

Newscasts



September 2007 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Gary Borger to Speak at September 11th Meeting

By Dave Sanders

September 11th marks the beginning of a new round of chapter meetings. This year we are starting with a speaker that needs no introduction. Gary Borger is a leading fly fishing expert and we are lucky to have him present, "Sight Fishing with Nymphs from Top to Bottom". Learn these amazingly easy and highly successful new tactics for nymph fishing that make the process totally visual - just like fishing dry flies.

Gary will also have available limited editions of his *Presentation* book for sale at the meeting. Consider adding one to your fly fishing library for only \$100. The signed/numbered book (250 total copies) is leather bound in a slipcase and comes with a reading ribbon, a signed and numbered bookmark with a fly that he tied, and an original piece of art by Jason Borger that is also signed and numbered.

Please join us at our September 11th chapter meeting. The meeting will begin at 7:02 PM at the *Coliseum Bar* on Olin Ave in Madison. Please come early and perhaps you will learn some new fishing lies from your dining partners.



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Newscasts Editor Needed Immediately

By Mark Maffitt

When I assumed the *Newscasts* editorial reins from Dan Wisniewski in 2001, I bet him that I could edit longer than he did. As it turns out, I only had six years of editorial service in me – Dan had eight. I am thankful to have had the opportunity to serve as editor, and I am honored that you trusted me with the responsibility. However, Dan won the perseverance contest - this is my last edition of *Newscasts*.

Our chapter has changed a lot in the last six years, and our membership has changed too – 43% of those listed on our current roster joined after I became the editor and only one current member in four would know who Dan's predecessor was. We now stand at a crossroads, for my resignation brings a growth opportunity for whomever decides to step forward and become my successor.

Will that successor be you? Please give the idea some thoughtful consideration. Nobody will expect you to serve as long as Dan or I did. As editor, you will come to know the satisfaction that comes with oiling the workings of the finely tuned machine that is *Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited*.

If the job seems daunting, let me assure you that this is not rocket science, brain surgery, or even molecular biology. Even I was able to do it. If you write slowly (as I do), it might take a few hours per month. If you go to the board meeting each month, you will gather most of the material that you will need for each edition. Keep the board honest though; you are signing on to be the *editor* not the *author* – and the difference is significant.

Volunteer opportunities like this do not come along every day. If you are interested in serving as the next newscasts editor, please contact Jack Way today – before some other thrill seeker beats you to it.

You-Must-Be-Present-To-Win

There was no winner present for the July rendition of the *You Must Be Present to Win Drawing*. Thus, the jackpot grew from \$40 to \$60. Please join us at our September 11th chapter meeting for your chance to win a \$60 gift certificate to *Fontana Sports Specialties*. You need only be present to win.

BECWA Anniversary

By Greg Hyer

The *Black Earth Creek Watershed Association* (BECWA) is celebrating its twentieth anniversary on October 3, 2007 at the *Old Feed Mill* in Mazomanie from 5 to 7 pm. *Trout Unlimited* was instrumental in forming and supporting the organization. *Trout Unlimited* members are invited to attend the celebration of the health of the creek and the many people and groups who support it. There will be food, awards and entertainment.

In the early 1980s, a hazardous landfill challenged the viability of the creek and posed a threat to the entire watershed. In response to these threats, BECWA formed to unite the citizens for the protection of the watershed. As one of the oldest community-based watershed associations in Wisconsin, BECWA believes that increasing and enhancing the sense of stewardship among the residents of the Black Earth Creek Watershed will protect the stream for everyone's benefit.

Since its inception, BECWA has attempted to bring divergent, often opposing groups together. BECWA acts within the community to conserve the land and water resources of the Black Earth Creek Watershed. The organization is a unique resource for citizens, town governments, villages, farmers, public and private agencies, the university, and others who have a home in the Watershed. When a need arises over development, environmental hazards, land use, or any other threat to the watershed, BECWA has consistently convened various interest groups in the hope of finding solutions that ultimately protect Black Earth Creek while meeting the needs of the watershed citizens.

For more information contact Greg Hyer at grhyer.wisc.edu. Donations for the celebration can be made to Black Earth Creek Watershed Association and sent to Greg Hyer, 4296 County P, Cross Plains, WI 53528.

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From the Project Chair

By Mike Grimes

I just finished meeting with DNR fish manager Kurt Welke and fisheries technician Scott Harpold. Much has changed since my last meeting with Kurt – the DNR has developed a *Master Plan* for the maintenance of Black Earth Creek. The plan is well along and they expect the work to take four years to complete. Once the work is complete, they plan to perform similar work on Mt. Vernon Creek. We have a part to play in these efforts. We have three workdays scheduled for this fall: September 22nd, October 13th, and November 3rd.

Our part includes, but is not limited to, installing sweeper trees, limbing cedars, brushing, burning existing brush piles, and removal of boxelders. The more we do, the faster they move to Mt. Vernon.

On September 22nd, we will meet at Salmo Pond, where we will trim limbs from cedars and remove boxelder trees upstream of the Scherbel Road Bridge. DNR personnel may be there to demonstrate how to install sweeper trees correctly. The demonstration is dependent on equipment availability and water level. Members of the Natural Heritage Land Trust will be at the workday with us – we need to have a good turnout! Lunch will be served.

Our October 13th efforts will consist of even more cedar trimming, boxelder removal and sweeper installations. This work will take place both upstream and downstream of Salmo Pond. Lunch will again be served.

The work plan for November 3rd looks just like the one for October 13th and lunch will again be served. Please join us for as many of these important dates as you can. We need you, and you will find the work rewarding.

Welcome New Members

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

Terence Smith	Josh Palmer
Bob Paczwa	Matt Kwitek
Ronald Machajewski	

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 are not 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.

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 that is 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.

----- 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.

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



AS IT SHOULD BE

By Jack Way, SWTU President

I spent a day inspecting the damage in Crawford and Vernon counties. As you are aware, the southwest corner of our state was pounded by rain and mudslides. The state of the areas streams has been the topic of numerous discussions. A lot of the talk and rumors that I heard before my visit turned out to be just that – talk and rumors.

While no expert is disaster assessment, I would say that the streams will recover just fine. A week after the deluge, most of the streams that I viewed were a

little off-colored, generally back in their banks, a little soft around the edges, but quite frankly - fishable. Some of the bank-work (lunkers and riprap) were torn up, but most of it survived the onslaughts. In fact, a few silt-filled stretches were scoured down to the gravel bottom. Pretty cool.

I do not mean to understate the disaster – it’s obvious the area was hit pretty hard, and I have great sympathy for the residents. It will be our duty to help in the restoration, and we will. But in the long run, it is the way of Mother Nature to renew and restore herself. It’s pretty much as it should be.

Important dates to remember:

September 11 th	Chapter Meeting featuring Gary Borger
September 22 nd	Black Earth Creek Workday
October 3 rd	BECWA Birthday Bash at the Feed Mill in Mazomanie
October 13 th	Black Earth Creek Workday
November 3 rd	Black Earth Creek Workday

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