

# Newscasts

April, 2005 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



## April 12th Meeting

Our April 12<sup>th</sup> chapter meeting will consist of a work in three parts. Orchestrating this challenging work will be the task of SWTU President Susan Fey. It promises to be a memorable evening.

The first movement, conducted by Maestro Larry Meicher, will consist of an awards presentation. Each year, we like to publicly honor notable chapter volunteers, and this will be the night for our 2005 recipients to have accolades heaped upon them.

It is also time for our chapter elections. So the second movement will consist of a little balloting. The nominating committee has developed a slate of candidates, but nominations will also be welcomed from the floor.

Last but not least, we will learn some practical entomology from Mike Miller. In addition to being a member of our chapter, Mike is an ecologist with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and a trout stream insect expert. He will tell us why some Wisconsin streams support healthy trout populations, and others do not. He will also discuss the geographic distribution of these streams, and offer some advice on fly selections for fishing various streams across the state.

We will meet at the *Maple Tree Restaurant* located on Highway 51 just 2 miles south of the *Beltline* in the heart of the greater metropolitan McFarland community. The *Maple Tree* is on the right side of the road, just past the *second* stoplight in McFarland. The meeting will start at 7:02 PM, but please consider coming early for dinner.

## Casting Clinic

The Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited will once again sponsor a Fly Casting Clinic. The clinic is free, and available to anyone interested in learning how to cast a fly. Beginners are especially encouraged to attend. Loaner rods will be

available for those who do not own their own equipment.

Participants will have opportunities to learn about casting, knot tying and aquatic entomology (featuring DNR aquatic entomology expert Mike Miller) and reading the water. The clinic will begin at 9:00 AM on Saturday April 16<sup>th</sup> at Salmo Pond (2 miles west of Cross Plains on Highway 14). For more information call Jeff Smith at 836-5974.

## Black Earth Cleanup Day

*Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited* will once again team up with *the Black Earth Creek Watershed Association* for the annual *Black Earth Creek Cleanup Day*. *BECWA* scheduled the 2005 to occur on Saturday April 23rd (the day after *Earth Day*).

This is a very important event for our chapter. Nobody likes to fish through trash, but the importance of this event goes far beyond aesthetics. Community leaders in the Black Earth Creek corridor measure our commitment to this resource by our presence at events like these. To maintain our status as committed stakeholders in that community, we need to show up.

We will meet at Salmo Pond (1½ miles west of Cross Plains on the south side of Highway 14) at 8:30 AM on Saturday April 23rd. At the park, we will chug a little coffee, nibble a few donuts, distribute garbage bags, and form teams. Each team will be assigned a small stretch of stream to clean. A large turnout will insure that each team receives a small assignment.

You will probably find the work rewarding, and you may even discover an interesting stretch of stream that you have never fished before. Soft drinks and water will be available at the park afterwards. Please mark your calendars and do what it takes to let them know that we care.

## From the Project Chair

By Tom Ehlert

Veterans of the Corps of Recovery and a father/son team of new recruits joined forces on a sun-soaked Saturday morning (3/26/05) to begin Stage I of the assault on a series of impoundments on Mt. Vernon Creek, south of the CTH U bridge. There were eighteen of us, and we managed to breach four major barriers in just under four hours. Not all participants stayed dry. That comes with the territory often enough.

Our work resulted in the re-establishment of a scouring bubble-line, and clear indication that the water-levels behind the jams were dropping. Significant about this change is that heretofore submerged silty-edges will no longer contribute to the problem of persistent 'suspended particulate matter' that prompts thermal pollution, retards oxygen dissolution, and inhibits plant growth. Existing stream-side grasses can now extend their reach, in the process stabilizing the banks and providing the bank-cover this stretch of stream so desperately needs. In sum, our work assures that the cold-water trout need can continue its push downstream.

The only down-side to the morning was that the Village of Mt. Vernon, long a bastion of fiscally conservative Scots, or so the history is written, does not maintain year-round electrical service to the shelter in the park. The savory, Italian-sausage-laced pasta sauce with rotini had to be eaten cold. But there were no complaints, and no leftovers. Maybe Teri Sanders' brownies and my wife's (Karen) rainbow-trout- and easter-egg-shaped sugar cookies enhanced overall satisfaction.

The Corps will be at it again on SATURDAY, April 9. We'll muster forces at 0830 at the shelter in the park in Mt. Vernon, then convoy downstream. Lunch will be served afterwards, and I won't rely on an electrical connection to pull it off. I'll still rely on your phone-call for your reservation, however: 767 - 2413.

On SATURDAY, April 23, the Corps is requested, to direct its focus to participating in the annual, Earth-Day-related LET'S BAG THE TRASH clean-up effort on Black Earth

Creek. SALMO POND west of Cross Plains is the meeting place. ALL Chapter Members are encouraged to help pitch-it-in where it belongs.

## March Meeting Recap

The *March Madness Auction* held at last month's meeting was another success. The donors and bidders were as generous as the auctioneers were obnoxious and garish. Preliminary estimates put the proceeds in excess of \$3000.

The quality and number of donations were exceptional. As usual, a lot of very nice fly sets were donated. Donations also included numerous pieces of very lightly used equipment and a couple of nice rods. One rod was custom built by Bob Gennrich, and used by former chapter member and legendary fly tyer Carl Bradley.

Many people deserve our heartfelt thanks for the success of this event. It takes a lot of good donations to make a good auction. If you were one of the donors – thank you. It also takes a lot of generous bidder to pull this off. Many of those bidders pay inflated prices in order to support our worthy cause. If you were one of those bidders – thank you.



Photos by Jim Gentry

## **From the President**

By Sue Fey

Sometimes fly fishing seems inevitably, if not deliberately designed to promote humility. Those times when you really hope no one's looking as you grope around, between your shoulder blades, for the Woolly Bugger embedded in your vest. Or the moment you set the hook on a heavy fish and promptly lose it trying to free the fly line wrapped around the butt of your rod. And how the heck DOES a pair of forceps end up stuck to the magnetic net keeper at the back of your neck?

Well, I recently had the opportunity to fish in north central California and added a new personal favorite to this ever-growing list. The plan was to fish for three days from our base at a friends house in Sacramento. The Stanislaus, Yuba, Calaveras and Feather rivers are some of the evocative possibilities nearby. Foothills of the Sierras. Big broad country. Bright, brawny rainbows, golden and cutthroat trout. I packed my four weight, content to limit myself to wadeable streams and checked a modest duffel full of waders and gear. I even remembered to take the collapsible wading staff I never use in Wisconsin. We located Kiene's Fly Shop in Sacramento and bought our non-resident licenses, (\$33 for 10 days). As I was folding mine into my wallet, I asked the Brad Pitt look-alike behind the counter about the condition of local streams. It had been raining for two days. He looked up and said, "Our stream season is closed until the last Saturday in April." My first thought was, thank god I didn't mention I'm a TU chapter president! My second thought was unprintable. Then I laughed.

When we had recovered our composure, he gave us directions to Rancho Seco. Ponds and lakes were open and this one had just been stocked with feisty rainbows. Rancho Seco, (which ironically means dry ranch) is a man made lake, built as a source of emergency water for cooling the pair of nuclear reactors that loom nearby. We decided to go anyway. The reactors are now defunct and the afternoon was rapidly waning. We pulled into the parking area an hour before dusk and found ourselves alone at the shore of a surprisingly handsome little lake. I strung up my rod, pulled on my hip

boots, (hell, I'd brought 'em all that way) and walked into the shallows. The surface was boiling with fish. Fat rainbows were leaping clear of the water, flashing copper in the late light. This was not a match the hatch moment. I could've tied on a marshmallow and caught fish. A small elk hair caddis came to hand and I spent the next hour playing and landing willing trout as the landscape faded from jewel to monochrome. We could've taken a few home for dinner, and they all had the right number of eyes and fins, but we opted to return them to the lovely radioactive pond.

We drove back to the city feeling fully rewarded for our folly. It wasn't the fishing we'd imagined, but it was a hoot. And, there are worse things than being humbled.

## **Welcome New Members**

Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited is pleased to announce the addition of the following new members to our ranks.

Michael P. Ash	David Schlapper
Terry Becker	Jeff Sellner
Brendan Bidack	Peggy Stormoen
Jeff Craig	Roy Tull
Robert Graebner	Scott Vaughn
Ann Jakel	Cormen Wagner
Jim Jennings	John Wagner
Otto Krueger	Allan F. Wegner
Jonathon Marsh	Tim Yohino
Denise Phelps	

Please join us at a chapter meeting. We would appreciate the chance to meet you, and we'll even offer you a bribe – join us on April 12<sup>th</sup>, and we will give you FREE bucket raffle tickets.

## **You Must be Present to Win**

Things got so exciting at the March meeting, that we forgot to hold the You Must Be Present to Win Drawing, so we will pick up where we left off in February. There was no winner at that meeting, so we will sweeten the pot with an additional \$20. That is to say, we will draw for an \$80 *Fontana Sports Specialties* gift certificate at our April 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## Talking with Bill Flader

By Jim Gentry



Bill was born and raised in the Sheboygan area, but he has saltwater in his blood. In fact, he fished for a week in Belize this past March, catching his first permit. As many of you know, he holds more than 24 line class fly fishing records, mostly for lake run fish. And some for his latest game fish interest--carp.

This is not to say that he ignores inland trout. It's clear that he excels at our favorite Southwest Wisconsin fishing as well. He is basically a long line nymph, with a typical setup being a 9-foot, 2 wt rod with a 9-12-foot leader using a putty indicator. He uses mostly two nymphs, his own mouse fur concoction, the Fladermous in size 14, and a size 12 orange scud. Both are weighted and he adds split shot to the leader as needed. His favorite water is where fast water dumps into a pool or deeper runs. He usually fishes one morning a week during trout season, Grant county and local waters being favorites. He considers about 20 fish a good day's work. To what does he attribute his success? Careful approach, knowledge of fish habits, and exact location of fishing lies (no, not the kind we all tell).

Salt water is, of course, different. His favorite catch was a 75-pound sailfish, caught with a 12-weight rod, using a 30-inch wire leader and landed after a 40-minute fight. Besides bigger equipment, Bill considers guides, and--this is the hard part--50-foot pinpoint casts, to be essential for the salt.

And then the question is, why carp? Answer: what else gives you sight fishing a very picky prey that goes upwards of 15 pounds? Bill nymphs for carp mainly in Door County.

He is a founding member of SWTU, a past president, and dedicated to the TU environmental agenda, as well as to the practical fishing knowledge and sociability that membership provides. Most impressive to him is the willingness of chapter members to take leadership positions in the group and also statewide. He is retired from general practice medicine, and besides fishing, he is active in the Gideons and is a horn player for the New Horizons Band. His favorite fishing trip? Well, two. Christmas Island, where he caught the big sailfish, and a pack trip in the Rockies for cutthroats.

Asked about the good old days of fishing, Bill thinks they are right now because of habitat work and improved water quality. His advice? Go fishing.

### Conservation Congress/DNR Hearings!

The DNR Spring Hearings and Annual Conservation Congress Meetings will be held across the state on Monday April 11, 2005. At these meetings, you have an opportunity to voice your opinion on critical measures that affect Wisconsin's air, land, water and wildlife.

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress is a group of elected representatives from each county that advise the Natural Resources Board and the Department of Natural Resources on matters of environmental policy in our state. Everyone who attends the hearings gets a chance to vote for their local delegates. It is also an opportunity for concerned citizens in every county to vote and take a stance on issues that affect the environment and the public's health. Please do whatever you can to attend the meeting in your area! There are a few water quality issues on the agenda. Control of exotic aquatic species will probably play prominently.

The Dane county meeting location is:

Alliant Energy Center,  
1919 Alliant Energy Way,  
Madison

### **Steve Born is Finally Retiring!!!**

After over 30 years at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Extension, Steve Born is heading off to quieter waters—at least if he can see trout in them! Steve will be retiring in January of 2005 and a symposium and tribute to his many contributions are being planned for April 15 and 16, 2005.

The symposium, “Environmental Planning: Roads Traveled and Pathways to the Future” will be held on the Madison campus both days and will have sessions led by distinguished experts (former students and colleagues of Steve’s!!) dealing with the evolution and trajectory of many environmental and natural resource issues Steve has been so intimately involved with over the years.

A banquet honoring Steve’s many contributions will be held Friday evening, April 15, 2005 at the Frank Lloyd Wright Monona Terrace Convention Center. We anticipate a rousing send-off for Steve as many of his friends and colleagues share their memories of “the man Born to fish.”

Space will be limited for both the symposium and banquet so those wishing to attend either or both events are encouraged to register early.

For further information, please refer to the website set up by the UW Department of Urban and Regional Planning for this event at [www.wisc.edu/urpl/BornRetirementEvents](http://www.wisc.edu/urpl/BornRetirementEvents)

### **Cold Weather/Cold hands Solution**

By John Gribb

A lot of us never give up when it comes to fishing! We get the urge and we go regardless of the weather. Fingerless gloves are a must when fishing with a fly rod and that leads to cold fingers and hands. A simple solution is to purchase air activated hand and adhesive toe warmers. When these packages are opened and exposed to air a reaction takes place that creates heat that lasts up to 10 hours. Place the hand warmer pouch under your glove on top of the wrist then take the adhesive toe warmer (very thin compared to hand warmer) and stick it to the glove inside the palm area. A heat source on top of your wrist another inside your palm creates a constant heat

source to your hands. If your fingers get cold simply make a fist for a few moments! Since the heat source will last up to 10 hours always carry a zip lock bag and after fishing place into bag (heat stops without oxygen) and zip closed. The next day remove and reuse the heat source. A good seal will extend the second use life for a number of days. The best time to purchase these heat sources is after the hunting season as they can often be found on sale for less than \$3.00. Store them in a large zip lock bag and they will be good the following season. I also use them during ice fishing inside my heavy mittens. Once you use them you will never leave home without them!!

### **Ladies’ Fly Fishing School**

The Elliott Donnelley Chapter of Trout Unlimited is hosting its annual Ladies Fly-Fishing School at Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation on Sunday, May 15th. Attendance is limited, so register now! The \$125 registration fee includes classroom and outdoor instruction, meals, parking, use of equipment and materials

- Learn the basics of fly casting required for most fishing
- A commonsense overview of today’s tackle and related fly fishing accessories
- The essentials for building leaders and tying the knots every angler needs to know
- Practical, straightforward strategies for catching & landing freshwater game fish
- Basic biology, from panfish to trout, what they eat, where they live, what makes up their world

Proceeds from this event will benefit the continuing stream conservation efforts of *Trout Unlimited's Elliott Donnelley Chapter*, and *Reeling & Healing*, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing fly fishing retreats, instruction and opportunities to breast cancer survivors.

For more information, please phone: 847-441-3195, or write [melchiorp@aol.com](mailto:melchiorp@aol.com)

**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

**Important dates to remember:**

April 9	Chapter Workday on Mt. Vernon Creek (see article by Tom Ehlert for details).
April 11	DNR Spring Hearings and Conservation Congress Meeting
April 12	Monthly Chapter Meeting featuring Mike Miller, chapter elections & awards
April 16	Casting Clinic at Salmo Pond
April 23	Black Earth Creek Cleanup Day – meet at Salmo Pond
May 10	Monthly Chapter Meeting featuring Marty Melchior
May 14	Open Meeting of the SWTU Board of Directors in Avalanche, WI
June 11	Special Needs Fishing Day