

Newscasts



April 2022 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited

In-person Meeting: Friendly Faces, Prizes, Elections and More We'll see you Thursday, April 7 at our new location

Our first in-person meeting since the pandemic started is **Thursday, April 7, at Schwoegler's Bowling Alley on Grand Canyon Drive in Madison**. The meeting will start at 7 p.m., but please join any time after 5:30 for dinner or drinks and catching up with friends. 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 vote in our board election and approval of two changes to the bylaws. Emails on the bylaws and election have been sent, and you'll find more information later in this Newscasts.

We'll also talk about and take questions on our big spring fundraiser coming up fast on April 23. See below for details and how to get your tickets now.

To celebrate our long-delayed gathering, you'll have a chance to pick up some great door prizes, and we'll set aside plenty of 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.

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

Join us for an amazing evening!
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 (donated by Karben4!) 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!

Tickets are required. Please buy yours today to help plan the event. You can do so securely at this website: <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 how many bucket raffle tickets you would like.

- General Admission: 45 raffle tickets
- Silver Admission: 85 raffle tickets
- Gold Admission: 200 raffle tickets

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 Mucky Feet & DryFly Sales
SWTU Conservation Project Highlights
MOUTHWATERING STREET FOOD
By 508 Community Supported Kitchen
LOCAL BEER & WINE
TICKETS REQUIRED
TROUT UNLIMITED SOUTHERN WISCONSIN CHAPTER

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 gift certificates or other items should be sent to Dave Fowler dfowler82@gmail.com.

Join the first Stream Team Workday of 2022!

April 9 at Davidson Wildlife Unit

By Jim Hess, Conservation Committee Chair

The weather is looking wonderful for Saturday, and we hope you can join us. If you've never done so, know that the work is simple and plenty of people on hand to help. You may also learn of a new place to drift a fly. 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.

Time: 9 am to 12 noon (Chapter Approved Sawyers please arrive at 8:30).

Where: We will be working at the Davidson Unit within the Dane County Sugar River Wildlife Area. The Davidson Unit is located just south of Verona on Highway 69 on Oak Grove Rd, 1.3 miles south of Highway 151. There is no road sign for Oak Grove Rd. Oak Grove is the first road past Riverside Rd., then turn right (west) and go about 600 feet to the end of the road, you will see an old stone building on the right. The fire number to put into your navigator is 1855 Hwy 69, Verona, WI. Here is a Google Map link: <https://goo.gl/maps/zN17Tq69445as7qG9>

What: We will be cutting and treating box elders, honeysuckles, and other invasive woodies to gain access to the river and open up the area so native grasses and forbs can grow. **And** we will be using the slash to build brush bundles at our next workday on April 30, when it will be much warmer. This will be our third brush bundle installation at Davidson and every installation has been extremely successful. Brush bundles extend and protect the streambank from erosion, and redirected the flow of the river back to the main channel flushing out the silt and exposing the gravel bottom. The brush bundles also provided habitat for young trout. Over the course of a year or so, the brush bundles collect sediment and builds out the streambank.

Bring: Bring waders if you want to work in the water or work wet if you want. Spring rains advise muck boots if you have them. Otherwise, there will be plenty of work on dry land. Also bring work gloves, sturdy shoes, and eye and ear protection. Also bring reusable water bottles that can be filled from our 5-gal water jug. Stay hydrated. At this point, masks are not required.

Parking: There is plenty of parking by the stone house, which, by the way, was once a stagecoach way station.

Future Workdays:

April 30 – Davidson Wildlife Unit – Sugar River, 1855 Hwy 69, Verona – installing a brush bundle and clearing invasive honeysuckles and box elders

May 14 – Willow Creek – assisting the DNR with a tree planting on Willow Creek in Richland County at Smyth Hollow Rd. and 58 (5.5 miles north of Ithaca).

May 21 - Smith Conley Creek at 2800 Cty Rd H, south of Barneveld - clearing box elders and invasive woodies

June 4 - Smith Conley Creek at 2800 Cty Rd H, south of Barneveld - clearing box elders and invasive woodies

You can win!
An amazing array of raffle items

- Winston, Scott and Orvis fly rods
- Ross and Orvis reels
- Renzetti Traveler vise
- Musky gear package
- Guided trips
- Restaurant gift certificates
- Beautiful artwork
- Tom Wendelburg flies, rods and other things (with all proceeds to Black Earth Creek)
- Much, much more!!

Slate set for Chapter Elections

The Nominating Committee of the SWTU Board presents the following slate of candidates for the election to be held at the Annual Meeting on Thursday, April 7.

President: Mark Maffit (see bio below)

Vice President: Topf Wells (incumbent)

Treasurer: Nick Jackson (incumbent)

Secretary: Henry Nehls-Lowe (incumbent)

State Council Delegate: Michael Williamson (incumbent)

Three open Director positions:

- Tom Thrall (current Director seeking to continue in the role)
- Kevin Maes (see bio below)
- John Freeborg (see bio below)

President – Mark Maffitt

I have been an SWTU member for more than 30 years. In the late nineties and early aughts, I served several terms on the board and a couple of terms as vice president. Then I served for eight years as the Newscasts editor back in the days when we snail mailed newsletters to members (yes - Drew Kasel actually has a predecessor). Somewhere in there I also chaired the Icebreaker for a few years. Age and the pandemic time warp makes it difficult for me to say exactly when but I served two additional terms on the board (one term as secretary) just a couple of years ago.

In addition to being a fly-fishing fanatic, I am also a bicycling enthusiast and bicycling advocate. My nonprofit leadership experience includes 14 years on the board of directors (including four years as vice president and then president) of the Bombay Bicycle Club here in Madison. There is a surprisingly large overlap between Bombay and SWTU in terms of the challenges faced by volunteer-driven nonprofits.

There was once an expectation that SWTU vice presidents would subsequently serve as president, but earlier family and career commitments prevented me from fulfilling that expectation. Though it has been a long time, I am thrilled to finally have the opportunity to serve as SWTU president.

Director – Kevin Maes

Kevin is a lifelong fly fisherman and was fortunate to guide during a summer in Alaska. He's fished all over the US and in many other countries. He's been a TU member on and off for 40 years and believes there is a lot of work to be done to keep this amazing resource going for our children and grandchildren ... and also their grandchildren.

Director – John Freeborg

John has been a SWTU member since 2016. He started taking the chapter's fly tying courses in 2017 and is still trying to graduate from the intermediate class after many attempts. Learning bug lifecycles through the classes combined with workday stream experiences has kindled a desire to support the chapter's mission in a greater capacity.

At the April 7 meeting, the nominees or a member acting on their behalf will be given the opportunity to present any information relevant to their candidacy.

In addition to the nominees selected by the committee, the chapter bylaws provide that any member may make a nomination from the floor. For those positions with more than one candidate, secret ballots will be used.

Thank you to the Nominating Committee: Amy Klusmeier, Curt Reidl and Tom Thrall.

Jim Hess is moving into the Past President role having served his two years as President. A tremendous thanks to Jim for his thoughtful leadership during a most extraordinary time. We're grateful that he will continue to Chair our Conservation Committee.

We would also like to extend our appreciation to Dave Fowler and Ben Lubchansky for their service to the Board of Directors and look forward to their ongoing engagement with the chapter. Ben will continue as Icebreaker Chair and Dave helping coordinate PGT efforts, rod building, fundraising and more.

Note that three directors are in the middle of their two-year term and will continue in their roles: Curt Reidl, Don Golembiewski and Pat Hasburgh.

Proposed Bylaw Changes

The SWTU Board of Directors asked Bob Selk to review the [SWTU Bylaws](#) and propose changes regarding the filling of director positions, making it more manageable, and address the inability to hold in-person meetings, as we have experienced the last two years. Listed below is a brief discussion of these changes and the proposed bylaw amendments. The Board unanimously approved these changes at our February 22, 2022 meeting and recommend their approval at our April 7, 2022 chapter meeting.

1. Provide Greater Flexibility in Filling Director Positions

Discussion: For the past several elections, the Nominating Committee has encountered difficulties in recruiting candidates for the Director position. Specifically, the rigidity of the requirement at Art. 6 (6) of the Chapter Bylaws, which requires that a minimum of two of the six Directors be serving their first two-year term and not have served as a Director or Officer in the eight years prior to the election.

The reason for this provision (and others limiting the length of service on the Executive Board and the Chapter Delegate position) is to avoid entrenched leadership, requiring opportunities for new leadership, and encourage innovation. The board embraces the intent of this bylaw, but finds Art. 6 (6) to be too rigid. The Board's goal is to continue the energy, competence and innovation that has characterized Chapter activities in recent years, while providing more flexibility in the process used to select the leadership.

Bylaw Amendment

Amend Art. 6 (6) as follows:

At the Annual Meeting, an election shall be held to fill the three Director positions due to expire. The election shall be conducted in a manner that assures that, following the election, at least two of the six Directors, whether elected or appointed, are serving their first term and have not served previously as a Director or Officer in the eight years preceding the election. The nominating committee shall endeavor to include at least one nominee who has not served as Director in the eight years preceding the election

2. Inability to hold Member Meetings In-Person

Discussion: The Chapter has faced challenges in meeting and conducting business during the pandemic. Most ordinary Chapter decision making is conducted by the Executive Board and Officers. The Executive Board has been able to carry on and has met virtually and on occasion has made decisions by other electronic means.

However, the inability to safely hold member meetings has prevented the normal, in person annual election of officers, directors, and the state delegate. The Bylaws plainly contemplate that the annual meeting at which the election is held be conducted in person with the majority of members present and voting deciding the election outcome. See Art. 3 (1) and (4). All other decisions made by the members assembled contemplate the same in person procedure. See Art. 3 (4). The Bylaws do not provide an alternative means to conduct this business when circumstances may require it.

Bylaw Amendment

Add Art. 3 (6) as follows:

(6) Except under extraordinary circumstances the annual meeting and other member meetings shall be held in person. An extraordinary circumstance includes a present need to protect public health or safety by not requiring members to assemble in person in order to conduct Chapter business. Before holding a member meeting not held in person a finding of extraordinary circumstance shall be declared by resolution approved by two-thirds of the members of the Board and shall include an explanation of the circumstances that require the resolution.

Member meetings not held in person shall be conducted by electronic means in a manner that allows for member participation functionally equivalent to or greater than member participation during an in-person meeting. The process of nominations, presentations, motions, and elections may be carried out over a period of days and voting by members may be done electronically. Other decisions that under ordinary circumstances require a vote of the members assembled may also be made over a period of days.

In person member meetings shall resume as soon as practicable after the Board decides that the extraordinary circumstances have ended.

Below is the process of changing a bylaw.
Article 8 - Procedure for Bylaw Amendment

(1) Any member may propose to amend the bylaws by presenting the proposed language change in writing to the Board. Within 45 days of receipt of the proposal, the Board shall consider the proposal, develop a recommendation and schedule the proposal for consideration at a membership meeting. Prior to the membership meeting, the membership shall be provided reasonable notice of the language of the proposed amendment and the Board's recommendation.

(2) At the membership meeting at which the proposal is considered, the language of the proposed amendment may only be changed by the unanimous consent of the members present and voting. However, unanimous consent is not required for a specific language change included in the recommendation of the Board. An approved amendment shall take effect immediately following the vote. (Art. 8)

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)

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.

Welcome New Members

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

Brian Beranek	Steve Zauner	Clark Amundsen
Bryan Durnen	David Ford	Kyle Weinfurtnr
Allen Comer	Eric Statz	Todd Punke
David Sands	Leo Meskis	Chase Weber
David Hahnke	Larry Meyers	Jon Parker
Kimberly Walsh	William Brown	Robert Coyle
Alexander Field	Noah Humfeld	Leland Reich
Ashley Gries	John Trzesniewski	Jeff Schimpff
Cassandra Hardy	Dominic DeSano	

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

The winds of change are often gentle at first, but they freshen with time. Little by little, old ideas fade away, replaced by new ones. Only hindsight reveals when the transition actually occurred. For wet fly fishing in America, the winds of change began in 1941 with publication of *The Art of Tying the Wet Fly* by James Leisenring. This 81 page treasure introduced British-style soft-hackled flies and methods to American anglers. It was published just three short years after Ray Bergman's 1938 blockbuster book *Trout*, which included a lengthy examination of wet fly fishing. The colored plates of wet flies in *Trout* are truly magnificent. Page after page, row after row, hundreds upon hundreds of brightly colored flies. Legendary flies, such as a Leadwing Coachman, Parmachene Belle, and Greenwell's Glory. Smartly dressed soldiers in a vintage army, almost all of which were tied with down wings of matched quill slips. Where are these flies today? Mostly, they're in the unturned pages of old fly tying books and the untraveled corners of old fly boxes. The wet flies pictured in *Trout* are fossils of a bygone era. Headstones of former champions. Leisenring brought a new style of wet fly to America, one as old as fly fishing itself.

"Big Jim" Leisenring (1878-1951) grew up in Allentown, Pennsylvania. A toolmaker by trade, he was tall, bronzed, and spoke with the heavy accent of his German ancestors. He fished the limestone spring creeks of eastern Pennsylvania for over 40 years, all the while refining his knowledge, methods, and flies. Leisenring studied the English and Scottish foundations of fly fishing and read the literature of its great pioneers. But he did not slavishly follow their guidance. Instead, he experimented with the ideas, modified them based on his own experiences, and created a new synthesis for his home waters.

Leisenring kept decades of meticulous notes, but writing did not come easily for him. Fortunately, Leisenring's friends coaxed the reluctant author into writing a brief but very important book. The title page credits "as told to V.S. Hidy" as co-author. Vernon 'Pete' Hidy was a student of Leisenring's who assisted Jim with the book's preparation. Leisenring supplied the genius, and Hidy supplied the clarity. *The Art of Tying the Wet Fly* established a uniquely American wet fly tradition, causing Leisenring to be often called "The American Skues". The book's impact was modest in 1941, because it appeared amidst the turmoil of World War II. A second edition published in 1971 with Hidy as co-author had much greater influence.

The Art of Tying the Wet Fly is, above all, a fly tying book. Five short pages discuss wet fly fishing. Those few paragraphs describe what has become known as "the Leisenring lift", which Charles Brooks described as "probably the most deadly nymph method known". Like all great masters of the dark arts, Leisenring learned the importance of action and movement when fishing nymphs. Leisenring's soft and feathery flies spring to life in moving water. He was a wizard at seductively manipulating them before trout. The lift was one of many presentations that Leisenring developed. He always intended to write a second book on wet fly fishing, but time ran out before thoughts were reduced to paper. We are all poorer for its absence. Fortunately, Pete Hidy supplied some of the details in a chapter he authored for the 1971 edition. Additionally, Hidy's 1960 book *Sports Illustrated Book of Wet-Fly Fishing* is an undiscovered gem that expands on Leisenring's and his own wet fly methods.

James Leisenring was, indeed, a fly fishing pioneer. He patiently observed trout and insects, studied the insights of old masters, refined his methods, and quietly shared his knowledge in an influential book rich with the experiences of an expert. Big Jim never sought attention or the limelight, but he is one of America's most original and creative anglers. © Rusty Dunn, 2022

----- Blue Dun Hackle (Leisenring) -----

Leisenring's Blue Dun Hackle is especially useful during hatches of darkly colored mayflies, such as Blue-Winged Olives. Lift it (*à la* Leisenring) in front of trout feeding deeply, or grease the leader and fish it near the surface to bulgers.

Hook: Standard wire nymph hook, #14-20

Thread: Pearsall's Gossamer silk, primrose yellow

Hackle: Light blue-dun hen hackle

Tail: Two or three blue-dun hackle fibers

Rib: Very narrow flat gold tinsel

Body: Mole fur spun on primrose yellow silk, a little of the silk exposed at the tail



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