

Newscasts

February 2009 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



Chapter Meeting – February 10

It's a Mystery Meeting — Come see what's going on!

The planned speaker for our February 10 meeting was forced to cancel and we haven't officially lined up a speaker as of this printing/Web posting.

But that doesn't mean it's not going to be a great meeting! Think about fishing trips; it's often those unexpected detours and seeming-setbacks that lead to tremendous adventure, knowledge and success.

And so it shall be with this! Rest assured that we'll have something lined up to entertain and educate.

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.

March Madness: SWTU Style

Three easy ways to help with the auction!

Our Annual March Madness Auction is a significant fundraiser for our beloved cold water resource. You can do your part in three fun ways!!!

1. **Donate something to auction!** Gear, books, flies, services and more! If it's remotely related, somebody will buy it!
2. **Show up and bid!** We need you there on March 10, snapping up deals, filling your fly box and hitting on once-in-a-lifetime opportunities.
3. **Help out at the auction!** We need a few volunteers to help out with recording the proceeds and keeping things going.

We'll see you March 10! It's tremendous fun and does tremendous good. If you have any questions or would like to help out, please contact Mike Mihalas at 345-1614 or mike@mihalas.com.

Drift

Presented by Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited

March 4, 2009

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. | Film begins at 6 p.m.
Orpheum Theater | 216 State Street, Madison

Tickets: \$25 each

All proceeds go to purchase permanent easements on Dane County Streams!

Get your tickets at:

- Fontana Sports (downtown & west side)
- Orvis (Greenway Station)
- www.swtu.org using PayPal
- The theater on day of show

For more information, visit www.swtu.org.

Chance to win a Belize fly fishing excursion guided by Yellow Dog Fly Fishing Adventures!

What is *Drift*?

From noted outdoor sport filmmaker Warren Miller comes "a movie about fly fishing like no other movie about fly fishing."

You'll travel to Southern Belize, Oregon's Deschutes River, the North Bight of Andros Island, the disputed region of Kashmir India, Montana's Bighorn River, Utah's Green River, and the Frying Pan River in Colorado.

Along the way, the film integrates a great collection of characters and personalities; world-class cinematography; an exceptional soundtrack; a strong line-up of both freshwater and saltwater fishing, and some mighty impressive fish.

So grab your friends and family on March 4 for a great evening out! From grizzled ol' fly fishers to those who've never waded a stream, *Drift* will educate, entertain and thrill **everyone**. Plus, we get to raise money to protect local habitat!

Nearly \$7,400 Contributed for Stream Easements

By Dan Wisniewski

Chapter members continue to contribute to our fundraising drive for the Dane County Streambank Easement Program. So far, 76 SWTUers have donated \$7,365.

The easements allow public access for fishing and other recreation and also allow stream restoration work to be done. Our chapter is collaborating with the county and the Natural Heritage Land Trust as part of a National TU pilot program work with local land trusts and public agencies to restore and protect trout waters as well as improve public access.

In the past 15 months, the county has purchased twelve easements permanently protecting over six miles on the Sugar River, Gordon Creek and German Valley Creek. The county will continue to target easement purchases in these watersheds as well as Deer Creek, Kittelson and Black Earth Creek. There are about 40 miles of trout streams in Dane County and the goal of the program is to permanently protect as many miles as possible.

In addition, staff from the Natural Heritage Land Trust, will be working with the county to encourage landowners in the Vermont Creek watershed to sign up for easements. Vermont Creek is the biggest tributary to Black Earth Creek and has great potential for improvement. Access is somewhat limited and fish counts are much less than they might be because of lack of cover, perched culverts and erosion. The DNR is hoping to do some smaller improvement projects this year on land it owns along the creek. Dane County is also planning a stream restoration project near the confluence with BEC. Additional easements and restoration projects with some of the two dozen private landowners along the creek would be extremely beneficial.

Our chapter will continue to raise money to support the county's efforts. We will be sponsoring a showing of the award-winning film "Drift" on March 4 (see page 1) with all proceeds going for easements. We hope to use any funds we raise to leverage other contributions from foundations, conservation groups and businesses.

Every dollar contributed by our members will be used to purchase permanent easements and is fully tax deductible. Make your check out to Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited and send it to: SWTU, 222 South Hamilton Street, Suite 12, Madison, WI 53703.

Thanks for your support.

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 Wipperman	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
Tim and Joan Sullivan	
Gene Mueller and Family	
Thomas M. & Margie E. Krauskopf	
Michael and Shelley Dubis	

Thank you!!

A Truly Great Icebreaker

By Josh Palmer, Icebreaker Chair

Well, SWTU, we did it! Icebreaker 2009 was successfully fun, and it was a successful **fundraiser**. This year our speakers inspired us, fly tiers entertained us, exhibitions educated us, chili sustained us, and the company made us happy. Thanks to everyone that came, contributed, or volunteered for the event.

The results from the event this year are wholly positive. Over 230 people came, 60 raffle prizes were donated, and the chapter raised over \$8,000. All of these numbers are an increase from last year's record event. SWTU is strengthened in its mission to preserve our cold water resource and continue angler education. Look elsewhere in here for pictures and a list of fabulous donations.

I feel so lucky to be involved in the Icebreaker. SWTU should feel proud that it hosts such a great event for the whole angling world to attend. However, there is always room for improvement, so please contact me at joshuacpalmer@gmail.com if you would like to contribute ideas or prizes for next year.

This was our second year at the Fitchburg Promega complex, and we are already scheduled there for next January. Stay tuned for the plan. I'm contacting talented individuals from around the country to be our speakers. The bar is set high, and I know you will be happy with the lineup.

Regardless of who our speakers are, Icebreaker 2010 will be really successful if we expose more people to SWTU. Put January 16, 2010 on your calendar and plan to bring your roommate, child, spouse or friend. Cold water resource conservation is for everyone.

Welcome!

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

Gary Lindsay Melanie Schmidt
Mark Swartz David Mittlesteadt
Nicholas Nelson

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!

**A motley crew if ever there was one!
Many SWTU Past Presidents (along with
the current) at the Icebreaker.**

See you at the fishing expo!

The Madison Fishing Expo (www.madfishexpo.com) is February 27 to March 1. Firstly, we hope you can attend, because it's always a fun time and it raises a lot of money for worthy outdoor causes.

Secondly, we hope you can **help out at the SWTU booth**. We need tiers, or just people to talk fly fishing. Sign up by talking to Mark Rhinerson or Dave Sanders at 843-7125 or daveandcheri@charter.net.

Chapter Calendar: A great resource

Everything from meetings, outings, affiliated events, the Wisconsin's trout season, our April 18 Casting Clinic – it's all there in the SWTU Chapter Calendar, easily found in the left menu bar of www.swtu.org. If you have an item for the calendar, please contact Jordan Konisky at jordan.konisky@gmail.com.

You-Must-Be-Present-To-Win

Nobody won at our January meeting, thus the jackpot grew from \$60 to \$80. Please join us at our February meeting for a chance to win an \$80 certificate to *Fontana Sports Specialties*. You need only be present (and able to discern the calling of your name) to win.

Go to Camp – Stream Restoration Camp!

The Chapter will pay the way for 5 dedicated SWTU members to attend Stream Restoration Camp. This year it's being held March 27 – 28 at Living Waters Bible Camp in Westby, WI. (There will be time on Saturday for some fishing!)

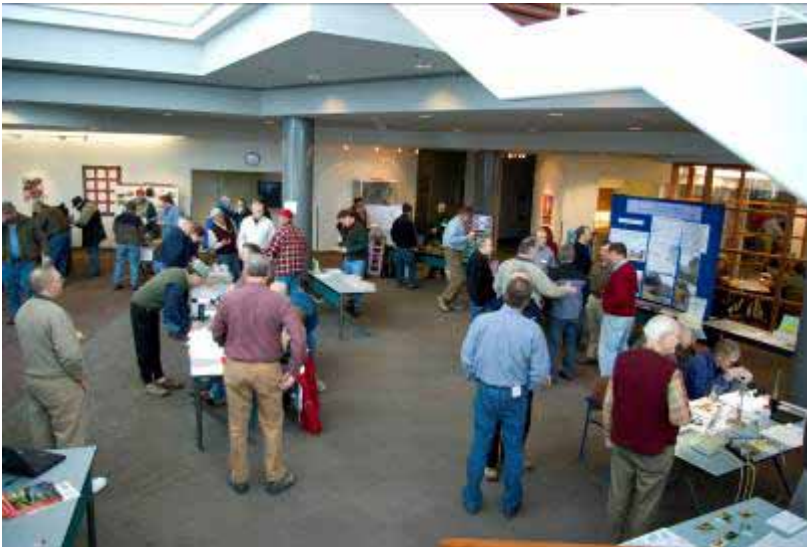
The camp covers:

- Stream Restoration Basics
- Project Planning Basics
- Recruiting & Organizing Volunteers
- Organizing a Successful Workday
- Funding Restoration Projects
- Grant Writing Publicity & Outreach

This training is **vital** to the expansion and continued success of our Chapter's habitat restoration work. If you're interested in attending, please contact Dave Sanders at 843-7125 or daveandcheri@charter.net.



Fun, Flies and Fish at the 2009 Icebreaker



Meeting old friends, making new ones and checking out the exhibits in the main hall.



Joseph Meyer and Craig Amacker pass along tips, tricks and ties in the fly tying room.



Our three fine speakers:
Dave Barron, Jim Bartelt and Rich Ostoff.



Looking over just a few of the raffle items!



Looking over Mike Miller's wiggling and writhing collection of coldwater bugs.



Dave Barron talks fly casting in the auditorium.

Photos courtesy Jim Beecher.

2009 Icebreaker Donations

- **John Gribbs** — Fly plate
- **Brent Nicaastro** — Framed photograph
- **John & Sue Bleimehl & Pat Ehlers The Fly Fishers** — Sage Z-Axis 9ft, fly rod-4pc 4wt
- **Leroy Ebert** — Blue bird house
- **SWTU** — Dip nets and Ross reel, Winston Ibis-486-4 4pc 4wt.fly rod 8'6" with travel case
- **Greg Erickson** — fly tying table
- **Jim Bartelt, Spring Creek Specialties** — St. Croix Legend Ultra 4 pc. 5wt with case
- **John & Rose Schwieger** — Door prizes
- **Sue Fey, Terry Shamus, Vortex Optics** — Binoculars and Monocular
- **Ed Barnes** — 6 fly boxes, wading shoes and Simms wading socks
- **Mark & Cheryl Mellenthin** — French Creek Guided Trip for 1 or 2
- **Scott Longua, Amanti Art** — 2 Framed Fly/Lure prints
- **Terry Becker** — 2 boxes of flies
- **John Galligan** — His book *The Clinch Knot*
- **Greg Vodak** — Loon gear bag & vest
- **Terry Becker** — Cedar Flashaboo tree
- **Phil Anderson** — 2 dozen soft hackle flies
- **Bill Engber** — Dozen assorted flies
- **Menards** — 4 mugs
- **John McMahon** — DVD *Why Fly Fishing*
- **Jim Romburg** — Guided trip for 1 or 2
- **Dave Baron, Jaquish Hollow** — Guided trip for 1 or 2
- **Mike Grimes** — Door prizes
- **Larry Meicher** — Sierra 4pc-5wt-9ft fly rod with Cabellas Prestige reel and line
- **Paul Douglas** — Custom Built Bamboo Fly Rod
- **John Bethke** — Guide trip for 1 or 2 and flies
- **Badger Fly Fisher** — Chest Pack
- **Todd Hanson** — 12 squirrel tail scuds and a signed copy of *Improved Trout Waters of Wisconsin*
- **John Heinrichs** — Signed & Numbered Print *Bighorn River Brown Trout*
- **Ann Connor, Driftless Gallery** — Trout yard ornament, fish pen, trout cards, journal coasters and basket
- **Joseph Meyer** — One More Cast! Box of flies
- **Daniels Construction** — Guided Trip with Jim Romburg
- **Tom Lucas, Happy Hooker** — 2 ice fishing rods
- **Harry Peterson** — Winston 8'6" 2 pc 5 wt fly rod with case
- **Jim Kanvik** — Fish Cleaning Kit and flies
- **John Strauss** — Wood fly box with assorted flies by SWTU tiers
- **Jeff Hastings, Driftless Area Restoration Effort** — Book and Patagonia vest
- **Jim Beecher** — Streamer fly earrings
- **Gerry Campbell** — Signed & numbered wood frame landing net, fly tying equipment, books, fly patch
- **Paul Douglas** — Framed photo
- **Bill Pielsticker** — Framed photo
- **Judi Kanvik** — Partylite glass cake plate
- **Pat Ehlers, The Fly Fishers Shop** — Rod & reel case, Fish Pond fanny pack, floating pliers, foam box inserts
- **Fritz Seybold** — Assorted flies
- **Drew Kasel** — 30 assorted flies
- **Mat Wagner, Driftless Angler Fly Shop** — Tickets to AEG Fly Fishing Show
- **Blackhawk Chapter** — 9ft 4pc 7wt fly rod with large arbor reel & 7wt line & backing with case as well as flies
- **Robert Krewson** — Flies
- **Bob Genrich** — Flies
- **Henry Haugley** — Clock, flies and 4 books
- **Dicks Sporting Goods** — \$190 in certificates and discount fliers
- **The Shoe Box** — \$75 gift certificate
- **Dorn Hardware** — Youth Zebco starter rod & reel combo
- **Fontana** — Fish Pond Barb Wire Wader Boot Bag, Orvis Safe Passage rod bag, hats, fly boxes
- **MC Sports** — Ice Fishing combination
- **Tom Elhert** — Fly box & 6 dozen flies
- **Lynn Blenker** — Wooden fly box & flies
- **Dave Fowler** — 1pc 4wt 6' fly rod
- **Hunter Dorn, Retriever Run Outfitters** — Guided trip for 1 or 2
- **William Flader** — Assorted flies
- **Rich Osthoff** — St Croix Legend Ultra fly rod
- **Bill Porter** — Flies
- **Josh Palmer** — Assorted flies
- **Bill Stokes** — 2 books
- **Dan Wisniewski** — Flies

Fountains of Youth

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

by Rusty Dunn

The winds of change are often gentle at first, but they freshen with time. Little by little, old ideas fade away, replaced by new ones. Only hindsight reveals when the transition actually occurred. For wet fly fishing in America, the winds of change began in 1941 with publication of *The Art of Tying the Wet Fly* by James Leisenring. This 81 page treasure introduced English style soft-hackled flies and methods to American anglers. It was published just three short years after Ray Bergman's 1938 blockbuster book *Trout*, a large part of which is devoted to wet fly fishing. The colored plates of wet flies in *Trout* are truly magnificent. Page after page, row after row, hundreds upon hundreds of brightly colored flies. Legendary flies, such as a Leadwing Coachman, Parmachene Belle and Greenwell's Glory. Smartly dressed soldiers in a vintage army, almost all of which were tied with down wings of matched quill slips. Where are these flies today? Mostly, they're in the untraveled corners of old fly boxes and the unturned pages of old fishing books. The wet flies pictured in *Trout* are fossils of a bygone era. Headstones of former champions. Leisenring brought a new style of wet fly to America, one as old as fly fishing itself.

"Big Jim" Leisenring (1878-1951) grew up in Allentown, Pennsylvania. A toolmaker by trade, he was tall, bronzed and spoke with a heavy accent of his German ancestors. He fished the limestone spring creeks of eastern Pennsylvania for over 40 years, all the while refining his knowledge, methods, and flies. Leisenring studied the English and Scottish foundations of fly fishing and read the literature of its great masters. But, he didn't slavish follow their guidance. Instead, he absorbed and experimented with the ideas, modified them based on his own experiences, and created a new synthesis for his home waters.

Leisenring kept decades of meticulous notes, but writing did not come easy for him. He was a reluctant author, and his friends had to coax him into writing his book. The title page even lists "as told to V.S. Hidy" as co-author. Vernon 'Pete' Hidy was a student of Leisenring's who assisted Jim with its preparation. Leisenring supplied the genius, Hidy supplied the clarity, and the book contains lots of both. It established a uniquely American wet fly tradition, causing Leisenring to be often called "The American Skues." The book's impact was modest in 1941, because it appeared amidst the turmoil of World War II. A second edition published 30 years later (1971) had much greater influence.

The Art of Tying the Wet Fly is, above all, a fly tying book. Five short pages discuss wet fly fishing. Those few paragraphs describe what has become known as "the Leisenring lift," which Charles Brooks described as "probably the most deadly nymph method known." Like all great masters of the dark arts, Leisenring learned the importance of action and movement when fishing nymphs. Leisenring's soft and feathery flies spring to life in moving water. He was a wizard at seductively manipulating them before trout. The lift was only one of many presentations that Leisenring developed. He always intended to write a second book about wet fly fishing, but time ran out before thoughts were reduced to paper. We are all poorer for its absence, but fortunately Pete Hidy supplied some of the details. He co-authored with Leisenring the 1971 edition, to which he added material on fishing wet flies. Hidy's 1960 book *Sports Illustrated Book of Wet-Fly Fishing* is an undiscovered gem that expands on Leisenring's and his own wet fly methods.

James Leisenring was, indeed, a revolutionary, but he didn't preach rebellion. Rather, he patiently observed trout and insect behavior, studied the insights of old masters, refined his knowledge, and quietly shared his wisdom in a brief but important book. Big Jim never sought attention or the limelight ... he only wanted to catch fish. Oh my, did he catch fish.

----- Leisenring's Blue Dun Hackle -----

Leisenring's Blue Dun Hackle is especially useful during a hatch of darkly colored mayflies, such as Blue-Winged Olives. Lift it (*à la* Leisenring) in front of trout feeding deeply, or grease the leader and fish it near the surface to bulgers.

Hook:	Standard wire nymph hook, #14-20
Thread:	Pearsall's Gossamer silk, primrose yellow
Hackle:	Light blue-dun hen hackle
Tail:	Two or three blue-dun hackle fibers
Rib:	Very narrow flat gold tinsel
Body:	Mole fur spun on primrose yellow silk, a little of the silk exposed at the tail



Amazing Times

By Dave Sanders, SWTU President

We should all be proud of our chapter and revel in our accomplishments. However, opportunities, challenges and future rewards are what provide the glue and focus in protecting our cold water resources, trout and salmon habitat, and provide opportunities to contribute to TU's success.

As Jim Bartelt outlined in his presentation at our 26th Ice Breaker, we have a rich history and a very bright future. Picture yourself on the stage at our 36th Ice Breaker being recognized as one of our past leaders celebrating our 50th year. The opportunities to contribute your talent and passion to SWTU's future are abundant.

Consider the choices: volunteering to man a booth at the Fishing Expo, teaching Project Green Teen students and others about our coldwater passion, sharing your enthusiasm for trout fishing and protecting their habitat, learning stream restoration techniques at the March 28 - 29 restoration seminar, working in stream restorations with back breaking labor and smiling as every log is moved, anchored or burned. There are so many ways for you to make a difference!

And don't overlook the next opportunity to join like-minded conservationist and fly fishing enthusiasts on March 4 at SWTU's presentation of *Drift* where all proceeds will be used to purchase permanent easements on local streams. You might even be lucky enough to win the Belize Fly Fishing excursion form Yellow Dog Fly fishing Adventure. Don't wait – get your ticket now and bring your friends!

Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited Leadership:

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

Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited

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