

June, 2001

# Running Waters

Newsletter of the



Central Wisconsin Basin Partnership

Volume 3, Issue 2

## Plover River Trout Stream Restoration

Submitted by Jason Folstad



Photo provided by Cameron Bump, DNR

The Plover River is a Class I trout stream sustaining healthy, naturally reproducing Brook and Brown Trout populations, but due to the amount of degradation in the stream, these populations remain small, yet stable. The Plover River is a coldwater resource of adequate quality, primarily fed by groundwater, and numerous seepage springs maintaining relatively stable temperatures and flows. Trout habitat work has been done on over 29,600 feet of stream on the Plover River. This work has been performed on Trout Unlimited Easement acquisitions as well as on state owned land. Past habitat improvement efforts along this stretch of stream have involved narrowing of the stream channel forcing the flow to shaded areas of the stream. The past improvements to the river have increased populations of trout significantly, as well as created areas for other wildlife.

During the summer of 2001, 3,200 feet of in-stream trout habitat restoration work will be conducted on the Plover River in Marathon County through a co-operative project between

the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and the Wisconsin Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited. The work will primarily focus on areas that are severely degraded due to logging, cattle grazing and watering. Damage to the streambank will often lead to problems including widening of the stream, slower annual water flows, which in turn causes an increase in the overall water temperature, extensive loss of trout habitat and excessive siltation which can damage or destroy trout spawning areas.

Streambank restoration work on the Plover River that has already been completed has produced numerous results. The river has been narrowed, deepened, seen increased annual water flows, experienced decreased water temperature, increased the number of trout in each of the habitat improvement areas, and increased the overall number of trout spawning areas. The Plover River is extremely popular among many fisherpersons and outdoor enthusiasts. The habitat improvements conducted will not only improve fishing and canoeing opportunities, but also improve habitat for a large variety of waterfowl, shore birds, songbirds, amphibians, reptiles and wildlife. To learn more about trout habitat improvements in your area or for more information about other organizations that are active within each basin call your Regional Fisheries Biologists .



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### Special points of interest:

- *River Basin Spotlight*

## Highlights from our last Partnership meeting

Submitted by John DuPlissis

The April 18th meeting of the CWB Partnership was very productive as the Partnership heard reports from each of the ad-hoc working groups. The Partnership established the ad-hoc working groups to investigate issues related to land-use, surface and groundwater quality and quantity, and vegetation management. Each working group developed issue briefing papers, held public meetings and sought input from local stakeholders, and developed a list of potential projects for the Partnership to Evaluate. Based on the work of these committees the Partnership selected the following projects for further research and development.

### Vegetation Management

- ◆ The development of information and education programs and materials and demonstration projects on invasive plant species and how they impact our local and regional landscape.
- ◆ The development of information and education programs and materials and demonstration projects on school forest lands to utilize them for educating school children and the general public.
- ◆ The creation of an endowment fund using conservation easements, living trusts, and other tools to address forest fragmentation and the protection of ecologically sensitive areas in Adams County.

### Land-use

- ◆ The development of information and education programs and materials and demonstration projects to educate land-owners, developers, realtors, surveyors and zoning personnel on the issue of cluster development.

### Surface and ground water quality and quantity

- ◆ An assessment of water quality impacts on the Mill Creek watershed in Wood County.
- ◆ An assessment of factors influencing the relationship between the Little Plover River and its groundwater Supply in Portage County.
- ◆ The development of information and education programs and materials and demonstration projects on riparian restoration and development on the Fourteen-Mile Creek Watershed in Adams County.

Project assessments for each of the proposed projects will be presented at the next meeting of the partnership.



## River Basins in the spotlight - The Little Plover River

Submitted by Jason Folstad

The Little Plover River is six miles long and mainly rejuvenated through groundwater seepage from the surrounding watershed. Four and three-quarter miles of the river reside above Springville Pond, an eighteen acre flowage located in the Village of Whiting, and the out fall then travels one and one-fourth miles where it empties into the Wisconsin River in the Village of Plover. The Little Plover River is a Class 1 trout stream, home to native, naturally reproducing Brook Trout. The Little Plover has been a landmark for the surrounding communities for the past century, providing outdoor recreational activities along with educational experiences for the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point (UWSP) and the local Izaak Walton League. The Department of Natural Resources has purchased 250 acres of land along the Little Plover River to preserve and protect it from surrounding development, which may impact the water quality of the river.

The Little Plover River faces a serious problem that has been slowly growing over the past few decades. As agricultural, commercial, and residential development has increased so has the consumption of ground water which has had the effect of decreased flow rates in the Little Plover River. A concern for the amount of groundwater making it to the Little Plover River is starting to become more evident. In 1994 a study was done by UWSP, which determined that the flow had already decreased by ten percent due to extensive water use. This figure, accompanied by the fact that the Village of Plover and the Vil-

lage of Whiting that are growing at the fourth fastest rate in the state, causes great concern. Increased well pumping and drilling in the Little Plover Watershed have greatly increased and will continue to rise in the future. With the amount of water being taken out of the Plover/ Little Plover River Watershed it is predicted that by the year 2005 the in-stream flow could be reduced by as much as forty percent. This would make trout nonexistent in the Little Plover River.

“In 1994 a study was done by UWSP, which determined that the flow had already decreased by ten percent due to extensive water use.”

Efforts have already been made by the Village of Plover to shift pumping to wells located away from the Little Plover River. It is unknown what efforts, if any, have been taken by the surrounding landowners to reduce the amount of groundwater being utilized for crop and livestock watering. The future of the Little Plover River will depend on how and where water is pumped and used surrounding the “little natural cold water oasis” that we have taken for granted.

## The Next Partnership Meeting

Submitted by John DuPlissis

The next meeting of the CWB Partnership will be held at the Wausau School Forest. The agenda for this meeting will include a discussion of the projects proposed at our last meeting and a review the project assessments. Based on the assessments we hope to select new projects, and identify champions and create new working groups to establish these projects. Since one of the proposed projects dealt specifically with school forests we have arranged for Eden Koljord, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Forest Resources Education Alliance, to speak to the Partnership about the work that is currently being done to develop curriculum for school forests and perhaps give us some ideas about how we can participate in this work. We will be having lunch at the center followed by a tour of the school forest property. The day will end with a tour of the Van der Geest Dairy. This is a state of the art facility that milks a 3,000 cow herd. This should be a great opportunity to see some new things and learn more about some of the natural resource issues that the Partnership is interested in.



## Forest Fragmentation Workshop

Submitted by John DuPlissis

The need for broad strategies to manage forest ecosystems, in the face of continuing parcelization, the subdivision of large tracts of forest land into smaller parcels, was addressed at a recent workshop held at the McMillan Library in Wisconsin Rapids.

34 people representing federal, state, and local government employees and officials as well as industry and forest land owners attended the workshop and heard about statewide, regional, and local impacts of parcelization. Information presented included the concepts and impacts of forest fragmentation and the effects of forest fragmentation on forest health. Those attending also heard about problem solving approaches used in other places and possible solutions to consider here.

The workshop ended with the attendees breaking up into discussion groups to identify issues of common concern and offer input towards the development of recommendations for educational programs and materials, incentives, and policy change at the local, county, and state levels, in order to mitigate the effects of sprawl into forested landscapes. The information collected at this workshop will be incorporated into a statewide meeting to be held on July 12th in Wausau, at the Westwood Conference Center.

## Watershed Assistance Grant

Submitted by Diana Toledo, River Alliance

2001 Watershed Assistance Grant Criteria and Application are now available!

The primary purpose of the Watershed Assistance Grants program is to support the growth and sustainability (i.e., organizational capacity) of local watershed partnerships in the United States. Grants of up to \$30,000 are available to partnerships meeting stated criteria. The Watershed Assistance Grant is a highly competitive, national grant program funded by EPA through a cooperative agreement with River Network. The deadline for proposals is July 20th, 2001.

For more information about this grant its criteria and an application package visit their website at:



[http://www.rivernetwork.org/howwecanhelp/howwag\\_2001cri](http://www.rivernetwork.org/howwecanhelp/howwag_2001cri)

## Upcoming Events

### 2001 MULTI-AGENCY LAND AND WATER EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM— GRANT WRITING WORKSHOP

UWSP's Schmeckle Reserve, Stevens Point  
Wednesday, June 20th, 2001

9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Contact Andy Yencha at UWEX

Phone: 608-263-4720

E-mail: [andrew.yencha@ces.uwex.edu](mailto:andrew.yencha@ces.uwex.edu)

### FOREST FRAGMENTATION STATEWIDE CONFERENCE

Westwood Conference Center, Wausau

Thursday, July 12th, 2001

8:30 am to 3:30 pm

Contact: John Grosman at Trees for Tomorrow

Phone: 715.479.6456

E-mail: [forfragedu@nnex.net](mailto:forfragedu@nnex.net)

### EFFECTIVE CAMPAIGNS OR PROJECTS THAT BUILD YOUR ORGANIZATION—A WORKSHOP FOR LOCAL RIVER GROUPS

Durwards Glen Retreat and Conference Center

July 13th and 14th, 2001

Contact Diana Toledo at River Alliance of Wisconsin

Phone: (608) 441-8413

Fax: (608) 260-9799

E-mail: [diana@wisconsinrivers.org](mailto:diana@wisconsinrivers.org)

### CENTRAL WISCONSIN BASIN PARTNERSHIP

Wausau School Forest

Wednesday, July 18th, 2001

9:00 am to 3:30 pm

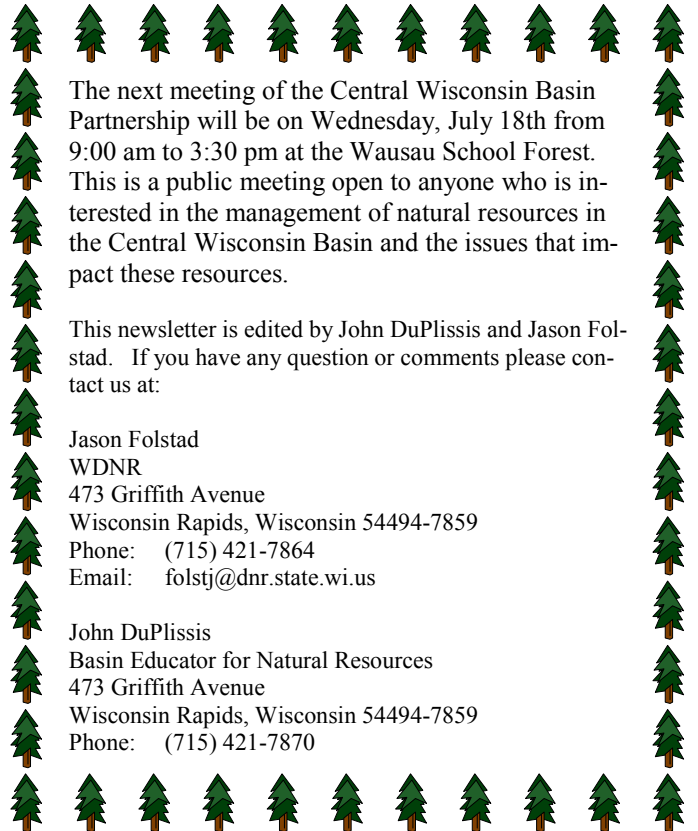
Contact John DuPlissis for more information

# Central Wisconsin Basin Partnership

*Working Together for Conservation*

473 Griffith Avenue  
Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin 54494-7859

**The purpose of the Central Wisconsin Basin Partnership is to bring diverse people and resources together to provide increased awareness of regionally important natural resource issues. The partnership facilitates and implements projects that promote ecologically, socially, and economically sustainable natural resource management.**



The next meeting of the Central Wisconsin Basin Partnership will be on Wednesday, July 18th from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm at the Wausau School Forest. This is a public meeting open to anyone who is interested in the management of natural resources in the Central Wisconsin Basin and the issues that impact these resources.

This newsletter is edited by John DuPlissis and Jason Folstad. If you have any question or comments please contact us at:

Jason Folstad  
WDNR  
473 Griffith Avenue  
Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin 54494-7859  
Phone: (715) 421-7864  
Email: folstj@dnr.state.wi.us

John DuPlissis  
Basin Educator for Natural Resources  
473 Griffith Avenue  
Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin 54494-7859  
Phone: (715) 421-7870