



TROUT UNLIMITED

Arkansas' White River Chapter #698

ISSUE 5

JANUARY 2009

Bill Thorne-President • Gary Flippin-Vice President
Henry Seay-Treasurer • Joe Salisbury-Secretary

Join the Celebration

2009 marks the 50th anniversary of Trout Unlimited. Founded 50 years ago in 1959, TU was created by a group of Michigan fishermen who wanted to protect their local waters. TU chapters and councils will commemorate the 50th anniversary with many celebrations around the country.

The national organization has created a second website that will specialize in anniversary events and news. Be sure to visit www.tu50.org. You'll also notice that our newsletter is sporting an updated logo to commemorate the event.

In August, TU will host its 50th anniversary celebration and annual meeting at the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa in Traverse City, Michigan, not far from where TU was founded 50 years ago. From hosted fishing trips, visits with fly fishing notables, casting contests and much more, the event will be a memorable celebration. Complete details and registration information are available at www.tu50.org

For those who haven't heard,

the TU sponsored show, "On The Rise," filmed here just a few weeks ago. Bill Thorne was lucky enough to participate and you can read his comments on the next page.

The show is scheduled to air this spring. We'll certainly send out an email when the date is set!



Above: Bill with TV host, Frank Smethurst.
Left: The shows travel trailer painted like a trout. (Brown on one side, rainbow on the other.)



Show 10: White & Norfolk Rivers, AR
A small TU chapter won a big battle against a developer responsible for a major sedimentation event on the Norfolk River. Frank gets the details...and catches a fish you will truly have to see to believe.

Sara Thorne
Membership
Cindy Hanson
Programs

Marc Oakes
Education

Wendy Luna
Newsletter

Carolyn Hellmuth

T.L. Laurerman

Gary Hanson

Clint Wilkinson

Member
Meetings

**1st Monday of
the Month**

at El Chico's
Restaurant
Mountain Home
(E. 62 Bypass by
Home Depot)

**Next
Meeting
MONDAY
Feb. 2nd**

6:00 Social/Dinner
7:00 Meeting

El Chico's sets up a buffet dinner, rather than ordering individual meals. The food will be hot and ready to eat by 6:00. Plan to spend about \$9 per plate.



President's Message

Being President of a TU chapter has its "ups" and "downs" ...mostly "ups". My latest experience as President has jumped quickly to the top of the "ups" list.

When Dennis McCarty, TU's State Council Chair called to ask me if I wanted to join the Trout Unlimited fishing show *On the Rise* host, Frank Smethurst and guide John Wilson in the filming of an episode featuring the White and Norfolk Rivers, I quickly responded, "you betcha!" (Sorry, Sarah Palin).

Without expanding this article into great detail, let me just say...It was an experience that we all enjoyed. Of course it was a hoot to catch nice big fish on film and Frank's 35 inch brown was icing on the cake, but this show

will be more than that. It also provided the opportunity to showcase TU's past and future efforts and challenges as Stewards of the river.

Now all we have to do is rise to the challenge.

With the recent low water conditions, we can finally begin our initial assessment of damages that occurred from the Overlook Estates runoff and spring and summer floods. With the help of the Corps of Engineers and the AGFC we will work to identify areas that need work.

Then, TU, working together with other area Conservation organizations, can begin the restoration process.

I know we all look forward to the opportunity to help improve the condition of our home waters and then reap the benefits of our efforts. As I always say, "if we take care of the river, the fish will take care of themselves."

One thing that Frank said during the show was "you mean with the help of volunteer organizations like TU, this wonderful fishery could be even better?"... just imagine that!

Norfolk Clean-up

A second clean-up at the North Fork river is scheduled for Sunday, January 25th. Clint Wilkinson heads up this event. Members are asked to meet at Quarry Park about 9:30 Sunday morning and be ready to work. If you have a boat, please bring it. Any volunteer is welcome. Wear waders, as you'll be climbing around on the banks to pull out flood debris. Tools for reaching into trees, and trash bags are also needed. Sara Thorne and Carolyn Hellmuth are volunteering to provide chili to those that attend.

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Next Meeting: Monday, Feb. 2nd, 2009

Clay Thompson, BlueInGreen, Inc
Oxygen injection system used on the Norfolk river last fall.

Mark your calendar for the March meeting now. Monday, March 2nd.

EXTREME DEAD DRIFT

by Wendy Luna

Clint Wilkinson, one of our local fly fishing guides and board member of our chapter, was presenter at our January meeting.

Admittedly, he was put on the schedule at the last minute and had little time to prepare. But you'd never know



it. Clint hooked up his web cam to the TV system at El Chico and tied a variety of flies as he spoke.

Clint has his own fly, the Sunday Special, which he relies on in a variety of water conditions. His discussion focused on technique for slow water/lower levels. He assured us that big browns are laying in those sections of the river that are so slow you feel like you're lake fishing.

First, you must use the smallest indicator you can see. Second, provide lots of slack in the line to achieve an imperceptible drift. Clint says the fly needs to be suspended in the water and not sitting on the bottom. Finally, watch the indicator intently for the slightest movement. A trout will suck a fly in and out of its mouth before you know it.

This technique was new to a few people who attended the meeting. I, for one, have a spot picked out at Rim and am eager to try it out.

TU Treasurer Report:

Balance 9-2-08 \$1834.82

Conservation Summit

At our December meeting, Gary Flippin, as Conservation Chair, suggested TU sponsor an annual meeting of area club officers for sharing information about individual club goals/projects. His goal was to be better aware of what other groups are doing, to avoid overlapping projects and perhaps work together on wide interest projects. Leon Alexander was in attendance that night and mentioned that Friends of the White and North Fork Rivers were already planning something along those lines.

A few phone calls and emails later, and TU and Friends are now co-sponsoring a Conservation Summit. This is to be held February 7th in the home of Steve Wilson.

Participants that have responded so far include: Friends of the North Fork River, BM Friends of the North Fork & White Rivers, Friends of the North Fork Hatchery, Rod & Reel Club, Bull Shoals Planning Commission, Norfork Lake Chamber of Commerce. Gary Flippin, Bill Thorne and Joe Salisbury will represent our chapter of T.U.


"My biggest worry is that my wife (when I'm dead) will sell my fishing gear for what I said I paid for it."

~by Koos Brandt~

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First Annual White River Banquet Taking Shape

First, mark your calendar. The event will be held Saturday, April 25th, 2009 at the Mountain Home Elks Club. Ticket prices and many details are still to be determined. Betty Pahl, as Banquet Chair, held the first organizational meeting on Wednesday, 1/14.

Various tasks were divided up among volunteers. Richard Ellsworth will act as Banquet Treasurer, Sara Thorne and Tiffany Johnson are in charge of Tickets/Membership. Jane Darr, Sharon Hodges and Lerene Salisbury will take care of Arrangements. Tom Emerick is responsible for Publicity, Wendy Luna, Dennis and Amy Galyardt will be responsible for the Auction/Prizes. Additional volunteers that will help are Miriam Emerick, Beth Harmon, Misako Ishimura, Mark Romero, Carolyn Hellmuth, T.L. Laurerman, Tom Hoffman, Shella Hagan, Jo Wilson, Danielle Wilkinson, Cindy Hanson.

The primary purpose of this banquet is to raise funds for future TU projects. That will be done by getting auction/raffle items donated for the event. We're all a little concerned how the present economy might impact our efforts.

Members are asked to contact Wendy (info@rimshoals.com) if they have something to donate or know some folks we should solicit. Sara will email the membership when we begin to sell tickets.

The next banquet meeting is at 6:00 p.m., Wed., January 28th at Angler's Cafe for those that would like to get involved.



Twelve adventurous souls turned up at the Angler's Cafe to make plans for our first fund-raising banquet.



Project Healing Water Update

We've recently received notice from ESPN producer, Dan Arruda, that the film covering the Project Healing Waters rendezvous at Rim Shoals shot last October is to be aired soon.

It has been tentatively scheduled to air on February 9th, 2009. We should be getting details like time slot(s), channel, show title about a week in advance. Anybody that is interested can check www.rimshoals.com where they'll post the info as soon as possible.



Shad Kill: A Time to Hunt the Big Ones

By Kevin Brandtonies

The day was February 9, 2007. It was cold, with a 10 mph wind, when I launched my boat at Rim Shoals, I was part of a four boat trip. Denis Dunderdale, Gary Flippin, and Rick Helmuth were also working with me that day. We all talked at the ramp about what we were going to try that morning.

Shad had been coming through the Dam at Bull Shoals for about 2 weeks, and with the generation at 7 units I figured some of those shad had made their way to Rim. The rest of the guys were armed with San Juan worms and egg patterns, a standard in high water conditions. I had decided to try some

Maribou shad patterns I had tied the night before. They were streamer type, big, ugly, and heavy. But I had no intention of stripping these flies. We were going to dead drift them, 9 feet deep with a single 3 aught split shot, about 8 inches from the fly.

We started drifting through Red Bud, and by the time we got to the first island, one of the guys had a brown. We got that one in pretty quickly, about 3 lbs, 18" long. Nice fish. A few high five's later we were back to fishing.

"There he is!" I said. It's something I say when I see the indicator go down. The hook was set, followed by a brown making a magnificent

jump. They don't do it very often, and everyone in the boat was excited because he looked big. The battle took us all the way to the head of Rim Shoals, but I managed to net that fish with one good scoop.

When we weighed him, he tipped the scales at 9 1/2 lbs. It was a trophy that filled us with awe. Pictures and congratulations went on for a little while, then we released that monster, all 28" of him.

When the group met up at lunchtime, Denis asked me what the deal was. I showed him the fly and told him we caught 6

browns that morning. "I didn't think shad would wash down this far," said Denis. "I wasn't sure either, but now I know," I replied. We all started fishing with shad patterns that afternoon.

When the day ended, we had caught a total of 18 browns. That's right, eighteen. Gary, Rick, and Denis had caught some too. The fish ranged from 12" to 28". Six of them were over 5 pounds. I haven't had a day like that since. It will be very hard to top, but I will never stop trying to. When those shad come through, it is the best time to go after big ones. I hope it happens this year.



Lerene Salisbury

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Welcome New Members

Tom Hoffman
Bill & Annette Pettit
Dennis & Amy Galyardt
Misako Ishimura
Mark Romero

"I look into ... my fly box, and think about all the elements I should consider in choosing the perfect fly: water temperature, what stage of development the bugs are in, what the fish are eating right now. Then I remember what a guide told me: 'Ninety percent of what a trout eats is brown and fuzzy and about five-eighths of an inch long.'"

~by Allison Moir, "Love the Man, Love the Fly Rod", in A Different Angle: Fly Fishing Stories by Women~

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