

# Newscasts

November 2025 serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



## Double the Fun: Our Tuesday, November 11, 2025 Chapter Gathering

Two special guests headline the 11/11 SWTU meeting at Schwoegler's on Grand Canyon Drive. Emily Wille is the intern SWTU helped fund to work on the DNR stream survey crew this summer and Tim Parks is the DNR Fish Biologist for Grant and Lafayette Counties and the Lower Wisconsin River. Emily will present on her experiences and some of the discoveries of this summer's surveys. Tim will assist and also be available to answer the questions we always have of the fish biologists.

Most of the survey work focuses on trout streams and we'll learn some cool stuff about and see some great photos of favorite streams (and maybe some that we don't know). Just as important is Emily's account of what the survey team does and how the intern is a key member. This is the second year that SWTU has helped fund interns. We believe that helps the DNR and the students. We won't have great biologists like Tim if great students like Emily don't have internship and other hands-on opportunities.

We gather for dinner, beverages, and conversation anytime after 5:30. Emily and Tim's presentation will start shortly after 7. As always we will be at Schwoeglers on Grand Canyon Drive on Madison's West Side.

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

## 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.)

### Member Meeting and Board Meeting schedule around the holidays:

Member gatherings remain the second Tuesday at Schwoeglers, Doors 5:30, Presentation 7:00: November 11, December 9, and January 13.

Board Meetings will remain the fourth Tuesday for November and January, but **will be the third Tuesday for December**, at Delta Beer Lab at 5:30 PM: November 25, **December 16**, and January 27. Anyone is welcome to join the Board meeting.



### Remembering Fritz Seybold

Fritz was an active member and leader in SWTU for decades. He was a skilled angler, fly tyer, and a renowned woodworker. In addition to his talents and accomplishments, Fritz was a most welcome presence at our meetings. He was kind, funny, and welcoming. The meeting was always a good one if you sat next to or visited with Fritz. He battled serious health issues for a long time. This spring he had recovered enough to attend some meetings. He said he knew he didn't have much time left but had really hoped he'd return to the TU meetings. We are glad and honored that he made it. You can [read his obituary here](#).

## Trout Unlimited Fly-Tying Courses – 2026

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 14, 2026. Both beginning and intermediate courses meet on **Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 PM** at the Fitchburg Community Center (5510 Lacy Rd., Fitchburg) beginning January 14, 2026. Courses run for eight consecutive Wednesdays (final class March 4, 2026). 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 challenging fly patterns. Techniques and materials are more varied than Beginning Fly Tying, the patterns can be more complex, and the hook sizes are considerably smaller than flies of the beginning course.

**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](mailto:swtu-flytying@outlook.com).

## TU DARE ... to Have an Excellent Wednesday Workday!

By Dyan Lesnik

The special DNR/TU DARE workday on Wednesday, 15 October turned out to be very productive. I'm taking the liberty to call this workday "Revenge of the multiflora rose!" They were vicious. I think they were worse than Buckthorn since the thorns attacked in every direction possible! We got rained on just a bit, more mist than rain so not bad. Better than the really hot workdays.

About 20+ Cummins employees showing up for the workday. All really enthusiastic people. The DNR reps were Justin (He came early to get us started and then headed out to assess a dam in a different location), Lloyd, Jarrod and Josh all worked a chainsaw. Josh used the DNR's brush saw a bit, but I think the tangled multiflora didn't make it easy.

The SWTU members attending the workday were Michael Westbury, Josh Reilly, Kim Licitar, Jim O'Brien, Dan Postelnick, Mark Sonnenberg, and Dyan Lesnik. Michael and Josh were our sawyers. A few members were planning on taking advantage of one last day of fishing after the workday. I was asked not to divulge their fishing spots. 😊

TU DARE was represented by Paul Krahn who used his drone for some pictures so hopefully we can get a few.

We started in the open area where the DNR cut brush the day prior. We shared that area with lots of very friendly, curious cows...and LOTS of cow poop! Most of the SWTU people went a bit further upstream since we had plenty of sawyers. This area was a narrow strip, hampered between fencing and the steep slope to the creek. This is where the multiflora thrived! It was a bit slow going since half your time was wrestling to get untangled.

The Cummins people took a break at about 11 am and we all finished up around 12:30 so were able to get a lot done. Since the cows were in the area we did not use any herbicide. Justin and Lloyd said they would discuss with the landowner, possibly coming back later to spray when the cattle rotate out of that area. The plan is for the landowner to take care of the burn piles next year.

Lloyd took a quick walk around and said some of the Oak saplings he and Jarrod planted last year made it through the summer so hopefully a few more will hang on over the winter.

All-in-all, a very productive day. (See more of Dyan's photos in [the story on swtu.org](https://www.swtu.org).)



# Eagles, Huge Trout, Great Folks, Money, Fun Food, Lots of Work

By Topf Wells

Our work day on the Upper Yahara in DeForest was a potpourri of goodness.

Fifty seven SWTU members, Scouts, (WAY TO GO and thanks, Troop 104), paddlers and some wonderful folks from the Village of DeForest and the DNR showed up Saturday, 10/25 to liberate the Upper Yahara River and its stream corridor from the formidable combo of invasive honeysuckle and buckthorn. This is probably the largest turnout ever for a work day. We needed everyone. You could not see the stream for this growth, much less walk to it.

To get ancient for a moment, we smote the tangle with the edge of our saws. Maybe not smoting but well focused sawing and hauling. As you'll see from photos, the results are amazing with 100s of square feet cleared. Anglers and the walkers and bicyclists on the trail will love the results as will the oaks who are freed from destructive competition.

We had a great mix of SWTU veterans and newcomers, which continues a healthy trend we've had at work days this fall. A dozen scouts were a huge help. They cheerfully hauled and made sure we did not have to lug any cookies, brownies, or doughnuts back home. Greg and Judd of DeForest had water and safety glasses for all of us and proved to be expert sawyers. Sincerest thanks to them and our SWTU sawyers. Old, well established thickets of honeysuckle and buckthorn are miserable. They eat chains and test all the back, shoulder, and leg muscles. The haulers faced challenges too-- as in where to pile the cubic yards of deceased, invasive shrubbery. BTW, another great trend is that more SWTU members are completing chainsaw training and bolstering the ranks of sawyers.

Watching attentively was a magnificent bald eagle, high on a tree across the stream. Our national symbol must, we thought, be impressed with our effort and productivity. Zach Oluf discovered the eagle's more likely focus. Some predator had draped an extremely large, very dead brown trout across a log. The eagle was probably staking out its next meal. The carcass was proof positive that the Upper Yahara holds trout and that a trout's life cycle is tough. The big fish was a hen and eggs covered the log. Darn it, why couldn't she have survived long enough to spawn.

Despite eagles, otters, mink or whatever, trout are reproducing. Kyle Oliverncia, the DNR fish biologist for Dane, Rock, and Green Counties, gave up his Saturday to work with us and provide some background on the Upper Yahara. His crew and he found enough Young of the Year trout this summer to show that Upper Yahara provides good habitat for the full trout life cycle.

It's going to get better. Next summer the Village will start its \$1 million improvement of the river that will focus on stream bank stabilization and habitat improvement. SWTU presented our check for \$17,000 to help the Village reach its funding goal. Judd announced it was really 19K. He noted our work achieved what a day of their professional restoration crew can do and they cost 2K a day.

This wonderful day reflected a variety of hard work. Again thanks to Greg and Judd and the fabulous scouts of Troop 104. We deeply appreciate Kyle and other DNR staff when they attend our work days. We know how busy they are-- Kyle, for example, will be surveying the yellow perch of Lake Mendota with nightly netting this coming week. A couple of paddlers provided another cool perspective on the Upper Yahara. They report the 5 mile paddle through DeForest takes about 2.5 hours and is a lot of fun (with some shallow water to contend with). As always,



we're most earnestly thankful to Jim Hess for his planning and leadership of the work days. This was a special event with our best turnout ever and a welcome to a brand new and easily accessible trout stream.

The trailhead and paddler put in for DeForest's Upper Yahara is their Veterans' Memorial Park. Besides the convenient entry to the creek, the park is a lovely and lovingly maintained tribute to DeForest's veterans. Please take the time to visit it. The memorial to their neighbors who sacrificed their lives is a vivid reminder of the pain and courage our veterans have shown. DeForest lost the greatest numbers of its residents in the Civil War. Maybe that's worth some reflection as we near Veterans Day.

Many thanks to Dyan Lesnik and Josh Reilly for the photos. See many more in [the article on swtu.org.](#))



## **Congrats to Our Workday Winner!**

By Jim Hess

The winner of the 2025 fly rod drawing for those who participated in a workday was Noel Lambert. He is a member of Pheasants Forever and participated at our Duerst property workdays on the Sugar River. Several members of Pheasants Forever helped at the Duerst property at the request of James Brodzeller with Dane County. He was very excited about getting the fly rod.

## **One More Workday To Go and More Reports in December**

Our crew has one more workday on December 15 – details TBD and will be shared via email – for the fall. It's TBD because we finished our work on the Duerst property so no need to go back there! Read all about them in the December Newscasts!

## **Vets on the Fly Activities Starting Back Up**

By Dyan Lesnik

Veterans on the Fly start back up on November 5th for fly tying at The V (VFW Post 1318, 2740 Ski Ln, Fitchburg) Fly tying starts around 5:30 but come early and have dinner at the VFW grill. First fly of the season is The Large Brown Stonefly. All veterans and their families are welcome. Never any cost. Even if you are just curious about tying or fly fishing come on out. [Learn more at their Facebook page.](#)

## **Big Day for Trout and High School and Some History**

By Topf Wells

October 14 meant freedom for rainbow trout and fun with a bit of learning for students at Sun Prairie East High School. Josh Capodarco and students completed their second successful year of Trout In the Classroom (TIC). The rainbow trout they had nurtured from eggs to smolt found a new home in Token Creek. Kyle Olivencia, the DNR fish biologist for this area and his crew, electroshocked more of Token Creek and discussed what makes a healthy trout stream. The students then lunched and fished at Token Creek County Park.

Some great SWTU volunteers then swung into action. Henry Haugley, John Freborg, Ray Venn, Tom Thrall, and Topf Wells introduced interested students to fly tackle and basic fly casting. About a dozen students were fast learners. After 30 minutes of instruction each, just about all of them were casting well enough to catch a trout or bluegill or any fly eating fish that swam within 25 feet. They were a lot of fun to work with and reminded each of the instructors how wonderful youthful coordination is.

TIC is incorporated into a conservation class that covers basic ecological and conservation principles and some fun and productive outdoor activities. Raising those trout and learning what they need to thrive provide experience for some of those lessons. The class and TIC are a lot of work for Josh and his students. SWTU appreciates their interest, enthusiasm, and achievements.

BTW, Josh and his students' interest in Token Creek led to an inquiry of the DNR. About 35 years ago, SWTU was part of the coalition of local governments, the DNR, and other conservation organizations to remove an old mill dam that seriously degraded Token Creek and buy the land at the site of the dam and pond. To this day, the \$30,000 we

contributed is our largest donation to a stream conservation project. As part of that effort the DNR promised to restore the stream channel.

The Corps of Engineers was going to restore the stream. That fell through. Then the DNR decided to wait a couple of years to see how much the channel would re-establish itself.

As far as we knew nothing much happened after that and SWTU moved on to other projects. Occasionally though we'd inquire as to progress or plans for the restoration.

We asked again after 10/14 and learned what had happened. To its credit, the DNR tried at least three different times to restore the stream. Each time the soil, which is actually a form of saturated peat, failed to support the heavy equipment needed for the job. In one instance the ground nearly swallowed a large excavator. Afterwards, the DNR tried a version of brush bundles and that too failed. The peat simply will not hold the different streambank narrowing and stabilizing practices.

The fundamental issue is the number of springs and seeps. We're probably not going to have the restoration we had hoped for. All is not lost. The water flowing from those springs is extremely high quality and cold. Token Creek has benefitted just as SWTU and our partners had hoped decades ago. Don't take my word for it. Just ask the Sun Prairie students who watched Kyle and his crew roll out lots of wild brown trout and a few brookies.

## Welcome New Members

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

Jack Haraldson

Kyle Mattingly

David Blume

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 [Dyan Lesnik](#) so we can expect you.

## Remembering Chuck Bayuk

Just before publication, we learned of this December 13, 2025 event honoring [Chuck Bayuk](#) and wanted to share.

- At The Harmony Bar & Grill -

Honoring the Memory of  
**CHUCK BAYUK**

Dec. 13 | 2-5 PM | \$15 SUGGESTED DONATION

Chuck Bayuk raised thousands of dollars at his many popular shows at the Harmony Bar. Musical friends and family of Chuck will perform in his memory and in support of the Goodman Community Center.

The HARMONY BAR & GRILL

Goodman Community Center

## Fountains of Youth

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

by Rusty Dunn

Have a sip of New York City municipal water, and you're drinking a cup of fly-fishing history. About half of The Big Apple's water supply comes from the Catskill Mountains, birthplace of American fly fishing. The Catskills are where Theodore Gordon began the "Catskill style" of fly tying, where George LaBranche and Edward Hewitt pioneered and popularized American fly fishing, where Preston Jennings compiled the first comprehensive list of aquatic insects available to North American trout, and where the H.L. Leonard and E.F. Payne rod companies tested and built some of the finest split cane fly rods ever made.

The historic Neversink River was a Catskill laboratory for these and many other angling advances. Its glory, however, has yielded to the march of time. Most of the Neversink's waters are now siphoned off to the mouth of the Hudson, where they irrigate and cleanse millions of New Yorkers who've never heard of a Quill Gordon or a Light Cahill. The very pools where American fly fishing began, including river miles owned by Gordon and Hewitt, now lie beneath a water storage reservoir. May they rest in peace.

Edward R. Hewitt (1866-1957) honed his fly-fishing knowledge and skills on the Neversink. His contributions to angling are the stuff of legend. He invented and patented the felt-soled wading shoe, built one of the earliest interchangeable fly reels, bred poultry expressly for the quality of its dry-fly hackle, and established The Big Bend Club, a fishing camp on the Neversink that was a Mecca for fly-fishing luminaries. Hewitt's early books, *Secrets of the Salmon* (1922) and *Telling on the Trout* (1926) were published at a time of rapid growth in fly fishing and had a big impact on a country thirsting for good fly-fishing information. Hewitt was, above all, a conservationist, one who managed

his river miles meticulously and advocated catch-and-release fishing at a time when the number of Catskill trout seemed inexhaustible.

Hewitt is perhaps best known for his observation that most fly anglers progress through three successive phases of maturation: a phase of wanting to catch the most trout possible, followed by one of seeking the largest fish possible, followed by one of attempting to land the most difficult and selective fish, caring more for the sport than number or size of landed fish. Hewitt lived a long rich life, and he spent many satisfied decades in phase three of maturation. For example, he was the first angler to land an Atlantic salmon using a dry fly and a 1-1/2 ounce 4wt bamboo fly rod! It was a remarkable feat, although local fishing guides described it as "the salmon that caught Mr. Hewitt".

Hewitt hooked the infamous salmon on a Bivisible dry fly, which, along with the Neversink Skater, are Hewitt's two most famous flies. Both are high floating flies suitable for gentle slicks, turbulent riffles, and everything in between. The name "Bivisible" indicates that the fly is visible to both trout and angler. A palmered darker hackle provides floatation and visibility to trout, while a contrasting collar of white hackle provides visibility to an angler. The fly is derived from an ancient English pattern, the Palmer Sedge, which Hewitt spiced up with the collar of white.

The Bivisible is a fluttering fly, a fly for skating, skittering, and enticing a lazy trout. A fly so buggy it can't be ignored. It imitates egg-laying caddis very well, but it also brings up fish between hatches, especially on the warm breezy days of terrestrial season. It is a fly for fishing the water, not the rise. One with which to create George La Branche's proverbial "*hatch of frauds*". In short, the Bivisible is a classic attractor, one that has caught fish for over a century. Don't be afraid to jerk a Bivisible underwater and fish it as a wet fly swung in the current or retrieved with short strips. It may look like no insect you've ever seen, but a Bivisible will still grab a trout's attention.

© Rusty Dunn, 2025

### ----- Brown Bivisible -----

Hewitt's Bivisible can be tied in any color combination, but the collar hackle should always be white. The original and most popular color is the Brown Bivisible. Palmer the hackle with the dull side facing forward for best floatation, especially when skating the fly.

---

**Hook:** Dry fly, #10-#16

**Thread:** 8/0 or 6/0, brown

**Tail:** Brown rooster hackle fibers

**Body:** Brown floss or tying thread

**Hackle:** Brown or furnace, palmered and a collar of white hackle just behind the eye. Counter-wrap the hackle with thread or fine wire for extra durability.

---



## 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](mailto:madkasel@gmail.com)

### Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited Leadership:

President	Topf Wells
Vice President	Dyan Lesnik
Secretary	Joshua Reilly
Treasurer	Michael Westbury
State Council Rep.	Michael Williamson
Board Member	John Freeborg
Board Member	Don Golembiewski
Board Member	Henry Haugley
Board Member	Mark Maffit
Board Member	Gabe Park
Board Member	Ray Venn
Past President	Steve Musser
Newscasts Editor	Drew Kasel
Conservation Committee Chair	Jim Hess
Women's/ Diversity Initiative Chair	Tina Murray
Youth Education Chair for SWTU	Tina Murray

[topfwells@gmail.com](mailto:topfwells@gmail.com)  
[dmlgriffin@gmail.com](mailto:dmlgriffin@gmail.com)  
[jreilly.swtu@gmail.com](mailto:jreilly.swtu@gmail.com)  
[mwestbury.swtu@gmail.com](mailto:mwestbury.swtu@gmail.com)  
[mlwilliamson.53@gmail.com](mailto:mlwilliamson.53@gmail.com)  
[john-tu@freeborg.com](mailto:john-tu@freeborg.com)  
[don.golembiewski@gmail.com](mailto:don.golembiewski@gmail.com)  
[hhaugley@yahoo.com](mailto:hhaugley@yahoo.com)  
[mark.maffitt@gmail.com](mailto:mark.maffitt@gmail.com)  
[gabe@muskyfool.com](mailto:gabe@muskyfool.com)  
[raylindav@msn.com](mailto:raylindav@msn.com)  
[stevemusser@msn.com](mailto:stevemusser@msn.com)  
[madkasel@gmail.com](mailto:madkasel@gmail.com)  
[jimhess5599@gmail.com](mailto:jimhess5599@gmail.com)  
[swtu.women.diversity@gmail.com](mailto:swtu.women.diversity@gmail.com)  
[swtu.women.diversity@gmail.com](mailto:swtu.women.diversity@gmail.com)

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

