

Newscasts

December 2008 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



Chapter Meeting – December 9

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

Our December speaker is **Brad Bohan**.

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.

You-Must-Be-Present-To-Win

Nobody won at our November meeting, thus the jackpot grew from \$20 to \$40. Please join us at our December meeting for a chance to win a \$40 gift certificate to *Fontana Sports Specialties*. You need only be present (and able to discern the calling of your own name) to win.

Welcome!

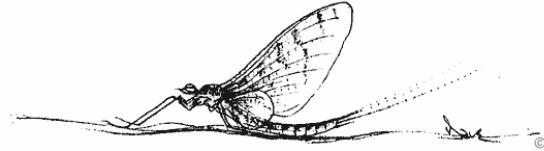
Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited is pleased to announce the addition of Jason Kamrath to our ranks.

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!

New Online Chapter Calendar

Access our Chapter calendar from the front page or left menu bar of www.swtu.org. It is a Google application with a wealth of information on meetings, big events, workdays, volunteering, fly tying classes and other events of interest. Much thanks to Jordan Konisky for his work on researching and building it. If you have a calendar item, please contact Jordan at jordan.konisky@gmail.com.

Fly Tying Classes 2009



SWTU invites you to learn fly tying or improve your fly tying skills. Beginning, Intermediate, and Advanced courses provide instruction on techniques, including hands-on demonstrations of fly patterns proven effective for local waters. **Classes are offered at no cost.** All materials, including hooks, are provided, but you must supply your own fly tying tools and thread.

All classes meet from 7 – 9 p.m. for ten consecutive weeks, beginning January 15.

Fitchburg Classes

Beginning Fly Tying OR Intermediate Fly Tying
Fitchburg Community Center
5510 Lacy Rd, Fitchburg

Sun Prairie Classes

Beginning Fly Tying OR Advanced Fly Tying
Patrick Marsh Middle School
1351 Columbus St, Sun Prairie

Advanced registration is required! You may register online at www.swtu.org or by US Mail. To register by mail, send your name, address, phone number and class level/site to:

Trout Unlimited Fly Tying Organizers
1522 Chandler St.
Madison, WI 53711

The registration deadline is January 9, 2009. Students will be accepted in the order registrations are received, and classes often fill to capacity. More information, including a list of needed tools and supplies, is available at www.swtu.org. E-mail questions to SWTU-FlyTying@sbcglobal.net.

See inside for:

- **Contributors to permanent easements!**
- **Icebreaker news!**
- **Leonardo da Vinci's contribution to fly tying!**
- **And more!**

Over \$5,000 Contributed to Permanently Protect County Streams

By Dan Wisniewski

As of Thanksgiving, 55 chapter members had donated \$5,140 in our effort to expedite Dane County's new Streambank Conservation Easement Program. A fundraising letter was sent to over 600 SWTU members in mid-October asking for their help.

The average contribution has been about \$95. The county program is aimed at buying permanent access easements on as many miles of Class 1 and Class II trout streams in Dane County as possible. In the past year, the county has secured eight easements, permanently protecting over five and a half miles of stream corridor. In all, there are about 40 miles of trout streams in Dane County. The first priority is to purchase permanent easements of segments of streams which already had shorter-term easements and stream restoration work completed. The next step will be to target stream stretches where no access agreement exists and where restoration projects are needed.

The county program was initially funded at \$100,000 in 2007 and \$200,000 in 2008. The recently passed county budget raises funding to \$300,000 next year. Even at this funding level, it will take years to purchase all possible easements. TU's support is intended to accelerate these acquisitions.

Contributions by chapter members will be used to leverage support from conservation groups, foundations and other donors. Every dollar we give will go directly and completely to purchase easements and are fully tax deductible.

Please donate what you can. Make your check out to Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited and mail to 222 South Hamilton St., Suite 12, Madison, WI 53703.

Easement Program Contributors to-date:

- Edwin Barnes
- Jeff Smith
- Leslie Wadsworth
- William Flader, MD
- Steve Gordon
- Dave Kindig
- Daniel Laudon
- Brent Nicastro
- Charlie Sanders
- John Tweddale
- Roger Clausen
- Stephen Hawk
- Gene Mueller
- Hugh Wabers
- Douglas Wadsworth
- Frederick Seybold
- James Burns
- John Gribb
- Roger Howard
- Joseph Kubale
- Thomas Patterson
- Robert Selk
- Tom Bewick
- Patrick Handrick
- Greg and Jane Hyer
- John Lyons
- Raymond Venn
- Kate Wipperman
- Dan Wisniewski
- Lynn Blenker
- Lee Groth
- Gilbert Herman
- Robert Krewson
- Stephen Born
- Martin Jenich
- James Sugar
- James Gentry
- Richard Lindroth
- John Serunian
- Scott Seymour
- Jack Heiden
- Drew Kasel
- Jordan Konisky
- Greg Paradise
- John Heinrichs
- Thomas & Margie Krauskopf
- Matthew Mitro
- James Kanvik
- Stephen Wald
- Thomas Thrall
- Dennis Presser
- Gregory Vodak
- Tom Crabb
- Ken Genskow
- Colleen Moore

Thank you!!

For advance word from our keynote speaker, tune to Wisconsin Public Radio on Wednesday, December 31 from 11:06 to 11:45 a.m. Rich Ostoff will be their guest!

Insight from the Icebreaker Chair

By Josh Palmer

By now I know that I have all of you primed and ready to go to the Icebreaker on Saturday January 17, 2009. You have been reading about the speakers, prizes, and all of the day's fun since I started writing about it in the May *Newscasts*. You know that for a trout fisher, there will be no better way to spend that cold Saturday in January. So now I want to tell you about a few new ways to think about the Icebreaker.

First I'll revisit the most salient points of this event. There will be three world class speakers. There will be a world class bucket raffle with something for everyone. There will be a fly tying jamboree all day long. There will be fantastic SWTU style chili. And the news this month is the addition of many educational booths, including: Mike Miller DNR Stream Ecologist's Live Aquatic Insect Display, Shabazz High School's "Project Green Team", Kurt Welke representing the Wisconsin DNR, Pat Sutter for the Dane County Land Trust, Mike Grimes with a SWTU work day exhibit, and John McMahon with a display for The American Museum of Fly Fishing in Manchester, VT.

The event grounds are the same as last year: The Promega Center in Fitchburg 5455 East Cheryl Parkway. Call Josh Palmer at (608) 333-4084 or e-mail him at joshuacpalmer@gmail.com if you need information or directions.

Now, onto Icebreaker reflections. It was only five years ago that I started fly fishing. It took a while for me to get up to speed in this incredible sport. I wish someone had invited me to this event when I started. I could have seen Dave Barron simplify casting, Jim Bartelt reveal keys to fishing local water, or heard Rich Osthoff divulge ideas into the opaque realm of nymphing. I could have seen SWTU's top tyers putting fur and feather to hook and to create imitations of the insects I've seen around Wisconsin all my life. I could have talked to the wise and generous members of this great chapter and gotten some great ideas or hatched a plan with them. Instead it took me years to find SWTU. I left \$500 worth of flies in the trees of Black Earth Creek. Thankfully, I plowed ahead. Now I look back and think what an eloquent and efficient introduction into the sport of fly-fishing the Icebreaker would be.

So, think about the people you know. Is there anyone that says to you that fly-fishing is something they have always wanted to do? I know I get that

response quite a bit when people find out that it is my favorite pastime. So tell that person about the event. Heck, buy them a ticket — they'll spring for gas money later on. Bring your child, nephew, or niece who loves the outdoors — they'll love it more fly-fishing.

Finally, the Icebreaker is aptly named. It is a way for our stalwart group to begin the New Year. The expertise, style, and prizes that you can win will benefit you for the rest of your cold water fishing lifetime.

Oh, one last point. The Icebreaker is our most important fundraiser of the year. SWTU is a strong chapter because we have the strength and support to make a difference in fly-fishing education, outreach, and stream restoration. Your support by attending this event is crucial and appreciated.

The annual **Nash Williams Banquet** will again be held at the Bourbon Street Grille the evening before the Icebreaker, Friday, January 16. Your \$20 ticket will pay for dinner, a raffle entry and a very nice evening.

Friday, January 16
Bourbon Street Grille
6308 Metropolitan, Madison, WI
5:30 p.m. – Social hour with cash bar
7:00 p.m. – Dinner
7:30 p.m. – Rich Osthoff, guest speaker

Tickets \$20 in advance and must be purchased by January 8. Keep an eye on *Newscasts* and www.swtu.org for more details.

Lend a hand!

Fantastic doorprizes and auction items are key to making a great Icebreaker and your help is needed!!

So, as you're tying flies to fill your flyboxes, set aside a couple each night to donate. In no time, you'll have a great set of flies that anybody would be ecstatic to win!

Quality flyfishing and outdoorsy items are all great. Reels, rods, fly boxes, binoculars, vests, nets, etc. Or maybe you're a woodworker. Or rodbuilder. Or offer a service. If it's something you think a fellow lover of fishing and the outdoors would like, we'll take it!

Please include a note describing your item so we can make cards for the event.

Contact Jim Kanvik at jhjekanvik@charter.net. Thanks!

The Giving Season

Thanksgiving is behind us, trout season is long past and the season of giving has arrived. There is no better way to say thank you for our cold water blessings than to join those members who make an annual donation to our Chapter Endowment Fund.

The Fund was established in 2005 with the mission of taking advantage of every opportunity to carry out stream projects that nurture our cold water resources back to health.

This year Fund earnings have been used as part of Chapter matching funds for our successful Gordon Creek project. In 2009, there will be more opportunities for stream restoration on Black Earth Creek, Gordon Creek and Vermont Creek.

Our goal is to raise \$3,000 before the New Year and if we are successful we will be able to increase the reach of our stream projects.

We need your generous financial support. Please use the form to send your tax deductible contribution today!

Yes, I want to help!

\$500 \$100 \$50 \$25 Other \$_____

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Make checks payable to: "Southern Wisconsin Chapter, Trout Unlimited Endowment Fund" and mail to: SWTU, PO Box 7051, Madison, WI 53707.

Fountains of Youth

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

by Rusty Dunn

You probably don't think of Leonardo da Vinci as a fly angler, but he invented a truly great fly design in 1483. Long before Leonardo painted the *Mona Lisa* and *The Last Supper*, he invented the parachute. Not the parachute *dry fly*, but the real parachute, a wood and canvas contraption with which you could jump from high places and land safely. Over four centuries later, his invention gave its name to the parachute dry fly, a modern masterpiece. You must visit Paris, France to see the *Mona Lisa* or Milan, Italy for *The Last Supper*, but you'll find Leonardo's parachutes – and lots of them – in any fly shop. Admire their beauty, for they are simple works of art.

The hackle of parachute dry flies is wound horizontally atop the hook shank like an open umbrella. The angler who first affixed a parachute hackle to a dry fly is unknown, but it likely occurred sometime in the 1920s. William A. Brush of Detroit patented the parachute fly design in 1931 in both the US and Great Britain. Brush was an engineer and co-owner of Brush Motor Company, maker of the "Brush Run-about" automobile. The Runabout is long gone, but Brush's parachute dry fly is still chugging along nicely well into the 21st century. Brush described the design as:

"an artificial fly in which the hackle is so related to the hook that when the latter is in its properly suspended position, the position of the fly will closely correspond to the position that a live fly would have on the water."

That's legal-speak for "This is one helluva' good fly!"

Brush's parachute design was initially tied and sold commercially as the "Gyrofly" by the venerable William Mills and Son Company on Park Place in New York City. Brush later licensed other fly makers to produce the parachute fly. In England, Hardy

Brothers of Alnwick marketed them as "Ride-Rite" flies. In Scotland, gun maker and outfitter Alexander Martin of Glasgow tied and sold parachute flies. Commercial production, however, was restricted to licensed firms. Thus, the supply of parachutes and their popularity among anglers were limited. An expired patent and continuing testimonials made the pattern increasingly popular through the 1950s and 60s. Angler attention increased considerably in 1971 with publication of *Selective Trout* by Swisher and Richards. This influential book emphasized the importance of fishing emergers during a hatch. It advocated use of low-floating fly patterns that ride awash in the surface film to better imitate adult insects struggling to emerge. Parachute flies, which Swisher and Richards called "paraduns" (short for "parachute duns"), imitate hatching mayfly duns very well. The body rides *on* or *in* the surface, not *above* it as with conventional hackle. The vertical post offers a realistic wing profile to trout and good visibility to anglers. The splayed horizontal barbs better imitate legs of a natural than the points of traditional hackle, which pierce the surface.

Parachute is a *style*, not a pattern. Tie them in sizes and colors to match the hatches you might encounter. Be sparing with the hackle wraps, because the horizontal fibers present a lot of surface area. Heavier hackling does not increase floatation. Parachute flies are unmatched for delicacy and stability. Wind drag of the hackle, together with its location above the weight of the hook, cause parachute flies to land straight, true, and gently every time. When tied on a curved-shank hook that hangs below the surface, parachute duns are similar to Klinkhamer Specials, also a crackling good emerger imitation.

When you next encounter a hatch of mayflies, think of Leonardo da Vinci and his original parachute. Then, tie on a parachute dun of the right size, jump in the river, and enjoy the ride. Afterwards, you just might be wearing that endearing little satisfied smile of the *Mona Lisa* ... the one that says "What a great day!"

----- Parachute Dun -----

Parachute duns can be tied in colors and sizes to match anything from giant *Hexagenia* to midge-sized BWOs or tricos. The fly pictured is a size #16 BWO.

Hook:	Dry fly, size to match the natural
Thread:	8/0, color to match the natural
Tail:	Bundled hackle fibers, splayed slightly
Body:	Dry fly dubbing to match the natural
Ribbing:	Tying thread or very fine wire; optional
Wing:	Vertical antron, poly, or feather post
Hackle:	Dry fly, color to match the natural



Thirty Nine and Counting

By Dave Sanders, SWTU President

Not everyone can stay 39 forever. As SWTU prepares to celebrate our 40th anniversary we can look back over our strong and proud history of conservation and fellowship with pride. Our chapter is extremely fortunate to have a membership of talented, dedicated and sharing individuals determined to sustaining our trout steams here and everywhere. Our chapter has an enviable record of being the home of some of the most dedicated, professional and committed cold water conservationist and trout fisherpersons willing to share their skills and expertise that can be found.

Building on our past years of successes 2008 is by no means an exception, but a year to build from leading our chapter to new heights in our goal to support cold water resources. Our successes — the Gordon Creek project, supporting a strong and growing relationship with Dane County and the permanent easement

program, developing strong stream maintenance and improvement programs, providing educational programs for youth and others, and successful fundraising programs — are only possible because our members are committed and dedicated to sustaining fishable trout water for future generations.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication. The future is yours and the opportunities to share your passion with others are limited only by your commitment. Ask yourselves, as you reflect on your most memorable streamside experiences this past year and over all the years you have been able to enjoy our precious resources, "What can I do to ensure future memories are available for everyone?" Out first forty years are in the bank; the next forty are in your hands.

Thanks SWTU'ers and remember your support is the backbone of our next forty years.

Happy fishing everyone.

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