

## 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

*Dec 2008>>Mar 2009*

### PrezSez

Hello, I'm John Tucker, the new President of the Central Wisconsin Chapter. Many of you may not have met me, since I am relatively new to the Chapter and have been regularly attending Board meetings for a little less than 3 years. After having the opportunity to watch Bob Haase and Dick Krause as Presidents of CWTU, I know I have big shoes to fill. It was quite an honor to be asked by the Nominating Committee to take this position, and I am excited to have the opportunity to help further the good work of this fine Chapter.

Here is a little personal background: I grew up in Southern Illinois coal mining country and have been living in Neenah for the last 33 years, having moved here from Kansas City. I am retired after a 35-year career in Information Technology, most of it in the Paper industry, the final 20 plus years in senior management positions. The youngest of my children will graduate from the University of Minnesota in May and actually has a good job in hand! I now have plenty of time (more time than money after putting six kids through college) to devote to Trout Unlimited, and to trout fishing near my cottage on the Pine River.

I am looking forward to meeting and working with all of you, the sooner the better. Please feel free to call me (920-725-8219) or email me at [jtucker1@new.rr.com](mailto:jtucker1@new.rr.com) with your ideas, thoughts and concerns. Any help will be appreciated.

A special thank you to Dick Kraus for his recent orientation session at the Fin 'N Feather.

John Tucker

### Annual Casting Tuneup

CWTU's annual fly-casting tune-up will be held in Marble Park, Winneconne, on Tuesday evening, April 28 (the week between the early and regular seasons), starting at 5:30 PM and lasting until dark. Russ Bouck, a Board member, reminds

all members the event is free and guests are welcome, so bring along your flyrod if you have one, and a buddy!

There will be instruction available for beginning and intermediate fly casters. And a unique feature of the event is the availability of equipment....flyrods in a variety of weights and sizes and fly reels....for trial by all attendees.

Y'all come!

### TroutFest Report

Our Chapter held its Tenth Annual TroutFest February 25 at the Fin 'n Feather in Winneconne with the goals of attracting new members by sharing the CWTU story and of developing camaraderie among our members. It was a fun event orchestrated by our leadership and approximately 300 attended.

Ira Giese, John Tucker, Bob Stelzer and Mike Schaefer welcomed everyone and oriented them to the day's events: fly-tying, rod-building, seminars, guide services, et al....a great day for every one involved.

The seminars were relevant and interesting and included Bob Haase presenting "Fly Tying Tips and Solutions", John Gremmer discussing "23 Ways to have More Fun Fly Fishing", Alastair Stewart of Chicago sharing photos and stories of catching big Brookies in Labrador and Steve Fafjer, WDNR's Wild Rose Hatchery Superintendent, on that facility's history and its recent Phase I upgrading. CWTU Vice-President Dave Seligman finished the morning by giving a most entertaining presentation on fly=fishing from a kayak.

Jerry Weatherwax kicked off the afternoon seminars with a history of the Pass Lake Fly, one of the beautiful Wisconsin ties and Tim Landwehr highlighted "New Techniques for Trophy River Bass". Jim Hauer explained the importance of having the correct leader attached to any fly and the leader's role in catching fish.

Then Dave Bartz, WDNR fisheries manager,

revealed Marquette and Waushara County data, such as the Pine, Mecan and White Rivers, that confirm current stream practices in improving our fisheries. Concluding the seminars was a fantastic fishing show by Tm Young and John Gremmer on "Fly Fishing for Smallmouth Bass".

Gary Herlache ensured all the seminars ran smoothly on schedule and seemed to have the most fun in the process.

Throughout the day, twenty great tiers shared their skills and stories to all....and more than a few flies to the kids. More than one person told me they enjoyed the older guys' passing along their interest to the next generations.

In the Youth Fly-tying, Al Lee, Joe Stafaroni, Rich Mlodzik, Jim Murphy and Joe Guerard taught at least twenty kids to tie their first fly. It was simply great to watch the kids faces as they worked. And one 10-year-old brought a fly collection he'd tied himself!

High praise goes to Bob Gayeske, Sue Bouck and Bob Keshen for their work at the rummage sale and to Linn Beck, Steve Fisher, Bill Zimmerman, Mike Sandretto and Tracy Moran for their hustling the raffles throughout the day.

Raffle items included a beautifully-framed Atlantic Salmon fly tied by Brian Van Erem, other flies tied by CWTU members, a muzzle-loader donated by John Gremmer, two flyrods and a tying bench by Russ Bouck and a tying kit by Dutch's Trading Post and Bob Haase.

Other exhibits were handmade nets by Craig Kinney, bamboo rods by Scott Grady, Bob Hunt's Waupaca River project kiosk, handcarved fish art by George Porter, Jim Hlaban and Chris Northway's Water Monitoring Display, Brian Van Erem's Atlantic Salmon flies, and Russ Bouck for CWTU's Trout School.

We also had a display by Nicholas Bach of macroinvertebrates complete with mounted and live bugs. A very popular microscope helped all understand why fish don't lack for food during the winter.

Now, reserve February 27, 2010 for the next TroutFest!

Bob Smaglik. TroutFest Chair

### **Water Monitoring School**

Central Wisconsin Trout Unlimited, in conjunction with the UW Extension, is planning a training class for Stream Water Monitoring. This class will be held at Riverside School in Wautoma from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., on April 25th. We will be going over the type of monitoring we will be doing, methods of collecting the data, and hopefully if the weather stays on our side, doing some hands on training. There will be some entomology involved because in our monitoring, we take a mac-

roinvertebrate samples at the beginning of the year and end of year monitoring sessions.

There is no cost involved and this program is open to anyone who is wanting to, interested in or thinking of joining in our Stream Water Monitoring and would like possibly to become involved.

Please contact me by Saturday April 18th if interested.

Linn Beck

### **Other Coming Events**

**April 20**, Fin 'n Feather, Winneconne, Board meeting, 6:15 PM.

**April 25. Training for Stream Monitoring**, Riverside School, Wautoma, 1-5 PM

**April 28. Fly-Fishing Tune-up**, Marble Park, Winneconne, 5:30 PM.

**May 29--31. CWTU Fly-Fishing School.**

### **January 19 Board Minutes**

The meeting at the Fin 'N Feather was called to order at 6:30 PM by President Dick Kraus with a quorum of the Board preset.

On motion, Minutes of the November meeting were approved.

The Industrial Dairy Farm proposed near Picket was discussed. With its planned number of cattle, the farm would be the third largest sewage district in the State! And its sewage would be untreated!

(For more information, including more via a Sierra Club video and a letter of concern for forwarding to the WDNR, see below and also our website at [www.cwtu.org](http://www.cwtu.org).)

Our Annual Banquet is scheduled for October 15 at LaSure's in Oshkosh. However, other potential sites were discussed and it was suggested a questionnaire regarding the day of the week be added to our website.

TroutFest is Saturday, February 28 at the Fin 'N Feather, Winneconne. Rummage items should be brought early or gotten to Bob Smaglic beforehand.

The revised Educational Policy was approved by motion and vote.

Board Member Expectation guidelines were approved by motion and vote.

President Dick will be having knee replacement surgery on February 19. In his absence, Dave Seligman will fill in.

A \$50 donation to the Henry's Fork Foundation was approved by motion and vote.

All Board members were reminded they should be recruiting members and Board members who share our common interest in coldwater resources.

By motion and vote, Jim Murphy was approved to replace Dan Colligan on our Board.

There will be no February, 2009 Board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Mike Schaefers

### **March 16 Board Minutes**

The meeting at the Fin N Feather was called to order at 6:15 PM by President Dick Kraus with a quorum of the Board present. A number of members of the Fox Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited (FVTU) were also in attendance.

Minutes of the January 2009 meeting were not available for approval.

By motion and vote, the Board approved the Treasurer's report indicating a balance of \$42,026.07.

The Board discussed assisting FVTU with a raffle at annual State Council meeting. There was also a short report on discussions that took place at the recently-held Council meeting.

Then the Board discussed the Casting Clinic to be held Tuesday, April 28, rain or shine, at Marble Park in Winneconne. Russ Bouck is in-charge of this event. Linn Beck, Jerry Strom and Tracy Moran are in-charge of the food.

Troutfest chaired by Bob Smeglick was a big success!

Chad Cook from UW Extension presented the award for Adult Stream Monitoring Volunteer of the Year to Dick Pollock.

By motion and vote, the Board approved \$500 per year for two years expenditures for book purchases for Winnefox library system; money to come from the Oshkosh Foundation education funds.

The May Trout Outing has been canceled due to so many other planned events.

By motion and vote, the Board approved the scholarship to Nick Bach for his spring semester at UW-O; funds to come from the Oshkosh Foundation education funds.

By motion and vote, the Board approved a donation of \$100 to *Wisconsin Trout*.

A slate of Officers and Directors was proposed by the Nominating Committee for the term commencing April 1, 2009. There were no nominations from the floor, so by motion, second and vote, the entire slate was unanimously approved.

Youth Expo will be held May 14 and 15 at the Dodge County Fairgrounds in Beaver Dam. Contact Bob Haase if you are able to assist.

Next meeting April 20, 2009 at 6:15 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Mike Schaefers

### **Factory Farms Again**

In an email on February 9, John Gremmer wrote (to a lengthy list of addressees), "This is the

third email I have sent to you, this month....But, I feel this is important enough to risk overkill. TU stands for clean water and protecting our coldwater resources.

"Right now, there are 180 factory farms threatening our warm- and coldwater resources in Wisconsin...(and) this may just be the beginning; we all should be concerned.

"After the Wall Street meltdown, we all should have learned we can't leave everything to the bureaucrats and politicians. My reduced pension tells me that. These factory farms are a real threat.

"Please help CWTU member Rick Fahrenkrug get the word out on factory farms, especially the Rosendale Dairy which threatens Lake Winnebago, Green Lake and Rush Lake (by seeing his letter on our website.)"

John Gremmer

### **They're Back!**

From near another trout stream, our friends at Nestle are trying to bottle water again....This time from the McCloud River in northern California, near Mt. Shasta. According to the March issue of *Fly Fisherman*, Nestle is negotiating with the community of McCloud to withdraw "hundreds of millions of gallons (of spring water) per year....to fill millions of plastic containers."

The company also intends to build a million square-foot plant on an old lumbermill site which has water rights of its own....where the company could pump without limit, since California ground water is unregulated.

A fifty-year contract for bottling was signed to be effective October 1, 2003, but also included the right to take "lesser quality water" for juice and other beverages.

In a typical case where a significant local employer (the mill) had ceased operations, the Nestle proposal had been signed, but then came under fire from TU and other environmental groups. In August 2008, Nestle renounced the contract and is currently attempting to renegotiate.

In common with our experience here, little is known, scientifically, about the watershed involved.

### **DNR Secretary**

Please help the TU movement to return the appointment of the Secretary of the DNR to the Natural Resources Board the way it used to be before Governor Thompson made it a political appointment. Go to [www.kfiz.com](http://www.kfiz.com) and on the left side of the site vote NO! Let's start making our natural resource decisions on science again and not because of political and "big money" influences.

Bob Haase

## Fox Cities Book Fair

Many TUErs are unaware of the second annual Fox Cities Book Fair April 14-19, but there's something there we may be interested in. Among the presenters is a Madison guy who's writing some outstanding mystery novels based on fly fishing, some of them set in SW Wisconsin. His name is John Galligan, and his program, "Murder on the Fly: The Fly Fishing Mysteries," is scheduled for 11:15 AM Saturday, April 18 at the Menasha Public Library. It sounds made to order for those of us who like both trout and reading.

(Incidentally, Lynn and I attended a number of presentations at last year's Fair, and they were really world class, from the US Poet Laureate on down, and including lots of Wisconsin's finest authors.)

For a look at this year's agenda, dial up Fox Cities Book Fair.

Don Vorpahl

## Another plug for the Book Festival

Victoria Houston will also be a presenter. Her topic is "The three major life mistakes I've made that force me to write fishing mysteries." Her mysteries are centered on northern Wisconsin.

Jerry Apps will also be a presenter. He has written a number of books about life in Wisconsin. His latest book "Old Farm" is about a Waushara County farm not far from the Pine River. Check [www.foxcitiesbookfestival.org](http://www.foxcitiesbookfestival.org) for information.

Rich Erickson - FVTU

The following article has been reprinted several times in the *Brookie*. Ye Ed believe it completely rebuts all the comments we fly-fishers encounter about our sport. It should also be noted TU National and CWTU do not require any specific method of coldwater fishing and also that much of our Chapter effort is spent monitoring and restoring streams in our geographic area (Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Marquette, Waushara and Winnebago Counties)

## First Glimpse of Nirvana

One afternoon about midsummer of 1937, I was sitting on a trout stream bank in Duluth. Been there most of the day and had caught a couple fish using crawlers. Late afternoon, a guy came along, asked permission to fish the pool I'd been enjoying, and promptly caught four fish on four casts, as I watched amazed at the feat and the unusual equipment he was using.

Being a shy lad, I merely observed the phenomenon, but wondered what this exotic technique was all about...long rod, wagging line and no bait. Over the next couple of weeks, I kept remem-

bering and wondering.

A month later, the guy showed up again near dusk, asked permission to fish and caught three trout on three casts. This time, I asked what the heck he was doing. He stopped, showed me his cane flyrod, the first I'd ever seen, showed me his fly, and explained a trout's diet consisted of more insects than worms. He wound up by suggesting I follow him downstream for a little way.

Did he ever catch trout! And he showed me there were far more fish in the creek than I'd ever imagined; in fact, we stuck our heads through the willows at one spot and trout scooted in all directions! There were so many wakes, I couldn't count them!

By this time, it was getting quite dark and I began worrying about my family curfew. I thanked him for showing me everything and said I had to be going. He then asked where I lived and offered to take me home in his car, a rare possession in those days.

Seeing my interest, he suggested I go to the Public Library which was just a couple blocks from our apartment and told me to read every fishing article by Zane Grey and to be sure to look at *Field & Stream*. I did and was hooked on the idea of catching trout in that manner, but the "special" hardware was far beyond our family's means in those Depression years.

In fact, my first flyrod only became possible some 14 years later after a 75% markdown in a sporting goods department of a store going out of business put the Holy Grail within reach. By then, I was back in my native Iowa from WWII, had completed college and started a family. Budgets were still tight, so I used that precious rod very sparingly and only with poppers for smallmouth in the Cedar River.

Even a trek through two Iowa counties for trout with our \$100 junker was a desire only achieved in later years....when we could afford any car.

Bob Chamberlain

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is newspaper code indicating the last edition has been put to bed. And so it is used here. Ye Olde Ed plans to spend more time fishing, more time with his grandchildren and more winter time in Florida.

However, I wish to thank all those who have provided articles, items, photos, suggestions and criticisms over the past several years, especially Bob White for his permission to use the logo. And I wish to apologize to those presidents I have bugged so persistently for their monthly column; deadlines are deadlines.

Dave Seligman is your new editor. Please refer all future comments, etc. to him.



