

Newscasts

September, 2005 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



What I Did On My Summer Vacation

It is time for us to resume our habit of meeting at the *Maple Tree* on the second Tuesday of each month. However, time is short, and money is tight, so our September 13th speaker will be *Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited* member, and *Newscasts Editor* Mark Maffitt [AKA *me*].

The topic will be fly fishing in Colorado. Business obligations take me to the Aspen area from time to time, and I always extended my stay in order to fish in that area. This year I fished the *Roaring Fork*, the *Frying Pan*, and the *Arkansas*. I will try to relay something of value to those who may be considering a fishing trip to this area. Please don't despair. At least my pictures turned out well. It could be alright. Rotten produce must be checked at the door.

As will be the norm until July 2006, we will meet at the *Maple Tree Restaurant* located just 2 ½ miles south of the Beltline on Highway 51. The meeting will begin at 7:03 PM, but the fun will begin when you get there. Please come around 6:00 PM and share a bite to eat with us.

Would You Settle For eNewscasts?

As a member in good standing of *Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited*, you are entitled to receive 11 hardcopies of *Newscasts* per year. Since its inception, the newsletter has always been mailed to members. Until recently, alternative methods of distribution were not even considered.

As a conservation organization, there are some good reasons for us to consider electronic distribution of the newsletter. It could be argued that we should do whatever we can to reduce paper consumption. Furthermore, we currently distribute about 800 copies of *Newscasts* each month at an estimated annual cost of nearly \$8000. Electronic distribution would reduce those costs and thereby free up some cash for the conservation work that is our mission.

There are also good reasons to continue distribution of real hardcopies via the U.S. Postal Service. Not everyone has Internet access. Many others view email as a double edged

sword equipped with convenience on one edge, and drudgery on the other. Over time, those with heavy email burdens become adept at skimming and deleting and often fail to comprehend and digest.

With strong arguments on both sides, there is no clear right and wrong here. Fortunately, we can have it both ways. Those who are comfortable with electronic distribution can opt out of the current system, and those who wish to continue receiving hardcopies may exercise their preference.

The logistics of electronic distribution have not yet been ironed out. However, the time has come to determine who would be interested in electronic distribution, and to begin gathering their email addresses. All members will continue to receive hardcopies by default. Only those who choose to opt out will cease to receive mailed copies, and this will be a totally voluntary choice. Nobody is going to pressure you into one option or the other.

Please be aware that SWTU is highly sensitive to the issue of email privacy. The distribution list will not be shared with anyone – ever. The editor favors the death penalty for any and all SPAMMERS. Consequently, there will be no email distribution until a dependably secure distribution client is found.

If you would like to begin receiving your newsletter via the web, please send an email to MaffMarkitt@Hotmail.com, and include "Newscasts Opt-Out" in the title of the message. Please include your name, address, and email address in the body of the message.

You Could Be a Winner

There was no winner of the *You Must Be Present to Win Drawing* at our July meeting. We will therefore draw for a \$60 *Fontana Sports Specialties* gift certificate at our September 13th meeting. You could be the winner, but you *Must Be Present to Win*.

Farewell to Tom Ehlert

Tom Ehlert will soon be moving to Bozeman, Montana. This will be a lugubrious loss to our chapter for Tom's contributions were ginormous (*sic*). He served on the SWTU board of directors, and followed that up with two terms as chapter president. Not one to fade into oblivion, Tom then served as the Fly Tying Course Coordinator and instructor of the renowned intermediate class at West High.

Perhaps Tom's greatest legacy to our chapter will be his leadership of the *Corps of Recovery*. As Chair of the Projects committee (i.e. the *Corps of Recovery*) Tom was indefatigable. Many of his efforts were behind the scenes either commiserating with DNR personnel, or on the phone recruiting and coordinating workday volunteers. His gustatorial inducements became legendary, and were surely a factor in his many recruiting and retention successes. Less dedicated individuals would have been content to have laid out hastily prepared gruel, but Tom was absolutely passionate about the work that the Corp performed and this passion was reflected in the quality of the rewards he provided.

Please join us at the Maple Tree on September 13th as we thank Tom one more time and wish him godspeed before he absquatulates to the land of piscatorial nirvana.

Letters to the Editor:

The first time I met Tom Ehlert was at an SWTU meeting. I asked him about some flies I had purchased at a Flea Market up in St. Germain. He told me to burn the flies, save the hooks, and keep the fly box. After that he suggested I attend a chapter fly tying class. While I never did attend the class (more's the pity me), I did act on Tom's request to become involved with the habitat improvement projects. I'm glad I did because I came to know Tom as not only a past chapter president, fly tier extraordinaire, rod builder, fishing guide, carpenter, teacher, chief cook and bottle washer; but also as a friend. He told me this might happen if I decided to participate in the projects.

I also came to know Tom as one of the trout's greatest friends. From his leadership of the projects to his ethics on the stream, Tom demonstrated his love for the trout. Not only did he try his darnedest to give them a good home, he called them his babies. I never once knew

him to use anything other than a dry fly to catch a trout and he caught plenty, releasing all, and sharing his knowledge on how to do so freely. While I will miss Tom, I'm sure the trout of Wisconsin will miss him more. I wish Tom well in Montana, the trout there are gaining a good friend.

John Guzowski

Phil's voice mail message exclaimed, "Tom Ehlert is moving to Bozeman!" First I was shocked, then I was happy for Tom, but I grew sad because I will miss him dearly.

Ten years ago, Tom's intermediate fly tying course was the first step of my passionate reentry into the world of flyfishing. Two years later I was assisting Tom in the intermediate class. With his departure, Phil Anderson and I are honored that Tom asked us to now lead this class.

When Tom was president of SWTU, he recruited me to a two year term on the board. There I was amazed with how passionately Tom was committed to TU and dedicated to achieving its mission. Since leaving the board, Tom took a strong lead coordinating SWTU stream cleanup projects. I've lost count of how many Saturday morning gatherings there have been in the past few years. I always looked forward to meeting Tom on a Saturday morning project, and climbing into the water and getting dirty in comradery with others when removing debris from a choked stream and opening the canopy. What a great way to learn of special and improved places that deserve a fishing visit later in the year. I not only enjoyed Tom's dry humor and leadership on these projects, but his gastronomical treats as well, including Garfoot Stew.

There is much more that Tom has done for SWTU than I can mention here, from building rods for the Ice Breaker to his fly tying demonstrations. But, more personally, there are the many wonderful times that I have had fishing with Tom. Often we stand side-by-side in the stream, chatting and taking turns casting and, sometimes, catching a few fish. Tom taught me so much and showed me a few special places, but I have shown him a few things too. He is a dear friend. I know many who will miss him, but selfishly, I know I will miss him the most.

Henry Nehls-Lowe

From the President

By Sue Fey

I have been sifting through decades of sentimental flotsam this week in preparation for a garage sale. Push, one might say, came to shove in my minuscule abode... I unearthed a Holubar backpack that I shouldered last in Missoula Montana in 1973 during a brief, if well-intentioned, brush with higher education. The maker is long gone, but the pack was gloriously overbuilt and still looks like it could safely harness the prized bull at the state fair. There is a pin on the front pocket that proclaims, 'I support quality trout fishing'. This legend surrounds the Trout Unlimited logo of that era. I was somewhat stunned by its' presence there, impaled proudly on my college pack nearly 25 years before I held a fly rod in my hands. It made me wonder about the role of fate in my rarely well-planned and sometimes downright haphazard journey. (It also made me briefly ponder what sort of trout fisher I'd be today if I'd actually learned to fly fish that spring in Missoula).

None of that makes for a particularly supple segue to the topic of our chapter's brand spankin' new endowment...but here goes...We signed the paperwork last night at the August board meeting. We appointed our first SWTU Endowment Advisory Committee: Bob Selk, (who was in Honduras at the time), Greg Vodak, Henry Haugley, Larry Meicher, (who were all present) and Doug Wadsworth, (surprise Doug!). Our chapter exchequer, John Schweiger, will set up a discrete account for this new fund and we'll be, as Bob put it, "open for business"! In broad terms, we hope the SWTU Endowment will eventually provide for maintaining, protecting and improving our most cherished home waters for generations to come.

So, cast ahead a few decades and imagine your grand niece discovering your (now) antique Bauer large arbor reel as she prepares for a garage sale...She might take the time to clean it up, even oil it. She might decide to try fishing it again. She might stick it on the mantle where it will one day remind her that her favorite stretch of Black Earth Creek might well be a lifeless gully if it weren't for you and your old fishing buddies who all chipped in to get the SWTU Endowment up and running. Imagine the smile that will bring to her insides.

High floating dry flies

By John Gribb

Dry flies need some floatant to float high and dry. Waterproofing flies before you get to the stream works very well and prevents the messy blob effect due to on the stream application!!

There are products that will help water proof your flies before you tie them on. My favorites are WaterShed (available in fly shops) and 3M camp water proofing spray (green can) found in sporting goods stores. The 3M product is least expensive/volume. These products are applied to the flies and allowed to dry for 24 hours. Tie a dozen flies and place them in a small container. Either spray them with the 3M product, or apply 4-5 drops of the Watershed on them, then cover and shake and let them dry overnight.

Another product - "Rainx" is a quick drying water repellent alcohol-based product found in auto accessory departments that is well suited to use on the stream. After 4-5 fish have gummed your fly...simply reapply and blow dry...catch another 5 fish!!

Many floatants become too thin in hot weather, and too thick in cold weather. If you use a silicone gel fly floatant (e.g. Gink) but hate the summertime explosions and wintertime struggles then try Aquel by Loon Outdoors. It retains a remarkably consistent viscosity throughout the year.

Barbless hooks preserve both the fly and the fish!! Sew a 2 x 12 inch strip of terry cloth into the inside top edge of your waders so that you have a handy blotter to help dry your fly after you release that fish.

Good fishing!! You may contact me for more information at Jgribb@mhtc.net

Welcome New Members

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

Terry Messmer	Arnold Fischer
Brian Debaker	Dan Chin
Richard Sals	Brad Flynn
Douglas Witzeling	

We are proud to have you among us. Please join us for a chapter meeting, and we'll give you some free bucket raffle tickets.

The Ice Breaker is Coming

Did you buy a 2006 calendar yet? If so, please mark January 20th and 21st on it as soon as possible. The 2006 *Ice Breaker* will be here

before you know it. *ESPN* celebrity Kelly Galloup and Wisconsin DNR Trout Stream guru Mike Miller will be our featured speakers.

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:

September 13 th	Monthly Chapter Meeting featuring Mark Maffitt
October 11 th	Monthly Chapter Meeting at the Maple Tree
November 8 th	Monthly Chapter Meeting at the Maple Tree
December 13 th	Monthly Chapter Meeting at the Maple Tree
January 10 th	Monthly Chapter Meeting Featuring SWTU Fly Tyers
January 20 th	<i>Nash Williams Memorial Banquet</i>
January 21 st	<i>Ice Breaker</i> featuring Kelly Galloup and Mike Miller
February 14 th	Monthly Chapter Meeting featuring something really romantic – in a fishy kind of way
March 14 th	March Madness Auction