

Newscasts

March 2020 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



The Meicher Madness Auction (and taco bar!) Thursday, March 12 Chapter Meeting

You won't want to miss the annual Meicher March Madness Auction. This is our second and last major fund-raising event of the year and we need you to attend, donate and buy! We truly hope to see you Thursday, March 12, at the Coliseum Bar and Grill.



Meicher Madness Auction Timeline 2020

This year the chapter is offering a new twist!

5:30 - 6:30 Buffet "Build Your Own Taco Bar"

Suggested donation \$10.00

No table service will be available upstairs. The upstairs bar will be serving all evening.

Also, please be aware there is a concert at the Alliant Energy Center.

There is available parking in the lot next to the Wonder Bar.

6:45 FIRST AUCTION ITEM GOES UP FOR BID

Enjoy the evening!

Funds raised in the auction support all our Chapter activities: veterans, fly-tying, rod-building, casting clinic, Project Green Teen, work days, projects, outreach--everything.

It's useful and fun. You donate stuff you don't use any more and you buy stuff you want (and need, of course). You see cool stuff, you marvel at stuff others buy (as in, what was he/she thinking?), and you congratulate yourself on your own wise purchases.

The stuff is great. We're going to have our best selection of big name rods and reels in quite a while. Thanks to the generosity of a few members, we always have some great trips to auction. The flies tied by our local experts are always perfect for the streams we love to fish.

We're also going to streamline the auction as much as we can. A fast-moving auction is more fun and one that ends on time generates more bidding.

You'll find tables with a variety of items prices to move. Take 'em, pay for 'em and their yours without the vagaries of an amateur auctioneer to worry about. The auction will focus on the higher quality, more desirable items.

You can help make the auction a success by:

ATTENDING AND BRINGING A FRIEND. This is a wonderful opportunity for someone getting into trout fishing, especially fly fishing, to pick up really good gear at very, very reasonable prices.

DONATING. Bring the gear you're not using. BUT, BUT, BUT PLEASE NO JUNK. It's said that one person's junk is another's treasure. Long experience at the auction has also demonstrated that one person's junk is sometimes everybody's junk. If you think something might belong in the trash instead of the auction, you're probably right.

BUYING. How we make the money and where the fun is. Who wants to leave an auction empty-handed?

ARRIVING EARLY. The auctioneers and other volunteers are determined to end this auction by 9 – otherwise the night has dragged and we've lost too many bidders. We can only do this if you arrive and bring your donations earlier than usual. We have to familiarize ourselves with, sort, and display donations. That takes time, time, time. If you're bringing donations, show up early for the taco bar!

A final reminder. MEICHER refers to Larry Meicher, one of the earliest and longest serving of our members. He received the first Lifetime Achievement Award granted by the State Council. He created the auction and was our first and best auctioneer. At one time or another, he took on every task SWTU had, and no one has ever tied or wielded a Pass Lake better.

As usual, the meeting is upstairs at the [Coliseum Bar and Grill](#) on East Olin Avenue. Please get there early this month if at all possible for taco bar, auction items, drinks, food and sharing stories!

WE WANT YOU!

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

Nominations are now being accepted for positions on the SWTU Board of Directors. 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)



SWTU Nominating Committee for 2020/21

- Mary Ann Doll, Chair
- Dave Fowler
- Michael Bernhard
- Donna Smith
- Michael Williamson

We'll have elections at the April meeting. If you have questions, are interested or know of someone who is, please contact a nominating committee member or Mary Ann Doll at dollmaryann@gmail.com.

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.



Now presenting ... Dan Oele

We've had plenty of requests for the exceptional presentation given at our February Chapter meeting. Thanks for your requests and thanks to our great friends at the WDNR, you can view it now on swtu.org. [Click here](#) or on the image at left ... then get fishing!

Spring Stream Workdays: Join us!

Mark your calendar so you can be sure to join us on these Saturdays to help make a real difference for our cold water resource. The work is easy and no experience necessary.

March 28 – Kessnick's DNR Easement on the upper watershed for the East Branch of the Pecatonica River, just off of Barneveld on Iowa County Rd K at 3829 Iowa Cty Rd K.

April 11 or 18 – help DNR plant trees on Black Earth Creek - won't know which Saturday until later, depends on the nursery.

May 9 – workday with Justin Haglund (Fish Biologist with the DNR), probably on the new Langfoss easement off of River Fork road in Iowa County. The new DNR Habitat Maintenance Crew will be joining us.

May 30 – Brush clearing and installing brush bundles at the Davidson property on the Sugar River.

June 13 – Install brush bundles and brush clearing at the Davidson property on the Sugar River.

Thanks to Curt Diehl for his leadership and all who helped engage attendees at the Wisconsin Fishing Expo!



Help restore a classic orchard

Learn some cool outdoor stuff while doing good – a good summary of many SWTU activities. Have some fruit trees? Gonna plant some? Need to learn some pruning with hands on experience with a fabulous instructor?

Then help SWTU continue the restoration of the Neperud Orchard overlooking the Sugar River. This beautiful orchard was the pride and joy of the Neperud family, who sold their land to the County and enabled us to restore a beautiful part of the river and open it for public fishing. This marks our third year of pruning under the direction of Lisa Johnson, instructor for the Dane County Extension Master Gardener Volunteer program, to return the orchard to its former beauty and productivity.

Everyone is welcome, regardless of pruning experience. We meet SUNDAY, MARCH 15, AT 10AM at LANDMARK CREAMERY IN PAOLI. Lisa will spend about half an hour teaching us the basics of pruning (for new trees and older trees that need help). We're then off to the Neperud Orchard, due south and only two minutes away. We'll work til about 1. In light of all we've done in the last two years, this might be our last session. Bring pruning equipment if you can but Lisa brings extra clippers, saws, etc.

A bonus is meeting at Landmark. Coffee and superb pastries will be available in the morning ... and stop by after pruning for Wisconsin's champion grilled cheese sandwich, great cheeses, and other wonderful local foods.

This is a great opportunity to receive excellent hands-on instruction in pruning fruit trees and to help restore a wonderful public resource. The Neperud Orchard has lots of apple and pear trees (with a few pie cherries) and the fruit is available to the public. The orchard is easily viewed from STH 69 and is gorgeous when the trees are in bloom and when they bear fruit.



Landmark Creamery is in the middle of Paoli, right next to the town park. The Neperud Orchard is just south of Paoli on STH 69, just across from the turn into Basco.

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.

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

Pass on your fly fishing experience with the next generation! Project Green Teen (PGT) is an innovative environmental based experiential program based out of Shabazz High School in Madison, WI that works to build student interest and understanding around sustainability and interconnectedness in our stream ecosystems. A critical pillar of the program for our students is learning how to fly fish and how this lifelong sport is a great way to engage in a healthy lifestyle as well as support and advocate for healthy ecosystems.

PGT is still looking for SWTU guides to work with our terrific young people during our fly casting clinics in April (at Shabazz High School in Madison) as well as our week long trip in May (to Avalanche, WI leading students for a few hours each night fishing the West Fork of the Kickapoo).

What do you need to do?:

- Bring specific fly tying materials if you have preferences. A variety of materials are provided by PGT as well.
- Fill out a MMSD District Online Volunteer Form (if you are planning to work with students during the Avalanche Trip. [Brian Counselman](#) and Dave can share the online form upon request).
- Have a fun and flexible attitude passing on your passion for fly tying!



Mentoring and Fly Donations – We need 15 guides EACH day at Avalanche. 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). 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.

Other PGT dates to save:

- Spring PGT Casting Clinics: **Tuesdays April 14 and April 21 12:25-3:15**
- Avalanche PGT Trip: **Sunday May 8 - Thursday May 14 (3pm - dinner daily)**

Welcome New Members

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

Craig Rusch
William Stickford
Tony Antoniewicz
Robert Pearson
Chelsea Center

Matt Heredia
David Hermanson
Mark Meinhardt
Timothy Langton
Aaron Jagielo

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

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

by Rusty Dunn

When you daydream about trout fishing, what flies are your dreams made of? Hoppers? Ants? Snappy attractors? The first choice of many veteran anglers is beetles. Trout are always receptive to a wayward beetle, and plump imitations cast along grassy banks can coax an observant trout out of hiding. But did you know that beetles are often more abundant under the water than on top of it? Or that beetles are available to trout even in the middle of winter? Many species of beetles live most or all of their lives in the river. If you've examined the bottom rubble of a trout stream, you've undoubtedly seen aquatic beetle larvae, but you probably mistook them for caddisflies or stoneflies. The three taxonomic groups are easily confused, but trout care little about taxonomy and a lot about food.

North America hosts over 1,000 species of aquatic beetles. That's more species of aquatic beetles than mayflies! Many families of beetle are entirely aquatic, living essentially their complete life cycle underwater. Others are semi-aquatic, living either the larval or adult stage (but not both) underwater. Examples of aquatic beetles include water pennies, riffle beetles, whirligig beetles, water weevils, and leaf beetles. Aquatic beetle larvae extract dissolved oxygen from the water, but aquatic adults rely on atmospheric oxygen to varying degrees. Such adults must regularly swim or crawl to the surface to replenish their air supply, and that behavior makes them vulnerable to trout. Most aquatic beetles overwinter as adults and are available to trout all year long. No matter what the season, if you don't see insects on the wing, try one of fly fishing's oldest beetle imitations, the Coch-y-Bonddu wet fly. That's right, a beetle *wet fly*!

The Coch-y-Bonddu imitates both aquatic beetles and terrestrial species that have fallen into a stream. The

name is Welsh in origin and translates roughly to "red and black", which describes a common terrestrial beetle of the UK that the fly imitates (*Phyllopertha horticola*). Like most vintage flies, the same basic pattern goes by many different names and recipes, having been replicated, modified, and plagiarized by generations of angling authors. The Coch-y-Bonddu originated sometime in the 1700s as the Shorn Fly. It was described in Charles Bowlker's *The Art of Angling* in 1792, but by the mid-1800s, its favored name had become the Coch-y-Bonddu. Similar patterns over the years were named the Welshman's Button, Hazel Fly, Fern Web, Bracken Clock, Marlow Buzz, and others.

The term 'coch-y-bonddu' also refers to the poultry hackle used to dress the fly. It is a color variant of red gamecock in which red feathers have a black outer margin and list (the webby stripe surrounding the stem) with red in between. Coch-y-bonddu hackle is quite rare and usually substituted by furnace hackle, a red feather that has the black list but lacks the black margin. Fierce arguments spice up the literature about the differences between coch-y-bonddu and furnace, caused in part by the fact that true coch-y-bonddu is a color found only in roosters, never in hens. A related but also rare color variant of red gamecock is 'kneecap', which is coch-y-bonddu in reverse. Kneecap feathers have a red outer margin and list with black in between.

With its soft hackle, plump body, and splash of sparkle, the Coch-y-Bonddu may indeed resemble an aquatic or drowned beetle, but it looks a lot like many other subsurface insects as well. Its inherent bugginess and long history of success make the Coch-y-Bonddu an all-purpose subsurface wingless wet. As Courtney Williams wrote, "*Wet or dry, and at any time of the season, it is always a good pattern to try on a strange river.*" Give it a try yourself, even if fishing a wet-fly beetle imitation sounds somehow wrong.

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----- Coch-y-Bonddu -----

Bronze peacock herl is a color variant of common green India peafowl, but it is not easily obtained. Most tyers simply substitute green peacock herl. However, if green peacock herl is left in direct sunlight for a couple of weeks, it bleaches to a beautiful bronze color.

Hook: Wet fly, #12 - #16

Thread: Pearsall's Gossamer silk, bright orange

Tag: Flat gold tinsel

Body: Several strands of bronze (or green) peacock herl, twisted together

Hackle: Furnace hen hackle tied as a wet-fly collar.



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:

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