

Newscasts

July 2008 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



July Meetings Not to Miss!!

Chapter Picnic and Forum on Black Earth Creek

Please note: We will **NOT** have our regular meeting at the Coliseum Bar in July **or** August. There is still a lot going on (see below) and we'll see you on Sept.9!

Chapter Picnic – Nevin Hatchery

“So *that's* why it's called Fish Hatchery Road!”

It's a fantastic and fascinating Chapter Picnic this year as we gather at Nevin Hatchery for a special tour and then dine on lunch expertly prepared by our own Mark Rhinerson.

The date: July 12, 2008
The time: 10 a.m.
The place: Nevin Hatchery
3911 Fish Hatchery Road
Fitchburg, WI

It's not a long drive this year and we're all bound to learn a ton, so be sure to invite your spouse, friends, kids, *whoever* along.

Brats, beans and potato salad will be provided. If you can bring a dessert to share, that'd be great. See you there!

Black Earth Creek – Past, Present, Future

SWTU, BECWA, WIDNR and the USGS are joining to host a public informational and open questioning session on Black Earth Creek.

The date: July 17, 2008
The time: 7 p.m.
The place: Cross Plains Fire Station
1501 Bourbon Road
Cross Plains, WI

The creek has had a tumultuous last decade or two, to put it mildly. At one time hailed as one of the nation's best stretches of trout fishing, our “home water” has been threatened by the pressures of development, manure runoff and more.

Was there a fish kill this spring? What does the stream have going for it? What are its biggest threats? This is your chance to not just hear from experts, but to ask them questions.

Lunker-riffic

A sturdy crew helped get lumber cut to size for 70 lunker structures. About 30 will be used at German Valley Creek and the rest at Kittelson Valley Creek. If you're interested in helping assemble them, contact our tireless Project Chair, Mike Grimes, at mgrimes17@charter.net or 608-655-1086. Also, we will probably be building more lunkers for the Gordon Creek Project before the summer is out, so contact Mike if you'd like to be on the notification list for that!

Photo Galleries

We're adding photo galleries of Chapter events to the Web. Take a look at the front page of www.swtu.org!

No August Newscasts

There is no meeting or *Newscasts* in August (as usual) so keep an eye on www.swtu.org for news! If you'd like to place something in the September issue, get it to [the editor](mailto:the_editor) by the last Tuesday in August.

Welcome New Members

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

Martin Jenich	Brad Compton
Michael Rick	Ralph Robinson
James Wendt	Fred VanRiet
Mark Hein	Robert Chybowski

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!

Bucket Raffle Prizes

Prize donations for our monthly meeting Bucket Raffles are still needed. Please consider donations such as flies, small gear items, tying materials/tools, books, fly fishing memorabilia and other related items. Just turn it (whatever “it” is) in to the raffle table prior to any monthly meeting!

You-Must-Be-Present-To-Win

Nobody won at our June meeting, thus the jackpot grew from \$40 to \$60. Please join us at our July 12 picnic 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 name) to win.

Special Annual Fishing Day

By John Schweiger

Just another beautiful, blustery day with blue skies, and a stiff breeze for comfort. Due to the heavy rains experienced shortly before our day, the fishing was more challenging than some of our previous outings. We had sixty-six guests, caregivers and family members. The generous donation of time by many of our chapter members and their families made for a day for all to enjoy.

First and foremost, the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited would like to thank Jim Kalscheur and his staff. Without Jim and access to his facilities there would be no Special Annual Fishing Day and without his staff the day would not be as special. In addition, Jim provided hot dog buns, baked beans, potato chips, condiments, beverages and treats for our guests. Many thanks to Oscar Mayer (Dave Whooley) for the hot dogs, Dorn Hardware at Nakoma (Jason) for the leaf worms used as bait, Scott's Bakery (Jackie and Russell) for the breakfast pastries, the Mt Horeb Fire and Rescue EMT (Michelle and Fredd) for medical support and Colleen Campbell for getting out the invitations to our guests. Last but not least, I would like to thank the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (Kurt Welke) and the Loan-A Rod Program for making the tackle available to us.

I would like to personally thank those Chapter members who made the day a great success. First, I would like to recognize Mark Rhinerson. He used his personal time to pick up and return the fishing tackle provided by the DNR. He helped with the Friday night tackle setup and served as a guide on Saturday.

My thanks to the Friday night tackle set up crew which included Bill Engber, Mark Rhinerson, John Gribb, Jim Kanvik, Bob McCabe, Jim O'Brien and Jack Heiden. It's a lot more fun for our guests when their fishing tackle functions properly. Unfortunately, we had some fish on that were more than the tackle could handle. Fortunately, the Loan-A Rod program made 55 rods and reels available to us so there was always another rod and reel to continue the pursuit.

Thanks to the EMT staff provided by the Mt Horeb Fire and Rescue, Michelle and Fredd.

Thanks to John Gribb, Bob McCabe and Chuck Valiere who showed an extraordinary aptitude for removing goose poo.

The photographers for the event were Jim O'Brien, Leroy Ebert, Sarah Wald, and Suzy and Anna McCabe. Jim's and Leroy's photos can be seen by clicking the link on the front page of www.SWTU.org. Sarah's photos will be sent to the event sponsors as

a form of thank you for their generous contributions and will appear in the Chapter photo album maintained to document each year's event. Suzy and Anna handled the Polaroid Instamatics which made photos of our guest's catches immediately available to them, making killing the fish unnecessary and leaving them to be enjoyed next year. Here is a picture of them, waiting on a fish!



In closing, I would like to thank those chapter members, family and friends for their assistance as goose poo removers, fishing guides, fish cleaners, furniture setup assistants, strong backs for transporting wheelchair bound guests, greeters and photographers. All these jobs contribute directly to a successful Special Annual Fishing Day.

John Gribb Greg Erickson
Henry Haugley Chuck Valiere
Bill Engber Jim Gentry
LeRoy Ebert Brendan Budack
Jim Kanvik Jim O'Brien
Larry Meicher Tom Thrall Mark Rhinerson
Stephen Wald and his daughter Sarah
Mike Grimes (and for teaching me the loop knot)
Tim Enwright and his friend (and hopefully new chapter member) Eric Cubin
Bob McCabe and his daughters Suzy and Anna
Paul Anderson and his daughter Whitney (welcome back to you both)

Last but by no means least, I want to thank my lovely bride Rose for excellent counsel, assistance and personal donation of the muffins and bagels enjoyed this year. I'm looking forward to another successful Special Annual Fishing Day next year on the second Saturday of June 2009.



Henry Haugley helps a guest with a biiiii fish.

Fountains of Youth

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

by Rusty Dunn

It's mid-summer, and hatches have waned. The glory days of spring, when the fishing is easy and everybody is an expert, are over. Time to settle in for the dog days of summer. A time for high hopes but low expectations. If you're like most fly anglers, you've suffered your share of indignities this season. Indignities, for example, from those snooty fish of March, who refused your finest BWO imitations. Were they too big or the wrong shade of olive? Who knows! Or those arrogant pigs of April, who slashed at everything *except* the caddis patterns you tied so meticulously. And those high-and-mighty snobs of June, who were keyed on some invisible feature of emerging sulfurs and thumbed their noses at your entire fly box. Well, it's time for some payback. Hatches have waned for both you and the fish, and they can't afford to be choosy now. It's time to tease and torture the conceited little bastards. Time to drive 'em crazy. Time to show 'em who's boss. Yes, it's time for Edward Hewitt's Neversink Skater, one of the most unlikely flies you'll ever see.

Edward Hewitt (1866-1957) developed his Skater in 1937 for the sultry days of summer on the Neversink River. The fly is the essence of simplicity, tied only of thread and hackle. The hackle, however, is outrageously long. Hewitt conceived of the fly while watching large trout leap for butterflies in broad daylight. Skaters float high and delicately, perched on the tips of their oversized hackle. When skipped, skated, and danced over trout, skaters often provoke violent and repeated attacks. They are unorthodox attractors – flies for those bright sunny days when the surface is barren and the fish are lethargic. It's a fly with an uncanny ability to raise fish from the deep at a time when normal dry fly fishing is futile. Many distinguished authors, including Marinaro, Fox, Brooks, Atherton and Schwiebert have sung its praises. They all describe the magic of Hewitt's Skater and its ability

to take untouchable fish on bright sunny days. As Vince Marinaro said,

"The only safe rule I can offer is that the fisherman should carry a few at all times and try them when everything else fails - or try them before everything else fails."

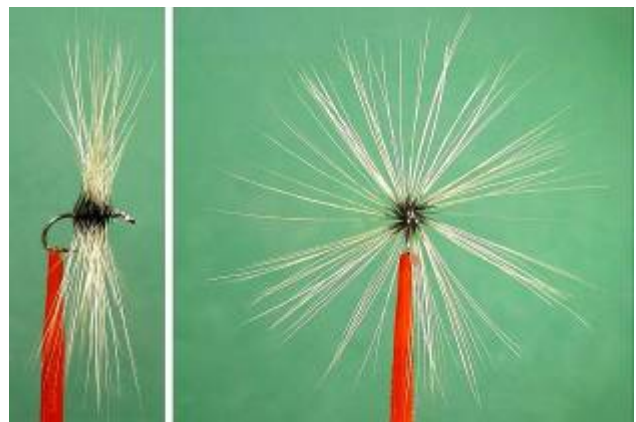
"Variants", "Spiders" and "Skaters" are related dry fly designs that all utilize overly large hackle. They are high floating flies that ride lightly on the surface. First intentional use of oversized hackle to float a dry fly is attributed to Dr. William Baigent in 1875. His enduring Baigent's Brown would be considered a Variant in today's jargon, although he didn't use the term. Variants have long tails, optional wings, and a collar of hackle that is longer than conventional proportions. Spiders go one step further. They are similar to Variants but have no wing and use a sparse collar of even longer hackle. (The term "Spider" also refers to soft-hackled wet flies originating in the north of Britain, but they are a very different beast.) Variants and Spiders are classic English patterns, but Hewitt's Neversink Skater is uniquely American. It takes the concept of oversized hackle to the extreme. Skaters have no body, tail, or wings – only a collar of enormously long (~2 inches!) hackle. They are hackled puffballs and, like the proverbial thistledown, land gently and float softly. They "tip-toe" across the surface, guided by the slightest tug of leader or puff of wind.

Try fishing Skaters during those slack periods when nothing is hatching. Treat the fly and leader with floatant, cast up-and-across or down-and-across and skate it over likely holding water. The fly should twitch and bounce irregularly and lightly. Keep it high, dry and moving at all times. Be prepared for explosive rises, but set the hook slowly. A skater's hackle shields the hook point, and its hooking ability is rather poor. The thrill of moving large fish in clear water on sunny afternoons, however, makes up for poor hook sets. The added satisfaction of taunting those previously picky fish into submission under tough conditions should be reward enough, especially after their earlier insults and indignities.

----- Neversink Skater -----

Hook:	Dry fly, short shank, #14 or #16
Thread:	To match the hackle
Body:	Long stiff dry fly hackle, diameter about 2 inches

Use two feathers at mid-shank with the dull sides cupped together and facing each other. Popular colors are honey, ginger, badger, furnace, black, and brown/grizzly mixed. Finding suitably long hackle is difficult, and it should be cherished. Coq de Leon saddles have some excellent hackle for spiders.



So. Much. Happening!

By Dave Sanders, SWTU President

With the enormous rain events of the last month I have had a lot more windshield time than fishing time. While driving throughout southern Wisconsin and navigating around, through, over and back due to closed roads and flooded bridges it reminded me that as a Chapter we need to continue moving forward. The West Fork Sportsman's Club has a new look; the suspension bridge is gone – washed away. The stream has a new channel washing away the restoration so exceptional well done last year by the PGT kids. There are many bridges that are gone or unsafe to use. Life always has its challenges.

However, SWTU is healthy, vibrant and edging toward our 40th anniversary. Are we ready to weather unexpected events? Without a doubt I believe we can and will continue as a strong and committed organization for generations to come. The opportunities abound. We are developing the "adopt a stream" program to coordinate the maintenance needs and commitments that are part of the numerous easements held by our Chapter. It will give everyone a chance to

learn more about our local cold water treasures. Keep an eye out for more news on this opportunity from our Project Chair, Mike Grimes.

Our Gordon Creek restoration project is proceeding responsibly under the guidance of Mike Schmidt and Jim Gentry. We are cosponsoring a public meeting on the wellbeing of Black Earth Creek (see page 1). We are helping to build lunkers for a Dane County restoration project, teaching folks about fly fishing, with events like the April casting clinic, Youth Outdoors Expo, Fitchburg Fly Fishing School, etc. etc.

Let's all take a break and enjoy our success, past and future. Bring your kids, a friend and anyone interested in preserving our cold water resources to the Annual Chapter Picnic. This year there will be no humiliation watching the DNR crew shock a stream and bring up a 23 inch brown right where you fished a couple days ago. Please come and enjoy a tour of the Nevin Hatchery and dine on Mark Rhinerson's famous beans and brats. Think SWTU. See you all on the 12th of July!

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