

Newscasts

February 2020 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



The State of our Local Trout Streams Thursday, February 13 Chapter Meeting

Join Dan Oele, DNR Fish Biologist for Dane, Green, and Rock Counties, as he reports on our local trout streams as a new season gets underway. Dan will present the latest survey data on Black Earth Creek, Sawmill Creek, and Erickson Creek and offer his thoughts on the current and future state of our fisheries.

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!

Looking ahead to an awesome auction in March – start tying flies or setting aside some of those quality items you don't use anymore and maybe someone else could use. This is a big and fun fundraiser for us, and all fueled by your generosity (and need to make room for, and acquire, more stuff!).

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!

SWTU's Last Call!!

The Icebreaker was a huge success as many of you experienced the interesting, well-versed speakers, accomplished fly tyers, superior items for the bucket raffle, an easy delicious lunch and, of course, the friendly camaraderie of the event. [\(see photos and more on the next page\)](#)

But the weather was not in our favor. We had about a 50% drop in attendance and about a 40% drop in revenue. Ouch.

Fortunately there is another opportunity for those of you who missed the event and still want to contribute.

The 50th Anniversary fund-raising appeal is still going on. We've received donations from over 60 members to date and all of these funds will go to great restoration projects in Southern Wisconsin. If you have not yet contributed please consider joining us, take a moment and donate today.

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

Learn more, including a FAQ, [here on swtu.org](http://www.swtu.org).



A fun, friendly and informative Icebreaker

Many thanks to all who attended or helped out!



Perusing a vast array of bucket raffle items



Rod building demonstration



Jade Thomason takes us on a fantastic photo tour



Carl Haensel talks accessible saltwater fishing



Craig Amacker finds success after two decades of trying to win the bamboo rod



Fly tyers, fly tyers, everywhere!

Winners who still need to claim a raffle prize (prior to the March auction) – contact [Ben Lubchansky](#)

Brant Sonzogni – Reddington Rod/ Reel Combo

David Bianchi – Photo Print

Ed Lawson – Yeti Cooler & a Gift Basket & a St. Croix Gift certificate

Steve Zaleski – Hackle Neck

Two great February events worth your valuable time!

Attend the Badger Fly Fishers Spring Opener on Saturday, February 8

This is one of SWTU's most important partner organizations, and their big all-day event is Saturday, February 8, 2019, at American Family Insurance – the same place as our Icebreaker.



Bob Clouser (!) will be their guest speaker and they also have great activities, prizes, vendors, etc.

If you need another reason to attend, our own esteemed **Jim Hess** is receiving the Lee and Joan Wulff Award, their highest honor! The presentation to Jim will be at about 3 p.m., just prior to Bob Clouser's second presentation.

Their support of SWTU, stream restoration, and conservation education has been phenomenal for many years ... but they can only continue if their fund-raisers succeed.

[Learn more at their website](#) and please plan to attend.

SITKA SALMON SHARES PRESENTS

Last Man Fishing

Barrymore Theater, Madison Wis.

February 26 @ 7:00 pm

Tickets – \$15 advance / \$18 day of event

Doors open – 6:15pm

Proceeds will be donated to Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited and the River Alliance of Wisconsin.

Join us for a cinematic look at the vastly changing seafood system through the lens of small-boat fishermen and experts around the United States.



Narrated by best-selling author Mark Bittman, the film explores the dichotomy between the industrial fishing model and responsible fishing methods that focus on conservation and quality.

After the premiere, a panel will discuss the current state of Great Lakes and Coastal fisheries. Panel participants include: Last Man Fishing director JD Schulyler, UW Sea Grant/Fisheries specialist Titus Seilheimer, Ph.D., and New England Fishermen Capt. Tim Rider. Last Man Fishing executive producer and Sitka Salmon Shares CEO, Nic Mink, PhD will serve as moderator.

Bonus opportunity: Stop by the bar to try a glass of the exclusive "To Those Who Fish" Czech style pilsner, specially curated by Working Draft Beer Co for the premiere. The limited edition pilsner will also be on tap at Working Draft Beer Co's location while supplies last. Partial proceeds from "To Those Who Fish" sold at WDBC, will be donated to Trout Unlimited and River Alliance of Wisconsin.

GET YOUR
TICKETS NOW

Make a difference and some new friends – step up for SWTU

Our volunteers make a huge difference for our members, our resource and our community. We are looking for people to step up and serve as:

- [Riversmith Casting Clinic](#) Organizer (needed **now**)
 - Chapter President
 - Chapter Vice President
 - State Council Rep
 - Other board positions
- } (Elections in April)

If questions or interested, reach out to Amy Klusmeier at president@swtu.org

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.

Spring Stream Workdays: Tentative Plan

Mark your calendar so you can be sure to join us for the dates below. This is the tentative plan and will likely shift somewhat based on weather and stream needs so check back for updates.

March 14 – Possible early start to the season, depending on the weather

March 28 – Working on a new public fishing easement

April 11 or 18 – Help DNR plant trees on Black Earth Creek (date depends on the tree nursery)

May 9 – Workday with the DNR, location to be determined

May 30 – Workday with DNR, location to be determined

June 13 – Install brush bundles at Davidson and brush clearing. (scheduled late as we'll work in the water)

Have fun lending a hand at the 2020 Wisconsin Fishing Expo

February 28 — March 1 | Alliant Energy Center, Madison

Please sign-up to work at our SWTU booth at the [2020 Wisconsin Fishing Expo](#). The work is fun and easy, and a vital way for us to share our story and reach new members. Plus you get in for free and can wander the Expo before or after your shift. (You will have to pay for parking.)

[Sign up here on swtu.org](#). It lists the open spots and you can simply enter your name. Fill in all blank fields and then click "Sign Me Up" at the bottom of the page to save your entry. After doing so, please contact **Curt Diehl** at cdbadgerfan@gmail.com or text him at **608-345-5714** so he has your contact info.

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

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

The "work" is simple. Just talk about how to join SWTU on the national TU website, stream workdays, monthly meetings, fly casting, women's clinics, fly tying classes and other ways people can learn or make a difference. **Questions?** Contact Curt using the information above and he'll help you out.

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Banquet honors two from SWTU

Last month we shared that **Dan Wisniewski** and **Mary Ann Doll** (pictured here) were to be honored by our state council in February. We had a write-up on [Dan's Lifetime Achievement Award](#) last month.

This month it's Mary Ann's turn to shine! Here is a lightly condensed version of Mary Ann's nomination:

Mary Ann has made two extraordinarily important contributions to SWTU.

CHAPTER OPERATIONS – Mary Ann has made key contributions to the ongoing management and key activities of the Chapter. She has served as our Vice President for the last two years. In taking on that office, she has worked to improve the service we receive from the establishment that hosts our membership meetings. This means we have more comfortable meetings and have not had to search for a new venue. She has also worked hard to grace us with quality speakers of varied backgrounds for our monthly speakers, which has increased attendance and involvement.

As Vice President, Mary Ann has continued the work she began as a member and then Board Member. Our two annual fundraisers are the Icebreaker and the Larry Meicher March Madness Auction. For both, Mary Ann is the reliable and imaginative behind-the-scenes volunteer. She arranges the rooms, stages the raffle prizes, helps display the auction items, and makes sure other volunteers have the space and supplies they need. She is a key person in making sure that each event has run as efficiently as possible. In those often-hectic moments before and during these events, she is a source of calm and good cheer.

Mary Ann attends just about all of our workdays and lugs as much brush as anyone. For several of those, until she had some of us better trained, she also made sure we had coffee and adequate carbs, often in the form of doughnuts. She helps make the workdays fun as well as productive.

Mary Ann is also one of our most astute Board Members with a knack for a) an extremely well-timed question and b) a suggestion for improving long-time practices and procedures.

WELCOMING – National TU, State Council, our Chapter and many others endlessly discuss how to make TU welcome to more members ... especially younger, more diverse and female members. None of that works unless the Chapter activities are genuinely friendly and welcoming. Mary Ann relentlessly devotes herself to making sure that SWTU events are always respectful, friendly and that everyone feels welcome.

At membership meetings, she introduces herself to anyone attending for the first time and reminds all the Board Members to do the same. She makes sure that all new members receive some flies and are introduced at the meeting. At any event, Mary Ann seeks out new folks, talks with them and introduces them to members with whom they might share an interest. She personifies the recognition that TU must be about people as much as it is about trout and habitat.

Most of us probably associate the Gold Net with the joy of catching fish (which Mary Ann does as avidly as any other TU member) but her activities on behalf of SWTU are the Gold Net that has helped us land lots of new and more diverse members. And, thanks again to her, they're not swimming away but becoming among our most fun and energetic participants.

Big congrats to Mary Ann and Dan!



Can you help out?

The Upper Sugar River Watershed Association has some unique volunteer opportunities regarding bait and boat props as vectors for spreading invasives. [Click to learn more.](#)

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 dkfowler82@gmail.com (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 dkfowler82@gmail.com (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-b8ce-e467188ddb3/regProcessStep1>

Basic's Clinic June 19-20th

<https://web.cvent.com/event/92d0e6cb-3b37-4724-b842-dd541471524a/regProcessStep1>

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

Wisconsin Women's Fly Fishing Clinics

Presented by Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited
<https://www.swtu.org/learn/womens-flyfishing-clinic/>
<https://www.facebook.com/SWTUWomensClinic>

**BY WOMEN FOR WOMEN
BASICS CLINIC
June 19-21, 2020**

Learn how to choose proper equipment, tie knots, cast, read water, select the proper fly and time on the water. You will learn new tactics, regardless of your level of ability. Equipment available for use.

**ON THE WATER SKILLS
INTERMEDIATE CLINIC
June 17-19, 2020**

Personalized instruction streamside. Tune up workshops by women instructors to refresh skills in casting, matching the hatch & reading the water. Fish WI finest trout streams with experienced anglers.

women's flyfishingclinics

Location
Avalanche, WI (near Viroqua, in Wisconsin's Driftless Area)

Cost
\$315 until April 1st
\$345 after
Return participants \$345

For more information please visit the links above.

Registration:
Beginners Clinic <https://cvent.me/ARNnx>
On the Water Clinic <https://cvent.me/zgEm3>

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 dkfowler82@gmail.com (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.



Welcome New Members

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

Janelle Urben Neal Brandt Joseph Marik
Jerry Rodenberg Hayden Mauk Amber Zuhlke

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.



Fountains of Youth

A look at classic flies that have withstood the test of time ... flies that remain "forever young"

by Rusty Dunn

The Pyramids of Giza. The Colosseum of Rome. The Taj Mahal of India. All are among the world's great cultural monuments. They are landmarks of human achievement. If you'd like to visit a landmark of fly fishing achievement, just walk in the door at 209 West Park Street, Livingston, Montana and look around. You'll be in Dan Bailey's Fly Shop, where the "Wall of Fame" is an awe-inspiring monument to the culture of western trout fishing. The wall chronicles prosperous times in the mid-20th century when it was OK – even encouraged – to whack a four pound trout solely for the purpose of public admiration. Dan Bailey's Wall of Fame is a shrine to western fly fishing, a required stop on pilgrimages to trout country, and a vivid reminder of "the good old days".

Dan Bailey (1904-1982) lived and worked in New York City before becoming a fly fishing luminary. He was an avid fly tyer and angler who explored famous trout rivers of the East in the 1930s. He and his wife Helen honeymooned in the Yellowstone area in 1936 and were astonished by Montana's angling riches. Two years later, the Baileys quit their New York jobs and moved to Livingston, where they opened a small shop in the Albemarle Hotel selling flies tied by Dan and tackle to go with them. The first mail-order catalog appeared in 1941. The shop survived the lean years of WWII but expanded during the post-war boom in outdoor recreation. Prominent national magazines popularized Montana fly fishing, and Bailey's fly business increased rapidly. The fly shop moved in the 1950s to its current location, where dozens of local fly tyers cranked out the needed inventory. By the mid-1970s, Bailey's shop produced over 750,000 flies per year. He was the largest fly manufacturer in the country and commented, "*I didn't intend for the business to get this big. I just wanted to go fishing.*"

Bailey renewed in his Livingston fly shop a tradition that had begun in New York, where he and friends traced the outlines of notably large trout on the wallpaper of a family fishing cabin. The tracings became a historical record of good times, great fish, and cherished friends. Bailey transplanted the tradition to Montana and set four pounds as the minimal size for a sufficiently braggable trout. The first Montana wall fish was a 4 lb. 8 oz. brown caught by Gil Meloche on August 5th, 1938 on Armstrong Spring Creek. Wall fish accumulated steadily over time and, for each, Bailey recorded the angler's name, an ink outline on paper of the actual fish, its measured weight, the river, the date, and the fly used. That information was then painted on individual, life-sized, wood plaques that now adorn the fly shop walls. The plaques read like a Who's Who of American fly fishing. The practice was discontinued in the 1980s when catch-and-release became popular, topping out at 364 plaques collected over 40+ years.

The greatest number of wall fish (42%) were caught on streamers, and one of the most successful streamers on the wall is a Marabou Muddler, which was designed by Bailey to imitate river minnows. He described his own contributions to fly tying as mainly being the modification of existing fly patterns for big western rivers. The Marabou Muddler is a perfect example. Don Gapen tied the original Muddler Minnow in the 1950s for large brook trout in Canada. Bailey changed the body material, replaced the wing of turkey feather with soft marabou, and trimmed the spun deer hair to form a prominent head. The result was a Muddler variation that found worldwide success with both cold and warm water species of fish.

Many a western trout punched its ticket to immortality on Dan Bailey's Wall of Fame with a Marabou Muddler. Try one on your next pilgrimage to the Holy Land. You won't find immortality, but you may feel a sense of cultural achievement just like the ancients.

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----- Marabou Muddler -----

The wing of a Marabou Muddler can be tied in any color, but Dan Bailey preferred white.

Hook: 3XL or 4XL streamer, #4 - #10

Thread: White or gray flat nylon, size A

Tail: Bright red bucktail or hackle fibers

Body: Gold or silver tinsel chenille

Wing: White marabou, tied full; length ~1.5 times the hook

Overwing: Peacock herl, ~6 strands

Collar: The tips of natural deer body hair, spun, flared, and surrounding the body

Head: Deer hair spun tightly and trimmed to shape



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.	open
Board Member	Pat Hasburgh
Board Member	Curt Riedl
Board Member	Tom Thrall
Board Member	Dave Fowler
Board Member	Rodd Wangren
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Women's/ Diversity Initiative Chair	Tina Murray
Youth Education Chair for SWTU	Tina Murray

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