

BROOKIE NEWS



PrezSez

Who is the new guy?

Let me introduce myself; I'm Dick Kraus. If you've been a member of our Chapter for a long time, you may remember me. It was twenty-two years ago that I was first elected President of the Central Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited. If you are a new or recent member, I'm sure you won't remember.

Our Chapter is dedicated to our cold water resources and we spend time, energy and money on a lot of different projects. Local stream habitat improvement, stream monitoring, education, interfacing with Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, providing interesting programs for our members and the general public, an outstanding annual banquet, and of course fundraising. You, our members, have been and are very supportive in all these areas and I thank you for that.

These things are just some of the visible activities. There are also a lot of behind-the-scene activities. These include meetings for planning and keeping up with technology, sessions with other chapters and with the Wisconsin Council of T.U. Quite a workload, isn't it?

Our leadership has brought our Chapter a long way since I last served as President. For the last two years, Bob Haase has served us well with his never-ending energy. Thanks Bob, for a job well done.

While our cold water resources benefit from our work and we as anglers find more and improved fishing opportunities; there are other benefits. Over the years, I've made many friends; some of them lifelong ones for which I am very grateful.

We invite all our members to attend any or all of our activities. Please consider coming to our on-stream workdays. It is a great way to see what your Chapter is doing, as well as finding new places to fish. You'll also get a good lunch and meet some other anglers. Why not attend some of our monthly Board meetings? We'd like to hear your comments or ideas.

I look forward to working with all of you as we try to deal with the constant challenges that face our trout streams.

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

Officers listed on last page

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

March 2008

My goal is to provide administrative leadership and to coordinate our projects. I could use your input. Please feel free to call or E-mail me about any concerns or thoughts you may have.

Dave Kraus

Casting Clinic

There will be some new twists at this year's CWTU Casting Clinic. Besides featuring fly casting fundamentals for beginners and the advanced lessons for intermediates, we offer some new experiences. Tight Lines Fly Shop of De Pere will have spey rods and spey rod aficionados on hand to give you a chance to try one of these long rods. Master cane rod builder Scott Grady will also provide opportunities to experience his products. And I will have some heavy rods (Think Muskie and salt water fishing) and big flies on hand (9 & 10 wt.) and will give you a chance to cast this tackle (Think casting a wet sock.)

The Clinic will be held at the Marble Park pavilion in Winneconne. At 5:00 PM, we will start serving brats and burgers along with chips and soda. First come, first served, but donations will be accepted. Beck's Meats are, again, generously donating the meat. At 6:00 PM, we'll start the clinic.

This is a free event and the public is invited.

Participants should bring their fly rods with a small piece of yarn attached to the end of the leader. No hooked flies will be allowed due to safety concerns. Safety glasses are also a must, since being hit in the eye with yarn can be a disaster too. Boots might be handy, if we have had rain recently.

This is a fun event and great way to interact with members in a non-meeting venue. For more information, call John Gremmer at 920-582-7802 and check the website Home Page at www.cwtu.org for information on a possible weather cancellation.

Other Coming Events

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

April 26, CWTU Annual Water Action Volunteer (WAV) Training, Parkside Middle School, Wautoma, 9:00 AM.

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

May 17, St. Lawrence Workday, 9:00 AM.

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

May 30, CWTU Fly Fishing School, Camp LuWiSoMo.

June 16, Board meeting TBA

June 21, St. Lawrence Workday, 9:00 AM.

July 19, St. Lawrence Workday, 9:00 AM.

July 21, Board meeting TBA

August 16, St. Lawrence Workday, 9:00 AM.

August 18, Board meeting TBA.

September 20, St. Lawrence Workday, 9:00 AM.

Water Monitoring

The next Water Action Volunteer (WAV) training school will be Saturday, April 26, 2008 at Parkside Middle School in Wautoma from 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM. This is a fun, educational and important activity CWTU performs. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at 920-235-2104.

Dick Pollock

Website

The restructured CWTU website (www.cwtu.org) is up and running. New pages and information are being added daily. For our new officers and Board members, see the *About Us* page and what's for sale on the *Classified Ads* page. Then check out the *Home Page* for news, upcoming events and other odd bits of information. I'm now working on the *Photos & Blogs* page which will contain snaps related to trout fishing and TU business that members send to me. (Please send at least five sentences that describe the circumstances behind the picture.) Send pictures and descriptions to jgremmer@charter.net.

Also, if you see something that needs correcting---or something that would enhance the site---send it to me.

I would like to thank Brian Tesch who has provided many, many hours of technical support and Bob Haase who is actively collaborating on this project.

John Gremmer

TUDARE Thanks

CWTU donated \$500 for the next three years to help support TU's Driftless Area Restoration Effort (TUDARE). We then received the following from Laura Hewitt of National TU.

"Thank you and the...members of CWTU for your generous donation to the Driftless Area

Restoration Effort. Grassroots energy and dedication is the heart of TU and of DARE in particular. The continued support of our members and chapters bodes well for our continued success. These resources will be put to good use helping to get more restoration projects on the ground. I hope to see some of you at the Westby training next weekend.

Best regards, Laura."

Scott Grady

Minutes of March 10 Meeting

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

Minutes of the January 14, 2008 meeting were approved.

Scott Grady presented the Treasurers report. Total funds on hand at 2/29/08 are \$41,710.92. By motion, second and vote, the Treasurers report was approved. Scott also reported Troutfest 08 net income after all expenses was \$1,431.39. It was reported that attendance was about 400 individuals and 17 new TU members signed up.

Dick Pollock reported on Water Monitoring. The next Water Action Volunteer (WAV) training school will be Saturday, April 26, 2008 at Parkside Middle School in Wautoma from 9:00 AM to 1:30 PM. This is a fun, educational and important activity CWTU performs. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Dick at 920 235-2104.

For the Stream Restoration report, Jim Humphrey said, "This year, workdays on Lawrence Creek will be the third Saturday in each month, May thru September. On May 17, our fellow TU members from Illinois will join us; May 27, students from Oshkosh West High School will be working and June 10-12, boys from Rawhide Ranch will be setting lunger structures.

Workdays are a great way to spend a morning improving our streams with others who share your interests and, possibly, an afternoon fishing (and learning some new hotspots) after the work is done."

Bob Haase reported a Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) grant has been applied for improvements to Lawrence Creek. This is a matching grant in the range of \$10,000-\$30,000 requiring us to match one-third which can be done in-kind through our labor.

The annual Casting Clinic will be Monday, April 20, 2008 at Marble Park in Winneconne. Come out to learn how to cast, improve your casting or to help someone else with their casting. Burgers and brats donated by Beck's Meats will be served. If the weather looks threatening, check the CWTU website for any updates.

A large farm operation of approximately 7,000 cows near Pickett is proposed. The Watchdog Committee will monitor.

Continuing to hold summer meetings similar to

last last year was proposed for the months of June, July and August. Meetings were hosted by member(s) at their home or at a park. Any volunteer hosts should contact Dick Kraus at 920-987-52887. After chow, the Board will hold its meeting and everyone is welcome!

The Fox Valley Chapter of TU will hold its annual Cabin Fever Saturday, April 12, 2008 at Waverly Beach. For more details, see their website at http://www.foxvalleytu.org/html/cabin_fever.HTM.

Ripon College will host Mary Zeiss Stange on Tuesday, March 27, 2008 at 7:30 PM for the program *Wilderness (Real and Imagined) and Wild Women*. For more information, contact Dave Seligman at 920-748-8316.

A slate of Officers and Directors was proposed by the Nominating Committee for the term commencing April 1, 2008: There were no nominations from the floor, so by motion, second and vote the entire slate was approved unanimously.

Bob Hunt moved the Chapter extend thanks to the previous officers and Board members for their past service. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

UW-Oshkosh graduate student Nicholas Bach presented a program on his study of Didymo, a type of algae. After his presentation, by motion, second and vote, he was awarded a one-semester scholarship for the lesser of \$2,000 or or-half of the resident tuition at UW-Oshkosh. Nicholas was asked to report on the progress of his studies, occasionally.

Board meetings will now be the third Monday of the month. April kicks off this new day with the Casting Clinic.

The meeting was then adjourned at 7:25 PM for the evening's program.

Mike Schaeffer

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 phone number is on the back of this newsletter and my email address is rchamberlain@centurytel.net. All help would be greatly appreciated.

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 the number on the outside of this newsletter.)

Scott Grady

Editorial

In a previous issue of the **Brookie News**, Ye Ed has described his first, awed, evening viewing of the productivity of fly-fishing versus his day-long Iowa-style worming (four trout versus two)....and then the reinforcement of that wonder, just a month later (three trout to one) at exactly the same location within the city limits of Duluth, Minnesota. Those two episodes occurred some 70 years ago, but are as vivid today.... and as awesome....as they were at the time.

Perhaps I have not described another, similar eye-opening event. In this case, my boss, another former Iowan, who had lived and trout-fished in Wisconsin for a number of years, suggested we fish together on the Mecan, one Saturday. He came equipped with worms, so we agreed to fish in opposite directions from our joint point of entry, he going downstream and I up. We were to meet at the same spot, sometime later.

There was an active caddis hatch, so I had a lot of fun before heading back to the meet. As I arrived there, my boss was standing on the bank with two trout rising steadily in the head of a riffle, just in front of him. He said they had refused his worms, over and over, and challenged me to catch them. Since I was in the water above the fish, I changed my fly to an elk-hair caddis and S-cast it above the two, catching one while the other disappeared.

The basis for this repeated homily was a remark within my hearing, just the other day, about "elitist" troutiers. We must reject such an impression of our Chapter by welcoming one and all to our events and spread the word that three-quarters of a trout's diet consists of insects in their various forms, the basic reason flyfishing is so productive! And I personally find it's sooo satisfying to fool a trout....on the surface or below.... with an imitation of his regular diet!

Yet we catch and release, simply because we wish to preserve this wonderful resource for all others, regardless of their mode or approach.