



February 2017 Chapter Message

The groundhog speaks and it's six more weeks.....of winter that is. As Chicagoan's we know what to expect from Mother Nature this time of year. We have a lot on tap in the coming months starting with Jason Randall's visit this month at our chapter meeting. He will be sharing his experiences on the water with the fly fishing masters so sign up early for this one. The Brookies are swimming freely in our Trout in the Classroom tanks in Dundee and Rockford waiting for their release at Fox Bluff in May. Fly tying classes continue at Cabela's every Tuesday through March no signup required just drop in. Work projects are being finalized at Fox Bluff and in Wisconsin with dates to be determined. Everyone is invited to come no matter what level of involvement, the more the merrier! In the meantime, tie some flies, catch up on your reading, attend a show and pray for warm weather. See you on the 16th!

Bob Becker

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 by Tuesday February 14th so we know how many pizzas to preorder

February's Speaker is Jason Randall



Jason Randall, a resident of Woodstock, Illinois, has been an outdoor writer for the last 12 years with feature articles appearing regularly in *American Angler*, as well as *Fly Fisherman*, *Eastern Fly Fishing*, *Northwest 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. 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*. 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.

Coming March 1st, 2017 Jason's latest book, "Nymph Masters: Fly-Fishing Secrets from Expert Anglers", ever wonder what it would be like to take a fishing trip with the country's best anglers? Author Jason Randall fishes with fly fishing giants such as George Daniel, Landon Mayer, Lefty Kreh, Ed Jaworowski, Ed Engle, Gary Borger, and Joe Humphreys and shares their top nymphing techniques, flies, and tactics with you.

Announcing the first work day at an Illinois project in a long time.

All Illinois TU chapters are asked to join together for a morning of brush clearing at Fox Bluff, part of the McHenry County Conservation District on Saturday February 25 at 9AM. Please bring gloves, work shoes and a need for fresh air. We will be clearing and dragging brush from hillsides adjacent to spring ponds. These ponds will be planted with Brook Trout raised by two Trout in the Classroom programs this Spring.

Fox Bluff is located on Cary-Algonquin road, and the entrance you will be looking for is across the road from a subdivision entrance called Fox Trails North. There will be signs to help you find the gate as it is not the main parking lot. To get to Cary Algonquin road take Main Street through Algonquin from Rt. 31 north to the top of the hill and turn right on to Cary-Algonquin road.

If you have questions you may call me at 847 284 4824 or email sapp375@aol.com.

Hope to see you there,
Jerry Sapp
Illinois NLC Representative

"The solution to any problem -- work, love, money, whatever -- is to go fishing, and the worse the problem, the longer the trip should be."

~John Gierach

Youth Program 2017 – Volunteer Today!

In partnership with the Northern Illinois Special Recreation Association (NISRA), Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation and LL Bean, our Chapter created the award winning Fishin' So Fly program for at-risk youth. This unique program brings local needy children together with Lee Wulff TU members to create valuable and life-changing experiences to both the children and members. Fishin' So Fly includes 4 weekly fly fishing instruction and conservation clinics and a day trip to the streams of the Driftless Area of Southwest Wisconsin during the month of May. Consider sharing your love of fly fishing with children, who would otherwise, never have these opportunities. Consider volunteering today....you will be hooked on this rewarding experience!

Fishin So Fly Dates for 2017 April 26th, May 3rd, May 10th and May 17th. The Wisconsin trip with the kids will be held on June 5th with a rainout date of June 6th

Veteran's Programs – Scott Roane

We have 2 great Veterans programs we can participate in and help the Vets.

- PHWFF (Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing) for North Chicago VA Vets. This is being run by Jeff Reinke from the Gary Borger chapter. This is a more traditional program. See <http://www.projecthealingwaters.org/> They are based to Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Libertyville. This is traditional fly tying and fly fishing at a local forest preserve when the weather permits. Jeff is working on expanding this to outpatient Vets.

- Hines VA (in Maywood) Vets program run by DRIFT; Glenn Hazen and Gene Kazmark. The Vets are associated with the Hines Blind Center. They are mostly low vision ladies and gentlemen. They are either residents or attend school for a few weeks to learn computer skills, etc. There is a fly tying program and also a fishing program. This is not strictly fly fishing. It's spin casting or whatever works. See the picture from the last outing a few weeks ago.



Either program is really about one on one camaraderie and just having something interesting to do and getting out.

You don't have to be a Vet to help out. It's just one on one conversation and building a relationship.

Anyone interested send me an email and I can fill you in on more detail and which program may be better depending on your interest and location.

Thanks,

Scott Roane

rscottroane@gmail.com

847-687-5856

"Listen to the sound of the river and you will get a trout."

~Irish proverb

"The Essentials of a Good Fly-Hook: The temper of an angel and penetration of a prophet; fine enough to be invisible and strong enough to kill a bull in a ten-acre field."

~ G.S. Marryat

If it's too cold to fish - how about a show?

Madison Fishing Expo

Date: February 24 – 26, 2017

Location: Alliant Energy Center, Madison, WI

Sponsor: Wisconsin Fishing Expo

Speakers/Program: TBA Outdoor/fishing show with limited fly fishing vendors/programs.

<http://wifishingexpo.com/>

Bronzeback Blowout – Illinois Smallmouth Alliance

Location: American Legion Hall, Elmhurst, IL (suburban Chicago)

Date: March, 2017

Sponsor: Illinois Smallmouth Alliance

Speakers/Program: TBA

<http://www.illinois-smallmouthalliance.net>

Canoecopia – Rutabaga Paddlesport Shop

Date: March 10 -12, 2017

Location: Alliant Energy Center, Madison, WI

Sponsor: Rutabaga Paddlesports, Madison, WI

Speakers/Program: Experience the best antidote for March's cabin fever! Canoecopia is the largest paddlesports consumer event in the world, with over 250,000 square feet of kayaks, canoes, Stand Up Paddleboards, outdoor equipment and clothing. Over 150 seminars, speakers and clinics make Canoecopia an educational event where you can be inspired and learn everything you need to know to select, purchase and use the perfect gear for your style of paddling.

<http://www.paddlers.com/canoecopia/page.asp?pgid=1001>

Midwest Fly Fishing Expo (the granddaddy of fly fishing shows)

Date: March 11 - 12, 2017

Location: Macomb Community College Sports & Expo Center, Warren, MI

Sponsor: Michigan Fly Fishing Club

Speakers/Program: TBA

Show has demonstrations and programs on fly tying, fly casting, fly fishing seminars and more in 61,000 square feet of exhibition space.

Website has information on the 2016 show to help pique your interest in this show.

<http://mffc.org>

Three Rivers Fly Fishing & Fly Tying Show

Date: April 1, 2017

Location: Classic Café, 4832 Hillegas, Road, Fort Wayne, IN

Sponsor: Three Rivers Fly Fishers Club

Speakers/Program: TBA

<http://3rff.org/flyshow.html>

Chapter Outings for 2017

2017 Early Spring Outing April 28th-30th - 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 20th 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. We will be seated as soon as our table is ready.

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 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.

2017 Fennimore Outing May 19th-21st 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 12th 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

Option one. Friday night we will have a brat cookout at the motel. This will include brats, chips, potato salad and soft drinks/water. BYOB for adult libations. A RSVP is required no later than May 12th to Gordon Rudd, mchenryflyfisher@sbcglobal.net or 815-245-2425. Cost is \$7 per person paid by May 16th. Approximate time 7-7:30.

Saturday night we will have pizza party at the motel. This will include pizza, chips and soft drinks/water. BYOB for adult libations. A RSVP is required no later than May 12th to Gordon Rudd, mchenryflyfisher@sbcglobal.net or 815-245-2425. Cost is \$8 per person paid by May 16th. Approximate time 7-7:30.

Option two. Friday night we will have a brat cookout at the motel. This will include brats, chips, potato salad and soft drinks/water. BYOB for adult libations. A RSVP is required no later than May 12th to Gordon Rudd, mchenryflyfisher@sbcglobal.net or 815-245-2425. Cost is \$7 per person paid by May 16th. Approximate time 7-7:30.

Saturday night we will meet at the Cottonwood Sports Bar, 4716 Green River Rd., Fennimore, WI off of Highway 61 north of town. Everyone will be responsible for their own food and drinks. Approximate time 7-7:30.

Wa Wa Sum

Dates and info to follow in next month’s newsletter

2017 Early Summer Outing/June 23rd-25th /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

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.

End of the Season Outing Oct 13th-15th, 2017

The last WI outing will be on Oct 13th-15th. We will once again be in the Viroqua/Westby area and several will be camping at the West Fork Sportsmans Club in Avalanche along the West Fork of the Kickapoo. 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.

A block of 5 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.

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 Saturday and individuals are responsible for their own meals and libations. Please keep in mind we will sit down as soon as our table is ready so if you're running late you may be on your own.

If you have any questions or would like to RSVP for dinner contact Gordon Rudd at mchenryflyfisher@sbcglobal.net or 815/245-2425.

Bob Olach's Fly of the Month

Dark Snipe Spiders
(Purple & Gold Spiders)

Lately, I been on a binge to tie more North Country Spiders using Red Grouse, Woodcock, Golden Plover and Snipe hackles.

For many years, on the North Country Spiders that I've tied (er, dressed!), I've exclusively used Pearsall Gossamer silks. In the past year or so, I've heard of two other companies in the UK that provide alternate silks in pretty much the same thickness and diameter as the Pearsall Gossamer silks, although with slight color variations when compared to the Pearsall silks.

The two other companies can be found by doing an Internet search for "*Langley Superfine Silks*" and for "*FlyOnlyOnLine North Country Silks.*"

In the past, I've had success in fishing Snipe & Purple Spiders (aka – Dark Snipe & Purple in some areas), so during these cold winter months, I figured it's time to stock up on more Snipe-hackled North Country Spiders.



Dressing

Hook – Daiichi 1550 wet fly hooks (sizes 14 – 16 were used for the above flies)

Thread – Pearsall Gossamer, Langley or FlyOnlyOnline Superfine silks.

Body & Head – Heavily waxed (beeswax) Purple or Hot Orange tying threads.

Hackle – 2 ½ to 3 turns of Dark Outer Covert Snipe hackles.

PS – European Snipe hackles are becoming increasingly difficult to obtain. As an alternate, a very dark grey hen hackle, Valley Quail, etc. can be tried as substitutes.



Grumpy's Page by Kurt Haberl

Andy Hinckeler, whom we usually called by his full nickname, Hook, Line and Sinker, may have been our newest member in flyfishing, and may not have known a lot about the techniques we've argued about for years, but he was no fool. He drove into camp in a new SUV, mentioned a substantial promotion, and his swagger told us he "had arrived." It was a mid-May outing, and after a difficult day of fishing in which the weather was too nice, too sunny, too moderate, too windless, too everything that makes May beautiful and fishing difficult, we stumbled back into camp tired and grouchy. We should have known something was up when Andy said for the third time before the fire was barely more than a few pale tongues, "Wow, what a great day."

I looked at Schnoz, who had been skunked like me. Wet Curtis had caught only one, and that trout broke off when The General jumped into the water to help. Trout are wary enough of two-legged creatures, but a dark four-legged form is altogether too much.

"Roy?" I asked. "Any fish?"

"I don't know anything about trout," he said. "I mean, I've read about them, and I have a vague memory of what it was like to handle one, but we're talking theoretical language now. Weren't they creatures that had spots?"

Schnoz grabbed a stick and began to poke at the fire, as if worrying it would make it burn faster.

"Andy, did you actually catch a fish today?" Schnoz said.

"Well, no, not a fish," Andy said, and after a long pause, added, "I think maybe two or three dozen, but I quit counting. It was a day that should have been videotaped."

"What did you catch them on?" I asked innocently.

"Well, that's a problem. See, I was mostly scouting and then I ran into this young guy who was coming downstream while I was going upstream, and he said he was a member of the Ho-Chunk tribe, and his name was Whump-Em or something like that. He said his father and grandfather had passed on some unique knowledge to him. He was using a cane pole-

"You mean a bamboo rod?" Schnoz asked.

"No, a cane pole like we used to catch bluegill when we were kids, and he had some monofilament on the tip of it, and this secret, magic fly on the end of his mono. He didn't even use a reel. He was carrying three 18-inchers to take home to feed his wife and kids, and said he let all the smaller ones go. So he gave me one of his magic flies provided I wouldn't show it to anyone or tell them how to fish it or where we were."

"But we're your best friends," Wet Curtis said.

The General figured out what was going on and sidled up to Hook, Line and Sinker to nuzzle him.

"Well, The General is my best friend, so I'd show it to him," Hook, Line and Sinker said.

There was a general groan around the campfire, which had gone out due to Schnoz's meddling and had to be re-lit.

It was a long, miserable night while everyone complained about fishkills, the beautiful weather, the presence of ospreys, fish flu, and a rumor of some virus in insects that made them taste bad to fish, punctuated by sneaky ways, bribery, threats, and stratagems to pry the secret magic fly, the technique and stream location out of Hook, Line and Sinker. We wandered off to our tents in general disappointment.

The next day was perfect for trout fishing, cloudy, misty, cool, and generally miserable, with the promise of an hour of sunlight on water that might start a hatch. Even the mosquitoes seemed hungry. Hook, Line and Sinker got into his car and slipped away before anyone could talk him into pairing up for the day. The rest of us finished coffee, compared notes so we weren't heading for the same streams, and drove off.

"Where are we going?" I asked Schnoz, who volunteered to drive that morning.

"After Hook, Line and Sinker. I watched him take the first turn east. That means he's probably going to one of three streams. Did you bring your binoculars?"

"Sure. They're in the back with my gear. Are we going to fish or are we going to hunt for Hook, Line and Sinker?"

Schnoz just grunted at my stupidity. There was no car at the first access point we came to, nor at the second.

"Maybe it was also a secret stream as well?" I said.

"Maybe," Schnoz said. "The only other one I know in this direction is Little Grunge Creek, and I know of one decent riffle, but for a mile either way is just mud and shallows."

Surprisingly, that's where we saw Hook, Line, and Sinker's car. Instead of putting on waders, Schnoz took my binoculars and began to spy on Hook, Line, and Sinker from behind a tree at the top of a ridge.

"He has one on now. Wow, the risers make that riffle look like it's raining. I wonder if a stock pond had a dam break. Now he's got another one."

We watched for half an hour as Hook, Line, and Sinker drifted his magic fly and had a hookup on every cast. Then tragedy struck. A sudden burst of wind caught a back-cast and sent his secret fly high into a willow at the water's edge. Hook, Line, and Sinker's slumped shoulders told us he knew all was lost. A minute later, he trudged back to his car, put his gear away, and drove off at a depressed crawl.

"Did he see us?" I said.

"I don't think so." Schnoz led the way down to the water, and then pointed. "I was watching. See that branch with the yellow leaves on the end? The fly is there."

He pulled the branch down and we took turns sawing at it with a Swiss Army knife. In twenty minutes we had performed the amputation and brought the branch to the bank for close examination. Then we saw it. Midway up the branch, wrapped a dozen times around it, with a hook embedded into the soft wood lay the magic fly - an ordinary small black caddis. We looked back at the water. The trout were slashing at small, black caddis flies as if they had not eaten in a year and a half. We debated fishing, but instead drove back to camp, finding Hook, Line and Sinker sitting disconsolately alone before a dead campfire. Schnoz walked over, patted his slumped shoulders, and put the fly into Hook, Line and Sinker's hand.

"You found my magic fly?"

"Hinckeler, it's an ordinary little black caddis."

"Is that what you call it?"

"That's what it is. You were fishing over a black caddis hatch. There's no magic."

"You mean it won't work every time, everywhere?"

"No, it won't."

"But there is one bit of magic," I said. "We will keep your secret."

"For a price," Schnoz said.

Friendship is a wonderful thing, even when it's solidified by blackmail, extortion, or spying with binoculars, free bourbon, chips, salsa, and expensive cheese.

"The traveler fancies he has seen the country. So he has, the outside of it at least; but the angler only sees the inside. The angler only is brought close, face to face with the flower and bird and insect life of the rich riverbanks, the only part of the landscape where the hand of man has never interfered."

~ *Charles Kingsley*

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PS: Any grammatical errors spotted in
this newsletter were purposefully put
there to keep you on your toes.
PPS: You Are Welcome.