

Newscasts

September 2009 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



Meeting on September 8 It's a Mystery Meeting!

The planned speaker for our September 8 meeting was forced to cancel and we haven't locked in our agenda as of this posting.

But that doesn't mean it's not going to be a great meeting! Rest assured that we'll have something lined up to entertain and educate.

As usual, the meeting is at 7 p.m. at the Coliseum Bar on Olin Avenue but we'd love to see you before for dinner and a few fish stories.

Welcome New Members

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

Hiram Shaw	Griffin Wendt
Derek Boeldt	Mark Fedenia
Patty Elson	Aidan Simpson
Suzi Herbst	Ethan Fruit-Ross
Anne Readel	Jeff Murkett
Annie Warriner	

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!

Planning Ahead

Chapter Budget for the next fiscal year
(Sept. 30, 2009 — Oct. 1, 2010)

If you are a project chair or otherwise help out by running events or activities, we need to get your budget so we can plan accordingly. Give us your best estimate as to what your financial needs are for your project or event. This will not be cast in stone and can be adjusted as needed by the Board. These budgets will be used to help the Chapter can plan accordingly.

Please contact Tom Thrall at 273-4248 or tthrall2@yahoo.com to discuss your financial needs or to see what has been spent in past years to help give you some guidance.

Friends, fish, fun and food A good time at the Chapter picnic

As you can see, there were a shocking (sorry) number of fish brought to light by the WDNR's demonstration on Elvers Creek. The humbling work of the DNR was followed by a fabulous meal prepared by SWTU's own crew of expert chefs, including Mark Rhinerson (pictured below).

Much thanks to the WDNR's Kurt Welke and his crew, and all others who helped plan and make it a great event!

Check the back page for more pictures!



You-Must-Be-Present-To-Win

Nobody won at the June Chapter meeting, so the *You Must Be Present to Win Drawing* has increased to \$60. Please join us at our September meeting for a chance to win a \$60 gift certificate to *Fontana Sports Specialties*. You need only be present (and able to discern the calling of your name) to win.

Icebreaker: Ideas and input needed Help out by sharing your thoughts

The 2010 SWTU Icebreaker will be held on January 16 at the Promega Biotechnology Center in Fitchburg. Our main speaker will be Pennsylvania spring creek angler, Mike Heck, renowned guide, writer, fly designer, and contributor to Fly Fisherman, American Angler, and other publications. (Be sure to check out Rusty's column to learn about a famed fly from a famed Pennsylvania creek.)

As the planning committee begins to develop programs and activities for the 2010 Icebreaker, we invite suggestions and input from Chapter members. This will help assure that the day includes programs and activities that best match the interests of the TU membership. We are also interested in hearing any ideas that you may have that would help us attract an increased number of woman and children to the event.

Please send your suggestions to Jordan Konisky at Jordan.Konisky@gmail.com.

Restoration Project Started on Vermont Creek

SWTU plays a key role

Dane County has started work on a stream restoration project on Vermont Creek. The project, funded by a \$150,000 DNR grant, is on the Sandra Johnson and Steven and Barbara Parrell properties – just upstream from the confluence with Black Earth Creek.

About a mile of stream will be restored. (The project is upstream and downstream of KP.) Our Chapter has signed easements with both property owners to facilitate the county project work and it is hoped that both landowners will sign permanent easements with Dane County in the near future. If that is the case, SWTU will contribute the money we have raised to support the county's permanent easement program to this project. We are working with the Natural Heritage Land Trust to raise additional funds for this effort.

What's going on?

Keep on top of Chapter and other local events [by visiting the Chapter calendar](#). If you have any questions or content for the calendar, contact Jordan Konisky at jordan.konisky@gmail.com.

Saying good-bye to Larry Stream Side Memorial for Larry Meicher

It was a beautiful day on Black Earth Creek as the family and friends gathered to remember Larry and scatter his ashes.



Help Out at Our Fall Work Days Many hands make for light work

We have three workdays scheduled for this fall. Please mark these dates off on your calendar, because we – and our streams – could use your help!

The dates (all Saturdays) are:

- October 3
- October 24
- November 14

And remember; by helping out you earn the opportunity to **get your name in the drawing for the Streamkeeper II** – a magnificent fly rod expertly crafted by Jim Bartelt.

More details will follow and be included in our Chapter Calendar. If you'd like to help or have questions, contact Mike Grimes, Project Chair, at mgrimes17@charter.net or (608) 655-1086.

Fountains of Youth

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

by Rusty Dunn

Great rivers make great anglers. The Itchen and G.E.M. Skues. The Neversink and Theodore Gordon. The Beaverkill – George LaBranche. The Test – F.M. Halford. All great rivers ... all great anglers. So, what makes a great river? Difficult fish and difficult conditions. Fish that have seen it all and felt the sting of anglers' barbs. Fish that have grown wise and opinionated about what constitutes an edible morsel. Fishing conditions that leave no room for error: glassy smooth runs, gin clear waters, abundant weeds, awkward and difficult casting locations. These are the fish and the conditions that test the most resourceful of angler. They teach even experienced veterans there's much more to learn. Great rivers may not *make* great anglers, but they certainly *reveal* them.

Letort Spring Run is one such river. The Letort is a limestone spring creek that winds slowly through the pastures and meadows near Carlisle, PA. The Letort holds some of the most sophisticated brown trout you'll find anywhere. Rich in insect life, weed-filled, crystal clear, and heavily fished, the Letort is one of the most famous and difficult streams in the world. It was the home water and angling laboratory of such fly fishing giants as Vince Marinaro, Charlie Fox, and Ed Shenk. These legends of angling were anointed as such by the toughest judges of all, the Letort's unforgiving brown trout. They caught fish when mere mortals went fishless.

The Letort is a place to refine your skills and expose your weaknesses, a place to be both educated and humbled. The Letort's brown trout are perhaps most famous for educating Americans on the importance of fishing terrestrials, something they did through the writings of Vince Marinaro. After the caddis and mayfly hatches of spring and early summer have waned, terrestrial insects sustain trout for months. Marinaro's influential 1950 book *A Modern Dry Fly*

Code reminded anglers everywhere of the importance of terrestrials as late season trout food. His message is as important today as it was 60 years ago, perhaps even more so because mayfly hatches of the East have seriously declined in many rivers.

Charlie Fox coined the term "terrestrial" to include all land-based insects whose presence on or in a trout stream occurs by accident. "Terrestrial" to many anglers means "grasshopper," but trout also eat ants, beetles, crickets, leafhoppers, inch worms, moths and many other terrestrials from late spring to late fall. Terrestrials are rarely abundant, but trout feed on them throughout the season. If you've not tied a terrestrial to your tippet within the last month, it's high time that you either change tactics or go fishing!

Ed Shenk's Letort Cricket is one of the most versatile of all terrestrials. It is arguably the best cricket imitation ever designed, but when tied in appropriate sizes, it also imitates dark caddisflies, stoneflies, dipteran flies, and even winged ants. Shenk was a contemporary of Fox and Marinaro, with whom he shared ideas, experiences, and the Letort itself. Ed Shenk is one of the most skilled anglers of the East, and his 1989 book *Fly Rod Trouting* could be a textbook of spring creek angling. The Letort Cricket and Letort Hopper are his two most famous patterns, followed by the Shenk Sculpin and Shenk Cress Bug.

Like all terrestrials, the Letort Cricket fishes best during the heat of the day, when terrestrials are most active. A windy day is ideal, because many terrestrials are blown into the water. Summer streams are usually low and clear, and a very stealthy approach is essential. "Splat" the Letort Cricket solidly onto the surface either just ahead of or slightly behind and to one side of a visible trout. Trout will often turn and gulp a terrestrial landing just behind one eye. Grassy or undercut banks are prime feeding lies during terrestrial season. Great rivers reveal great anglers who have designed many time-tested flies. You'll do well to share in some of Ed Shenk's greatness by adopting his outstanding Letort Cricket.

----- Ed Shenk's Letort Cricket -----

Hook:	Mustad #9671, #6 - #18 (Ed Shenk prefers #12 - #16)
Thread:	Black
Body:	Black spun fur or fine poly dubbing
Wing:	Section of goose quill dyed black; folded, tied flat, and trimmed in a broad "V".
Head:	Spun and trimmed deer hair dyed black
Hackle:	Tips of the spun head swept back and trimmed on the underside



Welcome Back

By Dave Sanders, SWTU President

Welcome back. We hope everyone has enjoyed the summer and is prepared with an abundance of stories to share at our September meeting. No one will question the authenticity, the number or size of your stories.

It's been an interesting and exciting summer. We have completed a second project on Gordon Creek and are in the middle of a major restoration project on Vermont Creek, adding significant trout water to our local stock of fishable streams.

As we close out this fiscal year and look forward and plan for 2009/ 2010 **we need your help in reporting volunteer hours to TU National**. We will have a form available at the September meeting so think about all the time you have committed to our resource and Chapter success – teaching fly tying casting, manning a booth, guiding PGT kids, attending regional or national meetings, planning events, cooking brats or helping set up a the Icebreaker.

Please get yours to Tom Thrall by the end of September either at the September meeting or by e-mail at tthrall2@yahoo.com.

Let's build on our success! I hope to see you at the September meeting.

A few more pictures from the Chapter Picnic...



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