

Newscasts

October 2007 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



October 9 Meeting – A Little Talk about the Little Red

By Dave Sanders

As the Wisconsin trout season ends, some of our chapter's notorious fly fishers gather to tell of a great location within reasonable driving distance. Greg Vodak, Henry Haugley, Jim Bartelt, John Gribb and Mike Grimes will share their expertise, experience and the opportunities of fishing the Little Red River in North Central Arkansas.



The bruising brown trout displayed in this photo is 40 inches long and weighed 40 lbs 4 ounces. It was caught on the Little Red according to Greg, Henry, Jim, John and Mike.

As usual the October 9 meeting will be at the Coliseum Bar on Olin Ave beginning at 7 PM. Come early and join in on dinner and some great stories – some of them may even be believable.



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There's a New Editor in Town...

By Drew Kasel

It's sad, but true. I can lay words down on the page far more deftly than I can alight a size 16 Adams on quiet water.

My how the fish scurry when I come a'casting!

Whatever middling success I've had in fooling trout has come from the help of others – including many fine people met through the SWTU. I am happy to give back to the organization by keeping this publication roll(cast)ing along.

I don't know that I can serve as long or as well as the good Mr. Maffitt, who did a marvelous job these past 6 years. Some changes, surely, are on the way. The vast majority of you now read these words on a computer screen, meaning that *Newscasts* should be more Web and less PDF. Those who receive it in the mail need not fear — the printed option will still exist.

Even I wonder how I got to this point. A few years ago I realized that I won't ever buy a boat. If I must fish from shore, I reasoned, then it should be done by the most interesting and challenging means possible. And so I first purchased, and cast, a fly rod in July 2005.

My fishing goals for 2007 were to catch a trout without somebody behind me offering help and to catch a trout out of Black Earth Creek (with or without help!). I also wanted my fly roddin' 9 year old to catch a trout. I accomplished all three. While that's not much, it is *something* and it is *progress* and it has energized my passion for protecting our cold water resource.

This is all a too-long way of (a) saying hello and (b) filling space. The second-to-last bit of information at the end of this newsletter is my e-mail address. Please feel free to use it! I welcome any and all thoughts on what you'd like out of *Newscasts*.

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 \$60 to \$80. Please join us at our October 9 chapter meeting for your chance to win an \$80 gift certificate to *Fontana Sports Specialties*. You need only be present (and able to discern the calling of your own name) to win.

Tie Some Flies, Help Some Habitat

By John Schweiger

The Icebreaker is the single largest financial contributor toward meeting our Chapter's mission to protect and maintain the cold water resource.

The success of the Icebreaker is predicated on turnout. Great speakers, door prizes and raffle opportunities attract guests who, in turn, make that success possible.

As a chapter member you can contribute to the event's success by tying flies to be used as door prizes. It doesn't matter if they are dry flies, nymphs, streamers, steelhead or salmon flies. They can be tried and true patterns or flies of your own design that have fooled a trout or three!

We would like to see your name on the flies so you get credit for your efforts, but that's up to you. As the forthcoming winter wears ever on, please consider tying flies to donate to the 2008 Icebreaker and help your chapter meets its mission for 2008.

“The purpose of the STRIKE INDICATOR is **NOT** to indicate the strike.”

Gary Borger
at the September chapter meeting

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Bettering Black Earth Creek

By Mike Grimes, Project Chair

We had a pleasant and successful Black Earth outing on Sept. 22. We worked with Kurt Welke and his crew, as well as folks from the Natural Heritage Land Trust. In fact, there were more of them than of us! We killed some box elders, limbed white cedars along about 700 ft. of the north bank and installed three sweepers. The sweepers will help the flat featureless section of the stream where they were installed.

Our next workday is October 13. Once again we will meet at Salmo Pond, about 1.5 miles west of Cross Plains on the south side of Highway 14. We start at 8 AM and work till Noon. Our primary focus will be installing sweepers. Small chain saws are useful, as are waders. Enough people with waders will allow us to put a limbing crew on the south bank. Lunch will be served along with bottled water, soda and Gatorade.

Black Earth Creek needs a good turnout!!!



A hearty crew installs a sweeper



A well-deserved lunch

Welcome New Members

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

Lee Biel
Matthew Mayfield
Daniel Topel

We are honored to have you among us. Please join us for a chapter meeting, and we will give you free raffle tickets. These are not those cheap raffle tickets 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

No author has ever captured the artistry and allure of fishing with nymphs better than the most influential nymph fisherman of all time, G.E.M. Skues:

*"The indications which tell your dry-fly angler when to strike are clear and unmistakable, but those which bid a wet-fly man raise his rod point and draw in the steel are frequently so subtle, so evanescent and impalpable to the senses, that when the bending rod assures him that he has divined aright, he feels an ecstasy as though he had performed a miracle each time." --in *Minor Tactics of the Chalk Stream*, 1910.*

Many fly fishers spend their entire angling lives making presentations within an inch or two of the surface, but dedicated nymph anglers regularly prowling the murky depths where trout spend their leisure time. If you've not probed the bottom of your favorite stream in between hatches, it's about time you performed a few miracles yourself.

Ernest "Polly" Rosborough (1902-1997) was one of the finest nymph fishermen ever to grace the underside of a trout stream. He was a self-taught wizard of fur and feather, one who developed effective flies from scratch by trial and error. He tied flies, took them fishing, altered their design, and took them fishing again... over and over until satisfied. He was one of the true fly tying innovators of his generation.

Rosborough spent a lifetime studying insects of his home waters in southern Oregon, developing flies to match those insects, and teaching others what he learned. His book *Tying and Fishing the Fuzzy*

Nymphs (1965, and later expanded editions) summarizes a lifetime of experiences. Rosborough's 25 "fuzzy nymphs" seem gangly and disheveled when compared to their more manicured relatives, but his patterns developed because trout responded to them, not because they fit the classic mold or pleased an opinionated angler's sense of design.

What makes a nymph "fuzzy?" Rosborough was a devotee of the "impressionistic" style of tying, in which flies resemble classes of insects by their suggestive, but not entirely imitative, profile. He also believed that fly materials should be feathery soft, with loose hair and fibers creating an indistinct silhouette. His flies can look like skewered road kill, but put them in moving water and they spring to life. The fibers pulse and breath with every twist of current, yielding a "fuzzy" haze that appears alive from any angle.

Rosborough's patterns are big, bushy and durable. His midge imitations were tied on #14 hooks, and his nymph patterns on #4 to #12 2X- or 3X-long heavy-wire hooks. Copious amounts of waterproof cement and at least five half-hitches went into every fly. You may wear out your quarry, but you won't wear out a Polly Rosborough fly!

Many of Rosborough's fuzzy nymphs are keyed to specific hatches, but the Muskrat Nymph, Fledermouse, and Casual Dress are generic wonders that catch fish anytime, anywhere, from the chalk streams of England to the turbulent coastal waters of Oregon. The Casual Dress is an all purpose nymph for mid-depths and below. Rosborough describes it as "looking like a nice gob of food with the hazy outline of several insects in various forms." Being a nymph for deeper water, weight added to the fly or leader helps its presentation. Remember, the difference between a good nymph and a great nymph is often a couple of split shot.

----- Casual Dress -----

Hook:	2X-long nymph hook; #6-16
Thread:	Black
Tail:	Muskrat guard hairs mixed with a bit of underfur
Body:	Muskrat underfur, dubbed tightly and then twisted in a dubbing loop
Collar:	Muskrat fur
Head:	Black ostrich herl

After attaching the tail, spin a tight dubbing rope on the thread. Catch the rope in a dubbing loop, twist tightly, and wrap the body, which should show a distinct segmentation. Roughen the surface to create a fuzzy haze, add a collar of muskrat fur, and finish with a head of ostrich herl. Rosborough's nymphs all have a prominent "neck" behind the hook eye.



The Last Day

By Jack Way, SWTU President

While finishing off the last part of another season on the stream, it occurred to me that it is somehow appropriate that we give the fish, and fishermen, the fall and winter off.

The fish get a little peace and quiet – time for their spawning rituals – and relief from pink squirrels, comparaduns, and wooly buggers. The fishermen get time with their families, opportunity to rake leaves, and a choice between hunting, football or maybe doing nothing at all.

Everybody wins.

Plus, it allows us the anticipation of the first Saturday of March. Sure, we get the Ice Breaker in January. And Fly Tying classes. And tons of fun and companionship at the chapter meetings. And, of course, the stream restoration days. And... come to think of it, maybe we're just too busy to go fishing anyway.

Important dates to remember:

October 9	Chapter Meeting at the Coliseum Bar
October 13	Black Earth Creek Workday
November 3	Black Earth Creek Workday

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