



November 2022 President's Message

Dear Fellow Members,

Wisconsin inland trout fishing is closed until the first Saturday in 2023, but don't pack away all of your gear quite yet. Unseasonably warm fall weather is the perfect opportunity to [fish Great Lakes tributaries](#). Several of our members have been fly fishing the Milwaukee River recently with success, and recent rain should bring in coveted browns and steelhead (fishable once high flows subside). Be sure to attend our next meeting's social hour starting at 6:30 PM on November 17th at [Village Pizza & Pub in Carpentersville](#) to swap stories and to get tips from fellow members about this great fall fishing opportunity (additional November meeting details, including guest speaker information, can be found further below). If you're still determined to fish inland [Driftless Area](#) trout water this year, don't overlook [Iowa](#) and [select waters in Minnesota](#).



A Lively Chinook Salmon on the Milwaukee River, November, 2022
Fisher: Unknown (not a chapter member)
Gear: Spinning, not fly, but a nice catch nevertheless!

Our in-person Holiday Banquet is back after several years of holding off due to COVID-19! An upside to the hiatus: many years' worth of terrific queued up sweepstakes (think bucket raffle) and auction prizes will be up for grabs, including a couple of very special guided fishing trips. Several of our members are working hard to put together what is sure to be a great event, not to be missed. And for those who cannot attend, we hope to make one special auction item available online. For more information see the Banquet section of this newsletter further below. Members, please watch your email for further information about the Banquet.

Weekly fly tying sessions will start again in mid-January and will run for 12 weeks. Day of week is still being settled upon. If you are interested in participating please reach out to Jerry Sapp via email at sapp375@aol.com.

It's never too soon to start planning any fishing outing. 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 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](#) installed by hard-working past and current members, and in partnership with other helpful chapters. Stiles are a great example of local your chapter dollars being converted directly into improved fishing access. (If you find that one of our stiles is in need of repair please let us know, watch for a new simple and convenient stile damage reporting system forthcoming in the future.) Stile installations are a great way to start the day working and finish the day fishing, knowing you gave something back to our beloved sport. And if you get really lucky you might make a new friend, such as this donkey we met this past fall installing a Timber Coulee Creek stile:



Our [Trout in the Classroom](#) committee has been successful in placing three of our tanks with teachers and their students in Dundee, Huntley, and Rockford. 1,000 fertilized triploid (sterile) brook trout eggs overnighed from Idaho will be hatched and raised, and if everything goes as planned, stocked at [Fox Bluff](#) ponds in 2023.

The recent “Trick or Trout” kid’s fishing event held in partnership with MCCD at [The Hollows](#) was a success thanks in part to several volunteers from our chapter. MCCD has expressed to us interest in hosting a similar event for adults in 2023. We’ll be seeking volunteers for this and our 2023 [Fishin’ So Fly youth program](#) 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 [Jeff Weiss](#), Coordinator for the [Flint Creek/Spring Creek Watersheds Partnership](#) and boots on the ground environmentalist. Jeff holds a MS in Natural Resources/Environmental Sciences from the University of Illinois and plans to speak about stream ecology, water pollution, climate change impacts, and more, including the possibility of working together with our club on a new local creek restoration project. Rumor has it that said creek once held brown trout (full disclosure: unfortunately, stocking trout in the creek in the future is not likely in the cards).

Be sure to watch your email for Evite invitations to meetings and events, etc. I hope to see all of you in-person at our November meeting. However if you cannot join us, please join us via Zoom, we expect the main program to start at approximately 7:15 PM:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82327764469?pwd=Wnhlenl4aHZyY0lQWG5JSXNSMw0QT09>

Meeting ID: 823 2776 4469

Passcode: 038752

One tap mobile: +13126266799,,82327764469#,,,,*038752#

Dial by your location +1 312-626-6799

I am pleased to have been elected chapter president at our October, 2022 chapter meeting. It will be difficult (if not impossible) to fill the shoes of my predecessors, nevertheless I will try my darndest to do so.

Some of the goals I hope to achieve during my tenure are to increase in-person attendance at meetings (to at least pre-COVID-19 levels), enlarge the circle of members attending our fishing outings, and attract both younger members and female members. At our events, please watch for name tags indicating new (or first-meeting) members – if you are like me, I’m sure you dislike missing the opportunity to introduce yourself and swap fishing stories with new friends. And I invite anyone who does not already know me to introduce themselves at our meetings, I’d like to meet you. If you have suggestions regarding these or any other matters you’d like to see addressed please do not hesitate to reach out to me via email at burvalb@gmail.com.

With the help of my fellow members, I am confident we can keep up the great momentum our club has built up over the years. If you are interested in getting more involved in any capacity please do not hesitate to contact me, we are always looking to spread the workload taken on by our hard-working members (my many thanks to them), some of whom have been volunteering countless hours to our chapter for decades. I have found getting more involved to be a very enjoyable and rewarding experience, I bet you would too.

Warmest regards,

Brent Burval

2022 Holiday / Christmas Banquet

The Christmas Banquet will take place on December 10, 2023 at 6:30 PM at the Pond Cottage at [Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation on Route 25 near East Dundee, IL](#). Special gate instructions and other details will follow in a forthcoming email. Dinner choices are pan fried walleye or pork tenderloin with apple cranberry sauce. Cost of the meal is \$50 including tip and room rental. Soft drinks will be provided but there is no bar so bring your own bottle of wine or spirits. Please make your checks out to *Lee Wulff TU* by Dec. 1 or bring them to the November 17th chapter meeting, and please indicate on your check your meal choice. Tickets may also become available on [our website](#) (if so, a payment card convenience fee may apply).

Mail to:

Banquet
400 Adare Drive
Cary, IL 60013

There are a substantial number of great prizes this year including a 2-day guided trip to Viroqua by private plane, a guided stay in Colorado's high country, rods, reels, fly line, over a dozen fly boxes filled with flies, an 8' pontoon boat, and much more, including a Stihl chain saw. Several gift certificates will also be available: from massages, to dinners, to golf outings, to other family fun, and more. We are currently working to provide a system so those of you who cannot be with us in person can have a chance to bid on one special auction item online.

Anyone wishing to donate items for the Banquet please bring them to the November 17th chapter meeting or call Jerry Sapp (847-284-4824) to arrange drop off.

DNR Seeking Public Comment For The Western Coulees And Ridges Regional Master Plan

Initial Comment Period Open Through Dec. 23, 2022

MADISON, Wis. – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is seeking public comment on the future management of department properties in the [Western Coulees and Ridges Region](#).

A regional master plan, guided by Chapter NR 44 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code, establishes the levels and types of resource management and public use permitted on department-managed properties. Under the regional master planning process, department staff will develop a plan for department properties located within the region.

The Western Coulees and Ridges Region includes all or portions of the following 22 counties: Barron, Buffalo, Chippewa, Clark, Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Dunn, Eau Claire, Grant, Iowa, Jackson, Juneau, La Crosse, Monroe, Pepin, Pierce, Richland, Saint Croix, Sauk, Trempealeau and Vernon. DNR properties in the region include fishery areas, natural areas, parks, wildlife areas and various other types of properties. This regional plan includes [Governor Dodge State Park](#), [Wyalusing State Park](#), [Elroy-Sparta State Trail](#), [Van Loon Wildlife Area](#) and [Black Earth Creek Fishery Area](#).

DNR-managed properties in this region will have new management plans developed as part of this planning process. Existing plans for properties in the region that are already compliant with Chapter NR 44 will be referenced during the planning process. The DNR will evaluate whether any updates need to be made to these existing plans and include any necessary updates as part of the overall regional plan.

Members of the public are invited to learn more about the Western Coulees and Ridges Region, engage in the DNR's planning process and share their thoughts on the future use and management of DNR properties in the region by visiting the [DNR's Western Coulees and Ridges Regional Master Plan webpage](#) or by attending a public open house meeting or office hours hosted by the department.

In addition to attending a public meeting or office hours, the public is encouraged to submit comments and questions through the [DNR's online input form](#), a [downloadable hard-copy input form](#) or by U.S. mail, email or phone. Submit comments by Dec. 23, 2022 to:

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
C/O Yoyi Steele LF/6
101 S. Webster St.
P.O. Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707
Yoyi.Steele@wisconsin.gov or 608-590-6027

EVENT DETAILS

WHAT: Western Coulees And Ridges Regional Master Plan Public Meeting – Eau Claire

WHEN: Wednesday, Nov. 16
5 – 7:30 p.m.

WHERE: UW-Eau Claire Davies Student Center
Council Oak Room
77 Roosevelt Avenue
Eau Claire, WI 54701

DNR staff will give a short presentation at 5:30 p.m.

WHAT: Western Coulees And Ridges Regional Master Plan Public Meeting – Richland Center

WHEN: Thursday, Nov. 17
5 – 7:30 p.m.

WHERE: UW-Platteville Richland
Pippin Conference Center, Melvill Hall
1200 Highway 14 W
Richland Center, WI 53581

DNR staff will give a short presentation at 5:30 p.m.

NOTE: *A recorded version of the presentation that will be given at these meetings will be posted on the [DNR's Western Coulees and Ridges Regional Master Plan webpage](#). Both meetings will cover the same material, and attendance at both is not necessary.*

WHAT: Office Hours For Public Comment

WHEN: Thursday, Nov. 17
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

WHERE: DNR La Crosse Service Center
3550 Mormon Coulee Road
La Crosse, WI 54601

Bob Olach's Fly of the Month

Black Magic Spiders

Probably 10+ years ago, possibly more, a fellow in England sent me a picture and the dressing for a small, black soft hackle called a “*Black Magic Spider*.” Whether it’s the small, dark shape of the fly, the hackle or the shimmer of the peacock herl, something makes this a very good dressing that attracts lots of trout.

I believe that I have previously posted a write-up on these soft hackles but, they’ve worked so well for me that it’s probably worth repeating. At one of the winter time soft hackle tying sessions, several Lee Wulffers have learned to tie this dressing, and hopefully, been able to fish them successfully.

To tie this fly, start a few thread wraps a little behind the hook eye and then tie in a piece of very thin, red copper wire. Build up a small “hump” where the thorax would be and do a couple thread wraps over the “hump” to secure the red wire before breaking off the wire.

Continue the tightly wound thread wraps down the hook shank until the thread is above the hook point and then wrap the thread up to the area at the back of the red wire “hump.” Tie in a piece of peacock herl and wrap over the “hump.” Then add a dark starling or black hen hackle, whip finish and the fly is done.

The wire wraps under the peacock herl thorax provided some weight to make the fly sink a little, while the peacock herl thorax keeps the hackle from folding back onto the thread wrapped body and also adds a little “flash” to the dressing.

Although a black hen hackle can be used, I prefer to use starling hackles and to leave a little of the gray, fuzzy part of the starling hackle on the hackle stem.

Variations of this fly can be made by using a heavier hook (like a Daiichi 1530 or Mustad 3906b) to make it sink even quicker or by using a dry fly hook (like a Daiichi 1990) and a black, dry fly saddle hackle to make a dry-fly Black Magic Spider. My personal favorite is the following dressing:



Dressing:

Hook: - Daiichi #1550 wet fly hook (sizes 14 – 18)

(Under) Thorax: - Thin Red Copper wire

Thorax: - Peacock Herl

Thread & Body: - Black Danville 6/0 or Black silk

Hackle: - Black Starling or Hen

Grumpy's Page by Kurt Haberl

The last outing of the year is usually a bittersweet event - bitter in that our clique of ne'er-do-wells and Ghost Mary will only see each other at the TU chapter meetings over the winter, and sweet in that fishing is always good, even when the fish have become wary and no one catches anything.

When I picked Schnoz up, Huldy leaned out the front door and called, "Is this really the last outing of the year?"

"Yes," I said. "Inland trout season ends in three days."

"Can't you get two or three more trips in before winter? Maybe you could hunt mushrooms or take pictures or look for Sasquatch or something."

"Sasquatch?" I said. "In the Midwest?"

"Well, there's that thing they have up north, the Hodag. You could hunt for the Hodag."

Schnoz and I just looked at each other, his mouth agape. Then Huldy made it worse.

"I mean," she said, "you never bring any fish home anyway. It doesn't seem to matter whether you catch them or not."

Schnoz slapped himself in the face. Huldy grunted, "Men!" and went back inside.

As we loaded my car, I said, "She misses you already." I wanted to see if Schnoz would slap himself again, which he did.

"Just so you know, Grumpy, my oldest, curmudgeonly friend, this outing is going to be different. Have you ever heard of 'The Open Fly'?"

"No."

"My nephew told me about it. It's an online fly shop, always open, and their best seller right now is a fishing app for your phone. It's called 'Data Daddy' and it's sweeping the nation, just like a virus."

"We have enough viruses," I said.

I thought he was going to slap himself in the face again, but he checked himself, mid-slap. "Have you ever heard of an algorithm?"

"I don't do math things," I said. "The numbers never come out the way I want."

"My nephew told me all about it. This algorithm is like an equation that takes facts and connects them and adds them up and weighs some more than others and ignores irrelevant data, and distills it like

good Scotch and gives you a prioritized list of trout streams you should go to. It looks at two dozen factors like stream depth, fishing reports, DNR improved stream maps, hatch charts, fish density per mile, moon cycles, barometric pressure, the Farmer's Almanac, time of season, time of day, weather and cloud cover, the proximity to a dense concentration of children--

"Concentration of children? Wha?"

"You know, kids. Kids who may throw rocks in pools of fish on their way home from school. Like we used to do."

"Oh, yeah."

"There's at least a dozen more data dumps the program looks at, runs it all through its algorithm, and gives a recommended list for your area. It works just like in baseball, casino betting, and insurance actuarial tables."

"You downloaded this program?"

"Not just that, I bought the guide edition which not only tells me the top streams, it works like a GPS to get me there, tells me where to park, and which flies to use. It's fail-proof. You'll see." Schnoz was so excited he looked like he had to pee.

"Okay, where should we start?"

Schnoz pulled his phone out like it was a wad of hundred dollar bills, punched in some numbers, cussed a couple of times, and then smiled.

"Sterrit's Run," he said, proudly.

"Schnoz, we fish Sterrit's Run almost every outing. We don't need a magic app to do that."

"But the good fishing starts in an hour and we should begin with blue winged olives. A hatch will begin in an hour and fifteen minutes."

In less than an hour we came over the last hill and around the bend to the stile at Sterrit's Run, and saw ... six cars already parked at the pull-off, two of the cars tilting at such an angle on the side of the road that it would take the other four cars to get them out.

"That's strange," Schnoz said. "Nobody comes here much except us."

"Check your list," I said.

He did and confidently announced, "Next up, The Little Smut. Go to the access point on County Q."

I followed his phone's directions for another half an hour, crawled slowly down the last hill to the bridge, and saw ... four cars parked there, one on each corner of the bridge.

“Next,” I said. We went through his entire list by early afternoon, and at each site saw three cars, or two, or four. The last gem had only one car parked there, but it was at Craw Creek, a feeder stream about two feet wide, probably fishable the first week of March, but now grassed over so badly that if you didn’t know the creek was there, you’d think some kid had spilled a water bottle in a field.

“I don’t understand,” Schnoz said.

“This app went viral and you were the last to catch it,” I said.

The drive to the campground was a silent one, marked only by occasional glances Schnoz made at his phone and half-hearted pecking at the app. We arrived at a nearly empty camp, set up our tents, and had sandwiches for a late, somber lunch.

“There’s another list for the afternoon,” Schnoz said hopefully. Just then I saw Dewey pull into the campground in his old, rusty pickup.

“You can borrow my car,” I said. “I’m going out with Dewey if he’ll have me. Maybe the three of us could go together.”

Dewey thought it was a great idea.

“I like watching and taking turns,” he said. “I learn more that way.”

We helped Dewey put up his multi-colored, patched tent with its mis-matched graphite and aluminum poles and the late addition of a hiking staff to prop open a kind of flapping vestibule. Rather than pack into his truck which was full of engine parts, drills, levels, and soccer balls, we loaded Dewey’s old rod, patched waders and work boots into my car.

We thought we’d give Schnoz’s afternoon list one more try, but when we got to the first one on his phone, there were six cars in the small DNR parking lot. We looked at each other stupidly, and then Dewey said, “I was thinking of Curran’s Creek for the afternoon. It’s shady and I don’t think it gets fished much.”

“Curran’s Creek,” Schnoz repeated. “No, it’s not on the afternoon list on my app.”

“Perfect,” I said. “Curran’s Creek it is. I’ve heard of it, but I don’t think we’ve ever fished it.”

While we followed Dewey’s directions, Dewey started talking, which for him, was unusual and a sign of how much fun he was having. I asked him how he did in the morning.

“Pretty well,” Dewey said. “There’s a stream I don’t think has a name, at least I don’t know it, about a mile from Sterrit’s Run, and there was nobody there. The browns tore my favorite fly apart.”

“What fly was that?”

“I don’t know. Some kind of thing with a bead head and two white spikes off its back and a lot of peacock herl. It was a real pretty fly. I was excited because I’ve been reading this old book and it

seems to be real helpful. It's by this lady named Julie Berners, and a lot of it is about making your own rod and then attaching some kind of line made out of horsehair tail tied in water knots, whatever that is. I would try it some time if I had a horse. She was kind of goofy, though, talking about using the tail of a white horse and then dyeing each section a different color of brown or black, and I thought, gee, lady, why not just start with a brown horse? Anyway, halfway through the book, she tells where the trout will be in a typical stream, and sure enough when I went to this little creek, there they were. The other thing she says is, 'Don't let the trout know you're there. Get behind a bush or a rock.' It works, I hardly ever catch the trout I see."

"Wait," I said. "Do you mean *Dame* Juliana Berners?"

"I guess," said Dewey. "I thought 'Dame' was kind of a mean thing to call a lady, you know, like a 1040's movie with Humphrey Bogart, so she's just 'Julie' to me. You heard of her?"

"The first book on angling from - like - 1500? Yeah, I've heard of it. 'Dame' is a title of respect in England, especially back then."

"It's a good book," Dewey said. "I'm reading a version translated from English into American. Wait, stop here."

"Where?" I said.

"Here. Under that pine tree where's it's flat."

I did as I was told, but didn't see anything that looked like a stream. I was worried that Dewey led us to another Craw Creek, but after we got out and geared up, we followed Dewey through some bushes, over a downed fence and around a farmhouse abandoned long ago, to a pretty stream maybe eight feet across.

"Look," Dewey said, excitedly. "A bush! Schnoz, you look like you need to catch a fish, so you hide behind the bush first and cast into that run and we'll watch."

He did, and a brook trout took his first cast. We rotated turns behind Dewey's, I mean Julie Berner's bush, and took at least ten out of that first run. Several riffles and pools upstream were just as productive provided we hid behind a bush or rock or downed tree. It didn't seem to matter what fly we used, and Dewey caught all of his on the remains of his favorite fly, a bead head thing, now with only one white spike over its back and straggly spine of peacock herl trailing behind.

Who needs an app and algorithm when you have Dewey and his friend Julie Berners?

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