



# 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

## Quickie Edition

*This edition of the CRTU newsletter is an "in between" version to get some important dates and information about upcoming events to all of our members. Once the season opens again, we will bring you more fish stories in future newsletters.*

## Annual CRTU Banquet

*The Coulee Region Trout Unlimited Banquet will be held on February 24.*

We hope you plan to join us for the 2012 Coulee Region TU Banquet which will be held February 24 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. 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](mailto: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, games, silent auction, etc. During the banquet, you will also hear about past, present, and future stream projects we support in the area.

We look forward to seeing you there!

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

Inflatable personal pontoon (similar to pictured)

Sage fly rod

Bamboo fly rod

LL Bean rods and reels

1 night stay at Timber Coulee Cottage

Orvis reels and gear

Guided float trip

Guided walleye fishing trip in Pierre, SD

Fly-tying material and equipment

Hand-tied flies

Original art work

Gift certificates

Fishing vests and clothing

Nets, books, videos and MORE!

**If you or your business would like to donate a prize to the banquet, please contact Eric Rauch.**



Main vendor tent during Trout Fest 2011



Is this heaven? No, it's the Coulee Region.



Thinking of summer Vernon County streams.

## CRTU Chapter News

### Trout Fest

The second Trout Fest is June 16 in Coon Valley and help is needed during the current planning stages. The planning meetings are held at 5:30 p.m. on the first Monday of the month in the Coon Valley village hall. Of particular need is someone to run the kids fishing station on June 16. The fish will be ordered and delivered, but people are needed to help kids along the stream and to hand out prizes. This would be a great Scout project if someone was connected with a group looking for a worthwhile event to support.

### No February Chapter Meeting

Due to our Banquet on February 24, there is no chapter meeting in February. Come join us at the banquet on the 24th beginning at 6 p.m. at the Cedar Creek Country Club.

### March Meeting - Frac Sand: Mining & Use

Karl Green, UW Extension community natural resource educator, will be the featured speaker at 7 p.m. on March 21 in room 107 of the Reinhart Center on the Viterbo campus. He will share information about frac mining, the use of frac sand, where these sand deposits are located in the Coulee Region, and the issues that arise when this sand is mined.

There will be a short chapter business meeting before the presentation on the 21st. The business meeting will be at Houghton's restaurant (1002 Jackson Street in La Crosse) at 6 p.m.

### Youth Outdoor Fest

The 2012 Youth Outdoor Fest will be held on July 14. This collaborative effort between area businesses, non-profit groups, and the La Crosse Parks and Recreation Department will provide an informational fun-filled day of spending time in the outdoors. The fest will be an activity-filled day designated for families and individuals interested in learning more about the activities we are so fortunate

to have here in the Seven Rivers region. There will be demonstrations, entertainment, hand-outs, food and more! **Volunteers are needed to help this worthwhile event.** If you have an interest in helping kids learn skills and appreciation of the outdoors, please contact Eric Rauch (787-1883 8088rauch@charter.net).

## May Pig Roast

*The spring pig roast will take place on May 19 at the Norskedalen Center north of Coon Valley. Put this event on your calendar now so you won't miss it.*

The second annual Driftless TU spring pig roast will be Saturday, May 19 at the Norskedalen Nature and Heritage Center outside Coon Valley. There will be a pig roast served alongside other delicious local food (Amish pies!) and local beverages. Proceeds from food sales, raffles, and other activities will all benefit local stream improvement work. There will be presentations by the DNR and TU chapters on upcoming projects, fly casting lessons, and fellowship. The main events begin at 6 p.m., but we highly recommend that you arrive earlier to give you time to tour the Norskedalen grounds and exhibits. Check out [www.norskedalen.org](http://www.norskedalen.org) for more information about this wonderful place.

This is an open event but we are reaching out to TU members, spouses, friends, DNR staff, other stream professionals, Driftless landowners, and anyone who is interested in conservation and improvement projects in our beautiful Driftless area. Tickets are \$12.50 each and can be purchased via PayPal by visiting [www.couleestreams.com](http://www.couleestreams.com) or by sending a check (payable to CRTU) to Bob Hubbard at 483 Lark Lane, West Salem WI, 54669.

### March 3

The first day of early trout season will be here very soon. Get your flies organized, line cleaned, and check those waders for leaks!

### CRTU Web Site

Our chapter web site [www.couleeregiontu.org](http://www.couleeregiontu.org) is moving servers and under going some needed updates. Many thanks to David Dornblaser for all of this work. Keep your eye on the site for its relaunch and to keep you up to date on what's going on with CRTU.



### CRTU T-Shirts

T-shirt season will be here before you know it, so get a CRTU shirt. Shirts are only \$15, all sizes are available, so just send Eric Rauch an email with your shirt size. [8088rauch@charter.net](mailto:8088rauch@charter.net)

### CRTU OFFICERS

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