

# BROOKIE NEWS

December 2015



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

## Riffles, Runs and Pools

By President Mike SanDretto

Great News! Laura Tucker is your new Chapter Vice President. Laura has considered taking on the position for a while and was elected unanimously at the December meeting. Laura has served for years on the Board of Directors and as Banquet Chair. She always brings clarity and common sense to discussion of issues that come before the Board. If you have been to a CWTU banquet you have seen her great organizational skills in action. We all congratulate and welcome Laura to her new role in chapter leadership. Thank you Laura. Much of the November and December meetings has been devoted to all things financial. We have done our budgeting for the coming year. CWTU continues to have sound reserves and ample funds for restoration projects and chapter programs. All because of the help and generosity of members like you. An audit conducted by John Tucker, Scott Grady and Mike Schaefer found our financial practices are

in order. The board reviewed new recommendations from Trout Unlimited on financial and property controls for chapters and put them into effect. We approved money to support Limited Term Employees of Shawn Sullivan's DNR work crew.



*Shawn Sullivan discuss fishing opportunities  
Photo submitted by Bob Burke*

This truly increases the amount of stream restoration work that can be done in Central Wisconsin. The grant application we and the Elliot Donnelley Chapter of TU made to the Trout and Salmon Foundation was successful. We received \$3000 which will be used for restoration work on the Pine River at Aniwa Road over the next few years. Jeff Treu has been working on funding for Lake Michigan wild steelhead research with multiple TU chapters on or near Lake Michigan. We donated to this fund and thank Jeff for putting this together. The greatest threat to cold water streams of Central Wisconsin is unregulated ground water use. High capacity wells can pump vast amounts of water rapidly. We are using ground water faster than nature can replenish it. Bob Burke authored a position paper on the subject approved by the board and reviewed by Wisconsin TU State Council leadership. If you would like a copy I can email or send it to you [msandretto@aol.com](mailto:msandretto@aol.com), (920-722-8478). Legislation is pending in the Wisconsin

State Legislature. Be ready to contact your Representatives and Senators as the various bills are presented in the spring session. We are coming into that time of year when you would spend time tying flies and telling tall tales. Coming in 2016, the new early season begins January 2<sup>nd</sup> on streams that have been open for the early season in the past. If the type of weather we have been having continues, it may not be so bad to get out fishing.

Happy Holidays to you and your families!

## **Sleepless in Sand County**

By Jeff Wegand

Winter has just started and cabin fever is setting in and leaving me extremely restless. The deer gun hunt was cold but it has been a lonely winter for my snow shoes and skis. Winter season also limits the time that my dog Gracie is able to get out. When it gets to be too long, she is sure to let us know!



After the cardboard incident, it was obvious a river outing was necessary. I put some orange on and she began pacing frantically. I don't blame her because I can't wait to go for a walk by the river too!

I think to myself, have the holes in the river changed for better or worse? Are the springs still active? Will I see some late season fish on their redds? Will I see any new beaver dams? Have the otters been active? How are our restoration projects holding up? It will be nice to answer some of these questions. Nevertheless it will be a good day unless Gracie finds a pile of raccoon poop and rolls in it. I stop the car and Gracie is on my lap whining because I need to open the door. It is difficult to judge who is more excited.



We reach the river and I see a couple of spindly may flies pop off. "Crazy el nino winter" I say to myself. If I see a rise I will need to pinch myself.



We continue to walk around and I hear a pileated wood pecker. They sound very

similar to the cartoon woody wood pecker. It takes a while but I find him. I stand on a high bank for a while and I see an osprey. It was great to see the wood pecker but there is a definite sign that the fishing is good! Soon after I see a couple trout sitting under a Waushara riffle (downed tree). I kind of enjoy hiking more sometimes because there is no expectation and I am always glad I took a walk in our area. I encourage you all to get out and explore the state property that we all own. You never know what you may find...

## **Lake Michigan Fisheries Management Update**

By Nick Legler

First, I'd like to thank CWTU for inviting me to participate as a guest presenter at the November 10, 2015 meeting in Winneconne. I enjoyed meeting with CWTU and appreciated the opportunity to share information and receive feedback. A few updates from my presentation are summarized below.



*Nick Legler with a steelhead at the Besadny Anadromous Fisheries Facility*

**Fall Spawning Runs** – Although Lake Michigan Salmonids do reproduce naturally, these fisheries are managed largely through stocking. WI DNR operates three egg collection facilities on Lake Michigan including the Strawberry Creek Salmon Spawning Facility in Sturgeon Bay, Besadny Anadromous Fisheries Facility (BAFF) in Kewaunee, and Root River Steelhead Facility in Racine. WI egg collection goals were reached this fall, which is an important step towards future stocking that will help support both lake and tributary fisheries for Lake Michigan. Tributary fisheries in WI remain especially dependent on stocking because local natural reproduction is limited.

**Hatchery Renovations** – The Kettle Moraine Springs Fish Hatchery produces all the steelhead for stocking in WI waters of Lake Michigan, and funds have recently been allocated to rebuild this hatchery. This facility is aging and has significant infrastructure failures which have contributed to stocking shortfalls. For example, steelhead stocking numbers are down and Skamania are no longer produced (figure 1). Skamania are a 'summer run' steelhead that run upstream in August-October and spawn in January-February. Past hatchery production of Skamania in WI involved collecting fish during spawning runs and then holding these fish at Kettle Moraine until eggs were collected. This Skamania production was terminated due to fish health concerns associated with holding live feral broodstock at a hatchery. With hatchery renovations, WI DNR will once again be able to meet steelhead stocking goals including proper numbers, size, stocking time, and genetic strains (including Skamania, with a quarantine facility).

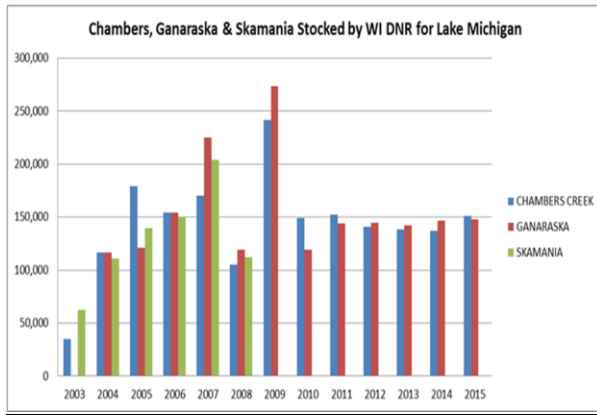


Figure 1. Numbers of steelhead by strain stocked by WI DNR. WI DNR's current stocking goal is about 500,000 total steelhead.

**Upcoming Research** – Although natural reproduction from WI is likely minimal for Lake Michigan steelhead and salmon, wild smolts have been identified in several WI tributaries. Little is known about the extent of this local natural production or its contribution to the fishery, but proposed and ongoing research seeks to evaluate this. One particular graduate research project with the WI Cooperative Fishery Research Unit at the University of WI-Stevens Point and WI DNR is in development and set to begin in 2016. This project will evaluate habitat, abundance, outmigration, and genetic strain of wild juvenile trout and salmon (primarily targeting steelhead). Natural reproduction of trout and salmon is an important component of Lake Michigan's predator-prey balance and a better understanding of this production will help guide future fisheries management decisions. Great Lakes salmon stamp funds are allocated for this project, but additional funds are needed to purchase equipment and conduct genetic testing.

**Conclusions** – Many exciting steelhead projects are on the horizon for WI. Especially as these projects develop, I look forward to future discussions, collaborations, and sharing more about steelhead with your TU group.

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 Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
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## CWTU LOGOWEAR NEWS

Beginning after the first of the year, CWTU members will have various new logo wear options through Initial Design Embroidery. The Chapter will have embroidered two-tone caps along with other CWTU logo wear available for sale.

Individual members will be able to bring their own clothing items (excluding caps) to have the CWTU logo embroidered on them. Clothing items must be relatively new, clean, and in good condition. Cost will be \$8.50 per item.

Members may also order individual clothing items such as fishing shirts, sweatshirts, vests, jackets, etc. in their choice of size, style, and color, without having to wait for a bulk order. Initial Design has extensive catalogs of these items from many high quality manufacturers, and can be embroidered with the CWTU logo.

W4987 Hwy B, Eden, south of Fond du Lac  
<http://www.initial-design.com/>  
 Phone: 920-477-5062

## Something Is In Kewanee County Water

By Jim Murphy

Water debate roils in Kewanee County. Although, the sand country differs in composition it has many of the same attributes as the karst topography of Kewanee County. The ground is porous in both allowing contamination to move through the soils quickly into groundwater.

CWTU is focusing on the effects of high capacity wells and rightfully so.

Nevertheless we should continue to consider another negative impact that mega farms have on groundwater.

Kewaunee County currently has over 76,000 cows and growing that are mostly housed on 15 large farms. They produce over 1.5 million tons of manure each year that is mixed with water and spread on fields as fertilizer.

Environmentalists say the amount of manure produced by these cows is more than the land can absorb. No scientific study has been conducted in Kewaunee County and the following data comes from voluntary testing coordinated by county land and soil conservation offices. Nevertheless, between 2004 and 2010, 556 individual wells in the county were tested and almost 30% were contaminated with unsafe levels of nitrates and bacteria.

Kinnard Farms has been a major target as it expands to accommodate at least 6,500 milking cows. The contaminated wells around the farm's 5,000 acres far exceed contamination levels in any other part of the county.

Industrial Farm Owners and their supporters suggest that the groundwater contamination is due to failed septic systems and wells from past small farming operations?

Dave Mindak's experience in the town of Lincoln may serve as a microcosm for all sides in the argument. He is a neighbor of Kinnard Farms. In 2013 he had his private well tested. The water proved positive for both human and bovine bacteria sources.

The results provide evidence that manure from the neighboring farm had indeed infiltrated his water supply. But, it also indicated that he likely had a bad well or a leaking septic system. Dave had a new well dug and at this point has had no further problems. However, he has said that liquid manure spread in the Kinnard fields,

surrounding his property, has puddled in low spots within yards of his house which may lead to future contamination.

This brief article is an example of what is occurring on our CWTU landscape. If you are involved in something similar or see something concerning please write your state representatives. If you would like to support our local water follow this link <https://www.booster.com/save-wisconsin-water>.

## **CWTU Board of Directors Meeting 12/8/15**

Fin & Feather in Winneconne

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

**Minutes Meeting November, 10th 2015** approved as distributed.

**Treasurer's Report** distributed by Mike Schaefer. Motion carried to approve Treasurer's report.

**Audit Report** John Tucker, Mike Schaefer and Scott Grady conducted an audit of Chapter finances. CWTU uses a selected monthly sampling to prove another year of accurate reporting!

**Laura Tucker for Vice President**- call for vote and motion was passed to have Laura as Vice President.

**Trout Unlimited Policy on Financial and Property Controls.** Goal is to chip away on TU national recommendation. First thing implemented was 2 signature check approval. Next step is to review checks once a month by a separate chapter member as an auditor and Bob Jozowski volunteered.

**Wild Rose Habitat Crew LTE Funding Need is 15 K.** Prior to the meeting there were discussions of following donations to meet the goal: \$3500 from Shawpaca, \$3200

from film tour, \$3150 from CWTU, \$3150 from Fox Valley, Fox Valley friends grant \$2000. There was a motion from board to approve \$4150 and it carried. Extra money can be utilized for more LTE work or in case Friends grant does not go through.

**Steelhead Reproduction and Habitat Study Funding - Jeff Treu.** Is looking for funding for Great Lakes Initiative to study natural reproduction on feeder creeks to Lake MI. This study would provide information for future restoration and regulations on small tributary creeks to MI supporting natural reproduction. Jeff contacted 6 Chapters to contribute \$700 for combined total of \$4 K for telemetry studies. There was a motion from board to use \$1000 from Nash fund to support this study. Motion was carried.

**WI TU State Council Banquet.** State Council is looking for \$500 in cash minus Bob Haase is creating fly box. The board motion to approve money and it carried.

**Chainsaw Safety Training Update - Gary Herlache.** FISTA training is about \$130 a person and chapter is looking to support. Send Gary an email if interested, herlache57@gmail.com.

**River Keeper Update – Bob Jozwowski** in January

**Watch dog** John Tucker has agreed to become a watch dog. Below is attached is definition of the position.

1. All members of CWTU are the eyes and ears for protecting our water environment. See something, say something.
2. Contact the Chapter Watch Dog when a problem is spotted.
3. The Watch Dog will work with the Spotter to verify and document the problem.
4. The Watch Dog will set up a file for the problem and contacts the DNR or other appropriate agency.
5. The Watch Dog will track and report on the progress of resolution to the Board until the file is closed.

**Groundwater Position Paper** We have a position paper on groundwater and Bob Burke is the author with support from our friend Professor George Kraft. It has been reviewed by the executive committee. The reason for the position paper is an applicant for HCW cannot be revoked or repealed. A recent bill was introduced to state senate that would authorize new owner to have grandfathered rights to HCW. We believe the DNR should be given the ability to review these on a case by case basis because we know the concentrated HCW have an effect on our local cold water resources. So as ownership changes hands a permit for that HCW should be reviewed. We are also suggesting that DNR should be able to modify rights of HCW if deemed negative to surrounding resource and other use of water. Board moved to motion that CWTU should distribute position paper to senators, congressman in the area and TU state council. Motion was approved.

**Chapter Awards** presented by Dan Harmon III. Brookie award was presented to David Seligman because he was not available for banquet in fall of 2015.



*David Seligman accepts the Brookie award  
Photo submitted by Bob Burke*

**New business** none

**Old business** none

**Motion to Adjourn**

# Upcoming Events

## **CWTU Board meeting “Night of Caddis”**

**Charlie from Tight Lines and Tom Lager will give presentations.**

**Tuesday, January 12, 2016**

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

## **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>*

## **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*

## **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.*

## **CWTU Board meeting “A River Runs Through it” Scott Grady presents local river. 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  
cwtu.org*

## **“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”**

**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*

## **“Casting & Kayak Clinic” Tuesday, June 14, 2016**

*Riverside Bible Camp near Amherst  
5:00 pm – 8:00 pm  
A free event featuring casting & kayak  
demonstrations  
675 Grant St, Winneconne, WI, 54986  
cwtu.org*

## **“39<sup>th</sup> Annual Fly Fishing school” Saturday, June 17, 2016**

*Riverside Bible Camp near Amherst  
Weekend of fly fishing with 1 on 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)**

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