

Newscasts



October 2022 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited

“The new guy” talks trout in Central Wisconsin

Join us at Schwoegler’s on Tuesday, October 11

By Topf Wells

The new guy is Tim Parks, the new DNR Fish Biologist for Grant and Lafayette Counties and the Lower Wisconsin River. Tim just transferred from Central Wisconsin, where he was a fish biologist who managed Trout populations in Marathon and Portage Counties. One of his final projects was assessing trout populations and habitats from the Plover River Watershed, including spring ponds (a lesser known brook trout habitat). Tim will talk about the Plover River, spring ponds, anomaly brook trout populations in drainage ditches, the Central Sands Streams and High Capacity Wells, and what it is like to manage unique natural trout populations in Central Wisconsin. He will also provide some first impressions on trout populations in Grant County.

Also featuring a word from the stewards of tomorrow ...

We’ll also be joined by Tristram Morris and Grayson Yates, whom SWTU sponsored at the State Council Youth Camps. These two great young anglers will provide brief reports on their camp experience. This is also a great opportunity for parents or grandparents to learn about this camp for the youngsters in your families.

A REMINDER: The September Meeting is Tuesday, October 11, at Schwoegler’s Bowling on Grand Canyon Drive on Madison’s West Side. Dinner and drinks are available starting at 5:30, with presentations at 7.

Come for friendship and learning – leave with free stuff

We hope to see many members for this great presentation, especially new members. New members receive a warm welcome and free flies ... and **all members** will have a chance to pick out a troutish/outdoorsy book to take home. We have quite a selection!

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

Meeting recap: Workday Winners X 5!!

At the September meeting, we drew the names of five workday volunteers to receive a \$50 gift card – four to D&S Bait, Tackle and Fly Shop and one to Musky Fool in Waunakee. The basket had the names of everyone who had volunteered at one or more of our workdays since spring 2021. There were 144 names in the hat, representing every time a person volunteered (e.g., someone who volunteered five times had five slips in).

The winners were: **Wayne Griffin, Tom Thrall, Tom Dosch** and **Henry Nehls-Lowe** to D&S Bait, Tackle and Fly Shop, and **Jim O’Brien** won the Musky Fool gift card. *(pictured: D&S proprietor Pat Hasburgh handing gift cards to Henry Nehls-Lowe and Tom Thrall as Jim Hess looks on ... many thanks to all volunteers and to Pat who generously donated two of the cards)*



See the next page for Workday info ... please join us for your own chance to win next year’s drawing!

Make a Difference and Some Friends – Our Next Workday **October 8, 2022 – Smith-Conley Creek, 2800 Cty Rd H, Barneveld**

If you've never joined one before, please know the work is easy, you can work at your own pace and there is something to do for *everyone*. From hauling large trees to handing around clipboards, if you have the willingness to help then we have a way for you to do so. Along the way, you'll meet some new people and most likely note a few intriguing places to drift a fly. See you there!

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

Where: Smith Conley Creek at 2800 Cty Rd H, Barneveld. Take Hwy 151 out of Madison toward Barneveld, on the east side of Barneveld turn left (south) on Cty Rd K, go approximately 6 miles to Cty Rd H, turn right (west) on Cty Rd H, and then go 1 mile to 2800 Cty Rd H.

Here is a Google Map Link to this location: <https://goo.gl/maps/76N3qK265nyXEYSC8>

There is a quarter-mile walk to the work. The DNR is bringing a UTV that can carry equipment to the site, they will also be bringing a skid steer.

Parking: Park along Cty Rd H on the north (right) side of the road. Do not pull into the drive as there is no room for parking.

What: This will be a joint workday with the Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter (Ted Swenson, Nohr Conservation Chair) We will be felling large box elders and other invasive woodies to open up the area for oak regeneration. We will also be removing trees from the stream that are causing problems. The DNR is bringing a machine to help remove these trees and create burn piles. This is a fairly new DNR easement that connects to fishing easements upstream. Justine Haglund, DNR Fish Biologist, Vince Schmitz, and other DNR staff will be joining us.

Bring: Waders to work in the stream, rubber/Muck type boots, 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.

Future Workdays:

Oct. 29 - Hefty Creek (Rudd Easement) – W 6355 Meadow Valley Rd, New Glarus (southwest of New Glarus) – there was a major DNR stream restoration at this location last year, which our chapter helped to finance. This workday will give you a chance to see the improvements and help finish up the project. There will be lunch following the workday at the Rudd's.

Nov 12 - Falk Wells Wildlife Area on the Sugar River - (same location as Sept 17)

Dec 3 - Smith-Conley, Joint Workday with Nohr Chapter (same as above)

A Productive and Fun Workday

By Topf Wells

Jim has the new workday season off to a great start.

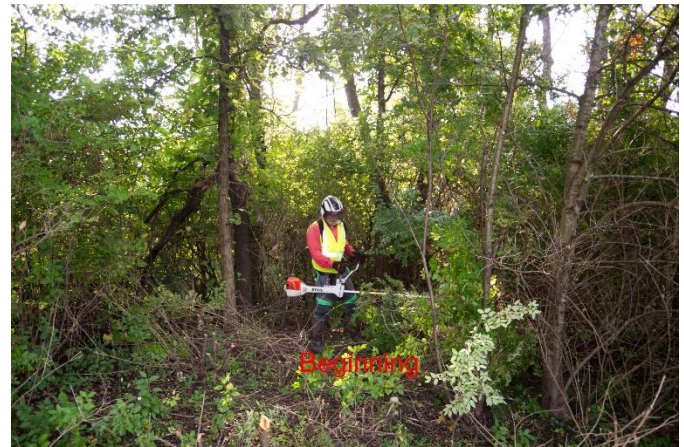
Eleven stalwarts arrived at the Falk Wells Wildlife Area on the Sugar River between Verona and Paoli. Attendance was down a bit – maybe the football game, a hot, muggy forecast, travel, trout season still on, first day of bow season or a combination thereof were the reasons. But Jim was well organized and had the gear we needed. Honeysuckle and buckthorn now know and fear our names.

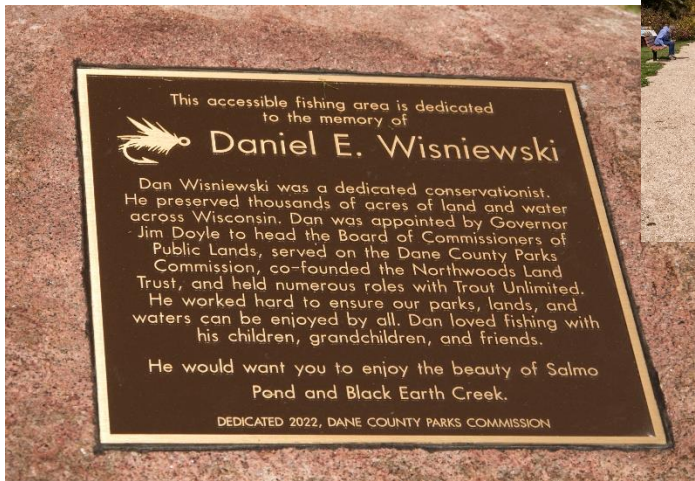
That was the task: to eliminate invasive shrubs – that's you, honeysuckle and buckthorn – from the banks of the river. Doing so improves angler access to the stream and liberates the native shrubs and magnificent oaks that want to grow there. Those oaks will provide generational benefits to the stream in the form of much needed shade and a steady rain of little, tasty bugs falling into the stream. They are beautiful and, in terms of stream access, a huge improvement. You can walk under or around an oak tree on your way to the stream. You can rest under it if you get hot. Try that with a honeysuckle/buckthorn thicket.

We worked on the two sites. The first under one of those oaks and the second a bit downstream right off the river. Anglers will bless our names. We thoroughly opened a nice access point where said anglers will step into a lovely stretch of stream with a gravel and rock bottom, nice gradient and trout.

Huge thanks to Jim and a tough, determined crew. Using chainsaws and brush saws on these thickets is, I think, tougher than taking down small to medium-sized trees but our sawyers stuck with it. A shout out to Kathleen Falk and Eric Phillips, her son, who joined the work party to improve the area named in honor of Kathleen's conservation accomplishments. *(ed. note: the author is being typically humble with his phrasing here as I hope you can connect from the photo at right of Kathleen **Falk** and Topf **Wells**)*

Photos courtesy Jim Beecher ... see more and larger in the article on swtu.org. Note the remarkable transformation of the site!





When next you pass by Salmo Pond, take a moment to view the lovely memorial to Dan Wisniewski, [who passed in 2020](#). Take a walk, listen to the creek, cast a line and appreciate a man who earned the thanks of every last lover of the outdoors.

SAWW Level 2 Chainsaw Safety Trainings from Dane County Parks

All sawyers at our Workdays have completed at least Level 1 Chainsaw Training. It's a requirement for doing chainsaw work in any park and helps to ensure a vital level of expertise and safety. Those who've completed Level 1 training can gain new skills through the Level 2 class, which has sessions available (at the time of publication) on October 12 and 13. [Learn more at this link](#). (Unfortunately, there are no openings in a Level 1 class this fall, but more will be held next year.) If you have questions on this, please contact Jim Hess.

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.)

Major fundraiser decision ... at a recent meeting, the Board voted to once again **not** have our traditional Icebreaker fundraiser in January. Factoring into this is that venues have not yet recovered or reopened to events like ours. Instead, your Board did vote to hold another Spring Fair in 2023 and is in the process of assembling a committee to organize it. Please watch for more information on this in the coming months.

Welcome New Members

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

Grayson Yerges	Joshua Armstrong	Ethan Zellner
Chris O'Hearn	Dominic Sopkovich	Mark Henrickson
Molly Raymond	Robert Gooze	Andrew Jones
Scott Spevacek	Peter Wickman	Josh Coon
Robert Komes	John Wanserski	James Bartelt
Steve Felio	Corey Lodico	Hayden Pierce
John Schmelzer	Ron Ellingson	David Ohman
James Okray	David Walling	Steven Dischler
Grayson Yerges	Joshua Armstrong	Ethan Zellner
Chris O'Hearn	Dominic Sopkovich	Mark Henrickson
Molly Raymond	Robert Gooze	Andrew Jones
Scott Spevacek	Peter Wickman	Josh Coon
Robert Komes	John Wanserski	Steven Dischler
Steve Felio	Corey Lodico	Hayden Pierce
John Schmelzer	Ron Ellingson	David Ohman
James Okray	David Walling	

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

A 21-year old Englishman is hired in 1928 to manage and improve six miles of trout water on the River Avon. The task before him is immense, for the river has suffered years of neglect. It was once a premier trout fishery, but is now choked with weeds, smothered in silt, and home to more trash fish than trout. Natural reproduction of trout is near zero, and fishing is sustained only by hatchery transplants. The young river keeper undertakes his job with determination and persistence, not realizing that the task will occupy him for 52 years.

By careful observation of trout, insects, and the river's many inhabitants, this self-taught river keeper develops stream management techniques that slowly but surely improve trout habitat of the river. He first replenishes the food base by restoring insect habitat. He then restores clean spawning gravel in both the river and its tributary creeks. He nets, traps, electroshocks, and removes thousands upon thousands of undesirable fish that feed on trout or compete with trout for the available food.

The keeper is a keen fly angler who believes that catching unwanted fish with rod and line is more sporting than removal *en masse*. He is also an accomplished fly tyer, and he develops an artificial fly that is remarkably effective for removal of one particularly abundant and bothersome species of trash fish. Using that fly alone, the keeper can remove dozens – even hundreds – of undesirables in a single afternoon. Little by little, the river returns to prominence as a wild trout fishery, and the humble river keeper becomes one history's most revered anglers, authors, and river managers.

The river keeper of this true story is Frank Sawyer, originator of the Sawyer Pheasant Tail Nymph, which is arguably the greatest trout fly of all time. Sawyer's second most famous fly is his Killer Bug, which he

developed to remove European grayling (*Thymallus thymallus*) from the river. Grayling are accorded more respect today than in Sawyer's era, when they were viewed by most English anglers as unwelcome intruders to be eradicated when possible. Sawyer tied his Killer Bug to imitate the abundant River Avon scuds, but it also imitates crane fly larvae, caddisfly larvae, and many aquatic beetles equally well. Sawyer had an uncanny ability to spot fish underwater, and he could target with a Killer Bug a single grayling mixed among trout and catch it within a couple of casts. Sawyer originally called his fly the "grayling lure", in deference to its utilitarian purposes. Sawyer later introduced the pattern to Lee Wulff, who tested it with great success on North American rivers and persuaded Sawyer to rename it as the "Killer Bug". Indeed, the fly is a killer when presented to either trout or grayling.

Like all of Sawyer's patterns, the Killer Bug is remarkably simple. It contains but two ingredients, which Sawyer described as "*a miserable concoction of wire and wool ... which to the human eye has not the slightest resemblance to any living creature.*" To a trout's eye, however, the Killer Bug must look rather delicious.

Sawyer tied his Killer Bug of Chadwick's Wool & Nylon Mending Yarn, colour 477, which he described as a "*fawn background that has a definite pink tinge*". He stated that the yarn "*is not very easy to obtain*", but it became impossible to obtain when Chadwick's ceased production of colour 477 in 1965. The fly-tying world is still recovering from the disaster, and remaining lengths of Chadwick's 477 now sell for exorbitant sums. It has mythical status and a cult following, much like polar bear hair, urine-stained underbelly of vixen red fox, creamy yellow scrotum fur of a white ram, and so forth. Fortunately, satisfactory substitutes are readily available. Indeed, many connoisseurs of Killer Bugs seem to have their own favorite yarn. Presenting a faux-Chadwick's Killer Bug in the right place, at the right time, and with the right behavior is far more important than matching Sawyer's exact color. That is, unless you believe in the magic of a mystical tying material and the spirits of a legendary river keeper.

© Rusty Dunn, 2022

----- Killer Bug -----

Hook: Wet fly / nymph hook, #6 - #16

Thread: None; tied only with fine copper wire.

Underbody: Fine reddish copper wire; build a cigar shaped underbody, leaving several turns of wire as a tag at the hook bend.

Body: Chadwick's #477 wool wrapped thinly over the wire underbody. The reddish color of the underbody should show through overlying wool, thereby imitating translucency. The fly turns faintly pink when wet.



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
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	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	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