

Newscasts



January 2023 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Sweet Southern Dreams at the January Meeting Feel the warmth on Tuesday, January 10

As in way south, down Argentina way. Kyle Zempel and Hannah Matousek run Black Earth Angling, are great supporters of SWTU, married last year, and just returned from a fabulous honeymoon in Argentina. With a wise perspective that not all newlyweds share, they included some fishing – **for Golden Dorado and Patagonian Brown Trout.**

They are going to share some experiences and photos from that trip at the January 10 SWTU meeting. Both the dorado and brown trout are legendary fish who inhabit unique and stunning habitats. For those of us who need some top-notch daydreaming material, fabulous fishing stories, trip of a lifetime ideas, and jaw dropping photos of jaw dropping fish, this is the meeting for you!

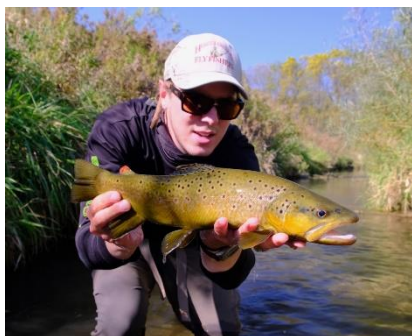


Kyle and Hannah can also answer questions about trips and services they offer through Black Earth Angling. Just a reminder: Kyle and Hannah were extremely generous and key contributors to last spring's fundraiser.

As usual, the meeting will be at Schwoegler's on Grand Canyon Drive. Meals, drinks, and fellowship will be available at 5:30 with the presentation starting about 7. Everyone is welcome, especially new members.

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



Lie and Tie with our friends at the Nohr TU Chapter Save the date for this fun fundraiser

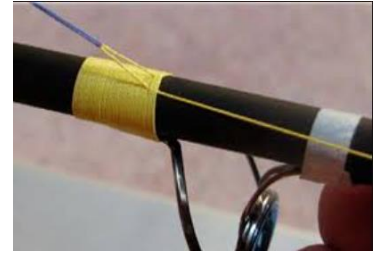
The Harry and Laura Nohr TU Chapter will be holding a Lie and Tie on Saturday, February 25th from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at The Dodger Bowl in Dodgeville, WI. Drop in at any time to enjoy tying demos, speakers, door prizes and refreshments!

Dale Osthoff, guide and tyer with nearly twenty years of fly fishing experience, will be presenting "Fly Fishing Alpine Lakes: How to catch the "Dumbest" trout in the World" and "Active Techniques for Small Stream Fly Fishing." Read more about Dale's presentations in [the article on swtu.org](#).

You are welcome to bring your vise and join the tying. Stay tuned to the Nohr TU facebook page and [NohrTU.com](#) for details and updates!

Interested in a TU Rod Building Class

Are you interested in building your own fly rod to use during the 2023 fishing season? Dave Fowler will be holding a class on March 11 and 12, 2023. The class will be held at Dave's house on Madison's East side. The cost will be **\$225**, with **all profits being donated to SWTU**.



Class size is limited to four people. Reservations will on a first come, first served basis and priority will be given to current SWTU members and those who have not taken the class before.

The cost will include all components needed to build the rod, plus a rod bag.

You will have a choice of building either a fiberglass or graphite rod as follows:

Fiberglass

- 6' 2/3 wt (4-pc)
- 7' 3 wt (3-pc)
- 7'6" 4wt (3-pc)

Graphite

- 7'9" 3wt – 4 piece

If you are interested in taking the rod building class, please contact Dave at dfowler82@gmail.com.

Limited space left! Sign up by January 15

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). 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.

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/

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

Register online : <https://bit.ly/wiwff>
\$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>

BY WOMEN FOR WOMEN BASICS CLINIC June 16-18th, 2023	ON THE WATER SKILLS CLINIC - INTERMEDIATE 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.
Location Avalanche, WI (near Viroqua, in Wisconsin's Driftless Area) https://cvent.me/rK4wL0	Cost \$325 until April 1 st \$355 after https://cvent.me/kAA74K

www.swtu.org/learn/womens-flyfishing-clinic

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Banquet: February 4 in Oshkosh

Get your tickets now

This is a great event and fundraiser that you can attend ... you'll learn something, maybe win something and do a lot of good for trout in Wisconsin!

Find tickets and all the details here: <https://wistrout.brownpapertickets.com/>

Note that it will again feature a fly fishing clinic for women (as noted above). Reach out to a member of the SWTU Board if questions.

2022 SWTU Workdays and Looking Forward

By Jim Hess, Conservation Chair

2022 was another great year for SWTU Workdays. There was a total of 181 participants, 84 in the spring and 97 in the fall. Together we are helping to create healthier trout streams, while getting to know our fellow TU members and having some fun.

There was a total of 11 workdays in 2022, 5 in the spring and 6 in the fall. It is always interesting to see how the weather changes during the spring workdays versus the fall. For example, we started our fall workdays this year on a warm and muggy September Saturday morning at the Falk Wells Wildlife Area and ended on December 3rd, with temps in the 20's at the Bennett easement on the Smith-Conley Creek (a joint workday with the Nohr Chapter). And that was our highest attended workday for the year.

One highlight was our October 29 workday at the Rudd Easement on Hefty Creek. Not only was it a beautiful fall day, the Rudd's provided a great lunch for all the participants and in keeping with the time of year, there were Halloween decorations on the tables and we were greeted by spider woman (Marci Hess).

I am especially proud to report that with all the sawyers sawing, trees falling, and skid steers moving, we again had no injuries.

Looking ahead to Spring 2023

Plans are already in place for our 2023 spring season. With so many locations that need our help, we are currently planning for 6 workdays, starting in April and ending in June.

Locations include installing brush bundles on Hefty Creek, clearing invasive woodies on Whitford Creek (a small trout stream that flows into the Dodge Branch Creek in Iowa County), planting trees on Black Earth Creek, and clearing invasive woodies on Badger Mill Creek, Sawmill Creek, and Falk Wells Wildlife Area.

So, volunteers, enjoy your long winter's nap and get ready for our spring season.



Calling all parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles ...

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Youth Fishing Camp August 17 – 20, 2023

Wisconsin Trout Unlimited will be holding their annual Youth Fishing Camp, Thursday, August 17 to Sunday, August 20, 2021 at Pine Lake Bible Camp in Waupaca, WI. Youth must be 12 – 16 years old. The purpose of the camp is to provide the student with an introductory education of as many things possible related to trout fishing, sportsmanship, and conservation issue.

You may recall that we were joined at our October meeting by Tristram Morris and Grayson Yates – two great young anglers SWTU sponsored for last year's camp. Their report was uplifting and demonstrated the value of this camp.

Each Wisconsin Trout Unlimited chapter can sponsor one applicant to the camp. If some chapters can't find an applicant, other chapters can sponsor a second applicant if space is available.

It is up to the parent or guardian to arrange for transportation to and from the camp. They need to be there by 1 pm on Thursday and camp ends at 1:30 pm on Sunday. Wisconsin Trout Unlimited will supply all need tackle and supplies.

If you want to nominate a youth to attend this camp, please contact SWTU President Mark Maffitt (mark.maffitt@gmail.com) for an application.

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.)

Update on Badger Mill Creek

By Topf Wells

Supporters of Badger Mill Creek are growing increasingly concerned about the creek's future in light of the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District's impending decision on the amount of phosphorus it discharges to the creek. You may recall the article from [last month's Newscasts](#).

Under DNR regulations the District must reduce the amount of phosphorus over the next five years. One possible solution is to eliminate **any** discharge to the stream. The concern is that the highly treated and aerated effluent constitutes about 20% of the stream's flow and probably is helping to sustain Badger Mill as a healthy and improving trout stream.

Neighbors, anglers, local officials, and environmentalists have attended MMSD meetings on the topic and reviewed some MMSD documents. They'll meet soon to discuss what they and we can do to make sure that MMSD does not hurt the creek. It appears that MMSD has at least two options that would continue the flow of Badger Mill and, in one instance, have many conservation benefits.

MMSD also has at least two consulting studies underway and the DNR will soon release its assessment of Badger Mill Creek and other trout streams in the Upper Sugar River Watershed.

As soon as SWTU knows more about what we can do to protect Badger Mill Creek, we'll inform all of our members.

Welcome New Members

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

Karl Hassrick	Randall Roden
Pete Dailey	Aaron Onsrud
Heidi Wilde	Bruce Jacobson
Woodrow McWilliams	

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

You arrive at a favorite trout stream on a summer afternoon. The air is heavy and still, the water low and clear. Major hatches are about over for the year. No bugs in the air. No hoppers in the grass. But there, on a glassy smooth pool, downstream of a riffle, in the shade of a tree, fish are rising. Their rise forms seem impossibly gentle. A leisurely little sip ... a tiny dimple ... a barely visible ring that quickly disappears. Ghostly rises to invisible insects by unseen fish. Looking more closely, you finally see the source of the activity. Tiny black midges swarm above the stream. What should you do?

- (A) Start crying;
- (B) curse loudly and repeatedly;
- (C) take down your rod and head for a bar; or
- (D) tie on a Griffith's Gnat.

The correct answer is (D), but be prepared to follow up with choices A-C. Midges truly are "The Fisherman's Curse".

George Griffith (1901-1998) was patriarch and protector of Michigan's legendary Au Sable River. He lived on its banks near Grayling, MI in an area known widely as "The Holy Water". The spring-fed Au Sable may be holy today, but it still suffers from an unholy past. Michigan's north country was an angler's paradise in the early 19th century. Large brook trout and grayling filled every stream. Michigan grayling, a unique subspecies found nowhere else in the world, were stacked like cordwood in the rivers and creeks. Slate blue in color, strikingly beautiful, and sporting a grayling's distinctive oversized dorsal fin, they were the crown jewels of Michigan waters. Timber barons of the late 19th century, however, laid waste to grayling habitat. The deforestation was so severe and so complete that Michigan grayling were extinct by 1936. *Extinct ... as in gone forever.* Borne behind retreating glaciers, Michigan grayling died behind advancing greed.

George Griffith saw the same thing happening to wild

trout in the 1950s. Increasing pollution, silt-laden runoff, over-harvest, and hatchery-fueled, put-and-take management by the state produced a fishery in serious decline. Unhappy with the long slow slide to mediocrity, George Griffith and fifteen angling friends met at his home on July 18, 1959 to discuss what could be done to reverse the trend. That evening they formed an organization to fight on behalf of wild trout, naming themselves "Trout, Unlimited". (The comma was later dropped.) Their motto was "*take care of the fish, then the fishing will take care of itself*". Michigan grayling prove that taking care of the fish means taking care of the water.

Like most spring-fed rivers and creeks, midges are prolific in the Au Sable. Their immense numbers and small size make midge fishing a unique challenge. With so many insects near the surface, fish have the luxury of keying on one specific stage of emergence, ignoring all others. A common scenario is seeing lots of midges on the water, but cast after cast to rising fish yields nothing but practice on your loop control. The trick is matching the size and finding the stage *du jour* that fish are focused on. Look closely at the rise. Does the trout's nose break the surface, even slightly? If so, they are probably taking adults, emergers, or stillborns. If not, as is often the case, they are probably bulging to pupae hanging just under the surface.

George Griffith's Gnat is a good place to start when fishing midges. It imitates adult midges, midge clusters, and emergers riding fairly high on the surface. If a standard Griffith's Gnat doesn't work, cut all the hackle fibers off the bottom half. The result will sit lower in the surface film, better imitating a stillborn, cripple, or struggling pupa. If your efforts are still ignored, trail a midge pupa an inch or two deep behind a Griffith's Gnat, using the dry as a strike indicator. No luck yet? Use a trailing pupa or larva incorporating copper wire or a tiny glass or brass bead, causing it to sink a little deeper behind the indicator. If you're still being ignored, just accept your fate. "The Fisherman's Curse" is real, and you are a victim. Then, opt for choices (B) and (C) above. You'll feel much better.

© Rusty Dunn, 2023

----- Griffith's Gnat -----

The body of George Griffith's original pattern is peacock herl, but black, dark dun, or dark olive dubbing works as well and is easier to manipulate in tiny sizes. Some midges have chartreuse bodies, and it is wise to carry both colors.

Hook: Dry fly, straight eye, #18 - #26
Thread: Black
Body: Peacock herl
Hackle: Grizzly, palmered



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:

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