



Emerald Necklace Chapter

Minutes of the February 2006 Member Meeting

Emerald Necklace Chapter #133

Trout Unlimited

February 6, 2006 – 7:00 PM

This was the Chapter's second meeting this year and was held at the Westlake Porter Library in Westlake. Twenty six (26) members attended, plus our guest speaker Mr. Craig Lewis from Erie Outfitters. Erie Outfitters is located at 5380 Lake Road, Sheffield, OH 44054, (440) 949-8934.

Chapter President Jim Augustyn welcomed members and outlined the meeting agenda.

John Gallagher, Chapter Vice President/Treasurer, provided the Chapter's current financial status report. The current balance in our checking account is \$30,735.96. The Chapter will be looking into investing \$15,000 in short-term CDs in order to get a better interest rate than our current checking account provides. John also provided information on our Incorporation approval with the State of Ohio. Near term revenues for the Chapter will include our annual rebate from TU National of approximately (\$1,500) and possible revenues from the upcoming Sportsman Show activities.

Jim announced the slots for the Sunnybrook outings were filling up fast. The outing for Monday, April 17th was full but Monday, April 24th still had 2 slots available. The cost was \$75 payable on the day of the event. Cash or checks only (no credit cards) made payable to Sunnybrook Trout Club or Doug Lamb. Fishing each day will be from 9AM to 5 PM and the fee includes lunch. Doug Lamb will donate 60% of the \$75 fee back to our Chapter.

Jim announced upcoming fly fishing classes available through ODNR and the Ohio Sea Grants program. ODNR will be offering their popular beginner fly fishing classes at the Castalia hatchery (Cold Creek) starting April 28th through June 2nd. There will also be a youth only class June 9th. Lottery deadlines are (open classes – 1 April) and (Youth Class – 1 May). The Ohio Sea Grants is offering Fly Fishing 101 at the Bay Nature Center February 16th, 6:30-8:30 PM.

The Board of Directors voted to contribute \$500 to the Clearfork Chapter to support stocking of 2000+ rainbow trout in Apple Creek near Wooster, OH. The Clearfork Chapter will contribute a matching \$500 and the City of Wooster Recreation Department will provide the bulk of the funding, an additional \$1,500. Board members will present the check at a Clearfork Chapter meeting on February 13th. The trout stocking is scheduled for early March 2006.

Jim announced the need for volunteers to fill officer vacancies within the Chapter. Current vacancies include the Chapter Secretary, Education Chair, and our Conservation Chair. At the conclusion of our meeting Wes Perusek, Ph. D. offered his services to be our Education Chair.

Carl Kocian, Sportsman Show Chairman, provided an update on the show and our need for volunteers to man our booth from March 11-19th. Our goal for the show will be to promote TU's conservation mission, recruit new members, and conduct a fund raiser raffle. By the end of our meeting several members volunteered to man our booth.

The Sportsman's Show runs from March 11-19, 2006. We will need a significant number of volunteers to staff the booth so if you are interested, please let us know.

The show hours are as follows:

- Saturday, March 11th 10:00am - 9:00pm
- Sunday, March 12th, 10:00am - 7:00pm
- Monday, March 13th, 3:00pm - 9:00pm
- Tuesday, March 14th, 3:00pm - 9:00pm
- Wednesday, March 15th, 12:00pm - 9:00pm
- Thursday, March 16th, 3:00pm - 9:00pm
- Friday, March 17th, 3:00pm - 9:00pm
- Saturday, March 18th, 10:00am - 9:00pm
- Sunday, March 19th, 10:00am - 6:00pm

Guest speaker Craig Lewis gave an interesting presentation on Center Pin fishing for steelhead. Craig's presentation included the history of, and the similarities between modern fly fishing and Center Pin fishing. Members had the opportunity to handle center pin reels and Craig provided excellent instruction for rigging a center pin outfit and the various strategies when center pin fishing. The presentation was well received with many members staying at the conclusion of the meeting to grill Craig for more secrets or book Craig's guide services.

The next member meeting is tentatively scheduled for late April 18th after the Sportsman Show.