



January Meeting

Paul Melchior, presented us with a great presentation on the diverse fly fishing opportunities in South America. Paul basically covered the continent from north to south, talking about fishing for everything from peacock bass up in Venezuela to trout in the Patagonia region.

His presentation was laced with great photos of both the fish and the areas in which they lived! It certainly made you wish you were there right now instead in cold and snowy Wisconsin!

Fly Fishing through South America



January Outing

New Years Day at Paradise Springs

New Years Day always seems to find a hardy band at Paradise Springs to tease the trout on “opening day”. Dick Dragiewicz took a couple of pictures of the more interesting items of the day!





The fish might not have all been big, but they were more than willing!

The weather was a touch chilly — as you can see from the way the fisherman (whoever the heck he was!) on the previous page was dressed — but it appears that fun was had by all!!

Large brown trout are becoming scarce — by Roger Kerr | Boscobel

This letter is in regard to the decline of large brown trout in western Wisconsin streams between River Falls and the Illinois border.

Veteran trout anglers, including myself, have mourned the “loss” of big, 4- to 8-pound fish brown trout from streams like the Rush River in Pierce County, Timber Coulee Creek near La Crosse and the Big Green River in Grant County. The loss of these fish is a natural phenomenon. It is partially the result of wild fish replacing hatchery fish and partially the result of land use changes.

Wild brown trout tend to be wary and feed less aggressively than hatchery trout. These traits allow some of them to live long enough to reproduce. Over a long period of time, the genetic capacity to grow fast and large disappears, if it existed at all.

Conversely, hatchery fish have been bred for a century to grow fast and large. Thus when they were stocked, they had the genetic ability to grow to 8 pounds. There were never large numbers of these fish in western Wisconsin streams but they were abundant enough to attract trout anglers from near and far.

Many studies have shown that wild brown trout rarely exceed 15 inches. As an example, a study area on the Kinnickinnic River by River Falls had about 3,000 wild brown trout per mile in 1980 and only one fish was larger than 15 inches.

A lot has been written about poor farming practices that occurred in western Wisconsin in the 1920s and 1930s, etc. This created severe erosion and flooding. Streams that had supported trout for thousands of years ceased to support trout. Slowly this changed as farmers adopted soil conserving practices or quit farming altogether. Flooding declined and spring flow increased. Streams devoid of trout were stocked and became marginal trout streams with high minnow populations. And it was these high minnow populations that provided excellent forage for the stocked trout.

These marginal streams started producing four to eight pound trout. But as farming practices kept improving, flooding declined even more and spring flow kept increasing. Minnows do best in warm streams or moderate temperature streams. They don't do well in cold water streams. As streams got colder, minnows declined, and so the forage base for big trout declined. This is where we are today.

Anglers still come to western Wisconsin from near and far to fish for trout. Trout might be 30 to 40 times more abundant now than they were 50 years ago but their average size is smaller. Good anglers can have 100 fish days. Poor anglers can walk past thousands of trout and not catch anything.

Overall, western Wisconsin is now one of the best trout fishing areas in the world, but 4- to 8-pound fish are rare and will remain rare. They will not return and be as abundant as they were 30 or 40 years ago.

Hare's Ear Flies

by Davy Wotton

Historically fly fishers have searched for material that would enable them to produce the perfect fly, one that deceives any fish. There is as yet no such thing and I doubt ever will be; but there are some flies that come very close indeed, one of which is the Hare's ear in its many guises. There is no river or lake system in the world that trout will not take a hare's ear nymph or variations of the hare's ear.



This may include nymphal variations, dry flies, soft hackles and streamers. In fact I would submit that there is no other natural material that allows the variations that Hares ear will allow. They are endless. Couple Hares ear with modern synthetic material and you again increase by a wide margin variations of flies that use Hares Ear.

The term Hares ear is in some ways misleading. The Hare is an animal indigenous to the EU, and very common in the UK. It is a species introduced into South America, Argentina and Chile, but not North America. The Northern arctic Hare known as the Snow shoe Hare is a similar animal. A Hare is an animal that looks like a large rabbit. Average weight of a fully grown Hare may be from 6 to 12 lbs. There is confusion here in the US regarding the difference between the rabbit and the hare. Both animals have a very different coat and coloration.

Commercially produced dubbing often utilizes the body fur of the rabbit and not the Hare, but is termed as Hare fur dubbing. There is a good availability for the Hares mask, both natural and dyed. Most of these are imported from Argentina and Chile, where tens of thousands of the animals thrive in the vast open ranges.

The original Hares ear nymph utilized the fur taken from the base of the hares ears. Other terms used would be the hare's poll, which largely determines fur taken from given places on the mask. Its origination to resemble many of the nymph forms of mayflies found in the UK such as the Olive species and the March Brown. In fact I know of no other fly as deadly as a hares ear dry/emergers when the olive are emerging.

In those days the only trout species fished for was the Brown trout, long before the introduction of Rainbows to the UK and EU. Even by today's standards of flies, it is still one of, if not the best, to deceive a Brown trout. The interesting thing about a hares mask is that each area provides fur of a different medium. From the very short hair found on and at the base of the ears, to the longer guard hair and underfur found on the cheeks. Careful consideration and selection should be made for the fly to be tied.



Given the variations in color tones, selected areas can be taken and blended for light or darker color combinations. Use of more guard hair or underfur provide for both variations in body definitions. Permutations are endless.

Bear in mind that a Hares mask is at the end of the day a very inexpensive fly tying material, something like \$3.50. Compare that with some of the synthetic materials out there particularly

those in the tinsel town category, which have very limited use.

Add some gold and silver tinsel, bead heads, some Partridge and natural shades of Hen hackle, different sizes of hooks and you have a huge combination of options so far as Hare ear (fur) flies at your disposal.

Ever heard the expression, Mad as a March Hare? This English term refers to the mating season in March when male Hares stand on the hind legs and box with each other. They were also the wild animal used for coursing with greyhounds, this practice now recently illegal in the UK. Most times the Hare got away, since the rules dictated that the hare had to be caught and killed within a given fenced zone.

February Outing:

Going South for Fly Fishing Info!

We're going to be doing the Second Annual Fly Fishing Show Road Trip as we head to Schaumburg for the **Great Waters Expo** on **Saturday, February 21st**.

There is always a lot of prime fly fishing information to be gathered at this event — and especially from the featured speakers, including Madison River outfitter and author Kelly Galloup, and acclaimed photographer Brian O'Keefe.

Regional presenters and fly tiers will include Tim Holschlag, Pat Ehlers, Tim Landwehr, Kevin Feenstra, Wendy Williamson and Larry Mann, Indiana writer Brandon Butler, Ohio's Great Lakes guide Jerry Darkes, Midwest Fly Fishing magazine fly tying columnist Dennis Potter, artist and guide Bob White, muskie hunters Robert Tomes and Brad Bohlen, and Michigan tier Jeff "Bear" Andrews.

Admission for the day is \$15.00, and it's well worth it! If you're interested in carpooling or joining a caravan heading south, let Greg Schick know at the Feb. meeting or the fly tying session on the 11th.

February Meeting:

White Elephant / Garage Sale!!

It's time for some "pre-spring cleaning" in your fishing closet / storage area.

The club is having its annual White Elephant / Used Fishing Equipment Sale at the February meeting. Gather your unused and unwanted fishing equipment and bring it to the meeting. Members will be lined up looking for good deals. Bring lots of cash for your shopping spree.

Join us on Tuesday, February 10th at 7:00 pm at Yester Years Pub & Grill. Even if you're interested in buying or selling stuff, come and swap stories over a couple of beers with the other members!

(You know... You can also get there a bit early to swap more stories and fishing tales over a burger! Those interested in a bit of food and fish stories meet at 6:00 pm.)

2009 Fishing Show Calendar

Spring Opener – Badger Fly Fishers

February 7 – 9:00 A. M. to 5:00 P.M.

Featured Speakers: Terry & Roxanne Wilson (bluegills and bass fishing), and more

Location: Madison Turners Hall, Madison, WI

Website: <http://www.badgerflyfishers.org/>

Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo - Chicago

February 20 – 22, check online site for schedule

Speakers: Kelly Galloup, Brian O'Keefe, Tim Holschlag, Kevin Feenstra, and more.

Location: Renaissance Schaumburg (NW suburban Chicago), IL

(We will be going to this show for our February Outing! Watch "**The Hatch**" for details as the date approaches.)

Website: <http://www.greatwatersflyfishingexpo.com/index.html>

Troutfest – Central Wisconsin Trout Unlimited

February 28 – 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M

Speakers: To be announced

Fishing in Other Places

If it's winter in Wisconsin, then Don Putning must be fishing in New Zealand again!!

Don writes from the South Island on Jan 14th: "The first two weeks of January have been rainy and very windy in the afternoons. (Oh yeah, how are you folks coping with the 48" of snow and -12 degrees?)

"I have been fishing with a friend from Binghamton NY, Tom (pictured with the cigar) and another friend from Tasmania Australia, Graham (with the mask).

We have been fishing the Mataura at 600 cfs, the Waikia at 200 cfs, and two small rivers; Waimea & Waipahi at 25 cfs. In 12 days of fishing I've landed 18 fish from 12" (3/4 pound) to 23" (4 pounds) and lost several fish.

I've used PT nymphs, Shop Vacs, CDC Emergers, Beetles, Willow Grubs, Parachute Adams & Humpies. While I've been skunked a couple days, the best day had fish of 19" (3 pounds), 21" (3.5 pounds), and a 23"er (4 pounds) — all on a Beetle. We will be here for two more weeks!



Don with a 4 pounder on Waipahi



Graham on Waipahi



Tome with a 2.5 pound brown



Graham's 3.75 pound brown



Graham on Waipahi

Don will be in New Zealand until the end of March so we'll probably see more of these small fish that those guys are playing with....

Next year I think we ought to make sure to hide his passport!!



You really have to be careful on that late night visit to the bathroom!

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MILWAUKEE LAKE & STREAM FLY FISHERS

2008 CALENDAR

	February	March	April
Meeting	10th @ Yester Years Pub & Grill	10th @ Yester Years Pub & Grill	14th @ Yester Years Pub & Grill
Outing	Indoors at Great Waters Expo—Chicago 21st	Spring Trout Opener Location TBA 21st	TBA
Fly Tying	11th & 25th	11th & 25th	15th & 29th
Notes			

Meeting:	September through April: 7 pm Yesteryears Pub & Grill 9427 W. Greenfield
Outing:	Meet at 6:30 am at Park & Rides lots. See Hatch for details.
Fly Tying:	Sportsmen's Warehouse (I-43 & Mooreland Rd.) from 6:00 - 8:30 pm.

The Hatch is the monthly newsletter of the Milwaukee Lake & Stream Fly Fishers, an incorporated nonprofit organization affiliated with the Federation of Fly Fishers.

Milwaukee Lake & Stream Fly Fishers meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at Yester-Years Pub & Grill, 9427 W. Greenfield Ave., West Allis, WI

Meetings May through August are on the water. Read **The Hatch** for locations or go to our website at: <http://www.mlsff.org>

Send correspondence to:
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Submit contributions for **The Hatch** by the
20th of the month to:
Greg Schick, Editor
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"Why does Sea World have a seafood restaurant?? I'm half way through my FISH burger and I realize, Oh my God . . . I could be eating a slow learner." — Lyndon B. Johnson

"Fly fishing is like sex, everyone thinks there is more than there is, and that everyone is getting more than their share." — Henry Kanemoto