



## February 2016 Vice-President's Message

Greetings fellow Lee Wulff chapter members. Here's hoping you've all been able to fight this winter's doldrums by tying, reading or just hibernating. For those of you that are venturing out into the winter fray, I wish you great success. Burrrr!

Our chapter meeting last month that featured Duke Welter from TUDARE and Mick McCorcle, chairman of TU National Leadership Council was a resounding success. It was one of the best attended chapter meetings we've had in a long time so I thank you all for that. Not only were we given great insight to the inner workings of TU from Mick but Duke also provided a fantastic program about the Driftless area from history to biology to past and future work projects. He even gave us some insight as to his favorite flies and suggestions on where to fish.

This month's guest is Jason Randall, freelance writer for American Angler and author of fly fishing classics to be Moving Water, Feeding Time and Trout Sense. Jason is a local guy residing in Woodstock, Illinois and is actually a member of our chapter...how lucky are we?! He will be doing a presentation on "Where Trout Are" which should help us on those days when we're standing stream side wondering the same. This is another can't miss presentation!

Have a great February and pray for an early Spring. See you all at the meeting on the 18th. Meg will be back in March to share some insight in fishing the Southwest.

Thanks,  
Bob

## February Speaker – Jason Randall



Jason Randall has been an outdoor writer for the last ten years with feature articles appearing regularly in *American Angler*, *Fly Fisherman*, *Eastern Fly Fishing*, *Northwest Fly Fishing* and many other outdoor magazines. He will be doing a presentation on "Where Trout Are".

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.

In July 2014, the third book in the 'Fly Fisher's Guide' trilogy was released- *Trout Sense; A Fly Fisher's Guide to What Trout See, Hear and Smell*, which offers anglers an opportunity to know more about the quarry they seek.

**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 [yvesjcharron@aol.com](mailto:yvesjcharron@aol.com) (847-596-0231) by Tuesday February 16<sup>th</sup> so we know how many pizzas to preorder.**

## **Upcoming TU Meetings**

### **March Chapter Meeting - March 17, 2016**

Rich Ostoff will be presenting, more details to follow.

### **April Chapter Meeting - April 21, 2016**

Jim Romberg will be presenting, more details to follow.

### **May Chapter Meeting - To Be Announced**

Our May Chapter Meeting will be a family picnic. Date and location to be announced

## **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](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.

### **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](mailto:dbarron@wicw.net)

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

## **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.

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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 Tying Class - January 5, 2016 to March 29, 2016**

Fly tying classes are starting once again at Cabela's in Hoffman Estates. The sessions will be held on Tuesdays at 6 PM beginning January 5 and will continue through March 29. This is a teaching class and all levels of fly tiers are welcome. TU members will be there to help with individual instruction. Classes are free and all necessary tools and materials are provided by Cabela's.

Tying Schedule:

February 23 - Scuds

March 1 - Lead Wing Coachman and Turkey Marabou Tail

March 8 - Beadhead Flashback Epoxy Pheasant Tail

March 15 - Stoneflies

March 22 - Pink Squirrel and Deaf Man's Emerger

March 29 - Seno's Wiggle Stone

## **Wisconsin Expanded Early Season**

MADISON, Wis. - An expanded early trout season that opened Jan. 2 will give Wisconsin anglers one more reason to love winter.

While ice fishing will still rule the day on most inland waters, rivers and streams with strong groundwater flows should be open and ready to greet anglers interested in catching and releasing trout. The expanded early catch and release trout season runs from 5 a.m. on Jan. 2 until Friday May 6, 2016 on waters where the early season currently exists. The regular trout season opens Saturday, May 7, 2016.

## **The 2016 DRiFT Fly Fishing Auction is coming soon...please help spread the word!**

**Who:** Dupage River Fly Tiers

**What:** 23rd Annual Fly Fishing Auction

**Where:** VFW Post 2801, 39 E St Charles Rd, Villa Park IL 60181

**When:** Saturday, February 20th, 2016

Registration and Preview start at 10:30 am - Auction starts at 11:30 am

New and used Fly Fishing gear & discounts available for bidding include fishing outings, fly rods, fly reels, fly lines, flies, waders, boots, bags, books, DVD's, fly tying materials, vises, tools, and more.

**Free Admission and Free Pizza during Intermission**

## **Long Cold Winter coming? Here are a few upcoming Shows to keep you busy this winter:**

### **The Rockford Boat, Vacation & Fishing Show**

February 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>, 2016

Indoor Sports Center

8800 E. Riverside Blvd.

Loves Park, IL 61111

<http://www.landroproductions.com/boat-vacation-fishing/>

### **TroutFest '16 Central Wisconsin Trout Unlimited**

Date: February 27, 2016

Location: Fin 'N Feather, Winneconne, WI

Sponsor: Central Wisconsin Trout Unlimited



[www.cwtu.org](http://www.cwtu.org)

### **Madison Fishing Expo**

**Date:** February 26 – 28, 2016

**Location:** Alliant Energy Center, Madison, WI

**Sponsor:** Wisconsin Fishing Expo

**Speakers:** TBA Big outdoors/fishing show with limited fly fishing vendors/programs.

<http://wifishingexpo.com/>

### **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/>

Here is a good list of lodging options in the area:

<http://www.driftlessangler.com/lodging-s/lodging-options-s>

Keep in mind though, there is a Jersey Cow show there Friday/Saturday so rooms will book fast. If you think you'll make it, call for reservations SOON!





## Bob Olach's Fly Of The Month

### *Orange & Peacock Spider (Variation)*

There's a Scottish Fly Tyer named Davie McPhail who has (probably) hundreds of YouTube videos (<https://www.youtube.com/user/DavieMcPhail/videos>) including a recent video on tying a "*Peacock & Orange Wet Fly Spider*".

When I first played the video, I immediately liked it due to: (1) – It was a soft hackle / UK-style Spider; and (2) – One of the materials used was the same Peacock / Orange UNI – Mylar that I use in tying various Flashback nymphs.

In Davie McPhail's video, he uses a black wire for the ribbing. I don't have any black wire on hand so I decided that a silver wire might add a little more "flash" to the fly. Also, when I tried to use a size #14 Mylar, I couldn't get the Mylar to fold down flat without a small hump. When I switched to a size #16 Mylar, I found it a little easier to get a smoother body.

Here's a link to Davie McPhail video on tying his original Orange & Peacock Wet Fly Spider: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gP0hoz\\_RGzo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gP0hoz_RGzo)



Here's the dressing for the flies shown:

### ***Peacock & Orange Spider (Variation)***

**Hook** – Daiichi 1550 or Mustad 3906 wet fly hook (sizes 14 – 18)

**Thread** – Black UNI-thread 6/0

**\*Body** – UNI-Mylar Peacock / Orange – Size #14 or #16

**Small Thorax** (optional) – Black Tying Thread

**Ribbing** – Small or X-Small Black or Silver ULTRA-Wire

**Hackle** – Black Hen

\* Watch the video closely to see how to use the same piece of the double – sided Mylar to make the body. I made 3 to 3 ½ wraps of the Mylar's orange side at the end of the hook shank, flipped the Mylar over to the Peacock green side and then wrapped the rest of the body before making the wire rib and tying in the black hen hackle.



## **Grumpy's Page by Kurt Haberl**

“Did you bring your vest?” Schnoz asked when I entered the sanctum he calls his den and Huldy calls his hovel. He had cleared his worktable of everything, including his multiple glass aquarium cages that he had used to house cockroaches, leeches, and maggots because he thought they were stoneflies, scuds, and nymphs. I don't know how he got rid of them, and he wouldn't tell me, so I suspect the police will get involved eventually or Huldy will call Pest Control.

His vest lay in a heap in front of him, looking like a GI's combat pack with bulging pockets and things clipped on, hanging on, or tied on with spring-loaded zingers, plastic slinkies, Velcro, and split rings forced through loops.

“Are you ready to go fishing, I mean if the weather breaks tomorrow?” he asked.

“Tomorrow, Schnoz? There's four inches of snow and ice still on the ground with a high of 23 degrees every day this week. I'm not fishing until it hits 40.”

“Lee Wulff would be ashamed of you.”

“Lee Wulff wouldn’t be sitting here looking at his gear.”

“True. Nevertheless, I want to show you what I’ve acquired over the winter so you can admire it, feel jealous, and up your game a little, so you won’t embarrass yourself out on the stream. If you can’t fish, you can at least get your cool stuff ready.”

“I have lots of cool stuff,” I said.

“Let’s see. I invited you over to have a “show-off.” Let’s see what you’ve got. I’ll start with something simple.”

He pulled at one of his zingers, caught the tag end of a tippet in his brass knot-tying tool, and with a few twists, had a very neat knot.

“It’s the Davy knot,” he said, “the smallest, strongest, most efficient knot you can tie. I got it from the YouTube. My knot tier does it perfectly.”

I took my own brass tool, caught some tippet, and with a few more twists, had an even better knot.

“This is a Double-Davy knot,” I said, “even stronger.”

“Well, look at this.” He put on some sunglasses, then turned on his tying lamp to compensate. “Sunglasses with built-in half-moon magnifiers,” he said, and used a tweezers to get a tiny Griffith’s gnat from his midge box. With his tongue lolling out of his mouth to one side, and his long nose acting like a telescope to sight the eye of his little fly, he threaded it on the tippet after only three tries.

“Ha,” I said and pulled at one of my own zingers, matched his tiny fly, put it in the magnetic notch of my new threader, and on the first try, ran a tippet down its groove and through the tiny eye.

“Where did you get that?” he said. I saw the first signs of frustration beading his brow.

“I picked it up somewhere out there on the internet. You should be able to find one, but it will probably take two weeks.”

“Ha, well, look at this.” He pulled a piece of fluorescent polypropylene from one of his pockets, used a little threader to pull a loop through a tiny tube and then snugged the tippet. “New Zealand strike indicator,” he said. “See, you can move it up and down the leader depending on how deep you want the fly to run.”

“What if the day is windy?” I said, fluffing the brightly-colored tufts, “It would be like trying to cast a butterfly. Look at this.” I opened one of my own boxes, took out a little plastic ball about the size of a marble, untwisted a tiny knob and threaded my tippet through a slot. “See, you can loosen the nut, move the indicator up or down and tighten it again. There’s a little rubber gasket so it won’t hurt your leader, and it’s virtually unsinkable. It’s an Airlock bubble. Just strike when it bobs.”

His brow furled even more and I heard something like a muffled snort.

“Oh, yeah,” he said. “Look at these beauties,” and he opened half of his pockets to pull out ultrathin fly boxes with even thinner foam inserts to hold his flies in their pockets. “My caddis box, my mayfly box, my grasshopper box, my wooly bugger box, my bead-head nymph box, my pheasant tail box, my soft hackle box, my midge box, my box with my latest experimental patterns, my streamer box, my emerger and cripple box, my spent spinner box, my pink squirrel box, my crackleback box, my stonefly box, and last but not least, my box of ants, beetles, jassids, and scuds. Match that.” Even stacked, his collection of boxes was barely six inches thick.

“Wow,” I said. He really was ready for anything. “Um, I have a wet fly box, a dry fly box, a wooly bugger box, and a box of attractors when I get desperate.”

“Which I have observed happens every trip. Ha,” he said. “And look how nicely this all packs. I’ve got room for everything – walkie –talkies, pliers, hook disgorgers, a stomach pump, seine for finding bugs, two kinds of repellent, sunscreen, a leader wallet, two nippers, a Swiss army knife, a Leatherman pocket tool, wasp spray with a range of 25 feet in case I meet an animal I don’t like, and look at this.” He held up a small flashlight that looked like it was armor-plated. “This beauty has a red laser light with a range of 300 yards to blind the eyes of anything from a mad dog to a skunk. Top that!” With some pushing and stuffing, he put all of his gear back in his vest.

At that, his doorbell rang, and he shouted. “Come in! Huldy’s a safe distance away at her sisters.”

“What if it’s the police?” I said.

“They won’t come back for at least a week. It’s Wet Curtis, I invited him too. He’s always admired quality.”

Curtis came in, smiling as usual, and carrying a small sling bag about the size of a shoebox.

“I thought you were going to bring your gear,” Schnoz said.

“I did,” Curtis said, holding up his pack and slipping it over one shoulder.”

“Really? What’s in it? A cigar tin for worms?”

“No, everything I need. Leaders, tippets, nymphs, dries, blue winged olives, early season little black caddis, a hemostat.”

“What about grasshoppers and beetles and wooly buggers?” I said.

“I only carry those in mid to late summer. I don’t need them in the spring.”

“But...but, you’re not prepared for everything,” Schnoz stammered.

“Maybe,” Curtis said. Then he took a “de-liar” scale from a peg on Schnoz’s wall and used it to hoist Schnoz’s vest. “Let’s see,” he said, “thirty-two pounds. You carry around thirty-two pounds of gear every day?”

“Ballast,” I said. “Schnoz needs ballast in case he falls in.”

Curtis said, “The question is, do you want to go flyfishing or go on a safari?”

Schnoz and I looked at each other. “Safari,” we said in unison, but I added, “I think I’m going to pare things down a bit. It seems to me if I’m lighter I might have better balance, and if I fall in, it might not be so bad.”

“This year I’ve decided not to fall in at all,” Curtis said. He might achieve it too. It would be sad, though. “Dry Curtis” doesn’t have the same ring to it. Schnoz and I looked at the heaps of gear in our overweight fishing vests. We had a lot of work to do and only a few weeks to do it.

## **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.