

Newscasts

April 2018 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



What's up with your SWTU? Our April 10 meeting

A grab bag of updates on Chapter activities and programs

We have a very busy and terrifically engaging Chapter on any number of fronts. This meeting will offer a great chance to catch up with others, talk spring fishing and hear about a number of important chapter-related items.

This "Spring Housekeeping" will include:

- The Treasurer's annual report to membership
- Steve Davis of Veterans on the Fly discussing our move to severe ties with Project Healing Waters and move to our own veteran-services program
- Riversmith Casting Clinic and Orvis Fly Fishing 101 programs
- Discussion of board elections
- More!

We hope you can join us as we discuss and take your questions on these and other key initiatives.

Auction update

Thanks as well to those who attended the auction and made it a profitable event for our coldwater resource. Thanks to your generosity and bidding, we have more than \$2,000 additional dollars to put to education, restoration and more! We especially thank Topf Wells and Curt Diehl for being auctioneers-most-extraordinaire!

As usual, the meeting is upstairs at the [Coliseum Bar and Grill](#) on East Olin Avenue at 7 p.m. but please join us earlier for dinner and a few stories.

You Must Be Present to Win

The award amount has reset to \$20 following Dave Fowler's \$100 win. Come to our meeting on April 10 for your chance to win a gift certificate to Fontana Sports Specialties.

We Want You!

Will you step up and lend your talents and experience?

A number of vacancies coupled with a variety of illnesses means that **we will delay our annual election until May**. The Board discussed and approved this shift to allow time to put forth the best possible slate of candidates.



That means we still need you – or maybe you have an idea of someone to nominate – to step up! SWTU is a very active chapter, and the excellent mix of stability and change at our leadership level plays a big role in our success.

Expressing interest is easy! Our Nominating Committee Chairs are [Topf Wells](#) and [Mary Ann Doll](#). Please contact them or any board member listed at the end of this newsletter. The Nominating Committee then uses all information to assemble a slate of candidates for the April chapter meeting.

If there is no contest for a slot, the person is typically approved on a voice vote. If a slot is contested, the election is conducted via secret written ballot. In addition, nominations may be made from the floor.

Check out the ["About us" page of swtu.org](#) for more about our mission and a link to our bylaws, which specify leadership roles and election procedures.

Accolades for Jim Hess

Jim Hess is SWTU's Conservation Committee Chair and all around workday workhorse! At the Summit for Natural Resources Volunteer banquet, Jim was recognized for his outstanding achievement in citizen-based monitoring.

SWTU members may be surprised to learn that this is work Jim does **in addition to** everything he does for our chapter, including maintaining his Kittleson Creek segments for our Stream Keepers program. Jim monitors bats, insects/bees, rare plants, over 25 bluebird boxes and 9 kestrel boxes, 8 of which host breeding pairs. Jim plans to add monarch monitoring to his duties this year. He and his wife Marci are also actively involved in the Prairie Enthusiasts and in conducting prescribed burns.

Congratulations Jim! We are very lucky to have you as part of SWTU!



Saturday, April 7 Stream Workday

Join the Stream Team for fun, friendship and a great way to make a difference

We hope you can join us. You don't need any any experience to help out ... just get yourself there and you'll make a difference for our cold water resource! We also want to apologize for the technical difficulties we had with the cancellation of the last workday. The notice reached some, but not all, and we are sorry for those who headed out into high winds unnecessarily.

When: Saturday, April 7, 9 a.m. to 12 noon (Chapter Approved Sawyers please arrive at 8:30).

Where: The Sarbacher Easement is located just 1/3 mile north of Paoli on Range Trail at the bridge crossing. [Here is a map to this location.](#) The map shows a fire number for this location, but please disregard as there is no fire number.

What: Extensive clearing of brush and box elders. We will be working on the south side of the river, starting at the bridge, going downstream toward Paoli. The goal is to clear a path along the edge of the ag field and creating access paths to the river at different points along this path and then opening up the river making it more fishable.

We will be creating burn piles with the slash and some of the slash will used to make brush bundles at a later workday.

Bring: Bring work gloves, sturdy shoes, and eye and ear protection. – Also loppers and hand saws; otherwise the chapter has equipment you can use. Also bring reusable water bottles that can be re-filled from our 5-gal water jug.

Important Parking Note:

Park on Range Trail on the east side of the road. There is not much room to pull off to the side of the road, so it is **important that everyone parks on the east side, keeping the road open for traffic.**

You are also entered into a drawing for a wonderful handcrafted "Streamkeeper" rod that is drawn at the end of the year.

Mark your calendar for this spring's other stream workdays:

- April 21 - Smith-Conley (south of Ridgeway --- details below)
- May 12 - Fyres Feeder - Donald Park

Looking ahead to the April 21 workday

Smith-Conley Creek – Phillips Easement

Later in April, we will work on Smith-Conley Creek, located south of Ridgeway. Here is a [map](#) to our location if you'd like to check out where we'll be. We will be working north of the bridge on the west side of the stream.

The DNR requested our help in clearing out this easement. We will primarily be cutting down and bucking up box elders. The landowner will be joining us with his skid steer to help create burn piles. There are tons of box elders and we will barely make a dent in their numbers, but it is the first step and we will come back in the fall.

The Knor Chapter did extensive stream bank improvements on the south side the bridge several years ago. That area is still in great shape. But the easement going north from the bridge is in bad shape. It is hoped that this workday will be the start of further streambank improvements on this stream. The Nohr Chapter has been invited to join us.

Wisconsin Conservation Congress Fish and Game Hearings, April 9

Each spring, the Wisconsin Conservation Congress Spring Fish and Game Hearings are held in all counties of the state. This year the hearings are being held on **April 9, 2018, at 7 PM.**

In Dane County the hearings are being held at, Monona Grove High School, Auditorium, 4400 Monona Drive, Monona, WI 53716. Locations for hearings in other counties and the questions that will be discussed can be found at: https://dnr.wi.gov/about/wcc/Documents/spring_hearing/2018/2018SpringQuestionnaire.pdf.



Of particular interest to trout fisherman is a Conservation Congress Advisory question that solicits input from anglers on increasing the length of the harvest season. The question reads as follows: *Do you support opening the Wisconsin inland trout regular harvest season statewide on the first Saturday in April with existing bag limits, size limits and gear restrictions?*

If this question is of concern to you, we suggest you attend the hearings, voice your opinion, and vote on that question, along with other questions being considered.

The Board of Directors of SWTU has discussed this question and feels we should vote "No" on the question. The board has the following thoughts on the question:

- 1- The question (#31) came from the Congress Trout Committee with the intent of providing additional opportunity and encouraging youth to fish trout. We agree those are good goals.
- 2- However, the Department spent 5 years developing the new regulations relying on random public surveys, public meetings, meetings with the congress, etc. The rules have only been in effect for 2 years. Let's give them a chance. They already address increased opportunity and season length for harvest and non-harvest fishing. They simplified regulations for all anglers.
- 3- The Department is in the process of drafting a statewide trout management plan. Rather than change rules again right out of the gate, we feel the Department should continue to look for additional trout fishing opportunities and continue to encourage youth, women and other non-traditional anglers into the sport. The new trout management plan gives us the perfect opportunity to do so.

We urge you to consider the board's thoughts, then make a decision on how you feel. Attend the hearings, voice your opinion, and vote.

Free Casting Clinic on April 28

We are once again holding our [Riversmith Fly Casting Clinic](#) (now named after **Jeff Smith**, who was the driving force behind it for many years). The clinic is free and available to anyone interested in learning how to cast a fly. Beginners are especially encouraged to attend. Loaner rods will be available for those who do not own their own equipment. The clinic will begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday April 28 at [H.M. Zander Community Nature Park in Cross Plains](#).

You can learn about fly-fishing equipment and casting, aquatic entomology, reading the water to find trout, and Tenkara fly fishing. This is a fantastic opportunity for anyone 6 years of age and older to get involved in our sport. These 2-3 hours would cost a bundle from a private guide! Let any friend, relative or neighbor know about this valuable once a year event.

You can help! The more experienced casters and fishers we have on hand, the more we can provide individual assistance to attendees. Bring a friend who could use a lesson, and stick around to help.

Welcome New Members

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

Kevin McKnelly	Zachary Wyatt
Robert Marthaler	Cameron Pauli
Jacob Felton	Meredith Pavlick
Jim Logan	



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.

Make a difference by helping Project Green Teen

We have a great group of 13 students in [Project Green Teen](#) who could use a helping hand. Contact [Tina Murray](#) with questions or offers of help!

PGT is in need of (before May 1st):

- Flies for the 13 students ... flies for the driftless in springtime, terrestrials etc.
- Wading boots and waders that still have some life left in them.
(Please patch up known holes / much appreciated!)
- OLD or rebuilt leaders for practice 7 1/2 feet is perfect length
- Polarized Sunglasses, particularly fit overs.
- Old rods / reels for students who cannot afford to purchase the class rods at the end of PGT.

Tina Murray will be collecting the above items at Chapter meetings or bring them to Shabazz.

The dates for this year's PGT trip are May 13 thru May 17. We need 13 guides for this trip. If you have questions or plan on helping, please contact **Dave Fowler** at dfowler82@gmail.com or 608-513-0681 as soon as you can.

Also ... Shabazz is starting a Nature Photography course to teach students how to be still and observe and capture nature to identify species and appreciate being in Nature. We are seeking financial donations to buy quality digital cameras for this coursework. Donations can be sent to Rachel Schramm at Shabazz, 1601 N. Sherman Ave, Madison, WI 53704

Women’s Clinics Announcements

Our fabulous [Wisconsin Women’s Fly Fishing Clinics](#) in JUNE are full and have wait lists. We try to take as many women as possible off the wait lists, but it leaves our classes full at 22-24 women for each clinic. We need 23-25 Guides June 20th from 4 pm on and June 21 from 10 am on. (On Thursday women go out twice, once from 10 - 1 and once from 3 pm into the eve) Campfire at the campground afterwards.

Items needed for the Women’s Clinics (items can be given to Tina Murray at a Chapter meeting)

- Flies for the beginner boxes (See list below ... **we have very few yet**. Please tie 23 -24 flies each.)
- OLD leaders for practice casting (7.5 ft please)
- Items for women’s raffles to pay for scholarships and food

Dry’s	Terrestrials	Nymphs	Streamers
Sulpher #16 Caddis, varying sizes/colors Adams Stimulators Crane flies	Cricket #14 Hopper #14 Ants Beatles	Scud #12 Pheasant Tail Bead Head #16 – #18 Gold Ribbed Hares Jre’s Caddis Larva Copper John	Weighted Wooly Buzzer #12 & 10 Small Streamers #12 & #10 Mickey Finns

Guides contact **Scot Stewart** at scotstewart2@gmail.com (608) 273-5967.

Annual Madison Compost Bin and Rain Barrel Sale

Reducing runoff and using water wisely is one way to help protect our resources. Consider taking advantage of this annual promotion.

When: Saturday, May 12th , 10am – 2pm

Where: Alliant Energy Center, North parking lot, Enter Olin Ave.

What: Compost bins and 50 and 100 gallon rain barrels with diverters are available at discounted prices.

Open to residents and non-residents of Madison.

Additional Info: www.cityofmadison.com/streets/compost/CompostBinSale.cfm



Fountains of Youth

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

by Rusty Dunn

It is a glorious late April day in England in the early 1800s. Daffodils trumpet spring's arrival, and songbirds sing in harmony. 'Tis Shakespeare's proverbial *sweet o' the year*. A gentleman of leisure makes plans for an angling getaway on private waters. He consults books authored by fly fishing's leading authorities to learn of mayflies that might hatch in late April. One predicts a hatch of Little Dark Watchets. Another says Dark Bloas. Yet another, Jenny Spinners. The next, Little Blacks. The angler is puzzled, because each book says something different about late April hatches. He wonders which, if any, of them is correct. Unknown to the gentleman, however, all of the books are correct. The late April mayflies predicted by the books are all the exact same species!

The names of insects important to anglers was chaotic and unorganized prior to Alfred Ronalds' landmark book *The Fly-Fisher's Entomology* in 1836. Ronalds was the pioneer of insect identification and hatch matching by anglers. He described the book as "*the amusement of an amateur*", but it had a huge impact on fly fishing as we know it. Ronalds was the first angling author to use scientific genus and species names for insects. The naming of insects by anglers prior to Ronalds was haphazard at best. Discussing of a hatch of "Bracken Clocks" or "Cow Ladies" was cute, but such names were informal, strongly regional, and inconsistent. Worse still, names of insects and matching flies were often used interchangeably.

Ronalds made order of the chaos. He presented both common names recognized by anglers and taxonomic names established by scientists. Accompanying illustrations depicted both naturals and imitations side by side. Ronalds was an engraver and lithographer by trade, and he personally engraved, printed, and hand-colored the book's exceptionally beautiful plates of illustrations. Few books in angling history have had

such a lasting impact on how fly fishing is practiced.

Ronalds had the inquiring mind of a naturalist and the experimental skills of a scientist. About half of *The Fly-Fisher's Entomology* concerns insects and imitation, but the other half concerns trout behavior. Ronalds built a "trout blind" hanging over a river from which he could secretly observe trout behavior. He discharged shotguns over feeding fish and demonstrated that trout are oblivious to noise above the surface. He understood the physics of light reflection and refraction and was the first author to describe a trout's view of the world above the surface ("the window"). He emphasized that insect translucency is best imitated when colors of the tying silk show through overlying dubbing. Ronalds was not the first to suggest this, but the method became the norm due to the influence of his book. He doctored natural and unnatural "baits" with various concoctions and deduced that trout have excellent discrimination of edible vs. inedible based on appearance, but very little discrimination based on taste.

The Fly-Fisher's Entomology describes 47 British insects, one of which is the grannom, a caddisfly that is common throughout Europe and North America. American grannoms (often called "Mother's Day Caddis") comprise several species of the genus *Brachycentrus*. They hatch in late April to early May and last a couple of weeks. Hatches can be intense, as described by author E. Powell in *The Country Sportsman*:

"A hatch of grannom is a sad affliction, for it is generally so brief that there is little time to think and the trout seem to find it so satisfying that they are difficult to stir for the rest of the day."

Grannoms vary in size and color, but most are size #16 to #18 with dark gray-brown bodies and green or olive highlights. Egg-laying females carry a bright green egg mass at the tip of their tail. Ronalds' grannom imitation was the Green Tail fly, which first appeared in J. Chetham's *The Angler's Vade Mecum* (1681). Its distinguishing feature is a tag of bright green at the tail to imitate the egg sack of egg-laying females.

© Rusty Dunn, 2018

Green Tail

Hook: Light wire, #14 - #18

Thread: Brown silk

Tag: Bright green silk floss or dubbing to represent an egg sack

Body: Fur of a hare's mask spun on tying silk and left rough

Wing: Feather of a partridge wing, made very full

Hackle: Pale ginger hen hackle, tied as a collar to imitate legs



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 madkasel@gmail.com

Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited Leadership:

President	Matt Sment	matthews836@gmail.com
Vice President	Tristan Kloss	tie.a.fly@gmail.com
Secretary	Open	
Treasurer	Tom Parker	tparker23@charter.net
Past President	Matt Krueger	mattjoman@gmail.com
State Council Rep.	Scot Stewart	scotstewart2@gmail.com
Board Member	Mary Ann Doll	dollmaryann@gmail.com
Board Member	Jim Hess	jimhess5599@gmail.com
Board Member	Topf Wells	topfwells@gmail.com
Board Member	Dave Fowler	dfowler82@gmail.com
Board Member	Bill Hayes	bill.hayes07@outlook.com
Board Member	Michael J. Burda	northernlightsreef@yahoo.com
Newscasts Editor	Drew Kasel	madkasel@gmail.com
Conservation Committee Chair	Jim Hess	jim.hess@tds.net

Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited

P.O. Box 45555
Madison, WI 53744-5555