



## **In This September 2023 Issue**

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## **President's Message**

Dear Fellow Chapter Members,

Please join us at our next monthly chapter meeting at [Village Pizza & Pub in Carpentersville](#) on Thursday, September 21st, 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 our annual holiday banquet will take place on the evening of Saturday, December 2nd, 2023 at Max McGraw. Check your email for invitations and additional details, and please R.S.V.P. accordingly.

Cooler fall weather has finally arrived. The [Wisconsin](#) inland trout fishing season closes on October 15th, the bite is picking up after a dry hot summer, get out there and fish before it's too late! And the [Illinois](#) catch-and-release trout season runs from Saturday, October 7th through Friday the 20th, 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 (catch-and-keep opens Saturday the 21st).



Apple River

The chapter's fall outing in Westby, WI earlier this month was loads of fun. Fishing and stile building were both very productive. Two stiles were installed by our chapter members with assistance from Gary Borger TU chapter members, adding to our [extensive network of existing stiles](#) (where there are [stiles](#), there generally is high quality trout habitat nearby). Many thanks to all of those who pitched in, including the friendly donkey we first met in 2022. Watch the [chapter website](#) for yet-to-be-posted details about 2024 chapter outings and the opportunity to help install stiles.



2023 Fall Outing Stile 1 of 2



Some 2023 Fall Outing Volunteers

Thanks to all who contributed to our chapter's 2023 conservation sweepstakes, nearly \$4,000 was raised which will go a long way in supporting the chapter's many conservation efforts, including materials for stile building. And congratulations to our prize winners!

We are seeking volunteers for upcoming community fishing events and programs. See the Community Fishing Events & Programs section of this newsletter further below for more information.

Our annual Trout in the Classroom (TIC) program is gearing up, with two classrooms planned this year as we regrow our program with the help of both experienced and new chapter volunteers. With a focus on successful outcomes to give schoolchildren the best possible TIC experience, members of our chapter's TIC committee recently met with the fisheries experts at Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation who generously gave us their time and shared several helpful suggestions on rearing fish in a classroom environment. And we are looking forward to hearing from our star TIC teacher, Beth, who will be speaking at our October monthly meeting about her TIC experiences over the years.

The Sycamore Tree program, brainchild of chapter member Jerry Sapp, is progressing very well, 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 Illinois waterways as well, are coming to fruition. These fast growing trees will provide trout streams with much needed shade as climate change continues to impact stream temperatures.



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 speaker will be Jeffery Reinke, speaking about the [Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing](#) (PHWFF) programs. PHWFF began in 2005 serving wounded military service members at Walter Reed Army Medical Center returning from combat in Iraq and Afghanistan. Since then, PHWFF has expanded nationwide, establishing its highly successful program in Department of Defense hospitals, Warrior Transition Units, and Veterans Affairs Medical Centers and clinics.

(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.

#### In-Person Chapter Meeting Remote Participation Details

Participate via web browser or Zoom app:

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

Meeting ID: 253 199 8153

Passcode: Leewulff

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

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

Meeting ID: 253 199 8153

Passcode: 41216694

Watch for chapter fly tying sessions to resume again later this year or early next year. (Recordings of select past sessions are [available on YouTube](#).)

The chapter is seeking volunteers to get involved in several committees, and to take on select club duties. Please email me at [prez@leewulfftu.org](mailto:prez@leewulfftu.org) if you'd like further information or are willing to volunteer. Thank you to those of you who are already volunteering.

Regards,

Brent Burval

# Community Fishing Events & Programs - Volunteers Needed!

Our chapter has a great opportunity to help get children and adults started in fly tying and fly fishing.

We need volunteers for the following upcoming events:

- [McHenry County Conservation District's \*Tying Flies with Trout Unlimited\*](#) - Help up to twelve children (6 and older) and adults with fly tying on Thursday, October 5th, 2023, 6:00 - 7:30 PM. at the [Prairieview Education Center, 2112 Behan Road, Crystal Lake, IL 60014.](#)

Please email at [volunteer@leewulfftu.org](mailto:volunteer@leewulfftu.org) if you are available to volunteer or interested in learning more.



# 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.

## 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

## *Starling Hackled Spiders (Variation)*

Almost 7 years ago, this write-up was in one of our Lee Wulff newsletters. While going through my fly boxes recently, it jogged my memory as to how many starling hackled flies I've tied and fished over the years. So, I thought it might be time to revise the old write-up and include it again in the September 2023 newsletter.

We see starlings virtually every day and many of us may think that the "*common starling*" is a bird that is native to North America.

In fact, the "*common starlings*" we see are not native to North America but, in fact, are descendants of the 60 European starlings released in New York City's Central Park in 1890 by a fellow named Eugene Schieffelin who imported the starlings from England and subsequently released another 40 more starling sometime in 1891.

Little did anyone realize that those 100 starlings would be the basis of the millions (billions?) of starlings now inhabiting the North American continent.

But, for fly tiers, this little bird can supply a treasure trove of small feathers to use as hackles for tying soft hackled / North Country spiders. One of the best things about starling is that a starling bird skin is very inexpensive !

In addition to using the natural-colored feathers, dyed starling skins and wings are available in various colors to take the place of endangered / controlled bird species such as the Dotterel, Blackbird, etc.

In "*Yorkshire Trout Flies*," T.E. Pritt has a dressing for a Starling Bloa and specifies starling wing quills and / or hackles in nine other North Country Spider dressings:

### **No. 51. STARLING BLOA**

*Hook O.*

*WINGS. Hackled, with the lightest feather from a young Starling's wing.*

*BODY. Straw-coloured silk. Some anglers prefer white silk.*

In Edmonds and Lee's book "*Brook and River Trouting*", starling feathers are used in the Spring Black, Broughton's Point / Dark Bloa, Dark Needle, Light Needle, Yellow-Legged Bloa, Dark Watchet / Iron Blue Dun, Dotterel, Pale Watery Dun and Light Silverhorn dressings.

Personally, I use starling feathers as hackles (both natural and dyed) in quite a few soft hackled dressings. Using various silk colors, dubbings, peacock herl, etc. a fly tier can have available quite a few different flies to match many conditions and hatches. If you don't have silk threads, synthetic threads from Danville and UNI can be used



**Hook** – Daiichi 1550 wet fly hook (sizes 14 – 16 – I used #14 for the above flies)

**Thread** – Pearsall Gossamer silks (various colors)

**Body** – Pearsall Gossamer silk (various colors)

**Dubbings** – Hare's Ear, Seal, African Goat, SLF, etc.

**Hackle** – Black, Green Black and Gray Starling wing and body feathers





## Grumpy's Page by Kurt Haberl

It was a sad, sad day. I remember the details distinctly. It was the morning of our next-to-last outing, a warm, humid August morning with the promise of a mid-morning hatch and some fine fishing. Bugs were everywhere, including some bugs that fish might eat. Schnoz and I had loaded our gear in the trunk, back seat, and front next to the console, and Schnoz had already climbed into the tight cockpit of his old fishmobile, arranged the cushion which protected his rear from the fraying remains of last year's padding, and looked at the floor to be sure nothing could fall through the rusted hole that had appeared some years before in the rocker panel. He inserted the key, turned it, and ... nothing. He turned it again. Even more nothing. He got out and made the mistake of opening the hood, the equivalent of covering a body with a sheet, and soon all our friends gathered for the final service.

"Dead battery," Ghost Mary said.

"Not even a click," Wet Curtis said. "It could also be the starter."

Roy the plumber, a specialist in gravity and fluids, got down on his knees to look under the front bumper, and said, "Uh oh. Oil is running out at about the rate of an 80-year-old man trying to pee."

"That's bad," I said.

"Worse than that," Roy said. "It's not leaking from the oil pan. It's coming from the engine block. There's probably a crack."

That's when we heard a pop, as one of Schnoz's old tires expired, followed by an unmistakable death rattle. In a minute, it was over.

At this point, I should insert an ode to Schnoz's fishmobile, that clanky, wheezing, loyal carriage that had conveyed us on too many adventures to count, through heat, and rain and sleet and snow, over dirt roads, gravel roads, and no roads. I should insert an ode, but I can't do it. First of all, I had forgotten its official name, all signs of its maker, including the dealer's sticker, long having fallen or rusted off. I would also hate to impugn the reputation of any American car maker who had manufactured a vehicle that went through alternators, gaskets, belts, and bearings the way other cars wore out wiper blades. Schnoz's driving habits, and the unpredictable terrain we explored in search of trout - did not help. Nevertheless, it had plugged along for so many years we thought it was possibly immortal, like an ugly Vulcan demi-god that could not die, except for parts like chrome, rubber window seals, antennae, hubcaps, and grill pieces that fell off. As a matter of fact, when Herbie came with his tow truck to pull the fishmobile away, he asked Wet Curtis to follow him in case any more parts like mufflers, tailpipes, fenders, or the drivetrain fell off and created a hazard in the road. Herbie was especially

concerned with the rear window, which rattled in its loose frame when Herbie hoisted the front end into towing position. He considered covering the car in a canvas sheet, but then he thought any part of the tarp flapping in the wind would just pull more parts off, and Herbie did not want to endure the shame of driving into his repair shop with nothing behind him but a bumper.

We all offered Schnoz our condolences, but it was a sad last night around the campfire. Out of deference to Schnoz and his loss, no one wanted to report on the great day of fishing they had experienced. The next day, Schnoz and I gathered up all our gear and piled it into Wet Curtis's spacious SUV, since he had graciously offered to drive us home.

It is a truism that whenever a door on one segment of life's great adventure closes, another one opens. The opening began when I heard Annie say into the phone as she passed me in the hall, "Oh, gawd, are you kidding?" A moment later, my phone rang, and Schnoz didn't wait for me to answer before blurting out, "Get over here right away. Prepare to be amazed."

"Oh, gawd, are you kidding?" I said.

He was not kidding. As I pulled on to Schnoz's street, I was happy to see no smoke, signs of fire, firetrucks, or police cars. Instead, Schnoz stood proudly beside the driver's door of a classic grey Cadillac, its gleaming, spotless finish, polished chrome, unbroken windows, shocking me into silence. I parked across the street, and when I got out to check out Schnoz's new fishmobile, I saw that he was standing beside more than a shiny, perfectly-maintained Cadillac. It was a hearse, complete with a gleaming, scrolled S on the Landau roof.

"Ta-da," Schnoz said.

I was struck dumb and heard only half of his excited narration about low mileage, never driven over 45, vacuumed, washed and waxed weekly, sold for a song, long enough to carry an assembled 10-foot nymphing rod, with bins for waders and vests and gear bags that slid out effortlessly on rollers already installed in the floor of the back. There was more, but I didn't hear any of it. Eventually, I regained the use of my tongue, voice and lips. When Schnoz paused to take a breath, I said, "But it's a hearse."

"Not anymore. It's our new fishmobile, and never has there been a vehicle more perfectly designed for our purposes. The storage area, smooth ride, and and comfort are unmatched. That's not all. It has air conditioning that works. Can you imagine?"

"But it's a hearse," I said.

"Exacto-mundo," he said. "And I haven't told you the best part. Do you know what happens when I drive the fishmobile through town or out on the highway? People pull off the road and let me pass. If we come up to other fishers at an access point on the

stream, I would not be surprised if they pack up their gear and leave - out of respect. If we park somewhere, no one will bother us, probably not even the police. It's perfect."

"But..."

"And look at this. Suppose there's a blinding storm or maybe we get lost on some back road trying to get back to camp, or maybe we just want to let our buddies know we're almost back at camp, so light the fire and put the steaks on. The fishmobile came with a magnetized flashing yellow light to put on the roof."

"Is that legal?"

There was a long pause before Schnoz said, "I think so. As long as it's not red or blue. Yellow just means 'caution.' I'm sure Chief Murphy will tell us eventually if it's not legal. By then we probably would have broken half a dozen other city ordinances they wrote just for us, so what would it matter? Don't you think Chief Murphy would be happy to let other drivers and bikers and such know that it's us passing by? You know - caution!"

How do you argue with a man whose brain cavity is filled mostly with ballast, and the rest is enlarged sinus?

And so Schnoz volunteered to drive to the last outing of the year before trout season closed. I suspected there would be more to report later. I mean, he bought a hearse for his new fishmobile.

## Upcoming Non-Chapter Events

- International Fly Fishing Film Festival ([IF4](#)) with nearby screenings. Visit the [IF4 website](#) for further details.
  - [Bavarian Bierhaus](#) - Glendale, WI - September 26, 2023
  - [Wilmette Theater, IL](#) - Wilmette, IL - November 7, 2023



# Chapter Officers

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