

## September President's Message

Greetings everyone! I hope you all had a wonderful summer traveling our beautiful country and were able to enjoy many tight lines and photograph many colorful salmonoids. Our first chapter meeting of the year will be held on Thursday September 20th at Village Pizza in Carpentersville. Instead of having a speaker we thought we would make this a "What did you do on your summer vacation" theme and have everyone share their vacation destinations, fishing pictures and stories. Denny will have a short film presentation then we'd like you to share your memories.

Mother Nature dealt the Driftless area a major blow in the last couple of weeks. Many areas near Coon Valley, Ontario and the West Fork received up to 23 inches of rain in a week and a half. Many roads and bridges are still washed out and many families have been displaced due to the floodwaters. Check out our LWTU Facebook page as Chris Young and others have posted pictures and videos of the devastation. We will let you know if our chapter is called to help clean up in the near future. There's no climate change right?

This summer a lot of our chapter members were very busy with stile building in the Driftless, work at Fox Bluff (the fish are getting big there), Fishn' So Fly, Schuler School, working with the vets and teaching fly fishing and fly tying to school kids. As you can see we have a variety of different programs going and we can always use more help. There's a program out there for you!

Mark your calendars for our Christmas fundraiser to be held Saturday December 1st at Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation, more info to follow.

Regards,  
Bob

## Conservation News – Jerry Sapp

The summer has gone by and we are looking forward to fall fishing and cooler days. We can only hope that the next time we visit Timber Coulee it looks the same and the stiles that the Stile Crew put in up there are not covered in debris. And the hinges still are working. The latest word is that the Weister Creek project has held up through the flood. I talked to Paul Hayes and he said it is time to look at what was done right and learn from what was wrong and learn for our next projects. Paul stored some of our stile posts and lumber in his barn they were under water and mud during the flood but are still in the barn. I hope we can help him clean out the mess with a few chapter members. It may depend of road opening and bridge repairs. If you are interested call me at 847 284 4824.

The Stile crew put in 8 stiles and repaired another this year. We will have one or two more to do if we can get the posts from Paul's barn. There is one that needs replacing on Trout Creek near Barneveld and when the bridge at the big Green at K and T gets finished it looks like there will be one to do there. I will call the regular crew members when I know or you can call me if you are interested in helping.

Jerry Sapp

## Lee Wulff Trout Unlimited 2018 Outing Dates & Info

End of Season Outing-Viroqua, WI Oct 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>.

This is the last outing for trout fishing in Wisconsin as the season ends on October 15<sup>th</sup> at midnight. This will take place in the Viroqua/Westby area. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Vernon Inn in Viroqua (608) 637-3100. If you make a reservation, please mention that you're with the Lee Wulff Chapter of TU.

There will be a group dinner at the Old Towne Inn, northwest, of Viroqua in Westby. Our reservation is at 7:00 and we will be seated as soon as our table is ready. Everyone is responsible for their own dinner and beverage.

**This area recently experienced the worst flooding in history. If you're planning on camping at the West Fork Sportsman's Club, please check and make sure they are open.**

If you're planning on dinner Saturday evening please RSVP to Gordon Rudd, [mchenryflyfisher@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mchenryflyfisher@sbcglobal.net) or 815-245-2425. If you have any questions, contact Gordon.

## **West Fork Sportsmans Club-Avalanche, WI**

Because of the recent destructive damaging flooding the campground is closed until further notice and many roads and bridges were damaged making travel difficult, at best. Call first before you go!

# **Great Lakes Spey Fest At Henning Park Newago, MI September 29<sup>th</sup> 2018**

**<http://greatlakesspeyshop.com/Spey%20Fest%204.html>**

## **2018 FLY FISHING FILM FESTIVAL**

Once again the Elliot Donnelly Chapter of Trout Unlimited is hosting the annual Fly Fishing Film Festival. Like last year, this year's festival promises to bring us some fine and exciting fly fishing films.

Details:

Date: November 6, 2018

Time: Doors open at 6:00 p.m.

Films start at 7:00 p.m.

Location: Wilmette Theatre

1122 Central Ave.

Wilmette, Illinois

Tickets: On line at [info@flyfilmfest.com](mailto:info@flyfilmfest.com)

In person: Chicago Fly Fishing Outfitters

Orvis on Michigan Ave, Chicago.

# Jim Chapralis' Small Stream Fishing Tips for the Lee Wulff TU Chapter

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After fishing in approximately 40 countries for most of the important game fish, I've discovered that I'm hopelessly addicted to trout fishing in small streams. They present a tremendous challenge, especially on heavily-fished creeks (or "cricks" as they are known locally). Anglers who have scored heavily and mightily on the big, famous rivers often have trouble on the small, brushy streams. The big rivers are more forgiving (bad casts, careless wading, etc.) than the smaller counterparts. If you follow these rules I guarantee that you will greatly increase your score on small streams.

**1. Obtain the right tackle:** Everyone knows that you need to match the fly line to the fly rod, but you also need to use the right leader and this must be in harmony with the streams you fish and the flies you plan to use. Rule-of-thumb: Use the lightest, longest leader you can adequately handle. Start with a manageable 9-ft., 5X leader for dry-fly fishing. On some streams or in bright weather you may have to lengthen the leader (12 feet) and use a 6X tippet. Obtain the right fly patterns.



## **2. Sharpen your casting skills:**

Most of us can use a little casting practice particularly at the beginning of the season. No sense in having the best equipment if we can't use it properly. So we need to practice, practice, practice. If you are a novice or haven't done much fly casting, sign up for lessons. Just about every fly shop offers fly-fishing schools. Add some fun to your practice by playing a number of interesting casting games. All you need are some Hula Hoops and to visit <http://www.anglingmatters.com/lesson3.htm> or <http://www.anglingmatters.com/lesson4.htm>

**3. Practice your roll casting and the "bow-and-arrow."** Cast at places that are very difficult to fish (under overhanging trees, or at a nice run where a backcast is impossible, etc), using the roll and bow-and-arrow casts. Why? Most anglers pass them up to fish easier, open stretches; so BIG trout may hang out there. Again accuracy pays off. *The bow-and-arrow cast is barely mentioned in some of the casting books/videos and is probably the most important cast in brushy streams.*



**4. Check your tackle before you start fishing.** Once you hook a big fish, you can't check your leader and knots.

## **5. Knot tying.**

This is another crucial point. Take your time in tying knots. You only need two or three knots on the stream: Clinch, blood and perhaps double surgeon knots. Learn them and practice tying them. Moisten the leader material **before** you pull the knot tight.

## **6. Wade quietly. And s-l-o-w-l-y.**

This is very hard to do, because the temptation is to make as many casts to as many likely spots as possible. BUT...if you wade fast, you will scare trout and start a chain-reaction.

**If your knees can take it:** At appropriate places, in small streams, you may want to kneel as you approach certain stretches (you can use knee pads for comfort). Stalking is very important in small, hard-fished streams.

**7. "Peel" the line off the surface.** DO NOT RIP IT OFF (which will also start a chain reaction of frenzied trout).

**8. Avoid fishing stretches that other anglers** had fished recently (within three or four hours). On small streams-at least on the ones I fish-following another angler usually means very poor results.

**9. Pay attention!**

This is not the time to daydream or think about business or problems. This is the time to pay total attention to the fly and your drift, and obviously be ready to set the hook. Look for signs, a flash, or a bulge of water just below the surface. If you see a puff of sand or silt coming downstream, you probably scared a nice trout, which zoomed up ahead. Remember the exact place and approach and fish it carefully the next time you fish that section. If you fish a certain stream often keep a notebook of where you've caught or rose big trout, fly patterns, etc.



**10. Under bridges, culverts.** Many people get in at a bridge and fish upstream or downstream from it, and neglect fishing under the bridge or culvert itself!

**11. Setting the hook.**

I break off a lot fish during the season, especially when I'm using very light tippets and fishing is slow. There is a rise! I set hook! Too hard! Time to tie on another tippet! I know better, but I'm too anxious. Try to strip in as much slack as possible during a drift and

when you have a hit, all you need to do is put some tension on the line. Tighten up. Remember, all you have to do is move the hook about a half an inch (beyond the barb) and you're on! Another thing: While many expert anglers sharpen hooks on bigger flies, they often neglect to do so on smaller trout flies. Use a fine file and touch up the hook point after hooking a trout. Check to see that you have a hook point periodically.

**12. Creative fishing** If something doesn't work try something different (e.g., Irish Blowline fishing in which only leader material is used on windy days)

**13. Night fishing for giant trout!!!** Yeah, you may see a cougar, hear some strange noises, maybe see a ghost or two, but you're perfectly safe and this is the time to catch big trout.

**14. Comfort Fishing:** Before you go on a stream check to see that you have a raincoat, repellent, drinking water/juices, and other items.

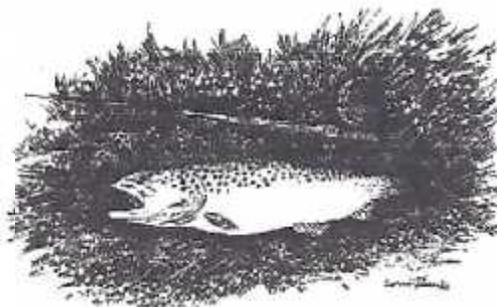
**15. And most importantly take plenty of PFA (positive fishing approach) with you!!!!!!!!!!!!**

That's it. Try these tips and I'm sure you'll be successful. **GUARANTEED!**

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## Bob Olach's Fly of the Month

### *Red Grouse & Gold / Green Soft Hackles*

Recently, I was asked for suggestions as to some fly dressings that use English Red Grouse hackles. My response was basically to use just about any color silk for the body and a Red Grouse feather for the hackle.

There are a few old North Country Spiders that specify a simple thread body with Red Grouse hackles, including the "*Grouse & Gold, Grouse & Orange and Grouse & Green*" to name just a few.

Personally, I tie / fish several Red Grouse hackled flies using various Pearsall silks including Gold (#6a), Highlander Green (#18), Hot Orange (#19) and Black (#9). But, instead of a simple dressing using just thread and a hackle, I like to also add a peacock herl as a thorax since the peacock herl adds some iridescence and, I believe, more lively hackle action when wet.

When using black thread, I've also added tails using the Red Grouse feather. Additionally, when tying in the "Christmas Tree Angel" grouse hackle, I use the tip of the feather to be the wing and then do the hackle turns in front of the wing before doing a whip finish to make the head.



***Red Grouse Soft Hackle Variations***

(as pictured)

**Hook:** Daiichi #1530 or 1550 – Wet Fly Hooks sizes 12 - 14  
**Thread & Body:** Pearsall Gold (6a) or Highlander Green (18)  
**Thorax:** Green peacock herl  
**Hackle:** 3 turns of English Red Grouse.

#### Instructions

1. I first wax the silk thread before wrapping it around the hook, starting the thread wraps slightly behind the hook eye.
2. Then do close wrapping turns to the end of the hook shank to a place directly above the hook point.
3. Using more close thread wraps to make the body, wrap to a point approx. half way up the hook shank towards the eye of the hook.
4. Tie in a single piece of peacock herl at the top of the hook and do 4 or 5 turns of the peacock herl, leaving enough room for the Red Grouse hackle.
5. Then using the silk thread, secure the peacock herl and trim the herl flush with the tying thread.
6. Taking the Red Grouse hackle, make a “*Christmas Tree Angel*” and tie in the hackle with 2 or 3 thread wraps before moving the thread to be in front of the hackle near the hook eye.
7. Using hackle pliers, do 2 ½ to 3 hackle wraps leaving enough room to make a neat head with the silk thread.
8. Do a couple thread wraps over the Red Grouse hackle and then trim off the hackle.
9. Do a 4 or 5 turn whip finish and then trim off the silk thread.
10. Add a drop of head cement to the thread, if desired,



### ***Grumpy's Page by Kurt Haberl***

It was the last campout of the season, although we didn't know it at the time. It had been a good day: pods of trout where we expected them, larger fish fattening themselves up for winter by slashing at beetles, grasshoppers and Cracklebacks, and best of all, cloud cover eased the

late-summer heat. A fire crackled in the fire pit, brats and burgers had been eaten with great gusto, and drinks were poured and re-poured at least once. Then the trouble started.

“You hooked yourself?” Wet Curtis asked Schnoz, who had been sucking at one of his index fingers and now examined it under a clip light attached to his hat.

“Not exactly. I tried to get a fly out of a wild rose bush, and it snapped back at me.”

“You know, Schoz,” Curtis said, “if you’d learn to cast, that wouldn’t happen.”

Ghost Mary, who had earned her nickname by hooking the largest trout in the past several years with the advice of an old man who sat by an abandoned mill run and disappeared when she released the trout and turned to thank him, looked sympathetically at Schnoz and said, “Schnoz, is it a boo-boo or an ow-ie?”

“Um, what’s the difference?”

“A boo-boo hurts a little bit but isn’t really a bother, but an ow-ie requires some anti-biotic and a band aid,” Mary said.

“I think Schnoz has a boo-boo,” I said.

Wet Curtis, who was a little spirited because he had out-fished all of us said, “It may be a boo-boo, but he acts like it’s an ow-ie.”

“What fly were you using?” I asked.

“My favorite - the same bead head pheasant tail I used to outfish you all season.”

“Oh, that’s bad,” I said.

“Why?”

“Because if it’s the same fly as last month, it’s probably a little rusty, and you just poked your finger with it. Have you had your shots recently?”

“I hate shots,” Schnoz said. “What shots?”

“All of them. Tetanus, rabies, polio, you know. Then there’s that one they give babies. PDQ or something.”

“Pertussis,” Ghost Mary said. “You know, even if the hook wasn’t rusty, there might have been pertussis if some animal walked by the wild rose bush and got poked by a thorn.”

“Yeah,” I said. “For sure, you don’t want to get pertussis. It’s worse than rabies.”

Wet Curtis said, “I heard about a guy who got tetanus and this red or blue line went up his finger and then his hand and they had to cut it off.”

"Which one?" I asked.

"Both. First the finger and then the hand. It ruined his fishing. He could cast okay, but then there was no way to reel a fish in." I saw him wink at Ghost Mary, who had to cover her mouth so she wouldn't give him away.

"Schnoz could use your Tenkara rod," I said. "It doesn't have a reel and it's long enough that it doesn't matter if he can't really cast. Or maybe he could just use a cane pole and some twine with a worm on the end. That's how he fished when he was a kid, so he could just go back full circle."

Everybody drank while that terrible possibility sank in. I saw that Ghost Mary had to cover her mouth again when she saw Schnoz rub his chin and think too much about his boo-boo.

"Maybe you'd qualify for some kind of disability," Wet Curtis said, "you know, I mean, besides the obvious."

"What do you mean, 'the obvious'?" Schnoz said.

"Well," Wet Curtis said, "Didn't you tell me once that you thought some desk jockey approved your Social Security application out of pity for Huldy?"

"I was just joking," Schnoz said.

"But this is serious," I said. "I mean, which would give you more money, disability or Social Security? You have to be careful about these things. If you've got pertussis in your finger, that could be debilitating, so you need to know which would give you more money."

"Yeah," said Wet Curtis, "but when the government does the comparison, they'd look at your Social Security and your disability, and you'd get the lesser of the two. They're not going to give you raise because you poked yourself with an old bead head pheasant tail."

Ghost Mary said, "I want to be there when Schnoz tries to explain to the case worker what a bead head pheasant tail is and how it caused his pertussis that makes him qualify for a government dole of some kind."

"One of us should videotape it," I said. "It could become an instructional video for other fisherman to warn them about the dangers of poor casts that end up in wild rose bushes."

"Maybe you'd get a royalty check for the video," Wet Curtis said, "You know, it's not going to be a blockbuster, but you could get a \$50.00 check for being in the video."

"I'd like that," Schnoz said.

"Yeah," I said, "but when the government found out about it because the distributor has to report it on his taxes, they'd see you earned some money and they'd take your Social Security away. Then you'd go broke."

"Maybe Wet Curtis would let you stay in his camping trailer," Ghost Mary said. At that, the General, Wet Curtis's Black Labrador, growled, which reminded us that he always understood everything we said. I saw that Ghost Mary was still covering her mouth.

I said, "The sad part is that without Schnoz spending his Social Security check, the whole economy could be affected. Do you know how many donut shops would go out of business?"

Everyone groaned. That's when Schnoz looked at his finger and then stuck it into his drink. Ghost Mary saw him and said, "You know, Schnoz, I read somewhere that pertussis is one of those things that feeds on alcohol." Schnoz quickly pulled his finger out of his drink.

"What if it's not pertussis at all," I said. "What if his ow-ie is some new kind of infection that combines with his DNA and produces.... who knows what?"

"It could be like a Godzilla disease," Wet Curtis said. "You know, a mutant thing."

"Or zombie," I said.

This time, Schnoz groaned. "I don't want to be a zombie," he said.

"Nobody does, not even zombies," Wet Curtis said.

That's when Ghost Mary lost it - and what was left of her drink was spit out in a combination of general spewing and sneezing.

"I'll still be your friend, Schnoz," I said, "up until the time you actually become a zombie, and then-"

"Then what?" Schnoz said, expecting the worst.

"Then... can I have your rod, the eight foot, three weight? No zombie needs an eight foot, three weight."

The raucous laughter lasted a full thirty seconds, joined by Schnoz when he realized we didn't really think his finger was going to be a problem. Then things turned serious when a stranger stepped into the flickering campfire light. A shiny badge glinted at us from his chest.

"Evening, gentlemen," the intruder said.

"I didn't do it," Schnoz and Wet Curtis said at exactly the same time.

"Didn't do what?" the intruder said.

Wet Curtis and Schnoz looked at each other, neither wanting to be the first to confess to whatever they had broken, stolen, trespassed or previously denied. The silence was soon very awkward.

"Let's start over and try this again," the intruder said. "Good evening, gentlemen, and you too, Miss."

"Good evening, Officer," we said, except for Wet Curtis and Schnoz.

"That's better. I'm just here to let you all know that it's going to start drizzling in about fifteen minutes and there will be showers off and on all night. In the morning, though, you all need to pack up first thing and head back home. Heavy storms, wind and lightning are coming in, maybe hail. The rain could be as much as ten inches if the meteor guys are right, and by late afternoon, judging by what happened the last time, where you're sitting could be under three feet of fast water. Do you understand?"

"Yes, sir," most of us said.

"Okay. First thing in the morning, pack all your wet stuff in garbage bags, stuff it in your cars and head out. You'd best be on the road by mid morning." Then he was gone, disappearing back into the night like Ghost Mary's old guide.

Schnoz felt the first raindrop, and probably because of the hard time we gave him and maybe because his finger still hurt, that single large drop made him flinch. We sighed, groaned, took last sips, and shuffled off to our beds. Not everything ends with a whimper or an ow-ie. Sometimes, it's a flood.

(Editorial note: The West Fork Campground, fishing central for many of us who wade the Driftless Area, has suffered another serious flood. As of this writing, more rain is on the way, so the disaster isn't over yet. For those of us who are too old, or like Schnoz, too unskilled or infirm to rip out drywall, move refrigerators, or replace tile, you can still help. Donations for cleanup can be sent electronically via Paypal to [Westforksportsclub@gmail.com](mailto:Westforksportsclub@gmail.com) or mailed to West Fork Sportsmans Club, Inc., P.O. Box 52, Viroqua, WI 54665. The club will also announce work days after the rain stops. Most needed will be anyone with expertise in plumbing, electrical, or wood work. Please help. Schnoz and Grumpy will.)

It is better to tie one good fly in an hour than a dozen that would only be taken by a trout with a sense of humor"  
Uncle Bill"

## Chapter Officers

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