

Newscasts

April, 2003 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



Kurt Welke to Present Encore On April 8th
Attendance at our February 11th meeting was decimated by the arrival of some ill-timed inclement weather. Though our speaker that night was undaunted by the blowing and drifting, our membership was not nearly as foolhardy. The 15 chapter members that braved the weather were treated to an excellent presentation by DNR Fisheries Biologist Kurt Welke. We learned about population fluctuations in our local trout streams, and how the fisheries professionals assess the health of a stream. Kurt has agreed to make an encore presentation for the wimps that dared not venture from their cocoons on that frightful night in February. So, come on out and catch the presentation the second time around. You will be glad that you did.

Kurt won't be the only attraction at our April 8th meeting. We will have our annual awards presentation for organizations and individuals that have made outstanding contributions to our chapter, and we will hold our annual chapter elections.

As always, we will meet at the luxurious Maple Tree Restaurant located at the stoplight on Highway 51 in McFarland. The meeting will start at 7:00 PM, but the dinner and lies will start around 6:00. Please join us.

Chapter Elections

At our April 8th meeting we will elect chapter members to serve as officers and members of our board of directors. The current slate of candidates consists of:

- Bill Pielsticker, President
- Sue Fey, Vice-President
- John Serunian, Secretary
- John Schweiger, Treasurer
- Mark Rhinerson, Director
- Ray Venn, Director
- Open position, Director
- Dave Westlake, State Council Rep

The floor will be opened for additional nominations prior to the election.

In accordance with chapter bylaws, the president has nominated Don Golembiewski to fill the remainder of Tim Cleveland's term on the board. (Tim resigned when he moved to Iowa.) If Sue Fey is elected as Vice President, Paul Banas will be nominated to serve the remainder of her term on the board. The board will vote on these two nominations at their next meeting.

March Madness Auction Update

Our March Madness Auction was a huge success. We cleared over \$3200, had a good time doing it, and almost nobody got hurt. What more could we ask for? Thanks to the generous donations of our members, there is practically no overhead associated with this event. Profit margins in excess of 90% were thought to have gone the way of the dot com stock market correction, but we pulled it off again. Thanks.

One non-member who made an especially generous donation was Dennis Cuchna of Battle Lake Outdoors. Dennis sold us an especially high quality auctioneer's bag at a very generous discount, and he donated a second gear bag outright. If you should find yourself in the market for some outdoor luggage, please consider patronizing his firm (see www.BattleLakeOutdoors.com).

Women's Fly Fishing Workshop

The Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter of Trout Unlimited is organizing a fly fishing class for women, and two spaces are being held open for SWTU members.. The class is scheduled to run from 9 am until 3 pm on June 21, 2003. It 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, fly selection and a fly tying demonstration. There will also be an opportunity to go fishing *after school*.

Registration information is available from Bill Pielsticker. Please seize this opportunity soon.

**From the President
by Bill Pielsticker**

The early season is half over, and I haven't gotten out yet. That's not surprising, but I hear tantalizing tales of Blue-wing Olive hatches, forecasts of black gnat hatches, then there's the black caddis to look forward to. Of course, you've got to have a fly in the water to take advantage of these hatches. Then there's always prospecting with nymphs.... To learn more about how things are going, come early to a chapter meeting and find out who's been fishing and how they've done.

Hearings on Governor Doyle's budget proposal are currently being held around the state. I mention this because of the hunting and fishing fee increases in the proposal. The Wisconsin TU State Council unanimously voted on February 1 to support these increases, as the funds go into managing the land and water we depend on for our sport. Similarly, the SWTU board voted on March 25th to also support these fee increases.

One fee not proposed to increase is the inland trout stamp. The Great Lakes Trout and Salmon Stamp is scheduled to increase from \$7.25 to \$10. Both the State Council and our own board have voted to request the same increase in the inland Trout Stamp. The fee has been at \$7.25 since 1991. Of the 19 states with similar trout stamps, Wisconsin's fee is near the bottom. Most of the money the trout stamp generates goes right back into habitat work, and we have a commitment from Mike Staggs at the DNR that even more of these funds will go to stream work in future years. Finally, this increase is needed to help fund the maintenance needed on structures built more than 25 years ago when the trout stamp was adopted.

I will be testifying in support of both the proposed fee increases and in support of an increase for the trout stamp. There are some folks who don't think the DNR should get any more money, in spite of the budget cuts looming on the horizon. There are others who apparently feel they can't afford the increases. All I can say to these folks is, look at how much you spend on equipment, travel, and meals while on the road. If you can't shave \$9 off those expenses to continue to enjoy the great fishing opportunities we have in Wisconsin, you're not trying very hard.

If you agree with me, as well as with the SWTU board and the State Council, contact your state senator and representative. Make a quick call to their office and let them know you support the proposed increases and want to see the trout stamp go up as well. Even better, call Senator Alberta Darling (608-266-5830) and Representative Dean Kaufert (608-266-5719), the co-chairs of the Joint Finance Committee, and tell them the same thing. Then pick up your gear and wet a fly in a nearby stream. I wonder if there's a hatch to match....

**Conservation Congress Spring Hearings
Scheduled for April 14th**

The annual Conservation Congress spring hearings will be held in every county of the state at 7 p.m. on Monday April 14. There are three purposes to these meetings: to elect county delegates to the Conservation Congress, to gauge public opinion on proposed changes to rules pertaining to fish and wildlife, and to hold Wisconsin Conservation Congress county meetings, where county delegates present resolutions created by the Congress committees for votes.

There are no proposed changes in statewide trout regulations scheduled for discussion this year, but our attendance is still important. The most influential way to make our interest known is to cast our votes at the Spring Hearings, and other angler groups need our support. For instance, there is a proposal that would create a quality small mouth bass fishery on the lower Wisconsin River. While it may not directly affect trout fishing, many of us fish small mouth bass and would benefit from this rule change, and the Small Mouth Alliance has solicited our support of this proposal. While no single group of anglers has enough votes or influence to pass quality regulations on its own, we can have an effective voice by supporting one another.

The Spring Hearings are not known for their entertainment value. However, if we don't take the one night out of the year to attend and vote, others will determine the quality and success of all of the hours that we spend on the water.

The complete 2003 Annual Spring Fish and Wildlife Rules Hearing questionnaire is

available on the DNR Web site
<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/nrboard/springhearings/03shindex.html>. Local hearings will be held at the following sites:

Columbia County	Poynette Village Hall, 106 South Main, Poynette
Dane County	Alliant Energy Center (Dane Co. Expo Center), John Nolan Dr. & Rimrock Rd., Madison
Dodge County	Horicon City Hall, 404 E. Lake St., Horicon
Green County	Pleasant View Annex Aud. 3150 Highway 81, Monroe
Iowa County	Dodgeville High School, Gymnasium, 912 W. Chapel, Dodgeville
Jefferson County	Jefferson County Fair Grounds, Activity Center, 503 N. Jackson St., Jefferson
Lafayette County	Darlington Community High School, Gymnasium, 11838 Center Hill Rd., Darlington
Rock County	Moose Lodge, 2701 Rockport Rd, Janesville
Sauk County	Al Ringling Theater, 136 4 th Ave., Baraboo

Casting Clinic Set for April 12th

The Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited will once again sponsor a Fly-Casting Clinic. The clinic is free, and available to anyone interested in learning how to cast a fly. Beginners are especially encouraged to attend. Loaner rods will be available for those who do not have one of their own.

Three separate stations at the clinic will offer participants the opportunity to learn about casting, knot tying and aquatic entomology (featuring DNR aquatic entomology expert Mike Miller). This year's clinic will begin at 9:00 AM on Saturday April 12th at Salmo Pond (2 miles west of Cross Plains on Highway 14).

For more information please call Craig Amacker at 257-5043 (days) or 273-9153 (evenings), or send him an email at: Camacker@fontanasports.com.

We need an accurate headcount to insure that we have enough instructors on hand to deliver high quality instruction to all students. So, please register for the clinic using the form on page 5.

From the Projects Chair

Tom Ehlert

Lavonne Christensen, come on down! You're welcome anytime, even though your vehicle bears Minnesota plates. Next time, perhaps you and your son, Eric, who plays a regular and prominent role in our clean-up projects, can plan your day to allow you both to join us for lunch.

Dick Tedesco, on the other hand, stayed for the smorgasbord before beginning the return-leg of the more than two-hour drive to somewhere in the barrens south of Beloit. Thanks for your contribution to restoring the health of the waters you wade.

And long-overdue thanks to John Heinrichs, not only for his frequent appearances with his chain-saw-on-a-stick, which didn't accompany him this time, but also for his generous donation in Oct. 2002 of a refuse fork and two rakes to our arsenal.

Also deserving our gratitude for braving the searing 60-plus degree heat that Saturday are: Jim O'Brien, who volunteered for the first time, promptly lost an heirloom-grade pruning-saw in the melt-fed murk, worked up a good sweat, but continued to have a good time even after a never-to-recur-again episode of vertigo compelled him to test his waders for leaks from the inside-out. While wearing them. (Not to be outdone, project-veteran Mike Philips' son, Jim, field-tested his twice. Young Jim thought a dry-run the first time 'round merited a second go-at-it. Hope he appreciated Dad's help once again.) Other newcomers to the joys of making a difference in a way they'd not thought possible were Rose Garczynski, Gayle Worf, Jim Gentry, and Dave Fowler, who has yet to send his dues to Bob Selk. An item on the hidden agenda is that all of you left thinking you just didn't get enough of a good thing.

Bob Harrison, Dave Sanders, and Mark Rhinerson once more demonstrated their skill and staying-power with a chain-saw, and their affection for elders, alders, and promiscuous arbor-vitae. Without them, the rest of us would be hard-pressed to find anything to do. Right. It's hoped that none named above, nor any of those whose names appear below, are either embarrassed by nor tire-of being singled-out again. Nothing gets done without you.

That said, can you be called-on again? I had indicated in last month's column we'd spend about an hour on 3/15 in BEC, and then move over to Garfoot. Either I lied or we got carried-away. At any rate, Garfoot awaits, and there are a few trouble-spots in BEC along the way to Garfoot. My one-hour time-line should work this time.

Let's convene again at the DNR Parking lot across from the Ranch Tavern (1/4 mile west of Salmo Pond on Highway 14) at 830am on Saturday, April 12. Call me at 767-2413 to assure you'll be fed and hydrated, and/or properly equipped if you're planning to join us for the first time. I ask this even of those who are on my call list, to spare me the need to call even as my list grows longer.

Those not named above, and who swelled the ranks to twenty-eight!!!:

John Pundt	John Schweiger
Jack Heiden	Dan Geib
Tom Ehlert	Roger Clausen
Terri Sanders	Ryan Pundt (non-TU)
Jim Hess	Mike Rock
Roger Gilligan	John Gribb
Bret Schultz	

From the Fly-tying Program Chair by Tom Ehlert

Another successful ten-week session, I think, especially at the Advanced Level. We didn't exceed capacity, but between the two sites, and almost equally distributed between them, I registered more than a dozen participants, almost double the norm. One year, Henry stayed home or spent his evenings with the Beginning tyers at East. Speaking thereof, Larry Meicher reported that enrollment increased as the weeks passed, peaking at nineteen.

Including Chapter members who registered for classes at all levels, total enrollment was seventy-three, just under the norm of eighty. A program highlight: At West, Scott Stewart registered the youngest student in the program's history, a four-month old infant whose parents couldn't find a sitter for their 'evening out'. Kudos to

them for their resolve, and to their child, whose behavior was exemplary.

The continued success of the program is dependent on the dedication of the instructors. With sincere thanks, I recognize them here: At East High, Henry Haugley, Larry Meicher, Leroy Ebert, and Eric Christensen; and, at West High, Andy Davidson, Andy Morton (other years), Phil Michalski, Scott Stewart, Bob Selk, John Bleimehl, Tom Thrall, Bob Krewson, John Schweiger, Jack Way, Bill Porter, and Ray Venn.

On the materials supply-side: Mustad sent me a gazillion hooks, no charge. Fontana Sports, an ardent and generous supporter of our Chapter's initiatives and activities (monthly bucket-raffle gift-certificate (for how many years?), a percentage of fly-tying materials' sales, Icebreaker donations, etc.), discounted materials' costs. Thank you, Craig and John.

Let's hope that the Y2K4 program is equally as successful.

Volunteer Opportunity Available

For the last few years, Paul Banas has faithfully served as our monthly bucket raffle coordinator. With a new baby at home, and increased responsibilities at work, he now feels a need to make this volunteer opportunity available to a fresh face. This is a job that gets a lot of help from other chapter members. Hand-tied flies often appear out of nowhere, people donate books and other items, and Paul has a list of places that can supply quality books and other gear at great prices. This job does not have to be a solo operation, there are plenty of folks who can step forward and help out on an *ad hoc* basis.

Please consider volunteering your services to this endeavor. These raffles have come to be a critical part of our monthly chapter meetings. If you want to learn more about the job before signing your life away, please call chapter president Bill Pielsticker at (608) 592-4718 or send him an email at billpiel@merr.com.

Important dates to remember:

April 8 Chapter Meeting featuring Kurt Welke, Chapter Elections, and Awards Presentation
April 12 Chapter Work Day. Meet at DNR parking lot west of Salmo Pond on Highway 14
April 12 Casting Clinic Salmo Pond
April 14 Department of Natural Resources Spring Fish and Wildlife Rules Hearings
And Annual Conservation Congress Meetings. 7:00 PM
April 26 Black Earth Creek Cleanup Day
May 2 Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter Banquet

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	
State Council Rep.	Dave Westlake	(920) 927-3820	
Newscasts Editor	Mark Maffitt	(608) 273-2140	Mark_Maffitt@PanVera.com

Casting Clinic Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Please mail completed registration form to:

Craig Amacker
510 Orchard Dr.
Madison, WI 53711