

Shabazz @ Avalanche Making a difference!!

Shabazz at the Westfork this year completed many service projects benefiting the streams:

- 23 lunger structures were built with the support and guidance of the Blackhawk TU chapter and will be installed in Elk Creek later this summer
- 60 Feet of stream bank had fallen trees and other debris removed near the bridge on HWY S
- a half acre of Garlic Mustard pulled streamside
- students spent a day working on an organic farm learning how to manage insects and fertilize produce without harmful effects to the fields or water tables and streams.

Fifteen students fished for 5 days in varying weather and all students but one caught multiple fish. By the 4th night, 93 fish were officially caught and released by the students (no long distance releases were counted!). Mentors showed up each night and showed students how to read the water, match the hatch and have a great time fishing.

Students were enthusiastic and many had a natural talent for casting and catching fish. Many of this year's students seemed to really appreciate the benefits of being outdoors and report they plan to keep fly fishing as an important healthy choice of recreational activities for their lives.

PGT wishes to THANK all the volunteers: those that tied flies, taught casting/flytying, reading the water, mentors that came to Avalanche to fish with the kids and all other forms of support for the class (gear, ideas, replacing of tail lights, presentations, buying of ice cream sundae fixings, etc.).


Please know that the students are so very grateful for your influence and time and that you have played a huge role in changing their lives for the better.

Your goal of influencing them in environmental issues is very apparent. They are not only invested, they are passionate. In fact they want to go back to avalanche as soon as possible and build more LUNKERS and, of course, fish...

Sincerely,
Tina Murray,
Project Green Teen

Droppers

Mark your calendars and watch the *Newscasts* and www.swtu.org for more information!

 **Free Fly Fishing Clinic**
[Fitchburg Rec Dept.](#), McKee Farms Park Shelter
June 28

 **Chapter Picnic at Nevin Hatchery**

Mark your calendar!

The date: July 12, 2008

The time: 10 a.m.

The place: Nevin Hatchery
3911 Fish Hatchery Road
Fitchburg, WI 53711

We hope to see you on July 12! Please join us for a special hatchery tour and Mark Rhinerson's famous beans and brats lunch. Watch for more details in the July *Newscasts*.



Welcome New Members

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

Kelleg Willett	Kyle A. Swales
Brian Mueller	Todd Kiley
Otto Kaiser	Scott Brummond
Allan Larson	Jim Vandriel
Jeff Schmoeger	

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.

Leave No Trace

From a landowner's lips to a Chapter member's ears to this page comes a reminder to leave the areas we visit just a bit better than when we got there. There are no bait box complaints coming our way, of course, but there have been issues with lunch fixings and other fly fishing detritus being left behind. So do your part – if you brought it with, take it out. And if you see some trash or a snarl of line along the stream or a parking or picnicking area, take a moment to scoop it up. Thanks!

Fountains of Youth

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

by Rusty Dunn

Mention the name "Vince" to Wisconsin fly anglers, and you'll hear stories of Vince Lombardi, the glory days of the Green Bay Packers, and a legendary leader who inspired others to greatness. Mention the name "Vince" to Pennsylvania fly anglers, and you'll hear similar stories, but they will involve Letort Spring Run and Vince Marinaro, a creative genius who similarly inspired those around him. Each was a legend in his own arena.

Vince Marinaro (1911-1986) was one of the giants of fly fishing history, and he spent a lifetime fishing the limestone spring creeks of central Pennsylvania. If ever a stream were haunted by spirits of a great angler, it would be the Letort, and the spirits would be Marinaro's. The Letort was his laboratory and his temple, and Marinaro mastered its demanding trout like none others, before or since. Gin clear, glassy smooth, waist deep, weed-filled, and heavily fished, dry fly fishing on the Letort is as difficult as it can get. Marinaro's image, cast in bronze and affixed to a stone monument, gazes down upon Marinaro's Meadow and cautions all who visit: "*The Letort is a hard taskmaster and does not treat lightly any violation of dry fly technique.*" So it is, and so it shall be. Marinaro fooled Letort's fussiest of trout using the tiniest of imitations and lightest of presentations. "Uncatchable" trout were Marinaro's bread and butter and, on the Letort, he often dined alone.

Marinaro's first book, *A Modern Dry Fly Code* (1950), is a classic. It integrates trout behavior, fly design, presentation, and angling technique into methods that succeed on difficult spring creeks. It is a truly original work, one that provides novel insights and new perspectives. "*The Code*" should be required reading for all fly anglers of the Driftless.

A Modern Dry Fly Code is noted for two major concepts of insect imitation. The first is the role of terrestrial insects in a trout's diet:

"(There) exists now a superior kind of fishing that tests the most resourceful of sportsmen – a brand of fishing most prevalent in mid- and late-summer, extending well into the fall months. ... All of it is the product of meadows, the terrestrial insects."

Knowledge of terrestrials was, of course, not new. Authors since the 19th century noted that trout can feed at the surface on ants and other terrestrials. Before Marinaro, however, mayflies were the darlings of fly fishing literature. Terrestrials languished in obscurity until being resurrected by Marinaro in 1950.

Additionally, *A Modern Dry Fly Code* was the first to emphasize the importance of imitating tiny insects, those ranging in size from #20 to #28:

"All forms of the dry fly have their peculiar attractions, but none of them begins to approach the ineffable charm of fishing with minutae."

When the mayfly and caddis hatches of spring through early summer have waned, tiny insects sustain trout for months. Though small in size, they are large in number, and trout sip *minutae* all day long. Ed Shenk, also an expert of the Letort, describes such angling as "fishing with next to nothing."

Marinaro was a keen observer and a creative fly designer. His "game of nods" yielded innovative and effective fly patterns that every spring creek angler should have in the box. Marinaro varied flies little by little, offered them to trout, and the resulting affirmations or refusals ("nods") led to refinement and evolution. The end results were patterns and techniques effective under the toughest of conditions.

Marinaro's most famous fly is the Jassid, so-named because it imitates leaf hoppers of the family Jassidae (now renamed Cicadellidae). Leaf hoppers are terrestrials with slender bodies and short legs. They are very small (#20-26) and difficult to see, but they are abundant in meadows and forests from summer through early fall. Large numbers of leaf hoppers are blown into the water. In larger sizes having stout bodies, Jassids make excellent beetle imitations.

----- Jassid -----

Any dark, thin, lacquered feather can be substituted for the jungle cock nail, and an added spot of orange or yellow paint helps visibility.

Hook:	Dry fly, light wire, short shank, #16-#26
Thread:	Orange (or black) silk
Body:	Tying thread
Hackle:	Ginger (or black), palmered, trimmed top and bottom
Wing:	Jungle cock nail, tied flat, length slightly beyond hook bend



News You Need to Know

By Dave Sanders, SWTU President

Permanent Easements

Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited joins with Dane County and other conservation groups to permanently preserve access to Dane County cold water streams. The county, under the leadership of Executive Kathleen Falk, is in its second season of funding the purchase of permanent access to the cold water streams. These easements are a win-win-win program for the resource, the community and the landowners.

Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited and the Wisconsin State Trout Unlimited Consul support this visionary program with generous financial support, contributing \$2,500 and \$5,000 respectively. Our contributions join with other funding to leverage the purchasing power of permanent cold water access.

Black Earth Creek Past Present and Future

One of the nations 100 best trout streams. Remember when there was no doubt about the rank of Black Earth Creek as a premier trout stream? Over the last several years our local home water has been threatened by the pressures of development, manure run off and environmental changes. We are joining together with BECWA, Wisconsin DNR and USGS to host a public informational and open questioning session on the condition and future of Black Earth Creek.

This will be an opportunity for anyone interested in the challenges and issues facing Black Earth Creek and all of our precious colds water streams. We are planning on an early July meeting with the place and time to be determined shortly. Watch you e-mail and the next issue of *Newscasts* for more details. You won't want to miss out on this meeting.

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