

Newscasts

February, 2004 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



Murder Mystery Night

Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited chapter member and author John Galligan will be the speaker at our February 10th meeting. John has recently published a murder mystery entitled *The Nail Knot*. Though the book is a mystery novel, it also has a piscatorial theme that runs from the title page to the end notes. Set on the banks of *Black Earth Creek*, it has received rave reviews from a number of chapter members who have read it. John will read from the book, and be available to discuss it with us. It should be an interesting evening.

The meeting will start at 7:00 PM on February 10th. As always, we will meet at the Maple Tree Restaurant located just two miles south of the Beltline on Highway 51 in the hub of the greater metropolitan McFarland area. Please come early and join us for dinner if you can.

Ice Breaker Recap

The *Ice Breaker* nearly lived up to its name this year. On the eve of the event, the Madison area received a glazing of ice that could easily have been an *event breaker*. Early attendance figures were alarmingly low, but faithful travelers continued to stream into the ballroom as the roads were cleared. In the end, our attendance was down a tiny bit from 2003, but our costs were down sharply too. Thanks to a *pro bono* presentation by Nikki Seeger, a considerably discounted speaking fee from Bob Krumm, and tremendously generous raffle prize donors, our investments were small. However, the return on our investment was very large thanks to the many eager bucket raffle *investors* that donated very generous sums to the chapter coffers by purchasing lots and lots of bucket raffle tickets. The official calculations are still in the works, but it appears that we earned more than \$6,000 from the event. That money will go a long ways in our efforts to protect, preserve and restore the cold-water resources in Southern Wisconsin

It takes a lot of volunteers to pull these events off. Veteran *Ice Breaker Chair* – Tom Fendrick, did a great job of coercing, coaching and coordinating all of those volunteers. Thanks Tom, you did another great job!

SWTU Loses a Treasure

Lowell Gennrich passed away on Friday, January 23, 2004. He was born on May 10th, 1917 and lived in Madison his entire life. Lowell was a worker for the *Civilian Conservation Corps* until he enlisted at the outbreak of *World War II*. He served in the infantry until he was injured. Upon recovery, he was reassigned as a photographer in the *Air Corps* and was sent to North Africa. He returned home as a decorated veteran.

Lowell was an avid fly fisherman, and a life-long model of TU volunteerism. He was a charter member of the *Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited* and was our president in 1974 and again in 1975. In 1981 he was given the *SWTU Award of Merit*, (the chapter's highest award whom only six people have received in chapter history). Lowell was very active in the State Council and was given the *Gold Net Award* by the council in 1987. He was also an excellent photographer and both *SWTU* and the State Council newsletters often featured his photos.

He was an unwavering advocate for coldwater conservation, was involved with countless stream improvement projects, and was a mentor to a large number of young and old TU anglers (and hunters), fly-tiers, rod-builders, photographers, and conservationists. Over half a century, he became highly knowledgeable about aquatic entomology, water quality and the environment. His story-telling legendry (he was surely the only TU member in the country with stories of brook trout fishing in the Atlas Mountains of Morocco during WW III!) and droll sense of humor, endeared him to all who knew him well.

Lowell affected the lives of TU members in Southern Wisconsin and statewide for decades, and the health of the trout streams he loved so deeply for generations. He will be dearly missed.

We Appreciate Our Donors

SWTU wishes to thank the many donors that helped make the 2004 *Ice Breaker* a huge success. Please thank them in any manner that you see fit. You are especially encouraged to patronize the businesses of our many commercial donors.

Craig Amacker
Badger Fly Fishers
Paul Banas
Jim Bartelt
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From the President...by Bill Pielsticker

Less than a month remains before the start of the Early Season! Of course, that time proved to be about the coldest part of the winter last year. We can only hope for some moderation from the weather we've had since the *Ice Breaker*.

Speaking of the *Ice Breaker*, we got a bit too literal this year, with roads and cars covered with ice from the previous evening. Drivers reported a few minor incidents, but people arrived safely and enjoyed our two speakers. Bob Krumm has a laid-back speaking style that almost hides the great information he is conveying. Nikki Seger was fun to listen to, and chock full of information. I did overhear someone grumble about "you can fish for carp if you want to, but not me" but Nikki also had a great deal to say about steelhead and other more "appropriate" quarry available in and around the big lake. Planning is already underway for next year's event, to be held on Saturday, Jan. 15, 2005.

Many of us involved in planning and running the *Ice Breaker* were still enjoying the success of the event (which raised much needed money for the chapter), when we heard the news that Lowell Gennrich had departed this world. Lowell was a stalwart supporter of Trout Unlimited, past chapter President, angler and entomologist, rod builder and fly tier. He introduced many people to the sport of fly-fishing, and educated countless others on conservation issues and the need to protect our coldwater resources. Lowell's time on earth was well spent, and we can safely say the world is a better place because of him.

You Must Be Present To Win

There was no winner of the *You-Must-Be-Present-To-Win-Drawing* at our January meeting. Though that was bad news for the unnamed chapter member who wasn't there to claim the prize, the jackpot will now grow from \$20 to \$40. Come to our February 10th meeting if you would like a chance to win a \$40 gift certificate to *Fontana Sports Specialties*. Though no purchase is necessary, you must be present at the meeting to win, and you must be a SWTU member in good standing (*sic*).

We Want You!

Many of us belong to service, education, and environmental organizations like *Trout Unlimited*, because we want to make a difference in the world. One of the challenges that faces effective volunteer organizations (e.g. *Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited*) is knowing enough about the skills, talents, and motivation of its individual members to be able to match those strengths with the needs of the organization. This challenge becomes larger in proportion to the size of the organization. With over 600 SWTU members, it is virtually impossible for our leaders to know which member might be willing and best able to take on a new volunteer opportunity. Furthermore, there is a dangerous tendency for leaders to choose those volunteers with whom they are already familiar. This can result in volunteer burnout, and it leaves a wealthy talent pool untouched. The *SWTU Volunteer Skills Inventory* represents an effort on the part of our leadership to alleviate this potential problem. They are asking that you make your skills, and wills known to them by filling out this questionnaire and returning it as soon as possible.

We invite you to become a part of a remarkable tradition of SWTU involvement by telling us where your skills and interests lie. Please complete the *Volunteer Skills Inventory* and return it to us as soon as possible. Consider it an invitation to a great volunteer experience.

Send completed form to:
SWTU
c/o Mark Maffitt
PO Box 7051
Madison, WI 53707

Lodi Reads Leopold

The 5th Annual Lodi Reads Leopold event will take place March 5-7, 2004 in Lodi. The centerpiece of the weekend is a public reading of *A Sand County Almanac*. Our own Bill Pielsticker will don his full fly fishing regalia (waders, vest, and perhaps some tweed) at 7:00 PM on Friday to read the chapter on the Alder's Fork. There will also be a number of other activities to enjoy, including visiting the Leopold Shack, building a Leopold bench, hiking on the *Ice Age Trail*, and more. For more information, visit www.sceniclodivalley.org or call 608-592-5666.

Calling All Fishing Expo Volunteers

More volunteers are needed to fulfill the SWTU commitments to the *Madison Fishing Expo*. Volunteers are needed to sell tickets, collect tickets at the front door, and to help out with the *Kids Fishing Pond*. Mark Rhinerson is recruiting volunteers for these important tasks. Listed below are a number of vacant slots that he needs volunteers to fill.

Date	Time		Duty
2/27/04	4:00 PM	until 6:00 PM	Kids Fishing Pond
2/28/04	9:00 AM	until 11:00 AM	Front Door
2/28/04	1:00 PM	until 3:00 PM	Front Door
2/28/04	1:00 PM	until 3:00 PM	Kids Fishing Pond
2/28/04	3:00 PM	until 5:00 PM	Ticket Sales
2/28/04	3:00 PM	until 5:00 PM	Front Door
2/28/04	5:00 PM	until 7:00 PM	Kids Fishing Pond
2/28/04	5:00 PM	until 7:00 PM	Front Door
2/29/04	9:00 AM	until 11:00 AM	Front Door
2/29/04	1:00 PM	until 3:00 PM	Ticket Sales
2/29/04	1:00 PM	until 3:00 PM	Kids Fishing Pond
2/29/04	3:00 PM	until 5:00 PM	Front Door
2/29/04	3:00 PM	until 5:00 PM	Kids Fishing Pond

Please call Mark Rhinerson at 249-7250 if you can help out at one of the times listed above.

After the Storm to Air on the Weather Channel

The Environmental Protection Agency and The Weather Channel have co-produced a 30 minute television special about watersheds. *After the Storm* will air on The Weather Channel on Sunday, May 9th at 7:30 and 10:30 pm CST and at the same times on Saturday, June 26th.

The show endeavors to educate the general public about the threats facing our nation's waters from polluted runoff. In addition to illustrating the environmental implications of weather events, the special provides useful tips on how people can help make a difference. It explains simple things people can do to protect their local watershed-such as picking up after one's dog and recycling household hazardous wastes. It also shows how some communities and private companies are getting involved through low impact development, utilizing rain gardens and green roofs to minimize stormwater runoff.

Important dates to remember:

February 7 State Council Meeting and Banquet in Oshkosh
February 10 Chapter Meeting Featuring *The Nail Knot* Author John Galligan
February 24 SWTU Board Meeting to include a discussion of the Nash Williams bequest
February 27–29 Madison Fishing Expo
March 5th – 7th Lodi Reads Leopold at the Lodi Public Library
March 9 March Madness Auction
April 13th Chapter Meeting Featuring Cajun Angling Wisdom from Greg Vodak

Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited Leadership:

President	Bill Pielsticker	(608) 592-4718	
Vice President	Susan Fey	(608) 442-5801	
Secretary	John Serunian	(608) 277-9295	
Treasurer	John Schweiger	(608) 238-8062	
Past President	Tom Ehlert	(608) 767-2413	
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