

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

November 2008

PrezSez

Cedar Springs Creek is a small Class 1 Brook Trout stream in Waushara County, not far from my home. Class 1 means that the Creek has a naturally-reproducing population of wild Brookies and does not require stocking by the DNR. The Creek crosses County Road Q and, if you approach the culvert under the road carefully, you can see a few Brookies, almost any time you go there. Usually, I go once in Spring before the season opens and once in Fall after the season is closed. No, I don't go there to fish.

In Spring, I wait for the first warm, sunny, windless day and walk back to the headwater spring ponds. Sometimes I go there just to watch Spring finally win out over Winter; sometimes the Trout are rising. It's before the mosquitoes and black flies are out and you do have to watch for ticks, but migrating waterfowl and most songbirds have returned and the fiddlehead ferns and skunk cabbage are emerging. It's a good quiet time, a peaceful place.

Recently, a few days before deer season, I made my Fall visit. At this time of year, the Trout are preparing to spawn. After crawling near to streamside, the Trout were readily visible. On each side of the culvert, there were twenty to thirty Brook Trout from ten to fourteen inches long, all of them in their spawning colors. The males were beautiful, green, black, red and white and I could clearly see the markings on their backs. In my view, the only creature that comes close to being as colorful as a spawning male Brook Trout is a male Wood Duck during the Spring mating season.

The fish seemed to be in a high state of excitement, moving quickly upstream and then back down. This was repeated over and over and I didn't think it was because of my presence. My guess was they were staging, prior to the actual spawn.

Why am I telling you about this? There are

two reasons; one is that in the mid-1970's our Chapter of Trout Unlimited and DNR had many workdays there, so I think it's sometimes good to look back and evaluate the results. The work at that time was pumping silt from the several spring ponds upstream from the road on public land. This was done to increase the volume and depth of the ponds for greater trout holding capacity and to clear the silt from possibly blocking the inflow of ground water from below. Given what I've been watching over the years, I would say the effort was well rewarded, and the project a success.

The other reason I am writing about Cedar Springs Creek is I wanted to share it with you. If you go there sometime, be careful; the area is boggy and you can sink in the soft places. Also, don't try to wade in the spring ponds; in places, some are very deep and most places seem to have no bottom to the muck and silt. For viewing the trout, you will need polarized sunglasses and clothing that blends in with the background. Walk softly and stay low, these are wild fish and they spook easily. Part of the spring ponds and creek are on private land, so you will need to know where you can go and where you cannot; however, the public land boundaries are well marked.

I am very proud that the Central Wisconsin Chapter of TU had a part in the maintenance and future of this very special resource.

Dick Kraus

Next Program

In the past two summers, John Gremmer has traveled to Pennsylvania to fish with his friend Art Kempf. The immediate target was the morning Trico hatch, but along the way they discovered the "silver bullet" magic fly---the Gribbeetle.

The title of the John's program is "Fishing Happy Valley," because Spring Creek, the stream

with the best fishing, runs through Happy Valley, right by Joe Paterno's Beaver Stadium, where the Penn State football team hosts its rivals.

In the middle of Happy Valley, the City of State College surrounds Penn State University and within a 40 minute drive, there are 37 trout streams! Legendary angler George Harvey once lived in State College and Joe Humphries still does.

The program will feature information on Spruce Creek, Fishing Creek, the Little Juniata, and Spring Creek. Fly shops, flies, techniques, maps, history, etc., will all be covered.

The program will start at 7:30 PM. and will follow the December 8 (6:15 PM) Board meeting. Both the Board session and the program will be held in the upper level of the Fin'N Feather in Winneconne. Members are encouraged to arrive at around 5:15 PM to share a meal.

For more information on this program and others, check our website, www.cwtu.org/.

Other Coming Events

December 8. Fin 'N Feather, Winneconne, 7:15 PM, John Gremmer on "Fishing Trout in Pennsylvania". Board 6:15 PM.

January 15, 2009. Fin 'N Feather, Winneconne, 9:00 PM. Bob Haase on "Fishing the Hex Hatch and Favorite Hex Patterns". Board 6:15 PM.

February 28. TroutFest. Fin 'N Feather, Winneconne, 9:00 AM.

March 16. Joint Program with Fox Valley Chapter, TBA.

Minutes of December 8

1. Call to order--6:15 by President Kraus
2. Minutes from last meeting approved.
3. Treasurer's report by Scott Grady read. 2008 Banquet cleared about \$5,000. Savings Acct: 25.99. Checking account: 10,648.76. Money market accounts: 15,175.58. CD: 11,412.39. Cash on hand: none. Total Funds: 37,262.72.
4. Water monitoring report. Linn Beck said assignments for upcoming year will be ready in December. Level II water class for monitors will be held in January. J. Gremmer asked if it is possible to have a DNR official (Johnson) come to a future meetings to talk about how the DNR is using the data we collect.
5. Stream restoration report. Possible site for future work days might be Carpenter Creek. The DNR is doing rock work on Lawrence Creek. The River Alliance has contacted our Chapter about doing work on Big Spring Creek. It was pointed out this body of water is in Adams County and is in the Hornberg Chapter's territory. For any suggestions for workday sites for next year, contact Jim Humphries. It was reported the DNR budget for next year has been cut (what else is new? Ed.

comment.).

6. Watchdog Committee Report. No new problem areas.

7. Program Report. They will be listed in the Brookie News. There are still some openings in Master's tying class, but any suggestions for next year should be given to the Program Chair.

8. Membership report. Ira Geise not present.

9. Banquet Report. Nothing!!!!!!!

10. Publications report. OK!

11. Education Report. Revision of Education policy was distributed and will be voted on at December meeting.

12. Website Report. Everything OK. Check website for possible meeting and/or activity cancellations during winter's bad weather.

13. Old Business. Ray Piehl has offered a donation of a trailer for workdays. Will be looked into.

A Chapter committee has made recommendations to DNR as to stream improvement maintenance. Should be followed up.

Mike Stapleton in his legislative report listed the following:

1. Invasive species rule revision coming up. We should keep an eye on this.
2. State Budget will cut DNR budget. Watch out for Trout stamp fund being raided.
3. DNR has been issued a hiring freeze.
4. Federal VHS Rules included a testing provision with a time limitation that was impossible to meet.

14. New Business. Dan and Gail Colligan offered their resignations from the Board due to their move to western Wisconsin. They were thanked for their efforts on behalf of the Chapter.

President Kraus announced he will not seek another term. A Nominating Committee headed by John Gremmer will seek candidates for President and for the vacant Board openings for March of 2009.

A Tom Sopkovich Memorial Fund has been created by the family and they request other donations be given to CWTU. Current fund stands at \$2140. A committee headed by Dan Harmon and including Jerry Strom, Ray Piehl, Tom Poullette and Dick Kraus will seek a suitable memorial.

Russ Bouck asked the date of Spring Casting Clinic at Marble Park in Winniconne be moved to April 28, 2009 due to a conflict. Okayed.

Russ Bouck also asked the flyrods he and Sue donated for fund-raising at the Banquet and not used for that purpose be given to Bob Smaglik for fund-raising at TroutFest.

15. Next meeting scheduled for December 8.

16. Meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM.

A very informative program centered on trout fishing tactics in "dirty water" conditions followed.

Submitted by Russ Bouck



Speaker Mat Wegner on November 10



Great Interest in Fishing Dirty Water

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

CPR

To trouters, the initials CPR are shorthand for **Consider Proper Release**, a five-step process assisting survival when releasing trout we've caught. Those steps are:

1. Do not play fish to exhaustion.
2. Handle fish in a net. Grasp across back and head.
3. Hold fish belly-up when removing hooks.
4. Do not remove swallowed hooks; cut the leader or line.
5. Do not keep the fish out of water more than 15 seconds. Release fish with head upstream.

As trout fishers, let's all commit these suggestions to memory and then practice them in the coming season!

And pass along the concept of catch and release, too!

VHS

Ye Ed is perhaps becoming even more paranoid. But, he's been wondering about suggesting all of us fly fishers also clean our flylines *between* waters, whether in the State or elsewhere!

Now that exotic VHS is in Lake Winnebago and is so pernicious (according to the WDNR) and we're already told to soak our waders in a disinfectant between Western and local streams (*in both directions*), isn't it a good idea, too, to consider *all* our water-contacting equipment (e.g., lines) more closely?

Ye Ed admits he's no expert on either topic, but the parallels started him wondering, especially now when Zebra Mussels are definitely in Big Green Lake from wherever.

Our Chapter

Desperately trying to find an earlier article to fill these last 24 lines, Ye Ed went through a number of issues, but found nothing to fill the bill. However, he had two impressions of some import.

The first was the wonderful effort by Scott Grady to publish and mail the **Brookie** to those who do not read it via our website. Our Chapter is well-served by Scott (far beyond his explanations of bamboo flyrod creation at our annual TroutFest.)

The second was just how broad our Chapter's activities are! We have a good number of interesting programs during the Fall, Winter and Spring. We have that TroutFest, a Casting Tuneup, and a day-long FunDay. We monitor a significant number of streams, enter the appropriate data in various websites and watchdog those same waters during a large portion of the year. We frequently sponsor a graduate student. And we conduct very-successful trout fishing and fly-tying schools....among other things.

