

# 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)

September 2013

### Prez Sez

The first fall Board meeting and after meeting program at the Fin “N Feather was very successful with a great turnout. I had just returned from a fun fishing and hunting trip to Montana so I had to work to keep my head in the game. We elected Bob Jozwowski to the open Board seat. Bob recently transferred to CWTU from SEWTU where he had been chapter Secretary. He is a great addition, and it is nice to have all the Board positions filled. Mike San Dretto also volunteered to chair the Membership Committee.

**CWTU Annual Fall Conservation Banquet, Saturday, October 5, 2013. WWII Memorial Building, corner of Highways 21 and 22, Wautoma. Check the [cwtu.org](http://cwtu.org) website for further information.**

Mike San Dretto and I continued our advocacy training by meeting with Wisconsin Senate President Mike Ellis at his Neenah office. Our focus was on High Capacity Wells, and the recently proposed regulatory legislation now known as LRB-0823/3. It seems to me that this bill actually reduces regulations on wells, which is not a good thing. Senator Ellis was very supportive of our concerns about the proliferation of these wells and legislative attempts to reduce regulation and controls. We have now met with Representative Dean Kaufert and Senator Ellis, and both have been supportive. Now we are planning the next steps. Please contact your Legislators and ask them to vote against the 2013 Bill LRB-0823/3.

Everyone should have received their Banquet packet in the mail. We will

have a wonderful meal and lots of really exciting auction and raffle items including two guided fishing trips on the Big Horn River, fly rods, and a Kayak. Please return the form for dinner tickets and the kayak raffle ticket stubs with your check as soon as possible. This is our main fund raising event each year. Profits from the Banquet are a major source of funds for our river restoration projects.

John Tucker

**September Board Meeting  
Minutes, September 10, 2013  
Fin 'n Feather, Winneconne**

1. Meeting called to order by President Tucker at 6:15 p.m.
2. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as published.
3. Treasurer's Report was approved as distributed. Use of Mecan River funds is continuing with Shawn Sullivan providing guidance. CWTU has been named in the will of Mildred Schuchart for \$1000. Treasurer's report was approved as distributed.
4. Mr. Bob Jozwowski was nominated by the Executive Committee to fill the open Board position. He was elected by unanimous vote.
5. Mr. Wegand gave a brief report on preparations for the Annual Banquet. Things are progressing nicely. Lots of

- great auction and raffle items and good food. Bring a guest!
6. Mr. Tucker reported on Advocacy meetings with Mike Elllis and Dean Kaufert. The meetings went well and we must continue to speak up and contact our legislators on issues we care about, especially those concerning Wisconsin's groundwater resources.
  7. Mr. Gremmer reported that there are now 28 Water Monitoring Teams on 35 streams. All are encouraged to attend the November 12 buffet dinner to interact with the monitoring teams, many of whom are not TU members. Bob Stelzer and his graduate student will do a presentation on brown trout in 1<sup>st</sup> order spring streams. Buffet is at 5:30, program at 6:30.
  8. Mr. Sandretto reported on the Wautoma Millpond issues. A full report on his team's observations was distributed.
  9. Dr. Bob Stelzer reported on funding opportunities from WE Energy and Freshwater Futures to support his research on springs in the Emmons Creek watershed. Teaming with CWTU would greatly increase chances of funding and we would be the stewards of any funds. Mr. Gremmer moved that the Board approve partnering with Dr. Stelzer to

support research on Emmons Creek and surrounding springs. Motion was approved.

10. Committees: Mr. Sandretto will join the Membership Committee working with Jim Pierce.
11. Old Business: Mr. Haase continues to work on the Bob Hunt Memorial. He will meet with Kendall Kampe on Monday next. Mr. Harmon reported that a memorial bench has been placed on the Pine River near the Covered Bridge. We continue to seek approvals from the DNR for placement of additional benches and hope for approvals soon. Mr. Gremmer asked for any information about members who have passed since last year, for memorial recognition at the Banquet. Mr. Bouck noted that we need to do more to recognize the special contributions of the late Bob Hunt. While the DNR may be willing to rename the Lawrence Creek Fishery area after Bob, there should be a specific Chapter memorial. This might include naming our graduate student grants for Bob, and/or other measures.
12. New Business: Mr. Harmon read the missions statement of the new Sporting Heritage Council recently established by the legislature. He noted that it includes broad representation

and seeks input from sporting organizations.

Mr. Beck reported on the developing TU National website. He would like some help in coordinating that site with our Chapter website.

Mr. Harmon reported on a new virus found in Wisconsin Trout. He also passed out brochures for the 2014 Trout School.

13. Meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m. followed by a presentation by Rich Osthoff/

**Respectfully submitted,**

### **WYOMING-MONTANA FLY-FISHING, 2013**

**By Ira Giese**

Bruce Bartel and I left from his home in Onalaska on Aug, 21, eyes glued to the West and dreaming of big trout. We spent the first night in North Platte, NE and arrived in Saratoga, WY in time for some evening fishing. There, we met up with my friend from State College, PA, Art Kempf, and his friend, Cliff Wurster. We spent 4 days fishing the N. Platte and Encampment Rivers in that area. On the way to Saratoga, we took a route through the Medicine Bow National Forest. I believe we reached an altitude of near 11,000 ft on that route. The mountains were beautiful, and lakes and streams were inviting. Bruce is an excellent photographer, so he had his camera handy most of the time.



The interesting thing about the picture is that we were both so fixated on the bull moose in the forefront, that we never saw the moose in the background until he was looking at his pictures later, and here was this beautiful bull in the background! The fishing around Saratoga was okay, but nothing special. The first evening, I did catch a beautiful Rainbow of about 19 inches, but that was my largest of the trip. We had some good Trico fishing two mornings, and enjoyed seeing the beautiful country, even if the fishing was a little disappointing. One day we spent in the Encampment River Wilderness Area. We had to walk a fairly short distance down the mountainside to get to the river.



Art and I walked down into the more canyon part of the water, but Cliff and Bruce did better in this more open part of the stream. Cliff is a specialist in fishing this type of pocket water, and he gave both Bruce and me some lessons on fishing pocket water, which we have very little of where we fish in Wisconsin.

We stayed at the Riviera Lodge in Saratoga. It was incredibly spacious, with walk-in closets the size of most kitchens. However, it could have used a few more beds. Art had to sleep on the couch, and Bruce and I shared a monster sized bed. We put pillows in the middle of the bed, and we both slept way on our sides, with no incidents. At any rate, when we got to the Bighorn River, it was good to each have our own beds again!



The antelope population in WY seems to be really down in some areas. The rancher south of Gillette, where I have bow-hunted twice, cancelled all of his hunters for this year because of the low population. In the Saratoga area, we saw lots of antelope, pictured below. However, coming home through Gillette, usually the antelope capital, we saw very few antelope. Where we would normally see large herds, we saw only single animals. I could have included a nice standing shot, but I thought Bruce's photo of this antelope on the run was more interesting.

The fishing on the Bighorn was its reliable self. Because of the cold Spring, the water in the upper stretch was unusually cold. This hampered the insect hatches in that section. So, we had to fish the lower stretches more than usual. The first full day of fishing, Bruce and I got into a PMD hatch, followed by both Tan and Black Caddis hatches, with a few BWO's thrown in for good measure. It was interesting to me that

our Sulfur pattern from WI (Dick Peters' pattern) worked well during the PMD hatch. One gratifying part for me was how quickly Bruce adapted to the small flies, etc required on the Bighorn. After a brief adapting period, he was soon into double digit fish each day, with one day even into the 20's. I would say the fishing was not quite up to what Art and I had last year. I would call last year excellent, with this year being very good. For example, I have in my notes that one day last year, Art and I figured we caught at least 70 trout, with most of them averaging around 16 inches. This year we did have a day or two when the three of us probably hit 70 fish. Most days we did not count exactly. Who cares, just enjoy the scenery, fighting fish, some you land, some get off. They all get released anyway, so who cares if they get off. My goal is just fooling the fish, which at times can be pretty difficult, during a particular hatch. And, they may change part way through the hatch, leaving you with a fly that no longer works, and you then need to figure out what will work at that time. With his PA fishing experience, year 'round, on finicky trout, Art is the dry fly specialist of our group. He took me to school the last day, when the trout were particularly fussy, in the very shallow, clear water. One of the disturbing parts of the trip was seeing the damage to the mouth area of some fish. I have a tool that I highly recommend, a Ketchum Release Tool. With this tool, if the fly is small enough, you never even need to touch the fish or take it out of the water. It think it is a very fish friendly addition to any fisherman's tackle. No motors are allowed in the upper 13 miles of the river. Below that, outboards are allowed, and were fairly common (and noisy!!). Along with that came many more gear fishermen. I guess I am getting soft, as I even felt badly for the fish when I was catching lots of them. When it was tougher, I did not feel so sorry for the

fish, and just wanted one of them to hit my fly. Most of the gear fishermen were using Rapalas and spinners or spoon with treble hooks. Seemed pretty brutal compared to a single hook with the barb pinched down. Believe it or not, even I needed to take a day off after straight days of hard fishing. Bruce and I spent part of a day touring the Little Bighorn Battlefield. Because the Sioux were mortal enemies of the Crow Indians, many of the Crows worked for the Cavalry as scouts. The guide we had for an hour tour had a great, great grandfather who was a scout for Gen Custer. The Crow scouts told Custer that there was an overwhelming force of Indians camped in that area. Because the Indians did not usually gather in that large a group, because it was hard to provide enough food for such a large group, Custer did not believe his scouts. The scouts became very nervous, and were released from their duties, and scattered into the hills prior to the battle, in which 210 of the Cavalry were killed. It was very interesting to note that a definite attempt is now made to show both sides of this conflict. Both sides felt that they were fighting for the right cause. It was well worth the time spent. And, on the way home, we stopped at the river and had 3 hours of fantastic dry fly fishing for tan caddis. The last day Art and I had very good fishing while the black caddis were hatching.



The picture above shows some of what I found when I pumped the stomach of one of the fish. On the left is a blue winged olive that the fish switched too when the black caddis hatch ended.

All in all it was another great trip. The picture below shows a typical, beautiful Rainbow Trout.



There used to be an equal # of Rainbows and Browns. However, right now, the surveys show that the Browns are about 70% versus the Rainbows 30%. Although both are beautiful, the Rainbows seemed to be a little heavier, and were more vigorous fighters and jumpers. I would say that the average size was 15-16 inches for both species, with many in the 17 and 18 inch size, and very few smaller than 14 or 15 inches. Art said he caught several fish that he thought went 20 inches. My largest was 19 inches, and I was happy with that. Flies: Without a doubt, the most successful nymph was Rich Osthoff's PT Midge, in size 20. The best dry fly was Art's tan caddis.

After leaving the Bighorn at 4:30 am, I pulled into my own driveway at 11 pm. Like every trip, no matter how great, the best part is getting safely home to my wife and family!!!

Now it is time to change equipment and start working with the dogs for another duck and pheasant season.

Have a great fall! Ira



## Win this at the Banquet!

26" Brown caught by CWTU President John Tucker on the Big Horn River September 3, 2013. Measured by guide Dave Schaff, owner of Two Leggins Outfitters.

This is the guide that we have auctioned at the banquet for the last 4-5 years. I have used him twice. We will be auctioning a trip with Dave this year at the CWTU Banquet and at the National TU Banquet in Madison.

John Tucker, Banquet Committee

## **Brookie News Articles and Features**

Members and friends of CWTU are encouraged to submit articles, notices, and photos for publication in the Brookie News. Send electronic submissions to [seligmand@gmail.com](mailto:seligmand@gmail.com).

**Mike Niemczyk is recovering from surgery. Cards and good wishes may be sent to:**

**Mike Niemczyk  
1806 Roosevelt Ave.  
Oshkosh, WI 54901**

**Last Chance – Only  
Three Remaining  
CWTU 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Fishing Shirt Columbia  
“Bonehead” Sea Foam  
Green, Size Large  
Price Reduced – Only \$60  
Contact David Seligman,  
CWTU Secretary**

Mike Sandretto, Vice President  
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**Current CWTU Officers and Board  
Members are listed elsewhere on  
the CWTU.org Website**