

Newscasts

April 2010 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



North to Alaska!

April 13 Chapter Meeting

They say that everything is big in Alaska, and the trout and salmon are no exception. Many of us dream of fly fishing the pristine northern waters for extraordinary fish in a unique and beautiful environment.



Speaking about Alaska will be

Dave Barron.

Perhaps best known in Wisconsin for his guided trips in the Driftless Area, Dave has also spent considerable time fishing and guiding in Alaska.

Dave's presentation will excite, educate and demystify fly fishing the great northern waters. If you're thinking about someday making that trip up north, then this is not a meeting to miss!

As usual, the meeting is at 7 p.m. at the Coliseum Bar on Olin Avenue but we'd love to see you before for dinner and a few fish stories.

Somebody is going to win \$100!

Nobody won at our March meeting, thus the jackpot grew from \$80 to \$100 and that's the limit!!! Join us at our April meeting, where somebody (YOU?) will win a \$100 gift certificate to *Fontana Sports Specialties*. A drawing of all members in attendance will take place and you need only be present to win!!

Fundraising Update

The Meicher Madness Auction at our March meeting raised **nearly \$3,500** for our cold water resource. Thanks to all who donated items and bid high!

The Alaska Raffle drawing was held during the auction and the big winner was **Dave Sanders!**

Read on for:

- **Free Casting Clinic**
- **Workday Opportunity**
- **Special Annual Fishing Day**
- **Rusty swings through the Catskills**

Slate for April Chapter Elections

The Nominating Committee has completed the list of candidates for the election to be held **at the April 13 Meeting**. The officer positions are up for election every year. This year we have new members seeking the President and Vice President roles.

President: Frank Kosmach

Vice President: Steve Wald

Secretary: Drew Kasel (incumbent)

Treasurer: Tom Thrall (incumbent)

Frank Kosmach: Frank initially got involved with TU through our tying classes, starting with the Beginners class under Scott Stewart over eight years ago. He's been a student ever since, taking the Intermediate class for three years under Tom Elhert, Phil Anderson and Henry Nehls-Lowe, and the past four years in Henry Haugley's Advanced class. He's served on our Board of Directors the past two years, as well as being "Mr. Bucket Head" at monthly meetings, a duty he's sad to give up. He resides in Waunakee with his wife Madonna and three kids, ages 10, 13 and 16.

Steve Wald: A devoted life-long angler and an eager relative newcomer to conservation work, Steve cut his teeth on our sport on the mountain streams of his native North Carolina before moving to Wisconsin in 1998. He joined SWTU three years ago after learning of the chapter's work to improve habitat in his newfound home-waters on the Gordon Creek watershed. A friend of the University of Wisconsin, Steve holds a PhD in the History of Science from UW-Madison and currently serves as a major-gift development officer for the UW Foundation.

Board Directors: There are two open seats. Jordan Konisky currently holds one seat and seeks to continue. Nominees for the two empty seats are:

James Beecher: Jim has been a TU member for 10 years starting in Ohio when he took up fly fishing. He has been active in SWTU for the past 8 years, mainly in stream restoration and photography. Jim is an average fly fisherman, but has extensive leadership experience in volunteer organizations. Jim is retiring in July from managing the Analytical Chemistry Dept. of the USDA Forest Products Laboratory.

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Chapter Elections (continued from page 1)

Brian Schwellinger: Brian has been a member of Trout Unlimited for 4 years, volunteered to help prepare lunch for the Icebreaker for the past two years and along with Paul Martens, provided musical entertainment at the latest Nash Williams banquet. Until recent retirement from Aikido, Brian volunteered as a regular children's and adult instructor at Aikido of Madison for ten years. The empty nest stage has begun and Brian looks forward to additional involvement in TU.

Chapter Delegate to the State Council of TU

Mike Mihalas: Mike grew up on a trout stream in suburban Connecticut that was slowly destroyed by irresponsible development. In his youth he became involved with the Housatonic Fly Fishermans Association and saw what a determined organization can do to save a river. He has served as President of the Mountain Bridge Chapter of TU and on the SC State Council. Mike has been a board member for SWTU and is currently serving as Vice President.

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, contact Frank Kosmach at kosmach@chorus.net.

Garage Sale at June Meeting

Mark your calendars! A "garage sale" of outdoor gear will take place before our June 8 meeting. This will be from the estate of **Bill Maund**, who was a very active Chapter

member in the 1970s and 80s. As with last year's sale from the Larry Meicher estate, half of the proceeds will go to the Chapter.



Black Earth Creek Workday!

By Chris Denzin, Co-Project Chair

On May 15th we will meet at Salmo Pond at 8 a.m. for our first workday of 2010, brush removal on Black Earth Creek. All of the work will be done on the north side of the creek. Please see [the workday PDF at swtu.org](#) for details. All you will need to bring are work gloves and a smile as all the work will be done out of the water. Waders will not be needed (unless you plan on fishing in the afternoon!). We should be able to wrap up the work around noon; lunch will be supplied at that time.

By participating in this workday, a true Trout Unlimited grassroots conservation effort, you will 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 when you sign up for the workday.

If you'd like to donate your time towards conserving, protecting and restoring Black Earth Creek, please contact me at cdenzin@gmail.com or 608-658- 0168.

Also note! The Annual Black Earth Creek Spring Cleanup is April 24 at Salmo Pond, 8:30 a.m.

Free Casting Clinic on April 17

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. The clinic will begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday April 17 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 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.

Welcome New Members

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

Joel Hartjes	Nathaniel Johnson
Ed Boswell	William Sayles
Daniel Moyer	Jason Lehman
Daniel Jansen	William Norris
Bradley Raaths	Duane Dameier

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!

Special Annual Fishing Day

By John Schweiger

Please mark your calendars for our Chapter's Special Annual Fishing Day on **Saturday June 12** 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, 06/11/10, 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.

BECWA Public Watershed Meeting

April 29 at 7 p.m.

Wisconsin Heights High School

The program for the evening of April 29 will involve presentations on two topics of great interest to watershed citizens and conservationists.

Dr. Ken Potter, Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Chair of the graduate Water Resources Management Program at UW-Madison will present a progress report on this year's workshop, which is gathering and synthesizing data pertaining to preserving and improving the quality and recreational opportunities at Marion Lake; restoring the stream channel and habitat in lower Black Earth Creek in the vicinity of Marion Lake; examining possibilities for wetland and floodplain restoration; and considering trail and recreational opportunities that might arise from this integrated project.

DNR Fisheries biologists Kurt Welke and Scott Stewart will provide an overview of the condition of the fishery in Black Earth Creek as the 2010 angling season begins. They will also discuss some of the habitat restoration and conservancy projects that have been undertaken on Black Earth Creek and tributaries in the past few years. These presentations should provide useful up-to-date information to local citizens and landowners, conservationists and anglers.

There will be opportunities to get your questions answered and to discuss issues of interest with a number of specialists who will be present. We look forward to seeing you on Thursday, April 29.

An Honor to Serve

By Dave Sanders, SWTU President

The tradition continues, as my two year term as chapter president comes to a close and I think about the extraordinary accomplishment SWTU has achieved over the last 41 years. I am honored to have been a part of such a dynamic organization and I will be proud to become one of our chapter's past presidents, knowing that the goals, passion and dedication that has made SWTU a leader in TU Wisconsin and TU national will continue under the new leadership after the April election.

New leaders ensure that broadening the perspective of the organization will continue. We are fortunate to have so many dedicated and talented individuals always ready and willing to work for the good of our organization and its goals. It has been my honor to serve and I look forward to contributing in new ways as the chapter moves forward in addressing the continued challenges of conserving, protecting and restoring our trout waters.

Fountains of Youth

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

by Rusty Dunn

We are a nation of immigrants. A melting pot, where cultures and traditions imported from abroad adapt, evolve, and meld into a new way of life. The history of American fly fishing is a good example. Fly angling as we know it developed in Great Britain by a wealthy and privileged upper class. Its methods, however, emigrated to America along with the hard working early settlers. Fly angling then adapted to the new geography, took root in America's tremendous natural resources, and grew into the magnificent pastime that we honor and protect today.

Theodore Gordon (1854-1915) is often called the "father" of American fly fishing, but "ambassador" is perhaps more fitting. He was not the first to cast artificial flies before American trout, but his knowledge of English angling, his fly fishing experiences, and his prolific writings of the late 1800s had great influence on fly anglers of a prosperous and growing nation. Gordon lived among the famous Catskill rivers, and he educated Americans about fly fishing, especially the dry fly revolution taking place then in England. Gordon conveyed the rich traditions of the Old World to the emerging angling culture of the New.

Gordon was a principle architect of early American dry flies. He received in 1890 a gift of ~50 dry flies tied by the great English angler/author F.M. Halford. The flies were starting points for Gordon's New World adaptations. He modified the patterns to imitate local insects and to float better on America's swifter rivers. Gordon, together with Herman Christian, Roy Steenrod, and Edward Hewitt ("the hallowed four"), established what was later called "the Catskill style" of dry fly. Catskill-style flies are tied of Yankee frugality – lean, clean, and Spartan – and with a healthy dose of Yankee ingenuity and effectiveness.

Gordon was a prolific author, but he never wrote a

book. His articles on fly fishing appeared in Britain's *Fishing Gazette* and America's *Field and Stream*, among others. Gordon was acknowledged in Britain as America's leading authority on fly fishing, but his recognition in the U.S. was more limited, probably for lack of a published book. A book manuscript was rumored to exist when Gordon died, but it never surfaced. He may have faded into angling obscurity were it not for the heroic efforts of historian John McDonald, who collected Gordon's written legacy in his 1947 masterpiece *The Complete Fly Fisherman, The Notes and Letters of Theodore Gordon*.

Gordon was a passionate conservationist as well as an expert angler. He wrote frequently about preserving the environment and of man's thoughtlessness and stupidity toward nature. He opposed put-and-take trout management before it was even called such, and he proposed that some waters should be set aside for fly angling only, protected from baited hooks. Gordon despised private waters that were closed to public access because they violated his code of angling ethics. Gordon's notoriety brought him many invitations to fish the protected and well-stocked waters of private clubs. He always declined, saying such waters were not a test of his skill. "*We do not care for preserved waters unless they are hard fished and hold wild trout. Who cares much for trout that will rise freely at almost any fly and can be taken without effort?*" (*Field & Stream*, 1913).

Theodore Gordon's most famous fly is the Quill Gordon, first described in 1906. Quill Gordons imitate *Epeorus pleuralis*, a large mayfly of early spring in the East and Midwest. The design is quite generic, however, and many anglers use Quill Gordons as a general mayfly attractor pattern. It is, indeed, a very handsome attractor. Perhaps nothing in fly fishing is more beautiful than a Catskill dry fly riding majestically above the water's surface, braced by nothing but the very tips of its hackle and tail fibers.

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----- Quill Gordon -----

The original Quill Gordon had a tail of wood duck flank fibers and an upright but undivided wing. Later versions have tails of hackle barbs and upright and divided wings, similar to other Catskill-style dry flies.

Hook: Dry fly, #12-14

Thread: Gray

Wings: Wood duck flank, upright and divided

Tail: Hackle barbs, medium to dark natural dun (spring) or honey dun (summer)

Body: Stripped peacock quill, light for summer and dark for spring

Hackle: Medium to dark natural dun (spring) or honey dun (summer)



Wisconsin Conservation Congress

April 12, 2010

By Dave Sanders, SWTU President

There are two advisory questions on this year's agenda that are of interest to our resource; Question 87 and Question 88. The Wisconsin Trout Unlimited State Council has not taken a formal position on either question. Question 87 asks for the Opening of Trout season to move up one week, eliminating the week off between the early season and the regular season. Question 88 is asking to extend the season by one month to close at the end of October, assuming that the regular season harvest rules would continue.

The obvious concerns of the possible negative effects on the trout populations are mainly related the extended season and the interference with spawning beds. At this point there has been no scientific input on the effects of these questions either for or against. There has not been a creel survey conducted for approximately ten years due to the cost vs. the data gathered.

It is important to remember that TU's mission is to protect, preserve and restore out cold water habitat. My personal opinion is that, as proposed, the early week would not have any significant impact on the harvest or the trout population. However, the

additional month of October could have a significant impact as the question is proposed. If the addition month of October were added with early season restrictions and also closing sensitive water completely, it could provide additional angling opportunities and offer the economic bonuses that are associated with fishing in the state.

However, as the proposal is written my personal vote will be no on both question at the at the congress hearing. I encourage everyone to attend the hearing and voice their opinion.

Remember that both questions 87 and 88 are advisory and the Trout

Committee can review them and choose to ignore them or pass them back to the Board as is or recommend changes as they see fit. It is important to that we have a strong presence at the hearing, showing that we are a committed conservation group that is concerned about protecting, preserving and restoring our state cold water resources.

2010 Spring Wildlife & Fisheries Rules

The [questionnaire package](#) for the 2010 Department of Natural Resources Spring Wildlife and Fisheries Proposed Rules Hearing and Annual Conservation Congress County Meeting and the list of meeting locations is now available on the DNR Web site.

On **Monday, April 12**, there will be 72 public hearings, one in each county starting at 7 p.m. where individuals interested in natural resources management have an opportunity to provide their input by non-binding vote and testimony to the Department of Natural Resources, Natural Resources Board and the Conservation Congress

Tune in! TU's "OnThe Rise" program can now be found on The Sportsman Channel (www.thesportsmanchannel.com).

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