

Newscasts

February, 2007 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



Environment vs. Economics

The speaker at our February 13th chapter meeting will be Dr. Timothy J. Ehlinger, Associate Professor, Biological Sciences, Conservation and Environmental Sciences Program at the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee. Dr. Ehlinger will focus his presentation on the effects of stream restoration on fish populations, but may also present his views on how to balance the conflicting demands of environment and economics within the context of sustainable development.

The meeting will start at 7:01 pm on Tuesday February 13th. Please come early, and share a bite to eat with us, for the real fun won't begin until you arrive. As is our new habit, we will meet at the Coliseum Bar, 232 E. Olin Ave. in Madison.

Join BECWA Now

By Steve Born

If you fish, and enjoy Black Earth Creek, then you should be a member of the *Black Earth Creek Watershed Association*. This year marks the twentieth year that BECWA has served as a "voice for the creek and watershed". BECWA's goals are to protect, conserve and advocate for the wise long-term management of the physical, biological, cultural and historical resources of the watershed, to encourage stewardship among the watershed communities; and provide a forum for the discussion of issues and problems affecting the watershed. Throughout its existence, BECWA has monitored what's going on in the watershed, serving as a "watchdog" and information clearinghouse. You can see their long list of accomplishments by checking their website at <http://becwa.org/>

You Must Be Present To Win

The *You-Must-Be-Present-To-Win* jackpot currently stands at \$60. Please join us at our February 13th meeting for your chance to win a \$60 gift certificate to *Fontana Sports Specialties*. As with life, 80% is showing up, and we hope to see you there.

The Best Ice Breaker Ever

Upon winning the split cane bamboo rod at the *Ice Breaker, Newscasts Editor* Mark Maffitt was reported to have screeched something akin to "Yeeeehaw". Though he was visibly shaken to learn of his good fortune, claims of his need for immediate cardio defibrillation were somewhat exaggerated. It was with dubious impartiality that he later declared that, "this was the best *Ice Breaker* in the history of the entire universe". In his defense, similar (though more subdued) sentiments were echoed by many whose post-raffle elation failed to mobilize the medical staff in attendance

Our speakers treated us to the perfect mix of instruction and entertainment. The demonstrations by fly tiers, rod builders and entomologists were terrific. And then there were the prizes. WOW. The prizes were exceptional again this year. With prizes like that, it is a very small wonder that so much money was spent on raffle tickets.

Preliminary results indicate that we raised about \$6,000! That is a sizable chunk of change that will surely benefit our finny cold water friends. As a volunteer organization with very little overhead, it will go even further than might seem possible.

To stage a successful event like this also takes a lot of volunteer effort. Contacting vendors, collecting prizes, designing posters, printing tickets and posters, contacting the media, making arranging for speakers, are but a few of the details that need attending to, and it is all done with volunteer labor. Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thanks too for all of the tickets that you purchased. This was indeed the best *Ice Breaker* ever.

Hold Onto Your Hats

Our *March Madness Auction* will be held on March 13th and our auctioneers are likely to sell anything that's not battered down. That could include the hat on your head.

We Have Fabulous Donors

Raffle ticket sales are the key to the fund raising success that our *Ice Breaker* enjoys. We all buy tickets, and we all view those purchases as charitable donations, but let's face - we are all inclined to purchase more when the prizes are fabulous. Thanks to our many generous donors, the 2007 prize offering was astounding. Please join us in thanking them for their outstanding generosity. Please remember our commercial donors throughout the year, and give them as much of your business as possible.

Item

St. Croix SC3 Blank, 3 weight, 4 piece
Bamboo Rod
Orvis Rod #3, 2 piece
St Croix Legend Ultra, #4, 8'6"
Rod 9' 7 weight, 4 piece
Orvis T3, 4 weight, 2 piece
Fly Rod, #4 , 2 piece & Steelhead Fly Set
Orvis Battenkill Large Arbor Reel, 8 Weight
Ross "FlyCaster" Reel & Cabela's Line
Ross Reel
Pacific Fly Vest
Regal Vise
Gas Grill
Chainsaw
Guided Fishing Trip - Full Day for 2 People
Guided Fishing Trip - Full Day for 2 People
Guided Fishing Trip - Full Day for 2 People
Guided Fishing Trip - Full Day for 2 People
Humpbacks Spawning
Photograph
Ennis Lake, Reflections.
Vice & Tying Tools & Tackle Box & Necks
Fly Tying Desk
Reel Bag, Hook Organizer, Books, Caps
Wood Fly box & Flies
Rod Rack
Bluebird House
\$100 Gift Certificate
Fly Set
Photograph
Cutting Board
Vortex Typhoon 10X26 Binocular
Fly Set Bucket !
Fly Set Bucket 2
Simms Classic Guide Waders
Books
Books
Speyflies 101 - Tying CD
Fly Box and Flies

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Wild Rivers Chapter TU
Fontana Sports Specialties
John Galligan
Victoria Houston
Bob Blumreich
John & Rose Schweiger & SWTU Fly Tiers

From the President

By Jack Way

It dawns on me that this chapter, and its members, should be really proud of our progress over the last year. We're doing great!

We just had a great *Ice Breaker*. Many of you spent hours and hours on the chapter's main fund raising function. All of that work and planning is truly appreciated.

We've just signed up a new Project Chair. Now, we'll be able to continue our tradition of stream restorations. I hope that every single member shows up at least once to put a few hours in on our favorite resources. Try it; it's really a lot of fun, and a great way to meet other members.

Our newly rejuvenated Fly Tying program has been fine tuned to offer even better courses than before, all at no charge to our students. Thanks go to all of our instructors, who put in a lot of time and effort to make this program a resounding success.

The *SWTU Board of Directors* has undertaken re-writing our bylaws. This is a major undertaking that has been in progress for quite some time. We're getting close to a final revision, and we will soon present it to the entire chapter membership for final comments and, possible approval.

Financially, the chapter's in the best shape that I've seen in the years that I've been on the Board. A lot of this is due to the *Newscast* email policy, a savings of \$6,000 annually. Now, when you put money in the bucket raffle, or overpay for *March Madness Auction* items, the funds will actually go toward stream restoration, or one of our many other projects.

Our Endowment Fund is up, running, and doing just fine, thank you. Thanks to a recent large donation by one of our long time members, the balance continues to grow. We also continue to receive smaller donations from other loyal members. You might put planned giving to the chapter on your list of "Resolutions for 2007".

We are in the planning stages of a seminar this spring with Jason Borger, a nationally known local artist, author, and fly fish guru. We are

getting closer daily to our annual booth at the Fish Expo, our Fly Casting clinic at Salmo Pond, and will of course need volunteers to help out, as usual.

AND, WE ARE ONLY A MONTH FROM OPENING DAY!

So, thank all of you for your cooperation and hard work. You're the reason behind our successes.

We Have a New Project Chair

It took only a smidgeon of carefully applied coercion to convince Mike Grimes to serve as our next Project Chair. Thanks Mike.

As a faithful soldier in our crusade against willows, box elders, and the long term damage that they inflict upon our local streams, Mike was the perfect candidate to fill this important vacancy. His name will surely be added to a list of distinguished *Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Project Chairs* that have rallied our troops, and made our participation rates the envy of other chapters. If Mike calls and asks you to show up for a project day, please say yes. Better yet, give him a call and tell him that you are ready to go liberate some cold water from the tyranny of impeded flows.



Photo by Jack Way

Bonefishing in the Abacos Demystified

By Susan Fey



The Abacos are the Northern and Eastern-most scrap of limestone cays (say keys) in the Bahamas. Many assume these little islands are volcanic, as they look and feel like lava underfoot and are strewn in the classic necklace of an ancient volcanic range. This misperception is further encouraged by the shallow sea that fills the center of the oval. Rarely more than 15 feet deep, the Sea of Abaco is an astonishing turquoise wading pool in the middle of the fathomless aquamarine Atlantic. There are hundreds of acres of tidal flats, (aka the Marls) where the wily Bonefish fin their bullet shaped snouts at flatlanders like you and me who come armed with expensive saltwater combos and 50spf sunscreen.

The surprising truth of the matter is that Bonefish are very easy to catch. At the risk of offending my purist fly-line-or-no-line friends (again), exposing myself as a completely shameless fishing hussy (again), and courting a hefty fine from the Commonwealth Herself, I have decided to divulge a few insider secrets in exchange for the enormous royalties this article is certain to generate...Vienna sausages. No. Wait. That actually didn't work out well...

Bonefishing in the Bahamas is strictly regulated. One needs to hire a guide to do it legally. Makes sense, from the standpoint of economics and conservation... (Whatever!) I work for Public Television, and while the

mission and the people are spectacular, the money is not hire-a-Bonefish-guide good. I save every year to rent a rustic little cottage on the edge of the sea and I fish every day I'm there, on my own, in the surf. I know, I know. There are no Bonefish in the surf.

Well, of course there are Bonefish in the surf! The ocean is a very big place and the fish don't apparently care what we've concluded about their habits...

For years, I took my 7 weight and stood chest deep in the swells, double hauling like a demented mime, laying out baitfish or crab imitations. Needlefish followed my stripped line. A few times the local Nurse shark homed in on my lure and sent me backpedaling to the high tide line. Occasionally, small schools of silver, bullet shaped fish swam past me as they cruised the shallows. Finally, I gave up on Bonefish. Can't eat 'em anyway.

I broke out my 10 foot carbon fiber surf casting rod. 20 pound Penn Jig Master reel. (Well it feels like that after about 12 casts...) Conch skin, Ballyhoo or squid scraps for bait. I clipped on a 3 oz. pyramid weight to send the whole mess out as far as possible. I was hoping for Mackerel. Maybe Palometa. A snapper for the skillet. I started to catch Bonefish. Retrieving my cumbersome terminal tackle after a few half-hearted strikes by some mystery fish, right at the shelf where the surf breaks, BANG. Big hit, feisty presence on the line. Bonefish. Sometimes I land a two-fer on my double snelled rig. They're homely up close, with a wide-eyed countenance and a little pout. They pull like oxen and even the telephone pole I employ as a casting tool bends a bit in protest. Bonefish on a bare hook baited with seafood scraps, dragged along the bottom. There you have it. No pricey guide, no 90 foot casts, no squinting into the glaring sun. No need, in the end, for all the specialized saltwater gear that exerts such seductive pressure, calling out from the glossy catalogs that arrive as the snow plows begin idling in the county garage.

Yeah. You might say it's a waste of the best fighting fish per pound in the sea. On the other hand, you could catch dinner. You could catch something you've never even seen a picture of. Don't eat that one.

Badger Fly Fishers Spring Opener

The Badger Fly Fishers will hold their annual *Spring Opener* on February 10, 2007. The event has a new venue this year. They are moving to the Madison Turners facility at 3001 S. Stoughton Rd. (near the Pflaum Rd intersection) on Madison's East side. Their new venue offers ample room for fly tying demonstrations, speakers, vendors and casting.

Central Wisconsin Trout Fest

Central Wisconsin Trout Unlimited will hold their annual Trout Fest on February 24th. It will be held in Winneconne at the Fin 'N Feather. If you love trout, cold water resources, trout fishing, fly tying, rod building, TU, good conversation, informative seminars by experts and all things related - this event is for you. Trout Fest starts at 9:00 am and ends at 4:30 pm.

Features include:

- 10 Twenty Minute Seminars
- Free Admission
- The Best Fly Tiers in Wisconsin
- Used Equipment Sale
- Raffles
- Youth Fly Tying
- DNR Biologists Available to Answer Questions

Visit <http://www.cwtu.org/> to learn more about Trout Fest 2007. Call Mark Maffitt at 273-2140 if you would like to carpool.

Welcome New Members

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

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| Randy Forrand | David Myers |
| Todd Franklin | Keith Nelson |
| Donald Kayon | Iain Paterson |
| Ron Langellier | Nick Vancourt |
| Erik Lommen | Jesse Walters |
| Karl Malcolm | |

We are honored to have you among us. Please join us at our January 9th meeting, and we'll give you some free bucket raffle tickets. These are top quality tickets capable of winning flies, and books, and other cool stuff

Grasslands for Trout

The Blue Mounds Area Project announces the second of its 2007 Land Stewardship Information Series at the Mount Horeb Community Center, 107 N. Grove Street, Mount Horeb. On Thursday, February 8, 2007 at 7:30 PM, Dave Marshall will explain "What do grasslands have to do with trout anyway?" Dave, a recently retired Wisconsin DNR veteran will describe a long term DNR study comparing fish community data for periods prior to and following establishment of the conservation Reserve Program in driftless area watersheds. It turns out CRP is good for trout!

For more information about the event, or the Blue Mounds Area Project please visit www.bluemounds.org

Nohr Chapter Work Days

The Laura and Harry Nohr Chapter of Trout Unlimited has announced two Big Spring Creek workdays. The work days are scheduled for February 10th and March 10th from 8:00 to 12:00. Dinner will be provided both days. A third work day later in March is a distinct possibility. No equipment will be needed for either of the work days, just a pair of gloves and old clothes (nothing that you would want to burn holes in). Volunteer are asked to meet by the bridge on Big Spring Road. If you plan on attending please contact Don Pluemer so that he can get a headcount for dinner. Don may be reached at either djpluemer@centurytel.net or (608) 943-8122.

Project Green Teen

Project Green Teen of Shabazz High School will be conducting local stream and park restoration efforts on Token Creek on March 22nd and again on April 26th and 27th. Anyone who wishes to help is invited to join them. They will be working with the Dane County Parks Department and the Token Creek Watershed Association. Both workdays will commence at 9:30 am and conclude at 2:30 pm. Please contact Tina Murray for more information at tmurray@madison.k12.wi.us.

Mark Your Calendar and Please Join Us

TU Driftless Area Restoration Effort – TUDARE Stream Restoration Project Planning Training

March 24-25, 2007

Living Waters Bible Camp

E8932 Reo Avenue
Westby, Wisconsin

The goal of the training is to help chapters increase their project planning and implementation capability. The program will feature case studies from Driftless Area chapters, panel discussions from agency professionals, and a hands-on project planning exercise. The training sessions will begin at 8:30 am on Saturday and conclude by 12:30 pm on Sunday. There will be time on Saturday for fishing the coulees.

This will be an excellent opportunity for you to solicit partners for any upcoming stream restoration projects you may have for 2007. Bring maps, budgets, etc.

Presentations and materials will cover the following topics: Participants will:

- Stream Restoration Basics
- Project Planning Basics
- Recruiting and Organizing Volunteers
- Regional Planning Stream Restoration Projects
- Organizing a Successful Workday
- Funding Restoration Projects
- Grant Writing
- Publicity and Outreach
- Tools & Resources from TU

- Receive a Project Planning Toolkit with useful reference materials for planning your next project.
- Leave the training with a plan for their stream restoration project.
- Have a chance to win great door prizes.
- Enjoy the early season spring creek fishing of the region.

Reserve your spot today. DUE TO LIMITED SPACE **YOU MUST REGISTER** BY FEBRUARY 23rd TO ENSURE YOUR SPOT. We are holding 3 spots open for each of the Driftless Area and surrounding chapters. Beyond the three initial members from a chapter, names will be added to a waiting list and notified by early March. Participants need to coordinate participation through their Chapter President. Email or call Jeff Hastings, TUDARE Project Manager (jhastings@tu.org 608-606-4158) with your name, chapter, and whether or not you plan to stay at Living Waters, Super 8, or elsewhere. Also please indicate if you have any special dietary considerations.

Necessary notes on logistics:

- **Costs:** Lodging (at Living Waters), Meals, Materials & Breaks for entire weekend \$50, w/o lodging \$25. *Cost of workshop is being subsidized by a grant from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation.*
- **Meals:** Breakfast on Saturday & Sunday & lunch of Saturday will be provided at Living Waters. We will eat out in a local restaurant in Westby on Saturday evening (*meal not included in registration*).
- **Lodging:** Living Waters has bunkhouses, cabins, and some private and semi-private sleeping rooms. Participants staying at Living Waters should plan on bringing bedding, a pillow, towels, and toiletries. We will only assign one person to each bunk bed. You can check out the camp on their website www.lwbc.org.
- **Alternate Lodging:** Trout Unlimited also has a block of rooms (25) reserved at the Super 8 in Viroqua for the nights of March 23 and 24 at the bargain rate of \$40/night (single) \$45/night (double). If you choose to stay at the Super 8 or elsewhere you are responsible for making and paying for your own lodging. The Super 8 is about 9 miles from Living Waters. Super 8 Motel – Viroqua, 1325 N. Main St. Hwy. 14-61-27, Viroqua, WI 54665 800/501-0664.

Important dates to remember:

February 8 th	Blue Mounds Area Project colloquium featuring Dave Marshall
February 10 th	Nohr Chapter Workday on Big Spring Creek
February 10 th	Badger Fly Fishers Spring Opener at Madison Turners featuring Neale Streeks
February 13 th	Chapter Meeting at the Coliseum Bar featuring Timothy Ehlinger
February 23 rd -25 th	Madison Fishing Expo
February 24 th	Central Wisconsin Trout Fest in Winneconne
March 10 th	Nohr Chapter Workday on Big Spring Creek
March 13 th	Chapter Meeting at the Coliseum Bar featuring the <i>March Madness Auction</i>
March 22 nd	Project Green Teen Workday at Token Creek
April 14 th	Casting Clinic at Salmo Pond
April 21 st	Black Earth Creek Clean Up Day
April 26 th & 27 th	Project Green Teen Workday at Token Creek
May 13 th – 19 th	Project Green Teen Outing in Avalanche
May 19 th	Board of Directors Meeting in Avalanche




 William & Joseph



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