

shown a tremendous increase in resident brook trout populations over the next years.

Recognizing the potential of restoration projects like Gilbert Creek, Duke became one of the catalysts to launching TU's Driftless Area Restoration Effort program, and he was instrumental in crafting the initial plans that have shaped the focus of TUDARE. His back-of-the-cocktail-napkin outline was something like, "Let's do many, many more and better-quality stream restorations."

He was tireless in helping promote TUDARE in its fledgling stages — securing critical support from the TU National staff and spending countless hours in meetings with potential partners. It's a wonder how he managed to practice law to support himself and his family during this period. His vision and input for peer-to-peer stream project training workshops for chapters has not only been wildly successful, but these training sessions have changed the way our national staff thinks about training elsewhere. Today TUDARE is one TU's largest and most ambitious restoration efforts to date. It is supported by a full-time national staff member. Last year alone, collective efforts of staff and chapters were responsible for direct investments and leveraging more than \$2 million in numerous restorations across the driftless area.

Finally, it is worth mentioning that we owe Jim Coursey a dedicated leader and volunteer from the Chicago area, a small debt of gratitude for saving us from one of Duke's less well conceived ideas (yeah, he has them once in a while). Duke's originally conceived working title for TUDARE was Coldwater Driftless Working Area Group. That comes out with a southern drawl as Sea Dawg and conjures caricatures of a rednecked bulldog with a brook trout in his toothy mouth — almost more than one could bear. So, when Jim proposed DARE, there was palpable relief those involved.

Gold Trout Award — Dan Wisniewski

Dan Wisniewski has served Trout Unlimited with distinction at all levels. As a member of the Southern Wisconsin Chapter, he served as an officer, as a member of their board of directors, and edited their newsletter for several years. Dan was a significant actor in their acquisition of the development rights and removal of the dam on Token Creek which is yielding a unique resource — a brook trout fishery in an urban setting. He's served both his chapter and the State Council as legislative liaison. Because of his occupational experience in Wisconsin's Lucy and Schreiber administrations, as well as serving Dane County as their legislative lobbyist, he's been a real political insider. He has steered the council's political activities on such issues as wetlands, high-capacity wells, agricultural rules, and a list of other issues.

At the state level, Dan has worked tirelessly as Wisconsin's National Leadership Council representative. In that role, he's taken the lead in several areas — land conservancy and coldwater conservation where, with others, he took the lead in establishing an entirely new TU program thrust; land access, working with Duke Welter and other colleagues across the nation to formulate TU's working policy; strengthening the grassroots component of TU; and helping formulate the organization's national policy positions on the farm bill.

Dan has proven himself a thoughtful leader with regard to representing state councils in their interactions with TU National. He is highly regarded by the national staff, and his judgment is often sought out. Dan is another in a long line of Wisconsin trout anglers and conservationists who have distinguished themselves in leadership roles at every level of TU. In addition, he's a somewhat successful trout angler with an addiction to soft hackle flies.

Silver Trout Award — Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter

The Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter of TU was going through some doldrums a few years ago. It seems this happens to every chapter at one time or another. But during the last two or three years, they've completely turned themselves around. New, ambitious leaders — like former President Rich Vetrano and now President Dan Asmus — have breathed new life into this chapter.

SEWTU recently started a program to communicate electronically with their membership, and they now reach over 400 members and friends quickly and effectively. They maintain a stellar web site that's regularly updated. It's one of the best in the state. They've changed their meeting location and offer a slate of incredible monthly speakers, and now attendance at chapter meetings has increased from 10-15 a month to 60-75 or more per month. They've reorganized their board of directors to have positions including a political liaison and an education chair. They now fund scholarships, work with the Milwaukee Urban Fisheries Program, put on youth-centered programs, give seminars at local retailers, and participate in the Wisconsin Youth Outdoor Expo. They are presently launching a Boys and Girls Club of Washington County fly fishing and conservation program, and they maintain a presence at the Milwaukee Sentinel Sports Show which gives TU exposure to over 150,000 people a year.

When it comes to stream improvement projects, they've been really ambitious. Since April of 2006, they've had over 20 workdays at river sites in Vernon, Richland, Milwaukee, Waukesha, Washington, and Sheboygan counties. Those work days have benefited 12 streams including Ash Creek, the Onion River, the Milwaukee River, Elk Creek, Clary Creek, the Fox River, Genesee Creek, Nichols Creek, Paradise Springs, Camp Creek, Bluff Creek, and Allenton Creek. They have worked not only with other TU chapters, but with non-TU groups like Carroll College, Pheasants Forever, Prairie Enthusiasts, and DNR crews from Whitewater, the Southern District, and Kettle Moraine. They've even recruited volunteers from three states. Collectively they've logged thousands of conservation and restoration hours.

SEWTU's major 2007-08 project serves as a perfect example of how a large urban chapter that lacks an abundance of coldwater resources can cooperate with smaller rural chapters who have lots of water but few members to do project work. Specifically, the Smith Family project on Camp Creek is an ongoing joint project with the Ocooch Creeks chapter based in Richland Center. This was part of the TUDARE initiative, and SEWTU has served as a leader for the out-of-the-driftless-area chapter involvement.

The chapter has also held two project-specific fund-raisers. They successfully brought in substantial



WITU Chair Bill Heart with Dan Wisniewski (top), Henry Kanemoto (accepting for Herb Hintze), and Henry Koltz (representing SEWTU).

donations and raised thousands of dollars for use stream restoration habitat projects. SETU has already set its workday calendar for 2008, and they're set to undertake at least 11 workdays this year spanning from just north of Lake Winnebago to the Driftless Area. The Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter has proven to truly be a chapter on the go!

Gold Net Award — Dave Patrick

Anyone who's really involved in the Driftless Area has heard of Dave Patrick and probably experienced some of the fruits of his labors. He's a charter member of the Blackhawk Chapter and has been an activist there for over 30 years, much of that time as chapter presi-

dent. But it's his commitment to stream improvement and restoration of streams that really distinguishes him. Most of his work has been in the Driftless Area and the list of waters he's been involved with is vast. These include the West Fork of the Kickapoo River, Elk Creek, Blue River, Camp Creek, Reed's Creek, Little Sugar River, Allen's Creek, Bishop Branch, Big Springs, Scuppernong Springs, German Valley Creek, Willow River, Timber Coulee Creek, Bad Axe River, and even Kent Creek in Illinois.

Dave knows most of the landowners by name, and his reputation precedes him with the DNR and county personnel.

Continued on p. 8