

# Newscasts

July 2018 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



## Future monthly meetings shifting to THURSDAYS Per usual, no July or August Meetings

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

We will get back together on **Thursday, September 13**. All monthly meetings thereafter will be held on the second Thursday (not Tuesday as in the past). The location remains the same: [The Coliseum Bar and Grill](#).

Have a great summer! There won't be an August newsletter, but keep checking [swtu.org](http://swtu.org) for updates, pictures, news, volunteer opportunities and more! Like and follow our [Facebook page](#), as well.



## 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. We've also set up a [Facebook event page](#) that will be updated with more as we have it.

**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.

## Good news, Neperud!

By Topf Wells

SWTU was proud to receive a DNR check from our River Protection Grant for the Neperud project in the amount of \$6,440.12.

The Neperud project was ambitious in its size, complexity, and comprehensive nature. We worked with our partners (including amazing people with the county and DNR) to restore the stream and its surrounding lands.

We took a chance in working on a river that has not been traditionally viewed as trout water and which demanded a lot of time and generous financial support on the part of the Chapter. The Officers and Board were wholly and enthusiastically supportive of the project and our members consistently showed up at our stream workdays. Over the life of this project, around 50 members showed up at one time or another to help. They tackled tasks ranging from some of our traditional work, such as brushing, to new activities such as building LUNKERs and bank covers or planting prairies and oak trees.

The project is a success! The river is healthier than it was and early indications are that the trout are responding. Chapter members and the public are enjoying the fishing, scenery and wildlife. Watching the prairie, native plants, and oak trees establish themselves has been another pleasure. Thank you, SWTU, and all who gave their time and talent to make a difference.

Note that the check is less than the \$10,000 maximum we could have received from the DNR, because the project was less expensive than planned. The chief reason was that we had expected to contract for the project's labor; instead, the DNR made its operations crews available.

Want to check it out? This [map location from a prior workday](#) should get you there!

## Workday recap

By Topf Wells

*The shorter report:* As much fun as you can have while sweating.

*The longer report:* Jim Hess, Conservation Chair, completed a brilliant season of planning and executing work days. Both brush bundles are in at the Sarabacher easement, thanks to Jim and about a dozen very hard working volunteers. The brush is in and properly staked and corded (I donated my two spools of decoy cord which probably means my duck hunting days are over). We'll have Dan Oele judge our work but I think they look great and are now trapping sediment and providing fish nice cover on the outside edges. We think those edges might be good places to find a stray fly or lure over time.

Everyone deserves thanks but a special tip of the hat to Mike Meier, who wrestled prodigious amounts of brush in place and then had a great sense of how to deploy the cord.

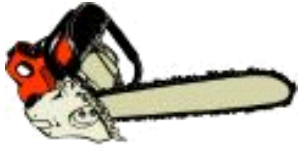
All of us thought this was a great use of brush and a far better and more responsible one than piling and burning it. We hope this can be a component of many future work days.

The day ended with a celebratory cookout hosted by Mary Ann Doll and Michael Williamson at the Neperud property. Never, never miss a cookout hosted by these two. The brats and hot dogs were delicious, the beer and lemonade cold, and the s'mores the grand finale. Generations of kids can't be wrong when they are made as well as Mary Ann does them – she even found a square marshmallow that melts better. Who says the world isn't improving?

Life is always better when you're outside. As we were finishing, a young couple came up with two small children. Mary Ann certainly knows a s'more is a terrible thing to waste. You want to see big smiles – offer two kids unexpected s'mores. The parents are new to Dane County and enjoy taking their kids out to see lovely outdoor areas. The family was turning over rocks in the river and looking at bugs and having a grand time. That should have been a clue ... the dad is a former fishing guide from Washington and has been a TU member. We hope to see the family at future TU events.

See photos on the following page courtesy **Jim Beecher**, or [view the full album](#).





## 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

## Have a seat while preventing the spread of invasives

The students of Project Green Teen built this bench to accompany the wader/boot cleaning station at the Westfork Sports Club. Many thanks to **Tom Parker** for donating the wood and lending a bit of knowledge to the build. The students were proud to make it, and we know it will serve fishers for many, many years to come.



## Welcome New Members

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

- |                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Randy Roden       | Fred Simani     |
| Michele Brogunier | Lewis Campbell  |
| Merle Moore       | Wade Davies     |
| Catherine Attig   | Lance Williston |
| John Wanserski    | Chuck Sara      |
| Ken Feldman       | James Davis     |
| Eric Verbeten     |                 |



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 [Mary Ann Doll](#) so we can expect you.

## Fountains of Youth

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

by Rusty Dunn

The next time you're near a trout stream, look closely among the ground cover and leaf litter. You'll be astonished by the number and variety of ants. Ecologists estimate that the biomass of ants on earth is 20% of terrestrial animals. That's one fifth of all land animals, measured not by number but by total weight! Wow! Now look in your fly boxes. Are your ant imitations as prolific as the real deal? Probably not. As the weather warms, and spring fades into summer, give your ant patterns some quality stream time. Ants and terrestrials are summer staples. They sustain trout through the lean months and are as much a part of the season as baseball, cookouts, and long slow sunsets.

Ant imitations date to the very beginning of fly fishing. Dame Juliana Berners described fishing with ants in the first angling book ever printed (*A Treatyse of fysshynge wyth an Angle*, 1496), although her twelve famous flies ("the jury of twelve") did not include an ant pattern. Charles Cotton described the first artificial ant in 1676 in Isaak Walton's *The Compleat Angler*. His fly though did not have the modern ant profile of two bulbous segments separated by a thin waist. That bit of realism would await Michael Theakston's ant pattern of 1853, described in *A List of Natural Flies*. Materials have evolved since Theakston's time, but the basic design of ant flies has changed little. Pennsylvania's Vince Marinaro brought ants and terrestrials into the mainstream in his 1950 classic *A Modern Dry Fly Code*, considered by many to be "the bible" of spring creek angling. It is, above all, a book about terrestrials, and Marinaro's favorite terrestrial was the ant:

*"If I were to choose one pattern above all others, day in and day out, from fish to fish, the most enduring in the season, it would be the ant in its various sizes and colors."*

Many respected authors have commented on trout

fondness for ants. Stream ecologists demonstrate that the fraction of ants in the trout diet is considerably greater than the fraction in the stream drift. Trout prefer ants and go out of their way to take them. Ants are rich in formic acid, and trout may enjoy the tart acidic flavor. Whatever the reason, ants are essentially "trout candy".

Ants occur in many sizes but only four basic designs: black vs. red (also called brown, cinnamon, or honey) and winged vs. wingless. Black ants are jet black and completely opaque. Red ants are remarkably translucent. Their reddish color shines from within by light that is transmitted through the body. Marinaro described red ants as "*glimmering and glowing as if lighted by some inner fire*". Wingless ants are by far the most common. They fall from trees, bushes, and grasses from late spring until the frosts of fall. They are especially plentiful to trout on warm windy days. Winged ants are much less common, but they can create magnificent dry fly fishing. Immense numbers of winged male and female ants swarm in mid to late summer from underground colonies. These mating flights are unpredictable and rare, but if one blows over a stream, trout gorge on the windfall. You'll be lucky to encounter a handful of winged ant swarms in your life, but if it happens, you won't forget it.

Floating ants cannot escape the surface film, and trout take them in a leisurely manner. Gentle sipping rises on glassy smooth glides usually indicate fish taking either small terrestrials, midges, or mayfly spinners. You'll probably need a seine to know for sure, because floating ants are hard to see. They float *in*, not *on*, the water ... sodden, half-sunk, awash in the surface, and blended into the dark background. Make sure your flies float similarly. Trout probably take more ants underwater than above, and a wet ant pattern can be excellent trailed behind a dry fly.

Trout don't read the scientific journals, but they know from experience that ants are the most abundant land animal on earth. Ants sustain trout for months, and they can sustain your summer fly fishing as well. Twenty percent of the planet's land animals just can't be wrong. Think globally ... act locally ... fish ants.

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### Red Fur Ant

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**Hook:** Dry fly, #10-24

**Thread:** Rusty brown, 8/0

**Body:** Reddish-brown fur with some Antron mixed in for sparkle. Form two prominent bulbs separated by a thin waist. The rear bulb should be larger than the front.

**Wings:** (Optional) Two hackle feather tips, medium dun; projecting rearward from the thorax across the back and split about 30°.

**Hackle:** Rusty dun, honey dun, or medium ginger, optionally trimmed on the bottom to float lower in the surface.

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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:

President	Amy Klusmeier	<a href="mailto:amy.klusmeier@gmail.com">amy.klusmeier@gmail.com</a>
Vice President	Mary Ann Doll	<a href="mailto:dollmaryann@gmail.com">dollmaryann@gmail.com</a>
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