

Newscasts

September, 2002 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



September 10th Meeting to Feature Ross Mueller

The speaker at our September 10th meeting will be none other than Ross Mueller. Many of you may know Ross as the author of *Upper Midwest Flies That Catch Fish (and How to Fish Them)* as well as *Fly Fishing Midwestern Spring Creeks*. Others will remember him as a great speaker at a recent *Ice Breaker*. At any rate, he is sure to thrill us with his presentation entitled "A 500 Mile Tour of Wisconsin Trout Streams". As always, we will meet at the Maple Tree Restaurant on Highway 51 in McFarland. The meeting will begin at 7:00 PM, but the nonsense will begin as soon as we get there, so please join us for dinner at 6:00 PM.

Nash Williams Remembered

By Larry Meicher

Nash Williams passed away on Saturday, July 27, 2002 (just a month short of his 96th birthday). Nash was instrumental in the September 30th 1969 formation of the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Being a lawyer by trade, he was very helpful in establishing the fledgling chapter and he authored its bylaws. He served as the secretary-treasurer from 1971-1972, and he continued in an active role in the chapter until last year. He was also very active in all of our stream projects.

Nash was instrumental in establishing the Wisconsin State Council of Trout Unlimited. He was state treasurer in 1971 and served as state council chair from 1973 to 1975. He was a National Director from 1974 until the Natural Resources Board was formed in the 1990's. He served first as the Wisconsin Representative and then as a National Director *at large*. During his tenure he served on the Research and Projects committee and he was chairman of that committee until 1982. This committee was responsible for allocating funds to deserving projects around the country for stream improvement and research. He was also instrumental in focusing the attention and efforts of Trout Unlimited on Acid Rain.

Southern Wisconsin Chapter and the State Council will miss Nash and all of his efforts over the years. A memorial service was held August 20 at the University of Wisconsin Arboretum and he will be interned at his family plot in Lake Placid, New York.

Deer Creek Workday Scheduled for September 21st

Those pesky willows are threatening to undo some of the work that we did on Deer Creek back in 1999. So, let's meet at Sutter Road at 9:00 AM on September 21st. We will cut willow stumps and sprouts in such a way as to guarantee that they won't come back again. The work should be done by noon.

Please note that each time you volunteer at a workday, your name will be added to a drawing for a very nice fly rod. A winner will be drawn as part of the *Ice Breaker* festivities (you need not be present at the *Ice Breaker* to win).

Come to a Meeting and Win a Prize

At our September 10th meeting we will draw for a \$20 gift certificate from Madison Outfitters. No purchase is necessary – as a SWTU member you are automatically qualified to win. But, you must be present to win! If the person whose name is drawn is absent, we will draw for a \$40 gift certificate at our October 8th meeting.

From the President.....by Bill Pielsticker

I flew to Portland, Maine, last month to attend to TU National Convention. I hadn't planned to go, but was invited to take part in a 2-hour training session on how to deal with the media. I helped the media consultant, Steve Kinsella, illustrate his training by describing how we responded to last year's fish kill on Black Earth Creek, and how we used that to push for strong rules to limit polluted runoff. Many of you played important parts in that story, either with suggestions on how to proceed, attending the public meetings, or contacting the DNR and DATCP on the rules. It was a good story well received.

One part of that story was concluded this summer when the Clean Water Coalition reached agreement with the DNR on how to proceed with the polluted runoff rules. The coalition agreed that due to federal rules, the DNR could not require vegetative buffers along lakes and streams prior to 2008, when the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) expires. However, the DNR offered to pursue three years of state-level research on the types of buffers that would best work in Wisconsin. Following that research, the agency will move to implement rules requiring buffers on some or all streams with degraded or outstanding waters by 2008.

The upshot of this agreement is that *the new DNR rules to reduce polluted runoff go into effect later this month*, as do the DATCP rules to implement them on agricultural land. Rules to implement vegetative buffers on sensitive lakes and streams will follow at the earliest possible date. In the meantime, landowners are signing contracts to install buffers along nearly 50% of eligible streams in four-dozen Wisconsin counties through the federal CREP program. *This is a clear victory for the coalition and for Wisconsin Trout Unlimited!* What's the downside? I get to serve on the advisory committee for the Wisconsin Buffer Initiative for the next 3 years!

In another piece of good news, Dane County Executive Kathleen Falk vetoed the Dane County Board's approval of a zoning change which would have allowed a cement plant to be built near Black Earth Creek in the Town of Cross Plains. When Wingra Stone agreed to design its stormwater plan to handle a 100-year storm, infiltrating the runoff back into the groundwater, the SWTU board decided it could not oppose the plant on water quality grounds. Nonetheless, the board did agree that siting the plant near the stream would be like placing an elephant in an aviary. Speaking for the board, I thank County Executive Falk for dropping this elephant in its tracks (metaphorically speaking, of course).

Lastly, several of you volunteered to help in our stream-monitoring program for Black Earth Creek. Due to getting a late start, this won't begin until next spring. However, DNR personnel have been taking water samples for analysis following significant rainfalls this growing season. In addition, both the Madison Fishing Expo board and the Badger Fly Fishers have agreed to contribute matching funds to help us purchase in-stream data monitors. The units will be bought before next May and placed in the stream to begin a two to three year study of the creek. If you are interested in signing on to help, send me an email or give me a call, I'll add you to our list.

DNR Spared Excessive Budget Cuts

The compromise budget repair bill that was signed by the Governor in July did not include several measures that would have substantially weakened the DNR water program. The animal waste team was spared the ax, and while the Water Integration Team was not restored, their cuts were not double-counted as one earlier draft had proposed.

With another tight budget looming next year, and the DNR re-allocating money to pay for its attempt to control the chronic wasting disease outbreak in the deer herd, there is some concern over how the agency will maintain funding for its water programs. With the success of its polluted runoff campaign, the Clean Water Coalition, in alliance with SWTU and Wisconsin TU, will establish a work group to examine funding issues and the DNR water program. Watch these pages and those of *Wisconsin Trout* for updates.

Benchmarking For Success

A one and one-half day workshop will provide training on building SWTU's capacity to attract new members, develop new leaders, and be financially sound. SWTU will underwrite the workshop costs for up to five board members and other volunteers who wish to take this opportunity to hone their organizational skills.

The training is being offered on November 15 and 16 by the Institute for Conservation Leadership. It will be held at the Aurora University Lake Geneva Campus, Williams Bay, Wisconsin. For more information or to volunteer for the workshop, contact Bill Pielsticker.

Waters of Wisconsin Forum Announced

The *Waters of Wisconsin Forum*, scheduled to take place October 21-22 at Monona Terrace in Madison, will be a gathering of leading water experts and concerned citizens to lay the groundwork for a comprehensive long-term policy for sustaining Wisconsin's waters. It's also an opportunity to celebrate, through art, poetry, and music, the importance and beauty of water in our lives. The forum is the culmination of Waters of Wisconsin (WOW), a statewide initiative sponsored by the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters.

For the past two years, WOW has brought together representatives from widely varied areas of water use and management--including agriculture, industry, conservation, all levels of government and public agencies, education, and Native American tribes--to address the use, management, and long-term protection of Wisconsin's waters. On the second day of the conference Bill Pielsticker will be chairing a panel titled *Gone Fishing: Wisconsin's Recreational and Commercial Fisheries*.

For more information on the project or the forum, visit the Waters of Wisconsin website at <http://www.wisconsinacademy.org/wow/> or contact Amanda Okopski Waters of Wisconsin Forum Director (608) 263-1692, ext. 22

Statewide Rivers Conference

An upcoming statewide conference, *Rivers 2002 – A Watershed Event*, is scheduled for November 8-10 near Stevens Point, Wisconsin. Sponsored by the River Alliance of Wisconsin and a host of other organizations, including the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited, the conference will bring together more than 125 representatives of Wisconsin organizations, tribes and agencies concerned with local watershed protection.

As part of the conference, participants will develop an action plan for Wisconsin's watersheds for the next three years. In addition, the conference will offer hands-on workshops and sessions about a variety of topics related to watershed protection.

The conference is open to representatives of conservation organizations, watershed education organizations, advocacy groups, water recreation interests, tribal members and others interested in local watershed protection.

For more information, please contact Diana Toledo, Local Group Assistance Manager of the River Alliance of Wisconsin at 608-257-2424, or visit www.wisconsinrivers.org

Dane County Working to Improve Stream Quality Near Construction Sites

By: Bill Selbig and Pete Jopke

During the last 10 years, Dane County has experienced the second largest increase in population in Wisconsin. Farmland is being taken out of crop production and being converted to urban land uses. Large tracts of land are being disturbed to create commercial developments and subdivisions for residential housing. These disturbances influence the quantity of stormwater runoff by converting natural landscapes to impervious surfaces. Additionally, urbanization can have a negative impact on in-stream water quality such as sedimentation and thermal load, two important elements for trout reproduction.

On August 22nd of this year, the Dane County Board enacted a countywide stormwater management ordinance to address problems created by stormwater runoff. The ordinance will require that both the quantity and quality of stormwater runoff meet a stringent set of standards. Proper planning, design, and maintenance are a fundamental premise behind the ordinance. Developers have the option of using several different techniques in order to mitigate the adverse effects of stormwater runoff.

The US Geological Survey, in cooperation with Dane County Land Conservation, is currently investigating the impacts of a residential development on the water quality of Brewery Creek in Cross Plains, WI. A 72-acre residential subdivision is currently being developed along the banks of Brewery Creek near the northeast corner of Cross Plains. The developer has worked closely with state and county officials to create a stormwater management plan that promotes runoff infiltration. By incorporating various infiltration Best Management Practices (BMPs) into the design plan, Brewery Creek may not suffer from adverse effects associated with construction site runoff.

The subdivision has been designed to route stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces such as streets, rooftops and driveways to a series of BMPs. Each BMP is linked together to form a "treatment-train" to maximize runoff treatment. For example, runoff generated by street surfaces is delivered to a grassed median with soils that have been engineered to allow rapid infiltration. During heavy rains, excess runoff overflows into a concrete pipe that empties into an infiltration basin where a large volume of water can accumulate and infiltrate into the soil between rain events. In addition to infiltration trenches and basins, each homeowner is required by deed restriction to landscape a portion of their property that accepts runoff from their own rooftops. These small, vegetated depressions are called raingardens and they provide another method to infiltrate stormwater runoff and help replenish groundwater resources.

The BMPs used at this site not only provide runoff infiltration but also act as pollution filtration devices. Construction of new homes creates new sources of sediment that become suspended in surface water runoff. Water slows down as it travels through each device, allowing sediment to fall out of suspension before reaching Brewery Creek. Removing sediment also removes other unwanted pollutants such as phosphorus and nitrogen, which are a source of lake eutrophication. Another benefit of infiltration is a reduction in runoff temperature. Rooftops, driveways, and streets can reach extremely warm temperatures during summer months. As rain comes in contact with those surfaces, it is rapidly heated and migrates towards a receiving water body. Infiltration allows heated runoff a chance to cool as it passes through various BMPs and surrounding soils. Each of these improvements results in a cleaner, healthier stream that ultimately will prove beneficial to aquatic organisms.

Although the chemical and biological data have not been fully analyzed, early trends in monitoring have shown the BMPs implemented at the development in Cross Plains have helped mitigate the effects of the stormwater runoff. The researchers hope that the techniques implemented at this site will be used as a blueprint for future developments being considered in sensitive watersheds. The implementation of technologies that promote water quality while replenishing groundwater resources will be critical in order to limit the effects associated with urban sprawl.

Making SWTU a better river protection organization

By Gerry Campbell

SWTU received a river protection grant from the Wisconsin DNR to help us be an even better river protection organization. We will be organizing our records, developing a better system to understand member talents and capacities, reviewing the organization bylaws, developing a long term financial strategy and ultimately training officers, members and partners.

The Grant provides up to \$10,000 and we have pledged to match this with about \$6,000 through our work and contributions. We will be working with Laura Hewitt in the local office of TU to contract for a person to help us accomplish the details of our project. We are seeking someone who will work several hours a week over the next 6 to 12 months. The work will involve sorting, filing and creating membership and operations records. It will also involve telephone and personal interviews with SWTU members, WI DNR, and county and town officials. Compensation will be \$9.00-12.00 per hour depending on experience. Travel will be compensated \$0.30 per mile. If you know someone who might be interested contact Laura at 608-250-3534 or E-mail lhewitt@tu.org

Gerry Campbell is the SWTU project director for the river protection grant. If you would be willing to work on this project as a volunteer we need your help. If you have personal or professional experience related to membership or organizational records management, strategic planning, volunteer recruitment or strategic financial planning please call Gerry at 238-8766 or email him at gerald8966@aol.com

Fishing Mentors Needed

Up to a dozen experienced trout fisherman and fly tyers are needed to serve as mentors for about 300 scouts at a Camporee to be held on October 5th near Monroe. Since the scouts will be fishing private water (where the season never closes) this could be a good way to treat those *End of Season Blues*. If you can help, then please contact Dave Wisnefske at either (608) 325-4606, or dwisnefske@wekz.net.

Important dates to remember:

September 10	Chapter Meeting featuring speaker Ross Mueller
September 21	Deer Creek Workday
October 8	Chapter Meeting featuring speaker Bob Hunt
November 12	Monthly Chapter Meeting
December 10	Monthly Chapter Meeting
January 14	Monthly Chapter Meeting
January 17	Nash Williams Memorial Banquette
January 18	<i>Ice Breaker</i> featuring Dick Talleur and Shawn Perich

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