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President's Message

Dear LWTU Chapter Members,

Please join us at our next monthly chapter meeting at [Village Pizza & Pub](#) (145 N John F. Kennedy Dr, Carpentersville, IL 60110 location) on Thursday, April 18th, 2024 with social hour starting at 6:00 PM (additional meeting and program details are included further below). Consider joining us even if you live further out, tollway access is relatively convenient. And guests are always welcome so be sure to invite your interested friends and family members. And watch for your Evite to our annual picnic to take place in July, date TBD.

Our chapter's [2024 Spring Into the Season Auction](#) was a success with over \$3,500 raised. Thank you to our generous sponsors and supporters, all of whom helped push the recently approved 2025 fiscal year budget into surplus territory, helping facilitate an

increase in the allocation for chapter meeting speakers and avoiding the need to cut back on the chapter's outgoing donations. Watch for notable upcoming speakers such as Tim Flagler of Tightline Productions scheduled to present at the September 2024 chapter meeting. Feel free to email any speaker suggestions to speakers@leewulfftu.org.

Keep an eye out for our upcoming rod sweepstakes for your chance to win a high-end rod and reel combo and other great prizes! And if you have any donations for the December 2024 holiday banquet please contact Scott Lammers at (312) 206-5189 or banquet@leewulfftu.org.

The chapter enjoyed hosting a table at the *Cabela's Spring Fishing Classic Conservation Weekend* in Hoffman Estates, IL on March 16th & 17th where we met several adults and children interested in learning more about fly fishing and getting involved with LWTU. Thank you to those who volunteered at this event. Anyone interested in joining the chapter can do so [here](#). A warm welcome to our recent new members!



LWTU at 2024 Cabela's Event

The [Wisconsin inland trout fishing](#) catch-and-release early season re-opened on January 6th and the regular season opens on May 4th. A few of our members have been out more than once this year and reported success. And, spring [steelhead fishing](#) is on the radar, if

fishing tributaries be sure to make sure water flow rates are safe before heading out. The 2024 Illinois Spring Trout Season opens Saturday, April 6 at 58 ponds, lakes, and streams throughout the state. Click [here](#) for more information.



When moving between bodies of water while fishing please be extra diligent in cleaning and drying your gear. Read [this recent press release about *Previously Undetected Parasite Discovered In Wild Wisconsin Trout*](#) to learn more about why this is so important.

Dates for the chapter's 2024 fishing outings are:

- Early Spring: April 25-29 (Viroqua/Westby)
- Spring: May 16-19 (Fennimore) with brat cookout on Thursday evening at 6:30 PM, to which GBTU members have been invited to participate
- Fall: Late September, 2024 (Viroqua/Westby)

We've already had a tremendous amount of interest in our two spring outings. New anglers are always welcome, and we will be happy to pair you up with an experienced member who knows the outing area well. Please contact our Outings Coordinator at outings@leewulfftu.org if you are interested and have not already signed up. We need an accurate headcount for dinner reservations regardless of where you are staying.

The chapter's conservation committee plans to install two new stiles along [Bishop Branch Creek](#) this year during the first chapter outing, adding to our [extensive network of existing stiles](#) (where there are [stiles](#), generally there are fish).



Driftless Area stile installed by LWTU in 2023

We are seeking volunteers for the following upcoming events, please email volunteer@leewulfftu.org or leave a voicemail at (224) 414-2400 if you would like more information or are available and willing to assist:

- [MCCD Tying Flies with Trout Unlimited](#) - Crystal Lake, IL - April 25th 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
- *Chauncey H. Duker School Outdoor Program* - McHenry, IL - Help students with casting and fly tying on May 13th ~~or 14th~~, approx. 8:30 AM to 2:00 PM (exact times TBA)
- *Trout in the Classroom trout release* - [Fox Bluff](#), Cary, IL - May 14th (May 15th rain date) at 10:30 AM. Participate as our partner classroom students release trout in the ponds restored by our chapter in years past. Please bring along any spare ice cube trays to help the kids investigate bugs.

- [MCCD Youth Fishing Camp](#) - June 19th (Lake Atwood at [The Hollows](#) in Cary IL) & June 20th ([Pleasant Valley](#) in Woodstock, IL) approx. 9a-3p (exact times TBA)
- *LWTU Annual Picnic* - July (date and location TBA)

Our annual [Trout in the Classroom](#) (TIC) program suffered a disappointing loss at the Belvidere location but our remaining location at North Elementary in Crystal Lake is still going strong with release scheduled for May (see details further above). If you know any teachers who might be interested in the TIC program for future years please have them send an email to tic@leewulfftu.org. In the interest of improving outcomes, our TIC committee is working to identify real-time water temperature and pH monitoring equipment with remote alarm features that also meet the strict IT security requirements in schools, please send any ideas you may have to tic@leewulfftu.org



2023 LWTU TIC Release Day

Weekly fly tying sessions resumed Tuesday, January 16th (originally planned for the 9th but pushed back due to a winter storm) at Village Pizza & Pub in Carpentersville. For more information or to sign up contact Jerry Sapp at sapp375@aol.com or 847-284-4824. (Recordings of select past sessions are [available on YouTube](#).)

The Sycamore Tree program designed to help mitigate [the effects of climate change on coldwater fisheries](#) 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 are still being formulated. These fast-growing high-canopy bank-stabilizing trees will provide trout streams with much needed shade as climate change continues to impact stream temperatures. This program is getting a lot of attention and may expand to additional conservation groups.

This month's meeting program will include a brief discussion about trout fishing opportunities in Missouri, at the trout parks and streams, some stocked, some with natural reproduction. Additionally, if circumstances allow, LWTU member and soft hackle fly tying expert Bob Olach (who kindly provides us with a fly recipe for this newsletter each month) will be there in-person talking flies and showing us presentation techniques. Bob also plans to bring along some flies to donate to our bucket raffle...the chance to win flies tied by Bob is reason enough alone to attend the meeting. If Bob cannot present for any reason we may instead play an interesting segment from the recent [2024 Annual Driftless Area Stream Restoration Symposium](#).

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&omn=81187865810>

Meeting ID: 253 199 8153

Passcode: Leewulff

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

Participate by phone (manual dial): +1 312-626-6799
Meeting ID: 253 199 8153
Passcode: 41216694

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.

REMINDER: Please report volunteer hours to treasurer by 4/10/2024 at treasurer@leewulfftu.org

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 if you'd like further information or are willing to volunteer. Thank you to those of you who are already volunteering.

The Illinois Council of Trout Unlimited's annual youth conservation and fly fishing Camp is seeking mentors and students. [Click here for more information.](#)

Be sure to check out Bob Olach's Fly of the Month and Kurt Haberl's Grumpy's Page contributions this month further below.

Tight lines,

Brent Burval



Save the Kish

Despite much opposition, the Woodstock City Council recently approved all of the preliminary measures that will allow the Lennar Riverwoods proposed high-density development along the banks of the Kishwaukee River in Woodstock to go forward. Follow this situation [here](#) and [here](#). But it's not over until it's over. Voice any opposition you may have by emailing the Woodstock City Council at citycouncil@woodstockil.gov without delay and [signing this petition](#).

Protect Illinois Wetlands

The U.S. Supreme Court recently gutted the Clean Water Act, eliminating the protection of many wetlands we rely on for flood control and habitat along major rivers. Now, Illinois wetlands are left vulnerable to developer bulldozers because our state lacks a comprehensive program to protect them. Wetlands act as nature's sponges, improving water quality, providing important flood control, and preserving endangered habitats. Illinois has already lost nearly 90% of our wetlands. In our warming climate and increasing extreme weather, we can't afford to lose any more. Consider asking your legislators to vote 'Yes' and cosponsor SB3669/HB5386, which will protect Illinois wetlands left vulnerable by the US Supreme Court by filling out [this form](#).

Farm Bill for Fish Conservation

The Farm Bill is the largest source of private land conservation funding in the nation, but not everyone realizes the impact that it has on coldwater fisheries for trout and salmon.

Every watershed that passes through private land is impacted by the land use surrounding it. The Farm Bill provides the tools and funding for willing farmers, ranchers, forest managers and landowners to be the lead stewards and conserve their land and improve its interaction with the waters that flow through it. [Please support reauthorization of the Farm Bill in 2024 with a strong conservation title here.](#)

Illinois House Bill 1568 Water Recreation Rights

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.](#)

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/>

Watch TU Taking Action in Washington, D.C.

Watch Chris Wood, TU President, present testimony, with a focus on the importance of abandoned mine cleanup, at a Public Lands, Forests, and Mining Subcommittee Hearing relating to 118th Congress Bill [S.1281](#) (Mining Regulatory Clarity Act of 2023) at

00:53:39 [here.](#)

Bob Olach's Fly of the Month

Bi-visibles

I must admit that I fish very few dry flies which may be sacrilegious to many fly fishers. My list of “*usual dries*” are basically: Cracklebacks, Red Palmers and Bivisibles, all having one thing in common - - - heavily palmered hackles.

Heavily palmered flies float high on the surface water and help hide the hook, especially if a light wire, dry fly hook is used.

My Crackleback and Red Palmer dressings both use brown dry fly hackles while my Bi-visibles use brown, black, olive and white hackles. The hackles are heavily wound with the hackles being 1 ½ to 2 times the hook gape and for the concave side of the feather to face towards the hook eye.

I tend to use black or olive thread wraps as the base for the Bivisible dressings, using less expensive synthetic thread instead of silk. Speaking of thread wraps, I make it standard practice to do close thread wraps on the entire hook shank. Here's a little tying info:

- Wrap the entire hook shank with thread starting a little behind the eye;
- At the hook bend, tie in **TWO** brown, black or olive green dry fly hackles (with the “V” shaped side of the hackle facing away from the hook bend; -
- Do 10 – 11 double-hackle wraps (20 – 22 individual hackle wraps), then tie off and clip the two hackles;
- Tie in **ONE** white dry fly hackle (V-shaped side facing towards the hook eye); wrap 6– 8 individual white hackle wraps, more if you have the space;
- Tie off and trim the white hackle;
- Whip finish and add a drop of head cement to the thread. After the head cement dries, a drop of Watershed is added to waterproof the finished fly.

When finished, these Bi-visibles have between 25 to 30 individual hackle wraps (pointing towards the eye of the hook) and float high on the water's surface, the multi-hackles causing a lot of “kick” / action as the fly drifts with the current.



Hook – Daiichi 1190 size 12 – 16 dry fly, barbless fly hook) – size 14 preferred
Thread – Black thread for brown and black hackles, olive thread with olive hackles
Body / Hackle – Brown, black or olive for the rear hackles and white at the shoulder



Grumpy's Page by Kurt Haberl

Since it is now early April, which means that camping season will begin in two months or so, provided we don't get another early May snowstorm or polar vortex, everyone ought to know how to build a campfire. This guide is not intended to be the definitive guide, but what works for me and the members of our Trout Unlimited chapter. It has been compiled after many years of experience and experimentation.

Most of us start with wet wood. The advantage of starting with sticks and logs found around a campsite or in nearby woods that others have ignored, is that it gives us ample opportunity to practice all the techniques we learned in Boy or Girl Scouts, a worthy paramilitary organization based on a few admirable outdoor tenets such as remaining cheerful and courteous when attempting to start a fire with wood found in soggy bogs or gathered after several storms have washed it clean of mushrooms and moss. The Scouting program reluctantly allows fire starters such as lint from one's navel or shavings acquired by the use of one's Scout knife, provided the original sticks were properly hydrated, peed on by coyotes, or recently fallen from trees so that they are still green. Some of us have outgrown the Scouting regulations concerning lint and courteous language, but that level of non-compliance is usually only allowed after the failure of the first fire of the evening.

Two theoretical fire assemblies are common. One is the teepee fire, mythically derived from native peoples who actually knew how to build fires and probably did not bother with such waste of time and would not appreciate the metaphor resulting from a miniature tepee going up in flames. This assembly is based on the idea that sticks stacked somewhat vertically against each other will burn more effectively and allow for the eventual addition of an oversized wet log found in the woods that collapses the teepee and requires one to start over from scratch to achieve a second fire.

The other assembly is a log cabin fire, one in which logs are stacked in parallel pairs, usually of different diameters, ensuring that the gapped tower will lean to one side so it collapses once the fire is nearly achieved, requiring one to start over from scratch. It may only be a rumor, but watching a log cabin burn and then collapse to one side was much more appealing to native peoples.

Once the proper collapse has been achieved, either by adding a large log to tiny tongues of flames from tinder, navel lint, or curly shavings, or by attempting to shift logs so they burn better, one may then begin the process of building a second fire using the more modern method of *Damn-it-to-hell-this sucker-is-going-to-burn-by-whatever-means-available*. The Damn-it-to-hell process usually begins after a trip to the nearest gas station to buy four or five bound logs for ten dollars. The advantage of such logs is that they look dry but actually have been stored outside and have been properly hydrated to teach the virtues of cheerfulness and courtesy, although second fires allow the use of words that contribute to the fire's heat index.

The second fire's process is as follows. First remove the evidence of all previous attempts and get down to bedrock. Place a roll of toilet paper, wads of paper towels, or crumpled old maps and DNR fishing regulations inside the fire ring. Add fifteen or twenty charcoal briquettes, which will serve to create enough heat when lit to dry out the properly hydrated logs and afford a pleasing sizzle and pop as the logs dry out before they begin to burn. Drench the charcoal with half a quart of coal oil or charcoal lighter fluid. Before the starter completely evaporates, build either a teepee or a log cabin around the charcoal and paper. Experts have learned to build a teepee inside a log cabin, provided you have enough wet wood for such dual construction. I recommend using fatwood for this inner teepee because it burns with only a match to light it, guaranteeing success. Nevertheless, douse the entire construction with the rest of the charcoal lighter fluid. Throw in several matches and retreat at least five paces. Veterans have been known to call out the warning "Fire in the hole!" If you still have eyebrows or hair on your head you wish to preserve, or if you are a woman who has used highly flammable hair spray, you may want to save the last ounce or so of charcoal starter fluid to leave a pee trail to the edge of the fire ring and light that "fuse" which will run into the general dousing of the teepee inside the log cabin. That "fuse" will give you approximately two seconds to run away from the conflagration. Be sure your path is clear, although stumbling may keep you safe, except for the soles of your feet.

Here are a few last tips about campfires from years of experience. Once the fire has started and the smoke from green or damp wood has begun to fog the area properly, please note that the thickest plumes of smoke will usually gravitate toward a red camp chair. I don't know why this happens, but Schnoz swears it is so, and since his camp chair is red, he ought to know. If no one has a red camp chair, the smoke will generally blow in a northerly or easterly direction, at least in the northern hemisphere, although that tendency will switch to opposite directions every fifteen minutes. I suspect smoke is subject to the laws of gravity and mass present in warm bodies. This tendency may be of use if your campsite is anywhere near a bog or standing water known to breed mosquitoes, which usually swarm at the same time as campers build their second fire. If so, you might choose to sit in a red camp chair or in the direct line of the smoke plumes to avoid mosquitoes, although it is recommended that you wear goggles in such a situation. You may also wet a neckerchief or neck gaiter and breathe through it occasionally to filter out unwanted sparks, dead mosquitoes, or billows of smoke that have not yet reached the fifteen minute change of direction process. Experienced campers have been known to wear a neckerchief over their mouths for an entire evening after cutting a small hole in the neckerchief to sip one's cold beverage through a straw.

It is recommended that you have on hand a poker stick if the fire is burning too well or if the log cabin or teepee have taken too long to collapse and needs attention. You may also use a short-handled camper or GI shovel, but the use of one of those should be limited to experts who no longer have hair on the backs of their hands or arms.

Good luck. One of the truest joys of camping is to return home and have your wife or husband get one sniff of your smoke-saturated clothes and say, "You got a camp fire to burn, eh?"

"Yes, I did," you answer proudly.

Upcoming Non-Chapter Events

- If you are looking to plant some streamside trees or remove invasives, check out SWTU's tentative spring workdays opportunities [here](#)
- [Fly Fishing Film Tour](#) (F3T) 2024 screenings in the area:
 - [Lake Forest, IL - April 7th](#)
- [IF4](#) 2024 screenings in the area:
 - [Richland Center, WI - June 6th](#)
- *Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing* (PHWFF) - Ongoing (click [here](#) to get involved, and check out [these related photos](#) posted by a chapter member)
- [Illinois RiverWatch](#) - Attend a training workshop to become a RiverWatch community scientist. Learn to monitor water quality in your local streams by conducting habitat and biological surveys. This event will teach you how to collect information about stream habitats, collect and identify macroinvertebrates (water bugs), and how to determine stream quality based on what you collect.
 - [2024 Training Workshops](#)
 - [Sunday, March 24th - Monmouth \(Warren County\)](#)
 - Saturday, April 13th - Urbana (Champaign County) FULL
 - [Saturday, April 13th - Genoa \(DeKalb County\)](#)
 - [Sunday, April 14th - Warrenville \(DuPage County\)](#)
 - [Saturday, April 20th - Joliet \(Will County\)](#)
 - [Saturday, April 20th - Rochester \(Sangamon County\)](#)
 - [Sunday, April 21st - Peoria \(Peoria County\)](#)
 - [Monday, April 22nd - Westville \(Vermilion County\)](#)

- [Saturday, April 27th - Godfrey \(Madison County\)](#)
- [Saturday, April 27th - Charleston \(Coles County\)](#)
- [Saturday, April 27th - Ingleside \(Lake County\)](#)
- [Saturday, April 27th - Elgin \(Kane County\)](#)
- [Sunday, April 28th - Belvidere \(Boone County\)](#)
- [Saturday, May 4th - Simpson \(Johnson County\)](#)
- [Saturday, May 11th - Warren \(Jo Daviess County\)](#)

- *Fly tying with [NIFTY](#)*

Chapter Officers

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