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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, September 19th, 2024 with social hour starting at 6:00 PM. Tim Flagler will be presenting “An Intro to Euro-Nymphing” (additional meeting and program details are included further below in this section). 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. We plan to have an array of flies donated by Bob Olach available for sale at the meeting for as little as \$1 apiece!



LWTU July Chapter Picnic Merriment

Our chapter's [2024 Conservation Sweepstakes](#) is ongoing with terrific prizes including an Orvis Helios combo package, fifty flies hand-tied by chapter member Bob Olach accompanied by a beautiful hardbound demo copy of his “Bob's Flies” book, and more. Please see the sweepstakes section further below for further details. Don't delay, [get your tickets today!](#)

We are nearing the close of Wisconsin's inland trout season on October 15th, and the present cool cloudy weather makes for great fishing. Be sure to sign up for the chapters' 2024 fall fishing outing, September 26-29 in the Viroqua/Westby area of the Wisconsin driftless to take advantage of great fall terrestrial fishing. Outings are a lot of fun and offer a great way to make new friends, learn new skills, and find the best streams. Please

see the outings section further below for details. The chapter's conservation committee plans to maintain several stiles during this outing, enhancing our [extensive network of existing stiles](#) (where there are [stiles](#), generally there are fish).



Driftless Area Stile Installed by LWTU in 2023

We are seeking volunteers for upcoming outreach events in October, including a youth event at Dundee-Crown High School on October 3rd, and an all-ages event with MCCD on October 23rd. Please see the chapter events section for details and email. Please email volunteer@leewulfftu.org or leave a voicemail at (224) 414-2400 if you would like more information or are available and willing to assist.



2024 MCCD Youth Fishing Camp Event

On December 7th, 2024 the Lee Wulff chapter of Trout Unlimited will be hosting the annual holiday banquet and fundraiser at [Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation](#). Further

details TBA. The chapter is seeking banquet prizes, and assistance in soliciting commercial donors, see related section further below for details.

The Trout-in-the-Classroom (TIC) release event at Fox Bluff in May was a huge success. Thank you to our TIC committee for their fine efforts. Our TIC program will be ratcheting up this year with the addition of one or two new schools, including Elgin Math and Science Academy in Elgin.



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 trout at Fox Bluff is in need of minor repairs. We are seeking volunteers. Please email 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.

This month's meeting speaker will be Tim Flagler, presenting "An Intro to Euro-Nymphing". Tim is a well-known fly tying instructor. His YouTube channel,

practicalpatterns.com currently has over 118,000 subscribers and 38 million views. In addition, he has a regular column “Beginner’s Masterclass with Tim Flagler” in Fly Tyer magazine, which selected Tim as their “Fly Tyer of the Year” in their Winter 2022 issue.

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 7:00 PM, preceded by a chapter business discussion.

In-Person Chapter Meeting Remote Participation Details

Participate via web browser or Zoom app:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81398324744?pwd=iG5ieNMEJFyPweLO8Lxb8RctPW1QkY.1>

Meeting ID: 813 9832 4744

Passcode: 417359

Participate by phone (one tap for mobile): +13126266799,,81398324744#,,, *417359#

Participate by phone (manual dial): +1 312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 813 9832 4744

Passcode: 417359

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@leewulfft.org.

Please track your volunteer hours and report volunteer hours to treasurer by 4/10/2025 at treasurer@leewulfft.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 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.

Conservation Sweepstakes Tickets on Sale



Protect, conserve, and win!

Tickets for our chapter's annual conservation sweepstakes are now on sale. 100% of net proceeds support the chapter's conservation fund which in turn helps the chapter protect and conserve the places you love to fish, and also helps fund the installation of stiles, giving you easy

access to many of the best Wisconsin Driftless Area streams. It's a win-win situation!

Don't delay, [get your tickets today!](#)

This year's prizes:

- Orvis Helios rod/reel/line package (winner picks from D or F series, and picks weight)
- Box of 50 flies hand-tied and curated for Driftless streams by chapter member Bob Olach, plus a signed copy of "Bob Olach's Flies" book
- Caddis Sports Navigator EX Fisherman Float Tube

Don't miss your opportunity for a chance to win one of these great prizes while helping support the chapter's conservation efforts!

Chapter Fishing Outing, September 26-29



The LWTU fall outing will be held September 26-29, 2024 in the Westby/Viroqua area. This is a great time of year for fishing terrestrial flies as trout try to fatten up for winter. The Driftless area has hundreds of miles of productive trout waters, and we'll be staying right smack in the middle of it! This outing is a final chance to fish the Driftless before the Wisconsin trout season closes on October 15.

As for previous outings, we will have group accommodations available at [Logan Mill Lodge](#). The lodge owner, Ruth Rupp, has once again given us a discount lodging rate “because you do service work on our trout streams” (her words). Single occupancy accommodations are \$75 per night, and a shared room with two twin beds will be \$100/night split between the two occupants. Space is limited, so if you are interested, contact the Outings Coordinator at outings@leewulfftu.org and reserve a space. Payment for the lodging will be due in advance of the outing, as we need to pay the full amount upon arrival at the lodge.

For those staying at the lodge who wish to partake of shared coffee and cold breakfast supplies (fruit, cereal, pastries, juice, etc), an optional surcharge of \$5 per night will be due along with the lodging payment.

Group dinners will be arranged at the Olde Town supper club as has been the case in the past. When you contact the Outings Coordinator to join the outing group list, please let him know which evenings you would like to have dinner with the other anglers. Each attendee will be responsible for his own dinner expense.

Please contact the outings coordinator via email at outings@leewulfftu.org at your earliest convenience to reserve your place at this final Chapter outing of 2024!

Newcomers, please note that outings provide an opportunity for you to be paired up with an experienced angler familiar with the local waters. With all the available streams in the Driftless area, it can be intimidating at first, but don't let that stop you from joining the fun! Outings are a blast and not to be missed!

Seeking December Chapter Banquet Prizes



On December, 7th 2024 the Lee Wulff chapter of Trout Unlimited will be hosting the annual holiday banquet and fundraiser at [Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation](#). Further details TBA.

Until then, 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. You can also bring items to chapter meetings for handoff.

We are also looking for members to assist in soliciting donations from commercial donors. Please contact Scott Lammers at 1-312-206-5189 or banquet@leewulfftu.org for a list of past commercial donors and a paperwork toolkit to help get you started.



Upcoming Chapter Events

- Monthly Chapter Meeting (Speaker: Tim Flagler via Zoom) - Thursday, September 19, 2024, 6:00 PM
- Fall Outing - September 26-29, 2024 (Viroqua/Westby)
- Volunteer Event - Dundee-Crown High School "Get Out of Your Head Day" - 1500 Kings Rd, Carpentersville, IL 60110 - Thursday, October 3, 2024 approx. 1:45 PM to 3:00 PM (click [here](#) to RSVP via email)
- Monthly Chapter Meeting - Thursday, October 17, 2024, 6:00 PM
- Volunteer Event - MCCD's "Tying Flies with TU" - Prairieview Education Center, 2112 Behan Rd, Crystal Lake, IL 60014 - Wednesday, October 23, 2024 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM (click [here](#) to RSVP via email)
- Monthly Chapter Meeting - Thursday, November 21, 2024, 6:00 PM
- Chapter Holiday Banquet - Saturday, December 7, 2024, time TBD
- Monthly Chapter Meeting - Thursday, January 16, 2025, 6:00 PM

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



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 SB3669/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. [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. [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](#) and [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/>

Watch TU Taking Action in Washington, D.C.

Watch Chris Wood, TU President, present testimony, with a focus on the importance of abandoned mine cleanup, at a Public Lands, Forests, and Mining Subcommittee Hearing relating to 118th Congress Bill [S.1281](#) (Mining Regulatory Clarity Act of 2023) at 00:53:39 [here](#).

Bob Olach's Fly of the Month: **John Turton's
Hawthorn Fly**



In his book, Turton had something like 69 different fly dressings, including a dressing called “*The Hawthorn Fly.*”

Turton’s original dressing is quite simple:

“4. HACKLE. Hawthorn Fly. For March and April : made with black silk ; body, black ostrich's herl ; legs, black hen, from neck ; wing, lightest or bottom part of a starling's quill feather ; sometimes in summer, red legs. In May, use the jay's wing quill feather for wing : this will be the Black Caterpillar Fly. In June, the sea-swallow's feather, for wing, makes it the Black Ant Fly.”

The dressing shown below is what I used to tie the flies that are pictured. But with the popularity of pink colored flies, using a pink ostrich herl instead of black might make an “*interesting*” variation. Also, since the ostrich here can easily be broken by a trout, coating the thread body with head cement (before wrapping the ostrich here) might be a good idea, eh?

DRESSING

- Hook:** Daiichi #1550 wet fly hook (sizes 14 - 16)
- Thread:** Black Danville or Uni-Thread 6/0
- Body;** Black Ostrich Herl
- Ribbing:** Extra Small Gold Wire (Optional)
- Hackle:** Black Hen
- Wing:** Light Starling Quill (slips or bunched and folded)



Grumpy's Page by Kurt Haberl

Outside the shower house at the stream side campground where we usually set up in a beautiful savannah of oaks, willows, and pines, there is a spigot with a hose attached for fishers to wash off their waders and boots. Schnoz and I were there at the last campout when two good-natured fly-fishers from Missouri stopped by in their newer SUV with a long, aluminum rod carrier atop their car. It looked like the rod rack cost more than the rods Schnoz and I used, but their other gear, waders and boots, were well-used, so these were not newbies. My old car was parked next to theirs after a tough day where we caught one fish each. I drove because Schnoz's hearse was out of commission again. This time Schnoz said the atomizer sprang a leak and the flux capacitor had quit flux capacitating.

To trout fishers, a hose for washing boots and waders is at least as good for gathering as a water cooler in a business.

"We heard about this area online," the taller Missouri man said. "Lordy, what beautiful streams there are up here."

"We own them," Schnoz said.

"What?" the shorter one said incredulously.

"Not us personally," I explained. "The law in this state reads that flowing water resources belong to the people, you know, like 'We, the people' and as long as there is access and you stay in the stream, you're not trespassing on someone's land. A lot of farmers cooperate by granting the DNR access and get paid for it. They also get free stream improvement and bank stabilization, even re-construction after a flood sometimes, mostly from money that comes from fishing licenses."

"That's amazing," the tall one said.

"What else have you heard?" I asked. "I wonder what's online."

"Well, the fish are not usually large. A wild twelve-incher is a decent fish. There are a lot of them and they are very skittish. You have to be careful about stalking them."

"That's true," Schnoz said. "We've become experts, and even then..."

I looked at Schnoz and wondered what the hell he was talking about. Most of the fish we catch are because they feel sorry for us, and our flailing and stumbling usually gives them plenty of warning, but they don't seem to care. It's like they tell each other, "Oh, yeah, Grumpy and Schnoz are back. Meh."

“Yeah,” said the short guy. “We also heard there’s some trout bum up here who has turned a hearse into a fishmobile. Can you imagine?”

“Yeah,” Schnoz said. “But I hear he’s a nice guy and really knows how to catch trout.”

“Out of a hearse?” the short guy said.

“Yes,” I said. “He’s pretty odd, but I hear he’s harmless. And he’s old. Real old.”

“No, he isn’t,” Schnoz said. “I hear he’s in his prime. There are guys up here who follow him around to see what he does, and they learn a lot.”

“I’d like to see that, a row of cars following the hearse to get fishing tips. It would look just like a funeral,” said the tall guy.

“I haven’t seen anyone following the hearse,” I said, “but I hear the guy’s friend has started documenting every crazy thing the guy does. I heard the crazy guy wanted to cover all levels of the water column so he tied on a heavy bead head scud and then three droppers with nymphs, then two droppers with emergers, and then on top three more droppers with an Adams, a caddis, and a grasshopper.”

“Did it work?” asked the shorter guy.

“For one cast,” I said.

“What did he catch?” asked the taller guy.

“Well,” I said, “I heard he snagged a rock, two sticks, a leaf that was floating by, and two willow branches hanging over the bank. He lost nine flies in one cast.”

I saw that Schnoz was getting angry and red-faced, but before the Missouriians could do more than chuckle, another car pulled up at the cleaning station. Ghost Mary and Allie Vargas got out, and we introduced them to the Missouriians.

Then Allie, always the friendliest of any camper said, “Hey, Schnoz, you promised me a ride in the hearse. Could we fish together tomorrow?”

The Missouriians looked from Schoz to me and then back at Schnoz before laughing out loud.

“What are you talking about?” Schnoz said.

“Your hearse. You promised me a ride at the last outing.”

“He can’t,” I said. “It’s in the shop. Something about a leaky atomizer and broken flux capacitor.”

The Missourians looked at each other and laughed again.

“Flux capacitor?” the tall one asked. “Um, that ought to be under warranty. Not sure about the atomizer, but I’ve worked on a lot of cars, and I’ve never heard of a flux capacitor going out.”

“Me neither,” said the short guy. “I own a dealership back home, and if a flux capacitor goes out, we’d replace it, no questions asked.”

“Really?” I said.

“Sure. Show me a broken flux capacitor on any model of any car and I’ll replace it for free, including labor.”

Ghost Mary looked like she was about to say something, but then thought better of it.

“You know,” said the tall guy, “we made a big mistake. “We’re staying at a motel in town, but we should have been camping the whole time out here with y’all. I mean, fishing is fishing, but sometimes that doesn’t compare with hanging out with a group like you all have put together. One night around the campfire would have been worth the trip.”

He was right. Fishing is fishing, but one night around a campfire with the likes of Schnoz, Ghost Mary, Allie Vargas, Wet Curtis, Roy the Plumber, Dewey, and Calamity John, is better than, well, all the atomizers and flux capacitors in Missouri. Sometimes it takes a couple of outsiders to remind you how lucky you are on a day during which you caught one fish.

Upcoming Non-Chapter Events

- [Iowa Driftless Classic \(IDC\)](#) - September 14th
- [IF4](#) 2024 screenings in the area:
 - [Glendale, WI](#) - Sep 24th
 - [Wilmette, IL](#) - November 12th
- [2024 Women Connect Driftless Rendezvous](#) - Whalan, MN - October 7-13
- [2024 TU Virtual Annual Meeting](#) - Online - October 16th
- [Fly Fishing Film Tour](#) (F3T) 2024 screenings in the area:
 - TBA
- *Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing* (PHWFF) - Ongoing (click [here](#) to get involved)
- *Fly tying with NIFTY*
- [Illinois RiverWatch](#) - Attend a training workshop to become a RiverWatch community scientist. Learn to monitor water quality in your local streams by conducting habitat and biological surveys. This event will teach you how to collect information about stream habitats, collect and identify macroinvertebrates (water bugs), and how to determine stream quality based on what you collect.
- 2025 TU Annual Members Meeting and CX3 event - St. Paul, MN - September 24-28, 2025

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

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 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!