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President's Message

Dear Fellow Chapter Members,

Spring, and the ideal fishing opportunities it brings, are just around the corner! Be sure to attend our next monthly chapter meeting's social hour starting at 6:00 PM on Thursday, March 16th, 2023 at [Village Pizza & Pub in Carpentersville](#) to meet new friends, pick up fishing tips from fellow members, and enjoy the presentation (detailed meeting details, including presentation information, can be found further below).

If you'd like to participate in our chapter's 2023 spring fishing outings, now is the time to express your interest to our outings coordinator, Ralph Lessor, with the first deadline being March, 10th. Please see the Chapter Fishing Outings section of this newsletter further below for additional details. Ralph did a fantastic job organizing last

year's outings and I'm sure this year will be no different. Outings are loads of fun and a great way to get to know your fellow members better, share secrets, and of course fish. Outings are not just for the experienced, 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 upcoming community fishing events and programs. Please see the Community Fishing Events & Programs section of this newsletter further below for more information.

The [Illinois Spring Trout Season Opener](#) is always the first Saturday in April, so this year it's April 1st. [An early opportunity at select sites, the Spring Catch-and-Release Season](#), opens Saturday, March 18 and ends on March 31st. On ~~Saturday~~ Sunday, March ~~18th~~ 19th (pushed back from Saturday to Sunday due to cold and windy weather forecast for Saturday) there will be chapter members at [White Pines Forest State Park](#) after about 9:00 AM to help you choose the right fishing spot and the best flies. If you would like some advice on what flies to use, call Jerry Sapp at 847-284-4824 beforehand or on that day look for his white Subaru with the Lee Wulff banner on it. He'll be close by. When you arrive, head to the parking lot that is the furthest one you can access after entering the park. There will be other dates on which our member anglers will be there if you cannot make it on ~~Saturday~~ Sunday. So, please call and let Jerry know if you would like some help from fellow members on another day or if you are willing to help others on a day you are planning to be there. Jerry will try to coordinate when possible.

The early Wisconsin catch and release [early inland trout season](#) opened in January and remains open until May 5th. The [regular season](#) opens on May 6th. Consider getting out and fishing the [Driftless Area](#) or [Great Lakes tributaries](#) during the early season when bank access is better thanks to vegetation being dormant. It's never a bad idea to check out [the Driftless Angler's fishing report](#) before heading to the Driftless Area, especially during cooler months, and don't overlook our chapter's [extensive network of fence crossing stiles](#) (where there are [stiles](#), there generally is high quality trout habitat nearby).

We are down to one 2023 TIC classroom after suffering another loss, but are still well on the road to rearing healthy trout this year in the remaining classroom in West Dundee.

On February 9th, 2023, chapter leadership voted to invest a portion of the chapter's conservation fund in a ladder of FDIC-insured certificates of deposit expected to earn roughly 4% interest annually. The setup of these investments is in progress. In other fiscal related news, our chapter is forming a budgeting committee, if you are interested in joining this committee please contact our chapter treasurer via email at treasurer@leewulfftu.org.

Watch for news about our chapter's annual spring conservation fundraiser coming soon. This year's conservation fundraiser will start a bit later and run a bit longer than those of years past to ensure we make the most out of several very special prizes to be announced in the near future.

Weekly fly tying sessions began on Monday, January 9th and are still running 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 year's material kits have already sold out. Thanks to chapter members Jerry Sapp, Meg Gallagher, Bob Olach, and Jerry Ward for their ongoing instruction efforts. (Recordings of select past sessions are [available on YouTube](#).)



Upcoming non-chapter events:

- Fly Fishing Film Tour ([F3T](#)) 2023
 - [Lake Forest, IL - April 2, 2023](#)
 - [Madison, WI - April 20, 2023](#)

- International Fly Fishing Film Festival ([IF4](#)) with nearby screenings. Visit the [IF4 website](#) for further details.
 - Milwaukee, WI - TBA
 - [Wilmette Theater, IL](#) - November 7, 2023

- [Annual Illinois Trout Unlimited Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Camp](#), July 16-21, 2023

If you missed the 2023 Driftless Area Stream Restoration Symposium, monitor [this Facebook Page](#) for information on how to watch the recorded presentations which are expected to be available by the end of the month.

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.

This month's chapter meeting presentation will be entomology related: a rebroadcast of [Tom Lager's grannom video presentation](#) in which he does an excellent job going through the behaviors of the grannom caddis and how to use that knowledge while fly fishing. This video is very informational and is not to be missed. And fellow members will be on-hand to answer any questions you may have after watching the presentation. (Recordings of select past meeting programs are [available on YouTube](#).)

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://us02web.zoom.us/j/2531998153?pwd=OXJUVHdBQVpUR3hQS1pCT0o2Rlhpdz09>

Passcode: LeeWulff

Participate by phone (one tap for mobile): +13126266799,,2531998153#,,,,*61222057#

Participate by phone: +1 312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 253 199 8153

Passcode: 61222057

Regards,

Brent Burval

2023 Chapter Fishing Outings - Sign Up Today!

The sign-up deadline for the early spring outing is this Friday, March 10th! We have not yet heard from enough interested anglers to justify reserving group housing at Logan Mill Lodge, so if you wish to participate please let us know as soon as possible!

Sign-up is now open for our spring outings! [Outings](#) are a great opportunity to:

- Meet new fishing buddies, or renew your friendship with old ones
- Learn some new places to fish in the [Driftless Area](#)
- Learn techniques and strategies from more experienced anglers through our buddy system that pairs newbies up with experienced hands
- Eat, drink and tell bald-faced lies with a bunch of like-minded folks

For more information on the areas we fish, and recaps and photos from last year's outings, [click here](#).

Our first two outings of 2023 are:

- April 27-30, Westby/Viroqua, WI - Group accommodations at [Logan Mill Lodge](#) in Westby (which were a big hit last year when we first tried it out) will require prepayment in full by April 10; amount will depend on number of attendees but is expected to be approximately \$240 for three nights double occupancy, including coffee and cold breakfast in the mornings. Contact Ralph Lessor, Outings Coordinator r_lessor@msn.com, 908-295-9728, by March 10 if you plan to attend. If we do not have a sufficient number of people interested we will be unable to reserve the group space at Logan Mill Lodge, and everyone will then need to make their own motel reservations, which are likely to be considerably more expensive than staying at the lodge.
- May 18-21, Fennimore, WI - The Chapter will hold a block of rooms at [Napps Motel](#) in Fennimore; anglers will need to contact [Napps Motel](#) to reserve one of those rooms. We plan to host a bratwurst cookout for Thursday 5/18, cost TBD (approx.. \$8 based on last year's costs). Contact Ralph Lessor, Outings Coordinator r_lessor@msn.com , 908-295-9728, by April 1 if you plan to attend.

Getting group accommodations and meal reservations requires an approximate headcount well in advance of the outing, although space may still be available at the last minute for members whose schedules may change. Please let me know if you are interested in either of these outings, even if you are not sure you will be able to attend. As noted above, new anglers are always welcome, but even the good ol' regulars need to respond to hold a spot!

Visit our [chapter's outings web page](#) for information about additional planned 2023 outings.

Community Fishing Events & Programs - Volunteers Needed!

Our chapter has a great opportunity to help kids and some adults get into fly tying and fly fishing.

We need more than a few volunteers for the following events:

- [McHenry County Conservation District's Gone Fishing with Trout Unlimited](#) - Help kids and adults with casting and fly tying on Sunday, April 16th, 2023, 1:00 - 3:00 PM. at [The Hollows Conservation Area, 3804 US-14, Cary, IL](#). A second session on the same day may also be added.
- *Chauncey H. Duker School Outdoor Program* - Help students with casting and fly tying on Tuesday, May 16th (our chapter plans to focus on volunteering on the 16th) and Wednesday, May 17th (the Gary Borger chapter plans to focus on volunteering on the 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.

We have done all of these before. See the pics below. Make kids and adults smile.

Our chapter has vises and rods we can bring out, but for you Monday night tyers you are welcome to bring your own stuff and enough to tie about 10-20 wooly buggers (we aren't starting out with Meg's Salmon flies).

We are looking for a preliminary volunteer headcount. Details on times and exact locations to follow.

Please email me at youth@leewulfftu.org if you are available to volunteer or interested in learning more.

Thank you so very much from all the kids and adults that want to learn but don't know how.

Tight lines (fishing and tying),

Scott Roane



Take Action

Clean Water Act

A new common-sense rule to reinstate important Clean Water Act protections for small streams and wetlands is facing [renewed opposition](#). A new definition of the “Waters of the United States” (WOTUS) would improve the rivers, streams, and wetlands we care so much about, and protect the health of watersheds we work so hard to conserve. It is based on sound science (and common sense): If we pollute upstream reaches, we put our downstream waters at risk. [Reach out to your congressional representatives today and urge them to defend a strong Clean Water Act](#) that protects America’s rivers, streams, and trout and salmon.

Illinois House Bill 1568

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 use the Illinois Environmental Council’s website to easily take action in under a minute if your time.](#)

Bob Olach's Fly of the Month

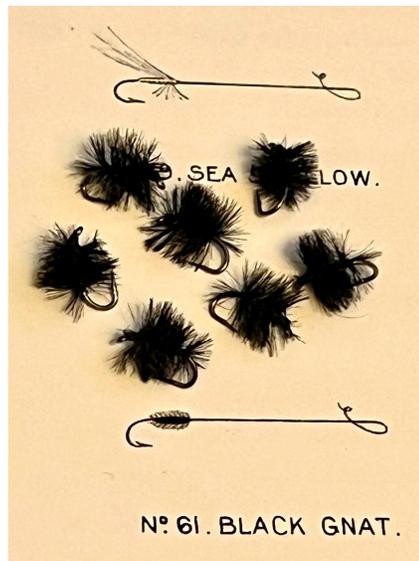
T. E. Pritt's #61 Black Gnat

Remember when you're fishing and all that "little black stuff" is floating on the water and you wish you had a small, simple little black fly to tie on your size 6 or 7 tippet?

Well, here's another fly from T. E. Pritt's book "*North Country Flies*" first published in 1885 that might do the trick.

Plus, it's so simple that anyone should be able to do up a half dozen in just a few minutes as it's nothing more than a small hook, black thread and black ostrich herl ! If you can't, it's time to sell your fly tying vise, eh?

Here's a few I dressed awhile back pictured on top of Pritt's drawing in "*North Country Flies*" and his actual dressing taken from the same book.



Dressing:

No. 61. BLACK GNAT. Hook O.—Short.
WINGS.—None.
BODY.—A little Ostrich herl.

The diminutive size of the natural insect and the consequent difficulty in imitating it, is probably only one reason why anglers universally lament their inability to catch trout whilst the black gnat is on. As a matter of fact you may try trout with anything you like, but they will rarely be diverted from the natural fly. The specimen here given will kill as well as any other imitation, and it is quite big enough and sufficiently like a hackle imitation of the fly, without any attempt to add the wings.



Grumpy's Page by Kurt Haberl

“Are you going?” Schnoz asked over the phone. For once, he sounded very unsure of himself.

“Are you?” I said.

“It sounds like you’re back in fourth grade, Grumpy, and I asked you first. Okay, I will, if you will.”

“Well...”

“Then it’s settled. I’ll call Johnny Fessup. Have you ever been out to his estate?”

“Once. He gave me a check for stream improvement on the Elk. His house looks like a college administration building. Columns and porticoes, everything architectural except a dome.”

Johnny was an interesting guy. He bought and sold money or something for a living and had a lot of it, which meant that every year he came to the spring outing with a new top-of-the-line rod and reel, any gadgets invented over the winter, and a bottle of scotch distilled in some monastery before the United States was a country. The invitation to his place came in the mail on printed card stock like a wedding invitation and read: A select group of fishing pals is invited to witness the future of fly fishing the last Saturday in March. We will gather at the pool accessed by the walkway around the south edge of my abode. Refreshments to be served.

Abode? First of all, who uses the word “abode”? Maybe only a guy who makes a living buying and selling money.

“If you call to confirm, I’ll drive. I know how to get there,” I said.

The next day, I picked Schnoz up and headed through town to the rolling hills outside of town. Several turns later, I drove between two rows of Lombardy poplars down a blacktopped driveway longer than my street. Near the house I pulled into a spot on a grass field that had been marked for parking. There were already five cars there, probably all of our regulars, Wet Curtis, Ghost Mary, Dewey, Roy the plumber, and Calamity John. We followed a barbered primrose path around the side of the house. I expected to see a horse pond with some stunted bluegill in it, but instead, Johnny’s pool was a heated swimming pool with steam rising in spots in the chilly March air. It was bordered by a brick patio as big as my house, a wet bar, two or three grills, chairs, cushions, a cabana, and some kind of sound system cleverly hidden in bushes. John Denver’s “Country Roads” echoed around the patio. Johnny laughed at something, a full, hearty laugh which reminded me that no matter how hard I tried to dislike him out of

sheer jealousy, I couldn't do it. He was just a nice guy, handicapped by obvious wealth. Calamity John had stationed himself by a large bowl of popcorn, but everyone else was circled by Johnny's wife, Elise, who moved elegantly among them with a large, two-handed tray of cheeses, deli meats and water crackers.

"Oh, good," Johnny said when he saw us, "everybody's here now." He herded Schnoz and me to his wet bar to confuse us with bottles of beer, wine, bourbon, scotch, gin, vodka, sparkling water, and a pitcher of tea in case anyone wanted an Arnold Palmer. We chose two beers with German names I'd never heard. Elise came over looking like she had just come from a beauty shop with only enough time to put on a string of pearls. She gave us each a small, square china plate with some kind of crest on it, and filled it with crackers, various meats and cheeses, more than I would eat during an entire baseball game.

Johnny clapped his hands, so obviously enjoying himself that everyone stopped telling fishing lies to each other for a moment and gave him their attention. Ghost Mary raised an eyebrow in that way women can communicate that said, "I think this is going to be interesting - probably good - maybe a little crazy." I agreed with her. I noticed that even Wet Curtis's educated Black Lab, The General, was on his best behavior, on a leash for once, but sitting at attention.

"I asked you all here for a little eating and drinking, some camaraderie to start the season, but also to enjoy the future with me. You won't believe the fun I'm about to show you." He put down his drink and from behind the wet bar, pulled out a small aluminum suitcase with black corners that looked like it came from a spy movie.

"You've all heard about drones," he said, "but wait till you've seen this." From the spy box, he pulled out a drone controller with buttons, small joysticks, and a telescoping antenna. Next he pulled out what I first thought was a miniature torpedo, but when I saw him throw it in the pool, I could tell it was a model rainbow trout, probably two feet long, and after he pushed a few buttons on the controller, it swam, dove, rose, and circled like the real thing, its fins and tail somehow following coordinated commands from the controller.

"Calamity!" Johnny shouted. "Throw some popcorn in the pool." I watched in disbelief as a few kernels floated where Calamity had tossed them, and then the trout circled, dipped, and rose. Its rubber mouth opened and it sucked in one of the kernels.

"It took a week for me to learn how to do that," Johnny said. "But I finally got the hang of it."

Then the world went crazy.

Elise handed Ghost Mary a fly rod, a large elk hair caddis already tied on the tippet. She cast it with ease toward the trout, which dove, circled, rose, and sipped in the fly. Then the fight was on as Mary reeled and gave line, and turned the rod to the side to counter

every move Johnny made on the controller. There was no way to horse this trout in, and Johnny managed to run the length of the pool twice, dog the bottom of the deepest end, and finally give in as Mary skillfully brought the trout to hand.

"Well done!" Johnny shouted, as he unhooked his drone from the caddis. Mary shook her head to say, "What just happened?"

She gave the rod to Schnoz, who cast near the circling trout and watched in great anticipation as the trout rose, opened its mouth, and veered away from the fly. The trout rose and refused the fly two more times before Schnoz took off his fishing hat, swatted Johnny with it and cried, "What are you doing, man?" Johnny seemed to enjoy the swatting as much as directing the trout, but a second later, even that went crazy.

Johnny's Cocker Spaniel had somehow squeezed his way out of partially opened French doors, saw the trout refuse the fly, raced across the patio, and dove into the pool after the fish. The General, not to be outdone by a rival, lunged, and then launched himself into the pool, pulling Wet Curtis into the water with him. Curtis came up sputtering and protesting, "That doesn't count. I didn't fall. I was pulled in." Calamity John knelt beside the pool to pull Wet Curtis out, but being Calamity John, he did not count on the wet lip of the pool being slippery, and he soon joined Curtis.

"See what you've done?" I shouted at Schnoz, who had not gotten over the refusal of his fly and cross-checked me so I went in as well. At least the water was warm. Roy the Plumber reached a hand down to help me out, so naturally, I pulled him in too. Schnoz laughed a little too loudly, so Elise pushed him in. Not to be outdone in anything, Johnny gave the drone controller to Elise, took off his expensive shoes, and jumped in. I guess water can be irresistible, kind of like that pool scene in *It's a Wonderful Life*, because soon everyone was in the warm water except Elise and Mary.

"Mary, Dear, help me get towels for this rowdy bunch, will you?" I heard Elise say.

"This is not the future of trout fishing," I kept saying. "This cannot be the future of trout fishing." My words were drowned out by Roy's protestations, Schnoz's curses, Calamity's muttering, Wet Curtis's repeated announcements that he did not fall in, and Johnny Fessup's raucous laughter. We were circled by the trout on autopilot like a small shark sizing up its next victim. I realized the future could be the best and the worst of all possible worlds.

Chapter Officers

President: Brent Burval
prez@leewulfftu.org

Vice-President: Jerry Sapp
sapp375@aol.com

Secretary: Scott Lammers
secretary@leewulfftu.org

Treasurer: Jerry Ward
treasurer@leewulfftu.org