

Newscasts

January 2008 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



January 8 Chapter Meeting —

Bringing new meaning to the term “tie one on”

Everyone can have a great time contributing their skills and techniques while tying a half dozen flies in support of our upcoming major fundraisers – the Ice Breaker and the March Madness Auction. This year we would like to have a record number of tyers participate and contribute to our successes.

You don't have to be a SWTU Master Tyer the likes of a Henry Haugley, Larry Meicher, Bob Gennrich, Mark Rhinerson, Scot Stewart, Mark Maffitt, Jack Way, Steve Born, Jim Bartelt, Mike Grimes, Jim Gentry, Mike Mihalas or even a Rusty Dunn.* Whether you tie to show or throw, your skills are needed to make this a true Jamboree.

All tyers (especially those graduates of the famous SWTU fly tying lessons) are encouraged to participate – *we know who you are*. We will have small plastic boxes to display and autograph your creations. So whether you tie jungle cock feathers for salmon flies or synthetic dubbing, copper wire and a pheasant tail, your ties will be cherished by other SWTU fishing enthusiasts.

Bring your vise, materials, light and extension cords to the Coliseum Bar and help us make this year's January meeting a true Fly Tying Jamboree! As usual, the meeting is at 7 p.m. but please join in for dinner and a few stories before.

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Icebreaker – January 19

The 2008 Icebreaker is very near. By now you all know about the new location at the Promega Center in Fitchburg. You also know about the world-class speakers that will educate and enlighten us. You know about the bucket raffle prizes that will get trout lining up to take your flies. And that this is the most important fundraiser of the year for SWTU's cold water habitat restoration projects and conservation efforts. This is a great time of year to hone our skills and enhance our knowledge about our beautiful sport. It is the perfect time support our organization and to keep the trouty embers glowing in our hearts.

January 19, 2008 will feature **something for everyone**. Mike Miller of the Wisconsin DNR will import insects from our local streams to educate us about trout food. This year he will have a multi-media exhibition to go along with his always fascinating invertebrate display.

Another added feature this year is a correlation between our speakers and our fly tyers. The tyers will fulfill the requests of Tom Rosenbauer, Wendy Williamson, Larry Mann and Mat Wagner. The plan is to match a tyer or two to each speaker to give a live demonstration of the flies being talked about. There are some surprise flies about to happen, so look out!

Come to the Icebreaker – you'll be glad you did! Details are at www.swtu.org/icebreaker.html. You can also find more specifics in the Nov. and Dec. 2007 *Newscasts*. As always, you can help simply by coming, or you can do just a little bit more. Contributing to the bucket raffle by tying flies, donating other items or services, or offering a little time to volunteer during the day is much appreciated. To help, contact the Icebreaker chairperson at joshuacpalmer@gmail.com. We have a lot of help so far, and this will be a great event, but there is always room for more. We'll see you in Fitchburg!

You-Must-Be-Present-To-Win

Nobody won at our cancelled-due-to-the-weather December meeting (naturally), thus the jackpot grew from \$20 to \$40. Please join us at our January 8 chapter 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.

* All tyers named are not meant to exclude any of our skilled and master tyers. Even if you weren't listed please come tie at the Jamboree!!

Nash Williams Banquet

The Nash Williams Banquet features a presentation by Icebreaker speaker Tom Rosenbauer. It's on Friday, January 18 at the Bourbon Street Grill in Monona. Tickets must be purchased by Jan. 15, so e-mail johnrose55@charter.net to reserve yours! Tickets are \$20 and you get a choice of entrees (walleye, prime rib, stuffed chicken breast, ribs). Drinks are at 5:30, dinner at 7. Bring your spouse or friend to this, our only (sort of) dress up event.

New book puts spotlight on streamwork A discount for you, and 5% for SWTU

Take a look at the January issue of *Wisconsin Trout*. You'll see a flier for a new book called **Map Guide to Improved Trout Waters of Wisconsin** featuring over 250 full-color maps showing exactly where Trout Stamp, TU and other stream improvement projects are located.

As a bonus, TU members ordering before Feb. 15 receive 5% off the book price, plus another 5% rebate will go to SWTU for local work.

More than just streamwork... the book color-codes Class I, II and III streams, and shows both easements and DNR/county-owned land. It also works with your *Gazetteer*. Learn more about the book and special offer at www.WhereAmIPubs.com.

The Icebreaker is where???

We've moved away from the old dance hall and into a new, space-age facility. We're happy to announce that this year's Icebreaker will be at the **Promega Corporation's grounds in Fitchburg**. It's a terrific space that will give more intimacy and opportunity for each of the event's angles to shine.

You can find directions on the Icebreaker page of www.swtu.org, or squint a bit to see it on the map to the right. Basically...

- South on **Fish Hatchery Road** from the Beltline for about 2 miles.
- Look for the Fitchburg Center sign on the left. Turn Left at the sign onto **East Cheryl Pkwy**.
- The event grounds are in the BioPharmaceutical Technology Center (BTC). It's on the right, about 3 blocks from the entrance.

If you get lost, please call Josh Palmer's cell phone at (608) 333-4084, and he will set you straight.

Fly Tying Classes – Register by Jan. 8!

SWTU's Beginning, Intermediate and Advanced fly tying courses provide general instruction on fly tying techniques and specific demonstrations of patterns proven effective in local waters.

Classes in Fitchburg meet for 10 consecutive weeks beginning 1/16/08. Classes in Sun Prairie meet for 10 consecutive weeks beginning 1/17/08. Classes at both locations run from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Find a photo gallery of flies from the Beginner class at www.swtu.org/begin_flies/flies_dest/index.htm.

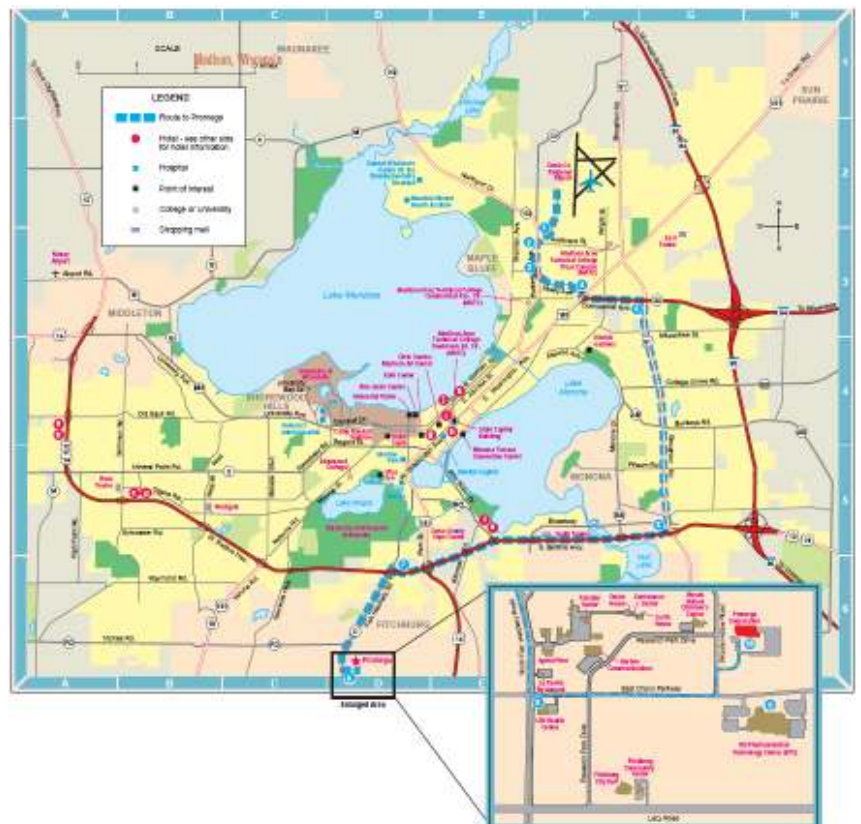
Some classes are nearly full, and your advanced registration by January 8 is required! Registration details can be found at www.swtu.org/flytying.html.

Welcome New Members

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

Nick Van Court Karl Gilbertson

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.



Fountains of Youth

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

by Rusty Dunn

If you think a Packers game at Lambeau is a tough ticket, try scoring a one day beat on the River Test at the Houghton Club in Stockbridge, England. The club's 15 miles of river is perhaps the most famous trout water in the world -- "clear as gin and twice as expensive." You'll first need to be a Houghton Club member or garner an invitation from one. What will you need for membership? Money for sure, but you can't buy your way in. Fame and recognition are helpful, but only if they are old world. A position of great authority is a plus, as is a distinguished family pedigree. An elusive combination of money, fame, power and pedigree will get you a room at the local hotel, but it won't put you on club waters or open doors to the drinking parlor. What is needed? Few people know for sure. The Houghton Club was founded in 1822 by 13 members of privilege. Today, 186 years later, its ranks have swelled to 25. Privilege, it seems, has been in short supply. Prince Charles is a member, but good luck snagging that invitation.

William James Lunn (1862-1942) was head river keeper of the Houghton Club for 45 years beginning in 1887. His service began a dynasty lasting 105 years, as his son Alfred and grandson Mick were head keepers for 60 years after William retired. A keeper's job is to maintain and improve club waters for the benefit of both trout and angler. It is not an easy task, as the Test, like other Hampshire chalk streams, is a low gradient river draining an agricultural watershed. The Test was badly degraded when Lunn began his tenure, but he was a man of great ingenuity and persistence. He stabilized banks, installed deflectors to speed flow, built weirs to create plunge pools, removed excess weeds by hand, and slowly but surely cleansed the river of its stagnant corners, muddy bottoms, and choking weeds. His motto, "*Look after the sides and the middle will look*

after itself," became a guiding principle of river keepers everywhere. After clearing the river, Lunn repopulated its food base. He invented floating "fly boards" that attracted egg-laying mayflies and could be transplanted to barren waters. Lunn spent over 25 years re-establishing self-sustaining populations of various River Test mayflies, and descendants of his transplants entertain today's anglers of privilege.

Lunn's accomplishments were detailed in the 1934 book *River Keeper*, by J.W. Hills. It contains 40 of Williams' fly patterns, described by Hills as having "*the appearance of studied carelessness, being loosely dressed and indefinite in shape.*" Lunn's flies stood in stark contrast to the elaborate and exacting imitations of his famous contemporary, F.M. Halford. William's most popular pattern is probably his Lunn's Particular, which imitates blue-winged olive spinners of several *Baetis* species. (Pronounced BEE'-tis there guv-nuh'.) Its unusual name originated in 1917 while Lunn fished with Mr. Walter Gilbey of London Gin fame. Fishing was slow, and Gilbey complained, "The trout are being too particular today." Lunn offered up one of his own flies, and Gilbey immediately caught fish. "What's this fly?" he inquired, to which William replied in jest, "It's Lunn's particular."

With its quill body and hackle-tip wings, a Lunn's Particular is strikingly handsome. 'Tis a fly befitting the nobility of trout, whether it be on the River Test of County Hampshire or the Creek Black Earth of County Dane. If an invite to the Houghton Club doesn't work out, the next best thing might be a visit to your favorite Wisconsin spring creek. Attire yourself in tweed, string up your finest Hardy, and cast a Lunn's Particular among Driftless aristocracy. If the lords and ladies nod with approval, bring them to hand but release them gently. When the day is done, linger for a while amongst the royals and savor the moment. Pour yourself a wee dram o' Scot's malt and raise a toast to the magnificence of privilege, and to river keepers everywhere who make it possible. Then, have your carriage driver return you to your castle. You'll feel like a Prince.

----- Lunn's Particular -----

Hook:	Dry fly, #14-18
Thread:	Crimson Pearsall's Gossamer silk, or any claret-red thread
Tail:	Four fibers of Rhode Island Red rooster hackle
Body:	Rhode Island Red hackle stem, stripped
Wing:	Medium blue dun hackle tips, tied spent
Hackle:	Rhode Island Red rooster



And a Happy New Year...

By Jack Way, SWTU President

I'm in the process of making New Year resolutions, such as more exercise, fewer working hours, more fishing time. That sort of thing.

Along with the usual list of self improvement projects, it's occurred to me that there ought to be a SWTU Chapter improvement list, as well.

I think first on the list should be marked improvement with our Endowment Fund. We've done acceptably well in the past few years, but a major concerted effort would really help chapter stability and go a long way toward improving our beloved streams.

Next would be to finally ink one of the major stream

improvement projects we've been working so long on. It's a process far more complicated than originally thought. An ongoing project is just the ticket toward membership involvement, chapter "team spirit," and does tons of good for the water. Maybe this year...

Then, we have to dig up a Marketing Chair. Someone with the time (and ability) to promote our good work. We do an awful lot, but few people know about it, sometimes including our own members.

And then there's ... As with my personal list, this chapter improvement thing could go on and on. Hopefully, we'll be more committed as a chapter than I normally am at my own resolutions.

And have a Happy New Year.

Classified

Help Wanted: Fly-angler (45yo) looking for experienced bamboo rod builder or someone with bamboo rod restoration/refinishing experience willing to mentor me on some winter projects. Need advice on various aspects of the process. Fee negotiable. Contact Andy at awflyfish@hotmail.com or call 265-2503.

Important dates to remember:

January 8	Chapter Meeting at the Coliseum Bar
January 19	The Icebreaker

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