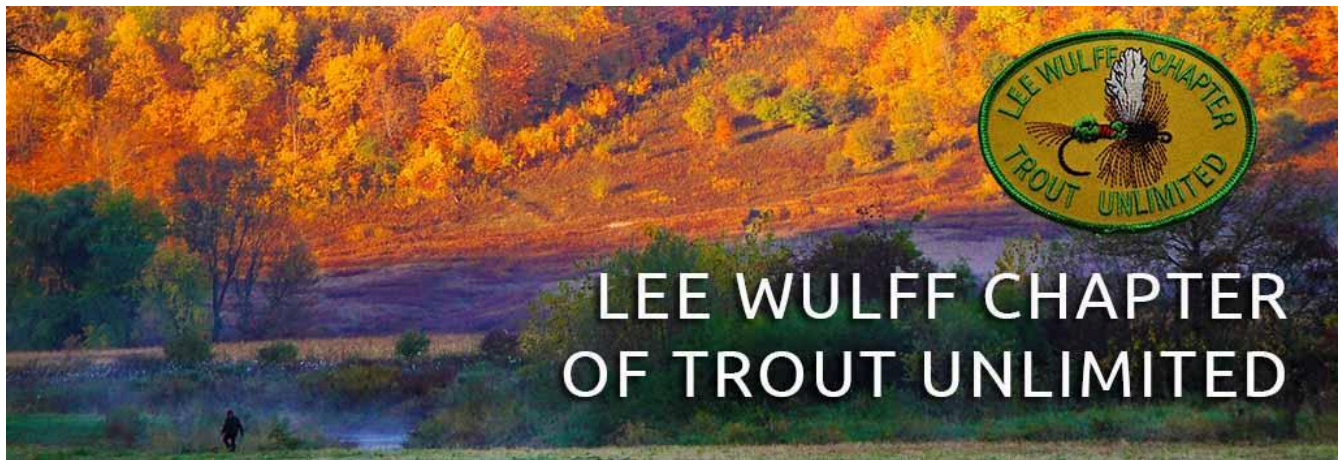




In This October 2025 Issue

- President's Message & Upcoming Chapter Events
 - Bob Olach's Fly of the Month
 - Grumpy's Page by Kurt Haberl
 - Action Center
 - Upcoming Non-Chapter Events
 - Chapter Officer Listing
 - Join Trout Unlimited

President's Message & Upcoming Chapter Events

Greetings fellow LWTU members,

Our **October Monthly Meeting** will take place at [Village Pizza & Pub \(145 N John F. Kennedy Dr, Carpentersville, IL 60110\)](#) on Thursday, October 16, 2025 with social hour starting at 6:00 PM. Consider joining us even if you live further out, tollway access is convenient.

Our program will feature **Peter Jonas from TUDARE**. Peter is the Driftless Area Partnership Specialist based out of Eau Claire WI. He has expert knowledge of the fishery and the ongoing conservation efforts that keep it thriving. Peter will present The Last Frontier: Fishing the Remote and Mysterious Northern Driftless.

Our **book exchange** program will once again be available at in-person chapter meetings. Purchase books for as little as \$5, and then optionally return them after reading for a \$3 exchange credit. There will also be **raffle** prize-drawings! Tickets will be available to purchase at \$5 each.

It may still feel like summer, but fall is almost here. The cooler temperatures make for some great trout fishing. Remember that **Wisconsin Inland Trout Season closes on October 15**, so be sure to get out there while there is time!! Pro tip - [Iowa trout season is open year round](#), so head on over there if you need to scratch an itch. As a bonus, Iowa is almost always less crowded than your favorite Wisconsin streams.

The **Illinois catch-and-release trout season** opens on October 4th at select sites, with harvest season opening on October 18th ([click here for details](#)). Pine Creek within [White Pines Forest State Park](#) and Apple River within [Apple River Canyon State Park](#) being great places to try your luck fishing for Illinois trout.

It's almost time to think about **Lake Michigan tributary fishing** for big chinook, coho, steelhead, and brown trout. Rain drives fish into the tributaries, but be mindful of [water flows](#) and do not wade if levels are unsafe. If you need a few pointers, feel free to ask fellow chapter members for tips at our monthly meetings.

We will hold our **Annual Holiday Banquet on Sunday, December 7**. Please note the change from our usual Saturday evening. The event will once again be hosted at Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation. We are currently seeking prizes for the fundraiser, so don't be shy. If you have a prize or two to donate, please contact Scott Lammers (secretary@leewulfft.org) and plan to bring it to an upcoming chapter meeting.

WIDNR's move to purchase the **Anderson property** along the West Fork and Seas Branch near Avalanche WI is progressing. The state is in the final approval stages before making a formal offer on the property. Our pledge of \$10,000 from our conservation fund will go a long way to reserving this invaluable resource for public recreation in perpetuity.

Our **Trout in the Classroom** program will be running in two classrooms at Crystal Lake North Elementary and Elgin Math & Science Academy. We hope to be rearing brook trout again this year. We expect to place the eggs in the tanks in January 2026 and release

the fish sometime in the spring. Please email me at prez@leewulfftu.org for further information.

Winter Fly Tying will happen on Tuesday nights from early January through late March. Both long-time tiers and beginners are welcome to join in the fun. This year we're asking folks to share with the group a pattern or two they enjoy tying and fishing. Please contact Ralph Lessor at tying@leewulfftu.org to ask questions or express interest.

Upcoming Events

- Wisconsin Inland Trout Season Closes - Wednesday, October 15
- October Chapter Meeting - Thursday, October 16 - Village Pizza
- November Chapter Meeting - Thursday, November 20 - Village Pizza
- Holiday Banquet - Sunday, December 7 - Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation
- Winter Fly Tying - Beginning in January on Tuesday evenings - Village Pizza

Do you have an idea for a **future speaker** or program? Please email speakers@leewulfftu.org.

Finally, we are always seeking **volunteers** to help out the chapter. Please email me at prez@leewulfftu.org for further information. Here's an easy one - could someone take the initiative to **snap some photos at the monthly meetings**? We need to save some memories for posterity and obtain new content for our banquet slideshow.

Watch your email for **Evite** invitations to upcoming events. I hope to see all of you very soon.

Tight Lines!!

Jonathan Culli

Bob Olach's Fly of the Month

Egg Laying Caddis ***Variant***

As some of my fishing “*Amigos*” know, two of my favorite soft hackles are my versions of the “*Red Ass*” and “*Egg Laying Caddis*.” Both dressings are easy to tie and have been very successful for me in the past.

Both flies use the same materials (Peacock herl body; gold wire rib; and a partridge hackle) in each dressing EXCEPT that a red thread is used for the butt tag and head for the Red Ass and a lime green thread is used for the butt tag and head in the Egg Laying Caddis.

Going through my fly tying materials recently, I noticed a full package of a Fluorescent Lime Green Krystal Flash and thought that the Krystal Flash might make a nice tailing shuck in the Egg Laying Caddis. Additionally, I saw some small grizzly hen hackles that seemed to be a decent sub for a partridge hackle,



Dressing

- Hook:** Partridge or Daiichi dry fly barbless or alternate wet or dry fly hooks - sizes 12 or 14
- Thread:** Lime Green Danville or Uni - 6/0
- Body:** Green peacock herl
- Ribbing:** Extra small gold wire
- Tail:** Fluorescent lime green Krystal Flash
- Hackle:** Grizzly hen or partridge

Grumpy's Page by Kurt Haberl



We all know the trout season ends on October 15, a time chosen wisely by the DNR to allow exhausted, overworked fish a few months to spawn in peace without the aggravation of fly fishers throwing things at them. I am sure the poor fish were frustrated beyond measure, knowing that on most days what they expected to be a tasty *Ephemerella Invaria* or a well-developed *Trichoptera* turned out to be a mouthful of feathers, fibers and synthetic thread. Even a shiny, bulbous head had the metallic taste of tungsten. Yuck.

And yet, what is a fisher to do with less than a week before that sad mid-October day, knowing that winter every year is cold, long, dark, and boring? If winter is hard on the fish and harder on twitchy fishers, it is usually even worse for spouses. And so, to preserve my marriage, I called all my buddies for one last day trip, hoping that the recent heat wave meant that grasshoppers would still be thrumming in the meadows. I knew that a favorite meadow stream might be choked by summer's growth of moss, and even the best herds of cows could not keep up with the tall grass that made casting risky, especially for one whose backcast has long been a practice in throwing either open or tangled loops, and whose forward cast, when it did not land in in a wild rose bush, may only be described as a spiraled puddle. No one has mastered the puddle cast as I have. Mine is so dependable, I use it in every situation, not just when downstream currents might require it.

Sometimes I don't understand what is wrong with people. They all knew this was the last chance before the end of the season. Schnoz couldn't go because he had caught Covid again. Wet Curtis couldn't go because he had two doctor's appointments he had waited months for. Dewey didn't answer his phone. I figured he was either re-roofing his house or digging a backup sewer line. Ghost Mary was visiting her brother in Colorado, where trout season never ends. Roy the Plumber was at his neighbor's house doing plumbing. Calamity John slipped off a chair while reaching for a second slice of cheesecake and broke his arm. Johnny Fessup was in Patagonia catching ten pound sea-run steelhead and brown trout. Gordon Redd couldn't leave his house or his grandchildren would burn it down like they almost did last year. They all wanted to go with me but couldn't. I even tried calling Herbie, the tow truck driver who has pulled Schnoz's cars and his hearse out of numerous ditches, but he was in Minnesota fishing for walleye. Sometimes I don't understand people.

I decided that if none of my buddies could go fishing, then that was probably true of everyone else's buddies too, so if I drove out to my new favorite stream, The Little Bear in Hurley's meadow, no one would be there because they were all at doctor's appointments, had broken bones, had caught Covid again, had gone to Colorado or

Patagonia, or had to babysit grandchildren. I had fished the Little Bear only once this summer because the DNR had made the disastrous mistake of including it in their fish surveys taken last year showing it provided great habitat for 5,000 trout per mile. That meant there were cars there every day from March to October 15, from 6 AM to midnight. I don't understand what's wrong with the DNR. What kind of state government agency tells people where the fish are?

And so I drove out to Hurley's Meadow and The Little Bear all by myself with great anticipation, with great disappointment, because there were two cars there already at 7 AM, one belonging to a fisher heading downstream and one to a fisher heading upstream. They were out of earshot, so I simply said a few of the French words I knew and drove on.

A half a mile down the road I was forced to take a left turn because the road was closed. I could see some heavy equipment working on a new bridge over The Little Bear downstream of Hurley's Meadow. I took three more turns, hoping to re-cross The Little Bear further downstream, which meant that now I was completely lost and emerged at the top of a ridge with no stream in sight. I don't understand how the state highway commission plans roads that wind and switchback like a corn maze with the sole purpose of preventing people from getting where they want to go.

I'm not a genius, but I figured out that if I wanted to fish, I would have to drive down from the ridge to a coulee, or at least a flat meadow in a valley. Trout don't live on ridge tops, as far as I know. Five miles and six or seven turns later, I came to a small bridge with old wooden guard rails probably dating from stage coach times, and to one side lay a savannah that appeared to have been abandoned by Davy Crockett. I pulled off the road and spent twenty minutes with a state Gazetteer on my lap, trying to find a name for this little creek.

I found The Little Bear on the map and could trace at least a few of the turns that led me to the ridge, but it looked like I was moving away from The Little Bear, and nowhere on the map within 50 miles could I find anything that looked like the little creek where I had parked or the sudden switchback that the creek took just above the bridge. According to the map, this creek did not exist.

With nothing to lose, I geared up, struggled across a ditch at the side of the road, and headed upstream into the savannah. For fifty yards, the creek gurgled over shallow riffles, and I saw neither fish nor holding water. After another switchback, I came to a gravel bar, and above it, a pool large enough to eddy and deep enough so I could not see the bottom.

"Jackpot," I said to myself.

"You mean 'Honeyhole'," an old raspy voice said behind me.

I turned around and saw a wiry geezer with a sack slung over one shoulder. He patted that sack and said, "You're welcome to the fish. I just want the mushrooms."

"Is this your land?" I said.

"God's land," he said. "He lets me pick the mushrooms."

"Is there a name for this creek?"

"Not that I knows. Just call it what you want. The creek will laugh about it. Listen."

I listened and it sounded like the creek was laughing.

"I'm going to cross over behind you and head further up the way," he said. "Lots of soggy places and old logs and mushrooms."

"Good luck," I said, and he nodded at me. Just before he disappeared past some willows, he turned back and said, "Be kind. Show the river you appreciate it. Ain't many places like this left." Then he was gone.

"Well, Creek, I guess it's just you and me. I do appreciate you though, even if you're laughing at me." What followed was a morning of fishing to remember, browns and brookies eager to take a fly. Any fly. I changed flies after every three fish to keep them interested, but it didn't seem to matter. Soon I quit counting. Then I took some time with each fish to admire it before it hurried off into the depths. A few seemed to look back at me with opaque, knowing eyes. After a while, though I don't know how long, I had caught enough. More than enough. I sat on a log and memorized the pool, its gravel bar, its foam-rimmed eddy, a bush on the far bank that dipped branches into the current, branches that bounced and waved at me. The pool reminded me of some other place and some other time. When it was time to go, I thanked the creek and turned away. Sometimes a season ends in frustration, in fishless days, in lines tangled by blustery winds and currents so choked with moss or fallen leaves that fishing is impossible. Sometimes there is magic.

I was not surprised that my GPS, far out of range of any tower, would not let me save my position, nor show me where I was. I was surprised when I realized the old man had followed me up the creek, but there was no car or truck parked near mine, and no farmhouse anywhere in sight. I drove back along the road for half an hour past trees and barns I didn't recognize until I came up another ridge, but not the one I was on before. If I retraced my route, I had the feeling the creek would have disappeared and some vinyl-sided house would be in its place. At the top of the ridge, my GPS figured out where I was, though not where I had been. You don't get to open a gift twice. That is a kindness. And so the season ended.



Protect Clean Water

Clean water is the lifeblood of healthy fisheries, wildlife habitat, and strong communities. But right now, Congress is considering H.R. 3898, the “Promoting Efficient Review for Modern Infrastructure Today Act” (PERMIT Act) — a bill that would severely weaken core protections under the Clean Water Act. [Click here to learn more and to take action.](#)

Keep Public Lands in Public Hands

America’s 640 million acres of public lands – the place we fish, hunt, and recreate – are under threat. Efforts to sell off or otherwise dispose of these public lands are gaining momentum around the country. Fortunately, lawmakers have introduced legislation to limit the disposal of public lands. Championed by Congressman Ryan Zinke (R-MT) and Congressman Gabe Vasquez (D-MT) in the House, the bipartisan *Public Lands in Public Hands Act* would ban the sale or transfer of most public lands managed by the Department of the Interior and the U.S. Forest Service.

Without legislation like the Public Lands in Public Hands Act, public lands and the places we cherish the most could be sold off to the highest bidder. [Please join Trout Unlimited in asking your representative to support this common-sense legislation.](#)

Tell Congress: Protect Roadless Areas

The [U.S. Forest Service recently announced](#) its intent to rescind the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule. This action would remove protections for 58.5 million acres of national forest land across 39 states that are home to irreplaceable fish and wildlife habitat.

Roadless areas provide some of the most important habitat for trout and salmon in the United States. They are destination locations for hunters and anglers. Roadless areas

provide the spawning and rearing grounds for some of Alaska's most robust salmon and steelhead runs and serve as the headwaters for the majority of Blue Ribbon trout streams in the West. In the Midwest and East, roadless areas also conserve important trout fisheries. For example, 64 percent of roadless areas in Michigan and 90 percent of roadless areas in New Hampshire provide habitat for native trout.

This issue affects trout and salmon fisheries across the country and anglers need to speak up for these important public lands. Right now, your members of Congress need to hear from their constituents how important these public lands are for our outdoor traditions. Later this summer, the U.S. Forest Service will begin the process of repealing the Roadless Rule – at that time sending messages to the agency will be crucial.

[Please take a moment today to urge your members of Congress to support strong protections for Roadless Areas and to ensure that the Forest Service provides robust opportunities for the public to make their voices heard.](#)

TU Impacted by US Department of Government Efficiency

On March 4th, TU leaders hosted an urgent Town Hall meeting to help spread the word that US DOGE actions have already hit TU hard. Some highlights shared during the meeting:

- TU restoration projects across the country, including the [Driftless Area](#), rely heavily on government funding, with a government-to-private funding ratio of approximately 4-to-1.
- TU recently suffered unprecedented delays in receiving promised payments (~\$17 million) from government agencies for completed and ongoing TU restoration work.
- Up to \$180 million of promised future government funding (including [TU Driftless Area Restoration Effort](#) funding) for TU projects is now paused and in question, forcing TU to put many major current and planned restoration projects on hold. While not a TU project, here is a paused conservation project that hits close to home, resulting in major negative impacts to our Great Lakes fisheries: ["Asian Carp barrier project on Des Plaines River delayed as federal funds hang in limbo"](#) (*WGN News video*)
- TU restoration work up until this current government funding pause has provided roughly 2,500 family-wage jobs across the US each year (staff and contractors), primarily in rural areas, and many of these jobs are now in jeopardy.

Now, possibly more than ever, is the time for TU members, friends, and family to stand up and take action. Here's what one can do to help:

1. Make a [special donation](#) to TU national. With government funding paused, your special donation will help sustain vital core TU operations and staff.
2. Get more involved locally at the grassroots level by volunteering for the Lee Wulff chapter (email volunteer@leewulfftu.org).

You can learn more about the impacts of the US DOGE on TU projects [here](#).

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](#).

Illinois House Bill 1873 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. [HB1873](#) (104th G.A.) 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 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/>



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.

Upcoming Non-Chapter Events

- SWTU workdays, [contact Jim Hess, SWTU Conservation Committee Chair](#) for more information and/or to participate:
 - **Oct 15, Wednesday 9:30 to 12:30 – Ley Creek (Iowa County).** TUDARE is working with Cummins Emissions Solutions, Inc out of Mineral Point with this workday, which is why it is on a weekday. Lloyd Meng, DNR Fisheries Technician, is coordinating the event and will be directing the volunteers.
 - **Oct 25 - Upper Yahara River in DeForrest –** working with the Village of DeForrest clearing honeysuckles and other invasive woodies. We will meet near the intersection of County Rd. CV and Innovation Drive. We need a big turnout for this one.
 - **Nov 1 - Dane County Duerst Property on the Sugar River (7309 Riverside Rd) -** clearing honeysuckles and other woody invasives. This is the site where TUDARE has arranged for a team of STIHL professional sawyers to clear large box elders that are encroaching the river. This workday will continue clearing out the invasive understory so the STIHL crew can focus on the large box elders.
 - **Nov 15 –** Returning to the Duerst Property.
- [IF4](#) screenings in the region:
 - [Wilmette Theatre, Wilmette, IL](#) - November 11, 2025 (hosted by EDTU)
- [Fly Fishing Film Tour](#) (F3T) screenings in the region:
 - [Toppling Goliath Brewery, Decorah, IA](#) - 6:30 PM, October 18, 2025
- [TU 2026 Midwest Regional Rendezvous - Roscommon, MI](#) - May 1-3, 2026

- [*TU CX3 Event*](#) - St. Paul, MN - **TBD**
- *Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing* (PHWFF) - Ongoing (click [here](#) to get involved)

Chapter Officers

President: Jonathan Culli
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Vice-President: Ken Bruckner
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Secretary: Scott Lammers
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Treasurer: Marty Jandura
treasurer@leewulfft.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!