

# Newscasts

March, 2002 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



## **March Madness Auction**

Whether you are into bargains, or just want to have fun, you will not want to miss the *March Madness Auction* on March 12. This perennial event is widely regarded as one of our best chapter meetings of each year. Some people come for the bargains – and there are usually plenty of them. Many people come for the flies – and there are always plenty of beautifully tied flies by some of the finest tyers in the area. Other people come just for the mischievous thrill of bidding against some world class misers. Whatever your interest, you are sure to have a lot of fun if you join us.

Our purse strings will be loosened once again by an entertaining, if not talented, trio of auctioneers. From the firm of Dewey, Screwem, and Howe, we are pleased to present you with the team of *Dr. Sausage, Throck Morton, and Colonel Muskrat Auctioneers at Large* (or on the lam – we're not quite sure which). They are fresh from their *Enron* liquidation gig, so all attendees are cautioned not to cough, wiggle or scratch themselves unless it is their intention to bid. There are credible reports of past auction participants having carried home hideously defective merchandise after tending to itches at inopportune times. All proceeds from the auction are applied to our coldwater conservation efforts, so even unwitting bidders can rest assured that they are making a valuable contribution to a worthy cause.

The auction will start promptly at 7:00 PM - or as promptly as it ever has. There will be a swap meet for interested parties at about 6:00 PM. Please join us for dinner before the meeting. As always, we will meet at the Maple Tree Restaurant on Highway 51 in McFarland. This is going to be a great meeting.

## **We Still Need Flies... Lots and Lots of Flies.**

Flies are always one of our biggest moneymakers at the *March Madness Auction*. Our chapter is blessed with a number of gifted fly tyers, and there is no question but what their contributions help this event succeed. However, as a brilliant lyricist one wrote (more or less), "*Everyone's flies are beautiful in their own way*". Even beginning tyers have a fly that they are especially good at tying. Many times, these are classic patterns that many people would like to purchase. Therefore, **ALL FLY TYERS** are encouraged to contribute to this important event. No matter what your skill or experience level, please consider donating some of your personal work.

## **Check out our new web site**

The Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited has had it's own web site for some time now. This started out as the brainchild of chapter member Tim Cleveland and has proven to be a valuable means of communicating important chapter information. Bill Selbig has recently given the site a major renovation. The new site contains electronic copies of *Newscasts*, links to other fishing and conservation sites on the Internet, and a lot more.

We also have a new URL that is very easy to remember. See it all for yourself by pointing your browser to <http://www.SWTU.org>.

## **Inaugural Youth Committee Meeting**

Chapter members interested in becoming involved with our new Youth Committee are invited to attend an organizational meeting from 6:00 to 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 12 at the Maple Tree Restaurant (just prior to the chapter auction). The discussion will include arrangements for a program with the Spring Harbor Middle School, and a proposal to develop a youth mentoring program. Henry Haugley, State Council Education Chair, will be there to offer advice and assistance. Contact Bill Pielsticker for further information.

### **From the President .....by Bill Pielsticker**

Anticipation was high for the early season opener. A mild winter, little snow, streams running clear and low. You know the rest: snow, cold, biting winds, and the need to be prudent regarding frostbite. Perhaps by now things have warmed up allowing some of you to wet your lines. In the meantime, I won't complain. This had been a pathetic winter, and without the change to usher in March, I'd have thought we'd been transported to southern Illinois!

Actually, I did put on my fishing vest on March 2 to take part in the 3d Annual Lodi Reads Leopold. This is an event where various members of the community join in to read the "Sand County Almanac" aloud, cover to cover. I had the privilege of reading the section entitled "The Alder Fork," the only section where Leopold deals with fly fishing. His description of sitting down for a smoke while his leader dries out, points to the changes we have seen over the last 60 years. His pleasure over landing three modest trout reminds us that even as things change, the reason we fish is still the same.

Outdoors writer Pat Durkin and his daughter Leah joined us for the Leopold reading and the wild game dinner Saturday night. As we talked over dinner, my wife Kathy raised the news that chronic wasting disease has crossed the Mississippi River and has been found in deer in Dane County. Durkin pointed out that this is a very big problem, and a real threat to the deer herd. We speculated that the disease might have been brought in with animals imported from other states for game farms. It brings to mind the threat of whirling disease and what it could do if it ever gets a hold here. As you gear up for trips out west this year, remember to disinfect your boots, waders and nets upon your return. There are plenty of threats to our fisheries without adding a new one.

Speaking of threats, polluted runoff is the largest single threat to surface water quality in Wisconsin. I continue to work with Jeff Smith, Wisconsin TU, and the Clean Water Coalition to fine-tune the DNR performance standards to curb "nonpoint" pollution. In some ways, this is an effort that began 20 years ago. Coupled with the new Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program which will bring buffer strips to long stretches of critical water, these new standards hold real promise for improving our streams and protecting our resources. I hope to have the final word on this soon.

### **Chapter Elections to be Held on April 9, 2002.**

If you would like to serve on the board of directors for the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited, you should make that wish known to Bill Pielsticker immediately. A slate of nominees is being assembled, and the elections are scheduled for April 9<sup>th</sup>. Though it is never too late to make a nomination, the process tends to run more smoothly when nominations are made in advance.

### **Chapter Awards Update**

The awards committee met prior to the SWTU board of directors meeting on February 26<sup>th</sup>. Though an impressive slate of award nominees was assembled at that meeting, nominations have not yet been closed. If you would like to make an award nomination, please contact John Strauss (awards committee chair) as soon as possible. Awards will be presented at the April 9<sup>th</sup> Chapter meeting.

### **BECWA Open House**

The Black Earth Creek Watershed Association will hold an open house on Monday April 22 at the Black Earth Grade School beginning at 6:30 PM. Guests will include:

- Rob Kennedy - Citizen's for a Better Environment
- County Executive's Office to talk about county transportation outlook,
- Mike Rewey from the Wisconsin DOT to discuss state transportation plans,
- Nick Lelack of 1000 Friends to address issues of sprawl, and
- someone from the Ken Olson farm to add a farmland owner's perspective.

### **Trout Creek Meeting**

If you can remember when "Trout Creek" was a fitting name for a stream near Barneveld then you will be happy to know that the Natural Resources Conservation Service is evaluating the problems with that fishery. Iowa County officials will hold a meeting on March 18<sup>th</sup> at the Lutheran Church in Barneveld beginning at 7:30 PM. Stakeholders in the stream are invited to attend this meeting, and provide the county with input or concerns regarding two dams on Trout Creek (the Birch Lake Dam and the Trout Creek Dry Dam).

### **Black Hawk Chapter TU Banquet**

The Black Hawk Chapter of Trout Unlimited will hold a fundraising banquet on April 29<sup>th</sup> at the Holiday Inn Express in Janesville. The festivities will begin at 5:30 PM, and dinner will be served at 7:00 PM. If purchased before April 25<sup>th</sup>, tickets cost either \$35 each, or 2 for \$60. Call or write for more information:

Joe Putsch  
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P.O. Box 893  
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(608) 752-1955

### **Important dates to remember:**

March 12: March Madness Auction  
April 8: Spring Fish and Wildlife Rules Hearings and Conservation Congress Elections.  
April 9: Monthly Meeting featuring chapter elections, chapter awards, and speaker Scot Stewart  
April 13: Casting Clinic at Salmo Pond  
April 20: Black Earth Creek Cleanup Day  
(tentative):  
May 14: Chapter Meeting featuring speaker Steve Winters  
June 8: Special Needs Fishing Day

### **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
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