

Newscasts

June 2011 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



Fly Fishing for Smallmouth Bass Summertime Fishing Fun!

Our **Tuesday, June 14 Chapter Meeting** will feature **Craig Amacker** providing tips and tricks for targeting smallmouth bass with a fly rod.

While trout are less active in mid-July (and often best left alone due to the heat), smallmouth are very aggressive towards flies and provide excellent battles with exciting aerial leaps.



Smallmouth fishing is also a great excuse to break out your 6 or 7 weight streamer rod and bugs the size of small mammals, then watch a mini submarine-sized wake follow your fly and slam it *hard*.

Craig will discuss tackle, flies, watercraft, and where to fish both from a boat and from shore. He will be drawing on years of fishing and guiding for smallmouth in Wisconsin.

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.

You Must Be Present to Win

There was no winner at the May meeting, so the jackpot increases to \$40. Please join us at our June 14 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.

Read on for:

- **July 16 Streamside Picnic.**
- **Cross Plains Project Walkabout**
- **What is BECWA and why should you join it? (Professor Born explains)**
- **Project Green Teen at Avalanche! Fantastic essay and photos!!**
- **Rusty spins a tale of a Rusty Spinner**

Special Annual Fishing Day

Please mark your calendars for our TU chapter's Special Annual Fishing Day on **Saturday, June 11** 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. 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 Spring Valley Road. The Kalscheur property will be on your left. TU signs will be placed at key intersections to help provide direction. Or you can create your own directions using [the Google Maps link](#).

TU members are encouraged to bring their family members to share in this wonderfully rewarding volunteer opportunity. We need grounds keepers, 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, 06/10/11, 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.

Welcome New Members

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

Ken Anderson	Jim Hanson
Jim Vergeront	Ellis Bauman
Garret Moore	Dave Docherty
Steven Holzhuetter	Jim Bolson
Jeffrey Schimpff	Gary Zika
Stephen Rose	

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!

Streamside Picnic: Mark Your Calendars Saturday, July 16 in Mazomanie

We'll once again gather at the picnic shelter at Lake Marion Park in Mazomanie, which is near to a major environmental restoration project involving Black Earth Creek and the surrounding area. Our Chapter has pledged \$10,000 toward this project, so a review and update of it is important!



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

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. An exact shocking site is still being determined and will be communicated in the July *Newscasts*.

11 a.m. – Beginning at the Lake Marion Shelter, Stephen Born will lead a walking tour of the major environmental restoration project.

Noon – Picnic time at the Lake Marion Park Shelter.

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!

Cross Plains Project Walkabout

The Village of Cross Plains is hosting a Walkabout to share information and gather input on proposed improvements to the "Lagoon Street" area, which includes a potential plan for innovative stormwater management and a remeandering of Black Earth Creek. The Village is encouraging TU members to attend.

Date: Wednesday, June 15th

Time: Drop in anytime between 4:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. and plan to spend about 90 minutes

Place: American Legion Hall
(2217 American Legion Drive)

You will be taken on a guided walking tour of the project area and have opportunities to ask questions and provide your input.

Questions on the Downtown Core Redevelopment Project? Contact the Village at (608) 798-3241 ext. 105 or visit www.cross-plains.wi.us.

You Should Be A Steward Of The Black Earth Creek Watershed: Join BECWA!

By Stephen Born

I've been enjoying the angling challenges of Black Earth Creek, home water for many SWTU members, for several decades. And TU has done enormous amounts of habitat restoration and protection work on that wonderful spring creek.

Given that the stream is directly in the path of rapid urbanization from the Madison metro area, and is in an agricultural watershed, the ultimate conservation and long-term protection of that resource requires a broader watershed constituency concerned about the stewardship of the waters and lands. The **Black Earth Creek Watershed Association (BECWA)**, a non-profit organization of volunteers, has been doing just that for almost 25 years.

BECWA brings anglers and other interests together to discuss and address issues affecting the health and character of the creek and its watershed.

BECWA serves as an information clearinghouse and helps coordinate some of the agency and governmental activities in the watershed. It participates in stream monitoring programs, and works with youth in the watershed!

In short, BECWA's efforts, coupled with the work of groups like TU and the Dane County Natural Heritage land trust, have raised the visibility of the stream and led to a widespread commitment to protect flows, water quality, the fishery, and riparian lands.

I hope that chapter members who partake of this challenging spring creek's angling opportunities – from the April caddis and Hendrickson hatches, to the mystifying Hex hatch, to the later season terrestrial fishing – will see the value of supporting BECWA by becoming members. The dues are a very modest investment in helping to ensure sound conservation in the watershed.

I encourage you to join those of us who use and love this special stream! Black Earth Creek needs your support.

Join now at www.becwa.org. The dues structure is:

Basic - \$15

Household - \$25

Watershed Patron - \$35

Business Friend of Black Earth Creek - \$50

Lifetime Watershed Steward - \$100

Project Green Teen at Avalanche

Ecophobia: A fear of ecological problems and the natural world.

Ecophilia: The biological tendency to bond with the natural world.

Years of teaching environmentalism through "saving the earth" has resulted in today's youth feeling hopeless and dis-empowered. The problems are so widespread and beyond their control that they turned away from, instead of participate in, local attempts at environmental activism. Teaching strategies are more effective with "place-based" education. In other words, students learning about what is in their own backyard; trees, plants and animals. They have been taught so little about these things and their comfort level being out in these places is low. Many chose not to go "out there" due to this Ecophobia.

Changing teaching strategies so students learn about what is in their backyards is helping build comfort and sending students back outside with "curious" intrigue. Ecophilia.

All this being said, we are moving in the right direction to correct decades of misguided environmental education for today's youth. They are slowly becoming involved in "matters of the outdoors".

Interestingly, Project Green Teen, now in its 7th year, engages students in environmental activism instantaneously. Students come alive, learning becomes fun again and they are passionate about protecting the outdoors and particularly the streams they so enjoy during the Avalanche trip each year. What is it about this program that does such a fantastic job at re-engaging youth in learning about the outdoors and inspiring career changes and college enrollment in environmental studies? One could make the argument that the teachers who provide the programming do an amazing job. Most probably true. However, not the main factor by a long shot.

Years of research on what creates the deep roots of environmentalism in individuals has shown a pattern of just two simple things that produce deep seated and lifelong commitment the environment: "many hours spent outdoors in a keenly remembered wild or semi-wild place in childhood and an adult who taught respect for nature."

Southern WI Trout Unlimited has partnered with Shabazz High School's Project Green Teen (PGT) since 2004 and has provided "an adult who taught respect for nature" on the banks of the spring creeks

in the driftless area of WI, "a keenly remembered wild or semi-wild place". Countless hours of fly tying, fly casting and fishing have been provided to support the youth of PGT.

In this win-win partnership, PGT and SWTU are changing the lives of these youth. They are transformed into ecophiliacs who appreciate and long for the beauty and solitude they found while fly fishing with "their" guides. They are young adults who are ideological, no longer ecophobic and committed to protecting the environment. They truly believe they will change the world!

The students practice their "fish stories" by telling "my guide" stories. They truly appreciate the connections with their guides in all levels of the clinics and fishing. Look at the smiles on their faces!

Thank you to everyone who contributes, on every level, for supporting this program and helping to build a future of youth who are not afraid to experience all the glory that nature has to offer. The reciprocity of the partnership between SWTU and PGT will ensure that the future of 43,000 miles of trout streams in WI remain healthy and protected as we head into the future.

Sincerely,

Tina Murray and other Shabazz PGT Staff

Select quotes from the students:

"I'm trying to figure out when it was that I quit going outside, and why."

"I forgot how much I loved the outdoors when I was small."

"I think I'm going to change my career path to do something out in nature."

"When I spend time outdoors I just do everything better."

"Tina, can we go back next week?"

**Check out the next page
for some great pictures!!**

Project Green Teen – 2011

Select photos of learning, streamwork, guiding, fishing and fun!



Fountains of Youth

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

by Rusty Dunn

A few dozen miles southeast of London lie peaceful valleys of the Hampshire countryside, where legendary rivers such as the Avon, the Test, and the Itchen flow to the sea through wooded meadows of magnificent beauty. Fed by mineral rich springs of a "chalk" (white limestone) aquifer, the rivers support immense populations of insects and trout. The area is steeped in tradition, and some of angling's finest literature sprang from its gin clear waters.

George Edward Mackenzie Skues, one of history's most insightful and entertaining angler authors, boards the two o'clock train in London bound for the cathedral city of Winchester in central Hampshire. Worldly concerns of his busy London law practice fade away as Skues prepares for the evening rise at Abbott's Barton on the River Itchen. He settles into a window seat on the sunny side of the train and pulls out his portable fly tying kit. He glances out the window and discovers a welcome traveling companion. A splendid blue-winged olive spinner sits beside him on the lower ledge of the carriage window. Skues affixes a hook to his hand vise and carefully blends seal's fur to match the spinner's reddish-brown color. He selects hot orange thread, which glows faintly through the seal dubbing and gives a fiery translucence much like that of his traveling companion. That evening, Skues' handiwork fools several large and wary trout. He later christens the fly the "Rusty Spinner" in his 1921 book *The Way of a Trout With a Fly*.

Although Skues' fly was the first to be called "Rusty Spinner" by name, similar flies had been tied since the Middle Ages. Indeed, the very first English text devoted to angling described in 1496 twelve artificial flies, one of which (the "Ruddy Fly") is a mayfly spinner. Spinners are sexually mature mayfly adults, having developed from recently hatched duns by a streamside molt. Spinners of a surprisingly large proportion of mayfly species are reddish-brown in

color, very similar to Skues' rusty-red seal's fur. Spinner imitations through the centuries bear many charming names, including Mahogany Spinner, Sherry Spinner, Houghton Ruby, Jenny Spinner, Lunn's Particular, Claret Spinner, Rusty Spinner, and many others.

The wings of all mayfly spinners are glassy clear ("hyaline"), and their imitation plagued fly tyers for centuries. Author Francis Francis described the challenge of imitating spinner wings:

"The wings – ah! those wings! What shall we do to imitate their clear, delicate, watery transparency?" – A Book on Angling, 1867

History's quest for imitative spinner wings included all sorts of peculiar materials, including trimmed fish scales, shavings of whale bone, and the clear membranous roots of wing quills. Prior to the late 1800s and development of dry fly fishing, spinner imitations were primarily hackled wet flies. Wings (if present) were tied either upright and divided or sloping backwards. George Selwyn Marryat was the first to tie spinner wings in the now standard position outstretched horizontally on the water's surface. Marryat's wings were tips of hackle feathers, but tyers today typically use hackle fibers or sparkly synthetics.

America's Vince Marinaro contributed perhaps the most elegant and functional solution to imitating spinner wings. He tied spinner patterns with a thick collar of hackle at the thorax and then trimmed fibers from the top and bottom, leaving only the fibers pointed laterally. The sparseness of Marinaro's wings imitates the glassy clearness of spinner wings, and the stiff hackle gives excellent floatation. Many spinners land on the surface with upright wings, after which the wings droop slowly down to the surface. Marinaro's clever design can imitate fully or partially spent wings depending on which of the hackle fibers are trimmed.

Look for spinners in glassy smooth waters in the evenings and early mornings. By learning to fish spinners, you'll enjoy dry fly fishing right through to the very last stage of a mayfly hatch.

----- Rusty Spinner -----

<p>Hook: Dry fly, size to match the natural</p> <p>Thread: Hot orange</p> <p>Tail: A few honey dun hackle fibers</p> <p>Body: Dry fly dubbing, a rich mahogany (reddish-brown) color to match the natural</p> <p>Rib: Fine gold wire</p> <p>Hackle: Rusty dun dry fly hackle, trimmed top and bottom ala. Marinaro</p>
--

Copyright 2011, Rusty Dunn



On Wisconsin!

By Jordan Konisky, SWTU President

I ate my lunch, then leaned against a large rock for a short snooze.

I had driven 3 ½ hrs to reach my closest source of a live trout. On the way I passed scrub oak ranches with grazing Texas longhorns.

Though the early December day was warm and muggy, I was looking forward to fishing on the Guadalupe River which had been stocked with rainbows and would be fishable in the coming several months until the trout were taken, eaten by predators or dead from the warming river. I chose one of a half dozen access points leased by the 4000 member Guadalupe River TU chapter, the only TU chapter in Texas. I stopped at a locked gate, dialed in the combination and drove through to a clearing that had room for three vehicles. I locked the gate behind me, suited up and walked a few steps to the river.

It was a good morning and I landed a dozen rainbows, a few in the 12-15 inch range. The size 10 wooly bugger had worked well. For this privilege, I had paid a \$107 river access fee to the GRTU Chapter. It was well worth it.

I was awakened by a passing cloud that uncovered a stream of bright sunlight that beamed into my left eye, then my right. My back rested, I tightened my laces, anxious to fish. The spring creek was crystal clear, and there were Holsteins nearby. My Sage Z-axis was armed with a size 18 caddis pupa tied below a size 14 scud. I walked a few feet to the creek and made my cast. With a half dozen fish taken, I walked the few hundred yards back to my car parked along Highway L. Twenty minutes later I was home. I wasn't in Texas any more.

Bucket Raffle Items Needed

The bucket raffles are a fun part of every Chapter meeting and also important in helping to cover the meeting costs. Key to a good raffle is good raffle items and we're running low!



What are we looking for? Flies, flyboxes, books, videos, fishing artwork, fishing tools, tying materials or any nice outdoorsy, trout or fishing related item. Whatever you can donate would be great and can be bundled with other items to create a quality raffle. Just bring the item(s) to any Chapter meeting and talk to Jim Beecher, our Bucket Raffle Coordinator. You can also contact Jim at jbeecher@tds.net if you have questions.

Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited Leadership:

President	Jordan Konisky	(608) 203-6113	jordan.konisky@gmail.com
Vice President	Steve Wald	(608) 836-3338	sewald101@gmail.com
Secretary/Newscasts Editor	Tim Steines	(815) 830-1988	timsteines@gmail.com
Treasurer	Tom Thrall	(608) 273-4248	tthrall2@yahoo.com
Past President	Frank Kosmach	(608) 849-8907	kosmach@chorus.net
State Council Rep.	Dave Sanders	(608) 843-7125	daveandcheri@charter.net
Board Member	Jim Beecher		jbeecher@tds.net
Board Member	Jim Kanvik		jhjekanvik@charter.net
Board Member	Craig Amacker		amac@chorus.net
Board Member	Kelly Belshaw		belshaw@wisc.edu
Board Member	Terry Becker		grnwaydp@merr.com
Board Member	Chris Risbrudt		crisbrudt@tds.net
Newscasts Editor	Drew Kasel	(608) 212-6060	madkasel@gmail.com

Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited

P.O. Box 14352
Madison, WI 53708-4352