

Newscasts

May 2024 serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



Elections and updates on local trout streams – Our May 14 Meeting

Please arrive early – a meeting so action-packed it starts at 6:30

The last TU meeting until September is on Tuesday, May 14, at Schwoegler's on Grand Canyon Drive with dinner and drinks available from 5:30 p.m. on.

BUT THE BUSINESS MEETING AND SPEAKERS WILL START AT 6:30 INSTEAD OF 7.

We have a full, worthwhile, and fun agenda::

- Elections for the SWTU Board of Directors (see article below for candidates)
- Other business such as work days and PGT
- Report on another successful fundraiser (thanks to everyone who helped and contributed)
- A brief presentation by Wade Moder of the Dane County UW Extension Office on stream monitoring in SW Dane County
- Nate Nye, the DNR fish biologist for Columbia and Sauk Counties and our featured speaker, on trout fishing opportunities in his area.

See below for more details on all these speakers and topics.

And please be sure to arrive by 6:30.

First presentation

Western Dane County Trout Streams Need Our Attention

The DNR has prioritized a list SW Dane County stream sites in need of volunteers to help collect data through the Water Action Volunteers (WAV) program. After a short training, volunteers help collect monthly data during the spring and summer including water temperature, water clarity, dissolved oxygen, stream flow and biotic index. No experience is necessary, and all data is combined with professionally-collected data to inform water quality assessment and improvement projects in Wisconsin. Here is a map of the prioritized stream sites: <https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=17JjRr855nOG8jPjRWOUUn3b9hWZD-CZk&ll=43.179680046839%2C-89.78451000832699&z=14>

Wade Moder, the Natural Resources Educator in the Dane County UW-Extension Office, coordinates this effort. He'll explain the program and ask for volunteers at our May meeting.

In his role, Wade offers support to community organizations, spearheads educational programs, and raises awareness about Dane County's natural resources and conservation initiatives. Before joining Extension, Wade served as the executive director of the non-profit Upper Sugar River Watershed Association (USRWA) for nine years. He continues to collaborate with a farmer-led coalition he played a pivotal role in founding, known as Farmers for the Upper Sugar River. Wade has experience in developing and leading community science programs, strategic planning, watershed management, invasive species control, and native prairie restoration.

(It should be noted that in Wade's capacity with the USRWA, he was the most resolute and well informed champion of Badger Mill Creek as the USRWA, SWTU and others have tried to protect that creek from the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District. He'll continue as a great friend of Dane County trout streams in his new position.)

A splendid Spring Fair Fundraiser

Many thanks to all who attended the event. It was highly successful in terms of money raised, prizes given and smiles created. We'll share photos, financials and more in the June newsletter, so please watch for that.

Most importantly, your trusty newsletter editor won the casting competition ... and isn't that what really matters?

Second presentation

Insights on local trout fishing

Nate Nye, the DNR fish biologist for Columbia and Sauk Counties, will be our featured speaker at the May meeting. Nate will offer some information on trout fishing in his area. Many of our members now focus on Driftless streams but some of Nate's streams are well worth the time and much closer than Viroqua.

Nate's assessments of the trout watersheds in his area are superb. He is a clear, concise writer and has excellent observations and recommendations for every stream he has surveyed. He has a knack for finding streams, some hitherto unknown, full of wild brook trout.

He's been a great friend of SWTU. When COVID hit, he created two videos we shared with our members and his research was vital to our partnering with other TU chapters and conservation organizations to purchase the acres on Dell Creek.

Some personal background from Nate: I grew up on a small farm in southern Michigan, and attended Michigan State University, graduating with a bachelor's degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Management in 2002. Following graduation, I worked as a research technician at MSU for a number of years on Great Lakes trout, salmon, and whitefish projects. Also during that time I completed a number of graduate-level fisheries courses. From late 2008 to early 2012 I worked as the Big Rivers Assistant Fisheries Biologist with the Indiana DNR, focusing on river species like paddlefish, shovelnose sturgeon, sauger, and catfish. In April 2012, I moved to Wisconsin and took up my current position as the Fisheries Biologist covering Columbia and Sauk counties, based in the Poynette field office. After living much of my life in areas of the Midwest that were nearly devoid of trout, my current position offers me the great opportunity to study and enjoy the vast trout resources available across much of southern Wisconsin, and for that I am truly grateful. I currently live in Green Lake, Wisconsin with my wife Ann and our dog and cat.



The May meeting is on May 14 at Schwoegler's on Grand Canyon Drive. Dinner and drinks will be available at 5:30 p.m. PLEASE NOTE THAT THE BUSINESS MEETING WILL START AT 6:30 WITH NATE'S PRESENTATION STARTING ABOUT 7:15.

Please join us at Schwoegler's on Grand Canyon Drive on Madison's West Side on Tuesday, April 9. Dinner and drinks available at **5:30 p.m.** with elections and presentation starting at **6:30.**

[Schwoegler's Lanes, 444 Grand Canyon Dr., Madison, WI 53719](#)

Board Elections at the May Meeting

The Nominating Committee of the SWTU Board presents the following slate of candidates for the election to be held at the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, May 14.

President: Steve Musser (incumbent)
Vice President: Topf Wells (incumbent)
Treasurer: Marty Chiaro (incumbent)
Secretary: Henry Nehls-Lowe (incumbent)
State Council Delegate: Michael Williamson (incumbent)

Four open Director positions:

John Freeborg (incumbent)
Josh Reilly (see bio below)
Riley Bellin (see bio below)
Ben Mechelke (see bio below)

Hi, my name is Josh Reilly. I grew up in Edgerton with my grandparents, I currently live in Madison.

My grandfather was an avid outdoorsman. He had a small game farm with pheasants, wild turkeys, quail, Canada geese and a variety of ornamental pheasants. He and I spent many a day fishing, especially ice fishing. My grandfather was part of the Conservation Congress back in the day and pushed for stream rehabilitation of the Badfish Creek to bring it back to a well functioning trout stream.

My introduction to SWTU occurred in 2022 when I went to Trout days in Cross Plains. I partook in the casting clinic as well as the other educational stations. It was after that experience that I decided to join SWTU.

I hope to be a good steward for SWTU and to help see the natural environment restored where and when possible.

My name is Riley Bellin, and I just recently joined the Southern Wisconsin TU Chapter this past February and attended my first meeting in March. I've been fishing most of my adult life, picking up the interest in high school when my friends and I would try to get outside most weekends, fishing for whatever we could find in the lakes and rivers in the Northeast Wisconsin area. I went to UW-Madison for my schooling, and had the opportunity to discover the Driftless my sophomore year – safe to say I was hooked, pun intended! I've been looking for a way to get involved in the protection and longevity of the rivers and streams of southern Wisconsin ever since. I'm excited at the possibility of using my skills to further the mission of TU and the Southern Wisconsin Chapter, and am looking forward to getting to know more folks like myself who feel the same way.

In my career, I've worked in various marketing roles but have found my home on the content side, and am currently a Content Specialist with NORD Drivesystems in Waunakee. I'm hoping I can use my skills to bring the marketing of the chapter to the next level, grow our memberships, increase our audience, strengthen our partnerships, put new and exciting content on our website, and find new opportunities to collaborate with other organizations around the area. All that's to say I'm excited to contribute to the Chapter and look forward to working together with everyone here!

My name is Ben Mechelke and I joined the Southern WI TU chapter last fall after hearing about the great work the chapter does from a neighbor. I started trout fishing in the spring of 2023 and was blown away by scenic beauty of the cold water fisheries of southern WI. Chasing trout has quickly become a new passion of mine and connecting with like-minded individuals involved in the chapter and on the stream has brought me into a new community that I'm forever grateful for. I'm really looking forward to helping the chapter further by serving on the board and can't wait to see the great work ahead of us this year.

A little more about myself, I grew up visiting my grandparents on Long Lake in northwestern Wisconsin near Spooner. I learned to love the outdoors from those experiences and have been fortunate to be able to explore many corners of the country. Besides fishing, I enjoy hiking, trap/skeet shooting, rock climbing, fly tying and learning about the natural environment. My career so far has been in the aerospace and automotive industries working as a mechanical design engineer. My Fiancé and I have been living on the far west side of Madison for a couple years now. In the warmer months, you can find me on Black Earth Creek in the evenings enjoying a BWO hatch. See you on the stream.

We will also take every opportunity we can to thank Kevin Maes, Tom Thrall and Jim Beecher for their service to the SWTU board and our cold water resource.

Remembering Jim Kanvik

With sadness, we report the passing of Jim Kanvik, who served on the SWTU Board, organized immense bucket raffles that helped raise tens of thousands for the resource, played a key role in the celebrated Gordon Creek project and served as a workday stalwart. The picture is of Jim receiving the chapter's Golden Trout Award. [Read his obituary here](#), and see below for thoughts on Jim from chapter members.

Jim Gentry, a leader of the Gordon Creek project: *I thought he was a terrific guy. He was one of the four people on our committee as I recall, and what I remember most is that he was totally reliable. If you asked him to do something, it was done and done now, whether it was 10 phone calls or arranging a work day, or going to yet another meeting. Another thing I appreciated was how calm and businesslike he was. As with all projects, the Gordon Creek one had its share of personalities and drama, but Jim was immune to all that. He just got it done. Sweet guy. Organized, mellow, quite*



wonderful to work with. I enjoyed checking in with him on the different issues that came up, as he had a reassuring presence. Kind of like Dad, tho we were the same age. I will miss him.

Jim Hess, Conservation Chair: I worked closely with Jim for the last 10 years as he hauled the trailer to the workdays. I always enjoyed talking with him at our chapter meetings. He will be missed.



Congrats to Brian Counselman: Teach of the Year

We were please to see the [news of Brian Counselman's well-deserved accolades](#). Chapter member Dave Fowler has worked with Brian to support Project Green Teen for several years and had this to say: "Brian definitely deserves the Teacher of the Year award. It's been great working with Brian on PGT over the past several years. He had big shoes to fill with Tina's retirement, but he hit the ground running and never looked back. From my perspective, the transition was really smooth. He's been able to put his own spin on the program and the PGT students seem to thrive under his guidance. I feel good that PGT has a great future under Brian's leadership."

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.)

Rob's Sugar River Ramble – June 2, 2024

Your SWTU board unanimously voted to make a \$2,000 contribution to this year's Rob's Sugar River Ramble on June 2, 2024, which makes SWTU a Platinum sponsor for this event. It looks like a ton of fun and that it will do a ton of good for one of the most important nearby coldwater streams.

This is the 10th annual [Rob's Sugar River Ramble](#), a hike, bike and paddle followed by a lunch, this year hosted by Seven Acre Dairy in Paoli. This event supports conservation efforts, including monitoring invasive species and habitat restoration within the watershed, as well as educational efforts, like the recently developed explorer's backpacks to engage school children with the outdoors.



Learning and Engagement at Trout Days

By Andy Morton

Thanks so much for all of the great chapter help in making the event a big success!! We had great weather and turnout. From what I observed, all of the stations had several visitors and people were engaged in detailed conversations about the health of the watershed. Likely one of the best things about this event are the connections that were strengthened between organizations and people involved with restoration, protection, and improvement of the creek and watershed.

If you have any suggestions about how we could improve anything regarding the event in the future, we would like to hear from you. Photos courtesy Jim Beecher. [See the story on swtu.org for more.](#)



Vets on the Fly

By Dyan Lesnik

Vets on the Fly activities are free for all Vets and their family members. All equipment is provided so just show up for their events for socialization and fishing fun. [Learn more at their Facebook page.](#)

Quick links to cool content

- The DNR has [just published its '24 fishing report](#) with spots to fish, new restorations, and summaries of fish research.
- TUDARE is looking to augment our hired field crew technicians with some volunteer assistance in June, July and August. This is a very cool volunteer activity and [you can learn more in the story on swtu.org.](#)



Lowery Creek Stream Workday Tree Planting – Saturday, May 11 Iowa County – Northeast of Dodgeville on CTH Z

Time: 9am to 12 noon (Chapter Approved Sawyers please arrive at 8:30).

What: This is a joint workday with the Nohr Chapter. We will be assisting Justin Haglund, DNR Fish Biologist, and his crew with planting 65 trees. The holes for the trees will be pre-dug. We will also be placing matting and cages around each tree. A prescribed burn was conducted on this site this spring, so conditions should be good for accessing the site. This is a very new DNR easement and well worth checking out.

Please bring a shovel (will still need to fill in the holes and perhaps dig some new ones). We have buckets for watering the trees.

Where: Lowery Creek in Iowa County, located approximately 10 miles northeast of Dodgeville on CTH Z at the intersection of CTH Z and CTH T. See the map below.

Here is a Google Map Link: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/Mgs7YrP3P3PDT7KG6> If this not active link, copy and paste into your search engine.

Bring: Bring a shovel, work gloves, sturdy shoes, eye and ear protection. Also bring reusable water bottles that can be re-filled from our 5-gal water jug.

Parking: Park in the parking lot located just north of where we will be planting. See the article on swtu.org for [a map of the site and details of the upcoming workdays.](#)

Thanks,
Jim Hess, SWTU Conservation Chair

Welcome New Members

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

W. Dieter	Chris Novoselac
Paul Barbato	Nancy Fonzen
Bryan Bazan	Jeffrey Klumpyan
Steve Soeteber	

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 has 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

'Match the hatch' is a comforting principle to live by. See an insect; tie on a matching artificial; catch a trout. Simple and effective. Some flies, however, might cause you to question the need for imitation, because they look nothing like natural insects yet are consistently successful. Such flies are inherently "buggy", and examination reveals that they match nothing obvious in nature. Examples include the Royal Wulff, Zug Bug, Pass Lake Special, Prince Nymph, Bivisible, and many others. Ask ten different anglers what each imitates, and you'll likely get ten different answers. Such patterns are "attractor" flies, so named because they have an uncanny ability to elicit strikes from trout.

Attractor flies are chimeras, fanciful monsters whose design suggests bits of insect anatomy but whose final form imitates no single species. They are rough approximations of the real thing, and often look more like Christmas ornaments than insects. Why are attractor flies so successful? Anglers have debated the point for decades without resolution. The inescapable conclusion is that trout either don't detect the inaccuracies of our carefully crafted imitations, or they simply don't care. Trout can be maddeningly selective during an insect hatch, but they are opportunistic feeders and take what is available during non-hatch periods. Attractor patterns are especially useful at such times. They are a fly-fishing generalist's favorite patterns. If you aspire to someday be that carefree angler who travels lightly with nothing but a small fly box and a spool of tippet tucked in the shirt pocket, attractor flies can make it happen.

"Fore and Aft" flies are one of history's most unorthodox attractor designs. Fore and Aft patterns sport a bushy collar of dry fly hackle at each end of a body that rides high and dry above the surface, braced by the hackle. Fore and Aft designs were developed about a century

ago, and many accomplished authors have praised their effectiveness. The Fore and Aft design, however, was never widely popular, perhaps because the flies are so unconventional. Most anglers haven't the courage to tie on a fly that does not even remotely resemble an insect. Experienced anglers, however, understand that looks are deceiving. To this day, Fore and Aft designs are regional favorites throughout the world. Examples include the Sierra Bright Dot (California), Gray Ugly (Colorado), Knotted Midge (UK), Buzz Hackle (California), Double Badger (England), and Winnie Fore and Aft (Michigan).

Fore and Aft designs appear to have originated at least three independent times in the early 20th century. Jean Juge, a country doctor in Chamberet, France, tied what is likely the very first Fore and Aft fly around 1918 as his Mouches Exquises ("Exquisite Fly"). Horace Brown, a well-known angler on England's River Kennet, tied his "Fore and After" (later renamed "Fore and Aft") in 1928. And Taylor 'Beartracks' Williams, a fly shop owner and guide in Sun Valley, ID designed his Renegade fly around 1930 for central Idaho's Malad River. The pattern for each of these pioneering Fore and Aft flies was published decades after its design and use. Thus, all three likely represent independent origins of the Fore and Aft design.

The most successful American Fore and Aft pattern – especially in western states – is Beartracks Williams' Renegade. A Renegade floats high and skitters well, even in rough water. Ernest Hemingway, a good friend of Williams during the author's Sun Valley years, admired the Renegade greatly and fished it as an egg-laying caddis. The Renegade is most popular as a dry fly but also works well as a wet.

Courage may indeed be needed to fish such an unconventional fly design, but if trout can be opportunistic, so can you. Try a Renegade next time trout seem scarce you're unsure what fly to use. You might be surprised how attractive and effective a fanciful monster can be.

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----- Renegade -----

Wrap the front and rear hackle with the shiny sides facing each other. Some authors prefer a rear hackle slightly larger than the front hackle. Others prefer a slightly larger front hackle. Still others prefer hackles of equal length.

Hook: Dry fly, #10 - #16

Thread: Black, 8/0

Tag: Flat gold tinsel

Rear Hackle: Brown rooster

Body: Peacock herl

Front Hackle: White rooster



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	Steve Musser
Vice President	Topf Wells
Secretary	Henry Nehls-Lowe
Treasurer	Marty Chiaro
State Council Rep.	Michael Williamson
Board Member	Dyan Lesnik
Board Member	Jim Beecher
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