

Newscasts

June 2009 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



Big Bass on the Baraboo — June 9 Chapter Meeting

This month's meeting will feature Hunter Dorn of Retriever Run Outfitters.

Hunter does guide for trout, but his talk at this meeting will focus on smallmouth bass fishing on the Baraboo River.

Hunter will draw from his extensive and diverse guide experience to provide tips, tricks and techniques for taking smallmouth bass on the fly rod.

We hope to see you there!

As usual, the meeting is at 7 p.m. at the Coliseum Bar on Olin Avenue but **get there early** if you want to take part in the....

Meicher Garage Sale At the June 9 Chapter Meeting



A vast selection of priced-to-sell rods, reels, vices, materials and more from the collection of Larry Meicher will be available for purchase at the June meeting.

The GARAGE SALE will be spectacular.

Items will be in a separate room upstairs at the Coliseum Bar. The doors to the sale will open at 6 p.m. with all items sold on a first come/first served basis.

We will close the sale at 7 p.m. for the meeting, but will reopen afterwards if there are still items available.

Note that we will take **cash or check only**. We will **not** be able to process credit cards.

It's not to be missed!!

Dorothy Meicher is generously donating 50% of the profits from this sale to SWTU's Endowment Fund.

Help out – Special Annual Fishing Day!

We expect a record number of guests, so can use your help. See page 2 for details.

Welcome!

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

Daniel Rosenow	Donald McClain
Teri Beckman	Brian Brummel
Casey Helbach	Joshua Ghena
Shane Duggan	Joseph Monfre
Jim Ludois	Milton Friend
John Feaman	Richard Blomker
Christian Rosenstock	

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!

Chapter Picnic July 11 – Elver Creek

We're still nailing down the exact time and location for our annual picnic, but it will be July 11 on a stretch of Elver Creek. Look to www.swtu.org in the near future or the July Newscasts for details. It will be a "shocking" followed by tremendous food and camaraderie.

Icebreaker Advance Notice

The date is Saturday, January 16, 2010 and the location will again be the Omega Center in Fitchburg.

We are excited about our main speaker. **Mike Heck** is a guide and the author of *Spring Creek Strategies*, of which Lefty Kreh says, "If you fish these sometimes-difficult waters, read this book and you'll almost certainly catch more fish." Mark your calendar and take a moment to learn more about Mike at www.fallingsprings.com.

If you'd like to help out in planning the event, please contact Dave Sanders at pheasanttails@gmail.com or (608) 843-7125.

You-Must-Be-Present-To-Win

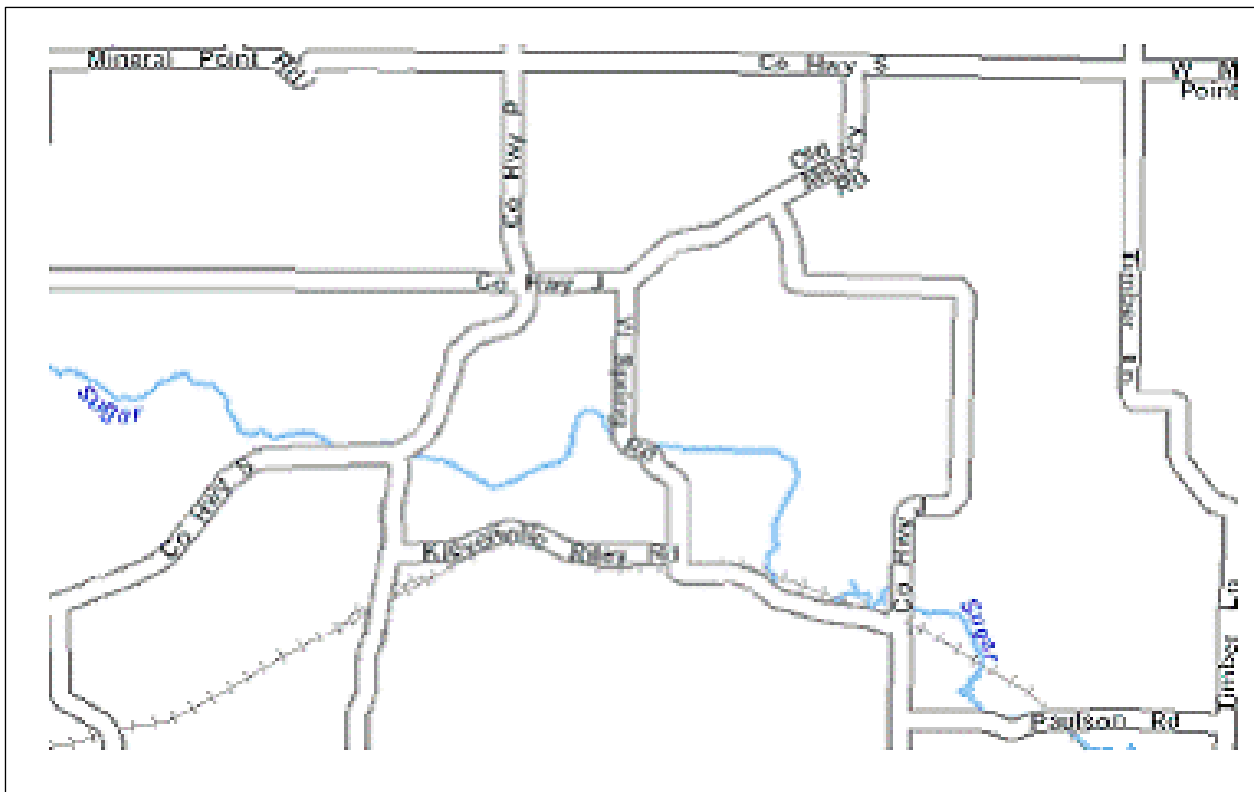
Nobody won at the May Chapter meeting, so the *You Must Be Present to Win Drawing* has increased to \$40. Please join us at our June meeting for a chance to win a \$40 gift certificate to *Fontana Sports Specialties*. You need only be present (and able to discern the calling of your name) to win.

MANY Volunteers Needed!! Special Annual Fishing Day

SWTU's Special Annual Fishing Day is **Saturday, June 13** at Jim Kalscheur's Ponds. We have had a tremendous response and expect to have more guests than ever! By volunteering, you have the opportunity to provide a great day of fishing for some very special people who are not ordinarily able to share in the pastime we all love. Setup will commence at 7:30 a.m. and the fishing will begin at 9 a.m. The directions are: Take Mineral Point Road towards Pine Bluff. Turn left, after approximately 5 miles, onto Old Military Road, then left on Valley Spring Road. The Kalscheur property will be on your left. TU signs will be strategically placed to help provide direction. TU members are encouraged to bring their family members to share in this rewarding volunteer opportunity. We need groundskeepers, fishing guides, greeters, servers and fish cleaners. Breakfast pastries, lunch and beverages will be provided. All volunteers are welcome to fish the ponds after our guests leave, around 2 p.m.

I need about six volunteers on Friday night, 06/12/09, to help set up fishing tackle for our guests. Please meet at Kalscheur's Ponds at 5:30 p.m., the project should be finished before 8 p.m. Contact John Schweiger at 238-8062 for more information or to volunteer Friday night.

Map to Kalscheur's Ponds



Fall Work Days Rain, rain go away...

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 or (608) 655-1086.

What's Happening?

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

Project Green Teen at Avalanche!

A wonderful week of fishing and environmental restoration projects.



Fountains of Youth

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

by Rusty Dunn

"Speckled trout," "New York char," "aurora trout," "coaster," "spotted trout," "squaretail," "mountain trout," "speck," and "hemlock trout" are but a few of the many names given to North America's native and, for many, most beloved salmonid, the brook trout *Salvelinus fontinalis*. Brook trout are brightly colored jewels of North American rivers. Look to the brook trout of your local stream for an unbiased measure of its health. Brookies are the first trout to disappear when water quality declines and the last to reappear when it improves. A wild brook trout is the highest accolade – the gold medal – of stream conservation, protection, and restoration.

Thousands of fly patterns have been designed for brook trout, but none is more effective or more famous than Don Gapen's Muddler Minnow. Noted western fly tyer Jack Dennis describes the Muddler Minnow as "*beyond all doubt the greatest fly ever tied ... because it performs so well in many different conditions.*" The Muddler Minnow is included on almost all lists of "best ever" trout flies, and one such Muddler won the 1987 Jackson Hole One Fly Contest. So, what is the secret of a Muddler's success? In a word ... *cockatouche!*

The Muddler Minnow was developed by Don Gapen in 1937 to imitate sculpin minnows of Ontario's Nipigon River. Local Ojibwa fishing guides called such minnows "cockatouche" or "muddler sculpins." The name "muddler" derives from an old common name of sculpins, "mud-minnows." Gapen developed the Muddler Minnow for clients of his Nipigon River fishing lodge, which he owned and operated beginning in 1936. The wilderness surrounding the Nipigon was famous for its giant brook trout. "Giant" in this case means the largest brook trout ever caught by rod and reel! Dr. J.W. Cook landed a 14.5 pound brook trout on the Nipigon in 1916, and to this day it remains the IGFA-certified world record for brook trout. If Cook's

champion fish is ever dethroned, a Muddler Minnow may be the cause. Brook trout seem to have an irrational and fatal attraction for sculpins and the Muddler. Gapen's pattern is similar to a fly tied 50 years earlier by German immigrant Ludwig Moedler, but it is unlikely that Gapen drew inspiration from that older pattern. Rather, Gapen learned of brook trout's affection for sculpins from Nipigon natives and tied the Muddler from scratch to imitate them.

The Muddler Minnow was first published in 1953 in A.J. McClane's book *The Practical Fly Fisherman*. Dan Bailey of Livingston, MT, however, brought it fame and worldwide recognition. Bailey's fly shop began tying and promoting the Muddler Minnow in the 1950s. Bailey developed several very successful Muddler variations, including the White Muddler (aka. Mizzoulain Spook), Marabou Muddler, and Spuddler. Both Gapen's original and Bailey's variations were huge successes in the west, and you'll still find them in most western fly shops. Variations on the Muddler are almost endless.

The feature that ties all of these patterns together is the collar and head of clipped spun deer hair. Gapen's original Muddler had a fairly sparse and ragged head of loosely spun deer hair, but the more densely spun and clipped head found on today's Muddlers was a refinement by Dan Bailey. In the late 1950s, Muddler Minnows of various types accounted for over half of the oversized trout (4+ pounds) immortalized on the "Wall of Fame" of Bailey's fly shop.

Sculpins are secretive fish that hide under rocks, and Muddler Minnows are most effective when fished near the bottom and stripped in short minnow-like darts. They can also be swung through riffles, but be prepared for crushing strikes. A large Muddler treated with floatant and fished as a dry fly makes an excellent hopper, large stone fly, or mouse imitation. Don Gapen's pattern is a timeless classic, and there's really no way to go wrong with it. Put one before a brook trout near you, and you'll likely earn your own gold medal.

----- Muddler Minnow -----

Hook:	Long shank, #2 - #14
Thread:	Gray, 6/0 or 3/0, depending on size
Tail:	Mottled turkey wing quill slip
Body:	Flat gold tinsel
Underwing	Gray or red fox squirrel tail fibers, length to end of tail
Wing:	Paired mottled turkey wing quill slips
Head:	Spun and trimmed deer hair, leaving some tips pointing rearward as a collar



Respect, Enjoy, Protect

By Dave Sanders, SWTU President

Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited has set a remarkable benchmark for others to follow. Our support for the Dane County Permanent Easement Program along with TU National's participation and support has proven that working in concert with government, private landowners, land trusts and other conservation groups can provide wondrous and lasting results for our treasured cold water resources and trout fisheries.

Raising funds and taking on stream restoration projects is the beginning of a lifelong commitment to the stream

and land owner. Whether the access easement is a permanent purchase, a 20 year commitment or owned by the County or the Department of Natural Resources, it's there for all to enjoy. We have spent thousands of hours working on stream protecting and improving the resource and we continue to work tirelessly on maintaining the needs of our streams.

When we are drifting an Adams or a Blue Wing Olive across our favorite pool, we need to remember that we are still visitors. Respect for the resource, the landowner and other people. Leave no trace and take home a great memory and a story to share with others.

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