

Newscasts

February, 2002 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



Acquiring Fly Tying Materials

Local author Scott Seymour will speak at our February 12th meeting. He will talk to us about acquiring, preserving, and tying with feathers, furs, and hairs acquired in the field. Hunters, friends of hunter, and operators of motor vehicles will want to take notice. Scott is a member of the Badger Fly Fishers, and has written a book called, *From Field to Fly: The Fly Tier's Guide to Skinning and Preserving Wild Game* (published by Frank Amato Publications). The flies pictured in his book were all tied by Bob Harrison, but Scott is an accomplished Tier in his own right. Come out and hear all about how to use these materials to tie enticing trout food imitations

As always, we will meet at the Maple Tree Restaurant in McFarland at 7:00 PM. Please come out early, and join us for dinner.

Ice Breaker 2002

The preliminary financial results from the *Ice Breaker* are in (please refer to Bill's *From the President* column below). By all accounts, it was a roaring success. We all had fun, we all learned a little more about our great sport, and we raised some money for coldwater resource preservation and restoration. What more could we ask for?

We owe many thanks to many people who helped make it all possible. Tom Fendrick did another great job of chairing and organizing the event. The fact that we sold a record number of raffle tickets suggests that Greg Vodak did a great job of lining up an alluring set of prizes. Larry Meicher did a masterful job of coordinating the bucket raffle sales department. And there were others too numerous to list here. Thanks are due to everyone who helped make the event a success.

We owe a special debt of gratitude to the individuals and companies that donated to our cause.

Badger Fly Fishers
Jim Bartelt
Andy Davidson
Carl Bradley
Dorn Hardware
Douglas Rod Company, Paul Douglas
Royce Dam
Klein Dickert
Tom Ehlert
Greg Erickson
Fontana Sports
Bill Karduck

Lands End
Lunde's Fly Shop
Madison Outfitters
Larry Meicher
Meuer Art & Picture Frame Co.
Pielsticker Photos
Mark Rhinerson & Jim Romberg
Rusk Gun Shop
Shoe Box
John Strauss & Dick Berge
Bill Weege
Tom Wendelburg

We still need flies.

The *Ice Breaker* may have passed, but the *March Madness Auction* is just around the corner. Please tie flies. We need lots and lots of flies. Paul Banas will be distributing little plastic boxes at the February meeting. Please take a few of these boxes home, and fill them with flies for the auction, or for monthly meeting bucket raffle prizes.

From the Presidentby Bill Pielsticker

Initial numbers suggest the *Ice Breaker* was a real success! Ticket sales were over 260, and with the addition of children and guests with complimentary tickets, attendance approached 300. Better yet, raffle ticket sales exceeded \$7000 for the first time. The big winner of the day was Steve Born, who walked away with the Paul Douglas bamboo rod, much to the chagrin of all the others who together put thousands of raffle tickets in that bucket. I wonder if Steve will actually fish with that rod, or cherish it for the work of art it is.

Once all our costs are factored in, it looks like we raised over \$6000 to apply towards the coldwater resource! Many thanks to the volunteers who helped set it up, the great speakers, and to you who came out in support of our biggest fundraiser of the year. Next up, the live Chapter Auction at the March monthly meeting.

A few days after the *Ice Breaker* I attended the meeting of the Natural Resources Board where the polluted runoff rules were being considered. I delivered a statement on behalf of Trout Unlimited in which I generally supported the proposed rules, but asked that mandatory stream buffers be included in the rule package. The NRB adopted the rules but left the buffer strips voluntary.

As part of the Clean Water Coalition, we may try to have the legislative oversight committees amend the DNR rules to require buffer strips. In the meantime, the federal Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program is already underway, with 14,000 acres of buffer strips signed up out of a total of 100,000 acres targeted. The state's number one water pollution problem is finally being addressed, and our coldwater streams and lakes will benefit along with the rest of the state's waters. I hope to have more good news in the months ahead.

Touchless Release by Bill Flader

You say you're a catch and release trout fisher and want to harm your fish as little as possible? What if you could release virtually all your fish, especially those caught on nymphs, without using a net or even touching the fish? Would it be worth a one-time \$20 outlay?

I've been doing it for years, using a tool and technique learned from Coulee-area guide Clay Riness. You've seen the Ketchum Release tool at all the local fly shops for \$20 (and thought it was overpriced), but the release technique is not well-described. Clay taught me to slide the slotted tool down the tippet and over the nymph, as the fish (smaller) is hanging over the water or (larger) has its head protruding partially from the water. Then you rotate the shaft 180 degrees so the hook point is now pointing DOWN, lift slowly and give a sharp downward shake, and the weight of the fish frees it to fall back into its element. (This assumes crimped barbs.)

This is also rewarding to you if you fish the winter (Iowa) or early season in near-freezing temps and don't have to get your hands wet or even remove your gloves. The tool appears durable enough to last a lifetime, but you'll need to keep it readily accessible. I just let the "business end" protrude from a chest pocket, but you could use a pin-on retractor.

[Editors note: Newscasts articles are always welcome. Please submit them to the editor by the last Friday of the month for inclusion in the next month's newsletter.]

Correcting Your Trout Unlimited Membership Information

Does TU know that you have moved recently? Did the TU computer change your middle initial or assign you to a chapter on the other side of the globe? You can now change your own Trout Unlimited membership information through the TU web site. To check your membership information please go to www.tu.org, and click "*Members*" then click "*Membership Services*", and select "*Look Up Your Personal Membership Information*". You will then be prompted to key in your 8 digit membership number (found on any TU mailing label) along with your last name. If any of the information is not correct please email the corrected information directly to TU from that site.

Madison Fishing Expo

The Madison Fishing Expo will be held February 22nd through 24th. Funds raised from this event are used for Dane County fish habitat restoration projects. Numerous Trout Unlimited projects have benefited handsomely from past Fishing Expos.

Bob Gennrich is our representative on the Fishing Expo Board. At our January chapter meeting, Bob managed to recruit a bunch of volunteers to sell tickets at the Expo. We should all be thankful that people were so enthusiastic about signing up to help.

Volunteers will also be needed to work 1-2 hour shifts in the booth that SWTU will have at the Expo. Mark Rhinerson is still looking for these volunteers. Fly tiers are encouraged to tie flies in the booth during their shift. Those that don't tie can still help out by chatting with booth visitors, and distributing TU brochures. To volunteer for this job, please sign up at the February 12th chapter meeting or contact Mark at 249-7250.

Strategic Planning Session - February 16th

The Chapter will be hosting a Strategic Planning work session from 9:00AM to Noon on Saturday, February 16th at Fitzgerald's Restaurant in Sun Prairie. A continental breakfast will be provided. Topics include: increasing youth involvement in chapter activities, role of chapter as land manager, and improving new member involvement. If you are interested, please contact Paul Banas at either pmbanas@aol.com or at 285-4296 for more details.

New Venue for SWTU Board Meetings

The board of directors of the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited meets on the last Tuesday of nearly every month. Curious chapter members as well as members with issues that they wish to bring before the board are encouraged to attend these meetings.

Beginning on February 26, 2002 these meetings will be held at the Green Lantern Restaurant located at 4412 Siggelkow Rd. McFarland. Meetings are convened at 7:00 PM and usually last about 90 minutes.

Awards Committee to Meet Soon

Our annual chapter awards presentations have traditionally occurred in April. It is not clear that this schedule will be adhered to this year. However, all chapter members wishing to make an award nomination, should make those wishes known soon. Please contact Bill Pielsticker with those nominations. He will forward them to the Awards Committee as soon as it is formed.

Important dates to remember:

February 12: Chapter Meeting featuring author Scott Seymour

March 12: March Madness Auction

April 9: Chapter elections and more

Officers of the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited:

President	Bill Pielsticker	(608) 592-4718
Vice President	Mark Maffitt	(608) 273-2140
Secretary	Fay Lauf	(608) 233-2102
Treasurer	John Schweiger	(608) 238-8062
Past President	Tom Ehlert	(608) 767-2413
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