

# Newscasts

May, 2007 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



## Bugs and Big Fish

Anyone who maintains that you must know Latin in order to catch trout with flies is probably delusional. However, knowing what kinds of insects inhabit a stream will do wonders for your angling success. Our May 8<sup>th</sup> chapter meeting speaker will be *DNR Entomologist* and *Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited* member Mike Miller.

Mike knows a **LOT** about bugs. When he is on the clock, he pays a lot of attention to entomological minutia. When he is off the clock, he would rather spend his time extracting artificial flies from fish lips, than precisely identifying the hatch *du jour*. For Mike, it is a matter of balancing vocational and avocational interests.

The title for Mike's May 8th presentation will be, "*Trout Stream Management and Trout Angling Opportunities Around Wisconsin*". He will showcase management efforts on a handful of trout streams across Wisconsin. In addition to the work being conducted by *Department of Natural Resources* staff, he will provide detailed information on the miles of fishable water on each of these streams, prime angling locations, aquatic insect life found in these streams, and other ecological bits of information to help improve angling success. Attendees will come away from the meeting with ideas on new streams to try, a better understanding of trout stream ecology, and fly patterns that can improve angling success.

The meeting won't start until 7:02 pm, so please join us around 6 for dinner. As always, we will meet at the Coliseum Bar, 232 E. Olin Ave. in Madison. We hope to see you there.

## Proposed Bylaw Changes

At our May 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, all *Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited* members will have an opportunity to vote on proposed revisions to our chapter bylaws. After extensive, thoughtful deliberation, the *SWTU Board of Directors* approved of these changes. However, the final decision must rest with the chapter membership. You are hereby encouraged to review these revisions prior to the meeting. Please visit the chapter website ([WWW.SWTU.org](http://WWW.SWTU.org)) and follow the links to the bylaw revisions. Compare the current version to the proposed revisions and decide for yourself whether you like the changes or not. Then come to the May 8<sup>th</sup> chapter meeting, and vote.

## Work Day Announcement

A work day on *Black Earth Creek* has been scheduled for Saturday, June 12. Volunteers are asked to meet 0.6 miles west of the Cross Plains village limits (as measured from the bridge near the sewage treatment plant). There is a yellow house across the highway from the rendezvous point, and you will probably notice a gaggle of TU brethren milling about while waiting for instructions. Their vehicles tend to be considerably more rustic in appearance than those parked near the *Overture Center* - you can't miss them.

Work will commence at 8:00 am, and lunch will be provided.

## Who Wants 100 Fishing Bucks?

The *You-Must-Be-Present-To-Win* jackpot has reached its size limit. Contest rules stipulate that the jackpot should never exceed \$100. So, someone will leave the May 8<sup>th</sup> meeting with a \$100 gift certificate to *Fontana Sports Specialties* in hand. To make this happen, 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 be the lucky winner of the gift certificate. All you have to do is show up.

## SPRING CREEK SPECIALTIES



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## From the President

### CADDIS TIME

By Jack Wa0079

It's occurred to me that sometimes I get so involved in chapter business and functions, that I forget that the original reason I got into this mess was to learn how to catch trout - on a fly rod. If one has any hopes of actually experiencing angling success, this is the time of year to have at it.

There is this wonderful little bug, known as the caddis fly that starts hatching on most of our local streams, right about now. Some brownish, some black. Most of them are about size 16, some a little smaller. The whole deal with this little critter is threefold – 1) the bug is big enough to actually see 2) they spend lots of time on the surface 3) the trout hate 'em.- why else would they attack them so viciously?

This is the confidence building time of year – even a mediocre fisherman, like yours truly, can go out and reasonably expect to catch (some) fish on a dry fly! I'm telling you, it's like taking candy from a baby. The trout get temporarily stupid, thereby enhancing the apparent skill levels of all of us. Were it not for the next few weeks, there'd be a lot more people on the golf course.

So, forget about those nasty weeds covering your lawn. Mulching can be done in July. Pay a neighborhood kid to mow it if the neighbors scream too loud. Just get out there and have some fun.

But don't get so enthused that you miss our next chapter meeting. We need you there.

### Does This Sound Familiar?

I've always fished small water, brooks and streams and little rivers. I've never been able to make it back to my car before dark. No matter how early I start, it's night when I get back. I fish this hole, then that riffle, under that undercut bank, that outside bend, each spot looking sweeter and more promising than the last, until I'm miles away from where I started. When it's clear that the hour is late, then I fish my way back, each possible trout hiding place looking even more exciting than it did before, the new angle changing it, the thought that dusk will make the fish hungry nudging at me.

*From, Erasure : a novel  
by Percival Everett  
Reprinted by permission of Hyperion*

## Earth Day Clean Up of Black Earth Creek

It was a good year for picking trash out of our beloved *Black Earth Creek*. That is to say, we found less of it than usual. We continue to find a lot of litter at bridge crossings, but the amount picked out of the stream corridor is dwindling. Nonetheless, we found more than enough junk to keep more than 20 people busy for a couple of hours on April 21<sup>st</sup>.

Please join us in thanking the volunteers listed below. They took on a dirty job and they did it well.

Barbara Bates	Justine Malinski
Jim Beecher	Mike Mihalas
Steve Born	Nicholas Mihalas
Jason Ellefson	Laurie Reichling
Al Flygstad	Ella Schmidt
Yi Gao	Mike Schmidt
Jim Kitchell	John Schweiger
Dave Lucey	Chuck Valliere
Mark Maffitt	Jinfu Zhao
Jim Malinski	

## Jason Borger Casting Clinic

Join Jason Borger and fellow SWTU members for a casting and presentation clinic on Saturday May 12, 9AM to noon; at Wingra Park (please note revised location). The clinic will focus on skills you can use to practice casting accurately and effectively, as well as ways in which to present your flies to difficult trout. Please bring your own casting gear, including a leader similar to what you normally use.

Jason has generously offered to teach this casting clinic in order to help us raise money for the chapter. The clinic is open to 12 SWTU members, and all proceeds from the clinic go back to SWTU to help with local conservation projects. Attendance will be limited in order to maximize the educational benefit of participation. Two spots remain available for anyone who wishes to avail themselves of an opportunity to learn from a master caster while making a donation to the chapter. If you would like to register for one of the two openings, then please mail a \$100 check (made payable to Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited) to:

Mark Maffitt  
6306 Bradley Pl  
Madison, WI 53711

**For Sale on the TIMBER COULEE:** 40 acres with year round two bedroom cabin and walk out basement. Located between Westby and Coon Valley. 2 hours from Madison. 608-241-4227

**Fountains of Youth:** *A look at classic trout flies that remain forever young*

By Rusty Dunn

*Newscastrs* begins a new monthly column that examines classic trout flies of the past. We'll look at patterns that may have lost their place of honor in fly shops and glossy magazines, but they've lost none of their fish-catching magic. Find an old book of fly patterns or look in your granddad's fly box, and you'll discover flies that are the foundations of our sport. Those old flies are great fish catchers, often better than the latest "hot new fly". *Fountains of Youth* will examine effective and innovative trout patterns that have withstood the test of time – flies that truly are "forever young".

The first printed description of an artificial fly for trout is attributed to the English prioress Dame Juliana Berners in 1496. Her chapter entitled *A Treatyse of Fysshynge Wyth an Angle* published in *Book of Saint Albans* described how to make fishing rods, lines, hooks, and artificial flies. Berners' patterns are known today as soft-hackled flies, although she didn't use the term. Dame Berners', "*The donne flye the body of the donne woll & the wyngis of the pertryche.*" translates to, "The dun fly, a body of dun wool and wings of partridge".

Berners' Dun Fly is today's Partridge & Orange. Soft-hackled flies were the mainstay of English angling for hundreds of years. Angling attention didn't move to the water's surface until the 1800s, at which time dry fly fishing came to dominate the gentle chalk streams of southern England. After several decades of rigidly enforced dry fly purity on English rivers, G.E.M. Skues championed the use of soft-hacked nymphs in his 1910 book "*Minor Tactics of the Chalk Stream*". Such tactics were "*minor*" only in the sense that dry fly fishing represented the "*major*" approach.

James Leisenring of Pennsylvania brought soft-hackled flies to anglers on this side of the pond. Until Leisenring's influential 1941 book *The Art of Tying the Wet Fly*, American wet flies were *winged* wet flies almost exclusively. Of the 420 wet flies pictured in Ray Bergman's 1938 classic work *Trout*, 402 were winged wets, and none of only 16 nymphs wore soft hackles. Leisenring changed all that. His 1941 book described how to tie soft-hackled flies and briefly discussed when, where, and how to fish them. Leisenring's methods are basically the same as those described by hundreds of subsequent authors. It is difficult to find a more influential 81 pages in American angling literature.

The basic patterns and principles of soft-hackled flies developed in the north of England. Such flies are variously called Hackle Flies, Palmer Flies, North Country Flies, Yorkshire Spiders, Wingless Wets, Floating Nymphs, Flymphs, or today simply "soft-hackled flies". The common theme of all such patterns is a hook sparsely dressed with tying thread or various furs spun on tying thread, and finished with a sparse collar of soft bird hackle. The underbody of thread shows through the shaggy fur, suggesting translucency of a natural. Tied in appropriate sizes and colors, soft-hackled flies *suggest* -- but don't precisely *imitate* -- nymphs, larvae, ascending pupae, and transitional emergers of essentially all aquatic insects. Fish them upstream, either in the film as an emerger or drifted more deeply as a nymph or pupa. Soft-hackled flies swung through a riffle are excellent imitations of swimming caddis pupae. They are superb trailers behind an indicator dry or behind a weighted nymph for deeper presentation. Try them in the sizes and colors of your favorite mayfly, caddis fly, or stonefly. You'll be surprised how effective a 500-year old pattern can be.

### Hare's Lug & Plover

"Lug" is an old Scottish term for "ear". Thus, the Hare's Lug & Plover is basically nothing but a good old Soft-Hackled Hare's Ear. The hook size, the thread and dubbing color, and the hackle can be substituted to imitate just about any mayfly, caddis fly or stonefly you'll encounter. Tie the spun fur sparsely and scraggly.

Hook	Light wire, dry fly; #12-20
Thread	Pearsall's Gossamer Silk, orange (#19)
Body	Hare's mask fur, blended to a golden ginger-brown, spun loosely
Hackle	Golden plover, length between hook barb and bend

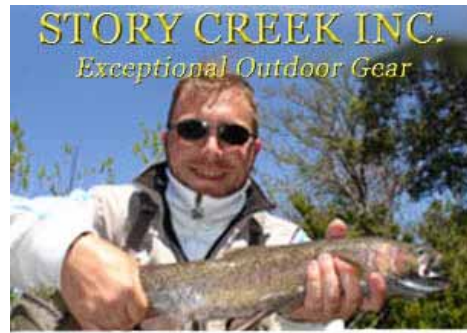


### Welcome New Members

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

Michael Goldsworthy      Keith Panke  
Dave Gray                      Jim Selk

We are honored to have you among us. Please join us for a chapter meeting, and we will give you some free raffle tickets. These aren't those cheap raffle tickets that you may have been bribed with in the past. These are top quality raffle tickets, capable of winning fabulous prizes, like flies, books and other cool stuff.



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### Important dates to remember:

May 8 <sup>th</sup>	Chapter Meeting featuring DNR Trout Stream insect expert Mike Miller
May 13 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup>	Project Green Teen Outing in Avalanche
May 19 <sup>th</sup>	Board of Directors Meeting in Avalanche
June 9 <sup>th</sup>	Special Annual Fishing Day at Kalscheur's Ponds
June 12 <sup>th</sup>	Black Earth Creek Work Day

### Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited Leadership:

President	Jack Way	(608) 222-2461	<a href="mailto:JackWay@Charter.net">JackWay@Charter.net</a>
Vice President	Dave Sanders	(608) 843-7125	<a href="mailto:daveandcheri@charter.net">daveandcheri@charter.net</a>
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