

# Newscasts

May 2017 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



## A closer look at factors affecting stream health Learn about it at our May 9 meeting

Come join us to explore **Wisconsin streams and factors that affect their health** with Wisconsin DNR Stream Ecologist Mike Miller.

Whether it is advocacy, conservation work days, education, you name it – all of SWTU's activities are focused on conserving our cold water resources.

This is a great opportunity to see the "big picture" of Wisconsin's streams!"

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 at our last meeting and so the drawing will grow to \$40. Please join us at our next Chapter meeting for a chance to win a gift certificate to *Fontana Sports Specialties*. You need only be present to win!

### Breaking: Your Advocacy Action Needed

Please call the governor's office at (608) 266-1212 and tell him to veto SB76 – the groundwater giveaway. Our waters are TOO valuable to hand over to industry at the expense of local residents and their communities.

Be clear and respectful, the message is simple: "Veto SB76. Put Wisconsin citizens ahead of corporate interests and don't ignore the science that tells us SB76 jeopardizes groundwater that belongs to everyone."

## Take the Dane County Park Survey

Dane County is currently seeking public opinion as it revises its Parks and Open Spaces Plan. This plan has at least two purposes: its completion ensures the County is eligible to receive state funds to improve the park system and it establishes the goals for the next five years for the park system.



Dane County's park system includes far more than traditional parks. For the trout angler, that system includes all the County's trout stream easements, which allows the public permanent fishing access to the streams and enables the County and partners such as TU to restore those streams. The parks system also includes all the County wildlife areas which sometimes include significant acreage on trout streams. Examples include the Falk/Wells Wildlife Area and Unit 1 of the Basco Wildlife Area (the Neperud Property) and several new purchases on Token Creek.

A new and important part of the current revision of the Parks and Open Spaces Plan is an internet survey. The survey enables any member of the public to indicate what he or she thinks should be improved or maintained in the park system. The survey is readily available by googling the Dane County Parks and Open Spaces Plan. Or just click this link!

<http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07edx78f4aj02u6mqc/a01xcj158bsa9/greeting>

As a TU member, please take the time to complete the survey and indicate your support for the stream easement program and other efforts to protect and improve the trout fisheries of Dane County. Thank you.

## Saturday, May 6 Workday

A fun and friendly way to make a difference

Our last Spring workday will be this **Saturday, May 6**, at a newly acquired DNR easement on Gordon Creek. The DNR is wanting to add more easements in this area and clearing out this section will help to convince other land owners to sign up for an easement.



**When:** May 6, 2017 from 9 a.m. to Noon (Chapter Approved Sawyers please arrive at 8:30).

**What:** Cutting and treating honeysuckles, invasive brush, and box elders 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 for directions.

**Bring:** Bring rubber boots, 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.

### Future Workdays:

**July 15** - Basco Unit County Wildlife Area (**Neperud property**) on the Sugar River.

If you have questions or think you can help, please contact Jim Hess at [jimhess5599@gmail.com](mailto:jimhess5599@gmail.com) 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

## Slash and Burn!

Photos from the last workday



Photos courtesy Jim Beecher  
[View the full album](#)

## A Successful Casting Clinic!

Fly fishing and stream ecology enthusiasts braved the cold weather to attend the Riversmith Casting Clinic on April 29. A dedicated crew of SWTU volunteers provided individualized instruction on equipment, reading the water, casting, Tenkara, and entomology.

*On behalf of the entire chapter, I'd like to express our gratitude to Bobbi Peckarski, Sue Fey, Steve Born, Bob Selk, Tom Krauskopf, Henry Haugley, Mike Burda, Scot Stewart, Andy Morton, and Amy Klusmeier for volunteering their time and talents to make the 2017 Riversmith Casting Clinic a success. Thank you all for your contribution and commitment to SWTU's mission!*

**- Matt Sment, SWTU President**



## “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 14<sup>th</sup> through 18<sup>th</sup>.

Also there are casting clinics for the PGT kids on March 30<sup>th</sup> and April 27<sup>th</sup>, 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:rlahti64@gmail.com) and Scot Stewart 608-345-8694 [scotstewart2@gmail.com](mailto:scotstewart2@gmail.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](mailto: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](mailto:rlahti64@gmail.com))  
Tina Murray ([t.murray.t@gmail.com](mailto:t.murray.t@gmail.com))

## Orvis is offering free fly fishing classes... want to help out?

If you've visited Orvis Madison on weekends in the spring and summer, you may already know that the store offers free fly fishing classes, introducing 150-200 people a year to having fun on the fly. What you might not know is that **every student who participates in the class receives a free 1-year membership to Trout Unlimited**. This gives us a great opportunity to introduce our chapter to people who may not be familiar with TU and what we do, and their fishing manager Tristan (yes, *that* one... and he apologizes for wearing two hats at once here!) is asking for volunteers to help these students hone their casts and tie some knots and introduce them to some friendly TU faces.

The two to two-and-a-half hour class is held most Saturdays and some Sundays from April through June. If you able to give some new anglers a few casting tips, help them with tying knots, answer some questions, and willing to be an ambassador for TU, please consider helping out. (Bonus: volunteers are eligible for discounts on Orvis stuff, and it's better than just "another \$25 coupon"!)

You can contact Tristan directly at [tie.a.fly@gmail.com](mailto:tie.a.fly@gmail.com), or call the store at (608) 831-3181 and let them know you are interested in volunteering for FF101. A full list of classes is available from the store.

## 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](mailto:madkasel@gmail.com)

## Fountains of Youth

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

by Rusty Dunn

We are a nation of immigrants ... a melting pot, where cultures and traditions imported from abroad adapt, evolve, and meld into a uniquely new society. The history of American fly fishing is much the same. Fly angling as we know it developed in Great Britain, often by a privileged upper class. The methods, however, emigrated to America along with the hard working early settlers. Fly angling then adapted to the new geography, took root in America's tremendous natural resources, and grew into the magnificent pastime that we honor and protect today.

Theodore Gordon (1854-1915) is often called the "father" of American fly fishing, but "ambassador" is perhaps more fitting. He was not the first to cast artificial flies before American trout, but his knowledge of English angling, his fly-fishing experiences, and his prolific writings of the late 1800s had great influence on fly anglers of a prosperous and growing nation. Gordon lived among the famous Catskill rivers, and he educated Americans about fly fishing, especially the dry fly revolution taking place then in England. Gordon conveyed the rich traditions of the Old World to the emerging angling culture of the New World.

Gordon was a principle architect of early American dry flies. He received in 1890 a gift of ~50 dry flies tied by the great English angler/author F.M. Halford. The flies were starting points for Gordon's New World adaptations. He modified the patterns to imitate local insects and to float better on America's swifter rivers. Gordon, together with Herman Christian, Roy Steenrod, and Edward Hewitt ("the hallowed four"), established what was later called "the Catskill style" of dry fly. Catskill-style flies are tied of Yankee frugality – lean, clean, and Spartan – but with a healthy dose of ingenuity and effectiveness.

Gordon was a prolific author, but he never wrote a

book. His articles on fly fishing appeared in Britain's *Fishing Gazette* and America's *Field and Stream*, among others. Gordon was acknowledged in Britain as America's leading authority on fly fishing, but his recognition in the U.S. was more limited, probably for lack of a published book. A book manuscript was rumored to exist when Gordon died, but it never surfaced. He may have faded into angling obscurity were it not for the heroic efforts of historian John McDonald, who collected Gordon's written legacy in his 1947 masterpiece *The Complete Fly Fisherman, The Notes and Letters of Theodore Gordon*.

Gordon was a passionate conservationist as well as an expert angler. He wrote frequently about preserving the environment and of man's thoughtlessness and stupidity toward nature. He opposed put-and-take trout management before it was even called such, and he proposed that some waters should be set aside for fly angling only, protected from baited hooks. Gordon despised private waters that were closed to public access because they violated his code of ethics. Gordon's notoriety brought him many invitations to fish the protected and well-stocked waters of private clubs. He always declined, saying such waters were not a test of his skill.

*"We do not care for preserved waters unless they are hard fished and hold wild trout. Who cares much for trout that will rise freely at almost any fly and can be taken without effort?" (Field & Stream, 1913).*

Theodore Gordon's most famous fly is the Quill Gordon, first described in 1906. Quill Gordons imitate *Epeorus pleuralis*, a large mayfly of early spring in the East and Midwest. The design is quite generic, however, and many anglers use Quill Gordons as a general mayfly attractor pattern. It is, indeed, a very handsome attractor. Perhaps nothing in fly fishing is more beautiful than a Catskill dry fly riding majestically above the water's surface, braced by nothing but the tips of its hackle and tail feather barbs. Copyright 2017, Rusty Dunn

### ----- Quill Gordon -----

The original Quill Gordon had a tail of wood duck flank fibers and an upright but undivided wing. Later versions have tails of hackle barbs and divided wings, similar to other Catskill-style dry flies.

**Hook:** Dry fly, #12-14

**Thread:** Gray

**Wings:** Wood duck flank, upright and divided

**Tail:** Hackle barbs, medium to dark natural dun (spring) or honey dun (summer)

**Body:** Stripped peacock quill, light for summer and dark for spring

**Hackle:** Medium to dark natural dun (spring) or honey dun (summer)



## Welcome New Members

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

Brandon Herbert	Kim Bentz	Jim Vanevenhoven
Patrick Winter	Beth Kolk	Jay Vanevenhoven
Kurt Stephenson	Brock Flowers	Bob Disch
Rodrick Ruesch	Gene Rankin	Matthew Rossetto
Clay Krantz	Ben Moore	Anne Pringle
Jeff Schepp	James Dixon	Holly Jones
Nate Dreikosen	Edward Nauman	Robert Zabrowski
Paul Buckner	Mark Eisenmann	Keyena McKenzie
Leif Hendrickson		



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 [Tristan Kloss](#) so we can expect you.

### Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited Leadership:

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

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