

Newscasts

April 2008 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



Chapter Meeting – April 8 Explanations and Elections

Learn more about the Gordon Creek Project

Last month's issue of Newscasts talked about the six-figure project grant for Gordon Creek that SWTU has received.

Joe Schmelz, engineer and project designer from the Federal Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) will give a short presentation on the project at the next meeting. He has worked closely with Jeff Hastings, executive director of TU DARE and has designed many of the Nohr Chapter projects – most recently Big Spring outside of Highland. Joe will discuss the overall purpose of the project from a fisheries and other habitat point of view as well as the watershed impact. He is very familiar with current NRCS stream practices and can answer your questions about trout habitat and other wildlife habitat as it relates to Gordon Creek as well as a proposed floodplain restoration that is under consideration as part of the project. He will have a slide show followed by a question and answer period.

Nominating Committee Completes its Work for April Annual Elections

The Nominating Committee has completed the list of candidates for the election to be held at the April 8 Meeting. The nominees for the open positions are:

President: Dave Sanders. Dave has been Vice President for the past two years.

Vice President: Mike Mihalas. Mike is currently a member of the Board and has held leadership positions in other chapters.

Secretary: Drew Kasel. Drew is chapter newsletter editor and is employed in communications for a major company in the Madison area.

Treasurer: Brendan Budack. Brendan has extensive experience in finance.

Board Directors: Frank Kosmach, Anne Jakel, Jim Kanvik and Jordan Konisky. These nominees have been active chapter members and would bring a variety of backgrounds to the Board.

Chapter Delegate to the State Council of TU: Greg Vodak. Greg is a past chapter president and is currently serving as the elected Chapter Delegate to the Council.

The selection of officers and directors is a democratic process and will be decided by a majority of members present and voting.

At the meeting, the nominees or a member acting on his or her behalf will be given the opportunity to present any information relevant to his or her candidacy.

In addition to the nominees selected by the committee, the chapter bylaws provide that any member may make a nomination from the floor. For those positions with more than one candidate, secret ballots will be used.

The Leadership section of www.swtu.org has specific details on election procedures and the expectations for each position. If you have a nomination or questions, call Bob Selk at (608) 233-5217.

So, lots going on!! As always, we'll start at 7 p.m. at the Coliseum Bar and Grill on Olin Ave. If you'd like to eat, be there closer to 6.

March Madness Auction Update A load of fun – and fundraising

Much thanks to the generosity of our members! Thanks to the open hearts, minds and wallets, we raised about \$3,300 for our chapter. Our coldwater resource thanks you, as well!!!

Somebody is going to win \$100!!!

The *You-Must-Be-Present-To-Win* jackpot has reached its size limit. Contest rules stipulate that the jackpot never exceed \$100. So, someone will leave the April 8 meeting with a \$100 gift certificate to *Fontana Sports Specialties*. All members in attendance will receive, free of charge, the entry-half of a single raffle ticket. If the other half of your ticket is drawn from the hat, then you will the \$100 gift certificate. All you have to do is show up.

Black Earth Creek Work Days

Earn a right to wield the "Stream Keeper"

We have two more work days on Black Earth Creek this spring – **April 19** and **May 10**. We need to put in two more sweepers, limb the white cedars on the south side, and remove some small logs and brush from the stream just above where we finished working last fall. That will finish that section except for a fall or spring brush pile burn. We meet at Salmo Pond at 8 a.m. and work to a natural break point around noon. Of course, lunch will be served.



Burning brush at Black Earth Creek – March 2008
Photo by Jim Beecher

Remember that each time you participate in a work day you will have one entry in the drawing for a beautiful **Sage SLT 4 weight** rod built by Jim Bartelt.

Nothing happens without you. To volunteer, contact Mike at mgrimes17@charter.net or (608) 655-1086.

Get Involved! Special Needs Fishing Day

Our Annual Special Needs Fishing Day is Saturday, June 14 at Jim Kalscheur's Ponds. You can help some very special people who aren't ordinarily able to share the pastime we all love. Setup is at 7:30 a.m. and the fishing begins at 9 a.m.

The directions to Jim Kalscheur's ponds are: Take Mineral Point Road towards Pine Bluff. Turn left, after approximately 5 miles, onto Old Military Road, then left on Spring Valley Road. The Kalscheur property will be on your left. TU signs will be strategically placed at intersections to help provide direction. We need groundskeepers, fishing guides, greeters, servers and fish cleaners. Breakfast pastries, lunch and beverages will be provided. All volunteers are welcome to fish the ponds after our guests leave around 2 p.m.

I need about six volunteers on Friday night, 06/13/08, to help set up fishing tackle for our guests. Please meet at Kalscheur's Ponds at 5:30 p.m., the project should be finished before 8.

Contact [John Schweiger](mailto:John.Schweiger@swtu.org) at 238-8062 for more information or to volunteer Friday night.

Droppers

Mark your calendars and watch the *Newscasts* and www.swtu.org for more information!

- 🌿 **Casting Clinic (and fly fishing know-how)**
Salmo Pond (Hwy. 14, past Cross Plains)
April 12
- 🌿 **Shabazz Outing – Avalanche Campground**
Donate your time, flies, leaders, equipment!
Contact [John Gribb](mailto:John.Gribb@swtu.org) at 437-5260
May 11 – 15
- 🌿 **Wisconsin Outdoor Education Expo**
Dodge County Fairgrounds, Beaver Dam
Volunteers needed to educate kids!!!
Contact bill@pielstickerphotos.com
May 15 and 16
- 🌿 **Chapter "Meeting" and Campout**
Avalanche, Wisconsin
May 17

Ticked Off? Protect Yourself!

Wisconsin is a leader in Lyme disease, which can seriously and permanently impact your health.

Lyme disease is spread by teeny-tiny deer ticks, and ticks can often be found in tall grass, just waiting for a host (such as yourself) to brush by. It's early in this season and the grass isn't very tall yet... but the ticks are there, waiting...

So arm yourself. First with information, available from the DNR, CDC and any number of medical Web sites. Know what to look for and what to do.

Secondly, arm yourself with insect repellent. Deet, nasty though it is, is still extremely effective, but a little research might turn up some other options. There is also clothing with bug protection built in, and sprays you can use to make your clothing repel insects for the entire season. Coat your shirts, hat and, if you can, the top of your waders.

Welcome New Members

Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited is pleased to announce the addition of the following new members to our ranks.

Robert Bennico	Mary Haynes
Katie Songer	David Lombardo
Richard Schramm	Curt Hanke
Calvin Williams	Jan Lange
William Szmanda	

We are honored to have you among us. Please join us for a chapter meeting, and we will give you free raffle tickets. These are not those cheap raffle tickets you may have been bribed with in the past. These are quality raffle tickets, capable of winning fabulous prizes, like flies and other cool stuff.

Fountains of Youth

A look at classic flies that have withstood the test of time ... flies that remain "forever young"

by Rusty Dunn

Ahhhh... April in Paris. The good life. Chestnuts in blossom. A sunny sidewalk café. Spring's warm embrace. Could anything be finer? How about the warm embrace of a knock-your-socks-off April caddis hatch? One that jolts you from winter's coma. One that shows you just how many fish there really are in a stream. One with frenzied trout nosed up into the riffles, chasing pupae, slashing at emergers, nipping at your toes.

Spring time is caddis time in trout country. A succession of emergences in April and May offers some of the best dry fly fishing of the year. The main event begins in mid-April with the grannom, a group of *Brachycentrus* species found all over the country. In the west, they're called the Mother's Day caddis, and hatches are legendary. In the east, they're called grannoms, black caddis, apple caddis, or shadflies. Around here, grannom, black caddis, or (incorrectly) little black caddis is most common. Grannoms of the Driftless are about size #16 (give or take a little) and have dark olive/dun bodies with dark mottled wings.

A Hairwing Sedge ("sedge" is an English term for caddis) is an excellent fly when caddis are on the wing. A Hairwing Sedge is a "damp" fly (part wet, part dry) that floats low in the surface buoyed by its wing of hollow deer or elk hair. It imitates a caddis pupa transitioning at the surface into an adult. Low floating flies are usually more effective than high floaters for emerging caddis, which swim quickly and pause only momentarily at the surface. Knowing this, trout chase caddis emergers recklessly. If you see splashy rises or leaping trout in or just downstream of a riffle but don't see any bugs on the water, you should immediately think "caddis hatch." Your next thought should be "This is going to be great!" Calm your nerves, take a couple of deep breaths, and tie on a Hairwing Sedge (or something similar).

Many old English sedge patterns have wings of bundled feathers or hair. G.E.M. Skues' Little Red Sedge, for example, inspired generations of later patterns. Like most English dry flies, it is floated by a collar of stiff rooster hackle. Using hollow deer or elk hair to provide both a wing profile and good floatation is an American modification of these English patterns. Such flies appear to have developed independently many times. Sid Neff, Jerry Alvoledo, Snook Moore, Bob Bean, and probably many others tied flies similar to the Hairwing Sedge in the 1950s to 1970s. The first published recipe of a hackle-free caddis dry fly floated explicitly by deer hair is credited to Sid Neff, a Pennsylvania bookbinder and former art director of *Trout* magazine. Neff's Hairwing Caddis, published in Leiser and Solomon's 1977 book *The Caddis and the Angler*, is a model of simplicity. Other than a hook and thread, it has but two ingredients: dubbing and deer hair. The sloping profile of hair imitates a caddis' tent-like wings, and the indistinct silhouette suggests fluttering of a natural. Tied in appropriate sizes and colors, Hairwing Sedges imitate caddis, stoneflies, alder flies, grasshoppers, and many other insects whose wings are held down atop the abdomen.

A Hairwing Sedge is a versatile design and the foundation for many popular adaptations. Add a tail of Antron fibers, and you've got Craig Mathews' marvelously effective X-Caddis. Add a collar of dry fly hackle, and you've got a PM Caddis, Bonner's Brite, Peacock Caddis, or Soloman Hairwing. Palmer the body with hackle, and you've got a Bucktail Caddis or Al Troth's ubiquitous Elk Hair Caddis. Add both a tail and a palmered hackle, and you've got a Colorado King or Montana Bucktail. Add a touch of your own ingenuity, and you've got a fly ready-made for the sedges of spring. The only way to go wrong with a low-floating caddis imitation is to not fish one.

If you're wondering what to get your mother for Mother's Day, I suggest a big hug and a heartfelt "thank you" for gifting the world with her magnificent caddis hatch around May 1st. After the caddis have waned and fishing slows, then take her to Paris.

----- Hairwing Sedge -----

Caddis emergers are a scraggly disheveled lot. Dub the body with a sense of studied carelessness. Caddis have a reverse taper and are larger toward the rear than toward the thorax. Choose deer/elk body, hock, or tail hair to yield the amount of flare you prefer.

Hook:	Dry fly, #12-20, depending on the natural
Thread:	8/0, color to match the natural
Body:	Dry fly dubbing, color to match the natural. Use fairly coarse dubbing and add a pinch of sparkly Antron.
Wing:	Light or dark deer or elk hair, to match the natural's wing.



My Last One

By Jack Way, SWTU President

Occasionally, writing a monthly Newscast article over the last two years has been a pain. Mostly, it's been fun writing about the accomplishments and changes this chapter has gone through. I'm proud to have had some small part in that.

We actually have some money in the checking account. We have installed a new set of Bylaws that will serve the chapter well for years to come. We have a Gordon Creek Restoration Project that will not only benefit the resource, but put this chapter's name on the map. Our fly tying classes are alive and very well. Our Project work is thriving. The Icebreaker set recent records for attendance and net income. The March Madness, Fishing Day and Casting Clinic continue to excel.

Overall, thanks to the participation of our loyal and hardworking members, things are pretty good.

I'd like to take a minute to thank not only the Board of Directors for their tolerance the last couple years, but

also our Committee Chairpersons, who's dedication is admirable.

Phil Anderson, who has brought the Fly Tying classes to a whole new level. Mike Grimes, whose unending hours of devotion to the Projects is pretty amazing. Mike Schmidt has worked untold hours on the Gordon Creek Restoration and finally seen it come through.

But I'd like to especially thank Josh Palmer and Drew Kasel. Both were veritable "babes in the woods," practically brand new to the chapter. Josh's level of enthusiasm with the Icebreaker was the main reason for its resounding success. Drew, who took over as Newsletter Editor, is an amazingly talented person who produces perhaps an even better product than we had before.

So, thanks to all who've showed up and participated. I apologize up front to all those hardworking souls whose names are omitted. It was my intent to make the chapter a stronger one than when I started, and hopefully, that's the actual case.

Upcoming Events:

May 13	Chapter Meeting at the Coliseum Bar
June 28	Free Fly Fishing Clinic, Fitchburg Rec Dept. , McKee Farms Park Shelter

Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited Leadership:

President	Jack Way	(608) 222-2461	JackWay@Charter.net
Vice President	Dave Sanders	(608) 843-7125	daveandcheri@charter.net
Secretary	John Serunian	(608) 277-9295	jsurunian@aol.com
Treasurer	John Schweiger	(608) 238-8062	johnrose55@charter.net
Past President	Susan Fey	(608) 442-5801	smfey@facstaff.wisc.edu
State Council Rep.	Greg Vodak	(608) 873-5107	gregvodak@charter.net
Project Chair	Mike Grimes	(608) 656-1086	mgrimes17@charter.net
Newscasts Editor	Drew Kasel	(608) 242-9872	madkasel@gmail.com

Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited
P.O. Box 7051
Madison, WI 53707