

Newscasts

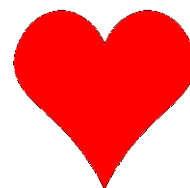
February 2019 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



Oh how we LOVE Trout – Our Thursday, February 14 meeting Join us Valentine's Day for a Phenological Tour of Trout Stream Plants and Animals

Our monthly chapter meeting will host **Michael Miller**, DNR Stream Ecologist, UW Stream Ecology Teacher and avid trout angler.

Phenology is the study of reoccurring seasonal lifecycle events that are influenced by climate. Migratory animals return and various plants emerge each spring, Michael will explore these cycles, their impact on streams and trout with a Valentine's Day focus.



Come early for food, spirits and fish tales.

There will be a **50/50 raffle to help cover the room fee**. Tickets will be available from 6:30 - 7:45 pm for \$5 each. The drawing will take place at 8:00 pm, or as soon as possible after the featured speaker is completed. This is a must be present to win drawing. One winning ticket takes home half of the cash raised.

We'll again meet upstairs at [The Coliseum Bar and Grill](#). As usual, the program begins at 7 p.m., but show up earlier for food, fish stories and friendship.



Who won \$100?

Congratulations to **Mark Kraft**, who won \$100 to Fontana Sports Specialties at the January meeting. This was our last "You Must Be Present To Win" drawing with the Fontana west side store closing (and them exiting the fly fishing business). Tremendous thanks and appreciation to the Hutchinson family for their long-standing support!!

Looking ahead to the annual Meicher Madness Auction on March 14

Plan ahead to attend, donate and buy at our annual March auction fundraiser. Year after year, hand-tied flies are a big seller, as well as usable outdoor and fishing gear, especially reels. Guided trips are most welcome. Also note that we are going to do even more to sort and display donated items, which should make for an auction that is more fun, more fast and more lucrative. But to do that we **have to have folks show up earlier**. So if you're bringing items to donate (in particular if you have a lot of them) *please, please, please* consider arriving by 5:45 or 6. (That's just saying what's ideal ... if you can't arrive til closer to 7 and have items for the auction, obviously still bring them.)



See **page 6** to learn about two **new one-day Women's Fly Fishing Clinics**. Also great information on our traditional clinics and support of Project Green Teen.



Attend the Badger Fly Fishers Spring Opener on Saturday, February 9

This is one of SWTU's most important partner organizations, and their big all-day event is Saturday, February 9, 2019, at American Family Insurance – the same place as our Icebreaker. Pat Dorsey will be their guest speaker and they also have great activities, prizes, vendors, etc. [Learn more at their website](#)

An Exceptional Icebreaker raises \$9,000+!!!

The Chapter would like to thank everyone who contributed to making the 2019 Icebreaker so successful. Through the efforts of our attendees, donors, speakers, conservation partners and fly tyers we raised **more than \$9,000** for cold water conservation in our region. We are particularly indebted to the efforts of Pat Hasburgh, Henry Nehls-Lowe, Amy Klusmeier, Mary Ann Doll, Drew Kasel, Tom Parker, Chuck Bayuk and John and Rose Schweiger for making the event run so smoothly and successfully. – Ben Lubchansky, Icebreaker Chair

All raffle winners have been notified of their good luck! Here are some photos, courtesy Pat Hasburgh. Take time to [view the full album](#).



Annual Chapter elections

More details will be shared soon, but start thinking now about stepping up and into a leadership role with SWTU. We will need at least two new directors and a new Vice President. (The VP's primary role is outreach to new members and organizing monthly chapter meetings.) If you have questions or recommendations, reach out to a Board member listed at the end of the newsletter. We'll have a nominating committee formed soon and have the election at a spring meeting.



Have fun helping out at the Wisconsin Fishing Expo

Please sign-up to work at our SWTU booth at the [Wisconsin Fishing Expo](#). The work is fun and easy, and a vital way for us to share our story and reach new members. Plus you get in for free and can wander the Expo before or after your shift. (You will have to pay for parking.)

See [this document to view the open shifts](#). It's best if you can work a 2 hour shift (the time goes fast!). You can also split your shift and take in the expo in between. Generally, we need two people between these timeframes:

- FRIDAY, February 22 between 5 and 9 p.m.
- SATURDAY, February 23 between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.
- SUNDAY, February 24 between 9 a.m. and 2 P.M.



To sign up, please contact Curt Diehl. Email Curt at cdbadgerfan@gmail.com or text him at 608-345-5714. Let Curt know what day works for you and he can tell you what slots are available!

If you sign up to work the booth, complimentary admission tickets will be available at WILL CALL. Please **contact Curt ASAP** so he can manage the list and get your name to the Expo.

The Expo is providing us with electricity free of charge, so those who want to tie flies (including young tiers!) can bring their lights. Curt will provide an extension cord and have little plastic boxes available to put flies in to give to kids (high school age and younger) for free. 1 fly per youth. Doesn't matter the kind of fly you tie and you can even bring flies already tied up for kids. Bluegill patterns are great!

The "work" is simple. Just talk about how to join SWTU on the national TU website, stream workdays, monthly meetings, fly casting, women's clinics, fly tying classes and other ways people can learn or make a difference.



TROUT UNLIMITED SOUTHERN WISCONSIN CHAPTER

Riversmith Trout Fishing Clinic

Saturday, April 20, 9:00 am - Noon
H.M. Zander Community Nature Park in Cross Plains
Free event! Beginners are especially encouraged to attend. All ages (6 and under accompanied by an adult) are welcome. Equipment will be provided for those who don't have a fly rod. Learn how to cast a fly rod, how to read the water, and what trout eat (aquatic entomology).

FREE EVENT! BEGINNERS WELCOME!

Mark your calendar for our annual **Riversmith Trout Fishing Clinic** on **Saturday, April 20** in **Cross Plains**.

Anyone newer to the sport will learn a great deal for the low-low price of **free!**

If you know something about fly casting, gear, reading the water, etc. **we could use your help as a volunteer instructor.**

Please contact [Scot Stewart](#) if questions or you'd like to help out.

Our Spring 2019 Stream Team Workdays

We'd love to have your help!

The workdays sometime shift around with the weather or needs of the streams, but here is our current schedule for spring 2019. The work isn't complicated and we can find a task for anyone. Get them on your calendar and we'll see you on the stream. And remember that every workday you take part in will get you one entry into a drawing for the Streamkeeper Rod built by Jim Bartelt. The winner for 2018 was drawn at the Icebreaker: Zach Olufs.

- **March 23 - Gordon Creek**, DNR Easement (Iowa County - Highway 39 & Moscow Road). Map link: <https://binged.it/2MiQ42i>
- **April 13 - Sugar River** (Falk/Wells Wildlife Area - 2.5 miles south of Verona on Hwy 69, turn left (east) on Sunset, go 1/3 to parking lot). Map link: <https://binged.it/2MPHicr>
- **May 11 - Sugar River**, Ziegler Property (Dane Co. - Oak Grove Rd - 1.5 miles south of Verona on Hwy 69). Map link: <https://binged.it/2Mn84bL>
- **June 1 - Steiner Creek** (Lafayette Co. - Yellowstone Wildlife Area - North of Lake Yellowstone on Lafayette Co. Rd F, off of English Hollow Rd, 1/3 mile north of Cty Rd F). Map link: <https://binged.it/2MiQh5A>
- **June 15 - Sugar River**, Ziegler Property (Dane Co. - Oak Grove Rd - 1.5 miles south of Verona on Hwy 69). Map link: <https://binged.it/2Mn84bL>

We'll share more details in the coming months. Always check www.swtu.org or email Jim Hess jimhess5599@gmail.com to make sure there are no cancelations or changes to this schedule.

Bonus workday! Apple Pruning – Sunday, March 10, 2019

This was a super fun event last year and we'll do it again in 2019 at the Neperud orchard. We'll get instructions, then get together with others and do the small trimming and shaping that will help the orchard prosper. So save the date and watch for more information to be shared in future *Newscasts*.



Newslinks – Calling TU Members of the Old Duck Hunter's Association, Inc.

- We're **looking for any old-fashioned decoy cord** you may have lying around. It's strong, thin, rot-resistant and often colored brown or a vegetative green. It is also ideal for binding the brush bundles our Stream Team uses to provide fish cover, feeding edges and stabilize stream banks. [Learn more about the Old Duck Hunter's Association and how we'd use the cord.](#)



Welcome New Members

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

Bob & Dot Steinhorst	Justin Belgiano
Mason Merline	Henry Zander
Gregory Maier	Jeff Sluzewski
Steve Fronsee	Scott Hultgren
Kalyn Hoggard	Caroline Druschke
Dustin Helmenstine	Scott Leck
Jacqueline and Kenneth Van Dyke	



We are honored to have you among us. Please join us for a Chapter meeting, and we will give you a **FREE** raffle ticket, 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 [Mary Ann Doll](#) so we can expect you.

Sara Rigelman Wins State Council Award

If you trout fish locally, you've enjoyed the results of her work

Sara Rigelman, a land acquisition specialist and park planner for the Dane County Land and Water Resources Department (LWRD), received the Robert Hunt Award honoring a conservation professional for important contributions to Wisconsin trout resources.

SWTU was happy to nominate Sara to recognize her achievements in protecting, enhancing and securing permanent, public access to many miles of trout streams.

In short, the stream easements, protections and restoration work that you see happening locally traces back to Sara. A decade ago she was charged with creating and running the Dane County trout stream easement program. And boy has she!

Sara has secured dozens of easements covering over 20 stream miles on at least 10 different trout waters. Many miles of these easements are on major trout streams such as the Sugar River, the West Branch of the Sugar, Kittleson Creek, and Gordon Creek that can support heavy fishing pressure. Her collaborative work with landowners and partner organizations (like SWTU) has made a new, blue ribbon fishery available to trout anglers.

Sara is not stopping. 2019 will see the implementation of a \$165,000 restoration of another half mile of the Sugar River on County land open to the public for all forms of outdoor recreation. Sara spent 2018 working with the DNR, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, other County staff and SWTU in planning a comprehensive restoration that will dramatically improve stream habitat, protect and enhance springs, and restore wetlands and prairies. She also has just secured yet another easement on a small spring tributary of the West Branch of the Sugar River with a hitherto undiscovered population of wild brook trout.

These few paragraphs say plenty, but barely scratch the surface of Sara's impressive, impactful work.

Congratulations, Sara! We look forward to working with you to continue the dramatic improvements in the health of and public access to the trout streams of Dane County.

Also awarded ...

In addition to Sara's award, we want to note our delight in **Terry Cummings** receiving the Unsung Hero Award. Terry is now a member of Northwoods TU, which nominated him, but many of us recall Terry's unflagging energy and optimism when he was a member of SWTU for over 20 years. Hardly an event or initiative took place without Terry's participation. Congrats!

Impressive and Generous Fly Tyers

The State Council meeting is also a major fundraiser that does a tremendous amount of good for our cold water resource. This includes an auction, for which SWTU was asked to donate some flies. As you can see in the photo, our members came through IMPRESSIVELY. Many thanks to **John Gribb, John Strauss, Andy Morton, Leroy Ebert, Tom Thrall, Dan Wisniewski, Bob Selk, Jim Beecher, Scot Stewart, Pat Hasburgh, Tom Mulford, Mark Rhinerson and Ben Lubchansky** for their time and talents.



Dan Wisniewski, Jim Hess and Topf Wells were just a few of the many SWTU members on hand to congratulate Sara.



Wisconsin Women's Fly Fishing Clinics

The MOST popular women's fly fishing clinics in the Midwest!

Registration is Now Open. Clinics fill fast, don't wait until spring!
 Registration information: <https://www.swtu.org/learn/womens-flyfishing-clinic/>

NEW – Two One-day Women's Clinics (register now!)

- DePere on April 13, information/registration: <https://tinyurl.com/y7gsdktg>
- Madison WI April 27, information/registration: <https://tinyurl.com/ybv7nwoy>

These build on a very successful clinic held at the recent State Council meeting!

There is also still space in the **Beginners Clinic** (by women for women). Dates are from June 14th at 3 pm to June 16th at noon. *If you know a woman who is interested in learning fly fishing this is a great clinic where she will learn the basics from women instructors. (At time of publication, there are 3 open spots.)*

The **Women's on the Water Skills Clinic** dates are June 12th 3 pm, June 13th all day and Friday June 14th by arrangement. *(At time of publication, there are 10 open spots.)*

We will need about 20 Guides/ mentors willing to take a woman fishing 3 times over a day and a half June 12 & 13th. Please contact Scot Stewart at scotstewart2@gmail.com.

Help support Project Green Teen

Project Green Teen is our youth education program. Students in conservation classes at Shabazz learn the sport of fly fishing and go on a week-long trip to the driftless area where they work with conservation partners completing environmental service projects and fly fish for 5 days with mentors from our chapter.

Note that a fly tying event is coming up quick ... we need volunteers for these events – Please contact Dave Fowler, dkfowler82@gmail.com, or (608) 513-0681.

- **Fly tying** at Shabazz High School Cafeteria **Feb 13 & 14th**, 12:45 – 3:15 pm
- **Casting**, Shabazz High School Ball field **April 10th & April 24th**, 12:45 – 3:00 pm
- **Avalanche Trip** – Westfork Sports Club May 12-16th Fishing 4-6:30, Dinner 6:45 – 7:45 pm

Flies are needed for both PGT (15 ea) and the Women's Clinics (20-24 ea)

These can be given to Tina Murray or Scot Stewart.

Dries like

Sulphur #16, Caddis, varying sizes & colors, Adams, Stimulators, Crane flies, BWO

Terrestrials like

Cricket #14 Hopper #14, Ants Beetles

Nymphs like

Scud #12, Pheasant Tail Bead Head #16 – #18, Gold Ribbed Hares Ears
 Caddis Larva, Copper John

Streamers Like

Weighted Wooly Buzzer #12 & 10, Small Streamers #12 & #10, Mickey Finns

Support flood restoration work at the Westfork

[The Westfork](#), where we host both the Student PGT program and the SWTU Women's Programs, could use more support – financial as well as skilled trades such as electrician, plumber, construction and equipment operators.

Donations can be sent to: West Fork Sportsmans Club Inc., P.O. Box 52, Viroqua, WI 54665. You can also make a PayPal donation to Westforksportsclub@gmail.com (but note PayPal takes 3%). Have questions or want to offer your services? Contact Westforksportsclub@gmail.com or [Tina Murray](#).

Fountains of Youth

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

by Rusty Dunn

If you were a self-respecting caddisfly, you would be justified to have a giant chip on your shoulder. Recognition of your importance by fly anglers was painfully slow in coming. Ever since that old goat Isaak Walton charmed everyone in 1653 with his sweet talk about "the country life", those glamorous but feeble mayflies have been the darlings of the fly fishing world. The classic angling literature goes on and on about mayfly magnificence. 'Mayfly this' ... 'mayfly that' ... *mayfly über alles*. You'd think there wasn't another insect in the trout stream! Thanks to some observant authors in the 1970s, however, you've been emancipated. Caddisflies today are recognized as an important – and often *the most important* – food source of trout. Educated anglers now watch your every move, tweet incessantly on your comings and goings, and fashion seductive flies to match your handsome appearance.

The above diatribe is, of course, a fancy, but the importance of caddisflies to fly fishing was seriously underestimated for centuries. Caddis weren't totally ignored, but they were neglected relative to the mayflies. The first unambiguous caddis imitation was in James Chetham's *The Angler's Vade Mecum* (1681). His Greentail fly imitates a grannom (a *Brachycentrus* species) common in Britain. British authors from the 17th to the 20th century, including such greats as Walton (1653), Bowlker (1747), Ronalds (1849), Theakston (1853), Halford (1886), and Skues (1910), discussed caddisflies and offered some patterns, but none drew special attention to them. Others, however, wrote persuasive testimonials about the awesome power of a caddis emergence. For example, Rev. E. Powell wrote in *The Country Sportsman*,

"A hatch of grannom is a sad affliction, for it is

generally so brief that there is little time to think, and the trout seem to find it so satisfying that they are difficult to stir for the rest of the day. One moment you are flogging an apparently troutless river, and the next the whole surface and the air above it look as if they were charged with bits of minutely chopped hay, and the fish are flicking their tails in every direction. Speed is everything then. You must know what to do and do it at once. He who wavers is lost. It will be all over before he has begun."

American authors were asleep at the wheel too. Theodore Gordon discussed caddisflies but only briefly, because "*To me, the ephemera [mayflies] are the most interesting.*" Preston Jennings' landmark book on aquatic insects (*A Book of Trout Flies*, 1935) devotes 53 pages to mayflies and 8 to caddis. Art Flick's *Streamside Guide* (1947) was "the bible" of fly selection in the East for decades, but it included zero caddis patterns. Ernie Schwiebert's *Matching the Hatch* (1955) seems comprehensive, but look closely ... 85 pages of mayflies and 4 of caddisflies. If fly fishing luminaries thought little of the caddis, how were the rest of us supposed to know any better? We are led like sheep by the media, but in this case the shepherds were loafing.

Affirmative action for caddisflies began in the 1970s. The first chapter of Leonard Wright's excellent 1972 book *Fishing the Dry Fly as a Living Insect* was titled "The Fly That Fishermen Forgot". It was about caddisflies. Larry Soloman's and Eric Leiser's *The Caddis and the Angler* (1977) was the first angling book to discuss caddisflies thoroughly. Four years later, Gary LaFontaine published his magnum opus, *Caddisflies* (1981), which is a veritable encyclopedia of caddisfly biology as it relates to trout. LaFontaine's most famous caddis imitations are his Deep Sparkle Pupa and Emergent Sparkle Pupa, which represent early and late stages of a caddis emergence, respectively.

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----- LaFontaine Emergent Sparkle Pupa -----

The Emergent Sparkle Pupa of the photo is tied in colors of the American grannom, a group of *Brachycentrus* species common in all trout waters.

Hook: Wet fly, light wire, #14 - #16

Thread: Brown-olive, 8/0

Underbody: One third olive sparkle yarn plus two thirds bright green dubbing, mixed together and dubbed roughly

Overbody: Medium olive sparkle yarn, tied as a loose veil surrounding the body

Wing: Dark brown deer body hair

Head: Brown marabou strands or brown fur



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

Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited Leadership:

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