

Newscasts

December 2018 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



Trout, bass, and bonefish: health and disease in sport fish and what we can do about it

Our Thursday, December 13 meeting

Fish get sick too! What can we as anglers do about it? This talk describes emerging health issues in highly prized sport fish from Wisconsin and beyond. Fish are susceptible to many infections. They can also succumb to environmental, genetic, and other stressors. Some of these issues well known and some are only beginning to be understood. Research at the University of Wisconsin-Madison is attempting to identify new infections and new stressors that threaten our most treasured sport-fish populations. Results show that anglers can play a big role in improving fish health – if we understand the issues and act accordingly!



Presenting on this fascinating topic is Tony Goldberg, DVM, Ph.D., a professor of epidemiology with training in the biological, medical and social sciences. Goldberg studies how environmental changes alter patterns of cross-species disease transmission and how these alterations impact human and animal health. Check out this [On Wisconsin article on Tony's detective work](#).

As a reminder – the meeting is on **Thursday**, December 13 at the Coliseum Bar. (Note that the bar now has a loud live band on Tuesdays that would not be conducive to our meeting.)

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.



Somebody Will Win \$100

We've had a few winless meetings and so the award has risen to \$100 that a member is guaranteed to walk away with \$100 to Fontana Sports Specialties!

New to our Chapter Meetings – 50/50 Raffle

In November, we tried a 50/50 raffle instead of our traditional bucket raffle and it earned enough to cover the room fee for the evening so we'll try it again! 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.



Fun Fact! Chapter members reported nearly 7,000 volunteer hours in 2018.

This brilliant flier tells you most everything you need to know about our Icebreaker event, but read on below it for even more details. You won't want to miss it!



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!

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

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!

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



To sum it up, 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!



A Bucket Raffle for the Ages

We have some great items already, as pictured on the right and you can view more on [Facebook](#). 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 sets of flies. Our vast array of raffle items adds excitement (and revenue!) to the event.



If you have questions, would like to donate an item or can help out on the day of, please contact Icebreaker Chair [Ben Lubchansky](#).

Fly Tying Courses – 2019 (Still space open!)



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. 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.

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, Dane County News

- 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.)
- Check out a [cool video new that highlights the amazing work done in Dane County](#) in the areas of climate change, renewables, green energy, and bio-fuel production.
- [Dane County to Open New Trout Stream for Public Fishing \(Milum Creek\)](#)

Jim and Marci Hess Hit the Trifecta

By Topf Wells

In sports, three is the magic number. The trifecta is one of the most lucrative bets you can win at the track, the triple play is the rarest defensive gem in baseball, and Ethan Happ became only the second Badger men's basketball player to record a triple double. Our Jim Hess just entered the lofty realm of 3 in recognition of his great conservation work.



Our friends at the Prairie Enthusiasts just reported that Jim and Marci were honored by the Lafayette County Land Conservation Department with the Lafayette County Wildlife Habitat Development Award. Jim and Marci have spent many years and many dollars in restoring prairies and savannas at their home in Lafayette County, not far from Yellowstone State Park. The restoration has created perfect habitat for many, many Wisconsin critters, including grassland birds, raptors, pollinators, including an endangered bumblebee, and a host of mammals, amphibians, and reptiles.

Earlier in the year, Jim was honored by the DNR as the Outstanding Wildlife Monitor of the Year and just a few weeks ago SWTU presented Jim our highest award. One! Two! Three!

Jim and Marci are a great team. Both bring tremendous knowledge and work ethics to restoration and Marci has become a superb prairie entomologist. SWTU has reaped the benefits of Jim's knowledge, work, and love of wildlife in his work as our Conservation Committee Chair.

Jim has always been careful to plan projects and work days with all wildlife in mind, not just trout. His willingness to tackle invasive vegetation as part of our work days results in better habitat for a number of species. Jim and Marci's good hearts motivate lots of their good work. Several of us remember a work day on Kittleson several years ago when a lovely but very sick kitten tottered toward us, seemingly out of nowhere and just missing a bald eagle who had been hunting in that area only a few minutes before. Jim and Marci took the kitten home and spent a lot of disposable income on vet care and then found her a good home.

Whether you're a sick little cat or an endangered bumble bee or a momma kestrel looking for a perfectly placed nest box, you can't do any better than Jim and Marci's place. From SWTU, thanks Jim and Marci.

Wisconsin Women's Fly Fishing Clinics

The MOST popular women's fly fishing clinics in the Midwest!

Registration is Now Open. Clinics fill fast, don't wait until spring!

Registration information: <https://www.swtu.org/learn/womens-flyfishing-clinic/>

The **Beginners clinic** (by women for women) dates are June 14, 3 pm to June 16th at noon. *If you know a woman who is interested in learning fly fishing this is a great clinic where she will learn the basics from women instructors.*

The **Women's on the Water Skills Clinic** dates are June 12th 3 pm, June 13th all day and Friday June 14th by arrangement.

We will need about 20 Guides/ mentors willing to take a woman fishing 3 times over a day and a half June 12 & 13th. Please contact Scot Stewart at scotstewart2@gmail.com or (608) 273-5967

Wisconsin Women's Fly Fishing Clinics

Presented by Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited
<https://www.swtu.org/learn/womens-flyfishing-clinic/>
<https://www.facebook.com/SWTUWomensClinic>

BY WOMEN FOR WOMEN BASICS CLINIC June 14-16, 2019	ON THE WATER SKILLS INTERMEDIATE CLINIC June 12-14, 2019
Learn how to choose proper equipment, tie knots, cast, read water, select the proper fly and time on the water. You will learn new tactics, regardless of your level of ability. Equipment available for use.	Personalized instruction streamside. Tune up workshops by women instructors to refresh skills in casting, matching the hatch & reading the water. Fish WI finest trout streams with experienced anglers.
Location Avalanche, WI (near Viroqua, in Wisconsin's Driftless Area)	Cost \$315 until April 1 st \$345 after <small>(non-refundable)</small>

For more information please visit the links above.

Registration: <https://www.regonline.com/2019wffcbeginnersclinic>
<https://www.regonline.com/2019onthewaterkillsclinic>

Help support Project Green Teen

Project Green Teen is our youth education program. Students in conservation classes at Shabazz learn the sport of fly fishing and go on a week long trip to the driftless area where they work with conservation partners completing environmental service projects and fly fish for 5 days with mentors from our chapter.

We need volunteers for these events – Please contact Dave Fowler, dkfowler82@gmail.com, or (608) 513-0681. (cont. next page)

Fly tying at Shabazz High School Cafeteria **Feb 13 & 14th**, 12:45 – 3:15 pm
Casting, Shabazz High School Ball field **April 10th**, & **April 24th**, 12:45 – 3:00 pm
Avalanche Trip – Westfork Sports Club May 12-16th Fishing 4-6:30, Dinner 6:45 – 7:45 pm.

Flies are needed for both PGT (15ea) and the Women’s Clinics (20-24ea)
 These can be given to Tina Murray or Scot Stewart

Dry’s like

Sulpher #16, Caddis, varying sizes & colors, Adams, Stimulators, Crane flies, BWO

Terrestrials

Cricket #14 Hopper #14 Ants Beetles

Nymps like

Scud #12 Pheasant Tail Bead Head #16 – #18 Gold Ribbed Hares Jre’s
 Caddis Larva Copper John

Streamers Like

Weighted Wooly Bugger #12 & 10 Small Streamers #12 & #10 Mickey Finns

Mark Your Calendar for Apple Pruning – Sunday, March 10, 2019

This was a super fun event last year and we’ll do it again in 2019 at the Neperud orchard. We’ll get instructions, then get together with others and do the small trimming and shaping that will help the orchard prosper. So save the date and watch for more information to be shared in future *Newscasts*.



Welcome New Members

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

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Lyman Wible | George Graham |
| Jack Pientka | Amy Becker |
| Thomas Leiterman | Justin Mandeville |
| Richard Grasmick | Matthew Weber |
| Duncan Bathe | Ben Delzer |
| James Martino | Richard Mitchell |
| Donna Smith | John Williams |
| Alex Faris | Jacob Woodford |
| Jeff Bunch | James Jansky |
| Hartley Murray | Paul Pedersen |
| David Walker | |



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.

Show me the money!
Chapter Financial Update

This is your chapter and we want to be open about the finances. The next page is a financial summary provided by Tom Parker, SWTU Treasurer. In addition to the summary, you can access two other documents:

- [2018 Statement of Activity](#)
- [SWTU Balance Sheet](#)

If you have any questions, please contact Tom Parker at tparker23@charter.net.



Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Financial Highlights

For the year ended September 30, 2018

Balance Sheet	Finished the year with \$113,830 in Total Assets compared to \$116,069 a year ago.
Total Chapter Results	Generated a Deficit of \$2,238 which compares favorably to a budgeted Deficit of \$6,957.
Total Results of Operations	Total income of \$30,084 exceeds Budget by \$828. Expenses of \$26,685 are less than Budget by \$2,665 resulting in a \$3,399 Surplus compared to a budgeted Deficit of \$94.
Fundraising	Unrestricted donations received totaled \$4,631. Donations for Vets on the Fly and Fly Tying Classes totaled \$4,323. The IceBreaker raised \$5,013, the Meicher Auction raised \$2,204 and Chapter Meeting Bucket Raffles raised \$593. We also received a \$3,220 grant from Patagonia, a \$5,000 grant from Cabela's and \$6,440 from the DNR River Protection Program.
Major Gifts and Donations	Donations to other organizations totaled \$5,850 including \$4,000 to Shabazz H.S. for Project Green Teen and \$1,000 to the Nohr Chapter of TU. We also returned \$1,607 to Project Healing Waters.
Special Conservation Projects	Chapter funds were used to support the following projects in 2018: Sugar River at Neperud - \$2,510 Sugar River at Falk Wells - \$3,023 Kittleson Valley Creek - \$5,684 Story Creek - \$3,220
Endowment Fund	Received \$1,100 in donations to the Endowment Fund. Transferred \$50,000 from the Summit Credit Union Money Market account to the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin.

Fountains of Youth

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

by Rusty Dunn

Wet flies were the mainstay of fly angling for hundreds of years. Dry flies appeared only in the mid- to late 1800s, when light wire eyed hooks became available. Whether introduction of light wire hooks enabled dry fly fishing or, alternatively, whether increased demand for floating flies in the late 1800s motivated inventors and engineers to improve hook manufacturing is uncertain. Whatever the reason, wet fly fishing was the method choice for hundreds of years.

The first printed descriptions of artificial flies in the modern era are attributed to the English prioress Dame Juliana Berners. Her chapter, titled "A Treatyse of Fysshynge Wyth an Angle" and published in the *Book of Saint Albans* in 1496, described how to make fishing rods, lines, hooks, and artificial flies. Her twelve flies imitated English insects, and the pattern recipes specified feathers of various birds for wings. Berners used the terms "wings" and "hackle" rather loosely and interchangeably, which led some scholars (for example, G.E.M. Skues and J.W. Hills) to suggest that several of Berners' flies were not winged wet flies, but rather soft-hackled flies, in which a collar of hackle at the head simultaneously imitates both wings and legs.

The patterns and principles of soft-hackled flies developed in the English north. Such flies are slim bodied and sparsely dressed with tying thread or furs spun on tying thread, and finished with a collar of soft bird hackle. The colored underbody of thread shows through overlying materials, thereby suggesting the translucency of a natural. Tied in varying sizes and colors, soft-hackled flies *suggest*, but don't precisely *imitate*, nymphs, larvae, pupae, and emergers of many aquatic insects.

The early history of the soft-hackled style was not well recorded at the time, likely because its history, methods

and traditions were communicated ephemerally via the spoken word rather than permanently via printed books. Unambiguous descriptions of soft-hackled flies are found among the 65 fly patterns of Charles Cotton in *The Compleat Angler* (1676). Shortly thereafter, James Chetham introduced many of the soft-hackled furs and feathers still popular today in *The Angler's Vade Mecum* (1681). Over a century ensued with little added new information about soft-hackled flies, after which a golden age of the style exploded in print during the 19th century. The period culminated in two books having great impact, *Yorkshire Trout Flies* by Thomas Pritt in 1885 and *Brook and River Trouting* by Harfield Edmonds & Norman Lee in 1916.

Soft-hackled flies crossed the Atlantic only slowly. James Leisenring of Pennsylvania introduced soft-hackled flies to American anglers in his influential 1941 book *The Art of Tying the Wet Fly*. Prior to that, most American wet flies were winged wet flies. For example, of the 420 wet flies pictured in Ray Bergman's 1938 classic work *Trout*, 402 were winged wets, and none were soft hackles. Leisenring changed all that. His 1941 book described how to tie soft-hackled flies and included 30 patterns, many of which were his modifications of classic English flies. It is difficult to find a more influential 81 pages in American angling literature. Leisenring only briefly described how to fish soft-hackled flies, but this was remedied by a second edition (*The Art of Tying the Wet Fly & Fishing the Flymph*, 1971) co-authored with Pete Hidy.

Cast soft-hackled flies upstream or upstream-and-across, either in the film as an emerger or drifted more deeply as a nymph or pupa. Soft-hackled flies swung through a riffle are excellent imitations of ascending caddis pupae. They are very good trailers when fished behind an indicator dry or a weighted nymph for deep presentation. Try them in the sizes and colors of insects you encounter. You might be surprised how effective a hundreds-year-old pattern can be.

© Rusty Dunn, 2018

----- Hare's Lug & Plover -----

"Lug" is an old Scottish term for "ear". Thus, the Hare's Lug & Plover is a good old Soft-Hackled Hare's Ear. Tie the spun fur sparsely and scraggly.

Hook: Light wire, wet fly; #12-20

Thread: Yellow or orange silk

Body: Hare's mask fur, blended to a golden ginger-brown and spun loosely

Rib: Fine gold wire

Hackle: Golden plover, length to between the hook point and hook bend, depending on your preferences.



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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President	Amy Klusmeier	amy.klusmeier@gmail.com
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Secretary	Topf Wells	topfwells@gmail.com
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