



## North Bear Notebook

December 2014

### Next Meeting: Thursday, December 11

The next chapter meeting will be held this **Thursday, December 11**. This month's presentation will feature Wally Taylor, legal counsel for the Sierra Club of Iowa, discussing clean water laws and Iowa water problems.

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.

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### Upcoming Events

**December 11**  
Chapter Meeting  
Felix and Oscar's  
6:30 p.m.

**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: Clean Water Needs You

I ask members step forward to assist the chapter in implementing its environmental functions

We need help with:

- **Conservation:** Conserve important lands and waters so that we realize our generational vision of wild and native fish conservation
- **Communications:** Communicate effectively and in a timely manner with Chapter members and various interest groups or individuals
- **Membership:** By enhancing Chapter conservation activities and communications we will develop an expanded membership base
- **Education and Outreach:** Inform about Trout Unlimited goals, purpose, successes to involve the community
- **Youth Participation:** Invest in youth to create a sustaining constituency to ensure the durability of TU's mission and work through future generations
- **Fund Raising:** Design and implement fund raising campaigns to meet Chapter's economic needs for conservation and operations efforts

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

*Tight Lines,*

Bob Bernard  
*President, TU North Bear*

## **Upcoming Speakers Cover Range of Issues**

This month's meeting will be held December 11. We are fortunate to have as our presenter Wally Taylor, a Cedar Rapids attorney who serves as legal counsel to the Sierra Club of Iowa. He's practiced environmental law for over 30 years, and represents the Sierra Club, other citizen groups, and private individuals on environment issues.

He will speak on the EPA's proposed "waters of the US" rules and the Clean Water Act, and how they affect small stream and headwaters. He will also talk about efforts to reduce runoff of nutrients to rivers and streams, and the process of designating streams Outstanding Iowa Waters.

Following the presentation we'll have discussion and decisions on how we can help.

At this same meeting we'll have a second presenter. Bob Bernard, chapter president, will present on suggested locations for the chapter's annual fishing outing. Our 2015 plans call for us to fish and visit Colorado.

We also have excellent presenters booked for future meetings. On January 8, Senator Rob Hogg, Iowa legislator from the Cedar Rapids area, is scheduled to speak about legislative issues relating to NE Iowa streams. And on February 12, Robin Fortney, a board member of Iowa Rivers Revival, will speak about "River Rascals", a program to get youth interested in our waterways.

We hope you'll join us in welcoming these individuals.

## **New Biologist Joins Decorah Fisheries Team**

*by Bob Bernard*

Michael Siepkier joined the Decorah fish management team on October 20<sup>th</sup> as the new Natural Resources Biologist, assuming the role formerly held by Bill Kalishek. His new duties include managing the fisheries of northeastern Iowa in an eight-county area.

Mike spent the last 10 years in Missouri serving as the Missouri Department of Conservation's

Sportfish Population Ecologist. During that time, Mike led statewide research efforts to answer biologist questions and improve the management of Missouri's bass, trout, catfish, and walleye fisheries. For example, Mike led research projects examining trout habitat conditions in Missouri streams, survival rates among different genetic strains of Rainbow Trout, differences in growth rates among triploid and diploid Brown Trout, movement of Smallmouth Bass and Walleye in Missouri streams, and how environmental conditions influence reservoir sportfish population dynamics.

In 2010, the Mid-Missouri Chapter of Trout Unlimited awarded Mike the Missouri Trout Conservation Award for his work on trout habitat surveys.

Mike grew up in west-central Iowa and received a Bachelor's degree in Animal Ecology from Iowa State University and a Master's degree in Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where he studied the effects of angling on black bass growth and fitness. To date, Mike has over 20 scientific publications on sportfish biology and management and has presented his research findings at numerous international fisheries conferences.

## Partnership for River Restoration Conference February 8-11

The [Partnership for River Restoration in the Upper Midwest](#) is hosting its regional symposium in Dubuque, Iowa, February 8-11 at the Hotel Julien. This is an opportunity to learn about the latest cutting-edge, affordable, science-based, and sustainable approaches to restore and protect Iowa's rivers and streams, and the surrounding landscape. This symposium will include demonstrations from national and state experts about the value, importance and benefits of natural stream restoration to your community.

The meeting will present the opportunity to learn how other states in the region are successfully approaching river and stream restoration, and the multiple benefits resulting from these practices. Sessions are designed to:

- Encourage the exchange of knowledge and lessons learned about local and regional topics.
- Create collaborations that lead to further targeted research and group funding.
- Lay the groundwork for a more formal professional restoration group representing the Upper Midwest.

Natural, ecological river restoration expertise and practices are needed in Iowa. Natural stream restoration improves water quality, reduces streambank erosion, protects infrastructure, moderates flooding, improves habitat, increases recreation, and enhances economic development opportunities. But if we are going to meet this need, it's going to require much broader collaborations and opportunities to leverage volunteer efforts.

You can learn more about the effort at [their website](#). The [scheduled speakers](#) and [agenda](#) are also available. You can [register online](#) if you'd like to attend.

Iowa River Revivals has a limited number of scholarships to cover registration costs (only, applicants still responsible for travel, lodging and meals). If you are interested in applying for scholarship assistance, please provide the following information to Rosalyn Lehman at [rlehman@iowarivers.org](mailto:rlehman@iowarivers.org) by Friday, December 19, 2014.

- Contact information (name, business/organization, job title, phone and e-mail).
- A brief description of your professional background related to river restoration and how you will plan to utilize this information gained at the symposium.
- Describe your need for financial assistance.
- Your commitment to follow-up with IRR about what you learned from the conference, and how you may use this information in your professional work.



PO Box 42041  
Urbandale, IA 50323  
[info@tu-northbear.org](mailto:info@tu-northbear.org)

<http://www.tu-northbear.org>

Newsletter Problems/Submissions:  
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*Conserving, protecting and restoring North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds.*

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