

Newscasts

January 2017 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



Big, BIG Brown Trout Tips on catching “Lake Michigan monsters” at our January 10 meeting

Few things get anglers fired up like a big brown trout, and there's no bigger brown trout than those in Lake Michigan ... not too far away!

Join pro-kayak angler and land based fishing guide **Israel Dunn** for a talk that showcases the best of this world-class fishery.

Israel will share the history of salmonids in the Great Lakes, how to find them, and the insider techniques needed to catch them from the shoreline.

If you've ever been curious about what it takes to catch a giant brown trout, this presentation is for you!



As usual, the meeting is upstairs 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

Nobody won last month, so the drawing for a gift certificate to *Fontana Sports Specialties* goes to \$80. We will see you at the January 10 meeting where you could win the drawing ... but you must be present to win!

The Icebreaker: January 14

Find a map, schedule, raffle items and much more on the following pages!

Women fly fishers should also be sure to join us for a social the night before!



Women & Fly Fishing
HAPPY HOUR!

A women's social event to connect with other women with interests in fly fishing.

**JANUARY
13th
6:00 to ...**

Ale Asylum
2002 Pankratz Street,
Madison, WI 53704
(608) 663-3926

A local brew pub near the airport with good food and spirits. Cash bar and food available for purchase.



Hosted by SWTU Women for other women interested in or connected to Fly Fishing: **beginners, novices, experts we welcome all levels of skill.**

Free Fly Tying Classes: Page 4

SWTU will once again be offering classes for all skill levels at various locations. Space will be limited, so get the details and sign up so on.





THE 34TH ANNUAL SWTU

ICEBREAKER

JANUARY 14TH 2017

AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE

6000 American Parkway, Madison, WI 53783

JOIN US FOR:

- TWO FABULOUS KEYNOTE SPEECHES
- PRESENTATIONS BY LOCAL EXPERTS
- MASTER FLY TYING DEMONSTRATIONS
- EXCITING BUCKET RAFFLES
- SILENT AUCTION
- CONSERVATION PARTNER DISPLAYS
- DELICIOUS LUNCH
- WDNR'S INTRODUCTION TO MACROINVERTEBRATES
- MUCH, MUCH MORE!

FEATURED SPEAKER

LANDON MAYER

Landon's angling success is fueled by an addiction to pursuing large trout with small flies and lightweight fly-fishing equipment. A Colorado guide for over 19 years, Mayer has developed innovative strategies for sighting, hooking, and landing selective trout. He shares those secrets in his books *101 Trout Tips: A Guide's Secrets, Tactics and Techniques* (new for 2015), *Sight Fishing for Trout*, and *How to Catch the Biggest Trout of Your Life*, in addition to two DVDs. Mayer is also a contributing writer for *Fly Fisherman* and *High Country Angler* magazines.

JUST
\$10
FREE for Vets!
and Kids 12
& under



FOR MORE INFORMATION: SWTU.ORG

Icebreaker Schedule

9:00 AM

Morning Keynote: **"Sight Fishing for Trout"** – Landon Mayer

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Master Fly Tying Demos, Rod Building Demo with Dave Fowler
Conservation Partner & SWTU Activity Booths

10:30 AM – Noon

Local Angling presentation with Mike Miller, WDNR, Geri Meyer, Driftless Angling, and more!

12:00 - 1 PM Lunch (offering on site)

1:00 – 2:00 PM

Local Stream Ecology and Fly Tying Feature in main auditorium

2:00 – 3:30 PM

Afternoon Keynote: **"Colorado: Four Seasons of Trout Fishing"** – Landon Mayer

3:30 PM

Bucket Raffle Drawings and Silent Auction Winners

The Icebreaker!

Your entry fee funds our mission

The cost to enter is \$10; veterans and children 12 and under are admitted free. A taco bar lunch will be available at noon for \$10. You can get your tickets at the door or [buy them in advance online](#).

Facebook event page

<https://www.facebook.com/events/297780327275035/>

Kids welcome!

We will not be having a specific Stream Explorers kids activity this year. However, this is a family friendly event! Taco bar lunch, invertebrate display, fly tying, and a great feature presentation in the afternoon on fishing in Colorado. If you're bringing kids, we recommend coming between Noon and 3

Many hands make light work

This event is powered by you, our members! We need a variety of volunteers the day of the event Contact [Amy Klusmeier](#) with questions or to volunteer.

Have Donations?

Bring them to the January Chapter Meeting or contact Amy Klusmeier prior to the event so we can plan ahead and have a space ready.

See the back page for photos from last year's event!

Bucket Raffle Bonanza

Rods, trips, flies, art, optics and more

Among the outstanding bucket raffle items are **two beautiful custom-made rods** by two local experts: a bamboo rod created by Paul Douglas and a fiberglass rod by David Fowler.

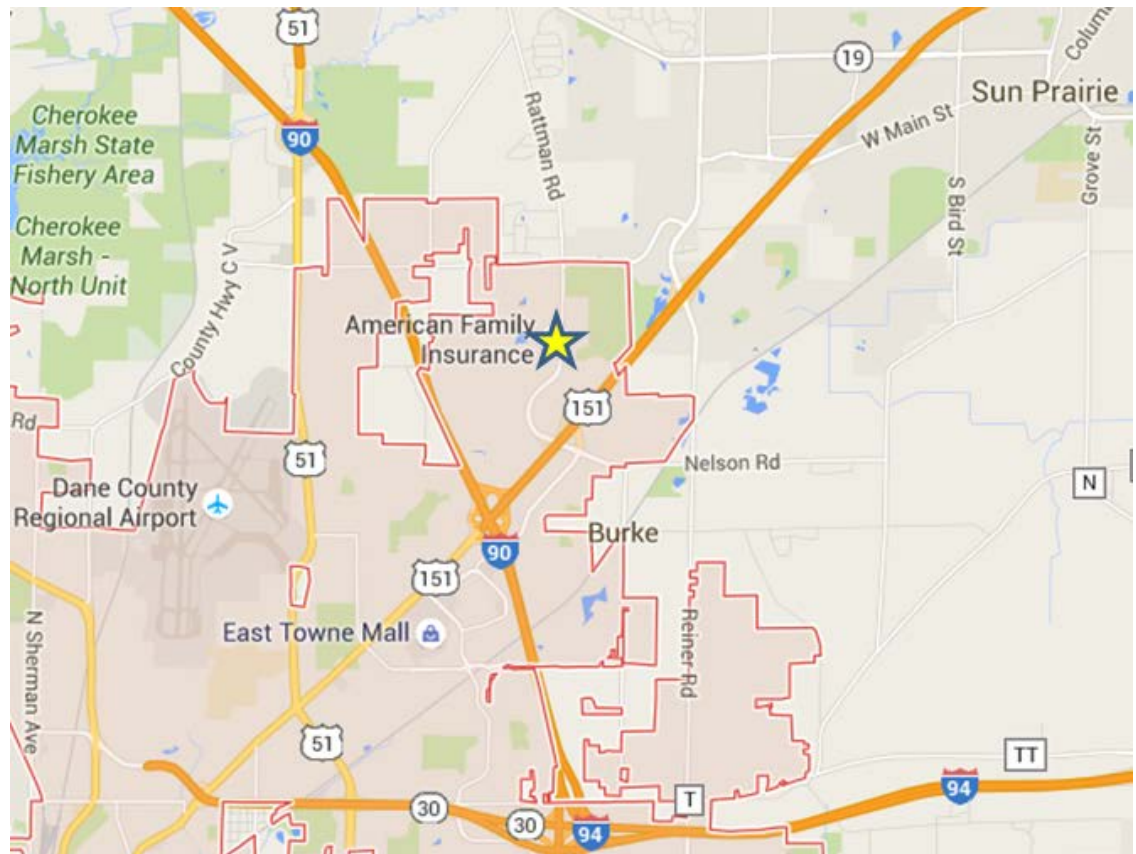
Many **impressive fly collections** will also be offered with an emphasis on those that work well in a variety of Wisconsin streams. And there will once again be a **Yeti cooler**.

Raffle Instructions

The Icebreaker will feature a large array of bucket raffle prizes. Tickets will be available the day of the event and can be purchased using cash, check or credit card. The drawing will begin at 3:30 pm on January 14, 2017. Ticket holders need not be present to win. The purchaser of a ticket may give the ticket to another person who may claim the prize on behalf of the purchaser, but only if that other person is present at the drawing. If not present to claim the prize at the event, winners will be posted in the February SWTU Newscast and prizes may be claimed at the February or March SWTU Chapter Meeting. Prizes will be held until 6:30 pm on Tuesday, March 8, 2017. Unclaimed prizes will be auctioned off at the March SWTU Chapter Meeting.

The Icebreaker will once again be at **American Family Insurance** on the east side of Madison!

[Google Map Link](#)



Register for Free Fly Tying Courses

SWTU invites you to learn fly tying or improve your fly tying skills this winter.

Experienced fly tying instructors teach beginning and intermediate level courses in both Fitchburg and Sun

Prairie. Classes consist of instructor-led demonstrations and hands-on tutorials. The courses are free of charge, and all materials needed in class are provided. You need only supply the tools and thread, a list of which is available at swtu.org/flytying.html. Classes meet each Thursday evening from 7 to 9 p.m. beginning 1/19/2017 and continue for eight consecutive weeks (last class 3/9/2017).

Beginning Fly Tying is intended for those with limited previous fly tying experience, including complete beginners. General techniques needed as a foundation for fly tying are established, and basic but effective trout fly patterns are demonstrated and practiced.

Intermediate Fly Tying is intended for those who have a solid foundation of fly tying experience and want to increase their proficiency. The course builds on the foundations of Beginning Fly Tying and progresses to more advanced methods. Techniques and materials are more varied, the patterns can be more complex, and the hook sizes are smaller than those of the beginning course.

Both Beginning and Intermediate Fly Tying courses are offered at:

Fitchburg

Fitchburg Community Center
5510 Lacy Rd., Fitchburg

Sun Prairie

Cabela's Outfitters
1350 Cabela Dr., Sun Prairie

Advanced registration is required! Register [online here at swtu.org](http://swtu.org). The registration deadline is January 16, 2017. Classes sometimes fill to capacity, and early registration is encouraged.

For more information, see swtu.org/flytying.html or E-mail questions to swtu-flytying@outlook.com



President's Column

Tristan Kloss, SWTU President

Happy New Year! I hope you and yours had a safe and happy holidays, and that Santa found the room to carry a rod or two down the chimney (I hope you didn't ask for one of those one-piece rods this year!). There's one gift we'll be unwrapping a little late, but I'll gladly wait until the first Saturday of January to hit the streams again. Since it's less than a week until the early catch-and-release season begins and I'm nowhere near filling my fly box yet, I'll keep this one short and sweet.

Our biggest and bestest event of the year is coming up on Saturday, January 14th, when we host the annual Icebreaker at the American Family Insurance center in Sun Prairie. This is our biggest fundraiser event of the year and will see a variety of fantastic raffle prizes that are yours to win, as well two can't-miss talks by fishing guru Landon Mayer, short talks by local experts Geri Meyer, Mike Miller, and Ben Lubchansky, and an entire room-full of fly tying demonstrations by some of the best tiers south of Highway 10.

I know I'm asking a lot to take a day away from the streams and spend some time with us, but your support helps power our education and conservation efforts. Last year funds from the Icebreaker went toward Project Green Teen, the Driftless Area Restoration Effort (DARE), the Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter's restoration of the Blue River, in addition to many other projects and programs that we engage in throughout the year. It's also a good time to meet up with friends not seen since the end of last season, and to swap stories and strategies for the upcoming year.

As always, have fun out there and keep yourself warm and the trout cool this early season!

Tristan

Welcome New Members

We're pleased to announce the addition of the following new members to our ranks.

Ben Mezick	Richard Cannon
David Byrne	Tom Von Feldt
Mike Donohoo	

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! Try to get there at 6 p.m. for dinner and to sit with one of our board members to learn more about us. **If you will be attending your first meeting**, please contact [Matt Sment](mailto:Matt.Sment) so we can expect you.

Fountains of Youth

Classic trout flies that have withstood the test of time ... flies that remain "forever young"

by Rusty Dunn

You probably don't think of Leonardo da Vinci as a fly angler, but he invented a truly great fly design in 1483. Long before Leonardo painted the *Mona Lisa* and *The Last Supper*, he invented the parachute. Not the parachute *dry fly*, but the real parachute, a wood and canvas contraption with which you could jump from high places and land safely. Over four centuries later, his invention gave its name to the parachute dry fly, a modern masterpiece. You must visit Paris, France to see the *Mona Lisa* or Milan, Italy for *The Last Supper*, but you'll find Leonardo's parachutes – and lots of them – in any fly shop. Admire their beauty, for they are simple works of art.

The hackle of parachute dry flies is wound horizontally atop the hook shank like an open umbrella. The angler who first affixed a parachute hackle to a dry fly is unknown, but it likely occurred sometime in the 1920s. William A. Brush of Detroit patented the parachute fly design in 1931 in both the US and Great Britain. Brush was an engineer and co-owner of Brush Motor Company, maker of the "Brush Run-about" automobile. The Runabout is long gone, but Brush's parachute dry fly is still chugging along nicely well into the 21st century. Brush described the design as:

"an artificial fly in which the hackle is so related to the hook that when the latter is in its properly suspended position, the position of the fly will closely correspond to the position that a live fly would have on the water."

That's legal-speak for "This is one helluva' good fly!"

Brush's parachute design was initially tied and sold commercially as the "Gyrofly" by the venerable William Mills and Son Company on Park Place in New York City. Brush later licensed other fly makers to produce the parachute fly. In England, Hardy

Brothers of Alnwick marketed them as "Ride-Rite" flies. In Scotland, gun maker and outfitter Alexander Martin of Glasgow tied and sold parachute flies. Commercial production, however, was restricted to licensed firms. Thus, the supply of parachutes and their popularity among anglers were limited. An expired patent and continuing testimonials made the pattern increasingly popular through the 1950s and 60s. Angler attention increased considerably in 1971 with publication of *Selective Trout* by Swisher and Richards. This influential book emphasized the importance of fishing emergers during a hatch. It advocated use of low-floating fly patterns that ride awash in the surface film to better imitate adult insects struggling to emerge. Parachute flies, which Swisher and Richards called "paraduns" (short for "parachute duns"), imitate hatching mayfly duns very well. The body rides *on* or *in* the surface, not *above* it as with conventional hackle. The vertical post offers a realistic wing profile to trout and good visibility to anglers. The splayed horizontal barbs better imitate legs of a natural than the points of traditional hackle, which pierce the surface.

Parachute is a *style*, not a pattern. Tie them in sizes and colors to match the hatches you might encounter. Be sparing with the hackle wraps, because the horizontal fibers present a lot of surface area. Heavier hackling does not increase floatation. Parachute flies are unmatched for delicacy and stability. Wind drag of the hackle, together with its location above the weight of the hook, cause parachute flies to land straight, true, and gently every time. When tied on a curved-shank hook that hangs below the surface, parachute duns are similar to Klinkhamer Specials, also a cracking good emerger imitation.

When you next encounter a hatch of mayflies, think of Leonardo da Vinci and his original parachute. Then, tie on a parachute dun of the right size, jump in the river, and enjoy the ride. Afterwards, you just might be wearing that endearing little satisfied smile of the *Mona Lisa* ... the one that says "What a great day!".

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----- Parachute Dun -----

Parachute duns can be tied in colors and sizes to match anything from giant *Hexagenia* to midge-sized BWOs or tricos. The fly pictured is a size #16 BWO.

Hook: Dry fly, size to match the natural
Thread: 8/0, color to match the natural
Tail: Bundled hackle fibers, splayed slightly
Body: Dry fly dubbing to match the natural
Ribbing: Tying thread or very fine wire; optional
Wing: Vertical antron, poly, or feather post





Fun at past Icebreakers

Spacious, comfortable and full of friendly faces ... the Icebreaker is just the place to warm your cold water heart in the dead of a Wisconsin winter.

See more 2016 photos from Ric Genthe in this [Facebook photo album!](#)



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