

Newscasts

February 2011 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



February 8 Chapter Meeting

Share Your Adventure: Lake Creek, Alaska

Last June, four very fortunate souls – **Bill Engber, Henry Haugley, Charlie Hodulik** and **Jim Bartelt** – spent a week floating Lake Creek in Alaska. They used guides provided by Wilderness Place Lodge, which is co-owned by SWTU member Cory Wendt.

Their targeted species were Chinook Salmon, Arctic Grayling and Rainbow Trout, and they have stories to share on each. All four will be there, spinning tales, sharing knowledge and answering questions. It will be a fun and engaging evening of great fishing talk.



Have you been on a great trip? Do you want to Share Your Adventure? Contact Steve Wald at sewald101@gmail.com to discuss presenting it at a future meeting.

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 before.

Read on for:

- **News and photos from an excellent Icebreaker!**
- **Workday Party information**
- **A page 2 loaded with information and ways to make a difference**
- **Rusty Dunn ties up a Pink Lady? Seriously?!?!?**

Chapter Elections in April

You talents and knowledge can make a difference

The annual spring elections offer an opportunity for Chapter members to serve on the Executive Board. This year we have numerous openings, as our president has served his two years and will be stepping aside. If the position is filled from within the current officer group or board, it could create any number of openings. Officers serve a one year term with a six year term limit.

Each year, three Directors are also elected and serve a two year term. Lastly, the State Delegate to the Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited is a one year term up for election.

SWTU members further the Chapter mission in many ways and have made us one of the most active Chapters in the Midwest. A key to our continuing success is the regular change of leadership and the willingness of members to bring new ideas and enthusiasm to the Executive Board.

If are interested in serving in a position 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 12, 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.

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 gift certificate to *Fontana Sports Specialties*. You need only be present (and able to discern the calling of your own name) to win.

Workday Party – Make a difference!

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 – 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.

Thank you in advance.

See you at the fishing expo!

The Madison Fishing Expo (www.madfishexpo.com) is February 25 to 27. 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 catching **Mark Rhinerson** at the upcoming meeting or calling him at 333-4853.

Register now: Women's Weekend Retreat

This year's women's weekend retreat will be June 17- 19 at the West Fork Sports Club in Avalanche, WI. There are only 18 spots available! Participants will learn to choose equipment, tie knots, cast, read the water, learn stream ecology, and match the hatch.

Participants do not need to have their own equipment as the WI DNR Fly Fishing rods are reserved for this clinic. If you have your own equipment, please bring it along. Professional women guides will lead the clinic. On Saturday night, participants will head out with women river buddies to put all the skills together in an "on water" experience. TU members should register by February 28, 2011. To register, e-mail Tina Murray at t.murray.t@gmail.com. You'll get a registration packet via e-mail that you'll snail mail in. First come, first serve!



The Meicher Madness Auction

Plan ahead for our March 8 meeting!

You'll want to be there to bid, of course, but remember that we also need items for the auction. Gear, books, flies, boots, waders, vests, artwork, services and more! If it's remotely related to our sport and the outdoors, somebody will buy it! Just bring it along that night and we'll find somebody to bid.

This is our second-biggest fundraiser, so mark it off on your calendar and we'll see you there!

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 26 – 27 at Living Waters Bible Camp in Westby, WI. (There will be time on Saturday for some fishing!)

The camp covers many of the basics of stream restoration, project planning, recruiting volunteers, organizing a workday, grant writing and more.

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.

Badger Fly Fishers Spring Opener

The Badger Fly Fishers will host their Spring 2011 Fly Fishing Opener on Saturday, February 12 at the Radisson Hotel, 517 Grand Canyon Drive, Madison. Doors open at 8 a.m. The Opener features Gary Borger speaking on "Fishing in the Film", "Sight Fishing with Nymphs from Top to Bottom" and "The Art of the Commercial Fly". Bill Sherer, Boulder Junction, WI will share his lifetime of musky fishing. The show includes fly tying demonstrations, a lively auction, bucket raffles and an evening banquet. Call Walt Stevenson at (608) 231-3163 or visit www.badgerflyfishers.org for further details.

Put your old waders to good use

If you have an old pair of NON LEAKING waders and wading shoes/ hiking boots that aren't getting any use, the Project Green Teen students could use them for their water monitoring field trips. Please consider patching your old waders and passing them along to a student. Almost any size will do... smaller sizes work great for the girls, but there are some boys with big shoes to fill! Contact Tina Murray at t.murray.t@gmail.com with questions or to arrange a handoff.

An Excellent Icebreaker!

By Dave Sanders, Icebreaker Chair

If you missed the 2011 IceBreaker fear not, mark your calendar for January 14, 2012 – our 29th annual event plans are underway to make it better than ever.

This year we heard comments like *“Great Icebreaker as usual. Super speakers (best ever) and a wonderful venue. Lunch was excellent as well”* *“Thanks for a great event!”* *“The Icebreaker is always great and the crowd this year was excellent, especially for a breakfast speech”*

There was the largest broadest mix of raffle prizes ever and just as many happy winners. We had great attendance, fantastic speakers, support from the WI DNR and Dane County Land Conservation staff, a delicious lunch, and an abundance of excellent fly tiers willing to share their techniques and favorite patterns and our second annual Stream Explorers room that was more successful than ever.

When all was tallied, the event made **\$7,800** to put toward critical cold water restoration, education and preservation efforts!

This success was made possible through the efforts of our dedicated volunteers and the support of those who came to enjoy the event. Thank you!

We hope you all came away with new ideas and possibly a prize to make your fishing more enjoyable and successful. Thanks again to everyone, chapter members, volunteers, guests, those who donated so generously to our raffle and to our speakers Rick Takahashi, Jerry Hubka and Matt Wagner for making this year’s Icebreaker another great one.

Rest assured that SWTU with your continued support will continue to Protect, Preserve and Conserve our cold water resources.

If you are one of our 700 plus member I challenge you to become more active, attend a chapter meeting our April 30 work day and the 2012 Icebreaker.

2011 SWTU Icebreaker Bucket Raffle Prize Winners List for Prizes not Picked up at Icebreaker

<u>Winner</u>	<u>Prize</u>
Elek Nagy	Sage Rod
Neil Fauerbach	Cabelas Tradition II 4 piece 8 wt
Ed Lauzon	Gear Bag St Croix Rod 40% discount Cert \$50.00 gift Cert @ Coliseum Bar
Al Miller	Sierra IC3 Fly Reel / case
George Fabian	Okuma Integrity Reel
R. Lowell Davis	Travis Yellowstone Flies
Jim Hess	86 Flies & Fly Box
Andy Kurth	7'9" 3wt Fly Rod
Bill Merrick	30 Flies, Fly Box, Leader & Cap
Fritz Seybold	Box of Flies Mallards Bobblehead
Brandon Scholz	Orvis Battenkill Lrg. Arbor Reel
Rose Schweiger	51 Flies & Fly Box 7wt. Guide X-2 Fly Rod
Rod Regel	SWTU Bookends Assorted Books Decorative Globe & T-Shirt
Bill Kohler	Improved Trout Waters of Wis.
Fung Chin	Fly Box of Midges Box of Fly tying tools & supplies

**All prizes will be available for pick up at
the February 8 SWTU Chapter meeting.**

**Coliseum Bar & Grill
232 E Olin Ave, Madison, WI 53713
6:30 PM**

***Check out the great Icebreaker
pictures on the next page!***

Nash Williams Banquet

It was a wonderful evening of good food and great conversation. We also got to see some very deserving people win awards for their extraordinary efforts on behalf of our cold water resource.

Check out **next month’s Newscasts** for a write-up on each these admirable individuals!

- **Henry Haugley** – Award of Merit
- **James Kanvik** – Golden Trout Award for Service
- **Jim Gentry** – Golden Trout Award for Education
- **Toof Wells** – Gold Trout Award for Conservation.

Good Times and Good Friends at the 2011 Icebreaker



Matt Wagner talks trout.



Jerry Hubka mulls on midges.



Getting up close and personal with stream aquatic invertebrates.



Rick Takahashi demonstrates a few fly patterns for the crowd.



Fun with casting in the Stream Explorers Room!



The Stream Explorer fly fishing rod and reel winner shows off his prize.

Photos courtesy Jim Beecher.

2011 Icebreaker Raffle and Silent Auction Donors

- Ed Bauer - Fishing Vest, Wading Boots, Gear Bag, Sims Hats
- Beloit Snappers - 4 Passes to a Game
- Paul Douglas- Bamboo Rod
- Madison Mallards- Bobble head
- Terry Schamus – Vortex Binoculars
- Bob Krewson - 200 Flies
- Henry Haugley - Salmon Book, Print, Flies, Fly Box, Book End
- Andy Davidson - Laminated Cutting Board, Flies
- Jordan Konisky - Books and Flea Flicker Fly Rod
- Rick Takahashi and Jerry Hubka - 2 Boxes Flies
- Green Bay Packers - Autographed Football
- Milwaukee Bucks - 2 Tickets to a Game
- Nick Volk - Guided Trip
- Jim Bartelt - Sage Fly Rod
- Dave Fowler - Fly Rod
- Fontana – Sims Wading Pants
- Jim Beecher - 2 Sets of Midge Flies, Tool
- John Gribb – Flies, Leaders
- Jim Romberg - Guided Trip
- Leroy Ebert - 4 Boxes of Flies
- Todd Hanson – Streams of Wisconsin Book
- Drew Kasel - Bird House Collection, Gift Certificate
- Chuck Bayuk – 4 Wren Houses
- Daniels Construction - Guided Trip
- Joseph Meyer – Reel With Case, 3 Spare Spools, 5 Fly Boxes, Flies
- Greg Ericson - Fly Tying Table
- Brian Schwellinger - Echo Rod, Reel
- Bill Pielsticker - Print
- Dorn Hardware - 4 Ice Fishing Rods
- Jerome Morrow - Waders, Boots, Flies, Books, Fly Rod, Leaders, Fly Boxes, Framed Print
- William Flader – Orvis Battenkill III Large Arbor Reel, Flies
- Tom Mulford - Fly Box, 115 Flies
- Blackhawk Chapter of TU – Fly Rod
- St Croix Rod Co. - 2-Discount Certificates
- Chris Dorn - Flies
- John & Sue Bleimehl - Sage Fly Rod
- Ken Grant, Tech Enterprises - 2 sets of tech cleaners & stain removers
- John Galligan - Book
- Gary Borger Chapter of TU – Set of Flies
- John Bethke – Half Day Guided Trip, Flies
- John & Rose Schweiger, Fly Rod, Picnic Set
- Harry Peterson – Books
- Brian Schwellinger- Echo Rod, Reel
- AMS - \$50 Certificate
- Greg Vodac - Fly Rod
- MC Sports - Ice Fishing Outfit, Reel
- Coliseum Bar -\$ 50 Certificate
- Dennis Franke – Fly Rod
- Dennis Presser – Fly Rod, Spinning Rods, Fly Boxes
- Terry Becker - Flies
- Kurt Osterby - flies
- Jim Kanvik – Flies, Books

***Many thanks to
each of you!
You helped to make
our event special –
your work and
generosity is greatly
appreciated.***

Fountains of Youth

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

by Rusty Dunn

Order a Pink Lady at the bar of a posh resort in New York's Catskill Mountains, and you'll get a cocktail made of gin, apple brandy, lemon juice, grenadine, and egg white, shaken with ice and strained into a tall stemmed glass. Order a Pink Lady at the bar of a posh Catskill fly fishing club, and you'll get a dry fly made of pink floss, gold tinsel, gray quill slips, and ginger hackle, wrapped on a #12 light wire hook. Both of the ladies are beautiful and elegant, but one is a real keeper, for she will catch a trout.

The Pink Lady dry fly was created by angling giant George LaBranche (1875-1961), who together with Theodore Gordon and a handful of others established an American tradition of dry fly fishing early in the 1900s. LaBranche's 1914 book *The Dry Fly and Fast Water* articulated three major concepts that persist today and are often debated. He maintained that fly *presentation* is more important to success than insect *imitation*. He advocated casting blindly to locations likely to hold trout, especially when they are not rising. And, he popularized the "artificial hatch" to provoke feeding by lethargic trout.

George LaBranche and Theodore Gordon were contemporaries, but they adopted very different strategies to fool trout. Gordon believed that exact imitation of the form and appearance of natural insects is paramount to success. LaBranche believed that accurate presentation of a fly is more important than the specific fly itself. LaBranche described in *The Dry Fly and Fast Water* his views on the relative importance of a fly's major features:

"My own experiences have convinced me that imitation of the natural insect is absolutely necessary, and I put the forms this should take in the following order ... of their importance:

1st – Position of the fly upon the water

2nd – Its action

3rd – Size of the fly

4th – Form of the fly

5th – Color of the fly."

LaBranche advocated "fishing the water" as well as fishing the rise. If trout were not visible at the surface, he cast to spots where they likely held. The approach violated popular principles of Halford, but it was very effective. LaBranche popularized the "artificial hatch", in which repeated casts can convince sluggish trout to rise even in the absence of a hatch. The method requires great stealth, because if trout perceive the angler, the game is over and all hope evaporates.

LaBranche was a dry fly purist and a superb caster. His ability to manipulate line and fly with complex casts was legendary. His trout catching abilities were equally legendary, despite the fact that he used few flies to do so. LaBranche was a pattern generalist and wrote of his favorite flies, "*I rarely use over six. If I were compelled to do so, I could get along very well with one.*" He is said to have fished an entire trout season using only a Pink Lady, yet he consistently outfished his fly-changing, hatch-matching, imitation-obsessed colleagues.

Ironically, LaBranche's signature fly – the Pink Lady – is defined by its color, even though he believed color is the least important aspect of fly design. Like many famous flies, the Pink Lady was conceived by a lucky accident. LaBranche's favorite fly in the early 1900s was a "Queen of the Waters". LaBranche tried to buy some one day in New York City, but they were out of stock, and he instead bought several "King of the Waters". The King has a body of bright red silk, and it was a total failure. LaBranche caught nothing, but he later noticed that the red silk had faded to pale pink after being wet and drying in his fly wallet. LaBranche liked the pink color and tried the fly again the next day. Instant success! After some experimentation, the Pink Lady was born as an imitation of large pale colored mayflies. LaBranche attributed its success not to the pink color, but instead to the combination of an appealing mayfly profile coupled with good skills of presentation. Hey Pink Squirrel, are you listening?

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----- Pink Lady -----

Hook: Dry fly, #12

Thread: Cream

Wings: Feather slips of medium gray starling or duck quill, upright and divided

Tail: Ginger or light reddish-brown hackle barbs

Body: Pale pink floss

Rib: Flat gold tinsel

Hackle: Ginger or light reddish-brown

Hook: Dry fly, #12



Welcome New Members

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

Jeffery Watson	Todd Opsal
Aaron Steber	Bill Lynch
Ryan Schiferl	Nick Volk
William Clancy	Eric Booth
Larry Tollund	Michael Burda

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!

South

SWTU Member To-Do List

- Attend February 8 Chapter meeting (pg 1)
- Think about if you or somebody you know should run for the Board (pg 1)
- Let Dennis Presser know how you can help out at the big spring workday (pg 2)
- Make time for the Fishing Expo and let Mark Rhinerson know if you can help staff the SWTU table. (pg 2)
- Check out all of the other happenings and opportunities on page 2.
- Dig around... what could you bring to the Meicher Madness Auction?
- Check out the great photos and reports from the Icebreaker (pgs 3, 4, 5)

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Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited

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