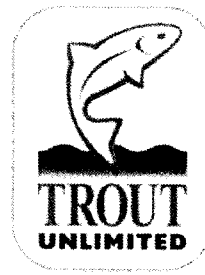


# Newscasts



November, 2001 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited

## News from God's Country:

Bill Sherer will be the guest speaker at our monthly meeting on November 13<sup>th</sup>. He promises to tell us about the many fishing opportunities in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Bill operates the magnificent *We Tie It* fly shop in Boulder Junction Wisconsin. He loves to fish the U.P. in general, and the *Sylvania National Wilderness Area* in particular. Given that the U.P. is much closer to Boulder Junction than it is to Madison, it is a pretty safe bet that he fishes there more often than most of us do. Given that he is a licensed guide, I think that we can all look forward to learning about fishing that outrageously beautiful corner of the world.

We will meet at the Maple Tree Restaurant on Highway 51 in McFarland. The meeting will start at 7:00 PM but please consider coming out around 6:00 to join us for dinner.

## Ice Breaker 2002

Mark your calendars! The 2002 *Ice Breaker* will be held at the Park Ponderosa Ball Room in McFarland on Saturday January 19, 2002. The location of the Trout Appreciation Dinner on January 18<sup>th</sup> will be announced at our November meeting. Our speakers will be the venerable Dave Whitlock and the amicable Rich Osthoff. (Please see the Dave Whitlock biography in this issue of *Newscasts*. A biographical sketch of Rich Osthoff will appear in the December issue.)

The Ice Breaker is an important source of revenue that enables our chapter to perform the cold water conservation activities that we are famous for. It is also a ton of fun! Great speakers, great door prizes, great bucket raffles, fly tying demonstrations, aquatic insect exhibits, and chili. (Who could forget the Park Ponderosa Chili?) Please come join in the fun as we raise money for a great cause.

## We need flies.

Please tie lots and lots of flies. We need flies for monthly bucket raffle prizes, Ice Breaker door prizes, and the auction. Paul Banas has volunteered to route donated flies to these events. Please bring your flies to Paul and he will see to it that they find their way to one of these events.

## Important dates to remember:

- November 13: Chapter Meeting. Speaker Bill Sherer – *Fly Fishing the U.P. and Sylvania*
- December 11: Chapter Meeting. Speaker Tom Thrall – *Fly Fishing in Colorado*
- January 8: Chapter Meeting featuring the SWTU Fly Tyers
- January 16: Fly Tying Classes begin at East High
- January 17: Fly Tying Classes begin at West High
- January 18: Trout Appreciation Dinner
- January 19: Ice Breaker featuring Dave Whitlock and Rich Osthoff
- February 12: Chapter Meeting featuring author Scott Seymour
- March 12: March Madness Auction

## November Workdays

Twenty-seven hardworking stewards of our beloved Black Earth Creek turned out on November 3<sup>rd</sup> to remove flood debris from the stream. The storms in June and August uprooted a lot of streamside vegetation and repositioned much of it in places that would have been detrimental to the health of the stream. Thanks to the efforts of our hard working volunteers, this will not happen.

Work started behind the Cross Plains hardware store, and progressed downstream to the sewage treatment plant. Due to the tremendous turnout, the work went quickly, and people reported having a good time. Tom and Karen Ehlert made some very tasty chili that seemed to revive the troops. The venison was contributed by long-time chapter member Larry Meicher.

We owe special thanks to chapter member, and Middleton High School teacher, Mike Duren. Mr. Duren offered extra credit to those students in his *Environmental Studies* course that came to help with this project. What an ingenious way to

give students a first hand opportunity to learn about stewardship and grass roots conservation. The students made an enormous contribution to this project for which we should all be thankful.

Another workday is scheduled for November 10<sup>th</sup>. We will meet in the parking lot behind the Cross Plains hardware store at 9:00 AM, and we promise to be done by 1:00 PM. Tom Ehlert has also promised to prepare yet another batch of revitalizing chili. Please try to join us.

**Please thank the following November 3<sup>rd</sup> workday volunteers:**

Wesley Ayres	Larry Meicher	Mike Shivers
Mike Duren	John Mella-Twedaale	Matt Smith
Tom Ehlert	Luke Mella-Tweddale	Reg Smith
Mike Grimes	Bill Pielsticker	Dick Tedesco
Henry Haugley	Mark Rhinerson	Brian Urso
Jay Hyma	Mike Ripp	Erika Wohlge
Chuck Jacobson	Adam Senatori	Bob Zimmerman
Rick Johnson	Brett Schultz	
David Koslov	John Schweiger	
Mark Maffitt	John Serunian	

\* We suspect that we are missing the names of a couple of volunteers. Please accept our apologies for missing your name, and our thanks for your efforts.

**Free Membership Raffle**

You could win a \$60 gift certificate from Fontana Sports Specialties just by attending our November 13<sup>th</sup> chapter meeting. If the winner of the prize is not present at the meeting, then we will draw for an \$80 gift certificate at our December Meeting. You must be present to win!

**Fly Tying Classes Begin in January**

Our annual 10 week fly tying classes will begin in January. The Wednesday night group will meet at East High beginning on January 16<sup>th</sup>, and the Thursday night group will meet at West High beginning on January 17<sup>th</sup>. More information will be available soon. Contact Tom Ehlert if you just can't wait.

**Meet Dave Whitlock**

Dave Whitlock is a native Oklahoman now living beside the White River in the beautiful Ozark Mountains of northwestern Arkansas. Twenty-five years ago he resigned his position as a research chemist and pooled his talents in painting, illustrating, writing, photography, flyfishing and lecturing to embark on a new career as a full time professional in the arts of flyfishing. All his work, especially his art, reflect the realism of nature and related flyfishing subjects through the eyes of the sportsman.

Dave regularly contributes his art and writing on flyfishing to many publications such as *FLYFISHERMAN MAGAZINE*, *AMERICAN ANGLER*, *TROUT*, *IN-FISHERMAN* and *FIELD AND STREAM*. *DAVE WHITLOCK'S GUIDE TO AQUATIC TROUT FOODS*, the *L.L. BEAN FLYFISHING HANDBOOK*, the *L.L. BEAN BASS FLY FISHING HANDBOOK* and *IMITATING AND FISHING NATURAL FISH FOODS* for Lefty's Little Library are four books that he has written and illustrated.

Dave has also co-authored or contributed to many books, including *THE FLYTYER'S ALMANAC*, *SECOND FLYTYER'S ALMANAC*, Art Flick's *MASTER FLYTYING GUIDE*, McClane's *FISHING ENCYCLOPEDIA*, Migel's *STREAM CONSERVATION BOOK* and *MASTERS ON THE NYMPH* and *YEAR OF THE TROUT* plus President Carter's *OUTDOOR JOURNAL*. Dave also demonstrates his flyfishing and teaching skills in four videos and through guest appearances on televised flyfishing programs.

One of Dave's most notable contributions to wild trout management and preservation is the Whitlock-Vibert Box System -- a unique and efficient instream salmonid egg incubator and nursery device. Dave spent 7 years researching and developing this system and wrote and illustrated an instructional text, the *FFF WHITLOCK-VIBERT BOX HANDBOOK*. Today, under the sponsorship of the Federation of Fly Fishers, this Whitlock-Vibert Box program is used throughout the world for introduction or enhancement of wild trout, char and salmon stocks.

Dave's experience and his devoted and objective outlook on the whole spectrum of flyfishing has earned him consulting assignments from 3M\Scientific Anglers Company, L.L. Ben, Bass Pro, Sage Rods, and Gander Mountain. He is in demand as a lecturer on flyfishing and conservation throughout the world and has produced many slideshows on the subject plus one movie, *THE FLYFISHERS AQUATIC INSECTS* for 3M\ Scientific Anglers. Dave also conducts flyfishing schools yearly throughout the U.S. and abroad.

Dave is a recipient of many awards including the Max Ander's Wild Trout Award in 1976 for his work on propagation of wild trout and the FFF's Conservation Man of the Year Award in 1981. Dave also received the Buz Buzeck Flytyer's Award which is the highest honor in the flytying world. It recognized his innovativeness in new flytying patterns and his national flytying activities.

In 1987 Dave was inducted into the National Fresh Water Hall of Fame. That year he was also presented the FFF James E. Henshall Award for his work in warm water fishing and conservation. He also received FFF's Ambassador Award for national and international promotion of flyfishing and conservation.

Dave Whitlock is a man totally devoted to the world of flyfishing and conservation both professionally and personally.

#### **From the President.....**

For those of you unable to attend the open meeting on November 8 to hear DNR's report on their investigation into the June fish kill, we will have an update at the chapter meeting on November 13. We will also publish a summary of the DNR conclusions in the next issue of **Newscasts**. Do not view this as the end of this "event." Rather, we are at the beginning of a new venture aimed at improving the health of our home waters and minimizing the chance of future fish kills. I expect to have more on this next month, so stay tuned.

A the SWTU board meeting on October 30, Duane Johnson, President of the Village of Cross Plains, presented information on the city's efforts to site a business park south of Black Earth Creek. We had a frank discussion about our concerns with protecting the creek's corridor from development. Johnson talked to us about their desire to find some accommodation that both "sides" can live with. Afterwards, several board members suggested it would be nice to move beyond the animosity and distrust generated by the Sunne Industries confrontation several years ago. However, our primary goal continues to be insuring the long-term health of the stream. No decisions were made, but talks are continuing.

The last week of October found a flurry of activity in Lodi as a local contractor constructed a rock and rip-rap fish passage below the second dam on Spring Creek. At the same time, the Lodi Canning Company placed rip-rap along both sides of the stream in Goeres Park and Haberman Park (downstream) and Veterans Park (upstream). This marks the completion of the habitat improvement project, and (we hope) the beginning of expanded numbers and range of naturally reproducing brown trout in this pretty stream. Spring Creek begins in northern Dane County and flows north through Lodi to Lake Wisconsin. As this project played out, some of us have heard rumors of lunger trout hiding in deep, nearly inaccessible pools in Lodi Marsh. Let's see, it's how many days until the early season?

-----Bill Pielsticker

#### **From the New Editor.....**

When Dan Wisniewski finished editing his last edition of *Newscasts* in October, he marked the end of an era for our chapter. For over 8 years (by my count) Dan did an extraordinary job of gathering, editing, and disseminating vital SWTU information. As this edition nears the press, I am gaining an even greater appreciation for the great job that Dan did. Please join me in thanking him.

Though the thought of filling Dan's shoes is a little scary, I am looking forward to this *volunteer opportunity*. My editing task will certainly be made easier by those who submit items to be included in the newsletter. Please bear in mind that the deadline for submitting *Newscasts* items to the editor is the fourth Friday of each month. Electronic submissions are encouraged (my email address is Markm@Panvera.com) but all submissions are greatly appreciated. Please send all comments and suggestions via any means that you deem appropriate.

-----Mark Maffitt

### **What's the Big Deal about Small Dams?**

TU advocates for the removal of old, unsafe and uneconomical dams that are doing more harm than good. Selective dam removal, thoughtfully carried out, is one of the most cost-effective fisheries and river restoration methods available.

Dams provided the energy that made possible the early development of the U.S. Many communities, especially along the northern tier of the country, grew up around a small dam that provided mechanical power for milling and, perhaps later, for hydroelectric power. (Small dams are generally those that are 25 feet high or less.) Over the decades, however, society's needs changed, and tens of thousands of these small structures became obsolete, no longer serving the purpose for which they were designed.

Dams degrade under the pressures of time, gravity and flowing water. Their life expectancy is typically around 50 years, but many of the smallest structures are over a century old. Lacking continual maintenance and repair, many of these old dams today pose public safety hazards.

Bringing old structures up to modern safety standards can be a financial burden to dam owners, especially if the owners are individuals or small communities. Repairing a small dam to meet safety standards commonly costs three to five times the cost of removing the structure.

Obsolete dams are also one of the most visible of human impacts on rivers. Typically built on river stretches with a rocky bottom and fast-moving water—attributes shared by good fish spawning habitat—dams can harm water quality and fisheries. Small dams can block the movement of fish, increase water temperatures, and block or slow river flows.

More than 500 dams have been removed in the past century in the U.S. The majority of them have been less than 15 feet high. However, by some estimates, tens of thousands to possibly millions of small dams still remain in U.S. rivers and streams. Most of these dams do not protect communities from flooding and do not produce hydropower cost-effectively.

Selectively carried out, the removal of small dams can save money, remove a public safety hazard, and provide additional financial benefits associated with rejuvenated fisheries, improved water quality, and an opportunity for community revitalization around a restored river. These and other converging societal, economic and environmental factors can make small dam removal a "win-win-win" proposition—for communities, dam owners and fish.

#### **Officers of the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited:**

President	Bill Pielsticker	(608) 592-4718
Vice President	Mark Maffitt	(608) 273-2140
Secretary	Fay Lauf	(608) 233-2102
Treasurer	John Schweiger	(608) 238-8062
Past President	Tom Ehlert	(608) 767-2413
State Council Rep.	Dave Westlake	(920) 927-3820

Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited  
Post Office Box 7051  
Madison, WI 53707