

Newscasts

April, 2007 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



A Spring Creek Specialist

We are privileged to have Jim Bartelt as our featured speaker at this month's chapter meeting. Jim is a longtime member of the chapter, a former chapter vice president, and a perennial benefactor of extreme generosity. He is also an expert angler, an innovative tyer fly and a gifted teacher. He will be talking to us about the spring creeks of southwest Wisconsin, and how to fish them.

Teaching and fly fishing the spring creeks of southwest Wisconsin, are two of Jim's passions. *Spring Creek Specialties* (his guide service) is the outlet that he has been using for the past 17+ years to meld these two loves. Though he is a retired teacher, he is clearly not done teaching. His new classroom has no walls, but is spring fed, and a driftless area runs through it.

Like any good guide, Jim knows how to put clients onto fish and thereby feed their fishing passion for a day. Unlike many guides, he goes on to teach his clients how to fish, and that feeds their fishing passion for a lifetime. It is his gift for teaching that makes him a great guide – well, that and shore lunches that feature his superbly home-crafted wines and four star cuisine.

There won't be any of Jim's famous shore lunches at our April 10th meeting, but there will be ample opportunity to learn something. So, please join us. The meeting will begin at 7:02 PM at the *Coliseum Bar* on Olin Ave in Madison. Please come early and perhaps you will also learn something about telling fishing lies from your dining partners.

SWTU Loses a Precious Friend

By Larry Meicher

I recently lost one of my most precious friends – Bob Zimmerman passed away on March 17. I guess that I should have said that TU lost a real friend. It was an honor and a privilege to have been associated with *Zim*. He was one of my mentors in the 1950's when he and Paul Olsen worked with the *Madison Schools* and the *Boy Scouts* where he took a special interest in me (as I lived just across a field from him). He was a guiding light who led me to become active in TU

in my adult life. Zim constantly reminded me of our duties as conservationists and of the importance of preservation and restoration (which began when we were planting the large white cedars you see growing along *Black Earth* and *Mt Vernon* Creeks).

In the late 1970's we commandeered Bob into taking on the role of our chapter's *Project Committee* chair. His work for our chapter was really a continuation of the conservation work he'd always pursued as a member of the *Dane County Conservation League*. His passion was protection of the *Sugar River* and *Black Earth Creek* Watersheds. Under his watchful supervision, our chapter took on six major habitat projects between 1982 and 1986. In all of these projects, Bob was the person most responsible for design, execution, and completion. Projects included three major fencing projects on *Black Earth Creek*, removal of beaver dams that were choking *Vermont Creek*, and the headwater protection and restoration of *Deer Creek*. The latter project brought considerable criticism from our national leadership, for *Deer Creek* was so badly degraded that it no longer harbored any trout. Bob was a visionary who recognized that protection of the headwaters of *Mt Vernon Creek* was the to restoring this resource, and he convinced us to go ahead with that project despite the criticism. The results were phenomenal. Today *DNR*, *NRCS* and other agencies rate this habitat as "good" and there is evidence of successful reproduction of both brook and brown trout. During all of this, Zim worked closely with landowners, the *DNR* and the *Soil Conservation Service* (now called the *Natural Resources Conservation Service*) and he showed us how to tap into many sources of funding besides our own.

Bob's work was so "elemental" that the *Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited* gave him their *Award of Merit* in 1986. Likewise, our chapter gave him the *Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Award of Merit* in 2000.

He will be truly missed!

Earth Day Clean Up of Black Earth Creek

This year, the day before *Earth Day* will be *Black Earth Creek Clean Up Day 2007*. Please join us on April 21st as we conduct our annual clean sweep of the riparian corridor between *Cross Plains* and *Black Earth*.

Volunteers are asked to assemble at *Salmo Pond* between 8:30 and 9:00 AM. While we are at the park, we will distribute garbage bags and break into small teams. Nobody will be asked to traverse the full length of our beat but, it is important to arrive on time in order to facilitate the division of labor.

You will probably find the work rewarding, and you may even discover an interesting stretch of stream that you have not fished before. Soft drinks and water will be available at the park afterwards. Please mark your calendars and do what it takes to let the community know that *Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited* cares about this valuable local resource.

Free Casting Clinic April 14th

Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited will once again sponsor a *Fly Casting Clinic*. The clinic is free, and available to anyone interested in learning how to cast a fly. Beginners are especially encouraged to attend. Loaner rods will be available for those who do not own their own equipment. The clinic will begin at 9:00 AM on Saturday April 14th at *Salmo Pond* (2 miles west of *Cross Plains* on Highway 14).

Participants will have opportunities to learn about casting, knot tying and aquatic entomology and reading the water. This is a real opportunity for individuals 6 years of age and older to get involved in our sport. These 2-3 hours would cost folks \$100-\$200 if they got the same information from a private guide. Let any friend, relative or neighbor know about this valuable once a year event.

For more information please call Jeff Smith at 836-5974.

Auction Recap

Our March Madness Auction was a lot of fun, and we rose over \$3600. An astounding array of truly fine merchandise donations made the bidding brisk. Thank you for your generous support – whether it was a donation, a generous bid, or both. We could not have done it without you.

SWTU Annual Elections

Elections will be one of the agenda items at our April 10th meeting. Please come participate in the democratic process.

April Is Awards Night

By John Strauss

Please join us for dinner at the April SWTU chapter meeting to help us celebrate with, and honor the chapter volunteers that make our chapter hum. Every year we like to recognize the people who have gone out of their way to donate their time and talent to get things done. I also like to consider the April meeting to be "Homecoming" night. With that thought in mind I'd like to make three special requests. One - that previous award winners join us at the April meeting to help us celebrate our accomplishments. Two - I'd especially invite people who have never come to a chapter meeting. Three – I wish that people who haven't joined us for a long time would re-connect with us by attending the April meeting. It's spring time. We're all excited about our up-coming fishing opportunities. Come to the meeting and let's celebrate our chapter's accomplishments.

Proposed Bylaw Changes

Over the past year, the *SWTU Board of Directors* has performed a painstakingly careful analysis of our chapter bylaws. The fruit of this labor is a set of bylaw revisions. All chapter members will have an opportunity to vote on the new bylaws at our at the May 8th chapter meeting. Our website (WWW.SWTU.org) contains links to the bylaws in their current and revised forms. Please take a look at both sets and decide whether or not you like the changes.

After extensive, thoughtful deliberation, the *SWTU Board of Directors* approve of these changes. However, the final decision must rest with the chapter membership. Please come to the May 8th chapter meeting, and vote.

Hardcopies of the old and new bylaws will be available at the April 10th and May 8th chapter meetings. If you do not have internet access and cannot make the May meeting, please contact Jack Way at 222-2461 for a hardcopy of your very own.

What is Project Green Teen?

By Tina Murray; PGT Coordinator

Project Green Teen is a class offered at *Malcolm Shabazz Alternative High School* in Madison. It is an environmental education program delivering all subjects under the umbrella of environmental education. TEEN stands for Teaching Environmental Education Naturally.

Students at *Shabazz* requested a “hands on” science class, teaching environmental education from the REAL world. The curriculum is designed to be relevant to students’ lives, as well as to meet a genuine need in the community (see service learning below).

PGT students learn:

- Scientific aspects of stream ecosystems and environmental stewardship.
- To become environmentally active and empowered.
- To impact nutritional health by practicing healthy cooking.
- To apply math concepts as they occur in nature, and in their service projects.
- To experience healthy activities that benefit their well being.

Students thoroughly enjoy the experience of learning ways of visually assessing a stream, identifying types of insects, testing water quality, and practicing stream improvement techniques. They apply all this knowledge through fly fishing! They also visit organic farmers, and help plant, weed, and harvest crops.

PGT is currently in its third year of classes and has had 18 to 20 students participate each year. It is a rigorous set of 3 classes during the 3rd and 4th quarters. The classes culminate in a week long trip to the *West Fork Sports Club* in *Viroqua* where all learning comes together.

Shabazz is a *National Service Learning Leader* school. Service Learning is a model where students learn about societal issues and choose service projects that directly benefit the community. PGT is completing local service projects at *Token Creek* in March and April and the *Kickapoo Valley* in May.

Many agencies work with PGT in stream restoration and education efforts; *Dane County Lakes and Watershed Division*, *Edgewood College*, *Token Creek Watershed Association* and *Friends of Token Creek*, *Dane County Parks Dept.*, *WI – DNR*, *Watershed Education Resource Center (WERC)*, *Vernon Co. Land*

and Water Conservation Department, *Organic Valley Farms*, *Avalanche Organics Farm*, *Valley Stewardship –Network*, and *Trout Unlimited*.

For in-depth details of the agencies and projects please visit the PGT website at www.madison.k12.wi.us/shabazz/Trips/pgt/pgt.htm

Many individuals believe in the power of this program and donate their time to set the kids up with gear and mentoring. PGT staff and students are enormously grateful for their support.

Does this program make a difference? YOU BET IT DOES. PGT students learn how to “do school”, exceed in their remaining high school classes, and are forever grateful for the class. They feel powerful and reconnected to learning after relating knowledge to real world service projects and successful fly-fishing. Their passion for learning is re-ignited and their personal goals increase. They are invested in the environment, reduce their footprint and extend themselves as guardians of future environmental health.

Past students state that they valued this program for providing opportunities to “learn how to build trust in each other” and to “work cooperatively”. They also profess to have grown in self knowledge, self discipline, self confidence, and discovered positive ways to enhance their lives.

PGT functions primarily outside the classroom, which requires extra finances. Each year staff write grants and seek donations to meet the roughly \$8000 needed to complete all aspects of the class including: supplies, gear (fishing, restoration and safety equip.), substitute teachers, food (to feed 20 teens), transportation, lodging, and more.

PGT has an online calendar listing fly tying clinics, casting clinics, and restoration dates at <http://freecal.brownbearsw.com/PGT06>. These dates are also listed on the back of this newsletter.

Please consider coming to *Shabazz* to assist with the clinics. It’s a good time. We are located upstairs at 1601 N. Sherman Ave.

We have 2 fly tying clinics, 2 casting clinics and a blue gill outing - all before we go fly fishing for trout. Come join in the fun! May 14th – 18th we will be at the *West Fork*. We hope to see you along the way!

You Must Be Present To Win Update

The *You Must Be Present To Win* drawing is a fiendishly tawdry, yet elegantly superficial ploy to encourage attendance at chapter meetings. The only trick is that you have to be there when we draw your name. The jackpot currently stands at \$80. If you are present at the April 10th chapter meeting, and your name is drawn from the hat, then you will take home an \$80 gift certificate to *Fontana Sports Specialties*.

Spring TU Happenings Around Wisconsin

As members of the *Wisconsin Trout Unlimited* community, our chapter receives a lot of support from neighboring chapters in southern Wisconsin. The *Blackhawk Chapter of Trout Unlimited* in Janesville has a history of donating very large fly sets to our *Ice Breaker*. Those donations garner a lot of raffle tickets, and that means cash for our coffers. The *Laura and Harry Nohr Chapter of Trout Unlimited* in Dodgeville is also a valuable partner in both financial and strategic terms. Both of those chapters will soon be holding their own annual fundraisers, and reciprocation opportunities currently abound.

The *Nohr Chapter* will hold their annual banquet on Friday May 4th at the *Dodger Bowl Lanes Banquet Hall* in Dodgeville. Cocktails will be served at 6 and dinner at 7. The evening will be filled with raffles, prizes, laughs and a celebration of accomplishments involving cold water resources. Check the Nohr website (www.NohrTU.org) for more information.

The *Blackhawk Chapter* will hold their annual banquet on Monday April 30th at the *Holiday Inn Express* in Janesville. Cocktails will begin at 5:30 and dinner will be served at 7:00. For tickets and further details, please contact Dan Boggs at 608-290-2585.

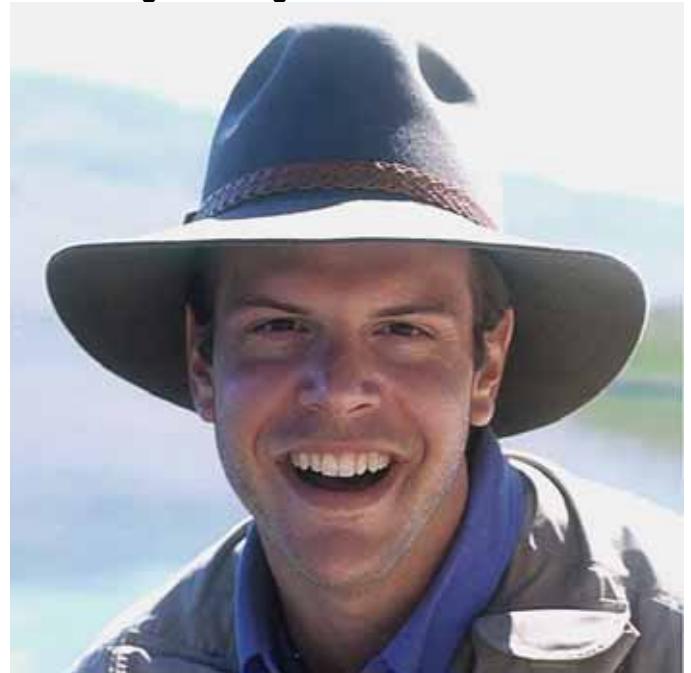
The proceeds from both events benefit the streams in those areas.

Newscasts Articles Are Always Welcome

Please note that *Newscasts* articles, or ideas for articles, are always welcome. The deadline for submitting articles for inclusion in the next issue of *Newscasts* is always the last Tuesday of the previous month.

Electronic submissions are strongly encouraged. Please send articles to the editor at Mark.Maffitt@Invitrogen.com

Jason Borger Casting Clinic



Join Jason Borger and fellow SWTU members for a casting and presentation clinic on Saturday May 12, 9AM to noon, at *Token Creek County Park*. The clinic will focus on skills you can use to practice casting accurately and effectively, as well as ways in which to present your flies to difficult trout. It is recommended that you have a solid foundation of casting skills in place in order to get the most from the clinic. Please bring your own casting gear, including a leader similar to what you normally use. The clinic is open to 12 SWTU members, and all proceeds from the clinic go back to SWTU to help with local conservation projects.

Jason Borger Casting Clinic Lottery Ticket

Please enter my name into the *Jason Borger Casting Clinic* lottery. I understand that if selected, I will be expected to remit a \$100 tuition check by May 1, 2007. I also understand that failure to remit tuition will void my selection.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone # _____

You could mail this form to:
Mark Maffitt
6306 Bradley Pl
Madison, WI 53711

Or you could bring it to him at the April 10th chapter meeting.

Welcome New Members

Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited is pleased to announce the addition of the following new members to our ranks.

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Mike Balisle | Richard Meloy |
| Rick Berry | Terry Messmer |
| Jacob Bethke | Gordon Mitchell |
| Chris Denzin | Jon Mungen |
| Kevin Gill | Gayl Rydn |
| Derek Hei | Wanda Smith |
| Nick Heredia | Marie Strahl |
| Walt Hoshaw | Kurt Suesse |
| Drew Killian | Mackenzie Wood |
| Shawn McCarthy | |

We are honored to have you among us. Please join us for a chapter meeting, and we will give you some free raffle tickets. These aren't those cheap raffle tickets that you may have been bribed with in the past. These are top quality raffle tickets, capable of winning fabulous prizes, like flies, books and other cool stuff.











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Important dates to remember:

April 10 th	Chapter Meeting featuring Chapter Elections, Awards Night and Jim Bartelt
April 13 th	Shabazz Fly Tying Class
April 14 th	Casting Clinic at Salmo Pond
April 16 th	Conservation Congress Spring Hearings
April 18 th	Shabazz Casting Clinic
April 20 th	Shabazz Fly Tying Class
April 21 st	Black Earth Creek Clean Up Day
April 25 th	Shabazz Casting Clinic
April 26 th & 27 th	Project Green Teen Workday at Token Creek
April 30 th	Blackhawk Trout Unlimited Banquet
May 4 th	Nohr Trout Unlimited Banquet
May 8 th	Chapter Meeting featuring DNR Trout Stream insect expert Mike Miller
May 13 th – 19 th	Project Green Teen Outing in Avalanche
May 19 th	Board of Directors Meeting in Avalanche
June 9 th	Special Annual Fishing Day at Kalscheur's Ponds

Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited Leadership:

- | | | | |
|--------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| President | Jack Way | (608) 222-2461 | JackWay@Charter.net |
| Vice President | Dave Sanders | (608) 843-7125 | daveandcheri@charter.net |
| Secretary | John Serunian | (608) 277-9295 | jserunian@aol.com |
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