

# Newscasts

July, 2003 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



## **On the Stream Meeting**

We are all set to have a great time at our annual *On the Stream Meeting*. Please join us on Saturday July 12 at 9:30 AM in Mt. Vernon, where HWY G crosses Mt Vernon Creek. Kurt Welke and Mike Sorge of the *Department of Natural Resources* will be on hand to conduct an electro shocking demonstration. Watching the crew sample the trout population density and distribution can be humbling. There are a lot more trout out there than most of us realize. Kurt, Mike, and the gang will head upstream from the HWY G, bridge. If time permits, they may also shock the stretch downstream from that same bridge. Please plan to arrive around 9:30 AM so that you don't miss anything right at 10:00.

Immediately following the shocking, we will convene at the park shelter in Mt. Vernon for our annual picnic. Master Chef, Mark Rhinerson will be on hand to grill brats, and serve his famous baked whistle berries. Chips and soft drinks will also be provided. Somehow, we always manage to have deserts there too. If you should happen to feel a domestic urge, then please feel free to bring along some cookies or something.

Please note that there will be no meeting at the *Maple Tree Restaurant* in either July or August. We will resume our regularly scheduled meetings there on the second Tuesday of each month beginning September 9<sup>th</sup>.

## **You Must Be Present Raffle**

There was no winner of the \$80 gift certificate in the *You Must Be Present to Win Drawing* at our June 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. No drawing will be held at the July 12<sup>th</sup> *On the Stream* meeting. That means that someone is going to win a \$100 gift certificate to Fontana Sports at the September 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. That someone could be you!

## **Spring Creek Festival**

The Harry and Laura Nohr Trout Unlimited Chapter will hold their second *Spring Creek Festival* on Saturday, September 6, 2003. The Spring Creek Festival will be an informal gathering of fly anglers and others interested in the cold water resources of the Driftless Area. On Saturday, there will be programs on fishing, fly tying, rod building, casting, and other activities related to fishing the spring creeks of the area. Please refer to their website at <http://springcreekfest.tripod.com/> for more information.

The 2003 *Spring Creek Festival* will take place near the banks of Castle Rock Creek in rural Montfort, Wisconsin. To get there; take State Highway 18 to County G. Travel north on G to County Q. Take Country Q south. The *Festival Camp Ground* will be located on your left immediately after crossing the first bridge on County Highway Q. The campground will be available on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings. The festival gates will open at 8:30 AM on Saturday.

## **Bamboo Rod Raffle**

The *Spring Creek Festival* will also feature a bamboo rod raffle. First Prize will be a 7' 6", 4wt. Schroeder Taper Bamboo Rod made by the D. G. Schroeder Rod Company of Janesville, Wisconsin. Second Prize will be a 7' 6" 4wt. #7612 Dickerson Taper Bamboo Rod made by Rick Cunningham of Ranger, Texas. Raffle tickets cost \$20 each or six for \$100. Only 600 raffle tickets will be printed! All profits from the *Spring Creek Festival* and raffle will be used to fund project work on area streams!

Tickets for this highly worth cause will be available at the July 12<sup>th</sup> *On the Stream Meeting*, or by contacting Bill Pielsticker at 592-4718.

**Special Needs Fishing Day  
by John Schweiger  
(Photos by Dave Westlake)**

Let's face it; the second Saturday in June is magical for this chapter and our *Special Needs Fishing Day*. We had another beautiful day weather-wise and the fish seemed to be caught up in the magic of the day. There were many smiles on the faces of our guests which put smiles on the faces of our volunteers. There are many people to thank. First and foremost I'd like to thank Jim Kalscheur again for making his ponds and facilities available to us. Without his generosity this day would not have been possible. I'd also like to thank Jim's family and staff for providing our lunch. You may have noticed Jim serving lunch to our guests. I'd like to thank Mary Jo Brinkman and Teri Hill, our EMTs, from the Mt. Horeb Fire and Rescue. They got in the spirit of the day and helped our guests with their fishing. I'd also like to thank our other sponsors including: Jason with Dorn Hardware at Nakoma Plaza for donating 1,000 leaf worms for our bait, Russell and Jackie Scott of Scott's Bakery for providing six dozen pastries which we all enjoyed, Larry Winsand with Oscar Mayer for

providing hot dogs for our lunch, Bill Tefft and the Sun Prairie Lion Club for providing the trophies, the DNR for providing the fishing tackle and Colleen Campbell for inviting our guests. If you see any of these kind people or visit their fine businesses please express gratitude from our TU chapter.

I personally, want to thank the TU volunteers for helping out Friday night with tackle setup and Saturday for making the day magical. I'd also like to thank Bob Zimmerman for returning the fishing tackle Monday when I had a family emergency to attend to. I'd like to remind the membership that the *Special Needs Fishing Day* is an excellent opportunity for their families to participate in a worthy and rewarding event. I'd like to thank Whitney Anderson, Karsten Geib, Katja Geib and Garth Hammel for taking the day to help us out.

Jim Kalscheur told me that the second Saturday in June will be set aside for the *Special Needs Fishing Day* henceforth. I look forward to many more magical Saturdays to come with this TU chapter.



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

The Hex hatch is here and gone again. After listening to our panel discussion on this awesome mayfly and the feeding frenzy it inspires, I may just scope out a stretch of stream next year and try my luck. It won't be long before it's hopper season, and there are plenty of streams around with grass growing along their banks....

A few weeks ago I had a chance to tour some large dairy operations in northeast Wisconsin. Denny Caneff, Midwest Director for the American Farmland Trust, arranged the tour and ensuing discussion. The AFT and TU have several things in common. Foremost among these is that farmland can be much friendlier to trout streams than subdivisions and pavement. Another is the recognition that in Wisconsin, dairying is a key part of this equation.

O.K. We all know that manure spills cause fish kills every spring. Runoff from cow lots and barnyards were responsible for the Black Earth Creek fish kill two years ago. However, properly managed animal operations and cropping systems can benefit our coldwater resource. Dairy operations require hay, which is often grown in rotation with row crops like corn and soybeans. Where the landscape is hilly, these crops are often planted in alternating strips across the slope of a field. In both instances, the net result is to minimize soil erosion and runoff, both of which harm our streams.

Some farmers see the move toward "biofuels" and ethanol as the solution to low farm prices. That may be for other states with flatter ground, but these new technologies rely on corn. If existing dairy operations convert their hay ground and strip cropping systems to corn, corn, and soybeans rotation, we will see more runoff

**Important dates to remember:**

- July 8                    No Chapter Meeting at the *Maple Tree*
- July 12                 *On the Stream Meeting* and Picnic
- August 12             No Chapter Meeting at the *Maple Tree*
- September 9         Chapter Meeting at the *Maple Tree Restaurant*
- January 16-17        2004 *Ice Breaker* Featuring Bob Krumm and Nikki Seger

and soil erosion that will have a serious impact on our streams.

I will continue to work with Denny Caneff and others who share our goal of finding a way to make Wisconsin agriculture be both profitable and environmentally responsible. It's a big challenge and will take years to pursue. There are serious issues with proper siting of large operations, the cumulative impact of smaller operations, and subsidized competition from California (western water projects) and around the world. However, it's a challenge worth taking on. If you have any expertise in these areas, give me a call. And think of this problem as you fish through a pasture this summer.

Good fishing!

**Workday Winners!**

As promised, the June meeting saw two drawings for those who turned out for recent workdays on the stream. James Gentry won the large arbor reel, and Patrick Kirsop will receive the hand-made fly rod Tom Ehlert is building.

Naturally, we all win with these workdays, but these prizes are an extra way to say thank you, and to encourage members to put a little sweat and elbow grease back into the resource. On tap for the fall: clearing willows from a TU easement along Deer Creek. Check here for details in the September newsletter.

**The Ice Breaker is Coming**

The 2004 Ice Breaker will be held on January 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. The speakers will be Bob Krumm, and Nikki Seger. Bob is a noted fly tyer and author. Nikki is the fishing manager at an Orvis shop near Chicago. Mark your calendars now!

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

President	Bill Pielsticker	(608) 592-4718	
Vice President	Susan Fey	(608) 442-5801	
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