

Newscasts

October, 2002 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



Bob Hunt to Speak at October 8th Meeting

Bob Hunt will be the featured speaker at our October 8th meeting. He will present a slide show entitled, *Basic Principles of Trout Stream Habitat Management*. Mr. Hunt is a retired Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources fisheries research biologist, and nationally acclaimed author of *Trout Stream Therapy*.

Wisconsin's trout streams may not be the best in the nation but they are among the best-managed. Mr. Hunt played a major role in developing those management techniques. During his thirty-three years with the DNR, he carried out many pioneering field evaluations of the techniques that were developed in order to reestablish healthy wild trout populations in Wisconsin, and across the country. Bob is a life member of Trout Unlimited, and has served on the *Scientific Advisory Board of Trout Unlimited*. He has won several awards, including the *Trout Unlimited Conservation Professional Award* in 1981, the *Gulf Oil Conservation Professional Award* in 1982, and a *Special Award of Recognition* from the American Fisheries Society in 1992.

Don't miss this opportunity to hear a renowned expert address a topic that is near and dear to the hearts of us all. We will meet at the Maple Tree Restaurant on Highway 51 in McFarland. The meeting will begin at 7:00, but please come out around 6 to eat and swap fishing lies.

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 Wisnfske at either (608) 325-4606, or dwisnfske@wekz.net.

Thank You

Eleven hard working souls turned out on September 21st to do some brushing along Deer Creek. Their efforts will go a long way toward insuring that the work that we did on that stream in 1999 will not have been done in vain. We all owe a debt of gratitude to the following individuals for their hard work, and dedication.

- Tim Cleveland
- Tom Ehlert
- Dan Geib
- Karsten Geib
- Henry Haugley
- Chuck Jacobson
- Ted Lauf
- Larry Meicher
- Bill Pielsticker
- John Schweiger
- Jack Way

October Workdays Scheduled

Two workdays have been scheduled for October. Both projects involve cutting brush away from the edges of Mt. Vernon Creek. (Perhaps some brush trimming will decrease the number of expletives that some of us hurl at those nasty fly-ensnaring branches.)

Please meet at the Highway G Bridge on October 5th and at the Highway U Bridge on October 19th. Both workdays will begin at 9:00 AM and conclude by 1:00 PM.

Unfortunately, the October 5th workday conflicts with the duck season opener. All duck hunters will be graciously excused from this October 5th workday so long as they remember to save those precious wood duck feathers for our fly tyers.

Please remember 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 on January 18th (you need not be present at the *Ice Breaker* to win).

**From the President
by Bill Pielsticker**

I've spent an increasing portion of my "fishing" time in meetings, pursuing various approaches to protecting and improving water quality. It can be rewarding work, but it pales in comparison to getting out on a habitat-related workday. I joined a crew of nearly a dozen in late September to remove young willow trees adjacent to a tributary of Deer Creek, south of Mt. Horeb. While dodging our raccoon mascot (we couldn't decide if it was a released pet or a diseased threat), we accomplished a good bit. Two workdays are scheduled this month on Mt. Vernon Creek (see related article). Come on out and see the difference we can make!

Another word about the meetings I've been involved in. These have generally focused on finding solutions to the negative impact agricultural practices sometimes have on trout streams. These range from surface runoff of manure and sediment to excessive levels of nutrients in surface runoff, tile drains, and groundwater. The good news is that agricultural producers and environmentalists are talking to each other about these issues. That's as opposed to yelling, stomping, and screaming. It may not sound like much, but that's real progress.

I hope I didn't insult any of you by associating TU members with environmentalists. In theory, most TU members, if they think about it at all, would consider themselves conservationists, i.e., part of a long history of folks working to conserve our coldwater fisheries and the healthy habitat that they require. About the only distinction farmers make between TU'ers and enviros is that we tend to put our money where our mouth is. While there are other differences, clearly that's one distinction we can live with.

Finally, if you're facing depression now that the trout season has ended, Tom Ehlert reminded me that there are some very nice streams in northeast Iowa where the season remains open....

Membership Committee Being Formed

Because the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited is very large, it is often difficult to keep track of all of our members. Many people become Trout Unlimited members for a couple of years then fade away before we get a chance to meet them. A membership committee is being formed to help keep track of, and care for our many members. Committee members can expect to serve about an hour a month. If you are interested in serving on this committee, then please contact John Serunian at either 277-9295, or at jseunian@AOL.com.

Please Be Respectful of Landowner Rights

Over the last 33 years, SWTU has partnered with many landowners to enhance and restore numerous trout streams in our area. None of these projects would have been possible without the cooperation of the landowners. It is clearly critical to our mission that we maintain good relations with the owners of lands that surround our streams. Please, please, please - take care not to tread on crops while making your way towards the stream. If you open a gate, then close it behind you. If you cross a couple strands of barbed wire, then uncross them after you have stepped through. If you see some trash, then pick it up. Consider yourself an ambassador of the sport each time that you go fishing. Every little act of consideration, kindness, and common courtesy could help to keep us standing in good stead with a group of very important partners on whom we depend.

Catch New Season of TUTV

On October 4, 2002, a new season of Trout Unlimited Television will premiere on The Outdoor Life Network. Shows will air every Friday, 8:30 PM CST and again on Sundays at 11:30 AM. Please check your local listings to verify airtimes. Show descriptions and viewing schedules are available at <http://www.tutv.org>

Evaluation of Street Sweeping as a Water Quality Management Tool

By Bill Selbig

Rain showers passing through an urbanized area come in contact with impervious surfaces such as rooftops, driveways, and streets that quickly route water to the nearest storm sewer. Concentrating urban runoff into conveyances such as storm sewers can quickly turn this water into polluted rivers that eventually make their way to nearby receiving waters such as lakes and streams.

The City of Madison is required to control the quality of stormwater runoff as part of the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). Previous studies have indicated that runoff from street surfaces is a major contributor of pollution in urban areas. One way to control roadway runoff is to use street sweeping to remove pollutants before they become entrained in runoff. This option may be preferable to structural Best Management Practices (BMPs) such as detention ponds since structural BMPs can be expensive, often require acquisition of land, and can require frequent maintenance to maintain effectiveness. In addition, the city already conducts street sweeping and may only need to modify their sweeping practices to realize a significant stormwater quality benefit.

The US Geological Survey, in cooperation with the City of Madison and The Department of Natural Resources, is conducting a study to evaluate the effectiveness of various street sweeping technologies at removing polluted particles from city streets before becoming entrained in urban runoff. The study uses a paired basin approach, meaning data will be collected from four residential basins in southwest Madison and then be compared to one another. One basin is designated the control and the others test basins. A quantifiable relationship exists among the paired basins and that relationship is valid until a major change is made at one of the basins. The major change in this case is the frequency of street sweeping and the technology of the sweeper.

The primary objective of this project is to determine if the dirt load on residential

streets is reduced by various street sweeping scenarios and if so to what degree. Water quality samples will be collected from the main conveyance in the basins to determine if water quality benefits are realized by the street sweeping program and to what extent. The water quality sampling results from these basins and the street dirt load data will be used to estimate the benefits that may be achieved using other street sweeping programs.

The study is in its second year and is projected to conclude in 2004. The first and second year of the project were designed to gather baseline conditions in order to establish a relationship among the basins. During this period street sweepers were not used at all. The next phase, beginning in spring of 2003 and part of 2004, is to resume street sweeping at a frequency of once per week. A new relationship between the basins should hopefully begin to emerge at that point. The data will be analyzed and summarized in a report in 2005.

By improving the technology of street sweepers and perhaps by simply altering the frequency of sweeping schedules, the City of Madison may greatly improve the quality of urban runoff. This method could prove to be a time and cost saving measure to achieve the reduction of pollutants that enter our receiving waters.

The 2003 Ice Breaker is Coming

It's never too early to mark your calendar for an event as important (or as fun) as the *Ice Breaker*. This year's festivities will begin on the evening of Friday January 17th with the *Nash Williams Memorial Banquette*. On the morning of Saturday January 18th, the fun will continue at the Park Ponderosa Ballroom in McFarland with the *Ice Breaker* itself. Our speakers this year will be Dick Talleur and Shawn Perich. Both speakers are authors, fishing experts, and great guys.

The *Ice Breaker* is the major fundraiser for our chapter. Each year, we raffle off a lot of great prizes in order to raise money for our local trout stream improvement projects. Ask anyone who has ever been to an *Ice Breaker*, and you will be told that they are a lot of fun. Come on out and see for yourself.

How Does Your Legislator Rate?

By Jeff Smith

Votes on returning the appointment of the Secretary of the DNR to the DNR Board, protecting isolated wetlands, using cyanide in metallic mining, exempting Ashley Furniture Industries, Inc. from Wisconsin's wetland laws, and establishing a constitutional right to hunt, fish and trap are featured in the *WLCV 2002 Conservation Scorecard*. Published by the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters, the 2002 Scorecard shows how each member of the Wisconsin Senate and Assembly voted on key conservation and environmental issues during 2001 and 2002.

The 2002 Scorecard rates each member of the Senate and Assembly on a series of conservation and environmental votes cast on the floor of each chamber (floor votes). In the Senate, 10 members received 100% ratings, while 4 of the 33 Senators managed only 30%. In the Assembly, 20 members received a 100% score while 8 managed less than 40%. The five members of the Senate Committee on Environmental Resources were identified as "Environmental Champs" for standing together and insisting that Wisconsin pass a strong bill to protect isolated wetlands. This legislation was needed after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that "isolated wetland (not connected to navigable waters) were not subject to federal regulation. The WLCV calls this "the most important piece of conservation legislation of the past two years."

The WLCV asked over 50 individuals active in hunting and fishing groups and environmental organizations to help select votes to be used in the Scorecard. The list of possible votes was narrowed down with the help of an Advisory Committee of 15 individuals, including Jeff Smith, legislative chair for Wisconsin TU, former DNR Secretary George Meyer, Bucky Kilishek with the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, and Caryl Terrell with the Wisconsin Sierra Club. The final selections were made by Scorecard chair Bill Pielsticker, President of SWTU and founding President of the WLCV, and were ratified by the WLCV board. It was emphasized throughout the process

that partisanship was to play no role in the selection of issues.

In addition to floor votes, the WLCV 2002 Conservation Scorecard also includes a review of key committee votes, including votes on regulating high capacity wells, splitting the DNR into two agencies, and the effort to take money from the DNR's water program and give it to the state park operations and roads budget. The WLCV is a "nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to electing conservation leaders to the state legislature and encouraging lawmakers to champion conservation policies that effectively protect Wisconsin's public health and natural resources." For a copy of the Scorecard, you can call the WLCV office in Waunakee at (608) 850-4585. You can also view or print the 2002 Scorecard at the group's website: www.wlcv.org.

Changes in the Volunteer Operations Staff

Effective October 1, Sara Johnson will no longer be director of volunteer operations. Over the past five years, Sara has led TU's organizational development effort and has played a prominent role in shaping the effort of the Natural Resources Board's Futures Committee. Sara recently moved from Wisconsin to California and will continue to work with TU as a consultant to help implement the Futures Committee recommendations and fulfill other Volunteer Operations responsibilities.

TU has decided to centralize the volunteer operations staff in the national office in Arlington, Virginia. Steve Moyer, vice president for conservation programs, will be overseeing this transition. Assisting Steve will be Duncan Blair, who will become director of volunteer operations, effective October 1. Over the past two years, Duncan has directed the "First Cast" youth education program and has acquired a great deal of working knowledge about TU's grassroots. Russ Schnitzer, volunteer services coordinator in the Midwest office, will be relocating to the national office to work with Duncan. Midwest conservation director Laura Hewitt will remain in Madison where she will continue to assist TU's volunteer operations efforts in the Midwest

Spring Fly Fishing Opener Announced

The Badger Fly Fishers of will host their annual fund raiser, the *Spring Fly Fishing Opener* on February 8, 2003 at the Marriott Hotel on the west beltline highway. Their featured speaker will be Gary Borger. It will be an expanded event this year, with fly tying demonstrations, fly tying lessons, commercial exhibitors, raffles, prizes, a lively auction, and an evening banquet. In addition, representatives from various rod companies will be there with their latest and greatest wares which you may test cast indoors at the event. Gary Borger will perform a casting demonstration right after lunch. There should be something for everyone who loves fly fishing! Admission for the day is \$10.00 at the door. For more information, contact Rich Ludt at (608) 833-7918.



Scot Stewart and his DNR crew, probing the depths of Black Earth Creek with electricity.

On The Stream Meeting a Big Success.

Our annual *On the Stream Meeting* was held on July 20th at the city park in Cross Plains. DNR biologists were on hand to demonstrate that electrified rods are much more effective than graphite rods as a means of raising fish to the surface. An informal survey revealed a healthy number of fish in Cross Plains despite the fish kill that occurred downstream in 2001. A good time was had by all, and thanks to Mark Rhinerson, nobody went home hungry.



Chef Rhinerson and his crew of assistants engaged in an arcane fire starting ritual.

Important dates to remember:

October 8	Chapter Meeting featuring speaker Bob Hunt
October 5	Mt. Vernon Creek Work Day – Meet at the Highway G Bridge @ 9:00 AM
October 19	Mt. Vernon Creek Work Day – Meet at the Highway U Bridge @ 9:00 AM
November 12	Monthly Chapter Meeting
December 10	Monthly Chapter Meeting featuring SWTU Fly Tyers
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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