



January 2016 President's Message

Hello Lee Wulff chapter members. I trust everyone had a Merry Christmas and now we are the middle of January 2016 with the Driftless fishing season already up and running. Several hardy souls have already ventured up to the icy snowy streams and have reported success. Yves Charron recently caught a nice rainbow! Congrats Yves!

I want to highly encourage everyone to make an extra effort to attend our January meeting! This one is special folks and we are in for a real treat. We will have Duke Welter from TU national talking about 10 years of Driftless restoration and the TUDARE program. Duke will be in town for the TU National Banquet the evening before our meeting and was gracious enough to accept my invite to be our speaker this month. Rumor has it that Duke will also share some great fly patterns and perhaps if we are all really nice, some fishing spots.

Our other VIP attending will be our wonderful friend and former chapter leader Mick McCorcle. Mick is chairman of the T. U. National Leadership Council and has always been very supportive of our chapter. Mick recently informed me he would also be in town for the TU banquet. I invited him to come out to visit our meeting and he accepted!!! What a special honor! He and Duke will be staying with Jerry Sapp Thursday night. Thanks so much, Jerry, for your hospitality!

It should be a great night, everyone! This is your chance to ask the big questions about TU and make a strong showing in support of our chapter. This is our opportunity to shine for two important T.U. VIP's. A large turnout is the best way to show these gentlemen how much we appreciate their efforts and encourage their return.

Our annual Christmas party was a tremendous success with 58 people attending. The room was packed full of festive decorations, absolutely amazing food, terrific raffle gifts, and many great people I am proud to call my friends. We had a marvelous room with a private elevator and plenty of seating. I'd love to see 100 people next year so we can fill up the Millrose Restaurant's newest largest room! Thank you all who attended for making the party a truly memorable occasion. Thanks to Pete and Betsy and our dedicated setup crew for a beautiful display. The extra helping hands made all the difference with a timely and well organized setup.

The SW WI T.U. Icebreaker is January 16 in Madison WI . There are many other wonderful fly fishing shows and events coming up this season. Stay tuned as Dennis will keep us informed in our newsletters.

Have a wonderful January everyone and see you at this very special chapter meeting! I will be out of town in February and Bob Becker, our V.P., will be leading the meeting.

Meg

XMAS PARTY, XMAS PARTY

Here are a few pictures from our Christmas Party!!!







Betsy wins the grand prize fly rod!!

Go to our Facebook page for more pictures

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/375161165829558/?fref=nf>

Yves Charron reports that a total of 58 people attended the party.

We raised \$3,288.52 (after expenses) for our chapter.

A big thank you to everyone who participated.

It was fun to see everyone and let's hope to see everyone again next year!

January Speaker – Duke Welter



Our January speaker, Duke Welter, works with Trout Unlimited's Driftless Area Restoration Effort, which he helped organize in 2004. He'll talk with us about how TU has spurred Restoration Efforts across the Driftless Area over the past 10 years, and what the future may hold for the project and these hundreds of trout-filled spring creeks within easy driving distance of Chicago. He knows the area well from 30 years of fishing and over a dozen years organizing projects around the region. Maybe he'll have a few tips for finding productive water and ways to fish it, maybe he'll just tell jokes and stories and share a few nuggets from the Driftless Area. Join us and see!

Duke has served as a volunteer at every level of TU, from chapter volunteer to chapter, state and national leadership positions. He served on TU's National Board of Trustees from 2003-10, and as chair of TU's National Leadership Council (NLC) from 2007-10, before he came to work for TU in the Driftless Area. He has worked on a broad range of conservation issues (including dam removals, restoration, mining, water withdrawals, wetland protection, and invasive species) and helped chapters develop new organizational strengths through a variety of approaches. He lives in Viroqua, Wisconsin, and is considering a third career as a shop rat at his local fly shop.

**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 January 19th so we know how many pizzas to preorder.

Upcoming TU Meetings

February Chapter Meeting - February 18, 2016

Jason Randall will be presenting, more details to follow.

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

Early Spring Outing - April 29th-May 1st

Fennimore Outing - May 20th-22nd

WaWa Sum Outing - June 8th-12th

Late Spring Outing - June 24th-26th

This is so you can pencil in the dates on your calendar. More info will be available as we get closer to spring. Thanks to Gordon Rudd for this info and all the hard work he does putting together the Chapter outings!

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:

January 12 - Egg Patterns and Soft Hackle Flies

January 19 - Blue Gill Bugs

January 26 - Midges

February 2 - Foam Beetles (Beginners Week)

February 9 - Murdich Minnow

February 16 - Blue Winged Olive Pattern

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.

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

The All Canada Show

January 14th-17th, 2016

Pheasant Run Mega Center, St. Charles, IL

<http://www.allcanada.com/all-canada-show/chicago/>

Ice Breaker – 33rd Annual - Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited

January 16th, 2016

American Family Insurance, 6000 American Parkway, Madison, WI

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1051113731589312/>

<http://www.swtu.org>

The Chicago Outdoor Sports Show

January 20th-24th, 2016

Rosemont Convention Center

<http://www.chicagosportsmenshow.com/>

Cabin Fever Day – Fox Valley Trout Unlimited

January 23, 2016

Location: The Grand Meridian, Appleton, WI

Sponsor: Fox Valley Trout Unlimited

<http://www.foxvalleytu.org/cabin-fever-day-2016-2>

Chicagoland Fishing, Travel & Outdoor Expo

Schaumburg Convention Center, Schaumburg, IL

January 28th-31st, 2016

<http://www.sportshows.com/chicago/>

The Tinley Park Fishing Show

6111 175th Street, Tinley Park, IL 60477

February 13th and 14th, 2016

<http://www.tinleyparkfishingshow.com/>

Spring Opener – Badger Fly Fishers

Date: February 13, 2016

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

Speaker is Gary Borger

<http://badgerflyfishers.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/2016-Poster-2a-pdf.pdf>

The Rockford Boat, Vacation & Fishing Show

February 19th-21st, 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

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/>

Bob Olach's Fly Of The Month

Pink Ray Charles Sowbug

I have no idea who initially started tying the “*Ray Charles – Type*” sowbug dressings but supposedly the fly was so effective in many Western – USA streams that “*even a blind man could catch fish*” using a Ray Charles Sowbug dressing. Thus, the name of this dressing.

Since many of us have had good luck using the pink-collared *Pink Squirrel Nymph* in the Wisconsin trout waters, I thought that I’d do a little checking to see if a pink-colored sowbug was worth a try. That’s when I discovered that bright-colored sowbugs (aka – *Ray Charles*) were very popular and effective in many trout streams.

Although, the flies pictured below were tied using red thread and pink ostrich herl, orange, lime green, white and natural (gray) ostrich herls are also used in tying various colored version of the Ray Charles Sowbug with various colored threads (usually red or orange to make a bright colored head).

Since ostrich herls can be quite fragile, I’ve added a silver ribbing using UNI Ultra Wire to make the fly more durable and to add a little more flash to the dressing.



Here's the dressing for the flies shown:

Pink Ray Charles

Hook – Daiichi 1550 wet fly hook (sizes 14 – 18) (Above tied on size 16 hooks)

Thread – Red UNI-thread 6/0

Body – Two pieces of Pink Ostrich Herl

Flashback – Pearlescent Mylar

Ribbing – Silver UTC Ultra Wire



Grumpy's Page by Kurt Haberl

At first it seemed like a good idea. Five of us, Schnoz, Roy the Plumber, Wet Curtis, Mary Compson, and I, along with our wives/husband had arranged to share a table at the annual chapter Christmas party and mega-raffle, an event at which we usually didn't win much because Billy Bob, who had every new gadget there was, and Fat Henry, whose wife gave him a hundred dollars to get out of the house, together bought at least 500 raffle tickets. Mathematics being what it is, the prizes we usually won were triple extra large wool socks rather than new waders, and double extra small fishing hats, rather than bamboo rods, reels, fly collections, and handmade canoes that already had Billy Bob's and Henry's names on them. Schnoz's idea was for each of us to wrap up a useful piece of equipment for the members at our table to open, admire, and cherish.

The raffle ended and Schnoz picked up his meager raffle prize - a collection of Palsa strike indicators which he soon found had somehow lost their sticky side, and Mary opened the box she won in the raffle to find an extra spool for an Orvis Battenkill 10 to 12 weight reel, something she said she had dreamed about and always wanted, which made her husband laugh. We put our wrapped gifts for the exchange in the center of the table. Schnoz put numbered pieces of paper in Mary's spool box, and Roy got the first draw. He immediately chose a smallish, neatly-wrapped box, felt its weight, and said, "I win."

"Why did you pick that one?" I asked him.

"Grumpy, be a little observant," he said. "It's neatly wrapped compared to the slovenly, battered boxes the rest of us put together, which means Mary wrapped it. Furthermore, she ties very beautiful flies, and it has the lightness of a fly box, so I said, 'I win,' with perfect rationality."

He opened the box, and sure enough, he had chosen a dozen beautifully tied flies, elk hair caddies, pheasant tails, and even a few minute midges.

Schnoz went next, and after picking up several packages that looked like they had been wrapped by drunken elves, he chose a box larger than Roy's, one that had some "heft" to it.

"This has to be a reel," Schnoz said. "If Roy wins, then I double-win."

He opened the box with great excitement and found - a brass plumbing valve. We all looked at Roy, but only Schnoz said, "Roy, what the hell? A valve?"

"You said we should all wrap up something useful," Roy said. "What could be more useful than a valve? Officially, that's a first-class ball valve hose Bibb. Don't you have a spigot somewhere that drips?"

"That's true," Schnoz's wife Huldy said. "It's perfect. Now I know what Schnoz can do tomorrow."

Wet Curtis went next, and he picked a package that I must admit looked like it had gone through the mail systems of Bangladesh, Tibet, and NASA before landing on our table. He opened it as if it might somehow have fireworks involved, and saw to his surprise, the crumpled Christmas wrapping covered a single, small walkie talkie.

"I can use this," Curtis said, and raised the radio to his mouth. "Breaker, breaker. I just caught another sixteen incher and this time Roy has fallen in the river."

"It eats batteries like cookies," I said. "That's why I'm giving it away."

"Where's the other radio?" Schnoz said. "They usually come in pairs."

"It's at the bottom of Spencer's pool on Windrush Creek, just below that really slippery log. I'd have given it to Curtis, but I don't have it, and if I did, it wouldn't work. This one works."

"Hm," Schnoz said. "I guess it would work with any other radio on the same channel." Then he held up his plumbing valve and said, "Hey, Curtis, would you be willing to-"

"No," Curtis said before Schnoz could finish. Huldy took the valve from Schnoz and put it in her purse for safekeeping until the next day when she planned for Schnoz to use it.

My turn was next. I looked at the two presents on the table, one a rounded cylinder about the size of a cigar humidor, and one relatively flat and rectangular. I picked the smaller one and opened it to find - an old DNR fishing rules booklet.

"Ha ha, you lose," Schnoz said. "I can't believe someone here would wrap that and give it to you. I have eight or ten of those lying around the house, and you can have them all."

That's when I saw Wet Curtis wink at me. I paged through the DNR booklet and found the section where the colored maps started with names of streams. Then I slapped it shut before Schnoz could see it.

"It's okay," Curtis said, "let Schnoz see it."

I opened the booklet again and turned it around for Schnoz's benefit. On page after page in the counties we fished, streams had been highlighted and starred in green and gold markers, some with notes on access and recommended flies."

"Twelve years of information in that booklet," Curtis said. "While you guys argue and tell jokes about each other to strangers, locals, and guides, I just listen. It's as good as-"

"A treasure map," I said. "Something to be treasured. Thank you, Curtis."

"You're welcome. Sometimes we'll use it together."

There was a long pause while Curtis beamed and I just smiled.

Mary opened the last prize while Schnoz tried to hide his face.

"Cigars?" I said, looking at the size and shape of the prize.

"Not exactly," Schnoz mumbled. Mary tore the wrapping off and revealed two stacked rolls of toilet paper.

"Well, these ARE something I can use," she said.

"Um, yes, they're very practical," Roy said.

"Where did you get those?" Huldy said to her husband.

I wouldn't say the party ended in an argument; it was more like a marital discussion of domestic issues, including the debatable wisdom of giving away one's last rolls of toilet paper, whose turn it was to go to the store, and just deserts. Then we ate dessert. It was a good party. I kept the stream maps in my hand. Opening day was only a few long weeks away, and I would be ready, that is, if Schnoz and Curtis were available after Schnoz's plumbing project was finished.

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this newsletter were purposefully put
there to keep you on you're toes.
PPS: You Are Welcome.