







# *The Riffle and Pool*

WRVTU Chapter Newsletter

Our website is: [www.wrvtu.org](http://www.wrvtu.org)

Mar/Apr 2011

**Our last newsletter listed various websites to visit during these long winter months. Now, here's a few upcoming events and activities which may be of interest.**

-  March 5 **Early trout catch and release season opens.**
-  March 19 **March Fever Day** fishing show at Waverly Beach, Menasha WI  
[www.foxvalleytu.org](http://www.foxvalleytu.org)—silent auction, raffles, door prizes, fly tying, rod building, DNR booth, manufacturers, guides, used equipment sale, and more.
-  March 26-27 **TU Stream Restoration Training Seminar** at Westby Wisconsin  
See page two for details—your editor plans to attend (and fish).
-  April 1-3 **Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo** at The National Sports Center in Blaine MN  
[www.nwfly.com](http://www.nwfly.com) Exhibits and demonstrations—outfitters, guides, manufacturers, antique tackle, fly tying, wildlife artists, and much more at a great new location this year.
-  Apr 11 **DNR Spring Hearings**—Area locations include Tomahawk Elementary School and Antigo High School. Hearings begin at 7:00 PM  
[www.dnr.lwi.gov/org/nrboard/congress/spring\\_hearings/index.html](http://www.dnr.lwi.gov/org/nrboard/congress/spring_hearings/index.html)
-  April 16 **Northwoods Chapter TU 37th Annual Conservation Banquet** (Just in case you can't make ours) Contact Brian at Mel's Sports 715 482-2898
-  July 23 **Coon Creek Trout Fest** info will be posted at [www.uppermidwestflyfishing.com](http://www.uppermidwestflyfishing.com)

Our chapter plans to begin providing "Trout" magazine subscriptions and WRVTU newsletters to our local area school libraries

## Publication Notice

The **"Riffle and Pool"** is the official newsletter of the Wisconsin River Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Upcoming editions for 2011 will be and May/June, Sep/Oct & Nov/Dec.

Copy related to TU events, coldwater resources, or trout and salmon fishing is welcome. Deadline for copy is two weeks prior to publication date. The May/June edition's copy deadline is Apr. 15, 2011.

To submit copy, contact "Riffle and Pool" editor Chuck Sauer at [chuck.sauer@gmail.com](mailto:chuck.sauer@gmail.com) or phone 715 873-4641

**Chuck Sauer**  
editor



*"The charm of fishing is that it is the pursuit of something that is elusive but attainable, a perpetual series of occasions for hope".*

*John Buchman (1875-1940)*

## ***President's Cast.....***

Hello Everyone

There are some things that concerned me in taking on the role as chapter president. One of these was writing for the newsletter. What could I possibly say to inform, motivate or inspire anyone? So I'll just start typing and see what I can shake out of my head.

There are certain traditions that are in place when accepting a role like this. When you're an elected official, you take an oath of office. If you are crowned royalty you get a scepter. When you become president of Wisconsin River Valley TU you get a couple of boxes full of files and letters, maps, and handbooks. My first thought was "where am I going to keep this stuff" and "what will I need it for".

The main box is quite heavy so I had to ask my son to retrieve it from my car. He placed it in my sewing room (I call it my sewing room although there hasn't been any sewing done there for a few years now). Well, I've gone up and looked at it once in a while, as it sat there on the floor, beckoning me. The sight of it was a little overwhelming. What if I don't understand any of it? John Meachan would tell me occasionally that this information or that information was in that box he gave me, and I really need to check it out. So finally I worked up the courage and went up and grabbed a file, made myself comfortable on the couch and started to read through it to try to figure things out.

So, here I am now using my sewing room again and learning a whole lot of new things about this organization that represents the sport that I love so much. The fly-fishing that I've so enjoyed learning about has taken on a whole new challenge as I now see that there is so much more about Trout Unlimited than I had imagined. I will keep you updated in future issues as I progress and can relate things to you that I would hope you would be interested in reading.

Best,

*Linda*



## **Stream Restoration Training Opportunity**

Coming once again this spring is the popular Stream Restoration Project Planning Training to help TU chapter volunteers and conservation organizations increase their capacity to implement restoration projects. This will be the fifth time that this very successful session has been offered as part of the Driftless Area Restoration Effort. The training will be March 26th and 27th, 2011 in Westby, Wisconsin, amidst some of the finest streams in the region.

The goal of the training is to help conservation groups increase their project planning and implementation capability. The program will feature case studies from chapters, panel discussions from agency professionals, and a variety of topics to help you with your next restoration project. The training sessions will begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday and conclude by noon on Sunday. There will be time on Saturday and Sunday for fishing the coulees.

For more information or if you wish to reserve a spot, contact [Chuck.Sauer@gmail.com](mailto:Chuck.Sauer@gmail.com)

## Home Made Mud and Sinkants

There are two types of products made to condition leaders and flies so they are more effective. They are "mud" degreasers and liquid sinkants.

New leaders that are fresh from the package have both a shiny and a water repellant coating left over from the manufacturing process. In most circumstances we can simply use the leaders as is, but when fishing for picky fish, the reflection from a shiny leader can spook fish. Dulling the leader and using a sinkant to quickly sink the fly is a common practice in still water fly fishing in England.

Some fly fishers will use some mud from the river and rub down their leader to condition it. This is effective, but usually not as effective as using a product such as Orvis Mud, which is specifically made for this purpose.

Liquid sinkants such as Gherkes Xink are used to speed the sinking of flies and leaders/tippets. They do this by lowering the surface tension of water that normally allows our leaders and flies to float on the top. Chemically, they are known as surfactants for "surface active agents". They are also known as "wetting agents" because they allow a liquid to quickly mix with other liquids or coat solids.

This wetting of the fly and leader with a sinkant gets the fly and leader down into the fishing zone faster. This means more time in the strike zone, which translates to a longer and more effective drift.

Although you can use the commercial products, they are high priced formulations of common materials that may already be in your home. These products are easily made and effective. Semi solid products such as Orvis Mud are made from Fuller's Earth (a type of fine bentonite clay) mixed with a surfactant and an anti drying agent. You can buy real Fuller's Earth but a cheap substitute would be *non clumping* kitty litter or the common oil absorbent clay from an auto supply shop. The surfactant is unscented dish detergent and the anti drying agent is glycerin, sold at pharmacies as an anti-constipation agent, but in the home-made mud, it keeps the mud from drying out and caking.

Grind and crush the clumps in the kitty litter or clay, or sift it to get only the finest particles. Mix it with the liquid detergent and a few drops of the glycerin to get the consistency of a thick paste. Then store it in a 35 mm. film canister for the fly vest. Rub it on new leaders to remove the sheen and the water repellant coating before using the leader.

Home made liquid wetting agents for flies and leaders are even easier. There is no need to ever buy liquid sinkants such as Xink. For photo finishers, Kodak Photo Flo is a good substitute. For the rest of us, propylene glycol is readily available. It is the main ingredient in the antifreeze that is used to winterize home plumbing systems. Put some in a small bottle and rub it into your nymphs and streamers as a wetting agent. It will keep those pesky marabou fibers from clumping on your wooly buggers. They will instantly wet and the plumes will look like they should from the very first cast.

*This article is copyrighted.*

*No reproduction by electronic or other means is allowed without permission of the author*

**Henry Kanemoto**

## *Chapter meetings & programs*

***Monday March 14—Monthly meeting at Gander Lodge at Gander Mountain***

***6:00- Board meeting (members are invited to attend)***

***7:00- DVD from The Rogue Angler, sampling their 32 available fly fishing DVD's including destinations and instruction. This is a very interesting production that's bound to wet your appetite.***

***Saturday April 9—Annual Banquet and Fundraiser at Memories Ballroom.***

***If you've not received our banquet flyer, it may be downloaded as a pdf file from our website [www.wrvtu.org](http://www.wrvtu.org)***

***Monday May 9—Monthly meeting at Gander Lodge at Gander Mountain***

***6:00- Board meeting (members are invited to attend)***

***7:00- Joe Soley presents fly fishing from ladders on Pyramid Lake NV for the threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout***



***WI River Valley TU News Editor***

***W2405 County Rd J***

***Gleason WI 54435***