

# BROOKIE NEWS



## 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

*July 2008*

### PrezSez

As I look at the pictures of the Lawrence Creek workdays on our website, I think back to the first time I fished this special water. It was in the early 1970s. Lawrence was an unusual trout stream for Central Wisconsin then, because it held wild Brook Trout. At that time, the stream was narrower, deeper and I think there wasn't as much sand. This was the result of extensive studies and rehab work by DNR.

It took me a while to learn how to fish the Lawrence; since the stream is very clear and the Brook Trout very spooky.

On one cold, gray, March day, I drove over to the Creek out of winter boredom and found a light Blue-winged Olive hatch in progress. They were tiny, maybe 18s or 20s and there wasn't a lot of them, just enough to interest the fish. I sat on the bank and watched for over an hour and saw many fish rising. When I finally got up, my feet were numb and I realized my pants were wet from the damp ground. It was a good quiet time.

The water in Lawrence Creek water has always been cold; I know this from leaky waders and from falling in a few times. But in the 70s, it seems the fish were a little larger than they are now and the stream easier to fish.

The people I've seen fishing there use live bait, small spinners and/or flies to good advantage. If you bait- or spin-fish, an ultra light outfit with 2- to 4-pound line would be about right; if you bait or fly fish, a 3- or 4-weight flyrod will do nicely.

The wild Brookies are still there, but over the years, Lawrence has deteriorated to some degree; it's still a good stream, but not what it used to be. The stream has widened and, as a result, has gotten shallower. so, it became obvious some maintenance needed to be done. It seems to me the size of trout in any stream is more proportional to the depth of the water than the width.

CWTU is partnering with several other TU Chapters and other organizations, including the DNR Habitat Crew from Wild Rose and other DNR

people. So far, we have secured one Grant of \$4,000 for this work and Bob Haase is working on another (more on this in coming months).

It will be interesting to watch Lawrence Creek respond to the work being done. I'm going to take a few before and after photographs from the same spot and the same angle. That should be good documentation of the results of our work.

A side note: Alastair Stewart of the Elliot Donnelley Chapter has suggested their chapter and ours provide a base of \$5,000 for a matching grant from the Trout and Salmon Foundation for work on Lawrence Creek. At our recent Board meeting, we voted our half of the needed total.

Look at the workday pictures on our website, [www.cwtu.org](http://www.cwtu.org) and please consider coming to the remaining workdays. The remaining workdays on Lawrence Creek in 2008 are August 16 and September 20, both will begin at around 9:00 AM. Directions are on website and below.

Dick Kraus

### Workday

The last workday, July 19, on Lawrence Creek was a great success, thanks to the following: Linn Beck, Michael Barniskis, Bill Garvey, Bob Haase, Jim Humphrey, Rich Mlodzik, Tracy Moran, Bob Reed, Mike Roloff, Mike Stupich, Jack Talin and DNR participants, Dave Paynter, Alan Lane, Dakota Lane, and Steve Sullivan. About 35 piers were jetted in and platforms were installed.

Also on July 29 and 30, Rawhide cadets and counselors spent two days at Lawrence Creek. To date this year, over 100 feet of stream has been narrowed by Xmas trees: over 200 feet of bank structures have been completed and are ready for fill, and another 200 feet are ready for completion.

Please join us on Saturday, August 16, to continue the rehabilitation of this stream and enjoy lunch. SEE YOU THERE at 9 AM.

Jim Humphrey

## Directions to Lawrence Creek

From Wautoma, go West on 21 to I-39/US51 - go South to Westfield exit. Go west on E to downtown Westfield (stop sign). Turn left (or south) on Main St. for 1 block (first right turn) and go west on E (E turn not marked on Main St.). Continue on E (which joins A for a short time) about 5 miles to First Avenue. Turn right (north) about 1 mile to bridge. SEE YOU THERE!!

## Other Coming Events

**August 16**, Lawrence Creek Workday, 9:00 AM.

**August 18**. Board meeting, Wild Rose Hatchery, 5:30 PM .

**September 20**, Lawrence Creek Workday, 9:00 AM.

## Big Springs Dam Removal

As most of you will remember, Big Springs in Adams Co. was where Perrier-Nestle tried their water grab after Mecan Springs; they did not win!

Then, in July 2004, at a time when Adams Co. was still part of our Chapter's territory, (*It later moved to the Plover Chapter*), Pres. Gremmer received a message from Bill Petterson of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service asking if CWTU would like to form a partnership with them and Adams Co. to remove a private dam on Big Spring Creek. The dam on that Brown trout stream impeded upstream and downstream fish movement.

The dam-owner was interested in removal after hydropower production was eliminated by a flood and then stalled re-licensing. Pres. John e-mailed me and the Chapter was soon involved. Bill Petterson told me the contact would be Cris Murphey of Adams County's Land and Water Conservation Department. He told me there was still much animosity from Perrier's takeover attempt and the dam operator had no trust in the DNR, but the community was polled and they would like to see TROUT water again.

The stream above the dam is only about a mile long and below the dam, a stretch approximately 2-1/2 miles long, was supposed to be warm water. Obviously, many worm cans, many problems, could be opened on a dam removal attempt, so I contacted Scott Ironsides, DNR from that area, and he was gung-ho to get all the creek to being trout water. At this time, the River Alliance was also contacted, as well as a stream restoration specialist.

On August 10, 2004 Dick Kraus and I went to the Springs to see what the situation was all about. The two roads crossing on top of the dam and the dam were partially gone, due to the flood, but there was still some water above the dam, perhaps 10-12 acres probably 1-2 feet deep and tons of silt.

Dick crawled down the bank above the bridge and recorded a water temp. of 57 degrees. Below the

bridge-dam, the water temp. was 60 degrees. Water clarity was excellent, so I recorded the data and took pictures which are still on a disc for reference.

We then drove upstream around the Spring and found two small feeder streams and springs bubbling out of the ground, all over. One of the feeders looked very close to a barnyard, a very interesting area.

In September, I got another call from Cris Murphey and he said the dam-owner still wanted to produce power, but he (Murphey) was going slowly with the land owners.

My next correspondence with Cris was in late November 2007. He told me in the intervening years the County Board wanted no part of doing anything with the springs and the road, but a NEW Board had come in and was off and running. Cris' call included a request for monetary help for a culvert (to replace the roads), but my response was CWTU was not then flush in the cash department.

Things really took off this year and on June 15 the County and Town Boards decided to remove the dam, although they made no determination about the roads crossing it and despite part of the township's preferring permanent closure.

On June 19, the agreements were signed for dam removal and for at least temporary closure of the roads. The downstream Mason Lake District still objects to the agreement. Phase one of the overall project, dam removal and road closure, starts July 1 and should be done by October 1.

Phase two is still pending, based on the road decision. The overall cost has been estimated at \$160,000.

Some names and groups should be mentioned: the River Alliance (Cris said they were very helpful), Mike Juleson, Town of New Haven Chair, and Mark Knutson, Dam Owner, who finally made the decision

to remove the dam and recreate the trout stream, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Department, the State DNR (Scott Ironside), Adams County Land and Water Conservation Department and various sportsmen's clubs (including CWTU) who worked together carefully to consider the overall situation.

It looks like a success story for trout.

Tom Poullette

## More High-Cap Well

While the high-capacity well in Waushara County has had an acceptable conclusion, the probability exists that similar problems could develop elsewhere in the State. Thereafter, I asked our State Council Chair, Bill Heart, to include me on the agenda for the next Council meeting, so I might make other chapters (and the Council) aware of shortcomings of the current Statutes and Codes that are intended to protect Wisconsin's trout water.

All chapters in the State should urge their

respective Fish Managers to review all streams within their responsibility to ensure all are listed in *Trout Streams of Wisconsin*, DNR PUB-FH-806 2002 so all appropriate waters will be protected against a similar misfire of reason.

Elward Engle, Tom Poulette and I are in the process of arranging a session with Dave Bartz, Scott Bundy and Ted Johnson of the WDNR to discuss classifications and listings in Marquette and Waushara Counties. We will similarly contact the Fish Managers in Green Lake, Fond du Lac, and Winnebago Counties.

### **Banquet Plea**

It's not too early to begin thinking about items for the annual banquet. Suggestions for auction, door prize, and raffle items are welcome, but donations of said items are especially welcome. If you have items that need to be picked up, contact David Seligman at [Seligmand@ripn.edu](mailto:Seligmand@ripn.edu) or 920.369.6784, or any of the other Banquet Committee members.

### **Still Need Help!!**

Ye Ed/Historian still needs a few items for the preparation of a formal history: a 2008 Banquet Program, Board Members for each year 1972 to 1990, financial reports for all years and Board meeting minutes for numerous dates over the years, but especially of the very first few years. We need Flyfishing School folders and fliers, Workday and Watchdog reports, amusing anecdotes, etc., etc.

Several guys have emptied out attics or garages to give us what we have, but if you have such stuff, would you at least let us see it, even if you wish to to have it back? Any viewing would be greatly appreciated!

### **Minutes of July 21, 2008**

Meeting at John Tucker's cottage called to order by Bob Haase at 6:15 PM with a quorum of the Board present.

On motion Minutes of the previous meeting of June, 2008, were approved. However, there was no Treasurer's report. And there were no reports on water monitoring, stream restoration or watchdog.

After some discussion, motion and vote, members present approved commitment of \$2,500 from our Nash Williams Fund, subject to receipt of \$2,500 from Elliott Donnelley Chapter for possible grant matching for the Lawrence Creek Project.

David Seligman will chair the Program Committee with 2008 to be his last year as the Chair of the Banquet Committee.

Approved payment of round trip gas costs to state meetings (4 annually) for one car, participants to

car pool.

Directed Scholarship Committee to review potential requirement for scholarship recipient to devote volunteer time towards CWTU efforts.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Mike Schaefer

### **Reminiscences, An Editorial**

As you have seen, Ye Ed has been seeking history items regarding our Chapter. Finally, the dusty cupboards of various members have begun to be unlocked with a treasure trove of information, Newsletters, Board Minutes, clippings, etc. In fact, three large boxes were delivered to a tavern (where else?) for four "OI Heads" to argue over determining, for instance, our slates of Officers and Brookie awardees, over the years.

After some two hours of labor, most of the list had been compiled with but a few blanks and, after a lunch at the selfsame bar, the group adjourned to a nearby pavilion to continue its deliberations. Unfortunately, a stiff breeze (and a few previous beers?) foiled that additional effort. So, Ye Ed was burdened with three large, musty boxes and told to "dig in".

In the latter effort, Ye Ed rediscovered some of his own TU roots, since I became a TU'er in late 1969 or 1970 and met with the chapter in Madison from whence our Chapter arose. (I was not involved with CWTU's creation, however, since my company transferred me back to Fond du Lac at the beginning of 1971, the year our chartering here began.)

The boxes have since yielded many Board Minutes, reports of serious legislative and Watchdog activities, the beginnings of our annual Banquet, Flyfishing School and ongoing graduate ecology student support. But not all was clear-sailing, however, since our group has had its low spots from time to time....Board members moving away, members in disagreement with given actions, lack or irregularity of programs, etc.

It is interesting, though, that our membership has remained fairly consistent, even though our assigned territory has shrunk from including Sheboygan and Stevens Point to our present five counties.

### **Website**

The restructured CWTU website ([www.cwtu.org](http://www.cwtu.org)) is up and running. Check out the *Home Page* for news, upcoming events and other odd bits of information.

I'm now working on the *Photos and Blogs* page which will contain snaps related to trout fishing and TU business that members send to me. ([jgremmer@charter.net](mailto:jgremmer@charter.net))

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

me.

John Gremmer

### 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](http://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

Here's another recipe per El Presidente's desire for an eventual (income-producing) booklet!

### Beaver Tail Soup

- 4 small beaver tails or 2 large tails
- 4 quarts of water
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tbs sugar
- 2 tbs vinegar
- 1 tbs mixed pickling spices
- 1 onion
- 1 stick celery, broke
- 1 carrot, sliced
- 2 ounces of sherry
- 2 tbs pine nuts

Scrub the beaver tails. Plunge them into boiling water and boil for a few minutes to loosen the skin. Drain, slit tail skin and peel, pull and cut off. The skin may also be loosened by searing directly over coils or under broiler until it blisters, searing first one side and then the other.

Place the tails in stockpot. Cover with the cold water. Bring to a boil and boil gently, skimming as scum forms. Reduce to a low boil. Add salt, sugar and vinegar. Tie spices in cheesecloth and add along with onion, celery and carrot. Cook very slowly,

uncovered, until stock is reduced by about one-half (approx. 4-5 hours.) Test and adjust seasoning along the way, removing spice bag at discretion. Strain stock and chill overnight.

Next day, lift off fat. Clarify the stock; put on medium burner to heat. Whip 2 egg whites and 2 half-shells of water together until frothy. Stir into stock as it heats, continue stirring until stock comes to a boil and froths up. Stop stirring, continue cooking or about 3 minutes. Strain through sieve lined with doubled cheesecloth or fine muslin. The strained stock should be crystal clear, amber in color. Store in suitable container, closely covered, in refrigerator up to 4 days, or freeze indefinitely.

To serve, heat the soup to a bubble, add sherry, let rest on low heat for a few minutes. Don't let the soup boil after adding the sherry.

Pour in heated, covered tureen. Garnish with pine nuts. Serve very hot in consommé cups.

Serve with red wine.

(Note: Snapping turtle is an excellent substitute. After the turtle is dressed, the soup may be made from the above recipe.)

(Ye Ed's note: How did Lewis & Clark portage that refrigerator and those tureens safely? Oh! Perhaps this wasn't their recipe.)

### Another Note from Bob Hunt

Bob, here's a "filler" for the **Brookie News**, pioneering advice that still needs application: "As long as a trout stream has the capability of maintaining itself, it is wise to keep the large fish in the stream."

Lee Wulff  
in "Look Long and Hard at the Wild Country"  
Gray's Sporting Journal  
Vol 1, Issue 1  
Winter 1976

Ye Ed's favorite Wulff saying is: "A trout is too valuable a resource to be caught only once."  
(No specific attribution)

(It is easy to see why Bob's scientific training and his careful field work have resulted in great respect for him in the Chapter, the State Council and the world.

The only thing is, Bob, your filler  
is

still

two

lines

short.)

