



## February President's Message

Greetings fellow TU members! The weather outside is frightful as I sit down to write this message so I hope you are all sitting in front of the fireplace enjoying that fly fishing book you received for Christmas.

Our speaker this month is Dave Barkman from D Loop Outfitters in Michigan. He will be speaking about the fantastic Steelhead fishing available to us here in the midwest which will start picking up in March.

Our Trout in the Classroom program is in full swing with many baby Brook trout waiting for a home at Fox Bluff. A few of our members have recently taken a hike down to the ponds at Fox Bluff and yes, we have many surviving trout from last year's planting, some as large as 6-8 inches in length. A group of us attended the MCCD stewards meeting last week and were assured that our successes so far have not gone unnoticed by the County brass.

Jerry assures me that we will have plenty of opportunities this year to flex our muscles whether it be building stiles, clearing brush at Fox Bluff or other local conservation initiatives. We will send out an info blast when we have more.

Be aware that the wolf is always at the door with the state of our current political situation. Please be aware of conservation issues in your local paper and get involved if you can. National TU keeps an eye on conservation fights in the US and we will let you know if there are any issues we can help with as a chapter.

OK, at some point the weather will get warmer and everyone will be able to get back out on the stream. This year I would love to see that once in a lifetime fish that you or a family member catches this spring, summer or fall.

Please send pictures to me at [mugsyb13@gmail.com](mailto:mugsyb13@gmail.com).

See you all at the meeting on the 15th!

Bob

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 [yvescharron@aol.com](mailto:yvescharron@aol.com) (847-596-0231) by Tuesday February 13th so we know how many pizzas to preorder.

## **Our February Speaker - Dave Barkman**



Our speaker this month is Dave Barkman from D Loop Outfitters in Michigan. He will be speaking about Steelhead fishing on Great Lakes tributaries.

## **Conservation Update – Jerry Sapp**

Work Day changed to February 24

Well the Groundhog saw his shadow and that means we have a lot more snow coming. The previous Lee Wulff events message about the work days at Fox Bluff needs to be changed. As I look at the weather forecast for the next ten days we are adding more snow and sustained cold. The hill sides we will be working on are steep. For safety reasons we are going to delay and hope for a melting period. We will meet on SATURDAY FEBURARY 24 at 9:00 AM in the parking lot we have used off route 31 across from Fox Trails Drive. A sign will be posted. If you need directions call me at 847 284 4824. Coffee and doughnuts and water will be available. There will be no lunch served. Waders will not be necessary we are only clearing brush this time. Gloves, loppers and a sense of humor will help.

There are 6 inch Brookies growing in the ponds and they are quite active. You may see them on the work day but remember they are very skittish. The good news is that all three ponds are holding fish.

We are going to be doing some stiles this spring and summer in the Driftless Area. If you become aware of a stile that needs replacing please let me know. We need to locate these soon. Some will be done on Warner Creek near Wildcat Mountain State Park where a new project is proposed.

Jerry Sapp

## **Announcement from Illinois Council of Trout Unlimited**

Hello Illinois TU Members,

We are now recruiting campers for the 11th annual edition of the Illinois Council of Trout Unlimited Youth Camp. The camp is open to boys & girls aged 13 to 18 and will be conducted from Sunday, July 22 thru Friday, July 27. As in past years the camp will be held on Michigan's Au Sable River, the birthplace of Trout Unlimited. The camp delivers an intensive introduction to fly fishing for wild stream trout. Campers also conduct field studies of the pristine cold water environment and conservation issues. The following links provide more information:

1. A one page camp flyer suitable for printing: [2018 IL Youth Camp Flyer](#)
2. A camp presentation including pictures from camp: [2018 IL Youth Camp Presentation](#)
3. An application form: [2018 IL Youth Camp Application](#)

Please circulate this information to anyone who may be interested. We request that you invite your youthful friends and relatives to consider attending the camp. Rest assured it is an outstanding experience for young men & women.

Don't hesitate to contact me for more information.

Thank You,

Willie Beshire  
Illinois Council of Trout Unlimited  
Youth Camp Director  
(630) 200-2532  
[wbeshire@aol.com](mailto:wbeshire@aol.com)

## **Cabin Fever? How About a Fishing Show?**

### **Show Calendar for Winter 2018**

#### **Spring Opener – Badger Fly Fishers**

Date: February 10, 2018

Location: American Family Insurance Training Center, 6000 American Parkway,  
Madison, WI

Sponsor: Badger Fly Fishers

Speakers/Program: Pat Ehlers will speak about largemouth bass and saltwater fishing.

Show will have vendors, fly tying demonstrations, raffles, etc.

<http://badgerflyfishers.com>

### **Celebration of Fly Tying – 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Show**

Date: February 24, 2018

Location: Knights of Columbus Hall, 5830 Clyde Park, Wyoming, MI

Sponsor: Grand River Fly Tyers

Speakers/Program: TBA

<http://www.grandriverflytyers.club/news.html>

### **TroutFest '18 Central Wisconsin Trout Unlimited**

Date: February 24, 2018

Location: Fin 'N Feather, Winneconne, WI

Sponsor: Central Wisconsin Trout Unlimited

Speakers/Program: CWTU's TroutFest '18 includes mini-seminars, raffles, fly tying demos, artisans, youth fly tying instruction, guides, outfitters.

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

### **Madison Fishing Expo**

Date: February 23 – 25, 2018

Location: Alliant Energy Center, Madison, WI

Sponsor: Wisconsin Fishing Expo

Speakers/Program: See listing on website, 125,000 SF of fishing activity.

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 3, 2018

Sponsor: Illinois Smallmouth Alliance

Speakers/Program: Chad Hoover on kayak fishing for bass, vendors, raffles, etc.

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

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

Date: March 10 – 11, 2018

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 2017 show to help pique your interest in this show.

<http://mffc.org>

## **Three Rivers Fly Fishing & Fly Tying Show**

Date: February 10, 2018

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

Sponsor: Three Rivers Fly Fishers Club

Speakers/Program: Terry & Roxanne Wilson on bluegill fishing, Kyle Hammond on pike fishing, fly tying demos, vendors, etc.

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

## **Lee Wulff Trout Unlimited 2018 Outing Dates & Info**

### **Early Spring Outing-Viroqua, WI April 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>**

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. Also, there's the Old Towne Motel in Westby, no association with the restaurant and Central Express in Westby. Only the Vernon Inn has blocked rooms.

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 \$15 per year. The campground does not take reservations unless you are going to rent one of the two cabins they have. [www.westforksportsmansclub.org](http://www.westforksportsmansclub.org) for more information.

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 **7:15** PM 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](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.

## **Fennimore Outing-Fennimore, WI May 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>**

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. 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. **Rooms are difficult to get this time of year and I must release any vacant rooms by the end of the day, May 14<sup>th</sup>.**

Friday night we will have a brat cookout at the motel. This will include brats, chips, potato salad and bottled water. BYOB for adult libations. A RSVP is required no later than May 14<sup>th</sup> to Gordon Rudd, [mchenryflyfisher@](mailto:mchenryflyfisher@) 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. Members are responsible for finding their own roommate, if they want one, and making [sbcglobal.net](http://sbcglobal.net) or 815-245-2425. **Cost is \$7 per person paid by May 16<sup>th</sup>.** Approximate time 7-7:30.

Saturday, we are planning a group dinner and as soon as the details are known we will publish them.

There are no fly shops in the area so make sure you have what you need prior to arriving.

Some guides and books to consider;

Jim Romberg, Fly Fisherman's Lair , 608/822-3005-**local guide**

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)

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Wisconsin Atlas & Gazetteer by DeLorme.

Fennimore is located approximately 1 ½ hours west of Madison, WI on Route 18.

## **Wa Wa Sum-Grayling, MI, June 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>**

Details to follow.

## **Early Summer Outing-Viroqua, WI June 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>**

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 rooms has 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. Also, there's the Old Towne Motel in Westby, no association with the restaurant and Central Express in Westby. Only the Vernon Inn has blocked rooms.

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 \$15 per year. The campground does not take reservations unless you are going to rent one of the two cabins they have. [www.westforksportsmansclub.org](http://www.westforksportsmansclub.org) for more information

This area includes the famed West Fork of the Kickapoo, Timber Coulee and Camp Creek to only mention a few.

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.

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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Wisconsin Atlas & Gazetteer by DeLorme.

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

## **End of Season Outing-Viroqua, WI Oct 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>.**

Details to follow



# Bob Olach's Fly of the Month

## *HATCHING DUN MARCH BROWN SOFT HACKLE*

About 2 ½ years ago, we had a little write – up on this fly dressing but since, it's going to be one of the dressings we do at the soft hackle fly tying session today (February 7<sup>th</sup>), thought it might be a good idea to provide the info again. (At tonight's sessions, we'll also do Pheasant Tail and Hare's Ear soft hackles in addition to the Hatching Dun March Brown.)

I first saw this dressing quite a few years ago when an on-line email was sent to me from a fly-fishing shop somewhere out West and the red dubbed thorax caught my attention.

Hare's Ear soft hackled dressings, with and without "hot spots," plus Flashback Hare's Ear and Pheasant Tail nymphs have all been good flies to use in the Cheese Country waters that I fish.

Since I really like to tie various March Brown soft hackles, this dressing caught my attention due to the reddish colored thorax area. (I used J. Fair's Red Seal Sub Dubbing for these but red-colored STS Trilobal or SLF dubbings also look good in this dressing).

You can use other colored dubbings for the thorax and remove the tails to make quite a few different Hare's Ear soft hackled "variations."



### *Hatching Dun March Brown Soft Hackle*

**Hook** – Daiichi #1550 wet fly hook (sizes 12 - 14)

**Thread** – Uni-Thread 6/0 – Orange

**Tails** – Pheasant Tail fibers

**Body** – Light colored Hare's Ear Dubbing ribbed with gold wire

**Rib** – Small gold wire

**Thorax** – Red colored Dubbing

**Hackle** – Partridge (the gray-barred feather from a Hungarian Partridge)

**Head** – Uni-Thread 6/0 Orange



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

When Schnoz gets excited, I get worried. He sat next to me at my fly tying desk with a shoebox on his lap, and he was excited. His right knee bounced up and down like someone had put an electrode into whatever was left of his sciatic nerve.

"Grumpy, how old are you?" he said.

"67."

"Exactly. And when we all get together around the campfire, what do we talk about?"

"Trout fishing."

"After that?"

I knew it was a trick question, so I decided to go with something that would put his sciatic nerve into overdrive. "Well, after trout fishing, we talk about string theory, quadratic equations, and cars from the 50's."

That actually made him do a double-take.

"We do not," he said. "We talk about colonoscopies, blood pressure, and prostates. Except for Mary; she doesn't talk about prostates."

"Okay, I will admit that, but what's your point?"

"My point is this," he said, holding up his box. "I've been doing a lot of research to get ready for the fishing season, and it's amazing what information you can compile with a little digging, finding the right web sites, and a little common sense."

"Well, I will admit you have a little common sense, a very little actually. Wet Curtis, I think, has a lot because of his mid-stream experiences, but that's not a fair comparison because Kaptin the black Labrador keeps tabs on him."

"Hah, wait till you hear what I've compiled and then you will simply be amazed." He lifted the top off his box and showed me a red nylon bag with a white cross on it.

"You've assembled a portable colonoscopy machine to use on our next campout?"

"Gah! I said we're talking about common sense. Exhibit number one. What happens to Roy the Plumber on every third false cast he makes, I mean, every one that doesn't land in a tree or bush?"

"He hooks himself, either on the right ear or index finger."

"Exactly. Now look at this," he said, and held up a little bottle of superglue. "Guess what Eastman Kodak developed that would close wounds and stop bleeding – superglue. Well, not exactly superglue because that can irritate the skin. This is a special version called Soothe-n-Seal for medical purposes. A drop of this on Roy's ear and he'd be good as new, and because superglue hardens quickly and hardens *hard*, he probably wouldn't stick himself in the same place again."

"But wouldn't it be a problem for your body to absorb that stuff?"

"Are you kidding? He's not going to drink it, and even if his body absorbs a little, it's not worse than that concoction he calls bilge water and drinks every night. I mean the regular stuff may actually irritate or burn, but just a drop of this stuff works great."

"Have you tried it?"

“Um, not exactly. You see I don’t poke myself much, and besides, I won’t go fishing until the temperature is about 40. That’s the value of research – you can find out about things without having to try them.”

“If I poke myself, don’t put any of that stuff on me. I’d take a regular band-aid.”

“I have a backup plan for wimps like you.”

He pulled a little box out of the magic red nylon bag, and gave me a round piece of latex with a rolled edges about the size of a dime.

“What’s this?”

“It’s called a finger cot. Chefs use them if they cut themselves. They stop the bleeding with a tight band-aid and put this over it to seal and protect the whole finger even from water. It’s like a little condom for a finger.”

“Okay, but how is that going to help Roy’s ear when it has a size 14 pink squirrel hanging from it?”

“I would just cut the tippet and leave that in. Lots of men wear earrings these days. Now look at this.” He held up a miniature roll of duct tape, although this one was flesh colored.

“Duct tape,” I said. “You put duct tape in a first aid kit.”

“Exactly. Have you ever had a splinter that you can’t quite get out with your fingers? If there’s any part of it showing, just press a piece of duct tape on it, wait a second, and slowly pull it off. The splinter will stick to the duct tape and come out clean as a whistle.”

“That’ll never work.”

“The internets disagree with you. Besides, I have a backup plan if there’s isn’t enough of the splinter hanging out.” He held up a small bottle of Elmer’s wood glue and said, “You put a tiny drop of this on it, and let it dry. Because it penetrates the wood a little, once it’s dry, you can pull out the dry glue and the splinter will come out with it. I think it will work on ticks as well. The glue will kill the tick, dry into a little plug and then you can pull out the tick easy.”

“Schnoz, these things will get somebody hurt.”

“No they won’t. They’ll save the day. They’re called life hacks. They’re clever ways of using an ordinary product to do wonders.”

“Does Huldy know you’ve been working on life hacks like this?”

“Of course not. She goes to the doctor whenever she gets a splinter. The insurance company gives her the equivalent of frequent flyer miles every year.”

I didn’t know what to say.

“But wait, there’s more,” he said. “If you want to get rid of a wart, just wrap it in duct tape and it will kill the little black dot of a virus in a few weeks.”

“So you walk around with your finger wrapped in duct tape?”

“Flesh colored duct tape. No one will even see it. They’ll be happy to shake hands with you.”

I looked at my right hand and wondered about the last time I shook Schnoz’s hand.

“I’ve saved the best till last. What is the most bothersome affliction when you’re fishing or camping?”

“Hemorrhoids.”

“Gah! I’m not going to talk about anything gross like that. It’s poison ivy, poison ivy, man!”

“Okay,” I said, “unless you have hemorrhoids.”

“Gah! Look at what poison ivy is. It’s an irritant, an itching caused by an oil, kind of like a plant grease. Now, look at this.” He held up a bottle of little blue liquid.”

“What is that?”

“The absolute best thing for cutting grease or cleaning up oil. It renders it completely Ph neutral and harmless. Dawn dish soap.”

I didn’t know what to say but mumbled something about, “So if you have poison ivy, you should be the one to wash dishes with Dawn and it will cure your irritation?”

“Exactly.”

“Gah!” I said. I gave silent thanks that Schnoz never got into medical school, and made a mental note that I would never tell him about any affliction I ever had. Maybe the duct tape would be useful for a sprained ankle, but if I ever got a splinter, a tick, poison ivy, or a hook in my ear, I think I’d just bear it or call 911. Gah.

## Chapter Officers

<b>President</b>	<b>Bob Becker</b> <b><u><a href="mailto:mugsyb13@gmail.com">mugsyb13@gmail.com</a></u></b>
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## Newsletter Editor

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