



February 2020 President's Message

Greetings fellow members! Woodstock Willie has spoken and it looks like six more weeks of winter here in Illinois. Plenty of time to tie your favorite flies, catch up on your reading and clean up your gear from last season.

A big shout out to Jerry Sapp for receiving the Joan & Lee Wulff Award for Outstanding Conservation Leadership from the Wisconsin Council of TU at their annual banquet on February 3rd. Jerry was recognized for his work with the TU National Leadership Council and TU DARE along with all the projects we've worked in Wisconsin as the Lee Wulff chapter. Congratulations Jerry!

Bob Meschewski tells me that our Trout in the Classroom program is in full swing and that all four tanks are doing well. We are going to have tons of Brook trout to release into Fox Bluff this year! Gordon Rudd has mostly finalized the dates for all of our outings this year and the dates will be posted in the newsletter. Sign up now to reserve your spot.

If you're like me, you've seen the news reports about how the current administration and the EPA are rolling back decades of legislation passed to protect our environment. Please contact your legislators and let them know how you feel about saving these precious resources.

Our speaker this month is Rich Osthoff. Rich is a nationally known guide, author and conservationist. Hope to see you then.

Bob

January's Speaker Rich Osthoff



For nearly twenty years Rich Osthoff has guided fly fishers for trout on his home waters, the Driftless Region of Western Wisconsin. His trips take fly fishers on dozens of streams both north and south of the Wisconsin River, including the Viroqua area, Grant County, Richland County and the Kickapoo Reserve/Wildcat Mountain area. Rich has fished extensively throughout the Rocky Mountains and has authored three fly fishing books and written numerous fishing and fly tying articles for leading magazines. His first book “Fly Fishing the Rocky Mountain Backcountry” is based on 20 summers of hiking and fishing throughout the wilderness areas of the Rocky Mountains and is considered by many experienced backcountry anglers to be the bible on backcountry fly fishing. Rich’s two other books “No Hatch to Match” and “Active Nymphing” contains insightful and innovative techniques and strategies for catching trout.

His presentation will be a voice over of his video on fishing the Driftless Area of southwest Wisconsin. He’ll be talking about reading water, what flies to use and how to use them along with many tips and techniques. He’ll be more than happy to answer any questions you might have and also sign his book, if you should have a copy.

Conservation News - Jerry Sapp

The Jerry Ward and Mark Reinhart have agreed to take over the conservation chairmanship when Bob Becker moves to Colorado and I take over his Presidential duties. I know that they will do a great job because of their commitment to chapter projects and workdays. Jerry and I have recently completed training with Mc Henry County that will allow us to burn brush piles on workdays. These must be burnt with snow on the ground and before the end of February, so look for notice that we will be burning soon along with doing some brushing at Fox Bluff. The chapter will be having a workday March 26 at Fox Bluff that is part of a Week of Restoration that Mc Henry County is doing with college students. This is a program to train them in prairie burns. It also could mean they might get a burn at Fox Bluff. It will be a last-minute call depending on conditions. If the weather is not correct for a burn, they will be coming to Fox Bluff to help us work that day. This would be in the afternoon and the plan is to install some cross logs for retentive pools on a second stream there prior to placement of some Brook trout fry. The Illinois DNR will be shocking sometime in early April to determine if anything endangered lives in the stream before giving final permission to go ahead with the stocking.

In other news the TUDARE Driftless Habitat crew has received a \$5,000 grant from Cabala's for the stream maintenance crew this summer. This is the second time I have applied for the grant but our first successful bid. So please let them round up your change at Cabela's this is where the money comes from.

Winter Doldrums? – How About A Fishing Show

Chicago Outdoor Sports Show

Sat, Mar 21 – Tue, Mar 24

Donald E Stephens Convention Center

5555 N River Rd, Rosemont, IL

Upcoming Spring Lee Wulff Fishing Trips

2020 Early Spring Outing April 24th-26th - 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 \$30 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 16th 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 Bartel, Spring Creek Specialties, 608-206-5651 jimbartelt@yahoo.com
-) Rich Osthoff - 608/847-5192
-) Some books of interest for this 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 ½ hours from the Chicago area and 2 hours northwest of Madison, WI on Route 14.

2020 Fennimore Outing Fennimore, WI May 15th-17th

This area includes the Little Green River, Big Green River, Castle Rock Creek, Blue River, Borah Creek and Platte River. Fennimore is located approximately 1 ½ hours west of Madison, WI on Route 18.

Friday night we are planning on having a group dinner at the Hickory Grove Golf Course.

Saturday, we are planning a group dinner, details to follow.

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
-) 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.

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, 608-822-3226. **Make your reservation by April 30th.**

Another block of rooms has been reserved at Fennimore Hills Motel, 5821 US 18, Fennimore and is located on the west side of Fennimore, 608-822-3281. **Make your reservation by March 30th for a 1st floor room or April 30th for a 2nd floor room.**

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 when you make your reservation.** Rooms are difficult to get this time of year as it's prime trout fishing time and Spring turkey hunting season. Don't hesitate as you can always cancel your reservation if your plan should change.

Any questions contact Gordon Rudd, mchenryflyfisher@gmail.com or 815-245-2425.

Chapter Meetings - 3rd Thursday of the Month

Village Pizza, 145 John F Kennedy Dr.

Carpentersville, IL (Route 25 north of Route 68)

\$15.00 for all the pizza and coke you can eat/drink

Social Hour: 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Main program: 7:30 p.m.

Other menu choices, cocktails and spirits are available for purchase.

Bob Olach's Fly of the Month

“Orange & Furnace Soft Hackles”

On the Flymph Forum, a fellow posted a pic of some flies he tied with an orange – dyed muskrat dubbed body and a very nice furnace hackle. A really nice fly, so hop over to the flymph Forum and take a look at the ‘*Muskrat*’ posting.

After looking at the fellow’s posting, it reminded me of a few flies that I tied several years ago when I was playing around with some dubbings and hackles. The idea of using dyed dubbings, either lightly or heavily dubbed, instead of just using a plain silk colored body probably goes back to something I read in Roger Fogg’s book called: “*The Art of the Wet Fly*”, published in the late 1970s.

The bright orange body and gold wire rib might make a good soft hackle to use on waters with an October Caddis hatch, or maybe just as an attractor pattern. Will have to tie a few more and try them this upcoming season once the temps get a little warmer and maybe do a few variations with other bright dubbings, including pink, red and bright green.



Orange & Furnace Soft Hackles

- Hook:** Daiichi #1550 or 1530 sizes 12 – 14
Thread: Orange Danville 6/0 or Pearsall Hot Orange Silk
Wire (no Thread): Small Gold Uni-wire
Body: Heavily dubbed spiky orange seal sub, SLF or Angora goat
Hackle: A nice furnace hen hackle, black near the stem with light brown tips.



Grumpy's Page by Kurt Haberl

“Look at this,” Schnoz said, pointing to a passage in the old fisherman’s journal by Gordon K. Redd I had given him for Christmas. We sat in a far corner of Hillendale Bakery, a spot reserved for troublemakers or the overly boisterous who might bother more sedate customers. We had once been kicked out of even that remote corner during a “discussion” of how long one’s tippet should be. We sipped very good coffee and ate exceptional donuts, while outside, the wind slapped faces, blew flurries around the icy patches of old snow, and generally nipped at frozen, brown grass like a fussy baby startled from a nap too soon.

In winter, we fish for other things than trout, the passage read.

“Hm, interesting,” I said. By the way, I was right about the tippet length. Three feet is plenty, and insisting on a minimum of four feet is not only a waste of tippet, it has a tendency to kink, curl, knot and wander in our spring-fed streams where most of the fish are in only two to four feet of water. After all, the longer the tippet, the more complicated is the placing of a strike indicator, which serves not only as one means of signaling a strike, but also sets the depth of a weighted nymph.

“Interesting, yes,” Schnoz said, and pointed to the rest of the paragraph. *In winter, when the wind slaps our faces, blows flurries around the icy patches of olde snow, and generally nips at the frozen browne grasses like a fussing baby startled from a nap too soon, one casts his gossamer lines back into the collective memory for that singular rise near a certain patch of rununculus or that jolting take by the lord of a run near a sunken log. One of the blessings of fishing for the trout and grayling, that silver-sailed prize, is that certain pools, runs, riffles, and races, the ones so prized they are given*

names like Jamison's Deep or Stillwell's Slide, (actual places, mind you) will always harbour fish from season to season, barring floods, downed trees, the vagaries of bridge-building, insufferable dams, or accumulating silt bars. When fishers lie about the number of trout killed, released or lost, there will always be the seed of truth to be found in the place they cannot help but divulge and the fly they tyed which fooled the Kyped King. That place will always hold the best and strongest. When you learn of such a pool, name it with respect, and do not give it your own name. That is a vanity which detracts from the sport of gentlemen. (And the sport of genteel ladies, my wife has just insisted that I add. Blessings on all of you who have achieved the singular state of having an ally look over your shoulder). In winter, a fisher learns the essential nature of compromise.

"Ha ha," Schnoz said. "I like this guy Gordon Redd." He closed the old, musty book to look at the title again. Fins, Feathers and Foma.

A sudden blast from that petulant winter baby rattled the windows and snatched the Irish tweed cap off an old guy struggling to find the keys to his car. Ah, winter.

"You know what this means," I said.

"What do you think it means?"

"It means we are right to open the season on the first fishable day by going to that secret pool we inherited from Old Ben Waverly because there will always be a good chance of a big trout there, and if one dies, another will take its place."

"Waverly's Deep," Schnoz said.

"Waverly's Deep," I agreed. "Who's turn is it to make the first cast this year?"

"Grumpy, I think it's your turn," Schnoz said after casting a gossamer line back into his memory, "but if you're going to do it, I insist that you use at least a four-foot tippet, maybe even five feet, so you don't startle the big trout there with your sloppy knots and that damned furled leader you insist on using, not to mention the silver flash of a the tippet ring on the end."

"Listen, you big-eared curmudgeon with all the crazy..." and then I noticed we each had a second donut to enjoy, we both needed coffee re-fills, and the owner was already leaning over the counter to watch us like a referee with a whistle in his mouth expecting to make an over-the-back foul call on a rebound, "um, okay, I'll use a tapered leader and four-foot tippet, but I get to pick the midge, and you have to be ready with a camera if I hook that lord of the pool and manage to beach him."

"Deal," Schnoz said.

"You know, Schnoz, we are both getting older, and pretty soon we should talk about the person or two we should pass along the deed and location to Waverly's Deep."

Schnoz cast his gossamer five-foot tippet back into his memory again until it snagged on something.

"I think we should check the envelopes Ben gave us to follow his stipulations."

"Agreed, but I already have two people in mind."

"Eh?"

“Ghost Mary and Wet Curtis.”

“Hm, a lady and a gentleman. What if we get into arguments with one or both of them again this year when we go camping?”

“Of course we will. That doesn’t matter. Trout fishing is bigger than a spat with a brother or sister. I think Gordon Redd and Ben Waverly would agree.”

“Well, wait till we get to the part of the book where Gordon Redd talks about tippetts. I’m sure he will say four feet minimum.”

“Three,” I said.

“Four.”

“Three.”

“Ffff- um, three and a half.”

“Deal,” I said, and held out my hand. There is no use risking a donut and coffee on the length of a tippet. Besides, in winter, a fisher learns the essential nature of compromise.

Chapter Officers

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