

Newscasts

July, 2007 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



A Truly Shocking Picnic

Please note that our July chapter meeting will **NOT** occur on the second Tuesday of July at the *Coliseum Bar*, but will instead be held on the second Saturday of July (i.e. July 14th) at Gordon Creek. Over the past few years, Gordon Creek has undergone extensive restoration and habitat improvements. Starting at 9AM Fisheries Biologist Kurt Welke and his DNR crew will conduct a fish shocking demonstration. This is a great opportunity to learn about some new local trout fishing opportunities, and socialize with other TU chapter members.

Immediately following the stream shocking, we will caravan over to *Donald Park* for our annual chapter picnic. We will gather at the pavilion on Hwy 92 just northwest of Mt. Vernon (not to be confused with the pavilion *in* the town of Mt Vernon). At *Donald Park*, we will feast upon the summertime fare provided by master chef, and trout fisherman extraordinaire, Mark Rhinerson. In addition to being one of the premier brat specialists of Wisconsin, Mark's whistle berries are second to none. If for no other reason, you will want to come for the baked beans. Yum.

Mark your calendar and plan to join in the fun. Family members are welcome and encouraged to attend, although the fish shocking demonstration may result in a question or two about the size of the trout that you purport to catch.

Summer Schedule Note

In addition to the unusual time and place for the July chapter meeting, please note that there will also be no August chapter meeting or newsletter. Look for the September edition of *Newscasts* during the first week of September.

The deadline for submitting articles for inclusion in the September *Newscasts* will be August 28th. Electronic article submissions are strongly encouraged, and should be sent to the editor at Mark.Maffitt@gmail.com

In the meantime, keep those lines tight, the parsnip blisters small, the stinging nettles rashes small, the poison ivy exposures to a minimum, and the DEET levels high.

Directions to the July Meeting

GPS users can meet us at N42° 56.723 W89° 49.755. Everyone else will want to refer to the map (below).

From Madison, take US Highway 18/151 west to Dane County Highway F (near Blue Mounds). Proceed south on County F about a mile, then bear left onto Highway Z for 3.75 more miles. You will surely spot us just west of the Highway Z intersection with Highway E.



Special Annual Fishing Day

By John Schweiger

Photos by Sue Fey and Mark Maffitt

What a beautiful day: blue skies, a slight breeze for comfort, and cooperative fish. Our attendance was down due to a scheduling conflict with the *Wisconsin Special Olympics* competitions, but we had thirty guests and twenty-five family members and caregivers. I would like to extend my personal thanks to the twenty chapter members who volunteered their time to make this special day a great success.

The *Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited* owes Jim Kalscheur and his staff many thanks. Without Jim, there would be no *Special Needs Fishing Day* and without his staff the day would not be as special. Jim provided hot dog buns, baked beans, potato chips and his culinary expertise. Thanks are also due to Stevie Kalscheur, (Jim's seven year-old grandson) for keeping the geese away. We are also grateful to Oscar Mayer (Dave Whooley) for the hot dogs, Dorn Hardware at Nakoma (Jason) for the leaf worms, Scott's Bakery (Jackie and Russell Scott) for the breakfast pastries, Bill Tefft and the Sun Prairie Lions Club for the fishing trophies, Mt Horeb Fire and Rescue (Mary Jo Brinkman) for medical support and Colleen Campbell for inviting our guests. We are also appreciative that the *Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources* (Jason Heilbach) and the *Loan-A Rod Program* made the tackle available to us.



I would like to extend a special recognition to Mark Rhinerson. He used his personal time to pick up and return the fishing tackle provided by the DNR's *Return-A Rod* program. He assisted in the Friday night tackle set up, assisted as fishing guide and he cleaned fish on Saturday.



Bill Engber and Bob McCabe assisted with both tackle setup on Friday and acted as fishing guides on Saturday.





Jordan Konisky, Jim Kanvik, Jim Beecher and Mel Pontius showed an extraordinary aptitude for removing goose poo.



Mike Philips, Henry Haugley, Greg Ericson, Jim Bartelt, J.J Bartelt and Dennis Presser provided much appreciated contributions to making the day special for our guests.



In addition, these chapter members acted as fishing guides, fish cleaners and strong backs for transporting wheel chair bound guests down the hill to preferred fishing spots and back up the hill for lunch.



I would also like to thank Mark Maffitt's friend Scott Breitlow for his guiding assistance. Scott lives in Denver and was in Madison for a very short visit, yet managed to share himself with our guests for a memorable day of angling.



Last but not least, I would like to recognize my wife Rose for her invaluable assistance. She was our greeter/hostess as well as my guide to making this day as successful as it was. I hope she appreciates how much I value her support.

We look forward to next year when we will be able to offer this wonderful opportunity to even more people who are not able to share in this pastime we all love.

Editors note: Photo highlights for the days events will soon be available at www.SWTU.org.

Welcome New Members

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

Nancy Adumat
Jon and Erin Augspurger
Anne Connor

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.

You-Must-Be-Present-To-Win

There was no winner present at our *You Must Be Present To Win Drawing* at the June 12th chapter meeting. Consequently, the jackpot grew from \$20 to \$40. If you are interested in winning a \$40 gift certificate to *Fontana Sports Specialties*, then you will want to be present at our July 14th On the Sream Meeting. If you are present, and your name is drawn, you will take home that \$40 gift certificate.

FLY RODS FOR SALE

By Jack Way, SWTU President

Sitting here musing the world situations, and under dire threat from our beloved *Newscast* editor to come up with something, quick, my thoughts have turned to that fly fisherman's best friend, the fly rod.

My first one, as a gift, was a 6 wt Fenwick. Lovely rod, only weighed about a pound and a half, slower than a buggy whip, and I suspect, the very last one the shop had in stock – a classic case of "seen 'em coming".

Eventually, my tastes ran to the "fast action" type. As in, a telephone pole had slightly more flex than these babies. Perfect for that ever important 80 foot cast, completely useless on our local creeks.

I've now evolved back to the medium action, super lightweight type. About a foot and a half shorter than some previous models, somewhat faster than cane, and downright user friendly. Perfect for our local Southern Wisconsin waters.

So, for A ONCE IN A LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY, and in an attempt to clean out an over loaded closet (they've seemed to multiply in there, all by themselves), I've decided to sell off a few of the extra's. Let's say, not more than 40 or 50 of 'em. And at a real "bargain price", too.

Any of this starting to sound familiar?

For Sale on the TIMBER COULEE: 40 acres with yevsaar round two bedroom cabin and walk out basement. Located between Westby and Coon Valley. 2 hours from Madison. 608-241-4227

SPRING CREEK SPECIALTIES



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Fountains of Youth

A look at classic flies that have withstood the test of time ... flies that remain "forever young"

by Rusty Dunn

Have your children ever been so completely costumed at Halloween that you no longer recognized them? Frank Sawyer, originator of the legendary Pheasant Tail nymph, wouldn't recognize many of his "children" today. His original Pheasant Tail nymph is a model of simplicity, but the modified, substituted, customized, and dolled-up variants of today often bear little resemblance to their stately ancestor.

Frank Sawyer (1906-1980) was a gentle and observant Englishman who gave us one of the greatest trout flies of all time. His two books, *Keeper of the Stream* (1952) and *Nymphs and the Trout* (1958) are rich in thoughtful observation and practical advice about trout, trout streams, and angling. Sawyer was a meticulous biologist who spent a lifetime studying the intricacies of a fabled English chalk stream. He was river keeper, water bailiff, and chief steward for 52 years of the Officer's Fishing Association, a private club owning 6.5 premier miles of the River Avon in Wiltshire.

Sawyer was a pioneering environmentalist and conservationist, one who learned stream ecology standing hip-deep in his laboratory. He developed techniques for cleansing polluted waters with powdered limestone, he pioneered use of tributary spring ponds as protected habitat for juvenile trout, he established *insect* hatcheries with which to repopulate degraded streams, and he invented a humane trap to control vermin. Sawyer was especially concerned with human impacts on trout habitat. His books articulate major concepts of stream management, including the importance of bank stabilization, rock diversions, erosion control,

removal of organic debris, storm water management, and nutrient excess. Sound familiar? The needs of a healthy trout have never changed.

Sawyer's most enduring legacy, however, is the Pheasant Tail nymph. Sawyer began his fly tying and fishing by studying nymphs and emergers in excruciating detail. He was obsessed with making exact copies of every species and stage of growth. This led to scores of imitative flies, but angling experience taught Sawyer that exact imitation is not needed.

"I found that there was no need for any exact likeness of one or another [insect] and that if most of the details and characteristics of several could be incorporated ... fish could be taken consistently on them".

Like anglers before and since, Sawyer learned that general shape, approximate color, and the correct size are far more important than precise imitation. *Presentation*, not *imitation*, is what catches trout. Sawyer's books describe only five fly patterns, but he demonstrated first-hand that these are sufficient to take trout, salmon, grayling, and char throughout the world. Sawyer's Pheasant Tail imitates dark mayfly nymphs, and his Grey Goose the lighter varieties.

"Simplicity is an aim to be desired" Sawyer said, and his fly patterns reflect that principle. The Pheasant Tail nymph contains only two materials: pheasant tail fibers and fine copper wire. That's it! No thread ... no thorax of herl ... no dangling legs ... no flashback tinsel ... just pheasant and wire. Nymphs tuck their legs tight against the body when swimming, and thus Sawyer's flies have no legs. A streamlined body and ballasting of wire cause the Pheasant Tail to sink quickly. The underbody of wire shows through overlying material, yielding a translucency that trout find irresistible.

-----Sawyer Pheasant Tail Nymph-----

For photos of Frank Sawyer tying his Pheasant Tail nymph see: http://www.salisburydistrictac.co.uk/gallery_4.htm



Important dates to remember:

July 14 th	On the Stream Chapter Meeting and Picnic
August 14 th	Chapter Meeting Summer Recess (Don't go. We won't be there.)
August 28 th	Submission deadline for September Newscasts
September 11 th	Chapter Meeting
September 22 nd	Black Earth Creek Workday
October 13 th	Black Earth Creek Workday
November 3 rd	Black Earth Creek Workday

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