

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 2014

Prez Sez

The June Board meeting was the first of the three summer picnic meetings. We met at the log cottage of Bill and Mary Vance at Pleasant Lake near Coloma. Bill and Mary are members of The Friends of Central Sands. This group has had extensive involvement in the struggle to prevent large dairy operations and high capacity well from further damaging Pleasant Lake. This is an organization that our chapter supports. We spent the majority of the Board meeting time working through new chapter

R.I.P. Don Larmouth

operating objectives in preparation for updating our committee structure. The minutes of the meeting are provided in this Brookie with sufficient detail, so I will not repeat them here.

We still need volunteers to help with the State TU youth camp to be held July 24-27 at the Pine Lake camp near Waupaca. Please contact Linn Beck or Bob Haase if you are able to help. It can be just for one day, so you don't have to commit to the complete school.

It seems like we never lack for concerns. The latest focus for our attention is the planned timber sale from the state property around the Mekan Springs. This large spring is the headwaters for the Mekan River and as such, should be considered an environmental treasure. We are just beginning to learn the details of this logging project managed by the DNR Forestry office in Wautoma. We must make sure that if this project does move forward, that the logging stays far enough away from the spring to avoid the possibility of future erosion into the spring pond. Stay tuned! The Hex started hatching near my house on Sunday night, June 15, a fitting Father's Day present. I hope all you night fishing fanatics have been able to enjoy it.

The next picnic meeting will be at the home of John and Laura Tucker on the Pine River, July 8.

John Tucker

**CWTU Board Meeting, June 10,
2014**

At the home of Bill and Mary Vance,
Pleasant Lake (Coloma) Wisconsin

1. Meeting called to order by President Tucker at 6:15 p.m.
2. Welcoming remarks from Bill Vance.
3. Minutes of the April Board meeting were approved as distributed.
4. Treasurer's Report was tabled until the July meeting.
5. A lengthy review of the Chapter Objectives was conducted by President Tucker. Most of the objectives were reaffirmed with some consolidated (Fund Raising and Grant Application and Management; Communications and Publicity). Under the leadership of President Tucker, a review of River and Stream Status and Rehab needs will be emphasized, beginning with a review of what Shawn Sullivan has, and continuing with conversations with

Elward Engle. Succession planning and recruitment were discussed, looking toward ways to increase outreach, and including a possible skills and interests inventory. Mr. Sandretto highlighted the effectiveness of Chapter events and programs as a source of generating interest in membership and leadership. On the objective of Collaboration with other organizations, Mr. Haase reminded the Board of the Chapter's membership in the Winnebagoland Conservation Alliance. He will do an article for a future Brookie News on various collaboration activities. Chapter History will continue to be an objective with a search for various archival documents including what was compiled by Bob Chamberlain. Finally, there was a lengthy discussion of whether or not the Chapter should begin to formulate a position on high capacity wells, with the possibility of moving it forward to the State Council level as was done with our leadership on the CAFO issue.

6. Mr. Beck gave an update on the Summer Youth Camp,

- July 24-27. More volunteers are needed to ensure adequate mentoring and supervision.
7. Mr. SanDretto presented information on new member initiatives. Possibilities include creation of a new member package with brochures, license plate holders, etc. We continue to gain new members at approximately the rate at which we lose members who do not renew. Efforts to keep members engaged so that they continue to renew will be essential to Chapter growth and energy.
 8. Mr. Seligman reported that the Casting/Kayak Fishing Clinic was a great success despite the April weather in mid-May.
 9. Mr. Harmon reported that the Trout School was a great success, with student evaluations all at the "1", highest level. One-on-one guided Sunday on-stream fishing continues to be a highlight.
 10. Mr. Harmon reported that at long last, the DNR has approved the siting of the commemorative benches and plaques. They will be installed this summer.
 11. New Business: Mr. Treu proposed that the Chapter

consider emphasizing family memberships. Additionally he suggested inviting our legislative representatives to our meetings and programs. Mr. Gremmer suggested that we move forward with our mentoring objectives. He moved, seconded by Mr. Haase, that the Chapter approve the goal of each member bringing a guest-mentee to the next meeting/picnic. ***The motion was approved*** by voice vote. *(Note: subsequent to the meeting, Mr. Gremmer and Mr. Tucker agreed that the implementation be placed on hold pending further discussion by the Board. Members are, nonetheless, welcome to bring a guest to the meeting/picnic at Tuckers. Please be sure to inform John and Laura if you do plan to bring a guest!)*

12. Meeting was adjourned at 8:08, with unanimous gratitude to our hosts.

**Respectfully submitted,
David Seligman, Secretary**

***2014 CWTU Objectives -
Draft***

- 1. Increase Membership Involvement.*
- 2. River and Stream Status and Rehab Needs.*

3. *Communications to the Public and Members, and Publicity.*
4. *Succession Planning for Officers and Committee Heads.*
5. *Recruitment of New Members.*
6. *Fund Raising, Grant Writing and Management.*
7. *Enlisting Women and Youth.*
8. *Collaboration with Other Organizations.*
9. *Finance Committee.*
10. *Prepare an Official Position on High Capacity Wells.*
11. *Name a Chapter Historian to write and maintain Chapter History.*



The CWTU June 10th meeting was held at the home of Mary and Bill Vance on Pleasant Lake. The July 8th Picnic/Meeting will be held at Laura and John Tucker's home on the Pine River in Saxeville. See www.cwtu.org for directions and time.

CWTU's 2014 Annual Summer Picnic/Meeting series will continue with Laura and John Tucker hosting the July 8th event. The Tucker's home is on the Pine River in Saxeville at N5424 Sunny Hill Road.

All members are invited to attend! Bring a guest or potential new member. The picnic will start at 5:30 pm and the meeting will start at 6:15 pm. Please email John Tucker at: jtucker358@gmail.com to let him know you are coming.

From: Jim <norjim56@gmail.com>
Subject: Updates
Date: June 3, 2014 at 1:42:30 PM CDT
To: John <jgremmer@charter.net>

Just wanted to thank you for all those timely updates and newsworthy little items you keep sending me. I appreciate them, thanks much, and keep them coming.

I know since joining CWTU some years back, I haven't been as much involved as a good member should be. However both my back and my hip have kind of limited me as to what I can and can't do. BAD EXCUSE, and I know it. Right now I am just starting my 4th week of a total hip replacement. Hopefully with that replacement, I'll be able to lead somewhat of a more normal life. Outside of my wife, my 2 main loves in my life are grouse hunting and fly fishing. I'm crossing my fingers and

praying I'll be able to do both once again.

Now, just my own thoughts on your last letter about the low water levels of Pleasant Lake. Before my hip surgery, wife and 2 friends of ours went over to a restaurant that we have been frequenting for 3 years now-- Two Lakes Supper Club, just outside Almond, (which would be just north of Pleasant Lake). We arrived slightly after 5PM and was told about a hour wait. I can nurse a cocktail for an hour so we waited in the bar. Talking with some of the locals, I happened to ask the question, "Why do they call this place Two Lakes? The only water I can see is that pond out front, and a marsh in the back". The local took me over to a picture that was hanging on the wall, taken about 10 years ago. It was an aerial photo of the supper club situated between two beautiful pristine lakes. "That's why it's called Two Lakes. There used to be two lakes here!. Last 5 years or so, they just seem to be drying up," was his reply.

On our way over to the restaurant, as per my habit, I took nothing but back roads to and from the restaurant. And what I saw were nothing but hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of acres of potato fields----all under irrigation, with most of them irrigating even though we had plentiful rain up till that point!!!!

Good Lord, how blind are some people. Are they willing to let our

lakes and streams to be sucked up till there's nothing left of them? Isn't it time to pull our heads out of the sand and start looking around at whats going on?

In closing, all I can say is Thank God for TU, and keep up the wonderful work. Hopefully if my new hip works out, I'll be able to more of my share of putting a stop to the terrible rape of streams and lakes.

Jim Voigt

37th Annual Fly Fishing School Builds Knowledge and Creates Memories

As a relatively new CWTU member I've attended a number of the annual winter Trout Fest events with my daughter Bailey. A few years ago Bailey was bitten by the fly-tying bug at Trout Fest and asked for a tying kit for her birthday. A trip to a nearby fly fishing shop supplied her with the gift she was looking for. This past year she was even invited by the chapter to set up a booth at Trout Fest to introduce some younger people to fly tying.

Although the two of us had gotten started tying, we had not fly fished for trout. I've caught bass and bluegills on a fly rod, but have been looking to learn stream fishing and improve my casting skills. I had been interested in attending the Chapter Fly Fishing School for years, but conflicts previously prevented it. The 2014 school would fall over Bailey's 13th Birthday! What a perfect time for a father and daughter to spend some time together and continue our journey to another outdoors pursuit together! The school accepts youngsters 13 or older and after checking with school director Dan Harmon, we were good to go!

We arrived at the camp on Friday evening and got checked in and received our class materials and a gift from the Chapter of some flies tied by some of the members. The sleeping quarters are in a newer building and were quite nice, clean and comfortable. Bailey and I used the evening down time to explore the Tomorrow River at camp and do some reading.

Saturday morning began with breakfast in the mess hall served by the CWTU Awesome Kitchen Crew. We met some fellow classmates and got ourselves ready for a busy day of learning. For our morning program, the volunteer Chapter instructors lead us through sessions on fishing ethics, how to locate fishable water, care and selection of tackle, knot tying, and reading the water.

After lunch, we spent time on learning technique and practicing fly casting, as well as a great session on entomology. A single scoop in the Tomorrow River provided a wide variety of “trout food” to learn about. Bailey had fun with the “bug session” and even held some of the rather large stone flies.

Following a second outside casting instruction session, we had some downtime. Some went to their rooms to relax, some got a snack. Others of us took the time to ask more questions of the long-time TU members/instructors who were gathered around the camp. Discussions occurred on selecting rods, features to look for in waders, and additional casting pointers. The TU members on site were more than happy to take all questions from us new to the sport.

Back in the “classroom”, instructors went over items to have in a fishing vest or pack. We were all amazed at just how much miscellaneous and sundry “stuff” that Dan Harmon keeps in his fishing vest. Even us students thought it might be overkill to carry bear bells when fishing in Wisconsin!

After supper, the “Not Ready for Primetime Players” which included Dan, Tom Poullette, and Dick Krause did a skit on “putting it all together” to hook, play, net, and release a fish. There were lots of laughs. The guys did a great job with the skit!



Bug Session



The Panel of Experts

To close the evening, the guys named above along with instructors Jim Murphy, and Russ and Sue Bouck served as a panel for questions from the class. They shared some instructive items, but most of them also

spoke from the heart and conveyed to us their love of the sport. A big take away for most of us is that fly fishing is a lifetime pursuit. After one of the instructors shared a funny story, Bailey asked for more funny stories. And we got them. A number of them included occurrences of getting wet or getting hooked.

We also had our graduation ceremony!



Graduation!

But many of us were looking forward to the “final exam”; fishing on the stream on Sunday morning. Sunday was Bailey’s 13th birthday. We were blessed with about a 5 hour window between rain storms and had pretty ideal fishing weather. All of the classmates went out to fish one on one with a volunteer TU member. Bailey went with Jim Murphy and I joined up with Rich Mlodzik. It was fulfilling to see Bailey head off for her first stream fly fishing experience.



Bailey with guide, Jim Murphy

I learned many years’ worth of tips and tricks from Rich in just a few hours on the water. Our fishing time came to an end all too soon for me. Back at the camp we heard stories from each other’s fishing time over lunch. Then the fabulous TU Kitchen Crew topped off the weekend with an unbelievable birthday cake for Bailey in the shape of a fishing creel. This was the wonderful creation of Linda Matheson. Bailey had a hard time cutting into the cake, it was so neat looking.



Creel Birthday Cake & Ice Cream



Linda & Bailey

I'd like to thank all of the staff and volunteer TU members for putting on this terrific school and allowing Bailey and I to attend. Not only did we learn a lot and deepen our appreciation for the great pursuit of fly fishing, a father and daughter also bonded and formed some lifetime memories.

By Joe Peikert

Brookie News Articles and Features

Members and friends of CWTU are encouraged to submit articles, notices, and photos for publication in the Brookie News. Contact the editor at Seligmand@gmail.com.

Current CWTU Officers and Board Members are listed elsewhere on the CWTU.org Website