

Newscasts



September 2017 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Catch 'em up close: Tips and tricks that will help you land more fish Our September 12 Chapter Meeting

Can't cast a mile? That's okay! Fish are often much closer than you think.

Erik Helm, former Orvis Milwaukee fishing manager turned Driftless fishing guide (and longtime TU supporter!) will be our speaker on September 12.

Erik will be talking about "The Short Game" ... breaking down common short casting distance scenarios all Driftless anglers are faced with at one time or another.

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 \$60. 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!

Icebreaker update!

Save the date for January 13, 2018



We are excited to announce that our keynote speakers will be Tucker and Jacquie Nelson from [Nelson Spring Creek Ranch](#) in Livingston, MT.

The Nelson's were recently featured in *The Drake* magazine. They share a deep passion for fishing, stewardship and teaching others. We will share much more about the Nelsons over the next few months and look forward to seeing you on Saturday, January 13.

If you have questions about the Icebreaker, contact amy.klusmeier@gmail.com.

[Project Healing Waters](#) hosted a fly fishing clinic at Black Earth Creek in Cross Plains on August 17. A terrific thanks to the volunteers who made a difference for some very worthy veterans.



Our Fall Stream Workday Schedule Mark your calendars!

Please join us for any or all of our three fall workdays. Absolutely no experience necessary ... the work isn't complicated and is a great way to make a difference for our streams and meet some great people!

October 7 – Mt Vernon Creek

When: 9am to 12 noon (Chapter Approved Sawyers please arrive at 8:30).

Where: Mt Vernon Creek, starting at the bridge on Cty. Rd. U and working upstream toward Mt. Vernon. Cty Rd. U is located about 1/2 mile south of Mt. Vernon on Hwy 92. Here is a [map](#) to this location.

What: Extensive clearing of brush and box elders. There is a lot of work that needs to be done at this location. Just getting into the site will require clearing work. So, get a good night rest for this workday. Rather than creating burn piles, the DNR will be bringing a wood chipper to deal with the slash. They will operate this equipment. Haulers should consider bringing ear protection. Dan Oele, the new Fisheries Biologist with the DNR will be joining us for this workday.

Bring: Bring work gloves, sturdy shoes, and loppers; otherwise the chapter has equipment you can use. Also bring reusable water bottles that can be re-filled from our 5-gal water jug. Reusable coffee mugs will also be available. ***In addition to the above, people should consider bringing ear protection, as there will be a wood chipper on site.***

October 28 – Gordon Creek, Kriss Marion's Easement, Blanchardville

When: 9am to 12 noon (Chapter Approved Sawyers please arrive at 8:30).

Where: Same location as the May 6, 2016 workday last spring. 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.

What: This is 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.

At the last workday on this site, we cleared the invasive brush and some box elders. At this workday,

we will be removing larger box elders and bucking them up for burn piles, but the trunks will be left intact. The Blanchardville Volunteer Fire department will be doing the burn piles.

Again, Kriss Marion will be providing lunch and refreshments after the workday at her B&B.

Bring: Bring work gloves, sturdy shoes, and loppers; otherwise the chapter has equipment you can use. Also bring reusable water bottles that can be re-filled from our 5-gal water jug. Reusable coffee mugs will also be available.

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

December 2 – Mt Vernon Creek

Same location and work as the October 7 workday. Hopefully, we will finish the job.

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

A look back at the August 19 Workday

31 people showed up for this workday in which we worked and played in the Sugar River at the Basco Unit Wildlife Area. We nailed planking board onto the boom cover pilings, which were installed by the DNR. This was the grand finale to a two-year project, including reshaping the stream banks, installing lunger structures, log sills, root wad deflectors, brush bundles, rip rap, rock barbs, and bank covers. If you haven't had time to visit the site, now is a good time to look at the finished product.



[See more photos of the workday on swtu.org.](http://swtu.org)

Project Green Teen (PGT) 2017

Each year our chapter members step up to help pass along skills like fly tying, casting, fishing, etymology and the love of trouty things to the [Project Green Teen](#) students of Shabazz High School in Madison.

The program year culminates in a weeklong camping trip to Avalanche Wisconsin.

Here are a few photos and you [can find more on our website](#).



Lose a Fly Box?

One large Orvis fly box buried in the mud on Bear Creek in the upper pasture. Contact patrick.hasburgh@gmail.com with a description and the collection will be returned. If not claimed within three months, flies will be donated to SWTU kids/womens/vets programs.

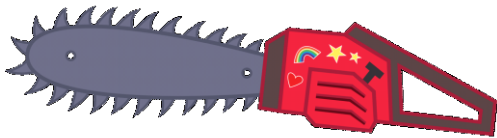
[Pro tip: stick a mail label in the cover of your fly boxes.]

Chainsaw Training

Dane County is offering a Chainsaw safety Training – Level 1 on Saturday November 11.

Space is limited. SWTU will support your attendance if you commit to putting the newfound skills to use at our stream workdays.

Pre-registration is required. If interested, contact our workday chair, Jim Hess, at jimhess5599@gmail.com for more information.



Upcoming Programs from the Dane County Land and Water Resources Department

- **Starkweather Creek Aquatic Invasive Species Paddle**
September 9, 2017 - 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
[More info and register HERE](#)
- **Watershed Network Gathering: Summer Plant ID Walk**
September 13, 2017 - 1:00-2:00pm and 2:00-3:00pm
Please [RSVP and sign up](#) for one of the hour long tours. Each tour is limited to 15 people. This event is co-hosted by Dane County Parks and the Dane County Watershed Network.
- **Watershed Network Gathering: Reducing Salt to Keep Water Fresh**
September 21, 2017 - 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
[More info and register HERE](#)

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

Fountains of Youth

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

by Rusty Dunn

Tie an Iron Blue Nymph on a #16 hook, and you've recreated the most famous fly of perhaps the most famous angler to ever cast a wet fly before trout. Walk into a fly shop and ask for an Iron Blue Nymph, and the clerk will probably look at you funny. "A what?" he might ask, to which you should reply, "Young fellow, perhaps you know it instead as a Dark Watchet, Dark Whirling Dun, Little Blue Dun, Iron Blue Drake, Little Purple, Little Dark Blue, or Iron Blue Quill. Got any?" You won't get the flies you're looking for, but at least you will have made the point that nymph fishing was refined long before the Pink Squirrel reigned supreme.

An Iron Blue Nymph and its dry fly counterpart, the Iron Blue Dun, are fly patterns nearly lost in antiquity. "Muddled by antiquity" might be a better description, because almost every author who wrote a fly fishing book prior to about 1900 included a favorite recipe, often several recipes. The names varied widely, as did the materials. You'll find Iron Blue recipes with condor quill, Tomtit tail, horsehair, mouse fur, swift feathers, cormorant, and rat whiskers ... not exactly everyday fly tying supplies. The first unambiguous pattern for an Iron Blue appeared in 1681 in James Chetham's book *The Angler's Vade Mecum*, but the most famous pattern of all is undoubtedly the 1921 fly of G.E.M. Skues published in *The Way of a Trout With a Fly*.

Skues (1858-1949) is rightfully credited as being the father of modern nymph fishing. Generic subsurface wet flies had been around for centuries, but Skues pioneered hatch-matching patterns and methods of presentation that mimic natural behaviors of nymphs

during progression of an emergence. Skues was keenly observant of both mayfly and trout behavior, and his writings educated turn-of-the-century anglers on things we take for granted today. For example, trout feed on nymphs underwater long before they look to the surface. Bulging rises identify fish taking nymphs just under the surface. Fish take duns on top of the surface only late in a hatch. And, wet flies are deadly when fished upstream and manipulated to mimic a nymph's natural behavior. Skues drew great satisfaction from the challenges of subsurface fishing:

"In the effort to divine the indications which call for striking with the wet fly, I confess I find a subtle fascination and charm and, when success attends me, a satisfaction beside which the successful hooking of a fish which rises to my floating fly seems second-rate in its sameness and comparative obviousness and monotony of achievement."

Skues' writings were very popular, and he introduced soft-hackled flies, which developed in the English North Country a century or more earlier, to a much wider audience. His Iron Blue Nymph is an excellent pattern for darkly colored blue-winged olives. BWOs are mayflies of leaden skies, blustery winds, drizzling rain, and cold fingers. Fish an Iron Blue as a swimming nymph early in a hatch, allowing it to swing deeply and then rise to the surface as would a hatching nymph. Fish it in or just under the surface when trout are bulging. Skues called the Iron Blue Nymph "good medicine for bulgers", and indeed it is. When casting to sighted fish in clear water, watch closely for a sideways glance, a flick of the tail, and a quick little nip -- Skues' "cunning brown wink": Then, lift your rod tip, draw in the steel, and quietly say thanks for Skues and his insights. Historic flies yield memorable fish, and Skues' Iron Blue Nymph one of history's finest. Copyright 2017, Rusty Dunn

----- Iron Blue Nymph -----

Hackle collars of many North Country flies are quite long and intended to imitate both legs and wings. The hackle of Skues' Iron Blue, however, is tied intentionally short, imitating only the legs.

Hook: Wet fly / nymph hook, #16-22

Thread: Pearsall's Gossamer silk, crimson, cardinal, or claret.

Tail: Three fibers of soft white hen hackle, tied short.

Body: Dark mole fur spun thinly on tying silk, with 2-3 turns of silk exposed at the tail without dubbing.

Hackle: Nearly black hackle from the throat of a jackdaw or starling, tied short and not exceeding 2 turns.



Welcome New Members

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

James Po
Ben Nerad
Dan Glynn
Angela Sisulak
John Mansavage
Wade Anunson
Tic Chrudimsky
Daniel Glynn



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	matthews836@gmail.com
Vice President	Tristan Kloss	tie.a.fly@gmail.com
Secretary	Mark Maffitt	mark.maffitt@gmail.com
Treasurer	Tom Parker	tparker23@charter.net
Past President	Matt Krueger	mattjoman@gmail.com
State Council Rep.	Scot Stewart	rstewart23@frontier.com
Board Member	Mary Ann Doll	dollmaryann@gmail.com
Board Member	Jim Hess	jimhess5599@gmail.com
Board Member	Topf Wells	topfwells@gmail.com
Board Member	Dave Fowler	dfowler82@gmail.com
Board Member	Bill Hayes	bill.hayes07@outlook.com
Board Member	Michael J. Burda	northernlightsreef@yahoo.com
<i>Newscasts</i> Editor	Drew Kasel	madkasel@gmail.com
Conservation Committee Chair	Jim Hess	jim.hess@tds.net

Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited

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