

Newscasts

June 2017 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



No June, July or August Meetings

Per usual, we are taking the summer off and not having regular chapter meetings in June, July or August. The busy, hot, travel-filled summer months are not generally conducive to large meetings.



That's not to say you can't do anything!

- Grab your waders and be there for our workday on July 15 at the Basco Unit County Wildlife Area (Neperud) on the Sugar River. Watch for more details!
- Keep checking swtu.org for updates, pictures, news opportunities and more!
- Reach out to somebody in the Chapter and go fishing or tie flies together. Maybe somebody you haven't fished or tied with before.
- Not sure of anybody to fish or tie with? Contact a Board member (listed at the end of the newsletter) or make a post on [our Facebook page](#).
- Loan out your favorite book on fishing, or bug a friend for a fishing book to borrow.

We'll have a short newsletter in July summarizing some of our spring activities and then your loyal editor gets a break until September.



Our Women's Clinics are happening June 14 to 18. It's a great time that makes a difference for the participants, volunteers, sport and cold water resource.

Many thanks to [Rich Lahti](#) and [Scot Stewart](#) for wrangling volunteer "guides" ... if you find that you can lend a hand, let one of them know and we'll find a way for you to help!

Also please consider helping out next year to take a woman fishing. *Talk to those who've done it and you'll hear about a wonderful and rewarding experience.*

Fontana Grant Challenge Update

Big thanks to everyone who contributed a donation to the Environmental Grant Challenge – and to [Fontana Sports Specialties](#) and [Patagonia](#) for their generosity.

SWTU raised \$2,276 and placed 5th out of 6 contestants, which means we won a \$1,000 grant!

Your donation strengthens our efforts to conserve cold water resources in our community. Thank you!

Congrats to SWTU member **John Gribb**, who won the \$100 Fontana spending spree.

-- Matt Sment, SWTU President

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Set "Trout Unlimited" with the Madison location as your charity and you will be giving to the SWTU with every purchase. It adds up over time!

Volunteer Training Opportunities!

The Dane County Land & Water Resources Department offers a variety of training for volunteers of county parks and other partner groups. Upcoming trainings include:

- June 13: WI First Detector Network – Invasive Species Workshop – Lussier Family Heritage Center
- July 1: Aquatic Invasive Species Landing Blitz- Lyman F. Anderson Agriculture & Conservation Center
- July 11: Woodland Plant ID Walk – Stewart Lake County Park

For more information, contact Rhea Stangel-Maier, Volunteer Coordinator for the Parks Division at 224-3601 or stangel-maier@countyofdane.com.



Take the Dane County Park Survey

Dane County is currently seeking public opinion as it revises its Parks and Open Spaces Plan. This plan has at least two purposes: its completion ensures the County is eligible to receive state funds to improve the park system and it establishes the goals for the next five years for the park system.



Dane County's park system includes far more than traditional parks. For the trout angler, that system includes all the County's trout stream easements and wildlife areas that sometimes include significant acreage on trout streams.

The survey is readily available by googling the Dane County Parks and Open Spaces Plan. Or just click this link!
<http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07edx78f4aj02u6mqc/a01xcj158bsa9/greeting>

As a TU member, please take time to complete the survey and indicate your support for the stream easement program and other efforts to protect and improve Dane County trout fisheries. Thank you.

Gordon Creek Stream Workday

The SWTU Stream Team gathered on May 7 to clear and burn brush at a new DNR easement on Gordon Creek.

The work was followed by a delicious picnic, courtesy of the easement property owner, Kriss Marion, and the Blanchardville Women's Club. **Jim Beecher** graciously provided the photographic evidence you'll find below or [find more here](#).



Orvis is offering free fly fishing classes... want to help out?

If you've visited Orvis Madison on weekends in the spring and summer, you may already know that the store offers free fly fishing classes, introducing 150-200 people a year to having fun on the fly. What you might not know is that **every student who participates in the class receives a free 1-year membership to Trout Unlimited**. This gives us a great opportunity to introduce our chapter to people who may not be familiar with TU and what we do, and their fishing manager Tristan (yes, *that* one... and he apologizes for wearing two hats at once here!) is asking for volunteers to help these students hone their casts and tie some knots and introduce them to some friendly TU faces.

The two to two-and-a-half hour class is held most Saturdays and some Sundays from April through June. If you able to give some new anglers a few casting tips, help them with tying knots, answer some questions, and willing to be an ambassador for TU, please consider helping out. (Bonus: volunteers are eligible for discounts on Orvis stuff, and it's better than just "another \$25 coupon"!.) You can contact Tristan directly at tie.a.fly@gmail.com, or call the store at [\(608\) 831-3181](tel:6088313181) and let them know you are interested in volunteering for FF101. A full list of classes is available from the store.

Stay Connected



Know what's happening by connecting to our [Chapter Calendar!](#)



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 madkase1@gmail.com

Fountains of Youth

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

by Rusty Dunn

If someone hands you a Pheasant Tail Nymph and asks what it imitates, you'll likely say "mayfly nymph". Receive an Elk Hair Caddis, and you might say "adult caddisfly, probably an egg-laying female". One of the many hopper patterns? You reply without hesitation, "grasshopper ... no doubt about it". But if you're handed a Prince Nymph, you might be stumped. "Uhh ... umm ... I'm not sure ... maybe an earring?"

The Prince Nymph, known first as a Brown Forked-Tail Nymph, imitates nothing – and everything – simultaneously. It has an inherent 'bugginess' that trout find it irresistible. Its split biot tail is bold, the glossy green peacock herl shimmers in the current, and the soft hackle collar breathes seductively, and the tinsel and white wings scream for attention. It is your basic subsurface attractor, one that has been catching trout for decades. Many devotees profess that it imitates stonefly nymphs. Indeed, a Prince Nymph does resemble juvenile stoneflies. But, it resembles juvenile Christmas tree ornaments just about as well. Perhaps trout take it as a stonefly, but a cased caddis larva, caddis pupa, mayfly or dobsonfly nymph, or even a drowned terrestrial seem equally plausible. Does it matter? Not a bit. Prince Nymphs appeal to trout, and that's what counts when you're filling the fly box or tying a clinch knot.

Doug Prince of Monterey, CA is often described as the originator of the Prince Nymph, but it was developed and first tied in the 1930s by Don and Dick Olson, brothers from Bemidji, MN. They called it the Brown Forked-Tail Nymph. It acquired its princely name in a roundabout way during the 1940s. Buz

Buszek, namesake of the Federation of Fly Fishers' annual award for fly tying excellence, owned a fly shop and mail-order business in Visalia, CA beginning in 1943. He employed local tyers to supply flies for the shop. Doug Prince was not a commercial fly tyer, but he was Buszek's good friend and tied flies for him for one year in the 1940s. Prince was a talented fly tyer who knew California rivers well. He tied his namesake fly for California's Kings River, but he called it the Brown Forked-Tail Nymph, presumably in reference to the Olson original. Buz Buszek was hurriedly preparing a new mail-order catalog one day, and he wanted to include Doug Prince's peacock-bodied nymph that was so effective. Buszek couldn't remember the fly's name, however, and in haste he just called it the "Prince Nymph". Buszek's catalog was distributed throughout the West, and the fly attracted a loyal following. Doug Prince's name spread with the fly, although he played no part in its self-congratulatory name. Doing so was not in his humble character: *"I tied what worked for me, and that's all I ever really worried about."* Doug Prince received the FFF Buz Buszek Memorial Award in 1982 but said at the time that he had *"no idea"* why.

Fish a Prince Nymph anytime, especially when you're unsure what insects a stream might hold. If you turn over rocks and see stonefly nymphs, all the better. Prince Nymphs are quite effective even during non-hatch periods. They are particularly good in fast, bouncy, turbulent water, the kind of well-oxygenated habitat that attracts both stoneflies and rainbow trout. Fish them deeply, either dead-drift or swung through the current. Perhaps it's fitting that a Prince Nymph looks more like a Christmas tree ornament than an insect, because some pleasant and satisfying gifts will await you when you cast one before trout.
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----- Prince Nymph / Brown Forked-Tail Nymph -----

The white biot wings of the original Brown Forked-Tail Nymph curved away from the body, but tyers today usually curve them toward the body. Bead head versions of the Prince Nymph are very popular.

Hook: Nymph hook, 2X-long, #6-16; a wire underbody for weight is optional

Thread: Black

Tail: Brown goose biots, split, length about one half of the hook shank

Body: Several strands of peacock herl, twisted with thread for reinforcement

Ribbing: Flat gold tinsel, 4-5 turns

Hackle: Brown or furnace hen hackle; 2-4 turns; clip a few barbs at the top to accommodate the wing

Wing: White goose biots tied over the body as a split "V" and spread ~30°.



Welcome New Members

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

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------|------------------|
| Janis Eells | James Porter | Benjamin Ziegler |
| Sarah Brenden | Fred Hoffman | Terrence Grimm |
| Burke Gustafson | Tom Bentley | Kenneth Schuster |
| Daniel Mellenthis | Bob Hodgson | Mitchell Kraemer |
| Andy Cannon | Steven Hagen | William Krum |

We are honored to have you among us. Please join us for a Chapter meeting, and we will give you **FREE** raffle tickets, flies and "an offer you can't refuse" from some of our most experienced fisher-folk! Try to get there at 6 p.m. for dinner and to sit with one of our board members to learn more about us. **If you will be attending your first meeting**, please contact [Tristan Kloss](#) so we can expect you.



Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited Leadership:

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| President | Matt Sment |
| Vice President | Tristan Kloss |
| Secretary | Mark Maffit |
| Treasurer | Tom Parker |
| Past President | Matt Krueger |
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