

Newscasts

February 2023 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



Flies and Love in the Air at SWTU Meeting on February 14!

By Topf Wells

What to do on Valentine's Day? You and your loved one could dine out but you'll find crowded restaurants. Here's a better idea: eat out a day or two before or after Love Day. You'll have a more relaxing, possibly romantic meal with better service. Then celebrate Valentine's Day with SWTU.

Bring that special person with you (or not) and enjoy a fun evening of friendship, drinks, food, and the best fly-tying in Wisconsin. We'll have some folks tying some of their and your favorite flies. And if you'd like to tie with them, bring your stuff. Whether you're a beginner or an expert, you'll learn something. Mostly this will be fun. Creating a fly is amazing and with our new projector and screen you'll have a great view of the process and product. Even ham-handed folks like me who've never got the hang of the whip finish enjoy watching the feathers fly.



As usual, we'll be enjoying the hospitality, drinks and food at Schwoegler's on Grand Canyon Drive on Madison's west side. Conversation, dinner and drinks will start anytime after 5:30 with tying at about 7.

We'll draw the name of one lucky couple and their dinner and drinks will be on us. We're also hoping to have some of flies as an additional raffle prize to our usual cash drawing.

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

Make a difference and some new friends – step up for SWTU

By Don Golembiewski

Nominations are now being accepted for positions on the SWTU Board of Directors. Our volunteers make a huge difference for our members, our resource and our community.

We are looking for one new director (thank you, Pat Hasburgh) and a new Treasurer as Nick Jackson has (admirably) served the chapter but will roll off the board.

We'll have elections this April. If you have questions, are interested or know of someone who is, [please contact any officer or board member](#).

We are also recruiting three SWTU members to serve on the nominations committee. This is a great way to get involved in our chapter and the commitment ends after our annual election at the April meeting. This is short term – all gain and no pain!

SWTU Nominating Committee for 2023

- Don Golembiewski, Chair
- Kevin Maes
- (Your name here!)
- (Your name here!)
- (Your name here!)



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!

Save the Dates – A Busy Spring Ahead

Our Second Annual Spring Fair Fundraiser

Saturday, April 22, 2023

East Side Club in Madison – on the shores of Lake Monona!
4 – 8 p.m.

Much more event and ticket information will be shared later this month, but know you can expect:

- Bucket raffle w/ amazing prizes
- Casting contest w/ rod demos on the water
- Lawn games and socializing
- Mouthwatering street food stations
- Fun, friendship and more

We are thrilled to be at the East Side Club. Steeped in a rich history of tradition and community involvement, the East Side Club has been the gathering place for the community for over a century. Members have been instrumental in building everything from ball diamonds to purchasing and donating land to the parks department – all to enhance the quality of life on the east side of Madison. With its stunning panoramic views of the Madison skyline and the Capitol's dome along the shores of Lake Monona, the East Side Club offers a wide range of choices or simply enjoying music and the sunset from the Tiki Bar.



2ND ANNUAL
Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Chapter
PRESENTS
**THE SPRING FAIR
FUNDRAISER**
SWTU SUPPORTS
STREAM CONSERVATION, IMPROVEMENT, AND PUBLIC ACCESS
Saturday, April 22nd | The East Side Club
4PM to 8PM | Madison, Wisconsin
AMAZING PRIZES
RODS, GEAR, GUIDED TRIPS, ART, AND MORE
Bucket Raffles & Silent Auctions
SWTU Conservation Project Highlights
**MOUTHWATERING
STREET FOOD**
By 608 Community Supported Kitchen
CRAFT BEER, WINE, & COCKTAILS
TICKETS REQUIRED
SWTU.ORG
TICKETS ON SALE MID-FEB.

A Simply Splendid Series of Spring Workdays

By Jim Hess, Conservation Chair

It may not look like it, but spring is just around the corner and I wanted to update everyone on our spring workdays. We still need to finalize some details, but the locations and dates have been determined. For now, please hold these dates open, if you can.

April 1 - Whitford Creek (Iowa County) - Joint workday with the Nohr Chapter clearing box elders and brushing. Whitford Creek is a small trout stream that feeds into Dodge Branch, near the intersection of Banner Rd and Sylvan Rd. This easement is owned by The Prairie Enthusiasts. We worked with them on the Williams-Barneveld Creek in 2021. Some of their volunteers will be joining us.

April 15 - Badger Mill Creek - Brushing and installing brush bundles. This easement is located in the City of Verona along Bruce Street. The city worked with the county and the DNR last year, making significant streambank improvements, but were unable to get to the west side, where we will be working.

April 22 (Earth Day) - DNR tree planting on Black Earth Creek (working with Dan Oele, DNR Fish Biologist)

April 22 - SWTU 2nd Annual Spring Fair Fundraiser*.

*You will note that on April 22 we will be helping the DNR with planting trees on Black Earth Creek and it is also our Spring Fundraiser at the East Side Club on Lake Monona starting at 4 pm. The tree planting should be a fun workday, not requiring a lot of physical labor. The DNR will pre-drill all the holes, deliver the trees to the holes, and the volunteers just need to plant and water the trees. As this is Earth Day we are hoping to get other organizations, such as scouts and other youth, to help out. It will end by 12 noon.

April 29 - tentative rain date or possible workday.

May 13 - DNR tree planting. Assisting the Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter with planting trees on Trout Creek in Iowa County (working with Justin Haglund, DNR Fish Biologist).

May 20 - at either Hefty Creek (Brush Bundles) or Sawmill Creek (clearing invasive woodies)

June 3 - at either Hefty Creek (Brush Bundles) or Sawmill Creek (clearing invasive woodies)

Hefty Creek (Rudd Easement) - we will be using the slash from our October 29 workday which was placed in piles to be used for brush bundles to reduce erosion and sediment built up. A two-year major streambank project was completed on this stream last year and this will add some finishing details. We will be working on a long narrow section of the stream, installing a series of small brush bundles, alternating from side to side forcing the stream to move back and forth, rather than running straight through.

Sawmill Creek (Severson Easement) - working upstream from where we stopped on our last workday in 2021. We will be clearing box elders and invasive woodies. Located on Hay Hollow Road, 4 miles east of Blanchardville on Cty Rd H.

As usual, more detailed information will be provided as we get closer.

SWTU Joins 1% for the Planet Network

You may notice a new logo at the end of this newsletter. That is the logo for the environmental organization 1% for the Planet. SWTU was recently approved as an Environmental Partner of 1% for the Planet.



What is 1% for the Planet? It was founded in 2002 by Yvon Chouinard, founder of Patagonia, and Craig Mathews, founder of Blue Ribbon Flies. The basic model of 1% for the Planet is for “Business Members” to donate 1% of gross sales to “Environmental Partners”, through a combination of monetary, in-kind, and promotional support. Individual members pledge to donate 1% of their annual salary through monetary and/or voluntary support. Currently, there are over 3,400 Business Partners. Since 2002, members have given more than \$435 million to environmental non-profits. SWTU, along with TUDARE, are the only Wisconsin TU-related organizations approved as Environmental Partners. Nationwide there are several other TU Chapters and State Councils that are Environmental Partners as well.

What does being an Environmental Partner mean for SWTU? Perhaps the most significant benefit of being an Environmental Partner is that we will potentially have a greater opportunity to receive more donations for fundraisers and other projects. There is no cost for us to be an Environmental Partner. Last year we received donations to our Spring Fair fundraiser from local companies like Delta Beer Lab, Planet Bike and White Bridge Coffee, all of which are Business Members of 1% for the Planet. We hope to work with these businesses again this year, in addition to other Business Partners.

More information on 1% for the Planet can be found at <https://onepercentfortheplanet.org>.

2023 Women's Flyfishing Clinics – Nearly full!


Wisconsin Women's Clinics are nearly full. Please have people register on the Waitlist if it is full. With a PHONE number. Cancellations are typically last minute and without a phone number we cannot reach waitlisters. 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>



Meanwhile, **Tina Murray**, our Diversity and Equity Coordinator, will be presenting the Women's Leadership Institute written up in Trout/ Summer Edition P.70 - 73 at the Texas Fly Fishing & Wine Festival Feb 25 & 26. We are pleased to share this groundbreaking Women's Leadership Institute with others around the nation!



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

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.)

Protecting Badger Mill Creek

At its January 31st meeting, the SWTU Board unanimously adopted a resolution requesting that the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) continue to discharge highly treated and aerated effluent to Badger Mill Creek. MMSD might stop this discharge in order to reduce its input of phosphorus to the stream. Please read the resolution below for a brief statement of SWTU's reasons for this position.

SWTU is part of a coalition of local governments and conservation organizations which are extremely concerned with MMSD's removing this water from Badger Mill Creek. The Upper Sugar River Watershed Association, the Friends of Badger Mill Creek, the City of Verona, and the Town of Montrose have representatives in this group and/or have passed resolutions urging that MMSD maintain this water. Other local governments and organizations are closely reviewing this situation.

MMSD is conducting engineering studies and states that it has not yet decided on a course of action. SWTU will keep you informed of developments in this process.

The Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited (SWTU) opposes the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District's (MMSD) plan to discontinue the discharge of its highly treated and aerated effluent to Badger Mill Creek. SWTU believes this action will harm the creek now and deprive it of a critical buffer in our changed climate.

Badger Mill Creek functions as a Class 1 trout stream and vital tributary to the Sugar River, another important trout stream. It flows through the rapidly developing southwest side of the Madison metropolitan area. With miles of public access and restored segments of stream, it is an extremely popular resource for anglers and other outdoor recreationists.

SWTU has supported the preservation and improvement of Badger Mill Creek for almost 40 years with volunteer work days and financial contributions to restoration projects.

MMSD's effluent represents between 20-50% of the stream's flow, depending on the time of year and other conditions. That amount of flow increases and improves the habitat trout and the creek's other creatures need. Moreover, Badger Mill Creek and the Sugar River are the Dane County trout streams most vulnerable to the droughts and heat waves the changed climate will produce. The effluent will be vital to Badger Mill's survival as a trout stream and an important factor in the Sugar River's resiliency.

MMSD has publicly promised it will not take any action that would harm Badger Mill Creek. Stopping the discharge of effluent will hurt the creek.

MMSD has at least two viable options to comply with the phosphorus regulations that cover Badger Mill Creek in addition to the option of stopping the discharge of effluent. SWTU urges MMSD to take either of those actions and maintain the flow of Badger Mill Creek.

The SWTU Board unanimously adopted this resolution at its January 31, 2023, Board Meeting.

Save a Brookie, Eat a Brown or Bow?

One fish question on the Spring Conservation Hearing, #16, should interest SWTU. Nate Nye, the Sauk and Columbia Fish Biologist, recommends that regulations be changed on Dell and Beaver Creeks to completely protect brook trout and promote the harvest of brown and rainbow trout.

Dell Creek rings a bell. We partnered with the Leopold Chapter, State Council, Badger Fly Fishers and Groundswell Conservancy to purchase 40 acres on Dell Creek. The DNR will manage it for public access and fish and wildlife habitat. It connects two large DNR parcels with 1000s of feet of frontage on Dell and some tributaries.



Nate had completed a comprehensive assessment of this watershed that was instrumental helped to persuade TU to fund the purchase. His most astounding discovery was that brook trout had created a strong foothold in the watershed despite the streams being managed for brown trout for decades. He proposed a thorough set of management changes to bolster the wild brook trout.

This regulation is one of those management changes.

SWTU favors the protection of wild brook trout. Please consider supporting this regulation change in the April hearing.

Welcome New Members

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

David Dornblaser	Pam Rood	Mikey Fisch
Mike Schloesser	Ian Joyce	James Bronson
Nathan Mack	Jerry Pasdo	Virgil Seisser
Mark Blakeslee	Larry Lichte	Alexander Metz
Darlene Vangorden	Stephen Caito	Jim Doak
Richie Nelson	John Short	David Hoeft
Fredrick Urben	Jon Vanschoyck	Mark Nash
Jody Shaw	Charles Johnson	Mike Krause
D Kiesling	John Parrish	

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

The year is 1892. A young attorney casts dry flies to rising trout on the River Itchen in southern England. His creel is empty, and his spirits are low. The angler's flies are recommended for these very waters by fly fishing's leading experts. His presentations are good, but his flies are ignored. The angler hasn't touched a trout all morning, yet they continue to rise. He then notices one small dark olive mayfly on the water and ties on a Dark Olive Quill dry fly. The angler makes a crucial miscalculation however. He bought the fly in haste at a store, and it is cheaply made. Instead of being tied with stiff rooster hackle, it is tied of soft hen. After a couple of casts, the fly is soaked and floats poorly. Another couple of casts, and it sinks. *Whoa! Fish on!* Another cast ... another fish. Four brace of lusty trout follow quickly, each hooked as the soggy fly sinks below the surface.

The angler is puzzled, because such behavior is not described in the literature. Preeminent authors of the day teach that casting dry flies upstream to rising fish is the only way to take chalk stream trout. An angler should wait for a surface hatch, identify the species, and match it with an imitation. As one supposed authority wrote in the *Fishing Gazette*, unless trout are feeding atop the surface you "*might as well chuck your hat at them*" as cast a fly. Later, while reflecting on the day's events, uncertainties and doubts creep into the angler's inquiring mind. Uncertainties about the relative merits of sinking vs. floating flies. Doubts about the wisdom of fishing dry flies in all circumstances. Could advice of the experts be wrong? The angler then resolves to experiment in future trips with subsurface flies and presentations.

The angler of this true story was G.E.M. Skues, and his book *Minor Tactics of the Chalk Stream* (1910) marks the beginning of nymph fishing as we know it. Skues' studies of wet flies are detailed in *Minor Tactics*, five

later books, and dozens of published journal articles. More than any other angler, Skues made fly fishing with nymphs an imitative science. He described insect and trout behaviors at all stages of an emergence, imitative flies that match specific nymph species and stages, and effective methods for their subsurface presentation. Skues' writings are the foundation of modern nymph fishing and are as fresh and relevant today as a century ago. He is one of history's most original and insightful fly anglers and tyers.

Skues brought fresh ideas to a fly fishing world that, at least in some high-profile locations, had become obsessed with the dry fly. Dry fly fishing dominated the angling literature for decades beginning in the second half of the 19th century. The period is often described as the golden age of fly fishing, but the philosophy of the "dry fly school" was rather dogmatic and inflexible. Dry fly purity ruled the day, and fishing by any other method was harshly scorned.

Skues pierced that veneer and challenged prevailing dry fly doctrines. He argued that subsurface imitations are at times *more* effective than dry flies and, by imitating all stages of the insect life cycle, nymphs and dry flies complement each other. Skues was vilified for such heresy, but his gentle manner, respect for the dry fly, sparkling intellect, and lively style of writing disarmed detractors and steadily won over converts. Skues did not invent upstream angling with a wet fly, as it had been practiced for countless decades in the English north and Scottish border country. Skues, however, was a visible, prolific, and persuasive writer who educated a worldwide audience and popularized charms of the "dark arts".

Skues described the Dark Olive Nymph in *Minor Tactics*. It imitates a mayfly species not found in North America but similar to many of our blue-winged olives. Fish it just under the surface during a BWO emergence or more deeply early in a hatch or during non-hatch periods. Once the fly is soaked and its wispy fibers breathe in the current, be prepared for a little "*Whoa! Fish on!*" of your own making. ©Rusty Dunn, 2023

----- Dark Olive Nymph -----

Hook: Wet-fly / nymph hook, #16-22

Thread: 8/0 or smaller, lemon yellow; a few turns of thread showing at the tail

Tail: A few barbs of dark dun hen hackle, tied fairly short

Rib: Fine gold wire

Abdomen: Light olive/brown nymph dubbing, applied lightly with silk showing through

Thorax: Dark olive/brown nymph dubbing, bulging modestly to suggest a wing case

Hackle: Rusty dun hen, tied short to imitate legs but not wings



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
Vice President	Topf Wells
Secretary	Henry Nehls-Lowe
Treasurer	Nick Jackson
State Council Rep.	Michael Williamson
Board Member	Pat Hasburgh
Board Member	Curt Reidl
Board Member	Tom Thrall
Board Member	John Freeborg
Board Member	Don Golembiewski
Board Member	Kevin Maes
Past President	Jim Hess
<i>Newscasts</i> Editor	Drew Kasel
Conservation Committee Chair	Jim Hess
Women's/ Diversity Initiative Chair	Tina Murray
Youth Education Chair for SWTU	Tina Murray

mark.maffitt@gmail.com
topfwells@gmail.com
henry.nehlslowe@gmail.com
jackson@themendotagroup.com
mlwilliamson.53@gmail.com
patrick.hasburgh@gmail.com
curt_riedl@oxfordcorp.com
tthrall2@yahoo.com
john@freeborg.com
don.golembiewski@gmail.com
kevin.maes@outlook.com
jimhess5599@gmail.com
madkasel@gmail.com
jimhess5599@gmail.com
swtu.women.diversity@gmail.com
swtu.women.diversity@gmail.com

Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited
P.O. Box 45555
Madison, WI 53744-5555

