

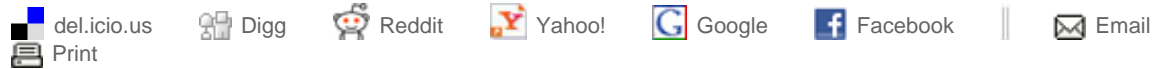
TUE., SEP 23, 2008

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FRONT PAGE LOCAL SPORTS OPINION COLUMNS ENTERTAINMENT BUSINESS

SPORTS



SAT., AUG 16, 2008 - 9:15 AM

Fishing: SEWTU wins \$50,000 toward restoration project

State Journal staff

The Southeast Wisconsin Trout Unlimited has won a nationwide competition. As a result, the local chapter will receive financing for a restoration project and be part of a national advertising campaign to promote it.

SEWTU will receive a \$50,000 grant for its Camp Creek Restoration Project and will be featured in an advertising campaign that will run in some nationally circulated magazines.

Redwood Creek Wines announced Aug. 8 that the Camp Creek Restoration Project was the grand prize winner of the Greater Outdoors Project.

The announcement came at the Outdoor Retailer Summer Market in Salt Lake City, UT.

SEWTU board member Mike Kuhr accepted the grand prize, which the wine company awarded to "provide financial assistance to environmental organizations committed to maintaining or improving America's wide-open spaces."

SEWTU officials said its Camp Creek Restoration Project -- it's a joint effort between SEWTU and the Ocooch Creeks Chapter of Trout Unlimited -- aims to improve the water quality, fishery, and public access on Camp Creek, located west of Madison near Richland Center. The waterway is part of the Kickapoo River Watershed.

Like many streams in the Driftless Area, Camp Creek has been degraded by the farming and logging practices of early

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settlers, leaving its banks high, muddy and susceptible to flooding.

The project, chapter officials said, will reduce soil loss during high water events, increase stream flows, improve fish and wildlife habitat, and re-introduce native prairie plants to the surrounding riparian zones.

Additionally, SEWTU officials said, the Camp Creek project will help preserve and improve habitat that's crucial to the many species that use this spring creek.

"We will install LUNKER structures (wooden cribs that stabilize stream banks and provide overhead cover), root wads, boulder retards, rock dams, and cross channel logs," club officials said in a news release. "These materials have been used on similar projects in the area and have provided great benefits to the ecosystems of the streams. The steep banks will be re-graded to a gradual slope. This will reconnect the stream to its floodplain and allow native prairie plants to thrive in the riparian zones along the banks."

Additional project partners include the Richland County Land Conservation Department, the Smith Family Farm, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Friends of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited, Trout Unlimited's national Embrace-A-Stream grant program, the United States Department of Agriculture -- Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Wildlife Habitat Incentive grant program, and the National Fish Habitat Action Plan grant program.

The project, SEWTU officials said, is part of a larger regional effort called TUDARE (Trout Unlimited Driftless Area Restoration Effort). TUDARE is an endeavor to advance restoration and protection of streams and watersheds in the Upper Mississippi River Basin.

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