

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)

December 2013

Prez Sez

I hope you all had a great Thanksgiving and Christmas! It is a busy time and the best family time of the year. Some important issues are coming up quickly. A Wisconsin court recently upheld the DNR’s authority to require monitoring of ground water levels for new high capacity wells. This is good news in the short term, but there are

no guarantees the ruling will last. Senate Bill SB-302 will go to the floor for vote sometime after the first of the year and will restrict the DNR’s authority. Once the Bill is scheduled for vote, I will again ask members to contact their state Senators. Details of this confusing bill are available on the state web site.

No update yet on the status of our WITU License plate Bill.

Wisconsin DNR is working on revised Trout regulations. The fisheries biologists are under instructions to simplify the current regulations and to maintain a plan which best manages our streams. The proposal is subject to change from feedback, and we are providing feedback.

Please be sure to mark your calendars for the WITU banquet on Saturday, February 1 at the Best Western Premier Waterfront Hotel in Oshkosh. Cocktails begin at 3:30 and dinner at 6:45 pm. Tickets at the door are \$35 per person.

TroutFest is Saturday, February 14, 9am-4pm at the Fin ‘N Feather Restaurant in Winneconne.

Happy Holidays everyone!

John Tucker

**CWTU Board Meeting,
December 10, 2012
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 distributed.
3. Treasurer's report was *approved as distributed*. The Chapter has received its \$5000 match from the Trout and Salmon Foundation. We have rolled over the Citizens First CD.
4. Mr. Beck reported on the upcoming State Council Banquet which will be held in Oshkosh on Saturday, February 1. Members are urged to attend and to bring spouses and or guests. The Women's Initiative is being stressed, with Heidi Oberstadt now supporting the operation for TU National. There will be numerous breakout sessions, and the casting demos will be back now that there is a space in which to hold them. There will be six or so vendors represented. State Council is looking for volunteers to serve two hour shifts at the registration table, as volunteers to set up the prize tables. Members should contact Linn to volunteer. Contact Mike Kuhr for tickets at 414-588-4281.
5. Mr. SanDretto will do the mailing to approximately 112 members for whom we have no email addresses, as approved at the previous meeting, at a cost of approximately \$50. Mr. Tucker suggested that we do a couple of bulk mailings each year with our events calendar, fund raising appeals, etc. *Mr. Seligman will work with Mr. Haase to prepare a special "Holiday" edition of the Brookie, with calendar, fund raising appeal and text with pictures featuring the Chapter's stream work.*
6. Mr. Haase talked with DNR about the Bob Hunt Memorial project, to rename the Lawrence Creek Fisheries area and place a small monument at the site in Hunt's honor. It was *moved and seconded and approved by voice vote* to approve this specific request to the DNR and to expedite it through Ron Bruch at DNR. Mr. Harmon III reported that the Benches Project continues to wind its way through the bureaucracy.
7. Mr. Seligman polled the Board as to its wishes regarding the future of CWTU logo wear. It was suggested that we acquire the digitized logo and make it available to members to have embroidered on their own apparel, rather than having to

buy quantities of clothing in different sizes, etc., in order to complete an order. *Motion to make available up to \$100 for the production of a proprietary digital copy of the chapter logo was approved by voice vote.* Mr. Seligman will pursue the project.

8. Old Business: Mr. SanDretto gave an update on the Wautoma Pond issues. A UW expert met



with the group that is working on this issue. Mr. Burke continues to pursue this matter on behalf of the Chapter. Mr. Beck reported on the efforts to establish a Wisconsin Youth Fishing Camp. A location has been procured at Pine Lake for the period July 24-27. A committee is being formed to work on the details. It will require three dozen or so volunteers to teach all aspects of fishing.

9. New Business: Laura Tucker reported on preparation for the 2014 Chapter Banquet. It was *moved, seconded, and approved to appropriate \$500 to serve as a damage deposit (though this may be waived) and \$200 deposit to hold the space for an October 4 event.* Mr. Gremmer distributed posters for this year's introduction to fly fishing and tying class. The Chapter thanked Jeff Wegand for all his hard work on the Annual Conservation Banquet.
10. The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m. and was followed by a fine program presented by Bill Scherer.

**Respectfully submitted,
David Seligman, Secretary**

FALL ON THE TRIBS

For those of you who may not have had the opportunity to try your hand or should I say "Fly Rod" at fishing some of Wisconsin's fine tributary waters, well you might just be missing a chance to extend your fishing season, especially when it comes to Fall. Wisconsin tributary waters are open to fishing year round from the big lake upstream to the first dam or fish barrier. Several fishing

companions and I have enjoyed outstanding fishing for salmon and trout from September until well into January or longer during years of mild weather until ice finally grips these streams and it's only the thaw of Spring that once again opens these waters with the beginning of a new Season.

Although with many streams to



choose from it's some of the larger ones like the Menominee, Oconto, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Sheboygan, Milwaukee and Root that draw the most attention. That's not to say that many of the smaller waters can't be productive, especially during periods of high water. This happens more often in the Spring and at that time I find myself fishing a larger variety of water but come Fall when the fish start to enter these tributaries from Lake Michigan you're likely to find

my fishing companions and me on the



Sheboygan.

Last Fall Ira Giese, David Seligman, Dirk Denzin and myself found fishing for salmon and brown trout on the Sheboygan to once again be exceptional with several nice fish landed. However due in part to a harbor dredging project and low flows the steelhead fishing on the river was almost nonexistent. Fall of 2013 on the river seems once again to be back to what can be typically expected on these tributary rivers. This season came with good numbers of fish entering the river. Things usually get started about mid September with the arrival of the first kings (chinook salmon). To the fly angler this can sometimes be a frustrating fish prone to lock jaw, although given the right mood or perhaps the right fish, they can be persuaded to take a fly. Streamers, speys, nymph and egg

patterns can all be effective at times. These fish enter the river in large enough numbers to create an egg eating fishery due to all the eggs that



are deposited into the river system at this time. Brown trout, coho salmon and steelhead will enter the river to feed on this abundant food source. The coho salmon also spawns in the Fall usually starting in October followed by the browns in November and December. Although steelhead enter the river in the Fall they are for the most part a Spring spawning species.

There are many determining factors to Fall fishing, the spawn, water temp and clarity, etc but the single most important factor may be flow. The importance of flow in Fall fishing at a time of year when water levels may already be low can be critical to good fishing. Fall rains and rising water always seems to bring

fresh fish into the river system. Some of the best fishing of the season can occur a few days later after the water levels start to stabilize and then begin to slowly fall.



Whether drifting egg and nymph patterns or fishing my favorite method, swinging streamers and spey flies, dead drifted or twitched all these styles of fishing can be productive on Wisconsin tributary waters. My fishing companions and I are usually trying different flies or methods of presentation and then comparing notes to see what is or is not working. This can change from river to river day to day and even morning to afternoon on the same river or stream.

Regardless of your preferred fishing method, Fall fishing on Wisconsin tributary waters can be exciting at a time of year when you may have already stored your fishing gear for the season.



Trophy fish are always a possibility, as it is fish will run much larger than the average size you may be accustomed to. 7, 8, and even 9wt rods are the norm along with 5' to 10' sink tips in higher and faster flows. However in the end it's still fishing, with some days being better than others. If you're lucky you might end up tailing a big fish or at the very least end up with a big fish tail!

Jeff Treu

Fly Fishing and Fly Tying Class To Start on January

This will be the 16th year that Fox Valley Technical College has offered this class. The instructors this year will be Jim Murphy, Mike Sandretto, Bill Pable, Bob Haase and John Gremmer. The class meets eight times with six classroom sessions each running three hours and two outdoor sessions running three hours each. The outdoor sessions, held in May,

consist of a casting clinic and a one-on-one guiding experience on a local trout stream. Students will learn to tie fly fishing knots, buy equipment, select equipment, set up a fly rod, stream biology, fly fishing literature, the types of flies and how to fish them, to tie flies, where to fish, how to present flies to fish, etc. Our goal is that when the class is over, you will be able to go fly fishing on your own, use flies you have tied, be confident, and be successful. The class is held at Winneconne High School, meets on Tuesdays, runs from 6:00 pm till 9:00 pm, and costs \$98.08 dollars for those under 62 and \$88.78 for those 62 and over.

To sign up for the class contact FVTC at 1-920- 233-9191 or 1-877-272-4559. If you any problems contact me at 920-582-7802 or jgremmer@charter.net/.

John Gremmer

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.

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CWTU Secretary**

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Members are listed elsewhere on
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