

# Newscasts

April 2009 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



## **A Northwood's Sampler — Fly fishing throughout the year for everything that swims in Northern Wisconsin**

Our speaker at the April 14 Chapter meeting is **Brad Bohlen**. Brad was scheduled to speak to us in December, but a big snowstorm had other ideas!

Northern Wisconsin is Brad's "backyard" – it's where he grew up and fished his whole life. Brad celebrates the diversity and opportunity that awaits the adventurous angler.

He'll give his philosophy on making the most of the twelve months we have on the angling calendar and chronicle a transformation from bait and spinning angler into a fly fishing specialist.

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.

## **Meicher Garage Sale At the June 9 Chapter Meeting**

Mark your calendar – if you thought there were fantastic donations from Larry Meicher's collection of flyfishing gear at the March auction, you haven't seen *anything*.

The GARAGE SALE will be spectacular.

There will be time to look and select your purchase from the vast selection of priced-to-sell rods, reels, vices materials and more.

Dorothy Meicher is donating 50% of the profits from this sale to SWTU's Endowment Fund. Sales will take place before and after the June 9 Chapter meeting.

## **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 14 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.

## ***Slate for April Chapter Elections***

The Nominating Committee has completed the list of candidates for the election to be held **at the April 14 Meeting**. The officer positions are up for election every year. All of the current office-holders have been in their position for a year or less and are seeking to continue their roles.

**President:** Dave Sanders

**Vice President:** Mike Mihalas

**Secretary:** Drew Kasel

**Treasurer:** Tom Thrall

**Board Directors:** There are three open seats. Jim Kanvik currently holds one seat and seeks to continue in his role. Nominees for the two empty seats are:

Craig Amacker. Craig has been involved with SWTU since the age of 12 when his father brought him to fly tying classes and Chapter meetings. He was Chapter Secretary from 1992-1995, and an assistant fly tying instructor at East High from 1994-1999. Craig has been the Fly Fishing Manager at Fontana Sports Specialties for 15 years, the shop's casting instructor for 14 years, a Wisconsin Licensed Fishing Guide for 13 years, and is a Federation of Fly Fishers certified Fly Casting Instructor.

Mike Schmidt. Mike has been a TU member for over 15 years in GA, NC and CT before settling in WI for the last 5. He initiated the Chapter's stream restoration effort 4 years ago and as Chairman of the Gordon Creek Project, raised over \$250,000 in funds, including \$160,000 in grants. Mike retired 5 years ago to do full time volunteer and financial advisory work as well as make bamboo flyrods. His wife Denise is a TU member and is an environmental policy planner.

**Chapter Delegate to the State Council of TU:** Jeff Smith. Jeff has had leadership roles at all levels of TU during the past 20 years. In the late 1980's Jeff was SWTU's Treasure for 2 years. He has run SWTU's Casting Clinic for the past ten years. He was the first Chair and organizer of the State Councils' Legislative Committee, which he managed for about 15 years. Jeff served as the Wisconsin National Leadership Council Representative with TU National from 2002-2003. Jeff is a retired state employee, having served for 28 years in various management positions.

***Continued on page 3***

## Over \$21,000 Raised So Far for Easements

### By Dan Wisniewski

Our Chapter has continued to respond to our fundraising campaign to raise money for the Dane County Stream Easement Program. Chapter members have donated over \$8,000 in response to our fundraising letter. In addition, we raised nearly \$2000 from the *Drift* movie fundraiser on March 4, which drew about 140 cabin-fever-motivated viewers. Combined with the earlier \$2,500 contribution from our Chapter, this amounts to \$12,500 raised thus far by our Chapter. This has leveraged another \$9,000 in contributions from the TU State Council and other conservation groups for an overall total of \$21,500.

So far, \$7500 has been contributed to a permanent easement on Gordon Creek. The rest of the funds will be dedicated to easements on Vermont Creek. Dane County is planning a major restoration project near the confluence of Vermont and Black Earth Creek and hopes to purchase easements there. Our chapter will be working with the Natural Heritage Land Trust to raise additional funds for easements on Vermont Creek.

We anticipate that the funds we have raised thus far will leverage additional funding from other private sources as well as the DNR for the purchase of easements. Dane County also will be pursuing additional permanent easements on German Valley Creek, Kittelson Creek and Gordon Creek.

All in all, this is a remarkable effort and our Chapter can be proud of what it has achieved. Supporting the county's goal of permanently protecting and restoring miles of prime trout water will be a continuing effort of our Chapter. We will be able to point to our willingness to contribute to this program as we seek to raise additional dollars from foundations and private donors. As we've pointed out before, every dollar contributed by our members will go directly to purchasing these permanent easements.

If you'd like to contribute, send your tax deductible contribution to: SWTU, 222 South Hamilton St., Suite 12, Madison, WI 53703.

Thank you very much for your support.

# Thanks!!!

### Easement Program Contributors to-date:

Edwin Barnes	James Burns
Roger Clausen	William Flader, M.D.
Steve Gordon	John Gribb
Stephen Hawk	Roger Howard
Dave Kindig	Joseph Kubale
Daniel Laudon	Mark Rhinerson
Brent Nicaastro	Thomas Patterson
Charlie Sanders	Robert Selk
Frederick Seybold	Jeff Smith
John Tweddale	Hugh Wabers
Leslie Wadsworth	Douglas Wadsworth
Tom Bewick	Greg and Jane Hyer
John Lyons	Raymond Venn
Kate Wiperman	Lynn Blenker
Stephen Born	James Gentry
Lee Groth	Patrick Handrick
Jack Heiden	Gilbert Herman
Martin Jenich	Richard Lindroth
John Serunian	Scott Seymour
James Sugar	John Heinrichs
James Kanvik	Drew Kasel
Jordan Konisky	Greg Paradise
Matthew Mitro	Robert Krewson
Stephen Wald	Dennis Presser
Thomas Thrall	Ken Genskow
Tom Crabb	Gregory Vodak
Colleen Moore	Len Maurer
Dennis Franke	Chuck Valliere
Nancy & Joe Moskal	Ann Jakel
Stephen Berg	Jim Beecher
Peggy Stormoen	Steven Robertson
Keith Nelson	Ken Pfile
Thomas Pellett	Tina Murray
Gerald Campbell	Robert Chybowski
Charles Hodulik	Dan Wisniewski
Bill Pielsticker	Frank Kosmach
Topf Wells	Robert Gennrich
Tim and Joan Sullivan	
Gene Mueller and Family	
Thomas M. & Margie E. Krauskopf	
Michael and Shelley Dubis	

### Organizations:

Elliot Donnelly TU Chapter of Illinois  
The Dane County Conservation League  
Wisconsin Trout Unlimited State Council  
Badger Fly Fishers  
Federation of Fly Fishers

## Chapter Elections (continued from page 1)

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](http://www.swtu.org) has specific details on election procedures and the expectations for each position. If you have a nomination or questions, contact Mike Mihalas at (608) 345-1614.

## Drift showing was a big success!

Tremendous fun, camaraderie and a darned fine flyfishing movie! Our March 4 showing of *Drift* was all that and more, plus it raised \$1,789.44 for purchasing permanent stream access rights!



Steve Born addresses the eager *Drift* crowd.



Steve Born and Dan Wisniewski present Kathleen Falk with a certificate of appreciation from the Wisconsin State TU Council for her efforts to permanently preserve streams in Dane County.

## Bettering Black Earth Creek

By Mike Grimes, Project Chair

On **April 25** and **May 8** we will meet at Salmo Pond at 8 a.m. for limbing and installation of sweepers. Most of the work will be on the south side of the stream so waders are needed to cross over. We'll work up a hunger and have lunch (provided) at noon.

By helping out, you'll earn a chance to win the **Streamkeeper II** – a fantastic rod expertly built by Jim Bartelt. You can see the rod at the next Chapter meeting, and also sign up to help. You'll then also be on the list to be notified if we must cancel due to high water. We also try and note any updates on the online Chapter calendar. Signing up also lets us know how much food to bring!

If you'd like to help, contact Mike Grimes, Project Chair, at [mgrimes17@charter.net](mailto:mgrimes17@charter.net) or (608) 655-1086.

## Free Casting Clinic on April 18

We are once again sponsoring our annual Fly Casting Clinic. The clinic is free, and available to anyone interested in learning how to cast a fly. Beginners are especially encouraged to attend. Loaner rods will be available for those who do not own their own equipment. The clinic will begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday April 18 at Salmo Pond (2 miles west of Cross Plains on Highway 14).

You can learn about casting, aquatic entomology and reading the water. This is a fantastic opportunity for



Jeff Smith helps teach casting.

anyone 6 years of age and older to get involved in our sport. These 2-3 hours would cost a bundle from a private guide! Let any friend, relative or neighbor know about this valuable once a year event. For more information, please contact Jeff at [riversmith@charter.net](mailto:riversmith@charter.net).

## Welcome!

Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited is pleased to announce the addition of these fine folk to our ranks.

Jeff Stone      Terry Geurkink  
Bill Pacetti    Daniel Ellefson  
Connie Koeck   Ivon Palacios  
Gretchen Hansen

We are honored to have you among us. Please join us for a Chapter meeting, and we will give you free raffle tickets, flies and "an offer you can't refuse" from some of our most experienced fisher-folk!

## **Bob Gennrich** **Most Unsung Valuable Trout**

At February's State Council Banquet, we were honored to have Chapter member Bob Gennrich receive the Most Unsung Valuable Trout award.

Bob is old school; he has been in the trenches as a TUEr for decades. He is gracious and treats people with respect. Bob has been a leader in Southern

Wisconsin TU for many years. He is a past SWTU president; he helped develop and taught the chapter's fly tying and rod building courses for many years. Bob has introduced numerous young people to trout fishing, and instilled his passion for cold water conservation on so many TUErs' that they are too numerous to mention. Many of those students have become members and leaders of TU.



Bob has unwavering opinions when it comes to fly fishing. He loves bluegill fishing, and no one knows better when to go, where to go, and how to catch them. For bluegills there is only one fly for Bob, his girdle bug. Bob states emphatically that it must be #12, must be unweighted, must be black with white legs, and — the special secret — must have a small tuft of red marabou at the rear. No deviation is possible if you want to be successful.

Trout are Bob's passion, especially brook trout. Early season finds Bob and friend Dez Bible chasing all over southwestern Wisconsin, checking streams with his spinning rod to find the best brook trout populations. When the summer season starts, Bob returns to those good streams with fly rod. The rod must be light and short, the fly line must be freshly cleaned and treated to float, and the leader must be sanded to sink so it won't reflect light. And the fly? There is only one, the Gennrich Hopper. Bob insists that the body be a special color of Kelly green, which only he knows is right. The wing is of wild turkey specially treated and shaped as required. The tail and hackle need to be that special shade of brown that is the best. These requirements are specific and anything else won't work!

Bob has given much to TU and coldwater conservation, and he has the respect and admiration of his fellow TU members. We are proud that he is a member of our Chapter and thankful for his years and years of unsung contributions to our Chapters success.

## **Conservation Congress**

**Monday, April 13 at 7 p.m.**

Take part in this democratic process and let the Natural Resources Board know where you stand on issues like barbless hooks in the early season. The Dane County meeting is at the Performing Arts Center at the Middleton High School, 2100 Bristol, Middleton. More information can be found on the front page of [www.swtu.org](http://www.swtu.org).

## **Special Annual Fishing Day**

Please mark your calendars for our TU chapter's Special Annual Fishing Day on Saturday June 13, 2009 at Jim Kalscheur's Ponds. You have the opportunity to provide a great day of fishing for some very special people who are not ordinarily able to share in the pastime we all love. Setup will commence at 7:30 a.m. and the fishing will begin 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 Valley Spring Road. The Kalscheur property will be on your left. TU signs will be strategically placed at intersections to help provide direction. TU members are encouraged to bring their family members to share in this wonderfully rewarding volunteer opportunity. 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, 06/12/09, 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 p.m. Contact John Schweiger at 238-8062 for more information or to volunteer Friday night.

## **Fly Fishing Rendezvous at Fontana**

Fontana Sports Specialties is hosting its 3rd Annual Fly Fishing Rendezvous on Saturday, April 18 at its west side location from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Featured speakers include Jim Bartelt on fishing southwestern Wisconsin's spring creeks, Bob Harrison on trout fishing in Fernie, B.C., and Laura Breckenridge from the Wisconsin River Alliance on invasive species. We'll be having a barbecue at noon and a happy hour from 4:30 – 6 p.m. We'll be doing a fundraiser for TUDARE and plenty of raffles. It'll work out perfectly to stop in after the Casting Clinic!

## **Chapter Outing to Avalanche**

Mark your calendars and join us at the Avalanche Campground the weekend of April 16! It's an informal event and all are welcome. Learn more at a Chapter meeting. Information on this and other happenings can be found on our calendar at [www.swtu.org](http://www.swtu.org).

## Fountains of Youth

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

by Rusty Dunn

It's early season on a bluebird April day. The water has warmed following winter's chill, and trout are looking up. Fish are rolling in the riffles, rising in the pools. You reach confidently for a size #18 dark bodied caddis dry fly. Good choice. Fish are on it in a flash. Over the next few hours, you bring dozens to hand. What a glorious day. *The thrill of victory.*

Two months later ... an early evening in June ... same stream. Sulphurs are hatching in abundance, and fish are rising everywhere. You reach confidently for a size #18 pale yellow sulphur dun. No takers. You try a smaller size, but only get cautious looks from wary trout. You switch to a parachute sulphur. No interest whatsoever. You tie on a sulphur emerger. Rejection. You empty your fly box looking for a pattern that will take fish, but you never find one. As daylight fades to black, so does your confidence. You stand among rising fish, yet you are fishless. *The agony of defeat.* Two short months ago you were an angling expert. Today you're an angling chump. What happened?

When food is scarce, trout often feed recklessly, but when it is plentiful, they can be oh-so-picky. What to do? Well, you could fish only in April and May, the months when everyone is an expert. Or, you could locate a copy of the book *Selective Trout* by Doug Swisher and Carl Richards and tie some no-hackle duns. They can be just the ticket for fussy fish.

No-hackle dry flies originated in England over 200 years ago with the Hare's Ear dry fly of Samuel Taylor, described in *Angling in All Its Branches* (1800). His variation of the even-more-ancient Hare's Ear wet fly is often credited as being the first fly tied without hackle yet intended to be fished as a dry fly. F.M. Halford, the founding father and high priest of dry fly fishing, added a gold rib to Taylor's pattern in

1886 and proclaimed that, if he had to choose but one dry fly, it would be the Gold-Ribbed Hare's Ear. Despite Halford's endorsement, no-hackle dry flies are scarce in the angling literature until publication of *Selective Trout* in 1971.

Swisher and Richards focused modern angling attention on the importance of imitating insects during an emergence, those few seconds or minutes when a winged adult crawls from the nymphal skin through the water surface and dries its wings. *Selective Trout* revived interest in emergers, championed low-floating fly designs, contained the most detailed discussion of mayfly spinners to date, and provided hatch charts with identification keys for mayflies all over North America. It was the first non-scientific book to provide large, clear, color photos of trout stream insects.

By careful observation and clever underwater photography, Swisher and Richards documented a trout's eye view of mayflies during an emergence. As newly hatched duns float downstream and approach a trout's "window," the first features clearly and completely visible from below are a slim body sitting flush in the surface film and a prominent upright wing. High floating, traditionally hackled flies, which Swisher and Richards derided as looking like "shaving brushes," are laughably unlike the real McCoy. Hackle hides the body and wing, but no-hackle designs emphasize them and capture the essence of an emerger's underwater profile. Widely split tail fibers provide the necessary stability and, together with upright wings, cause no-hackles to land straight, true, and low in the surface film. Swisher and Richards described their Sidewinder No-hackle Dun as the best pattern to imitate fully emerged duns floating on the surface while drying their wings. Other patterns in *Selective Trout* imitate emergers at earlier stages of a hatch.

The next time some overly opinionated trout threaten you with the agony of defeat, cast off your (s)hackles and reach for a No-hackle Dun. It's hard to find a dry fly more elegant, more beautiful, or more effective.

### ----- Sidewinder No-hackle Dun -----

The Sidewinder Nohackle Dun described below imitates sulphurs, which hatch from about late May to late June in the Driftless. Vary the size and color to match any mayfly species.

Hook:	Light wire dry fly, #16-20
Thread:	Pale yellow
Tail:	Light dun hackle fibers or microfibets, widely split around a ball of dubbing
Body:	Pale yellow beaver, muskrat, silk, or other dry fly dubbing
Wing:	Matched slips of duck quill, upright and divided, mounted low aside the thorax and slanting rearward slightly



## Spring Renewal

By Dave Sanders, SWTU President

Spring may be reluctant to arrive but there have been moments when fishing has been more than enjoyable. Several chapter members spent the last weekend in March in the beautiful Westby area at the Living Waters Bible Camp participating in the Driftless Area Project / Stream Restoration Training Program. The results of the weekend certainly allowed us to focus on our Chapter's successes and our future opportunities.

There were an abundant number of interesting and informative speakers, breakout sessions and even opportunities to check out a local stream or two. The temperature was lacking a few degrees and the wind was definitely overpowering for a 4 wt, but the fishing was still great. At least I thought I had done OK until Dave Vetrano and his dedicated DNR crew held an

electro-shocking demo on Coon Creek. I always find these demos eye opening, if not humbling – especially if you happened to have cast a line in that stream recently.



**Proof of fish in Coon Creek!**

Our April chapter elections start off a new year of commitment for our group and give us a chance to thank those who have served for the betterment of our mission. Remember there great opportunities to promote SWTU and our mission. Adding your expertise and passion is very rewarding and the backbone of Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited.

## Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited Leadership:

President	Dave Sanders	(608) 843-7125	<a href="mailto:daveandcheri@charter.net">daveandcheri@charter.net</a>
Vice President	Mike Mihalas	(608) 345-1614	<a href="mailto:mike@mihalas.com">mike@mihalas.com</a>
Secretary/Newscasts Editor	Drew Kasel	(608) 242-9872	<a href="mailto:madkasel@gmail.com">madkasel@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Tom Thrall	(608) 273-4248	<a href="mailto:tthrall2@yahoo.com">tthrall2@yahoo.com</a>
Past President	Jack Way	(608) 222-2461	<a href="mailto:jackway@charter.net">jackway@charter.net</a>
State Council Rep.	Greg Vodak	(608) 873-5107	<a href="mailto:gregvodak@charter.net">gregvodak@charter.net</a>
Project Chair	Mike Grimes	(608) 656-1086	<a href="mailto:mgrimes17@charter.net">mgrimes17@charter.net</a>

## Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited

P.O. Box 14352  
Madison, WI 53708-4352