

Newscasts

May 2022 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



Meet the experts: Wonderful Water Quality Biologists

Our in-person meeting on Tuesday, May 10 at Schwoegler's

By Topf Wells

We had a grand gathering in April and look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on **Tuesday, May 10, 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 just off the southernmost entryway near the pro shop.

Elsewhere you'll read about the official proceedings at the April meeting, which included the election of Officers and Board Members and the passage of amendments to the bylaws. This was our first meeting in two years and Schwoegler's, our new meeting place, provided a comfortable, large room with excellent food and service. I circulated widely through our membership and heard many compliments on the quality of the food and the timeliness of the service.

Besides good food, drink and conversation, we'll have two superb speakers: Kimberly Kuber and Camille Bruhn of WI DNR. Both are water quality biologists in our area.

Kim is conducting research on the effects of New Zealand Mudsnaileds on southern Wisconsin trout streams and will discuss that work and her preliminary findings. Camille and Kim will then describe what water quality biologists do and why trout anglers/conservationists should be interested in their work. All of us have learned of NZ mudsnail infestations and the warnings of how to avoid spreading them. We've also wondered to what extent and in what ways they might be hurting our trout streams. Kim's research is interesting to just about all of us.

While many of us have met DNR fish biologists or heard them speak, the work of water quality biologists is not so well known. They survey lots of streams and rivers of every sort every year. I think we'll find their accounts of what they do, what they observe, and why interesting and fun.

Kim is the water quality biologist for the lower Wisconsin River Basin. Originally from northwest Wisconsin and a graduate of Stevens Point, she is completing an MS in Fish and Wildlife Conservation Biology at Colorado State. Kim worked as a DNR fisheries technician in the Southern District. She was a vital member of the DNR team that worked with SWTU and Pecatonica Pride to obtain trout stream easements in Dane, Green, and Iowa Counties.

Camille is the water quality biologist for the Grant, Platte, Sugar, and Pecatonica Basins. She grew up near Madison and has graduated from UW-Madison. Among her many recent accomplishments, Camille has discovered trout in the Bacon Branch. I think any stream named after such an important food group should have trout.

As you look at the area and waters Camille and Kim cover, you realize: 1. they are incredibly hard working and 2. they cover just about all the streams we fish.

Kim and Camille will join us for dinner and allow time for questions after their presentation.

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

Free Casting Lessons and More at the Riversmith Fly Casting Clinic
Saturday, May 7, from 9 to Noon in Cross Plains

Please join us and also pass the word along to anyone you know who is interested in learning about our sport. You can show up to learn or help teach or provide encouragement. It's part of the larger "Trout Days" event so lots going on. The poster below has more information.

TROUT UNLIMITED SOUTHERN WISCONSIN CHAPTER

Riversmith Fly Casting Clinic

FREE EVENT! BEGINNERS WELCOME!

Saturday, May 7, 9:00 am - Noon
H.M. Zander Community Nature Park in Cross Plains

In conjunction with Cross Plains "Trout Days", this FREE clinic is open to anyone ages 6 and up! Beginners are especially encouraged to attend. Equipment will be provided for those who don't have a fly rod. Learn about equipment, how to cast a fly rod, how to read the water, what trout eat (aquatic entomology) and any other questions you might have! **Check out SWTU.org for more info!**

Meet Your New Board of Directors

At the April meeting, members unanimously approved the nominating committee's slate of candidates. Thank you to each and every one for your time, talents and leadership!

- President: Mark Maffit
Vice President: Topf Wells
Treasurer: Nick Jackson
Secretary: Henry Nehls-Lowe
State Council Delegate: Michael Williamson
Past President: Jim Hess
Director positions:
- Tom Thrall
 - Kevin Maes
 - John Freeborg
 - Curt Reidl
 - Don Golembiewski
 - Pat Hasburgh



Spring Fair Fundraiser Nets over \$15,000

A wonderful, warm evening of food, fun and fantastic prizes

A tremendous thanks to Ben Lubchansky and his incredible planning team, as well as the prize donors and all who attended our first-of-its-kind event on April 23. The generosity of time, talent and cold hard cash will make a true difference for our precious cold water resource. These photos courtesy Kyle Zempel barely begin to do it justice.



Delightful greeters with delicious popcorn got everyone off to a great start at the event.



A perfect outdoor setting to enjoy a variety of amazing food options. (To the right, you can see the taco station ... simply to die for!)

Lost & Found: If you left behind an Eddie Bauer 1/4 zip blue fleece pullover (size XLT), contact [Dave Fowler](#).



A variety of friendly info stations like this one on the Women's Clinics gave everyone a chance to learn something new.



An inviting indoor space offered a bar, games and the amazing array of raffle and silent auction items.



A brat slider, you say? Yes, please!

Awesome Appreciation for our Spring Fair Fundraiser Donors

Please thank the people who donated and consider supporting the businesses who gave so generously to help keep our event expenses very low and make it such a success! In particular, we'd like to call out 608 Community Supported Kitchen for donating the amazing food and Karben4 for donating a super selection of beer.

Business Donors

- Bob's Bitchin BBQ
- Uplands Cheese Co.
- Musky Fool
- K&A Greenhouse
- Hayward Fly Fishing Company
- D&S Bait and Tackle
- Restoration Cider
- Pizza Brutta
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- Luke Annear
- Black Earth Angling Co.
- Driftless Angler
- Jamie Allen
- Chocolate Shoppe Ice Cream Company
- Ian's Pizza
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- Vortex Optics
- Dry Fly Sales
- Glass Nickel Pizza
- Madison Fly Fishing Company
- Working Draft Brewery
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- Delta Beer Lab
- Old Sugar Distillery
- State Line Distillery
- White Bridge Coffee Co.
- Planet Bike
- The Fly Fishers
- Karben4 Brewing
- Dorn Hardware
- One Barrel Brewing
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- O'Pros Fly Fishing
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- John and Rose Schweiger
- Scot Stewart
- Chuck Valliere



Scouts to the Rescue: Workday recap

By Topf Wells

Fourteen intrepid SWTU members, veterans and rookies, young and old, showed up on Saturday, 4/30 to wrestle piles of limbs, logs, and brush into brush bundles at the Davidson site on the Sugar River. With storms forecast, we would have got a lot done but some of us felt pressed for time and a bit overwhelmed. Help arrived from on high and via several vehicles. The Big Guy in Charge of Weather delayed the rain and Scout Troop 104 of Midvale Lutheran Church showed up in force. Over a dozen Scouts and their adult leaders were eager to learn the art of brush bundling.

What superb students and hard workers! By noon, we had constructed another long and stable brush bundle using just about all that material. Jim Hess and Bob Brewer provided expert instruction and examples to the other folks who donned waders and braved the Sugar to drive the brush into the mud. A special shout out to Milo, one of the Scouts, and Elizabeth, a Scout Mom, who were in the water for hours. Underneath that water was silt, which made footing and work difficult. The waders also reported feeling gravel not too far under that silt. The brush bundle should have the gravel exposed quicker than one might expect.

A huge, double trunked box elder overhung the top end of the bundle. We had checked with Kyle Minks and Matt Diebel of Dane County (now in charge of the County's trout program) and Dan Oele whether dropping the tree on the bundle might anchor it better and provide more varied woody cover. They agreed but noted that the trunks should remain hinged and anchored on the stump (a DNR standard). Bob Harrison, one of our best sawyers, accepted the challenge and dropped the tree perfectly – as pictured!



Leading the list of thank yous is Jim Hess. This is Jim's first work day since retiring as SWTU President (btw, thanks, Jim, for your brilliant work in that role, all conducted in the shadow of COVID) and he's working as hard as ever. The work and equipment were well organized. Jim shoved a lot of those branches in. Many invertebrates and little fish, including trout, owe their new home to him. Our TU folks worked without a break-- they watched those clouds and knew we might be pressed for time. And, finally, the Scouts-- I wish they would have heard what we said after they had left. "We couldn't have done it without them!"

Brush bundles are one of our most fun projects because of the sense of accomplishment you have as the bundle grows and grows. The next work day will be fun for some other good reasons.

The next workday – Help plant trees

On May 14, we'll travel to Willow Creek on the massive and new restoration below the confluence of Smith Hollow and Willow. We'll help the DNR and the Coulee Chapter plant oak trees (about 60 in PRE-DUG HOLES) to finish the project. SWTU helped fund this project. Before the work, this section of stream was a jungle of high, eroding banks, box elder, reed canary, and a variety of thorned shrubbery. Exhaustion and blood were the typical results of trying to fish this stretch. Early reports are the project was fabulous. It's a long drive but think of how many trout streams you'll be near at the end of the morning, with hours of fishing time left.



And two more after that:

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

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!

Benjamin Churley	Brant Sonzogni
James Ubich	Joseph McCormick
Austin Foster	Terry Buchli
Mitchell Limp	Dane Miller
Brad Woodall	Duncan Bathe
Benjamin Ziegler	Bruce Chevis
David Hill	Ernest Perry
Mitch Salzwedel	Steven Schroeder
Carl Stroud	Daniel Bennett
Keith Reopelle	Alex Kiander
John Vining	Kent Emerson
Lori Sands	Greg Valaskey
Randy Redfield	Peter Welch

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

You fish among giants on a strikingly beautiful river. Mt. Shasta (14,000+ feet) is but 45 miles to your north; Mt. Lassen (10,000+ feet) but 35 miles to your south. They sparkle like jewels and tower over the landscape. Your attention, however, is focused on a different jewel of similar proportions. A 20+ inch wild rainbow gently rises just 20 feet from your rod tip. Blue-winged olives dance in the air. It's an angler's dream come true. Hooking that trout won't be easy because the river is slow, glassy smooth, and crystal clear. Local trout, furthermore, are legendary for being ultra-selective. But you have an advantage. You carry a fly designed expressly for this hatch on this river by a local angler who was one of America's most experienced, observant, and creative fly tyers. You take a deep breath and tie on the *fly fatale*, a size #16 Quigley Cripple.

Bob Quigley (1950-2012) spent his life studying and fishing rivers of the American West, especially California's Fall River. He tied flies beginning at age 10, was selling them commercially by age 14, taught fly tying at a local shop while in college, and thereafter guided professionally for decades. Quigley traveled widely in the West, constantly learning what its great rivers could teach, but the Fall River was always his mentor and home water. It is a large spring-fed river nestled among active volcanoes in northern California and part of the largest system of springs in the nation. The surrounding volcanic terrain is porous and absorbs vast quantities of rain and snowmelt, later releasing it from underground aquifers as cold clear springs. Like many spring creeks, the Falls River is remarkably fertile, harboring large populations of both insects and wild trout, some of which are rather volcanic in size.

The terms 'picky', 'spooky', 'wary', and 'selective' only begin to describe Fall River trout. Its clear placid water gives trout ample time to inspect closely every natural or artificial in the drift. After years of study, experimen-

tation, and considerable frustration, Bob Quigley realized that most Fall River trout feeding at the surface were taking neither nymphs nor duns, but rather an intermediate stage of the emergence. Trout keyed on a fleeting stage in which the rear half of the insect drifted below the surface and appeared as a nymph, while the forward half floated above the surface and appeared as an adult before its wings had unfolded (or were in the process of unfolding). Quigley then fashioned a hybrid fly – a chimera – to match the stage. His fly was very effective for picky Fall River trout and proved to be the prototype of a versatile and still-popular style of emerger imitation.

Quigley was by no means the first to conclude that trout feed selectively on intermediate stages of a hatch. By the mid-1800s numerous angler authors had described mayfly emergence in detail and discussed the importance of transitional stages (for example, William Blacker's "Winged Larva" in *Art of Angling*, 1842). The 1971 book *Selective Trout* by Swisher and Richards was especially influential and focused angler attention on emergers. Quigley's Cripple pattern in 1978 introduced a design nuance that is now the signature feature the Quigley style and is incorporated in many of today's most successful emerger patterns. The wing of Quigley's Cripple slants forward over the hook eye at about a 45° angle. The forward-leaning profile imitates the adult head and thorax (including nascent wings) as the insect crawls forward away from the shuck, which will be left behind. The pattern imitates a transient stage of emergence after a nymph pierces the surface film but before its adult wings fully unfold to an upright position atop the surface. Hatching mayflies frequently fail to successfully unfold their wings, with such stages often termed 'stillborn', 'drowned adult', 'crippled', or 'stuck-in-the-shuck' emergers. They struggle at the surface for a while but rarely fly away, whereupon trout feed on them selectively. Bob Quigley's insightful pattern capitalizes on these accidents of nature. If you've not incorporated Quigley's slanted wing into your emerger patterns, perhaps it's time you were a little more forward looking.

© Rusty Dunn, 2022

----- Quigley Cripple (Blue-winged Olive) -----

Hook: Slightly curved dry-fly hook, #16

Thread: Uni 8/0, olive dun

Tail: Tips of olive or olive-brown marabou feather barbs, length ~3/4 shank

Abdomen: Butt ends of the tail feather wrapped about the hook shank

Rib: Fine gold wire

Wing: Deer hair; about shank length and slanting forward 45° over the hook eye.

Hackle: Grizzly rooster



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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