Newscasts



April 2019 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Our Great and Growing Local Public Waters

Please join us for our Thursday, April 11 Chapter meeting

In addition to a 50/50 raffle, this meeting will also feature a silent auction for some great sets of flies! Please see below for details.

April's speaker is an award-winning member of our Chapter and a leader in conserving our local trout streams. **Sara Rigelman**, winner of State Council's Bob Hunt Award, will speak on Dane County's acquisition of land and easements and restoration of trout streams in the Sugar River Watershed.

Sara is Park Property Planner for Dane County Parks in the County's Land and Water Resource Department and leads the County's trout stream easement and restoration programs. The County has been extraordinarily active and effective in the watershed throughout Sara's tenure with the County with the result that miles of high quality trout streams are now protected and available to the public. In addition, hundreds of acres are now available for walking, hunting, foraging, birding, and other outdoor activities. SWTU has supported these efforts with donations and volunteers. Sara will let us know what the future might hold for these waters and lands.

We had also hoped to be joined by **Dan Oele**, the DNR fish biologist for Dane, Green and Rock Counties. Dan has been integral to recent efforts to protect and restore trout streams in the Sugar River watershed and throughout Dane County. Dan wrote with a pretty good excuse for not being able to attend: "Please accept my apologies, I can't make it that night, will be running nets all day on Mendota then hustling up to Steven's Point to give a talk the following morning about Indian Lake carp removal project, then back down to keep on running nets! Next time!"

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.

March auction results ... and another opportunity on Thursday, April 11!

Thanks to the generous donations and bids we had a great Meicher Memorial Auction in March that **netted \$3,517!** With a dwindling crowd near the conclusion, we were not able to auction all the great flies generous and skilled tyers donated. Folks donated these flies to be used and raise funds for the Chapter. Instead of holding on to them for another year, let's get these flies on the stream where they belong!



The April 11 meeting will feature a silent auction for some great sets of flies. The auction will be ready to go as soon as you step in the door. Here are just some of the flies we'll be offering:

- 3 sets of 6 by Tom Mulford-- #18 Parachute Caddis, #20 Comparaduns, #18 Comparaduns
- 6 Dan Wisniewski wet flies
- 6 John Strauss spring nymphs and dries
- 20 John Gribb mayflies
- 6 bluegill and trout streamers from Badger Fly Fishers
- large collection of bluegill flies
- large collection of bass, pike, and musky streamers.

As usual, the meeting is upstairs at the <u>Coliseum Bar and Grill</u> on East Olin Avenue at 7 p.m. but please get there early this month if at all possible for auction items, drinks, food or sharing stories!

Reminder: FREE Riversmith Casting Clinic on April 20 ... see the flier on page 3. Join us if you're interested in learning about casting, trout food and reading the water. If you can help provide some casting help, we'd love your assistance. You don't need to be a master caster; just able to provide some pointers.

Nominating Committee Completes its Work for April Annual Elections

The Nominating Committee has completed the list of candidates for the election to be held at the Annual Meeting on April 11. The nominees for the open positions are:

President: **Amy Klusmeier**. Amy is currently serving as Chapter President. Since joining TU in 2011 she has been a very active member. She has served as a Director and Vice President. Amy has participated in Chapter workdays and the stream maintenance/monitoring program. For several years, she successfully ran our main fundraiser, the Icebreaker. Amy has Masters degrees in Urban and Regional Planning and Public Affairs.

Vice President: **Mary Ann Doll.** Mary Ann is currently serving as Chapter Vice President. Mary Ann has been one of our most active members. She has served on our Education and Membership Committee. She has come to our stream work days, organized our Nash Williams Awards Banquet, helped at the Riversmith Fishing Clinic and more.

Secretary: **Topf Wells.** Topf is currently serving as Secretary. He has played many roles in TU including our annual auction, stream work days, Chapter advocacy and general all around Mr. Fixit.

Treasurer: **Tom Parker.** Tom is currently serving as Treasurer. Tom has been a Chapter member since 2013. He served on the Board as a Director before becoming Treasurer in 2016. Tom has 30 years' experience in finance and administration in the insurance industry. He chairs the Finance Committee and has been instrumental in moving Chapter Endowment funds to management by the Natural Resources Foundation.

Director: **Rodd Wangen.** Rodd is currently serving as a Director. Rodd is a regular at the Chapter stream work days and also maintains a section of stream in our maintenance/monitoring program.

Director: **Tom Thrall.** Tom is currently serving as a Director. He has served many roles, including Chapter Treasurer. Tom is retired from The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) where he served in many field positions in Michigan and retired as Wisconsin State Biologist.

Director: **Curt Reidl.** Curt has worked at our stream work days and has been a generous contributor to our fundraising events. He recently donated a beautiful handcrafted tying station for the State Council banquet.

Chapter Delegate to State Council: **Scott Stewart.** Scot is currently serving as Chapter Delegate. He began his term 2016 and has been very active in attending State Council meetings and ably representing the chapter. Scott has been a SWTU member since 1987 and for many years has taught in our fly tying classes. He is retired from DNR after having served 33 years in fisheries management.

The selection of officers and directors is a democratic process and will be decided by a majority of members present and voting.

At the April monthly meeting, the nominees or a member acting on his or her behalf, will be given the opportunity to present any information relevant to his or her candidacy.

In addition to the nominees selected by the committee, the chapter bylaws provide that any member may make a nomination from the floor. For those positions with more than one candidate, secret ballots will be used.

In addition, we want to express tremendous appreciation to **Jim Hess**, who has served a full (and maximum) six years on our Board of Directors. We will miss him on the Board but are excited about his continued involvement and contributions to our Chapter. You've made a true difference, Jim!

Welcome New Members

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

Paul Poblocki Scott Kluge Gerald Jones
Kevin Dorn Terence Brennan Nancy Sheehan
Wesley Dunn Kathryn Schremmer Branden Downs

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.



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 <u>Scot</u> <u>Stewart</u> if questions or you'd like to help out.

A fun and productive first Stream Team workday of 2019

Thanks to Jim Beecher for these photos of our crew at work on Gordon Creek. You can view the full album here.









Help on the Stream Team at our April 13 Workday Sugar River (Falk/Wells Wildlife Area – Sunset Road)

We'd love for you to join us on Saturday, April 13,

Have fun, get out, make some new acquaintances and both learn about AND improve a neat stretch of water. The work is simple, important and we can find a role for anyone ... from signing people in to stacking brush. Read on for the details.

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

Where: We will be working on the north side of the Sugar located in the Falk/Wells Wildlife Area. From Hwy 151, take Hwy 69 south 2.5 miles to Sunset Road, turn left on Sunset Road, go 1/3 mile to the parking lot on the south side of road. The work site is about 1/3 mile south of the parking, via a mowed grass path. We are getting permission to drive equipment, supplies, and people to the work site with either pick-ups or ATV's.

Here is a map link to this location: https://binged.it/2MPHicr

What: We will be working with the US Fish & Wildlife Service cutting and treating honeysuckles and other invasive woodies to gain access to the river and to help clear out a remnant oak savanna area. It is critical that the honeysuckle is cut as close as possible to the ground and each cut treated. Some of the honeysuckle will require chainsaws, but many can be cut with loppers. Something to do for everyone. And, of course, we will be creating brush piles. Mike Engle with USFWS will be joining us at this workday. Mike is planning to bring a tractor to help create brush piles.

Important: Be sure to take breaks during the workday to drink some water and catch your breath.

Bring: Bring work gloves, sturdy shoes, and eye and ear protection. Also bring reusable water bottles that can be filled from our 5-gal water jug. Stay hydrated.

Parking: There should be plenty of parking in the parking lot off of Sunset Road.

Future Workdays:

The workdays sometime shift around with the weather or needs of the streams, but here is our current schedule for the rest of the spring. 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.

- 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.

Habitat work that will bear fruit ... literally!!

SWTU hosted our second annual round of restorative pruning in the Neperud Orchard on Sunday, March 31.

The orchard was a pride and joy of the Neperud family but needs pruning to regain health and vigor. SWTU coordinates this effort to help Dane County restore the Neperud lands and waters and to offer our members and volunteers from the Master Gardener program the chance to learn how to prune fruit trees.



Lisa Johnson, Dane County's horticulturist and director of the Master Gardener program, provided an excellent introduction to fruit tree pruning at Landmark Creamery (thanks to Anna Thomas Bates and Anna Landmark for providing the space). Ten TU and Master Gardener volunteers then spent two hours pruning the apple, pear and cherry trees. In our second year of the project, we've pruned 40% of the trees in the orchard. We'll work the next couple of years to attend to the rest of the trees. Lisa guided our pruning on site. Thanks to her instruction and supervision, all of us learned the basics of pruning.

Thanks to all our volunteers and to Sara Rigelman, who leads the County's efforts at Neperud and joined us. Remember that the orchard is open to the public. It will soon be in its lovely spring bloom and the apples, pears and cherries are yours for the picking this fall. And stop by Landmark Creamery. Their grilled cheese sandwiches, cheeses, and other Wisconsin foods are fabulous.

Conservation Congress seeks input on vital trout questions

By Topf Wells

THE SPRING 2019 CONSERVATION CONGRESS HEARING WIIL OCCUR AT MONONA GROVE HIGH SCHOOL (4400 MONONA DRIVE) AT 7 PM ON MONDAY, APRIL 8

This hearing will feature many proposed regulation changes for fishing and hunting, including Questions 41-46, which affect trout streams in our area. You can participate in three ways: 1. attend; 2. attend, ask for a log-in number and fill in the questionnaire via the internet wherever you want to; 3. fill in the questions via the internet. If you choose option 1 or 2, your preferences will be counted in the county-wide and statewide totals. Option 3 results are only included in the statewide totals.

Dan Oele, the DNR fish biologist for Dane, Green, and Rock Counties, recently discussed Questions 41-46 with the SWTU Board. The Board very much appreciates the time and care Dan spent preparing for and leading the discussion. Q. 41 changes regulations on a few Driftless Area streams to provide for consistent regs across contiguous easements or to promote the harvest of brown trout competing with wild brook trout. Q. 42 eliminates an unnecessary regulation on a small section of Plum Run, a small tributary to Knapp Creek. Q. 43 completely protects wild brook trout in Harker and Lowery Creeks (these native trout are the source for the DNR's re-introduction of wild brook trout in the Driftless Area). Q. 44 opens a mile of Castle Rock Creek to the harvest of trout and to the use of bait or spinning gear. Q. 46 offers a more restrictive reg on lower Black Earth Creek (1 trout > 18 inches) as one step to boost the overall population of trout. The Board thought all of these proposals made some sense and were worth supporting or at least not opposing. We appreciate Dan's efforts in developing additional protection for lower BEC's trout.

Q. 45 changes the limit from 3 trout with a 12 inch maximum to 5 trout with a 12 inch maximum on Crooked Creek, Big Green River, Little Grant River, Borah Creek, Camp Creek, Knapp Creek, Elk Creek, Gordon Creek, and Mt. Vernon Creek. The reason for the change is the DNR's goal of simplifying regulations. This change would conform the limits on these streams to the limit involving a 12 inch maximum found throughout the rest of the state. The DNR believes the population of trout in these streams is robust and stable enough to support the potential additional harvest. The Board questioned whether this simplification is needed since these streams occurs in a large, contiguous area, the southern half of the Driftless Area. The Board also noted that the trout populations in Gordon and Mt. Vernon Creeks have not yet returned to their levels of several years ago.

The questionnaire also includes advisory questions generated by the Conservation Congress and the public. Questions 82 and 83 ask whether you support increases to the Inland Trout Stamp and the Great Lakes Trout and Salmon Stamp. TU State Council supports both and is leading the effort to have the Inland Trout Stamp increase included in the new state budget.

The Inland Trout Stamp funds the DNR people and material for stream restoration. Many of our area streams need some Tender Loving Care and more Trout Stamp funds would really help. If the Legislature and Governor seriously consider the increase, both will pay attention to the results of these two questions.

The Board strongly encourages SWTU members to participate in the Conservation Congress hearing. Please note that these questions are advisory. The DNR is not legally bound to implement the changes supported at the hearing. You can google the spring 2019 Conservation Congress Hearing to learn more about the process or the questions or to find the location of hearings in counties other than Dane.



Gals, Gear & Beer

April 26th from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.; Madison Orvis Store

Gals, Gear & Beer is a women's event designed to address women fishers gear questions. Bring your gear in for a check and a tune up, such as line cleaning or reel/line/rod balancing. Designed to help maximize enjoyment and minimize effort expended by your gear and skills. Located at the Madison Orvis Store, 1650 Deming Way, Middleton, WI 53562 Participants will get a 20% discount (some exclusions) and there will be beer and pizza.



Women's Clinic Film wins award

"Three Days on the Water" featuring Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited's Wisconsin Women's Fly Fishing Clinics won first place at the Great Water Fly fishing Video Showcase in Minneapolis March 16th. Created by Gretta Wing Miller the award was accepted by Tina Murray who created and runs the clinics.

View the trailer for the film.

Help the River Alliance build wader wash stations

River Alliance is hosting a work day on Saturday April 13th (rain date April 14) to build stations for river users to clean their waders and boots. These wader wash stations help prevent the spread of the New Zealand mudsnail currently found in Black Earth & Brewery Creeks. We need volunteers - that means you! Your work will help protect other trout streams in Wisconsin from encroachment of this messy invasive.

We will meet at 1:00 p.m. at Festge County Park, just west of Cross Plains. Volunteers will get "earthy" building wader wash stations, installing three-sided boot brushers, mounting streamside informational signs, and learning about clean angling practices. The work day will last about 3-4 hours.

Afterwards, our generous event sponsor, Great Lakes Brewing Company, will host a volunteer appreciation party at Craftsman Table and Tap around 5pm with giveaways, food and beverages provided.



The event is free registration is required by April 8. Register and learn more.

Lend a hand to the Wisconsin Parkinson's Association Fishing Clinics

Click the links below for information on some upcoming free clinics being put on for those with Parkinson's and their caregivers. Several TU Chapters, including ours, are providing support and they **could use a few guest instructors** so please let them know if you can lend a hand. For questions or to help, contact Jon Hill at 608-206-9597.

- Rushing Waters Trout Farm in Palmyra on Wednesday, May 22 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. https://www.wiparkinson.org/evrplus_registration/?action=evrplusegister&event_id=71
- Appleton Memorial Park on Wednesday, June 12 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
 https://www.wiparkinson.org/evrplus_registration/?action=evrplusegister&event_id=72

Wisconsin Women's Fly Fishing Clinics

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

Register now for women's one-day beginners clinics taught by women ... a jam packed day of fun and hands on experiences. You have two options ... act guickly on them!

- DePere WI, April 13th https://tinyurl.com/y7gsdktg
- Madison WI, April 27th https://tinyurl.com/ybv7nwoy

The Women's Beginners Clinics are full but don't hesitate to put yourself on the waitlist in case anyone cancels.

We have **a few openings in the Intermediate Clinic** where women go out with three different guides and learn new places to fish, and 3 different ways to do skills.

The Riverbuddies have some great programming happening this year and we really appreciate their willingness to learn how to take women fishing. Mike Miller from the WIDNR is doing an entomology clinic specifically to help fishers understand the connection between the bugs and which flies to use/ suggest.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Guides who come to help with intermediate clinic and all the Riverbuddies who come to help with the basics clinics. We would like to also thank all the instructors, volunteers and everyone who helps make the clinics so effective and amazing. With a special shout out to Scot Stewart for being the head "guide wrangler" to make sure we have a 1:1 learning experience for our participants.

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.

We need volunteers for these events – Please contact Dave Fowler, dkfowler82@gmail.com, or (608) 513-0681.

- Casting, Shabazz High School <u>Ball field</u> 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.

PGT students and Chapter members having a great time at the student's casting clinic.

Dries like

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

Terrestrials like

Cricket #14 Hopper #14, Ants Beatles

Nymps like

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

Streamers Like

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

Many thanks to Dave Fowler for being the main "guide wrangler" and making sure we have a 1:1 learning experience for our youth.

Fountains of Youth

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

by Rusty Dunn

Inspiration in fly design can strike at any time. A chance encounter ... a windfall of road kill ... a discovery of a new tying material. Fly tyers are forever searching for new wrinkles on the ancient craft of lashing silk, fur, and feather to a hook. 'The Usual' is an uncommonly effective attractor from the creative eye of Fran Betters. It was inspired by a mid-winter hunting trip, a forgotten bit of fur, the luck of a rabbit's foot, and boredom on a lazy afternoon.

Fran Betters (1931-2009) was a humble and likeable angler who grew up in upstate New York's Adirondack Mountains. He owned a popular fly shop on the West Branch of the Ausable River for 47 years, where he designed and tied durable and effective flies for local waters. Betters was a legend whose deceptively simple creations were sought by anglers far and wide. His most famous flies are the Haystack, Ausable Wulff, and the Usual. All are buggy impressionistic flies tied of inexpensive materials that float well in the Ausable's turbulent waters. Betters was a no-nonsense, bluecollar angler who, in his own words, applied "common sense and simplicity to an art that has been made to appear too complicated." After all, said Betters, "This isn't brain surgery, it's supposed to be fun and relaxing." Betters distilled decades of his simple wisdom into a friendly, insightful, and now collectible book entitled Fran Betters' Fly Fishing - Fly Tying and Pattern Guide (1986). It is chock full of angling experience and fly tying knowledge.

The central feature of Betters' Wilmington, NY fly shop was his fly tying station, where he tied twenty to thirty thousand flies per year. The Usual was born on a slow afternoon in the 1950s. Betters grew tired one day after tying a few hundred standard flies. To relieve the boredom, he rummaged through an accumulated pile of tying materials on his desk and discovered a neglected hind foot of a snowshoe hare, one he had

harvested on a hunting trip several months previously. Betters had saved the foot on the off chance that it might be usable for fly tying. Snowshoe hares, also called "varying hares" because of their seasonal color changes, have oversized hind feet for walking on snow. The wiry hair on the bottom of the footpad is naturally waterproof, traps air for insulation, and provides traction on snow. Trout flies tied of this hair float like a cork. Indeed, snowshoe hare fibers have been called "poor man's CDC".

Betters examined the hare's foot closely and discovered that hair of the footpad was unlike any he had ever seen. It was springy in texture and had a glassy translucency. He snipped some off and was immediately inspired. Aha! Time to experiment! The hair itself was quite fine, but its kinky texture produced a bulky profile using very little material. Betters then tied a fly similar to his famous Haystack series of flies. Haystacks are floated by tails and wings of deer hair, but Betters substituted snowshoe hare fibers for the deer hair and dubbed the body with underfur of the hare's foot. The resulting fly consists of a hook, some thread, and one tying material, simplicity at its best and a design typical of Fran Betters' approach to angling.

Bill Phillips, Fran Betters' good fishing friend, was the first to fish the new fly. He reported excitedly to Betters that it was wildly successful throughout the Adirondacks. Phillips called the fly "the Haystack tied with rabbit's foot fur", but Betters named it the "Phillips Usual" in honor of his friend. In time, however, the fly became widely known simply as 'The Usual'. Bill Phillips was an expert fly angler, and he never tired of annoying strangers who inquired, "What fly are you using?" with the answer, "the usual".

The Usual is an impressionistic attractor, a fuzzy ball of fur so buggy that trout cannot ignore it. It can be dead drifted, skittered across the surface, or popped underwater and fished as a wet fly. The Usual is not a fly for hatch matching, but rather one for pounding up trout with an irresistibly buggy attractor.

© Rusty Dunn, 2019

----- The Usual

Hook: Dry fly, #14 - #22 **Thread:** Hot orange, 6/0 or 8/0

Wings: A large bunch of hair from a snowshoe hare's

footpad

Tail: A small bunch of hair from a snowshoe hare's

footpad

Body: Underfur of a hare's footpad dubbed on thread. Use a blend of the grey next to the skin and light tan, which has very fine guard hairs mixed in to make it float better.



Stay Connected



Know what's happening by connecting to our <u>Chapter</u> 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:

President Amy Klusmeier Vice President Mary Ann Doll Topf Wells Secretary Tom Parker Treasurer State Council Rep. Scot Stewart **Board Member** Pat Hasburgh **Board Member** Jim Hess **Board Member** Tom Thrall **Board Member** Dave Fowler **Board Member** Rodd Wangren **Board Member** Ben Lubchansky Newscasts Editor Drew Kasel Conservation Committee Chair Jim Hess Women's/ Diversity Initiative Chair Tina Murray Youth Education Chair for SWTU Tina Murray

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