

Work Day Opportunities

Are you worthy of the Stream Keeper?

The last work day on Black Earth Creek for this spring is **May 10**. We need to put in sweepers, limb some cedars, and remove a bit o' brush. That will finish that section except for a fall or spring brush pile burn. We meet at Salmo Pond at 8 a.m. and work to a natural break point around noon. Of course, lunch will be served.

If you have questions, please contact Mike Grimes, Project Chair, at mgrimes17@charter.net or (608) 655-1086.

Nothing happens without you. 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.



The highly coveted Stream Keeper
Volunteer at a work day for a chance to make it yours!

Special Needs Fishing Day Needs You

Our Annual Special Needs Fishing Day is Saturday, June 14 at Jim Kalscheur's Ponds. You can help some very special people who aren't ordinarily able to share the pastime we all love. Setup is at 7:30 a.m. and the fishing begins 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 you left. There is a map at right and TU signs will be strategically placed at intersections to help provide direction. 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](mailto:John.Schweiger@tu.org) at 238-8062 for more information or to volunteer Friday night.

Droppers

Mark your calendars and watch the *Newscasts* and www.swtu.org for more information!

- Wisconsin Outdoor Education Expo**
Volunteers needed to educate kids!!!
Dodge County Fairgrounds, Beaver Dam
Contact Larry Meicher cny29502@centurytel.net
May 15 and 16
- Project Green Teen Open House at Shabazz**
A showcase of student projects
Contact Tina Murray at 204-2468
tmurray@madison.k12.wi.us
June 5 from 2 – 6 p.m.
- Natural Resource Foundation Trout Outings**
Fly fishing & trout related seminars in the Driftless Region
Go to www.wisconservation.org and look at the May 24 and June 7 outings!! (Space is limited.)
Contact Kiera at 264-8548
- Free Fly Fishing Clinic**
[Fitchburg Rec Dept.](http://FitchburgRecDept.com), McKee Farms Park Shelter
June 28

Welcome New Members

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

Daniel Audaz	Mark Meyer
Rod McKenzie	Corey Kronser
Nicholas Nelson	Chad Neiwd
Kate Wiperman	Bradley Brumer
Stephen Wald	Kurt Osterby
George Kattermann	

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.

Kalscheur Ponds



Icebreaker Update

Planning for next year well underway!

By Josh Palmer, Icebreaker Chair

Today I fished for beautiful Dane County trout on caddis dry flies that I tied during the dead of winter. Though in January the trout weren't thinking of a caddis hatch, I knew it was coming up and I had to be ready. What this exemplifies is that trout fishing is a sport of preparation, planning and execution. (*editor's aside: I prepare and plan, but never execute – zero trout for the year!*)

For this reason, I am hoping to get you all excited for next year's Icebreaker.

I have good news. Our next event is looking to be as good (if not better) than all Icebreakers preceding. We in Wisconsin live among some of the finest cold water resources in the world. Likewise, we live among the finest fly fishing-minded people in the world. For this reason, the '09 Icebreaker will have a bit more of a local focus.

Rich Osthoff of Mauston, WI will be our keynote speaker. Mr. Osthoff wrote a blue ribbon book in 2006 called *Active Nymphing*. It will be SWTU's fortune to have him share ideas from this work in the dead of winter as we dream of trout. He will speak twice and join us for the Nash Williams banquet the evening before the Icebreaker. Mr. Osthoff is very prolific in many regards, including guiding, creative tying, writing for magazines and books, and traveling for trout.

Our regional speaker this year will be Mr. **Dave Barron** of Jacquish Hollow in Richland Center. Mr. Barron is a good friend of SWTU, and he is a guide and bed and breakfast host in the glorious Driftless Area of Richland County. Mr. Barron will enlighten us with expertise of the spring creeks of his home turf.

The 2009 Icebreaker will have all of the components that have made this such a successful event in the past, and there will be additional fun based on the recommendations and new ideas that came in after last year.

So put a big ol' circle around **January 17, 2009** on your calendar. There will be additional updates in the months to come. This is SWTU's most important fund raiser of the year. It's a great chance to keep the trouty embers glowing while your biggest problem isn't whether a tan or black caddis is needed to fool that 13 inch rising brown trout at the head of the pool.

There's a Tiger in the Stream

By William Flader

At least some streams, that is. Ever since the hippo in the Mekan River, and the occasional alligator elsewhere, we don't always know what to expect when we go afield. But I refer, of course, to a tiger trout, a gem you may never have seen.

The tiger is a naturally-occurring hybrid of a brown and brook trout, found in Wisconsin only where both species share spawning habitat. With increasing water quality in our southern Wisconsin streams that situation may occur more often, but in 60 years of trout fishing this writer has only caught three (two of those in 2007, the most recent on a banner day in late September where it was among 69 trout landed, about evenly distributed between brooks and browns).

Their vermiform (worm-like) markings tend to be variably exaggerated, and like brookies they can be either pale or highly and beautifully colored. You'll know one when (and if) you see it.

As with all hybrids, tigers are sterile, grow fast, and bite and fight aggressively. For this reason they have been produced in hatcheries and stocked in various states, often in catch-and-keep situations. I've heard that Wisconsin stocked tigers in Lake Michigan streams decades ago, in the early salmon experiment.

Needless to say, you can't exactly target tigers when you fish, but you can enjoy the beautiful surprise if you encounter one.



Tiger Trout – photo by William Flader

Fountains of Youth

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

by Rusty Dunn

At some point between mid-April and mid-May in the East and upper Midwest, many fly anglers begin to act quite strangely. Furtive glances at the window, sweaty palms, agitated conversations, quick peeks at the clock ... an unmistakable sense of urgency. Worried friends inquire, "Is everything OK?" Fly fishing friends, however, smile knowingly. They recognize the symptoms and make plans accordingly. They exchange whispered messages, reschedule appointments, and make preparations for one the year's highpoints – the hatch of Hendricksons.

Hendricksons are the first large mayfly of the spring, and their hatches are steeped in tradition. They emerge on spring afternoons when stream temperatures reach 50-52 degrees. Female duns are pinkish creamish grayish brown and imitated by a Hendrickson dry fly. Males are slightly smaller, more reddish in color, and imitated by a Red Quill. Remarkably, female and male Hendricksons often hatch in different parts of a stream. One riffle might yield only females (or nearly so), while another produces only males. Hendricksons of Wisconsin are sporadic, but if you ever find a good hatch, you probably won't forget it. After a winter of short rations, even the big fish join in the feast.

The Hendrickson dry fly is an American classic. It was developed by Roy Steenrod of Liberty, NY, a fish and game officer for New York state. His beat included many of the sacred temples of fly fishing history: the Beaverkill, Esopus, Neversink, and Willowemoc rivers. Steenrod learned fly tying from the great Theodore Gordon, founder of the "Catskill style" of dry flies. Gordon modified proven English patterns to imitate specific insects of Catskill rivers and to float on our swifter waters. The "hallowed four" of Gordon, Steenrod, Herman Christian, and Edward Hewitt refined the style over many years, bringing it to full flower and peak influence about 1915 or 1920.

The Catskill style dominated American dry fly patterns for several decades. Steenrod, more than anyone else, was responsible for teaching the Catskill style to subsequent generations. He taught fly tying at schools, Boy Scout meetings, churches, clubs, his home ... anywhere interested students gathered.

Steenrod tied the first Hendrickson in 1916 to match duns of the Beaverkill River. After two years of glorious successes, he named the fly after his best friend and fishing companion, Mr. A.E. Hendrickson. he name has since become synonymous with both the insect (three *Ephemerella* species) and the fly. Steenrod's original pattern called for a body of "fawn colored" red fox fur. Art Flick, in his influential 1947 book *Streamside Guide*, refined the body material to the faintly pink and now infamous "urine-burned underbelly fur of a vixen red fox." Thus began fly tiers' endless quest for the authentic but elusive dubbing.

"Catskill" is a style, not a pattern. Catskill flies are light, airy, and strikingly beautiful. They originated with Gordon, were refined by the hallowed four, and have been nurtured to the present by some legendary fly tiers, including Reuben Cross, Elsie and Harry Darbee, Art Flick, Walt and Winnie Dette, Mary Dette Clark, and others. Harry Darbee articulated the Catskill style in his delightful 1977 book *Catskill Flytier*:

"A good-sized hook, typically size 12 Model Perfect; a notably lean, spare body, usually of spun fur or stripped quill of peacock herl; a divided wing of lemon-colored, mottled barbules of a wood duck flank feather; and a few sparse turns of an incredibly stiff, clean, glassy cock's hackle, mostly either blue dun or ginger. The wings and hackle are set back from the eye of the hook, leaving an unusually long, clean 'neck' at the expense of a slightly shortened body."

If your fishing companions seem agitated and impatient in the next few weeks, just smile knowingly. Then, tie up some Hendricksons, reschedule those appointments, and be on the lookout for one of spring's most celebrated mayflies.

----- Hendrickson (Catskill style) -----

Hook:	Dry fly hook, #12
Thread:	Yellow
Tail:	Wood duck flank (Steenrod) or blue dun hackle (Flick) fibers; length slightly longer than hook shank
Body:	Urine-stained belly fur of a vixen red fox, thin and slightly tapered
Wing:	Wood duck flank fibers, length equal to hook shank
Hackle:	Blue dun



Honor the past by getting involved in the present

By Dave Sanders, SWTU President

What a great time to be a member for Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited. We are 653 strong with abundant opportunities for every passion.

There is a great debt of gratitude owed to our past leaders for giving us such a strong and vibrant chapter. It provides us a chance to continue and build on the chapter's past successes. We have the tools, people and ability to make this chapter a nationally recognized group of cold water advocates.

I challenge each and every member to adapt and participate in one or more of the abundant difference-making opportunities and programs the chapter

provides. The list is of ways you can make a difference is so long I won't list it here and risk the chance of omitting anything.

Get active now! You can start by attending the May Chapter Meeting featuring Dave Barron, joining in the Avalanche weekend outing, working on a stream restoration project, helping with the Youth Expo or guiding a "Green Teen" on the West Fork. And that's just what is happening in the next couple of weeks.

You won't find a better group of dedicated individuals anywhere.

Be proud, join in.

Note: Calendar (and many other) items can now be found in the "Droppers" column on page two!

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