Wolf River Chapter Trout Unlimited
– General Meeting October 12, 2013

President Andy Killoren called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. and thanked members for attending. Secretary Linda Anderson read the minutes of the March 16, 2013 meeting. Bill Livingston moved to approve the minutes which was seconded by Bill Kallner. All in favor. Motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report
Andy Killoren presented the Treasurer’s Report. A Check Detail Report, Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss Statement were distributed. The chapter has $8,070.91 in its account. Andy reported the $3,500 paid to the DNR in 2013 was for brush control for all of NE Wisconsin, not just for the Wolf River area. Brian Heikenen moved to approve the report which was seconded by Laurie Netzow. All in favor. Motion carried.

New Business
Andy asked for ideas for the chapter to make money and cut down on current spending. Some of the ideas discussed were:

- A banquet was discussed, but it was noted that fewer and fewer people are attending this type of function. Laurie Netzow suggested joining together with another chapter for a banquet.
- The brat stand was discussed. This year the stand ran for seven days. We are allowed to be open 21 days, but we need more volunteers. A direct request to members could be made to ask for more volunteers. The chapter will use Jim Water’s photographs during each sale day to show the before and after pictures of the work the chapter has accomplished on feeder streams. This could lead to donations or new memberships. The chapter will contact Country Meats to ask for a donation for all or some of the brats and hot dogs we purchase each year. Walmart will also be contacted to donate buns and other supplies.

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On August 17, thirty eight or so hearty, wader clad volunteers from TU’s Green Bay, Oconto, Northbrook, IL, and Wolf River Chapters and representatives from the local DNR continued the brushing and bundling on Ninemile Creek, a cold water tributary of the Wolf River. The brushing and bundling narrows the stream keeping the water flow up, the gravel areas free of silt and thereby producing some prime spawning beds, with a little luck. The volunteers labored from Highway 55 to East Hollister Road, working up quite an appetite. The Wolf River Chapter happily served brats and hot dogs to the volunteers at the DNR Landing below the Highway 64 Bridge to complete the successful day.

Hopefully we can get you all back next year to continue the work on Ninemile Creek! Thanks so much for the help!

Water Monitoring

Torch Passes

Andy Killoren has collected water monitoring data from the Wolf River and five tributary streams for the last five years during May, June, July, August and September. He then sent that information on to the state. He is resigning from water testing in 2014. A big thank you to Andy for volunteering his time to support trout habitat.

Tim Waters has volunteered to conduct the water monitoring tests in 2014. Thank you and good luck to Tim with this endeavor.

May your waders keep your feet warm and dry!
The One
The willful water waggles my line
While I wait for just the right sign.
Oh where is that elusive trout?
I know he’s here swimming about

Will he like my beautiful fly?
Time; what it took for me to tie
Slowly I turn the glistening reel
Must find it, my focus and feel

Twenty-one inches gonna rise
Really, I cannot tell fish lies
Water breaks up with a splash
The hook and trout what a clash

Keep the line tight or lose the catch
In this one, I have met my match
Bring the line in and let it out
How long will it take to tire this trout

Into the air, he flies so high
Ker-splash he flicks right on by
Down into my net as I dip
Oh Lord, the hook’s loose in his lip

So long, farewell my trophy trout
Please live to swim this great day out.

by Laurie Zen Netzow © 2013
There are places in this world that are special. Places that send a shiver down the spine. Places that leave you speechless with their beauty. Places where God lives. The Wolf River holds a couple of these places, where in the past Indians held solemn ceremonies, where wild life takes comfort from their lives of fear and a passing person may smile for no apparent reason. It was in such a place that I found myself one cool April morning.

Looking more like a hunter than a bulky vested trout fisherman, I stood on a huge boulder along the river, fly rod in hand. The roaring sound of rushing whitewater filled my ears as I surveyed the huge pool before me. The trees that lined the river wore shades of green with budding Maple, Hemlock and Ash contrasting nicely with the darker Spruce, Cedar and occasional towering white pine. The day was gray, but the Wolf River was lively, running a bit high.

To my left and to my right, all I could see were white foaming rapids, but in front of me lay the dark swirling waters of the great pool. Many huge car sized boulders lay beneath the surface, the tops of which were barely visible through my Polaroid glasses.

The depths of this pool hugged the banks, and with the wall of trees surrounding all, casting was limited to roll casting. I could only hit the edges of the pool, and lost two flies and a leader to an over-hanging cedar tree. The top of the pool was impossible to wade, where the rapids gave way to dark depths. I knew I could get into the river below the pool where it shallows up before plunging into the lower set of rapids.

I slowly made my way along the sandy lower end of the pool, waste high in the cold water. Nearing the top of my waders, it was obvious that I could not cast to the meat of the pool, even from below. Even with my stout rod and heavy streamer.

Then I saw the sand path, barely visible on the bottom of the river. The path led right into the pool, and was formed by the currents around a deep boulder. I followed the sandy hump behind this great underwater boulder, hiking my hip pack higher up my back, the river up to my belly button. Positioning myself on this sand bar was uncomfortable. I could not stand in place, but had to continually adjust my feet as the current played with my buoyancy, shifting me back and forth. I had lost my stability, but I could cast to most of the pool from there.

The streamer had a gold body, a long rabbit strip and a bunch of spun deer hair. I lifted the rod, sending line, leader and streamer into the air. Forwards, then back, I false cast the rod, stripping line off the reel, lengthening my cast, ending each stroke with a snap of the wrist. Line shot through the air over my head until the final forward cast, and the line all straightened out directly up river from me, plopping the fly into the river. When heaving a big streamer up river, line control is everything because the river is pushing fly, leader and line all back towards you.

When the fly hit the water, my left hand shot up to my rod, grabbing the line. I began quickly stripping the line in, attempting to eliminate the slack. The water exploded two feet from where the fly landed. The brown had charged down river, towards me when he hit, leaving the water. On my next strip I lifted and the rod bent to the jumping trout. A dark, fat, sixteen-ish brown leapt high as I struck, and I saw his head jerk down as I set the hook into his jaw.

The rod throbbed as I furiously stripped line in, trying to keep a tight line. He shot out of the water again, this time much closer. He jumped higher than my eye level, shaking his head back and forth as he hit the water. All I could do was strip, strip, strip… Continued on page 6
The chapter will add “Support Wolf River Trout Unlimited” to the brat signs posted on Highway 55 for each sale day.

- It was suggested we make a direct request to chapter members for monetary help. The next newsletter will include an article challenging members to raise $2,000 by the end of 2013. We will also challenge each member to sign up another new member. We will let the members know where the donated money goes.
- The newsletter will be e-mailed to members where we have e-mail addresses. Postal mail will be used for the balance of the membership. We will add more newsletters at Mike’s Service and the White Lake Market with a sign stating, “Enjoy Fishing the Wolf River”.
- Brian Heikenen stated national river organizations and paddling groups are working with local sportsman chapters. The Wolf River Chapter could contact these organizations to see if they would be interested in collaborating with our chapter for the good of the Wolf River. Brian also stated the chapter could consider joining other Wolf River organizations for more exposure.
- A Wolf River Chapter business card could be made up and put under windshield wipers in parking lots asking for a small donation. The card would state that all money stays local for work on the Wolf River.
- The addition of the sale of hats and t-shirts could be added to each brat stand sales day. Brian Heikenen has information on artwork of the Wolf River.

Joanne Eisch was recognized for her volunteer work at the brat stand each day it is open.

Andy reported on the Ninemile workday with the Green Bay Chapter. Approximately 35-38 people attended the workday. Brushing and bundling work was completed from Highway 55 to East Hollister Road. The Green Bay Chapter said they will be back next year to continue the work on the Ninemile. The Wolf River Chapter served brats and hot dogs at the completion of the work.

Andy has sent water testing information from the Wolf River and feeder streams to the state for the last five years. He will be resigning from water testing in 2014. He is looking for someone to take over the testing and to organize the data. The testing is done five times each year, once a month during May, June, July, August and September.

Duane Fronek said he had spotted a few beavers on the Ninemile. He will trap those. Spring Creek is clear as of now. Two beavers were taken out.

Andy will send hand-written thank you notes to Herb Buettner, Cal Krueger for access to his property, Bill Kallner for net donations, Mike and Alice Klimoski for use of their station lot and overnight storage and Rob D’Amato at the White Lake Market for ordering brats and hot dogs.

Spring elections will take place in March 2014 for all officers and two directors (George Rock and Jim Robinson). Laurie Netzow volunteered to become a member of the board of directors. The chapter will ask Tim Waters to give his Wolf River presentation at this spring meeting.

The chapter will pay for two months rental on the storage unit used to house brat sale supplies. We will be looking for a covered 6’ x 10’ trailer with a swing-down door to use instead for storage and to transport supplies on brat sale days. The next newsletter will advertise for this item.

Meeting attendees discussed a donation of up to $3,000 to fund DNR projects. Bill Kallner moved to approve the donation which was seconded by Brian Heikenen. All in favor. Motion carried.

Bill Kallner moved to adjourn the meeting. Joanne Eisch seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Anderson
Then he jumped again, leaving the river only ten feet upstream from where I stood, and I thought he would jump right over me. I stopped stripping, transfixed on this trout nearly a foot above me. It seemed like time itself stopped. Then he came down, softly landing in the crook of my left arm against my chest. The only thing stopping him from landing in my waders was my left suspender!

My first reaction was to look around and see if anyone had witnessed what just happened. Of course I was alone in that special place. Just me and that spent brown. I removed the hook and held him in the current. Slowly, while working his mouth and gills, he began to regain his rhythm, and turning his head back and forth, slowly swam away.

The Jumping Trout—continued from page 4

“Trout Fishing on The Wolf River” with Tim Waters

For: Fox Valley TU, open to members and nonmembers alike

Place: Gordon Bubolz Nature Preserve in Appleton

Date: Thursday, February 20, 2014

Time: 7-9 pm

Duane Burleson and his 18" brown—May 2013—Wolf River
Duane released the brown.
This trout should be pushing twenty inches next spring!
We need more volunteers for next year! Come to the Spring 2014 Meeting to find out how you can help! Just think of the money we could raise for Wolf River Restoration Projects if we sold brats for the 21 allowed days instead of just 7 days.

Many THANKS to Mike and Alice Klimoski, owners of The Fast Stop & Mike’s Service in Langlade, who have given the WRCTU fundraising Brat Stand a very visible location.

A BIG thank you to Joanne Eisch, who graciously volunteers every time the stand is open! Next summer, please join Joanne selling brats and raising funds for Wolf River Restoration Projects.

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Join Trout Unlimited today at the special introductory rate of just $17.50 and get involved in the fight to protect our country's trout and salmon fisheries. This low introductory rate is available to new members only and $15 of your $17.50 dues is automatically rebated back to the chapter that directed you to this website. More is rebated to your chapter if you join TU at a higher membership level. By joining now and entering the chapter number of 050 Wolf River Chapter at the link below, you are supporting The Wolf River TU chapter. Join us today!

https://www.tumembership.org/member/intro