

# Newscasts

January 2009 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



## Chapter Meeting – January 13

### Fly Tying Jamboree — 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 to join in. 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. 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.

### You-Must-Be-Present-To-Win

Nobody won at our snow-cancelled December meeting, thus the jackpot grew from \$40 to \$60. Please join us at our January meeting for a 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.

### Check the Chapter Calendar

Plan ahead to Chapter meetings, stream workdays and more using the Chapter Calendar. You can find it on the front page or left menu bar of [www.swtu.org](http://www.swtu.org). If you have an item for the calendar, please contact Jordan Konisky at [jordan.konisky@gmail.com](mailto:jordan.konisky@gmail.com).

### See you at the Icebreaker!

**Saturday, January 17**  
**8:30 a.m to 4 p.m.**  
**Promega Center, Fitchburg (see map inside)**

## It's Icebreaker Time!

By Josh Palmer, Icebreaker Chair

January joins us once again. Though the New Year brings about optimism and the all changes that happen to make new outcomes possible, it is also a time of year rich in tradition. Your winter season celebrations can continue right on past the middle of January because the annual Icebreaker returns. **Saturday, January 17 from 8:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the Promega Center in Fitchburg** (see map, page 4) the 40 year old SWTU celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> Icebreaker!

Speaking will be Jim Bartelt. Jim knows our home waters and SWTU's history like almost no one else. He will share a presentation that reflects this knowledge. Guide Dave Barron of Jocquish Hollows will bring his dynamic energy and master level skill to demonstrate ideas in casting. Author and Guide Rich Osthoff will help and inspire us to consider an adventure in the Western and mountain streams and lakes. Rich will also give a talk that will help us on our local streams: new ideas and techniques in nymphing.

All day long tiers will be together teaching, packing, dubbing, stacking, and whip finishing. These guys are hitting their stride, as this December was ideal for staying inside and preparing their flyboxes. There will be live aquatic insects and many other demonstrations, as well. There will be SWTU chili for lunch and pastries with coffee all morning long. There will be a bucket raffle that could start 2009 as your lucky year, indeed: hand made rods, flyboxes, waders, trips, bed and breakfast stays, and much more.

It could very well be too much to handle in one day. The best part is getting everyone together, enjoying a tradition together, and raising money together for one of the finest chapters of Trout Unlimited in Wisconsin.

... continued on page 4

### See inside for:

- **Icebreaker map!**
- **Contributors to permanent easements!**
- **Rusty goes fishing with a sofa?**
- **And more!**

## **Over \$7,000 Raised for Stream Easement Program**

**By Dan Wisniewski**

As of the end of December, 70 SWTU members had generously contributed \$7,070 to bolster Dane County's effort to purchase permanent conservation easements on the county's class I and class II trout streams. 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.

Dane County started the new permanent easement purchase program in 2007 and has increased funding for 2009. By the end of 2008, the county had secured nine permanent easements on the West Branch of the Sugar River, Gordon Creek and German Valley Creek. The latest easement, which was completed in December, was on the Ralston-Edlinger property at the confluence of the West Branch of the Sugar River and the Primrose Branch. 7,100 feet of frontage (both banks) on the Sugar River and 1,600 feet on Primrose Branch (one bank) was protected in that transaction. Sara Kwitek of the Dane County Land & Water Resources Dept. says they hope to close on three additional easements in the next two months on Gordon, German Valley and the West Branch of the Sugar, totaling almost another mile of frontage. With these first twelve easements completed, Dane County will have protected just over six miles of trout stream frontage in less than two years. So far all of these permanent easements have replaced shorter-term easements where restoration work had been completed. In some cases, DNR funds have been used to match the county funds. The goal of our chapter fundraising effort is to supplement the county and state funds and to leverage other contributions from conservation groups, foundations and businesses. So far, we have contributed \$7,500 in Chapter and TU State Council funds to the county to aid in the purchase of a 3,600 foot easement on Gordon Creek and German Valley Creek. Our friends, the Badger Flyfishers, donated \$1,000 and the Federation of Fly Fishers recently matched it with another \$1,000 donation.

In addition to these streams in southern Dane County, our chapter will be working with the Natural Heritage Land Trust, the county and DNR to secure easements on Vermont Creek. This five-mile tributary to Black Earth Creek has great potential for restoration and improved access.

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	Jeff Smith
Leslie Wadsworth	William Flader
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 & 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	James Kanvik
Matthew Mitro	Thomas Thrall
Stephen Wald	Gregory Vodak
Dennis Presser	Ken Genskow
Tom Crabb	Chuck Valliere
Colleen Moore	Len Maurer
Dennis Franke	Stephen Berg
Nancy & Joe Moskal	Peggy Stormoen
Ann Jakel	Keith Nelson
Steven Robertson	Thomas Pellett
Jim Beecher	Gerald Campbell
Ken Pfile	Charles Hodulik
Michael & Shelley Dubis	
Thomas & Margie Krauskopf	

**Thank you!!**

## Last Call! 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](http://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 the Chapter meeting on January 13. 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](http://www.swtu.org). E-mail questions to [SWTU-FlyTying@sbcglobal.net](mailto:SWTU-FlyTying@sbcglobal.net).

## Badger Fly Fishers "Opener"

The Badger Fly Fishers will be holding their "Spring 2009 Fly Fishing Opener" on February 7 at Madison Turners, 3001 S. Stoughton Rd, (Hwy. 51) in Madison.

This year's speakers are noted authors and fly fishers, Terry and Roxanne Wilson along with De Pere's "Tight Lines Fly Fishing Company" fly shop owner, Tim Landwehr. Other scheduled activities for the day, beginning at 9 a.m., include fly tying, commercial exhibits, indoor casting of new rods, bucket raffle drawings and an auction. There will also be an evening banquet starting at 6:45 p.m.

Admission is \$10 (pre-register if you wish to attend the banquet and/or speed things up at the door), \$15.00 per family this year. Children under 16, free.

For more information, contact Rich Ludt at (608) 516-6905.

## Proposed Development in Cross Plains

The *Mt. Horeb Mail* reports that Linus and Donna Schoepp have asked the Village of Cross Plains to annex 40-50 acres of their property along Garfoot Creek, near where it enters Black Earth Creek for purposes of a 70-house residential development.

The Village of Cross Plains Board of Trustees has asked the town (TCP) board to meet with them on **Monday, Jan. 12**, for discussion and a possible vote.

Some from the Town of Cross Plains have formed a group to oppose this annexation. Those interested in helping can contact the Garfoot Creek Protection Committee (GCPC):

- Arnold Harris 798-4833 / [arholdharris@tds.net](mailto:arholdharris@tds.net)
- Stefi Harris 798-4833 / [stefiharris@tds.net](mailto:stefiharris@tds.net)
- Dennis Franke 798-3423 / [bamboomidges@tds.net](mailto:bamboomidges@tds.net)

## Welcome!

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

B. R. Hansen	Nicholas Mihalas
Ted Pape	Andrea Sommerfeldt
Peter Annin	Kurt Oaterby
Ken Jacobson	

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!

## Be a big winner at the Icebreaker!!!

Our amazing membership and local business have donated some outstanding items, trips and services that could be yours! From great doorprizes to heirloom-quality bucket raffle items, there is something for everyone!

### *Here's a small sampling of what you could take home... but you have to show up to win!*

- Custom-built bamboo flyrod
- Locally proven flies tied by local masters
- Fly boxes, vests and gear bags
- Numerous rods, including Sage, St. Croix, Winston and more
- Framed art, prints and photographs
- Handcrafted fly tying table
- Many fabulous guided trips
- High-end binoculars and monocular
- Variety of books and DVDs
- Signed/numbered wood frame landing net
- And much, much, much more!!

We'll still take your donation! If you have questions or something to contribute, please contact Jim Kanvik at [ijnkanvik@charter.net](mailto:ijnkanvik@charter.net).

# Icebreaker News and Handy-Dandy Map

By Josh Palmer (cont. from page 1)

## The Nash Williams Banquet

The attendance for the Nash Williams banquet was arranged over e-mail this year. We apologize for any inconvenience, but atypical action was necessary after the cancellation of the December meeting due to poor road conditions. It's Friday January 17, starting at 6 p.m. at the Bourbon Street Grill in Monona. Fishing buddies will meet each other's friends and family. There will be a good story from the Icebreaker's headline speaker, Rich Osthoff. Next year we'll be back to selling tickets the sensible and old-fashioned way; at the meeting — should the winter weather abide a bit more kindly.

## A Solicitation for input

One last Icebreaker thing: I will be looking closely at the Icebreaker's population statistics. This year the event is a little different, as we aren't flying a speaker in from parts afar. Instead of taking an extra \$2,000 dollars from the Icebreaker's fund raising potential, I selected from the world class fly fishing talent that populates our own back yard. I'll be curious to hear from you who attend. If I hear that it's a nationally known fly fisher of bust for you, let me know. I'm a person that focuses on the local, and since I'm arranging this event, I will try to put my own stamp on it. If however, this isn't good for the event as you see it, shoot me an e-mail or talk to me when you see me. This event is important to our Chapter because it is our biggest and most fun fund raiser of the year. I'd like to hear how to make it better:

[joshuacpalmer@gmail.com](mailto:joshuacpalmer@gmail.com). I had a lot of great ideas and suggestions last year, and I considered them all valuable and useful.

**See page 3 for just a few of the awesome items, trips and services you can win!!**

Promega Corp is in Fitchburg, Wisconsin, at 5455 East Cheryl Parkway.

From South Fish Hatchery Road, find East Cheryl Parkway, which is about two miles south of the Beltline (hwy 12 and 14). It is between McKee Road to the north and Lacy Road to the south.

Once you reach East Cheryl Parkway, go east (left if you are traveling south from the Beltline).

The event is in the BioPharmaceutical Technology Center (BTC). It's on the right, about 3 blocks from the entrance.



## Fountains of Youth

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

by Rusty Dunn

Have you ever lifted a rock from a river and discovered a nymph so big and menacing that you feared for the safety of your fingers? If so, the beast was undoubtedly a stonefly nymph, most likely a salmon fly. Salmon flies of the mountain west are legendary, and many fly fishing fanatics chase their early summer hatches. If you've nothing to do this June, load up the minibus, crank up the sound system, head west, and live a life of wicked excess as a salmon fly trout bum. Nutrition, comfort and personal hygiene can wait till July or August. Leave the four weight at home, however. You'll be casting flies the size of small birds to oversized fish in rivers whose late-runoff flows can sweep you into the next county. 'Tis not a pursuit for the timid or delicate.

Fishing dry flies over a salmon fly emergence began in the 1940s with Pat Barnes, the "Old Pro" of West Yellowstone, Montana. Barnes and his wife Sig opened in 1946 the second-ever fly shop in West Yellowstone. (Don Martinez owned the first.) Barnes sold his shop in 1982 to Bob Jacklin, but for 36 years Pat Barnes was one of the west's most influential anglers. He was less famous nationally than some of his contemporaries, but Barnes' reputation locally as an angler, innovator, and conservationist was unmatched. He brought the first McKenzie River drift boat to Montana in 1948. He was a vocal advocate of habitat protection and catch-and-release fishing long before their need became obvious. He popularized the Humpy dry fly to an extent that it became the most widely used western fly for decades. And, he developed the Sofa Pillow, a fly that changed the prevailing method of salmon fly fishing from deeply drifted nymphs to high floating dry flies.

The Sofa Pillow was created in 1948 when a group of eager but clueless Texans arrived in West Yellowstone in a Cadillac loaded with bass fishing equipment. Barnes gave them the gear and flies needed

for trout, but the Texans couldn't float a small dry or see it well enough to detect strikes. After a long day of missed fish, Barnes solved the problem by tying some grotesquely large and brightly colored flies. "My gosh! That's as big as a sofa pillow," drawled one of the Texans. The name immediately stuck.

Fortunately, the salmon fly hatch was on, and the Texans caught trout – lots of trout. Word of the Sofa Pillow's success spread, and it soon was a western favorite for salmon flies, golden stones and hoppers.

Pat Barnes grew up in Three Forks, Montana long before the west was "discovered." The Madison, the Jefferson and the Gallatin Rivers were his playground and classroom. Trout were large, plentiful and unsophisticated. Access was unlimited. It was a fishing paradise. Barnes distilled a lifetime of experiences into his delightful autobiography *Ribbons of Blue, The Life & Lore of the 'Old Pro' Pat Barnes*. It contains many gems of wisdom, such as:

*"Never tell where you are going to fish, only where you went yesterday. ... When you cast to a rising fish, it is more important how you cast than what you cast. ... Don't fool around changing flies. Get to know the water and patterns that work. Pick one, then keep your fly on the water. ... To a rising fish, your first cast must be your best cast. ... Fish spend 90 percent of their time on or near the bottom, 10 percent or less near the top, and no more than a half of one percent in between. ... Sure ways to lose a fish are to give him all the time in the world or to try to horse him in. ... The biggest fish are generally released about midstream. ... Fish usually grow a lot faster after they are taken from the water."*

In recognition of Barnes' contributions to Montana fishing, the governor in 1990 declared April 29<sup>th</sup> each year as Pat Barnes Day. If you're lucky enough to be in Montana during the salmon fly hatch, find a Sofa Pillow and make yourself comfortable. After catching what might be the largest trout of your life, think kindly of the guy who taught us all how to do it ... the 'Old Pro' of West Yellowstone.

### ----- Improved Sofa Pillow -----

Sig Barnes modified Pat's original Sofa Pillow in the 1950s by addition of a ribbing of short saddle hackle and an underwing of elk hair. Alter the colors as needed for golden stonefly and hopper imitations.

Hook:	3XL heavy wire, #4 - #10
Thread:	Brown, 6/0
Tail:	Dyed red goose quill slip
Rib:	Brown saddle hackle, short, palmered
Body:	Red or dark orange floss, yarn, or dubbing
Wing:	Red squirrel tail over elk hair underwing
Hackle:	Brown saddle hackle



## Welcome to 2009 – Our 40<sup>th</sup> year

By Dave Sanders, SWTU President

As we start our 5<sup>th</sup> decade, we are thankful and fortunate to have – and have had – so many dedicated, talented and committed souls as leaders and members of the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Our accomplishments are a standing and continuing tribute to the dedication, talent and love of our cold water resources we all share. The future is ours and waiting.

2009 will begin with our annual Ice Breaker on January 17 – along with our featured speakers, fabulous bucket raffles, fantastic food, and talented fly tying demonstrations we will have educational information provided by WDNR, Dane County Land Conservation

and Project Green Team. Our fly tying classes are beginning and a great lineup of speakers is scheduled to educate and entertain us at our monthly Chapter meetings. Stream conservation and work day projects are planned and will continue to enhance our fishing opportunities close to home. We are beginning a new stream monitoring program to ensure that the 50+ miles of trout water in our backyard remains a viable and sustained resource for us and future TU'ers. We have raised over \$15,000 for the Dane County Permanent Stream Access program and our efforts will continue through 2009 in support of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Check out the Chapter's calendar at [www.SWTU.org](http://www.SWTU.org) and watch for opportunities you want to support. The future is yours to build.

### Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited Leadership:

President	Dave Sanders	(608) 843-7125	<a href="mailto:daveandcheri@charter.net">daveandcheri@charter.net</a>
Vice President	Mike Mihalas	(608) 345-1614	<a href="mailto:mike@mihalas.com">mike@mihalas.com</a>
Secretary/Newscasts Editor	Drew Kasel	(608) 242-9872	<a href="mailto:madkasel@gmail.com">madkasel@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Brendan Budack	(608) 825-2270	<a href="mailto:bltbudack@verizon.net">bltbudack@verizon.net</a>
Past President	Jack Way	(608) 222-2461	<a href="mailto:jackway@charter.net">jackway@charter.net</a>
State Council Rep.	Greg Vodak	(608) 873-5107	<a href="mailto:gregvodak@charter.net">gregvodak@charter.net</a>
Project Chair	Mike Grimes	(608) 656-1086	<a href="mailto:mgrimes17@charter.net">mgrimes17@charter.net</a>

### Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited

P.O. Box 7051  
Madison, WI 53707