



Wisconsin Trout

Fall 2018

Disastrous floods becoming the new normal



Photos by Duke Welter



JERSEY VALLEY DAM BREACHED

Six flood control dams failed in Vernon and Monroe counties, leading to evacuations of downstream communities and rapid water level increases. The Jersey Valley Dam in Vernon County, shown here, was among them.

By Duke Welter

Record-breaking rainfalls in late August and early September tested communities, infrastructure and trout streams in the heart of the Driftless Area. Rebuilding will go on, with help from disaster funding, but the events have left many people wondering what the future holds for this area.

A statewide 24-hour rainfall record of 15.33 inches was set in mid-August near Cross Plains. Over the next 10 days, up to 23 inches of rainfall was measured in Elroy in the West Branch of the Baraboo River. Nearly similar amounts were noted in Ontario, Westby and other towns. Flooding devastated low-lying homes in the Coon Creek, Kickapoo River and Baraboo River watersheds.

Six flood control dams failed in Vernon and Monroe counties, leading to evacuations of downstream communities and rapid water level

increases in a matter of minutes. Emergency workers in Vernon County, such as volunteer firefighters and EMTs, police and DNR wardens, evacuated more than 350 people with boats and wheel loaders. A dozen valley-floor towns faced significant losses of homes and personal property.

In Readstown after the first storms August 28, I watched a resident paddle his kayak across the flooded lawns to check the condition of his and his mother's homes. They were both mostly ruined by the mud and water, he said.

How did the many restoration projects in the region fare? With roads and bridges still under repair, it's still difficult to get a full picture, but we've toured many of the affected areas and can report the impacts, some devastating and some quite manageable. On September 11 Dave Vetrano joined me for a tour of the Coon Creek, West Fork and Kickapoo watersheds. Earlier, oth-

DESTRUCTIVE FLOOD WATERS REACHED AMAZING HEIGHTS

Ontario was one of many towns inundated by torrential rains and truly destructive flood waters. Flooding devastated low-lying areas in the Coon Creek, Kickapoo River and Baraboo River watersheds.

ers checked out damage to Black Earth Creek near Black Earth and Mazomanie. We haven't yet visited Black Earth or the Sugar River, both of which carried significant amounts of rainfall, but hope others will visit and report.

In many of the tributaries to those larger streams, restoration work has been under way since the 1970s and possibly before. Some of that work is still in place and has been doing its job.

Some of that work suffered badly in these floods. Why? Several reasons. We've seen a dramatic increase in the number of short-duration, high-intensity rain events in the last decade.

In other recent storms, work in higher-gradient upper reaches of streams tended to have more damage (Reads Creek, Harrison Hollow) than the middle reaches where floods lose some of their force. In this set of storms, a dam failure in the upper end of Rullands Coulee

and breaches of the Jersey Valley and Mlsna dams in the West Fork led to heavy flushes of water and more damage in those subwatersheds. In addition, techniques used in the past weren't engineered to withstand such heavy flows, and couldn't survive this time.

As a result of the heavy flush of water down Rullands, older work above and below its confluence with Timber Coulee was badly damaged. Some older work on the West Fork of the Kickapoo also gave way, especially downstream of the Highway P bridge below Bloomingdale Road and above the Highway S bridge at Avalanche, and some older work on Bohemian Valley suffered, too. But in contrast, more recent work on Coon Creek and lower Timber Coulee held up very well, in the Bob Jackson reach and the Neperud property above Coon Valley.

See **FLOODING**, page 8

Council leaders at National meeting

By Kim McCarthy,
National Leadership Council Representative

I'm writing this NLC Report from Redding, California. Yes, this is the Redding, California that has been in the news this summer for the huge wildfires that at one point swept into the west side of Redding and destroyed more than 1,100 homes. The fires are mostly contained, but smoke is very present and red-flag fire warnings come and go as the wind rises and falls. Signs thanking the fire fighters are posted on many buildings and just about everyone knows someone who lost a home.

I really admire the persistence of TU in sticking with the plan to come to Redding. The people here appreciate the fact that we chose not to cancel. TU members

are making donations to recovery efforts and contributing to a local economy that has been hit hard by the fires. We have been thanked numerous times for coming.

The lunch speaker today was Chuck Bonham. Bonham leads California's Department of Game and Fish, and reported on the incredible impacts California is seeing due to climate change. He also reported that his state is spending billions of dollars to make their resources as climate-resilient as possible. It was a frightening, yet uplifting, speech acknowledging the very realness of climate change, while outlining an aggressive effort by government to fight back.

See **NATIONAL MEETING**, page 9

Do you know someone who deserves an award?

The Wisconsin State Council of TU is seeking nominations of individuals, groups and businesses for its annual awards.

Awards are presented at the Council's annual banquet and awards presentation in February.

For information on the awards, please go to page 5.



Chairman's Column

2018 Summer wrap up

By Linn Beck

By the time this goes to print, a lot of our chapters will be wrapping up their summer season of work days, youth programs and chapter picnics. A big thank you goes out to all who participated in these activities. The efforts and hard work of all really demonstrates the support for TU.

I know a lot of our chapters have DNR people on their membership rosters and they deserve a lot of praise for their help on our work days and youth programs. After a long work week, these folks still take the time to come out for Saturday workdays and give the chapters the direction and equipment to make their workdays a success. And in the case of our WITU Youth Camp, the guys from the Wild Rose office gave up their weekend to present, mentor and guide the youth to a great experience. So, if you know any of these people, make sure you thank them for all they do for our resources, our youth and our chapters.

Now that the fun portion of our work is finishing up, we turn our focus to the fundraising time of the year. A lot of these projects and programs can't be successful or enjoyable without the funds to make them possible. I know we all get inundated with requests to give to this

or that program, and no one is expected to give to everything. The only thing we ask is that hopefully you can support your local chapters.

With the banquet season starting shortly, it is a great opportunity to come out and support your local chapter and then hopefully make it to the State Council banquet the first Saturday in February. These banquets are a great opportunity to thank all the people who work hard to improve our watersheds and provide an opportunity for our youth to learn more about fishing and conservation. Another opportunity that banquet provide is a chance to meet other members and develop relationships to learn about other streams and fishing opportunities.

We have another season starting: the legislative season. We haven't heard any reports about where this year will compare to the past years, but there will certainly be issues we'll need to stay on top of. When you see our emails asking to you to act, please take the time to do so.

Again, thank you for another great summer, and let's have an even better fall banquet season. Please support your local chapters and take in a chapter meeting.

Tight Lines

Next Council meeting October 6

The State Council will hold its fall meeting on Saturday, October 6 in Rhinelander. The meeting will be held from 9 a.m. until about 2 p.m. at the James Williams Middle School, 915 Acacia Lane. The Council requests that each chapter have at least one member in attendance. If you plan to attend, please inform Council Chair Linn Beck so we can estimate food for lunch, which is always provided at Council meetings.

If you have any items to be added to the agenda, please contact Linn Beck. His email address is chlbeck@att.net.

Popular Driftless Projects Bus Tour filling up fast

Still room to sign up for the October 16 event



TU PRESIDENT CHRIS WOOD AT A DRIFTLESS AREA TOUR

Wisconsin's inland trout season closes Monday, October 15. What better way to follow the season's end than to take an informative bus tour of recent Driftless Area Restoration projects in Sparta and on a major Kickapoo River tributary? This year's tour will leave from Sparta and visit little Beaver Creek nearby after heading through the flood-torn Upper Kickapoo River Valley to visit an outstanding five-year project on Weister Creek north of La Farge.

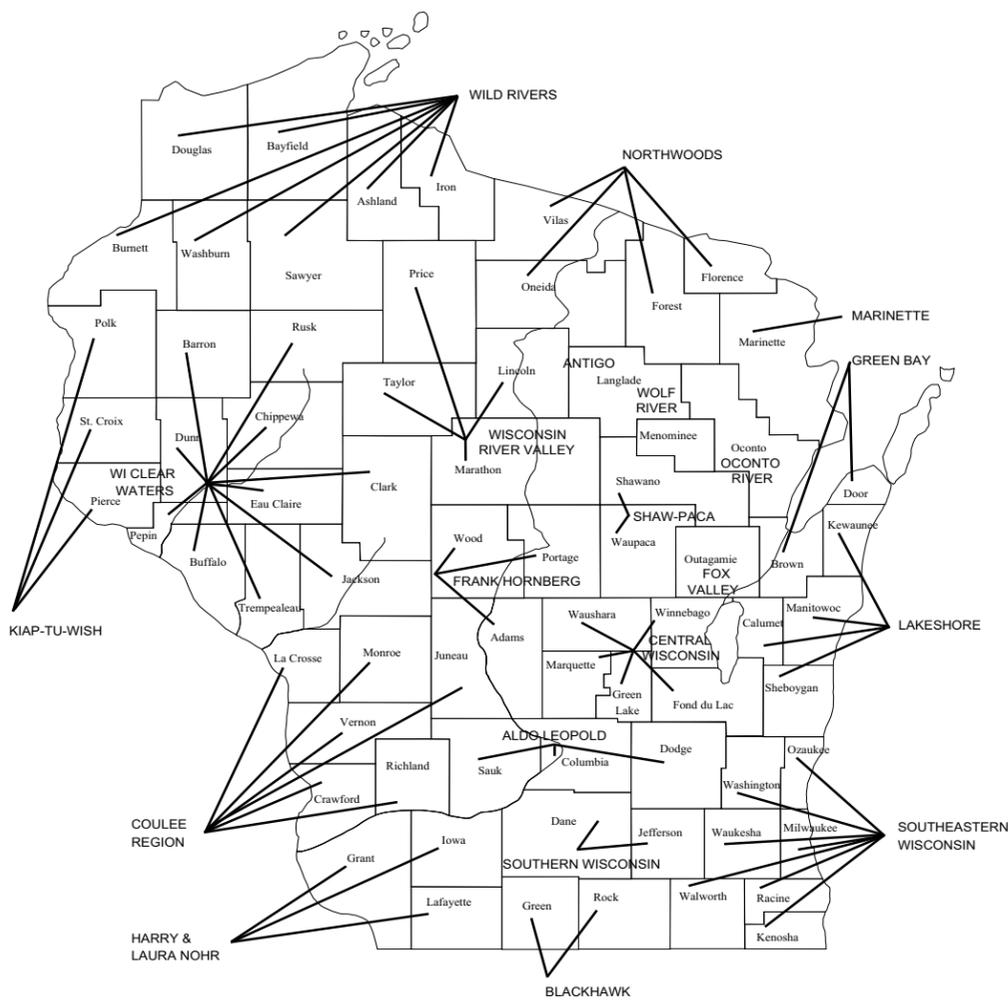
Along the way, we'll talk about flooding and infrastructure impacts

and the losses suffered by river valley towns. We'll hear from stream project designers, expert equipment operators, biologists and others concerned about good projects.

And that's not all! This year's lunch will feature the notably good pizza at the Goose Barn (formerly Blue Goose Pizza, before some trademark lawyers made a stink). The tour is free but freewill donations are welcomed.

The only way to get on board the bus is by emailing dwelter@tu.org and reserving your seat. What are you waiting for?

Wisconsin TU Chapters, Presidents, and Websites



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

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Are you getting emails from TU?

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

WISCONSIN TROUT

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Linn Beck, Chair

Mike Kuhr, Vice Chair

Tom Lager, Secretary

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2018 WITU Youth Camp survives Mother Nature

By Linn Beck,
with photos by Bob Haase

The campers for this year's camp had their patience tested, and they all came through with flying colors. As hard as Mother Nature tried, she couldn't break the spirit of all who attended the camp. Campers, volunteers and presenters all persevered and we all had a good laugh by the end of the weekend.

It seemed whenever we had a program scheduled for outside, it would rain, but all it did was dampen the ground and not the willingness of everyone. It all started on Friday morning with a deluge that was so long and hard that we didn't think Dan Harmon III would even have a chance to direct the students through their fly-casting demonstration.

But about 15 minutes before the start of the program the rain let up and we were able to get this part of the outside program in and finished up as it started raining again. Actually, pouring would be a better description, but we did catch a few more breaks and were able to get the rest of the outside activities in for the day except the break-time fishing. As luck would have it the only thunderstorm of the day hit just as all were going down to go fishing. When all said and done, we received 4 ½ inches of rain for the day.

Saturday broke and turned out to be a fantastic day. In the morning we took everyone from the camp

and joined Central Wisconsin chapter for their workday on the West Branch of the White River. This was quite a sight to see, as the grand total for the attendees was 71, 38 from the youth camp joining 33 members from Central and Fox Valley, plus one uninvited guest, which I will get to later.

The work day was in full swing when we got there. They took a break to join us, along with Shawn Sullivan and the rest of his DNR crew, for our conservation talk. Then Scott Bunde led a crew of guys to demonstrate stream shocking. We broke into small groups to check out the work being done on this portion of the river.

The uninvited guest? As the groups were walking to their respective stations, several of us were helping Scott load his shocking boat. As we finished loading, one of the group noticed something in the grass. We all couldn't get a clear glimpse of it until it moved about 10 feet and then stood up and stretched on a tree about 25 feet away. It was a young black bear. Unfortunately, most of the groups were out of ear shot but we were able to get Shawn to get his group of kids to come back. They were able to see the bear as it was checking out the back end of the DNR vehicle before it ran up the trail.

We all were very happy that the weather cooperated, and the rest of the planned fishing opportunities were able to be completed. We had the best year for the youth on the



CAMP IS OVER, BUT THEY'RE STILL SMILING

Linn Beck presents Ian Gill with a camp completion award.



HAPPY ANGLING DURING THE FISHING PORTION OF CAMP

Jennifer Folz fishing with student Chloe Landon, who is obviously enjoying the moment. Three girls attended this year and Jen has been volunteering at the camp every year.

Students enjoy their 2018 WITU Youth Camp experience

By Severin Tubbin

Thank you for the opportunity to attend trout camp. I learned so many new fishing skills. It was cool to go to a camp far away from home. I made three really good friends. Not many people at my school fish, so it was really fun to be in my element with other kids who like to fish, too. The adults were super kind and helpful and if we had a question, they'd answer it and help us. My mentor, Bruce, is a great fisherman. He knows everything about bugs. He taught us some of the bugs around trout streams and how to pick out a fly that matches the bugs that the trout could be feeding on.

I had never caught a fish on a fly rod before, but I learned how to use a fly rod properly. After getting back from camp, I've used my fly rod a ton. I was at Sidie Hollow and caught a 15-inch brown trout in a narrow part of the stream. I caught three brookies on a nymph at Sidie Hollow in another hole upstream. On the second night of camp, I won an eight-weight fly rod. I was so excited! I've used my rod at the trout stream near my parents' property and I've been practicing my casting in the driveway.

My favorite part of camp, by far, was fly tying. I not only learned to tie different flies, but my flies now look a lot more realistic. I've even caught fish on my own flies now. Bob taught us to tie the flies and brought a lot of material for us to use. After camp our family went on vacation and I spent my money on elk hair, peacock and pheasant neck, a browning, streamer material, nymph hooks, dry fly hooks and some different threads. I've tied moths, some dry flies and muddlers, etc.

We had presentations throughout the day that were very informative. We learned about keeping streams clean, stream etiquette, some of the things that Trout Unlimited does to help streams, different kinds of casting, and ways to fish different flies. The local DNR came and showed us how they shock and count fish. It was cool because when they shocked them, the fish would dart towards them and they'd scoop them up with their big nets and put them in the bucket. Most of the fish were brown trout. They told us that when they find brook trout, the water quality is clean. On the day we were shocking the fish we saw a bear where all the food was. People got pictures of it and it went back into the woods. The next day the DNR took us to different streams and guided our group. Most of us caught fish.

I came home with a ton of gear. They gave everyone a spinning rod and a box of flies. I won an eight weight fly rod, a fly fishing net, and a fly box. It was super cool because I have caught fish using some of the gear I came home with. I'm very thankful that people donated those items.

I met so many nice people and the dorms and food were top notch. My favorite meal was spaghetti with garlic bread and ice cream bars for dessert. I would really like to be able to go back to camp someday to learn more or be a helper. Thank you so much for allowing me to go to Trout Camp. It was amazing and I feel very lucky to have been chosen to attend this year's camp.

Sincerely,
Severin Tubbin, 2018 WITU Youth Camp student

trout streams as there were quite a few fish caught and almost everyone had fish on, even though they didn't land some of them.

I want to thank chapters that sent kids this year, the wonderful volunteers, and our presenters who without them this camp would never happen. Seeing the campers' happy faces at the end of camp makes the hard work worthwhile.

Two groups deserve a huge thanks for making this camp what it has become, including our youth camp committee of Wayne Parmley, Bob Haase, Terry Cummings, Ben Cheesman, Jen Folz, Mike Stary, Mike Shanley, Heidi Oberstadt and Linn Beck. With the hard work of

all these wonderful people the camp has improved each year.

The second group is the DNR employees from the Wild Rose Habitat Station. These guys — Shawn Sullivan, Steve Dewitt, Jamie Ruppel, Scott Bunde and Kyle Steel Kossel — help every year and this year they gave up family time and helped all weekend. They mentored our kids while they were out fishing, and the camp success was helped by their work on the streams and their knowledge of the waters. Since a lot of our volunteers come from all over the state, the fishing information these guys shared helped all the volunteers put their youth campers onto fish.



FORMER STUDENTS ENRICHEN YOUTH CAMP EXPERIENCE

Zach Klingseisen mentors student Keegan Saloka. Zach was a former student of the camp from the first year. He has since come back for every camp to help. The camp is truly developing future leaders.

5,000

That's how many trout enthusiasts receive a copy of Wisconsin Trout.

Plus, copies are distributed at various TU events, fly shops, sporting goods stores and beyond.

Color pages are now available for advertisers, for a 20 percent premium over black and white rates.

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Contact Todd Franklin at toddfranklinwistroutrout@gmail.com.

Nominations sought for 2019 State Council awards

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

We are currently seeking nominations for awards to be presented in February at the annual meeting and banquet in Oshkosh. We rely on you, our members and leaders, to let us know about

those who deserve special recognition. So please take time nominate individuals, groups or others you feel qualify for one of our awards.

Please submit your nominations, including a short narrative, to Awards Committee Chair Todd Franklin by December 10, 2018. Please contact Todd if you have any questions. His email address is toddfranklinwistroutrout@gmail.com and his other contact information is on page 3.

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

Wisconsin State Council Awards

Resource Award of Merit

Recipient can be a person, corporation or organization and may be a nonmember. Award can be presented posthumously.

Award is given for outstanding contributions to conservation (does not need to be given for trout or salmon contributions).

Gold Trout Award for Service

Recipient must be a member in good standing of Wisconsin TU.

Award will be presented to any person who has been an officer of the State Council, a national director, or any committee chairperson.

This individual must have served at least one year of his or her term.

Silver Trout Award for Chapter Merit

Recipient must be a WITU chapter that has restored, enhanced, or protected Wisconsin's trout or salmon resource. The end result of the project must demonstrate a long-term commitment or benefit to the trout or salmon resource.

The total value of the project, including the value placed on man-hours and materials, must total at least \$3,500.

The project must involve trout and salmon resources available to the public to fish. Projects for private use only do not qualify.

Gold Net Award

Recipient must be an individual who has been a member in good standing of WITU for a period of at least five years.

Recipient must have participated in at least one major state or chapter fundraising event in the last five years.

Recipient must have worked on or attended at least five TU resource projects in the last five years.

Joan and Lee Wulff Award for Outstanding Conservation Leadership

Recipient to be an individual who has demonstrated outstanding service in the field of conservation. WITU's Executive Committee will choose the

recipient. The traveling award, a framed collection of flies tied by Lee Wulff, remains with the recipient for one year.

Robert Hunt Resource Professional Award

Recipient must be a state fish manager or other conservation professional who has shown concern for the trout resource over and above his or her normal duties.

Corporate Sponsor Award

Recipient must be a business or corporation that has shown outstanding support of the State Council through financial contributions or by providing other support for TU's activities.

Certificate of Appreciation

Recipient can be a member of Wisconsin TU or be someone indirectly related to the trout and salmon resource. Recipient can be someone in an organization for his or her efforts within that organization.

Tomorrow's Angler Award

Individuals who have significantly contributed to youth education.

SPECIAL AWARDS:

Jeffrey Carlson Leadership Award

Recipient must be a WITU member who, following the example of Jeff's work over many years on coaster brook trout restoration, has taken a leadership role on a major stream project, or preserved or restored a species in a body of water.

Unsung Valuable Trout

Reel Partner Award

Women's clinic builds confidence

They learn they have the skills and know-how to try something new.

By Hannah Matousek, photos courtesy of Wisconsin Women's Flyfishing Clinics

Each June a group of women come together along the banks of the West Fork Kickapoo at Westfork Sportsmans Club with a sole purpose in mind: Gain confidence and learn a thing or two about fly fishing.

The "By Women for Women Basics Clinic," hosted by the Wisconsin Women's Fly Fishing Clinics, is a beautifully orchestrated camp put on by a group of dedicated volunteers who teach other women the fundamentals of fly fishing.

The goal of this camp is not to turn every participant into a hardcore trout bum. Rather, it is to teach women that they possess the skills and the know-how to try something new and to figure out a new adventure on the "fly," pun intended.

Each woman who participates in this clinic shows up for her own reasons. Maybe she's newly divorced and trying to rediscover who she is. Perhaps she's a mom and wants something new to teach her children. Possibly, she drove up from Chicago and has never camped before, much less stepped into a stream.

Most importantly, maybe she wants to prove to herself that she is capable of conquering the fear of failure. Whatever their reason for being there, participants are sure to find something of value on the water.

My personal experience comes from volunteering at the basics clinic as a 'river buddy,' which is a woman who already possesses some flyfishing experience and is paired with one of the beginners. The two women will then go out for a one-on-one fishing session during the second evening of camp.

River buddies scout the water beforehand, teach the participants the basics of etiquette on the water (public access, stream safety, reading the water, etc.), and most importantly, serve as a friend and mentor. Being a river buddy continually motivates me to improve my own skill set so I can be the best partner I can be.

The first year I volunteered as a river buddy, though, I was terrified. Although I had been fishing for a few years, I rarely went on my own and was always the beginner in my fishing group. I didn't feel like I had much knowledge to offer the woman I was going to be paired up with.

I couldn't remember the names of the flies in my box, and my home waters were 100 miles away. This was sure to be a disaster, and my beginner was going to demand a refund of her registration money within minutes of realizing I was a fraud.

But then something amazing happened; we pulled up to the stream, and I found myself spewing knowledge and tips that I didn't even know I had.

Learning to fish can be a slow process, and the knowledge builds on itself one piece at a time. Every time an angler goes to the water, they bring back some small morsel of knowledge that is stashed away with all of the others. It builds up so delicately, and so quietly, that it's easy to forget it's even happening.

Having the opportunity to teach someone helps reaffirm the knowledge I already have, while simultaneously helping someone else collect small morsels of knowledge. The time I spend as a river buddy, and the knowledge I collect from the other river buddies and the beginners themselves, surpasses anything I could have learned in the same amount of time on my own.

I was lucky when I first entered into the sport that I had a boyfriend and a group of friends who already fish and were supportive and patient in teaching me the skills I needed to be confident on the water. That is not the case for most beginners, which is why having a large group of women willing to volunteer their time as river buddies is such an essential and unique part of this clinic.

In fact, this past year, the clinic had more women signed up to volunteer than actual beginner participants. How does this happen? The clinic grows its own volunteers through a three-step process that takes place over a few years.

Step one: A curious woman who has little to no fishing experience signs up for the Basics Clinic. She attends the three-day camp at the Westfork Sportsmans Club to get a crash course in fly fishing fundamentals. She gets real time on the water to use all of the skills she just learned, while being accompanied by a new best friend. She goes home hooked on the sport and ready to start practicing.

Step two: The same woman comes back the following year, but this time she attends the 'On the Water Skills Intermediate Clinic.' She spends three days fishing with real guides and fine-tuning her



MAKING FRIENDS AND FISHING AT THE WOMEN'S FISHING CLINIC

skills. She is starting to read the water, match the hatch, and feeling the joy of a good cast.

Step three: She comes back the third year as a river buddy, spending three days with some of the fishiest women around, swapping knowledge, scouting new water and telling fish tales. She has the privilege of sharing her hard-earned knowledge and confidence with a new curious woman, and the cycle starts all over again.

Each year, I am more amazed at not only the turnout, but the pas-

sion and dedication of each individual. It is important to show the beginners and every woman in the sport that we are here to stay, and we are here to build each other up. There's something special about conquering the fear of failure with a group of badass women supporting you every step of the way.

I encourage everyone to give some of their time to something they believe in. You might get out more than you put in, and you are sure to meet some amazing people along the way.



CAMPING, COMERADERIE, FISHING, LEARNING AND MORE

The River Buddies get together the first night of camp to scout water, wet a line, and enjoy some shenanigans together.



LEARNING ABOUT TROUT FOOD

A group of the Basics Clinic participants examine aquatic insects stream-side to learn about the diet of trout and "matching the hatch."



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West Fork club heavily damaged

But volunteers immediately stepped up to start the cleaning and rebuilding process.



THE CLUB'S SMALL BLUE CABIN WAS A COMPLETE LOSS

By Tina Murray

The recent flooding in the Driftless Area have challenged many lives. Storms dumped 11 inches of rain on the August 28 and rain continued for days, adding up to another 10 inches of rain in places. The first deluge of rainwater broke through many of the flood control structures supporting the watersheds of the Westfork of the Kickapoo and Kickapoo Rivers. The sheer volume of water coming down damaged the Jersey Valley Dam, sending a wall of water with lots of debris, rocks and anything else in its path, downstream.

The West Fork Sports Club was one of the things downstream of this breach. There are many pictures showing the devastation this breach caused for the club, but the pictures don't do it justice. The camping areas will need some work, the small blue cabin is a loss, the clubhouse had 20 inches of water and six inches of mud inside it. As of this writing, the stream hasn't receded enough yet for us to evaluate the results. On the upside, the big green cabin was not harmed and our hope to get some gravel for the upcoming three-year stream restoration plan was delivered.

An all-call for volunteers produced an amazing team of people who showed up and began working on putting the club back together. Speed was important, as water damage can turn quickly into a mold, mildew or health issue.

The team cleaned six inches of mud out of the clubhouse and completed the first round of cleaning. Then they assessed the drywall, tore it out up to where it was dry, pulled insulation, took out the cabinetry and sinks, assessed appliances (they lost two refrigerators, possibly the stove and a cooler), and then completed another round of cleaning to prepare for anti-mold treatment and set-up fans for drying.

Volunteers took debris off of 35 small trees (which fared well in spite of the debris), removed mud from the day shelter, and pressure-washed all chairs and tables, as well as the sidewalks surrounding the clubhouse. The clubhouse is now treated to make sure no mold grows, and the plan is to begin to put it back together.

The club is currently closed to camping and even driving into because there are large holes in the driveway and the ground is too satu-

rated for us to do anything with it yet.

The board met and surveyed the damage to the clubhouse. Instead of looking at this event as a total devastation, they see it as a "scouring" and an opportunity to put the club back together in a fashion that meets today's needs for the club. Chins are up as they begin this work and we hope that the membership will assist us by either showing up to help, expertise (drywall, electrical, plumbing, woodworking, heavy equipment), or sending a donation. Donations can also be matched by some workplaces. The club is a 501C3 and our EIN is 39-1624390. Donations can be mailed to West Fork Sports Club Inc., P.O. Box 52, Viroqua, WI 54665 or they can be submitted electronically through PayPal to Westforksportsclub@gmail.com

We can't wait for FEMA. FEMA may help us, but it will be quite a while before they come into the area to assist. There are many, many families who have lost everything and many who are struggling to put their lives back together. The programs that use the Westfork may not be able to continue. This would mean that the youth programs of Vernon County and Shabazz High School, along with the Friends of Wisconsin DNR programs, various TU chapters, and the Wisconsin Women's Fly Fishing Clinics will be without a functional space.

Our intention is to repair the grounds when the earth dries up some. Until then, we plan on focusing on putting the clubhouse back together by installing foam insulation and green-board four feet up the walls, get some new cupboards and rework the kitchen area to be more functional.

We will have to get a couple of refrigerators and would really like to put in a vertical drink cooler. We will need tradespeople to assist us, as we don't possess all the skills we need. Updates on workdays and "all calls" for specialized services will be posted on our webpage at <http://westforksportsclub.org>

The green cabin will be able to be rented when the ground dries and we can repair the driveway.

We are looking into one or two "tiny houses," which we can place out of the flood plain. Our three-year restoration plan is still on track, beginning in the spring of 2019. The original plan may need modifications. It is our full intention to com-



A WALL OF WATER CAME DOWN FROM THE BREACHED DAM

Heavy rains caused a breach in the Jersey Valley Dam, sending a wall of water with lots of debris, rocks and anything else in its path, downstream.

plete the stream restoration as soon as our funds allow. See Stream Restoration info at <http://westforksportsclub.org/stream-restoration/>

The stream work that Roger Widner did in the 1990's held solidly through this event, as did stream work in other areas of the West Fork and Weister Creek. This is a clear sign we should stick to our commitment and get this stream-bank work completed as soon as possible.

We know these pictures are hard to look at and mostly just heartbreaking. As Jaimmie Miller, the WFSC Board President says, "It is what it is and we can put it back together, better."

I truly hope that our membership will help us put our beloved club space back. Many hands make light work. Please don't wait for an invitation to help out the club. Also, if you have an area with which you can help, please contact us at Westforksportsclub@gmail.com. Let's work together.



FLOODING LEFT SIX INCHES OF MUD IN THE CLUBHOUSE

A team of volunteers cleaned six inches of mud out of the clubhouse and completed the first round of cleaning. Then they assessed the drywall, tore it out up to where it was dry, pulled insulation, took out the cabinetry and sinks, assessed appliances (they lost two refrigerators, possibly the stove and a cooler), and then completed another round of cleaning to prepare for anti-mold treatment and set-up fans for drying.

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Get to know Taylor Ridderbusch, TU's Great Lakes Organizer

Interview by Mike Kuhr,
State Council Vice Chair

Hi, Taylor. Thanks for taking the time to chat with us. Since coming to TU in 2016 as the Great Lakes Organizer, a few of us at the state level have gotten to know you and we thought it's about time to introduce you and your work to our broader membership.

There's a lot of water in the Great Lakes and no shortage of advocacy issues. What are your top priorities at the moment?

Right now, we are really focused on the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and stopping Asian Carp from getting into the Great Lakes. The LWCF is a great tool for providing access and protecting public spaces across the state and is set to expire at the end of September, so we are working hard with Congress to get that reauthorized permanently. Also, as I have been doing for the last two years, we are fighting to keep the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative fully funded at \$300 million.

There are many different non-profits working on these issues. Why did you choose to work for TU?

TU was really lucrative because of the reputation that it has in the political world. We do a great job of building relationships with both sides of the aisle and we always go where the science takes us. With increasingly polarized politics, this is hard to find. And the fishing aspect of the job isn't too bad, either.

You're based in Michigan, right? But I understand you have some pretty strong connections to Wisconsin. Can you share a little of your early upbringing with us.

Yeah, I'm based in East Lansing, Michigan, but I grew up in Eagle River, Wisconsin and I was always

doing something outside, whether it was hunting, fishing or camping with my family. We have 40 acres in Eagle River so I was lucky to have that, along with the Nicolet National Forest right out my back door, to explore. When I wasn't in the woods or on the lake, I was playing baseball, basketball or soccer.

Ah, the Wisconsin Northwoods, I have many fond memories of my time as a youth spent there too, mostly chasing muskies with my dad. Are you a trout purist or do you enjoy fishing for warm water species too?

I grew up on warm water species. Early spring was for chasing walleyes, crappies and perch. Summer was for muskies and northerns. And I spent far too many days with numb fingers out on the ice running down tip ups.

Nice. Now just for fun, let's say I give you a seven-day all-expense paid fishing trip anywhere in the world. Where would you go?

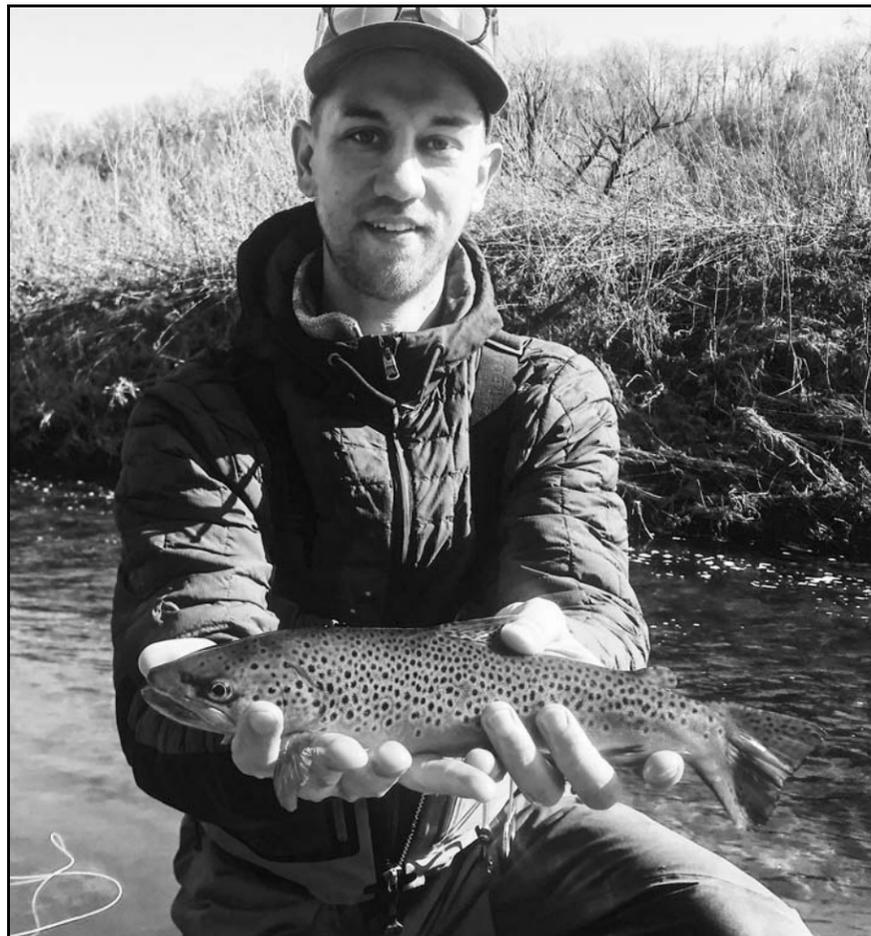
Oh, that's tough. It'd either be New Zealand or Cosmoledo, but I think with a blank check, I'd go with Cosmo for GT's. I don't know how many hours I've spent on YouTube watching GT's smash flies in the Seychelles. It's incredible.

How about a tougher question: Badgers or Spartans (and answer honestly)?

That's a no brainer. Go Bucky. On, Wisconsin. (I only wear red on Saturday's around East Lansing)

Now you and I have done a little lobbying together, and it's clear to me that you have a pretty good sense for the how the political world works. Where did those skills come from? Any formal training?

I think it's a combination of some training and just my personali-



TU GREAT LAKES ORGANIZER TAYLOR RIDDERBUSCH

ty. When interning with Ducks Unlimited in Washington, D.C., the staff did a great job of coaching us and letting us take the reins in meetings, which really helped me learn quickly. But I also would say that a lot of it probably came from my parents. Good manners go a long way for building those relationships and working toward consensus.

Any advocacy advice you'd like to share with our grassroots volunteers?

Don't be afraid to reach out to

your legislators. They work for you and your voice matters. It can be intimidating at first, but you'd be surprised how much you have in common and that makes conversations easier.

Thank you for sharing your insights and for working to protect North America's largest cold water fishery, The Great Lakes.

Anytime. I look forward to continue working with TU in Wisconsin. You have some of the best volunteers in all of TU.

FLOODING, from page 1

Maybe it's a good time to contemplate planning and re-doing some work on Lower Bohemian Valley, middle parts of Timber Coulee, and Lower Rullands Coulee, Vetrano said. More weirs and pool-making structures instead of overhead, underbank structures like LUNKERS, would benefit those streams and their fish populations. Meanwhile, the techniques used in the Jackson and Neperud properties, with more bank sloping and more use of wood for habitat structures, could help improve durability against heavier rainfalls. In places where heavy sediment loads can be brought down in floods, inside bends should be flattened as much as possible to reduce damage on the outside banks downstream, he said.

The heaviest parts of the rainfalls in the area between La Crosse and Baraboo hit northern Vernon County, southern Monroe County, and Juneau and Sauk counties, and in many places hit them twice a week apart. The human toll, though there was no loss of life or significant injury, has been followed by newspapers and broadcast news, and communities face choices about whether to rebuild in flood plains where lower-income residents have tended to find housing.

Now many of those homes have been ruined by high water. Like Soldiers Grove, Gays Mills and Chaseburg, other communities will have to choose whether to try to move to high ground, of which there often isn't much nearby, or continue to try to weather these floods on valley floors.

While communities along the Kickapoo River suffered badly, the river's main tributaries were pretty much intact. The five-year project on Weister Creek, which lies about three miles upstream from the Kickapoo, had little damage. (We'll be visiting Weister Creek on October 16 for the TU Driftless Project Bus Tour. Seats may still be available on the chartered bus.) Otter Creek east of La Farge is unscathed. Reads Creek, though its lowermost half mile was submerged, suffered no discernible damage. Tainter, which was pounded badly in storms in August and September 2016, had no new damage.

In an effort to provide Wisconsin Trout readers with as full a report as possible, we have done some on-stream survey work in recent days. With hand-held survey instruments, we checked out fish populations and fishability of several of the above streams. It can be treacherous right now to negotiate wading in some streams that had high water. Why?

When a stream carries a heavy load of sediment and gravel downstream and that load settles out, for some time it is mushy and boot-sucking until it finally consolidates. An angler can step onto a firm-looking gravel bar and find it has 18 inches of grasping mud beneath. One local angler found a pair of hip boots stuck in a mud bank. For the time

being, it's better to walk and fish from the banks and keep as low a silhouette as possible than have to extricate yourself from that mud.

Thanks to Dave Vetrano for his thoughts and contributions to this article. I trust I've relayed those with accuracy, but any errors of fact or interpretation are my own.



SWTU'S NEPERUD PROJECT UNDER WATER

Dane County flooding spared no streams, including the Sugar River. The Neperud project on the Sugar River was recently restored with help from the Southern Wisconsin Chapter. Reports are that the habitat work held up well.

Wisconsin TU members report from California

September National TU meeting in Redding features award, big fish for Wisconsinites.

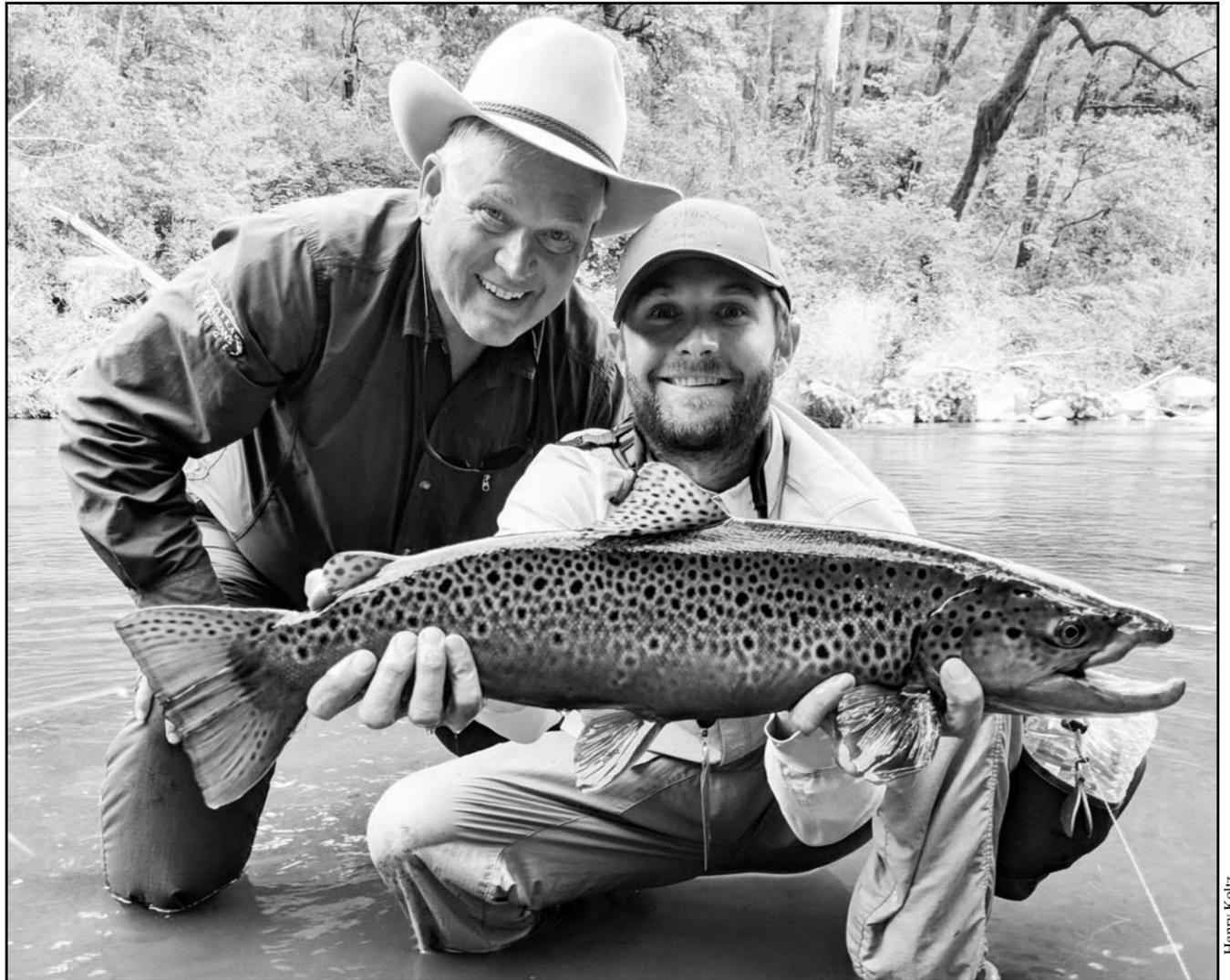


Linn Beck

IMAGES FROM REDDING

Attendees visit the Sun Dial bridge near the hotel.

(Right) Guide Steven Fry from The Fly Shop in Redding, California, holds a gigantic McCloud River brown trout caught by Jon Christiansen. The fish jumped three times, and was caught on a 5-weight using 4x and 5x tippet.



Henry Koltz

TU CEO CHRIS WOOD CITES WEISTER CREEK PROJECT

(Right) Wood highlighted projects from around the country in his "State of TU" address at the TU national meeting in Redding, California.. One of the projects he used was the Weister Creek project in Vernon County Wisconsin. The lower five miles of Weister Creek is in the Kickapoo Valley Reserve, 8,000 acres of public land that was rescued from an Army Corps dam project in the 1970s.



Kim McCarthy



Brett Prettyman

THIS ONE REALLY IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS

Congrats to Zoe Mihalas on receiving the Distinguished Service-Youth Education award at the recent TU Annual Meeting in Redding, California. Zoe grew up in the Madison, Wisconsin area. Her father, Mike, was a leader for the Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Chapter before they moved to North Carolina. She is seen here receiving a congratulatory hug from TU Vice President of Volunteer Operations Beverly Smith.

NATIONAL MEETING, from page 1

It is hard to deny climate change when visiting an area that has had absolutely no rain in 119 days, with none forecast anytime soon.

A number of important items have been discussed at this meeting. Of most importance to Wisconsin

TU is the fact that TU National is going to be changing its fiscal year. The State Council will be providing information on the change and what will be required of our chapters.

I look forward to seeing all of you at one of the upcoming State Council meetings.

Items needed for Youth Camp

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

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

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

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

Chapter workday spurs career choice for young conservationist

By Joe Knight

KNAPP – Zach Mohr's involvement with improving trout streams started when he was 12 or 13 and he happened upon a Department of Natural Resources fish habitat crew and Trout Unlimited volunteers working on the banks of Elk Creek.

The creek, which originates in Chippewa County, flows along the border of Dunn and Eau Claire counties before entering the Chippewa River. Mohr, who grew up in Elk Mound, liked the creek because it had brown trout and was close enough to his home in Elk Mound that he could get there by bicycle.

He joined the volunteers and showed up at other work nights that summer to help. "They had me doing a lot of mulching," he said. The idea of improving trout stream habitat was new to him, as was the news that this was a regular job for some of those guys who were with the DNR. "I thought it was cool stuff," he said. "...I didn't know there were jobs out there where you could make fishing better."

He is now 21 and has graduated from mulching to spending the summer operating an excavator with a DNR crew on western Wisconsin streams.

On a warm Tuesday in late August I found him operating an excavator on Hay Creek, a little brook trout stream that originates in the hills south of Knapp. After Labor Day weekend he would head back to school for his senior year at UW-Stevens Point, where he is studying fish management.

He parked his machine for a few minutes to talk about fish and fish management.

Summer job

His started spending summers with a DNR fish crew in the summer after his junior year at Elk Mound High School. He worked with a crew doing population assessments on trout streams, which involved wading up streams with an electrode in one hand and a net in the other and scooping up fish that are temporarily stunned by an electrical current. A scholarship from the American Fisheries Society funded his work. It was a chance to get a taste of fish management. He liked it.

The DNR must have liked him too, because they hired him again the following four summers.

The jobs have included rearing fish for stocking at ponds in Black River Falls, and filling in as needed for habitat work and fish surveys.

This summer he mostly operated an excavator on trout habitat projects on the Trimbelle River near Ellsworth, Sand Creek near the village of Sand Creek in Dunn County, and now Hay Creek.

Protein on a budget

The DNR crew works four 10-hour days per week. When he's not busy at his DNR job, Mohr is often doing landscaping work. If there is no landscaping to be done, he goes fishing.

But this is fishing with a purpose. He's getting supplies for the fall semester. "At school I mostly eat venison and fish for protein," he said.

So far he has 21 meals of fish frozen – mostly catfish, but also wall-

eye, panfish and even sheepshead. He hopes to add to that total over the Labor Day weekend when sturgeon season opens. As a concession to old age, and to spare his back, he doesn't plan to sleep all night in the boat like he used to. "That got hard," he said. This year he plans to sleep in until 3 a.m.

Brook trout preserve

Despite its small size, Hay Creek is a priority because it is considered by DNR to be a "brook trout preserve." Sadly, Wisconsin's native brook trout are going to disappear from much of the state during the next 50 years due to climate change, but the DNR has identified some streams with strong spring flow where brook trout are more likely to survive the warmup.

"They are definitely highest on our priority list," said Nate Anderson, DNR trout stream projects leader, and Mohr's boss. The "preserve" part of the name doesn't mean it won't be open for fishing. The trout population will increase and the land has a permanent fishing easement, he said.

Anderson said a federal grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Service is covering 70 percent of the project, or \$160,000. The DNR's Trout Stamp Fund, which is generated from trout anglers purchasing a \$10 inland trout stamp annually, is covering \$20,000 of the project. A grant and donations from the Dunn County Fish and Game Association and Trout Unlimited cover the rest. The project covers 4,000 feet of stream.

Last winter volunteers cut trees along the banks. This summer the DNR crew removed stumps and is about to install rocks to keep the banks from eroding, Anderson explained. The land will then be planted to native grass

Landowner relations

"It's looking great," said Gene Ruenger, owner of the farm, who stopped by to have a look.

Actually, it was looking like a muddy field with a little creek flowing through it, but Ruenger saw progress.

"I've wanted to do this since I bought the farm," he said. "I could see the banks collapsing every time a storm came through, but I also knew I couldn't afford to do it by myself."

After the project is completed and the banks and an easement planted in native grasses, his job will be to maintain the grasses, he said.

Ruenger noted that the origin of Hay Creek is springs at the Bjornson Environmental Site, operated by the Menomonie Area School District. The creek flowing from the environmental center is joined by another tributary on his land.

Mr. President

During his senior year Mohr will serve as president of the UW-Stevens Point chapter of the American Fisheries Society. The chapter includes not just fisheries majors, but students with an interest in water resources, he said.

UW-Stout, UW-Green Bay and Northland College at Ashland also have student chapters.

"We're a pretty 'hands on' group," he said. Their activities in-



STREAM WORK IS HIS PASSION

Zach Mohr's involvement with improving trout streams started when he was 12 or 13 and he happened upon a DNR fish habitat crew and TU volunteers working on Elk Creek. He has worked summers operating an excavator for DNR crews while he studies fish management at UW-Stevens Point

clude helping the DNR with sturgeon studies on the Wolf River, and monitoring water quality on the Wisconsin River and Little Plover River.

He is also involved on monitoring the movement of brook trout on the Little Plover.

"It is one of the most imperiled trout streams in the country," he said.

On two occasions heavy groundwater pumping near the creek has caused it to dry up, but now the water and trout are back and groundwater pumping in the vicinity is regulated by a mutual agreement among water users, including the city of Stevens Point.

"There are a lot of stakeholders who are working hard to keep it," Mohr said.

Future plans

This may be Mohr's last summer working with the DNR in western

Wisconsin. If things go according to plan, he will graduate from college next spring and get a fulltime job somewhere or be headed for graduate school.

But he's hoping to squeeze in one more summer with the DNR.

Anderson said they could probably use him. He's gotten to be handy with the excavator.

"He's a quick learner," Anderson said.

Joe Knight was the outdoors editor for the Eau Claire Leader-Telegram, a daily paper serving western Wisconsin, for 34 years. He was recently the president of the Wisconsin Clear Waters Chapter, finishing the term of a member who had some health issues. He currently serves on the chapter board but will soon step down to focus on his role as a supervisor on the Eau Claire County Board. He will continue to do freelance writing.

Donate to Wisconsin TU via Thrivent Lutheran Financial

If you are a TU member and have investments with Thrivent Lutheran Financial, you may have the ability to make charitable donations to groups of your choosing through Thrivent Financial's Thrivent Choice program.

The Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited is now a listed entity within the Thrivent Choice program.

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

 A close-up photograph of a package of BlueSky Furling Tapered Fly Fishing Leader. The package is white with blue and black text and features a circular logo. The text on the package includes "BlueSky Furling Tapered Fly Fishing Leader" and "Elevate your fly fishing to a new level. The Original BlueSky Furling Leader. Sizes for all fish & fishing conditions. BlueSky - the leader in furling leaders.™"

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TU CARES: Progress in the central region of WI

TU volunteers, DNR hard at work on the West Branch of the White River

By Tom Lager

The Trout Unlimited - Central Area Restoration Effort for Sustainability (TU CARES), initiated in 2016, has had a busy spring and summer on the West Branch of the White River (WBWR) watershed. Through the collaborative efforts of the TU CARES Core Team, working with multiple TU chapters, DNR habitat crew, DNR Fisheries electroshocking team, DNR Environmental Analysis personnel and Water Action Volunteers (WAV), the biological and physical features of the WBWR watershed were documented and assessed.

WAV monitoring was enhanced by Mike SanDretto's installation of continuous temperature monitoring sensors at all sampling sites along the 8.7 miles of stream. Water monitoring by Nate Ratliff and macroinvertebrate monitoring continued at all sites. Dennis Drazkowski and the DNR's Shawn Sullivan organized two habitat restoration work days that resulted in a large turnout of TU members from the region.

John Tucker reported on Scott Bunde's (DNR Fisheries) DNA sampling of the rainbow resident population as a step in understanding the rainbows' history and preparing for future management of the population.

Fisheries exploration of an unnamed tributary disclosed additional trout habitat in its upper reaches, further reinforcing the importance of replacing the culvert at the Lake Drive crossing. The DNR's Bobbi Jo Fisher and her crew, along

with the TU CARES team, conducted a detailed survey of the crossing. Analysis of the crossing profile showed the current culvert is undersized and back-pitched, causing sediment build-up in the structure and plunge pool formation with a downstream tail-water control formation, all of which block trout migration and impede water flow down through the road crossing.

One of the major goals of TU CARES is refurbishing old stream improvements conducted during the last 40-50 years.

The initial proposal for replacement is designed, and the next steps will include input from stakeholders such as the DNR, township officials and landowners, and exploration of funding sources, which Al Johnson is working on.

Several initiatives were undertaken to demonstrate other valuable and unique features of this watershed. Denny Malueg created the bird list for the area, based on many years of observation. Eric

Kropp assisted Tom Lager in locating a rare plant called the prairie fame flower, and defining its population as a part of the DNR's Rare Plant Monitoring Program. Elward Engle and John Tucker are writing the history of the watershed.

One of the major goals of TU CARES is refurbishing old stream improvements conducted during the last 40-50 years. The Younglove Easement Project of 1997 is an ideal starting point on the WBWR. The Wild Rose Habitat Crew developed cost estimates covering materials and labor based on the last five years of habitat work in the Central Region, and mapped the area under consideration. The next step will be project planning and

proposal writing based on targeted grants.

Sustainable management of groundwater and its connection with surface base flow is a long-standing challenge in the Central Sands Region of Wisconsin. TU CARES, with leadership support from Jacob Lemon, is increasing involvement in these issues. We welcome Jake to our team. He is Trout Unlimited's Eastern Angler Science Coordinator, and now lives in Michigan. Jake has significant experience in forming and working with diverse stakeholder groups based on previous work with eastern shale gas development and other water-use challenges.

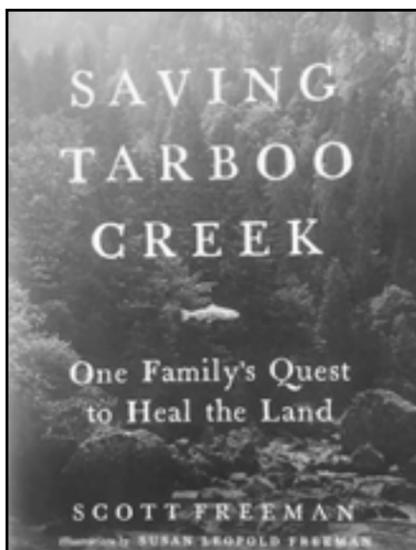
This past summer Jake, with support from Tom Lager and Mike SanDretto, led the organization of a TU CARES Water Use Monitoring Meeting in Westfield. The meeting objective was to obtain an overview of current groundwater and base flow monitoring and data collection efforts in the Central Region, define data gaps and needs, discuss strategies to address the gaps and needs and involve various partners to implement strategies and develop potential funding sources. More than 20 attendees represented the DNR groundwater modeling group, regional DNR fisheries, habitat and water quality, county water and land departments, and state and local TU members.

Meeting outcomes are being analyzed and next steps formulated as a first step in a long-term commitment by TU on the local, state and national level, to facilitate development of a sustainable management approach to groundwater and surface water use in the Central Region of Wisconsin.

Books to consider for your trout fishing library

By Duke Welter

Three recent books I've read feature one completely focused on Driftless Area trout fishing, one with ties to a Wisconsin conservation hero, Aldo Leopold, and a third full of good short stories but without a single tie to our part of the world. All three authors have spent much of their lives as teachers, and it shows in all three of their books. Let's take a little tour through them.



"Saving Tarboo Creek"

"Saving Tarboo Creek: One Family's Quest to Heal the Land" by Scott Freeman, may be geographically rooted in a little coldwater tributary of Puget Sound not far from Seattle. But philosophically its roots are here in Aldo Leopold's Wisconsin. That's no coincidence: Freeman teaches at the University of Washington, but earned his doctorate in biology here. His wife is a granddaughter of Leopold. Susan Leopold Freeman is an accomplished

artist and provided the illustrations for the book.

The Freemans purchased a 160-acre parcel in the Olympic Peninsula, through which flowed a battered little stream which once harbored a healthy salmon spawning run. Like many of the Puget Sound and Columbia Basin streams, land use had made it untenable for salmon. And when the salmon go away, the entire ecosystem becomes biologically parched of life. The bears, eagles, bugs, small mammals all go away too.

The Freemans strived to restore Tarboo Creek, working with technicians and ecologists, always guided by Leopold's land ethic: "the individual is a member of a community of interdependent parts. The land ethic simply enlarges the boundaries of the community to include soils, waters, plants and animals, or collectively the land."

Along the way, Freeman looks at not just the technical processes of restoration, but fits it into the broader outlines of conservation biology, climate change and finding a life philosophy that allows us to lead a productive and sustainable life. If you're looking for a book full of thought-provoking material, this read will challenge as well as entertain you.

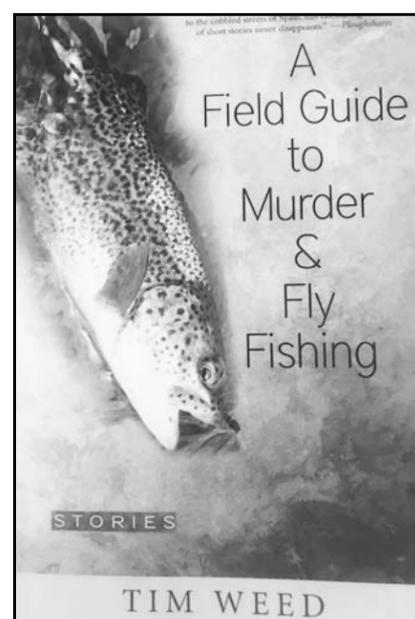
(Saving Tarboo Creek: One Family's Quest to Heal the Land, Scott Freeman, Timber Press, Portland, 2018, 224 pages, \$24.95.)

"A Field Guide to Murder & Fly Fishing"

The 13 short stories in Tim Weed's "A Field Guide to Murder & Fly Fishing" come at you from every direction but right here. He's a writing teacher in Boston and develops international educational programs, but writes about guiding in

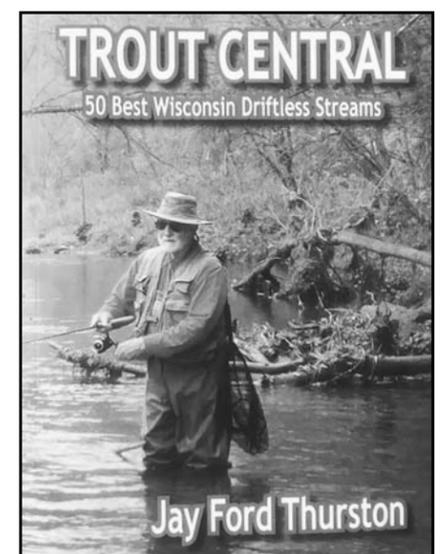
the Atlantic and Caribbean, fishing in the northeast U.S. and travels all over. These stories are full of unexpected plot twists, marvelous descriptions of the natural world, and entertaining characters and interactions. In short, well-crafted stories and excellent reads.

("A Field Guide to Murder & Fly Fishing", Tim Weed, Green Writers Press, Brattleboro, Vermont., 250 pages, \$16.95.)



"Trout Central: 50 Best Wisconsin Driftless Streams"

Jay Ford Thurston is a teacher as well, but his classrooms are Driftless Area trout streams and he makes sure you can glean a lesson from each of his stories. Many appeared in an earlier version in his biweekly "Trout Central" column in the Vernon County Broadcaster. In his latest book, "Trout Central: 50 Best Wisconsin Driftless Streams," the lessons range from how to get in



shape for trout fishing, why trout fishing makes one happier (than, for example, golfers) with life, keeping oneself safe on the stream from a variety of hazards, and the role of water temperatures in trout activity.

The 50 "best" Driftless streams identified by Thurston are based on a number of listed criteria. Having fished 47 of them, and a few others, I couldn't quibble much with his list. But I would suggest that you focus on the many excellent trout streams in Grant, Dane, Iowa, Richland, Pierce and Dunn counties. Most of those listed in Vernon and Crawford are just overrated by Thurston. And full of wild parsnip, poison ivy, ticks and mosquitoes. In two words, don't bother.

("Trout Central: 50 Best Wisconsin Driftless Streams," Jay Ford Thurston, Nightengale Press, 2018, 296 pages, \$19.95, available from the author at weekly Viroqua Farmers Market or via Amazon.)

Friends of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited grant program

Through your generation donations, we raised more than \$18,000 last year. An enormous amount of in-stream work will be accomplished because of this. A huge thank you goes to the Southeast Wisconsin Chapter for its generous \$5,000 contribution to this fund.

I would like to highlight the Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter. This impressive chapter has had an annual goal to rehab nearly 8,000 feet a year at a cost of nearly \$175,000. The Friends program has been a source of funding for them over the years, and this is

just one chapter in need of your support. It's amazing to think that roughly 1.5 miles of stream was restored by a single chapter.

I hope you get out this year and enjoy the bounty of our healthy, productive trout streams. All across the state, so many of these streams have directly benefited from the Friends of Wisconsin TU program. I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and holiday season.

*Doug Brown, Chairman
Friends of Wisconsin TU*



Friends grants support DNR LTE crews like this one with Doug Weber, Kyle Siebers, DJ Loken.

Providing habitat improvement grants since 1991. The latest projects are...

\$2,000 to Wild Rivers for White River in Ashland County in 2015

\$2,000 to Wisconsin River Valley for Prairie River Project in Lincoln County in 2015

\$2,000 to the Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter for the Upper Kinni in 2014

\$2,000 to Wis. Clearwaters Chapter for Waumandee Creek in 2015

\$2,000 to Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter for Pompey Pillar, 2016

\$2,000 to the Northwoods Chapter for habitat crews in 2015

\$2,000 to Marinette and \$1,500 to Wolf River for NE Region work in 2015

\$2,000 to Green Bay Chapter for a habitat crew 2015

\$2,000 to SEWTU for Little Willow Creek in Richland County in 2016

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Special Thanks to Todd Hanson for the donation from the sale of his books.

*Yes, I want to join the "Friends" of Wisconsin TU.
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Symposium features charr research

Wisconsin biologists contribute to the 9th International Charr Symposium in Duluth.

By Matt Mitro

Earlier this summer Duluth was the host city for the 9th International Charr Symposium. Fisheries scientists and managers from around the world gathered on the shores of Lake Superior in June for four days to share their latest research findings on charr.

What are charr? Here in Wisconsin, we are most familiar with brook trout and lake trout, two charr species native to our state. The terminology for trout and charr (or char) can be confusing. Charr species belong to the genus *Salvelinus*, and three of them are indigenous to North America: brook trout, lake trout, and bull trout (or charr, if you prefer).

There are two holarctic species also found on our continent: Arctic char and Dolly Varden. Two remaining *Salvelinus* species not found here occur in Kamchatka, the white-spotted charr and the stone charr.

Charr differ from true trout in several ways, but the most obvious difference is in their spotting. True trout have black spots on their body and charr do not. Rather, charr have spots that are lighter in color than the body's background and their spots are often red, pink, orange or cream-colored. Another defining characteristic of charr is how their sides can turn a brilliant blood-red during their autumn spawning period. The word "charr" is derived

from the Celtic word "cear," which means blood.

The charr symposium originated in Winnipeg, Canada in 1981 and has been held across the globe from Japan to Iceland to Russia and other places in between. This was the first charr symposium held in the United States.

Symposium presentations covered the evolution, biology, ecology and management of charrs. Past symposia have focused largely on holarctic species such as Arctic char, but with the symposium in the U.S. there was more of a focus on brook trout and lake trout. Wisconsin had a strong showing among presenters, including:

- Brad Erdman of UW-Stevens Point, who shared work done in collaboration with the DNR describing the genetic population structure, using microsatellites, of Wisconsin brook trout. Many populations have been found to contain genetic signatures consistent with domestic strains, including populations previously identified as wild. Genetic similarities were seen across large areas of the state, which is likely an effect of past propagation and stocking practices.
- Joanna Griffin of the DNR presented a poster describing how we are using new genetics research to improve Wisconsin's trout stocking program and to protect remaining wild brook



OUR MOST BEAUTIFUL TROUT IS A CHARR (CHAR)

Here in Wisconsin, we are most familiar with brook trout and lake trout, two charr species native to our state.

- trout populations.
- Heath Benike and Bradd Sims from the DNR discussed how the DNR develops, propagates, and stocks wild strain brook trout. Heath focused on the South Fork of the Hay River and noted our collaborative work with 17 cooperative rearing facilities to raise brook trout for stocking into public waters. Bradd discussed the rise and fall of the Ash Creek broodstock and efforts to source brook trout eggs from a new rotation of southwestern Wisconsin streams.
- John Lyons, a retired DNR staff member, represented projected future changes in brook trout distribution in Wisconsin in response to climate change. We completed this work several years ago, which updates earlier climate model projections included in the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts 2011 report. Models project a 68 percent decline for brook trout, from 21,300 stream miles down to 6,800 miles. Models also predict a 32 percent decline for brown trout, from 12,400 miles down to 8,500 miles.
- These projected declines, while substantial, were lower than earlier estimates because our models account for projected increased precipitation that may enhance groundwater recharge and partially offset higher air temperatures. This work is currently being peer-reviewed for publication in the symposium proceedings in the journal *Hydrobiologia*.
- Dave Seibel of the DNR showed how fyke nets could be used to survey brook trout and other fishes in spring ponds.
- Mike Seider of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service discussed the recovery of the once-severely-degraded fishery for lean lake trout in Lake Superior. Lean lake trout are a shallow-water (<250 feet) morphotype, as compared to siscowet lake trout, a deep-water (>250 feet) morphotype. The *Salvelinus* genus stands out among other vertebrates for its remarkable polymorphism or diversity in body type. (Another example: fingerling-sized brook trout in headwater streams and coaster brook trout in the Great

Lakes.) The age structure of lean lake trout populations has shifted to older fish and spawning biomass in many areas is at 50-year highs.

- I presented an historical overview of gill lice infection of brook trout in Wisconsin, from early 20th century studies to the latest observations from our ongoing research. Much of this information is now published in the current issue of the *Journal of Parasitology*, which includes a table of gill lice observations from 208 Wisconsin streams. (Contact me if you would like a copy of this paper.)

On the afternoon when President Trump held a rally at the convention center in Duluth, symposium attendees boarded a bus to Wisconsin to tour the Iron River National Fish Hatchery and then to go to the Brule River Barn where Dennis Pratt (retired DNR) gave a dinner presentation on the Bois Brule River fishery.

A highlight of the hatchery tour was seeing the AutoFish mobile tagging trailer that sorts fish by size and automatically clips the adipose fin and injects a coded wire tag into the fish's snout.

More information on the symposium can be found at <http://charr.glfrc.org>. Also included are links to 14 videos of plenary presentations. I particularly liked Ian Winfield's presentation on the cultural importance and international recognition of the Arctic char populations of Windemere, United Kingdom, and Dan Schill's presentation on the use of YY Males to eradicate charr where they are invasive in the western U.S.

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Wisconsin's Great Lakes Stream Restoration Program update

Words and photos by Laura MacFarland, Great Lakes Stream Restoration Manager

The leaves are beginning to turn here in the north. It won't be long until we are once again counting redds in the headwaters of the North Fork Thunder River, bearing witness to the magnificent displays of boldly colored brook trout utilizing seemingly trivial, however vital trickles of water to reproduce. As the hues of the fish and flora change, our construction season begins to wind down.

More than two years of planning finally paid off this month as Trout Unlimited, in collaboration with the Town of Fence, U.S. Forest Service, DNR, WE Energies and Florence County replaced a road stream crossing on the South Branch of the Popple River.

The former undersized circular pipe often caused the river to overtop the road and served as a partial barrier to aquatic organisms. The newly installed 19-foot-wide, six-foot-high aluminum box culvert will prevent sediment from the road from washing into the stream during large rain events, ensure safe passage by motorist, and restore aquatic organism passage. The crossing was also designed to allow paddlers to proceed uninterrupted down the designated Wild River.

Trout Unlimited completed the design work for this project and contributed \$15,800 towards the purchase of the aluminum box culvert, thanks to support from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's (NFWF) Sustain Our Great Lakes Program and our local chapters.

Instream habitat improvements continued on the North Branch Oconto River this summer and fall, thanks in part to the NFWF 5 Star Grant Program. TU was able to provide funding to the U.S. Forest Service crews to help continue to improve instream habitat on the North Branch Oconto River upstream of Wabeno, Forest County.

Thanks to the Green Bay Trout Unlimited Chapter for organizing a very well attended, very productive work day. More than 25 volunteers helped to improve .25 miles of habitat through brushing, brush bundling and large-wood additions. Additional instream habitat improvements are scheduled to be implemented through September in the Town of Wabeno adjacent to the town park and elementary school.

Thanks to the generous support of Southeast Wisconsin Trout Unlimited, we were able to hire two technicians this summer. They assessed more than 100 road-stream crossings from the Brule River to the Oconto River, assisted the Forest Service in habitat improvement projects on the North Branch Oconto River, conducted instream habitat mapping, completed engineering surveys and assisted the DNR with fish surveys on the Peshtigo River. We would like to thank Spencer Davis and Tyler Twite for all of their hard work and wish them luck as they return to UW-Stevens Point to complete their bachelor degrees.

On October 8 TU will collaborate with the Iron County Land and Water Department, Wild Rivers Trout Unlimited, DNR, Wisconsin Department of Agricultural Trade and Consumer Protection, and the



RECONNECTED SOUTH BRANCH OF THE POPPLE RIVER

More than two years of planning finally paid off this month as Trout Unlimited, in collaboration with the Town of Fence, U.S. Forest Service, DNR, WE Energies and Florence County replaced a road stream crossing on the South Branch of the Popple River. (above)

Superior Rivers Watershed Association to host a one day road-stream crossing tour in Iron County.

This tour is designed for tribal, town and county road workers and decision makers, as well as contractors, lake associations and citizens.

The tour bus will stop at a handful of road-stream crossings where we will discuss practical design techniques that promote flood resiliency and aquatic organism passage. We will also discuss the long-term cost benefit of installing properly designed structures.

A big thanks to the Wild Rivers Trout Unlimited chapter for sponsoring this event. We hope to host a similar tour in the spring in Forest County.

While we are blessed to have many generous supporters like you, none of this work would be possible without funding from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). In August, Trout Unlimited hosted a tour for Congressman Gallagher of Green Bay. He toured two culvert replacement projects that were implemented in 2017 in Oconto County with GLRI funds.

As he stood transfixed by the sights and sounds of a babbling brook, we thanked him for his continued support of the GLRI, a critical source of funding for our aquatic organism passage work. I encourage you all to share with your representatives of Congress the good work that TU and our partners are able to accomplish, thanks to their continued support of the GLRI.



CHECKING TEMPS ON CHICKADEE

Tyler Twite and Spencer Davis deploy a thermograph in the Chickadee Creek watershed.

Trick out your ride!

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



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

William Shakespeare

Remember TU as Part of Your Legacy

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

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

Thank you for considering Trout Unlimited in your estate planning.



TU WELCOMES ITS NEWEST MEMBER

Hello, everyone! My name is Theodore Brian Oberstadt, but everyone calls me Teddy. My mama, Heidi, has been very busy this year. I arrived July 13, and was 19.5 inches long — the same length as mama's largest trout! It's been a whirlwind for my family, but my mama and dad are taking it in stride. I made it hard for mama to fish this year, as there wasn't room for both of us in her waders! She's been telling me about the mountains for our upcoming Colorado trip. Mama loves camping, running and fishing in the Driftless Area, and I'm told I'll love it, too! Mama will return to reporting about the Womens' Initiative and the Diversity Initiative soon. I'm excited to meet all my new TU friends!

Wisconsin TU needs your support

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited is seeking individuals and businesses to Sponsor our 2019 State Council Banquet to be held on Sat. Feb. 2 in Oshkosh

Levels of Sponsorship:
Headwaters = \$100
Tributary = \$250
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Watershed = \$1,000

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

Driftless Rambler

With Duke Welter
TUDARE Outreach Coordinator



Fall fishing days are some of the best of the year around here. Trout have grown considerably during the season and are dedicated to putting on some growth before they get into the spawning season. While you may have to clean fallen leaves off your line regularly, the head-high grasses of mid-summer have subsided and casting (and walking) are getting easier.

Brook trout have grown into brilliant tangerine-bellied specimens of feistiness. Browns are showing that yellow-orange spawning coloration as they work their way up smaller spawning streams. Both are eager to chomp down on larger flies, espe-

cially mature hoppers and the ever-effective "Toebiter" fly.

I'd gladly trade a day in chilly March streams for just an hour of trout fishing in late September or early October.

We've had a boisterous month here, with state-record rainfalls (15.33 inches in 24 hours) near Cross Plains and 23 inches over a 10-day period near Ontario. Damage to communities was significant, somewhere well over \$200 million.

Decisions about rebuilding towns, bridges, roads and failed dams lie ahead for those communities. Our hearts go out to many people who lost so much in those

floods, and we hope aid will help them rebuild, if rebuilding is the best choice.

Meanwhile, we're identifying high-priority projects that may include long watershed reaches or possibly retrofitting far older work with more modern techniques. Some work in these streams is nearly 50 years old and is still doing its job, despite being battered by our more intense storms of late.

Along the streams, we have had some incidents that point out safety issues for anglers. One of our friends was wet-wading with a partner last month on a small stream in Monroe County when they approached an electric fence crossing the stream. When one of them crossed under, he must have touched the fence. The ensuing jolt knocked him down and in the fall he broke both his ankles.

As he waited by the streamside for his buddy to walk out to call and meet EMTs, a large bull stopped by and gave him an up-close examination. Perhaps one positive note was that by soaking his injured ankles in the cold water, it might have reduced swelling enough that an orthopedic surgeon could operate the same day, instead of having to wait until swelling was reduced on its own.

Some of those fences carry higher electrical charges than others, but you can't tell until it's an instant too late.

Another friend, president of one of the Chicago area TU chapters, walked the angler's path along a Bad Axe tributary after a high-water incident two years ago. The path was close to the stream, and suddenly the undercut bank collapsed under her. She fell and broke her leg, after which she crawled out to the spot she'd parked her car.

Needless to say, both anglers were out of action for the rest of their seasons.

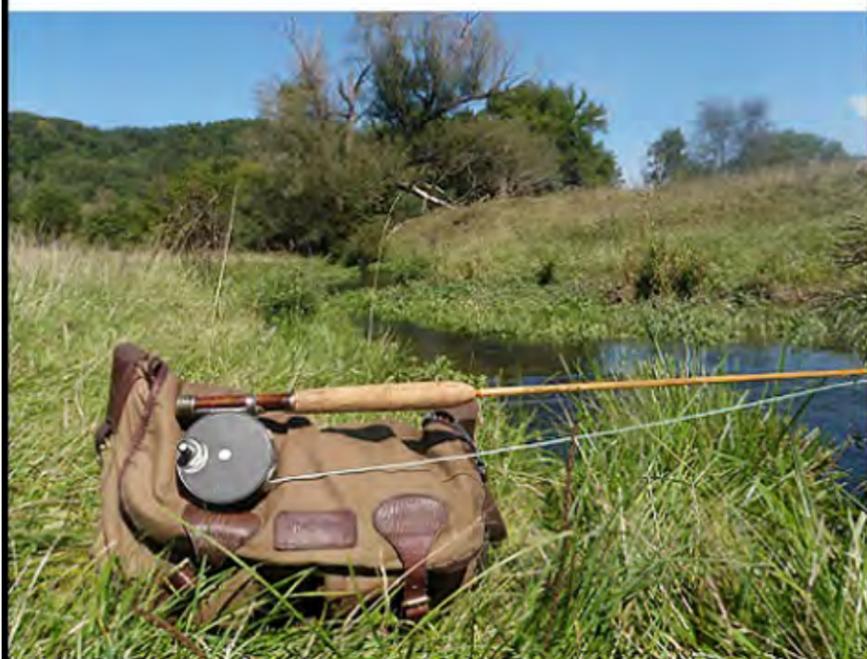
With the flooding around these parts, we have seen significant amounts of sediment gathering in some spots along streams. When it's freshly-laid silt, may look solid, but could be extremely soft. And that firm-looking gravel bar might have a foot more of soft, boot-sucking mud underneath the surface. When you get caught in that stuff, it's a struggle to get yourself extricated. A wading staff can help, but please exercise extra caution right now.

Finally, if you're injured, how do you call for help from these secluded valleys? Fishing with a partner is always a good practice, and you should both carry whistles to summon the other. In some parts of the country, you can text or dial 911 in case of an outdoor emergency, but here in the coulees, if you don't have cell reception, you can't get through to 911, which makes fishing with a buddy that much more important.

You may have your own favorite time of the season, but mine is right here in September. I'm eager to enjoy some of those days on quiet waters with the smell of the leaves as they drop, savoring the autumn colors and maybe finding the best fishing days of the season. Wading around a quiet stream corner and flushing four or five drake wood ducks, listening to the drumming of partridge in a northern Driftless valley, smelling the falling aspen leaves or the last of the mint as you sit to enjoy a sandwich.

Maybe you have found your own special favorite bits to savor. Maybe we'll catch some trout. Often, at times like these, I think of one of John Gierach's nuggets: "...catching fish is the goal of the sport, but

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Statewide Snapshot Day

Groups unite in search for invasives.

By Natalie Dutack, Watershed Groups Manager, River Alliance of Wisconsin

In August aquatic invasive species coordinators and local conservation groups worked together to help search for invasive species in Wisconsin's waters. In its fifth successful year, Snapshot Day is a statewide initiative organized by the River Alliance of Wisconsin, in coordination with the DNR and UW-Extension.

Passionate community members help gather critical data on aquatic invasive species (AIS). Results are submitted to the DNR's SWIMS (Surface Water Integrated Monitoring System) database and used for important prevention and management efforts. This early detection effort is vital in identifying new invaders and monitoring the movements of existing invasive populations in rivers and lakes from Madison to Ashland.

This year 172 volunteers helped monitor more than 160 sites. I had the pleasure of co-hosting our Cross Plains event with the Southwest Badger Research Conservation & Development Council and our fantastic DNR team. Boasting the largest turnout of the year, 25 volunteers helped comb the Black Earth Creek watershed with a targeted focus on Japanese knotweed, purple loosestrife, Japanese hops, and common reed.

Volunteers received training about NZMS, including details of preliminary studies indicating the negative impacts of NZMS in the watershed. Volunteers were instructed to conduct dry sampling methods only, staying out of the waters and decontaminating all equipment used with bleach solution, followed by steam cleaning, which is currently the only effective way to kill NZMS. Two new invasive populations were discovered: Japanese knotweed and a potential encroachment of NZMS into Brewery Creek, where it was previously undocu-

mented. Jeff Jackson, Stewardship Specialist from Southwest Badger, and Amanda Smith, AIS Coordinator for the DNR, were going to verify the results.

Three days after a sunny and near-perfect Snapshot Day, torrential rains lead to historic flooding events in Dane County. With roads closed, bridges out and cars washed away, almost every site we sampled was under water. While Jeff and Amanda work to confirm our sampled population, additional efforts will have to follow later, assessing the full ecological impacts of the flooding. But we remain positive and vigilant.

This event proves that preventing the introduction of invasive species is crucial. But it has also shown us that our outreach efforts are working. In the days after the storms, volunteers contacted us, not only with concerns for our friends and neighbors in Cross Plains, but worries about the spread of mudsnails in flood waters. The message is getting out there and driving action to protect our waters.

How can you help? The River Alliance invites you to join us next year on August 17 for the sixth annual Snapshot Day. This year Cross Plains and La Crosse were the only events in the entire Driftless Area, which has a bounty of rivers and streams. With growing concerns about NZMS, our goal is to add more sites in this region, creating a comprehensive network of volunteers, anglers and paddlers to help combat AIS.

In addition, help is still needed to add more river sites statewide. If your TU chapter would be interested in hosting or joining a Snapshot event, or if you are interested in potential monitoring opportunities related to the flooding of Black Earth Creek watershed, please contact me at: ndutack@wisconsinrivers.org or 608-257-2424 x 111. Thank you for your continued efforts to protect Wisconsin's rivers.

New Zealand mudsnail update

By Natalie Dutack, Watershed Groups Manager, River Alliance of Wisconsin

In the last issue of Wisconsin Trout I listed some useful tools to help combat invasive species. This included recommendations for disinfecting equipment with bleach (two tablespoons of bleach per gallon of water). However, although this method is effective for most aquatic invasive species, it is not effective on New Zealand mudsnails (NZMS).

Currently the only known effective method of killing NZMS is steam. Steam cleaners have shown a 100 percent kill rate when NZMS were exposed to steam from the steam cleaner at a distance of about three cm for five seconds or longer. This method was recently employed at our Cross Plains Snapshot Day event in August, which saw volunteers coming in close contact with the wily NZMS of Black Earth Creek.

At this event, Jeff Jackson, Stewardship Specialist for Southwest Badger Research Conservation & Development Council, shared some important new information on NZMS that further highlights how important prevent-

ing the spread of this invader is. Preliminary research from UW-Madison was conducted under the direction of Bobbi Peckarsky, who is also a board member of the Black Earth Creek Watershed Association (BECWA). It showed early impacts of the invasion. This includes a four-fold increase in snail density since introduction, as well as declines in the health of the native invertebrate community.

While yet to be determined, the decline in invertebrate health contributes to concerns about native fish populations that may rely on these resources. Some positive news is that there are indications that NZMS populations in the western U.S. are crashing. However, proper decontamination and fishing methods, including staying out of infested water and fishing from the shore only, are still required to stop further spreading.

If you are interested in learning more about NZMS and River Alliance's Aquatic Invasive Species training and monitoring programs please contact new Watershed Groups Manager Natalie Dutack at ndutack@wisconsinrivers.org or 608-257-2424 x 111.

Asian carp update

The U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill in September that combines a traditional Water Resources Development Act authorizing new Army Corps of Engineers levee, port and ecosystem projects with the first reauthorization of the Safe Drinking Water Act in two decades. This included provisions related to the Brandon Road Lock and Dam plan to keep Asian carp out of the Great Lakes.

The first adjusted the cost share for the operation and maintenance, and the second removed an amendment that would have required congressional approval to implement new technologies that were not in the Corps' original plan. This gives

the Corps the flexibility to include new barriers that may be more effective without impeding construction while waiting for congressional approval.

Additionally, in October, the chief engineer at the Army Corps will be releasing a draft of the Corps' final recommendation to Congress on what should be done at Brandon Road. Once this is released, there will be a 30-day public comment period. The final draft of this report is scheduled to come out in February of 2019, at which time it will be up to Congress to authorize construction and appropriate the funds to carry out the project.

—Taylor Ridderbusch, TU



SNAPSHOT DAY VOLUNTEERS STEAM CLEANING EQUIPMENT



**We're
Celebrating
25 Years**

By partnering with conservation groups we protect and enhance quality lake and river fishing. Through our fundraising efforts, we donate to children's fishing programs, conservation groups such as The River Alliance. We fund boat ramp improvements and work in cooperation with the Fisheries Bureau, Conservation Congress, and the Natural Resources Board.

**Wisconsin Smallmouth
Alliance**

Join the fun - wisconsin-smallmouth.com



Chapter News

Aldo Leopold Chapter

Our June picnic and fundraiser raised \$2,435 to help fund our projects and activities for the coming year. We'll hold a casting clinic at next year's picnic, with a tentative date of Tuesday, June 11, which will be conducted by professional casting instructor Dave Barron of Jaquish Hollow Angler. This is a great opportunity to get professional casting instruction, at no cost to you, so plan on attending next year's picnic.

Thanks to all who donated food and raffle prizes, as well as those who took the time to attend and participate in the various raffles and silent auctions. We drew in a few new faces this year, and are hoping to see even more ALTU members at future picnics and other TU events.

With all the recent rain and resulting flooding, Aldo members were certainly concerned how Bear Creek has weathered the storms, given the enormous public investment in the multi-year Bear Creek Habitat Improvement Project (BCHIP). Rainfall reports seemed to give us hope that the catastrophic precipitation and flash flood damage reported elsewhere in the Driftless Area might have spared Bear Creek the same fate, and a recent report from a member who had fished there did not include any observation of serious damage.

Bear Creek has also been the subject of board discussions this year as to needed maintenance. Willows have appeared in several places, and with them some beaver activity. While we had a Boy Scout troop do some willow thinning last fall, the benefits of that limited activity won't last long, and other areas will also need brush cutting.

Heavy reed canary grass growth has made some parts of the Bear unfishable during the mid-summer period, though there has been little consensus as to how to manage that problem in a meaningful way, though we will continue exploration of that particular problem.

Our October board meeting will likely produce a lively discussion regarding long-term maintenance for Bear Creek. Chapter expenditures to that end will be a likely item of discussion as well as consideration of our participation in the recently proposed TUDARE maintenance program.

We have members who have participated in the Bear Creek projects by attending the workdays building LUNKER structures, who fish there occasionally or regularly, and have their own concerns as to its long-term condition. All are invited to share in the discussion at our October 10 board meeting at Suzy's Steakhouse in Portage. All board meetings are chapter meetings that are open to all members and the general public as well.

Board meetings are generally lightly attended beyond the board members themselves; however, the long term care of Bear Creek is an issue that we would like to see more members weighing in on. If you wish to attend, please consider joining us for dinner at 5:30 p.m.; otherwise the business meeting will commence once orders have been taken, usually by 5:45 p.m. Email Mike Stapleton at mikestapleton22@gmail.com if you will be present for dinner so we can give the restaurant a seating count.

—Mike Stapleton

Antigo Chapter

I can't believe it's September already. Another Wisconsin summer: hot, cold, dry and then wet. Hope you guys down south made it OK.

Our chapter has had three work days so far this summer. We worked on two signs at project sites, cleaning out the grass. We took one down to repair and paint.

North of Antigo on the east branch of the Eau Claire River at Lions Park, members cut brush and grass away from the fishing dock to make fishing easier.

Last week we went to Bowler High School and set up a new Trout In the Classroom project. This is our third school we have set up in our area. We are very proud to provide this to our area schools.

We started to plan a member fun afternoon to say thanks for all their hard work.

We're planning on seeing everyone at the upcoming State Council meeting in Rhinelander.

—Scott Henricks

Blackhawk Chapter

Blackhawk Chapter members Dave Brethauer, Dave Durant, Dave Blauvelt, Don Studt and

Thomas Lyon participated in the Rock County Youth Outdoor Day, sponsored by Pheasants Forever.



CWTU RECIEVES DNR AWARD

CWTU received an "External Partner Award" from the DNR. CWTU was recognized for its outstanding partnership with the DNR fisheries unit and the quality work it has performed toward our mutual mission of conserving, protecting and restoring Wisconsin's coldwater fisheries.

There were various stations for the next generation of outdoorsmen and outdoorswomen to learn about skills such as target shooting, archery, trapping, game cleaning, waterfowl hunting, fly casting and fly tying. The event attracted more than 70 participants and their mentors.

Each child was instructed on casting a fly rod and was able to tie a fly to take fishing. The materials provided by State Council Education Chair Bob Haase were indispensable. The weather, with a stiff northeast wind, made both pursuits

somewhat of a challenge, but the kids really enjoyed the experience.

We were able to use the new fly rods donated by the LL Bean Company for the casting instruction. These rods add a new dimension to our ability to provide TU awareness throughout the community, and we give many thanks to LL Bean for their support of ours and many other chapters. The kids and parents really liked the casting and fly tying, and Pheasants Forever is hoping we can attend again next year.

—Dave Brethauer and Phil Kirker



YOUTH CAMP STUDENTS SEE HABITAT WORK CLOSE UP

The Wisconsin TU Youth Fishing Camp took place at Pine Lake Bible Camp in July, and CWTU was one of the sponsors. Students were able to visit a work day in progress.

Central Wisconsin Chapter

CWTU is having a great year, thanks to our volunteers.

CWTU has been busy maintaining and restoring our precious water for the next generation to enjoy. CWTU had five work days this year. Our volunteers are phenomenal. CWTU's Workday Coordinator Dennis Drazkowski is responsible for making the workdays flow smoothly.

We are also grateful for the leadership of Shawn Sullivan, team supervisor with the DNR, and his crew, for making the habitat days successful. We could not accomplish the great restoration work without his leadership. Together we are able to make a difference.

More than 40 people attended the June CWTU work day on the West Branch of the White River. It was a great success.

CWTU received an "External Partner Award" from the DNR. CWTU was recognized for the outstanding partnership we have developed with the DNR fisheries unit and the quality work we have performed toward our mutual mission of conserving, protecting and restoring Wisconsin's coldwater fisheries. They have recognized our work towards education, river monitoring and habitat restoration.

DNR Deputy Director Todd Kalish presented the award, while Laura Tucker, Dennis Drazkowski and Bob Joswowski accepted the award.

During the June work day, electro-shocking of 1,000 feet of the West Branch of the White River resulted in 216 trout: 199 browns and 17 rainbows. Shawn Sullivan gave a

presentation on conservation, water quality and purpose of bank covers, and maintenance of the fish population.

Jamie Ruppel created a plant identification hunt. The winner of the plant identification program was Chris Northway. He won a number of flies tied by no other than the DNR crew. What a gift! The day ended with many stories told while having a shore lunch of fried chicken, potato salad and the more, created by Dennis Drazkowski. What a great and fun day. Thanks to all our volunteers who attended.

The July Work Day took place on the West Branch of the White River, with a great turnout of 72 volunteers. The Wisconsin State TU Youth Fishing School students and their mentors came for the day. Shawn Sullivan taught them the purpose of stream restoration.

A surprise guest showed up much to everyone's dismay. A yearling bear presented himself and was enamored by the DNR Kubota. No other bears were sighted, but were perhaps close by and out of sight.

Dennis Drazkowski once again put on a great day with continental breakfast and a shore side lunch of chicken, potato salad, green salad, brownies and cookies. Al Sanders entertained us by playing his fiddle. How great does it get sitting along the river, talking with friends and coworkers, feeling the breeze on your face, eating great food and listening to the fiddle?

Our August workday on the Pine River was a great success, and we accomplished a lot, including sub-

Chapter News



CWTU WORKS ON BANK STRUCTURES

CWTU's August workday on the Pine River was a great success, and they accomplished a lot, including substantial completion of two bank covers.

stantial completion of two bank covers. Many thanks to Dennis Drazkowski for his behind-the-scene organizational skills to make the habitat work days run smoothly. Nate Ratliff from FVTU attends the CWTU work days regularly and captures the day's activities with his photography and video-taking skills. CWTU thanks Nate for his hard work.

The latest work day was in September on the Pine River.

Safety comes first to CWTU. Dennis Drazkowski has created safety first aid and supply back packs for all CWTU crew teams working on the rivers, as we have a number of teams working at different locations on the river. The supply pack is filled with water, glucose tablets, power bars, soda pop, first-aid supplies and GPS coordinates of location of work, so if an emergency occurs the 911 response team knows where to locate our volunteers.

The Wisconsin TU Youth Fishing Camp took place at Pine Lake Bible Camp in July, and CWTU was one of the sponsors. Wayne Parmley of CWTU coordinates the camp. Eighteen students ages 12-16 attended, helped by 18 mentors sharing their knowledge. A number of CWTU members helped make the camp successful. Thanks to Wayne for his donation of time and relentless energy to make this happen.

The Riverkeepers are busy monitoring the streams and rivers monthly. We are 97 volunteer's strong, thanks to the efforts of Bob Joswowski, our Riverkeepers coordinator. A SWIMs data entry and report generation training session was held in July in Green Lake. Bob Joswowski coordinated the day with 12 participants attending.

CWTU had three picnics this summer. The June 12 picnic/meeting was held at Bird Creek, Wautoma with Shawn Sullivan speaking

about the upcoming work of the DNR and CWTU to restore Bird Creek. Many local individuals attended the event.

We held our July picnic/meeting on the Pine River at the Tuckers. Some anglers came early to practice their casting. Dan Harmon III was available for advice. Baked chicken with the fixings were enjoyed. The cherry, peach, rhubarb and apple crisp pies were a hit. Many thanks to Ira and Karen Giese for their help with the feast.

We held our August 14 picnic/barbecue at Harvey Jones' home on the Pine River. Members tried out their casting and fishing techniques on the Pine. What a beautiful setting. CWTU is thankful to the generosity of its members for making the summer picnics a great success.

Our educational programs are again starting in September, with Jim Hauer and Tony Garvey discussing spring ponds. Upcoming programs include:

October: CWTU Annual Conservation Banquet

November 13: "Is It The Fly Or The Presentation," by Bob Haase

December 11: "Successful Fly Fishers And Their Favorite Piece Of Gear," with 15 presenters

January 8: "Nymph fishing," by guide Jim Bartelt

February 23: TroutFest 19

March 12: Steelhead fishing with Jeff Treu

April 9: "Wisconsin Hatches: The Bugs And The Flies To Imitate Them," with presenter to be determined.

May 14: Bob Hunt science program, details to be determined

Don't forget to come to the CWTU Conservation Banquet Saturday, October 27 from 4:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Best Western Premier Waterfront Hotel & Convention Center in Oshkosh. See our website for ticket and raffle ticket

information. The kayak raffle is for a Catch 100 Angler Kayak, a 10-foot sit-on-top kayak made by Pelican International of Canada.

Thanks again to all our volunteers for making our chapter awesome. The chapter would not be

successful without the talent and effort of our members. Their work is very much what makes CWTU unique and a fun chapter to be a member of.

—Laura Tucker



Roger Genske

FVTU MEMBERS HELP WITH BANK STRUCTURE

FVTU members helped at an August habitat day on the Pine River. Volunteers split up into two crews for work on beaming and planking two sections of the river. One section of planking covered about 85' of river bank and the other section covered about 120' of river bank.

Fox Valley Chapter

The Fox Valley Chapter has been involved in and with a number of activities this summer. These activities have included introducing youth to fishing and fly tying, habitat work on the West Branch of the White River and habitat work on the Pine River. Planning for the upcoming fall meetings and winter meetings has also been on our agenda.

A number of chapter members assisted with the Wisconsin TU Youth Camp in July. FVTU members included Jen Folz and Tom Lager. Youth members Emily Hodson and Zach Klingseisen, past youth camp students, also assisted with the activities. FVTU sponsored two youth for the event this summer: Anton Granatella and Jack Lewis.

Habitat days this summer have been held on the West Branch of the White River near Wautoma and the Pine River just northeast of Wild Rose. They were joint efforts with CWTU and a team from the Wild Rose DNR station. There were also a number of participants from a number of other TU chapters.

The July Habitat Day included a presentation by Shawn Sullivan from the Wild Rose DNR station, and included information about plants and animals that inhabit the area of the work site on the West Branch of the White River. The students from the youth fishing camp then joined us for a fishing shocking demonstration, and we saw some nice brown trout. Perhaps we didn't accomplish a great deal of physical work that day, but we did learn about the habitat in the area and the shocking demo verified that fish

are using the structures that we have placed in the river.

The August habitat day on the Pine River was very productive. Volunteers split up into two crews for work on beaming and planking two sections of the river. The DNR LTE crew had the posts in place so the work on the placing and the fastening of the beams and planking made for efficient use of the volunteer's time. One section of planking covered about 85' of river bank and the other section covered about 120' of river bank.

The Pine River was also the site for our September habitat day. The work included finishing up the bank cover work and completing the removal of some of the invasive plants along the riverbank.

Our monthly chapter meetings started up again with the first meeting in September at the Capitol Centre on the north side of Appleton. The event was a social night and a chance for members to share stories, pictures and videos of recent fishing trips.

We are in the planning stages for our 18th annual Cabin Fever Day fundraiser January 19 at the Grand Meridian in Appleton. Watch our website for details. Also check our website and the fly-tying section created by Duane Velie. It is very informative. Also check out Chapter Chef Bob Kinderman's recipes in our newsletters. Jesse Walters also offers some excellent fly-tying instruction in our newsletters. Enjoy the last few days of summer and Wisconsin fishing.

—Rich Erickson

Frank Hornberg Chapter

One of the first major construction projects of the Hornberg Chapter was a K dam structure we installed just downstream from a bridge over the Tomorrow River in Nelsonville in 1996. We used the de-

sign described by Bob Hunt in Trout Stream Therapy, using logs, wire netting and many, many sandbags.

After aging gracefully for 22 years, the K dam needed some attention. In June a team of Hornberg



Roger Genske

FVTU JOINS CWTU, DNR ON WORK DAYS

FVTU habitat days this summer have been held on the West Branch of the White River near Wautoma and the Pine River just northeast of Wild Rose. They were joint efforts with CWTU and a team from the Wild Rose DNR station. There were also a number of participants from a number of other TU chapters.



Chapter News



LOOKING BACK: HORNBERG CHAPTER WORK DAY IN 1996

After aging gracefully for 22 years, the K dam that the chapter built in 1996 on the Tomorrow River in Nelsonville needed some attention. In June a team of Hornberg members built up the sides of the dam using Ken Pierce's trailer to move loads of rocks donated by Jim Henke. As a result, the river has scoured out a chest-deep hole below the structure.

members built up the sides of the dam using Ken Pierce's trailer to move loads of rocks donated by Jim Henke. As a result, the river has scoured out a chest-deep hole below the structure. It was a total success.

Our chapter continues to watch the development of the Amherst mill pond after the draw-down of two years ago. The original channel remains open. Earlier in the summer a DNR crew, accompanied by Hornbergers, shocked the channel and found both brown and brook trout of impressive size. This section of the river would now qualify as a Class I trout stream.

In August we held our annual river clean-up day, held in conjunction with the Friends of the Tomorrow/Waupaca River. Stu Grimstad organized the project. We were pleased to have a new team composed of Mike Berto and friends join us. Teams worked on sections of the river from the Hemp fishing grounds to the County Highway Q bridge in Waupaca County.

Green Bay Chapter

It was an exciting summer for GBTU. The kickoff was on June 7 with the Annual Picnic, where chapter members and their families enjoyed fellowship and good food at the NEW Zoo Pine Forest Pavilion. Brats and hamburgers served as the main course and many members pitched in for a potluck dinner. The night made some good memories.

In June the work season continued with members from Green Bay, Oconto River, Wolf River, Marinette and Fox Valley chapters, along with the DNR's Taylor Curran and the Antigo Fisheries Crew, helping with a Christmas tree brush-bundling project on the Evergreen River. This is the third year we've been working the Evergreen. The stream has a high bed load of sand and silt, which made it a perfect candidate for bundling. Bundles were placed in areas with soft sediments, on the inside edges of bends and in wide shallow areas to force the stream to flush down to desirable gravel and rubble substrates.

On July 21, Members from the Green Bay, Oconto River, Wolf River, Marinette and Fox Valley chapters, along with the DNR and the U.S. Forest Service-Lakewood-Laona Ranger District led by Tom Morris, worked on the North Branch Oconto River off

One notable improvement was the removal of a very large oak tree upstream from the Lake Myers Road crossing. As a reward for their labors, workers were treated to a hot lunch at the Rising Star Mill in Nelsonville.

Following a suggestion by Chapter President Matt Salchert, we had our September board of director's meeting at the Ruby Coffee property in Nelsonville. Business was conducted outdoors on picnic tables on a warm late summer evening. Snacks and refreshments were added treats.

Doug Erdmann reported on the August Pine River work day held in conjunction with three other TU chapters and the DNR. Also, he will now be keeping our website up to date with news, pictures and announcements of upcoming events. Chapter members can now consult the website (hornberg-tu.org) for the latest chapter information.

—John Vollrath

State Highway 32 about two miles north of Wabeno. Excellent work has been done over the past five years through this section, but as we all know, there is always more to be done. This year we focused on adding logs, root wads and brush bundles, in addition to completing fishability brushing.

In August, members from the Green Bay, Oconto River, Wolf River, Marinette, Fox Valley chapters and the DNR, led by Kyle Sieber's team out of Lakewood, continued brushing work started last year on Eagle Creek in Marinette County. Brushing and opening this section up a little more will allow for better fishability and angler access, as well as make the beauty of the stream more visible.

Our Veterans Service Program has been meeting on a biweekly basis to tie flies and do some fly fishing on local ponds. Our TU volunteers and veterans meet at Tight Lines Fly Fishing Company to tie flies and have gone on three outings to local ponds to test out their flies and casting skills. Gary Gillis, Jack Koivisto, Paul Kruse and Jim Vandenbranden are our TU members lending helping hands to our fine veterans.

This summer GBTU sponsored two young men to camps related to fishing and conservation. Aled

Griffiths attended the National TU Teen Summit in June in Roanoke, Virginia. He will be sharing his experience with GBTU general membership at an upcoming membership meeting. William Mooren attended the State Council Youth Camp in July.

We held our Kids Fishing Day in July at the Izaak Walton League ponds in Green Bay. This was a joint effort of the Brown County Social Services PALS program, GBTU, Izaak Walton League and the Green Bay Exchange Club. This program allows for children to enjoy a day of fishing in a relaxing natural environment away from the stress of daily life.

We had seven chapter volunteers at this successful event. Lee Meyers, Pat Hill, Bruce Deuchert, Dennis Gussek, Aled Griffiths, Anthony Schaut and Dave Ostanek. About 150 people attended throughout the afternoon.

GBTU got involved in two summer schools this year. Jack Koivisto and Dave Ostanek volunteered time with fly tying and fly casting

during the Edison Summer Schools Outdoor Adventures class. GBTU also gave some instruction and lent out equipment to the Pulaski summer school fly fishing class, headed up by Dennis Bogacz.

In September we were involved with the Outagamie Conservation Club's Women's Outdoor Workshop program. GBTU volunteers taught a fly-casting session in which the women learned to cast and did actual fly fishing on the pond at the club's facility. There were 53 women involved in the program and 19 signed up for the fly-fishing course. The women were all first-time fly anglers and did a fantastic job, successfully catching fish. Jack Koivisto, Jerry Schwan, Pam VanErman, and Dave Ostanek from the chapter led the classes.

We will continue with our fall meetings every first Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Townline Pub & Grill, 2544 Lineville Road, Suamico. We will close the year with our Christmas Party on December 6 at the same venue.

—Staush Gruzynski

Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter

Kurt Meyer taught fly tying and casting to a group of teens in Fennimore using the chapters rods and tying equipment. They were successful in catching a few panfish.

Nohr TU had a celebration on the Blue River off Bower Road in August. About 45 people attended, including friends of the chapter, DNR staff, landowners, chapter



BLUEGILLS ARE A PERFECT FISH TO GET YOUNGSTERS STARTED

Kurt Meyer and his daughter inspect a bluegill. Kurt taught fly tying and casting to a group of teens in Fennimore using the chapter's rods and tying equipment. They were successful in catching a few panfish.

Chapter News



Carol Murphy

NOHR CHAPTER CELEBRATES ON THE BLUE RIVER

The Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter had a celebration on the Blue River off Bower Road in August. About 45 people attended, including friends of the chapter, DNR staff, landowners, chapter members and family members.

members and family members.

The DNR did a fish-shocking demo, bringing up many fine fish from the stream, where we did work last summer.

Many thanks to Bradd Sims and his staff for doing the shocking, Don Plummer for arranging the food, Doug Stockli for prepping the food and Kurt Myer and Gene Mazewski for the casting clinic. Next year we are planning another outing and inviting other chapters.

The Lee Wulff Chapter out of Chicago had some folks come up and put in two stiles on the Blue River property where we had the gathering above.

Work on the Blue River off She-mak Road down to Biba Road is almost done. Work on Six Mile Branch won't start until September. Work on Blue River by and in the

Snow Bottom Natural Area will most likely have to wait until 2019.

Our chapter sent three kids to the State Council Youth Fishing Camp. This is a thank-you note I received from one of them:

"I am so thankful that I got to go to the Trout Unlimited fishing camp. I am thankful that Kurt Meyer asked me to go. I got to brush up on my fly fishing and how to tie the flies. Kurt got me started on fly tying. I was a great time and was the first camp I have ever been to. I got to make new friends and best of all I got to fish. I did get a couple of trout. I was able to help the kids at my school with our summer school program. I helped them to get more fish. Thanks so much!! Isaac Wheeler Bonilla."

—Brian Larson

Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter

Field work continued on the Trimbelle throughout the summer with mulching and installation of erosion matting, under the direction of the DNR.

In August numerous Kiap-TU-Wish volunteers helped with electrofishing on the Eau Galle, Kinnickinnic, Rush and Willow rivers. Electrofishing was also completed on Plum Creek, a box elder jungle that Randy Arnold, the chapter's project volunteer coordinator, can hardly wait to tackle.

Behind the scenes, Loren Haas and his Long-Range Planning Committee worked with the DNR to put together site maintenance plans for stream sections that have already been restored, in addition to plan-

ning future restoration projects.

The chapter was also busy throughout the summer with youth education and outreach activities.

July saw Kiap-TU-Wish volunteers teaming up with Kinnickinnic River Land Trust volunteers to mentor teenage girls from Northwest Passage in fly fishing at various sites along the Kinni.

A couple of the girls ended up being fly-casting naturals, evoking "fly casting envy" from the mentors. Bruce Maher organized chapter volunteers to mentor youth from the YMCA in fly casting, also along the Kinni.

In September Kiap-TU-Wish displayed their conservation booth at Pheasant Forever's Youth Game Fair, where young people experi-



Tom Schnadt

KIAP CHAPTER CONTINUES WORK ALONG TRIMBELLE RIVER

Field work continued on the Trimbelle River throughout the summer, with mulching and installation of erosion matting, under the direction of the DNR.

ence fly fishing, archery and hunting. Bill Hinton provided hands-on casting instruction. Tom Schnadt and Dan Wilcox explained Kiap's stream restoration work and educational programs.

Nine youth chose to try fly fishing in the nearby Trimbelle stream. Randy Arnold, Loren Hass, John Kaplan, Dan Donahue, Joseph Duncan and Dan Duncan provided hands-on-stream instruction. Four youth caught their first trout on a fly

rod.

During the event one of last year's students thanked Dan Donahue for taking him fishing last year. He told Dan, "You really turned me on to fly fishing." Dan learned that the two brothers had bought introductory fly rods and reels and now fish all the time.

—Scott Wagner, Tom Schnadt, Randy Arnold, Maria Manion

Lakeshore Chapter

Lakeshore TU has had a busy summer. In May we voted for a new class of officers and board members who will focus on developing a long-term strategic plan that will encompass stream work, public outreach, membership growth and education.

We have enjoyed some success in these areas and have seen a few new members join the chapter this past year and increased turnout on work-days. We hope to keep this membership trend going as we work on the development of our long-term stream project plan, which will focus our efforts on five Sheboygan County trout streams.

We are confident that this plan will excite the membership and will help drive continued interest in the chapter.

We have also tried to keep momentum going with monthly work

days split between our pride and joy, the Onion River, and some other small area streams, including Nichols creek, which is the headwater to the Milwaukee River.

Most of the work has been brushing out areas that have been neglected for many years.

One of the projects we are working on in partnership with the DNR is on the Onion River, where we are adding brush bundles in several strategic spots to help narrow and divert the flow to improve a section of river that has yet to get work.

Overall, it has been an exciting summer for the chapter and we are even more excited for the future and the local streams that we hope, with some attention, will again be quality trout streams.

—Stephen Girardi

Marinette Chapter

We had a very successful banquet in April and were able to fund all of our projects this summer. We had two kids fishing days in Marinette and in the Coleman pound area. We also sent kids to the Sand lake conservation camp and the State Coun-

cil Youth Camp. Our monthly chapter meetings will be starting up again in October.

—Dale Lange



OCONTO CHAPTER HOLDS YOUTH FISHING DAY

A Summer School Fishing Day was held in July at Brunner's Pond in Underhill. Youth first took part in casting instructions and then took their skills to the pond to try their luck. A total of 24 youth participated. Chapter members contributing were Paul Welch, Jim Trochta, Tom Klatt and Dale Halla.



Chapter News

Oconto River Chapter

The chapter continued to work on stream projects with the Green Bay, Marinette and Wolf River chapters. This year's projects include brushing, bundling and structure rehab work on the South and North Branch of the Oconto River and Eagle Creek.

A Summer School Fishing Day was held in July at Brunner's Pond in Underhill. Youth first took part in casting instructions and then took their skills to the pond to try their luck. A total of 24 youth participated. Chapter members contributing were Paul Welch, Jim Trochta, Tom Klatt and Dale Halla.

The chapter set up a booth at the Oconto County Youth Fair in August. We displayed a "Trout-In-the-Classroom" setup, complete with chiller and live trout, which was donated by the Lakewood Fish Hatchery. The TIC setup is similar to units supported by the chapter in Oconto County and neighboring counties. A total of 10 area schools utilize the TIC curriculum.

In August chapter members participated in the Suring Sportsmen's Youth Day. Nearly 40 kids participated in the event. Our chapter provided the opportunity for each child to catch a trout. Other members ran a casting contest and gave away rod and reel combos for prizes. Still others offered to teach fly casting to those who wanted to learn another type of fishing.

The annual Special Needs Fishing Day was held in September at Brunner's Pond. Participants were treated to a picnic lunch before fishing for the big one. Fish caught are cleaned and sent along with the anglers and his or her caregiver for a fish fry at their home. Details of the event will be shared in the next Wisconsin Trout.

Our membership meetings are held monthly (excluding May and November) on the first Wednesday of each month at the Lone Oak Gun Club just North of Gillett, starting at 7 p.m.

—Tom Klatt

Shaw-Paca Chapter

After a long summer of catching (well, trying to) fish and enjoying the summer sun, the Shaw-Paca chapter is ready to get back to work.

Meetings will resume in October and will once again be held the third Thursday of each month. Call me at 715-304-7581 if you're interested in attending meetings, helping with the annual banquet or with any questions regarding the chapter or local waters.

The chapter will once again be offering a scholarship to a UW-Stevens Point student who is going into the field of fisheries management/

studies. We've also renewed subscriptions to local libraries/schools for "TROUT Magazine." We look forward to continuing our work with the DNR's Wild Rose work crew on local waters, and obtaining additional easements and access points. The chapter's annual banquet is tentatively scheduled for April 4, 2019 at Northwinds Banquet Hall in Marion. Again, if you'd like to help or have any donations/items to give, please contact Nate at the number above. See you on the water.

—Nate Sipple

Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter

It has been another busy summer for the Southeast Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited (SEWTU). We've had several productive workdays, educational workshops, classes and clinics. As the summer winds down we will continue to organize workdays and outreach opportunities for members and the general public, as well as resuming our

monthly chapter meetings.

SEWTU members participated in several stream outings this summer. We have been working on Scuppernong Creek in the South Unit of the Kettle Moraine State Forest every December for several years now. With all the work we've done, the stream is looking really nice and the brook trout are thriving.



SEWTU OFFERED ITS FAMILY STREAM EXPLORATION DAY RECENTLY

Henry Koltz and a team of hard-working future stream conservation volunteers enjoying SEWTU's fifth annual Family Stream Exploration Day.



FUTURE CASTERS OF AMERICA

Future casters of America enjoyed the fifth annual SEWTU Family Stream Exploration Day activities.

ing.

In July on Scuppernong we installed biologists and backfilling behind them with brush matting. We also moved a large amount of rock and gravel to improve stream flow and lower the backwater. Additionally, a work crew equipped with waders, work gloves, safety glasses and loppers cut a significant amount of brush from areas adjacent to the creek.

The DNR provided an electrofishing display so we could see the brook trout benefitting from our efforts. The workday finished with our traditional brat fry lunch. Thanks go out to Rick Frye for leading the coordination of another worthy project on one of our backyard gems of a stream.

In August we held our fifth annual SEWTU Family Stream Exploration Day at Paradise Springs near Eagle. This free event is a great way to share our passion for trout and coldwater conservation with our families, friends and neighbors.

The day features activities for kids to get wet, explore the stream and learn about trout habitat through hands-on activities including kick netting, aquatic insect identification, a casting station and stream table experiments to learn how water and streams flow. There was also a tour of the spring house, pond and spring.

After all of the excitement, everyone enjoyed a cookout at the park shelter with hot dogs, bratwurst, chips and deserts. Three cheers to Henry Koltz, his family and our chapter volunteers for making this a day to remember and most likely plant the seed for future volunteer members to continue the mission.

Some participants stayed after to fish for recently released rainbow trout that our chapter sponsored for the DNR to stock in the newly restored Paradise Spring pond. In July the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel ran a great article about some of our recent work on Paradise Springs, and highlighted the restocking of the pond with 175 hatchery-raised rainbow trout that fight like Great Lakes steelhead. The article can be found at this link <https://www.jsonline.com/story/sports/columnists/paul-smith/2018/07/18/trout-unlimited-chapter-helps-improve-paradise-springs-habitat-fishery/793911002/>

Also in August was our annual Casting Clinic, thanks to the coordination of Chapter Treasurer Stan Strelka. It's open to the public and provides a great opportunity for new

and experienced fly casters to improve their skills, pick up some new tricks and make new friends. Some of our more experienced and expert fly casters are on hand to help improve casting skills. This event is always a lot of fun and one of our favorite events of the year, with a great summer cookout.

The SEWTU Veterans Services Program, known as "Veterans on the Fly," and led by John Graba, continues to provide opportunities for our area veterans. In addition to regular fly-tying and rod-building sessions, SEWTU volunteers organize and assist at fishing outings.

Our members joined veterans multiple times at Rushing Waters Fisheries and helped them to catch plenty of trout, with some taunting from the flies they had tied. This is a great opportunity for fishing and camaraderie, while helping give back to the veterans who have served our country to maintain the freedoms we all enjoy.

Greg Schick and the Oak Creek Fly Tying Group will continue with the monthly fly-tying sessions at the Oak Creek Community Center at 8580 South Howell Avenue. These sessions run from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, running through May of 2019.

SEWTU monthly chapter meetings resume in September after the summer hiatus at the Thunder Bay Grill, at the intersection of I-94 and Highway 164 in Pewaukee. Meetings are the fourth Tuesday of each month and are open to the public.

In September we welcomed Senior Fisheries Biologist for Racine, Kenosha and Walworth Counties Luke Roffler. Luke has been doing a great job identifying habitat projects and improving streams for trout. His talk focused on how things are looking up for coldwater fish communities in Southeast Wisconsin.

From big habitat restoration projects, to new trout stocking locations, to exciting monitoring surveys, it's a good time to be a trout fan in this area. Highlights included the fantastic collaborative work with SEWTU to include restoration work at Bluff Creek and Whitewater Creek, upcoming restoration at Tichigan Creek, and inaugural stocking events across the area.

In September we resumed working at Bluff Creek, near Whitewater. The DNR, under Luke Roffler's leadership and guidance, completed the last phase of the re-meander project this past winter. The project has been an overall success, but

Chapter News



there are some large areas where it was not possible to excavate the former channel and therefore the existing ditch channel needed to remain and be enhanced. The enhancements included installation of coir logs to narrow the channel, increase stream velocities and mobilize soft sediments.

These efforts should make the ditch channel more trout friendly. In order for this technique to work, we will be cutting and placing brush matting behind the coir logs to slow stream flows, allow sediment to accumulate behind the logs and eventually form a new stream bank.

The work day will consist of teams that will work on cutting brush nearby, or installing additional logs and placing the cut brush. This work will continue enhancing the recently completed re-meander project and build on the premier fishing produced by other restoration projects upstream and downstream of the proposed project site.

Special thanks to our habitat committee volunteers for providing our members with the opportunity to get out on a stream and do good work to help improve the fisheries in our backyard and deliver on the TU mission.

Remaining events and activities include:

Early October: Annual Fin and Feather Festival, Shorewood, WI

Early October: Annual Root River Steelhead Facility Open House
 October 20: Bluff Creek Workday number 2, Whitewater
 Late October: Annual Fundraiser/Banquet
 Late November: Chapter meeting
 Mid- December: Chapter meeting/Holiday Party
 December 1: Scuppernong River Workday number 2, Kettle Moraine Southern Unit

For more information or to participate, contact Habitat Committee Chair and Board Member Andy Avgoulas at andyavgoulas@gmail.com

Watch for our monthly email updates in your inbox from "South-eastern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited" for the latest opportunities and updates to participate in activities.

We are fortunate to have dedicated volunteer members who are active and willing to take leadership and organizational roles for workdays, education and outreach events. We can always use more help and appreciate any time you are willing to give. Our commitment is to continue providing outreach opportunities to help educate others about our mission, to conserve, protect and restore coldwater resources for future generations.

—Todd Durian

Southern Wisconsin Chapter

The Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited is gearing up for a busy fall of meetings, workdays, advocacy, education and preparing for our big annual Icebreaker event.

On the meeting front, please note that our monthly chapter gatherings are shifting to the second Thursday of the month. It had been Tuesdays, which had a lot of conflicts for many.

We'd love for you to join us at our fall Stream Team workdays. They are on Saturdays, starting at 9 and finishing around noon. Our chainsaw team gets there a little earlier and starts cutting the heavy stuff up into manageable pieces. The rest then haul, stack, lop or lend a hand.

It's great fun, makes a big difference and absolutely zero experience is required. Dates are October 12, October 27, November 10 and December 1. See swtu.org for details.

Please save the date for our Icebreaker event Saturday, January 26, 2019 at the American Family Insurance Headquarters in Madison. We're putting the finishing touches on an engaging and fun day. Watch *Wisconsin Trout* and our website for details!

Please bookmark swtu.org and stay in touch with our events, actions and opportunities.

—Drew Kasel



Jim Beecher

SWTU HOSTED A RECENT OUTING FOR VETERANS



MANY HANDS MAKE FOR LIGHT WORK
 SWTU Stream Team volunteers on a recent work day.

Wild Rivers Chapter

We've had our share of rain in Wild Rivers country, and in the whole state. Summer 2018 hit us with a rain event that dropped more than 10 inches for the third time in six years. Road crossings and trout streams have been pounded by intense runoff and erosion.

Despite this, resilient resident fish have held tight in the streams, showing their adaptability and resilience. Migratory fish are starting to

take advantage of all the recent rainfall and enter the Lake Superior tributaries under the cover of turbid water. Lake-run browns should be pouring into the Brule in good numbers.

In July, Wild Rivers chapter members Frank Pratt, Jason Stewart and Bob Rice joined Max Wolter, fisheries biologist in Sawyer County, to assist with his annual electro-shocking survey of a section of the



Max Wolter

WILD RIVERS ELECTRO-SHOCKING SUPPORT CREW
 Wild Rivers Chapter members and other volunteers relax after helping the DNR's Max Wolter with electro-shocking on the Namekagon River.



WHAT'S SWIMMING IN THE NAMEKAGON RIVER?
 The Wild Rivers Chapter helped the DNR electro shocking crew during an outing on the Namekagon River. The survey revealed a good diversity of fish species and a nice representation of trout ranging from just over an inch to 20 inches.



Chapter News

Namekagon River. Members of the Youth Conservation Congress and National Park Service employees from the Hayward and St. Croix offices were also on hand to assist. The survey revealed a good diversity of fish species and a nice representation of trout ranging from just over an inch to 20 inches.

Bill Heart hiked into an area

where Wild Rivers members planted trees a couple of years ago to check how many trees survived the time span. Bill's report was a little disappointing in that many of the trees, especially cedar, were no longer alive. It does motivate the chapter to revisit the site for more planting next year.

—*Bob Rice*

Wisconsin River Valley Chapter

I hope everyone's summer was as wonderful as it could be. My thoughts go out to those who have been affected by the horrible flooding in late August. The closest I have come to experiencing anything like that was getting a visit from the campground host at Sidie Hollow to let us know that we should pack in a hurry because of the approaching storm that was expected to dump 4 inches of rain.

An hour later we were driving in the pouring rain and heading east out of Vernon County. I remember being surprised at how quickly the creeks were rising in the short time that we were driving. My thoughts are with you.

In July, I headed down to WI-TU's Youth Fishing Camp to help look after this year's group of students. We did have to battle some rainy weather this year. It seemed like we would have some break time between presentations and get geared up and head down to the lake and it would start raining. There was a lot of fly-tying material to choose from at the lodge, so the kids would work on tying that magic fly for their fly box that would entice that whopper of a fish at the next outing or their home waters or perhaps an upcoming family trip. It was neat to watch.

While I was at camp, John

Meachen headed north to the Newman Creek brushing project. John and two other members from TU and five people from the U.S. Forestry Service cleared and bundled about 150 yards of stream. This is funded by a grant from the Trout and Salmon Foundation to work with the U.S. Forestry Service to restore this high-quality brook trout stream.

Many thanks to all the people who attended and to Laura McFarland for getting the grant and to bring these groups together for this project.

In September John Meachen and Kirk Stark attended a town hall meeting with Senator Tammy Baldwin and other conservation groups to discuss the Land/Water Conservation Fund and how to preserve access to public lands.

Our chapter will be having board elections in December and we are looking for people interested in coldwater conservation to join our group. You can contact us through our Facebook page or through our website at wrvtu.org.

Please watch our Facebook page for presentation announcements coming in early 2019.

—*Linda Lehman*



KING OF THE DAM!

Volunteer Brian Biemier stands upon remnants of a large beaver dam on Ninemile Creek. The Wolf River Chapter has been working on dam removal on the important coldwater tributary of the Wolf River.

water into the Wolf River. We completed more, thanks to our great volunteers. A big thanks to all of

you.

—*Andy Killoren*

Oak Brook Chapter

Oak Brook Chapter members will return to the Coldwater River near Alto, Michigan on October 13 to continue a four-year macroinvertebrate survey as part of a Michigan Clean Water Corps grant. The survey runs from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., with the meeting location at the Tyler Creek Country Club in Alto, Michigan.

As with past spring and fall surveys, audit teams will be formed, and each team will visit one of five sites along the Coldwater River or

its major tributaries. Each site will be observed for any physical changes since the June audit. Then samples will be taken by volunteers using D-nets from the various habitat types within each site. Samples will be collected into large pails before each team returns to our base at Tyler Creek Country Club, where we will identify and count everything collected.

—*Jim Schmiedeskamp*

Coulee Region Chapter

Trout Fest in Coon Valley on July 21 was a great day. We had more than a dozen volunteers work with nearly 200 kids and family members to have a good time catching trout on Coon Creek. Hard to believe that just a month later, the town of Coon Valley and Vets Park would suffer severe damage from flooding.

Our first chapter meeting of the year was on September 19 and we were fortunate to have Tim Landwehr of Tight Lines Fishing Company be our guest presenter. His presentation on modern fly techniques for smallmouth bass was fantastic. If you ever have the opportunity to see Tim present, do it. He's very informative and entertaining.

Our October meeting will be at the West View Inn in West Salem on the 17th. DNR fisheries biologist Kirk Olson is our guest presenter on the topic of beavers and how they impact trout streams. He'll also give

us an update on the general health of our area trout waters.

On November 13 we will hear from our friend Jay Thurston to learn more about trout fishing in the Coulee Region. This meeting will be at the Legion in Viroqua.

Our December 19 meeting will be at the Pearl Street Brewery tasting room in La Crosse. Fly tying and rod building (and repair) will be the focus of the night. Cy Post will lead the fly tying and John Townsell and Bob Hubbard will show us how they build and repair rods. Feel free to bring your own gear and materials to participate this evening. Whether you are a novice or expert, you will learn something. We will have extra vises and materials on hand for anyone who wants to learn to tie. This event will go from 6-8:30 pm.

For all the details of the Coulee Region chapter, find us on Facebook or at www.couleeregiontu.org. —*Curt Rees*



BUSY BEAVERS MAKE FOR BUSY VOLUNTEERS

The Wolf River Chapter worked to improve the coldwater flow into the Wolf River by doing some beaver dam removal on Ninemile Creek.

Wolf River Chapter

During the summer of 2018 the Wolf River Chapter rededicated itself to clearing beaver dams from Ninemile Creek, an important spring-fed coldwater tributary of the Wolf River.

To begin this project, we hired a trapper early in the spring to eliminate the beaver. Then we needed to remove existing dams and feed beds that were blocking the main channel of Ninemile Creek. The chapter

spent five Saturdays, some of the hottest ones, working to clear the dams to drain the beaver ponds.

We discovered as we began clearing dams and the beaver ponds began draining that more dams were exposed. As beaver are busy critters, this will need to be a continuing project. We will have to keep the beaver numbers down and next year we will have more clean up to do to keep Ninemile Creek flowing cold-

Trick out your ride!

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



Wisconsin's Fly Tyers Remembering Royce Dam ... A Legendary Wisconsin Fly Tyer

Recognizing some of Wisconsin's great fly tyers, this series provides information on the role they played and are currently playing in the art of fly tying. We will learn more about them, the flies they tied and their tips to make us better tyers.



ROYCE DAM LITERALLY TAUGHT FLY TYING AROUND THE WORLD

Royce Dam developed a number of tying techniques and many of them were shared in a book that he authored entitled "The Practical Fly Tyer." He shared his many tying techniques at tying shows all over the world.

By Bob Haase

Royce Dam, one of Wisconsin's legendary fly tyers, passed away March 4, 2018, at the age of 92. Royce was a veteran, serving in the 5th Marine Division and was part of the third wave that landed on Iwo Jima. Royce returned home and found comfort in fly fishing and fly tying.

He had large hands and worked on a drop forge in the metal manufacturing industry. That's not the type of person you'd think could tie tiny size #22 flies or intricate full-dress salmon flies. He began tying panfish flies and then trout flies.

Royce had a special skill when it came to fly tying and readily shared what he learned with others. He developed a number of tying techniques and many of them were shared in a book that he authored entitled "The Practical Fly Tyer." Many more tying techniques were shared in the tying shows that he attended all over the world.

He participated in the Milwaukee Sentinel Sport Show, the Badger Fly Fishers show in Madison, and many others around Wisconsin and other states. Royce attended many of the Federation of Fly Fishers conclaves and the Fly Fair in Holland.

He even taught fly tyers in many other countries such as Kenya, China and Bhutan, helping them establish fly-tying factories. Royce was nominated many times for the coveted FFF Buzsek Award and was the recipient of the award in

1994. He also produced a number of DVD's on fly tying that shared some of his innovative fly patterns and tying methods.

Royce spent many of his later years designing beautiful full-dress salmon flies, some of which memorialized the sacrifices of the men he knew and served with as a Marine. These patterns include "Stars and Stripes," "Dress Blues," and "The Spearhead." He also spent time teaching veterans how to tie flies.

You may not have met Royce, but you are probably benefiting from the tying techniques and methods that he shared with others and who have since shared with you. Royce will be remembered as one of the great legendary fly tyers of Wisconsin, and the rest of the world.

I have asked Al Dalphanso, Tim Johnson and Bill Sherer to share some of their memories about Royce. They probably spent the most time with Royce, tying with him, fishing with him and traveling with him all across the country to shows and other events.

Al Dalphanso

I first met Royce in a bar across from the drop forge where he worked. We started talking and learned we both tied flies. He talked me into joining the Milwaukee Lincoln Stream Fly Fishers that he and another tyer started. After a while he invited me over to his house to tie flies.

Every time I watched him I learned something new. Royce did

not keep secrets. He would tell you what he was doing. He wanted to make everyone become a better fly fisherman or fly tyer. He seldom whip-finished a fly and usually finished it with three half-hitches.

What impressed me the most about Royce and the flies he tied was his versatility. He could tie a size #22 fly and turn around and tie a salmon fly that was unbelievable.

His speed was also amazing. He could marry the feathers and set the married wing feathers so fast that he made it look easy. When I tie, I still use his techniques and try to share what I learned with others.

I fished with Royce, whose favorite stream was Castle Rock Creek in southwest Wisconsin. One day I was with him on the creek, and when I started fishing he said, "Oh no ... don't do that." Shorten your cast and work your way up the run. I did and caught eight fish on that run because I wasn't making long casts and spooking the fish in front of me. Most of his casts were under 20 feet and it gave him more control over mending his line.

Before Royce tied a fly, he made a little drawing of it. He would partition off the tail, body size, position of the wings and the proportion of all the materials that made up the fly. This way things were tied in the correct proportion and it helped prevent crowding the head. He never used more thread than he needed to, as most people do. Royce emphasized thread control as one of the most important elements of fly tying.

Royce was not only a good fly tyer, he was a good friend. Whenever Royce came to our TU meetings he would donate a fly to raffle off, and at our fundraisers he would donate a framed fly. He gave stuff away. He wasn't looking for the money. He was just looking for dedicated people who enjoyed fly tying and trout fishing as much as he did. I was the last person to go fishing with Royce. He was sitting on the bank at Castle Rock and he never wet a line that day. I think he just sat there, maybe telling himself that this was his last time. Just being there one more time, bringing back good memories.

Tim Johnson

I first met Royce through a friend who was taking a fly-tying lesson with Royce at Laacke & Joys Sport Shop. Then I tied with Royce at the Badger Fly Fishers show in Madison a number of times. Royce was a master fly tyer and he taught me different techniques and how to tie faster and more efficiently. Royce often said that people thought they had to tie the way it was written in a book. He said that somebody had to write that book. A lot of the things that Royce did were

not in a book; he had to learn them himself. An example was the way he learned how to set the wings on a fly. Royce's flies were always sparse. He never over-dressed a fly. That was his style of tying.

I had the opportunity to fish with Royce many times. I remember one time we got to the stream and the fish were rising. I was going to make a long cast to the last rise. Royce said stop. That fish is holding there in that hole. Let's concentrate on the fish that are in between.

Royce liked to fish at night. I went Hex fishing with Royce on the Mecan a number of times and sometimes we never even cast a line. Royce's Hex patterns were White Wulff's tied trude style.

He never fished a fly smaller than a #12 at night. When the Hex hatch was done, he would bring out his Artic Shrew fly pattern that he designed. He would also fish muddlers and sculpins. He hunted big fish and I saw him catch 26-inch plus trout on those streams and it was unbelievable.

He also fished big stone flies. I never saw him fish many streamers or wet flies much, mostly dries and nymphs.

Royce developed methods of using wool as a tying material. He liked the characteristics of wool. Thread control was one of Royce's big things. He also stressed not to purchase inferior quality fly-tying materials. Buy the best materials you can afford.

Royce was an innovative fly tyer. He came up with his own stuff and methods of tying and readily shared his knowledge with others. He was always willing to teach people. He never gave up on things that he wanted to accomplish. He had a very keen eye for color and the blending of colors such as in full-dress salmon flies.

Bill Sherer

I first met Royce at a fly fishing/fly tying show in Southern Wisconsin in the mid-eighties. He came up and introduced himself, wearing a big Stetson hat. I had my record wall-

eye and some flies that I had tied on display. He showed me his flies and they were a thousand times better than what I was tying. We hit off a pretty good friendship right away.

It was shortly after that, that I spent more time with him tying in his basement in Wauwatosa. He was a remarkable individual. His take on how to create flies was decades ahead of anybody else. Whenever people in my fly-tying classes say that they have too big of hands to tie flies, I tell them you have never met Royce Dam.

Royce taught me a lot of things, but the thing that he always stressed to me is that I should never give up

"Whenever people in my fly-tying classes say that they have too big of hands to tie flies, I tell them you have never met Royce Dam."



STARS & STRIPES SALMON FLY

Inland Trout Management Plan update

Kent Johnson, Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter

my individuality. He also taught me how to work with the materials that I had. I learned a ton about creating the proper proportion of a fly. The thing that stays with me the most was the fact that I make my streamers so sparse and Royce really brought that home for me. He told me that all the best flies in the world are sparse.

What impressed me most about Royce's flies was his ability to manipulate the material. He could take twenty strands of hair, clip it one time, hold it down, tie it in, and every hair laid down the way he wanted it to. I have never seen anyone who could manipulate feathers as well as Royce did. I watched him set up thirteen slips of feathers on his leg and marry and set the wing on the first try. This was for the "Stars & Stripes" fly that he tied at the Badger show and now hangs framed in my shop.

Royce taught me more than anything else "thread control" and that the thread does the work. How you make the thread behave is probably the biggest thing that he taught me. He was so good that he planned out his flies and how many wraps of thread he was going to put on a fly. He measured everything proportionally from his fingernail, bodkin or his scissors.

I doubt if there was anybody that had as broad of range of tying skills as he had. He did everything from 22's to full-dress salmon flies. He thought out every detail of a fly ahead of time. He was the fly tyer we all wanted to be. Royce knew everybody in the business. He always had time for anybody who was willing to listen to him.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is in the process of creating a Wisconsin Inland Trout Management Plan: 2019-2029. Currently, no inland trout management plan exists, so this new plan will support the 10-Year Strategic Plan for Fisheries Management in Wisconsin: 2015-2025. The scope of the new plan covers inland trout waters only, excluding the Great Lakes, but including Great Lakes tributaries. Inland brook, brown, rainbow and lake trout will be included in the management plan.

To obtain public, private and partner input on the creation of this new plan, the DNR assembled a team of stakeholders from the four state fisheries districts. Seven stakeholders were selected to represent each district, with members from the following groups: two anglers (including one TU member), one landowner, one "non-consumptive" member (not affiliated with an angler group), one Wisconsin Conservation Congress member, one business/tourism member, and one member-at-large.

Trout Unlimited anglers representing the four districts include Laura McFarland (North), Tom Lager (East), Tim Fraley (South) and Kent Johnson (West). In addition to the representatives from the four state fisheries districts, the stakeholder team includes a representative from the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), a Natural Resources Board (NRB) representative, a legislative representative, two representatives from the agricultural sector, a youth fishing representative, a tribal representative, and five lake trout representatives.

Meetings of the stakeholder team were held in January and March of 2018. The DNR Trout Team was on hand to provide background information on Wisconsin's current trout management program, including the fisheries management structure, funding, public access standards and major program components, which include: 1) surveys and assessment; 2) stocking and wild trout management; 3) classifications and regulations; 4) habitat development; 5) beaver management; 6) angler access; 7) public education and outreach; and 8) research.

At those meetings, DNR staff solicited stakeholder

input on the topics of climate change; angling opportunities, classifications and regulations; wild trout management; inland lake trout management; stream restoration; public easements and access; public education and outreach; partnerships for trout management; funding and prioritization of resources; and maintaining a strong science- and research-based approach to trout management.

Stakeholder team input received by the DNR Trout Team helped to provide an initial framework for DNR staff to prepare a draft inland trout management plan, which was completed in early September. DNR's timeline for finalizing and adopting the plan is as follows:

September 4-October 1: Stakeholder team reviews the draft plan

October 27: Potential stakeholder team meeting in Stevens Point

November 1: DNR internal review of the draft plan

December 15: Release draft plan online and to the public

January: Public meetings on the draft plan, at various state-wide locations

January 31: Public comment period ends; DNR Trout Team incorporates comments and revises the plan

February 15: DNR internal review of the final plan

March 15: Prepare for presentation of final plan to the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board

When the draft Wisconsin Inland Trout Management Plan is released for public review on December 15, please take some time to lend your experience and support via your comments and attendance at the public meetings in January 2019. If you have any issues, topics or concerns that you'd like to share with Wisconsin TU's angler representatives on the stakeholder team, please contact Laura, Tom, Tim or Kent. Given Trout Unlimited's passionate support for trout management in Wisconsin, your feedback on this plan is critical.

As a part of this feedback, give some thought as to how Wisconsin TU and local chapters can contribute to plan implementation, especially in a time when resources are limited. Collectively, we can make this a strong plan for the future of trout management in Wisconsin.

Thanks for your input and support!

Watershed Access Fund

Summer 2018 update

The 2017 Watershed Access Fund campaign came to an end, and we had another excellent year of financial support. Through your generous contributions we raised more than \$6,000! Thank you so much! The 2018 campaign is in full swing and the initial response has been tremendous.

This fund can help WITU secure easements like the important "Horseshoe" section on the North Fork of the Bad Axe. Without your continued support, this wouldn't have been a reality.

There are some potential projects that may require support from this program in 2018. Please consider supporting this important program so valuable trout streams across this state can be protected for your permanent access and enjoyment.

Chapters can request up to \$7,500 for an easement from this program, but because two chapters may each request for a single acquisition, the Watershed Access Fund can provide as much as \$15,000 for a single purchase or easement.

Wishing you the best in the 2018 fishing season.

Doug Brown, Wisconsin TU Watershed Access Fund Chair

2017 Contributors

Ed Barnes	Middleton WI	David Dybdahl	Middleton WI
James Baxter	Whitefish Bay WI	Chuck Egle	Amherst Junction WI
Jolene Berg	Chippewa Falls WI	Beatrice, William Evans	NewRichmond WI
Robert Burke	Markesan WI	John Ewen	Neenah WI
Dennis Buzzar	DeForest WI	Erik Forsgren	Fremont WI
Tom Crabb	Monona WI	Richard Galling	Hartland WI
Terry Cummings	Rhineland WI	Robert Galvin	Crivitz WI
David Darling	River Falls WI	Daniel Geddes	Appleton WI
Richard Duplessie	Eau Claire WI	Giorgio Gimelli	Madison WI

Ron & Margery Ginsbach	Elmwood WI	Gary Preisler	West Bend WI
Thomas Goodman	Miami FL	Randall Rake	Helena MT
Dan Grauer	Wausau WI	Bob Retko	Cedarburg WI
John Gribb	Mt. Horeb WI	Ken Rizzo	Oconomowoc WI
Jack Halbrehder	Sparta WI	James Roden	Eau Claire WI
Stephen Hawk	Madison WI	Dan Rorabeck	Hudson WI
Ashton Hawk	Madison WI	Nancy Rosenbacher	Waupaca WI
James Hayett	Hartland WI	Michael San Dretto	Neenah WI
Jan & Mark Heifner	Appleton WI	Jeff & Mary Schmoeger	Lake Mills WI
Walter Hellyer	Egg Harbor WI	George Shinnars	Antigo WI
Nancy and Dan Hill	Spencer WI	Tim Stark	Wind Lake WI
Mike Hittle	Appleton WI	Wayne Stockman	Spring Valley WI
Ed & Irene Josephs	Oconomowoc WI	Juergen Stuebs	Wautoma WI
Patrick Kirsop	Stoughton WI	Ronald Suslick	Peshtigo WI
Lane Kistler	Milwaukee WI	Charles Urban	Wauwatosa WI
Robert Kleba	Crivitz WI	Karen & Martin Voss	Eau Claire WI
Barb & Joe Kruse	LaCrosse WI	Dick Wachoski	Eau Claire WI
Peter Kurtz O.D.	Menominee WI	Don Wagner	Gillett WI
David Lange	LaCrosse WI	Rodd Wangen	Oregon
Randy Lueth	Marshfield WI	Donald Wellhouse	Kaukana WI
Brian Madsen	Ellsworth WI	Jared Wunderlich	DePere WI
Matenaer Corp.	West Bend WI		
Kim McCarthy	Green Bay WI		
Fred Mikolajewski	West Allis WI		
Robert Moser	Milwaukee WI		
Herb Oechler	Wauwatosa WI		
Edward Parsons	Platteville WI		
Ray Piehl	Wautoma WI		

Kiap-TU-Wish Chapter of TU
Marinette County Chapter of TU

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

Make your check payable to Wisconsin Trout Unlimited

MAIL TO: TU Watershed Access Fund
Attn: Doug Brown
R4800 Timber Ln.
Ringle, WI 54471

Name _____

Address _____

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Fox Valley Trout Unlimited

18th Annual Cabin Fever Day ... a fishing expo!

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\$10 at the door, spouses and under 18 free
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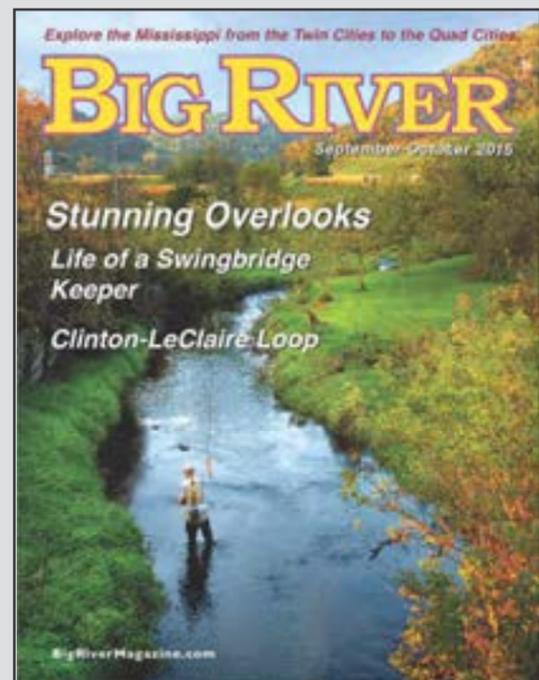
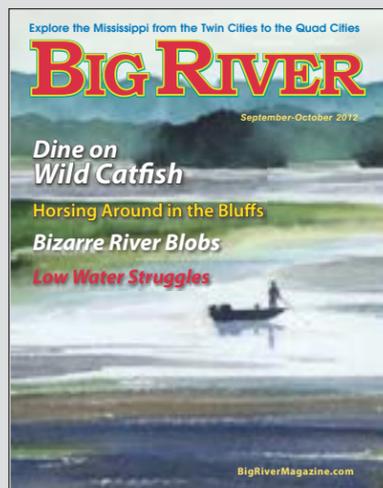
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