

Newscasts

October 2026 serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



To Serve Youth

Join our chapter gathering on Tuesday, October 13, 2026

Please join us for a fun, informative and extraordinary meeting on Oct. 13, at Schwoegler's on Grand Canyon Drive. **PLEASE NOTE: THE MEETING WILL START AT 6:30** because we have several wonderful presentations.

Leading off will be **Camille Kilburg** and **Alexis Bridges** of UW Platteville. Camille is the intern SWTU sponsored on the DNR Fish Management Summer Survey of Trout Streams, and Alexis worked as an intern on the DNR Water Quality Survey Team that works on a variety of streams and rivers in our area, including trout streams and streams which would, should, or could support trout. Camille has received rave reviews and thanks from the DNR; she has also revived the Environmental Society at UW-P. Alexis was similarly essential to WQ's efforts; her academic record is amazing. Major in environmental science, minor in biology, and a certificate in GIS.

Joining us from UW Hoofers will be **Calvin Hruby**, who will bring us up to date on their fly fishing, and **AnaGracia**, who heads the Hoofers Conservation Team. The fly fishers have had some fun and education with Henry Nehls-Lowe and other SWTU folks and some have attended the TU spring gathering for college students at Avalanche. AnaGracia and friends have attended several work days and been hard, productive workers and lots of fun.

The UW-P interns will be joined by the biologists they assisted, **Justin Haglund**, **Kim Kuber** and **Camille Bruhn**. BTW, this will be your chance to ask Justin about three new easements.

The four featured speakers will split time for their presentations and will take questions. I bet they'll have some cool photos. All will have interesting information and perspectives on trout, fishing and conservation.

One theme that emerged over and over in our member survey was the desire and need to have more young folks participate in SWTU. One way to encourage that is to offer activities such as fishing clinics and work days that might be enjoyable and worthwhile. *Excuse me climbing a soap box for a moment* – Another equally important way is to show an interest and appreciation for what they contribute to conservation and fishing. Now is the time to listen to and enjoy what these younger folks have experienced; let's not wait til they're our age (we probably won't be around to listen then).

Remember: The meeting starts at 6:30 at Schwoegler's. As always, come early to enjoy dinner and drinks and meet our guests. *(BTW, for those who remember The Twilight Zone, the title is a reference to one of the most famous and scary episodes. I've promised our guests a much different ending than that show.)* -- Topf Wells

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

Go Team!

SWTU does fantastic things for cold water resources, and we appreciate and need involvement from all like-minded folks. Pitch in with our Teams and workdays and you will get more good feelings in return for your support. Step up and share a stake in our collective success for trout.

Here's your opportunity: The SWTU Board unanimously approved the creation or revitalization of some Teams and we need people to join them. More to come, but we are starting right away with two Teams.

- **Events** – Dyan Lesnik, our VP, chairs the Team for a spring fundraiser, summer picnic, awards presentation and all round good times. John Freeborg, who chaired the last successful event, is helping but Dyan needs more folks on the team.
- **Leadership** – Recruiting candidates for officers and board members should be ongoing and Don Golembiewski will be the Team captain to do so.

Please consider helping. Contact Dyan or Don at membership meetings, work days or with the contact info at the end of this newsletter.

Help Inspire the Trout Enthusiasts of Tomorrow

Tuesday, October 13, at Token Creek

The Sun Prairie East High School Conservation Class will release their Trout In the Classroom trout in Token Creek on Tuesday, Oct. 13. Joshua Capodarco, their teacher, and his students have now completed three years of TIC. As part of the celebration, SWTU will host a fishing clinic for the students after the release. **We need some help.** If you can assist, please join us about noon at Dane County's Token Creek Park. Look for the large shelter near the south end of the pond.

New and Old at Gordon Creek

By Topf Wells

SWTU provided Gordon Creek and the DNR's Justin Haglund and Lloyd Meng with 16 volunteers on our first work day of the fall on the easement downstream of Brue Road. The issues today were access and prevention. Young willows were making access difficult and big, older, dying willows were about to enter themselves in the creek. Some timber in the stream is good for trout and all the other life in the stream. Big, whole trees, however, can cause major blockages and streambank erosion.

We'll probably return in the spring but we made great headway with one willow jungle tamed and two of the giants substantially reduced. One that was felled might be as big a tree as we've taken down lately. The boom as it hit the ground was certainly the loudest. That crash reminds us of the need for safety on these days. Joshua Reilly, our Secretary and the leader of our efforts to provide first aid training and equipment, conducted a brief but helpful safety lesson at the start of the day.

That start saw crisp weather and it remained pleasant all morning. Among our members were two wonderful dads and their young sons. Both were big helps clearing brush and spreading some milkweed seed for next year's monarch butterflies.

VP Dyan Lesnick provided the next version of new and old. Her superb corn muffins featured serviceberries, a native fruit that is attracting new attention as a crop that can be part of permaculture in southern Wisconsin. The muffins indicate that'd be a great choice. Even better were her great grandmother's apple cookies. I thought the best thing that can happen to an apple is pie or cider. Oh, these cookies are better. Wow, really wow!

Ted Swenson joined us from the Nohr Chapter and donated 8 nymphs as a thank you from Nohr. Thanks to Ted, Nohr, and Lloyd for drawing my number from the hat. Ted is a star tyer.

A fun part of the day was learning more from Justin on the three easements he just, as the DNR would say, reduced to possession on the Blue, the E. Branch of the Pecatonica, and a spawning tributary to Ley Creek. Ted confirmed the Nohr Chapter is pursuing a major restoration of that mile of new water. Lloyd noted the easement filled a gap of public water on the Blue that now totals 13 miles of uninterrupted public fishing. Wow, really wow. Huge thanks to Justin and the Nohr Chapter.

Pleasant surprises are always part of a work day. Justin had not been able to connect with the landowner of the property. When she exited her driveway this morning she saw all 16 of us hard at work with Justin in the midst of us. And one of us is a good friend of hers. That's a nice way to start communication.

Jim Hess planned this work day with more work than usual because Justin, Lloyd and Jim had several sites on Gordon that need some TLC. Wayne Griffin and he ran brush saws in the willow thicket all morning, which is even tougher than it



sounds. Our sawyers used several of the new battery operated saws with the unanimous opinion that for our purposes they are an improvement over the gas models.

Huge thanks to Jim, Justin and Lloyd for all the prep work and to the volunteers who made this another productive and fun day. We might have to ask Dyan for that recipe.

Who knows, perhaps those cookies might reappear at our next work day on the Upper Yahara on Saturday, October 10. Hope to see you there.

Photos courtesy Dyan Lesnik. See many more, including inspiring “before and after” shots, [in the story on swtu.org](https://www.swtu.org).

Join us! SWTU Workday on the Upper Yahara River, DeForest

Saturday, October 10, 2026

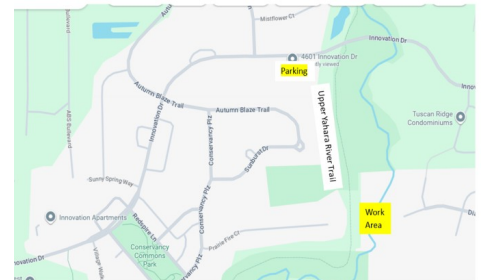
By Jim Hess, Conservation Chair

The DNR has determined that the trout population in the Upper Yahara River, as it flows through DeForest, is healthy enough to be classified as a trout stream. With this news, the Village of DeForest is restoring this stream – including streambank improvements and removing invasive woodies – and SWTU has made a significant donation to the Village toward this goal. It's not often you find a new trout stream, so we will be working with the village staff clearing buckthorn, honeysuckles and other invasive woodies. **We need a big turnout to show our support for this project.** If you are interested in carpooling to the workday, contact Dyan Lesnik (dmlgriffin@gmail.com) and she will try to find a contact for you.

When: Saturday, October 10, 2026

Time: 9 am to 12 noon

Where: We will meet at River's Turn Park, 4601 Innovation Drive. The work site is on the Upper Yahara River Trail, so only official vehicles are allowed on the trail. Village staff will provide transportation to and from the worksite. So be there on time, otherwise start heading south on the walking trail, it is only about a 100-yard walk. [Here is a Google Maps link to this location.](#) The map shows the parking area and location of the work site.



What: We will be working with Greg Hall, Deputy Director of Public Services, and some of his staff clearing buckthorns, honeysuckles and other invasive woodies, and creating burn piles. We will be continuing our work from our last workday, moving south and toward the river. The buckthorns are quite numerous in this area. The goal is to finish this area on Saturday,

Bring: Bring work gloves, sturdy shoes, and eye and ear protection. If you forget your safety glasses, we have extras you can borrow. Also bring reusable water bottles that can be filled from our 5-gal water jug. Stay hydrated.

Parking: As indicated above, we will be parking at 4601 Innovation Drive and Village staff will drive us to the work site. Please park on the southside of the road to allow for safe traffic flow.

Other remaining fall workdays – all are Saturdays from 9am to 12 noon:

Oct 31 – Pleasant Valley Branch – Continuing our clearing at this site on Dane County Rd H, working with James Brodzeller removing honeysuckles and box elders.

Nov 14 – Mt Vernon, Deer Creek – Continuing our work on this site at Pop's Knoll Park, State Hwy 92 working with James Brodzeller.

Dec 5 – Garfoot Creek on Garfoot Road – Working with Kyle Olivencia, Scott Harpold, and Vince Schmitz clearing the stream and making brush bundles. Here is a link to this site: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/WL2p29EkxomJFLRh8>

Vets on the Fly Activities – Fall 2026

By Dyan Lesnik

Fishing every Wednesday night through September, 6-8pm, then off in October. All Veterans and their families are welcome. Never any cost. A different location each week posted [on our Facebook site](#) or contact Dyan Lesnik (dmlgriffin@gmail.com) for more info. Here are some pictures from Dyan, and you can [find more on swtu.org](https://www.swtu.org).



“Figure Eats” Continues a Musky Fool Special

Our local fly shops have been great conservation partners. In the past, we’ve shared the fly fishing and tying options at D&S Bait and Tackle on Madison’s north side. Last month, we shared news of changes at Musky Fool. Now, we’re sharing that Musky Fool employee Gabe Parker will continue to create and sell his unique and popular custom-dyed bucktails ... Gabe donated some to the March auction and they were hot items! He has his first “drop” on Thursday, October 8 ... learn more at figureeats.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.)

Recent minutes note our contribution to **Project Green Teen** at Malcom Shabazz City High School to which we received a warm thank you:

I can't tell you all enough how much your support means to our programming. I really appreciate the additional funds. As you all may be sensing from afar, our funding from the district has continued to dwindle over the past three years, so an additional couple thousand dollars is more of a lifeline than you may even realize. On top of that, sustaining partners (not to sound too much like NPR :) like you all is extraordinarily valuable to assuring that we can offer really unique and valuable learning experiences for our Shabazz students year after year. We will put it to good use!

Brian Counselman, Malcolm Shabazz City High School

Welcome New Members

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

Brett Strong

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.

Fountains of Youth

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

by Rusty Dunn

Stoneflies are named as such for the stony-bottomed, well-oxygenated streams that the insects prefer. Mayflies for the month of May, which is when hatches of historically important English species reach their peak. What about caddisflies? How were they named? Today's term 'caddis' originated in the middle ages from the root word 'cod', which is a husk, bag, or pouch enclosing various contents. Larvae of many caddisfly species live within such cods, which are known today as 'cases'. Dame Juliana Berners recommended use of cased caddis larvae as live bait ("*put on thyn hoke a codworme*") in her 1496 manuscript *A Treatyse of Fishing with an Angle*. 'Cod' and 'cad' were often used interchangeably in Middle English, and by the 1600s, common names for cased caddis were various permutations of both words, including 'cad bait' (1620, *Secrets of Angling*), 'cados worme' (1634, *Theatrum Insectorum*), 'Cadis-worme' (*The Compleat Gentleman*, 1622), and 'cadice' (*The Art of Angling*, 1651). The modern spelling 'caddis' appeared as early as 1653 in the first edition of *The Compleat Angler* by Isaac Walton, whose entomological naiveté was evident when he wrote that a trout "*especially loves the Mayflie, which is bred of the Cod-worm or Caddis*".

Caddisflies inhabit all trout water and are especially important in streams with compromised water quality. As water quality declines, the number of aquatic insects declines similarly. Stoneflies are the first to dwindle in number, followed by mayflies. As the food base of such streams shrink, so does the sustainable population of trout. The good news is that caddisflies are a hardy lot, persisting in the face of most human insults. You'll find varying numbers of stoneflies and mayflies during your trouty travels, but caddisflies will always be there. A well-stocked box of caddisfly imitations is perhaps your most dependable angling companion.

Most caddisfly species build cases of sand, gravel, or

vegetation glued together with a sticky secreted silk. Caddis larvae live within such protective cases, which are attached to rocks or wood on the stream bottom. Many caddisfly species carry their cases like travel trailers as they forage and move about the bottom. Trout feed on cased caddis by plucking them from rocks or taking the cases as they drift in the current. A few cased caddis probably drift throughout the day, but greater numbers are available during times of 'behavioral drift'. Like many aquatic insects, cased caddis exhibit a daily behavioral drift during which occupied cases detach from the bottom at reproducible times and drift downstream before reattaching. Behavioral drifts of most aquatic insects peak at dawn and dusk, but those of several important caddis species occur in midday. Trout readily feed on drifting cases, especially when little else is hatching.

Many generic nymphs are reasonably good imitations of cased caddis, but the Strawman nymph, designed by Detroit's Paul Young, was the first to explicitly imitate the group. Paul Young is most famous for his delightful hand-made split-bamboo fly rods, but he designed and offered for sale "Strawman Nymphs" in his tackle catalog as early as 1927. The pattern was later published in Young's 1934 book *Making and Using the Dry Fly*.

Today's most popular cased caddis imitation is probably that of George Anderson, owner of the well-known Livingston MT fly shop "George Anderson's Yellowstone Angler". He designed the Peeking Caddis in the 1970s to imitate the Mother's Day caddis hatch of the Yellowstone River. Quoting Anderson, "*The key to tying an effective (cased caddis) imitation lies not only in imitating the case but in convincing the trout that it actually contains life*". His pattern imitates a caddis larva protruding from the open end of its chimney-like case. A band of brightly colored dubbing imitates the abdomen, and a collar of ostrich herl imitates the thorax and head. The fly works well wherever trout are found. If you've ever been puzzled by the seemingly inexplicable effectiveness of John Bethke's Pink Squirrel, look no further than George Anderson's Peeking Caddis for guidance.

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----- Peeking Caddis -----

Cream and bright green are the most frequent body colors of chimney-cased caddis larvae.

Hook: 2X-long nymph hook; #10 - #18

Weight: An underbody of non-toxic wire (optional)

Thread: Black, 6/0 or 8/0

Rib: Oval or flat gold tinsel

Body: Natural hare's mask fur, tapered slightly

Thorax: A band of cream or bright green fur dubbing

Legs: Brown partridge feather barbs, tied either as a collar (Anderson original pattern) or a beard (more popular today)

Head: Black ostrich herl



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.)

Not a member of Trout Unlimited yet? Join the SWTU chapter by visiting <http://tu.org/join061>

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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