

Newscasts

March 2017 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



The Meicher Madness Auction

Get there early! Great gear and fun at our March 14 meeting (plus a fly tying garage sale!)

You never know what you'll find ... and win ... at our annual Meicher Madness Auction. You can get great deals and get rid of some stuff (to make way for new stuff, of course). It's a very fun night and you might walk away with:

- Proven patterns tied by local masters
- Beautiful fly rods
- More proven patterns tied by local masters
- Fabulous fly tying materials
- Wildlife artwork
- All manner of outdoor gear
- The famous auctioneers bag, this year a beautiful Fishpond duffle stuffed with prizes!



These are just a few of the amazing things people have donated... and won... at the auction.

Auction items needed! Besides your bids, 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 that night and somebody will place a bid. This is our second biggest fundraiser. All proceeds go to preserve and protect our cold water resource.

Please arrive EXTRA EARLY to set out your donated item and/or preview items. We will start PROMPTLY at 7 p.m. and move things along as quickly as we can so the auction doesn't run too late. 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.

Who won \$100 on February 14?

Congratulations to **Lynn Beck** who was lucky to have his name drawn for \$100 to Fontana Sports Specialties. Good things happen to those who attend meetings!!

Also March 14 ...

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!!

We Want You!

Are you willing to step up and lend your talents and experience?

We have an excellent and engaging Board of Directors, and have two open director slots to fill this year. That means we need you – or maybe you have an idea of someone to nominate – to step up! SWTU is a very active (and award-winning!) chapter, and the excellent mix of stability and change at our leadership level plays a big role in our success.



Expressing interest is easy! Just reach out to [MaryAnn Doll](#) or [Amy Klusmeier](#), co -chairs of the Nominating Committee. You can also contact any officer or board member listed at the end of this newsletter. All names are forwarded to the Nominating Committee, which assembles a slate of candidates for the April chapter meeting.

If there is no contest for a slot, the person is typically approved on a voice vote. If a slot is contested, the election is conducted via secret written ballot. In addition, nominations may be made from the floor.

Check out the Leadership section of www.swtu.org for specific details on election procedures and the expectations for each position.

Saturday, March 25, 2017 Workday

A fun and friendly way to make a difference

Our first workday of the year will be **Saturday, March 25**, at a newly acquired DNR easement on Gordon Creek. The Blackhawk Chapter of Trout Unlimited will be joining us for this workday.



When: March 25, 2017 from 9 a.m. to Noon (Chapter Approved Sawyers please arrive at 8:30).

What: Cutting and treating box elders and invasive brush to benefit trout stream habitat and provide access to the stream. Also, friendly camaraderie, refreshments, coffee, and a chance to give back to the resource!

Where: Driving west from Madison on Hwy 151, take Hwy 78 south out of Mt. Horeb toward Blanchardville. The worksite is on the north side of Blanchardville. There is no parking available on Hwy 78, you will need to park on Baker Street, also known as Iowa Cty. Rd F. Here is a [map](#). If you get lost, call Jim Hess at 608-288-8662.

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 mugs will also be available.

Parking: Do not park on Hwy 78. Park on Baker Street (Iowa Cty. Rd F), which is on the north side of the cemetery and across the street (west) from the work area.

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

Future Workdays: Save the Date!

- **April 8** - Sugar River, Neperud Property (Sugar River Basco Unit County Wildlife Area) – cut & treat box elders, buck them up, and leave the trunks intact to be used by the DNR for the streambank improvements to this area
- **April 22** – Black Earth Creek – clear woody invasives along the stream and assist the Black Earth Creek Watershed Assn with their cleanup day (see below)
- **May 6** – Gordon Creek DNR Easement at Blanchardville, same as the March 25 workday

BECWA stream cleanup day: April 22

The Black Earth Creek Watershed does a great deal of good for one of our most local and important trout waters. (Visit [their website](#) to learn more and join.)



Each spring they organize a clean-up day that we are happy to support. It's as basic as you get ... walk the stream and pick up all the litter that's been thrown or blown along the waterway. This year it's alongside the April 22 SWTU workday; meet at Salmo Pond at 9 and we'll divvy up and do some good!

“Guides” needed for Project Green Team and Women's Clinic

Guides are needed for **Project Green Team's annual outing at Avalanche**. We need you whether you can do a day or all week. Dates are May 14th through 18th.

Also there are casting clinics for the PGT kids on March 30th and April 27th, 1-3 PM at Shabazz High School on N. Sherman Ave, Madison.

The chapters **Women's Clinics** are soaring in popularity and we need volunteers who will come out to the Westfork Sports Club on June 14th from 3 p.m. on and June 15 from 10:30 am on. You'll be taking three different women fishing during these days for them to work on their skills while on the water.

To help out or find out more info contact Rich Lahti 608-516-4480 rlahti64@gmail.com and Scot Stewart 608-273-5967 rstewart23@frontier.com.

If you have guided in the past or would like to guide this year you are also invited to an appreciation lunch on June 14th from 12:00-2:00. RSVPs are required for this event. Contact Rich Lahti at 608-516-4480 or rlahti64@gmail.com.

If you can help with any or all of these, or for more information, please contact:

Rich Lahti 608-516-4480 (rlahti64@gmail.com)
Tina Murray (t.murray.t@gmail.com)

Fountains of Youth

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

by Rusty Dunn

If the history of fly fishing is viewed in the mirror of time, dry-fly fishing is a relatively new invention, appearing only about 150 years ago. Wet-fly fishing, on the other hand, existed for centuries before the words "dry" and "fly" were first juxtaposed. One of the cornerstones of wet-fly fishing as practiced today developed slowly but steadily in the north of England during those wet-fly-only centuries. This unique style of fly tying and fishing originated in and around Yorkshire, which is north of the midlands and south of Scotland. Yorkshire is a land of striking natural beauty, with expansive moorlands, dense woodlands, cascading waterfalls, glacially carved mountains, and rich beautiful valleys. It is a land of swift stony-bottomed rivers that drain the English highlands. Yorkshire rivers are home to ancient brown trout and centuries-old fly-fishing traditions. They are the birthplace, incubator, and laboratory of "the North-Country style" of fishing. Flies and methods of the North Country were refined for centuries by observant and talented Yorkshire anglers.

North-Country flies are remarkably simple designs, being sparsely dressed of silk threads, soft feathers, and natural furs. They are usually tied without explicit wings. The flies' thin profiles, translucent bodies, and graceful movements of soft materials underwater amount to little more than a *suggestion* of a natural insect ... a mere hint of imitation. But, when experienced anglers present North-Country flies before trout, those suggestions become irresistibly attractive.

The earliest indications of a distinct North-Country style of fly are, arguably, evident in certain flies of Charles Cotton, described in *The Compleat Angler* (1676). Cotton's flies were winged, but he describes their sparse and delicate dress as being quite unlike the thick heavy flies in common use in the English south. North-Country flies appear in books and manuscripts through the 1700s, but they received a tremendous surge of attention during the 1800s. Indeed, the mid-

to late-1800s was a golden age of the North-Country school, with numerous authors and books contributing to its growth and popularity. Two landmark books published near the turn of the 20th century assimilated dispersed threads of the northern style and presented an integrated angling philosophy. The books, *Yorkshire Trout Flies* (1885) by T.E. Pritt and *Brook and River Trouting* (1916) by H.H. Edmonds & N.N. Lee, describe insects of northern rivers, pattern recipes for their imitation, and angling methods for success. The books are today's definitive reference – the Old Testament, if you will – of tying and fishing North-Country wets.

Yorkshire Trout Flies emphasized pattern recipes but gave little guidance on how the flies are actually tied. *Brook and River Trouting* remedied that shortfall, as it provided quality photos both of the finished flies and the silks, furs, and feathers with which each is tied. Simplicity of the patterns plus quality photos of the finished flies made their tying understandable even for beginners. Flies described in *Brook and River Trouting* were not of Edmonds' and Lee's design. Rather, they were previously published patterns used widely in the north. *Brook and River Trouting* integrates accurate entomology with descriptions of insect behaviors, times of emergence, matching flies, and methods for effective presentation. The book emphasizes above all else the importance of knowing the biology of trout and insects:

"A thoughtful fisherman studies the water, its pools, currents and eddies, and ... realizes the necessity of a good knowledge of insect life, watercraft and the habitat of the trout, and becomes as intimate with each as an artist is with his colours."

Edmonds' and Lee's minimalist approach to angling is evident in their selection of flies for the book. Rather than being an exhaustive collection of the large number of existing North-Country flies, it gives recipes of only thirty nine. These flies alone are sufficient to catch trout all year long, in varying weather, and in any type of river. *Brook and River Trouting* demonstrates yet again that accurate *presentation* of a fly is always more important than precise *imitation* of a natural insect.

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Brown Owl

Brook and River Trouting describes the Brown Owl as a caddisfly imitation for late April through June. As with other North-Country flies, its collar of soft hackle imitates both wings and legs of the natural.

Hook: Wet-fly, #14

Thread: Pearsall's Gossamer silk, orange (#6A)

Wings: Hackled with a reddish brown feather from the lesser coverts of a Tawny or Brown Owl's wing. (Substitute with wing coverts of an English woodcock)

Body: Tying thread

Head: Bronze peacock herl



Welcome New Members

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

Jeffrey Campbell	CJ Harkins	Ben Olson
Luke Kohl	Bridget Swenson	Mark Hanson
Michael Attridge	Jonathan Cordova	Theodore Swenson
John Schindler	Zach Lauridser	Eliza Woulf
Bryan Woolever	Carson Hinkley	Daniel King
John Luther		



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.

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

Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited Leadership:

President	Tristan Kloss	tie.a.fly@gmail.com
Vice President	Matt Sment	matthews836@gmail.com
Secretary	Mark Maffitt	mark.maffitt@gmail.com
Treasurer	Tom Parker	tparker23@charter.net
Past President	Matt Krueger	mattjoman@gmail.com
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