

# Newscasts

May 2020 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



## We'll hope to see you all in the fall

**No meeting in May but we'll let you know if we are able to schedule any summer events.**

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

## Online Chapter Election

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic and cancellation of our April and May 2020 chapter meetings, SWTU is conducting the 2020 Board of Directors election online. Please [complete this web ballot](#) by 5 p.m. on **Wednesday, May 20, 2020**. One vote per SWTU member.

The Nominating Committee of the SWTU Board presents the following slate of candidates for the 2020-2021 program year:

President: Jim Hess

Vice President: Topf Wells

Treasurer: Tom Parker

Secretary: Henry Nehls-Lowe

Directors: Dave Fowler, Pat Hasburgh, Ben Lubchansky, Zach Olufs, Curt Riedl, Tom Thrall

State Council Delegate: Michael Williamson

Past President: Amy Klusmeier

## Meet the nominated new board members and officers

### Jim Hess

Jim has been a member of SWTU for 19 years, joining the chapter after moving to Madison to become the Executive Director of Monona Terrace Convention Center. After retiring in 2010, he focused his efforts on conservation issues, including volunteering at our workdays. He is currently the Chair of the Conservation Committee, planning and leading our workday activities, which he plans to continue doing with help from his committee members. He also has served as a SWTU Board Director from 2013 to 2019.

### Zach Olufs

Zach has been living in and fishing the Madison area since 2009. He joined SWTU in 2017 attracted by the stream restoration workdays. Since joining, he has attended most chapter meetings and stream workdays, participated in the fly tying classes and volunteered at the SWTU booth at the Wisconsin Fishing Expo. He has also taken the responsibility of monitoring an easement on East Branch Blue Mounds Creek as part of the Streamkeepers Program. Zach currently works in research for UW's Department of Anesthesiology and in his free time actively maintains an all-things-fishing social media presence on YouTube and Instagram under the 'brand' of *Olufs Waterview*.

### Henry Nehls-Lowe

Henry previously served on the SWTU board for 2000-02, and during his term led a chapter-sponsored stream improvement project of 1 mile of the West Branch of the Sugar River. For the past 14 years he has co-instructed the SWTU intermediate and advanced fly tying courses, and currently coordinates fly tier demonstrations at the SWTU Icebreaker. In 2017 Henry retired from 28 years in environmental public health with the State Department of Health Services.

## Michael Williamson

Michael first joined SWTU in 1980 and has been a member of TU ever since, either here in Wisconsin or his home state of North Carolina where he first started trout fishing in the Smokies. He has served on the SWTU Finance Committee for the past five years and has been active in Chapter events and workdays since moving back to the state in 2012. He has been a lifelong fisherman and outdoorsman and has focused on conservation issues in both states including his service as Deputy Secretary of the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources and as a board member for the Wisconsin Natural Resources Foundation. He retired in 2017 as Executive Director of the State of Wisconsin Investment Board.



## Remembering Dan Wisniewski

Conservation legend Dan Wisniewski [passed away from complications of heart failure](#) on April 16, 2020.

Earlier this year, the State Council of Trout Unlimited honored Dan's significant achievements with a Lifetime Achievement Award. It's the second such award ever granted – [read the article about Dan](#) to learn about some of his many accomplishments.

Dan made a real and lasting difference as a husband, father, friend, conservationist, fly tier and fishing partner. A celebration of his life will be held at a later date.

## New Place to Fish, Close to Home, and We Can Use Them

Dane County has opened a new easement on the Sugar River. SWTU helped obtain this one because the landowner attended our Verona dinner for Sugar River landowners and began negotiations with Sara Rigelman shortly thereafter.

The easement is on the Fisherdale Holstein Farm on STH 69 south of Paoli. It is the second while house and farm buildings on your right (west) as you drive south on 69). Access is on the southern property line where the landowner has removed a short section of fence allowing entry.

Enjoy! Special thanks to Sara, Dane County Executive, Dane County Board, and the Department of Land and Water Resources, the Sarbacker family (landowners) and Pat Hasburgh. Pat cooked and served the meal. His pulled pork is irresistible.

## Wisconsin Women's Fly Fishing Clinics

It is with great sadness that the organizational team that presents the annual Wisconsin Women's Fly-fishing Clinics has made the decision not to hold the Women clinics for 2020.

After ten successful years of hosting these events for hundreds of women, we have made this decision in alignment with our core values of safety and care for the environmental resource and each other. As you know, life for a trout is unique and fragile. As it turns out, so are our human lives. Our choice to cancel this event is for the protection of you and each other. We would have hosted over the course of five days, close to 100 students, river buddies and instructors – some of whom fall into vulnerable populations. The consequences could be significant if any one of us brought ill health to those living in southwest Wisconsin, to those through which we would travel, or back to our own communities.

We are particularly disappointed we will not be able to share your expertise and enthusiasm this year with our beginning fly fishing women. We can't wait until we can safely resume holding clinics. **Dates for 2021 are June 16-18, for the Women's on the Water Skills Clinic and June 18 -20 for the Basics Clinic. Please mark your calendars.**

Whether you have already seen this film or not, please go to <https://vimeo.com/325794212/50145f0cf9> to perhaps get pumped up and proud of all of our achievements in introducing women to fly-fishing. Be safe. We all want to be on the creeks soon – healthy and happy.

The Team that organizes the WI Women's Fly Fishing Clinics

Tina Murray, Pam Van Erem, Nikki Seger, Nome Buckman, Donna Smith, Geri Meyer, Val Hein, Erica Hickey, Marlene Houston, Kim Ferre, Amy Priestler

## A message from our Treasurer

Please [click on this link](#) to view our Chapter's Balance Sheet as of March 31, 2020 & 2019, the Statement of Activity for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2020 and the fiscal year 2021 Operating Budget.

The Chapter had an excellent year in F/Y 2020, generating over \$59,000 in revenue. This was due in large part to a successful 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fundraising Appeal and some very generous donations from individuals, company partners and foundations. In addition, our annual Icebreaker raised \$4,300 for the Chapter despite unfavorable weather conditions the day of the event. Expenses totaled \$35,019 resulting in a net surplus of just over \$24,000 for the year; a new record for the Chapter.

Please note that for fiscal year 2021, we are budgeting a net deficit of \$27,412. The main reason for this deficit is that we are planning to spend over \$28,000 on Stream Improvement Projects. In other words, we are spending the surplus gained in F/Y 2020, along with some of our reserves, to protect and restore trout streams in Southern Wisconsin and improve the fishing experience for anglers along these streams. Please see the [April edition of Newscasts](#) for a detailed list of planned projects and how these funds will be used. Program expenses and donations to other organizations are also expected to be higher in F/Y 2021.

Our Balance Sheet is stronger than ever with total assets of \$149,113 and no liabilities. We had over \$82,000 in cash on hand as of March 31, 2020 and \$66,788 in our Endowment Fund. Approximately \$50,000 (it changes daily) of the Endowment Fund is now being managed by the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin. Although the Fund took a hit in the first quarter of this year, as did most investment portfolios, we are confident that the funds are being managed effectively and will generate positive growth over the long term.

If you have any questions about the F/Y 2020 financial results or the F/Y 2021 Budget, please feel free to contact me at [Tparker23@charter.net](mailto:Tparker23@charter.net).

— Tom Parker

## 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.

## Welcome New Members

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

William Rolling	Justin Gasser	Jonathan Tupper
Richie Nelson	David Penwell	Paul Thurston
Kyle Buchmann	Cliff Englerth	Ron Mueller
John Quinn	Rick Heinritz	Bradley Johnson
Frank Meng	Martin Kral	Brian Knox
Joe Steffen	Gus Bock	D Kiesling
Roger Krueger	Rodney Nedlose	Dave Sands
John Sternad	Stephen Lavelle	David Soens
Sam Becker	Kevin Maes	Erick Olson
Robert Parks	Greg Hoyer	Arnoldo Lopez
Kurt Helker		

We are honored to have you among us. Please join us for a Chapter meeting in the fall, 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 Major Oliver Leach

*Editor's Note – The Covid-19 quarantine allows Maj. Oliver Leach, Rusty Dunn's friend and mentor, to write a long-promised column on Herbie Welch's famous feather-wing streamer, the Black Ghost.*

Most dedicated fly anglers would likely agree that the *Black Ghost* is one of the all-time best streamer flies. It was created by Herbert L. (Herbie) Welch, a legendary guide, artist, taxidermist, fly tier and caster from Lake Mooselookmeguntic, which is nestled in Maine's famous Rangeley Lakes region. Mr. Welch pioneered the use of long-shanked hooks for streamer flies, because he believed they more accurately imitated long-bodied smelt baitfish. He was a neighbor of many famous fly dressers, including the renowned Carrie Stevens, who in 1924 created what is possibly the most famous feather-wing streamer of all, the *Gray Ghost*.

Streamer flies are typically designed to imitate forage or bait fish, upon which larger fish, including trout, feed. The long hook shanks of classic streamers are wrapped with shiny and/or colored materials to imitate the medial and underbody of various forage fish. Wings are constructed of feathers or hair and tied slightly longer than the hook shank to simulate the translucent, undulating, swirling movements of the upper body, fins and tail of baitfish.

Fishing with dry flies originated in Macedonia as early as the 3<sup>rd</sup> century A.D., but the origins of streamers are uncertain. Alaskan explorers in the early 1800s described Inuit fishing with lures constructed of bone, feathers and hair. Such angling was probably practiced for millennia, but streamers as we know them became popular in eastern Canada and the northeastern US in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Both then and now, Maine is considered by many to be the center of streamer development, design,

innovation and artistry. Theodore Gordon, the "father of the American dry fly," is credited with first tying his famous *Bumblepuppy* streamer in 1880.

Mr. Welch likely developed the *Black Ghost* prior to 1920, but the fly made its public debut in the spring of 1927 at the Boston's Sportsmen's Show. Mr. Welch shared his pattern recipe with Nellie Newton, an exhibiting fly dresser with the Percy Tackle Company of Portland, Maine. Ms. Newton took a fancy to the *Black Ghost* and continued tying and promoting it both at the show and upon returning to Portland.

The Rangeley Lakes region has long been an historic summer destination for fly anglers throughout the Northeast. Anglers traveling north to the region often stopped at their favorite Maine tackle shops for supplies. Many met with custom fly dressers to order a batch of hot or favorite streamers or to direct the tying of a new pattern they recently conjured up. The Percy Tackle Company in Portland was one such popular stop, and in 1927 many anglers departed with a supply of *Black Ghost* streamers dressed personally by Ms. Newton. Stories soon poured forth from the Rangeley Lakes region about the remarkable *Black Ghost* streamer and its ability to catch sizable brook trout. Shortly thereafter, guides and anglers throughout the region duplicated and fished the pattern. News of the *Black Ghost* spread widely, and it soon was very popular across the US. Its widespread use demonstrated that the *Black Ghost* is effective not only for large brook trout but also for other trout, steelhead, salmon, and warm water species such as bass.

The *Black Ghost* is a less complicated pattern to tie than Carrie Steven's *Gray Ghost*, and it easily accepts substitute winging materials, such as bucktail or marabou. In his classic book *Streamer Fly Tying and Fishing* (1966), Joseph Bates notes that Herbie Welch highly recommended that wings of the *Black Ghost* be tied with saddle hackles, because such feathers "make a more streamlined fly and give better action in the water."

© Major Oliver Leach, 2020

## ----- Black Ghost -----

- Hook:** 4X to 6X-long, #2 to #10
- Thread:** 6/0 – black
- Tail:** Hackle fibers – yellow
- Rib:** Tinsel, flat medium – silver
- Body:** Silk or floss – black
- Throat:** Hackle fibers – yellow
- Wings:** Saddle hackles, four – white
- Cheeks:** Jungle cock



## 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 Reidl
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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