

# Newscasts

October 2018 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



## Nash Williams Award Banquet: Thursday, October 11 Our October Chapter meeting – early start at Lussier Family Heritage Center

Hearty congratulations to the conservation champions listed below!! They will be recognized at our Nash Williams Awards Banquet on October 11.

**Please act by Sunday, October 7 to register for the dinner;** either [buy tickets online](#) or RSVP to pay at the door by emailing [amy.klusmeier@gmail.com](mailto:amy.klusmeier@gmail.com). RSVPs are required for dinner. \$30 includes food and non-alcoholic beverages. A cash bar will also be available.

- **Jim Hess** - Award of Merit
- **David Fowler** - Gold Trout, Leadership & Education
- **John and Rose Schweiger** - Pass Lake Award
- **Kevin Graeme** - Certificate of Appreciation, Outstanding Volunteer
- **Fontana Sports** - Reel Good Sponsor
- **Doug Brown** - Certificate of Appreciation, Outstanding Volunteer
- **Josh Brown and Kelly Maynard** - Landowner Certificate of Appreciation
- **Tom and Vicki Sarbarker** - Landowner Certificate of Appreciation
- **Barb and Larry Lange** - Landowner Certificate of Appreciation
- **Bob and Nancy Rudd** - Landowner Certificate of Appreciation
- **Matt Sment** - Certificate of Appreciation, Past President
- **Tristan Kloss** - Certificate of Appreciation, Past President
- **Matt Krueger** - Certificate of Appreciation, Past President

**Please note the date, start time and different location:**

**Lussier Family Heritage Center**  
3101 Lake Farm Rd  
Madison, WI 53711

### Tentative schedule and menu:

#### 5:30 - 6:30 pm Music

by Blackhawk Bluegrass Band and Cash Bar

#### 6:30 - 7:30 pm Dinner

Braised Beef Shoulder w. Mustard Seed Demiglace  
Roasted Beet Salad w. Chevre and Chives  
Roasted Acorn Squash w. Maple Butter  
Wild Rice and Dried Cherry Salad

#### 7:30 - 9:00 pm Awards

**REGISTER NOW!**  
*Thursday, October 11<sup>th</sup>*

Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited invites you to celebrate the accomplishments of the past year and look ahead to the future!

Expect another fantastic meal from 608 Community Supported Kitchen, live bluegrass music, a cash bar, plenty of time to socialize with old friends and make a couple new ones!

**REGISTRATION CLOSES THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4TH!**

**CLICK HERE TO REGISTER NOW!**

2018  
**NASH** BANQUET  
*Williams*  
TROUT UNLIMITED  
SOUTHERN WISCONSIN CHAPTER

## Help out at our first workday of the fall (Picnic included!) October 13, 2018 – Steiner Creek in Lafayette County

**When:** 9am to 12 noon (Chapter Approved Sawyers please arrive at 8:30).

**Where:** Steiner Creek is a brook trout stream located within the Yellowstone Wildlife Area in Lafayette County, just north of Lake Yellowstone off of English Hollow Road. Take Hwy 151 west out of Madison to Hwy 78 (west side of Mt. Horeb) and go south to Blanchardville. On the south side of Blanchardville take Cty. Rd F 8 miles west to English Hollow Rd., which is 1/4 mile west of the entrance to Lake Yellowstone. Go north on English Hollow approximately 1/4 mile and turn into the entrance to the wildlife area. Follow the gravel road for about 1/8 mile to our worksite. [Here is a map to this location.](#)

**What:** Bradd Sims with the DNR has requested our help in clearing out willows along this stream. The willows are so thick you can't get to the stream or even see the stream in some spots. The Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter will be joining us for this workday and at this time we are planning to grill some brats for lunch. Bradd Sims will be doing a stream shocking demonstration following the workday.

**Bring:** Work waders as we will be working on both sides of the stream. The DNR is planning to build a small walking bridge to cross the stream, but to be on the safe side bring your waders, if you have them. Also bring gloves, sturdy shoes, eye and ear protection, and 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.

**Parking:** After entering the entrance to the Yellowstone Wildlife Area, follow the gravel road for about 1/8 mile to our worksite. The DNR is planning to mow a parking area, but if this doesn't happen park along the side of the gravel road.

**PLEASE RSVP:** As our friends at Nohr are grilling brats, we'd like a general headcount. Just email [Jim Hess](#).

### Future Workdays:

Oct. 27 - Sarbacker Easement (Sugar River)

Nov. 10 – Zeigler Easement (Sugar River)

Dec 1 – TBD

## Congratulations to Topf Wells! Honored with River Champion Award by River Alliance of Wisconsin

SWTU Board member Topf Wells was presented with a River Champion Award by the River Alliance of Wisconsin at the group's 25th anniversary meeting on September 27.

Sharon White, Associate Director of the Alliance, presented the prestigious award, saying: "When he worked for Dane County Executive Kathleen Falk, Topf Wells was instrumental in developing watershed protection programs, most notably the Permanent Trout Stream Easement Program. Over 20 miles of Dane County Trout waters have been restored and protected in perpetuity. Since he retired, Topf has donated hundreds of volunteer hours through Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited to restoration, improved public access and permanent protection to Dane County waterways, especially the Sugar River. He is a tireless advocate for state and local policies to protect our watersheds. A true River champion!"

Topf said there were three things that inspired him to do this work in the face of challenges. **One:** the rivers and streams themselves. If given a modicum of protection and tender, loving care, rivers and streams and the forms of life they sustain ALWAYS show remarkable



**Topf, center, with Raj Shukla, Executive Director, and Sharon White, Associate Director**

recuperative powers. **Two:** Colleagues and friends, including fellow volunteers from other conservation organizations, the professional staff from the Dane County Land and Water Resources Department, the DNR, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. **Three:** His parents, who always took the time to take him fishing, and the most wonderful wife in the world who always lets me put off tasks to go fishing or work on streams.”

Other River Champion Award winners were: Barb Gifford for her work to save the Little Plover River; Bill Schultheis for his successful fight to kill the LaFarge Dam on the Kickapoo River in the 1970's; Wisconsin's Green Fire, a recently formed group of retired DNR resource professionals and their allies who strive to present factual and scientific information to the public; and, the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, for their efforts to kill the proposed Back Forty Mine near the Menominee River.

## **SWTU steps up to help trout streams**

By Topf Wells

Our Chapter is moving on several fronts to assist in the restoration of several local trout streams with money and work.

Thanks to Jim Hess and Conservation Committee's schedule of work days, we'll have the opportunity to work on several trout streams, a couple of which might be new to our members. See the article in this newsletter for the fall schedule and hope to see you at the Steiner Branch on 10/13. Wild Brook Trout and Brats, an "Only in Wisconsin" combination.

Our streams need professional care as well as our volunteer efforts and those pros need funds to improve our streams. In the 2019 budget we intend to help a lot. ([This month's board update](#) has more on the budget.)

The first project is one we'll notice as we fish throughout next year. Bradd Sims, the DNR fish biologist for Lafayette and Grant Counties (and for those who love smallmouths, the Lower Wisconsin) announced at our September meeting that the DNR will put a maintenance crew on trout streams in much of the Driftless Area. The crew will address long-standing maintenance issues, including the control of wild parsnip that has proliferated on many public easements. My wife was just talking a trout angling friend in Richland Center who had terrible scars on his arm. You're guessing right – the result of an unexpected encounter with wild parsnip while trout fishing in that neck of the woods. Our budget includes \$2500 to support that effort.

The DNR will begin a major project on public land on Black Earth Creek between Cross Plains and Salmo Pond. We'll help with \$4000 on a project that will dramatically improve habitat on a long portion of stream. On the Sugar River, over 2100 feet below the Bruce Company bridge on the Falk/Wells Wildlife Area is in pretty sad shape. In colloquial terms, it's frog water. The County, DNR, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service has planned a major restoration for next year to improve habitat for trout, bugs in water, bugs pollinating plants, shorebirds, grassland birds, and, yes, even frogs. We'll help to the tune of \$5000.

Our friends at the Nohr Chapter continue their unceasing efforts to work throughout the Blue River Watershed. Wait till you see this season's efforts on the Blue in the Biba/Shemak Roads area. Lots more big trout water to fish. Next year, they'll begin work on a massive new DNR easement on the Blue and 6 Mile Branch. We're reserving \$1000 to help. Another restoration to address major flood damage on the West Fork of the Kickapoo is in the works. That's an important stream to many of our members and we'll contribute \$1000.

This summer marked the close-out of the Neperud project on the Sugar River. Thanks to the efficient work of the DNR and Dane County, the project came in under budget. We notified our various grantors to the project and many agreed that their share of the savings could be re-directed to worthwhile local projects. The Dane County Conservation League and the Badger Fly Fishers directed their share of funds to the Sugar River restoration. We are currently working with the Madison Fishing Expo on the possibility of directing their funds to some flood damage repair for Black Earth Creek near Mazomanie. Orvis asked that their money be directed to the DNR's restoration to the part of Kittleson Creek that's home to wild brook trout. All in all, we've been able to provide about \$4500 in additional funds to great local projects thanks to the generosity of our friends and donors. Our wild brook trout in Story Creek got another boost when Fontana paired with Patagonia for a new grant program to benefit native, wild trout in our area. This effort, supported by our TU members who bought Patagonia goods at Fontana last December netted the DNR's restoration another \$3200.

We can't help our trout streams without your continued support. Thank you.



THE 36TH ANNUAL SWTU

# ICEBREAKER

## JANUARY 26TH 2019

AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE

6000 American Parkway, Madison, WI 53783

### JOIN US FOR:

- TWO FABULOUS KEYNOTE SPEECHES
- PRESENTATIONS BY LOCAL EXPERTS
- MASTER FLY TYING DEMOS
- EXCITING BUCKET RAFFLES
- SILENT AUCTION
- CONSERVATION PARTNER DISPLAYS
- DELICIOUS LUNCH
- MUCH, MUCH MORE!

FEATURED SPEAKER

### RICH OSTHOFF

Rich guides fly-fishers for trout in the Driftless Area of Wisconsin. He has fished extensively throughout the Rocky Mountains. His first book, *Fly-Fishing The Rocky Mountain Backcountry*, is considered by many anglers to be the bible on backcountry fly-fishing. His other books, *No Hatch To Match* and *Active Nymphing*, not to mention his many instructional *You Tube* videos make him a speaker you won't want to miss!



JUST  
**\$10**  
FREE for Vets!  
and Kids 12  
& under

FOR MORE INFORMATION: [SWTU.ORG](http://SWTU.ORG)

## Welcome New Members

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

Kent Chase	Eli Chase
Dennis Traugott	Craig Mayer
Mark Refan	Wyatt Reeves
Chase Kettler	Anna Young



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.

## You Must Be Present to Win

Nobody won at the September meeting and so the award has risen to \$80. We won't draw during the awards banquet, so join us November 8 for your chance to win a gift certificate to Fontana Sports Specialties!

**Congratulations** on a new baby boy to Justin Haglund and wife. Justin is an energetic fish biologist who is making a difference in the watersheds we love.

## Newslinks – Chapter Budget and BEC regulations

- Learn about the chapter's FY19 budget in the [Board update](#) from Amy Klusmeier, SWTU President. It also includes a budget activity statement from Tom Parker, Treasurer.
- Read a [report on the DNR meeting regarding Black Earth Creek](#) mentioned in last month's newsletter.

## Fountains of Youth

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

by Rusty Dunn

What's in a name? At times, a bit of confusion. The lexicon of fly tying and fishing can mislead beginners and experts alike. For example, wings of a blue-winged olive are not blue. Green drakes are not always green. "Michigan Caddis" are *Hexagenia* mayflies, not caddisflies. Pale Morning Duns often hatch in the afternoon, etc., etc. The list is long. No truth in advertising. No Tooth Fairy. No Easter Bunny. Just cold hard reality. The South Platte Brassie is a good example, for it contains no brass. The fly is, however, an excellent imitation of small nymphs and larvae of many different insect species.

Gene Lynch of Colorado Springs, CO is credited with inventing the Brassie in the 1960s for fishing Colorado's South Platte River. Trout of the South Platte are famously large and notoriously fussy. Lynch was a South Platte regular who weighted his nymphs by tying them over underbodies of copper wire. Lynch's fly tying was interrupted one day after wrapping several bare hooks with their copper underbodies. Having no time to finish the nymphs, he tossed the wire-wrapped hooks into his fly box. He was fishing the South Platte a few days later, when he ran out of split shot. Lynch improvised by trailing an imitative nymph several inches behind one of the wire-wrapped hooks, hoping that the hook and wire would work in lieu of split shot. The tandem was a hit, and Lynch caught several large fish, but not on the trailing nymph. Instead, all were caught on the bare wire-wrapped hook!

The South Platte Brassie was born in that eye-opening moment. Lynch had used brass-plated copper wire, hence the eventual name "Brassie". Together with Ken Chandler and Tug Davenport, Lynch refined and developed the original pattern into the current South Platte masterpiece. Enamelled copper wire eventually replaced brass-coated copper wire, because electrical

wire was available in many different sizes and colors. The original South Platte Brassie looked more like an electrical connector than a fly. It had a body of copper wire and a short length of black, plastic, heat-shrink, electrical insulation behind the hook eye as a head. Brassies were sold in the 1960s in air-free gelatin capsules to keep the sparkling copper wire from oxidizing and tarnishing. The Brassie's shiny wire imitated abdominal segmentation, and its thin profile caused a Brassie to sink quickly.

Nymphs tied primarily of copper wire were not entirely new. The most extreme example of wire nymphs is Oliver Kite's Bare Hook Nymph of the late 1960s. The Bare Hook Nymph is descended from Frank Sawyer's Pheasant Tail Nymph, which contains only a hook, pheasant tail fibers, and fine copper wire. Kite noticed while fishing a Sawyer Pheasant Tail that it was effective even after being chewed and shredded to the point where almost no pheasant material remained on the hook. Kite then eliminated the pheasant altogether by wrapping just fine copper wire on a bare hook as a small bulging thorax. When presented with movement to imitate swimming nymphs, Kite's Bare Hook Nymph was remarkably productive. He used it for years, not as a carnival trick but as his main approach to nymphing. For example, Kite caught 218 trout and grayling in 1967, and almost half came to hand on the Bare Hook Nymph. Kite coined the term "induced take" to describe when and why trout feed on the unlikely imitation due to its movement. The Bare Hook Nymph is yet another demonstration that presentation, not imitation, is most important for catching trout.

Whatever trout see in the South Platte Brassie, they admire it. Jim Poor, a former Denver fly shop owner and an acknowledged master of the South Platte, was once asked his opinion of why Brassies are so effective and what trout take them for. Poor, who considered nymph fishing an inelegant endeavor to be done only when desperate, replied mischievously, "*I think they take it for a Mepps spinner*". © Rusty Dunn, 2018

### ----- South Platte Brassie -----

Non-tarnish, polymer-coated, copper wire makes today's Brassies sparkle forever. The available rainbow of colored wires makes for a rainbow of different Brassie imitations.

---

**Hook:** Light wire wet fly hook, #16-24

**Thread:** Black, smallest available

**Body:** Fine copper wire, size to match the hook size. Natural, red, and green colored copper wires are the most popular.

**Head:** A small tuft of peacock herl or black dubbing

---



## 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
Vice President	Mary Ann Doll
Secretary	Topf Wells
Treasurer	Tom Parker
State Council Rep.	Scot Stewart
Board Member	Pat Hasburgh
Board Member	Jim Hess
Board Member	Tom Thrall
Board Member	Dave Fowler
Board Member	Rodd Wangren
Board Member	Ben Lubchansky
Newscasts Editor	Drew Kasel
Conservation Committee Chair	Jim Hess
Women's/ Diversity Initiative Chair	Tina Murray
Youth Education Chair for SWTU	Tina Murray

[amy.klusmeier@gmail.com](mailto:amy.klusmeier@gmail.com)  
[dollmaryann@gmail.com](mailto:dollmaryann@gmail.com)  
[topfwells@gmail.com](mailto:topfwells@gmail.com)  
[tparker23@charter.net](mailto:tparker23@charter.net)  
[scotstewart2@gmail.com](mailto:scotstewart2@gmail.com)  
[patrick.hasburgh@gmail.com](mailto:patrick.hasburgh@gmail.com)  
[jimhess5599@gmail.com](mailto:jimhess5599@gmail.com)  
[tthrall2@yahoo.com](mailto:tthrall2@yahoo.com)  
[dfowler82@gmail.com](mailto:dfowler82@gmail.com)  
[flyrodd1118@gmail.com](mailto:flyrodd1118@gmail.com)  
[608csk@gmail.com](mailto:608csk@gmail.com)  
[madkasel@gmail.com](mailto:madkasel@gmail.com)  
[jim.hess@tds.net](mailto:jim.hess@tds.net)  
[swtu.women.diversity@gmail.com](mailto:swtu.women.diversity@gmail.com)  
[swtu.women.diversity@gmail.com](mailto:swtu.women.diversity@gmail.com)

**Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited**  
P.O. Box 45555  
Madison, WI 53744-5555