

Newscasts

March 2022 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



Oh Happy Day! We Meet Again

In-person Chapter Meeting! We'll see you Thursday, April 7 at our new location

The SWTU Board is happy, relieved, and grateful to announce we are resuming in person membership meetings on Thursday, April 7, at Schwoegler's Bowling Alley on Grand Canyon Drive in Madison. The meeting will start at 7 p.m. All are cordially invited to arrive any time after 5:30 for dinner or drinks and catching up with friends we have not been with for far too long. We'll meet in Schwoegler's community room on the southern end of the building. The room is located just off the southernmost entryway.

This is the annual business meeting for SWTU and we will be asking for your approval of two changes to the bylaws (watch your email and next Newscasts for more on this). It may also feature the election of new board members and officers (see the article on page 2 and watch the next Newscasts for more information).

The rest of the meeting will consist of a discussion of our big spring fundraiser on April 23. This is much more than a delayed or outside Icebreaker (as you can see in the following article!) but a new event with lots of new and fun activities with some old favorites. You'll enjoy learning more and, we hope, some of you will be inspired to help.

We may also have some other light presentations and will for sure have time for folks to catch up with one another ... and free flies for new members!

For the safety of all, if you or someone in your household is not feeling well, we urge you to stay home. Please also consider the CDC guidelines for gatherings, including staying up to date with your vaccinations. Thank you for your kind consideration. Like most venues, Schwoegler's does not require masks but we'll respect any member's decision to wear one.

Strike out to our new meeting location

The bar where we'd formally met is [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 give you the address ...

Schwoegler's Lanes, 444 Grand Canyon Dr., Madison, WI 53719



Get your ticket: SWTU Spring Fair Fundraiser

April 23, 2022, from 5 to 9 p.m.

John Wall Family Pavilion

Tenney Park | 1414 E. Johnson St., Madison

You won't want to miss this social event featuring delectable street food, local beer and wine, fair games, conservation highlights, a B.E.A.C 'Drinking With Scissors' open tie area and Iron Fly event, bucket raffle, silent auction and more!

Buy your tickets today: <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/5390550>

All tickets include admission, food, two drink tickets and your bucket raffle tickets. There are three admission levels depending on the number of bucket raffle tickets you would like. General Admission includes 40 tickets, Silver Admission includes 85 tickets and Gold Admission includes 200 raffle tickets.

Please remember that this is our first major fundraiser in over two years, and in that time our chapter's actions in outreach, access and conservation have only increased – we need your most generous support!

You can help support the raffle

Raffle/ auction item donation inquiries offering flies, handmade items, new or highest quality used gear, and other new items of value should be sent to Dave Fowler dfowler82@gmail.com.



WE WANT YOU!

Make a difference and some new friends – step up for SWTU

Nominations are now being accepted for positions on the SWTU Board of Directors. Our volunteers make a huge difference for our members, our resource and our community.

We are looking for at least two new directors and a new President as Jim Hess has (admirably) served his two-year term.

We'll have elections this spring. If you have questions, are interested or know of someone who is, please contact any officer or board member listed at the end of the newsletter.

Save the date: Spring Stream Workdays

By Jim Hess, Workday Chair (and SWTU President)

I am still working on the sites for a couple of the workdays, but here are the dates to put on your calendars. All are Saturdays with the work taking place from about 9 a.m. to noon.

- April 9 – Site to be determined
- April 30 – Site to be determined
- May 21 – Smith Conley - 2800 Cty Rd H, Barneveld
- June 4 – Smith Conley - 2800 Cty Rd H, Barneveld

A Special Volunteer Opportunity

As many of you know, **Tom Wendleburg** passed away last year and his family is donating his vast inventory of gear and equipment to be used to raise money for projects on Black Earth Creek, Tom's home waters. SWTU is wanting to help with this effort by selling some of this equipment and flies at our various events, which will be put into a separate account for BEC projects.

The equipment for the most part has already been inventoried by some volunteers. What we need now are volunteers to help coordinate and facilitate the selling of this equipment. Topf Wells has already agreed to help with this.

Please contact jimhess5599@gmail.com if you have questions on the workdays or to offer your help with coordinating the sale of some of Tom's gear.

Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Chapter
PRESENTS
THE SPRING FAIR FUNDRAISER
SUPPORT STREAM CONSERVATION, IMPROVEMENT, AND ACCESS
Saturday, April 23rd | **John Wall Family Pavilion**
5PM to 9PM | **Tenney Park**
Madison, Wisconsin
AMAZING PRIZES
RODS, GEAR, GUIDED TRIPS, ART, AND MORE
Bucket Raffles & Silent Auctions
Drinking w/ Scissors Event & Iron Fly Competition
Hosted by Black Earth Angling Co.
Rod Demos | **Fair Games**
Hosted by Musky Foot & DryFly Sales
SWTU Conservation Project Highlights
**TROUT UNLIMITED**
SOUTHERN WISCONSIN CHAPTER
MOUTHWATERING STREET FOOD
By 608 Community Supported Kitchen
LOCAL BEER & WINE
TICKETS REQUIRED

Fish Advisory on Black Earth Creek

Please see this [news release from the DNR](#) announcing that Black Earth Creek brown trout have a consumption advisory because of PFAF contamination. It has details of the advisory and links for more information about these chemicals and their possible effects on human health.

SWTU contacted DNR Fish Management upon receiving this news for more information, especially for any effects on the BEC trout population. So far, the trout with the levels of contamination that caused the advisory have been found around Cross Plains. While we should be cautious, as the DNR advisory indicates, about eating fish even at low levels of PFAFs, the DNR does not believe that the current level of contamination is one of the factors in the persistently low trout populations in downstream sections of Black Earth Creek.

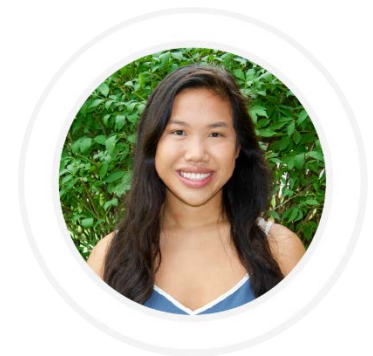
Note that this is early information and we will learn more. SWTU will follow this issue closely with the DNR and other conservation organizations that work to protect Black Earth Creek and its watershed.

SWTU'S First Intern: Meet Kailee Bergee

By Topf Wells

The SWTU Board has just approved our first summer intern with a collaborative project with the UW-Madison Zoological Museum, Dan Oele and other WDNR biologists in southern Wisconsin. She is Kailee Bergee, a senior at UW-Madison pursuing a joint major in Zoology and Conservation Biology with an emphasis on aquatic science and fish biology.

John Lyons, longtime WDNR fisheries research scientist and supervisor (and SWTU member), proposed this project and will oversee Kailee's work at the museum. WDNR biologists will coordinate her work with the museum, and SWTU will work with Kailee at two of our workdays.



The Museum benefits with more preparation and care of specimens and greater analytic capacity for the summer. Dan and his DNR colleagues will get some much-needed help in field and office work. SWTU will welcome Kailee to our projects and recognizes that her assistance to the DNR and museum strengthens the expertise and care our local streams and trout need. Kailee will learn a lot and gain invaluable experience in her professional development. SWTU recognizes that the long-term health of our fisheries depends in part on having skilled and motivated professionals caring for them. Helping young fisheries professionals develop is as good and necessary for our streams as just about anything else we do.

SWTU is contributing \$2500 to this project, which will run about 30 hours a week from late May to mid-August.

Kailee is on track to graduate in December. She worked at the UW-Madison Trout Lake Station last summer – the WDNR Trout Lake Station is for Forestry and the WDNR Fish Research Station is at Escanaba Lake (officially the Northern Highland Fishery Research Area), just down the road but separate. In her statement that she submitted as part of the recruitment for this internship, she described her strong commitment to working as a fisheries professional.

After she was chosen, the Board reviewed all her application material, even her transcripts. For me, at least, it was a humbling experience. How can someone so young have done so much and so well? The museum, DNR, local fish and our Chapter are lucky to have her for a summer's work. Besides the workdays, we hope to have a chance to hear from Kailee at one of our later summer or early fall meetings.

Women's Clinic Registration: Just a few spots left!

Registration is filling fast for the [By Women for Women Beginner Fly Fishing Clinics](#). The Basic clinic is designed to give a broad view of fly fishing and offer an opportunity to try it in a safe and fun environment. Skill level is not important; it is for women who know very little to those who would simply like a refresher.

The Women's Intermediate Clinic is On the Water and is designed to improve any level of skills through individual and small group instruction. Both clinics will be held in Avalanche, Wisc. (near Viroqua in Wisconsin's Driftless area).



By Women For Women Basics Clinic

June 17-19, 2022

Learn how to choose proper equipment, tie knots, cast, read water, select the proper fly and time on the water. You will learn new tactics, regardless of your level of ability. Equipment available for use.

Registration: <https://cvent.me/8wQRIG>

On the Water Skills Intermediate Clinic

June 15-17, 2022

Personalized instruction streamside. Tune up workshops by women instructors to refresh skills in casting, matching the hatch, and reading the water. Fish WI finest trout streams with experienced anglers.

Registration: <https://cvent.me/wQ7vLQ>

Clinic cost:

\$315 (First Time Participants); \$345 (Returning Participants)

Late Registration Cost (After 4/01/18): \$345 (Everyone)

Be sure to also check for [updates on the Facebook page](#).

Make a difference: Help out with Project Green Teen

We're excited to (slowly) bring back opportunities to work with youth through a long-standing collaboration between SWTU and Shabazz High School in Madison! Due to district Covid precautions we can't bring back all of the same experiences of the past, but this is a step in the right direction.

Come pass on your **fly fishing** knowledge with the next generation of student fly fishers at Shabazz High School through a series of workshops with Project Green Teen (PGT).

Fly Casting Clinic

Shabazz High School
1601 N. Sherman Ave.
Madison, WI 53704

Date: **Thursday, April 21st**

Time: **12:25-3:15**

"Bluegilling" Casting/Fishing Practice

Tenney Park
402 N Thornton Ave
Madison, WI 53703

Date: **Thursday, April 28th**

Time: **12:25-3:15**

Black Earth Creek Fishing Day

Salmo Pond County Park
4809 Scherbel Rd
Black Earth, WI 53515

Date: **Wednesday, May 4th**

Time: **10:30-2:30**

*** **Late lunch included**

What do you need to do to help with Project Green Teen?

- Confirm interest in attending with Brian Counselman and/or Dave Fowler
- Bring your preferred fly fishing gear for demo or sharing (students will have standard gear and flies).
- Have a fun and flexible attitude passing on your passion for fly tying!

If interested in working with PGT, please contact:

Dave Fowler dfowler82@gmail.com (SWTU “Guide Wrangler”) OR

Brian Counselman bdcounselman@madison.k12.wi.us (Shabazz Lead PGT Teacher)

Do the Teens Still Fish after Project Green Teen?



Why yes they do, says Tina Murray, Founder of PGT and chapter member who runs the Women’s Clinics. Past students are hard to keep up with but occasionally they share their bounty! These are some of Jessica Custer’s latest adventures!

SWTU supports PGT, our youth education program, and has been involved in helping high school youth understand cold water conservation at college level learning. So much so, that 5 national colleges offer scholarships for students to attend their resource management programs. PGT was started in 2004 and intensively teaches everything from macro-invertebrates, to flies, to conservation trends, to conservation service projects, to casting (see prior article!) to fishing in the Driftless for 5 days with chapter mentors (in non-covid years). Brian Counselman and Robert Banks are now the main teachers of PGT at Shabazz High School on Madison’s North Side.

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.



Do you, Like, Facebook? Help tell our story!

Fun volunteer opportunity

Our [SWTU Facebook page](#) is one important way we share successes, create engagement, promote events and attract new members. An ad hoc group of our leaders have kept it going, and we are now looking for a volunteer to manage the page more directly and actively. If you are savvy in the ways of social media and would like to help, please email president@swtu.org. It’s not much work or time. Other volunteers help provide pictures, details, etc. to spin into posts.

A Changing of the Guard in the Madison Fishing Community

D&S Bait and Tackle has been providing anglers on the north side of Madison, Dane County and beyond with the highest quality bait and traditional fishing tackle for over 40 years. As of March 1st, Gene and Sandy Dellinger, owners of D&S for the last 31 years, handed the reins off to SWTU's very own Pat Hasburgh and his wife, Ashley!

Pat has been fishing his entire life, a trout angler for over 20 years, a northsider for 15 years and a SWTU Board Member much of the last decade. Have you seen the graphics on our Stream Team equipment trailer? Pat designed those. Have you ever used the SWTU MATS Map? That was his creation. Over the years he has assisted with many fundraising events and grant writing efforts, not to mention chainsawing and grilling brats on many workdays. Pat was also key to our effort in securing almost 5 miles of DNR easements in the Sawmill/Pecatonica/Gordon/Kittleson watersheds. Pat will continue his commitment to SWTU through D&S to support our club's efforts wherever possible.



Traditional "gear" anglers need not worry, D&S will continue to carry all the highest quality bait and tackle offerings that have made it famous, but plans are in the works to add a full line of fly tying and fishing gear! D&S Bait, Tackle & Fly Shop's trout offerings will focus on products that work on our local waters, featuring patterns tied by local tiers. The fly fishing department won't be running at full-speed on day one, but will be a work-in-progress so stop back often to see what's new on the shelves!

Stop by and say hi!



Have a fave biz or guide? Share it! If you have a particularly favorite service or business related to trout and fishing, please contact Newsletter editor [Drew Kasei](#) about sharing a writeup (similar to above) in a future Newscasts.

Welcome New Members

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

Brian Beard
Curt Bronkhorst
Michael Hughes
Brett Behling
Jeff Klumphyan

Daniel Puser
Roman Schueller
Marshall Colburn
Carl Fernandez
Charles Valliere

James Addis
Rory Crapser
Alex Andler
Dale Osthoff
Amber Zuhlke

Bob Schenk
Connor Jansen
John Galligan
Timothy Virnoche
Dennis Mack

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

Ahhhh ... April in Paris. The good life. Chestnuts in blossom. A sunny sidewalk café. Spring's warm embrace. Could anything be finer? How about the warm embrace of a knock-your-socks-off spring caddis hatch? One that jolts you from winter's coma. One that reveals just how many trout a stream really holds. One with frenzied fish nosed up in the riffles, chasing pupae, slashing at emergers, nipping at your toes.

Spring is caddis time in trout country. A succession of hatches in April and May offers some of the best dry-fly fishing of the year. The main event begins in mid-April with the American grannom, a group of *Brachycentrus* species found all over the country. In the west, they're called Mother's Day caddis, and hatches are legendary. In the east, they're called grannoms, black caddis, apple caddis, or shadflies. Around here, grannoms, black caddis, or (incorrectly) little black caddis are the most common names.

The Hairwing Caddis is an excellent fly when caddisflies are on the wing. It is a "damp" fly (part wet, part dry) that floats low in the surface buoyed by its wing of hollow deer or elk hair. The Hairwing Caddis imitates caddis pupae transitioning at the surface into adults. Low floating flies are usually more effective than high floaters for emerging caddis, which pause only briefly at the surface before flying away. Knowing this, trout chase caddis emergers recklessly. If you see splashy rises or leaping trout in or just downstream of a riffle but don't see any bugs on the water, think "caddis hatch". The next thought should be, "This is going to be great!". Calm your nerves, take a couple of deep breaths, and tie on a Hairwing Caddis.

The wings of many old English caddis patterns are

bundled feather barbs or animal hair. For example, G.E.M. Skues' Little Red Sedge inspired generations of later fly patterns. Like most English dry flies, though, it is floated by a collar of stiff rooster hackle. Using hollow deer or elk hair to provide both a wing profile and good floatation is an American modification of these English designs. Such flies appear to have developed independently several times. Sid Neff, Jerry Alvoledo, Snook Moore, Bob Bean, and probably others tied flies similar to the Hairwing Caddis in the 1950s through 1970s. The first published recipe of a hackle-free caddis dry fly floated explicitly by deer hair is credited to Sid Neff, a Pennsylvania bookbinder and former art director of *Trout* magazine. Neff's Hairwing Caddis, published in Leiser and Solomon's 1977 book *The Caddis and the Angler*, is a model of simplicity. Other than a hook and thread, it has but two ingredients: dubbing and deer hair. The sloping profile of hair imitates the tent-like wings of a caddisfly, and the indistinct silhouette suggests fluttering of a natural. Tied in differing sizes and colors, Hairwing Caddis imitate caddisflies, stoneflies, alder flies, grasshoppers, and other insects whose wings are held down atop the body.

A Hairwing Caddis is the foundation for many popular adaptations. Add a tail of sparkly nylon fibers, and you've got Craig Mathews' very effective 'X Caddis'. Add a collar of dry-fly hackle, and you've got a Peacock Caddis or Soloman Hairwing. Palmer the body with hackle, and you've got Al Troth's ubiquitous Elk Hair Caddis. Add a touch of your own ingenuity, and you've got a fly ready-made for the caddis of spring. The only way to go wrong with low-floating caddis imitations is to not fish one.

If you're wondering what to get mom for Mother's Day, try a big hug and heartfelt "thank you" for gifting the world with her magnificent caddis hatch around May 1st. After the caddis have waned and fishing slows, then take her to Paris. Copyright 2022, Rusty Dunn

----- Hairwing Caddis -----

Grannoms of the Driftless are about size #17 (give or take a little) and have dark olive/dun bodies with darkly mottled wings. Adult caddisflies exhibit a reverse taper, with the rear of the body being larger than the front.

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- Hook:** Dry fly, #12-20, depending on the natural
 - Thread:** Uni 8/0, color to match the natural
 - Body:** Dry fly dubbing, color to match the natural. Use fairly coarse dubbing and add a pinch of sparkly Antron.
 - Wings:** Light or dark deer or elk hair, to match the natural's wing; length approximately to the hook bend
-



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:

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State Council Rep.	Michael Williamson	mlwilliamson.53@gmail.com
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