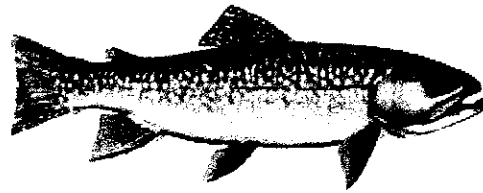


Brookie News

Newsletter of the Central Wisconsin
Chapter of Trout Unlimited



August 2005

PrezSez

The CWTU Board has decided to hold this year's Conservation Banquet on October 20 at the new Pine Ridge Farms facility. Located west of Wautoma on Hwy 73, this will be a great venue for us! The Farms provide great food, outstanding facilities, ample seating and a sportsman's atmosphere.

In recent years, our Chapter has grown in numbers and activities. Now the Board would like to continue increasing our Banquet attendance from 155 to a size more in keeping with some other State TU's which average 100 more than we do..

So, why are we changing from March to October? First, we want to avoid other conservation and environmental groups which tend to have fests in early Spring. All such groups have their advocates, so it makes it difficult to secure an adequate facility at that time.

Secondly, the Board wished to put more time between our very successful Fishing Fun Day on the last Saturday in February and our Banquet (formerly) in mid-March. Moving the latter gives us more time to plan and achieve a bigger and better event....for both.

Thirdly, March weather can be more problematical than October's. March storms can shut down everything; October usually is more stable.

Fourthly, many of our members are "snowbirds" in the South. October will allow them to attend our feast, too.

We're going to try a mid-week evening, because weekends are often a problem for families. The Board feels the Thursday date will allow more people to attend this, our major fund-raiser. Our mandatory Annual Meeting and election of officers will continue to be held in March.

The Board is not making this shift just for change's sake. The issue has been discussed at a number of meetings, Chair Bob Haase says he will have everyone on their way home before 9:00 PM (Bring the kids!), so the Board was unanimous in its vote. I hope all members will embrace and support this October date and bring new people with them to enjoy the show. We have a great Chapter effectively carrying out its Mission; it deserves support.

If you have questions about the new Banquet date or

any topic related to CWTU, please email me at jgremmer@charter.net or call 920-582-7802.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of our Chapter will be at the **Fin N' Feather, Winneconne on Monday, September 19 at 7:30 PM**, following the Board session at 6:30 PM. The Program Speaker will be Rich Osthoff on **Flies: Choosing, Designing and Fishing Them**.

Fly designs by Rich are regularly featured in *American Angler*, *Fly Tyer*, and other magazines. The speaker will discuss how he develops patterns to solve specific freshwater fishing challenges. His concepts will help you understand effective patterns, but, whether you tie or buy your flies, this program will give fresh insights into this arena.

Everyone is welcome, so come early and listen to the Board session....and participate.

Next Workday

The next workday for Central Wisconsin Chapter will be October 8. We will again be on the Little Pine off County II, south of State Highway 21, 6 miles west of Wautoma. Hopefully, this workday will finish up the Little Pine project!

For this work, you'll need work gloves, rubber boots, hip boots or waders. (While regular boots may be okay, they could get muddy.) If you have a chainsaw or brushcutter, feel free to bring them along.

For more information, contact Rich Mlodzik at mjmrpm@charter.net of 920-295-8772.

Workday Report

We had 10 people attend the August workday on the Little Pine Creek. Joining us for hands-on experience was Julie Nieland, our Chapter's scholarship student from UW-Stevens Point.

We cleared about 100 yards of very thick buckthorn brush from the stream bank, a task made easier by a generous donation of a Stihl Brushcutter from Dan and Gail Colligan. (Thanks, Dan and Gail!) We also installed five cover structures and then John Gremmer and Jim Humphrey, under the supervision of Tom Poullette, worked their magic on brats and burgers for

lunch.

Bob Chamberlain

If you haven't attended a workday on this project, consider coming to the October 8 session. The Chapter members have put a lot of hard work into this stretch and I think we are already seeing results. After the heavy rains at the end of July, the bank covers are picking up sediment and filling in. The stream bottom has been scoured and the channel is narrower and deeper.

There has also been an explosion of color along the stream banks. Wildflowers—Purple Joe, Pink Thistle, Orange Jewelweed and Yellow Goldenrod—have taken advantage of the sunlight provided by our removal of the brush.

Rich Mlodzik

Minutes, August 8 Board Meeting

Present: Mark Brosseau, Bob Chamberlain, Dan Colligan, Ira Giese, Scott Grady, John Gremmer, Bob Haase, Dan Harmon III, Bob Hunt, Rich Mlodzik, Tracy Moran, Ray Pichl, Tom Poulette, Jerry Strom, Jack Wahlers and several guests.

As a first order of business, the Minutes of the previous two meetings as published in the **Brookie News** were approved.

President Gremmer then requested assistance with a meeting of FFF in Sheboygan on September 23-24 and at Ducks Unlimited at EAA, this month. He also indicated several official CWTU hats were available to members at \$11 per and that the new video projector was in hand and would be used at our next meeting.

Rich Mlodzik reminded everyone our next workday would be on the coming Saturday.

Bob Haase then lead final decision-making on having our next Annual Banquet at the Pine Ridge Farm on Hwy 73 west of Wautoma on Thursday, October 20 at 5:30 PM. After some discussion of the pros and cons, that date and site were approved. Haase then asked all the Board for help in completing the arrangements, including adequate door prizes and raffles.

Bob then outlined assignments in the water monitoring project, including training of new "walk-on" volunteers and of adding Campground Creek to the agenda. (See article below.)

Scott Grady reported the receipt of an annual anonymous gift of \$1,000 to be added to the Scholarship Fund and also reported a Current Balance of \$44,948.51.

After a round of applause to the Gieses for their hospitality (and great fish boil), the meeting adjourned inside to hear a presentation of Bob Hunt's, Elward Engle's and Ed Avery's survey of local trout streams. (See article below.)

Gremmer then wound up the evening by reporting on the good response to his complaint to National regarding the slow processing of memberships and renewals. He felt the situation might finally be remedied.

Editorial

Most evidence suggests our members support the Mission of the Central Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited to "Protect, Preserve and Enhance the coldwater streams in our five-country area." But some of our members embrace that vision with a passion! Three of the latter group are Bob Hunt, Elward Engle and Ed Avery.

Since Hunt, Engle and Avery have been increasingly worried about the state of our various stream improvements for quite some time, they decided to conduct a field survey of a number of specific waters as a part of our Chapter's long-range planning. As noted in the Minutes above, Bob Hunt presented a summary of their survey at the August 8 Board meeting and announced the three will be showing the results to the DNR in October as part of a planned discussion on increasing maintenance of existing projects.

The trio has visited 21 streams and studied enhancement work completed at various times in the past by either the DNR or volunteers. As a result, they concluded that less emphasis should be placed on new habitat work and much more on repairing that already accomplished, since a small, regular amount of maintenance would extend good structure and channel shape preferred by trout for much longer into the future.

They specifically cited Davis Creek, where maintenance has been carried out annually by the Fox Valley Chapter for many years, as being in very good shape. Another good example was Spaulding Creek. However, they concluded 19 of the 21 inspected stretches needed near-term repairs to allow spawning gravel and "hidee holes" continuing to perform needed functions.

Bob showed photos which depicted numerous places where rocks had been forced off bank cover by high waters or other natural phenomena and where "cutoffs" had left man-made work behind. Early replacement or correction would have allowed the various works to continue their benefits.

Since the Board presentation was in preparation for the formal meeting with the DNR, Bob, Elward and Ed planned to suggest that the DNR conduct an inventory of all improved waters, prioritize their respective needs and then plan and begin a long-range program to balance wholly-new efforts against simple, but beneficial repairs.

They also planned to note private contractors appeared quite skilled and effective at "brushing" beside streams and that volunteers (like CWTU) were knowledgeable in repairing structures as well as carrying out brushing projects. Accordingly, they felt such an overall program incorporating greater emphasis on maintenance and new methods to do that work would be useful all over Wisconsin, particularly in the current

troubled-budget times.

The streams on which the surveys were conducted were: Chaffee Creek, Davis Creek, Emmons Creek, Flume Creek, Humphrey Creek, Lawrence Creek, Lunch Creek, Mekan River, Peterson Creek, Pine River, Radley Creek, Roche a Cri, Soules Creek, Spaulding Creek, Tagatz Creek, Tomorrow River, Trout Creek, Wedde Creek, W. Br of White River, Willow Creek, and Whitcomb Creek. These represent a good chunk of nearby waters, so we can see the survey was a significant effort.

Thanks, guys! The suggestion of more balance looks good to us!

Water Monitoring

Our new water monitoring project has gotten off to a good start in July! The work has begun with twelve sites being monitored by one team each. Thirty volunteers have been trained in the process and ten more are signed up for taking readings, but are not yet wholly ready to go solo.

As indicated in our previous articles on the WAV (Water Action Volunteer) program, fourteen different entries may be made for any given site on any given date. However, for various reasons, not all are necessarily recorded for each visit at each site. Over the years, however, this effort will be a very important part of our Chapter Mission of "Protect, Preserve, and Enhance the coldwater fisheries in our five-county area".

At the present time, there are twelve teams headed by a "Leader" and having from two to four other members. The teams, in turn, are grouped into four "sets" under a "Captain" for reasons of communication.

The streams being monitored are: Bird Creek, Campground Creek, Chaffee Creek, Mekan River (two places), Parsons Creek, Pine Creek, Waupaca River, Wedde Creek, White River (two stretches) and Willow Creek. It's a significant effort!

As has been said in these pages previously, some volunteers in this program are not even members of our Chapter of Trout Unlimited! Such people feel the work is that important!

Another positive factor is the average number of volunteers per team/site. Over time, the redundancy will insure the necessary readings being taken.

CWTU 2005-06 Meeting Schedule

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

October 20, 2005: Pine Ridge Farms, Wautoma. **Our Annual Banquet**, 5:30 PM.

November 7, 2005: Wautoma (site TBA). Board,

6:30 PM. Program at 7:30 PM: **Tom Young's Video Diary—Hatches, Fishing, and Onstream Happenings**.

December 12, 2005: Berlin Public Library. Board, 6:30 PM. Program at 7:30 PM: **CWTU in Action** by President John Gremmer.

January 16, 2006: Fin 'N Feather, Winneconne, Board, 6:30 PM. Program at 7:30 PM: Premiere of **Trout Stream Habitat Restoration—A Case History** by Bob Hunt, retired DNR Scientist.

February 13, 2006: Berlin Public Library. Board, 6:30 PM. Program: TBA.

February 25, 2006: Fin 'N Feather, Winneconne. **CWTU Annual Fishing Fun Day**, 10:00AM to 4:00 PM.

March 13, 2006: Fin 'N Feather, Winneconne, Board, 6:30 PM. Program at 7:30 PM: Election of Officers, then **Fly-Tying Feathers—History, Sources, Uses and Production** by Dave Roberts of Gray Drake Hackle Co.

April 17, 2006: Marble Park, Winneconne. **CWTU 4th Annual Casting Clinic**, 5:30 PM.

May 13, 2006: Dakota Inn, Dakota. **Annual Fishing Funday**: 8:00 AM Continental Breakfast, 8:30 AM Guided Fishing, 1:00 PM Clinics: Knots, Casting, Macroinvertebrates, 2:00 PM Board.

June 2, 3,4, 2006: **CWTU Annual Fly Fishing School**. Pre-registration required.

June 12, 2006: Board, Site and time TBA

July 10, 2006: Board, Site and time TBA

August 14, 2006: Board, Site and time TBA

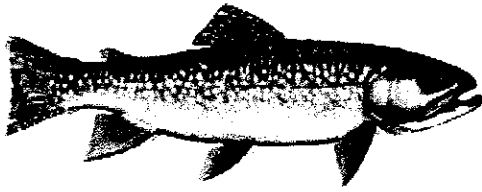
Details on these various activities will be provided in **Brookie News** as they approach, but why not enter these dates in your calendar now and attend and participate in them all?!

Join Us Today

Volunteers are very important to our work! We need your help in the field, behind the scenes and for support! It is only through our members that we accomplish our Mission of "Preserving, Protecting, and Enhancing the waters in our five-county area!" We believe it should be of interest to anyone engaged in trout water activities, regardless of the method for one's fishing.

In the Nation as a whole, TU returns to the environment more than twice what it receives in annual membership fees. Our Chapter raises its own operating funds and also provides monies for monitoring equipment, special DNR land purchases, scholarships, etc.

There are nine membership categories: Regular, Senior/Student, Family, Sponsoring Contributor, Century Contributor, Business Membership, Conservator Membership, Life Membership and Family Life. Please ask for an application form.



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

| Officers | | CWTU People | |
|----------------------------|--|-----------------------------|----------------|
| President | John Gremmer 920-582-7802 | Ira Giese 920-787-4279 | |
| Vice President | Elward Engle 920-787-2887 | Bob Haase 920-922-8003 | Banquet |
| Treasurer | Scott Grady 920-687-0987 | Dan Harmon III 920-235-1761 | Fishing School |
| Secretary | Bob Chamberlain Editor 920-398-3721 | Bob Hunt 715-258-2886 | |
| Other Board | | Al Lee 920-233-3581 | Workday |
| Mark Brosseau 920-231-7355 | | Rich Mlodzik 920-295-8772 | |
| Dan Colligan 920-787-4801 | | 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 | |