

Newscasts

November 2008 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



Chapter Meeting – November 11

Wisconsin's Mighty Migratory Fish

Our November speaker is **Nate Sipple**. Nate has "had a fly rod in his hand since the age of twelve" and now works as a full-time guide for Tight Lines Fly Fishing in De Pere.

Nate will be talking about tangling with steelhead and salmon in Wisconsin. What opportunities are there? What gear to use? What techniques work for him?

Be there and you'll be in the know!

If you want some advance word on Nate, check out his blog at meanderingtrickle.blogspot.com/

As always, we'll start at 7 p.m. at the Coliseum Bar and Grill on Olin Ave. If you'd like to eat, be there closer to 6.

Nearly \$3,000 Contributed So Far to Dane County Stream Easement Program By Dan Wisniewski

As of October 31, Chapter members have already contributed over \$2,700 to help fund Dane County's new Streambank Protection Program. Chapter President Dave Sanders, Laura Hewitt and yours truly sent a letter to all chapter members in mid-October asking for donations to the county's effort to purchase permanent conservation easements on all of the county's Class I and II trout streams. Twenty-nine chapter members (listed at right) have so far contributed \$2,740, an average of \$95.

The county program was funded at \$100,000 in 2007, \$200,000 in 2008 and County Executive Kathleen Falk has proposed increasing the funding to \$300,000 for 2009. Seven conservation easements were obtained on the West and Primrose Branches of the Sugar River, permanently protecting five miles of stream. On October 29, the county closed on another permanent easement on the property of Bob and Tanya Thompson. This easement covers about one-half mile of Gordon Creek as well as 445 feet of German Valley Creek. Earlier donations of \$5,000 from the TU State Council and \$2,500 from SWTU

helped fund the Thompson easement. Each of the eight easement sections had had extensive restoration work done within the last five years; replacing earlier shorter-term easements with permanent easements will ensure that these investments will be protected **forever**. Several other easements are in the works, awaiting funding.

Every dollar that SWTU members donate will be used to buy additional easements. All contributions are fully tax deductible. Please contribute what you can.

Easement Program Contributors to-date:

- Daniel Laudon
- James A. Burns
- John D. Lyons
- Tom Bewick
- Steve L. Gordon
- Patrick Handrick
- Stephen L. Hawk
- Roger W. Howard
- Gene R. Mueller and Family
- Brent Nicasro
- Thomas Patterson
- Charlie Sanders
- Frederick W. Seybold
- John B. Tweddale
- Hugh Wabers
- Leslie R. Wadsworth
- Kate Wipperman
- Roger Clausen
- Greg and Jane R. Hyer
- Dave Kindig
- Joseph John Kubale
- Raymond Venn
- Douglas J. Wadsworth
- Jeff Smith
- Edwin N. Barnes
- Robert Selk
- Dan Wisniewski
- John T Gribb
- William A. Flader MD

Thank you!!

See inside for:

- **Fly Tying Classes!**
- **Workdays!**
- **Who won \$100 at the last meeting?!**
- **And a column from Rich Osthoff, our Icebreaker keynote speaker!**
- **And more!**

Still one more work day this fall!

We will meet at 8 a.m. at Salmo Pond on **Saturday, November 15** to work on Black Earth Creek. Salmo pond is south of the junction of Hwy 14 and Scherbel Road a mile or so west of Cross Plains.

Dates for next spring are also set:

- ♦ March 14 Location to be announced
- ♦ March 28 Location to be announced
- ♦ April 11 Location to be announced
- ♦ May 9 Location to be announced

If you have questions or would like to be added to the contact list, please contact Mike Grimes, Project Chair, at mgrimes17@charter.net or (608) 655-1086.

Welcome New Members

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

Sean Harrison Robert Pawelski
Robert Rubino Thomas Schnick
Earl Knudsen Luke Milligan
Amanda Stone

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’s Your Newsletter, Too!

Know something?

Think the SWTU members should hear about it?

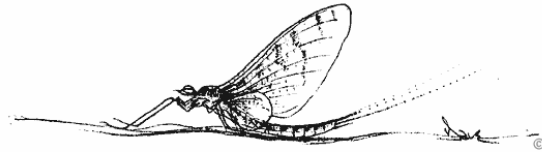
Just drop your loyal Editor a line at mackasel@gmail.com or catch me at a Chapter Meeting.

Many stories in have started with a Chapter member having an idea of something that should be here in the *Newscasts*. Your thoughts, ideas and considerations are always welcome.

Bucket Raffle Prizes

Prize donations for our monthly meeting Bucket Raffles are still needed. Please consider donations such as flies, small gear items, tying materials/tools, books, fly fishing memorabilia and other related items. Just turn it (whatever “it” is) in to the raffle table prior to any monthly meeting!

Fly Tying Classes 2009



SWTU invites you to learn fly tying or improve your fly tying skills. Beginning, Intermediate, and Advanced courses provide instruction on techniques, including hands-on demonstrations of fly patterns proven effective for local waters. **Classes are offered at no cost.** All materials, including hooks, are provided, but you must supply your own fly tying tools and thread.

All classes meet from 7 – 9 p.m. for ten consecutive weeks, beginning January 15.

Fitchburg Classes

Beginning Fly Tying OR Intermediate Fly Tying
Fitchburg Community Center
5510 Lacy Rd, Fitchburg

Sun Prairie Classes

Beginning Fly Tying OR Advanced Fly Tying
Patrick Marsh Middle School
1351 Columbus St, Sun Prairie

Advanced registration is required! You may register online at www.swtu.org or by US Mail. To register by mail, send your name, address, phone number and class level/site to:

Trout Unlimited Fly Tying Organizers
1522 Chandler St.
Madison, WI 53711

The registration deadline is January 9, 2009. Students will be accepted in the order registrations are received, and classes often fill to capacity. More information, including a list of needed tools and supplies, is available at www.swtu.org. E-mail questions to SWTU-FlyTying@sbcglobal.net.

You-Must-Be-Present-To-Win

The ~~insufferably~~ lucky very deserving Mark Rhinerson won \$100 at the October chapter meeting, so the *You Must Be Present to Win Drawing* is back to \$20. Please join us on November 11 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 own name) to win.

An Icebreaker Advance

By Rich Osthoff, Icebreaker Keynote Speaker

My favorite nymphing water on the Big Horn River is a nearly mile-long glide that's stuffed with fish. In typical late-summer flows of around 2,000 cfs, much of the glide is 3 to 6 feet deep with nearly uniform current speed. To catch trout at a frenzied clip all day long requires only a single small nymph pattern (I usually toss my size 20 Black Pheasant Tail Midge with a 1/16" copper beadhead) and a single presentation (a long up-and across cast followed by a long dead drift). That same nymph and presentation will often click all up and down that mile-long glide. Why? It's all one water type.

Contrast that to nymphing a mile of water on a small Wisconsin Spring Creek. As you move along a spring creek you encounter riffles, pools, tailouts, and flats in quick succession. The depth, width, and speed of the water change every few yards. And your angle of presentation shifts right constantly. I often nymph trout at a steady clip on a single fly pattern as I move through a mile of Wisconsin spring creek, but I have to employ an array of presentation skills to do it.

For every dozen guys who can nymph trout hand-over-fist from the Bighorn River, there is maybe one who can really pick a small spring creek apart—who can move through changing water types and

If you're interested in taking your nymphing to new levels on all water types, you'll want to catch my talk on Active Nymphing at the SWTU January Icebreaker.

For more advance word on what the Icebreaker will offer, to tune into Wisconsin Public Radio on Wednesday, December 31 from 11:06 to 11:45 a.m., as Rich Osthoff will be their guest!

Updates from the Icebreaker Chair

By Josh Palmer

Saturday January 17. The Icebreaker. Mark this day on your calendar. It is when we kick off SWTU's 40th year of life. We will celebrate by having the best speaking event, most raffle items, all-star fly tyers, greatest member turnout, greatest number of non members, and the day of most new TU member sign ups for the entire year. It's an electric day for everyone who comes.

The latest news is the addition of **Jim Bartelt** as our third speaker. Jim will give a presentation on spring creek fishing and also recap SWTU's first 40 years. He is a lifelong educator and will share his ideas on the past, present, and future of SWTU – as well as how to catch trout throughout our region.

Rich Osthoff and **Dave Barron** are honing their fantastic presentations as the winter draws near. They will present innovative ideas on sub-surface fly fishing, casting technique, fly design and places to fish for trout all around this great land.

As always, the Icebreaker is an event for the chapter by the chapter. Please consider making this day great by attending or even volunteering a little of your time or other resources. Contact Josh Palmer at joshuacpalmer@gmail.com if you have any questions or ideas. This is an event that is 100% fun and it will breathe new life in the chapter's next 40 years.

And don't forget about the annual **Nash Williams Banquet!** Held at the Bourbon Street Grille, this event kicks off the Icebreaker weekend Friday night, January 16. It is the perfect opportunity to include folks who aren't afflicted with our piscatorial fervor. It is SWTU's most formal event, so it's safe to bring your partners – heck, wear a tie or dress up if you feel like it! No matter what you wear, it is a relaxed night that is very warm and social – and we won't just talk about trout and fly casting! Rich Osthoff will be telling a short story and there will be a few special prizes to win. Your \$20 ticket will pay for dinner, a raffle entry and a very nice evening.

Friday, January 16
Bourbon Street Grille
6308 Metropolitan, Madison, WI
5:30 p.m. – Social hour with cash bar
7:00 p.m. – Dinner
7:30 p.m. – Rich Osthoff, guest speaker

Tickets \$20 in advance and must be purchased by January 8. Keep an eye on *Newscasts* and www.swtu.org for more details.

We need your help!

One thing that makes the Icebreaker great is the door prizes and auction items. Those don't just magically appear – good people like you donate them.

So, as the nights get colder and darker and you start spending more hours at the tying bench, please consider tying a few batches to donate.

Quality flyfishing and outdoorsy items are all great. Reels, rods, fly boxes, binoculars, vests, nets, etc. Or maybe you're a woodworker. Or rodbuilder. Or offer a service. If it's something you think a fellow lover of fishing and the outdoors would like, we'll take it! Please include a note describing your item so we can make cards for the event.

Contact Jim Kanvik at jhjekanvik@charter.net. Thanks!

Fountains of Youth

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

by Rusty Dunn

English flies are often named with a sense of whimsy. Wickham's Fancy, Houghton Ruby, Dotterel Dun, Welshman's Button... the list is long. Such names conjure images of long-forgotten anglers, quaint old-world locations, or materials plucked from an exotic species. Tup's Indispensable is one such flight of fancy. 'Tup' is a Scottish term for 'ram', a male sheep. 'Indispensable' refers to the magic ingredient supposedly needed for the fly's effectiveness. The secret sauce, the indispensable mojo, the fly tying secret guarded from disclosure for over 30 years.

The Tup's Indispensable was the brainchild of R.S. Austin, a merchant and fly tyer of Tiverton, England. Austin developed the Tup's around 1900 to imitate pale-colored mayflies. Fly fishing pioneer and author G.E.M. Skues introduced Tup's Indispensables to the world through his writings. Skues corresponded extensively with Austin, experimented with both dry and wet versions of Austin's pattern, and even suggested its snappy name. Skues' praise for the Tup's brought notoriety to both the fly and Austin. Theodore Gordon, Eugene Connett, James Leisenring and other 20th century American authors similarly praised its magic. They all credited its success to properties of Austin's dubbing. Skues probably described it best: *"When wet the Tup's wool becomes somehow illuminated throughout by the colour of the red [fur], and the entire effect of the body is extraordinarily filmy and insect-like."*

Austin shared the recipe for his dubbing blend with only two people, one of whom was Skues. This secrecy was part of the fly's allure. If you wanted genuine Tup's Indispensables – and Skues' writings insured that you would – Austin was the only source. Secrecy didn't deter others from attempting to guess

the ingredients, and many absurd creations were marketed as the real thing. They were all wrong, however, and Austin himself supplied the only authentic Tup's Indispensables. Tying them became somewhat of an Austin family industry, but success carried a price. Austin tired of tying such large numbers of one fly, and he once confided to Skues that his local rivers *"stank of Tup's Indispensables from [its headwaters] to the sea."*

After Austin died in 1911 and after his daughter retired from fly tying in 1934, the Austin family gave Skues permission to publish for posterity the dubbing recipe. Skues revealed the magic in a 1934 article published in the journal of The Fly Fisher's Club of London. So, what was the big secret of Austin's dubbing? Skues describes it:

"The essential part of this dubbing is the highly translucent wool from the indispensable part of a Tup, thoroughly washed and cleansed of the natural oil of the animal."

There you go. All you need for genuine Tup's Indispensables is fine wool cut from the scrotum of a white ram. Yeow! No wonder other writers failed to decipher the exact recipe. Before the advent of synthetic dyes, fly tyers relied on natural fibers to replicate desired colors, and the nuances of staining by urine (and other liquids!) were highly prized. Tup's wool was described as *"a beautiful dusty yellow."* Beautiful? Indeed. Plentiful? Not! Fortunately, synthetic dyes and alternative furs make collecting materials for a Tup's far more pleasant today.

Try fishing a Tup's Indispensable to imitate light colored mayflies. In Wisconsin, Sulfurs, pale BWOs, Light Cahills, and Light Hendricksons are very Tup's-friendly. Fish a Tup's nymph as an emerger and a Tup's dry as a dun or spinner. An English joke says that a Tup's Indispensable seems to catch more female than male trout, but it's no joke that you should tie one on and see for yourself.

----- Tup's Indispensable -----

Hook:	Light wire for dry fly; standard wire for nymph (pictured); size to match natural
Thread:	Pearsall's Gossamer Silk, Primrose Yellow (#3). Four turns without dubbing as a tag at the bend.
Dubbing:	Scrotum wool of a tup, mixed with fur of a lemon-colored Spaniel, fur of a hare's poll (forehead), and red mohair or seal to give a pinkish shade. Substitute a natural fur for the tup and Spaniel wool (eg. rabbit, possum, snowshoe hare) mixed with a little mohair or antron.
Tail and Hackle	Honey dun. Use rooster hackle for a dry fly and hen hackle for a nymph.



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