

# Newscasts

November 2017 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



## Peacocks on a Fly Colombia Our November 14 Chapter Meeting

We will be joined by **Craig Amacker**, who has this to say about his talk (but really, the picture says it all) ...



I joined a group on a peacock bass adventure to the Rio Vichada Colombia back in March and experienced the trip of a lifetime. Peacock bass are the most savage freshwater fish you'll ever catch on a fly – they strike hard, fight hard and cartwheel into the air.

The first thing most people think of when they hear about Colombia is danger, but it's a neat country with nice people and safer than many think. The fishing is also very good with a bonus of exotic wildlife, such as toucans, parrots, monkeys, and sloths.

The Rio Vichada in Colombia is one of the up and coming trophy peacock bass fisheries in South America. The Vichada is in the middle of the jungle, 3.5 hours from the nearest town by boat near the border of Colombia and Venezuela with a large population of trophy peacock bass. Other species include payara, piranha, sardina real, and various Amazon catfish. What makes this fishery unique is that Tucanare Lodge is the only fishing operation on the Vichada where the lodge owner has negotiated fishing access with the Indian tribe. With a weekly capacity of 10 people and access to the main river and lots of river lagoons, it means there's very little pressure on the fish.

If South American peacock bass are on your bucket list this trip is a must.

## A note on the November meeting location

This 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.

However ... Due to ongoing disappointments with the quality of the service that SWTU membership is receiving at the Coliseum Bar, the Board is searching for a new meeting location. Please bear with us in patience as we look for a venue that meets our chapter's needs. If you have any questions or suggestions, please email Matt Sment at [president@swtu.org](mailto:president@swtu.org).

## You Must Be Present to Win

We had no winner at the last meeting and so our drawing rises to \$40. Please join us at our next Chapter meeting for a chance to win a gift certificate to *Fontana Sports Specialties*.

## “Smile” when you order from Amazon this holiday season and you can help SWTU out at no cost to you!

Amazon Smile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices and shopping features as *Amazon.com*. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, they will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice.

[Set “Trout Unlimited” with the Madison location as your charity](#) and you will be giving to the SWTU with every purchase. It adds up over time!



You shop. Amazon gives.

It's time to start getting excited about the Icebreaker!

See more details and poster on next two pages.

**THE 35TH ANNUAL BWTU**  
**TROUT UNLIMITED ICEBREAKER**  
**JANUARY 13TH 2018**  
AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE  
6050 American Parkway, Madison, WI 53783

**JOIN US FOR:**

- TWO FABULOUS KEYNOTE TALKS
- PRESENTATIONS BY LOCAL EXPERTS
- MASTER FLY TYING DEMOS
- EXCITING BUCKET RAFFLES
- SILENT AUCTION
- CONSERVATION PARTNER DISPLAYS
- DELICIOUS LUNCH (\$10)
- MUCH, MUCH MORE!

**LOCAL SPEAKER:**  
**TIA LANDWEHR**  
Tia is the owner of Tight Lines Fly Fishing Company in Duluth, WI and the author of and co-editor of the book *Smallmouth Bass Fly Fishing Methods, Tactics, and Techniques*. An avid fisher and fly tyer, Tia has been featured in ESPN Outdoors, OLN, Outdoor Adventure, Fly Fishing magazine and most Midwest Outdoors.

**FEATURED SPEAKERS:**  
**TUCKER & JACQUIE NELSON**  
Tucker and Jacquie Nelson are husband and wife fly fishing guides for Nelson's Spring Creek Rafting in LaGrange, KY. Both have a deep passion for fishing that goes beyond the sport and is ingrained in an appreciation for the local fly fishing community. They are giving away a special gift to the first person to give up their respective side of the river to the other.

**JUST \$10 FREE for Youth and Kids 12 & under**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION: SWTU.ORG**

## Icebreaker update!

### Save the date for January 13, 2018

We are excitedly looking forward to our keynote speakers –Tucker and Jacquie Nelson from [Nelson Spring Creek Ranch](#) in Livingston, MT.

Their [Facebook page](#) (viewable even if you don't have Facebook) has some great photos and videos that give you a good idea of why you will want to attend our 2018 Icebreaker!

### Local speaker

Tim Landwehr of [Tight Lines Fly Shop](#), will be our featured local speaker. He'll be talking smallmouth bass fishing and signing copies of his new book, [Smallmouth: Modern Fly Fishing Methods, Tactics and Techniques](#).



### Tentative schedule:

- 9:00 am - 10:30 am: Welcome and Morning Keynote - Tucker & Jacquie Nelson
- 10:30 am - 12:00 pm: Local Feature -- Smallmouth Bass Fishing with Tim Landwehr, Bob Harrison and more!
- 12:00 - 1:00 pm: Lunch
- 1:30 - 3:00 pm: Afternoon Keynote: Tucker & Jacquie Nelson
- 3:30 pm: Bucket Raffles & Silent Auction

Of course, we'll have fly tying demos and conservation partner booths from 9 am - 1: 30 pm.

### Donate to the Bucket Raffle

We would be pleased to accept anything from a handcrafted birdhouse to a guided fishing trip. Or consider donating new rods, reels, accessories, camping equipment, overnight lodging and especially sets of flies. Our vast array of raffle items adds excitement (and revenue!) to the event. Please deliver the items or make a commitment to a member of our Raffle Team: [Craig Amacker](#) and [Amy Klusmeier](#).

### Location. Location. Location.

The Icebreaker will once again be at American Family Insurance on the east side of Madison! Join us for great speakers, master fly tying demonstrations, and of course, a bucket raffle and silent auction featuring fabulous prizes!

### Icebreaker Volunteers Needed!

Are you looking for a way to give back to the chapter and help raise funds for stream restoration? Volunteer for the Icebreaker! Current

opportunities are below. Contact [Amy Klusmeier](#) for more information.

### Kid's Activity Chair

We would like to offer activities for kids from 1:00 - 3:00 pm at the Icebreaker event on January 13, 2018. A volunteer is needed to plan activities, recruit additional volunteers (if needed) and coordinate day-of events. Estimated time commitment: 20 hours between October 2017 and January 2018.

### Icebreaker Committee Chair

This volunteer serves as the liaison between the SWTU Board of Directors and the event venue, and is responsible for overall event planning and management. Play a key role in selecting the featured speakers, event activities, and fundraising. You will work with a great team of volunteers that assist with activities and bucket raffles, and receive guidance and support from past committee chairs. Please consider volunteering for this important chapter leadership position! Ideally the new chair would shadow the 2018 event chair and take the lead on the 2019 event. Estimated time commitment: 10 hours between October 2017 and January 2018 and 50 hours between September 2018 and January 2019.

If you have questions about the Icebreaker, contact [amy.klusmeier@gmail.com](mailto:amy.klusmeier@gmail.com).

### A Few Pictures from Icebreakers Past

A nice, spacious, comfortable, collegial event!







THE 35TH ANNUAL SWTU

# ICEBREAKER

## JANUARY 13TH 2018

AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE

6000 American Parkway, Madison, WI 53783

### JOIN US FOR:

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- PRESENTATIONS BY LOCAL EXPERTS
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- DELICIOUS LUNCH (\$10)
- MUCH, MUCH MORE!

LOCAL SPEAKER:

### TIM LANDWEHR

Tim is the owner of **Tight Lines Fly Fishing Company** in DePere, WI and the author of one of the hottest books out right now, *Smallmouth: Modern Fly-Fishing Methods, Tactics, and Techniques*. An accomplished guide for both trout and smallmouth, Tim has been featured on **ESPN Outdoors**, **OLN Outdoor Adventures**, **Hyde pro-staff member** and **Hosts Midwest Sportsman**.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION: SWTU.ORG**

### FEATURED SPEAKERS

### TUCKER & JACQUIE NELSON

Tucker and Jacquie Nelson are husband/wife guides for **Nelson's Spring Creek Ranch in Livingston, MT**. Both share a deep passion for fishing that goes beyond the sport and is expressed in stewardship for the land. Both specialize in spring creek techniques but will also share their expertise while drifting the Yellowstone River.



## 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)



## See you at the last Stream Workday of 2017! Join us December 2!

Though we may see some midges coming off the water, it's a safe bet that the mosquito and gnat population will be nil for this workday. You can also likely dial down your sunscreen usage. In short, chilly weather is great weather to work in and we hope you can join us!

**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 the Village of 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:** We will pick up from where we left off on Oct 7, clearing brush, low hanging limbs, and some box elders. We will either burn the brush piles left from the last workday, if the corn field is harvested, or the DNR will be bringing a wood chipper. Still working out the details on this. If a chipper is involved, the DNR will provide an operator and we will be hauling the slash to the chipper. Haulers should consider bringing ear & eye protection. Dan Oele, the new Fisheries Biologist with the DNR, will again be at the workday to assist us.

**Bring:** Bring work gloves, sturdy shoes, and eye and ear protection. – Also, 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.

We may be doing some work on the other side of the stream (south side) and the easiest way to get there is to wade across the stream. So, if you have some hip boots or chest waders, bring them.

**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

**Photos at right from the October workdays.**

**Pictured by the trailer are some helping hands from the UW Fishing Club.**



## Fly Tying Courses - 2018

Trout Unlimited invites you to learn fly tying or improve your fly tying skills this winter. Experienced fly tying instructors teach a beginning level course in Sun Prairie and both a beginning and intermediate level course in Fitchburg. Classes



consist of instructor-led demonstrations and hands-on tutorials. The courses are free of charge, and all materials needed in class are provided. You need only supply the tools and thread, a list of which is available at

<https://www.swtu.org/learn/flytying/flytying-classes/>.

Classes meet each Thursday evening from 7:00 to 9:00 PM beginning 1/18/2018 and continue for eight consecutive weeks (last class 3/8/2018).

**Beginning Fly Tying** is intended for those with limited previous fly tying experience, including complete beginners. General techniques needed as a foundation for fly tying are established, and basic but effective trout fly patterns are demonstrated and practiced.

**Intermediate Fly Tying** is intended for those who have a solid foundation of fly tying experience and want to increase their proficiency. The course builds on the foundations of Beginning Fly Tying and progresses to more advanced methods. Techniques and materials are more varied, the patterns can be more complex, and the hook sizes are smaller than those of the beginning course.

Beginning Fly Tying is offered in both Sun Prairie and Fitchburg, and Intermediate Fly Tying is offered only in Fitchburg. Course locations are:

### **Sun Prairie (beginner only)**

Patrick Marsh Middle School  
1351 Columbus St, Sun Prairie  
<< Register for Sun Prairie by emailing [swtu-flytying@outlook.com](mailto:swtu-flytying@outlook.com) with your full name, preferred email and phone number >>

### **Fitchburg (beginner and intermediate)**

Fitchburg Community Center  
5510 Lacy Rd., Fitchburg  
<< [Register here for a Fitchburg class](#) >>

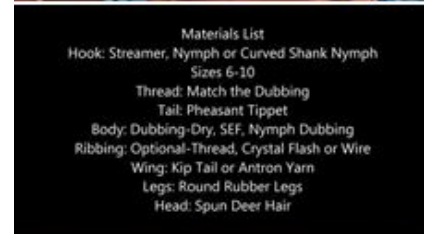
**Advanced registration is required!** The registration deadline is January 14, 2018. Classes sometimes fill to capacity, and early registration is encouraged.

For more information, see

<https://www.swtu.org/learn/flytying/flytying-classes/> or

email questions to [swtu-flytying@outlook.com](mailto:swtu-flytying@outlook.com).

**You can get a great feel for the classes (and learn something!) by viewing the [videos available in the fly tying section of swtu.org](#).**





## Fountains of Youth

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

by Rusty Dunn

The technology of fly tying took a giant leap forward in 2,640 BC when, according to legend, a Chinese Empress named Leizu discovered that the natural glue of silkworm cocoons could be softened in hot water and a long thin filament of pure silk unwound from each cocoon. Twisting several such filaments together produced a thread of remarkable strength and beauty. Leizu later invented the silk loom and established China's first commercial silk enterprise, thus earning her a title of reverence, 'The Goddess of Silk'. Silk is wonderfully shiny and lustrous, and silken goods were in great demand by Western civilizations. Chinese methods of silk production and processing, though, were state secrets for over 3,000 (!) years. China was the sole supplier of silks, and a lucrative international trade developed to meet Near Eastern and European demands. This "Silk Road" lasted over 2,000 years and profoundly influenced global human history.

The words "silk" and "thread" were synonymous for much of fly tying history. Ounce for ounce, silk threads are stronger than threads spun of other natural fibers. Silk was the thread of choice for fly tying until it was replaced by synthetic threads (e.g. polyester and nylon) in the mid-20th century. The most famous of all silk-tied trout flies are undoubtedly the soft-hackled spiders and wingless wets of the English north, because silk is a major element of their basic design. Bodies of North Country flies consist of silk alone or silk covered with a thin veneer of natural fur. The design imitates translucency of natural insects better than any other method. Light passes *through* wet silk and reflects off an underlying hook. When wet, North Country flies glow as if lit by an inner fire. No other materials – synthetics included – can match the translucency of silk-bodied flies. The color of silk darkens when wet, but such changes were taken into account by North Country fly designers.

Perhaps the most famous of all North Country flies is

the Orange Partridge (aka. Partridge & Orange), which first appeared by name in William Pilling's *A List of Flies for ye River Wharfe* (1794). Flies don't stay famous for 200 years unless they are effective, and the Orange Partridge is one of history's finest. Fish it either deeply as a nymph or near the surface as an emerger or cripple. The Orange Partridge is tied of Pearsall's Gossamer silk, color #6A (Orange), which is one of about two dozen Pearsall's colors dyed specifically for fly tyers. English anglers have long paid great attention to color in fly fishing (probably too much attention), and Pearsall's responded by developing a veritable rainbow of subtle olive, yellow, ginger, brown, orange, and red-hued threads. Pearsall's Gossamer is the thinnest of all silks, being about 7/0 on the confusing 'ought' scale. It is the acclaimed standard for tying classic salmon flies, spiders, and both winged and wingless wet flies.

Pearsall's as a company was established in 1795 as "Pearsall and Green" in central London by "silkmens" James Pearsall and William Green. Their shop on Cheapside (St.) supplied wholesale and retail silks primarily for the embroidery, lace making, knitting, and weaving trades. The company changed names to "James Pearsall & Co." in 1865 and moved to Taunton in southwest England. The excellence of Pearsall's silks for fly tying was discussed in print as early as 1841 (E. Chitty, *The Fly-Fisher's Textbook*). Generations of English and American fly tyers used Pearsall's Gossamer, including such greats as Halford, Kelson, Marryat, Skues, Edmonds & Lee, Mottram, Woolley, Jennings, and Leisenring, to name a few.

Alas, the march of time has not been as kind to James Pearsall & Co. as it has to the Orange Partridge. After 230 years of supplying the finest silk threads, production of Gossamer and other Pearsall's silks ceased about two years ago. Retail inventories have dwindled, and popular colors of Gossamer are now difficult to source. Alternative silk threads are available, but none have the same subtle colors, none are the same fine size, and none are intertwined with two centuries of fly tying history quite like Pearsall's Gossamer.  
Copyright 2017, Rusty Dunn

## ----- Orange Partridge -----

The Orange Partridge recipe below is from Edmonds & Lee, *Brook and River Trouting* (1916). Vary the hook size to match natural mayflies. A mottled brown feather of any game bird (woodcock, grouse, etc.) is a good substitute for partridge on smaller hooks.

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**Hook:** Wet fly / nymph, #14  
**Thread:** Pearsall's Gossamer silk, orange (#6A)  
**Body:** Orange silk  
**Rib:** Fine gold wire, about four turns (optional)  
**Wings:** Hackled with a brown mottled (not barred) feather from a Partridge's neck or back.  
**Head:** Orange silk

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## Welcome New Members

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

Shane Alloway  
Tom Anderson-Brown  
Michael Rebholz  
James Flood  
Andrew Basel  
Richard Murphy  
Casey Murphy  
Christa Hunley  
Jeff Klumpyan



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

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