

# Newsfeeds



February 2021 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited

## Virtual meetings

By Topf Wells

Thanks, Nate – that is, Nate Nye, WI DNR fish biologist for Columbia and Sauk Counties.

Almost 400 SWTU members and friends have watched Nate Nye's presentation on the trout streams of the middle part of Columbia County. If you haven't yet, check it out at <https://youtu.be/NiQ4L-d9rSw>. When you do, you might discover some great places to fish and you'll also learn of some of Nate's discoveries. Pretty cool and heartening that Nate has found some new brook trout streams.

Nate put many hours into this presentation. He also notes that some of the trout streams need some serious help and some of the new ones need a closer look. To help with both and as an expression of thanks for his great work on this presentation and with the trout streams of Columbia and Sauk Counties, the Chapter has donated 5 new temperature loggers for Nate's work.

He's working to resolve some technical issues with another great presentation on the Bear Creek watershed.

## Coming up!

In several weeks we hope to have Sara Rigelman and Theresa Nelson of Dane County's Land and Water Resources Department present on this summer's restoration of Badger Mill Creek on County property in the City of Verona. Any stream restoration is complex but this stretch of stream has been channelized and bermed: it's wide, shallow, and surrounded by invasive vegetation and box elders; and the Ice Age Trail and a major sewer share the creek corridor. Sara and Theresa will discuss how they and their partners have dealt with these challenges to plan a productive restoration. SWTU has recognized the importance of this project with a \$5,000 donation.

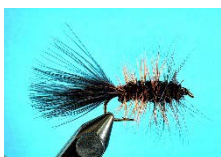
Again, stay tuned for the upcoming videos!

## SWTU Virtually Delivers It's Beginner Fly Tying Class

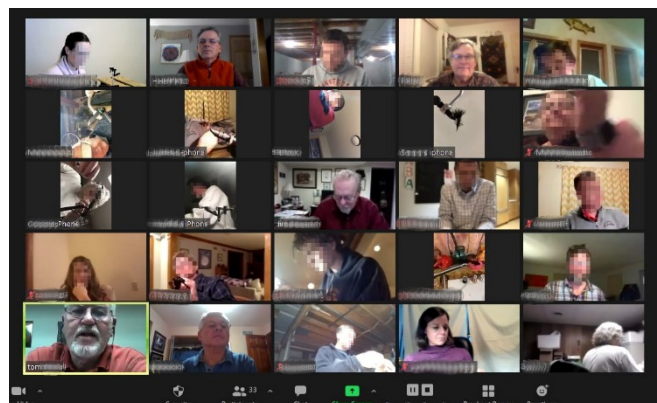
By Henry Nehls-Lowe

Winter fly tying classes became a chapter mainstay shortly after SWTU was founded in 1969. This year fly tying instructors are being creative and gaming up their technology and Zoom skills to provide a virtual, 8-week Beginner Fly Tying Course. The free online class successfully kicked off on Tuesday, February 9, with 20 eager students engaged in a socially fun 2-hours while tying Woolly Buggers.

Before the evening ended, they were already looking forward to next week's class. Each student received, at no cost, materials for tying 14 different flies, with a finished example of each fly, and the SWTU Beginner's Fly Tying Course booklet.



Class instructors and contributors include Jim Beecher, Angie Hendrickson, Jordan Konisky, Tom Thrall, Phil Anderson, Henry Nehls-Lowe, Bob Selk and Andy Morton.



## Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Youth Fishing Camp

August 19 – 22, 2021

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited will be holding their annual Youth Fishing Camp, Thursday, August 19 to Sunday, August 22, 2021 at Pine Lake Bible Camp in Waupaca, WI. Youth must be 12 – 16 years old. The purpose of the camp is to provide the student with an introductory education of as many things possible related to trout fishing, sportsmanship, and conservation issue.

Each Wisconsin Trout Unlimited chapter can sponsor one applicant to the camp. If some chapters can't find an applicant, other chapters can sponsor a second applicant if space is available.

It is up to the parent or guardian to arrange for transportation to and from the camp. They need to be there by 1pm on Thursday and camp ends at 1:30 pm on Sunday. Wisconsin Trout Unlimited will supply all need tackle and supplies

If you want to nominate a youth to attend this camp, please contact President Jim Hess ([jimhess5599@gmail.com](mailto:jimhess5599@gmail.com)) for an application.

## Spring 2021 Work Days

By Jim Hess

After a one-year hiatus, SWTU is planning to have work days again this Spring, a SWTU activity since 1968. Of course, this assumes that the current positive trends continue.

During April we will be planting oak trees along Black Earth, Kittleson, and German Valley Creeks, an activity that can divided up into small work groups with adequate spacing. We will be assisting the DNR with their tree planting on Black Earth Creek, and planting 60 trees for the County along Kittleson and German Valley Creeks.

Because of the uncertainty of the arrival of the trees from the nurseries, we will keep all of April open for the plantings, and then have regular work days in May and June. That will hopefully give time for many us to get our shots. In any event, we plan to follow State, County, CDC, and national Trout Unlimited guidelines, including wearing masks, 6-foot distancing as much as possible, riding in own vehicle by yourself or with family members, and no sharing of treats. More details on dates and locations will follow.



## Recommended Reading

By Henry Nehls-Lowe

Check out this [excellent post about Wisconsin's Inland Waters Trout Stamp \(IWTS\) program](#) from Jason Freund on his *The Scientific Fly Angler* forum.

## Inside, Thinking of the New Season

By Topf Wells

I'm looking forward to fishing again, although I'm not hardy enough to have been out yet. With much colder weather here, our activities might be limited to indoor preparation. For those of us who tie flies, now is the perfect time to do so or, with the announcement of SWTU's online classes, to learn how.

For those of us who don't, here are a couple of suggestions for re-examining and re-organizing the dozens or hundreds or thousands of flies we already have. Hint: never tell your non-fishing spouse how many flies you have.

Reflecting on last year is a good place to start. On a windy, late summer, mid-afternoon trip to a very popular, very close local trout stream, I found one of the hatch(es) of the year. Throughout a large, wide riffle, dozens of very small, yellowish flies were coming off, for hours, believe it or not. I could not tell if they were tiny mayflies, caddis, or midges or some combination. Trout were feeding at a dozen or so places in the riffle. Many were small trout but not all. I tried many small flies, caught



a few fish, and lost a nice one but I knew I did not have the right fly. Nothing matched the color nor the way the bug skittered about on the surface. Oh to have had the right fly.

As I was looking through too many flies and fly boxes a couple of weeks ago, I discovered I had the right fly, 7 of them in fact. I had bought them at a TU event years ago; having not found an occasion to use them, they were on one of my fishing shelves in the basement.

No more, I'm now ready for that hatch or whatever come August, 2021. The point being, it's worth reviewing your fishing notes or taking a stroll down memory lane as you prepare your flies for this season. And look at all of the flies.

When you look at those flies, you might run across something like the 6 scuds I bought at another TU event. These presented a problem. I'm way too sentimental. If someone gives me a fly or I buy them at some TU event, I feel a connection to them. I can't just not use them or throw them away. (I could, of course, re-gift them to some unsuspecting angler but that doesn't seem right either). In this case, I have never used the flies. The bodies seemed way too bulky and took up too much of the hook gap. I recognized, though, with just a bit of work with some small needle-nosed pliers and Sally's best scissors, I could rehabilitate these scuds. I'm sure she'll never notice. It's worth looking over your flies to see if some similar, modest modifications might make some more effective.

Stay warm, stay healthy, and fish when you can!

### **Stuff ... So Much Stuff**

Our members and their families have been extremely generous over the last 15 months or so in donating items to the Chapter. Usually their wish is for us to sell the fishing gear and use the proceeds to fund the SWTU's good works. COVID has led to the cancellation of two Meicher March Madness Auctions and the 2021 Icebreaker. Our cup, cupboards, storage unit, and Board Members' garages and basements runneth over. We're planning the 2022 Icebreaker but the Board has been debating how best to handle all the items. We have lots of rods, reels, flies, and some other gear. They range in quality from very good to excellent.

We hope to have some sort of in-person celebration later this year when it's safe to do so, at which we could auction or raffle off some of these items. Other options are selling or auctioning some online. The Board also discusses to what extent SWTU members should have the first opportunity to buy this gear if we go online.

If you have any advice or an opinion on these questions, please feel free to contact any Officer or Board Member (contact info is always included on the last page of the Newsletter). Thanks!



### **Thanks for Your Generosity!**

Our year-end endowment appeal brought in \$2,975 that will make a difference for our cold water resource. Thank you to all who were able to respond.

### **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](#).

### **Click. Order. Give. With Amazon Smile**

Amazon Smile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice. [Set "Trout Unlimited" with the Madison location as your charity](#) and you will be giving to the SWTU with every purchase. It adds up over time, and **the Chapter has already received \$433 through this program!**



## Welcome New Members

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

Randall Amacci	Jacqueline Van Dyke	Bill Haessig
Kathryn Fitzgerald	Daniel Pherson	Joe Stoll
Jacob Swanson	Mark Swartz	Logan Prichard
Amber Zuhlke	Marci Birkes-Geffert	Joe Bevington
Fedor Bulat	Deborah Muresan	Bonnie McMullin-Lawton
Carl Plath	Stephen Lavelle	Tekoni Maughan
Fred Simani	Joseph Marik	Tracy Bachhuber
Hannah Tarrant	Scott Perkins	

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. (Note that some longer-term members may be captured in the list above. A glitch in the excel file made it harder to sort ... but it's better to be inclusive and we're happy to have your continued support!)



## Fountains of Youth

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

by Rusty Dunn

Ask historically minded fly anglers where the methods and traditions of fly fishing in America originated, and most will probably reply the Catskill Mountains of New York state. The Catskills were the cradle of American fly angling, but an often overlooked area of eastern Pennsylvania would rightfully be called the birthplace. Before the Catskills were famous for trout, leading American fly anglers fished the streams of eastern Pennsylvania's Pocono Mountains near the village of Henryville. Theodore Gordon, the Catskill angling legend, was but a babe-in-arms when Henryville's Brodhead Creek and its tributaries were the place to be for American trout fishing. Limestone spring creeks of "The Brodheads" held abundant native brook trout and attracted large numbers of eastern fly anglers in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. Henryville was then the center of high profile fly fishing in America.

Merchant Arthur Henry, after whose family the town of Henryville is named, established in 1836 a hotel and trading center on Paradise Creek, a tributary of Brodhead Creek. Word of the area's great angling spread and, in 1848, the hotel was expanded and renamed 'Henryville House'. An expanding rail system gave ready access to The Brodheads from the east, and noted journalists of New York City and Philadelphia wrote of the area's abundance. Thaddeus Norris, arguably the earliest of America's great angling authors, wrote glowingly about the area's trout fishing in his 1864 book *The American Angler's Book*. Future, current, and former American Presidents stayed at Henryville House and sampled its fine angling. 'Buffalo Bill' Cody, Annie Oakley, and a long list of visiting luminaries added to the buzz. Meanwhile, Samuel Phillippe of nearby Easton, PA perfected in the 1870s the first six-sided split bamboo fly rods on the Brodheads. Hen-

ryville House and its surrounding creeks were America's best known fly fishing destination, earning the endearing name of 'Paradise Valley'. Henryville House survived for well over a century and was the oldest trout fishing hotel in America when it closed in 1984.

Sadly, paradise was short-lived. Years of abuse by farming and logging left a late-1800s trout fishery in serious decline. Water temperatures increased, and brook trout decreased to near zero, being replaced by hatchery-bred browns. Many formerly public waters were turned into private clubs. The great trout fishing of the area had become ordinary, and fly anglers abandoned Henryville for better rivers to the north, in particular the Catskills. The exodus of fly anglers from the Poconos fueled ascension of the Catskills as America's major center of fly angling development.

The glory of Henryville's trout fishing may have faded, but one of its truly fine caddisfly imitations continues today. The 'Henryville Special' was designed around 1920 by Hiram Brobst, a lifelong angler from nearby Palmerton, PA. He designed the fly to imitate caddisflies in swift water, but inspiration came from an unidentified old English fly tying book. The fly was nameless in the book, and Brobst simply called his fly the "No Name", but several years later it became known as the "Henryville Special". Brobst first tied the fly with a body of red silk floss, but olive-green floss or dubbing eventually became the most popular version.

The Henryville Special is an excellent general attractor dry fly, and it is especially effective when caddisflies are on the wing. It is an impressionistic pattern, one whose palmered body hackle suggests motion even when the fly is dead drifted. The fly rides high, with both body and wings well above the surface. It is an excellent fly for twitching or skittering to imitate egg-laying caddis. Show a Henryville Special to a trout near you during caddis season, and you might just rekindle some of Henryville's former glory.

© Rusty Dunn, 2021

### ----- Henryville Special -----

Hiram Brobst tied the Henryville Special to imitate caddis on turbulent waters, hence his use of a palmered body hackle for good floatation. The Henryville Special is an excellent imitation of egg-laying caddisflies.

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**Hook:** Dry fly, #14 - #20

**Thread:** Gray, 8/0.

**Body:** Olive-green floss or dubbing.

**Body Hackle:** Grizzly, undersized; length no longer than hook point.

**Underwing:** Wood duck flank

**Overwing:** Matched mallard quill slips; tips upward, tied tent style over the back with the curvature flaring outward

**Head Hackle:** Dark ginger.

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## Stay Connected



Know what's happening by connecting to our [Chapter Calendar!](#)



[SWTU's Instagram account](#) is a great place for interesting news, facts and photos.



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	Jim Hess	<a href="mailto:jimhess5599@gmail.com">jimhess5599@gmail.com</a>
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