

Newscasts

August 2022 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited

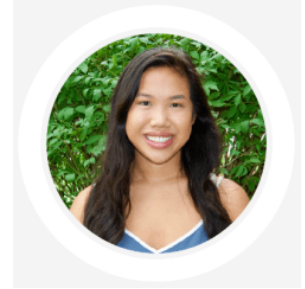


What a summer! A Special Guest at our August 9 Meeting We'll see you at Schwoegler's

By Topf Wells

Please join us on Tuesday, August 9. We'll meet again in Schwoegler's community room on the southern end of the building near the pro shop.

We'll hear from Kailee Berge, our first SWTU/DNR/UW MADISON ZOOLOGICAL MUSEUM intern. She has spent an incredibly busy summer volunteering for SWTU workdays, helping 6(!) DNR fish and water quality biologists with stream surveys, and searching for rare, native fish with John Lyons, the UW Curator of Fishes, across Wisconsin. What a summer!



Kailee will report on these grand adventures, wonderful fish, interesting streams and plenty of learning at our August 9 membership meeting. This will be a fun and lively presentation. The meeting starts with dinner and drinks at 5:30. Kailee's presentation will begin about 7. Reviews on the room at Schwoegler's and the food and beverage service have been excellent.

Special thanks to John Lyons. He arranged for Kailee's internship, handled all the administrative and scheduling details and supervised her.

New members are most welcome to attend! We'd love to see you and offer a friendly greeting as well as a pack of **free** flies.

And to our parsnip predators: If you were part of the crew that tackled wild parsnip at our recent workday, please attend the August 9 meeting and receive a set of free flies in thanks for your hard work and courage (it really was a daunting pile of parsnip as you'll see in the next story).

If you or someone in your household is not feeling well, we urge you to stay home. Please also consider CDC guidelines for gatherings, including staying up to date with 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

Looking Ahead to the September Meeting

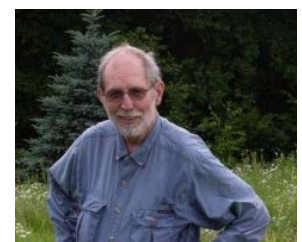
Mark your calendar for September 13 at Schwoegler's with another special speaker. Bradd Sims is now the Inland Trout Coordinator for the DNR with additional responsibilities for fish management on Wisconsin rivers. He has a year on the job and will speak on the state of Wisconsin Trout. That's gotta be a topic you want to hear about.

Bradd was the DNR fish biologist for much of southwest Wisconsin, including Grant and Lafayette Counties. He's been a great friend of TU. He's been the key DNR biologist working with the Nohr Chapter on easements and restorations in Blue River watershed. He played the same role in SWTU's easement and restoration work on Gordon Creek. He also arranged for one of the all time great SWTU work days on the Steiner Branch (those brook trout are Bradd's doing) when he led the search for some pre-spawn brook trout after the brushing. He and we found them – what gorgeous fish. He has some other interesting professional and personal fishing interests. He is the great champion of the flathead catfish, the ones that get big enough to eat fair sized muskies.

A Celebration of Dan Wisniewski's Life

Hosted by Fran DeGraf, his beloved wife

Last May, we shared a [Remembrance of Dan Wisniewski](#) – a person who did an immeasurable amount of good for conservation and our cold water resource. You are cordially invited to the celebration of Dan's life on **September 1 from 3 to 5 p.m. at Holy Wisdom Monastery, 4200 CTH M, Middleton**. The celebration will include speakers, music and food with the program starting at 3.



A Heroic Workday – Crew Takes on Wild Parsnip

By Jim Hess, SWTU Conservation Chair

I want to give a special shout out to the following volunteers that showed up for a mid-summer special workday to battle out of control wild parsnip and other invasives in our prairie planting at the Basco Wildlife Unit: **Mark Maffitt, Bob Harrison, Jim O'Brien, Jim Hill, Bob Brewer, Kieth Katers, Carl Fernandez,** and **Jim Beecher**. The weather forecast was warm and humid, but luckily it stayed cloudy all morning, making the conditions a *little* more tolerant.

I am sure all these volunteers wanted to go home when they saw the mess we were dealing with. Besides wild parsnip, there was sweet clover, thistles, and Queen Anne's lace. It was amazing to see what a prescribed burn can do to stimulate plants, the good and bad ones. The 7-foot-tall cup plants and towering sunflowers created an impenetrable wall to get to the invasives. I had to stand up on my tractor to see anything, concerned that I might run into someone.

After showing everyone what needed to be done, I started the Kubota to mow the dense populations of wild parsnips, which helped to open up the jungle in front of us. Bob Harrison joined in with a brush cutter. I was able to get the heavy infestations, doing my best to avoid the good plants (which are everywhere – you just can't see them through the jungle). The volunteers went after the individual plants, the ones I missed, and along the river where I couldn't go. We worked hard up to 12 noon, when I would say we removed 90% or more of wild parsnip and other invasives. A very satisfying day.

The original plan was for the county to mow the heavy infestations, but they are dealing with wild parsnip all over the county and were unable to do it. However, the smaller tractor could maneuver around the good plants and avoid the oak trees that were planted a couple of years ago. You couldn't see them until you were right on top of them – they would have probably been mowed over with a larger tractor, along with the good plants. So it turned out to be a good thing that they couldn't make it.

An addendum from Topf

Jim remembered a couple of large patches of parsnip on the southwest corner of the stream restoration and prairie that the crew could not reach on Saturday. Jim and Topf clipped and scythed those into oblivion a couple of days later. They also ran into a trout angler and dog lover who really appreciates SWTU's efforts to restore water and land.

Photos "on the ground" courtesy Jim Beecher / Drone photos by Jim Hess – See larger and more of this amazing event by [visiting the story on swtu.org](http://visiting.the.story.on.swtu.org).





Continued Success for the Women's Fly Fishing Clinics

By Henry Nehls-Lowe

This July, the Wisconsin Women's Fly Fishing Clinics were again a resounding success with over 40 total participants in the "By Women for Women Beginner Fly Fishing Clinic" and the "On the Water Skills Intermediate Clinic". These clinics could not happen without the many volunteers (leaders, kitchen team, instructors, river buddies, guides) who are key for improving participant's knowledge and putting them on solid fishing opportunities.

Since 2009, SWTU's Women's Clinics have attracted national attention as an effective model for engaging and instructing women in fly fishing. Over 400 women from across the Midwest have increased their fly-fishing knowledge and skills via this incredibly popular program. Special shoutout to **Tina Murray**, Women's/ Diversity Initiative Chair, for her invaluable leadership, without which the Women's Clinics would not happen.

Photos include a group photo of the women who stepped up this year to help run the clinics and keep it sustainable, stream ecology instruction and casting clinic.





Don't Get Ticked

I was on my way home from another delightful afternoon of fishing Gordon Creek at one of its most popular access points, when I discovered a tick on my arm. Not your standard issue wood tick or the dreaded deer tick but a Lone Star Tick. These are bigger and quicker than the wood or deer ticks; females have a distinctive white spot on their backs. They also carry some bad diseases, including the one that produces an allergy to red meat. Don't let one spoil your outdoor recreation or consumption of hamburgers. – Topf Wells

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. (Note that you may need to click the "Last Modified" header at the top to sort the list with the latest minutes at the top.)

SWTU Boosts Local Stream Restorations

By Topf Wells

When Jim Hess and I visited the DNR restoration on Hefty Creek last year we were dismayed with the equipment the DNR crew had to use. They had lost days with broken equipment and faced days awaiting repairs.

SWTU had the chance to help this summer. We received notification from the DNR that a bookkeeping error of 7 or so years ago had resulted in an SWTU donation for the Neperud restoration not being used. The project was completed but with a different source. SWTU had about \$11,000 in funds remaining in that account. The Board had to decide on a good use for it.

The DNR Southern District fish folks requested that we consider donating an equipment trailer for the use of the restoration crew. In a special meeting the Board met with Dan Oele, the fish biologist, and Scott Harpold and Vince Schmitz, the biologists and mainstays on the restoration team. The conversation and questions were detailed and thorough. The Board concluded that the DNR badly needed this trailer and had no chance of obtaining it in the foreseeable future. We donated the funds for the purchase of that trailer.

It's been ordered and should arrive in time for the crew to use it on the Black Earth Creek project. It will haul other equipment and some of the material for trout habitat. It will be a big help for DNR stream restorations in this area for many years.

Welcome New Members

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

Joey Dunscombe
Christopher Olsen
Joshua Reilly
Michael Westbury



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

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

by Rusty Dunn

A mid-summer day in the late 1940s begins like many others in Pennsylvania's fertile Cumberland Valley. A young Vince Marinaro fishes the crystalline waters of Letort Spring Run. The day is brilliantly sunny, and as the heat builds, so does Marinaro's frustration. Insects are seemingly nonexistent, yet many fine trout rise steadily in the creek's weedy channels. The riseforms are slow and deliberate, leaving only the faintest hint of a ring. Marinaro has spent several days trying to decipher what the rising trout feed upon. He casts a box full of dries, wets, and nymphs with little success. He fishes *atop* the surface, *in* the surface, *under* the surface, and near the bottom. Nothing. He gives his flies a little twitch or a slow retrieve. Still nothing. He casts to a dozen steady risers, and one-by-one they stop feeding. Marinaro's frustration finally boils over. He quits fishing, sets his rod aside, lays flat on the ground, and crawls like a spider to the water's edge. Perched within inches of the surface, he intently scans for signs of life. Nothing. After a few minutes of hypnotic study, though, he begins to see things. Tiny things. Insects he had initially overlooked. Tiny mayfly duns struggling to shed their nymphal skins, beetles smaller than he thought possible, and tiny little leafhoppers. Marinaro is stunned by the miniature world before his eyes, revealed suddenly as if a curtain had been raised and the stage lights switched on. He hurries to a nearby fishing hut, finds a mesh bag, fashions a workable seine, and returns to the stream to seine the current. The net is alive with tiny insects. Beetles no more than 3/32" long; winged and wingless red ants so small that their slender waists are nearly invisible; unimaginably small mayfly nymphs and emerging duns; tiny green leafhoppers about 1/8" long; little inchworms fallen from the trees; and black ants, unseen at the surface because they drift underwater. Marinaro's day ended in wonderment, for he had dis-

covered the world of tiny terrestrials.

The classic angling literature frequently discussed terrestrial insects that fall or are blown into trout streams, but their importance as late season trout fare was rarely emphasized. As the hatches of spring decline, aquatic insects become increasingly scarce, and terrestrials can sustain trout for months. Marinaro described his day of discovery on the Letort in his 1950 book *A Modern Dry Fly Code*, in which he devoted about a third of the contents to terrestrials and their imitation. Marinaro's Jassid pattern is an excellent imitation of small beetles, but it was never very popular. Jassids require jungle cock nails, an exotic bird species whose feathers have always been rare and expensive. The scarcity of jungle cock made the Jassid itself an endangered species.

Meanwhile, Pennsylvanian John Crowe was a contemporary of Marinaro's from the nearby steel town of Johnstown, PA. Crowe fished many of the same streams as Marinaro and designed an affordable beetle imitation that is still popular today. It is a model of simplicity and was first described in Crowe's 1947 book *The Book of Trout Lore*. Marinaro's Jassid was a blue-blooded fly intended for fly fishing's *cognoscenti*. John Crowe's beetle was a blue-collared fly intended for fly fishing's rank and file. Both are first rate flies, but Crowe Beetles won't break the bank.

Fish a Crowe Beetle anytime from early summer to season's end, especially along grassy banks and near overhanging trees. The fly can be difficult to see, but a spot of paint or a tuft of bright yarn tied over the back aids visibility. Crowe Beetles are fragile, but don't be concerned when they become tattered; they fish even better that way. Many accomplished anglers maintain that Crowe Beetles are more effective than the ubiquitous and wildly popular foam beetles. Foam beetles float well, are easy to see, and are durable, but they are soulless gobs of synthetics. When the weather warms and the terrestrials of summer come calling, fish with passion. Fish with history. Fish with John Crowe's steel town beetle.

Copyright 2022, Rusty Dunn

----- Crowe Beetle -----

To imitate shiny green beetles, wrap an underbody of peacock herl or dub an underbody of sparkly dark green dubbing.

Hook: Dry fly, #14 - #20

Thread: Black, 8/0 or 6/0

Body: Deer hair, dyed black, lashed to the hook shank and pulled over to form a rounded oval shape; trim to leave a prominent head.

Legs: Three hair fibers on each side, snipped at the tail and pulled out sideways



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	Mark Maffitt	mark.maffitt@gmail.com
mailto:jim.hess@tds.net		
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 Reidl	curt_riedl@oxfordcorp.com
Board Member	Tom Thrall	tthrall2@yahoo.com
Board Member	John Freeborg	john@freeborg.com
Board Member	Don Golembiewski	don.golembiewski@gmail.com
Board Member	Kevin Maes	kevin.maes@outlook.com
Past President	Jim Hess	jimhess5599@gmail.com
Newscasts Editor	Drew Kasel	madkasel@gmail.com
Conservation Committee Chair	Jim Hess	
mailto:jim.hess@tds.net		
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