

DRIFTLESS LEADER

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF COULEE REGION TROUT UNLIMITED

FALL 2010

NEXT MEETING

SEPTEMBER 15, 2010

6 P.M. DINNER AND SOCIAL TIME

7 P.M. MEETING BEGINS

NEW MEETING LOCATION

THE MIRAGE BAR AND GRILL
4329 MORMON COULEE ROAD
LA CROSSE, WI

FOR OUR SEPTEMBER MEETING, BRING YOUR FISH STORIES AND PHOTOS FROM THE SUMMER. YES, CATCHING FISH IS A LOT OF FUN, BUT THE OTHER HALF OF THE FUN IS TELLING OTHER FISHERMEN ALL ABOUT IT. ALSO BRING IN ANY GEAR YOU'D LIKE TO SWAP OR SELL. CLEAN OUT THE GARAGE A BIT AND GET A LITTLE MONEY AT THE SAME TIME. THIS WOULD ALSO BE A GOOD TIME TO TALK STRATEGY WITH OTHER ANGLERS BEFORE THE LAST TWO WEEKS OF THE WISCONSIN TROUT SEASON.

THE COULEE REGION TU BANQUET WILL BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 25, 2011. PLEASE PUT IT ON YOUR CALENDAR RIGHT NOW. THIS EVENT IS A LOT OF FUN, WILL GET YOU GEARED UP FOR THE NEW SEASON, AND IS THE MAIN FUNDRAISER FOR OUR CHAPTER AND ITS PROJECTS.

IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS? WE ARE TRYING TO MAKE COULEE TU A VERY ACTIVE CHAPTER FOR ITS MEMBERS, SO PLEASE SHARE YOUR IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR PROJECTS, SPEAKERS, AND PRESENTERS. CONTACT ERIC RAUCH WITH YOUR THOUGHTS.



FIND COULEE REGION TU ON THE WEB.
WWW.COULEEREGIONTU.ORG



THE **SUMMER PICNIC** WAS WELL-ATTENDED WITH A COUPLE DOZEN MEMBERS AND MANY KIDS AT VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK IN COON VALLEY. THE WEATHER WAS VERY HOT, BUT THE GROWN-UPS ENJOYED COLD DRINKS WHILE THE KIDS ENJOYED SWIMMING IN THE COLD WATER OF COON CREEK. IN BETWEEN SWATTING FLIES, WE WERE SWAPPING STORIES ABOUT KILLER PATTERNS AND SECRET LOCATIONS TO 20" TROUT. WISH YOU COULD HAVE BEEN THERE, BUT THANKS TO ALL WHO WERE ABLE TO ATTEND!

JIM COX WON A \$175 RAFFLE PRIZE COMPRISED OF A VERY NICE SIMMS BACKPACK, FLY BOX, AND A COULEE TU HAT. MANY THANKS TO THE DRIFTLESS ANGLER FOR THEIR DONATION TO THE RAFFLE.



Jim Cox, raffle winner at the picnic.

MUSKY DREAMS

BY ERIC RAUCH

THIS SUMMER OUR FAMILY TOOK OUR ANNUAL TRIP UP NORTH TO CLEAR LAKE IN THE HAYWARD AREA. THE AREA HAD SEEN DELUGES OF RAIN THIS SUMMER YET THE LAKES WERE STILL DOWN SOME 40"! THE DOOR OF THE MARINA ON ROUND LAKE HAD A SIGN STATING THAT "IT TAKES JUST OVER 1 BILLION GALLONS OF WATER TO RAISE ROUND LAKE 1 INCH.....PRAY FOR RAIN." WELL, THE RAIN CAME DOWN IN BUCKETS THE SECOND NIGHT OF OUR TRIP AND ALONG WITH THE 40 MILE PER HOUR WINDS, IT MADE FOR QUITE A SLEEPLESS NIGHT FOR THE KIDS - THEREFORE THE ADULTS! THE NEXT MORNING, THE YOUNGSTERS WERE UP AT 6AM AND READY TO GO. I HEADED OUT, 4 KIDS AND A DOG IN TOW, FOR AN EARLY MORNING WALK ON THE BEACH WHILE MOM GOT BREAKFAST READY. THERE WAS A FAIR AMOUNT OF DEBRIS AND FLOTSAM IN THE WATER ALONG OUR BEACH. THE KIDS WERE CHASING FROGS AND THE DOG FOUND SOMETHING TO ROLL IN. I WALKED A LITTLE FURTHER AND OUR DOG GREETED ME WITH AN OVERWHELMING SMELL OF ROTTEN FISH. THAT'S WHEN IT ALL STARTED. THE KIDS WERE CALLING TO ME TO RUN DOWN AND SEE WHAT THEY HAD FOUND AMONGST THE WASH. THEY SEEMED EXTRA EXCITED AND A LITTLE SCARED, POINTING IN THE WATER AND STEPPING BACK! I RAN DOWN AND FOUND WHAT THE DOG AND KIDS HAD ALREADY DISCOVERED-- A HUGE, MOSTLY DECOMPOSED, MUSKY! QUARTER INCH OR LARGER WHITE TEETH PROTRUDED FROM THE SKULL OF THIS FISH THAT HAD TO GO CLOSE TO 50" WHEN IT WAS SWIMMING THE LAKE. THAT GRIZZLY, TOOTHY GRIN HAD THE KIDS OUT OF THE WATER, HIGH AND DRY ON THE BEACH! I COULD SEE IN THEIR FACES THAT THE THOUGHT OF SWIMMING THAT DAY HAD TAKEN ON SOME NEW



CONCERNS. JUST THEN A VISION FROM THE "LORD OF THE FLIES" - A PIG HEAD ON A STICK- PASSED THROUGH MY MIND AS I REACHED DOWN FOR THE STINKY 10" SKULL, PLACED IT ATOP OF A FITTING STICK, AND PROCLAIMED THE AREA MUSKY SKULL BEACH! THE REST OF THE WEEK WE HAD GORGEOUS WEATHER AND IN BETWEEN TRIPS TO TOWN FOR THE LUMBERJACK SHOW OR ICE CREAM, WE WOULD BE ON MUSKY SKULL BEACH, CATCHING SUNFISH. EACH AND EVERY SUNNY THAT WAS HOOKED WAS ANNOUNCED TO BE A HUGE MUSKY BY THE YOUNG ANGLERS AS THEY PULLED AND TUGGED TRYING TO WRESTLE IN ALL OF THE 6 OUNCES AT THE END OF THEIR LINE. WE PROBABLY LANDED 50 OR SO SUNNIES A DAY FOR THE NEXT 5 DAYS AND NONE OF THEM TURNED OUT TO BE A HUGE MUSKY. HOWEVER, THE SEED HAD BEEN PLANTED AND EACH NIGHT AT BEDTIME THE TALK ALWAYS ENDED UP CENTERING AROUND MUSKY DREAMS. LITTLE DID THEY KNOW THAT A LIFELONG QUEST HAD BEGUN.



Biggest and only fish of the day.

NOT EVERY TRIP IS LEGENDARY

BY CURT REES

I WISH I HAD SOME GREAT FISH STORY TO TELL FROM THIS SUMMER ABOUT GIGANTIC TROUT FOR MY FIRST ISSUE AS EDITOR OF THE DRIFTLESS LEADER. THE BEAST PICTURED TO THE LEFT IS PROBABLY FROM ONE OF MY MORE MEMORABLE TRIPS THIS SUMMER. AFTER TAKING SEVERAL WRONG TURNS TRYING TO FIND DUCK EGG CREEK (IN ALL HONESTY, THAT IS A GORGEOUS AREA IN WHICH TO BE LOST), I FINALLY FOUND IT WITH A COUPLE OF HOURS BEFORE SUNDOWN. I BATTLED A FEW THOUSAND MOSQUITOES AND MUGGY TEMPS TO LAND THIS LITTLE SHINER. WHEN I REPORTED HOME, MY 4-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER WANTED TO SEE PHOTOS OF MY SUCCESS. HER RESPONSE, "IT SURE IS A CUTE ONE DADDY!" FISHING AND PARENTHOOD SURE MAKE YOU HUMBLE.

HAVE FISH STORY TO TELL? I'D LOVE TO SHARE IT IN A FUTURE NEWSLETTER. EMAIL ME AT CURTREES@GMAIL.COM.

PROJECTS & EVENTS



OUR COON CREEK PROJECT OUTSIDE OF COON VALLEY IS PROGRESSING WELL. PHASE ONE WAS THE LARGEST SCALE AND MOST EXPENSIVE STREAM WORK PROJECT EVER COMPLETED BY THE DNR! THE RESULTS OF THE PHASE ONE WORK ARE INCREDIBLE SO PLEASE GO OUT AND TAKE A LOOK OR WET A LINE. PHASE TWO BEGAN IN AUGUST AND SHOULD BE COMPLETED BETWEEN NOW AND NEXT SPRING. IF YOU STOP OUT BE SURE AND THANK THE DNR CREW FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING WORK!

COULEE REGION T.U. WAS REPRESENTED AT YOUTH OUTDOOR FEST THIS YEAR BY MEMBERS CY POST AND JEFF HASTINGS. CY SHARES, "ENTHUSIASTIC YOUTHS WERE WAITING IN LINE FOR CASTING LESSONS IMMEDIATELY AFTER SETUP AT 11:00AM. HIGH TEMPERATURES AND HUMIDITY DID NOT DAMPEN THE ENTHUSIASM. WE WERE CONSTANTLY BUSY THROUGHOUT THE DAY UNTIL CLOSING TIME AFTER 4:30PM. SOME ADULTS ALSO RECEIVED LESSONS WHEN NO KIDS WERE WAITING. WE HAD MANY "WIND KNOTS" IN OUR LEADERS AT THE END OF THE DAY." THANKS CY AND JEFF!

TROUT FEST 2011!?! COULEE REGION TU IS ENTERTAINING THE IDEA OF HOLDING A SUMMER EVENT IN 2011. WE HAVE TALKED WITH THE VILLAGE OF COON VALLEY ABOUT HOSTING THE EVENT IN VETERANS PARK. THIS EVENT WOULD BE CO-SPONSORED BY THE DRIFTLESS ANGLER FLY SHOP. WE ARE IN THE EARLY PLANNING STAGES AT THIS TIME TO SEE IF THIS IS SOMETHING WE CAN MAKE HAPPEN. IF YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS OR WOULD LIKE TO BE INVOLVED IN THE PLANNING OF THIS EVENT, PLEASE CONTACT ERIC (8088RAUCH@CHARTER.NET).

MORMON COULEE STREAM WORK: WE WILL BE CONDUCTING BRUSHING ON OUR FORMER PROJECT SITES ALONG MORMON COULEE CREEK . WE ARE CURRENTLY WORKING WITH THE DNR TO IDENTIFY THE SECTIONS THAT NEED THE MOST WORK. WE WILL NEED VOLUNTEERS TO DO CUTTING OF BRUSH AND TREATING OF STUMPS. MORE INFORMATION WILL FOLLOW AS SOON AS WE GET A STARTING DATE. IN THE MEANTIME CONTACT ERIC IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE PUT ON THE VOLUNTEER LIST.



STRUCTURES ON MORMON CREEK ARE HOLDING UP WELL AFTER RESTORATION EFFORTS IN THE PAST FEW YEARS.

CANOE RAFFLE -- COULEE REGION TU WILL BE CONDUCTING A RAFFLE FOR A \$1600 BELL PROSPECTOR CANOE! TICKETS WILL BE \$10 EACH OR 3 FOR \$25. WINNER WILL BE DRAWN AT THE BANQUET ON FEB. 25 2011. IF YOU WANT TO BUY OR SELL TICKETS THEY WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE MONTHLY MEETINGS OR CONTACT ERIC RAUCH (8088RAUCH@CHARTER.NET) (608-787-1883).

**FLY FISHING WEB RESOURCE
CHECK OUT WWW.WINONAFLYFACTORY.COM
THIS IS A FANTASTIC (NEARLY LOCAL) RESOURCE FOR GREAT INFORMATION ON SE MN WATER, FISH STORIES, EXCELLENT PHOTOGRAPHY, AND FLY TYING VIDEOS.**

2010-11 EXECUTIVE BOARD FOR COULEE REGION TU

PRESIDENT: ERIC RAUCH – 8088RAUCH@CHARTER.NET

VICE PRESIDENT: STEVE FRUECHTE

TREASURER: BOB HUBBARD

SECRETARY: CURT REES – CURTREES@GMAIL.COM

DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO TELL OR INFORMATION TO SHARE FOR THE NEWSLETTER? DROP CURT A LINE AT THE EMAIL ADDRESS ABOVE OR CALL HIM AT 608-317-3747.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

- *SEPTEMBER 15*
- *OCTOBER 20*
- *NOVEMBER 17*
- *DECEMBER 15*

MEETING LOCATION
MIRAGE SPORTS BAR AND GRILL
4329 MORMON COULEE
LA CROSSE, WI

DINNER AND SOCIAL TIME, 6 P.M.
MEETING BEGINS AT 7 P.M.

COULEE REGION TROUT UNLIMITED

W5789 HYPPOINT DRIVE
LA CROSSE, WI 54601



STREAM RESTORATION WORK CONTINUES ON COON CREEK NORTH OF COON VALLEY.

