



North Bear Notebook

January 2014

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 8

The next chapter meeting will be held this **Thursday, January 8**. This month's presentation will feature Iowa State Senator Robert (Rob) Hogg. Senator Hogg is one of Iowa's leaders in environment enhancements. He will talk with us about his and others goals during the upcoming legislative session, how we can help. Issues he believes impacting us, long term efforts.

We'll also be discussing the proposal for this year's chapter trip (see story below).

Felix and Oscar's Address: 4050 Merle Hay Road (immediately north of Sears), Merle Hay Mall. (515) 278-8887. We meet in The Pub section -- Go to end of bar, turn right into private room.

In this update . . .

- [President's Message: Chapter Helps in Eradicating an Invasive Plant](#)
- [2015 Chapter Trip Proposal to be Discussed at January Meeting](#)
- [Chapter Leaders Needed for 2015 Efforts](#)

Upcoming Events

January 8
Chapter Meeting
Felix and Oscar's
6:30 p.m.

February 2-3
Driftless Symposium
Radisson La Crosse
Contact: [Jeff Hastings](#)

February 12
Chapter Meeting
Felix and Oscar's
6:30 p.m.

February 20-22
HFFA Annual Meeting and Show
Dubuque, Iowa
[Website](#)

March 12
Chapter Meeting
Felix and Oscar's
6:30 p.m.

March 20-22
Great Waters Expo
Blaine, MN
[Website](#)

March 27-29
TU Midwest Regional Meeting
TBD, Minnesota
Tentative

President's Message: Chapter Helps in Eradicating an Invasive Plant

In Northeast Iowa, we are experiencing a plant invasion for Japanese Knotweed. This plant easily grows 7 foot tall, generates stalks every couple of inches, sends out root runners to such an extent they can go under a four lane interstate road. Its growth eradicates all other plant life. It can effectively eliminate a stream section, from existence, including fish passage. In and near Paint Creek adjacent to the town of Waterville this invasive plant took over 25 acres.

Our North Bear Chapter continues its efforts in eradication of Japanese Knotweed. North Bear Chapter applied to Trout Unlimited national for an Embrace-A-Stream grant. We coordinated our application with NE Iowa Resource Conservation and Development. RC&D is local non-profit leading an eradication effort. The grant proposes funding would allow for 5 acres eradication over about 18 months. We asked for \$4,975 from national. The chapter match totals \$6,370; divided into two categories: in-kind match \$4,870 plus cash match of \$1,500. With a total grant budget of \$11,345 We expect to learn a grant application decision in March 2015.



A lot can be learned by going to: <http://northeastiowarc.org/japanese-knotweed-eradication-project-in-paint-creek/>

Questions, comments, offers - contact Bob Bernard, chapter president. 515.494.3434 or bearbernard46@gmail.com.

Tight Lines,

Bob Bernard
President, TU North Bear

2015 Chapter Trip Proposal to be Discussed at January Meeting

Bob Bernard has been working on a proposal for the 2015 Chapter Trip. The locations he has proposed are the Gunnison, Roaring Fork, and Frying Pan Rivers in the vicinity of Aspen and Carbondale, Colorado. The proposed dates are July 11 through July 19.

The trip would offer two options: a lodge stay and camping. For those preferring to stay at the lodge, Bob has been working with Black Canyon Anglers (BCA) on the Gunnison River. He has arranged a \$60/night/person rate for shared cabins. The BCA property features a full lodge set-up with cabins and fly shop, and runs a guide service on site. The property has three miles of private water, six miles of accessible water for walk/wade trips, and several trout ponds. Float trips through the Black Canyon of the Gunnison can be arranged for \$1080/day/two people, or shorter trips through the lower end of the canyon can be done for \$600/two people. Lodging includes a continental breakfast, and fancy dinners are available at \$40/person. The lodge can also provide affordable bag lunches for days on the river, and the cabins have grills and refrigerators.

Those wishing to camp will stay about 80 miles away on the public lands around Aspen along the Roaring Fork River. There is plenty of federal land in the area, and numerous camping options. We'll most likely stay in the national forest around Aspen where we can camp streamside. Camping rates are generally \$15/night in the national forests, and we'll be selecting a site with at least basic facilities. If there is interest in RV or trailer space, we'll accommodate anyone traveling that way as well.

Members will be able to spend the whole trip in one location, or to split their stay between the two locations. Families are again welcome, as are guests and members from other chapters, and both locations offer a wide variety of outdoor activities, national parks and sight seeing.

As with last year's trip, all travel, lodging and food is member's responsibility—the chapter simply coordinates the locations and arranges the discounts.

We'll be discussing this proposal in more detail at the January chapter meeting, and the plan calls for a

decision at that meeting. Bob has prepared a complete PDF package with additional details, full rate information, details on fishing sites and non-fishing activities, etc. Those wishing more details on the proposal, or with questions or suggestions, can email Bob at bearbernard46@gmail.com to have a copy of the PDF sent to them.

Members who are interested in the trip should also contact Bob and let him know. At this point, we are most interested in total numbers, whether family is coming along, whether you'd like to camp or stay at the lodge, and whether you might be interested in a guide trip. We don't have to give them firm counts for much of this until May, but it will help immensely in planning to have some idea of who might be interested.

Chapter Leaders Needed for 2015 Efforts

It isn't too early to start thinking about chapter leadership in 2015.

Our chapter's "annual meeting" occurs March 12, 2015. One facet of that meeting is officer and board member elections. We need to fill several empty board positions this year, and have openings on the fundraising, conservation and communications committees. All of our primary leadership positions are up for election annually as well.

For more information about the available positions, time requirements and other details, contact Bob Bernard, chapter president at 515.494.3434 or bearbernard46@gmail.com.

We hope a few new members will join the leadership this year so we can continue the momentum we've built.



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Conserving, protecting and restoring North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds.

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