

Newscasts

November 2024 serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



Join in the Fly Tying Jamboree

A fun and informal chapter meeting on November 12

The popular Fly Tying Jamboree is returning for our November meeting. Whether or not you tie flies, you'll leave with some new ideas and ways to improve your fishing. If you do tie flies, please bring your vise, light and select hooks & materials to demonstrate tying your favorite fly, and include a few stories. There will be door prizes and someone will walk away with a fly box full of flies fresh from the tiers' vises. Last held in 2018, the Fly Tying Jamboree will be a fun, relaxed, educational and conversational evening. Monthly chapter meetings typically start at 7 pm, but for the Fly Tying Jamboree arrive anytime after 5:30 for setting up your fly tying station, ordering food, drinks and socializing. As always, the meeting will be held at Schwoegler's Lanes, 444 Grand Canyon Dr., Madison, WI 53719



We'll hold a brief (we promise) business meeting about 7 and then back to fly tying.

For anyone who has wondered if fly tying is a) learnable, b) productive, and c) fun, please attend this meeting. You'll see some great and fun fly tying and have the chance to tie a fly yourself. Yes indeed, you can leave the meeting with a fly you tied, guaranteed by SWTU to catch fish.

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

At the October Meeting: The Interns Grabbed Our Attention

Emma Bailie and Jonah Hoeper, the interns SWTU and the Smallmouth Alliance funded this summer to work on DNR fish surveys, presented a fun and informative account of their summer experiences. Among the fish highlights were the large brown from Willow Creek and an even bigger walleye from the lower Kickapoo. Jonah stunned some of us with one report. He mentioned that he was on Tim Parks' crew (Tim's territory is Lafayette and Grant Counties) when they surveyed the Martin Branch. Several of us groaned expecting bad news.

You might remember SWTU's report of 4 years ago. The Martin Branch with miles of public fishing had been a really good stream about 10 years. Fishing declined amid rumors of fish kills. The DNR survey of about 5 years ago showed the stream to be devoid of trout. The DNR raised the possibility of declassifying the stream. SWTU and the Nohr Chapter opened discussions with the DNR about the stream with little progress and then COVID stopped that process. Some of us had begun to think about re-starting the effort but we lacked any update on the creek.

Jonah noted that the first spot did not hold any trout but then they arrived at the next spot. Full of wild brown trout up to 15-16 inches. Other spots had Young of the Year browns. Holy Smokes!

We've since confirmed with two biologists that Martin Branch again has wild brown trout. The survey is part of the next watershed assessment for that part of Grant County. Until that report is complete with Tim's analysis and recommendations, we should be cautious. Clearly, though, hope has sprang anew for the Martin Branch. It's time for us to renew the effort with the DNR to help that creek recover fully.

Trout In the Classroom: The Future is Bright

By Mark Maffitt

Trout In the Classroom is a program that offers students a chance raise trout in a classroom setting and then release them into a nearby stream. As we all know, trout need cold water. To get trout to thrive in a classroom requires chillers to generate the cold water that they require. Unfortunately, chillers equipped with pumps are so expensive as to be beyond the budget of most school programs.



In 2023, Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited helped start a Trout in the Classroom project at the Sun Prairie High Schools by donating the funds to purchase their chiller equipment. Since students are bound to learn a conservation ethic as they care for and nurture the trout, this was a project that we were delighted to support.

Thanks to the efforts of teacher Josh Capodarco, the program was a smashing success. The students successfully raised trout fry supplied to them by the DNR and they kept them growing and thriving through the summer. They wound up with a couple hundred fingerlings that were ready for release this fall. Along the way, they learned about water chemistry, the water cycle, and the importance of habitat conservation.

On Tuesday October 15th, the TIC students held a Trout Release party at the Token Creek Conservancy. Mitchell Trow of the Wisconsin DNR led a team that performed an electroshocking demonstration of Token Creek for the Students prior to releasing the fish. This also gave the students a chance to walk the banks of a trout stream and learn what this is all about.



The festivities continued at Token Creek County Park where a group of SWTU volunteers held a special session of our Riversmith Casting Clinic. The group of 30+ students had the chance to learn how to cast a fly rod, what kind of gear is required and to interact with and identify the aquatic insects that Mike Miller had on display for them. Thanks are due to all of our volunteer instructors: Don Golembiewski, Henry Haugley, Mark Maffitt, Michael Miller, Jim Obrien, Topf Wells and Loren Ziglin

We all owe Josh Capodarco a debt of gratitude for pioneering TIC in southern Wisconsin. He took the initiative to lead students in an unusual learning experience that could very well produce our next generation of conservation professionals. He also had to do a tremendous amount of behind-the-scenes work navigating through the red tape required to acquire trout fry from the DNR. Then he had to learn how to grow trout in an aquarium. None of this is easy, but he persevered. The trout from the project are now swimming in Token Creek, and there are a whole bunch of Sun Prairie kids that are jazzed about that.

(Photos courtesy chapter member Loren Ziglin and Sun Prairie teacher Josh Capodarco. [See more on our website.](#))

Two Workday Reports

Report 1: Buckthorn is Well Named – October 12

By Topf Wells

The SWTU work day crews don't encounter invasive buckthorn as often as honeysuckle. Lucky for us because the thorns can be painful. Careful and undaunted, we eliminated truckloads from the banks of the Sugar River during the 10/12 work day.

The mission was to clear buckthorn and its traveling companions box elder and invasive honeysuckle from a lovely stand of red oaks and open more access to the Sugar River at the Falk Wells Wildlife Area, not far from the STH 69 bridge and parking lot. The clearing improves the growth of the oaks and makes room for native shrubs like dogwood. At the second spot we cleared the river looked fishy.*

A crew of a dozen wielded loppers, brush saws, and chainsaws with the haulers and sprayers cleaning the area up. Treating the stumps is essential. Otherwise the opened areas become perfect spots for the invasives to resprout and grow even denser.

The weather was perfect and spirits were high. We had a great mix of veterans and a couple of most welcome newcomers. Dyan Lesnik's fresh apple coffee cake was a hit and the brownies and pork sticks were appreciated.



Folks were careful to wear glasses, safety glasses or goggles. Thanks to all for doing so. The smaller brush we were cutting and hauling can easily stick an eye with painful or disastrous consequences. Everyone was safe today.

Kathleen Falk was part of the crew today and the history of how the 400 acre wildlife area came to be was interesting. Thanks to Jim for another great day, well planned and executed.

* Fishing the Sugar is not like some other Driftless streams. Dan Oele's assessment is on the mark. The Sugar has stretches too wide and shallow and others without adequate cover to hold trout. Where the one finds depth and cover, the trout are there in good numbers and size. A couple of us saw this at the Lincoln School field trip this May. The spot the DNR started the survey had some depth but not cover, wood, or rock and no trout. As they moved upstream they found some wood and snags and rolled some trout out. They ended in a spot with current, depth, and some rock and found a bucket of trout up to 16".

(Photos courtesy Jim Beecher, Dyan Lesnik and Jim Hess. [See more on our website.](#))

Report 2: Hard Work, Glorious Day – October 19

By Topf Wells

About 30 of SWTU and Nohr's finest joined Justin and Jared of the DNR to improve Big Spring's corridor downstream of the first bridge. By removing dozens, hundreds, thousands of willows and a few box elders we were going to make access easier, remove a major attraction for beavers, and create room for oaks and a healthier mix of native vegetation.

Let's just be crystal clear. The willows were a huge pain in the butt (my left hamstring, to be more specific). Clumps of small ones were growing in reed canary grass. One of us would lop the clump or single stem while the other treated the tiny stump (no treatment = many more willows next season). Stooping and bending were the chief exercises of this workday.

We stuck to it and in great spirits, probably because it was a beautiful day, the work was worthwhile and the companionship fabulous. We cleared most of the area. Now the DNR can take over the next phases with burning and planting. Thank God.

The creek looked great and some of the water we saw will probably host spawning trout, maybe in the next 2-3 weeks.

This was a joint workday of SWTU and Nohr. Nohr raffled off a box of flies (and they are totally awesome, reports the lucky winner, me!) and provided a brat cookout with all the fixings. World class sausage. Better than all that was working with their members and being reminded of Nohr's historic commitment to the Blue River watershed. They have secured easements and restored streams for more than 25 years. This workday signals their determination to maintain that work as well as restoring new segments of streams. SWTU was honored to be invited to help! And the brats were delicious.

Many folks to thank starting with SWTU Jim Hess, Nohr's Ted Swenson, and DNR fish biologist Justin Haugland. They spent several hours on site planning the work and brought in lots of gear for the mission. Carol Murphy and the other Nohr officers and members epitomized hospitality. SWTU had a great showing of Board Members and another encouraging mix of veterans and newcomers to our work day. Alan, Dave, Carl and Riley thanks for putting up with me as I stumbled and fumbled through the willows.

(Photos courtesy Dyan Lesnik and some cool drone shots from Jim Hess. [See more on our website.](#))

Join us for an Upcoming Workday

By Jim Hess, Conservation Chair

We've had a strong start to the fall and need every helping hand we can get for our two remaining workdays. The work is straightforward and no experience is needed ... you'll be an expert in no time. It's a great way to meet people, learn about streams and make a real difference for our coldwater resource.



November 9, 2024 – Sawmill Creek on a new fishing easement!

Time: 9am to 12 noon (Sawyers that have completed a chainsaw safety course, please arrive at 8:30. We can provide the equipment).

Where: Sawmill Creek located in Green County near N8584 Hay Hollow Rd. Google Map Link: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/FiBSqCDbWjr9gx6J7>

For those wanting directions: Take Hwy 39 west out of New Glarus for about 6 miles to York Center Rd, turn left (south) on York Center Rd and go 3 miles to Hay Hollow Rd. Continue on Hay Hollow Rd for about ¼ mile to our work site.

Parking: Most of our work will be on the west side of the stream, so the closest parking will be on Hay Hollow Rd. Park on the right side of the road. There is also parking on the private gravel road on the east side of the stream near the storage shed. Park on the right side of the private road, do not block it.

What: As this is in Green County, we are hoping that Blackhawk Chapter members will join us (Dave Brethauer, President). Blackhawk members have joined us at our Hefty Creek and Falk Wells Wildlife Area workdays. Steve Fabos, owner of Indigenous Restorations, will be assisting us with this workday. Steve has been working with the property owners in restoring their property to a sedge meadow and prairie. We will be clearing box elders, honeysuckles, and other invasive woodies along the west side of the stream corridor.

This is a new fishing easement. Past DNR Fish Biologist, Dan Oele, helped secure this easement along with help from Pec Pride Watershed Assn, April Prusia and Steve Fabos, and the landowner dinner that we helped to sponsor in Blanchardville.

Bring: Rubber boots as there may be some wet spots and to cross the stream if needed. Otherwise, there is bridge that can be used. Also bring work gloves, sturdy shoes, and eye and ear protection, and a reusable water bottle that can be filled from our 5-gal water jug. Stay hydrated!

Our last workday of the year is on Conley-Lewis, one of the trout streams in an interesting complex of streams in eastern Iowa County, all part of the East Branch of the Pecatonica watershed. Near the easement we'll be working on Conley Lewis joins the Dodge Branch. Not far upstream, Whitford Creek, a Class 1 brook trout stream, flows into the Dodge Branch. Just over the ridge into the next sub watershed, Smith Conley, where we've had workdays and are sponsoring a huge restoration, flows into the East Branch. When I think of these streams, I recall the Kittleson/Gordon Creek watershed with all the excellent smaller tributaries. That watershed now offers some of the finest and most varied trout fishing in this area. But it took years of work from the DNR, Dane County, SWTU, the Nohr Chapter, and landowners to achieve that sustainable success (the first DNR survey of Gordon in the late 50s found one trout). Such an effort is now in its formative stages in the watersheds of the East Branch. Please join us on the 12/4 work day (details just below) so that SWTU and Nohr can build the support to improve these streams. -- Topf Wells

Dec 7 – Conley Lewis (Iowa County, Banner Road) – This is another joint workday with the Nohr Chapter, removing box elders and invasive woodies. There is a lot of work to be done, especially by our sawyers. This site is located northwest of Hollandale, near the intersection of Hwy 191 & Banner Rd. The work area is located on the north side of the bridge on Banner Rd – we will be working upstream. Here is a Google Map Link: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/aNdKkj5871GrysSr9>

Chuck Bayuk (1951-2024)

By Jim Bartelt

Our good friend and SWTU Chapter member has lost his long battle with cancer.

Chuck was a contributor to many of our chapter fundraisers. He handled Icebreaker tickets, monthly meeting raffle tickets, door prizes, built beautiful log cabin bird houses for raffles and even played his guitar and sang for us on occasion.

He was an accomplished musician and was the lead singer for two different trios that played local clubs and venues. For many years he played at the Harmony Bar's Jimmy Buffett night which was a fund raiser for the Goodman Community Center.

He was an excellent carpenter and wood worker. Besides bird houses he turned bowls. Many beautiful pieces were created in his wood shop. From Leopold benches to bookshelves to many other items. He was an artist with wood. On a more personal note, myself and many others in our chapter enjoyed many fly fishing adventures with Chuck. From the boundary waters, to the Hudson Bay, to Alaska and Argentina. From Belize and many Western United States rivers we shared some great adventures. And of course, the Driftless. Yes, Chuck always brought along a guitar. I have probably heard him sing around a campfire as much as in a club. He was always willing to share his music, his art and his dry sense of humor.

He has been my friend for over 60 years. He will be missed by many.

(Pictured is Chuck holding his guitar, surrounded by friends, on one of their many adventures. [A link to Chuck's obituary.](#))



Trout Unlimited Fly-Tying Courses – 2025

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 15, 2025. 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 improve 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 15, 2025. Courses run for eight consecutive Wednesdays (final class March 5, 2025).

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.



Scan to register



Scan for more info

Questions? See <https://www.swtu.org/learn/flytying/flytying-classes/> for additional information. Or, email questions to Phil Anderson at swtu-flytying@outlook.com.

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.)

Watch out for scam emails – One thing your board has been up to is sorting through different types of scams directed at them and possibly other chapter members. Often these take the form of asking a person to purchase gift cards. Generally, you can ignore and delete these – if you want to make sure an ask is legitimate, do not (ever!) reply to an email you think may be a scam ... write a separate message using one of the legitimate emails at the end of each newsletter.

Vets on the Fly Activities

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.](#)

Trout Creek Brown Trout Relocation Project

By Justin Haglund, Wisconsin DNR

During the dates of October 22, 23, and 24 DNR fisheries management staff partnered with TU chapters and other volunteers to conduct a brown trout relocation project along Trout Creek in Iowa County. This project was aimed at removing brown trout upstream of the PL 566 structure (dry dam) and moving them to the downstream reaches of Trout Creek. This effort is being pursued to manage and restore brook trout along the upper reaches of Trout Creek where spring inputs are excellent and habitat is appropriate for brook trout. The dry dam on this stream allows for a split management opportunity on Trout Creek where a permanent barrier is in place. Over the next few years, DNR staff will be stocking brook trout upstream in Trout Creek to restore the population to historic levels. Staff will also monitor the population on an annual basis and relocate any additional brown trout that are encountered during surveys.

During the three days of removal efforts, DNR staff and volunteers removed a total of 992 brown trout, recording lengths and clipping adipose fins on all fish encountered. In total, 378 age-0, 377 age-1, and 237 adult brown trout were moved downstream of the dry dam. In addition, staff counted approximately 400 brook trout throughout upper Trout Creek. Most of these fish were stocked in late summer 2024, although a few adult brook trout and a handful of yearlings were also encountered.



Many thanks to all of the volunteers that assisted DNR staff with this project!

(More photos and stories: Photos courtesy Pat Hasburgh. See the [story on our website](#) for more photos and thoughts from Topf Wells and Pat on their experiences at this unique event.)

Quick links to cool content

- **Quite an honor:** Where does he find the time? **Jim Hess** (pictured right), SWTU Conservation Chair and former President, was awarded the 2024 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Bluebird Restoration Association of Wisconsin. [Read all about it in the Monroe Times.](#)
- **See something, say something:** While on the stream, if you see runoff, erosion, something not quite right or have questions, thoughts, etc. you can report it simply at <https://apps.dnr.wi.gov/ccis/>. If one of us sees a fish kill, we should call or text to: 1-800-TIP-WDNR (1-800-847-9367). Thanks to Dan Oele for passing this along.
- **DNR Stream Reports:** A couple of new ones are out and very interesting to peruse, including on the Upper Yahara Watershed and Badfish Creek.



Welcome to the New Fisheries Biologist

Hi everyone, I'm Kyle Olivencia and I'm thrilled to be a part of the Fitchburg team as the newest fisheries biologist! I'm originally from New York, where I graduated from SUNY Cobleskill with an Associates in Fisheries and Wildlife Technology and a Bachelor's in Fisheries and Aquaculture. As an undergrad I gained lots of field experience working on several projects throughout New York as a fisheries technician for USGS for two summers. Some highlights were monitoring invasive Round Goby movement and their effect on native populations as well as monitoring the recovery of native Brook Trout in acid rain impacted Catskill Mountain streams.

After being involved in several projects, I knew I wanted to lead my own and thus decided to pursue a Masters in Fisheries Biology at Iowa State University. My thesis work assessed interactions between Smallmouth Bass and Walleye in Lake Oahe, South Dakota. More specifically, I evaluated trophic and dietary overlap and analyzed the success of stocking age-0 Walleye to supplement declining Walleye populations. I successfully defended my thesis in July 2022 and moved to Florida to work as a fisheries biologist for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. While in Florida I got to work on a vast array of waterbodies primarily conducting long term monitoring surveys of fish and aquatic plants as well as working on various research projects throughout the state. I eventually transitioned into a leadership role



with increased responsibilities coordinating field work, outreach events, and representing our region on various intra- and interagency working groups.

I'm excited to be back up North and can't wait to appreciate all the vast resources Wisconsin has to offer! In my free time, I love spending time with family, fishing, birding, wildlife photography, exploring the outdoors, and playing sports.

Addendum from Topf: Kyle was also a student member of TU during his undergraduate studies. By the time we read this, he will have just completed his first few days at the DNR. We'll invite him to work days and membership meetings and hope to meet him soon. Welcome aboard, Kyle!

Fight to Protect Badger Mill Creek Continues

By Topf Wells

The City of Verona has sued the DNR over its decision to approve an amendment to a water quality plan. That decision made it likely that the DNR will allow the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) to stop the discharge of its water to Badger Mill Creek. The loss of water reduces the creek by 35-40%. The SWTU Board believes that will probably hurt the creek as a healthy trout stream. The latest DNR assessment states that the creek is an improving Class 2 trout stream with a chance to improve to a Class 1. DNR fish and water quality biologists have stated that sections of the stream that now hold trout might not sustain them if the water is shut off.

We are awaiting more details from Verona regarding the timing and direction of this legal action. We are grateful for the City's and Mayor Luke Diaz's consistent defense of the creek. We'll continue to report on Badger Mill Creek and seek ways to protect it.

Welcome New Members

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

Brian Christie
Brian Schwellinger

David Mockert
L Duesterbeck

Marc and Jenny Chipault

We are honored to have you among us. Please join our next meeting 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.

Lost rod: TU Lifetime Member Stephen Born

In early October, Steve Born was fishing at the eastern bridge over Castle Rock Creek on G and left a rod on top of his car as he drove away. The rod was a TU Lifetime Winston 4 wt with his name inscribed on it. This Lifetime TU one holds a special place, and he is offering a reward for its return. If found, please reach out to born.stephen@gmail.com.

SWTU Member Discounts at D&S

Pat Hasburgh is a longtime SWTU member and former Board Member .. and the owner of D&S Bait, Tackle and Fly Shop. Pat's offered some great fly gear and flies at very reasonable prices since he opened. He's steadily been building up a fly tying department. To celebrate, Pat is offering a 10% discount for SWTU members on any fly or spin gear in the shop. Pat has generously supported SWTU with many donations. Stop by and see what he has to offer.

Fountains of Youth

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

by Rusty Dunn

When you next tie a size #20 fly to your leader, give some thought to the engineering behind that little wisp of forged steel underlying the fur and feathers. The strength of your hook might be key to subduing the trout of your dreams. We take strong, lightweight hooks for granted, but prior to the late 1800s, hooks were big, heavy, and poorly suited for dry flies. Dry-fly fishing developed in the late 1800s due to advances in hook manufacturing. George Selwyn Marryat, arguably the greatest pioneer of dry-fly design, described at the time properties of a hook needed for dry fly work:

"...the temper of an angel and penetration of a prophet; fine enough to be invisible and strong enough to kill a bull in a ten-acre field."

You may not land a raging bull on your size #20 hook, but that tiny curl of steel will have no difficulty corralling an angry trout.

Englishman Henry Sinclair Hall, an engineer, metallurgist, and avid fly angler, developed strong, light, fishing hooks in the 1870s. With assistance from George Bankart, Hall improved hook manufacturing and produced the first eyed hooks truly suited for dry flies. Most trout flies prior to Hall were tied on "blind eye" hooks, so named because they are eyeless. The shank of blind eye hooks simply terminates at a straight blunt end. Flies tied on blind eye hooks attach to their leaders via a 'snell', a short length of tippet material that is lashed to the hook shank before the fly is tied. The fly is dressed over the snelled hook, and a loop on the snell attaches with a loop-to-loop connection with one on the leader. The system, however, is not very durable. Friction between the blunt end of the hook and the flexible snell weakens the material to the point where perfectly good flies must be discarded due to a worn connection. Hall replaced the blunt end of blind eye hooks with a small circular loop formed of the hook wire, much as with hooks of today. Hall's hooks had turned-up eyes and offered a durable connection that

could be quickly snipped off and retied, something that is important when rapidly changing flies during a hatch. Hall did not invent the circular eye itself, for crude eyed hooks had existed for over a century. Rather, Hall introduced thinner, stronger steel and refined the mechanics of forming a small, neat eye. He mass-produced lightweight eyed hooks in the 1870s and patented the process in 1879. Anglers for the first time could tie flies that floated indefinitely and were easy to change. Hall's hook design quickly overtook the fly-fishing world and was later described as one of "*the two biggest advances of the nineteenth century in trout fishing*", the other being development of the dry fly itself.

Dry flies of the period had tails of stiff hackle fibers, upright divided wings, and a bushy collar of dry fly hackle. Sound familiar? English dry flies were the foundation of the American Catskill style. Such flies land gently, float high, and are perceived by trout as the real deal. F.M. Halford, the great angling author who refined and systematized dry-fly imitation, credited Henry Hall as the originator of many of his important patterns. Hall, however, credited his friend and collaborator George Marryat as being the true fly designer. Hall engineered the hooks, and Marryat designed and tested the flies. The two together plus angling legend Francis Francis founded a new school of fly design and angling methodology that endures to this day.

George Marryat was averse to writing and never published an angling book. Much of his wisdom pertaining to the dry fly, however, is contained in the landmark books of F.M. Halford, with whom Marryat fished and collaborated for seven years before Halford published *Floating Flies and How to Dress Them* in 1886.

Marryat's most famous fly is the 'Little Marryat', an imitation of English 'pale watery duns' (*Baetis fuscatus*), which are small mayflies with pale straw bodies and light dun wings. The species is not found in North America, but a Little Marryat imitates any small, light colored, mayfly dun. Try a Little Marryat during a sulphur or PMD hatch. When your tiny hook holds fast to a fat trout, give thanks to the engineer and the fly designer who made it possible. © Rusty Dunn, 2024

----- Little Marryat -----

This Little Marryat pattern is from F.M. Halford, *Floating Flies and How to Dress Them* (1886).

Hook: Dry fly, #16 - #18

Thread: Not stated, but pale yellow works well

Tail: Hackle fibers of a Buff Cochin rooster chicken, a color similar to today's light ginger

Body: Fur from the flank of an Australian opossum, but any finely textured, light-colored dubbing works well.

Wings: Wing quill slips of a pale starling

Hackle: Rooster hackle, light ginger



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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