



April President's Message

Greetings fellow members,

As I sit here to write this message, Mother Nature is sending another “bomb cyclone” our way. Enough already! Bring on Spring!

Six of our board members were able to attend the TU Midwest Rendezvous last weekend. We learned a lot about the reintroduction of Arctic Grayling in Michigan, climate change in the Driftless Area and angler science initiatives coming on board in the near future. The knowledge gained will make our chapter that much stronger!

If you haven't done so yet, please sign up for one of our upcoming chapter outings at our next meeting. These are a great opportunity to get to know other members and if you're new to the sport we can partner you up with a more experienced member to enhance your fly fishing knowledge. See Gordon Rudd at the meeting. Trout in the classroom is going strong and Fishn' So Fly is coming up quickly. We still need volunteers to help mentor the kids so please sign up to help.

Because of the flooding last year in the Driftless there is a lot of work required to repair the streams in the area. Jerry Sapp is staying in contact with Duke Welter from TUDARE to find out where we can help when needed. He will have Mark send out an eblast when dates for projects are set.

See you all at the meeting!

Bob

No Speaker this Month..Instead



The 2019 Lee Wulff Chapter of Trout Unlimited Tie-a-thon

On **Thursday, April 18th**, we are participating in the Tie-a-Thon benefitting *The Mayfly Project* and *Camp Kita*. Our fly menu selection includes:

-) Squirmy Wormies (a Jerry Sapp special!) - sizes 10,14
-) Griffith's Gnat - sizes 18
-) Woolly Bugger - sizes 8, 10, 12 (olive, black, white)
-) Ant - size 16

Don't tie? Don't fret. There's a lot to do to support the contribution: helping to sort materials, distributing materials, counting flies, and, in general, providing camaraderie and mischief.

If you're itching to get going - you can tie some at home and bring them to the meeting!

Materials will be provided - many of them thanks to Bob Webb's estate.

Please bring: your vise, tools, thread (black or olive)

About the Recipients:

The Mayfly Project's mission is to build relationships with children in foster care through fly fishing and introduce them to their local water ecosystems, with a hope that connecting them to a rewarding hobby will provide an opportunity for foster children to have fun, feel supported, and develop a meaningful connection with the outdoors.

At the end of the program the child is given his or her very own fly rod, reel, pack, fly box, flies, tippet, indicators, etc. Our hope is for the child to continue to pursue fly fishing and to have a tool to access the outdoors. Each project is unique and may contain more or less stages, but the goal is to provide a well-rounded and safe fly fishing experience for children in foster care.

www.themayflyproject.com.

Camp Kita provides a safe, nurturing environment where child survivors can connect with one another while learning constructive ways to deal with the often unspeakable and fierce emotion of losing a parent to suicide. By creating a space for child survivors, we effectively ease the stigma around what it means to have lost a parent to suicide. The campers' shared loss and experience grants them the opportunity to form deep, knowing bonds with others and thereby forging supportive connections that we hope will last a lifetime.

Our focus on grief—on shattering apart—will dovetail with an equally significant focus on hope—the power and purpose of piecing oneself together. Most importantly, we will empower campers to utilize the tools and resources we provide so that they may draw upon them throughout their lives.

www.campkita.com.

If you have questions, contact Bev at bevdejovine@gmail.com

Conservation News – Jerry Sapp

Well we are starting out this month with a new look at Fox Bluff. As of this writing Fox Bluff will receive its first burn on April 9, if all goes well. This means that all the invasives will get set back and things will start to look more like a savanna. Hopefully some of you will have seen the results on the Saturday Workday on the 13th. We are still waiting on contact from the Illinois DNR. For permission to stock Scott's run at the Bluff with a few test Brook trout this spring. We will hold off on any improvements till permission is granted.

We are going to have a work day at the end of the Viroqua outing on April 28. We will start at the bridge by the juncture of Rt. K and T on the Big Green River by putting in a couple of posts and a rope rail to assist fishers walking down the bridge abutment embankment on the new bridge. It seems that the new stile was put there for alpine climbers not fishers. We will meet there with Gary Borger Chapter members around 9:30 and afterward proceed on RT. 18 toward Barneveld where we will be putting in a new stile on Trout Creek. Maps and discussion will be available at the Old Town dinner on Saturday Night beforehand. Tools will be provided just bring gloves.

There will be a few more stiles built this year on the Blue River on other work days to be announced later.

This year the conservation rod raffle features a 10 foot Sage 4wt. Rod that was again made by Tom Faure'. This is meant to be the ideal Driftless rod for nymphing and come August it will let you toss hoppers and stay above the weeds. More of the prize details will be in the raffle mailing coming to you shortly



Gone but Remembered Fondly by Scott Roane

I ran across these 2 pictures as I was messing around in my photos.

We lost both of them in 2013. Sad, but the memories burn bright.

I just didn't want them to fade away which is why I'm writing up this little note.

Yes, they were fishing buddies, and good ones, but more than that, they were some of my best friends. Here's just a little story on each of them. Maybe it will bring a chuckle and a tear.



That big dude holding the Salmon, that's John O'Leary. That shot was from one of our fall salmon outings. You can see he's working pretty hard to hold that up. He had the cancer then but didn't talk about it much and nothing could keep him from the outing. Once again, being a fine Irishman, he supplied a cooler full of beer, scotch, whiskey, gin, vodka and some Baileys for the coffee. He didn't ask anything in return except the fact that you had to have a good time.

He was also our food hauler. John and I would go to Sam's Club the day before and load up his Deuce and a half. For you that weren't in the military, that is the unofficial designation for a people and gear hauler that can haul a lot more than

what it's rated for. The reason I mention this, is because when John retired he bought himself (with Kathy's permission) the biggest GMC you could buy without putting duels on the back. It took 3 batteries to run that sucker. For us, it had no other name than the Deuce and a half. From his years in the Navy he also had a red ordinance arming ribbon hanging from the trailer hitch. No one ever dared pull it.

There are more stories than I have time and space for but the classic is when John joined Lee Wulff. After a couple months he was right in there helping with membership and work projects. However, one time he said to Hank and I,

“When I joined I thought you guys were a fishing and drinking club. I didn't know you actually did any work!”

Classic John. Love the big Irishman and hope he's having a toddy in the Pub with all his buddies.



Now the other guy that looks like he's going to attack over the ridge with his 5 weight; that's John Mason. He didn't make many meetings due to work and stuff. But he made outings, Driftless trips, and also the Fall Salmon outing

We had a saying for guys that someone wanted to bring along. “We don’t want no one no one sent.” If you know Chicago, you know where that came from. And John fit in like a glove and brought his buddy Ed, who also fit because John brought him.

I say this because John is a fine judge of character and a fine human being. We would have fishing talks and discussions about almost everything in the Cosmos on our rides. I think that picture was taken not too long after I was coming around a bend and happened to catch the whites of two checks, if you know what I mean. He just stood up proud as can be and said, “Let’s fish on.” He was also a Nam vet, an Artillery Captain that saved his men from a certain shellacking by the NVA regulars. That is no small feat, and that’s why he had a Bronze star that he hardly ever talked about. He took that same attitude into business. He worked for a big Ad agency and thought the rat race was for rats. So he bought Speedy Bob’s car wash (knowing nothing about car washes) and grew it into multiple locations. The one we get Christmas raffle prizes from. So next time you win a car wash, just give a little thought where it came from.

Needless to say, I am proud, proud to have known these men. If you knew them even a little, think of them every once in a while, and also think of the buddies you have known that may be standing beside you when you fish.

Peace.

Scott

Chapter Meetings - 3rd Thursday of the Month

Village Pizza, 145 John F Kennedy Dr.
Carpentersville, IL (Route 25 north of Route 68)

May 11th – Annual Picnic at the Fox Bluff Pavilion

Details at the April meeting

Sept 19th

Details in upcoming newsletters

Oct 17th.

Details in upcoming newsletter

Sept 19th

Details in upcoming newsletters

Oct 17th.

Details in upcoming newsletters

Chapter Outings 2019

Early Spring Outing April 26th-28th - Viroqua, WI

This is our annual outing to Southwest WI in the Driftless area. Our Chapter will gather at the Vernon Inn in Viroqua, WI. For reservations call 800/501-0664. Let them know you are with the Lee Wulff Chapter of Trout Unlimited as a block of rooms has been reserved. Members are responsible for finding their own roommate, if they want one, and making their own reservations. Also, there's the Old Towne Motel in Westby, no association with the restaurant, Logan Mill Lodge and Central Express in Westby. Only the Vernon Inn has blocked rooms.

Some will be camping at the West Fork Sportsmans Club in Avalanche, WI. You must be a member to camp and the cost for membership is currently \$15 per year. The campground does not take reservations unless you are going to rent the cabin they have. www.westforksportsmansclub.org for more information. **Because of the severe flooding last fall check to make sure they are open before arriving.**

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

We offer, **to current Lee Wulff members**, an opportunity to spend some time with an experienced member. So, if you're new to the area, new to fly fishing or would like to hook up with, and spend some time with, an experienced member this is the trip for you. **You must RSVP to Gordon Rudd at 815/245-2425 or McHenryFlyFisher@sbcglobal.net no later than April 20th for the Buddy System.** If there is a work project scheduled the Buddy System will be rescheduled. The Buddy System takes place Saturday morning until noon.

Dinner is scheduled at the Old Towne Inn, located northwest of Viroqua on Route 14 in Westby, WI. Dinner reservations are at **7:15** PM Friday and Saturday and individuals are responsible for their own meals and libations. We will be seated as soon as our table is ready.

There is a great fly shop in Viroqua called the Driftless Angler owned by Mat Wagner and Geri Meyer, www.driftlessangler.com 608/637-8779. Guide service is available from them as well as from the following guides. Dave Barron, Jacquish Hollow Angler, 608-604-6690 dbarron@wicw.net Jim Bartelt, Spring Creek Specialties, 608-206-5651 jimbartelt@yahoo.com Rich Osthoff - 608/847-5192

Some books of interest for these outings include; No Hatch to Match by Rich Osthoff

Fly Fishing Midwestern Spring Creeks by Ross Mueller

Exploring Wisconsin Trout Streams-The Angler's Guide by Steve Born

Flyfisher's Guide to Wisconsin & Iowa by John Motoviloff

Wisconsin Atlas & Gazetteer by DeLorme.

Viroqua is located approximately 4 hours from the Chicago area and 2 hours northwest of Madison, WI on Route 14.

Fennimore Outing May 17th-19th Outing/Fennimore, WI

A block of rooms has been reserved at Napps Motel, 645 12th Street, Highway 18 East. This is on the east side of town on the south side of the street. Members are responsible for finding their own roommate, if they want one, and making their own reservations. Make sure to let them know that you are with the Lee Wulff Chapter of TU. Their phone number is 608-822-3226. **Rooms are difficult to get this time of year and I must release any vacant rooms by the end of the day, May 10th.**

This area includes the Little Green River, Big Green River, Castle Rock Creek, Blue River, Borah Creek and Platte River.

Friday night we will have a brat cookout at the motel. This will include brats, chips, potato salad and bottled water. BYOB for adult libations. A RSVP and payment is required no later than May 8th to Gordon Rudd,

mhenryflyfisher@sbcglobal.net or 815-245-2425. **Cost is \$7 per person paid by May 8th**. Approximate time 7-7:30.

Saturday, we are planning a group dinner and as soon as the details are known we will publish them.

There are no fly shops in the area so make sure you have what you need prior to arriving.

Some guides and books to consider;

Jim Romberg, Fly Fisherman's Lair , 608/822-3005-**local guide**

Dave Barron, Jacquish Hollow Angler, 608-604-6690

dbarron@wicw.net

Jim Bartelt, Spring Creek Specialties, 608-206-5651

jimbartelt@yahoo.com

Rich Osthoff - 608/847-5192

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 June 5th-9th, 2019

Grayling, Michigan

Only 2 spots remain open!

This is our annual trip to the fly fishing only, catch-and-release section known as the "Holy Water" of the famed AuSable River in Grayling, MI. Wa Wa Sum is located just downstream from the birth place of Trout Unlimited. TU was formed at George Griffith's home, The Barbless Hook, in July of 1959. June 8th and 9th is when Michigan has its **free fishing** weekend this year.

Wa Wa Sum is a historic lodge dating back to 1880 and was originally owned by the Stranahan family from Toledo, OH. Michigan State University acquired it in 1982 and uses it primarily as a research center. They rent the

lodge to various organizations throughout most of the year and our chapter was grandfathered in in 1983.

ACCOMMODATIONS: The Wa Sum Lodge is a historic log building with a great porch overlooking the Au Sable River. Arrangements are dorm style, so bring your own bedding or sleeping bag, towels, washcloth and soap.

Guide trips are very popular this time of year and if you think this is something you'd like to do, please make your reservation as soon as possible so you're not disappointed.

Your reservation days and full nonrefundable payment is due by May 15th. Make checks payable to Lee Wulff Trout Unlimited c/o Yves Charron, 1414 New Haven Ct., Cary, IL 60013.

Wednesday-With people arriving at different times, or not at all, everyone is on their own for food.

Thursday-Breakfast-Continental style; coffee, tea, some assorted fruit, toast, cold cereal.

Lunch-Make your own sandwich, water/pop, chips and a snack.

Dinner-Brat cookout similar to what is done at Fennimore.

Chips, potato salad, condiments and snack

Friday-Breakfast-Continental style; coffee, tea, some assorted fruit, toast, cold cereal.

Lunch-Make your own sandwich, water, chips and a snack.

Dinner-Cook your own burger, chips, condiments, water and a snack.

Saturday-Breakfast-Continental style; coffee, tea, some assorted fruit, toast, cold cereal.

Lunch-Make your own sandwich, water, chips and a snack.

Dinner-Gates Au Sable Lodge. Everyone responsible for their own food and beverage.

Sunday-Breakfast-Continental style; coffee, tea, some assorted fruit, toast

Lunch-Make your own sandwich, water/pop, chips and a snack

If you have any special food requirements you're responsible for your personal needs..

The cost for this outing is based on the night you're there and are as follows;

Wednesday-\$45 per person

Thursday-\$65 per person

Friday-\$65 per person

Saturday-\$55 per person

This is a remote location and Grayling is about 8 miles from Wa Wa Sum. There is a community refrigerator with limited space for some ice and items that need to be kept cold.

If you have any questions, please contact Gordon Rudd at mchenryflyfisher@sbcglobal.net or 815/245-2425.

Salmon Outing – September
Details to follow

End of Season Outing
Viroqua, WI October 10th – 13th
Details to follow

Bob Olach's Fly of the Month

*Wood Duck, Partridge & Hare's Ear BH Nymph
(Caddis Variation)*

Somewhere, I saw a picture of a bead head nymph that had a built-up thorax between the gold bead and partridge soft hackle. I think it was either a video or picture of a “*Triple Threat Caddis*” dressing that got me going.

For quite a few years, I've mixed up various dubbings using the some of the materials used in the Pink Squirrel nymph (Amber Antron and Ice Dubbing) but substituting other furs instead of the grey squirrel fur used in the Pink Squirrel dubbing mixture.

After watching several YouTube videos on “*Triple Threat Caddis, Guide's Choice and other Hare's Ear nymphs*”, I thought I'd tie a few bead head nymphs using a combination / variations of several nymph dressings.

So I tied a few nymphs with wood duck tails; a body of light hare's ear mixture; a gold wire rib; partridge hackle; then dark hare's ear mixture between the partridge hackle and the bead. Both dubbings are like the pink squirrel dubbing except I subbed hare's ear dubbings instead of gray squirrel fur.



With the Ice dubbing and Amber Antron mixture, when lights hits the natural and dark Hare's Ear dubbings, there's a very nice sparkle that I hope gets the trout's attention.

In the above flies, I used:

- Hook:** Daiichi 1550 – sizes 12 wet fly hook
- Thread:** Brown Danville 6/0 thread
- Body:** Natural Hare's Ear, Amber Antron & Olive Ice Dubbing mixture
- Ribbing:** Small gold wire
- Hackle:** 2 or 3 turns of grey partridge hackle
- Bead:** Gold Bead
- Thorax:** Dark Hare's Ear, Amber Antron & Olive Ice Dubbing mixture
- Tail:** A bunch of natural wood duck barbules equal to hook shank length

Have no idea what to call this dressing, so guess we'll settle with the materials used!

Grumpy's Page by Kurt Haberl

Our first outing began on April 1st. Knowing Schnoz, I tried to be prepared for his tricks, but I was not prepared for the totality of what happened. Right after we set up camp, Schnoz came out of his tent, stretched, and said, "Man, what a day! I caught three twenty inchers on my new secret fly."

We all looked at each other. No one wanted to ask. Finally, Wet Curtis, being the good guy he is, said, "Can we see it?"

Schnoz went to his car, got out his fly rod, and showed us a full-sized red and white hula popper on the end. The weight of it bent the tip down like he had an eight-incher on the tippet.

"April Fools," we all said in unison.

"Your fly is open," I said. "Nothing is secret."

"April Fools," Schnoz said and didn't even look down. Then things went haywire.

Ghost Mary went into her tent and came out wearing a black, wide-brimmed, pointy hat. She carried a stripped willow branch of some kind that was gnarled on one end and went directly to Schnoz with his prized bamboo rod still in his hand while he fumbled to clip off the hula popper. She whirled her willow branch around it and mumbled some things that sounded like, "Moonlight and blasting, cursed be your casting. Mumbley peggery, Duggleby deggery, fishy go beggery." Then she went back into her tent and came back out to join us around the campfire as if nothing had happened.

"What the heck is 'fishy go beggery?'" Roy the Plumber asked her. "I know lots of good words, but those don't make sense."

"Incantations don't make sense to muggles," she answered.

"Muggles?" Roy asked.

"Non-magic ordinaries," Mary said.

It was quiet for a minute, and then Schnoz said, "I know it's all just an April Fools joke, so you're not bothering me at all."

It was quiet for another minute and then Schnoz said, "Not at all," which meant it was beginning to bother him. After all, Mary had once met an old man who told her about a giant trout in the Mill Run, a trout which turned out to be the largest she'd ever caught, and when she turned to thank him, the old man had disappeared, so we all thought he was a ghost or some kind of apparition.

I decided to change the subject, so I said to Wet Curtis, "How's your drink?"

Curtis looked at his tumbler and sniffed it. "How's my drink? Did you put something in it?"

"No, of course not. Couldn't you tell if someone put something in it?"

"What did you put in it?"

"Nothing, really," I said. "Just a little muggle-water. It wouldn't affect most people. Mary gave it to me. I'm sure you've imbibed much worse."

"Is that the stuff they say gives a person hemorrhoids?" Schnoz said.

"Shh," I said. "Let's not talk about that."

Curtis shifted in his camp chair. "If that was your plan, you're too late," he said.

Mary stifled a laugh into the back of her hand. "Some people get clumsy after drinking muggle water, that's all. Their balance is affected and they fall in rivers and things."

"Things?" Curtis said. "What kind of things?"

"She means cauldrons," I said. "They go crazy and jump in cauldrons. They can't help themselves."

"I'm not going to jump in any cauldron. But here's what I am going to do." Curtis got up from his camp chair, rooted around in the back of his SUV and came back with a bundle that looked like sticks, although they were rather straight and shiny. He put them in the fire, which flared up nicely and burned blue and green."

Schnoz got upset immediately. "Those look like-

"Bamboo," Wet Curtis said. "Bamboo treated with spar varnish. I've been saving them."

"Are those what's left of the bamboo rod Schnoz gave you?" I said. "I can't believe you would do such a thing."

Curtis shrugged, and Schnoz was visibly upset. "First Mary puts a curse on my rod and now you burn what's left of an heirloom gift I gave you. What's the world coming to?"

"It probably wasn't what was left of the bamboo rod you gave me," Curtis said. "It was just some bamboo sticks I had laying around. I used to have a cane pole when I was a kid. Besides, it's April Fools day."

"You know," I said, "since it's April Fool's day, I'm going to do the best trick of all."

"What's that?" Wet Curtis said.

"I'm going to tell the truth. It's the best joke possible."

“Truth?” Schnoz said. “Like what?”

“For example, I ... let’s see... uh, I only caught two fish all day. One was four inches and one was eight.”

“What a terrible trick to play on your friends,” Schnoz said. “I mean, telling the truth. What kind of terrible person would do such a thing?”

“Wait,” Roy the Plumber said. “I think it’s a good April Fool’s joke. It’s like the Epimenedes paradox.”

“Huh?” Three of our friends said simultaneously.

“Yes,” Roy said. “I read about it when I was in college 50 years ago. A native guy from Crete sails to Greece and he says to the first Greek he meets, ‘You know, I’m from Crete, and there’s one thing you can count on; all Cretans are liars.’”

“But he was from Crete,” Schnoz protested. “So no one should believe him.”

“Unless he was lying when he said he was from Crete,” Wet Curtis said.

“April Fools.” I said.

“So how big were the fish you caught?” Schnoz said.

“I told you,” I said.

“Yeah, but it’s April Fools day and you’re a Cretan,” Wet Curtis said.

“I’ll bet you caught a lot of fish and you just want to keep a honey hole secret,” Schnoz said.

“You were with me,” I said.

“Yeah, but I wasn’t watching you. You could have caught two dozen or none, and now you’re going to insult your fishing buddies by telling them the truth.”

“Or not,” Wet Curtis said.

“Okay, new rule for our chapter,” Schnoz said. “Everyone has to go fishing with a partner, and the partner’s job is to verify what someone catches.”

“How do you know the partner will be telling the truth?” Wet Curtis said.

“This is terrible,” Schnoz said. “Okay, new rule for our chapter. From now on, every member has to lie about how many and how big the fish were for that day. All in favor, raise your hands.”

Five hands went up.

“Okay,” said Schnoz. “That settles it. I had a really great day today. I caught eight trout, all of them at least 14 inches long.”

“Wow,” I said. “That’s great.”

“But he’s lying,” Wet Curtis said.

“Of course he is,” said Ghost Mary. “Now it’s my turn. I caught ten trout on a rod I hexed to catch only fish that were at least sixteen inches long, and today I caught ten.”

“Wow,” I said. “Hey, Mary, tomorrow can I go fishing with you instead of Schnoz? His lies were only about fish 14 inches long. I’d rather fish with someone whose lies were about 16 inch fish.”

“This is going to be a great campout,” Roy the Plumber said.

It was. The next night around the campfire we all caught at least ten trout that were 20 inches long. It was a campout we would be talking about for years. Never had the fishing been so good. Never had anyone been so excited to go fishing the next day. I love April Fools Day. It was first instituted in 1594 by the famous fly fisher, Izaak Walton. Um, you know the rest.

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