

# Newscasts

May 2010 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



## May 11 Chapter Meeting – Jim Bartelt Spring Creeks of the Driftless Area: Presenting the Moving Fly

Jim Bartelt – a proven “spring creek specialist” – will speak at our May 11 chapter meeting.

Teaching and fly fishing the spring creeks of southwest Wisconsin are two of Jim’s passions. Spring Creek Specialties (his guide service) is the outlet that he has been using for nearly two decades to meld these two loves. Though he is a retired teacher, he is clearly not done teaching. His new classroom has no walls, but is spring fed, and a driftless area runs through it.

At this meeting, Jim will talk about his proven techniques for moving the fly to imitate a living food organism. By bringing life to a dead drift, you will trigger cries of “Fish on!”

If you’re serious about catching more trout, you won’t want to miss this meeting. Jim is an expert on our home waters and will freely be offering his advice on how you can locate and catch more trout.

As usual, the meeting is at 7 p.m. but please join us earlier for dinner and a few stories before.

## 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.

### Read on for:

- **Garage Sale at June Meeting**
- **Workday Opportunity – May 15**
- **Special Annual Fishing Day**
- **Rusty looks at a “Prince” of a fly**
- **Project Green Teen Activity Update**

## Chapter Election Results

By unanimous agreement, the announced slate of candidates was voted on en masse at the April 13 Chapter meeting. Positions were filled as follows on a unanimous voice vote.

- **President:** Frank Kosmach
- **Vice President:** Steve Wald
- **Secretary:** Drew Kasel
- **Treasurer:** Tom Thrall
- **Board Directors:** Jordan Konisky, James Beecher and Brian Schwellinger
- **Chapter Delegate to the State Council of TU:** Mike Mihalas

Congratulations to all!

## Pitch In: Black Earth Creek Workday! By Chris Denzin, Co-Project Chair

On May 15th we will meet at Salmo Pond at 8 a.m. for our first workday of 2010, brush removal on Black Earth Creek. All of the work will be done on the north side of the creek. Please see [the workday PDF at swtu.org](#) for details. All you will need to bring are work gloves and a smile as all the work will be done out of the water. Waders will not be needed (unless you plan on fishing in the afternoon!). We should be able to wrap up the work around noon; lunch will be supplied at that time.

By participating in this workday, a true Trout Unlimited grassroots conservation effort, you will earn a chance to win the **Streamkeeper II** – a fantastic rod expertly built by **Jim Bartelt**. You can see the rod at the next chapter meeting when you sign up for the workday.

If you’d like to donate your time towards conserving, protecting and restoring Black Earth Creek, please contact me at [cdenzin@gmail.com](mailto:cdenzin@gmail.com) or 608-658-0168.

## 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.



## Record-setting Casting Clinic

We had an all time record of about 45 interested fly fishers attend our annual Casting Clinic at Salmo Pond. It was once again organized by **Jeff Smith**, who says that, “Everyone had a great time and really got a lot out of it.”

**Stephen Born** led the casting portion of it; **Andy Davidson** gave instruction on reading water, **Mike Miller** provided entomology lessons and **Doug Wadsworth** assisted with explaining equipment and miscellaneous other aspects of our sport.

## Welcome New Members

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

Tom Booker    Cary Hazard  
Bob Brockman

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!

## Streamside Picnic: Mark Your Calendars Saturday, July 10 in Mazomanie

We’ll be gathering at the picnic shelter at Lake Marion Park in Mazomanie. We’ll have a “shocking” view of the stream-life and get an overview of the significant environmental restoration project proposed for this area.



As usual, there will be a tremendous spread of fantastic food and camaraderie. It will be the morning of July 10. Look to [www.swtu.org](http://www.swtu.org) in the near future or a future *Newscasts* for exact details.

## Special Annual Fishing Day

By John Schweiger

Please mark your calendars for our Chapter's Special Annual Fishing Day on **Saturday June 12** 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, 06/11/10, 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



## Fountains of Youth

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

by Rusty Dunn

If someone hands you a Pheasant Tail Nymph and asks what it imitates, you'll likely say "mayfly nymph". Receive an Elk Hair Caddis, and you might say "adult caddisfly, probably an egg-laying female". One of the many hopper patterns? You reply without hesitation, "grasshopper ... no doubt about it". But if you're handed a Prince Nymph, you might be stumped. "Uhh ... umm ... I'm not sure ... maybe an earring?"

The Prince Nymph, known first as a Brown Forked-Tail Nymph, imitates nothing – and everything – simultaneously. It has an inherent 'bugginess' that trout find it irresistible. Its split biot tail is bold, the glossy green peacock herl shimmers in the current, the soft hackle collar breathes seductively, and the tinsel and white wings scream for attention. It is your basic subsurface attractor, one that has been catching trout for decades. Many devotees profess that it imitates stonefly nymphs. Indeed, a Prince Nymph does resemble juvenile stoneflies. But, it resembles juvenile Christmas tree ornaments just about as well. Perhaps trout take it as a stonefly, but a cased caddis larva, caddis pupa, mayfly or dobsonfly nymph, or even a drowned terrestrial seem equally plausible. Does it matter? Not a bit. Prince Nymphs appeal to trout, and that's what counts when you're filling the fly box or tying a clinch knot.

Doug Prince of Monterey, CA is often described as the originator of the Prince Nymph, but it was developed and first tied in the 1930s by Don and Dick Olson, brothers from Bemidji, MN. They called it the Brown Forked-Tail Nymph. It acquired its princely name in a roundabout way during the 1940s. Buz

Buszek, namesake of the Federation of Fly Fishers' annual award for fly tying excellence, owned a fly shop and mail-order business in Visalia, CA beginning in 1943. He employed local tyers to supply flies for the shop. Doug Prince was not a commercial fly tyer, but he was Buszek's good friend and tied flies for him for one year in the 1940s. Prince was a talented fly tyer who knew California rivers well. He tied his namesake fly for California's Kings River, but he called it the Brown Forked-Tail Nymph, presumably in reference to the Olson original. Buz Buszek was hurriedly preparing a new mail-order catalog one day, and he wanted to include Doug Prince's peacock-bodied nymph that was so effective. Buszek couldn't remember the fly's name, however, and in haste he just called it the "Prince Nymph". Buszek's catalog was distributed throughout the West, and the fly attracted a loyal following. Doug Prince's name spread with the fly, although he played no part in its self-congratulatory moniker. Doing so was not in his humble character: *"I tied what worked for me, and that's all I ever really worried about."* Doug Prince received the FFF Buz Buszek Memorial Award in 1982 but said at the time that he had *"no idea"* why.

Fish a Prince Nymph anytime, especially when you're unsure what insects a stream might hold. If you turn over rocks and see stonefly nymphs, all the better. Prince Nymphs are quite effective even during non-hatch periods. They are particularly good in fast, bouncy, turbulent water, the kind of well-oxygenated habitat that attracts both stoneflies and rainbow trout. Fish them deeply, either dead-drift or swung through the current. Perhaps it's fitting that a Prince Nymph looks more like a Christmas tree ornament than an insect, because some pleasant and satisfying gifts will await you when you cast one before trout.

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### ----- Prince Nymph / Brown Forked-Tail Nymph -----

The white biot wings of the original Brown Forked-Tail Nymph curved away from the body, but tyers today usually curve them toward the body. Bead head versions of the Prince Nymph are very popular.

Hook: Nymph hook, 2X-long, #6-16; a wire underbody for weight is optional
Thread: Black
Tail: Brown goose biots, split, length about one half of the hook shank
Body: Several strands of peacock herl, twisted with thread for reinforcement
Ribbing: Flat gold tinsel, 4-5 turns
Hackle: Brown or furnace hen hackle; 2-4 turns; clip a few barbs at the top to accommodate the wing



## First Column Jitters

By Frank Kosmach, SWTU President

I am honored and humbled to be sitting behind my keyboard writing my first President's column. There are many more to come, I know, and I also know that very soon they will feel normal. I am thankful to all who have supported me throughout this process. Just know that you got me into this, so I will have no hesitation to calling you for assistance or advice whenever I need it! If you see me walking sideways, it's a good indication that I'm needing someone to lean on.

Who would have guessed...the lowly monthly bucket raffle is now president? Yes, the janitor is now running the company. Well...not alone of course, in fact, not even close. I'm surrounded by a very competent board, experienced project chairs, and past elects, all of whom refuse to see me fail. All very comforting you should know, but then again this is not about me, it's about us.....TU...and more importantly... YOU. You, our Chapter member. You, a person interested in preserving and protecting our cold water resource.

If there is one thing I've learned in my year's of TU membership, it's that the true power of our organization comes from the multitude of people who get involved. Whether you're a master fly fisher who knows every bend of every stream or you're just getting started in your pursuit of trout, your help is needed!

I don't have the room here to list all of the ways you can get involved. Look through the rest of the newsletter... meetings, events, stream restoration workdays, special fishing days, and more. All are ways to get involved. First on the list to fill is the monthly bucket raffle position, my old job, and one I really enjoyed doing. Come on.... it's waiting for you. I promise it doesn't have to lead to the president's seat. I also promise not to let YOU fail.

It's an exciting time. I'm proud to be President and energized for the future. Together, there are great things ahead for US.

## Busy Times for Project Green Teen

By Tina Murray

The Shabazz Project Green Teen (PGT) class has so far this year helped restore ½ acre of oak forest to its natural state by removing invasives and casting native plant seeds. They also spent a day at Black Earth Creek with Mike Miller and his crew sampling invertebrates, water and fish. Classroom instruction had them looking at invertebrates, tying knots, and taking part in fly tying and casting clinics.

PGT will be in Avalanche, WI May 7 – 14 with fishing May 9 - 13. Anyone wishing to mentor a student on the stream or having flies for the students should please contact John Gribb ([jmgribb@mhtc.net](mailto:jmgribb@mhtc.net) or 437.5260). PGT wishes to acknowledge the generous donations of time, patience, skills and supplies from SWTU members. Without your contributions, this opportunity would not be possible for these youth!

Current service projects for the Avalanche trip include: removing beaver damns, cutting willows, placing rocks along the Westfork of the Kickapoo and various other stream projects with different cold water resource advocates.

PGT is also proud to announce that we have yet another student who just received a four year scholarship from Northland College. Julia Rowe, PGT 09 student will be attending Northland for Environmental Studies. This now makes six youth from PGT who are currently enrolled in college programs related to environment or water resource studies! YOOWHOOO!!!

## Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited Leadership:

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