

April President's Message

"Greetings from the North Pole! The calendar says April but Mother Nature says January! For those hearty souls hitting the stream good luck. I think I'll warm my feet by the fire just a little longer.

If you haven't been out there yet take a stroll by the ponds at Fox Bluff. Jerry's crew has done some marvelous work out there and it beautiful to behold. Oh, did I mention the fish? Many have survived from last year's planting from our Trout in the Classroom tanks and this year's crop will be released on May 7th. Plan to attend if you can. Jerry also has some conservation projects in the works up in the Driftless area this Spring/Summer, more to come later.

If you haven't purchased your tickets for the Spring Conservation raffle yet there's still time. First prize is a custom made graphite fly rod by chapter member Tom Faurer which we will have on display at the April 19th chapter meeting. Second prize is your choice of one of three Echo fly rods we will give away. Lastly a half day guided trip with Century Guide Services Sean McDonald in Michigan. Contact Jerry Sapp for tickets if you didn't receive a mailer.

There is still time to sign up for our April, May and June outings to the Driftless area. Sign up sheets will be at the chapter meeting and you can also talk to Gordon Rudd if you have any questions.

Fish' So Fly, our mentoring program with District 300 special ed kids, is coming up fast. Beth tells me she has 11 students wishing to participate this year. Our first date is Wednesday April 25th out at Max McGraw Wildlife center and three consecutive Wednesdays after that. If you can spare 2hrs after work for four weeks please consider helping out.

OK, time to put another log on the fire and get back to tying flies. See you all at the meeting!"

Bob

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 yvescharron@aol.com (847-596-0231) by Tuesday April 17th so we know how many pizzas to preorder.

April's Meeting Agenda



Lee Wulff Trout Unlimited Tie-a-Thon 2018

Are you ready for our April 19th Tie-A- Thon?

What if I don't tie?

There are still many ways to contribute:

-) Volunteer to be a table "Materials Wrangler" or a "Fly Counter"
-) Give tying a try – we will have extra vises and tools for you to learn alongside our talented chapter members

-) Get a jump on your donation and tie the flies at home and bring them to our meeting

So how does it work?

We will be tying 3 flies in various sizes:

-) Pheasant Tail Nymph
-) Griffith's Gnat
-) Woolly Bugger

You'll have the opportunity to tie all three patterns or stick with one pattern all night – your choice!

What do I bring?

-) Your vise, thread and tying tools

Materials and fly patterns (recipes) will be provided – come and enjoy the action and learn from our seasoned pros. Many thanks to **DuPage Fly Fishing Co** for providing materials at cost.

YouTube Video Instruction:

<http://intheriffle.com/fishing-videos/fly-tying/pheasant-tail/>

<http://intheriffle.com/fishing-videos/fly-tying/griffiths-gnat/>

<http://intheriffle.com/fishing-videos/fly-tying/woolly-bugger/>

About Tie-A-thon:

During the month of April, fly tyers from various Fly Fishers International and Trout Unlimited Chapters will join together for the 12th annual Tie-a-Thon to tie and donate flies benefitting Casting for Recovery of Indiana and the Anglers of the Au Sable Youth Program. This year is a special milestone as tyers will surpass a total of 100,000 flies donated by individuals over the past 12 years.

Conservation News – Jerry Sapp

Yves Charron and I attended a very informative Westby Workshop on April 7&8. Our chapter was involved in the presentation of two sessions one about working with agencies to make projects work and another about developing a traveling chapter work team. These came from our experiences of getting Fox Bluff coordinated with state and county agencies and our stiles project.

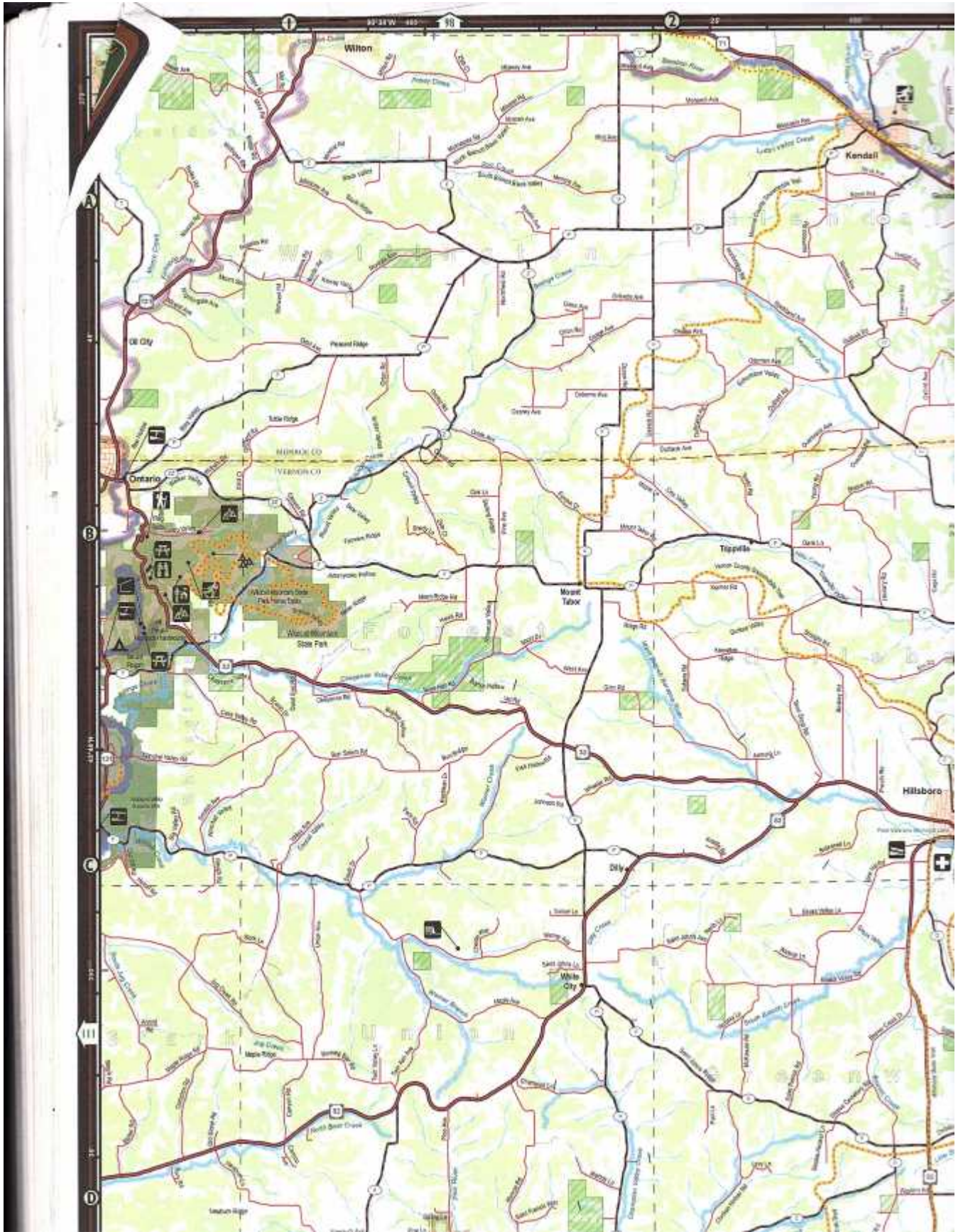
Speaking of stiles we are going to put two more in on Saturday, April 28. We will be starting at **noon** to give anglers a chance to fish the early morning and those driving in on Saturday a chance to be there. We have recently purchased a post hole auger in partnership with the Gary Borger Chapter, so we will be saving the cost of rental and trouble of returning and pick up. Denny Sullivan has procured a half bundle of posts and notched them for us, thanks Denny. We are sharing these with Gary Borger also. Our Saturday stile site destination is Billings Creek east of Wildcat Mountain State Park which is near Ontario WI. If you are coming from Westby you go north on Rt. 27 to Cashton then go east on Rt. 33 through Ontario to county ZZ to Z. Take Z northeast and you will find us near Orwell Rd. Do not worry if your map doesn't show Orwell you will not miss us if you are on Z. Coming from the east Take Rt. 80 north out of Richland Center to Hillsboro then take Rt. 33 west to F turn right and go through Wildcat Mountain State Park and turn right on ZZ, cross the creek and turn right on Z. Then start looking for us along the road.

Materials will be there all you need to bring is gloves. You may want to consider fishing Weister or Billings in the morning if you are coming to help.

Please remember to help the conservation fund and our projects by participating in the raffle. We have some very nice prizes this year especially that custom rod. You can bring your tickets to the meeting and give them to me or mail them. I am hoping for a record year this year to support some worthwhile things we are backing like Mike Miller the Wisconsin State Biologist that needed money to buy a drone so he could complete stream surveys from above. The state did not want to pay for his project so he asked chapters to help out. You can meet Mike on one of the outings he will be doing a stream bug collection for us and matching flies for us to what he finds.

The drawing will be May 12 and you will be notified by phone so you may pick your favorite prize from the remaining items.

Jerry Sapp
Conservation Chair
sapp375@aol.com



Announcement from Illinois Council of Trout Unlimited

Hello Illinois TU Members,

We are now recruiting campers for the 11th annual edition of the Illinois Council of Trout Unlimited Youth Camp. The camp is open to boys & girls aged 13 to 18 and will be conducted from Sunday, July 22 thru Friday, July 27. As in past years the camp will be held on Michigan's Au Sable River, the birthplace of Trout Unlimited. The camp delivers an intensive introduction to fly fishing for wild stream trout. Campers also conduct field studies of the pristine cold water environment and conservation issues. The following links provide more information:

1. A one page camp flyer suitable for printing: [2018 IL Youth Camp Flyer](#)
2. A camp presentation including pictures from camp: [2018 IL Youth Camp Presentation](#)
3. An application form: [2018 IL Youth Camp Application](#)

Please circulate this information to anyone who may be interested. We request that you invite your youthful friends and relatives to consider attending the camp. Rest assured it is an outstanding experience for young men & women.

Don't hesitate to contact me for more information.

Thank You,

Willie Beshire
Illinois Council of Trout Unlimited
Youth Camp Director
(630) 200-2532
wbeshire@aol.com

Lee Wulff Trout Unlimited 2018 Outing Dates & Info

Early Spring Outing-Viroqua, WI April 27th-29th

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. **Make your reservations NOW, the rooms at the Vernon Inn will be released April 23rd.** 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 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 one of the two cabins they have. www.westforksportsmansclub.org for more information.

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 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 7:30 PM for Friday and **7:15** PM 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 2 hours northwest of Madison, WI on Route 14.

Fennimore Outing-Fennimore, WI May 18th-20th

A block of rooms have 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 14th.**

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 is required no later than May 14th to Gordon Rudd, mchenryflyfisher@ A block of rooms have 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 sbcglobal.net or 815-245-2425. **Cost is \$7 per person paid by May 16th.** 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

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.

Fennimore is located approximately 1 ½ hours west of Madison, WI on Route 18.

Wa Wa Sum-Grayling, MI, June 6th-10th

Details to follow.

Early Summer Outing-Viroqua, WI June 22nd-24th

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 rooms has 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. Also, there's the

Old Towne Motel in Westby, no association with the restaurant 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 one of the two cabins they have. www.westforksportsmansclub.org for more information

This area includes the famed West Fork of the Kickapoo, Timber Coulee and Camp Creek to only mention a few.

A group 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 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. Guide service is available by calling 608/637-8779.

Some other guides to consider are:

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Wisconsin Atlas & Gazetteer by DeLorme.

Viroqua is located approximately 2 hours northwest of Madison, WI on Route 14.

End of Season Outing-Viroqua, WI Oct 12th-14th.

Details to follow

Bob Olach's Fly of the Month

How to Tie a "Revised" Crackleback



Crackleback Dry Fly

Hook:	Daiichi #1190 – Dry Fly Barbless sizes 12 - 14
Thread:	Danville 6/0 Fly Master Nylon – Black
Body:	Light Olive or Pale Yellow Dubbing– (Hareline – Pale Evening Dun or Pale Morning Dun)
Back Spine:	Two strands of green peacock herl
Hackle:	3 turns of brown, dry fly cock saddle hackle (not furnace colored hackle).

Several people have asked about how I tie my variation of a dry fly Crackleback which is the dry fly I use most of the time I fish a dry fly. But should anyone want to tie the “original” Crackleback, there’s a YouTube video showing Ed Story tying it and can be viewed at (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I7lk17SjK9w>).

Since I started tying a Crackleback 15+ years ago, I’ve changed it slightly a few times, mainly by modifying the number of hackle turns.

In the past, I also tried changing the color of the body with various materials but have found that I catch more fish using a light olive or pale yellow dry fly dubbing, settling on Hareline’s “*Pale Evening Dun*” and “*Pale Morning Dun*” dubbings.

Instructions

1. Using a dry fly, barbless hook, I start the black thread slightly behind the hook eye and do close wrapping turns to the end of the hook shank.

2. Then tie in by the butt end a solid brown (not a furnace hackle but solid brown color) saddle hackle with the concave (inside) of the hackle facing away from me on the side of the hook.
3. Wrap the tying thread securely over the butt end of the hackle and wrap the thread approximately halfway down the hook towards the eye.
4. Tie in two pieces of peacock herl at the top of the hook and then wrap the tying thread back to the end of the hook shank stopping at the saddle hackle.
5. Dub the tying thread with the dry fly light olive or pale yellow dubbing and then wrap the thread / dubbing towards the hook eye, leaving enough room to tie in the peacock herl and hackle.
6. Pull the two pieces of peacock herl towards the hook eye and then using the bare tying thread, secure the peacock herl and trim off the herl flush with the tying thread.
7. Taking the brown saddle hackle, do 3 hackle wraps at the end of the hook shank slightly before the hook bend then do 6½ evenly spaced turns of the saddle hackle over the dubbed bodies, stopping slightly before the eye of the hook.
8. Do a couple thread wraps over the saddle hackle and then trim off the saddle hackle.
9. Do 3 turn whip finish and then another 4 turn whip finish to tightly secure all the materials making a small black head taking care to leave the hook eye open.
10. Add a drop of head cement to the thread and, if desired, put a drop of “Watershed” on the finished fly and let the “Watershed” dry overnight.

If tied with the above instructions, there should be a small “tail” at the end of the fly made when doing the 3 hackle turns at the end of the hook shank and all the hackle turns should be facing the eye of the hook.

By having the hackle facing towards the hook eye, the hackles should agitate the water when fishing upstream and the fly drifts towards you. Same thing should also happen when fishing “*down and across*” as the Crackleback drifts across the stream at the end of the leader / tippet.

When using a size 12 or 14 hook, the 9½ hackle turns are possible, but when using a size 16 hook, 3 hackle turns at the end of the hook shank can be made but reduce the “body” hackle turns to 5½ or else the body dubbing may not be visible beneath the hackle.



Grumpy's Page by Kurt Haberl

Over the winter, Schnoz researched, visited multiple outfitters, compiled a three-inch binder of information, negotiated with Huldy for two birthdays and a Christmas, and then bought a new tent. It was not just a tent. It was the latest in wilderness technology made from materials designed by NASA, sherpas in Tibet, Inuit in the Arctic, Pueblos in Arizona, and some computer hacker types on Wall Street. It was all Schnoz talked about through January, February, and March. Somehow his new tent was supposed to be magically cool in the summer, warm in the winter, waterproof in a flood, wind-resistant up to 75 MPH, snow-bearing up to 12 inches, and repellent to mosquitoes, gnats, snakes, ants, and wooly mammoths. All this came in a high tech package that weighed the same as a loaf of white bread.

“All I care about,” I told him, “is that I don’t hear you snore if my tent is anywhere near yours.”

“I don’t snore,” Schnoz said, which is impossible, given the size and echo chamber configuration of his sinuses. “Besides, if I snored, Huldy would have told me by now.”

“Most of the time, Huldy isn’t even speaking to you because of something you did during the day.” All Schnoz could do was shrug sheepishly at that fact.

Usually the first campout of the season is a time of excitement, especially when we have new gear to use, but this time Schnoz was late when he discovered his old troutmobile had a dead battery, more than the usual slow leaks in his tires, and one headlight that blinked like a strobe. I offered to drive, but he had already loaded his gear and wouldn’t hear of it. Instead of picking me up early morning, he rumbled into my driveway late in the afternoon, and by then, he was fidgety from the delay, not to mention frustrated by the cost of a battery, two tires, and a headlight. Schnoz does not handle delayed gratification or a late start very well, and he was not excited about new car parts when he had a Valley Forge Teflon Safari Plus tent to try for the first time.

It was dark when we coasted into the campground, and I could see by the dancing shadows that everyone else was already there and had managed a campfire, seating arrangements at various levels of smoke inhalation, the usual good camp food, and drinks that would kill most flying insects up to 12 inches above the rims their travel mugs.

One of the advantages about coming to a campout last is that there isn’t much debate about where to pitch one’s tent – any flat surface above stream level will do. It wasn’t too hard to pull my bulky, heavy, stained nylon tent and a flashlight out of Schnoz’s car and get my old two-

pole X tent up, get a cot inside, and then try to help Schnoz. (A note to all fellow outdoors adventurers – do not attempt to put up a tent for the first time in the dark.)

He sat on a groundcloth surrounded by parts that looked like the Wright Brothers first plane had crashed around him. Before I could say anything, Wet Curtis and Mary Compson had turned their cars around and lit up the ground like a ballpark with their headlights on bright.

“What’s wrong?” I said to Schnoz.

“The poles are all shock-corded but they’re different lengths. There are six of them.”

“Maybe you should find the directions.”

“Are you crazy? With Wet Curtis and Dewey and Mary and everyone standing around looking at me?” (A note to all fellow outdoors adventurers – it’s okay to read directions, preferably at home before you are watched by all your friends and enemies.) That’s when I saw Mary standing along the side her car with her hands in front of her face.

“Mary, what are you doing?” I said.

“I’m videotaping this misadventure for the next chapter meeting. I figure either Schnoz will buy me two glasses of wine not to show it to everyone, or everyone else will buy me a glass of wine if I show it to them. Maybe I’ll do both.”

That’s when Wet Curtis began to narrate everything.

“Yes, folks, here we are at the campsite witnessing our intrepid explorer meditating before he sets up his high-tech home for the week. Oh, what’s that, do I hear thunder in the background? Yes, it’s definitely a front moving in from the southwest.”

Roy the plumber raised his chin and sniffed. “Yes, I smell rain. It’s different from perspiration.”

(A note to all fellow outdoors adventurers – it is not helpful either to narrate or video record someone putting up a tent for the first time.) That roused Schnoz from his stupor. He reached in his tent bag and pulled out a set of papers, handing them to me. I turned my cap light on and began to read: “Congratulate for purchase the most advance camp shelter on the market now and in future.”

“Skip all that,” Schnoz said. “Just read the steps.”

“Uh oh,” Wet Curtis narrated, “he’s skipped the preliminary descriptions apparently translated verbatim from the original Chinese. We will now see if his friend, Grumpy, will be able to supply the missing articles and verbs. This could get interesting, folks. Yes, that’s definitely thunder approaching.”

“Aaaagh,” Schnoz said. “Read!”

“Okay, okay,” I said. “Put the amazed Valley Forge Teflon Safari Plus tent on ground with door facing east or north if you are in the northern hemisphere, to the south or west if you are in Australia, China, South Africa-“

“Skip that!” Schnoz shouted.

“Okay, okay. Six support rods are included for convenience and protection of you. The rods are made of finest hi-tech flex graphite with corded steel ferrules to show your appreciation. After extensive research, you are assured quality of workmanship-“

“Aaaaaagh! Skip to the next step.”

“Okay, okay. The finest hi-tech flex graphite with corded steel ferrules are appropriate in six different lengths, so to be sure your tent is pitch and stable, do not use a finest hi-tech flex graphite rod in mistaken position.”

“What?”

“Yes, folks,” said Wet Curtis in his loudest announcer’s voice, “it appears that the wind is beginning to pick up. We suspect the hi-tech tent able to withstand 75 mile per hour winds may only do so if the tent is actually pitched and pegged. We shall see. For corroboration, be sure to check out the Compson video available at the next chapter meeting.” (A note to all fellow outdoors adventurers – rain usually follows Murphy’s law about blowing in during the worst time possible.)

“Read! Read!” Schnoz shouted.

“Okay. Please to note, there are no sleeves or clips to confuse the high adventurer after the purchase of this amazed hi-tech, all-climate shelter....”

“What? No clips? How does it stand?”

“Okay, okay,” I said. “Let’s see, um, this amazed shelter, um, okay, rust-proof door zipper, um, tie flaps and storage pockets are included for your appreciation, um, um, hey, it looks to me like the poles go INSIDE the tent.”

“What?”

“Yeah, Schnoz, inside. They all cross over inside like a skeleton. See?”

“Well, folks,” said Wet Curtis, “it looks like we have a breakthrough. This high tech tent has an endo-skeleton rather than an exo-skeleton. And just in time, I sense the first drops on the oncoming storm.”

I felt them too. I’m not sure what happened next. Seemingly from out of nowhere, Mary, Dewey, Roy the Plumber, and Wet Curtis found a bag of tent pegs, stretched out Schnoz’s tent and pounded and stomped pegs into six loops around the circumference. That’s when the first lightning flashed, thunder boomed, and the rain fell in a cold stream.

“Everybody grab a pole and get inside!” I shouted. I didn’t know what else to do. For once they did exactly as they were told. We huddled inside Schnoz’s Valley Forge Teflon Safari Plus with flashlights creating grotesque faces as we grappled with springy tent poles to get them inside the tent as Wet Curtis struggled to zip the door shut.

“I don’t know why you’re all afraid of a little water,” he said. “Don’t most of you shower every day?”

“Yeah, but not as a group,” said Roy the Plumber, “and besides my job is to keep things dry.”

“All right,” said Mary, “who has the longest pole?”

After fifteen seconds of embarrassed silence, Dewey said, “Well, mine’s still sticking out the door.”

“Okay,” said Mary, ignoring the embarrassment, “it looks to me like the longest pole has to go from that corner by the door and arc straight overhead to the farthest corner behind Grumpy. Then just hold it there.”

After another fifteen minutes of playing something rather close to that old Twister contortion game where you had to put your hand or foot on a certain color on a mat around other people’s hands and feet, we managed to get all the poles to arc inside the tent. Eventually we figured out that each end of a high-tech graphite pole fit into a corner pocket, and they all crossed overhead where two Velcro straps wrapped them into a single intersecting hub.

I looked through the rest of the directions, and it seemed like we had pitched a facsimile of the thing in the picture.

“You are please to enjoy your Valley Forge Teflon Safari Plus shelter with the engineer design of comfort and safety for many years to come, now and in future,” I read.

Outside the thunder boomed like cannons, the lightning flashed like explosions, the rain pounded the tent like garden hoses aimed right at us, and we stood in a little huddle, completely dry and almost cozy. Mary was the first to laugh, then Roy the Plumber, whose warm bass got the rest of us going until we were all guffawing like junior high kids, slapping each other and stomping while the storm raged outside.

“There you have it,” Wet Curtis narrated. “The intrepid adventurers managed to pitch a shelter just in the nick of time. Amazing.”

(A final note to all fellow outdoors adventurers – it may take half a dozen people to pitch a Valley Forge Teflon Safari Plus tent, but those people are better off inside the tent than outside in the rain.)

It was going to be a great fishing and camping season. I just knew it.

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