

# 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)

**April 2013**

### **Prez Sez**

I'm back, and very proud to be able to help the chapter in any way I can. Sorry I can't improve the weather. There are many environmental issues in our state right now. So many, in fact, that we can become torn between too many issues. The Officers and members of the Board have agreed that it makes sense to focus our attention and energy on one big issue at a time within our chapter boundary. We have selected as our current cause, “influencing regulation of high capacity wells”. Of course, individually we all have our pet issues, but high cap wells are critical



*CWTU notes with sorrow the passing of long time member and dear friend, Bob Hunt.*

to many business operations. Poorly managed, they can have a devastating impact on the water level of our streams and lakes. The River Alliance of Wisconsin and Wisconsin TU recently formed the Grassroots Advocacy Project. The intent of this project is to train advocates from several TU Chapters. CWTU is one of the selected chapters. Several of our members will be trained to work effectively with elected officials in face-to-face visits. This will be a slow process, but it is the correct way to get our thoughts regarding high capacity wells to the people who influence regulations. Please wish us well. Another issue for us is the need to increase our chapter membership. John Gremmer is our Membership Committee Chairman. He and his committee are working on several ways to increase overall membership with an additional emphasis on

women, minorities and youth involvement. Ideas are welcome. Here is another area where you can help. State TU has been working on approval to have TU License plates sold in the state. After a certain level of sales, State TU begins to share in the proceeds, providing ongoing funds for stream improvements. Please contact you state Senator and Representative and ask them to support the TU License Plate Bill. I would certainly love to have one for my car. I'll bet many of you would as well.

Spring is bound to arrive, the snow melt and the stream levels lower to comfortable levels. Then back in the water. Enjoy the streams that we work to protect and restore.

**John Tucker**

### **CWTU Board Meeting Minutes**

April 9, 2013

Fin 'n Feather, Winneconne, WI

1. Meeting called to order by President John Tucker at 6:19 p.m.
2. Minutes of the March Board Meeting were approved.
3. Treasurer's Report was approved as distributed. Discussion of the Petenwell ditch project followed, as the Chapter is holding the donated funds. The intention is to involve other chapters and seek additional grant funding for the project.
4. Charlie Luthin from the River Alliance made a presentation regarding the Chapter's possible involvement in the Grass Roots Advocacy Project. Action was deferred until consideration of Agenda item #8, below.
5. Messrs. Tucker, Beck, and Haase presented notes from the State Council "whiteboard" meeting in Waupaca. A summary is available from Chapter leadership. Attendees reported a good and productive meeting which served to mark the new terms of WITU leadership with some guidance going forward.
6. Messrs Tucker and Beck indicated the need for volunteers to help with Girl Scout Field Days, scheduled for June 20-22. Mr. Tucker will provide additional information as to how many volunteers are needed and in what specific areas.
7. Mr. Tucker reported that State Council's efforts at getting a TU license plate are moving forward. Several legislators have signed on to the bill, but all members are urged to contact their legislators in support of the bill.
8. Mr. Tucker opened discussion on potential causes and initiatives for our Chapter. After discussion, Mr. Seligman moved, Mr. Haase seconding, that the Central Wisconsin

Chapter commit to the River Alliance Advocacy Training initiative and take as our principal concern the regulation of high capacity wells in the Central Sands area. Motion was approved unanimously. Further discussion followed regarding the possibility of reviving the Central Sandhills Ecoregion Initiative, originally advanced by Alistair Stewart and Bob Hunt. Mr. Tucker noted that there is a funded position in the DNR that might be moved closer to the Central Sandhills area. Mr. Tucker will gather more information and bring the matter back to the Chapter at a future meeting.

There was no item #9 on the agenda, so the Secretary took it upon himself to note with pleasure the receipt by John Gremmer of the Outstanding Adult Stream Monitor Award from the Water Action Volunteers (*see story below*), with the citation as follows: **John Gremmer, Central Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Riverkeepers** *John Gremmer has been active with the Water Action Volunteers Stream Monitoring Program since 2005 and took the lead as coordinator of the CWTU Riverkeepers in 2010. Under his leadership, this group has grown to support 25 teams who monitor across a six county area including Waupaca, Waushara, Winnebago, Green Lake, Fond du Lac, and*

*Marquette Counties. John writes regular articles about Riverkeepers' activities for local papers, has appeared on local radio stations to share information about Riverkeepers, and has applied for and been awarded competitive funding to support the group's efforts. In addition to his monitoring coordination efforts, he participates in stream improvement work days and teaches youth fly tying.*  
Congratulations John!!!

10. Old Business: Mr. Bahn reminded the Chapter of the FVTU workday on Davis Creek (Pine River watershed) this Saturday, April 13. CWTU's first workday is scheduled in cooperation with Elliot Donnelly Chapter on May 18. The full schedule of Chapter workdays is available at the website, [cwtu.org](http://cwtu.org). Work will continue on the Mekan River, as there are funds remaining in the project account and approvals are good until 2014.

11. New Business: Mr. Harmon distributed brochures for the 2013 Trout School. There are numbers of spaces remaining. The Chapter noted with sadness the news of Bob Hunt's declining health. Meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m. followed by an outstanding program on fishing the Amazon, presented by Tim Landwehr of Tightlines.

**Respectfully submitted,  
David Seligman, Secretary**

## **A Tribute to Robert L. Hunt**

May I share with you my memories of Robert Hunt as a fellow employee of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, a friend, mentor, and brother in Christ.

After returning from military duty in 1962, to my work on the trout waters of Central Wisconsin, I was asked to assist Robert Hunt on the Lawrence Creek Brook Trout study. I was pleased to meet Bob at the station near Westfield, Wisconsin where I would begin work with him and a small crew. Researchers were Clarence Todd, Ed Avery, and Kent Niermeier. This research opportunity allowed each of the persons involved to have a part in a unique trout study. For certain, Bob had found his niche in life, thoroughly enjoying research of trout water. Later, Bob became Wisconsin's cold water research leader.

Bob felt very comfortable in a pair of waders with his crew studying the dynamics of the stream. Much data was gathered from the fish populations of Lawrence Creek. Data included researching generations of the Brook Trout species, sizes of fish and their growth rates, effects of fishing on wild fish populations, conditions of stream habitat, fish cover, aquatic plants and insects within the food chain.

A second phase of the study included the comparisons of a portion of Lawrence Creek having undergone

trout stream improvement. Similar type of data was gathered and compared to an unimproved portion of the creek.

The Lawrence Creek study was the most intensive study of a wild Brook Trout population which as ever been accomplished. This is likely a response due to Aldo Leopold's writings about sand country and the vision that he brought to the Wisconsin Conservation Department. Supportive leadership included universities, departments, board members, and governors.

Bob maintained a conviction that we must apply the information gained from the Lawrence Creek studies and use them to maintain the wild trout populations of Wisconsin. His work, along with his fellow researchers, determined that most of Wisconsin's rivers and streams, if given proper care, can maintain wild trout populations. He believed that stream habitat improvement could be concentrated on streams where damage such as bank erosion had occurred.

Bob could be called a genius at not only gathering data from the trout stream and its populations, but to also assemble this data into technical bulletins and reports. An important purpose of Bob's research was to use and apply this information to manage other Wisconsin trout waters. His work is used in other states as well as several universities. Bob has been a

recognized consultant, not only in Wisconsin, but nationally. At a time of trial in his life, Bob shared with me that he was going to St. Paul, where he planned to attend an evangelism conference. Upon his return he told me that Tom Skinner had been the speaker at the event. Bob stated, "At the invitation I went forward and surrendered my life to Christ!" This decision was very meaningful to him. He found that with this time of searching a commitment his heart was ministered to.

What has Bob left for us as a legacy? He was a faithful, loving and caring husband to his wife, Phyllis. Their marriage has been an example to all who know them. Their children, Lori, Cyndy, and David will have memories of a strong and faithful dad who was committed to family values and Godly principles. Bob's life speaks to us that eternal choices and decisions are very important. He was a man of prayer. He shared his faith and convictions with his friends and acquaintances, often using the trout stream setting. Bob was a Gideon and spent many years spreading the gospel with this organization. Bob thoroughly appreciated God's creation. He believed that we must understand the connection between God the Creator and his creation. His belief was that we must be good stewards of the creation.

I will greatly miss Bob, as will many other friends and past fellow

employees of the trout research and management program. I was able to tell Bob "Thank you," only a few days past. We have certain hope that we will meet our loved ones at Christ's appearing.

**Elward J. Engle**

### **Fly Fishing and Fly Tying Class at FVTC is Going Strong**



**Jim Murphy leading first session**

This year Jim Murphy and I are team teaching our CWTU/FVTC Introduction To Fly Fishing and Fly Tying. We have a great class of 24 students who are really involved with the process. Attendance has been great! There is an enthusiastic buzz in the room. David Pable, Mike Sandretto, Joe Bach, and others have been on hand to help with the teaching. The class started on April 2, and will end on May 21, with an on stream fishing experience. Once again I will need volunteers to help guide these people that night. How important is this class to CWTU? Just look at the CWTU Board! The majority of the members were introduced to CWTU through this class. Please come out to the Casting

Clinic on May 14 and meet these people. Please consider helping guide on the 21 of May.

It has been my privilege to teach this class for the last 15 years. Through this activity I have made some great friends and learned a lot from the participants. All CWTU members are encouraged to visit our classroom. We meet in Room H114 in Winneconne High School, on Tuesdays, from 6:00 pm till 9:00 pm. Call me at 920-582-7802 if you need better directions or more information.

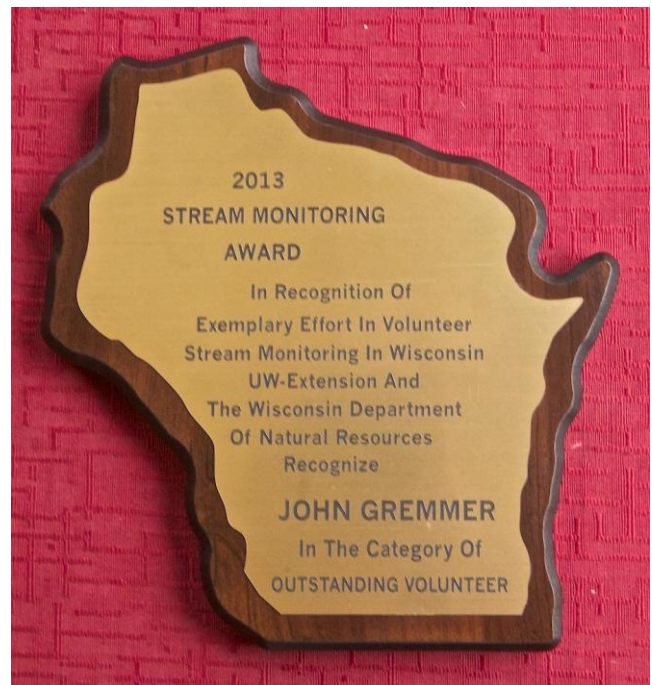
**John Gremmer**

### **CWTU River Keeper Coordinator Honored**

On May 5 CWTU River Keepers were honored when I received the 2013 Stream Monitoring Award In The Category Of Outstanding Volunteer from the UW-Extension and The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. I accepted this award knowing that this is a shared award. It is shared by all our volunteers who are doing such a good job of protecting and preserving our central Wisconsin waters by monitoring, watchdogging, and teaching others. I thanked the wonderful Kris Stepenuck and her staff for making the Water Action Volunteers such a great program. I also thanked CWTU for bankrolling our activities. And finally, I thanked all our volunteers for their outstanding contributions. I love being a River Keeper. It is great fun to go to a

stream once a month and gather information that will be used in the present and future to protect it. For our Waupaca River Team, it is a nice social event too. River Keepers is one of the great things our chapter does. If you would like to be a River Keeper--call or email me. 920-582-7802 or [jgremmer@charter.net](mailto:jgremmer@charter.net)

**John Gremmer**



### **CWTU Fly Casting/Kayak Fishing Clinic on May 14**

Mark down May 14 on your calendar for the 2013 Fly Casting/Kayak Fishing Clinic to be held at Marble Park in Winneconne. Expert fly casters and kayak fishers will be on hand to demonstrate and teach. We start at around 5:30 pm and end at dark. Stay as long as you want. The activity is free for CWTU members

and the public. Bring your fly rods and safety glasses. With all the fly lines in the air, this is a necessity. No hooks are allowed, tie a small piece of yarn on the end of the tippet to simulate the fly. This is another safety feature. Bring the kids, your friends, your significant other, and make a night of it. If the weather is bad---downpour of rain---we will postpone to another week.

Postponement news will be posted on the [www.cwtu.org](http://www.cwtu.org) homepage by 12:00 noon. No posting means no postponement. For more information on this event and other CWTU activities, go to [www.cwtu.org](http://www.cwtu.org).



**Casting Practice in Marble Park Lagoon**

## **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