

Newscasts



January, 2005 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Annual Fly Tying Jamboree

Our January 11th chapter meeting will feature fly tyers from our very own chapter. This is a great opportunity to share fly tying insights amongst ourselves. There is more than one way to tie any fly, and there is always more than one way to accomplish any given tying task. Year after year, the Fly Tying Jamboree proves to be of educational benefit for novices and experts alike. If you can tie you're your own shoes, then there is probably at least one fly that you tie better than anyone else in the chapter. Bring your vise, and come show us how **you** do it. Please remember to bring a light and an extension cord. Once you start tying flies you will soon notice that the *Maple Tree* is darker than the inside of a cow.

Many of us will meet for dinner around 6:00 PM. You are hereby invited to join us. The fly tying fun will begin around 7:00 PM. As usual, we will meet at the *Maple Tree Restaurant* located on Highway 51 in scenic downtown McFarland.

Order Your Tickets Now

The *Nash Williams Memorial Banquet* will be held on Friday January 14th at Morel's Restaurant, located at 4635 Chalet St.; Follow Beltline Highway west to Airport Road in Middleton. Go west on Airport Road about 4 miles then turn left on Chalet St. Tickets are \$20.00 each and may be ordered through January 10th. When placing your ticket order, please indicate whether you would prefer chicken or trout. To reserve your banquet tickets, call John Schweiger at 238-8062. Payment should be mailed to him at:

5541 Dahlen Drive
Madison, WI 53705

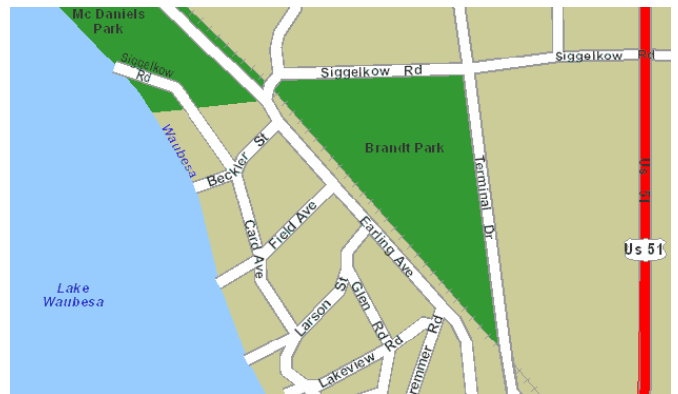
Ice Breaker tickets will cost \$10 on January 15th, but you can save a buck by purchasing them in advance. Contact John Schweiger to get in on the advance sale deal. The easiest way to do that is to meet him at the chapter meeting on January 11th.

Ice Breaker Volunteers Needed

Please join us for breakfast before the *Ice Breaker* at the *Green Forest Family Restaurant*, 925 East Broadway (near the Menard's on the Old Beltline Highway). Meet us there at about 6:00 AM for breakfast. If you cannot bear the thought of facing us on an empty stomach, then meet us at the *Park Ponderosa* at 7:30 AM. We need volunteers to help with numerous setup tasks.

Directions to the Park Ponderosa Ballroom

Veteran *Ice Breaker* attendees are likely to flock to the *Park Ponderosa* like salmon to their spawning grounds. However, if this is your first *Ice Breaker* you may need some directions. The *Park Ponderosa Ballroom* is located on the north side of McFarland at 5100 Erling Avenue. Take the Siggelkow Road exit from Highway 51, and go west. Turn left just past the railroad tracks. The *Park Ponderosa* will be on your right – you can't miss it.



We Still Need Lots and Lots of Flies

Please tie lots and lots of flies. We need flies for *Ice Breaker* door prizes, monthly meeting bucket raffle prizes, and the *March Madness* auction. Mike Philipps has volunteered to coordinate the collection of donated flies for these events. Please bring your flies to Mike and he will see to it that they find their way to one of these events. Mike also has a ton of little boxes to hold your donated flies.

How the Fly Tying Course Got Started by Bob Gennrich

Fellow Southern Wisconsin TU member Diz Bible and I were talking of ways to attract new members to the chapter. We had been tying with some other T.U. members when we brought up the idea of setting up a fly tying class, and using it as a recruiting tool. They all agreed that it might work.

We knew that Bob Brunzell was teaching a class in Evansville, so we went down there to see how it worked. Bob had made a handbook with 12 patterns for the students. We asked him if we could use his book as a format for the SWTU classes. He said ok, and Diz and I made a pattern book.

A group of flyfishers from Poynette heard us talking about starting a class, and asked Diz and I if we would teach them how to tie flies. We used Bob's handbook for the 10 week course. They liked it so much, that they asked us back for a second year. They all joined our chapter, but the following year they started a T.U. chapter in Poynette (i.e. the Aldo Leopold Chapter).

We brought the fly tying class idea to our chapter and everyone agreed that it was a great idea. We invited ten tyers from the chapter to be instructors and helpers. We agreed on 10 sessions of 2 hours each, starting in January. The classes were to be at East High, West High and Vern Lunde's Fly Shop.

The plan was for students to supply their own utensils, and for the chapter to supply the materials. We went to all of the area sport shops that sold fly tying supplies, so that they could stock up on what we needed. The stores donated some supplies to us. However, the cost of the remaining materials was hard on the chapter budget. Thus, a means of funding the classes was sought.

The Roy McDonald Memorial Fund came to mind. Roy had requested a springhead be bought in his name. Lowell Gennrich and I spent a year looking for one, but came up empty. Someone from the chapter went to Roy's widow with the suggestion that we use the memorial fund to purchase materials for

the fly tying course instead. She liked the idea, and was very happy that we had found a good use for the memorial fund.

So many tyers came back year after year, that we started an intermediate class, and an advanced class. Some of the students became so good at tying, that they became instructors and excellent tyers.

A recent bonus of the tying course is that it has brought out so many for Tom Ehlert's project work. (Which by the way is another excellent source of recruitment for our chapter and the Cold Water Resource.)

Fly Tying Classes to Begin in January

Speaking of the fly tying classes, the 2005 fly tying classes are about to convene. Wednesday night fly tying classes will begin at East High on January 12th. Thursday night sessions will begin at West High on January 13th. Classes still meet once a week for ten weeks. Please see the enclosed flyer for more information, or contact Tom Ehlert at 767-2413.

You Must be Present to Win

Since there was no winner of the December rendition of the *You-Must-Be-Present-To-Win Drawing*, so we will draw for a \$40 gift certificate from *Fontana Sports Specialties* at our January 11th chapter meeting. The contest is totally free to all SWTU members, but you must be present at the meeting in order to win. Duh.

State Council Banquet

The Trout Unlimited State Council will meet on Saturday February 5th at the Park Plaza Convention Center in Oshkosh beginning at 11:30 AM. The annual State Council Banquet will be held afterwards, with cocktails at 5:00 PM, and dinner at 7:00 PM. As part of this fundraising event, there will be silent auctions, a lively auction, bucket raffles, and door prizes. Tickets are \$35 each and may be ordered from Larry Meicher by calling (920) 992-6612. Checks should be made out to Trout Unlimited, and mailed to Larry at:

W5258 Salisbury Rd.
Rio, WI 53960

Bucket Raffle Prize Preview

The bucket raffle prizes that we offer at the *Ice Breaker* are critical to the financial success of this event. Attractive prizes make for robust raffle ticket sales. Thanks to our many donors we are offering a dizzying array of wonderful prizes this year. Take a look below at the partial list of fabulous prizes, then load up your wallet, and come to the *Ice Breaker* prepared to purchase as many tickets as you can.

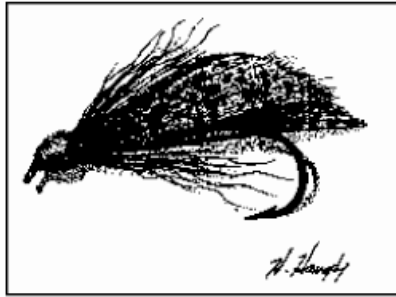
Bulk ticket prices are available, and a pricelist will be posted for everyone to see.

The more tickets you buy the less each ticket costs. Given that every dollar that you spend goes directly into conserving local coldwater resources, it could even be said that *the more you spend, the more you save*.

Please join us in thanking our many generous donors. Their generosity helps to keep our profit margins high, and that enables us to save, restore, and protect more streams.

Item	Donor
Wildlife Photo Print	Pielsticker Photos
Brook Trout Carving	Mary Staeben
Trophy Brown Trout by Big Sky Carvers	Big Sky Carvers & SWTU
Running Rainbow	SWTU
Brook Trout Print by Joseph R. Tomelleri	SWTU Framing by Monroe Street Framing
Wildlife Print	Meuer Art & Framing
Framed Dahlberg Diver	Frame donated by Jim Romberg Fly tied and donated by Royce Dam
Custom made landing net	Jim Natwick
Wooden Fly Box by John Strauss & Greg Ericson loaded with Master Series Flies by SWTU Board Members & Groupies	John Strauss & Greg Ericson
Rod Tube	Larry Meicher
Regal Rotary Vise	Regal Engineering & SWTU
2 Boxes of Flies	Blackhawk Chapter of Trout Unlimited
J.W. Outfitters Wader Bag	Fontana Sports Specialties
Fly Tying Desk	Greg Ericson
Wooden Rod Rack	Jim Gentry
Wading Staff	Jim Gentry
\$100 Shoe Box Gift Certificate	Steve Schmitt of the Shoe Box in Black Earth
Beautiful Hunting Knife	Jeff Smith
Bucket of 6 Dozen Golf Balls	Leroy Ebert
Tioga Reel by Teton (Large Arbor #4)	Dorn Hardware
Orvis Battenkill Bar Stock III Reel	Badger Fly Fishers
Cortland Embassy Reel	SWTU
Orvis Mach III Large Arbor Reel	SWTU
Hardy Viscount Reel	SWTU
Bamboo Fly Rod	Paul Douglas
Sage Discovery: 7'9" 2 pc 6 wt	SWTU & Tom Ehlert
Orvis T3: 9' 4pc 8 wt	SWTU & Tom Ehlert
Orvis Trident: 9' 2pc 6 wt	SWTU & Dave Fowler
Thomas & Thomas XL2: 9' 3pc 4wt	Dave Arndt, Tom Ehlert, and SWTU

TROUT UNLIMITED



FLY-TYING CLASSES

*Gold-ribbed Hare's Ear . . . Grizzly Wulff . . . Disco Midge . . . Muskrat Regret . . .
Serendipity . . . Blue-winged Olive . . . Mole Fly . . . Bead-head Emerger . . .*

A what? . . . The Southern Wisconsin Chapter of TROUT UNLIMITED invites you to learn to tie these and other fly-patterns proven effective in local waters for trout, game- and panfish. The TEN-WEEK SESSIONS begin mid-January and end late-March.

MEETING TIME:

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

CLASSES OFFERED AT:

EAST High School on WEDNESDAY evenings – First class: January 12th

WEST High School on THURSDAY evenings – First class: January 13th

Two BEGINNER'S CLASSES are offered at each location, with each class-size limited to fifteen (15) students. The INTERMEDIATE CLASS is offered ONLY at WEST High School on THURSDAY evenings. There is ONLY ONE INTERMEDIATE Section offered, and enrollment is limited to fifteen (15) students. The ADVANCED CLASS is offered ONLY at EAST High School on WEDNESDAY evenings. There is no enrollment limit in the Advanced Class.

The Chapter provides experienced instructors, an instructional booklet, and all fly-tying materials. STUDENTS provide the following tools: fly-tying vise, thread-bobbin, hackle-pliers, hair-stacker, whip-finisher, dubbing-teaser, scissors, hair-packer, tying threads, and head-cement.

Sounds intriguing, doesn't it? These tools and many additional supplies are available at:

DORN Hardware -- Brookwood Shopping Center on Nakoma Rd.;

FONTANA Sports Specialties -- State St. and Mineral Point Rd. locations; GANDER MOUNTAIN -- East Towne and West Towne; MC SPORTS on Verona Road.

A nominal, one-time \$5.00 fee is required of all participants, and is PAYABLE to the instructor AT THE FIRST SESSION.

Advanced Registration is required for all classes. The registration deadline is WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2005. Enrollment shall be determined by date of post-mark on your registration form, and will be confirmed by mail. Register soon!

Registration Form: 2005 TU Fly-Tying Classes

Please print clearly. **DO NOT SEND ANY MONEY** with this form.

Mail your registration to: Y-2-K-5 Fly-tying P.O. Box 11, Black Earth, WI 53515

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Street Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Location (check one): Madison East _____ Madison West _____

Class (check one): Beginners _____ Intermediate _____ Advanced _____

From the Projects Chair

By Tom Ehlert

On a cool, London-foggy morning early in December, Kurt Welke and your faithful scribe sat down at the kitchen table to review the year past and to peek at plans for the coming year.

For starters, Kurt focused on some of the lowlights. Close to home, a major fix to a problem on Black Earth Creek, for which money had been allocated remains to be done. The problem is that BEC is intent on cutting for itself a new channel through the base of a thumb of land at whose tip Garfoot Creek joins BEC. The money, which represented 40% of the region's allocation, was siphoned-off to cover over-runs on a project in another region.

Mt. Vernon Creek's history needs revising. Soon. But implementation of WDNR repair schemes in draft form can't be projected. At this point, it's reasonable to conclude that the Corps of Recovery will be involved in a series of work-days in that corridor in 2005. Kurt, Scot, and your peripatetic scribe will assess TU's potential involvement soon, and you'll be informed here.

There's been a fish-kill on the recently made-over stretch of the German Valley/Blue Mounds/Big Spring branch of Gordon Creek. Yes, already. Included among the thirty-eight carcasses collected: some brilliant, full-bodied, kyped brown-trout. Scot and Kurt also found dead sculpins, dead brook-lamprey, *et al.* They returned with electro-shocking paraphernalia and found survivors, or migrants at least. Whew!

On the bright side (at last, you sigh with relief): A technician's position, which had been held open for a year following Ron Schwartfeger's retirement, has been filled. And eight percent (8%) is the likely extent of the governor-requested budget-slashing Kurt, Scot, *et al.* will need to effect. Kurt hopes to find money to enable the Corps to expand its rip-rapping efforts on Garfoot, the first phase of which was completed in October 2003. He insinuated that money might finally be found to buy the stone to armor Cross Plains, too, but that TU would

need to be the human-resource agent. (Just get us the rocks.)

The following area streams have attained "Cold-water Resource" designation: the Upper Sugar River, the West Branch of the Sugar River, Schlapbach Creek (east of Mt. Horeb), Pleasant Valley Branch (southeast of Daleyville), and Henry Creek (east of Basco). Significant land-use changes and/or more responsible ag practices made the re-classifications possible. The streams are now eligible for 1) statutory protections from threats to their well-being associated with suburban development and continued ag operations; 2) habitat improvement money; and, 3) stocking with trout. Thanks to Mike Sorgi and his staff for their scientific contributions. Kurt and Scot can now scheme to find these streams a place in the "Trout Stream" classification hierarchy.

The Primrose Branch restoration is done, in spite of a time-table revision. All seem pleased with the results. The initiative and energies of Pat Sutter (Dane County Land Conservation Department) played a huge role in this undertaking. Thanks to him, along with three huzzahs. At least.

Since September 2002, the Corps of Recovery has undertaken twenty-four (24) projects. Its work began with brushing willow saplings along Frye Feeder. Since that first, modest expedition the Corps has grown and has expanded the scope of its work. Those involved during the period can appreciate the mind-boggling proportions of some of what's been done. Corps members have dedicated more than 2400 hours toward the realization of TU's mission-statement: preserve, protect, restore. Not included in that total are those hours they've spent in the company of the Nohr Chapter's members on the German Valley project, or in the company of Token Creek partisans in that watershed.

Finally, raise your hand, identify yourself as a prospective Corpserperson (the number to call: 767-2413), and resolve to spend at least one Saturday morning in the year ahead in the good company of fellow SWTU members attending to the health and well-being of our cold-water resources.

From the President by Sue Fey
Forgive me friends, for the ancient tale below. I'm on my way to Abaco! (And not a moment too soon, as I'm starting to rhyme...)

I started ice fishing last winter. I have no idea why it took me 42 years to get the itch, having been fishing open water for 35 or so. Some day I'll tell the story of my first iced fish, (there was a good deal of blood involved, mostly mine...) but right now I want to talk about Muskrat.

The season got off to a late start in Wisconsin, with my lake, Mendota, finally skinning over on January 10, during a cold, hard Westerly. January 11, I drilled my first hole, about 20 feet in front of the boathouse. The ice was 3 inches thick, the bottom not far off, as I'm not crazy about the idea of swimming in my ice fishing outfit. Better ice formed rapidly and I ventured further and had iced a couple nice Pike by the time I started catching Muskrats.

I had a flag on a tip-up baited with a 7 inch Smelt, just off the bottom in 8 feet of water. The line was being taken off at a good pace when I got to the hole and I went for a quick hook set, hoping not to give the fish time to swallow the bait. I felt resistance and started hand-lining in my catch. The weight was moderate, but oddly passive, none of the thrashing characteristic of Pike. Finally, my 16 inch leader came up, followed by a pair of startled black eyes set in a furry brown face! I see this little fellow motoring around my dock all summer and recognized him as a local. His digs are in my neighbor's rocky bank. I'd hooked him with a single treble hook in the muzzle and he was understandably frantic, pawing madly at the thing in his face and squeaking unprintable Muskrat curses at me. I was able to secure the hook with a long hemostat, (as far as I could get my fingers from his sharp little teeth..) and cut the shank close to his muzzle. He rocketed back down that hole, looking like he'd seen the face of god, and I suppose, from his perspective, he had.

I thought about him that evening, wondering why he'd ventured out under the ice in the first place, (I thought Muskrats generally hibernate) and also wondering what

possessed him to tackle a fish nearly as long as his body, (I also thought Muskrats were herbivores). Three days later, I've caught him twice more and have lost about 5 dollars worth of bait and terminal tackle to him. Worse, I'm beginning to think he's smarter than I am. His latest strategy is to grab the bait and tear back to his shoreside abode. I suspect he ends up with the fish. I end up with my tackle very firmly lodged in the rocks and have to hike half the way to Middleton to break the line. I've decided Muskrats are omnivorous, cagey and apparently fearless. This one is also clearly fond of smelt.

So now I'm considering my options. Obviously, I could move my operation out of his foraging range, but I'm lazy. And I have the habit of setting up close to home so I can build a fire in my outdoor pit and sit in the shelter of the boathouse with my boots propped up on the grate. I've also considered boxing him up next time we meet and releasing him elsewhere, but all those Disney movies have me thinking he'll find his way back and become a folk hero in the process. So that leaves me with two options as I see it; putting my ice gear back in the basement, (which is unimaginable) or finding someone who can make me a Muskrat hat.

In the meantime, I'm getting good at discerning the feel of Muskrat on the line and recently impressed the heck out of a 5 year old friend by accurately predicting my catch. If I ever get another big, toothy fish on the line, I hope I'll remember what to do with it. And so, the notches on the boathouse door continue to accumulate; two bars for Pike, and three squares for Muskrat.



Volunteers Needed for the Madison Fishing Expo

The 21st Madison Fishing Expo will be held February 25th thru 27th. Volunteers are needed to staff the Expo as well as the SWTU booth. Expo staffing tasks include, taking tickets at the door, watching access points, and "patrolling" hallways. Staffing the SWTU booth generally involves tying

flies (optional), handing out literature, and answering questions. Mark Rhinerson is recruiting volunteers for both types of activities. He will be circulating a sign up sheet at the January 11th meeting as well as at the *Ice Breaker*. You can also call him at 249-7250. Please help if you can.

Important dates to remember:

January 11	Monthly Chapter Meeting featuring SWTU Fly Tyers
January 14	Nash Williams Memorial Banquet
January 15	<i>Ice Breaker</i> featuring Seth Norman and Bill Shogren
January 25	SWTU Board Meeting at the Green Lantern
February 5	TU State Council Meeting and Banquet
February 8	Monthly Chapter Meeting featuring Dave Patrick of the Blackhawk Chapter of TU
February 25-27	Madison Fishing Expo
March 8	<i>March Madness</i> Auction

Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited Leadership:

President	Susan Fey	(608) 442-5801	
Vice President	Jack Way	(608) 222-2461	
Secretary	John Serunian	(608) 277-9295	
Treasurer	John Schweiger	(608) 238-8062	
Past President	Bill Pielsticker	(608) 592-4718	
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