

# Newscasts

May 2011 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



## A Focus on Streams

### Looking deeper into our cold water resource

Our **May 10 meeting** offers a fantastic mix of the *ecological* and the *fishillogical*.

**Mike Miller**, stream ecologist with the DNR, will be on hand to provide insight into the “how and why” of stream sampling research. Where do they sample? What do they look for? How is the information used?

Our Chapter has put a great many resources into Gordon Creek in Iowa County. Mike will also be sharing some “fresh” data with us on the very-preliminary results of a 2010 study of the Upper East Branch Pecatonica Watershed, which includes Gordon. It will be good information that the wily fisherman will know how to put to use!

As a stream ecologist and longtime fly fisher, Mike has learned a thing or two about where the trout are in Wisconsin and what they eat. You’ll want to pay close attention, as he will wrap up with a short travelogue of popular and lesser-known trout waters in Wisconsin.

Please join us for some fun, education and good conversation.

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.

## You Must Be Present to Win

Tom Krauskopf won \$100 at the April meeting, so our jackpot is reset to \$20. Please join us at our May 10 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:

- **Special Annual Fishing Day**
- **Project Green Teen updates**
- **Workday Party wrap-up photos**
- **Rusty looks at a great fly with a boring name.**

## Chapter Election Results

By unanimous agreement, the announced slate of candidates was voted on en masse at the April 12 Chapter meeting. Positions were filled as follows on a unanimous voice vote.

- **President:** Jordan Konisky
- **Vice President:** Steve Wald
- **Secretary:** Tim Steines
- **Treasurer:** Tom Thrall
- **Board of Directors:** Kelly Belshaw, Craig Amacker, Jim Kanvik
- **Board of Directors (off cycle):** Terry Becker, Chris Risbrudt
- **Chapter Delegate to the State Council of TU:** Dave Sanders

Congratulations to all!

## Chapter Commits Funding for Mazomanie-Black Earth Creek Project

By Jordan Konisky

The SWTU Board of Directors has approved a commitment of \$10,000 to support stream improvements on Black Earth Creek (BEC) as part of a major project to maintain and develop recreational opportunities for Lake Marion and associated Village of Mazomanie parklands. The Chapter contribution will include \$1,700 taken from its Endowment Fund and \$8,300 from other Chapter resources. The Endowment piece will derive from accumulated earned interest and will not decrease the corpus of the Fund. The SWTU-supported portion of the project, which significantly expands stream work associated with Mazomanie’s abandonment of the last dam on BEC, will improve fish habitat along the BEC corridor and extend trout waters by over one mile. Chapter members Bob Selk and Tom Krauskopf lead the Mazo-BEC stream restoration effort for SWTU.

... continued on page 2

*continued from page 1...*

Other aspects of the Mazo-BEC include improved wildlife habitats, replacement of BEC as a source of water for Lake Marion, restoration and development of wetlands, improvement of floodplain functions, and the development of recreational trails. The plan would also develop the Eva Wolf Conservancy, an 8.6 acre parcel donated to the Village by the Wolf family.

SWTU joins funding by the Village and Town of Mazomanie, Wolf Run Association, DNR, and federal agencies. For its share in the partnership Dane County has awarded, subject to final approval by the Dane County Board, a grant of \$250,000 to support the project through its Partners for Recreation and Conservation (PARC) program.

### **Much going on with Project Green Teen Tie some flies, help with the Westfork outing, attend their open house**

Our Chapter's longtime support of the Project Green Teen program at Madison's Shabazz High School continues this year.



Volunteers from our Chapter provide casting instruction, on-water assistance and fishing flies. Your help would be great in any area, but something you can do right now is to donate some flies so each student can have a good selection. Send them to John Gribb, 511 Hickory, Mt. Horeb, WI 53572.

Suggested flies for their outing and for the students to start their collection:

- BWO
- Sulfur #16
- Cricket #14
- X-caddis #16
- Pink Squirrel #12 or Scud #12
- Pheasant Tail Bead Head #16 – 18
- Woolly Bugger #8
- Terrestrials of all types

The Shabazz PGT outing is at the Westfork Sports Club May 13- 20 with fishing on Sunday May 15 – Thursday May 19. We are looking forward to this years trip. The casting and fly tying classes went fabulously! Thank you everyone. See you out there.

Please stop by the **PGT OPEN HOUSE** at Shabazz on Wednesday, June 1, downstairs in the LMC from 2 to 6 p.m. Student presentations will occur around 3 and 5 p.m. Their projects will be on display the entire afternoon. We hope you will join us. This is our way to give back to the gracious people who helped us create and implement this opportunity for youth. Please come and see the program.

### **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. 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 placed at key intersections to help provide direction. Or you can create your own directions using [the Google Maps link](#).

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.

### **Welcome New Members**

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

Dana Dentice	Jeff Fisher
Chuck Bauer	Richard Valenta
Zachary Role	

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!



It was a windswept and chilly **Casting Clinic** on April 16, but we had a good number of helpers and people interested in our sport!

Here **Bob Selk** helps a young man with the finer points of casting. View the [online photo album](#), courtesy **Jim Beecher**, for more.

## Workday Party Wrapup!

The big event on Saturday, April 30 spanned 4 sites and included posting of numerous invasive species signs. We had over 50 SWTU members and a half dozen PGT students doing fabulous work, partnering with other groups and making a real difference in the life and health of our local streams. Fantastic!!!

Pictures express so much more than words... below you'll find a few pictures from the work done at Token Creek, Garfoot Creek, Mount Vernon Creek and the German Valley Branch. Many thanks to all who helped out, and especially **Dennis Presser**, Workday Chair, who made this happen!



Lisa battles brush... and wins!



Bill puts the power saw to good use.

See more pictures at online Web albums!

Flickr album of [work at Donald Park](#), courtesy **Sue Fey**.

Picasa album of [work at a variety of sites](#), courtesy **Jim Beecher**.



The crew found plenty of brush to cut at Garfoot Creek.



After a great deal of cutting and brush-hauling, you can actually SEE Token Creek!

Winnowing the willows at German Valley Branch.



A well-earned lunch!

## Fountains of Youth

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

by Rusty Dunn

We take for granted the axiom that successful flies should imitate the natural foods of trout. "Match the hatch" is, after all, a foundation of our game. But how far should we take the concept of imitation? Should we replicate every aspect of color, shape, and texture down to the minutest detail? Or, should we just slap some fur and feathers on a hook and let the trout figure out the rest? Many distinguished anglers through the centuries have concluded that flies need not replicate all the details of a natural to be effective. Rather, an approximation of size, silhouette, color, and behavior is sufficient to fool a trout.

John Atherton, an often overlooked American angling author of the mid-20th century, was perhaps the most eloquent and thoughtful advocate of impressionistic fly design. "Impressionism" is rendering a perception of reality rather than its true form. Impressionistic flies are those that trout perceive as naturals, even though a close examination shows them to be approximations of the real deal. Atherton's insightful 1951 book *The Fly and the Fish* elaborates principles of fly design that all fly anglers should take to heart. He was a professional artist whose paintings in the style of "magic realism" drew worldwide acclaim. Atherton brought an accomplished artist's understanding of light, color, and visual perception to the issue of fly design, and he identified features of an artificial fly that are the most important for success.

Atherton was not the first author to emphasize impressionism in fly design. G.P.R. Pulman, for example, did so a century earlier in his 1851 book *The Vade-Mecum of Fly Fishing for Trout*. Pulman described size, color, and form as "*the character*" of an insect, and imitation as "*not a slavish copying of detail, but an expression of the general character.*"

Atherton revised and extended Pulman's beginnings with his detailed discussions of impressionistic fly design. He advocated use of mixed colors blended to achieve a desired tone, because a mottled color is more vibrant and lifelike than a uniformly dyed one. He understood the physics of reflection, refraction, and color absorption underwater, and how these phenomena affect the appearance of a natural or artificial. He described the effects of wind and wave on illumination and perception, causing insects to exhibit a "*changeable, indistinct and soft outline which is further broken by frequent movements of the fly's legs and wings*". He then chose fly tying materials that render a similarly indistinct appearance by their textures and colors. Atherton's investigations led to the design of 15 patterns that he described as "*not exact imitations of any one insect but an approximation of several*". Most of his patterns imitate mayflies, but Atherton did not relate specific flies to specific insects.

Atherton may have been a creative genius and observant fly designer, but he was a marketing disaster. Rather than snappy, memorable, or descriptive names for his flies, Atherton called them "Number One", "Number Two", "Number Three", etc. How could such flies compete with the likes of a "Royal Coachman", "Tup's Indispensable", or "Greenwell's Glory" for the hearts and minds of fly anglers? Interest in Atherton's flies faded rather quickly, probably caused at least in part by their tedious names.

Atherton's Nymph Number Two is similar to a Gold-Ribbed Hare's Ear, but with two notable distinctions. It sports a collar of soft partridge hackle for increased movement underwater, and the wing case is made of a bright blue feather. Atherton's justification for the bright blue is that mayflies often have brilliant accents of color (pink, yellow, blue, violet, etc.) somewhere on the body. The blue wing case provides that splash of color and makes the fly seem alive to a trout.

Copyright 2011, Rusty Dunn

### ----- Atherton Nymph Number Two -----

**Hook:** Wet fly / nymph hook, #8 - #18

**Thread:** (not specified)

**Weight:** Wire underbody at thorax (optional)

**Tail:** Three short pheasant tail barbs

**Abdomen:** Blended hare's ear fur spun loosely on thread, medium darkness

**Rib:** Narrow oval tinsel; pick out the dubbing between the ribs

**Thorax:** Blended hare's ear fur, spun loosely and picked out

**Wing case** Bright blue wing feather of an English kingfisher, lacquered in place. Substitute synthetic floss or dyed feather barbs



## President's Column

By Jordan Konisky

SWTU is alive and well. We are financially stable, growing in membership, and our members give of their time to support Chapter activities and programs. In the past year, you, our members, logged over 3600 volunteer hours. As important, SWTU remains ambitious and continually strikes out in directions that match our mission to conserve, protect and restore our trout fisheries and their watersheds. There is much energy within our Chapter, a vibrancy that comes from the membership. This was obvious to me at the very first SWTU monthly meeting that I attended in June 2007, and it is why I agreed to serve as SWTU President.

I look forward to the challenges and rewards of my new position. I am particularly excited about the new faces that have joined the Board – Tim Steines, our new Secretary, and our three new Directors, Terry Becker, Kelly Belshaw, and Chris Risbrudt. Each of them brings experience, expertise and interests that add to a very talented group of continuing Board members.

It was clear from our first Board meeting that the entire SWTU leadership team shares my enthusiasm for the coming year. However, if we are to do our job well, we will need your help. We encourage and want your advice and suggestions. From what I have seen so far, we'll certainly get it.

Finally, thanks to the entire Chapter for your confidence in your Officers and Board Directors. I speak for the entire group – We are honored.

## SWTU Member To-Do List

- Make plans to attend the May 10 Chapter meeting. (pg 1)
- Mark off the Special Annual Fishing Day on your calendar. (pg 2)
- Look into the many ways you can support Project Green Teen. (pg. 2)
- Set some fishing goals for the regular season. Consider including goals related to assisting the Chapter or helping to get somebody new into the sport.
- Catch some trout!

### Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited Leadership:

President	Jordan Konisky	(608) 203-6113	<a href="mailto:jordan.konisky@gmail.com">jordan.konisky@gmail.com</a>
Vice President	Steve Wald	(608) 836-3338	<a href="mailto:sewald101@gmail.com">sewald101@gmail.com</a>
Secretary/Newscasts Editor	Tim Steines	(815) 830-1988	<a href="mailto:timsteines@gmail.com">timsteines@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Tom Thrall	(608) 273-4248	<a href="mailto:tthrall2@yahoo.com">tthrall2@yahoo.com</a>
Past President	Frank Kosmach	(608) 849-8907	<a href="mailto:kosmach@chorus.net">kosmach@chorus.net</a>
State Council Rep.	Dave Sanders	(608) 843-7125	<a href="mailto:daveandcheri@charter.net">daveandcheri@charter.net</a>
Board Member	Jim Beecher		<a href="mailto:jbeecher@tds.net">jbeecher@tds.net</a>
Board Member	Jim Kanvik		<a href="mailto:jhjekanvik@charter.net">jhjekanvik@charter.net</a>
Board Member	Craig Amacker		<a href="mailto:amac@chorus.net">amac@chorus.net</a>
Board Member	Kelly Belshaw		<a href="mailto:belshaw@wisc.edu">belshaw@wisc.edu</a>
Board Member	Terry Becker		<a href="mailto:grnwaydp@merr.com">grnwaydp@merr.com</a>
Board Member	Chris Risbrudt		<a href="mailto:crisbrudt@tds.net">crisbrudt@tds.net</a>
Newscasts Editor	Drew Kasel	(608) 212-6060	<a href="mailto:madkasel@gmail.com">madkasel@gmail.com</a>

### Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited

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