

Newscasts



May, 2005 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Fluvial Geomorpho...What???

Have you ever wondered how stream restoration projects are designed? Who decides how many LUNKER structures should be installed, or where they should be placed? As a chapter that funds a lot of restoration projects, these are relevant questions that we should be asking.

At our May 10th chapter meeting, we will have a chance to learn about such matters. Our speaker will be Marty Melchior, a fluvial geomorphologist and stream ecologist with *Interfluve*, a river restoration firm with offices in Lake Mills, Bozeman, Hood River, and Seattle. Marty's projects have included natural channel design, streambank stabilization, fish habitat, fish passage and dam removal.

An experienced fly fisherman and TU member, Marty served on the *Wisconsin TU Water Resources Board*, *WI State Small Dam Committee* and *Minnesota TU State Council*, and was chief editor of *Minnesota Trout* magazine for several years. His *Mill Creek* trout stream restoration has been nominated for a national 2005 *Leopold Award* for Ecological Restoration.

This promises to be an entertaining as well as educational evening. Please join us at the Maple Tree on May 10th. The meeting will start at 7:00 PM, but please consider coming out around 6 PM to share dinner and some stories with us. This is the time of year when the fishing lies get outrageous.

The Maple Tree is located less than 2 miles south of the Beltline on Highway 51 in the heart of the halcyon community of McFarland, Wisconsin.

Ice Breaker Update

Mike Miller has graciously volunteered to serve as our second speaker for our 2006 *Ice Breaker*. Mike is an avid fisherman, a member of our chapter, and an authority on trout stream biology. Thanks Mike!

A New Way to Support the TU Mission

By Bob Selk

We are getting close to our goal of creating a new way to support the work of the Chapter---and you can help. The idea of establishing a chapter endowment fund has been bounced around for several years. The purpose of this effort is to establish an endowment that would use income from donations to improve coldwater fisheries.

The endowment fund will not take the place of any of our other fundraising. Rather, it would provide a mechanism for channeling additional donations from member estate planning and periodic appeals into a single dedicated fund. This initiative was spurred by a very generous donation from the estate of Nash Williams.

Through the hard work of several knowledgeable chapter members, we now have a draft of a document creating the fund. The draft has been reviewed and modified by *Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited's Board of Directors*, but this is a big step for our chapter to take. Before any final decisions are made, the board needs member input. So, I invite your suggestions and comments on the draft. It will soon be posted on our chapter website (www.SWTU.org). Please check it out and let us know what you think of it. If you do not have access to the internet we would be happy to mail you a copy. Please call John Serunian at (920) 277-9295 to request a hardcopy. The Board will carefully review all your thoughts and make necessary changes.

This is a very exciting initiative that gives us an opportunity to greatly increase our efforts to support our coldwater resources.

From the Project Chair

By Tom Ehlert

To begin, I want to thank Dan Geib and Mike Grimes for their dedication of time on Thursday, April 21, to the removal of the better part of a box-elder (is there anything good about box-elders along trout streams?) from the heart of a long-time unrestrained, blue-ribbon riffle on BEC. The three of us dispatched the interloper in about two hours.

Next, hats off to Kurt Welke's crew for their repair and restoration efforts on BEC just upstream from Garfoot's confluence with it. The breach is now sealed, the bank is well-armored, and the river got a nice kick, just before it loops around the bend below Garfoot, from the discreet placement of four boulders, theweg-center. They'll provide for some scour-pool hides as well.

Third, thanks to a dozen Corps of Recovery stalwarts who toiled, strained, labored, lifted, pulled, sweated, groaned and ached, but refused, for the most part, to say "enough" until two in the afternoon on Saturday, April 9. The work on Mt. Vernon that morning began at 830, and was made altogether easier by the surprise appearance of three whose help had not been actively solicited. (It pains me to admit, however, that there were several impediments we could not overcome, our resolve notwithstanding. No matter, there is significant improvement in stream flows in a river long in need of a good scouring.) In the June Newsletter, their names will be included in the list of names of their brethren of that day, and along with those who were part of Stage I of the assault which occurred on Saturday, March 26.

Finally, the CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS goes out here for participation in Stage III of the assault on Mt. Vernon, scheduled for *Saturday, May 21, 2005*. We'll meet at 830am at the CTH U bridge just south of the village of Mt. Vernon. The work will be upstream of the bridge in sections of the stretch we dealt with two or three years back. Recent storms left a number of trees lying in the stream in an attitude that is anything but good for the stream's health. Please, if you've not been part of the party to date, you owe it to yourself and to the resource to enjoy the company of your

fellows, at least once, in an exhilarating undertaking (not yours, necessarily. And certainly not that of one of your co-workers. Participants are always advised to pace themselves, and to work cautiously.). Call me at 767 - 2413 with your offer to help and for your luncheon reservation. Your identities will be revealed in June, too. Thanks.

Special Nees Fishing Day

By John Schweiger

Please join us for our *Special Needs Fishing Day* on Saturday June 11, 2005 at Jim Kalscheur's Ponds. You have the opportunity to provide a great day of fishing for some very special people who are not ordinarily able to share in the pastime we all love. Setup will commence at 7:30am and the fishing will begin at 9:00am. The directions to Jim Kalscheur's ponds are: Take Mineral Point Road towards Pine Bluff. Turn left, after approximately 5 miles, onto Old Military Road, then left on Spring Valley Road. The Kalscheur property will be on you left. [*The June edition of Newscasts will contain a map of the area.*] TU signs will be strategically placed at intersections to help provide direction. Scott's Bakery has once again agreed to donate some tasty breakfast pastries. Jim will provide the coffee. Oscar Mayer has agreed to provide hot dogs for our lunch and Jim Kalscheur provides all the condiments and beverages. TU members are encouraged to bring their family members to share in this wonderfully rewarding volunteer opportunity. We need grounds keepers, fishing guides, greeters, servers and fish cleaners. All volunteers are welcome to fish the ponds after our guests leave, around 3:00pm.

Volunteers are also needed on Friday night to help set up fishing tackle for our guests. Please meet at Kalscheur's Ponds at 5:30pm, the project should be finished before 8:00pm.

Contact John Schweiger at 238-8062 for more information or to volunteer Friday night.

April Meeting Recap



Photos by Jim Gentry

The April chapter meeting was fun filled and action packed. Awards were presented to a number of chapter volunteers and it was heart warming to reflect upon the impressive accomplishments of our many volunteers.

Chapter elections were also held. President Sue Fey, Vice president Jack Way, Secretary John Serunian, and Treasurer John Schweiger were all reelected to one year terms. Officers and board members do a lot of behind the scenes volunteer work for our chapter. We are indeed fortunate to have so many capable volunteer leaders.

To cap off the evening, chapter member and DNR aquatic entomologist Mike Miller gave a wonderful presentation. He gave us a quick primer on aquatic entomology that included an overview of how land use affects the biodiversity of our Midwestern trout streams. Fortunately, Mike is no ordinary aquatic entomologist – he is an entomologist that likes to fish. He shared some of his insight with us, and now many of us are raring to head out to some of the streams that he mentioned in order to try out some of the flies that he suggested.

Meet Us In Avalanche

The *Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited* board of directors is inviting all interested chapter members to attend the May board meeting in Avalanche, Wisconsin on May 14th, 2005.

This is an annual event and this year's event is bound to be better than last year's. Though no weddings are scheduled, the weather is bound to be better than it was last year. The heavens laid siege to our 2004 pilgrimage and left behind a sodden morass formerly known as the West Fork Sportsmen's Club. It was 48 hours of deluge with intermittent thunderstorms. Uffda! This year is going to be better. It has to be better. How could it be worse?

The *meeting* will commence promptly after dinner. Dinner will commence once it is too dark to fish. Dinner will conclude once we are sated. Those with urgent schedules are urged to stay home.

Non-board members traditionally outnumber board members at this meeting, and rascals, miscreants, and ner'-do-wells generally carry the day. This is a great time to get together, have some fun, do some fishing, then discuss some serious chapter business. Yes, some of it is just monkey business, but some of it is important. Agenda issues tend to be of long-term significance lending the meeting the feel of a light hearted strategic planning session (sic).

Please feel free to join us at the West Fork Sportsman's Club in Avalanche. If you can find Avalanche, then you can find the campground. Please contact an SWTU officer if you feel a strong need for detailed directions.

Talking with Larry Meicher

By Jim Gentry



If you follow Trout Unlimited events, you realize one thing about Larry Meicher--he's everywhere! Chapter president, board member, State Council, fly tying classes, volunteer activities, he's hard to miss. It's hard to imagine TU without him.

He's been trout fishing for more than 40 years, but what kind of fisherman is he? It follows from his TU persona. He's a get it done kind of guy and a democratic kind of guy. In his younger days he used bait and spinners for trout and even guided for Great Lakes salmon on his boat, the Poop Deck II. Nowadays he mostly fly fishes but loves bluegills almost as much as trout, and hunting almost as much as fishing. He fishes 2 to 4 days a week and loves the hex hatch. Local favorite streams are Black Earth Creek and Tipperary Creek. But ask about any stream in Southwest Wisconsin, or Northern Wisconsin, or even out West, and he's probably been there. His usual setup is an 8 1/2-foot, 5 wt. His attitude toward flies is whatever works, but the dry fly and seeing the strike is what he likes best.

The Master offers the following tips: for catching fish, it's about knowing where the fish are and casting precisely to them. If you have trouble with your cast, shorten the leader. A 5 or 6-foot leader will catch plenty of fish. For waders, Cabelas Bluestream last as well as any. As to mosquitoes, as much DEET as legally allowed--10% is not enough

for night fishing. You can also try yarrow weed rubbed into the skin or tick repellent soaked into clothes. Gizmos? Check out the hemostat with the scissors built in (Cabelas) and also the Gudebrod EZ Fold net (Hook and Hackle) for those "Long March" treks through the brush. For off-season reading he recommends Joe Brooks, [Trout Fishing](#) and Vince Marinaro, [Ring of the Rise](#).

A good day fishing means solitude in a beautiful place with a "leave the world behind" feeling. Second best is sharing the same with a few fishing pals. He's seen a lot of changes in his years of fishing: habitat improvement and greater environmental awareness on the plus side, but also overcrowding by fishermen, more grazing in the streams, and cropping right to the bank on the negative side.

And so, what we really want to know is-- what about Larry's nicknames "Pass Lake Kid" and "Dr. Sausage?" Pass Lake Kid is easy. It's not giving away a secret to say he catches a lot of fish on this pattern. But Dr. Sausage? It could be because of the svelte figure he cuts in neoprene waders.

Wing and Shuck Material

By John Gribb

Many tiers use Z Ion for tails and shucks. I use a similar material called Needloft which is a 100% nylon twisted cord found in craft stores. It comes in 10 yard lengths, and is excellent for crinkled or straight shucks. There are approximately 30 different colors available and a life time supply of any *buggy* color costs less than 50 cents! The material has a sparkle to it and can be stretched to remove the natural wave that it comes in.

My favorite method of use for a shuck is to include a single strand of ribbon flash to a sparse amount of the yarn in the color to match the hatch or the fly. One can make custom dubbing using Needloft as the base material adding fur or other stuff and blending for a specific fly pattern. Additional uses include making fluffy strike indicators, shell backs for nymphs, and wings of color.

Nylon absorbs water and must be treated if used for wings or strike indicators. For additional information contact John Gribb - JGribb@MHTC.Net.

Casting Clinic Recap



Photos by Jim Gentry

The casting clinic on April 16th was another fine event. Clinic organizer Jeff Smith did a fine job of instructing the masses, and recruiting a stellar cast of supporting instructors: Mike Miller provided entomological instruction, Mark Maffitt demonstrated fishing techniques, and John Strauss provided gear instruction. The list of adjunct casting instructors is too long to enumerate here, but all those involved deserve a big, "Thank You".

Black Earth Cleanup Day Recap



Photos by Jack Way

A rumor was circulating prior to the May 23rd Black Earth Creek Cleanup Day, that there was no longer any trash left to be picked from the edges of Black Earth Creek. Fortunately, the rumor did not dissuade 27 hearty volunteers (mostly pictured above) who showed up to clean up the mess that was said not to exist. Judge for your self, but the size of the garbage pile that they generated seems to suggest that littering is not passé quite yet. Maybe next year will be different.

From the President

By Sue Fey

I would like to extend a warm welcome to the nearly 100 new chapter members who have joined *Southern Wisconsin TU* in 2005. Some of you joined when you bought a new pair of waders, some of you wandered by our booth at the *Fishing Expo*, or *Canoecopia*. Many of you joined after our casting clinic at Salmo Pond this April. At least three of you are high school students at Shabazz City School. And there are a handful of you who just decided it was time to try fly fishing. It's great to have you all on board!

One of the most important things this chapter has to offer has nothing to do with catching fish. It's the opportunity to become a volunteer leader in one of the most successful and well respected conservation organizations in the country. I joined *Trout Unlimited* in 1998 and started coming to the monthly meetings. I got to know some of the chapter elders, (none of whom are actually OLD mind you, as fly fishing is clearly the secret to eternal youth...). I met, for instance, Henry Haugley who teaches our intermediate and advanced fly tying classes at East High every winter. Henry encouraged me to enroll. At the last class in March, he invited me to be his guest at the annual on-stream board meeting at Avalanche. I was hugely flattered, and didn't understand that chapter members are always welcome at this event... Henry didn't clarify this. He did however, suggest that there might be a bit of payback involved in exchange for this exclusive invitation. The rest, as they say, is history. I tell this tale not as a cautionary one, (though I do recommend keeping an eye on Henry...) but to illustrate a common pathway to involvement and engagement with this group.

There are many ways to test the waters. A few hours of physical labor in gloves and waders on a fresh spring morning is a place many volunteers start, and our *Corps of Recovery* will welcome you with open arms. Helping at our Special Needs Fishing Day in June, whether you're setting up spinning gear the night before or unhooking and filleting fat bluegill the day of, is an unforgettable experience. We have a cadre

of vigilant members who routinely monitor the political landscape for issues and legislation that will have an impact on our trout streams. We have a growing stable of writers who chip in articles for this newsletter. Then there's Mike Philipps, our monthly bucket raffle wrangler, who is looking for a successor...The list is long and the opportunities are surprisingly diverse. At the next chapter meeting, make sure to pick up a *New Member Orientation* sheet and a *Skills Inventory*. If you have an interest in becoming an active volunteer, we'll help you find a way.

For those of you who don't give a flying fubar about volunteering and joined because you wanted to learn something about fly fishing, here's some advice: don't go fly fishing on opening day with a buddy who's using ultralight spinning gear and a barbless Rooster Tail. Your soggy little nymph won't stand a chance against the flash and thump of those spinning blades.

Welcome New Members

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

Afton Asteen	Steve Lindenau
Andrew Atherton	Ryan McCulloh
Douglas Benham	Robert McGulgan
Corey Benson	Bruce Miller
Daryl Broadbridge	Shelly Mrocek
Brian Buisker	Patrick O'leary
Jorge Cocher	Elijah Rawinski
Robert Davis	Gayl Ryan
Karey Dirks	Joshua Seibel
Paul Duren	Craig Severson
Robert Fredenberg	Chad Velkmann
William Grimm	Chris Wagner
Sarah Hagness	Bryan Walhovd
William Hagness	Brian Williams
Bob Lancaster	

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 May 10th, and we will give you FREE bucket raffle tickets.

Learn How to Fish

By Jim Gentry

The *Laura and Harry Nohr Chapter of Trout Unlimited* has invited our chapter to participate in their Fish the Blue and Fish the Green evening fishing programs, June 7 and June 21 respectively. These events are geared toward people wanting to learn how to fish on the public easement waters of the Blue and Green Rivers. If you are a beginning fly fisher, participated in the casting clinic or fly tying classes, or just want to explore some new water, here is the perfect opportunity. Likewise, it is a perfect opportunity to be a teacher or partner if you have a little more experience. Both types of folks are welcome and needed.

The Blue River event starts at 6:30 June 7 at the Snow Bottom Road crossing. Take highway 18 out of Dodgeville, go right on Blue River Road to Centerville, left on Snow Bottom. You can also proceed on 18 to G, go right and then find Snow Bottom on your right. [*Please refer to map on page 8.*]

If possible, come an hour or two early to help with set up. Bring your own food, drink and equipment. There is a bonfire promised as well.

For info on the June 21 Green River event, access the Nohr Chapter calendar, www.nohrtu.org, (simple registration required) for the latest. Or call Jim Gentry, 251-2549 or jgen@chorus.net.

Aldo Leopold Chapter Picnic

The *Aldo Leopold Chapter of Trout Unlimited* will hold their Annual Chapter Picnic on Wednesday May 18th from 6 pm to 9 pm at *Goerres Park* in Lodi. In addition to all of the great stuff that you would expect from an angler's picnic, this one will also feature a fabulous array of raffles and other fun stuff. Their *Grand Raffle Prize* is a guided trip from *Northern Adventure Guide Service* in Boulder Junction, along with a \$75 gift certificate (\$350 total value). Other raffle prizes include GPS units, a Henry Haugley print, a rafting trip on the Wolf River, flies, books, and other cool stuff.

The picnic will also include food and non-alcoholic drink. There will be a kids raffle and a casting clinic by Dave Barron. Please contact Mike Barniskis at (920)356-0081 if you need more information, or you would like to donate a raffle item.

Whoa Nelly!!!

The *You-Must-Be-Present-To-Win* jackpot has reached its size limit. Contest rules stipulate that the jackpot should never exceed \$100. So, someone will leave the next meeting with a \$100 gift certificate to *Fontana Sports Specialties*. To make this happen, all members in attendance will receive, free of charge, the entry-half of a single raffle ticket. If the other half of your ticket is drawn from the hat, then you will be the lucky winner of the gift certificate. All you have to do is show up.

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:

May 10	Monthly Chapter Meeting featuring Marty Melchior
May 14	Open Meeting of the SWTU Board of Directors in Avalanche, WI
May 18	Aldo Leopold Chapter Picnic
May 21	Chapter Workday on Mt Vernon
June 11	Special Needs Fishing Day
June 14	Monthly Chapter Meeting



Here is a map to help find the June fishing programs sponsored by the *Laura and Harry Nohr Chapter* (see article on page 7).