

# Newscasts

June, 2003 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



## Hex Panel Discussion

Do you like big fish? Do you like big mayflies? Do you like stumbling around in the dark chasing big fish that are feeding on big mayflies? Do you like poking fun at friends that get so excited chasing those big hungry nocturnal leviathans that they become hopelessly disoriented and wind up spending the night in places like the Bibbon Swamp? If you answered yes to at least one of these questions, then you won't want to miss our June 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. We will hear from a distinguished panel of *Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited experts*, on how to fish the *Hexagenia limbata* hatch.

In case you didn't know, Hex are truly the giants of the mayfly world, and they are due to start hatching later this month. Once the hatch begins, a lot of big trout cast caution to the wind (or current, or something) and begin ravenous assaults on these tasty invertebrate morsels.

The composition of this panel was not finalized at press time, but you may rest assured that this will be a good meeting. You have to be just a little bit nutty to fish this hatch regularly, and at last count we had no shortage of crazed chapter members. Many of these lunatics are veritable treasure troves of Hex fishing information. Putting a panel of so-called *experts* together ought to be a cinch.

We will meet at the ever-so-chic Maple Tree Restaurant located at the first (*sic*) stoplight on Highway 51 in the heart of beautiful McFarland, Wisconsin. The meeting will begin at 7:00 PM but the nonsense will begin much sooner than that. Please join us for dinner around 6:00 PM.

As part of our series of *You Must Be Present Drawings*, every chapter member who attends our June 10<sup>th</sup> meeting will be eligible to win an \$80 gift certificate from *Fontana Sports Specialties*. Only *Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited* members are eligible to participate, and even they must be present to win.

## Special Needs Fishing Day

The *Special Need Fishing Day* for 2002 will be held on Saturday, June 14, at Kalscheur's Ponds. This is an annual event that seems to warm the hearts of us all. You will have the opportunity to provide a great day of fishing for some very special people who are seldom able to fish. Volunteers will be needed at 7:30 AM to help setup for the event. The fishing will begin around 9:00 AM. Over 50 special guests and caregivers have already registered to participate. Scott's Bakery has once again agreed to donate pastries and coffee, and Oscar Mayer has donated hot dogs. TU members are encouraged to bring their families to share in the experience. We will need fishing guides, greeters, servers and fish cleaners. All volunteers are invited to fish the ponds after our guests leave around 3:00 PM. We can always use cameras, camcorders, and ice chests - *bring 'em if ya gott 'em*.

Volunteers are also needed on Friday night to inspect and repair fishing tackle for our guests. Please meet at Kalscheur's at 5:30 PM, this project only takes a couple of hours to complete.

## Directions to Kalscheur's Ponds:

Take Mineral Point Road west towards Pine Bluff. Turn left on Old Military Road, and then left on Spring Valley Road. The Kalscheur property will be on your left. TU signs will be strategically placed at intersections to help provide direction. For further assistance, please refer to the map published in the May issue of *Newscasts* (still available at [WWW.SWTU.ORG](http://WWW.SWTU.ORG)).

## July Chapter Meeting

As is our custom, our July meeting will be on the stream. The location of that stream has yet to be determined, but the date has not. Kurt Welke and his team will perform an electroshocking demonstration on a local stream on July 12<sup>th</sup>. Our annual chapter picnic will follow. Please mark that date on your calendar. Please note too, that there will be no meeting at the Maple Tree in July or August.

**From the President  
by Bill Pielsticker**

Nearly 5 inches of rain in the first two weeks of May helped stabilize falling stream levels, but the drought that began last summer continues to affect our spring creeks. If this continues, fish may move up into small feeder streams in search of cold water during the hot summer months. We may also see a return of low oxygen levels to Black Earth Creek. In the next couple of weeks we hope to deploy three instream probes to monitor the oxygen levels and start to work toward a solution for this recurring problem. Stay tuned.

Now for some *good news* regarding Black Earth Creek. Two months ago, I was working to complete the application for a DNR River Protection Grant to fund a new project in the BEC watershed. This three-year project aims to develop a coupled groundwater-surface water computer model for the watershed. The goal is to have a model that can be used to accurately predict the impact on the stream of changing land use in the watershed. Ideally, villages and towns will use this model to analyze the cumulative impact of future development in the watershed, and to consider design options for new proposals to minimize that impact. Ron Grazcyck with the U.S. Geological Survey proposed the modeling project.

To receive matching funds from the USGS, a taxing body must sponsor the project. As we were considering who to approach for this, Richard Anderson, the new President of Cross Plains, heard about our proposal and invited me to present it to the Cross Plains Village Board. It seems that the spring election brought about a significant change in the board's composition and Anderson felt they might support our proposal.

On April 28<sup>th</sup> I made a brief presentation to the village board, and spent 20 minutes responding to questions, several of which revealed deep skepticism about working with TU on this. Two weeks later, the board voted 4-3 to sponsor the project. The village will act as a pass-through for the money and will not be on the hook for any of the cost. Nonetheless, the three "veteran" board members voted against this chiefly because it came from SWTU.

It is clear that the new majority on the Cross Plains Village Board view Black Earth Creek as a community asset, something of a change from the previous board. This is a refreshing change, and

bodes well for the future of the stream. By the way, the next time you fish on Black Earth Creek, stop in for a drink or a meal at one of the establishments in Cross Plains. It's a great way to show your support for the community.

**Trout Stamp Fee Increase Nixed, Stewardship Fund Slashed**

***An SWTU Editorial by Bill Pielsticker***

In a courageous stand against higher fees, on May 13 the legislature's Joint Committee on Finance took a stand against higher fees for anglers and hunters. While the committee approved some of the fee increases included in Governor Doyle's proposed budget, Senator Welch (R-Redgranite) proclaimed the vote "a big win for sportsmen." More like a poke in the eye! Welch ignored the fact that the move deprives the DNR of \$17 million it needs for the fish and wildlife account. He also ignores the fact that the fee increases are supported by nearly all hunting and fishing groups in Wisconsin. The net result is that the Trout Stamp fee will remain where it has been since 1987.

During the previous week, the JCF voted to cut the bonding for the Stewardship Fund in half and directed the DNR to sell off \$40 million in land. The Stewardship Fund has been critical for financing habitat protection along streams and rivers, and protecting large tracts of forest land from fragmentation.

The 7-5 vote to cut the fund was opposed by one Republican, Sheila Harsdorf (River Falls) along with the committee's four Democrats. The move by JCF was blasted by hunters and anglers, land trust supporters, and others. Governor Doyle suggested he may veto the cuts if they aren't reversed in the Assembly or Senate.

Let's be clear about this – while TU is a non-partisan organization, it is not apolitical. Protecting the land, water, and environment has received bi-partisan support for years in Wisconsin. This no longer appears to be the case, and we owe it to ourselves, our children, and their children to come, to change that. I urge the members of the Assembly and the Senate to reverse these moves by the JCF and start acting as though we live in the state that gave us Aldo Leopold, Warren Knowles, and Gaylord Nelson. If they don't, then I urge Governor Doyle to wield his veto pen with the same relish and dexterity as Tommy Thompson did—and with no apologies.

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

Could we become "legends in the fall"? Certainly seems like a possibility. Consider this: On Saturday, May 17, two weeks into the more temperate season of the trout, twenty-nine volunteers dedicated a good chunk of their time and considerable energy to another of our stream recovery efforts.

Eighteen regulars of our Corps of Recovery were joined for a second time by Charlie Wolfe and Rose Garcynzski, and the following first-timers, all of whom are TU members: Dave Arndt, John Guzowski, Garth Hammel, Patrick Kirsop, Chris Risbudt, and Bill Engber. Non-TUers who swelled the ranks included: Mark and Ron Greenleaf (due our thanks for furnishing cold drinks), and Karen Cornwell. My wife, Karen, swelled the ranks to thirty with her assistance in food prep, food service, and post-prandial clean-up. Speaking of clean-up: Jim O'Brien's dog, Garth (Brooks or El-gar?), savored what I overcooked.

So who were the regulars, you ask?: John Schweiger, Chuck Jacobson, Jack Heiden, Eric Christensen, Karsten and Dan Geib, Roger Clausen, Terri and Dave "A Change in Clothes Comes in Handy" Sanders, Bob Harrison, Mike Grimes, Mike Phillips, Gene Knutson, John Heinrichs, Jim O'Brien, Jim Gentry, Ray Venn, and the writer. Had other commitments not drawn them elsewhere, the appearance of the following heretofore regulars would have bumped the crew's number to forty-two!!: Ryan and John Pundt, Sue and John Bleimehl, Andy and John Mathews, Mark Rhinerson, Jim Hess, Mark Shimasaki, Bill Porter, Roger Gilligan, Dick Tedesco, and John Gribb. Would have been a two Weber-grill workday.

What did we accomplish? We felled a good number of trees, noxious box-elder and a few dead cedars. These became 'barb-logs' once their butt-sections were repositioned and pinned between the butts of standing timber. In their lee we wove newly-trimmed branches and dead-fall to fashion crude brush-bundles. Within four days these structures were performing as intended: still-green leaves clinging to submerged branch-tips were beginning to disappear beneath accumulating silt, and trout were finning in newly-created eddies and scour-pools. Elsewhere, we winched and floated long-ago-fallen giants into more current-friendly positions, ending their role in the streambank erosion process. In other places,

other huge wood-scrap were repositioned and embedded in silt along the river's edge. Behind them we created brush-bundles to begin the stabilization process.

In the fall, when we resume our activities, we'll fine-tune what we've accomplished to date, before turning our attention to other challenges, Garfoot and Mt. Vernon among them. For those whose curiosity must be satisfied: Since January 25, when we began the rehabilitation of BEC, 51 Chapter members and 13 non-members have driven 195 hours round-trip to perform 534 hours of work on approximately 1.5 miles of river. Let's not overlook the fact that our work's impact is system-wide

Let's not forget that, at our June Chapter Meeting, a BAUER large-arbor reel will be awarded someone who has participated in the last three workdays. And that all those who've toiled in the cold and the wind and the snow and the sun in 2003 will be eligible to win, also in "luck o' the draw" style, an 8'4" 2 pc.- 3wgt. ORVIS rod I'll craft from a blank. Whoever you are, you choose the thread-wrap color. Learn to live with the zebra-wood, reel-seat insert. (2002 participants are reminded that John Schweiger worked hard at being humble when his name was drawn from the bucket of tickets at the Icebreaker, whereat he was presented a Powell rod for his Saturday-on-the-stream labors.)

Thanks to all for your involvement in these project-days, which, under my purview, began on a classic, sun-drenched Saturday last September. You've made a bold re-statement of our organization's mission. This September's newsletter will inform you when and where we begin the writing of the next chapter of "Legends in the Fall, and late-Winter, and well into the Spring". Enjoy your summer.

### **Bucket Raffle Winner...Really!**

There was a winning Kinnickinnic River Land Trust raffle ticket in our monthly bucket raffle. The winning raffle ticket was #05534. Whoever won that ticket in our bucket raffle is a winner in the KRLT raffle and will receive a fishing trip with guide Tom Helgeson. Tom Helgeson's phone number is 612-926-5128. Please contact Tom to claim your prize.

**Teaming Up With Teachers**

Volunteers from SWTU teamed up with teachers and Dane County naturalists on May 13 to teach two different classes from Park Elementary School in Cross Plains about trout and Black Earth Creek. Dennis Franke and Bill Pielsticker talked about artificial flies and fly casting, and demonstrated fly fishing in the stream to students from the 3d and 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes.

The Park School event was part of a wider demonstration to the students by the naturalists, who helped the students collect and identify stream insects and also discussed stream hydrology. A chapter volunteer was also

scheduled to help on a similar outing with 1<sup>st</sup> grade students on June 5<sup>h</sup>.

A larger group of volunteers was scheduled to provide fly casting instruction to students from Lake Mills Middle School (Jefferson County) during the student's visit to Devil's Lake State Park on June 4 and 5. The fly casting instruction is one of several activities students can choose from, including rock climbing, pack packing, and canoeing. If you want to be involved in similar events in the future, contact the Youth Committee chair, Jack Way, at (608) 222-6461 or by email at wflynrod@aol.com.

**Important dates to remember:**

- June 10 Chapter Meeting featuring Fishing the Hex Panel Discussion
- June 14 Special Needs Fishing Day at Kalscheur's Ponds
- July 8 No Chapter Meeting at the Maple Tree
- July 12 On the Stream Chapter Meeting and Picnic
- August 12 No Chapter Meeting at the Maple Tree

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

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