

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Board Meeting:  
Wednesday, March 13, 2024  
6:30 - Board Meeting  
No Program  
Fin 'N Feather  
22 W. Main St., Winneconne

Board Meeting:  
Wednesday, April 10, 2024  
6:30 - Board Meeting  
No Program  
Fin 'N Feather  
22 W. Main St., Winneconne

Board Meeting:  
Wednesday, May 8, 2024  
6:30 - Board Meeting  
No Program  
Fin 'N Feather  
22 W. Main St., Winneconne

## Work Day

Saturday, May 18, 2023  
7:45 am to 12:00 noon

**Location TBD**  
Chad Tucker  
920-540-4665  
chadmtucker1@gmail.com

**Dan Harmon III  
Fly Fishing School**  
June 1 & 2, 2024

**CWTU Banquet 2024**  
Saturday, October 19, 2024  
Premier Best Western  
Oshkosh, WI



## President Notes

By: Linn Beck - CWTU Chapter President

2024 has started off far better than anyone could have expected. Not only are we experiencing good weather so far, but we are excited to see the involvement of our members at chapter events.

In February the chapter enjoyed two great events. At the state council annual banquet and awards dinner, the chapter received the Silver Trout Award which recognizes the chapter that over the last year took innovative and thoughtful approaches to building community relations and advancing the TU mission. Criteria considered included conservation impact, communications, member and community engagement, fundraising and volunteer leadership development.

Then, in the middle of February, we held TroutFest at Mt. Morris Camp and Retreat Center. We had another fantastic turnout of members and vendors. Everyone had a great day enjoying the used gear and book sales, talking with all the vendors and above all listening to our wonderful presenters. Thank you to all who were able to make it out to the event and to all our vendors and presenters for turning this into another great event.

Starting with March and continuing through April and May, we will be resuming our monthly board meetings. Our March meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 13; the April meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 10, and the May meeting will be Wednesday, May 8. All meetings will start at 6:30 pm in the

upstairs meeting room at the Fin-n-Feather in Winneconne. All chapter meetings are open to any member that would like to participate. At our March meeting we will be holding elections for some of our board members whose terms expire with that meeting. We also have 3 openings for new board members, 2 positions that are opening with this election and 1 position is open from the past. Please come out and meet the chapter officers and board members and stay current with all that is happening in our chapter.

Our newly formed presentation committee has been hard at work to get our presentations back on schedule. They are working on taking our presentations to a new level and developing a schedule. Please check out the website for the upcoming schedule of presentations. We will post in the Brookie as soon as we solidify the schedule.

We are looking forward to kicking off our habitat work day season soon. The first work day is scheduled for Saturday, May 18. If you would like to participate, please contact our work day coordinator Chad Tucker at [chadmtucker1@gmail.com](mailto:chadmtucker1@gmail.com) to be added to the contact list.

Please continue to visit our chapter website [centralwisconsintu.org](http://centralwisconsintu.org) for more information on upcoming programs and important chapter updates. We will be updating the website regularly as we receive the information.

Thank you all for your support, and please enjoy the early fishing.



*CWTU received the Silver Trout Award at the Wisconsin State Council Annual Banquet in February.*

*Pictured here (left to right) Bob Jozwowski, Wayne Parmley, Tom Meyer, Shawn Sullivan, Tracy Moran, Joe Peikert, Bob Haase and chapter President Linn Beck.*

# Elward Engle, the Public Land Whisperer

By: [John Gremmer](#)

**Elward Engle was the point man for locating and purchasing public hunting and fishing lands in central Wisconsin.** Working for the Wisconsin DNR under Bob Hedding, Engle was involved in 60 public land purchasing projects. He also secured easements on 100 miles of trout streams. If you fish or hunt on public lands in central Wisconsin, you are probably on land that Engle helped acquire.

Hedding told Engle they had to hurry because this opportunity would not last long, and he was right. Over his career, Engle worked to acquire land for state parks, the Ice Age Trail, wildlife areas, fisheries areas, natural areas, public access sites, scattered habitat access and fish hatcheries.

Engle is a remarkable man who has spent a lifetime protecting, conserving and enhancing our valuable natural areas. He is highly respected and trusted by citizens in central Wisconsin.

## The Making of a Conservationist

Engle was born 87 years ago in a cabin on the shores of Lake Irogami, just east of Wautoma. Later, his family moved to Spring Lake, just south of Redgranite and east of Wautoma. At the age of 11, he rode his bike 5 miles to fish for brook trout in Sucker Creek. He used a casting rod with black line and worms. This began a lifetime love affair with trout and the water in which they live. At that time, he prayed that God would grant him a job of working with the beautiful trout streams.



Engle's grandparents lived on the Luhm Farm that included a beautiful stretch of the West Branch of the White River. The farm had been in the Engle family since 1880. Later, when working for the WDNR, Engle was able to acquire for the state all the land along this stream for the public. His relatives at the farm introduced him to fly fishing, another lifetime pursuit.

At Wautoma High School, Engle met his future wife Carol Johnson. They have been married for 65 years. The couple had three boys and one girl. Engle joined the National Guard as a high school senior, serving two active duty tours, one during the Berlin crisis.

Engle is a superior communicator. This was one of the reasons he was so successful at land acquisition. After high school, he attended North Central University, a bible college in northern Minnesota, for 1 year. He feels that his experiences there led to learning the power of persuasion. As a member of a group of 10, he would go into the inner city of Minneapolis and help people try to turn their lives around.

## Career Activities and Achievements

Engle's WDNR career started when Hedding asked his secretary if she knew of any young men who would be interested in working for him. His secretary was Engle's mother-in-law, and she had a son-in-law who would love to work for him. He started his DNR work doing a water survey that included springs in Sheboygan, Manitowoc and Winnebago counties.

To get up-to-speed in the land acquisition project, Engle was sent to UW-Madison to learn real estate appraisal and negotiating skills. He also took a class in land surveying at UW-Eau Claire. People in central Wisconsin got to know and trust him when he approached them to buy their land for the state. As his reputation grew, people came to his home to offer land to the state. Some people donated their land to the state, hoping it would be protected from development for all time.

During his 40-plus years with the WDNR, Engle spent 8 years on Bob Hunt's fisheries team. During this time, they



started researching stream improvement's impact on trout populations in Lawrence Creek. It turns out that stream rehabilitation leads to a more stable stream and increased trout populations. Engle did the mapping, drawings, and much physical work on the rehabilitation project. This research was essential to the establishment of a state trout stamp. Hunt and Engle were lifelong friends.

The legendary Ray White mentored Hunt and Engle on the art of stream rehabilitation. White wrote the book on this before moving west to become a fisheries professor at Montana State University. Engle has been a fixture for many years, donating his Saturdays to work with TU chapters on stream projects. Although he gave instructions, he was also in the water doing the work, leading the way.

### Contributions to Society

Engle was an activist in establishing Central Wisconsin Trout Unlimited. At the time, he was concerned about the damming of streams to create lakes for development. Over the years, he has been a CWTU member and actively involved in programs. At banquets, he provided the opening prayer.

Engle spent 17 years on the Central Wisconsin Planning Commission and worked hard to keep highway and commercial development out of the trout streams south and west of Wautoma.

Over the years, he has spoken to many adult and youth groups across the state. He went into grade and high schools and provided lessons on ecology, appreciation of nature and environmental problems.

Engle was instrumental in turning away the Nestle Corp. from drilling wells into the Mekan Springs for bottled water. This would have been highly detrimental to the Mekan River. One week after a confrontation at Coloma, Perrier decided to drop the project.

Besides the above, Engle was involved in law enforcement, the DNR assistance program for 10 years, prairie chicken work with the Hammerstroms, a wildflower census project, and, for 30 years, he took people on wildflower walks in the spring.

### CWTU Recognition

In recognition of Engle's lifelong devotion to the natural areas of central Wisconsin and specifically his role in acquiring public fishing areas, CWTU will be bestowing two honors in 2024. First, our chapter has established a yearly "Elward Engle Conservation Award." It will be presented yearly to a deserving person in central Wisconsin. Engle will be the first recipient, and it will be presented to him at one of the spring work days. Secondly, a large granite stone will be installed in the Wautoma area, testifying to Engle's contributions. The installation will be this spring.

### Closing

Elward Engle may be the nicest man you will ever meet. He has lived his life in a classically moral and ethical way. At critical times, he spoke truth to power. He put the interests of the people and the environment first. When you hunt, fish or hike on public lands, thank Engle and men like him who made this possible.

## Bob Jozowski Named Outstanding Coordinator



Bob Jozowski has been selected to receive the 2023 Wisconsin Stream Monitoring Award as an outstanding coordinator by the UW-Madison Division of Extension and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Jozowski was nominated by Mary Roth, Frank and Lynn Druecke and John Tucker, who sent letters of support. A committee of UW-Madison Extension and Wisconsin DNR staff selected the award recipients for this year.

"We were so impressed by your work and your passion (which we know from personal experience as well)," said Katy Bradford, Water Action Volunteers Program Manager UW-Madison Division of Extension and Natural Resources Institute, of Bob. "Thank you for your stewardship of Wisconsin's waters and your commitment to volunteer stream monitoring in the state!"

# Trout Fest<sup>24</sup>

Photos by: John Gremmer



Central Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Presents

# Don Harmon III FLY FISHING SCHOOL

## Discover Fly Fishing!

Fly fishing is a sport for a lifetime. We make it easy and fun to learn everything from fly casting techniques, stream entomology, tackle selection, ethics, knot tying, fly pattern selection, wading safety, to how to play, land, and safely release a trout.

This special learning opportunity includes interactive classroom, on-stream instruction and guided fishing on a local trout stream (unique to this school).

45<sup>th</sup>  
YEAR

Register Online  
[tu.org/events](http://tu.org/events)

Or for more information, contact Joe Peikert at 920-779-5270 or email: [Joep@wolfriverbank.com](mailto:Joep@wolfriverbank.com)

June 1 & 2, 2024  
Amherst, WI

### Special thanks to our CWTU supporters:



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### And thanks to those we may have missed.

# Visit: [cwtu.org](http://cwtu.org)

To get conservation events listed or to submit articles please contact: Wayne Parmley at [wparmley@gmail.com](mailto:wparmley@gmail.com) or call 920-540-2315

## CWTU Officers & Board of Directors

### 2024

President: Linn Beck, 920-216-7408

Vice President: Shawn Sullivan, 920-589-2052

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Open Seat (2)

