

# Newscasts

September, 2003 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



## **Come Back to the *Maple Tree* on September 9th**

DNR fisheries gurus Scot Stewart and Kurt Welke will wade us through the most recent survey data from Black Earth Creek, collected in March and April of this year. If you're wondering how the native Brown population is faring in the aftermath of the 2001 fish kill, want to know where the big ones are holed up, or have always wanted to understand the arcane art of estimating trout populations, you won't want to miss this intimate look at Black Earth Creek. Copies of the data will be available for everyone.

After the *On the Stream Meeting* in July and our August hiatus, we will be back at the *Maple Tree Restaurant* on September 9<sup>th</sup>. If you haven't been to a meeting in a while, you won't want to miss this one. If you have never been to a meeting, this would be a great time to get off the couch. The *Maple Tree* is located at the stoplight in the heart of beautiful downtown McFarland. Many of us will get there around 6:00 PM even though the meeting won't start until 7:00. That will give us plenty of time to eat dinner, swap fishing lies, and tell some jokes. Sometimes the latter two are difficult to distinguish from one another. Please join us.

## **Fall Workday**

Stream Projects Chair, Tom Ehlert has declared October 4<sup>th</sup> to be a chapter workday. Brush will be cleared from Garfoot Creek near its confluence with Black Earth Creek. To get there, park at or near Salmo Pond and walk over to the Scherbel Road Bridge. We will meet at 8:30 AM and work until 12:00 PM. The nature of the vittles to be provided were unknown as of press time, but rest assured *that Chef Thomas de la Terre Noire* will not send you home hungry.

## **You Must Be Present Raffle**

Each month we have what we like to call a, *You Must Be Present to Win Drawing*. This contest is a ruse designed to attract members to the monthly meetings, and it is named after the most important rule of the contest. Had the poor schmuck whose name was drawn from the hat at our June meeting been present, that person would have brought home an \$80 gift certificate to *Fontana Sports Specialties*. However, that would-be winner was absent, and the pot grew by \$20. There is an arcane rule which stipulates that the pot shall never exceed \$100. Once the pot reaches its current \$100 level, we draw until we get a winner. Someone is guaranteed to leave the September 9<sup>th</sup> meeting with a \$100 gift certificate to *Fontana Sports Specialties* in their pocket.

## **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 see their website for more information (<http://springcreekfest.tripod.com/>).

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.

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

Catch and eat, or catch and release? That's the question raised by Jim Zumbo in the June issue of Outdoor Life magazine. My brother-in-law sent me a copy of the article, apparently concerned that I might be one of those suffering from a moral dilemma when it comes to keeping some trout for dinner. Not to worry – I have a creel that is stained and stinking from use.

I don't doubt that some of us treat catch and release more like a religion than a management tool. That's too bad, because fishing IS a consumptive sport. I like to fry trout on a griddle in real butter, and eat it off a hot plate. I make no apologies for that.

I don't keep every fish I catch, and I certainly don't keep any large fish I catch. That's where catch and release comes in. First, let's be clear that catch and release must be carried out properly to be a useful fish management tool (see below). Releasing a damaged fish back to a lake or stream does that fish and the sport no good at all.

When do I practice catch and release?  
When I'm fishing over wild (reproducing) fish where the fishing pressure is moderate to high. However, stocked trout are put there to be consumed, so take a couple home and enjoy them. Low fishing pressure generally means a stream can afford to lose a few fish to the dinner table, so the same applies.

I also release any trout over 11 or 12 inches, even when I'm fishing for dinner. Recent research suggests that by consistently harvesting the largest fish in a given population, removing them from the gene pool, we are "selecting" for smaller fish in the future. Want to keep one for a trophy? Take a picture of it, and measure its length and girth (distance around its fattest point), and return it to the water. With the photo and data you can have a realistic mount created for your wall, and a chance to land the same fish next year.

There are some basic guidelines to follow when practicing catch and release. If spin

casting, avoid treble hooks. Pinching the barbs down on hooks will make hook removal easier. Don't play a fish to exhaustion - use a heavier tippet when possible. Don't remove swallowed hooks - just cut the line. Don't keep the fish out of the water for more than 15 seconds. Turning a fish belly-up stops the fish from struggling, making hook removal easier. When handling a fish in a net or otherwise, grasp it across the back and head to avoid throttling the daylights out of it.

The last step is to be sure the fish is strong enough to be released. Revive it by holding it gently under water and moving it back and forth to pass water through its gills. Returning a dazed fish to a rapidly flowing stream makes a mockery of the care you've taken up to that point.

Finally, we're into our last month of trout season in Wisconsin, and many streams are lower than usual due to the dry weather. Fish tend to congregate in the deeper pools under such conditions, which makes them easier to find. Remember that you don't have to catch every fish in a pool, even if you are practicing catch and release. Leave some for the next angler to "educate" because at the next pool, that angler might be you.

**You Scream, I Scream**

Last winter, we somehow managed to lose some of the 5 quart ice cream buckets that we use to collect bucket raffle tickets. Those seemingly inconsequential little buckets are critically important to the financial success of our fundraisers – especially the *Ice Breaker*. So, the next time that you go to the grocery store, please consider purchasing a bucket of ice cream. If that seems excessive, I invite you to stop by my house on your way home. I live just five minutes from Woodman's West, and I have three perpetually famished teenagers who would gladly help you do your duty for the chapter. Please bring the empty buckets to any chapter meeting and Larry Meicher will take them off your hands.

# FORGET BONEFISHING IN THE BAHAMAS!

**MAC FARLAND, WISCONSIN** IS THE PLACE TO BE NEXT JANUARY!

SOUTHERN WISCONSIN TU LANDS TWO GREAT SPEAKERS FOR THE ANNUAL

## ICE BREAKER

### **BOB KRUMM**

VETERAN BIG HORN RIVER GUIDE

(so we know he can fish...)

FLY TYER FOR ORVIS

(guess he ties a sweet fly...)

CASTING INSTRUCTOR FOR LL BEAN

(the guy can cast...)

AUTHOR OF NUMEROUS BOOKS  
AND ARTICLES

(and he's no dummy ...rumor has it  
he can also sing and dance.)



### **NIKKI SEGER**

ORVIS' CHICAGO FISHING MANAGER

(holds her own with the uptown sports...)

35 YEARS OF FLY FISHING

(learned to cast before she could walk...)

CHICAGO LAKE SHORE SPECIALIST

(can you say double haul?...)

CARP, SALMON & BASS ON THE FLY

(a diversified portfolio...)

**JANUARY 17 8AM-4PM**

PARK PONDEROSA

SIGGLEKOW ROAD

MAC FARLAND, WI

**COME THAW OUT WITH US!**



*Piscatorial Vitae*  
Bob Krum

BORN: in Easton Rapids, Michigan

CURRENT RESIDENCE: Sheridan, Wyoming

EDUCATION:

- B.A. in Biology from Albion College  
M.S. in zoology with wildlife management emphasis, University WY, 1969
- Graduate work in Wildlife Management at Utah State University and Colorado State University

BIOLOGIST:

- Fisheries biology work experience in Wyoming, Argentina, and Michigan.
- Worked six years with the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality as a Wildlife and Environmental Compliance Specialist

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

- Taught Fly Fishing courses at Sheridan College since 1979.
- Taught fly tying courses at Sheridan College.
- Taught nymph fishing courses for the Federation of Fly Fishers.
- Worked as a fly casting instructor at L.L. Bean

OUTDOOR WRITER/PHOTOGRAPHER

- Has written a weekly column for various newspapers since 1977.
- Has written a weekly outdoor column for the Billings Gazette since April, 1981.
- Published over 40 magazine articles since 1987, including articles in Fly Fisherman Magazine, Fly Rod and Reel, Fly Tyer, American Angler, and Field & Stream.
- Former Nature Editor of Fly Fishing Heritage Magazine.
- Author of four books: The New England Berry Book, The Rocky Mountain Berry Book, The Great Lakes Berry Book, and The Pacific Northwest Berry Book

EXPERIENCED ANGLER

- Worked as a fishing guide in Jackson Hole Wyoming from 1969 - 1978
- Worked as a fishing guide on the Bighorn River from August, 1979 to present.
- Has tied flies commercially for a number of years
- Fished waters in Michigan, Maine, Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Montana, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Argentina, the Bahamas, and New Zealand.

LECTURER

- Slide presentations on a variety of topics including Fishing in Wyoming, The Bighorn River, New Zealand, Argentina, Fly Fishing for Northern Pike and Walleye, Wyoming Wild Flowers, A Day in the Life a Fishing Guide, Bonefishing Abaco, and How to Discover your Own Fly Fishing Hotspots.
- Clinics on Fly Casting, Nymph Fishing, Trout Tactics, and Streamside Cooking.
- Clinics on finding and cooking wild edible, fruits and berries.

AFFILIATIONS:

Active member of Trout Unlimited and Federation of Fly Fishers.

### **Black Earth Creek Water Studies Funded**

The DNR has awarded three \$10,000 grants to the Village of Cross Plains to begin work on developing a groundwater-surface water model for the Black Earth Creek watershed. The Village applied for the River Planning Grants in May in conjunction with SWTU. The grants will enable the Village to contract with the U.S. Geological Survey to begin collecting data for three different parts of the watershed. This data will later be combined into a single computer model to be used by municipalities and towns in the watershed to assess the impact of changing land use on the stream.

A coupled groundwater-surface water model has been successfully applied in the neighboring Pheasant Branch watershed to evaluate the effects of urbanization and the effectiveness of water management alternatives. This approach is attractive because all components of the hydrologic system (precipitation, runoff, streamflow, and groundwater flow) are explicitly included in the modeling framework.

Results from the groundwater-surface water model can serve as the foundation for a stream network temperature model to help predict the consequences of changes in the larger watershed on stream water temperatures at different locations within the stream. Rising water temperatures are a serious threat to streams in urbanizing areas. By projecting the impact of different types of development either individually or cumulatively, the model could become an important tool to both guide new development and protect the trout fishery.

The grant applications identify eight project objectives:

1) Increase the understanding of the existing hydrologic system by developing a coupled groundwater and surface water model for the BEC watershed. The model will be calibrated to present day conditions, and be

verified against historical conditions as available.

2) Simulate changes in water temperature resulting from changes in surface water discharge, groundwater recharge, riparian shade, and channel structure that will occur under present and future land use conditions.

3) Identify the important source areas of groundwater that feed BEC and its tributaries.

4) Estimate water temperatures to BEC and its tributaries under selected development scenarios.

5) Evaluate the effects of stormwater management and groundwater infiltration enhancement practices within the watershed, including changes in flood intensity and frequency.

6) Identify the best system of gauging stations or rainfall monitors in the watershed to provide early flood warnings to the cities of Black Earth and Mazomanie.

7) Provide a public forum at the conclusion of the project to inform local stakeholders about the study's results and how the new model can be used to evaluate proposed changes in land use in the watershed.

8) Provide training for town, city and county personnel, developers, and other interested parties on how to use the model and the information it generates in order to minimize the impact of changes in land use on water quality within the BEC watershed.

This is projected to be a three-year project. The chapter and the Village of Cross Plains expect to apply for additional DNR grants to carry out the second and third years of the project. Additional funds come from a 40% match by the USGS. The DNR may also provide some additional funding as the project relates to its research interests on runoff management.

**Important dates to remember:**

September 6      Spring Creek Festival  
September 9      Chapter Meeting at the *Maple Tree Restaurant*  
October 14        Chapter Meeting Featuring Deadbeats Born, Haugley, and Smith  
January 16-17     2004 *Ice Breaker* Featuring Bob Krumm and Nikki Seger

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

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