

# Newscasts

June, 2004 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



## **Does Nature Fit Into The Industrial Agricultural Landscape?**

Tom Hunt will be the speaker at our June 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. A faculty member of the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, Tom teaches courses in environmental science, project management, and landscape design. He is also the Director of Research and Outreach at Pioneer Farm. The role of Pioneer Farm (the UW-Platteville college farm) is in transition from a production teaching facility to a systems research farm. It is a cornerstone in the Wisconsin Agricultural Stewardship Initiative, a statewide initiative aimed at creating an on-farm balance between ecology and economics in the production agriculture setting. If you plan to keep fishing with the southern Wisconsin cows, you will want to come out and learn from an expert how that experience will likely look in the years to come.

As always, the meeting will start at 7:02 PM, but please consider getting there around 5:58 so that you will have time to share a bite to eat with us. We will meet at the Maple Tree Restaurant on Highway 51, just 2 miles south of the Beltline in beautiful downtown McFarland. We hope to see you there.

## **Summer Meeting Reminder**

Please note that the June 8<sup>th</sup> meeting will be our last meeting at the Maple Tree until September 14<sup>th</sup>. Though the date and location of our July meeting has not yet been finalized, we will continue the tradition of combining an electro shock fishing demonstration with our July chapter picnic. Please check the July issue of Newscasts for meeting details. As in years past, there will be no chapter meeting in August.

## **Call for Newscasts Articles**

*Newscasts* is in perpetual need of articles from chapter members like you. Please consider sharing some of your written thoughts with your fellow TU members. Articles may be submitted to the editor by the last Tuesday of any month for inclusion in the following month's *Newscasts*. Any form of submission that does not require transcription by the editor is welcomed.

## **Special Needs Fishing Day set for June 12<sup>th</sup>**

The *Special Need Fishing Day* for 2004 will be held on Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, 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 the Kalscheur ponds may be found on page 6

## **We had a winner!**

By May 11<sup>th</sup> the jackpot in the *You-Must-Be-Present-To-Win-Drawing* had climbed to \$100. In accordance with contest rule #4, we drew until we had a winner. Sue Fey was the eventual winner of a \$100 gift certificate to *Fontana Sports Specialties*.

There are only 3 rules in this contest. Rule #1 stipulates that you must be a member in good standing of SWTU. Rule #2 states that you must be present to win (duh). Rule #3 provides authorization to increase the value of the jackpot by \$20 in the event that there is no winner, and rule #4 has to do with the terminal value of a ludicrously large jackpot.

Please join us at our June 8<sup>th</sup> meeting as we draw for a \$20 gift certificate to *Fontana Sports Specialties*.

## Flybox Stewardship

by Steve Born

Ask Henry Haugley. Ask Bob Gennrich. Ask Bill Sonzogni. Ask Larry Meicher. Ask Jim Bartelt. Ask any flyfisher.. Losing a flybox is one of life's great tragedies (or so it seems at the time). Even a medium-sized flybox can have hundreds of flies in it – representing many hours of tying, or if purchased, many hundreds of dollars of investment. Years ago in a rafting accident on the Snake River in Wyoming, I lost seven boxes of flies – perhaps 2000 flies – along with the rest of the contents of my vest and my best rod and reel; I suppose I should have been happy enough to have survived, but the lost flies and gear depressed a cheapskate like me for two years! I've been mighty careful with my flyboxes since then...until the 2003 fishing season. That was the year I inaugurated a new vest, after 20 years of familiarity with my old one. It began with losing a box of flies out of my vest on the Green River in March; I cursed the new vest and it's new zipper arrangement, but in retrospect I think it was more about impending senility. Fortunately (TAKE NOTE), I had put those TU mailing labels we all get sent by National on my flyboxes; an honest fellow TUer from Harry Nohr chapter found that box and returned it to me by mail! I was euphoric, and thought I had encountered a new standard in ethical standards. But then in April, thanks to my new and seemingly confusing vest zippers, I lost a black flybox with 400 beautiful nymphs somewhere above CTH U on Mt. Vernon Creek. I searched for two days, but it was futile (TAKE NOTE - ORANGE OR YELLOW IS A BETTER COLOR THAN BLACK FOR A FLY BOX!). I was depressed again. When the Hex hatch arrived on Black Earth Creek, I lost a big box of Hex flies during the first week...but while cursing that new vest and its confounding zipper arrangement nonstop, I doggedly waded the stream with flashlight that night until I found it lodged in a little back eddy trapped against some vegetation (TAKE NOTE - MAKE SURE YOUR FLY BOXES FLOAT!). I'm sure each fly angler could share a story on lost (and I suppose found) fly boxes — probably bringing tears to his/her eyes with the memory.

At the last TU meeting, Mike Phillips announced that the prior week, he (and his son) had found a fly box above CTH U on Mt. Vernon Creek. And there it was, one year later — my lost box. Even though the hooks and box were rusted horribly, and I could only salvage (after much tedious

sharpening and cleaning!) about a dozen flies, there was a sense of closure to my fly loss debacles of 2003. The last lost box had "resurfaced" (big thanks Mike – I know you'd have returned them even if none had been rusted!!!) — and I was getting better at remembering to close the zippers on my now not-so-new vest (TAKE NOTE – PUT BOXES BACK IN VEST AND CLOSE POCKETS BEFORE YOU TIE ON YOUR FLY AND FORGET). So enough of my saga – I know some of you are thinking that I should be connecting my boxes to both me and my vest with cords, like our folks used to do with our mittens when we were little kids – that I'm now so forgetful that I can't be trusted alone with something as valuable as a box of flies on a trout stream. Maybe...but there's a message here someplace. If you fish, you're going to lose some stuff along the way. But a little precaution and common sense can save you the agony of sadly remembering all those beautiful flies you once had in that precious flybox. So practice "flybox stewardship" and you'll surely reduce your need for anti-depressant drugs and outpourings of sympathy from your fishing companions (who privately are raising questions about your overall competence, and worse).

### *Editors Note:*

*It is strongly recommended that you use your own return address labels on your fly boxes. Use of Steve's labels on your equipment will almost certainly guarantee permanent loss.*



One of the highlights of the May 22<sup>nd</sup> gathering in Avalance, was the Smith-O'Connor wedding. The bride (Kathy O'Connor) was escorted through the fly rod passageway by Steve Born. There is a good chance that he has a mailing label from TU national affixed to the back of that tie.

## From the President

By Sue Fey

Water, water everywhere, and not a pool to fish...

Our annual On-the-Stream board meeting at Avalanche last weekend was downright biblical. Hammering rain, raging water, mud slides, (they named it Avalanche for a reason...) bone jarring thunder and lightening. The West Fork boiled past the campground, a fury of latte colored mud and debris. The few, the hearty, the foolish, huddled around the magical bonfire that burned through the storm. Singing. Hymns. OK, I made that up, but I'd bet there were a few 'hail Marys' sent out into the night as apocalyptic lightening seared the valley and percussive thunder reverberated. I had forgotten how lightening comes right in through your eyelids when you're in a tent...and I wasn't the only one up at 3am to cast a wary eye on the rising stream.

If all of that makes you glad you stayed home in the comfort of a shelter with a mortgage...consider what you missed. Steaks were grilled, wild mushrooms sauteed, cold beers cracked and old scotch sipped. Stories were told, lies embellished and the nearly all the grumbling was good natured. A few inexperienced souls attempted to fish. The truly dedicated anglers organized a field trip to Cabelas.

On Saturday, the heavens parted and the sun arrived like a nervous groom, just in time for the Smith-O'Connor wedding. It was short, sweet and picturesque. Kathy was lovely. Jeff did a fine impersonation of a gentleman. Steve Born wore a tie. They walked their first 30 feet as husband and wife beneath an archway of fly rods held aloft by a ragtag assortment of chapter members and kin. There was not a dry sock in the house...

We had a board meeting too. The agenda was posted, as our bylaws specify, on the woodpile, an hour before dusk. There were hand-outs and updates and discussion. And then there really was singing around the fire, accompanied by the distant growl of thunder as the next line of storms rolled into the valley.

Join us next year. It doesn't get much better than this.



They might have been singing hymns. They were more likely to have been pooling their Ark design thoughts while trying to recall how to convert cubits to inches. In spite of the lousy weather and the murky water, a good time was had by all who attended the so-called board meeting in Avalanche on May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## Thank You Mr. Vodak

Greg Vodak delivered a very entertaining slide presentation at our chapter meeting on May 11<sup>th</sup>. Greg is a past president of the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited, and an occasional fishing companion to many of those in attendance at that meeting. Consequently, there was a considerable amount of banter from the peanut gallery. We wouldn't tease him if we didn't like him. Thanks Greg – and nice job!



Greg Vodak uses one of his broken fly rods as a pointer. Featured on this slide was a picture of a particularly handsome fishing guide from Louisiana. (Photo by Jim Gentry)

### **SWTU Loses Another Friend**

We are sorry to report that chapter member Bill Berg passed away on May 28th. Bill was a long-time chapter member and a person that really loved to trout fish. He was born and raised in Iowa, and often returned to his "home" stream, Trout Run, to fish. He served our Chapter in many ways, including as a member of the chapter's Board a few years ago. A Lutheran Pastor with Doctor of Ministry degree, Bill was a prominent member of Madison's clergy. He served for the past 17 years as the Pastor at the Triangle Community Ministry here in Madison. We all knew Bill as a gracious and gentle person, one eager to talk trout fishing but also committed to the protection of our cold water resources. He was a always a steady influence on our Board, and one who was respected not only as a fellow fisherman but also as genuinely nice person to be around. He will be missed!

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

Project work on the German Valley Branch of what most of us know as Gordon Creek, is finally set to commence. The first German Valley luncheon-structure building session convenes on Saturday July 10th.

What's our contribution to be? SWTU will let and review bids, and select a contractor, with Pat Sutter's help. He's done this before. We also serve as the 'pass-through agent for invoices and payments. We have no liabilities. We do acquire easements.

More significant, however, is our 'in-kind labor' contribution, which will be pooled with that of the Nohr and Blackhawk Chapters, that of several Illinois chapters, and that of the Deer Creek Sportsmen Club, Upper Sugar River Watershed Assoc., and other like-minded groups.

Moreover, we're going to provide the foodstuffs and potables needed to nourish and refresh all who toil. Who among you will step forward to assist me in carrying off these responsibilities? At the March Chapter Meeting, nearly a dozen attendees expressed an interest in the 'hands-on' aspect of structure-building. Thanks to you. More hands are sought, however. Please call me at 608-767-2413 with your offer. Lest you be intimidated by the construction process, know that the lumber is milled and cut-to-specs prior

to delivery, and that pneumatic nailers will expedite assembly.

Those of you interested in procuring, preparing, and proffering food and drink, please call me at 608-767-2413 with your offer to help. I can't do this alone.

Now for the geographical and chronological details referenced earlier: VENUE: Gary Karls' Farm on Dane Co. Hwy. E, which intersects USH 18-151 a few clicks west of Mt. Horeb. Go SOUTH on E 'til you see stacks of lumber and appropriate signage. DATES: Sat./Sun., July 10 and 11; Sat./Sun., July 17 and 18. TIMES: 830-1200 and 100-430. That's right, two sessions per day each day.

We're in the spotlight on this one, comrades. During the past twenty months, twenty-one project days have given Chapter members opportunity to accomplish great things on Mt. Vernon, Black Earth, and Garfoot Creeks. They've done wonders for the cold-water resource, they've discovered things about themselves, and they've interacted with other Chapter members in the water, on the way to and from all too many brush piles, sometimes too often, and around the kitchen table or on the deck out back when the work is done. They and their involvement is TU writ large. Be part of it.

It's my hope that that inertia and fellowship sustain themselves on German Valley. It's my desire that they grow there. We've more than ample opportunity to foment that growth.

### **Token Creek Workdays Scheduled**

The Token Creek Watershed Association has scheduled a series of Saturday morning workdays to be held on June 26<sup>th</sup>, July 24<sup>th</sup> and August 21<sup>st</sup> from 8:00 -12:00. Work will consist of tree cutting, brush removal, and general cleanup.

Workers should meet at the Culver Conservancy Parking lot near Token Creek. To get there: follow Highway 19 east from Highway 51, turn north onto Portage Road, then east on Egge Road. You will find the Conservancy Parking lot on the south side of Egge Road. For more information, please call Henry Haugley at 825-9768.

### Stream Monitoring to Begin – Volunteers Needed

Our long-delayed project to begin monitoring Black Earth Creek is about to begin. The DNR is loaning us two in-stream probes to collect data on water temperature, dissolved oxygen, and pH. Phil Emmling, chapter member and stream monitoring guru, will download data from the probes weekly throughout the summer. Thanks to generous donations by the Madison Fishing Expo Board and the Badger Fly Fishers, we were able to get the two probes refurbished, and have enough money to keep this project on track for three or more years.

Plans are to get the probes in the stream by the second week of June. Our first goal is to re-check some of the data the DNR compiled following the massive fish kill in June, 2001. That data showed that Black Earth Creek has a chronic problem with low dissolved oxygen levels in several reaches of the stream. This contributed to the severity of the fish kill. Once we identify problem reaches, we hope to try some experiments designed to increase the base oxygen level of the stream. These might include narrowing the stream channel, changes to riparian vegetation, and construction plunge

pools or riffles to oxygenate the water. We anticipate our findings may be of value for similar low-gradient streams in the state.

We also want to supplement the in-stream data with water chemistry data from grab samples – samples collected by volunteers during runoff events (we've missed a few good ones in May!) We will use the grab samples to identify sources of polluted runoff or thermal impairment. Later we will work with the DNR to address any problems we identify. If you would like to learn more about the grab sample task, or to volunteer, contact Bill Pielsticker (ph: 592-4781; email: [billpiel@merr.com](mailto:billpiel@merr.com)). An orientation/training session will be scheduled shortly for volunteers.

We would also like to find a volunteer to learn how to download the data and service the in-stream probes should Phil be unable to do so. If you have any background working with YSI stream probes or would like to learn, please contact Bill Pielsticker. We will be making monthly reports to the DNR on the data we collect, and expect to publish updates in *Newscasts* periodically.



### 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.

**Important dates to remember:**

June 8<sup>th</sup> Monthly Chapter Meeting featuring Tom Hunt  
June 12<sup>th</sup> Special Needs Fishing Day  
July something On Stream Meeting and Chapter Picnic (see July *Newscasts* for details)  
July 10<sup>th</sup> & 11th German Valley Branch Work Sessions 8:30-12:00 and 1:00-4:30  
June 26<sup>th</sup> Token Creek Workday 8:00-12:00  
July 17<sup>th</sup> & 18th German Valley Branch Work Sessions 8:30-12:00 and 1:00-4:30  
July 24<sup>th</sup> Token Creek Workday 8:00-12:00  
August 21<sup>st</sup> Token Creek Workday 8:00-12:00

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