



# The *Flyline*

The Newsletter of the Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association

April, 2019



**“Some Things Never Change”  
First Place HFFA 2019 Show Photo Contest by Craig Ritland**



President's Hatch - page 2  
HFFA Board Minutes - page 5 - 6  
ICC Report - page 7  
2019 HFFA Show - page 8 -11  
Dale Tayloe Essay - page 12 - 13  
Mike Jacobs Essay - page 15  
Classifieds - page 16

# The President's Hatch

A huge thank you goes out to everyone who made the Annual HFFA Show such a success; the show committee, the speakers, the vendors, and especially those of you who attended. For me, the best part is seeing friends that I haven't seen in a year. I may not always remember the names, but I always recognize the faces.

Another feature of the show is the variety of presentations. This show was strongly aimed at smallmouth bass, and has really inspired me to get back into fishing for them again. Trips to the Sylvania Wilderness in the UP were always the start of my summer. Then came lazy float trips down local rivers. Always had a good time. I'm looking forward to warm weather and floating some of these rivers again this Spring with my granddaughter. I also plan to fish for northern pike in Minnesota this summer when I go up there to visit my three brothers.

I finally got a chance to watch the video, "Decoding the Driftless." What a great video. It really explains why this region is such a unique region in the world. It also shows, vividly, how fragile this region is. If you were at the HFFA Show and heard Larry Stone explain the threats to the Bloody Run watershed, you heard about sink holes. The video has overhead views of regions that have sink holes, not the Bloody Run area, and it goes much farther



John Carl Miller

to explain how directly they affect our streams. Watch it if you can.

Sorry, it seems like I'm always preaching about protecting the environment. I had planned to avoid that this Hatch, but that seems to be impossible for me. I love being outdoors, I love the birds and the animals that are there, and I especially love the areas where our trout streams and smallmouth rivers are found. I can't believe the threats that they always seem to face. Enough said.

Speaking of Spring, the Decorah eagles have laid their first egg already, the Great Horned Owls are calling to each other every night, the Goldfinches are

getting brighter (males), and the first wild flowers are beginning to pop out (ok, I'm dreaming about this one). As much as I'm "DONE" with winter, the next six weeks will be amazing. The transformation that occurs always amazes me. Every year is different, but on March 10, 1985, I canoed the Maquoketa River; on March 8, 1987, I did a motorcycle trip to Galena, IL, with my youngest daughter; on March 10, 1990, I bicycled 11 miles with my oldest daughter; on March 24, 1991, I did a solo canoe trip on the Turkey River; and on March 1, 1992, I bicycled around Saylorville with my oldest daughter (in college at ISU) and then drove to Dubuque with the top down on the Jeep. So looking back, Spring may come at any time. Tomorrow would not be too soon for me.

Enjoy the next three months of rebirth in the outdoors and of rebirth for the fishing.

*John*



**Help Support  
Port-a-Potties at N&S Bear Creeks  
Go Fund Me**  
<https://www.gofundme.com/port-a-potty>

# Contacts & Meetings

## 2018 Board of Directors

### **John Miller, President**

1890 Wood St.  
Dubuque, IA 52001  
dbqflyfisher@mchsi.com

### **Kyle Anderson, Vice President**

120 Booth St.  
Dubuque, IA 52001  
kandersondavid@gmail.com

### **Dave Jones, Secretary**

2672 Becky Thatcher Rd.  
Muscatine, IA 52761  
dave.jones@kentww.com

### **Brad Mullin, Treasurer**

P.O. Box 8145  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52408  
mullinb1427@yahoo.com

### **Kate Lodge, Past President**

209 S. Vail  
Genesco, IL 61254  
katelodge25@gmail.com

### **Willa Campbell, Director**

7701 Goodman Dr.  
Urbandale, IA 53022  
willacamp@gmail.com

### **John Channon, Director**

582 Belmont Rd.  
Riverdale, IA 52722  
jc.channon@mchsi.com

### **Mike Stallsmith, Director**

6520 Kingsley Ct.  
Dubuque, IA 52001  
decoydux@gmail.com

### **David Oliver, Director**

1040 Ridgewood Ave.  
Ames, IA 50010  
doliver@iastate.edu

### **Ron Stahlberg, Director**

1412 Pine Ridge Lane NE  
Swisher, IA 52338  
flyfish@southslope.net

### **HFFA Webpage**

<http://www.hawkeyeflyfishing.com>

### **Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing**

Meets 1st & 3rd Tuesday of Month  
5:30 pm  
American Legion, 2211 E. 42nd  
Des Moines, IA  
Contact: Dale Sanders  
iaflyfisher@q.com

---

### **Quad Cities Chapter**

Meets 1st & 3rd Sunday 6:00 pm  
October to May  
Meets 1st Sunday 6:00 pm June to  
September  
Riverdale Fire Station, 110 Manor  
Drive, Riverdale, IA  
Contact: John Channon  
jc.channon@mchsi.com

---

### **Dubuque Fly Fishers**

Meets 2nd & 4th Monday 7:00 pm  
October to May  
Swiss Valley Nature Center  
13606 Swiss Valley Rd., Dubuque,  
IA  
Contact: Mike Stallsmith  
president@dubuqueflyfishers.org

---

### **Central Iowa Fly Fishers**

Meets 3rd Saturday 9:00 am Sep-  
tember to May  
Our Lady's Immaculate Heart  
Church  
510 East 1st St., Ankeny, IA  
Contact: Martin Acerbo  
macerbo@iastate.edu

---

### **Iowa City Chapter**

Contact: Ryan Maas  
maas\_ryan@yahoo.com

---

### **Cedar Rapids Fly Fishers**

Contact: Lance Zook  
l.a.zook@mchsi.com

### **TROUT UNLIMITED NORTH BEAR CHAPTER**

Meetings held second Thursday  
of month  
September – May, Starting at  
6:30 pm.  
The Tavern Pizza & Pasta Grill  
1755 50th St.

West Des Moines, IA  
Website: [tu-northbear.org](http://tu-northbear.org)  
Jim Kelehan-President  
president@tu-northbear.org

---

### **TROUT UNLIMITED DRIFTLESS CHAPTER**

Meets the first Thursday of the  
month October through May @  
7:00 pm in the basement of  
T-Bocks Sports Bar and Grill,  
206 Water St. Decorah  
[www.iadriftless.org](http://www.iadriftless.org)

---

### **Iowa Women Fly Fishers**

Beginner or Skilled  
Meet other Women Fly Fishers  
Des Moines or North Liberty  
katelodge25@gmail.com  
willacamp@gmail.com

---

### **Trout Unlimited Spring Creeks Chapter**

Ryan Maas – President  
Check Their Web Site  
[www.tu-springcreeks.org](http://www.tu-springcreeks.org)

---

### **Iowa's Coldwater Conservancy**

Tom Murray  
jandtmurray@gmail.com

# Event Calendar

## April 2019

April 13 With snow/rain date of May 4th  
**IA Driftless TU Stream Cleanup Day**  
 9:00 am - noon  
 N&S Bears, Waterloo, & French  
 Meet at Campground, 1280 Quandahl Rd  
 1 mile East of Highlandville  
 Contact steve.perry@mchsi.com  
 641-423-7655

April 27

**Driftless TU Annual Fundraiser**  
 Reception 5:00 pm, Buffet 6:00 pm  
 Danan Lansing Memorial Bldg  
 Decorah, IA  
 Gary Arner  
 iadrifttufr@gmail.com

## May 2019

May 3-5

**IA DNR Becoming an Outdoors Woman**  
 Burlington, Iowa  
 Registration Required  
 Contact Rachel Ladd  
 Rachel.Ladd@ldnr.iowa.gov  
 515-729-6037

May 17 - 19

**HFFA Bluegill Outing**  
 Lake Wapello, Drakesville, IA  
 Dan Peterson  
 309-764-8401

## June 2019

**Wisconsin Women's Fly Fishing Clinics**

June 12-14

**On The Water Skills Clinic 2019**  
 West Fork Sportsman's Club  
 Avalanche, WI  
 wisconsinwomenflyfishing@gmail.com

June 14-16

**Women's Fly Fishing Clinic  
 For Beginners**

West Fork Sportsman's Club  
 Avalanche, WI  
 wisconsinwomenflyfishing@gmail.com

## July 2019

July 7 -12

**Project Aware - River Cleanup  
 Boone River**

Goldfield to Boone Forks Wildlife Area  
 www.iowadnr.gov/aware

July 21-23

**Upper Midwest FFI  
 Fly Fishing School**

Rochester Community & Technical College  
 851 30th Ave.  
 Rochester, MN 55904  
 Todd Heggstad  
 theggstad57@gmail.com

July 21-23

**Upper Midwest FFI  
 Master Casting Preparation Course  
 See Contact Info Above**

July 22-27

**FFI Fly Fishing Fair**

Montana State University  
 Bozeman, MT  
 www.flyfishersinternational.org

July 31

**Deadline for State Fair Tying Contest**

State Fair Administration  
 P.O. Box 57130  
 Des Moines, Iowa 50317

## August 2019

## September 2019

September 7

**5th Annual Brule River Spey Day**

Lake Superior Steelhead Assn.  
 Brule River @ McNeil's House  
 Brule, WI  
 www.steelheaders.org

September ?

**HFFA - Iowa DNR Work Day**

Manchester Trout Hatchery  
 22693 205th Ave., Manchester, IA  
 Kate Lodge  
 katelodge25@gmail.com

September 20-22

**2019 Driftless Flyathon**

Decorah, Iowa  
 flyathon@driftlessonthefly.com

## October 2019

October 4-6

**2019 Casting For Recovery IA**

Camp Ewalu's Stone Retreat Center  
 Strawberry Point, Iowa 52076  
 norrisk@ihaonline.org  
**Apply by July 26, 2019**

## November 2019

## December 2019

## January 2020

## February 2020

## March 2020

March 6-8

**HFFA Annual Fly Fishing Show**

Best Western Plus  
 3100 Dodge St.  
 Dubuque, Iowa 52003  
 John Carl Miller  
 dbqflyfisher@mchsi.com

The Flyline is the official publication of the Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association. It is published in April, June, September, and December. The HFFA is a chapter of the Fly Fishers International. Articles may be submitted as MS Word or as a text file. Typed, printed or clearly handwritten documents are also accepted. Photos can be submitted digitally. Send original jpeg. Deadline is one month before publication.

Send all materials to:

Don Otto, The Flyline Editor  
 Hawkeyeflyfisher@gmail.com  
 641-230-1468

### Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association Membership Application

New       Renewal       Change of Address Information

Check Membership Category:

- \$25 Member
- \$10 Youth Member (18 and under)
- \$15 Senior Member (65 or older)
- \$45 Family Membership
- \$300 Life Member

Conservation Contribution:

- \$10 (Glass)
- \$20 (Graphite)
- \$30 (Boron)
- \$..... (Cane, over \$50)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to & mail to:

Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association  
 P.O. Box 8145  
 Cedar Rapids, IA 52408

# HFFA Business Report

## Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association Membership Meeting – Feb. 16, 2019

**Call to Order:** John Carl Miller, President

**Welcome:** John Carl Miller, President

- A big thank you to Mike Jacobs and the committee from Cedar Rapids for hosting this year's 2019 HFFA Annual Meeting and Show.
- Thanks to all of the attendees, for making this show and this club the success that it is.

**Introduction of 2017 Board of Directors:**

President – John Carl Miller

Vice President – Kyle Anderson

Past President – Kate Lodge

Secretary – Dave Jones

Treasurer – Brad Mullin

Director at Large – Willa Campbell

Director (Quad Cities Chapter) – John Channon

Director (Dubuque Chapter) – CJ Klenske

Director (Central Iowa Fly Fishers Chapter) - David Oliver

Director (Iowa City/Cedar Rapids Chapter) – Ron Stahlberg

The Local Clubs representing Quad Cities Dubuque chapters may nominate one candidate each, to stand for election to the Board of Directors at the Annual Corporation Business Meetings held in odd-numbered years.

**Minutes:** Dave Jones – the minutes of the last board meeting had been published in the Flyline and were approved.

**Financial Report:** Brad Mullin: Summary is as follows: October 1, 2017 cash \$43,189.72, September 30, 2018 cash \$47,507.97. Major income sources: Membership \$6000, Deer Tag \$7000 and 2018 Annual Show \$3600. Detailed report was available.

**Financial Expenditures 2017-19:** John Miller: President Miller listed the major expenditures during his tenure.

2017 – ICC start up Donation \$5000, Booth at Iowa Farmer's Union meeting in Greenfield \$250

2018

Iowa Driftless TU Waterloo Creek restoration \$1000 and N&S bear Porta Potty chemicals \$200

Iowa DNR/ City of Ames low head dam removal \$1000, Iowa DNR Project Aware \$500

CIFF HFFA Banner \$147.34, Booth at Bassmasters \$70, State fair Expense \$76.99, Brochure \$237.44

NE IA RC&D Allamakee County Trout Maps \$500 dues

Markel Insurance \$447.00

FFI Dues \$500

2019 - Committed but not spent \$5000 matching donation to ICC, Clayton County Trout Maps \$2000, additional \$5000 if specific project is found worthy

**ICC Report:** Dave Jones – Dave gave a short report of ICC progress. Look for ICC Report in Flyline by Dave Jones and Tom Murray for a more detailed report. He did say that one of the TU Chapters has pledged \$2000 in the matching donation process.

**Membership Committee Report:** Ron Stahlberg, Kyle Anderson, Ryan Maas – no report but committee is looking for any and all suggestions

**Old Business:**

**Walz Energy Update:** Larry Stone gave a detailed report of the progress and danger of a 10,000 capacity feedlot located near the headwaters of Bloody Run Creek on land known for sink holes. Discussion followed with many question and comments. Larry Stone and/or Steve Veysey could supply additional information. (This facility is not yet fully operational and has a reported 400 head at present)

**Workdays:** Kate Lodge will coordinate for now. Previously advertized workday on April 27th has been cancelled and moved to the fall at the request from Dan Kirby of the DNR. The fall project will be shocking and counting trout. Details to follow

**New Business:**

Annual HFFA Show Schedule

2020 – Dubuque March 6-8 at Best Western Plus

2021 – Des Moines

2022 – Iowa City

2023 – Quad Cities

Some local affiliates have expressed concern over having enough help to put on a three day show. President Miller had some questions on his agenda surrounding this issue. Time of year? One location? One day???? There was not enough time for discussion or suggestions. Just something to think about.

Continued on Next Page

# HFFA Business Report

## Business Meeting Continued

### Elections:

Director (Quad Cities Chapter) – John Channon (agreed to continue for a second 2-yr term)

Director (Dubuque Chapter)– Mike Stallsmith (agreed to run for a 2-yr term)

Director at Large: Willa Campbell (agreed to continue for a second 2-yr term)

President Miller had been asked to extend his term for one year. He agreed to this request. No new nominations from the floor. All officers and the three Directors were elected by a unanimous vote.

**Adjournment:** The annual business meeting was adjourned.

## Annual Business Meeting Notes by Don Otto

### Minutes of HFFA Board of Directors Meeting February 16, 2019 Ramada Hotel, Williamsburg, Iowa

Meeting called to order by President John Miller at 1:10 PM

Attendees: John Miller, Dave Oliver, Dave Jones, Willa Campbell, Ron Stahlberg and Kate Lodge

### New business:

Motion made and seconded to approve the 2019 Conservation and Education block grant budget for \$5,000. John Miller, as President, is authorized to approve individual grant requests with consensus input from board members. Motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by Dave Jones, February 17, 2019



John Miller above, Brad Mullin below left, and Larry Stone below right address the annual business meeting.



# ICC Report

ICC Report  
March 20, 2019  
Tom Murray

As many of you know from our previous updates in *Fly Line*, Iowa's Coldwater Conservancy was established to address significant challenges to the ecosystems that sustain our beautiful coldwater rivers and streams of northeast Iowa.

To address challenges like a warming climate, land use practices, and declining support for conservation at the state and federal levels, our board and standing committees are working to bring many new partners to the "conservation table". Over the past two years we have worked with the HFFA, Iowa's three Trout Unlimited Chapters, Central Missouri TU, Friends of the Decorah Fish Hatchery, Upper Iowa Audubon, Trees Forever, the Winneshiek County Conservation Board, the IA DNR and many like minded individuals. These collaborations lead to Casey Springs becoming a new Wildlife Access Area for the public with wild, established brook and brown trout, and a popular section of Trout Run at the Decorah Fish Hatchery in Decorah became much more improved for wild-life and visitors alike.

On Feb 26th, Jeff Hastings from TU Driftless Area Restoration Effort (TUDARE), Gary Arner and I had an opportunity to meet with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Soil & Water District staffs in Allamakee, Winneshiek, and Howard counties. We learned about their recent efforts to inform and connect with local landowners about the Regional Conservation Partnership Program ( RCPP ). Their efforts this year will lead to many projects aimed at improving the riparian zones and watersheds of coldwater streams in their counties. What impressed me throughout the day were the relationships and trust they have established with landowners over the years. Many of these landowners are the same people we hope to work with as well in the future, to continue to improve and protect the habitats of the ecosystems in our coldwater rivers and streams.

Our meetings back in February also gave Gary and me a chance to share with these dedicated conservationists the respective missions of HFFA, TU and ICC, and to express our willingness and enthusiasm to work with them and the landowners they serve in the future.

As we travel down the road of stream and water conservation, we all have to talk to each other about the realities and challenges we face as we farm the land and enjoy the many recreational opportunities these coldwater rivers and streams provide to local residents and visitors from all over the country. When we agree to listen to each other and hopefully to work together, we can accomplish much more than we ever imagined. In the driftless area we have many outstanding examples of what can be accomplished when people are willing to listen and learn about what is working and what could be accomplished by collaboration.

At ICC we will continue to meet with the NRCS and Soil & Water Districts staff in the other counties of the Iowa driftless area to learn about potential stream habitat projects and opportunities to expand public access with willing landowners on our coldwater rivers and streams. So stay tuned for more progress reports. Please check our website at: [iowacoldwater.org](http://iowacoldwater.org) to learn more about ICC, who we are, and what we are working to accomplish. Building alliances is what ICC is all about. We thank HFFA for continuing to be supportive of our work.

Tom

Celebrating 50 years since the moon landing and 45 years of  
HFFA Craig Ritland cartoon from 2005



# 2019 HFFA Show

## Thank You From the Show Committee

A big **Thank You** to everyone who attended the recent 2019 HFFA Show in Little Amana. We had a huge show attendance, an awesome speaker lineup, and excellent vendors. We felt the show host hotel Little Amana Ramada worked great. We really hope you enjoyed the Cedar Rapids/Marion Area committee's hard work and extra effort. Committee members are Jason Hayes, Nick Hayes, Mike Jacobs, Hank Moeller, Jeff Moore, Brad Mullin, Doug Nauman, Conner Spading, Ray Thys, and Lance Zook. Once again our sincere Thanks to everyone who played a part in the show success.

*Mike Jacobs*



Friday Night begins with registration. Above left is Nick Hayes and Jeff Moore working hard. Above right shows Nick and Doug Nauman getting ready for the presentations. Nick acted as the master of ceremony and Doug as usual handled the IT issues for the program.



Fish Biologists Mike Siepker from the Decorah Hatchery and Dan Kirby from the Manchester Hatchery (above left) presented "A Plan for Iowa Trout Management". They laid out the history and potential future for trout in Iowa. They then answered a variety of questions from the crowd.



Tim Landwehr (above right) from Tight Lines Fly Fishing Company next gave a presentation "Becoming a Better Smallmouth Angler". His presentation was well received and stimulated many questions.

Gunnar Brammer professional fly tyer from Duluth Minnesota finished out the evening with his presentation "Predator Tube Fly Design". Gunnar is one of the new cutting edge tyers in the nation and gave us many ideas and techniques. (see his photo on the next page )

# 2019 HFFA Show



Saturday morning brought renewed enthusiasm. Gunnar Brammer (above left, photo by Lisa Davis) fresh from his talk the night before joined long time members C.J. Klenske (above right) and Scott Nordby (below left) at the tying demonstrations. Tom Murry with Iowa Coldwater Conservancy discusses issues with Dave Oliver (below right) The commercial exhibitors included more longtime members. Tom Hoskins (far below left) and his beautiful nets and Garylee Thurm (far below right) with about "everything" greeted old friends and new friends alike.



# 2019 HFFA Show



This years speakers were awesome. George Daniel (above left) from Pennsylvania informed us on his methods with streamers and nymphs with his two talks on Saturday. Blane Chocklett (above right) from Virginia covered his innovative tying methods for triggering strikes from big fish on his streamers with his two talks also on Saturday. Our banquet speakers Carl Haensel and Jade Thomason (below left) from Duluth, Minnesota made us want to pack our bags to go steelheading on the North and South shore of Lake Superior. Sunday morning's program found Tim Landwehr and Gunnar Brammer returning to cover their topics in more detail for a master class. Sunday morning also found Steve Sobienak owner of Root River Rod Company Lanesboro, Minnesota (below right, photo by Lisa Davis) covering his favorite topic "Fly Fishing with Bamboo in the Minnesota Driftless".

To say that this years speakers were outstanding is certainly an understatement. The club owes them and the show committee a big thank you for a job well done.



# 2019 HFFA Show



The Saturday night banquet had much to offer other than a great Amana style meal. The annual awards went to very deserving folks. The conservation award went to Jim Edrington (above left) for his efforts on stream easements and stream improvements. The president's award went to Mike Jacobs (above center) for his years of extra effort in support of the club. The outstanding member award went to Mick & Lisa McVey for their dedicated efforts with "Casting for Recovery" The landowner awards were accepted by Tom Murry (below left) on behalf of the landowners. Helen Larson Family was awarded a landowners recognition for selling a property on North Bear Creek at a friendly price to Iowa National Heritage Foundation. Jim and Wanda Sindelar were awarded a landowners recognition for their offering at a below market price 17 acres containing Casey Springs.



(above right) Charlene is greeted by Hank Moeller her new chaperone. Mike seems to be looking for some CDC. Guest speaker Blane Chocklett is thinking nice feather to trigger a strike.

(left) Nick Hayes is selling Cheryl Channon a card for a chance at a Yeti cooler.

(right) "Lucky Lady" Lisa Davis shows us the winning card and the cooler.



# *My Tribute to Tom*

*by Dale Tayloe*

*First Place HFFA 2019 Essay Contest*

I met Tom several years ago. We were introduced to each other by a mutual fly-fishing friend. Tom lives near the Little Turkey River at Colesburg, Iowa and in the last 20 years has made a few dozen bamboo fly rods. Tom makes rods as good as anyone's regardless of price I was told. Through several conversations, Tom explained to me his craft in great detail. I was intrigued! Tom exposed me to design elements of bamboo rods I never knew existed. Sure, I knew of the basic hexagonal cross sections, and different lengths, weights, tapers, and so forth but Tom explained more; much more. Do you know the meaning of rise, progressive, compound, parabolic, and semi-parabolic tapers, and finding the spline under which the snake guides should be mounted? He explained all this, and the various tools used such as low angle planes, planing forms, heat treat ovens, binders, and lathes. He spoke of Young, Payne, Leonard, and Garrison, and others like he knew them well. Did I mention I was intrigued?

I told Tom I might consider buying one of his rods but I wanted to watch him make it step by step. "Oh, that will never happen," Tom said. "You live too far away. You're too busy." I mentioned my desire to him upon several occasions but the answer was always the same. "That will never happen. You live too far away. You're too busy."

In November 2016 I retired. I saw Tom the following February at the Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association annual show. I told him I had retired so I had a lot of time on my hands and for sure, I had time to watch him make a rod for me. Tom's answer was nearly the same as before..... "That will never happen.....you live too far away."

Three months later, on my birthday, the phone rang. It was Tom and he said, "Do you still want to make a rod? If you do, let's get started." Can you imagine a better birthday present? Prior to that moment, I had only intended to watch as Tom made my rod maybe taking notes and a few photos along the way to document how it was done. I had never imagined my request turning into me being tutored step by step in the art of making a split bamboo fly rod. But with Tom as my mentor that is what happened. Tom told me in no uncertain terms that he WAS NOT going to make my rod. I was going to do the work; he was only going to provide the tools, and the know-how. He intended to give me instruction in his shop and send me home with tools and new untried knowledge where I was to transform strips of bamboo into a rod. I readily agreed to his terms.

On my first day at Tom's, he put into my hands what I know now was a very expensive, fine quality rod. He said, "Look this rod over." "Look closely at the fine detail. This is the quality that we are going for." Embarrassingly, I missed the lesson Tom was trying to teach that day. I quickly looked the rod over and handed it back to him. I was excited and wanted nothing more than to get started splitting bamboo for my rod. Weeks later, I realized what it was Tom was trying to do that day. He was setting the standard for quality by having me examine the masterpiece that first day.

Tom knew little about my background nor I his but it did not matter. We got along great. I tried to do what he told me and not ask too many questions. After making thirty some rods I could see his methods were well established. I tried never to challenge his instruction and only asked questions for better understanding. I faithfully did my assigned reading of Maurer and Garrison. Tom shared he was a self-taught bamboo rod maker and jokingly but somewhat seriously had made many fires in his fireplace using scrap bamboo from early attempts to make himself fly rods. Fortunately for me, with Tom's guidance, I avoided making even small piles of scrap bamboo. I made lots of shavings but very little scrap. I told Tom that I had worked for a cabinet maker and built furniture. I knew all about attention to detail. I told Tom if he ever saw that I needed to turn up the dial on attention to detail as I was making my rod, he should not hesitate to tell me. A few moments went by and Tom said, "You know what you said about turning up the dial on accuracy, precision and attention to detail is true for every step required to make a rod." I was listening but did I really hear what Tom had said?

A few sessions with Tom passed. Soon I had 18 crooked, rough, and very unrefined strips of bamboo. I was lucky to have Tom as a mentor at this point as I looked at that pile of unruly bamboo and thought a fine fly rod could not come of this. I might have given up. Tom assured me a fine rod could result. This encouragement alone was invaluable. Planing began. Soon I had 18 pieces bound together for heat treating. Setting the forms for taper and more planing followed. Tom explained again the importance of measuring carefully and often, maintaining those critical 60° angles and marking the trouble spots that would require closer attention during subsequent steps. Once I went too far down the wrong path. When I asked for assistance Tom was surprised I had marked the area as a trouble spot needing close attention but had moved on to the next step and proceeded way down a bad path. "You are flirting with disaster my friend," he said. My heart sank. Tom took many measurements at that point and determined what I had could be salvaged if I made no additional wrong moves before reaching the final sizes and configuration. I was relieved. It was then that something clicked and I realized what Tom was trying to teach weeks earlier on that first day by putting the masterpiece rod in my hands and telling me to examine it closely and establishing "this is the quality we are going for." I became determined to dial up the accuracy, the precision and make determinations of size and shape based on measurements and not more or less by appearance or feel. This was an absolute requirement. It was mandatory! What had I been thinking?

By now it was fall. Deer season for Tom and me took priority over planing bamboo. Next, a family situation arose for me and many other things became priority over planing bamboo and understandably so. Then there was holiday travel. January arrived before I could work on the rod again. Shortly after New Year's Day 2018, during those cold cold days, I began setting the planing form for the final tapers. Day after cold January day I planed each of the 18 pieces several times to achieve the final tapers. Since I had learned I needed to turn up the dial on attention to detail, I made literally thousands of measurements and recorded them marking progress on each of the 18 pieces. My goal was to have the pieces ready to glue before the end of January. On January 30<sup>th</sup> I went to Tom's shop and we glued and bound the butt and tip sections together. Oh happy day! The rod was taking shape!

Tom had told me, he was not going to make a rod for me but rather I was going to do all the work. "It's your rod," he said time and time again...."Make it your own!" Next was the reel seat. Again, a high level of detail was required. I turned the reel seat on my wood lathe to a precise diameter to allow the ring to glide easily back and forth without interference and at the same time not feel too loose and sloppy. A router and home-made fixture were used to cut the relief on the reel seat with shoulders of equal size on either side. Mine was made from a piece of heirloom Missouri coffee bean wood that had grown in the long-neglected cemetery where my great-great grandfather is buried. How is that for a personal touch "making it my own"?

All the final details of making a rod were pursued slowly and carefully. I mounted the ferrules to the ends of the butt and tips and machined them down to a slip fit that "pops" when pulled apart (a much sought after and not always achieved characteristic of a fine rod). The cork handle was assembled and turned. The splines were determined and the guides were wound in position accordingly with silk thread. Tom showed me how to make those signature wraps. Whew! Those were tough! Finally, 19 months after the effort began with no fewer than twenty-one, 158-mile round trips to Tom's, and countless hours at home, varnish was applied in the manner prescribed by Everette Garrison and Tom.

My rod is complete and the varnish is nearing the end of the 3-month cure time in a warm room at home. With great anticipation I await the first casts, that first strike, and the first trout I land with it. I have much gratitude for Tom. I owe him a lot and no price will be enough to pay him for what he has done for me, taught me, and shared with me. As I was finishing my rod, I began to acquire my own tools for making my next rod. I bought a lathe and was given a set of planing forms for Christmas. A few weeks ago, I started my next rod, this time on my own without Tom watching and tutoring. I figure I owe it to Tom to now make a rod on my own.

After I build a few rods, I'm committed to someday mentoring someone (as Tom did for me) who wants to make their own split bamboo fly rod. I want to do this, so the legacy of the quality rod maker living near the banks of the Little Turkey at Colesburg, Iowa can live on and be passed on to future generations of rod makers. This will be my tribute to Tom.

*Dale*



Editor's Note

I am sure you will all agree that Dale created a beautiful rod.  
He is also a very good photographer.

*Don*



# *Fly Tying Competition at 2019 Iowa State Fair*

## *by Larry Murphy*

The Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association will again be sponsoring the Fly Tying competition at this year's Iowa State Fair. The competition is supported by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and the Iowa State Fair. The goal is to provide an opportunity for the public to view the art of fly tying and to promote fly fishing in Iowa.

This year's fair will be held from August 8th through the 18th. The fly tying display will be in the DNR Building on the Fairgrounds during the fair. The judging is tentatively scheduled for Friday, August 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. in the DNR Building.

Fly entries need to be received at the Fair Administration post box by July 31, 2019.

There are three divisions

- Adult division is for anyone **17 years of age and older**.
- Junior division is for anyone **16 years and younger**.
- Expert division for tiers who have **sold flies**.

There are four categories for each division. The categories are the following:

- Dry Fly
- Wet Fly/Soft Hackle/Nymph
- Streamers
- Open Class

You may enter in each of the categories, but **only one fly for each category**.

You must be an Iowa resident to enter or a member of the Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association. If you have **ever tied flies commercially or sold the flies that you have tied, you must enter the Expert Division**. If you won a blue ribbon for one of the categories last year, you are not permitted to enter the same category this year.

The Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association will provide judges for the competition. Ribbons will be given for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners. Each fly will be judged in its category. In our contest, a panel of judges will choose the places in each category and division. The visitors to the state fair will see the flies displayed in the DNR Building

**No flies smaller than size #18.**

Flies must be sent to the Iowa State Fair Administration Office, P.O. Box 57130, Des Moines, IA 50317 and **received by July 31, 2019**. Each fly entered must have the **Fly Tiers name, address, telephone number, name of the fly, division to be entered and the category**. **Junior division entries must state the age of the fly tier.**

Photos below by Larry Murphy show Dave Rossett on the left and Larry Young on the right judging the winners and the fairgoers enjoying the display.



# *A Look at the Upper Salmon River*

*by Mike Jacobs*

After spending seven hours on the road driving to and from the South Fork of the Boise River on our first fishing day, Doug and I decided to do some fishing closer to our lodge over the next two days. The main fork of the Salmon River was less than a half hour's drive from the lodge so that is where we concentrated our efforts the next two mornings and early afternoons.

The main fork of the Salmon River begins as a small trickle tumbling down from the heights of Galena Summit. It comes into view along Highway 75 less than a mile upstream from the Smiley Creek Lodge where we were staying. By the time it reaches the Gold Creek Sportsman's access, 11 miles downstream from the lodge, the river has picked up over a dozen tributary streams and has made the transformation from a tiny mountain stream into a nice sized western river. By the time the river reaches Stanley, another 9 miles downstream it has become a large, swiftly flowing western river.

The Upper Salmon River is primarily a Rainbow trout fishery but there is also a good population of Mountain Whitefish. Bull Trout are fairly common in this stretch too, but Westslope Cutthroat Trout are rare in these waters. Doug and I were not fussy, we just wanted to catch fish.

We concentrated most of our efforts on some USFS property near the mouth of Fisher Creek and we also fished about a mile of the river upstream and downstream from the Gold Creek sportsman's access. The river near the mouth of Fisher Creek was braided and mostly consisted of shallow runs. There were a couple small pools and that is where we were able to pick up some fish.

As I approached one small pool I noticed a few rising fish close to the far bank. The pool was guarded by a few overhanging willow branches but there was just enough room to sneak a cast in beneath the branches. I noticed some small mayflies in the air but I could not tell what they were so I decided to tie on a size 16 Parachute Adams, a fly that is always a good searching pattern. This fly has a very visible, white wing post which would make the fly easier for me to see as it rode the riffled water downstream.

There was a slight breeze blowing downstream and on the first few casts I had trouble getting the fly into the right drift. The fly floated past the rising pod of fish un-noticed. After finally gauging the wind correctly I landed the fly exactly where I wanted it, under the willow branches and three feet upstream from a good fish. The Parachute Adams did its job and the spunky Rainbow took the fly confidently. Feeling the sting of the hook, the Rainbow immediately went airborne, clearing the water by two feet. I was impressed with this jump but I was even more impressed when the wild fish did the same thing four more times. As the fish began to tire I reached behind me to grab my landing net and held it out as I guided the fish toward me. With one final effort the fish freed itself from the barbless hook and sped away, back to the sanctuary of the small pool. Though the Rainbow was only a foot long he fought the battle as if he had some wild Steelhead in his genetic makeup.

We continued to fish this stretch of the Salmon River for a couple more hours but only raised a few small fish. As we were getting ready to leave the river I spotted a pair of Steelhead working their way up through a shallow riffle. If we had been back in the Midwest, fishing some Lake Michigan tributary stream, spotting this pair of Steelhead would have been exciting but no big deal because those fish rarely travel more than 30 miles upstream from the lake to the first dam. This pair of Steelhead had most likely travelled nearly 900 miles from the Pacific Ocean, through two major river systems, to reach their spawning grounds on the Salmon River.

The following morning we spent our time fishing at another spot along the Salmon River, upstream and downstream from the Gold Creek Sportsman's Access. We fished about a mile of the river in this area and we found some shallow riffles, swift runs, and some deep pools. With very few rises in evidence I decided to fish a black, heavily weighted, Conehead Leech. I employed the technique of casting across the stream and allowing the fly to sweep broadside across the deep runs and pools. Using this method Doug and I both netted several Rainbows in the 10-12" range and Doug even caught a 19" Whitefish. This big Whitefish provided a major test for the rod Doug was fishing that day. It was the same rod he had used in Wyoming the year before and someone had closed a car door on the ferrule and broken it. I don't want to draw too much attention to the person guilty of this infraction but I can tell you that they were along on both the 2009 and the 2010 trips and that they were much relieved that the rod seems to be as good as new. The fact that the rod seems as good as new is a great testament to Doug's ability as a rod builder.

We spent about a half day fishing the Salmon River both of the days we fished there. Good numbers of Rainbows and Whitefish had fallen for our flies, but in the short amount of time we fished there we had sampled only a tiny portion of the fishing available on this amazing river. It will be an easy decision for me to go back to the Salmon River to do more exploring, some time in the near future.

*Mike*

Editor's Note - This continues Mike's Idaho Odyssey

# *Buy, Borrow, or Steal aka Classifieds*

---

## FOR SALE

Quality hand-crafted trout nets made by an HFFA member. Nets range in length from 21" - 29" and are available in various woods and hoop configurations. Contact me directly or visit my shop at Etsy.com (HoskinsNets).

Tom Hoskins  
1519 14<sup>th</sup> St.  
Bettendorf, IA 52722  
563-370-6404  
HoskinsNets@gmail.com

---

## NuCast, and Maxxon Outfitters Quality Fly Rods, Reels, & Tackle

No one should have to work too hard just to have fun. We've combined quality materials and design with affordability – so you can go fishing... and take your son or daughter, too. Purchase online or use our dealer locator.

[www.nucast.us](http://www.nucast.us)  
[www.maxxonoutfitters.com](http://www.maxxonoutfitters.com)  
Norman Hartman  
708-334-4398

---

## GP Lawrence Rods

**Handcrafted split Bamboo Fly Rods**  
by HFFA member, Dave Kemp  
608-748-5057 [davemikek@aol.com](mailto:davemikek@aol.com)  
*Will custom make per your preferences*  
Located in the Dubuque area

---

## For Sale

Fly Tying vises: HMH, Dyna-King, Peak Engineering, Dan Vise, Nor-Vise, Anvil, and Regal. Also selling the new Daylight Lamp plus Bill Skilton products, Jay Fair, Seal Sub, Arizona Synthetics, Willies Sparkling material. All Griffin, Dr. Slick tools and the new easy thread bobbin, TMC, Targus & DaiRiki hooks plus many other materials.

Garylee Thurm  
Jig and Fly Shop  
319-279-3219  
[flytying4U@hotmail.com](mailto:flytying4U@hotmail.com)

---

## Quality Fly Tying Materials

Featuring Mustad, Tiemco and Umpqua U Series hooks. Whiting necks and saddles. Vises from Anvil, Griffin, and HMH. All Wapsi, Umpqua, Hareline, Dr. Slick, and Rumpf products available.

Excellent service! Don't forget my free fly tying classes in Cedar Rapids held January and February.

Mike Jacobs  
Hawkeye Fly Tyer  
117 E. First St.  
Monticello, IA 52310  
319-465-4704  
Bus. 319-465-5574

### Online Catalog:

<http://sites.google.com/site/hawkeyeflytyer>

---

## FFA Club Merchandise

Show your pride in being an HFFA member and get some great buys on Ripple foam fly boxes, fishing hats and clothing. Just received HFFA pinks in two different styles. You saw the new HFFA name tags at the Annual Meeting. Order yours today!

Martin Acerbo  
3114 34th Pl.  
Des Moines, IA 50310  
515-274-9438  
[macerbo@iastate.edu](mailto:macerbo@iastate.edu)

---

## Looking for All the Good Stuff?

Well look no further! We carry a complete line of fly tying materials, tools, flies and fly fishing tackle from some of the best names in the industry. We stock all of your favorites from Regal, Dyna King, Wapsi, Nature's Spirit, Hareline, Hardy, TFO, RIO, Cortland, Daiichi, Whiting, Metz, Fishpond, Mustad, plus many unique and innovative materials. Sign up for our free e-newsletter and take 10% off your first order, recommend a friend and get free shipping.

Badger Creek Fly Tying  
Contact us at: [607-347-4946](tel:607-347-4946),  
[www.eflytyer.com](http://www.eflytyer.com) or [mike@eflytyer.com](mailto:mike@eflytyer.com)

---

## For Sale

Reels  
Ross Colorado 2 \$125  
Pflueger 1494 1/2 US made \$50

### Rods

Redington 9' 4wt 4pc Rod \$90  
Pennington "Pine River" 6.5' 2 tips \$550

Antique H I Bamboo 9' 2 tips "Spinner Model" Fishable \$95  
Antique Montague Rapidan Bamboo 9' 2 tips Good \$95

I am selling my "stuff" due to a health problem. I will consider offers and /or trades.

Call or email  
Dean Elder  
[karenanddean1967@gmail.com](mailto:karenanddean1967@gmail.com)  
641-752-4840

(Editors Note - All of Dean's stuff is in excellent condition and well cared for.)

---

## For Sale

Sage 7wt. 9ft.  
GFL 790 RPL Graphite 3 sleeve and aluminum tube. \$200  
Barely used, mint condition.  
Gordon Lundberg, Ames, IA  
[gordonlundberg7@gmail.com](mailto:gordonlundberg7@gmail.com)  
515-337-1472

---

## For Sale

Winston IM6 Rod  
7.5 ft. 4wt, 2 piece  
Excellent Condition  
\$450  
Redington Classic Trout Rod  
8.5 ft. 5 wt, 4 piece  
Near New  
\$100  
Both rods come with original sock and tube.  
Don Otto  
641-230-1468  
[djottovet@gmail.com](mailto:djottovet@gmail.com)