

Newscasts

Summer 2021 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



Hey friend. Let's get together!!

Chapter Meetings again planned for fall at new location that will bowl you over

We sincerely hope you can join us **Tuesday, September 14**, as we gather as a Chapter for the first time since February 2020.

We have a great first speaker – Dan Oele, DNR Fish Biologist for Dane, Rock, and Green Counties ... also a new Dad (welcome, Harper!) and an all-around great guy. By the time we meet, Dan will have finalized his analysis of Black Earth Creek and its tributaries and his recommendations for improving the fishery. He and his team conducted on-stream surveys for a full season as part of that work. He'll also have some preliminary results from his work this season on the Sugar River watershed, which includes the Sugar, Mt. Vernon, the West Branch, Story, and several other trout streams.

Strike out to our new meeting location

The bar where we'd formally met is going to be razed for [a new \\$40 million development](#). And so the members of your board hit the town and spared no effort in exploring potential venues. In the end, they pinned their hopes on a west side location with easy access to the beltline, lots of parking, a nice banquet room, AV options and a tasty bar/menu – all at a very fair price. With the bowling puns exhausted, we'll just come right out and say it ... **we'll meet at [Schwoegler's Lanes, 444 Grand Canyon Dr., Madison, WI 53719](#)**.



No requirement to rent shoes ... Dan's presentations starts at 7 p.m. but please show up any time after 6 on Tuesday, September 14 for dinner and conversation.

We look forward to seeing everyone! And, of course ... this is the plan today, but the Board will keep an eye on the pandemic and adjust if needed.

Looking ahead to our October meeting

The **Tuesday, October 12** meeting will feature three fabulous folks who work every day to protect our nearby streams and rivers. Jim Amrhein, Kim Kuber, and Camille Bruhn are DNR water quality biologists working in different watersheds in the southwest part of the state, including many that are home to our favorite trout streams.

More to come on the content of the meeting but they'll discuss what water quality biologists do, how they work with DNR fish biologists, and what cool stuff they discovered in their summer of field work. Water quality biologists survey a huge variety of streams and rivers and are often the first to notice what might be going wrong or right on our waters.



Jim, for example, documented the Sugar River transitioning to more of a coldwater fishery capable of sustaining trout. I don't think we'd have the trout water on the Sugar we have in Dane County without Jim's work. SWTU has worked with Kim when she worked on the fisheries team. She was part of the crew working on landowner outreach with us in the trout streams around Blanchardville. Camille works on some of the trout and smallmouth bass streams in need of some help in Lafayette and Grant Counties.

I'll never forget the time I stumbled on Jim and his team surveying an Iowa County stream I had no idea held trout. Boy, did it! I'll also never forget the 15 inch brown I caught there a couple of weeks later. – Topf Wells

Election results

Your new Board of Directors

Thank you to all members who took the time to review the options and vote in our spring election. Hopefully the last of these to be held online instead of in person! Here are your results:

President: Jim Hess (incumbent)

Vice President: Topf Wells (incumbent)

Treasurer: Nick Jackson

Secretary: Henry Nehls-Lowe (incumbent)

Directors not up for election: Dave Fowler, Ben Lubchansky, Tom Thrall

Directors elected in 2021: Don Golembiewski, Pat Hasburgh (incumbent), Curt Reidl (incumbent)

State Council Delegate: Michael Williamson (incumbent)

Past President: Amy Klusmeier

Congratulations and thank you for lending your time and talents to protecting our cold water resource.

**THANK
YOU!**

We cannot let this moment pass without expressing our deep appreciation to **Tom Parker** for lending so much of his time and talents to the role of Treasurer these past six years. It is an absolutely vital role, which Tom ably executed with a kind and thoughtful professionalism that truly made a difference for our members and community partners. On behalf of the entire chapter, thank you Tom and may large trout ever be rising to your fly.

Our Last Workday of Spring 2021 – It was a good (and hot) one!

By Topf Wells

Jim orchestrated a wonderful end to the spring workday season on a hot May 22 at Dane County's Davidson property on the Sugar River. The mission was to complete a large brush bundle on the western bank downstream from the old metal bridge.

The day started well. The brush bundle we installed two years ago has functioned perfectly. Folks who had not helped install it had difficulty finding where the former stream bank ended and the addition being created by the brush bundle started.



We had about 12-15 volunteers on a day that started hot and steamy. The wind shifted mid-morning; coming from the north, it broke some of the humidity. Hot is better than hot and steamy. Adjusting on the fly, we were able to keep about the right balance of sawyers, haulers, and installers. We finished the brush bundle, a goal I thought we had no chance of reaching at the start. The completed bundle extends just as far into the stream as it should and has been properly driven, stuck, woven, staked, entwined and stomped. It should work as well as its older brother.

This was fun but hard work. I think the fact that we knew finishing this bundle would build on our successful work of two years ago kept us going. That and the fact that once you're there, you might as well get something done. We used a couple of fairly large box elders and some of the old brush piles that we were supposed to use last year but truckloads of invasive honeysuckle are now trapping Sugar River silt and providing a home to invertebrates and little fish. The density of a honeysuckle thicket is astounding. Two sawyers and several haulers worked for two hours on one I estimate at 151 square feet. After all that effort, we had cleared about 75%. The brush bundle ate all the honeysuckle and everything else we threw at it.

Several groups of kayakers floated by and seemed delighted to watch other sweat as they floated. We might set up a toll gate next time.

As always, lots of great volunteers and some tried and true friends of conservation and the chapter showed up. Rodd Wangren, former Board Member, Kurt Osterby, our former treasurer visiting from his new home in New Mexico – where he reports life is good – and Kathleen Falk, who helped conserve a lot of trout water as County Executive, were a great help. Several veterans of this year's workdays made a final appearance-- they really deserve many trout for the rest of the year.

Final thanks to Jim for organizing this and all the season's workdays. The day's work is hard enough but Jim has to tend to many and varied details for each session. THANK YOU, JIM.

We hope to see many of you at our fall and winter workdays. You can be sure Jim will come up with some great work on a good mix of streams.

Mark Your Calendars – TUDARE Bus Tour Coming to Madison Area

Details are still fairly slight, but mark October 12 on your calendar for the TUDARE bus tour of restoration sites on nearby streams. It's always an informative and interesting ride, and we'll share more news as we have it. (This is the same date as our October meeting, but the two will not overlap.)

Success and Perseverance Delivers Results

Women's Fishing Clinics Develop Women's Leadership Institute

By Tina Murray and Team

Over a decade ago SWTU lead the nation in offering intensive women's fly fishing clinics. In 2009 very few chapters or other groups across the nation could offer women clinics lead by other fisher women. SWTU's clinics were groundbreaking. TU National came to see how we do what we do and how we are so successful at it. Almost 10 years later Orvis started the 50/50 on the Water movement and here we are today offering a spectrum of opportunities for women fishers to build confidence and competence.



Our clinics have been a catalyst and model for all other chapters in WI. It has also offered all chapter members across the state the opportunity to participate in the clinics and many members across the state who do share that it is the highlight of their summer. The ripple effect of our clinics have brought scores of women into the sport from WI, IA, IN, MN, MI, IL the UP and beyond. We are proud of our accomplishments and thankful for all who contribute to make the clinics highly successful and fun. These women trust us to offer quality programming that is meaningful to their lives.

NOW it's time for SWTU to take the lead again and model for the nation a pathway where women feel capable and can step into leadership roles. To our knowledge no other chapters are offering programming, let alone intensive clinics to build future women leaders.

In June 2021 the WWFFC/ SWTU offered a Women's Leadership Institute. Lead by the instructors of the WWFFC with a curriculum designed to support women to step into leadership roles within TU. As we evolve as an organization, we can empower women to step up locally, regionally and nationally and add value to our mission. When polled as to why women do not step up they state that they don't feel heard, their ideas are not valued and that even today they don't feel welcome walking into local chapter meetings. More importantly they don't feel like their contributions are self-identified and instead they are suppose to "fit into a norm predetermined for them by TU" and that the norm is outdated and unappreciated. This information tells us we are truly not offering women the opportunity to add value to our activities, chapters or mission. Imagine how it feels to want to contribute but not have your contributions be seen, acknowledged or appreciated. The result is



they just don't come to meetings let alone start women and diversity programming in their areas. We have come a long way in the last 10 years, however, not far enough to increase women's presence in leadership within the organization. We can either ignore the fact that there still are not women or biPoc people in our meetings or boldly confront it, doing something about it that could change the norm for the nation. The Women's clinics we started in 2009 increased the standards and expectations for women's clinics across the nation. Now there are multitudes of learning opportunities for women in the sport in nearly every state, but not regional locations.

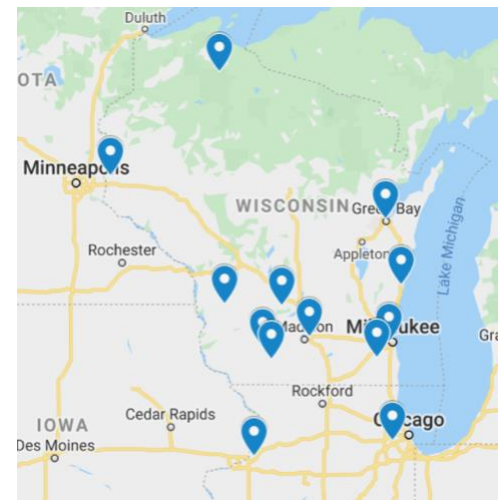
SWTU chooses to do something about it!

Twelve women from 4 states and from an abundance of chapters across the state (see map below) of WI chose to participate in a clinic where they learned how to work as a team to produce women's clinics and step up as leaders. More women already want to participate for 2022.

During the Institute we focused on communication and problem-solving skills, team building and the elements of successful programs / clinics. The focus of the clinic was to teach them the elements required of a cohesive team and to teach them how to be teachers. They don't need to be masters of fly fishing skills to provide quality programming. Instead, they need to be confident in their abilities to provide programming and work as a team to provide quality learning opportunities to others. Using an experiential education pedagogy these women participated in fun, hands on activities to learn the needed skills to become future leaders. They also were given many resources to determine where their skills were pre institute and during the institute with targeted skills and abilities identified by self reflection to show the progression of cohesive team and skill building. These women will work on these skills through many opportunities over the next year. In 2022 they will be taking the lead teaching at the 2022 clinics with the support and expertise of the current instructors.

From the map you can see how influential this leadership work can be to our state and the Midwest. Last year I presented to multiple chapters how to be more welcoming to new members and particularly women/ diverse members. That slide is below. IF chapters can begin to let women know their skills and ideas will be valued, they may become more involved in TU. If TU can begin setting a standard of "welcoming" others our makeup will change to be more diverse and vibrant.

We look forward to the ripple effect these women will have within chapters and across the Midwest and the new norm they will set over time for women in leadership roles. We will do a check in in another 10 years and look back to see the great work the chapter started by investing in future leaders for TU. This investment will pay off both locally and regionally and maybe even become the new standard nationally. Good Job SWTU members for supporting work that keeps our chapter, mission and women's clinics sustainable!



Landowner Outreach Produces Another Easement!

By Topf Wells

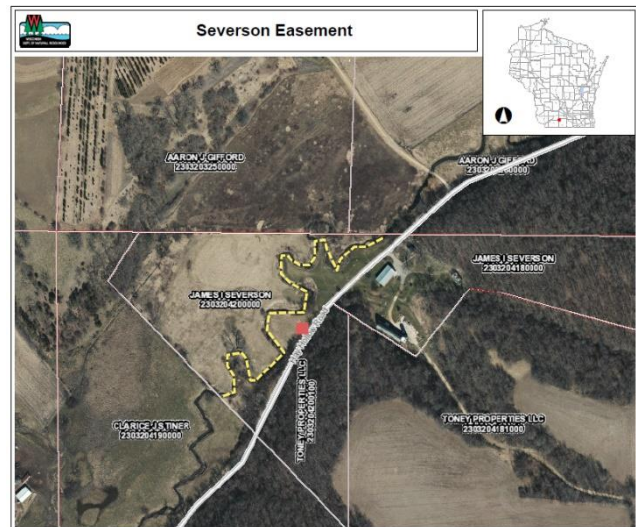
Dan Oele, our superb DNR Fish Biologist for Dane, Green, and Rock Counties, has had a pretty darn wonderful July. He and his wonderful wife Jessica welcomed their daughter, Harper, into this world in early July. Harper, Jessica, and Dan are doing well. Not quite as important but pretty darn cool is Dan securing another easement on local trout water. The Severson easement on Sawmill Creek on Hay Hollow Road is now open for fishing. The DNR signs signifying the exact location and boundaries of the easement will be up shortly. Dan also has furnished a map of the easement.

This is the eighth easement resulting from the two landowner dinners and field day sponsored by Pecatonica Pride, the DNR, and SWTU to promote public fishing easements in the East Branch of the Pecatonica, Sawmill, Erickson, Gordon and Kittleson watersheds. COVID stopped those outreach efforts but the DNR has continued to follow up on landowner interest generated by those events.

Huge thanks to the many volunteers and DNR staff who worked many hours on those events and who then followed up with landowners. The list of everyone would be too long but some of the stalwarts were Jim Hess, Pat Hasburgh and Topf Wells of SWTU, April Prussia, Steve Fabos, and Kriss Marion of Pecatonica Pride, and Dan Oele, Justin Haglund, Bradd Sims, Kim Kuber and Paul Cunningham of DNR.

SWTU thanks Jim and Deb Severson for this easement, which is already posted with DNR signage. They are great stewards of the creek and land -- so kind and generous to share it with the angling public.

It's a lovely stretch of stream with some happy brown trout in residence. It's small with some overgrown stretches and might fish better earlier in the season.



Dan is continuing to work on easements in Green County. We hope that his project, supported by SWTU and State Council, on Hefty will continue to interest landowners in easements and restorations on their trout streams.

Teen Essay Contest to Inspire & Win Gear!

This summer, Trout Unlimited wants to hear from any young person ages 12-18 why public spaces and lands are important to them. Judges will choose three winners from two categories: 8th grade to 10th grade & 11th and 12th grade. Entrants get the chance to win a new Temple Fork Outfitters AXIOM II flyrod and reel plus their winning essay will be published in Trout Magazine. There are also prizes for second and third place winners. The deadline to submit is September 1, 2021. Visit www.tu.org/teen-essays for the essay prompt, contest rules and more.

Welcome New Members

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

Patrick Winter	Ivo Rozendaal	Craig Kozler	Dan Puser
David Muresan	Richard Hickey	Peter Smith	Aimee Arnoldussen
Christophe Lange	Daniel Staples	Michael McDonald	Calvin Woodring
Bradley Mullins	Linda Griffiee	Joel Hebbe	Edwin Hutchins
David Hill	Jason Klein	Gus Merwin	Ali Cohen
Paul Peckham	Eric Wenzel	Christopher Strahm	Nicholas Hayden
Skip Howard	Daniel Watts	Ernie Perry	Christopher Jann
Colleen Hayes	David Kruse	John Doll	Tara Dahlberg
Carl Sanger	Musky Fool Fly Fishing Co.		

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](mailto:TopfWells@troutunlimited.org) 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

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

by Rusty Dunn

The next time you're near a trout stream, look closely among the ground cover and leaf litter. You'll be astonished by the number and variety of ants. Ecologists estimate that the global biomass of ants is 20% of all terrestrial animals. One fifth of all land animals, measured not by number but by total weight! Wow! Now look in your fly boxes. Are the ant patterns as prolific as the real deal? Probably not. As spring weather warms, your ant imitations should emerge from their off season of hiding. When spring transitions into summer, give those ants some quality stream time. Ants and terrestrials are summertime staples, as much a part of the season as baseball, cookouts, and long slow sunsets.

Ant imitations date to the very beginning of fly fishing. Dame Juliana Berners described fishing with ants in *A Treatyse of Fysshynge wyth an Angle* (1496), although her twelve famous flies did not include an ant imitation. Charles Cotton described the first artificial ant in 1676 in Isaak Walton's *The Compleat Angler*. His fly, however, did not have the modern profile of two bulbous segments separated by a thin waist. That bit of realism would await Michael Theakston's ant fly in *A List of Natural Flies* (1853). Materials have evolved since Theakston, but the basic profile of ant imitations is similar. Early ant patterns usually were winged, but wingless designs became the norm during the 1900s. Pennsylvania's Vince Marinaro brought ants and terrestrials into the mainstream in his 1950 classic *A Modern Dry Fly Code*, considered by many to be "the bible" of spring creek angling. It is above all a book about terrestrials, and Marinaro's favorite terrestrial was the ant:

"If I were to choose one pattern above all others, day in and day out, from fish to fish, the most enduring in the season, it would be the ant in its various sizes and colors."

----- Cinnamon Fur Ant -----

This simple fur ant should also be tied in all black. It is very effective for trout sipping ants. If you receive refusals, trim all downward pointing hackle, thus causing the fly to float lower. If that fails, try a smaller size.

Hook: Dry fly, light wire, #14 - #22

Thread: Rusty brown, 8/0

Body: Two distinct bulbs of cinnamon colored dry fly dubbing, with a thin waist in between. The abdomen should be larger than the thorax.

Hackle: Ginger or honey dun rooster, tied short and sparse at the waist

Many respected authors have commented on trout fondness for ants. Most speculate that trout like the tart acidic flavor of ants, which are rich in formic acid. Whatever the reason, ants are trout candy.

Ants occur in many sizes but only four basic designs: black vs. red (also called brown, cinnamon, or honey) and winged vs. wingless. Black ants are jet black and completely opaque. Red ants are remarkably translucent. Their cinnamon-red color shines from within by light that is transmitted through the body. Wingless ants are by far the most common. They fall from trees, bushes, and grasses from late spring until the frosts of fall. They are especially plentiful on warm windy days. Winged ants are much less common, but they can create magnificent dry fly fishing. Mating flights of winged males and females emerge in mid to late summer from underground colonies. Such flights are unpredictable and rare, but trout gorge on the windfall. You'll be lucky to encounter a handful of winged ant swarms in your life, but if it happens, you won't forget it.

Floating ants cannot escape the surface film, and trout take them very leisurely. Gentle sipping rises on glassy smooth glides usually indicate fish taking either small terrestrials, midges, or mayfly spinners. You'll probably need a seine to know for sure, because floating ants are almost impossible to see. They float *in*, not *on*, the water ... sodden, half-sunk, awash in the surface, and blended into the dark background. Make sure your flies float similarly. Fish probably take more ants underwater than above, and a wet ant pattern can be excellent trailed behind an indicator dry.

Trout don't read the scientific literature, but they know from experience that ants are the most abundant land animal. Ants sustain trout from late spring through fall, and you just can't go wrong imitating 20% of the planet's animals. When the weather is warm and the birds are chirping, tie on an ant.

©Copyright 2021, Rusty Dunn



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

Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited Leadership:

President	Jim Hess	jimhess5599@gmail.com
Vice President	Topf Wells	topfwells@gmail.com
Secretary	Henry Nehls-Lowe	henry.nehlslowe@gmail.com
Treasurer	Nick Jackson	jackson@themendotagroup.com
State Council Rep.	Michael Williamson	mlwilliamson.53@gmail.com
Board Member	Pat Hasburgh	patrick.hasburgh@gmail.com
Board Member	Curt Riedl	curt_riedl@oxfordcorp.com
Board Member	Tom Thrall	tthrall2@yahoo.com
Board Member	Dave Fowler	dfowler82@gmail.com
Board Member	Don Golembiewski	don.golembiewski@gmail.com
Board Member	Ben Lubchansky	608csk@gmail.com
Past President	Amy Klusmeier	amy.klusmeier@gmail.com
Newscasts Editor	Drew Kasel	madkasel@gmail.com
Conservation Committee Chair	Jim Hess	jimhess5599@gmail.com
Women's/ Diversity Initiative Chair	Tina Murray	swtu.women.diversity@gmail.com
Youth Education Chair for SWTU	Tina Murray	swtu.women.diversity@gmail.com

Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited

P.O. Box 45555
Madison, WI 53744-5555