

Wild Rivers Tribune

WILD RIVERS CHAPTER



TROUT UNLIMITED



MARCH 2026

Chapter Report

By John Simonson, WRTU Chapter President

Wild Rivers TU Chapter is on its 43rd year. Over the years our chapter has worked on many cold-water conservation projects across Northwest Wisconsin.

This year we are hitting the ground running. We have a wonderful fly-tying social event planned for March 21st at the Sawmill Saloon. Followed by our first ever WRTU Coldwater Conservation Symposium at Lakewoods Resort in Cable on April 18th. The Conservation Symposium is free and open to the public. More information to follow.



We are also starting to plan our stream workdays for 2026. Since Winter in northwest Wisconsin is unpredictable it is difficult for us to create specific workdays until Spring finally arrives. So, stay tune, we need all the volunteers we can get for our workdays.

We also had our WRTU Chapter Board of Director elections on January 14, 2026. Below are our chapter officers and board members for 2026.

President – John Simonson

Treasurer – Bob Traczyk

Past President – Kevin Seefeldt

Board Member – Wendy Williamson

Board Member – Ken Benoit

Vice President – Frank Pratt

Secretary – Alan Brew

Board Member – Larry Mann

Board Member – Jason Nelson

Board Member – Dan Bloomquist

How is WRTU Chapter Money Spent?

By John Simonson

I get asked each year by some of our member donors where the chapter is investing the monies being donated. Wild Rivers TU Chapter has been donating a great amount of money to Coldwater Conservation efforts across Northwest Wisconsin. So far in 2026 we have donated over \$16,000.

- \$3,000 to the DNR for the White River State Fishery Area (Bayfield County)
- \$3,000 to the DNR for the Clam River State Fishery Area (Burnett County)
- \$1,200 to purchase tree seedlings for the Lincoln Community Forest to be planted this Spring on the Marengo River (Bayfield County)
- \$5,000 to the Burke Center for Ecosystem Research for an intern to help this summer working on the North Fish Creek Sediment Reduction Project
- \$5,000 to the Great Lakes TU National for culvert replacement projects in Northwest Wisconsin (\$2,500 from the Friends of TU Grant)
- \$250 to Superior Rivers Watershed Association as a business partner

Although none of the \$35 we all pay annually to TU National goes toward our WRTU Chapter projects, we do directly benefit from all the stream projects Great Lakes TU National does in Northwest Wisconsin. Chris Collier and Katti Renik from Great Lakes TU have been big supporters to our stream improvement projects in Northwest Wisconsin.

For our local chapter cold water stream conservation projects, the dollars needed for the work comes directly from the generous donations made to Wild Rivers TU Chapter. Without these donations to WRTU Chapter much of our cold water conservation work would not be possible. This includes improving stream access for fishermen, as well as helping to sustain our wild trout populations.

A special thank you to those who have generously donated money and their time to Wild Rivers TU Chapter. If you have any questions or thoughts please feel free to email: tu.wildrivers@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events

Below is a brief overview for some of the WRTU Chapter upcoming events:

Superior Rivers Watershed Association - Streams of 2026

March 6, 2026 – Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center (5:30pm – 7:00pm)

GLTU & WRTU's Fly Tying Social

March 21, 2026 – Fly Tying Social & Pizza Party, Sawmill Saloon (Noon – 4:00pm)

WRTU Coldwater Conservation Symposium

April 18, 2025 – Lakewoods Resort, Cable (2:00pm – 6:00pm)

Lincoln Community Forest

May 1, 2026 – Tree seedling planting on the Marengo River, Lincoln Community Forest (more details to follow)

White River State Fishery Area

May 8, 2026 – Tree seedling planting on the South Fork of the White River (more details to follow)

Clam River State Fishery Area

Stream Habitat Restoration Workdays TBD

Fish Creek – Burke Center for Ecosystem Research

Workdays and Special Event in progress

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WILD RIVERS TU COLDWATER CONSERVATION SYMPOSIUM

April 18, 2026 • 2:00pm to 6:00pm
Lakewoods Resort, Cable, WI

FREE to the PUBLIC

Please join Wild Rivers Trout Unlimited for a fun-filled learning event centered on the cold water streams in northwest Wisconsin. Learn about the effects of pesticides, wild native brook trout populations and loons. Also, there will be free appetizers, beverages, pay bar and plenty of time to network / ask questions from the talented speakers.

2:00pm Doors Open - Greeting

2:30pm The adverse effects of Neonic Pesticides on Wisconsin's insects and coldwater ecosystems.

PRESENTER: Mike Miller; WI DNR Stream Ecologist and Water Quality Specialist

3:15pm What is happening to our wild, native brook trout populations?

PRESENTER: Paul Cunningham; WI DNR Fisheries Ecologist and Habitat Specialist

4:00pm The Call of the Loon

PRESENTER: Emily Stone; Author and Naturalist/Education Director at the Cable Natural History Museum

5:00pm Social Hour

Great conversations with free appetizers and beverages supplied by WRTU Chapter. Pay bar.

Fly Tying at Ashland High School



This Winter again WRTU Chapter members are teaching fly tying to 18 Ashland High School students.

If you have any extra fly tying material to donate to help the students learning to tie flies please email: tu.wildrivers@gmail.com. We will arrange for pick up of the materials.

Tie One On Social

FREE FLY TYING AND PIZZA PARTY



SATURDAY MARCH 21 | 12-4PM
SAWMILL SALOON | SEELEY, WI
Hosted by Wild Rivers Trout Unlimited



Learn to tie, hone your skill with local experts,
or just socialize. Including fly tying giveaway
for beginners and a spotlight on stoneflies

ALL AGES AND EXPERIENCES WELCOME
CONTACT JAMIE AT [JVAUGHAN@TU.ORG](mailto:jvaughan@tu.org) TO LEARN MORE

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

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Check Out Our Website

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For questions email us at:

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