

Newscasts

November, 2002 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



Come Learn How To Fish Steelhead

Sheboygan area fishing guide Jeff Preiss will present a slide show on salmon and steelhead fishing on Lake Michigan tributaries at our November 12th meeting. The talk will focus specifically on the fall run, and is entitled *Fishing Lake Michigan's Fall Run*. It promises to be an informative presentation.

We will meet at the Maple Tree restaurant on Highway 51 in McFarland at 7 PM. The real fun starts when you get there, so please come early to eat, and tell lies with us. Diners gather at about 6 PM.

The Ice Breaker is Coming

Please mark your calendars! The 2003 *Ice Breaker* will be here before you know it. The festivities will begin with the banquet on Friday January 17th. The banquet has a new name this year. It has been dubbed the *Nash Williams Memorial Banquet* in honor of a recently departed charter member. The *Ice Breaker* itself will be held at the Park Ponderosa Ball Room in McFarland on Saturday January 18, 2003. This year our speakers will be Dick Talleur and Shawn Perich. (Please see the Dick Talleur preview on page 2 of this issue of *Newscasts*. A Shawn Perich preview will appear in the December *Newscasts*.)

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 great chili. Please join in the fun as we raise money for our great cause.

Work Day Incentive Program Reminder

Don't forget that each time you show up for a stream project, your name will be entered into a drawing to win a nice fly rod in January. The harder you work, the luckier you get.

Work Day Scheduled for November 16th

SWTU Projects Chair, Tom Ehlert has scheduled another Mt. Vernon Creek work day for November 16th. Work is scheduled to begin at 9 AM and finish at 1 PM. Tom has promised to provide all workers with his now famous vegetable beef stew upon completion of the work.

Please meet at the snowmobile bridge near Highway 92. TU road signs in the town of Mt. Vernon will mark the way for those unfamiliar with this location. Once obstructions near the snowmobile bridge have been cleared, workers will attend to some unfinished business near the Highway U Bridge.

This will be the fourth time this fall that our chapter members have worked on this stretch of stream, and it looks really really great.

Fly Tying Classes to Begin In January

The annual 10 week SWTU fly tying classes will begin in January. The Wednesday night group will meet at East High beginning on January 15th, and the Thursday night group will meet at West High beginning on January 16th. More information will be available soon. Contact Tom Ehlert if you just can't wait.

You Must be Present to Win

At our November 12th chapter meeting we will draw for a \$60 gift certificate from Madison Outfitters. As a member in good standing, you will be eligible to win if you attend the meeting. But, you must be *present* to win! If the name of an absent member is drawn this month, then we will draw for an \$80 gift certificate at our December 10th meeting.

Ice Breaker Preview – Dick Talleur

As has been the tradition of the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited, our *Ice Breaker* will feature a regionally known speaker as well as a nationally (or internationally) known speaker. This month's *Ice Breaker Preview* introduces Dick Talleur, who will serve as our speaker from the latter category. Shawn Perich will serve as our regionally renowned speaker, and will be featured in a preview article in the December issue of *News casts*.

Dick Talleur lives in Manchester, New Hampshire. He spent many of his working years as an AT&T employee, but managed to make a second career out of his avocation. He retired from AT&T in 1989 and has worked as a freelance writer, photographer, speaker and teacher of fly fishing and fly tying ever since. He has authored a number of fishing and fly tying books that have become standards of instructional excellence. These works include:

- Talleur's Basic Fly Tying - A Beginner's Benchside Reference
- Modern Fly Tying Materials
- The L.L. Bean Beginner's Fly Tying Handbook
- Pretty And Practical Salmon Flies
- Guide To Fly Tying
- The Versatile Fly Tyer
- Fly Fishing for Trout
- The Fly Tyer's Primer
- Talleur's Dry Fly Handbook
- Mastering The Art Of Fly Tying

Dick's writing regularly appears in a number of fishing magazines. He also writes columns that appear each month in both *American Angler* and *Fly Tyer* magazines. Thousands of his photos have been published in a number of different places.

Dick will deliver two presentations at the *Ice Breaker*. One session will be entitled "Beaverkill; The River That Wouldn't Die". Though the Beaverkill may be a long ways from Wisconsin, it is further than many of the western rivers to which we often travel. It is also an internationally famous river with a

long and interesting fly fishing history. Dick will cover the so-called *Golden Era*, when the Beaverkill was fished by the likes of Theodore Gordon and other noteworthy people. He will also cover the various happenings that impacted the river over the last 150 years as well as recent events that have affected how the river has survived various environmental threats, and how the river has been brought back to life as a quality fishery. He will also tell us where to fish, when to fish, and what kind of flies to bring if we go. There is bound to be a little humor thrown into the presentation along with a number of river and fish photos.

We will also have an opportunity to see Dick tie flies during the lunch break. As of this writing, the topic of Dick's second presentation has not been finalized, but it is sure to be entertaining, and educational.

Tie Flies, Tie Flies, Tie Flies...

Many years ago (well maybe just ten or so) one of our illustrious chapter presidents was heard to desperately implore our membership to, "tie flies, tie flies, and then tie more flies". Flies really do make great door prizes at the *Ice Breaker* and nearly anyone can tie well enough to *give* them away. So please, do as past president John Strauss says, "tie flies, tie flies, and then tie more flies". At our November, December, and January meetings, Paul Banas will be handing out small plastic boxes to hold your donations. Take home some of those boxes and fill them up.

And Speaking of Door Prizes

Flies aren't the only thing that a person might donate for use as a door prize. Flashlights, fishing books, leader nippers, fly boxes etc – all make nice door prizes. Please keep an eye open during the holiday season for sale priced items that could be donated to the cause. If you see something that strikes you as a nifty stocking stuffer idea for a fishing friend, then consider buying an extra one and donating it. Some members have been known to donate excess Christmas stocking contents.

Stream Projects Update



There were two highly successful workdays in October. Nineteen hearty souls turned out on October 5th to clear in-stream obstructions and to create some stream corridor space near the Highway U Bridge on Mt. Vernon creek. The October 26th crew worked from the Highway U Bridge upstream to the snowmobile bridge. They removed debris that was restricting stream flow and or was redirecting the flow into the banks. A third crew turned out on November 2nd to perform further improvements in the park area. An incredible amount of work was done. You have to see it to believe it, and it takes a lot of bodies to get that much work done. Thanks are hereby extended to the following volunteers.

October 5th

Volunteers:

Robert Blaine
Tom Ehlert
Jeff Erickson
Mike Grimes
Melissa Hacker
(student)
Bob Harrison
Jim Harvey
Ken Israel
Charles Jacobson
Kristy Juno
(student)
Mark Maffitt
Bill Pielsticker
Tom Reardon
Diane Reuter

Michael Rock
John Serunian
Bill Sonzogni
Ray Venn
Jack Way

October 26th

Volunteers:

Nathan Bartling
Tom Bordener
K.C. Clement
Megan Cornwell
Tom Ehlert
Rachel Epp
Carston Geib
Dan Geib
Roger Gilligan
Mike Grimes

John Heinrichs
Nick Hellenbrand
Jeff Hyma
Chuck Jacobson
Gene Knutson
Larry Meicher
Diane Reuter
Mark Rhinerson
Jeff Ripp
John Schweiger
Dave Sanders
Teri Sanders
John Serunian
Walt Stevenson
Dick Tedesco
Ben Topp
Ray Venn
Jack Way

November 2nd

Volunteers:

Roger Clausen
Me Yung Do
Tom Ehlert
John Gribb
Mike Grimes
Bob Harrison
John Heinrichs
Chuck Jacobson
Gene Knutson
Diane Reuter
Mark Rhinerson
Dave Sanders
Teri Sanders
Ray Venn
Jack Way

From the President.....by Bill Pielsticker

So, next year has been officially declared the "Year of Water" here in Wisconsin. Word of this came during the opening of the Waters of Wisconsin Forum last month in Madison. Attended by over 600 people, this forum was a way station on the path to better, more comprehensive water policies and planning in this state. I heard many good ideas, and left the conference charged up about the possibilities. Of course, there's the rub. There are plenty of possibilities, but the hard part is turning them into reality.

I attended one session on agriculture and Wisconsin's waters. There were several interesting presentations and a good discussion. What really stuck in my mind was a graph showing the number of farm operators taking into account their environmental practices. The line started low with the "excellent" land managers, curved up to a peak with the average ones, then dropped down a bit but tailed way out to the right with the ones who just don't care. The speaker noted that while new programs continue to move the "average" farm operator towards the excellent side, they really haven't addressed the bad actors.

After the presentation, I went up to a political appointee and asked him how he proposed going after the folks who just don't seem to care. True to form, he replied he would try to move the average folks closer to the excellent side. I know he heard the same presentation I did. Perhaps he just couldn't get his mind around the idea that voluntary programs and incentives will never fully solve the problem. We'll keep working on that problem, because that's what needed to protect our streams.

Speaking of streams, we've had some great workdays this fall. By the time you read this, Mt Vernon Creek will have felt our loving attention three separate times, and it looks it. Eroding snags have been removed, the stream is flowing faster, and several stretches of pools and riffles have re-appeared. The fish were unfazed by our work, some rising just a few feet from folks clearing away a major obstruction just upstream of the Hwy. G bridge in Mt. Vernon. Afterwards, as we reviewed our work from the bridge, we watched a half

dozen trout feeding in the afternoon sun. It reminded me that you don't have to fish to have a good day on the stream.

DNR Names New Lead Trout Researcher

The Fisheries and Habitat Research Section of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources announced that Matthew Mitro will be filling the *Lead Trout Researcher* position made vacant by the retirement of Eddie Avery. Trout Unlimited's Upper Midwest Conservation Director, Laura Hewitt expressed her pleasure with the hiring of Dr. Mitro saying, "his experience with trout research should help bridge the work between research, agencies, and Conservation groups. I think he'll be a real asset to Wisconsin."

Dr. Mitro brings a solid academic and research background to meet the coldwater research needs of Wisconsin. He earned a PhD in Fisheries Biology at Montana State University where he worked on rainbow trout in the Henry's Fork of the Snake River. Matt also received a M.S. degree in Statistics from MSU which will enhance his ability to do quality research here in Wisconsin. Most recently, Matt has worked for the EPA developing population contaminant models for Great Lakes Lake Trout. Prior to working for EPA, he performed fisheries population modeling for the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. Matt is also an avid trout fisherman.

The WDNR has been very appreciative of Wisconsin TU's role in supporting this position. Though the state government is currently under a hiring freeze, they were able to fill this position largely due to your support and advocacy.

2002 River Champions Announced

Each year, the River Alliance of Wisconsin presents a series of river conservation awards called the River *Champions*. The River Alliance released a list of honorees who will formally receive their awards at the *Fifth Annual River Alliance Awards Dinner and Auction* on Saturday, November 9th at Sentry World in Steven's Point.

The list of River Champion award winners includes:

- Elected Official - State Senator Jim Baumgart
- Local Guardian - Bill Pielsticker
- Local Guardian - Pewaukee Middle School Sixth Grade Class
- Public Sector - Bill Hafs, Brown County Conservationist and Department Director
- Private Sector – former Rutabaga Canoe owner, Gordy Sussman
- River Alliance Volunteer of the Year - Catherine Neiswender
- Lifetime Achievement Award - Roscoe and Evelyn Churchill

"Restoration and protection of our rivers is a huge responsibility that must be shared. Our River Champion awards honor and recognize public sector employees, elected officials, local citizens and businesses that have gone the extra mile to help shape a healthier future for our rivers," stated River

Important dates to remember:

November 12	Monthly Chapter Meeting featuring Jeff Preiss
November 16	Mt. Vernon Creek Work Day
November 26	SWTU Board Meeting at the Green Lantern
December 10	Monthly Chapter Meeting featuring SWTU Fly Tyers
January 14	Monthly Chapter Meeting
January 17	Nash Williams Memorial Banquet
January 18	<i>Ice Breaker</i> featuring Dick Talleur and Shawn Perich
March 11	<i>March Madness</i> Auction

Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited Leadership:

President	Bill Pielsticker	(608) 592-4718	
Vice President	Paul Banas	(608) 231-3014	
Secretary	John Serunian	(608) 727-4604	
Treasurer	John Schweiger	(608) 238-8062	
Past President	Tom Ehlert	(608) 767-2413	
State Council Rep.	Dave Westlake	(920) 927-3820	
Newscasts Editor	Mark Maffitt	(608) 273-2140	Mark_Maffitt@PanVera.com

Alliance of Wisconsin executive director Todd Ambs.

Ambs also noted that, "as the current president of Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited, Mr. Pielsticker has led the charge on protecting the water quality and ecologic value of Black Earth Creek. During his term, TU and the DNR teamed up to monitor the water quality of the creek. Bill was also extremely active on the state polluted runoff rules as a member of the Steering Committee for the Clean Water Coalition. He is the immediate past president of the Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters and has worked hard to get that effort off the ground, and stays active in WLCV by chairing the Scorecard Committee. He is a wonderful state conservation leader."

When told of his selection, Pielsticker said "While this award is for an individual, we could accomplish little without the help and support of organizations like Trout Unlimited. I'm proud to be an active member of TU, and I look forward to working with our members and other organizations in our continuing efforts to protect our trout streams and the land they run through."

Congratulations Bill!