

Newscasts

March 2010 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



The Meicher Madness Auction Be there for our March 9 meeting!

At our annual Meicher Madness Auction, you never know what you'll find, or the great deals you can get! It's a very fun night and you might walk away with some amazing stuff, including:

- Proven patterns tied by local masters
- Beautiful fly rods
- *More* proven patterns tied by local masters.
- Fly tying materials
- Wonderful wooden creations

These are just a few of the amazing things people have donated... and won... at the auction.

We're excited because this year we have two great guided trips to auction. One from **Jim Bartelt**, a well-known master of our local waters. Many of our members have been out with Jim, and they all learned something at the hands of this Spring Creek Specialist. The other is a trip for two with **Bob Linsenman**, our main Icebreaker speaker and renown guide of the legendary Au Sable in Michigan.

Auction items needed!

Besides your bids, we also need items for the auction. Gear, books, flies, boots, waders, vests, artwork, services and more! If it's remotely related to our sport and the outdoors, somebody will buy it! Just bring it along that night and we'll find somebody to buy it.

So be there – with items to donate and/or cash to snap up some very cool *stuff*. And in the tradition set forth by Larry, no \$10 bid will be accepted!

This is our second-biggest fundraiser, so mark it off on your calendar and we'll see you there! As always, the meeting is at 7 p.m. but please join us earlier for dinner and a few stories before.

Read on for:

- **Free Casting Clinic**
- **Special Annual Fishing Day**
- **A Women's Fly Fishing Retreat (sponsored in part by our Chapter)**
- **Rusty takes a shine to some brass**

Chapter Elections in April Can you help make a difference?

The annual spring elections offer an opportunity for Chapter members to serve on the Executive Board. This year we have numerous openings. Officers serve a one year term with a six year term limit. Board members serve a two year term.

The State Delegate to the Wisconsin Council of Trout Unlimited is a one year term up for election.

SWTU members further the Chapter mission in many ways and have made us one of the most active Chapters in the Midwest. A key to our continuing success is the regular change of leadership and the willingness of members to bring new ideas and enthusiasm to the Executive Board.

If are interested in serving in a position you need only 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 13, 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 has specific details on election procedures and the expectations for each position. If you have a nomination or further questions contact **Frank Kosmach** at kosmach@chorus.net.

Don't be caught without one!!

Do you have YOUR ticket?

The drawing for the **Amazing Alaska Raffle** will be held at our March 9 meeting. You can buy a ticket at the meeting for your shot (no worse than 1 in 200) at winning the trip of a lifetime.

See page 2 for more details!

**Last chance to get a Ticket for the Alaska Fishing Trip Raffle!
Drawing to take place at March 9 Chapter Meeting; Tickets available up until drawing!**

Tickets for the SWTU Alaska Fishing Trip Raffle remain available for purchase. The trip may be taken this summer (2010) or next summer (2011)

The raffle provides a marvelous opportunity for a trip of a lifetime while at the same time generating funds to support the Chapter's stream improvement program.

The winning raffle ticket will provide a 4 night and 5 day stay FOR TWO PEOPLE at Wilderness Place Lodge (www.wildernessplacelodge.com) located 80 air miles Northwest of Anchorage, Alaska on scenic Lake Creek.

The winning ticket will provide

- 4 night, 5 day stay FOR TWO PEOPLE
- Lodging and meals
- Daily guided fishing trips
- All required gear (may bring own gear)
- Transportation between Anchorage and Wilderness Place Lodge
- Flexible date for 2010 or 2011

The winning ticket does not include

- Transportation between home and Anchorage
- Overnight stay in Anchorage, if needed
- Liquor and gratuities at the lodge

No more than 200 raffle tickets will be sold for \$50 each. There is no limit on the number of tickets purchased by an individual.

All proceeds will be directed to support SWTU's trout stream improvement programs.

Tickets may be purchased by contacting Jordan Konisky at Jordan.Konisky@gmail.com and at the March 9 Chapter Meeting, right up to the drawing!

Fontana Sports (Westside) and Orvis (Greenway Station) also have raffle tickets for sale.

Please note that, by law, the Chapter must issue a 1099 form to the winner who must then pay taxes on the value of the trip (approximately \$6200) minus the cost of any tickets. For further information about the raffle and what the Wilderness Place Lodge offers, visit the Chapter Web site at www.swtu.org. Questions should be directed to Jordan.Konisky@gmail.com.

Garage Sale at June Meeting

Mark your calendars! A "garage sale" of outdoor gear will take place before our June 8 meeting. This will be from the estate of **Bill Maund**, who was a very active Chapter member in the 1970s and 80s. As with last year's sale from the Larry Meicher estate, half of the proceeds will go to the Chapter.

Free Casting Clinic on April 17

We are once again sponsoring our annual Fly Casting Clinic. The clinic is free, and available to anyone interested in learning how to cast a fly. Beginners are especially encouraged to attend. Loaner rods will be available for those who do not own their own equipment. The clinic will begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday April 17 at Salmo Pond (2 miles west of Cross Plains on Highway 14).

You can learn about casting, aquatic entomology and reading the water. This is a fantastic opportunity for anyone 6 years of age and older to get involved in our sport. These 2-3 hours would cost a bundle from a private guide! Let any friend, relative or neighbor know about this valuable once a year event. For more information, please contact Jeff at riversmith@charter.net.

Special Annual Fishing Day

Please mark your calendars for our TU chapter's Special Annual Fishing Day on Saturday June 14, 2009 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, 06/13/09, 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.

You-Must-Be-Present-To-Win

Nobody won at our February meeting, thus the jackpot grew from \$60 to \$80. Please join us at our March meeting for a 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.

Hunting and fishing licenses go on sale March 10

Licenses for current year expire on March 31
2010-11 Wisconsin hunting, fishing, trapping and other licenses and harvest permits for fish and wildlife activities in Wisconsin go on sale Wednesday, March 10. Annual licenses are valid from April 1, 2010 through March 31, 2011. Hunting and fishing licenses for the 2009-10 license year expire on March 31, 2010. While the "trout stamp" program will continue in name, this is the last year the DNR will offer the ability to get an actual artistic stamp.

2010 Spring Wildlife & Fisheries Rules Hearing questionnaire available online

The [questionnaire package](#) for the 2010 Department of Natural Resources Spring Wildlife and Fisheries Proposed Rules Hearing and Annual Conservation Congress County Meeting and the list of meeting locations is now available for review on the Department of Natural Resources Web site.

On **Monday, April 12**, there will be 72 public hearings, one in each county starting at 7 p.m. where individuals interested in natural resources management have an opportunity to provide their input by non-binding vote and testimony to the Department of Natural Resources, Natural Resources Board and the Conservation Congress

Inter-generational Fly Fishing Retreat April 30 – May 2

Sugar Creek Bible Camp is sponsoring a fly fishing class/retreat that will be taught by Trout Unlimited members. This is a great opportunity for younger and newer fly fishers to get started or moderate experienced to get help. General questions from Chapter members can be sent to Greg Vodak at gregvodak@charter.net.

Campers will stay in log cabins and fish the opener of trout season on Sugar Creek. People of all skill levels are welcome. If you do not have your own gear, say so when registering and you will be set up with some. The price is \$75 and includes meals, lodging, and instruction. To register, contact Sugar Creek Bible Camp at (608) 734-3113 or camp@sgrcreek.org.

Women's Flyfishing Weekend Retreat

**West Fork Sportmans Club
Avalanche, Wisconsin
June 25 – 27**

Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited is proud to partner with Wi Women Fish to offer a three day Women's Fly Fishing Workshop.

The workshop will include how to choose equipment, knot tying, casting, reading the water, stream ecology, matching the hatch and more. Attendees will learn new tactics, regardless of your level of ability.

The lead instructor is a female professional fly fishing instructor. We will be fishing rivers in the Kickapoo River system and you can bring your own equipment or loaner equipment will be provided. If you bring your own equipment, a floating 4 or 5 weight line is recommended. The workshop also includes a DNR stream shocking and etymology inventory where you can see what food sources are available to the trout and how to incorporate that information into your fishing tactics.

The workshop will be held at the Westfork Sportsman Club located in Avalanche WI. The Club has camping facilities on a 13 acre facility, including a club house with modern bathroom and coin shower facilities. The cost is \$130 and all camping fees and food will be provided.

If you are interested, sign up quickly because **spots are filling up fast!** Register or learn more by calling Barb at (608) 692-7386.

Welcome New Members

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

Mike Puls	Christopher Lenz
Jeremy Jones	Daniel Conwell
Ann Kreeger	Scott Roeming
Jon Moltzau	David Penwell

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!

Fountains of Youth

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

by Rusty Dunn

What's in a name? At times, quite a lot of confusion. The lexicon of fly tying and fishing can mislead beginners and experts alike. For example... Wings of a blue-winged olive are not blue. Mayflies are not true flies. Most green drakes aren't green. "Michigan Caddis" are not caddisflies. Pale Morning Duns often hatch in the afternoon. There's no blue in an Iron Blue Dun, no bucktail in a Bucktail Caddis, and no brass in a Brassie. No truth in advertising. No Tooth Fairy. No Easter Bunny. Just cold hard reality. Don't be misled by the Brassie, however. Even without the brass, it is a cracking good imitation of small nymphs and larvae.

Gene Lynch of Colorado Springs, CO is credited with inventing the Brassie in the 1960s for fishing Colorado's South Platte River. Trout of the South Platte are famously large and notoriously fussy. Lynch was a South Platte regular who weighted his nymphs by tying them over underbodies of copper wire. Lynch's fly tying was interrupted one day after wrapping several bare hooks with copper wire underbodies. Having no time to finish the nymphs, he tossed the wire-wrapped hooks into his fly box. He was fishing the South Platte a few days later, when he ran out of split shot. Lynch improvised by trailing an imitative nymph several inches behind one of the wire-wrapped hooks, hoping that the hook and wire would work in lieu of split shot. The tandem was a hit, and Lynch quickly caught several large fish, but not on the nymph. All were caught on the bare wire-wrapped hook! The South Platte Brassie was born in that eye-opening moment. Lynch had used brass-plated copper wire, hence the eventual name "Brassie". Lynch, together with Ken Chandler and Tug Davenport, refined and developed the original pattern into the current South Platte masterpiece. Copper wire eventually replaced brass-coated copper wire, because electrical wire was available in so many sizes.

The original South Platte Brassie looked more like an electrical connector than a fly. It had a body of copper wire and a short length of black, plastic, heat-shrink, electrical insulation behind the hook eye as a head. Brassies were sold in the 1960s in air-free gelatin capsules to keep the sparkling copper wire from oxidizing and tarnishing. The Brassie's shiny wire imitated abdominal segmentation, and its thin profile caused a Brassie to sink quickly.

Nymphs tied primarily of copper wire were not entirely new. The most extreme example of wire nymphs is Oliver Kite's Bare Hook Nymph of the late 1960s. The Bare Hook Nymph is descended from Frank Sawyer's original Pheasant Tail Nymph, which was tied using only pheasant tail fibers and fine copper wire. Kite noticed while fishing a Sawyer Pheasant Tail that it was effective even after being chewed and shredded to the point where almost no pheasant material remained on the hook. Kite then eliminated the pheasant altogether by wrapping fine copper wire on a bare hook as a small bulging thorax. When presented to trout in a manner that imitated movements of swimming nymphs, Kite's Bare Hook Nymph was remarkably productive. He used it for years, not as a carnival trick, but as his main approach to nymphing. For example, Kite caught 218 trout and grayling in 1967, and almost half came to hand with the Bare Hook Nymph. Kite coined the term "induced take" to describe when and why trout feed on the unlikely imitation. A Bare Hook Nymph is yet another demonstration that presentation, not imitation, is what catches trout.

Whatever trout see in the South Platte Brassie, they certainly admire it. Jim Poor, a former Denver fly shop owner and an acknowledged master of the South Platte, was once asked his opinion of why Brassies are so effective and what trout take them for. Poor, who considered nymph fishing a inelegant endeavor and something to be done only when desperate, replied mischievously, *"I think they take it for a Mepps spinner"*.

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----- South Platte Brassie -----

Non-tarnish, polymer-coated, copper wire makes today's Brassies sparkle forever. The available rainbow of colored wires makes for a rainbow of different Brassie imitations.

Hook:	Light wire wet fly hook, #16-24
Thread:	Black, smallest available
Body:	Fine copper wire, size to match the hook size. Natural, red, and green copper wires are the most popular.
Head:	A small tuft of peacock herl or black dubbing



Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters Honored by Trout Unlimited

At the February State Trout Unlimited Council Meeting, the League of Conservation Voters received Trout Unlimited's highest organizational honor, the Resource Award of Merit.

In offering the award, Trout Unlimited stated "Without Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters' leadership in conservation issues, our state would not have

achieved many of its conservation successes in recent years."

SWTU is proud to work with the League of Conservation Voters and congratulates them on a well-deserved honor!

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