

Newscasts

November 2016 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



Focusing on Fly Fishing the inshore waters of the Caribbean

Learn all about it at our November 15 meeting

Remember that we are meeting one week later than normal in November, so **we'll see you on the 15th!**

Saltwater fly fishing is a very exciting and rewarding pursuit in several ways. It gets you out of the cold during our Wisconsin winters to places you've never been before. You get to see a variety of wildlife and marine life you don't see here. You're presented with a new set of fishing challenges making you a better all-around angler. There are no easy fish – every fish is earned. A 2 pound bonefish can run and fight like no other freshwater fish of its size. And finally, it freshwater you fish the food chain, in saltwater, you may become part of the food chain.

Craig Amacker will be discussing the inshore flats fisheries of the Caribbean including the Bahamas, Belize, and Mexico. Topics will include types of flats and other areas to fish, tackle and equipment recommendations, fishing techniques, fish fighting tactics, choosing a lodge and hiring a guide. If you've always wanted to try saltwater fly fishing and want to take a trip outside your normal comfort zone of Wisconsin and Montana, don't miss this presentation.

Craig is the Fly Fishing Manager and Store Manager of Fontana Sports Junction Road location in Madison. He's been teaching fly casting since 1995, and guiding fly fishermen on the Driftless Area spring creeks, lower Wisconsin River, and Lake Michigan tributaries since 1996. He fly fishes for anything that swims with some interesting species on his life list, and is aspiring toward the goal of fishing more and working less – it's not working as well as planned.

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.

THE 34TH ANNUAL BWTU
TROUT UNLIMITED 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 novel flies and lightweight flyfishing equipment. A Colorado guide for over 18 years, Mayer has developed innovative strategies for rigging, hooking, and landing selective trout. He shares those secrets in his book: 181 Trout Ties & Guide's Secrets, Tactics and Techniques (now for 2015). Slight 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

[See the full flyer on the back page](#)

We're excited about our 2017 Icebreaker and special guest Landon Mayer. Please hold the date on your calendar and see below for information and contacts if you'd like to help out with our biggest annual fundraiser.

Many hands make light work!

This incredible 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.

Donate to the Bucket Raffle

We would be pleased to accept anything from a handcrafted birdhouse to a guided fishing trip. Or consider donating new rods, reels, accessories, camping equipment, overnight lodging and especially sets of flies. Our vast array of raffle items adds excitement (and revenue!) to the event. Please deliver the items or make a commitment to a member of our Raffle Team: [Craig Amacker](#) and [Amy Klusmeier](#).

You Must Be Present To Win

Nobody won last month, so the drawing for a gift certificate to *Fontana Sports Specialties* goes to \$40. We will see you at the November 15 meeting where you could win the drawing ... but you must be present to win!

Welcome New Members

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

Mike Goeser	Brandon Walker
Larry Ryan	David Schauer
Luke Petrovich	Christopher Wheeler
Charles Virnig	William St. John
Taylor Meyers	Harry Anderson
Raj Shukla	

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](#) so we can expect you.

Dec. 3 Stream Workday

Join our Stream Team for fun, friendship and making a difference!

Our next workday will be **Saturday, December 3** on the Sugar River at the Neperud property, south of Paoli on Hwy 69 – the fire address is 1065.

When: December 3, 2016 from 9 a.m. to Noon (Chapter Approved Sawyers please arrive at 8:30).

What: Remove woody invasives, plant 4 acres of native prairie in the disturbed areas from this summer's stream bank improvements, and inspect and clean up around planted trees and shrubs planted at our April 23, 2016 workday. Also, friendly camaraderie, refreshments, coffee, and a chance to see the great improvements made along this stretch of the Sugar River this past summer.

Where: Sugar River – Neperud Property. South of Paoli at 1065 Hwy 69. The fire number may or may not be up. Drive south from Madison on Hwy 69, after you pass Paoli you will come to the Hamlet of Basco at Henry Road, the farm is on the west side of Hwy 69. [Here is a map.](#)


Bring: Bring work gloves, sturdy shoes, and loppers and hand saws; otherwise the chapter has equipment you can use. Also, bring reusable water bottles that can be re-filled from our 5-gal water jug. As a conservation club, we need to reduce our use of plastic bottles and throw away cups. Reusable coffee cups will also be available.

Parking: Park in the circle drive by the barn.

If you have questions or think you can help, please contact Jim Hess at jim.hess@tds.net so we can get a volunteer count estimate. We look forward to seeing you there!

Remember, every workday you attend earns you an entry into the drawing for the Stream Keeper fly rod, custom-built by Jim Bartelt.

Jim Hess
Conservation Committee Chair



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.

women's flyfishingclinics

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

Our November 5 workday brought 20+ people, including some friendly new faces, to the Falk Wells Sugar River Wildlife Area.

[View the full album.](#)

(Photos courtesy Jim Beecher.)



On October 25, the work was on a small spring creek that feeds into the West Branch of the Sugar River. A lot of willows were removed and stumps were sprayed. This little creek has a suggestion of brook trout with some deeper holes, rocky bottoms and watercress on top. [View the full album.](#) (Photos courtesy Jim Beecher.)



Meeting of the Black Earth Creek Watershed Association (BECWA)

Thursday, December 1 at 7 p.m.
Garfoot Library, Cross Plains

Take a stake in this vital local resource

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this meeting of [BECWA](#). If you aren't aware of BECWA, it is an important cold water resource group in our area and worth joining and getting to know better.



This meeting offers a great opportunity to learn more about this treasured local trout stream.

David Rowe of the DNR will be the presenter, with opportunities for Q&A and discussion. Some main agenda items include:

- Results of Black Earth Creek habitat assessment from this past summer, with recommendations on short-term improvements to rehabilitate both habitat and access in the watershed
- Updated report on fish populations (remembering that populations were substantially down in lower Black Earth Creek last year).

We'll see you on December 1! There have been some very solid fishing reports from Black Earth Creek this past season.

Stay Connected



Know what's happening by connecting to our [Chapter Calendar!](#)



Check out [Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited on Facebook](#) to connect to activities, discussions and friends. (You should be able to view the page without a Facebook account.)

And if you know of a member not receiving emails from SWTU, please have them email madkase1@gmail.com!

Fountains of Youth

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

by Rusty Dunn

If you think getting a ticket to a Packers game at Lambeau Field is difficult, try scoring a one day beat on the River Test at the Houghton Club in Stockbridge, England. The club's 15 miles of river is perhaps the most famous trout water in the world -- "*clear as gin and twice as expensive*". You'll need to be a member or invited by a member of the Houghton Club for fishing access. What is required for membership? Money for sure, but that's only a beginning. Fame and recognition are helpful, but only if they are old world. A position of great authority is a plus, as is a distinguished family pedigree. An elusive combination of money, fame, power, and pedigree will get you a room at a nearby lodge, but it won't put you on club waters. What is needed? Few people know for sure. The Houghton Club was founded in 1822 by 13 members of privilege. Today, 194 years later, its ranks have swelled to 25. Privilege, it seems, has been in short supply. Prince Charles is a member, but good luck with that invitation.

William James Lunn (1862-1942) was head river keeper of the Houghton Club for 45 years beginning in 1887. His service began a dynasty lasting 105 years, as his son Alfred and grandson Mick were head keepers for 60 years after William retired. A keeper's job is to maintain and improve club waters for the benefit of both trout and angler. It is not an easy task, as the Test, like other Hampshire chalk streams, is a low gradient river draining an agricultural watershed. The Test was badly degraded when Lunn began his tenure, but he was a man of great ingenuity and persistence. He stabilized banks, installed deflectors to speed flow, built weirs to create plunge pools, removed excess weeds by hand, and slowly but surely cleansed the river of its stagnant corners, muddy bottoms, and choking weeds. His motto, "*Look after the sides and the middle will look after itself*", became a guiding principle of river keepers everywhere. After clearing the river, Lunn repopulated its

food base. He invented floating "fly boards" that attracted egg-laying mayflies and could be transplanted to barren waters. Lunn spent over 25 years re-establishing self-sustaining populations of various River Test mayflies, and descendants of his transplants entertain today's anglers of privilege.

Lunn's accomplishments were detailed in the 1934 book *River Keeper*, by J.W. Hills. It contains 40 of Williams' fly patterns, described by Hills as having "*the appearance of studied carelessness, being loosely dressed and indefinite in shape*". Lunn's flies stood in stark contrast to the elaborate and exacting imitations of his famous contemporary, F.M. Halford. William's most popular pattern is probably the Lunn's Particular, which imitates blue-winged olive spinners of several *Baetis* species. (Pronounced BEE'-tis there guv-nuh'.) Its unusual name originated in 1917 while Lunn fished with Mr. Walter Gilbey of London Gin fame. Fishing was slow, and Gilbey complained, "*The trout are being too particular today*". Lunn offered up one of his own flies, and Gilbey immediately caught fish. "*What's this fly?*" he inquired, to which William replied in jest, "*It's Lunn's Particular*".

With its quill body and hackle-tip wings, a Lunn's Particular is strikingly handsome. 'Tis a fly befitting the nobility of trout, whether it be on the River Test of County Hampshire or the Creek Black Earth of County Dane. If an invite to the Houghton Club doesn't work out, the next best thing might be a visit to your favorite Wisconsin spring creek. Attire yourself in tweed, string up your finest Hardy, and cast a Lunn's Particular among Driftless aristocracy. If the lords and ladies nod with approval, bring them to hand but release them gently. When the day is done, linger for a while amongst the royals and savor the moment. Pour yourself a wee dram o' Scot's malt and raise a toast to the magnificence of privilege, and to river keepers everywhere who make it possible. Then, have your carriage driver return you to your castle. You'll feel like a Prince.

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----- Lunn's Particular -----

Hook: Dry fly, #14-18

Thread: Crimson Pearsall's Gossamer silk, or any claret-red thread

Tail: Four fibers of Rhode Island Red rooster hackle

Body: Rhode Island Red hackle stem, stripped

Wing: Medium blue dun hackle tips, tied spent

Hackle: Rhode Island Red rooster





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