



# Wisconsin Trout

Summer 2023

## Former Wisconsin Trout Editor Todd Hanson passes away

By Duke Welter

Todd Hanson, a significant contributor to Wisconsin TU, a strong resource advocate, talented brewmaster, dedicated outdoors person and genuinely good guy, died in May at his Madison home. He was 69. Todd was born May 31, 1953 in New London.

Many Wisconsin TU members will remember Todd's work as editor of *Wisconsin Trout*, beginning with the January 2000 issue through October 2013. There, he successfully worked to broaden the contributions of writers and photographers from around the state. For his work, he was honored with national TU's premier award for a state communications publication in 2001.

Todd was an avid angler, hunter, sports fan and gardener. Following his graduation from UW-Stevens Point, he taught high school in Sheboygan before pursuing a Masters in Communications from Boston Col-

lege. He worked for several publications and founded Fox Classic Brewing Company in Appleton, Wisconsin. During the 1990s he served as president of the Fox Valley Chapter of TU and co-lead a project to publicize catch-and-release fishing with fellow Wisconsin TU leaders Bob Hunt and Jim Hlaban. The video they produced, "CPR: Consider Proper Release," was filmed here and narrated by Joan Wulff. It was nationally distributed through TU chapters.

Todd also served as the communications director of the Wisconsin Stewardship Network during the 1990s, after he'd moved to Madison. WSN brought together environmental groups and outdoor groups from around the state to focus on key resource issues such as the Crandon Mine and the "Prove It First" statute.

*Continued on next page*



### ROASTED BY THE STATE COUNCIL IN 2014

Todd was on the receiving end of one of Clint Byrnes' famous State Council "roasts" at the State Council meeting in February of 2014. Bill Heart is presenting him with some of his homemade maple syrup.

## Inland Trout Stamp Fee to remain at \$10, for now

By Mike Kuhr, Advocacy Chair

It's no secret that we've been actively advocating for an increased investment in trout habitat projects funded by the Inland Trout Stamp across the state. In May the legislature's Joint Committee on Finance (JFC) voted to approve a motion that sets the DNR's budget for the next two years. The motion did not include the \$5 increase that we had proposed.

Instead, the Inland Trout Stamp will remain at \$10 for the next two years. The JFC did approve a small increase in general fishing licenses for out-of-state residents to plug a gap in the fish and wildlife account. A Legislative Fiscal Bureau ("LFB") memo released earlier in May showed the Inland Trout Stamp account was in pretty good shape. This is due to DNR staff losing almost a full season of field work due to the COVID pandemic and a boost in trout stamp sales during the height of COVID.

We believe this legislature missed an opportunity to make our coldwater resources a priority in their 2023-25 state budget. The challenges our trout streams face over the coming decades will be hard to overcome if we don't make increased investments in programs like the trout stamp and the habitat improvement projects it funds.

According to the LFB memo, the proposed \$5 increase would have generated approximately \$800,000 in addition funds for trout habitat projects per year, which is about

equal to the surplus that is in the account due to COVID. Wisconsin TU will be pressing the DNR to show over the next two years that they can put those additional dollars to work in our trout streams.

We will continue to work with local chapters to schedule streamside walks with elected officials to help tell the story of how we go about making trout fishing better in Wisconsin. If you have a project that you'd like to showcase, please contact me so we can work to schedule this. Late summer and early fall are a perfect time, as the legislature is generally less busy and the weather tends to be accommodating.

### Other bills WITU supports:

AB222/SB222 would create a Pre-Disaster Flood Resiliency Grant program that would provide funding to local communities to do flood assessment work and implement nature-based solutions such as stream-bank shaping to reconnect flood plains, and wetlands restoration. If created, the program would be administered by WEM (Wisconsin Emergency Management). WITU has worked closely with our partners the Wisconsin Wetlands Association, Wisconsin Towns Association and the bills' authors, **Rep. Loren Oldenburg** (R-Viroqua) and **Senator Romaine Quinn** (R-Cameron).

AB136/SB140 would clarify that dam-removal projects applying for a grant through the state's Municipal Dam Safety Program are not re-

quired to provide matching funds. Historically, this is the way the program has always operated. Changes were made to the program during the last budget, increasing the maximum award from \$400,000 to \$1 million. A drafting error in these changes has created a grey area for dam-removal projects. These bills are needed to clarify requirements for dam-removal projects.

We would like to thank all of you who have taken the time to advocate on behalf of our coldwater resources in recent years. We will continue to find ways to make it easy for our members to engage with their elected leaders. With your help, we will continue to advocate for policies that will ensure future generations access to cold, clean, fishable water in Wisconsin.



### ANOTHER STREAM PROJECT SUPPORTED BY THE INLAND TROUT STAMP

## Fall Council Zoom meeting Oct. 14

At our June Council meeting we discussed whether to hold an in-person or on-line fall meeting, which tends to have small attendance. There was unanimous approval to hold the fall meeting via Zoom video conference. The meeting will be 9 a.m. on Saturday, October 14. Chapter presidents, regional vice presidents and the executive committee will receive a Zoom invitation link. All members are welcome to participate, please contact Scott Allen for an invitation link at [jscottallen12@gmail.com](mailto:jscottallen12@gmail.com).

## Chair's Column

## Regression to the mean

By Scott Allen, State Council Chair

Often, I feel we, Trout Unlimited, are spread a little thin. Or maybe it's that we point the bow towards the horizon with a destination in mind but without adequate provisions, we give it our best nonetheless. We work very hard for our deserving veterans, boys and girls; welcoming women and minorities; assisting those in recovery from cancer. Let's not dismiss habitat and stream access accomplishments of which we are good at, very good.

And then we point the bow in the direction of the dark waters on the sea of legislation. We are a small organization plying the legislative waters in a skinny skiff. The Trout Unlimited contribution to the 2023-2025 executive budget was a requested \$5 increase of the inland trout stamp, not a burdensome request considering there hasn't been an increase since 2005. It's a user fee after all, not a politically hazardous tax. Our lobbying efforts were well received by legislators, calm seas ahead. But placid waters are no measure of unseen peril lurking beneath the surface. The inland trout stamp fee increase was rejected by the Joint Committee on Finance without comment and eliminated from the budget. DOA.

*"Trout fishing in Wisconsin is the best it has been since presettlement."*

That requested \$5 increase to an existing \$10 fee was statistically an outlier. Occasionally we find an outlier in our landing net, an 18-inch brook trout or a tiger trout of any size. But then we experience what statisticians will tell you is regression to the mean: you may be euphoric with that 18-inch brook trout, but the size of successive attempts to repeat it will gradually pull you back to your average, the mean. And something else can happen: your successive attempts at repeating that 18-inch statistical outlier may have the effect of shifting the mean towards the outlier, albeit at a glacial crawl. In other words, you're getting better at what you do as you strive to repeat that memorable moment.

Trout fishing in Wisconsin is the best it has been since presettlement, and that statistical trend will continue. One hundred years ago a pristine brook trout stream in Wisconsin was more an outlier than the norm. The mean continues to slowly move towards the outlier. The inland trout stamp fee increase will again be requested in the next budget. We will make some changes to our lobbying, bring our message of habitat improvement to other conservation groups unaware of the positive effects the trout stamp has on multitude of wildlife habitats.



AT THE HELM OF HIS SKINNY SKIFF

"We are a small organization plying the legislative waters in a skinny skiff," Chair Allen says of our efforts to make legislative changes. It just takes time.

We will get better at it. Anything can happen in the short run, this is one of the reasons it's dangerous to conjecture from a small sample size, in this case one line in an executive budget.

The year 2013 saw the membership of Wisconsin TU standing steady at about 4,500 members, membership has steadily grown since then to our current 6,600. I'm not certain what the outlier for our membership goal is, other than continued growth, but for certain the bell curve is moving towards the

outlier. Why is that? I think I have the answer. All of the outreach programs that our volunteers devote so much selfless time to are paying a handsome return to our membership numbers. It takes time, a long time, to shift the mean and in Wisconsin it is moving towards the outlier. That's a very good thing.

It's summer, keep your feet wet and work on shifting your mean. I mean it, the opportunities are here in Wisconsin. Stay the course.

## TODD HANSON PASSES

That bill required proponents of sulfide mines to prove similar mines had been operated and closed without causing environmental damage. It was repealed by the Walker Administration and Legislature in 2017, a black eye for state environmental protection.

## Created map guide

In 2008 Todd wrote a helpful anglers' book, "Map Guide to Improved Trout Waters of Wisconsin" and published it through Where Am I Publications. A second edition in 2013 updated the first. He also collaborated with former DNR fisheries biologist Dave Vetrano in 2013 on a similar book covering Minnesota and Iowa trout streams.

Todd was a soft-spoken, thoughtful advocate for resource protection. Under his editorship, *Wisconsin Trout* covered many issues and Todd wrote editorials offering his informed opinions on various issues. He figured out a secret to encouraging otherwise reluctant writers to contribute: For each story one wrote for the paper, he would provide a bottle of his excellent home-brewed beer. At the annual State Council meeting, he would show up with cases of beer and a spreadsheet telling writers how many beers to take home.

Henry Koltz, former chapter president, state council chair and grassroots trustee, recalls a welcome chance meeting with Todd. "Todd Durian, Steve Rose, Duke and I were fishing Hornby, above Mick's (a/k/a the Woodcutter, a/k/a the "Crazy Hippie Indian") place. It was late, after a State Council meeting at Avalanche. We'd jetted out,

fished all day, and it was now dusk. As was normal back then the valley was perfect, there was no other traffic, and it was perfectly acceptable to sit in a chair behind your car on the side of the road and have a cold one while I played NPR jazz on my radio.

"I do recall that the group was, in fact, all sitting in chairs or on coolers behind our cars, having Two Hearted Ales. And we ran out.

"And I believe – honestly – that I uttered "the only way this could get any better would be if we had more beer."

"Almost on cue Todd Hanson's vehicle appeared on the horizon, and we watched as he made his way towards us. He stopped, asked how the fishing had been, and pulled a pony keg of his homemade beer out of the back of his Jeep Cherokee.

"It was as if heaven itself had opened the door just a little and let its light shine on us, and we basked in it while we laughed and had another round of suds. Good times. He'll be missed, but we'll meet again."

After he left *Wisconsin Trout*, Todd took a job editing scientific articles and books. He sometimes observed that he might have been the sole person who read them who didn't have a Ph.D. and a faculty position somewhere.

His travels took him annually to canoe and camp in wilderness places and to hunt deer with friends near the Fox Valley. As a gardener with a fenced backyard plot on the north side of Madison, he carried out an ongoing campaign to reduce damage to his crops: He was a dead shot with his air rifle at marauding rabbits, which he would save and bake in fall for a winter's worth of good eating.



TODD HANSON EARNED WWF AWARD IN 2014

The Wisconsin Wildlife Federation (WWF) selected Todd Hanson as its 2014 Conservation Communicator of the Year.

## Finding secret hidey-holes

Todd also relished looking for and finding little-fished hidey-holes for good trout. Former State Council Chair Kim McCarthy remembers one: "My best memory of Todd is, in some ways, similar to Henry's in that it also involved fishing after a State Council meeting minus the beer. Todd approached me toward the end of the meeting and told me he had something he wanted to show me if I had a few hours. I made sure I had a few hours and we headed out to a creek I had never fished. We got geared up and kept our feet wet between a couple of homes finally ending up in a big meadow. We approached the first good hole and immediately started catching fish, some of them very nice brook trout. After the hole slowed down Todd told me to walk up to the hole and look into it from high on the bank. This was what he wanted to show me. The pool was

loaded with big brook trout. Those who have fished much in the driftless have all walked up to holes and seen large schools of trout - usually browns. Imagine walking up to a hole and watching 30 or 40 14-18 inch brook trout in the pool. We repeated that scene several more times before it was time to leave. I have never gone back. I can just remember it as Todd's spot.

Todd is survived by his father, Norman (Dub) Hanson of Wisconsin Rapids, brothers Terry (Geneva) Hanson, Marinette, WI; and Theo (Michelle) Hanson, Lake Mills, WI; sister Tina (Lee) Matlock, Auburn, WA; and nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his mother, Margaret (Mugs) Hanson; sister, Cindi Kileen; brother, Tom Hanson, brother, Tim Hanson, sister-in-law, Tina Slempek and stepmother, Audrey Granger Hanson.

# Giving can be oh so satisfying

*TU leader Duke Welter cherished the opportunity to reward bamboo rods to the most dedicated and unsung TU volunteers in our region.*

By Duke Welter

In an organization like Trout Unlimited, sometimes volunteers find themselves doing unwished-for, or thankless, tasks. It's for the good of the order, we tell ourselves, and we plug on through.

In contrast, a task came to me this past year that's been one of the most uplifting of my time with Wisconsin TU. Let me share.

A Missourian and long-time TU leader there, Bill Lamberson of Columbia, enjoys fishing and exploring the Driftless Area streams and comes here at least twice a year. We'd met before Covid when his Mid-Missouri TU chapter asked me to speak on TU's work in the Driftless Area.

Now, Bill is a bamboo rod builder. He started his first rod about 1980, and finished it around 2000. Since then, he's built a rod a month. Now that he's retired from his faculty position at the University of Missouri's College of Agriculture, he'll have more time for rod-building and fishing.

Last fall, Bill stopped by my home in Viroqua. He was carrying four bamboo rod tubes. He said, "I'd like you to give these rods to dedicated TU volunteers across the Driftless Area, the people who keep doing the thankless things that contribute to TU's mission. You can pick them, but let me know who you hand them to."

Over the past eight months, I've carried out this task. It was one of the treats of my life as a TU volunteer. During the past 20 years, I've been lucky enough to meet many, many great volunteers and see the impacts they make. So off I went.

First, over to Rochester, Minnesota, for a Hiawatha Chapter meeting. This chapter has long been one of the bright stars of TU's habitat work in the region, a model for many others. Lately, it's had about \$1.5 million a year of sales tax revenue (obtained through Minnesota TU) to put into projects in the southeast part of the state.

For 13 years now, project management has been led by Paul Krolak, a soft-spoken scientist. He's held the reins of several projects a year and done an outstanding job. Meanwhile, he's served in almost every capacity for his chapter. He had no idea it was coming. One down.

Next, up to the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter's December Christmas dinner and awards gig. KTU's long been one of TU's best chapters (in my humble and unbiased opinion) and has had a solid impact on the streams of western Wisconsin. One of its mostly unheralded stars is Randy Arnold, who has led the chapter's stream work days and off-season brushing teams for almost 20 years. By my count, that might be 20 or 30 days a year. Randy has a yearning for the smell of box elder sawdust, and has cut down thousands while others lop and drag and burn them, in all kinds of weather. When I told folks about my task, and called Randy up to accept his rod, he leaned over and said quietly to me, "You're gonna make me cry." His cohorts in KTU gave him a standing ovation.

Third came a trip to Decorah, Iowa, where the Iowa Driftless TU Chapter hosted the Fly Fishing Film Tour in late April. There, chapter co-founder Tom Murray



**IOWA DRIFTLESS TU CHAPTER TOM MURRAY RECEIVES HIS NEW BAMBOO ROD FROM DUKE WELTER**

Ryan Maas



**KATE LODGE OF IOWA'S SPRING CREEKS CHAPTER RECEIVES A NEW BAMBOO ROD FROM DUKE WELTER.**

Luann Greiner



**RANDY ARNOLD OF THE KIAP TU WISH CHAPTER RECEIVES HIS NEW BAMBOO ROD FROM DUKE WELTER.**

Greg Olson

has been a tireless force for northeast Iowa's trout streams. Currently, he serves as president of Iowa's Coldwater Conservancy, formed a few years back to buy land and easements along streams to allow project work to be done. He's nurtured the group which has made some great progress.

And just this past weekend, a few miles from home, a new group called "Driftless Women on the Fly" held its second annual get-together at Esofearentz County Park near Westby. Several dozen women anglers and teachers from all four Driftless States got together and fished, talked resource and organizing issues and generally had a rollicking good time. They're the nucleus of women's angling groups across the region.

Among them was Kate Lodge, a member of Iowa's Spring Creeks Chapter and the paragon of enthusiasm for women getting into this sport and with it, conservation of coldwater resources. Kate seldom

misses an opportunity to teach women to fly fish for trout, to encourage a new women's group in its early stages, or to bring women speakers to fishing events.

That was it. Mission complete. Thanks go out to Bill Lamberson for presenting me with this treat. I'm so proud to have worked with all these people and to have an opportunity to honor them.

Maybe we'll get out on the water together to test out those rods soon.

But, as I think of it, another dozen or so volunteers come to mind as also deserving of that recognition. Maybe your chapter might consider how to do that.



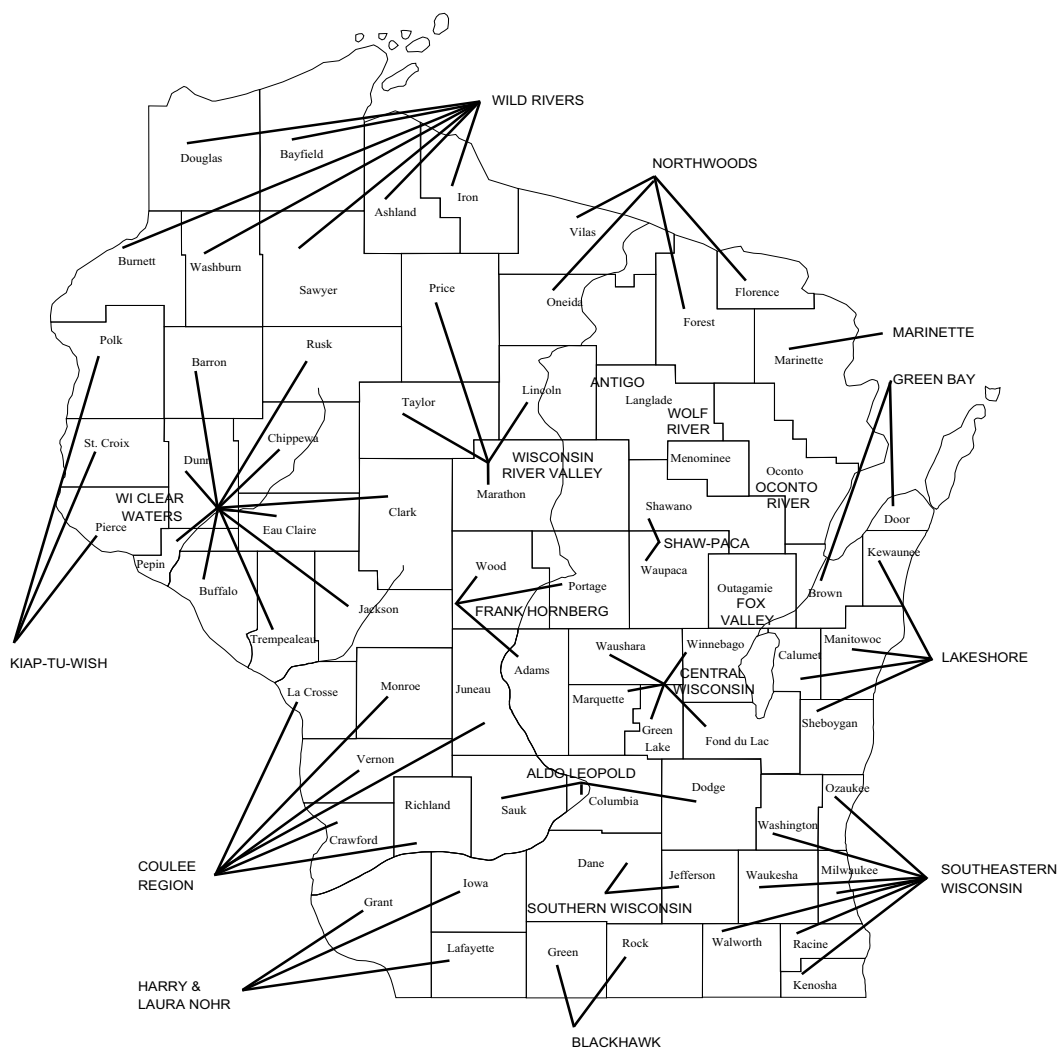
**PAUL KROLEK OF MINNESOTA WITH HIS NEW BAMBOO ROD**

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



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

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

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

## Are you getting emails from TU?

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

## WISCONSIN TROUT

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

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### State Council Officers

Executive Committee includes officers and vice chairs

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**Myk Hranicka, Vice Chair**

**Boyd Roessler, Secretary**

**Scott Wagner, Treasurer**

# Kinni Dam removal financial goal reached

*TU chapters, councils and members show strong support.*

By Duke Welter

With strong support from TU chapters, councils and members, a \$175,000 commitment toward the Kinnickinnic River dam removal project in River Falls was reached in mid-June. It took a \$25,000 donation from long-time Kiap-TU-Wish and Kinnickinnic River Land Trust member Art Kaemmer to get the campaign over the top.

Celebrating was in order for the many TU volunteers, community members and members of the Kinni Corridor Collaborative (KinniCC) when the goal was reached. "We're really proud to have reached our goal to help with a key step toward a free-flowing Kinni, and grateful for the involvement of TU members both on our fundraising committee and from TU across the Midwest," said KinniCC Vice President Judie Foster Babcock.

The payment represented half of the city's obligation toward the feasibility study currently being conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE). Study costs are estimated at \$800,000, with the first \$100,000 being paid by COE and the remainder split between the city, which owns the two dams, and COE, \$350,000 each.

Meanwhile, in state budget deliberations the Republican-controlled Joint Finance Committee (JFC) in late May cut back spending for the Municipal Dam Grant program from \$5 million to \$2 million a year. The city already received a \$1 million grant for one dam removal last year, but the change could increase competition for future grants. In this budget, the JFC also awarded several million dollars in individual earmarks for dam removals and repairs. It's possible in the next budget, legislators might consider such an earmark for the Kinni project, especially if the state still has a budget surplus.

Gary Horvath told the state council at its June 3 meeting that COE has now assembled its study team and they will review studies already done by agencies and the city for earlier licensing efforts with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), which licenses electrical generating dams nation-

wide. The dams produce 1.5 percent of the city's electricity needs, but still need federal licenses.

The lower dam, Powell Falls, was damaged in a June 2020 flood and has been drawn down and its federal generating license surrendered. The upper dam, Junction Falls, would also need to be delicensed by FERC before removal. But if COE gets involved in the project, it will take out both dams and ecologically restore the 1.5-mile corridor of the dams and their two impoundments.

The KinniCC board was advised by the city's liaison in May that the COE expected the study and recommendations to be complete in 10-12 months, which would be May-July 2024. That's a condensed time frame from a normal COE study that usually takes three years to complete.

Horvath told the state council he believed the COE would recommend that course. COE's major criterion for taking on such a project is its ecological benefit to the watershed (rather than other aspects like economic development opportunities). Removing only one dam or not restoring the corridor would not have sufficient ecological benefit to warrant the COE's involvement.

If COE did take on the project, it would bring \$10 million. Project budget estimates, while still rough, suggest a \$13-15 million cost. The Wisconsin DNR has already committed a \$1-million Municipal Dam Removal grant to the Powell Falls Dam removal. The city and its utilities are expected to make a significant contribution as well.

Several events are scheduled along the river this summer, including River Falls Days in July and Art on the Kinni in September.

Ongoing monitoring continues to tell the story of the impacts of the dams on the river. In addition, this season an extensive invertebrate study is being conducted by UW-River Falls Prof. Emeritus Clarke Garry and retired Environmental Scientist Kent Johnson of Kiap-TU-Wish TU. They intend to update an earlier study from the early 2000s done by Professor Garry and will report on it once it is completed.

# Youth Camp update

By Linn Beck, WITU Youth Camp Coordinator

The preparations for the 2023 youth camp are right on track. Everything with the Pine Lake Bible Camp is locked down and we are in good shape with our volunteers. There's almost nothing left to do except start the camp.

We are still looking for two more participants. Currently we have 15 boys and three girls signed up. As always, we would love to fill the camp. Thank you goes out to the chapters that have found youth or have sponsored youth. If your chapter hasn't sponsored a youth yet and has someone you are interested in sending, please contact me right away so I can save a spot for your chapter.

Our youth camp committee has been working hard reworking the schedule to provide room for a couple of essential presentations to help improve our fly-casting presentation. We will be working with the DNR on fishing accessibility for our groups when they go out fishing on Sunday for their fish-a-long.

The committee is looking for additional members to help us evaluate and improve the operations and programs for the camp. Also, we have a couple of positions open to help to prepare the Sunday noon meal. Please let me know if you are interested.

There are several openings for anyone able to help on Sunday morning for the fish-a-long. No need to know the Central Sands streams, as we have spots determined already for the fishing.

The location and dates for this year's camp are Thursday, August 17 through Sunday, August 20 at the Pine Lake Bible Camp between Wild Rose and Waupaca.

If anyone is still interested in volunteering for the camp, please contact me at chlbeck@att.net or 920-216-7408.

# Fundraising opportunity for TU youth efforts

The Tomorrow Fund is an annual fundraiser to support and sustain the Trout Unlimited Headwaters Youth Program and tomorrow's conservation leaders. It was started in 2017 through an initial donation by the Guadalupe River Trout Unlimited Chapter (GRTU) in Texas, meant to challenge TU chapters and councils, individuals and businesses to also step up and give.

At the heart of the fund is an annual \$10,000 contribution to the TU Headwaters Youth Programs, which provides resources to volunteers, educators and young people who are passionate about TU's conservation mission. Every program dollar is raised through grants or donations, and the GRTU Tomorrow Fund provides support for regional and national trainings, staff time and travel, expenses related to special events like the Teen Summit, and the on-going coordination of youth programs across the country.

So how can the chapters help? Join the 100 for 100 Challenge. The concept is simple: 100 chapters pledge \$100 to the Tomorrow Fund. The resulting \$10,000 will be a direct 1-to-1 match for GRTU's gift. In the spirit of "many hands make light work" the 100 for 100 Challenge provides the TU community the opportunity to support the future of conservation. The Headwaters program helps chapters and councils deliver more than 120,000 youth outreach hours each year. Please consider supporting the Headwaters Youth Programs with a donation to the Tomorrow Fund as we inspire and educate the next generation. This year TU is offering 10 free youth memberships to every TU chapter and council that meets the 100 for 100 Challenge. These can be given out to any youth you are working with this summer and beyond.

We are hoping our chapters will join in this challenge and contribute to the Tomorrow Fund and help the Headwaters Youth Program reach their goal. The Wisconsin State Council voted at the summer meeting to match our chapters' donations dollar to dollar. Chapters have until October 15 to get their donations in for this 100 for 100 Challenge to State Council Treasurer Scott Wagner. At that time the Council will match the donations and send them to The Headwaters Youth Program. Please send your donations to Scott Wagner, 1208 Highway 35 N., Hudson, WI 54016

Chapters, please donate now and enjoy your 10 free youth memberships. Thank you all in advance. Let's keep Wisconsin Trout Unlimited in the forefront. — Linn Beck

# Recent decision related to Clean Water Act

The U.S. Supreme Court handed down an unfortunate, and critically important, legal decision on what is known as "the Sackett Case," related to regulation of wetlands under the Clean Water Act. This is a bad decision for the environment—there is no other way to define it. It restricts federal protections granted to... "adjacent wetlands that are 'indistinguishable' from those bodies of water due to a continuous surface connection."

To put it in simpler terms, this will remove federal protections for many wetlands across the United States.

However, unlike many other states, Wisconsin has its own wetlands law, so the impact of this decision will not be as great here at home. The exact magnitude of impact in Wisconsin is still being fully assessed. For some mining sites, it

could mean that while state protection of the wetlands remains in effect, there may not be federal protection any longer.

# Back 40 Mine, Menominee River, Marinette County

The Coalition to Save the Menominee River will hold its third Water Celebration on Saturday, September 16 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., at the Menominee Marina on First Street in Marinette, Wisconsin. Full details will be shared publicly closer to the date of the event. River Alliance of Wisconsin will be co-hosting a paddle event on the Menominee River with the Coalition in the morning preceding the Water Celebration. Details on the paddle, including registration, will go online in the near future.

—Johnson Bridgwater, Water Advocates Organizer, River Alliance of Wisconsin, jbridgwater@wisconsin-rivers.org

# Mining update

## Copper and the U.S. Critical Minerals List

Despite extensive private lobbying and a bipartisan congressional effort to have copper (Cu) added to the United States' official "Critical Minerals List," the USGS has formally ruled against adding copper to this list. David Applegate, head of the USGS, stated that "While copper is clearly an essential mineral commodity, its supply chain vulnerabilities are mitigated by domestic capacity, trade with reliable partners, and significant secondary capacity." In other words, there is no lack of copper that could lead to a threat to U.S. security at this time. For a brief look at what "critical minerals" are, this River Alliance web page provides some explanation: <https://tinyurl.com/2vdfamk>

## Bend Deposit on Yellow River in Taylor County

The biggest local mining development pertains to the Bend Deposit on the Yellow River in Taylor County. The Wisconsin DNR has issued a conditional letter of approval to Green Light Metals which will allow them to pursue exploratory drilling in the Chequamegon Nicolet National Forest at six drill sites in the spring and summer of 2023 and/or winter of 2023/24, and allow them to draw water from the adjacent Yellow River for such activities. Certain conditions were named in the approval letter, and you can read the conditional letter of approval in full on the following DNR web page: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Mines/Projects.html>

# TUDARE Report

News from the TU Driftless Area Restoration Effort

By Sara Strassman,  
TUDARE program director

As the season changes to spring, the Trout Unlimited Driftless Area Restoration Effort team has already been hard at work in the field, working to improve streams across the region.

We've highlighted a few exciting projects below. As always, thank you to the many volunteers, partners and funders who make our work in the Driftless Area possible. Please feel free to reach out with any questions or to find out more about how to get involved with volunteer opportunities.

You can reach me at [sara.strassman@tu.org](mailto:sara.strassman@tu.org)

## Workday with Stihl and Win-Cres TU

Despite a day that started out with thunder, lightning and pouring rain, the weather relented by mid-morning and the Win-Cres Chapter TU was able to host a sawyer crew from Stihl for a very successful workday at the Albrecht property along Little Pickwick Creek.

The Stihl Company's Midwest team, led by Dan Pherson, provided professional sawyer services while volunteers from TU and Minnesota DNR hauled away the brush. The landowner, Jim Albrecht, worked alongside the crew and graciously offered a spot to serve lunch and take shelter from the early morning storms. Dusty Hoffman, a former TU project manager in Minnesota who is now with Minnesota DNR, provided excellent logistical support in preparing the partners and the work areas for a safe and highly efficient workday.

Driftless Area Program Manager

Sara Strassman applauded the effort. "This is such a special partnership between TU and Stihl," Strassman said. "I give credit to Dan Pherson (Stihl) and Jeff (Hastings) for first cooking up this idea and I am so glad they did."

"Stihl's contributions have significant impact because they pair professional assistance with a legacy gift of equipment that will help the TU chapters maintain angler access and manage riparian areas. Their crew couldn't be better to work with and we can't wait to do it again next year."

If your chapter would like a chance to win a workday with Stihl and some equipment to help with your chapter's volunteer labors, please submit a letter of interest that describes your chapter's volunteer activities, your priority work areas or projects, and how you would make use of a workday and equipment to help improve trout habitat and fishing access in your area. Submissions should be sent to Sara Strassman at [sara.strassman@tu.org](mailto:sara.strassman@tu.org) by September 30.

## Culvert and bridge inventory

In collaboration with TU's Science Team (Dan Dauwalter), the Wisconsin Great Lakes Team (Chris Collier and Danielle Nelson), the Driftless Area will begin an inventory of culverts and bridges this summer.

We'll have one crew covering Trempealeau and Jackson counties and one crew covering Richland and Crawford counties. Work will begin in Wisconsin DNR's Brook Trout Reserve watersheds and work out to Class 1 streams from there.

We are collecting information on



THE DRIFTLESS' KINNI RIVER IS PART OF TU'S PRIORITY WATERS

the aquatic impacts of culverts and bridges as well as the potential impacts on flooding and the condition of the infrastructure.

This information will be used to help identify priority road stream crossings for replacement and to compile the information needed by communities to leverage funding to do that work.

We will also be working with Wisconsin Wetlands Association and Wisconsin Towns Association to promote and pursue funding opportunities that can help increase flood resilience in Wisconsin's rural, flood-prone communities.

We intend to continue this work for several years and will continue to seek funding to support the data collection.

Our appreciation to this year's funding supporters, TU's Coldwater Conservation Fund, the DNR and the Water Solutions Foundation.

## Symposium a success

On March 7-8, we hosted the 17th annual Driftless Area Restoration Symposium, which attracted 600 registered participants. Thank you to all our speakers and participants. We recorded all the talks online for your viewing enjoyment.

## Priority Waters

Due to the concentration of coldwater streams and the unique ecological landscape, the entire Driftless Area is being advanced as part of TU's Priority Waters Initiative. In Wisconsin, we highlighted a few emblematic watersheds that provide an example of the work we will be conducting, including the Kickapoo River, Kinnickinnic River and Upper and Middle Trempealeau River watersheds.

Our conservation goals include restoring floodplain connectivity and reducing sediment & nutrient pollution through stream restoration work, completing barrier inventory work and identifying infra-

structure for replacement, conducting a Conservation Portfolio to support Driftless Area Strategic Planning, and supporting the restoration of the Kinnickinnic River following dam removals.

## Newest awards

The Driftless Area Restoration Effort National Fish Habitat Partnership is a program administered by Trout Unlimited and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. The program has been in place since 2007 and has funded planning, construction, research, monitoring and outreach work in support of native aquatic life throughout the Driftless Area.

This year, we awarded funds to restoration projects at Casey Springs in Iowa and Traverse Valley Creek in Wisconsin. We are jointly supporting a project with the Fishers & Farmers Partnership in the Devil's Creek Watershed in Wisconsin. We are supporting coldwater fish research in the Volga River watershed in Iowa and utilizing funding to support development of nutrient management projects and water quality monitoring work through our WiseH2O application.

## Prospective projects

We are working with partners on a number of prospective projects around the Driftless Area. Not all project concepts make it all the way through to completion, but a few locations where we will be working over the next two years include North Bear Creek, Iowa (two additional phases of work adjacent to last fall's project); Iowa's Yellow River; Patterson Creek in Iowa; Fancy Creek in Richland County, WI; Traverse Valley Creek and Turton Creek in Trempealeau County, WI; Blue River in Grant County, WI; Mill Creek in Chatfield, MN; and Mazeppa Creek in Wabasha County, MN.



## TU AND STIHL TEAM UP ON MINNESOTA STREAM

The Stihl Company's Midwest team, led by Dan Pherson, provided professional sawyer services while volunteers from TU and Minnesota DNR hauled away the brush.



## PARTNERSHIP WITH TU AND NFHP GOING STRONG

The Driftless Area Restoration Effort National Fish Habitat Partnership awarded funds for restoration projects at Casey Springs in Iowa (shown here) and Traverse Valley Creek in Wisconsin.

## Show your support with TU plates



# TIC from a student's perspective

*A Chilton Middle School student shares her experience with TIC, and she's just one of more than 1,000 students impacted by this program in Chilton.*

TU's Trout In the Classroom (TIC) program has had a tremendous impact on Stony Brook and the people of Calumet County. The program has motivated — and continues to motivate — landowners, Calumet County, the Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership, Fox Valley Chapter, DNR, Fund For Lake Michigan, Natural Resource Conservation Service, local businesses and others to restore Stony Brook, the last trout stream in Calumet County Country, to a self-reproducing trout stream. And members from all these organizations gave rise to "The Friends of Stony Brook." Check out [www.friendsofstonybrook.org](http://www.friendsofstonybrook.org).

This program has impacted more than 1,000 students who have participated in raising trout in their classrooms since TIC began in the Chilton High and Middle Schools seven years ago.

Last May students once again planted trout in Stony Brook. And this year the students were asked to write about their experiences with TIC and the planting of their trout.

Below is 6th grader Katherine Lenz's perspective on the TIC experience. I cannot wait to read Katherine's composition when she is a senior and learn what her field of endeavor will be after experiencing TIC through high school.

—Joe Bach, Fox Valley Trout Unlimited

## Trout In the Classroom

By Katherine Lenz,  
Chilton Middle School

The trout in the classroom project can make someone feel like a better person.

Many machines can be used in an aquarium to maintain a safe place for fish to live. Water quality testing is also crucial and ties to the nitrogen cycle to keep the fish healthy. The trout in the classroom project is an environmental recovery act and is very critical to the world. Trout release day was a truly influential day for us and the trout in the classroom project. Aquarium machines, water quality testing, environmental recovery, and trout re-

lease day all play a big part in the TIC project.

Many machines are needed to be used to maintain a good aquarium. An aerator bubbles oxygen into the fish tank, so the fish can breathe. In nature, oxygen is added to the water by flowing over rocks and falling off waterfalls. The chiller makes the water cold because trout are cold-water species. In nature, the trout are found in cold springs or streams fed by snow melt. The biological filter contains good bacteria that eat fish waste. In nature, these bacteria are found everywhere. Styrofoam is used to keep the water cold and gives the fish shade. In nature, trees can provide this. These machines are critical, but the water quality is also essential.



## NLC update

The NLC held its quarterly meeting in March. Here is a quick recap of what was discussed.

Departing Chair Jim Walker gave a brief history on where he and Rich Thomas started with, in reference to their terms. He discussed the overall concept of membership and reminded everyone of the statistics provided to the state councils with specific data points on each chapter for the years 2015–2019. Since then, the TU staff has been providing the statistics at the TU level due to the amount of work to develop the detail by chapter for the years 2020–2022.

The New Initiatives Workgroup Chair Mark Dillow and Jim Walker covered the elections. The first part of the elections was the presentation of the Embrace-A-Stream replacement. Peter Ten Eyck from Pennsylvania was presented to replace the Northeast Representative and was voted in unanimously. Mark Dillow provided the background for the selection process for NLC officers, noting this was the same process used for the acquisi-

tion of grassroots trustees. Packages were distributed to councils with the request to submit candidates for the NLC chair and secretary positions.

The New Initiatives Workgroup then reviewed the packages and selected candidates. Mark indicated that all New Initiative Workgroup members were involved in the candidate discussions/selection process. It was unanimously decided to proceed with a vote for officers via acclamation.

Mark Dillow then presented the slate for chair (Rich Thomas) and secretary (Sharon Sweeney Fee) for vote. They were elected unanimously.

Next on the agenda was Beverly Smith, who discussed membership engagement. Beverly provided thoughts with reference to the strengths of the new engagement model as well as highlighting successes we are starting to see. She discussed the diverse community of members and non-members who attended the TU Southeast Regional Rendezvous, approximately 220 in total. She then discussed how many

Water quality testing is important, and it ties to the nitrogen cycle. Ammonia is fish waste and is toxic to the fish. A bacterium called Nitrosomonas eats the ammonia and turns it into the toxic nitrite. Nitrite is still toxic, but Nitrobacter, another bacterium, eats the nitrite and turns it into nitrate. Nitrate is relatively non-toxic to the fish and once the tank has the right amount of bacteria, all the ammonia will have turned into nitrate and the tank will have fully cycled. Water quality is needed, but environmental recovery is just as critical.

Environmental recovery is very critical to the world. People have been destroying the streams where the trout live. To help fix this problem, we are growing the fish and will release them back into their stream. Just like the trout, monarch butterflies are losing their homes. To help with the situation, we are growing milkweed, the monarch's primary food source. Deforestation is another big concern. Deforestation takes the habitat of many animals, which can lead to extinction. You can plant trees or fund a company that plants trees to slow down deforestation and slow extinction even more. One more environmental issue is plastic in the ocean. This is killing many animals that think it is food. You could maybe clean the ocean or simply recycle. Environmental recovery feels wonderful, but releasing trout into the wild will feel even better.

The trout release day was a truly important day for the fish, and we

learned a lot too! The buffer is an essential part of a stream, the buffer helps purify the water. The riffle is another part of a stream where the water gets shallower and adds air to the water.

Kick nets are used to catch bugs in the water. The different types of bugs can tell how good the quality of the water is. The water quality can be tested by seeing how turbid or clean the water is.

Aquatic invasive species are not native animals that can harm the economy, environment, or human health. To catch the fish, people would go fly-fishing or shock the water. For fly-fishing, they have a very long line that is thicker than normal

and would swat it back and forth in the water to catch the fish. By shocking the water, they shock it, so the fish are temporarily stunned, so they can scoop the fish up in a net. The trout release day was truly an amazing experience for all of us.

Aquarium machines, water quality testing, environmental recovery, and trout release day are the main parts of the TIC project. Aquarium machines are needed to keep the trout alive. Water quality testing is what tells us if the water is safe for the fish to live in. The entire TIC project is an environmental recovery act. Trout release day is the most important part of the trout in the classroom project because we are finishing off the project. These all can help to control and sustain a good ecosystem. Doing anything that consists of fixing the environment can make someone feel like a better person.



BE FREE AND GROW BIG!

demographics do not necessarily partake in organizational memberships; however, they still like to engage in other ways. As an organization, we need to continue to rethink how we engage all conservation stewards. She also discussed how improvements to our internal systems will help us better understand who our potential members and supporters are and thereby benefit councils and chapters doing the same.

To close out our meeting, Rich Thomas and Sharon Sweeney Fee provided introductions of themselves and presented a preview of

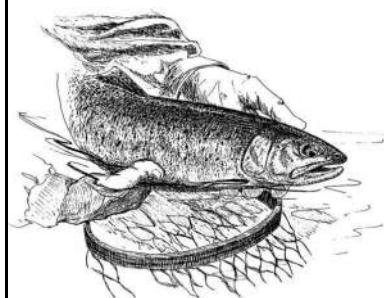
things to come. Specifically, they shared the ideology on setting goals and supporting metrics for the NLC and associated workgroups in support of TU's Strategic Plan.

I am looking forward to good things coming to the NLC under the guidance of Rich and Sharon. Being involved with several of the NLC workgroups, their new ideas will be a welcome addition to help improve the functionality of the workgroups going forward.

Submitted by Linn Beck, NLC Representative.

## Consider Proper Release

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



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

# Central Wisconsin Chapter loses a hero

*Iconic member and leader Dan Harmon III passed away June 6.*

The Central Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited lost an iconic member on June 6. Dan Harmon III passed away at the age of 92 due to complications from Covid-19. In 1950 Dan Harmon III enrolled at Ripon College and was assigned a roommate by the name of Tom Poullette. They became good friends, graduated from college and moved on with their lives, professions, marriage and raising children. They kept in touch and even fished together from time to time, since they both enjoyed fly fishing.

In 1973 Tom Poullette contacted Dan and encouraged him to join the Central Wisconsin Chapter of TU, which Tom was a founding member of in 1971. Dan would become a dedicated member of the chapter for the rest of his life, serving as vice president and president from 1974-77.

He remained an active board member and started a chapter-sponsored, three-day fly-fishing school in 1976, which remains active today. For 45 years he was the coordinator, instructor and a guide for

the school and in 2019 the school was renamed "The Dan Harmon III Fly Fishing School."

He was an instructor at the annual TU Youth Camp and a fly-casting expert. He was on many chapter committees and he was always the award committee chair. Dan was proud to be a lifetime TU member and would often tell people that he had membership number 52. Trout Unlimited founder George Griffith is number 1.

Dan was a true gentleman in every sense of the word. He was the steady, reliable anchor who helped guide the chapter through 50 years of meetings, events and activities.

He was a mainstay on the annual fishing trip to the Henry's Fork in Idaho, along with Dick Kraus, Doug Hart, Tom Poullette, Judge Jon Wilcox and many others.

In 1982 Dan was the chairman of the TU National meetings and banquet held in Oshkosh. Leon Chandler, who was the TU national director at the time and the president of Cortland Lines said: "This is the best-run national meeting I've

ever been to and I've been to all of them."

Dan was a man of many talents and enjoyed a long active life. In his younger years he raced boats and was a multi-year golf champion at his local country club in Oshkosh. He was active in his community and served on numerous boards. He worked at a family insurance company, Harmon Insurance.

In his later years he would spend his winters in Florida. Every year, including the winter of 2022-2023, he loaded his kayak on top of his van on the homemade PVC pipe rack and drove to New Smyrna Beach with Judy. He was also a member of the Fly Fishers International in Florida and was active in FFI chapter activities, fishing the Mosquito Lagoon and casting every Saturday.

Dan was a Lieutenant in the U.S. Army and served in Korea. Dick Kraus, a longtime CWTU member says Dan was a loyal friend and added that Dan was delighted when new TU members came aboard and carried on the traditions of the



chapter. Another CWTU member, Ira Giese, called Dan a stalwart member who will never be forgotten. Our current president Linn Beck and former president Wayne Parmley said Dan Harmon's steady leadership will be missed dearly.

Dan is survived by Judy, his wife of 59 years, three children -- Amy, Peter and Dan IV -- and three granddaughters.

*Submitted by CWTU Board Member Tom Meyer.*

## Rippling out diversity, equity and inclusion efforts throughout TU

*DEI training and practice circle opportunity provided to TU volunteers in the Upper Midwest free of charge.*

Trout Unlimited is deeply rooted in the communities where we work, and we have long experience building relationships that span culture, political party and ideology in support of our mission. However, the nature of our work with our demographically homogenous membership base, landowners, elected officials and/or decision makers means those relationships have often been centered in white, male-dominated spaces.

We see the creation of new relationships, especially with historically marginalized communities, as a major opportunity for TU. Building authentic partnerships with diverse communities will allow TU to elevate new allies, learn new skills, tackle new issues, find new voices, grow our membership and improve and strengthen protections for clean, cold water.

Our mission is to bring together diverse interests to care for and recover rivers and streams so our children can experience the joy of wild and native trout and salmon. Cultivating relationships with diverse communities is therefore a mandate for the organization -- all of us, staff and volunteers. To do so, we will build on our strength as good, community-minded partners. We also acknowledge that we still have much to learn and a lot of work left to do identifying and addressing inequities and building space and support for all people to participate in our mission.

That's where TU's diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) practice comes in. TU's DEI efforts have developed to the point that we can now see how far we've come and have a clearer view of the work ahead.

This work first began with volunteers more than a decade ago. The Diversity and Inclusion Workgroup

of TU's National Leadership Council has involved hundreds of chapter and council volunteers who gather digitally each month and (pre-COVID) at three to six in-person Regional Rendezvous events each year to tackle the challenges of diversity and inclusion within TU, and to grow a safe and connected space.

The leadership of this Diversity and Inclusion Workgroup joined a core group of staff and trustees in late 2019 to lay the foundation for TU's enhanced vision for the organization's DEI work, create shared language, and curate a collection of learning resources. You can find much of this information at [tu.org/equity](http://tu.org/equity).

In grappling with how to build on these early efforts and grow our capacity for this work in a way that would be meaningful, it's unsurprising that a bunch of anglers and cold-water conservationists imagined a water-based analogy. Like ripples expanding across the water when a pebble is tossed into it, or a trout emerges from it, TU imagined the Ripple Effect project. The idea was that we would invest in DEI facilitation training and coaching for a few core groups of interested staff who would then reverberate diversity, equity and inclusion efforts throughout the organization.

Today, 60 staff are actively participating in 10 different small groups, developing trusting relationships across departments, tenure and geography; holding and engaging in vulnerable, courageous, connective conversations; interrupting bias and examining our own thinking, actions and choices; and bringing awareness to the power asymmetries around us. These Ripple Effect small groups have also evolved to become spaces where organizational challenges and opportunities related to DEI are discussed and solutions are



**PARTICIPANTS AT THE TU NORTHEAST DEI COHORT**

developed.

In fact, this is the same model that our Diversity and Inclusion NLC Workgroup employs with participants encouraged to ripple their learnings back into their chapters and councils. Yet, in many cases, we've found that this is often too much to ask of volunteers to do effectively on their own or without that professionally provided training, facilitation and coaching.

Rather than set aside the grassroots efforts from staff, a new idea has recently emerged to cohort volunteers and staff into regional Ripple Effect groups together. Over the last few months, we've tested this out in one region with early feedback pointing to great success. Thanks to a generous grant, TU is able to expand this model and hire incredibly talented DEI facilitation in August Bell of Cream City Consulting bringing the Ripple Effect cohort concept to the Upper Midwest this summer and through the fall.

Each council in the region will be invited to send three to five people

to participate free of charge in five digital sessions and one in-person capstone session (that will be scheduled after the group has been selected.) The cohort will involve regionally based engagement staff to help support the implementation of the work and also serve as conduit back to the staff-oriented Ripple Effect groups, anchoring our "One TU" strategy.

The sessions will involve training and basic grounding in key concepts and language, but they will also be oriented to build this as a group of trusted allies working to support one another to develop the organization's capacity for diversity, equity and inclusion at the grassroots level.

We have been encouraged by the courageous contributions of our volunteers doing this work. We are thrilled to be able to provide the resources needed to scale through this cohort. If you are interested in participating or want to learn more, please reach out to Beverly Smith at [bsmith@tu.org](mailto:bsmith@tu.org).



# Midwest 5 Rivers Clubs return to the Driftless

## College TU members unite at the West Fork Sports Club

Few things are more effective at bringing college students together than a healthy dose of type 2 fun. Between the sub-freezing temps, morning snowstorms and mediocre fishing conditions, the 2023 TU Costa 5 Rivers Midwest Rendezvous created the perfect environment for college students to bond with other young anglers and leave their end-of-semester stressors behind.

On a cold and dreary weekend in April, TU Costa 5 Rivers hosted the Midwest Rendezvous at the West Fork Sports Club in Viroqua. The event drew 45 students from UW-Stout, UW-Stevens Point, UW-Madison and UM-Duluth.

Thanks to a generous donation from the Wisconsin TU Council, plus in-kind and volunteer support from the Coulee Region, Fox Valley and Southern Wisconsin TU chapters, these 5Rivers clubs were able to share their love of fly fishing with both novice college anglers and local youth.

The 5 Rivers program partnered with Vernon County 4H and La Crosse County 4H to host a "STREAMKids" event at the West Fork. Approximately 40 young 4H members and their families attended the event to learn about brook trout, Driftless Area ecology, macroinvertebrates, fly casting and fly tying. The learning stations were led by 5 Rivers students, who also shared information about TU, as

well as their own experiences with fly fishing.

According to the local 4H program coordinator, attendance at this event exceeded their normal average. The Coulee Region and Fox Valley chapters generously provided gear and volunteer support for STREAMKids.

Students from Stevens Point and Stout collected macroinvertebrates from the West Fork and provided a crash course in macroinvertebrate identification.

After successfully inspiring the next generation, the 5 Rivers students donned waders and headed out to spend an afternoon on the water. The wind and snow were no match for the adventurous spirit of these hardy college anglers. While fishing, the students gathered trash from local streams as part of the "Get Trashed" river clean-up battle. Prizes from Costa, Yeti and Simms incentivized the students to haul out a few trucks full of trash from local streams. On Saturday evening, the students returned to the West Fork with plenty of stories and settled in for dinner and a presentation from Nick Voss, head guide at the Driftless Angler in Viroqua.

The students rounded out the weekend with a lively campfire, but had no issues crawling out of their tents the next morning to help tidy the campground and prepare the West Fork Sports Club for the season. Lots of smiles...and a few tem-

porary face tattoos.

The 5 Rivers Program hosts four regional rendezvous each year. These events provide opportunities for 5 Rivers clubs to camp, fish, swap stories, make new friends, and give back to the places they love to fish, while also helping students establish deeper connections to TU. Midwest 5 Rivers clubs are thriving, largely due to Wisconsin's robust volunteer network and an abun-

dance of volunteer leaders who truly believe in the power of the young angling community. Special thanks to Mike Kuhr, Brad Berger, Jason Freund, Henry Nehls-Lowe, Tina Murray and Valerie Hein Hamstra for their support of this event and the next generation of TU leaders. To learn more about the 5 Rivers program, visit [www.tu.org/5riversor](http://www.tu.org/5riversor) reach out to Libby Glaser, program coordinator, at [libby.glaser@tu.org](mailto:libby.glaser@tu.org).



Mike Kuhr

### 5 RIVERS RENDEZVOUS PROVIDES ALL TYPES OF OPPORTUNITIES

These events provide opportunities for 5 Rivers clubs to camp, fish, swap stories, make new friends, and give back to the places they love to fish, while also helping students establish deeper connections to TU.

## 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

- |                            |                |                           |                     |
|----------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| James Addis                | Madison, WI    | Don Golembiewski          |                     |
| Dennis Anderson            | St. Paul, MN   |                           | Madison, WI         |
| Charles Barnhill           | Madison, WI    | Peter Gottlieb            | Madison, WI         |
| Jeffrey Bartynski          | Eau Claire, WI | John and Alice Grady      | Baraboo, WI         |
| Jim Bayorgeon              | Appleton, WI   |                           |                     |
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| Scott Berglund             | Trego, WI      |                           | Mineral Point, WI   |
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- |                    |               |
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Here is my contribution of \$100 or more to the Wisconsin TU Watershed Access Fund

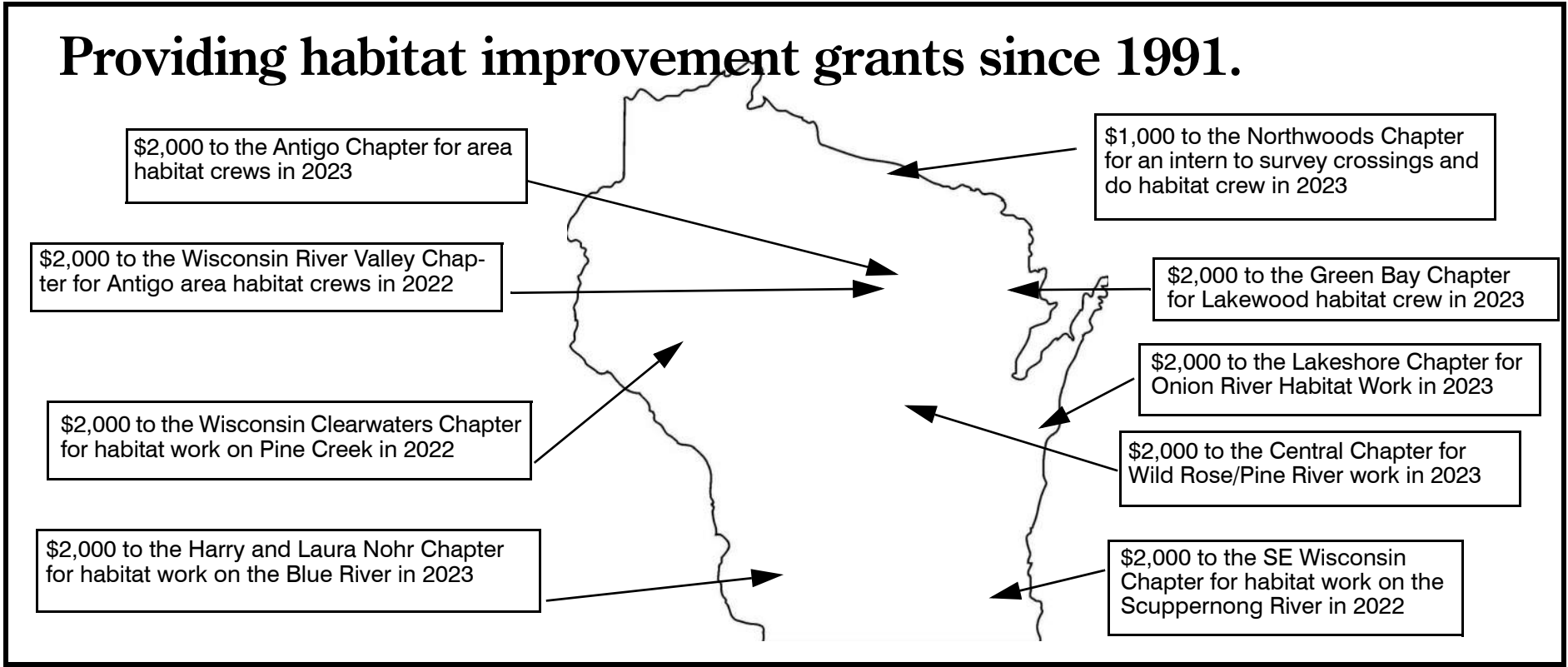
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736 Meadowbrook Court	Address
Green Bay WI 54313	City, State, Zip
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# Please support Friends of Wis. TU in 2023

Big news from the Friends Program! Starting in 2024 chapters will be able to receive larger grants. Please see the longer article about this change elsewhere in this issue of *Wisconsin Trout*.

## Providing habitat improvement grants since 1991.



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

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Green Bay, WI 54313

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# Lawrence Creek water temperatures in the 1960s and today

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

Lawrence Creek has a storied history concerning trout research. Dating back at least to the late 1940s, it has been a very intensively managed and studied stream.

The Wisconsin Conservation Department, forerunner of the DNR, operated a year-round research station on Lawrence Creek from 1955 through 1967.

Most who are familiar with early trout research in Wisconsin likely think of Bob Hunt's studies on habitat development and brook trout angling regulations conducted on Lawrence Creek in the 1960s and 1970s.

James Mc Fadden published a monograph in 1961 on his work on Lawrence Creek in the 1950s. His comprehensive study still stands as one of the great treatises on brook trout population ecology.

The earliest work on Lawrence Creek that I have found is depicted in a short series of photographs available in the UW-Digitized Collections, documenting stream improvement work in 1949.

I have been working on Lawrence Creek twice a year since 2018, first collecting data on brook trout age and growth and since then collecting long-term monitoring data on trout relative abundance, size structure, gill lice infection and water temperature.

Recently reviewing Hunt's 1966 technical bulletin on production and angler harvest of wild brook trout in Lawrence Creek, I noticed the inclusion of water temperature data from the early 1960s. This piqued my interest to compare current stream temperatures to historic data.

Collecting accurate water temperature data today is relatively simple and routine. We can accurately record and store hourly water temperature data for up to five years on an electronic device that fits in the palm of your hand. I currently have dozens of these data loggers set in streams throughout the state. The greatest challenges are securing a data logger in a stream, to withstand flooding and avoid being buried, and being able to locate it six months or a year later to download the data.

Sixty-plus years ago scientists were recording temperature time series using mechanical devices called thermographs, which plotted changes in temperature on rolls of graphing paper. The devices were calibrated and accurate, but they required weekly-to-monthly attention to maintain operation.

I suppose having a year-round research station on Lawrence Creek allowed for such detailed water temperature data collection at the time. This was labor-intensive data to collect in the 1960s, and we are fortunate to have it available today for historic comparison.

Hunt's 1966 publication includes one figure and one table of water temperature data. The text describes temperature data collection at two locations in Lawrence Creek: the section A-B boundary and section D. The stream was divided into four sections for study purposes. The A-B boundary was at the 1st

Avenue crossing of the upper portion of the stream. That is where I currently have a data logger installed. Section D spans the lower 0.7 miles of the stream upstream of Lawrence Pond and intersected by Eagle Avenue. The upper end of section D is about 1.5 miles downstream from 1st Avenue.

Hunt's Figure 2 shows the weekly range (minimum to maximum) and weekly mean water temperatures for Lawrence Creek at the section A-B boundary in 1964. I have copied that figure here, along with similar figures to scale for data collected at the same location in 2018-2022. For reference, I added three horizontal dashed lines at 50, 60 and 70 degrees.

The weekly ranges appear wider in the early half of 1964 compared to more recent years.

I do not have the actual numeric water temperature data from which to make statistical comparisons, but here are some metrics that can be gleaned from the graphs. The weekly means were between 50 and 60 degrees for 24 weeks in 1964 and for 24, 25, 23, 26 and 23 weeks in 2018-2022.

Weekly means were greater than 60 degrees for three weeks in 1964 (about 61-62 degrees) and were never greater than 60 degrees in 2018-2022. The weekly maxima were greater than 60 degrees for 22 days in 1964 and for 21, 21, 19, 21 and 21 days in 2018-2022.

Weekly maxima were greater than or equal to 70 degrees nine times in 1964 and only once in 2018-2022 -- during the heat wave in May 2022.

Hunt's Table 20 shows monthly mean water temperatures for Lawrence Creek for 1960-1965. Unfortunately, it was not clear whether the data were from the section A-B boundary or section D. The text notes that temperatures from the two recording sites differed by about 2 degrees in monthly means, with the lower section of Lawrence Creek being slightly warmer in summer and cooler in winter.

One way to potentially resolve the identity of the recording location is to use the weekly means from the section A-B boundary in 1964 in the figure to calculate an average for the year to compare to that for 1964 shown in the table. I estimated each weekly mean to within 0.5 degrees using a straightedge to line up each plotted weekly mean to the temperature scale on the vertical axis.

I came up with an average of 50.1 degrees (rounded to the first decimal place), which is exactly the 1964 average of monthly means of 50.1 degrees reported in the table.

I do not know that I would call this conclusive proof that Hunt's table reports water temperature data from the A-B boundary, but it sure appears to support that conclusion.

I plotted the mean monthly water temperatures for 1960-1965 (in black) and 2018-2022 (in red). Means for the summer months were generally lower in 2018-2022 than back in 1960-1965.

For example, the July means ranged from 57.1 to 60 degrees in 1960-1965 and were slightly lower, from 56.0 to 57.4 degrees, in 2018-2022. Winter water temperatures, conversely, were slightly higher in

recent years. January means, for example, ranged from 39.3 to 40.9 degrees in 2018-2022 and were somewhat lower, from 36.6 to 40.3 degrees, in 1960-1965.

I recently shared this with Ray White, who assisted with electrofishing at Lawrence Creek from 1957 to 1964. He suggests that slightly warmer water temperatures at that time are not surprising because habitat work was done in the headwaters (section A) in 1964.

Lawrence Creek was reportedly much wider and shallower prior to the 1964 habitat work. The work itself involved removing brush and trees from the streambank, as well as tearing up some of the streambank to install plank-and-stone structures.

Some photographs of this habitat work were included in a 1967 DNR publication by Ray White and Oscar Brynildson, "Guidelines for management of trout stream habitat in Wisconsin."

To drive home the point that the removal of streamside vegetation can lead to higher water temperatures, consider the lone present-day weekly mean water temperature for

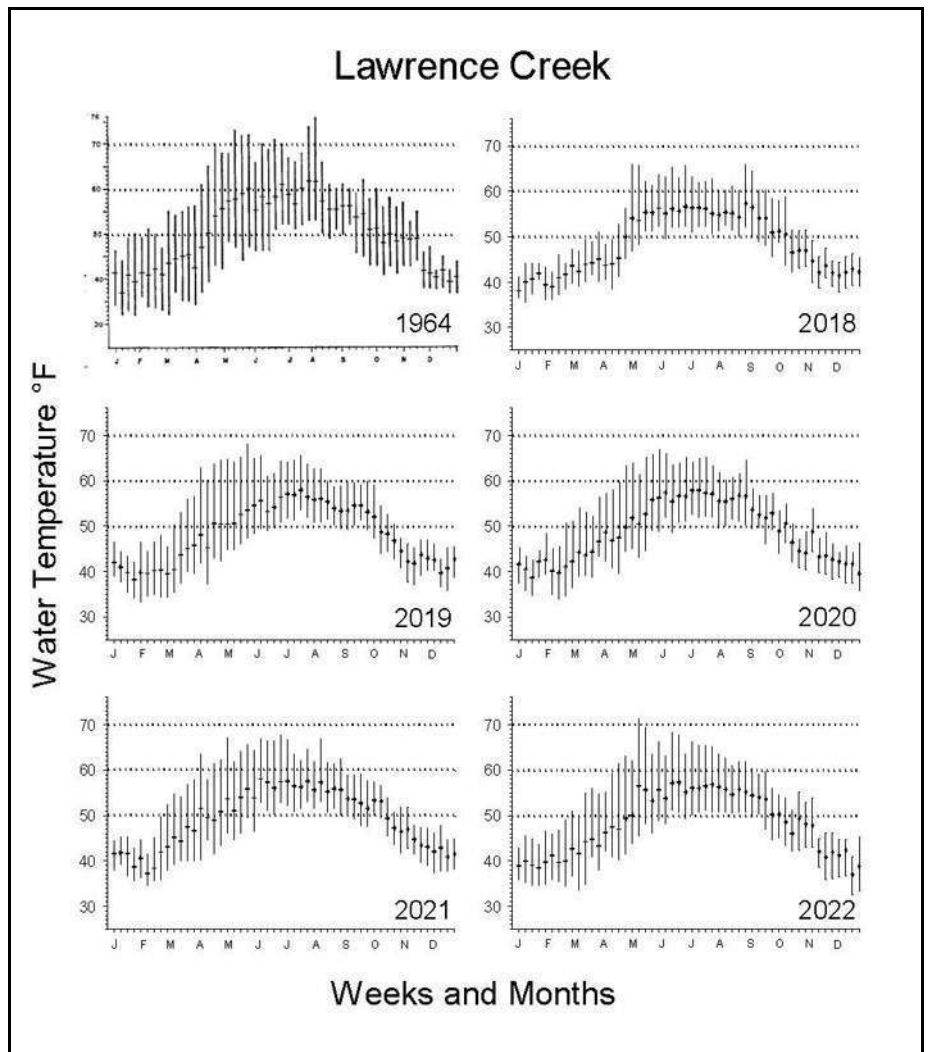
Lawrence Creek greater than 70 degrees observed in May 2022. That observation occurred during a heat wave at a time during spring, before streamside vegetation had grown in for the summer. The annual high temperature for 2022 occurred during that week in May in almost every stream in which I collected water temperature data that year.

## Still thermally strong

What the comparison of contemporary and historic water temperatures in Lawrence Creek tells me is that the stream is as thermally strong now, if not more so, than it was 60 years ago.

Lawrence Creek is fed by an abundance of spring seepages and feeder springs throughout the system, from which its thermal stability is likely derived. In fact, the spring input is so great in some areas that walking along the bank is like walking on a floating sponge. Perhaps this is why photos you see of anglers fishing Lawrence Creek tend to show anglers standing in the stream and not on the bank.

The habitat work pioneered in Lawrence Creek many years ago

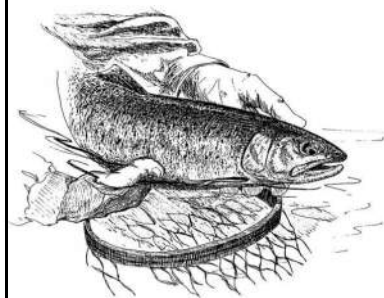


## WEEKLY TEMPERATURE RANGE: THEN AND NOW

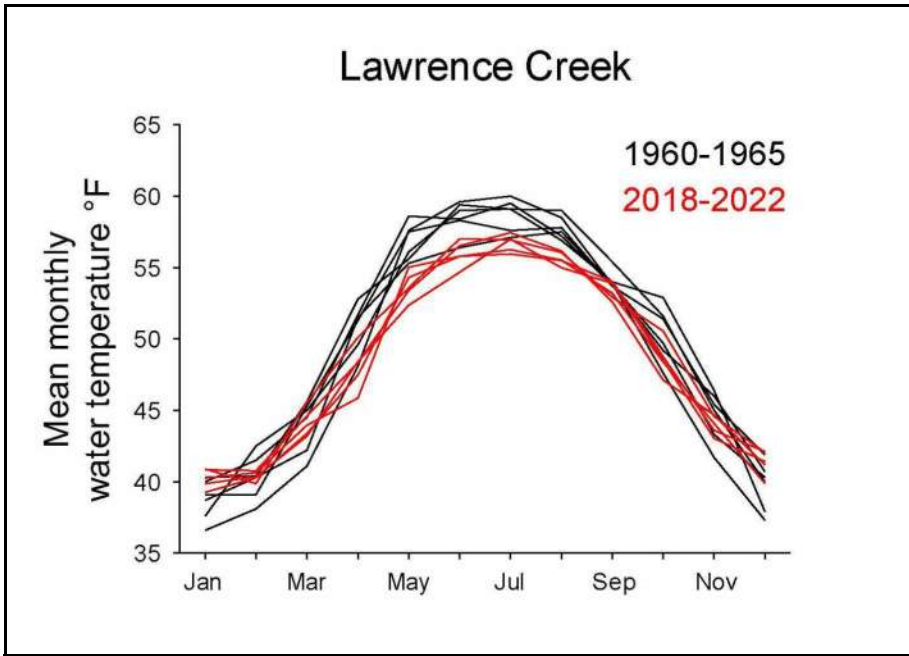
Weekly range (minimum to maximum) and weekly mean water temperatures in Lawrence Creek at the 1st Avenue stream crossing (section A-B boundary) for 1964 and 2018-2022.

## Consider Proper Release

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



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



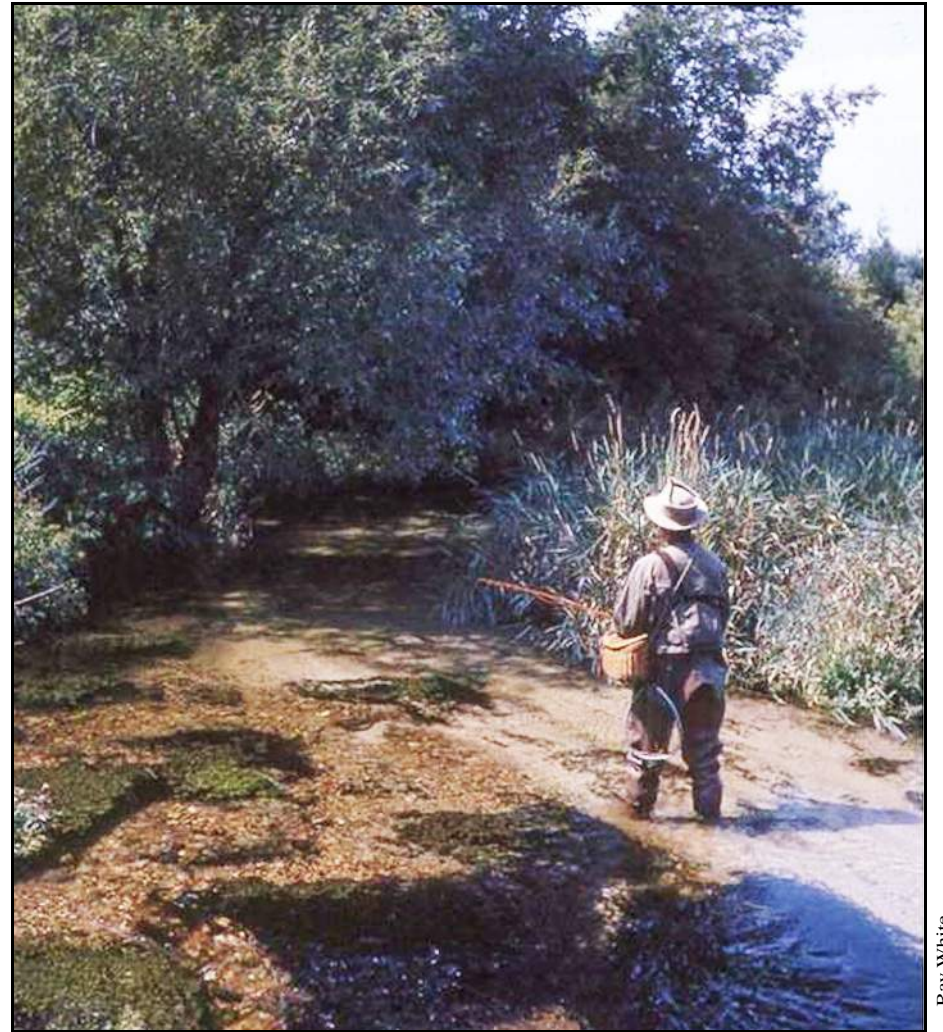
### TEMPERATURES PAST AND PRESENT

Mean monthly water temperatures in Lawrence Creek at the 1st Avenue stream crossing for 1960-1965 (in black) and 2018-2022 (in red).

may have played an important protective role in maintaining cold water temperatures in that stream. Lawrence Creek is also now surrounded by the 961-acre Lawrence Creek Fish and Wildlife Area. I would like to think that this land protection has helped protect thermal conditions in the stream too.

We have lost, but thankfully regained, many coldwater streams in Wisconsin over the years, especially

in the Driftless Area. Better agricultural land-use practices and stream habitat work and streambank protection have played important roles in stream recovery. Cold groundwater is key, and if we can maintain the cold water that feeds our streams, like we have in Lawrence Creek, we can ensure productive trout fisheries into the future.



Ray White

### BOB HUNT FISHING SECTION A OF LAWRENCE CREEK IN 1963

Bob Hunt fishing in section A of Lawrence Creek, upstream of the 1st Avenue crossing in 1963. This photograph, taken by Ray White prior to the habitat development work in 1964, shows how the stream was wider and shallower at that time.

## Friends of Wisconsin TU grants increased to \$2,500

For many years the Friends of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited program has been helping chapters accomplish trout habitat work all over Wisconsin. The Friends program raises funds, allows chapters to apply for grants, and the grants are then matched by the chapters to fund habitat projects. For years the amount of funding that chapters could apply for has remained steady at \$2,000 per year. That amount is about to change.

Thanks to the generous support of our donors and a generous bequest from a trust from which Friends was named a beneficiary, the

Council has made the decision that the Friends account is now in a financial situation that will allow us to increase the maximum amount a chapter can apply for to \$2,500. The chapter match requirement will remain at 100 percent of the requested amount, so each accepted Friends grant will now bring up to \$5,000 to each habitat project. That is a 25 percent increase over the previous grant amounts.

The next opportunity for chapters to apply for Friends grants will be in 2024. All chapters will be notified when the 2024 grant process

gets underway. Each chapter will also receive a copy of the Friends language and an application. Now is a good time for chapters to be looking into possible habitat projects.

To our members and friends who support Friends with their donations, a huge thank you is in order. The Friends program in general and this grant increase in particular would not be possible without your ongoing support. The Council wants to thank you and let you know how much we appreciate your support for this important program.

## Record turnout at Midwest Outdoor Heritage Education Expo

By Bob Haase

A total of 4,131 students and 673 teachers and chaperones showed up for the 2023 Midwest Outdoor Heritage Education Expo (MOHEE) that was held in Milwaukee and Poynette. We also had more volunteer tyers this year and that resulted in 1,918 flies being tied for the students.

The event was expanded this year to include a one-day program that was held at Havenwoods State Forest in Milwaukee. More than 800 kids from Milwaukee area schools participated in the event. The SEWTU Chapter provided most of the volunteer tyers and they tied a total of 439 flies for the kids. The volunteer tyers included Al Dalphanso, Janet Fisher, Ed Koscik, Steve Krakow, Michael Moore, Charles Staley, Scott Lyman, Larry Wirth and Bob Haase.

The MOHEE in Poynette was a two-day event, and they had a record attendance resulting in 1,479 flies being tied for the kids. The volunteer tiers included: Bob Haase, Bill Millonig, Bob Asam, Linda Lehman, Dave Brethauer, Randy Durner, Gary Cartwright, James Hodges, Sandy Kienast, Jim Boak, Dave LaPine and Renee Sagal.

This was the second year that we tied the flies for the kids, rather than having the kids tie them. They designed their fly by selecting the color of the bead (representing the head of the bug), the color of the mop nugget (representing the body of the bug), and the color of the estaz chenille (representing the legs of the bug).

Covid was and is still around and most of our volunteer tyers are older and have a weaker immune system. It also took less time with the volunteers tying the fly, designed by the students, resulting in a lot more kids receiving a fly. From past experience, we know that we would have had around 1,000 kids receiving a fly instead of the 1,918. We are not trying to make them fly tyers at this time, but rather have them catch a fish on a fly that they helped design, and hopefully getting them hooked on fishing.

Having said that, it is my hope that we go back to having the kids tie the fly next year. In order for this to happen we would need more volunteer tyers. It takes twice as long for the students to tie the fly, but I think it provides a better experience for them.

This event is amazing. It is well run, and a tremendous experience



Bob Haase

### VOLUNTEERS ARE KEY TO SUCCESSFUL YOUTH EVENTS

Volunteer TU fly tyers who helped at this year's MOHEE event included James Hodges, Dave Brethauer, Gary Cartwright, Sandy Kienast, Renee Sagal, Linda Lehman and Dave LaPine.

for the kids. We keep talking about getting more kids involved in fishing, and this is a great opportunity for Trout Unlimited to reach out to more than 4,000 kids. Next year's

Expo is scheduled for May 8 in Milwaukee and May 15 and 16 at Poynette. We need more volunteers, so please consider volunteering for next year's events.

# Buffalo County Conservation Alliance celebrates “Trout Day”



**By Wes Domine - Buffalo County Conservation Alliance.**

The 11th annual Buffalo County Trout Day Celebration was held in May along a stretch of Swinns Valley Creek. The family friendly and public celebration is held annually in recognition of successful stream restoration projects completed on Buffalo County streams. Attending participants enjoyed trout fishing and grilled hotdogs. Attending youths were gifted new fishing equipment.

Stream restoration projects stabilize banks by reshaping and adding riprap. Proper sloping and vegetation buffers combine to reduce sedimentation. A deeper and narrower stream bed reduces warming and maintains essential cold water temperatures. The overall water quality is much improved, so creating healthy stream habitat for fish and invertebrates; the ecosystem building blocks.

Improved trout fishing opportunities have provided significant economic boost to communities of the Driftless Area.

In recent years approximately 25 stream restoration projects have been completed in Buffalo County which have resulted in nearly 12 miles of stream with public fishing access. A complete listing with access map links can be found on the Buffalo County website under Land Conservation Dept. Or web search “Trout stream field guide booklet”

Trout Day event activities included a DNR fish survey. Young and old spectators were impressed by the brook and brown trout thriving within the restored stream area. Land conservation professionals were on hand to explain stream restoration activities including bank stabilization techniques, public access easements and funding sources.

Trout Day 2023 was hosted by the Arcadia Sportsmen’s Club with sponsor help from Alma Rod & Gun Club, Fountain City Rod & Gun Club, Gilmanton Sportsmen’s Club, Mondovi Conservation Club, Waumandee Rod & Gun Club, TU and the Buffalo County Conservation Alliance. Agency assistance included that from the DNR, NRCS and Buffalo County Land Conservation Department.

Members of these conservation clubs and agencies are most grateful to the landowners who make these stream-restoration projects possible. Their openness to work with conservation agencies to improve water quality and the environment, and the willingness to grant perpetual easements allowing public fishing access, is a very significant gift to our communities.

During this year’s event, recognition plaques were awarded to four families with land ownership along Swinns Valley Creek. The families include Frank and Angela Berg, Jerry Boberg and Gloria Hermann, Leeroy and Sharon Fernholz, and Bernard and Lynn Pronschinske.



**LANDOWNERS AWARDED FOR THEIR INVOLVEMENT AND EFFORTS**

Receiving conservation recognition awards were, left to right, Bernard & Lynn Pronschinske, Leeroy Fernholz, Melvin Berg and Jerry Boberg.

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Pictured: Zac, Aventuron Product Manager.

# Fertilizers are ruining trout streams and much more

*High nitrate levels poison drinking water and severely harm streams and lakes.*

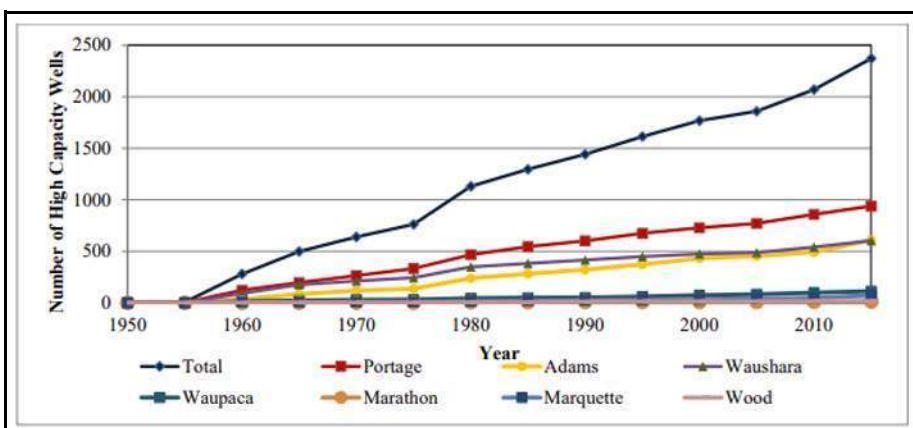
By Ray J. White and David W. Marshall

Drop a frog into a pan of boiling water and it'll jump out, but if you put the frog in tepid water which is then brought to a boil slowly, it won't sense the danger and be cooked to death – so the parable goes. Likewise, nitrate pollution of groundwater by irrigation farming's fertilizers has happened too slowly for us to notice soon enough. Manure from large livestock operations is part of it. Now trout streams and groundwater-fed lakes are plagued with algal masses that damage other aquatic life and make fishing a matter of wading through green gunk and having the stuff festoon our hooks.

Sand is poor soil for crops unless helped with lots of irrigation and

fertilizer. Irrigation water dissolves the fertilizer's nitrate and leaches it down through sand into groundwater so fast that plants use only some of it. This wastes fertilizer, and the crop needs far more. Drinking water gets contaminated. Groundwater-fed surface waters get over-enriched, so too much plant life, especially algae, grows. It's called eutrophication, a mess of a word for a disgusting disease of our streams and lakes.

Eutrophication is happening in Wisconsin's Central Sands Area, which straddles a long glacial moraine, with outwash plain to the west in Portage, Waushara and Adams counties and hilly areas to the east in the same counties, plus Waupaca and Marquette counties. The nitrate problem occurs in addition to trout habitat loss from reduced stream



## GROWTH IN NUMBER OF HIGH-CAPACITY WELLS

Growth in numbers of high-capacity wells in the Central Sands Area, 1950-2013 – total and by county, such that by 2013, the area had 2,199 high-capacity wells. By 2020, the count was about 2,500.

flow caused by groundwater pumping for irrigation. Insects and fish fry are poisoned when there are over two parts nitrate per million parts water (ppm), a level now often exceeded. Trout streams other waters are in big trouble. They're sick.

We present here examples of nitrate over-enrichment in three Waushara County creeks and in oxbow lakes by the Wisconsin River.

### Big Roche-a-Cri Creek near Hancock

In the 1950s, the headwaters flowed over gravel between banks lined with alder, birch and tamarack. Most anglers thought this too small, but knowledgeable ones fished it, and brook trout spawned there. Area farms were failing due to dry years. But some farmers started pumping groundwater to spray-irrigate crops.

A state habitat crew built devices in more than a mile of the headwaters in the 1950s.

In the mid-1960s, an aquatic plant, Elodea, previously unseen in the creek, flourished, undoubtedly due to irrigation fertilizers in the stream's groundwater supply. Irrigation farming of the Central Sands kept expanding after that. Irrigation pumping lowered the groundwater, thus decreasing streamflow and reducing fish habitat. The fertilizers polluted groundwater with nitrate which entered the streams and caused excessive growth of aquatic plants.

By the 21st century, growths of algae and other plants obscured the streambed gravel and clogged the channel, raising water level, thus killing bushes and trees, and making a quagmire.

Trout may still live in what's left of the channel whenever the masses

of live and dead organic matter haven't reduced dissolved oxygen too much, as can happen on hot summer nights. Much of the headwater mile is unfishable, and DNR doesn't class it as trout water anymore.

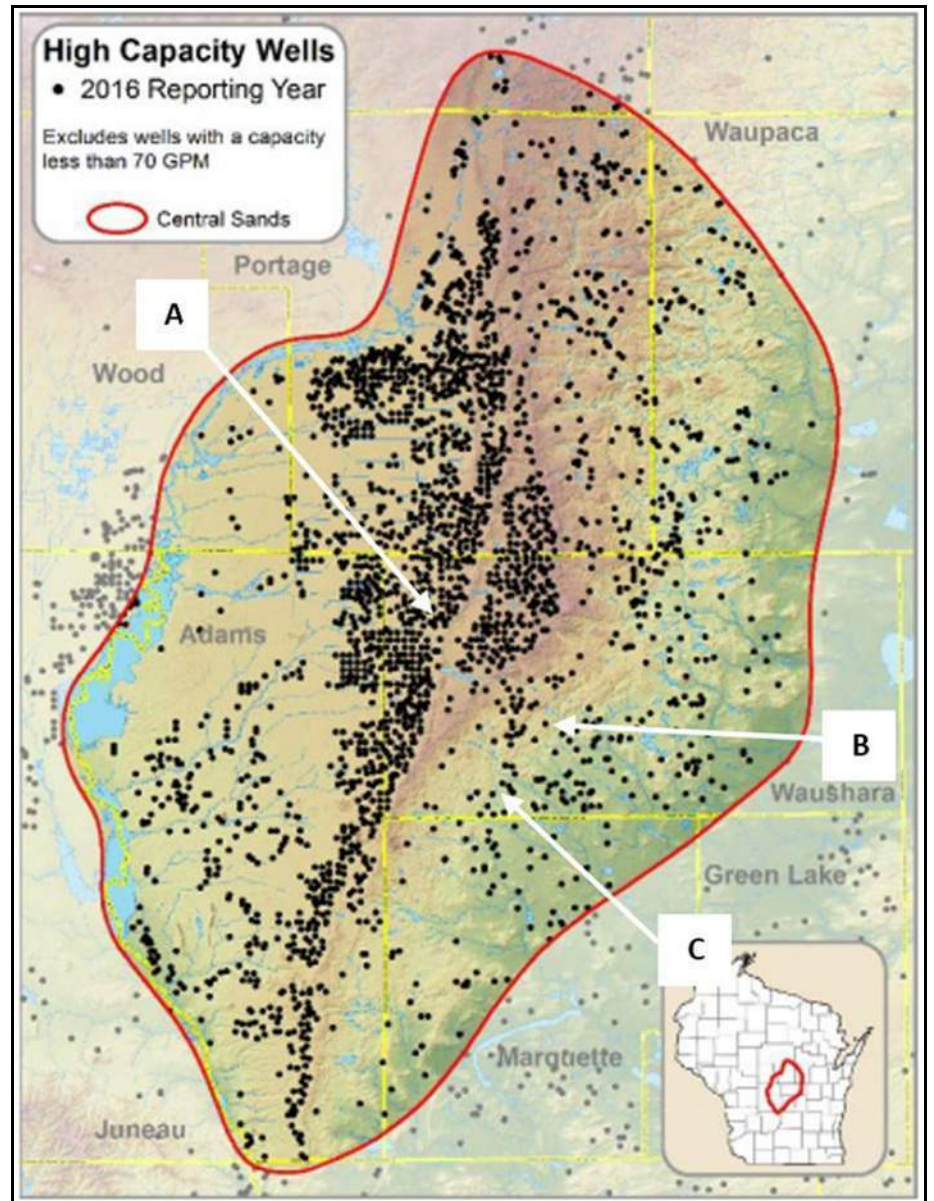
### West Branch of the White River south of Wautoma

Some 14 miles southeast of Big Roche-a-Cri Creek and east of the moraine, there's a well-known public fishing area on the West Branch of the White River. DNR built expensive bank covers and deflectors in this part of the creek during the 1990s.

In the early 2010s or so, stringy algal masses appeared, and former DNR technician Elward Engle reported that gobs of the green stuff were fouling anglers' hooks. The area's density of irrigation wells was low, but its watershed huge, so there was enough nitrate pollution to over-enrich the stream, grow algal masses, and hamper fishing. For how long had the problem been developing here, and in how many other prime trout streams of the Central Sands?

### Mecan River near Richford

At a Mecan River site just south of State Highway 21, which co-author White has fished since 1946, the bed was always "clean" gravel and sand until filamentous algae started to appear after about 2010. He didn't sense an exact onset year because the process was gradual, but he kept pondering that another key nutrient, phosphorus, might be the problem, until he learned nitrate's role from eutrophication researchers. By mid-summer in recent years, skeins of the algae occur throughout the stream breadth. Each year now, this superb trout



## CENTRAL SANDS SUFFERING FROM NITRATES AND HIGH CAP WELLS

The Central Sands and its high-capacity wells in 2016. The area includes large parts of Portage, Waupaca, Adams, Waushara and Marquette Counties, plus a little of Marathon County. The diagonal well-free strip is a moraine crest. The area west of the moraine is glacial outwash plain. To the east is hilly glacial drift land. Arrows show approximate locations of A: Big Roche-a-Cri Creek headwaters, B: West Branch of White River, and C: Mecan River



### BIG ROCHE-A-CRI HEADWATERS IN 1964

Big Roche-a-Cri Creek headwaters, viewed upstream (toward east) from 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, May 16, 1964, in the period when irrigation farming began expanding. Note streambed gravel.



### BIG ROCHE-A-CRI IN 2013

In this view from 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue in 2013, algae covers the bed and much water surface, which clogging of flow by this and other vegetation has raised, killing floodplain trees and bushes. Such algae is not abundant in streams that don't have excessive nutrient enrichment.

stream becomes unsightly and an annoying place for fishing. This is another stream with few irrigation farms nearby but with a huge drainage area containing such agriculture. How much worse will we let such messes get? Can the problem be reversed?

**Nitrate over-enrichment of oxbow lakes in Wisconsin River bottomlands**

What do Lower Wisconsin River oxbow lakes have in common with Central Sands trout streams? Answer: harm from high nitrate levels in groundwater, the main water source for both. The Central Sands trout streams and the Lower Wisconsin River oxbow lakes lie next to irrigated sand-soil croplands.

The “Lower Wisconsin State Riverway” had been one of the Midwest’s high quality large river ecosystems. Its value also was declared in other special designations: “EPA Exceptional Resource Water,” and “Wetland of International Importance.” Such official status is

supposed to protect it. Yet, like the Central Sands trout streams described above, nitrate pollution now greatly degrades the riverway’s previously pristine spring-fed oxbow lakes – places where diverse life once functioned well, but no longer. These lakes now serve poorly as habitat for waterfowl, other wildlife, sport fish and rare species. No longer so attractive for hunting, fishing, birding and other recreation, they’re septic-smelling cesspools, choked with dense mats of filamentous algae and duckweed that thrive in a nitrate-enriched soup.

An example of the rare species that these lakes support is the state-endangered starhead topminnow. This fragile, delicately colored two-inch fish depends on clear, properly vegetated floodplain lakes, swamps and marshes, preferring quiet areas with plenty of submerged plants in which to forage, hide and spawn. Having a diversity of fish like this one and others is essential for healthy functioning of life in such lakes.



**ALARMING RATE OF DEMISE FOR WISCONSIN RIVER SLOUGHS**

Norton Slough in 2008 was a high quality off-channel oxbow lake, flourishing with water lilies and other aquatic life. By 2011, groundwater contaminated with high nitrate concentrations fertilized dense mats of filamentous algae and duckweed, overwhelming the lake’s other aquatic life.



**MECAN RIVER 2002**

In April of 2002 there was no noticeable algae.



**MECAN RIVER 2012**

In July 2012 filamentous algae is visible in the right half of the stream.



**MECAN RIVER 2022**

In August of 2022, skeins of the algae throughout the stream breadth. Such streambed algae has occurred only in the last 12 years or so.

The problem is clear. Across sandy cropland areas, groundwater nitrate concentrations have exceeded the Drinking Water Enforcement Standard (10 ppm) and caused surface water pollution. Not clear is the solution. Will our state’s conservation and agricultural communities get together, find what needs to be done, and then do it?

Over-enrichment of streams and lakes by agricultural nitrate in groundwater has grown for decades, while TU, the DNR, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Natural Resource Conservation Service and other entities have concentrated their stream management on building channel structures. If we keep on with such creek carpentry and don’t deal with nitrate pollution, it will be like Nero’s fiddling while Rome burned.

Will TU work for remedy? If so, would it be best to foster cooperation among the conservation and agriculture communities, drawing on and further developing shared values? That’s now done on some other issues. To what extent has TU gotten together with Central Sands irrigators? Do the Central Wisconsin and Frank Hornberg TU Chapters participate in the Fishers & Farmers Partnership (fishersandfarmers.org)? Such interaction takes time but is essential. If done ineptly, the results won’t amount to much.

Better laws may be needed, too, and probably won’t be much faster. As for enforcing present pollution-control laws, has TU pressured

DNR and EPA about this? If so, have we pushed hard enough?

Is quicker, more drastic action appropriate? Sixty years ago, the DDT pesticide was causing massive die-off of bald eagles and other birds. A group of citizens and scientists campaigned nationally to stop production and use of the poison. Their slogan: “Sue the bastards!” They did. It worked. Bird populations have recovered.

The resource-conservation frog has just sat in the pan as the problem of agricultural nitrate water heats up. It’s time to jump!

*Ray White, a Wisconsin TU founding member, served as a DNR trout research biologist 1957-72, with leave for work in Europe, then taught fishery science at Michigan State and Montana State Universities. Retired from the latter, he’s a consultant based near Seattle but returns often to his creek-side cabin in Waushara County. Since 2013, he has organized an annual UW-Stevens Point stream restoration workshop for DNR personnel and others.*

*Dave Marshall, also a former DNR aquatic biologist, worked in the bureaus of Water Resources Management and Fisheries & Habitat Protection from 1976 to 2006. Since then, he has been an environmental consultant, focusing on agricultural pollution and distribution of ecologically important non-game fish species that have been affected by water pollution and habitat loss. Dave also owns a licensed fish farm.*



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# Invasive species spotlight: Japanese knotweed complex

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

There are some kinds of plants that you get so used to seeing when you're out fishing that they blend into the landscape, and you might think they've always been there. They might only hit your radar once they start to slip from the background of your thoughts to being a noticeable nuisance. Like when the stream access you could usually walk

down to is now an impenetrable wall of bushes that line the bank for hundreds of feet. Or you lose a bunch of flies to that same bush while trying to cast your fly into the feeding lane running parallel to the shore.

While sometimes annoying, many of those riparian plants are native and supposed to be there. Some are not, though, and a good example is noxious bamboo-like plants called knotweeds. In Wisconsin, we have three kinds: Giant (prohibited), Japanese (restricted), and their hybrid cross, Bohemian (prohibited). Unlike the parental species, the hybrid is difficult to identify based on leaf characteristics.

Until recently, it was thought that there was just one type of hybrid, but researchers are discovering that the picture is much more complicated.

Last summer, I collected streamside samples primarily in Crawford County as part of a statewide effort led by UW-Whitewater to collect genetic information on the hybrid versions and help determine how many exist. At least 5 have been identified so far, and this study is ongoing. The results are important because this information will inform future control measures, as the multitude of hybrids may respond differently to various treatment options.

You don't have to wander too far to see just how bad the problem could get. On several excursions to Iowa to fish after the Wisconsin season closed last year, I was shocked and horrified at the large expanses of this plant clogging the streambanks at our final fishing spot as well as many miles of highway enroute.



Ellen Voss

## COLLECTING KNOTWEED DATA

This sample was collected along Hwy 62 as part of the ongoing knotweed genetics study. This specimen is likely a hybrid, as the leaf characteristics don't easily match either Japanese or giant knotweed. Note that the flowers have already fallen off, but the clusters are still visible.

## Common in the Driftless

You see a lot of this plant in the Driftless Area because it was originally planted as an ornamental, probably for its medicinal value. There are several large patches along the bridges over the Kickapoo River in Soldiers Grove if you want a close-up view.

In addition to their negative impacts on fishing, they can be incredibly destructive, with the rhizomes capable of damaging home foundations, concrete, and asphalt. If you live in the UK, you might even be denied homeowners insurance or be able to obtain a mortgage for an infested property.

Like many other invasive species, knotweeds spread really easily. Root and stem fragments as small as a half-inch long can sprout new roots, and roadside mowing and restoration projects can accidentally spread viable seeds and rhizomes. Once established, this plant is nearly impossible to control without extensive herbicide applications and mechanical means, though some biocontrol options are being explored.

*Once established, this plant is nearly impossible to control without extensive herbicide applications and mechanical means, though some biocontrol options are being explored.*

Remember, it can be difficult to identify the hybrid based on leaf characteristics, so get good photos so others can verify the species.

Step 2. Check the DNR's AIS viewer to check the location and see if what you found has been reported previously.

Google "WI DNR Lakes and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Mapping Tool"; [dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Lakes/Viewer](https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Lakes/Viewer)

Step 3. If it's a new sighting, report it to the DNR.

Google "Report invasive species - Wisconsin DNR" and fill out the Aquatic Invasive Species Incident Report.

Otherwise just send me an email and I'll get it reported:

[evoss@wisconsinrivers.org](mailto:evoss@wisconsinrivers.org)

The DNR and UW-Extension made a brochure about knotweeds that includes a lot of great information. You can find it at <https://widnr.widen.net/s/jzxjqr867/wy0090>.

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

## How you can help

By looking at the DNR's aquatic invasive species viewer, you'd get the impression that we don't have much, especially in the Driftless Area, which doesn't seem to be the case in reality. This species is underreported, and that's why I'm asking you to please keep an eye out for this invasive this summer and report what you find. Here's how:

Step 1. Check the ID of the plant you found.

Google "WI DNR Knotweed" and compare Giant (uncommon), Japanese, and Bohemian.



**Scott W. Grady**  
Rodmaker

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## Driftless women hold annual event



### DRIFTLESS WOMEN ON THE FLY HOLD ANNUAL EVENT

Thirty two women anglers from four different states ventured to Esofea County Park near Westby in June for a weekend of fishing and friendship. This was the second annual get-together hosted by Driftless Women on the Fly. TU Chapters from Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota and Illinois were all well represented. The anglers ranged from beginners to skilled - all learning from each other. Great food, drink and merriment ensued. As a bonus, they caught many beautiful trout. They will gather again next year. Come join them!

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



# Tell Congress to fully fund the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

By Jamie Vaughan, TU's Great Lakes Engagement Coordinator

Great Lakes advocates recognize that the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) has resulted in

major conservation wins for the region's freshwater resources. Because of GLRI investments, more than 6,000 river miles have been opened by the removal of dams and barriers and more than 460,000

acres of habitat, including 65,000 acres of coastal wetlands, have been protected and restored. TU staff in Wisconsin alone have received more than \$1.1 million in investments from the GLRI for fish passage and coldwater habitat projects for brook trout.

This year, we need Congress to fund the GLRI at its fully authorized level of \$425 million to continue to restore fish and wildlife habitat, boost resilience to climate change, reduce farm runoff and prevent and manage invasive species. The failure to budget for the fully authorized amount means leaving funds on the table necessary for the work needed to tackle threats in the region. By choosing not to use everything at our disposal, we are only exacerbating issues that will become more expensive as time passes.

The Great Lakes is the largest freshwater ecosystem on earth, not only providing drinking water for more than 30 million Americans, but also supporting thousands of

fish and wildlife species and providing world-class recreation opportunities for locals and tourists alike. The region boasts a \$7 billion fishery and a \$16 billion tourism industry annually, with Michigan and Wisconsin ranking second and third as the largest sport fishing destinations in the nation.

The GLRI has proven to be one of the best tools for sparking investment into coldwater fisheries throughout the Great Lakes basin. Let's ensure Wisconsin's freshwater resources and the communities that rely on them continue to benefit from robust federal investments so future generations can enjoy clean water, quality recreation opportunities, a strong economy and healthy watersheds.

Your voice can make a difference. Write to your legislators today to urge them to support robust Great Lakes appropriations in the FY2024 budget. Visit this link to act now: [www.votervoice.net/TU/campaigns/105891/respond](http://www.votervoice.net/TU/campaigns/105891/respond).



## Marengo River gets 1,000 new white pine trees



**READY TO PLANT!**  
TU Project Coordinator Danielle Nelson with a bundle of white pine saplings.

planting, volunteers joined TU staff and chapter members for a stream-side macroinvertebrate identification activity where we learned about all the small critters that call the Marengo River home and why they are an important part of the ecosystem. We found several species that indicate a healthy coldwater system and popular macroinvertebrates of the afternoon included stick-building caddisflies and stoneflies.

A wonderful day was capped off by an afternoon cookout and some volunteers also took the opportunity to break out the fly rods. I'm really looking forward to wherever the next stewardship opportunity takes me and I hope to see you there.

TU would also like to thank Bells Brewery for providing the Water Stewardship Grant to support this community planting event.



**TU VOLUNTEERS PLANT PINE SAPLINGS ALONG THE MARENGO RIVER**  
These saplings join the 1,000 white pines planted in 2022 and will help further stabilize the stream banks, provide habitat for wildlife and eventually provide much-needed shade to keep the Marengo's waters cold.

By Danielle Nelson, Northern Wisconsin Project Coordinator

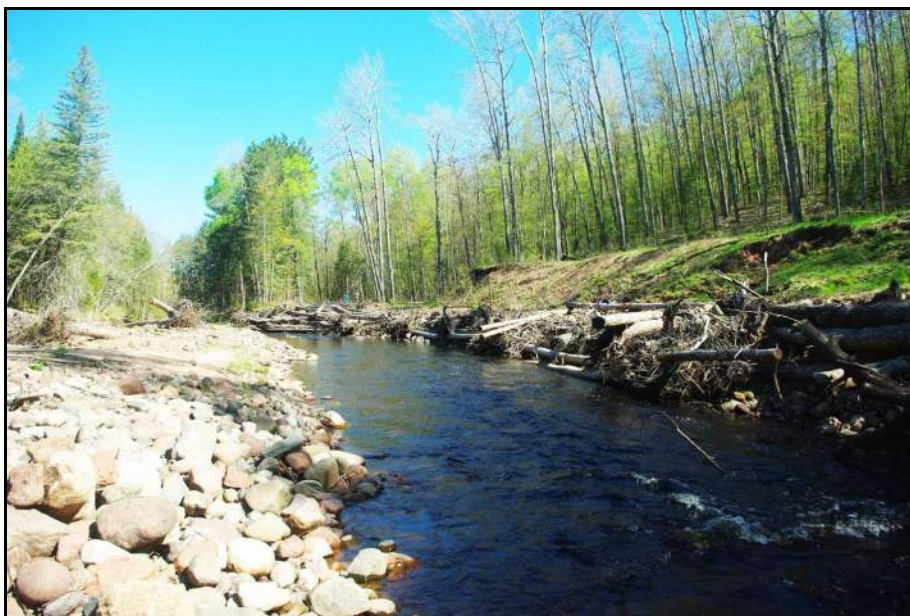
I'd like to take this opportunity to whole-heartedly thank all the volunteers who joined us for our Marengo River tree-planting event in May. On an absolutely beautiful Saturday, Wild Rivers Chapter members, TU National staff and members of the greater Ashland area came out to the Marengo River bank stabilization project site to plant 1,000 white pine saplings.

These saplings join the 1,000 white pines planted in 2022 and will help further stabilize the streambanks, provide habitat for wildlife and eventually provide much-needed shade to keep the Marengo's waters cold. Most of the saplings planted in 2021 are thriving. I can't wait to see what this project site looks like years down the line, but we are well on our way to reestablishing a healthy streambank and riparian forest after the devastating floods of 2016 and 2018.

Following a morning of tree



**STICK BUILDERS DISCOVERED**  
Volunteers found several species that indicate a healthy coldwater system and popular macroinvertebrates of the afternoon included stick-building caddisflies and stoneflies.



**MARENGO RIVER LOOKING GREAT**  
On an absolutely beautiful Saturday, Wild Rivers Chapter members, TU National staff and members of the greater Ashland area came out to the Marengo River bank stabilization project site to plant 1,000 white pine saplings.

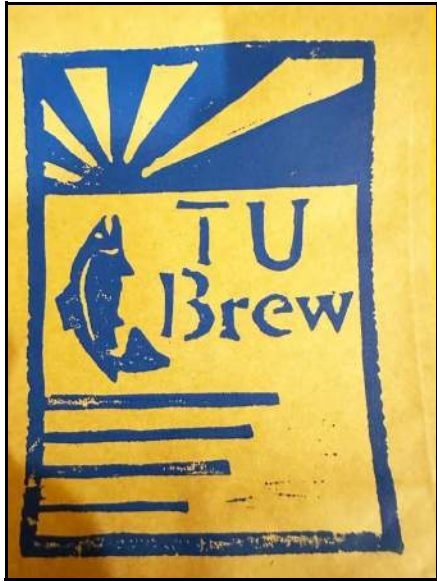


# Chapter News

## Aldo Leopold Chapter

Summer has started with a bang at ALCTU. In May we held our first chapter fishing outing in years. Although only a few people attended, those few had a great time. We were happy to have about 40 attendees at our annual picnic, who heard Nate Nye, our DNR biologist, speak about Dell Creek. Raffle prizes were won by many, thanks to all who attended. A special thanks to all who donated items for the raffles, especially Cabbage Creek Customs for the custom-built 4-weight grand prize fly rod and The Driftless Angler, which provided a discounted guide trip for two.

We have started a coffee fundraiser with local coffee roaster John



Joseph Coffee in Sauk City to create "TU Brew," a medium/dark roast, fresh-roasted coffee. The coffee has a Sumatra base and is blended with beans from Colombia and Brazil. One-pound bags are \$16 each, with a sizeable portion going back to our chapter, and are available in ground or whole bean. Early purchasers have given rave reviews, so don't miss out on this one. Reach out to Dan Endres at

dtendres9@gmail.com or 608-963-1374 if you would like to order some.

—Dan Endres

## Antigo Chapter

Welcome to summer. The warmer temperatures are here. But we need rain. We held our annual fundraiser in March at Northstar Banquet Center in Antigo. Thanks to all the workers and supporters of TU. It was a great banquet with 210 supporters showing up. The trout thank you.

We are happy to sponsor a new youth this year for the State Council Youth Fishing Camp.

We provided two \$500 scholarships to Antigo graduates to help continue their education in natural resources.

In June we held our annual Kid's Fishing Day in Antigo Park, with hundreds of kids and parents attending, a fish tank full of brook

trout, prizes and bikes given away. And, there was soda, hamburgers and hot dogs for all. A big thank you goes to our area DNR staff for helping run a casting contest for the kids. Thanks to the sponsors that provide funding and help to make this day for the kids.

We have three work days planned for the summer, including painting a fishing dock and some days brushing parking spots on three access points on the Eau Claire River. We also have 21 waste line boxes to clean and maintain and we are looking to set up a few more in our area.

We hope everyone has a nice and safe summer.

—Scott Henricks

## Central Wisconsin Chapter

The Central Wisconsin Chapter held its officer elections at the March meeting. Linn Beck was elected president, with Shawn Sullivan as vice president. Laura Tucker agreed to stay on and fill the secretary position and Joe Peikert agreed to stay on in the treasurer position. The chapter also voted on supporting the Trout Unlimited Headwaters Youth Programs with a \$500 donation at the meeting. One task we are

undertaking is working on our leadership succession. We are resetting our alignment and hope to have it completed by mid-summer.

We held our 52nd Annual Conservation Banquet in April in Mt. Morris. We raised money for upcoming projects, and all had a great time. The chapter celebrated several members with awards. Bill and Mary Jo Vance received the River Keepers of the Year award. Jeff



## VANCES RECEIVE RIVER KEEPERS AWARD FROM CWTU

River Keepers Award from left to right Mary Jo and Bill Vance, Bob Jozwowski.

Treu received the chapter's highest honor, the Brookie Award. John Tucker received a Lifetime Achievement Award. Congratulations to all these award recipients. The awards were all well deserved.

Our workday season opened in May with our friends from the Elliot Donnelley Chapter. This has been a tradition for 12 years. We welcomed 39 volunteers from three chapters, friends of the chapter and DNR staff to a great day on the West Branch of the White River. We were able to finish up the last of the storm cleanup from a couple of years ago. With the hard work of everyone, we wrapped up the restoration work on this part of the river. A big thank you goes out to everyone there. Thank you to Chad Tucker, the workday crew and all the volunteers for a smooth and fun workday.

The month of June brought us to a special weekend. On the first

weekend of June, we always introduce our Dan Harmon III Fly Fishing School, which was started in 1976. This year's school reached a maximum of 24 students, with several others going on the waiting list for next year. We had 17 volunteers help everyone go through the curriculum of classroom sessions, streamside demonstrations and hands-on activities. All these great activities led to a choice of on-stream guided fishing or further personal instructions on Sunday morning. A big thank you to Jeff Treu and John Gremmer, along with the rest of this year's volunteers, for another great school.

Please check out The Brookie or our website for our upcoming summer meetings. We will be meeting on the second Wednesday of each month all summer with our meeting locations changing monthly.

—Linn Beck

## Coulee Region Chapter

The Coulee Region Chapter wrapped up another season of member meetings with what's become an annual picnic in Coon Valley in May. Mother Nature cooperated and we enjoyed a pleasant evening with friends old and new. For our April meeting, Geri and Mat from Driftless Angler presented on recent trips they'd been on and provided tips for fishing in the area. In March, Bob Micheel, Monroe County Land Conservation and Kirk Olson, DNR, talked about projects in the area and what they've been up to lately. Regular meetings will resume in September.

On the youth outreach front, our chapter sponsored an AP Environmental Sciences class from La

Crosse Central High School to go on a water quality field trip.

Trout Fest was in late June at Coon Valley.

We are looking forward to hosting another STREAM Girls event August 12 at West Fork Sports Club, in Avalanche. Watch our Facebook page for more details as the event approaches.

Conservation and habitat-improvement projects on the horizon include work on the West Fork of the Kickapoo near Bloomingdale some time next year and, tentatively, some work in Richland County. More details on those projects will come soon.

—Brad Bryan

## Fox Valley Chapter

Fox Valley TU has been busy undertaking projects abandoned or delayed due to the pandemic. Principal among them is a freshly minted five-year plan to guide our chapter and focus on our mission. Our primary mission is habitat work and stream improvement in the central sands region, which is our home waters.

To support our mission and activities, we hold an annual fundraiser, Cabin Fever Day, usually in January. Norm Christnacht managed the event this year and Doug Nelson will skipper CFD 2024. Under the leadership of John Barkmeier we have expanded our fundraising to include multiple annual sweep-

stakes. Our Spring Sweepstakes raised \$2,000 and had four winners. A Fall Sweepstakes is being planned.

The Fox Valley Chapter is 50 years old this year. We have a committee headed by Bruce Penning focused on planning this golden anniversary celebratory event. Currently the event is scheduled for October 19 in Appleton, with the details now in the planning stage.

In June we hosted our 43rd Fishing Day for people with Disabilities. It was a great success in spite of chilly temps and more than overcast skies, but the much needed rain held off until after a delicious lunch was served. Anglers caught recently



## JOHN TUCKER RECEIVES LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Ozzie award (lifetime achievement) from left to right Dan Harmon III, John Tucker (recipient), Tom Meyer

# Chapter News



John Barkmeier

## PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES ENJOY FISHING DAY

In June FVTU hosted its 43rd Fishing Day for people with Disabilities. It was a great success in spite of chilly temps and more than overcast skies, but the much-needed rain held off until after a delicious lunch was served.

stocked rainbow trout, with assistance from about 20 volunteers and the caregivers they brought with them. This wonderful event was held at Camp Shiocton near Shiocton, and we thank Camp director Ross Mortensen for the use of the "Y" camp.

Throughout the summer, from May to October, every third Saturday, we join with the Central Chapter to do habitat work under the direction of the DNR, and with

DNR work crews. Jerome Herro is heading up that effort. In May 39 volunteers from three chapters, including the Elliot Donnelley Chapter and a DNR crew. We are grateful to that chapter for their donation of \$4,000 to help fund this important conservation work. We also held a work day in June. For details and directions for future work days, please check our web site at [foxvalleytu.org](http://foxvalleytu.org).

—Don Clouthier



## BRANDON FRANK RECEIVES SCHOLARSHIP FROM HORNBERG CHAPTER

Brandon Frank of Wisconsin Rapids is the 2023 recipient of the Frank Hornberg scholarship at UW-Stevens Point. He is studying fisheries and aquatic science. If you would like to help support the Frank Hornberg scholarship fund, contact Doug Erdmann at [derdmann55@charter.net](mailto:derdmann55@charter.net).

## Frank Hornberg Chapter

On Saturday, May 20th, seventeen people helped out on a workday at Trout Nace Creek. Previously, the DNR had removed buckthorn, willow trees and honeysuckle from the area. Members of Shaw-Paca, the DNR and our chapter then planted 150 trees. Plans are in the works to add parking in this area.

We are always looking for more help on our workdays. If you are unable to do the stream work, we need people to bake and cook food for lunch. Or you can just come along and socialize. We have a great group of people and it's always a lot of fun.

Our brat fry is set for Saturday, July 29th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Fall Line Outfitters in Stevens Point. This is our main fundraiser for the year. Please stop out and support our chapter. The proposed parking lot on Rolling Hills Road at the Tomorrow River was turned down by the Portage County Parks Commission. It turns out the Town of New

Hope owns the old road bed into the property and believes that with the current erosion problem at the bridge, it would be too costly to maintain a parking lot at that location. We will continue to look for other parking options in the area with the DNR.

Craig Cook of Fall Line Outfitters in Stevens Point donated a portion of sales from his Fall Line logo merchandise to our chapter. This totaled \$145. Thank you, Craig, for all the support you have given to our chapter. It is greatly appreciated.

Brandon Frank of Wisconsin Rapids was this year's recipient of the \$400 Frank Hornberg Scholarship at UW-Stevens Point. He is studying fisheries and aquatic science. If you would like to help support the UW-Stevens Point Frank Hornberg scholarship fund, contact Doug Erdmann at [derdmann55@charter.net](mailto:derdmann55@charter.net).

—Doug Erdmann

## Green Bay Chapter

We held our annual meeting in April to hold elections and celebrate our accomplishments. We were also privileged to be joined by guest speaker Tom Lager. Tom was our fifth and final guest speaker of our 2022-23 meeting season. His presentation was on the giant mayflies of Wisconsin. It was fantastic. Afterwards we held our chapter elections. Adrian Meseberg was reelected as president. Doug Seidl was elected vice president. John Tilleman was elected treasurer and John Deuchert was elected secretary. Additional board members included Jose Diaz and Dave Ostanek. Bruce Deuchert, Janet Smith and Carla Zimmerman, who will represent us on the Brown County Conservation Alliance. Our State Council representative will be Doug Seidl.

We typically hold our premier fundraiser, our annual conservation banquet, in February. But due to kitchen renovations at Stadium View Bar and Grill, we were forced to move this year's event to April. Despite the change in date, we still enjoyed a wonderful evening. About 250-300 attendees came out to support our chapter and our mission. This was our 47th Annual Conservation Banquet. Included with our banquet committee...a huge thank you has to go out to the Lombardi Middle School FFA members who volunteered to help make this a smooth event.

In an awesome showing of TU partnership, The Oconto River Chapter reached out to our chapter with the proposal that we team-up with Tiletown Brewery for a Beer-of-the-Month fundraiser in May. We obviously agreed. In May we held the meet and greet kickoff. Several members from GBTU and Oconto River TU came out to celebrate the tapping of the keg. The beer was called "Where the Helles Spring," and the Oconto and GBTU chapters will split a portion of the proceeds. As part of the kickoff, we also held a 50/50 raffle and a silent auction for an amazing whiskey barrel top engraved with the TU logo.

In May we accepted the Brown County Conservation Club of the Year Award from the Brown County Conservation Alliance (BCCA). We are very grateful for the recognition of our efforts.

GBTU kicked off our 2023 work project season on the South Fork of the Thunder River. For this workday we partnered with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to plant nearly 2,000 silver maples along the banks of the river. Silver maples were chosen because they are fast growing and can possibly replace many of the ash trees currently there. Eight members of GBTU, two from Oconto TU and one from the Northwoods Chapter helped make the day a big success.

By now every TU chapter should be familiar with the Trout-In-the-Classroom (TIC) program. We helped set up a TIC program at Lombardi Middle School. On May 23, for the second year in a row, FFA students from Lombardi stocked their TIC fish in Haller's Creek. This was done with the support of our chapter and the DNR. It also brought out Green Bay's Channel 5 news, which did a feature story on the program, TU and the stocking. Green Bay DNR Fish Biologist Jason Breeggemann and Fisheries Technician Mel provided a stream-shocking demonstration, macroinvertebrate identification and more.

All of this was done along the GBTU Trout Educational Trail. This is the type of event that we envisioned when we began our educational trail revamp. We also wanted to share that the DNR stocked 383 yearling brown trout into Haller's Creek in early May. The creek has been stocked with keeper trout by the DNR for several years now. This provides Green Bay and its surrounding cities with a put-and-take trout fishery close to home.

In June we returned to the Outagamie County Conservation Club (OCCC) to be part of their very popular Take-a-Kid-Fishing Day. Last year's event set a record with 317 kids. This year a new record was made with 333 youth. GBTU's role as been to teach people about our mission and the amazing work we do. We do this all while teaching kids, and some adults, how to tie flies and cast a fly rod. It was an incredible day. We cannot wait to be part of it again next year.

Finally, GBTU continues to run our Veteran's Service Program. They are held at Tight Lines Fly Shop in De Pere on Monday at 4:30 p.m. If you are a veteran who would



# Chapter News



## TROUT RELEASE DAY AT HALLER'S CREEK

Green Bay Lombardi Middle School FFA at their Trout-In-the-Classroom trout release into Haller's Creek.



## FIRST FLY FOR BROTHERS THANKS TO GBTU

Two happy brothers with their first flies at the OCCC Take a Kid Fishing Day with the Green Bay Chapter.



## GBTU NAMED BROWN COUNTY CONSERVATION CLUB OF THE YEAR

like to participate, or if you would like to volunteer, please contact GBTU Veteran's Program Coordinator Paul Kruse at [kruser2@new.rr.com](mailto:kruser2@new.rr.com) or 920-639-2361.

For more Green Bay Chapter in-

formation, please visit our website at [greenbaytu.org](http://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 soon. When we finish here, we will go to the state property off Bower Road. We would estimate the cost at about \$25 per foot.

In April we had elections with no changes in officers or board. We had an interesting talk on the work our UW-Platteville summer interns did, which included a secondary project of searching for mussels in trout streams for the DNR.

We had our banquet on May 5, with a good crowd and successful fundraising.

We participated in a tree planting in May. The DNR facilities and lands crew prepared the site, which included drilling the holes and setting out materials for making cages. We planted 60 pin oak and swamp white oak trees on Trout Creek, near Barneveld. That included a couple of DNR personnel, several members of SWTU and several college students from UW-Madison.

We have also continued to add and replace stiles on Gordon Creek.

—Brian Larson

## Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter

This spring Kiap-TU-Wish had an information booth at the 2023 Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo at Hamlin University in St. Paul in March and at the City of River Falls Earth Day event in April.

Our annual fundraising auction in March was our biggest and most successful auction to date. We had more than 90 items including 18 guided trips (many donated by chapter members), five vacation stays, 13 fly boxes tied by members, as well as rods, reels, waders, lines, other fishing equipment, art and local business gift cards. We raised nearly \$13,000 from the auction,

with another \$4,000 from our 2 X100 chance drawings for a Norling bamboo rod and a Joshua Cunningham painting of a famous stretch of the Rush River. Big thanks to everyone who helped pull off this great event.

Chapter meetings are on hiatus until September. We finished out the year with our business meeting in April, where we re-elected board members and welcomed new member Scott Larson, who replaced John Kaplan. Thanks, John, for your service to the chapter. Chapter Treasurer Suzanne Constantini gave our annual financial report and



Randy Arnold

## KIAP TU WISH'S CADY CREEK VOLUNTEERS

Some of the many Cady Creek Volunteers from left right: John Kaplan, Trish Hannah, Jeff Dahl, Dave Gregg, Rainbow Barry, Don Fritz, Loren Haas, Pat Sexton, Jeff Schwarz, Ted Higman, Ben Toppel, Mary Lilly and James Patterson.



Michelle Bevis

## STUDENTS OF KIAP TU WISH'S STREAM GIRLS CLASS

fielded questions from members. We also took some time to tweak the chapter bylaws to address some language issues. The corrections allowed us to add a board member. We are therefore on the look-out for a go getter. We also discussed the demise of our hard copy newsletter Rip Rap, which was a victim of Covid and the loss of donated printing. The Communications Committee will be working on a solution to issues raised during the business meeting.

In May DNR Fisheries Biologist Kasey Yallaly presented "2023 Seasonal Trout Movement Study and 2022 Trout Survey Results." As usual, everyone was all ears trying to up their odds the next time out. DNR habitat specialist Nate Anderson also gave an update on trout habitat activities planned for 2023 in western Wisconsin. Also in May the chapter board elected the following slate of officers for the coming year:

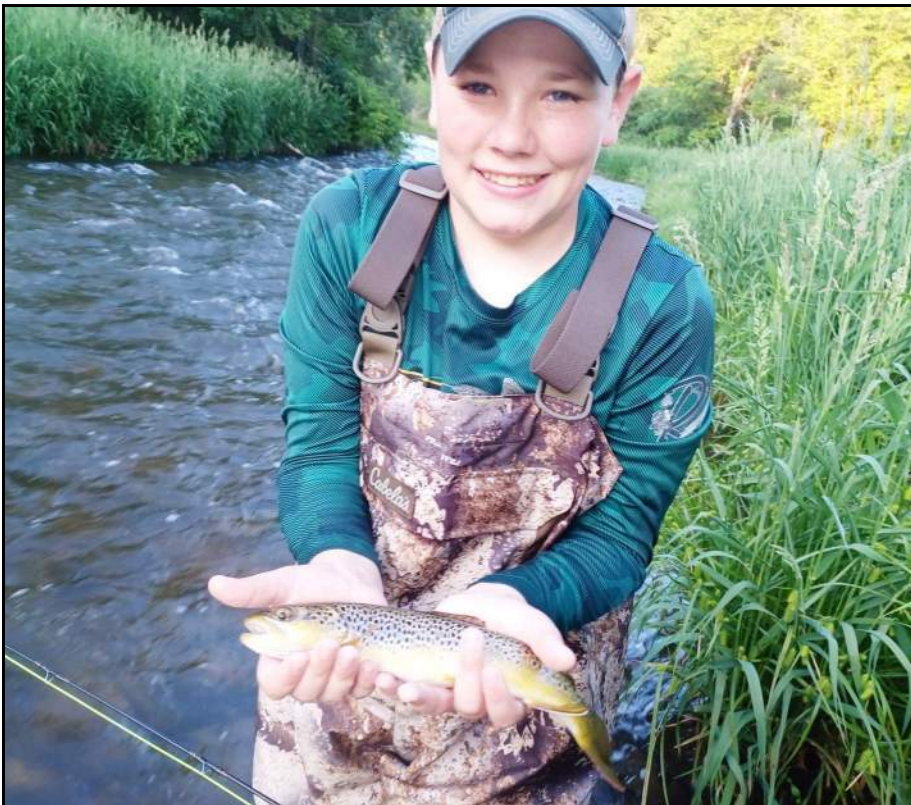
Greg Olson, president, Gary Horvath, vice president, Suzanne Constantini, treasurer and Michelle Hanson, secretary.

Kiap-TU-Wish volunteers supported seven schools with their TIC programs this year. Brown trout eggs came from the DNR fish hatchery at St Croix Falls in November and trout were released into the Willow and Trimbelle rivers in May.

Along their journey, students learned about the life cycle of trout and their unique, coldwater habitat needs. They watched eggs hatch into fry and carefully monitored the chemistry of their trout tanks.

Students got up close and personal with the aquatic macroinvertebrates that trout eat, both in the classroom and in local streams. University of Minnesota Entomologist Dean Hansen accompanied students on almost every expedition, convincing the most squeamish of children to marvel at the insect

# Chapter News



Mitchell Abbott

## A HAPPY STUDENT OF KIAP'S FLY FISHING FOR TROUT CLINIC

community attached to a rock. Every student had the opportunity to don a pair of waders and collect organisms with a seine or D-net.

Yallaly and her field crew introduced one group of students to the fish community when they electroshocked the Rocky Branch tributary of the Kinnickinnic River. Throughout these adventures, TU volunteers kept students safe in the stream, helped children identify insects and gave lessons in fly casting. We all enjoyed another remarkable year of opportunity to carry on generational knowledge and endear children to coldwater ecosystems.

The Ellsworth Rod and Gun Club generously offered their facilities for our second STREAM Girls event in May.

Fourteen girls from the Girl Scouts River Valleys (GSRV) spent the day learning to cast fly rods, tie a woolly bugger, mathematically calculate the flow of the Rush River and identify macro-invertebrates, which they netted in the river.

Staff and support from the GSRV smoothly facilitated the planning before and during the day. The mostly female volunteers came from the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter, Fly Fishing Women of Minnesota, the DNR, Laughing Trout and the Kinni Corridor Collaborative. Three young leaders, including a teacher, a high school junior and a freshman in college, acted as team leaders and mentors to the Girl Scouts.

At the end of the day, about two thirds of the girls decided they would most likely or for certain, continue fishing. One Girl Scout felt nervous at the start of the day. Later in the afternoon, she loved being in the water and "ended up having the time of her life." Each girl had the chance to fish with an experienced angler. Some of the girls caught their first trout on the fly. It was a great event.

Chapter Habitat Coordinator Randy Arnold led a grueling campaign against box elders along Cady Creek this winter, wrapping up in early April.

On May 8 a crew of eight volunteers turned out to help Yallaly and her DNR crew plant 170 trees along our habitat improvement areas. Of the trees planted, 100 went in at Wilson Creek, 50 at Cady and 20 on Gilbert. Those helping out Randy were Meg Dudley, Mark McGinnis,

David Brockway, Scot Stewart, Jim Tatzel, Trish Hannah and Dave Dahlke. Chapter member Dan Fritz along with his wife Katie and neighbor Al Schmalz, have been tending the trees at Cady by keeping them watered regularly.

In April Jim Tatzel helped Randy Arnold remove a beaver dam on Lost Creek, which was impounding water on the property. In June, John Nowicki, Jeff Dahl, Jim Anderson, Tom Anderson and Randy Arnold turned out to help seed, mulch and irrigate the new restoration work on the Thom easement along the Trimble River, about 1.5 miles upstream of the Gaslight Bar and Grill on Hwy 10.

Under the direction of Mike Alwin, the chapter conducted its latest version of the Fly Fishing for Trout Clinic in River Falls in June. This was only the second iteration since being interrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic. Fourteen students registered for the clinic and they were a hearty bunch.

On a day which was hot and sunny, and with temperatures in the upper 80's, these tough, uncomplaining students suffered through two one-hour casting lessons, a fact which left every one of the volunteer guides in awe. The students got a wonderful lesson in ecology and the role of invertebrates in the trout stream and the trout's dinner.

They received instruction in choosing equipment, stream strategies, trout stream ecology, safety and fishing courtesy. After supper we took them fishing.

What most of them discovered was that trout fishing with a fly rod is a multi-faceted, lifelong learning experience. One student, a kid naturally, caught eight trout under the able tutelage of his guide, Mitch. They all swore they had a great time.

Mike wishes to publicly thank the following volunteers who served as casting instructors, guides and mentors: Tanya St. Vincent, Jeff Himes, Matt Janquart, Mark Peerenboom, Joe Schreifels, Phil Kashian, Randy Arnold, Charles Condon, Mitch Abbott, Scot Stewart, Allison Jacobs, Linda Radimecky, Jonathan Jacobs and Steve Cox.

A very special thanks to Professor Joe Gathman for collecting invertebrates for us and teaching our students about their place in the en-

vironment, and to Evelyn, his assistant. A special thanks to Bob Trevis, the Fly Wrangler, for continually being able to supply us with fly selections for our students. This year was especially challenging because his house was under reconstruction. Thanks also to Bill Hinton, the Per-

fect Master, for his assistance with our casting lessons. And finally, a very, very special thanks to Brian Smolinski of Lund's Fly Shop for taking on the role of organizing the food for supper and all that entails.

—Gary Horvath

## Lakeshore Chapter

Greetings Wisconsin TU members and friends. It has been a busy spring here on the shores of Lake Michigan. April began with our monthly chapter workday on the Onion River. We had a strong turnout of 14 volunteers brushing trails, removing invasive species and dead ash trees. The river is in great shape and the fish population strong.

Earth Day we held a tree-planting day along the Onion River, where ash borer has taken the majority of the trees out. We had 24 volunteers ranging in age from 5 to 75, including six high school students from Fond du Lac St. Mary Springs High School.

We made quick work of planting 75 native trees including swamp white oak, burr oak and red oak. The trees were procured through the DNR tree sale and were five- to eight-feet tall, which should insure a high survival rate.

The day was a huge success and everyone had a great time. It was so inspirational to see volunteers young and old working together to reforest the riparian zone along our favorite river. Many thanks to our volunteers for their hard work and to DNR forester Adam Zirbel for getting such amazing trees to work with.

Another April highlight was being recognized by the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation as the Wisconsin Land Conservation Organization of the Year at their annual awards banquet. It was a great honor to be recognized by this outstanding conservation organization.

May began with Lakeshore TU being recognized by the Wisconsin Conservation Congress as the Wisconsin Conservation Organization of the Year at their banquet in Oshkosh. It is a tremendous honor to have our chapter members' years of conservation work recognized by this unique and prestigious organization.

Our May workday saw 10 volunteers working on repairing aging LUNKER structures installed on the Onion River several decades ago. Many of the structures are losing structural integrity in various ways. One main issue is that many

of the cap rocks are sliding off of the structure into the river in front of the structures. The rocks then collect sediment and debris which blocks access into the structure for the trout.

Our team has devised a solution which involves cutting strips of wood that are then attached to the edge of the structure to create a lip. The fallen rocks are lifted out of the river, placed back on the structures, then the lip is installed to prevent them from sliding off in the future. We did a test section last fall which appears to have succeeded so we are now installing lips on hundreds of feet of existing LUNKER structures.

We wrapped up May with our spring picnic and elections. We had a great turnout, lots of laughs, conversation about fishing and the progress of the chapter. Stories both new and long told blended with the aroma of grilling brats to create a very fun and memorable night.

June began with a booth and casting demonstrations at the Outdoor Activity Day in Sheboygan Falls. Thousands of kids and their parents attend this free-fishing event and outdoor expo. LSTU is proud to be a part of the 27th annual event.

We continued our structure rehabilitation at our June workday.

Also in June we held our first STREAM Girls camp in conjunction with the Manitou Council of the Girl Scouts. Board members Wendy Lutsky and Laurie Paulin partnered with TU National and Girl Scout leaders to launch this first ever camp for LSTU. Fifteen girls ages 9 to 11 will participate in this camp. LSTU members are signed up to assist with all of the STREAM components and are very excited to help out with this event. Many thanks to our volunteers, the Girl Scouts and Cabela's for their sponsorship.

Have a fun and safe summer.

—Al Wortz



## LAKESHORE CHAPTER PLANTS TREES ON EARTH DAY

On Earth Day the Lakeshore Chapter held a tree-planting day along the Onion River, where ash borer has taken the majority of the trees out. Volunteers included six high school students from Fond du Lac St. Mary Springs High School. They planted 75 native species trees, including swamp white oak, burr oak and red oak. The trees were procured through the DNR tree sale and were five- to eight-feet tall, which should insure a high survival rate.



# Chapter News

## Marinette County Chapter

In April we had a very successful banquet and were able to commit more than \$10,000 in financial commitments for summer and fall projects in northeast Wisconsin. Our chapter put on a fly-tying class at the Marinette Elks Club for some of its members and would like to set up more classes this fall and winter. During the summer we will be work-

ing with other northeast chapters on stream projects when they are set up. Marinette TU is also helping the Peshtigo Recreation Department with a four-week program teaching youngsters how to fish, and supporting a Family Fun Day fishing event with the Marinette Recreation Department in early August.

—Dale Lange

## Northwoods Chapter

As Mike Pierce reported in our previous chapter report, our chapter has been experiencing some ongoing growing pains. An April meeting that Mike scheduled in an attempt to seek nominations and vote for filling positions was held but was poorly attended. Including both officers and board, we were left with one duly elected member in a leadership position. Bill Sherer graciously volunteered to fill the role of interim president.

Both Mike and Bill's vision for renewing interest in membership focuses on getting people out on hands-on habitat projects.

Bill got things rolling with a brushing project on the Deerskin River in April. While scouting the project site about a week before the work day, Bill had to employ his tow strap and come-along to extract his vehicle from a snowdrift. Some quick calls resulted in a cancellation which proved to be wise as we woke to a new snow storm.

The workday was rescheduled for May, and had very good brushing day on the Deerskin. Eight individuals, including Jake Carleen from the U.S. Forest Service were there to help bring a little life back into a much needed and deserving

section of the river. Our work crews have been great, with very dedicated people doing lots of hard work, we cleared about 250 yards of stream in just a few hours.

Bill has scheduled another brushing project on Plum Creek for July 16 and with a little luck we might be able to do another section on the Deerskin, as well. By concentrating on these two quality streams on opposite ends of Vilas County we can improve more miles of water and keep our main trout streams in the county in better repair. Jake is embarking on a big brushing project on the Envoy and Brule Creeks this year with more follow-up work next year.

We remain in need of a president, vice president, secretary and a minimum of three board members.

This year we were blessed with two dedicated and enthusiastic TIC partners. What the teachers and students shared in energy contrasted with the projects that were undertaken.

Luke Statz led the students at Three Lakes High School in their project. Shortly after receiving their brook trout eggs, Luke arrived one morning to find that a mishap resulted in serious back siphoning of

their tank. Quick and skilled reaction by Luke got the eggs rehydrated and a decent percentage of the eggs hatched. With perhaps more space for the survivors, the brookies grew fast and were weened from fry chow to chopped meal worms. The fat little guys were released into a Class 3 stretch of Fourmile Creek near the Oneida/Forest County boundary in May.

Ivy Lapp led her spirited 3rd and 4th graders at Land O' Lakes Elementary School in their project. Being located in lake country, they were provided brown trout eggs with the intended release site of Stormy Lake, a popular "two story" lake that routinely receives stocking

of browns. Four dozen fingerlings made it to the release date. After the release, the students held an outdoor open house at Lake Pleasant. The students manned and taught what they learned at five stations, centering on trout anatomy, their life cycle and their food items. The class generated enough interest that the entire school was bussed to the event and many parents and members of the community attended. The day was capped off with a picnic and a beach swim. Their TIC effort was documented with the publishing of their own book titled *All About Brown Trout*.

—Bill Sherer and Terry Cummings

## Oconto River Chapter

We hosted a "Life Sports" class from Gillett High School, which includes a unit on fishing. Students are taught basics on different styles of fishing including spinning, baitcasting and flyfishing. The class, taught by Jill Halla, received additional hands-on individual instruction in May with a field trip to Lyman's Pond, a seven-acre, man-made mini lake. Here the students were able to improve their skills by practicing casting over water.

Each fish caught was logged as to species, length and captor. After an hour and a quarter, the girls were able to out-fish the boys. All fish caught were released on this sunny fun day, both for the students and the TU volunteer mentors.

Chapter members Bob Stastny and Wayne Czapinski participated in a May habitat project on the South Fork Thunder River in Oconto County, in collaboration with the U.S. Forest Service.

We held a successful Annual Conservation Banquet in April. This is where we raise almost all of our revenue and allows us to do all the incredible things we do. The chapter works to conserve, protect, restore

and reconnect our communities and the coldwater resources throughout northeastern Wisconsin. We concentrate on physical stream reclamation and restoration projects, public water access and youth education with outdoor experience opportunities.

In May the Green Bay and Oconto River chapters, and Tiletown Brewery, teamed up for an awesome kick-off for the TU Beer-of-the-Month fundraiser. Members of GBTU and Oconto River TU, plus several other individuals, came out for the official tapping of "Where the Helles Spring." It's a smooth lager, and a portion of sales was split between our chapters for the entire month of May.

We also held a 50/50 raffle and a silent auction for an amazing whiskey barrel top engraved with the TU logo. Dale Halla won the 50/50 raffle and Jose Diaz the barrel top. The fundraising beer was tapped and enjoyed by all. Thanks to everyone who came out to this one-of-a-kind event for our chapter and thank you to everyone who supports our efforts.

—Tom Klatt



### DEERSKIN RIVER BEFORE NORTHWOODS CHAPTER BRUSHING

The Northwoods Chapter had very good brushing day on the Deerskin River. Eight individuals, including Jake Carleen from the U.S. Forest Service were there to help bring a little life back into a much needed and deserving section of the river. They cleared about 250 yards of stream in just a few hours.



### OCONTO CHAPTER HOSTS "LIFE SPORTS" CLASS

The "Life Sports" class from Gillett High School includes a unit on fishing. Students are taught basics on different styles of fishing including spinning, baitcasting and flyfishing. The class, taught by Jill Halla, received additional hands-on individual instruction in May with a field trip to Lyman's Pond.

## Southeast Wisconsin Chapter

This spring has been a busy one for SEWTU. In April we welcomed a new slate of officers, with Rick Larkin assuming the president's chair and Brian Mullins becoming vice president. Longtime stalwarts Stan Strelka and Jim Folda are continuing their dedicated service as treasurer and secretary. The meeting concluded with a presentation by Habitat Co-chair Rick Larkin titled "Trout in Your Backyard" covering our small-but-potentially-improving trout fishery in southeastern Wisconsin.

Chapter activities included two

habitat workdays, including April 15 on Bluff Creek in Walworth County, a brown-trout stream just outside of Whitewater. This project, aided by volunteers from the Oak Brook Chapter, was part of our ongoing work which included the removal of invasive species and brushing downstream from Highway P.

We followed this with a May workday on the Scuppernong Springs and Scuppernong River in the Kettle Moraine State Forest. This pristine headwater is home to a small-but-increasing population of brook trout. Scuppernong is a long-

# Chapter News



**SOUTHEAST CHAPTER HOLDS FLY CASTING CLINIC**  
Fly Casting instruction At Riveredge on the Milwaukee River.



**SOUTHEAST CHAPTER'S SCUPPERNONG WORK DAY CREW**

term and ongoing restoration project. Due to its location in a State Natural Area, along with portions of the stream corridor being located in an environmentally sensitive area, our work is largely limited to hand tools only. Despite these challenges, our volunteers moved and bundled brush for bio fill and installed logs as stream structure. Both workdays were well attended with more than 20 volunteers at each.

Upcoming workdays include Karcher Creek in western Racine County on July 12. This is a small brook trout stream located in the Karcher Creek Natural Area and is one of the most southerly trout streams in Southeast Wisconsin. Our workdays at Karcher are substantially aided by volunteers from the Oak Brook Chapter, who have been providing valuable support on this project.

The Oak Brook Chapter recently donated a Stihl brush cutter to our chapter. SEWTU truly appreciates their amazing, ongoing support.

Our volunteers helped out at the April Earth Day cleanup sponsored by Riverkeepers. Additional volunteers provided fly tying at the Midwest Outdoor Heritage Education Expo 2023 at Milwaukee's Havenwoods State Forest. SEWTU volunteers also provided fly-casting instruction at Riversedge Nature Center and the Orvis 101 and 201

classes in suburban Milwaukee. SEWTU also participated in the DNR's OutWIGO Green event in May at the Ottawa Lake Campground in the Kettle Moraine State Forest. TU volunteers led by Brian Mullins demonstrated and instructed fly casting at the event.

Our May chapter meeting at Kegel's Inn in West Allis had a casting program provided by Dave Barron of Jacquish Hollow Angler. Dave's great presentation, plus a raffle, made for a fun meeting.

Upcoming events are in planning and include a casting clinic and social at an area park, a social fishing, cookout and mentored fishing outing in August in the Driftless Area and the IF4 Flimfest in September. Please check out SEWTU on social media or contact me directly at ricklarkin76@gmail.com.

Lastly, most of this would not be possible without the efforts of our outgoing president Andy Avgoulas. Andy picked up the ball and ran with it during one of the most challenging times I can remember in the history of this chapter. Without Andy's leadership, most of what I just wrote about would not have happened. Thanks again, Andy. Now take some time off and go fishing.

—Rick Larkin



**SOUTHERN CHAPTER HONORS DAVE SANDERS WITH WORK DAY**  
Installing brush bundles at SWTU's workday honoring the memory and accomplishments of Dave Sanders.

## Southern Wisconsin Chapter

Busy, busy, busy. That describes spring for members of Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited.

On the fundraising front, our second (now annual?) Spring Fair was fun, fantastic ... and raised a lot of funds to power our coldwater mission. We moved to Madison's East Side Club, which provided the perfect lakeside setting for a casting competition. Inside, our guests were treated to an amazing array of delicious food served up (and donated.) by the 608 Community Supported Kitchen. Many people left holding new treasures thanks to generous members and local businesses that donated items for a drool-worthy bucket raffle and silent auction. Many thanks to co-chairs John Freeborg and Ben Lubchansky and their trusty crew for putting together a successful evening full of laughter, prizes and funds raised.

On the other side of town, we had a great morning in Zander Park in Cross Plains. As part of their Trout Days celebration, we got to share our sport with many dozens of people who wanted to learn about bugs, casting, gear and reading the water. Andy Morton, his 10 SWTU helpers

and several other partner organizations were busy all morning with a huge variety of people of all ages curious to cast a fly rod and learn a little more about the fish and insects that live in Black Earth Creek.

Jim Hess once again put together a series of workdays that drew crowds and did sizable good for the local resource. Large invasive trees were dropped, chopped and stacked for burning. On other days, young native trees were planted to provide shade and food for the future. And our final workday was a special one in honor of Dave Sanders – former SWTU president (and many, many other roles) who passed during the pandemic – where we installed brush bundles along a new easement in Hefty Creek and topped it off with a tasty picnic.

We were also happy to help at the Nohr work day in May to plant oaks along Trout Creek. Some UW-Madison students, members of UW Hoofers Club, showed up to help, and really boosted productivity.

We're looking forward to a somewhat less busy summer as we gear up for a busy, busy, busy fall.

—Drew Kasel



**SOUTHERN CHAPTER AT TROUT DAYS IN CROSS PLAINS**



**TUG OF WAR WITH A TREE**  
SWTU members winning a game of tug of war with a tree along Sawmill Creek.

## Wild Rivers Chapter

The Wild Rivers Chapter turned 40 years old this year. We are including a bit of nostalgia for our July Annual Picnic July 12 at 6 p.m. at Larson Landing south of Seeley on the Namekagon River. This year we hope to have some of our original and longtime members join us to talk about the early days of the chapter and what has been accomplished over the years. If you have

history with Wild Rivers, please bring your stories. We will have a top-quality, vintage, 6-weight Orvis Battenkill bamboo rod to raffle.

So far this season we have been busy with tree plantings and kids fishing events. Thanks to our committed volunteers who show up and represent us so well. You are the chapter's heartbeat. See you July 12.

—Kevin Seefeldt

Jim Beecher

Jim Beecher



## Chapter News



**WISCONSIN RIVER VALLEY CHAPTER AT TAYLOR COUNTY YOUTH EXPO**  
Kyle, a high school student who hadn't tied before, and Renee Sagal, who drove all the way from Lodi, helped out.

### Wisconsin River Valley Chapter

In March Craig Cook from Fall Line Outfitters gave a presentation entitled "Fishing into 2023." We got a peek at new gear that is coming in to his shop and talked about fishing. Thank you, Craig, for your time in putting the presentation together and coming to talk to us.

In March and April we met at the Sawmill Brewery for Hackle & Hops. Also in April we were back again at the Sawmill Brewery to listen to Carmen Hardin's presentation entitled "Tips for Trips - Where to find beer, bathrooms and fish."

In May Bob Paine gave a presentation around the video "Bugs of the Underworld." As we were watching the way the bugs were moving in the video we discussed tying materials and fishing techniques to give a better presentation. Thank you to Sawmill for the meeting spot, and thank you, Bob, for sharing your information and expertise.

In May I joined Bob Hasse and his team of tyers at the Midwest Outdoor Heritage Education Expo.

I'm always thrilled to get just a few moments to ask the kids about their outdoor experiences. Most of them had fished at least once. I heard many stories about that one time I went out fishing and we didn't catch anything. Or the hook that they had to have removed. Every kid is different, but I love hearing it all.

In May we helped at the Taylor County Youth Expo at the Taylor County Fairgrounds in Medford. We needed some more hands and I am so grateful to Renee Sagal for driving all the way from Lodi to give us a hand with fly-tying instruction.

We were also offered one of the students from the high school. Kyle, a Junior, answered the call. He had not tied a fly before. I tied one or two flies while he watched and then he took over on the vise and started tying. The kids would come to the table and pick the colors for their mop flies, and Renee and Kyle were

busy all morning until we ran out of materials.

Kirk Stark and I showed kids how to cast. Every kid is different and all of them want to try to hit the frisbee target. Some struggle, some show promise after a few minutes and a few that have never picked up a rod before do quite well. Along came 10-year-old Gannon. I lost count how many times he hit the frisbee target. I am hoping to see him at fishing camp when he is old enough. Many thanks to Kyle, Renee and Kirk for all of their help. Keep it up, Gannon.

In June I traveled to Wisconsin Rapids to tie flies at Kiwanis Kids Day. It was a beautiful day, with lots of families in attendance. I even got to meet Miss Wisconsin Rapids, Maria Hartley.

The 2023 Sporting Heritage Youth Day is scheduled for August 26 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Wausau School Forest. This event helps expose youth to outdoor sports, recreation, education and conservation activities. Youth can get hands-on experience learning from experts and develop a love for the great outdoors. If you know someone interested in registering for this event, please go to [www.wausaunoonoptimist.org/sporting-heritage-youth-day](http://www.wausaunoonoptimist.org/sporting-heritage-youth-day).

September 9 is our Wild Rose Hatchery Watershed Ride. All riders will meet at Bull Falls Harley Davidson. There will be food and beverages for purchase at the Wild Rose Hatchery Parking Lot 2. You can also take a tour of the grounds and see the fish in the raceway. The New Wild Rose Hatchery Education Center is also open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Two large aquariums, interpretive displays, activities and games tell the history of the hatchery. We hope to see you there.

Please watch your emails or our Facebook page for more information.

Enjoy your summer.  
—Linda Lehman

### Wolf River Chapter

Greetings from the Wolf River. Spring has certainly been a busy time for the Wolf River Chapter with fishing, conservation projects and a social event. Some people have raved about how great the fishing has been and others had trouble with the unusually high water levels during spring runoff. It is not easy

or safe for inexperienced people to wade the Wolf River when it is running more than 1,000 CFS, as it was on opening day. However, I did hear about some brave fishermen happy with the browns, rainbows and brookies that they caught. By Memorial Day weekend the level had dropped to a reasonable wading

level below 500 CFS.

According to organizer Bill Livingston, the Wolf River Chapter Meet & Greet May was very successful. All enjoyed a luncheon at the Livingston's on the banks of the Wolf River. A special thank you goes to Eric Scharenbrock and Tom Kreif, who helped with hosting the event and to the donors who covered the expenses.

In May was the Nine Mile Creek Tree Planting Project. We partnered with Kretz Lumber Company of Antigo. The project planning began between two college friends, Zach Buchanan (Wolf River Chapter vice president and a forester) and Andy Roelse (forester for Kretz). Kretz wanted to donate trees to be planted and our chapter had the perfect place to plant the trees: The "Beaver Meadow" above and below the culverts on Nine Mile Creek, to discourage beaver activity from flooding this area and preventing valuable cold spring water from flowing down to the Wolf River.

For many years we have worked hard to remove the beaver dams that flooded this area and we have finally gotten Nine Mile Creek back within her banks, producing excellent brook trout habitat and much-needed cold spring water for the Wolf River. It was time to take the next step.

Zach and Andy worked early in the spring to organize and get all the permissions for the project, including visits to the proposed site and meetings with the DNR. Zach Buchanan, Dylan Anderson, Mike Borchardt, Nathan Schmidt, Andy Killoren, Doug Moldenhauer and Clayton Bahrke from the Wolf River Chapter joined 12 friends, family and co-workers of Andy Roelse.

Andy Roelse and Zach Buchanan explained how and where to plant the saplings, which came in boxes. Buckets and specialized

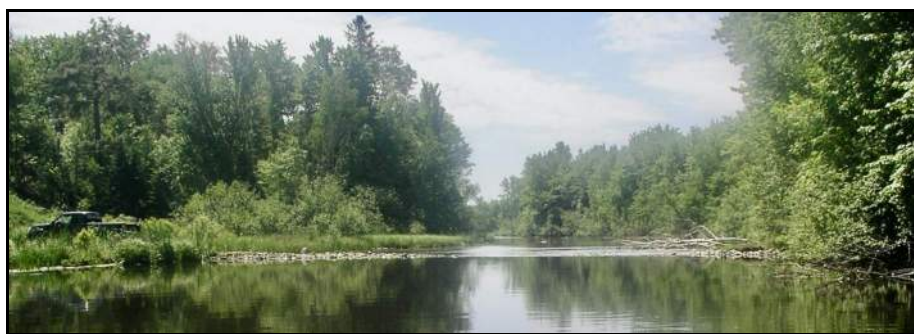
pouches were used to carry the saplings up and down the creek to where they were to be planted. Zach Buchanan hiked back and forth, working like a pack mule hauling saplings to the farthest reaches to get more trees to those busy planting. By early afternoon, 2,500 saplings were planted and the boxes were empty.

A huge thank you to Kretz Lumber Co. for donating the trees, bringing more volunteers and lunch. Thank you to our chapter crew who planted lots of trees. Thank you to Zach Buchanan and Andy Roelse, who made this important project happen and so enjoyable.

The Wolf River Chapter has plenty of work planned for the summer of 2023. John Carbonari worked hard to get permission from the necessary agencies to begin removing the Rock Ford on the Hunting River and has planned a strategy to make it happen. This will be an ongoing project as we have to remove the rock by hand and haul it away. We are lucky to have permission to access the Rock Ford through private property, which will make a tough project easier. We are removing the ford because it is acting as a dam and pooling water above it. We want the Hunting to flow into the Wolf River unobstructed to maintain cooler water temperatures.

Speaking of water temperatures, Tim Waters, as he has for many years now, has strategically placed thermistors in the Wolf River and multiple tributaries, to monitor water temperatures. Past water temperature data has shown that the restoration work the Wolf River Chapter has done and continues to do is positively affecting water temperatures.

—Laurie Zen Netzow



### WOLF RIVER CHAPTER TO TACKLE HUNTING RIVER ROCK FORD

John Carbonari is spearheading the Hunting River Rock Ford Removal Project for the Wolf River Chapter.



**ZACH BUCHANAN LOADS POUCHES WITH TREE SAPLINGS**



# Fisheries are changing as the climate warms

As water temperatures warm, Wisconsin's cool and coldwater fish habitats are particularly at risk.

By Dea Larsen Converse

Fishing is an important part of the culture and economy in Wisconsin. As water temperatures warm, Wisconsin's cool and coldwater fish habitats are particularly at risk, and those habitats harbor some of Wisconsin's most popular and sought-after fish, like brook trout, lake trout, cisco, lake whitefish, walleye, yellow perch and muskellunge. The most recent report from the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts (WICCI) describes climate impacts to fisheries, including warmer water temperatures, more frequent extreme storms and heat events.

"Without action, habitat loss, combined with overfishing and expansion of invasive species and warm-water competitors, may cause local cold- and cool-water fish populations to decline in Wisconsin as the climate continues to warm" according to the WICCI Fisheries Working Group

A decline in ice cover and increasing variability in ice-on and ice-off dates in Wisconsin's lakes are having significant impacts. From the duration of ice thick enough to be safe for ice fishing to the increasingly unpredictable timing in annual freezing and thawing dates that set up lake and tributary environments for fish spawning, climate change is impacting fish and anglers alike. Ultimately, these changes are reducing the survival of iconic fish like walleye and perch.

Fish communities are also changing as waters warm. By mid-century, models project a decline of sixty-eight percent in stream habitat for brook trout and thirty-two percent for brown trout. Cisco have already disappeared from twenty-nine percent of lakes in which they used to thrive, and lake whitefish have disappeared from thirty-three percent. Within a century, warm-water species like bass and bluegill will likely dominate Wisconsin's inland lakes. In Lakes Michigan and Superior, warmer-water

species, such as smallmouth bass, would be able to compete in the more southern and shallower habitat currently occupied by cool-water fish like walleye.

A combination of invasive species expansions, excess nutrients and less well-oxygenated habitat can exacerbate these losses. While smaller, shallower and more productive lakes will be the most vulnerable, deep lakes may also be at risk.

Yet, there is hope. Protecting stronghold fish populations, preventing overharvest, enhancing cooler water habitats, and reducing runoff are among the solutions recommended by the WICCI Fisheries Working Group. There is hope for the future, but it's up to us.

The Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts (WICCI) is a statewide collaboration of scientists and stakeholders formed as a partnership between UW-Madison's Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

## Book Review

### "Cracked: The Future of Dams in a Hot, Chaotic World"

By Duke Welter

In recent months we have seen numerous news stories about the travails of the drought-beset Colorado River, the dwindling reservoirs above its huge dams and the "threat" to civilization in Arizona, Nevada and California of running out of its waters.

Stephen Hawley, an environmental journalist, has spent a couple of decades writing about water and following the debates and processes of dam removal across the country.

His new book, "Cracked," takes a deeper look at the tens of thousands of dams in America, large and small, their costs and their (arguably) continuing utility.

David James Duncan, author of "The River Why" and a long-time advocate for salmon and steelhead whose existence is threatened by dams, offers an inspiring, beautifully written introduction.

Here in Wisconsin, we've had an ongoing debate, here and there across the state, about taking out some of the 3,500 small dams interrupting our rivers and streams. TU has been active in many of those debates, and groups like the River Alliance of Wisconsin have worked hard with local dam removal advocates seeking to free both cool and coldwater streams from their dams. Sometimes you win, and sometimes you lose. But understanding dams and their ecological impacts is essential to defining the debate over whether a dam should stay or go.

Wisconsin, and its DNR, doesn't have a statewide policy declaring that dams are good or bad, whether they should stay or go, or how to decide. It has specialists who work on dam safety and ecological impacts to rivers, and two helpful grant programs that can aid either in removal or rebuilding of dams. It's doubtful that a proposed dam could obtain permits from the DNR and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers today.

Our state's dams range from the bigger hydro dams on the Wisconsin, Flambeau, Namekagon, St. Croix and other rivers to little one or two-foot dams on hundreds of smaller streams. The smaller ones very often don't continue to have the economic purpose for which they were built: sawmills, grain

mills, shingle mills or generating hydro power for a wide range of industries. Still, they have their constituencies, even if the impoundments are algae-filled or largely filled with sediment.

"Cracked" spends much of its attention on the huge impacts of huge dams, on rivers like the Colorado, Columbia, Klamath, and eastern rivers like the Penobscot in Maine, where two removals and two renovations now allow millions of ocean-run fish migrate in to spawn after 150 years of being stopped. Hawley recounts the history of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation building dozens of those large dams to provide electricity and water for irrigation and burgeoning western cities like Phoenix and Las Vegas. But today those cities are struggling to find water to support their building and growth.

In the Northwest, two major projects are in progress or being debated.

On the Klamath River in northern California and southern Oregon, four dams will be removed this year and next, freeing the river and opening it to salmon populations which have struggled for decades. Long debates juggling economics, politics, litigation, tribal rights and environmental impacts have stymied progress, but when we watch the completion of removals on the Elwha River in the Olympic Peninsula and the upcoming removals on the Klamath, we can understand the merit of patience as a negotiating tool.

The discussions about the removal of the four Snake River dams in Washington and Idaho have shown how much these issues strain the normal decision-making mechanisms—legislation, litigation, negotiated deal-making—beyond their design limits. A friend from Spokane spent her entire career with a

nonprofit, Save Our Salmon, fighting to get rid of those dams, and has now retired. Still, we hope for breakthrough progress on the Columbia before the last remaining salmon and steelhead runs disappear.

An enduring contribution to many of these dam removal debates has been made by many of the First Nations, advocating or litigating for their treaty rights (and, at the same time, for key parts of their heritage and culture). Dams large and small have fallen when tribes spoke strongly for freeing rivers that are part of their creation stories. The Elwha's dams fell when arguments for removal were underpinned by treaty rights to healthy salmon populations, and the Klamath tribes are doing the same. A smaller dam in Michigan was removed with the aid of the Ottawa tribe.

Hawley stresses some aspects of dam impacts that are emerging as climate science matures: methane emissions, sediment catching, carbon release. While we hear much about warming due to release of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere from human causes, methane can contribute to warming 80 times more than carbon dioxide, he says, and reservoirs produce more methane than natural-gas-fueled power plants.

Big hydro projects have been touted as "green" energy, bringing power and water to arid states as they grow, reducing the need for coal-fired power. But while they are arguably renewable, they cannot be considered "green" when the methane impacts and sediment transport changes are so extensive. And now, research is suggesting that evaporation from those big impoundments like Mead and Canyon Ferry is much higher than previously thought, reducing the benefits to

those dry, sunny, populous states reliant on reservoir water.

Smaller dams, including many here in Wisconsin, should give us pause as well. Record rainfalls in the late summer of 2018 around the Westby-Coon Valley area led to failures of five earthen flood-control dams, built by the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service and maintained by counties. NRCS built thousands of those dams across the country, but these are the first wide-scale failures.

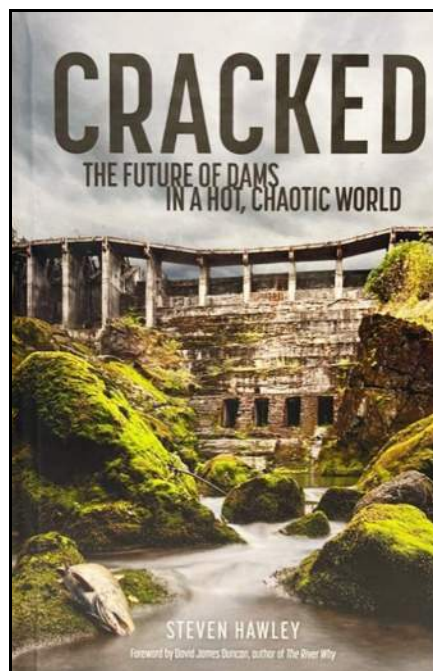
Now NRCS has proposed spending an estimated \$100 million to remove all but one (the Jersey Valley Dam on the West Fork of the Kickapoo, which also failed in the 2007-8 floods) in the next few years. People in those valleys relied on the assurance of those dams for flood protection, but changing land use (removal of upland soil conservation in favor of corn and soybean cropping) and collected sediment overtaxed those dams, and they failed.

Hawley's book is a general condemnation of dams, which comports with publisher Patagonia's longstanding opposition. It's time for policy makers to accept that other renewable and green power sources don't carry the harmful baggage of dams, plus in those coastal rivers the likelihood that salmonids will go extinct.

Patagonia's 2014 video, "Dam-Nation: The Problem with Hydropower," is worth a look on YouTube. But "Cracked" has a primer for activists getting involved with a dam-removal discussion, and it offers a valuable compilation of resources, organizations and tactics.

We can learn a lot from Hawley's book that might be useful in dam removals here in the Upper Midwest. Perhaps we can even draw on our own experiences, with Wisconsin rivers like the Baraboo, Milwaukee, Deerskin, Prairie (and maybe soon the Kinnickinnick) to write our own history and look forward to more free-flowing rivers.

"Cracked: The Future of Dams in a Hot, Chaotic World." Steven Hawley, 2023, Patagonia Books, Ventura California, 321 pages, \$28.



# Great Lakes Stream Restoration Program update

By Emma Balliet, TU Great Lakes Field Coordinator and Scott Allen, TU Great Lakes Stream Restoration Specialist

The 2023 field season is off to a great start. Mother Nature had us chomping at the bit to kick off our summer field season as the late snowfall in northern Wisconsin delayed and compressed our survey work schedule. Despite the snow and resulting spring melt, we leveraged some new GPS equipment to survey nine road-stream crossings, three dam-removal sites and one habitat restoration project. We had a good couple weeks there between the snow melt and the onslaught of mosquitos and 90 degree heat, a good reminder that Mother Nature can both give and take away.

### Upcoming projects

Looking forward, we're eager to put several projects in the ground; new fish-friendly culverts are coming to McDonald Creek in Oconto County, Alvin, Armstrong and Kingstone Creeks in Forest County, and Wilson Creek in Douglas County. We're thrilled to help catalyze habitat restoration projects utilizing large woody debris, including assisting a private landowner on Wedde Creek in Marquette County and at a remnant logging dam on Brule Creek in Forest County. And while it won't get constructed for several years, we're excited about a budding partnership with the Wisconsin DOT to use federal infrastructure funding to replace a fish barrier culvert on Sandy Run in Douglas County.

### Three new technicians

Our northern Wisconsin team has brought on three awesome seasonal aquatic resources field technicians this year, and we have been having a great time getting to know one another and getting down to business.

Over the past few weeks we have been training our technicians on the Great Lakes Road Stream Crossing Inventory Method so that we may continue our effort on that project in cooperation with countless organizations across the Great Lakes states to identify problematic road-stream crossings that create barriers to aquatic organism passage.

This season we will be focusing on watersheds within the Lake Superior basin. We have also been out locating and downloading data from temperature loggers that we de-

then begin checking off our long list of brook trout monitoring all over the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest and surrounding areas.

Joining us this season, we have Jayden Janusiak from the Milwaukee area, who currently attends Northland College pursuing a bachelor's degree in both natural resources and mathematics. He plans to continue on through grad school to obtain a master's degree in environmental engineering.

Jayden is an avid outdoorsman who loves to hunt, fish, kayak and anything else that pertains to the outdoors. In the future, Jayden plans to "secure a job that allows for him to make lasting positive impacts on the environment and the surrounding communities, while enjoying the journey of life in the process."

We also have Dylan Wendricks, who was born and raised in the Madison area and is now attending UW-Madison, pursuing a bachelor's degree in environmental sciences. Dylan is also an avid outdoorsman who loves trout fishing and camping, and even sports a TU license plate because he loves brookies so much.

His future plans include working in the natural resources field in management or research.

Last but not least, we have Owen Wysocki from Armstrong Creek. Owen is pursuing his degree in natural resources at Fox Valley Technical College. He completes our crew of outdoor fanatics with his love for fishing, hunting and trapping and says,

"I was born and raised in the Northwoods of Wisconsin and working hard and enjoying nature is all I really know." Owen has dreams to work in Yellowstone National Park helping to manage invasive species as well as someday working for the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

We are thrilled to welcome Jayden, Dylan and Owen to our team for the 2023 field season. We are looking forward to getting even more research and coldwater conservation accomplished this season with our growing team.



OWEN WYSOCKI



DYLAN WENDRICKS




JAYDEN JANUSIAK

ployed last spring all over the Wolf River watershed. This is part of an ongoing project headed up by Project Coordinator Danielle Nelson to help us locate groundwater sources and coldwater tributaries to the Wolf River to prioritize future projects.

Getting to kayak and fish the Wolf River along the way was a fun way to kick off the season. In the coming weeks we will be participating in an electrofishing training session with the Green Bay staff of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and

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## Fall Line Outfitters hosts vets



**VETERANS ENJOY TIME ON THE WATER WITH FALL LINE OUTFITTERS**  
Wisconsin Veterans escaped to the Central Sands with guides from Stevens Point's Fall Line Outfitters. A huge thank you is owed to them for their hospitality and time shared on the water. Also, we would like to provide a shout out to Darn Tough out of Vermont for their donation of Stars and Stripes socks to each fisherman.

# Infrastructure work will help coasters:

Investing in northwest Wisconsin's and the Great Lakes' migratory fishes, roads and communities.

By Chris Collier, Great Lakes Stream Restoration Manager

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) is bringing once-in-a-generation funding to upgrade infrastructure and restore ecosystems. This funding is catalyzing projects we didn't dream of funding three short years ago. And TU is excited to be bringing some of it to south-shore Lake Superior streams near you.

The funding is from a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Community-based Restoration Program grant awarded to our TU Great Lakes team. The award is for more than \$4.7 million to support projects that will reconnect habitat for species that migrate from the Great Lakes to tributaries for spawning or other life-history events.

This \$4.7 million is not just for projects in Wisconsin's Lake Superior basin, but also in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan's Lake Superior basin, and Northern Lower Michigan's Lake Michigan drainages.

I'm going to focus on the Wisconsin portion of the award, but if you're interested in learning more about the other project areas, contact our UP Project Manager Sarah Topp at sarah.topp@tu.org, and Lower Michigan Project Manager Jeremy Geist at jeremy.geist@tu.org.

Three years ago, TU's Great Lakes program made our first foray into Lake Superior projects by partnering with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Douglas County and the Town of Solon Springs to develop culvert replacement projects on a class 1 tributary to the Bois Brule River. The first project will be implemented this year.

There were also two projects on other tributaries to the Bois Brule that the USFWS was interested in creating designs for, but it was assumed that they would be cost-prohibitive due to the crossing size that would be required to restore fish passage. Enter NOAA's BIL funding. These Bois Brule watershed projects are two of the three featured projects we will be implementing under this award.

## Helping coasters

The third project is in the Bayfield Peninsula. The Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa has been working to restore coaster brook trout to Lake Superior wa-

ters. Recently, there's also been an organic movement among agencies and other partners to revitalize programs to protect this unique brook trout life history, building off this work from Red Cliff.

TU's project will aim to build upon these shared interests and build momentum to restore brook trout populations in Lake Superior's south shore where data suggests strong resilience to climate impacts. The Wild Rivers Chapter has already established a strong Red Cliff Nation-TU partnership by assisting with coaster stocking efforts led by the Tribe. The NOAA grant is helping this partnership grow by providing funding to support TU staff assisting with these efforts.

The cornerstone of the project will be a road-stream crossing replacement where tribal biologists identified coasters attempting to access spawning reaches. It goes without saying that this is an extremely exciting project to partner on and something that we hope catalyzes more work for coaster conservation. The Wild Rivers Chapter deserves thanks for laying the foundation for this work.

While the project is using coasters as a focus species, there is always the chance that restoration efforts won't have the desired benefits to remnant coaster populations. Even in that scenario, the projects we complete will have value in the watershed by reconnecting stream habitat. This will benefit any species trying to access these streams from Lake Superior, so even if coaster restoration efforts don't have the desired outcome, these projects will greatly benefit the fishes of Lake Superior.

## Impacts beyond fisheries

While the primary outcomes of our NOAA project involve reconnecting habitat in streams that serve as foundations for coaster brook trout restoration in Lake Superior's south shore, the impacts of the work will go beyond fisheries.

One additional impact will be restoring stream habitat and function. The crossing issues that cause fish passage barriers also create conditions that degrade habitat, limiting the ability of these systems to support fish and aquatic organisms. Our designs consider this and include measures to reverse these impacts, so we aren't only reconnecting habitat but also restoring it. By reconnecting and restoring stream habitat, we're helping to secure climate resilient coldwater systems



Nick Berndt, U.S. Forest Service

## COASTER BROOK TROUT CAUGHT ON ICE ON CHEQUAMEGON BAY IN 2023

that will help coldwater species persist despite rising air and water temperatures. However, the benefits of these projects don't stop at these ecological outcomes.

## Building resiliency

Since this work is focused on improving road-stream crossing infrastructure, our designs also use methods that promote infrastructure and community flood and climate resiliency. With severe storms and floods becoming increasingly common and hazardous, upgrading our infrastructure to survive these events is paramount to helping communities respond to disasters.

The same design methods we use to restore stream habitat, by restoring natural stream function, helps to accommodate these storms and floods, mitigating damage to roads and keeping them open for emergency services. This helps communities respond to floods and access the supplies and services they need, which is a major issue that needs to be addressed across the state.

As you can see, thanks to the BIL and NOAA Restoration Center, we have an opportunity to complete game-changing projects that address infrastructure, ecological concerns and community health.

Despite that statement, I would not be surprised if some people ask "this seems like a pretty standard

TU fish passage project on three northwest Wisconsin waterways. How is this game-changing for the region?"

First, this project is funding massive crossing replacement projects that would have been difficult, if not impossible, to fund without BIL funding.

Second, the project does not stop at this handful of crossing projects, but also includes funding over four years to design three more crossings replacements, complete road-stream crossing inventories to identify other fish passage barriers and supports monitoring efforts to find priority areas for further coaster restoration efforts.

Combining this with the revitalized interest and support for coaster work, this NOAA Community-based restoration program funding is helping TU have an increased presence in the Lake Superior basin and laying the foundation for future phases of brook trout efforts beyond this project.

If you have any questions about this project, please feel free to contact me, Chris Collier, at chris.collier@tu.org, and if you would like to know more about the Michigan parts of this NOAA work, please find Sarah Topp's and Jeremy Geist's contact information above.

# Wetland Science Conference in February

The Wisconsin Wetlands Association invites you to participate in the 29th Annual Wetland Science Conference February 20-22, 2024 at the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center in Green Bay.

Join other scientists and professionals of the wetland and water community of Wisconsin and the upper Midwest to share your wetland research, restoration, management or outreach program; learn new identification and assessment approaches and techniques; hear about approaches to incorporating wetlands into watershed and community planning; discuss the latest in wetland science, planning and protection issues and look ahead to the future of wetland science and practices in Wisconsin and the Midwest.

The three-day, in-person conference, which regularly draws more than 350 attendees, will include plenary sessions, topical oral sessions, a poster session, workshops, working groups and field trips to area wetlands. The conference will also offer many opportunities for networking and student engagement.

## Key conference planning dates:

- Call for special sessions deadline is Sept. 29, 2023.
  - Call for presentations and posters submission deadline is Nov. 15, 2023.
  - Student scholarship recipients will receive free registration in exchange for a small amount of volunteering at the conference. The application deadline is Jan. 14, 2024.
  - Registration will open in December 2023 with an early bird deadline of Jan. 19, 2024.
  - Sponsors can show support for wetland conservation as a conference sponsor and receive complimentary conference registrations for their staff. Sign up by January 19, 2024 to guarantee your support is recognized on our printed program and signage. Choose from several optional add-ons including a table in the exhibit hall at a special rate for sponsors.
  - Exhibitors can secure a table in our exhibit hall so you can promote your work to our audience. Exhibit space is limited, so sign up early to reserve your spot. Sign-up deadline is January 19, 2024.
- For more information go to [conference.wisconsinwetlands.org](https://conference.wisconsinwetlands.org).



Chris Collier

## LITTLE BOIS BRULE CROSSING TO BE REPLACED

This crossing over the Little Bois Brule River creates an aquatic organism passage barrier. This crossing will be replaced with a fish-friendly design and will reconnect the Little Bois Brule with the main stem Bois Brule River.



Midwest Lifestyle Properties



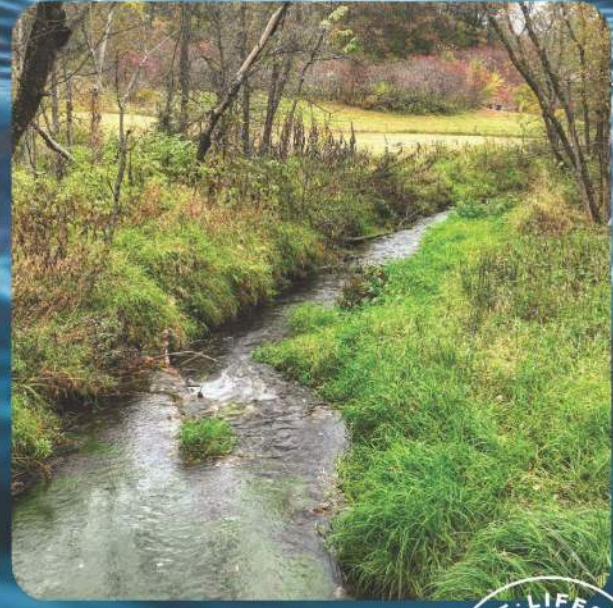
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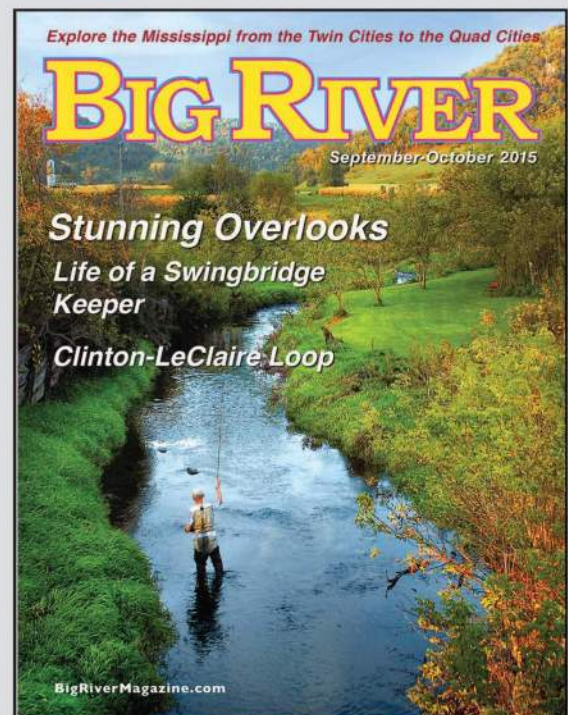
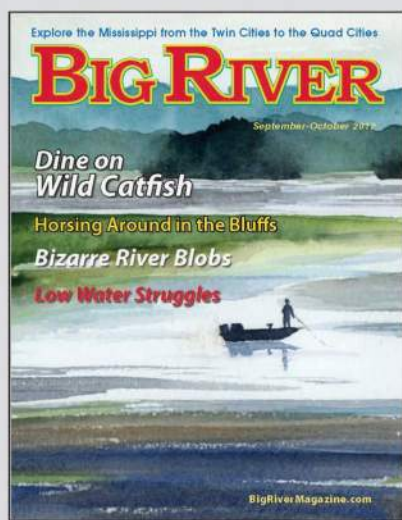
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