

Newscasts

December 2017 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



Aniak River Alaska: A River of Opportunity Our December 12 Chapter Meeting

The anglers and friends in the group who had the opportunity to explore this wild river were: **Henry Haugley, Bill Engber, Rick Glad, Steve Born, Chuck Bayuk and Jim Bartelt.**



They visited, explored and fly fished this amazing wild river in the summer of 2016. The original intent was to fly fish for wild Rainbow Trout skating mouse patterns, but they soon found out that there was a great variety of cold water species eager to take a fly. Often, they just did not know what was tugging on their line until they saw the fish.

Join us in December as they share photos, great stories and fly fishing information on this wild Alaskan River. If you think you may someday get to Alaska, don't miss this program!

Meeting location note:

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 ... the Board is exploring 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.

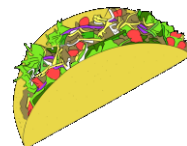
Keep reading: Lots of information on the Icebreaker, free fly tying classes and MORE in this issue!

You Must Be Present to Win

We had no winner at the last meeting and so our drawing rises to \$60. Please join us at our next Chapter meeting for a chance to win a gift certificate to *Fontana Sports Specialties*.


Tasty Taco Dinner to Support Stream Restoration!

December 15, 6 – 8 p.m. at ALT Brew
Many thanks to our friends at ALT Brew and 608 Community Kitchen for this tasty opportunity for gourmet tacos and fine microbrews. See page 4 for details or visit this [Facebook page for details!](#) You can also [buy your ticket in advance](#).



Women & Fly Fishing HAPPY HOUR!


A women's social event to connect with other women with interests in fly fishing.



**JANUARY
12th
6:00 to ...**

Ale Asylum
2002 Pankratz Street,
Madison, WI 53704
(608) 663-3926

A local brew pub near the airport with good food and spirits. Cash bar and food available for purchase.



Hosted by SWTU Women for other women interested in or connected to Fly Fishing: **beginners, novices, experts we welcome all levels of skill.**

Icebreaker: Learn about the Nelsons!

We look forward to hear from our keynote speakers – **Tucker and Jacquie Nelson** from [Nelson Spring Creek Ranch](#) in Livingston, MT. Be sure to also visit their [Facebook page](#). (Also see the great picture of Jacquie on the next page!)



Get your ticket in advance!

www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3197744

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](#).



Many hands make light work!

This incredible event is powered by you, our members! We need a variety of volunteers the day of the event Contact [Amy Klusmeier](#) with questions or to volunteer.

We would like to offer **activities for kids** from 1 to 3 p.m. and need someone to help manage it. Let Amy know if you can assist!

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](#). You can also bring your donation to our December 12 Chapter meeting.

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, Stream Explorers program for kids 12 and under, and of course, a bucket raffle and silent auction featuring fabulous prizes!

[Google Map Link](#)

A few key raffle items!

The Icebreaker is known for its stellar array of items you can win, including:

- Hard-sided Yeti cooler
- Vortex binoculars
- Guided trips
- Dozens of hand-tied flies donated by chapter members

YETI

Our Schedule for the Day

9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Welcome and Morning Keynote from Tucker & Jacquie Nelson

10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Local Feature – Smallmouth Bass Fishing with Tim Landwehr, Bob Harrison and more!

12 – 1:30 p.m. Lunch

1:30 – 1:45 Chapter Updates

1:30 - 3 p.m.

Afternoon Keynote from Tucker & Jacquie Nelson

3:30 p.m.

Bucket Raffle Drawings & Silent Auction Winners

You can also visit fly tying demos and conservation partner booths through most of the day!



THE 35TH ANNUAL SWTU

ICEBREAKER

JANUARY 13TH 2018

AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE

6000 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:

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](#)!



Find us on
Facebook

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

Shopping and supporting SWTU!!

Fontana/Patagonia special promotion

Many thanks to all who shopped Patagonia products at Fontana Sports Specialties in November. Your purchases were matched with a promotion to SWTU, **totaling \$2,220!**

"Smile" when you order from Amazon this holiday season

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!



At Orvis, it's a wrap!

Orvis Madison is once again inviting local conservation organizations to gift wrap at the store during the holidays in exchange for tips. **Amy Klusmeier** will be there on Saturday, December 16 from 11am - 3pm. All money raised will be donated to the Wisconsin Women's Fly Fishing Clinics. We could use a few more volunteers. If you are able to stop by for an hour or two to help out let me know, email amy.klusmeier@gmail.com.

Help our trout waters / Help your taxes

'Tis the giving season and your local trout waters could use your tax-deductible gift. Your donation to the Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Endowment Fund is a great way to make a difference to the waters you fish. The SWTU Endowment Fund has made significant contributions to major projects, including Gordon Creek and work in Mazomanie.

Give a lasting tribute to the waters you love. Send a check in any amount to **SWTU Endowment** and mail to SWTU, PO Box 45555, Madison, WI 53744

Fox Valley Trout Unlimited

17th Annual Cabin Fever Day... fishing expo

Open To Everyone Who Likes To Fish

Saturday, January 20, 2018

9 am-4 pm, The Grand Meridian, Appleton

\$10 at the door, spouses and under 18 free

Events include an Expert Speaker Program

"Trout Fishing Adventures within a Day's Drive"

10 am "Mouse-ing for Trout Under the Cover of Darkness"
Mike Kuhr, Project Healing Waters

11 am "Nipigon River, Home of the World Record 14.8# Brook Trout"
Ray Rivard, Red Rock, Ontario

1 pm "Wilderness Trout Fishing in the U.P."
Randy Berndt, U.P. Fly Angler

And more!

Bucket raffles & silent auction, great quality items
Raffle to win a handmade Scott Grady cane fly rod
Fishing equipment exhibitors - fly tying materials
Fishing guides - DNR booths - HUGE used equipment sale
Adult & youth fly tyers - Fly casting clinic



Lunch will be available
Visit foxvalleytu.org for more information

TACO DINNER TO SUPPORT STREAM RESTORATION

Friday December 15th, 6-8pm

ALT Brew 1808 Wright Street, Madison WI 53704

\$20 Dinner and a Pint



Banana Leaf Roasted Pork* & Latin Slaw Tostada, Adobo Black Beans, and Brown Basmati w/ Squash and Green Chiles

ALT Brew and 608 Community Supported Kitchen are hosting a taco dinner for the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited. A dollar from every pint and 100% of food proceeds will go to supporting stream restoration in Southern Wisconsin. * Pork humanely raised and donated by Fox Heritage Foods.



YOUR COMMUNITY
SUPPORTED KITCHEN



We had a great turnout for our final workday of the year at Mt. Vernon Creek. This will be a great place for (and to) fish!

Looking back, we had **156 incredible people show up for our workdays this year**, representing over 650 volunteer hours. This includes members of the Blackhawk, Southeast and other TU Chapters. Thank you all for your service!



Bob Selk (at right) is our longtime greeter and helps make sure that everybody signs the waiver form. Thanks Bob!



A great group of hardy workers!

Many thanks to Jim Beecher for providing the pictures. See more in the [online photo album](#).



Look closely! Don Ferber gets close to the brush fire to heat up a brat.



Hi ho! Hi ho! It's off to clear brush we go!!



Jim Hess (center), our Workday Chair, provides encouragement and direction to volunteers.

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 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.

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](#).



Speaking of flies ...

Donations needed for [Project Green Teen](#) and [Women's Clinics](#)*

You can make a difference by donating flies (they don't have to be perfect!) for use by students and clinic attendees.

Also, we would take **donations of used waders and wading boots** (that have some life in them) for the students to use.

Contact [Tina Murray](#) with questions or offers of help!

** In addition to the Icebreaker as mentioned on page 2.*

DNR Survey: Provide your trouty input!

Our DNR is seeking input on thoughts and experiences pertaining to outdoor recreation. There is a survey specific to the "Southern Gateways Region" (Dane County and many surrounding, troutish counties). Visit the [full Land Recreation Analysis page](#) or go to the [direct link to the survey for our area](#).



Fountains of Youth

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

by Rusty Dunn

The next time you're near a trout stream, look closely among the ground cover and leaf litter. You'll be astonished by the number and variety of ants. Ecologists estimate that the global biomass of ants is 20% of all terrestrial animals. One fifth of all land animals, measured not by number but by total weight! Wow! Now look in your fly boxes. Are the ant patterns as prolific as the real deal? Probably not. As spring weather warms, your ant imitations should emerge from their off season of hiding. When spring transitions into summer, give those ants some quality stream time. Ants and terrestrials are summertime staples, as much a part of the season as baseball, cookouts, and long slow sunsets.

Ant imitations date to the very beginning of fly fishing. Dame Juliana Berners described fishing with ants in *A Treatyse of Fysshynge wyth an Angle* (1496), although her twelve famous flies did not include an ant imitation. Charles Cotton described the first artificial ant in 1676 in Isaak Walton's *The Compleat Angler*. His fly, however, did not have the modern profile of two bulbous segments separated by a thin waist. That bit of realism would await Michael Theakston's ant fly in *A List of Natural Flies* (1853). Materials have evolved since Theakston, but the basic profile of ant imitations is similar. Early ant patterns usually were winged, but wingless designs became the norm during the 1900s. Pennsylvania's Vince Marinaro brought ants and terrestrials into the mainstream in his 1950 classic *A Modern Dry Fly Code*, considered by many to be "the bible" of spring creek angling. It is above all a book about terrestrials, and Marinaro's favorite terrestrial was the ant:

"If I were to choose one pattern above all others, day in and day out, from fish to fish, the most enduring in the season, it would be the ant in its various sizes and colors."

Many respected authors have commented on trout fondness for ants. Most speculate that trout like the tart acidic flavor of ants, which are rich in formic acid. Whatever the reason, ants are trout candy.

Ants occur in many sizes but only four basic designs: black vs. red (also called brown, cinnamon, or honey) and winged vs. wingless. Black ants are jet black and completely opaque. Red ants are remarkably translucent. Their cinnamon-red color shines from within by light that is transmitted through the body. Wingless ants are by far the most common. They fall from trees, bushes, and grasses from late spring until the frosts of fall. They are especially plentiful on warm windy days. Winged ants are much less common, but they can create magnificent dry fly fishing. Mating flights of winged males and females emerge in mid to late summer from underground colonies. Such flights are unpredictable and rare, but trout gorge on the windfall. You'll be lucky to encounter a handful of winged ant swarms in your life, but if it happens, you won't forget it.

Floating ants cannot escape the surface film, and trout take them very leisurely. Gentle sipping rises on glassy smooth glides usually indicate fish taking either small terrestrials, midges, or mayfly spinners. You'll probably need a seine to know for sure, because floating ants are almost impossible to see. They float **in**, not **on**, the water ... sodden, half-sunk, awash in the surface, and blended into the dark background. Make sure your flies float similarly. Fish probably take more ants underwater than above, and a wet ant pattern can be excellent trailed behind an indicator dry.

Trout don't read the scientific literature, but they know from experience that ants are the most abundant land animal. Ants sustain trout from late spring through fall, and you just can't go wrong imitating 20% of the planet's animals. When the weather is warm and the birds are chirping, tie on an ant.

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----- Cinnamon Fur Ant -----

This simple fur ant should also be tied in all black. It is very effective for trout sipping ants. If you receive refusals, trim all downward pointing hackle, thus causing the fly to float lower. If that fails, try a smaller size.

Hook: Dry fly, light wire, #14 - #22

Thread: Rusty brown, 8/0

Body: Two distinct bulbs of cinnamon colored dry fly dubbing, with a thin waist in between. The abdomen should be larger than the thorax.

Hackle: Ginger or honey dun rooster, tied short and sparse at the waist



Welcome New Members

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

Kelsey Hill
Evan Weir
Jeffrey Grossman
Ted Swenson
James Casey
John Vignali
Devin Biggs
Edwin Dreier
Ben Mezick
Glenn Bentheimer



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 Maffit
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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