

Newscasts

July, 2004 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



A Shocking Demonstration!

Scot Stewart, Kurt Welke and Mike Sorge, of the DNR, have once again agreed to risk life and limb to perform an electro-shocking demo for our annual *On-the-Stream Chapter Meeting* this month. We will gather on Saturday, July 17, at 10:00 AM, on County Hwy. KP west of Cross Plains. To get there, turn left off of Highway 14 at the Lumberyard, then follow Highway KP south, then west. We will meet where KP crosses Garfoot Creek. There will be TU event signs in strategic places along the way. This is the section of Garfoot Creek that Tom Ehlert and his merry band of sawyers have been transforming during the past year.

Following the *ooing* and *aahing* over lovely, dazed trout, we will all retreat to Festge Park, just North of Highway 14 near Salmo Pond, for the annual chapter picnic. We have reserved shelter #3, where Mark Rhinerson and Larry Meicher will be toiling over their grills. Mark's amazing drunken brats and baked 'whistle berries' are on the menu as always, and there will be the usual sides and cold drinks. If you're in the mood to contribute something sweet, no one will stop you!

The *You-Must-Be-Present-to-Win Drawing* usually takes a summer recess – but not this year. Please come to the picnic on July 17th if you would like to be eligible to win a \$40 gift certificate to *Fontana Sports Specialties*. Whatever your motivation, please join us for what promises to be an entertaining and enjoyable time.

Token Creek Workdays Scheduled

The Token Creek Watershed Association has two more work days scheduled for this summer. They will gather on July 24th and August 21st at the Culver Conservancy parking lot. Both work days will commence at 8:00 AM and conclude at noon. The Culver Conservancy is located on Egge Road near the town of Windsor. 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.

Work will consist of tree cutting, brush removal, and general cleanup. For more information, please call Henry Haugley at 825-9768.

Casting Contest

By Mike Philipps

How good is your casting? Do you think that you might be better than the person that sat next to you at the last chapter meeting? Well wonder no more - this year's *On the Stream Meeting* will feature a casting competition. Contestants will be judged for both accuracy and distance. The contest is open to all SWTU members that bring a \$2.00 entry fee, and a 3-5 weight fly rod. All contestants will be provided with an official "Yarn Fly". The winner will take home some of the cash, and bragging rights. This is just for fun, but don't expect it to be easy. The amount of room available will determine the course. A complete set of rules will be posted at the picnic. One or two volunteers may be needed to help score if it gets busy.

Bug protection that works!!

By John Gribb

Now that mosquitoes, ticks, and no-see-ums are about to ruin your outings on the streams and lakes.....there is an answer that works to make your adventures bug free!!! Two products in combination have solved the problem of bugs making you miserable while trying to fish. They are Johnson Wax Skintastic insect repellent and Repel brand of permethrin (pyrethrum) aerosol spray for clothing. For some reason the Skintastic (combination sunscreen spf 30 and Deet) works so well that one application in the AM lasts all day and no bug will bite where it was applied....it is the best protection money can buy!! The pyrethrum spray on your fishing shirts will kill insects within seconds on contact thus preventing a bite through the shirt. This product applied to the shirt and top part of your waders (for ticks) and allowed to dry for a day outdoors will bind to the fabric and last through many washings (some say at least 13). The only time the Skinastic has failed me in the last 4 years of use was on the Brule specie of the No-See-Ums....they will eat through anything!! These products are available in the camping department of Wal-Mart, Gander Mtn. etc. Try this combination and I will assure you complete bug protection even this year....good fishing!!

Special Needs Day Recap

by John Schweiger



(Photos by Jim Gentry)

Fish, fish, fish, everybody caught fish. While the trout were not as cooperative as in the past, the bluegills more than made up with their aggressiveness. Another Special Needs Fishing Day to be grateful for. We got a break in the weather giving us a great day for fishing. There are many people to thank for the success of this year's outing. Jim Kalscheur (UW Provisions), first and foremost, for the use of his facilities, the beverages and the lunch provided by Jim, his staff and family. I'd like to thank Russell and Jackie Scott, Scotts Pastry Shoppe in Middleton, for providing the donuts and pastries which, as always, were a big hit for all. I'd like to thank Larry Winsand and Oscar Meyer for providing the staple of our lunch, hot dogs. I'd like to thank Jason and Dorn Hardware at Nakoma for providing the bait used for the days fishing. Dorn Hardware at Nakoma also provides generous deals to the DNR when the "Loan A Rod" program needs a tackle upgrade. Speaking of the DNR program, I'd like to thank Don Dodge of the DNR and his staff for making the tackle functional and available. Thanks, also, to Bill Tefft and the Sun Prairie Jaycees for providing the fishing trophies for our guests.

I would personally like to thank the SWTU chapter members for their assistance Friday night with the tackle setup: Mark Rhinerson, Chuck Jacobson, John Gribb, Mike Philipps and Bill Engber. I'd like to thank the Poo Patrol: John Gribb, Mel Pontious

and Doug Wadsworth for cleaning up the fishing grounds for our guests. I'd like to thank our photographers: Jim Gentry, Karsten and Katja Geib for recording the days activities for our guests. Thanks to Mark Rhinerson for the use of his truck for the pickup of tackle, bait, and hot dogs.

Last, but surely not least, I would like to thank my wife, Rose, for her invaluable assistance. It seems to work a lot better with two.

We've experienced a drop off of attendance the last two years that I can only attribute to the age of many of our guests. Next year I'm looking forward to working with local Down's Syndrome support groups to provide another great Special Needs Fishing Day.

Chapter Meeting Schedule Reminder

The Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited meets on the second Tuesday of nearly every month. There are two exceptions to this pattern. The July meeting occurs on a Saturday, and includes a picnic. There is no August meeting (or newsletter). We will resume our regularly scheduled meetings at the Maple Tree Restaurant in McFarland on Tuesday September 14th.

From the President

By Sue Fey

I am always taken off guard by midsummer. It shows up too early. Perhaps it's a celestial malfunction. In any case, I've been doing more fishing than catching, which is a sure sign that it's no longer Spring and not yet Fall. It makes me feel like I've forgotten everything I ever figured out about fly fishing. So I'm not in the mood to talk about it.

Instead, let me bully you a bit on the subject of engaging more personally with this great organization you belong to...

The agenda for our June board meeting was a perfect portrait of this Chapters' range and engagement. We attended to planning our annual picnic, organized 4 intensive work days for a stream improvement project on German Valley creek, and rallied the troops to turn out before the Dane Co. board to oppose a sensitive re-zoning request in Cross Plains. We heard a great presentation from the *Natural Heritage Land Trust* and agreed to help purchase a permanent conservation easement along Black Earth Creek. We had a lively discussion about stream restoration practices and decided to organize a forum later this year to help our leadership and volunteers better understand the science behind the theory. We heard tall tales of platter sized blue gill fishing at the *Special Needs Fishing* event in June. We approved a donation to the DNR Loan-a-Rod program to help insure that youth programs in our area will continue to flourish. The meeting ran a bit longer than planned.

I am always struck by the expertise, as well as the commitment and passion I see around the table at these meetings. The board is always joined by a handful, sometimes two handfuls, of chapter 'elders', past Presidents and volunteer leaders. Very few questions arise that cannot be knowledgeably addressed by someone present. Very few requests for time, energy and leadership go unanswered.

There is a place for you at this table. Give some thought to the talents and energy that you might bring to SWTU. Pick up a volunteer skills sheet next time you come to a chapter meeting, (they're lime green and hard to miss...) or introduce yourself and tell me what you love to do. I can pretty much guarantee you'll be glad you stepped up. And if you're not, I'll buy you a beer...

From the Project Chair

by Tom Ehlert

Chapter members are reminded that the first of four LUNKER-structure building work-days scheduled for the German Valley Branch Project is Saturday, July 10. The second work-day is Sunday, July 11. Days three and four, if necessary, are scheduled the weekend of 7/17 - 7/18.

There will be two work-sessions per day: the first begins at 830 am; the second, at 100 pm. Foodstuffs for renewal and liquids for re-hydration will be provided

A mowed field across the road from Gary Karls' farmstead on CTH E is the venue for the festivities. Getting there is easy. Just west of Mt. Horeb, CTH E intersects USH 18-151. E's northern terminus is 18-151! Which means you have to turn left if west-bound, or south, regardless of your direction of travel. Sue Fey and I visited the site Sunday am, 6/27. Neither one of us had the sense to clock the distance on E, but two to three miles is a good guess. Look for the blue porta-potty (or will it be '50s beige; sea-foam green?), stacks of lumber, and busy bodies, if you're not the first to arrive.

Once again, I appeal for assistance in provisioning the troops, whose recruitment is the principle contribution of the Nohr Chapter. To date, Henry Nehls-Lowe is the only one of over six-hundred SWTU members to throw-in his chef's hat. It's claimed two hands once fed multitudes. Methinks more than four will be needed in this instance, regardless of the number of mouths to be fed.

You're encouraged to be part of the work-force, either as a cook or as a carpenter. Much wood needs cutting, carrying, and holding in place to effect the construction of 291 structures. Think of the satisfaction inherent in wielding a power-nailer for the benefit of the cold-water resource.

Comrades, this is an SWTU project. At its 6/29 meeting, the Board voted to award the construction contract to Joe Daniels Co. of Madison. Its crews are experienced in this work, and can begin mid-July. We will oversee progress, and authorize payments. We are the easement holders. Demonstrate your support for this project. Chapters from Illinois and elsewhere in Wisconsin will be represented. Deer Creek Sportsmen and Upper Sugar River groups will likely be there. Shouldn't we be, too?

Call me at 767-2413 with your offer to help, either on the production line or in the chow-line.

Important dates to remember:

July 10th & 11th German Valley Branch Work Sessions 8:30-12:00 and 1:00-4:30
July 13 No Chapter Meeting
July 17th On Stream Meeting and Chapter Picnic
July 17th & 18th German Valley Branch Work Sessions 8:30-12:00 and 1:00-4:30
July 24th Token Creek Workday 8:00-12:00
August 10th No Chapter Meeting
August 21st Token Creek Workday 8:00-12:00

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