

Newscasts

January, 2003 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



Annual Fly Tying Jamboree

Our January 14th chapter meeting will feature some of the fly tyers from our chapter, demonstrating their craft. There is more than one way to tie any fly, and there are numerous tricks for accomplishing the same tying task. This is a great opportunity to share our insights among ourselves. It is sure to be educational for novices and experts alike. If you can tie you're own shoes, then there may well be at least one fly that you tie better than anyone else in the chapter. Bring your vise, and come show us how **you** do it. Please remember to bring a light and an extension cord.

Many of us will meet for dinner around 6:00 PM. You are hereby invited to join us. The fly tying fun will begin around 7:00 PM. As usual, we will meet at the *Maple Tree Restaurant* located on Highway 51 in scenic McFarland.

Order Your Tickets Now

The *Nash Williams Memorial Banquet* will be held on Friday January 17th at Morel's Restaurant, located at 4635 Chalet St. To get there; take the West Beltline Highway to Airport Road in Middleton. Go west on Airport Road about 4 miles then turn left on Chalet St. Tickets are \$20.00 each and may be ordered through January 10th. When placing your ticket order, please indicate whether you would prefer chicken or trout. To reserve your banquet tickets, call John Schweiger at 238-8062. Payment should be mailed to him at:

5541 Dahlen Drive
Madison, WI 53705

Ice Breaker tickets will cost \$10 on January 18th, but you can save a buck by purchasing them in advance. Contact John Schweiger to get in on the advance sale deal. The easiest way to do that is to meet him at the chapter meeting on January 14th.

We Still Need Flies....

Lots and Lots of Flies

Please tie lots and lots of flies. We need flies for *Ice Breaker* door prizes, monthly meeting bucket raffle prizes, and the March auction. Paul Banas has volunteered to coordinate the collection of donated flies for these events. Please bring your flies to Paul and he will see to it that they find their way to one of these events. Paul also has a ton of little boxes to hold your donated flies.

Ice Breaker Volunteers Needed

Please join us for breakfast before the *Ice Breaker* at the *Green Forest Family Restaurant*, 925 East Broadway (near the Menards on the Old Beltline Highway). Meet us there at about 6:00 AM for breakfast. If you can not bear the thought of facing us on an empty stomach, then meet us at the *Park Ponderosa* at 7:30 AM. We need volunteers to help with numerous setup tasks.

Directions to the Park Ponderosa Ballroom

Veteran *Ice Breaker* attendees will flock to the *Park Ponderosa* like salmon to their spawning grounds. However, if this is your first *Ice Breaker* you may need some directions. The *Park Ponderosa Ballroom* is located on the north side of McFarland at 5100 Erling Avenue. Take the Siggelkow Road exit from Highway 51, and go west. Turn left just past the railroad tracks. The *Park Ponderosa* will be on your right – you can't miss it.



Fly Tying Classes to Begin in January

Wednesday night fly tying classes will begin at East High on January 15th. Thursday night sessions will begin at West High on January 16th. Classes meet once a week for ten weeks. Please see the enclosed flyer for more information, or contact Tom Ehlert at 767-2413.

Lodi Forum on Spring Creek

The public is invited to a forum titled "Lodi's Spring Creek: Assessing the Resource" on Sunday, February 2 from 4 to 5 P.M. in Lodi. Learn the results of last year's water monitoring and evaluation. Hear what the results mean for the efforts to improve the self-sustaining trout population in Spring Creek. The study's intern and DNR personnel will be on hand to discuss trout population estimates as well as land-use patterns in the Spring Creek Watershed, and the impact of land use on the stream and the trout population. The forum will be held in the meeting room of the Associated Bank, intersection of Hwy. 60 and Hwy. 113, downtown Lodi. It is sponsored by the Friends of Scenic Lodi Valley and SWTU.

Last year's study, funded in part by a River Protection Grant from the DNR, encompassed the area from the origins of Spring Creek in Lodi Marsh downstream to below the City of Lodi. Preliminary results indicate that the portion of the stream flowing through the marsh may be cold enough most of the year to support trout. This increases the importance of the fish passage chapter members constructed in the fall of 2001 in downtown Lodi. Spring Creek runs north from near Lee Rd. in northern Dane County, through Lodi, and drains into Lake Wisconsin at Okee in Columbia County.

Spring Creek harbors a naturally reproducing population of brown trout. Recent habitat work there has been aimed at generating a self-sustaining population that doesn't require supplemental stocking. The work on the stream is welcomed by the City of Lodi and area residents who see the stream as an asset. For more information on the forum, contact Bill Pielsticker at 592-4718 or at billpiel@merr.com.

Volunteers Needed for the Madison Fishing Expo

SWTU is a member of the Fishing Expo board and has received substantial financial support from the Expo for projects. This year's expo is March 7-9, and we need volunteers for two tasks.

First, Bob Gennrich is organizing volunteers for staffing the Expo itself. This includes taking tickets at the door, watching access points, and "patrolling" hallways. It's easy work, and a two-hour stint gets you free entrance to the Expo to boot. To sign up, call Bob at 764-5930. Bob needs to submit his list soon, so please act quickly

Second, SWTU needs volunteers to staff our booth at the Expo. This generally involves tying flies and handing out literature, answering questions, and being nice (if you have a problem with that, get it fixed!). Board member Mark Rhinerson will coordinate volunteers this year. If you want to staff the booth before or after a stint with the Expo folks, let Mark know what times you need. Again, we are working with 2-hour time slots. See Mark at the next chapter meeting or the *Ice Breaker* to sign up. You can also call him at 249-7250.

Workday Scheduled for January 25th

Tom Ehlert has scheduled a workday for Saturday January 25th. Brushing and clearing will be performed in and along the stretch of Black Earth Creek near Schultz Road (about ½ mile east of Black Earth). Signs will be posted in the area to help mark the spot. This is an area that is devoid of spawning redds, so we need to fear that we are trampling eggs or fry. Work will begin at 9:00 AM and will be completed by 1:00 PM. Tom will then attempt to infuse our hypothermic personages with either pasta or chili.

You Must be Present to Win

We will draw for a \$100 gift certificate from Madison Outfitters at our January 14th chapter meeting. Once the jackpot reaches this level, special rules are enforced that insure that there will be a winner this month. If you are present at this meeting, you stand a reasonable chance of winning a very substantial prize. Wouldn't that be cool?

From the President ... by Bill Pielsticker

This month's chapter meeting is our annual fly tying meeting. If you've always wondered if you should take up tying, this is a great chance to see what it's about. In a column in January's *Fly Rod & Reel*, John Gierach noted that some publishers are starting to "touch up" photographs of tied flies, leaving us with impossible standards to aspire to. Take a short drive to the Maplewood Restaurant January 14th and see how it really looks. Flies tied at this meeting will be raffled off at the end of the evening.

You've read a lot about the *Ice Breaker* itself, but this year marks a change in the dinner the preceding night. This dinner, usually called our *Trout Massacre*, has been designated the *Nash William Memorial Dinner*. "Recent" members of our chapter may not have known Nash, but he was one of the founders of SWTU in 1969, as well as the Aldo Leopold chapter. He was also instrumental in establishing the Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited. He later served national Trout Unlimited in several capacities and remained an active member of our chapter.

Nash Williams passed away in late July. While Nash was a lawyer by training, those who know him insist he lived to fish. Our chapter has received a variety of fishing equipment and books from his estate, and we will be offering these as fundraising items at the *Ice Breaker*, the March auction,

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and beyond. In the meantime, we will use the occasion of our annual dinner to honor Nash one last time. Join us for some "light" presentations from our *Ice Breaker* speakers, some great food, and some good words about Nash Williams. See an article elsewhere in this newsletter for time and ticket information.

This workday is weather dependent. Please use your judgment when deciding whether or not to participate in this project. Ordering mild weather for project days is beyond the authority of our fearless project leader. If you believe that it is too cold to work safely, then you are encouraged to stay home.

State Council Banquet

The Trout Unlimited State Council will meet on Saturday February 1st at the Park Plaza Convention Center in Oshkosh beginning at 11:30 AM. The annual State Council Banquet will be held afterwards, with cocktails at 5:00 PM, and dinner at 7:00 PM. As part of this fundraising event, there will be silent auctions, a lively auction, bucket raffles, and door prizes. Tickets are \$35 each and may be ordered from Larry Meicher by calling (920) 992-6612. Checks should be made out to Trout Unlimited, and mailed to Larry at:

W5258 Salisbury Rd.
Rio, WI 53960

Important dates to remember:

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| January 14 | SWTU "December" Board Meeting (6:00 PM at the Maple Tree) |
| January 14 | Monthly Chapter Meeting featuring SWTU Fly Tyers |
| January 17 | Nash Williams Memorial Banquet |
| January 18 | <i>Ice Breaker</i> featuring Dick Talleur and Shawn Perich |
| January 25 | Black Earth Creek Workday near Schultz Road |
| January 28 | SWTU Board Meeting at the Green Lantern |
| February 1 | TU State Council Meeting and Banquet |
| February 11 | Monthly Chapter Meeting featuring Kurt Welke |
| February 21-23 | Madison Fishing Expo |
| March 11 | <i>March Madness</i> Auction |