

Newscasts

September 2019 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



Apps and Maps

Please join us for our September 12 Chapter meeting

Learn how to get the most out of "Apps and Maps" at our Thursday, September 12 chapter meeting. Most trout anglers are familiar with using the DNR printed regulations and a Gazetteer to help them find fish, but how familiar are you with the many digital resources available?

SWTU board member, **Curt Riedl** will discuss how online tools like the USGS website, the DNR T.R.O.U.T tool and various weather apps can help you prepare before you hit the water. Then board member **Pat Hasburgh** will discuss the power of Google Maps and debut the **ALL NEW** Madison Area Trout Streams map that was created for SWTU members and will be available for download on swtu.org after the September chapter meeting.

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!

Register now: Celebrate SWTU's Golden Anniversary

And nominate a member for an award!

We're celebrating SWTU's 50th year with a special Golden Anniversary Banquet and Celebration on **Thursday, October 24**. It will be at the Lussier Family Heritage Center and feature a tasty meal from 608 Community Kitchen.

Get [your ticket online now](#) or we will take RSVPs and payments at our September Chapter meeting, and via email at swisconsintu@gmail.com. RSVPs will be required for food.

Use the [awards nomination form](#) by **September 20** to let us know about someone worthy of being honored at the banquet.

Note that because of the banquet, we won't have our usual meeting on October 10.

Join Us To Celebrate
50 YEARS OF SWTU!
Thursday, October 24th

Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited invites you to celebrate the accomplishments of the last 50 years and look ahead to the future!

Expect another fantastic meal from 608 Community Supported Kitchen, live music, a cash bar, birthday cake, plenty of time to socialize with old friends and make a couple new ones!

2019
NASH BANQUET
Williams

DON'T WAIT! REGISTRATION CLOSES THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17TH!

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER NOW!

New places to fish, thanks in part to us

By Topf Wells

About 6 weeks ago, the DNR obtained two new fishing easements from Gary Langfoss, a generous landowner: one on Kittleson Creek and the other on Gordon Creek. The Kittleson easement connects two existing DNR easements on River Forks Road, both of which have been restored. The Gordon easement is contiguously downstream of the Jorenby easement, accessible from CTH A, that too has been restored. Together, these new easements offer 1000s of feet of public fishing on two excellent and nearby trout streams.

Want to know more? Check out the exact locations and access points on Pat Hasburgh's new smartphone map that he'll debut and make available (free!) at the September meeting (*see above*). Better yet, attend our first work day of the fall that Jim Hess has scheduled on the Kittleson easement (*see below*).

Both will need some tender loving care but both hold trout well worth knowing.

Both also resulted from the two landowner dinners that SWTU has sponsored with the DNR and Pecatonica Pride in Blanchardville. Jim Hess and Pat Hasburgh worked long hours on these dinners and Pat wrote some very effective letters to landowners from the perspective of a local person who grew up fishing and loving those streams. For Pecatonica Pride, a grassroots organization devoted to water quality in the Blanchardville area, Pride, April Prussia and Steve Fabos of Pecatonica Pride, arranged for mailings and meals and called on all their local contacts. Bradd Sims of the DNR had worked on these easements for years and Justin Haglund, the new fish biologist for Iowa County, brought the negotiations to a successful conclusion. Dan Oele and Paul Cunningham of the DNR made major contributions to the success of those dinners. And we think more easements are in the works.

Lots of other folks worked on these dinners and more landowner outreach in this area. We owe all these folks our thanks. But, first and last on our list of thanks, is Gary Langfoss, who joins many other landowners in the Gordon/Kittleson watersheds, who have enabled us and many other to fish their beautiful streams.

Stream Team Workdays – Fall 2019

Don't miss the opportunity to make a difference

We've worked around gun deer season and home Badger football games to assemble a great slate of workdays for this fall! Please mark your calendar and plan to join us on as many of these Saturdays as you can.

- October 19 @ new DNR easement on Kittleson Creek near River Fork Road in Iowa County
- November 2
- November 16
- December 7

Workdays generally start at 9 and are done by noon. We'll share more details as we get closer to them. The work is fun and not complicated ... anybody can join and lend a helpful hand.

Grant to plant oak trees

Also ... we've been awarded a \$950 grant from the Foundation for Dane County Parks to plant oak trees along trout streams in Dane County. Their shade will help protect our cold water resource. The grant includes the cost of t-posts and fencing to protect the 4 year old oaks. We will be featured along with the other recipients at the banquet to celebrate Bill Lunney's 50 years of conservation leadership and his retirement from the Parks Commission on September 18 at the Lussier Center. There will be a special work day(s) this fall for the plantings, so watch for details!

Check our website (www.swtu.org) or email Jim Hess (jimhess5599@gmail.com) if questions on any of these.

Trout Angler's Dream Sale to benefit SWTU

Saturday, September 7th, 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM

1821 Camelot Dr., Madison, WI 53705

This sale by longtime member Gerry Campbell is a trout anglers dream! Lots of great deals on fly fishing gear, fly tying equipment and a wooden pram drift boat! **PLUS, 15% of proceeds from this sale will be donated to Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited!** Here are a few pictures, and [check out this craigslist ad for a list of just some of what you'll find at this one-day-only-sale.](#)



DNR Finishes work on Black Earth Creek

By Topf Wells

As you drive CTH KP between Cross Plains and Salmo Pond, keep an eye out for a new DNR fishing easement sign and a large path through a cornfield. Park the car, grab your fishing gear, and follow that yellow brick road. What could be better than Oz or Kansas? A newly restored piece of Black Earth Creek.

Dan, our stalwart DNR fish biologist, and Vince and Abe our equally stalwart Fish Operations Crew, just completed a huge and difficult restoration of Black Earth Creek. The habitat they created looks as though it could become the happy home for thousands of trout. They used just about every technique in the current DNR playbook. Especially noteworthy is their use of the trees and brush they cleared. Almost all of that went into log sills and brush bundles in the stream instead of being heaped into burn piles.

My only fishing advice is to make sure you are equipped with plenty of 2 or 3X tippet; I don't think this is fine and far fishing water. This had to be a tough project because of this year's high water and the presence of some oxbows and backwater areas. Some of the work occurred during this year's heat wave. Finally, this area seems to be the staging area for all the mosquitoes in western Dane County. Do not visit without your favorite mosquito repellent.

Thanks to Dan, Abe, and Vince for a job exceedingly well done.

And, we helped: this is one of the projects SWTU supported with a donation of \$2,500. Way to go, us.

Welcome New Members

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

Geoffrey Brown	Luke Fuszard
Mark Roth	Nick Rose
Claudio Gratton	Wayne Griffin
Brandon Scholz	Brady McSherry
Tim Wolf	Geoffrey Ellander
Gayle Byock	Tarisa Hackney
Teresa Neely	Janel Statz

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.



Thinking Like a Watershed Fall Event
Black Earth Creek Watershed Association (BECWA.org)
Tuesday, October 22, 2019
Cross Plains Fire Station. Bourbon Road, Cross Plains, WI
7 to 9 pm



Co-Sponsors: Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited (SWTU.org) and Gateway to the Driftless

Flooding Impacts on Farming, Communities & Trout in the Black Earth Creek Watershed
What Can We Do to Create A Healthy Watershed during Climate Change?

Welcome, Introductions & Sponsors (10 minutes)
Greg Hyer, BECWA President

Flooding Impacts on Farming Viability & Trout Populations in the Watershed
(45 minutes – 20 minutes each with 5 minutes of questions)
Bob Duhr, Watershed Farmer & Business Owner
Dan Oele, Wisconsin DNR Fisheries Biologist

Flooding Impact on Communities & What Can Be Done?
(45 minutes – 20 minutes each with 5 minutes of questions)
Bill Chang, Village of Cross Plains Administrator
Michael Rupiper, Environmental Resources Planning, Capital Area Regional Planning Commission

That's a great slate of important topics and engaging presenters. We hope you can attend!

Learn what your Board's been up to

Minutes from SWTU Board of Director meetings are now available for viewing [in this Google Drive](#). They'll keep being added after they're approved. If you have questions on what you read in them, reach out to one of the Board members listed on the last page of each newsletter.



Icebreaker: Save the date!

Our daylong annual Icebreaker event will be held **Saturday January 25**.

Keep your eye on *Newscasts* for details on a day you won't want to miss.

The Wisconsin Women's Fly Fishing Clinics Celebrated 10 Years of building Amazing Women Fly Fishers

By Tina Murray

Not only do we have a Women's Basics and a Women's Intermediate Clinic each June, we have a group of over 50 women who have become Riverbuddies and mentor other women on their first experience on the water from the Basics clinic. To our knowledge we are the only TU chapter offering a clinic specifically for women to learn how to take other women out on the stream. Congratulations to everyone! The support our clinics have from our membership makes these some of the best clinics in the US and definitely in the Midwest!

Tina is pictured at right with a celebratory cake. Read on for more on the clinics and [find even more pictures on swtu.org](http://www.swtutw.org).

The following photos show the over 100 individuals who helped with the Women's Fly Fishing Clinics in June. Not shown are the nearly 100 more who contributed behind the scenes with flies, gear, donations and more! Thank you everyone for making the SWTU Wisconsin Women's Fly Fishing Clinics a nationally recognized quality opportunity for women to learn how to fly fish.



Our new women fly fishers from the basics clinic 2019 and their Instructors.



Our WOWSC-i crew (Intermediate) Women and the Guides who mentored them 3 different times on the stream over a day and a half. Over 50 people participated in this clinic.



These are the women who make the clinics happen! Riverbuddies, Instructors and Organizers! Over 30 women each year help make this an amazing experience for everyone each year.

And look! Fish pictures.



Looking forward to next year's clinics

Basics June 19- 21st, 2020

Women's on the Water Intermediate (Wowsc-i) June 17 - 19th, 2020

Riverbuddy Clinic Friday June 19 & 20, 2020

Contact info

is wisconsinwomensflyfishing@gmail.com

Registration info will be available in the October *Newscasts*



Fall Extravaganza at the Westfork

The Westfork Sports Club is having a Fall Extravaganza volunteer and celebration of the progress made **the weekend October 4, 5, & 6.**

On Sept 14/15 there should be dozers & excavators working on stream repair (permit pending) and on Oct 4, 5 & 6 we will be finishing up with stray rock picking, grass seeding, straw throwing, sawing down trees, and cooking up food for Saturday night's dinner. They will have BBQ, a Band, Dancing, Campfire and of course..... RAFFLES (to help raise funds for the next layer of restoration).

Everyone is invited an meal tickets (so we know how much food to buy) can be obtained here: <https://westforkextravaganza.eventbrite.com>

If you can't make it please consider getting a donation ticket at the link above to help continue the progress being made. If you'd like to help fund the dozers, etc. needed for stream repair, email Tina at the address below. *Tax itemization is no longer needed as everyone gets a standard charitable deduction of up to \$12,000.00 per year.*

Volunteer work team are scheduled from 10- 12 and 1-3 pm Friday & Saturday with lunch at noon and family activities (in progress) from 3:30 - 5 PM.

Dinner is served between 5-7 or until food runs out. Band starts at 7 pm. Raffle winners will be announced at 7 pm all prizes must be picked up by noon on Sunday. Volunteer team leaders are needed. There is a job for everyone, from counting envelopes to cooking burgers, to sawing, to hauling.

Would you consider donating a raffle prize? We currently have a Bamboo Rod made to specifications by Scott Grady, A hand made net by Bill Wisler, A lanyard by Jim Bartelt and are working on more. Please consider donating a box of flies or other items (maple syrup, honey, wine, whats your fancy?) email Tina Murray at Westforksportsclub@gmail.com

The most up to date info on the day can be found at <https://westforksportsmansclub.org/>

Hope to see you there! The more hands the less work. The less work, more time for fun!



You're Invited to the
**Westfork Sports Club's
Fall Extravaganza!**

In August 2018 the WFSC was severely damaged by a 1000 year flood and the result of two upstream Army Corps of Engineering containment failures. Join us to help in the restoration and celebrate the work we've already completed!

October 4 - 6th

Join us for activities all weekend with a special event schedule for Saturday including:

- Open House 10 am
- Teamwork 10- 3 pm
- Dinner, Music, 5 – 7 pm
- Raffles, Dancing 7 pm

Volunteers Needed!
To register, donate or just learn more go to:

westforksportsmansclub.org

West Fork Sportsmans Club 

Fountains of Youth

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

by Rusty Dunn

The winds of change are often gentle at first, but they freshen with time. Little by little, old ideas fade away, replaced by new ones. Only hindsight reveals when a transition actually occurred. For wet fly fishing in America, the winds of change began in 1941 with publication of *The Art of Tying the Wet Fly* by James Leisenring. This 81 page treasure of a book introduced English-style soft-hackled flies and methods to American anglers. It appeared just three short years after publication of Ray Bergman's 1938 blockbuster *Trout*, which included a lengthy description of wet fly methods and flies. The colored plates of wet flies in *Trout* are truly magnificent. Page after page, row after row, hundreds upon hundreds of brightly colored flies. Legendary flies, such as the Leadwing Coachman, Parmachene Belle, Wickham's Fancy, and Greenwell's Glory. Smartly dressed soldiers in a vintage army, almost all of which are tied with wings of matched quill slips slanted rearward over the body. Where are such flies today? They're mostly in the unturned pages of old tying books and the untraveled corners of antique fly boxes. The wet flies pictured in *Trout* are fossils of a bygone era. Headstones of former champions. Leisenring brought a new style of wet fly to America, one as old as fly fishing itself.

"Big Jim" Leisenring (1878-1951) grew up in Allentown, Pennsylvania. A toolmaker by trade, he was tall, bronzed, and spoke with the accent of his German ancestors. He fished the limestone spring creeks of eastern Pennsylvania for over 40 years while refining his knowledge, methods, and flies. Leisenring studied the English foundations of fly fishing, and he corresponded with G.E.M. Skues. But, he didn't slavishly follow the British masters. Instead, he experimented with their flies and ideas, modified them based on his Pennsylvania experiences, and created a new synthesis.

Leisenring kept decades of meticulous fishing notes,

----- Leisenring's March Brown Nymph -----

Hook: Wet fly, #13
Thread: Orange silk
Tail: Three fibers from a cock pheasant tail feather tied very short
Body: Three reddish fibers from a center feather of a cock pheasant's tail
Rib: Gold or silver wire
Thorax: Hare's ear fur dubbed quite heavily
Hackle: A short-fibered, light brown feather from the Hungarian Partridge

but writing did not come easily to him. He was a reluctant author whose friends persuaded him to publish a book. Friend and student Vernon 'Pete' Hidy made the first edition possible by transcribing Leisenring's tutelage into a short but important manuscript. Leisenring supplied the content, and Pete Hidy provided the clarity. *The Art of Tying the Wet Fly* is arguably the most influential 81 pages in American angling literature, because it established a uniquely American wet-fly tradition. The first edition appeared during the turmoil of World War II and was of modest impact. A second edition co-authored with Pete Hidy (*The Art of Tying the Wet Fly and Fishing the Flymph*, 1971) had much greater impact.

The Art of Tying the Wet Fly is primarily about fly tying. Five short pages discuss methods of wet fly fishing. Those few paragraphs describe what later became known as a "Leisenring Lift", which Charles Brooks described as "*probably the most deadly nymph method known*". Like all masters of the dark arts, Leisenring learned the importance of action and movement in design and presentation of nymphs. Leisenring's soft feathery materials spring to life in moving water, and he was a wizard at seductively manipulating them before trout. The Leisenring Lift was but one of many presentations that Leisenring developed. He intended to write a second book on wet fly fishing, but time ran out before thoughts were reduced to paper. We are all poorer for its absence. Fortunately, Pete Hidy supplied many of the details in a 'Part II' that he added to the second edition. Additionally, Hidy's *Sports Illustrated Book of Wet-Fly Fishing* (1960) is an undiscovered gem that expands on Leisenring's and his own wet fly methods.

James Leisenring was truly one of the great fly fishing pioneers. He patiently observed trout and insects, studied the insights of old masters, refined his methods during decades of experience, and quietly shared his knowledge in an influential book that is rich in content. Big Jim didn't enjoy the limelight, but he is one of America's most original and creative anglers.

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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	amy.klusmeier@gmail.com
Vice President	Mary Ann Doll	dollmaryann@gmail.com
Secretary	Topf Wells	topfwells@gmail.com
Treasurer	Tom Parker	tparker23@charter.net
State Council Rep.	Scot Stewart	scotstewart2@gmail.com
Board Member	Pat Hasburgh	patrick.hasburgh@gmail.com
Board Member	Curt Reidl	curt_riedl@oxfordcorp.com
Board Member	Tom Thrall	tthrall2@yahoo.com
Board Member	Dave Fowler	dfowler82@gmail.com
Board Member	Rodd Wangren	flyrodd1118@gmail.com
Board Member	Ben Lubchansky	608csk@gmail.com
Newscasts Editor	Drew Kasel	madkasel@gmail.com
Conservation Committee Chair	Jim Hess	jimhess5599@gmail.com
Women's/ Diversity Initiative Chair	Tina Murray	swtu.women.diversity@gmail.com
Youth Education Chair for SWTU	Tina Murray	swtu.women.diversity@gmail.com

Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited

P.O. Box 45555
Madison, WI 53744-5555