

Newscasts

April 2021 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



Dig In – Our First Workday of 2021

By Jim Hess, Conservation Chair

Join us **Saturday, April 10**, for our first workday in over a year. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone again. But we still have C-19 issues to deal with. Many of us have already received our shots, but we need to follow Dane County and CDC protocols. Per Dane County protocols, everyone is encouraged to wear a mask. If you forget to bring one and want to wear a mask, extras will be available. Bring your own water and snacks; we will not have a common break area for refreshments. When signing in, we will ask for your email just in the unlikely chance we will need it for contact tracing.

Bring your own shovels – if you need to use someone else's shovel we will have disinfectant available. If you don't have a shovel, no problem there will be plenty of other work to do.

What: We will be helping the DNR to plant about 150 trees along the south side of Black Earth Creek, just west of Cross Plains on County Rd. KP. We will break out into small teams, so you should be able to stay socially distanced. The holes for the trees will be pre-drilled, but we will need shovels to fill in the holes.

Start Time: 8:30 am or whenever you can make it. The event will take place Rain or Shine, the trees need to get into the ground!

Location: Take KP west out of Cross Plains 3/4 of a mile (if you pass Garfoot Creek you have gone too far). We will be planting in the DNR easement along Black Earth Creek on the north side of KP. Only park on the north side of the road, as KP is a fairly busy road. Just look for some vehicles in the easement area.

What to Bring: Shovels and work gloves, sturdy footwear, eye protection, your own water and snacks. And did I say bring your shovels?

Parking: Park along Cty Rd KP on the north side of the road only.

Future workday plans

Saturday, April 23 (and maybe Sunday April 24) – SWTU tree planting on the German Valley Branch along Dane County Rd E and replacing the dead trees from our last planting along the Kittleson Creek along Dane County Rd H. Hoping to have the holes pre-drilled (Details to follow)

Saturday, May 22 and June 5 – Clearing invasive woodies East Branch of the Pecatonica River along Iowa County Rd K, south of Barneveld (Details to follow).

Saturday, May 8 and June 19 – Clearing invasive woodies and clearing the stream - Mt Vernon Creek (Details to follow).

Watch the New Video on Badger Mill Creek Restoration

Many thanks to two tremendous Dane County employees – Sara Rogleman, Park Property Planner, and Theresa Nelson, Stormwater Engineer -- for an interesting and educational [video on Badger Mill Creek in Verona](#). They provide valuable background and history ... and talk about the project goals and techniques. You'll see where we are today and a peak at what the future brings. This is a valuable look at this important tributary of the Sugar River.

We again thank Sara and Theresa for taking the time to provide our members and all nature lovers with this terrific content.



Virtually attend the Spring Wisconsin Conservation Congress

By Topf Wells

Please consider participating in the Spring Wisconsin Conservation Congress hearings that begin on April 12 at 7 p.m. and stays open for 72 hours. Visit <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/about/wcc/springhearing> to view the DNR information on the questions the hearings will consider. There are four categories with questions and you will need to open each one.

Because of COVID, the hearings will be on-line, with no in-person sessions. While this eliminates the discussion among attendees, it makes participation extremely convenient.

The first set of questions concern proposed DNR wildlife and fish regulations the agency is proposing to implement in the near future. If you have strong opinions about any of these you should register your opinion. Several trout questions concern regulation on NE WI trout streams and opening more streams in the central part of the state for the early catch and release season. Possibly of most concern to SWTU members are two proposals to eliminate catch and release fishing on two popular stretches of Mill and Willow Creeks in Richland Counties.

The rest of the questions advise the Conservation Congress and DNR Board on a variety of broader policy issues.

MATS Map is Back! (MATS = Madison Area Trout Streams)

Our beloved MATS map had seen over 30,000 views in the 18 months it existed when suddenly the fine folks at Google deleted it. No reason. No explanation. The MATS map was gone. SWTU member Pat Hasburgh had spent over 400 hours developing the map and was crestfallen at the discovery. He spent hours on the phone with Google tech support and pored over countless online help forums in an effort to solve the problem but to no avail. The map was gone. The one last hope for the MATS map was that someone had copied the information so the map could be used offline. A call was put out to membership but as the weeks went on with no leads, things were looking grim. That is until our very own **Tina Murray** emerged with a copy of the map info saved on her computer and [the MATS map has been restored!](#) A very small amount of data was lost but will be added back in soon enough.



HUGE thanks to Tina for saving this wonderful resource for our club and the fishing community as a whole. We owe you one, Tina!

Wisconsin Women's Fly Fishing Clinics Update for 2021

By Tina Murray & Team

The leadership team of the WI Women's Fly Fishing Clinics has discussed extensively which of the clinics we can offer safely given the structures of the clinics, where we currently are now with Covid numbers, best practices, changing landscapes, Vaccinations and all the other aspects that make our heads spin.

We have collectively determined that we can safely (following best practices and adapting our activities) hold the WOWSC-intermediate clinic where 90% of the teaching and learning occurs outdoors. By asking people to be vaccinated and following CDC best practices we feel it is safely doable with these considerations.



Sadly, we realize that it would be impossible to hold the beginners clinics this year in a safe manner. The beginners clinics specifically is designed to offer personalized instruction in a framework that would be very difficult to adapt given the facilities and activities. We do not feel that the teaching would be effective, nor that the participant would get the value of a typical clinic due to the constraints that would be imposed. For the Basics 90% of the instruction is intensive and it would be difficult to follow best practices or maintain safety to a high degree. Above all else the instructors are committed to keeping everyone safe and are very disappointed in not being able to offer participants the full experience or value the clinics are known for.

We have polled the Clinic Instructors and the WOWSC-I guides and they resoundingly indicated they feel confident and will commit to the WOWSC-I Clinic – taking women out on the water skills clinic June 16th and 17th, 2021 and follow all the required procedures to keep everyone safe.

However, given that the landscape continues to shift on us the Wisconsin Women's Clinics will reserve the right to cancel all the clinics entirely if our states numbers are not in decline, the weather throws us a curve ball not allowing us to use the outdoors or for any reason unforeseeable at this writing. If we were to cancel, we would do so between June 1 – 3rd leaving people more than 2 weeks notice.

Additionally, we realize that Covid has offered us an opportunity to spend more intentional teaching time with our River-buddies. These are the women who come to the clinics to support the beginners. Each year we offer a training session and each year there are more requests for training and teaching opportunities in the clinic. During the clinics we are short on time and never really get to indepth training for the river-buddies. This year we are creating an intensive Riverbuddy Leadership Institute. The current Women's clinics instructors will share their teaching strategies and the river-buddies will be offered opportunities to practice teaching using these strategies and building their own skills and confidence. They will receive feedback from the other riverbuddies and instructors and work on becoming comfortable teaching in their chosen areas. Those who participate will leave with a certificate of completion and be invited to teach at the 2022 Basics Clinics. The instructors will be standing back to allow the Riverbuddies the space to grow their abilities knowing they have the support of experts should they need it. The clinics always strive to build both confidence and competence in all who participate; this is the next step to creating a strong team of capable women instructors across the state. The ripple effect of our clinics have already paid off in many communities by having women step up to leadership roles. This leadership institute is an exciting next step for the clinics and the benefits boundless.

Though we are very disappointed about not offering the basics in 2021, we are maximizing the gift of time the pandemic offers and improving our program, investing in our teaching staff and planning program improvements for the future! This evolution for the clinics and the up and coming river-buddies to begin the process of becoming instructors is very exciting and will ensure the sustainability of the clinics. Great programs generate new leaders by investing in others abilities. This ensures longevity of program independent of one or a few individuals and promotes passion and future continuation.

Thank you to everyone who makes these clinics an amazing experience that adds values to many people's lives.

Here is a short video on the clinics for all to enjoy. It won first place at the 2019 Greatwaters Fly Fishing Expo film festival in Minnesota <https://vimeo.com/325794212/50145f0cf9> Check here for the 2022 Clinics. <https://www.swtu.org/learn/womens-flyfishing-clinic/>

Please contact Tom Thrall if interested in helping teach women during the clinics. tpthrall@gmail.com or 608.219.4249

An Invite from the South Central Wisconsin Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area

On Thursday, April 22, the South Central Wisconsin Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area is hosting its official launch meeting! We have invited Chris Gaetzke, the Executive Director of the [Lower Chippewa Invasives Partnership](#), to speak on the successes and the missteps that his organization experienced in their start-up phase. We would love to have organizations or individuals interested in this CISMA – at any level of participation – join us for this conversation! You can learn more on our [website](#), or register [here](#).

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!

Alan Backus	Tim Veedahl	Andrew Rice
Joe Hollinger	Steven Hurst	Markus Eyre
Eric Buzza	James Hertel	David Plumer
Robert Rader	Jon Fritz	Jack Halzen
Keith Helmer	Richard Kobus	Dylan Blake
Jonathan Restivo	Carl Johnson	Emily Dean
Scott Jones	Pat Foersterling	Thomas Brennecke
Randy Brice	Robert Chase	Kevin Koch
Herbert Hannam	Dennis Powell	Harvey Berndt
Cliff Doucette	Todd Klein	Richard Nelson
James Russell	Gregory Starn	Colin Myhro
Cory Neider	Joseph Ritchart	Chris Crase
Thomas Strege	Sean Quinn	Steven Schroeder
Kevin Keyes	Craig Schmidt	Beau Gueths
Sam Cipriano	Zach Lindfors	Gene Hogoboom

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

Some things turn out better when done in pairs. Lewis & Clark, Lennon & McCartney, Romeo & Juliet, Fred & Ginger, Batman & Robin, etc. The list is long. But where would each of these celebrities be without a creative partner? Probably a lot less famous. Fly fishing is inherently a solitary endeavor, and this is reflected in book authorship. Groundbreaking angling books written by pairs of authors are rare. Among the few examples are *The Compleat Angler* (1676) by Walton & Cotton, *Brook and River Trouting* (1916) by Edmonds & Lee, *Selective Trout* (1971) by Swisher & Richards, and *The Art of Tying the Wet Fly and Fishing the Flymph* (1971) by Leisenring and Hidy.

"Big Jim" Leisenring was a self-taught fly angler from Allentown, PA whose knowledge of insects, their imitation, and trout behavior was legendary. Leisenring's 1941 book *The Art of Tying the Wet Fly* described his unique methods of tying wingless wet flies with spun fur bodies. Unfortunately, the book had little impact, for it was published amid the turmoil of World War II. A later expanded edition in 1971 was coauthored with Vernon "Pete" Hidy (*The Art of Tying the Wet Fly and Fishing the Flymph*) and is a landmark in American angling history. The book resulted from a chance encounter between Pete Hidy and Jim Leisenring along Pennsylvania's Brodhead Creek in the mid-1930s. This fortunate meeting led to a remarkable friendship and professional collaboration. Leisenring was an expert veteran; Hidy an inquisitive but dedicated and serious student of fly fishing. Leisenring admired and respected Hidy, whom he mentored both on fly tying and on effective presentation. Hidy excelled under Leisenring's tutelage and, in time, became an outstanding and creative angler and fly tyer in his own right.

Pete Hidy was responsible for bringing *The Art of Tying the Wet Fly* to print. Hidy repeatedly urged Leisenring to write a book about his unique methods of fly tying and presentation. The Leisenring Lift, for example, was

known only to Jim's friends. But Leisenring was an inexperienced and reluctant author. He resisted Hidy's persuasion for years, reluctantly agreeing when Hidy volunteered to edit the book. Leisenring wrote passages in longhand, which Hidy typed, organized, illustrated, and edited into final manuscript form. The title page includes "As told to V.S. HIDY" in recognition of his important contributions. Interest in Leisenring's methods and patterns grew over time, and the highly acclaimed 1971 edition was coauthored with Hidy (*The Art of Tying the Wet Fly and Fishing the Flymph*) and published 20 years after Leisenring's death. Leisenring's text is unchanged in the 1971 edition, to which Hidy added a section on how to fish wingless wets. The 1971 edition revitalized American interest in wingless wet flies at a time when wet fly fishing was in decline due to increased popularity of dry flies.

Pete Hidy believed in 1971 that a new term ("flymph") was needed to describe flies that imitate the untidy transition of aquatic nymphs to winged aerial adults at or near the stream surface. The term is a merger of the words "fly" and "nymph". A flymph is not a fly, because it has no wings. It is not a nymph, because it is tied on an unweighted hook and fished near the surface. As described by Hidy, a flymph is...

"a wingless artificial fly with a soft, translucent body of fur or wool which blends with the undercolor of the tying silk when wet, utilizing soft hackle fibers easily activated by the currents to give the effect of an insect alive in the water, and strategically cast diagonally upstream or across for the trout to take just below or within a few inches of the surface film."

The term "flymph" never caught on, and today we typically call such flies soft-hackled emergers. Regardless of the terminology, Leisenring's & Hidy's flies and methods of presentation are modern day classics. They are similar to those of the British North Country style, but adapted and modified for streams of differing character and insects of differing species. We should all be grateful to Jim Leisenring for his genius and to Pete Hidy's preservation of that genius for posterity.

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----- Honey Dun Flymph -----

The Honey Dun Flymph was one of Pete Hidy's favorite flies. Others include a Partridge & Hare's Ear Flymph, a Blue Dun Flymph, and an Iron Blue Wingless (a pattern of G.E.M. Skues).

Hook: Light wire wet fly, #12 - #16

Thread: Pearsall's Gossamer silk, color ash (#10)

Body: Fur of a hare's poll spun between two strands of waxed tying silk

Ribbing: Fine gold wire

Hackle: Honey dun hen, two turns



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

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