



Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter News

TROUT UNLIMITED

Serving Iowa, Grant and Lafayette Counties

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Winter 2005/06



From the President's Bench

By Dave Fritz, President,
Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter.

Dave Petersen resigned from the board at the November board meeting due to some serious health concerns. The board accepted his resignation with deep regrets. We're very grateful for the service he's provided to the chapter through the years.

Dave is a charter member of the chapter, joining while he was a Methodist Pastor living in Cuba City.

There are three components of a valued volunteer; time, ability, and passion. Dave brought all three to the table. He graciously and generously shared them with us to the chapter's benefit. Here are the du-

- ties he's currently providing –
- Treasurer
- Membership Coordinator
- Newsletter Mailing List Coordinator
- E-mail List Coordinator
- Banquet Door Prize and Bucket Raffle Coordinator
- Membership on the Spring Creek Festival Committee
- Keeper of chapter records

Perhaps the piece that I will personally miss is the passion Dave shared. He didn't enter anything without complete openness, honesty, and enthusiasm. If Dave was there, he was there, full and complete. There were never any conditions with Dave. What you see is what you get.

Dave has a strong sense of justice and decency. More than once we were reminded of that at a board meeting or committee meeting when perhaps the conversation became disrespectful. There was no hesitancy in pointing out the error of our ways. Not only did this make us a better chapter, but better people.

There are no words I can find to thank Dave enough for all he's done.

Please let me say a thank you from the heart. You are an inspiration.

“What makes a river so restful to people is that it does not have any doubt – it is sure to get where it is going, and it doesn't want to go anywhere else.” Hal Boyle

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The Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter is not just about fishing. We care about the environment and encourage the enjoyment and protection of the natural resources in Southwest Wisconsin. Join us!

Blackhawk Lake Dam Project and Future Study

By Andy Morton & Bill Wisler

As many of you may have heard, the dam at Blackhawk Lake was recently modified to allow the capability for adjustment of the release of water downstream. This work was performed by the Iowa County LCD with assistance (design and funding support) from the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The movable gate will allow for flexibility in the way top and bottom water in the lake is released to the stream below. The gate will be kept at its current position where it has been for many years until the study described below is completed.

Due to increased baseflow of the tributaries to the lake during the past several decades, the discharge at the dam eventually became a predominately top draw system. Studies on lake management and limnology conducted by Dave Marshall, DNR aquatic biologist, on area lakes (Twin Valley, White Mound, and Blackhawk) have shown that maintaining a stratified lake so that the bottom layer is not depleted through a bottom draw can help maintain or enhance water quality during summer. This is because the nutrients that are found on the bottom of the lake are not "mixed" up and are not distributed throughout the entire water column of the lake and hence do not fuel the growth of algae. Because of these findings, there were concerns that going back to a bottom draw discharge could be detrimental to the water quality of the lake. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was then developed among the parties involved this past summer so that these concerns could be addressed and we could start to work together in cooperative fashion so that improved management of the lake, watershed and stream could occur. This MOU requires that the adjustable discharge

gate installed by Iowa County LCD would be maintained at exactly the current level so that the "status quo" discharge would be maintained for the present time until future studies are completed. Further, the Cobb Highland Recreation Commission which oversees management of Blackhawk Park, in accordance with the MOU, applied for and was granted a Lake Planning Grant which will provide for a study of the lake, the tributaries, and stream downstream of the dam to determine the best management for the lake and optimal management for the stream.

Because the lake study referred to above includes stream monitoring and assessments that pertain to management of the tributaries and stream below the dam (Otter Creek), there is an opportunity for the Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter to assist with this project and be involved in developing future management scenarios. The hours that TU members donate will be considered payment-in-kind and apply as matching funds, reducing the amount of money that the Cobb-Highland Recreation Commission would otherwise be required to raise. There will continue to be meetings to determine the specific monitoring activities for both the streams and the lake. It is envisioned that the information obtained through these studies and working cooperatively will lead to better management of these outstanding resources.



*About our artwork: the drawings you see throughout this issue come to us courtesy of Steve Vance.
Thanks, Steve!*

Facing the Challenges That Lie Ahead

By Bill Wisler

As Dave Fritz expressed above, some events have come about that require our leadership be realigned. At our recent board of directors meeting, the board approved the following interim changes until the March election: Dave Fritz will become Treasurer Bill Wisler will become President Steve Carpenter will become Vice-President

With the realignment, we are left with the challenge of finding people that will step up and take on a number of responsibilities, in addition to being treasurer that Dave Peterson so willingly and capably undertook. Our board approved a transition committee that will address this void and insure that we continue on as a successful chapter.

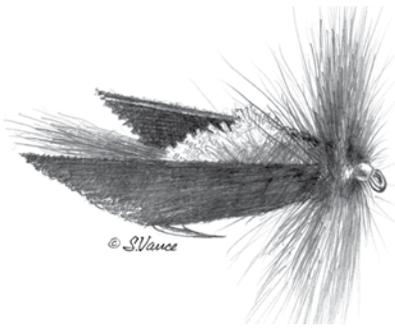
Our chapter has accomplished a great deal over the past few years because of a few people like Dave Peterson who have shown great passion for the goals of our organization. Others must now step up and carry on.

Some of the responsibilities that need filling are the following:

- Maintaining the chapter's membership and mailing list.
- Liaison with TU national (includes submitting and monitoring data).
- Forward and coordinate e-mails to members (including minutes and notices).
- Supply address labels for banquet and school grant mailings.

We are also in need of a banquet chairperson to organize our annual banquet on May 5th.

If you would like to volunteer for any of the above responsibilities, please contact me or one of our officers.



Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter Trout Unlimited

Officers

Bill Wisler – President
Steve Carpenter – Vice President
Don Pluemer – Past President
Chuck Steudel – Secretary
Dave Fritz – Treasurer

Directors

Jeff Ware
Eric Johannesen
Brian Larson
Dve Fowler
Herb Klein
Gordon Grieshaber

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Be sure to check out the
Chapter web site at:
www.nohrtu.org

Project Committee Update

By Kyle Richards

The 2005 Blue River Project on the Wayne and Milo Zoha property is complete. The 2005 project was approximately 3/4 of a mile (4800 ft) in length and began upstream from where last year's project ended. Last year's project was approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ mile long. The contractor on both projects was Dave Roh Excavating. Dave and his crew did an excellent job on both projects and we hope to use him on the 2006 project. The 2005 project included the installation of numerous cattle crossings, significant bank tapering, and riprap armoring of the toe. A large amount of rock was also used to narrow and deepen the stream where needed and to create some instream channel meanders. 49 luncker structures were installed with the appropriate diverters and weirs. Vortex weirs were created to scour holes. The project evaluation is available on the website. We are now looking ahead to the 2006 Blue River Project on the Don Adametz property, which will encompass 4200 ft. of stream. The lower two-thirds section of this project will include the removal of a large box elder canopy. This may create a couple of workday opportunities. These will be announced later. Although the scale of the tree removal may dictate we use the contractor's heavy equipment. Some trees like elm and willow will be left standing wherever possible. This section runs along row-crop land and will require bank tapering along the field side. A few luncker structures will be used in the very lower end of this section of stream. Diverter weirs, vortex weirs, and root wads will also be incorporated as well as riprapping and some stream narrowing. The upstream section flows through a cow pasture. This section will reflect the type of work that we have done the past two years in pasture sections. This includes installation of lunkers, tapering of degraded banks, creating instream meanders, etc. We will also use some root wads and boulder retards in this

section. There will only be 21 luncker structures utilized throughout the entire project. The design is complete and the permitting process will begin soon. We hope to again partner with the Wisconsin DNR and begin working with the Grant County LCD and NRCS on this project. Fundraising has begun and Brian Larson will soon be sending out grant applications. Again, next year's project will be completed on property with a fishing easement and a willing landowner. The project committee hopes to have your support at workdays for this project and for future projects.

TU DARE

Mark Your Calendars

The weekend of March 25 – 26, 2006 has been selected as the date to hold a capacity building workshop. The intent of the workshop is to help individual chapters learn about habitat improvement projects from beginning to end and in so doing increase their capacity to complete such activities.

In addition to case studies, key note speakers and the opportunity to visit informally with other "doers", the weekend will include some fishing and fun activities. If you're involved in project work or would be willing to step up and become involved please consider attending this valuable workshop.

More details will be available at the chapter web site as they become available.

www.nohrtu.org



Spring Creek Partners

By Dave Fritz

When you hear Spring Creek Partners you probably ask yourself, what is that? Well the answer is simple – it's Bill Weege.

The first conclave on the banks of Otter Creek made a total of about \$200. After that event Bill Weege approached me and said, we can do better than that. To make a long story short let me share the results of this year's Spring Creek Partner's Efforts.

The third Spring Creek Festival on the shores of Castle Rock Creek cleared over \$10,000! The Fish Art Sale held at Botham Winery cleared over \$8,000 for a total donation to the Blue River Habitat Improvement effort of \$18,000! This is clearly the most successful fund raising effort in the



Fish Art Auction at Botham Winery
chapter's history. Thank you Bill.

Several years ago the chapter made a three year commitment to the Blue River project. The 2006 phase will complete that three year commitment. This will be my last year as the chair of the Festival since this completes my personal goal for project work. If anyone would like to take over the chairmanship please let us know as

soon as possible. Thank you to everyone that made a contribution to this very successful event.

There is a great opportunity here for any member that wants to step up and embrace a project and conduct a fund raiser. I'm sure Mr. Weege and The Spring Creek Partners would be very happy to talk.



Spring Creek Festival

Outdoor Skills Day Event Offered for Youth of Grant County

By Chuck Horn

A coalition of sports and conservation clubs from Grant County is hosting an Outdoor Skills Day event for the youth of Grant County. The event will be held at the Grant County Youth & Ag. Building at the Grant County Fairgrounds in Lancaster from 8:30 am to 3 pm on Saturday, January 28, 2006. The event is open to all youth between 10-15 years of age and is limited to 100 participants. The educational sessions at BB/Pellet gun range, an archery range, a fur

collection and trapping demonstration, a Lasershot hunting simulator and a fishing rodeo. Each participant will attend all five sessions and lunch will be provided. Trout Unlimited is represented by Dave Fritz, president of the Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter and he will be coordinating the fishing rodeo. Each of these sessions have coordinators and all of these folks could use some help! If you are interested in helping out at this event, please contact Chuck Horn at (608) 935-1931. A planning meeting is set up for Monday, December 5, 2005 at 6:30 pm at the Youth & Ag. Building at

the fairgrounds in Lancaster.

Also to be discussed at this meeting is the formation of the Grant County Sports Alliance. Representatives of clubs that have been involved in the skills day planning have all agreed that the formation of an alliance is an excellent idea. The alliance will serve as a unified sounding board for conservation related issues pertaining to Grant County and Wisconsin and hopefully encourage, promote, organize and participate in conservation and sporting projects around the county such as the skills day listed above. Hope to see you there!

The Caddisbugger

by Steve Vance

I know what you're thinking: "Wait a minute, I already know how to tie and fish a woolybugger- I don't need to read this!" Okay, fine but you might miss out on catching more trout without this one in your box. Yes, it does look like an ordinary bugger but this fly is quite unlike its predecessors and needs to be fished differently as well.

The Caddisbugger is more like a nymph than a streamer and it works best with a specific fishing technique. The pattern developed over several years of much trial and many more errors of fishing.

I had some success using woolybuggers in the traditional sizes that you and I would normally tie and so I soon moved on to experimenting with flies based on Ross Mueller's Soft Hackle Woolybugger. I remember years ago catching a large brown as I dead-drifted a black SHWB through a pool. The line twitched just as if several small

creek chubs pecked at it. A quick hook set proved otherwise. As I continued fishing the SHWB in this manner, I had successes but I knew I was passing holding fish that would not hit the fly. I also had trouble distinguishing a strike from a snagged fly. Two fundamental questions confronted me: "What characteristics of the fly encouraged those fish to strike or, on the other hand, encouraged the fish to let the fly go by untouched?" and "How can I tell exactly what the fly is doing underwater?" Over time, the fish revealed the answers to these questions. The Caddisbugger has all the aspects inherent to the original woolybugger streamer and the SHWB design that encourages fish to strike. However it possesses features that closely match

more of the food items fish eat and features that more readily suit the fishing conditions in our Driftless area streams. These include a small bug-like size that is much less likely to spook wary fish, soft peacock herl with just enough color and flash, a moving tail, dry fly hackle that pushes water with the slightest movement and a hook shape that helps to keep the fly from hanging up on the streambed. Fish seem to 'turn on' to this fly even when they are not feeding and are sulking on the bottom. This fly works very well also when fish are dug-in their crevices from encountering too much fishing pressure.



Since the Caddisbugger attempts to imitate caddis larvae, larger mayfly nymphs, small leaches or even immature crayfish that wiggle along through the water, it cannot be confused with the bits of detritus that dead-drift along in the current. Therefore, this fly is best fished with a bit of action given to it. I have enough confidence in this pattern that I will go WAY OUT on a limb by saying if you fish this fly with slight, repeated twitch movements and the fly is within a couple of feet to a holding trout, you will very likely get that fish to hit this fly. However, hooking and landing that fish may be another story, since this fly has proved to be a big fish finder.

I fish this pattern with a floating strike indicator, even in shallow clear runs.

This helps me understand more of what the fly is doing below the water's surface. Casting weighted flies like the Caddisbugger with an indicator on your leader requires additional attention. You will need to slow down and open up the casting loop a bit. You don't have a great deal of control over where the fly lands in conjunction to the indicator, so as in horseshoes, close counts. Also, if you throw the fly in the weeds, the curved shank hook should keep you from losing too many flies. That said, I still count on losing at least a couple each time I fish these.

PATTERN LIST:

HOOK: Mustad 80050, Daichii 1270, Tiemco 200R, Cabela's 21, or Partridge 12ST 2X to 3X curved nymph hook with straight eye, sizes #8 through #14; however, I recommend #12 as it has continually worked much better under all conditions than other hook sizes

WEIGHT:

Non-lead .025 wire;

however, any type of heavy wire will do; wire extends from 1/8-inch behind eye to hook bend

THREAD: Olive or black, 6/0

TAIL: Small clump of dark olive rabbit underfur and guard hairs 3/4 length of hook shank (I cut a 1/16-inch section from a pre-dyed dark olive rabbit zonker strip)

BODY: Three strands of Peacock herl at least 5 inches long

RIB: #16 Grizzly hackle (stiff hackle used for dry flies; uniform in barb length) 6/0 olive or black tying thread

HEAD: Two groups of at least 6 wraps of thread, both groups whip finished

TYING INSTRUCTIONS:

Continued on p. 6

The Caddisbugger *Continued from p. 5*

1. With the hook in the vise, lock the thread to the hook shank with four or five wraps 1/8-inch behind the eye. You can work with the whole spool of wire in your hand without first cutting off a length so that you don't waste any wire. Assuming you normally wrap thread right handed, hold the spool of wire in your left hand. Extend a 1/8-inch tag of the wire over your thread wraps. Lock down the wire tag to the hook shank with four or five wraps. Switch the wire spool and thread in your hands. Move the thread bobbin to the rear of your vise and hook. Wind the wire in tight wraps rearward to 1/8-inch in front of the hook bend. Switch the wire and thread in your hands again. Wrap the thread to the front of the hook and lock down the entire wire spirals with thread. You may have to wrap the thread repeatedly back to front and front to back again. Make sure your thread wraps cover most of the wrapped wire. Snip off the remaining wire close to the rear of the hook shank or work the wire back and forth until it breaks away from the wrapped wire on the shank.

2. Tie in the small clump of dark olive rabbit hair by the butts at the hook bend. The hair should be rather sparse and extend no further than 2/3 the length of the hook shank.

3. Tie in the three strands of peacock herl by the tips at the hook bend. The herl tips are quite fragile, so extend them at least 1/2-inch over the tie in point before you lock them down with thread wraps. At this point, you can spiral the thread around all of the herl strands several times and wrap with this 'herl brush' once or twice around the hook shank or you can simply wrap all the herl strands together once or twice over the previous wraps you made on the tail. Whichever method you choose, wrap the herl once or twice at the rear of the hook shank, then lock the herl down with four to six thread wraps.

4. Tie in the #16 grizzly dry fly hackle by the tip in front of the wrapped herl. Again, you have a choice of meth-

ods in how you secure the herl. You can spiral the thread and herl strands together and wrap this 'herl brush' to the front of the hook or you can simply take the thread to the front of the hook, then wrap the herl strands forward over the wire. With either method, wrap the herl strands or the herl brush to just in front of the wire behind the hook eye. Lock the herl down with thread wraps to form a 1/8-inch thick body. Make six to eight spiral thread wraps to the rear of the herl and give the thread a couple of half hitches. Bring the thread to the front of the herl with six to eight spiral thread wraps and give the thread a couple of half hitches. Make four thread wraps behind the hook eye and whip finish but do not cut the thread. These wraps will protect the herl from breaking off.

5. Palmer the grizzly hackle forward with NO MORE THAN FOUR WRAPS to 1/8-inch behind the eye. Lock the palmered hackle down with eight to twelve wraps of thread. Just as in Step 4, make six to eight spiral thread wraps to the rear of the fly over the herl and hackle, then give the thread a couple of half hitches. Make six to eight spiral thread wraps over the herl and hackle forward to the eye of the hook. Cut off remainder of hackle. Make six thread wraps behind the hook eye and whip finish but do not cut the thread. Instead, make a second good whip finish, then trim the thread at the head of the fly.

6. Pick most of the hackle barbs out from under the thread spiraled over the body with a bodkin or needle. Coat the head with head finish cement.

Don't worry if the hackle looks quite ratty. The hackle should not look as precise as it might on a dry fly. If you made more than four wraps with the hackle or your hackle is too symmetric over the length of the hook shank, the fly will have a tendency to twist your tippet when it is cast unless you use a 3x or thicker tippet.

Finally, if this single Caddisbugger catches a baker's dozen fish without tearing apart, it's a success.

Research Addresses Ecology of Springs Systems

By Susan Carpenter

Where there are trout streams, there are springs and seeps that contribute cold water downriver. Changes in climate and vegetation cause changes in flow of springs, or even cause springs to appear and disappear. Development can decrease recharge of groundwater and eventually decrease spring flow. Increased pumping of groundwater for municipal, industrial or agricultural use can also affect springs. Basic scientific information about springs is needed to evaluate changes from proposed developments or pumping.

For the next 1+ years, an in-depth study will focus on springs in Iowa and Waukesha counties to contrast glaciated and unglaciated areas of the state. Researchers from the U. W. Arboretum, Beloit College and the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey will gather data on geomorphic features, spring flow characteristics, water quality, habitat characteristics, springs biota and land management of the surrounding landscape. Approximately forty springs in each county will be mapped and characterized. They will assess vulnerability of different types of spring systems.

In Iowa County, another WGNHS study will document groundwater flows and hydrology around population centers. Some products of this research include water table maps, measurements of aquifers and aquitards, and measures of seasonal fluctuations in groundwater levels in wells. Findings from both studies should help us better manage and preserve water resources.

To read the funded proposal and learn more about the springs research that is now underway, use this link to the University of Wisconsin Water Resources Institute site:
http://www.wri.wisc.edu/Projects/FY06_Joint_Solicitation/Zaber.html

Wildlife Phenology

By Bill Wisler

At this time of year, I begin to think of the year ahead and make a mental lists of projects and interests that I want to pursue. High on my list for '06 is to become more observant of natural events and the order of nature, also known as wildlife phenology.

As a part of this pursuit, I plan to keep a journal of natural events that I observe. To make this more interesting I am sharing a list of ten natural events and their seasonal timing according to averaged data collected by Nina Leopold Bradley over a 26 year period between 1974 and 2000. Hopefully some of you will join me and record the date of your first observation of any or all of the ten natural events listed below. In future newsletters we can share our findings.

It will be interesting to see how our observations compare to the Leopold data. The ten events and the average dates of the first sighting are the following:

- 1 Great horned owls begin courtship activities – Jan. 31.
- 2 Canada geese begin to arrive – Feb. 25.
- 3 Red winged blackbirds arrive – March 21.
- 4 Skunk cabbage begins blooming – March 24.
- 5 Chorus frogs and spring beepers begin calling – March 28.
- 6 Pasque flower bloom – April 10.
- 7 Dutchman's breeches bloom – April 16.
- 8 Warbler spring migration begins – May 3.
- 9 Wild Geranium bloom – May 12.
10. Morel mushrooms appear – May 17.

My suggestion is that we start looking for the above events well before the date developed by the Leopold's. It is quite clear that Wisconsin is warmer now than it was 20 year ago and most of us live south of the Leopold "shack". A good example is the morel mushroom. Leopold's date was May 17th. Since coming to our farm twelve years ago, I have always found morels around the last week of April and never as late as May 17th.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Dept. is once again providing free of charge a beautiful wildlife phenology calendar for Wisconsin. To get your calendar, call Becky at Fish and Wildlife in Madison at 221-1206 ext. 12 and ask to be added to their distribution list. The supply is limited so make your call soon.



Notes and Tips for Fly Fishers and Outdoor People

By John Gribb

Cold Weather/Cold hands Solution

A lot of us never give up when it comes to fishing! We get the urge and we go regardless of the weather. Fingerless gloves are a must when fishing with a fly rod and that leads to cold fingers and hands. A simple solution is to purchase air activated hand and adhesive toe warmers. When these packages are opened and exposed to air a reaction takes place that creates up to 160 degrees of heat that last up to 10 hours. Place the hand warmer

pouch under your glove on top of the wrist then take the adhesive toe warmer (very thin compared to hand warmer) and stick it to the glove inside the palm area. A heat source on top of your wrist another inside your palm creates a constant heat source to your hands. If your fingers get cold simply make a fist for a few moments! Since the heat source will last up to 10 hours always carry a zip lock bag and after fishing place into bag (heat stops without oxygen) and zip closed. The next day remove and

reuse the heat source. A good seal will extend the second use life for a number of days. The best time to purchase these heat sources is after the hunting season on sale as they sell (full price for a day of warmth under \$3.00) for less than half price! Store them in a large zip lock bag and they will be good the following season. I also use them during ice fishing inside my heavy mittens. Once you use them you will never leave home without them!! You may contact me for more information at Jgribb@mhtc.net

Fishing & Dutch Oven Cooking

By Claude Kazanski

Winter editions of fishing journals often include articles on a memorable fishing experience, a favorite pattern or cherished gear. And if you're like me, you look forward to our Chapter's newsletter for such gems. So perhaps it is best to address head on what you might be expecting.

This article is not about my first trout which was caught on a canoe trip on the Green River in Wyoming after a picnic break on a sand bar not long before Madelyn and my mother-in-law maneuvered around the ox-bow downstream so my father-in-law could end his frustration watching me catch nothing but low lying willows like the one upstream from the log tucked deep into the bank where he suggested I drop my muddler minnow farther than the first cast which landed midstream but instead six feet more so it almost bounces off the log to let the current slip it below the overhang just like that and let it float, float, now strip, strip FAST as it arches away from the old cottonwood where a flash struck out beneath the trunk to take the fly downstream then up, up in the air three times each time splashing to instructions of more line, tip up tip up TIP UP, now tighten the line, tighten not too much, there, there until the fat 18" rainbow lay at the toe of my left sneaker looking as bewildering to me as I did to him. Nor is this article about the time years later when my daughter shut the window of our pick-up on the tip of the rod which caught my first trout.

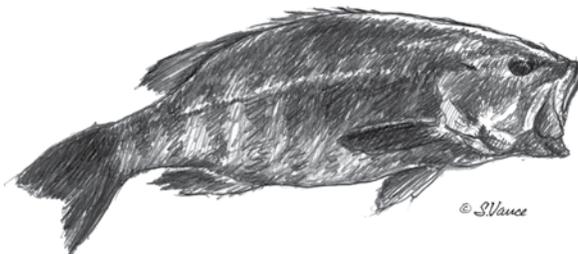
Now that we've gotten that out of the way, this piece is about cooking in a Dutch oven. Cooking in a Dutch has been a family tradition for us with each meal giving us time to "catch up" and a chance for our children to learn family traditions.

Lately, there has been a substantial curiosity about cooking in a Dutch,

partly related, we think, to the Lewis & Clark anniversaries and a desire to preserve techniques that accompanied settlers as they moved west. In the United States, Dutch ovens are thought to have Pennsylvania Dutch heritage dating back to the 1700's. But some trace the term back to the English, who referred to anything with a "Dutch" prefix in a pejorative context arising from the conflicts between England and the Dutch during the 1600's. The English had a dim view of the Dutch who were thought to be incapable of cooking anything more sophisticated than a meal-in-a-pot (though, when it comes to culinary prowess, some of us think the Brits' pot was calling the kettle black).

For most of us though, a Dutch oven brings images of cattlemen on the open range. The trail drives were most prevalent from the end of the Civil War to the mid-1880's before the railroads extended their reach into cattle country. In 1866, Charles Goodnight created the prototype for the chuck wagon – the trail's mobile kitchen, equipped with utensils that could prepare large meals on the open range. The Dutch oven was to the chuck wagon as our microwave is to the modern kitchen.

Today, you can find a wealth of information on the internet about cooking techniques, recipes and even "Dutch oven cook-offs" with their quiche recipes which, in our view, is sillier than adding fly-fishing to Ironman competitions, or the like. To get first hand instruction, watch for Luann Sewell Waters from Oklahoma (LSWO45@aol.com) who holds cooking demonstrations during



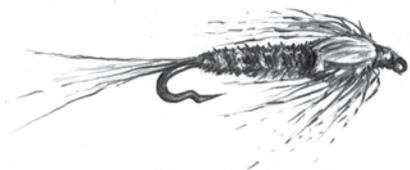
Lodi's Aldo Leopold Weekend in early March. She is a real gem of a person and nationally recognized for her culinary skills with a Dutch. Bakes a great biscuit too.

Dutch ovens come in various sizes from 8" to beyond what anyone can reasonably be expected to lift, let alone clean but are fun to look at in the Cabela's catalog. We favor 3 sizes 8" 10" and 12" – the first two have short feet on them so the base can be placed above red hot coals.

A good Dutch needs to be cured before cooking with it. You can speed up the process by firing up a batch of deep fried spuds over the stove a couple of times to let the Crisco do its wonders. But if cardiovascular concerns keep you awake at night, follow the manufacturer's instructions which typically call for baking the Dutch well greased 2-3 times before putting it to work. The instructions should also tell you not to use soap water when cleaning. We agree and typically boil water over the fire and clean the Dutch with only that. Works just fine. We're still here to prove it.

So you have the Dutch prepped, now how do you use it? This is the fun part. You have a couple of choices and often when cooking you employ each of them: (1) use it as a skillet sitting on a bed of coals, (2) use it as a baking oven nestled into the fire, (3) hang it suspended over the flames or (4) use the Dutch as a convection oven of sorts with coals placed on the lid (hence the reason for the lip on top). There is a bit of trial and error that goes with the Dutch so check your meal regularly; if nestled closely to the coals rotate the Dutch every 5 – 10 minutes depending on the size of your fire to maintain uniform heat. Meals can cook quickly so an alert eye and a sense of smell come in handy.

When using a Dutch, it is critical to remember that you are working with very hot cast iron that can easily burn you if you are not careful. Let children be curious but keep them a good distance so they don't accidentally brush next to a set aside lid or a cooling oven. We keep a pair of pliers near by to handle lids and help turn the oven as needed. An old cutting board is handy especially to set down the lid when checking on your meal. It also helps keep cinders or dirt from collecting inside the lid and then in your food. We also use sapling limbs cutting them where a new branch is growing to create a "v" which can substitute for a pair of pliers (make sure the sapling is strong enough to handle the Dutch's weight – the handle, or vertical portion of the "v" should also be long enough to allow good leverage and distance from the fire). A hot pad or a pair of work gloves are necessities as is a flash light, especially when cooking at night.



If you look into Dutch oven cooking you'll see that there are as many recipes out there as there may be cooks! Apparently, fancy dishes are becoming common but we prefer old family favorites: Albonidgas (a meatball Mexican stew served over rice), tortillas, roast beef with braised potatoes, sour dough (bread is tricky – keep the heat constant, better to let it bake slowly than burn the crust).

Our current favorite is baked chicken served over spaghetti squash - one of those meals we stumbled into after working outdoors all day and decided to put together some comfort food from what we had available. It now has become a bit of a tradition in its own right. The key to this recipe is to give the dish some time in the Dutch so the

chicken is falling off the bone as you serve it. We use a 10" Dutch with the lid for the chicken and an 8" covered for the squash.

Ingredients:

1 whole chicken cut into pieces

1 medium onion chopped

2 cloves of garlic chopped

1-2 stalks of celery cut into 1"-2" pieces

1 to 2 cans of diced tomatoes and juice

Thyme – a bunch, be generous

Pepper – amount subject to debate (I like more)

Olive oil

Make your fire at least 20-30 minutes before you want to start cooking so you have ample coals to cover the bottom of the Dutch.

Sauté the onion in olive oil until translucent, then move the pieces around the perimeter of the oven.

Place the chicken pieces in the Dutch, cover with the onions.

Add the celery, garlic, seasonings and tomatoes (with juice).

Put on the lid and place the Dutch into the fire, turning every 10 minutes or so; if the fire is large or throwing off a lot of heat, bring the Dutch out a bit so it absorbs the heat but doesn't get too hot (this is where the trial and error comes in).

Keep an eye on its progress – expect that it will take at least 30 minutes but



as noted earlier, that will depend on the size of your fire, the amount of contents you add to the Dutch, etc. And keep in

mind, for this dish, the longer it cooks, the better.

While the chicken is cooking, cut up a spaghetti squash and place it in another Dutch (we use an 8"). Add a bit of water to help steam the squash. If you have ample coals, you can bake it by putting them on the Dutch's lid. Otherwise, find room in the fire or on some coals to place the Dutch but keep an eye on it – rotate it every so often if near the coals or move it off the heat so the squash doesn't burn (more trial and error and your sense of smell comes in handy again).

When it's all done, scrape the squash from its skin on a warmed plate (another family tradition) and place a piece of chicken with sauce and vegetables on



top. Stoke the fire.

Sit back. Enjoy your company. Which is, in our view, one of the benefits of cooking in a Dutch – it takes a bit of time, but the time is well spent catching up with family and friends and getting some distance from the demands of our daily lives. Besides, by the time the meal is done, everyone is hungry and it always tastes great!

Oh, by the way, no, the trout was not prepared in a Dutch, but its tail hung over an old skillet. And yes, I still have the rod, broken tip and a great memory.



Grant River Watershed Program

By Tom Thrall

The Grant/Miquoketa watershed has been selected for the 2006 USDA Conservation Security Program. The Grant/Miquoketa is one of the 110 watersheds nationwide that are eligible to participate in this innovative program designed to reward farmers for long-term stewardship of the land. The watersheds were selected based on their history of good land stewardship, high percentage of crop and grazing land, and a record of high farmer participation in federal or state watershed projects.

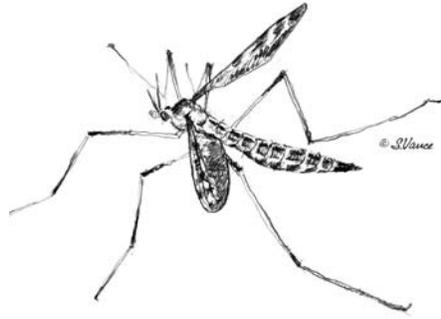
The Grant/Maquoketa is approximately 500,000 acres in Wisconsin and 200,000 acres in Iowa. It includes nearly all of Grant County (except the northern part of the county that drains into the Wisconsin River) plus portions of Lafayette and Iowa counties. It is nearly 80 percent cropland.

Instead of the emphasis to cost share problems on the farm, the Conservation Security Program (CSP) is designed to reward farmers financially for already doing a good job of resource protection of soil, water, air, plants, fish and wildlife. The amount of the annual payment received increases as the amount of resource protection and enhancement increases. It represents a new direction for conservation. Cost share programs can be used along with the CSP to move up in the level of resource protection with the resultant higher annual stewardship payments.

Chapter members are encouraged to get the word out to our farmer members as well as our other farmer friends in the watershed to learn more about the program by attending planned workshops to see if it is in their best interest to apply. Of particular importance would be farmers we have already worked with on stream habitat improvement and/or water quality improvements as well as farmers who have potential to do habitat/water quality work in the future. To apply

for CSP, farmers in the eligible watersheds will complete a Self-Assessment Workbook, which is available at the NRCS office in Lancaster. There will be a limited signup period which has yet to be announced. The NRCS will hold two informational meetings, one in Lancaster on Dec. 14 at the Youth and Ag. Bldg. and one in Platteville on Dec. 12 at the Governor Dodge Hotel & Convention Center. At both locations, there will be two meetings – one from 1 to 3 pm and a second evening meeting from 7 to 9 pm. to explain the details of the program and to help farmers with the application process.

More information as well as a map of the eligible land, is posted on the website at www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp.html.



Best time to Fish

I went fishing the last week in October

But I should have fished the week before

A fellow told me they'd caught forty fish or more

Now I always fish the week before

Not missing lots of fishing and adding to the lore.

– Bill Weege

Nohr Trout Unlimited Chapter Fly Tying and Cabin Fever Day

The Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter of Trout Unlimited will once again be hosting their winter education programs in 2006. We have scheduled two evenings in February for beginning and improving fly tiers to hone their skills on new fly patterns. The nights of February 7 & 20, 2006 have been scheduled for fly tying workshops. These classes are for people who are interested in beginning the art of fly tying and also for those who would like to learn techniques to improve the quality of their patterns. Both classes will begin around 7:00pm at Stonefield Apartments in Dodgeville, WI.

On Sunday, February 12, 2006, the Nohr Chapter will once again host their Cabin Fever day Stonefield Apartments in Dodgeville, WI. There will be a potluck dinner at 12:00pm. Fly tying and fellowship will follow. For more information, contact Eric Johannesen at (608) 732-7271 or e-mail at eric_johannesen@hotmail.com. Be sure to check out the website at www.nohrtu.org for information on the upcoming events.



The Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter of Trout Unlimited**Calendar of Coming Events**

Dec. 12, 2005 Grant River Water Shed Meeting at Platteville's Governor Dodge Hotel & Convention Center from 1 to 3 pm and again at 7 to 9 pm. (See article for more details).

Dec. 13, 2005 Nohr Chapter Christmas Party. Bill and Jayne Wisler will share some stories and pictures on their New Zealand adventure. Stonefield Apt. At 6 pm. Bring a dish to pass for the potluck. (Meat & Bev. provided)

Dec. 14, 2005 Grant River Water Shed Meeting at Lancaster Youth & Ag. Bldg. from 1 to 3 pm and repeated at 7 to 9 pm. (See article for more details).

Jan. 17, 2006 Nohr TU Membership Meeting 7:00pm at Stonefield Apartments, Dodgeville: Program-Presentation by UW- Platteville Intern.

Jan. 21, 2006 Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Ice Breaker at the Park Ponderosa, 8:30am - 4:30 pm, Southern TU chapter's annual fundraiser

Jan. 28, 2006 Grant County Outdoor Skills Day at Lancaster Youth & Ag. Bldg. From 8:30 am to 3 pm. (See article for more information)

Feb. 4, 2006 "A Celebration of Trout" the 21st Annual State Council Banquet. Mead Hotel, Wisconsin Rapids. \$24 per person.

Feb. 4-5, 2006 The Fly Fishing Show, Chicago, IL. call (800) 420-7582 for info.

Feb. 7, 2006 Nohr TU Chapter Educational Class, 7:00pm at Stonefield Apartments, Dodgeville. Please check out our fly fishing education page for more information.

Feb. 12, 2006 Nohr TU Chapter Cabin Fever Day, 12:00pm potluck dinner followed by fly tying and fellowship: Stonefield Village Apartments, Dodgeville

Feb. 20, 2006 Nohr TU Chapter Educational Class, 7:00pm at Stonefield Apartments, Dodgeville. Please check out our fly fishing education page for more information.

Feb. 21, 2006 Nohr Chapter Board of Director's Meeting, 7:00pm at Stonefield Apartments, Dodgeville

Mar. 21, 2006 Nohr TU Membership Meeting 7:00pm at Stonefield Apartments: Presentation by Jim Bartelt of Spring Creek Specialties.

NOHR CHAPTER NEWS
The Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter
P.O. Box 297
Dodgeville, WI 53533

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Seasons Greetings

Plan to attend the Nohr Chapter

Christmas Party!

Join us on Dec 13th at 6 o'clock for our annual
Christmas Party at Stonefield Apartments.

Bring a dish to pass for our potluck dinner.

T.U. Will provide meat and beverage.

Questions - call 623-2603

Our officers and board wish you a joyous and safe Holiday Season!