

Newscasts

February, 2003 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



Dane County Streams Update

The featured speaker at our February 11th chapter meeting will be DNR *Fisheries Manager* for South Central Wisconsin, Kurt Welke. Kurt will tell us all about what he and his crews did in 2002 and how they did it. He will go beyond the traditional presentation of electroshock survey data and tell us how he and his team assess the health of our streams. Come on out and learn about our local streams: their trout populations, their health, and their biology. It should be fun and informative for hard core anglers as well as the amateur biologists within our midst.

The meeting will start at 7:00 PM on Tuesday February 11th. Please join us for dinner at 6:00 or so. That will give us a chance to meet you and to swap some lies. As always, we will meet at the Maple Tree Restaurant located at the stop light on Highway 51 in beautiful downtown McFarland, Wisconsin.

Ice Breaker A Smashing Success

The 19th annual *Ice Breaker* is now in the history books. Thanks to the efforts and generosity of many, it was another fabulously successful fundraiser. Attendance was about the same as in recent years; there were 267 paid admissions this year. For the second year in a row, bucket raffle ticket sales topped the \$7000 mark. With all of that said, our earnings for the event were down a bit this year, but it still qualified as a tremendous success. We earned money that will help us protect, preserve and restore the cold-water resources in our area, and we had fun doing it.

It takes a lot of volunteers to pull these events off. One of our premier volunteers was veteran *Ice Breaker Chair* – Tom Fendrick. Thanks Tom, you did another great job!

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

Badger Fly Fishers
Jim Bartelt
Dick Berge
John Beth
Royce Dam
Andy Davidson
Beth Ward Donahue
Dorn Hardware
Paul Douglas
Douglas Rod Company
Tom Ehlert
Greg Ericson
Fontana Sports Specialties
Henry Haugley
Lands End
Madison Outfitters
Meuer Art and Framing
Mike Philipps
Pielsticker Photos
Mark Rhinerson
Jim Romberg
The Shoe Box
St Croix Rod Company
John Strauss
Bill Weege
Charles Wineland

Cabin Fever Day

The Fox Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited will hold a fundraiser on March 15th at Waverly Beach in Menasha. Bill Sherer and Jerry Kustich will be their featured speakers. Attractions will also include a canoe raffle, fly tying and rod building demonstrations, vendors, factory reps, silent auctions, bucket raffles, and door prizes. Tickets are \$10 and will be available at the door. For more information contact Tom Deer at (920) 725-6077 or check out their website at www.foxvalleytu.org

Dane County Planning Meetings

The state of Wisconsin's recent comprehensive planning legislation requires counties and municipalities to develop comprehensive plans. During the comprehensive planning process goals will be set for important issues including: housing, transportation, community resources, agriculture, natural resources, economic development and land use.

The Dane County Comprehensive Planning Steering Committee intends to kick-off the process at two identical events (providing two opportunities to attend). The kick-offs are scheduled for 7 PM Wednesday, February 12th and Thursday, February 13th at the Alliant Energy Center. Come to one of these meetings and become involved in planning Dane County's future.

The kick-off events will provide an opportunity for citizens and local elected officials to:

- Learn about the comprehensive planning legislation and planning process.
- Meet members of the Comprehensive Planning Steering Committee.
- Express an interest in serving on the working groups, as well as exploring other avenues to involvement.

Help shape the future of Dane County by sharing your thoughts and insights and making your voice heard! For more information, please contact Karen Pribbenow by phone at 266-4251 or e-mail at pribbenow@co.dane.wi.us

We Still Need Flies...

...Lots and Lots of Flies

The Ice Breaker is behind us for another year, but we could still use flies. Please tie flies. Lots and lots of flies. The *March Madness Auction* is just around the corner, and we can always use flies as bucket raffle prizes at our monthly meetings. Please bring your flies to any chapter meeting and Paul Banas will gladly see to it that they are put to a productive fundraising purpose. Paul can also supply you with as many little boxes (to hold your donated flies) as you could possibly use.

Volunteers Still Needed for the Madison Fishing Expo

Bob Gennrich is still in need of volunteers to work at the Madison Fishing Expo on February 21st through 23rd. Workers are needed to take tickets at the door, watch access points, and patrol the hallways. By working a two-hour stint you earn free entrance to the Expo. To sign up, call Bob at 764-5930.

Volunteers are also needed to staff the SWTU booth at the Expo. This task involves tying flies, handing out literature, answering questions, and being nice to passers by. Please call Mark Rhinerson at 249-7250 if you can fulfill at least a couple of these requirements.

Please note that to earn free admission to the Expo, you must help Bob. For that reason, it has become popular to volunteer for both jobs in contiguous shifts. By working a shift with Bob you will earn free access to the booth gig. Cool huh?.

You Must be Present to Win

For some time now, *Fontana Sports Specialties*, and *Madison Outfitter's* have been teaming up to help us bolster the attendance at our monthly chapter meetings. Each month, we draw from a hat containing the names of all chapter members. If that name belongs to a member that happens to be present, then that member wins a gift certificate to one of the afore mentioned sponsors. We start with a \$20 gift certificate, and it's value increases by \$20 for each month that there is no winner. Once the jackpot reaches \$100 everyone at the meeting gets a ticket for an emergency drawing. The modified process insures that a winner will be drawn once the pot reaches *critical capital*.

Our January jackpot sat at \$100, so we resorted to plan B. Lo and behold, we had a winner (though it was a close one). Bob Gennrich won a \$100 gift certificate to *Madison Outfitters*. The February 11th chapter meeting will mark the beginning of a new era in our *You Must Be Present to Win Drawing*. Everyone that attends this meeting will have a chance to win a \$20 gift certificate to *Fontana Sports Specialties*. It could be you - but only if you are present!

Projects Update by Tom Ehlert

Heartfelt thanks to those individuals named below for their participation on January 25th and February 1 in the on-going Woods and Waters brushing project on the Rettenmund-Schultz property along Black Earth Creek just east of Black Earth. The renewal of our lease agreement, due to expire in June, is on the line. The stream's well-being is in some jeopardy as well, with more debris scheduled for relocation on Saturdays to come. A seventeen degree temperature didn't deter seventeen chapter members on January 25th. Bodies warm quickly once work begins. February 1st was a balmy thirty-six. Perhaps the promise of pasta and biscotti when the work was done encouraged their participation?

The next workday along that stretch will be Saturday February 22nd, weather permitting. We'll begin at 9:00 AM and delight in our labors until noon, when we'll adjourn to *Chez Charles*. On the menu that day: Beef Buryani served over rice. Call 267-2413 for reservations and directions to the work-site. For those needing further inducement all participants will be eligible to win a Bauer Large Arbor reel in a drawing to be held at our March Madness Auction. A fourth workday is on the calendar for March 8th (location to be announced in the March newsletter).

A bonus opportunity will occur on February 15th. The Harry Nohr Chapter will host a brush-hauling/burning on the Blue River. Take CTH I north through Montfort and turn west on Bluff Road. Activity begins at 9:00 AM, concludes at noon, and lunch will be served at the site. For the health of the resource, I encourage your participation. Doing so also enhances your chances to win the reel!

Declining trout-stamp funding allocation and promised budget-cutting measures will test our commitment to cold-water resource stewardship. Hands-on co-operation between chapters will boost the effort. Franklin's wisdom guides us still: "We must hang together or we'll all hang separately."

Project participants to date:

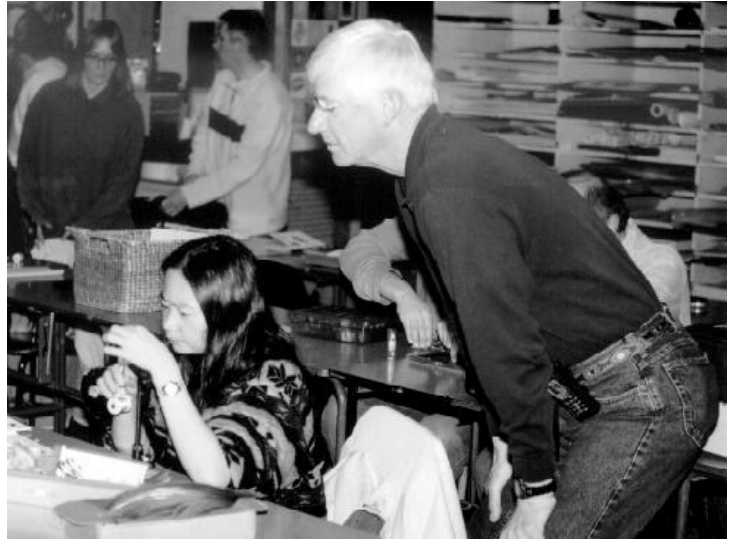
John Pundt (x2)
John Bleimehl (x2)
Chuck Jacobson
Jack Heiden
John Strauss
Dan Geib
Karsten Geib
Mark Rhinerson
Roger Clausen
Terri Sanders
Lynn Blenker
Jack Way
Jim Hess
Ryan Pundt
John Schweiger
Sue Bleimehl (x2)
Bill Pielsticker
Eric Christensen
Bill Sonzogni
John Mathews
Andy Mathews
Tom Ehlert (x2)
Dave Sanders
Bob Harrison
Mike Grimes
Mike Philipps
Jim Philipps
Gene Knutson

In September, October and November of 2002, forty-eight chapter members and nearly a dozen Middleton High School students contributed 456 hours of their time toward project work in the Mt. Vernon drainage (Mt Vernon Creek as well as Frye Feeder). Twenty of the forty-eight participated at least twice, and twelve bent their backs on three, four, or five occasions. Total member travel-time: 126 hours. Total allocation: 582 hours. Wow!

Youth Committee Update

Derek Sheer has called a meeting of the Youth Committee for 6:00 PM on February 11th at the Maple Tree (i.e. before the chapter meeting). He would like to discuss some ideas that he has about how to attract more young people to our chapter meetings. He would also like to discuss a possible youth fly fishing event to be held this spring. Please attend the meeting if you are interested in these topics.

Chapter Photos
By Jack Way



From the President ... by Bill Pielsticker

On February 1st, the Wisconsin TU State Council voted unanimously to support an increase in the annual fishing license fee, as well as an increase in the cost of a trout stamp. This decision was taken following a lively discussion.

The license fee was last increased in 1997. Conservation organizations requested a \$4 increase then, which would have brought the DNR enough money to maintain its support for fish programs for four years. Instead, the legislature cut that increase to \$2, and the DNR has been shortchanged for the past four years. Estimates are that the fee needs to be increased from the current \$14 (annual resident license) to about \$20 to keep the DNR from cutting current programs. The state council did not specify how much the license increase should be, but noted it should be enough to carry on current programs.

The trout stamp fee has remained at \$7.25 per year since 1991. While there was discussion of the perception that the DNR had used some trout stamp funds for non-habitat related work, Mike Staggs, the DNR fisheries chief, pointed out that he was working to resolve those questions. The

state council then voted to increase the Trout Stamp from \$7.25 to \$10 a year (a 38% increase). Those of us at the meeting felt we should get out front on the Trout Stamp since our members and others look to us to protect the resource. Since the proposed increase would merely continue the same level of habitat work as in recent years, we felt this was a modest proposal at best.

Unlike most state agencies, the DNR gets nearly all of its money from hunting and fishing licenses and other fees. I would support more general tax revenue going to the DNR to maintain current programs, but that isn't likely to happen any time soon. I would also support registration fees for non-motorized watercraft, and other measures to bring in fees from folks other than hunters and anglers, but that is unlikely this year as well.

Let's face it, forking out another \$6 for the license and less than \$3 more for the Trout Stamp isn't going to put our sport out of reach of most anyone. What will, however, is if the DNR begins cutting programs and scaling back work projects. I'm willing to pay my way, and I hope you are, too.

Important dates to remember:

February 8	Badger Fly Fishers Spring Opener at the Marriot Hotel in Madison
February 11	Monthly Chapter Meeting featuring Kurt Welke
February 15	Blue River workday with the Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter
February 22	Chapter Workday
February 21-23	Madison Fishing Expo
March 8	Chapter Workday
March 11	<i>March Madness</i> Auction
March 15	<i>Cabin Fever Day</i> sponsored by Fox Valley Trout Unlimited

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