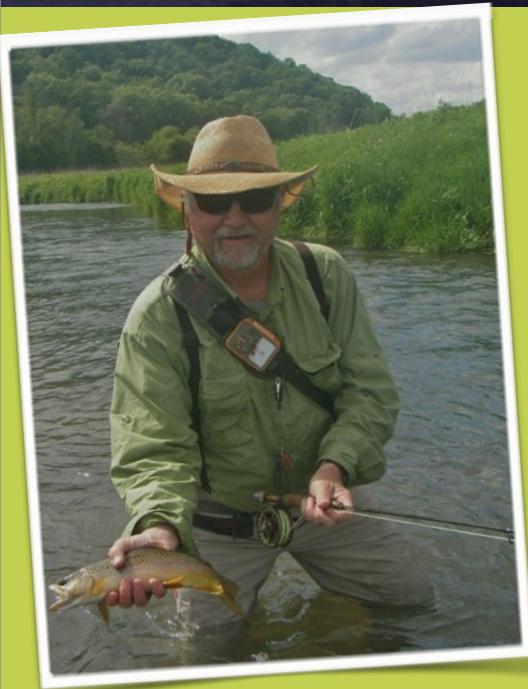


# Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter #257



## January 2021 Newsletter



### Hello from Chapter President Tim Fraley!

I hope this newsletter finds everyone safe and healthy during this pandemic.

One of the chapter events that has been postponed several times is our banquet. The board has

decided to not have a banquet before the traditional opening day of regular fishing. We are looking at a possibility of a banquet in early October if the vaccinations go well.

I am also looking for a chapter member to help the chapter start a trash pickup program along our more well used streams. Please email me if you are interested.

Finally, if you are feeling cooped up, the early catch and release season is opened till the first Saturday in May.

Regards,

*Tim Fraley*

### Longtime Nohr supporter Bill Weege passes

Bill was a true friend of the Nohr Chapter and generous with his ideas, money and time. His gifted creative mind and innovations brought much joy to the world. He is remembered as an artist, teacher, husband, father and lover of the natural world. Bill had a big impact on

society with his unique artwork which often made you think about social and political



struggles.

Bill was a humble man but you don't have to look far on the internet to see his artwork and read about his art or his many teaching and creative accomplishments.

Born on Thanksgiving day 1935, Bill lived to age 85. He passed at his home in Arena and is survived by his wife and children.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Starting with this issue, we're going to profile a life form found in our driftless environs with some facts and information you might not know.



*A local  
Blue River  
winter  
stone fly*

Since most of you are already at least amateur level naturalists, we are going to chase down interesting facts you may NOT know. We're going to start with facts about the winter stonefly.

- The “Winter Stone Fly”, “snow fly” or “willow-fly” is not a fly at all because it has two sets of folded, flat wings. True flies have one pair of wings.
- They’ve been around for over 300 Million years.
- There are between 450 and 700 stonefly species in North America that range in size from 2mm to 15mm.
- Stoneflies are intolerant of pollution and poor oxygenation. They are considered an indicator species of water quality.
- For an insect with large wings, stones prefer to crawl rather than fly.
- Stoneflies can produce anti-freezing compounds internally which allow them to tolerate temperatures below zero.
- Stoneflies breathe through gills in their armpits and at the base of their two tails.
- Some species molt as many as 36 times!
- Two short tails distinguish stoneflies from other flies.
- Winged adult Winter Stones can be seen in the driftless along streams from January to mid May.

## Our largest project ever on Zadrazil site has begun!



**BEFORE**

*High  
vertical  
banks*



**AFTER**

*Tapered  
with rock  
rip-rap*

This restoration spans the last 700’ of the Six Mile Branch and 7,500’ of the Blue River downstream of their confluence. This entire worksite is on the Zadrazil property. **We are happy to report work began in early December!**

Job #1 is removing box elder trees and brush. The logs are being saved so they can be used later to create stream diversions and bank cover.

Job #2 is tapering back the high, vertical banks along the stream. This is a very big job requiring massive amounts of soil to be hauled to a suitable site. Once the banks are carved back and shaped, rock rip-rap is added so the stream can withstand flooding with minimal erosion. At this time, roughly 25% of the bank shaping work is complete!

Working on frozen ground is a big advantage because heavy equipment can move about without causing damage to soil or farm fields; or getting stuck in soft ground.

Watch for updates in this newsletter, as we will document the changes with stories and photos to keep you posted on progress!

## Benefits abound within Nohr|UW-Platteville partnership

Since 2004, the Nohr Chapter has partnered with the UW Platteville Biology Department to both educate and complete stream research. The Nohr Chapter provides a stipend to make this program possible.

Project work entails monitoring streams and reporting results. These research projects focus on both restored stream sections as well as prospects for future rehabilitation.

To measure is to know! The two-person student team is typically charged with surveying three groups of data: 1) **Habitat Characteristics** (bottom substrate, stream width and depth, erosion, sedimentation); **Macro-Invertebrates** (visible insects, worms, snails, etc), and 3) **fish populations** (trout, minnows, chubs, sculpin).



One student is the leader (full intern) while the other is a technician/assistant (grunt, next year's leader). This student team monitors with nets and electro-fishing all summer and then analyzes the data in the fall. They are ultimately accountable for writing a scientific

paper and giving an oral report the following spring.

Besides the significant benefits to each student and education, we get valuable data to guide chapter decisions. **One discovery born from this program is proving that focusing restoration effort on a single watershed, in connected segments of stream, has greater impact than the exact same investment applied to different segments of different streams.**



## Martin Branch and Otter are worth saving

On January 8th, a joint letter from the Southern Wisconsin TU Chapter, Nohr TU Chapter, Badger Flyfishers and Wisconsin Smallmouth Bass Alliance was sent to WDNR leadership.

The letter requests resources be assigned to investigate “the catastrophic loss of trout and smallmouth bass fisheries in the Martin Branch of the Grant River in Grant County and Otter Creek in Lafayette County, and to develop restoration actions to be implemented”.



The loss of these once prolific trout and bass fisheries is most certainly a direct result of unsustainable agricultural practices at known locations in the watersheds. Manure volume and management strategy needs

attention from all the stakeholders. Its threatening our drinking and recreational water, both locally and downstream.

**While its very disheartening to learn about these complex problems, the good news, is through education, communication and collaboration we can solve it.**

Watch for updates on the DNR's response and a go forward strategy. If you would like to read the letter, it is posted on the SWTU website. It is entirely possible for agriculture and clean water to coexist using sustainable methods.



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**“CONSERVATION WILL ULTIMATELY BOIL  
DOWN TO REWARDING THE PRIVATE  
LANDOWNER WHO CONSERVES THE  
PUBLIC INTEREST.” ALDO LEUPOLD**

**Meet Board Member Pat Raimer**

Pat joined us thanks to our ever-alert chapter Vice-President, Don Pluemer. Through plain-old local conversation, Don and Pat’s shared interests in solving conservation problems became clear. And Pat felt genuine respect for the Nohr Chapter accomplishments. As with many TU leaders, it is often caring and passion that drives progress.

Pat feels water protection is the most important global environmental issue, and of particular importance in the Driftless. Like many of us, Pat acknowledges farming has had a detrimental impact to our water quality. “I also believe that the farmers, who are my friends and neighbors, and many times are multi-generational family farms, sometimes feel trapped in a system that forces them to “get big or get out.” Somehow we need to find common ground to solve what I believe to be a serious issue and preserve the livelihoods of those who practice farming. We all need food and we all need water.”



With the exception of school and a year in Hayward, Pat has lived in Montfort his whole life. His favorite event is our annual banquet because it brings everyone together “from near and far who love the area and believe it’s worth preserving.”

He also enjoys listening to music, playing guitar and camping when time allows.

[News - Events - Project](#)



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