



The Flyline

The Newsletter of the Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association

April, 2021



Westslope Cutthroat
Photo by Mike Jacobs

Don't we wish all water was this clear? Editor



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The President's Hatch

Finally, the world is looking beautiful again. The Pandemic is beginning to ease with the advent of several companies producing vaccine. The elections are over so we can focus on doing what needs to be done for this country (still some difference of opinions). But most appealing to me, Spring looks to be just around the corner. I don't think that I have my head in the sand, as I know there is tons of work to be done to make this country (and the world) whole again, but I'd rather focus on the positive things right now, without forgetting where the work needs to be done. The HFFA has worked with all of the past political groups in Iowa, and will continue to do so in the future. Being a positive force for Iowa's clean water and access to those waters is what we are all about.

That said, its time that HFFA ramps up its efforts to promote clean water, acquire more easements, help with stream restoration, and help with the bigger picture of providing clean water. We have to do all of this while working on all of the "people issues," from the camaraderie of the clubs members to recruitment of new members, especially from the underrepresented parts of our society.

As you know, the 2021 HFFA show has been cancelled, and the 2022 HFFA show will be held in Des Moines (latest information). I have no idea if we will have the annual Bluegill Outing, but that will be decided when we get closer to the usual date. Keep an eye on the HFFA Facebook page or the web site. At this



John Carl Miller

point, I think it is a remote possibility. The Fall outing is a real possibility, and I'm really looking forward to that. I think that the Pandemic has taught me that I can't put off things that are really important to me. Tomorrow is not guaranteed.

I just finished reading a book that Tom Murray lent me. "Lost in the Driftless" is really a discussion about trout regulations and how they affect different anglers and communities, but it is much more. It's really about trying to keep all factions of the community of anglers happy. Don't read it if you are "thin skinned," as it will make you examine your motives and beliefs. But please read it if you want a slightly objective look at the world of trout fishing in the Driftless.

I dream of every stream (not just trout water) having sloped banks and prairie grasses, prairie flowers and pollinator plants lining them. This isn't a new dream, although I have modified it to include prairie plantings as I became educated. This dream started when I was in high school. I have three younger brothers, all born within four and a half years, and we were always outdoors (the stories I could tell). We had two 17 foot aluminum canoes when I was in high school and Mark (youngest) was starting junior high. We lived in Elkader and could see the Turkey River from our kitchen window, especially from where I sat at the table. We would canoe the Turkey River almost every weekend either from the trout hatchery to Elkader or from Elkader to Motor Mill. I can still picture one particular bend in the river where the bank was ten feet above the river. One day we canoed by as dirt and corn stalks from above tumbled into the river, making it dirty. We spent a lot of time swimming in the river, so we hated it when it was running dirty. Of course, now I see that the dirt was doing much more damage than just making the swimming uncomfortable. I wondered, at that time, why the farmers didn't leave a section of grass between the field and the river bank. My dad, who worked at the Elkader Coop, explained it as an economic issue, which it still is. Maybe, its time that everyone who wants clean water contribute to the solution rather than just mandating the buffer strips. That's where the HFFA and its members come in. We have a lot of work ahead of us. Let's get on it.

John

For Sale

Tony Bever, Life Member
Dental Cabinet
Great Storage for Flies and Materials
Bever123456@msn.com
Marion, Iowa



Help Support
Port-a-Potties at N&S Bear Creeks
Go Fund Me

<https://www.gofundme.com/port-a-potty>

Contacts & Meetings

2020 Board of Directors

John Miller, President

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macerbo@iastate.edu

CR/IC, Director

Vacant

Hank Moeller, Work Day Contact

hankjmoe@gmail.com
319-389-1334

Davis Horton, Conservation Chair

dhorton@hardincountyia.gov
515-577-6619

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing

Meets 1st & 3rd Tuesday of Month
5:30 pm

VA Central Iowa Health System
Behavioral Health Bldg 6M RM204
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

Jason Hochstetler - 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

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

Iowa's Coldwater

Conservancy

Tom Murray

jandtmurray@gmail.com

Event Calendar

All Events Could be In Doubt Or Canceled Due To Coronavirus Contact Local Representative

April 2021

April ?

Driftless TU Cleanup Day
Details unclear at this time
 Steve Perry
 steve.perry1267@gmail.com
 641-583-1604

April 24th

Cornhusker Fly Fishers Spring Fling

Kirk Deeter, Editor of "Trout" of TU
 Lake Wanahoo Education Building
 Wahoo, NE
 cornhuskerflyfishers.org

May 2021

June 2021

July 2021

July 31

Deadline for State Fair Tying Contest

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

August 2021

September 2021

September ?

7th Annual Brule River Spey Day

Lake Superior Steelhead Assn.
 Brule River @ McNeil House
 Brule, WI
 www.Steelheaders.org

September ?

Driftless TU Cleanup Day **Details unclear at this time**

Steve Perry
 steve.perry1267@gmail.com
 641-583-1604

September ?

HFFA – Iowa DNR Work Day

Manchester Trout Hatchery
 22693 205th Ave., Manchester, IA
 Hank Moeller
 hankjmoe@gmail.com

October 2021

October 1 - 3

4th Annual Driftless Flyathon

Yellow River State Forest
 Registration May 1
 65 positions available
 runningrivers.org

October ?

2021 Casting for Recovery IA

Camp Ewalu's Stone Retreat Center
 Strawberry Point, IA 52076
 norrisk@ihonline.org

November 2021

December 2021

January 2022

January ?

Southern Wisconsin TU Icebreaker

American Family Insurance
 Madison, WI
 www.swtu.org

February 2022

February 12

Badger Fly Fishers Fly Fishing Spring Opener

American Family Insurance
 Madison, WI
 www.badgerflyfishers.com

February ?

Wisconsin TU Council Banquet

Oshkosh, WI
 Scott Allen
 jscottallen12@gmail.com

March 2022

March 11,12,13

HFFA Annual Fly Fishing Show

Martin Acerbo
 macerbo@iastate.edu

March ?

Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo

Hamline University
 St. Paul, MN
 info@greatwatersflyexpo.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

Minutes of HFFA Virtual Board of Directors Meeting

March 4, 2021

Submitted by Dave Jones

Meeting called to order by President John Miller at 7:00 PM

Attendees: John Miller, Ron Stahlberg, Kate Lodge, John Channon, Willa Campbell, Martin Acerbo, Hank Moeller, Davis Horton, Ryan Maas, Don Otto, Steve Veysey and Dave Jones

1. Welcome from John Miller

2. **North Bear Stream improvement project:** John Miller reported that a landowner on North Bear Creek with an easement in place is willing to allow a stream restoration project to take place. The DNR is working with a number of other angling groups to raise about \$35,000, required to finance the private portion of the project cost. John asked for board support to contribute toward this project. General consensus from attending board members supported this project, with a forthcoming recommendation for a specific dollar amount when more is known.

3. **North Bear porta potty request:** In the past, HFFA has contributed towards the cost of porta pottys located at the confluence of North Bear and South Bear. John requested funding for the 2020 calendar year cost. A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously approving the 2020 cost support of \$440. John then requested funding for the 2021 calendar year. A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously approving 2021 financial support not to exceed \$500.

4. **Recent donations:** John Miller reported several non-monetary donations of fly tying and fly fishing items to the club by several individuals. John also shared inquiries made by individuals wishing to make financial contribution supporting HFFA and their projects.

5. **Yellow River signage:** John Miller reported that the DNR has asked the shop class in Oelwein to design and make steel signs recognizing the financial support made by HFFA, Iowa Trout Unlimited chapters and ICC towards the easement acquisition on the Rissman property located on the Yellow River. John Miller has verbally committed that HFFA will reimburse the shop class for the cost of materials for making the signs.

6. **Conservation Projects:** John Miller reported that a list of recent conservation projects and their cost will be published in the next Flyline publication.

7. **Publishing Guidelines for the Flyline:** Board members discussed the practice of allowing non-HFFA members to submit articles for publication in the Flyline. Guidelines do permit articles to be submitted by the other Iowa angling clubs and updates from the Iowa DNR. A recent submission by a stream restoration contractor was discussed and not approved by the board. All future article submissions by a for-profit contractor will require board approval.

8. **Conservation Chair voting privileges:** The board discussed whether the Conservation Chairperson had board voting privileges. After further discussion, it was agreed that the Conservation Chairperson does indeed have board voting privileges.

9. **Show Committee Report:** Martin Acerbo reported that planning continues for the 2022 annual show to be held in Des Moines on March 11, 12 & 13.

10. **Conservation Report:** Steve Veysey reported on the review process ongoing for a confinement facility located near Bloody Run Creek. Steve reported that a public hearing was held March 1, 2021 and that a permit response is expected by the confinement operator by March 7, 2021. Approval for the confinement facility is contingent on submission of a satisfactory nutrient management plan.

11. Meeting Adjourned

Dave

continued on next page

HFFA Business Report, cont.



Recent HFFA Conservation Actions

| | | |
|------------------|--|-------------|
| 2017: | Conservation: Start-up check to Iowa's Coldwater Conservancy | \$ 5,000.00 |
| | • Part went to the Casey Springs purchase in HFFA's name | |
| | Outreach: Booth at Iowa Farmer's Union Conference | \$ 250.00 |
| 2018 | Conservation: Iowa Driftless TU: Waterloo Creek restoration | \$ 1,000.00 |
| | • Iowa Driftless TU: N-S Bear porta-pottie chemicals | \$ 200.00 |
| | • IDNR/City of Ames: low-head dam removal | \$ 1,000.00 |
| | • IDNR: Project Aware | \$ 500.00 |
| | Outreach: CIFF: HFFA banner | \$ 147.34 |
| | • NE IA RC&D: Allamakee Co. Trout Maps | \$ 500.00 |
| | • CIFF: Booth at Bassmasters Conf | \$ 70.00 |
| | • CIFF: brochure publication | \$ 237.44 |
| | • CIFF: State Fair expenses | \$ 76.99 |
| 2019 | Conservation: Donation to ICC (to match 3 TU chapters) Up to | \$ 5,000.00 |
| | • Iowa Driftless TU: N-S Bear porta-pottie chemicals | \$ 385.00 |
| | Outreach: Printing of Clayton County Trout Maps | \$ 2,000.00 |
| | • "Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act Proposal" that will acquire additional land along North Bear Creek. | \$ 500.00 |
| 2020 | Conservation: | |
| | 1. INHF funding request: for land acquisition on Bloody Run that will provide 6/10 of 1 mile of stream access that will be purchased by the DNR with private funding support by June 2020. (PAID) | \$ 750.00 |
| | 2. INHF funding request: for land acquisition on Ten Mile Creek that will provide 1000 feet of stream access that will be purchased by INHF with private funding support and transferred to the DNR in 2021. INHF will end up with 1,000 feet of stream access on a stream that has none. (PAID) | \$ 5,000.00 |
| | 3. Maquoketa River Grazing Project (PAID) | \$ 1,250.00 |
| | 4. Board approved the purchase of a new projector (Purchased) | \$ 900.00 |
| | 5. Yellow River Easement: Dianne Rissman Water Quality and Angler Access Easement for 0.69 miles of the Yellow River plus an angler access corridor (PAID) (received \$6,515 back from partners) | \$42,450.00 |
| | 6. North/South Bear Porta-Potty support. (PAID) | \$ 440.00 |
| | 7. The board unanimously approved contingency funding not to exceed \$1,000 to cover the cost of open records request and possible experts in the review of the Nutrient Management Plan for a potential feedlot development near Bloody Run Creek. | \$ 1,000.00 |
| 2021-2022 | | |
| | 1. HFFA board voted to be a partner in a stream restoration project on North Bear that is in the planning stages at this time. | |

Fly Tying Contest 2021 Iowa State Fair

by Larry Murphy

It appears there will be a 2021 Iowa State Fair. So, we will be holding the Fly Tying competition. I am sure everyone has practiced tying their favorite flies and are willing to enter them in the state contest.

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 12th through the 22nd. The fly tying display will be in the DNR Building on the Fairgrounds during the fair. The judging is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, August 11th at 1:00 p.m. in the DNR Building. See photo of Keith Wunder, Paul Domoto, and Dave Rosset below.

Fly entries need to be received at the Fair Administration post box by July 31, 2021.

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**. **No flies smaller than size #18. No flies larger than size #2.**

To enter you must be an Iowa resident 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

Flies must be sent to the Iowa State Fair Administration Office, P.O. Box 57130, Des Moines, IA 50317 and received by July 31, 2021. 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.**

Larry



ICC Report

In December, I exchanged books with my good friend, Chris Wasta. Some of you know Chris from the fine bamboo rods he creates. He is also an outstanding fly tier. I loaned him *A.K. Best's Advanced Fly Tying*, which is way beyond my skills, and he handed me *Fishing Through the Apocalypse* by Matthew Miller. I thought it would be a perfect book for a pandemic.

Miller's book offered many examples of hope through his fishing adventures across the country. There is even a chapter, *Trout of the Corn*, where many of you will recognize places he writes about in the Iowa Driftless Region. His visit with Fisheries Biologist, Mike Siepker, leads him to a day on South Pine to pursue our heritage brook trout. He concludes the chapter, "If brook trout-fragile, finicky brook trout-can persist in the midst of some of the most heavily farmed country on Earth, maybe we can hold onto our wildlife after all. Those speckled, feisty fish, leaping at the fly, suggest possibility-the possibility for restoring native species, not just in the wild and remote places, but anywhere streams flow."

As I finished this book, I came away with the words "hope" and "possibility" in my mind. It seems to me that these optimistic words are woven within the vision and purpose/mission of the work that we try to accomplish every day at Iowa's Coldwater Conservancy, the Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association, at our Trout Unlimited Chapters, and in conservation organizations throughout Iowa.

In this spirit of hope and possibility, I am pleased to share this update on some recent examples of projects involving ICC and our partners this past year and looking ahead to 2021. During 2020, our Board of Directors grew to thirteen, which is the limit defined by the ICC By-Laws. We encourage you to virtually meet all of our directors and to learn more about our priorities and our work at ICC at: iowacoldwater.org.

In early March of last year, at the HFFA Annual Show in Dubuque, we reported to HFFA members and the Board on our support for the *North & South Bear Creeks Watershed Fund*, which was established by Warren and Lois Shuros. This is the first such fund designated specifically for the support of watersheds of coldwater streams. This fund is managed by the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa. Eventually, an annual spending allowance will be generated by the fund to support habitat improvement projects within the watersheds of these two very popular trout streams.

Following the devastating Derecho in August that destroyed over 70% of the trees in Cedar Rapids the Board voted to provide a special recovery grant to Trees Forever to assist with restoration work in Linn County including McCloud Run Creek in Cedar Rapids.

As is often the case, some projects happen in sequences. Such is the case with a recent habitat restoration project on a section of the Yellow River in Allamakee County. (See below left). In 2018, Mike Siepker invited Gary Arner and me to join him in a meeting with Diane Rissman and her sister Carolyn at their quilt shop on Forest Mills Rd. adjacent to the stream. During this visit, which included some of their neighbors, we talked about the possibility of the Rissmans providing a permanent public fishing access easement on a section of the Yellow River that flows through their property.

Eventually, after many subsequent visits by Mike, this easement, which is the first ever on private property on the Yellow River, became a reality. Once the easement was in place, Mike worked with the local engineers with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) on a habitat project on the upstream segment of the easement. The Rissmans also signed up former row crop land for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). This additional (CRP) corridor is adjacent to the expanded riparian zone established by the stream easement. This work, which also included numerous in-stream habitat improvements, was completed in the summer. Soon after, our Board voted to provide a grant to help offset the project cost share of the Rissmans.



Another first for ICC came with a grant from the *Salmon & Trout Foundation*. This grant of \$3,000 will help fund in-stream habitat work on Little Paint Creek in the Yellow River Forest. Back in July, Mike Siepker asked me if ICC would be interested in applying for a grant from this organization for the project. After quickly checking with the ICC Board, I readily agreed and completed the proposal/application with Sophia Campbell, Mike's Summer Intern at the Decorah Hatchery.

This is a project within a larger stream corridor improvement project to stabilize the stream bank adjacent to the campground. This larger project has been funded by the state's EPA 319 program, a grant from the Iowa DNR, and a grant from the Driftless Flyathon. Both projects are scheduled to be completed during the summer of 2021. The grant from the *Salmon & Trout Foundation* is the first ever for a stream habitat improvement project in Iowa.

All of these projects show what can be accomplished when organizations like ICC and HFFA work together with willing land owners and dedicated public and private organizations. In spite of the many challenges we face in our work to protect and improve our coldwater rivers and streams, I remain very hopeful for the future by what we have been able to accomplish this past year. Thanks to the support we have received from HFFA and many other partners, we look forward to the unlimited possibilities in the years ahead.

Tom Murray, President of Iowa's Coldwater Conservancy

Tom

Yellow River Easement Report

Yellow River Public Access Project

When a nonprofit organization undertakes a signature project, it's critical to ensure that the project initiative aligns with that organization's mission statement. The Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association mission statement includes the following four initiatives:

- Promote awareness and participation in fly fishing
- Educate others about fly fishing
- Work to preserve and conserve those natural resources that are critical to fly fishing
- Enhance fellowship and networking among fly fishers

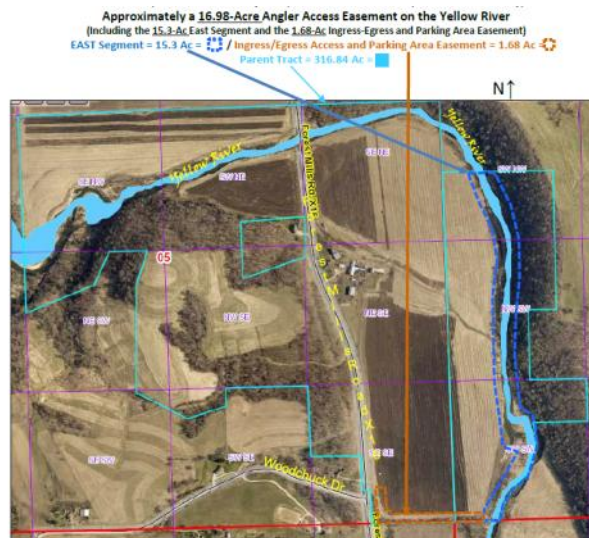
The Yellow River Public Access project is aligned with HFFA's initiative to preserve those natural resources that are essential to our enjoyment of fly fishing. In recent HFFA history, revenue from annual shows, membership dues and deer tag auction have generated surplus cash reserves available to fund HFFA initiatives. In addition, 2020 proceeds of \$31,014 from the estate of David Meyer, a longtime HFFA member, resulted in club cash balances of \$88,464 as of June 1, 2020. During the June 9, 2020 virtual board meeting, after careful and thorough discussion regarding cash reserve requirements, the board unanimously approved a commitment to fund a signature project for easement acquisition for public fishing access.

During the November 19, 2020 virtual board meeting, the board reviewed a proposal to fund an easement acquisition of property on the Yellow River just downstream of the Forest Mills Road. The Yellow River is a diverse fishery and one of the longest cold water streams in Iowa. The upper section of the Yellow River is suitable for trout habitat because of numerous springs, seeps and cold water tributaries. Public access along the Yellow River is limited. Most trout fishing in the upper Yellow River occurs from canoes or kayaks, unless anglers have land owner permission to wade fish. The proposed easement acquisition is located on the Diane Rissman property and is the second public fishing access easement on the Yellow River. The first easement was implemented on a different parcel of the Rissman farm in 2018. Yellow River trout populations had historically been managed with annual fingerling stockings of rainbow and brown trout. The last stocking of fingerling brown trout on the Yellow River occurred in 2014; the Yellow River brown trout population is now supported entirely by natural reproduction. Diane Rissman has agreed to enroll 0.69 miles of the Yellow River covering 15.3 acres of property in the Angler Access Program. This section of the stream has suitable water temperatures for trout. Multiple year classes of brown trout have been sampled within this stream section because of the self-sustaining brown trout population. This proposal also includes an additional 1.68 acres necessary to provide access and room for a parking area. The total cost of the easement acquisition is \$42,450. The board unanimously approved the motion to provide funding of \$42,450 less any funding provided by Iowa's Coldwater Conservancy, Iowa Driftless TU, Spring Creeks TU and North Bear TU. Since the November board meeting, Iowa's Coldwater Conservancy has contributed \$2,000, Iowa Driftless TU Chapter has contributed \$1,000, Spring Creeks TU Chapter has contributed \$2,000 and North Bear TU Chapter has contributed \$1,515, resulting in a net cash outlay of \$35,935 from HFFA.

The Iowa Natural Resource Commission reviewed and approved the Angler Easement request by a 64-12 vote on January 20, 2021. Plans are being made to open the new section for public fishing by the spring of 2021. Improvements to the parking area will be completed before the easement is opened to ensure safe access for anglers. The HFFA board would like to thank the other contributing organizations for their financial support. Additionally HFFA would like to thank the Iowa DNR for their assistance in locating a private property owner willing to provide an Angler Easement. Finally, the HFFA would like to thank all its members for their past financial support which made this signature project possible.

Submitted by Dave Jones, HFFA Secretary

Dave



Fishing Iowa Farm Ponds & Lake Miami

by Tony Humeston

Fishing Iowa Farm Ponds

An Iowa fly fisherman can find a fishing paradise in Iowa farm ponds. Most Iowa farms, a few years back, were stocked by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. After study and experimentation, the DNR came up with the proper mix of fish species to make good fishing ponds. Their ratio was 1,000 fingerling bluegill, 70 largemouth bass, and 100 channel cat per acre. The pond owner was cautioned not to allow any fishing for at least three years. Their plan worked like gangbusters!! Stringers of 25 six to eight-inch bluegills were common. The ponds were pressured until Rathbun and an improved Lake Miami entered into the picture. Fishermen thronged to the bigger lakes and farm pond fishing was abandoned. But the fish in these un-fished ponds continued to grow.

The way my fishing buddy Buck, and I started pond fishing for 'gills was to first purchase a county plat book of the county we wished to fish. We then drove the rock roads looking for likely ponds. The ponds we wanted had to have certain criteria. The ponds had to be close to the road with easy egress. We selected ponds with sloping banks because 'gills spawn best in shallow water that is warmed by the sun. We wanted older ponds, ones that were fringed with cattails or had dead limbs in the water. We marked those ponds and included which side of the pond the cattails and wood were. This is important knowledge because that is where the phytoplankton grow. (Phytoplankton is a vital link in the food chain.) After locating a dozen or so of these promising ponds, we call the land-owners and get permission to fish.

After the spawn is past, we plan our fishing trip. We like to get on the water several days before a cold front. We select several ponds where the soft breeze blows first over the plankton's home and then onto the pond's surface. The wind pushes the various plankton, insect eggs, larvae, and weak-swimming microbes across the water's surface and into the open mouths of blue gill. It's like giving free beer and pizza to college students.

We like to get onto the pond before sunrise and fish into the wind from the bank opposite the sunken wood and cattails. You can see the 'gills feeding—making dime-sized circles on the surface. Buck and I like to fish #8 poppers with a topping of white. The action is fast and furious. When the sun hits the water, the 'gills retreat to deeper depths. We switch to a #8 wet black gnat. The gnat is a real fish-getter for me. I think that's because fish are used to seeing black bugs falling down the water column.

We stop fishing any pond when we have thirty 'gills between us. Buck and I never keep a 'gill under seven inches. We only fish a "good" pond once a week. When the 'gills are running short in size, we quit the pond for the season. We often give the land-owner a mess of fresh fileted 'gills and always send them thank-you cards at Christmas. Buck and I always have a pond to fish.

Lake Miami

Maybe five years ago Lake Miami was "reborn." The lake was drained and the game fish transferred to the Albia City Reservoir. The lake's edges were layered with heavy rocks to deter erosion. Jetties were built onto the lake within easy casting distance of bundles of sunken cedar trees. After the lake refilled, the adult game fish from the Albia Reservoir were re-planted in Miami Lake. Two years later it was re-opened for game fishing. Right now, Lake Miami is one of the top fishing lakes in the state.

The way Buck and I like to fish Miami is in mid-spring after the bluegill spawn is over. An overcast day with a south breeze is best. The fish are already in an eating mood because of the plankton floating into their mouths. We launch our johnboat, named "Leakin' Lilly" AKA "U.S.S. Stump Jumper." We plan to fish south of the most northern jetty. There is a sunken pile of cedars about two feet below the water's surface just south of this jetty. We position our boat a moderate long cast south of the cedars.

I fish an old 5 wt. moderate action 9 ft. flyrod strung with floating line and tipped with a 7 1/2 feet leader of 4 lb. test monofilament line. My favorite fly is a slow sinking black gnat. Buck usually starts with a black popper and ends up tying on a wooly bugger.

The action is fast and furious. We don't keep a 'gill under six inches. In an hour of so we each have 20 'gills all over six inches. We release all bass and keep all channel cat. Catfish sure fry up nice and taste great.

Later in the day after the westering sun casts tree shadows on the lake's surface we try for crappies. The crappies school off the west side of the lake in deep water between the first and second cove just south of the dam. Finding the depth the crappies suspend is the difference between an empty stringer and a full one. Algae rises or descends in the water column depending upon the intensity of the light. Minnows feed upon algae. Crappies feed on minnows. The crappie follow the minnows. Fishermen with these new electronic devices or guys experimenting with different depths, and moving around a bit, shouldn't have too much difficulty finding fish.

Before we go after suspending crappies, I replace my floating line with a good quality sinking line. I realize I'm giving up some sense of feel for my lure but I gain a better sense of depth control. I fish a yellow weighted McGinty. The reason I opt for a weighted fly is because I want the fly to fall in the water column ahead of my line. That saves me a lot of tangled line. My retrieve is sort of a yo-yo action in slow motion. Buck catches as many crappies as I do and he fishes a chartreuse Clouser Minnow.

The Miami Park has full hookup for campers, year-round rentals for cabins, and playground equipment for the kids. (Telephone: 641-455-4778)

Tony

North Fork Blackfoot River, Montana

by Mike Jacobs



Deep in the Lolo National Forest back country, northeast of Missoula, Montana is one of the most beautiful trout streams I have ever fished. This stream doesn't get the press that larger streams like Rock Creek and others in Montana get. There is a reason for that. The North Fork of the Blackfoot river does not have easy access in this area. And it does not produce great catches of large Westslope Cutts and Bull trout. The trade off is that you are surrounded by beautiful mountain vistas and solitude nearly every step of the 2.5 mile hike in.

If you want to fish this special river you need to get an early start for the day. Hobnail Tom Trailhead is north of Ovando and about 52 miles east of Missoula. Strap on your hiking boots and plan on a long and dusty trail. Once you get close to the water you will still need to slide/shuffle your way 100 feet down to the river. Finally, when you reach the river you'll be greeted by swift flowing water coursing its way past huge boulders in a succession of riffles, runs and pools.

How is the water? Its the clearest water you could ever imagine in a trout river and accordingly, the fishing can be challenging. On the day we fished we caught several Westslope Cutts in the 8-12" range. We saw huge Bull Trout but they are protected and you cannot legally target them with the type of flies required to get their attention. We caught trout on assorted small dry flies like the Humpy, Elk Hair Caddis, Adams and Stimulator in sizes 16 and 18.

We fished the river in early September. The crystal clear water and brilliant blue sky required that we stealthily fish long leaders and fine tippet. There are plenty of small pine trees and willows along the river so it is best to cast upstream as you work your way along the edge. Occasional truck sized boulders combined with water too deep to wade will require you to scramble over big rocks as you fish your way up the river. The North Fork of the Blackfoot has miles of beautiful water to explore but remember that daylight arrives late on the water because of nearby mountains to the east. Likewise, evening darkness arrives early for the same reason, mountains to the west. You'll want to be on the water by around 10 in the morning and end your day fishing by 4 (September suggestions). If you go you'll want an 8 1/2 to 9 foot flyrod for a 3 - 5 weight line. A 9' 4X leader with about 18" of 5X tippet connected to your fly will get you in the game. Some suggested flies are mentioned above, plus I think a small dry/dropper rig will bring results. We hiked in to the river in our hip waders and wading shoes. If I have the opportunity to go again I would wear sturdy hiking shoes, then backpack in my waders and wading shoes. Carrying and knowing how to use bear spray is highly recommended. You will be fishing in the backyard of the great bear. Make sure to wear a long sleeve shirt, and a long brim hat with ear coverage is helpful. You should take along sunscreen, snacks and plenty of drinking water or a water filter.

If you're near Missoula fishing larger, more well known waters you'll definitely want to take a day to visit the North Fork of the Blackfoot. You will have the opportunity to step back in time and take in all of the natural beauty that has remained the same for centuries. Catching wild, Westslope Cutthroat on this wonderful journey will leave you with memories to last a lifetime.

Mike

HFFA - Birth of the Organization

by Mike Jacobs

To give our current members a better look at the history of the Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association, I have gone back through many of the old records, letters, back issues of the Flyline, and so on to compile this prospective of our club, and its evolvement through the years. I truly hope that you find the information interesting and entertaining.

The founder of HFFA, Vic Gibson, organized the first meeting of interested fly fishers sometime in 1974. This meeting was advertised in the Waterloo Courier and the Des Moines Register and drew people from many areas including Marshalltown, Vinton and Waterloo. The meeting was held at the Howard Johnsons hotel in Cedar Falls. No meeting minutes were recorded so it is unknown who all was there, but founding member Craig Ritland recalls that there were about 25 people. Several of the people in attendance that day would become HFFA founding members. Everyone in attendance was very enthusiastic about forming a club.

The first official history of the club was the recording of the minutes of the business meeting at the first annual meeting, held in 1975. I think that these minutes are of interest to everyone, and so I will quote them in their entirety, as recorded by the first club secretary, Jeanette Gibson.

Sixty-five people attended the first annual convention of the Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association, which was held Sunday March 2, 1975, at the Holiday Inn, Cedar Falls. In the morning, Dave Moeller, conservation officer for NE Iowa, whose office is in Strawberry Point, gave a talk on conservation programs for NE Iowa fisheries. Ed Powell, professor at ISU, Ames, presented a program on fly rods and their actions. After luncheon, Doug Swisher of Berkley Co., Spirit Lake, showed slides on fly fishing and no hackle flies.

The business meeting was opened by Vic Gibson, who asked if the people at the meeting would like to form a club. There was overwhelming support for the idea, and a general discussion was held as to the purposes of the new organization. Many suggestions were made, including lobbying, forming local clubs, improving streams, conservation efforts, fishing for fun, promoting fly fishing classes, and fishing trips for companionship.

The following officers were elected: President: Vic Gibson, Vice President: Ed Powell, Secretary: Jeanette Gibson, Treasurer: Tom Schmuecker, Directors: Bob O'Bryon and Burdette Hall.

It was moved and seconded that the organization be named "Iowa Fly Fishermen", and that it would be for all fly fishing. In the discussion that followed, it was asked if the organization would pertain to trout fishing only; general opinion seemed to reflect a desire to have it apply to all fly fishing. The motion was withdrawn and two possible names for the organization were voted on by a show of hands: "Iowa Fly Fishers", 14 votes, and "Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association", 22 votes. Motion was made and seconded that the name "Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association" be adopted. Motion carried.

A general discussion about dues and meeting places was held. It was moved and seconded that the organization establish charter membership dues of \$12 per year for all members taken in during the first year, and that the year run from January to January. Motion seconded and carried. It was decided that the board could decide if dues for students and/or youths would be less than adult dues. (Send your dues to Tom Schmuecker, Wapsi Fly, Independence, Iowa.)

Future meeting places were discussed. John Green offered the Waterloo IPS rooms free of charge. It was decided that the board would discuss this further, and would call another meeting if it seemed desirable, before the next annual meeting.

Jeff Green offered to help with newspaper publicity. It was suggested that Beth (KWWL, Channel 7, at noon) might help with publicity.

Vic Gibson said he would put out a bulletin, and Jeff Green said he would help. Motion was made and seconded that the group organize as a non-profit organization, the purposes of which are to promote recreation, education, and conservation. Motion carried. The Board was given the responsibility of seeing that this was done, and of obtaining an IPS number.

John Ketter had looked into the possibilities of establishing a library, but he said there would be many problems, especially with circulation. It was suggested that a good project would be to place books in public libraries.

Suggestions were made that everyone try to get new members; that the minutes of this meeting be sent out to those who attended and to other interested persons; and that the names and addresses of all charter members be put in the bulletin. Meeting was adjourned and was followed by an informal meeting of the board members.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanette Gibson, Sec.

In the early 1970's Jim Maxted, Bud Chandler, Bob O'Bryon, and Dean Elder (all from Marshalltown) were invited to get together with fly fishers at the Cedar Falls Howard Johnson hotel. This get together was organized by Vic Gibson and Ed Powell. This group along with Craig Ritland, Ed Gibson, Mac McCann, Johnny Green, Bob Buckmaster, Judge Damsgaard, Si Saito, Red Hovden, and Tom Schmuecker (owner of Wapsi Fly Company), plus several others would meet regularly several times over the next couple of years. These early informal meetings led up to the first annual meeting held on March 2, 1975. (Editor: this paragraph added by Dean Elder and Mike Jacobs in 2021 to better document the history of the club)

On May 21, 1975, the first issue of the "Hawkeye Flyline" was mailed to members and prospective members. It was of booklet type format, overall size being 6 1/2 x 8 1/2. Mailing the newsletter cost 10 cents. Craig Ritland drew a cartoon that was included in each issue of the Flyline for several years. Contained in the issue were the minutes of the April 9, 1975 board meeting which was held in Grundy Center. Discussion in this meeting was about a broad range of club topics. As a fledgling organization, board members felt that something should be done to stimulate interest in the club and to increase overall membership. Some board members felt that the dues were too high (\$12 per year charter membership and anyone else would pay \$1 per month.) It was moved and passed that anyone who wants to be a charter member will pay \$12 the first year. The amount of dues for subsequent years will be set at the next annual meeting.

It was pointed out at this meeting that a non-profit status could not be obtained from the IRS until a constitution was adopted. Discussion of a constitution followed, and it was decided that the discussion should be continued at the June 1 board meeting. Also in this issue of Hawkeye Flyline, the first mention was made of club interest in stream improvement projects. Member Craig Ritland was in charge of this.

At this point in time, twenty-eight charter members made up the official membership roster of HFFA. The board members and Directors of HFFA were: president: Vic Gibson, Vice-President: Ed Powell, Treasurer: Tom Schmuecker, Secretary: Jeanette Gibson, Directors: Bob O'Bryon and Burdette Hall. Hawkeye Flyline Editor was Vic Gibson.

The first ever Crappie outing was planned by Vic Gibson for June 1. Turnout for this event was rather small with many people having prior commitments. A total of about 15 people attended the outing, and Tom Schmuecker landed the largest fish, a 6-7/8" bluegill which the club was to have mounted for him.

The original design of the club patch and charter member certificate was designed by Vic Gibson, with Craig Ritland doing the artwork. This design was shown on the cover of the August 1975 Flyline, was modified in early 1976, and remained on club letter-head and patches for over 30 years.

Plans for Annual Meeting #2 were now being made, and HFFA ended 1975 with 31 paid up charter members.

The second annual meeting of the HFFA was held on Sunday, February 8, 1976 at the Howard Johnson Motel in Waterloo, Iowa. Again, the annual meeting was a one-day event, and Doug Swisher was the featured speaker. The slate of officers for 1976 remained the same as in 1975, but the new board members were Craig Ritland and Gary Whiteaker. At the business meeting a general discussion was held regarding setting up a constitution which would establish rules and regulations for the club. Ed Powell and Tom Schmuecker volunteered to take charge of this project.

Also, at this meeting, a general discussion centered around HFFA affiliating with either the Federation of Fly Fishermen or Trout Unlimited. It was proposed by William Galbraith and seconded by Gary Whiteaker, and agreed by unanimous vote of the members that we affiliate with the Federation of Fly Fishermen.

The club had a total of \$674.58 in its' treasury prior to the annual meeting of 1976.

Sometime in May of 1976 saw the first stream improvement project which was undertaken by members of the HFFA, in conjunction with the ICC. Club members installed a wooden deflector and a rock deflector on the Maquoketa River.

The development of a club patch was discussed at the May 21 board meeting and Ritland and Gibson will undertake the project of having the patch made. The weekend of Sept. 18 and 19 was planned for the first trout outing. Stream improvement projects were planned for several streams, including North Cedar Creek which was to be made into a catch and release Brook Trout stream.

The third annual meeting of the HFFA was planned for the weekend of February 19 and 20, 1977, at the Ramada Inn Hotel, Waterloo. This would be the first ever two-day annual meeting. Featured speaker for this meeting was Tom Nixon, author of "Fly Tying and Fly Fishing for Bass and Panfish".

The proposed constitution for the HFFA was sent to each member for their review as part of the Flyline, Issue #2, 1977. This was sent out prior to the annual meeting. At the annual meeting, the Constitution was amended slightly, and then was adopted by vote of the membership.

Officers and board member elected for 1977 were as follows. President: Ed Powell, Vice President: Tom Schmuecker, Treasurer: Gordon Harrington, Secretary: Dean Elder, Jr. Board members elected were Mac McCann, Don Davis, Judith Harrington, and Craig Ritland.

In 1976-1977 there was a push by HFFA members for catch and release fisheries. In April, 1977, Craig Ritland, Gordon Harrington and others were in the planning stages of putting together a multimedia photographic slide show on the aquatic natural resources of NE Iowa. After the program was developed, it was hoped that the club would show support for the conservation of these streams. Mac McCann and Craig Ritland gave multi media presentations around all of NE Iowa to Izaak Walton clubs and any other interested groups. They also did the program for the Iowa Conservation Commission (now IDNR). This program highlighted the potential for conservation in Iowa trout streams using Wisconsin streams, stream restoration and improvements as a model. This program was very well received by the ICC. Around this time Vaughn Paragamian was hired by the ICC to head up stream restoration. He came to Iowa from Wisconsin.

After seeing Mac and Craig's presentation, Bob Buckmaster (owner of KWWL TV in Waterloo) indicated the program was good but could be better. Pilot David Sparks flew Mac, Craig and Ron Steele to far NE Iowa to do filming for the program at Waterloo Creek. With Mac and Craig's assistance KWWL made a professional production 1/2 hour long that aired on KWWL. Ron Steele was the narrator of the program

As of May 1977, the HFFA had 44 members and \$254.71 in the club treasury.

During 1977, the HFFA had achieved a great level of cooperation with the ICC for stream improvement projects. Mac McCann and Craig Ritland deserve a great deal of credit for the work they had put into ensuring a permanent and cooperative program with the ICC, which has lasted to the present time and is still very strong. Much of the early work that was done was fencing of the streams to protect them from overgrazing by cattle, and during the summer of 1977, club members had their first experience at building bank hides. The rallying cry for dedicated HFFA members in the early years of stream improvement was "Think Fence!"

On August 10, 1977, the ICC announced that stocking had been permanently discontinued on Kleinlein Creek due to habitat degradation. Fortunately, the technology for preventing this disease is one that we have known for years. Fencing!

Mac McCann was a long time fly fisher and one of the many club advocates for stream improvements and restoration. Mac was a charmer and could talk to anyone. He had seen the condition of Springbranch creek above Baileys Ford and was appalled (the Lawrence Schaffer property in particular). Mac talked to Lawrence and convinced him to fence cattle away from the stream, leaving small accesses for the cattle to get water. The HFFA did all of the fencing and put in several bank hides on the Schaffer property. An Eagle Scout project by Mike Wilson from Waterloo was to put in one bank hide. The HFFA provided materials and labor because public money could not be spent on private property.

At a board meeting on October 5, 1977, the first discussions were held relative to the incorporation of HFFA to establish that the club is a non-profit organization and should have a tax-free status with the IRS. Mac McCann moved, "that the President be authorized to take steps to cause a Corporation to be formed which would be eligible to apply for tax exempt status and to which all the assets of this Association will be transferred, subject to the approval of three-fourths (3/4) of the membership, as of this date. And that

the Articles of Incorporation shall provide that in the event of dissolution, the entire assets of the Corporation be distributed to Federation of Fly Fishermen, and if they fail to qualify, then to the Iowa Conservation Commission, and that said Articles may be filed by the Association President." This motion carried unanimously.

February 18 and 19, 1978 were the dates for the 4th annual meeting which was held at the Ramada Inn, Marshalltown, Ia. Bob Jacklin was the featured speaker and conclave chairman Dean Elder, Jr. had a great meeting planned. The 1978 meeting was the first in which the club

had an auction to raise funds. At the business meeting, the slate of officers elected was President: Ed Powell, Vice President: Craig Ritland, Treasurer: Gordon Harrington, Secretary: Dean Elder Jr., and Board Members Don Davis, Johnny Green, Lane Reeves, Craig Ritland. For the first time, HFFA patches were available to club members at the 1978 annual meeting.

March 16, 1978, the HFFA awards the first ever Coldwater Conservancy award to Lawrence Shaffer of Manchester. Lawrence had allowed the HFFA and ICC to do substantial stream improvements on his property which is a short distance above Bailey's Ford on Springbranch Creek.

Sometime early in 1978, quality fishing areas are established on 3 NE Iowa streams. These included "no kill" on Brook trout in the South Fork of Big Mill Creek (Jackson County) and on North Cedar Creek in Clayton County. Brown trout over 14" were also protected on Bloody Run creek in Clayton county. These regulations were due in part to the efforts by members of HFFA.

Total club membership as of July, 1978 was at 92 members. Club had cash on hand of \$1302.76.

At a board meeting on May 16, 1978, some discussion took place concerning the HFFA By-laws which needed re-working in order to bring them into an appropriate state for the IRS. Mac McCann explained the proposed By-laws with an explanation of the need for them. The proposed By-laws were drafted from the Association's Constitution with necessary modifications. McCann moved adoption of the proposed By-laws to be effective as of February 19, 1978. It was seconded. Discussion brought out the fact that these new By-laws will assist in the Associations' application to the IRS for tax-exempt status. Motion passed.

On August 30, 1978, Tom Langlas of Cedar Falls took over as Flyline Editor. Beginning with the January/February issue, the Flyline is printed in booklet format, 6 1/2 X 8 1/2 with glossy paper on the front and back covers. The Flyline remained in this type of format and paper, etc for nearly two years. During that entire period there was always discussion as to whether the club was spending way too much money on printing the Flyline.

Preparations were being made during much of the latter part of 1978 for the upcoming annual meeting, which would be held for the first time ever in Cedar Rapids. Featured guests for this inaugural meeting in CR were Dave and Joan Whitlock, and the meeting was to be held at the Sheraton Inn on February 10-11. Conclave chairman Don Davis put together quite a full agenda of programs.

The fifth Annual Meeting of the HFFA, held in Cedar Rapids, went off without a hitch "and by all accounts it was the most interesting, productive and well attended meeting since the Association was organized in 1975." The new slate of officers elected to serve in 1979 was President: Dean Elder, Jr. Vice President: Craig Ritland, Treasurer: Jim Maxted, Secretary: Dan Cahill, and Directors: Keith Sutherland and Lane Reeves, 1 year and Johnny Green and Don Davis for 2 years.

On August 10, 1979, it was announced in the Flyline that the 1980 annual meeting would be held in Des Moines, with Lee and Joan Wulff as the guest speakers.

During much of the latter half of 1979, club member Don Davis was in the hospital fighting a battle with cancer. Several club members got together and presented Don with a new rod and reel outfit to try and help lift his spirits. Don responded very well to the surgery and subsequent chemotherapy and has since fully recovered.

In November of 1979, the club receives the preliminary ruling from the IRS, that HFFA will be considered a tax exempt organization.

Late in 1979 it was discovered that there were problems with planning for the upcoming annual meeting. The problem being that nothing had actually been done in terms of lining up Lee and Joan Wulff as the guest speakers and a site for the annual meeting had not been secured. Dave Halblom stepped in and took charge of the situation, with a great deal of help from Jeff Green. On short notice they were able to line up Lefty Kreh as the featured speaker, and contracted with the Rolling Prairie Inn in Des Moines to be the site of the conclave.

February 16-17, 1980 were the dates of the 6th Annual meeting of the HFFA. The turnout for the meeting was poor, due in part to bad weather and not enough advance publicity. The people that did attend were treated to a great weekend of programs by Lefty Kreh and also a bunch of great jokes he related to us. Those who did attend had a super weekend with one of fly fishings most enjoyable people. During the annual business meeting the first Stream Acquisition Committee was formed, Chairman Steve Pottratz. Officers and Directors elected at the meeting were President: Don Davis, Vice President: Steve Pottratz, Treasurer: Jim Maxted, Secretary: Dan Cahill, Directors: Johnny Green, Dave Halblom, ED Murph and Jim Christiansen.

Shortly after the annual meeting, Jim Maxted resigned as treasurer due to the fact he was too busy with his business. Jim Risk stepped in and took over. Also, about the same time, Dan Cahill resigned as secretary for personal reasons and Mike Jacobs took over.

During a Board meeting on March 18, 1980 there was discussion concerning a permanent mailing address for the HFFA. Instead of using a Post office Box number, Mike Jacobs offered to let HFFA use his home address as the permanent mailing address. This would be more beneficial to HFFA because there would be no cost involved, and club mail could be forwarded to the proper people much more quickly and efficiently. It was decided by board members present that this would be done, and so the club had a permanent mailing address from that point up until August 1989.

On July 1, 1980 it was announced that Ernie Schwiebert would be our guest speaker for the 1981 annual meeting in Waterloo.

The First Annual summer Meeting was held on the weekend of July 19-20, 1980. It was held at Central park in Jones county, about 2 miles west of Center Junction. It was a great weekend of camping, fishing, fly tying, storytelling, and truth stretching.

As of August 1, 1980 HFFA, membership had dropped to 68 total members.

On October 28, 1980, charter member Si Saito passes away, leaving many longtime friends in the HFFA.

The 7th Annual meeting of the HFFA was held on Feb. 14-15, 1981, at the Howard Johnson's in Cedar Falls, Iowa. Ernie Schwiebert was our guest speaker, and a special thank you was given to Bob Buckmaster of Waterloo, for arranging Ernie to be our speaker. Officers and directors elected at the meeting were President: Ed Murph, Vice President: Dave Halblom, Treasurer: Mike Jacobs, Secretary: Jack Rigler, Directors: Ed Powell, Mac McCann, Jeff Green, Ken Arp. During the annual business meeting, a question arose about the HFFA constitution. HFFA legal counsel, Mac McCann then explained to everyone that since 1978, the HFFA has had no constitution, but is instead governed by the By-laws of the articles of incorporation of our club.

Prior to the 1981 annual meeting, club treasurer Jim Risk reported a bank balance of \$928.46. Bank Balance as of March 1, 1981 as reported by new club treasurer Mike Jacobs, stood at \$3,401.24, making the 1981 annual meeting the largest financial success for HFFA to date.

At the March 15, 1981 board meeting, there was a great deal of discussion concerning the newsletter. Everyone agreed that the format of the Flyline was excellent, but that the cost of approximately \$137.00 per issue was expensive. After much discussion, it was moved by Johnny Green that the Fly line be still published 6 times per year, with the January and June issues being in the present form {glossy cover, pictures, etc.}, while the remaining issues will be in newsletter format at a much lower cost. The motion was seconded by Don Davis and then passed. Dave Halblom was introduced as the new Flyline Editor, taking over as of the March/April 1981 issue. Membership as of March 15, 1981 stood at 81 members.

A board meeting took place on April 26, 1981. At the meeting, President Ed Murph read a letter from Mac McCann who was resigning from the board because of pressing business. In the letter, Mac recommended that Russ Hulsing serve in his place. This recommendation was placed in the form of a motion, seconded and passed. Ed Murph reported on the availability of the Holiday Inn at Little Amana (along I80), for the 1982 annual meeting. The board decided to proceed with plans for the meeting at the Holiday Inn, on the weekend of February 20-21,

A theme of "Midwest Fly Fishing" was adopted for the meeting, and Gary Borger had been invited to be our guest speaker.

On November 22, 1981, several members of the HFFA and ICC participated in the first ever Whitlock-Vibert box project in Iowa. Workers placed Vibert boxes in 11 separate redd sites on Ram Hollow creek, a tributary of Little Turkey creek. The eggs were to hatch during the first week of December, as they were approximately 30 days along when they were planted. Project chairman Don Davis and John Richmond from the Manchester Hatchery revisited the Vibert box site in early December, and reported a good overall hatch rate of the eggs. Our first Whitlock-Vibert box planting was considered a great success.

On December 4, 1981, Dave Halblom announced via the Flyline that he would have to resign as Editor of the Flyline due to relocation of his job to Rockford, Ill. Ed Powell will take over as Editor of the newsletter on January 1, 1982.

As the year ended for 1981, the club consisted of 95 members.

The 8th Annual meeting of the Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association was held on the weekend of February 20-21 1982, at the Little Amana Holiday Inn. Gary Borger of Wausau, Wisconsin was the featured speaker for the meeting. Officers and Directors elected at the meeting were, President: Ken Arp, Vice President: Don Davis, Treasurer: Mike Jacobs, Secretary: Jack Rigler, and Directors Mike Lewellen, Jeff Green, Steve Pottratz, and Ed Powell. The 1982 meeting produced a net gain for the club of \$595.72.

During a board meeting on March 7, 1982, club member Mike Lewellen was authorized by the board to make and install two signs on Springbranch creek which would read "Stream Improvements by the Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association and the Iowa Conservation Commission". These signs were installed and held up for many years on Springbranch. Only floods of about 3 years ago and the toll taken by nature itself have managed to remove the signs from the stream.

Club membership as of March 26, 1982 stood at 65 members (several renewals had not been received yet).

Reporting at the board meeting of April 25, 1982, Flyline Editor Ed Powell noted that the Flyline is now costing \$130.00 per issue. He will strive to find different ways of putting it out on a cheaper basis while still giving members excellent copy.

In early August, 1982 the HFFA was informed by the Conservation Commission that they planned to remove the restriction on harvesting Brook trout on Springbranch. These restrictions had been in place since early in 1980 when the ICC stocked the upper end of the creek with Brookies in an attempt to establish a naturally reproducing population.

November 1982. Mike Jacobs arranged for Jay and Kathy Buchner of High-Country Flies, Jackson, Wyoming, to do a one-day program for us. Jay, who originally hails from Maquoketa, Iowa was back in this area for Thanksgiving, so the arrangement worked out well for the club and also the Buchners. This was a full day of slide programs, fly tying, and knowledge sharing by the Buchners. Anyone who was there (and there were many of us) will never forget what talented flytyers they both are, and how friendly they were.

To be continued in the next Flyline Issue.

Mike

Editor's Note: The reprinting of this monumental effort by Mike is a story in itself. Mike contacted me to say that he had the history of the HFFA on a 3.5 inch floppy disk. I had just sent a 3.5 disk reader to North Liberty, so I retrieved it. On the disk I found the third installment of this history. I asked Mike where the other two were and he said he had sent them to Larry Young for printing in the Flyline but was not sure if they ever were. I contacted Dale Sanders former editor that knows Larry better than I to contact him. Larry did not have them but provided us with a clue. The first installment that you see above was printed in the Jan/Feb Flyline in 1991. I found the pdf of that issue but I do not have a full Adobe to convert. Back to Dale. Of course Dale had a full Adobe. A first try at covering resulted in something that looked like a strange language. Never fear. Dale worked his magic and I have a word document. This first installment were further edited by Mike with help from Dean Elder and Craig Ritland. Thus four editors of the Flyline; Mike, Larry, Dale and myself worked together to present this to you. Don

HFFA DVD Library

1. Best, AK - Blue Wing Olives
2. Best, AK - Caddis & Midges
3. Best, AK - Callibaetis & Green Drakes
4. Best, AK - Nymphs
5. Best, AK - Freshwater Streamers
6. Best, AK - Terrestrials
7. Big Horn River Trout - Fly fishing Video Magazine Vol 26
8. Borger, G - Designing Flies with Hair Hackles
9. Borger, G - Designing Flies with Stiff Hackles
10. Borger, G - Designing flies with Soft Hackles
11. Borger, G - Designing flies with Feather Dubbing
12. Borger, G - Big Horn
13. Borger, G - FF Trout
14. Borger, G - Dry Fly Trout
15. Borger, G - Nymphing
16. Borger, G - Tying Trout Flies
17. Borger, G - Trout in Stillwater
18. Borger, G - The Midge
19. Borger, G - Crustaceans & Snails
20. Borger, G - Damsels & Dragons
21. Borger, G - Skills of Fly Fishing
22. Borger, G - Where The Trout Are
23. Carp On The Flats - Fly Fishing Video Mag Vol 57
24. Clemens, D - Building Your Own Rod
25. Dahlberg, L - Fly Fishing for Pike
26. Dahlberg, L - Panfish & Bass
27. Dennis, J - Fly Tying Basics
28. Dennis, J - Learning to Fly Fish
29. Dennis, J - Western Trout flies
30. Ellis, J - Trout Tactics for Panfish
31. 3M - fly Fishing Made Easy - Featuring Bass, Panfish & Trout
32. 3M - Fly Fishing for Pike
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