

# Newscasts

July 2019 Serving the Southern Wisconsin Chapter of Trout Unlimited



## Next Chapter meeting will be Thursday, September 12

Summer is filled for most with travel, family activities and plenty of fishing ... and so we do **not** have our usual monthly meetings in June, July or August.

There are still some things going on, of course, and we'll let you know about them on [www.swtu.org](http://www.swtu.org) or by checking out [our Facebook page](#). Otherwise, your loyal editor will enjoy the month off and catch you in September!

## Help Celebrate SWTU's Golden Anniversary

We're celebrating SWTU's 50<sup>th</sup> year with a special Golden Anniversary Banquet and Celebration on **Thursday, October 24**. It will be at the Lussier Family Heritage Center and feature a tasty meal from 608 Community Kitchen.



**Please block your calendar now** and keep watching Newscasts and [www.swtu.org](http://www.swtu.org) for details on tickets and more. (Note that because of the banquet, we won't have our usual chapter meeting on October 10.)

## Steiner Branch Special

**Do we have your attention?**

The Steiner Branch in the Yellowstone Wildlife Area of Lafayette County has been the site of a few Stream Team workdays. The DNR was doing its annual trend survey and looky what they found (and carefully released)! Many thanks to Bradd Sims of the DNR for sharing.



## A warm and productive final spring workday

By Topf Wells

Perhaps, the Wisconsin Corn Growers or some other organization that desires hot, humid weather should sponsor SWTU spring work days. We show up and the forecast rain and cooler temperatures stay away until we are finished. So the story went on June 15 when SWTU hosted our last work day of this spring on Dane County's Davidson Property on the Sugar River, just north of Paoli. Our task was to transform the mountains of brush we can cut and stacked earlier this year into a massive brush bundle which would rejuvenate and stabilize a stream bank, provide a bit deeper and cleaner channel, create safe refuges for small trout and feeding areas for bigger ones.

A dozen SWTU members and friends accomplished all those goals on a muggy day. Seventy-five degrees is pretty darn wonderful for walking the Farmer's Market or contemplating life and a beer at Memorial Terrace, not so much for hauling tangled brush or wedging it into a muddy stream bank. We persisted and succeeded. As always a huge factor was Jim Hess's preparation and planning. He had the area staked out and all the equipment we needed. Our TU members worked really hard. And sometimes the good guys catch a much-needed break. We did in the form of Vince Schmitz.

Vince is a member of the DNR's Southern District's Fish Operations Crew. SWTU remembers Vince with great gratitude because he was one the key technicians and heavy equipment operators on the Neperud project. Vince decided the DNR needed to offer some tangible support to our work on the Sugar River so he showed up to help. Praise the Lord and pass the ammunition. With great knowledge and good humor, Vince showed us how and why to build the brush bundle and worked incredibly hard with us. Oh, to be young and strong and know what you're doing. My guess is that Vince improved our productivity by 50% or maybe more. And was a pleasure to work with.

On many of our projects and activities this spring we've been joined by different members of the new generation fo DNR Fisheries employees. Like Vince, they are a wonderful bunch of dedicated, smart and enthusiastic folks. We and the trout resource are lucky to have them.

We hope lots of you will come out and see what we accomplished. Cross the farm bridge on the Davidson property, turn downstream, and walk 100 yards. You can't miss it.

At day's end we retreated to the Paoli Pub and Grill for celebratory beer and food. Thanks to all who made the Spring Work Days a success, with a huge shout out to Jim Hess for all his planning, work, and dedication. We can't wait to see what Jim and the Conservation Committee will plan for the fall and winter. Actually we should wait – Jim deserves a couple of months of serious fishing and relaxation before any more work occurs.



## DNR Board Meeting on Gordon Creek – SWTU was there!

By Topf Wells

On a warm, sunny June 25th afternoon, the DNR Board met on Gordon Creek just downstream of the second Sandy Rock Road bridge to begin its discussion of Wisconsin's inland trout management. They started by learning about one of the most successful stream restorations in the history of Wisconsin trout stream management – Gordon Creek indeed. Bradd Sims, DNR fish biologist, discussed the history in some detail and a DNR crew shocked the stream to show the Board the trouty results of all the easement and habitat work.

SWTU was prominent in that discussion. SWTU was central, pivotal, fundamental, essential, crucial to the restorations that occurred in that two miles of stream. Cutting to the chase, it would not have happened without us. The Chapter won over \$250,000 in grants, held several easements to enable the DNR to take them, and constructed over 100 LUNKERS. This occurred as a result of thousands of hours of meeting with landowners, the DNR and other agencies and writing grants and reports. Among the leaders of this extraordinary effort were **Mike Schmidt, Jim Gentry and Jim Kanvick**. The complexities of this project were a challenge for the officers, board members, and the organizers of the project. Hundreds of anglers, thousands of trout (and lots of other critters) are thankful they persevered.

## Also on Gordon Creek – some “Pecatonica Pride”!

By Topf Wells

Stuart Jorenby is a farmer on Gordon Creek and one of the nicest people in the world. On June 13th, Stuart, Pecatonica Pride, the DNR, and SWTU hosted a field day for interested landowners and residents in the Gordon, Kittleson, Sawmill, Erickson, and East Branch of the Pecatonica watersheds. Stuart welcomed all to his farm to walk his restored easement on Gordon Creek, downstream of the CTH A bridge. He is the soul of hospitality. He mowed a path so we could more easily access the restoration and spent several hours with us, explaining the project and discussing how it has improved his grazing operation as well as the trout fishing.



About a dozen landowners and residents attended. Several are key members of Pecatonica Pride, an organization seeking to improve water quality and outdoor recreation throughout the Hollandale/Blanchardville area. Steve Fabos and April Prussia organized the events, provided excellent refreshments, and, with Stuart, extended an incredibly gracious welcome to everyone. **Jim Hess and Topf Wells** represented SWTU and thanked Stuart, Steve, April and Kriss Marion, all attendees who have sold easements to the DNR. Jim also discussed how SWTU volunteers to help the DNR and landowners on some projects.

The purpose of the field day was to remind landowners of the opportunities provided by DNR easements and restorations, to enable them to see how an easement and restoration can work, and to ask the DNR staff and Stuart any question on those or any other stream-related topic.

Justin Haglund, the fish biologist for Iowa County, his crew of four technicians, and Paul Cunningham, who coordinates the easement program state-wide, answered DNR-related questions. When we walked the stream, Justin provided clear explanations of the why and how a restoration is planned and implemented. His crew battled some high and muddy water to shock a portion of the stream. They produced a variety of lovely trout. Those beauties provoked lots of questions. A brook lamprey stole the show for a while. Folks were relieved to learn he did not have the parasitic habits of his Great Lakes cousin.

Sunny, mild, and breezy weather made for easy walking and no gnats. Stuart had delayed letting the cattle into the stream side pasture so the grass was lush. One of the more interesting parts of the morning for us non-farmers was to learn how compatible and even complementary properly managed grazing is with a restored stream. The restoration is designed to allow the cattle access to the stream without damage to the re-shaped

banks and different structures. The cattle make for a much more fishable stream (as all of us who are coping with this year's extraordinary growth of reed canary grass can appreciate). Stuart, Justin, and Marie Raboin, Dane County's grazing specialist, who was kind enough to join us, explained many of the details of stream restoration and cattle management.

Several landowners expressed an interest in easements by the end of the outing and others talked about discussing what they had seen with neighbors. We, of course, hope this effort will lead to some more easements. But perhaps as important was our chance to be on some lovely land and water with great conserving landowners like Stuart, Steve, April and Kriss and see those resources through their eyes.



### **Breaking news!**

## **DNR Acquires Langfoss Easements on Gordon and Kittleson Creeks**

Two Gordon Creek items above and some other recent articles on landowner dinners we helped to put on ... and then some icing on the cake: Gary Landfoss, whose land contains portions of both Gordon and Kittleson Creeks, is selling easements to the DNR. Many thanks to Gary for making this generous and conservation-minded agreement.

We'll share more on this in future newsletters (and surely host a workday there), but the Gordon segment occurs contiguously downstream of the Stuart Jorenby easement on which we just held our Field Day. The Kittleson segment occurs between two existing DNR easements upstream of the bridge on River Forks Rd.

***Many thanks again to Gary, and to everyone in the Chapter, community and county who worked so hard to make this great news happen!***

### **Learn what your Board's been up to (in addition to all of the above!)**

Minutes from SWTU Board of Director meetings are now available for viewing [in this Google Drive](#). They'll keep being added after they're approved. If you have questions on what you read in them, reach out to one of the Board members listed on the last page of each newsletter.

## “Suck the Muck” at Token Creek

Topf Wells

Dane County Executive Joe Parisi has pioneered an ambitious stream and lake conservation project in the Yahara watershed known as "Suck the Muck." The muck is the phosphorous-laden sediment clogging the stream bottoms of almost all the tributary streams of the Madison Lakes, especially Lake Mendota's. "Suck" is the removal of those sediments so that they are no longer a perpetual and big source of phosphorous to the lakes. When the County Exec announced this program he promised the project would go beyond dredging and involve the restoration of those streams. He is keeping that promise in a big way for the only sizable trout stream in the northeast part of the County, Token Creek.



This summer the County will spend almost \$1 million to dredge and restore a mile of Token Creek that runs through Token Creek Park. The effects on Lake Mendota should be significant with over 20,000 TONS (!?!) of sediment removed from the creek (hence the high cost). In addition, the County developed the plans in consultation with Dan Oele, the DNR fish biologist for this area, to greatly improve trout habitat. This project will be the first step in restoring what should be a major trout stream on the northeast edge of our growing metropolitan area.

SWTU has supported "Suck the Muck" in the hopes that it'll bring new vitality to Token Creek. We're eager to watch the progress of this work.

## Welcome New Members

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

Terri Belz  
Andrew Kosseff  
James Best  
Christopher Beaver

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.



## Fountains of Youth

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

by Rusty Dunn

You sneak up on a spring creek and quietly peek through the bushes. Jackpot! Emerging mayflies, rising trout, and a drop-dead gorgeous pool. Such moments are what fly fishing dreams are made of. But beware of Creeks bearing gifts. You, the trout, and the mayflies are in grave danger. The mayflies are at risk of being eaten by trout. The trout are at risk of being hooked by you. And you are at risk of being without an effective imitation. Those rising trout are likely feeding on emergers, which is the most difficult of all insect stages to imitate well.

Emergence of aquatic insects is an untidy struggle during which winged adults shed their nymphal/pupal skins, pierce through the water's surface, expand and dry their wings, and eventually fly away to streamside bushes. Surface tension at the air-water interface acts like a rubbery flexible membrane that requires considerable force to penetrate. The process is quite dynamic, and emergers struggle mightily to traverse the surface film. The form and profile of emergers changes greatly during that struggle, and trout often key in on an elusive combination of size, profile, color, and movement. Have a fly that matches the key *du jour*, and your dreams will come true. Lack such a fly, and you will have nightmares.

Many of today's most popular and successful emerger imitations have one thing in common ... the butt of a duck. "*Cul de canard*" (CDC) feathers surround a duck's preen gland, which is located on the back just forward of the tail. CDC feathers are delicate, fluffy, and naturally water repellent. They trap air bubbles when wet, and therein lies the magic. CDC is buoyant and floats flies remarkably well. The downy soft fibers give form without adding weight, and the fluffy texture insures delicate presentations, even on glassy smooth waters.

Use of CDC in fly tying dates to the 1920s in the Jura Mountains near the Swiss-French border. Charles Bickel and Maximilien Joset were the earliest known tyers to float flies with CDC. Their "*La mouche de Valorbe*" flies had silk bodies and collars of CDC. The term "*cul de canard*" (roughly translated from French as "butt of duck") was coined in the 1940s by Henri Bresson, a commercial French tyer who sold flies of the same name. CDC flies were regional favorites in France and Switzerland until the early 1980s, when Slovenian Marjan Fratnik wrote in a prominent German fly fishing magazine about CDC and described his "*F Fly*" (a merciful abbreviation of "*Fratnikova puhovka*"). Germany's Gerhard Laible and Switzerland's Mark Petitjean then followed with high profile articles on CDC in other European magazines. After 60 years of relative obscurity, media exposure suddenly made CDC popular throughout Europe. North Americans learned of CDC in the late 1980s from an English translation of Jean-Paul Pequegnot's book *French Fishing Flies* (1984) and from Darrel Martin's book *Fly Tying Methods* (1987). CDC hit the big time in the U.S. in 1991, when Rene Harrop wrote a ringing endorsement of CDC flies for fussy Montana trout in *Fly Fisherman* magazine.

CDC feathers are excellent for floating mayfly, caddisfly, and midge emergers, especially in smaller sizes. CDC flies float low in the surface, have indistinct profiles, and show subtle movements as the feather barbs quiver in the currents. One drawback of CDC is that it is easily waterlogged when dragged underwater by a hooked fish. Keeping CDC bone dry is essential and would be an intolerable nuisance were it not for hydrophobic fumed silica (e.g. "*Frog's Fanny*"), a desiccant that restores wet CDC to like-new condition.

When you next sneak up on a stream with hatching insects and rising trout, reach for some butt of duck and fanny of frog. Then, show those fussy trout what a truly attractive emerger looks like.

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### ----- CDC Emerger -----

The tail and abdomen of this blue-winged olive CDC Emerger should hang below the surface, with the thorax and wing floating atop the water.

**Hook:** 2X-short, 3X-wide, curved, #14-#20

**Thread:** 8/0, brown-olive

**Tail:** Olive-brown or amber Z-Ion or Antron

**Abdomen:** Two brown plus one black strands of "Superhair"

**Thorax:** Olive-brown hares' mask, fibers picked out

**Wingcase:** Two natural dun CDC feathers pulled loosely over the dubbed thorax

**Wings:** Wingcase CDC feathers tied down behind the eye pointing upward and forward



## 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:**

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