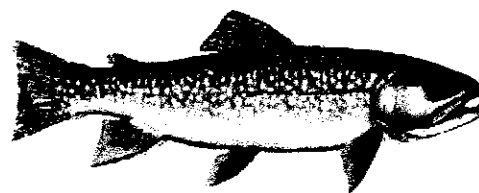


Brookie News

Newsletter of the Central Wisconsin
Chapter of Trout Unlimited



July 2005

PrezSez

This is a report on the state of CWTU, the good, the bad and the ugly.

First the good: (1) Who wouldn't be pleased with the crowd we had at our June business meeting at Bob Rennock's on the White River?! (2) Our attendance at events has been up for the past two years (3) Our Fly-Fishing School, lead by Dan Harmon III was again a great success. Twenty more people have learned to enjoy and appreciate our trout streams. (4) Our water monitoring program, having obtained the necessary equipment, is about to take off. (5) Again this year, we provided two grad students majoring in fisheries with scholarships. (6) We've added over 30 new members since February. (7) Our programs for the Fall are set and promise to be even better than last year. Rich Osthoff, Duke Welter, Tom Young, Dave Roberts, and Bob Hunt are among our speakers! (8) More young people are helping with our workdays. (9) Our budget is balanced—thanks to a monetarily-beneficial banquet. (10) Our website and newsletter continue to be outstanding. (11) And the Hex hatch was the best in years!

In short, our esprit de corps is at a very high level; our officers and Board have been doing a great job. And Campground Creek in Fond du Lac County (and other items) may provide an opportunity to do even more. (See below.) And we have new chances to teach others about cold water fisheries. (Our booth at the Duck Unlimited show at the EAA grounds, for instance.)

As to the bad: There are some concerns, issues and problems out there. Perrier still lurks in the shadows, governmental policies and politics have withered the DNR, development along trout streams is increasing. But, hopefully, reason will rule in the end.

In the meantime, let's all be active volunteers: attend the programs, take someone fishing, and bring people to our functions. In short, be an ambassador for cold-waters!

John Gremmer

Minutes, June 13 Board Meeting

Present: Mark Brosseau, Dan Colligan, Elward Engle, Ira Giese, Scott Grady, John Gremmer, Bob Haase, Tracy Moran, Ray Piehl, Jerry Strom and several guests.

As a first order of business, the Minutes of the

previous meeting as published in the **Brookie News** were accepted as published.

President Gremmer then reported serious continuing problems with National's processing of new and renewing members and of our gifts to local public and high school libraries.

John also recommended Bob Rennock's being added to our Board in place of Mark Brosseau's remaining term and that Mark be added to the Members at Large.

He then reminded the Board of the coming Workday and that there would be no workday in July. On the same general subject, he asked if CWTU should continue to have a picnic.

On coming meetings, he reminded the Board that the July session would be at Oshkosh Office Systems, starting at 5:30 PM for a pre-meeting cookout before continuing our annual planning session.

The August Board meeting will be used to consider a revised Annual Banquet. The meeting will be held at Ira Giese's place. (See page 4 for directions.)

Bob Haase reported he was waiting for a picture of Bob Hunt from Bob Chamberlain before the printing of the revised DNR brochure can proceed.

Then John Gremmer outlined our planned booth at the Ducks Unlimited Great Outdoors Festival at the EAA grounds on August 26-28. He reported having a banner for the exhibit, but still needed people to man it and "give-aways" for it.

For our Water Monitoring Project, the equipment order to Fisher Scientific had been cancelled and replaced with one to Forestry Services. And there was a problem of determining the GPS readings for the several sites.

John reported we'd had good feedback from this year's Fly School attendees, thus maintaining our history of success.

In regard to our finances, Scott Grady reported we were doing better on budgeted expenses and our School, Funday and Banquet gained more income than previously.

Then there was a discussion of Campground Creek and Parsons Creek. Elward Engle suggested CWTU members visit the streams and get temperature data

before further discussions with the DNR.

Alistair Stuart

Minutes, July 11 Board Meeting

The meeting opened at 6:10 PM at Oshkosh Office Systems with President Gremmer presiding. Board members present included Mark Brosseau, Bob Chamberlain, Scott Grady, Bob Haase, Dan Harmon III, Bob Hunt, Rich Mlodzik, Bob Rennock and Jerry Strom. There were also several guests.

Since no Minutes from the previous meeting had been published, that agenda item was postponed until next month.

Because of the press of business, Dr. Bob Stelzer was first asked to describe his proposed Emmons Creek Project. After his remarks, he suggested our providing a one-time gift of \$2,000 would assist the starting of the project when coupled with other monies he was seeking. President Gremmer then appointed a committee of Bob Haase, Bob Hunt and Jerry Strom to study the proposal and report back with a recommendation for action by September.

President John then described a recent tour of Campground Creek by several Board members. (See article below.)

On the subject of buying more official Chapter hats, Bob Chamberlain moved and Rich seconded a motion to purchase 24 more. The motion carried.

John reported a more-powerful and less-expensive video projector had now been ordered to complete our presentation equipment.

The next Board meeting will be at Ira Giese's home. A fish boil is planned, but see page 4 for details.

Bob Rennock was elected to the Board, replacing Mark Brosseau who has relocated.

New Banquet Chair Bob Haase recommended Pine Ridge on Hwy 73 west of Wautoma for an October 13 (Thursday) Banquet, since they are capable of handling 350 people at competitive rates. **Because this timing is very different than our previous practice, members are invited to submit their email opinions to Dan Harmon III or Bob Haase before August 8.**

The Board then completed our Chapter's Effectiveness Index at 97 of 100 possible points.

As the final item, we continued our long-range planning by agreeing to establish a Speaker's Bureau and beginning to contact Service Clubs, Libraries, High Schools and other organizations in our five-county area to see if there is any interest in our view of the ecology. After Gremmer and Chamberlain complete the appropriate presentation(s), such organizations will be contacted.

Bob Chamberlain

Campground Creek—Degraded Jewel

Southwest of Fond du Lac at the Byron Center on County F is Campground Creek. Where the Creek crosses the road there, the cold, clear spring water temperature is 52 degrees...just the stuff from limestone bedrock that makes a beautiful, productive trout stream!

On July 11, in response to requests from the Oakfield Conservation Club, Bob Hunt, Pat and Jerry Strom, Jerry Smet, Bob Haase, Jim Humphrey, Russ Bouck and I visited to examine the situation. We were welcomed by the Center's Director, Byron Pegram, and then observed the first of several springs flowing out of a limestone bluff to the Creek. Each of the mini-streams from a separate spring were wonderful, clear and gravel-bottomed. Campground Creek itself, at this point, is also clear, shallow and full of vegetation, but then meanders off through mature woods on the Grounds.

However, the story turns sour, once the Creek leaves the Center's property. It was straightened and ditched many years ago (Yc Ed: See article below.) and, since, has silted in. Further, a "plug" appeared in the ditch, a number of years back, and the water was diverted to a duck pond from which it then spreads through a marsh owned by the Oakfield Club. Eventually, it seeps back into the ditch downstream where the temperature at the next bridge below Cty F was 82 degrees!

I believe Campground Creek could be rehabilitated to blue-ribbon status. I can close my eyes and visualize great biodiversity in miles and miles of garden-like cold trout water snaking its way towards Oakfield. I can see people learning to appreciate such water! What a gift this would be to Wisconsin and future generations!

Do experts think Campground can be rehabilitated? Are there people interested in trying? Will the DNR get involved? Is anyone interested? What do people who have property along the creek think?

Maybe you can see the vision, too. If so, call me at 920-582-7802. I would love to talk about Campground Creek with you. Someone close by needs to take the vision forward.

John Gremmer

Our Unique Waters

The domain of the Central Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited was described by Aldo Leopold as "Sand Country", "Unique" and "The best of waters."

The area occupies a niche between the Terminal (Glacier) Moraine on the west in Adams County, 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, Mecan River, Neevah 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 of trout: 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 Mecan 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 process continuing to the present time. The draining, in turn, unleashed the migration of and aided 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, Bruce, Carpenter, Lunch, Big Roche-a-Cri and Sucker 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 banks 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 flows while simultaneously increasing the temperatures. The slow bank erosion increased the sand and silt, so that food for the trout was reduced. Accordingly, 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 resulting deeper, faster-flowing waters 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. Then 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

Your Comments, Please! Today!

Your Board is seriously considering holding our annual banquet on the **second Thursday in October** and in **Waushara County**. There are a number of factors in such a decision, of course, so we'd like **your opinion** on that change!

Please email Bob Haase or Dan Harmon III, members of the committee on that subject, **immediately** with your comment(s)!

(Unfortunately, Yc Ed, also a member of the group, has lost his email capability.)

It is anticipated the annual meeting of CWTU (with election of Officers) will continue to be held in March. It is believed our Chapter should return to emphasizing (and fully discussing) its organization, hold an annual election, adopt the budget, learn of coming projects, etc., at that meeting, rather than having all those subjects determined by the Board alone.

While we have had all of these formal activities, so few have attended the business portion of our March business meeting that your Board has not felt the whole membership has participated in its decision-making. Separating the banquet and the business as proposed is one way to insure more broad participation in our overall activities.

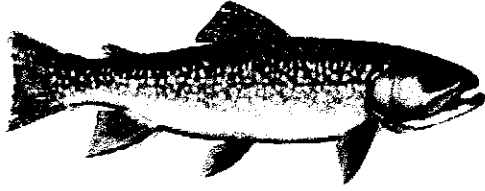
Another purpose for this discussion is, frankly, financial. Of recent date, a deficit budget has been adopted at our annual meeting, simply because we have not known what our income would be, since those monies were yet to be determined by that night's activities.

Still another aspect is that our members tend to be all-around sportsmen. That is, they engage in trout fishing as but one of their field pastimes, all of which tend to have their fundraisers in the Spring (with the effect of dividing participation in those several money-making events.)

All of the financial thoughts, of course, center on the reality that our programs for you, as members, tend to run from Fall to Fall, a "natural" year. Therefore, there is an argument our monies should be known near the beginning of any year. An October banquet would provide that knowledge.

Still another consideration is that October might have fewer distractions from attending our major income event, since March can sometimes (often?) be the beginning of (other family) outdoor activities. It has also been suggested that October might be the less-desirable travel time.

And, of course, the proposed Wautoma site for 2005 is an area with a smaller population. Will people ...families...travel from Oshkosh and Fond du Lac to Wautoma on a weekday at that time of year?



Central Wisconsin Chapter of TU
2325 State Hwy 44
Oshkosh, WI 54904

Next Board Meeting

The August Board meeting will be at Ira Giese's, W9175 Cty C, Wautoma, at 5:30 PM. A fishboil will be featured. Planning for a possible October 13 banquet is the meeting topic.

Directions to Ira's: Hwy 73 west from Wautoma to County C. Then west approximately 2 miles to W9175, the western-most of a group of three houses on south side of road.

Next Membership Meeting

September 10: Fin'N Feather, Winneconne. Board, 6:30 PM. Program, 7:30 PM: **Flies—Choosing, Designing, and Fishing Them** by Rich Osthoff.

Other Coming Meetings

October 10, 2005. Fin'N Feather, Winneconne. Board, 6:30 PM. Program: **The Driftless Area—A Landscape of Opportunities** by John "Duke" Welter, 7:30 PM.

November 7, 2005, Wautoma (Site TBA.) Board, 6:30 PM. Program, 7:30 PM: **Tom Young's Video Diary—Hatches, Fishing and Onstream Happenings**

January 16 2006: Fin'N Feather, Winneconne. Board, 6:30 PM. Program, 7:30 PM: **Premiere of Trout**

Stream Habitat Restoration—A Case History by Bob Hunt.

February 25, 2006. Fin'N Feather, Winneconne. **FISHING FUN DAY**, 10 AM- 4 PM. Seminars, fly tying, knot tying, cane rod building, etc..

March 12, 2006. Fin'N Feather, Winneconne. Board, 6:30 PM. Program, 7:30 PM: **Fly Tying Feathers—History, Sources, Uses, and Production** by Dave Roberts, Gray Drake Hackle Co.

April 17, 2006: Marble Park, Winneconne., **Fly Casting Clinic**, 5:30 PM.

May 13, 2006: Dakota Inn, Dakota. 8 AM: **4th ANNUAL TROUT FISHING OUTING.** Guided fishing. 1 PM, various clinics. Board, 2 PM.

Why not save this schedule or enter it into your Pending Events book?! And then y'all come on out!

Our 2006 work schedule will be issued later in the year.

If our website provides all necessary info about the Chapter, please tell Scott Grady and save postage!!