

# Newscasts

July 2017 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



## No July or August Meetings

(But some stuff going on that you want to pay attention to!)

Per usual, we are taking the summer off and not having regular chapter meetings in July or August.



That's not to say you can't do anything!

- Grab your waders and be there for our workday on July 15 at the Basco Unit County Wildlife Area (Neperud) on the Sugar River. Watch for more details!
- Keep checking [swtu.org](http://swtu.org) for updates, pictures, news opportunities and more! (Note there will not be a Newscasts in August.)
- Reach out to somebody in the Chapter and go fishing or tie flies together. Maybe somebody you haven't fished or tied with before. Get inspiration from [the fly tying section of swtu.org](http://the-fly-tying-section-of-swtu.org).
- Not sure of anybody to fish or tie with? Contact a Board member (listed at the end of the newsletter) or make a post on [our Facebook page](http://our-Facebook-page).
- Loan out your favorite book on fishing, or bug a friend for a fishing book to borrow.
- Attend one or more of the events or meetings listed in this newsletter.
- Mark Tuesday, September 12 on your calendar and plan to be there at our next regular chapter meeting.
- While you have your calendar open, **save Saturday, January 13, 2018 for the amazing/fantastic/stupendous Icebreaker** at the American Family Insurance Headquarters.

## Saturday, July 15, 2017 Workday

Join us for a fun and friendly way to make a difference

Our next workday will be **Saturday, July 15 at the Sugar River Basco Unit Wildlife Area (Neperud property)**, south of Paoli on Hwy 69 – the fire address is 1065. We will be working primarily in the river

installing planking onto bank covers installed by the DNR, so bring your waders. But there will be some work on dry land as well.

By the time of this work day, almost of all the DNR streambank improvements will have been completed. This two-year project includes bank covers, log sills, root wad deflectors, brush bundles, bank shaping, rip rap, and rock barbs. This work has been completed by the southern district fish ops crew with some help from some techs out of Eagle

Members of the Southeast Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Chapter will be joining us for this workday and will be bringing their grill to cook brats for lunch. **Be sure to RSVP** so we can get a head count for the brats.

**When:** July 15, 2017 from 9 a.m. to Noon.

**What:** Streamwork, friendly camaraderie, refreshments, coffee, and a chance to see the improvements made along this stretch of the Sugar River over the last two years.

**Where:** Sugar River Basco Unit Wildlife Area (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:** Besides waders, bring work gloves (rubber palm gloves are ideal), nail aprons, sunscreen, mosquito repellent, and perhaps some extra dry clothes. 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.)

**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](mailto:jim.hess@tds.net) so we can get a volunteer count estimate. See 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

## Meeting on Proposed Mine

Badger Fly Fishers and Friends,

Please check out the Badger Fly Fishers website [badgerflyfishers.com](http://badgerflyfishers.com) to access information on an important meeting coming to Madison in July. The River Alliance of Wisconsin is sponsoring an informational meeting to discuss the environmental and cultural impact of a proposed sulfide mine (Back Forty Mine Project) which will be located next to the Menominee River. Professor Al Gedicks will discuss the environmental issues and Guy Reiter will discuss the cultural issues of the proposed mine. This informational meeting will take place on July 17th at 5:30 PM at the Madison Public Library, 201 W. Mifflin St., Madison, WI. We'll learn how to get involved in this critical issue. Also, BFF is sponsoring some refreshments for the event.

I hope to see you there,

Bob Harrison

## Ice Age Trail event in Cross Plains

On behalf of the Ice Age Trail Alliance, Cross Plains Chamber of Commerce and Dane County volunteers, we would like to invite your organization to join us in an Ice Age Trail Community event where we will be celebrating the Ice Age Trail and greater Cross Plains area. On July 15<sup>th</sup> we will be meeting along the banks of Black Earth Creek for presentations regarding how the community may enjoy the natural and cultural beauty of Cross Plains.



Quite a lot is planned for people of all ages, including a Tyke Hike!

[Learn more about the celebration here](#). If you are interested in joining, [please complete the online registration](#) so we can plan meals and tools accordingly

## 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)**

## Reflections on the Women's Clinic

The Women's Flyfishing Clinic held outside Virocqua a few weekends ago was a phenomenal learning experience. It was fun, educational, and, most of all, supportive, providing an entryway into a sport that may seem elusive, even esoteric to many.

Four important things happened in the clinic to make this possible: As newbies, we were actively welcomed into the flyfishing community; our instructors and River Buddies demystified the process so we knew enough to be self-sufficient; we each were matched with a River Buddy/mentor for an afternoon of fishing; and we had a great time.

Fly fishing is more than a sport; like most hobbies, it's also a community of passionate enthusiasts, with a culture all its own. But every culture or specialized hobby has its jargon, which can be kind of intimidating to the uninitiated. While the visuals always were appealing, I didn't know if I would ever find a "way in" to this intriguing world of men and women who fish by wading into streams, wearing vests hung up with countless mysterious doodads.

There is something essential about the sharing, or passing on, of a tradition. Think about it. How many people just up and decide to start hunting or fishing, and go and teach themselves? Of course it can be done. But generally speaking, these are skills, traditions, ethics that are shared or passed on from person to person, sometimes intergenerationally, sometimes through friends or other mentors. The Women's Flyfishing Clinic provided that way in. From our very first activity, reflecting on what previous experiences or desires we bring to fly fishing, to shadow casting and tying knots, to dry casting on land, to one-on-one streamside mentoring from our River Buddies, to sharing tales of our fishing exploits around the campfire that evening, the Clinic instructors cast a supportive circle that affirmed our belonging and set us up for success.

At the end of the weekend, I got geared up. Through the clinic, we received a few essentials, the most exciting of which was a set of flies, hand-tied by supportive TU members. I can't think of a more expressive way for the community to welcome us newbies into the fold! But still, I would need a rod, reel and a few other items. My previous experience with this kind of situation would be a state of overwhelm and inability to choose due to insufficient information or experience. But no! Self-sufficiency was the name of the game. I was so impressed (with the Clinic, and myself) that in only two days, I had learned enough and gained the confidence to go into a shop and know what I needed (and didn't need) in order to get started.



I haven't been out yet – the first plans I made were rained out – but now I've studied the maps and selected several spots within an hour north and west. I also came up with a good spot to practice casting right here in Green Bay, where I may even land a surprising catch. I definitely want to go out fishing with others, and to continue growing, learning, enjoying and building our angling community. But I also am jealously guarding the time I can carve out for myself and my fly rod - time I will set aside to find my way back into the zone, absorbed into the rhythm of casting, with nothing but the ambient voice of the stream and maybe a wood thrush or two as the soundtrack to that amazing visual: the woman wading in the water, focused, relaxed, angling her cast just so in the ideal mimic of a real fly. And what amazes me most of all about that visual? To discover that that woman is me.

Melis Arik  
Member, Green Bay Trout Unlimited

***See the following pages for more on these clinics!***

*Winning teams depend on the hard work of many players to be successful, and SWTU is no different. The Women's Clinic events held in Avalanche this June exemplified the highest ideals of team spirit and volunteerism. These clinics draw participants from all over the country to learn fly fishing skills that will inspire a lifetime of outdoor adventure and spark an interest in cold water stewardship. Everyone who supports the event is passionate about the mission, and generously donates their time and resources towards making the Women's Clinics an outstanding program. On behalf of SWTU membership, I would like to thank the following people and organizations for their vital contributions to the success of the 2017 Women's Clinics:*

#### **Main organizers of all the clinics.**

- Tina Murray
- Laura MacFarland
- Valarie Hein

#### **Instructors**

- Nikki Seger
- Nome Buckman
- Donna Smith
- Geri Meyer
- Marlene Houston
- Pam Pam Harner VanEram

#### **Volunteers**

- Amy Priester
- Becca Reynolds
- Jacqui Guthrie
- Gretta Wing Miller

#### **Riverbuddies who took women out fishing Saturday night:**

- Cheryl Channon
- Carmen Hardin
- Megan Hess
- Erica Hickey
- Susan Jester
- Amy Klusmeier
- Kate Lodge
- Hanna Matousek
- Jane McMahon
- Drox Rosik-Geurts
- Kristal Stokes
- Janet Veit
- Lisa Wilson

#### **Wowsc-i clinic guides**

- See list and photo on the next page!

#### **It takes a village but here are our numbers.**

*Instruction wise we trained 58 women on fly fishing skills, conservation and how to take others out on the water. In 5 days time.*

20 women through the beginners

20 women through the on the water skills clinics.

18 women through training to take other women out on the water (riverbuddy training)

*We were able to appreciate 27 of the 35 Guides and Riverbuddies who came or have come multiple years to support the clinics.*

We held an appreciation lunch for 15 guides on Wednesday afternoon and a light dinner for 12 women riverbuddies on Friday evening

#### **Add the 13 Organizers, instructors and volunteers to total 106 people participating during the clinics.**

#### **Then there are :**

The many many people who tied flies for the basic women's boxes.

Jim Bartelt made his yearly lanyard to raffle.

Dave Fowler made a custom 4wt rod to raffle.

Athena & Artemis donated a guide trip to raffle.

Many others donated fly boxes, books, fly lines etc.

John Gribb who tied fly hat pins for the women riverbuddies.

SWTU extended its support to allow for this year's appreciation activities.

The Logan Mill Lodge donated an extended stay to our organizers due to bad weather.

Gretta Wing Miller donated her time and expertise and is working on a video about the women's clinics.

The Westfork Sports Club donated some of their facilities for our use.

Mike Miller (DNR) Donated his time to come out and do an ento- clinic and a fish Shocking.

Camen Harden (DNR) assisted Mike Miller with fish shocking

Driftless Angler donated leaders for the basics clinics.

WI DNR provided Scott Rod Co. Fly Fishing instructional books.

... and other "behind the scenes" contributors who make the women's clinics what has been deemed by many who attend clinics in other regions "the best women's fly fishing clinic in the US."

*With sincere gratitude to all,  
Matt Sment, SWTU President*



### Wowsc-i Clinic Guides and Participants



**Guides:** Scot Stewart, PJ Smith, Tom Thrall, Jim Bartelt, Tom Mulford, Rich Mlodzik, Rich Lahti, Jason Freund, Ben Lubchanski, John Gribb, Mike Grimes, Jim Hill, Nick Volk, Bill Hayes, Bill Heart, John Bethke, Mark Kowaliw, Duke Welter, Bob Brewer, Jim Beecher, Dave Fowler, Ben Cheeseman, Kyle Zemple, Mark Rhinerson

### Fish were caught! (and released)



### Fun was had; friendships created



### A drones-eye view of casting instruction



### One-on-one help makes a big difference



### Gearing up to hit the water



See more great photos, learn more about the clinics and register for 2018!

- [Facebook page](#) for Wisconsin Women's Flyfishing Clinics
- Visit the [clinic page on swtu.org](http://clinic.page.on.swtu.org)

## Fountains of Youth

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

by Rusty Dunn

Which is more important when fishing dry flies to rising trout: A good presentation? Or, a fly that imitates prevailing insects? The correct answer is "A", a good presentation. Quality presentations are more important than everything else combined when it comes to fooling trout. Fly size, pattern, and color are important, but excellent presentations will always bring trout to hand, even with flies that look nothing like the insects *du jour*. On the other hand, you'll rarely catch trout when your fly drags or floats unnaturally, no matter how perfect the imitation.

This principle of dry fly angling descends from the teachings of F.M. Halford, probably the greatest and certainly the most influential dry fly practitioner ever. In Halford's own words:

*"Place the fly lightly on the water so that it floats accurately over the fish without the slightest drag". -in Floating Flies and How to Dress Them (1886)*

Halford advocated dead-drift presentations in all circumstances, but he fished the fertile chalk streams of England, which are astonishingly rich in mayflies. In less fertile waters, such as the majority of North America, caddisflies are often more important to trout than mayflies. Caddisflies often violate Halford's rules as they flutter, skitter, and flop on the surface during emergence, or dap and skim the surface during egg laying. In both situations, caddis dry flies presented with subtle jerky movements imitate naturals better than those that drift quietly. Such presentations can make the difference between a good day and a great day.

The undisputed champion of fishing dry flies with movement was Leonard Wright, Jr. (1922 - 2001). His 1972 book *Fishing the Dry Fly As A Living Insect* articulates principles of when, where, and how to ma-

nipulate a dry fly to entice a loafing trout. Wright was a New York advertising executive who summered in the Catskills and honed his skills on its heavily fished waters. He recognized that caddis were often more abundant than mayflies, but he found little detailed information in the angling literature on how to fish them. After studying the flop and flutter of caddis emergers, Wright experimented with flies and presentations to imitate their erratic motion. He discovered that dry flies fished with movement can be more effective than those drifting freely.

"Movement" is not the same as "drag". A dragging fly is one whose movement is out of control. The current pulls the fly constantly, and it glides across the stream. An active fly is one whose movement is under control. The *angler* jerks the fly abruptly, and it should twitch a short distance in the upstream direction. Watch emerging caddisflies sometime. Their stuttering attempts at flight are always directed upstream.

Wright designed his Fluttering Caddis specifically for active presentations. Its magic lies in the presentation. Wright cast the Fluttering Caddis across and slightly downstream, with the fly line curving upstream. He mended line as needed to prevent drag and to counteract intervening currents. As the drifting fly approached a rising fish or likely lie, Wright raised the rod tip sharply and gave the fly one quick little nudge. He called the maneuver "*the sudden inch*", because the fly darted upstream (or up-and-across) about that distance. Any other direction identifies the disturbance as a fraud.

Wright was not the first author to advocate active presentations of dry flies, but each generation of angler benefits from being reminded of age-old principles. Leonard Wright did just that. He reminded us that trout often judge the movement of potential food to separate the meat from the chaff. Wright's method is a proven winner, and not just for emerging caddis. You would be wise to get a little twitchy when casting dry flies over suspicious fish.

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## ----- Wright's Fluttering Caddis -----

**Hook:** Dry fly, #12 - #18

**Thread:** 8/0, color to match

**Body:** Pheasant tail feather barbs or other feather fibers, color to match the natural. Keep the body slim.

**Rib:** Fine gold wire, counter-wrapped

**Wing:** Rooster hackle barbs or mink tail guard hairs, length about twice the body. Form a bundle over the upper half of the body, veiling it slightly.

**Hackle:** Rusty dun rooster hackle, tied bushy



## Welcome New Members

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

Nicholas Linden  
Sara Rigelman  
Alexander Hudy  
Jason Konen  
Matt Phillips

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:

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