

January President's Message

Happy New Year fellow Lee Wulff members! I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season spent with your families. Our Christmas fundraiser was a fun filled evening that raised significant funds to help support our conservation efforts this year. If you couldn't make it this year, please save December 7th on your calendar for this year's event!

Our featured speakers for this month's meeting are Dave Goetz and Steve Mathewson the brains behind the podcast 2 Guys and a River. They will be doing a podcast from the meeting so come and be part of the show.

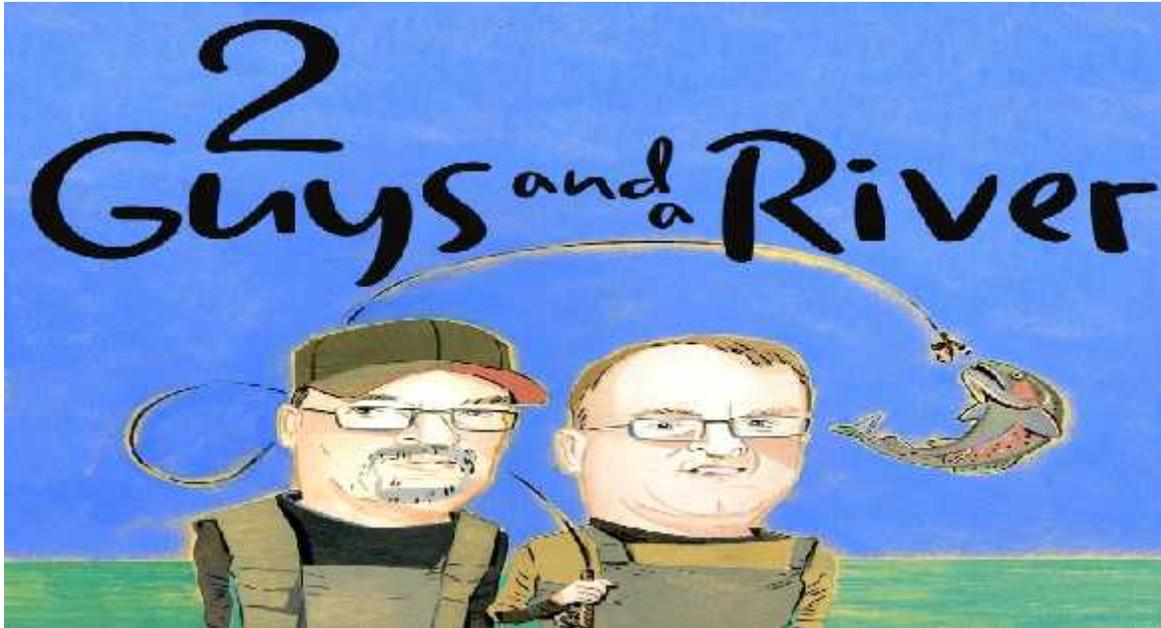
We have a lot of ways to be involved with other chapter members this year from outings in the Driftless Area of Wisconsin, fishing the Holy Waters at Wa Wa Sum and salmon fishing in Michigan to restoration work at Fox Bluff, stile building in Wisconsin and of course working with special ed kids from School District 300.

No matter what your interest is please get involved.

See you at the meeting,

Bob

Our January Speakers



2 Guys and a River - Dave Goetz and Steve Mathewson

"2 Guys and a River" is about helping aspiring fly fishers to catch more fish and make the most of the moments while they are on the water. We are two lifelong friends, writers, and very average fly fishermen who love fly fishing the great rivers. Our mission is to help you catch more and bigger fish while deepening your love for fly fishing.

Conservation News – Jerry Sapp

Happy New Year to everyone.

This April we are going to join the Gary Borger chapter and put stiles on the Big Green and Trout Creek somewhere around the first weekend of April depending on the weather and frozen ground. In January I will be meeting with Jackie Bero from McHenry County Conservation District at Fox Bluff to discuss future work plans. Hopefully, we will get to start on the second stream (Pete's Run) that had work done at its source by a private landowner which might delay our next plans.

If you are interested there is a Scientific Symposium in La Cross February 5&6. This is an annual occurrence that is well worth attending if you are interested in the latest scientific information about the Driftless Area. Please email me at Sapp375@aol.com for the registration information.

Coming up March 29 -31 is the Upper Midwest Regional Meeting of TU. It will be at Illinois Beach State Park and includes a Friday Fishing Day for Steelhead. This is a great place to learn about how you can improve your chapter and make a difference in conservation. The featured speaker will be addressing the reintroduction of Grayling to Michigan streams. Registration information will be sent out soon. I encourage you to attend especially board members.

The Fly Tying group has started on Tuesdays at Cabela's at 6:00 PM. On our first night, the group tied steelhead flies to be used at the Midwest Regional Meeting fishing day. Thanks to all who helped. I know it will be appreciated by the attendees of the Meeting. We must have at least 6 dozen flies ready as a welcoming gift from Illinois.

Jerry Sapp
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

Jan.15 Caddis Flies: Graphic Caddis and Elk Hair Caddis

Jan.22 Barr Flies: Copper John and Caddis Larva

Jan.29 Barr Flies: Barr Emerger wet and dry

Feb.5 Poppers

Feb.12 Quill Flies: Rusty Spinners and Quill Gordon

Feb.19Midges: 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!

Chicago Muskie Show

January 18-20, 2019,

Pheasant Run Mega Center - St. Charles, IL

Fish & Hook Sports Show

March 17, 2019,

American Legion, Marne Post #13 - Plainfield, IL

Chicagoland Fishing & Travel Outdoor Expo

January 24-27, 2019,

Schaumburg Convention Center - Schaumburg, IL

Tinley Park Fishing Show

February 10-11, 2018,

Tinley Park High School, Tinley Park, IL

51st Annual Chicago RV & Camping Show

February 7-10, 2019,

Donald Stephens Convention Center - Rosemont, IL

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 Highschool - Elmwood, IL

Fish & Hook Sports Show

March 17, 2018,

American Legion Marne Post #13 - Plainfield, IL

Chicago Outdoor Sports Show

March 22-25, 2018,

Arlington International Racecourse - Arlington Heights, IL

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)

Jan 17th

2 Guys and a River

Feb 21st.

Tom Starmack (Zoetic Flies) will speak about
"Anchor Fly Design"

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

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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

Edmonds' & Lee's Bloa Dressings

“Brook & River Troutling”

In Edmonds' & Lee's book “*Brook and River Troutling*”, there are several “*Bloa*” dressings shown and although slightly different in construction, they all have two things in common...namely the use of yellow silks and also a bluish / grayish hackle feather from various birds.

The word “*Bloa*” or “*Blae*” comes from the Scottish language and according to the Dictionary of Scot Language means “slate blue/gray”.

These dressings are quite easy to tie and are effective in many trout waters. If the fly tier doesn't have the specified hackles stated in the dressings shown below, try a few different gray colored hen hackles.



Here are the original dressings, as taken from "*Brook & River Trout*ing": (Note: I used size 14 Daiichi 1550 hooks in the flies pictured above.)

No. 9

Light Snipe or Snipe Bloa

Ephemeridae

Hook 1

Wings - Hackled with a bluish feather from the under coverts of a Snipe's wing. (The lighter side of the feather toward the head).

Body - Yellow silk, No. 4.

Head - Yellow silk.

Middle of April to middle of May, and again in September.

No. 2

Waterhen Bloa

Ephemeridae

Hook 1 or 2

Wings - Hackled with a smoky grey feather from under coverts of a Waterhen's wing. (The darker side of the feather towards the head of the fly).

Body - Yellow silk, No. 4, dubbed with Mole's fur.

Head - Yellow silk.

March to end of April, again in September.

No. 16

Yellow-Legged Bloa

Ephemeridae

Hook 1

Wings - From a young Starling's light primary quill feather, the outer side of the feather as the under side of the wing.

Body - Primrose yellow silk, No. 3.

Tail - Two strands from a very pale ginger Cock's hackle.

Legs - A Cock's hackle dyed a rich primrose yellow.

Head - Primrose yellow silk.

May to end of June.

No. 18

Poult Bloa

Ephemeridae

Hook 0 or 1

Wings - Hackled with a light blue feather from the under coverts of a young Grouse wing, taken before the bird is strong on the wing. (The lighter side of the feather towards the head of the fly.) This feather darkens very rapidly on the live bird from August onwards.

Body - Primrose yellow silk, No. 3.

Head - Primrose yellow silk.

Middle of May to middle of June



Grumpy's Page by Kurt Haberl

It's weird, but I can tell when my phone rings that's it's Schnoz and not Annie or the doctor or some charity asking for help at Christmas time. Schnoz's ring sounds like he's been pushing buttons too hard or maybe he's causing a glitch in the laws of physics or electronics, kind of like a wrinkle in time.

"Hey, Grumpy, do you have any fly fishing catalogues?"

"Of course. Which one do you want?"

"All of them. Any one that has that new Ross reel in it, the one that looks like a mini Ferris wheel with an anodized finish like a brookie."

"You can get the specs or order one online, you know."

"Schnoz, what's wrong with you? This is about Christmas. I have to get as many catalogues as possible, circle the reel I want, and then leave them around the house so Huldy will order one for me. You can't take any chances. She doesn't know anything about fly reels."

“Why don’t you just tell her what you want?”

“But that would ruin the surprise. She needs to feel like she surprised me or it’s no fun for her.”

“But you already know.”

“Grumpy, I don’t know how you stay married. Marriage is mostly about pretending. She pretends she likes me and is going to surprise me, and I pretend to be surprised. That’s how it works. Doesn’t Annie pretend she likes you?”

“I don’t think so. When she’s upset, she tells me, and when she isn’t, I get hugs and stuff. We talk.”

“But how does she know what to get you for Christmas?”

“She asks me and I tell her two or three things, and she buys one of them.”

“That’s a stupid way to be married. You can’t just talk about things. Sheesh. What if that was how you did trout fishing? You put a Crackleback on your tippet and then talk to the fish. ‘Hey, big trout by that big rock. Here’s a palmered fly for you to eat, and then let’s do a tug o’ war, and I’ll let you go.’ You have to pretend you’re giving him something to eat, and he has to pretend he doesn’t know what it really is, and then everything works.”

I didn’t know what to say. I guess it was good to be reminded that things work differently for different people, and Schnoz has always been different.

“So, Schnoz, I assume Huldy and Annie bought presents for each other and we’re going to get together next week for egg nog, cookies, and their present exchange. I’d tell you what Annie got for Huldy, but you’d tell her and Annie would find out, and then I wouldn’t get any hugs for a week. How about if I get you some line for your new reel? Or would you rather buy something for yourself and I’ll just wrap it?”

That stumped him. He didn’t know how to pretend when someone just asked him something. I could almost hear his cranial gyro spinning.

“I could surprise you,” I said.

“I don’t like surprises.”

“Coal,” I said. “I’m going to get you three pieces of charcoal. Not even the good stuff. Charcoal that mostly smokes and burns out in ten minutes.”

“Very funny.”

“Okay, how about this? I will get you either a new 4 weight fly line, a quick dry fishing shirt, or some on-the-stream tool. Then it won’t be a surprise, but it also will be.”

“Um, okay. What do you want?”

“Surprise me.”

“You know you’re a really aggravating best friend. If I had a brother I couldn’t stand, you’d be him. I don’t know how you get through life. You can’t just talk about things, you know. It’s like you’re stomping into a pool and flailing away with a hula popper on the end of your tippet. I’ll bet you can’t dance either. You have no finesse, no pretend-shuns.”

“You’re right, I can’t dance. And now you’re just making up words. But still, if you want to give me a present, surprise me.”

“Oh, I’ll surprise you, all right. You’ll be so surprised you’ll think you owe me something for life. You’ll see.”

Like knowing Schnoz’s ring when he calls, I knew right then what he would get me.

To get ready for our gift exchange and knowing what he would buy me, I went out and bought him a new fancy tippet nipper with an anodized brookie finish, an olive quick-dry fishing shirt, and a premium 4 weight line. Like our wives, I overspent by a lot, but I was just matching what Schnoz was going to buy. Since Huldy and Annie were like sisters who got along and overspent on each other, I didn’t feel bad. We’d still be able to pay our mortgage.

The next week when we got together, Schnoz sat in our living room like a little boy who really had to go to the bathroom. He wanted to open presents before anyone had doctored nog or overly-sugared cookies. Huldy gave him her *I’m-going-to-backhand-you* stare, so he clasped his hands and wobbled his knees and sat like a kid who had just had a milkshake, three chocolates, a sno-cone, and two Snickers bars. It was fun to watch. We talked about what a good year it had been; the police and fire department had not been called even once; no one went to the emergency room, and the weather had been good enough for us to camp and fish a lot, so the women could have the house to themselves with no men around.

Then we opened presents. “Ladies first,” I said, which caused Schnoz to give me his *I’m-going-to-dunk-you-in-Sterrit’s-Run* look, but I just smiled. Annie gave Huldy a beautiful quilt with some kind of barn mandala designs on it which I didn’t understand. Huldy had apparently admired it in some women’s store and held it in her hands, lingering just long enough for Annie to know she should go back and buy it. Huldy gave Annie a creamy, hand knitted Irish wool sweater which draped all the way down to her knees and apparently was in style this month.

Then Schnoz practically threw a box at me and leaned forward to watch me open it, one of his knees bouncing up and down like he was under some kind of electric stimulation with electrodes attached. The box was the wrong size and it was wrapped with Santa paper like it had been done by a four-year-old, but when I opened it, I had to pretend great surprise because, as I expected, he had given me the exact reel he had prompted

Huldy to buy for him. I pretended to be amazed, and reeled it and tested the drag, and admired it, which did not require any pretending at all.

Then I gave Schnoz the line nipper. His disappointment was so obvious when he looked at the ten dollar nipper and then at the reel he have given me, that I immediately gave him the box with a premium fly line, which he loved and got all Christmas-y again, and then I gave him the fishing shirt, which sent him back to being a four-year old.

“This is the best Christmas ever,” He beamed.

It had very little to do with the presents, but I think he was right. After all, we may be in our sixties with friends we’ve known since kindergarten, but those years are just add-ons. We’re still four years old and ten and eighteen and thirty, and it doesn’t take much to go back to four.

Chapter Officers

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