



2002 Wisconsin Trout Stamp
By Bill Millonig

BROOKIE NEWS

Central Wisconsin Trout Unlimited
Conserving, Protecting and Restoring Coldwater Fisheries

July 2017

Streaming from the Pine

By President Laura Tucker

Hello to all!

Many thanks to the Work Day crew for their hard work in stream restoration. The “gods” blessed us with sunny skies, a nice breeze, and great food per Dennis Drazkowki’s leadership. The July 15 Work Day was on the Pine River off of Aniwa Road, east of Wild Rose. 36 people attended. Many thanks again to FVTU for it’s continued support. This work day focused on building structures and repositioning logs. You can view Nate Ratliff’s great photos on the CWTU website.

The Wisconsin TU Youth Fishing Camp was held at Pine Lake Camp in Waushara County. Many thanks to CWTU for it’s support making this another successful year.

The upcoming August Picnic and Meeting is a special event and please note it is on Saturday August 12. Ira and Karen Giese are hosting a barbecue dinner. Ira’s son participates in barbecue competition events and will be doing the cooking. It all starts at 5:00 pm so everyone has time to visit and smell the aroma of the barbecue cooking. Bring a chair to sit and relax. Board meeting is to follow the dinner.

Date: **Saturday, August 12, 2017**
Time: **Starts at 5:00 PM**
Location: **W9175 County Road C
Wautoma, WI**

The Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Snapshot Day took place Sat., August 5 at the Wild Rose Fish Hatchery from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm.

As TU members, the purpose of the AIS Snapshot Day is to increase our awareness of identifying and reporting invasive species that we may encounter on the

streams that we are currently conducting habitat restoration and/or water monitoring activities. This event is coordinated by the River Alliance of WI and the University of WI Extension’s Citizen Lake Monitoring Network with grant support from the WDNR. Great informative day!

CWTU Annual Banquet - Oct. 14, 2017

The Banquet committee is busy creating another fun night. The CWTU annual banquet and fundraiser is being held on Saturday, Oct 14, 2017 at the Best Western Premier Waterfront Hotel, Oshkosh.

Early enrollees will be entered for a chance to win a box of flies worth \$500, coordinated by Bob Haase.

The youth attending will receive a gift and chance for the youth raffle sponsored by Russ and Sue Bouck. Russ will again be tying flies.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CWTU BBQ COOKOUT
HOSTED BY: IRA & KAREN GIESE
Saturday, August 12, 2017
Starts at 5:00 pm
W9175 County Road C, Wautoma

SUMMER WORK DAYS
- Saturday, August 19
- Saturday, September 16

CWTU BOARD MEETING
KAYAK FISHING PRESENTATION
BY DAN HARMON III
Tuesday, September 12, 2017
6:15 Board Meeting
7:15 Program
Fin and Feather
22 W Main St, Winneconne

July 15 work day activities on the Pine River. (Photos by Nate Ratliff)



Sleepless in Sand County

By Jeff Wegand

The Hex hatch is over and I am feeling the pressure of summer coming to an end. Wisconsin has one more summer month, but my wife and I are being bombarded by advertisements and school schedules. This leaves me unsettled because there is so much I want to do with my family before school and sports start back up.

My son, Aiden, has been asking me to go fly fishing on local creeks. I am a little hesitant, yet I am so excited I can hardly contain myself. He hears me talk about catching large trout at night with friends and I think he wants a piece of the action. Mom packs him some snacks and they are gone before we pull out of the driveway.

After a short drive we get to the parking spot and start to put on our waders. Not long after, the bugs are biting like usual and we put on head nets. Ready for battle we start the hike to the river. Sweat is running down our backs and there is a little bushwhacking before we get in the river. Once we are there we immediately jump in to relieve ourselves. Fishing cold water is a beautiful thing.



Jeff and his son, Aiden

Aiden is working on his casting and getting better every time he does it. Someday I will be there to just take pictures, tie his flies and net his fish. Right now I am casting and hooking the fish for him to reel them in. He stays close because we are prospecting and looking for heads. Eventually we find a nice fish working. I make several very long casts and a 12" grabs hold. Aiden gets to reel him in and he is jacked. A 20+ inch fish on dry flies is why I love our area but spending time with my son and seeing him reel in a trout by himself is priceless!

Minutes later, a storm rolls in and we start to get wet. We push through and almost get pooped on by a roosting turkey in the trees above the creek. Momentarily, rain stops and I turn the head of another small fish without getting a hook set. Thunder is rumbling and Aiden is getting a little uneasy.



He says we should get going and I agree with him that it is time to head back. I cut through the woods and consider I might be going the wrong way and Aiden reinforces the notion. I double back on myself and realize the trees have grown where there used to be a path. We bushwhack through the trees and the game trail exists again.

Next thing you know I have found the field in the rain and dark. We are headed back to the car and Aiden is relieved. He is relieved and I am riding the high of trout fishing with my son! Some day he will hook a large brown trout with a dramatic cast and his own flies. Until then, we will share the river the best way we know how.



Special thanks to our supporters! Click on the logos to visit their websites!



Historic Work Day in June

By Dennis Drazkowski

Wow, what a turnout! On a gorgeous June morning (06/17/2017), 43 people dedicated to conserving, protecting and restoring Wisconsin's coldwater fisheries arrived at a stretch of the West Branch of the White River, just west of Wautoma, to participate in a unique multi-TU chapter habitat restoration project. The day's activities were led by 9 members from the WDNR Fisheries Units from Wild Rose and Green Bay, with organizational assistance from the Central Wisconsin and Green Bay TU chapters.

In attendance were representatives from these WI chapters:

- Central Wisconsin TU
- Fox Valley TU
- Green Bay TU
- Marinette TU
- Oconto River TU

Preceding the day's restoration activities, Shawn Sullivan, supervisor of the DNR Fisheries Unit, captured everyone's attention with a highly informative and entertaining description of the natural beauty of the area. He further described the day's upcoming

restoration activities and the many positive outcomes they will have on the future of the West Branch, its watershed and the adjacent riparian zone. We learned that this section of state-owned land was purchased about 5 years ago. It had become victim to some very heavy storm damage over the years. The storm damage added an enormous amount of woody debris to the stream causing areas of degradation and making it nearly unfishable or for navigation. The day's activities were going to greatly improve those conditions.

Following the morning briefing the volunteers were divided into 5 work groups. Over a period of about 4 hours the following was accomplished:

- **Fishability and navigation brushing. Brushing crews bundled the brush and strategically placed it in the stream to narrow and deepen the stream channel.**
- **Woody debris from prior storm damage was reoriented to provide prime habitat for fish, amphibians, macroinvertebrates and other wildlife.**

- **Construction of about 500 feet of log sill, bank cover and bank stabilization.**

- **Total habitat restoration project covered about 4,200 feet.**

All of this activity generated a hearty appetite which was satisfied with a delicious on-site lunch of fried chicken, salads and dessert - accompanied by newfound friendships and the sharing of fishing adventures and hot spots.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the activities, it was a very successful day in many respects. A special thanks to Mike Renish of the GBTU for organizing the TU chapters from the Northeast region. Their assistance was greatly appreciated. Thank you to Tom Meyer and Chris Northway (CWTU) for delivery of the breakfast items and beverages and to Nate Ratliff (FVTU) for his fantastic photos. Check them out on the CWTU website at www.cwtu.org. Click the Multimedia tab.

Our next CWTU habitat work day will be Sat., August 19 on the Pine River near Aniwa Road. Please join us in these worthwhile activities - you won't be disappointed, there's something for everyone.

Teen Summit

By Jennifer Owen

For Clay Parmley, a 16-year-old passionate about conservation, there is perhaps no better place to spend time over the summer than at the TU Teen Summit with other likeminded peers.

The Summit recruits young leaders aged 13 to 18 that have proven commitment to TU's mission and have demonstrated leadership at a high level. Over 5 days, they form the Youth Leadership Council or YLC. The YLC stay involved with each other, their local community, and with TU staff throughout the year working on projects and outreach with the goal to raise TU's profile among their peers. Activities include conservation tours of the area, leadership skills, conservation and science workshops, guest speakers, a service project at a local stream, and, of course, lots of time for hanging out by the campfire, tying flies, and fishing.

This year's event took place June 21-25 in Grayling, Mich. Twenty-nine teens from across the country attended. CWTU chapter sponsored Parmley, who has been active with the chapter for 4 years.

"Teen Summit seemed like the next logical step up from a weekend or daylong trout camp and it sounded really interesting to be able to travel somewhere to spend time with other teens who share the same ideals I do," Parmley said. "The fact that this year's summit was held in Grayling, Mich., which is the birthplace of TU, made it even more special."

Parmley looks forward to the upcoming first YLC call to discuss next steps. "It will be nice to reconnect with the people I met and talk about where we go from here to achieve our goals," he said.

Parmley will be a junior at Oshkosh West High School this fall. Passionate about snakes and reptiles, he plans to study herpetology in college.



Clay on the Manistee River at TU Teen Summit

CWTU Board of Directors Minutes 5/9/17

President Laura Tucker commenced the meeting at 6:15 p.m. (Casting Clinic; Marble Park, Winneconne)



Banquet Committee Meeting update: Meeting will be held at Oshkosh Office Systems on June 21.

Donation from Chamberlain family: Bob passed away Feb 4. A substantial donation is much appreciated and is to be used for stream restoration. Bob was instrumental in CWTU's efforts to restore, maintain and protect the cold water fisheries. CWTU extends it's sympathy to his family and friends. He will be missed.

Donation from Wilcox family: Judge Wilcox and his wife give generously in honor of Jeffery. This is to be used for stream restoration.

Sponsorship for WI fish camp: In the past CWTU typically sponsors 2 youth for the WI TU Youth Trout Fishing Camp, but CWTU was asked to sponsor an extra youth this year. In addition, CWTU was also asked to sponsor Clay Parmley to attend the National TU Teen Summit. This was augmented by a \$500 donation to support youth education from ACP (Acoustic Ceiling Products) and was delivered by Wayne Parmley who works for ACP. Each scholarship is worth \$250 and a motion was given to support all 4 youth. This was unanimously approved.

The 3 WI TU Youth Trout Camp recipients: **Ben Angst** - Appleton, WI • **Rayna Hoffman** - Sturgeon Bay, WI • **Cole Cannon** - Ironwood, MI
The National TU Teen Summit recipient: **Clay Parmley**, Oshkosh, WI (It was held in Grayling, MI, he was the only one from WI attending this year)

Motion to Adjourn

CWTU Board of Directors Minutes 7/11/17

President Laura Tucker commenced the meeting at 6:15 p.m. (Picnic at Tucker's Home in Saxesville)

Minutes for May 9 & June 13 Board Meeting were approved.

Treasurer Report: Joe distributed and it was approved.

Banquet Committee Meeting update: Meeting will be held at Oshkosh Office Systems on July 19.

River Keepers update: Bob will give an update at Giese's August picnic meeting.

Aug 2017 picnic: will be hosted by Ira and Karen Giese at their home on Sat., Aug 12. A tasty barbecue is planned by his son who is a competition meat smoker.

Work Day update: Dennis Drazkowski thanked everyone for attending the June work day on West Branch. He looks forward to the July work day on the Pine River at Aniwa Rd.

Fly Fishing School: Dan Harmon III gave a final report for 2017. 21 students attended and generated \$2,400 for the scholarship fund. Again, a huge thanks to all who supported and made this year another success.

2018 Troutfest: Bob Smaglick announced this would be his last year organizing Troutfest. He is very appreciative of all the people he met and things he has learned during last 9 years. Anyone interested in taking the torch should contact him so he can help train this year.

Program Chair: Jeff Treu is looking for team of 3 people to replace him in the next year. Anyone interested should contact him.

Communication Committee: Bob Haase distributed a listing and description of what the committee would consist of: Chair, Newsletter Editor, Webmaster, Media Director, Speakers Bureau Coordinator, and Troutfest Chair. If you are interested in filling any of these roles, please contact Bob.

Old Business: none

New Business: Eric Waglander stopped by at the board meeting to say hi. We have helped fund his work studying natural reproduction of Great Lakes Steelhead and he is currently a recipient of Bill Beck fund. We look forward to a future program from him.

Scott Bahn discusses a letter and donation from a deceased member.

Raffle drawing was conducted to anyone who donated \$25 or more to stream restoration fund this year. The winner was Michael Crook and he received a fly box and signed copy of Bob Haase's book.

Motion to Adjourn

To list your conservation non-profit event in this newsletter, please email Jeff Wegand at jeffwegand@hotmail.com.