

Newscasts

December, 2002 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



Six Pound Brookies: A Week in Labrador

Derek Scheer will be our featured speaker at the December 10th meeting. Derek is a member of our chapter, and has chaired our Youth Committee for the past year. In other words, he is a great guy. He is going to tell us about his trip to Labrador: the fishing conditions, the trials and tribulations of getting there, the fun that they had once they got there, the beauty of the area, and the enormity of the brook trout. Derek will show us pictures of obscenely large brook trout (also known as fish pornography). This should be a great presentation.

We will meet at the Maple Tree Restaurant on Highway 51 in McFarland. The meeting will start at 7:00 PM. Please come early and join us for dinner.

Twass the Month Before the Ice Breaker

Our annual *Ice Breaker* 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. A Dick Talleur preview appeared in the November *Newscasts*, and an introduction to Shawn Perich appears on page 2 of this issue of *Newscasts*.

The *Ice Breaker* is a major source of our chapter's income. The money that we raise there is used to fund the cold water conservation activities that we are continuously engaged in. It is also great fun. Please join us on January 17th and 18th for entertaining and informative speakers, great door prizes, great bucket raffles, fly tying demonstrations, aquatic insect exhibits, and a bunch of nice people.

Fly Tying Classes to Begin In January

Wednesday night fly tying classes will begin at East High on January 15th. Thursday night sessions will begin at West High on January 16th. Classes meet once a week for ten weeks. Please see the enclosed flyer for more information, or contact Tom Ehlert at 767-2413.

Ice Breaker Ticket Information

Tickets for the Nash Williams Memorial Banquet on Friday January 17, 2003 may be purchased through January 10, 2003. The banquet will be held at Morel's Restaurant, 4635 Chalet St, just off Airport Road approximately 4 miles west of the West Beltline in Middleton. Tickets are \$20.00 and the selections are chicken or trout. Please indicate your meal preference when sending in reservations.

Tickets for the Icebreaker on Saturday January 18, 2003 are available for \$9.00 until the day of the event. Tickets will cost \$10.00 at the door. Reservations for the Nash Williams Memorial Banquet can be made by calling John Schweiger at 238-8062. Payment for banquet tickets and the *Ice Breaker* can be sent to John Schweiger at:

5541 Dahlen Drive
Madison, WI 53705.

We need flies. Lots and Lots of Flies

Please tie lots and lots of flies. We need flies for *Ice Breaker* door prizes, monthly meeting bucket raffle prizes, and the March auction. Paul Banas has volunteered to coordinate the collection of donated flies for these events. Please bring your flies to Paul and he will see to it that they find their way to one of these events. Paul also has a ton of tiny little boxes for your donated flies.

Ice Breaker Volunteers Needed

Please join us for breakfast before the *Ice Breaker*. We will dine at the *Green Forest Family Restaurant*, 925 East Broadway (near Menards on the old beltline). Meet us there at about 6:00 AM for breakfast or at the Park Ponderosa at 7:30 AM. We need volunteers to set up the seating area, door prizes, bucket raffle displays, the new members table, audiovisual equipment, entrance table, and a variety of other tasks. Please join us and someone we will find a job for you.

Ice Breaker Preview – Shawn Perich

The regional flavor for our 2003 Ice Breaker will be provided by Shawn Perich. Shawn is an avid hunter and angler, who lives on the North Shore of Lake Superior near Hovland, Minnesota. He is also a freelance outdoor writer. His books include:

- Magic on the Rocks : Canoe Country Pictographs
- The North Shore: A Four-Season Guide to Minnesota's Favorite Destination
- Fishing Lake Superior : A Complete Guide to Stream, Shoreline, and Open-Water Angling
- Fly-Fishing the North Country

Shawn's writing has also appeared regularly in a number of periodicals. He has served as the editor of the Cook County Herald (in Grand Marais) and of *Fins and Feathers* magazine. His work has appeared in *Sports Afield* and *Fly Rod and Reel*, and he is a regular columnist for *Outdoor News*. He is the field editor and a columnist for *Minnesota Outdoor News*.

On Friday evening, Shawn will give a presentation entitled *North Shore Adventures*. This is a slide show about visiting the North Shore of Lake Superior including both the Minnesota and Ontario coast. This is one of the most beautiful places on earth, and this program will focus on activities other than fishing.

Shawn will present *North Country Trout Fishing* on Saturday. This will be a four-season look at trout fishing in the north woods and along the Lake Superior coast. It will cover ice fishing, steelheading, lake trout fishing, and fly-fishing. He will also present *Flies for Fishing in the North Country*. This will be a must see event for anyone interested in fly fishing the lakes and streams of northern Minnesota.

Sign Up For the SWTU Email List

For last minute updates on chapter activities please consider subscribing to the chapter email list. To sign up, point your browser to http://www.swtu.org/email_signup.htm. You will be notified via email in the event of late breaking chapter activities. The service is both free and confidential.

From the President.....by Bill Pielsticker

When I moved to this area seven years ago, I was invited to attend the Trout Unlimited Icebreaker. It sounded a bit interesting, so I drive down to McFarland to check it out. I had been fishing for trout since 1969, but had never joined TU. By the end of the day, I had joined the chapter, won a couple prizes, and started attending some workdays.

The Icebreaker isn't just our best chance to raise money to help protect coldwater fisheries. It's also a great opportunity to bring in new members. Invite a friend to join you next month for a break from the snow and cold. And if you haven't come for a few years, consider joining us for the day, or even just a few hours. Between the fly tying demonstrations, the "bug" exhibit featuring critters from an area stream, the bucket raffles, and the great speakers, it's hard not to enjoy!

Following the Icebreaker is the Madison Fishing Expo. Our chapter has received great support from the Fishing Expo Board over the years, but there's a catch – we need to supply people to help take tickets and "secure" doors and hallways. Volunteers work two-hour shifts and get in free. It's another great way to help the chapter, and save a few bucks. Give Bob Gennrich a call at 764-5930 for more information or to sign up.

People join TU for many different reasons, but chief among them is to help protect our coldwater resources. Tying flies for the Icebreaker, watching doors at the Fishing Expo, coming out to a chapter workday, helping at the casting clinic or Special Needs Day, and attending a monthly meeting once in a while are all steps you can take to get a bit more involved. If you do, you may find that our chapter members are some of the nicest folks you've ever met. Let me know if you don't agree.

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Tom Ehlert organized two more work days in November. On November 16th over thirty volunteers turned out to remove debris from Mt Vernon Creek. The first order of the day was to remove in-stream debris downstream of the snowmobile bridge. The second phase of the project focused on removing two huge piles of debris that had formed a pair of dams downstream of the Highway U Bridge. These obstructions had impeded stream flow to the point that the stream level had risen about two feet, and the stream channel had widened by about 10 feet. Removing the snags helped return the stream to its rightful channel in this area. This will help protect the banks from erosion, and will reduce the surface area of the stream channel, thereby keeping the water cooler.

The November 16th work crew consisted of:

Mike Ash
Lynn Blenker
Eric Christensen
Roger Clausen
Allan Comers
Me Yung Do
Tom Ehlert
Dan Geib
Bob Gennrich
John Gribb
Mike Grimes
Bob Harrison
John Heinrichs
Chuck Jacobson
Gene Knutson
Ted Lauf
Mark Maffitt
Max Michalski
Phil Michalski
Henry Nehls-Lowe
James Philipps
Mike Philipps
Bill Pielsticker
Bill Porter
John Pundt
Dave Sanders
Teri Sanders
Bob Selk
Tom Smith
Ray Venn
Doug Wadsworth
Bob Zimmerman

On November 23rd, a second crew cleared debris from Black Earth Creek where it flows through the Rettenmundt property. This crew consisted of:

Eric Christensen
Tom Ehlert
John Pundt
Dave Sanders
Teri Sanders
Brett Schultz
Ray Venn

Work Day Incentive Program Reminder

Please remember 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.

Upcoming Workdays

Tom Ehlert has been discussing future workdays with a number of individuals, including representatives from the DNR and from the Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter of Trout Unlimited. These discussions could culminate in a brush removal project along Big Spring Creek later this winter, as well as on Vermont Creek sometime this year or next. These things take a little more planning than may be immediately apparent, but you may rest assured that Tom is determined to find projects that are worthy of our *sweat equity*. More details will surely follow.

You Must be Present to Win

We will draw for an \$80 gift certificate from Madison Outfitters at our December 10th chapter meeting. If you are a member of Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited **AND** you are present on December 10th, then you will be eligible to win. If the name of an absent member is drawn this month, then we will draw for a \$100 gift certificate at our January 14th meeting.

Membership Committee Forming

Volunteers are needed to serve on a membership committee is that is being formed to help retain our many members. Committee volunteers can expect to serve about an hour per month contacting new and former members. Please contact John Serunian if you are willing to serve on this committee. John may be reached at either 277-9295, or at jseunian@AOL.com.

Important dates to remember:

December 10 Monthly Chapter Meeting featuring Derek Scheer
January 14 Monthly Chapter Meeting featuring SWTU Fly Tyers
January 17 Nash Williams Memorial Banquet
January 18 *Ice Breaker* featuring Dick Talleur and Shawn Perich
February 11 Monthly Chapter Meeting featuring Kurt Welke
February 21-23 Madison Fishing Expo
March 11 *March Madness* 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) 277-4604	
Treasurer	John Schweiger	(608) 238-8062	
Past President	Tom Ehlert	(608) 767-2413	
State Council Rep.	Dave Westlake	(920) 927-3820	
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