

# Newscasts

December 2022 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



## The first (and possibly annual) SWTU holiday party ...

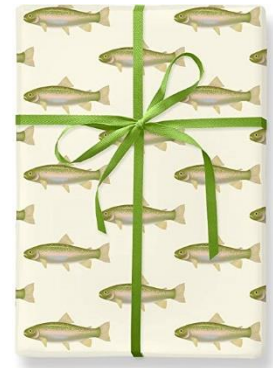
... will occur at Schwoegler's on Grand Canyon Drive, Tuesday, December 13, between 5:30 and 8:30 p.m.

We'll be hosting four local guides and fly shop, who have been good SWTU supporters. They'll have some fun presentations and great gift ideas for family, friends and perhaps even you.

The lineup: **Pat Hasburgh** of D&S Bait, Tackle and Fly Shop, **Tina Murray** of Shenanigans Guides, **Wyatt Reeves** of Black Earth Angling, and **Craig Amacker** of Madison Fly Fishing Co. These business owners are a precious local resource, and we're excited to give them some time to shine and share.

### Bring a gift to share

We'll also have a gift exchange. Bring a modest fishing-related gift and, yes, use your wrapping skills. The gifts will go to Santa's bag ... or perhaps net ... and everyone will receive a present. (We'll have a few back up gifts ... no one will leave with coal and ashes).



Please join us between 5:30 and 6 for dinner and drinks. We're hoping for a low key, relaxing evening with plenty of time for friendship and tales of this fishing season. New members are welcome and will receive even more free stuff!

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*

## Sharing sad news

Some may have learned that our friend and longtime SWTU member and leader, Tom Thrall, lost his son, Tim Thrall, very unexpectedly. Tim experienced a sudden cardiac arrest in his home as a result of an asthma attack. Tim was married with five children and was the primary breadwinner for the family. Tim was an organ donor and several of his organs have already been translated to recipients on waiting lists.

Tom's daughter, Molly, has set up a donation site for anyone who might be interested in helping with a gift as the family works through the grieving process before needing to make difficult financial decisions. If you would like to donate, [you can do so at this link](#). If you are more comfortable mailing a check, it could be sent to Molly Rice, 1335 Northridge Dr, Erie, CO 80516. If you would like to send a note to Tom, you can do so to [tpthrall@gmail.com](mailto:tpthrall@gmail.com).

## 2023 Women's Flyfishing Clinics – Register now (and recommend it to others!)

The groundbreaking Women's Flyfishing Clinics sponsored by SWTU have become a model for others and featured in national TU publications.

Chapter member Tina Murray – our esteemed Chair of Women, Diversity and Youth Education Initiatives – **invites our members to register now if interested** in attending one of the clinics listed below. The clinic dates and registration links will be advertised widely in December, so this is a chance for SWTU members to secure their spot.

More [information is here on our Chapter website](#) or select a registration link below.

**Wisconsin Women's Clinic - Basics June 16-18th**  
<https://cvent.me/rK4wL0>

**Wisconsin Women's ON the WATER Skills Clinic, June 14 - 16th**  
<https://cvent.me/kAA74K>

You can also get a feel for the clinics in **Oshkosh on February 4, 2023**, per the graphic below.

Space goes fast. These are all excellent ways to learn and make new friends. Every year, our members approach Tina in the spring to ask if there are any openings ... and it's usually too late, so act now.

Thank you.




**Women's Intro to Fly Fishing Clinic**  
Taught by Wisconsin Women's Fly Fishing  
[www.swtu.org/learn/womens-flyfishing-clinic/](http://www.swtu.org/learn/womens-flyfishing-clinic/)

Oshkosh, WI Feb 4, 2023  
9:30-4:30 pm  
1 N Main St, Oshkosh, WI 54901

Register online : <https://bit.ly/wiwwf>  
\$20, includes lunch  
Gear Provided

**Sponsored by**  
Wisconsin State Trout Unlimited



**Wisconsin Women's Fly Fishing Clinics**

Presented by Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited  
<https://www.swtu.org/learn/womens-flyfishing-clinic/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/SWTUWomensClinic>

<b>BY WOMEN FOR WOMEN BASICS CLINIC</b>	<b>ON THE WATER SKILLS CLINIC - INTERMEDIATE</b>
June 16-18th, 2023	June 14 -16, 2023
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.	Personalized instruction streamside. Tune up workshops by women instructors to refresh skills in casting, matching the hatch & reading the water. Fish WI finest trout streams with experienced anglers.
<b>Location</b> Avalanche, WI (near Viroqua, in Wisconsin's Driftless Area) <a href="https://cvent.me/rK4wL0">https://cvent.me/rK4wL0</a>	<b>Cost</b> \$325 until April 1 <sup>st</sup> \$355 after <a href="https://cvent.me/kAA74K">https://cvent.me/kAA74K</a>

[www.swtu.org/learn/womens-flyfishing-clinic](http://www.swtu.org/learn/womens-flyfishing-clinic)

**Limited space left! Sign up now**

## Register for SWTU Fly Tying Courses – 2023

Trout Unlimited invites you to learn fly tying or improve your tying skills this winter. Experienced SWTU instructors will teach both beginning and intermediate level fly-tying courses in Fitchburg starting Wednesday January 18, 2023. Classes consist of instructor-led demonstrations and hands-on tutorials. The courses are completely free of charge, and all materials needed in class are provided. You need only supply fly-tying tools and thread, a list of which is available at <https://www.swtu.org/learn/flytying/flytying-classes/>.



**Beginning Fly Tying** is intended for those with limited previous fly-tying experience, including complete beginners. General techniques needed as a foundation for fly tying are established, and basic but effective trout fly patterns are demonstrated and practiced. An instructional booklet with pattern sheets is provided free of charge.

**Intermediate Fly Tying** is intended for those who have a solid foundation of fly-tying experience and want to increase their proficiency. The course builds on the foundations of Beginning Fly Tying and progresses to more advanced methods. Techniques and materials are more varied, the patterns can be more complex, and the hook sizes are generally smaller than flies of the beginning course.

SWTU currently plans to offer both Beginning and Intermediate Fly Tying courses in person on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 PM at the Fitchburg Community Center (5510 Lacy Rd., Fitchburg) beginning January 18, 2023. Courses run for eight consecutive Wednesdays (final class March 8, 2023). **Please note that if the Covid-19 infection rate in Dane County worsens and approaches that of the 2021-22 winter surge, in-person instruction will either be cancelled or replaced by virtual instruction via Zoom.** A decision of

whether to teach the courses in person will be made by instructors approximately late-December. All registered students would then be notified by email. Instructors are fully vaccinated and boosted for Covid-19; and they request that students be fully vaccinated and boosted also.

**Advanced registration is required!** Sign up at the Fitchburg Recreation Department site (<http://www.fitchburgwi.gov/599/Recreation>). If you've not previously created a customer account with Fitchburg Recreation, you must do so before registering.

**Questions?** See <https://www.swtu.org/learn/flytying/flytying-classes/> for additional information. Or, email questions to [swtu-flytying@outlook.com](mailto:swtu-flytying@outlook.com).

## Badger Mill Creek Threatened?

By Topf Wells

Badger Mill Creek may well face a serious threat in the near future. That risk occurs because of a complicated regulatory situation. Following is a highly condensed account of the situation. More information and recommendations for SWTU members and other friends of Badger Mill Creek (BMC) will be posted on our website and other media. **See the information at right and continue to tuned and prepared to act.**

The Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) discharges some of its highly treated and aerated effluent to BMC. That water is a significant part of BMC's flow. While the decision to discharge to BMC was controversial years ago, most observers believe the effluent benefits the stream. During those years BMC has improved as a trout stream. Dane County and the City of Verona have spent millions in acquiring land along the creek and restoring long stretches of it. SWTU has contributed funds and volunteer hours to the restorations.

EPA and the DNR require MMSD to further reduce the amount of phosphorus it discharges into BMC. To meet this requirement, MMSD can increase its treatment of the effluent, implement projects that reduce the phosphorus entering the creek from the lands in the watershed, or stop the effluent to BMC.

The treatment option is expensive and the second will be difficult because of the rapid development in the SW Madison and Verona areas. The third is simple, less expensive but might harm the creek.

MMSD hopes to have its plan of action approved by its Commission in late spring with options presented by early spring. MMSD held its first public meeting on this topic on 11/30/22. It was conducted as a public information and listening session. MMSD indicated that its consultants were still studying a variety of options but did not disclose what, if any, option it prefers at this time.

Representatives of SWTU, the Upper Sugar River Watershed Association, the Friends of Badger Mill Creek, the Towns of Verona and Montrose, and the City of Verona attended with other interested citizens. Almost everyone expressed a high level of concern over the possible reduction of flow to BMC. Martin Griffin, the MMSD Director of Ecosystem Services, promised that MMSD would not hurt the creek.

Several attendees asked MMSD and the DNR to renew efforts to make reducing phosphorus from the landscape a viable option, pointing out the multiple benefits of that approach.

The organizations and local governments attending the meeting are now discussing how best to work with MMSD to protect the creek.

SWTU will join in that effort and keep our members informed as to next steps.

### You can make a difference!

There will be one more **Listening Session held by MMSD on December 8 at 6pm**. We need you to attend and make our watershed's voice heard. This will be a virtual listening session so you don't even need to leave your home to participate. To attend the virtual session you simply need to indicate that you would like to attend by filling out the **[MEETING REGISTRATION FORM](#)**.

A link to the zoom meeting will then be sent to you so that you can attend.

*Many thanks to the Upper Sugar River Watershed Association for this heads-up and **all** they are doing to preserve this fragile resource.*

## Let's follow that up with something a little more inspiring!

[Follow this link to a delightful video on the restoration of a brook trout stream](#) in the north part of the Driftless. It re-introduces you to a former member of SWTU, who is still improving trout streams. Peter Jonas, the narrator and host, was a wonderful member of the Project Committee, the predecessor to the Conservation Committee and the pastor of the Trinity Lutheran Church in Madison.

## The Help Poured In: An Amazing Last Workday for 2022

By Topf Wells

Jim Hess called for lots of help for our final workday of the year on Smith Conley. The job was big and little did we know how bitterly cold the day would dawn.

The day started like Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker ended, Help came from all over the galaxy: Four students active in Hoofers at UW Madison. Justin Haglund, the fish biologist, and 5 DNR fish techs. Our good friends from the Nohr Chapter. And, of course, some great SWTU volunteers, both new faces and wizened veterans (handsome even with all the wizen-ness). At least 32 folks assembled to face the box elders.

We had a new trick up our sleeve. We cut selected box elders and then assisted the DNR in making two large brush bundles. Justin is determined to restore a huge stretch of the stream-- up to 6,000 ft. (as in over a mile) along two easements. He's keeping many of the box elders for now so the DNR can use excavators to use the whole trees in the restoration.

That left plenty of trees to cut, trim, haul and then install in the creek.

Brush bundles are insatiable. They devour amazing amounts of woody vegetation. We worked hard to get the brush to and in the stream. A couple of volunteers spent 3-4 hours in the creek working alongside Scott Harpold of the DNR to install the bundles. We also learned a lot. We're back to the Sugar River in the spring for at least one more day of brush bundling. We were reassured that we're doing a great job but Jim now has a couple of improved techniques in mind.

We had chainsaws whirring, UTVs hauling, a gas-operated pounder pounding (bet that's not the right name for that tool), and folks hauling. Pretty darned exciting and warming too.

Justin has the brush bundles positioned so that the stream edge will focus the current to deepen the stream a bit and provide great habitat for small trout. The DNR will shape the banks and cover the back end, stabilizing the banks and connecting the stream to the floodplain.

How cold? Well the chocolate chip cookies, brownies, and pork sticks had started to freeze by the end of the day. But those brush bundles gave us a real feeling of accomplishment.

Thanks to all but some extra gratitude goes to:

- Justin, Scott, Vince, and the rest of the DNR crew. They worked hard and well and were friendly, instructive and patient.
- Our 4 Badgers (pictured here)! Way to go; We're eager to help as they bring trout and fly fishing opportunities to UW through Hoofers.
- The Nohr Chapter, who continue to be great partners in our work on Smith Conley.
- Frank Griffin and Dyan Lesnik. This wonderful SWTU couple has helped at several workdays. They are regular volunteers for Vets on the Fly. Frank spent 4.5 hours in the stream wedging brush into the mud. Dyan spent the same



amount of time on a slippery, muddy bank positioning the brush. And she baked the chocolate chip cookies!

- Jim Hess. This might be the best and was certainly the most complex work day of the year. Some fly designer in our Chapter needs to create a fly in Jim's honor, to be used when the Smith Conley restoration is complete. The workdays wouldn't happen without Jim's dedication, energy, and expertise. We were all relieved when a log aimed for the brush bundle hit Jim's hard hat instead of his head.

Jim has earned a rest and perhaps a couple of Tylenol. But he promises a spring schedule of workdays as fun and productive as this fall's.



Have chainsaw, will travel

Thanks to Jim Hess and Carol Murphy for the photos. [See more and larger in the article on swtu.org.](http://swtu.org)

## Learn What Your Board's Been Up To

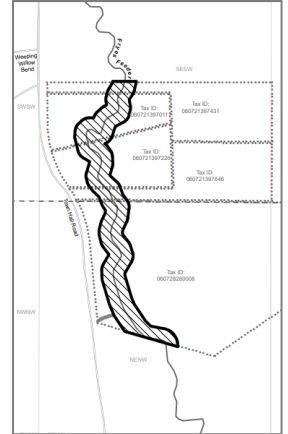
Minutes from SWTU Board of Director meetings can be viewed [in this Google Drive](#). If you have questions on what you read in them, reach out to one of the Board members listed on the last page of each newsletter. (Note that you may need to click the "Last Modified" header at the top to sort the list with the latest minutes at the top.)

## Dan "Santa" Oele Delivers for Trout Anglers

By Topf Wells

Dan Oele, the DNR fish biologist for Dane, Green and Rock Counties, delivered wonderful holiday news for SWTU and local trout anglers. Thanks to his hard work and the generosity of Mr. Aagard, the landowner, the DNR has a sizable new permanent fishing easement on Fryes Feeder. The easement is on a section of the stream upstream from Dane County's Donald Park and within a few miles of Mt. Horeb. Fryes Feeder is officially classified as Class II trout stream with a mix of brown and brook trout. All the fish in the stream are wild and it will probably be re-classified to I. DNR signage, to be installed soon, will mark the boundaries of the easement and the walk in access on Town Hall Road. Please, please, please use the designated access to reach the stream. Dan reports a healthy population of brown and brook trout.

SWTU thanks Dan and Mr. Aagard for making this wonderful fishing available to the public. [See the story on swtu.org for larger map images.](#)



## Welcome New Members

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

Dennis Mack	Michael Benish
Mark Nash	John Sevenz
Jeffrey Borchert	Daniel Fillner
Robert Sabroff	Ken Sterne
Timothy Tealey	Micheal Van acker
Deborah Nickels	David Roloff
Joseph Kieta	Paul Gunther

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

Eleven months of planning have led to this moment. You've driven over a thousand miles and arrived in mid-July at a cold clear Montana river. The tent is pitched, the campsite set up, and it's now time to go fishing. The weather is perfect ... warm, cloudy, and little wind. As you step into the river, you notice pale yellow mayflies about size #16-#18 on the wing. You see several porpoising rise forms in and downstream of a riffle. You hit the jackpot on day one! With great excitement, you reach confidently for your Pale Morning Dun fly box. You are thinking, "This is what I live for" as you prepare to cast. Your dream-come-true situation, however, is about to turn decidedly nightmarish.

Working upstream, you cast to rising trout for over two hours using every PMD pattern in the box. You vary fly size, profile, color, and presentation, but receive nothing but indifference and refusals in return. You are now frustrated, impatient, and out of ideas. Before walking away disheartened, you remember something an angler once advised: "*When all else fails, try a big Royal Wulff*". You dig around the vest, find a #12 Royal Wulff, and make a cast. Bang! A trout explodes on your fly.

What's the lesson here? The realities of trout selectivity can baffle even experts. The Royal Wulff is an attractor dry fly, but it is so frightfully conspicuous and so freakishly unlike any stream insects that it seemingly should scare fish away. Yet, the fly has proved itself effective for over 90 years. Any time, any place, any conditions, it can take trout that seem uncatchable. Some things in fly fishing simply defy explanation. Theodore Gordon perhaps said it best. "*There is no use talking about it – trout do not see things just as we do.*" Preston Jennings, an acknowledged mid-century expert on fly tying and insect imitation, refused to include the Royal Wulff in his influential *A Book of Trout Flies* (1935), because he could not understand what trout perceive it to be or why fish love it so. Jennings described the Royal Wulff as "*one of the unreasonable*

*things about trout fishing*". Trout, it appears, pay little attention to human perception or logic.

Lee Wulff designed Wulff-style dry flies in the winter of 1929-30 to fish New York's Ausable River. Wulff was dissatisfied with the prevailing Catskill-style dry flies, which were delicate, slim-bodied, and sparsely hackled. Such flies floated poorly on the Ausable's swift waters. Wulff struggled to keep them afloat, and he resolved to develop a buggier high-floating dry fly that would imitate the Ausable's prolific hatches of gray drakes. He also wanted a fly that would catch a trout's attention if for no other reason than its formidable size. Wulff hackled his fly extra heavily and used stiff bucktail hairs for the tail and wing. The resulting Gray Wulff was the founding member of his namesake series of Wulff dry flies. All are durable, float like a cork, and are highly visible to both trout and angler. Wulff flies became very popular nationwide, due in part to national publicity by Wulff's good friend Dan Bailey, owner of an influential fly shop in Livingston, MT. The most popular of the Wulff series was the Royal Wulff, which was – and still is – fished throughout the West.

The Royal Wulff also enjoyed a second, seemingly independent, origin in New York. Reuben Cross, a founding father of the Catskill fly-tying tradition, tied a fly in 1930 that is essentially identical to the Royal Wulff. Cross tied the fly for one of his customers, Mr. L.C. Quackenbush, who requested a fly similar to the Fanwing Royal Coachman but tied with hair wings to be more durable. Cross's design was popular throughout the Catskills as the 'Quack Coachman'. Were Wulff's Royal Wulff and Cross's Quack Coachman truly of independent origin? They arose almost simultaneously about 200 miles apart in upstate New York, but neither designer mentions having received inspiration from the other. 'Tis a royal coincidence! The name 'Quack Coachman' eventually faded from use, thus leaving 'Royal Wulff' as the accepted name today.

You would be wise to carry a few Royal Wulffs in various sizes for times when trout are inactive or defy logic. Royal Wulffs probably will not eliminate all of your onstream frustrations, but they have an uncanny ability to provoke trout to action. ©Rusty Dunn, 2022

### ----- Royal Wulff -----

Lee Wulff tied his Royal Wulffs with a single, upright, undivided wing, but an upright and divided pair of wings are today's standard.

---

**Hook:** Dry fly, #8 - #18

**Thread:** Black, 6/0 or 8/0

**Wings:** White bucktail in Wulff's original; calf tail or synthetics are more common today

**Tail:** Brown bucktail

**Body:** Red silk floss between two segments of peacock herl

**Hackle:** Dark brown rooster, hackled heavily

---



## 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](mailto:madkasel@gmail.com)

### Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited Leadership:

President	Mark Maffitt	<a href="mailto:mark.maffitt@gmail.com">mark.maffitt@gmail.com</a>
Vice President	Topf Wells	<a href="mailto:topfwells@gmail.com">topfwells@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Henry Nehls-Lowe	<a href="mailto:henry.nehlslowe@gmail.com">henry.nehlslowe@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Nick Jackson	<a href="mailto:jackson@themendotagroup.com">jackson@themendotagroup.com</a>
State Council Rep.	Michael Williamson	<a href="mailto:mlwilliamson.53@gmail.com">mlwilliamson.53@gmail.com</a>
Board Member	Pat Hasburgh	<a href="mailto:patrick.hasburgh@gmail.com">patrick.hasburgh@gmail.com</a>
Board Member	Curt Riedl	<a href="mailto:curt_riedl@oxfordcorp.com">curt_riedl@oxfordcorp.com</a>
Board Member	Tom Thrall	<a href="mailto:tthrall2@yahoo.com">tthrall2@yahoo.com</a>
Board Member	John Freeborg	<a href="mailto:john@freeborg.com">john@freeborg.com</a>
Board Member	Don Golembiewski	<a href="mailto:don.golembiewski@gmail.com">don.golembiewski@gmail.com</a>
Board Member	Kevin Maes	<a href="mailto:kevin.maes@outlook.com">kevin.maes@outlook.com</a>
Past President	Jim Hess	<a href="mailto:jimhess5599@gmail.com">jimhess5599@gmail.com</a>
Newscasts Editor	Drew Kasel	<a href="mailto:madkasel@gmail.com">madkasel@gmail.com</a>
Conservation Committee Chair	Jim Hess	<a href="mailto:jimhess5599@gmail.com">jimhess5599@gmail.com</a>
Women's/ Diversity Initiative Chair	Tina Murray	<a href="mailto:swtu.women.diversity@gmail.com">swtu.women.diversity@gmail.com</a>
Youth Education Chair for SWTU	Tina Murray	<a href="mailto:swtu.women.diversity@gmail.com">swtu.women.diversity@gmail.com</a>

### Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited

P.O. Box 45555  
Madison, WI 53744-5555