

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)

November 2014

Prez Sez

Seems to me that Old Man Winter sent his wakeup call a little early this year. But, then I think that every year. At the November 11 Board meeting, Mike Schaefer presented the next year’s Budget. After a few tweeks, the Budget was approved. Then we spent the rest of the meeting discussing the Banquet. As I mentioned in the last Brookie, we had a good party and made a very good profit, the second

best in 6 years. The one big negative was the lower attendance and that should be a major focus for next year. We will meet at another date and time soon to focus entirely on the next Banquet. We did vote on a change of location. The next Banquet will be at the Best Western Premier Waterfront Hotel in Oshkosh on October 10, 2015. We were lucky to secure an October date. Please SAVE this date. The Best Western Premier Hotel conference center is a nice facility with plenty of room and good services. Those of you who attended the State Council Banquet last year know this. The next State Council Banquet is also at this facility on February 7, 2015. Come and check it out. I’m sure it will be bigger and better.

On Thursday evening, November 13, Mike San Dretto, Jim Murphy, Linn Beck and I worked the raffles at “The

Best of Fly Fishing Film Tour Fund Raiser” at the old De Pere Cinema. Tim Landwehr, owner of Tight Lines, his guides, and Kim McCarthy put on this fun evening of exciting fly fishing film, raffles, and give aways as they have for several years. All the profits from this year’s event go to support extra staffing for Shawn Sullivan’s Wild Rose Trout Habitat team. A worthy cause in support of our local streams.

Laura and I wish each and every one of you a happy and wonderful Thanksgiving!

John Tucker

CWTU BOARD MEETING

11/11//14

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1. **Meeting called to order at 7:58 p.m.** by President Tucker, who recognized Veterans Day and thanked veterans for their service.
2. **Minutes of the September meeting were approved** as distributed.
3. Treasurer’s Report
 - a. Banquet Report. A summary report was distributed to the Board by Jeff Wegand and Laura Tucker. Highlights: Second highest net revenue in past five years, despite low turnout. Volunteers

were great, music was appreciated, food got mixed reviews. Much discussion of factors behind low turnout followed. Some concerns were expressed as to how to improve turnout and increase net revenue, especially for raffle boards. *President Tucker will call a meeting (now called for 5:30 pm, November 18 at Oshkosh Office Systems)* for interested parties to address various Banquet issues and begin planning for next year. **After discussion, a motion was made and seconded to hold a Banquet next year. Motion approved. Motion was made and seconded to hold the Banquet at the Best Western Conference Center in Oshkosh. Motion approved. Motion was made and seconded to hold the Banquet on a Saturday in October. Motion approved. Executive Committee determined that the Banquet date will be October10, 2015.**

- b. Treasurer's Report – Finances and Budget: Mr. Schaefer explained the P&L statement and the Cash and Investments statement. He then reviewed the Proposed Budget for the new fiscal year. **Budget statement was revised to account for Trout and Salmon Foundation grant and required matches. Motion made and seconded to approve the Budget as revised. Motion approved.**
4. Agenda item #4, further thoughts on the Banquet, was postponed until the November 18 Banquet meeting.
 5. Youth Camp 2015. Mr. Beck stated that the dates for the camp will be July 16-19. The Chapter will sponsor a student again, so members were urged to identify promising candidates, especially those who are novice or beginning fishers, male and female, ages 12-16.
 6. Chapter Objectives: Mr. Tucker will mail out materials for future discussion.
 7. Fly Fishing Film Tour. Thursday, November 13 in DePere. Thanks to Tight Lines for generously sponsoring the event and designating proceeds to support of our Stream Teams.
 8. Old Business: Bill Vance presented further information on the candidacy of Milk Source Ltd. For a Sand County Foundation Aldo Leopold Conservation Award. The Chapter had signed on to a letter from the Friends of the Central Sands and co-signed by two dozen conservation organizations, critical of the nomination, and Mr. Vance stated that the organization had responded in an arrogant and dismissive fashion. Mr. Vance urged the Chapter to sign on to Bob Clarke's further response, and a consensus indicated that the Chapter will continue to support these efforts to expose the inappropriate nature of the nomination and to object to Secretary Brancel's statements.
 9. New Business: Mr. Harmon distributed new brochures for the 38th Annual Trout School and urged members to begin recruiting students for May 30-31, at the Riverside Bible Camp in Amherst, WI.
 10. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

**Respectfully Submitted,
David Seligman, Secretary**

Rising to the Challenge

Often I told my students that I learned more in Scouting than I did in school. They thought I was kidding. What I didn't tell them, because I couldn't have known then, was just how deeply the educational journey that began in 1957 on the sandy grounds of Camp Shin Go Beek, between Wild Rose and Waupaca, would impact my life.

Fast forwarding to October 11, 2014 and the CWTU banquet, my wife, Mary Jo, and I had the distinct pleasure of sharing a table with Elward Engle and his sister, Eloise. Our conversation soon turned to a recent court decision that had been a first step in protecting Wisconsin's precious ground water from the proliferation of high capacity wells. I am a board member of a non-profit organization called Friends of the Central Sands, and Elward has been a staunch supporter and a great source of inspiration and information to us. As the conversation progressed, Elward spoke with misty-eyed admiration of his dearly departed friend and colleague, Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame member, Bob Hunt. Elward told me that Bob had always thought that there should be a "friends" group for the Central Sands. "You know", Elward said, "you should write an article about this decision for the Brookie." How could I refuse?



Little Plover River

Rewinding to Labor Day weekend, 2010, residents around Pleasant Lake, five miles southeast of Coloma, learned that a dairy that would house 4,300 cows was going to be built 2.5 miles west of the spring-fed lake. Alarmed that little concern was shown, a resident, Bob Clarke, started researching large dairy farms. He came across a term new to him, CAFO, an acronym for concentrated animal feeding operation. Horrified at what he discovered, Bob was compelled to act. Learning that the window for public response to the permits that had quietly been issued was rapidly closing, Bob filed two law suits on the plans and manure spreading permits (WPDES). This "foot in the door" forced a public hearing that drew over 500 people, and through newspaper coverage, alerted an unknowing public to the situation. Bob, realizing the risks that his family was taking, formed a non-profit organization, FOCS, with board members Nick Clarke (Bob's son, MT Fish and Wildlife Agent, Alistair Stewart (CWTU member), Terry

Tinkle (local resident), and myself (Pleasant Lake Association past president).

In 2011, the challenge to the high capacity well permit was filed. Milk Source LLC had originally applied for a capacity of 52.5 million gallons/year. The WDNR granted them 171 mg/y. Knowing that the pattern of Milk Source is to expand each dairy to around 8,000 cows within two years, we pressed the issue. Milk Source then “voluntarily” reduced its request to 72.5 mg/y. Many briefs and counter measures were filed over the next two years.

Finally, in 2013, hearings began. Judge Jeffrey Boldt listened intently and asked astute, probing questions. Judge Boldt, at the request of our lead attorney, Christa Westerberg, visited Pleasant Lake, touring, in waders, the sensitive areas of the lake as well as the headwaters of Chaffee and Tagatz Creeks, each only a couple of hundred yards from the lake.



Long Lake

In early September of 2014, Judge Boldt rendered his decision, the details of which one can find on our website < friendsofcs.org >. While he didn't directly address the challenges to the plans and manure spreading permits, his decision on the well challenge indirectly dealt with all challenges. He basically agreed with our attorneys and experts, such as Dr. George Craft, that the drawdown of Pleasant Lake and adjacent streams, due to the cumulative impact of all of the high capacity wells in the area, would be dangerously worsened by the Richfield well as permitted. Therefore, he capped the well capacity at 52.5 mg/y. Further, he declared that “common sense” dictated that the WDNR had a duty, based on the “public trust doctrine”, to consider “cumulative impacts” of all area wells when considering new well permits. This case, which was watched closely by people across Wisconsin and beyond, became the first test case of the “Lake Beulah Decision”. This decision, which is the first victory against a CAFO in Wisconsin, has made “cumulative impacts”, what most of us consider to be “common sense”, a critical part of the permitting of high capacity wells. In addition to capping the well capacity, Judge Boldt directed the WDNR to set a reasonable limit on the number of cows at the site, which effectively limits the amount of manure produced there.



Fish Lake

Since my time of being that eager Scout back in 1957, I have spent most of my adult life, with family, enjoying what this special region, the Central Sands, has to offer. As my education has progressed, I have followed the trail blazed by many great people to a position of protector.

CWTU can be proud of the legacy that members such as Bob and Dick Hunt and Elward Engle have forged. When our precious resources have been increasingly threatened, these men have risen to the challenge and done work that has not only benefitted the Central Sands, but has had positive impacts across Wisconsin. I believe that Bob Clarke now deserves a mention in that conversation.

Bill Vance

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