

Newscasts

October, 2004 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



Kathleen Falk to Speak At October Meeting

The speaker at our October 12th chapter meeting will be one our own members – Kathleen Falk. Those of you that read newspapers will have noticed by now, that Ms. Falk is also the *Dane County Executive*. She will provide us with an update on county government efforts to improve the trout streams in Dane county. Through a variety of mechanisms, the county has assisted in the improvement of over 20 miles of local trout water in just the last few years. SWTU has also participated in a number of these projects, and Kathleen wishes to thank us for that.

This will be an opportunity to hear firsthand about those county activities that should most interest coldwater anglers. It will also be an opportunity for her to hear from those of us passionate enough to make it to the meeting. As a chapter, we try very hard to remain nonpartisan, but please don't mistake nonpartisanship with inactivity. Your mere presence will indicate to her that these issues are important, and that there are a lot of us that care about them. Please join us for what promises to be an interesting discussion.

As always, we will meet at the *Maple Tree Restaurant* in McFarland. The meeting will start at 7:01 PM - if the past is any indicator of future performance. Dinner and shameless steelhead lies will commence about an hour prior to that. The *Maple Tree* is located on Highway 51 just 2 miles south of the Beltline. Once you get to the first stoplight in McFarland (sic), look to your right. You can't miss it.

You Must Be Present to Win

All SWTU members in good standing who attend the October 12th meeting will automatically be eligible to win an \$80 gift certificate to *Fontana Sports Specialties*. Fear not - to be in *good standing* you need only have paid your dues. This has nothing to do with character, moral fiber or personal integrity. Near the end of the meeting, the name of one of our members will be drawn at random. If the named person is present, they win. If they are absent, the jackpot for next month will be sweetened by an additional \$20. This is the only free drawing that we sponsor, but there is a catch - you must be present to win.

From the President

By Sue Fey

I unloaded my trout gear from the car and stowed it for the winter yesterday. Plucked my tattered favorites off the fly keeper, threw out the terminally mangled ones and returned the others to their respective fly boxes. Fished my license out of the zipper pocket and tucked it in my spinning tackle box for the fall Walleye season. Broke down and cleaned rods and fly line. Hung up my waders and tossed all the wool socks that accumulate in the car over the summer into the laundry.

I was in that melancholy, contemplative place that the end of the season can provoke. I was feeling sorry for myself, and the rest of us who live in a place with a short trout season. Then I found a pair of wool, fingerless gloves that had fallen out of my tackle bag and remembered...Steelhead. I have fished for Steelhead precisely once, last fall, when a friend was visiting from Montana. We drove to the Milwaukee River and spent an afternoon casting across the low, too clear water for fish that we imagined might be there. A mink worked her way down the far shore and an osprey hunted overhead. It was cold, still and grey, and surprisingly beautiful, just a few miles from downtown Milwaukee. We saw spent fish everywhere, their carcasses black and rotting. It was mid week and we had the river to ourselves. When we were sufficiently chilled, and humbled, we shucked out of our neoprene and drove to Maders for wienerschnitzel and boots of thick, sweet beer.

I put my fly tackle back in the car. Added a couple extra pairs of gloves, a hat and a fleece sweater for good measure. Found my seven weight and tied on a fresh leader. Tonight, I'm going to start reading up on Steelhead techniques. I have a lot to learn. And I'm suddenly feeling excited again about fall fly fishing opportunities. Plus, it's only five short months 'til early trout season...

I'm thinking of taking a vacation day on November second. I'm going to vote. Then I'm going to spend the day on the Milwaukee river, thinking about Steelhead and how lucky we are to have them nearby.

Calling All Ice Breaker Donors

Our annual *Ice Breaker* is a fabulously successful fundraiser thanks to the generous contributions of many. Most of us are familiar with the joy of donating to the cause by purchasing raffle tickets. Indeed, having hundreds of us do this is what makes the event work so well. However, there are other ways to contribute.

Have you ever wondered where all of those great raffle prizes come from? Many of them are purchased by the chapter. The remaining prizes are donated by generous chapter members like you. The chapter realizes a much greater return on

investment for the former than for the latter. Give some thought to making a merchandise donation to the *Ice Breaker*. Your contribution is tax deductible, and will be of tremendous value to the chapter. A written acknowledgement of your contribution will be placed beside the donated item throughout the event, and your name will also appear in a flyer given to all who attend.

Now is the time to assemble a diverse and tantalizing assortment of prizes. If you are interested in donating an *Ice Breaker* prize, please contact Mark Maffitt at 273-2140 soon.

Important dates to remember:

- October 12 Chapter Meeting featuring Dane County Executive & SWTU member Kathleen Falk
- October 23 Chapter Workday. Call Tom Ehlert at 767-2413 for details
- November 9 Chapter Meeting featuring Kevin Searock
- December 14 Chapter Meeting featuring yet another fabulous (but presently undetermined) speaker
- January 11 Chapter Meeting featuring Fly Tying Demonstrations by SWTU Members
- January 14 & 15 *Ice Breaker* featuring Seth Norman and Bill Shogren

Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited Leadership:

- President Susan Fey (608) 442-5801
- Vice President Jack Way (608) 222-2461
- Secretary John Serunian (608) 277-9295
- Treasurer John Schweiger (608) 238-8062
- Past President Bill Pielsticker (608) 592-4718
- State Council Rep. Greg Vodak (608) 873-5107
- Newscasts Editor Mark Maffitt (608) 273-2140 Mark.Maffitt@Invitrogen.com