

Newscasts

March 2011 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



The Meicher Madness Auction Win big at our March 8 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
- Wildlife artwork
- A guided trip with **Jim Bartelt**

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

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 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.

Read on for:

- ***A look at our very worthy award winners***
- ***Workday Party information***
- ***A page 2 loaded with information, events and ways to make a difference***
- ***A Rusty rerun of a fantastic classic***

Chapter Elections in April

You talents and knowledge can 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. Each year, three Directors are also elected and serve a two year term. Lastly, 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, please contact [Jordan Konisky](#), [Dave Sanders](#) or any member of the [board of directors](#).

Names are forwarded to the Nominating Committee, which assembles a slate of candidates for the April chapter meeting (April 12, 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.

You-Must-Be-Present-To-Win

We will not be doing a drawing in March due to the business of the auction, but mark our April 12 meeting on your calendar because somebody there **will win a \$100** gift certificate to Fontana Sports Specialties!

Workday Party – Make a difference!

By Dennis Presser, Workday Chair

Planning for the work party on **Saturday, April 30** is continuing. Partner organizations – Badger Flyfishers, River Alliance of Wisconsin, Upper Sugar River Watershed Association, Black Earth Creek Watershed Association, Token Creek Watershed Association, Deer Creek Sportsmen's Club – are interested in working with us to make a difference on a number of our local streams.

While the focus, as always, is on the cutting, sawing, pulling, and other tasks that a work party entails, we could use other help! If you can tie flies, loan tools or help coordinate work on a stream that is close to your heart (or home), we can use your time and talents. Contact me at wotihnisa@hotmail.com if you are willing to offer your time and skills to help make this project a success.

Register now: Women's Weekend Retreat

This year's women's weekend retreat will be **June 17- 19** at the West Fork Sports Club in Avalanche, WI. There are only 18 spots available! The cost of the clinic including meals and camping is \$185.

Participants will learn to choose equipment, tie knots, cast, read the water, learn stream ecology, and match the hatch. Participants do not need to have their own equipment as the WI DNR Fly Fishing rods are reserved for this clinic. If you have your own equipment, please bring it along. Professional women guides will lead the clinic. On Saturday night, participants will head out with women river buddies to put all the skills together in an "on water" experience. To register, e-mail Tina Murray at t.murray.t@gmail.com. You'll get a registration packet via e-mail that you'll snail mail in. First come, first serve! **Register now** if interested we expect it to fill in the next 2 weeks.



There will be a short presentation on last year's clinic at the April chapter meeting. Please join us!

Go to Camp – Stream Restoration Camp!

The Chapter will pay the way for 5 dedicated SWTU members to attend Stream Restoration Camp. This year it's being held March 26 – 27 at Living Waters Bible Camp in Westby, WI. (There will be time on Saturday for some fishing!) The camp covers many of the basics of stream restoration, project planning, recruiting volunteers, organizing a workday, grant writing and more.

This training is **vital** to the expansion and continued success of our Chapter's habitat restoration work. If you're interested in attending, please contact Dave Sanders at 843-7125 or daveandcheri@charter.net.

Free Casting Clinic on April 16

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 16 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.

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. 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 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.

2011 Golden Trout Awards

Listed below are the dedicated individuals who were justly awarded for their amazing efforts. Included with each is a snippet of the speech made when they were presented with their award at our Nash Williams Banquet in January.

Jim Kanvik – Service Volunteer

In 2010 Jim volunteered for a number of activities including stream restoration, chapter workdays, and spent countless hours soliciting and collecting raffle prizes for the Icebreaker, our largest fundraiser. All the amazing prizes at our Icebreaker were the result of Jim's never-ending efforts. Jim serves on the Board of Directors, and has provided leadership through examples of his commitment and hard work. Jim has also been an active chair member for our Gordon Creek project for over 3 years, where his talent has been irreplaceable in regards to stream observations/monitoring and oversight of the construction progress. Jim is a trusted liaison for the project, collaborating in very practical and common sense manners with all stakeholders, including landowners, County government, DNR and the contractor. Jim is a doer, and lets his actions speak louder than words.



Jim Gentry – Education Leadership

Jim has been an active chair member on the Gordon Creek project for over 5 years. Jim's expertise and leadership were particularly needed in the early stages applying for grants and related fundraising that proved to be paramount in seeing this project come into existence. A project that will remain a feather in this chapter's hat for years to come. Along with administering grants, Jim provided leadership in contractor scope writing, the bidding process, landowner negotiations and contractor monitoring. Jim made personal commitments of time, away from his family and career, even fighting rising gas prices to see this project through. Jim's pioneering efforts proved to be an educational model and foundation to chapter members and board members alike seeking to continue his journey on new waters from concept to completion. In addition to being a team member on this project, Jim finds time to maintain the Chapter's website, keeping it current with all our seasonal changes, event happenings, photos and updates. Jim has served on the board of directors, taught beginning fly tying classes for multiple years, and has chaired various chapter casting/fishing clinics.



Topf Wells – Conservation

Topf has been an active member in our Chapter for over 20 years. He's the Chapter's ambassador to County government programs as he has consistently demonstrated leadership for more than a decade working on conservation issues here in Dane County. Working with Kathleen Falk, Topf has pushed to dramatically increase the county's Conservation Fund, accelerate stream restoration projects and establish a Permanent Streambank Easement Program that is a national model and the envy of many TU chapters across the country. Nearly fifty miles of trout water have been improved and protected here in Dane County, in large part because of his efforts. With self-effacing charm, wit and grit, he has worked tirelessly to guide, encourage, prod and protect the county's environmental and conservation programs, even during difficult budgets. Topf has been a devoted steward for our home streams. He has been a champion of public access for hunting, trapping and, of course, fishing. Much of his work is behind the scenes and he invariably gives credit to others, but Topf has left his indelible mark on Dane County.



Henry Haugley – Award of Merit

Henry has served in our Chapter for nearly 35 years now, holding a number of positions on the Board including a term as President. This retired art teacher will hopefully never retire from what obviously appears to be one of his true passions... serving SWTU. He simply brings art to everything he does, be it tying a fly, casting a fly rod, landing a fish or teaching a youth streamside through Project Green Teen. He participates in just about all Chapter events and meetings (being absent only while on a fishing trip). He mentors and consults board members, is a strong advocate for membership recruiting, including seeking out candidates for project chairs, board seats and other leadership positions. Henry currently holds a chair position on our endowment committee. Additionally, Henry has made significant contributions to fundraising including: prizes for our Icebreaker and March Auction. He's taken responsibility in organizing more than one garage sale fundraiser, including a very successful sale for the Chapter of donations by his late friend Larry Meicher. Henry is quick to offer his time and experiences for meeting presentations, and of course, taught fly tying for nearly 30 years. His tying expertise is well known in the Chapter and recognized regionally, as he annually ties for large sponsored fly fishing expos in Illinois, Minnesota and Iowa. Henry, as all can attest, is truly ... a fisherman and our Chapter is so fortunate to know him.



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.

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[This column ran originally in March 2008, but bears repeating... especially in the early season when this classic BWO imitation works wonders on wary trout]

----- 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



Welcome New Members

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

Dan Haapala	Charles Howard
Tim Cartier	Michael Scott
Kris Glanville	Bill Mann
Thomas Anderson-Brown	

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!

SWTU Member To-Do List

- Make plans to attend the Meicher Madness Auction on March 8.
- See if you have anything you can donate to the auction... just bring it along... somebody'll buy it!
- Think about if you or somebody you know should run for the Board (pg 1)
- Let Dennis Presser know how you can help out at the big spring workday (pg 2)
- Check out all of the other happenings and opportunities on page 2.
- The early season draws near... get your gear together and get fishing!

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President	Frank Kosmach	(608) 849-8907	kosmach@chorus.net
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