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President's Message

Dear LWTU Chapter Members,

Please join us at our next monthly chapter meeting, with special Skills Fair program, at [Village Pizza & Pub](#) (145 N John F. Kennedy Dr, Carpentersville, IL 60110 location) on Thursday, November 16th, 2023 with social hour starting at 6:00 PM (additional meeting details, including presentation information, included below). Consider joining us even if you live further out, tollway access is relatively convenient. And guests are always welcome so be sure to invite your interested friends and family members.



Our annual holiday banquet will take place on the evening of Saturday, December 2nd, 2023 at Max McGraw. Meal tickets are available for purchase [online](#), in-person at the November 16th meeting, and by mail. Check/watch your email for further details. If you have any prizes to donate to the chapter for the upcoming holiday banquet please contact Scott Lammers at ScottLammers1@aol.com or 312-206-5189. And please consider bringing prize donations with you to the November 16th meeting. Your prize donations are most appreciated. A special slideshow will be playing at the banquet, please email up to five photos to rscottroane@gmail.com for consideration, we will include as many photos as is practical.

Although the [Wisconsin inland trout fishing](#) season is now closed until January, the [Iowa trout fishing](#) season remains open all year (and Iowa fairly uniquely allows dispersed camping on the banks of trout waters in some state-managed areas), and the [Illinois](#) trout season is still open with Pine Creek within [White Pines Forest State Park](#) and Apple River within [Apple River Canyon State Park](#) being great places to try your luck for remaining stockers (a chapter member reported seeing [rainbows and palominos](#) (golden rainbows) recently so they have not yet all been caught).

And this is the time to fish great lake tributaries for big chinook, coho, steelhead, and brown trout. Rain drives fish into the tributaries...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](#)



Milwaukee River

The chapter has a nice variety of flotation equipment for sale. All proceeds from sales are deposited directly into chapter accounts. Please see the flier at the end of this newsletter for further details.

The chapter's conservation committee plans to install two new stiles along [Bishop Branch Creek](#) next year during a chapter outing, adding to our [extensive network of existing stiles](#) (where there are [stiles](#), there generally is high quality trout habitat nearby). Also, a few existing stiles may receive repair/upgrade treatment this fall or winter. Watch the [chapter website](#) for final details about 2024 chapter outings and the opportunity to help install stiles. Tentative dates for 2024 outings are:

- April 18-21 (Viroqua/Westby)
- May 16-19 (Fennimore)
- Late September, 2024 (Viroqua/Westby)

We expect to again partner with MCCD in the spring of 2024 for more fly tying and/or public fishing events. We will be seeking volunteers for such events. Stay tuned for details.

We are also looking for volunteers to help host a chapter table at Cabela's in Hoffman Estates on March 16th & 17th, 2024 from 11a-3p during their Spring Fishing Classic Conservation Weekend event. Please email prez@leewulfftu.org if you are interested in helping out.

Our annual [Trout in the Classroom](#) (TIC) program is underway, with two classrooms participating this year. Our TIC classrooms will again be rearing brook trout after a year of shifting to rainbows (due to triploid brook trout egg sourcing issues in 2022). Chapter equipment was installed at North Elementary School in Crystal Lake on October 9th. If you know any teachers who might be interested in the TIC program for future years please have them send an email to tic@leewulfftu.org.

Weekly fly tying sessions resume Tuesday, January 9th at Village Pizza & Pub in Carpentersville. For more information or to sign up contact Jerry Sapp at sapp375@aol.com or 847-284-4824. (Recordings of select past sessions are [available on YouTube](#).)

The Sycamore Tree program intended to help mitigate [the effects of climate change on coldwater fisheries](#) is progressing, with seeds collected and sold to Wisconsin DNR's Wilson State Forest Nursery in Boscobel in 2022 germinating at better than anticipated rates. Plans to plant seedlings along streams in Wisconsin, and eventually perhaps along Illinois waterways on private land as well, are coming to fruition. These fast-growing high-canopy bank-stabilizing trees will provide trout streams with much needed shade as climate change continues to impact stream temperatures. This program is getting a lot of attention and may expand to additional conservation groups.

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.



This month's chapter meeting program will be a Skills Fair. Chapter members will be setting up various stations to share their skills. Be sure to take advantage of this special opportunity, ideal for both beginners and experts. Some highlights will be:

- Fly fishing equipment basics (including economical options)
- Tools and resources for finding places to fish in Wisconsin
- Fishing the Milwaukee River for BIG salmon, steelhead & brown trout
- Fly tying
- Fly fishing resources & opportunities for women

(Recordings of select past meeting programs are [available on YouTube](#).)

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. **For the November meeting, the main program (Skills Fair) will not be available via Zoom due to its multi-station hands-on nature, but Zoom participation will be available for the chapter business discussion portion of the meeting.**

In-Person Chapter Meeting Remote Participation Details

Participate via web browser or Zoom app:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2531998153?pwd=YlJHZDFiZEhYeGJRdzNVSytselZPZz09&omn=82372152310>

Meeting ID: 253 199 8153

Passcode: Leewulff

Participate by phone (one tap for mobile): +13126266799,,2531998153#,,, *41216694#

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

Meeting ID: 253 199 8153

Passcode: 41216694

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, they are both, as usual, very special installments. I thank them both kindly for their continued contributions over the years.

And lastly, here are some interesting articles related to positive progress in the area of coldwater fishery conservation that might interest you:

- [U.S. regulators to review car-tire chemical](#)
- [eDNA study offers compelling evidence that culvert replacement benefits salmon, steelhead and trout](#)

Have a great Thanksgiving!

Tight Lines,

Brent Burval

Take Action

Illinois House Bill 1568

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

Clean Water Act

A new common-sense rule to reinstate important Clean Water Act protections for small streams and wetlands is facing [renewed opposition](#). A new definition of the “Waters of the United States” (WOTUS) would improve the rivers, streams, and wetlands we care so much about, and protect the health of watersheds we work so hard to conserve. It is based on sound science (and common sense): If we pollute upstream reaches, we put our downstream waters at risk. [Reach out to your congressional representatives today and urge them to defend a strong Clean Water Act](#) that protects America’s rivers, streams, and trout and salmon.

Help Defend Michigan’s Public Recreational Fishing Facilities

Michigan’s fish are held in public trust by the State and are required to be managed sustainably for the optimal benefit of all citizens of the State today and in the future. Predominantly, they have been managed to provide all citizens equal access to them, and

those citizens purchase a recreational fishing license for this privilege, which provides the funding necessary for them to be managed sustainably. [Michigan House Bill 5108](#) proposes granting commercial fishing businesses rights to public resources for the purpose of profiting from the sale of these resources. [Michigan residents can voice their opposition here](#).

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

I Wish I Could Remember the Name of this Fly

My Oncologist calls it “*Chemo Brain*” although it's probably just a combination of the chemo and old age taking it's course! (Hopefully, I haven't written about this dressing in the recent past!)

But as I was looking through my my fly boxes and photo library pics, I saw this fly. At first glance, I thought it might be the “*Hardy's Favourite*” but the Hardy's Favourite uses Golden Pheasant Tippetts for the tails and a dark brown (aka in the UK - red) hackle.

Although I have tied these as a soft hackle, changing the hackle and tail fathers from hen to a rooster can easily be done. The iridescence of the peacock herl body and the bright red floss ribbing adds to the fly's attractiveness / allure. Tie up a few this winter and be ready when the season reopens in a few months.



I Wish I Could Remember the Name of This Fly

Hook:	Daiichi #1550 or 1530 wet fly hooks – sizes 12 - 16
Thread:	Danville 6/0 or 8/0 in Red
Body:	Four or five strands of green peacock herl
Ribbing:	Red floss
Head:	Red tying thread
Hackle & Tail:	Medium to dark hen or rooster hackle



Grumpy's Page by Kurt Haberl

One of the things I like about trout fishing besides the beautiful streams, meditative states when catching fish, meditative states when not catching fish, the lure of new gear, the appreciation of old gear, and the store of knowledge we've acquired over generations, is that trout are generally predictable. I know runs where there will always be fish. They may not always be feeding, but they are there. I know that trout will take certain flies under certain conditions, and when that happens, I feel rewarded for my expertise. When it comes to the predictability of humans...uh...not so much. For example, how much fun is it to feel the energetic throb and pull on the end of your line as a trout darts and runs until you finally bring it to hand for admiration and release? How aggravating is that same energetic throb and pull at the end of a leash when you're walking your dog? I'm not saying humans are crazy - um, yes, I'm saying humans are crazy. Take our chapter's last Newbie Outing as an example. Once a year, we plan a three-day outing in which older, experienced members are paired with new fishers to go out and learn about streams, casting, flies, and everything we can teach to make them successful. It's a great tradition.

On our last outing, I made a terrible mistake. The morning coffee was so good I had an extra mug which resulted in an extra trip to the shower house facilities, and when I got back to the campsite, I saw that all the old members had paired up with newbies in my absence, loaded their gear, and headed out in a long line of gravel-crunching cars towards favorite streams. The last newbie sat at the picnic table with his gear, a smile, and eager expression which said, "I am happy as a clam because I am the luckiest guy in the world."

Tommy Turner. How could anyone not like Tommy Turner? He had the excited, earnest face of a beagle. He repeated everything you said to him to be sure he got it. He laughed even at Schnoz's worst jokes. He said the grilled hot dogs and beans we ate for lunch were the best he ever had. But wait, there's more. I was paired with him last year on the same outing, and he showed up on an eighty degree day in neoprene waders, a ten-foot, eight weight salmon rod, a two weight Medalist reel, braided bait casting line, a braided tarpon leader with a shock tippet, and some flies he bought at a gas station on the way to the campground. Except for the waders, I set him up with my gear. Five leaders, eight tippets, and a dozen pheasant tails later, he caught a four-inch brookie with a hook set appropriate for a six pound bass that sent the brookie into the weeds behind us. I managed to retrieve the poor fish for a dozen pictures, and we let it go. That day lasted eight hours or forty-eight, depending on how much I chose to remember. Tommy repeated everything I told him and narrated everything else. I've never seen a man so happy for so long. People are crazy. That was last year. This year I saw him alone at the picnic table after everyone else had left.

"You missed it," Tommy said this year as I approached the picnic table with a mixture of dread and a self-reminder that it would probably be only eight hours of jabber, some lost gear, and maybe one fish.

"Missed what?"

"There was almost a fight. I've never seen that with trout bums. Everybody but me wanted to ride in Schnoz's hearse. They were arguing and taking pictures next to it, and they finally ended the disagreement with Schnoz taking five others with him, including Dewey, Roy the plumber, and three newbies. I feel sorry for the trout."

"People are crazy," I said.

"That's one of the things I like about them," Tommy said.

"Is that your gear?" I said, pointing to an oversized hot pink Rubbermaid tub. Without the lid, it could have served as a garden plot.

"Yep," he said. "I got some new stuff."

"Great," I said, thinking he probably meant red and white striped waders bought on Christmas clearance, a Tankara rod with an automatic reel taped to it, a dozen or so stream side bug books, a life jacket, and a couple of survival kits with space blankets. We wedged his pink coffin into the back seat of my car and took off.

"I'm thinking today we go for quantity rather than quality," I said. "There's a meadow stream without too many trees or snags called Gimpy's Run with riffles and decent runs and a lot of trout. They're small, mostly eight inches, but we can usually get a dozen or so."

"Perfect," Tommy said. "I'm excited." If he'd had a tail, it would have been wagging in a blur.

When we got there, I went through my usual routine of stringing up a rod and then struggling into waders. Tommy got out of the car and wandered off across the narrow meadow. I didn't know if he was gathering daisies, looking for grasshoppers or or composing poetry, but he came back a few minutes later with his usual big smile like someone had just given him a chocolate bar.

"Find anything?" I said.

"Maybe. I saw a few caddis coming off the water, but also a few blue wing olives. It might be a complex hatch. Not many risers, so I think the hatch may have just started. I think I'm going to begin with a deer hair caddis, maybe a 14, and then put a BWO emerger on my tippet ring."

“Tippet ring?” I said.

“Yes. I found that if I tie a little stiffer tippet material on a tippet ring and don’t false cast, I don’t tangle as much with a dropper and get better hook sets than putting a dropper at the bend of a dry.”

That was the beginning of a long series of jaw drops. After that, I saw he had packed very expensive breathable waders and boots and rigged a four piece rod with an appropriate reel.

“What’s that?” I asked.

“Well, there aren’t many trees here, so I’m using my 10 foot, 2 weight nymphing rod. It also works well casting a dry and dropper, and it’s great for small trout. With trees around I use my 4 weight, 8 footer with a really slow action so I can put the fly where I want.”

After rigging up, he stretched his leader and twenty feet of fly line, clipped a wading staff to his belt, put on sunscreen, tied on a beautifully constructed caddis and CDC emerger, put a trout-themed buff around his neck, adjusted his amber glasses, and checked the pockets of a bulging vest.

At the stream, I watched as he worked an undercut bank first, then shuffled slowly out to a drop-off below a riffle. The first of many fish came on the dropper, but soon he was taking fish on both the dry and the dropper. (Jaw drop 2)

After four fish, he changed the dropper to something that looked like a Klinkhammer, and worked his way across stream. He was careful to wet his hands for each fish, keep it mostly in the water, and check his knots before casting again. At most, he made one false cast.

“So, Tommy, who taught you how to fly fish?” I said.

“You did.”

“No, I didn’t. I taught you how to lob a nymph out under a strike indicator and how to yank your first fish into the meadow behind us so we had to search for it in the grass.”

“Oh,” he said. “Well, uh, Youtube. I spent the winter watching everything I could on fly fishing videos, usually one right after another. I started with flies, then worked my way up the line to tippets, tippet rings, kinds of leaders, lines and reels. I’m actually using a kind of Skagit line now. I’ll show you.”

With practiced ease, he let the line drift below him, took his rod in two hands, brought a length of line upstream of him, made a sweeping “D” in front of him, and executed a

graceful spey cast directly across stream. If there had been a tree behind him, it wouldn't have mattered. (Jaw drop 3)

That's how the morning went. We caught a lot of fish. We talked about using sighters rather than wool or foam indicators, about Euro-nymphing, about twitching nymphs, about skittering caddis, about timing a cast with a dry fly, about adjusting drift angles, about fishing along the bottom when all else fails. (Jaw drops 4, 5, and 6) We caught a lot of fish.

After we had leapfrogged our way up nearly a mile of stream, we put on tandem soft hackles and drifted our way back down and across. We caught a lot of fish. Ironically, that's when I was reminded that trout fishing isn't all about the fish. When I watched Tommy, I was reminded of something else, something bigger. In a world with so much unpredictability, struggles, family issues, health setbacks, and friends fighting over who gets a ride in a converted hearse, when I watched Tommy, I got hope. If he could do what he did that morning, there is hope for the rest of us. About anything.

Back at camp, our friends were arguing again, trading Newbies and calling dibs on streams. "What about you?" Wet Curtis asked me after they had mostly sorted themselves out.

"I'm going with Tommy again tomorrow."

"But..." Wet Curtis said with great kindness, "you don't have to keep-

"I'm going with Tommy," I said. When you see something big, keep watching it.

Upcoming Non-Chapter Events

- [EDTU Annual Holiday Fundraising Dinner](#) - December, 5th, 2023
- [Montana Fishing Film Festival](#) Screening
 - Orvis - Lombard, IL - January, 2024
- Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing - Ongoing (click [here](#) to get involved, and check out [these related photos](#) posted by a chapter member)



FOR SALE

Help support LWTU conservation efforts through purchase

For more information, email Jerry Sapp
at sapp375@aol.com or call 847-284-4824



Buck's Bags South Fork Pontoon Boat (2 available) - \$250 OBO Each



Nessmuk XL Kevlar/Hybrid 11'-10" Solo Featherweight 24 lb Canoe - \$1,500 OBO (\$2,595 MSRP)



Caddis Sports Nevada Fisherman Float Tube - \$150 OBO



Caddis Sports Navigator EX Fisherman Float Tube- \$150 OBO



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Hemlock Canoe Works

Price List

Effective 2/8/2023

NESSMUK

10' 6" Solo Feather-weight Canoe

- * Kevlar /Hybrid hull (17 lbs.) **\$1895.00**
Gel-coat finish (Standard colors)
Ash trim, solid gunwales, scuppered Walnut decks, Minicel seat pad
- * Premium+ hull (15 lbs.) **\$2095.00**
Gel-coat finish (Standard colors)
Ash trim, solid gunwales, scuppered Walnut decks,
Bottom mounted cane or web seat
- * LiteTech hull (13 lbs.) **\$2295.00**
Skin-coat finish (Clear, red, Green)
Ash trim, Solid gunwales, scuppered Butternut decks,
Bottom mounted cane or web seat

NESSMUK x/

11' 10" Solo Feather-weight Canoe

- * Kevlar /Hybrid hull (24 lbs.) **\$2595.00**
Gel-coat finish (Standard colors)
Ash trim, Solid gunwales, scuppered Walnut decks, Minicel seat pad
- * Premium+ hull (22 lbs.) **\$2795.00**
Gel-coat finish (Standard colors)
Ash trim, Slotted inwales, Walnut decks,
Bottom mounted cane or web seat
- * LiteTech hull (19 lbs.) **\$2995.00**
Skin coat finish, (Clear, Red, Green)
Ash trim, slotted inwales, Spruce outwales, Butternut decks,
Bottom mounted cane or web seat



Buck's Bags South Fork Pontoon Boat

Description:

The Southfork is the most rugged and stylish 8' pontoon boat on the market today! It is designed with both performance and economy in mind. From day trips down your favorite trout stream to fishing a mountain lake, this boat covers all the bases.

The rotary-welded pontoon covers have 18oz. PVC coated polyester on top and 22oz. material on the bottom where most abrasions occur. The bladder is 100% polyurethane.

The stainless- steel frame is amazingly strong and corrosion resistant and offers adjustable footrest and oar placement.

Other standard features include:

- 6' aluminum breakdown oars with molded rubber oar-stops.
- Roomy weatherproof storage pockets.
- A large rear cargo deck and an effective stripping apron.
- 5-year warranty

The Southfork has a proven track record over many years and remains the industry's finest 8' pontoon boat.

Weight Capacity: 325lbs

Inflated size = 96" Long x 55" Wide

Shipping size = 48" x 24" x 10"

Shipping Weight = 45lbs.



Caddis Sports Nevada Fisherman Float Tube

The U-shape is a great design for water. Its size and shape enhance stability and maneuverability. The Nevada is a great tube for fishermen. It includes extra-large storage compartments, a fly patch to hold your flies, a stripping apron to strip your fly line on, and of course, a printed measurement so you can determine exactly how long that big fish is!

Nevada Features:

- DOUBLE STITCHED ON CRITICAL SEAMS
- TWO MAIN EQUIPMENT POCKETS
- HEAVY DUTY RIP STOP MATERIAL
- CUSTOM, VINYL, U-SHAPE MAIN BLADDER
- IMPROVED, WIDE NYLON COATED, ALL MESH
- BACKREST BLADDER
- WORKING AND STRIPPING APRON
- FLUORESCENT SAFETY ACCENTS
- PADDED STABILIZER BAR
- FRONT ROD HOLDER
- MULTIPLE D-RINGS
- CUSTOM OVERSIZED SEAT
- DRY FLY PATCH
- STORAGE/CARRYING HANDLES
- MAX. WEIGHT CAPACITY: 225 LBS



Caddis Sports Navigator EX Fisherman Float Tube

Enjoy a relaxing afternoon on the lake catching fish with the Caddis Sports Navigator EX Fisherman Float Tube. This pontoon-shaped float is an excellent choice for any avid tube fisherman. It is strong and durable, made with a heavy-duty ripstop material. The Caddis tube is equipped with two pockets for storing equipment and a backrest for extra comfort. It also has a carry handle included for easy transporting. The tube float is designed with a padded stabilizer bar and 58" long pontoons with bladders included. Made with double stitching on critical seams, the tough construction should avoid ripping and tearing. This float boat tube is also constructed with a nylon stripping apron and a cup holder for added convenience.

Caddis Sports Navigator EX Features:

- Excellent float tube for any serious tube fisherman
- Heavy-duty ripstop material
- Standard pontoon-style float
- Caddis tube equipped with 2 pockets and a backrest
- Main U-shape back support
- Padded stabilizer bar
- Nylon stripping apron with cup holder
- Double stitched on critical seams

Chapter Officers

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