

# Leaders & Tippetts

**Louisville Chapter 476**

**Trout Unlimited**

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**A cold day clipping fins on brown trout for the Cumberland**

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# **P r e s i d e n t ' s   C o r n e r**

**By Roger Shott**

I really can't comprehend that it has been two months since I became President. Without question Frank is right that this is the easiest board to work with that has ever been my privilege to be a part of. We are embarked on a year of what I hope will be solid accomplishments. " If you take care of the trout they will take care of the rest." It has occurred to me that trout are like the "canary in the Mine". When It dies then we are in a heap of trouble if we are in the mine. Similarly if the trout die then all our fishing waters are seeing trouble and the sport of fishing whether trout or not is threatened. With this in mind I would like to see our interests focus on at least six areas.

- 1) Develop more areas to fish for trout. To be of the most benefit these areas here in Kentucky should be within 1 to 1-1/2 hrs from Louisville.
- 2) Continue to increase our outreach to folks who think they would like to fish for trout.
- 3) Stay involved with organizations such as Metro Parks, Boy Scouts, Casting for Recovery etc.
- 4) Encourage a continued strong interest and help for Ky Fish and Wildlife as they continue to try to preserve and enhance our fishing and hunting.
- 5) to continue to encourage women to indulge in a sport that some have called the "old boys club" Remember that Diane tolerates going with me because she tells me that trout have the good sense to live in beautiful places.
- 6) Lastly to serve as a role model for young people so that they understand that there is a big world out there waiting to be discovered and fished.

Well I have rambled enough. It is my privilege to be your President.  
Together we can have a very good year.

## **Free Fly Tying Classes**

**Classes are held the second Tuesday of the month at the Aero Club in Bowman Field. We meet at 7:00 PM and those who are beginners all the way up to the experienced tyer will be able to gain something from these sessions,  
In March George Smith will lead the class  
In April Delores Cummings returns to instruct**

## **Upcoming Chapter Meetings**

**Norm Wathen will join us in March to talk about and demonstrate his world famous streamer flies.**

**Don't miss this one.**

**Norm's fly tying skills are legendary!**

**In April Dave Dreves of the Kentucky Fish & Wildlife Department will be with us to talk about updates on the Cumberland River and other projects for trout in Kentucky**

## **“Board Member Bio”**

### **This issue we introduce Director Tim Woodring**

I was born in December 1957 and grew up in the little town of Vine Grove, Kentucky, in northern Hardin County. Just a short walk from my family’s house were the banks of Otter Creek and a few fishin’ ponds. Down the road was the Fort Knox military reservation, where I would occasionally venture. Behind our house were about 20 acres of woods that were, as a young child, a huge wilderness to me. I was introduced to a cane pole early in life, and I would go down to Otter Creek and fish with my older brother Alan. As we grew older, we graduated to bait casters and spinning rods. But in truth, I never was a true fisherman like my two older brothers, Steve and Alan, until much later in my life.

My grandparents on my mother’s side of the family owned a 165-acre farm in Little Bend, Kentucky, in Butler County, that nestled on a little ridge just about a half-mile above the banks of the Green River, and every summer we would visit for long periods. My father at the time was an avid fisherman and was the first to put a fishing pole in my hand. Some of my earliest and most vivid memories of the farm and Green River are of going with my father and brothers down to the river to Read’s Ferry. My father would have a boat over on the bank and would bring it around to where the ferry comes in. We would wade out into the river, get in the boat, and then run down river to check the trotline across the river. We would always pull out various species of fish, but especially some very large catfish.

Later, as I started to come of age, I attended elementary and junior high school in Vine Grove from 1963-1971. From 1971-75 I attended North Hardin High School in Radcliff, Kentucky, where I squeaked by academically and lettered four years in golf. My 15 seconds of fame came in the spring of 1975 when I won a high school golf tournament, making a 45-foot putt on a rain-soaked green in sudden death for the win.

After I graduated from North Hardin in 1975, followed by a two-year stint as the one of the many resident, red-eyed, long-haired, country boy hippies of Vine Grove, I joined the U.S. Navy and became a Cryptographic Technician in January of 1978. I traveled to many places and saw many things during the four years of my life as a sailor. My first tour of duty took me to school in Florida, then shore duty in Hawaii, where I enjoyed many wonderful days of snorkeling, a little bit of surfing, and hiking the mountains and rainforests on Oahu. Later, after shore duty, I went to sea on a fuel replenishment ship, where we made runs over the International Dateline to Guam, refueling other ships at sea.

In 1980 after leaving Hawaii I enjoyed a three-month sabbatical in California, first in the San Francisco Bay Area, then in Fresno and Bakersfield. While in central California, a friend and I traveled to Yosemite National Park, where I took my first real backpacking trip. It was there that I climbed Mount Hoffman, just above crystal clear May Lake. At that high mountaintop aerie I looked in awe at the vast landscape of the Sierra Nevada, toward a multitude of snow-capped mountains, jagged peaks, and lush forests studded with brilliant blue lakes. It looked as if someone had magically thrown sapphires among the folds of a green satin bed sheet. I was a renewed man, to say the least.

After my sabbatical in California in 1980, I was sent to Seattle, Washington, where I was stationed on the U.S.S. Enterprise. While in Washington I was able to visit many wonderful wilderness areas, such as Olympia National Park, North Cascades National Park, and Glacier Peak Wilderness Area.

After life in the Navy in 1984, I returned for a brief stint as hippie-in-residence (my parents’ residence, that is) until I decided to move up to Louisville and enroll at the University of Louisville. This made my parents extremely happy, to say the least.

Graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1988, I remained in Louisville and worked in theater for a brief time. After several years of a hand-to-mouth existence in that profession I gave it up, and in 1992 began working at UMI/Data Courier (now ProQuest Company) as an editor of educational reference products, where I continue to work to this day.

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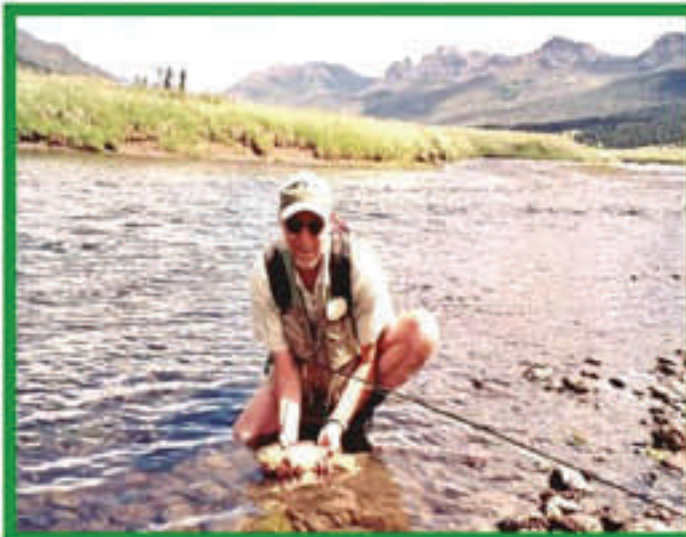
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On Thanksgiving Day 1992 at the dinner table, six months after my mother had died, my brother Steve, who had been a fly fisherman for quite some time, was talking about a horse pack and fishing trip to Montana. I became excited at the prospect, and this ultimately became my initiation into the world of fly fishing. It wasn't until a year later, though, that I bought my first fly rod, an Orvis Clearwater. About a year later I broke that fly rod while wading upstream in tennis shoes up the Yellowstone River in the Black Canyon. After buying that first fly rod and reel I started making fishing trips down to the Cumberland River. But I also began taking trips to smaller streams all over Kentucky, including Bark Camp Creek, Rock Creek, the Elkhorn, and Otter Creek. Since Otter Creek has been stocked the last several years, it has become home water for me, someplace where I can go in a moment's notice. Later, I started taking trips to Tennessee and North Carolina, and, of course, taking a rod along for backpacking trips into the Smoky Mountains. And then there are the trips out West.

For the past ten years, every summer, I've been driving out to Montana and Wyoming to fish in their great trout streams for three weeks. I guess I can thank my brother Steve for hooking me on this somewhat expensive endeavor. I am truly an addict. My favorite streams are mostly in Yellowstone National Park (the Yellowstone, Hellroaring, Slough Creek, Soda Butte, and the Gardiner River, to name a few), but I also spend a lot of time trout bumming around in my truck, going from stream to stream in both Montana and Wyoming. Some of my favorites in recent years have been the Gallatin River near Taylor Fork, the West Fork of the Madison, Rock Creek near Anaconda, and Grey's River just south of the Tetons in Wyoming. This summer I plan to backpack deep into the Bob Marshall Wilderness and fish the legendary South Fork of the Flathead, the Spotted Bear River, and maybe the White River.

I presently live in a nice little house in Jeffersonville, and I'm still single after all these years. I do have a lovely woman friend, Sandra Hahn, who keeps me in line from time to time. She enjoys the outdoors as much as I do and has shown an interest in fly fishing. We will be enjoying each other's company this summer when we go chalet-hopping in Glacier National Park.

What's next for me? Oh, I don't know, maybe Siberia ... whaddya think? They got trout there, don't they?



**DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES FOR THE**  
**NEXT NEWSLETTER IS APRIL 19TH**

## Jim Strader Hunting and Fishing Show 2006

The Louisville Chapter of TU was busy at the Strader show. There were many people very interested in the Casting Clinic that we will sponsor in May. Many information sheets were passed out with the web site listed. Other attendees were interested in the fly tying classes. Many flies were tied and given away. All who received a fly were excited about getting a fly. We had a good group that signed the interest sheet. I want to thank the great group that worked the show and promoted our club; Harold Anderson, Dwight Beall, Deloris Cummings, Pete Engley, Ron Johnson, Richard Jones, Mike Lubeach, Gerry McDaniel, Barry Morris, Roger Shott, George Smith, Lee Squires, Roy Weeks, Steve Woodring, Linda Yeager, and Tom & Nancy Walsh. Without their help, the contacts we made and the interest that was generated would be minimal.



### Kentuckianna Fly Fishing Show Reels Them In!!

Congratulations to Derby City Fly Fishers on their very successful Fly Fishing Show Kentuckiana 2006, held on January 28 at the Indiana National Guard Armory. This show was a first for the local Federation of Fly Fishers organization but judging by the success of the event, this could evolve into an annual service to the fly fishing community. There were seminars delivered by fly fishing and fly tying professionals offered throughout the day, giving the angler the option of listening to Dick Walle talk about his beloved soft hackled flies and how to fish them one hour and then hearing Don Mathews and Greg Senyo give up some of their Steelhead secrets the next. Our own Gerry McDaniel spoke about trout fishing on the Cumberland River while other seminars focused on smallmouth bass or the trout waters found in East Tennessee. Various fly fishing groups, including this chapter of Trout Unlimited, Kentucky's Department of Fish and Wildlife, guide services, and area retailers worked their respective booths as interested folks from both Kentucky and Indiana browsed through the show. Every other hour, Macauley Lord conducted a casting session for those wishing to improve their fly rod casting skills. There were door prizes and raffle items including several nice fly rods along with other fly fishing essentials that smiling participants took home. Wave TV interviewed a representative from Louisville's TU Chapter which netted a spot on the six o'clock news giving us an opportunity to talk about our mission and a few of the things this organization is involved with such as Casting For Recovery. The weather was cooperative, the crowd was heavier than expected, the seminars were well done, and all in all, the show was quite the hit. If you did not get an opportunity to attend this year's show, hopefully, Derby City will embark on this adventure again and next year, when we all have cabin fever and are waiting for the weather to break so we can wet a line, we can enjoy the show in 2007.



# FOURTEEN BRAVE MEN

Fourteen brave men.....brave soldiers in the battle of life-threatening cancers gathered last August to meet and discuss their plights with one another. Learning from each other's experiences, they left their weekend retreat at Wooded Glen Retreat & Conference Center with a whole new perspective on the life ahead. They learned of more options to their treatments. They learned that they would no longer be alone in their battles. They also learned fly fishing as a means of escape and solitude from their woes.

Through several "courageous conversations" they learned the message of REEL RECOVERY, a program that really does make a difference. They emerged uplifted in spirit. Here's a quote from an email I received from one of the participants a month after the retreat.

"(wife's name) says hello, and she is a much happier woman since I returned from the Reel Recovery Retreat. All of the good things that happened to me during that weekend are making our lives richer, and I have been able to help at least one friend who has been diagnosed since then, and give him someone to relate to so that he can better cope with this dreaded disease."

This FREE weekend retreat had local and national financial support and professional leadership. TU, NKFF, and Adventure Anglers provided volunteer fly fishing instructors at the lake.....and boy did they catch fish!

This year's retreat will again be at Wooded Glen on May 19 - 21, 2006. Once again, we will need volunteers for Sat. & Sun. (May 20th & 21st) A volunteer sign-up sheet will be at the March, April, & May TU general meetings.

We will need 12 volunteers each day. I hope you can join us. Last year's volunteer "fishing buddies" had a great time .....and got lunch, too.

If you know of any man who has or has had any form of life-threatening cancer and wishes to apply for the 2006 retreat, have him contact me OR the Kentucky Cancer Program at James Graham Brown Cancer Center for an application. Space is limited. Only 12 participants will be selected, so don't delay.



For more information:

[www.reelrecovery.org](http://www.reelrecovery.org) [www.woodedglen.com](http://www.woodedglen.com) [mikeroe@bellsouth.net](mailto:mikeroe@bellsouth.net)

**Casting For Recovery's retreat  
for women who have had breast cancer  
will be Oct. 27 - 29, 2006, at Wooded Glen.**

## BROWN TROUT FIN CLIPPING 2006

Friday, February 17, 2006 dawned to a cold, damp, windy morning. It was obvious to all in attendance that this had to be fin clipping day at the Wolf Creek Hatchery. The weather gods always see fit to bless us with just this kind of day when the clipping is scheduled. The day before the sun was out and the temperature was in the 60's. I heard several guys in the first groups to arrive suggest that Dave should have pushed the schedule up a day, but these were just good hearted jabs as all knew the logistics nightmare it would be to try and get all those volunteers, Fish & Wildlife and civilians alike, to change on a days notice! Besides, most of us are grizzled veterans at this and we came prepared to deal with the cold. Showing what some might call a lack of good sense, five dedicated Louisville TU volunteers rose before the sun and made the trek from Louisville to join two members of the Derby City Fly Fishers, three folks from Northern Kentucky Fly Fishers, a class of students from ECU and their Professor, Dave Dreves and almost every wildlife biologist in the state to take on the task of clipping the left pelvic fin from 38,000 brown trout. As usual this group of volunteers put their hearts and backs into the task and by around 3:00 PM it was mission accomplished! This project will prove invaluable to the department as they study the browns in the Cumberland to see what is working and what can be done to improve the fishery. A big thank you goes out to Ron Johnson, Barry Morris, Roger Shott, Lee Squires and Tom Walsh for donating their valuable time to represent Louisville TU in helping with this project. It is an interesting and rewarding experience. There will be two different days of fin clipping the new strains of rainbows to be stocked in the Cumberland later on this spring and summer so watch for the dates and join in. I am sure you will be glad you did! One more thing needs to be said. Dave always feeds us well at these things and this year was no different with the exception of the added treat that one of the new assistant biologist baked a bunch of cookies for us. This young lady has missed her calling! I do believe she single handedly set back the diets of a large number of us. She will have to go unnamed due to my horrible memory, but she knows who she is and we thank her.



### Clean Water Summit by Diane Shott

The Walshes, Morrises, and Shotts represented Louisville TU at this excellent conference, but as I was the only one who stayed for the "whole thing", someone designated me your reviewer!! There were no bad speakers---actually while billed as particularly for hunters and anglers, I thought the average guy in the woods might be overwhelmed with the quality of the presentations. Those of us who value clean water and habitat were inspired. Keynote speaker was Chad Pregracke, founder of Living Lands and Waters, who as a mussel harvesting teen began to single handedly clean up the river trash that shocked him. He now heads the nonprofit with 6 huge barges and crews. The next day, Brent Manning enlivened statistics by assigning an agency budget to members of the audience and asking later "now what was your agency?" -"OOPS"- As he made his point we all thought of the nonfunctioning post Katrina. He'll send you a copy of those statistics to use. Eric Uram heads up "Mercury free Wisconsin, and was extremely knowledgeable and not at all a "nut". He cited many wildlife studies as well as the extreme human examples of fish eating villages of Japan. When the dental amalgam question was asked, he referred to getting his own fillings replaced as needed, not a desperation move, but suggested that for the sake of the rest of us, you not be cremated if your mouth is still full of old fillings. Far worse are our coal-fired power plants. Julie Sibbing explained what might be dropped from the next farm bill, our most important tool for conservation. She says to call Senator McConnell (202-224-2541) and Ben Chandler 202-225-4706 right now as they are meeting for the 2007 Farm Bill and need to hear from conservationists to keep good things in it. Then I was amused and delighted by the Forest Service man in the precise suit, who was so enthusiastic about the slimy little creatures who come to live in the wetland ponds that his slides showed us how to build. While the country has lost half its flood-absorbing wetlands, 80% of Kentucky's have been plowed or asphalted. Lastly we all split up to rotate through hands-on learning stations--for the chemical, oxygen, and bug testing that you can volunteer to help Water Watch with monitoring streams, and lots of pickled fish identification (gloves provided) as another measure of water quality. Feb 3 and 4 were lousy days outdoors--perfect for being at the Hyatt learning how save the "out". And so many groups besides TU helped sponsor--D.U., League of Sportsmen, Sierra, KDFW, NWF, KWA, etc., that the cost of the whole thing was only 10 dollars and you got 3 meals of great (mostly Kentucky) food. (Bison, Sirloin and corn pudding were my favorites.) So let's all gather next year at the Clean Water Summit for Hunters and Anglers A good deal for conservation if we pass it on. (Eat your heart out if you couldn't go)