

Newscasts

October 2011 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



Shedding New Light on the Grass We Love to Hate Our October 11 Chapter Meeting

What do the German Wehrmacht, the Vikings, and the Basement Shaman all have in common? The answer is reed canary grass.

To you, it may seem a newer problem, but reed canary grass has been the topic of 729 published studies from 256 different peer-reviewed journals since 1834! Given such an extensive amount of literature to draw from, why is this species still so problematic?!

Enter Craig Annen, who has spent years organizing and synthesizing reed canary grass literature.

Craig earned his B.S. in Biology and Biochemistry from Edgewood College in 1998 and was introduced to the world of restoration ecology while volunteering with *The Prairie Enthusiasts*. He earned a M.S. in Aquatic Botany from UW – La Crosse in 2002, and began working as a restoration ecologist and as Assistant Professor of Natural Science at Lakeland College. In 2007, Craig founded Integrated Restorations, LLC, where he now works as Operations Manager and Director of Research.

At our October 11 meeting, Craig will talk about what he's learned about the reed canary grass that most all of us have, quite literally, tangled with! He will share his insights into potential management remedies that are more likely to achieve results at a lower cost and with less effort.

As usual, the meeting is upstairs 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

There was no winner at the last meeting, so the jackpot increases to \$80. Please join us at our October 11 Chapter meeting for a chance to win an \$80 gift certificate to *Fontana Sports Specialties*. You need only be present (and able to discern the calling of your name) to win!

Icebreaker Update

Mark your calendar! See how you can help!

Please be sure to set aside Saturday, January 14 for our annual **Icebreaker event**.

Our featured speaker is **Kirk Deeter**, noted Colorado guide and author. His articles have appeared in many national publications and his books include "Castworks" and "Tidelines."

The event will again be held at the spacious Promega Center in Fitchburg and we hope to see you there!

Your help is VITAL to a successful event. Two things you can do right now:



- Many hands make light work. Get in touch with Dave Sanders pheasanttails@gmail.com and find out what help is needed and how you can join in. There are a hundred ways, large and small, that you can make a difference.
- Look around. Think about it. What could you donate as a bucket raffle prize? Great prizes are important to the event, and they come from people just like you! Contact Jim Kanvik at jhjekanvik@charter.net with questions, your item idea or to let him know what you can contribute. Even a dozen of your favorite hand-tied flies can be put to great use!

Read on for:

- **News on the winners of the amazing SWTU/Nohr rod raffle**
- **October 22 Workday Party!**
- **Rusty re-runs a true fish-catching classic**
- **Jordan's article on important updates to our Chapter's bylaws.**

And the winners are....

Rod raffle raises restoration funds

A small gathering along the Blue River on September 24 brought great tidings to two lucky individuals!

- **Bill Wobbekind** from Chicago, Ill won the Paul Douglas bamboo rod
- **Tim Fraley** from Madison won the Sage rod and reel

The other big winner, of course, was our cold water resource... the raffle raised \$2,300 for joint stream improvement activities!

Tremendous thanks to **Paul Douglas** for the handmade work of fish-catching art, and to **Bill Weege** for donating the high end rod and reel. This was a great collaboration between SWTU and the Nohr Chapter.



Hoping to hear their name called



Drawing a winner

Fall Cleaning: The end of a season

Donating raffle and auction items is a fun, rewarding and easy way to make room for MORE fishing and outdoor gear! Large or small, your donation can be put to use at the Icebreaker (see page 1), monthly meeting bucket raffles or our March auction. Thanks!

SWTU Workday

Saturday, October 22 on Vermont Creek

Trout season is over and it's time to clean up!

Grab your work gloves and join us to help open up a section of Vermont Creek!

What: SWTU Workday on Vermont Creek

When: Saturday, October 22nd 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

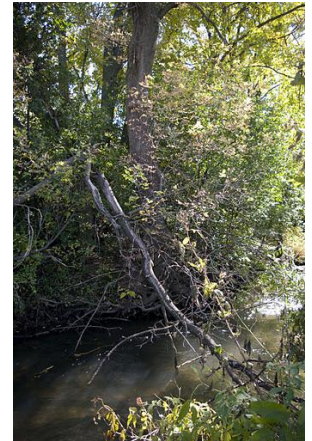
Where: Vermont Creek @ Highway KP in Black Earth

To sign up, please contact **Steve Wald** at 608-836-3338 or sewald101@gmail.com.

More specific information will follow in a separate email.

A recent picture at Vermont Creek

As you can see, it needs our help!



Bringing Fly Fishing to Disabled Military Veterans

On August 30, you received an email from the Chapter detailing a program we're exploring with Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing (PHWFF), a national non-profit organization dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled active military service personnel and veterans through fly fishing.

There are many ways you can help, and it is not expected that every volunteer engage in every facet of the program. Some might like to help out in the fly tying class, others in a casting clinic, others in taking out a veteran to a stream, or in other ways.

PHWFF provides an opportunity for our chapter to help rehabilitate a group of women and men who have suffered disabling injuries in the service of our country. The fly fishing experience can help to make them whole, physically and spiritually.

The email has more details of the program. If you have questions or are interested in joining this worthy effort, please contact jordan.konisky@gmail.com or at (608) 203-6113. This won't commit you to anything, but will put you on a list to learn about opportunities as the program shifts into gear.

Photo credits this page: Jim Beecher

Fountains of Youth

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

by Rusty Dunn

Have a sip of New York City municipal water, and you're drinking a cup of fly-fishing history. About half of The Big Apple's water supply comes from the Catskill Mountains, birthplace of American fly-fishing. The Catskills are where Theodore Gordon began the "Catskill style" of fly tying, where George LaBranche and Edward Hewitt pioneered and popularized American fly-fishing, where Preston Jennings compiled the first comprehensive list of aquatic insects available to North American trout, and where the H.L. Leonard and E.F. Payne rod companies tested some of the finest split cane fly rods ever made.

The historic Neversink River was a Catskill laboratory for these and many other angling advances. Its glory, however, has yielded to the march of time. Most of the Neversink's waters are now siphoned off to the mouth of the Hudson, where they irrigate and cleanse millions of New Yorkers who've never heard of a Quill Gordon or a Light Cahill. The very pools where American fly-fishing began, including river miles owned by Gordon and Hewitt, now lie beneath a water storage reservoir. May they rest in peace.

Edward R. Hewitt (1866-1957) honed his fly-fishing knowledge and skills on the Neversink. His contributions to angling are the stuff of legend. He invented and patented the felt-soled wading shoe, built one of the earliest interchangeable fly reels, bred poultry expressly for the quality of its hackle, and established The Big Bend Club, a fishing camp on the Neversink that was a Mecca for fly-fishing's luminaries. Hewitt's early books, *Secrets of the Salmon* (1922) and *Telling on the Trout* (1926) were published at a time of rapid growth in fly-fishing and had a big impact on a country thirsting for good fly-fishing information. Hewitt was, above all, a conservationist, one who managed his river miles meticulously and advocated

catch-and-release fishing at a time when the number of Catskill trout seemed infinite.

Hewitt is perhaps best known for his observation that most fly anglers progress through three successive phases of maturation: a phase of catching the most fish possible, followed by one of catching the largest fish possible, followed by one of attempting to catch the most difficult fish possible, caring more for the sport than landed fish. Hewitt lived a long rich life, and he spent many satisfied decades in phase three of maturation. For example, he was the first angler to land an Atlantic salmon using a dry fly and a 1-1/2 ounce 4wt bamboo fly rod! It was a remarkable feat, although local fishing guides described it as "the salmon that caught Mr. Hewitt".

Hewitt hooked the infamous salmon on a Bivisible dry fly, which, along with the Neversink Skater, are Hewitt's two most famous flies. Both are high floating flies suitable for gentle slicks, turbulent riffles, and everything in between. The name "Bivisible" indicates that the fly is visible to both trout and angler. A palmered darker hackle provides floatation and visibility to trout, while a contrasting collar of white hackle provides visibility to anglers. The fly is derived from an ancient English pattern, the Palmer Sedge, which Hewitt spiced up with the collar of white.

The Bivisible is a fluttering fly, a fly for skating, skittering, and enticing a lazy trout, a fly so buggy it can't be ignored. It imitates egg-laying caddis very well, but it also brings up fish between hatches, especially on the warm breezy days of terrestrial season. It is a fly for fishing the water, not the rise, one with which to create "a hatch of frauds". In short, the Bivisible is a classic attractor fly, one that has caught fish for almost a century. Don't be afraid to jerk a Bivisible underwater and fish it as a wet fly swung in the current or retrieved with short strips. It may look like no insect you've ever seen, but a Bivisible will still grab a trout's attention.

Copyright 2011, Rusty Dunn

----- Brown Bivisible -----

Hewitt's Bivisible can be tied in any color combination, but the collar hackle should always be white. The original and most popular color is the Brown Bivisible. Palmer the hackle with the dull side facing forward for best floatation, especially when skating the fly.

<p>Hook: Dry fly, #10-16</p> <p>Thread: Brown</p> <p>Tail: Brown hackle fibers</p> <p>Body: Brown floss or tying thread</p> <p>Hackle: Brown or furnace, palmered, with a collar of white hackle. Counter wrap the hackle with thread or fine wire.</p>
--



Revising our Chapter Bylaws

By Jordan Konisky, SWTU President

Our Chapter is governed by a set of Bylaws. Originally drafted early in the establishment of the Chapter, its contents reflect the vision and intent of our sage founders. A revised version was drafted in 2006-2007. I have heard from those directly involved that the debates were of a scale not seen since the U.S. Constitutional Convention of 1787.

Our Bylaws are important at several levels. They define our mission "...to conserve, protect and restore our trout fisheries and their watersheds." Everything else flows from that statement of purpose. They describe how we are organized and governed, and our relationship to the TU national organization. They define do's and don'ts – thou shall behave in a tax-exempt manner; thou shalt not discriminate; thou shalt keep out of politics; thou shalt not own property; thou shalt or shalt not etc. and etc. and etc. Our Bylaws define how to become a SWTU member as well as the grounds and process for a member's expulsion. Our monthly, annual, and Board meetings are discussed. Through our Bylaws, Chapter Officers and Directors are informed of their duties – and grounds for their removal.

There's a section that deals with management and oversight of Chapter funds, our endowment and other assets, such as all that stuff wedged into our storage closet.

Finally, and to the point of this column, our Bylaws tell us the rules for making changes to it – the dread of every chapter President.

Earlier this year TU decided to bring a degree of uniformity to the Bylaws of its 450 member chapters. Not a bad idea. To "assist us" (make that "direct us") TU issued a set of guidelines that included some suggested, some recommended and some mandatory language. Naturally, the Board asked our local Bylaws guru, Bob Selk, to look over our Bylaws and to recommend to the Board any revisions that would bring them into conformity with the TU guidelines. As he always does when asked to do something for our chapter, Bob agreed (without complaint). Bob's recommendations were presented to the SWTU Board on September 27 and, with a few minor changes, unanimously approved. This was not an easy task, and we owe Bob a great deal of thanks for the time and effort that was required.

The revised Bylaws now **move to the full SWTU membership for their action at the November 8 monthly meeting**. So that members of the Chapter have a chance to review the language of the revisions before voting, they have been [posted at SWTU.org](#). Enjoy the read! Your comments are welcome.

Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited Leadership:

President	Jordan Konisky	(608) 203-6113	jordan.konisky@gmail.com
Vice President	Steve Wald	(608) 836-3338	sewald101@gmail.com
Secretary/Newscasts Editor	Tim Steines	(815) 830-1988	timsteines@gmail.com
Treasurer	Tom Thrall	(608) 273-4248	tthrall2@yahoo.com
Past President	Frank Kosmach	(608) 849-8907	kosmach@chorus.net
State Council Rep.	Dave Sanders	(608) 843-7125	daveandcheri@charter.net
Board Member	Jim Beecher		jbeecher@tds.net
Board Member	Jim Kanvik		jhjekanvik@charter.net
Board Member	Craig Amacker		amac@chorus.net
Board Member	Kelly Belshaw		belshaw@wisc.edu
Board Member	Terry Becker		nipanther74@gmail.com
Board Member	Chris Risbrudt		crisbrudt@tds.net
Newscasts Editor	Drew Kasel		madkasel@gmail.com

Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited

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