

Newscasts

November, 2004 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



Kevin Searock to Address November Gathering.

Kevin Searock will be the guest speaker at our November 9th chapter meeting. He will present his photo-essay titled "*American Flyfishers in Britain.*" Kevin's presentations have been receiving rave reviews from TU chapters around the state. He is said to combine fishing, history and poetry to craft a highly entertaining program. Kevin is a member of the Aldo Leopold TU chapter, teaches biology at Portage High School, and is a longtime avid fly fisher. His abiding interest in the history and tradition of our sport led him on a wonderful tour of the historic sources of fly-fishing in Britain last summer. His stops included the River Test and the River Dove. Not to be missed.

We will convene at the *Maple Tree Restaurant* at 7:01 PM on November 9th. Many of us will gather an hour or so earlier than that in order to have a bite to eat while telling some truly shameful lies. Please join us. *The Maple Tree* is located on Highway 51 in McFarland - just 2 miles south of the Beltline.

You Must Be Present to Win

The winner of the *You-Must-Be-Present-To-Win Drawing* for October was not present. Of course, you must be present if you expect to win the *You-Must-Be-Present-To-Win Drawing*. By virtue of his absence, the would-be winner was instantly declared ineligible to win the \$80 gift certificate to *Fontana Sports Specialties* for which he would have been eligible (had he been present). Ordinarily, the absence of a winner causes the jackpot to grow by another \$20. However, the fine print in our contest rules stipulates that the jackpot must never exceed \$100. Consequently, the jackpot not only grew to \$100, but special rule 2.1.2.4 was set into effect for our November 9th drawing.

In accordance with Section 2.1.2.4 of the *You-Must-Be-Present-To-Win Drawing* statutes, we will draw until we have a winner on November 9th. Somebody is absolutely guaranteed to take a \$100 *Fontana Sports Specialties* gift certificate home with them. It could be you, but you must be present to win.

The Ice Breaker is Coming

Please mark your calendars! The 2005 *Ice Breaker* will be here before you know it. The festivities will begin with the *Nash Williams Memorial Banquet* (formerly known as the *Trout Massacre*) on Friday January 14th. The *Ice Breaker* itself will be held at the Park Ponderosa Ball Room in McFarland on Saturday January 15, 2005. This year our speakers will be Seth Norman and Bill Shogren. A Seth Norman preview occurs on page 4 of this issue of *Newscasts*. A Bill Shogren preview will appear in the December *Newscasts*.

The *Ice Breaker* is an important source of revenue that enables our chapter to perform the coldwater conservation activities that we are famous for. It is also a ton of fun! Great speakers, great door prizes, great bucket raffles, fly tying demonstrations, aquatic insect exhibits, and great chili. Please join in the fun as we raise money for our great cause.

Tie Flies, Tie Flies, Tie Flies...

A past SWTU president and tireless *Ice Breaker* enthusiast once implored our membership to, "tie flies, tie flies, and then tie more flies". Flies really do make great door prizes at the *Ice Breaker* and nearly anyone can tie them well enough to *give* away. So please, do as past president John Strauss urges us - "tie flies, tie flies, and then tie more flies".

Small plastic boxes to hold your donations will be made available at our November, December, and January meetings. Please take home some of those little boxes and fill them with flies.

And Speaking of Door Prizes...

Flies aren't the only thing that a person might donate for use as a door prize. Flashlights, fishing books, leader nippers, fly boxes etc – all make nice door prizes. Please keep an eye open during the upcoming holiday season for sale priced items that could be donated to the cause. If you see something that strikes you as a nifty stocking stuffer idea for a fishing friend, then consider buying an extra one and donating it. Some members have even been known to donate excess (and/or superfluous) Christmas stocking contents.

The Story of the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited Trout Bookends By John Strauss

[Editor's note: Bob Brunsell wrote a wonderful book called *The Brunsell Articles*. A chapter from that book called, *The Little Trout That Accomplished Big Things*, served as a major resource for the research that went into this article.]



When Ed Lloyd was the second SWTU president Bob Brunsell proposed that the chapter develop a fly pattern book as a fundraiser. Bob looked into it and learned that the project was beyond the chapter resources. Frosty Parish a friend of Bob's, who worked at Baker Manufacturing's Foundry Division in Evansville, had a different idea. He borrowed a pattern for casting "Eagle Bookends" from a customer in Illinois. Using donated scrap iron and working after hours several pairs of bookends were cast. They were painted flat black. Bob took them to the next chapter meeting. At first they didn't draw much attention, but it wasn't long and they couldn't keep up with demand. More cast iron was donated and delivered. Other foundry employees began donating their time working after hours to help out. It wasn't long before Bob had sold \$200.00 worth of bookends with virtually no cash investment. Roy McDonald reportedly sold over 100 pair of bookends.

They decided that they should either buy the eagle bookend pattern or at least get permission to use the pattern from the owner. Frosty Parish checked into it and reported that they couldn't get permission because the person they borrowed the pattern from in Illinois had borrowed it from someone else in Iowa and he couldn't remember who the pattern owner was. A little more thought went into the process and it was decided a trout club should have trout bookends not eagle bookends. Frosty worked with the Baker Manufacturing shop superintendent John Townsend, along with Sig Bakka and Vic Page who were pattern shop owners from Shopier,

Wisconsin to design the trout bookends. The pattern makers weren't satisfied developing a pattern from trout drawings. Frosty said they'd like an actual trout of 9-10 inches. Bob Brunsell went fishing on Mt. Vernon Creek. Using a silver nymph he caught a nine and a half inch rainbow trout on his second cast. Wanting to impress Frosty he returned to Evansville immediately to show him the fish.

The original design was to have been a leaping trout, but it was more difficult to cast than the scaled down version of the trout above a single action fly reel that was finally used. The trout bookends debuted at the 1972 National Trout Unlimited Convention in Madison, Wisconsin. Sales were brisk. Chapter members like Clint Byrnes, Lee Parker, and Larry Meicher hauled scrap iron to the foundry. Sales went nationwide and T.U. chapters all over the country used them for fundraising. The bookends are also used as gifts of appreciation for prominent speakers at S.W.T.U. chapter meetings. The cast trout by itself has also been mounted on plaques for the "Gold Trout" and "Life Time Achievement" award used by our chapter and the state council. In recent years the plating has become prohibitively expensive and is only done for special occasions.

What Would Bookends Be Without Books?

With the upcoming holidays come opportunities for our loved ones to buy us gifts. Many of us like to read about fishing during the winter, and books are easy to wrap. To prevent the possibility of receiving a fish cookbook, or a book on how to raise tropical fish, you might want to be prepared to offer the names of some good fishing books. No angler's bookshelf would be complete without at least a couple of the titles listed below.

- *Trout Streams of Wisconsin and Minnesota: A Fly-Angler's Guide to More than 150 Rivers and Streams* by Jim Humphrey and Bill Shogren
- *Meanderings of a Fly Fisherman* by Seth Norman
- *Fly Fisher's Guide to Crimes of Passion: More Sedition from the Master of Meander* by Seth Norman
- *Flyfisher's Guide to Northern California* by Seth Norman

All four of these titles have something in common – they were written by authors that will speak at the *Ice Breaker* on January 14th and 15th. You could even bring your new book with you to the *Ice Breaker* and have it autographed by the author. Now, wouldn't that be cool?

From the Projects Chair

By Tom Ehlert

Including your faithful scribe, eleven SWTU Chapter members, and two outsiders from the Blackhawk Chapter -- Bob Stevens and Terry Wiseman, gathered at the gate at Salmo Pond on Saturday, Oct. 9, to celebrate the start of the third year of the adventures of *The Corps of Recovery*. An altogether spectacular, sun-drenched fall morning, awash in just enough breeze to keep the sweat at bay, was the backdrop for the first annual "Smokejumper Opener".

After a brief sortie along the Ranch-water, we focused our labors on a few 'hotspots' in the Schultz Road stretch of Black Earth Creek, where almost two years ago we became more heavily invested. Like my third cousin, once-removed, used to say: "Before expanding the portfolio, it's best to review your current holdings' performance, and tweak as necessary." Put another way, this was a 'policing/mop-up action'.

We felled some standing and some precariously-tilting timber to open the canopy as much as our numbers and energies allowed. And we removed from the stream woody debris (Do you remember your last meeting him?) already responsible for bank erosion and the under-cutting of a sizable tree's root-system. Also significant was the tailoring of one fallen giant, which spanned the stream, to enhance flow and to preserve a neat holding-lie beneath some of its top-most branches, which had fingered themselves into the bottom just outside the main lane.

It's exhilarating to savor the accomplishments of so few in just four hours. It's gratifying to gauge the satisfaction of those involved. Join us next time out, won't you? And plan to linger afterwards to share in

the camaraderie and the comestibles. On the menu Oct. 9: char-grilled brats rendered as heart-healthy as possible by vigorous boiling before simmering in a fresh bath of beer, onions, and nutmeg. Kraut baked with caraway was among the condiments. Barbecued beans and baked apple pie balanced the menu.

The chef has yet to put together a menu for either of the upcoming *Corps of Recovery* expeditions scheduled for November, which, by necessity, will be back-to-back, on Nov. 6 & 13. A curried stew is under consideration at least once. On Sat., 11/6, we'll meet on Scherbel road about 100 yards south of the bridge which spans BEC. At 830. Many will recall the extent of our investment along Garfoot Creek where it courses through Pam Allen's farm and fields. All familiar with the place will be thrilled when they see the investment she's made in a cow-yard buffer!

Where we wind up on Sat., 11/13 depends on how things are wound up on 11/6. The more the merrier. Say it with me: 767 - 2413. Again!" Your pledge of support renders you eligible for the following: an extended feel-good period; an expanded circle of friends; more quality fishing opportunities; a fine dining experience without financial outlay (although you're encouraged to bring something to complement the fare) and the chance to win fishing gear.

The most recent winners: Jim Hess, Henry Nehls-Lowe, Jeff Smith -- fly lines; Jack Heiden -- fly reel; John Guzowski -- Orvis fly-rod.

SWTU participants on Oct. 6: Phil Andersen, Jim Beecher, Alan Comer, Jerry Conwell, Tom Ehlert, Jim Gentry, Mike Grimes, John Guzowski, Chuck Jacobsen, Fritz Seybold, Ray Venn. Thanks.



From the President

By Sue Fey

I had hoped to have a fish story for the November newsletter. And I guess I do, but it doesn't involve salmonids, so those of you who have transcended to that species-specific plane may wish to stop here. (I do have a date for Steelhead fishing in early November, so don't despair.)

There are two times a year when I fish for food. Fall walleye fishing is my favorite of these. The other is ice fishing for perch. I know we have at least one Walleye on-a-fly specialist in our chapter and I have admired his flashy, black Clauseresque creations at fall meetings. He fishes Madison's lakes from the shoreline with impressive results. I am on the verge of giving it a go, but feel like I need to have one more technical chat with Chuck. I'm not sure about the whole tippet thing for a toothy fish.

So, we finally had a calm evening, which is not ideal for Walleye, but is ideal for crossing Lake Mendota in a 15 foot boat. I motored over to my favorite section along the East shore and anchored just as the nearly full moon breached the rooftops on the isthmus. I clipped on a Mepps Comet, which has become my go-to standard for Walleye, and began to cast into the shallows. Very few piers remain along this windward shore in late October, and it was easy to cover water. It was a beautiful evening. The big lake was still as a reflecting pool, the air cool and fragrant with wood smoke. Warm light spilled from the big houses on Sherman Avenue. About 15 minutes into it, I felt a soft bump and set the hook on a 20 inch Walleye. She was feisty and strong but no match for 6 pound monofilament. I netted her and reached for my 'priest, (the fisherman's club for administering 'last rights'...). I don't kill many fish to eat, and when I do it always connects me to something fundamental. It reminds me that every heat sealed package in the butchers' or seafood section was once a sentient critter, and it helps me stay honest about my place in the food chain. She was quickly on her way to the great gravel bar in the sky, and I sent a small piece of myself along with her.

We had fresh Walleye for dinner the next evening. The wind had risen again and was punishing our shore. It was the kind of weather Walleye love and it was a perfect night for reading by the fire.

Fly Fishing Quote of the month

Never test the depth of the water with both feet.

Meet Seth Norman



Seth Norman is Book Editor for *Fly Rod & Reel*, Associate Editor and "Master of Meander" for *California Fly Fisher*, author of *Meanderings of a Fly Fisherman* and *A Fly Fisher's Guide to Crimes of Passion*. His humor, essays and fiction have appeared in *Fly Fisherman*, *Fly Fisher*, *Fly Tying Journal*, *Gray's Sporting Journal*, *Outdoor Life*, and *Field & Stream*, and have received both the Robert Traver and Roderick Haig-Brown awards for work representing the ethics of fly-fishing. Seth occasionally writes outside our sport: his reporting on police corruption in Oakland, California led to a nomination for the Pulitzer Prize in Journalism. He also owns MidSteam, a manufacturing company that partners with the Cerebral Palsy Center for the Bay Area to produce products for the fly-fishing and entomology markets.

Seth lays claims to no vast expertise, and confesses that his greater interests are the passion, pathos and bathos of our sport. His program will include tours of an almost unfished part of South East Alaska, and stories of fish and waters - tales of angling fiascoes, faux pas, felonies and violations of Islamic law.

Actually, that's all part of one story. The others, he hopes, "get lively."

Quick Fix for Damaged Wading Shoes

By John Gribb

While fishing on the Missouri River this year my buddy's felt sole came loose from his wading shoe while fishing. When this happens, it becomes very annoying and could be dangerous. The proper fixing method would be to allow drying the boot and cementing the loose felt or replacing it at a cost of 10-20 bucks!but that takes time, money, and materials and sometimes that does not work while you are out in the middle of Nowhere, Montana. Solution: carry in your vehicle some ½ inch sheet rock screws and a screw driver. For those of you that already carry a 50 pound vest, just add the stuff to one of those empty pockets!! Two minutes, plus a few screws, and you have a temporary repair guaranteed to last as long as the shoes themselves. For those that like a little more traction than the felt provides, screw some hex head sheet metal screws into the heel (6 in each heel) and maybe some in the sole. This also works great in the heels of your ice fishing boots, as it provides adequate protection against slipping on the ice. I replace the hex screws annually as they wear and lose the sharp gripping edges. Screws make a world of difference while walking on ice or slippery clay banks.

Advance Fly Tying Anyone?

There was once a core-group of fly tyers that met, on a perennial basis, in the dead of winter to tie flies at West High School. For reasons unknown, these guys disbanded a couple of years ago, and all that remains of the Advanced Fly Tying Class at West, is a very small number of new students that come in search of instruction (go figure). With recent increases in room rental fees, the chapter is questioning whether or not to offer an advanced class at West High. If you would be interested attending an advanced fly tying class at West High, please call Tom Ehlert at 767-2413 to express your interest.

October Meeting Recap

Our October meeting featured remarks from Dane County Executive, Kathleen Falk. She recounted recent progress that the county has made in acquiring lands critical to the coldwater resources of our area. She also thanked us for our hard work, and dedication.



Important dates to remember:

November 6 Chapter Workday. Meet at Scherbel Road bridge south of Salmo Pond
November 9 Chapter Meeting featuring Kevin Searock
November 13 Chapter Workday. Call Tom Ehlert at 767-2413 for details.
December 14 Chapter Meeting
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