

# Newscasts

November 2018 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



## What's happening with key local fisheries? DNR speaker at Thursday, November 8 meeting

Our speaker is **Justin Haglund**, a Fisheries Biologist for the DNR with a focus on Iowa and Richland counties. Certainly areas where you may have drifted a fly or flipped a spinner!

Justin will give a fisheries management update for southwestern Wisconsin. He'll summarize completed work in 2018 and talk to us about what is planned for 2019.

He'll also speak briefly about watersheds sampled and planned for next year, trout habitat projects, streambank easement program and more.

Join us to hear the presentation and ask questions. You may well leave with notes on some new or rehabilitated water to try next year!

As a reminder – the meeting is on **Thursday**, October 8 at the Coliseum Bar. (Note that the bar now has a loud live band on Tuesdays that would not be conducive to our meeting.)

### New to the Thursday, November 8, Chapter Meeting – 50/50 Raffle

In place of our regularly scheduled bucket raffle, SWTU will be holding a 50/50 raffle at the November 8 Chapter Meeting. This raffle will help us raise funds to offset the meeting room expense. Tickets will be available from 6:30 - 7:45 pm for \$5 each. The drawing will take place at 8:00 pm, or as soon as possible after the featured speaker is completed. This is a must be present to win drawing. One winning ticket takes home half of the cash raised. For example, if a total of \$200 is generated in ticket sales the winner would take home \$100, and \$100 would be donated to SWTU. Better odds of winning this drawing than landing that 42+ inch Musky or winning Mega Millions!



### You Must Be Present to Win

Nobody won at the last meeting and so the award has risen to \$80. Join us on November 8 for your chance to win a gift certificate to Fontana Sports Specialties!

We'll again meet upstairs at [The Coliseum Bar and Grill](#). As usual, the program begins at 7 p.m., but show up earlier for food, fish stories and friendship.

## Fly Tying Courses – 2019



Trout Unlimited invites you to learn fly tying or improve your fly tying skills this winter. Experienced SWTU instructors will teach both beginning level and intermediate level fly tying courses in Fitchburg beginning January 16, 2019. Classes consist of instructor-led demonstrations and hands-on tutorials. The courses are completely free of charge, and all materials needed in class are provided. You need only supply the tools and thread, a list of which is available at <https://www.swtu.org/learn/flytying/flytying-classes/>.

**Beginning Fly Tying** is intended for those with limited previous fly tying experience, including complete beginners. General techniques needed as a foundation for fly tying are established, and basic but effective trout fly patterns are demonstrated and practiced. An instructional booklet with pattern sheets is provided free of charge.

**Intermediate Fly Tying** is intended for those who have a solid foundation of fly tying experience and want to increase their proficiency. The course builds on the foundations of Beginning Fly Tying and progresses to more advanced methods. Techniques and materials are more varied, the patterns are often more complex, and the hook sizes can be smaller than flies of the beginning course.

Both Beginning and Intermediate Fly tying will be taught on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM at the Fitchburg Community Center, 5510 Lacy Rd., Fitchburg beginning January 16, 2019. Courses run for eight consecutive Wednesdays (final class March 6, 2019).

**Advanced registration is required!** Register online via the Fitchburg Recreation Department website (<http://www.fitchburgwi.gov/599/Recreation>). If you've not previously created a password-protected customer account with Fitchburg Recreation, you must first do so prior to course registration. To create an account, visit [https://apm.activecommunities.com/fitchburg/Create\\_Account](https://apm.activecommunities.com/fitchburg/Create_Account). Once you have created a Fitchburg Recreation account, visit <http://www.fitchburgwi.gov/599/Recreation>, select "View Programs and Register Here", click "View and Register for Activities", choose either "Fly Tying Class – Beginners" or "Fly Tying Class – Intermediate", and "Add to Cart". Courses are free, and fees will not be collected.

The registration deadline for both courses is January 13, 2019. Courses often fill to capacity, and early registration is encouraged. For more information, see <https://www.swtu.org/learn/flytying/flytying-classes/> or email questions to [swtu-flytying@outlook.com](mailto:swtu-flytying@outlook.com).

### **Help out: Donate flies for State Council spring banquet**

Our State Council of TU does a great deal of good and one of the ways they do so is through their spring banquet. Each banquet features a silent auction with fly boxes filled with a variety of tasty trout patterns. Responsibility for donating flies rotates each year, and the southern area chapters (**including SWTU**) are now up. (The Northeast chapters did an amazing job on the boxes last year and raised a lot of money.)

*If everybody who ties could spend some time at the vice to spin out some flies to donate, we'll have plenty of flies in no time and with no huge effort by anyone.* So please craft some flies and bring them to an upcoming Chapter meeting. If you can't make a meeting, contact [Scot Stewart](#), our State Council Representative.

## **Newslinks – Amazon Smile, Stream Workday on Sarbacher**

- With the holidays on the horizon, consider [a TU license plate or signing up for Amazon Smile](#). (It's the Amazon you know, but 0.5% of the price of eligible products is donated to the charity of your choice.)
- Some photos below, and [go to swtu.org](http://go.to.swtu.org) to see great photos of this fun and productive workday.



## **Our November 10 workday – Milum Creek, Dane County’s newest easement**

Our Stream Team needs you! Join us on Saturday, November 10, for fun, friendship and making a difference for our fishy friends. This is a new easement on a key stretch of water that you’ll get to improve and learn more about.

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

**Where:** Milum Creek - located on Fritz Road in Dane County. Traveling from Madison take Hwy 69 south to Paoli. At Paoli turn right on Cty Rd PB and travel 2 miles to Cty Rd A. Turn right on Cty Rd A, travel 3 miles west to Fritz Rd. Turn south on Fritz Rd, travel 3/4 mile to Milum Creek – you will cross the West Branch of the Sugar River in route. (If you take Cty Rd PB out of Madison, the bridge in Paoli is out, so you will either need to take the detour around Paoli and circle back to Cty Rd A or continue on Hwy 69 to Cty Rd A). Here is a [map](#) to this location.

**What:** Milum Creek is a small spring fed tributary to the West Branch of the Sugar River and is the newest Dane County easement. The current edition of the Dane County Water Quality Plan does not describe Milum as a trout stream but notes its cold-water potential. The DNR recently surveyed a very short section of the stream and found brook trout and brown trout under the bridge, near where we will be working. The brookies outnumbered the browns and it appears the trout were spawned in Milum Creek. This easement will make it possible for the County to improve Milum over time. The landowner is also establishing a 94-acre CRP to improve groundwater re-charge and eliminate run off into Milum.

We will be cutting and treating box elders and invasive brush (honeysuckles) on both sides of the stream in order to allow sunshine in and hopefully establishing native grasses and forbs, helping to stabilize the streambanks.

There is lots of work to be done.

**Bring:** Some areas in the work area may be a bit muddy, so bring rubber boots if you have them. Also bring gloves, sturdy shoes, eye and ear protection, 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:** Park on the west side of the road

**Next Workday:** Dec 1 – Continue our work on Milum Creek

## **Steiner Creek Workday Report – Brats and Brookies**

By Topf Wells

Jim Hess, Workday Chair, continues to surpass himself. We had maybe our best work day yet.

Jim and Bradd organized the day wonderfully. We were able to drive within 50 yards of the work site. A portable DNR bridge made safe, dry access to the other side of the creek easy. And a good thing too. The Steiner Branch was carrying way more water than usual and had holes and runs over the top of waders and hip boots (as the 12 or 13 year old youngest member of our work group found out the wet way).

We had a good ratio of sawyers and brush haulers and cleared a huge amount of willow. If there is any bear in the Wisconsin Yellowstone valley, any of our piles would make a cozy hibernation site. The only problem was that the gas-powered brush saw broke down, which made it impossible to cut one stand of willows that were on the very edge of a stream bank, where they could not be safely cut with a chainsaw. My guess is that we thoroughly cleared and treated over 100 yards of stream bank. That may not sound like much but I don't think I've seen denser stands of willow.

I think Bradd was pretty happy with our work, especially because the DNR Wildlife Management's brush cutters cannot work in this location.

We worked for a solid three hours. While the Wells family flat feet kept Uncle Henry out of World War I, I'll probably limp for the next two days.



Pat's superb brats and hot dogs were most welcome. Hard work and cold winds will create an appetite. I have here my only criticism of Jim's brilliant work – Jim, Michigan apples!?! Really!?!?!?

Bradd then donned the backpack shocker and spent the next two hours leading us through the brook trout spawning water of Steiner Branch. About a dozen of us were able to stay for all of that and it was informative and joyful. Bradd showed us that he is a great biologist and loves his job. He knows the different places where the spawning females and males should be at this time of year. Probably because of the high water they were not in their usual spots so Bradd wanted to find out where they were. In the process of his search we saw lots of ready to spawn females and males, many, many yearling brookies, and a fair number of young of the year brook trout. The first mature, ripe female was gorgeous. The female's colors are not as bright as a male's but she has a subdued iridescence that is stunning. The first ready to milt male we found was as bright as a brook trout can be. I told Sally, who is a painter, that I could not imagine a more beautiful orange as was on his flanks. The stream itself was as lovely. It meandered over perfect spawning gravel and seemed to have the perfect combination of bends, riffles, and pools. And by this time we were about 1.5 or 2 miles from the road and surrounded by wooded hillsides, oak savannas, and prairies. Bradd thought the stream's population of brook trout was in great shape.

We probably had about 20 TU members out today. All deserve our thanks with, again, special gratitude to Jim and Bradd (and Pat – the best brats and hot dogs ever!).

Many thanks to Mike Burda, Jim Hess and Pat Hasburgh for the pictures. [See more of them here on swtu.org](http://www.swtu.org)





## Nash Williams Awards Banquet recap

It was a wonderful evening with plenty of great music, laughter and plenty of honor for our incredibly worthy award winners. They are listed here with photos below. Many thanks to our honorees and those who made the evening possible, in particular Mary Ann Doll and Ben Lubchansky.

- **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



### ***Comments used by Topf Wells in presenting Jim Hess with SWTU's highest award.***

We might need to think about re-naming this award. Although all the awards are important, the Award of Merit is our Chapter's highest award. Perhaps we should name it the Platinum Trout with Ruby Eyes. The award goes to a chapter member who has made outstanding contributions for many years.

Jim Hess is this year's most deserving winner. For several years, Jim has chaired our Conservation Committee. With them he has been in charge of our stream work days. We now have at least six workdays running from late fall to late spring. Jim does everything. He selects the site, plans the work, gets the notice out, and supervises the work. With all respect to those who have set up good work days in the past, I think Jim has put our stream work in the best shape ever.

Over several years he has established great communications with several DNR fish biologists and staff from the Dane County Land and Water Resources Department. Because of that work, Jim is able to schedule work on a variety of streams ranging for an old favorite like Mt. Vernon, where we made a popular stretch more fishable to Smith Conley, an Iowa County stream. That not one our members would talk much about but it was an eye-opener for all who saw it. Because of this variety-- the chance to see and learn about new water-- Jim has attracted a great group of younger members to our work days.

... continued next page ...



**Congratulations  
to all of the  
winners!**

*Jim Hess Comments –  
cont.*

Jim doesn't stop with planning and supervising the work days. Over the past several years he has discovered a Dane County grant program and every year he's won funding for some much needed equipment. All of it has been great and really useful like this year's gas-powered pole saw but the best has been the winch. We love using it. This spring we had a work day on Frye Feeder. With bad hips and being too fat, I was wandering up and down the stream instead of working. Upstream I saw a bunch of beavers was busy hauling willows into the water. Downstream, Jim and the crew were using the winch to pull a huge piece of willow out of the water. A wonderful symmetry, both groups seemed equally happy with what they were doing.

Jim, please come forward and receive your well earned award.

*(Jim came forward to a spontaneous, immediate standing ovation.)*





THE 36TH ANNUAL SWTU

# ICEBREAKER

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LOCAL SPEAKER:

**DAVID ROWE**, FISHERIES SUPERVISOR, WI DNR



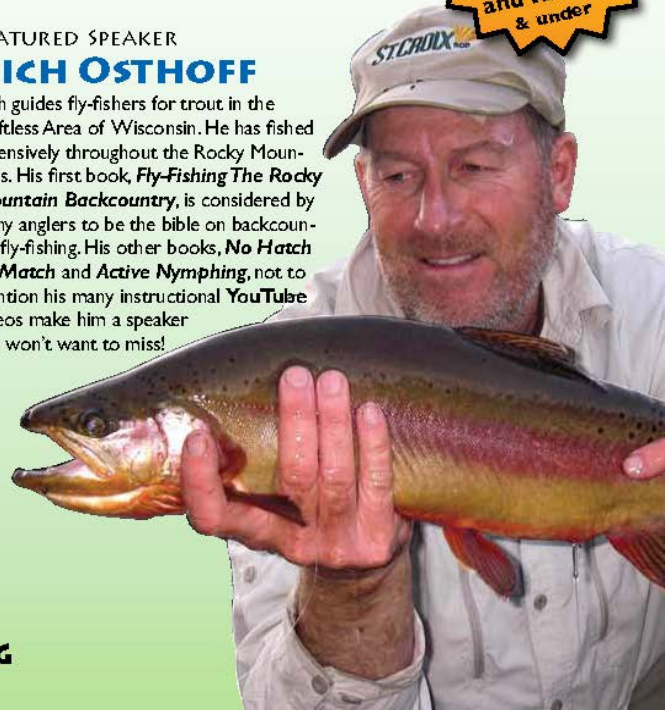
David is a native of Middleton Wisconsin, and began his career with the WDNR in 1998 as a Fisheries Research Technician and is now the Fisheries Team Supervisor for the Fitchburg Fisheries Team. He is responsible for WDNR fisheries management for all of Southwest Wisconsin and is happy to share the status and trends of our local fisheries.

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

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 YouTube videos make him a speaker you won't want to miss!



### Icebreaker: Donate to the Bucket Raffle

We would be pleased to accept anything from a handcrafted birdhouse to a guided fishing trip. Or consider donating new rods, reels, accessories, camping equipment, overnight lodging and especially sets of flies. Our vast array of raffle items adds excitement (and revenue!) to the event. Please deliver the items or make a commitment to Icebreaker Chair [Ben Lubchansky](#).

### Welcome New Members

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

- |                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| T Bailey        | David Glancy      |
| Kimber Pamp     | Tom Holm          |
| Richard Kort    | Lon Yeary         |
| Deborah Muresan | William Bender    |
| Mark Tate       | Christopher Olsen |



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

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

by Rusty Dunn

A few dozen miles southeast of London lie peaceful valleys of the Hampshire countryside, where legendary rivers such as the Avon, Test, and Itchen flow to the sea through wooded meadows of magnificent beauty. Fed by mineral rich springs of a "chalk" (white limestone) aquifer, the rivers support immense populations of insects and trout. The area is steeped in tradition, and some of angling's finest literature sprang from its gin clear waters.

George Edward Mackenzie Skues, one of history's most insightful and entertaining angler authors, boards the two o'clock train in London bound for the cathedral city of Winchester in central Hampshire. Worldly concerns of his busy London law practice fade away as Skues prepares for the evening rise at Abbott's Barton on the River Itchen. He settles into a window seat on the sunny side of the train and pulls out his portable fly tying kit. He glances out the window and discovers a welcome traveling companion. A splendid blue-winged olive spinner sits beside him on the lower ledge of the carriage window. Skues affixes a hook to his hand vise and carefully blends seal's fur to match the spinner's reddish-brown color. He selects orange thread, which glows faintly through the dubbing and gives a fiery translucence much like that of his traveling companion. That evening, Skues' handiwork fools several large and wary trout. He later christens the fly the "Rusty Spinner" in his 1921 book *The Way of a Trout With a Fly*.

Skues' fly was the first to be called "Rusty Spinner" by name, but similar flies had been tied since the Middle Ages. Indeed, the very first English text devoted to angling described twelve artificial flies in 1496, one of which (the "Ruddy Fly") is a mayfly spinner. Spinners are sexually mature mayfly adults, having developed from recently hatched duns following a streamside molt. Spinners of a surprisingly large proportion of mayfly species are reddish-brown in color, very similar

to Skues' rusty-red seal's fur. Spinner imitations through the centuries bear many charming names, including Mahogany Spinner, Sherry Spinner, Houghton Ruby, Jenny Spinner, Lunn's Particular, Claret Spinner, Rusty Spinner, and many others.

The wings of all mayfly spinners are glassy clear ("hyaline"), and their imitation plagued fly tyers for centuries. Author Francis Francis described the challenge of imitating spinner wings:

*"The wings – ah! those wings! What shall we do to imitate their clear, delicate, watery transparency?" – A Book on Angling, 1867*

History's quest for imitative spinner wings included all sorts of peculiar materials, including trimmed fish scales, shavings of whale bone, and the clear membranous roots of wing quills. Prior to the late 1800s, spinner imitations were primarily hackled wet flies. Wings (if present) were tied either upright and divided or sloping backwards. Englishman G.S. Marryat, the great pioneer of dry fly fishing, was the first to tie spinner wings in the now standard position outstretched horizontally at the water's surface. Marryat's wings were tips of hackle feathers. America's Vince Marinaro contributed an elegant and remarkably functional style of spinner wings in *A Modern Dry Fly Code* (1950). He tied spinners with a thick collar of hackle at the thorax and then trimmed fibers from the top and bottom, leaving only those pointed laterally. Coloradan John Betts devised in the 1970s the simple and effective imitation of spinner wings that persists to this day. Betts introduced and popularized synthetic materials such as white organza, polypropylene, Z-lon, nylon microfibets, and Zing Wing to American fly tyers. He was one of the 20th century's most original and creative fly tyers, earning Betts the nickname "Mr. Synthetics".

Look for mayfly spinners in glassy smooth waters in the evenings and early mornings. Riseforms to spinners are slow and deliberate, and your presentations should land softly on very fine tippets. Fishing spinners will allow you to enjoy dry fly fishing right through to the very last stage of a mayfly hatch.

© Rusty Dunn, 2018

## Rusty Spinner

The widely split tail fibers of microfibets aids floatation of spinner imitations. Both the tails and wings should be treated with floatant.

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**Hook:** Dry fly, size to match natural

**Thread:** Orange, 8/0 or smaller

**Tail:** Medium dun microfibets, split widely

**Body:** Dry fly dubbing, a rich mahogany reddish brown

**Wings:** Fibers of white Z-lon, Antron, poly yarn, or other sparkly synthetic, bundled and spread laterally at the thorax

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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>
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