

BROOKIE NEWS

August 2015



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

Riffles, Runs and Pools

By President Mike SanDretto

You are probably tired of hearing me talk about stream restoration workdays but I can't help myself. A departure from the usual instream workday happened on August 15th. The location is a new stretch of the West Branch of the White River which is very special. It is a recent private property acquisition by the DNR and there has never been any restoration work. There is no known history of cattle in the river here. While it was a hot day with an air temperature of 90 degrees, the water temperature was 58 degrees. Some work on this section would be helpful in the future as upstream restoration has caused sand to be deposited in this section.



More pics at <http://www.cwtu.org/apps/photos/>

Shawn Sullivan and Scott Bunde of the DNR have concluded the best course of action is to fully study the biotic integrity of this river section before doing any work and that is what we helped them with. We assisted them with electrofishing (shocking), fish identification and data recording. Good baseline data obtained that day will guide all future stream work. Personally, I came to realize data beats my fisherman's impression any day of the week. I had walked portions of this stream's section the day before and thought there wasn't much habitat for good sized trout. I WAS WRONG!



More pics at <http://www.cwtu.org/apps/photos/>

There were some nice size trout there. Areas the day before I thought too small or not deep enough to hold trout did. I also learned

my mental ruler is larger than reality. A fish would be netted and I would say to myself, “gosh, that one’s about 17 inches.” When it was placed on the measuring board the size called out was something like 14.2 inches. I’ll bet I am not the only one optimistic about fish size. If you plan to go there, watch out for the poison sumac. Some but not all of it has been marked by plastic tape. I have heard it said in TU we should find a name other than “workday” for these events because we make it sound like they are four hours of back breaking drudgery when they are anything but that. Yes, we do some work but we also learn, think, discuss and ask questions. We spend time with friends, old and new. We share a meal. Come to a workday, I think you will be happy you did. Jeff Treu is the new Program Chair and has been working with John Gremmer who has done this work for many years. Jeff is putting finishing touches on the program schedule which should be out on the website soon or here in the [Brookie News](#) . Thank you Jeff for taking on this work so important to our meetings. Thank you John for many years of good and interesting programs.

Sleepless in Sand County

By Jeff Wegand

It’s the dog days of summer and some turn to small mouth fishing but it is very difficult to get me away from our spring creeks. Each season brings its own benefits and challenges. August in central WI is terrestrials and black berries! Mornings are best but they are hard to come by for the working stiff. So you adapt and compromise and when you are out there it doesn’t matter because there is opportunity in the air.

I find the parking lot of choice, get my stuff together, and then take the long walk to the river. It is quiet, just the way I like it, but birds are singing songs and you can hear the

pinus swaying. I laugh to myself remembering a time when I fished with a green horn and thought the sound of pines was a large riffle. The last part of the trail is a little bush whacking but I finally make it to the creek. It is lined with joe pie weed, golden rod, and milk weed. Surface looks like a piece of glass and the river seems not to be moving. However, when looking closer you can see the water vegetation swaying which is attached to the bottom and sides of the creek. Wow it is clear; I am going to have to lengthen my leader and bring my “A” game. So I decide to lengthen the butt section, add some tippet and tie on small “stimmi”. So much cover in the water with water vegetation and woody debris you must cover river with detail. There is a likely spot where logs most likely has scoured a hole up on the left. I haul cast with a reach then a quick mend. I continue to do so, covering the river from left to right. Not getting any respect, I say to myself “anybody looking up.” It is a plea with the creek and its trout hoping one will feel sorry for me.



The creek doubles back on itself and as I turn the corner I jump a pair of sand hill cranes. Noisy buggers flying right over my water disturbing water. Oh well, they make me feel like I am in pages of Leopold’s “Sand County Almanac”. Up one bend the creek banks around corner and dumps into a large hole where it has slow eddy on the tail

then abruptly changes to shallow sand. This is a difficult hole but I have a few tricks up my sleeve. Again I haul cast and throw as much line as I can. If you can see the fish the fish can see you.

At the end of the cast I stop the rod high to pile line just above the eddy. The fly doesn't move for what seems like an eternity and just before it does I get a porpoise rise by a nice fish before it takes the fly. I raise my rod then he goes air born to which I immediately lower the rod to keep tension on him. The fish tries to make a run for the wood but even 5X and an 8' 6" rod gives me plenty of control. I grab my net off my back, wet my hand then grab the fish. It is about 13" but difficult for me to tell sex until they are a little large.



This is probably my favorite part besides the rise. I hold the fish in my hand and admire it. Each fish is so different like when a deer hunter describes the rack on different a mature buck. There is no two alike and it never gets old to catch and review what makes each one special. I place fish back in water so I may catch again one day. This is something my family, and coworkers never understand. It doesn't bother me and I like to brag that the fish I have documented by camera can be caught by any of you again. Nevertheless, these fish may be a little wiser next time you cast over them.

CWTU Board of Directors Meeting 8/11/15

Winnebago County Park, Shelter #1.

President Mike San Dretto commenced the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Minutes Meeting July 14, 2015 approved as distributed.

Treasurer's Report was approved balance sheet was distributed.

River Keeper Update. Bob Jozwowski reported that 25 streams are now being monitored, and that one river monitoring had been discontinued. At the same time, monitoring had commenced on a new spot on the South Branch of the Little Wolf River. Bob reported that the DNR data entry process was now fully operating, and all data can be entered. He reminded Riverkeepers that habitat information should accompany the last data entry of the year. Bob said that the DNR will be conducting a webinar on instructions. Finally, he reported that \$1372 had been spent on a dissolved oxygen meter.

Update on CWTU program coordinator. Mike reported that Jeff Treu has volunteered to chair this committee, and said "a big thanks" to Jeff for volunteering to manage this important chapter function and thanked John Gremmer for his years of successfully managing this important function of our Chapter. Jeff was unable to attend this meeting. Mike also commented that TU National has the means to conduct a member email "blast," which could be done on a monthly basis.

Update on workday team. Mike thanked Scott Bahn for his excellent work on Workdays until now and that Scott will be needing to turn over that responsibility. During transition six people will be responsible for making arrangements for workdays, including someone to care for the bookkeeping functions. The upcoming

workday will be at the West Branch of the White River, and that it could include a DNR fish shocking event.

Update on Wautoma Mill pond

Mike reported that he, John Tucker, Jim Peirce and Bob Burke appeared before the Task Force Committee on the Wautoma Pond on July 27. Mike presented points on how the White River's temperature had dropped and how the presence of trout had increased by 40% since the draw-down. He added that management of the area as a dry pond would reduce the incidence of flooding based on information provided by Professor Potter of UW Madison. Separately, Bob Burke reported that he had obtained photos of the 2002 flood there and submitted them, along with other materials, to the engineering firm hired by Wautoma to complete a dam safety report to the city. Nevertheless, the Committee voted at that time to refill the pond. A week later, the full Wautoma City Council voted unanimously to fill the pond next spring.

Committee Report Reminder. Mike reminded committee chairs that their annual reports are due shortly and that they should be sent in September to Mike Schafers for submission to TU national.

Update on Fly Fishing School. Dan Harmon reported that the 39th Annual Fly Fishing School will take place on June 4th and 5th at the Riverside Bible Camp in Amherst, Wisconsin. Dan has flyers advertising the school. Over 500 students have graduated from the school in past years.

No old business

No new business

*** Submitted by Bob Burke in Jeff Wegand's absence.

Motion to Adjourn

Upcoming Events

CWTU Board meeting

**"Fishing in Bolivia" by Tim Landwher
Tuesday, September 8, 2015**

*Fin and Feather (upstairs banquet area)
6:15 board meeting 7:30 program
22W Main St, Winneconne, WI, 54986
cwtu.org*

CWTU Workday

Saturday, September 19, 2015

*West Branch of the White
7:45am -12:00 (breakfast/coffee and lunch)
Contact Mike Sandretto@ MSandretto@aol.com
<http://www.cwtu.org/workdays.htm>*

Ice age Trail Hike & Dog Walk

Saturday, October 10, 2015

*Greenwood segment just south of Hwy C on 9th Ave
1:00-3:00 PM
Contact Bob Jozwowski bobjozwowski@gmail.com,
Phone (920)765-1887
iceagetrail.org*

CWTU Banquet

Saturday, October 10, 2015

*BEST WESTERN PREMIER Waterfront Hotel &
Convention Center
1 N Main St, Oshkosh
4:30 PM (hors d'oeuvres & raffles start)
Contact Laura Tucker (920) 540-5293*

Riverkeepers Wrap Up Meeting

Monday, November 9, 2015

*Fin and Feather (upstairs banquet area)
5:30 PM
22W Main St, Winneconne, WI, 54986
Contact Bob Jozwowski bobjozwowski@gmail.com,
Phone (920)765-188*

CWTU Board meeting

"Wisconsin Trib Steelhead waters"

**By Nick Legler, WDNR Fisheries
Biologist & Steelhead Mngr.**

Tuesday, November 10, 2015

*Fin and Feather (upstairs banquet area)
6:15 board meeting 7:30 program
22W Main St, Winneconne, WI, 54986*

cwtu.org

*****To list your conservation non-profit event
in this newsletter, please contact Jeff
Wegand at jeffwegand@hotmail.com**