

Newscasts

January 2010 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



Fly Tying Jamboree — “Tie one on” at our January 12 Chapter Meeting

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 Icebreaker and the Meicher Madness Auction. If you tie flies, bring your vice, light and select hooks/materials to the January 12 Chapter meeting so you can demonstrate how you tie and fish your favorite fly.

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.

If you don't tie, or are just getting started, this is a fantastic opportunity to learn about what goes into making a fish-catching fly.

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 \$20 to \$40. Please join us at our January 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.

Read on for:

- ***Fly tying classes filling up***
- ***Why join BECWA***
- ***Rusty Dunn finally does it... he ties with a rusty dun hackle!***

Icebreaker Nash Williams Banquet Great Alaska Fishing Trip Raffle

There is A LOT going on this month, and none of it is to be missed!!!

Icebreaker – Saturday, January 16

This fantastic event has something for everyone... even a Stream Explorers Room for kids. And we are very honored to have Bob Linsenman... noted author, guide and all around catcher-of-fish come and speak to us. It's a great opportunity for learning and friendship... and also a way to get involved and help the Chapter. We hope to see you there! If you have questions or would like to help, please contact daveandcheri@charter.net.

We're still accepting donated items (gear, flies, etc.) for door prizes and the incredible raffle. If you have an item to donate or have an idea of a business or individual in town we should be contacting, please get in touch with Jim Kanvik at ihjekanvik@charter.net.

Learn more about the Icebreaker: See page 4!

The Nash Williams Banquet

The attendance for the Nash Williams banquet was arranged over e-mail again this year due to another cancelled December meeting. It's Friday, January 15 at the Coliseum Bar with drinks at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7. If you have questions, please contact Mike Mihalas at 345-1614 or mike@mihalas.com.

Win a Trip for Two to an Alaskan Lodge

At \$50 a ticket and only 200 tickets available, this is a fantastic opportunity to support the Chapter and have a shot at winning the trip of a lifetime.

Get your ticket before they're all gone!

Take a look at page 3 for more on this incredible opportunity!

Welcome New Members

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

Susan Brown Michael O'Russa
Peter Schofer Andrew Davison

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!

You Should Be A Steward Of The Black Earth Creek Watershed: Join BECWA!

By Stephen Born

I've been enjoying the angling challenges of Black Earth Creek, home water for many SWTU members, for several decades. And TU has done enormous amounts of habitat restoration and protection work on that wonderful spring creek.

Given that the stream is directly in the path of rapid urbanization from the Madison metro area, and is in an agricultural watershed, the ultimate conservation and long-term protection of that resource requires a broader watershed constituency concerned about the stewardship of the waters and lands. The Black Earth Creek Watershed Association (BECWA), a non-profit organization of volunteers, has been doing just that for almost 25 years.

BECWA seeks to bring anglers and other interests together to discuss and address issues affecting the health and character of the creek and its watershed. The organization has played a primary educational role on the significance and value of the creek to communities, residents, businesses, farmers, and recreationists. This is accomplished through biannual public forums, where emerging problems and new information is shared with the diverse collection of concerned interests.

BECWA serves as an information clearinghouse and helps coordinate some of the agency and governmental activities in the watershed. It participates in stream monitoring programs, and works with youth in the watershed. Along with TU and other cooperating groups, BECWA has sponsored an annual spring stream cleanup. In short, BECWA's efforts, coupled with the work of groups like TU and the Dane County Natural Heritage land trust, have raised the visibility of the stream and led to a widespread commitment to protect flows, water quality, the fishery, and riparian lands. I hope that chapter members who partake of this challenging spring creek's angling

opportunities – from the April caddis and Hendrickson hatches, to the mystifying Hex hatch, to the later season terrestrial fishing – will see the value of supporting BECWA by becoming members. The dues range from \$15 – 35, a very modest investment in helping to insure sound conservation in the watershed. You can JOIN at www.becwa.org; I encourage you to join those of us who use and love this special trout stream! Black Earth Creek needs your support.

Fly Tying Classes 2010 Last Chance!

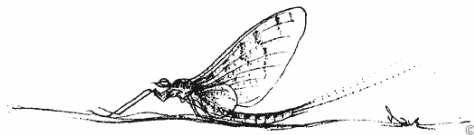
SWTU invites you to learn fly tying or improve your fly tying skills. Beginning and advanced fly tying courses provide instruction on techniques, including hands-on demonstrations and tutorials of fly patterns proven effective for local waters. (Intermediate fly tying is already full for 2010.)

All materials, including hooks, are provided, but you must supply your own fly tying tools and thread. Classes are free and meet on Thursday evenings from 7 - 9 p.m. for ten consecutive weeks, beginning January 14, 2010.

Sun Prairie Classes
Beginning Fly Tying OR Advanced Fly Tying
Patrick Marsh Middle School
1351 Columbus St, Sun Prairie

Fitchburg Classes
Beginning Fly Tying
Fitchburg Community Center
5510 Lacy Rd, Fitchburg

Advanced registration is required! You may register online at www.swtu.org or by US Mail. To register by mail, send your name, address, phone number and desired class to: Trout Unlimited Fly Tying Organizers, 1522 Chandler St., Madison, WI 53711. The registration deadline is January 10, 2010. More information, including a list of needed tools and supplies, is available at www.swtu.org. E-mail questions to SWTU-FlyTying@sbcglobal.net.



Check the Chapter Calendar!

Stay in tune with all things trout with 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 at jordan.konisky@gmail.com.

The Amazing Alaska Raffle

See the flier below or visit www.swtu.org for more on this incredible opportunity. There are only 200 tickets, so get yours while you can! Tickets will be on sale at the January 12 meeting.

Alaskan Fishing Adventure

Alaska Fishing Trip Raffle

Wilderness Place Lodge, Alaska
On Scenic Lake Creek

Presented by Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited

Tickets \$50 each

Limited Raffle: 200 tickets to be sold

Drawing: First monthly chapter meeting after last ticket is sold, but no later than March meeting.

All proceeds to support SWTU Chapter
Stream Improvement Programs

How to purchase raffle ticket:

- Contact Jordan.Konisky@gmail.com
- Fontana Sports (downtown & west side)
- Orvis (Greenway Station)
- If still available, at SWTU 2010 Icebreaker

No limit to number of tickets that can be purchased

A spectacular \$6000 plus value package



The winning ticket will provide

- 4 night, 5 day stay **FOR TWO PEOPLE**
- Lodging and meals
- Daily guided fishing trips
- All required gear (may bring own gear)
- Transportation between Anchorage and Wilderness Place Lodge
- Flexible date for 2010 summer season

For more information about what Wilderness Place Lodge offers, see www.wildernessplacelodge.com has to offer.



Rainbow trout

Wilderness Place Lodge is a deluxe Alaska fishing lodge accomodating a maximum of 16 people in 6 private riverside cabins. Comfort, courtesy, fine food, custom itineraries, attentive guides and excellent fishing combine to maximize your Alaska lodge experience.



Main lodge interior



Main lodge

The Lodge offers excellent Alaska salmon fishing and trout fishing in their picturesque clearwater river. King Salmon are the first species to enter their river system in early June.



August silver salmon

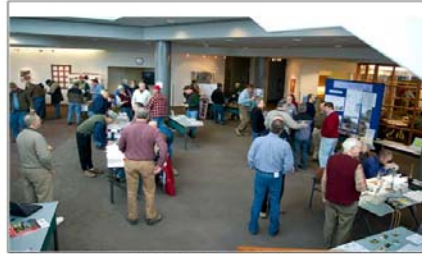
IceBreaker!

We're very excited to have **Bob Linsenman** coming to speak to us on January 16! See more details in the flier below. Note the addition of a fun, educational event for kids, the **Stream Explorers Corner**, from 10 a.m. to noon. One kid under 10 gets in free to the Icebreaker per paid adult.

Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited 2010 IceBreaker

Saturday, January 16
9 am--4 pm
Promega Center
5455 E. Cheryl Parkway
Fitchburg, WI

GPS: N43.00488 W89.42060



spacious facility



comfortable auditorium



Featured speaker: **Bob Linsenman**

Noted guide, fly tyer, fly shop owner
and author of numerous books:

Modern Streamers for Trophy Trout
Trout Streams of Michigan
*Great Lakes Steelhead: A Guided Tour
for Fly Anglers*
Au Sable River--River Journal
Michigan Blue-Ribbon Fly-Fishing Guide
Best Streams for Great Lakes Steelhead
www.ausableangler.com

Featuring a Children's Room
10 am till Noon
casting, fly tying, bugs, gear, etc.

A fine lunch will be available at the Promega Center cafeteria.

For a schedule, map and more... go to www.swtu.org



aquatic life demonstration



bucket raffles



fly tying demonstrations

Fountains of Youth

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

by Rusty Dunn

The year is 1892. A young gentleman casts dry flies to rising trout on the River Itchen in southern England. His creel is empty, and his spirits are low. The angler's flies are recommended for these very waters by fly fishing's leading experts. His presentations are excellent, but his flies are ignored. The angler hasn't touched a trout all morning, yet they continue to rise. He eventually sees a single, small, dark olive mayfly on the water and ties on a Dark Olive Quill. But the angler makes a crucial miscalculation. He bought the fly in haste at a store, and it is cheaply made. Instead of being tied with stiff rooster hackle, it is tied of soft hen. One cast, and the fly is soaked. A second cast, and it sinks immediately. *Whoa! Fish on!* Another cast, another fish. Four brace of lusty trout follow quickly, each hooked as the soggy fly sinks. The angler is puzzled, because such behavior is not described in the angling literature. Preeminent authors of the day teach that casting dry flies upstream to rising fish is the only way to take chalk stream trout. An angler should await a surface hatch, identify the species, and match it with an exact dry fly imitation. As one authority wrote in the *Fishing Gazette*, unless trout are feeding atop the surface you "*might as well chuck your hat at them*" as cast a fly. Later, while reflecting on the day's events, uncertainties and doubts creep into the angler's inquiring mind. Uncertainties about the merits of sinking vs. floating flies. Doubts about the wisdom of fishing dry flies in all circumstances. Could conventional wisdom be missing something? The angler resolves to experiment in the future with subsurface flies and presentations.

The angler of this true story was G.E.M. Skues, and 2010 marks the 100th anniversary of his landmark book *Minor Tactics of the Chalk Stream*. Skues' studies of wet flies and nymphs are detailed in *Minor Tactics*, five later books, and dozens of journal articles. More than any other angler, Skues made fly

fishing with nymphs a precise and imitative science. He described insect and trout behaviors, flies that match specific nymph species, and effective methods for their presentation. Skues' writings are the foundation of modern nymph fishing, and they are as fresh and relevant today as a century ago. They are also wonderfully entertaining. He is one of history's most original and insightful fly anglers.

Skues brought balance to a fly fishing world that had become obsessed with the dry fly. Dry fly fishing developed in England in the second half of the 19th century. It dominated the angling literature for decades and evolved into a highly refined art. The period is often described as the golden age of fly fishing, but the philosophy of the "dry fly school" was dogmatic and inflexible. Dry fly purity ruled the day, and fly fishing by any other method was harshly scorned.

Skues challenged the prevailing dry fly doctrines. He argued that nymphs are at times more effective than dry flies and, by imitating all stages of the insect life cycle, nymphs and dry flies complement each other. Skues was vilified for such heresy, but his gentle manner, respect for the dry fly, sparkling intellect, and lively writing style disarmed his detractors and won converts. Skues is sometimes called the inventor of nymph fishing, but this is incorrect. Upstream angling with soft-hackled nymphs had been practiced in Scotland and the English north for centuries. Skues refined and greatly improved the methods, but he was not the first to imitate subsurface nymphs. Skues was a visible and prolific writer, and he educated a worldwide audience on the charms of the dark arts.

Skues described the Dark Olive Nymph in 1910 in *Minor Tactics of the Chalk Stream*. It imitates a mayfly species not found in North America but very similar to many of our blue-winged olives. Fish it just under the surface during a BWO emergence or more deeply during non-hatch periods. Once the fly is soaked and its wispy fibers breathe in the current, be prepared for a little "*Whoa! Fish on!*" of your own making.

----- Dark Olive Nymph -----

Hook: Wet-fly/nymph hook, #16-22

Thread: Pearsall's Gossamer silk; lemon yellow; two turns showing at the tail

Tail: Two or three fibers of dark dun hen hackle, tied short

Abdomen: Olive/brown nymph dubbing, applied lightly with silk showing through slightly

Rib: Fine gold wire

Thorax: Olive/brown nymph dubbing, bulging modestly to suggest a wing case

Hackle: Rusty dun hen hackle, tied short.



President's Column

Dave Sanders, SWTU President

As Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited completes our 40th year and TU National reflects on 50 years of successes, we could all reflect on our numerous achievements locally as well as nationally. We can stand back and be proud of being a part of a strong 150,000 member national conservation movement. While looking back may give us a warm feeling of accomplishment, our past history is only our beginning as we look forward to future more complex challenges.

Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited has a lot to be proud of. We are 650 members strong. We have been instrumental in restoring and providing access to many, many miles of trout streams in our home area as well as other locations throughout the Driftless Area. We have a dynamic organization filled with an abundance of talented, dedicated members who over the years have given freely of their time, talents and expertise. Now is the time that we all need to ask ourselves: *How I can contribute to the future success Trout Unlimited?*

Yes, it requires a commitment and dedication to maintain our current level of success. It means keeping your commitments when taking on the challenges of navigating the future success of our chapter. Whether as project chair, board members or chapter officers, our membership relies on our dedication to protecting and preserving the chapter goals. It means taking the responsibility of leadership seriously and fulfilling commitments. The future of our success is in our hands as we look forward to new and more complex challenges.

We need the expertise, knowledge and commitment of all of us to continue and to expand on our past successes. As we start 2010 I am asking every one of our 652 member to consider what they can do to contribute to the continued success of Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited.

As a start, I hope to see everyone at the 27th annual Icebreaker on January 16, making it a great beginning to our future.

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Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited

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