

BROOKIE NEWS



<<< Illustration "One Last Look - Brook Trout" courtesy of Bob White of Whitefish Studio

Newsletter of The Central Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited (CWTU)

June 2012

Prez Sez

As we head into July with August temperatures, I hope that most of you had a chance to get out for the Hex hatch. I know of a couple of you that had exceptional luck with it. But if any of you were like me, my chances got beaten down by thunderstorms. My dad actually told me to go out fishing these past couple of weeks, just so we could get some rain. With the high temperatures, I think it is time to get out at night with some mouse patterns and give that a whirl. I also have heard that 3 and 4 inch Rapala's have been doing well on some of the deeper holes on several of the streams. So whatever you chose, take the time and do some late afternoon, early night fishing.

With the better weather we have had great turnouts for the workdays. Thanks to all of you who have made them. We are working on the Mecan river just north of Highway 21. On the last workday we were able to get one bank cover covered with

(Note: There will be no July Brookie)

planks and ready for back fill. And the second one was started with 54 pilings being jettied in, with the stringers set in place and a majority of the planking also set in place. We will be continuing with the work on Saturday July 21st. Start time will be 8:00 am, with doughnuts and coffee being served @ 7:30. There also will be lunch served at 12:00. Any questions contact Scott Bahn, workday chair @ 920-886-9651 or check out the website for location directions.

Our next summer picnic/ board meeting will be held at John and Laura Tucker's at their house on the Pine River in Saxeville. Dinner will be served between 5:00 and 5:30 pm, with the business meeting to follow. Everyone is invited and the date is Monday July 16th. Come on out and enjoy the evening. P.S., if you can only make one of the summer meetings, this is the one to make. It's sometimes a little hard concentrating on the meeting with the fish rising behind you and being in such a beautiful setting. Hope to see you there. All of our summer board meetings/picnics are free events.

Here is a little advance notice for August. On Friday August 10th and Saturday August 11th, Wautoma Chamber of Commerce is having an Outdoor Fest. This is the first time for this event so we don't really know what to expect. We will be having a booth set up with fly tying, and fly casting and also we will have an info table, (work days, water monitoring, CWTU fly fishing school), along with our work day trailer. Scott Grady is donating a custom made rod and spinning reel for a raffle prize. So, this is shaping up to be a really nice opportunity for us to get the word out about what TU is doing and a great chance for people to see what we have done. If you can't volunteer, I hope to see you out there enjoying the activities. If you make it out please stop by and say hi and

take a chance get to know some of us. If you would like to help out please contact Linn beck @ 920-379-2974 or e-mail me at chlbeck@att.net.

So please get out and support CWTU and if things work out stop in at the workdays, or try and make the picnic/board meetings. If it works out, keep those August dates on your schedule and stop out and say hi.

Tight Lines

Linn Beck, President

CWTU Board of Directors Meeting June 18, Chez Haase, Eldorado, WI

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

1. Minutes: approved as distributed
2. Treasurer's Report: Approved as distributed,
3. Trout School: Mr. Harmon reported that the evaluations were very positive – accommodations, food, and especially one-on-one guiding. Expected net after expenses @ \$2800. Next year's School is scheduled for June 1-2, same location.
3. Board Leadership. We need to fill the Vice President position, with Mr. Gremmer giving up the position to focus on River Keepers and other duties. Mr. Harmon will check By-laws to see whether succession to the presidency from the VP position is mandated. Chapter needs to focus on leadership development to ensure that there are no leadership crises and that members are moved into Board positions and officer positions in an orderly manner. Mr. Haase noted that despite occasional transition issues, our chapter is miles ahead of other chapters in participation and leadership. Mr. Kraus suggested developing an informal mentoring program for new members pairing with current members. Mr. Beck noted that with Dr. Stelzer's resignation

from the Board, one position remains to be filled. Mr. Beck will work on identifying candidates for VP well ahead of the March Annual Meeting.

4. Watchdogs: Tom Poulette reported on the ditch that runs along the Petenwell Flowage; it needs a lot of work. The Wisconsin River Power Company owns the land, and there are funds and heavy equipment that are available for this from volunteers out there.

5. Programs - John and Laura Tucker have volunteered for the July meeting. The August meeting will be at Ira Giese's place on a TUESDAY. Consult the website for details.

6. Mr. Harmon announced that we have a candidate for the Education Grant, and he will circulate his credentials to the Education Committee for consideration and approval.

7. Old Business. Trout stamp prints are now available to the chapters, price to be determined. The chapter needs to replenish its supply of stationery. We will send a thank you note to Ron Bruch of the DNR for his good work in the area. Mr. Haase is working on the proposal for a naming opportunity at the Mecan Springs Natural Area. Mr. Harmon stated that we are "ready to go" with Aldo Leopold benches; we need to identify the three sites and get clearance for placement. Wautoma Outdoor Fest will take place on August 10-11. Thanks to Bob and Mary Haase and Tracy Moran for preparing the great food!

8. No new business.

9. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

**Respectfully submitted, David Seligman,
Secretary**

Hex Signs

June 15: Many of you know that for the second year in a row, the Hexagenia Limbata hatch came early, with shucks and cripples piling up around the mill pond dams as much as a week before Memorial Day! By Memorial Day, the hatch and spinner falls were going gangbusters on several of our area streams. And, interestingly, that hatch has continued, albeit sporadically, until almost this date, when in most years the hatch would be hitting its peak about now. Some River Keepers report finding hex nymphs still evident in the sediments, so there may be hatches and spinner falls still ongoing. We also noted that the early little black caddis hatch came on a couple of weeks early, a reliably mid-April hatch that began around April 1, this year. So global warming or not, Wisconsin waters and sediments are warmer earlier. Anglers take note! I ran into a guy a few nights ago on one of our streams who asked if the hatch was on yet. He had driven up from Madison and was looking forward to hex fishing. There was no hatch to speak of that night and he left the river, only to miss the spinner fall that came on just as I heard his car driving away.

My favorite waters were fishing consistently, giving up fish in the 14-17 inch range nearly every night, with the occasional 18-21 inch fish tape measure verified in a few instances. One crony sent me a picture of himself with a monster fish that looked like it should have come out of the tribs during the steelhead runs! For a good part of the season, the mosquitoes were bearable, and lots of other bugs were in evidence between 8:00 pm and the start of the hatch, including various drakes, sulfurs, and some huge stoneflies up on the rocky bottomed rivers. The hexes started popping most nights around the same time as the fireflies

lit up, providing a great evening show, and spinner falls came anywhere from 9:45 to midnight. We've seen a few hatching in mid-morning into early afternoon along with some daytime spinner falls.

Last year, I worked hard on crafting imitative flies for the hex hatch, some deer hair, but mostly foam flies that looked as close to the real thing as I could make them. Here is one along with a couple of the real thing,



This year I went back to tying impressionistic flies, just to see how they would fish. Here are a couple of examples, though the fly-eating trees took a couple of my best ones, including the last of my Hart Washers tied for me years ago by one of Gene West's disciples.



The verdict: When the fish were on the bite, at the height of a big hatch, they greatly preferred the imitative flies. When the hatch was sparse or non-existent and I was fishing to places that I knew to hold fish, the impressionistic flies worked equally well, or perhaps a bit better. I leave it to the entomologists and fish biologists to explain why. As you can see from my fly box, I also have tied or otherwise acquired a number of hex nymph imitations, some of which have worked well before the hatch, but to be

honest, the good old weighted bugger seems to work just fine.



This fisherman has ended his nocturnal adventures on the rivers for this year (except for an occasional mousing expedition) and returned to diurnal fishing. The word from here is that the Dennis Potter opal caddis is working as a spectacularly good searching pattern and a go-to pattern for confusing multiple hatches. (6/30 Note: Just returned from a trip to North Carolina, where the opal caddis again kicked butt. But that's a column for another time.)

Ye Ed

“Yakity Yak”

B

“Mango Danny”

Through the course of articles on my kayak, I may have left out a few more accessories that are worth mentioning as they can play a part in the overall scheme of things. Making life easier in the middle of nowhere and

knowing where you are on big water is simplified if you have a GPS.

The addition of a GPS can take the fear out of the unknown when you have been fishing around and near islands or navigation canals that have currents which have a tendency to take you farther away from a launch point than maybe you had intended. After all, you are more intent on fishing rather than location. In addition, things just look different on the way back to your launch point and fading light only adds to this equation. There many makes and models of GPSs on the market so consideration should be given to one that suits your style and pocket book. If it is water proof and floats, that's even better. It can be hand held or mounted to your "yak" in a convenient place which should be out of direct sunlight as much as possible. Mine is mounted to the small hatch cover in front of the seat. I am getting used to a Garmin GPS Map 76 as my old Garmin "bit the dust" and while the new one has more to it than the bare essentials, the important thing is to have one if you plan to go to unfamiliar water. It is also a good idea to have a compass and some spare batteries along too. A GPS can only indicate directions if it is moving.



Another homemade accessory is what I call a "Flye Pad". This all came about by having to go to a fly box, located either in a chest pack, dry bag, or shirt pocket, to change flies. I thought there could be an easier way and eventually came up with the following creation. I turned to the small hatch cover located just in front of the seat, which opened away from the seat and even though the GPS is mounted on it, rested at just the right angle when opened. Great engineering I thought? The "Flye Pad" is constructed from various materials that I had lying around, consisting of: a rubber fender washer, a faucet washer, a CD, two pieces of closed cell foam, glued together with goop and cut in a circle the size of the CD, some 20# monofilament, and a piece of black non-skid shelf liner. A laminate was glued together in this order: Shelf liner to CD, CD to foam pad, foam pad to fender washer. The fender washer had eight (8) sets of holes punched in it; one near the edge and another $\frac{1}{8}$ " closer to the center, equally spaced like eight pieces of pie. A loop of monofilament was pushed through each inner hole and the ends through the outer and inner holes and glued in place. This formed eight narrow loops similar to eight needle threaders. Eight slits were made in the foam $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the edge of the washer but not all of the way to the edge of the foam. The eye of each fly was then gently worked over its loop, which slid through its center and opened up as the eye was pushed to the washer and the bend of the fly resting in its slit. I then inserted the tippet of the leader into the loop and picked the fly from the foam, thus threading the fly onto the tippet. How do you think mother threaded all those needles? It's the same principle. The pad was held to the inside of the hatch cover with a long machine screw, set slightly off center to avoid the honey combed underside of the

hatch cover, with the faucet washer and a wing nut. The machine screw was held in place with a washer and nut on the inside, tight to the cover. While this contraption is far from perfect, it will do for now.



Upcoming Events

CWTU Work Day - Mekan River

Saturday, Jul 21 at 7:45 AM - 12:30 PM

CWTU Board of Directors

Board of Directors meeting and picnic, Monday, July 16, hosted by John and Laura Tucker. See website for directions.

CWTU Work Day - Mekan River

Saturday, Aug 18 at 7:45 AM - 12:30 PM

CWTU Officers and Board Members

Officers:

President:Linn Beck, 160 W. 19th Avenue, Oshkosh, WI 54902, 920-233-5496

Vice President: John Gremmer, 5935 Hiawatha Drive, Winneconne, WI 54986. 920-582-7802

Secretary: David Seligman, W764 Brooklyn J Rd., Ripon, WI 54971, 920-745-2579

Treasurer: Mike Schaefer, 2471 Newport Court, Oshkosh, WI 54904, 920-378-460

Past President: John Tucker, N5424 Sunny Hill Rd, Saxeville, WI 54976, 920-622-5401

Board of Directors:

(Term ending in 2012)

Chris Northway, 7905 Liberty School Rd., Omro, WI 54963, 920-420-1594

Bob Haase, W7949 Treptow Lane, Eldorado, WI 54932, 920-922-8003

Laura Tucker, N5424 Sunny Hill Rd, Saxeville, WI 54976, WI 54956, 920-540-5293

Mike San Dretto, 467 Hawthorne Street Neenah, WI 54956, 920-722-8478

(Term ending in 2013)

Gary Herlache, 7075 Clow Road, Winneconne, WI 54986, 920-427-0625

Dan Harmon III, 57 Stoney Beach Road, Oshkosh, WI 54902, 920-235-1761

Russ Bouck, 9357 Nelson Road, Amherst Junction, WI 54407, 715-824-3781

Scott Bahn, 1116 S. Park Avenue Neenah, WI 54956, 920-886-9651

(Term ending in 2014)

Dave Johnson, 820 W 3rd. Street, Appleton, WI 54914, 920-850-6410

Jeff Wegand, 555 Ann Ct., Berlin, WI 54923 920-361-0689

Jim Murphy, N2146 Fox Ridge Lane, New London, WI 54961, 920-982-6233

Directors At Large:

Mark Brosseau, Elward Engle, Ray Piehl, Tom Poullette, Jerry Strom, Jack Wahlers, Bob Chamberlain, Alistair Stewart, Bob Hunt