

Newscasts

October, 2005 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



An October Doubleheader

Our October 11th chapter meeting will feature not one, but two, speakers. Our first speaker will be fellow *Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited* member and fly-fishing murder mystery writer extraordinaire - John Galligan. Those of us that have read *The Nail Knot* (John's superb 2003 novel set on the banks of Black Earth Creek) have been anxiously awaiting the arrival of the sequel. We need wait no longer. *Bleak House Books* is releasing his latest work, *The Blood Knot*, on October 14th, and we get a private showing three days prior to that. Knot only (*sic*) will John be reading from *The Blood Knot* at our monthly chapter meeting, he will be selling and signing them too. So if you don't want to fight the crowds that will surely flock to *Booked For Murder* (2701 University Ave) for the official Release Party, from 5-9 pm on Friday, October 14, then you will want to join us at the *Maple Tree* on Tuesday.

As if that weren't enough excitement for one night, we will also hear about an Argentine fishing business with a local connection. Jorge Cocher of *Southern Streams* will be our second speaker. Jorge is a native of Argentina, but now lives in Milwaukee. In addition to being a fly fishing enthusiast, he has a background in the Argentine tourism industry, and currently serves as the general manager of *Southern Streams* – an Argentine fly fishing outfitter. Come learn about this exotic, yet exciting fishing destination.

This promises to be yet another great evening that you won't want to miss. With the inland trout season now closed, the salmon and steelhead lies are sure to set in. The meeting will start at 7:02 pm, but please join us for laughs, lies, libations, and dinner at 6 pm. As always, we will meet at the *Maple Tree Restaurant*, located just 2 ½ miles south of the Beltline on Highway 51.

Ice Breaker 2006 Reminder

The 2006 *Ice Breaker* is scheduled for January 20th and 21st 2006. Please mark your calendar accordingly. *ESPN* celebrity Kelly Galloup and Wisconsin DNR Trout Stream guru Mike Miller will be our featured speakers.

Free Beer!!!

No. Not really. That was just a cheap trick to entice you to read this far. Please read on.

The September edition of *Newscasts* contained a thinly veiled plea for members to volunteer to receive electronic copies of the newsletter *in lieu* of paper copies. Response to that plea was so meager (only 13 volunteers from a roster of 761 members) as to bear repeating.

Please give thoughtful consideration to opting out of the current hardcopy system for *Newscasts* distribution. Instead of finding a paper copy in your mailbox each month, you would find an email in your inbox notifying you that a new *Newscasts* issue is available for you to download from the SWTU website (probably as a PDF file). Participants would surely receive the satisfaction of knowing that they had saved the life of a tree.

There are two compelling reasons for considering the email option. 1.) You will help reduce paper consumption, and 2.) You will be helping the chapter to free up cash for the conservation work that is our mission / passion.

There are also good reasons for some members to continue receipt of hardcopies. Not everyone has Internet access, and not everyone with Internet access is actually comfortable with the technology. It is extraordinarily difficult to read email in bed or in the lavatory, and finally, the delete key on the wastebasket is much more user friendly than the one on the keyboard.

So, please don't feel pressured to opt out. If you wish to do so, your cooperation will be greatly appreciated. Should you choose not to opt out, you will not be ostracized. The choice is entirely yours.

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, and address in the body of the message.

From the President

By Sue Fey

The weather guy says our high today will reach 86. It's October third. (Yep, I'm running a bit behind my *Newscasts* deadline, as usual. Maffitt is really a very patient fellow, no matter what you may have heard.). I'm not happy with the forecast. I have been looking forward to crispness. Crunchiness. Frost. Wood smoke drifting down the shoreline. These are some of the seasonal pleasures that offset the end of our brief trout season. Without them to balance my mood, I'm out of sorts.

I took a mental health day last week to pay my respects to the season ending. A day that dawned clear and blue, then rapidly descended into blustery, spitting squalls. Ragged white scraps of weather scudded across the prematurely darkened western sky. Big fists of wind punched the tall grasses flat. Unsurprisingly, I had Gordon Creek to myself. The water was clear and cold. The high banks helped befuddle the gusty winds and I occasionally dropped a fly exactly where I wanted to. I bounced hoppers off the banks. I floated a Pass Lake along the riffle seams. I walked a Pink Squirrel along the gravel bottom. None of this impressed the trout. I did catch a pretty good-sized creek chub down under, which at least put a brief bend in the rod. I netted a mammoth cluster of burdock burrs. I sat in the shelter of a cedar and sipped a cold beer, thinking hot coffee would've been more welcome. Nothing broke the dark surface of the stream except the drizzle. The day had the feeling of evening about it. A closing down.

Wheelie, our lab-blue healer mix, began to stir from his soggy perch on the bank. Crawling into better view, he laid his muzzle between his paws and regarded me with eloquent scorn. He issued a loud sigh through his broad, black nose. I gave in and we slogged back to the car through the drenched fields. Half an hour later I was thawing out over a steaming bowl of mushroom soup at the Blue Sky Cafe in Mt. Horeb, while listening to the rain flush through the old gutters.

It wasn't a picture perfect last day of trout season. It was, however, one of those days which provokes a quiet, internal reckoning. One of those days when fly fishing provides the excuse and the conduit for a kind of seasonal meditation. I am done with summer for 2005. May we have a frost now, please?

Token Creek Workday

October 15th has been chosen as a day to continue work on the Token Creek restoration. Volunteers should meet at the springs located on Egge Road (located about 1 mile north of Highway 19 near Portage Road). Laborers are needed from 8:20 am until noon. Please bring rakes, and wear hip (or knee) boots, and gloves. For more information, contact Henry Haugley at 825-9768.

Bug legs that last!

By John Gribb

Rubber legs have been available for a long time. The problem with them is that fish tear them off while taking the fly and fisherpersons often tear them off while removing the fly.

An improved material is a plastic cord called *Stretch Magic*, which comes in various colors and diameters. For ants, beetles, Blue Gill flies and other small terrestrials a 0.5mm diameter is just right! Larger diameters are available for larger flies (e.g. hoppers, big and ugly creations, etc). *Stretch Magic* does not break off easily, it has lifelike movement, and it stays out of the bend of the hook.

You can find this material in most craft stores for about 10 cents a yard (\$3.00 per 30 yard spool). That should be enough for a lifetime of ants and other terrestrial patterns.

Editor's note: John welcomes inquiries and critiques of his nifty yet thrifty innovations. You may reach him at Jgribb@mhtc.net

You Might Be A Winner

Yeah, we know. Your mother already thinks that you are a winner. If it's not your mother, then it's probably your spouse or your dog or your grandchildren. We won't think you're a winner unless you show up at the October 11th chapter meeting, and your name is drawn in the *You Must Be Present to Win Drawing*.

Since there was no winner at our September meeting, we added another 20 bucks to the pot. You will definitely want to be with us when we draw for an \$80 gift certificate to *Fontana Sports Specialties* at our upcoming chapter meeting. If you are a member, then your name is already in the hat. With your name in the hat, you could be the winner, but you *Must Be Present to Win*.

The Chapter Legacy Continues.

With Tom Ehler's Montana departure, some chapter members have wondered how his legacy will be continued. Tom did more volunteer work than the chapter could reasonably ask of just one person. Fortunately, a number of volunteers have stepped forward to share these volunteer opportunities.

The SWTU fly tying classes will be lead by a team of gifted instructors. Phil Anderson and Henry Nehls-Lowe will take over as instructors of the Intermediate Fly Tying class. Henry Haugley and Larry Meicher have volunteered to coordinate the teaching of the east side courses. More details will follow as our January convocation draws near.

The projects committee will also be lead by a highly qualified team. Faithful readers of past workday acknowledgements will surely be familiar with the names Dan Geib, Mike Grimes, Henry Haugley, John Pundt, and Ray Venn. These names appeared on nearly every *Thank You* list that Tom ever wrote. With so many experienced individuals volunteering to fill the void, continuity should not be a problem.

Welcome New Members

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

Bobby Bartlett	Ryan Larson
Cha Fou	Brian Myrland
Dean Ekstrom	Michael Pritzkow
Carl Frederick	Amy Schultz
James Heineke	Karl Smithback
Arden Hvam	Terry Walker
Andrew Kurth	

We are honored that you have chosen to join our ranks, and we would like to meet you. In fact, our desire to meet you is so high, and our honor is so low that we are willing to encourage your attendance at a chapter meeting by offering bribes. Please join us at the Maple Tree on October 11th, and we'll give you some free bucket raffle tickets. These aren't those cheap raffle tickets that you sometimes see other miscreants giving away. No sir, these are top quality raffle tickets, capable of winning fabulous prizes, like flies, books and great fishing gewgaws. Please join us.

The Guy Who Didn't Come Back

By Larry Meicher

[Editors note: The following article first appeared in Newscasts nearly 29 years ago – back when the author was serving as Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited chapter president. Some messages are important AND timeless. Herein lies such a message.]

Several people have suggested to me that T.U. ought to start a membership drive. It amused me that we spend so much time looking for new members. It makes me think of the guy who I ran into the other day at the sporting goods store--remember him? He's the guy I asked to join last year. He paid his dues and we expected him to be a loyal and faithful member. He came to a few meeting but no one paid much attention to him. He tried several times to be friendly but everyone seemed to have their own friends to sit and talk with. Since I was an officer, I had to sit at the head table and again my friend was neglected. In the months that passed, he hoped someone would ask him to join a committee or show him how to participate--no one ever did! The officers sent sheets of paper around to sign up for committees, but he didn't know what to do or how to do it.

Then, because of a family obligation, he didn't make it to a meeting one night. The next month he returned and no one missed him or even cared where he had been. He then got the opinion that no one cared if he was there or not.

He was a good guy, great family man, held a very responsible job, loved to fish and is an ardent conservationist.

You know who else he is? He's the guy who didn't come back!



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:

October 11 th	Monthly Chapter Meeting featuring John Galligan and Jorge Cocher
October 15	Token Creek Workday
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
February 24-26	Madison Fishing Expo
March 4 th	Inland trout early season opener
March 14 th	March Madness Auction
April 17 th	SWTU Casting Clinic
April 22 nd	Black Earth Creek Cleanup Day
May 13 th	SWTU Board of Directors Meeting in Avalanche, WI