

Wild Rivers Tribune

WILD RIVERS CHAPTER

TROUT UNLIMITED

JULY 2025

Chapter Report

By John Simonson, Chapter President

We have been busy. Wild Rivers TU members kicked off June with a tree planting on the South Fork of the White River. We had 17 volunteers, and we planted 1,100 trees where there used to be loads of buckthorns growing.



Sandra from Ashland High School brought along six high school students. The students had a side bet who could plant the most trees. I never remember seeing a tree planting go so fast! WRTU Chapter provided box lunches for all the volunteers and Great Lakes TU provided 400 of the young trees and had 4 additional TU volunteers.

The Wild Rivers TU Chapter helped again sponsor the Kids Fishing Day at the Northern Great lakes Visitor Center. We purchased the kids rod/reel combos for the Kids Fishing Day raffle prizes. WRTU members were busy at the fishing stations helping the boys and girls catch fish. We had close to 300 people attend the June 7th event.

Two of us helped the US FWS electroshock Jader Creek in Bayfield County, and two sections of Wilson Creek in Douglas County, where culverts were replaced last year. We worked with the US FWS collecting, counting, measuring and weighing the brook trout and then placing them back in the creeks. A special thank you for Jason Nelson for helping US FWS with the electroshocking brook trout sampling.

Wild Rivers TU Board approved purchasing 18 Hobo temperature data loggers. I have been busy installing the temperature data loggers where the DNR had placed them in the past. The temperature loggers will give us valuable stream temperature data at the end of the year, which we can compare the data results to past years.

June 24th, we had our first workday in the Clam River State Fishery Area. The feedback from local area TU members was amazing. See the report below for photos and more about the great day we had.

Lastly, I added a new video to our WRTU YouTube channel. Alex Faber, executive director of the Superior Rivers Watershed Association, gave an excellent overview of all the wonderful conservation work they are doing in northwest Wisconsin. See: <https://youtu.be/vEFqUv82pQE>.

Upcoming WRTU Events

July 7 & 8, 2025 (if rained out: July 22-23 as backup)

Marengo River Workdays at the Lincoln Community Forest. Helping the DNR secure cut trees along the edge of the Marengo River where the 2018 floods devastated the steep banks along the river. Work will be from 9:00am to 3:00pm each day.

July 26 & August 2, 2026

Brule River Sportsmen Club workdays on the Little Brule. Meet at 9:00am at the end of Dennis Rd, which is off Ranger Road just south of Brule. Re-cutting bank alders along the Little Brule. Bring waders, boots, and gloves.

August 16, 2025

Family Fun Day at the Brule Fish Hatchery, just south of Brule from 10:00am to 3:00pm. WRTU Chapter members will help kids tie flies and fly-casting instruction.

White River Angler Creel Survey

Reminder to fishermen on the White River system in Bayfield County and some of our northern trout lakes, WRTU Chapter and the DNR are still conducting for the second year in a row a volunteer angler creel survey at many angler access points. Please take time to fill out the card at the kiosks. This gives us great insights into who is using the resources. We also compare the results to past angler creel surveys to see the trends in fishing usage.



South Fork of the White River Tree Planting

By John Simonson

On June 4, 2025, we had 17 volunteers help plant 1,100 cedar trees along the upper South Fork of the White River. Six of the volunteers were Ashland High School students and they worked hard, thank you Sandra Dee Ness for bringing the students!



Clam River State Fishery Area Workday

By John Simonson

Back in the Spring of 2024 I was down at Shell Lake and decided to visit the North Fork of the Clam River in the State Fishery Area along Heart Lake Road. Even though it was cold with flurries I saw great potential in the Clam River. Then last November Larry Mann, Ken Benoit and I visited the North Fork of the Clam River together looking for trout redds after talking with Craig Roberts and Jeremiah Fisk from the DNR. We agreed this was a great trout stream that needed some WRTU love.

In February the Wild Rivers TU Chapter unanimously agreed to Adopt the Clam River State Fishery Area under the DNR's three year Adopt a State Fishery / Wildlife Area program. That meant WRTU Chapter agreed to supply \$3000 or more per year, plus volunteer labor hours during the three-year Adopt a State Fishery Area program.

June 24, 2025, was our first planned workday with the DNR and our TU volunteers. We worked on

brushing the old fishermen's walking trails along the North Fork that had been neglected – much more to do. We located some of the old luncker structures installed fifteen years ago that need work during future workdays.

The DNR brought 12 large root wads and rented heavy equipment (funded by WRTU Chapter) and installed them in specific locations along the North Fork of the Clam River with the State Fishery Area. They were installed to improve fish habitat.

It was awesome meeting and getting feedback from several local TU members from the Cumberland area that came up to help us. They were thrilled to see Wild Rivers TU Chapter investing dollars, time and effort into preserving the Clam River State Fishery Area. Stay tuned, there will be more workdays, and more local volunteers are needed.

If you would like to volunteer with our Clam River workdays please contact Ken Benoit at troutster80@gmail.com or call Ken at: (218) 393-1479.



Kids Fishing Day Draws a Crowd

This was the 25th year for the Kids Fishing Day at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center. Close to 300 people attended the Saturday event on June 7th, and the kids had a blast catching large bluegills, brook trout, and perch. Wild Rivers TU members helped teach the little kids casting and helped them catch the fish in the pond behind the Visitor Center.



Please patronize our business supporters!



Anglers All
 2803 Lake Shore Drive East
 Ashland, WI 54806
 715-682-5754

We specialize in all of your trout fishing needs, from fly-tying materials to top of the line rods and reels.

HEART GRAPHICS  DESIGN PRINTING APPAREL SIGNAGE

Your One-Stop Print Shop!

316 Main Street West
 Ashland, Wisconsin 54806
 Ph 715-682-5307 • Fax 715-682-3221
 www.heartgraphics.net

 **River Rock Inn & Bait Shop**

1200 West Lake Shore Drive, Ashland WI
 715-682-3232 • www.riverrockinn.net

Tackle - Bait - Fresh & Smoked Fish


LANDMARK CONSERVANCY

"Conserving Wisconsin's natural legacy for everyone, forever."


 the Delta Diner


Hayward
 FLY-FISHING CO.

The Superior Fly Angler  *One Stop Fly Shop*

210 Selkirk St., P.O. Box 700 Superior, WI 54880
 Matt Paulson
 715-395-9520
 Fishing report and Shopping online at:
 www.superiorflyangler.com

**Wild Rivers Chapter
Trout Unlimited**
29450 Verners Road
Ashland, WI 54806



See Our Facebook Page
www.facebook.com/wildrivers.tu

Wild Rivers Board Members & Term of Office

President

John Simonson
Drummond, WI
john@wifyfisher.com
Mobile: 920-212-0185
President Term: 2024-2025

Vice-President

Frank Pratt
10783 Minnie Ave. • Hayward, WI 54843
fpratt32@gmail.com
Vice President term 2023-2024

Past President

Kevin Seefeldt
507 Beaser Ave • Ashland, WI 54806
kseef09@gmail.com
President term 2024-2025

Secretary

Alan Brew
70020 Moquah Ski Hill Rd • Ashland, WI 54806
abrew@northland.edu
Secretary term 2023-2024

Treasurer

Bob Traczyk
604 Riverside Dr. • Hurley, WI 54534
715-561-3098
bbtraczyk@gmail.com
Treasurer term 2023-2024

Ken Benoit

218-393-1479
troutster80@gmail.com
Board Member 2023-2026

Dan Bloomquist

25075 Dybedal Rd. • Mason, WI 54856
715-763-3376
orchardhouse@cheqnet.net
Board Member 2013-26

Bill Heart

29450 Verners Road • Ashland, WI 54806
715-682-4703
wwheart@centurytel.net
Term: 2024-2026

Larry Mann

Hayward, WI
larry.mann2014@gmail.com
715-558-1995
Term: 2024-2026

Wendy Williamson

Hayward, WI
wswfish5@gmail.com
Term: 2024-2026

Check Out Our Website

<https://wrtu.org>

See us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/wildrivers.tu/>

For questions email us at:

tu.wildrivers@gmail.com