

# Newscasts

October 2008 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



## Chapter Meeting – October 14

### D.A.R.E. to learn something!

Our speaker will be **Jeff Hastings**, Project Manager for the Driftless Area Restoration Effort (DARE).

Jeff joined Trout Unlimited in the spring of 2006. Prior to working for TU, Jeff spent 25 years managing county conservation departments. For the past 15 years the designing and installation of trout habitat work has been an increasingly important element of his job, along with pursuing grants and partners to implement projects.

Jeff attended the College of Natural Resources at the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point where he majored in Wildlife Management and Biology.

Jeff will be giving us an update on DARE and our beloved driftless trout streams in general.

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.

**Your help IS needed. See page two for the workday calendar!!**

## 2008 Stream Keeper Awarded

Dennis Presser an active Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited and life member received the 2008 Stream Keeper Sage built by none other than our own expert and local guide, Jim Bartelt. Dennis's participation in our stream conservation work days are not only rewarded with improved trout water close to home, but he has a great new rod to stalk the streams with. We are sure Dennis will share an experience or two on his fishing conquests with his new Sage rod. Remember, the next **STREAM KEEPER** could be yours. There are several upcoming work day opportunities this fall and next spring (see page 2). Every time you contribute your time at a work day project you increase your chances of wielding a Stream Keeper rod.

## SWTU and PGT Receives \$5,000 Grant from REI of Madison

Southern Wisconsin chapter members Jordan Konisky, John Gribb and Dave Sanders joined Tina Murray and Shabazz faculty and students in accepting a \$5,000 grant from the staff of REI of Madison. The grant is in support of Project Green Teen's (PGT) cold water stream restoration, preservation and outdoor education programs. We would like to thank REI for their generous contribution in helping to sustain our local cold water resources by supporting the educational programs and enjoyment of our local PGT outdoor enthusiasts.



## Somebody is going to win \$100!!!

The *You-Must-Be-Present-To-Win* jackpot has reached its size limit. Contest rules stipulate that the jackpot never exceed \$100. So, someone will leave the October 14 meeting with a \$100 gift certificate to *Fontana Sports Specialties*. All members in attendance will receive, free of charge, the entry-half of a single raffle ticket. If the other half of your ticket is drawn from the hat, then you will the \$100 gift certificate. All you have to do is show up!



## Work Day Calendar

We will meet at 8 a.m. at Salmo Pond on the following Saturdays to work on Black Earth Creek:

- ♦ October 18
- ♦ November 15

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

Also be aware that Dane County has asked us to set up a stream monitoring program. They want someone to look at the places where they own or hold easements. In a sense, they are asking volunteers to adopt a stretch of stream and monitor it at least once a year. We will be working on it and will be asking for volunteers!

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

### ***A rough-and-ready group installs sweepers at the September 17 work day:***



## Welcome New Members

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

Norman Sveum	Adam Warriner
Jason Walling	John McMahon
Jens Eickhoff	Mark Mathews

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!

## Are you ready for the Icebreaker?

**Saturday, January 17, 2009**

The inland trout season has just ended, and we just had the opportunity to fish to our heart's content since March 1<sup>st</sup>. Hopefully that means that your wish to fish was fulfilled. You can now rest contentedly and reflect on all of great fishing that has just passed.

It won't be long though before that fishy feeling goes from contentedness to feeling like a symptom of cabin fever. Your fly box (which is now empty) starts to fill. Your fly line (now worn thin) is replaced. Heck, maybe you even consider washing your fishing vest. By January you are ready to go again, but casting into ice fishing holes is decidedly too unproductive.

There is only one thing for a trout fisher to do: Go to the SWTU Icebreaker on **January 17, 2009**. It is the best thing to do on a cold January Saturday. There will be speakers: **Rich Osthoff** and **Dave Barron** (more to come next month). There will be amazing fly tying demos by the chapters most innovative and most skilled tyers. There will be prizes: rods, reels, trips, lines, flies, and a whole lot more. There will be educational experiences for the whole family including Mike Miller's amazing insects freshly collected from the winter streams. And most importantly, there will be over 400 people with whom to meet, reconnect, swap stories, and make plans for the upcoming year with.

On top of all of this you will help kickoff the celebration of SWTU's 40<sup>th</sup> year while supporting the chapter's most important fundraising event.

There are details about the speakers who will be featured at this event in the May 2008 *Newscasts*, so look back if you want to prepare. Upcoming *Newscasts* will bring exciting new announcements as the 2009 Icebreaker draws near. The Icebreaker crew is now working to take all of the great experience and advice that followed last year's event and make the '09 Icebreaker completely stupendous. Remember, last year was the first year that we left the old Icebreaker grounds in McFarland and moved into the 21<sup>st</sup> century at the Promega Center in Fitchburg (and that's where we'll be again!).

### **Your help makes the Icebreaker great!**

If you would like to contribute an idea, prize item, or volunteer time to this event, please contact Josh Palmer at [joshuacpalmer@gmail.com](mailto:joshuacpalmer@gmail.com).

## Fountains of Youth

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

by Rusty Dunn

There's something inherently satisfying about casting locally designed flies over native trout. A delicate Quill Gordon drifted to native brookies of the Catskills. A big Stimulator swung over rainbows of the Pacific Northwest. A Royal Trude cast to cutthroats of Yellowstone country. Indigenous flies for indigenous trout. It just "feels right."

A fortunate few local fly patterns grow in significance and geography as their effectiveness is discovered and shared. The Humpy is a wildly successful attractor dry whose fame is truly global. It has at times accounted for 30% of annual fly sales by western fly shops. Author Randall Kaufmann described it as "*arguably, the greatest surface fly ever devised*," heady words for a pattern fished regionally in the 1940s by a small cadre of western enthusiasts. How did a local favorite get so famous? First and foremost, it is a great fly. But equally important, the enthusiasts who admired the Humpy early on included some notable anglers – the kind who influence what we tie to our leaders.

Jack Horner of San Francisco developed the Humpy in the early 1940s, naming it the "Horner Deer Hair" fly. Horner was an accomplished fly tyer who designed the pattern for California's swift rivers. One of Horner's customers brought the fly to the mountain west, where it was "discovered" and rapidly became a fly fishing superstar.

The Humpy's path to fame involved Pat Barnes, the venerable "Old Pro" of West Yellowstone. Barnes owned a prominent West Yellowstone fly shop and was guiding a client in July, 1947 on nearby Cliff Lake. The client had a brand new bamboo fly rod and insisted Pat give it a try. Barnes made one cast with the borrowed rod and fly. A large trout rose and broke the leader. Pat borrowed a second fly and made a second cast. Bang ... another large fish! This fish was landed, and while releasing it, Barnes

discovered two identical flies imbedded in its jaw. "*What is that fly?*" Barnes inquired, and the client responded "*a Horner Deer Hair*." Pat removed both flies, returned the rod, and stuck the fly with the broken tippet in his hat band. The next day, customers in the fly shop asked about the fly and leader hanging from Barnes' hat. Pat described the previous day on Cliff Lake, and the customers immediately wanted "some of those goofy looking flies." Sig Barnes, Pat's wife and one of the west's most talented fly tyers, replicated the fly on the spot. As they say, "the rest is history." The Horner Deer Hair was no longer a regional curiosity, but rather a hot new fly promoted by one of Montana's best known fly shops. Word of the goofy new fly spread, and it became a staple of Yellowstone area fly shops and boxes. It even sprouted a new name, the "Goofus Bug." Dan Bailey's fly shop in nearby Livingston enthusiastically promoted the Goofus Bug in the 1950s. About the same time, the Horner Deer Hair became known in the Jackson, WY area as a "Humpy," the name that is most widely used today. But enclaves of anglers in California and Montana – especially old timers – still call it a Horner Deer Hair or Goofus Bug. What's in a name? In the case of this fly, a lot of entertaining history.

The Humpy is one of the all-time great attractor dries. It is a true chameleon, imitating almost anything you or the trout want to see in it. Caddis flies, stone flies, mayflies, terrestrials, you name it. Tied in varying sizes and colors, it imitates them all. Today's pattern is more heavily hackled than Jack Horner's original, which was sparsely dressed and floated in the surface rather than perched high above it. A heavily hackled Humpy floats like a cork and is excellent for choppy turbulent water. It is highly visible and makes a great indicator fly for "dry and dropper" combinations. Don't think of the Humpy as just a trout fly, either. Bass and panfish love it.

Jack Horner's original fathered a long line of variations and adaptations, but the basic concepts of its design have been preserved throughout. Like all great attractor flies, it has an appeal that trout just can't resist. Neither should you.

### ----- Horner Deer Hair / Goofus Bug / Humpy -----

Hook:	Dry fly, #10-18
Thread:	Color to match abdomen
Tail:	Deer hair, light or dark depending on the colors
Underbody	Tying thread or floss; yellow, red, and "royal" are the most common.
Body:	Deer hair, pulled forward as a hump
Wings:	Tips of pulled-over deer hair, upright and divided
Hackle	Brown, grizzly, ginger, dun, whatever fits the imitation



## **Celebrating our successes; Securing our future**

By Dave Sanders, SWTU President

At the close of our 2008 Wisconsin Trout season, we could sit back and reflect on our successes and share a memorable event or fish story. I hope however, we remain mindful of our mission:

***“To maintain, protect and restore cold water trout fisheries and their watersheds. We shall celebrate our successes.”***

We are approaching a remarkable event: our Chapter's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Our Chapter was chartered in 1969 and 2009 will be a time for celebration. We all need to take a moment to renew our commitment to our precious cold water resource. There are many opportunities to contribute to ensure that we leave our local waters improved and accessible to future TUer's.

SWTU has sustained support of our goal for 40 years. Whether your passion is fly tying, teaching others about your passion, supporting PGT, working on stream restoration projects, contributing to our major fundraisers (the Ice Breaker or March Madness Auction), serving as project chair, director, chapter, state or national leader or donating your time and skills to our mission in any other way, the foundation of our success is in you, our member.

Your support is appreciated and treasured. As a conservationist and cold water fisherperson, we need your continued support. Our **permanent easement program** is a national-leading effort in conjunction with Dane County and others to ensure that the resource lives on forever. Watch for your opportunity to be part of the cold water legacy. In the near future, you will receive a request to contribute to permanent availability of our local Dane County trout streams. Please do what SWTU does best: contribute.

### **Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited Leadership:**

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### **Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited**

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