

Newscasts

June 2010 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



June 8 Chapter Meeting

***We're gonna put a Hex on you
Big mayfly. Big fish. Big fun.***

They prowl the coldwater streams late at night, seeking meaty bugs and meatier fish. And they're people... not raccoons!

We speak of Stephen Born (right) and Henry Haugley (below), longtime chapter members and avowed experts on virtually everything that can be filed under "fly fishing." They will be discussing the legendary hex hatch, the late night event where massive mayflies struggle at the surface providing such a feast that the biggest fish in the stream rouse themselves to go slurp on the surface.



You'll hear some great stories and also hear all about the gear (what flies? what rod? what density of Deet?) and hex fishing strategies (where to go? when to show?).



If you've ever wanted to fish the hex but didn't know where to start, or you've tried it but want to know more, then this is the meeting for you!

As usual, the meeting is at the [Coliseum Bar and Grill](#) on East Olin Avenue at 7 p.m. but please join us earlier for dinner and a few stories before. And check it out... get there early if you'd like to shop the Garage Sale!

Read on for:

- ***Special Annual Fishing Day – June 12***
- ***A great Workday event***
- ***Rusty gets a little "antsy"***
- ***What watershed do you live in?***

Garage Sale at June Meeting

A "garage sale" of outdoor gear will take place before our June 8 meeting. It is from the estate of **Bill Maund**, an active Chapter member in the 1970s and 80s.



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. Cash or check only, please!

As with last year's sale from the Larry Meicher estate, half of the proceeds will go to the Chapter.

Streamside Picnic: Mark Your Calendars Saturday, July 10 in Mazomanie

We'll be gathering at the picnic shelter at Lake Marion Park in Mazomanie. The rundown:

8:30 a.m. – A driving exploration of the Black Earth Creek Watershed. Vehicles will meet in Middleton (check the July *Newscasts* for the meet spot) and proceed out toward Mazomanie. Along the way, you'll stop at certain points and Stephen Born will discuss things geographic, geologic, hydrologic and more!

10 a.m. – Simply shocking! The trusty DNR crew will provide a stream shocking demonstration, revealing all those fish we're certain aren't there. The shocking will take place near the intersection of County Hwy KP and Olson Rd, which is just west of Mazomanie and Lake Marion Park.

11 a.m. – Beginning at the Lake Marion Shelter in Mazomanie, Stephen Born will lead a grand walking tour the major environmental restoration project being discussed for the Mazomanie area.

Noon – Picnic time at Lake Marion Park, with as much great food and warm camaraderie as you can shake a spey rod at!

Show up for any or all parts that interest you! Look to www.swtu.org shortly or the July *Newscasts* for maps and more details!

**Improving Black Earth Creek...
... one axe swing at a time**
By Chris Denzin, Co-Project Chair

A huge thanks to all who attended our very successful May 15 Workday! Our hearty crew cleared a great deal of brush. Special appreciation to past-Project Chair **Mike Grimes** who lent a hand, some great advice and showed he can still swing an axe with the best of them!!

Thanks as well to **Jim Beecher** for snapping photos. We got a lot done, but not all and will **meet again on July 17**. If needed, we will also meet on September 4 to finish the job.

By participating in this workday, a true Trout Unlimited grassroots conservation effort, participants earned a chance to win the Streamkeeper II – a fantastic rod expertly built by **Jim Bartelt**. If you'd like to donate your time towards conserving, protecting and restoring Black Earth Creek, please contact me at cdenzin@gmail.com or (608) 658-0168.

Busy! Busy! Busy! The crew at work.



Welcome New Members

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

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Ryan McGuire | Rodd Wangen |
| Chad Oler | John Slack |
| Rick Francois | Art Grimm |
| Jon Anderson | David Slezewski |
| Michael Thumm | Michael Biksacky |
| K Baitinger | |
| Joseph and Jamie Steuer | |

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!

Special Annual Fishing Day

By John Schweiger

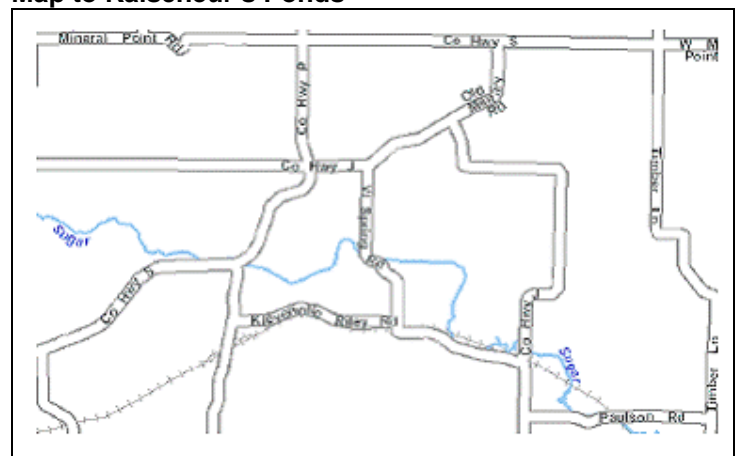
Please mark your calendars for our Chapter's Special Annual Fishing Day on **Saturday June 12** at Jim Kalscheur's Ponds.

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 to Jim Kalscheur's ponds 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 you left. TU signs will be strategically placed at intersections to help provide direction. TU members are encouraged to bring their family members to share in this wonderfully 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, 06/11/10, 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



You Must Be Present to Win

Nobody won at our May Chapter meeting, so the drawing has grown from \$20 to \$40. Please join us at our June 8 Chapter 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.

Fountains of Youth

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

by Rusty Dunn

The next time you're near a trout stream, look closely among the ground cover and leaf litter. You'll be astonished by the number and variety of ants.

Ecologists estimate that the biomass of ants on earth is 20% of all terrestrial animals. One fifth of all land animals, measured not by the number of ants, but by their total weight. Wow! Now look in your fly boxes. Are your imitation ants as prolific as the real deal? Probably not. With warming weather, however, your ants should emerge in force from their off season in hiding. As the abundance of spring fades into the moderation of summer, you should give those ants some quality stream time. Ants and terrestrials are summer staples, as much a part of the season as baseball, cookouts and long slow sunsets.

Ant imitations date to the very beginning of fly fishing. Dame Juliana Berners described fishing with ants in the first angling book ever printed (*A Treatyse of fysshynge wyth an Angle*, 1496), although her twelve famous flies did not include an ant. Charles Cotton described the first artificial ant in 1676 in Isaak Walton's *The Compleat Angler*. His fly, however, did not have the modern ant profile of two bulbous segments separated by a thin waist. That bit of realism would await Michael Theakston's ant fly of 1853, described in *A List of Natural Flies*. Materials have evolved since Theakston's time, but the basic design of ant flies has changed very little. Pennsylvania's Vince Marinaro brought ants and terrestrials into the mainstream in his 1950 classic *A Modern Dry Fly Code*, considered by many to be "the bible" of spring creek angling. It is, above all, a book about terrestrials, and Marinaro's favorite terrestrial was the ant:

"If I were to choose one pattern above all others, day in and day out, from fish to fish, the most enduring in the season, it would be the ant in its various sizes and colors."

Many respected authors have commented on the strong attraction that trout have for ants. Most speculate that trout like the tart acidic flavor of ants, which are rich in formic acid. Whatever the reason, ants are essentially "trout candy."

Ants occur in many sizes but only four basic designs: black vs. red (also called brown, cinnamon, or honey) and winged vs. wingless. Black ants are jet black and completely opaque. Red ants are remarkably translucent. Their reddish color shines from within by light that is transmitted through the body. Marinaro described red ants as "*glimmering and glowing as if lighted by some inner fire.*" Wingless ants are by far the most common. They fall from trees, bushes and grasses from late spring until the frosts of fall. They are especially plentiful to trout on warm windy days. Winged ants are much less common, but they can create magnificent dry fly fishing. Immense numbers of winged male and female ants swarm in mid to late summer from underground colonies. These mating flights are unpredictable and rare, but if one blows over a stream, trout gorge on the windfall. You'll be lucky to encounter a handful of winged ant swarms in your life, but if it happens, you'll never forget it.

Floating ants cannot escape the surface film, and trout take them very leisurely. Gentle sipping rises on glassy smooth glides usually indicate fish taking either small terrestrials, midges, or mayfly spinners. You'll probably need a seine to know for sure, because floating ants are almost invisible. They float **in**, not **on**, the water ... sodden, half-sunk, awash in the surface, and blended into the dark background. Make sure your flies float similarly. Fish probably take more ants underwater than above, and a wet ant pattern can be excellent trailed behind a dry.

Trout don't read scientific journals, but they know from experience that ants are the most abundant land animal on earth. Ants sustain trout for months, and they can sustain your summer fly angling as well. Twenty percent of the planet's land animals just can't be wrong. Think globally ... act locally ... fish ants.

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----- Winged Red Fur Ant -----

Hook: Dry fly, #10-24
Thread: Rusty brown, 8/0
Body: Reddish-brown fur with some Antron mixed in for sparkle; two prominent bulbs separated by a thin waist. The rear bulb should be larger than the front.
Wings: Hackle tips, medium dun or any light color, projecting from the rear of the thorax and split about 30°.
Hackle: Rusty dun, honey dun, or medium ginger, trimmed on the bottom to float low.



We're living in a watershed

By Frank Kosmach, SWTU President

Say what!

It's true, by definition; "land that receives and drains its water to the low point, a common outlet at a stream, lake or wetland" is a watershed.

Believe it or not, you're in one right now. All Dane County land is divided into 18 different watersheds. Of course not all fall under our mission or are classified as "coldwater" watersheds, but watersheds nonetheless, and certainly one's that affect fish.

Do we really know the boundaries of where our coldwater watersheds start and stop, and adjoin less thermal watersheds? Isn't this something that we as local TU members should know and consider when making decisions or choices that affect our groundwater? If not, maybe it's in our best interest to protect all watersheds, especially from the more common pollutants, including erosion, chemical use and storm water runoff, all of which degrade groundwater and potentially affect our lives and the lives of fish.

No, most of us are not farmers or "big box" retail owners, but we can still have an impact. Consider starting at home with our lawns, driveways, gardens, etc...you know...the WATERSHED we live in. It could be as simple as considering less use of pesticides, fertilizers, de-icers or construction of that impervious hardscape.

Each of us is capable of making a difference in regard to protecting our turf (pun intended). I challenge us all as ambassadors' of TU's mission of "Conserving, Protecting and Restoring North America's Coldwater Fisheries and Their Watersheds", to simply know our home watersheds.

Please visit www.countyofdane.com/lwr/landconservation/watersheds to learn more, and identify the watershed in your backyard.

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Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited

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