

# Newscasts

April 2020 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



## The Meeting Notice That Wasn't *Our someday soon we'll see ya Chapter meeting*

As with everything, everywhere at this time ... our normal upcoming slate of meetings and events are postponed for the future. Read below for updates and information. We have a new plan for elections, cancellations of Project Green Teen and the soonest workdays, but are still hopeful the Women's Clinics will go on as planned (with plenty of help and volunteers from the Chapter).

Keep an eye on your email and [www.swtu.org](http://www.swtu.org) for further event updates. Be well and keep a 9 wt rod length from others as you chase trout, watch eagles soar and glory in the natural world.

### SWTU Board Elections Postponed

The SWTU Board Elections were planned for our April 9 chapter meeting. Since that meeting is cancelled we will be delaying the vote until May and conducting the elections online (assuming there is no in-person Chapter Meeting in May). The Nominating Committee has been hard at work putting together a great slate of candidates for the election. In early April the Committee will send an email to all members with the slate of candidates and ask for any final nominations. Here is the timeline for the elections process:

- April 24 - Nominations due
- May 4 - Nominating Committee sends email to members with final slate of candidates and a link to an online ballot
- May 14 - Deadline for members to complete online, anonymous ballot
- May 20 - New board announced to membership via email

Watch your email for updates from the Nominating Committee, and please contact Mary Ann Doll if you are interested in running for a board seat: [madoll@aol.com](mailto:madoll@aol.com)



### Learn what your Board's been up to

Minutes from SWTU Board of Director meetings can be viewed [in this Google Drive](#). 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.



**Jim Hess (left) receiving the Joan and Lee Wulff Award at the Badger Flyfishers Spring Opener. It's an award presented only on occasion and puts Jim in a rare class ... something we already knew about him.**

**Congrats, Jim!**

## **Funding appeal a big success: Thank you!**

To celebrate SWTU's 50th anniversary and start the next 50 years with some great projects, the Board launched an end of the year appeal to all our members. Without further ado, the results:

\$10,135 in member donations.  
\$2,348 in expenses, consisting of  
    \$122 in credit card fees  
    \$720 for hats  
    \$467 for postage  
    \$1,039 for printing  
**\$7,787 NET INCOME!** (so far ...)

Pausing now for celebration and thanks.

Some notes and thoughts. Seventy-six of just over 800 members donated. The average donation of \$133 was extremely generous with several donations at or over \$500. Every Officer and Board Member donated as we promised the membership.

All members on our rolls received an appeal letter and the Officers and Board Members attached personal notes to as many as possible. Every member who donated received a personalized thank-you letter.

In budgeting for this appeal the Board had estimated (with no experience to go on) that we would net between \$7,500 and \$8,000. As we reviewed membership lists we learned the membership processes run by National are not flawless. Some members, for example, who had signed up for automatic, annual renewal by credit card discovered that was not happening. Your membership is important to the Chapter so please keep an eye on your renewals.

Because we're a wholly volunteer organization, this appeal demanded a lot of time on the part of the Officers and Board. Particular thanks to Amy Klusmeier and Pat Hasburgh who had to wrestle with membership rosters, labels, mailings, graphics and printing. Tom Parker had to receive, process and record all the donations, many of which came in over the holiday season. Then Mary Ann Doll, Topf Wells, Ben Lubchansky, Curt Riedl, Tom Thrall and Michael Williamson personalized the appeals.

Most local conservation and human service organizations who make such appeals have professional staff. Even though the boards of these organization often participate in the fund-raising, the staff handles all the logistics. We now certainly understand why. We probably will have appeals in the future but not next year. We'll have to reflect on this year's success and demands and think how better to pursue this in the future. Our guess is that we will need an ad hoc committee to assist the Board in the next appeal.

*Thank you for your generous response to our appeal for funds.*

## **So how are the donations making a difference?**

In making the appeal, we promised you that we would use the funds you donated to support some excellent projects. The Board took that responsibility seriously and made the following decisions at our March Board meeting.

### **Kittleson Valley Creek, DNR – \$14,000**

This project will occur upstream of Drammen Valley Road and is the second year of a five-year DNR restoration of two large, contiguous easements. The problems are very steep, highly eroding banks, sedimentation, silt, lack of in-stream cover and spawning areas, and very difficult access and fishing. Major stream re-shaping and stabilization, clearing of invasive or undesirable trees and brush, use of that material in the stream stabilization and in-stream, other in-stream devices, and planting of native vegetation will address those problems.

### **Black Earth Creek, DNR – \$2,000**

Dan Oele, DNR fish biologist, made an urgent plea at a Chapter meeting for help in purchasing stream temperature loggers/monitors at the end of his dire report on the current state of Black Earth Creek. Dan needs these monitors to help him better understand the problems the creek faces and how best to plan additional projects. After that meeting many members voiced their desire to have the Chapter meet Dan's request. This \$2,000 does so.

**Sugar River, Dane County – \$5,000**

The County is still deciding which project to use these funds for. The most likely and needed project would be to address some dramatic stream bank erosion on one of the easements near Paoli.

**Willow Creek, DNR – \$2,500**

This project is a very large and comprehensive restoration of Willow Creek below the confluence of Willow and Smith Hollow, using all the techniques to be used on Kittleson. The chief difference will be more use of rock because that site has much less woody material than Kittleson. Many of you have looked downstream of that bridge and wondered briefly, *how about fishing it?* Then you looked at the high, soft, crumbling banks and the heaps of brush and decided to fish elsewhere. Last summer Pat Hasburgh and I encountered two anglers who decided to fish it. One was too exhausted to say anything; the other gasped, "Never again." Many anglers in the years to come are going to appreciate this project.

**Blue River, Nohr Chapter – \$1,000**

We're happy to help the Nohr Chapter continue its work on Sixmile Branch and the Blue River. This year the work continues below the confluence of Sixmile and the Blue. Early reports on last year's work on Sixmile above CTH Q are extremely positive.

**Tainter Creek, TU DARE – \$1,000**

Because of last year's floods, TU DARE faces additional expenses on several restorations in the western part of the Driftless Area and has asked TU chapters for help. This is the project closest to us and in a watershed that has a great farmer-led watershed coalition and local support of the work on Tainter.

**Stream Easement Maintenance Crew, DNR/TUDARE – \$1,000**

This is our second year of supporting the summertime DNR crew that will clear brush and invasive vegetation – in particular painful poisonous parsnip – from DNR easements. The crew is scheduled to work on streams in Dane and surrounding counties this year.

**Grants make your generosity go farther**

You may have noted that the projects total more than \$7,700. We promised to use the proceeds to obtain other grants and are doing so. We were able to provide a cash match to State Council and receive an additional \$2,000 for Kittleson. We hope to use the same approach for an additional \$2,500 for Willow.

**In addition: A substantial \$10K to make lasting impact**

We also received some additional donations to help with projects. The most extraordinary was \$10,000, which went to the Kittleson project. Until and unless we hear from the donor that they want to be publicly recognized, we are not publicizing their name. In deciding how to use this money, we noted that the donor wanted the money to fund a project. We chose one that is on an important stream and for which the donation will have a major impact. In this case, after discussions with Dan Oele, this donation will be used to greatly advance vital habitat work that will benefit trout populations and fly fishing enjoyment for decades to come.

Because all of these restorations require the use of heavy equipment, the DNR and others believe the work can be done while the workers observe safe social distancing. We also hope the pandemic has resided by early summer. But we don't know, of course; this and just about every other activity will be reviewed as the outbreak progresses.

*Thank you again for your most generous response to our appeal.*

*We hope that all of us are safely fishing these projects this time next year.*

## Wisconsin Women's Fly Fishing Clinics – June

Everyone who helps with the [Wisconsin Women's Fly Fishing Clinics in June](#), please meet **Tom Thrall**, our new "guide wrangler." Tom will contact you and give you information on dates, times, etc. for the women's clinics. His contact info is: (608) 219-4249 or [tpthrall@gmail.com](mailto:tpthrall@gmail.com).

Please call him and let him know if you can help out in June. It is easier to cancel and have extra time than it is to find people at the last minute should the clinics occur this year. We have 22 Women signed up for the clinics and will need 22 guides for Wed (17th) evening fishing, and two rounds on Thursday (18th). A fabulous lunch is provided to the whole group on Thursday early afternoon, along with some rest time before heading out for the 2nd time that day.

Thank you everyone for your donations of flies and gear for the clinics. We really appreciate it. All other donations can go to Tina Murray or Dave Fowler. Hang in there everyone. Be safe, stay sane and think of things that make you smile. ~ Tina Murray

## Project Green Teen a no-go for 2020

It's with a heavy heart that we have decided to cancel this spring's SWTU partner events with Project Green Teen (PGT) including the casting clinics in April and the Avalanche trip in May. We have a terrific group of students enrolled in PGT this year, so it is particularly disappointing that they will not get the full program experience this spring given all of the terrific promise they have demonstrated as a group. Given the large scale and multiple generational experience of the partnership experiences we offer, it felt like the only responsible decision to keep all of our students and guides healthy.

We are hopeful that we will be able to create some experience for these students later in the summer or next fall once things return to some semblance of normal and group events can resume. At this point though, as with so many other events, there are no definite answers. Please stay tuned for opportunities that may arise to engage these terrific young people in the joys of fly fishing. We are confident that this time will only build enthusiasm and appreciation for getting outside and engaging in nature and PGT will be back as strong as ever next year!

As always, thank you for all of the terrific support that we have continued to receive this year from SWTU and the phenomenal members that came out to our fly tying workshops in February. The generosity, passion and energy that you share with our students is greatly appreciated and is building the next generation of outdoor enthusiasts and fly fishers.

Hopefully we'll see you on a stream (at a safe distance)!

Brian and Shabazz PGT Staff





## Pruning Project to Bear Fruit

By Topf Wells

We had a safe and productive morning of pruning at the Neperud orchard. Safe because the small turnout made for ample spacing and avoidance of any coronavirus that had found its way to Paoli (which we hope and expect has not happened, at least not yet) and because no one dropped any limbs on one another or severed any digits or appendages with Lisa Johnson's deluxe pruning saws.

Four of us, a mix of SWTU members and Master Gardeners, showed up at Landmark Creamery on Sunday, 3/15 for Lisa Johnson's concise but excellent primer in pruning newer and older trees. We then pruned in the Neperud Orchard for about an hour. We focused on three trees on the southwest corner of the orchard that needed help really badly. With Lisa leading by example (and thus providing some additional superb training), we have the trees in much better shape for a lovely and productive year. With Lisa's pre-orchard lesson and hands-n guidance, I think all of us felt we can really prune a fruit tree safely and productively.

As we looked at what we accomplished, the feeling is similar to what we feel after a work day. You can really see that you've done some good.

Cumulatively, our efforts at Neperud are pretty impressive with about 25 trees pruned in our three pruning days. We hope we can have Lisa back for a final push next year without a pandemic hanging over our heads.

### Great thanks to everyone as usual but especially to:

Anna Thomas Bates of Landmark Creamery who opened her facility to us early for training and had coffee, blueberry scones, and the best brownies in the world available.

Lisa Johnson, who for three years in a row has sacrificed a Sunday to teach us how to prune and lead us in the restoration of the Neperud Orchard. Among her many responsibilities for UW/Dane County Extension is running the Master Gardener Program. She is a superb teacher, leader, and public servant and that's one of the best programs in Dane County.

Jim Beecher, who took photos and spent many minutes on a ladder ministering to the tree that needed the most help. ([see his full photo album](#))

For any of you with pruning around your house or land, contact Lisa and ask the brand of the pruning saw. She said it's \$75 and, believe me, it's worth every penny. It cuts through tree limbs like a hot knife through butter. It's to pruning saws what Winstons or Sages are to fly rods. Really.



## Welcome New Members

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

Barry Bjorklund  
Donald Hudson  
Jeremy Thompson  
Casey Canady  
Alan Dresen

Steven Brooke  
John Schoob  
Mario DeLuca  
Alec Triggiano  
Steve Sankbeil



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

Locals and wannabe locals affectionately call it 'The Fork'. Simply, The Fork. As if any other fork were of no significance. Its headwaters are trickles atop the continental divide. They collect in a shallow lake whose outflow is but a small creek. A few miles downstream, though, the creek receives 185 cfs of constant 52° spring water every hour, of every day, all year long. The creek is now a full-fledged river, one of tremendous spring-fed fertility. It passes through an irrigation reservoir, squeezes down a short steep canyon, and then slows to a crawl as it meanders in an open plateau beneath the majestic Centennial Mountains. The area's first explorers came in search of beaver, but today's explorers seek far greater riches – large wild trout.

The river's full and proper name is the Henry's Fork of the Snake River, and it's one of America's finest but most challenging trout fisheries. The Henry's Fork is named after Andrew Henry, a trader for the Missouri Fur Company who explored the region beginning in 1810. Roughly 40 miles of the Henry's Fork is prime trout water, and it offers everything an angler could want: fast pockets, long rocky riffles, channeled runs, grassy undercut banks, and five glorious miles of gentle, wide, shallow, gravely, weedy, gin-clear glides in Harriman State Park (a.k.a. the Railroad Ranch).

Insect biomass of the Henry's Fork is astonishing, and it holds more species of trout-friendly insects than probably any place in the country. Hatches, though, are notoriously complex, with multiple insects coming off simultaneously and trout dining ever so cautiously at the buffet. They occur all season long, but the June emergence of Western Green Drakes is the granddaddy of them all. On the nation's annual calendar of destination fisheries, no dates are more significant than those of green drakes on the Henry's Fork. They herald the arrival of summer, but also the arrival of many out-of-towners hoping to capture a bit of the Henry's Fork's glorious history. Such pilgrimages are an annual ritual

for many, but they are a once-in-a-lifetime check mark on the bucket list for others.

Part of the allure of Western Green Drakes is their large size. You'll not fuss with gossamer tippet or flies too small to see, because duns are a solid size #10 and have stout bodies with oversized wings. Nymphs swim slowly to the surface, and duns take flight only after an awkward emergence, long drift, and lumbering takeoff. What's not to like about that? Trout take notice, and green drakes bring even the biggest fish to the surface.

A list of anglers who regularly fish(ed) green drakes of the Henry's Fork would read like a Who's Who of American fishing, but none is more respected than Cyril 'Bing' Lempke (1917-1990), known also as "Mr. Henry's Fork". Born in St. Cloud, MN, he moved to Idaho at a young age, where he spent a lifetime studying habits of the Henry's Fork. Lempke had no formal training in entomology, but he read voraciously and became an expert on area insects. He was a self-taught angler and fly tyer who, in his early days, traded fish for flies, which he disassembled to learn how they were constructed. Lempke was especially admired for his exquisite extended-body mayfly patterns, which he tied as small as size #32. He had keen vision, gifted hands, and an eye for detail, and his flies were strikingly beautiful. Lempke was a pipefitter and plumber by trade, but green drakes were his passion. He readily admitted that green drakes of the Henry's Fork cost him three good jobs over the years. As they say, it's all just a matter of priorities.

Lempke never wrote a book but was tremendously generous with his knowledge. He demonstrated fly tying for decades at fly fishing gatherings large and small, where he gave away thousands of flies. He taught fly tying for over 20 years and never declined requests from youth groups. Time Magazine featured Lempke, his mastery of the Henry's Fork, and his dedication to education in a 1983 article. When you check green drakes of the Henry's Fork off of your bucket list, pause at the streamside stone and bronze monument honoring Bing Lempke and think kindly of Mr. Henry's Fork.

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### ----- Extended-Body Green Drake -----

Emerging Western Green Drakes are light chartreuse to olive with slate-colored wings, but they quickly darken to brown-olive with light olive highlights.

**Hook:** Dry fly, size #12

**Thread:** Black (yellow used here)

**Tail:** 5X (0.006") nylon monofilament, split

**Wing:** Goose quill sections, dark dun (hen saddle feather tips used here)

**Abdomen:** Olive dubbing ribbed with yellow floss

**Thorax:** Olive-brown dubbing

**Hackle:** Rooster, a med. dun and a grizzly dyed yellow, wrapped together and trimmed flat on the underside with length to hook point



## 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](mailto: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
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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