

Newscasts

December 2023 serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



Warm Thoughts and Big Fish at our December Meeting Kyle Zempel shares a southern adventure on Tuesday, December 12

Kyle Zempel, owner and chief guide of Black Earth Angling and a strong supporter of SWTU, will speak at our December 12 meeting. He will have just returned from a red drum (red fish) expedition to southern Louisiana. He'll have great stories and photos (and maybe some video) of a great fishing trip.

Baby, it's cold outside and some of us might be looking south for a warm and exciting fishing adventure. Red drum are superb gamefish and offer some of the more exciting, accessible, and affordable saltwater fishing for fly rodders and light tackle enthusiasts. While they're not salmonids, sea trout are another great gamefish, that often share the same water as drum.



Kyle will have some reliable suggestions on trips southward in search of these fish (and with reference to Louisiana, some Cajun food and good times).

He'll also answer questions about Black Earth Angling's '24 Wisconsin fishing opportunities.

Please join us at Schwoegler's on Grand Canyon Drive on Madison's West Side on Tuesday, December 12. Dinner and drinks available at 530 with Kyle's presentation starting about 7.

Schwoegler's Lanes, 444 Grand Canyon Dr., Madison, WI 53719

SWTU Fly-tying Courses – 2024 Free of charge – Register now!

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 17, 2024. Classes consist of instructor-led demonstrations and hands-on tutorials. The courses are completely free of charge, and all materials needed during in-class instruction 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.

Both beginning and intermediate courses meet on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 PM at the Fitchburg Community Center (5510 Lacy Rd., Fitchburg) beginning January 17, 2024. Courses run for eight consecutive Wednesdays (final class March 6, 2024).

Advanced registration is required! Register online at the Fitchburg Recreation Department (<https://anc.apm.activecommunities.com/fitchburg/activity/search>). 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 Phil Anderson at swtu-flytying@outlook.com.

Women's Fly Fishing Clinics: Registration now open

Please register now or share this with someone who may be interested. These fill up and we want our members to have an opportunity to take part in these groundbreaking clinics. ([Check out the great story and pictures from this year's successful clinic.](#))

There are two types of clinics detailed below with links and QR codes for more information. Both are set in Westby, WI (near Viroqua, in Wisconsin's Driftless Area) and the cost is \$355 until April 1 and \$375 after that.

Basics Clinic By Women For Women: June 14-18th, 2024

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.

<https://web.cvent.com/event/cdce6e2c-68c0-418b-9df7-80ab071e7e2b/summary>



On the Water Skills Clinic – Intermediate: June 12-14, 2024

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.

<https://web.cvent.com/event/64a51c1b-ba47-48a7-a48a-f823041a9307/summary>



Also be sure to note this amazing learning opportunity!



Women's Intro to Fly Fishing Clinic
Taught by Wisconsin Women's Fly Fishing
www.swtu.org/learn/womens-flyfishing-clinic/

Oshkosh, WI Feb 3, 2024
9:30-4:30 pm
1 N Main St, Oshkosh, WI 54901

Register : <https://bit.ly/47tUKLr>
\$21, includes lunch
Gear Provided

Sponsored by
Wisconsin State Trout Unlimited

Dane County Offering Women's Chainsaw Workshops

For the first time, Dane County is offering Women's Chainsaw Workshops. They will be hosting 3 rounds of 2-day courses for level 1 & 2 certifications. This course is free of charge and open to women and gender minorities of all experience levels. Completing a course like this is required of all sawyers at our workdays. [Learn more and register.](#)

Workday Report 1: November 4, 2023

Wrestling Invasives Along Whitford Creek

By Topf Wells

No complaints about weather for this work day. Temps started in the high 30s and climbed to the low 50s, clear skies and no wind. Our effort matched the weather.

This was our third work day on the TPE Sylvan Road property, which features Whitford Creek, a Class 1 brook trout stream and the Dodge Branch. Re: the Dodge – no big brown trout there at all, nope not a one, nope, don't bother to fish it at all. Our goals were to take out box elder and invasive honeysuckle in the area we had been working and to tackle the invasive willow along Whitford. Three great conservation organizations combined their efforts: SWTU, the Nohr Chapter, and the Southwest Chapter of TPE. Fourteen laborers from the three organizations entered the vineyard. With all the dang wild grape vines that's not just a figure of speech.



The SWTU contingent featured a wonderful group of current and past board members and officers. As one said, this was a lot easier ten years ago but we were spry enough to make superb progress.

It's always amazing what dedication, hard work and three hours can do. I think we've just about finished in the now open area and cleared many a willow along the creek.

TPE's Tom Hunt and BFF/SWTU's Bob Harrison are veteran, highly productive sawyers. We were really fortunate to be joined by Steve Fabos as well as Becky Fernetto, a TPE volunteer, with new chainsaw certification and a new chainsaw. She learned and purchased well, doing a great job in Whitford Creek clearing pesky willows on the bank.

Normally at this point we lead off thank yous to Jim Hess. Jim provided his usual organizational and communication skills but could not join us. He was caring for Marci, who had ankle surgery. She's doing well and all of us send her best wishes for a speedy recovery. Tom Hunt and SWTU Board Member Dyan Lesnik provided leadership for the day and made sure we functioned productively and safely. Ted Swenson of Nohr provided coffee, Dyan brought healthy apples, and I, not so healthy but delicious brownies and pork sticks.

Speaking of safety, Bob and his crew received a reminder to never, ever take a tree's fall for granted. Bob was working on a run of the mill box elder when he and we noticed some unusual swaying. The tree then seized his saw. Bob expertly freed it but proceeded with heightened caution. The tree fell opposite of the way it had been directed. No close call, no injury but a reminder to be careful out there.

It never ceases to amaze me that we accomplish so much work on the land in so little time. It is a testament to the power of a team pulling in the same direction toward a common goal. It humbles me to know people will voluntarily embrace arduous labor on a weekend when our most precious gift, time, can be spent in so many pursuits. On behalf of TPE, Sylvan, Whitford Creek, the trout, my deepest gratitude and appreciation for your generous donation of time and a good dose of fun.

— A note Tom Hunt shared after this workday

Thanks to Dyan Lensik for the photos! [See more in the article on swtu.org](https://www.swt.org).

Workday Report 2: December 2, 2023

Who Had the Better Day: SWTU or the Badgers?

By Topf Wells

Maybe the Badgers – beating #3 ranked Marquette is pretty good. Our last work day was pretty great, too, for lots of reasons:

- **Turnout.** On a day that started cold and blustery and with the nationally televised basketball game waiting at home, folks had good reasons to stay there. A wonderful mix of 20 or so volunteers showed up to help a farmer, Dane County's stream program, and a wonderful trout stream. Veteran and new members arrived, young and old, Board Members and Officers all pitched in. We were joined by the farmer, Ken Hefty, and his grandson Levi



Reeson. Ken operated a skid steer – increasing our efficiency 10-fold and Dane County's James Brodzellar and Katie Nicholas. Carol Murphy, Nohr's star president, joined the crew.

- **The Project.** We were on the first Dane County easement downstream of Kittleson Road on Kittleson Creek. This begins a stretch of great and permanently eased water down to STH 78. The goal today was to remove some invasive willows.
- **Results.** We made substantial progress with several stands of large willows cut, dragged, and piled. Let's pause for silent thanks for the skid steer. We might return for a few more willows and brush bundles. We had a mix of 3-4 sawyer and plenty of haulers. All of us were pretty amazed at how quickly each tree was cleaned up. Despite the trees being big and all the folks helping, we had another safe day.
- **Snacks.** Chilly weather and hard work whetted appetites. For the first time, we consumed all the brownies and pork sticks.
- **The Vibe.** Everyone, vets of the work days and newcomers, had a great time. Maybe we've been cooped up inside, maybe we needed to burn off holiday calories, maybe we needed to see and help a trout season with the season being closed for several weeks. Who knows but for whatever reasons a great time was had by all.
- **So Many Thanks.** To the landowner, who made public fishing on this section of creek possible and who was such a big help. To James and Katie, who worked with Jim to plan this work day and who'll have other great projects for us. To Dyan and Wayne, who brought the trailer to and from the work site. To Curt, Bob and John, our productive and safe sawyers. Finally and as always, to Jim Hess for a perfectly planned and executed work day.



This was the last of the fall and winter work days. Not to embarrass Jim but after each work day and after every meeting, folks tell me that Jim makes these days productive and fun. Thanks to Jim, they're not chores but a blast o' fun.

Jim deserves a break but I bet he'll be planning the spring season soon. It'll be worth the wait.

Thanks to Dyan Lensik for the photos! [See more in the article on swtu.org](http://www.swt.org).



You can help! Short-term Volunteer Opportunities

Your chapter needs volunteers to join the fundraising event team, without which we may not be able to host another fun and social event in the Spring of 2024.

Also, your board wants to improve the chapter's communication skills. To achieve this, we are forming a communications team which needs your help to expand reach and impact.

Both teams have a short window of commitment.

Contact John Freeborg at john-tu@freeborg.com or 608-695-8544 to learn more.

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.)

SWTU Comments on Renewal of Discharge Permit for a Quarry on Black Earth Creek

By Henry Nehls-Lowe

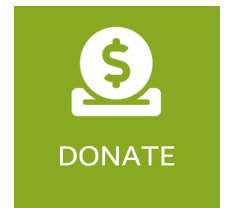
In November SWTU submitted comments, during a 30-day public comment period, on Wisconsin DNR's intent to reissue the permit for discharging to Black Earth Creek by the Capitol Sand & Gravel quarry, at 8355 Stagecoach Road, which is east of Cross Plains.

Quarry discharges at the outfall can be a significant contribution to flows of upper Black Earth Creek, though the discharge volume can vary and sometimes is intermittent. Prior temperature monitoring of the effluent showed a number of exceedances of DNR's calculated effluent limits. As a result daily temperature monitoring is being added to the renewed permit, along with daily maximum effluent limits. The new permit also adds compliance actions for exceedance of temperature limits, which was also not in the prior discharge permit (10/1/2018 to 9/30/2023). The new permit's term covers 01/01/2024 to 12/31/2028.

SWTU's main comments were: 1) thanking the DNR for adding a daily temperature monitoring regimen and adding daily maximum limits; 2) asking how those interested can regularly receive copies of monthly reports submitted to DNR by the quarry; and 3) recommending the shortening of the temperature compliance timeframe when DNR requires action by the quarry.

Help our Trout Waters / Help Your Taxes

'Tis the giving season and your local trout waters could use your tax-deductible gift. Your donation to the Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited Endowment Fund is a great way to make a difference to the waters you fish. The SWTU Endowment Fund has made significant contributions to major projects, including Gordon Creek and the Sugar River. To make a tax-deductible gift, please visit <https://www.swtu.org/donate/> for details on how to give via check or online.



Also, if you have an IRA and have to take a "required minimum distribution" (RMD) by year end, you may be eligible to make a "qualified charitable distribution" from your IRA directly to SWTU. Unlike most IRA RMDs, this type of distribution is not taxable to you provided you meet certain requirements. For example, your IRA custodian must transfer the money directly to SWTU. It cannot be paid first to you, then to SWTU. For 2023, the dollar limit on the charitable distribution is \$100,000, and it must be made by December 31. You should contact your tax professional or IRA custodian if you think you might be interested in this.

An Amazing Learning Opportunity for Youths 12-14

Check out this structured three-session program designed to introduce 12–14-year-old youths to the art of fly fishing. Each session will include a balanced combination of casting practice and educational components, fostering a comprehensive understanding of the basics within a controlled indoor setting.

This well-rounded program ensures a balanced and engaging experience for young participants by combining casting practice with educational components. By covering gear basics, aquatic ecosystems, knot tying, and entomology, the program sets the foundation for a comprehensive understanding of fly fishing. The controlled indoor setting allows for a focused learning environment, preparing participants for potential future on-water experiences.



The work shop is organized by Katherine Ford with the help of other local conservationists and fly anglers. [Read the application form to learn more about it.](#)

Welcome New Members

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

Darren Brown	Jerry McAdow	Cynthia Marshall
Valli Rogers	Katherine Ford	Benjamin Hurd
Barry Perkel	Richard Mace	Erika Schubert
L Duesterbeck	Stephen Roberts	Parker Belken
Sarah Buswell	Edward Bergman	Steve Glass
Leslie Paynter	Micheal Van Acker	Christopher Yesbeck
Peter Duane		

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!)

Join our Fox Valley Friends for their Cabin Fever Day

It's always a great event and you can see the details in this image or visit <https://foxvalleytu.org/>.

2024 CABIN FEVER DAY
Proceeds will support our Fox Valley TU stream habitat work
Fox Valley Trout Unlimited
foxvalleytu.org

Saturday January 20, 2024 Noon - 4 pm
GREAT NEW LOCATION!
Bubolz Nature Preserve
Noon Banquet Buffet
Catered by Van Abel's

GREAT Speakers
U.P. & MN Driftless Areas
High End Bucket Raffles
Scott Grady Bamboo Rod & Reel Pkg.
Sweepstakes Kick-off
Used Equipment Sale
Silent Auction

food, friends & raffles!

\$45 for adults (15 and older); \$20 for children (4-14); under 4 free (includes entrance, banquet, speakers, etc.)
All tickets to this event must be purchased online through: foxvalleytu.org NO later than January 10, 2024
NO tickets will be sold at the door

Fountains of Youth

Classic trout flies that have withstood the test of time ... flies that remain "forever young"

by Rusty Dunn

You are a beginning fly angler, and the moment of truth has arrived. Today is your first day of fly fishing for trout. You bought the equipment, read several "how to" books, stocked the fly box, and consulted stream access maps. You're at the river, and it's time to tie on a fly. But what fly? Those books made it seem so complex. Dry fly, wet fly, pupa, emerger, terrestrial, nymph, spinner, cripple, and on, and on. So many choices. So many decisions. Remembering advice of some 'expert' author you've never heard of, you pick up and examine river rocks. Yes indeed, insect looking critters are scattered about. Some creepy crawly things. Some wormy squirmy things. Some snotty knots that may or may not even be alive. Trouble is, you don't know a mayfly from a house fly down there among the rock and rubble. You're thinking, "For Christ sakes! I don't want to speak Latin or be an entomologist. I just want to catch a trout." You open the fly box, and your hand hovers with indecision. What fly? At that moment, an elderly gentleman with a kind face emerges from the path. You inquire, "Anything hatching?" The gentleman replies, "I did well with an Adams". There you have it ... wisdom of the ages. You tie on an Adams, catch a few trout, and have a grand first day of fly fishing. You now feel wise and confident.

The Adams is quite possibly America's favorite trout fly. You'll be hard pressed to find an angler whose fly box lacks an Adams. Ask ten anglers what an Adams imitates, however, and you might get ten different answers. That's because an Adams doesn't closely imitate any *specific* insect, but rather *all* of them more generally. The Adams is a generic attractor dry fly, one of the best of all time. It's a chameleon, a fly that appeals to trout seemingly no matter the hatch. The author Thomas McGuane perhaps said it best: "*The Adams looks a little like all bugs. It's gray and funky and a great salesman.*" (*An Outside Chance*, 1992).

The Adams originated along the banks of Michigan's

Boardman River at the hands of Leonard Halladay, an innkeeper and commercial fly tyer. Charles F. Adams, an attorney friend of Halladay's from Ohio, was fishing a tributary of the Boardman in the summer of 1922. Fishing was slow despite there being plenty of bugs around. Adams captured one such bug and took it to Halladay, who tied a matching fly. The insect was not identified, but C.F. Adams fished the new fly that evening and reported excitedly to Halladay that it was an absolute "knock-out". Halladay named the fly in honor of his friend and, thus, the Adams dry fly was born. Today, over a century later, Halladay's Adams is a fly-fishing legend revered by generations of fly-fishing cognoscenti.

Halladay's original Adams had a tail of golden pheasant tippets, oversized wings tied three-quarters spent, and a bushy collar of mixed grizzly and brown hackle. The Adams' current form – a thinner, trimmer, and more delicate Catskill-style dressing – appeared in the 1930s. Halladay's tail was replaced by grizzly/brown dry-fly hackle fibers for better floatation, and the wings were reoriented to be upright and divided. Variations of the Adams have proliferated ever since. The Delaware Adams, Egg-Laying Adams, Adams Midge, and Adams Wulff are but a few of many examples. Parachute dry flies grew in popularity beginning in the 1950s, and a Parachute Adams became one of North America's most popular trout flies. It still is.

How can a non-imitative fly be so effective? Many authors have speculated about the Adams' mystical properties. Most credit its success to the mixture of grizzly and brown hackle. Its broken mottled appearance seems to provoke some poorly understood but deeply rooted urges of a trout. The Adams is a triumph of impressionism over imitation in fly design. It is not tied to imitate an insect; it is tied to catch a trout.

Your first day of trout fishing is now over, and Halladay's genius did the trick. As you return to the car, you meet another beginning fly angler walking up the path. She inquires, "Anything hatching?" You reply with newfound wisdom. "Yes indeed! An excellent hatch of Adams."
© Rusty Dunn, 2023

----- Adams -----

Mount the wings approximately one-fourth shank length behind the rear of the eye. Tail length should approximately equal that of the hook shank. Taper the abdomen slightly. Pair together a brown and a grizzly hackle feather and wrap them behind and in front of the wings to form a thick bushy collar whose barb length is approximately 1.5 times the hook gap.

Hook: Dry fly, #12-20

Thread: Gray

Wings: Grizzly hen hackle tips, upright and divided

Tail: Dry-fly hackle barbs, mixed brown and grizzly

Abdomen: Gray muskrat underfur



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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Vice President	Topf Wells
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