



January 2023 President's Message

Dear Fellow Members,

Happy new year! The early Wisconsin catch and release inland trout season is officially open! If you've not fished the [Driftless Area](#) or [Great Lakes tributaries](#) in the winter months, the current mild weather might be the opportunity you've been waiting for. Be sure to attend our next meeting's social hour starting at 6:00 PM on January 19th, 2023 at [Village Pizza & Pub in Carpentersville](#) to pick up winter fishing tips from fellow members, and stay for the program to get the inside scoop from a WI DNR staffer (and avid fisherman) on trout streams in the Eau Claire, WI region of the [Driftless Area](#) (additional meeting details, including guest speaker information, can be found further below).

The 2022 holiday banquet was a huge success – raising over four thousand dollars after expenses. The funds raised will help sustain our chapter's programs and conservation efforts. Thank you to everyone who contributed to, helped organize, supported, and/or participated in the banquet and related fundraising efforts. Congratulations to all of our prize winners, including online auction winners Arnie Dauksavage and Jonathan Culli.



LWTU 2022 Holiday Banquet

Weekly fly tying sessions began on Monday, January 9th and will run for 12 weeks at [Village Pizza & Pub in Carpentersville](#). Participation via Zoom is also available. If you are interested in participating via Zoom please reach out to Jerry Sapp via email at sapp375@aol.com to be added to the email invite list. Feel free to show up in-person without notice, bring equipment and materials if you have them as this session's material kits have already sold out.

A couple of upcoming non-chapter events worth checking out:

- The [Chicagoland Fishing, Travel & Outdoor Expo](#) will take place on January 26-29, 2023 at the Schaumburg Convention Center. The [Illinois Council of Trout Unlimited](#) will be hosting a booth at the show.
- Driftless Area Stream Restoration Symposium March 7-8, 2023

It's time to start thinking about spring fishing! Check out [our website](#) for information about group outings, including the first of the year planned for April 27-30, 2023 in Westby/Viroqua, WI. Outings are a great way to get to know your fellow members better, share secrets, and of course fish. Outings are not just for the experienced, they are open to members (and their guests) of all ages, and accommodate all genders. And if you

are new to fly fishing, we can pair you up with a more experienced member through our buddy system. Additionally, some of our outings provide a special opportunity to get involved with our conservation committee's [stile](#) building and installation efforts. We have identified at least four locations for new stiles planned for 2023, adding to our [extensive network of existing stiles](#).

We are seeking volunteers for the following upcoming youth programs. Please send an email to youth@leewulfftu.org if you'd like further information or are willing to volunteer. Getting youth interested in our beloved sport is an important part of ensuring the future of fly fishing and related natural resources – and helping a child learn how to fish can be incredibly rewarding.

- [McHenry County Conservation District's Gone Fishing with Trout Unlimited](#). Help students with casting and fly tying on April 16th, 2023, 1:00 - 3:00 PM. at [The Hollows Conservation Area, 3804 US-14, Cary, IL](#).
- *Chauncey H. Duker School Outdoor Program*. Help students with casting and fly tying on May 16th and 17th, 2023, 8:30 AM to 2:00 PM at [Fort McHenry Park, 4301 Front Royal Dr, McHenry, IL](#).
- *Fishin' So Fly*, which we hope will get back into full swing in 2023 after a COVID-19 hiatus and scaled-back 2022 program.

Our speaker this month will be [Mycal Raleigh](#), Water Resources Management Specialist with the WI DNR. Mycal is an avid outdoorsman and fisherman, he will be presenting information about Driftless Area trout streams near and surrounding Eau Claire, WI. The geographical area he will be covering holds high numbers of trout, yet sees relatively little fishing pressure. If you are looking to explore streams you have not yet fished, be sure not to miss this program.

Be sure to check out our new 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.

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 7:15 PM.

In-Person Chapter Meeting Remote Participation Details

Participate via web browser or Zoom app:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89896393551?pwd=cUhyUjhSZ3BQZDg3cTB4dUtOTDJvdz09>

Participate by phone (one tap for mobile): +13126266799,,89896393551#,,,,*888671#

Participate by phone: +1 312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 898 9639 3551

Passcode: 888671

Best regards,

Brent Burval

Bob Olach's Fly of the Month

T E Pritt'e #43 Sandy Moor Game

Continuing with my attempts at tying many of T E Pritt's North Country spider dressings, as shown in his book "North Country Flies", one of Pritt's simple dressings is his *Sandy Moor Game* that, like many other North Country dressings, consists of only a thread body and a game bird hackle.

To tie this fly, start a few thread wraps behind the hook eye, leaving room for the hackle and head and continue the tightly wound thread wraps down the hook shank until the thread is above the hook point or barb and then wrap the thread up to the area where you'll tie in the hackle.

Although Pritt's dressing calls for the "*dark reddish-brown feather from the back of an English Grouse*", a hackle for a "*Whiting Burnt Orange Brahma Hen Cape*" could be a decent sub for an English Grouse hackle.

Please note that oftentimes, brown silk threads can darken when wet, whereas synthetic threads like a Danville or Uni – Thread will tend to keep the original color when wet.

As with most of my soft hackle / North Country Spiders, I prefer to use a Daiichi 1550 or Mustad 3906 hook, but if a lighter dry fly hook is used, the fly will tend to float higher in the water.



Dressing:

Hook: - Daiichi #1550 wet fly hook (sizes 14 – 16)

Thread & Body: - Brown Silk

Hackle: - "*Hackled with a dark reddish-brown feather from the back of a English Grouse*", per Mr. Priitt !



Grumpy's Page by Kurt Haberl

What do you do when your best friend calls up early in the new year the morning after an eight-inch snow and tells you to put on your knee boots, string up your eight-weight steelhead rod and come over to his house ASAP? You find your rod, wipe the dust off the case, put your reel case in your coat pocket, and kiss your wife as if it might be the last time you see her. That's what you do if your best friend is Schnoz.

I was not surprised to see two vehicles already parked in front of his house. One was a police car and the other a fire engine, both with their emergency lights flashing. All footprints led around the house to the back, so I followed them and found a dozen or so neighbors shivering in a group, along with officer Murph and three firemen I didn't know.

"Hi, Murph," I said. We had become good friends over the years with many encounters and no arrests. He simply grunted at me as he paged through a small black book, and then looked up at the firemen.

"Well," Murph said in obvious disgust, "there is the local ordinance we passed when Schnoz tried to get all the snow off his sidewalks using a flamethrower, but I don't see anything illegal about what he's doing now."

"What about disturbing the peace?" one of the fireman asked.

"Nobody's filed a complaint," Murph said.

Then I noticed Huldy come out the back door in boots, a winter coat, and an apron. She carried a full tray and gave everyone there a steaming mug of hot chocolate.

Murph looked at my rod case and said, "Grumpy, did you know about this?"

"No," I said. "He just called and said to come over with my steelhead rod and reel. Am I going to have to call Annie for bail money?"

Murph shrugged.

"What's he doing?" I asked.

Murph shrugged again. "I dunno'," he said.

That's when Schnoz saw me. "Grumpy!" he said excitedly. "You made it. Here, string up your rod, forget the tippet and just tie this on your leader. Do you have ten pound test?"

"Twelve," I said.

"Perfect." He handed me a plastic painted fish about six inches long with two small holes right in the middle. I ran my mono through the holes and started an Albright knot, which soon became a perfection loop and then a rat's nest.

"It's okay," Schnoz said. "The knot won't matter. Now watch. This is my best idea yet."

I saw that he had tied one of the plastic fish to his leader as well. Then he announced in his finest stentorian voice, "Back away, everybody. I need some room for a backcast. No one is in any danger, but you're about to see two problems solved with a single solution. What's the worst cause of cabin fever?"

"You can't go fishing," I said sheepishly. It was embarrassing to give such an obvious answer.

"Exactly!" Schnoz said. "And what's the worst problem after a big snow?"

"Ice dams over your gutter," said his neighbor Sam, who usually was the first to call the fire department before anyone got hurt.

"Exactly," Schnoz said. "Now watch."

After everyone backed away, Schnoz played out twenty feet of line, made a few false casts, one of which hit a window of his fly tying den and cracked it.

"Not to worry," Schnoz said. "It's only a crack because of the cold."

Two false casts later, he sent the plastic fish over the gutter of his roof, and shrieked with joy as the fish buried itself in the snow a foot from the snow-filled gutter. He lowered his rod like he was going to set the hook on a steelhead and yanked. The plastic fish flew back past his shoulder after pulling a foot of snow off the edge of his roof.

"Ta-da!" Schnoz said. In six more casts, he got my interest, so I started casting as well. To our amazement we cleaned off the snow above his gutter in about fifteen minutes. The neighbors actually applauded.

"Hey, can you guys do my house next?" neighbor Sam said.

"Sure," Schnoz said. "Be over in fifteen minutes."

"Mine too."

"Then me."

"You have any more of those little scraper fish?" Murph asked, and one of the firemen sidled up alongside him.

"Sure," Schnoz said. "I got enough for everybody." He started laughing maniacally. It's bad when we try one of Schnoz's hairbrained ideas and his success is halted by fire, broken water lines, or the passing of a city ordinance aimed directly at him, but it's even worse in the rare time when something works. I dunno'.

Chapter Officers

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