

Newscaats

February, 2001: Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Wisconsin Fishing Opportunities

Cabin fever got you down? Our February 12 speaker will get your fishing juices flowing. **Dave Reutz** of Milwaukee is an aquatic biologist and fishing guide and his topic will be "Unique Flyfishing opportunities in Wisconsin"....every species from trout to bass and then some. Dave guides on the Wolf and is writing a book on some of what he knows. Should be good. Come out early for dinner at the Mapletree on Highway 51 in McFarland, just five minutes south of the beltline.

We'll also be drawing for a \$20 gift certificate to Madison Outfitters but you have to be there to win.

Our March 12 meeting features our world renowned **March Madness Auction** with Doctor Sausage, Colonel Mustard and Throckmorton, all well worth the price of admission. We need fly sets, used books, art works, anything you don't need anymore for the auction.

On April 9, we'll hold chapter elections, give out annual awards and hear a presentation from **John Beth** on a flyfishing trip he took to Alaska with Gary Borger (video coming). Some people know how to live.

Come out early for dinner before the chapter meetings. Great food and fairly good company, although people lie a little once in a while.

Ice Breaker a Huge Success!

This year's Ice Breaker was one of the most successful ever. We had about 350 folks attending and netted over \$5500, according to Treasurer Lynn Blenker. To resounding cheers from Steve Born, Jeff Smith won the Paul Douglas bamboo rod. In his column, Tom Ehlert thanks chapter members who contributed their efforts. Here, we'd like to thank our many prize donors and ask that you patronize them:

- * Badger Fly Fishers * Jim Bartelt
- * Dorn Hardware * Greg Erickson
- * Douglas Rod Company (Paul Douglas)
- * Fontana Sports * The Great Frame Up
- * George's Taxidermy * Lands End
- * Klein-Dickert Art and Framing
- * Lunde's Fly Fishing Chalet
- * Amy Moyer * Madison Outfitters
- * Mauer Art and Picture Framing
- * Monroe Street Framing and Gallery
- * Pielsticker Photos (Bill P.)
- * The Shoe Box * Rusk Gun Shop
- * John Strauss * Red Wilson
- * Elizabeth Wucher * Bill Stokes
- * Larry Meicher * Silver Trout Fly Fishing Service (Tom Ehlert)

Thanks, Delbert

The chapter is most grateful to Delbert Richardson of Madison for his generous donation of a set of classic fly fishing books to help in fundraising. Delbert is a long-time flyfisher, flytyer and supporter of TU. His generosity will encourage another generation to learn from the masters. Thanks, Delbert.

From the President....

Mel Pontious is the first deserving our recognition. He piqued our curiosity and primed our enthusiasm with his timely three-part series on the Ice Breaker in this space, wherein he detailed the scope of the event's activities and profiled the allure of our guest speakers, Jim Bartelt and Rick Hafele. Gentlemen, thank you. You're the reason people attend the Ice Breaker. (Sidebar: Thank you, John Bleimehl, for attending to the particulars of Rick's visit with us and for managing the various other responsibilities you regularly assume.)

Chairman Mao Tse-Fendrick reprised his role as Co-ordinator of the affair. (Tom, can you pull together yet one more of these?) In addition to assuring the event was adequately publicized and ticket sales tracked, Tom oversaw the contributions of many self-directed others. Andy Morton among them. Eighty-plus sated diners enjoyed the food and the company of their table-mates, and thank you, Andy, for making the arrangements.

On Saturday, Meicher and his minions assured that cash flowed freely and that buckets were nearly brim-full before winning tickets were drawn. Paul Banas: How many miles and hours led to the accumulation of that surfeit of door prizes? (Chapter members: Eschew the Internet and patronize those local retailers who support our initiative. They need your dollars to continue to support it. Express your support whenever you pay them a visit. Until then, let's extend to them a collective "THANK YOU".) Chapter members who contributed flies or other prizes: you're all too often our unsung donors. Thank you.

Recognition is also due those who demonstrated their fly-tying skill on site, and to those who manned and womanned the tables whereon the prizes were arrayed and whereat tickets and memorabilia were sold. Kudos to all chapter members and guests who attended. Ultimately, you make the event a success. Lynn Blenker reports a net profit of over \$5500, with over 350 people in attendance. Enough said.

Who's been overlooked? As if that were possible. Steve Born. Please, someone other than Steve, help me find the words. Is there anyone? (Topf Wells" name pops up.) Consider this: whom do we choose to emcee a Steve Born "Roast"? To out-spin, out-wit, out-talk, out-whatever our otherwise self-effacing paragon. (Can he be out-fished?) From all of us, Steve, thank you.

Moving on: The Calendar of Events and Dan W's syntactically smooth commentary tell you who's on tap to edify and entertain at our next chapter meeting. Mr. Maffitt assures me that, through year's end, we'll be treated to a scintillating array of speakers. Not on the first, but on Saturday, March 3, we can fish again. We hope. The Farmer's Almanac might stumble, after all. To date this winter, it's been right on, and predicts heavy snows in early February and March. In the between-time, the forecast is for "rising rivers". Will there be an Opener when it's supposed to be? If there is, savor it. If not, so be it. But just how much anticipation can we take?

Some consolation, if needed, will arrive on the twelfth of March (circle the date) when Wells, Morton and Meicher will once more co-ordinate the pilfering of our pockets in support of our conservation efforts. It's AUCTION NIGHT! Old-timers know the drill. Newcomers are in for a treat. Anyone who goes home empty handed that night can't point a finger in Fates's face. The "luck of the draw" isn't much of a player.

In April, we'll recognize Chapter members and those in the larger community who've served above and beyond. It's our AWARDS NIGHT. And it's the evening we elect three new board members and grant reprieves to those executive officers who need a breather. Some candidates have stepped forward. The search is on for others. Call me at 767-2413 if you wish to nominate yourself or someone whose leadership skills impress you.

Through all of this we'll continue to draw for a gift certificate at Madison Outfitters. (Thank you, John Hutchinson, for your support during the first five months of the current meeting calendar.) At the June meeting, we may draw for a \$100 certificate, if no one wins the preceding four months. In any case, you gotta be there to win. Scot Stewart and Paul Banas can attest to that.

-----Tom Ehlert

Welcome New Members

We signed up 31 new members at the Ice Breaker, perhaps the most ever. We now have a record high 677 members in our chapter. Welcome to:

John Wicker, Bluemounds	John & Paula Wagner, Mt. Horeb	Diana Toledo, Madison
Michael Shivers, Madison	Diane & William North, Poynette	Ben Goldner, Madison
Brian Nordlie, Stoughton	Carlton Larson, Fitchburg	Stanford Goto, Madison
Peter Cullen, Madison	Dan Cullen, Madison	William Koch, Madison
Ben Koch, Madison	Susan Lang, Madison	Richard Tedesco, St. Charles, Il.
Ben Larson, Madison	William Maund, Madison	Richard Biegel, Brookfield
Bill Cheadle, Madison	Collin Clark, Verona	Steve Cotsi, Middleton
Jim Cowan, Brooklyn	Steve Gordon, Madison	Bob Gurda, Madison
Vern Lowell, Mt. Horeb	Dale Vinson, Cleaveland, WI	John Parrish, Monona
Bill Selbig, Madison	Paul Zwicker, Oregon	