

# BROOKIE NEWS

January 2016



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

## Riffles, Runs and Pools

By President Mike SanDretto

Welcome to this electronic and print edition of the Brookie News. It is being sent out by email and also by print to all members of the Central Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited. This way you know what is happening and our readers will have the opportunity to participate in the CWTU activities you choose which is vital to our success. Communication is key and we would like to get the information to you in the way you would like to receive it. The primary reasons our chapter and most other TU chapters started sending out newsletters by email is cost. Many chapters find printing and sending a newsletter is their largest single expense. We do have members who prefer to receive the Brookie News in print and we gladly send it to them every month.

During the last 3 months we sent out the newsletter in print to everyone which included a notice of the change to email. To continue receiving it in print you had to let us know. That's how we made the list of

who we currently send the Brookie. The same offer holds today. If you would like to get the Brookie News through the mail just let me know, no questions asked. Contact me, Mike San Dretto by calling 920-716-1016; by mail: Central Wisconsin Trout Unlimited, P.O. Box 3041, Oshkosh, WI 54903 or [msandretto@aol.com](mailto:msandretto@aol.com).

I am sorry to report that Mike Schaefer has resigned as treasurer of the chapter. Mike reports having health issues which are now forcing him to reduce his workload. I let Mike know we all hope for his rapid recovery and return to good health. Mike has not only done the work of treasurer very well, he has helped us understand our financial position and use our funds effectively. We thank Mike for all his time and expertise donated to CWTU. Currently, we do not have anyone for the treasurer position. If taking on this position is something you would be comfortable with and are interested in learning more, please contact me. This would be of big help and not a lot of work.

In this issue of the Brookie, you will find information about our Restoration Fund. Please consider a donation. This is the only time of year we directly ask for a donation and we really appreciate it if you could give. 100% of money given is directed toward our stream workdays and stream restoration work in the area.

Nobody likes to end up trying to fish a favorite spot that has become all grown in with brush. We would like to change that on our Central Wisconsin Trout Streams. The goal is forming a team to work with the DNR and do brushing work on stream corridors that need it. There are regulations for working on state land that need to be met. Anyone who operates a chainsaw on state public land needs to be appropriately trained. Gary Herlache is working to set up the brushing team and a chainsaw safety training course. Contact Gary,

[herlache57@gmail.com](mailto:herlache57@gmail.com) if interested.

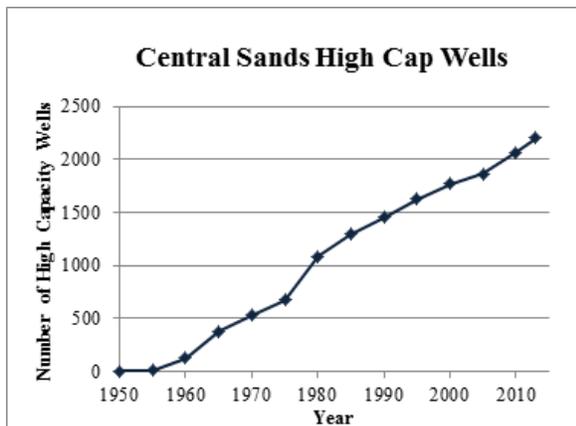
Wouldn't it be great if we could form a group that could work out a stream brushing project with the DNR and do the work safely on their own schedule?

TroutFest is coming Saturday February 27 at the Fin N' Feather. Fun for the whole family and admission is free. Hope to see you there!

## Groundwater – Conservation Issue of Decade?

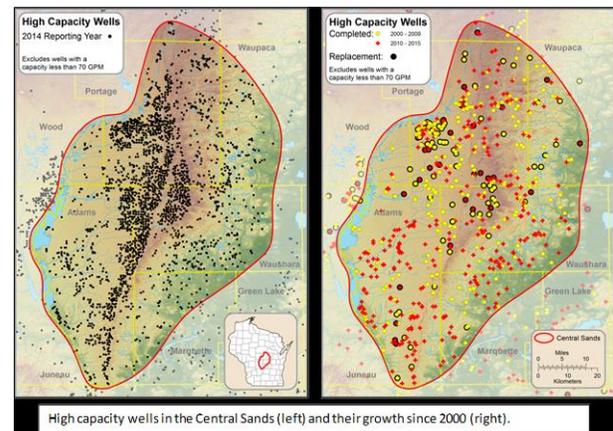
By George Kraft

The future of groundwater, the underground water that feeds Wisconsin headwaters streams and fills lakes and wetlands, is the subject of great debate at this time in our conservation history. And no species is more dependent on groundwater than trout, and no ecosystem more than cold-water. Groundwater also feeds wells for human needs. Pumping groundwater from wells always diverts some water from its journey to a lake or stream. Pump a little groundwater, and a little is diverted. Pump a lot, and diversions become substantial. We should especially expect to see pumping impacts in regions with large numbers of high capacity wells. These are wells capable



of pumping at least a hundred thousand gallons per day, though many are much larger. A typical irrigation for instance, can pump well over a million gallons per day. High capacity well numbers have increased dramatically, and especially in the Central Sands.

The region (mainly parts of Waushara, Waupaca, Marquette, Adams, Portage, Wood) contains some 600 miles of headwater streams, many high-quality coldwater fisheries, and about 100 lakes. High capacity wells in the Central Sands have increased from about 100 in 1960, to 1000 around 1980, 2000 by 2010, and near 2500 today. High capacity well pumping in the Central Sands amounts about 60 billion gallons per year, a fourth of all groundwater pumped in Wisconsin.



85% of this water is for crop irrigation, mainly corn, potatoes, sweet corn, and others.

With increased pumping, there has come drying of trout streams and lakes. Better known cases of these include the Little Plover River, Stoltenberg Creek, Long Lake, Plainfield Lake, and Wolf Lake.

Other streams are expected to become pumping affected with more pumping development. Regions like Emmons Creek where pumping development is rapid are prime candidates.

Two bills seek to roll back even the modest protections for lakes and streams. Sen. Gudex bill (SB 239) gives the equivalent of



a permanent right to groundwater for high capacity well owners, possibly bringing Wisconsin to western-style water law. Sen. Cowles bill (SB291) would do the same, plus specify that DNR may not consider the cumulative impacts of all existing high capacity wells before issuing an approval for a new one. So even if a hundred wells were drying some stream down to a trickle, DNR would still have to approve a next well and a next well, even after the stream dried.

For more on these and other water issues, see <http://wiswateryguy.com/>.

## Sleepless in Sand County

By Jeff Wegand

It was the end of the June and like usual I was eating supper with my family awaiting arrival from my southern friend. Patience was dwindling so I give him a call. He picks up and I start with “How goes the struggle.” He responds with “Dodging alligators in Milwaukee swamps, but I should make it to a river by dusk.” I pause to think where we should fish. Can you meet me at the “Doctor’s bridge”.

“Ooohhhh,” then he responds sarcastically with “a left on Cottenville, right on Cypress then a quick right on Cree.” I am not really paying attention because Waushara and Marquette counties have several of these roads. Lastly, I mention we are going to get some nasty weather but he disregards like a true fisherman.

I park at the bridge and the river looks a little high, turned up, but very fishable. Minutes later he pulls up and we find shelter under many large oaks. We string up the glass rods, grab the hex box and slide down into the pool just below the culvert. Swinging lightly dressed hex nymphs are the best way to fish a busted hex hatch. Like usual I begin by casting farther than I should but these fish will hook themselves. A reach cast, mend, the swings starts and I am hooked up. A mid teen brown launches in the air and I give a little hoot of enjoyment!



We go a little further and a slough enters the river just before the large deadfall. The rain is really coming down but this is a spot where we can get a picture fish. I mend two or three times waiting for my fly to get sucked to the bottom of the hole. Then I hand twist and repeat several times. I am just not getting any respect. I turn to my friend and want to hand him the rod so he can show me how it is done and his eyes are

coming out of his face. He does not acknowledge me, but rather continues to stare at the river. By the time I look at river there is nothing to see. "You missed him," he says. "There was a huge brown that just cartwheeled in the air as you were giving me the rod." "No way," I respond! "Yes, that was an interesting technique." he says.

The rain really starts coming down in sheets instead of drops. We decide to head back to the car. After a couple minutes of walking the rain starts to cease again.

I was a little disappointed because my friend did not even take a cast. He is always just happy to be out there but it bothers me. He looks like a pig in mud wading cold water in the rain, just happy to be up here. Then I start to focus on the water ahead and stare at the culvert about 50 yards ahead.



It is still raining a little but I think I am seeing rising fish. "Are there fish rising on other side of culvert 50 yds ahead and don't you have a dry on," I ask. "Yes, I have one of those emerges you tied for me" he responds. Perfect, I think. We climb out of the muck and sand to find multiple fish rising above the culvert. Unbelievable turn of events! My friend makes a false casts with a single haul and throws 50 ft of line down. Fly drifts 10 ft and a large fish rolls on it. My friend sets the hook and mentions

if he goes down stream into the culvert we will surely loose him. I react quickly and jump down the culvert to net the fish. After a short fight the large brown submits to the net.



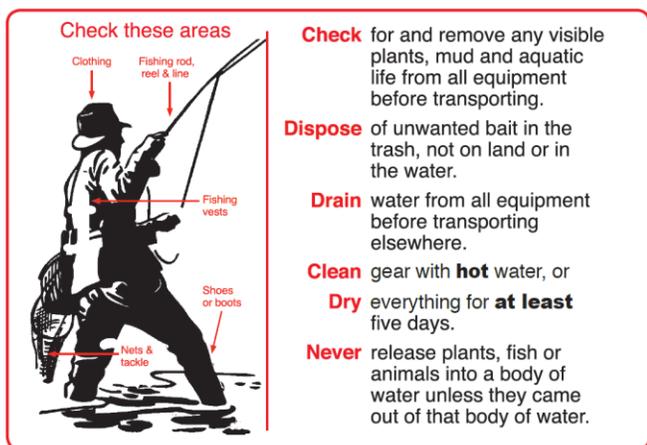
We take a quick picture to document the moment and then the trout swims off to live another day. Rain picks up again and we decide it is time to go back to "Le Shack" to dry off and stare at maps of where we want to fish in the morning.

## **Invasive Species Reminder**

by Korin Franklin

As we gear up for the upcoming season, I'd like to take a minute to remind everyone to be diligent about checking gear for and removing attached plants, animals, and mud. This is especially important if you plan to visit more than one stream location within a five day period or if you take a trip out of state. There are several harmful invasive species that are small enough to fit in the tread of our boots, on nets, or even in the nooks and crannies of our waders. These species can damage equipment, disrupt ecosystems, alter habitat and can make it difficult to access or enjoy our favorite fishing spots.

Before leaving an area, take a minute to ensure there are no aquatic species attempting to hitch a ride on your gear. One way to minimize your risk of spreading invasive species is to carry a stiff synthetic brush in your wader bag or in your vehicle. Simply use the brush to remove as much material as possible from waders/boots and other gear before moving to a new location. To more thoroughly clean your gear, use a pump-sprayer filled with clean tap water to rinse off equipment and boots after scrubbing them with a brush. If you travel out of state or to an area known to have invasive species, there are other steps you can take to minimize the risk of spreading invasive species. According to River Alliance of Wisconsin, “HIGH RISK anglers should follow one of the three decontamination methods: soak gear in a mild bleach solution for ten minutes, freeze gear, or let gear dry for five days minimum”. Or better yet, use a different pair of boots/waders for out of state travel –the stream (and your outfitter) will thank you! For more information about practicing clean angling, visit the River Alliance of Wisconsin website:



<http://www.wisconsinrivers.org/our-work/coldwater-anglers>.

## CWTU Board of Directors Meeting 1/12/16 Fin & Feather in Winneconne

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

**Minutes Meeting December 8th 2015** approved as distributed.

**Treasurer Vacancy** Mike Schaefer's. Need a book keeper/treasurer. Scott Grady and Mike Sandretto will manage the check book in the interim. Treasurer's report was approved and distributed.

**River Keeper Update** Bob Jozowski mentioned we have 20 streams, 25 sites and 60 volunteers. Website has been updated and new chemicals are available. Bob is now on WAV advisory board and working with Peggy Compton who is the new project head. There will be a data advisory workshop this spring to be announced later.

**TroutFest** - Bob Smaglick. 9-10 mini-seminars set up. Brochures ready to be posted and bookmarks will be ready at masters class.

**Masters Fly Tying** - Ira Giese is deciding to move on and has asked if someone new would like to take the position. It is a good time to recruit for next year's tiers with ice breaker, cabin fever and troutfest just around the corner. Thanks Ira, for helping to create some great master's classes the last couple years!

**Meeting Technology Update** - Gary Herlache and Bob Haase looking for \$400 for LCD projector and \$750 for a laptop. Motion was approved to spend \$1150 to update technology by the board. We will have a new microphone for better sound quality at this year's Troutfest and a new camera for masters tying class!

**Chainsaw Safety Update** - Gary Herlache suggesting FISTA or SAW. Mike will send a note out to who is interested. Throughout spring, summer and fall we will create team, get chain saw training and work with DNR to create winter of 2017 brushing crew.

**Strategic Mailings/Brookie News** - Jeff Wegand suggested one mailing in January for February Troutfest and one mailing in September for October banquet? If we would do more I may suggest one in April before Riverkeepers and workdays start? We will also send stream work fund with January brookie. Motion to send out hard copy of Jan and Sept Brookie was approved.

**Greater Wisconsin Outdoor and Sportsman Festival** - August 12-14, 2016 Bob Haase is going to support again and see if we can get the word out again. The board approved motion to support.

**Board Meetings** – Lets think about length, Number, etc. and consider if we need changes.

**New business** Jim Murphy talks about fish farms legislation; Senate Bill 493 and now Assembly Bill 640 known as the "Fish Farm" bills. In the future these bills will allow businesses to dredge and dam rivers, streams and spring ponds to accomplish business goals of fish farm that will disregard conservation of WI natural resources.

**Old business** John Tucker and team continue to work on renaming the Lawrence Creek Fish and Wildlife Area to honor Bob Hunt. He has obtained a copy of WDNR rules for renaming properties. This helps to understand the process needed for a change and why it will take time.

David has 2 dozen caps ready for Troutfest. New members will receive hat at Troutfest. If you want CWTU embroidered clothes Eden is taking orders.

**Motion to Adjourn**

# Upcoming Events

## Cabin Fever FVTU

**Saturday, January 23, 2016**

*The Grand Meridian*

*\$10 at the door, spouses & under 18 free*

*9:00 am - 4:00 pm*

*2611N. Oneida St, Appleton*

<http://www.foxvalleytu.org>

## TU State Banquet

**Saturday, February 6, 2016**

*Best Western Waterfront Hotel Oshkosh*

*Send \$35 for tickets to:*

*Jen Kuhr, 6103 Queens Way, Monona, WI 53716.*

## Ice Age Trail Candle Light Walk

**Saturday, February 13, 2016**

*Caribou Bay Retreat*

*5:00-9:00 pm*

*N795 County Rd JJ, Coloma, WI 54930*

<http://www.iceagetrail.org>

*contact: bobjozwowski@gmail.com*

## “TROUTFEST”

**Saturday, February 27, 2016**

*Fin and Feather (upstairs banquet area)*

*9:00 am – 4:00 pm*

*A free event featuring 10 mini-seminars, fly tiers, vendors, and much more.*

*22W Main St, Winneconne, WI, 54986*

*cwtu.org*

## CWTU Board meeting

**“Program TBD”**

**Tuesday, March 8, 2016**

*Fin and Feather (upstairs banquet area)*

*6:15 board meeting 7:30 program*

*22W Main St, Winneconne, WI, 54986*

*cwtu.org*

## CWTU Board meeting

**“Steelhead Spey Fishing”**

**Jeff Treu discuss rigging and offers local panel to discuss and answer questions.**

**Tuesday, April 12, 2016**

*Fin and Feather (upstairs banquet area)*

*6:15 board meeting 7:30 program*

*22W Main St, Winneconne, WI, 54986*

## “Spey Fishing the Sheboygan”

**Jeff Treu and panel fish the river**

**Saturday, April 16, 2016**

*River Wildlife in Sheboygan on River*

*Time to be determined*

*1116 West Riverside Drive*

*Kohler, WI 53044*

## CWTU Board meeting

**“Bob Hunt Memorial Lecture”**

**Tuesday, May 17, 2016**

*Fin and Feather (upstairs banquet area)*

*6:15 board meeting 7:30 program*

*22W Main St, Winneconne, WI, 54986*

*cwtu.org*

## CWTU stream restoration

**Saturday, May 21, 2016**

*7:45am to 12:00pm*

*Breakfast and lunch is available*

*cwtu.org*

## “Casting & Kayak Clinic”

**Tuesday, June 14, 2016**

*Marble Park*

*675 Grant St, Winneconne, WI, 54986*

*5:00 pm – 8:00 pm*

*A free event featuring casting & kayak demonstrations*

*cwtu.org*

## CWTU stream restoration

**Saturday, June 18, 2016**

*7:45am to 12:00pm*

*Breakfast and lunch is available*

*cwtu.org*

## “39<sup>th</sup> Annual Fly Fishing school”

**Saturday, June 4-5, 2016**

*Riverside Bible Camp near Amherst*

*Weekend of fly fishing with 1on 1 training*

*Contact: Dan Harmon III (920)235-1761*

*or Russ Bouck (715)824-3781*

*cwtu.org*

**\*\*\*To list your conservation non-profit event in this newsletter, please contact Jeff Wegand at [jeffwegand@hotmail.com](mailto:jeffwegand@hotmail.com)**

**Please patronize  
our business  
supporters!**



Tel (920) 477-5062  
[www.initial-design.com](http://www.initial-design.com)