

FLYER



OAK BROOK TROUT UNLIMITED BIMONTHLY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 1, JAN/FEB 2011



Cold Steel with ice, snow, frigid temperatures . . . get the picture

Stan Zarnowiecki

At last year's December holiday dinner Arnie Leder was the top bidder for one of the guided trips that was auctioned. He bid on the trip graciously donated by Kevin Feenstra, the top fishing guide on the Muskegon river in Michigan.

Arnie fishes often with his son, who lives out west. He had his son in mind to go with him when he made the reservation for both of them to spend two days with Kevin, fishing the Muskegon, in early December, for fresh, strong, large, rod pumping, hook straightening, line breaking, acrobatic Steelhead. The plan was for his son to come back to Illinois and travel to Michigan with him. Early in November, Arnie's plan began to unravel as his son had to stay back home for work reasons. When I heard the sad news, I offered to be the second man in the boat, more like jumped at the chance and pretty much invited myself. Arnie, before I let him have the chance to let it all sink in, agreed.

So we are off to the mighty Muskegon and just north of the Michigan Indiana border we see snow and the

temperatures stay at a steady 20 degrees. To break up the driving, we stop off at Great Lakes fly fishing in Rockford, Michigan. Always stop at the nearest fly shop to get the scoop on what's been happening and pick up some of the hot flies. We did both, but the fishing report wasn't uplifting. The river was low and going lower, water temps were steady cold and new fish had not been seen or caught. Still, we had our reservation and the luck of the top guide. As we drove into Croton, up the river from Newaygo, there was a 4 inch deep carpet of fresh white stuff to lift our spirits even lower. We went to dinner to discuss what we were in for, did we bring enough warm clothes, and what parts of our extremities freeze first.

Kevin Feenstra meets us at 7:00 am with his bright, smiling face and a warm hello. Its 7:00 am, its dark, its 15 degrees, light snow, and we just choked down generic egg and muffin sandwiches from the corner gas station and makeshift diner. I have enough layers of clothing on that I fear sweating in the car ride. I have to remove a couple of layers just to climb into the back seat of the Toyota. In tow is Kevin's custom fishing machine. A jet sled, half boat, half flat bottom potential life ending one way ride. It has seen more fish caught, more fish lost, its hit more mini ice bergs and other unidentified floating debris but it still comes to work every day. The aluminum sled is powered by a jet outboard. Significant? Highly! The bottom of the motor is even with the bottom of the boat's hull, if the boat doesn't hit anything then neither will the motor, no lower unit to worry about. Also, no lower unit maintenance, no prop, not tilt and trim necessary. Very cool. The only think to keep

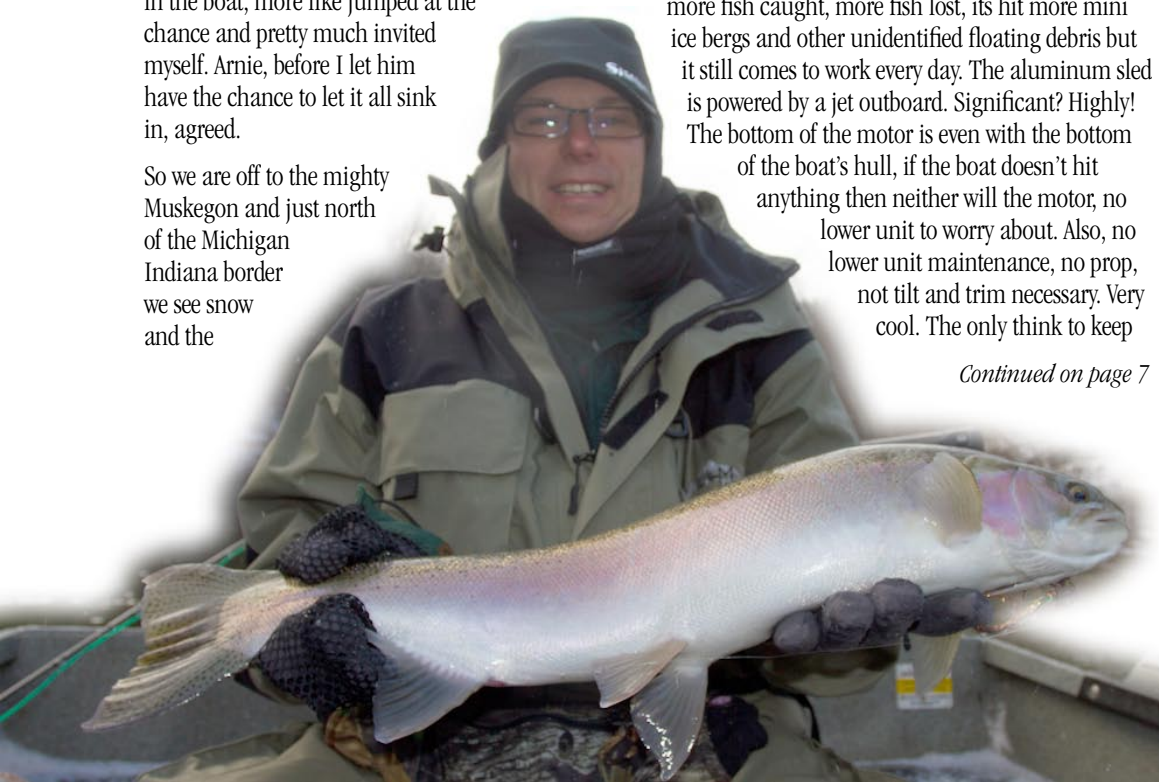
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Future Meetings and Events

Go to your 2010 calendar and mark down the following meeting and event dates:

- January 11**
TUNA training: Organizing Hunters and Anglers to Support Backcountry Public Lands Conservation
- January 12**
Directors' Meeting
- January 19**
OBTU Annual Members Meeting, Election of Directors and other business, Papa Passero's Family Pizzeria, 6326 South Cass Ave., Westmont, IL.
- January 18**
TUNA training: Help Protect Bristol Bay, AK, from the Pebble Mine.
- January 26-30**
TU Booth (#2257) at America's Outdoor Show, Steven's Convention Center, Rosemont, IL.
- February 9**
Directors' Meeting
- February 16**
Fly Tying Seminar with Jim Bartelt, location TBA
- February 16**
Chapter Meeting, OBPD Recreation Center, Speaker: Jim Bartelt, Fishing the Driftless Area
- February 16**
TUNA training, Online Tools for TU Volunteer Leaders
- February 19**
Paradise Springs workday, installing bio logs
- March 9**
Directors' Meeting
- March 16**
Chapter Meeting, OBPD Recreation Center, Speaker TBA

Please see our website for a full listing of calendar events. www.obtu.org.



Letter from the President

Dear Fellow TU Members,

As we bring to a close 2010 and usher in a new year, I trust everyone celebrated the most happy of holidays. I am happy to report the state of the Oak Brook Chapter of Trout Unlimited continues strong. This year the foundation is beginning to be laid for what we hope will bring to the Chapter a bigger role in the conservation arena. While we shall continue to support our commitments to the Coldwater River in Michigan and Paradise Spring Creek in Wisconsin, we will expand our conservation efforts to include the Driftless Area. Ken Voight and David Dornblaser spent the greater part of last year pounding the Coulees in the vicinity of Viroqua, talking to landowners and conservation officials, and settling on a restoration project that we of OBTU can accomplish under our own OBTU banner. It appears that we will be going forward with work on Seas Branch, but inroads on Harrison Creek and other waters may lead to projects in future years. We'll be kicking off the Seas Branch project with an event in Viroqua on the weekend of May 20-22. A Saturday night pig roast replete with gear auctions and raffles will cap off a day of fly fishing lessons and guiding. It will be a weekend to acquaint or reacquaint oneself with this world class fishing area.

The first of this year's work on Paradise Spring Creek will take place on February 19, when we, together with Borger and other TU chapters, hope to install another 30 bio logs. We have supported this Borger Chapter project with funding, but let's really invest some sweat equity. We will also need more volunteer grunt work on the Coldwater later in the season.

The Chapter continued its strong efforts to educate. The Trout in the Classroom Program, thanks largely to Stan Zarnowiecki, Marvin Strauch, Dan Cekander, and some pretty dedicated teachers, has expanded and will continue to expand. Some of the highlights of the TIC program were the in-class presentations given by Dean Hanson (hands on entomology) and Jeff Hastings (Intro to the TUDARE), but the trout release days, supported by the chapter and other like minded agencies and organizations have marked indelibly on the children the meaning of the program.

The Scout Merit Badge Program, begun by Phil Young, has become a chapter institution. Merit Badge was the keystone of all our youth education programs and for that the Chapter owes Phil an eternal debt of gratitude. Marvin Strauch will now guide that program in Phil's place, who is stepping down after over a half decade of leadership. Marvin will be looking for plenty of volunteers. Marvin will also be trying to more involve the Girl Scouts. Train the trainer day will be scheduled this February for those of you feeling the need to brush up

on your instructor skills. Speaking of skills, OBTU will again offer its fly fishing skills day this spring.

OBTU supported the joint TU/Orvis Trout 101 seminars conducted at Orvis Lombard. OBTU members and Orvis staff gave free fly casting lessons followed by an intro to fly fishing on Saturdays throughout last July. Not only did we engage the public, but gained new chapter members as well as attracting youngsters to the ILCTU fly fishing camp. Orvis rewarded the chapter by offering a \$25 in store coupon to all OBTU members during the month of December. In the coming year Trout 101 will be offered more days and Trout 201 will be added to the curriculum. On the week-end before Christmas, OBTU also wrapped packages at Orvis Lombard in exchange for donations. Thanks to Lynn and David Dornblaser, Linda and Arnie Leder, Jeff Kroger, Sheila Prosen, and Marvin Strauch the chapter coffers were enriched by \$203 and the word of TU was spread.

Chapter finances appear improving. Cutting back the Flyer to a bi-monthly distribution has spread more black ink over our financial ledgers. Everyone needs to get on our e-mail distribution so we can further cut those postage costs. The need for an annual donation of at least \$15 to our operating fund must continue to enable us to maintain quality programs.

The OBTU calendar year ended with the Annual Holiday dinner at Harry Caray's in Lombard, 55 members and guests joining in the merriment. Dick Hercher won the rod and Da Fisch. Clyde Alho at the Rod Shop tells us that Dick has not yet selected the blank on which the rod will be built. The rod raffle did net OBTU almost \$1200 with a little over \$2,300 coming from the silent auctions and bucket raffles. Clyde has been donating his time to build a rod and raise revenues for the Chapter for as long as I can remember. We owe Tom Wilhelm our gratitude for soliciting the myriad of gifts for the auctions. Tom has been doing this also for as long as I can remember and has been instrumental in keeping our treasury full over the years. Thanks are also in order to Stan Zarnowiecki for organizing the auction and raffle items, as well as soliciting bucket raffle prizes. The dinner fund raiser would not have happened without Tom and Stan. Thanks are also in order to all who donated to the dinner prizes, the guys who donated flies and especially Nancy Voight for the holiday table runner she made.

Note Bono that our Annual Meeting on January 19 will take place at Papa Passero's Family Pizzeria on Cass Ave in Westmont (6326 South). We'll be electing Directors and voicing our opinions on where to take the Chapter in the next year. Come and join in for some pizza and cheer, order off the menu, or take in the giant buffet alla Italia.

Officers: President, Greg Prosen – prez@obtu.org 630-986-1310 • Vice President, Stan Zarnowiecki – vp@obtu.org 708-606-4148 • Treasurer, Larry Varsek – KESRAV@aol.com 815-729-9380 • Secretary, Clyde Alho – secretary@obtu.org 630-897-2401 Directors: jpkroger@sbcglobal.net 630-369-4148 • Arnie Leder – aleder@cin.net 815-252-3303 • Jeremy Slade – jrsl3040@yahoo.com 630-853-2948 • Joe Vitti – vittifam@ameritech.net 630-969-2251 • Ken Voight – knvoight@earthlink.net 630-466-9743 • Phil Young – pyoung2653@aol.com 630-553-4307 Ex Officio Director: Marvin Strauch – mjstrauch@comcast.net 708-599-5101 • Emeritus Directors: Jeff Berg – salmonsafari@sbcglobal.net 630-629-5681 • Wally Bock – wjbock1@comcast.net 708-598-6718 • Joe Hammon – jhammon@aol.com 708-453-8102 • Ed Michael – emichael@cs.com 847-831-4159 • Doug Vanerka – dvanerka@comcast.net 630-655-0084.

For the regular February meeting we'll be going back to the Oak Brook Park District Rec Center to hear Jim Bartelt talk about fishing opportunities in the Driftless Area. Join Jim for a fly tying seminar in the morning.

The Illinois Counsel of Trout Unlimited will be running a large booth at America's Outdoor Show at the Stevens Convention Center in Rosemont January 26-30, 2011. See the announcement in this Flyer. Come and enjoy the show!

The saddest news of the year was the passing of Astra of Tom Helgeson this last November 12th. Tom truly embodied the spirit of the brotherhood of the angle. He saw in fly fishing so much more than the catching of fish. Although he was in the business of promoting fly fishing businesses, he answered to a higher calling, always concerned with the environment and moral ethics. In his journalism and on the stream Tom viewed the fishing on a greater intellectual and spiritual plain. Tom was always the champion of bringing kids into the fold. The old Marine will be missed.

Greg

February Speaker

Jim Bartelt

Spring Creeks of the Driftless Area: Presenting the Moving Fly



Jim has a lifetime of fly fishing experience and has been guiding anglers for trout on these spring creeks since 1990. He is a professional fly casting instructor and veteran Fly Fishing School Instructor. Jim has taught for 32 years

at Madison East High School, so he has spent his entire career sharing knowledge with others. Let him share his knowledge of fly fishing and the intricacies of his home waters with you. If you are new to the sport, he can definitely shorten your learning curve. If you are an experienced angler, he can share proven tactics that are unique to the area streams.

His power point presentation will include an overview of the Driftless Spring Creeks, photos of stream situations and springs, fly fishing techniques for fishing an ascending nymph and caddis pupa, with some information on presentation, fighting fish and release practices.

Please mark your calendar for Wednesday, February 16th, and make sure you don't miss this presentation. ■

OPERATING FUND DONATION REQUEST

We need donations to our chapter operating funds to defray our monthly cost of meetings, printing, and mailing expenses. What we do not have to spend sustaining our membership, we can spend on our educational programs and conservation projects.

Please fill out the following form and enclose a check for \$15 payable to Oak Brook Chapter of Trout Unlimited to defray our monthly costs of operation.

**Mail to: Oak Brook Chapter of Trout Unlimited
OPERATING FUND DONATION
P.O. Box 5046
Oak Brook, IL 60522-5046**

Name (First, Middle, Last) _____

Special Interests: _____

Address _____

Amount of involvement in TU desired: _____ Hours/Month

City, State, Zip _____

Type of involvement desired: _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

\$15 mailing donation \$10 Name tag

E-Mail Address _____



Trout Unlimited Returns to America's Outdoor Show

Remember the heydays of the Rosemont Fishing, Hunting and Outdoors show? Can you still feel the excitement of attending that Chicagoland wintertime tradition with your dad or your kids? Do you recall how talking about the genesis of the muddler minnow with the gents in the Gape Booth, listening to the pros or just thinking about those Canadian lodges shook off the cabin fever and put you back on the summer trout stream of your dreams for a few hours? Well, get your coat and hat ready to again brave the Chicago winter, because a new management team is dedicated to revitalizing that show under the banner of The America's Outdoor Fishing, Hunting and Action Sport Show. It will be at the Stevens Convention Center in Rosemont from January 26th through the 30th. (Go to <http://www.americasoutdoorshow.com/> for all the details)



If not at this show, where else can a kid feel a trout on the end of his in the middle of the winter? Where else can one take a turn around an unfrozen, 100,000 gallon lake in a canoe or kayak? You will still be able to loose yourself among some 600 booths, but you won't have to walk past a mop or candy vendor to find the next really intriguing exhibitor in the aisle. The new version of this Chicagoland tradition is beating down the number of non-sporting vendors that have permeated this show in recent years in favor exhibitors that really speak to the sportsman. This includes an emphasis on conservation and kid friendly exhibitors.

The conservation and youth themes are what are bringing TU back to this show. Jeff Hastings and Duke Welter, staff of Trout Unlimited's Driftless Area Restoration Effort, and Franklin Tate, TU's Director of Youth Education will be among those giving seminars. They will also be working in TU's booth (#2257, in the NE quadrant of the show floor) helping Illinois TU volunteers tell TU's conservation and youth education stories to the public.

That TU booth will be a hub of the show's youth engagement focus. Young people will be able to stop by that booth any time and learn

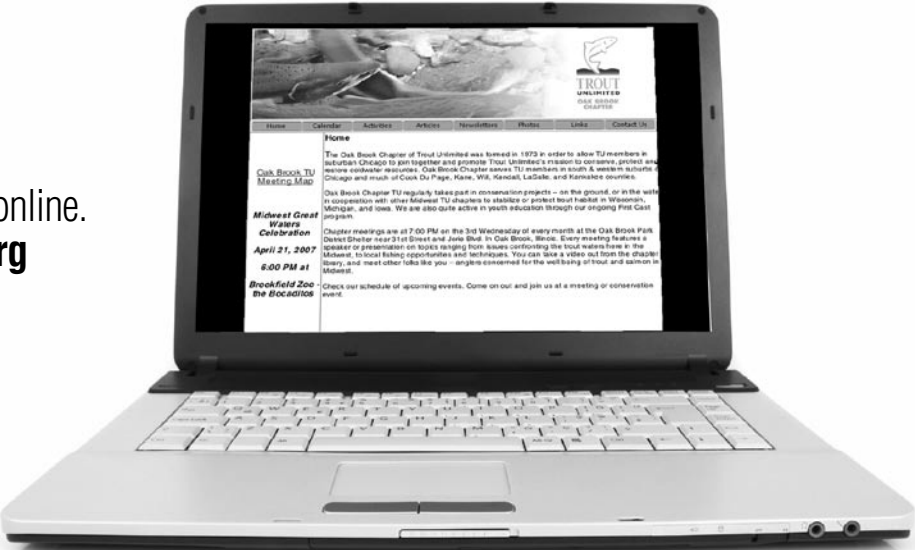
how to tie a couple of simple flies. TU volunteers will also be giving casting lessons to kids on the shows casting stage at specified times. TU is further broadening its outreach to youth at this show through its sponsorship of a cane pole give-away to the first 500 Kids to show up on Saturday and Sunday, through the prize it will give to each kid participating in the show's kid's trail, and through free kids' raffles of LL

Bean fly fishing outfits. It will encourage the public to help support Illinois' Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Camp through a raffle of a sweet cane rod made by TU member and rod maker, Marvin Strauch. It's a 7 1/2', 2 piece, 2 tip, Dickerson 7613 taper, 5 wt, finished in the Dickerson style with a rod bag and aluminum case and comes fitted with a Fishon Classic reel fitted and a line.

Come on out and escape hold of the ice and snow for a while! ■

Be sure to visit us online.

www.obtu.org



Oak Brook Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Annual Financial Report

FY 2009 (tax yr 10/1/09 to 9/30/10)

Revenue

Contributions	\$5,860
Interest Income	88
Rebate from TU National	60
Events Income	7,833
Sale of Inventory	140
Total Revenue	\$14,281

Expenses

Grants to other TU Chapters/Councils/TU National*	\$1,500
Grants to other 501(c)3 Organizations *	4,908
Accounting fees	165
Bank and credit card processing	400
Contractors, consultants	200
Postage (newsletters, events, recruiting)	884
Printing (newsletters, events, recruiting)	1,535
Room rentals and meeting expenses**	8,087
Total Expenses	\$17,829

Assets

Cash in Bank	\$12,599
Investments	18,683
Total Assets	\$31,282

Volunteer Hours

Conservation (100% restore)	336
Fundraising	248
General Operations	1,177
Youth Education and Outreach	525
General Education and Outreach	514
Travel	452
Total Volunteer Hours	3,252

Chapter Effectiveness Index (CEI) Data Reported

Number of Chapter Effectiveness Index (CEI) Data Reported	
Number of conservation projects	2
Number of education projects	10
Number of chapter meetings	11
Average chapter meeting attendance	22
Number of newsletters published	8
Number of active chapter leaders	16
Number of chapter members who are council officers	3
Neither formal budget nor strategic plan in effect	

*from funds established in prior FYs

**includes holiday dinner expenses

Notice of Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the general membership of the Oak Brook Chapter of Trout Unlimited Shall be called to order at 7:30 PM on January 19, 2011 at Papa Passero's Family Pizzeria

In the Trophy Room
6326 South Cass
Westmont, Illinois 60559

The meeting shall be called to order for the purpose of Electing two Directors to serve full terms of 3 years.

- Electing one Director to serve out a vacant one year term
- Presenting the President's Annual Report
- Slating of officers to serve a term of 1 year
- And conducting such other business as is deemed necessary.

The Leadership Development and Nominating Committee has nominated the following members to serve a term of 3 years as Directors:

- Nominee: Jeff Kroger
- Nominee: Dan Cekander
- Further nominations may be made from the floor
- Each member present shall be entitled to cast 2 votes for the member's choice of full term Directors
- The two nominees for full term Directorships receiving the most votes shall be elected
- Vote may be cast in person or by proxy appointed in writing

The Leadership Development and Nominating Committee has nominated the following member to serve the remaining 1 year of Mr. Jeremy Slade's vacant term:

- Nominee: David Hilvers
- Each member present shall be entitled to cast only one vote to fill the vacant one year

Director's term.

- The nominee receiving the most votes for the vacant Directorship shall be elected
- Vote may cast in person or by proxy appointed in writing

The Leadership Development and Nominating Committee has nominated the following members to serve a term of 1 year in the offices as indicated:

President: Greg Prosen, Vice-President: Stan Zarnowiecki

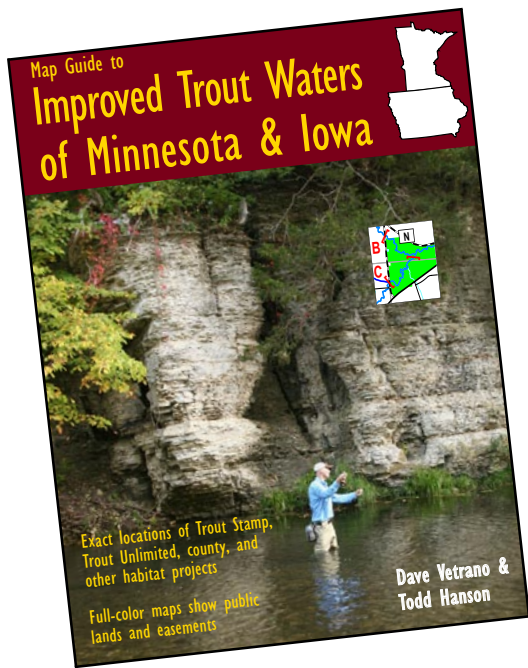
Treasurer: Larry Varsek, Secretary: Clyde Alho

- Further nominations may be made from the floor
- Election of the Officers shall be made by the Board of Directors as so provided in the Bylaws

Discussion of proposed Amendment of the Chapter Bylaws consistent with Model Bylaws as approved by National Trout Unlimited.

Such further business shall be conducted as provided in the Bylaws.

Come and help shape the direction OBTU will be taking in the future! And have some pizza too! ■



NOW AVAILABLE!

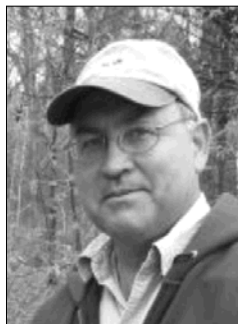
The first trout fishing book of its kind for Minnesota and Iowa!



“Map Guide to Improved Trout Water of Wisconsin is the must-have book in the state of Wisconsin. It does a great job of illustrating where to go, which is the problem people always have. It also highlights the great habitat work TU and others have done in the state. Given this, I’m really looking forward to the new Minnesota-Iowa map guide. Everybody who fishes in Minnesota or Iowa should have a copy.”

—Tim Landwehr, Tight Lines Fly Fishing Co., De Pere, WI

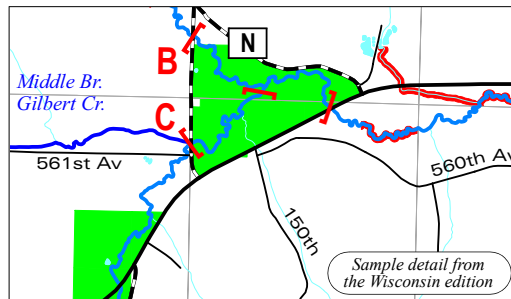
Large, full-color maps with these features...



Your authors...

DAVE VETRANO recently retired as the WDNR’s fisheries team leader in La Crosse. The inventor of the LUNKER structure, Dave has worked with trout and directed stream improvement efforts for over 30 years.

TODD HANSON is the author of *Map Guide to Improved Trout Waters of Wisconsin*. He has edited Trout Unlimited’s award-winning *Wisconsin Trout* newspaper for over 10 years.



A Improvements: BC, B, F, L, PP, RR Year: 03-05 Funding: TS/KTU GPS: 44.5354 -92.0618	
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Info boxes for each site tell:

- which improvement techniques were used...logs, lunkers, boulders, etc.
- when the work was done,
- who did the work, and
- the site’s GPS coordinates.

Red asterisks show each stream’s location within its county and in the *Delorme Atlas & Gazetteer*.

Red brackets show just where habitat projects are located. Color maps show public access areas:

- streambanks with fishing easements are **red**.
- DNR and county lands are shown in **green**.

Different stream classes appear in shades of **blue**.



NEED THE BADGER STATE EDITION?

Mention this ad when you write or call and get the Wisconsin map guide at the same discount and same contribution to Trout Unlimited.

LIMITED-TIME DISCOUNT FOR TU MEMBERS...

Order by Feb. 28 and get “5% for you, 5% for TU”:

- The price on this special order form (\$28) is 5% off the publisher’s regular price.
- Order by Feb. 28 and the publisher will rebate an additional 5% to **Oak Brook TU** for your habitat improvement work.

Special “5% for You, 5% for TU” Introductory Offer

Hurry, this **Oak Brook TU** offer expires Feb. 28, 2011.

This is a pre-publication offer. Books will ship in March 2011.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Enclose your check for **\$32.50** (\$28 for the book plus \$4.50 shipping and handling) payable to:

Where Am I Publications
 4514 Elgar Ln.
 Madison, WI 53704

Secure credit card orders
 call 608-692-6914

www.WhereAmIPubs.com

Cold Steel *continued from page 1*

in mind at these temperatures is water freezing in the engine if you don't run the motor often enough. Kevin has this covered, of course.

Swinging flies, custom tied by Kevin, is going to be the order of day. There are other ways to catch Steelhead but not for the next two days, not with guide Kevin, don't even ask. You either swing or freeze. I did both. Arnie chooses to enter battle with a 14 foot spey rod, equipped with fat floating line and a special weighted shooting head that Kevin makes up for him. He knows the current speed and the depth of the water we will be fishing and sets me up the same way. I am using a 10 foot 9 weight. We cast into the fast water, synchronizing each throw with each other's line. Arnie throws first, a snap T and then a flip. As his line and fly move down stream I throw over him, first a dump cast and then a pitch with a big looping back and forward cast, weighted line that can change a 4 piece rod into a five piece with the wrong, good looking tight loop. The scenery is beautiful and we have the river to ourselves, of course we do, nobody else is this crazy.

Before noon, Arnie strikes first, at least Kevin thinks so. I see a dark red forked tail but wish it isn't what I think it is. Kevin nets Arnie's first Sucker caught with his new spey set up.



Before noon, Arnie strikes first, at least Kevin thinks so. I see a dark red forked tail but wish it isn't what I think it is. Kevin nets Arnie's first Sucker caught with his new spey set up. Soon after his first, Arnie does battle with another of the same species and at least we confirm one thing, Arnie is getting his fly on the bottom!

Lunch, why are we waiting for Kevin to say the magic word? In Michigan, and only in Michigan that I am aware of, you get a hot, or at least warm, meal. It doesn't matter what the fare might be, as long as you are not vegetarian, it's a chance to pry your hands from the cork grip and swallow something that isn't cold. Kevin makes a great steak and potato affair and we get back to fishing, renewed. The rest of day doesn't have us catching anything, there are near blizzard conditions mixed with intermittent light snow, wind, darkness, light again, and



finally the boat ramp. Even with Kevin's expert knowledge Arnie is the only one who lands fish, not the correct ones but still he manages to have a 5 second battle with our real quarry. I can only dream of what might have been if one of those deep, dark runs that we hammered rendered a magnificent tug of war between me and Mr. Steel.

Dinner at the same restaurant, we are thawed out and ready for food and libation. In bed and asleep by 9:00 pm because 5:30 am rolls around too soon to stay up and play Parcheesi. Our previous morning now becomes routine as Kevin again greets us, his optimism seems endless. He chooses a different stretch of river to fish on our second day. It's totally different, narrow, more wood, different types of runs. It's a bright day, still bone chilling cold, ice in the rod guides, hand warmers in the gloves. And still the same fishing style, swing. I strike first, now I know why I came. The fish runs, no, bolts downstream, in an effort to free itself from my attachment. I was almost lulled to sleep by the monotonous casting, swinging, nothing... But now I am alive again. Kevin nets the large hen and I am content, I could go home right then, my day and trip were complete. Only I get the same feeling 5 more times in the space of a couple of hours. Each fish that I land is bigger and more colorful than the last. I finish the day with 6 solid strikes and 3 fish landed, amazing. I don't know what brought about the change in the fish's attitude but I guess I didn't care. I only know that for a few minutes I was in Heaven. My anvil type feet, frozen fingers, stiff neck, sore back, wind burned face, all lost in the warm glow of accomplishing a goal, fooling one of the greatest swimmers into attacking my offering.

I hope Arnie doesn't regret taking me up on my offer. It's too late anyway. It's usually me who brings the new guy and I get out fished. I know that fishing is just being in the right place at the right time and the new guy is there, I wouldn't have caught the big one anyway. My fly would have been in the wrong spot and the fish would have swam away. You have to keep telling yourself that so that you don't go home and break all your fly rods and swear to never fish again, at least not with THAT GUY.

Make sure you get a chance to fish the Muskegon, make sure you go with Kevin Feenstra, and make sure you chase Steelhead with a fly there. It will be the chance of a lifetime and the time spent will create a memory to last you a very long time. ■

