

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) May 2015

Prez Sez

Hope you have been getting out and have had good fishing. There is much to tell but first is the biggest **THANK YOU** one can make to your Brookie News editor David Seligman. David is stepping down in the next months from three positions he has held for many years, Editor of the Brookie, Chapter Secretary and Communications Chair. We all wish him congratulations for a job well done and I am sure we will see him

Editor Wanted: For the Brookie News. Duties: Soliciting content articles and photos, publishing CWTU Board minutes and PrezSez column. Working from a standard template, the Brookie can be produced by cutting and pasting content from Word and image documents. Contact President Mike San Dretto with your interest.

participating in CWTU programs and events when he is not traveling.

So we will be looking for a person or persons to do these positions. David did them all but if people want to divide them up that can work. If you would like to know more about what's involved contact David seligmand@gmail.com or me msandretto@aol.com .

Bob Jozwowski has come forward to become the new coordinator of the River Keepers. Many thanks to Bob. Our water monitoring program is stable and moving forward. The training day took place on May 16th and the teams have new chemicals for the season. If you are interested in the science side of trout habitat protection contact Bob at bojjozwowski@gmail.com .

May 16th was also the first steam work day of the season and we had a very special surprise. The Elliot Donnelley Chapter of Trout Unlimited not only showed up to help out but presented us with a donation of \$4000 for our continuing stream restoration work. This is a real vote of confidence in the work our chapter does along with Shawn Sullivan of the Wisconsin DNR and his crew. Many showed up for the work day, accomplished a lot and had a good time. In this issue of the Brookie there is a good article by Bill Vance about the experience of participating in a work day.

Work days aren't just work. Most start off with a presentation by Shawn Sullivan WDNR about the river and the restoration to be done. In the talk Shawn weaves in a lot of information about area history, stream biology, plant species and more. You will learn more about the river and how to fish it. Everyone works at their own pace or takes turns as most of us have an ache or pain somewhere. If you haven't been to a workday and would like to give it a try, contact Scott Bahn at sabahnrodco@new.rr.com. Scott does a wonderful job of organizing our work days.

Check out the website www.cwtu.org for details on the Casting and Kayak Clinic June 9th.

Two words keep popping up as I write. They are "Thank you" and "contact". The time and help people give to the chapter are always greatly

appreciated. Most would tell you volunteering in CWTU has brought them new friends and experiences on the river. If you haven't been to a chapter meeting or event there are a lot of ways to get started with contacts listed here and on the website. Come join us. I believe you will remember it as time well spent. Thanks for being part of Trout Unlimited.

Mike San Dretto

*Save the Date: Tuesday, June 9
Annual Casting Clinic and Kayak
Fishing Clinic, Arthur Marble
Park, Winneconne. Food starts at
5:00, program starts at 6:00.*

**CWTU Board of Directors
May 19, 2015**

Fin 'n Feather, Winneconne, WI

1. Meeting *called to order* by President San Dretto at 6:15 p.m.
2. Minutes of the previous meeting were *approved* as distributed.
3. Treasurer's Report was *approved* as distributed. Mr. Schaefer asked for approval to consolidate the several existing cash accounts and put them into a smaller number of interest bearing accounts, at the treasurer's discretion. Motion was made and *approved*.
4. River Keepers: Mr. Jozwowski was greeted as the new

coordinator for the CWTU River Keepers. He thanked the previous coordinators, Messrs. Fahrenkrug and Gremmer for their great work and provided an update on the new sampling protocols. There will be a webinar on June 5 for learning to enter data on the new SWIMS system. Team leaders should contact him if they need chemicals replenished.

5. Reports: a) Mr. Gremmer reported on the successful completion of this year's FVTC introduction to fly fishing class. b) Mr. Tucker reported on the successful Chapter representation at the Oshkosh Corporation Sustainability Fair. The Chapter should continue to seek out opportunities for community outreach. c) Mr. Beck reported on the recent State Council meeting. The Council will be surveying chapter leadership around the State in preparation for a new strategic planning exercise. Stream Girls is still looking for volunteers to help out with their June 19-20 event in Stevens Point. Contact Mr. Beck or Ms. Oberstadt. We currently have 9 youth enrolled for the summer Fishing Camp. There is room for about 7 more. d) Mr. Bahn reported on the recent workday on the White River. A good turnout despite

conflicts with various other events that weekend. A good showing from the Elliott Donnelly Chapter and the Fox Valley Chapter, culminating with a \$4000 contribution to the Workdays Fund from the Donnelly Chapter. The Trout and Salmon Foundation head was present and participated enthusiastically. Next workday will be June 20 on the Chaffee Creek.

6. Upcoming events: a) Mr. Harmon reported that after some ups and downs enrollment in the 38th Trout School is up to 17. They could accommodate perhaps another two. Proceeds go to the Chapter's Education Fund. b) Mr. Haase reported that the Outdoor Expo, May 20-21 will have 10 of the 15 TU representatives from our Chapter. This is a familiar pattern, with CWTU providing strong representation at many events around the State. He noted that additional help is desired for the annual youth event at Mackenzie Center in Poynette where as many as 2000 kids may be expected. Contact Mr. Haase. c) Ms. Tucker reported on the 2016 Conservation Banquet, scheduled for October 10 at the Best Western Premier in Oshkosh. The event will start

and end earlier this year. Auctioneer will be Yoder. See website, cwtu.org for details. The committee is still looking for some donated items: golf package, fly tying equipment, wading staff, jewelry. Tickets will be \$35 in advance, \$45 at the door.

7. Historian: Mr. Burke is completing records on chapter history including all chapter presidents and all awards and recognitions. Those with such knowledge and information should contact Mr. Burke. Mr. Tucker will arrange for a group photo of all living CWTU presidents.
8. Old Business: None
9. New Business: Mr. Herlache discussed the need for chainsaw safety instruction for chapter members involved with workday projects. The Board encouraged him to pursue this and report back.
10. Meeting *adjourned* at 7:20 p.m., followed by a terrific presentation for the first annual Robert Hunt Memorial Lecture, with Phyllis Hunt and members of the Hunt family in attendance. The Chapter also welcomed several special guests including Duke Welter and Bill Heart.

Respectfully submitted,
David Seligman, Secretary



John Gremmer presents the first Bob Hunt Memorial Lecture to an attentive crowd



John Gremmer with Phyllis Hunt and son, David Hunt
(Photo Credits: Bob Haase)

Another “Lucky Day” 5/16/2015

On our calendar, in the space for 5/16/2015, is written “workday”. For many, such a designation for an early Saturday morning with decent weather might carry the weight of obligation and unpleasantness. For my wife, Mary Jo, and me, it says “opportunity”, for it was a CWTU workday.

The opportunities began at 8:00 A.M. on a stretch of the West Branch of the White River, just south of Wautoma, where coffee, donuts and meeting up with friends old and new started things off. CWTU members, along with colleagues from the Elliot Donnelly TU chapter in Chicago were

then given their mission by Shawn Sullivan, DNR Fisheries Operations Supervisor. Shawn's team of Scott Bahn, Chris Northway, Steve Levitt, Kyle Seibers and Joe Watson were the working directors who led the volunteers in their tasks.

The general goal of the project is to reestablish the channel of this section of the White River. This is a huge, long term project. The original channel, when undisturbed, was much more clearly defined and ran deep and cold. The effects of an upstream dam, over several decades, has been to reduce the flow, which has made the channel wider and allowed silt to accumulate. The shallower, slower water has become warmer, endangering trout.



Unsold, dead and discarded Christmas trees are a valuable resource in this project. With the guidance of the DNR team, stakes are driven defining an area of the river to be filled in. Trees, which were floated from the stockpile to the work area in a johnboat, are then stacked on the stakes and woven together forming a wall and platform.



Before



Same area, one year later



In some areas silt is removed from the channel and placed on the trees using the "Piranha". The Piranha is a small, but powerful, dredging machine mounted on pontoon tubes about eight feet long.

Piranha at work



The suction tube is jammed into the silt to be removed. Team members then deposit the silt with the output tube onto and behind the newly created wall of trees, redefining the bank. Over time, the increased flow will reestablish the channel and remove silt, exposing rocks and logs, habitat for forage and fish. Wing dams were built Saturday in a similar fashion on wider portions of the river. These create eddies, which will naturally deposit silt behind each wing dam, thus narrowing the channel, increasing flow, uncovering riverbed and lowering water temperature.

Before



After



This work is challenging and rewarding. We can already see positive results from work that we did last year. The “can do”, cooperative attitude presented by Shawn and his team lifts spirits and creates a “laid back” environment that inspires confidence, produces good work and promotes the building of friendships. As retired teachers, Mary Jo and I recognize and appreciate the qualities of good teachers in Shawn and the crew, namely knowledge, effective communication and passion for the work.

Over a great lunch of burgers, brats and beans, the feats of

the morning were recounted and, of course, fishing stories were shared in a relaxed buzz of talk and laughter. As the men and women left to pursue fishing, chores or other family activities, I stayed to drink in the knowledge of fishing and the environment. The group, now down to about ten from the thirty plus of the morning, continued to share as Shawn got out his easel with the enlarged aerial photo of this section of the river. After a long morning of hard work and directing, Shawn wielded a sharpie on the photo, outlining his vision for the river. Whether answering questions about the river, fishing, the politics or the work, the level of passion was palpable. While taking this all in, the teacher in me observed Shawn's adolescent son. Shawn was on a roll, it was clearly time to go and the boy was showing subtle signs that he was ready to leave. As Shawn took yet another question, I approached the young man. I said, "I'll bet it's hard to wait when your dad is going on like this, but listen to him. If you ever find something to do in your life about which you can feel that kind of passion, you will be a very lucky man."

I headed out that afternoon feeling very satisfied. I had shared meaningful work with my wife and new friends and I had learned a great deal. Driving along I found myself

smiling broadly. Indeed, I too am a very lucky man.

Bill Vance

(Photo Credits: Shawn Sullivan, Jeff Wegand)