

# Newscasts

July 2009 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



**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. 8!

## **Chapter Picnic – Elvers Creek A shocking demonstration followed by shockingly good food!**

Pack up the whole family and join us on **Saturday, July 11** for a stream survey where Elvers Creek meets County Highway J (just north of Tyrol Basin) starting at 9 a.m. Just look for the cars and traffic cones.

A picnic with all the trimmings will follow at Brigham County Park Shelter #2 starting at 11:30 a.m.

Brigham Park is just northeast of the Village of Blue Mounds on County Highway F. The park has a playground and a nature trail for the family to enjoy.

Please bring a dessert if you'd like; everything else will be provided. See you there!

## **No August Newscasts or Meeting**

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

Kyle Magyera   Terry Messmer  
Xiaodong Fan   Karen Zanoja

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!

## **Gordon Creek: Building on our Success**

Be sure to check out the latest issue of *Wisconsin Trout* for an article detailing the work we've done on Gordon Creek and our plans for maintaining and building off of this, our Chapter's first large restoration project. A full color PDF is also linked from the front page of [www.swtu.org](http://www.swtu.org).

## **Larry Meicher Stream Side Memorial**

Thursday, July 30 at 11 a.m. in Zander Park in Cross Plains. Zander Park has a readily accessible pathway that provides easy walking right to the site. It's an ideal place for a trout's tribute.

Park behind what used to be the old Fire House on the main drag (14), a few blocks west of the hardware store and Crossroads coffee house – and right along the stream, you're almost there. You cross the little wooden bridge over BEC, walk east to the second bench, and you're streamside.

Also, we wanted to report that the **Meicher Garage Sale** at the June Chapter meeting was a huge success, raising \$2,355, which Dorothy Meicher shared half of with the Chapter. At her request, the funds were placed in the Endowment Fund.

## **Help Out at Our Fall Work Days Many hands make for light work**

We have three workdays scheduled for this fall. Please mark these dates off on your calendar, because we – and our streams – could use your help!

The dates (all Saturdays) are:

- October 3
- October 24
- November 14

And remember, by helping out you earn the opportunity to **get your name in the drawing for the Streamkeeper II** – a magnificent fly rod expertly crafted by Jim Bartelt.

More details will follow and be included in our Chapter Calendar. If you'd like to help or have questions, contact Mike Grimes, Project Chair, at [mgrimes17@charter.net](mailto:mgrimes17@charter.net) or (608) 655-1086.

## **Stay in the Know**

Keep on top of Chapter and other local events [by visiting the Chapter calendar](#). If you have any questions or content for the calendar, contact Jordan Konisky at [jordan.konisky@gmail.com](mailto:jordan.konisky@gmail.com).

## Special Annual Fishing Day

By John Schweiger

What started out to be a rainy day became blue skies and sunshine. We had a record turnout of sixty-one guests, plus 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 (Jim) for the leaf worms used as bait, Scott's Bakery (Jackie and Russell) for the breakfast pastries, 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 assisted in the Friday night tackle set up and assisted as fishing guide on Saturday.

My thanks to the Friday night tackle set up crew. Unfortunately (or fortunately, depending on your point of view) the tackle was set up before most of the Friday night volunteers arrived. We received the fishing tackle in unexpectedly good shape. All volunteers for the tackle set-up had the opportunity to fish and most were successful.

Thanks to the goose poo crew, Chuck Valliere, Mike Philips and Jim Kanvik for making the fishing grounds habitable.

The photographers for the event were Mikie Ulsrud, John Patterson and Marty Jenich. Marty, very generously, set up a shutterfly website for the event. It is possible to go to <http://swtuspecialfishingday.shutterfly.com> and view pictures of the day's activities and obtain copies at a very nominal fee at no profit to the Chapter or Marty. Suzy and Anna McCabe handled the Polaroid Instamatics which made photos of our guest's catches immediately available to them, making killing the fish unnecessary so they can be enjoyed next year.

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 an extremely busy and successful Special Annual Fishing Day.

Bill Engber	Mark Rhinerson
Bob Selk	Chuck Valliere
John Gribb	Jim Kanvik
Jim O'Brien	John Patterson
Mikie Ulsrud	Barry Ulsrud
Marty Jenich	Dave Disch
Henry Haugley	Peg Stormoen
Mike Philips	John Strauss
Beth Strauss	Bob McCabe
Anna McCabe	Susie McCabe
Carolyn Wilcox	Dot Havens
Paul Anderson	Jack Heiden
Tom Pellett	Brian Fairbrother
Mike Grimes	
Ann Jakel and Alex Matilda	
Kurt Osterby and his daughter Chelsea	
Xiaodong Fan and his son Alex	

Last but by no means least, I want to thank my lovely bride Rose for excellent counsel, administrative 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, 2010.



## Thank you!

### Project Green Teen – An awesome week at Avalanche

Project Green Teen (PGT) would like to THANK EVERYONE who participated in making this (our 5th) year a great success!

A whopping 196 trout were caught this year with the aide of many wonderful guides (24 one night for 18 students). Lots of good fun and food was had. Students caught bluegills the weekend before Free Fishing Weekend, and a couple of bass.

Students then took a family member or friend fishing for 4+ hours on Free Fishing Weekend. They acted as guides for their friends and spanned out across the county. They reported Monday that "guiding is a lot harder than the guides at Avalanche made it look." They also reported that they really appreciated every aspect that folks contributed to their fishing and environmental experiences.

In terms of **restoration work this year** we:

- Planted 3 acres oak savannah at Lake Farms Parks
- Built 11 lunger structures
- Cleared 3 Acres of invasives at Token Creek
- Cleared 2 acres of invasive (woody) Honeysuckle (by hand with ropes) at the Kickapoo Valley Reserve
- Planted 50 trees at the Westfork Sportsman Club.

Also, PGT is proud to report that we have **multiple students choosing education and career paths in Environmental Education**. Keegan (PGT 2008, Graduated this year) is heading to Northland College with a 4 year scholarship in Environmental Studies; Emma (PGT 2009, Graduated this year) and Brad (PGT 2008, graduated this year) are both pursuing the college transfer program at MATC with plans on transferring to UW Stevens Point and completing Water Resources; and Shalla (PGT 2008) is currently working with the Youth Conservation Corps in Yellowstone Park for the summer.

Thank you everyone! Without your generosity this program would not be such a great success. The students express this class as "life changing." The staff see students shine in new ways and become energized about fishing, learning and the interconnectedness of the environment and all its wonder. The many years of work and refinement of the PGT, the many many volunteers, from fly tiers, to

folks with extra waders, to guides who take vacation to come mentor students on the stream, to community partnerships bettering our environment... it is an amazing and extraordinary program that is positively impacting everyone involved.

I am honored to be a part of something that generates such positive energy and enthusiasm in the world.

– Tina Murray, Project Green Teen Coordinator  
Shabazz High School

**Thank you, Tina! SWTU is proud to support PGT, both financially and through the many volunteer hours of our Chapter members.**

### Putting on a Clinic SWTU teaches fly fishing in Fitchburg

A great group, largely consisting of kids and their parents, showed up for our fly fishing clinic on June 27 in Fitchburg. They moved through stations on casting, fly tying and equipment/knots. The event was organized by Frank Kosmach, with help from volunteer instructors, including Craig Amaker, Phil Anderson and Barry Ulsrud.



## Fountains of Youth

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

by Rusty Dunn

Trout fishing in America used to be dead easy. Find any cold clear river. Cast a brightly colored fly. Catch a sizeable brook trout. Repeat as needed. On February 28, 1883, however, things got a whole lot more difficult. The days of effortless trout were over. What happened? Eighty thousand brown trout eggs arrived from Germany at the state fish hatchery in Cold Spring Harbor, NY. These eggs and others that followed were planted in New York rivers and, eventually, throughout the eastern seaboard. The immigrants thrived in the New World, and within 20-30 years, brown trout were the dominant trout of the East. Some anglers praised the new species for being a more worthy adversary. Others scorned it for displacing native brook trout. Brown trout "aggressiveness" was blamed for declining numbers of brook trout, but diminished water quality in an increasingly industrial nation was at least as important. Brown trout are more tolerant of marginal waters, and they colonized habitat that no longer supported brookies. Brook trout would have been displaced by chubs and dace were it not for arrival of the brown trout.

Brook trout are famous for taking showy attractor flies, but brown trout are more reserved. They are cunning, judgmental, and, well, down right opinionated. Brown trout require a stealthier approach, better presentation, and more exact imitation. This drove refinement of American fly fishing tackle and technique. Fortunately, fly anglers of Great Britain had shown the way. Brown trout are the only native trout of Europe, and "matching the hatch" had been routine for decades on the other side of the pond.

Today we take for granted extensive hatch charts and matching flies, but where does this information come from? Observant anglers doubling as amateur entomologists patiently and systematically collect aquatic insects, identify species, and catalog times and dates of emergences. Fly patterns to match the naturals can then follow.

The great pioneer of insect identification and hatch matching was Englishman Alfred Ronalds (1802-1860). He merged the ecology of trout and trout stream insects with angling and fly design. His 1836 book *The Fly-Fisher's Entomology* catalogs insects of British trout streams and describes 89 matching fly patterns. Ronalds established the practice of systematically matching hatches, and his book is one of the great landmarks in the history of fly fishing.

English hatches and patterns are not directly applicable to North America, because the insect species are different. The tradition of angling entomology in North America was established by Preston Jennings (1893-1962), who is often described as "the American Ronalds," because he did for the US what Ronalds did for Great Britain. Jennings was the first American angler to broadly integrate aquatic entomology with fly design and angling methods. Jennings' 1935 book *A Book of Trout Flies*, describes major hatches of the East and identifies flies to match. It is precise, beautifully illustrated, and elegantly straightforward. Jennings set the standard for generations of later American authors who extended his pioneering work.

The most famous flies of Preston Jennings are the American March Brown and the Grey Fox. March Browns (*Stenonema vicarium* in the East) are one of the largest mayflies of the early season, appearing shortly after Hendricksons (late May/early June in the Driftless). Jennings' fly is called the *American March Brown* to distinguish it from the March Brown of Great Britain, a different species that actually hatches in March. The American March Brown imitates large ginger/tan/light brown mayfly duns, but many anglers fish it very successfully as an attractor dry.

March Brown duns often hatch slowly but steadily through the day and are easily overlooked. Spinners, however, gather at dusk in concentrated mating flights. If you're fishing the Driftless at dusk in early June, the last thing you should do before driving away is look upwards. If March Brown spinners swarm overhead, don't leave the stream without enjoying one of North America's truly fine spinner falls.

### ----- American March Brown -----

Hook:	Dry fly, #10-12
Thread:	Orange
Tail:	Hackle barbs of a red game cock
Wing:	Flank feather barbs of a mallard drake, upright and divided
Body:	Red fox belly fur mixed with sandy fur of a hare's poll
Hackle:	Red game cock and grizzly, with the grizzly feather nearer the hook eye



## Summertime Special

By Dave Sanders, SWTU President

Summer time is our time; the hex season may be winding down for those who can't wait for the summer solstice and 9:30 PM night falls, but there are opportunities for all, even those of us who should cast our line in the dark, for trophy browns, brookies or

rainbows in the miles & miles of local class 1 waters. Now is the time to enjoy our efforts and explore the improved waters in our back yard. Whether you wade into Gordon Creek or the newly swept waters of Black Earth there's a trophy day in your future. Get out Get in and Fish - enjoy the summer and hope to see you all at the picnic. Just a reminder our next chapter meeting and Newscasts will be in September.

## Name That Artifact!

Found deep, deep in the catacombs of our storage locker was a device of unknown origin. This device (pictured below) must have a use, but we don't know what it might be. If you know or have a good guess, please send your answer to [pheasanttails@gmail.com](mailto:pheasanttails@gmail.com) or tell us at the picnic.



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