

Frank Hornberg report- June 2019

Our May chapter meeting was a very profitable educational three-hour event. Dan Dieterich, representing the local chapter of the Citizens' Climate Lobby, gave a detailed presentation on the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act. He explained several key features of this proposed legislation supported by Trout Unlimited. He listed some advantages of the Carbon Dividend approach over other ways of reducing total carbon emissions. He explained some details, such as the treatment of products imported and exported from this country.

Our next speaker was Tim Parks, Fisheries Biologist, Bureau of Fisheries Management, working out of the Wausau office of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. (This is the presentation we had to cancel in both February and April because of winter weather.) Tim gave us a detailed look at the historical status of Brook and Brown Trout in the Tomorrow River. In general, his data show that the population of Browns is stable to increasing and the population of Brooks is stable to declining. Tim described the changes in Trout regulations in the last few years. He contributed to the on-going discussion of where the Tomorrow River changes into the Waupaca River. He accepted suggestions from the audience on matters such as posting fishing regulations at road crossings. Finally, he gave us ideas on how to deal with the present situation of the Amherst mill pond. It was a useful, candid discussion.

Under the leadership of Stu Grimstad, in May we were able to solve a problem at the Lake Meyers Road crossing on the Tomorrow River. Winter water runoff dislodged a 15 foot long, 30 inch diameter oak log, along with two large dead evergreen logs, totally blocking the upstream ends of the culverts there. Stu engaged the services of Johnson Towing of Amherst to winch the logs out of the river. Rob Helbach, the owner of Johnson Towing, agreed to do this at no cost. After an hour and a half, working with chains and cables in cold water and mud, we had the river running free again. A job well done. Our thanks to Stu, Rob, Dan Peterson and towing operator Saxon Swan.

This year our chapter will again participate in the River Keepers Program organized by the Central Wisconsin Chapter. Ken Pierce continues as our leader. Our location is on the Ruby Coffee Roasters property in Nelsonville. We thank the owner, Jered Linzmeier, for keeping a path mowed for access to the river there.

Doug Erdmann represented our chapter at the May work day on Bird Creek, just west of Wautoma. The Central Wisconsin Chapter sponsored this work day. Forty workers brushed the bank and installed brush bundles from State Highway 21 to West River Street.