

# Newscasts

September 2020 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



## Watch for virtual meeting news Recordings and live virtual events in the works

We'll stay fish-ically (physically) distant but socially connected through a variety of virtual events we're developing for fall into winter. We of course hoped we'd be able to physically come together in some way, but that's not in the cards and so we're excited by some of the ideas and we're exploring to bring to you.



### Raise your virtual hand!

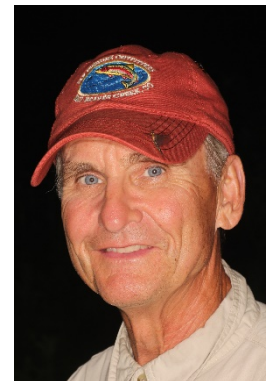
If you have any burning questions about the local watersheds, ecology initiatives or other outreach, please send them along to Topf Wells at [topfwells@gmail.com](mailto:topfwells@gmail.com) and we'll do our best to see they are addressed in an upcoming presentation.

Watch your email and we'll "see" you soon! You can also keep connected through our website, Facebook page and Instagram.

## Message from our new President

By Jim Hess

Please let me introduce myself. I have been a member of SWTU for 20 years, joining the chapter after moving to Madison in 2000 to be the director of Monona Terrace. Since retiring in 2010, I have focused my efforts on conservation issues, including volunteering at our workdays. I have been the Conservation Committee Chair for the last six years and really enjoy planning and organizing these events and getting to know everyone. I previously served on the SWTU Board from 2013 to 2019.



What a year this has been! Who would have thought that 2020 would be this way, needing to cancel chapter meetings and workdays? Your board and committee chairs are working hard to guide our chapter through these uncertain times. We correspond regularly by e-mail and our official meetings are conducted through conference calls and on-line platforms. We are staying in contact with county and state agencies on conservation issues and new easements, and pass along updates to our members through email, Facebook and Instagram.

I am working with other chapter presidents to create a new strategic plan for the national office. Some of the questions being addressed are:

1. What can the national organization do to strengthen the grassroots?
2. What can the grassroots do to help strengthen the national organization?
3. Are we a fishing club or a conservation organization? and
4. What are your ideas for attracting younger and more diverse members and supporters to our organization?

I look forward to meeting you at a future chapter meeting. We are in the process of planning some type of a virtual chapter meeting in the near future. Look for more information on this soon.

## Good news comes in twos

There are two huge wins for conservation you may have heard about from SWTU or on your local news that we don't remind repeating ... and hope you don't mind hearing about again.

### You asked – they listened – Dane County land purchase passed

We asked you to contact the Board of Supervisors about [Dane County's decision to buy 160 acres with 4,000 feet of double stream bank frontage on the Sugar River and Badger Mill Creek](#). Many of you did and we're pleased to note the purchase was APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY at their September 17 meeting. Thank you for making your voice heard. We know we'll have a lot more to share on this important purchase in the months and years to come.



### Easement extends protections on Black Earth Creek (BEC)

One of the most popular spots on BEC has been the South Valley Bridge. Drop in a twig and it can happily float downstream through miles of public water. But look upstream and you'll see a great stretch of water that has not had access ... **until now thanks to a new permanent DNR easement**. And if you keep going up, you'll now connect to more miles of public water ... all of it contiguous now. SWTU extends its most sincere thanks to Dan Oele of the DNR and the Statz family, owners of the land.

You may also recall that our June/July issue had a number of [articles](#) about [stream easements](#) and [informational resources about streams](#).

### 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.

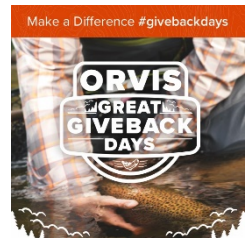
### Orvis Great Giveback Days

#### Do some good, get some goodies

Throughout September, when you donate \$10 via the Orvis Great Giveback Days, you'll get a \$10 Orvis Savings Card valid on any full-priced, in-store, or online apparel purchase!

Orvis is once again teaming up with TU's [Embrace A Stream program](#) to raise funds for river restoration projects across the country! Embrace A Stream is a grant program to fund local TU chapter conservation projects. Since 1975, it has funded more than 1,100 projects with more than \$4.75 million in grants.

It's easy to learn more and give: <https://www.orvis.com/great-giveback-days>



### See something? Say something.

You're out on a stream see something that doesn't look right. Maybe a feeder creek is throwing dark, cloudy water into the stream and, on top of that, there is a bad smell in the air. *What do you do?*

It's as simple as dialing the DNR at **1-800-943-0003** as soon as you possibly can. This number operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Damage from a spill or other event can happen quickly, which is why the DNR needs to know about it and get on site ASAP.

Program the number into your phone so you're ready in the unlikely event you stumble on something that doesn't look right while you're out exploring. It can make a real difference.

## Welcome New Members

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

Kathleen Falk	Tim Jacobson	Kimberly Walsh
James Bell	Jonathan Tupper	Harlan Englerth
Charles Brodell	Kyle Zempel	Laura Andrews
Josh Griffith	Beth Vereb	Patrick McCormick
Scott Bennett	Brian Fischer	Andrew Karczewski
Christian Schmid	Michael Funk	Mark Hein
Patrick Cervantes	Glenn Manke	Denise Traisman
Dalton Lybert	Dan O'Donnell	Duston Roberts
Aidan Schmitt	Christopher Brown	Dave Linster
Brian Blahnik	Matt Phillips	William Steinle
Nicholas Arquette	Sara Asher	Alex Bell
Dustin Murphy	Michael Niezgoda	Dennis Traugott
Skip Howard	Allen Dable	Grace Ravnikar
Ivan Rayment		

We are honored to have you among us. Please join our next meeting – whether virtual or in person – as we'd love to get to know you better. **If you will be attending your first meeting**, please contact [Topf Wells](#) so we can expect you.



### Follow SWTU on Instagram

Events, fish pictures, stream news and even a cool reptile encounter ... [SWTU's Instagram account](#) is a great place for interesting news, facts and photos. Many thanks to Board member Pat Hasburgh for his great work maintaining the account.

## Fountains of Youth

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

by Rusty Dunn

Emergence is a time of great peril for mayflies, as nymphs must ascend to the surface in full view of ever-watchful trout. Nymphs that survive the ascent accumulate just under the surface, where they molt and transition from the juvenile to adult stage. The nymph's thorax pierces the surface film, its skin splits, and the winged adult crawls atop the water, leaving an empty shuck behind. Adults then expand their wings, wait for them to dry, and fly off to the safety of streamside bushes. Hatching can take several minutes or more, and emergers are highly vulnerable to trout the whole time. The layer of water extending from the surface to a few inches below the surface is emerger country. Trout know it well, and so should you, for it is the most productive place to be during a hatch.

Trout sometimes feed recklessly on emergers, but more often they are maddeningly selective. Surface feeders will key on a fleeting and utterly elusive feature or stage of the emergence and reject anything less than a close match. Identifying the correct *stage du jour* is part of the challenge and reward of fishing emergers, but rejection is a way of life. You'll need an assortment of low-floating flies, quick fingers, and a sense of urgency, because the hatch could be over any minute. Finding the right emerger fly makes all the fly swapping worthwhile, because you'll catch fish after fish seemingly effortlessly. The thrill of victory is magnificent, but be prepared also for the agony of defeat. If your flies are not quite right, you will stand among rising fish, yet you will be fishless.

Parachute-style flies float low in the water and are especially good imitations of late-stage emergers. Parachute flies developed in the 1920s and were patented in 1931 as the 'Gyrofly' by William Brush. They

were not widely popular, however, until publication in 1971 of *Selective Trout* by Doug Swisher and Carl Richards. Their influential book emphasized the importance of imitating emergers and argued persuasively that low-floating flies are needed for the task. Their 'Paradun' dry flies are parachute patterns that imitate winged adult mayfly duns.

Dutchman Hans van Klinken developed in 1984 one of the all-time great parachute flies, the Klinkhåmer Special. A Klinkhåmer is a parachute fly tied on a curved-shank hook, such that the wing post and hackle float atop the water, the thorax rides flush in the film, and the abdomen and tail sink below the surface. Being partially submerged, Klinkhåmers imitate emergers at an earlier stage of hatching than do parachute duns tied on straight-shank hooks. Van Klinken developed the Klinkhåmer as a caddis imitation for Norwegian grayling but, with an added tail, it is an excellent mayfly imitation as well. The posture of Klinkhåmers on the water closely matches winged mayfly adults climbing from their nymphal shuck at the surface.

Match the sizes and colors of Klinkhåmers to the mayflies you encounter, and fish them dead drift over rising trout. Don't be misled by those great big wings! Most naturals are smaller than they appear, so capture one and have a close look at the size of its body. Be careful to treat only the wing post and hackle with floatant. The abdomen must be soaking wet, or it will not sink as intended. Any floatant on the abdomen – even from residue on your fingertips while tying on the fly – will cause a Klinkhåmer to flop over on its side, leading most assuredly to the agony of defeat.

A properly floating Klinkhåmer rides majestically downstream with its wing post upright and visible to the angler, while its abdomen hangs subsurface and is visible to trout. Hatching is a perilous time for mayflies, but it can be a time of plenty for anglers with a pocketful of emergers and a curve in their hook.

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### -----Klinkhåmer Special-----

Van Klinken's original imitates caddisflies and has neither a tail nor rib. When imitating mayflies, add a sparse tail of ginger or light brown sparkly nylon (to imitate a trailing shuck) and a rib of thread or fine wire.

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**Hook:** Light wire, curved, #12 - #20

**Thread:** 8/0, gray or tan (original) or color to match natural

**Wing Post** White poly yarn or sparkly nylon

**Abdomen:** Light tan dubbing (original) or color to match natural, slim and tapered

**Thorax:** Peacock herl (original) or dry fly dubbing to match natural

**Hackle:** Medium dun rooster

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## 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:

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State Council Rep.	Michael Williamson	<a href="mailto:mlwilliamson.53@gmail.com">mlwilliamson.53@gmail.com</a>
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