

April 2014 President's Message

Hi everyone—

Well we've had a tough winter this year, but spring is finally here . The temps and conditions are still a bit dicey; but I know of several people who have already been up in the Driftless area fishing and were reporting good results. April 25- 27 will be our first chapter outing to Viroqua. Those who are interested and haven't signed up, please contact Gordon Rudd as soon as possible.

Most of our officers will be in Viroqua also in May. This outing takes place the same week as our meeting. So there will be no May meeting this year due to conflicts.

Our April speaker is Jason Randall this month. John Psomas was gracious enough to help line up this month's speaker, so thanks, John! Please refer to the bio information in this newsletter.

Lee Wulff TU has just completed a mass mailing campaign to contact all of the members on the national listing for our chapter. Jerry Sapp and Pete Koenig worked tirelessly and swiftly on this big undertaking over the past week or so. So please make sure you acknowledge their hard work. They have just completed the mailing to approximately 400 members. All should be receiving a nice packet of information with a cover letter, copy of our newly printed brochure, and the information about our fundraiser and conservation project. This outreach has not been done in some time, so we are very interested to see the response. We thought a snail mail strategy would be better than attempting to email,. This adds a personal touch and many members on the registry didn't list an email address. We hope to reach more members this way.

I hope everyone is out fishing and enjoying this mild break in the weather. We will see you all in April!

Meg Gallagher



Lee Wulff Chapter of Trout Unlimited is now part of social media with a Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/375161165829558/>). It's all set up, it's free for all members, and has real time content, and an extensive photo gallery. For sign-up info and help contact Chris Young at c-m-young@comcast.net .

Our April Speaker Jason Randall



Jason Randall has been an outdoor writer for the last ten years with articles appearing regularly in *American Angler*, *Eastern Fly Fishing* and many other outdoor magazines. He is a veterinarian certified in fish health and medicine. He is also a member of the World Aquatic Veterinary Medical Association and the Society for Freshwater Science. His first book, *“Moving Water: A Fly Fisher’s Guide to Currents”* was released in 2012 by Stackpole/Headwater books. It studies the effect of current on trout, their prey species and presentation, where vertical layers of current create drag and requires adjustments to improve nymph fishing success. His second book *“Feeding Time: A Fly Fisher’s Guide to What, Where and When Trout Eat,”* was released in August of 2013. It focuses on matching your fishing strategies to the trout’s feeding strategies, especially when targeting large trout because if you know the five ‘W’ questions for large trout feeding- who, what, when, where and why, you can catch them regularly. Next year the third book in the ‘Angler’s Guide’ trilogy will be released on trout senses- what trout see, smell and hear, using that information to develop more effective fishing strategies.

Conservation fund

We are starting a raffle to replenish funds in our conservation fund. Each year we donate funds to stream projects in Wisconsin or other states that are doing the work of restoring and improving streams. This is Trout Unlimited's mission. We have very limited ability to start and supervise our own projects because of distance. Mainly we contribute funds and work days on streams some other chapter or organization starts.

The Driftless area is our focus for fishing but if you have noticed things can become a little busy on the weekends. Other people have found the popular streams too. This is why we must help increase the areas that are fishable. Weister Creek is a case in point. It is choked with box elder. Although the stream had some improvement done before it was inadequately done and floods washed it away.

The Kickapoo Valley Reserve is starting a three year to restore 2.6 miles of this creek within the Reserve. It will all have public access. Dave Ventrano is designing the work. He is retired from the DNR and is the inventor of the LUNKER structure. Dave has the knowledge to make this a good project.

Please consider a donation as a way to ensure you will find an unoccupied place to fish when you get to the Driftless and not have to drive around spending time and gas. We are building for the future population. We can leave a larger legacy of trout filled streams for our kids, grand kids, and trout.

Announcing 2014 Lee Wulff Conservation Fund Drive Raffle

We are asking for donations to support conservation projects that the board has chosen for this year.

- These projects are:
 - \$4000 ---Weister Creek, a tributary of the Kickapoo in the Kickapoo Valley Reserve will be restored in a three-year project. TU involved but not TU lead.
 - \$1000 --- Nohr Chapter for continuing work on the Blue and Big Rock Branch
 - \$500---Southwest Badger invasive species project (knotweed)

For every \$20 donation one ticket may be entered in your name. Place your name and phone number on each ticket (i.e. 5 tickets = \$100) and mail your check, made out to Lee Wulff Trout Unlimited, and tickets to Scott Roane in the envelope provided. (Scott Roane, 13391 Canary Lane, Huntley, Il 60142) Retain your stubs. If you need more tickets please or information call 847-284-4824 or pick them up at chapter meetings.

The prize drawing will be held May 22.

First prize ---Cabela's LSi (line speed improved) 4Wt. 9ft. 4 piece rod combo with a RLS large arbor reel and fly line. Picked for the Driftless.

Second prize --- 6 dozen flies for the Driftless area

Third prize --- LL Bean fanny pack



HEY YOU!

Lee Wulff needs a new webmaster. After many years of service Curtis Watts is retiring as webmaster this summer. If you have website skills we need you. Contact either our prez' Meg Gallagher or vice-prez' Jerry Sapp.

ALSO.....

We need a few good casters to help teach casting at Cabela's Outdoor Day - Sat, May 3. OK, you don't really need to be that good a caster as most of the folks trying out fly casting will never have held a fly rod before. They are expecting about 500 people to attend. We have one volunteer so far. We need 3 to 5. If you can help contact Jerry Sapp.. viceprez@leewulfftu.org

"There he stands, draped in more equipment than a telephone lineman, trying to outwit an organism with a brain no bigger than a breadcrumb, and getting licked in the process."

Paul O'Neil, 1965

"Rainbow trout lie in fast water, brown trout in slow water, and fishermen lie almost anywhere, any time." (Unknown)

Fly Of The Month by Bob Olach

Orange Tag & Red Tag

Approx. 10 years ago, a fellow sent me a copy of an old manuscript / booklet about a fly tier who was the River Keeper of the Bradford Waltonians Angling Club's stretch of water on the River Wharfe in the UK. That River Keeper / Fly Tier was named Jim Wynn.

In early 2012, I became aware of a book about Jim Wynn and, in May 2012, I ordered the book written by Martin Cross and titled "*Jim Wynn's Recommended Flies for the River Wharf*".

Not only does this book (published in 2011) have the same dressings / information that was in the old manuscript copy, but it also contained some new information on Jim Wynn; on North Country flies; and some of fishing methods used by many in the northern UK waters.

Recently, I started glancing through the book and when I opened the book, it was on the dressing called the "*Orange Tag*", so I decided to tie up a dozen of them to try once the weather gets a little warmer.

There's another dressing that is very similar to the orange Tag except red wool is used as the tail, aptly named the "*Red Tag*"!



Hooks - Daiichi 1990 - size 16

Thread - black Danville 6/0

Body - green peacock herl

Rib - small gold wire

Hackle - brown saddle (or hen if you want a wet fly)

Tag - red or orange crewl wool

There's another old dressing called a "*Treacle Parkin*" that is tied the same as the Orange & Red Tag flies, except the tag / tail is yellow wool and the hackle is a ginger color.

Although I tied these flies with rooster saddle hackle and plan to use them as dry flies, hen hackles of the same color can be used and the flies fished as wet / soft hackles.

Lastly, most references show these three flies as effective for Grayling fishing but several years ago I had tied a few and they also worked well for the fish I was after in local ponds and Wisconsin waters.



Grumpy's Page by Kurt Haberl

“Sweetwater, that’s what I call it,” Johnny Fessup said to the rest of us around the campfire. “It’s really Fibley Creek, but it’s the most productive water I’ve ever seen. Fish haven, I’d say.”

Johnny was not really our friend, since he usually didn’t camp with us, so we were surprised to hear him talk. He was a great fisherman, no doubt about that, with the newest, most expensive rods, flies tied by Belgian nuns, reels made out of airplane-grade graphitanium, and a safari-mobile with built-in rod racks, a GPS, heated everything, cooled everything, and lifetime road service from some Swiss rescue teams. We hated him. To make matters worse, he was overly nice to everyone, passed around select bourbon like it was iced tea, and knew the Latin names and hatch charts for every bug a picky trout would eat. We all wished we were Johnny Fessup.

“Why aren’t you going to fish it?” Schnoz said.

“I would, but it’s 40 minutes from camp where highway P intersects Q and I have to leave first thing tomorrow morning to fly out to New York and save the world.”

He didn’t really say he was going to save the world. I just added that because I couldn’t remember what important thing he was going to do in New York.

“Just park at the pull-off and force your way through a line of blueberry bushes and a stand of alder. Go down the hill and there you are – Sweetwater. Anyone need another few fingers of bourbon? It was the distiller’s private stock, aged for 63 years in a black ebony cask. The distiller gave it to me when I saved his three beautiful daughters.”

He didn’t really say he saved three beautiful daughters, but I can’t remember what important favor he did for the distiller. That night I dreamed I was Johnny Fessup. Not really. I dreamed I was his retriever.

In the morning, Schnoz and I skipped breakfast except for black coffee, and headed out to Sweetwater. I had a feeling that something was wrong. It might have been the twinkle in his eye when Johnny Fessup talked about Sweetwater. It might have been the fact that no one else planned to go there. It might have been the bourbon aged for 63 years.

An hour and two backtracks later, we found the intersection of highways P and Q, parked in the pull-off and booted up. The patch of blueberries made for a formidable barrier with nettlesome stickers in early season sharpness. We used wading staffs to push through, but even then, this outing probably cost each of us a pair of breathable waders. Getting through the alder stand was easier, but the slide down the graveled hill was more tricky. When we found ourselves at the bottom and felt lucky to be holding intact rods and elbows and dreading a scramble back up the hill, we finally got to Johnny’s Sweetwater.

“Um,” Schnoz said, and I knew right away this was bad.

“What?” I asked behind him.

“What’s the difference between a gully and a ditch?”

“A gully is dry.”

“Then Sweetwater is a ditch.”

I pushed past him and saw the thin, two-foot wide ribbon of shallow water that gurgled through watercress.

“There isn’t enough water here for you to fall into,” I said. We looked upstream and saw a pile of rocks that looked suspiciously like a rattlesnake den.

“I hate Johnny Fessup,” Schnoz said. “I hate the way he laughs especially.”

“I’m not going up to the rattlesnake den, and I can’t climb back up that gravel embankment, so I’m heading downstream,” I said.

Schnoz followed me, muttering about Belgian nuns, graphitanium, ephemerella, and Swiss rescue teams.

We slipped, fell in holes, tangled with watercress, and cursed for two hundred painful yards. We changed the name of this trickle to Sweat Water because it seemed appropriate, especially when it disappeared before us under a wild rose bush. We skirted the bush, and there, there in wondrous splendor, lay before us the confluence of Fessup’s ditch and two actual creeks that met in a deep pool, then slid away across a riffle, a drop pool, and more riffles and runs as far as we could see.

We began to fish, and oh how well we fished. Feisty brookies rose to our dry flies, and fat browns tugged away at weighted nymphs. They jumped, ran, played, and splashed us when we released them, fish after fish until we lost count. It was a glorious morning, as sweet as early spring can be, and we only thought about heading back to camp when growling stomachs and tired arms told us the morning had passed and it was mid-afternoon, even though it felt like the passing of only an hour or two.

We found a gully wash that wound up toward the road, and soon enough were back on our way back to camp, sated, happy, and tired as only fishers can be after a memorable day.

“Johnny Fessup is the best friend I ever had,” Schnoz said, “next to you, of course.”

It was late afternoon when we pulled in, and the gang was already around the campfire, sipping a first drink. They laughed when we got close.

“How was Fibley Creek?” Old Tom Warbuckle asked. “Johnny told us all about it.” Then they snickered again, secret snorts and chuckles they could barely contain.

Schnoz pulled at his ear, elbowed me, and then winked.

“Well,” he said, “you know how Johnny likes a joke. Fibley Creek is basically a ditch, maybe two feet across. He’s going to hear about it the next time I see him.”

“That’s what he told us,” said Old Tom. “I guess he pulled one over on you, didn’t he?”

“Yep,” Schnoz said. “Old Johnny Fessup sure got us this time. His bourbon was pretty good, though, so I forgive him.”

“Me too,” I said. “Yep, Johnny Fessup tricked us good.”

“Johnny called about an hour ago, just to see how mad you two were,” Old Tom said.

“We’re mad,” Schnoz said, “I’m real mad.”

“Me too,” I said. “Man, I hate Johnny Fessup.” They all laughed again and I thought, man, I love Johnny Fessup.

2014 Chapter Outings

Early Spring Outing

April 25th-27th This is our annual outing to Southwest WI in the Driftless area. Our Chapter will gather at the Vernon Inn in Viroqua, WI. For reservations call 800/501-0664. Let them know you are with the Lee Wulff Chapter of Trout Unlimited as a block of rooms have been reserved. Members are responsible for finding their own roommate, if they want one, and making their own reservations.

Some will be camping at the West Fork Sportsmans Club in Avalanche, WI. You must be a member to camp and the cost for membership is currently \$10 per year. The campground does not take reservations unless you are going to rent one of the two cabins they have.

This area includes the famed West Fork of the Kickapoo, Timber Coulee and Elk Creek to only mention a few. The early WI season is open only to catch and release.

We offer, to current Lee Wulff members, an opportunity to spend some time with an experienced member. So, if you're new to the area, new to fly fishing or would like to hook up with, and spend some time with, an experienced member this is the trip for you. **You must RSVP to Gordon Rudd at 815/245-2425 or McHenryFlyFisher@sbcglobal.net no later than April 18th for the Buddy System.** If there is a work project scheduled the Buddy System will be rescheduled. The Buddy System takes place Saturday morning until noon.

Dinner is scheduled at the Old Towne Inn, located northwest of Viroqua on Route 14 in Westby, WI. Dinner reservations are at 7:30 PM for Friday and Saturday and individuals are responsible for their own meals and libations.

There is a great fly shop in Viroqua called the Driftless Angler owned by Mat Wagner and Geri Meyer, www.driftlessangler.com 608/637-8779. Guide service is available from the following;

The Driftless Angler www.driftlessangler.com 608/637-8779

Rich Osthoff***Signature Flies*** www.richosthoff.com 608/847-5192

Silver Doctor Fly Fishing (Bob Blumreich) www.silverdoctor.net 608/637-3417

Some books of interest for these outings include: No Hatch to Match by Rich Osthoff, ***Fly Fishing Midwestern Spring Creeks*** by Ross Mueller, ***Exploring Wisconsin Trout Streams-The Angler's Guide*** by Steve Born, ***Flyfisher's Guide to Wisconsin & Iowa*** by John Motoviloff and the ***Wisconsin Atlas & Gazetteer*** by DeLorme.

May Outing & One Fly Contest

May 16th-18th This outing will take place in the same location as the Early Spring Outing.

Our Chapter will gather at the Vernon Inn in Viroqua, WI. For reservations call 800/501-0664. Let them know you are with the Lee Wulff Chapter of Trout Unlimited as a block of rooms have been reserved. Members are responsible for finding their own roommate, if they want one, and making their own reservations.

Some will be camping at the West Fork Sportsmans Club in Avalanche, WI. You must be a member to camp and the cost for membership is currently \$10 per year. The campground does not take reservations unless you are going to rent one of the two

One Fly Contest Rules

- You must be a member of the Lee Wulff Chapter of TU
- Fishing must be done on public water, or open to public fishing. No pond fishing allowed.
- Only one fly may be fished and it may be modified, trimmed but no additional material may be added.
- Strike indicators are permitted, but it may not be another fly.
- Fishing time will be 9:00 AM until noon on Saturday. In case of incumbent weather the alternate day will be Sunday.
- There will be two anglers to a "team".
- There will be one "Judge" to accompany the anglers who will record the fish by species, length and time. Only trout will count.
- Only one angler will fish at a time. Time not to exceed 15 minutes per slot.
- Entry fee is \$5 per person and must be paid by 8:00 PM Friday night prior to the event.

Teams will be determined by pulling names out of a hat at 8:00 PM Friday night. You will not know who your teammate is until then. You may change or replace your fly up to two times during the contest at a cost of \$2 per fly. The money will go to the "Judge" of that team.

Please note; you do not have to participate in the One Fly event to enjoy this outing.

We will have a brat cookout at 7:30 Friday night at the campground. Cost for the cookout will be \$10 per person which includes brats, hot dogs, potato salad, condiments and soda. You are responsible for any other beverages you desire. **Your RSVP to Gordon Rudd is required by April 18th.** Dinner Saturday will be at the Old Towne Inn, located northwest of Viroqua on Route 14 in Westby, WI. Dinner reservations are at 7:30 PM and individuals are responsible for their own meals and libations.

There is a great fly shop in Viroqua called the Driftless Angler owned by Mat Wagner and Geri Meyer, www.driftlessangler.com 608/637-8779. Guide service is available from the following;

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Annual Chapter Outing to Wa Wa Sum-Grayling, MI

June 4th-8th This is an excellent outing to the historic rustic lodge owned by Michigan State University and situated on the banks of the "Holy Waters" of the famed Au Sable River. This location is a short walk upstream from the very spot upon which Trout Unlimited was founded. The outing includes four nights lodging, catered meals and fabulous fishing opportunities on the Au Sable and Manistee Rivers. The lodge is located just east of Grayling and it takes approximately 7 hours to drive there from the Chicago area. Dinner will be served Thursday, Friday and Saturday; breakfast Friday, Saturday and Sunday and a sack lunch will be provided Friday and Saturday. The cost for this outing is estimated at \$325. A **non-refundable deposit is of \$50 is required** to reserve your spot and the balance due by May 15th. As stated, **this is a rustic lodge**, and you need to bring your own bed linens (sleeping bag & pillow) along with towel and washcloth.

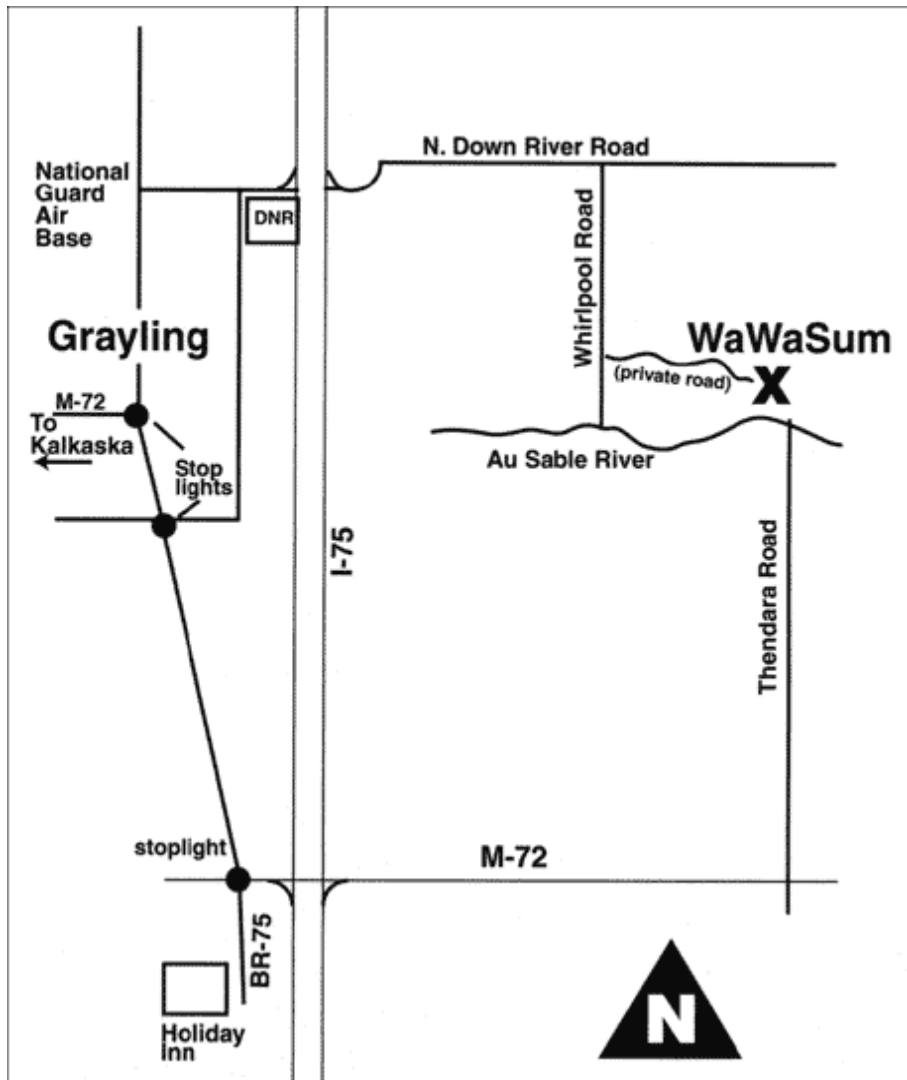
Guided float trips are very popular, but hard to get this time of year. So, if you think this is something you'd like to do make your reservations early. Some fly shops to consider;

Gates Au Sable Lodge, www.gateslodge.com 989/348-8462

Old Au Sable Fly Shop, www.oldausable.com 989/343-3330

Fuller's North Branch Outing Club www.fullersnboc.com 989/348-7951

To RSVP or for more information on any of these outings, contact Gordon Rudd at 815/245-2425 or McHenryFlyFisher@sbcglobal.net.



Wa Wa Sum is a Michigan State University research and conference facility located on the Au Sable River six miles east of Grayling.

The name Wa Wa Sum means "Plain View" in the Ojibwa language and was given to the camp in 1905 by Chief David Shoppenagon, an Au Sable guide and woodsman. At that time, because of the extensive logging of the region's pine forests, the view from the high bank on which the camp is built was unobstructed for miles to the south. Since then, the forests have regenerated, slowly obscuring the view beyond the river.

Chief Shoppenagon built the first building at the camp, now known as the Dining Room, in 1880. In 1897, Rubin Babbit, an Au Sable woodsman who later became Michigan's first wildlife officer, built a second structure, now the Administration Building. These first buildings were constructed of red pine and tamarack logs and used as a fishing camp for a group of Toledo businessmen. Other cabins of various sizes were added in later years: the Bullpen (1907); the Big Camp (1921/22); the Barn and the Guide's Cabin (early 1930s). The buildings and 251 acres of land were deeded to MSU in 1980 by owners Virginia Secor Stranahan and Frank Bell, descendants of two of the camp's six original owners. Kevin Gardiner, a descendant of Rubin Babbit, is the camp's present caretaker. He is the third generation of his family to perform these duties.

[Unofficial End of Season Outing Sept 26th-30th](#)

"Unless one can enjoy himself fishing with the fly, even when his efforts are unrewarded, he loses much real pleasure. More than half the intense enjoyment of fly-fishing is derived from the beautiful surroundings, the satisfaction felt from being in the open air, the new lease of life secured thereby, and the many, many pleasant recollections of all one has seen, heard and done."

Charles F. Orvis, 1886

Lee Wulff Chapter of Trout Unlimited
OUR NEW MEETING PLACE!!!

BEGINNING JANUARY 16, 2014
We will be meeting at

Village Pizza and Pub
145 N. Kennedy
Carpentersville IL. 60110

Near the intersection of Route 25 and Helm Road

Time: 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. - Social time

Pizza and pop will be served

Cocktails and other spirits are available for purchase

Cost- \$15.00 per person

Other food choices are available for purchase if desired.

Program begins at 7:30 p.m.

Please RSVP to Scott Roane no later than Tues. April 15th,
2014 at royalwulff01@yahoo.com.

Chapter Officers

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PS: Any grammatical errors spotted in
this newsletter were purposefully put
there to keep you on you're toes.

PPS: You Are Welcome.