



Fly Lines and By-Lines

Lee Wulff Chapter of Trout Unlimited - A local chapter of America's leading nonprofit organization committed to the conservation, protection, and restoration of North American coldwater fisheries and their watersheds.

See us at: <http://www.leewulfftu.org>

March 2014 President's Message

Greetings to all—

The birds are singing. Geese are flying south. The snow is finally melting (sort of). Daylight savings time is here, and I am so excited when I see temps in the 30's and 40's! Hard to believe temps in this range can feel so amazingly warm right about now. Time to break out the shorts and T shirts and---- We can finally see the light at the end of the tunnel---and---

What?? Wait a minute . Hold on folks, weather's on. What the...?? Are you seriously kidding me?? Another storm coming? 4-6 inches?? Tomorrow night---right. And then it's going to get cold again. Sorry everyone. Put your stuff back in the closet. I'll try the same message next month.

Folks, while we are anxiously awaiting fishing season to begin--- and apparently we are still waiting-- we have our first outing coming up in April. Take a few minutes to check out our April, May and June schedule and sign up for some great fishing, friends, and great fun. Check out the web site or newsletter. Or stop by and talk to Gordon at the next meeting. He loves to talk about the Driftless Area and WaWaSum, or just about anything else "fishy". He commented to me the other day that even the local puddles are starting to look good !

Last weekend was the Midwest Fly Fishing Expo in Warren Michigan and Gordon reported it was apparently quite a show. There were over 150 vendors present. Did any of our other members attend?

This month we will be introducing Sarah Zack, who will be speaking to our chapter. Sarah is an aquatic invasive species (AIS) specialist. Take a look at the newsletter for her bio. I think we will all benefit from her expertise and I

really encourage you to attend. She spoke earlier this year at DRIFT and members reported that they were very pleased with her program.

Some interesting news. We are looking at a very promising site in the Wisconsin Driftless area for a conservation project. Things are still in the planning stage, and Jerry can update us at the meeting.

I hope to see many of you there!

Meg



Lee Wulff Chapter of Trout Unlimited is now part of social media with a Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/375161165829558/>). It's all set up, it's free for all members, and has real time content, and an extensive photo gallery. For sign-up info and help contact Chris Young at c-m-young@comcast.net .

Our March Speaker Sarah Zack



Sarah Zack is IISG's aquatic invasive species (AIS) specialist. Sarah's position is a partnership between IISG and the Illinois Natural History Survey, and she is located at the Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe, Illinois. Her current focus is the new [Be A Hero-Transport Zero™](#) campaign, created with grant funding from Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Sarah's getting the word out about this campaign by attending events, giving professional and informal talks, designing and distributing outreach materials, and working with IISG's communications team to develop television and radio commercials. Additional ongoing projects include researching and developing AIS best management practices for fishing tournament anglers and organizers with funding from National Sea Grant and the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

Before joining Sea Grant, Sarah was a biology instructor at Loyola University Chicago. She has also held positions as an aquatic scientist at an environmental consulting firm, where she conducted fish and invertebrate surveys in Illinois' rivers, and as a wildlife and fisheries biologist for Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Sarah has a dual B.S. in zoology and biological conservation from University of Wisconsin-Madison and an M.S. in biology with an emphasis on aquatic ecology from Loyola University Chicago.

Notice: New Zealand Mudsnails have been found in Black Earth Creek!!

What can you do? Here's more info from the Wisconsin DNR.....

New Zealand Mudsnail

What is a New Zealand mudsnail?

The New Zealand mudsnail is a harmful invasive species that inhabits a wide range of aquatic environments. They are tiny at about 1/8 inch long and have elongated shells ranging from gray to light or dark brown, usually with 5-6 whorls. The shell opening is on the right side when the narrow end is pointed up and the opening faces the observer.

Outside of their native range, they reproduce asexually (as clones). This means that only one snail is needed to start a new population.



Credit: USFWS

Why are they a problem?

In some places, mudsnail densities have reached over 500,000 individuals per square meter. They compete for food and space occupied by native snails and other macro invertebrates. Studies done in western states indicate they can alter stream food webs, impacting fisheries and native invertebrate populations. New Zealand mudsnails are easily transported and harder to kill than many invasives we have dealt with in the past. By closing the operculum

(a trap door-like structure) over their shell opening, they can survive in cool, damp environments for up to 26 days and survive exposure to toxins like bleach, ammonia and alcohol.

Where are they found?

Originally from New Zealand, mudsnails were first identified in the U.S. in Idaho in the late 1980s. In the fall of 2013, the New Zealand mudsnail was discovered in DNR macroinvertebrate samples collected from Black Earth Creek in western Dane County in 2011 and 2012. The only other populations in the region, which have not been expanding, are in Lake Superior's Duluth-Superior Harbor and Lake Michigan's Waukegan Harbor. The extent of New Zealand mudsnail invasion in Wisconsin is currently unknown, but the department will continue monitoring to define the distribution of New Zealand mudsnail in Wisconsin.



What can you do?

Most Wisconsin waters do not have invasive species. To keep Wisconsin's waters and fisheries healthy for the next generation, it is important to follow prevention steps every time you leave the water. By leading with your example and sharing the word, YOU can make a difference to protect Wisconsin streams!

Several effective methods to prevent their spread have been identified. The following guidelines work for both boating and wading equipment.

BEFORE leaving a waterbody:

INSPECT equipment and **REMOVE** attached plants and animals (*required by law*)

DRAIN all water from equipment (*required by law*)

SCRUB equipment with a stiff brush, including crevices, to remove all mud and snails.

RINSE equipment with tap water to remove juveniles. Consider keeping a

~~water jug or spray bottle in your car.~~

BEFORE entering another waterbody, switch to a completely different set of gear
OR do one of the following disinfection steps:

FREEZE for 8 hours, or

WASH with 212°F water (steam clean), or

SOAK in 120°F water for several minutes, or

SOAK in 2% Virkon solution (2.7 ounces per gallon) for 20 minutes

Please do **NOT** use felt soled boots. They have been proven to harbor more invasive species and to be harder to clean. You can also reduce the spread by fishing from upstream to downstream.

Watch this Clean Angling Video from the River Alliance of Wisconsin for step-by-step instructions on cleaning your gear:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LPIRYsqNxJo>

Fly Of The Month by Bob Olach

Edmonds' & Lee's No. 8b "March Brown"

This, being the month of March, it's appropriate that we have some info on a "March" fly – namely a "March Brown". This soft hackled fly dressing is taken from Edmonds' & Lee's classic book called "Brook & River Trouting", first published in 1916. (My copy is a 1997 reprint).

In "Brook & River Trouting", Edmonds & Lee provide two dressings for the March Brown, shown as "8a" and "8b" – I've been tying the "8b" pattern, which is a "hackled dressing" whereas the "8a" is a "winged dressing". (Got you confused yet?)

The flies pictured below were tied exactly as stated in the Edmonds & Lee book / dressing using the hard to get Pearsall silk and the Snipe Rump feathers both of which I was able to obtain several years ago.

The dubbing came from a natural Hare's Ear mask that I dyed using a red Pantone felt tipped pen, mixing the Pantone-dyed Hare's Ear with some dubbing from a red-dyed Hare's Ear mask.

As usual, Daiichi #1550, wet fly hooks were used, size 12s in this picture, but I've also tied a few on size 14 hooks.



Here's the original dressing, as taken from "Brook & River Trouting":

No. 8b

March Brown

Ephemeridae

Hook - 2 or 3

Wings - Hackled with a mottled brown feather from a Snipe's rump.

Body - Orange silk, No. 6a, dubbed with the fur from the nape of a rabbit's neck which has been lightly tinged red with Crawshaw's Red Spinner dye, and ribbed with gold wire or tinsel.

Tail - Two strands from a feather from a Snipe's rump, same feather as used for the wings.

Head - Orange silk.



Grumpy's Page by Kurt Haberl

Opening Day, 2014

"This is going to be the greatest trout season ever!" Schnoz said, and I knew that even my doubtful look would not dampen his optimism. "Wait till you see what I've done to get ready."

"Changed your long underwear?"

"No. I mean, yes, but much more. Here, savor this, Grumpy, my friend."

I thought he might be handing me another donut, although I'd already had two with three cups of coffee to warm my liver, but instead, he gave me a laminated sheet like a head football coach's play chart and a water pen.

"Are these directions for survival in cold and snow?" I said, nodding at the three-foot drifts outside his car and the solid white field at one of our favorite deep runs, a steady flow we called "The Old Man Hole" because we once saw Santa Claus's brother there.

"Better than that. For an entire month I absorbed everything I could find on reading trout water, looking for signs, and choosing the correct fly for the situation. It's a whole system, guaranteed."

"Guaranteed to catch fish or guaranteed to be a system?"

"Both. Everything you need to know, top to bottom, is right here, 50 years of expertise, and depending on what you observe and mark on the front side, you will find the correct fly to cast on the back. Just look at the very top. It starts with the sky. Is it a bright day or is there cloud cover? Are the clouds mottled, cottony, or striated? Then you look for birds. Are any swooping over the water to devour the latest hatch, or are they chasing grasshoppers blown by the wind?"

"Schnoz, it's the first week of March and it's freezing outside. All the birds except for owls are in Brazil where they belong, and where I'd like to be for Carnivale."

"This will be better. Let's go. Here's a clip for your Top to Bottom System so you don't lose it. Do you want the first run or the second?"

"The second," I said, knowing that there was a large rock to stand on, and if I fell in, the water was only three feet deep.

We struggled out of the car, struggled to put on cold waders and boots, struggled to force arms through vests over layers of fleece and wool, struggled to put rods together and string them, and struggled over the snow drifts and frozen ruts toward the black ribbon of water fifty yards away. Brazil was looking better by the minute. When I got to my rock, I was pleased to see it was wind-blown and clear rather than snow-covered. I started on Schnoz's system, Top to Bottom.

Let's see, I thought, it's cloudy and gray like a low ceiling made out of gray goose down. I checked a box on Schnoz's system with the water pen. There were no birds, except for a pile of gray and brown feathers an owl or hawk had caught on the opposite bank, and I thought that didn't really count for a bird any more, so I checked "no birds" as close as I could to the box with hands that had begun to shake. Next I examined the stems of dormant bushes next to me for signs of caddis, stoneflies, and caterpillars. There were no leaves to examine. At that point the pen quit writing, probably because its 20% water content had frozen. Then I saw, "Are there any no-see-ums, gnats, or mosquitoes bothering you?" and I almost laughed because I was wearing three inches of layered underwear, wool, fleece and parka, and unless they went for my nose or fingertips, there was nothing for them to bite, and even then they couldn't pierce my frozen exoderm. Besides, if any gnat was out today, he was a dead gnat. Next the chart told me to examine the dark water for signs of a hatch, but there was nothing to disturb its surface, which looked like crude oil, no rings, no rises, no bulges, no bubbles. There were no crayfish along the edges, no minnows, no leeches, no otters or muskrats chasing trout, nothing stupid enough to come out on such a cold day except Schnoz - and me.

Schnoz's chart was getting more difficult to read because my hands shook like a bowl full of jelly. I scanned the rest of his Top to Bottom System. My God, I thought, there are 22 more questions to answer, four on water clarity alone, and none that said, "Water the color of Texas Black Gold." Water temperature? I didn't see a label for "So Friggin' Cold I Can't Feel My Knees," and I was not about to put my fingers and a thermometer into the black freon running around me. I began to skim the chart. No moss, no ranunculus, no spearwort or watercress. Then the chart said to examine the bottom for sand, mud, rock patterns, undercuts, logs, and I added, dead flyfishers on opening day.

I skipped the last 15 questions and flipped the chart over to see which fly to use. Across the top were labels for sky patterns; on the left were labels for bird and animal signs; on the right were labels for hatches of insects, and on the bottom were labels for water clarity and bottom patterns. The idea was to trace the matrix down, up, and across for each label and land on a fly pattern in the middle.

"Wait a second," I said out loud, "this is....this is," but I couldn't even say what it was. When there were signs of caddis, the chart said to use a caddis. When there was evidence of stoneflies, the chart said to use a stonefly. For everything else, no matter what the cloud cover, water clarity, water temperature, or bottom, the fly to use was an olive wooly bugger. The olive wooly bugger took up squares on three-fourths of the matrix. Some system, I thought. If you see a caddis, use a caddis. If not, use an olive wooly bugger.

On the fourth try, I managed to put my tippet through the large eye of an olive wooly bugger and tie two granny knots instead of a clinch. I stripped out some line, flopped the bugger into the water and began to strip it back to me. Strip, twitch, strip, twitch, over and over until I had to cast again. Somewhere between frostbite and hypothermia, I felt the halt of a snag, and then the faint pull of something resentful. Five seconds later I hoisted a small trout out of the water, foul-hooked, and its sad eyes and shivering fins made me feel like I just taken the pitiful brown out from a quilted featherbed. I unhooked the poor thing, let it slip back into the water, and then - and then - disaster struck. At first it felt simply like a slight warm spot on one leg, but soon it was more like drips running down my leg. I put my rod down, yanked off suspenders, dropped waders, fumbled with layers of wool, fleece, and flannel, then my belt, then jeans, then more layers until finally I could find my poor little eeeeeh, ahhhhh, eeeeeh. It is amazing how Nature can change one quickly from cold pain to warm relief and then back to cold pain.

As I struggled to replace layer after layer, Schnoz's Top to Bottom System blew away, the fly line froze in my guides, the wooly bugger lodged itself under a rock, my knees locked, my fingers became claws, and my nose felt like someone had just punched it four times in a row. I slid and fell and slid and fell back to the car to find - Schnoz behind the wheel sipping coffee.

"Well?" he said, rolling down his window. "How many?"

"One, and it was foul hooked."

"How many casts did you make?"

"Maybe four or five."

"That's great. Let's see, using my Top to Bottom System, on average if you can catch one fish in five casts, that would be ten fish per hour, or about seventy fish in a day. Wow! That's beyond my wildest dreams. I must patent this."

"There's no way to patent stupidity. What about you? You've just been sitting here?"

"Me? I got snagged on my first cast and had to quit because I only had one olive wooly bugger."

I don't know what was worst, my cold bones, the smug look of triumph on Schnoz's craggy face, my wet pants, my frozen line stuck on the rod, or my pride. I decided they were equally bad, and there was nothing I could do about them.

"I saved you a cup of hot coffee and your favorite chocolate donut," Schnoz said. That's the way it is with a friend. You want to kill him but you can't because he saved a cup of hot coffee and the last donut for you.

My wife wonders why all women do not seek anglers for husbands. She has come in contact with many in her life with me and she claims that they all have a sweetness in their nature which others lack.

-- **Ray Bergman**

2014 Chapter Outings

Early Spring Outing

April 25th-27th 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 have been reserved. Members are responsible for finding their own roommate, if they want one, and making their own reservations.

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 \$10 per year. The campground does not take reservations unless you are going to rent one of the two cabins they have.

This area includes the famed West Fork of the Kickapoo, Timber Coulee 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 18th 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 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, www.driftlessangler.com 608/637-8779. Guide service is available from the following;

The Driftless Angler www.driftlessangler.com 608/637-8779

Rich Osthoff***Signature Flies*** www.richosthoff.com 608/847-5192

Silver Doctor Fly Fishing (Bob Blumreich) www.silverdoctor.net 608/637-3417

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 and the **Wisconsin Atlas & Gazetteer** by DeLorme.

May Outing & One Fly Contest

May 16th-18th This outing will take place in the same location as the Early Spring Outing. 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 have been reserved. Members are responsible for finding their own roommate, if they want one, and making their own reservations.

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 \$10 per year. The campground does not take reservations unless you are going to rent one of the two

One Fly Contest Rules

- You must be a member of the Lee Wulff Chapter of TU
- Fishing must be done on public water, or open to public fishing. No pond fishing allowed.
- Only one fly may be fished and it may be modified, trimmed but no additional material may be added.
- Strike indicators are permitted, but it may not be another fly.
- Fishing time will be 9:00 AM until noon on Saturday. In case of incumbent weather the alternate day will be Sunday.
- There will be two anglers to a "team".
- There will be one "Judge" to accompany the anglers who will record the fish by species, length and time. Only trout will count.
- Only one angler will fish at a time. Time not to exceed 15 minutes per slot.
- Entry fee is \$5 per person and must be paid by 8:00 PM Friday night prior to the event.

Teams will be determined by pulling names out of a hat at 8:00 PM Friday night. You will not know who your teammate is until then. You may change or replace your fly up to two times during the contest at a cost of \$2 per fly. The money will go to the "Judge" of that team.

Please note; you do not have to participate in the One Fly event to enjoy this outing.

We will have a brat cookout at 7:30 Friday night at the campground. Cost for the cookout will be \$10 per person which includes brats, hot dogs, potato salad, condiments and soda. You are responsible for any other beverages you desire. **Your RSVP to Gordon Rudd is required by April 18th.** Dinner Saturday will be at the Old Towne Inn, located northwest of Viroqua on Route 14 in Westby, WI. Dinner reservations are at 7:30 PM 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, www.driftlessangler.com 608/637-8779. Guide service is available from the following;

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Annual Chapter Outing to Wa Wa Sum-Grayling, MI

June 4th-8th This is an excellent outing to the historic rustic lodge owned by Michigan State University and situated on the banks of the "Holy Waters" of the famed Au Sable River. This location is a short walk upstream from the very spot upon which Trout Unlimited was founded. The outing includes four nights lodging, catered meals and fabulous fishing opportunities on the Au Sable and Manistee Rivers. The lodge is located just east of Grayling and it takes approximately 7 hours to drive there from the Chicago area. Dinner will be served Thursday, Friday and Saturday; breakfast Friday, Saturday and Sunday and a sack lunch will be provided Friday and Saturday. The cost for this outing is estimated at \$325. A **non-refundable deposit is of \$50 is required** to reserve your spot and the balance due by May 15th. As stated, **this is a rustic lodge**, and you need to bring your own bed linens (sleeping bag & pillow) along with towel and washcloth.

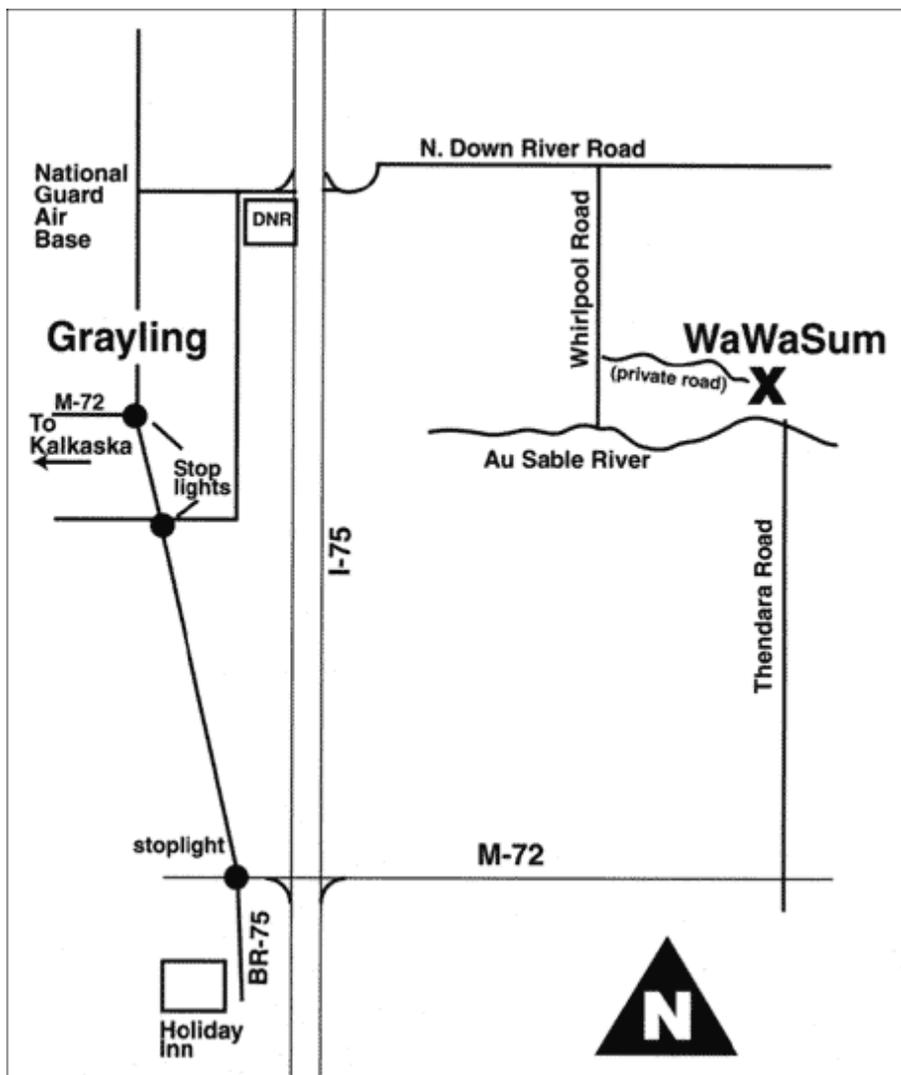
Guided float trips are very popular, but hard to get this time of year. So, if you think this is something you'd like to do make your reservations early. Some fly shops to consider;

Gates Au Sable Lodge, www.gateslodge.com 989/348-8462

Old Au Sable Fly Shop, www.oldausable.com 989/343-3330

Fuller's North Branch Outing Club www.fullersnboc.com 989/348-7951

To RSVP or for more information on any of these outings, contact Gordon Rudd at 815/245-2425 or McHenryFlyFisher@sbcglobal.net.

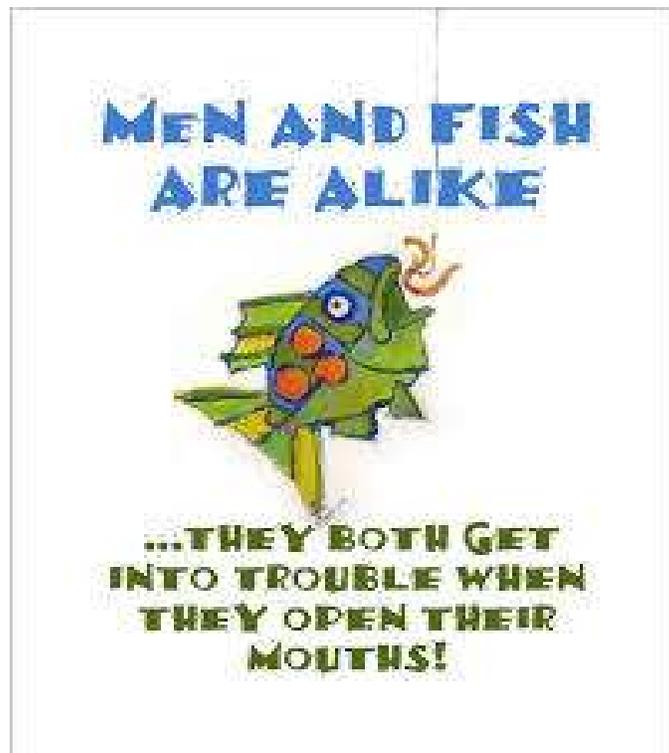


Wa Wa Sum is a Michigan State University research and conference facility located on the Au Sable River six miles east of Grayling.

The name Wa Wa Sum means “Plain View” in the Ojibwa language and was given to the camp in 1905 by Chief David Shoppenagon, an Au Sable guide and woodsman. At that time, because of the extensive logging of the region’s pine forests, the view from the high bank on which the camp is built was unobstructed for miles to the south. Since then, the forests have regenerated, slowly obscuring the view beyond the river.

Chief Shoppenagon built the first building at the camp, now known as the Dining Room, in 1880. In 1897, Rubin Babbit, an Au Sable woodsman who later became Michigan’s first wildlife officer, built a second structure, now the Administration Building. These first buildings were constructed of red pine and tamarack logs and used as a fishing camp for a group of Toledo businessmen. Other cabins of various sizes were added in later years: the Bullpen (1907); the Big Camp (1921/22); the Barn and the Guide’s Cabin (early 1930s). The buildings and 251 acres of land were deeded to MSU in 1980 by owners Virginia Secor Stranahan and Frank Bell, descendants of two of the camp’s six original owners. Kevin Gardiner, a descendant of Rubin Babbit, is the camp’s present caretaker. He is the third generation of his family to perform these duties.

[Unofficial End of Season Outing Sept 26th-30th](#)



Lee Wulff Chapter of Trout Unlimited

(McHenry County, Western Lake County, Northern Kane County and Western Cook County)

OUR NEW MEETING PLACE!!!

BEGINNING JANUARY 16, 2014

We will be meeting at

Village Pizza and Pub
145 N. Kennedy
Carpentersville IL. 60110

Near the intersection of Route 25 and Helm Road

Time: 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. - Social time

Pizza and pop will be served

Cocktails and other spirits are available for purchase

Cost- \$15.00 per person

Other food choices are available for purchase if desired.

Program begins at 7:30 p.m.

Please RSVP to Scott Roane no later than Tues. Mar 18th, 2014
at royalwulff01@yahoo.com.

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PS: Any grammatical errors spotted in
this newsletter were purposefully put
there to keep you on you're toes.

PPS: You Are Welcome.