

# Newscasts

November, 2003 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



## Trout Creek Project Update

Though many of our senior members can remember *Trout Creek* as a first class fishery, it has been a fishery in decline in recent years. Fortunately, our chapter is currently faced with an exciting opportunity to play an important role in the restoration of *Trout Creek*. The October issue of *Newscasts* contained a great introduction to this project written by Tom Thrall. At our November 11<sup>th</sup> meeting, Tom will expound upon this project with a slide show, followed by a question and answer session.

Tom is fabulously qualified to discuss this topic. He is a *retired* biologist for the *Natural Resources Conservation Service* (formerly known as the *Soil Conservation Service*), and is currently a Conservation Consultant for *Environmental Defense*. Perhaps his most pertinent qualification is that he is a long time member of the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited. He knows the science, he has the zeal of a dedicated professional, and he's one of us. What more could we ask from an advocate? Please come to this important meeting, and learn how we can make a difference to a nearby fishing treasure.

The meeting will begin at 7:00 PM on Tuesday November 11<sup>th</sup> at the *Maple Tree Restaurant* in McFarland. There are those who come out early for dinner, and we sure would like to see you become one of those. The food at the *Maple Tree* is rumored to have been voted the Best of McFarland. Please join us for edification, food, fellowship, and of course, foolishness.

## Input Wanted on Shoreland Protection Rules

An advisory committee has finished developing its preferred options for how the state should revise its 36-year-old rules to better protect Wisconsin lakes and rivers while allowing waterfront property owners more flexibility to develop their land. Now, at public listening sessions scheduled statewide in November and December, the general public can share their opinions of those preliminary proposals and suggest other ideas before state shoreland protection staff use both in drafting final rule

proposals. The final rule proposals are expected to be ready for public hearing in summer 2004.

A 28-member advisory committee of waterfront property owners, developers, environmentalists, university experts, county zoning officials and others has been helping DNR revise the rules. The rules, which apply to unincorporated areas - - and areas incorporated since 1994 or annexed since 1982 -- were mandated by Wisconsin lawmakers in 1966 to protect water quality, fish and wildlife habitat and scenic beauty along lakes and rivers. The rules seek to control the intensity of development and create buffers around the waters; counties are required to adopt the statewide minimum standards for lot sizes, how far buildings must be set back from the water, and other standards, or can choose to administer and enforce more protective ones. .

The preliminary proposals focus on better protecting the primary buffer, the area immediately next to the water's edge that is most critical in protecting clean water and natural scenic beauty and in providing habitat. At the same time, the options would make it easier for people who own homes built before the state standards to maintain, repair, and spruce up their homes.

A full listing of the committee's preferred options -- as well as all of the research, proposals, and other materials the committee reviewed -- can be found on DNR's Web site at [www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/wm/dsfm/shore/tit le.htm](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/wm/dsfm/shore/tit le.htm), then use the drop down topic menu and select "shoreland management."

Two public listening sessions with the same schedule will be conducted in Madison. Sessions will run from 2:30 to 5:30 PM and again from 5:30 to 9:00 PM on Tuesday December 9 in the Board Room of the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection Central Office, 2811 Agriculture Dr. Madison, WI. 53708

## Update from the Projects Chair

By Tom Ehlert

The work on the lower stretch of Garfoot Creek began on October 4th. Eight SWTU Chapter members--Rose and John Schweiger (and nephew, Adam), John Guzowski, Ray Venn, John Bleimehl, Phil Andersen, Mike Grimes, and the writer--were joined by Aldo Leopold Chapter members Mike Barniskis, John Doucette, Adam Kachelski, Zoan Kulinski, and Mike Stupich.

We were without chain-saw, but with will-powered pruning-saws and loppers we made significant progress. Our energies were focused on beginning the process of freeing-up the flow of this vital, cold-water artery of the Black Earth Creek system. We were also intent on eliminating portions of the woody canopy which prevents sunlight from nourishing stream-side grasses so critical to bank-stabilization in low-gradient streams.

On Saturday, October 18, the work detail consisted exclusively of seventeen SWTU stalwarts, armed to the teeth with four chain sawyers: Mike Grimes, Henry Haugley, Gene Knutson, and the irrepressible Dave Sanders. The supporting cast included, as always, Dave's daughter, Teri, and the following, whose names appear with delightful regularity in these reports: John Guzowski, Ray Venn, John Mathews, Ryan and John Pundt, Alan Comer, Roger Clausen, Eric Christensen, Chuck Jacobsen, Roger Gilligan, Bill Porter, and your author.

Our performance was mind-boggling. It's not easy to measure the length of 'riparian corridor' we invigorated in only two mornings of work, so frequently does this potential gem fold-back upon itself. A quarter-mile is a reasonable guess. Then, again, maybe the total distance attended between the concrete-covered culvert, over which the cattle cross the stream, and the stream's confluence with BEC is less than that. What's significant is that you can now see the water move! There are now riffles and bubble-lines and gravel visible on the bottom.

On Friday, October 31, Kurt Welke and I reviewed the work. To say he was pleased and impressed would understate his reaction. Let me put it this way: He's determined, near- and long-term, to enhance our efforts. His check-book balance should permit him to enrich us with equipment and materials before November's end. In fact, if the stars line-up

right, I'll host a "Celebrity Rocktoss" on Saturday, November 15th. The event's objective will be to armor/rip-rap the hairpin-turns and other potential fish-holding stretches in a stream sorely lacking cover. If the bureaucratic flow of paperwork is constrained, however, we'll convene anyhow. We'll just do more of what we've been doing. We'll just do it elsewhere along Garfoot.

Today, in fact, thirteen of us did. The crew-members: Phil Andersen, Teri and Dave Sanders, Ryan and John Pundt, Alan Comer, Roger Clausen, Chuck Jacobsen, Henry Nehls-Lowe (welcome back), John Gribb, Jim O'Brien, and yours truly. We descended locust-like just where the creek crosses beneath Highway KP, east of the Festge Farm. Three hours of sawing and lopping, silt-slogging, and wood-hauling didn't get us far downstream. But if you crave immediate gratification, this is where it's at. If you are, in fact, committed to TU's creed--preservation, protection, and restoration, don't wait until November 15th.

Just for you, Saturday, November 8th is designated as the next scheduled work-day. More than a few are already signed-on. The bridge on Highway KP, about a mile west of Cross Plains, is the gathering place. Start-time is 8:30 AM. Dress for exertion in probably-cool weather. Wear sturdy shoes or boots, and gloves, worn in their appropriate places. Bring waders or hipers if so inclined, tools to deal with wood and brushy under-story. And bring your appetite. The protocol, when the work is done, and the camaraderie is extended, is to eat and re-hydrate. The menu varies, but I've had no complaints so far.

To make your reservation, call 767-2413 at a respectable time. If neither of the up-coming dates fits your schedule, at least call to add your name to the growing list of those I rely on to do the work we can't rely on others to do. Fifty-one names were carried forward from last year. Will you become the sixtieth member of the "Corps of Recovery"? As if any incentive other than feeling good about yourself, making a difference, or having a good meal for a change isn't enough, all project participants are eligible to win a reel or locally-crafted fly-rod in periodic drawings.

Enough said. Thanks for your support.

# 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!**



## Meet Nikki Seger

*Editor's note: Nikki Seger will be one of the two speakers featured at our 2004 Ice Breaker. Nikki supplied the following autobiographical sketch to introduce herself to us.*

I began fly-fishing over 30 years ago (as a young girl of 8 or 9 years) in the Black Hills of South Dakota. My mother taught me how to use my Grandfather's old bamboo rod; I wore his old vest and used his old flies. We also used corn, salmon eggs, and worms on occasion.

Throughout my youth I enjoyed many athletic activities as I dabbled in fly fishing. I attended Louisiana State University on a volleyball scholarship and later earned a master's degree in Sports Biomechanics from The University of Iowa. Unfortunately, the spring creeks in northeastern Iowa escaped my attention at that time.

I was reintroduced to the wonders of fly-fishing during the early 1990's while fishing with my sister and her husband on the Big Horn River. After moving to Chicago in 1990, I began to explore the Wisconsin spring creeks. I must have fished those creeks for two or three years before I began to believe that there were any fish in them! This western angler had to first learn stealth and new methods of fly presentation to catch these wary small stream fish.

Like many anglers, I really didn't know much about flies. My brother-in-law is a superb fly-tyer, and supplied me with almost all of my early flies. One day I wandered into the Chicago Orvis store to get a few leaders for an upcoming trip out west. Looking at the flies and realizing that they cost about \$2.00 apiece, I was horrified to discover that I was in debt to my brother-in-law to the tune of \$25 or more for each outing. Coincidentally, Orvis was offering a beginning fly-tying class, and I signed up.

My fishing life was instantly changed at that first class. When asked to imagine how a piece of waving marabou might resemble the life-like motion of invertebrate gills, I was immediately entranced by the mystique.

I became an Orvis fly shop junkie, taking every tying class they offered. Then, in a moment of mid-life job crisis, I left my job at Northwestern Medical School (running a cardiology research laboratory) and asked for a job at Orvis. Until that time, I had only fly-fished for trout, and the trout that I had fished for were all in Montana, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. My new retail job offered exposure to a broad range of anglers and many types of fly fishing. I began to scratch my fishing itch by fishing along the Chicago lakefront for migratory salmonids, in city ponds, and in the warm-water bass rivers near Chicago. I survived the drama of my 40<sup>th</sup> birthday by fishing for redbfish along the Louisiana gulf coast, and I continued to learn to tie flies for all of those exotic species (exotic being anything other than trout!).

I also have had the pleasure of teaching fly-fishing and fly-tying through my association with Orvis. For the past three years I have led our weekend fly-fishing schools in Wisconsin, and we have staffed an annual teaching program for children and for women.

I also teach fly fishing in the Chicago area. One of our fun programs is called *Loopin' It Up on the Lakefront*" in which we take anglers fishing along the Lake Michigan waterfront. I've been a guest tyer and instructor at several area organizations. Teaching is a passion and forte of mine.

Besides fly fishing, I am a budding wing shooter. I also love hiking, camping, and running. I am a crazy, crazy runner -- I do events called ultramarathons (races longer than marathon distance). One of my fantasies is to run from Chicago to the Black Hills of South Dakota (covering 30-40 miles a day) while carrying a rod and fishing promising bodies of water along the way.

### **We Need Flies for the Ice Breaker**

Flies make great door prizes, and great door prizes make satisfied attendees, and satisfied attendees come back year after year. So, we need flies. Perhaps past SWTU president John Strauss put it best when he said, "We need flies -- lots of flies. Please tie lots and lots of flies".

John is a genius. Please respond to his perennial plea for flies.

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

For the last year, I have been working with about two dozen other folks advising the DNR on how best to revise the Shoreland Zoning Rules. These rules, in place since the 1960s, are meant to protect the water quality and wildlife habitat along lake shores and streams.

The rules consistently have generated complaints since they call for the eventual removal of "structures" within 75 feet of the shore, and limit improvements or expansion of such structures to 50% of their value. Naturally, when the rules first were enacted, there were a good number of such structures, including cabins and year-round homes. Counties were inconsistent in applying the 50% rule (value as of when?) and some jurisdictions were more intent on removing such structures than others, much to the fury of their owners.

Realizing the rules were causing problems and likely to be a target of Wisconsin lawmakers, the DNR decided to revise them, hence the advisory committee. A year after convening the committee, with representatives from user groups, lakes associations, zoning boards, and "property rights" advocates, a draft set of options are ready to be rolled out for "listening sessions" around the state.

The proposal the DNR is taking to the public is designed to trade off a reduced emphasis on removing non-conforming structures in return for mitigation designed to restore near-stream habitat and protect water quality. Instead of the 50% rule, clear caps are being proposed on the size of homes and cabins, and clear limits on their expansion.

The mitigation requirements kick in when improvements or an expansion is permitted. In the long run, we expect that many structures will be too small for today's families and many people will choose to relocate more than 75 feet back from the water. Until then, the rules will result in increasing protections as shoreland buffers are re-vegetated and runoff from impervious surfaces reduced or eliminated.

*Here's the rub:* without good turnouts by conservation-minded individuals (read: TU members and others) the proposed rule changes likely will be watered down and thereby achieve less water quality and near-shore habitat improvement than is otherwise possible.

What can you do? Attend one of the public listening sessions (see article elsewhere in *Newscasts* for how to review the proposal and its background on the web, and the dates and locations of the listening sessions) and register your opinion in favor of the options that are most likely to get the most improvement in water quality, habitat improvement, and aesthetics. You can also comment on-line. Either way, register your opinion and help shape the formal rules proposal the DNR will present early next year.

As the official representative of Wisconsin TU on the Shoreland Rules Advisory Committee, I want to encourage TU members to consider that the following options are likely to be more protective of water quality than other options:

- A narrow viewing corridor
- A deeper primary buffer
- Full 75' setback for boathouses
- Structures limited to 1500 square feet of habitable living space
- Minimum building area of 5000 feet
- Limits on impervious surface area
- Strict limits on camping duration

Please attend a listening session or comment on line. This is an important rules revision and your comments can help insure the final rules proposal is most protective of our state's waters.

### ***You Must Be Present To Win***

There was no winner of the *You-Must-Be-Present-To-Win-Drawing* at our October meeting. The jackpot will therefore grow by \$20 as we draw for a \$40 gift certificate to *Madison Outfitters* at our November 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Though no purchase is necessary, you must be present at the meeting to win, and you must be a SWTU member. Please join us.

### **Ice Cream for Trout**

We remain in desperate need of 5-quart ice cream buckets to be used as ticket receptacles for the bucket raffle extravaganza portion of the *Ice Breaker*. If my wife can justify ice cream as a means of preventing osteoporosis, surely you can justify ice cream as a means of contributing to the chapter coffers. Come on – go buy a bucket of ice cream. Bring the empty bucket and lid to Larry Meicher and you will be his friend forever (if that sort of thing appeals to you).

**Important dates to remember:**

November 8 Black Earth Creek Workday. Meet at Highway KP bridge.  
November 11 Chapter Meeting Featuring Tom Thrall: The Trout Creek Project  
November 15 Workday  
December 9 Chapter Meeting Featuring Gerry Campbell *et al*: Dos and Don'ts of Alaska Fishing  
January 13 Chapter Meeting Featuring SWTU Fly Tyers  
January 16-17 2004 *Ice Breaker* Featuring Bob Krumm and Nikki Seger  
February 10 Chapter Meeting Featuring an as yet unidentified speaker  
March 9 March Madness Auction

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