

Summer Social Draws 65 To Twin Lakes Strieter Wins Pontoon Boat

By Bill Leder



Kayaking on Lake Roland

All who participated in the Chapter's Summer Social held at Twin Lakes State Park on Saturday, August 16 had a good time. It was a picture perfect late summer UP day with clear skies and temps in the 70s. Highlights included many activities for children, demonstrations, opportunities to tell fish stories, an excellent meal, award presentations, a talk about the Twin Lakes fishery, and door prizes. It was great to see Jim Junttila back in action after his recent surgery.

Thanks to Downwind Sports, children were able to try out a variety of kayaks in the waters of Lake Roland. It was a great day for swimming, and with the light wind, conditions were ideal for casting practice.

Don Kreher's fly tying demonstration and instruction attracted a lot of interest



Fly Tying

from novices and long time fly fishers alike. Several TUErs were observed in float tubes and pontoon boats doing some serious fishing, but they returned to shore in time for an excellent meal that included BBQ chicken, brats, hot dogs, and all the usual trimmings.

Master chef Bill Lehtinen, assisted by his best friend Vicki, did a great job with the cooking. By the time a large cake had been consumed, no one looked hungry. After the meal, Chapter president Steve Albee made award presentations. Tom Suchenek received the Volunteer of the Year Award for 2003, and



What's that secret sauce in Bill Lehtinen's left hand?

Bill Deephouse received the Service for President Award, a special award for his three years of service as chapter president. (See related article.)

George Madison, Fisheries Supervisor for the MDNR's West Lake Superior Management Unit, gave an informative talk on the history of Lakes Gerald and Roland and how the DNR manages these waters. Fish populations in the next few years were discussed.

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2004 Women's Fly Fishing Day a Big Success

By Bill Leder

Thunderstorms had passed through during the night on June 11, but by the following morning the weather was



Instructor Jessica Kane discusses the finer points of casting.

improving, and it looked like conditions would be near perfect for Women's Fly Fishing Day at Chassell Centennial Park. By the end of the afternoon session, 18 women had received instruction in fly fishing and seen some great fly tying demonstrations put on by TU members Don Kreher and Ray Weglarz.

Other highlights were basic casting instruction by Jessica Kane and an opportunity to actually fish the waters of Portage Lake from the shore with a TU member. Patsy Keyes, one of the students, said, "I remember going with

my dad when he fly fished. I even sat on his lap when he tied flies, but this is the first time I have actually fished."

Between morning and afternoon sessions, everyone enjoyed a tasty picnic lunch provided by Dee Kangas and shared some fishing stories in the pavilion.



Ray Weglarz and an attentive student

The Copper Country Chapter thanks Denise Marth for her hard work and dedication in making this event such a hit. Denise said, "I would like to thank all the TU members, as well as Jessica Kane, who showed up and helped make the day interesting and enjoyable. We hope the program not only introduced women to fly fishing but served to promote and expand diversity in TU membership and a better understanding of fisheries conservation."



From left to right: Copper Country TU President Steve Albee, student Andrea Hauge Bacon, and Denise Marth

Women participants were: Patsy Keyes, Deb Herrala, Gloria Strieter, Pat Hughes, Connie Penfold, Andrea Hauge Bacon, Beth Campeau-Johnson, Jeanmarie Hagan, Anni Gregor, Denise Sosnoski, Pat Muller, Maria Pregitzer, Lis Wilson, Lisa Thimm, Lauri Denomie, Shirley Zasadnyj, Lynn Gierke, and Renee Marion.

The TU volunteers, in addition to Denise,

were: Steve Albee, Nick Enz, Jim Finley, Mike Gage, Bob Hudson, Don Kreher, Bill Leder, Peter Marth, and Ray Weglarz.



Students and instructors lined up along the shore



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Everyone eagerly anticipated the raffle that concluded the summer social. There were many prizes this year. Richard Strieter had the lucky ticket for first prize, a nine-foot inflatable TU pontoon boat. Second prize, a St. Croix rod/reel combo and box of flies, went to Kay Barber. Third prize was a \$50 gift certificate from Gander Mountain, which was won by Cully Maki. Congratulations to the winners!

Thanks to co-chairs Shawn and Jean Hagan and all others who worked so hard to make the summer social a big success.



Richard Strieter wins pontoon boat



Don Kreher in his pontoon boat



Casey Huckins (left) and Jim Junttila

Over 100 Youth Participate in Second Annual Fishing Derby

By Denise Marth

The Second Annual Youth Fishing Derby was held June 26, 2004 on the grounds adjacent to the Sand Point Lighthouse in Baraga. One hundred and seven youth ages 4-14 received free fishing rods and tackle. The pond had been stocked with brookies, perch, rock bass, and more. Several youth managed to catch, be photographed, and release their fish. One or two adults brought each young fisher-person.



Trying out a new rod

This event promoted fishing, and environmental awareness. As well, it was a family outing that provided exercise and focused on asset development. Refreshments were served, and youth had the choice of playing several games that reaped more prizes. Smokey the Bear made a guest appearance, as did the Baraga Park Naturalist who captivated youth with her knowledge, pelts, bones and feathers.

The Derby was sponsored by the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community's Natural Resources Department with support of many collaborating partners. The Copper Country Chapter of Trout Unlimited donated funds, merchandise, and volunteer hours to help make this event a success.



Youngsters listen attentively

Bond Falls Hydroelectric Project Update

by Bill Deephouse

The Federal Energy and Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a 40-year license to Upper Peninsula Power Company (UPPCO) on August 20, 2003. UPPCO originally applied for this license in 1987 so it took 17 years to complete the process. I find this rather unbelievable, but now we have it in place. Hydro licenses are long and complicated documents. The important parts of the license are the 28 Articles that control how the project will be operated. UPPCO was required to file plans for implementing the various Articles with FERC either six months or twelve months after the issuance of the license.

The license required that an implementation team be formed to address the many varied aspects of the license. This team, formally known as the Bond Falls Implementation Team (BFIT), is comprised of the Michigan DNR, Wisconsin DNR, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the U.S. Forest Service, as well as the UPPCO representative. These are the voting members. The Michigan Hydro Relicensing Coalition (MHRC) is an ex-officio advisory member (non-voting). MHRC is a coalition of four statewide, nonprofit conservation organizations including the Michigan Council of Trout Unlimited (TU), Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC), Great Lakes Council, Inc., Federation of Fly Fishers, Inc. (FFF) and Anglers of the Au Sable (AA). I have been selected to represent the MHRC on the team.

UPPCO filed four draft plans with FERC by their six-month deadline on February 20, 2004. They included Article 407 - Cisco Dam Operation Plan, Article 409 - Water Quality Monitoring Plan, Article 411 - Nuisance Plant Control Plan, and Article 412 - Woody Debris Transport & Management Plan. The various members of the BFIT wrote their own responses if they had differences of management philosophy or other problems with each plan. UPPCO then mailed their version of the plans, along with the responses of the different resource agencies and MHRC, to FERC in Washington D.C. FERC will then decide how each plan will be written and issue a final plan for each Article.

We have not heard back from FERC yet with a final decision on any of these four plans.

Recently, five more draft plans were submitted to the BFIT for our response. They have an August 20, 2004, filing deadline. These plans will cover five additional Articles in the license including Article 410 - Erosion & Sedimentation Plan, Article 412 - Buffer Zone Plan, Article 414 - Wildlife & Land Management Plan, Article 415 - Threatened & Endangered Species Plan, and Article 416 - Recreation Plan. Of course, each member of the BFIT had differing ideas concerning each plan and submitted their own version of what they think is appropriate. This makes for lots of reviewing of the license and then writing out what we think each plan should look like.

Although all of the above sounds like a lot of gobbledygook and wheel-spinning, it is quite satisfying to be involved in the planning for the 40-year future of this important hydroelectric project which covers the Middle Branch, Cisco Branch, South Branch and West Branch of the Ontonagon River. We should be pleased that Trout Unlimited has the opportunity to get their "two cents worth" in regarding the varied aspects of managing this important river system far into the future.

You will also be interested to know that over the forty years of the license, UPPCO will be required to contribute \$2,460,000 to a Mitigation and Enhancement Fund. This fund will be used to fund various management projects that may come up for approval by the BFIT concerning the different Article plans. Furthermore, one of the keystones of the entire Settlement Agreement, which led to the issuing of the license, includes increasing the flows down the Middle Branch of the Ontonagon River. Prior to the license renewal the river received an average of 32.5 cubic feet per second (cfs) on an annual basis. The terms of the new license now require an annual average of 85 cfs, or about 2.6 times more water than in the past. It is gratifying to be involved in returning the Middle Branch to a more natural river than it had been in the past. These increased flows should greatly improve this already fine trout stream.

A Busy Month for Chapter Outreach

By Steve Albee

HANCOCK – From Lansing to Grayling to the UP, June was a very busy month for outreach activities by Copper Country Chapter Board members. To keep current on conservation issues impacting our members, we represented your interests by participating in statewide, regional, and local events.

On June 3rd – Shawn Hagan represented our chapter at the Annual Legislative Luncheon hosted by the Michigan Council of Trout Unlimited (MCTU) on the capitol grounds in Lansing. Shawn reported that some 250 persons were in attendance. These included legislators and their aides, MCTU council members and the staff, plus chapter representatives from across the state. Although it was a windy day, a large crowd took advantage of the opportunity to try their hand at fly casting.

On June 8th – I attended the Lake Superior Citizens Fishing Advisory Committee meeting held in Negaunee. Although lightly attended, six other organizations besides our chapter were present. They included Central U.P. Sportfishing Association, South Shore Fishing Association, Western U.P. Sportfishing Association, Ottawa Sportsmen's Club, Fred Waara Chapter of T.U., and the Alger County Fish and Game Alliance.

The purpose of the meeting was to gather feedback regarding desires and acceptance of DNR management proposals on Coaster Brook Trout (CBT). Several other topics were discussed, and there was a presentation on changes in Lake Superior's trout and salmon fisheries since 1970.

The CBT proposals included:

- (1) Increasing the minimum size limit to 20 inches to align Michigan with Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Ontario. (Michigan's current size limit is 10 inches.) The reason for the proposal is that the current size limit is not allowing the fish to spawn before they are harvested. CBT don't spawn until age 4 or 5 years of age.
- (2) In order to protect the very small remaining CBT stocks at

Isle Royale National Park, and for easier enforcement, it was recommended that a year-round catch and release regulation for CBT be imposed throughout the entire park.

The group endorsed both proposals. There was lively discussion on all topics, particularly the one about coho plants.

On June 26th – The Michigan Council of Trout Unlimited (MCTU) held its quarterly council meeting in Grayling. Jim Baker, our chapter vice-president, reported on a very well-attended meeting. Lt. Governor John Cherry addressed the group and spoke about the conservation issues that are important to Governor Granholm. Specifically they include:

- A proposed federal program, the Water Legacy Act, which deals with health issues in the Great Lakes;
- Sulfide mining legislation working its way through the Legislature;
- Invasive species; and
- Working cooperatively with other Great Lakes states.

Besides the Lt. Governor, Kelly Smith, DNR fish division chief, and Dwight Devereaux from the USFS Mio office, updated the attendees. Jim said it was full day!

On June 28th - Our Copper Country Chapter participated on a panel to listen to teachers' presentations, as part of the Watershed Investigations Teacher Institute held at Michigan Tech. A primary goal of the workshop was to model what teachers can do with their students in their own communities. It is hoped that Trout Unlimited's presence on the panel will encourage teachers to seek out their local TU chapters for partnering. I found it amazing how much teachers learned about watersheds and stream monitoring in just two days!

Editor's Note: Steve is being modest. We are sure he and the other involved board members would rather have been fishing, especially in June.

Keweenaw Point Advisory Committee

By Bill Deephouse

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources selected a 15 member committee to receive public input and make recommendations regarding the newly acquired 6,275 acre parcel in Keweenaw County. Other state ownership in this area, as well as on Manitou Island, brings the total area under consideration to about 8,387 acres. The tract includes nine miles of Lake Superior shoreline and five inland lakes. The recommendations the committee makes will be used by the DNR to guide forest and recreation management decisions on this land in the future.

Member organizations include:

Trout Unlimited - Copper Country Chapter
Michigan Nature Association
Michigan United Conservation Clubs
Keweenaw Adventure Company
Copper Country Audubon Club
Western UP Planning & Development
Grant Township (Keweenaw Co.) Supervisor
Keweenaw Co. Historical Society
Michigan Tech 4 Wheelers Club

Calumet-Keweenaw Sportsmen's Club
Upper Peninsula Environmental Coalition
The Nature Conservancy
Michigan Timbermen's Association
Keweenaw Convention & Visitors Bureau
Keweenaw County Board of Commissioners

Key stakeholders within the land management area were chosen to represent their perspective interests. Key interests being represented by the committee include – nature, tourism, fishing, local government, planning and development, kayaking, mountain biking, hiking, conservation, off-road vehicles, history/culture, snowmobiling and timber management. The committee began monthly meetings in January 2004 and is expected to complete their final recommendations by September 2004. Various members have toured the land on their own, and a group tour was conducted in June. Many comments from the public have been made at the monthly meetings plus lots of emails, letters and several petitions have been received. A good share of these comments advocate either end of the

Copper Country Chapter Recognizes Two Founding Chapter Members

By Steve Albee

Suchenek Selected as Volunteer of the Year



Tom Suchenek has been selected as Volunteer of Year 2003 for his unwavering dedication and tireless effort to support the mission of the Chapter. Tom was part of the original group of individuals that gathered during 1997 to determine whether there was sufficient interest to start a T.U. chapter in the Keweenaw. From the very beginning he served as secretary and treasurer, which was a time when the hat had to be passed around to raise enough money for stamps and envelopes to send out the meeting notices and minutes.

After we were recognized as an official T.U. chapter, he continued to serve as secretary/treasurer for several years until the position was split. Following the split, he has continued to serve as treasurer. After some seven years plus of solid financial stewardship, he will be stepping down and leaving the Board at the end of September.

In addition to serving as secretary/treasurer, Tom also was very instrumental in establishing our chapter newsletter; serving on the banquet committee; working on the stream improvement projects as well as doing a multitude of tasks, all of which has helped make us a well-recognized and very strong chapter. Tom, a tip of the cap and a big hand to you! Stay active, Stay in touch!

Deephouse Receives Service as President Award

Bill Deephouse, our immediate past-president, was recognized for his three years of service to the Chapter in that demanding and challenging position. During Bill's tenure the Chapter went

through some real growing pains, a major fund raising campaign, and a major effort to support the research efforts for the coaster brook trout program in the Keweenaw.

Our Chapter was very involved in the effort to help Keweenaw County acquire the land surrounding the mouth of the Gratiot River, which included considerable Lake Superior beach frontage. The Chapter had made a



financial commitment to raise some thousands of dollars to help acquire the property. Our contribution was to cover a major part of the local share to match a Michigan Natural Resources Trust grant. The Chapter had approached many other chapters in the state for financial help, and Bill was the point person in keeping track of contributors, answering questions about why things were going so slowly, and laying his personal reputation on the line that if things didn't work out, the money would be returned. He said he spent quite a few sleepless nights during that campaign.

Bill also spent a great deal of time involving the Chapter in coaster brook trout research. This involved organizing communication trees to turn out the members to help with the fish surveys on the Gratiot River, plus spending a great deal of time with Casey Huckins developing grant proposals seeking funds for coaster research and to support graduate students at Michigan Tech.

While Bill is being recognized for his years as our president, it must also be noted that he was also a member of that original group of individuals that established the Chapter. He was very active as a board member, a banquet committee member, and our liaison with the Michigan DNR. Bill's status as

a respected, retired, DNR fisheries biologist, and his association with the department as a whole, has been a valuable asset to all of us. Please continue to stay active with the Chapter, Bill!

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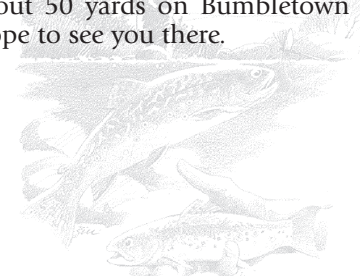
spectrum of recreational use. The job of the committee is to make recommendations that will allow all users some level of recreational enjoyment.

The DNR gave the committee eight key points to consider. These include the following in order of priority:

- 1 - Minimum Impact Zones
- 2 - Road System
- 3 - Non-Motorized Uses
- 4 - Motorized Uses
- 5 - Access Sites
- 6 - Camping
- 7 - Forest/Timber Management
- 8 - Day Use Areas

As of the August 3 meeting, the committee has agreed on recommendations for the Road System and Non-Motorized Uses. Another meeting was held Tuesday, August 17. Minimum Impact Zone, Forest/Timber Management, Camping, and Day Use Area recommendations were considered at that meeting. Recommendations were passed for the first two points. The other two will continue to be discussed. The Access Site priority will probably be considered within several of the other priority areas. The Motorized Uses priority charge has generated the most discussion within the committee and will be considered last. This is probably the most difficult charge to get consensus on.

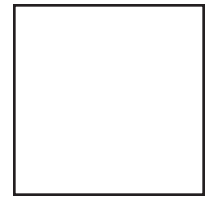
The last meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 7. Please try to attend and offer your comments. Public attendance has been quite good. The meeting will be held at the Allouez Community Building just off US-41 about 50 yards on Bumbletown Road. Hope to see you there.





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FALL MEETING SPEAKERS ANNOUNCED

Mark your calendars for the following general membership meetings:

September 9 Mike Donofrio, Natural Resources Director with the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community.

October 14 Jill Leonard, professor at NMU, talking about Coaster Brook Trout.

November 11 Brad Petzke, a fishing guide from Marquette.

These meetings will be held at the Ramada Inn in Hancock, beginning at 7:00 pm.

Brian Gunderman Joins DNR

By Bill Leder

Brian Gunderman, a native of downstate Clare, has returned to Michigan as a fisheries biologist assigned to the Baraga office of the DNR.

Brian holds BS and MS degrees in biology from Central Michigan University. His thesis research focused on the lake sturgeon population in the Manistee River where he obtained spawning run estimates and collected information on age structure and growth rates. After graduation, Brian moved to Idaho and took a temporary biologist position with Idaho Fish and Game. He captured and tracked (via ultrasonic telemetry) burbot in the Kootenai River in Idaho and British Columbia. He also captured a few bull trout during sampling. Brian said that his field season ran from October through March, and he often had to use four-wheel drive. (His winter driving skills should come in handy here in the UP.)

In April 2002 Brian accepted a new position as fishery biologist with the U.S.

Fish and Wildlife Service in Green Bay. Once again he conducted studies on lake sturgeon populations, this time in Green Bay and surrounding tributaries.

In June 2004 Brian started his new job with MDNR. Brian said, "I hope that I and my colleagues will make scientifically sound decisions that will lead us toward our goals of healthier fish populations and better fishing opportunities for Michigan anglers." Brian is excited to be back in Michigan. He said, "I look forward to working with TU to preserve and enhance the exceptional trout fisheries that we have in the western UP."

Brian enjoys fishing, hunting, hiking, and cross-country skiing. He is married, and he and his wife have two daughters ages two year and two months.



Pilgrim River Habitat Improvement – Phase 2

The Copper Country Chapter is making plans for a second phase of habitat improvement to the Pilgrim River. If you are interested in helping with this project, please contact Shawn Hagan (shawn@forestlandgroup.com) or Steve Albee (salbee@up.net).