

Newscasts

May 2018 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



Learn more about Nohr Our Tuesday, May 8 Chapter Meeting

Join us May 8 to hear Tim Fraley, President of the [Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter of Trout Unlimited](#), present on some recent Nohr Chapter activities and habitat projects.

SWTU has been proud to partner with members of the Nohr chapter on a number of great initiatives. We've very much appreciated their support at our stream workdays and in other ways.

It's extremely likely you've enjoyed their impressive handiwork along some of Wisconsin's great trout streams. You just might leave this meeting with an idea of a new stretch of water to explore!

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

Nobody won at the April meeting and so the award has risen to \$40. Come to our meeting on May 8 for your chance to win a gift certificate to Fontana Sports Specialties.

Administering our Endowment Fund

The Board of Directors has approved the appointment of the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin to administer the SWTU Endowment Fund. This is a positive change and more will be shared on it at a later date.

Slate set for Chapter Elections Nominating Committee completes its work

The Nominating Committee has completed the list of candidates for the election to be held at the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, May 8, 7 pm. The nominees are:

President – Amy Klusmeier. Amy has served on our Board for several years and has done a great service to our Chapter as Icebreaker Chair for the past several years.

Vice President – Mary Ann Doll. Mary Ann has having served on the Board and is a friendly, welcoming face at many key chapter activities, including work days and membership events. She has also served on nominating committees.

Treasurer – Tom Parker. Tom has been a member of TU since 2013 and served as our Treasurer for the past several years. He has over 30 years' experience in finance and administration in the insurance industry.

Secretary – Topf Wells. Topf has been an active Board member for the past few years, taking an active role in the areas of advocacy and conservation. He also serves as lead auctioneer for one of our biggest annual fundraisers: the Meicher Madness Auction.

Chapter Delegate to the State Council of TU – Scot Stewart. Scot retired from Wisconsin DNR after 33 years working in Fisheries Management. Since 2010, he has been actively involved with the State Council as the head of the WDNR Trout Committee, so is knowledgeable about current issues and familiar with many of the members.

Tom Thrall, Director (new nominee). Tom participated in and led a variety of key Chapter activities over his many years of service, including serving as Treasurer. A retired federal conservation specialist, Tom brings an expert's knowledge of trout conservation to the Board.

Ben Lubchansky, Director (new nominee). Ben is a superb fly tier and generous supporter of the Chapter. Using his skills as an excellent chef, Ben has donated the proceeds of several cooking events to the Chapter and has provided locally sourced and wonderful meals for several Chapter events. He has also agreed to serve as our 2019 Icebreaker Chair.

Rodd Wangren, Director (new nominee). Rodd faithfully participates in many Chapter activities such as meetings and work days. He played a big part in this year's Casting Clinic. He also serves on the Board of our fellow conservation organization, the Upper Sugar River Watershed Association.

Pat Hasburgh (new nominee). Pat has served on our Board in the past and provided great leadership and support to a wide array of events. His skills as a graphic designer are very evident on our Stream Team workday workday trailer.

Dave Fowler and **Jim Hess** are current Board members who will continue to serve their terms.

At the May monthly meeting, the nominees or a member acting on his or her behalf will be given the opportunity to present any information relevant to his or her candidacy. In addition to the nominees selected by the committee, the chapter bylaws provide that any member may make a nomination from the floor. For those positions with more than one candidate, secret ballots will be used.

Thank you Mike Burda!

Mike Burda has reached the "term limit" for Board members and so will be stepping down after six tremendous years of hard work, inspiration and visible leadership. Thank you, Mike, for the difference you've made, in particular for your fellow veterans. We know you won't make yourself a stranger!



Many thanks to Topf Wells and Mary Ann Doll for leading the Nominating Committee.

Check out the [About section of www.swtu.org](http://www.swtu.org) for specific details on election procedures and the expectations for each position.

Welcome New Members

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

Robert Weiland	Clay Morrow
Matthew Galle	Ethan Clark
Tim Hilsenhoff	Molly Moen
Rolf Olson	Pete Ystenes
Andreas Mueller	Chris Hodkiewicz
James Anfang	James Beck
Justin Richardson	Jeff Heckman
Charlie Wilder	James Ubich
Paul Lange	Chance Hammacher
Carl Plath	Steven Weber



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](mailto:Tristan.Kloss@swtu.org) so we can expect you.

Stream Team Workdays – upcoming and past!

Our next workday will be **Saturday, May 12 at Fryes Feeder in Donald Park**, north of Mt Vernon on Hwy 92. [Here is a map to this location.](#) We will begin at 9 and be removing willows. The usual gear ... gloves, good boots, etc. are needed. Please join us!!

It's been a busy month of making a difference for our streams! Below are photos and reports of plantings, brushings, burnings and more!!

Tree planting at Neperud

Thanks to Dan Oele, our fish biologist, a great DNR crew, and some weather-defying TU volunteers, we had another great day on the Sugar River at Neperud. We now have 55 oaks trees properly planted and watered in. Some will shade the creek and all will contribute some woody debris to the stream over time. And it's a great step to having the stream run through a savanna. With some other TU volunteers, we then sowed some more native wild flower seed on what will one day be prairie/savanna. ([See more photos courtesy Jim Beecher.](#))



Sugar River at Paoli

A fun and friendly workday with no snow underfoot! ([See the full photo album courtesy Jim Beecher.](#))





Smith-Conley Creek – Phillips Easement

About two dozen volunteers worked three hours and cleared many large and medium box elders from the bank of the public easement. There's a lot more left to do but we made a good start on a very fine stretch of water. From this day, we have some cool drone footage to share!



Lessons and laughter at Riversmith Casting Clinic

It was cool and windy, but doughnuts and hot coffee powered a wonderful group of students and instructors through a number of interactive stations: casting, Tenkara, etymology, gear, reading the water. Many thanks to Tristan Kloss for taking the lead in organizing it.



Update on Wis. Conservation Congress Fish and Game Hearings

We'd previously reported on the Wisconsin Conservation Congress Spring Fish and Game Hearings that were held in April.

The Board of Directors of SWTU suggested a "no" vote on this question: *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?*

This question was voted down in Dane County but narrowly supported statewide. '

This was an advisory question, so the Department would have to decide to move it forward for an actual vote.



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!

Here are some photos from a recent casting clinic with the students at Tenney Park. The fish didn't cooperate too much, but a lot of fun was had and some lessons learned.



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.

Fountains of Youth

A look at classic flies that have withstood the test of time ... flies that remain "forever young"

by Rusty Dunn

Whenever you venture astream, you carry the accumulated wisdom and technological advances of generations of angling predecessors. Your fly rod, for example, is a marvel of engineering. It is probably made of high modulus graphite, artificial fibers as light as a feather and stronger than steel. But graphite rods have only been around since the 1970s. Before that, fiberglass was the miracle fiber of premium rods. Fiberglass was king for two or three decades, having replaced rods made of split bamboo in the 1950s. Tonkin cane from China replaced Calcutta cane from India in the early 1900s, which had previously replaced greenheart and lancewood, which had replaced ... you get the picture. Your rod is the culmination of that long history of improvement, which allows a sixty foot cast of a #4 Woolly Bugger into a stiff breeze with ease.

But what about your flies? Has their performance advanced similarly over the decades? Are today's new flies better than those of 20, or 50, or 100 years ago? You would have difficulty convincing a skeptic of that. The miracle fibers of fly design have always been fur and feather, and Mother Nature has not changed them recently. Synthetic materials add an important new dimension to fly tying, but the basic principles of fly design and presentation were explored long ago. Many of the oldest flies are still among the best.

The Waterhen Bloa is a centuries old wet fly, and a better imitation of emerging Blue Winged Olives has probably never been invented. 'Bloa' refers to the color of the fly's hackle. The word derives from the Scottish term "blae", which is a dark, leaden, slate-gray color. The wings of waterhens are blae colored, hence the fly's name. Waterhen Bloas imitate drowned or emerging olive duns and are outstanding

when fished just under the surface during a BWO emergence.

A Waterhen Bloa is typical of wingless wet flies, also called 'North Country flies', 'spiders' or 'soft-hackles'. Most wet flies prior to about 1800 had wings of quill slips, but those of the English north shed their wings during the 1800s and instead adopted a collar of soft hackle to imitate both wings and legs of emergers. Feathers of game birds have been affixed to hooks since the very origins of angling, but their development as the defining feature of a wet fly style occurred in the 1800s. A landmark book in the history of soft-hackled flies is T.E. Pritt's *Yorkshire Trout Flies* (1885). It describes 62 wingless wets matched to the natural insects they imitate. Most of Pritt's patterns reproduce flies of previous authors, but Pritt integrated the fly patterns with descriptions of emergence times and methods of presentation. *Yorkshire Trout Flies* marks full maturity of the North Country tradition, a wet fly philosophy that endures today. The Waterhen Bloa first appeared by name in *Yorkshire Trout Flies*, but the pattern is much older, reaching back to at least 1807 under other names.

Great attention is paid to color in the design of North Country flies. Many have bodies only of tying silk, while others call for a sparse dusting of fur dubbed over the silk. Color of the silk shows through overlying fur, thus imitating the translucency of naturals. North Country flies are simple and subdued ... slim delicate imitations of slim delicate insects. The soft materials absorb water, and the sparseness of dress insures quiet entry to the water. Don't be misled by their simplicity, however. The colors, materials, designs, and methods of presentation were perfected by 400 years of careful observation and experimentation. When you next see a Blue Winged Olive, tie an 18th century fly to your 21st century rod and see for yourself.

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----- Waterhen Bloa -----

Dubbing of a Waterhen Bloa should be applied "as light as your mother-in-law's beard". Feathers from the underside of coot, moorhen, or starling wings can substitute for waterhen.

Hook: Wet fly, #14 - #18

Thread: Pearsall's Gossamer silk, primrose yellow. When waxed or wet, the silk will turn pale olive.

Body: Muskrat underfur, spun very sparsely over tying silk. Leave two turns of silk without dubbing as a tag at the hook bend.

Hackle: A feather from the underside of a waterhen wing. The hackle should be about the length of the hook and swept back slightly.



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

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