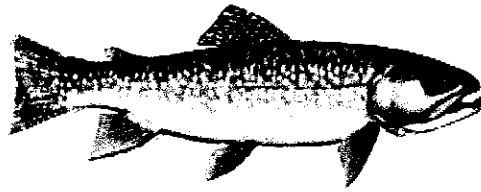


Brookie News

Newsletter of the Central Wisconsin
Chapter of Trout Unlimited



May 2005

PrezSez

Thanks go to the sixty people who participated in our Third Annual Trout Outing on May 14. We hope you all had a good time! And thanks to Dan Harmon III, Gene West, Elward Engle and Tom Young for presentations that made the day special.

And to top it all off, we added three new members!

Rich Mlodzik reported our April 30 Workday was the best he's ever attended and I agree. Having all those young people working so hard energized us all!

And the grill problem is solved! It'll be up and cooking at the next workday on June 18. Please come and give us a hand with it and the other workdays (including our picnic) coming!

Many chapters cancel all summer *programs*. We utilize the months to finalize our budget, long-term planning, program planning and our next banquet. Our Board's commitment for CWTU to grow in numbers and effectiveness means doing this sometimes difficult work during those months. Three different people will be hosting these sessions—Bob Rennock in June, Scott Grady, July, and Ira Giese, August. All chapter members are invited to these sessions. Call me for details.

And let's see you at the many of the meetings, workdays, and/or monitorings in the coming year!

John Gremmer

Coming Board Meetings

The **June 13** Board meeting will be at Bob Rennock's cabin on the Pine River.

The **July 11** meeting will be at Scott Grady's Oshkosh Office Supply headquarters on Hwy 44 (west of Hwy 41).

The **August 8** Board meeting will be at Ira Giese's.

Details on all these meetings will be forthcoming when finalized. As usual, all members are invited.

Casting Clinic

CWTU conducted its Second Annual Fly Casting Clinic on April 18 for more than thirty people, young and old, at the lagoon in Winneconne. As in previous years, the event was free and a wide variety of rods and casting styles were demonstrated.

After a few opening remarks by President Gremmer,

Tim Landwehr of Tight Lines Fly Fishing Company demonstrated the proper casting technique and then assisted various casters around the pool. Master cane rod builder Scott Grady demonstrated and encouraged the trying of bamboo rods, a new experience for many. Spey casting was also exhibited and there were casting contests for distance and accuracy.

Workday News

Thirty-six people attacked the buckthorn and tag alders along the upper reaches of the Little Pine Creek in Waushara County during our first workday of the 2005 season on April 30. The group included a group from Oshkosh West High School's West Wind and Water Club under Mrs. Rhonda Bartels and several families.

After brief introductory remarks by President Gremmer on the purpose and programs of the Central Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited and our various activities, he extended an invitation to the coming May 14 Fun Day on the Mecan River (as well as to all future work sessions.)

After Chair Rich Mlodzik detailed some safety precautions for the day's work, Vice President Elward Engle, a retired DNR employee, described the unique characteristics of the area, some of its history and the scientific reasons for the work effort. (See the article below.) The group then went to work.



Engle with some members of West High's West Wind and Water Club

As Rich subsequently reported, "We cleared about 300 yards of both banks (and) put in 7 brush bundles

structures....It's great to see young people involved in projects like this. A large group...made the work easy and we accomplished more than I expected.

"Thanks to all who came out and gave their time and energy. Special thanks to Elward; he really makes my job easier and fun....Everyone learns something at every workday from his knowledge of stream habitat and local history.

"The next workday will be June 18 at the same location. Highway 21 and County II at 9 AM."

Stream Monitoring

On April 23, a sunny, unseasonably-warm day, at Parkside School in Wautoma, we held our first training for CWTU's monitoring project. Thirty-two volunteer monitors from central Wisconsin attended the day-long session.

Following the protocol by Kris Stepunck of Water Action Volunteer(WAV), the CWTU trainers provided reasons the initiative is so important: (a) To establish baseline data for comparing possible changes in the future, (b) To fully understand all aspects of trout streams, (c) To assist local citizens in taking ownership of their streams and (d) To detect, identify and report "red flag" situations (fish kills, oxygen depletion, chemical spills, etc.) as a supplement to our Chapter's existing "Watchdog" activities.

Kris also provided some additional classroom instruction. Access to Bird Creek adjacent to Parkside had been obtained by Dave Johnson, so we then practiced monitoring procedures evaluating different stream entities: water temperature, stream flow, dissolved oxygen, biotic index and habitat which are to be recorded on WAV's website.



Monitoring of several CWTU streams is a new project for us

The training also included remarks by Scott Provost of the DNR who made us aware how year-around stream

temperature records help the DNR classify trout waters and thus provide more protection during issuance of discharge permits, etc.

Scott also recommended areas for us to monitor and we selected the following: West Branch of the White, the White River, Pine River, Willow Creek, Wedde Creek, Chaffee Creek and the Waupaca River.

It is interesting to note not all of the volunteers is a member of CWTU and some don't even fish, which certainly is a clear indicator of the importance of the monitoring effort.

We wish to thank all the volunteers and invite anyone who was unable to attend the training session to contact us for placement in a trained group. (See CWTU People below.)

Bob Rennock
Bob Haase

CWTU Trout Outing

Sixty people participated in the May 14 Trout Outing FunDay at the Dakota Inn, which started at 8 AM with rolls and coffee. Although rain threatened, the fishing phase was completed in fine weather with most groups reporting the sprinkle only started as they were returning to lunch. Low water temperatures, however, resulted in few fish being brought to the net.



Dan Harmon III displays Mecan insects

After a brat and hamburger lunch, the Mecan River denizen exhibition by Dan Harmon III et al was of great interest, as were the fly casting clinic by Tim Landwehr and the flower tour with Elward Engle.

Some participants remained for the Board meeting which followed the latter activities.

Minutes, May 14 Board Meeting

The Board meeting was held at Dakota at the end of that day's activities. Members present (at various times) were: Bob Chamberlain, Elward Engle, Ira Giese, Scott Gready, John Gremmer, Bob Haase, Dan Harmon III, Bob Hunt, Al Lee, Tracey Moran, Rich Mlodzik, Tom Poullette, Bob Rennock, Jerry Strom, Jack Wahlers and

several guests.

After the meeting was called to order by President Gremmer, it was moved, seconded and passed that the Minutes of the previous Board meeting, as published in the Chapters Newsletter, be approved.

Gremmer then issued nine atta-boys and announced Jack Wahlers had agreed to be CWTU's representative to the newly-formed Montello River Watershed Project.

John also announced our participation in the Hancock Lions Club's July Festival. We will demonstrate fly tying. A banner for the booth was needed and Scott Grady agreed to make one.

Gremmer distributed new roster, committee and job description lists and announced Jan Moldenhauer donated two temp probes for our Monitoring work. He distributed and briefly discussed National TU's proposed Effectiveness Index and then noted the Waupaca County Natural Resources Foundation was seeking partners to "continue a ...tradition of wise land use".

In other topics: Bob Haase is featured in George Curtis' video, **It's Your Environment**, a copy of which is available for viewing by anyone interested. The Central Region meeting toured some proposed projects near the River in Waupaca. And copies of National's Conservation Agenda were distributed.

Rich Mlodzik reported on having 36 people at the April 30 workday. (See article elsewhere in this issue.) Bob Rennock and Bob Haase reported on the Monitoring training. (Ditto.) Dan Harmon III reported having 17 students signed for this year's Fly School and Ira Giese reported a net gain of 30 members during April, but a Treasurer's Report was delayed until our June meeting on the budget.

Dr. Bob Stelzer proposed a long-term monitoring project on Emmons Creek. A response to his request for funding was postponed until after the June meeting.

The seasonal timing of our Banquet was the next topic after it was announced that Bob Haase is the new Chair of the event. After a general discussion, a motion to move our Banquet to October, if suitable space is available, was passed by voice vote. A final determination was scheduled for our August Board meeting.

Watchdog announced the DNR had cleared the complaint about the horse ranch along the Pine, but a citation had been issued for a pond recently created along Willow Creek.

Bob Hunt reported the video, **Trout Stream Restoration: A Case History**, was progressing well and that he and Elward were nearing the end of their survey of 22 streams possibly requiring remedial work.

Bob Chamberlain

Fly School

As of May 14, Director Dan Harmon III reports 17

students have been signed for the forthcoming Fly School and preparations are fairly complete. It is hoped 7 more students (the maximum) will enroll before the sessions begin on **Friday, June 3**.

Our Unique Waters

The domain of the Central Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited includes Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Marquette, Waushara and Winnebago Counties. Aldo Leopold described the geography as "Sand Country", "Unique" and "The best of waters."

The area occupies a niche between the Terminal Moraine on the west in Adams County and the west portion of Waushara County and, essentially, Lake Winnebago on the east. While waters west of the Moraine flow to the Mississippi and the Gulf of Mexico, the drainage of our five counties is generally through the Wolf and the Fox Rivers to the Atlantic via the St. Lawrence River.

The terrain includes a number of streams: Emmons Creek, Lawrence Creek, Mekan River, Neeah Creek and the Little Pine Creek (where we are now working) to name just a few. All of these sand country streams have wild populations of possibly all three species: Brookies, Rainbows and Browns.

The surface is mainly Plainfield Soil mixed with very large subsurface rocks by glacial action. The area is underlaid with an aquifer some 60-90 feet deep and the rocks provide upwellings, such as at the headwaters of the Mekan River. The water is of excellent quality.

Native tribes roaming the area included the Oneida (Iroquois), the Chippewa, the Menomonee, and the Winnebago. Generally the tribes did not disturb the land by their use, although their scattered burial mounds are still to be found near where CWTU is currently working.

When European settlers arrived in the early 1800's, however, their farming practices included wholesale ditching and draining of many wetlands, a practice continuing to the present time. The draining, in turn, unleashed the migration and introduction of various plant species (for example, buckthorn) with adverse effects on the ancient ecology systems.

Ditching of wetlands adjacent to trout streams for agricultural purposes is still allowed under Chapter 30 of Wisconsin Statutes, but it is a practice which has brought serious injury to some of our trout streams. Klawitter Creek in Marquette County, Sucker, Carpenter, Bruce, Lunch and Big Roche-a-Cri Creeks in Waushara County, Walla Walla Creek in Waupaca County and a number of Brookie streams in Portage County. In the past, the Federal Government paid for most of the cost of ditching and draining.

Also in years past, stream sides were cut for marsh hay. Over time...twenty years or more... heavy growths

of "brush" replaced the marsh meadows, and the plants slowly collapsed into the water, widening, shallowing, and slowing its flow while simultaneously increasing the temperature. The slow bank erosion increased the sand and silt, so that food for the trout was reduced. In short, trout populations declined.

Returning the stream bank to grasses by cutting brush tends to reverse the decline, since grasses hold soils well and provide cover for trout against predators. The deeper, faster-flowing streams hold more trout and their foods while also making fly fishing and catch-and-release more convenient and enjoyable.

This rehabilitation is the basis for our field work. Our Chapter works with the DNR to restore grassy banks by cutting the invasive plants and clearing all debris from the water and we build so-called "lunker structures" to help the narrowing process and increase trout cover. The end result is a healthy stream for a long time into the future.

Elward Engle

Planning

Our Board will renew the planning for our Chapter at its July 11 meeting. At its last session, you may remember it revised the order of our targeted items, based on the success of planning in our first year.

The revised list is now:

- A. Improve communications and educational efforts.
- B. Continue/Expand fieldwork.
- C. Improve CWTU and its structure.
- D. Develop/Enhance conservation partners.
- E. Improve watchdog activity.

As President Gremmer remarks above, any member is welcome to our Board sessions. If you have ideas for our Chapter, don't hesitate to come!

Ad Space Available

Annual ad space is available in the **Brookie News**, the newsletter for our Chapter, to qualified space buyers who might wish to reach our members in Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Marquette, Waushara and Winnebago Counties. This offer includes a minimum of eleven issues to a membership which supports the Mission of our Chapter to "Protect, Preserve and Enhance cold waters" in our five-county area.

The rate of \$500 per half column provides a low cost per issue and per reader. Multiple units are available, if desired. For purchases or further information, contact Bob Chamberlain at 920-398-3721.

CWTU People

Officers

President John Gremmer
920-582-7802

Vice President Elward Engle
920-787-287
Treasurer Scott Grady
920-687-0987
Secretary Bob Chamberlain Editor
920-398-3721

Other Board		Comm.
Mark Brosscau	920-231-7355	Education
Dan Colligan	920-787-4801	
Ira Giese	920-787-4279	
Bob Haase	920-922-8003	Banquet
Dan Harmon III	920-235-1761	Fishing School
Bob Hunt	715-258-2886	
Al Lee	920-233-3581	
Rich Mlodzik	920-295-8772	Workday
Tracy Moran	920-685-0902	
Ray Piehl	920-787-3147	
Tom Poullette	715-258-5565	Watchdog
Bob Rennock	920-926-6010	Research
Jerry Strom	920-589-4182	
Jack Wahlers	920-361-0807	Legislation
Gene West	920-787-2455	

Again Thanks to Bob Hunt

As Ye Ed has noted in a previous issue, he has been a grateful reader of a major Kiwi trout magazine furnished by Bob Hunt. That 's been true this month...and with a very pleasant surprise included.

One of the ads was for a motel near the Major Jones Pool of the Tongariro River, where I first saw English-style fishing etiquette on a grand, grand water.

As background, the Pool is approximately 600 yards long! It is more-or-less uniform throughout its length as to width and depth. And the Tongariro is justly famous as one of the North Island's major rivers.

The Pool is fished downstream from the top end. The fisher enters the water just under the people-access bridge and uses streamers in a stately ballet of cast-across-and down, fish out the swing, take three paces down and repeat the process. If one hangs a fish, he is expected to beach it, release it, and then return to the top to start again, no matter how far down the Pool the 5-6 pound fish comes to hand. Visitors who do not comply with the technique are approached (quietly) by a Kiwi and indoctrinated.

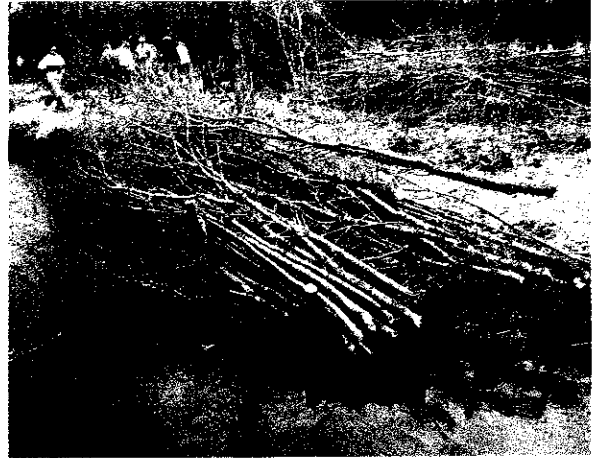
On one visit, I managed un-chided to interrupt the ballet when one of the most active 3-kilo fish I've ever seen put on an aerial display upstream; it jumped high more than six times! I stopped to take pictures and two Kiwis passed me without complaint, as I did so. "That 's an lively one. Yank!"

The angler was from Wellington. He saw me taking pictures and asked for copies, since it was the most active fish he'd seen in over thirty years on that River.

We've had an active Spring...Fun day, Banquet, Workday Here are snapshots of some of our events.



Brushing streams increases trout populations



"Lunker Structures" grow bigger fish



Everyone gets fed on Workdays



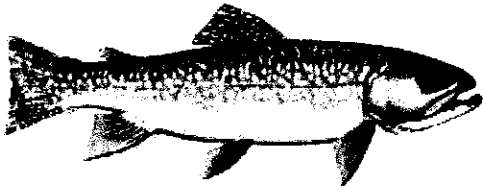
And The Prez cooks



Talking about feathers on FunDay



A Brookie is painted as a banquet prize



Central Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited
2325 State hwy 44
Oshkosh, WI 54904



Workday Crew on April 30, 2005. See related article