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## President's Message & Upcoming Chapter Events

Greetings fellow LWTU members,

I hope everyone had a great summer. **Welcome Back** to Lee Wulff TU for the 2025-2026 season. Please plan to join us for an exciting series of monthly programs, fishing outings, winter weekly fly tying, and our holiday banquet.

Our **September Monthly Meeting** will take place at [Village Pizza & Pub \(145 N John F. Kennedy Dr, Carpentersville, IL 60110\)](#) on Thursday, September 19th, 2024 with social hour starting at 6:00 PM. Our program will feature Darrell Toliver. Darrell is a fly casting instructor, rod ambassador, and industry rep. His program will cast a light on

how fly lines are made, their different configurations and their applications. Everything from the backing to the leader and reel advantages will be covered.

Our book exchange program will once again be available at select 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 prize-drawings! Tickets will be available to purchase at \$5 each. Consider joining us even if you live further out, tollway access is convenient.

Our **2025 Spring into the Season Conservation Sweepstakes** was a resounding success. Ticket sales totaled \$4,275 which will fund many of our conservation objectives this year. Ken Volin was the lucky winner of the grand prize - an Orvis Helios rod, reel, and line combo. John Wulff won the Charbroil electric smoker. Ralph Lessor, Michael Klopmeier, and Robert King each took home 2 dozen soft hackle flies tied by Bob Olach.

As autumn approaches, please consider joining our **2025 Fall Fishing Outing** in the Wisconsin Driftless. The outing will be based out of the Logan Mill Lodge in Westby WI from Thursday, October 2 till Sunday, October 5. The Fall Outing is a great opportunity to make new friends, explore pristine spring-fed streams, and enjoy the hopper bite. While you're in the area, be sure to our [extensive network of stiles](#). Remember, where there are stiles there are fish. See the Outings section below for additional details and email Ken Volin ([outings@leewulfftu.org](mailto:outings@leewulfftu.org)) to ask questions or RSVP.

After the outing, the **Wisconsin Inland Trout Season closes October 15**. Fishing the coulees ablaze with fall colors is an experience not to be missed. If you need to scratch an itch after that, remember that Iowa streams are open year round. There are many stretches of public access featuring less pressure than on the Wisconsin side.

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 by Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation. We're always seeking prizes for the fundraiser, so don't be shy. If you have a prize or two to donate, please contact Scott Lammers ([banquet@leewulfftu.org](mailto:banquet@leewulfftu.org)) and plan to bring it to an upcoming chapter meeting.

**Sad news** as Trout Unlimited lost two amazing leaders very recently - Wally Bock and Carol Murphy. Through the years Wally gave endless time and effort to both the Oak

Brook Chapter and the Illinois Council. Carol was the sitting president of Nohr Chapter TU and was the backbone of that chapter. Both will be sorely missed.

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 is in urgent need of volunteers to help set up and maintain tanks. Activities will begin later in the fall and continue through the winter. Please email me at [prez@leewulfft.org](mailto:prez@leewulfft.org) for further information.

### Upcoming Events

- September Chapter Meeting - Thursday, September 18 - Village Pizza
- Fall Driftless Outing - Thursday, October 2 through Sunday, October 5 - Westby WI
- 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

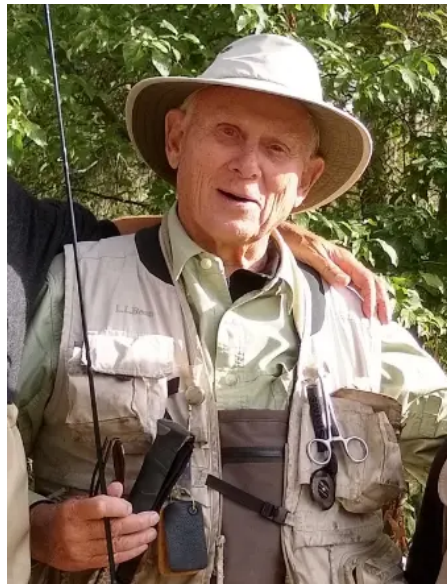
Do you have an idea for a **future speaker** or program? Please email [speakers@leewulfft.org](mailto:speakers@leewulfft.org).

Finally, we are always seeking **volunteers** to help out the chapter. Please email me at [prez@leewulfft.org](mailto:prez@leewulfft.org) for further information. Thank you to everyone that has already stepped up.

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

Tight Lines!!

Jonathan Culli



## A Tribute to John Bacon

Earlier this year, we lost our beloved John Bacon. John was a long time active member of Lee Wulff Chapter of Trout Unlimited, a talented fly angler, and a devoted friend to many of us.

John's love for coldwater fisheries and his unwavering dedication to their protection embodied the very spirit of Trout Unlimited's mission: *to conserve, protect, and restore North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds*. His efforts in founding and leading our chapter's conservation committee in the mid-2000s planted the seeds for meaningful and lasting impact. The success of the Elk Creek restoration project in Wisconsin — for which John helped raise over \$25,000 — stands as a testament to his vision, passion, and tireless work.

Thanks in large part to his leadership and generosity, the chapter's conservation fund continues to grow, enabling us to continue supporting vital restoration efforts. In recognition of John's extraordinary contributions, we have formally renamed this fund the **John Bacon Conservation Fund**. We can think of no more fitting tribute than to have his name forever tied to the ongoing protection of the waters and fisheries he loved so dearly.

John's legacy will live on not only in the streams he helped restore, but in the hearts of those he inspired.



# Bob Olach's Fly of the Month

## ***Black & Red Variant (Dry or Wet Fly)***

Awhile back, i saw a YouTube video of some flies that looked to be very simple to tie but seemed to be variations of other dressings, like the pictured *"Black & Red Variant"*.

This fly seemed to be part *"Red Ass,"* part *"Royal Coachman"*, part *"Black Spider, etc."* and depending on whether a black hen or rooster hackle is used, the fly could be fished as either a wet or dry fly.

If a red silk is used as the tying thread with a hen hackle, the body color could change to a darker shade (as a wet fly) and if synthetic thread was used, the color will stay a bright red color like an attractor dry fly. No matter what thread is used, the green peacock herl should reflect light.

If a black thread is used, the peacock herl butt will add to the effectiveness of the old *"Black Spider"* soft hackle / spider.



### **Dressing**

**Hook:** Partridge or Daiichi dry fly barbless - sizes 12 or 14  
**Thread:** Red silk or Danville / Uni - 6/0  
**Body:** Tying thread  
**Butt:** Green peacock herl (approx. 1/3 of hook shank)  
**Hackle:** Black hen or rooster



## Grumpy's Page by Kurt Haberl

"It's not fair, " I said to Schnoz. "The size of your nose and its efficiency because of the exposure area that cools your blood, means that camping in August isn't nearly as hot and uncomfortable for you as it is for the rest of us."

"Not so," Schnoz said. "Your big ears display more cooling area than my nose."

Technically, he was correct, but I would never admit it. We were interrupted by the crunch of Johnny Fessup's newest SUV coming down the gravel road before veering off into the dry grass where we had pitched our tents. He had kindly volunteered to drive into town for bags of ice to keep the hotdogs, eggs, bacon, and S'Mores chocolate bars in our coolers from turning green and growing furry around the edges. He stopped at the edge of our circle, opened his trunk, and tossed a bag of ice to each of us in turn, then put another bag on the nearest picnic table, and called everyone to assemble. We grumbled at leaving our sweaty camping chairs and walking the distance of a first down to the table, but Johnny insisted. At the table, he broke open the last bag of ice, took a handful of cold cubes, and put it in the reservoir of what looked like a flashlight with a propeller.

"Sorry, I took so long to get back," Johnny said. "We needed lots of batteries." Then he handed out a kind of misting, mini-fan to each of us that blew cool air from the ice cubes in the handle through the fan, and on our perspiring faces.

"Are you some kind of god?" Wet Curtis asked. "Bringing relief to the masses."

"Nope. Just a guy who likes gadgets."

"Who picked this terrible, burning week to go camping anyway?" Roy the plumber asked, and we all looked around, no one willing to fess up to such a foolish idea. I certainly wasn't going to claim such miserable inspiration. It meant that after a night of sweating in our tents, we could cast a line in cooler headwaters from six AM to about eight, when we had to quit because the water temperature climbed above 65 and threatened the fish. Then all we could do was sit around under a dining fly to drink water and watch it immediately dribble out our pores, until about six PM, when we could cast a line until eight, when the mosquitoes, gnats, black flies, and biting, welt-raising, Deet-eating No-see-ums dove at us from every direction and made us retreat to our X-pole ovens. Most of our faces looked like we had gone three rounds with a skilled welterweight. Ghost Mary had been smart enough to wear a black net over her head and neck, but it made her look like a widow, and she didn't dare to raise the net to drink water or formations of biters would dive in and swarm.

"I wish it would snow," Dewey said, "or at least sleet. Then we could fish in peace." It was an absurd thing to say, but no one contradicted him.

"I've been thinking," Johnny Fessup said, "and since we're all gathered around and we can't go out until the water temperature drops to 60 or so, I've been thinking that there are some things we should remember to appreciate."

"What do you mean?" Schnoz said.

"I'll show you." He went back to his car and came back with a shiny new laptop that he opened on one end of the picnic table so we could all see. Johnny called up some grainy video he had of one of England's finest rivers, the Avon or the Test or the Worcestershire, where some gentleman walked along the manicured banks in his tweed jacket, waistcoat, plaid tie, woolen hat, and knee boots he had inherited from his grandfather, holding in one hand a bamboo rod that some craftsman had taken two years to make, and in the other hand, a tippet holding a flattened fly made out of a snipe feather, otter butt fur, silk from the Ming dynasty, and a soft hackle from the left filoplume of a phoenix. It looked like he had scouted some pool with a name like "Parson's Baptismal Font" or "Ghillie Bentley's Eddy," for two days before he saw a rising fish upstream for which he would use one of the six casts allowed to him in his lifetime by the owner of that beat, an earl named Duke or Marquis or something. He cast with the gentle skill of a calligrapher, whose perfect line curves and filigree caused his fly to sail out from the rod tip, straighten, and float to the water with the delicacy of a snowflake. Miraculously a large fish took his fly, probably because it had never seen one before, and the struggle was on. The bamboo rod curved in a perfect parabolic arc as the line zipped and zagged through the clear water until the master fisher led the bewildered fish into an oversized net made of worsted lamb's wool and excelsior fibers.

The whole thing looked like a reproduction from the Garden of Eden, with a glassy river flowing gently through a park where trees grew nowhere near casting spots, cows mooed in tune with a C major chord off in the distance, and primroses sprouted alongside a path on the preferred side of the stream. The temperature must have been a perfect 72 degrees Fahrenheit and the only bugs were ephemera from the river bottom, existing solely to feed fish and not bite, sting, or swarm around humans.

"This isn't exactly the origin of our sport," Johnny said, "but it is a high point of our tradition, something we should appreciate when we see it."

We watched in awe.

"That was fun," Schnoz said.

"We should experience that," Johnny said.

"What do you mean?" I asked.

"Here's what I propose," Johnny said. Then he walked to his new SUV, and from the back took out an old-fashioned lacquered box about five feet long, unlatched it, and

removed a two-piece bamboo rod from the felted slots inside. He opened a sliding panel from the bottom of the box and took out an old “winch,” a brass and nickel silver-reel with a textured winding knob, and no drag adjustment that I could see.

“Ooooh,” said Schnoz.

“I propose,” said Johnny, “that we agree to a lottery. It would be fun for each of us to fish with a sensitive, traditional bamboo rod and vintage reel at least one day of the year. We’ll put our names in a hat, and whoever gets drawn out will use this cane rod for that day and get his choice of preferred streams. I’ve fished this rod, and I’m telling you it is so sensitive, so smooth, and so much fun, that an eight-inch trout feels like a fighter twice its size. It’s not just more fun; it’s honoring the traditions of our sport.”

Some of us nodded, some just shrugged, but it was encouraging enough for Johnny to get a 10 gallon cowboy hat out of his car, write all our names on his business cards, and mix them up in the hat. Since she was the most trustworthy in our group of ne-er-do-wells, he had Ghost Mary draw out the first name. Dewey won, which we were all happy about since Dewey usually fished with a four-year-old leader, no discernible tippet, flies he took off bushes where Roy the plumber had cast them for safekeeping, and a rod with a tip that had broken off long ago. Sometimes we’d watch him unwind his leader from the four inches of rod that jutted out past his last line guide. We cheered and clapped, but Dewey first looked down at the ground and then looked up like someone had just fed him earthworms.

“I can’t,” he said. “I break all the rods I use. Not on purpose. They just break, and I can’t use something that valuable and expensive as a vintage rod. If I hurt it or even scratched it, I’d feel terrible, and-”

“Doesn’t matter,” Johnny said. “You won the lottery fair and square. Besides, if something happens, I can always get another one. I know a guy.”

“But-”

“Here,” Johnny said, “let’s get this over with and then I’ll take you down to the river to practice casting. With cane, you have to slow your casting stroke and feel the line straightening out behind you.”

With no ceremony, he took the two bamboo rod parts, their honey-varnished, perfect finish with red and brown wrappings gleaming in the hot sun, got a black permanent marker and ran it all over the rod. Then he opened his pocket knife and used the point to dig a chunk of pristine cork from the grip. “There, now it’s used, and you have permission from the rest of us to break off the tip. I know sometimes they just break.”

He put the reel on the rod with two shiny rings and guided Dewey down to the stream that ran behind the campground. In no time, Dewey had learned to slow his stroke, and soon the line was gliding out straight as a plumb line. After a couple of more casts with



a North Country spider through the nearest run behind the tents, Dewey hooked up with a ten-inch brown. It was a wonder that he got the fish to the net with all the coaching, encouragement, shouting, criticism, cheering, and clapping that surrounded him from all of us.

"I can't believe what that felt like," Dewey said. "It's like I could tell everything the fish was trying to do. That was, well, that was - fun!"

Johnny Fessup just nodded. Sometimes a nod says a whole lot more than just, "Okay." Sometimes a nod says everything everybody is thinking. We went back to the camp to allow Dewey some time to enjoy himself. He wandered back an hour later, just in time for the mosquitoes, and other assorted nasties to find us and set up their formations.

"I can't believe it," Dewey said again, "it was like a whole different kind of fishing. I caught six and they all felt like trophies."

"How were the bugs?" Schnoz said, swatting a platoon away from his nose.

"I don't know," Dewey said. "I didn't notice."

Johnny nodded again. Sometimes a nod means more than just "Okay." Sometimes a nod means "Well done, my friend, well done."



## **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. Contact your members of congress today, quickly and easily, using [this TU online action tool](#).
2. Make a [special donation](#) to TU national. With government funding paused, your special donation will help sustain vital core TU operations and staff.
3. Get more involved locally at the grassroots level by volunteering for the Lee Wulff chapter (email [volunteer@leewulfftu.org](mailto: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](mailto: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

- [\*TU CX3 Event\*](#) - St. Paul, MN - **POSTPONED UNTIL 2026**
- [\*IF4\*](#) screenings in the region:
  - [Wilmette Theatre, Wilmette, IL](#) - November 11, 2025 (hosted by EDTU)
- [\*Fly Fishing Film Tour\*](#) (F3T) screenings in the region:
  - [The Bavarian Bierhaus, Glendale, WI](#) - 6:30 PM, September 25, 2025 (hosted by SWTU)
  - [Toppling Goliath Brewery, Decorah, IA](#) - 6:30 PM, October 18, 2025
- *Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing* (PHWFF) - Ongoing (click [here](#) to get involved)



## Chapter Officers

**President:** Jonathan Culli  
[prez@leewulfft.org](mailto:prez@leewulfft.org)

**Vice-President:** Ken Bruckner  
[viceprez@leewulfft.org](mailto:viceprez@leewulfft.org)

**Secretary:** Scott Lammers  
[secretary@leewulfft.org](mailto:secretary@leewulfft.org)

**Treasurer:** Marty Jandura  
[treasurer@leewulfft.org](mailto: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!