



Fly Lines and By-Lines

Lee Wulff Chapter of Trout Unlimited - A local chapter of America's leading nonprofit organization committed to the conservation, protection, and restoration of North American coldwater fisheries and their watersheds.

See us at: <http://www.leewulfftu.org>

February 2015 President's Message

Well everyone, here we are in February. Cold & wintery, and monotonous. I'm not making any comments about spring this year yet ! I was at the Orvis store in Lombard this week and one of the staff was preparing their newsletter. He said he was going to begin by writing that February is probably the longest month out of the year for fly fisherman. I agree. There have, however, been some great shows and events in and around the area already.

I attended the Southwest WI Trout Unlimited Icebreaker in January and had a terrific time! The raffle items were excellent . There were dozens of displays, a whole room dedicated to fly tying, and a wonderful guest speaker, Mike Lawson from Henry's Fork Anglers in Idaho. This year was particularly educational, and I walked out with many new fly patterns I'm anxious to try. I trust everyone has received the e-blast about the upcoming Badger Fly Fishers Spring Opener on February 14 in Wisconsin.

Also for the first time, Trout Unlimited National held its first annual banquet in Chicago!! The event was January 21 at The Racquet Club of Chicago. Jen Ripple was on the host committee and they pulled off a great party and dinner! I believe there are rumors they may hold the banquet here again in the future!

Three out of four of our local chapter presidents attended. I was able to meet Darwin Adams of the Gary Borger chapter and Jeff Goad of the Elliott Donnelley chapter. Also in attendance were Duke Welter, Trout Unlimited, Wisconsin, Bill Wobbekind, conservation co-chair Elliott Donnelley and previous president of the Illinois TU council, and also Dan Needham of Chicago, IL, T.U. National board of trustees. We all spoke enthusiastically about a number of issues, and I was delighted to be able to network and connect with our fellow chapter presidents. We also touched on the subject of the challenges we were facing at the Illinois council level.

As some of you may know since the banquet, Darwin Adams, president of the Gary Borger chapter, stepped forward as our new chair for the Illinois Council. We are all very excited about this progress and look forward to reconnecting at the council level after almost 2 years.

Many of T.U national's representatives were present, including Chris Wood, president of T.U. National. Chris gave a motivating speech and was extremely complimentary of the Trout Unlimited activities in the Midwest. He personally named each of the Illinois chapter presidents attending that evening and thanked each of us for all the hard work we do. That reflects highly of the great work you all are doing for this chapter. I want to thank all of you as well.

Also our board met in January. We covered many topics, and I am proud to announce we approved our budget as well as allocation of funds. The board meeting minutes will be in the newsletter, and the budget information is available to anyone who is interested upon request. Please contact Scott Roane (royalwulff01@yahoo.com) or Meg (flyfisher619@gmail.com) if you would like more information.

Please also be on the lookout for a survey that you will see coming your way soon. It's a Monkey survey about ways to improve our WaWaSum outing and attendance. I hope that everyone will take the time to fill it out, because input from our members is the only way to improve this outing. We want to make the trip more desirable to everyone. Our attendance at WaWaSum has dwindled dramatically in the past couple of years. We are very lucky to have an annual reservation in such a precious gem of a location, and WaWaSum is a long tradition for Lee Wulff! We cannot afford to lose this rare privilege folks!

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible for our next meeting!
Stay warm! Meg

Our February Speaker Captain Will Winans



Captain Will Winans grew up along the Kankakee River in Illinois. He has been active in the fly fishing industry in the Midwest with Chicago Fly Fishing Outfitters for 10 years and more recently, is owner and guide of Big River Fly Fishing, a guide service specializing in drift boat trips for smallmouth bass in Illinois.

Captain Winans will be giving an overview of the seasons on the Kankakee River (in Illinois) as they correspond to the fishery. He will touch on some of the river's history, including the once Grand Kankakee Marsh, and some environmental concerns that relate to the draining of the Marsh and land use practices.

Captain Will Winans
Big River Fly Fishing
453 N. Aberdeen St. #1
Chicago, IL 6064
www.bigriverfly.com
815-263-2776



Where We Meet

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

Social Hour: 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. with 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 Scott Roane at royalwulff01@yahoo.com by Tuesday Feb. 17th so we know how many pizzas to preorder.

Dreading the Winter doldrums, the snow, the cold, the long weekends with no fishing?? Here's a few upcoming fishing events.

Jerry Sapp from Lee Wulff will teach Fly tying classes starting on Tuesday Feb. 13th at Cabela's in Hoffman Estates. Class runs from 6 to 8 pm every Tuesday.

Classes will continue through March. This year we are using a different camera and hopefully things will be clearer.

Schedule:

Feb. 10 Muddler minnow

Feb. 17 Sparkle pupa caddis emerger

Feb. 24 Hellgrammite nymph and other smallmouth flies

Mar. 3 Elk hair caddis

Mar. 10 Double Bunny streamers

Mar. 17 Hoppers with a twist

Mar. 24 Ants and Crickets

Mar. 31 Deer hair spinning demonstration

Spring 2015

FLY FISHING OPENER



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2015



SPONSORED BY THE BADGER FLY FISHERS,
MADISON, WI • www.badgerflyfishers.org
8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. plus evening banquet



ATTRACTIONS

- Commercial exhibits of the latest and finest in fly fishing equipment
- Raffles, and lively auction
- Fly tying demonstrations

LOCATION

American Family Insurance
Training Center
6000 American Parkway
Madison, WI

FEATURED SPEAKER

Craig Mathews - Fly Fisher, Fly Tier, Guide and Author

- Fishing Yellowstone Hatches
- Tenkara
- Yellowstone!! (Evening Banquet)

About Craig Mathews

Craig Mathews came to West Yellowstone, Montana in 1979 and became the town's police chief, his wife Jackie a police dispatcher. In 1980 they founded Blue Ribbon Flies employing handicapped fly tiers and tying flies wholesale for major retail outlets. In 1982 Craig retired from police work and Blue Ribbon Flies opened up their first full-line retail store.

THE INTERNATIONAL FLY FISHING FESTIVAL

The International Fly Fishing Film Festival consists of short and feature length films by professional filmmakers from all corners of the globe. Showcasing the passion, lifestyle and culture of fly-fishing, these films capture the attention of anglers around the world. This is a must see! On February 25th, A Tight Loop Magazine and Dun Magazine bring this feature film to our area. You do not want to miss this! Tickets and trailers available online: www.ChicagoFishingFilms.com

When: February 25th. Doors open at 6:00 pm,
Movie starts at 7:00 pm

Where: Star Cinema Grill, 53 S. Evergreen
Arlington Heights, IL 60005

Tickets: \$15.00 online, \$18.00 at the door
(IF AVAILABLE).

**THIS SHOW WILL MOST LIKELY SELL OUT
BEFORE THE SHOW**

**The Northern Illinois Fly Tyers (NIFTY) is sponsoring a fly tying class with
Dennis Potter. Here is information on the class and enrollment.**

Event: Dennis Potter Fly Tying Class

Date: Saturday, March 7, 2015 9:30am - 4:00pm

Location: Cabela's store in Hoffman Estates, IL (5225 Prairie Stone Parkway).

Dennis Potter is a well known and highly skilled fly tying instructor. He'll demonstrate and help students in this class tie four unique fly patterns, plus explain in detail the tying techniques needed for them. In this class he'll emphasize tying proportions and durability. All of the tying skills learned in the class are applicable to all of your fly tying.

All tying materials and lunch will be provided. Students to bring their own tying tools, vise, threads, etc.

Students enrolling in the class must be experienced fly tiers that have the ability to properly tie a parachute dry fly or comparable pattern. This is not a beginners "how to" class.

Cost is \$80.00 per person payable in advance of the class.

To register or inquire about the class contact Dick Dragiewicz at
obiobiobi@ameritech.net

HERE IS WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN ASKING FOR A CHANCE TO HELP!

Work day on the upper West Fork of the Kickapoo with Blackhawk chapter . We will be clearing brush and removing beaver dams on Sat. April 11. A previous note on Face book indicated a week earlier but the date was changed. Blackhawk chapter will provide food. The only equipment necessary are boots and gloves. Hopefully a backhoe will be available to take out the dams but just in case a pole with a hook or grip at one end would be helpful to bring along.

I will have room for 3 in my van going up on Friday the 8 th. Interested give me a call at 847 284 4824.

Jerry Sapp

ANNOUNCEMENT! MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW!

MAY 15-17 LEE WULFF CHAPTER OUTING FENWAY HOUSE HOTEL, FENNIMORE, WI

Room rates: \$74-\$84/night. If we can guarantee 10 rooms we all will receive the group discount of 10% . Cancellation policy: 24 hours

Rooms vary in size and # of beds. There are 6 double bed rooms. A couple of the other rooms have jacuzzi's available (\$84/night). There is one room available with 2 rooms, including a living space and kitchen for \$99.00/night.

Dinner will be held Saturday night May16 at the hotel. We anticipate a guest speaker for the evening.

To guarantee your room, the hotel recommends booking by April 15. After April 15 the hotel will be opened to the public for any remaining rooms.

Call 1-608-822-3782 or email reservations@thesilentwoman.com

Thanks, Meg Gallagher, chapter president

Minutes From The Jan 22nd Lee Wulff Board Meeting

January 22nd, 2015 LWTU Board meeting from approximately 6:42 pm to 8:01 pm

In attendance: Meg Gallagher (Pres.), Dennis Higham (Newsletter), Jerry Sapp (VP)-via conference call for Conservation, Scott Roane (Treasurer), Matt Gregory (Secretary), Gordon Rudd, and Pete Koenig.

For 2014 Christmas party (Fundraising banquet) finals

- Need to start looking for corporate donations and gift cards now while still in companies' budgets for the year (tend to be used up when we start asking late in year).
- Set up pre-pay for party to avoid plate charges for "no shows? Potentially have cost of \$35.00 for pre-pay and \$40.00 at door? Still in thought process.
- Pete can use some help with donations and people helping to ask around at places they frequent for potential gift cards and donations (restaurants, golf clubs, etc.).

Treasurer report/ Allocation of Funds:

- Meg and Scott worked on a new format for tracking monies and to also better reflect the AFR filing with TU to make it easier for future treasurers. Scott finalized the format that was discussed and reviewed by the board.
- Allocations now also set up for Operation, Conservation, Trout in the Classroom, and Reserve. Board reviewed the new budget and Meg brought to a vote; board voted to accept (unanimously).
- Board agreed to start spending the monies the Chapter has in Conservation savings before trying to raise any more money for conservation- try to "cycle" it better.

Newsletter Report:

- Not covered.

Dinner/ Chapter Meetings/ Locations:

- Not covered except in budget.

Membership/ Committees/ Chapter Goals:

- Committees "OK" at current. Some potential candidates discussed with pros and cons and how the Chapter would like to best see things handled.

Conservation Report by Jerry via conference call:

- Weister creek moving along, have gotten needed approvals and resources. Blackhawk heading and will be setting up future workdays.
- Jerry wanted to pursue looking into Kinnikinnic creek near Rockford for possible local work Lee Wulff can do- 1 mile restoration, involve other local chapters (?). Board given OK to pursue.
- Jerry also looking into another local project near Fox river where ponds could be cleaned, dredged, and possibly made into trout ponds close to home. Predominantly need labor to clean up, given OK to look into further.

Outings / Chapter Events:

- Looking for potential May picnic options- to hold on a Saturday or Sunday? Need to avoid Mother's Day and the spring outing. Still in discussion.
- Discussed possible ways to make workdays more attractive (transportation, get deal/ discount for members at local hotels). Still an item to be considered.
- Wa Wa Sum questionnaire from Gordon reviewed and approved. Want to try to get more interest in again (has waned over last few years- why?).

Web Status/ Report:

- Only mentioned in budget for maintenance. Up and running well (new site).
- Could add products for Lee Wulff down the road (name badges?).

Youth Committee/ Programs:

- New chiller needed for Trout in Classroom, discussed in budget.

Miscellaneous / Open discussion:

- Want to be sure that Conservation is the priority for the Lee Wulff chapter.
- Discussed the idea of selling the Lee Wulff name badges for donations of varying levels to the Chapter- possibly have different fundraising levels. Need to check if Mark OK with doing the badges if a go. Could start up next September (?).
- Discussed that it can be better to follow on a project than to head (Wisconsin not close, liabilities).

Speaker listing / update:

- Not covered.

Bob Olach's Fly Of the Month

Red Ass Soft Hackles

Decided to tie some other variations of this fly based on some pics I've seen on various sites. I used to tie the Red Ass quite a few years ago but have forgotten which dressing that I used.

The two flies with the peacock thorax and the green bead thorax were tied using red Pearsall Gossamer silk since I want the thread to darken when wet to highlight the red wire ribbing. (Silk threads tend to darken when wet).

The fly tied with a peacock body was tied with red Danville 6/0 Flymaster thread since I wanted the red butt to show when wet and not to darken.

You'll notice some red thread showing over the green bead. When I tie any bead thoraxed dressing, I do a thread build up behind the bead; do a whip finish behind the bead and then pull the thread over the bead to tie in the hackle (I'm too lazy to cut the thread after the "behind whip finish knot").



Here's the info on three Red Ass Soft Hackles flies, as I tie them:

Red Ass Soft Hackles

Hook – Daiichi #1550 wet fly hook (sizes 12 - 16)

Thread – Red Pearsall Gossamer Silk or Danville 6/0

Thorax – Peacock herl or a bead

Body – Green peacock with red wire ribbing or red Pearsall Gossamer silk with red wire ribbing.

Hackle – Grey Partridge



Grumpy's Page by Kurt Haberl

Cabin fever is a terrible thing. I didn't need an excuse to get out of the house, and Schnoz's call for help was more than an excuse. He was in bad shape. I saw it even before I got to his door. He had been shoveling his sidewalk from the recent eight-inch snow blanketing, and two-thirds of the way across his frontage, he had stopped and put up a sandwich-board. One side read in six-inch letters: I AM NOT RESPONSIBLE BEYOND THIS POINT FOR ACTS OF GOD. The other side read: THIS STRETCH OF SIDEWALK IS A WINTER BOOT TESTING SITE. PUT 10 CENTS IN THE ATTACHED CAN AND TEST YOUR BOOTS.

Some crazy person had walked across the deep snow and put a dime in the can. It was probably Schnoz himself, just priming the pump. Cabin fever is a terrible thing.

When I got to the door, I was met by his wife, and I said, "Hi, Hul-" but she cut me off rather curtly and said, "Grumpy, when does trout season open?"

"The first weekend of March," I said.

She sighed and rolled her eyes. "I don't know if I can make it until then. He's back in that firetrap he calls his den. Don't let him burn the house down. I'm going to my sister's. Good luck."

Huldy slipped past me, and I went in. He was in his lair as she said, but I had to scan carefully to find him. Two walls were pinned with fishing posters, some so old the corners were curling. One wall was taken up with books on fishing. The last wall was a collage with pictures of Schnoz and fish, Schnoz and friends, Schnoz and the police, and Schnoz and fishing gear. A worktable in the center of the room was piled high with books, several layers of open maps, a fly-tying vise, plastic snowshoes, an unopened box about the size of a college kid's dorm refrigerator, and a pile of fuzz that looked like he had emptied a vacuum cleaner bag next to the maps.

"Good, you're finally here," Schnoz said from beyond the vacuum cleaner pile.

"What are you doing?"

"The season opens in only 24 days, 16 hours, and 12 minutes. I'm getting ready. I've finished phases one and two, and now I'm moving on to phase three."

"Does it include removing the snow from your sidewalk out front?"

"No, that was just for fun. I got bored."

"Someone put a dime in your can."

"Damn," he said. "I started with twenty cents. Kids these days...."

"Tell me about phase one."

He spread his arms wide as if announcing the pile of fuzz in front of him was gold bullion.

"I went through all of my flyboxes and removed every fly that did not catch a fish for me last year."

"So you have three flies left?"

“Very funny. The point is that it’s useless to carry around flies that don’t produce. I’m putting them in a kind of grab bag to give to Andy Hook, Line and Sinker. “

“You want him to put his hand into a bag of hooks and fuzz?”

“He’s a newbie. It will be a good experience for him, and he’ll get dozens of perfectly good flies.”

“That have never caught a fish.”

“Not yet. With beginner’s luck, he could clean out a pool.”

“Okay, so phase one was to clean out your flyboxes. What was phase two?”

“Just look. I’ve been going through fishing memoirs, DNR publications, and even the funny books on fishing mishaps. I’ve found 11 streams within a two hours’ drive that we’ve never fished. I’ve searched maps high and low. Uncharted waters. We’ll have more secret spots than Huldy has pet peeves.”

“But you gave her all those pet peeves.”

“Well, I’ve worked hard at it. I always say, if you’re going to fail, fail big, and that’s as good as success.”

“Schnoz, that’s crazy talk.”

“Come on, let’s go explore. I’ve marked the nearest stream on my map. Let’s have a look.”

“Wait a second. Don’t you remember our exploration last year? Huldy put Herbie the tow truck driver on retainer, and he had to pull us out of three jams before we figured out he was just tailing us. It was embarrassing.”

Then Schnoz winked at me and said, “Not this year. Ta-da!” and he turned the large box around to show me he had bought a rechargeable winch capable of pulling any car out of a ditch.

“All powered-up and ready to go. That’s not all,” he said. “Do you remember how I got stuck in the mud when I waded into that pool by the old bridge? Well, look,” he added and held up his new plastic snowshoes. “If they work on snow, they’re sure to work on mud and moss banks. I’ll be able to wade through anything. Even sandy and stony stream bottoms will seem like a carpeted floor when I’m supported by these babies.”

He gathered his snowshoes, the top map on his pile, and headed out the door, leaving the 400 pound winch for me to carry.

“Man, this is heavy,” I complained. “Why don’t we unroll the strap, hitch it to your car, and have it winch itself out the door?”

“No time for that. Huldy will be back from her sister Attila’s by three, and I don’t want her to think we’ve gotten into any trouble. Besides, it only weighs 40 pounds. You’re packing more than that around your middle.”

I started an appropriate comment about his proboscis, but he was already out the door. Forty-five minutes and three turn-arounds later, we found ourselves at an “X” on his map that marked a new secret spot.

“Only the DNR knows about this one,” he said, but it looked suspiciously like a place where we had been towed by Herbie a year ago. A tractor path led down an embankment to a narrow run with wide riffles below it. Schnoz struggled into his waders, then his boots, and then his snowshoes. He looked abominable.

“Should I call Huldy?” I said innocently.

“Ha!” he answered.

I watched him trudge down the path, and it looked like his snowshoes worked pretty well. I walked to the bridge to mark the spot where he would go under. It was a beautiful run, if

narrow, and somewhat muddy. He raised his fists in the air and stepped into the cold, black water. Immediately the current caught his snowshoes, twisted him around and flung him back on the bank.

“They’re working great,” he called to me. “I just need a little practice.”

He stumbled over some rocks, stepped into a long strip of mud, and – almost immediately – began to sink.

“It’s not working,” he called back to me. “The mud seeps too much through the holes and around the sides. I’m sinking.”

“Do the wicked witch thing at the end of The Wizard of Oz,” I called back. “You know, ‘I’m melting!’ and then you kind of slither down until you’re gone.”

“No, really, I’m sinking,” he said, now up to mid-thigh.

“Can I have your new rod?” I called back.

“No. Get me out.”

I found the remains of a sapling, scooted down the embankment and held it out to him. It served only to pull him forward and fill up his waders with frigid water, and then it snapped. He was now in water over his waist.

“The winch! Use the winch.”

I scrambled back up to the car, got the winch out of its box, unwound the strap and took it down to him so he could hold on to the end. Then I scuttled back up to the car to hook it to his bumper, but it was about four feet too short.

“Where are your keys?” I called.

“In my pocket. Under water. Hurry up.” He was now in water just under his armpits.

I ran with the winch over to the bridge, wrapped its hook and tether around a girder and turned it on. The whine told me it was working and I began to feed the strap slowly around its capstan. It seemed to take forever before the strap finally tightened and I saw Schnoz slowly emerging from the mud and water. It pulled him up the bank and then he let go, struggling to get on his feet. He looked like a whale, dripping muck, water, and remains from last year’s aquatic vegetation.

“Um, that worked pretty well,” I said.

The snowshoes were gone. He only had one boot. I could see him shivering as he struggled out of his waders, ran up the bank in stocking feet and jumped into the car, turning it on and throwing the heat up to high. I picked up his muddy waders and dumped the water out, then retrieved his single boot and the winch.

I could tell it was going to be a good year. There’s nothing like getting out as an antidote to cabin fever.

"Three-fourths of the Earth's surface is water, and one-fourth is land. It is quite clear that the good Lord intended us to spend triple the amount of time fishing as taking care of the lawn."

~ *Chuck Clark*

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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.