

# Newscasts

May 2009 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



## Talking Trout — May 12 Chapter Meeting

Here, fishery, fishery, fishery.

**Kurt Welke**, Dane County Fisheries manager will be the speaker at our May 12 meeting.

Kurt knows trout, and will have a wealth of information to share with us. Maybe you'll pick up on a new spot or maybe you'll hear something that will spurn a new idea on how to fool trout with your pale insect imitation. The only way to know for sure is to show up!

It'll be educational and fun; everybody is encouraged to attend. We hope to see you there.

As usual, the meeting is at 7 p.m. at the Coliseum Bar on Olin Avenue but we'd love to see you before for dinner and a few fish stories.

## Election Results

By unanimous agreement, the announced slate of candidates was voted on en masse at the April 7 Chapter meeting. Positions were filled as follows on a unanimous voice vote.

- **President:** Dave Sanders
- **Vice President:** Mike Mihalas
- **Secretary:** Drew Kasel
- **Treasurer:** Tom Thrall
- **Board Directors:** Jim Kanvik, Mike Schmidt and Craig Amacker
- **Chapter Delegate to the State Council of TU:** Jeff Smith

Congratulations to all!

## Project Green Teen Open House

All are invited to the 2009 Shabazz Project Green Teen Open House on Wednesday, June 3 at Shabazz in the LMC (downstairs) from 2 - 6 p.m.

"Whether you can make it or not, we want to formally thank you for your contribution to our program and these youth lives." Says Tina Murray, PGT coordinator. *See page 4 for more PGT news!*

## Meicher Garage Sale At the June 9 Chapter Meeting

Mark your calendar – if you thought there were fantastic donations from Larry Meicher's collection of flyfishing gear at the March auction, you haven't seen *anything*.

The GARAGE SALE will be spectacular.

There will be time to look and select your purchase from the vast selection of priced-to-sell rods, reels, vices materials and more.

Dorothy Meicher is donating 50% of the profits from this sale to SWTU's Endowment Fund. Sales will take place before and after the June 9 Chapter meeting.

## Chapter Outing to Avalanche

Mark your calendars and join us at the Avalanche Campground **the weekend of May 16!** It's an informal event and all are welcome. Learn more at a Chapter meeting. Information on this and other happenings can be found on our calendar at [www.swtu.org](http://www.swtu.org).

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

We had a \$100 winner at the April chapter meeting, so the *You Must Be Present to Win Drawing* is back to \$20. Please join us at our May chapter meeting for a chance to win a \$20 gift certificate to *Fontana Sports Specialties*. You need only be present (and able to discern the calling of your name) to win.

## Chapter Calendar

Stay on top of all that is going on with flyfishing in our neck of the woods [by visiting the Chapter calendar](#).

There you can find out what's going on, and even see if we can have a **stream workday** that's not rained out! Our luck hasn't been great so far, but we'll have another day and that will give you another opportunity to get a chance to win the Streamkeeper II – a fantastic fly rod expertly built by Jim Bartelt.

If you'd like to help at a workday, contact Mike Grimes, Project Chair, at [mgrimes17@charter.net](mailto:mgrimes17@charter.net) or (608) 655-1086.

## Illinois TU Chapter donates \$1000 to Stream Easement Effort

By Dan Wisniewski

The Oakbrook Illinois chapter of TU has donated \$1000 to our chapter's fundraising drive to help Dane County purchase permanent streambank easements. So far, we have raised nearly \$23,000 for this effort. Earlier this year, the Elliot Donnelly TU chapter in Illinois had also contributed \$1000.

Staff from the Dane County Land and Water Resources Dept. and the Natural Heritage Land Trust have been meeting with landowners along lower Vermont Creek to discuss possible easements and restoration projects. The county hopes to use federal farm bill funds and DNR grants to fund at least one stream restoration project near the confluence of Vermont and Black Earth Creeks. Other projects are also being discussed as well as the replacement or modification of a number of problem culverts that hinder fish passage. In addition, the DNR is considering some minor restoration work on one or more of three properties it owns further upstream. We plan to continue working with the land trust and the county to raise additional funds to use for easement purchases along this stretch of lower Vermont Creek. Up to this point, our chapter members have contributed \$12,500 and these contributions have leveraged over \$10,000 in other contributions. We'll keep you posted as further developments occur on Vermont Creek.

If you'd like to contribute to our fundraising campaign, please send your check made out to Southern Wisconsin TU, 222 South Hamilton Street, Suite 12, Madison, WI 53703. All contributions are tax deductible and every cent will go for the purchase of permanent easements. Thanks!

## A Successful Casting Clinic



**Mike Miller talks invertebrates**

## Help out! Special Annual Fishing Day

SWTU's Special Annual Fishing Day is **Saturday, June 13** 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 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 your left. TU signs will be strategically placed to help provide direction. TU members are encouraged to bring their family members to share in this 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, 06/12/09, 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.

## Map to Kalscheur's Ponds



**Jeff Smith illustrates casting**

## Fishing for the Future

By Mac Schmidt, age 10 (son of Mike Schmidt)

Many people enjoy fishing in our beautiful outdoors. However, some anglers may not realize that they must clean up after themselves if they expect to keep the environment clean and the fishing fun.

Lead fishing weights, plastic baits and nylon fishing line can be very dangerous to animals. Fishermen often leave pieces of fishing line in the water or on stream and lake banks. According to [aboutmyplanet.com](http://aboutmyplanet.com), petroleum based monofilament fishing line takes 500 years to disintegrate. If birds get fishing line wrapped around their bodies, they may either choke or be unable to catch the food they need to survive. Most of the time, an angler is able to take plastic bait out of a fish's mouth without hurting the fish. However, if the fish swallows the bait whole, the fish can end up with either toxic lead from a fishing weight or a big chunk of plastic stuck in its stomach. Either of these items can kill the fish slowly over time. Lead weights, when left in the water, can be harmful to any animal in the food chain.

Another problem is that not enough anglers are following the "Catch and Release" practice. A fisherman who practices "Catch and Release" takes the fish he has caught off the hook and gently places the fish back into the water. According to fishing studies, ninety-five to ninety-seven percent of fish caught when fly fishing survive after the fish are released properly. Seventy to ninety percent of fish caught with plastic baits survive if the fish are released properly.

What are some ways to save fish and birds while improving fishing for future years? First, if bait is stuck on a rock, tree, lake or stream bottom, try to remove the bait without cutting the fishing line. Do not leave discarded fishing line behind. Next, try to use more biodegradable baits. Berkley TM sells biodegradable baits that actually work very well. Many anglers love using them, as they are extremely attractive to the fish. If the biodegradable bait comes off the hook, and the fish swallows it, the bait will disintegrate and disappear from the fish's stomach much faster than will regular plastic bait. Fishermen can also use fishing weights made of tin, bismuth, steel, and tungsten-nickel alloy which are not toxic to animals. Finally, practicing "Catch and Release" can make a big difference. Why not let that fish go, and allow your children to catch the fish's children? Even better, the fish will have a chance to grow larger and will be more fun to catch in the future.

It is possible to have fun fishing and save the planet while you do so. The fish and animal population will increase, as will fishing potential in the future.

## Learning to tie

**Fish beware! These tiers from the Sun Prairie tying class are armed to the teeth with the knowledge and skills to fool you mightily with their clever creations.**



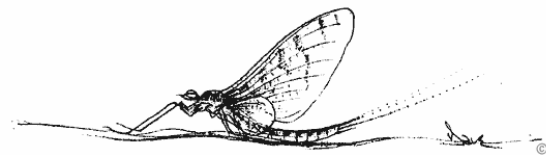
***The advance class.***



***Half the beginner class.***



***The other half of the beginner class.***



## Project Green Teen Successes!

**Shalla Kujawa** PGT 2008 (a Junior this year) is one of 30 students across the nation accepted into the Yellowstone Youth Conservation Corp. The complete restoration work for 8 weeks during the summer and have an hour of ecology education daily along with recreational pursuits such as hiking, rafting, fishing, etc.

Shalla writes: *My experience with Shabazz and PGT has been life changing. Before I came to Shabazz or took PGT I was a very different person than I am today. I was shy and unaware of the potential I had. After coming to Shabazz and being in PGT I now speak out and take a leadership role in our community. I love to learn now and I owe it to Shabazz. My experience with Project Green Teen was amazing. It was a privilege to be a part of the class. It was a great class where we helped the environment through hard work and was able to learn more and faster than we could sitting in a classroom. We did amazing things in PGT and became a strong community who could make a difference. Tina Murray is an amazing teacher. She is responsible for most of PGT. She works harder than any other teacher I know and was the one person I got the most life experience from. Tina taught me to do things even if they were scary at the time. Because of her and the support of the PGT community (volunteers too) I felt comfortable applying to the Youth Conservation Corp. I found out I was accepted and I am so excited. This summer I will work in Yellowstone National Park. PGT has prepared me for this with all the ecology, natural science, hard work and the ability to be my word.*



**Shalla and a bowl of morels**

**Keegan McLaughlin** - PGT 2008 student is going to Northland College (Ashland, WI).

Keegan writes: *Before PGT I didn't know which science I wanted to go into, after PGT I realized I wanted to go into ecology and work for the DNR. PGT showed me how interesting and enjoyable ecology is. I've been accepted to Northland and awarded the presidential academic achievement scholarship which gives me \$10,000 a year if I continue to get a 3.0 or higher for four years of college.*



**Keegan smiling streamside**

**Brad Mckercher** 2008 is in the process of applying to UW Stevens Point for Water Resource Management.



**Brad building lunkers**



**Brad and the one that didn't get away**

## Fountains of Youth

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

by Rusty Dunn

Ever wonder why "mayflies" are called MAYflies? May is the month of Ephemeroptera, the delicate, short-lived, winged jewels we spend so much time and effort trying to understand. It is a time of plenty. April's harshness has passed, bugs are hatching, and fish are on the prowl. It is *the sweet of the year*.

No mayfly is more revered or more historic than the fabled Hendrickson, aka. *Ephemerella subvaria*. Hendricksons of the east and upper Midwest are legendary. They are the first large mayfly of the year, and their emergence signals for many the true beginning of trout season.

Hendrickson duns are truly majestic. Large, stately, and with wings held high, they leisurely ride the surface for long distances. Hendricksons are probably the only insect for which you'll want a different fly to imitate the two sexes. Female duns are larger (about size #12) and a dirty pinkish grayish tan. Males are smaller (about #14) and mahogany red in color. The two sexes are behaviorally quite distinct also, with males often hatching from one riffle and females from another. Trout can be notoriously selective for one sex or the other.

Roy Steenrod's Hendrickson and Art Flick's Red Quill are the Catskill classics for female and male Hendricksons. To many fly anglers, fishing a Red Quill is synonymous with fishing a mayfly imitation. Don't be confused by the name, however. An old English fly of the same name exists, but it imitates very different mayfly species, ones not found in North America.

Harry Darbee, the pillar of Catskill fly tying tradition through much of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, was once asked who was the best ever Catskill fly dresser. Darbee smiled and said, *"They were all great tiers. I can't tell you who was best, but I sure as hell can tell you who*

*the nicest Catskill fly tier was – and that was Art Flick."*

Art Flick (1904-1985) was owner and innkeeper of the Westkill Tavern in West Kill, NY, situated amongst many of New York's storied Adirondack and Catskill mountain rivers. He was a modest and humble gentleman whose 1947 book *A Streamside Guide To Naturals and Their Imitations* is arguably the most influential book ever published for fly fishing the eastern US. In print now for over 60 years, *A Streamside Guide* was based on Flick's own extensive and accurate stream entomology plus decades of experience when matching flies to naturals. *A Streamside Guide* simplified insect identification and reduced the list of "must have" fly patterns to a select few. It demystified hatch matching and made fly fishing approachable for novices. Flick's *A Streamside Guide* was (and still is) a practical and straight spoken masterpiece.

Flick's home water was Schoharie Creek, and he was its guardian. The Schoharie had a mix of bass and trout when Flick moved to West Kill in 1934, but over time he orchestrated its transformation into a highly productive cold water trout stream. He repaired eroded banks and planted willows to stop further erosion. He persuaded the state to install a downstream barrier dam to prevent migration of bass and pike into trout water. He successfully lobbied for regulatory changes that established Schoharie Creek as New York's first catch-and-release only trout stream. And, he orchestrated acquisitions that made the Schoharie an early showpiece of public fishing access rights. He was a "river keeper" in the purest sense.

As the fly fishing historian J.W. Hills notes, *"Everywhere where trout are to be caught, the red cock's hackle will catch them."* Art Flick's Red Quill proves the point, and does so using only the quill. It is included on most lists of the world's greatest trout flies. When the "flies of May" come calling, be sure to have a copy of Flick's *A Streamside Guide* and some Red Quills handy.

### ----- Art Flick's Red Quill -----

Art Flick's Red Quill was the first fly to use stripped dry fly hackle stems ("quills") as a body material.

Hook:	Dry fly, #14
Thread:	Gray
Wings:	Barbs of a wood duck flank feather, upright and divided
Tail:	Natural dun hackle fibers, length equal to hook shank
Body:	Quill of a large hackle feather from a Rhode Island Red rooster, stripped and well soaked. The quill body should be lacquered when dry.
Hackle:	Natural dun rooster hackle



## A Busy Spring!

By Dave Sanders, SWTU President

Spring weather may have been reluctant to cooperate with some of our chapter plans but SWTU had a great start to the year with a very active and productive calendar.

Please congratulate our new board members Craig Amacker and Mike Schmidt when you see them at the next meeting and wish them well. Give a hearty welcome and thank you to Jeff Smith for taking on the State Counsel Representatives' job and don't forget to introduce yourself to Laura McFarland our new chapter educational chair. Laura will be looking for and gathering information on all of our events and helping to

memorialize the things that make them and our chapter successful. Additionally, Laura will be identifying new opportunities to expand our mission and build on the accomplishments of our chapter, making the best of all of our efforts, talent, experience and dedication.

Don't forget – try to make time for the trip to Avalanche for our informal chapter outing and gathering next weekend, May 16. Camping is only \$10/night at the West Fork Sportsman's Club. If you aren't familiar with the area and the numerous fishing opportunities this is an outing you won't want to miss. It's a great time to get to know other chapter members, enjoy some great streams and trade a few stories. Hope to see you there.

Fish On.

### Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited Leadership:

President	Dave Sanders	(608) 843-7125	<a href="mailto:daveandcheri@charter.net">daveandcheri@charter.net</a>
Vice President	Mike Mihalas	(608) 345-1614	<a href="mailto:mike@mihalas.com">mike@mihalas.com</a>
Secretary/Newscasts Editor	Drew Kasel	(608) 242-9872	<a href="mailto:madkasel@gmail.com">madkasel@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Tom Thrall	(608) 273-4248	<a href="mailto:tthrall2@yahoo.com">tthrall2@yahoo.com</a>
Past President	Jack Way	(608) 222-2461	<a href="mailto:jackway@charter.net">jackway@charter.net</a>
State Council Rep.	Jeff Smith	(608) 836-5974	<a href="mailto:riversmith@charter.net">riversmith@charter.net</a>
Education Chair	Laura MacFarland	(314) 650-5236	<a href="mailto:lmacfarland@wisconsinrivers.org">lmacfarland@wisconsinrivers.org</a>
Project Chair	Mike Grimes	(608) 656-1086	<a href="mailto:mgrimes17@charter.net">mgrimes17@charter.net</a>

### Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited

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