

Newscasts

January 2017 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



Top Picks for Southern Wisconsin Trout Fishing

Our February 14 Chapter Meeting

With a title like that, how can you not share the love on Valentine's Day by learning some great places to catch trout!

Scot Stewart, formerly of the DNR, will cover trout stream population data throughout southern Wisconsin. He's updated it with recent information up through 2015 to give you the latest scoop on where the fish are.



You can put this information to use right away for this year's fishing season. Even the most widely traveled trout fishers will glean new information and new streams to try.

Scot was born in Michigan and raised there and in Wisconsin. He attended the U of Minnesota for his BS in Fisheries Biology and the Ohio State University for his MS in Fisheries Management. Scot began his career with the Wisconsin DNR in Baldwin and covered St. Croix and Pierce Counties as a Fisheries Manager. Scot then moved to Madison where he served as an Area Fisheries Supervisor, then a District Supervisor until his retirement in early 2016.

Scot is married to Jo, has two sons and daughters in law and three grandsons. He loves to fish for trout and muskie, train retrievers and hunt ducks. In his retirement, he is starting an animal control business and will soon expand into guiding for trout and muskie. He serves on the state council of Trout Unlimited and is an active member of Muskies Inc.

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.

Looking ahead to our March 14 meeting

Get there early. You won't wanna miss it!!

Bob Gennrich Fly Tying "Garage Sale"

Bob is a legendary member of the Chapter that a lot of our more experienced members can tell great stories about. A superlative fly tyer, fisher and teacher, Bob led TU at numerous levels and won significant awards for his contributions to coldwater conservation.

Bob no longer ties and has donated his extensive collection of tying materials to our Chapter. It will be bundled into packages and priced to sell starting at 6. Anything not sold, will be made part of the auction.



Be there early on March 14 to take advantage of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!!

The Meicher Madness Auction

You'll want to be there March 14 to bid, of course, but remember that we also need items for the auction. Gear, books, flies, boots, waders, vests, artwork, services and more! If it's remotely related to our sport and the outdoors, somebody will buy it! Just bring it along that night and we'll find somebody to bid. This is our second-biggest fundraiser, so mark it off on your calendar and we'll see you there!



Someone Will Win \$100 on February 14

Nobody won last month, so the drawing for a gift certificate to *Fontana Sports Specialties* goes to our maximum of \$100. That means there will be a drawing of all members attending the February 14 and someone will walk away a winner. Be there!



Spring Workdays: Mark Your Calendars!

It's fun, rewarding and makes a real difference ... no matter your experience with streamwork, there is a roster spot for you on the Stream Team. (Hauling brush is decidedly uncomplicated.)

We'll be working from 9 to noon on the following Saturdays.

- March 25
- April 8
- April 22
- May 6



More details on *the where and the what* will be shared in future *Newscasts*.

If you have questions or think you can help, please contact Jim Hess (608-288-8662, jim.hess@tds.net).

Welcome New Members

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

Ross Pinski	Bryce Schmidt
Jason Taylor	Gilbert Funk
Neil Binkley	Peyton Hellenbrand
George Brown	Nathan Gravesen
Alex Bauer	Stephen Grogan
Todd Holman	

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.

Lend a hand at the Fishing Expo!

The Wisconsin Fishing Expo is February 24 – February 26, and we need volunteers to fill volunteer shifts at the SWTU booth. The Expo is an important way for us to "meet" new members and also generates grants we put to good use! You can sign up at the Chapter meeting or do it online! Just [click this link](#) and enter your information. (Note that you have to click firmly on a box to enter your information.) Questions about volunteering should be directed to Curt Dieh at cdbadgerfan@gmail.com.

Trout Maps for Tight Lines!

Here is the link shared by **Mike Miller** of the WDNR at the Icebreaker dealing with land use planning in the Driftless Area. At the bottom of the webpage, you'll find the report containing trout distribution maps.

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/lands/masterplanning/driftlessstreams/>

Badger Fly Fishing Spring Opener

The Badger Fly Fishers will be holding their big event on Saturday, February 11 at the American Family Insurance Training Center, Building "A", 6000 American Parkway, Madison.

The "Badgers" are an important and generous partner organization that does tremendous good for our Chapter and the coldwater resource. Learn more about the amazing day they have planned at <http://badgerflyfishers.com/>.



Wednesday, March 1

Barrymore Theater, Madison, WI

The original and preeminent exhibition of fly fishing cinema, The F3T is a one of a kind experience. Each year fishy folk of all ages gather at premieres to soak up films from around the world, spin a few yarns amongst friends and dream about casts still unmade.

Buy tickets at either Fontana Sports Specialties location for the reduced price of \$14 cash. They can also be purchased the day of the event at the Barrymore. <http://www.flyfilmtour.com/>

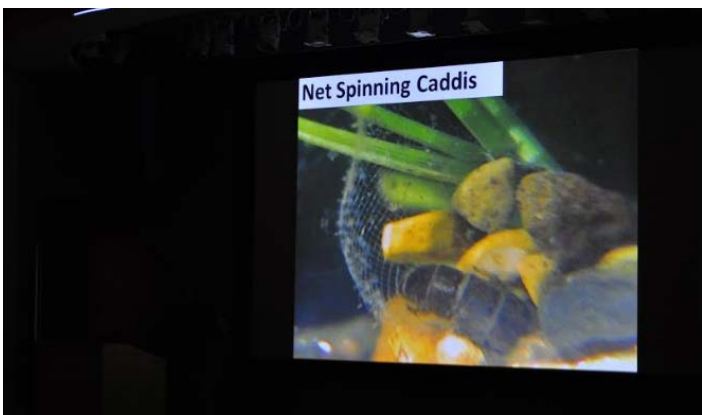
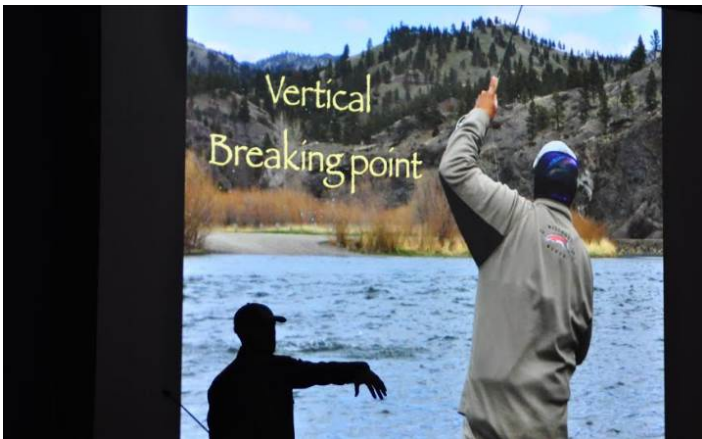
Thank you ...

to all who attended, helped out and made a difference at the Icebreaker. The event was very successful thanks to your time and generosity.

See the next two pages for some photos and a rundown of the raffle items.

We look forward to using the proceeds to make a difference for our resource in 2017!

The Icebreaker in photos



The Icebreaker Raffle Item Rundown!

The Icebreaker was a great success that netted north of \$6,000 for the chapter. It will power a lot of great restoration and education for our cold water resources.

The list below reveals amazing raffle items, generous donors and lucky winners! Items in red are unclaimed and will be available for pickup at the February 14 chapter meeting. If unable to pick up at the meeting, winners can contact amy.klusmeier@gmail.com. Prizes not claimed by the March 14 meeting will be auctioned off at that night's Meicher Madness Auction.

Donated Items	Donated by	Winner Name
Custom Bamboo Rod	Paul Douglass	Tony Weise
Custom 3 wt Fiberglass Rod	Dave Fowler; Matt Draft, Proof Fly Fishing	Tim Duggan
Custom Built Fly Tying Desk	Greg Erickson	John Gribb
Hand Tied Flies	John Gribb	Adam Balin
Hand Tied Flies	Tom Mulford	Jay Jurado
Orvis 5 wt Clearwater Outfit	Orvis	Ed Lauzon
Yeti Tundra 50	Drew Kasel, Dan Jansen, Kurt Osterby, Steve Wald & Tim Steines	Brandon Scholz
Steve Pennington Bamboo Rod	Henry Haugley	Ben Lubchansky
Full Day Guided Trip	Craig Amacker, Fontana Sports	Drew Kasel
St Croix Imperial 5 wt Rod & Remington Reel	Chuck Bayuk & Jim Bartelt	Tom Pellett
Stewart Flies; Simms Shirt	Ed Barnes & Scot Stewart	Curt Diehl
Flies and Reel	Blackhawk TU & Dave Patrick	Robert Rennock
Umpqua Waist Pack; Landing Net	Ed Barnes; Fontana Sports	Greg Ericson
Mlodzik flies & Simms Shirt	Ed Barnes & Rich Mlodzik	Ted Duggan
Lanyard w/tools & flies; hat	Jim Bartelt, Spring Creek Specialties	Bob Selk
St Croix gift certificate & Orvis 4 wt Reel	St Croix & Harry Peterson	Gerald Campbell
Umpqua Vest; Simms Shirt; Patagonia Pants	Ed Barnes	Steve Musser
UW Men's Basketball Package	Tom Parker	Josh Hall
"Spring Creek" Hand Tied Flies; Trout Print	Jim Beecher; Henry Haugley	Mike Hoerer
Beginner Fly Tying Kit; Wheatley Fly Box; books	John & Rose; Chris Long; Jordan Konisky	Mike Hoerer
Gift Basket; Framed Trout Print	John & Rose Schweiger; Badger Fly Fishers	Dave Sanders
Hand Tied Flies	Vern Lunde	Brett Katzman
Book Collection w/Trout Bookends	Henry Haugley & Bill Flader	Gayl Ryan
Farmers Clothing and Athena & Artemis Gear	Farmers Insurance; Athena & Artemis	Diane Reuter
Vortex Diamondback 8x45 & Books	Vortex Optics; Todd Hanson	Mike Hoerer
Vortex Solo Monocular 8x36 & Books	Vortex Optics; Henry Haugley	Fritz Seybold
Patagonia Sling; Clothing; Gift Card	Steve Born; Ed Barnes; Shoebox	Greg Vodak
Driftless Angler	Driftless Angler	Forrest Grulke
Tenkara Rod	Badger Tenkara	Tom Pellett
Fly Tying Kit and Book	Mark Nash	Bob Selk
Hand Tied Flies & Custom Built Fly Box	Jim Beecher; Frank Kosmach	Frank Feit
1/2 Day Guided Musky Trip	Reel North LLC	Dave Fowler

Fountains of Youth

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

by Rusty Dunn

Think about your favorite dry fly. What makes it great? Maybe it's a quick and easy tie with inexpensive materials? Or, maybe it's durable and highly visible on the water? Floats like a cork? Imitates insects found everywhere? Indeed, these are traits of great flies. Perhaps the most important feature, however, is a fly having universal appeal to trout. Only the rarest of flies combine all of these traits, and you will be wise to fill your fly box with them. Al Troth's Elk Hair Caddis is one such fly. Mr. Troth merged key features of two ageless caddis imitations into a truly fine pattern, one that is a blend of simplicity, impressionism, and uncanny effectiveness.

Al Troth developed his Elk Hair Caddis in 1957 to imitate caddisflies of Pennsylvania's Loyalsock Creek, where he was a local school teacher. He moved to Dillon, Montana in the early 1970s and established a well-known guiding and fly tying business. Troth's Elk Hair Caddis pattern was first published in 1976 in Terry Hellekson's book *Popular Fly Patterns*. It is arguably Al Troth's most famous pattern, and very few modern flies are as widely known. Its wing of elk hair tied Trude style suggests fluttering wings of an emerging or adult caddis. Its hollow elk hair floats the fly even in rough water. And, its palmered body hackle imitates legs and allows the fly to be twitched or skittered across the surface.

Troth designed the original Elk Hair Caddis as a wet fly, but it was a dismal failure because it floated too well. Troth couldn't sink the Elk Hair Caddis! He would jerk it underwater, but it popped right back to the surface because of the buoyant elk hair. Troth's very first Elk Hair Caddis taught him a valuable lesson. He pulled the fly underwater, it rose like a cork to

the surface, and a 20" brown struck immediately. This "Aha! moment" educated Troth about the buoyancy of elk hair and the value of imparting movement to caddis imitations. The Elk Hair Caddis has been a premier dry fly ever since. It is ready-made for the little twitches and jerks that excite trout to caddis emergers.

Troth's Elk Hair Caddis is related to two venerable caddis classics. G.E.M. Skues' Little Red Sedge (1921) has a similar design, with a dubbed body, palmered hackle, and rib of fine gold wire. Wings of the Little Red Sedge, however, are tied of landrail feathers, which are neither buoyant nor available today. The Elk Hair Caddis is also similar to a Bucktail Caddis, which originated in the Pacific Northwest and was very popular beginning in the 1950s. A Bucktail Caddis has a body of wool, a palmered hackle, a tail and wing of bucktail, and a collar of dry fly hackle at the head. It eventually shed the tail (caddis adults have no tails), and the bucktail wing was replaced by more buoyant deer body hair. Al Troth married the body of a Little Red Sedge with the buoyant wing of a Bucktail Caddis. He additionally formed a prominent head by flaring and trimming the butt ends of the elk hair parallel to the downward slanting eye of the hook.

The resulting fly is a modern classic. Tied in varying sizes and colors, Troth's Elk Hair Caddis imitates caddisflies of every variety, plus a substantial number of stoneflies, alderflies, and terrestrials. Omit the hackle, and the Elk Hair Caddis is virtually identical to an old English Hairwing Sedge. Add a tail of Antron and omit the hackle, and the result is Craig Mathews' X-Caddis. What are the lessons from all this evolution and adaptation? You just can't go wrong with a fly that sports a wing of elk or deer hair tied flat over the shank of a hook! Try one for yourself, and you'll likely have your own "Aha! moment".

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----- Elk Hair Caddis -----

Hook: Dry fly, down eye, size to match the natural.

Thread: 8/0, color to match the natural.

Body: Dry fly dubbing mixed with some sparkly Antron; color to match the natural.

Hackle: Dry fly hackle, light or dark to match the natural. Trim a "notch" in the hackle along the top to allow the wing to nestle among the hackle barbs.

Ribbing: Fine gold wire.

Wings: Elk hair, light or dark to match the natural; trim the butt ends parallel to the angle of the hook eye.



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.)

If you know of a member not receiving emails from SWTU, please have them email madkasel@gmail.com

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