

# *The Riffle and Pool*

WRVTU Chapter Newsletter

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

Sep/Oct 2010

## Prairie River Stream Improvement Project Completed



The DNR completed a stream improvement project on July 15 on the Prairie River in Lincoln County, just upstream of the County Road J bridge. 2,500 feet of river was worked on, connecting two previous habitat projects. The site is almost entirely on public land, making public access easy.

The stream was narrowed to less than half in most areas, deepened, with woody habitat added. Excavators created pools by digging on several outside bends of the stream channel. Materials brought up from the bottom were deposited on the inside of the bends creating point bars. In these pools; root wads

and 180 logs were installed creating overhead cover and helping to direct water flow. In addition to the woody structures, 130 boulders were placed in the stream to provide habitat and direct water flow. Areas that were excessively wide and shallow were narrowed by adding point bars and log drops. Bank sloping was done in areas prone to erosion. Any exposed soils in excavation areas and access sites were seeded and mulched.

This project was one of three that the DNR designed, coordinated and constructed, including others on the Hunting and Evergreen Rivers that our chapter agreed to help fund. Support for all three projects came from the TU State Council, Shaw Paca TU, Oconto River TU, Marinette TU, Green Bay TU, Wolf River TU, Antigo TU and Friends of the Prairie River, whose contribution went entirely to help fund the Prairie project.

### Publication Notice

The ***“Riffle and Pool”*** is the official newsletter of the WI River Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Upcoming editions for 2010 will be May/June, September/October and November/December.

Copy related to TU events, cold-water 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 April 15, 2010.

To submit copy, contact chapter president John Meachen at [4js@charter.net](mailto:4js@charter.net) or 715-675-4920.

The Prairie River project was a one-year project whereas the other two will be completed over a two-year period.

Our chapter is pleased to have had the opportunity to pool our resources with others in order to improve stream habitat over a broad area of northeastern Wisconsin.



**Chuck Sauer**  
editor

*“.....a trout fisherman is something that defieith understanding.”*

Corey Ford and Alastair McBain  
*Introduction to Trout Fishing*  
by Dan Holland (1949)

# President's Cast.....

## Water, Water Everywhere....

Do you remember fishing during the early season and the opening of the regular trout season? The water levels in our central Wisconsin streams were so low, it seemed like it was the end of July rather than April and May. What a difference rain can make. Constant, heavy rains have filled our streams and rivers to overflowing making it hard to fish because of too much water. We do need to remember that we are just starting to come out of an eight year drought. Our ground water levels are still very low and it will take several more years to gradually build up to good levels. We need to be aware and vigilant when it comes to protecting water resources from abuse and overuse.



## General Meetings Begin September 13....

Our Wisconsin River Valley Trout Unlimited meetings begin again in September. We meet on the second Monday of each month in the Gander Lodge at the Wausau Gander Mountain store. The store is located in the Cedar Creek Mall area adjacent to Harley Davidson. We try to provide programs of interest to both anglers and conservation minded individuals. General meetings begin at 7:00 pm and our board meets the hour before. The October meeting on Tuesday the 11th is a night where we set the course for the year by electing officers, board members and make plans for the coming season. Please consider becoming more involved by becoming a board member or an officer. Drop me an email at 4js@charter.net or call me at 715-675-4920 if you have questions.

## Thank you....

I took the job of chapter president three years ago when Herb Hintze retired after a long and fruitful period as the leader of our chapter. At that time, during a period of reorganization we set term limits for board members and officers. My term as president is up at the October meeting and I look forward to working with whoever is elected as our new president. Thank you for all the support and help that you have given me over these past three years. We have a great chapter that will continue to make a positive impact on our cold water resources in North Central Wisconsin.

John

### Have you ever wondered just how many fish are caught and released in Wisconsin?

#### Top Fish Caught In Wisconsin

|               | No. of fish caught | No. of fish harvested |
|---------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| All panfish   | 57,728,758         | 25,732,346            |
| Walleye       | 7,068,112          | 2,155,626             |
| All bass      | 10,073,286         | 550,335               |
| All trout     | 1,615,190          | 497,783               |
| Muskellunge   | 223,101            | 12,493                |
| Northern pike | 3,158,927          | 621,700               |
| Catfish       | 777,094            | 535,658               |
| Other         | 7,580,707          | 2,983,290             |
| Total fish    | 88,228,175         | 33,089,231            |

Source: 2006 DNR statewide mail survey of anglers

## *The Sidearm Hook Cast*

A hook cast is a steep curve cast that hooks the leader and end of the fly line right or left so that it can curve the end of the leader around an object like a tree stump or rock. Most of the time it is performed sidearm by over powering the cast so that the loop flips over and back around to form the hook.

Overpower a sidearm cast from the right side and the end of the line and leader will hook to the left at the end of the cast. This is called a “positive” left hook because it the loop actually unfurls completely to hook around.

To make the line land in a right hook from a right sidearm cast, the caster must under power the cast so that it lands BEFORE the loop straightens completely. This is called a negative right hook. A negative hook is a less accurate and desirable cast than a positive hook for several reasons.

A negative hook is more prone to being affected by winds because it is an underpowered cast. But the main reason is that a negative hook cannot hook around anything that is upright. An underpowered cast that you try to place around an object does not actually hook around the object at all. It collapses, but to collapse and place the curve beyond the object, the collapsing loop has to go through a vertical object. It will hit the object before it can land beyond it.

Said another way, when you cast sidearm from the right side, the leg of the unfurling loop is to the right and it will straighten on the standing leg of the line to the left, so the momentum and energy of the cast will flip the fly over to the left. There is no way to perform the opposite positive right curve from the right sidearm cast. Since a negative hook cast does not actually straighten the loop, some will call it a mend rather than a cast.

Although the negative hook is not as effective a cast for actually hooking around an object, it still can be used when casting hooks as in the air mends to correct for faster water between you and the target. It is especially useful for casting toward the slower water near the bank that has over arching tree branches or brush.

Most folks will tell you to under power the cast to make a negative hook. Finding the exact degree of “under” power can be difficult. What I have found and what may work for you is to shoot a bit line as the cast unfurls. By timing the shoot you can kill the cast. Since the line is no longer unfurling against the fixed rod tip, a line shoot will rob power from the cast and make it collapse.

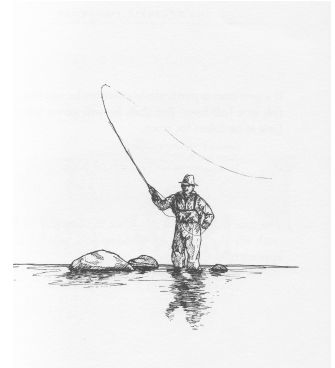
The rod does not know at what angle it is being cast. But when we use different casting angles, the resulting identical rod tip path produces different casts. If the positive and negative hook casts are performed with the rod vertical rather than sidearm, we get a tuck cast for the positive hook and a puddle cast for the negative hook. The only difference is that you need to aim the cast a bit higher to give the tuck cast enough room to tuck underneath itself or it will hit the water before it tucks.

There is another way to perform hook casts that can cast both positive left and right hooks. But that is a subject for a following article.

***Henry Kanemoto***

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## *Chapter meetings & programs*

*September 13 at 7:00 pm at Gander Lodge - Bring your magazines, books, DVD's, video tapes or whatever to give away, loan or swap, along with your fishing season stories that you can't wait to share.*

*A complete meeting schedule and agenda of programs will be announced in the November/December edition of "The Riffle and Pool"*

### *Please give us your thoughts*

*We would love to have your input about such things as what you would like to see in the newsletter, anything about our banquet, programs that might be of interest at chapter meetings, habitat improvement projects, or.....?*

*Give president John a call at 715-675-4920 or email [4js@charter.net](mailto:4js@charter.net)*



*WI River Valley Chapter  
W2405 County Rd J  
Gleason WI 54435*