

Newscasts

May 2021 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



Who's got workdays? We've got workdays! Event reports and photos – many thanks to all who turned out

April 10 along Black Earth Creek

Topf Wells tells the story ...

Jim Hess organized and led a wonderful return to workdays with the most able assistance of Dan Oele and Vince Schmitz.

The goal was to plant a selection of native hardwoods and shrubs on the east bank of Dan's Black Earth Creek restoration of two years ago on a DNR property surrounding BEC upstream and fairly close to the confluence of Garfoot Creek. The property is most easily accessed from a marked corridor on CTH KP.

The trees will provide shade to the creek and a bounty of terrestrial insects to the waiting trout. And birds and other creatures will enjoy them too. Aesthetically, the area will improve and fishing will be more comfortable and productive during the summer months. *Please note:* this is not an easement but a small DNR holding. That means it's open for hiking, birding, foraging, and hunting as well as fishing. It's one of the poster children illustrating why the DNR and Dane County should be permitted and encouraged to buy small parcels of land along trout streams.

Back to the work: Dan and Vince had the holes pre-dug, which turned out to surpass helpful and became essential. The trees, from the DNR's Boscobel Nursery, another thanks to Dan, were large with well developed roots. Had we had to dig all those holes, we'd still be there. As it was, a lot of the holes had to be enlarged, which gave many of us another reason to hate reed canary grass as we dug through that sod. We also confronted the central mystery of planting: when you shovel the dirt back, why is there never quite enough? Where did it all go? Is some translated to Dirt Heaven?

About 20 great volunteers surmounted all these difficulties and had all 188 trees planted in 2.5 hours. Some workday veterans returned and were joined by some wonderful newcomers. Everyone was happy to be out and around other people. All the participants were conscientious in observing all the COVID protocols. While the ensuing rain might have spoiled some fishing trips this weekend, a consoling thought is the rain is exactly what the newly planted trees need.

A final note of thanks to Dan: While this was the perfect time to plant the trees in terms of the time of year and availability from the nursery, it came as Dan is running double shifts for his lake surveys. He always works hard for our fisheries but never more so than this time of year.

April 24 Tree Planting

Jim Beecher's photos tell the story ...





[See the rest of Jim's online album from the event](#) ... including a sharper view of the Sandhill Crane.

Ed note. Boy did it do the heart good to see some event photos from Jim after such a long spell! He has quite a talent.

May 8 on Mount Vernon

Brief writeup and photos by Jim Hess ...

We had 27 people at the workday, including 12 scouts from Troop 104, located on the west side of Madison at Midvale Lutheran on Tokay Blvd. Cool pictures of the Scouts winning at tug-of-war with a large tree limb.



And don't miss out! [Be there for our Saturday, May 22 workday.](#)

More Stream Restoration Thanks to State TU's Friends Grant Program

By Topf Wells

Stop the presses! As the newsletter was in its final stage, the State Council's Friends Grant program informed SWTU that we are receiving the \$2,000 grant request for a major restoration on Hefty Creek in Green County this summer. With our cash match and a very generous member donation for a stream restoration project, **SWTU will contribute \$14,000 to the DNR's project.** This means that a very large, three phase restoration will – weather permitting – be completed this year.

Hefty Creek is a Class 2 stream with miles of easements. The DNR is confident that this project will significantly improve habitat, fishability, and trout populations and boost the effort to make several trout streams in that area more accessible with much better habitat.

Huge thanks to State Council and the Friends Grant program.

A Message From our Treasurer

By Tom Parker

Please [click on this link](#) to view our Chapter's Balance Sheet as of March 31, 2021 & 2020, the Statement of Activity for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2021 and the fiscal year 2022 Operating Budget.

The Chapter experienced a very unusual year in F/Y 2021 in terms of our financial results. The COVID-19 pandemic forced us to cancel our two major fundraising events; the Ice Breaker and the Meicher Auction, as well as the Women's Clinics. As a result, our revenues were down \$35,240 as compared to prior year. On a positive note, however, we did receive some very generous donations from individuals, company partners and foundations resulting in total Chapter income of \$23,793. Expenses were also down for the year due to the pandemic at \$36,923 resulting in a net deficit of \$13,130 which compares favorably to our budgeted deficit of \$26,596.



Please note that for fiscal year 2022, we are budgeting a net deficit of \$12,070. The main reason for this deficit is that we are planning to spend over \$20,000 on Stream Improvement Projects to protect and restore trout streams in Southern Wisconsin and improve the fishing experience for anglers along these streams. We also fully anticipate that our fundraising events, outreach events and Women's Clinics will resume in FY 2022.

Our Balance Sheet is stronger than ever with total assets of \$152,765 and no liabilities. We had over \$69,000 in cash on hand as of March 31, 2021 and \$83,586 in our Endowment Fund. The Endowment Fund is now being managed by the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin. Although the Fund took a hit during the depths of the pandemic, as did most investment portfolios, it has rebounded nicely. 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 2021 financial results or the F/Y 2022 Budget, please feel free to contact me at Tparker23@charter.net.

Thank you for placing your trust and confidence in me as your Treasurer these past five years. It has been my pleasure to serve our Chapter in this role.

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.



Remembering Clint Byrnes

Clint has been a great leader in Wisconsin TU for decades. For many years he was a mainstay of SWTU and then led the creation of the Aldo Leopold Chapter. He served in many leadership roles and supported every aspect of TU's conservation and educational work. He was a famous artisan and many anglers have his hand-crafted nets as their more cherished fishing gear. He was incredibly generous in donating these nets to raise funds for many TU and other conservation causes.

Clint was passionate, talkative, respectful and friendly. He was the life of many a TU meeting or conversation.

[The obituary](#) reminds us that he was an incredibly dedicated high school teacher, who provided a wide range of educational and recreational experiences for the generations of students he taught.

Even after the creation of the Aldo Leopold Chapter he often attended our meetings, including the Meicher March Madness Auction (to which he always donated a net). I think in some ways he and Larry were kindred spirits. Clint along with several of his peers created a wonderful foundation for WI TU and several stalwart chapters.

Welcome New Members

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

Mike Carlson	Richard Pladziewicz	Tom Meinel
Luke Specketer	Kyle Harnack	Tori Price
Pete Olsen	William Summers	Mike Ash
Daniel Bennett	Tom Cramer	Terrence Doeler
Maggie Noffke	Lynn Replogle	Alwyn Fitzgerald
John Monfre	Robert Rancourt	Paul Zoske
Timothy O'Connor	John Amundson	Richard Hanan
Neil Kruschek	James Larson	Steven Manthe
William Michaelis	Barry Vredembregt	Britton Reynolds
Tim Slavens	Geoffrey Brown	Robert Smail
Charles Thompson	Derek Schipper	Daniel Lienau
Greg Galle	Samuel Desens	Loren Ziglin
Steven Briski	Jon Parker	

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!)

A Legend Passes

Leigh H. Perkins, who purchased The Orvis Company in 1965, passed away at the age of 93 on May 7, 2021. His [obituary in Fly Fisherman](#) details quite a life for a man who made quite a difference for trout and the cold water resource.

Wisconsin Women's Fly Fishing Clinics Update for 2021

By Tina Murray & Team (repeated from last issue but great info and wanted to make sure everyone saw it)

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

Fountains of Youth

A look at classic flies that have withstood the test of time ... flies that remain "forever young"

by Rusty Dunn

The Pyramids of Giza. The Colosseum of Rome. The Taj Mahal of India. All are among the world's great cultural monuments. They are landmarks of human achievement. If you'd like to visit a landmark of fly fishing achievement, just walk in the door at 209 West Park Street, Livingston, Montana and look around. You'll be in Dan Bailey's Fly Shop, where the "Wall of Fame" is an awe-inspiring monument to the culture of western trout fishing. The wall chronicles prosperous times in the mid-20th century when it was OK – even encouraged – to whack a four pound trout solely for the purpose of public admiration. Dan Bailey's Wall of Fame is a shrine to western fly fishing, a required stop on pilgrimages to trout country, and a vivid reminder of "the good old days".

Dan Bailey (1904-1982) lived and worked in New York City before becoming a fly fishing luminary. He was an avid fly tyer and angler who explored famous trout rivers of the East in the 1930s. He and his wife Helen honeymooned in the Yellowstone area in 1936 and were astonished by Montana's angling riches. Two years later, the Baileys quit their New York jobs and moved to Livingston, where they opened a small shop in the Albemarle Hotel selling flies tied by Dan and tackle to go with them. The first mail-order catalog appeared in 1941. The shop survived the lean years of WWII but expanded during the post-war boom in outdoor recreation. Prominent national magazines popularized Montana fly fishing, and Bailey's fly business increased rapidly. The fly shop moved in the 1950s to its current location, where dozens of local fly tyers cranked out the needed inventory. By the mid-1970s, Bailey's shop produced over 750,000 flies per year. He was the largest fly manufacturer in the country and commented, "*I didn't intend for the business to get this big. I just wanted to go fishing.*"

Bailey renewed in his Livingston fly shop a tradition that had begun in New York, where he and friends traced the outlines of notably large trout on the wallpaper of a family fishing cabin. The tracings became a historical record of good times, great fish, and cherished friends. Bailey transplanted the tradition to Montana and set four pounds as the minimal size for a sufficiently braggable trout. The first Montana wall fish was a 4 lb. 8 oz. brown caught by Gil Meloche on August 5th, 1938 on Armstrong Spring Creek. Wall fish accumulated steadily over time and, for each, Bailey recorded the angler's name, an ink outline on paper of the actual fish, its measured weight, the river, the date, and the fly used. That information was then painted on individual, life-sized, wood plaques that now adorn the fly shop walls. The plaques read like a Who's Who of American fly fishing. The practice was discontinued in the 1980s when catch-and-release became popular, topping out at 364 plaques collected over 40+ years.

The greatest number of wall fish (42%) were caught on streamers, and one of the most successful streamers on the wall is a Marabou Muddler, which was designed by Bailey to imitate river minnows. He described his own contributions to fly tying as mainly being the modification of existing fly patterns for big western rivers. The Marabou Muddler is a perfect example. Don Gapen tied the original Muddler Minnow in the 1950s for large brook trout in Canada. Bailey changed the body material, replaced the wing of turkey feather with soft marabou, and trimmed the spun deer hair to form a prominent head. The result was a Muddler variation that found worldwide success with both cold and warm water species of fish.

Many a western trout punched its ticket to immortality on Dan Bailey's Wall of Fame with a Marabou Muddler. Try one on your next pilgrimage to the Holy Land. You won't find immortality, but you may feel a sense of cultural achievement just like the ancients.

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----- Marabou Muddler -----

The wing of a Marabou Muddler can be tied in any color, but Dan Bailey preferred white.

Hook: 3XL or 4XL streamer, #4 - #10

Thread: White or gray flat nylon, size A

Tail: Bright red bucktail or hackle fibers

Body: Gold or silver tinsel chenille

Wing: White marabou, tied full; length ~1.5 times the hook

Overwing: Peacock herl, ~6 strands

Collar: The tips of natural deer body hair, spun, flared, and surrounding the body

Head: Deer hair spun tightly and trimmed to shape



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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