

BROOKIE NEWS



Newsletter of The Central Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited (CWTU)

<<< Illustration "One Last Look - Brook Trout"
courtesy of Bob White of Whitefish Studio

January 2008

PrezSez

Looking outside at the last nine inches of snow, it seems unbelievable the early season is only six weeks away! My fly boxes were pretty picked over by the end of last season and I need to replenish them and add some new patterns. John Gremmer has put together another great (and now full) Master's Tying Program, so I'll probably pick up a few new patterns there.

John is also teaching two different sections of a fly fishing/tying class for Fox Valley Technical College. The way these programs fill up, we know there is a lot of interest in the subjects and they have been an excellent source of new members for our Chapter.

There are, however, a lot of people that do not fly fish, but may be interested in the stream conservation and improvement work our Chapter does; others may fish trout with spinning gear. But we need to do more to attract all such people to become CWTU members.

Our mission statement reminds us we are not a fishing club, but rather a conservation organization. For instance, we need to do more research on the use of circle hooks for trout fishing. These have been used for live bait fishing for muskies and other species and help prevent fish from taking the hook deep. The resulting lip hook would help with the release of undersized trout and also in catch & release.

The Wisconsin TU State Council Meeting and Banquet is Saturday, February 2, at the Holiday Inn and Conference Center, Stevens Point. If you have never attended this meeting, you may wish to attend this one. Dinner tickets are \$30 at the door, but it would really help if you would call Larry Meicher at 920-992-6612 to let him know you are coming. Matt Frank, our new DNR Secretary, will be the speaker for the banquet.

Also mark your calendar for CWTU TroutFest on February 23 at the Fin N' Feather in Winneconne. Attendance is free and there are mini-seminars, fly tying (and other related) demonstrations, and much more. This is one of the best programs in the state and is held right in our own backyard. We encourage all members to attend and bring a friend.

Also I'd remind you TroutFest is our meeting for February; we do not have a regular Board session or program. Check our website at CWTU.org (and also below) for other Chapter events.

Talking about our website....John Gremmer has been working very hard at its updating and it is looking great. John and I will be adding more pages and information and update it on a regular basis, in keeping with its importance as a communications tool for our Chapter.

Our March meeting will still be held the second Monday, March 10. This meeting is the annual election for our Chapter officers and Board members. Our Nominating Committee has members who have volunteered for all open positions, but nominations will also be taken from the floor for anyone interested in serving.

Future Chapter meetings will be held the third Monday of the month, starting in April. Please check below and in our website for a complete listing of all scheduled dates and times for programs and activities.

Todd Hanson, editor of Wisconsin Trout, has written a book on "Improved Wisconsin Trout Waters" that has over 250 maps of improved trout streams in Wisconsin. It looks like a **great** book and he is giving a 5% discount to each person who orders a book and another 5% rebate to their chapter, if ordered before February 15. Find out more at www.WhereAmIPubs.com

See you all at TroutFest!

Bob Haase

Other Coming Events

February 23, CWTU TroutFest, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM, Fin 'N Feather, Winneconne.

March 10, Central Wisconsin Trout Management, Al Niebur, Fin 'N Feather, Winneconne, 7:30 PM. Board, 6:15 PM.

April 21, CWTU Annual Fly-casting Clinic, Marble Park, Winneconne, 6:00 PM,

April 26, CWTU Annual Water Action Volunteer Training, Parkside Middle School, Wautoma, TBA AM.

May 10, CWTU Annual TroutOuting, Dakota Inn, Dakota, 7:30 AM.

May 19, Board meeting, Oshkosh Office Systems, 6:15 PM.

May 30, CWTU Fly Fishing School, Camp LuWiSoMo.

Website

After its recent overhaul by John Gremmer and Bob Haase, our website, www.cwtu.org, is one of CWTU's communication efforts. The site is full of news, including upcoming programs, events, and workdays, meeting minutes, the scoop on local streams, pictures, and is frequently updated....in short, lots of good stuff. There are even message boards and the site is linked to State Council and National websites, so it's available to many different users.

As a member, you have a choice of methods to keep uptodate on our Chapter, this Website or our Newsletter....whichever is the most convenient for you.

Should you choose the website, please inform Scott Grady 920-587-0987, so we can avoid wastage on the postage.

Minutes of January 14 Meeting

The meeting at the Fin 'N Feather was called to order at 6:15 PM by President Bob Haase.

Minutes of the December 10, 2007 meeting were approved with one correction; the Post Office box cost is \$46 for six months, not per month.

Scott Grady presented the Treasurer's Report. The October banquet netted approximately \$7,700. Total funds on hand at 12/31/07 are \$44,646.11. By motion, second and vote the report was approved. Scott also reported that the Chapter now has PO Box 3041, Oshkosh WI 54903-3041. He and Mike Schaefer have keys for the box.

David Seligman reported the Banquet Committee held a meeting to summarize the event and provide recommendations for next year. They would like to hear from anyone who has ideas.

Kim Biedermann from the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters requested our participation at the Conservation Lobby Day at the Wisconsin State Capitol on Wednesday, January 30, 2008. She said, "This is our chance to tell our elected State Legislators that we expect them to vote well on natural resource issues.

"The issues this year include the use of the Great Lakes, protecting stamp funds for natural resource initiatives, having an independent DNR Secretary and reducing carbon dioxide emissions.

"To see how our elected officials score on natural

resource issues, go to www.conservationvoters.org."

To sign up for Conservation Lobby Day 2008, go to kim@conservationvoters.org. It is expected several members of CWTU will attend. Contact Bob Haase or Mike Schaefer to carpool.

The Trout Unlimited State Council Meeting and Banquet will be held February 2, 2008. For anyone looking to carpool, contact David Seligman at seligmand@ripon.edu.

Approved \$500 contribution for kiosk to be placed in Riverside Park on Waupaca River to educate and inform public about TU and CWTU and what is happening in the stream.

The balance of the meeting was devoted to discussing goals and priorities for 2008. The following, in no particular order, were discussed:

1. The need to recruit active membership.
 2. Communications: everyone should look at the new and improving website; any ideas should be submitted to John Gremmer.
 3. Keep the activities fun!
 4. Need to attract younger members: youth conservation camp, expanded youth programs, form a youth committee.
 5. For workdays: post dates for entire year in newspaper with instructions to look at website and contact person to call for specific route instructions for a specific date. Members call five members who have not been involved to invite them to a workday.
 6. Restore streams that are in poor shape.
 7. Watchdog Committee: emphasis on keeping the attention of the DNR.
 8. Expand camaraderi: can we publish roster, should we have a picnic.
 9. Annual banquet: consider providing free or reduced tickets to those who have not attended in past.
- The meeting was then adjourned at 9:25 PM.

A Bob Hunt Book Review

My sister, who lives in Madison, enjoys browsing through the used-books section of local book stores. A couple of times each year, I can expect to receive several books about trout fishing from her. Last month, I finished reading one of her gifts which proved to be at or near the top of the many trout books I've read. Although it is now several years old, I recommend it as one still worth acquiring by any trout fisher, regardless of their level of experience. The title is "The New American Trout Fishing" by John Merwin, former editor of Fly Fishing magazine.

What sets this book distinctly apart from others of its genre is the inclusion of information from the fisheries science literature to augment and validate the author's own fishing experiences over several decades. The chapters titled *The Nature of Trout*, *The Nature of Trout Streams*, and *Selective Trout* are exceptional examples of such augmentation.

Did you know there is a magnification effect at

the edges of Snel's Circle (cone of vision)? "A size 22 dry fly, usually less than a quarter of an inch in diameter, appears almost three times life size to a trout 3 inches under the surface when viewing such a fly at the edge of Snel's Circle." No wonder the trout can see very small insects under low light conditions much better than anglers can see them.

Did you know that trout can look left and right at the same time, that they also have excellent binocular vision forward and upward, and that they also have a blind spot directly to the rear? Take advantage of the blind spot by fishing upstream when possible.

Did you know that, based on behavioral ecology studies, it is likely hooked trout run for cover not to deliberately tangle the leader, but simply out of habit, knowing where the closest protective shelter is located?

Did you know that maximum water velocity is not precisely at the surface, but slightly below it? Surface tension slightly slows surface velocity. The practical application of that little known fact comes into play when fishing a dry fly. A floating leader means less drag than a sunken one.

I also enjoyed Merwin's non-technical, uncomplicated insights about trout fishing matters. This definition for example: "A fly rod is a flexible lever that's used to unroll a long weight - the fly line - through the air in a controlled manner." And this opinion based on personal experience: "The new braided leaders. . . offer an interesting concept that is more successful in theory than in actual fishing." (Beneficial when fishing small flies on fine tippets in calm weather, but a nuisance when strong cross winds prevail, or the fly gets accidentally entangled in the braid.)

I learned a lot from Merwin that will improve my fishing success and a lot more about the environment in which trout live that will help me just appreciate the trout pursuing experience. I think you will too. If the book is now out of print, make the extra effort to secure a used copy or borrow a copy from a friend to enjoy a good read this winter.

Bob Hunt

HELP!!

Ye Ed has been attempting to compile a history of CWTU, starting with a roster of elected officers. But the papers available do not include the slates for the years 1978, 1980, and 1992. If you were....or know of....such officers, I'd sincerely appreciate your calling or emailing me of same. My email address is rchamberlain@centurytel.net and phone number is 920-698-3721. All help would be greatly appreciated.

Easy Fishing

One of the most interesting historical pieces found so far is the story of one of our former and experienced

Mukimuks catching a **large** trout by dapping his fly in the water of an un-named crick while asleep on its bank in 1993.

I am forced to say I'm envious of the feat. Jane and I have had an afternoon nap or two (and I have pictures of her doing so), but we never thought to dap while recharging our batteries!

Trout fishing experience is everything!

An Appeal

The Central Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited uses the database at National Trout Unlimited for printing its monthly **Brookie News** mailing labels. As a result, we need your help in keeping that database current. Otherwise, we are sending the newsletter to the wrong address, losing the mailing cost as the result.

Therefore, we would appreciate your updating your membership address at any change, if you have access to the internet. Here's how:

1. Go to www.tu.org
2. Choose the TU member section.
3. Enter username=tumembership number.
(TU1234567)
4. Enter Password=tumembership number.
(1234567)
5. Submit
6. Click on Edit Personal File
7. Under Profile Information, click on Edit.
8. Make any corrections/additions.
9. Click on Update

You then have our thanks. This minor task helps greatly!

(Otherwise, phone me at 920-587-0987.)

Scott Grady

CPR

To trouters, the initials CPR are shorthand for **Consider Proper Release**, a five-step process assisting survival when releasing trout we've caught. Those steps are:

1. Do not play fish to exhaustion.
2. Handle fish in a net. Grasp across back and head.
3. Hold fish belly-up when removing hooks.
4. Do not remove swallowed hooks; cut the leader or line.
5. Do not keep the fish out of water more than 15 seconds. Release fish with head upstream.

As trout fishers, let's all commit these suggestions to memory and then practice them in the coming season!

Help Again!!

And Ye Ed needs the Minutes from October, November and December 2007, if any were taken!!



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CWTU People

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 Secretary Bob Chamberlain
 W2728 Oakwood Bch Rd, Markesan 53946
 920-398-3721 Newsletter
 Past President John Gremmer
 5935 Hiawatha Dr, Winneconne 54986
 920-582-7802 Program

Other Board

Mark Brosseau 715-654-5472
 Russ Bouck 715-824-3781
 Elward Engle 920-787-2887
 Dan Harmon III 920-235-1761
 Gary Herlache 920-836-3886
 Jim Humphrey 920-232-8845
 Bob Hunt 715-258-2886

Committee

Watchdog
 Education/School
 Workday

Ira Giese 920-787-4279
 Membership
 Al Lee 920-233-3581 Banquet
 Rich Mlodzik 920-293-8772
 Ray Piehl 920-787-3147
 Tom Poullette 715-258-5565 Watchdog
 Bob Rennock 920-926-6010 Banquet
 Dave Seligman 920-745-2579
 Bob Stelzer 920-235-4217
 Jerry Strom 920-589-4182
 Jack Wahlers 920-361-0807 Legislation
 Gene West 920-787-2455

Mission

The mission of the Central Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited is to protect, preserve and enhance the cold waters of Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Marquette, Waushara and Winnebago Counties.

Join Us Today

Volunteers are very important in our work, although some aren't necessarily members! We need your help in the field, behind the scenes and for other types of support! For more information, contact any of the people listed here.