

Newscasts

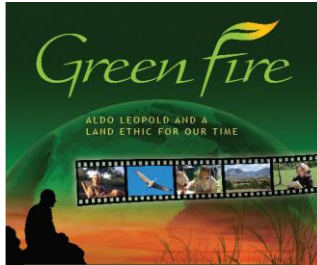
September 2011 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



Green Fire

Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time

Please join us for our September 13 meeting, where we will be showing *Green Fire* – the first full-length, high-definition documentary film ever made about legendary conservationist **Aldo Leopold**.



The legacy of Wisconsin's own Aldo Leopold looms large in all environmental groups, including Trout Unlimited. *Green Fire* shares highlights from his extraordinary career, explaining how he shaped conservation and the modern environmental movement. It also illustrates how Leopold's vision of a community that cares about both people and land continues to inform and inspire people across the country and around the world.

Leopold's ideas remain relevant today, inspiring projects nationwide that connect people and land.

Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time is a production of the Aldo Leopold Foundation, the US Forest Service, and the Center for Humans and Nature. Although probably best known as the author of the conservation classic *A Sand County Almanac*, Leopold is also renowned for his work as an educator, philosopher, forester, ecologist, and wilderness advocate.

You will not want to miss this inspirational and educational meeting. As usual, the meeting is 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 \$60. Please join us at our September 13 Chapter 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.

Do you have your raffle ticket, yet?!

Bamboo and Sage Rod and Reel Raffle to Support Stream Restoration Projects

As announced in our July newsletter and a separate email, we have joined with our neighboring Nohr TU Chapter to raffle off a **bamboo rod built by Paul Douglas** as well as a **Sage TCX rod and reel**. Both rods and the reel are new and never used and are on display at the On the Creek Fly Shop in Cross Plains. All proceeds will be used only for stream restoration and improvement work that benefits both chapters.

The Douglas bamboo rod is a 5 wt 7 ½ft rod with two tips. The Sage rod is model TCX 590-4 wt 9ft plus which retails for about \$795. The Sage 3800 large arbor reel sells for about \$260. The first winning raffle ticket will land the Douglas Bamboo rod; the second winning ticket will win the Sage TCX and the reel.

500 tickets are being offered for purchase at \$20 each, and there is no limit to the number purchased by an individual. Tickets are available at On the Creek Fly Shop and Douglas Art & Frame or can be purchased directly from either chapter. The drawings will take place at 1pm on Saturday, Sept. 24th by the Bluff Road Bridge on the Blue River. You need not be present to win.

For those of you who say, "the last thing I need is a new rod", think of it as an opportunity to support our Chapter's stream restoration and improved trout habitat projects. You can always donate your prize back to the Chapter, and we will put it up again for raffle at the Icebreaker or auction it off in March.

If you would like to purchase a raffle ticket(s), please contact Jordan.konisky@gmail.com. We will also have any remaining tickets for sale at the September Chapter meeting on September 13.

Read on for:

- ***Bringing fly fishing to disabled military veterans***
- ***Photos from the chainsaw safety class***
- ***Rusty "muddles" through another column... and ties up a true beauty***
- ***Jordan's article on an exciting new path to coordinated conservation***

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. to benefit disabled military veterans.

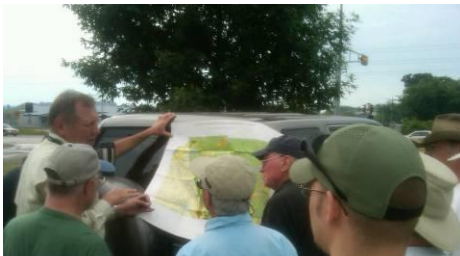


There are many ways you can help, and it is not expected that every volunteer engage in every facet of the program. Some might like to help out in the fly tying class, others in a casting clinic, others in taking out a veteran to a stream, or in other ways.

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.

Fun, Educational, Tasty Good times at the July Chapter Picnic



Welcome New Members

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

Brady Salter	Gregg Topoleski
James Block	Ian Shaw
Andrew Berna	Robert Vig
Robert Brewer	Benjamin Pawlisch
Joel McCaw	John Dobbins
Richard Famulari	Michael Lutes
Tim Kilian	Nathaniel McDermott
Ryan Richards	Norbert Scribner
Charles Decker	Steve Musser
Adam Altmann	Mike Ash
Mike Balen	Randy Banks
Adam Biedrzycki	Todd Bolstad
Mason Cahill	David Cisewski
David Davis	John Dremsa
Scott Dremsa	Ben Dreyer
Tom Ernser	J. Erwin
Lorrie Frautschi	Duane Froehlich
Brian Froelukch	Charlie Fuller
Matthew Gray	Kay Hagness
John Hoffman	Anthony Jacobs
Jeff Jansen	Rym Jansen
Ron Kelly	Gerry Klump
Melanie Klump	Barbara Lusk
James Mays	David McEvoy
Anna McManus	Laura Meffert
Brian Miles	Lindsay Miles
Michael Murphy	Michael Muskett
Gene Nasajaf	Peter Oemichen
Sandy Oemichen	Mary Perez
Lorene Rohloff	Tim Sherry
Brian Simard	Gary Smithback
Geno Spain	Matt Spain
Nick Spain	Alice Spencer
Dennis Steffen	Herb Thompson
Paul Vacho	Chris Vergeront
John Williams	Don Wilde
Kurt Van Bellingier	Michael Vergeront
Steven Roach	Kazuya Watanabe
Richard Roth	

That's some list! 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!

Buzz! Buzz! Chainsaw Safety Training Seminar

Our Chapter's Workday Parties make a big difference for our streams, and chainsaws can make a big difference in getting the work done quickly, efficiently AND SAFELY. We had a fantastic turnout of Chapter members eager to learn more about the proper service and use of chain saws at an August 27 training seminar.

We partnered with Dane County and several other local environmental organizations to hold this seminar and our participants will put their skills to use at future workday parties. If you have any questions about our workday initiatives, please contact **Dennis Presser**, Workday Chair, at wotihnisa@hotmail.com.



Learning the fine points of chainsaw sharpening



Practice makes perfectly sharp



The fine art of dropping trees safely



Cedars harvested from Black Earth Creek will extend this rail fence

Photos courtesy
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

The Pyramids of Giza. The Colosseum of Rome. India's Taj Mahal. All are among the world's greatest cultural monuments. They are landmarks of human achievement. If you'd like to visit a landmark of fly fishing achievement, just walk in the door at 209 West Park Street, Livingston, Montana and look around. You'll be in Dan Bailey's Fly Shop, where the "Wall of Fame" is an awe-inspiring monument to the culture of western trout fishing. The wall chronicles prosperous times in the mid-20th century when it was OK (even encouraged!) to whack a four pound trout solely for the purpose of public admiration. Dan Bailey's Wall of Fame is a shrine to western fly fishing, a required stop on pilgrimages to trout country, and a vivid reminder of "the good old days".

Dan Bailey (1904-1982) lived and worked in New York City before becoming a fly fishing luminary. He was an avid fly tyer and angler who explored famous trout rivers of the East in the 1930s. Bailey and his wife Helen honeymooned in the Yellowstone area in 1936 and were astonished by Montana's angling and outdoor riches. Two years later, the Baileys quit their New York jobs and moved to Livingston, where they opened a small shop in the Albemarle Hotel selling flies tied by Dan and tackle to go with them. The first mail-order catalog appeared in 1941. The shop survived the lean years of WWII but expanded during the post-war boom in outdoor recreation. Prominent national magazines popularized Montana fly fishing, and Bailey's fly business increased rapidly. The fly shop moved in the 1950s to its current location, where dozens of local fly tyers cranked out the needed fly inventory. By the mid-1970s, Bailey's shop produced over 750,000 flies per year. He was the largest fly manufacturer in the country and commented, "*I didn't intend for the business to get this big. I just wanted to go fishing.*"

Bailey continued in his Livingston fly shop a tradition that had begun in New York, where he and friends traced the outlines of notably large trout on the wall-paper of a family fishing cabin. The tracings became a historical record of good times, great fish, and cherished friends. Bailey transplanted the tradition to Montana and set four pounds as the minimal size for a braggably large western trout. The first Montana wall fish was a 4 lb. 8 oz. brown caught by good friend Gil Meloche on August 5th, 1938 on Armstrong Spring Creek. Wall fish accumulated steadily over time, and for each, Bailey recorded the angler's name, an ink outline on paper of the actual fish, its measured weight, the river, the date, and the fly used. That information was then painted on individual, life-sized, wood plaques that now adorn the fly shop walls. The plaques read like a Who's Who of American fly fishing. The practice was discontinued in the 1980s when catch-and-release became popular, toppling out at 364 plaques collected over 40+ years.

The greatest number of wall fish (42%) were caught on streamers. One of the most successful streamers on the wall is a White Marabou Muddler, a fly designed by Dan Bailey to imitate river minnows. Bailey described his own contributions to fly tying as mainly being the modification of existing fly patterns for big western rivers. The Marabou Muddler is a perfect example. Don Gapen tied the original Muddler Minnow in the 1950s for large brook trout in Canada. Bailey changed the body material, replaced the wing of turkey feather with soft marabou, and trimmed the spun deer hair to form a prominent head. The result was a Muddler variation that found worldwide success with both cold and warm water species of fish.

Many a western trout punched its ticket to immortality on Dan Bailey's Wall of Fame with a White Marabou Muddler. Try one on your next pilgrimage to the Holy Land. You won't find immortality, but you may feel a sense of cultural achievement just like the ancients.
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----- White Marabou Muddler -----

Hook: 3XL or 4XL streamer, #4 - #10
Thread: White or gray flat nylon, size A
Tail: Bright red bucktail or hackle fibers
Body: Gold or silver tinsel chenille
Wing: White marabou, tied full; length ~1.5 times hook
Overwing: Peacock herl, ~6 strands
Collar: The tips of natural deer body hair, spun, flared, and surrounding the body
Head: Deer hair spun tightly and trimmed to shape



Coordinated Conservation

By Jordan Konisky, SWTU President

I recently sent a few issues of the SWTU newsletter to my sister, back home in Rhode Island. RI is also home to an annual tuna tournament where a 500 lb. catch is not unusual. She was impressed by the diversity of our activities, particularly our emphasis on stream improvement. I explained that TU is a conservation organization, not a fishing club – a common misunderstanding of many who meet us for the first time. Indeed, our mission statement is absent of any mention of angling.

Our conservation programs come in three flavors: major stream restoration and habitat improvement, stream monitoring and maintenance activities, and education.

So as to better coordinate our conservation efforts across these three activities, the SWTU Board recently established a conservation committee whose members include Steve Wald (Chair), Kelly Belshaw, Tim Steines, Jim Beecher, Jim Kanvik, Dennis Presser, Bob Selk and Tom Krauskopf. It was put together purposely to include both Board and non-Board members as well as individuals with varied experience – ranging from *much* to *less much*. The expectation is that the experienced will mentor the less experienced and so build chapter leadership and continuity for the future.

Major stream projects are of the scale of our recent Gordon Creek and current Mazomanie/Black Earth Creek projects. Each requires a leadership team of two or three dedicated people who take the lead in all aspects of the project. These can include easement procurement, grant writing, selecting and overseeing contractors, putting in place maintenance agreements, financial management and collaboration with land owners, county, state and other vested parties.

In addition to overseeing major projects, the conservation committee will be responsible for selecting, prioritizing and coordinating workday projects. These will emphasize the maintenance of SWTU easement sites, especially those with stream improvements. The committee will also work with the DNR and Dane County to identify desirable maintenance work on streams under their management. A monitoring program will be put in place so that our streams and creeks are walked on a routine basis with an eye towards identifying problems (overgrowth, damaged stream structures, grass management, erosion) that need to be dealt with.

In the area of education, Program Green Teen is an example of a very successful SWTU-assisted education program. The committee will encourage member participation in restoration and trout habitat workshops and attract speakers for our monthly meeting and icebreaker and other events. It will also encourage stream-based conservation projects for the children and grandchildren of our members.

The composition of the Conservation Committee is not meant to be fixed. Its members will likely change over time as some projects are completed and others start. The Committee will also be on the lookout to identify additional SWTU members with an interest to participate in the committee's work. If you are such a person, I encourage you to contact Steve Wald (his contact information is below).

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