



February President's Message

Greetings fellow LWTU members!

It looks like Mother Nature isn't going to release her grip on winter so easily this year so most of us will be reading by the fireplace a little while longer. If you'd like to break your case of cabin fever please attend our chapter meeting on the 21st where our featured speaker will be Tom Starmack of Zoetic Custom Flies who will be speaking about anchor fly design.

If you are new to LWTU and fly fishing we have many outings planned for the coming fishing season. These outings are a great opportunity to meet other chapter members and to learn from those with years of fly fishing experience. Signup sheets will be at every meeting.

Jerry Sapp tells me that there will be ample opportunities to get involved in one of the many conservation projects planned for this season. Everything from stile building and stream restoration work in the Driftless Area to restoration work at Fox Bluff in Cary, Illinois. See Jerry's message later in this newsletter.

I've recently read that Andrew Wheeler, the acting head of the EPA, has been in favor of a series of proposed environmental rollbacks to protect federal wetlands and waterways. These rollbacks could do irreparable damage to cold water fisheries throughout the U.S. Please let your local Senators, Congressmen and women know that this is totally unacceptable. Let's save this planet for our great grandkids.

See you all at the meeting next week!

Thanks,

Bob

Our February Speaker



Zoetic Flies represents the culmination of passion and fly fishing experience of angler, Tom Starmack. Tom's early fishing experience involved chasing walleye and panfish in Minnesota. He began fly fishing in Minnesota and upon moving to Illinois spent most of his time fishing for bass and panfish in local lakes and pursuing trout and salmon in Michigan, Wisconsin and Arkansas. He has shown at The Fly Fishing Show and has assisted in demonstrating fly tying and fishing techniques at a number of shows in conjunction with fly fishing author and speaker, Jason Randall. Tom's flies have appeared in American Angler magazine, the book 'Nymph Masters', on various websites and in the mouths of many hungry trout.

Conservation News – Jerry Sapp

There is a lot of news happening so let's get started. The Scientific Symposium was held in La Crosse February 5 and 6. The theme was Resilience because of all the floods in the Driftless in past years. The Wisconsin DNR gave an overview of their plans to restore stream damage that gave priority to three streams Bohemian Valley, Rulands Coulee and Timber Coulee. They are applying for FEMA funds to pay for the work that will take the next three years. The list of streams needing flood restoration is over 100. The destruction that I saw made it hard to believe I was looking at the same creeks I used to know. There is gravel and debris everywhere and it will take a lot of work to put back what was damaged by flooding. Bohemian Valley is one of my favorite streams and it was hit hard too. The upside is that all the streams will be restored using newer techniques that should make them more resistant.

The good news is that many of the other streams escaped with less damage. Bishop Branch seems to have little damage and there is hope that we will be doing stiles on it this spring. Elk Creek looked good with little damage but there is a large beaver dam at the upper end near the beginning of the restoration work that we sponsored and worked on a few years ago. I hope we can address the problem this year. Weister Creek held up very well and the 5 year project is nearly done. The West Fork is the exception it took a hard hit in the upper reaches above Bloomingdale when the Jersey Valley Park dam breached. Paul Hayes the landowner up there has fence posts that are now sticking about a foot out of the ground and his oak trees that he planted are surrounded by two feet of gravel and silt. Work on the West Fork Campground has started and it will need lots of help to complete. Since there is no permanent easement on the property so the cleanup will come from private funds.

Well enough of bad news let's talk about some interesting things going on this year. We have gotten permission to work on another stream in Fox Bluff. As of now we have not been able to get there due to weather but hope to get there soon. Planning will start with a trip to the upper part of the stream to look for places for pool creation with cross logs. Then placement of a few fish there in May to test viability before going moving downstream with the project.

The Scientific Symposium also highlighted a new phone app in development that will allow an angler to do stream quality testing with a test strip and send the data to a server for storage and get the results back to the phone. It will record location with GPS. There is a pilot program starting this spring and hopefully it will be available for your use by fall.

TUDARE is supporting a pilot program to do maintenance work on restored streams in the Driftless. Two college students interested in biology will be hired to work for the summer by the DNR in Fitchburg Wisconsin. (Limited Term Employees or LTE). These students are going to do maintenance on streams that have been restored. They will be doing stream surveys with regular DNR crews, brush removal, invasive plant control (parsnip) and path mowing so streams are more accessible in summer. Funding is coming from Driftless area chapters including ours; Lee Wulff has pledged \$2,000. Gary Borger and Elliot Donley in Illinois are also contributing. Trout Stamp funds will pay for half of the salaries of \$18,000 and TU Chapters the other half. The plan is set for a two year trial thanks to Dave Rowe supervisor at Fitchburg. The expansion of this plan to all of the Driftless is a hope for the future.

We are doing another rod raffle this spring and the featured rod being a 4 wt. 10ft. Sage blank that will be great to use as a nymphing rod on the Driftless streams. Chapter member Tom Faure will be building it again this year. Thanks Tom. We are going to use the funds raised to support planned work on Warner Creek, Billings Creek, and the Blue River as well as the LTE Maintenance program. Please keep in mind when buying your raffle tickets this money only goes to conservation.

The Upper Midwest Regional Meeting of Trout Unlimited will be held in Zion Illinois March 29 and 30. There will be a hosted fishing day on the March 28. You should have received an email about this already. Members interested in learning more about chapter organization and leadership should attend. These are very informative meetings; the keynote speaker will be speaking about restoration of Grayling to Michigan waters. You can register through the email you received or at the TU website. If you fish the Root Milwaukee or Oak Creek for Steelhead and would like to be a mentor for March 29 please let me know I need one or two more people to take out of state guest to the streams that day. Sapp375@aol.com .

Fly Tying Classes

Come join us Tuesday nights at 6:00

Classes are in the Bluestem Room at Cabela's

Fly tying tools and materials provided

Presented by Cabela's and Lee Wulff Trout Unlimited

Feb.19 Midges: Zebra and Miracle

Feb.26 Smallmouth Flies: Murdich Minnow and more

March 5 Ants: Flying floating and sinking

March 12 Biot bodies: Biot emerger and Biot nymph

March 19 Nymphs: Hares ear and Pheasant tail

IT'S TIME FOR A FISHING SHOW!

Rockford Boat, Vacation & Fishing Show

February 16-18, 2018,

Indoor Sports Center - Loves Park, IL

Elmwood All Outdoors Show

March 2-3, 2019,

Elmwood JR High School - Elmwood, IL

Midwest Fly Fishing Expo in Warren, MI

March 9-10, 2019

Fish & Hook Sports Show

March 17, 2019,

American Legion, Marne Post #13 - Plainfield, IL

2019 Chicago Outdoor Sportsmen Show
March 21 - 24, 2019
Rosemont Convention Center, Rosemont, Illinois

The 2019 Lee Wulff Chapter of Trout Unlimited Tie-a-thon!

On Thursday, April 18th, we will once again be participating in the Tie-a-Thon benefitting *The Mayfly Project* and *Camp Kita*. Our fly menu selection includes:

-) Squirmy Wormies (a Jerry Sapp special!)
-) Griffith's Gnat
-) Woolly Bugger
-) Ant
-) To be determined - foam beetle or ?

Don't tie? Don't fret. There's a lot to do to support the contribution: helping to sort materials, distributing materials, counting flies, and, in general, providing camaraderie and mischief. Itching to get tying at home? Get started! Sizes and recipes will be communicated later this month or in March.

About the Recipients:

The Mayfly Project's mission is to build relationships with children in foster care through fly fishing and introduce them to their local water ecosystems, with a hope that connecting them to a rewarding hobby will provide an opportunity for foster children to have fun, feel supported, and develop a meaningful connection with the outdoors.

At the end of the program the child is given his or her very own fly rod, reel, pack, fly box, flies, tippet, indicators, etc. Our hope is for the child to continue to pursue fly fishing and to have a tool to access the outdoors. Each project is unique and may contain more or less stages, but the goal is to provide a well-rounded and safe fly fishing experience for children in foster care. www.themayflyproject.com.

Camp Kita provides a safe, nurturing environment where child survivors can connect with one another while learning constructive ways to deal with the often unspeakable and fierce emotion of losing a parent to suicide. By creating a space for child survivors, we effectively ease the stigma around what it means to have lost a parent to suicide. The campers' shared loss and experience grants them the

opportunity to form deep, knowing bonds with others and thereby forging supportive connections that we hope will last a lifetime.

Our focus on grief—on shattering apart—will dovetail with an equally significant focus on hope— the power and purpose of piercing oneself together. Most importantly, we will empower campers to utilize the tools and resources we provide so that they may draw upon them throughout their lives.

www.campkita.com.

If you have questions, contact Bev at bevdejovine@gmail.com

2018-2019 Calendar of Events

Chapter Meetings - 3rd Thursday of the Month

Village Pizza, 145 John F Kennedy Dr.

Carpentersville, IL (Route 25 north of Route 68)

March 21st.

Jason Randall will discuss "Seasonal Angling Strategies"

April 25th

Tie-A-Thon

May – Annual Picnic (date to be determined)

Details in upcoming newsletters

Sept 19th

Details in upcoming newsletters

Oct 17th.

Details in upcoming newsletters

Chapter Outings 2019

Early Spring Outing April 26th-28th - 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. Also, there's the Old Towne Motel in Westby, no association with the restaurant, Logan Mill Lodge 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 the cabin they have. www.westforksportsmansclub.org for more information. **Because of the severe flooding last fall check to make sure they are open before arriving.**

This area includes the famed West Fork of the Kickapoo, Timber Coulee, Bishops Branch, Tainter Creek and Elk Creek to mention only 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 **7:15** PM 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 4 hours from the Chicago area and 2 hours northwest of Madison, WI on Route 14.

Fennimore Outing May 17th-19th Outing/Fennimore, WI

A block of rooms has 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. 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 10th.**

This area includes the Little Green River, Big Green River, Castle Rock Creek, Blue River, Borah Creek and Platte River.

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 and payment is required no later than May 8th to Gordon Rudd, mchenryflyfisher@sbcglobal.net or 815-245-2425. **Cost is \$7 per person paid by May 8th.** 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

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

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Exploring Wisconsin Trout Streams-The Angler's Guide by Steve Born

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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 5th-9

Details to follow

Salmon Outing – September

Details to follow

End of Season Outing

Viroqua, WI October 10th – 13th

Details to follow

Bob Olach's Fly of the Month

Not Quite a March Brown (Variation)

In March, 2014 I did a write up about Edmonds' & Lee's No. 8b "March Brown" taken from their classic book called: "Brook & River Trouting".

Within that March 2014 article, I mentioned:

"In "Brook & River Trouting", Edmonds & Lee provide two dressings for the March Brown, shown as "8a" and "8b" – I've been tying the "8b" pattern, which is a "hackled dressing" whereas the "8a" is a "winged dressing". (Got you confused yet?)

The flies pictured below were tied exactly as stated in the Edmonds & Lee book / dressing using the hard to get Pearsall silk and the Snipe Rump feathers both of which I was able to obtain several years ago.

The dubbing came from a natural Hare's Ear mask that I dyed using a red Pantone felt tipped pen, mixing the Pantone-dyed Hare's Ear with some dubbing from a red-dyed Hare's Ear mask."



Whether it's the Edmonds' & Lee's March Brown or variations of that original dressing, a March Brown Spider or Soft Hackle is probably one of my favorite dressings to tie and fish.

Recently, using the same "red-dyed hare's mask dubbing", I tied the March Brown variation pictured below:



In the above flies, I used:

Hook: Daiichi 1550 – sizes 12 and 14 wet fly hook

Thread: Pearsall Gold (6a) silk thread

Body: Hareline's Natural Hare's Ear dubbing dyed red

Ribbing: Small gold wire

Hackle: Hungarian Partridge



Grumpy's Page by Kurt Haberl

I have to apologize in advance, but this is what happens when it's been below zero, everyone has cabin fever, and you invite your friends over for a drink, some snacks and planning for the first outing in spring. You wouldn't think it would go downhill so quickly after you built a nice fire in the fireplace, chilled some beer, pop, some wine, and opened bottles of scotch, bourbon, and Calvados.

I'm blaming Roy the Plumber for our first level of descent.

"You know what's the worst thing about meadow fishing in the spring?" Roy said.

"Snags?" I said. "Or the wind?"

"Neither," Roy said, "it's the cows."

"Cows?"

"Yes, sir. You know how curious they are. You can yell all you want, 'Hey, cow, get outa' 'da way, but wit' cows, it just goes in one ear and out 'da udder.'" There was a full five seconds of stunned silence, then Schnoz's wife Huldy began to laugh uncontrollably because she's been married to Schnoz so long that she's learned to laugh at everything.

"You know," Ghost Mary said, "speaking of meadows, last year I was fishing the meadow at Cold Creek with Sally Hansen, and this funeral went by, and even though there was a rise and fish were taking caddis flies like candy, Sally stopped when the cortège went by, put her hat over her heart and followed it down the road. 'That was very respectful of you,' I said, and Sally said, 'Well, it was the least I could do. I was married to him for thirty years.'"

All the women laughed. Annie laughed too, but at least she tried to hide it. She's a good wife - Annie.

Wet Curtis said, "According to John Geirach if your greatest fear is that after you die, your wife sells your fishing gear for what you told her you paid for it, you might officially be a trout bum."

Curtis always tells the truth.

"Oh yeah?" Schnoz said, "well, answer me this. Why did the trout cross the road? Because it was tied to the chicken. Wait, wait even better, I was at Matt's fly shop last summer and this rich looking guy came in and said, 'Can I get a fly rod and reel for my son?' And Matt answered, 'I'm sorry, sir, we don't do trades.'"

I laughed at that last one because Schnoz doesn't have a son.

Then Schnoz said, "You all remember the story about the guy who caught a dozen trout out of season and when the DNR guy came up, he claimed they were his pet fish that he had just taken out for a swim, and the DNR guy said he didn't believe they were pet fish and the guy put them back in the water and they swam away and the DNR guy said he knew they weren't pet fish and the guy said, 'What fish?' Well, that's not how the story really ended."

"How did it end?" I said.

"One of the fish didn't make it, floated to the top, and the DNR guy got him for killing a pet, and cruelty to animals, which is worse than poaching, and he's still in jail."

Then things really got bad. Dewey's usually pretty quiet and serious, but once he gets going, you can't predict where he will end up.

"So last year I was talking to this DNR guy who checked my license, and I asked him, 'What's the worst thing he's ever seen on the job,' and he said he used to be stationed in California and he came upon this camper who had a fire and had just eaten, and the DNR guy said, 'I'm looking at all the feathers and the bones you got there. Those are condor feathers, which is a protected species and you're in big trouble, fella.' Then the guy says, 'Damn,' and the DNR guy says, 'Just out of curiosity, what does condor taste like?' And the camper says, 'Well, kind of a cross between snowy owl and bald eagle.' I think he's still in jail."

We all laughed at that one.

Then Curtis said, "I had to get outside even though it was so cold because The General needed a walk, and I saw this drunk ice fisherman staggering around, and he augured a hole on the ice and I heard this booming voice say, 'Hey there aren't any fish there,' so the guy moved to another spot and augured another hole and the same voice boomed, 'Hey there aren't any fish there,' and the guy got scared and shouted, 'Are you God and you really know everything?' And the booming voice said, 'No, I'm the rink manager.'"

Ghost Mary lost most of her drink at that one. I think she reached her limit on how bad things could get.

Being literary, at least in aspiration, I said, "So I heard that Sherlock Holmes and Watson went camping out on the heath one time, and in the middle of the night Sherlock woke Watson up and said, 'Watson, tell me what you see. It's important,' and Watson said, 'I see millions of stars and Leo in the zodiac and Orion's belt,' and Sherlock said, 'Watson, what does that mean?' And Watson said, 'Well, the weather will be fair tomorrow, we're not yet in the equinox and God be praised for such a marvelous creation. What does it mean to you?' And Sherlock said, 'It means someone has stolen our tent.'"

Annie laughed because she's my wife, and she's always been loyal. Roy the Plumber threw popcorn at me. I deserved it. Then Roy, ever the philosopher said, "You know, I wonder if sardines who swim by a submarine ever think, 'Look, people in a can.'"

Then Ghost Mary said, "Sometimes I wonder if it's mostly guys who go trout fishing because that's the only time they ever hear anyone say, 'Wow, that's a big one.'"

All the wives laughed again.

Then Schnoz said, "Grumpy won't remember this, so I'll remind him. Last summer we were stumbling up Big Rocky Creek, and a couple of times we scared up some really big trout that scooted away from us, and at one point the going got so rough, we had to get out and portage around a deadfall, and when we got to the other side, I said, 'Hey, Grumpy, did you see that?' Grumpy would never admit he didn't see fish, so he said, 'Yeah, yeah I did,' and I said, 'then why did you step in it?'"

I laughed at that one because it was true.

Huldy said, "Maybe one of you could answer a question for me. Why don't you guys ever do something useful by going fishing and putting some of the darned house flies we get in the summer on your hook?"

Schnoz was shocked; no, he was horrified and said, "But that would be using bait. That's not sporting."

Huldy said, "I don't understand. What's a dead housefly? Lifeless organic matter. What's a patch of elk hair or a hackle feather? Lifeless organic matter."

We were all stumped. Huldy smiled that sly little grin that drives Schnoz nuts because he sees it so often.

Then Roy the Plumber, who had started off this whole descent in lower and lower depths saved the day. "Okay, what's green and fuzzy and if it falls out of a tree, it will kill you?" We all were thinking "caterpillar," but what would kill you? "A pool table," Roy said. "What's wrong wit' youse guys? Too much to drink? Did you hear about an ancient Roman who walked into a bar, held up two fingers and said, 'I'll have five!'"

Well, he didn't exactly save the day, but it made us forget a lot of the stupidity that went on before.

Then Wet Curtis said, "Did I tell you all the General's joke?"

"Your black lab told you a joke?" Schnoz said. "I want to hear that."

"Yep, the General said, 'You know, I feel bad for any homeless guy, but I really feel bad for a homeless guy's dog, because all he can think is, man, this is the longest walk ever.'"

Well, I know this was all terrible, and I apologize again, but cabin fever is a terrible thing, and I will leave you with just one redeeming thought, "You know what they say about cliffhangers...."

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