

# Newscasts

June 2018 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!

- Keep checking [swtu.org](http://swtu.org) for updates, pictures, news, volunteer 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.

## Your new SWTU Board of Directors

A new Board was elected at the May 8 meeting. The results!

**President – Amy Klusmeier**  
**Vice President – Mary Ann Doll**  
**Treasurer – Tom Parker**  
**Secretary – Topf Wells**  
**Chapter Delegate to the State Council of TU – Scot Stewart**  
**Tom Thrall, Director**  
**Ben Lubchansky, Director**  
**Rodd Wangren, Director**  
**Pat Hasburgh, Director**

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

Congrats to all and thank you for your leadership.

## Supporting Nohr's tremendous work

Our May meeting featured a presentation from the Henry and Laura Nohr Chapter of TU presenting on their stream restoration efforts. At the meeting, Tom Parker, SWTU Treasurer, presented Tim Fraley of the Nohr Chapter with a check for \$1,000 to support their continued restoration work. These are tremendously important trout streams that many from SWTU find themselves fishing.



## Save the Date and Nominate! Nash Williams Award Banquet

Thursday, October 11, 2018  
[Lussier Family Heritage Center](#), Madison  
Watch the SWTU website and your email for ticket information and details.

**Award nominations will be accepted through July 31, 2018**  
[Submit a nomination online](#) or contact [amy.klusmeier@gmail.com](mailto:amy.klusmeier@gmail.com)



### Award Categories and Criteria:

#### Award of Merit

This is the highest honor that SWTU awards. It can be given to a SWTU member or non-member that has made long term contributions to cold water resources. Corporation, Company, or Organizations are eligible.

#### Gold Trout Award

TU member or Non-Member. If a TU member, must have served on the Board of Directors or as an officer or prominent position of our state or national organization.

#### Gold Net Award (Project Award)

This is a very high honor that goes to a SWTU Member (3 years or more) that participates in at least five projects and is an angler.

#### Certificate of Appreciation

Recognition of a TU Member that has made a notable contribution to the chapter.

#### Pass Lake Award

Member or non-member. Especially appropriate for people who have won awards such as the "Gold Trout" award in the past and continue to make a strong contribution to our chapter's goals.

#### Silver Reel

General purpose award made from the "reel" portion of TU bookends.

### Chainsaw Training Opportunity

For those committed to attending and chainsawing at our stream workdays ... you can receive a full day of chainsaw use and safety training on Saturday, July 21. The training is being conducted by Dane County, because volunteers are required to take a Chainsaw Safety Training Course before using a chainsaw in a Dane County Park. Advanced registration is required. [Check out this PDF to learn more!](#)



### Mark your calendar for the 2019 Icebreaker!

Saturday, January 26, 2019  
American Family Insurance, Madison

## Saturday, June 9 Stream Workday and Picnic

Help us improve a stream and then enjoy a tasty picnic!

**Where:** The Sarbacker Easement on the Sugar River, located just 1/3 mile north of Paoli on Range Trail Road at the bridge crossing. Here is a [map to this workday location](#). The map shows a fire number, but there is no fire number sign. We worked here on April 7. This is a new Dane County easement that you will want to check out. Please be sure to note the parking instructions below.

**What:** We will be installing brush bundles along the stream bank using the brush piles we created during our April 7 workday. We may need to cut some fresh honeysuckles cut to add to the brush bundles.

The DNR will be installing oak posts on June 7, to which the brush bundles will be attached. They will also be giving instructions on how to build the bundles. If you are interested, we are meeting them at 10am on June 7. You are welcome to join us.

**Picnic:** There will be a picnic following the workday at the Sugar River Basco Unit Wildlife Unit Area (Neperud property). Just a short drive south of Paoli at 1065 Hwy 69.

If you can't make the workday, you are welcome to join us at the picnic. Here is [a map to the picnic location](#).

**Bring:** Some of us will be working in the river and others will be constructing the bundles on dry land. So, in addition to work gloves, sturdy shoes, and eye protection, **bring your waders**. The best gloves to use in the water are Atlas rubber palm gloves.

Also bring reusable water bottles that can be re-filled from our 5-gal water jug.

**Parking:** 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.

**RVSP:** Please RSVP to Jim Hess at [jimhess5599@gmail.com](mailto:jimhess5599@gmail.com) if you coming to the picnic so we can order food.

Remember, every workday you attend earns you an entry into the drawing for the Stream Keeper fly rod, custom-built by Jim Bartelt.

## Stream Workday on Fryes Feeder

Update from our May 12 workday courtesy Topf Wells with photos from Jim Beecher ...

Busy as and efficient as beavers is the summary of our workday at Fryes Feeder. About 15-18 of us cleared, treated, and stacked willow. We would have burned it but would have risked suffocating a trail run at Donald Park.

The stream banks are clear of willow with the groves of bigger willow several yards away from the stream still remaining. We also took out some invasive honeysuckle. We removed a small beaver dam and an enormous willow stump. When it dries out I intend to sit on it some spring and watch trout eat BWOs. The bigger beaver dam was breached to the extent that the flooded crop field drained.

Some very fresh cuttings tell us the beavers are still there and plenty of bigger willows still remain. I don't know how all the rain will affect the beavers' repair schedule but I expect they have already filed the work orders. As I looked at the site, I was reminded of Dave Vetrano's comment that "willows are beaver candy." If so, we were at the beaver equivalent of Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory.

The creek itself looked great and was running surprisingly clear. I'm guessing it's full of trout. I'd love to know who is living in the beaver pond.

See photos on next page and [find more pictures here on swtu.org](#).





## **Fly Rod Swap with Fontana**

You got too many rods in the closet? Want to get the latest greatest fly rod, but need to make room in the quiver? Want to help SWTU with its veteran, youth, and beginner programs?

Fontana sports has a solution to your dilemma and desires by offering a Fly Rod Swap the entire month of June.

Here's how it works:

Trade in a gently used Fly Rod and Get 20% OFF on a new fly rod from Sage, Redington, or St. Croix valued at \$150 or more. Offer valid on in-stock and non-sale rods only.

Used rods will go to the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited for use in their Project Healing Waters, Project Green Teen, and Riversmith Casting Clinic programs.



## A Very Special Field Trip

Report courtesy Topf Wells

Our field trip and conservation mission at Neperud was a blast and productive, thanks to 22 wonderful 4th graders from Lincoln Elementary School, three of their teachers, Carolyn Byers, Education Coordinator for Madison Audubon, Dan Oele with his two wonderful techs, and a very nice and patient bus driver, whose name I did not catch.

The day started at the Neperud farm bridge with all the kids on the bridge and Dan and his crew in the water. The probes went in, the fish came out, and the kids went nuts. Many cheers, much excitement and the kids hit the stream bank in pursuit of Dan and the fish. Dan, Caitlin, and Alex shocked and netted fish up to the stream's turn to the north (300-400 ft.). They emptied the bucket of fish with lots of explanations and chances for the kids to see and handle the fish and ask questions. Many of them had not seen that variety of fish that close up or been able to touch a fish. What would the TU readers of this message be interested in? Hmm ... the DNR crew captured about 15 brown trout, ranging in size from one tiny Young of Year fellow to several over 12 inches. All the bigger fish were healthy chunksters. Many were happily situated under the bank covers. Of course the biggest fish was a carp (only one); the kids also saw shiners, chubs, red horse, suckers, darters, sculpin, and sunfish. Good to be reminded by the kids that all the fish are beautiful and fun to see. Dan and his crew were completely patient and good-humored. The first question to Dan was, "Do you get paid to do this?" I think and hope when he said yes and talked about the education one needs to get his and his crew's sort of jobs some wheels started turning in those lively brains.

We then planted native trees and shrubs to provide better riparian habitat, especially for birds and bugs. The kids worked very conscientiously to make sure the hackberries, ironwood, hazelnut, indigo, juneberries, and nine bark are perfectly planted. They are and properly watered in. By the way, every oak that we planted in April prospers.

Onto the toughest part of the day: sowing bag after bag after bag of Indian grass seed on a windy day in all the area we're working to re-establish a prairie. We discovered that Indian grass seed is very itchy on bare arms and that there is a lot of seed in a bag. But the kids kept at it and thanks to their hard work, a lunch break, and chocolate chip and sugar cookies, we sowed four bags of seed in all the area we wanted to cover. In two wet areas we found lots of tadpoles, at which point our straight line of sowers wavered a bit. But even better observations were to come – these kids were attentive, with great eyes. Upstream of the bridge, we found a redwing blackbird nest with eggs and, even better, a grasshopper sparrow nest with eggs.

We all had a lot of fun, got a lot done, saw a lot, learned a lot. I just hope the 4th graders had as much fun as I did. They're fabulous and deserve our thanks.



## Fountains of Youth

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

by Rusty Dunn

Some things turn out better when done in pairs. Lewis & Clark, Lennon & McCartney, Romeo & Juliet, Fred & Ginger, Batman & Robin, etc. The list is long. But where would each of these celebrities be without a creative partner? Probably a lot less famous. Fly fishing is inherently a solitary endeavor, and this is reflected in book authorship. Groundbreaking angling books written by pairs of authors are rare. Among the few examples are *The Compleat Angler* (1676) by Walton & Cotton, *Brook and River Trouting* (1916) by Edmonds & Lee, *Selective Trout* (1971) by Swisher & Richards, and *The Art of Tying the Wet Fly and Fishing the Flymph* (1971) by Leisenring and Hidy.

"Big Jim" Leisenring was a self-taught fly angler from Allentown, PA whose knowledge of insects, their imitation, and trout behavior was legendary. Leisenring's 1941 book *The Art of Tying the Wet Fly* described his unique methods of tying wingless wet flies with spun fur bodies. Unfortunately, the book had little impact, for it was published amid the turmoil of World War II. A later expanded edition in 1971 was coauthored with Vernon "Pete" Hidy (*The Art of Tying the Wet Fly and Fishing the Flymph*) and is a landmark in American angling history. The book resulted from a chance encounter between Pete Hidy and Jim Leisenring along Pennsylvania's Brodhead Creek in the mid-1930s. This fortunate meeting led to a remarkable friendship and professional collaboration. Leisenring was an expert veteran; Hidy an inquisitive but dedicated and serious student of fly fishing. Leisenring admired and respected Hidy, whom he mentored both on fly tying and on effective presentation. Hidy excelled under Leisenring's tutelage and, in time, became an outstanding and creative angler and fly tyer in his own right.

Pete Hidy was responsible for bringing *The Art of Tying the Wet Fly* to print. Hidy repeatedly urged Leisenring to write a book about his unique methods of fly tying and presentation. The Leisenring Lift, for example, was

known only to Jim's friends. But Leisenring was an inexperienced and reluctant author. He resisted Hidy's persuasion for years, reluctantly agreeing when Hidy volunteered to edit the book. Leisenring wrote passages in longhand, which Hidy typed, organized, illustrated, and edited into final manuscript form. The title page includes "As told to V.S. HIDY" in recognition of his important contributions. Interest in Leisenring's methods and patterns grew over time, and the highly acclaimed 1971 edition was coauthored with Hidy (*The Art of Tying the Wet Fly and Fishing the Flymph*) and published 20 years after Leisenring's death. Leisenring's text is unchanged in the 1971 edition, to which Hidy added a section on how to fish wingless wets. The 1971 edition revitalized American interest in wingless wet flies at a time when wet fly fishing was in decline due to increased popularity of dry flies.

Pete Hidy believed in 1971 that a new term ("flymph") was needed to describe flies that imitate the untidy transition of aquatic nymphs to winged aerial adults at or near the stream surface. The term is a merger of the words "fly" and "nymph". A flymph is not a fly, because it has no wings. It is not a nymph, because it is tied on an unweighted hook and fished near the surface. As described by Hidy, a flymph is...

*"a wingless artificial fly with a soft, translucent body of fur or wool which blends with the undercolor of the tying silk when wet, utilizing soft hackle fibers easily activated by the currents to give the effect of an insect alive in the water, and strategically cast diagonally upstream or across for the trout to take just below or within a few inches of the surface film."*

The term "flymph" never caught on, and today we typically call such flies soft-hackled emergers. Regardless of the terminology, Leisenring's & Hidy's flies and methods of presentation are modern day classics. They are similar to those of the British North Country style, but adapted and modified for streams of differing character and insects of differing species. We should all be grateful to Jim Leisenring for his genius and to Pete Hidy's preservation of that genius for posterity.

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## ----- Honey Dun Flymph -----

The Honey Dun Flymph was one of Pete Hidy's favorite flies. Others include a Partridge & Hare's Ear Flymph, a Blue Dun Flymph, and an Iron Blue Wingless (a pattern of G.E.M. Skues).

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**Hook:** Light wire wet fly, #12 - #16

**Thread:** Pearsall's Gossamer silk, color ash (#10)

**Body:** Fur of a hare's poll spun between two strands of waxed tying silk

**Ribbing:** Fine gold wire

**Hackle:** Honey dun hen, two turns

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

### Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited Leadership:

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