

## **In This October 2023 Issue**

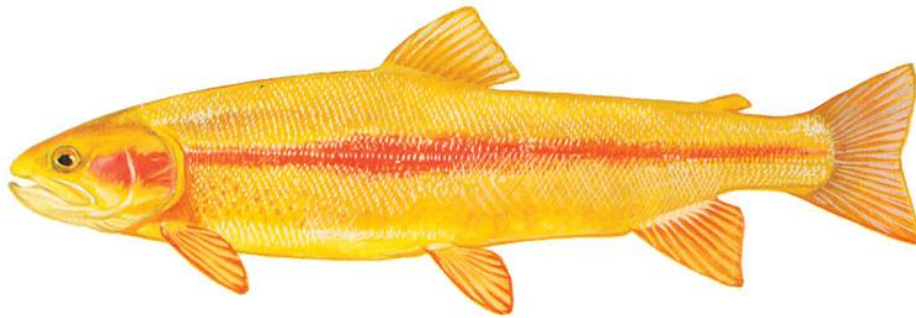
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## **President's Message**

Dear LWTU Chapter Members,

Please join us at our next monthly chapter meeting at [Village Pizza & Pub in Carpentersville](#) on Thursday, October 19th, 2023 with social hour starting at 6:00 PM (additional meeting details, including presentation information, included below). Consider joining us even if you live further out, tollway access is relatively convenient. And our annual holiday banquet will take place on the evening of Saturday, December 2nd, 2023 at Max McGraw. Check your email for invitations and additional details, and please R.S.V.P. accordingly. If you have any prizes to donate to the chapter for the upcoming holiday banquet please send an email to [banquet@leewulfftu.org](mailto:banquet@leewulfftu.org) with details. Your prize donations would be most appreciated.

Cooler fall weather is here. Although the [Wisconsin](#) inland trout fishing season is now closed, the [Illinois](#) catch-and-release trout season is in full swing and runs through Friday, October 20th with Pine Creek within [White Pines Forest State Park](#) and Apple River within [Apple River Canyon State Park](#) being great places to try your luck (catch-and-keep opens Saturday the 21st). Chapter members have reported that Pine Creek was stocked on Thursday, October 12th with many [rainbows and palominos](#) (golden rainbows).



Golden Rainbow

And fall is the time to start fishing great lake tributaries for big salmon, steelhead, and brown trout. Rain drives fish into the tributaries...recent rains make now a perfect time to fish provided water flows are below unsafe wading levels. Do not hesitate to ask fellow chapter members for tips at our monthly meetings. Also, the following DNR resources offer helpful tributary fishing information:

- [Wisconsin](#)
- [Michigan](#)
- [Indiana](#)

The chapter has a nice variety of flotation equipment for sale. All proceeds from sales are deposited directly into chapter accounts. Please see the flier at the end of this newsletter for further details.

The chapter's conservation committee is looking into installing two new stiles along [Bishop Branch Creek](#) next year during a chapter outing, adding to our [extensive network of existing stiles](#) (where there are [stiles](#), there generally is high quality trout habitat nearby). Watch the [chapter website](#) for yet-to-be-posted details about 2024 chapter

outings and the opportunity to help install stiles. Also, a few existing stiles may receive repair/upgrade treatment this fall or winter.

Our annual [Trout in the Classroom](#) (TIC) program is still gearing up nicely, with two classrooms planned this year. Our TIC classrooms will again be rearing brook trout after a year of shifting to rainbows (due to triploid brook trout egg sourcing issues in 2022). Chapter equipment was installed at North Elementary School in Crystal Lake on October 9th. This month's chapter meeting presentation will focus on TIC (meeting details are included further below). If you know any teachers who might be interested in the TIC program please have them send an email to [tic@leewulfftu.org](mailto:tic@leewulfftu.org) and feel free to invite them to this month's meeting to learn more about the program.



Weekly chapter fly tying sessions will start up again relatively soon, stay tuned for further details. (Recordings of select past sessions are [available on YouTube](#).)

The Sycamore Tree program is progressing, with seeds collected and sold to Wisconsin DNR's Wilson State Forest Nursery in Boscobel in 2022 germinating at better than anticipated rates. Plans to plant seedlings along streams in Wisconsin, and eventually perhaps Illinois waterways as well, are coming to fruition. These fast-growing high-canopy bank-stabilizing trees will provide trout streams with much needed shade as climate change continues to impact stream temperatures.

Be sure to check out our book exchange program available at in-person chapter meetings. Purchase books for as little as \$5, and optionally return them after reading for a \$3 exchange credit.

This month's chapter meeting speaker will be Beth Harner of Dundee Middle School speaking about her experiences and impressively successful outcomes over the years with our chapter's Trout in the Classroom (TIC) program. Beth has also partnered with our chapter for years on our Fishin' so Fly youth program. Please attend this month's meeting in person if you can to learn more about these fabulous youth education and outreach programs, and to help us show our appreciation for everything Beth has done for our chapter and her participating students over the years.

(Recordings of select past meeting programs are [available on YouTube](#).)

Watch your email for Evite invitations to meetings, events, etc. I hope to see all of you in-person at our next meeting. However if you cannot join us in-person, please join us via Zoom, the main program typically starts at approximately 7:00 PM, preceded by a chapter business discussion.

#### In-Person Chapter Meeting Remote Participation Details

Participate via web browser or Zoom app:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2531998153?pwd=YlJHZDFiZEhYeGJRdzNVSytselZPZz09>

Meeting ID: 253 199 8153

Passcode: Leewulff

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Participate by phone (one tap for mobile): +13126266799,,2531998153#,,,\*41216694#

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Participate by phone (manual dial): +1 312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 253 199 8153

Passcode: 41216694

The chapter is seeking volunteers to get involved in several committees, and to take on select club duties. Please email me at [prez@leewulfftu.org](mailto:prez@leewulfftu.org) if you'd like further information or are willing to volunteer. Thank you to those of you who are already volunteering.

Regards,

Brent Burval

## **Take Action**

### **Illinois House Bill 1568**

As an angler, you know that the many beautiful streams in Illinois could be much greater recreational assets than they now are. Those streams could provide some of those same memorable, on the water experiences that are available to our neighbors in Wisconsin and Michigan just outside their back-doors. An Illinois Supreme Court decision recently called on the state legislature to reassert the public right to use state waters. The idea is to pass a new law clarifying and modernizing existing rights for river access. [House Bill 1568](#) is the legislation that can get this done. Your help is needed to tell your legislators to support this much needed legislation. Please do it now. [Please click here to easily take action in under a minute of your time.](#)

### **Clean Water Act**

A new common-sense rule to reinstate important Clean Water Act protections for small streams and wetlands is facing [renewed opposition](#). A new definition of the “Waters of the United States” (WOTUS) would improve the rivers, streams, and wetlands we care so much about, and protect the health of watersheds we work so hard to conserve. It is based on sound science (and common sense): If we pollute upstream reaches, we put our downstream waters at risk. [Reach out to your congressional representatives today and urge them to defend a strong Clean Water Act](#) that protects America’s rivers, streams, and trout and salmon.

## **Michigan House Bill 5108**

Michigan's fish are held in public trust by the State and are required to be managed sustainably for the optimal benefit of all citizens of the State today and in the future. Predominantly, they have been managed to provide all citizens equal access to them, and those citizens purchase a recreational fishing license for this privilege, which provides the funding necessary for them to be managed sustainably. [House Bill 5108](#) proposes granting commercial fishing businesses rights to public resources for the purpose of profiting from the sale of these resources. [Michigan residents can voice their opposition here](#).

### **Additional Action Links**

Trout Unlimited is not just about trout angling. [The national founders committed to conservation and preservation when they incorporated in 1959](#). In this spirit, please consider taking a few minutes to explore additional ways to take action:

<https://standup.tu.org/>

<https://www.tu.org/conservation/action-center/>



# Bob Olach's Fly of the Month

## *Hare's Ear, Partridge & Tinsel Soft Hackle Revised*



Due to recent back surgeries and reactions to some chemo treatments, this old guy hasn't been able to do much fly tying for several weeks. I was looking through some old write-ups from years back, when I noticed this info on a Hare's Ear and Partridge soft hackle.

Being that MANY of the dressings I tie and fish use Hungarian Partridge hackles, this write up quickly got my attention. Pretty much verbatim, here's a dressing from 5 or 6 years back.

*"Most of the soft hackles I tie use gold or copper wires to secure the feathers or dubbings that are used for the body material. Recently, I saw a picture of a soft hackled fly using gold colored, flat tinsel as the ribbing, so I decided to tie some to see how they look.*

*After tying a few with a light colored Hare's Ear dubbing, I thought they looked pretty nice, so I've decided to do several more but using different colored Hare's Ear and / or Hare's Ear Plus dubbings (natural, dark, olive, etc.) before the season starts (for me).*

*For those of you that were at the first soft hackle tying session, this dressing is tied pretty much like the Hare's Ear Soft Hackle we did several weeks ago. The difference being that the ribbing is now gold tinsel instead of gold wire – and Hungarian Partridge is used for BOTH the hackle and the tails.*



**Hare's Ear, Partridge & Tinsel Soft-Hackle**

**Hook:** Daiichi #1550 or 1530 wet fly hooks – sizes 12 - 16  
**Thread:** Danville 6/0 or 8/0 in Dark Olive, Brown or Black  
**Body:** Natural (light) Hare's Ear or Hare's Ear Plus dubbing  
**Ribbing:** 5 turns of extra small gold tinsel  
**Thorax:** Same color dubbing as the body.  
**Hackle & Tail:** 3 turns of Natural Gray Partridge for the hackle and 6 – 8 pieces of partridge for the tail.”





## Grumpy's Page by Kurt Haberl

Walnuts. Yes, this is a story about walnuts, one good fish, red nail polish, an oak tree, and a squirrel. It was the last outing of the season, and Schnoz picked me up in his shiny, classically gray hearse. Instead of being early, for once he was late.

"Are you okay?" I asked when he got out of his hearse and pulled several fallen maple leaves from under the wipers and threw them down with crabby disgust.

"Extension cord," he said. "I couldn't find my extension cord."

"Of course," I said. "Every trout fisher can't leave home without an extension cord."

"For the vacuum. I bought a new vacuum designed just for cars to get in all the nooks and crannies, only it's high-powered, so it needs electricity and not batteries."

"You vacuumed the hearse?"

"Yes. I want to take care of it so it lasts. Get in."

"Okay," I said. "Do I need to take my shoes off?"

Schnoz thought for a moment and then said, "No, but I'd appreciate it if you'd try not to tromp through mud."

"But," I said, and then realized there's no arguing with a man who thinks he can go trout fishing and mud will not be part of the equation. I loaded my gear into the back of his hearse and noticed that he had not only vacuumed the pristine carpet, but the new car smell had been augmented by some kind of heady pine scent, and then I saw the little fiber tree hanging from his rear view mirror.

Our talk out to Darby's farm and its sweet water of deep runs and gurgling riffles was punctuated by me talking about grasshoppers and hungry fish, while Schnoz talked only about waxing his hearse, using some sticky gel to remove dust from the nooks and crannies of his instrument panel and arm rests, and why vinegar was the best to clean windows without streaks.

At the stream, Schnoz said, "You know, I think I'd like to twitch streamers through the deep runs downstream."

"Sounds good," I said. "You might pull up something bigger that way. I'd like to go upstream and drift a foam grasshopper and maybe a dropper through the riffles."

At the pullover, Schnoz maneuvered his hearse so it would be in the shade rather than in direct sun that might cause his gray pride and joy to fade prematurely. Then he double-locked the hearse to be sure no dead people would climb in for one more ride. I was still fiddling with a dropper knot that didn't want to set at the right angle above my hopper, when I heard Schnoz yelp at the first pool downstream. I put my rod on the top of the hearse and hurried to the stream. Schnoz had hooked a very good fish, and was working his way around the pool to try to net it from downstream, and for once it seemed like he knew what he was doing. About ten minutes later, he brought the tired fish up and skimmed it across the surface into my net.

"Wow," I said. "This isn't just the best fish of the year. This is bigger than anything we hooked that got away. This one could have come from Old Ben Waverly's secret pool."

Schnoz beamed as he unhooked the fish in my net and pulled out his phone to take a picture. It was a fat brown, probably eighteen inches long and weighed at least two pounds, maybe close to three. I took pictures of the two of them, and managed his leader that had tangled in our excitement, while he revived the fish in slow water, before it swam back into the depths to sulk until spawning time.

After Schnoz straightened and smiled at me, I heard a *clunk* from behind him and thought maybe the breeze blew my rod off the roof, but Schnoz gasped, said "Aaaagh!" and ran off to the hearse. I carried his rod and watched as a red squirrel fairly high up in the walnut tree above Schnoz's hearse dropped a walnut with a *clunk* on the hood, leaving a second dent deep enough to keep a golf ball from rolling away. Schnoz gathered rocks and more walnuts to chuck at the evil squirrel, and yelled "Aaaargh!" again when one of the walnuts pinballed down the branches and put a third dent on the hood. He started the hearse and moved it away from the tree while I chucked more rocks at the squirrel, which chattered insults at us before jumping to another tree and scampering away. Schnoz rubbed his fingers sadly over the blemishes of his pock-marked hood.

"It's like smallpox or measles," he said. Sometimes the best a friend can do is pretend to be sad, so I did. There's a word for it - empathy - or some nonsense, but it's more like watching a fishing buddy lose a good fish because he carelessly wrapped line around the butt of his rod or stood on the slack when the fish made a run.

We fished the rest of the morning and I caught at least a dozen small ones, most on the grasshopper. Schnoz didn't get anything else, probably because he was too angry or distracted to fish well, or maybe the fish with their sensitive lateral lines knew the moment he cast a wooly bugger into the pool that some angry, wild thing was at the other end and they should hunker down under cut banks until the demon passed.

Back at camp, where our friends gathered to listen to Schnoz moan inconsolably, so deep in frustration over what happened to his perfect hearse that he couldn't even brag about his fish or exaggerate its size. I was reminded that you never know where wisdom

will come from, when Wet Curtis said, "You know, Schnoz, this isn't about the hearse, it's about you."

"What do you mean?" he said.

"Well, what everybody liked about your old fishmobile was that it just kept going, even though it was banged up, rusted, dented, and noisy. It rattled whenever you just looked at it. The thing is, each dent was an experience. Remember when the crack in the windshield came from that dump truck that dropped a rock on the same day you caught over fifty fish? It was a testament. Today you came out here in a shiny, perfect hearse, but it's not a hearse anymore. Now it's a fishmobile. I'm happy for you."

Schnoz's face brightened immediately. "You have a point," he said.

"I have a gift for you," Ghost Mary said. She went to her car and came back with a small red bottle. "It's fire engine red nail polish. If you really caught a fish over two pounds or eighteen inches, I think your witness ought to put a red line on the fender of the fishmobile right above that chrome line."

Schnoz brightened again and handed the bottle to me. I put a vertical line above the chrome, maybe an inch long.

"Bigger," Schnoz said. "Two inches for two pounds. Make it three."

I lengthened the bright line to three inches with the little nail polish brush. At that exact moment, another walnut dropped from above and landed on top of the fender next to me. I looked for a squirrel, but there was none. Sometimes the universe likes to make its own joke.

Schnoz decided four pock marks was enough for one day, so he moved the fishmobile away from the tree, backing it carelessly into a young oak, which put a vertical crease into the back bumper. Schnoz got out, looked at the bumper, pointed, and laughed out loud.

Sometimes fishing isn't about the fish.

## Upcoming Non-Chapter Events

- International Fly Fishing Film Festival ([IF4](#)) with nearby screenings. Visit the [IF4 website](#) for further details.
  - [Wilmette Theater](#) - Wilmette, IL - November 7, 2023
- Film Tour
  - Orvis - Lombard, IL - January, 2024



# FOR SALE

Help support LWTU conservation efforts through purchase

For more information, email Jerry Sapp  
at [sapp375@aol.com](mailto:sapp375@aol.com) or call 847-284-4824



**Buck's Bags South Fork Pontoon Boat (2 available) - \$250 OBO Each**



**Nessmuk XL Kevlar/Hybrid 11'-10" Solo Featherweight 24 lb Canoe - \$1,500 OBO (\$2,595 MSRP)**



**Caddis Sports Nevada Fisherman Float Tube - \$150 OBO**



**Caddis Sports Navigator EX Fisherman Float Tube- \$150 OBO**



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# Hemlock Canoe Works

## Price List

Effective 2/8/2023

### NESSMUK

#### 10' 6" Solo Feather-weight Canoe

- \* Kevlar /Hybrid hull (17 lbs.) ..... **\$1895.00**  
Gel-coat finish (Standard colors)  
Ash trim, solid gunwales, scuppered Walnut decks, Minicel seat pad
- \* Premium+ hull (15 lbs.) ..... **\$2095.00**  
Gel-coat finish (Standard colors)  
Ash trim, solid gunwales, scuppered Walnut decks,  
Bottom mounted cane or web seat
- \* LiteTech hull (13 lbs.) ..... **\$2295.00**  
Skin-coat finish (Clear, red, Green)  
Ash trim, Solid gunwales, scuppered Butternut decks,  
Bottom mounted cane or web seat

### NESSMUK x/

#### 11' 10" Solo Feather-weight Canoe

- \* Kevlar /Hybrid hull (24 lbs.) ..... **\$2595.00**  
Gel-coat finish (Standard colors)  
Ash trim, Solid gunwales, scuppered Walnut decks, Minicel seat pad
- \* Premium+ hull (22 lbs.) ..... **\$2795.00**  
Gel-coat finish (Standard colors)  
Ash trim, Slotted inwales, Walnut decks,  
Bottom mounted cane or web seat
- \* LiteTech hull (19 lbs.) ..... **\$2995.00**  
Skin coat finish, (Clear, Red, Green)  
Ash trim, slotted inwales, Spruce outwales, Butternut decks,  
Bottom mounted cane or web seat





## **Buck's Bags South Fork Pontoon Boat**

### **Description:**

The Southfork is the most rugged and stylish 8' pontoon boat on the market today! It is designed with both performance and economy in mind. From day trips down your favorite trout stream to fishing a mountain lake, this boat covers all the bases.

The rotary-welded pontoon covers have 18oz. PVC coated polyester on top and 22oz. material on the bottom where most abrasions occur. The bladder is 100% polyurethane.

The stainless- steel frame is amazingly strong and corrosion resistant and offers adjustable footrest and oar placement.

Other standard features include:

- 6' aluminum breakdown oars with molded rubber oar-stops.
- Roomy weatherproof storage pockets.
- A large rear cargo deck and an effective stripping apron.
- 5-year warranty

The Southfork has a proven track record over many years and remains the industry's finest 8' pontoon boat.

Weight Capacity: 325lbs

Inflated size = 96" Long x 55" Wide

Shipping size = 48" x 24" x 10"

Shipping Weight = 45lbs.



### Caddis Sports Nevada Fisherman Float Tube

The U-shape is a great design for water. Its size and shape enhance stability and maneuverability. The Nevada is a great tube for fishermen. It includes extra-large storage compartments, a fly patch to hold your flies, a stripping apron to strip your fly line on, and of course, a printed measurement so you can determine exactly how long that big fish is!

#### Nevada Features:

- DOUBLE STITCHED ON CRITICAL SEAMS
- TWO MAIN EQUIPMENT POCKETS
- HEAVY DUTY RIP STOP MATERIAL
- CUSTOM, VINYL, U-SHAPE MAIN BLADDER
- IMPROVED, WIDE NYLON COATED, ALL MESH
- BACKREST BLADDER
- WORKING AND STRIPPING APRON
- FLUORESCENT SAFETY ACCENTS
- PADDED STABILIZER BAR
- FRONT ROD HOLDER
- MULTIPLE D-RINGS
- CUSTOM OVERSIZED SEAT
- DRY FLY PATCH
- STORAGE/CARRYING HANDLES
- MAX. WEIGHT CAPACITY: 225 LBS



## Caddis Sports Navigator EX Fisherman Float Tube

Enjoy a relaxing afternoon on the lake catching fish with the Caddis Sports Navigator EX Fisherman Float Tube. This pontoon-shaped float is an excellent choice for any avid tube fisherman. It is strong and durable, made with a heavy-duty ripstop material. The Caddis tube is equipped with two pockets for storing equipment and a backrest for extra comfort. It also has a carry handle included for easy transporting. The tube float is designed with a padded stabilizer bar and 58" long pontoons with bladders included. Made with double stitching on critical seams, the tough construction should avoid ripping and tearing. This float boat tube is also constructed with a nylon stripping apron and a cup holder for added convenience.

### Caddis Sports Navigator EX Features:

- Excellent float tube for any serious tube fisherman
- Heavy-duty ripstop material
- Standard pontoon-style float
- Caddis tube equipped with 2 pockets and a backrest
- Main U-shape back support
- Padded stabilizer bar
- Nylon stripping apron with cup holder
- Double stitched on critical seams

# Chapter Officers

**President:**        **Brent Burval**  
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