

Newscasts

February 2008 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



February 12 Chapter Meeting —

The state of Wisconsin's waters

The February 12 SWTU meeting, as usual, will be at the Coliseum Bar and Grill on Olin Ave. Dinner is at 6 p.m. and the meeting begins at 7.

February's meeting is important to our chapter and will provide us with a broader understanding of the impact we can make on our cold water resources. Todd Ambs, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Water Division Administrator, will bring us up to speed on the latest developments and issues affecting our water resource. Todd will discuss non-point pollution, ground water quality and quantity, The Great Lakes Compact, fish disease and other issues of interest and importance.

Todd had originally planned to give this speech in December, but a snowstorm had other ideas.

Prior to his current position as Water Division Administrator Todd served as the Executive Director of the River Alliance of Wisconsin. You won't want to miss this meeting – it will give us some renewed insight and a broader understanding of the importance of Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited's impact on both our local and statewide water resources. See you on the 12th!!

March Madness Auction – March 11

A mountain of fun and a slightly smaller mountain of *stuff*. That's the March Madness Auction, and your help is needed in two ways!!

- Show up and join in the mountain of fun.
- Bring something to add to the mountain of *stuff*.

What kind of fun? Auctioneered bidding fun for a smallish mountain of stuff!

What kind of stuff? Any kind of nominally fishing-or-outdoors-related stuff. Old pair of wading boots? Somebody wants 'em. A mess of proven fish catchin' flies? Somebody *most-definitely* wants 'em. A tail off some roadkill you espied on the drive in? Well, heck... as long as the smell and bugs aren't too bad, there'll be a taker. This is our second-biggest fundraiser, so mark it off on your calendar and we'll see you there!

Election Time for SWTU, Too

Six key open positions.

That's what SWTU is facing in this year's Chapter elections at the April meeting. The president, vice president and two board members are not running for reelection, plus the treasurer and secretary have hit their 6 year term-limits.

SWTU is a fantastic organization, and it does a ton of good, but it does not run itself. We need members to step up, and into, leadership roles. And if not you, is there someone you can encourage? Somebody with good ideas and the drive to improve our cold water habitat?

If so, you need only contact any officer or board member on the [Leadership Roster](#). (Officers are listed at the end of the newsletter.)

Names are forwarded to the Nominating Committee, which assembles a slate of candidates for the April chapter meeting (April 8, this year). If there is no contest for a slot, the person is typically approved on a voice vote. If a slot is contested, the election is conducted via secret written ballot. In addition, nominations may be made from the floor.

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 further questions or your Internet connection is slow (or nonexistent), please call Bob Selk at (608) 233-5217.

This year's open positions provide a fantastic opportunity to lead SWTU into the future. No experience is necessary – only the craze and commitment to protect and promote our cold water resource.

You-Must-Be-Present-To-Win

There was no winner present for the January rendition of the You Must Be Present to Win Drawing. Thus, the jackpot grew from \$40 to \$60. Please join us at our February 12 chapter meeting for your chance to win a \$60 gift certificate to Fontana Sports Specialties. You need only be present (and able to discern the calling of your own name) to win.

To *wield* the Stream Keeper, one must **BE** a Stream Keeper



Cold water conservation and improvements are the corner stone of SWTU's success. Mike Grimes the chapter's Project Chair, has accomplished some much-needed improvements in our local streams – especially Black Earth Creek. The SWTU Stream Keepers and Kurt Welke's crew from the DNR have improved a long stretch of flat non-fishable water that should now hold at least a trophy trout or two this spring. The banks have been cleared and casting will be pleasurable, especially if you had a hand in creating this new riffle-laden stretch of stream.

As if helping improve and preserve our local trout streams isn't reward enough, there is a great opportunity to fish these improved fish holding waters with a **new Sage SLT 4 weight rod** expertly built by our own Jim Bartelt.

Each time you participate in a work day you will have one entry in the drawing for this beautiful rod. So mark down the Black Earth Creek spring work days: **March 8, March 22, April 19 and May 10.**

And one more... we have an extra work day **Thursday, March 13** with Shabazz to clean up part of the creek downstream from Cross Plains. The work will be followed by a stream shocking. We will provide the tools, food and drink.

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

Project Green Teen (PGT) at Shabazz

By Tina Murray, Coordinator, Experiential Ed & Fly Fishing, Shabazz

PGT has a new Web site, including contact information, maps *and a calendar*. It is located at <http://shabazzpgt.googlepages.com/>

PGT begins in 3 weeks and runs through June 15. The trip to Avalanche is May 9 (Fri) to May 16 (Fri). We begin Fishing at 4 PM on Sunday, May 11 and end on the eve of Thursday, May 15.

Fly tying, casting and entomology clinics at Shabazz are still being scheduled for March and April.

Looking forward to having lots of fun and **thank you everyone** for the generosity and investment you are making in today's youth!

Some Fun Stuff Coming Up!

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

Madison Fishing Expo (www.madfishexpo.com)

Alliant Energy Center

February 22 – 24

(SWTU will have a table, and is in need of tyers!

Contact Mark Rhinerson at the next Chapter meeting or the Newsletter Editor. The Expo is a significant source of grant monies for stream projects, so our participation is important.)

Badger Fly Fishers Opener (www.badgerflyfishers.org)

Madison Turners, 3001 S. Stoughton Road

February 16 from 9 – 5

Admission is the low-low price of *free*.

Early Season Inland Trout Opener

Wherever the cold water flows...

Saturday, March 1

Be sure you know the regulations!

<http://dnr.wi.gov/fish/>

Casting Clinic (and general fishing know-how)

Salmo Pond (Hwy. 14, past Cross Plains)

April 12

Chapter "Meeting" and Campout

Avalanche, Wisconsin

May 17

Welcome New Members

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

Michael Harris	Gary Cox
Minh Nguyen	Matt Fitzgerald
Paul Bates	David Lenz
Gary Dobbs	Dan Heselbarth
Tim Eisele	Bryan MacDonald
Eric Stacey	Robert Schaeffel

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.

A Great 2008 Icebreaker

By Josh Palmer, Icebreaker Chair

Thank you to all the speakers, donors, volunteers and attendees who helped make the 2008 Icebreaker a success. Together we had a great time, learned a lot for the upcoming season and raised about \$7,500 for the ongoing projects of SWTU – around a **30% increase** from previous years! For those of you who won bucket raffle prizes, congratulations – winning is as easy as supporting your beloved local TU chapter. For those who went away with “only” enhanced fishing insight and renewed friendships, be sure to come back next year – there will be more great prizes!

The '08 Icebreaker had a lot of changes – with your involvement and attention, the transition year was a success. I have good news: next year's Icebreaker will be at the same spacious location.

Let's keep building a better and better event. If you really liked something or saw an opportunity for improvement, he or she should share it with the folks that are already planning for the 2009. We welcome suggestions of any kind. Contact Josh at joshuacpalmer@gmail.com with ideas.

Now, it's time to enjoy the fruits of our efforts by utilizing the strengthened resources of SWTU by keeping active in the chapter, preserving and restoring our cold water resource, and most importantly – fishing.



Henry Haugley ties one on. The dedicated and well-lit room for the master tyers was a big hit!



Mike Miller's etymology display... wiggly trout food fresh from a local creek.



The highly-sought bamboo rod and display case. *Next year it shall be mine... next year...*



Our national speaker, Tom Rosenbauer from Orvis, passes along a few fishing hints.



Larry and Wendy from The Hayward Fly-Fishing Company show off some biiiig warm water fish.



Eels and leeches and mice... oh my! Mat Wagner of the Driftless Angler Fly-Shop talks trout food.

Any volunteer hours to report?

Did you tie flies or do anything else for the Ice Breaker (or any other activity in 2008?) If so, let us know! A quick e-mail to johnrose55@charter.net and you're set. This is necessary to demonstrate that our chapter is active and a contributing member to protecting the cold water resource.

Photos courtesy Jim O'Brien

2008 ICEBREAKER CONTRIBUTORS

Those below, listed in no particular order, gave of their time, talents and money to provide the exceptional raffle and door prize items that help make the Icebreaker a success.

Thank you!!!

Jim Bartelt – St. Croix Legend fly rod
Paul Douglas – Bamboo fly rod
Susan & John Bliemehl & Pat Ehlers of The Fly Fishers — Sage ZXL 4pc 3wt fly rod
Dave Fowler – Orvis T3 fly rod
St Croix Rod Co. — Triumph 4pc, 3wt (First time member fly rod)
Jim Kanvik — Microwave oven & book
Fontana Sports — Simms Waders
Blackhawk Chapter — Flies
Orvis — Battenkill II reel and 5 wt line
Mike Schmit — Certificate for *Improved Trout Waters of Wisconsin*
Greg Erickson — Fly tying desk
Tom Lucas, The Happy Hooker — 5/6wt 9ft fly rod
Steve Born — Flies & book
Jim Gentry — Fly rod and vest rack
Callie Enyart — Sunglasses
Joe Steuer — Orvis Battenkill mid arbor reel
Phil Anderson — 2-3 dozen assorted flies
John Schweiger — 3 baseball caps and flies
Mike Miller — Fly tying desk
Mark Mellenthin — Weekend at bed & breakfast in Iowa
Jim Beecher — 6 sets of local flies
Leroy Ebert — Blue bird House
John Gribb — 6 each of many patterns, plus some door prizes
Eric Johannesens — Flies plus fly tying and bamboo rod building
Jim Romberg — Guide trip for two-spring creeks
Bill Pielsticker — Photos
Joseph Meyer, One More Cast Fly Shop — 4 dozen flies and fly box
Terrill Becker — Flies
Fox Valley TU — Fly rod
Menards — Coffee mugs
Rich Mlodzik — Flies
Dave Baron — Guided trip
Todd Hanson — Certificate for copy of *Map Guide to Improved Trout Waters of Wisconsin*
Brent Nicasro — Signed & framed print of the big green
Dorn Hardware — Cortland fly reel
Al Thompson — Flies
MC Sports — Fly rod, reel and line
Lakeshore TU — Floating fly box, 45 steelhead flies and mirage 3x tippet
Henry Haugley and Greg Vodak — Fly tying kit with vise
Bob Krewson — Assorted flies
Drew Kasel — Flies
Dan Wisniewski — Flies
Larry Meister — Assorted door prizes
Al Thompson — Flies for door prizes
Jeff Bach — DVDs on canoeing & kayaking
John Straus — Wood Fly Box and assorted flies

Fountains of Youth

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

by Rusty Dunn

Before Babe Winkelman netted his first walleye, before Jimmy Houston kissed his first bass, and long before John Barrett was "Fly Fishing the World" and flying first class, Lee Wulff (1905-1991) set the standard for fly fishing videos. If your childhood memories include Saturday afternoons with a black-and-white television and leaping trophy fish, Lee Wulff was probably holding the rod. His books, articles, films, TV shows, lectures, and fishing schools have inspired millions on the joys of fly fishing. Wulff was the first true media personality of the fly fishing world, one whose impact hasn't been equaled.

Few people have changed the landscape of modern fly fishing quite like Lee Wulff. He designed and sewed the first pocketed fishing vest, engineered the first reel with a palming spool, hosted the first fishing shows on network TV ("CBS Sports Spectacular" beginning in 1960 and ABC's "American Sportsman" in 1964), and popularized short light fly rods at a time when "normal" was long, heavy, and very tiring. Wulff educated Americans about fly fishing for Atlantic salmon, "the king of fish and the fish of kings." The Canadian government hired Wulff in the 1950s to explore Labrador's wilderness and report on its potential for fishing and tourism. Wulff discharged his duties with great thoroughness, piloting a float plane throughout Labrador while wearing waders and having a fully-rigged fly rod stashed behind the pilot's seat. What a great job! When Wulff realized that development of the wilderness would likely hurt salmon populations, he helped found the Atlantic Salmon Federation to fight for their conservation. Lee Wulff urged anglers everywhere to practice catch-and-release, because in his words, "*A game fish is too valuable to be caught only once.*"

Lee Wulff had a passion for personal challenge, a penchant for big fish, and a flair for showmanship.

He was famous for landing oversized fish on under-sized tackle. He caught a 10 lb. Atlantic salmon on a #28 hook, a 15 lb. Atlantic using only a reel (no rod), and a 148 lb. marlin with a 5 oz. rod, 12 lb. tippet, and fly reel having no drag. He held numerous world records for fly rod, including a 597 lb. bluefin tuna.

Lee Wulff was lean, strong, and athletic – a man who did not ease gently into retirement. He caught a 960 pound tuna at age 77. He fought unassisted and eventually landed a fiercely combative sailfish at age 86, after a 3 hour 10 minute ordeal in a scorching mid-day sun. It was the first sailfish known to have been hooked on a dry fly, one he concocted the night before just to see if it could be done. Only two months after that sailfish, Lee Wulff died tragically while piloting his bush plane in upstate New York.

Lee Wulff is probably best known for his Wulff dry flies. The Gray Wulff, tied to imitate gray drakes of New York's Ausable River, was first of the series. It is a uniquely American pattern, designed by Wulff for our turbulent rivers. The austere Catskill dry flies available to Wulff at the time wouldn't float in rough water. He searched for a material strong enough to float big dries and durable enough to take many fish, eventually choosing bucktail as the main ingredient. The Gray Wulff became the prototype of a new class of dry fly – heavily hackled and floated by tails, wings, and sometimes bodies of hollow animal hair.

Lee Wulff tied all his flies – from #4/0 streamers to #28 midges – using only his fingers. No vise, no bobbin, just a hook held firmly in his fingertips and a spool of thread in his palm. He tied the first Gray Wulff in 1929, initially naming it the Ausable Gray. But Dan Bailey, Wulff's fishing buddy at the time, insisted that it be called the Gray Wulff. Wulff and Bailey then developed ten related patterns, including Gray, Grizzly, Blonde, White, and Royal Wulffs. All are classic attractors and proven fish catchers. If you've not teased a trout into an explosive rise with a Gray or Royal Wulff, it's high time you introduced yourself to Lee Wulff's enduring legacy.

----- Gray Wulff -----

Hook:	Dry fly, #10-12
Thread:	Gray
Tail:	Wulff's original recipe used brown bucktail, but calf tail or deer hair work well also
Body:	Gray angora wool; rabbit, muskrat, or beaver dubbing can be substituted
Wing:	Original recipe calls for brown bucktail, but calf tail or deer hair also work well
Hackle:	Blue-dun, tied heavily as a collar



An Exciting Time of Year

By Jack Way, SWTU President

This is the time of year our chapter starts to really gear it up.

We've just finished with our Icebreaker and Nash Williams Banquet – setting records for attendance and fundraising. A heartfelt thanks to all who participated and donated so generously. Last week was our State Council Banquet, at which the Chapter was well-represented by several members. I understand a good time was had by all. Our fly tying classes are up and running through March, with our normal standards of excellent fully intact.

Last night's Board meeting was quite spirited, and thanks to all who attended. We accomplished a lot – we have a Nominating Committee in place, and they'll start the process of replacing those of us who'll leave

the Board in April. John Strauss will once again lead our Awards Committee, so please contact him with any nominations. We also authorized a major commitment to a stream restoration project on Gordon Creek. We can now actually spend the money we've worked so hard on raising.

We've also received another major contribution to our Endowment Fund, and many thanks to that individual. March Madness is next on the agenda – if you've never attended, I'd highly recommend you do so. It's a ton of fun, and a major chapter fundraiser. You may also come home with some really excellent "stuff." AND, we're about 4 weeks from Opening Day!!! With 7 inches of snow predicted for this afternoon, it's hard to envision standing in a trout stream, but it really won't be long.

Now, if I can just find those waders...

Important dates to remember:

March 11	March Madness Auction – Chapter Meeting at the Coliseum Bar
April 8	Elections – Chapter Meeting at the Coliseum Bar

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Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited

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