

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)

January 2013

Prez Sez

As the days start to get a little longer and as we creep it seems ever so slowly to the early season in March, and as some of us start to get tired of reading about fishing and are hoping to get outside and actually wet a line there is hope. The end of February is a great time to come out and meet some new people and maybe find out about a secret spot or technique. Of course I am talking about Trout Fest. This is a day where you can spend it listening to seminars, talking with other fisherman, check out the fly tiers, and maybe talk to some vendors, and the best thing it is free. And just a couple of more things

*“I have no doubt that the Macedonian fly fishermen mentioned by Aelian in A.D. 200 would take one look at a modern trout pattern and know instantly what it was for. Then they would ask you a lot of questions about how to tie it.” Ted Leeson (quoted in *Midcurrent*)*

there are always chances to improve your gear or buy some fly tying supplies at the chapter’s rummage sale or possibly win something on the many raffles. On Saturday February 23rd at the Fin-n-Feather starting at 9:00 am, (of course some people will be there earlier), the festivities will start. There will be lunch available in the restaurant, and things will wrap up about 4:00 pm. So please make plans and try to come out and enjoy the day with us. More info is available on the website.

Spring is also the time for CWTU to start gearing up for our summer programs. Our water monitoring and work days will be getting ready to kick off a new season. Our work days will be working on a couple of different areas this summer so please check out the website or contact Scott Bahn at 920-886-9651 or e-mail him at sabahnrodco@new.rr.com for more info or if you would like to get on the e-mail list for work days.

John Gremmer, and Rick Fahrenkrug are getting ready for this year's water monitoring season, there will be a organizational meeting April 22 starting at 6:30 pm at the Fin-N-Feather in Winneconne, and a training session April 27th at Riverside park in Waupaca starting at noon for anyone interested. You can contact John at 920-582-7802 or Rick at 920-725-0255 with any questions.

Please join me in congratulating Bob Haase as he was honored by the Classic Anglers club in Green Bay for his work with the youth in fly tying programs. He was presented the Robert Reener's Award for all his hard work. This award is well deserved.

CWTU is always looking for people that would like to be more involved. As a group we now have a committee to better understand our needs and indentify and help develop members that are interested. But this will only work if we are able to get some of the members that are in the background and would like to get involved but don't know how, the information they would need to get involved. So if this is something that interests you whether it would be leadership, being a committee member or just maybe finding out the opportunities that await you, please contact myself or any board member and they will put you in touch with the committee.

Tight lines

Linn Beck CWTU president

The Future of the Brookie News (Second Notice)

*In accordance with the consensus of the CWTU Board of Directors (see the Minutes of the December Board Meeting below), the regular print edition of the Brookie News will begin to be phased out, starting with this December issue. **The Brookie will be offered in print edition as well as electronically on-line at the CWTU.org website only for December 2012, and January and February 2013, and then cease publication as a print edition for general distribution.** However, the Chapter will maintain a mailing list and will distribute a print edition to those members of the Chapter who do not have electronic access via the internet or who, for whatever reason, cannot or choose not to receive the electronic version. **If you wish to continue receiving the print edition of the Brookie, it is important that you notify the Chapter by February 28 by sending a note requesting continued print mailing, to the Chapter Secretary and Brookie Editor at CWTU, P.O. Box 3041, Oshkosh, WI 54903-3041.** The current plan is to send an email notification to all chapter members upon publication of each month's Brookie News, with a hot link to the Chapter website where each month's issue will continue to be published as they have been in the past. When you receive the email notice, you will*

merely click on the link and it should bring you directly to the month's Brookie as well as providing easy access to prior issues. Thus it is also important that the Chapter have a correct email address for each member. If you have not been receiving periodic mailings from the Chapter, chances are that we do not have a correct current email address for you. You can remedy that by simply sending an email to Mike Schaefers at: Mikeschaefers@gmail.com and your email address will be corrected in the Chapter data base. It is hoped that this policy change will provide significant cost savings to the Chapter so that we can fund the important on-stream goals of the Chapter as well as increasing the traffic to the website where a wealth of useful and important information can be found. Thanks for your continued support.

Ye Ed

**CWTU Board Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2013
Fin n Feather, Winneconne, WI**

Meeting called to order by President Beck at 6:18 p.m.
Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as distributed.
Treasurer's Report was approved (in record time) as distributed.
TU National Update: Mr. Beck reported on the schedule for the TU National Meetings to be held in Middleton: September 25, Guided

fishing for delegates; September 26, Conservation Tour; September 27, State of TU report and tailgate picnic; September 28, Business Meeting and Banquet. Hospitality rooms will be open on Friday and Saturday nights. Mr. Seligman reported that working committees for Guided Fishing, Hospitality Rooms, and Conservation Tour were working and that Fund Raising Committee has begun obtaining prizes for auctions and raffles. Several donated items including artisan bamboo fly rods have come from CWTU members Scott Grady and Scott Bahn. Mr. Haase has offered to coordinate Wisconsin fly boxes. Mr. Seligman indicated that the committee is responsible for set up, auction, and take down, and welcomes volunteers to assist with those duties on Saturday, Sept. 28. Tight Lines Fly Fishing Movie Night is sold out. Charlie Piette is attempting to obtain 20-30 additional tickets. Interested persons should contact Tight Lines a.s.a.p. This event will include fund raising benefit for DNR stream work crews. Membership/Leadership: The Executive Committee is meeting to review and improve membership recruitment and leadership development efforts for the Chapter. The State Council meeting in February will devote time to consideration of the same issues statewide. The March Board meeting will hold elections to executive

positions and board membership; members are encouraged to step up to Board and leadership positions. Contact President Beck. Next Executive Committee meeting January 15.

Trout Fest Update: Mr. Johnson reported that he and Mr. Smaglik are proceeding with planning. Tiers are lined up and six mini-seminars are so far set. Some additional planning will be necessary for dealing with space for the Gene West books and tying materials to be sold at Troutfest.

Dam info./Proposal: Mr. Wegand reported on his discussions with American Rivers regarding the possibility of working toward the permanent removal of the Wautoma Millpond dam. Mr. Wegand will work with Elward Engle and Shawn Sullivan to determine the feasibility of such a project, and possible CWTU involvement.

Old Business: No action taken on Mekan River Project funds pending further conversations with donors, the DNR, and other interested parties regarding the possibility of establishing a long-term continuing fund for the Mekan.

New Business: Kim McCarthy spoke regarding the request to sign on to a letter opposing the proposed mining bill in the legislature. While members continue to oppose efforts to weaken environmental protections, Mr. McCarthy reported that State Council's legislative liaison, Jeff Smith, found problems with the letter

and recommended against signing. Mr. McCarthy will be guided by his executive committee. Mr. Haase moved that the Chapter take no action at this time. Motion approved. Announcements: Mr. Haase was recognized at the recent Classic Anglers meeting with the Robert Reener's Award for his work with young people.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m. followed by an excellent program put together by Mr. Haase - Night of the Tiny Flies, with speakers Charlie Piette and Tom Lager and more than a dozen expert tiers demonstrating various patterns and recipes for bwo's and tricos. A large audience was in attendance.

**Respectfully submitted,
David Seligman, Secretary**

Winnefox Library News

Ira Giese reports that a fourth Dennis Potter DVD has been added to the Winne-Fox Library System (in Wautoma) It includes tying: I. C. Drake Spinner, Spruce Moth, Rivergod Emerger - Sulphur PMD, Fry Bugger Opal Butt Trico, and the Adams Perfection.

Fly Fishing and Fly Tying Class

Fox Valley Technical College, in collaboration with Central Wisconsin Trout Unlimited, is offering an introduction to fly fishing and fly

tying class that will feature a casting seminar, and an on-stream, guided, fly fishing experience. Introduction to Fly Fishing and Fly Tying will be held in Winneconne.

John Gremmer, Jim Murphy, Bob Haase, Tracy Moran, Mike Sandretto, Bob Smaglik, David Seligman, Ira Giese, and many other CWTU members will be helping instruct this class.

Approximately two hours of each class will be spent on fly tying. Remaining class time will feature equipment selection, fly types, knot tying, fly presentation, fly selection, fly fishing organizations, and where to fish. Additional features include fly fishing resources (books, magazines, videos, etc.), fly fishing the Internet, leader making, stream biology, hatch charts, casting technique, warm water fly fishing and “why fly fishing”.

An April, on-the-water, fly casting session, and a May evening of guided fly fishing, on a local stream, will be included in the class activities. The Winneconne class (Class # 63716), meets once a week, starts on Tuesday, April 2, 2013, ends May 21, 2013, and will meet at Winneconne High School. The Class meets eight times, beginning at 6:00 p.m., for a duration of three hours. Class fee is \$94.01 for students under age 62 and \$85.13 for students age 62 and over. All participants will pay a \$15 materials fee and have the option of purchasing their own fly tying tools.

To learn more about the class, contact John Gremmer at

jgremmer@charter.net or 920-582-7802, or check our CWTU website at www.cwtu.org/(click on activities).

To enroll in the class, call the FVTC at 920-735-5645.

Know anyone who might benefit from this class? Please pass the information on to them.

John Gremmer

Ira Giese on Bonefishing Andros Island with Tighlines

There were 8 of us on the trip with Tim Landwehr from Tight Lines Fly Shop in DePere. We landed in Nassau and took a short puddle jumper flight over to Andros Island. Andros is the largest island in the Bahamas, over 100 miles long. It is interersected by at least 3 large openings, called bights. Our lodge, Mangrove Cay, was located on the middle bight. We were told that the middle bight had the most flats, and thus the best fishing. That may be true, or just local propaganda. It was amazing how large that territory is. We would usually run for about 45 minutes in the morning before we started fishing. At first, I thought it was just because the guides wanted a little time before they started poling. However, the last day, I asked our guide about fishing closer to the lodge, and he explained that we needed to run that far to get into the low tide. At low tide, the bonefish move up on the flats to feed.

At high tide, they move up the creeks or into the mangroves. They are a very skittish fish, because they are prey for sharks, barracuda, herons, osprey, etc. So, the very shallow water is safer for them, from the larger fish. Where we usually think of deep water as safety for the fish, it is not that way for bonefish!

The lodge is top shelf, with meals that I will be paying for with trying to lose weight for a long time. The chef, Ike, has been to many culinary schools, and every meal was incredible. We had conch, lobster, or fish with every evening meal. Accommodations were superb, much more than I would be used to.

Now for the fishing: Don't go bonefishing in order to learn how to cast. Do that before you go!! You do not cast until your guide sees the fish. If you are very lucky, you may see it also. In most cases, for me, I did not see the fish unless it got quite close to the boat. A typical sequence would be the guide calling out, "Give me a cast at 9 o'clock, 40 feet, let it sit, strip long, strip long, pick it up and give me 50 ft at 11 o'clock. He's moving to the right, give me a backcast at 11 o'clock, 30 feet, long strip, long strip." If you were lucky, somewhere in there the bonefish would eat, and you would have a streaking bonefish on your line. Sometimes you would have 5-10 "shots", with no eats. Other times, we would average a fish every three "shots". You hook the fish on the strip, not by lifting the rod top.

The rod comes up only after the fish is well hooked. When the fish realizes that it is hooked, the line lying on the bottom of the boat becomes electric, jumping off the floor of the boat and whipping through the line guides. If your boat partner has made sure that the line on the bottom of the boat is arranged neatly, and you don't get it hooked around the reel, your feet, etc., the bonefish will be off on one of his 100-150 yard runs, peeling all the fly line and much of your backing off the reel. Once he is "on the reel", you can relax a little, and enjoy the fight. The bonefish in the Bahamas run larger than they do in many other places, and ours averaged from 2-4 lbs. Tim caught the largest of the trip, around 9 lbs. The first day, partly due to my being new, we caught our lowest number of the trip - three. The next day we caught 9. The middle days averaged 5, and the last day we caught 15 or 17, I'm not sure which, and it really doesn't matter. I just know that we were into fish most of the day. It could definitely become addicting.

One evening after supper, I went down on the dock, and used one of the lodge's spinning rods to fish for sharks. We could see them cruising by, with the dock lights on. The chef had left us a bucket of fish heads and bodies, so we did a little chumming, and heaved out a fish head. Pretty soon the rod started bucking in the rod holder, and I was fast to about a 6 ft bull shark. It went pretty wild when

hooked, and we could just see it out at the edge of the light, breaching out of the water about 5-6 times. It was pretty wild for about 15 minutes, and then I was finally able to recover some line and bring him in. Tim cut the line above the wire leader, and he was free to go out and eat some more fish. Unfortunately, I was excited and did not get a picture of the whole shark prior to cutting the line. So, the only picture I have is of just the head. Tim did get a video of it, and I should be able to get a copy of that. Try it when you can, just realize that if you do, it may not be your only trip to the salt!



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