

Newscasts

February 2019 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



The Meicher Madness Auction: March 14

Tremendous fun at an important fundraiser

You never know what you'll find ... and win ... at our annual Meicher Madness Auction. It's a member-driven event with your donations and bids creating the fun for all and profit for our cold-water resource.

This year, we are going to do even more to sort and display donated items, which should make for an auction that is more fun, more fast and more lucrative. For example, we're planning to set some standard items like hats and books on a table for easy purchase instead of spending time on them in the auction.

But to do that we **have to have folks show up earlier**. So if you're bringing items to donate (in particular if you have a lot of them) *please, please, please* consider arriving by 5:45 or 6. (That's just saying what's ideal ... if you can't arrive til closer to 7 and have items for the auction, obviously still bring them.)

You can get great deals and get rid of some stuff (to make way for new stuff, of course). It's a very fun night and you might walk away with:

- Proven patterns tied by local masters
- Beautiful fly rods
- More proven patterns tied by local masters
- Fabulous fly tying materials
- Wildlife artwork
- All manner of outdoor gear
- And who can even guess what else?

Quality auction items needed! Besides your bids, we also need items for the auction. Flies are always great sellers. Also fair to good quality gear, books, boots, waders, vests, artwork, services and more! If it has some value and is related to our sport and the outdoors, somebody will buy it! Just bring it that night and somebody will place a bid.

Just some of the great items to look forward to bidding on:

- Pike and musky beware! Bid on an 8 wt. Sage rod, reel and line combo.
- Two tickets + pre-show VIP Pizza Party to the Wild and Scenic Film Festival at the Barrymore on Wednesday, March 20.

Please arrive EXTRA EARLY on March 14 to set out your donated item and/or preview items. We will start PROMPTLY at 7 p.m. and move things along as quickly as we can so the auction doesn't run too late.

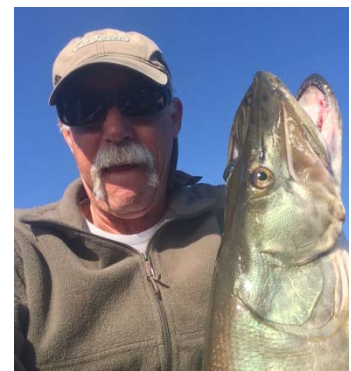
As usual, the meeting is upstairs at the [Coliseum Bar and Grill](#) on East Olin Avenue at 7 p.m. but please get there early this month if at all possible for auction items, drinks, food or sharing stories!



Win one of three guided trips!

For the first time in recent memory, we'll be auctioning **three** fantastic and totally different guided outings.

- **Trout in the Driftless** with Jim Bartelt
- **Smallmouth and More on the Wisconsin** with Ben Lubchansky
- **Musky on the Madison Lakes** with Scot Stewart (pictured)



Annual Chapter elections in April Lend your talents and experience to TU

Elected leadership is a key reason for our continuing success as a Chapter. We have an excellent and engaging Executive Board and have several open positions that need to be filled in the April elections.

The Chapter takes great pride in having a regular change in leadership to bring new ideas and enthusiasm to the Executive Board.

This means we need you to step up yourself or nominate someone you believe will be a good choice as an elected Officer or Director.

Each year, three Directors are elected and serve a two year term. This year there is at least one opening without an incumbent running. Also, there will be opportunities to serve as a chapter Officer. These positions are elected to one year terms.

Expressing an interest is easy, just contact any officer or board member on the Leadership Roster found at the end of the newsletter. Or you may email **Bob Selk**, Chair of our Nominating Committee, at rselk43@gmail.com. Other members include Topf Wells, Tom Thrall and Drew Kasel.

The Nominating Committee will assemble a slate of candidates for the April Chapter meeting. If there is no contest for a slot, the nominee is typically approved on a voice vote. If a slot is contested, the election is conducted by secret written ballot. In addition, nominations may be made from the floor.

Check out the specific details in the [Chapter Bylaws on our website](#) to see the expectations for each position. You can help lead SWTU to protect and promote our cold water resource. Let us hear from you!



We want you!

TROUT UNLIMITED SOUTHERN WISCONSIN CHAPTER

Riversmith Trout Fishing Clinic

FREE EVENT! BEGINNERS WELCOME!

Saturday, April 20, 9:00 am - Noon
H.M. Zander Community Nature Park in Cross Plains
Free event! Beginners are especially encouraged to attend. All ages (6 and under accompanied by an adult) are welcome. Equipment will be provided for those who don't have a fly rod. Learn how to cast a fly rod, how to read the water, and what trout eat (aquatic entomology).

Mark your calendar for our annual **Riversmith Trout Fishing Clinic** on **Saturday, April 20** in **Cross Plains**.

Anyone newer to the sport will learn a great deal for the low-low price of **free!**

If you know something about fly casting, gear, reading the water, etc. **we could use your help as a volunteer instructor.**

Please contact [Scot Stewart](#) if questions or you'd like to help out.

Women's Clinics featured at big fly expo

The Wisconsin Women's Fly Fishing Clinics will be presenting at [Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo in Minneapolis, MN, March 15- 17](#). (Room A, Saturday) with Donna Smith, Orvis, Geri Meyer, Athena and Artemis, Corie Berrigan, Fly fishing Women' of MN and Willa Campbell, Iowa Women Fly Fishers will be presenting on Saturday in Room A on "Women's Fly Fishing, The Past, present and where we are heading."

The five groups above are teaming up to help create a new Midwest Women's Fly Fishing resource: FF|Woman (Fly Fishing Women of the Midwest Anglers Network). [The video Three Days on the River](#) will be shown Saturday Night at the video showcase. We are proud of the Wisconsin Women's Fly Fishing Clinics and look forward to showing others the 7 minute cut of the film. Go to **page 5** to learn more about our clinics.

Join the first Stream Team Workday of 2019! March 23, 2019 – Gordon Creek (Iowa County)

Have fun, get out, make some new acquaintances and both learn about AND improve a neat stretch of water. The work is simple, important and we can find a role for anyone ... from signing people in to stacking brush. Read on for the details.

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

Where: This section of DNR easement on the Gordon Creek is located in Iowa County at the intersection of Hwy 39 and Moscow Rd. Take Hwy 151 to Mt. Horeb, then on the west side of Mt. Horeb take Hwy 78 south 18 miles to Hwy 39, turn west onto Hwy 39 – at this point you are on Hwy 78 & 39 – after about 1,000 feet, Hwy 39 turns right. Follow Hwy 39 for 2.5 miles to Moscow Rd. [Here is a map to this location](#).

What: This is new DNR easement that is being choked out by box elders and invasive woodies. We will be clearing out the box elders and invasive brush to allow public access to the stream and encourage native species to grow. We will be working on the east side of the stream toward the north end of the easement, near the bridge on Hwy 39. Justin Haglund and Lloyd Meng with the DNR, will be joining us for this workday. The Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter have also been invited to participate.

Bring: Rubber boots or water proof boots, if you have them, as the area may still be wet from all the snow this winter. Also bring gloves, sturdy shoes, and eye and ear protection. Also bring reusable water bottles that can be filled from our 5-gal water jug.

Parking: Park on Moscow Rd, on the west side of the road. There may be additional parking in a vacant field off of Moscow Rd, if it is not too wet. Do not park on Hwy 39 – there is too much traffic on this road.

Future Workdays:

The workdays sometime shift around with the weather or needs of the streams, but here is our current schedule for the rest of the spring. The work isn't complicated and we can find a task for anyone. Get them on your calendar and we'll see you on the stream. And remember that every workday you take part in will get you one entry into a drawing for the Streamkeeper Rod built by Jim Bartelt.

- **April 13 - Sugar River** (Falk/Wells Wildlife Area - 2.5 miles south of Verona on Hwy 69, turn left (east) on Sunset, go 1/3 to parking lot). Map link: <https://binged.it/2MPHicr>
- **May 11 - Sugar River**, Ziegler Property (Dane Co. - Oak Grove Rd - 1.5 miles south of Verona on Hwy 69). Map link: <https://binged.it/2Mn84bL>
- **June 1 - Steiner Creek** (Lafayette Co. - Yellowstone Wildlife Area - North of Lake Yellowstone on Lafayette Co. Rd F, off of English Hollow Rd, 1/3 mile north of Cty Rd F). Map link: <https://binged.it/2MiQh5A>
- **June 15 - Sugar River**, Ziegler Property (Dane Co. - Oak Grove Rd - 1.5 miles south of Verona on Hwy 69). Map link: <https://binged.it/2Mn84bL>

We'll share more details in the coming months. Always check www.swtu.org or email Jim Hess jimhess5599@gmail.com to make sure there are no cancelations or changes to this schedule.

Apple pruning moved to end of March

This fun event was set for early March, but we'll wait until snowshoes and ice cleats aren't part of the gear list for the Neperud Orchard pruning. **We'll now meet at [Landmark Creamery](#) at 10 a.m. on Sunday, March 31.** Lisa Johnson, the Dane County Extension Gardening Instructor and Leader of the Master Gardener Program, will teach us the fundamentals of restorative pruning. We're then off for the Neperud Orchard by about 11 where we'll work under Lisa's guidance to continue restoring that orchard to health.



This is a great opportunity to receive excellent hands-on instruction in pruning fruit trees and to help restore a wonderful public resource. The Neperud Orchard has lots of apple and pear trees (with a few pie cherries) and the fruit is available to the public. The orchard is easily viewed from STH 69 and is gorgeous when the trees are in bloom and when they bear fruit.

Landmark Creamery is in the middle of Paoli, right next to the town park. The Neperud Orchard is just south of Paoli on STH 69, just across from the turn into Basco.

Landowner dinners: Inform, educate and appreciate

SWTU is partnering with several organizations to host two free landowner dinners. The purpose of both is to inform landowners along trout streams about easement programs that can provide them with a fair and substantial purchase price for easements which allow the public to fish and the streams to be restored if that is necessary.

On March 13, the DNR, the Pecatonica Pride Watershed Association, and SWTU will sponsor such a dinner in Blanchardville for landowners in the Gordon, Kittleson, Upper East Branch of the Pecatonica, Sawmill, and Erickson watersheds. Last year such a dinner led to at least two big, new DNR easements with at least one more in the works. While we'll welcome landowners from all those streams again this year, our friends at Pecatonica Pride are working extra hard to invite landowners from Sawmill and Erickson. We have enough volunteers for this dinner but if you'd like to help, contact [Pat Hasbrugh](#), [Jim Hess](#) or [Topf Wells](#).

The second dinner is a new effort. We are working with the Dane County Land and Water Resources Department, which runs Dane County's trout stream easement program, and the DNR, to sponsor a dinner for landowners along the Sugar River, the West Branch, the Primrose Branch, and Badger Mill Creek. Badger Fly Fishers are a very generous sponsor of this dinner. **It will be held on April 16** at the Verona Public Library from 6-8:30 pm.

Welcome New Members

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

Scott Loomans	Scott Craven
Janet Kjelland	Michael Funk
Jim Combs	Sara Asher
Mattie Gorman	Sarah Harari
Eric Mathwich	Linda Nicholls
Jason Va	Christopher Brown
Dennis Arnold	



We are honored to have you among us. Please join us for a Chapter meeting, and we will give you a **FREE** raffle ticket, 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.



Tremendous engagement at the Fishing Expo

That's **Curt Diehl** in the picture, telling our story and spreading the word on the good TU does. Many thanks to Curt for his leadership and to everyone who helped staff our booth at the Expo. Great job!

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/>

NEW – Two One-day Women's Clinics (register now!)

- DePere on April 13, information/registration: <https://tinyurl.com/y7gsdktg>
- Madison WI April 27, information/registration: <https://tinyurl.com/ybv7nwoy>

These build on a very successful clinic held at the recent State Council meeting!

The **Beginners Clinic** (by women for women) is full and a wait list is started.
Dates are from June 14th at 3 pm to June 16th at noon.

The **Women's on the Water Skills Clinic** dates are June 12th 3 pm, June 13th all day and Friday June 14th by arrangement. *(At time of publication, there are 10 open spots.)*

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.



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>Return participants \$345</small>

For more information please visit the links above.

Registration: <https://www.regonline.com/2019wfwfbeginnersclinic>
<https://www.regonline.com/2019onthewaterskillsclinic>

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.

- **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 (15 ea) and the Women's Clinics (20-24 ea)

These can be given to Tina Murray or Scot Stewart.

Dries like

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

Terrestrials like

Cricket #14 Hopper #14, Ants Beetles

Nymphs like

Scud #12, Pheasant Tail Bead Head #16 – #18, Gold Ribbed Hares Ears
Caddis Larva, Copper John

Streamers Like

Weighted Woolly Bugger #12 & 10, Small Streamers #12 & #10, Mickey Finns

Support flood restoration work at the Westfork

[The Westfork](#), where we host both the Student PGT program and the SWTU Women's Programs, could use more support – financial as well as skilled trades such as electrician, plumber, construction and equipment operators.

Donations can be sent to: West Fork Sportsmans Club Inc., P.O. Box 52, Viroqua, WI 54665. You can also make a PayPal donation to Westforksportsclub@gmail.com (but note PayPal takes 3%). Have questions or want to offer your services? Contact Westforksportsclub@gmail.com or [Tina Murray](#).

Fountains of Youth

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

by Rusty Dunn

When a Boeing 777 takes flight, it carries 3 million parts on the journey. When your artificial fly takes flight, you can count its parts on your ten fingers. Hook, tail, body, wing, hackle, etc. are the replaceable parts of a fly. They are the Lego building blocks of fly design and can be mixed and matched in a bewildering number of combinations. Change the wing material? That's a new fly. Change the tail? Another fly. Substitute a different dubbing? Yet another fly. Tinkering with old flies to create (and rename!) new ones is never-ending. Tomorrow's hot new fly will almost certainly be a reshuffled version of materials in today's flies, which are in turn reshuffled versions of yesterday's flies, which are in turn ... you get the picture. Entirely new fly designs arise occasionally but, for the most part, the artificial flies of one era are recombined and tweaked versions of those from an earlier era. Popularity of flies, however, is a fickle friend, and few flies are in widespread use by anglers for more than a decade or two.

Fur and feather have long been the principle ingredients of fly tying, but their popularity rises and falls also. When use of a certain fly declines, so does use of its key ingredients. Examine the contents of the bins in a fly shop and try to find flies tied with goatsucker wings, hog's wool, throstle feathers, or seal's fur. You'll come up empty, because those materials enjoyed their fifteen minutes of fame long ago. The materials faded away when their flies disappeared from use. What about today's tying materials? Some are flash-in-the-pan newcomers, but many have been in use for decades or, in some cases, centuries. Such materials are winners of fly fishing's never-ending competition for minutes, hours, and days of time knotted to your tippet.

Which of today's tying materials have persisted for the longest period of time? The list is fairly long, but peacock herl would be at or near the top. Examples of modern flies that feature peacock herl include the Prince Nymph, Royal Wulff, Pheasant Tail, Griffith's Gnat, Foam Beetle, Copper John, and others. Certain of these flies are relative newcomers, but they are descended from ancestors (and ancestors of ancestors) that also featured peacock herl. Feathers of the European starling would also be very high on the list of classic materials that are still in widespread use today. In the words of G.E.M. Skues, "[Starling] is the fly dresser's standby, and if he had to have one bird only to rely on all the year round he would choose the starling without hesitation."

Both peacock herl and starling feathers date to the very beginnings of fly fishing history. The English-language literature of fly fishing began in 1496 with *A Treatyse of Fysshynge wyth an Angle* by Juliana Berners, who described recipes of twelve artificial flies. Two of those twelve (the Shell Flye and Blacke Louper) were "lappyd abowte (ribbed) with the herle of ye pecok taylor". 150 years later, Thomas Barker described the first fly having a body of peacock herl in *The Art of Angling* (1651). Thomas Chetham later introduced starling (and many other still-popular game birds) to our cabinet of materials (*The Angler's Vade Medum*, 1681). Fly evolution (or, at least, recorded evolution) moved slowly in those early days, and two centuries elapsed before John Jackson of North Yorkshire affixed a collar of starling hackle to a body of peacock herl, thus yielding his Brown Clock fly (*The Practical Fly-Fisher*, 1854). "Clock" is a colloquial term in the English North for beetle, and Jackson's fly imitates aquatic beetles. In keeping with history's tradition of "tweak and rename" flies, Jackson's recipe is but a minor variation (starling instead of sparrow) of an earlier fly (John Younger, *On River Angling for Salmon and Trout*, 1840). Similarly, today's Starling and Herl (Sylvester Nemes, *The Soft-Hackled Fly*, 1975) is but a minor variation (yellow instead of brown thread) of Jackson's Brown Clock.

© Rusty Dunn, 2019

----- Brown Clock (John Jackson, 1854) -----

Today's Starling & Herl is tied most often with red or black thread. Jackson's original pattern was designed to imitate aquatic beetles, but its dark body and collar of soft hackle make the fly very effective when fished dead-drift during grannom hatches (late April in the Driftless)

Hook: Wet fly / nymph hook, #14 - #18

Thread: Brown silk

Hackle: A glossy feather of a starling's neck, wrapped as a collar at the head

Body: Peacock herl



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

Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited Leadership:

President	Amy Klusmeier	amy.klusmeier@gmail.com
Vice President	Mary Ann Doll	dollmaryann@gmail.com
Secretary	Topf Wells	topfwells@gmail.com
Treasurer	Tom Parker	tparker23@charter.net
State Council Rep.	Scot Stewart	scotstewart2@gmail.com
Board Member	Pat Hasburgh	patrick.hasburgh@gmail.com
Board Member	Jim Hess	jimhess5599@gmail.com
Board Member	Tom Thrall	tthrall2@yahoo.com
Board Member	Dave Fowler	dfowler82@gmail.com
Board Member	Rodd Wangren	flyrodd1118@gmail.com
Board Member	Ben Lubchansky	608csk@gmail.com
Newscasts Editor	Drew Kasel	madkasel@gmail.com
Conservation Committee Chair	Jim Hess	jim.hess@tds.net
Women's/ Diversity Initiative Chair	Tina Murray	swtu.women.diversity@gmail.com
Youth Education Chair for SWTU	Tina Murray	swtu.women.diversity@gmail.com

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