

Newscasts

May 2019 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



Talking foundations and fishing

Please join us for our Thursday, May 9 Chapter meeting

For our Thursday, May 9 meeting, we're excited to have three speakers.

First we'll hear from **Camille Zanoni**, Director of Philanthropy for the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin. She will present on how the Foundation provides sustainable funding for Wisconsin's most imperiled species and public lands, while connecting generations to the wonders of Wisconsin's lands, waters, and wildlife through conservation, education, engagement and giving. Camille will also share information about the Foundation's [Wisconsin Conservation Endowment program](#) which provides individuals and organizations the opportunity to create permanent conservation funds for the causes they care most about, including trout and their habitat.



Strongly connected to Camille's presentation, **Steve Musser** will then provide an update on our Chapter's newly formed Legacy Committee.

These foundations do a lot to improve trout waters. And that's what the third part of the meeting will be all about as **Scot Stewart**, formerly of the DNR, speaks on "Top Picks for Southern Wisconsin Trout Fishing, Updates of Selected Counties."

In plain English: a guy who made a career of understanding our trout streams is going to present hard data and his own experiences to help you better understand the fishing opportunities in some nearby counties. *If that doesn't get your blood racing a bit ... well, we can't help you.*



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.

As usual, the meeting is upstairs at the [Coliseum Bar and Grill](#) 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!

Spring Election Results

At the April meeting the following were elected to the Executive Board:

President: Amy Klusmeier
Vice President: Mary Ann Doll
Secretary: Topf Wells
Treasurer: Tom Parker
Director: Rodd Wangen
Director: Tom Thrall
Director: Curt Reidl (brand new to the Board, pictured at right!)

In addition, Scott Stewart was elected Chapter Delegate to the State Council.



Congratulations to all and thank you for your willingness to further the Chapter mission by serving in a leadership position.

Greetings from the SWTU President

By Amy Klusmeier

Thanks to our volunteer Board Nominating Committee led by Bob Selk, we had a smooth transition following a successful April election. A huge thank you to Jim Hess for his 6 years of service as a Director. Jim has been an invaluable member bringing a wealth of knowledge in organizational management and a wholistic approach to ecological restoration. It's no surprise to anyone familiar with Jim's work that he received several awards during the last few years, including SWTU's Award of Merit. We are very grateful that Jim will continue serving as our Conservation Committee Chair.

We welcome Curt Riedl to the SWTU Board! Curt first learned about TU when he attended a Project Healing Waters (now Vets on the Fly) event with his Dad, Larry. Since then Curt has frequented chapter events, become an avid fly fisher, and has been a generous donor to the State Council banquet. When not on the stream Curt works as a Business Development Executive at Oxford Global Resources. We are happy to have Curt joining us as a Director!

Our Treasurer Tom Parker worked diligently over the last few months to transition our budget process to a new fiscal year, due to TU National's move to an April 1 start date (previously October 1). This was no small task! Thanks in part to very a successful Icebreaker and Meicher Madness Action we are on pace to meet our budget goals in FY2020 with one caveat: the board has committed to raising \$7,500 via a direct mail fundraising campaign. This money will help fund three restoration projects planned for 2019 on the Sugar River and Black Earth Creek. More information will be coming soon on how you can support these efforts. Attend our May Chapter Meeting to learn more about another opportunity to support local stream restoration work: our Endowment Fund and newly formed Legacy Committee led by Finance Committee Member Steve Musser.

Finally, save the date for upcoming events! More details will be available soon on our website and via email.

- Board Meetings – Dates vary, see website calendar or email president@swtu.org
- Chapter Meetings – 2nd Thursday of each month, September – May
- Nash Williams Banquet & 50th Anniversary Celebration – October 24, 2019
- 37th Annual Icebreaker – January 25, 2020

Best of luck opening weekend and stay safe on the streams this summer!

A message from our Treasurer

By Tom Parker

Please click on the following links to view the [Chapter's Balance Sheet](#) as of March 31, 2019 & 2018, [Statement of Activity](#) for the six months ended March 31, 2019 and the 2020 Operating Budget.

Please note that TU National has moved to a new fiscal year and has required all chapters to do the same. Our new fiscal year now runs from April 1 through March 31. Previously, the fiscal year ran from October 1 through September 30. In order to make this transition, our past fiscal year was only six months long and ended on March 31. This is why the Statement of Activity for fiscal year 2019 only contains six months results while the fiscal year 2020 Budget represents a full twelve months.

You will also note that we generated a rather large Surplus of \$13,237 during the six months ended March 31. The reason for this is that much of our income is generated during these six months; the IceBreaker in January, the Meicher Auction in March and most of the tuition income from the Women's Clinics is received during this period. Expenses on the other hand are usually spread out evenly over the year.

I know this is all somewhat confusing so if you have any questions about the 2019 financial results or the 2020 Budget, please contact me at Tparker23@charter.net.

Casting Clinic Recap – Laughs and learning

Many thanks to all the SWTU members that came out to help with the Riversmith Casting Clinic. About 30 novice casters (and hopefully new TU members!) attended, had some fun and learned a lot. We were fortunate to have more than enough volunteer instructors from the chapter, which was great because we may have had even more students and we had the instructors to handle them. And of course we also want to thank everyone who came out to learn. Here are some photos, courtesy Ric Genthe. [You can view even more here on our website.](#)



Welcome New Members

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

Christian Nadler	Mitch Reis	Jeremy Goedken
Rick Kinderman	Derek Shipley	Jim Shipley
Jim Shipley	Mary Shipley	Zach Shipley
Nick Rahn	Marshall Colburn	Josh Wied
Steve Anderson	Albertc Kash	Dave Ripp
Bonnie Stamm	Donald Hamilton	Max Wilke
Keith Krinke	Matt Schwartz	Steven Steinle
Sandy Miller	Chris Hagen	William Larson

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.

Fun and successful first-time event

Gals Gear and Beer at Orvis on April 26th was a smashing success. We had 12 women who brought in their gear for a tune up or tried on future wish list items. The following day Tina Murray of Shenanigans Fly Fishing taught a beginners clinic for women. Despite the snow and logistical challenges, all the women were able to work on their cast and get the basics of knots, flies, gear, stream etiquette and conservation issues.



Join our next Stream Team Workday

Saturday, May 11, 2019 – Sugar River (Davidson Wildlife Unit)

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

Where: We will be working at a new Dane County wildlife area, the Sugar River Wildlife Area, Davidson Unit, previously referred to as the Zeigler Property. The Davidson Unit is located just south of Verona on Oak Grove Rd, which is 1.3 miles south of Highway 151 on Highway 69. Turn right on Oak Grove Rd and go about 600 feet to the end of the road. The fire number address would be somewhere around 1849 Hwy 69. Here is a map link: <https://binged.it/2Mn84bL>

What: We will be cutting and treating box elders, honeysuckles, and other invasive woodies to gain access to the river and open up the area so native grasses and forbs can grow. We will pile the brush and limbs in separate piles to use later to build brush bundles. It is critical that the box elders and honeysuckles are cut as close as possible to the ground and treated to prevent re-sprouts.

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

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 on Oak Grove Rd.

Future Workdays: Our next two workdays are listed below.

June 1 - Steiner Creek (Lafayette Co. - Yellowstone Wildlife Area) – Located just north and west of the Lake Yellowstone entrance on Lafayette Cty. Rd. F, turn right onto English Hollow Rd, go 1/3 mile north to the gated entrance to the wildlife area. The gate will be open for us to drive to the work area, which is approximately ¾ mile from English Hollow. Map link: <https://binged.it/2MiQh5A>

Activity: Cutting and treating willows along Steiner Creek, which are choking out the stream and not allowing access for fishing. Steiner Creek is a brook trout stream, one of the few in southern Wisconsin.

June 15 - Sugar River, Ziegler Property (Dane Co.) - 1.3 miles south of Hwy 151 on Hwy 69, turn right onto Oak Grove Rd. Work site is ¼ mile on Oak Grove. Map link: <https://binged.it/2Mn84bL>

Activity: We will be installing brush bundles along the river banks, using the limbs and brush from the May 11 workday, and will continue clearing box elders and honeysuckles to be used for the brush bundles.

Check our website (www.swtu.org) or email Jim Hess (jimhess5599@gmail.com) to make sure there are no cancelations or changes to this schedule.

A look back at the last Stream Team workday

By Topf Wells

Jim Hess celebrated his retirement from the Board with another great work day. As just about every active SWTU member has said lately, "Thank goodness he continues as Conservation Committee Chair!"

About 24 TU members and friends spent this morning rescuing an oak savanna remnant on the banks of the Sugar River in the Falk/Wells Wildlife Area from an invasion--make that an occupation-- by honeysuckle. I had thought loppers might have been adequate to tackle this honeysuckle. Oh no, it took all our sawyers to clear the impressive amount we did. The old growth honeysuckle proved perfectly capable of dulling chainsaw blades and taxing the backs and shoulders of the brush haulers.

As always all were stalwart performers but a few deserve special thanks and recognition. Mike and Hannah Engel are key staff respectively of the US Fish & Wildlife Service and the Wisconsin Chapter of the Nature Conservancy. Mike has been a key partner with Dane County in planning and implementing all the restorations that have occurred and are planned for Falk/Wells. Not only did they work beside us all morning and explained what we were trying to achieve, Mike brought a UTV and a tractor with a special brush-moving attachment. We had grim yet happy smiles watching Mike move and crush, move and crush the honeysuckle that had worn us down.

The work has made the site really pretty and made it possible to access the stream from that bank. A mink might have been able to squirm through the honeysuckle but not an angler (well not this portly angler). Hannah explained that the clearing will improve the health of the oaks. Some of these oaks are old and massive and I assumed at this point in their lives they were what they were. We learned that the clearing will allow the oaks to develop fuller and broader foliage and, in time, better production of acorns. Some native vegetation should also benefit. One example, a welcome sight, and a good omen for this project were the patch of trout lilies that had just emerged from under one of the oaks.

The spicy Mexican chocolate cookies that made their first appearance at a work day are the product of the Sugar River Bakery and available at the Downtown Farmers' Market. They complement a cup of coffee perfectly.

Thanks to Jim, Mike, Hannah, and everyone for a great and productive day.

Make a difference for some great kids

It's our 15th year of Project Green Teen (PGT) and, as usual, we need plenty of help with guiding the kids this year. For those of you who have helped out in previous years, you know that the guides are a huge part of PGT's success. Leading up to the week in Avalanche, the students have been taught fly tying and casting. The guides are critical in order for the students to connect all the fly fishing "dots."

For those of you who haven't guided for PGT before, you should give it a try, even if you can only do it for one day. Don't worry about not catching fish. It happens to all of us (or at least some of us). Also, if you are hesitant to guide because you aren't familiar with the streams in the area, don't worry. There will be plenty of people to give you ideas on where to fish.



Here's what you need to know about PGT:

- **Fishing Days** – The students will be fishing from Sunday, May 12 through Thursday, May 17. We need guides for each of these days. Generally, fishing starts around 3:30 p.m. and ends around 7:00 p.m. That leaves you much of the day to fish on your own before guiding the students.
- **Location** – The PGT outing is held at the West Fork Sportsmans Club in Avalanche. The students stay in the clubhouse. You are free to camp there (for a fee) or get a room at a Viroqua-area motel.
- **Food, Drinks, Etc.** – At the end of each guiding day, you are treated to a dinner prepared by the students and Shabazz H.S. staff. It's a great opportunity to hang out with the students and your fellow guides. After dinner, it's been the custom to adjourn to the adult campfire for some tall tales and adult beverages. You are on your own for breakfast and lunch.
- **Background Checks— This is important!** Per state law, all of the guides will need to go through a background check. If you helped with fly tying or fly casting, you have hopefully already heard about the need to complete the form for the Avalanche trip. If you completed it already, you don't need to again.

In the past, guides were required to fill out a one page form that allowed the school to perform a background check. This year, the School District has instituted an **online** background check. Here is a link to the **Volunteer Form**: <https://appgarden6.app-garden.com/names.nsf?Login>. Also, here is a link to the **Instructions**: https://docs.google.com/a/madison.k12.wi.us/document/d/107_28IGPXISwK2YoC-hdvDwxmhe6VIJhM-gREgvfQrM/edit?usp=drive_web. **Note: This needs to be completed prior to the Avalanche trip.**

Please contact Dave Fowler ASAP if you are interested in guiding this year and which days you can guide. Also, if you know someone who might want to guide, feel free to forward this to them. You can reach Dave at (608) 513-0681 or dfowler82@gmail.com.

Your input needed on the draft Inland Trout Management Plan

You will have an opportunity to review and comment on a draft statewide Inland Trout Management Plan at a series of upcoming meetings (including June 4 in Fitchburg). [Learn all about it on the DNR website.](#)

An update on the Westfork Sports Club – Restoring flood damage

By Tina Murray

The Club

The club is being restored and repairs are being made. The clubhouse is 99% finished and looks amazing. Groups can reserve the clubhouse online at the link below. The grounds have been challenging due to weather, road bans and fire bans. Given these parameters the driveway gravel should arrive in the next week or two. The PGT students will be doing projects such as rebuilding the garbage area and picking up what small debris remains. The blue cabin that was taken out is scheduled to be burned when the burn ban lifts. The Green cabin is open and fully functional and can be reserved online at: <https://westforksportsmansclub.org/camping/reservations/> We have approval to create “French Drains” to help drain low lying areas and will continue to work on this as weather permits.

From the Clubhouse north towards the bridge on S is open and all electric is working. All electric sites have 2 electric outlets and are sharable. All sites are group sites so camping wherever you desire is ok, just do not create RUTS in the grass by driving big campers into wet spots or leaving them to sink for a week.

By May 7th we hope to have from the Portage Shelter and north to the clubhouse open. By June we hope to have the south road and camping areas open.

Stream Restoration

The stream restoration plan is still in the works though the actual plan will look different than the previous plan shared. All funds donated to the stream restoration efforts are set aside and will only be used for stream restoration (not club restoration).

The new stream restoration plan is being created with the help of many talented people from the area and the DNR. When it is finalized we will share it. This work is also dependent on weather in that machinery needs to be able to get in to do the work without getting stuck. Due to WI Emergency rules currently in place we will be able to do some work faster than other work. Long term stream repair plans have to take into consideration what is happening upstream at Jersey Valley. Will they put the impoundment back in or not? When will we know? etc.

Bottom line at the WFSC is each of your visits to the club may look different as we go through the stages of not only repairing stream, grounds and club, but improve it to protect it as much as possible from future events. Your continued support of the club is deeply appreciated. If you have any skills that can help please [email westforksportsclub@gmail.com](mailto:westforksportsclub@gmail.com)

Wisconsin Women's Fly Fishing Clinics

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

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.

Sugar River landowner dinner

By Topf Wells

Let's hope 13 is the Sugar River's lucky number. Thirteen landowners on the Sugar River and some key tributaries attended a dinner sponsored by SWTU, the Dane County Land and Water Resources Department, and the DNR, on the evening of April 16 at the Verona Public Library. The purpose was to acquaint the landowners about the County's trout stream easement program and the status of the fisheries in those streams. Our hopes are that some (what the heck, we hope all) the landowners will consider selling the County easements that permit public fishing and stream restoration.

Dinner was provided by our Chapter with the most welcome financial assistance of the Badger Fly Fishers. Pat Hasburgh bought, cooked, and served the food. With a menu of pulled pork, cole slaw, macaroni and cheese, bbq beans, and brownies, everyone left full and happy. Dan Oele of the DNR gave an excellent presentation on the fish of the Sugar River and Sara Rigelman provided concise and direct information on the easement program. Both answered questions. Several landowners from these watersheds who had sold easements to the County or DNR spoke of their satisfaction with the program and also answered questions.

Several landowners have already indicated their interest in having discussions about the easements. Fingers crossed that by the end of the year we'll have more public fishing opportunities on the Sugar and its tribs.

Thanks to Pat, Mary Ann Doll and Topf Wells of our Chapter; to Sara Rigelman, Sharene Smith, and Curt Diehl of Dane County; Dan Oele and Alex Bentz of the DNR; and landowners Steve Haak and Becky Olson and Marsha Ralston-Edlinger and Mike Edlinger for all their work on a very special evening.

Fountains of Youth

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

by Rusty Dunn

The path to greatness in fly fishing is quite simple. A tried and true formula transformed the angling unknowns of Skues, Sawyer, Gordon, Leisenring, and Marinaro into fly fishing legends. If you aspire to greatness, you too can follow the plan. First, put down this column and read no further. Disbelieve all fishing advice offered by friends and family. Doubt everything you read or hear, no matter how celebrated the source. Be especially wary of 'experts'. G.E.M. Skues perhaps said it best in 1921:

"An authority is a person engaged in the invidious business of stereotyping and disseminating information, frequently incorrect. Angling literature teems with examples."

Learn instead from your own observations and experiences. Your education will take longer than a quick read of some book, but you'll develop a deep understanding of the foundations of fly fishing. Take time each angling day to sample and identify prevailing insects. Quietly watch how trout respond to them. Collect samples, take them home, and tie flies to match. Then, fish the flies in ways that mimic behavior of the naturals. If any meet with success, vary the patterns little by little and fish them again. And again. And again. Withhold judgments and opinions until you've tested your ideas over and over. Many thousands of angling techniques are described in the literature, but you need only two – observation and experimentation – to be a world class angler. Ignore the pundits but listen to the trout, as they will teach you how to be great.

E.H. "Polly" Rosborough (1902-1997) was a self-taught angler who pioneered flies and methods of fishing the American West decades before it was fashionable to do so. He lived in Chiloquin, Oregon and primarily fished rivers west of the continental divide. Rosborough was a hunter, trapper, and outdoorsman

whose only instructional guides were a couple of angling supply catalogs. Untainted by the opinions of others, Rosborough started from scratch. He studied rivers, insects, and trout and experimented with methods of fly fishing. He taught himself fly tying, because local stores sold nothing that matched the insects he collected. Rosborough's most famous flies are his two dozen "fuzzy nymphs", so named because their indistinct fuzzy bodies are tied of soft animal fur. He created with fur the seductive underwater movement of materials that two centuries of soft-hackled wet flies achieved with feathers.

Rosborough studied western rivers big and small, and in time became one of the country's most knowledgeable and successful anglers. In 1965 he condensed decades of fly fishing insight into a humble 88-page masterpiece entitled *Tying and Fishing the Fuzzy Nymphs*. The book is one of the most original in all of angling. Fuzzy nymphs are stout flies designed for stout fish. They are big, furry, durable, and very effective. The Fledermouse is one of Rosborough's finest creations. He once stated that, if forced to choose a single fly for fishing at all times under all conditions, he would opt for a size #8 Fledermouse, which he viewed *"as near all-purpose as it would be possible to devise. Its hazy outline cons the fish into thinking it might be any of a number of nymphs."*

A relative lack of exposure by the popular angling press limited Rosborough's national recognition until late in life. Among cognoscenti, however, he was acknowledged early on as one of fly fishing's most original and creative talents. Rosborough never stopped tinkering with fly patterns, and he advised fly tyers to *"never feel that you have tied a fly that is good enough. You never will. Always try to tie the next one better."*

Polly Rosborough could inspire you to greatness. But remember, be skeptical of his maxims until you've confirmed them for yourself ... over and over again.

© Rusty Dunn, 2019

----- Polly Rosborough's Fledermouse -----

Polly Rosborough nymphs have slim bodies and a, clean prominent head of thread behind the hook eye.

Hook: 3XL heavy-wire nymph hook, #2 - #16

Thread: Golden brown or tan

Body: Muskrat, mink, and rabbit fur (2:1:2), blended light grays and browns; roughen the body with a brush to be fuzzy

Collar: Muskrat belly fur, length ~1/3 of the hook shank

Wings: Barred teal or mallard flank topped with brown widgeon, length ~1/2 hook shank

Head: Tying thread; long, tapered, and coated twice with clear cement.



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:

President	Amy Klusmeier
Vice President	Mary Ann Doll
Secretary	Topf Wells
Treasurer	Tom Parker
State Council Rep.	Scot Stewart
Board Member	Pat Hasburgh
Board Member	Curt Reidl
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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