

Newscasts

February 2018 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



The Meicher Madness Auction: March 13

Tremendous fun and value at an important fundraiser

You never know what you'll find ... and win ... at our annual Meicher Madness Auction. You can get great deals and get rid of some stuff (to make way for new stuff, of course). It's a very fun night and you might walk away with:

- Proven patterns tied by local masters
- Beautiful fly rods
- More proven patterns tied by local masters
- Fabulous fly tying materials
- Wildlife artwork
- All manner of outdoor gear
- And who can even guess what else?



Auction items needed! Besides your bids, we also need items for the auction. Gear, books, flies, boots, waders, vests, artwork, services and more! If it's remotely related to our sport and the outdoors, somebody will buy it! Just bring it that night and somebody will place a bid. **This is our second biggest annual fundraiser.** All proceeds go to preserve and protect our cold water resource.

Auctioneer needed! (Yes, you read that right.) We're down to one auctioneer and would really appreciate a volunteer so that we have at least two. If interested (PLEASE!), contact Topf Wells at (608) 231-3037 or topfwells@gmail.com. Or show up at the auction by 6 PM with a strong voice and pure heart (or at least the former).

Please arrive EXTRA EARLY on March 13 to set out your donated item and/or preview items. We will start PROMPTLY at 7 p.m. and move things along as quickly as we can so the auction doesn't run too late.

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.



Who won \$100 at the February meeting?

It was **Dave Fowler**, showing that karma does work! Thanks Dave, for all you do for the Chapter. Thus the award amount will reset to \$20 at our April meeting. (We do not do a drawing at the March auction.)

We Want You!

Will you step up and lend your talents and experience?

We have an excellent and engaging Board of Directors, and have several open positions to fill this year. That means we need you – or maybe you have an idea of someone to nominate – to step up! SWTU is a very active chapter, and the excellent mix of stability and change at our leadership level plays a big role in our success.

Expressing interest is easy! Just reach out to any board member listed at the end of this newsletter or [here on swtu.org](http://www.swtu.org). All names are forwarded to the Nominating Committee, which assembles a slate of candidates for the April chapter meeting.



If there is no contest for a slot, the person is typically approved on a voice vote. If a slot is contested, the election is conducted via secret written ballot. In addition, nominations may be made from the floor.

Check out the ["About us" page of swtu.org](http://www.swtu.org) for more about our mission and a link to our bylaws, which specify leadership roles and election procedures.

Our first workday of the Spring!

Join the Stream Team for fun, friendship and a great way to make a difference

We'd love for you to join us at our first stream workday of the year: **March 24 along the Sugar River – Sarbacher Easement**. No prior experience needed and you may well learn about some nice stretches of water in which to drift a fly.

When: Saturday, March 24, 9 a.m. to 12 noon (Chapter Approved Sawyers please arrive at 8:30).

Where: The Sarbacher Easement is located just 1/3 mile north of Paoli on Range Trail at the bridge crossing. [Here is a map to this location](#). The map shows a fire number for this location, but please disregard as there is no fire number.

What: Extensive clearing of brush and box elders. This is a new Dane County easement that you will want to check out.

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.

Parking: Park on Range Trail on the east side of the road.

You are also entered into a drawing for a wonderful handcrafted "Streamkeeper" rod that is drawn at the end of the year.

Mark your calendar for this spring's other stream workdays:

- April 7 - Sarbacher
- April 21 - Smith-Conley (south of Ridgeway)
- May 12 - Fyres Feeder - Donald Park

Special Orchard Pruning Workday at Neperud Easement By Topf Wells

This was one of the best outdoor experiences I've had. Lisa Johnson – *Thank you, Lisa!* – did an excellent job in teaching us pruning with a concise, helpful Powerpoint and with in- the- orchard examples and guidance.

We had about a dozen folks out including TU volunteers, Audubon volunteers, Master Gardeners and Master Gardener students. We worked for a couple of hours in lovely weather and made a great start at returning the orchard to health. It went so well that we agreed this should be an annual outing that Lisa has agreed to lead at least until we can get the orchard in better shape. Everyone was productive and a pleasure to work with. Those of us new to pruning were surprised how much we learned. One TU member with a 600 apple tree orchard said he came because he knew he'd learn something new and worthwhile from Lisa and he did. Much thanks to Howard Cosgrove and Susan Troller Cosgrove, the owners of Cluck, the fabulous chicken and more store in Paoli, who let us have the initial instruction in their store. I didn't do an exact count but I'm guessing we pruned over 15 trees, mostly apple but at least one of the pears and all of the pie cherries.



The cherry on the Sunday (or the apples in the pie?) occurred after we had finished pruning. Two TU members and a Master Gardner had just finished a tour of the stream restoration with me when we met two anglers at the bridge. They were just starting so we did not get a fishing report but the older gentleman asked me if we were some of those Trout Unlimited people. *Oh no*, I thought but I fessed and said yes. He said he had been a friend of Mrs. Neperud for many years and had been one of the very few folks she allowed to fish their property. He had had "the place to himself." He quickly added that he loved our and the DNR's work on the stream and it made a huge improvement. I asked if he minded that the stream was now open to the public and he said absolutely not. I then said that since he was close to the Neperud family he might want to know that we had spent the morning pruning the orchard and trying to restore it to better health. He seemed genuinely moved at that and said he thought the Neperuds would really appreciate that.



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

In memory of Greg Ericson

It's with sadness that SWTU reports the passing of Greg Ericson . Greg was a long-time chapter member, perhaps best known for the beautiful fly tying desks he donated to the Icebreaker. These desks are treasured by all who were lucky enough to win one. Greg's kindness, generosity and talents will be missed. [Learn more about Greg's life.](#)



A Successful Fishing Expo!

By Curt Diehl

I want to give a BIG THANK YOU to everyone who helped out at the SWTU booth during the 2018 Wisconsin Fishing Expo. It was a huge success. Saturday's crowd was 11% higher than last year. All of the flies that were tied prior to the show were handed out to kids. Those flies put a big smile on their face and we reached out to a lot of people. Thank you for having people fill out the green cards and collecting them. We are able to send emails to these people to notify them of various SWTU events that are coming up. Those green cards are an important outreach tool as a means to connect with these individuals who may be a little hesitant about joining TU right away, but do want to either help out with spring work days or partake in some of the other events such as the Riversmith casting clinic, fly tying classes or the Women Fly Fishing Clinics.



Mark your calendars for the 2019 Wisconsin Fishing Expo to be held on February 22, 23 and 24 at the Alliant Energy Center Exhibition Hall. Everyone who helped out this year told me they really had fun interacting with those attendees, families, or women or kids who enjoy catching bluegill and can use a fly to do that on their favorite spin casting bluegill rod. They also talked to people new to the area who fished for trout in the state where they previously lived and now want to join their local TU Chapter. Everyone who helped out told me the 2 hours went by so fast!



If you have suggestions on next year's booth, please email cdbadgerfan@gmail.com or contact a member of our Board.

Annual Madison Compost Bin and Rain Barrel Sale

Reducing runoff and using water wisely is one way to help protect our resources. Consider taking advantage of this annual promotion.

When: Saturday, May 12th , 10am – 2pm

Where: Alliant Energy Center, North parking lot, Enter Olin Ave.

What: Compost bins and 50 and 100 gallon rain barrels with diverters are available at discounted prices.

Open to residents and non-residents of Madison.

Additional Info: www.cityofmadison.com/streets/compost/CompostBinSale.cfm



Welcome New Members

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

Barry Bjorklund
Brian Dorman
Jared Wold
Jere Gellerman

Lucas Kohl
Gordon Shay
Dale Zuhse

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.



Make a difference by helping Project Green Teen

We have a great group of 13 students in [Project Green Teen](#) who could use a helping hand. Contact [Tina Murray](#) with questions or offers of help!

Pictured at right are flies tied by PGT students at our February sessions. Thanks to all who volunteered!



PGT is in need of (before May 1st):

- Flies for the 13 students ... flies for the driftless in springtime, terrestrials etc.
- Wading boots and waders that still have some life left in them. (Please patch up known holes / much appreciated!)
- OLD or rebuilt leaders for practice 7 1/2 feet is perfect length
- Polarized Sunglasses, particularly fit overs.
- Old rods / reels for students who cannot afford to purchase the class rods at the end of PGT.

Tina Murray will be collecting the above items at Chapter meetings or bring them to Shabazz.

The dates for this year's PGT trip are May 13 thru May 17. We need 13 guides for this trip. If you have questions or plan on helping, please contact **Rich Lahti** at lahtirich@yahoo.com or (608) 516-4480 as soon as you can.

Also ... Shabazz is starting a Nature Photography course to teach students how to be still and observe and capture nature to identify species and appreciate being in Nature. We are seeking financial donations to buy quality digital cameras for this coursework. Donations can be sent to Rachel Schramm at Shabazz, 1601 N. Sherman Ave, Madison, WI 53704

Women's Clinics Announcements

Our fabulous [Wisconsin Women's Fly Fishing Clinics](#) in JUNE are full and have wait lists. We try to take as many women as possible off the wait lists, but it leaves our classes full at 22-24 women for each clinic. We need 23-25 Guides June 20th from 4 pm on and June 21 from 10 am on. (On Thursday women go out twice, once from 10 - 1 and once from 3 pm into the eve) Campfire at the campground afterwards.

Items needed for the Women's Clinics (items can be given to Tina Murray at a Chapter meeting)

- Flies for the beginner boxes (See list below ... **we have very few yet.** Please tie 23 -24 flies each.)
- OLD leaders for practice casting (7.5 ft please)
- Items for women's raffles to pay for scholarships and food

Dry's	Terrestrials	Nymphs	Streamers
Sulpher #16 Caddis, varying sizes/colors Adams Stimulators Crane flies	Cricket #14 Hopper #14 Ants Beatles	Scud #12 Pheasant Tail Bead Head #16 – #18 Gold Ribbed Hares Jre's Caddis Larva Copper John	Weighted Wooly Buzzer #12 & 10 Small Streamers #12 & #10 Mickey Finns

Guides contact **Rich Lahti**, lahtirich@yahoo.com (608) 516-4480, OR **Scot Stewart**, scotstewart2@gmail.com (608) 273-5967.

Save the date: Conservation Congress Spring Hearings

The hearings will be held **Monday, April 9, 2018, starting at 7 p.m.** at the following locations:

- Dane County Monona Grove High School Auditorium, [4400 Monona Drive](#)
- Green County Monroe Middle School (enter north side door) [1510 13th St](#), Monroe
- Jefferson County, Jefferson High School, Cafeteria, 700 W. Milwaukee St. Jefferson
- Lafayette County, Darlington Elementary School, Large Group Room, [11630 Center Hill Rd. Darlington](#)



The most pressing issue for TU members is a Conservation Congress question asking about opening the catch and keep portion of the trout season on the first Saturday in April, a month earlier than the current first Saturday in May opener.

We'll provide more information closer to April on this and other key items related to environmental protection.

Fountains of Youth

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

by Rusty Dunn

The hopes and dreams of most dry fly anglers rest on the shoulders of but two groups of insects, the mayflies and the caddisflies. Admittedly, stoneflies, midges, and terrestrials have their moments of glory, but day in and day out, mayflies and caddisflies are the bread and butter of fly fishing. But look inside your fly boxes. Are the bread and the butter equally represented? Probably not. Most anglers practice what authors with influence preach, and mayflies have been the darlings of fly fishing books for centuries. Caddisflies and other insect orders received just recognition in recent decades, but mayflies still enjoy an inherited legacy of privilege and prominence. For example, fly tyers often discuss mayflies in code (aka. Latin names) and dwell on minute details of size, color, form, and behavior. They carry multiple fly boxes onstream, each devoted to a single mayfly species. Those boxes, furthermore, hold flies of immense variety. High floating, low floating, half submerged, wings held up, wings held back, forward, or sideways, no wings, no hackle, hair hackle, reverse hackle, and on and on. Such is the legacy of mayfly privilege.

But what of caddisflies? Latin is rarely spoken when discussing them, and caddis patterns are correspondingly simpler. A handful of generic imitations tied in varying sizes and colors, plus a smattering of larval and pupal imitations are sufficient for most anglers. This simplicity of approach does not stem from a lack of caddisfly diversity. Entomologists estimate that North America is home to ~1,400 aquatic caddisfly species, which is twice the estimated number of mayfly species. Being of simpler design and with reduced variety, are our caddis imitations less effective than our mayfly imitations? Should we be more precisely imitative when tying caddis patterns? Or alternatively, should we be less concerned with the details of mayfly imitation? These are questions best answered by your own experiences, rather than by opinions of some author with influence. In the words of the great G.E.M. Skues,

"An authority is a person engaged in the invidious business of stereotyping and disseminating information, frequently incorrect. Never believe a thing you are told about fishing until you have proved it, not only once, but over and over again."

Caddis dry flies come in two basic designs: (i) high floating patterns that imitate adults drifting or laying eggs atop the surface, and (ii) low floating designs that are awash in the surface film and imitate emergers and spent caddis. Examples of high floating designs include the Bivisible, Henryville Special, and Elk Hair Caddis. Examples of low floaters include the Goddard Caddis, X Caddis, and CDC & Elk.

The most popular caddisfly imitation today is probably Al Troth's Elk Hair Caddis, a high floating design floated by stiff rooster hackle palmered along the full length of the body. Troth credits G.E.M. Skues and his Little Red Sedge for inspiration when designing the Elk Hair Caddis in 1957. Troth admired the excellent floatation of the Little Red Sedge and the way in which Skues secured the palmered body hackle with fine gold wire. Troth replaced Skues' wing of feather barbs with a material more easily obtained, and he eliminated the collar of hackle. Otherwise, the patterns are much the same.

Skues is most famous for his pioneering contributions to imitative nymph fishing, but the Little Red Sedge is one of his most famous flies. Its wing of rolled feather barbs is lightweight, durable, and presents a strong tent-like wing profile. The fly floats exceptionally well even in turbulent riffles, which are usually rich in caddisflies. Leslie Magee, author of *Fly Fishing, the North Country Tradition* describes the Little Red Sedge as *"the best ever all round dry fly for North Country streams and for rough streams anywhere"*. Skues himself describes it as, *"without exception, the most killing fly I have used on chalk streams at all times when (mayflies are) not hatching"*. Skues popularized high floating caddis imitations, but he did not claim to be the originator of the Little Red Sedge. Indeed, it is very similar to the Red Sedge of H. Chomodeley-Pennel, published in his 1885 book *Fishing - Salmon and Trout*.

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----- Little Red Sedge -----

Landrail is a protected species and substituted here by feather barbs of wood duck flank.

Hook: Dry fly, #14

Thread: Pearsall's Gossamer silk, hot orange

Body Red-brown rooster; length to hook

Hackle: point or less

Rib: Fine gold wire

Body: Dark hare's ear spun on tying silk

Wings: Feather barbs of a landrail wing, bunched and rolled

Collar Red-brown rooster; length slightly longer than body

Hackle: hackle



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

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