

Newscasts

November, 2006 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



Trout Verses Caterpillars; An Unfair Fight

Tom Slawski from the South East Regional Planning Commission will be the featured speaker at our November 14th chapter meeting. Tom has 15 years of experience in aquatic ecology specializing in stream habitat assessments, design, and restoration. He often works with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to minimize the impact of highway projects on coldwater streams. Some of his other projects are more restorative in nature, but are usually done in conjunction with the WIDOT.

Though we try to deny it, our driving contributes to a need for road construction and trout often don't like that. Tom is trying to intercede on our behalf. Though it is an unpleasant topic, it should be interesting to learn how these challenges are addressed.

As has always been our custom, we will meet on the second Tuesday of the month with dinner at about 6 pm and the meeting at 7:03 pm sharp. As is our new custom, we will meet at the Coliseum Bar on Olin Avenue. Please join us.

You Must Be Present To Win

At each monthly chapter meeting, we draw the name of a chapter member out of a hat. If that member is present, then they win a gift certificate to *Fontana Sports Specialties*. Being the clever ninnies that we are, we have dubbed this contest the *You-Must-Be-Present-To-Win* drawing. We start off with a \$20 gift certificate. If the would be winner is not present, then there is no winner for that month. The value of the gift certificate increases by \$20 and we draw again at the next meeting.

Special rules go into effect at the \$100 level to prevent the size of the jackpot from becoming any more ludicrous. Since, there was no winner of the \$80 prize offered at our October 10th meeting; these rules will be in effect when we draw for a \$100 gift certificate at our November 14th meeting. Someone is guaranteed to go home a winner, and it could be you. You don't have to buy a ticket, but you must be present to win.

What is the *Ice Breaker*?

In the next couple of months, there is going to be a lot of talk at chapter meetings, and a lot of *Newscasts* ink devoted to the *Ice Breaker*, but what the heck is the *Ice Breaker*?

The *Ice Breaker* could be described as a one day fishing seminar complete with famous speakers of national renown and local speakers with deep insight. Our speaker of national repute for 2007 will be fishing guide, and author Dave Ames. Our local attractions will be Kevin Searock (aka the *Village Troutsmith*) of Portage and *Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited* member Craig Amacker.

The *Ice Breaker* could also be described as an opportunity to purchase raffle tickets in order to win fabulous prizes, while benefiting local trout streams. A typical *Ice Breaker* features about 30 individual bucket raffles. Prizes often include artwork, rods, reels, gear, flies, and more. The 2007 *Ice Breaker* will again feature a split cane bamboo fly rod made and donated by Paul Douglas as well as a beautiful hardwood fly tying desk made and donated by Greg Ericson. Raffle tickets start at \$1 per ticket, but you will surely want to do more for the resource by taking advantage of the volume discounts.

The raffle prizes are indeed cool, but wait – there is more. There are fly tying demonstrations, and door prizes, and aquatic insect displays, and chili, and the company of like minded individuals.

The *Ice Breaker* is a great day! It is also a great way for our chapter to raise the money that we need in order to accomplish the work that we do for *Trout Streams* right here in southern Wisconsin.

Please join us. Bring a friend. Bring your wallet. And, make sure that both are preloaded with lots of money.

Ice Breaker Benefactors Needed Now

Donors are needed now to help fund the purchase of *Ice Breaker* bucket raffle prizes. All donors that donate a prize, or make a directed donation for the purchase of a prize, will be thanked profusely. Their donation will be acknowledged in the *Ice Breaker* bulletin, on placards that accompany the donated item, and in *Newscasts*. These donations are probably tax deductible as well.

Greg Vodak is in charge of coordinating our raffle prizes this year. Providing a balanced portfolio of prizes is a challenging task that requires a surprising amount of planning, and Greg is already hard at work. If you are considering a prize donation please give him a call for prize selection guidance. He will be glad to hear from you. He may be reached at @ 873-5107 or gregvodak@charter.net

SWTU Supports Open Space Plan

By Jeff Smith

The Dane County Land and Water Resources Department has prepared a draft of the Dane County Parks and Open Space Plan 2006-2011 which is required to be completed every five years. The draft plan has not yet been before the County Board but has been available for public comments. The plan designates certain streams as Tier 1 streams (streams that the county will take a leadership role in protecting). Tier 1 streams include most cold-water streams in the county. Streams designated as Tier 2 streams are mostly warm water streams where the county will rely on non profits and local governments to protect.

The Plan states "...the County should investigate increasing public access through acquisition of permanent easements on these streams. Dane County should work with local non-profit groups such as *Trout Unlimited* and the *Dane County Conservation League* to identify which streams offer the highest potential..." [for easements].

The SWTU Board discussed the plan at its October 30 meeting. Board members were given a copy of the plan with the expectation of expressing its support to the Department.

Volunteer Opportunity Available Now

Over the years, countless chapter members have expressed interest in becoming more involved in the inner workings of the chapter. Many of these people start up with a relatively small volunteer opportunity, and then ease their way into greater levels of commitment. A rare opportunity to jump into the fray with both feet is currently available.

Though stream restoration and maintenance projects have played an important role in our chapter for nearly forty years, we are currently without a project chair. Our last project chair (Dan Geib) resigned due to work, family, and now graduate school commitments. The chair before that (Tom Ehlert) moved to Montana. We desperately need a new leader right **now!**

A project chair is not necessarily the guy with the strongest back. What the chapter needs is a leader for these projects. The chair is someone who evaluates our project options and determines which ones are most deserving of our sweat. This is not a solo act - it is done with the help of other chapter leaders and DNR personnel.

Once the projects have been triaged, the Project Chair decides when to get the work done, and how to get people to show up. Whereas the chain saw is often the workday tool of choice for laborers, the telephone is the planning and recruiting tool of choice for the project chair. Our leader needs to tell us where to be, when to get there, and what to do once we get there. Without a leader, we are a bunch of aimless guys with chainsaws – an epic disaster in search of a venue.

No prior experience is required. Our chapter is rich in institutional memory, and there are scads of people willing and able to assist the chair in nearly all aspects of the task. Commitment is the most important qualification.

If you are even a tiny bit interested in pursuing this opportunity, please call Jack Way at 222-2461 and ask for more information.

FOUND: last week of trout season on BEC a fly box. If you can identify the box and some of the contents in a reasonable fashion, you may reclaim. Contact: Jeff Mayers at mayers@wispolitics.com

Welcome New Members

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

Perry Cabot Michael Healy
Geoffrey Feil Brian Schwellinger
Don Gerndt Claude Sime

We are honored to have you among us. Please join us at our November 14th meeting, and we'll give you some free bucket raffle tickets

eNewscasts Sign Up Continues

If you like to read Newscasts, and you don't like paying extra for it, then you will want to sign up for electronic distribution before the end of the year. To begin receiving your *Newscasts* electronically, simply send an email to Maffmarkitt@hotmail.com with "Newscasts Opt-Out" in the title of the message, and your name, and snail mail address in the body of the message.

2007 Newscasts Subscription Form

Please sign me up for the printed edition of *Newscasts* for the remarkably low price of only \$12 per calendar year. I am enclosing a check, made payable to *Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited*, and mailing it to:

John Schweiger
5541 Dahlen Dr.
Madison, WI 53705-1341

For some weird reason I would like to waste 39¢ on postage in order to sign up for electronic distribution. My email address is scribbled below.

Thanks no. I will send an email to Maffmarkitt@hotmail.com and request electronic distribution of the newsletter. I promise to include "Newscasts Opt-Out" in the subject line, and my snail mail address in the body of the message.

None of the above. Newscasts is a sorry excuse for a newsletter, and I would probably be a better person if I never saw another copy of the wretched thing. (*Ouch!*)

I would like an SWTU chapter leader to respond to the enclosed comments.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Comments: _____

Important dates to remember:

November 14 th	Chapter Meeting at the Coliseum Bar featuring Tom Slawski
December 12 th	Chapter Meeting at the Coliseum Bar featuring Dan Wisniewski
January 9 th	Chapter Meeting at the Coliseum Bar featuring SWTU Fly Tying Jamboree
January 19 th	Nash Williams Memorial Banquet
January 20 th	Ice Breaker featuring Dave Ames, Kevin Searock, and Craig Amacker

Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited Leadership:

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