across a variety of important waters. From clearing brush to planting trees, we'll be doing our part to improve our precious coldwater resource and welcome any helpers. The full schedule is posted to swtu.org.

We continue to meet monthly at Schwoegler's Lanes on Madison's west side. The venue and food have been excellent, and we've been blessed with a fantastic array of presenters including some friends from the Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter.

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

—Drew Kasel

Wild Rivers Chapter

The Wild Rivers Chapter concluded its winter fly-tying events at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center, meeting the first Saturdays of the months in a wonderful sun-filled room reserved for us. Thank you Mitchell Baalman for helping with our arrangements. Dick Berge and Bob Traczyk were on hand for any questions about the art that came up. Flies were tied for our State Council donation and our chapter's upcoming Expo.

Our primary fundraiser is April 8 at Northland College in Ashland.

The Wild Rivers Fishing Expo and Auction already has an impressive list of partner agencies and organizations lined up for exhibit tables, plus presentations on coaster brook trout rehabilitation in the Wisconsin waters of Lake Superior and fishing with a rod, line and fly: Tenkara style. This will all be followed by an auction led by everyone's favorite auctioneer, Duke Welter. If you're in our neighborhood, please stop by and enjoy this event.

Tight Lines.

—Kevin Seefeldt

Wisconsin River Valley Chapter

In December we celebrated our 40th birthday. We gathered for pizza and beer at Bull Falls Brewery in Wausau. Some of the founding members were there to show us memorabilia and share stories from the early days. We remembered Herb Hintz, who led the chapter for many years. He secured a lot of easements and gifted a lot of pies to landowners in the process. Many thanks to Henry Kanemoto, Bob Pils, Gene Koshak, Al Hauber and John Meachen for sharing your stories and for all of your time that you have devoted to the chapter. It was truly a special night.

In January we filled the upstairs meeting room at the Sawmill Brewery in Merrill for a presentation by Taylor Curran about projects and issues affecting our area. Thank you, Taylor, for your presentation and thank you to all who attended.

Our Movie Night was in February, with the International Fly Fishing Film Festival at the UW-SP Center for Civil Engagement in Wausau. The weather was on our side, and it was great to see people gathering to watch this collection of films from IF4, purchase raffle tickets and place bids on silent auctions. We raised enough funds to purchase equipment for a TIC project at Maple Grove Elementary school, as well as money for local stream improvement.

Many thanks to our sponsors: Wisconsin Public Service, WAOW TV, Fall Line Outfitters, Chase Outdoors, Kronenwetter Veterinary Care, Greisbach Auto Service, Bull Falls Harley Davidson, Sawmill Brewing Company, Timekeeper Distillery, Great Dane Pub & Brew-

ing, Bull Falls Brewing Co, White-water Music Hall, Zastrow The Beer Man, The Silent Glide Canoe and Kayak Shop, St Croix Rod Company, Sportsman's Repair Shop, County Market, Janke Bookstore, Fleet Farm, Incredible Bank, Northern Waters Distillery, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Golden Sands Resource Conservation & Development Council, Frank Hornberg TU Chapter and Northwoods TU Chapter and to all of the people that attended the event.

Many thanks to John Meachen and Eric Pease for their work in setting up this event and to Perry Nikolai, Robert Pankratz, Doug Brown, Paul Dedo and Al Hauber for all your footwork.

In February we were invited to help boy scouts from Pack 427 earn their badge for fly tying. Thank you to Bob Pils, Pat Esselman and den leader Eric Pease. It was great spending some time with your scouts. In April, we will return for fly casting. I'm looking forward to that.

In March, Fall Line Outfitters presented "Fishing into 2023." Also in March we held a Hackle & Hops gathering, with open fly tying at the Sawmill Brewery in Merrill.

On April 10 Carmen Hardin will present: "Tips for Trips - Where to find beer, bathrooms, and fish." This is at the Sawmill Brewery in Merrill with a 6 p.m. social hour, 6:45 p.m. chapter news and 7 p.m. presentation.

April 17 is our next Hackle & Hops gathering, with open fly tying, at the Sawmill Brewery in Merrill. Bring your vise and your best fishing or outdoor stories, or maybe your

Chapter News



NICE-LOOKING CADDISFLY FOR A YOUNG NEW TYER



WISCONSIN RIVER VALLEY CHAPTER HELPS SCOUTS EARN BADGES

Boy scouts from Pack 427 earned their badge for fly tying. Thank you to Bob Pils, Pat Esselman and den leader Eric Pease.

Paw for this event and serving lunch. Zach tied flies while people visited and watched. Eleven-year-old Miles Stuck got in on the fly tying action with Zach giving him pointers. I have a feeling it won't be long before Miles will be giving the pointers, if he isn't already. He already is a very proficient fisherman on the Wolf River.

The Wolf River Chapter Spring Meeting is April 15 at 10 a.m. at the Bear Paw Resort on Highway 55, with lunch to follow the meeting. One board of director's position is up for election. Other items on the agenda include discussion and scheduling of the chapter's upcoming work day projects, the Wolf River Meet & Greet and signing of the Wolf River Chapter's opposition to the Back Forty Mine proposed on the Menominee River.

Please contact Bill Livingston at wolfriverfish@gmail.com by May 1 if you are interested in attending The Wolf River Meet & Greet on May 20, 2023 or would like more information. This is an opportunity to learn about fishing the Wolf River with experienced chapter members and a wonderful social event that includes lunch at the Livingston's home on the banks of the Wolf River. We hope to see you there.

—Laurie Zen Netzow



SCOUTS GET A CHANCE TO LEARN FROM THE MASTERS

Bob Pils shares his knowledge with two eager scouts.

favorite fish or game recipes.

"Hexteria! - Fishing the Hex Hatch" is our presentation on May 8 at The Bar in Rothschild. As usual there is a 6 p.m. social hour, 6:45 p.m. chapter news and 7 p.m. presentation.

May 19 is the Taylor County Youth Expo at the Taylor County Fairgrounds in Medford. We will have two stations set up: fly tying

and fly casting. Last year approximately 400 fifth graders attended this event. If you would like to help or just see what this event is about, please contact me, Linda Lehman, on Facebook. I'm the lady holding the salmon.

Please watch for emails about any schedule changes or added events for the summer.

—Linda Lehman

Wolf River Chapter

The winter on the Wolf River in Langlade County has been long, hard and really white. In December I had the good fortune of seeing a pair of trumpeter swans out my window on the Wolf River, a first for me. They hung around for three days before moving on to some other locale with more open water. I heard in February that there were more trumpeter swans on the upper Wolf River, north of Pearson, where the river was still open.

Hopefully, it will not be long before

ice slabs start floating down the river, signaling Spring and the beginning of trout fishing season and warmer weather. Flows are predicted to be high with the amount of snow in the woods, so be careful out there.

The Wolf River Chapter Fly Tying Rendezvous had a good turnout of 17 people in February at the Bear Paw Resort. A big thank you to Zach Buchanan for organizing this event and to Tom Kreif and Eric Scharenbrock for opening the Bear



WOLF RIVER CHAPTER HOLDS FLY TYING RENDEZVOUS

Miles Stuck, 11, concentrates on tying a fly, with Zach Buchanan watching and offering advice, at the Wolf River Chapter Fly Tying Rendezvous in February at the Bear Paw Resort.

Got your TU plates yet?

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



Memories of Clarence Wilson

Author recalls his early days in TU, and how one older member took him under his wing.

By Joe Knight

Shortly after I moved to Eau Claire 40 years ago to become the outdoor writer for the local newspaper, I also took on the volunteer job of editing the newsletter of the Ojib-leau Chapter of Trout Unlimited (now the Wisconsin Clear Waters Chapter). On the back page of every issue was "Will's Corner," a column usually describing a fly pattern that was good for a particular local stream or streams, or a story, often humorous, about a local fisherman. I wish I had saved more editions.

I soon met the author of those columns, Clarence "Willy" Wilson, at a chapter meeting. Several early chapter members taught me about fishing, fly tying, and life, but it was Will in particular who took me under his wing. He died March 3 at the age of 85.

Our first outing: Night fishing a hex hatch

On our first fishing trip together, he took me to a creek north of Eau Claire. After a lengthy hike, we stopped at a pool that was about belly button deep and handed me three big yellow flies – hex imitations. It was already twilight when we arrived, but he said I should wait until I started seeing flies, then step in and begin working my way upstream. He would fish upstream and find me when the hatch was over.

Not long after he left, a few big flies began fluttering by. They were chased down by song sparrows, who were waiting for them. Trout were waiting for them also, and I began to hear slurping trout upstream, which was my cue to start fishing.

It is always an adventure wading after dark in an unfamiliar stream. The creek was bordered on both sides by thick tag alders, and I wondered how Will was going to find me. I decided I would just keep wading and fishing and I would eventually get back to the bridge where we parked, although it would be early morning by the time I arrived.

But about the time the mayflies were petering out, I saw a light ahead. Will was waving a flashlight, standing at a break in the alders. This was a brook trout stream and I hadn't caught anything over 12 inches, but it was a memorable evening. It must have been. I still remember it vividly after 40 years. Will said this was a dress rehearsal. Next, we would fish his favorite stream, the Brule.

He was a patient fly tyer and instructor. His obituary said he would teach fly tying to "anyone who wanted to learn." That included inmates in the county jail.

He had a pattern for a hex dun that involved taking a piece of yellow poly yarn and twisting it, then anchoring it with several wraps of thread on a short-shanked hook. The tension in the twisted yarn caused it to curve upward, like the abdomen of a mayfly. The rest of the fly was a parachute style, with an elk- or deer-hair post. Sometimes he mixed in a smaller piece of tan yarn, which gave the twisted body a mottled two-tone look, which made it more like a real hex.

His favorite place: The Brule

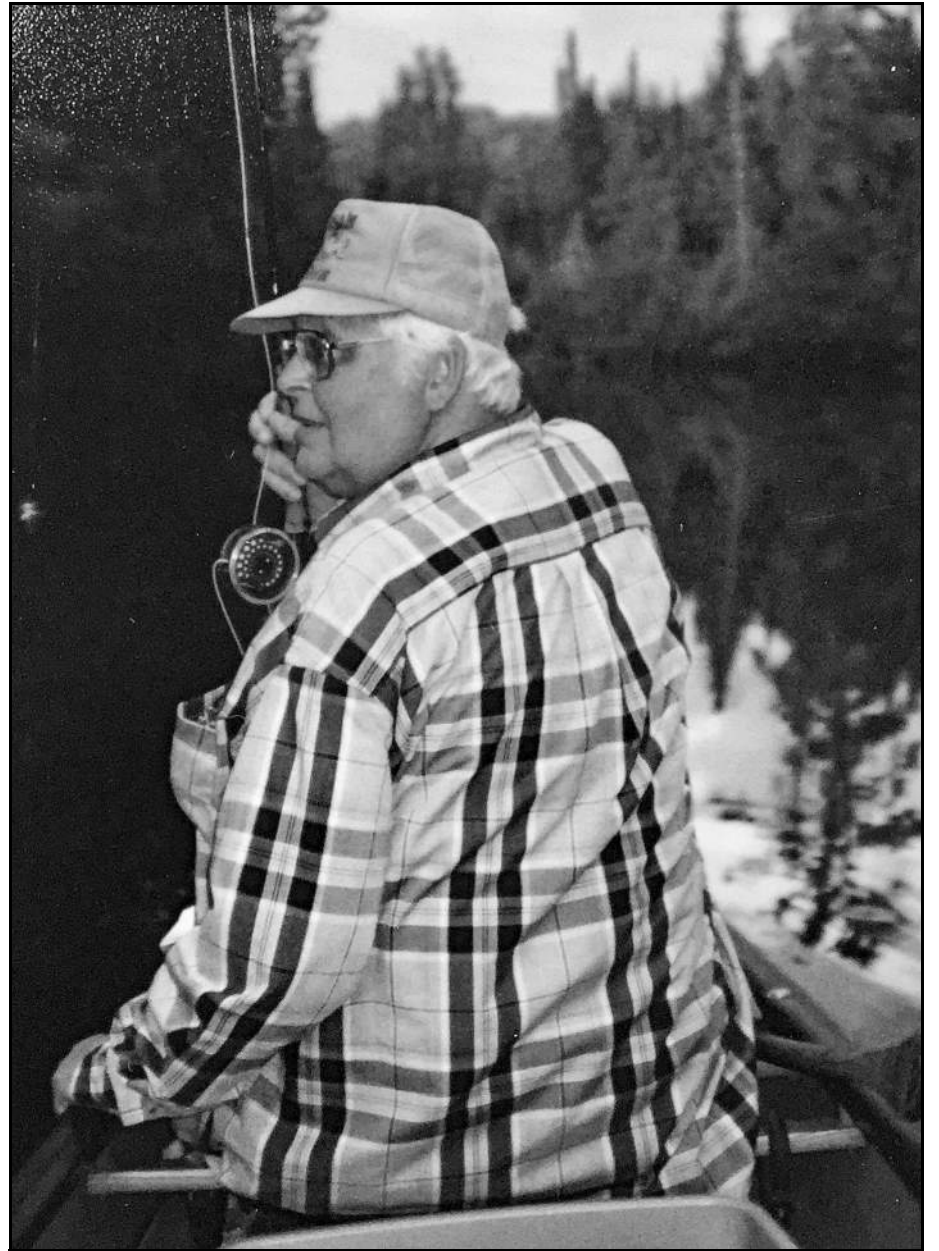
One year we took a daytime canoe trip on the upper Brule at hex time. The water was high and we were mostly killing time until the evening fishing, but there were some hex hatching and some larger browns were feeding. We drifted the poly hex past a few of the daytime feeders. The trout had a long time to look them over, because of the slow current, but they took it without hesitation. To Will, this was vindication that the pattern was a keeper.

The cedar bog on the upper Brule was an enchanting place to be on a June evening, with the white-throated sparrows singing and the shadows of the spruce and cedar trees lengthening over the river.

Will had the location of every wing dam memorized so we could navigate efficiently after dark. It wasn't until I took a solo canoe down that I realized how useful this was. On my way back upstream to Stones Bridge I frequently found myself corralled on the wrong side of a wing dam. After several trips spread out over years, I asked if I could take a turn in the stern of the canoe and have him fish from the bow. He said it wasn't time yet. "You earn this seat," he declared.

I never did earn that seat, although I have gone on to paddle in the stern while some younger anglers fished. Maybe that is what he meant by "earning" the stern seat. After a few years of his guide service, I relinquished my bow seat to make room for his grandkids.

Will was an engineering technician with the state Department of Transportation, so maybe it was natural that he designed a trout habitat



RARELY SEEN IN THE BOW OF A CANOE

"Will" was never one to seek attention, but in 1994 he received a Distinguished Service Award from National Trout Unlimited. He coveted the stern seat in a canoe, saying "it has to be earned." Clarence "Willy" Wilson died March 3.

project on the upper reaches of Duncan Creek. I remember one day he and I were the only people to show up for a work day, but we had field stone, some lumber and an old aluminum canoe, so we set to work, floating the stone downriver in the canoe. The structures we built provided some cover, but we really didn't have the horsepower to make a long-lasting boom cover. Floods rearranged our "habitat."

I fish through the area once a year on an August morning and usually there's a moderate but fishable Trico spinner fall. I chuckle when I see the field stone in the corners, and remember our morning of hauling rock via canoe. Now I understand that deep corners may not be the best habitat for brook trout. Maybe we were just ahead of our time.

The chapter later was involved in a DNR habitat project downstream, where there are more fish and more anglers. We assembled LUNKER structures and carved our initials in the wood. The DNR technicians placed them with enough rock on top so that they will stay put.

Will was never one to seek attention, but in 1994 he received a Distinguished Service Award from National Trout Unlimited. It was a good excuse to go to Yellowstone to pick it up.

Will stopped fishing the Brule years ago when getting in and out of the canoe proved too difficult. Although he could no longer fish, he continued to tie flies and make poppers for bluegills and bass, until he lost the ability to do this also. Those

cork poppers received multiple coats of paint and were nearly bullet proof. I would eventually lose them to a pike or muskie after banging them off of rocks in the Chippewa or Flambeau rivers in search of small mouth bass. He made bass poppers in yellow, gray and dark green. Yellow is traditional for these rivers, although I've never seen a yellow frog.

I lost track of Will for a couple years. He and Jackie moved out of their longtime house and the phone number I had for him didn't work. I was cleaning out a drawer and found a piece of paper with his daughter Linda's number. She told me where to find him. He and Jackie were both in an assisted care facility in the memory care unit.

He remembered me. His voice was weak, but he had pretty good recall of old times. The last time I visited, to jog his memory, I brought a plaque the Wisconsin Newspaper Association gave me for writing outdoor columns. One of the columns had been on fishing the Brule with Will, and they had etched onto the plaque a photo of the Brule at twilight, with an insert of Will, paddle in hand, in his familiar spot in the stern of the canoe. He is wearing a fly vest and looking to the right, like he is trying to decide how to get around a wing dam. That's how I'll remember him.

His family has asked that memorials be made to the American Heart Association or Wisconsin Clear Waters Chapter of Trout Unlimited.



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

Great Lakes Stream Restoration Program update

By Chris Collier, Great Lakes Stream Restoration Manager and Scott Allen, Great Lakes Stream Restoration Specialist

One exciting benefit of our growing staff in Wisconsin is we're able to give you multiple updates in each issue of *Wisconsin Trout*. Also, we don't have to write these updates solo, and I'm very thankful to have Scott's help as I sit here with a newborn baby. We have an incredibly exciting field season ahead of us.

I wanted to bring the Wisconsin Priority Waters initiative full circle after updates in the past several issues. At the February State Council meeting, our proposal to submit the Wild Rivers, Green Bay Headwaters, Driftless, and Central Sands Priority Waters and the Upper Namekagon, Upper Wisconsin, Upper Wolf, Spring Ponds and Lake Superior Tributaries Home Waters was presented to chapter leadership. After following up on some questions and ideas from chapters about that presentation, we are submitting that proposal to TU National. So now the work and fun begins. We're ready to jump in starting this year to act in these areas. That's what TU is all about right? Action!

As we get to work, here are few Priority Waters updates for the Waters in the Great Lakes basin:

For the Green Bay Headwaters we are continuing to build our funding and project portfolio and are aiming to make sure this includes more collaboration with chapters and their initiatives.

In the Wild Rivers and Lake Superior Tributaries, we have a handful of projects in the Bois Brule that will start hitting the ground this year. We will be kicking off a road-stream crossing inventory effort across the Lake Superior basin, and are working with the Wild Rivers Chapter to host a tree-planting and stream conservation day on the Marengo River. We also have a pending proposal that could fund

some exciting work over several years that will hopefully be highlighted in the next issue of *Wisconsin Trout*.

In the Central Sands, our TU Great Lakes team are excited to work with chapter and TU CARES leaders to provide some project assistance and see how this region can catalyze even more growth.

In the Upper Wolf, our goal is to be more involved with the Wolf River Chapter and State Council and use this partnership to foster more collaboration and get more projects planned and on the ground.

Project updates for 2023

We're continuing our relentless pursuit to improve aquatic organism passage by upgrading road-stream crossings with our various partners.

With the U.S. Forest Service, crossings on an unnamed tributary to Armstrong Creek and on Alvin Creek, both in Forest County, are scheduled for construction this year.

With Wisconsin DATCP, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, DNR, and the Town of Solon Springs, three crossings on Wilson Creek in Douglas County are planned for replacement with at least one being constructed this year.

With the Town of Brazeau, Wisconsin DNR and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, a crossing on McDonald Creek in Oconto County will be replaced this year.

These projects generally involve replacing undersized culverts with a larger culvert (or sometimes a bridge) in order to facilitate aquatic organism passage by simulating the stream through the crossing. Additional road stream crossings in Langlade, Forest, Vilas, Douglas and Bayfield counties are on the docket, so stay tuned.

A growing aspect of our stream restoration portfolio is the removal of remnant or unnecessary dams on our trout streams. These projects are not as high-profile as the dams on the Kinni, but with each removal,



THIS PERCHED CULVERT WILL SOON BE HISTORY

The Great Lakes team has connected many miles of stream by replacing culverts and removing barriers such as these.

more of our rivers are flowing free.

In Forest County near Wabeno, the third of a series of remnant logging dams is planned for removal this year to restore aquatic habitat and improve angling opportunities on the North Branch Oconto River (this project follows the removal of two downstream dams in 2018 and 2020). Further north in Forest County, two dams on Brule Creek are being evaluated for removal and restoration. We were also happy to assist a conservation-minded landowner, with deep family ties to fly fishing in Wisconsin, in Washara County with managing remnant mill pond dams on a Class 1 trout stream through their property.

The aspect of our program we're most excited about is including more habitat projects. With the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, we're exploring project opportunities in the Central Sands to add large woody debris and beaver dam analogues to improve in-stream habitat. With Wisconsin Wetlands, we're advising on the use of post-assisted log structures to restore incised and degraded stream reaches due to recent flood events. We know that TU

chapters across Wisconsin are regularly completing stream habitat restoration projects in their local waters and we're interested to assist and learn from your work, so please keep us advised of your projects.

In closing, we want to thank all of you for the amazing work you do day in and day out as TU volunteers. The Wisconsin TU Banquet was the perfect showcase of why TU is successful: our volunteers and their passion for coldwater conservation. From invasive removals, to tree plantings, to veterans programming, to women's fly fishing events, to youth camps, you all are the reason your chapters, the state council and TU National are as successful as we are. We envision this work you all continue to lead the charge on will help catalyze more growth in the Wisconsin coldwater conservation community and the Great Lakes team is excited to be a part of that. Please reach out to us at chris.collier@tu.org and scott.allen@tu.org with any project ideas you have.

Spring is just around the corner and we're excited to get back in the stream with you.

Marengo River tree planting and BBQ May 20

Families are invited to plant trees, view electroshocking and macroinvertebrate displays, and enjoy a cookout along the beautiful Marengo River.

By Jamie Vaughn, TU Great Lakes Engagement Coordinator

Join Trout Unlimited, local experts and fellow volunteers in Grand View, Wisconsin on Saturday, May 20 at 9 a.m. to care for and enjoy the beautiful Marengo River. During this family-friendly event we will be planting trees near the bank stabilization project, learning about the fish and macroinvertebrates that call the river home, and enjoying a cookout with food provided. All are welcome.

In 2021, TU and USFS partners completed a large-scale bank stabilization project on the Marengo Riv-

er to stabilize the sandy bluffs along the river and restore natural flow after major flooding in 2016 and 2018. The project was a huge success, and this tree planting event will further stabilize the project site and restore native vegetation to the river's banks. Come be part of this conservation success story.

Planting trees is a fun and meaningful activity to do with your children and grandchildren. In addition to tree planting, kids and adults alike can watch an electrofishing demonstration at the site and see what species of fish are calling the new bank structure home. With the help of local partners and experts, we will also have a macroinvertebrate identification activity that will be fun for all ages.

Planting tools and supplies will be provided, but feel free to bring gloves or extra tools if you wish. Please be aware that the site is approximately 0.25-0.5 miles off the main forest road. We recommend that participants bring bug spray, sturdy shoes or muck boots, and water. We also ask that participants register in advance for this free event so we can plan accordingly. Scan the QR code with your cell-



LET THEM GET THEIR HANDS DIRTY

The family-friendly event includes tree planting, learning about fish and macroinvertebrates and enjoying a cookout. All are welcome.

phone camera and follow the link to sign up.

For directions, please enter 46.320288, -90.999896 into Google Maps or other navigation systems. We will meet directly off Forest Road 384 and there will be signs to

direct participants to the planting site. We can't wait to see you there.

This tree planting is made possible by a grant from Bell's Brewery.

For more information contact Danielle Nelson at danielle.nelson@tu.org.



“Wild” brook trout are better survivors

Matthew Mitro

Wisconsin DNR, Office of Applied Science, Fisheries Research

The stocking of trout in Wisconsin streams has long been a cornerstone of trout management strongly supported by the public. The Nevin Fish Hatchery, the state’s first, was built in 1876 to supply a burgeoning demand for trout fry. By 1883, the hatchery was producing 2,000,000 brook trout fry that were distributed to streams by the can, with 5,000 fry per can.

In 2022 we stocked more than 800,000 brook, brown and rainbow trout in inland waters. Though fewer in number, they were larger in size, comprising large fall fingerling, spring yearling, and adult broodstock trout.

Domestic broodstock

Trout fry production historically relied on the procurement of fertilized eggs from broodstock kept in hatcheries. Broodstock were typically replenished by holding back some fry in the hatchery. As trout broodstock became further removed from the wild, they became what we now refer to as domestic broodstock.

It has long been recognized that trout of domestic origin perform poorly, in terms of survival, compared to wild trout.

John Mason, Oscar Brynildson and Paul Degurse led early Wisconsin Conservation Department efforts in the 1960s comparing survival of domestic and wild strains of brook trout stocked in streams. They stocked domestic, wild and domestic-wild hybrid brook trout at 9 to 10 months of age in five streams: Big Roche-a-Cri, Black Earth, Campbell, Big Spring and Story Creeks.

The wild-derived trout came from eggs collected from Lawrence Creek brook trout, though some from Big Roche-a-Cri Creek were also raised in the hatchery and stocked back into the same creek. The following year after stocking, the Lawrence Creek-derived “wild” brook trout survival was about 15 times greater than the survival of domestic brook trout (10.2% versus 0.7 percent).

“Wild” trout stocking

Recognizing that domestic strains of hatchery-reared trout often exhibited poor post-stocking survival and wanting to reestablish wild populations following improvements in stream habitat, in 1995 the Wisconsin DNR initiated a program to stock trout of wild parentage. Dubbed the “wild” trout stocking program, fertilized eggs were obtained from wild and putatively native brook trout (or wild brown trout), raised in a hatchery, and stocked as age-0 fall fingerlings.

Why did it take more than 25 years to go from Mason, Brynildson and Degurse’s study to implementation in 1995? My best guess would be cost and feasibility. This issue comes into play in our current iteration of the program.

The fish produced by collecting and fertilizing eggs from wild trout are first filial generation (F1) trout, being one generation removed from the wild. I use quotation marks when referring to these as “wild” trout because though close to being wild, they are removed from natural selective processes when their parents are paired, and the offspring are raised in a hatchery environ-

ment for about 10 months. Post-stocking surveys in the 1990s and early 2000s showed survival rates 2-4 times greater for F1 versus domestic brook and brown trout.

Ash Creek brood source

The “wild” brook trout stocking program first relied on Richland County’s Ash Creek as a brood source stream to produce F1 trout.

Fisheries management demand and propagation program constraints (cost and feasibility) eventually led to the production of second filial generation (F2) trout to supplement F1 trout production. F2 trout were developed by holding back some F1 trout from Ash Creek in the hatchery and raising them to reproductive age. It is efficient to produce large numbers of F2 trout to meet stocking demand, and F1 and F2 trout were considered as equivalents in the “wild” trout stocking program.

The fitness question

The scientific literature, however, suggests there may be a loss of fitness in the wild for stocked salmonids related to the number of generations of captive breeding.

Fitness refers to a trout’s ability to pass its genetic material to its offspring. In a study of steelhead trout and a meta-analysis including additional studies on steelhead trout, brown trout and Atlantic salmon, published by Hitoshi Araki and others in the journal *Science* in 2007, fitness in the wild was reduced by about 40 percent per generation of captive breeding.

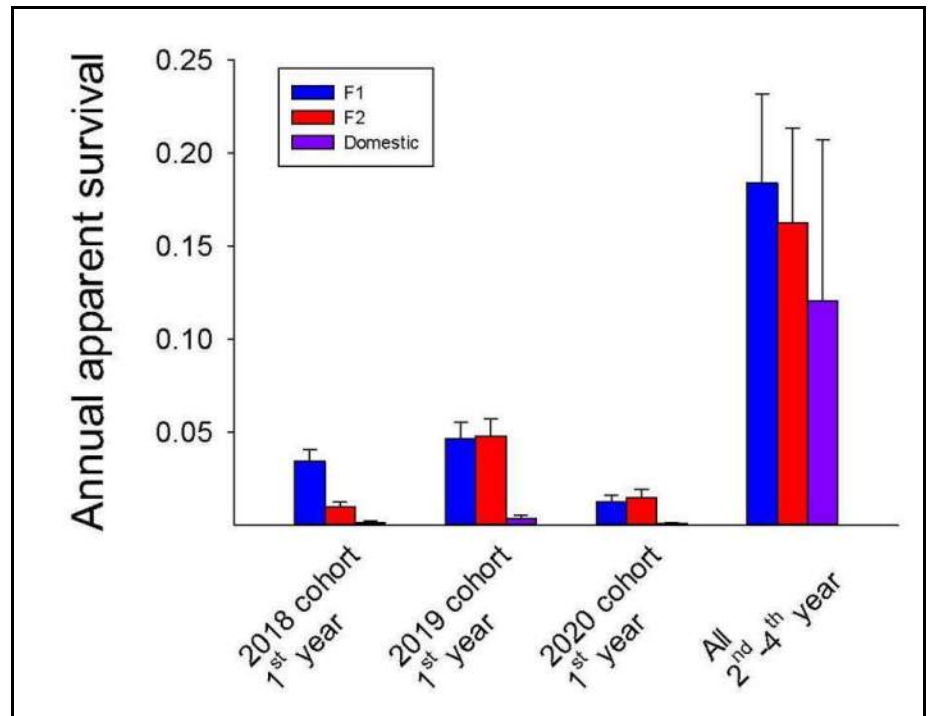
As hatchery-produced salmonids became generationally further removed from the wild, fewer stocked fish survived to reproduce. This suggested we should perhaps not consider F1 and F2 trout as equivalents in the DNR stocking program.

Research needed to compare F1, F2 brook trout

No comparative studies had been done for F1 and F2 brook trout. So, in 2011 we initiated a paired stocking study to compare the survival of F1 and F2 brook trout stocked in Tenny Spring Creek (Vernon Co.). Technically, we investigated apparent survival, which is the probability that an individual survives and remains in the population from one sampling period to the next (as opposed to emigrating from the study area), but here I will simply refer to survival.

Tenny Spring Creek, a tributary to Elk Creek, had a robust population of wild brown trout and a small, remnant population of wild brook trout. We removed as many brown trout from the stream as we could prior to stocking and on each subsequent survey. All brown trout were released downstream in Elk Creek. For three consecutive years we stocked 500 F1 and 500 F2 brook trout and tracked their survival through 2015.

Survival rates were 2-3 times greater for F1 versus F2 brook trout in the first year following release, and there was no significant difference in survival 2-4 years post-stocking. In other words, for trout that survived their first year, though at different rates, survival thereafter was similar. There was a cohort effect with progressively lower survival rates in successive years of stocking as the brook trout population built up, and there was no sig-



nificant difference in growth of surviving brook trout.

By the end of the study, we saw significant production of wild brook trout in Tenny Spring Creek, indicating stocked fish were probably successfully reproducing. However, we did not determine the extent to which F1 versus F2 brook trout successfully spawned because genetic parentage analyses were not part of the study.

Parentage analysis

In 2018 we had the opportunity to replicate this study so that we could follow through with genetic parentage analyses to identify the reproductive contribution of each strain stocked. Parentage analyses are forthcoming and will not be presented here. This work is being done in collaboration with Dr. Jared Homola, a geneticist and the Assistant Unit Leader at the Wisconsin Cooperative Fishery Research Unit at UW-Stevens Point, and graduate student Andrew Thometz. Here I will describe the survival analysis portion of the study.

We chose a different stream, Strutt Creek, in Iowa Co. There were no brook trout present in Strutt Creek at the start of the study, but there was a small population of wild brown trout. In addition to 500 F1 and 500 F2 brook trout we also stocked 500 domestic brook trout in each of three years from 2018 to 2020. All brown trout captured were moved downstream of a barrier in Love Creek.

Our observations in Strutt Creek largely confirmed what we saw in Tenny Spring Creek. For the first cohort stocked in 2018, survival rates of F1 brook trout were about 3½ times greater than F2 brook trout and 34 times greater than domestic brook trout for the first year post-stocking.

For the successive stockings in 2019 and 2020, there were again diminishing returns, but there was no significant difference in survival rates for F1 and F2 brook trout, which were 14 times greater than for domestic brook trout stocked in 2019 and 17 times greater for those stocked in 2020.

For the 2nd to 4th years post-stocking, survival rates were once again similar, here among the three strains stocked. By autumn of 2020, we began seeing wild brook trout, proving that the stocked trout were successfully reproducing.

Surprising finding

The surprising finding in this Strutt Creek follow-up study to Ten-

ny Spring Creek was the lack of a difference in survival of F1 versus F2 brook trout stocked in 2019 and 2020.

The explanation for this difference may lie in a change in how the DNR procures F2 brook trout. Prior to 2015, F2 brook trout were solely derived from Ash Creek, such that genetic diversity was expected to decrease from wild to F1 to F2.

Beginning in 2015, the DNR ceased using Ash Creek and began using a rotation of streams for wild brood sources.

F1 brook trout were still originated from a single wild population, but a different one each year. F2 brook trout, however, were now derived by crossing F1 brook trout originating from two different sources—age 3 F1s from one stream and age 2 F1s from another stream. This approach to creating F2 brook trout likely increases genetic diversity in F2s compared to using single-stream sourced F1s to create F2s. We will await genetic analyses to confirm if this is the case.

The results from the Tenny Spring Creek study comparing F1s and F2s implied that the DNR should consider them different. I recommended that the agency keep F1 brook trout separate for priority stocking, such as reestablishing wild populations or reintroducing native genetics to wild populations of domestic origin. F2 brook trout would be suitable for stocking put-grow-take streams, but stocking quotas should be adjusted to elicit a desired outcome compared to stocking F1s. For example, if we stock X age 0 F1s to have Y survive to age 2, we may need to stock 3X F2s to have Y survive to age 2.

The results from Strutt Creek, which appear to have been influenced by the change in how we make F2s, suggest a different strategy.

It may now be that we can stock X age 0 F1s or X age 0 F2s and in each case have Y survive to age 2. Both F1s and F2s are far preferable, in terms of survival, to stocking domestic brook trout, which are many generations removed from the wild.

More thought will need to be given, however, as to whether single-sourced F1s or multi-sourced F2s are preferable for reestablishing wild populations or reintegrating native genetics to existing populations. I anticipate that the forthcoming genetics analyses will be critical to informing this decision.

Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Convention April 19-21

The 2023 Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Convention is April 19-21 at the Stevens Point Holiday Inn and Convention Center, with virtual attendance options available.

This year's theme is Building Trust Around Water Together. During this event, we invite you to build new relationships with individuals, groups, businesses, and organizations. Let's cultivate trust together so we can better collaborate and cooperate around the lakes, in our watersheds, and across Wisconsin. We also invite you to explore Wisconsin's unique Public Trust Doctrine, based on our state's constitutional provision "that navigable waters are held in trust by the state for the benefit of the public."

Wednesday, April 19 will feature half-day workshops and field trips. Pre-registration is required so register soon, as they fill up quickly. There will also be an evening Poster Session as part of our annual Welcome Reception.


Thursday, April 20 will feature a morning keynote panel, more than 35 concurrent sessions, educational and business exhibits, lightning presentations, and a Lake Stewardship and Volunteer Stream Monitoring Awards Ceremony and Banquet.

Friday, April 21 will feature a morning keynote with John Francis "the Planetwalker," more than 35 concurrent sessions, educational and business exhibits.

Virtual attendance includes select sessions as well as keynote speakers on Thursday and Friday. You must have the ability to use Zoom to join these events. Virtual sessions are included on the full agenda at <https://wisconsinwaterweek.org/fullagenda/> and are marked with "also available virtually."

Learn more and register at <https://wisconsinwaterweek.org/home/lakes-and-rivers-convention/>

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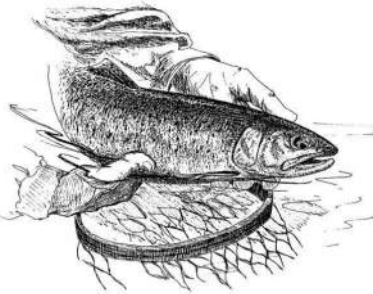
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- 3. Turn fish belly up while removing hooks.** This disorients fish momentarily for easier, quicker handling.
- 4. Don't remove swallowed hooks.** Just cut the line... doing so saves two-thirds of deeply hooked trout.
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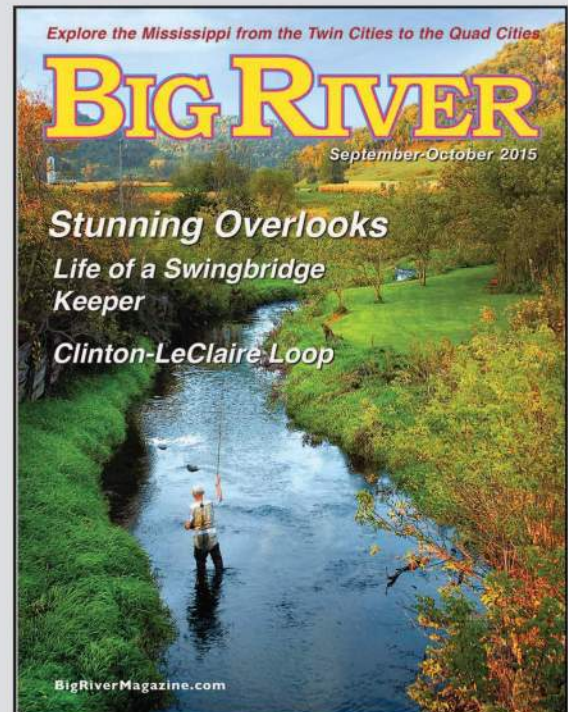
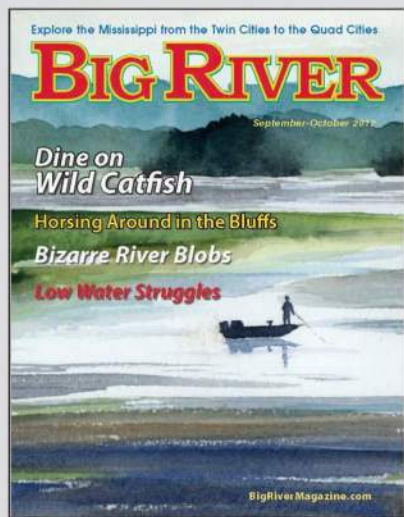
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