

Newscasts

September 2016 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



September Social Free pizza and more at our September 13 meeting!

Join us on the 13th as we kick off the SWTU Fall meeting season at the September Social! We'll introduce you to our Chapter Leadership and Board members, provide an overview of all the great activities that the Chapter has to offer, and welcome new and existing members into the fold.

Enjoy free pizza for dinner, catch up with old friends and meet new ones!



Everyone is encouraged to bring a picture from this year's fishing or TU activities to share. We want to see your picture featured on the big screen while everyone socializes? Send your favorite fishing or TU picture from this year to Matt Sment at matthews836@gmail.com by Monday, September 12th to add to the presentation!



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.

Somebody will win \$100 in September

We've had no winner at the past meetings, so our You Must Be Present to Win drawing has grown to its maximum limit of \$100. Please join us at our September 13 Chapter meeting where one lucky member in attendance WILL win a gift certificate to *Fontana Sports Specialties*.



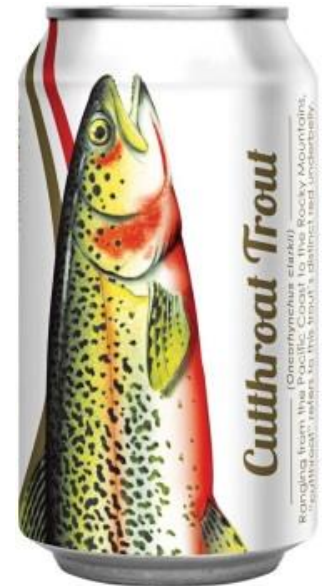
Beers & Brookies October 9 from 2 to 6 p.m.

Join us on Friday, **October 9th between 2 and 6 p.m.** in **Brewing Company (1079 American Way, Verona)** for our first **Beers & Brookies** social gathering.

We get it, a monthly chapter meeting is everybody's cup of tea. **Beers & Brookies** is meant to be an opportunity for SWTU chapter members to hang out, swap fishing tales, and enjoy a beer (or two) without the structured organization of a formal chapter meeting. No chapter business. No guest speakers. Just good fun, good friends, good music, and good beer.

Since we'll be on WBC's outdoor patio, we also plan on some food and games, including a casting competition and raffle prizes.

Make it a point to drop by **Beers & Brookies**, learn a little bit more about your local TU chapter, and unwind at the end of a long and successful 2016 trout season. You've earned it!



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.)

Rod building class – 1 spot left!! Registration is first come, first served

Dave Fowler is an accomplished rod builder and friend of SWTU. Dave is offering a two-day rod building class this October 22-23, at Cabela's in Sun Prairie. Students will build their choice of a 3-, 4-, or 5-weight fiberglass rod (not bamboo!) with Dave's instruction. Class includes all materials and the cost is \$175 per student. This is a steal compared to what it costs to buy a new rod. And on top of all that ... Dave has generously offered to donate all profits back to SWTU!

There is one seat still left in the 6-person class so register now (first come, first served). For more information or to register, email Dave at dfowler82@gmail.com.

Welcome New Members

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

Rob Hanson Jared Stieve
Todd Shoemaker Casey Niederwerfer

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.

Special Workday to Build Lunker Structures for the Neperud Project –

We had 39 brave souls participate in this workday to build 16 lunker structures for the Neperud Property on Saturday, July 23.

It was hot and muggy, with temps in the 80s, a dew point of 73, and 90% humidity. It didn't take long before you were completely soaked in sweat. But we kept everyone hydrated and the fantastic volunteer turnout allowed us to rotate in fresh workers.

The Southeast Chapter of TU (SEWTU) brought their Lunker Building Team, headed up by Henry Koltz and Jason Freund, to help us. They also brought their grill and cooked brats for lunch!

After some instructions on how to build a lunker structure, we were off to the races. It was quite the production line; we would have made Henry Ford proud. At peak production, we were producing one in less than 10 minutes each. SEWTU provided all the heavy equipment needed for the job – nail guns, heavy duty drill, specially equipped chainsaw to make straight cuts in the timber, and generators. The timbers were pre-cut and delivered to the site by Steve Frazier (Frazier Forestry) out of Monroe. Pat Hasburgh's father, Mike, moved the structures to a holding area with a skid loader that he borrowed from Fink's Evacuation.

Here are pictures from a wonderful, if warm, day.



Fall Stream Workdays

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

Mark your calendars for our fall workdays. You don't need any expertise or know-how to attend and help out. It's a great way to meet people and transform a stream for our coldwater friends!

October 1 – Salmo Pond

Remove buckthorns and other invasive woodies.

October 22 - West Branch of the Sugar River

Remove willows along the Rhiner Easement on Cty G.

November 5 - Either at Falk/Wells Wildlife area on the Sugar River or a DNR site on Black Earth

We're working to finalize the best site for this workday.

December 3 - Sugar River, Neperud Property

Remove woody invasives from hill, plant native seeds along the river in the disturbed areas, and inspect and clean up around planted trees and shrubs.

Watch for more specific information to be sent out prior to each workday. We look forward to seeing you! If you have questions, contact Jim Hess jim.hess@tds.net.

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

President's Column (and darned fine photograph!)

You might be reading this as you dust off those foam hoppers and beetle patterns, and begin making a play for the last few weeks of the trout season here in Wisconsin. As your trout fishing begins to wind down, it seems to be a good time to remind you that SWTU is just getting started this year, and we'd love to have you along for the ride.

In this issue of Newscasts you'll find a host of information about upcoming events and projects we have in store. Our Sugar River restoration project along the former Neperud property has made great progress with the help of Dane County and the DNR, and is it hoped to be finished this year. We have a full schedule of work days planned through the fall, focusing primarily on property along the Sugar River, as we continue our effort to improve this important local fishery.

I hope you can set aside the time to attend our September chapter meeting at Coliseum Bar & Grill on Tuesday, September 13th. I also hope you can make it to our special Beers & Brookies event with Wisconsin Brewing Company on Sunday, October 9th, and feel free to invite a few friends along for the fun, too! More information can be found for both of these get-togethers elsewhere in the pages of Newscasts.

There are also some important changes taking place behind the scenes, as our Communications Committee has been working diligently throughout the summer to redesign our website and make it more streamlined, easier to use, and accessible to each and every one of our members. It's an important change that will serve as a springboard for increasing our presence online and through social media.

By now you may be thinking to yourself, *Wow, there's a lot of stuff going on!* It's true, and I don't even have the all space needed to discuss the many other exciting

programs and ideas that are brewing within our various committees and among the board. The drive and dedication of our membership—people like you—is what allow us to keep this chapter moving forward into bigger and better things for coldwater resources and the trout that live there. We hope you'll be able to take part in some of the great things happening over the next couple of months.

I'll see you there!

Tristan



Successful Women's Fly Fishing Clinics!

More than 55 women who gathered for learning and laughter with the 2016 Wisconsin Women Flyfishing Clinics hosted by Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited. The clinics were featured in the TROUT magazine summer edition and the Outdoor Wisconsin newspaper!

These popular events are filling up fast for 2017, so visit the [Women's Flyfishing Clinic section of SWTU.ORG](http://www.swtu.org/women) to learn more and register. Please also note that we are looking for gently used raffle items for next year's clinics!

These clinics do more than grow our sport and expand interest in coldwater conservation ... they also make money for SWTU.



Pocket Water



The Wisconsin Women's Fly Fishing Clinics of Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited provide successful opportunities for women to learn fly fishing.

TROUT magazine, Summer 2016

You'll find more great pictures and information at the [SWTU Women's Clinics Facebook page!](https://www.facebook.com/swtu.women)



Fountains of Youth

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

by Rusty Dunn

"Speckled trout", "New York char", "aurora trout", "coaster", "spotted trout", "squaretail", "mountain trout", "speck", and "hemlock trout" are but a few of the many names given to North America's native and, for many, most beloved salmonid, the brook trout *Salvelinus fontinalis*. Brook trout are brightly colored jewels of North American rivers. Look to the brook trout of your local stream for an unbiased measure of its health. Brookies are the first trout to disappear when water quality declines and the last to reappear when it improves. A wild brook trout is the highest accolade – the gold medal – of stream conservation, protection, and restoration.

Thousands of fly patterns have been designed for brook trout, but none is more famous than Don Gapen's Muddler Minnow. Noted western fly tyer Jack Dennis describes the Muddler Minnow as *"beyond all doubt the greatest fly ever tied ... because it performs so well in many different conditions"*. The Muddler Minnow is included on almost all lists of "best ever" trout flies, and one such Muddler won the 1987 Jackson Hole One Fly Contest. So, what is the secret of a Muddler's success? In a word ... *cockatouche!*

The Muddler Minnow was developed by Don Gapen in 1937 to imitate sculpin minnows of Ontario's Nipigon River. Local Ojibwa fishing guides called such minnows "cockatouche" or "muddler sculpins". The name "muddler" derives from an old common name of sculpins, "mud-minnows". Gapen developed the Muddler Minnow for clients of his Nipigon River fishing lodge, which he owned and operated beginning in 1936. The wilderness surrounding the Nipigon was famous for its giant brook trout. "Giant" in this case means the largest brook trout ever caught by rod and reel! Dr. J.W. Cook landed a 14.5 pound brook trout on the Nipigon in 1916, and to this day it remains the IGFA-certified world record for brook trout. If Cook's champion fish is ever dethroned, a Muddler Minnow

may be the cause. Brook trout seem to have an irrational and fatal attraction for sculpins and the Muddler. Gapen's pattern is similar to a fly tied 50 years earlier by German immigrant Ludwig Moedler, but it is unlikely that Gapen drew inspiration from that older pattern. Rather, Gapen learned of brook trout's affection for sculpins from Nipigon natives and tied the Muddler from scratch to imitate them.

The Muddler Minnow was first published in 1953 in A.J. McClane's book *The Practical Fly Fisherman*. Dan Bailey of Livingston, MT, however, brought it fame and worldwide recognition. Bailey's fly shop began tying and promoting the Muddler Minnow in the 1950s. Bailey developed several very successful Muddler variations, including the White Muddler (aka. Mizzoulian Spook), Marabou Muddler, and Spuddler. Both Gapen's original and Bailey's variations were huge successes in the west, and you'll still find them in most western fly shops. Variations on the Muddler are almost endless.

The feature that ties all of these patterns together is the collar and head of clipped spun deer hair. Gapen's original Muddler had a fairly sparse and ragged head of loosely spun deer hair, but the more densely spun and clipped head found on today's Muddlers was a refinement by Dan Bailey. In the late 1950s, Muddler Minnows of various types accounted for over half of the oversized trout (4+ pounds) immortalized on the "Wall of Fame" of Bailey's fly shop

Sculpins are secretive fish that hide under rocks, and Muddler Minnows are most effective when fished near the bottom and stripped in short minnow-like darts. They can also be swung through riffles, but be prepared for crushing strikes. A large Muddler treated with floatant and fished as a dry fly makes an excellent hopper, large stone fly, or mouse imitation. Don Gapen's pattern is a timeless classic, and there's really no way to go wrong with it. Put one before a brook trout near you, and you'll likely earn your own gold medal.

Copyright 2016, Rusty Dunn

----- Muddler Minnow -----

Hook: Long shank, #2 - #14
Thread: Gray, 6/0 or 3/0, depending on size
Tail: Mottled turkey wing quill slip
Body: Flat gold tinsel
Underwing: Gray or red fox squirrel tail fibers, length to end of tail
Wing: Paired mottled turkey wing quill slips
Head: Spun and trimmed deer hair, leaving some tips pointing rearward as a collar





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

Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited Leadership:

President	Tristan Kloss
Vice President	Matt Sment
Secretary	Laura Beck Nielsen
Treasurer	Tom Parker
Past President	Matt Krueger
State Council Rep.	Scot Stewart
Board Member	Mary Ann Doll
Board Member	Jim Hess
Board Member	Mark Maffitt
Board Member	Topf Wells
Board Member	Amy Klusmeier
Board Member	Michael J. Burda
Newscasts Editor	Drew Kasel
Conservation Committee Chair	Jim Hess

tie.a.fly@gmail.com
matthews836@gmail.com
lbecknielsen@gmail.com
tparker23@charter.net
mattjoman@gmail.com
rstewart23@frontier.com
dollmaryann@gmail.com
jim.hess@tds.net
mark.maffitt@gmail.com
topfwells@gmail.com
amy.klusmeier@gmail.com
northernlightsreef@yahoo.com
madkasel@gmail.com
jim.hess@tds.net

Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited

P.O. Box 45555
 Madison, WI 53744-5555