



December 2019 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Projected effects of climate change on southern Wisconsin trout streams ... and what SWTU can do about it Thursday, December 12 Chapter Meeting

Join us for an evening with Dr. John Lyons, "life-long fish nerd." He has the amazingly cool title of **Curator of Fishes** at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Zoological Museum, a position he has held since 1985. Doctor Lyons will share insights from a lifetime of fishing and a professional career working on ichthyology (the study of fishes), fisheries management and aquatic conservation. Important stuff!!

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 <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!

Funding Appeal: Cold Cash for Coldwater Resources Your support can help us do so much more

In mid-December, our members will receive a letter asking you to contribute to a funding appeal so that we can continue and expand our work to protect and improve the trout streams we love to fish.

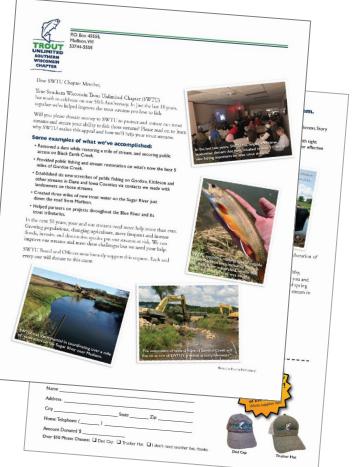
The letter asks you to donate money to SWTU to protect and restore our trout streams and secure your ability to fish those streams. It spells out some tremendous accomplishments and expresses many ways the money can be put to work for our streams.

Your SWTU Board and Officers unanimously support this request. Each and every one will donate to this cause.

Every cent you donate will fund efforts to improve habitat and access on our trout streams. As thanks for any donation of \$50 or more, you can receive one of our new 50th Anniversary fishing caps. Please be as generous as you can.

You can read the letter online now – it has a form you can fill out and mail, or you can <u>give now securely</u> <u>online</u>. (And if you're not a member, you won't get a letter but can of course still give!)

Learn more, including a FAQ, here on swtu.org.



Ring in the holiday season by giving back to our streams December 7, 2019 Stream Team Workday (Milum Creek, Dane County)

The water level, terrain and weather forecast all look great, so we are ON for this Saturday's workday ... the last of 2019. Please plan to join us, and you don't even have to bring bug spray!

A chance to win something amazing – when you join us, you'll get an entry for the Stream Keeper rod built by Jim Bartelt. To celebrate our 50th, we've upped the ante on the rod ... it's a sweet Sage 4 wt 8'6" model that's perfect for our spring creeks (and retailed for \$850). As in the past, we'll draw for it at the Icebreaker event in January.

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

Where: Milum Creek - located on Fritz Road in Dane County. Traveling from Madison take Hwy 69 south to Paoli. At Paoli turn right on Cty Rd PB and travel 2 miles to Cty Rd A. Turn right on Cty Rd A, travel 3 miles west to Fritz Rd. Turn south on Fritz Rd, travel 3/4 mile to Milum Creek - you will cross the West Branch of the Sugar River in route. If you miss Cty Rd PB, no need to turn around as Hwy 69 also intersects Cty Rd A, and follow the above directions. Here is a Google Map link to this location: https://goo.gl/maps/iNTS7MDEaMwheQgDA

What: We are returning to Milum Creek for our last workday of the year to continue clearing out box elders and invasive brush. Milium is a small spring fed tributary to the West Branch of the Sugar River and is a new Dane County easement. The DNR recently surveyed a very short section of the stream and found brook trout and brown trout under the bridge near where we will be working. The brookies outnumbered the browns and it appears the trout were spawned in Milum Creek.

We will be cutting and treating box elders and invasive brush (honeysuckles & autumn olives) on the southside of the stream in order to allow sunshine in and hopefully establishing native grasses and forbs, helping to stabilize the streambanks. If weather permits, we will do burn piles. There is lots of work to be done.

Bring: Some areas in the work area may be a bit muddy, so bring rubber boots if you have them. Also bring gloves, sturdy shoes, eye and ear protection, loppers; otherwise the chapter has equipment you can use. Also bring reusable water bottles that can be re-filled from our 5-gal water jug.

Parking: Park on the west side of the road to allow for the safe flow of traffic.



A great lineup of meetings!!

- December 12 Chapter meeting John Lyons
- January 9 Chapter meeting Steve Carpenter
- January 25 daylong fundraiser The Icebreaker
- **February 13** Chapter meeting Dan Oele
- March 12 Chapter meeting Meicher Madness Auction

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: Your attendance and donations will make a difference!

Our daylong annual Icebreaker event – and biggest annual fundraising event – will be held **Saturday January 25.**

We're excited to announce that the **Icebreaker will feature Carl Haensel** and Jade Tomanson of <u>Namebini Fly Fishing</u>. The presentation topics will focus on "Exciting and Accessible: Trips and Tactics for the Adventurous and DIY Angler in the Upper Midwest."

Among their credits, aside for their guiding business, are numerous articles for *Eastern and Western Fly Fishing*, experience as a fisheries biologist and lead organizers of the Great Waters Show.

Icebreaker Bucket Raffle Donations Needed!

Vets

FREE for Veta

Persons looking to donate to the Icebreaker, we are particularly interested in something you may have produced - photography, rod building, flies etc. as well as donations of new or very gently used gear and equipment.

We are also happy to accept donations of event tickets, art, craft beverages and local gift certificates. Please contact Ben Lubchansky at <u>608csk@gmail.com</u> to make arrangements to receive your donation.

It's a simple way to make a big difference for the event, while putting a big smile on the face to the lucky person who wins it. Thank you!

JANUARY 25TH 2020

THE 37TH ANNUAL SWTU

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JOIN US FOR:

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- TWO FABULOUS KEYNOTE SPEECHES
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- · DELICIOUS LUNCH
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FOR MORE INFORMATION: SWTU.ORG

FEATURED SPEAKER

Carl is an educator, biologist, photographer, writer and fishing guide. Since 1996 he has authored over a hundred articles on fly fishing as well as children's educational literature. His presentation Exciting and Accessible: Trips and Tactics for the Adventurous and DIY Angler in the Upper Midwest is sure to be a crowd pleaser. Carl and his partner, Jade Thomason manage the Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo on behalf of **Minnesota** Trout limited.

Fly Tying Courses – 2020: Sign up now!



Trout Unlimited invites you to learn fly tying or improve your fly tying skills this winter. Experienced SWTU instructors will teach both beginning level and intermediate level fly tying courses in Fitchburg beginning January 15, 2020. Classes consist of instructor-led demonstrations and hands-on tutorials. The courses are completely free of charge, and all materials needed in class are provided. You need only supply the tools and thread, a list of which is available at https://www.swtu.org/learn/flytying/flytying-classes/.

Beginning Fly Tying is intended for those with limited previous fly tying experience, including complete beginners. General techniques needed as a foundation for fly tying are established, and basic but effective trout fly patterns are demonstrated and practiced. An instructional booklet with pattern sheets is provided free of charge.

Intermediate Fly Tying is intended for those who have a solid foundation of fly tying experience and want to increase their proficiency. The course builds on the foundations of Beginning Fly Tying and progresses to more advanced methods. Techniques and materials are more varied, the patterns are often more complex, and the hook sizes can be smaller than flies of the beginning course.

Both Beginning and Intermediate Fly tying will be taught on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM at the Fitchburg Community Center, 5510 Lacy Rd., Fitchburg beginning January 15, 2020. Courses run for eight consecutive Wednesdays (final class March 4, 2020).

Advanced registration is required! Online registration for fly tying courses will be available via the Fitchburg Recreation Department website (<u>http://www.fitchburgwi.gov/599/Recreation</u>) beginning the second week of November. If you've not previously created a password-protected customer account with Fitchburg Recreation, you must do so before registering.

The registration deadline for both courses is January 12, 2020. Courses sometimes fill to capacity, and early registration is encouraged. For more information, see <u>https://www.swtu.org/learn/flytying/flytying-classes/</u> or email questions to <u>swtu-flytying@outlook.com</u>.

Steve Born to be inducted into the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame By Harry Peterson

Steve Born did not take up fly fishing until he was close to the age of 40. He has made up for that neglect in the next 40 years of his life by becoming a proficient fly fisher and a conserver of trout habitat. Those of us in Trout Unlimited know him as the former President of Wisconsin TU; Chair of the National Resources Board and National Leadership Council of Trout Unlimited; and President of President of the State Council of Wisconsin Trout Unlimited.

We also know him as a dedicated fly tier, who spends several weeks each year in Montana fishing for trout and who has made many trips to beautiful places throughout the world in pursuit of fish. He took the lead in re-establishing a major section of Black Earth Creek to a trout fishery. About 20 of us know Steve as the host of a wild game potluck dinner, occurring at a dark time in the winter when it seems as though Spring and fishing will never return.



Steve is also the co-author of Wisconsin's Trout Streams: the angler's guide. Now in its second edition, it has sold over 10,000 copies. The book teaches anglers not only where to fish Wisconsin's trout streams, but ecology, restoration and threats to our beloved waters.

Professionally, Steve Born was a professor and chair in the department of Urban and Regional Planning at the UW-Madison for many years. While there he trained many graduate students, who carry on his work of conservation.

Steve is a founder of the River Alliance of Wisconsin; was the Director of the State Planning Office and created and served as Director of the Wisconsin State Energy Office. He was the chief advisor to former Governor Patrick Lucey on the decision to not dam the Kickapoo River in the 1970s, a dam which would have resulted in the creation of an 8,500-acre Kickapoo Reserve.

When he is inducted in the Wisconsin Conservation Hall of Fame in Stevens Point on April 25, 2020, he will join Aldo Leopold, Gaylord Nelson and others who have helped preserve Wisconsin as a beautiful and precious place. Curt Meine, the biographer of Aldo Leopold, and one of 14 people who joined me to write letters of nomination wrote: "His contributions, like the guidance he provided as a teacher, have shaped the lands and waters of our state in critical ways, even as they have rippled out far beyond Wisconsin."

Something to be thankful for: progress on a new easement!

For local trout anglers, Thanksgiving came a week early this year as Sara Rigelman and the Land and Water Resources Department introduced a resolution allowing the purchase of a trout stream easement on the Sugar River at the Sarabacker Farm on STH 69 just south of Paoli.

As always, the easement will not be open for fishing until the County Board passes the resolution, the County Executive approves it, and the County closes on the transaction, a process which takes several months.

Its history and the help some folks, including SWTU, gave Sara in obtaining this easement make this a very special achievement.

Sara thought a dinner this spring, based on the Blanchardville model and directed to Sugar River landowners, might spark interest in easements. SWTU and Badger Fly Fishers donated the funds. Sara with Sharene Smith and Curt Diehl of Dane County, and Dan Oele, Fish Biologist par excellence, organized and presented the content of the meeting. Jim Hess and Topf Wells helped with the logistics of the dinner. Pat Hasburgh was a Trout Hero ... he cooked and served the dinner, pulled pork and all the fixings. The landowners loved it.

Several members of the Sarbacker family attended and immediately indicated an interest in an easement. Sara took it from there and several months later has delivered a most welcome addition to trout fishing on the Sugar.

Again, we owe Sara great thanks for her work, and lots more thanks are owed. Joe Parisi, the County Executive, continues to support these easements and Laura Hicklin ensures that they remain a priority for the Department. Josh Wescott, Parisi's Chief of Staff, is a key liaison. The County Board, led by Chair Sharon Corrigan, has always strongly supported easements.

Badger Fly Fisher's Bob Harrison made sure we received their vital donation in a very timely fashion. Pat and Jim put in long hours (cooking for 40 is no easy task). Dan's presentation was effective, focusing on all the fish of the Sugar. I think the landowners found that really interesting and perhaps a bit unexpected.

As always, though, the most thanks have to go to the Sarbackers, the landowners. This is wonderful water and we're blessed that they are willing to share it with the public.

Welcome New Members

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

Robert Hodgson Dan Allen Caleb Dillingham Andrea Richardson Joe Stoll



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 <u>Mary Ann Doll</u> so we can expect you.

Flies needed for Youth and Women's Programs

"Tis the season for tying". Our chapter ties flies for both the **PGT Youth Program and the Women's clinics**. Please give your donations to Dave Fowler <u>dkfowler82@gmail.com</u> (608) 513-0681. The flies don't need to be fancy ... your expertise in offering both groups a beginners set of flies (they all get a fly box too!) is greatly appreciated!



SWTU is in need of a "guide wrangler in training" for our wildly successful Women's Fly Fishing Clinics

Scot Stewart is our "guide wrangler" for the Women's on the Water Skills Clinic (Wowsc-i) held each June in Avalanche, WI. Scot has moved to the northwoods. He is willing to continue being the *guide wrangler* for 2020 and is willing to train a new SWTU member to take over the responsibilities for 2021. Responsibilities include maintaining an already sound list of volunteers contact info, disseminate information provided by Tina Murray to the guides and to line up a specific number of guides for the various fly fishing sessions on Wednesday from 3 pm on and Thursday from 10- 12:30 and again from 3pm on (Lunch is provided this day) and letting Tina know who is coming what days for planning purposes.

Scot can be reached at scotstewart2@gmail.com or (608) 273-5967.

NOTE: those who have flies to donate for the clinics please give your donations to Dave Fowler at <u>dkfowler82@gmail.com</u> (608) 513-0681

Register now ... 2020 Women's Clinics

These amazing events usually fill up fast, so check your calendar and register sooner rather than later. And if you know someone who might be interested, be sure to let them know.

Registration is open and you can find more details at the links below.

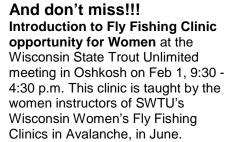
On the Water Skills Clinic June 17-19th

https://web.cvent.com/event/bdb48126-14a2-4999-b8cee467188ddbb3/regProcessStep1

Basic's Clinic June 19-20th

https://web.cvent.com/event/92d0e6cb-3b37-4724-b842dd541471524a/regProcessStep1

Remember that if you've done the Basics Clinic, you have the skills to do the On the Water Skills Clinic!!





Project Green Teen Giving some great kids a special taste of the outdoors

Each year, SWTU is proud to partner with the Project Green Teen program at Madison's Shabazz High School to introduce them to our sport and a special slice of the great outdoors. Mark your calendar for these events and consider spending some time at your vice this winter spinning up some flies for these kids.

Fly tying sessions: Wednesday, February 19, from 9 to 11:35, and Thursday, February 20, from 12:30 to 3:15 at Shabazz High School in the Cafeteria.

Casting sessions: Tuesday, April 14, from 12:30 to 3:15, and Tuesday, April 21, from 12:30 to 3:15 at Shabazz High School in the Cafeteria.

Avalanche Youth Fly Fishing Mentor Trip: May 8-16, Fishing May 10th - 14th from 3:30 pm- 6:30pm on. We need 15 guides EACH day. PGT serves dinner to the guides each day. (The Westfork Campground will be open and appreciates your business! The Portage Shelter is already reserved for our group).

To mentor a student any or all of the days please contact Dave Fowler who is organizing the guides to have 15 each day. (We have 2 teachers who would also like to learn.)

FLY DONATIONS, please give your donations to Dave Fowler <u>dkfowler82@gmail.com</u> (608) 513-0681. Your expertise in offering both the teenagers and the women's clinics a set of flies (they all get a fly box too!) is greatly appreciated.

Women & Fly Fishing Happy Hour Connect with other women interested in fly fishing

Women's Pre-Icebreaker Social Friday, January 24, 6pm - 9 pm Location to be determined Join us to socialize around Fly Fishing. All levels of skill and interest are welcome. Location still to be set ... check back for more info closer to the event.



Fountains of Youth

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

by Rusty Dunn

Before Babe Winkelman netted his first walleye, before Jimmy Houston kissed his first bass, and long before John Barrett was "Fly Fishing the World" while traveling first class, Lee Wulff (1905-1991) set the standard for fly fishing videos. If your childhood memories include Saturday afternoons with a black-and-white television and leaping trophy fish, Lee Wulff was probably holding the rod. His books, articles, films, TV shows, lectures, and fishing schools inspired millions on the thrills of fly fishing. Wulff was the first true media personality of the fly fishing world, one whose impact has not been equaled.

Few people have changed the landscape of modern fly fishing quite like Lee Wulff. He designed and sewed the first pocketed fishing vest, engineered the first reel with a palming spool, hosted the first fishing shows on network TV ("CBS Sports Spectacular" beginning in 1960 and ABC's "American Sportsman" in 1964), and popularized short light fly rods at a time when "normal" was long, heavy, and very tiring. Wulff educated Americans about fly fishing for Atlantic salmon, "the king of fish and the fish of kings". The Canadian government hired Wulff in the 1950s to explore Labrador's wilderness and report on its potential for fishing and tourism. Wulff discharged his duties with great thoroughness, piloting a float plane throughout Labrador while wearing waders and having a fully-rigged fly rod stashed behind the pilot's seat. When Wulff realized that development of the wilderness would likely hurt salmon populations, he helped found the Atlantic Salmon Federation to fight for their conservation. Lee Wulff urged anglers everywhere to practice catch-and-release, because in his words, "A game fish is too valuable to be caught only once".

Lee Wulff had a passion for personal challenge, a penchant for big fish, and a flair for showmanship. He was

The Gray Wulff was originally designed to imitate gray drakes, but it is a versatile attractor dry suitable for "fishing the water" during non-hatch periods.

Hook: Dry fly, #1 0- 14

Thread: Gray

- Tail: Wulff's original recipe used brown bucktail, but calf tail or deer hair work well also
- Body: Gray angora wool; rabbit, muskrat, or beaver dubbing can be substituted
- Wing: Original recipe calls for brown bucktail, but calf tail or deer hair also work well

Hackle: Blue-dun, tied heavily as a collar

famous for landing oversized fish on undersized tackle. He caught a 10 lb. Atlantic salmon on a #28 hook, a 15 lb. Atlantic using only a reel (no rod), and a 148 lb. marlin with a 5 oz. rod, 12 lb. tippet, and fly reel having no drag. He held numerous world records for fly rod, including a 597 lb. bluefin tuna.

Lee Wulff was lean, strong, and athletic – a man who did not ease gently into retirement. He caught a 960 pound tuna at age 77. He fought unassisted and eventually landed a fiercely combative sailfish at age 86, after a 3 hour 10 minute ordeal in a scorching, mid-day, equatorial sun. It was the first sailfish known to have been hooked on a dry fly, one he concocted the night before just to see if it could be done. Only two months after that sailfish, Lee Wulff died tragically while piloting his bush plane in upstate New York.

Lee Wulff is probably best known for his Wulff dry flies. The Gray Wulff, tied to imitate gray drakes of New York's Ausable River, was first of the series. It is a uniquely American pattern, designed by Wulff for our turbulent rivers. The austere Catskill dry flies available to Wulff at the time wouldn't float in rough water. He searched for a material strong enough to float big dries and durable enough to take many fish, eventually choosing bucktail as the main ingredient. The Gray Wulff became the prototype of a new class of dry fly – heavily hackled and floated by tails, wings, and sometimes bodies of hollow animal hair.

Lee Wulff tied all his flies – from #4/0 streamers to #28 midges – using only his fingers. No vise, no bobbin, just a hook held firmly in his fingertips and a spool of thread in his palm. He tied the first Gray Wulff in 1929, initially naming it the Ausable Gray. But Dan Bailey, Wulff's fishing buddy at the time, insisted that it be called the Gray Wulff. Wulff and Bailey then developed ten related patterns, including Gray, Grizzly, Blonde, White, and Royal Wulffs. All are classic attractors and proven fish catchers. If you've not teased a trout into an explosive rise with a Gray or Royal Wulff, it's high time you introduced yourself to Lee Wulff's legacy. © Rusty Dunn, 2019





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 Secretary Topf Wells Tom Parker Treasurer State Council Rep. Scot Stewart Board Member Board Member Curt Reidl Board Member Tom Thrall Board Member **Dave Fowler Board Member Board Member** 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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