

# BROOKIE NEWS

November 2015



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

## Riffles, Runs and Pools

By President Mike SanDretto

I am still smiling when thinking about the banquet on October 10th. This was a wonderful get together. So good to meet new people and see old friends. The Best Western Waterfront Hotel and Convention Center in Oshkosh was a great place for the gathering. The Banquet had excellent food and lots of space. The number of people attending the banquet increased from last year and there was excitement about the



*CWTU 2015 Banquet youth raffle ( right to left Sue Bouck Ethan Sullivan and Russ Bouck)lots of fun*

prizes along with lots of laughter. It was a successful fundraiser for us to fund our future projects. Thanks to all who attended and made it such an enjoyable evening. Thanks you to Laura Tucker and the Banquet Committee for putting together this well planned event.



*Main Branch of White*

At our May 2015 stream restoration workday the Elliott Donnelley Chapter of Trout Unlimited from the Chicago area donated \$4000 to our chapter. Wow! This donation shows a high degree of trust and confidence in our ability to put the funds to good use in Central Wisconsin trout streams. The highlight of the November business meeting was figuring out how to put this money to work. Shawn Sullivan WDNR was invited and had prepared a project proposal. It is a project to improve fishing access on the Main Branch of the White River. It lays out a plan to make trails along low lying sections of the river with wooden palate grates that become essentially invisible when vegetation grows through the openings. It will make it a lot easier to get to the river in swampy areas. The Board of Directors really liked the project and approved it. Fishing access and fishability of our streams is a high priority for CWTU.

This is the time of year we report to TU National about the Central Wisconsin

Chapter activities and finances. That's right, the national organization wants to know how well we are doing. In the report I ran across a number that might interest you. For the past year we are reporting 5812 volunteer hours of service. That is an amazing statistic of service from all of you to achieve our goals. We are restoring and monitoring our streams. We are also teaching men, women and kids how to fish and tie flies. We have quality informational programs that cover fishing, fish habitat, rivers, streams, the environment and more. It all adds up. Central Wisconsin trout streams are better off because of you. People here are better informed about cold water fisheries because of you. Thank you for all you do for Trout Unlimited.

## **Sleepless in Sand County**

By Jeff Wegand

Wilderness is calling to me and a Lake Michigan tributary rarely suffices. I like catching fish but the concrete jungle borders many of Lake MI's eastern tributary rivers. So, I find a willing soul to join me and we head north to the "President's River".



This river was once a renowned brook trout fishery that Eisenhower, Coolidge, Cleveland, Grant and Hoover all fished as a destination. In fact, Coolidge ran the

country out of Cedar Island estate the summer of 1927. I have fished the river several times as a spring creek in the summer, mostly to extend my hex fishing, but never for the fall steelhead.

My friend Jeff makes the arrangements to stay in Brule River Classic cabins. We walk into the main office and Chloe introduced herself. She has a huge shadow box on the wall of beautiful tied flies that are mostly hex patterns. Jeff mentioned that one of the flies is his. She kindly remarked that it could be your fly and goes on to discuss how much she misses the fly shop.

Nevertheless, a craftsman knows his work and the personal details of the fly. It is the experience of tying and fishing that molds the design of each to its maker. Chloe goes on to say "This was in the fly shop before it closed down several years ago". She mentioned how much she liked relating to all the fly fishermen and running the fly shop. She smiled and the conversation brings her back to those memories.

"Where are you guys are from" she asked. To make it easy I always say Oshkosh but I mention we fish Waushara County spring creeks. There is a twinkle in her eye and she starts to tell us a story about fishing the White in Waushara. "Oh yes, I remember it well...it was 1:00 am in the morning and my ex-husband Ronny was still fishing" said Chloe. "I finally caught up with him above the power lines by the high bank. Ronny remarked how he could not leave until he caught this fish still working in hole above." "Well, what are you waiting for?" Chloe sarcastically said. Ronny commented that he has tried several times without a sniff of interest from the fish. "Can I try?" said Chloe. This puts Ronny in a pinch where he offers her a try. On Chloe's first cast and drift she caught the 17" brown that was feeding. To me there is no better achievement to a trout fisherman or woman when you can catch a fish someone else

can't. Her face glowed, and I understand from experience both sides of the fence. The devil is always in the details and when I put two and two together I recall her ex-husband was a guide in Waushara County which makes her success even sweeter!



The cabins were clean, the river was beautiful, and had a great time with Jeff. I am now addicted to two handed casting. We may have to try this again and visit Chloe to hear some more stories.

## **CWTU Board of Directors Meeting 11/10/15**

Fin & Feather in Winneconne

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

**Minutes Meeting September, 8th 2015** approved as distributed.

**Treasurer's Report** distributed

**September Financials** approved and distributed

**October Financials** approved and distributed

**BUDGET 2015-2016** Let me or Mike Schaefer know if there are items we should be planning for in the budget. Focus on

communication next year. River Keepers and Work days need new displays? Bob Haase described need for a new laptop. Let's start to think about what we want to budget for. Budget was approved and distributed.

**Audit Report** John Tucker, Mike Schaefer and Scott Grady conducted an audit of Chapter finances and will report in December because of John's absence in November meeting.

**TROUT UNLIMITED FINANCIAL BEST PRACTICES** TU has a new policy on financial and property controls. It is very good and is easy to read. Mike Schaefer and Scott Grady have already made changes to have two people sign checks. There are other changes we should consider let's talk about more next month.

**Banquet Report** economically a very successful banquet that shows a record revenue year!

**Laura Tucker for Vice President** Laura is willing to serve as Vice President. We will vote in December.

**Elliott Donnelley TU Donation In May the Elliott Donnelley Chapter of Trout Unlimited donated \$4000 to our chapter.**

This gift demonstrates a high level of trust in our work. We should consider best uses for the money. Shawn Sullivan WDNR was contacted to provide some ideas on how we can use this money to improve a stream. Shawn presented and discussed with the chapter a project to create trails for fishability on White River. Idea was voted on and approved.

**Watch dog** John Tucker has agreed to become a watch dog. Thank you John we will discuss more in December.

**Groundwater Position Paper** We have a position paper on groundwater. Bob Burke is the author. It has been reviewed by the executive committee and will be presented to the board and discussed more in December.

**Chapter Awards** presented by Dan Harmon III. John Gremmer was given Ozzie award because he was not able to attend banquet. John was very happy and honored to be presented this lifetime achievement award.

**WI TU State Banquet** Time to start planning for the state banquet. Again they are looking for \$500 worth of prizes or \$500 in cash. Contact Mike San Dretto msandretto@aol.com for tickets (\$35 each) if you want some. Early bird (before 12/31/15) ticket holders will get 10 free raffle tickets.

**WI TU State Council Awards** Mike San Dretto asked all present to check the inside back cover (page 27) of the October issue of Wisconsin Trout about nominations for State Council Awards? Many board members may know about achievements of chapter members that are worthy of an award. Any TU member can make a nomination and are encouraged to do so. Mike can help with an application if needed. Details of the various awards and how to contact Bill Heart are in Wisconsin Trout.

**New business** none

**Old business** none

**Motion to Adjourn**

# Upcoming Events

## **Riverkeepers Wrap Up Meeting**

**Monday, November 19, 2015**

*Fin and Feather (upstairs banquet area)*

*5:30 PM*

*22W Main St, Winneconne, WI, 54986*

*Contact Bob Jozowski bobjozowski@gmail.com,*

*Phone (920)765-188*

## **CWTU Board meeting**

**“Central WI Restoration 2014-2015”**

**By Shawn Sullivan, Habitat  
Operations Supervisor.**

**Tuesday, December 8th, 2015**

*Fin and Feather (upstairs banquet area)*

*6:15 board meeting 7:30 program*

*22W Main St, Winneconne, WI, 54986*

*cwtu.org*

## **CWTU Board meeting**

**Night of “Tying fun”**

**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*

## **“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*

**\*\*\*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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