



The Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter Of Trout Unlimited

Iowa, Grant and Lafayette Counties of WI.

Summer 2005

From the President's Bench

Spring 2005

Is there a busier time in nature than spring? A friend often comments May should be twice as long, with all the plants bursting forth and birds returning. Aquatic insect life moves into the adult and reproductive phase. Fly fishers await the black caddis hatch that can turn the fish crazy.

The chapter has numerous activities planned for the spring. There are two workdays this year. Don Pluemer and crew are real workers. Very few of us are able to keep up with Don and his crew anymore. That doesn't mean we're not valued or needed. I'll be heading up the lunch detail on the 16th and could use help with the food preparation. We need a volunteer to be responsible for the lunch detail on the 30th. It's really a good feeling to look around and see both young and old working together, having a brat, and laughing and visiting. If everyone does what they can, we'll get the job done.

There are some behind the scenes contributions and efforts that I'd like to acknowledge. Member Gary Halpin from Riverside Lumber supplies us with white oak at a very competitive price. He also delivers it. Even the

process of delivery requires attention. You've noticed the load limits on the roads these days? Don has made calls to town chairs and other officials to arrange the delivery early in the day when the ground is more stable. A Saturday morning workday that runs smoothly took many hours of set up and preparation.

The banquet on May 6 also requires a great deal of effort. My respect and compliments to Mike Mooney, Steve Fabos, and Don Pluemer for heading up that effort. These young men have stepped up and taken on this task never having worked on a banquet before. As the date draws near they'll be contacting some of you for help. I hope you'll find the time to say yes.

And in closing thank you to Brian Larson for publishing the newsletter. It's a huge job in part because Brian lives in Cassville. He had to do things long distance and it's just too difficult. With Bill Wisler taking on the Newsletter, Brian can focus on fund raising and of course, that black caddis hatch.

(Pres. Letter continued on page 2)

(Pres. Letter continued)

*I wound myself in a white cocoon of singing,
All the day long in the brook's uneven bed,
Measuring out my soul in a mucous thread;
Dimly now to the brook's green bottom clinging
Men behold me, a worm spun out and dead,
Walled in an iron house of silky singing.*

Edna St. Vincent Millay

Enjoy the spring,

Dave Fritz

Harry and Lauara Nohr Chapter

Officers:

Dave Fritz – President
Bill Wisler – Vice President
Don Pluemer – Past President
Chuck Steudel – Secretary
David Petersen – Treasurer

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Intern Grant Program

by Kris Wright

The search for the Scott Ladd Memorial Intern is in full swing at UW-Platteville's Biology Department. Applications for the full internship position were accepted through March 7, and Kris Wright is reviewing the applications. A decision will be made by the end of March and TU will be notified shortly thereafter. The intern will focus this summer's efforts on the McPhearson and Blue River restorations. In addition, the recent expansion of the internship to include a part-time technician is also being addressed. Applications for the technician position are due by March 29th, and these will be reviewed by Kris Wright and the new intern. A decision on the technician will be made in mid April. It's shaping up to be another great year for the TU funded internship program!



Banquet Raffle!

**Win this personal pontoon boat !
It's a Fish Cat with electric motor,
air pump and battery.
\$800 retail value. Tickets \$10 or 3
for \$20. See it at Pluemer's
Garage or at work days.
LOCAL SCHOOLS RECEIVE GRANTS
TO LEARN ABOUT STREAMS**

by Barbara Ballard

Six schools in Southwest Wisconsin will soon receive grants ranging from \$146 to \$476 to cover costs of field trips and equipment which they will use in exploring and understanding the local cold-water resource.

Second-graders from a Dickeyville classroom, for example, will study the effects of highway construction on the aquatic plants and animals of the nearby McAdam Branch of the Little Platte River. They will take photographs, locate features on a map, and observe and document changes to the environment. They will even get to talk with people who are working on the highway project and ask questions about the natural resources which are used to build highways. Making even more connections, they will travel to the Grant County Wetlands Area and to the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium in Dubuque. For them, the language of discovery will always include questions.

Several other teachers have also applied for and received help to cover the cost of admission to the popular River Museum and Aquarium, but, like the teacher in Dickeyville, they have expanded their teaching units to include stream-side learning as well. The Nohr Chapter encourages schools to use the grants not only for field trips, but also to purchase equipment with which students can make accurate measurements and thereby determine the health of the stream. As students accumulate data, they will begin to see trends and, eventually, make predictions based on their hard work. They will learn about the satisfaction they can have in studying the natural world.

One of the teachers whose class will be receiving a grant offers students a chance to take a week-long class during the summer. Eager for the opportunity,

students sign up quickly and enjoy the challenges that lead some to careers in science or resource management. Some students seem to like the challenge of asking questions just for the pleasure of discovering the answers. For example, this teacher's 6th and 7th grade students, working at Big Spring Creek last spring, determined that the depth and width of the stream seem to have more effect on the rate of flow than does the slope of the stream. By the time some of these students got to 8th grade last fall, they were informed and motivated enough to become peer teachers .

Another teacher works with nine groups of 6th grade students to monitor local streams after school, making sure that each group gets to its site two times during the year. With 6 or 7 students in each group, the number of students being served by this program numbers about 60. Moreover, because many of these students live on farms, this teacher believes it is especially important to help them see not only how human activity can adversely affect streams — but also how streams can be returned to good health.

The Nohr Chapter is grateful to those people who support the School Grant Program and grateful to those who help local students take advantage of the opportunities it offers.

Note: Our chapter is not just about fishing. We care about the environment and encourage the enjoyment and protection of the natural resources in Southwest Wisconsin. Join us!



Spring Creek Festival Update

by Dave Fritz

Be sure to mark September 10, 2005 on your calendar as a day for fun and learning. The Spring Creek Festival planning committee has already been meeting and planning for the upcoming event.

Based on feedback from last year's participants the program offerings will be diverse. There will be sectionals for beginners, improvers, conservation minded folks, as well as a session on photography!

I'd like to thank Joe and Donelle Fitzsimmons for heading up the food preparation for the past two years. We've eaten well and the selection was outstanding. Next year the food preparation will be done by the Ocooch Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited in Richland County. All the money they make from food sales will be used by that chapter who has a project right now on Elk Creek and one proposed on Milancthon Creek. We're really pleased they've stepped up on this.

This winter the committee has promoted the Festival at various fly fishing events. In addition to a display that includes Steve Gassman's beautiful commemorative print and story boards showing our project work, we've handed

out coupons printed by Bill Weege that are worth 5 free bucket raffle tickets when turned in at the Festival. We have also made a Spring Creek Festival packet available to the Coulee, Black Hawk, and Nohr Chapters of Trout Unlimited for use at their banquets. That packet includes a framed copy of Steve's poster, a Spring Creek Festival hat and 125 coupons. We continue to promote the Festival and are fortunate to have the talents of Bill Weege and Steve Gassman providing visuals for us.

Eric Johannessen has not only set up a fantastic web site, he has completed a bamboo fly rod which he will donate to the Festival as a raffle item. Be sure to check the web site frequently for Festival updates and watch the progress and steps Eric has followed in making this beautiful work of art.

Spring flowers! It's time!

by Jim Sime

Signs of spring are abundant these days. Fishing gives one many opportunities to enjoy the outdoors. Our chapter's namesake Harry Nohr was famous for being too occupied at times with all the natural happenings around him to do much serious angling. The first returning redwing blackbirds, robins, and bluebirds have this knack for interfering with our thoughts. Harry wasn't detracted by the turkeys gobbling, the vultures rocking or the sandhill cranes yodeling but they too are again intruding into our conscience after their bout with near extinction.

In our area skunk cabbage is the first plant to bloom. Their roots are in spring seep meadows that don't freeze except for the first few inches. When the air temperatures raise toward freezing, flower buds formed the previous season begin to metabolize sugars giving off
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(Spring flowers cont.)

large amounts of heat, actually melting the snow and ice around them. The temperatures in the hoods can reach more than 40 degrees above the surrounding air temperature. Later the hazel nut catkins elongate and give yellow drifts of smoke (pollen) when jostled.

Some open slopes facing southwest lose their frost very early when heated by the sun. These micro climates are the places to look for the very first flowers of the more traditional types: lyre leaved rock cress with its tiny white cross shaped petals, spectacular sky blue pasque flowers with their hairy protection from the cold, bright orange hoary puccoon also covered with silky hairs, and early buttercup with its shiny almost plastic looking yellow petals.

In dry slightly more shady locations look for the little greenish yellow toothbrushes of pennsylvania sedge, the wood anemone whose single white blossom has a surprising wine color on its backside, three grey soft furry "toes" of the pussy toes which are also well protected from the cold.

The small Amalanchier shrub has showy blossoms coming before the leaves in some species. It is such an important harbinger of spring that it has many common names. For example it is called "shad blow" in the east where it lights up the woods when the shad are running. It's juneberry here in the Midwest where its very early berries are tasty in June. In the south it's service berry. Look for it on the rocky outcrops. Also flowering before the leaves is moosewood or leatherwood. Most people never see these small very early yellow flowers.

The real ephemerals, those lasting only a short time, are found in areas of deep shade under maples and basswoods. These beauties need to complete their

life cycles in the short span between frost out and the leafing out of the trees. They get their fall color just as the trees shade out the forest floor. Dutchman's breeches with the upside down pantaloons, spring beauty with the fine pink lines in the white petals, hepaticas whose colors range from white through pink, lavender, violet, and blue, bloodroot with the leaf clasping the stem of the ivory white flower, trout lily with the tender speckled leaves all manage this high speed race to complete their cycle by building cells of the flimsiest membranes then filling them with water like a bunch of water balloons. It doesn't take many resources and it's fast and ephemeral.

We expect to find these and many others on our [flower walk Saturday, May 7 at 12:30](#) Meet at the gate 0020 Irish Hollow Rd. about 2 ½ miles west of Highland.

Wildlife Phenology

By Bill Wisler

One of the many advantages of living in the country is the opportunity to experience first-hand the changes that come with each season. As part of an effort to become more observant and better savor my time in the outdoors, I have become interested in Phenology. This is a branch of science focused on the relationship between weather and natural events such as the arrival of migrating birds or the blooming of wild flowers.

As a fly fisher this becomes quite useful. We trout anglers are always speculating on when the next hatch will occur. In a little book by Bob Scammell titled "The Phenological Fly", the author addresses this very challenge. While he makes his observations in western Canada, many of the same hatches occur in southwest Wisconsin. For example, Scammell (continued page 6)

(Phenology cont.)

believes Blue Winged Olives begin hatching when aspen leaves just start to bud. It's worth a look!

For all our non fishers, consider this observation: Morel mushrooms coincide with lilac buds that have developed to the stage where they appear as a cluster of grapes. Some observers believe that morels make their arrival when oak leaves are the size of a squirrel's ear. Yes, that's small!

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has printed an interesting calendar called "Wildlife Phenology". Just for fun, I included on the enclosed chapter calendar some of the dates provided for significant events. These dates were derived from data collected by Aldo Leopold's daughter, Nina Leopold Bradley.

Hopefully some of you will have observations to share. Your contribution will be included in future issues of this newsletter.

2005 Project Update

By Don Pluemer

This will be the second year of our three-year commitment working on the Blue River. This year's work will take place on the Zoha property immediately above last year's project. We will be doing a longer reach of stream than last year. The project will be similar in nature to last year, other than no brushing will be required. The stream runs through pasture that is intensively grazed.

We will be building 60 lunkers on site. Workdays are scheduled for April 16th and 30th from 8:00 a.m. to noon. We hope to have as many chapter members as possible show up for the workdays.

Work on the project is scheduled to start in mid-summer. The upstream portion of this year's project is believed by the DNR fisheries manager to be the beginning of trout habitat on the Blue River. Above this reach water temperatures are thought to be the limiting factor for quality trout water. This year we hope, with research done by our intern under the guidance of Professor Kris Wright, to again gather interesting and useful pre and post-work data. This year we are again partnering with the DNR, Iowa county NRCS and LCD as well as a number of other TU chapters including both state council and national TU.

To become more involved in the project, lend a hand on the workdays, and look for updates on the web site.

Warbler Walk

On Sat. May 14, 2005 Chuck and Jill Roethe will lead a warbler walk at Gov. Dodge State Park. Meet at the park office at 5:45am. Wear good hiking shoes/boots and preferable long pants. Chuck hopes to find migrating & resident warblers & other songbirds. The trip will last until about 11:00am. Bring binoculars and bug repellent. Any questions, feel free to call Chuck at 935-2561.

Canoe Trip - Wisconsin River

Meet at Gotham landing on Sunday the 10th of July at 1 pm. We will take out at Muscoda followed by a potluck/cookout. call Bill Wisler at 623-2603

Note from Editor

As the new editor, I would like to thank Ted Landon, Dave Fritz, Barbara Ballard and Brian Larson for their contribution to the standard set for this newsletter.

Since this is your newsletter, I am soliciting articles and input from each of you. Please submit your articles and comments to wisler@mhtc.net or 608-623-2603.

The Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Calendar of Coming Events



Trout Lily



Dutchman's Breeches

Above photos by Bob Philips

- April 16** **Blue River Work Day**
 Call Don Pleumer 943-8122
 19 *Pasque Flowers Bloom*
 23 *Marsh Marigolds Bloom*
 25 *American Toads begin to sing*
- May 3** *Warbler Spring Migration begins*
6 **Annual H & L Nohr Banquet**
7 **Wild Flower Walk 12:30 pm**
 Call Jim Sime 831-9297
14 **Warbler Walk at Gov. Dodge**
 Call Chuck or Jill Roethe 935-2561
17 **Board Meeting**
- June 7** **Fish the Blue River**
 Call Eric Johannesen 943-6271
 20 *Butterfly Week Blooms*
- 21** **Fish the Big Green River**
 Call Eric Johannesen 943-6271
- July 8** *Cicadas can be heard*
10 **Canoe Trip - Wisconsin River**
 Call Bill Wisler 623-2603
 14 *Turks Cap Lily Blooms*
19 **Board Meeting**
 22 *Joe-Pye Weed Blooms*
- Aug. 16** **General Meeting**
 27 *Bottle Gentian begins to bloom*
- Sept. 10** **Spring Creek Festival**

Bill Wisler

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Dodgeville, WI 53533

Harry & Laura Nohr Chapter annual Banquet

May 6, 2005 6 p.m.

At the Dodger Bowl in Dodgeville, WI

Join us for our 28th annual banquet that promises to be filled with good fun and an opportunity for celebrating our chapter's accomplishments. This is also a major fund raising event for our chapter to raise money for future goals.

This past year has been an extraordinary time for our chapter. With your help and the help of other conservation minded people our chapter has made huge strides in restoring cold-water resources in Southwest Wisconsin. The monumental restoration effort on the Blue River continues this year and other restoration projects are in the planning phase. We also continue to finance school grants and scholarships in the community. For this work to continue we need your financial support. Please join us!