

# Newscasts

March 2008 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



## March Madness Auction – March 11

### Come and get it!!!

Proven patterns tied by local masters.

Beautiful fly rods.

Float tubes.

More proven patterns tied by local masters.

Guided trips.

Wonderful wooden creations.

These are just a few of the amazing things people have donated... and won... at the March Madness Auction. **You never know what you'll find, or the great deals you can get!** Your humble Newsletter Editor once won an ancient pair of size 13 Orvis wading boots he just *loves!*

So be there – with items to donate and/or cash to snap up some very cool *stuff*.

This is our second-biggest fundraiser, so mark it off on your calendar and we'll see you there! As always, we'll start at 7 p.m. at the Coliseum Bar and Grill on Olin Ave. If you'd like to eat, be there closer to 6.

## Gordon Creek Project

### Six-figure grant means major stream restoration

SWTU has received a grant of up to \$115,000 from the USDA Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program to improve part of Gordon Creek in Iowa County. We were one of only 3 organizations in Wisconsin to receive funding for aquatic projects and our score ranked number 2 out of 200 applicants.

By way of background, from 2003-2006 we acted as a pass through entity, made in kind and materials donations, and took easements for major projects on German Valley Creek organized by Pat Sutter from the Dane County Land Conservation District. German Valley is the headwaters of Gordon Creek.

From 2006-2007 chapter members participated in TU DARE workshops, the goal of which was to get our chapter involved in a major stream restoration project. After some consideration, the best project

appeared to be the 9600 feet between Sandy Rock Road and Brue Road. This project includes 4 land parcels with permanent easements. The WHIP grant is for the upper two. Although final plans, cost estimates and contractor bids are not in, it appears at this stage that the WHIP will cover improvements for much of the upper two parcels. The lower two sections will need to be funded yet but the WHIP grant is a huge jump start for the whole project.

The benefits to our chapter are numerous. We have taken a leadership role – with partners Wisconsin DNR and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service – to conserve, protect, and restore the cold water resource. Our members can get directly involved in a major trout stream conservation effort. Fundraising, community and landowner relations, other government agency relations, education, hands-on labor and handicap access are all areas where members can participate.

And of course, fishing. The Gordon Creek stretch is now class 2 water, bordering class 1 water, and with the habitat improvements we do, Bradd Simms, the local DNR fish manager believes it will reclassify to all class 1. Long and short, it's a Timber Coulee 45 minutes from the middle of Madison, saving \$50 in gas every time you go fishing.

Plus it's a beautiful valley with nesting eagles, several endangered species and other wildlife.

Mike Schmidt, Jim Gentry, Greg Vodak, Henry Nehls-Lowe and Jim Kanvic are the project committee. The overall project will go for two or three years, with years two and three in need of major funding. New grants are possible, but much smaller. Other partners are under consideration. We are off to a great start and it is a truly exciting development for our chapter. Contact Jim Gentry with questions or for details.

### You-Must-Be-Present-To-Win

There was no winner present for the February rendition of the You Must Be Present to Win Drawing. Thus, the jackpot grew from \$60 to \$80. Please join us at our March 11 chapter meeting for your chance to win an \$80 gift certificate to Fontana Sports Specialties. You need only be present (and able to discern the calling of your own name) to win.

## Chapter Election Reminder

### Is there a larger role for you to play?

SWTU has many open positions to fill at next month's meeting. The president, vice president and two board members are not running for reelection, plus the treasurer and secretary have hit 6 year term-limits.

Can you, or somebody you know, step forward and take on a leadership role?

To make a nomination, contact any officer or board member on the [Leadership Roster](#). (Officers are listed at the end of the newsletter.)

Names are forwarded to the Nominating Committee, which assembles a slate of candidates for the April chapter meeting (April 8, this year). If there is no contest for a slot, the person is typically approved on a voice vote. If a slot is contested, the election is conducted via secret written ballot. In addition, nominations may be made from the floor.

The Leadership section of [www.swtu.org](http://www.swtu.org) has specific details on election procedures and the expectations for each position. If you have a nomination or questions, call Bob Selk at (608) 233-5217.

## Special Needs Fishing Day

Please mark your calendars for our TU chapter's Special Annuals Fishing Day on Saturday, June 14, 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 Spring Valley Road. The Kalscheur property will be on your 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, 06/13/08, 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.

Contact [John Schweiger](#) at 238-8062 for more information or to volunteer Friday night.

## Some Fun Stuff Coming Up!

Mark your calendars and watch the *Newscasts* and [www.swtu.org](http://www.swtu.org) for more information!

### Token Creek Watershed Association Meeting

Windsor Town Hall (Mueller Rd, DeForest)  
Contact John Hutchinson at 837-2758  
March 24, 6 p.m.

### Casting Clinic (and general fishing know-how)

Salmo Pond (Hwy. 14, past Cross Plains)  
April 12

### Shabazz Outing – Avalanche Campground

Donate your time, flies, simple leaders, equipment!  
Contact [John Gribb](#) at 437-5260  
May 11 - 15

### Chapter “Meeting” and Campout

Avalanche, Wisconsin  
May 17

## Creek Work Days (and cancellations)

### Earn a right to wield the Stream Keeper

The March 8 Black Earth Creek workday has been canceled – too much snow for work or fun! But be ready to help out on **March 22, April 19 and May 10.**

The extra work day on Thursday, March 13 with Shabazz has been canceled as well due to ground conditions. Look to a future *Newscasts* or on [www.swtu.org](http://www.swtu.org) for a new date once it's scheduled.

Remember that each time you participate in a work day you will have one entry in the drawing for a beautiful **Sage SLT 4 weight** rod built by Jim Bartelt.

Nothing happens without you. To volunteer, contact Mike at [mgrimes17@charter.net](mailto:mgrimes17@charter.net) or (608) 655-1086.

## Welcome New Members

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

Lee Hooker	Stephen Berg
Mike English	Barry Bjorklund
Crystal Buck	Adam Lenarz
Michael Plesha	Jerry Sieling
Benjamin Bain	Kerry McGinley
Garth Ewing	Neb McGinley
Thomas Pezzi	

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.

## Fountains of Youth

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

by Rusty Dunn

Tie an Iron Blue Nymph on a #16 hook, and you've recreated the most famous fly of the most famous fisherman to ever put a wet fly before a trout. Walk into a fly shop and ask for an Iron Blue Nymph, and the clerk will probably look at you funny. "A what?" he might say, to which you reply, "Young fellow, perhaps you know it instead as a Dark Watchet, Little Purple, Dark Whirling Dun, Little Blue Dun, Iron Blue Drake, Little Dark Blue, or Iron Blue Quill... Got any?" You won't get the flies, but at least you'll have made the point that nymph fishing was refined long before the Copper John reigned supreme.

The Iron Blue Nymph and its dry fly counterpart, the Iron Blue Dun, are fly patterns nearly lost in antiquity. "Muddled **by** antiquity" might be a better description, because almost every author who ever wrote a fly fishing book prior to about 1900 included a favorite recipe, often several recipes. The names varied widely, as did the materials. You'll find Iron Blue recipes with condor quill, Tomtit tail, horsehair, mouse fur, swift feathers, cormorant, and rat whiskers. (How's your supply of rat whiskers?) The first unambiguous pattern for an Iron Blue appeared in 1681, but the most famous of all is undoubtedly the 1910 pattern of G.E.M. Skues.

George Edward Mackenzie Skues (1858-1949) is rightfully credited as being the father of modern nymph fishing. Generic subsurface wet flies had been around for centuries, but Skues pioneered hatch-matching patterns and methods of presentation that mimic natural behaviors of nymphs during progression of an emergence. Skues was keenly

observant of both mayfly and trout behavior, and his writings educated turn-of-the-century anglers on things we take for granted today. For example, trout feed on nymphs underwater long before they look to the surface; bulging rises identify fish taking nymphs just under the surface; fish take duns on top of the surface only late in a hatch; and wet flies are deadly when fished upstream and manipulated to mimic a nymph's natural behavior. Skues drew great satisfaction from the challenges of subsurface fishing:

*"In the effort to divine the indications which call for striking with the wet fly, I confess I find a subtle fascination and charm and, when success attends me, a satisfaction beside which the successful hooking of a fish which rises to my floating fly seems second-rate in its sameness and comparative obviousness and monotony of achievement."*

Skues' writings were very visible, and he introduced soft-hackled designs, which developed in Scotland and the north of England, to a wider audience. His Iron Blue Nymph is an excellent pattern for darkly colored blue-winged olives. BWOs are mayflies of leaden skies, blustery winds, drizzling rain, and cold fingers. Fish an Iron Blue as a swimming nymph early in a hatch, allowing it to swing deeply and then rise to the surface as would a hatching nymph. Fish it in or just under the surface when trout are bulging. Skues called the Iron Blue Nymph "*good medicine for bulgers*," and indeed it is. When casting to sighted fish in clear water, watch closely for a sideways glance, a flick of the tail, and a quick little nip – Skues' "*cunning brown wink*." Then, lift your rod tip, draw in the steel, and quietly say a thanks to Skues for his wisdom. Historic flies yield memorable fish, and Skues' Iron Blue one of history's finest.

### ----- Iron Blue Nymph -----

Soft hackled flies originated in Scotland and the English border country. Their hackle collars are usually quite long and intended to imitate both legs and wings. Hackle of Skues' Iron Blue Nymph is intentionally short and meant to imitate only the legs.

Hook:	Dry fly, #16-24
Thread:	Pearsall's Gossamer silk, crimson, cardinal or claret; substitute with polyester or nylon
Tail:	Three whisks of soft, white, hen hackle
Body:	Dark mole fur spun thinly on tying silk, exposing two turns of silk at the tail and tapering to thickest at shoulder
Hackle:	Jackdaw throat or starling, tied sparsely and rather short



**Important dates to remember:**

April 8	Elections – Chapter Meeting at the Coliseum Bar
April 12	Casting Clinic at Salmo Pond
May 17	Chapter “Meeting” and Campout at West Fork Sportsmans Club, Avalanche
June 28	Free Fly Fishing Clinic, <a href="#">Fitchburg Rec Dept.</a> , McKee Farms Park Shelter <i>Being put on by SWTU</i>

**Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited Leadership:**

President	Jack Way	(608) 222-2461	<a href="mailto:JackWay@Charter.net">JackWay@Charter.net</a>
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