



## **April 2016 President's Message**

Hi Lee Wulff chapter members!

I hope everyone is having a good spring so far. It is great to see some warmer weather returning, as I was beginning to think spring had lost its way. I have heard many good reports about fishing in the Driftless so far this year. I know several members who bravely endured the winter elements to try their hand at winter fishing. I made the journey a couple of times and was thrilled to see my first Winter Stoneflies! Very cool! So, time for the rest of us to get out there. Early spring is the best time to explore and get into some of those not so easy spots that become difficult or impossible to access by mid summer. The fish are hungry now and eager to take flies readily. Grab your gear and join us. Our first outing is in just about 2 weeks! I have heard reports of some little Black Caddis sightings.

Our guest speaker this month will be our good friend Jim Romberg from Fennimore, Wisconsin. Jim guides in and around the Fennimore area and has a lifetime of experience fishing the Driftless. I had an opportunity to go out with Jim last summer, and I was amazed at his thoughtful, low key approach that yielded amazing results. I encourage as many of you as possible to come to our last formal meeting to meet Jim and book a trip. We will be having the drawing for the Women's Clinic trip at the meeting. Bob Olach has also made some more amazing flies for another mini raffle.

We need everyone to make a concerted effort to sign up for the outings at the next meeting. We need to lock in the attendance for these trips in order to have time to make the plans we need to have successful and enjoyable outings. See Gordon or Yves at the signup table for the signup sheets. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please email or call Gordon ASAP.

On May 7<sup>th</sup> we will be having our chapter family picnic from 2 – 6 p.m. We will be using the same facility we used last year, thanks to Scott Roane! Thank you, Scott for

helping us secure such a beautiful setting for the event! It will be held at the Pavilion at Del Web in Huntley, IL. See the newsletter for further information. The guys will be grilling up some great food.

## **April Speaker – Jim Romberg**



**DRIFTLESS WISCONSIN** - Hills and trout streams everywhere. Just natural beauty and good people . . . and lots of fish.

Here you'll find Jim Romberg, fly-fishing guide extraordinaire. Jim has lived and fished in Driftless Wisconsin for more than 40 years. Don't ask how old he is. He's old enough to know every twist of every trout stream in the Driftless.

Jim runs an outfit called the Fly Fisherman's Lair Guide Service, which takes to the sweetest little trout streams this side of heaven.

**Where We Meet**  
**Village Pizza and Pub**  
**145 N. Kennedy Drive**  
**Carpentersville, IL**

**Social Hour: 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. with all you can eat pizza and pop served for \$15.00 per person**

**Main program: 7:30 p.m.**

**Other menu choices, cocktails and spirits are available for purchase.**

**Please RSVP to Yves Charron at [treasurer@leewulfftu.org](mailto:treasurer@leewulfftu.org) by Tuesday February 16<sup>th</sup> so we know how many pizzas to preorder.**

## **Lee Wulff Annual Family Picnic**

Saturday May 7<sup>th</sup> from 2 to 6 at the Sun City Pavilion, 12880 Del Webb Blvd, in Huntley, IL

Food, drinks, games and fun activities for the kids

\$10/person and free for kids 12 and under

Special Guest appearance by Doug Taylor, Master of the Spey Rod

Doug will be doing a talk and demonstration on using two-handed spey casting techniques with single-handed rods. Check out Doug at..

<http://www.tippetsandtales.com/tandtblog/2015/4/5/a-spey-journey-introduction>

Sign up for the Picnic by responding to the EVITE or let Yves Charron know by email at [treasurer@leewulfftu.org](mailto:treasurer@leewulfftu.org)

## Illinois Council TU Youth Fly Fishing and Conservation Camp



The Illinois Council of Trout Unlimited will again be holding its annual Conservation and Fly Fishing Camp on the banks of the famous Au Sable River in Michigan from July 24 to July 29.

Campers learn more about conservation and fly fishing in a week at camp than most of us learn in a lifetime. It is an enjoyable and educational experience. Participants will learn about many aspects of conservation and preserving cold water fisheries.

The fly fishing instruction includes fly casting (roll cast, overhead fly cast, false casting, shooting line, even the double haul!), fly tying, knots, basic entomology and what fish eat, reading the water, safe wading techniques, catch and release, leave-no-trace, and other outdoors and fly fishing related skills. Most importantly, camp is fun!!!

The camp accepts young men and women ages 13 through 18. The camp is all inclusive and provides transportation to and from the camp, food and lodging. Instruction is provided by Trout Unlimited volunteers, faculty from Midwestern Universities, and local professionals. All necessary gear is provided by the Illinois Council of Trout Unlimited for the campers to use while attending the camp.

Consider the Conservation and Fly Fishing Camp for your daughter, son, niece, nephew or grandkids. The camp cost includes round-trip transportation from Chicago, lodging, meals and equipment. The tuition fee is \$575 (comprised of a \$75 deposit at time of application [see link below] plus a \$500 remaining balance due one month before camp). Candidates should not send full tuition until notified of selection. If for some reason the

application is declined, the deposit will be refunded. For more information including an application, please see contact information below. Sponsorship is available for campers with financial need.

Willie Beshire, Camp Director

(630) 200-2532

[wbeshire@aol.com](mailto:wbeshire@aol.com)

Darwin Adams, Illinois Council President

(847) 828-1212

[darwinla4@gmail.com](mailto:darwinla4@gmail.com)

Camp application:

[http://ilcouncil.tu.org/sites/default/files/2016%20Camp%20Application\\_FINAL-1.pdf](http://ilcouncil.tu.org/sites/default/files/2016%20Camp%20Application_FINAL-1.pdf)

## **This from Bob Becker our Youth Program Director**

Our Trout in the classroom program at Dundee Middle School in Dundee has been going great. The baby trout are scheduled to be released on May 6<sup>th</sup> at the Kinnikinnick Creek Conservation Area near Rockford. The backup date in case of inclement weather is May 9<sup>th</sup>. We will meet at the school at 8am and drive from there to Rockford for the fish transfer. All are welcome to attend.

The So Fly program teaching fly fishing to Special ed kids from Dundee Middle School will be held on Wednesday evenings 4/27, 5/4, 5/11 and 5/18. The Wisconsin outing with them will be held on June 6th. We will have 10 kids in the program again this year so we still need some volunteers to keep a 1/1 ratio of kids to adults if we can. Contact Bob Becker at [viceprez@leewulfftu.org](mailto:viceprez@leewulfftu.org) if you can help.

## **Conservation**

The raffle is going well; there is still time to enter before the May 7 picnic. Don't miss out on a chance to win a Helios rod or a Lamson reel. We will be taking entries at the meeting too. See Jerry Sapp for tickets or dropping off your entry.

Jerry Sapp and Bob Becker recently attended the TUDARE Workshop in Westby. We met a lot of new people and gathered a lot of new ideas about our fundraising and projects. One suggested project in the Driftless is building stiles. If you would be interested see Jerry Sapp or Bob Becker at the meeting. You can also email me at [sapp375@aol.com](mailto:sapp375@aol.com).

We are still waiting on an answer from the DNR about placing brook trout in the ponds of Fox Bluff. I recently placed a phone call directly to the DNR Biologist and am awaiting a return call.

At the workshop we attended Oak brook chapter expressed an interest in helping with a macroinvertebrate study of the ponds. We will meet with them at the end of the month and take them to the site.

### **Orvis Yorktown Offers Free Fly Fishing Classes**

If you're looking for a great way to introduce fly fishing to a spouse, friend or other family member, the Orvis Fly Fishing 101 class is the perfect event to get started. All ages are welcome to attend the free class for novices, but those under 16 years of age must be accompanied by an adult. Participants will learn the fly casting basics and outfit rigging during the 9-11 am Saturday sessions held at the Orvis Yorktown store location.

Upon completion of the course, participants will receive special in-store offers valid toward the purchase of Orvis products and a Free Trout Unlimited membership—a \$35 value—for first-time members.

#### **Fly Fishing 101 Dates**

April: 16th, 23rd, 24th, 30th

May: 7th, 14th, 21st, 28<sup>th</sup>

June: 4th, 11th, 18th

July: 9th, 17th, 23rd, 30th

#### **Fly Fishing 201 Dates**

This class is ideal for graduates of Fly Fishing 101 or intermediate fly casters and will include a short outing on local water and a chance to catch your first fish!

May: 1st, 15th

June: 5th

Reserve your spot by calling the Orvis Yorktown store:  
(630) 932-6573

**For a quick update and info on Dam removal around Chicago see  
the Chicago Sun Times article below:**

## **Damn & dams: An update around Chicago outdoors (on dams)**

<http://chicago.suntimes.com/sports/damn-dams-an-update-around-chicago-outdoors-on-dams/>

## Trout Unlimited Founder, Art Neumann, passes away



March 21, 2016, Art Neumann passed away peacefully. He was 99 years old.

Art was one of the original 16 founders of Trout Unlimited when it was first organized in 1959 on the banks of the Au Sable River - at the home of George Griffith. He was the very first Vice President of TU and also their very first full time Executive Director. After returning from his military service he began the Rod Renew Shop, which later was called Wanigas Rod Co. (Saginaw spelled backwards!) Wanigas was known for decades for its fine custom fly-fishing rods and related tackle. He was a noted tool and die maker and retired from Eaton Manufacturing in Saginaw in 1971.

“What Art did was to build an institution--an institution that began with him and a handful of other people along the banks of the Au Sable River who were tired of the state's masking habitat degradation through stocking. Today, the "house that Art built" includes 400 chapters, over 155,000 members, and 240 scientists, biologists, and other professional staff who serve to make fishing, and the places that fish live, better”, - Chris Wood, President/CEO of Trout Unlimited.

“All of the founders played unique roles, some were the scientists, some the politicians, others the administrators and financiers. Among them, Art was the activist, orator, mobilizer, engager, recruiter, grassroots builder. His skills and passion for this work were essential to the organization’s success. TU would not be what it is today, and

would not have been able to do what it does for our coldwater fisheries if it were not for Art,” - Dr. Bryan Burroughs, Executive Director Michigan Trout Unlimited.

“Art lived a long life, built an institution to last, got to watch the seeds he planted grow, and left the world better than he found it. That’s a success, and a life worth celebrating. Rest in peace Art, rest in peace,” – John Walters, Chairman Michigan Trout Unlimited.

Art was inducted into the Fly Fishing Hall of Fame in 2008.

Art is known for penning the “Philosophy of Trout Unlimited”, which you can view online at, [www.michigantu.org/trout-unlimited-philosophy](http://www.michigantu.org/trout-unlimited-philosophy). Its best summarized by the saying, “Take care of the fish and the fishing will take care of itself”

## **Planned Lee Wulff Chapter Outings for 2016**

### **2016 Early Spring Outing April 29th-May 1st- Viroqua, WI**

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 has 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, Bishops Branch, Tainter Creek 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 21st 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](http://www.driftlessangler.com) 608/637-8779. Guide service is available from them as well as from the following guides.

Dave Barron, Jacquish Hollow Angler, 608-604-6690 dbarron@wicw.net  
Jim Bartelt, Spring Creek Specialties, 608-206-5651 jimbartelt@yahoo.com  
Rich Osthoff - 608/847-5192

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  
Wisconsin Atlas & Gazetteer by DeLorme.  
Viroqua is located approximately 2 hours northwest of Madison, WI on Route 14.

Also the same weekend in Viroqua...

### **This from Chris Barkley – Maker of Fine Fiberglass Rods**

I'm planning an event in conjunction with the Driftless Angler's 10th anniversary that I'm calling the **Coulee Conclave**. It will be held **April 29 through May 1, 2016** and will be focused on the Driftless Area's wonderful fishing opportunities in and around Viroqua, WI.

I have more details, including a sign up, lodging opportunities and other details. I have created a page on my website dedicated to this and will keep this thread updated as well. Please check back and stay tuned.

<http://cbarclayflyrods.com/coulee-conclave/>

### **2016 Fennimore Outing May 20th-22nd Outing/Fennimore, WI**

The second outing takes place in the Southwest part of Wisconsin, again in the Driftless Area. A block of rooms have been reserved at Napps Motel, 645 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Highway 18 East. This is on the east side of town on the south side of the street. We have reserved, 4 single rooms and 4 double rooms. Members are responsible for finding their own roommate, if they want one, and making their own reservations. Make sure to let them know that you are with the Lee Wulff Chapter of TU. Their phone number is 608-822-3226. Camping is not readily available however if you Google "camping in Grant County, WI", you will see there is some camping in the area, just not close to Fennimore. Fennimore is located approximately 1½ hours due west of Madison.

There are many great trout streams, with easy access, in this part of the state. Some to mention include The Big Green, Castle Rock, Doc Smith, Crooked Creek the Blue and Big Spring. These streams have sizeable trout populations and sizeable fish. There are no fly shops in the area so if you need anything shop before you arrive. If you are interested in a guide here are some that I would recommend;

Dave Barron, Jacquish Hollow Angler, 608-604-6690 dbarron@wicw.net

Jim Bartelt, Spring Creek Specialties, 608-206-5651 jimbartelt@yahoo.com  
Rich Osthoff, 608-847-5192  
Jim Romberg, Flyfisherman's Lair Guide Service, 608-822-3005

## **2016 Wa Wa Sum Outing June 8th-12<sup>th</sup> Grayling, MI**

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 and fabulous fishing *opportunities* on the Au Sable and Manistee Rivers. Wa Wa Sum lodge is located just east of Grayling and it takes approximately 7 hours to drive there from the Chicago area.

Michigan has two "free fishing weekends" per year and this year, while we are there, fishing on Saturday and Sunday do not require a license or trout stamp however, you will need a license and trout stamp to fish the other days while there. You can obtain your license and stamp on line or at one of the local fly shops.

The cost for this outing is estimated at \$325. A non-refundable deposit is of \$50 is required to reserve you spot and the balance is 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](http://www.gateslodge.com) 989/348-8462

Old Au Sable Fly Shop, [www.oldausable.com](http://www.oldausable.com) 989/343-3330

Fuller's North Branch Outing Club [www.fullersnboc.com](http://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](mailto:mchenryflyfisher@sbcglobal.net)

### **To those coming to Wa Wa Sum please note:**

From Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup> 2016 until at least August 1<sup>st</sup> 2016 the city of Grayling will be removing the old two lane bridge on North Down River Road over the East Branch of the AuSable River next to the Grayling Hatchery and building a new 4 lane bridge at that site. North Down River Road will be closed at that point for the next 6 months or longer. Those of you going to WaWaSum will need to take exit 254 off I-75/127 north then turn right at the first light onto M-72 (Huron St.). Drive East 7 miles to Stephan Bridge Road and turn left (north) on Stephan Bridge Road to North Down River Road then turn left (west), go 2 miles to Whirlpool road, turn left (south) for ¾ of a mile, turn left (east) on Wa Wa Sum Road to the lodge. Plus lots more construction in the area see below for more info:

<http://grayling-mi.com/pressreleases/2015/12/road-construction-springsummer-2016>

[http://www.nemcog.org/grayling\\_i75.asp](http://www.nemcog.org/grayling_i75.asp)

## **2016 Late Spring Outing/June 24th-26th/Viroqua, WI**

This is the fourth outing of the year. It takes place in one of the finest trout fishing areas of the Country known as the Driftless Area. A block of 6 rooms have been reserved at the Vernon Inn in Viroqua (Toll free: 800-501-0664). Let them know you're with the Lee Wulff group when you make your reservation. 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 Camp Creek to only mention a few. The early WI season is open only to catch and release fishing.

A group 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. Guide service is available by calling 608/637-8779.

Some other guides to consider are:

Dave Barron, Jacquish Hollow Angler, 608-604-6690 [dbarron@wicw.net](mailto:dbarron@wicw.net)

Jim Bartelt, Spring Creek Specialties, 608-206-5651 [jimbartelt@yahoo.com](mailto:jimbartelt@yahoo.com)

Rich Osthoff - 608/847-5192

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

Wisconsin Atlas & Gazetteer by DeLorme.

Viroqua is located approximately 2 hours northwest of Madison, WI on Route 14. Fly

## Bob Olach's Fly Of The Month

### *Orange Partridge Variations* (Variations)

In 1496 or thereabouts, Dame Juliana Berners, a nun and the Prioress at the Sopwell Nunnery near St. Albans, England wrote one of the earliest known books on fly fishing called: “*A Treatyse of Fysshynge wyth an Angle.*”

In Dame Berners’ book, a soft hackled fly now known as a *Partridge & Orange* (also as an *Orange Partridge*) was described and is often accepted as one of the first documented soft hackled trout flies known.

The most generally accepted dressing for this fly is the use of a silk thread and a brown-barred partridge hackle, but variations of this dressing can be made and successfully used in trout fishing waters.

Also, in many of the modern books and articles written on tying soft hackled dressings, there’s an opinion that the hackle windings should be slim and sparse, sometimes with only a dozen or so hackle barbules showing. But, in reviewing pictures of flies tied in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, the hackles tend to be noticeably longer and heavily wrapped than tiers tend to do today. In the flies shown below, I used 3 hackle turns of the brown-barred feathers from a Hungarian Partridge.

Additionally, there’s also a difference in opinion as to what silk is used and whether this dressing should be tied with Pearsall’s #6a (Gold) silk thread or Pearsall’s #19 (Hot Orange). My personal preference is to use Pearsall’s #6a silk for this dressing and to use the #19 silk when tying a *Grouse & Orange* dressing.



**Hook:** Daiichi #1550 – Size 12 – 14 wet fly hook  
**Body:** Pearsall Gossamer 6a – (Gold) Silk  
**Thorax:** Hare's Ear or Peacock Herl (Optional)  
**Ribbing:** Gold wire or tinsel (optional)  
**Hackle:** Brown Partridge Feather (from back of bird)



## Grumpy's Page by Kurt Haberl

The first outing of the year for our chapter members often does not go well. Several years the weather dipped to below freezing at night with wind and rain during the day. That prompted several members to run into the nearest hardware store for small electric space heaters and long extension cords, which they ran in their tents against all safety warnings, rules for self-reliance, and camping protocol. My best friend, Sch--z asked me not to name names because he was one of them, along with Bil-y B-b, who has every gadget ever made, and An-y Hincke--r, who is new to our group and doesn't know any better. I promised not to name those adolescent cubs, so I'm not going to name them. The outing last year turned into a disaster because Schnoz made camp stew from some recipe he clipped from an outdoor magazine that promised a dining adventure. It was terrible. It was worse than terrible. Four of us got sick. Mary Compson had sense enough to go home to be near a bathroom, but the rest of us stayed, mostly in our tents or banging on the door of the port-a-potty used only those few days before someone from the campground realized it was also a health hazard and had it towed away. A new one was there this year.

On the first afternoon of this year's outing, I had the bad luck of stepping in a hole made by some moo cow and sprained my ankle. I decided to spend the rest of the afternoon tending the fire, tying flies, reading about successful, fictional outings, and watching Schnoz make camp stew, which he said he had finally perfected.

It started with Schnoz lighting coals and making sure his five quart Dutch oven had been properly seasoned. He probably used motor oil or WD 40; I couldn't tell which. Then he browned little cubes of meat, poured in a quart or two of water, this time from some spring with mountain on the bottle, which means it was probably distilled from the Mississippi somewhere near Cairo, Illinois. Then he put in chunks of onions, a lot of baby carrots, and cubes of potatoes. At that point he remembered he needed flour or some kind of corn starch to thicken the juice and make the rest of us believe it was gravy, so he had to drive into town for it. That was a terrible mistake.

As soon as he left, Roy the plumber sauntered over and reminded me that he and I both got sick on Schnoz's stew last year.

"Are you going to eat it this year?" I asked innocently.

"I have a plan," he said. "Food poisoning can be killed two ways. One is by heat. 165 degrees is generally enough. I can't control that. The other way is by alcohol."

Before I could say anything, he poured half a quart of Jim Beam whiskey into the pot.

"Um, I don't think--"

“It’ll be great,” Roy said. “Nothing flavors stew better than a little bourbon.” Then he disappeared.

Soon Dry Curtis came over, and I remembered to call him Dry Curtis because he hadn’t fallen in the stream yet this year.

“Where’s Schnoz?” he said.

“He went into town for flour.”

“Good.” Curtis pulled the lid off the Dutch oven with a pliers, and emptied a bottle of Tabasco into it. “It will both improve the taste, put some flavor into the bland stew we had last year, and kill any little bugs left over from Schnoz’s cooking deficiencies. I’m going to take The General for a walk. Don’t say anything to Schnoz.”

“At this point, what would I say?”

Dry Curtis was followed by Billy Bob, who had ordered some kind of magic spices from Texas, which he called Amarillo Powder, but I suspected was Armadillo Powder, and finally, Andy Hinckeler, who asked for permission to put a little pepper into the stew for flavor.

“Be my guest,” I said.

When Mary came over after the sun had left the stream and any hatches had faded, I asked her if she was going to be the only one who didn’t add something to the stew.

“Oh, my,” she said, and after a minute’s thought, added, I have some sour cream in my cooler I was going to use for chip dip and some milk for coffee in the morning. If we water the stew down to volcano strength with some water and add the sour cream or milk, we might be able to eat it.”

“You first,” I said.

Within the hour, Schnoz had returned, added corn starch to thicken his stew, put in more than a pinch of pepper for taste, and announced, “Dinner is served.”

Mary and I went first, dipping a ladle of stew into our bowls, adding water and sour cream and stirring it a little to see what it did to our plastic spoons. Seeing that the spoons did not melt, we took bites. It was terrible. It tasted like overcooked beef in creek water, bourbon, Tabasco, two kinds of pepper, armadillo, and corn starch. I ate a couple of more bites, just to be sure. Yes, it was terrible. Then Mary and I sat back to watch the others, each of whom had added his secret ingredient and was somehow invested in the stew.

“This is pretty good,” Roy said first. “I detect just a hint of bourbon. Well done.”

“There’s no bourbon,” Schnoz said, “But I did perfect the recipe.”

“I like the Tabasco,” Dry Curtis said.

“Huh?” Schnoz said.

“I like the pepper,” Andy said. Billy Bob didn’t mention his secret ingredient.

“Tell me this isn’t the best stew you’ve ever had,” Schnoz boasted. No one said anything. They ate like teen-agers with plates full of peas and cauliflower, rather like nibbling.

“Do you mind if I give some to The General,” Dry Curtis said. “He likes beef.”

“Well, there seems to be plenty left,” Schnoz noticed, “so I guess it’s okay.”

Curtis put his own bowl down for his fishing dog, and watched as The General lapped up a good portion. Then all of a sudden, the poor black lab quit lapping, made a sound kind of like a cat, and then ran off howling toward the stream. In the dark we heard a lot of splashing. Everyone went to bed early that night, but I don't think anyone stayed there. I dreamed that I heard the door to the port-a-potty open and slam at least a dozen times. In the morning no one wanted any breakfast, but they drank a lot of coffee. Schnoz's stew had somehow disappeared.

I knew it was going to be a great fishing season. I knew that because there was nowhere for the season to go but up.

## **THE TESTAMENT OF A FISHERMAN**

*Robert Traver 1964, (Judge John Voelker 1903-91)*

I fish because I love to;

Because I love the environs where trout are found, which are invariably beautiful, and hate the environs where crowds of people are found, which are invariably ugly;

Because of all the television commercials, cocktail parties, and assorted social posturing I thus escape;

Because, in a world where most men seem to spend their lives doing things they hate, my fishing is at once an endless source of delight and an act of small rebellion;

Because trout do not lie or cheat and cannot be bought or bribed or impressed by power, but respond only to quietude and humility and endless patience;

Because I suspect that men are going along this way for the last time, and I for one don't want to waste the trip; because mercifully there are no telephones on trout waters;

Because only in the woods can I find solitude without loneliness;

Because bourbon out of an old tin cup always tastes better out there;

Because maybe one day I'll catch a mermaid;

And, finally, not because I regard fishing as being so terribly important but because I suspect that so many of the other concerns of men are equally unimportant- and not nearly so much fun.

## Chapter Officers

<b>President</b>	<b>Meg Gallagher</b> <b>prez@leewulfftu.org</b>
<b>Vice-President</b>	<b>Bob Becker</b> <b>viceprez@leewulfftu.org</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Matt Gregory</b> <b>MGreg53862@aol.com</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Yves Charron</b> <b><u><a href="mailto:treasurer@leewulfftu.org">treasurer@leewulfftu.org</a></u></b>

### Newsletter Editor

**Dennis Higham**  
**dennishigham@sbcglobal.net**

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

PPS: You Are Welcome.