

Newscasts

February, 2005 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



Cheeseheads on the Missouri

Come partake of some Midwestern wisdom on how to fish Western streams. Dave Patrick will present insights on fishing the Missouri River as a part of our February 8th chapter meeting. Dave is a past president of the Blackhawk Chapter of Trout Unlimited (Janesville) and a true friend to our chapter. This promises to be a meeting that you will not want to miss.

The meeting will start at 7:01 PM on February 8th. As is our custom, we will meet at the Maple Tree Restaurant located just a couple of miles south of the Beltline Highway in the heart of beautiful downtown McFarland. The Maple Tree is located just past the **second** stop light on Highway 51. That's right – the greater metropolitan McFarland area now has two stop lights. Try not to get lost. Uffda!

Badger Fly Fishers Spring Opener

The Badger Fly Fishers will host their annual fund raiser, the *Spring Fly Fishing Opener* on February 12, 2005 at the Marriott Hotel on the west beltline highway (highway 12). Their featured speaker will be fly fishing expert, guide and author Jack Dennis. Jack will be presenting two programs, The Fly Fishers Underwater World of Trout and Matching the Hatch. They will have fly tying demonstrations, fly tying lessons, commercial exhibitors, raffles, prizes, a lively auction, and an evening banquet. Representatives from several rod companies will be there with their newest rods available to be test cast indoors at the event, while local vendors and fly shop owners will be available to sell rods to anyone who wishes to purchase one. There should be something for everyone who loves fly fishing! Admission for the day is \$10.00 at the door. For more information, contact Rich Ludt at (608) 833-79 18 or log onto www.badgerflyfishers.org

You Must be Present to Win

We will draw for a \$60 *Fontana Sports Specialties* gift certificate at our February 8th chapter meeting. You paid the entrance fee when you renewed your membership. So, you might as well come to the meeting, because you must be present to win.

Ice Breaker 2005 Now History

Thanks to the hard work of a bunch of volunteers, the generosity of numerous donors, and the participation of over 200 participants, *Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited* has registered Ice Breaker #21 as another success. Attendance at this year's event was down a bit from last year, but expenses were down too. This was due in large part to an unusually large number of donated bucket raffle prizes. Raffle ticket sales were also strong; attendance may have been off, but those in attendance bought a lot of tickets. Preliminary estimates indicate that we cleared about \$5500. Not too shabby!

Seth Norman and Bill Shogren provided the entertainment and edification. Actually, Seth provided most of the former, and Bill provided most of the latter. Both types of presentations enjoyed widespread audience appreciation. Seth turned out to be an absolutely fabulous raconteur, and Bill shared a wealth of information on fishing the streams of Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Both speakers donated a tremendous amount of time to our cause. Seth provided his services at a very reasonable fee, shopped hard for a cheap plane ticket, and stayed at the Madison home of a friend. Bill spoke for free. Benefactors were clearly key to our success. Thanks!

More Fishing Expo Volunteers Needed

A few more volunteers are needed in order to fulfill the SWTU obligations at the Madison Fishing Expo. Volunteers are needed to, sell and collect tickets, watch access points, and patrol hallways. You can earn free admission by working a two hour shift. The Expo will be held February 25th thru 27th. Profits from the Expo are used to fund a variety of worthwhile habitat and education projects here in southern Wisconsin. Expo funding has been critical to a number of past coldwater restoration projects in our area.

Mark Rhinerson will be circulating a sign up sheet at the February 8th meeting. You can also volunteer your services by calling him at 249-7250.

Please Thank Our Generous Donors

It would be difficult to overemphasize how important the generosity of our donors was to our success. For many of our bucket raffle prizes, gross revenues were equal to net profit, because there were no costs. You don't need to understand voodoo economics to know that this

is a good thing. Please thank chapter members that donated merchandise to the raffles. Merchants also need to know that we appreciate their generosity. Make an effort to patronize, and thank our commercial donors. Your acknowledgements may help ensure the success of future solicitations.

Item	Donor
Wildlife Photo Print	Pielsticker Photos
Brook Trout Carving	Staeben Art and Home Decor
Trophy Brown Trout by Big Sky Carvers	Big Sky Carvers & SWTU
Running Rainbow Print	SWTU Framing by Monroe Street Framing
Golden Wings Whistling Swans by Owen Gromme	Meuer Art & Framing
Framed Dahlberg Diver	Frame donated by Jim Romberg Fly tied and donated by Royce Dam
Custom made landing net	Jim Natwick
Wooden Fly Box by John Strauss & Greg Ericson loaded with Master Series Flies by SWTU Board Members & Groupies	John Strauss & Greg Ericson
Rod Tube	Larry Meicher
Renzetti Traveler Vise	Fontana Sports Specialties & SWTU
2 Boxes of Flies	Blackhawk Chapter of Trout Unlimited
J.W. Outfitters Wader Bag	Fontana Sports Specialties
Trout Unlimited Edition Big Horn Float Tube by Classic Accessories"	Gander Mountain - West Towne
Fly Tying Desk	Greg Ericson
Wooden Rod Rack	Jim Gentry
Wading Staff	Jim Gentry
\$100 Shoe Box Gift Certificate	Steve Schmitt of the Shoe Box in Black Earth
Hunting Knife by Paragon	Jeff Smith
Bucket of 6 Dozen Golf Balls	Leroy Ebert
Flatbed Utility Cart	Ace Hardware Center (Williamson Street) & SWTU"
\$75 Gift Certificate	MC Sports
Cordless Dremel Tool	John Pundt
Tioga Reel by Teton (Large Arbor #4)	Dorn Hardware
Orvis Battenkill Bar Stock III Reel	Badger Fly Fishers
Cortland Embassy Reel	SWTU
Orvis Mach III Large Arbor Reel	SWTU
Hardy Viscount Reel	SWTU
Bamboo Fly Rod	Paul Douglas
Sage Discovery: 7'9" 2 pc 6 wt	SWTU & Tom Ehlert
Orvis T3: 9' 4pc 8 wt	SWTU & Tom Ehlert
Orvis Trident: 9' 2pc 6 wt	SWTU & Dave Fowler
Thomas & Thomas XL2: 9' 3pc 4wt	Dave Arndt, Tom Ehlert, and SWTU
St Croix Rod Legend Ultra: 8'6"" 2 pc 4 wt	Jim Bartelt and SWTU
Riffler Seine and Book	Seth Norman

Nash Williams Memorial Banquet Addendum



Steve Born accepting the SWTU Award of Merit from Larry Meicher.

The 2005 Nash *Williams Memorial Banquet* format was modified in order to present Steve Born with the Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited *Award of Merit*. The *Award of Merit* is the highest honor that our chapter has to bestow upon anybody. It has only been presented a few times, with Steve being what appears to be the sixth recipient. Past recipients include: Bob Zimmerman, Bob Gennrich, Lowell Gennrich, Larry Meicher, and Nash Williams. This is some pretty distinguished company, but he deserves to be there.

In 1983 Steve agreed to serve as the banquet chair for SWTU. This experience taught him that banquets are a lot of work, and that they make very little money. Determined to improve the return on the sweat that was being invested in the banquet, he developed the first *Ice Breaker* in 1984. After 21 successful *Ice Breakers*, it now appears that the success of the 1984 *Ice Breaker* was no flash in the pan. Indeed, it is a fun and effective way to raise money for coldwater resource conservation.

Steve served as SWTU chapter president from 1985 through 1987. He later served two terms as president of the Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited. In 1994

and 1995, he served as the secretary of the Natural Resources Board for TU national. He then chaired that board from 1996 until the TU National reorganization eliminated the board. Since 1996 he has served on the TU National Board of Trustees, and has also served as the vice chair for that board

The list of awards that Steve has received is impressive in and of itself. The Wisconsin Wildlife Federation named him *Water Conservationist of the Year* in 1981. SWTU awarded him our *Gold Net* in 1980. In 1997, the Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited awarded him the *Joan and Lee Wulff* award. In 1999 TU National awarded him the *Ray Mortenson Award* for outstanding lifetime leadership.

It would be difficult to overstate the magnitude of the behind the scenes influence that Steve has had on numerous conservation initiatives in Wisconsin and across the continent. He was the architect of the TU National conservation agenda, as well as the aforementioned reorganization of TU National. His reorganization efforts were so effective, that he was asked to lead the effort to reorganize TU Canada. Steve was a driving force behind the formation of the *Black Earth Creek Watershed* and the *Wisconsin River Alliance*. As a professor of Urban and Regional planning and a long term mover and shaker at the state capitol, Steve has been a true hero for those of us concerned about water quality issues.

Steve *retired* recently from the University of Wisconsin, and is now an *emeritus* professor. In April, his academic colleagues will recognize his distinguished career by hosting a conservation symposium in his honor.

When Larry Meicher presented Steve the *Award of Merit* he made a very eloquent point. He said that Steve is the world's greatest fisherman; not because of his angling prowess, or his casting skill, or his fly tying artistry (*sic*), but because of all of the people that he has touched and influenced along the way. Well said Larry! We all owe Steve more than we will ever know for his many efforts to protect the waters that we fish. Thanks Steve.

From the President

February. Not my favorite month in Wisconsin, but like most of us who have managed to avoid being involuntarily committed, I have developed coping strategies. I am thinking about the 5th of March, for example. Our early season opener. I'm imagining the weight of a trout, even a very little trout, bending my 4-weight as it digs for cover under an overhanging ice shelf. And this happy fantasy reminds me of the last trout I caught in 2004. Another little trout, and perhaps the most beautiful, intensely jewel-toned Brook trout I have ever held in my hand. It was a perfect ending to an unforgettable day.

Sometime last September, I propositioned Bob Gennrich at the Maple Tree bar. To my delight, he took the bait and called me the next week to go fishing. He's going to hate being the center of this story, so if this is the last thing I get to do as your chapter president, it's been swell...I'm going to tell it anyway, because Bob is the kind of fellow, and this was the kind of day that can make you fall in love with trout and fly fishing.

Bob picked me up at my place, just down shore from where 6 Mile Creek enters Lake Mendota. We drove west. He talked about duck hunting in our bay as a boy, when Canvasbacks covered the water like a rust and white quilt. He talked about acres of cattail marsh and the phenomenal Pike nursery they harbored. He talked about the jarheads who sledged bushels of Perch home across the ice. More than they could use. Somewhere around Lone Rock, the talk turned to trout. I'm not telling you where we fished, or how we got there. I will tell you that Bob has a story, or three for every teeny, unnamed feeder creek in Dane, Iowa, Grant, Richland and Vernon Counties. It wouldn't surprise me, if at some point; he has held in his hand the ancestors of every living trout in Southern Wisconsin.

Bob loves back roads and he drives them like he laid the blacktop himself. I couldn't tell you the route we took, but I remember the first stream we fished that day and the family we chatted with to get permission to cross their fences. They were glad we asked. As we walked along the stream bank, I got my first taste of 'fishing with Bob'. He

sees everything. At first, I thought he was pulling my leg. I grew up in the woods and consider myself relatively observant. I didn't see a third of what Bob saw. Bugs, rises, minute changes in the skin of the stream. By the end of the day, I knew he wasn't kidding, because I was seeing some of it too.

Watching Bob fish up a stream is like watching a heron stalking the shallows. A mesmerizing display of purposeful, controlled and deadly intent. His casting is fluid, swift and precise. His focus is astonishing. And, he's having a ball.

And he's really going to hate this...but he's also a gentleman. Bob spent the day putting me on fish and gently improving my technique. A slight shift in grip. A more aggressive angle for turning a fish away from the safety of cover. Pile casting through the tall grasses...By the time we parked beside the West Fork in the violet beginnings of a sunset, I felt a distinctly different sense of calm and confidence. I waded into the cold water below a deep, structured run and watched for a few minutes. I saw three rising fish. I caught them in turn and the last fish was the beautiful Brookie.

If you ever get a chance to go fishing with Bob, do it. Even if he makes you promise you'll never write about it!



Bob Gennrich on an unnamed Vernon Co. stream Sept. 2004

Fly Tying with Auto Seatbelt Material

By John Gribb

The next time you buckle up in your automobile, stop and look at that nylon belt around your hips. That belt has the capacity to provide identical parachute posts for at least 5000 flies!!

Chances are that if you stop at a junkyard and ask to cut out an old seatbelt it would be free. My experience has been that they will let you take all that you want. If you find the same situation, take a red one, a blue one, a brown one, and a tan one! Try to select a belt that was not flexed or used very much (look in the back seat). Once you have the belt at home, cut it into 10 inch lengths, then carefully cut along both edges. Strip away the long fibers on both sides until ¼ inch is left in the middle. The exposed fiber bundles make perfect, shucks, wings, and parachute posts.

I use one entire bundle for a post or wing regardless the size of the fly. To attach the bundle come up from underneath the hook in equal lengths and secure with tread. (For upright wings just figure eight the bundle on top of hook then pull upright and secure.) The fibers are uniquely stiff and do not mat down like other fibers. Cradling the hook in the post reduces bulk and makes it nearly indestructible. Parachutes are easy to wrap because you need not hold the post while wrapping the feather. Wrap tread around the feathered post 2x and tie off. Cut the post on an angle from front to back and a little longer than you normally do. Just before casting tap the bundle down a little thus forming a highly visible cone post. Because nylon will absorb water I recommend that the flies be waterproofed with WaterShed prior to use on the stream. Feedback welcome
JGribb@mhtc.net.

Editor's note: John has very generously contributed a number of Newscasts articles over the last few months. He and the editor have received a lot of positive feedback from chapter members, indicating that this is becoming a valued Newscasts feature. Please consider becoming a part of the feature by making similar contributions of your own. You will be glad that you did.

SWTU at Canoecopia

Our chapter will have a booth at Canoecopia. This year's event will run from March 11th through March 13th at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison. Volunteers are needed to help out with our exhibit table for as little as an hour or so. Fly-tyers, talkers, paddlers, and yarn casting demonstrators are needed. Please contact Don Golembiewski at either (608)-231-3398, or don@hadley.edu to volunteer your services.

Your Old Waders Please...

Malcolm Shabazz City High School in Madison is offering a fly fishing course for the first time this semester and we want it to be a smashing success! Southern Wisconsin TU has promised assistance with casting lessons and rounding up enough gear for 20 kids to get hooked on fly fishing. We need EVERYTHING. Rods, reels, line, leaders, tippet, nets, waders, vests, forceps, line nippers, FLIES, waders, polarized sunglasses, etc. If you are that rare person who does NOT have old fly line in the basement, or a 4th pair of patched waders, or a cheap reel you bought as a 'back up' 12 years ago, or a pair of sunglasses you don't wear anymore...then you're excused. The rest of you...pack up a box and bring it along to the chapter meeting!! I'll buy you a beer. No kidding. The Prez.

January Meeting Recap



The Fly Tying Jamboree at our January meeting was a big hit. The collective knowledge of our members is awe inspiring.

Important dates to remember:

February 5 TU State Council Meeting and Banquet
February 8 Monthly Chapter Meeting featuring Dave Patrick of the Blackhawk Chapter of TU
February 12 Badger Fly Fishers Spring Opener
February 25-27 Madison Fishing Expo
March 8 *March Madness* Auction
March 11-13 Canoeopia at the Alliant Energy Center
April 12 Monthly Chapter Meeting featuring Mike Miller, chapter elections & awards

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