

Badger Fly Fishers



Newsletter

October 2015

Brook trout found within reclaimed cranberry marsh and flowage

From Wisconsin DNR

Tiny trout now swimming in a reclaimed cranberry marsh near Spooner offer proof that habitat restoration efforts produce results, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources fisheries biologists say.

The trout occupy Beaver Brook, the largest class 1 trout stream in Washburn County and home to naturally reproducing populations of brown and brook trout. In 2003, DNR and DOT partnered to purchase property known as Badger Cranberry that holds the small stream as an addition to the DNR-owned Beaver Brook Wildlife Area

The 541 acre addition to Beaver Brook contained 81 acres of old cranberry marsh and a 65 acre flowage that was historically the upper reaches of the trout stream. In the summer of 2008, removal of the flowage dam, dikes, and draining of the cranberry marshes took place in hopes of

restoring the trout stream, wetlands, and a native plant community.

“Initially, it was believed the area would not be able to sustain trout due to warm water temperatures,” said Craig Roberts, DNR fisheries biologist for Washburn County. “Even though we didn’t think trout could survive in the area, we believed rehabilitation work would increase water quality and benefit downstream trout populations. After several years of monitoring, we were all pleasantly surprised to find that trout appear to be settling in.”

Following dam removal, water temperatures have dropped 9 degrees to a yearly average of 63

degrees Fahrenheit in 2014, Roberts said. However, summer temperatures can range into the 70s which is considered marginal for native brook trout to survive. In 2011, a fish survey showed no trout within the old flowage bed.

Now, seven years after restoration efforts began, two 6 inch brook trout were found in early May of 2015. The survey was the first time trout had been found in that restored section of stream. To confirm the trout were not errant visitors, fisheries staff again surveyed the stream in late summer and found seven additional brook trout.

“The latest survey found trout that ranged from 2.5 to 7.5 inches, suggesting multiple ages of trout are residing in the area,” Roberts said. “The fish were living in 72 degree water at that time, which is considered warm for brook trout. The fish are likely using the large amount of spring activity to survive in the area.”

Though the finding doesn’t mean trout are permanently established here, it is a positive sign to see trout present in the restored area, Roberts said. Ultimately, the expansion of trout into the restored section of Beaver Brook will strengthen the overall population and lead to additional trout fishing opportunities.



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Fellow Badgers,

I hope your summer has gone well. Seems like fall is upon us. When I parked my truck at a trout stream early Wednesday morning, there was frost on the grass in the shaded part of the ditch..

I thought that you would like this pair of photos I took. Dan Zavadsky lands a beautiful southwest Wisconsin rainbow trout on the last day of the inland season.

Right, is a particularly beautiful (I thought) "driftless" rainbow that I caught that day. Cane rod, silk line, and a 100 plus year old reel - just as I believe that God intended it to be.

John Beth



The Badger Fly Fishers Newsletter is published monthly. Articles, photos, information, and calendar events for the newsletter are encouraged and should be submitted by the 1st day of the month of issue to: Dan Johnson, 426 Glenway St., Madison WI 53711. If possible, Word files sent to: johnson7@tds.net are most appreciated.



Bill Engber, above, sends us these photos from a recent trip to the north coast of Iceland with Steve Born.

They fished for Atlantic Salmon and Sea-Run Brown Trout on the Husyarvisl River. Bill reports that it was a great and fun experience.



Next Meeting: Monday October 26th

Ted Peck of Pool 9 Guide Service “Fishing the Mississippi thru the seasons”

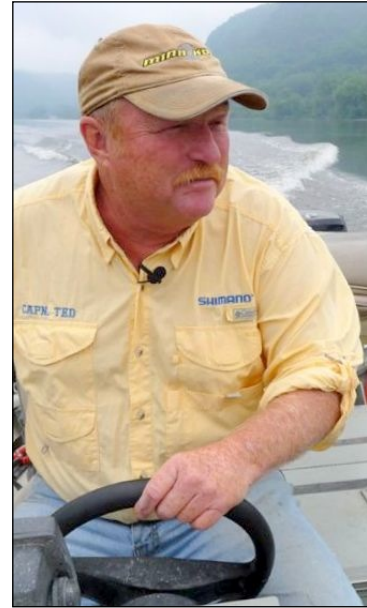
Understanding the grand scheme of nature is more intense on a river than on any lake. The mighty Mississippi can be, and often is, the most challenging water you will ever fish. Lessons learned on this amazing fishery will make you a better angler. A day on the water with Ted Peck is about more than just catching fish.

Cap'n Ted specializes in bass, walleye, northern pike, catfish and panfish, but cautions even the most precise species-specific presentation has the potential for producing virtually anything with fins

that calls the majestic Mississippi home.

He has written articles for newspapers and magazines, and has appeared on TV, radio and in seminars. This work has taken him all over the midwest, Canada and beyond, but he always returns to the upper Mississippi which he considers the most diverse fishery in North America.

Cap'n Ted believes that any trip on The River should be a learning experience. Questions are welcome. Insightful answers are always possible.



Orvis Days

With trout regulations about to change, Orvis Madison has invited DNR fisheries manager Scot Stewart to give a presentation and discuss how these changes will impact trout fishing. Many anglers are unaware that changes are taking place, or they are unfamiliar with what this means for their 2016 season. This forum will give you a chance to interact directly with Scot and get answers to your questions.

The presentation will be on October 10 at 11:00 a.m. and will last for approximately one hour. It is free to attend, but space is tight and seating will be very limited - plenty of room to stand, though!

Scot's appearance is part of a series of programs that same day for the annual Orvis Days event, which will include a bass fly tying demo, a free waffle breakfast that morning, training demonstrations from Wisconsin K9 SOS Search & Rescue, and more.

The new location is located just a block from the old store in the Greenway Station shopping center, 1650 Deming Way, Middleton.

Events Calendar

October 20th **WSA monthly meeting**
Ted Peck - Fall fishing on the Mississippi

October 26th **BFF monthly meeting**
See above

November 17th **WSA monthly meeting**
Dan Isermann UWSP
Menominee R. Tagging project

November 23rd **BFF monthly meeting**
Matt Wagner - Fishing the Elk River in British Columbia

December 15th **BFF - WSA Holiday party**

The Badger Fly Fishers' meetings are normally held on the fourth Monday of each month. **The Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance** meets on the third Tuesday. Both groups meet at the Mapletree Restaurant on Highway 51, in McFarland, Wisconsin. Programs begin at 7:00 p.m., dinner at 6:00 p.m. Visitors and guests are always welcome.