



## Fly Lines and By-Lines

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

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

### September 2015 President's Message

#### “What I Did On My Summer Vacation”

Well everyone the summer went by again much too quickly, especially with the rains. But I hope everyone made the best of the good weather and are making plans to enjoy the remainder of the season. We have two outings in September: the chapter outing from Sept 11-13 in Viroqua; and the salmon outing Sept 15-18 in Wahala Michigan. We are booked solid for the salmon outing, but there's still plenty of room for all for the chapter outing. Please leave Gordon a message though, if you plan to attend.

So the title of this month's message is What I Did On My Summer Vacation. I know, I know! But I do want to share with you a few highlights, as some of you may find the information inspiring and helpful.

I starting fishing this year, the earliest ever, in March. I attended the first Driftless One Fly Contest in Viroqua. It was a real hit and the turnout was amazing. The fishing was tough, but rewarding. I am sure many of you have read about it and seen the video on our Facebook page by now. If not, give Chris Young a shout out and he can help you find it. Keep an eye out for next year. I'm sure they plan to have it again. Even if you do not wish to participate, attend anyway.

I was able to spend time with guide Jim Romberg in Fennimore for a terrific evening of fishing. Jim is a wonderful guide: low key, highly experienced, bright, knowledgeable, and offers great practical suggestions. His rates are very reasonable as well. I highly recommend everyone consider looking him up if interested in a local guide. Be sure to ask him about his marvelous collection of gear and phenomenal books! Fennimore is fast becoming one of my favorite fishing areas. And it's closer to home for me!

Our WaWaSum trip was a success as always. We had a small group. But we had a larger attendance than the previous year, and everyone had a great experience. I spent some time with Sam Surre one of the many guides on the AuSable. Bob Flaherty, caught a magnificent trophy fish- - a 23" brown . I was lucky to be there when it happened. I have never seen a large trophy sized wild brown before and it was truly a

brehtaking moment! Those trophy fish really do exist! But a word of warning- make sure your guide is carrying a camera if you are not! We missed the photo opportunity!

Also this year I took some time to float with Will Winans for an afternoon/evening on the Kankakee River a few weeks ago. Will was one of our speakers last year with Big River Fly Fishing. Will is a native to the area and has been fishing this river all his life. I tell you folks, smallmouth are some of the feistiest, tough fighting fish I have experienced so far. They aren't trout, I realize, but they are amazingly fun to catch! The largest one I caught was just shy of 19", and I worked hard that day! Also I snagged about a 3 ft gar, but we kept him at a comfortable distance. I'd never seen one before. I also caught a lovely little Pumpkin Seed fish. The colors and patterns are amazing! And it's eyes were red! Very exotic, tropical looking species for fresh water! The water on the Kankakee is just fine too! Clean and remarkably interesting river! Also I saw some amazing wildlife and plant life along the way. Will did a great job coaching me through the techniques for streamer and popper fishing for these beautiful smallies! When it's too hot for trout fishing, this is a wonderful alternative. Give it a try!

This past month, I was also fortunate to be able to meet a wonderful gentleman by the name of Doug Taylor. I needed help trouble shooting some problems I was having with my switch rod lines and casting. Doug is a spey casting expert who just happens to live in IL and teach classes on the Fox River often during the season. He coordinated the program held last summer on the St. Joe River in MI ("From Single to Switch to Spey – All in One Day"). He did a marvelous job analyzing some of the problems I was having and helping adapt my line to my casting level, height, and switch rod dimensions. Two handed casting is something I recommend to anyone seeking fly fishing options and a new challenge. It is tremendously rewarding and entirely different from single handed casting. A lot of the casting techniques can be used with a single handed rod as well, however. If some of you have been considering learning spey casting, I highly recommend you seek out classes and learn this beautiful casting technique. Ladies, no need to feel this is too difficult for women to learn. I actually found out learning spey techniques using a spey rod (average 13-15 feet in length) is easier than learning on a switch rod (12 feet and under). I hope to be able to coax Doug into doing a program for us next spring.

So--- on with our new year's business as meetings resume. The first meeting will be Thursday September 17 at Village Pizza in Carpentersville as usual. Same time 6:00 - 7:15 p.m. for pizza and social time. Then chapter announcements, followed by our speaker. I will not be attending the first meeting, so Gordon Rudd has volunteered to fill in for me. Make sure to thank Gordon for filling in on somewhat short notice, but not too much, less it goes to his head! I'll be chasing a few salmon hopefully on the outing in MI.

Our guest speaker will be Javier Guevara with Ecuador Fly Fishing. Javier lives here in the Chicagoland area but has done some amazing work in Ecuador. I met Javier through DRIFT (DuPage Rivers Fly Tyers) and he is a delightful gentleman. You will be intrigued by his presentation. See further information in this newsletter.

October will be our annual business meeting and election for officers for the next two years. We will be bringing two new officers on board. Bob Becker has kindly volunteered to take on the Vice President role, and Yves Charron is looking forward to being our next treasurer. Gentlemen, we are delighted to have you! Thanks for helping us make this next 2 years better than ever! Bob will continue to coordinate the Trout in the Classroom as well as Youth Programs. Yours truly and Matt Gregory will plan to continue another 2 years as President and Secretary, pending elections in October.

I have some other very exciting news! Jerry Sapp, our current Vice President, has been invited by our Illinois Council to be their new representative for the T.U. National Leadership Council. This is an honor, and I believe Jerry is the perfect candidate for the job. Kudos to you, Jerry! He will do a magnificent job! Make sure everyone takes a moment to congratulate him.

Jerry will continue to work with our chapter as the chair for our conservation committee. He is working on a number of potential options for our future projects. Please refer to his section in this newsletter.

Last, I have a couple of announcements about the upcoming Christmas party in December. This year I have teamed up as co-chair with Pete Koenig. Plans are coming along nicely and we already have many contributions and pending contributions. However, if any chapter member wishes to make a donation, please either contact me or Pete ( [pkoenig1942@hotmail.com](mailto:pkoenig1942@hotmail.com) ) ahead of time. We hope to have all items turned in by the second week of November so we have time to inventory and organize things. We are asking that items be new or gently used (or Vintage) . We would appreciate advanced notice for any items that may be coming in late so we can plan enough space. We hope to publish some of the items that will be auctioned or raffled off in future newsletters, so keep your eyes open!

The event will be held again at the Millrose Restaurant, beginning at 6 p.m. with dinner at 7 p.m. More information to follow. We have some new ideas and plans this year to make the chapter better. I look forward to seeing all of you very soon! Thanks, Meg



## **Our September Meeting Speaker - Javier Guevara From Ecuador Fly Fishing**



**Javier Guevara will take us on a fly fishing tour thru Ecuador. Join us for an exciting journey to South America.**

Javier Guevara will take us on a tour thru Ecuador. Join us for an exciting journey to South America. Javier Guevara is an avid fly fisherman, fly tyer, and fly casting instructor. He is also the owner/guide of Ecuador Fly Fishing. Javier has helped establish the growth of the fly fishing community in Ecuador, South America. He is also an active member in numerous clubs and organizations in the Midwest Including TU. If you don't see him out on the water you'll find him on his tying bench. You can follow him on Facebook, Instagram, and You Tube.

## **Where We Meet**

**Village Pizza and Pub  
145 N. Kennedy Drive  
Carpentersville, IL**

**Social Hour: 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. with pizza and pop served for \$15.00 per person**

**Main program: 7:30 p.m.**

**Other menu choices, cocktails and spirits are available for purchase.**

**Please RSVP to Scott Roane at [royalwulff01@yahoo.com](mailto:royalwulff01@yahoo.com) by Tuesday September 15th so we know how many pizzas to preorder.**

## **October Meeting**

Our October meeting will be a business meeting with the election of Chapter Officers. Officers; President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer serve for 2 years and may be re-elected for a second 2-year term then must be replaced.

Up for election/ re-election:

President - Meg Gallagher

Vice-President - Bob Becker

Secretary – Matt Gregory

Treasurer – Yves Charron

Many thanks to Jerry Sapp and Scott Roane for their service as our vice-president and treasurer these last 2 years!!

"I look into... my fly box, and think about all the elements I should consider in choosing the perfect fly: water temperature, what stage of development the bugs are in, what the fish are eating right now. Then I remember what a guide told me: 'Ninety percent of what a trout eats is brown and fuzzy and about five-eighths of an inch long.'" Allison Moir

## **Conservation News**

The Fox Bluff Conservation Area in Cary IL was identified as a possible site for the Lee Wulff Chapter to introduce trout. The bluff is above the Fox River and has three ponds that are fed by a single spring. There are an additional three spring fed streams on this property. The conservation committee contacted the McHenry Conservation District (MCD) to discuss the possibility of evaluating this site for future stocking of trout. Earlier this year the MCD gave the committee permission to access the property and place five temperature monitors throughout the site. Data from the monitors would be able to determine if the site was amenable for trout.

The monitors which are small were fitted into a 1 ½" PVC pipe attached to stakes and submerged in the water. On April 30, 2015, five monitors were placed at the site in both the ponds and the streams. They record temperatures once an hour. The collected data was read on July the 17<sup>th</sup>. The highest temperature recorded was a short spike of 70 degrees that occurred at the outflow of the third pond the lowest in the chain of three ponds. This was encouraging, because these results are very favorable for trout. The average water temperature of the spring flowing into the first pond was 55 degrees with spikes to 63 degrees that coincided with the highest temperatures recorded in the lowest pond. These temperatures occurred in the spring on sunny days before the leaves emerged. This exemplifies the role that shade plays in keeping our trout streams cool. Pete Koenig and I will be removing these monitors at the end of October and at that time we can give a final report to the chapter and the Mc Henry County Conservation District. These results are encouraging but we must wait and see how 90 degree days in August affected these ponds.

## **EXTEND THE SEASON TO OCTOBER**

Want to fish for trout in October but don't want to drive to Iowa. Try Apple River State Park Illinois. Less than two hours away, the Apple River is stocked with rainbows and Palominos, a cross between golden and rainbow trout that is the color of a goldfish. The artificial-only catch and release season opens October 3<sup>rd</sup> and runs till the 16<sup>th</sup>. After that it is live bait catch and keep till the fish are gone.

Scott Roane and I fished the spring season there and found it better than we could have hoped. The fish averaged 15" and were aggressive to nymphs and streamers. If the fall fishing this year is similar it should be great. The fish were in a half mile of stream in the park. We were there on a weekday and only saw two other fishers.

I am proposing that we have a stream clinic for people that want to sharpen their skills in a situation where they can see how the fish respond to their presentations and catch decent sized fish. Ideally we could have mentors available to help



one-on-one depending on interest. It would be best to conduct the clinic during the week because the weekends may be crowded. Also, if it can be arranged, we may take the Fishin' So Fly children to the Apple River on a Saturday.

If you are interested in a fishing clinic on the Apple River, let me know so it can be scheduled. Either talk to me at the meeting or contact me by phone 847 284 4824 or email at [sapp375@aol.com](mailto:sapp375@aol.com)

## **Bob Olach's Fly Of The Month**

### **ROYAL CHARLIE**

In early 2015, there was a posting on "*The Classic Fly Rod Forum*" about a newly published book called "*The North Country Fly: Yorkshire's Soft Hackle Tradition*", by Robert L. Smith and published by Coch-y-Bonddu Books in the UK.

I had previously exchanged e-mails with Rob Smith and learned that he was the great-grandson of Harfield H. Edmonds, who (in conjunction with Norman N. Lee) wrote the 1916 classic North Country book called "*Brook & River Troutling*."

In addition, Rob Smith once had a web site called "*Snipe & Purple*" - from which I copied / downloaded all kinds of information on North Country Spiders / Soft Hackles while the site was up and running.

Anyone who is interested in tying (and fishing) the old North Country Spiders / Soft Hackles should consider obtaining "*The North Country Fly: Yorkshire's Soft Hackle Tradition*".

There's a lot of information, pictures and dressings that I had never seen before and very good instructions on how to tie various soft hackles, including dressings with peacock or magpie herl "heads." – which got me going on tying more dressings with the herl heads.



Here's the dressing for the flies shown that I had never seen nor read about previously:

***Royal Charlie (Nathaniel Hunt - 1930)***

Hook – Daiichi #1550 wet fly hook (sizes 12 - 16)

Thread – Pearsall 11a Crimson (Scarlet) Gossamer Silk (waxed with clear beeswax)

Body – Pearsall 11a Crimson (Scarlet) Gossamer Silk and ribbed with gold wire

Rib – Small gold wire

Hackle – Dark Partridge (the brown-barred, not gray-barred feather from a Hungarian Partridge)

Head – Peacock Herl





## Grumpy's Page by Kurt Haberl

Wet Curtis has a dog. Schnoz says the dog, a beautiful black Lab whom we all call "The General," is smarter than any other member of our chapter, but I'm not convinced. How does one judge the intelligence of a dog when I spend my fishing time with Schnoz, Roy the Plumber, Calamity John, and Dewey, who continues to use the same leader year after year and doesn't catch any fish?

That being said, I can make a few observations. Wet Curtis bought a new tent last season, but only slept in it once, because The General didn't like it. Claustrophobia, I suppose. To be more accurate, I should say, Wet Curtis only NOT SLEPT in the tent once because The General didn't like it. After that, Wet Curtis bought a camping trailer, and luckily, The General liked it. I'm not sure, though, who sleeps on the floor and who sleeps on the pull-out bed. I've noticed that whenever we're in a cabin, The General claims the first bed. I can't tell if he's smart or just territorial.

I decided to go right to the source, so I just asked Curtis, "How smart is The General?"

"Let me show you," Curtis said. "Bring your rod."



We walked behind the campsite to a frothy run before a sharp bend in the stream, and then Curtis commanded, "General, find fish!" The General looked at Curtis with excitement in his

eyes, then ran up and down the stream for thirty yards. Finally he settled at the tail-end of the run, put his front paws in the water, and barked twice.

"There are two fish there," Curtis said.

I cast, let my nymph drift, and was soon playing a ten-inch brown.

"Amazing!" I said. "I can't believe it." As I brought the fish in, The General went crazy, jumping and splashing, which scared the daylights out of the fish and he broke off.

"Well, there WERE two fish right there," I said.

"That's the problem," Curtis said. "The General is amazing at finding fish, and I hook a lot of them. I just don't land many."

"Can't you train him to lie down when you're playing a fish?" I said. "Use a doggy treat?"

"You don't understand," Curtis said, "so let me show you." He looked excitedly at The General, and said, "General! Fish on!" The General obediently lay down, covered his eyes with his paws for a few seconds, and then looked up at Curtis. Wet Curtis rewarded him with a doggy treat.

"That's good," I said.

Then Curtis said, "General, find fish!" At that point, The General lay down, covered his eyes with his paws, and a few moments later, looked up at Curtis with the biggest, saddest doggy eyes I've ever seen and got another treat.

"He's trained you pretty well, hasn't he?" I said.

"Yep," Wet Curtis said. "I'm the best-trained dog owner in the whole state. Why don't you give it a try?"

"Okay," I said, and Curtis handed me a doggy treat. "General!" I commanded in my most presidential voice, "find fish!" The General lay down, covered his eyes with his paws and then looked up at me with disarmingly large, sad doggy eyes. I refused to give in and put the treat in my pocket. The General crawled over to me, nuzzled my knee, and began to whine, "Awooo," he said mournfully.

It was difficult, but I kept the treat in my pocket and just pretended to ignore him. That's when The General got up on his hind legs, put his front paws on my shoulders, and began to lick my face with great, slobbering "kisses" that stopped only when I pulled the treat from my pocket and gave it to The General. He chewed noisily, then looked up at me with wise, happy eyes.

"Any suggestions?" Wet Curtis said.

"Well, have you actually tried giving him a fish?"

"I would not recommend that," he said.

"He hasn't completely trained me yet, so why not let me try a thing or two?"

"Okay, go for it. I'm going back to camp. There's a soft chair and a cold drink waiting for me. General," Curtis said to his master, "stay with Grumpy. He's going to teach you something."

"Awooooo," The General said.

I headed downstream, looking for a run where I might land a fish to train The General, but I noticed that a lot of the usual places seemed to have been silted in. The General followed me, and when I said, "General, find fish!" he took off down the bank to the next pool, and then like a beautiful pointer, came to attention and barked four times. I could barely contain my excitement. On the first cast, a strong tug told me The General was really an expert. The fish was a good one and went up and down the run three times, followed by The General, who was at least as excited as I was. Finally, I thought I could land this fish on a sandbar at the bottom of the pool and led the fish toward the beach. I stepped out, and immediately sank above my knees. The beach was deep mud, and the more I moved, the more I sank, soon forgetting about the fish, which may have unhooked himself or broken the tippet, I didn't care. The General looked at me as if I were the stupidest human he had ever seen. Soon I was up to mid-thigh in muck.

"General," I pleaded, "go get help. Find Curtis."

The General barked at me, looked annoyed, then bored, and trotted off toward camp. It was a long five minutes as I sank deeper and the water neared the top of my waders. Then I heard another bark and saw Wet Curtis come around the bend with The General firmly attached to his sleeve and dragging him along.

Another five minutes, two broken branches, a bent wading staff and one lost boot later, Curtis had me out. As I limped back to camp, all I could think of was how smart The General was, how lucky Wet Curtis was, and as soon as I got home, I would search out the largest, tastiest bag of doggie treats available.

Some things changed. Back at camp, Wet Curtis was still Wet Curtis, but The General had become Smart General, and I had become Mud Grumpy. For once, I did not mind being the entertainment for the night's campfire. Schnoz objected that it wasn't fair for a guy to get two nicknames, but no one listened to him, not even Smart General. That is some dog. He can pick whatever bed he wants.



## **Chapter Officers**

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

PPS: You Are Welcome.