President Andy Killoren says...Summing up 2017 on the Wolf River, good for the fish, not for the fishermen. With the normal high water in early spring and the continued heavy rains in late May, June and early July made the Wolf River un-fishable for most of the mayfly hatches. The fisherman lost out on best times to fish the Wolf, but trout like, need water and high levels and moderate temperatures this summer really helped keep the water temps cool even in late summer. We have heard some great reports from September and early October for fall fishing with almost another month to fish the Wolf River. As stated earlier good for the fish, not for the fisherman, but I really look forward to what fishing will be on the historic Wolf River in 2018.

Vice President Travis Stuck says...The 2017 Wolf River Meet-n-Greet scheduled for May 20, 2017 was cancelled due to high water. We decided to cancel the event as water levels were very high with river flowing at 1300+/- cubic feet per second (CFS). Average/median stream flow for May 20th is approximately 520 CFS. The Wolf River is generally very fishable up to 700 CFS. Some brave souls will even fish it up to 1000 CFS, however those few individuals know the river well. We decided that it would be difficult and perhaps unsafe for those that are not familiar with the river. The Wolf, as many of you know is a turbulent relatively high gradient stream for Wisconsin and the Midwest.

Though it was a real let-down that we could not hold the Meet-n-Greet this last summer, and it was frustrating as it has been with the high water conditions the last few years, the high water has been a blessing in other ways. The wetlands and the springs that are feeding consistently cold water during the summer and relatively warm water during the winter, are running full. This last summer I first-hand experienced several springs discharging into the center of the stream from the bottom of the river as well as many significant cold water contributing streams and seeps, especially along the west shore. Again, we had another summer with plenty of water and no real sustained low flows or warm water.

In my opinion, there are higher numbers of trout than there have been in at least 20 years! I had an outing in October in which I caught two post spawn browns in the 18 inch range.
WOLF RIVER CHAPTER OF TROUT UNLIMITED
AUTUMN MEETING
October 7, 2017

The meeting was called to order by President Andy Killoren at 9:08 AM on October 7, 2017.

Present: Andy Killoren, Travis Stuck, Linda Anderson, Laurie Netzow, Bill Livingston, Zach Buchanan, Brian Heikenen, Susan Livingston, Chuck Valliere, Jon Graverson, Clyde Park, Thomas Krief, Roger Wilder and Bill Kallner arrived late.

Secretary’s Report: Laurie Netzow read the minutes from the March 4, 2017. A motion was made by Zach Buchanan to accept minutes as read. Jon Graverson seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer’s report was given. $4000($2000 of that was from a Friends of TU Grant)was donated to the Antigo DNR Brushing Crew. $2000 was donated to the Hunting River Culvert Project. Laurie read a thank you note email from Dave Seibel (DNR) concerning the culvert replacement. Laurie Netzow made the motion to accept the treasurer’s report and Zach Buchanan seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Clyde Park reported that a clean up on Spring Creek needs to be done again. Spring Creek has become silted in where it enters the Wolf River. Clear cold water enters the Wolf River from Spring Creek from brushing and bundling previously done. Spring Creek will need to be inspected after the ice goes out next Spring.

Roger Wilder reported on the work being done on Elton Creek. Winkle will take out fallen trees and install a diverter to shoot water downstream. Phase 2 of the project includes vegetation and during phase 3 the shoreline will be rip rapped. The dam has been approved with Winkle paying for it.

Heikenen will continue to gather information for increasing donations to the Wolf River Chapter and donation boxes at strategic places on the river.

The grant money for Wader Cleaning Stations is no longer available from the Lumberjack Council, Rhinelander, WI.

The Evergreen Work Day was cancelled.

The 2017 Wolf River Meet-n-Greet was cancelled due to extremely high water. It was decided that it should not be cancelled for high water just changed to fit the situation.

NEW BUSINESS

Zach Buchanan announced the date of the Wolf River Fly Tying Consortium, January 27, 2018. The event will be held at the Bear Paw Outdoor Adventure Resort again. Laurie will make a advertising flyer for the event.

Travis Stuck announced the date for the Wolf River Meet-n-Greet as May 19, 2018. Lunch will be served at the Livingston’s between 12:30 - 1:00 pm. The Green Bay Chapter and Antigo DNR work day project that is scheduled for May 19 as well. Those helping with that project are also invited to Livingston’s for lunch.

There is also a Green Bay Chapter/Antigo DNR brushing work day scheduled June 16, 2018. WRC will serve lunch to those working either at the Livingston’s or the Killoren’s.

No report was available from Duane Fronek concerning beaver trapping on Nine Mile Creek. His five year contract began October 2015.

As Tim Waters was unable to attend the meeting, there was no report on water testing.

Minutes continue on page 3
The Herb Buettner Memorial Bench will be installed after the meeting at Herb’s Landing. The plaque honoring Herb will be added next spring at the dedication. An invitation to the dedication will be made to the Buettner Family.

The deadline for submissions for *The Wolf River Hatch* is November 1, 2017 and October 20, 2017 for Andy.

Mention was made of runoff silt flowing into the Wolf River in Section 2.

The budget for the NE Region Wolf River Chapter contribution for 2018 was decided on. Andy Killoren made the motion to commit $2500 for 2018, Bill Kallner seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

Donations for the 2018 State Banquet were discussed. Bill Kallner will again be donating a couple of his handmade nets and the chapter will have a fly box to fill. It was suggested that Wayne Anderson may be able to help with more traditional fly tying on January 27 to help fill the box.

The Wolf River Chapter will be participating in the 2018 Bear Paw Activities Day, September 29, 2018. There will be two sessions, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Laurie’s Lawn Trout will be used along with fly casting equipment to introduce participants to the art of fly casting.

**ELECTIONS**

The next meeting will be the Annual Spring Membership Meeting on Saturday March 24, 2018. The following board positions will be up for election: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and two board positions currently held by Bill Livingston and John Rose.

Zach Buchanan made a motion to adjourn, Bill Kallner seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 AM with lunch following.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Zen Netzow

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**The Wolf River Chapter mourns the loss of**

*Tom Vieth.*

*June 1, 1951 - May 13, 2017.*

“Tom was our chief ‘grill man’ at our Meet-n-Greets. He and Barb helped out whenever asked.”

“He may never have fished trout much but realized the importance of our cold water fisheries.”

*We will miss him.*

---

Bill Livingston nabbed this fine trout in the Wolf River during the evening of June 9, 2017. It was caught on a local fly called the Talasek Killer, 1st tied by local fly tier Neil Sandvidge. Another large trout was also caught that night on that same fly.
Bill’s Story

by Susie Livingston

“Hey, it’s that old man again, how many times has he been here?”
“This is his second time.”
“What’s the movie that playing?”
“A River Runs Through It, it’s the last showing today.”
“Oh oh, it looks like he’s going to topple over, mister, let me help you, let’s sit on this bench for a while. Are you okay?”
“Thanks son, I just got dizzy for a spell. I’ll be all right. I’m Bill, what’s your name?”
“Johnny. I work here making popcorn. Say can I ask you why you’ve come to this movie so many times?”
“Well, I guess to relive my memories of fishing with my boy Billy. Every summer vacation we camped on the Peshtigo River and fished every day. He was a skinny little kid but boy did he love it. I’d teach him by getting a big ole Bass on and give him the rod to feel the current, the fight of the fish and netting the fish. You’d think I’d given him a 50 cent piece, his smile was so big. We fished all the trout rivers around here; the Peshtigo, Oconto and the Wolf. He was such a natural with the fly rod. We lived in Oconto, and I worked in Green Bay. So after a long day and long ride, I would get home and there was Billy sitting on the front stoop waiting for me with a bag full of peanut butter sandwiches and a big grin on his face. Who could say no, so off we’d go to the Oconto to fish until dark. I remember one evening I heard him yelling to beat the band! I got to his fishing spot, and there he was beating a snake with his rod cuz it was trying to climb up on him! We laughed about that for years.”
“Do you still fish with Billy?”
“No I’m to old now to wade those great rivers. All I have now are the memories. You know I never had much to give to Billy, but I gave him those memories.
I gave him the river.”
As invasive species become an increasingly prevalent and destructive issue in our woods and waters, it is imperative that we, as sportsmen and conservationists, take a proactive approach in invasive species control. There are a few simple and straightforward steps we can take that are easy to incorporate into basic gear maintenance.

Drying and cleaning of waders and wading boots is an integral part of making sure our equipment keeps its effectiveness and lasts. Waders and wading boots should be dried out thoroughly before storing and drying equipment for 5 or more days is generally accepted as adequate for invasive species control before fishing new waters, but care must be taken to remove all mud, sand, and other debris from waders and boots for this to be effective. For those of you using felt soled wading boots, use hot or high pressure water with a fairly stiff bristled brush to clean your soles. For those with rubber soles, hot water and a brush to clean the holes for cleats will do.

Now for those of you that don’t have 5 days to wait before switching new water, there are a few options available. The simplest solution is a 30 minute soak in a salt, vinegar, or soap solution with the water temp being over 120 degrees Fahrenheit, but an extended soak while suffice. Consulting the manufacturers label and recommendations is necessary, so that you don’t damage your equipment. It’s also important to dry the insides of your boots and waders so that mold doesn’t grow and decrease the longevity of your equipment.

There are other options for cleaning your gear to help prevent the spread of invasive species, but these methods are some of the simplest and most practical methods I have found. As always, check manufacturer labels so you don’t damage your gear and check all applicable regulations for the states and waters you fish as each state may have varying regulations in place on what is required.

Tight Lines—Zach

Travis continued from page 1

I look forward to the 2018 Wolf River Meet-n-Greet. We will plan on having the event regardless of flows, as we can generally still fish some locations. Most importantly those that perhaps are not familiar with the river will still be afforded the opportunity to learn where and how to fish and locate public access points. Most important is the comradery and lunch at the Livingston’s, which is located on the banks of the Wolf River. See you in May!
Wolf River Chapter of Trout Unlimited Opposes Proposed Wetlands Bill (LRBs 4410/01 and 4115/1)

AB 547

Wisconsin legislators have recently introduced legislation (AB 547), currently being circulated for co-sponsorship, would eliminate protection of existing non-federal wetlands. Elimination of protection for non-federal wetlands will potentially if not likely harm cold water resources and specifically, trout streams throughout the state. The Wolf River Chapter of Trout Unlimited (WRTU) is opposed to this legislation.

LRBs 4410/1 and 415/1, authored by Senator Roth and Representatives Steineke and Stafsholt seek to remove regulation of “non-federal” wetlands. “Non-federal” wetlands make up approximately 20% of Wisconsin’s wetland acreage. Though “non-federal” wetlands do not have a permanent surface water connection to waterbodies protected by the Clean Water Act, these waterbodies and wetlands play a crucial role in supporting trout streams, like the Wolf River.

The Wolf River, specifically the part running through the Menominee Reservation is listed as a National Wild and Scenic River and a cold water resource, and most paramount to our efforts, a trout stream. The Wolf River is the largest free stone stream in the state of Wisconsin that supports native and wild trout populations. The Wolf River has wild brook and brown trout, as well as a population of rainbow trout. The Wolf River provides a somewhat unique opportunity to fish for trout in a freestone/western-like setting. People travel from all over the state and the Midwest to fish the Wolf River, which contributes to the local economy.

The Wolf River and its tributaries are cold water resources, the hydrology is supported in a large part by federal and “non-federal” wetlands which are surface and subsurface contributors to both the thermal regime and the base flow of the river. Filling in or any impact to the wetlands within the watershed that contributes groundwater, the life blood of the river, would result in diminishing the quality of the valuable resource, the Wolf River.

The Wolf River Chapter of Trout Unlimited members want to protect the fishery, recreational, and economic opportunities associated with the Wolf River. The negative impact of the proposed bill will be detrimental to the region and the state of Wisconsin. WRTU is opposed to this legislation.

Sincerely,

Travis A. Stuck, VP-Wolf River Chapter Trout Unlimited

History repeats. The determination to protect the Wolf River and its cold water fishery continues today. Printed on the next two pages is a copy of a letter sent to the DNR in 1988 by the Wolf River Conservation Club. Both organizations’ goal was and is to protect the Wolf River and its cold water fishery. The following letter offers a bit of a history lesson on the struggles that have gone on through the years concerning the Wolf River. Hope
these letters inspire you to help continue the work of preserving the Wolf River as a cold water fishery for future generations. If you cannot help physically, brushing and bundling and such, please write letters to the WI legislature, DNR officials and the Governor and/or send monetary donations to the Wolf River Chapter of TU to assist us in keeping this beautiful clean freestone stream flowing with trout. —Laurie Zen Netzow

Wisconsin Natural Resource Board
and Secretary, C. D. Besadny
101 S. Webster St., Box 7921
Madison, Wisconsin 53707

Dear Trustees of the State’s waters,

The Wolf River Conservation Club was born out of necessity in 1933, at the end of several years of severe drought which severely damaged the upper Wolf River as a famous trout fishery. Extremely dry conditions caused severe forest fires in the recently logged watershed and denuded much of the natural cover on the feeder streams. The hot summer sun warmed the extremely low waters to temperatures lethal to the river’s trout population and we lost our native rainbow trout population completely, along with most of the brook trout that did not make it to the spring-fed tributaries. The club members dedicated themselves to their above stated purpose and worked with nature to improve the watershed, and in time, re-established the upper Wolf River’s reputation as a famous trout fishery.

The Club was involved in building the Langlade Rearing Station to provide trout for re-stocking the Wolf River. When a suitable subspecies of rainbow trout could not be found from the stock available, which would stay and reproduce in the river, it became a brown and brook trout stream. The founding members had experienced the forces of nature which can degrade a good river but little did they realize the battles the Club would have to protect it from the degradation man can inflict on a clean and natural stream for monetary gain. Were it not for the dedication and hard work of club members over the past twenty five years, the upper Wolf River would not be clean and free-flowing, and in a wild state of nature today.

For, we stopped a dam on its headwaters, which would have reduced and warmed its waters, again threatening the re-established trout population. At the same time, we were battling the Public Service Commission on its authorized diversions for irrigation, totaling up to 9,600 gallons per minute at its peak, severely reducing the flow in the hot summer months when the river is most susceptible to warming
from the sun. Today there is no irrigation from the river. Next, was the threat of a 1500 acre waste dump north of Lily, which would have buried up to seventy train carloads of Chicago waste per day in the shallow water table between the Wolf and Lily rivers. That was before there were landfill regulations enacted here, and toxic waste and chemicals were difficult to dispose of in the cities. The dump was stopped.

Shortly thereafter, the Village of White Lake was installing a waste treatment plant and the DNR plans required a bypass pipe to the Wolf River a half mile away. There were no waste discharge pipes to the upper Wolf River, and there shouldn't be, so we gathered our facts and went to Madison. The required pipe to the river was deleted and the system worked very well without it.

As multiple recreational use of the river increased, we helped develop and pass town ordinances to regulate the use and protect the clean waters. Glass bottles or metal cans are not allowed in watercraft on the river and rafting is restricted to mid-day hours, reserving the tranquil morning and evening hours for trout fishing. We promoted the National Wild and Scenic Rivers program for the Wolf River, knowing there would be constant threats as in the past. Upon the advise of the federal study team, we supported the State preservation plan, now in effect, including shoreline acquisition and management as a trout fishery. With almost two thirds of its thirty miles of shoreline acquired at a cost of 5.3 million dollars, we are assured its wild nature will be enjoyed by posterity.

Now the waters flowing between those river banks must also be protected against pollution and degradation to protect that shoreline investment. The upper Wolf River exceeds all of the requirements for designation and protection as "outstanding resource waters" and someone erred in not including it in the draft of NR 102.16. A section (d) must be added, "WOLF RIVER The Wolf River and all of its tributaries in Langlade, Oneida and Forest Counties."
For how can we protect that segment of the river in Menominee County without protecting the river immediately upstream?

We believe that all trout inhabited waters of the state should be protected as outstanding resource waters, for if the only ones still worthy of special protection are those few rivers listed, we have been unworthy trustees of the waters of the state, for the people.

We trust that we can continue to work with you in preserving and protecting the upper Wolf River watershed for our recreational enjoyment and for future generations. If there is any further information you would like in that regard we would be happy to provide it to you. Enclosed is a twenty five year old pamphlet on the Wolf River and the material in it is relative today. We thank you for your help and consideration.

Respectfully,

Ed Mytas, President
2017 Wolf River Restoration Projects Fundraising

Help us keep the Wolf River a cold water fishery

Please send your donation (tax deductible) to:

Wolf River Chapter of Trout Unlimited
PO Box 156
White Lake, WI 54491

Our goal is to raise $4000 before the end of 2017. Any amount is helpful.

Please send your check today!

Fundraising Tip

To those of you who shop on Amazon.com please consider signing up with

Amazon Smile Foundation

Many of the items that you purchase through Amazon can be purchased through AmazonSmile Foundation and they in turn will donate .5% of the purchase price to your favorite charity (if they are registered) with no additional cost to you! That’s right the price is the same as it would be on regular Amazon!

The Wolf River Chapter of Trout Unlimited is registered!

Follow the instructions at AmazonSmile and then page through the “Trout Unlimited” listings until you find White Lake, WI. Every little bit adds up to help us keep the Wolf River a cold water fishery.

The picture below shows the work being done on the Hunting River this past summer. The Wolf River Chapter donated $2000 to the Hunting River Culvert Project. See page 8 for before and after pictures and what’s happening now!
I heard some awesome news today concerning all of your efforts with the new culverts on the Hunting River. John Carbonari works for APHIS as a beaver control expert. He has been working on the Hunting River upstream from Fitzgerald Dam Road and he reports that the water level has dropped about 6 inches as far upstream as the Rasmussen Creek confluence with the Hunting River. I measured this distance on my computer. It is 2.5 miles upstream! And the beneficial effects of this new culvert installation go quite a bit further upstream than that! John’s already seeing trout in this this former flowage section of the Hunting River where he’s **never** even seen a trout before!

I’m glad this project came to fruition and has had such wide ranging effects like we thought it would. All the blood sweat and tears it took to make this happen are being immediately rewarded right before our eyes. It took many people to make this happen, not the least of which is Jon Simonsen. Without Jon riding herd on this project and keeping it relevant and moving forward, it would not have been possible! A **BIG** “Thank You” to Jon **and all of you** for making this a coldwater success reality!

Thanks, Dave Seibel—DNR Fisheries Biologist
During the summer of 2016, I had the opportunity to visit some friends in South Dakota and Wyoming, during which I was able to spend three and a half days fishing Wyoming’s North Platte River, near Casper and Alcova, Wyoming. I went in with the expectation that this, like many of my trout fishing endeavors, would result in some fish caught, gorgeous scenery, and great memories. The North Platte has come to popularity as western trout river over the last 20 years due to the hard work of conservation groups and public and private entities. Their work has created a fishery that has around 3,000 fish per mile and the average size is 18 inches and three to four pounds in size. The stretch I fished was the North Platte’s famous Grey Reef.

Due to my work schedule, August was the month I chose to go west. I was greeted with great weather, and was informed by some of the local fly shops that the Tricos were coming off in the morning and nymphing was the way to go the rest of the day. I was also told that 2016 has been one of the worst years of fishing on the North Platte in the past decade. Now most of you know that I am an avid streamer fisherman, so this whole dry fly and nymphing isn’t my cup of tea.

Being as stubborn as I am I decided to throw streamers the whole first day. A guide at the local fly shop recommended I throw a #2 white and gold wooly bugger if I was set on streamer fishing. A few hours later I got my first lesson, Lesson #1: when the average wind speed is 20 mph, you’re not as good as a caster as you think you are. I put that bugger into my neck and ear up to the barb, but with some quick streamside surgery with the help of my pliers, I was able to continue fishing. A short while later I learned lessons 2 and 3. I hooked into and landed the biggest rainbow trout I have ever had on the fly. A gorgeous 22” rainbow, with the absolutely most stunning colors I have ever seen on a ‘bow. Lesson #2: stubbornness can pay off with a little luck. Due to my success, I released the fish without taking a picture, which I’d later regret. Lesson #3: take a picture of a nice fish if you can.

Over the rest of my trip, I eventually resigned myself to learning how to nymph fish. I did manage to learn how to run a double nymph rig and hooked into some fish, but I was not able to land any of them. The nymphs were size 18 and smaller, and it was more of a challenge fighting a fish on such a small fly than I ever imagined. Lesson #4: be willing to learn and adapt to increase your catch rate. Lesson #5: learn how to fight a fish on small flies.

I’m still working on Lesson #5, but one day I hope to go back and show that I’ve learnt that lesson. I arrived in Wyoming with the expectation of catching some fat western trout, and left with a new appreciation of the skills need to effectively fish different methods in different waters. Until I get a chance at redemption, you’ll probably find me slinging big streamers on the beloved Wolf. I hope to see you all on the water! —Tight Lines!
May 9th, 2017 Tuesday...

Woke around 7:30am. Pretty groggy when I loaded up the car. Zero leaders in my pack! Jeff and Jim (Jezeski) were parked up along the hill. I parked next to Jeff and they had their waders on already. I quickly got dressed and Jeff asked, “It is worth going down?” I said, “Well, it’s better there when the water is high, so we should start there.” We walked down the landing trail, then along the small trail down river. Jeff and Jim entered the river and lead the way to the islands. I sat on the bank and tied two leaders, ten and eight pound sections. The river was at 851cfs when we started. Water was 53 degrees and the air was 45 degrees at 9:15am with an overcast sky. I worked a ways behind the boys who cast copper spinners. Stayed with the olive Cougar Tease today. Caught an 11 1/2” brown. Jeff caught a 17” brown on copper, then a 13 3/4” brown on a black and gold Rapala, then a small one on copper. Jim caught a 16 1/4” brown and a small brown on copper. They were at the end. I crossed to the near bank and hiked below them. Had a hit and stripped what felt like a nice one on. He ran off down river to the right. My slack line went under a log that was on a rock there and snagged on something. The trout was running and going crazy. I pulled on the line, but it was tight on something. Reached under the log and pulled out a big branch with my line knotted around it. The rod throbbed as the trout rolled. Jeff and Jim were laughing. I straightened everything out and brought in a foul-hooked 14” brown. The three of us met on the near bank next to the trail at 10:25am, then hiked up past the cars, then down to the crossing. Hiked up Crossing Island. Jeff and Jim cast into the depths along the island. I could only watch with my fly-rod. Jeff caught a fine 16” brown below the huge rock at the top of Crossing island. I took pictures. None of us caught anything as we made our way up to the Ledge. Heard the noon whistle from White Lake. I hit the upper part, as usual and Jeff worked down. Jeff caught a small brook and Jim caught a small brown there. I turned nothing. We hiked up the trail to Tornado Alley. Jeff always starts at the bottom. I hiked up to the top and began swinging and slow stripping the Cougar Tease. I quickly caught a small 8” brookie on the swing. A ways up from the rock that sticks out into the run I fought and caught a fine big brown. Carried him to the bank and measured him. He was just shy of 18 inches, and I mean just shy. We were going to kill fish today and they had to be under 12 inches or over 18”. Released him in the shallows. Have to check to see if he is the same fish I caught a month and a half ago that measured 17 ½ inches. I think he might be. Fished it good, then hiked the bank below Jeff and cast some behind him. They were catching trout also. Took a picture of them both with a trout on at the same time. Jim caught a 14” rainbow and was still using copper. Jeff caught 4 small browns and a 14” brown. I stood on the bank watching them as they worked the top. Jeff said he would meet me at Tweener, so I hiked up around the bend to the top of Tweener. Expectations were very high. As soon as I threw the long cast I caught a 14 1/2” brown, then a 15” brown on the next cast! Saw Jim and Jeff enter below. Looks deep down there. I was stuck at the top. Then Jeff had a nice one on. Saw him carry it to the bank and Jim followed. They worked up. It was a 17 3/4” brown on a chartruse Rapala! Guess it was right along the bank below him. Took a water reading and it was 54 degrees, perfect for feeding browns! We finished up there by

Continued on page 11
2:35pm and hiked up river to Lunch Rock. Arrived at 2:48pm. Jim crossed to below the little island, as usual. I went up, following the right bank in the fast stuff. Jeff cast to the Lunch Rock Pool and caught one right away. He also missed a nice one in there. I worked up the right side. In the pool off the little island above Lunch Rock I had one shoot out of the water chasing the olive Cougar Tease. Did not catch it on video. Turned it on and cast to the top of the pool and a good one turned on it. I brought in a fine 17” brown. Worked up. Pretty fast stuff, but I could get around, slowly. Caught a 14 1/2” brown, then a 16 1/2” brown, all on the right side pockets. Did not get up to the big fast pocket near the corner. Thought Jeff would work up the left side, but he was lingering on the island. Could not see Jim. At that point I lost the boys from sight. Could not figure where they were. Then I saw them climbing through the woods heading up along the far bank. Saw them come out at White Lake Creek (94w). Rolled a good one out of the upper left pocket. Two casts later and he rolled again, this time getting the hook. The rod bent good and I brought him into the net. He measured 18 ¼ inches. I was pumped! Decided to kill him for the grill. Carried him to a bigger boulder and cleaned him. Put him in my jacket above my belt. Worked the depths down. Caught a 13” brown, then a 14” brown. Made my way to the island above Lunch Rock and took a break at 4:26pm. The day went from my best day in May this year, to my best day this year, and I wondered how the boys were doing. Jeff texted me a picture of a 21” brown he caught up river! Decided to work the right side with more attention to getting as far as I could to the near bank so I could hit all the pockets and pools. Picked my way up through the fast stuff to the upper right pool near the bend. The river was rushing through there! A big one rolled out of the white water and took my streamer, heading down river. The rod doubled over and the reel sang! I was not very mobile and the trout was! Could not figure out how or where to get him. He ran at will, then jumped two feet high and about eight feet long! He looked big! Hoped that I had the hook in him good. Slowly made my way down a little and tried to get him into the calmer water. He took line, then jumped again! I was finally able to get him tired out and brought him in. Scooped him up with the net. As I did so, my video ran out of juice! Great timing. Measured him at 19 ½ inches to the rod! What a day! Released him in the fast water of lower Twenty Day Rapids. No sign of Jeff and Jim. I continued to work down and was able to hit the runs along the bank. Rolled another good one and lifted, setting the hook. This one felt big also. He fought good and I brought him in and netted. Measured him to 18 ½ inches! Made my way back out and worked the area just above Lunch Rock near the bank. Another good one rolled and I brought in a 16” brown. Saw Jeff and Jim on the far bank. They crossed and we talked on the island next to Lunch Rock. Jim caught 12 trout at Twenty Day, four of them over 16”. Jeff caught the 21” brown along with a 16 1/2” brown and two small ones. We had caught 46 trout, 17 of them over 16 inches! I caught 15 trout, seven over 16 and three over 18! It was the best day I ever had on the Mighty Wolf! We crossed to Lunch Rock, then to the steep bank there and climbed the hill to the trail by 6:30pm. Hiked the long trail back to the cars. Arrived around 8pm and decided not to cook the trout. Jeff fried up some sausages and cooked a can of beans on his little grill. I mixed whiskeys for all and we celebrated our unbelievable day!
This is my variation of Tim Water’s variation of a zonker (Tim’s variation is the original ZH2O). It’s a highly effective fly on the Wolf, and like the Cougar Tease, you’ll never find me on the Wolf without a few in my box. Black, white, yellow, and olive are the primary colors I fish, and I generally fish sizes 6 to 2. Stripped or swung, this pattern has been a consistent producer for me. This particular fly was tied on a Partridge #2 Attitude Streamer hook. If you want to tie Tim’s original version, use mylar instead of dubbing for the body, and tie in the mylar like you do the cougar tease, but tie the zonker strip after you have done your first tie in for the mylar and tie it down on at the same tie in point.

**Step 1**
Insert your hook into the vise and lay down a thread base. A little dab of glue on the thread base is handy when using slippery threads like GSP.

**Step 2**
Wrap lead free wire (in this case .025 diameter) to the shank of the hook. Number of wraps is all personal choice; more wraps for fast or deep water, less for shallow or slow moving water. Then make thread wraps over wire to lock it in place and add a dab of glue to secure it.

**Step 3**
Cut a length of zonker strip a little longer than you need. The tail should be about a hook shank in length. Puncture strip with hook, and then remove the hook from the vise to slide the strip down to where you’ll tie it in. It isn’t necessary, but I like to put two to three firm thread wraps at this tie in point to secure the zonker strip to the hook.

Continued on page 13
Step 4
Apply dubbing to thread, try to make the dubbing noodle a little bigger closer to the bottom to get a nice tapered body.

Step 5
Wrap dubbing noodle forward. If you need to, keep creating dubbing noodles until you reach where you’ll tie down the zonker.

Step 6
Pull zonker strip forward to the eye of the hook, tie down, and trim the excess.

Step 7
Create a neat thread head and whip finish. I was using white thread, so I took a yellow sharpie to my thread head to create a yellow thread head. Don’t forget to apply head cement to finish the fly.
BROOK TROUT  (*Salvelinus fontinalis*)

**Common Names:** Brook trout, Eastern brook trout, speckled trout, brookie, brook, coaster

JOIN TROUT UNLIMITED  
AND CHOOSE  
WOLF RIVER CHAPTER 050  

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