



Driftless Leader

*We are a local chapter of Trout Unlimited serving Crawford, Juneau, La Crosse, Monroe, Richland, and Vernon counties. Our mission is to **conserve, protect, and restore** coldwater fisheries and their watersheds. We are proud to have helped protect and restore the waters of Southwest Wisconsin for over 30 years.*

Newsletter for the Coulee Region chapter of Trout Unlimited

January 2013

Annual CRTU Banquet

The Coulee Region Trout Unlimited Banquet will be held on February 22.

We hope you plan to join us for the 2013 Coulee Region TU Banquet which will be held February 22 at Cedar Creek Country Club in Onalaska (2600 Cedar Creek Lane). Doors are open at 6 p.m. and dinner is served at 7 p.m. All CRTU members, spouses, and friends are invited to attend. You don't have to be an active TU member to come to the banquet. If you are looking for a night out to have some good food and fellowship, please join us. Tickets can be purchased for \$35 until February 15 and then \$40 after that. If you have a young person (under 18) in your life that would like to attend, their tickets are \$15 by the 15th and \$20 thereafter. To purchase your tickets, contact Eric Rauch (787-1883 or email at 8088rauch@charter.net) or any of the chapter officers (contact info on back page).

The banquet is a fun social event, but it is also our chapter's

main fundraising effort of the year. These funds support local stream improvements and other projects and organizations that benefit our cold water habitats, fisheries, and outdoor activities.

In addition to a delicious meal, and lively conversation about the upcoming trout season, you also have a chance to go home with some great prizes by participating in the door drawing, chance drawing, raffles, silent auction, Plinko board (very popular with our youth attendees), etc. During the banquet, you will also hear about past, present, and future stream projects we lead and support in the Coulee Region.

We look forward to seeing you there!



More prizes are being collected every day, but here are some of the main ones we know about so far:

- Colorado XT personal pontoon boat
- Three Forks 3 wt fly rod/reel combo
- 4 wt 4 piece fly rod, custom made by Rick Kyte
- Wind River fly reels
- Fly fishing nets
- Fly tying kit
- A.D. Maddox art fly boxes
- Umpqua line dressing box
- Guided walleye fishing trip in Pierre, SD
- Tackle bags, boxes, gear bags, etc.
- Hand-tied flies (would love to receive more of these)
- Gift certificates
- Fishing vests and clothing
- Books, videos and MORE!

We are still looking for more prizes, but especially non-fishing prizes: art work, wine, jewelry, crafts, gift certificates, prizes for our youth attendees. If you or your business would like to donate a prize to the banquet, please contact Eric Rauch. (We are a 501(3)c non-profit organization.)



Titanic tiger



Winter wonderland



Fish on!

CRTU Chapter News

Words from Jim Cox, chapter President

Where does the time go? It seems like just a few days ago, we were sitting on a stream bank, boat, or walking through water that was filling your waders from some small hole in them. Time to break out the ice fishing gear, head South, or start to repair those leaky waders again. You could even start to make some new flies for the spring hatch, or maybe make some flies to be placed as a prize for our annual upcoming Banquet in February.

Some other news-- we are looking for volunteers for the banquet on February 22. We need: set-up crews, entry table workers, bucket raffle organizer, Plinko board workers, ticket sales, live auction organizer, and workers to help. If anyone has anything they would like to donate for the banquet, please let one of the officers know.

We are also seeking anyone who would be interested in volunteering as our project manager for streams and other events. This position would mainly involve organizing stream restoration and maintenance projects with our TU members and possibly working with other TU clubs, TUDARE, and the DNR.

We currently have Wisconsin State Trout Unlimited banquet tickets for sale. The 42nd Banquet will be held on February 2 in Wausau, WI at the Holiday Inn-Rothschild. Socializing, cocktails, and presentations will be from 3:15 to 5:00 p.m. Dinner is at 6:45 and awards at 7:30. If interested in purchasing tickets (\$35) please contact Jim Cox at (608) 397-9448. A group of our members may be going. All money must be collected by January 15.

The Department Of Natural Resources is conducting a study and needs some public input. This plan is to provide some guidance for the Driftless Area through a Master Plan. Go to www.dnr.wi.gov for more information. Search "driftless area master plan." Here you can sign up to receive periodic updates on the planning process, public meeting announcements, and access to draft documents for review and comments.

The State Trout Unlimited organization will hold a Midwest Regional Meeting set for April 24th. This will be a one and a half day event with other TU clubs from around the Midwestern states. There will be workshops for clubs, discussion of mining bills, farm water bills, and sharing of what other clubs are doing for their area.

At the local level, we will be organizing a few weekends this Spring for clearing overgrown brush along stream banks in the Mormon Coulee stream area (off of Highway 61 on County Road M). More information will be coming in March. These brushing days are some of the projects we have lined up for this year. Through the years our club has spent countless hours restoring some of these streams and we need to try to keep these streams open for the public use and to keep the cold water habitat healthy. If there are other areas that you think need some work, please let us know so we can plan out these group work days. These "get your hands dirty" projects are worthwhile and fun when you can connect with other outdoor enthusiasts.

January Chapter Meeting

Our next chapter meeting is on January 16 at Syl's in Barre Mills. Join the rest of the crew at 6 p.m. to have a bite to eat, a beverage, and then talk about upcoming CRTU projects. We will likely be working on Cook Creek and then doing some brushing and clean up on Mormon Creek.

No February Chapter Meeting

Due to our Banquet on February 22, there is no chapter meeting in February. Come join us at the banquet on the 22nd beginning at 6 p.m. at the Cedar Creek Country Club.

Flies needed for state TU banquet

Are you a fly tier or have some favorite Coulee Region flies you'd like to donate? Our chapter is filling a fly box of our favorite flies that will be an auction item for the state TU banquet on February 2. If you have flies to give (no matter how many), please contact Eric Rauch or Jim Cox.

New Treasurer Needed

Bob Hubbard has done a great job as CRTU treasurer for many years, but his time is done. The treasurer's job isn't greatly complicated. We just need a responsible person to keep our checkbook in order--make deposits and pay a few bills from our events. Our chapter is in great financial health, just need someone to keep track of what comes in and goes out. Contact Jim Cox if you'd like to take this on.

New Web site and Facebook page

Keep up with Coulee Region TU at www.couleeregiontu.org and our Facebook page (just search Coulee Region TU).

Trout Fest

Trout Fest will take place on June 15, 2013 at Veterans Memorial Park.

Put this event on your calendar. The third Trout Fest will take place on June 15 in Coon Valley and help is needed during the current planning stages. Keep up with event details as they emerge at www.cooncreektroutfest.com. Please pass the word to friends and colleagues about this great event.

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