



## March 2016 President's Message

Hello everyone and thanks to all who made February's meeting successful while I was away. A special thanks goes out to Bob Becker, our VP, who I understand did a fantastic job. Thanks so much, Bob! We have so many wonderful team members in this chapter and they all do an amazing job.

My husband and I had an opportunity finally to get out of the cold and meet up with friends in AZ. Sun City is very pleasant and the weather is amazing! I marveled at all the new experiences of learning about the Sonoran Desert and its wildlife. There is not much fishing around that area unfortunately. However we ventured up into Sedona for a couple of days and found out that area is a very good fly fishing location. As with most of the trips I've made, I also have to factor in the fact that the weather can get in the way in spite of the best planning. My guide for Oak Creek above Sedona called the day after I arrived to inform me the sudden warm temps caused a significant snow melt and the creek was blown out. And it was—looked something like some of the worst days after flooding rains in the Driftless area. Well that's fishing. Perhaps another day. But the area is tough to beat for scenery and gorgeous conditions.

This month we will be having Rich Ostoff as our speaker. We also will be visited by Willie Beshire of the IL TU council and Oakbrook chapter to present a short discussion about the IL council youth camp offered every summer in Michigan. He will be bringing a handmade bamboo rod they are raffling off to collect funds, and also some great information and applications for the camp. Hard working volunteers are always needed up there- both men and women- so come with your questions. Many of our fellow DRIFT members help out every year and are very dedicated.

Please read through the entire newsletter, as I have some very exciting news about a drawing we will be holding in April. We will be sponsoring this year, for the first time, a woman candidate from our chapter to attend the annual Southwest TU Women's Beginner fly fishing clinics this summer. This is by far one of the best and most thorough women's fly fishing clinics in the Midwest. I can speak from experience as a

former student and am now a River Buddy each year to help mentor new students. It is taught by women for women and is an absolute blast! Please see the information in this newsletter for more details.

Our board met in late February to discuss the status of the chapter, establish budget plans for funding the remainder of the fiscal year, potential work projects, and many other topics. We will have the meeting minutes available for anyone who might be interested. I am happy to say we are growing, and the potential for our chapter to be outstanding is incredible! We have had many new people come to our meetings, thanks to Jerry Sapp's fly tying classes at Cabela's. The word is spreading, folks. Tell all of your friends and fellow anglers to come out and enjoy a meeting with us! Offer to take someone with you on an outing and drive together! This a marvelous way to get to know members better and to mentor our new people.

Sign up for the outings has begun and space is limited for some. Please see Gordon as soon as possible if you have any interest in attending any or all of the outings. We have many great locations to choose from this year!

We are happy to also announce we will be holding another annual chapter picnic in May. We are still ironing out a few details but the tentative plan is for May 7<sup>th</sup>, the first Saturday of that month. This is one of the only other opportunities we offer for members to bring their spouses and families to enjoy this event. Mark your calendars now!

I will see you all at the meeting! Meg

## **Spring Steelhead!!**

From Dustan Harley on the St. Joe

March is here, so get those rods and waders ready folks because the spring run of 2016 is upon us and the fishing should be great! We have already seen a decent push of fish move into the system and should see a huge migration with the above normal temperatures this week. The fish are eating eggs and streamers. The water temperatures are already above 40 and should push well above that this week.

## March Speaker – Rich Ostoff



### Fly-Fishing the Spring Creeks of Western Wisconsin

Rich Osthoff is the author of three books: Active Nymphing, No Hatch to Match and Fly Fishing the Rocky Mountain Backcountry.

Rich has also written on fly fishing and fly tying for many magazines, including Outdoor Life, Flyfishing & Tying Journal, American Angler, Fly Tyer and Midwest Flyfishing. Rich guides fly fishing for trout on his home waters-the fertile spring creeks of western Wisconsin. He markets his innovative trout, steelhead and warmwater flies directly to fly fishers throughout the country via his mail order fly catalog (published on his website). [www.richosthoff.com](http://www.richosthoff.com).

His presentation will be a voice over of his video on fishing the Driftless Area of southwest Wisconsin. He'll be talking about reading water, what flies to use and how to use them along with many tips and techniques. He'll be more than happy to answer any questions you might have and also sign his book, if you should have a copy.

#### **Please Note:**

Our own Master fly tier Bob Olach has generously donated a few collections (a dozen each) of his favorite flies for the Driftless (Pink Squirrels, Flashback PT's, Crackelbacks, Frenchies, etc.). We will be raffling them off at our March meeting. Buy ticket and get a chance to win a dozen of Bob's famous flies.

**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](mailto:treasurer@leewulfftu.org) by Tuesday February 16<sup>th</sup> so we know how many pizzas to preorder.**

## **An Exciting Opportunity for Lee Wulff Women Anglers!**

Hello to all of our Lee Wulff members: This year we are going to be sponsoring one lucky woman candidate to attend the South West WI Trout Unlimited Women's Beginner Clinic this June. As part of our growth we want to see more women getting involved in the sport, and this gives one of our women members, spouses of members, or immediate family of a member (daughter or granddaughter) a chance to attend this fabulous clinic taught by women for women.

I am a previous clinic "graduate" and have been going back most every year since then to help out as a River Buddy. River buddies are almost all previous students who return subsequent years to "pay it forward" and take our beginners out for their first on the water fishing experience. I cherish every year I've gone back and have such wonderful memories of all the experiences and people I've met.

We will be asking interested candidates to submit their name, address, and contact information via letter or email to me, Meg. We will be announcing the winner at our April monthly meeting. This is a great opportunity and valued at \$210.00!!

### **DETAILS**

**Friday, June 17, 2016 6:00 PM -  
Sunday, June 19, 2016 1:00 PM (Central Time)**  
**West Fork Sportsmen's Club, Co Rd S**  
**Avalanche, Wisconsin 54665**  
**United States**

Agenda:

**Friday, June 20th**

3:00 – 6:00 pm           Registration and Settling into Camp  
5:30 - 6:00pm           Optional Gear Check  
6:00 – 7:00 pm           Dinner  
7:00 – 8:00 pm           Introductions & Knot Tying  
8:00 - 10:00pm           Campfire

**Saturday, June 21st**

8:00 – 9:00 am           Breakfast  
9:00 – 11:15 am          Intro to Flyfishing Equipment and Casting Technique  
11:30 am – 12:00 pm      Conservation and the Etiquette of Flyfishing  
12:00 – 12:45 pm          Lunch  
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm          Stream Shocking and Entomology (See Real Fish/Bugs)  
3:00 pm - 3:30 pm          Casting Practice  
3:30 pm - 3:55 pm          Break  
4:00 – Dark               Fishing with River Buddies (Dinner on the Stream)  
After Hours               Campfire

**Sunday, June 22nd**

8:00 – 9:00 am           Breakfast  
9:00 – 10:30 am          Casting Review  
10:30 am – 12:00 pm      The Anatomy of a Trout Stream/ Reading the Water  
12:00 – 1:00 pm          Lunch  
1:00 pm                    Fishing On Your Own (Optional)

Our chapter will assist our candidate to obtain gear and the other items needed for the trip. Camping fees are included in the package. Waders and boots are recommended but not mandatory. The clinic recommends a minimum of a pair of sturdy water sandals or tennis shoes you don't mind sacrificing for wading.

We will work with our winner more specifically regarding the remaining details later. A Wisconsin fishing license with inland trout stamp is mandatory. We will assist with setting that up as well.

Requirements for candidates:

- You must be a current member of Lee Wulff TU in good standing, or spouse of a members, or an immediate relative of a member ( daughter or granddaughter) to qualify.
- You must be at least 18 years old and able to care for yourself. The clinic does not provide additional supervision.
- Must be willing to commit to the dates and requirements of the clinic.

(An alternative candidate will be selected at the drawing in the event the winner is unable to attend. )

I look forward to hearing back from many of you as we seek our fortunate winner. You may apply via email to Meg Gallagher [prez@leewulfftu.org](mailto:prez@leewulfftu.org)

Thanks! Meg Gallagher  
President Lee Wulff Chapter of Trout Unlimited

## Illinois Council TU Youth Fly Fishing and Conservation Camp



The Illinois Council of Trout Unlimited will again be holding its annual Conservation and Fly Fishing Camp on the banks of the famous Au Sable River in Michigan from July 24 to July 29.

Campers learn more about conservation and fly fishing in a week at camp than most of us learn in a lifetime. It is an enjoyable and educational experience. Participants will learn about many aspects of conservation and preserving cold water fisheries.

The fly fishing instruction includes fly casting (roll cast, overhead fly cast, false casting, shooting line, even the double haul!), fly tying, knots, basic entomology and what fish eat, reading the water, safe wading techniques, catch and release, leave-no-trace, and other outdoors and fly fishing related skills. Most importantly, camp is fun!!!

The camp accepts young men and women ages 13 through 18. The camp is all inclusive and provides transportation to and from the camp, food and lodging. Instruction is provided by Trout Unlimited volunteers, faculty from Midwestern Universities, and local professionals. All necessary gear is provided by the Illinois Council of Trout Unlimited for the campers to use while attending the camp.

Consider the Conservation and Fly Fishing Camp for your daughter, son, niece, nephew or grandkids. The camp cost includes round-trip transportation from Chicago, lodging, meals and equipment. The tuition fee is \$575 (comprised of a \$75 deposit at time of application [see link below] plus a \$500 remaining balance due one month before camp). Candidates should not send full tuition until notified of selection. If for some reason the application is declined, the deposit will be refunded. For more information including an application, please see contact information below. Sponsorship is available for campers with financial need.

Willie Beshire, Camp Director  
(630) 200-2532

[wbeshire@aol.com](mailto:wbeshire@aol.com)

Darwin Adams, Illinois Council President  
(847) 828-1212

[darwinla4@gmail.com](mailto:darwinla4@gmail.com)

Camp application:

[http://ilcouncil.tu.org/sites/default/files/2016%20Camp%20Application\\_FINAL-1.pdf](http://ilcouncil.tu.org/sites/default/files/2016%20Camp%20Application_FINAL-1.pdf)

### **Cabalas' Fly Tying Classes - January 5, 2016 to March 29, 2016**

Fly tying classes are once again being held at Cabela's in Hoffman Estates. The sessions are held on Tuesdays at 6 PM 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:

March 15 - Stoneflies

March 22 - Deaf Man's Emerger

March 29 - Seno's Wiggle Stone

## Conservation

We are awaiting the approval by the Illinois DNR to place trout in Fox Bluff. This must be given before proceeding with Mc Henry County Conservation District on any planning or restoration work of this area. Hopefully we will hear soon and we can get to work on this project.

We are going to be send over \$6,000 in conservation contributions to various projects in the Driftless Area this year. To help replenish this money we are holding a Spring raffle. The top prize is an Orvis Helios2 rod. The winner will choose the weight they prefer. So expect to see a mailing soon and good luck!

Also...

### **We Have Some Work Days Coming Up!!**

We have some more information on upcoming work days with Southern Wisconsin TU:

#### **March 26 -Joint Workday with the Upper Sugar River Watershed Association**

9 am -12 noon

Where: Sugar River Wetlands State Natural Area -on south side of US-151 along Military Ridge State Trail, near Epic. Meet where Epic Lane & County View Rd meet, on the west side of the Epic Campus.

Note: We will walk on Military Ridge Trail underneath US-151 to the work site on the south side of US-151. Bring a wagon to help transport equipment.

Map to location:

<http://usrwa.org/wp-content/uploads/VolunteerMeetingLocation.jpg>

#### **April 9 -Wolf Run on Black Earth Creek**

9am -12 noon

Where: Driving west from Madison on Hwy 14, you will pass Wisconsin Heights High School and Rookies. Turn left (south) on Wolf Road, which is located at the intersection of Hwy 14 and Hwy 78.

# Minutes of the Board Meeting of the Lee Wulff Chapter of Trout Unlimited – February 27<sup>th</sup> 2016

February 27th, 2016 LWTU Board lunch meeting from approximately Noon to 2:10 pm and includes additional e-mail follow-ups. In attendance: Meg Gallagher (Pres.), Jerry Sapp (Conservation chair), Matt Gregory (Secretary), Gordon Rudd, Yves Charron (Treasurer), Bob Becker (VP), and Charlie Schmitz.

## For 2016 Christmas party:

- ) Touched upon appointing a strong, self motivated leader/chair person for the Christmas party. It's growing and we really need someone to take the reins and lead this fundraising committee. It is our one main fundraiser for the operating expenses and Pete and Betsy have put in more than fair share. Looking for help.
- ) Dennis to donate a bamboo rod to the raffle for Christmas 2016, \$20.00 per ticket.
- ) Will again make event pre-pay to help Yves not have to do dinners and tickets at event and have better head count.

## Treasurer report/ Allocation of Funds:

- ) Treasury books reviewed and audited by Matt Gregory prior to the start of the meeting. Spreadsheets look great with imbedded comments in XL cells for tracking and extra information. Look great, hats off to Yves for an excellent and balanced job.
- ) Reviewed and approved expenses and distribution of funds for the remainder of the year. Dinner meetings showing positive cash between \$50 to \$75 per meeting. When we have to pay a speaker, slightly negative. About \$100 ahead this year so far (even with paying one speaker \$150). Yves provided many handouts listing current accounts and status as well as where things stand with current budget.
- ) Many members still want to “pay down” more for Conservation- need good/ solid project (possibly Fox Bluff where monies will definitely be needed and used).
- ) Next Fall (September) we will setup the budget at the beginning of the year and make changes as deemed necessary.
- ) Payments to LWTU web site lose about 2.75% of actual cost due to transaction fees- may need to be considered when setting prices for “break even” items.
- ) 2015 Christmas party just shy of 2014 take by \$146.37. Still brought in \$3393.52.
- ) Agreed to donations for Conservation for 2016:  
\$1000 to TUDARE, \$4000 for Weister Creek, \$1000 for IL Council Youth Group, \$1000 to Nohr Chapter, \$500 for SW Wisconsin Women’s clinic, \$210.00 for Beginner Women’s Clinic, and \$200 to Conservation Resource Alliance.

## Newsletter Report:

- ) Not covered.

### Dinner/ Chapter Meetings/ Locations:

- ) Increase the cost of dinner meetings to \$20 for next September. Possibly set up a system for those not having pizza to contribute cost to cover speaker (i.e. it was suggested we sell raffle tickets for those not partaking of pizza for \$5.). Also idea to sell raffle tickets separately for \$5- still under debate on how to proceed and if better items easily obtained at a low cost.
- ) Raffle items for meetings; Pete's supply is pretty much depleted. Time to find a vendor or vendors willing to give us a break on prices for items for the raffle- TU tackle box? (Jerry to look into). Board agreed to have fewer items with higher quality. Bob O. also agreed to tie flies for raffle (some for dinners and others for Christmas party [?]). Budget set for \$100.00 in raffle prizes per meeting for April to September.
- ) Charlie brought up raising price or separate purchase for better raffle items- tabled until September, also more complicated at dinner meeting for Yves.

### Membership/ Committees/ Chapter Goals

- ) Need help in "meet and greet" area for meetings and updating membership list.
- ) Gordon pricing out safety whistles for use to give to outing participants as well as have extras for potential raffle prizes. Looking for something of quality.

### Conservation Report:

- ) Jerry checking for work projects and with other chapters for work days (Nohr and others in SW Wisconsin).
- ) For conservation raffle, Jerry has the idea for a rod where the winner will choose the weight they want (not have a pre-purchased rod)- may draw more interest if person can pick something they do not currently have. Have a budget of \$1000.00 for the rod. Will be \$20.00/ ticket, Jerry asking for help to do mailings and Charlie in so far.
- ) Still no notice from McHenry Conservation District for a "go ahead" on Fox Bluff.
- ) Conservation can use some help- Bob and Yves have been pitching in.

### Outings / Chapter Events:

- ) May 7 meeting will be a picnic, Sun City pavilion already reserved by Scott from 2:00 to 6:00 pm (\$125.00 for rental). Will get Doug Taylor to do a spey casting session on a mock river he'll set in grass- so water will not be an issue. Will cost \$250 for the clinic. Need a few planners (2) to help get things set.

### Web Status/ Report:

- ) Not covered.

### Youth Committee/ Programs:

- ) Willie Beshire from the IL Youth Camp will do a brief 15 to 20 minute presentation at the March dinner meeting, bringing the Bamboo hand-made rod they are raffling. He aims to explain the program, the roles of volunteers who want to work the program, and bring application forms for anyone interested in enrolling a potential youth candidate for the program. Board agreed to make donation, possibly volunteers?
- ) Trout in Classroom going well, \$500 set aside for new chiller (“in case”).
- ) Discussed difficulty of changing from Browns to Brook trout as Brook trout would be wanted for Fox Bluff if it happens and would be nice if the fish stocking came from the class fish- but may not be do-able.

### Miscellaneous / Open discussion:

- ) Decision made to have a raffle for a female member or a relation of a member for the Women's Fly Fishing Clinic next June. LWTU has purchased a spot to go to someone in our chapter. Meg drawing up the letter and details for to be posted. Value listed at \$210.00
- ) Yves will be sending out “E Invites” for all meetings and events- seem to be drawing in more people.

### Speaker listing / update:

- ) Not discussed.

### LWTU Inventory (known):

- ) Raffle odds and ends in Pete’s possession (do not have concrete list)
- ) Jerry has 4 donated fly rods to use in the Fishin’ So Fly program
- ) Trout in classroom equipment (tank, chiller, filtration system, etc.)

Official meeting adjourned at 2:10 pm

## **Lee Wulff Annual May Picnic**

Saturday May 7<sup>th</sup> from 2 to 6 at the Sun City Pavilion, Huntley, IL  
Special Guest appearance by Doug Taylor, Master of the Spey Rod  
Doug will be doing a talk and demonstration on using two-handed spey casting techniques with single-handed rods. More info to follow.

## **Need a New Wisconsin Fishing License? This from the Wisconsin DNR**



### **It's almost ready!**

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***We're running the final tests and will have you purchasing a license in just a few weeks!***

Go Wild is a major effort by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to encourage people to get outdoors and enjoy all of the recreational opportunities made possible by the sound management of our natural resources.

Part of the initiative involves a transition to a new customer service licensing system and we are excited for its launch later this month. The system provides a number of advantages and secures your license and registration information online, making it accessible when and where you need it. The transition to the new Go Wild system is progressing. We expect the migration to be complete in just a few weeks. It is important to note that licenses purchased last year are good through March 31, 2016.

During the transition to the new Go Wild system, customers who wish to purchase products such as fishing licenses or a snowmobile trail pass (good through March 31, 2016) must place their purchases at a DNR service center or call the customer service line at 1-888-WDNRINFo (1-888-936-7463). When the Go Wild system is activated, you will have full access to online purchasing and sales at more than 1,000 DNR license sales vendors statewide

## **Winter's over but there are still a few fishing shows, swap meets, flea markets left..**

### **Fish & Hook Sport Show.**

New & Used Tackle & Misc. Equipment  
Saturday March 19<sup>th</sup> 2016, 8am – 3pm  
Live Presentations 10am – 12:30pm. Live Auction at 2pm  
American Legion Harwood Post #80  
4000 Saratoga Ave.  
Downers Grove, IL  
[www.fishandhook.net](http://www.fishandhook.net)

### **1<sup>st</sup> Annual Indoor Fishing Flea Market.**

Collectable & Used Fishing Tackle. 9am-2pm  
Admission \$5, Seniors and Students \$4  
Sunday March 20<sup>th</sup> 2016  
Plano American Legion  
510 Dearborn Street  
Plano, IL

## **Planned Lee Wulff Chapter Outings for 2016**

### **2016 Early Spring Outing April 29th-May 1st- 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. 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 \$10 per year. The campground does not take reservations unless you are going to rent one of the two cabins they have. 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](mailto:McHenryFlyFisher@sbcglobal.net) no later than April 21st 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 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, [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.

Also the same weekend in Viroqua...

## **This from Chris Barkley – Maker of Fine Fiberglass Rods**

I'm planning an event in conjunction with the Driftless Angler's 10th anniversary that I'm calling the **Coulee Conclave**. It will be held **April 29 through May 1, 2016** and will be focused on the Driftless Area's wonderful fishing opportunities in and around Viroqua, WI.

I have more details, including a sign up, lodging opportunities and other details. I have created a page on my website dedicated to this and will keep this thread updated as well. Please check back and stay tuned.

<http://cbarclayflyrods.com/coulee-conclave/>

## **2016 Fennimore Outing May 20th-22nd Outing/Fennimore, WI**

The second outing takes place in the Southwest part of Wisconsin, again in the Driftless Area. 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. We have reserved, 4 single rooms and 4 double rooms. 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. Camping is not readily available however if you Google "camping in Grant

County, WI”, you will see there is some camping in the area, just not close to Fennimore. Fennimore is located approximately 1½ hours due west of Madison.

There are many great trout streams, with easy access, in this part of the state. Some to mention include The Big Green, Castle Rock, Doc Smith, Crooked Creek the Blue and Big Spring. These streams have sizeable trout populations and sizeable fish. There are no fly shops in the area so if you need anything shop before you arrive. If you are interested in a guide here are some that I would recommend;

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

Jim Romberg, Flyfisherman’s Lair Guide Service, 608-822-3005

## **2016 Wa Wa Sum Outing June 8th-12<sup>th</sup> Grayling, MI**

This is an excellent outing to the historic rustic lodge owned by Michigan State University and situated on the banks of the “Holy Waters” of the famed Au Sable River. This location is a short walk upstream from the very spot upon which Trout Unlimited was founded. The outing includes four nights lodging and fabulous fishing *opportunities* on the Au Sable and Manistee Rivers. Wa Wa Sum lodge is located just east of Grayling and it takes approximately 7 hours to drive there from the Chicago area.

Michigan has two “free fishing weekends” per year and this year, while we are there, fishing on Saturday and Sunday do not require a license or trout stamp however, you will need a license and trout stamp to fish the other days while there. You can obtain your license and stamp on line or at one of the local fly shops.

The cost for this outing is estimated at \$325. A non-refundable deposit is of \$50 is required to reserve you spot and the balance is due by May 15th. As stated, this is a rustic lodge, and you need to bring your own bed linens (sleeping bag & pillow) along with towel and washcloth.

Guided float trips are very popular, but hard to get this time of year. So, if you think this is something you’d like to do make your reservations early. Some fly shops to consider;

Gates Au Sable Lodge, [www.gateslodge.com](http://www.gateslodge.com) 989/348-8462

Old Au Sable Fly Shop, [www.oldausable.com](http://www.oldausable.com) 989/343-3330

Fuller’s North Branch Outing Club [www.fullersnboc.com](http://www.fullersnboc.com) 989/348-7951

To RSVP or for more information on any of these outings, contact Gordon Rudd at 815/245-2425 or [mchenryflyfisher@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mchenryflyfisher@sbcglobal.net)

### **To those coming to Wa Wa Sum please note:**

From Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup> 2016 until at least August 1<sup>st</sup> 2016 the city of Grayling will be removing the old two lane bridge on North Down River Road over the East Branch of the AuSable River next to the Grayling Hatchery and building a new 4 lane bridge at that

site. North Down River Road will be closed at that point for the next 6 months or longer. Those of you going to WaWaSum will need to take exit 254 off I-75/127 north then turn right at the first light onto M-72 (Huron St.). Drive East 7 miles to Stephan Bridge Road and turn left (north) on Stephan Bridge Road to North Down River Road then turn left (west), go 2 miles to Whirlpool road, turn left (south) for ¾ of a mile, turn left (east ) on Wa Wa Sum Road to the lodge. Plus lots more construction in the area see below for more info:

<http://grayling-mi.com/pressreleases/2015/12/road-construction-springsummer-2016>

[http://www.nemcog.org/grayling\\_i75.asp](http://www.nemcog.org/grayling_i75.asp)

## **2016 Late Spring Outing/June 24th-26th/Viroqua, WI**

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 6 rooms have 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.

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 \$10 per year. The campground does not take reservations unless you are going to rent one of the two cabins they have.

This area includes the famed West Fork of the Kickapoo, Timber Coulee and Camp Creek to only mention a few. The early WI season is open only to catch and release fishing.

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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. Fly

## Bob Olach's Fly Of The Month

### *Crystal Flash Back Midge*

Quite awhile back, I decided to order various colors and sizes of the UTC “*D-shaped*” vinyl rib that I had seen in a catalog of fly tying materials.

Shortly thereafter, I read an article in an old book that the fly tiers “*of old*” quite often painted their dark hook shanks with various colored paints and then used white silk for the fly tying thread. When the white silk got wet, the silk became transparent and the painted hook shank shone through the wet silk.

Instead of painting my hooks, I decided to use various colored vinyl ribbings for the dressings’ bodies and different dubbings / peacock herl for the thoraxes while using red, green, etc. holographic flash for the wingcase.



Here’s the dressing for the flies shown:

#### *Crystal Flash Back Midge*

**Hook** – Daiichi 1550 or Mustad 3906 wet fly hook (sizes 16 – 18)

**Thread** – Black UNI-thread 6/0

**\*Body** – UTC – Clear Vinyl Rib (Midge size)

**Thorax** – Black SLF “*Bug Dub*”

**Wingcase** – Red or Green Holographic Flash

\* The UTC vinyl ribs are “*D-shaped*” so the flat side of the vinyl wraps neatly over the hook shank while the “*D-shaped*” outer side makes a nicely segmented body.



## Grumpy's Page by Kurt Haberl

Sitting around a campfire after a day of fishing is a dangerous, philosophical business.

"Flyfishing for trout is a very funny thing - actually humorous," Roy the plumber said, "not like golf. Golf is tragedy. Think about it. In golf you play against a norm someone else has determined, knowing full well you can match that norm only by hitting every shot perfectly. Only the best can do that over seventy shots, and if they're that good, they play in tournaments where they all must lose except one. It's tragic."

"I've seen Grumpy flyfish," Schnoz said. "It's tragic. He has a terrible loopy backswing which usually shoots his fly into the rough. Sometimes the sand."

"Nicely played," Ray said.

"You were saying it's humorous," I reminded Ray.

"Ah, yes, humorous. First look at the fly fisher, Grumpy, here, for example. His hat is a floppy, ratty thing with snags from bad casts. It smells of fish slime, sunscreen, fly floatant, and sweat. Would any of you buy such a hat at a resale shop if it were marked down to twenty-five cents?"

"I would," I said.

"You don't count," Schnoz said. "And your hat should have been buried years ago."

"It's a lucky hat," I protested, although lately even I could smell that it had entered the zombie fashion world.

"Only because you haven't drowned in it," Wet Curtis said, his voice full of irony. "If it's really a lucky hat, is it bad luck or good?"

"Well, it's bad luck - for the hat," Schnoz said.

Like I said, sitting around a campfire after a day of fishing is a dangerous, philosophical business.

"Let's continue," Roy said with mock impatience as if someone had interrupted his lecture. "Grumpy wears special glasses with a lanyard in case he bends over to release the rare fish. The lanyard is an attempt at preventing his glasses from falling into the stream and washing down to New Orleans. The lanyard is usually tangled around other lanyards, one for a

waterproof camera in case he catches a trophy, or at least a fish one quarter inch longer than the norm."

"You carry a camera?" Schnoz said. "I've never seen you use it."

"I've used it," I said. "The scenery is beautiful, and-"

"Then there is a lanyard for his radio," Roy continued, "which he carries so one of us can rescue him when he gets lost. Then mixed into the lanyard tangle is that neck bandanna that he wears in a futile attempt at avoiding the sun-burned red neck. The point is that three-lanyard Grumpy will never drown; he'll probably go by strangulation."

"Can I have your rod?" Schnoz said. "The G. Loomis one? I've always wanted a Loomis rod."

"No," I said. "And I'm not dead yet."

"I've added a new piece of equipment for safety," Wet Curtis said. "Here, I'll show you." He got up from his camp chair slipped over to the camping trailer he bought for The General, his fishing dog, and returned something reddish.



"That's a little heavy for tippet," Roy said. "I might use it though. If your fly got hooked in a bush, you could pull out the whole bush."

"It's climber's rope," Wet Curtis said. "If you fall in or get stuck in mud, all you have to do is sling it or wrap it around something and pull yourself out. I'll probably never use it, but I feel better knowing I have it - just in case. I mean, if Grumpy goes under, what good would his radio be if he called for help?"

"Good point," I admitted. "Curtis, you are the expert."

"Thank you," he said. "You know, there are different ways of getting dunked. That's why I wear a sling pack over my back. You don't want to slip backward and hit your head. That would be bad, even in water. If I land on my pack, I wouldn't bang my head."

Everyone nodded. It was good to hear from an expert.

"Also, if you just slip off a rock and go up to your waist but don't take in any water, that's not really a dunking; it's just a warning. In Latin, it's called an 'Aqua Praemonitus.' In the early days, fishers would simply take the warning, pack up their gear, and go home."

"Cowards," Schnoz said. "I'd never quit after an Awkward Prayer-On-Us." We all agreed.

"You have to practice falling in," Curtis said. "You can do it at home in your living room or in a backyard wading pool. If you're falling forward, don't try to brace yourself with your hand. Depending on how much you weigh - and all of us here weigh too much except for Mary - you could break your wrist, and that would really hurt your casting and fly-tying. It's best to fall on your forearm because that bone is stronger. Also, I recommend throwing your rod off to the right so you don't fall on it."

"That's good," Schnoz said. "That way one of us could have it. Curtis, you use Orvis rods, don't you?"

"You can't have my rod," Curtis said. "The very best thing to do is to lunge off to the left. That way you protect your casting arm and your rod. Even if you go under, only one side gets wet."

We all nodded. Wisdom is wisdom and deserves to be appreciated.

"But what if you go completely under?" I asked.



"Like this?" Wet Curtis said, pulling out a picture he had saved for the occasion.

"Yeah," I said. "What then?"

"Well," Wet Curtis said. "That's called a 'Total Immersion.' You give the thumbs-up sign so everyone knows you're okay. Then you shout, 'Jeeeeeee-bus, save me.' In most religions that would fulfill the requirements for a baptism, and you would go straight to heaven."

"Can I have your-"

"No," Curtis said.

"Well, that probably is the only way I'd get to heaven," Schnoz said.

"Can I have your rod?" we all said in unison.

## Chapter Officers

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### Newsletter Editor

**Dennis Higham**  
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PS: Any grammatical errors spotted in this newsletter were purposefully put there to keep you on you're toes.  
PPS: You Are Welcome.