



2002 Wisconsin Trout Stamp
By Bill Millonig

BROOKIE NEWS

Central Wisconsin Trout Unlimited

Conserving, Protecting and Restoring Coldwater Fisheries

April 2016

Riffles, Runs and Pools

By President Mike SanDretto

If someone told me they wanted to experience what Trout Unlimited was all about and they didn't have a lot of time, I would tell them to come to a workday. It's actually a half day. For many it's a half work and half fishing day. We call them "workdays" but "work" is only part of the experience. Everyone leaves feeling good about what they did to improve a stream that needed help. They remember the people they worked with, understand the challenges facing our home waters and become confident we can make a big difference in the health of a stream.

People gather for a workday about 7:30 AM. Coffee and something simple to eat will be there. At 8:00 AM Shawn Sullivan WDNR gives a white board presentation often with photos and maps about the project and work of the day. Because he takes his time you will also learn about trout, their needs, and how the health of the stream and surrounding land is all part of the picture. The work is whatever is planned to be done that morning and everyone does only what they feel comfortable with. Some of us need to

take it easier than others. While there is in stream work there is also work that is done on the stream bank and ways to help you may not have thought of. Photographers are always welcome so we can document and get the word out about the good work we do. As it gets later in the morning the heroes are those setting up and preparing lunch. And there are more ways to help make a workday successful. Lunch is served at noon, a celebration of the work done and a time to relax. It is a chance for everyone to get to know each other better.

There are many ways to participate in and support Central Wisconsin Trout Unlimited and they are all important to help us achieve our goals. There is however something about being part of a workday which energizes people to stay involved in TU. They see a stream already in better shape than when they got there in the morning. Dennis Drazkowski, John Tucker, Laura Tucker and myself went to the TUDARE Project Planning workshop in Westby, Wisconsin April 2-3. Sessions on workdays were very helpful

to plan workdays that are safe, fun and welcoming of people of all ages and abilities. One big change we are working on is to have a porta-potti at the workday sites. This convenience will make life easier for all who want to participate at the workdays.

Thank you to all who donated so generously to our Stream Restoration Fund this year. If you haven't given this year, please consider a contribution. Here is a link to the contribution form: <http://webzoom.freewebs.com/cwtu/Central%20Wisconsin%20Trout%20Unlimited.pdf>. If you have trouble with the link, let me know and I will send you the form.

Thank you Jeff Treu and the team that worked to make the Spey Fishing Day at River Wildlife in Kohler April 16 such a great success. Is there an event or program you would like to see Central Wisconsin Trout Unlimited sponsor? For youth, families, women, a fishing day or something else? Give me a call (920) 716-1016 or send me an email msandretto@aol.com.



Photo by John Gremmer

Restoring Stream Connectivity, One Crossing at a Time!

By Bobbi J. Fischer

At first glance, the West Branch of the White River appears to be a healthy naturally sustaining brook, brown and rainbow trout stream. But upon closer inspection, you begin to notice subtle stream changes at the State Trunk Highway (STH) 21 road-stream crossing. The stream becomes wider and deeper upstream and there is a large deep scour pool downstream of the crossing. Could this 1950's era structure be a problem? Then you notice the culvert is perched and the water velocities within the 60-inch diameter corrugated metal pipe culvert are exceedingly high compared to the rest of the stream. This crossing is approximately at the midpoint of this 7.8 mile long stream. Are trout able to pass through this culvert to reach the high quality spawning redds upstream? Are trout able to move upstream to reach cold water refuge? Does this stream have a reduced carrying capacity because of this crossing?

To investigate the biological effects of this crossing, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) Fisheries Staff electro-fished the stream and marked over five-hundred trout. Later the stream was electro-fished again and only one 9.5" marked brown trout was found upstream. Staff concluded that this crossing was very likely a barrier to most fish under certain stream flow conditions.

To restore stream connectivity, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) partnered with the WDNR to obtain a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

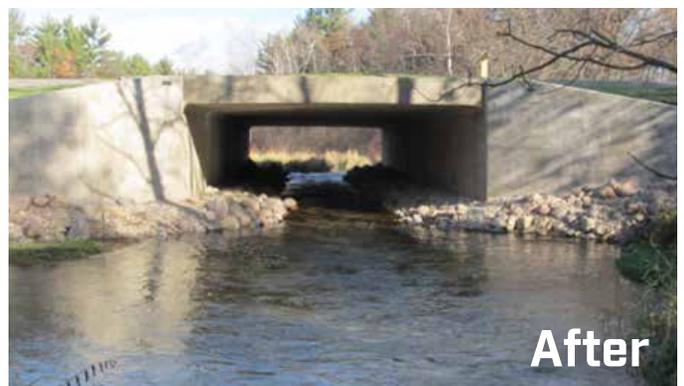
grant from the Federal Highway Administration to replace the STH 21 culvert.

WisDOT replaced the culvert with a 24-foot wide bridge. This structure better matches natural stream dimensions, provides fish passage, and also accommodates wildlife passage. The riprap is low to the water surface, flat, and filled with smaller stone providing a traversable path for wildlife and humans. The parcels on the along the west side of stream are state owned so there are also benefits for public to access and pass through this crossing.

Is restoring the stream connectivity at this road-stream crossing enough? Fish passage can be restored quickly but restoring in stream habitat can take much longer. Therefore, the grant also provides for restoration work in and along the stream to remedy the effects of the former crossing on the waterway. The WDNR Fisheries Habitat Crew will install overhead bank covers, log deflectors, woody debris structures, and alter existing weirs. These weirs were constructed in the 1930's/40's and need adjustment to better pass aquatic organisms. Work

also includes mechanical brushing of the stream banks. Stream restoration work is proposed for the 2016 field season.

The replacement of this crossing along with stream habitat work will fully restore stream connectivity through this crossing. Trout will be able to easily access high quality upstream spawning redds, seek cold water refuge and the carrying capacity will increase. Looking for small queues can make the difference between a great fishery and a fabulous one!



Sleepless in Sand County

By Jeff Wegand

What a crazy month!

In the beginning of April it felt like winter was going to hang on forever with a couple snow falls even when we were teased with a couple high 60's in March. Where did the month go?

May is coming with a little Steel heading and some local sedge caddis hatches. Every year my intentions are high to get some of best fishing of the year in on those warm April days but they are small windows in a day or during the week that even elude the most dedicated fisherman/woman.

I have all of the intention of preparation for the next year's endeavors by cleaning fly line, oiling reels, waxing ferrules, patching waders, and tying new favorite patterns from last year. Nevertheless, spring sneaks up on you and you throw everything together fighting small fires on the river and becoming more prepared and maintaining equipment as you go.



A new friend says to me, "Jeff, fish is time" and I could not agree with him more. Most of you know this saying as "time is money" but for those who can relate to a misspent youth as a water rat, we rejoice in the simple pleasures of cold clean water around us. Yes, the honey do

list is long and my fishing equipment is not exactly how I would want it, but the rivers are calling and there is nothing that centers my focus more than being out there. The time to fish is now so get up at day break, or stay out till dusk and journey to a heathered moore with the smell of opportunity for wild trout in hand.

Upcoming Events

Banquet Committee meeting

Tuesday, April 26, 2016, 5:30pm
Oshkosh Office Systems
2975 Oakwood Road, Oshkosh, WI
cwtu.org

Bob Hunt Memorial Lecture

Tuesday, May 17, 2016
6:15 board meeting 7:30 program
Bobbi Jo Fischer discuss fish passage with culvert. Fin and Feather (upstairs banquet area).
22W Main St, Winneconne, WI, 54986
cwtu.org

White River restoration

Saturday, May 21, 2016
7:45am to 12:00pm
Breakfast and lunch is available.
Cottonwood Lane, Wautoma
cwtu.org

Casting & Kayak Clinic

Tuesday, June 14, 2016
5:00pm-8:00pm
A free event featuring casting & kayak demonstrations.
Marble Park
675 Grant St, Winneconne, WI, 54986
cwtu.org

Chaffee Creek restoration

Saturday, June 18, 2016
7:45am-12:00pm
Breakfast and lunch is available.
14th Ave Parking, Town of Dakota.
cwtu.org

39th Annual Fly Fishing School

Saturday, June 4-5, 2016
Riverside Bible Camp near Amherst
Weekend of 1-on-1 fly fishing. Contact:
Dan Harmon III 920-235-1761
or Russ Bouck 715-824-3781.
cwtu.org

Community 1st Free Fishing Day!

Saturday, June 4-5, 2016
Heckrodt Wetland Reserve
1305 Plank Road Menasha, WI 54952
Check-in: 8:00-9:00am
Fishing Derby for youth: 8:00-11:00am
Lunch : 11:00am-12:00pm
Registration is required by May 31st
Contact Heckrodt Wetland Reserve at 920-720-9349 or
www.heckrodtwetland.org

West Branch restoration

Saturday, July 16, 2016
7:45am to 12:00pm
Breakfast and lunch is available.
County Y East, Wautoma. cwtu.org

Pine River restoration

Saturday, July 16, 2016
7:45am to 12:00pm
Breakfast and lunch is available.
"Shocking Survey"
Aniwa Rd, Wild Rose. cwtu.org

CWTU Board of Directors Minutes 04/12/16

The Meeting Called to Order: 6:15 PM

The Meeting Minutes of March 8, 2016 were approved as circulated.

Treasurer's Report: Harvey Jones distributed Treasurer's report and it was approved.

River Keeper Update: Bob Jozwowski went to a Water Volunteer Meeting benefit on the weekend of April 2th and they discussed importance of stream flow data and how it correlates to number of High Capacity Wells along with how much water is being drawn in our area. It was discussed at the meeting the WIDNR is going to start utilizing and reviewing citizen science data more.

Central Sands Water Action Coalition: CWTU has been asked to join the Central Sands Water Action Coalition. This would require following the policies of the organization and signing an agreement. CSWAC does not have a tax status. CWTU is a 501(c)3 nonprofit and could potentially be asked by CSWAC to participate in activities not allowed for our nonprofit tax status. Dan Harmon III made a motion the matter be tabled. The motion was seconded and approved.

TUDARE Project Planning Meeting Report: John and Laura Tucker, Dennis Draskowski and Mike San Dretto attended the TUDARE Project Planning Meeting April 2-3 in Westby Wisconsin. The meeting contained valuable information on stream restoration project planning, project funding and workday planning. Sunday morning was devoted to planning out a project with the help of experts. CWTU participants above used this time to begin planning the Central Sands Ecoregion Restoration Initiative with Fox Valley TU participants Tom Lager, Al Johnson and Nate Raitliff. Other Central region chapters, ShawPaca TU and Frank Hornberg TU could not make the meeting. At the Meeting of the Central Region Chapters in January it was agreed to work from the concept paper put forward by Bob Hunt and Alistair Stewart to begin a stream restoration effort for the Central Sands. John (Duke) Welter helped the team put together a starting plan. The team plans to meet monthly. The first meeting will be May 3rd.

Dennis also wanted to discuss how to improve upcoming workdays. This year we will have to sign a waiver for liability along with sign in to document nonprofit work hours.

New Business: Laura Tucker calls for Banquet committee will meet Tuesday April 26th at Oshkosh Office Systems at 5:30 pm.

Mike Sandretto had a discussion with Steve Devitt to have signs put on some new structures in White to gather woody debris. Purpose is to not have them be tampered with. Mike called motion to approve joint CWTU sign. Board approved motion.

Bob Burke discusses Wautoma millpond which has had an increased trout population by 40%. Washara Argus indicated a vote to to reinstall dam by 3 to 1.

If you want to put up new signs for new inland trout regulations contact Bob Haase; flytier@milwpc.com or 1-920-922-8003.

Old Business: CWTU placed brochures for stream work day fund in January's hard copy newsletter. We only raised about \$660, which is a low donation year. To get more people involved in work days John made a motion to get porto-poties out to work day sites this year. Motion was made and was approved to have porto-poties this summer.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:20 PM



WISCONSIN TROUT UNLIMITED YOUTH FISHING CAMP

If you know a young person ages 12-16 who would be interested in attending this camp July 14-17 contact Mike San Dretto. It is filling up fast and space is limited. CWTU will sponsor (pay the tuition for) a student who wants to attend. cwtu.org.

Please patronize our business supporters!

