



January's Message

Greetings all,

Ah, the doldrums of winter- tired of it already. The snow and ice looks nice with the Christmas lights and décor, but can then move along and be out of here just about now.

My fly tying bench has been replaced by copper pipe, fittings, and PEX tubing to replace "rotting" galvanized water pipes in my basement. I am using L versus M Copper pipe in case anyone asks about rib sizing. I think they used whatever Uncle Joe had in the truck when they built this house. The plumbing is my winter-spring project and I am addicted to home improvements. I have more flies than I can use, so not an issue not tying for a bit- although it is always fun to try something new in hopes of seeing a fish fooled by it. I am taking a few of last year's "inventions" to the salt this week- mainly some "cute" crab patterns, have to see if fish like.

More toward fishing, I am currently torn between going saltwater fishing this week with my snowbird father versus drilling holes in the ice in Wisconsin for perch and northern pike. I think I am currently looking forward to salt water a bit more based on our current wind chills. I will start getting my exercise drilling ice later this month; at least until the water softens up again. No one tell Bob, but I have used his pink squirrels through the ice to catch perch and bluegill.

My father has had a head start on me fishing warmer waters; I am hoping for some flounder and another bonnet head shark or two. Even if we do not do well, it will be great to continue our fishing tradition together. It was probably a good 40 some years ago that my dad taught me how to fish on a pier in Wisconsin with a hook, bobber, and worms. With all the gear and tackle accumulated between us over the years, it is humorous that our main tackle will be a hook, weight, and frozen shrimp. Sometimes back to basics is good; I hope that all have good fishing memories and can continue to create and add to them. Nice thoughts to reminisce about during these cold winter nights.

For January, we have our Lee Wulff TU meeting on the 19th. We had a great Christmas party and have a lot planned for the coming year. Our speaker this month is Matt Jennings to do a presentation on the Midwest watershed, see more about him later in the letter. Also look for events to do during the winter doldrums or to compete with Bob's tying skills. I usually skip to Grumpy's page first....

Trout in the classroom is well underway in two classrooms, with release to Fox Bluff for brookies. A big kudos again to both Bob and Jerry for working this out and seeing it through; we can all hope Fox Bluff becomes a full blown LWTU Chapter project with fishable brook trout sometime soon within a close drive.

Hope all will brave the cold and venture out to enjoy some pizza, conversation, and our presenter this month.



Hope to see all at the meeting!

Matt Gregory, Secretary LWTU

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 17th so we know how many pizzas to preorder.

Our January Speaker is Matt Jennings

Matt Jennings is a writer, photographer, fly tier, instructor, and current Conservation Editor of A Tight Loop Magazine. A lifelong fisher and longtime fly fisherman Matt is the Conservation Chair and a past President of the Gary Berger Chapter of TU. He was the multi time President of the Central Texas Fly fishers He is also the creator of the venerable Matt's Bug fly. Matt will be discussing his fascination with fishing the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway. A great Midwestern fishing destination with many special features making this a dream fishery for the warm water fly fisher. We will discuss the species and timing, along with a couple of his favorite floats. He will then demonstrate tying his favorite fly for the area. He will reference his current article on the St.Croix NSR in A Tight Loop Magazine. Come on out and find out why this is such a great fishing destination, and see why you need to go fish "The Croix"!

You can see Matt Tying his "Matt's Bug at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=54EKmj3tdhA>

The Grand Prize winner from our Christmas Party was Madison Lammers !!



Conservation news

Well, we have good news and some bad news. First the bad news. The Rockford High School Trout In The Classroom Program had a power outage long enough to kill a majority of the brook trout in the tank. The good news is that there are too many in the Dundee Middle School to allow good growth. The overstock in Dundee will be transferred to Rockford soon and will allow a normal growth rate in both tanks.



On Monday the 9th of January I walked through Fox Bluff with Gabe Powers the Mc Henry County Conservation District biologist with whom we are coordinating our project. He was very supportive and was excited about the possibilities for the project. We explored the three unnamed springs that come down the bluff.

The first one has 3 man-made ponds that I would like to put the Brookies in the first year. It has the most natural cover and would need only brush clearing to make a beautiful habitat for the fish. In honor of the man who originally investigated the possibilities on this spring, and continues to do so much for this chapter, I would like to call this *Scott's Run*.

The second stream has an old broken-down pond that has a washed-out dam. It was completely frozen over from top to bottom and does not look like a good prospect for restoration or trout habitat. Let's call this spring *Frozen Run*.

The third spring really got Gabe excited. It has no dams and has the largest flow of water. Here is where we can spend a lot of time this year and next getting it ready for fish. There are so many possibilities for improvement I think we need to look for outside help in planning what needs to be done. The main drawback is: it has only walk-in access. Chain saws, shovels, and hand tools will all need to be carried into this site. In honor of the person

who alerted the chapter to the change of policy at McHenry County Conservation District and has helped with the monitoring and done so much else in this chapter we should call this section *Pete's Run*.

The volunteers that want to become Stewards need to attend the Glacial Park meeting at Lost Hollow on Jan. 25 and must get their paper work in to Denice Beck ASAP. Tentative meeting time is 5:45 P.M. please watch the chainsaw safety app. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MWnMeOHGfPw> before the meeting. For any questions call Jerry Sapp 847 284 4824.

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

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

Ice Breaker – 34th Annual

Date: January 14, 2017

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

Sponsor: Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited

Speakers/Program: Landon Mayer, a Colorado fishing guide and author (books & magazines), plus fly tying demonstrations, live aquatic insect identification by the Wisconsin DNR, and more.

<http://www.swtu.org>

Cabin Fever Day – 16th Annual - Fox Valley Trout Unlimited

Date: January 14, 2017

Location: The Grand Meridian, Appleton, WI

Sponsor: Fox Valley Trout Unlimited

Speakers/Program: Fly fishing seminars by Midwest experts Israel Dunn, Bill Schultz and Damian Wilmot plus fly tying demonstrations, casting clinics, vendors and more.

<http://www.foxvalleytu.org/cabin-fever-day-2017>

West Michigan Fly Show *** New Show*******

Date: January 14, 2017

Location: East Kentwood High School, Grand Rapids, MI

Sponsor: Great Lakes Council of International Federation of Fly Fishers

Speakers/Program: Presentations by Josh Greenberg on the AuSable River System, Jon Ray on the Manistee River, Kevin Feenstra on the Muskegon River, Dave Barkman on the Pere Marquette, Brad Petzke on Upper Peninsula fishing. Plus fly casting and fly tying demonstrations and vendors.

http://fffglctesting.com/?page_id=622

Chicagoland Fishing, Travel & Outdoor Expo

Date: January 26 – 29, 2017

Location: Schaumburg Convention Center, Schaumburg, IL

Sponsor: NMMA Sport Shows

Speakers/Program: Fishing show with lots of exhibitors/vendors/programs, limited fly fishing materials/programs.

<http://sportshows.com/chicago/index.html>

Spring Opener – Badger Fly Fishers

Date: February 11, 2017

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

Sponsor: Badger Fly Fishers

Speakers/Program: Jason Randall, author, angler and veterinarian will give talks about advanced nymphing, what trout see, and the catch of your life. Show has vendors, fly tying demonstrations, raffles, etc.

<http://badgerflyfishers.com>

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-smallmouth-alliance.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>

Second confirmed occurrence of New Zealand mudsnail confirmed in Wisconsin waters

The invasive New Zealand mudsnail (*Potamopyrgus antipodarum*) was recently discovered in Badger Mill Creek near Verona.

The snail was initially identified by a Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District monitor, provided quickly to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and verified by a taxonomic expert. Black Earth Creek and Badger Mill Creek are the only two inland streams in Wisconsin known to have populations of the invasive snail.

The New Zealand mudsnail establishes large populations, out competes native stream insects that serve as food for fish and changes nutrient flows in streams. It is uncertain what impacts this invasive species will have on streams in Wisconsin.

The discovery was made during a routine biological sampling conducted by the sewerage district on Badger Creek at the Highway 69 bridge crossing. Badger Mill Creek, which begins in the town of Middleton, receives effluent from sewage outfall near Badger Prairie in Verona. Regular monitoring helps the Madison sewerage district gauge the effects of its discharge on the creek.

In addition to monitoring by the sewerage district and DNR stream biologists in the Upper Sugar River watershed that includes Badger Mill Creek, Wisconsin is fortunate to have volunteer stream monitors across the state who collect data for dissolved oxygen, pH, phosphorus, macro invertebrates (insects, snails and mussels) and other water quality indicators. There is a strong network of monitors in Dane and Green Counties, which includes the Sugar River and streams that feed into it. DNR anticipates working with partners to do continued monitoring and outreach to help inform those who visit streams regularly including anglers and the general public.

Stream anglers, volunteer and professional water quality monitors and paddlers play an important role in preventing the spread of the New Zealand mudsnail. All water users are reminded to follow the Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers guidance of:

-) INSPECT your boat, trailer, and equipment, including waders, nets, and fishing gear;
-) REMOVE any attached aquatic plants or animals (before launching, after loading, and before transporting on a public highway);
-) DRAIN all water from boats and equipment; and
-) NEVER MOVE live fish away from a waterbody.

People who wade streams for any reason can also use a brush to thoroughly scrub their boots and waders or freeze their gear to further reduce the risk of transporting all invasive species, including New Zealand mudsnails, to other streams.

By performing these prevention actions water users can protect our waters and stop the spread of invasive species.

Bob Olach's Fly of the Month

W.C. Stewart's Black Spiders

Several years ago, I did a short article on W.C. Stewart's "*Black Spider*" and recently, I decided to tie a few more before the start of my next fishing season.

In Stewart's book "*The Practical Angler or The Art of Trout-Fishing More Particularly Applied to Clear Water*" (first published in March 1857 and reprinted many times since then), Stewart describes his three favorite spiders (The Black Spider, The Red Spider and The Dun Spider), as follows:

*"1st. **The Black Spider.** This is made of the small feather of the cock starling, dressed with brown silk, and is, upon the whole, the most killing imitation we know. We were first shown it by James Baillie, and have never been without one on our line ever since.*

*2nd. **The Red Spider** should be made of the small feather taken from the outside of the wing of the landrail, dressed with yellow silk, and is deserving of a very high rank, particularly in coloured water.*

*3rd. **The Dun Spider.** This should be made of the small soft dun or ash-coloured feather, taken from the outside of the wing of the dotterel. This bird is unfortunately very scarce; but a small feather may be taken from the inside of the wing of the starling, which will make an excellent substitute.*

The hackle generally plays a very conspicuous part in the construction of trouting flies. The spider or hackle fly is made of it entirely, and in other flies it is used to imitate the legs of the insect. We, however, think the cock-hackle by no means deserving of so much attention as is bestowed upon it, being too stiff and wiry to represent the legs of an insect, and we prefer hen-hackles, or still better, the small feathers taken from the neck or outside of the wings of a variety of small birds. But these latter are not always to be had of the colour wanted, and cock-hackles are very convenient to fall back upon, but should be selected as soft in the fibre as possible. Amongst those most serviceable to the angler are the small feathers taken from the outside of the wings, as also from the neck and shoulders of the following birds: the starling, landrail, dotterel, mavis, grey plover, golden plover, partridge, and grouse. Of the foregoing, we consider the feathers taken from the cock starling the most valuable of all to the angler. They have a rich glossy black, which no other feathers possess, and

we always use them in place of the black cock-hackle. Next to them we rank the feathers of a reddish-brown colour taken from the outside of the wing of the landrail, the only feathers which take the place of the red cock-hackle; and as it is impossible to get any quantity of these sufficiently small, we frequently find it necessary to have recourse to red hackles.

The feathers of the dotterel are also held in high esteem, but all those just mentioned may with advantage be substituted for the hackle in the formation of all trouting flies and spiders. Their superiority consists in their much greater resemblance to the legs of an insect, and their extreme softness. So soft are they, that when a spider is made of one of them and placed in the water, the least motion will agitate and impart a singularly lifelike appearance to it, whereas it would have no effect upon a cock-hackle. Spiders dressed of very soft feathers are more suitable for fishing up than for fishing down, as if drawn against the stream it runs the fibres alongside of the hook, and all resemblance to an insect is destroyed.

Dressing a spider is a much simpler operation than dressing a fly, and therefore it is better to begin with it. Having selected a thread of gut and a hook, the next thing is to choose a feather, which, to make a neat spider, must be so proportioned to the size of the hook that the legs of the spider, when dressed, will be about the length of the hook. Before commencing, bite the end of the gut between your teeth; this flattens and makes it broader in the point, which prevents it slipping, a thing very liable to occur with small flies. Next, take the hook firmly between the forefinger and thumb of your left hand, lay the gut along its shank, and with a well-waxed silk thread, commencing about the centre of the hook, whip it and the gut firmly together, till you come to the end of the shank, where form the head by a few turns of the thread. This done, take the feather, and laying it on with the root end towards the bend of the hook, wrap the silk three or four times round it, and then cut off the root end.

What remains to be done is the most critical part of the whole operation: still holding the hook between the forefinger and thumb of your left hand, take the thread, lay it along the centre of the inside of the feather, and with the forefinger and thumb of your right hand twirl them round together till the feather is rolled round the thread; and in this state wrap it round the hook, taking care that a sufficient number of the fibres stick out to represent the legs; to effect this it will sometimes be necessary to raise the fibres with a needle during the operation. Having carried the feather and thread down to where you commenced, wrap the silk three or four times

round the end of the feather, and if there is any left cut it off, and finish with a succession of hitch-knots, or the common whip-fastening. If the legs of the spider when dressed are too long, there is no remedy for it; cutting injures rather than improves them. This is a very rough and simple mode of dressing a spider, and does not make it so neat as if the feather were put on by a pair of nippers, but it is more natural-looking, and much more durable, as the feather is fastened on by the thread the whole way down.”

What is interesting in tying Stewart’s spiders (and incorrectly stated by many fly tiers who describe their hackling as “*Stewart-style*”) is that the hackle being used is held so that the silk thread is placed down the center of the hackle and then the hackle is twisted together and then wrapped from the hook eye towards the center of the hook shank before being whip finished.



Hook – Daiichi 1550 wet fly or 1640 short shank hooks (sizes 14 – 16 – I used 1640, #14 hooks for the above flies)

Thread / Body – Waxed Pearsall Gossamer Brown silk wrapped approx. a third to a half way down hook shank.

Hackle – Starling feather wrapped around silk thread.



Grumpy's Page by Kurt Haberl

I noticed right away that Schnoz was more cantankerous than usual. How anyone could be crabby while the campfire had just been lit; there were no mosquitoes or rain; he already was on his second Scotch; Wet Curtis had made a run into town for ice, chips and salsa, and we had just finished a fine summer day of fishing. Most of the usuals were there; besides Wet Curtis and me, Dewey sat in his patched and bent camp chair with a beer, Mary who had seen the old ghost by the big willow on the Piscawaukee last year sat with a glass of wine, and Roy the Plumber sat in a dangerous-looking sling chair drinking some concoction he called "bilgewater," which primarily was meant to keep everyone else from stealing or even sampling his drink.

"Damn," Schnoz grouched, "why can't a man just be left alone with a drink and his thoughts?"

"What's wrong with you?" I said, "I mean besides the obvious longstanding character traits."

"What's wrong with me? It's these infernal chigger bites. No-see-ums or whatever they were. For some reason they only went after my left arm."

"Let me see that," Wet Curtis said and shone a flashlight on Schnoz's arm in the early evening light. "Just as I suspected. Leprosy. There's no cure." He moved his camp chair several feet further away from Schnoz. The General, the black lab who owned Curtis, also moved away and growled.

"Can dogs smell leprosy?" I said innocently.

"Apparently," Wet Curtis said.

"Schnoz, I hear you get about two years before things start to fall off," I said. "Two years is a pretty long time to get your life in order. In your case, that might not be enough, but-"

"Let me see that," Ghost Mary said. "Where were you fishing?"

"Behind the red barn near the bluff on Owl Creek. You think I walked through a colony of No-see-ums?"

"I doubt it. Chiggers and No-see-ums are usually hiding in the grass or brush. I think you walked through a patch of wild parsnip. Did you see any tall plants with flowers kind of like yellow Queen Anne's Lace?"

"Queen who?" Schnoz said.

"Nevermind. I'll be back in a minute." Ghost Mary put her wine glass in the mesh pocket of her camp chair, thought better of it, and took her glass with her as she wandered off in the twilight toward the stream behind the campground.

"I wasn't going to drink your wine!" Schnoz called after her.

"I know," she called back, "but at least three of you were thinking of putting something in it."

"Smart woman," Dewey said.

"That, my friend, is a redundancy," Roy said.

"Not every woman is smart," Schnoz objected.

"Sure they are," I said. "You just got lucky when Huldy had a moment of weakness."

"Besides," Wet Curtis said, "the only one here was smart enough not to walk through a patch of wild parsnip."

"Yeah?" Schnoz said, "well, you wouldn't recognize it either. None of you knows what it is."

"Sure we do," at least three of us said, "It's a tall plant with yellow flowers that look like Queen Anne's Lace."

Roy snorted. He does that sometimes when he's trying not to laugh. Then he said, "You know, Schnoz, I can fix your problem." He somehow managed to pull himself out of the sling he had been sitting in, staggered over to Schnoz, and poured about a third of his drink on Schnoz's itching arm. Schnoz yelled in pain.

"I know it burns a little," Roy said, "but that's good for you. Builds character. Kills bad stuff. Bilgewater is either a probiotic or antibiotic; I can't remember which." Schnoz groaned and looked at his arm like it no longer belonged to him. Roy went back to sink into his sling chair and snort again. A minute later, Ghost Mary came back holding a little tubular plant and went right to Schnoz.

"Give me your right hand," she said, and when he put it out, she squeezed the rubbery stalk of the plant she found and said, "rub this juice all over the arm that itches."

"What is it?" Schnoz said.

"Jewel weed. It's a little like aloe, but its juice is good for poison ivy and wild parsnip. Native Americans used it."

"You been talking to more ghosts?" Schnoz said doubtfully.

"No, only that one last year. Don't give me any grief because Grumpy saw him too. He was a good guy. This remedy came from my brother. He went to guide school and he knows his stuff."

"Well, since it came from your brother," Schnoz said with more confidence, and smeared the juice all over his arm.

Mary sighed and then mumbled, "Men...."

"Hey, we're not all as bad as Schnoz," I protested.

"Yeah," Roy said. "Some of us are worse."

We all waited for Schnoz to yelp from the pain of his Jewel weed application, but he didn't. Instead he said, "Well, it's better than Roy's bilgewater."

"Everything's better than Roy's bilgewater," Dewey and Curtis and I said in unison. The more we were all together, the more we thought and talked alike.

"Well," I said to Schnoz, "I was going to ask that you leave your eight-foot four-weight to me after two years of leprosy, but if you don't have leprosy, I guess I'll just wait."

Roy snorted again. Wet Curtis opened up a bag of tortilla chips and a jar of salsa and handed them to Mary. "Charity deserves a reward."

"Wait," I said. "Is wild parsnip catching? Maybe Schnoz shouldn't get any."

"Look," Schnoz said, raising his arm and waving it in the air, "Good as new. No leprosy. No parsley, no wild nothing. Pass the salsa."

"I think you should rub some Jewel weed juice on Schnoz's head," Roy said. "Maybe it will help."

"Nothing will help that," Curtis and Mary and I said in unison.

That's when I realized there are different kinds of families in the world. There may be only one that you are born into, but sometimes you get the chance to choose other brothers and a sister. Trout fishers make a pretty good DNA pool for a second family, I think.

Wild Parsnip



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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.