

# Newscasts

March, 2003 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



## March Madness Auction

It is once again time for our *other* fundraising event – the *March Madness Auction*. We usually have an impressive number of generous donations for this event, but this year the offerings are truly spectacular. For instance, Jim Bartelt is donating a guided fishing trip and a custom built St. Croix Legend Ultra 8' 6" 4 piece, travel rod. Henry Haugley and Paul Banas have each donated framed prints by renowned Michigan artist Beth Ward-Donahue. There will also be the usual assortment of flies, rods, reels, fly tying materials and paraphernalia. Your last minute donations are not only welcome, they are encouraged.

There will also be a number of auction items from the Nash Williams estate. Nash was very generous to our chapter in life, as well as in death. He bequeathed a large amount of fishing equipment to us. These donations are too numerous to include in a single auction, but we will begin parsing these treasures out this year. At this auction, we will have some very nice reels (including a limited edition *Orvis* fly reel), his fishing vest (loaded with fly boxes that are in turn loaded with flies) and some antique fishing books -including an autographed first edition copy of *Anatomy of a Fisherman* by Robert Traver (the pen name of John D. Voelker).

We always have a lot of fun at our auctions. Everyone goes home with some great stuff, and the chapter coffers become better equipped to protect and restore our local coldwater resources. It's definitely a win-win situation for everyone. Larry Meicher (alias Dr. Sausage), Topf Wells (alias Colonel Muskrat) and Mark Maffitt will serve as our auctioneers again this year. There are enough not enough scruples between the three of them to fill a thimble but, they manage to keep the bidding lively and the spirits light. You are highly encouraged to scratch all of your itches before you come to the auction, lest you become an inadvertent bidder.

There will be a swap meet at 6:00 PM for those who wish to sell some of their stuff. Dinner will also be at 6:00 PM. It will be a fun filled and action packed evening for all of us. Please join us. You will find us at the Maple Tree Restaurant on Highway 51 in beautiful downtown McFarland.

## Belated *Ice Breaker* Thanks

The editor hereby humbly apologizes for some omissions in the *Ice Breaker* donor list that was published last month in *Newscasts*. It takes a lot of individual efforts to put the *Ice Breaker* together, and it is truly regrettable when those individuals are not properly acknowledged. The list should also have included:

- Blackhawk Chapter of Trout Unlimited
- Larry Meicher
- Rusk Gun Shop

Thank you all for your generous donations.

## Cabin Fever Day

The Fox Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited will hold a fundraiser on March 15<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.foxvalleytu.org).

## Fishing Expo Representative Needed

Bob Gennrich has served for two years as our representative to the Madison Fishing Expo board. This means he attends several meetings of the Expo Board each year, and organizes our volunteers to take tickets and watch doors during the three day event. Bob cannot continue as our representative, so we are looking for a new volunteer. If you are interested, contact Bill Pielsticker, chapter president. If you have questions about the duties of the position, call Bob at 764-5930.

## Youth Committee Update

A Youth Committee meeting has been rescheduled (following the February 11<sup>th</sup> weather delay) by Derek Scheer for 6:00 PM on March 11<sup>th</sup> at the Maple Tree. 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 committee meeting if you are interested in these topics.

**From the Projects Chair...by Tom Ehlert**

We need to buy a tractor! That was the consensus of those who participated in Phase IV of the "Woods and Waters" project along Black Earth Creek on Saturday, February 22. Twenty chapter members and four non-TU stalwarts assembled about 900am in air wind-chilled to nine degrees to complete the work begun Nov. 23, 2002. Project hours to date total 297, which includes 52 hours of participant, round-trip travel-time, and 17 hours at the market and in the kitchen for yours truly.

Actual on-site labor, therefore, was 228 hours, a figure that could have been as high as 300, had it not been for Gary Turk's contribution in the cab of the tractor on loan from his brother, Alayne, who farms the land adjacent to the project area. Gary, we're in your debt. (Hope you, your brother, and your respective spouses enjoyed the biryani.) The 'twigs' which clogged the river in several places for years, impeding stream-flow and contributing to sustained solids-suspension and occasional flooding of some of the land Alayne farmed, are now gone. Standing timber with a threatening tilt was felled and dragged off as well.

The results of our labors were almost immediately visible upstream: the water-level dropped 8-10 inches, exposing 6-8 linear feet of silted bottom along both edges. Twenty-four hours later, the river in that stretch had a clarity I have not seen in months. More significantly, the increased velocity scoured the bottom downstream from the obstructions we removed to the extent that the water level dropped 2-3 inches! The rocks at river's edge told the tale. Imagine the possibilities elsewhere. And opening the canopy as we did should encourage the growth of buffering grasses between the cropland and the watercourse. We'll no doubt re-visit this reach in the fall, before shelf-ice becomes an obstacle, dedicating ourselves to sprucing-up the far side of the river, and otherwise picking-up after ourselves. We may even do it sooner, if we don't run out of opportunities elsewhere. Which isn't likely.

On Saturday, March 15 (no, not the 8<sup>th</sup>, as previously announced; I'll be in Chicago), you're invited and encouraged to assemble along Scherbel Road, on either side of the bridge just south of Salmo Pond, to provide some tender-loving-care to another, more abbreviated stretch of Black Earth Creek. Dawn comes earlier, so let's plan to start at 830am and quit at 1130am. Doing so should allow, however minimally, for more fishing time in the afternoon. Or come

whenever and leave whenever. Any contribution is welcome.

I've already carved a path through the woods to expedite our getting to the wood we need to remove from the water. Assuming at least the level of participation enjoyed at nine of the last ten project-days, an hour's labor should deal with the problem. Once finished, we'll retrace our steps to Scherbel Road, walk across the bridge, and file down the snowmobile trail along the south boundary of the easement, and perform a similar angioplasty on a more extensive stretch of Garfoot Creek, a prominent artery in the system. No stents should be needed to assure the continued infusion of unimpeded, silt-free, cold water into BEC. There's enough to do in there that I can't put a time-line on the work's duration. Certainly more than one visit will be needed. Lunch of some kind will be provided afterwards, either on-site or at *chez Charles*. Participants are invited to the repast.

Sue Bleimehl is thanked for the brownies on Feb. 1. And thanks to the following for their participation on 2/22/03.

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|----------------------|----------------------|
| John Pundt           | Sue Bleimehl         |
| Karsten & Dan Geib   | Tom Ehlert           |
| Dave Sanders         | Bob Harrison         |
| John Heinrichs       | Walt Stevenson       |
| Mike Rock            | Bill Porter          |
| Tim Borland (non-TU) | John Schweiger       |
| Charles Jacobson     | Andy & John Matthews |
| Roger Clausen        | Teri Sanders         |
| Alan Comer           | Mark Shimasaki       |
| Henry Haugley        | Me Yyng Do           |
| Jeff Rettenmund      | GARY TURK (non-TU)   |

All TU members who participated in the three 2003 project dates are entered in the drawing to be held at the March 11 Chapter Meeting. Participants are awarded one ticket for each day of participation. A Bauer Large-arbor Reel will be on-the-block. Two more Bauer reels will be available in the months to come. In addition, 8'4", two piece, 3-weight rods I'll be crafting from ORVIS blanks will be found in the pot of "thanks-for-your-support" items.

Obviously, not everyone will be rewarded with hardware. But everyone who participates will be awarded the satisfaction of having created more splendid places to cast a rod-reel combo they already hold dear.

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

Congratulations to those hardy souls who managed to make it to the chapter meeting last month. Traffic was brought to a crawl in Madison with a surprise half-foot of snow and strong winds. In the country, the problem was the blowing snow. Visibility ranged from fair to zero in a matter of moments. Since we have no good way to call off a meeting, the 16 or so who could make it listened to the DNR's Kurt Welke talk about how Black Earth Creek is recovering from the 2001 fish kill. In light of the weather problems, Kurt has volunteered to return for a repeat performance. We expect to schedule him again in the next couple of months.

When the Governor presented his budget last month, he included a round of increases for most all hunting and fishing licenses. Last month, I explained why the TU State Council voted to support those increases. Surprisingly, the budget does not call for an increase in the trout stamp. The trout stamp was last increased in the late 1980's.

Money from the sale of the trout stamp is used to fund stream restoration work, and habitat improvement. This money is needed to help continue to restore trout streams here and throughout the state. As work finishes up on the Upper Sugar River and its tributaries, we would like to see some attention paid to Vermont Creek, Trout Creek, and other neglected streams in southern Wisconsin. On top of that, many of the projects that have been completed with Trout Stamp funds since 1977 will need some attention to maintain their effectiveness.

If you agree with this logic, I encourage you to contact one or more of the following legislators: Representative DuWayne Johnsrud (Ph: 266-3534), Senator Neal Kedzie (Ph: 266-2635), Senator Alberta Darling (Ph: 266-5830), Representative Dean Kaufert (266-5719). Let them know that you support an increase of the Trout Stamp from \$7.25 to \$10.00. Point out that in order to maintain past improvements and to continue to make new improvements, you are willing to pay less than \$3 more for the privilege of fishing for trout in Wisconsin. Encourage them to support this proposal, and thank them for their time.

Stream restoration is a core part of TU's mission. As Jon Christiansen, Wisconsin's TU State Council chair points out, "Wisconsin's record of putting trout dollars into habitat is a model for the nation." A modest fee increase will insure that statement remains true in the future.

By the way, the early season has begun – have you wetted a line yet??

### **Women's Fly Fishing Workshop**

The Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter of Trout Unlimited is organizing a fly fishing class for women to be held on June 21, 2003, and they have graciously opened this event to members of our chapter. This will be an all day class starting at 9 am and will be taught by Nikki Seger, professional fly fishing instructor and fishing manager for the *Orvis Chicago Store*.

Tuition is \$15, and the course will cover: equipment, casting technique, entomology, reading the water, selection of flies and maybe even a fly tying demonstration. The formal instruction should conclude around 3 pm and there will be time for fishing for those that want to stick around. In the interest of instructional excellence, attendance will be limited to 18. Registration information is available from Bill Pielsticker.

### **Dane County Smart Growth Plan Being Developed**

The Dane County Board kicked off a three year process for developing a comprehensive land use plan last month with an introductory session at the Alliant Energy Center. Volunteers are now being recruited to attend quarterly work group meetings to work through the issues the plan will address. The Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited should be involved in this process to help insure that our coldwater resources are protected by the final plan.

This is an excellent opportunity to help protect our trout streams. If you would like to represent our chapter on the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Open Space Work Group, please notify Bill Pielsticker, SWTU president.

### **Aldo Leopold Chapter Resurrected:**

The Aldo Leopold chapter is holding elections for officers and board members, and they look to be as competitive as an election in Cuba. Now's your chance! Get elected, get access to untold power and wealth! (Actually, you get access to deeply satisfying hard work for no pay). The name Aldo Leopold conjures a commitment to the conservation of our natural resources. Join your name to that commitment at their meeting Friday March 28th, 6:30 p.m., at the Beaver Dam Community Library, 311 N. Spring St. Beaver Dam, WI. Food and beverages will be provided. Contact Mike Barniskis at 920-356-0081 (email barniskis@yahoo.com) with any questions.

**Important dates to remember:**

March 11            *March Madness* Auction  
March 15            Chapter Workday on Black Earth Creek at Scherbel Road  
March 15            *Cabin Fever Day* sponsored by Fox Valley Trout Unlimited  
April 8              Chapter Meeting  
April 14             Department of Natural Resources Spring Fish and Wildlife Rules Hearings  
                          And Annual Conservation Congress Meetings . 7:00 PM

**Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited Leadership:**

President	Bill Pielsticker	(608) 592-4718	
Vice President	Paul Banas	(608) 231-3014	
Secretary	John Serunian	(608) 277-4604	
Treasurer	John Schweiger	(608) 238-8062	
Past President	Tom Ehlert	(608) 767-2413	
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