

Newscasts

April 2011 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



A Wonderful Weekend and a Look at Invasive Species

Our April 12 Chapter Meeting

You'll want to join us on April 12... an election, a \$100 drawing and some fantastic presentations!

An important new Chapter initiative was begun last year... at this meeting we'll have a presentation and hear testimonials from the first ever **SWTU Women's Fly Fishing Workshop**. It was a wonderful gateway for women into the art of fly fishing and another weekend is happening this year with support of the Chapter. (There may be a few slots left... come to the meeting or see [last month's Newscasts](#) for details!).



Also, Laura MacFarland of the River Alliance will discuss the **vital role anglers can play** in curtailing the spread of aquatic invasive species in our state.

Please join us! This will be a fun and informative evening ... and remember, a fair shot at \$100!

As usual, the meeting is at the [Coliseum Bar and Grill](#) on East Olin Avenue at 7 p.m. but please join us earlier for dinner and a few stories.

Somebody is going to win \$100!!!

Nobody won at our last meeting, so the jackpot grew from \$80 to \$100 and that's the limit!!! Join us at our April 12 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!!

Read on for:

- **Workday Party information**
- **Pages and pages of great things to do, and ways you can help out and make a difference**
- **Rusty takes you to a little place called "Henryville."**

Slate for April Chapter Elections

The Nominating Committee has completed the list of candidates for the election to be held **at the April 12 Meeting**. The officer positions are up for election every year. This year we have new members seeking the President and Secretary roles.

President: Jordan Konisky

Vice President: Steve Wald (incumbent)

Secretary: Tim Steines

Treasurer: Tom Thrall (incumbent)

Jordan Konisky: Jordan grew up in Rhode Island and first came to Wisconsin for graduate studies in genetics at the UW. An academic, Jordan has held faculty and administrative positions at the University of Illinois and Rice University. In 2007 he returned to the Madison area to retire. A relative newcomer to trout fly fishing and conservation work, he joined SWTU where he has been active in several areas. Jordan developed the current on-line chapter calendar, participated in workdays, helped with the annual Icebreaker and managed last year's Alaska raffle. He is a member of the Chapter Endowment Committee and has been a Board member for the past three years.

Tim Steines: Tim has been a member of SWTU for the past two years, seeing the light after a day in the Driftless Area with Jim Bartelt. Tim, wanting to get his hands dirty, began helping out at various events before he began "crashing" SWTU board meetings to be more connected with the chapter, its goals and the mission. Tim is a Management Information Systems graduate of Iowa State University and current works as a Data Warehouse Administrator with UW Health.

Board Directors: Craig Amacker and Jim Kanvik hold two seats that are up for election this year and wish to continue. The nominee for the open seat is:

Kelly Belshaw: Kelly joined TU in October 2010 after taking a casting class, and she recently completed the beginning fly tying class. A relative newcomer to fly fishing, she recently caught her first trout with a fly she tied herself. Kelly lives in Madison with her 4 children (Maddie, Grace, Sydney & Ben) and works as a Financial Specialist for the Department of Neurosurgery at UW-Madison.

Board Directors (off-cycle): There are two board seats that are not up for election this year, but are open and need the remaining year of their term filled. Nominees to fill these seats are:

Terry Becker: Terry joined the chapter 7 years ago. He took beginner fly tying with Larry Meicher and then spent two years in Henry Haugley's advanced tying class. Terry then co-instructed the eastside beginner's class for 2 years and this year instructed the eastside intermediate class. He has a strong interest in the chapter, its projects and continuation of the chapter's goals.

Chris Risbrudt: Chris has been a life member of TU for about 15 years. He recently retired from the US Forest Service where he was Director of the Forest Products Laboratory for over 10 years. He has worked in Washington, DC, Montana, Wisconsin and Minnesota. In Montana (1988-1995), Chris was administrator of 16 million acres of National Forest lands, with lots of miles of trout streams. He has fished for trout in Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Virginia, Maryland, Wyoming, Alaska and New Zealand.

Chapter Delegate to the State Council of TU:

Dave Sanders: Dave has served the Chapter in numerous capacities, including two years as Vice President and two years as President. He also serves as Chair of our Icebreaker event and has attended a great many State Council meetings.

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 Drew Kasel at mackasel@gmail.com.

This Month! Workday Party!! Be there!!!

By Dennis Presser, Workday Chair

Planning for the work party on **Saturday, April 30** is continuing. Partner organizations – Badger Flyfishers, River Alliance of Wisconsin, Upper Sugar River Watershed Association, Black Earth Creek Watershed Association, Token Creek Watershed Association, Deer Creek Sportsmen's Club – are interested in working with us to make a difference on a number of our local streams.

While the focus, as always, is on the cutting, sawing, pulling, and other tasks that a work party entails, we could use other help! If you can tie flies, loan tools or help coordinate work on a stream that is close to your heart (or home), we can use your time and talents. Contact me at wotihnisa@hotmail.com if you are willing to offer your time and skills to help make this project a success.

Free Casting Clinic on April 16

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 16 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.

Tie Some Flies for Project Green Teen

Our Chapter's longtime support of the Project Green Teen program at Madison's Shabazz High School continues this year.



Volunteers from our Chapter provide casting instruction, on-water assistance and fishing flies. Your help would be great in any area, but something you can do right now is to donate some flies so each student can have a good selection. Send them to John Gribb, 511 Hickory, Mt. Horeb, WI 53572.

Meicher Madness Results

Your generosity in providing items and bidding high helped the Chapter earn **over \$3,000** at our annual March event... the cold water resource thanks you!

Important Parks Planning Work in Dane County Make your voice heard!

Over the next six months, the Dane County Parks Commission will be working to revise the county's Parks and Open Space Plan for 2012-2017. The plan is an important factor in determining future conservation and recreational opportunities the county will pursue, making this a very good time to provide your opinion.

Chris James of the Parks Division has said that contacts to him now at james@countyofdane.com are important so the Department can figure out what to emphasize in the plan (stream fishing, disc golf, bike trails, boat launches, etc.). The Permanent Streambank Easement Program is part of this plan – so far the program has funded more than \$600,000 in permanent easements on Gordon, German Valley, the Sugar River, Vermont Creek, Kittleson, and Pleasant Valley.

If you think Dane County has done a good job on trout stream access and habitat improvement, and would like to see that continued in the 2012-2017 plan, then send Chris a personal note letting him know of your appreciation and support for cold water preservation and restoration efforts.

These contacts are important so the Department can figure out what recreational pursuits to emphasize in the plan.

Supporting our Warm Water Brethren

The depths of summer, when trout are perhaps best left alone, is a great time to go tie into some smallmouth! The Wisconsin Smallmouth Alliance is holding its annual fundraising auction at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 19 at the Maple Tree in McFarland, WI (cash or check only). It's a fun time and supports their environmental, education and fish stocking initiatives. Last year they worked with a fisheries manager to provide about \$2,500 in smallmouth stocking for the Apple River in NW Wisconsin, as a dam removal left about 26 miles of ideal smallmouth habitat.

They invite and encourage our members to attend the auction and, if possible, donate some bass, bluegill, etc. flies to auction off. They would like any



flies in advance –send them to Mike Simon, 2701 Gust Rd., Verona, WI 53593 by April 10 so they can be labeled, boxed if necessary, etc.

Special Annual Fishing Day

Please mark your calendars for our TU chapter's Special Annual Fishing Day on **Saturday, June 11** 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 Spring Valley Road. The Kalscheur property will be on you 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 grounds keepers, 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, 06/10/11, 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.

Interested in fishing Alaska?

We've had several presentations on fly fishing Alaska in recent years that have generated a lot of interest and excitement. Remember that Craig Amacker is hosting a Trout Camp at Wilderness Place Lodge September 2 – 7 this year. You can catch Craig or Cory at a Chapter meeting to discuss!

Welcome New Members

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

Logan Nelson
Philip Rohs
Brad Vesperman

Michael Stiller
Matt Murray

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!

Fountains of Youth

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

by Rusty Dunn

Ask historically minded fly anglers where the methods and traditions of fly fishing in America originated, and most will reply the Catskills Mountains of New York state. The Catskills were the cradle of American fly angling, but an often overlooked area of eastern Pennsylvania could rightfully be called the birthplace. Long before the Catskills were famous for trout, leading fly anglers plied the trout streams of Pennsylvania's Pocono Mountains near the village of Henryville. Theodore Gordon, the Catskill angling legend, was but a babe-in-arms when Henryville's Brodhead Creek and its tributaries were the place to be for American trout fishing. Limestone spring creeks of "the Brodheads" held abundant native brook trout, which attracted large numbers of eastern fly anglers in the mid-19th century. Henryville was the center of organized fly fishing in America.

Merchant Arthur Henry, after whose family the town of Henryville is named, established a trading center and hotel on a tributary of Brodhead Creek in 1836. Word of the area's great angling spread, and in 1848 the expanded hotel was renamed 'Henryville House'. Until closing in 1984, Henryville House was the oldest trout fishing hotel in America. Noted journalists and authors of New York City and Philadelphia wrote of the area's abundance. Thaddeus Norris, perhaps the earliest of America's great angler/authors, was positively evangelical about the area's trout fishing in his 1864 book *The American Angler's Book*. Future, current, and former American Presidents stayed at Henryville House and sampled its great angling. 'Buffalo Bill' Cody, Annie Oakley, and a long list of visiting luminaries added to the buzz. Samuel Phillippe of

nearby Easton, PA perfected in the 1870s the first six-sided split bamboo fly rods on the Brodheads. Henryville House and its surroundings were America's best known fly fishing destination, earning the endearing name of 'Paradise Valley'.

Sadly, paradise was short-lived. Years of abuse by farming and logging left a late 1800s trout fishery in serious decline. Water temperatures increased, and brook trout dwindled to near zero, being replaced by hatchery-bred brown trout. Many formerly public waters were turned into private clubs. The great trout fishing of Henryville had become ordinary, and fly anglers abandoned it for better rivers to the north in the Catskill Mountains. The efflux of fly anglers from the Poconos fueled ascension of the Catskills as America's major center of fly angling development.

The glory of Henryville's trout fishing may have faded, but one of its truly fine caddisfly imitations continues as a legacy. The Henryville Special was designed around 1920 by Hiram Brobst, a lifelong Pocono fly angler from nearby Palmerton, PA. Brobst described his fly as being inspired by a sedge pattern he encountered in an unidentified old English fly tying book. The fly was nameless in the book, and Brobst simply called his fly the "No Name". Several years later, it became known as the "Henryville Special".

The Henryville Special is an excellent attractor dry when caddis are about. It is an impressionistic pattern, one whose palmered body hackle suggests motion even when the fly is dead drifted. It rides high with both body and wings well above the surface and is an excellent fly for twitching or skittering. Show a Henryville Special to a trout near you during caddis season, and you might just rekindle some of Henryville's former glory.

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----- Henryville Special -----

Arthur Brobst tied the Henryville Special to imitate caddis on turbulent waters, hence his use of a palmered body hackle for good floatation. The original had a body of red silk floss, but green-olive floss or dubbing eventually became more popular.

Hook: Dry fly, #14 - #20
Thread: Gray, 8/0
Body: Olive-green floss or dubbing
Body Hackle: Grizzly, undersized; length no longer than hook point
Underwing: Wood duck flank fibers
Overwing: Matched mallard quill slips; tips upward, tied tent style over the back with the curvature flaring outward
Head Hackle: Dark ginger



Goodbye for now,

As my term as President comes to an end this April, I can't help but reflect on all that we tackled this past year. This chapter is blessed with so many individuals who step up and support TU's mission in countless ways. 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 everyone's goals, passion and dedication this past year has made SWTU a leader in Wisconsin's conservation efforts.

I'm also so comforted knowing that new and competent leadership will continue after the April election. Our Election Committee has actively sought out new leaders to ensure a broad perspective of the organization will continue. I look forward to contributing in new ways as the chapter moves forward in addressing the continued challenges of conserving, protecting and restoring our cold water habitats.

Frank Kosmach

SWTU Member To-Do List

- Make plans to attend the April 12 Chapter meeting.
- Let Dennis Presser know how you can help out at the big spring workday. (pg 2)
- Get the Special Annual Fishing Day on your calendar. (pg 3)
- Consider writing a letter to Dane County Parks. (pg 3)
- Check out all the other happenings and opportunities on pages 2 and 3!
- Take a look... have you bought your 2011 license, yet?
- Get out there and find a caddis hatch!

Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited Leadership:

President	Frank Kosmach	(608) 849-8907	kosmach@chorus.net
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