

Newscasts

March 2023 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



Our Nohr TU Friends Keep Providing More Fishing and We Keep Helping! Our Tuesday, March 14, Chapter Meeting

By Topf Wells

Please join us for the March SWTU meeting on March 14 at Schwoegler's Bowling on Grand Canyon Drive. Dinner, drinks and conversation starting at 5:30 with the meeting and presentation at about 7.

And we'll have a spectacular double-barreled presentation. Carol Murphy, President of the Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter of Trout Unlimited (our friends to the west in Iowa and Grant Counties), will show some slides and describe Nohr's latest projects on 6 Mile Creek, the Blue River and Big Spring Creek.

The one on 6 Mile and the Blue was completed last year and is mammoth. It includes the final stretch of 6 Mile before it joins the Blue and over a mile on the Blue itself. At this location the Blue is pretty big water and presented tremendous challenges to Nohr and their partners.

Nohr then started another major restoration on Big Spring last summer and fall. This section is on the lower part of Big Spring and will greatly improve an easement that has been tough to fish. Trust me on that. I gave up several years ago when the steep and eroding banks and sediments became too much. Nohr will finish the project this year.

These two projects are the latest jewels in the crown of restorations Nohr has completed in the Blue River watershed. Many SWTU members owe memorable days of trout fishing to Nohr's work.

SWTU has annually supported Nohr's work with a donation. Besides the engineering and construction issues these projects pose, Nohr submits many grants and annually solicits donations to fund these expensive restorations. The second barrel of the presentations will be an SWTU check to help Nohr with this year's work.

Nohr sponsors interns, monitors water quality and helps schools with Trout in the Classroom. Carol will have much to share with us. And Nohr members have really helped on several workdays.

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 two new directors (thank you, Pat Hasburgh and Curt Riedl) and a new Treasurer as Nick Jackson has admirably served the chapter but will roll off the board. We'll have elections this April and are also looking for a couple of people to join our Nominating Committee (a fun, short-term task). If you have questions, are interested or know of someone who is, [please contact any officer or board member](#).



Get Your Tickets Now: Early Bird Pricing!
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.

[Buy your event tickets by Sunday, March 19](#), and get extra raffle tickets! It's going to be another amazing event, where you can expect:

- Bucket raffle w/ amazing prizes
- Casting contest w/ rod demos on the water
- Lawn games and socializing
- Delicious street food donated by the 608 Community Supported Kitchen and cash bar
- Fun, friendship and more

This event will raise funds for the full range of our normal operations: workdays, projects, teaching, veteran's programs, kids and more.

As a champion of stream conservation, restoration and public access, SWTU continues to forge ahead working for our fishing community and coldwater fisheries. This only happens with proper funding. Your attendance will help replenish the funds that continue to support the health, access and future of our coldwater fisheries.

Offline ticket sales coordinated by SWTU board member Kevin Maes: kevin.maes@outlook.com or 608-358-2412.

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.
TROUT UNLIMITED SOUTHERN WISCONSIN CHAPTER
THE EAST SIDE CLUB



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.

Save the Dates: 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 (note they've been updated slightly since last month).

April 1 – Whitford Creek (Iowa County) – Joint workday with the Nohr Chapter and The Prairie Enthusiasts clearing box elders and brushing. Whitford Creek is a small brook 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 – Whitford Creek – same as above

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 boy scouts and school children to help out. It will end by 12 noon.

April 29 – Sawmill Creek – Clearing box elders and other invasive woodies at a new easement on Sawmill Creek (Pokorny Easement) on Hay Hollow Rd, 4 miles east of Blanchardville on Cty. Rd. H.)

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 – Sawmill Creek, Green County – same as above

June 3 – Hefty Creek (Rudd Easement) – we will be using the slash from our October 29 workday, which was placed into piles to be used for this workday. 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. The bundles will reduce erosion and sediment built up.

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

Another New Easement Coming Shortly

By Topf Wells

Dan Oele, the DNR fish biologist for Dane, Rock, and Green Counties, scores again. Thanks to his patient work and the generosity of the Pokorny family, the DNR will soon have another easement on Sawmill Creek. Although the agreement is final, the paperwork will take several months. So, NO FISHING until the DNR signs go up.

However, Jim Hess might provide a sneak preview. He's working with the family and other conservationists to schedule a work day this spring. Stay tuned. Jim might have more information on workdays at the March meeting, another good reason to attend.

We helped on this easement. Four years ago, SWTU, Pecatonica Pride and the DNR asked landowners in the Gordon and East Branch of the Pecatonica watersheds to consider selling fishing easements. We hosted two dinners and a field day. The new easement is, by my count, the eighth the DNR has obtained via that effort. Huge thanks to the Pokorny family, Dan, Pecatonica Pride and Steve Fabos with Indigenous Restoration.

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.)



We were recently informed that our storage shed was being torn down and given a month to get out. After a quick search and several site visits, we found a new home just off Hwy 151 near Verona. It has lots of security and we are saving \$100 a month. This location will be a more convenient location for our workdays. Thanks to our movers Mark Maffitt, Henry Nehls-Lowe, Tom Thrall, Topf Wells, Jim Kanvik, and Jim Hess for all their help. Buy them a beer and they will tell the real story about moving day. (Jim H. may deserve two beers – he celebrated his birthday with hours of lugging and lifting.)

And a cool thing ... our new storage vendor also the Sylvan Road property, which is open to many forms of outdoor recreation, including fishing.

A Treasure Trove of Info on Key Local Creeks

By Topf Wells

Follow this link to [Dan Oele's new assessment of the trout fishery on the Sugar River](#). It includes streams many of us know and fish – the Sugar, Badger Mill Creek, and Story Creek as examples – and some surprises – Schlapbach Creek might head that list. Of particular interest are his descriptions, analysis and recommendations for Badger Mill Creek. My belief is that the report is more evidence that Badger Mill is well worth protecting in the face of the threat the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District presents to it.

Thanks to Dan for more excellent work on our local trout streams. SWTU is eager to work with Dan to protect and improve all these streams.

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 Lathrop	Jere Gellerman
Robert Pearson	Steven Spiekerman
Richard Bucheger	Jeannette Woods
Mark Steinbuck	Daniel Kavanagh
Michele Brogunier	

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

In today's world of instant communication, each of us is but one TikTok video away from stardom. Celebrities are newly minted on TikTok, YouTube, and other platforms almost daily, but their significance fades just as fast. The quantity of online fly-tying resources can be overwhelming, but this avalanche of information is a relatively recent phenomenon. How did we learn about productive new (or old) flies during the decades and centuries before browsers, websites, and YouTube? The social medium of lasting impact back then was the printed page. Books and magazines were the currency of public influence. Fly patterns could become locally famous by word of mouth, but recognition on a national scale came from hard-copy publications. Jim Slattery's Stimulator fly is a perfect example of 'going viral' the old-school way.

The Stimulator is a high-floating bushy fly designed to imitate egg-laying stoneflies. It is Fly #10 on *Field & Stream* magazine's list of "The Twenty-Five Greatest Flies of All Time". Yes, it's that good! Design of the Stimulator is usually attributed to Randall Kaufmann because he was the first to publish it. Kaufmann is a Pacific Northwest angler, author, fly-shop owner, and fly tyer of Umpqua Feather Merchants. He popularized the Stimulator in magazines, books, and the Umpqua catalog beginning in 1980. The genius behind the Stimulator's design, however, came from a young lad in northern New Jersey named Jim Slattery.

Slattery regularly fished New Jersey's Musconetcong River in the late 1970s. He led a dual life, however. By day, he fished the Musconetcong but, by night, he played bass guitar as 'Jim Revenge' of The Violators, a punk rock band that blasted wild, fast, hard-edged music in the frenzied nightclubs of New York City. The Violators did not achieve fame and fortune in the music industry, but Jim Slattery's Stimulator is an acknowledged superstar of the fly-fishing world.

Slattery designed the Stimulator to imitate egg-laying Giant Eastern Stoneflies. He captured an adult female one day during a hatch and, after several rounds of refinement, tied

an imitation that he thought would work well for the hatch. Jim named his fly the 'Fluttering Stonefly', but he didn't have time to test its effectiveness. The Violators and New York's music scene were Jim's number one priority at the time. Instead, Jim gave a few Fluttering Stoneflies to a friend who tested them for him. The fly was astonishingly effective! News of a hot new fly spread by word of mouth, and soon another local angler approached Slattery for flies. "Are you the pink-haired punk rocker that sells flies down by (the Musconetcong)?" Jim smiled and gave the guy a few flies, asking only that he report back on their effectiveness. Unbeknownst to Jim, that angler took the flies west to fish a Salmonfly hatch on the famed Miracle Mile section of Wyoming's North Platte River. Again, the fly was an instant success! Soon thereafter, and much to Slattery's surprise, a Wyoming guide called to buy seven dozen Fluttering Stoneflies. The guide was unwilling to pay Jim's asking price, however, and by then the cat was out of the bag. Influential guides in influential places now knew of the Fluttering Stonefly design and its uncanny effectiveness during a Salmonfly hatch. Slattery later received a call from Randall Kaufmann, who reported that he planned to tie and sell the fly commercially after making some design changes to give it more "bin appeal". He had slimmed down and tidied up the wing, changed the fly's proportions, and shortened the front hackle collar. All were changes that Slattery maintains reduced (not improved) effectiveness. Kaufmann wanted a snappy new name also and, in recognition of Jim as originator of the design, offered to let Jim name the now modified pattern. Jim suggested either the 'Violator' or 'Stimulator' in honor of local punk rock bands. Kaufmann agreed to the Stimulator name, began marketing them in 1980, and published the recipe in his popular 1991 book *Tying Dry Flies*. A photo of the Stimulator is front and center on the book's cover.

The Stimulator's ascension to fame and glory occurred about as quickly as was possible in the 1970s. It was popular locally by word of mouth but went viral nationally when discovered by industry insiders. Kaufmann's publications propelled the celebrity status, but the fly itself was always the star of the show. Be it Jim Slattery's original Stimulator or Randall Kaufmann's more sedate descendant, the Stimulator is an absolute winner. © Rusty Dunn, 2023

-----Jim Slattery's Original Stimulator -----

Vary sizes and colors to match stoneflies, caddisflies, or any insect having rearward sloping wings. Montana Fly Company now offers for sale the 'OD Stimulator', where OD indicates Jim Slattery's 'original dressing'.

Hook: 3X-long, curved shank, #4-#10

Thread: 6/0 Uni, orange

Tail: Natural deer hair, short and stacked

Rib: Tying thread

Abdomen: Orange dubbing

Thorax: Orange dubbing with a prominent head extending forward of the thorax and hackle

Wing: Natural deer hair, do not stack

Hackle: Grizzly, abdominal length to the hook point; thorax length oversized



Fly tied by Jim Slattery

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

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