



## **In This November 2024 Issue**

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## **President's Message**

Dear LWTU Chapter Members,

Please join us at our next monthly chapter meeting at [Village Pizza & Pub](#) (145 N John F. Kennedy Dr, Carpentersville, IL 60110 location) on Thursday, November 21st, 2024 with social hour starting at 6:00 PM. This month's meeting will feature an in-person Skills Fair where special guests and chapter members will be setting up various stations to share their skills, including:

- Casting tips from expert instructor Darwin Adams
- Fly tying (perdigons & streamers)
- How to read moving water (locating fish)

- Locating quality Driftless trout streams using the Wisconsin DNR's [Trout Regulations & Opportunities User Tool \(TROUT\)](#)

Be sure to attend to take advantage of this unique opportunity, ideal for both beginners and experts. Consider joining us even if you live further out, tollway access is convenient. Guests are always welcome so be sure to invite your interested friends and family members. There will also be prize-drawings! Tickets will be available to purchase at \$5.00 each. Flies and books will also be available for sale.



On the evening of December 7th, 2024 the Lee Wulff chapter of Trout Unlimited will be hosting the annual holiday banquet and fundraiser at [Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation](#). Meal tickets are available online [here](#) (online convenience fee applies) and via other means. And the chapter is seeking banquet prizes. Please see the Banquet section of this newsletter further below for full details.

Our chapter's 2024 Conservation Sweepstakes has been a great success with \$3,520 in contributions to date. Ticket sales have ended but if you wish to make a contribution you can still do so [here](#). Prize winners will be drawn on 11/14/2024 and notified thereafter. Good luck to those who secured tickets! Thank you to all those who have contributed!

Wisconsin's inland trout season closed on October 15th, 2024 and its catch-and-release-only [early season](#) re-opens on the first Saturday in January. The Illinois trout harvest season opened on October 19th ([click here for details](#)). Pine Creek within [White Pines Forest State Park](#) and Apple River within [Apple River Canyon State Park](#) are great places to try your luck fishing for Illinois trout. The [Iowa trout fishing](#) season remains open all year.



Milwaukee River

It's time to start fishing great lake tributaries for big chinook, coho, steelhead, and brown trout. Rain drives fish into the tributaries, and we finally received some...be mindful of [water flows](#) and do not wade if levels are unsafe. Do not hesitate to ask fellow chapter members for tips at our monthly meetings. Also, the following DNR resources offer helpful tributary fishing information: [Wisconsin](#), [Michigan](#), [Indiana](#).



Driftless Area Stile Installed by LWTU in 2023

In 2025 the chapter will again host several fishing outings, and is exploring exchange trips with Colorado and Montana chapters. The chapter's 2024 fall fishing outing was a success. Participants repaired several stiles during the outing, enhancing our [extensive network of existing stiles](#) (where there are [stiles](#), generally there are fish). In spring of 2025 the chapter plans to repair and upgrade additional stiles, as well as install one or

more new stiles. Thank you to the volunteers who repaired stiles and to our conservation committee for making this happen with pre-prepared stile repair kits.



2024 MCCD Youth Fishing Camp Event

Thank you to those who volunteered for MCCD's "Tying Flies with TU" event at Prairieview Education Center in Crystal Lake on October 23. Volunteer turnout was terrific. Public turnout was not what MCCD expected with amny no-shows. The chapter is passing along some suggestions to MCCD in an effort to prevent low turnouts in the future.

Our TIC program will be running in two schools for the 2024/2025 season including returning Crystal Lake's North Elementary, and newcomer Elgin Math and Science Academy. Our program will again involve rearing brook trout, unique to our chapter in Illinois (other Illinois TU TIC programs raise rainbow trout). Eggs are expected to be placed in classrooms in December 2024 or January 2025.



May 2024 LWTU TIC Release Day at Fox Bluff

The rock dam at the outlet of the last of the series of three ponds in which we stock TIC trout at Fox Bluff is in need of minor repairs. This project has been pushed back to 2025 for safety reasons given the site is open for deer hunting at this time. Please email [volunteer@leewulfftu.org](mailto:volunteer@leewulfftu.org) if you are interested in assisting.

The Sycamore Tree program designed to help mitigate [the effects of climate change on coldwater fisheries](#) is progressing. Plans to plant seedlings along streams in Wisconsin are still being formulated. The 2025 Driftless Symposium will include sessions regarding the topic of combating climate change with strategic tree plantings.

If you missed the “Intro to Euro-Nymphing” presentation by Tim Flagler at the chapter’s September chapter meeting, or would like to re-watch the presentation, feel free to email me at [prez@leewulfftu.org](mailto:prez@leewulfftu.org) for a link to the video.

Watch your email for Evite invitations to meetings, events, etc. I hope to see all of you in-person at our next meeting. The November meeting will not be available via Zoom. The main program typically starts at approximately 7:00 PM, preceded by a chapter business discussion.

Be sure to check out our 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.

Feel free to email any speaker suggestions to [speakers@leewulfftu.org](mailto:speakers@leewulfftu.org).

Please track your volunteer hours and report volunteer hours to the chapter treasurer by 4/10/2025 at [treasurer@leewulfftu.org](mailto:treasurer@leewulfftu.org).

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](mailto:prez@leewulfftu.org) if you'd like further information or are willing to volunteer. Thank you to those of you who are already volunteering.

Be sure to check out Bob Olach's Fly of the Month and Kurt Haberl's Grumpy's Page contributions this month further below.

Tight lines,

Brent Burval



When moving between bodies of water while fishing please be extra diligent in cleaning and drying your gear. Read [this recent press release about \*Previously Undetected Parasite Discovered In Wild Wisconsin Trout\*](#) to learn more about why this is so important.

## Seeking December Chapter Banquet Prizes



On the evening of December, 7th 2024 the Lee Wulff chapter of Trout Unlimited will be hosting its annual holiday banquet and fundraiser at [Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation](#). Proceeds support the chapter's conservation efforts.

The banquet will feature many great prizes, a photo slideshow, and plenty of merriment. The banquet dinner will be a plated meal with your choice of entrée (pan-fried walleye, piccata chicken, or vegetarian plate), McGraw aquaponics salad, grilled vegetables, oven roasted red potatoes, rolls and butter, and warm apple pie à la mode for dessert. Soft drinks, coffee, decaffeinated coffee, hot tea, and water are included. The cost of the meal is \$55 including tip and room rental (plus \$2.50 per ticket if purchased online to cover online transaction fees). There is no bar so bring your own bottle of wine, beer, or spirits if so desired.

Banquet meal tickets can be purchased online [here](#) (online convenience fee applies), at chapter meetings, or by check made out to "Lee Wulff TU" and mailed by mid-November to the chapter treasurer (contact [treasurer@leewulfftu.org](mailto:treasurer@leewulfftu.org) for mailing address). Please indicate on your check your meal choice for each meal ticket purchased. Non-members are welcome to purchase tickets and attend.

If you have items you would like to donate for the fundraising portion of the event, please contact Scott Lammers at 1-312-206-5189 or [banquet@leewulfftu.org](mailto:banquet@leewulfftu.org). You can also bring items to chapter meetings for handoff.



## Upcoming Chapter Events

- Monthly Chapter Meeting - Thursday, November 21, 2024, 6:00 PM
- Chapter Holiday Banquet - Saturday, December 7, 2024
- Monthly Chapter Meeting - Thursday, January 16, 2025, 6:00 PM

Please email [volunteer@leewulfftu.org](mailto:volunteer@leewulfftu.org) or leave a voicemail at (224) 414-2400 if you would like more information about events or are available and willing to volunteer.





## **Soil and Water Conservation District Funding Slashed**

The 103rd General Assembly of Illinois has finalized the FY25 budget. Sadly, this budget was signed into law with a roughly 48% decrease in Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) operational funding. Illinois' 97 SWCDs experienced a substantial funding shortfall in the FY 2025 state budget. SWCD operations funding was reduced by \$4 million from \$8.5 million in FY 24 to \$4.5 million in FY 25. The shortfall will lead to the loss of trained and qualified Soil and Water Conservation District employees which will take years of training to replace. Without sufficient funding, employees, much like unprotected soil, will erode away. Help petition to restore state funding [here](#).

## **Help Pass Good Samaritan Legislation**

Trout Unlimited's restoration specialists know how to leverage public and private dollars to fix degraded streams, creating jobs, and clean water along the way. TU is eager to take on leaking abandoned mines, but under Federal law, groups who have no legal responsibility or connection to an abandoned mine (e.g. Good Samaritans) are deterred from cleaning up these messes due to the incredible liability risks.

We can solve this conundrum by passing legislation that provides bona fide Good Samaritans liability protections... [Read on and take action](#)

## **Protect Illinois Wetlands**

The U.S. Supreme Court recently gutted the Clean Water Act, eliminating the protection of many wetlands we rely on for flood control and habitat along major rivers. Now, Illinois wetlands are left vulnerable to developer bulldozers because our state lacks a comprehensive program to protect them. Wetlands act as nature's sponges, improving water quality, providing important flood control, and preserving endangered habitats.

Illinois has already lost nearly 90% of our wetlands. In our warming climate and increasing extreme weather, we can't afford to lose any more. Consider asking your legislators to vote 'Yes' and cosponsor SB0771/[HB5386](#), which will protect Illinois wetlands left vulnerable by the US Supreme Court by filling out [this form](#).

## **Illinois House Bill 1568 Water Recreation Rights**

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. [HB4708](#) 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. [Click here to easily take action in under a minute of your time](#).

## **Save the Kish**

Despite much opposition, the Woodstock City Council recently approved all of the preliminary measures that will allow the Lennar Riverwoods proposed high-density development along the banks of the Kishwaukee River in Woodstock to go forward. Follow this situation [here](#). But it's not over until it's over. Voice any opposition you may have by emailing the Woodstock City Council at [citycouncil@woodstockil.gov](mailto:citycouncil@woodstockil.gov) and [signing this petition](#).

## **Additional Action Links**

Trout Unlimited is not just about trout angling. [The national founders committed to conservation and preservation when they incorporated in 1959](#). In this spirit, please consider taking a few minutes to explore additional ways to take action:

<https://standup.tu.org/> & <https://www.tu.org/conservation/action-center/>

Bob Olach's Fly of the Month

## Black Pennell Soft Hackle



For probably as long as I've been tying flies, I've seen pictures of the Black Pennell fly but for some reason, I never tied it until recently.

A fellow named H. Cholmondeley Pennell originated this dressing in the mid 1800s. He also invented the turned down eyed and tapered hook which many of us now use when we tie and fish. So, the next time you fish a fly with a down eyed, tapered hook, think of Mr. H. Cholmondeley Pennell, ok ?

Mr. Pennell also penned several books, including *The Angler Naturalist* in 1864; *Modern Practical Angler*, in 1873; *The Sporting Fish of Great Britain*, *Modern Improvements in Fishing Tackle*, and *Salmon & Trout*, in 1885, prior to his death in 1917. Some of these old books can be found in .pdf format and downloaded legally because of expired copyrights.

In researching the Black Pennell, it was mentioned several times that the Pennell dressing was also tied with brown, yellow and green bodies but I haven't yet found pictures of the other Pennell's tied with the three other colored bodies or different colored hackles.

Although, I've tied the above flies with a size 12 hook, I've read that it's often tied on larger hooks and successfully used when fishing for Salmon and Sea Trout in the UK.

Here's the materials I used on the pictured flies:

### DRESSING

**Hook:** Daiichi #1550 wet fly hook (sizes 12-14)  
**Thread:** Black Danville, UNI or silk threads  
**Body;** Thread color  
**Ribbing:** Small or Extra Small Silver Wire  
**Tail:** Golden Pheasant Tippet  
**Hackle:** Black Hen Hackle



## Grumpy's Page by Kurt Haberl

On the last day of the season, I went fishing with Roy the Plumber, but I already told you about that. Schnoz went with Allie Vargas, because he had promised her a ride in his hearse. If you don't remember, Allie is our newbie from Colorado. I didn't hear anything about the last day from Schnoz, but I heard a lot from Allie.

"Grumpy," Allie said to me. "No wonder you like to fish with Schnoz. He's so funny."

"Funny?" I said. "He's dangerous. Just ask the police or the fire department. You're new in our group of misfits, so you don't know."

"I know plenty from Mary. And you're all interesting, not misfits."

"That's another thing. Her nickname is Ghost Mary after she caught an enormous fish with the help of an old man who disappeared and was probably a ghost. If you're going to be in this group, you have to have a nickname."

"A nickname? Great. I choose 'Goddess.'"

"You don't get to pick your own nickname. You get assigned one." I sighed just for effect. Allie, statuesque, observant, and really smart, could have passed for a goddess, but there's no way a nickname like that would be allowed in our group.

"If you start calling me 'Beanpole' like the seventh-grade boys did, I'm going to kick you where it hurts most, so—"

"'Beanpole' is a stupid nickname, so that's not even in the running. Why don't you tell me about your day with Schnoz, and I'll listen real carefully to see if anything pops up. Nicknames kind of choose themselves."

"Well, if you're going to listen carefully, maybe it will be okay. Are you a good listener?"

"I'm married, so once in a while I'm a good listener."

Allie raised an eyebrow. "So the day started when we packed up our gear in Schnoz's hearse and left camp before the sun hit the water. I loved riding in his hearse. It's so spacious and comfortable. I felt like I was a goddess. He put 'Sterrit's Run' in his GPS."

"That's one of our favorite streams," I said. "It was a good choice for the last day of the season."

“That’s what Schnoz said. Then he told me I should expect the best day of fishing all season, and he could guarantee it. He had a secret plan. He said it would be a day fit for a goddess, and-”

“Allie, your nickname is not going to be ‘Goddess.’”

She ignored me and said, “I saw as soon as he parked that it was a beautiful stream, and while we were putting on our waders, Schnoz made a big deal about pulling out a fancy notebook he had, kind of like a proclamation document like a goddess or a queen might send out in her realm, and he started announcing things and checking them off in his book.”

“Announcing?”

“Yes. He had a whole list of things like ‘barometer reading, atmospheric temperature, cloud cover, moon cycle, insect activity, water temperature, water clarity,’ and finally ‘date, Tuesday, October 15, 2024.’ I asked him what he was doing, and he said, ‘Listen, Goddess-”

“Allie....”

“Okay, okay. He said that exactly one year before, on October 15, 2023, the two of you had fished Sterrit’s Run under those exact conditions, and it had been a banner day, fit for a-”

“Allie, your nickname is not going to be ‘Goddess.’”

“Anyway, he said he had catalogued every possible variable for that wonderful fishing day, and that the two of you had caught dozens of hungry trout at Sterrit’s Run on Bead Thorax Soft Hackles.”

“That’s true. I remember that.”

“He had a dozen or so variables, some kinda’ weird like ‘wind direction and speed, color of sumac leaves, and Schnoz’s hunch vs. Grumpy’s hunch.’ He closed his proclamation book and said, ‘Guaranteed. Every variable is exactly the same as our fishfest the year before.’ Schnoz is so funny.”

“Then what happened?”

“We geared up and fished like it was the last day of the season,” Allie said dryly. “We clumped over to the bottom of the first run, and Schnoz said, ‘Here, put on one of these Bead Thorax Soft Hackles like we used a year ago, and since you’re new, you get to catch the first fish.’ So I tied on his fly and started casting, first down a seam where trout usually hang, then down the deepest part of the run, and then just scatter-shooting all over. I would say at least a dozen casts.”

“No fish?”

“No fish. No hits. At first Schnoz looked at me like I was doing something wrong, so I told him to keep his mouth shut and start thinking about standing in front of a crowd in his underwear to keep his mind occupied. Finally, I said, ‘Your turn,’ and I crawled along the stream to look into the run while he cast his Bead Thorax Soft Hackle all over the water. What I saw was a pod of nice fish, at least two or three dozen, hanging near the bottom, finning like lazy seniors during summer break, and whenever Schnoz’s fly drifted through, they moved aside to let it pass. I went back to Schnoz and told him what I saw. He went all quiet and depressed like someone had just slashed the tires on his hearse. Then he waded over to a rock, sat down, and stared at the water like he didn’t understand what water was. He mumbled something about noting every possible variable, and the fish just had to bite.”

“I’ve had that feeling.”

“Me, too, Grumpy. Then it all made sense, just like a book opened up. ‘Schnoz,’ I said, ‘today is Tuesday, October 15, the last day of the season, right?’ He nodded at me like I was some kind of polka-dotted flamingo, so I said, ‘It all makes sense.’ I pulled out my phone, looked up October 15 for last year and saw that it was a Sunday. ‘Schnoz, October 15 last year was a Sunday. All your notes guaranteed the exact same results for two days ago. Fish don’t know numbers for days and months. We should have been here with Bead Thorax Soft Hackles on Sunday.’”

I started laughing. Only Schnoz would have accepted such an explanation. Then she said, “I told him all this real deadpan like, so he wouldn’t see the joke. ‘You’re right,’ he said. ‘Sunday. So what do we do now?’ ‘We fish,’ I said. ‘We open up our fly boxes and throw everything at them, only three casts per fly, changing flies and taking turns until we find something that works.’ So that’s what we did. Pheasant tails, emergers, scuds, ants, wooly buggers, Perdignons, even Pink Squirrels. We took turns. Nothing worked. On a whim, I tied on my personal favorite, a size 16 Adams.”

“Dry?”

“Yes. I love seeing fish come up to take a dry. It’s the best. That’s what worked. We caught at least a dozen. Schnoz was so happy that he filled out another page in his notebook with all the variables and an Adams dry, noting that it was a Tuesday.”

“Did he ever get the joke, you know about fish knowing what day it was?”

“Nope. Here’s the thing, though. When we got back to camp, Wet Curtis came up with a big smile on his face and thanked Schnoz for telling him about his notes. Curtis went to Farmer Farmer’s stream and just racked up fish after fish on Bead Thorax Soft Hackles.”

“Wait a second, Allie. Do you expect me to believe that, or is this another one of your jokes?”

She didn't say anything. That's how she got her nickname. After talking to Wet Curtis, she became “Dry Allie,” and everybody knew they had to listen to her carefully because even the most deadpan thing she said was probably a joke.

Fly fishers really are interesting people, at least as interesting as the fish.

## Upcoming Non-Chapter Events

- [IF4](#) 2024 screenings in the area:
  - [Wilmette Theatre, Wilmette, IL](#) - November 12th
- [Fly Fishing Film Tour](#) (F3T) 2024/2025 screenings in the area:
  - University of Illinois, Urbana, IL - November 15th, 2024
  - [Davis Theater, Chicago, IL](#) - April 1st, 2025
- *Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing* (PHWFF) - Ongoing (click [here](#) to get involved)
- *Fly tying with* [NIFTY](#)
- [2025 TU Annual Members Meeting and CX3 Event](#) - St. Paul, MN - September 24-28, 2025



# Chapter Officers

**President:** Brent Burval  
[prez@leewulfftu.org](mailto:prez@leewulfftu.org)

**Vice-President:** Jerry Sapp  
[sapp375@aol.com](mailto:sapp375@aol.com)

**Secretary:** Scott Lammers  
[secretary@leewulfftu.org](mailto:secretary@leewulfftu.org)

**Treasurer:** Jerry Ward  
[treasurer@leewulfftu.org](mailto:treasurer@leewulfftu.org)

## Join Trout Unlimited



When joining Trout Unlimited (TU) at the national level, TU automatically assigns you to a local chapter based on your Zip Code and [this chapter boundaries map](#).

If not already a TU member, [click here to join TU for as little as \\$17.50 for your first year](#).

Already a TU member but not assigned to the Lee Wulff chapter? Call TU customer service at 1-800-834-2419 and make the switch to the Lee Wulff chapter (#448) today!