





The Flyline

The Newsletter of the Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association

December, 2019




The Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association
With assistance from the
Dubuque Fly Fishers
Presents



Exploring the Driftless

March 6,7,8, 2020



Friday:
5:30 PM til 9:00 PM
(hospitality room 9 til 11)

Saturday:
8:30 AM til 3:30 PM
Banquet
6:00 PM til 9:00 PM

Sunday:
8:30 AM til Noon
*(small entrance
fee required)*

Best Western Plus
3100 Dodge
Street
Dubuque, Iowa

Room Specials if
reserved by February
1, 2020

(563)-557-8000

Presentations by:

<p>Mat Wagner: Viroqua, WI; Driftless Angler owner/guide</p> <p>Geri Meyer: Viroqua, WI; Athena & Artemis Women's Fly Shop owner/guide</p> <p>Hunter Dorn: Eau Claire, WI; Smallmouth guide</p> <p>Kyle Zempel: Black Earth, WI; Smallmouth guide</p> <p>Kevin Seacock: WI; Author, world traveling fly fisher</p> <p>Iowa DNR: Information on Iowa streams</p>	<p>Scott Nordby: MN; Elite Fly Tyer and innovator</p> <p>The Iowa Hygenics Lab: Michael Birmingham; Monitoring the condition of Iowa's Waters</p> <p>Mel Hayner: Preston, MN; Orvis shop owner and Trout guide to the Driftless of MN</p> <p>Liz Siepker: Decorah, IA; Guide and certified casting instructor</p> <p>Jim Romberg: Fennimore, WI; Trout guide on SW Wisconsin streams</p>
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*All you ever wanted to know about fishing the Driftless Area
Vendors---Fly tying Presentations and Demonstrations---Guides
Live Auction---Silent Auction---Raffles
Saturday Evening Banquet*

Proceeds Support Iowa Stream Conservation Work
More Information: <http://WWWhawkeyeflyfishing.com>



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The President's Hatch

I've been "busier than a one-armed paper hanger" here in Dubuque. I've been getting ready for the HFFA board meeting that was held on Saturday, November 16, 2019 as well as the HFFA show coming in March of 2020. Also, working with the ICC (Iowa's Coldwater Conservancy) projects committee. The good news is that all of the time and effort has been very rewarding. All three of these activities are doing very well.

The board has had some discussions about the future of HFFA and its shows. Although there are some tough problems to solve, such as how to recruit younger members, the discussions have come up with some potential solutions and a committee that will look deeper into the matter. The board has been able to work with INHF and the DNR on the acquisition of several properties that offer more miles of streams for fishing. In my almost 50 years of working with environmental issues, this is the first time that I have felt like I was part of a success story.

None of this success would be possible without the support of the HFFA members. Our members have been supporting stream work and stream acquisitions from the very start. Some members contribute their time by being members of the board, show committees, and local clubs. Others contribute their time at work days and public events. Still others contribute monetarily to the effort to improve



I am always looking for material to place in the Flyline. I encourage folks to submit essays and photos. I do not have a length limit but, I would ask that you be concise. If you are a member, that has a skill such as rod building, photography, fly tying, drone scouting etc, write up a short how to do it and send it to me. I am serious when I say that I am still looking for that first carp story.

If you decide to send me something, do it in text such as MS Word. If you have photos send them separate as jpegs in their original form. Do not place the photos within a word document. Just give me a note as to where you think it needs to go. I reformat everything into one of two fonts. (This effectively removes any careful formatting you spent hours on) I try to remove all italics. I do not have the ability to do much with pdf's, as I do not have a full adobe license and I can not make any changes.

The Flyline is yours, please try to help make it as good as can be. Thanks to all that have contributed in the past.

Waiting for a tug,

Don

hawkeyeflyfisher@gmail.com



John Carl Miller

Iowa's environment. Many contribute in all of these ways and more. I would like to thank all of the members for their support in making the HFFA a strong and successful club.

Of course, our traditional money-maker is the HFFA show. The main reasons to have the show are for outreach and education of the public, and as a gathering of like-minded fishers. There are many people that I consider friends who I only see once a year at the annual HFFA show. I value these friendships as much as any that I see weekly.

The HFFA show will be in Dubuque on March 6, 7, & 8th of 2020.

We will have presentations on Smallmouth Bass, Trout, and Tiger Trout, something for everyone. **"All you ever wanted to know about fishing the Driftless Area"**.

Presenters: Mat Wagner, Geri Meyer, Hunter Dorn, Kyle Zempel, Kevin Searock, Iowa DNR, Scott Nordby, The Iowa Hygenics Lab, Mel Hayner, Liz Siepker, and Jim Romberg.

See you at the show.

John

Donations for HFFA Show

Gary Woerdehoff
2945 Brueck Rd
Dubuque, IA 563-556-4369
garyruthw15@gmail.com



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

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

Contacts & Meetings

2019 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

Hank Moeller, Work Day Contact

hankjmoe@gmail.com
319-389-1334

HFFA Webpage

<http://www.hawkeyeflyfishing.com>

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

<p><u>December 2019</u></p> <p><u>January 2020</u></p> <p>January 7 Mike Jacobs Fly Tying Classes Every Tuesday Evening in Jan & Feb Cedar Rapids, Iowa Mike Jacobs hawkeyeflytyer@yahoo.com</p> <p>January 18 Fox Valley TU Cabin Fever Expo 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Grand Meridian, Appleton, WI</p> <p>January 25 Southern Wisconsin TU Icebreaker American Family Insurance Madison, WI www.swtu.org</p> <p><u>February 2020</u></p> <p>February 8 Badger Fly Fishers Fly Fishing Spring Opener 8:00 am to 5:00 pm American Family Insurance Madison, WI www.badgerflyfishers.com</p> <p>February 22 & 23 Mid-Iowa Bass Masters Swap Meet & Boat Show Varied Industries Bldg State Fair Grounds Des Moines, IA www.midiowabassmasters.com</p>	<p><u>March 2020</u></p> <p>March 6-8 HFFA Annual Fly Fishing Show Best Western Plus 3100 Dodge St. Dubuque, Iowa 52003 John Carl Miller dbqflyfisher@mchsi.com</p> <p>March 14 & 15 Midwest Fly Fishing Expo Warren, MI http://midwestflyfishingexpo.com</p> <p>March 20 - 22 Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo Hamline University St. Paul, MN info@greatwatersflyexpo.com</p> <p>March ? Driftless TU Spring Cleanup Day Exact Date Later Steve Perry 641-583-1604</p> <p>March 28 Fly Tyer Rendezvous Spring Creeks TU Eagles Club, Monticello, IA www.tu-iaspringcreeks.org</p> <p>March 26 - 28 Sowbug Roundup North Arkansas Flyf Fishers Mountain Home, AR www.sowbugroundup.org</p> <p><u>April 2020</u></p> <p>April ? HFFA - Iowa DNR Work Day 9:00 am - noon Manchester Trout Hatchery 22693 205th Ave., Manchester, IA Hank Moeller hankjmoe@gmail.com</p>	<p>April ?</p> <p>Driftless TU Annual Fundraiser Details at Later Date iadrifttufr@gmail.com</p> <p><u>May 2020</u></p> <p>May 15 - 17 ?? HFFA Bluegill Outing Lake Wapello, Drakesville, IA Dan Peterson 319-931-2630</p> <p><u>June 2020</u></p> <p>Wisconsin Women's Fly Fishing Clinics</p> <p>June 17 - 19 On The Water Skills Clinic 2020 West Fork Sportsman's Club Avalanche, WI wisconsinwomenflyfishing@gmail.com</p> <p>June 19 - 21 Women's Fly Fishing Clinic Basics West Fork Sportsman's Club Avalanche, WI wisconsinwomenflyfishing@gmail.com</p> <p><u>July 2020</u></p> <p>July 20 - 25 FFI Fly Fishing Fair Montana State University Bozeman, MT www.flyfishersinternational.org</p> <p><u>August 2020</u></p>
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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: Conservation Contribution:

\$25 Member \$10 (Glass)

\$10 Youth Member (18 and under) \$20 (Graphite)

\$15 Senior Member (65 or older) \$30 (Boron)

\$45 Family Membership \$..... (Cane, over \$50)

\$300 Life Member

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 Board of Directors Meeting November 16, 2019 Franklin Hotel, Strawberry Point, Iowa

Meeting called to order by President John Miller at 9:00 AM

Attendees: John Miller, Ron Stahlberg, Kate Lodge, John Channon, Cheryl Channon, Willa Campbell, Dave Oliver, Hank Moeller, Dave Jones, Mike Steuck, Mike Siepker and Liz Siepker

1. Welcome from John Miller
2. Minutes from August meeting accepted: Motion made, seconded and approved unanimously.
3. Financial reports for 12 month period ending September 30, 2019 were reviewed and discussed.
4. Iowa's Coldwater Conservancy Funding: Dave Jones reported on year-to-date fundraising efforts. Tom Murray reported on project committee efforts to identify and a score potential projects for funding for increased stream access, habitat improvement, research, education and outreach.
5. 2020 Annual Meeting: John Miller reported that the 2020 annual meeting will be held March 6, 7 & 8, at the Best Western Plus in Dubuque. John informed the board about show planning progress.
6. Brief discussions were held regarding 2021 show in Des Moines and 2022 show in Iowa City.
7. Club membership: Ron Stahlberg led a discussion regarding potential outreach ideas to attract younger members.
8. John Miller reviewed a request to fund the Cerulean Warbler Project on North Bear Creek. Motion made, seconded and approved unanimously to contribute \$500.
9. Elections for 2020 year: John Miller led a discussion regarding those board positions that will expire and need to stand for election during the annual Meeting.
10. Awards: John Miller led a discussion regarding potential recipients for the following awards; President's, Conservation, Outstanding Member, and Landowner.
11. INHF funding request: Discussed a 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. Motion made, seconded and approved unanimously to contribute \$750.
12. INHF funding request: Discussed a 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. Motion made, seconded and approved unanimously to contribute \$5,000.
13. Next board meeting to be held March 7, 2020, after the Annual Business Meeting in Dubuque, Iowa.
14. Meeting adjourned

Submitted by Dave Jones, November 16, 2019

Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association

46th Annual Show

March 6, 7, and 8th

Best Western Plus, Dubuque, Iowa

Name (Please Print): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____ Occupation: _____

Email: _____

Names of Family Member(s) Attending the Show: _____

_____ I am a new member for 2020. A new member may waive the registration fee for one of the days.

Preregistration for Friday, March 6: \$10 \$ _____

Preregistration for Saturday, March 7: \$15 \$ _____

Preregistration for Sunday, March 8: \$10 \$ _____

Special Preregistration for the whole show Fri, Sat & Sun: (Before Feb 1, 2020) \$30 \$ _____

Your paid registration entitles you, your spouse, and your children age 18 and under to attend the show, but a banquet ticket is required for each member of your family attending the banquet.

HFFA Business Meeting Boxed Lunch Tickets: # _____ @ \$15 per ticket \$ _____

Banquet Tickets: # _____ tickets @ \$30 per ticket \$ _____

Chicken Cordon Bleu # _____

Rosemary Seasoned Pork Loin # _____

Vegetarian Stir Fry # _____

All meals with Desert

To be sure of receiving a banquet ticket, your registration must be received by **February 1, 2020**

Preregistration Special: 1 Banquet Ticket + 125 bucket raffle tickets* for \$100: # _____ @ \$100 \$ _____

Bucket raffle tickets will be available for purchase at the show; \$20 for 25 tickets or \$1 a piece.

Completed Sage Rod Raffle Tickets (\$2 each or 12 for \$20) \$ _____

TOTAL FOR THE MEETING **TOTAL** \$ _____

There are no refunds for any reason, except a refund of the total will occur in the event of the show cancellation.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL (one year)

_____ New Member

_____ Please Update My Information

Member \$25 \$ _____

Youth Member (18 and Under) \$10 \$ _____

Senior Member (65 or Older) \$15 \$ _____

Family \$45 \$ _____

Life \$300 \$ _____

Meeting, Dues, and Raffle Tickets **GRAND TOTAL** \$ _____

Please make payments to: Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association
P.O. BOX 8145
Cedar Rapids, IA 52408

Auction # _____

NOTE: Motel reservations must be made by February 1, 2020 to the Best Western Plus 563-557-8000 or 877-336-4392.
Request Hawkeye Fly Fishing Group for rooms: 2 nights=\$108.90 per night; single night=\$117.90

2020 HFFA Show Photo & Essay Rules

Photo Contest Rules

1. All entries must be 8 x 10 prints.
2. Subject matter must clearly relate to some aspect of fly fishing and its environs. Only HFFA members may enter the contest.
3. All submissions become the property of the HFFA, and may be used for any purpose deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors.
4. Judging will be by popular vote of the membership in attendance on Saturday of the Annual Meeting. Each member will receive one ballot to vote for his or her favorite photo. The photo with the most ballots wins. Second and third place prizes will also be awarded. Prizes will be gift certificates: \$100 for first, \$75 for second and \$50 for third.
5. In the event of a tie, the winner will be drawn at random from the entries that were tied (e.g., if entry #1 and entry #2 tied for 2nd place, a drawing is held and the entry that is drawn gets 2nd place and the other would get 3rd place).
6. Winners will be announced during the Annual Meeting Banquet.
7. There is no limit to the number of entries, but each person may only win once (e.g., if Jane Roe submits 2 photos and each would have won a prize, the higher prize will be awarded to Jane and the lower prize will go to the photo that had the next highest number of votes).
8. Photos must be received before **February 1, 2020**.
9. **If the source of the photo is digital, including a CD or email with the source file is preferred & greatly appreciated.**
10. Send photos to the address listed below.

Essay Contest Rules

1. Entries must not exceed 2,000 words in length. Shorter essays are welcomed.
2. Subject matter must clearly relate to some aspect of fly fishing and its environs. Only HFFA members may enter the contest.
3. All submissions become the property of the HFFA and may be used for any purpose deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors.
4. Judging will be by popular vote of the membership in attendance Saturday at the Annual Meeting. Each member will receive one ballot to vote for his or her favorite essay. The essay with the most ballots wins. Second and third place prizes will also be awarded. Prizes will be gift certificates: \$100 for first, \$75 for second and \$50 for third.
5. In the event of a tie, the winner will be drawn at random from the entries that were tied (e.g., if entry #1 and entry #2 tied for 2nd place, a drawing is held and the entry that is drawn gets 2nd place and the other would get 3rd place).
6. Winners will be announced at the Annual Meeting Banquet.
7. There is no limit to the number of entries, but each person may only win once (e.g., if John Brown submits 2 essays and each would have won a prize, the higher prize will be awarded to John and the lower prize will go to the essay that had the next highest number of votes)
8. **If the essay is available as a digital text document, a CD or email with the source file is greatly appreciated.**
9. Essay submissions must be sent by email or US Mail no later than **February 1, 2020**.

Lou Meier
2456 Briarwood Dr.
Asbury, IA 52002
lmeierstudio@gmail.com

2020 HFFA Show Speakers

Mat Wagner

Driftless Angler

GUIDE, CO-OWNER OF THE DRIFTLESS ANGLER

Most days will find Mat at The Driftless Angler, a full service fly shop located on the historic main street in Viroqua Wisconsin. A short drive from anywhere in the upper Midwest, they are centrally located within the Driftless Area's thousands of miles of spring creek trout streams.

When Mat isn't in the shop, you will find him on one of Wisconsin's finest trout streams such as the local streams like the West Fork of the Kickapoo or Timber Coulee. Their professional guide service will help you improve your skills and unlock the secrets of some lesser known creeks. Anglers of all skill levels will find the abundant trout and stunning scenery of Southwest Wisconsin an experience to remember

Geri Meyer

Athena and Artemis

GUIDE, WOMEN'S FLY FISHING SHOP OWNER

CO-OWNER OF THE DRIFTLESS ANGLER

Geri is a guide and owner of both the Driftless Angler in Viroqua, WI and Athena and Artemis, a by-women-for-women fly shop. Though born and raised in the Pacific Northwest, she has been calling the Driftless area of Wisconsin home for over ten years. She works tirelessly to involve and engage women in the sport of fly fishing.

Why Athena and Artemis?

After many years in the industry, I've finally realized that female fly anglers need a dedicated place for gear and clothing... we need our own fly shop.

Throughout the 10+ years of co-owning my own fly shop, I kept hearing that women were tired of wearing waders that don't fit, and that they were tired of searching for gear and clothing, but finding very little, if any, in one place.

After years of frustration it occurred to me, why not open a shop that any woman, anywhere, could access with no pressure to do or say anything, no tests, no questions, just great quality stuff for women anglers ALL IN ONE PLACE?

My very best to you goddesses of the fly! Now get fishing!

* Athena: Goddess of wisdom and strategy. ~~

Artemis...Goddess of the hunt. ~~~~~

Mel Hayner

Driftless Fly Fishing Company

ORVIS FLY SHOP OWNER AND GUIDE

Mel is the owner of the Driftless Fly Fishing Company and is an Orvis Edorsed Guide. He grew up fishing the Au Sable in Michigan, and Oregon and Washington coastal streams. He has fished around the country and has been published in various fly fishing magazines.

Mel has been fly fishing and tying flies for over forty years. He has fished the driftless region for over twenty years and has guided people in the area for over a decade.

Mel can show you how and where to catch trout on fly in SE Minnesota. He has also fished the famous water of the Au Sable in Michigan, Alaska, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. His passion is to share the sport and the streams of Minnesota with others.

Kevin Searock

AUTHOR & ANGLER

Having retired after 34 years in public education, I am now free to devote my professional life to outdoor writing, photography, creative writing, and public speaking.

At this point I have published articles & essays in Eastern Fly Fishing, Fly Fisherman, Gray's Sporting Journal, and Wisconsin Trails magazines, among several others. My photography and artwork have appeared in Eastern Fly Fishing, Wisconsin Trails, Midwest Fly Fishing, and The Leopold Outlook.

My first book, "Troutsmith ~ An Angler's Tales and Travels" was published by the University of Wisconsin Press in 2013.

Scott Nordby

ELITE FLY TYER

Scott's love for fly tying began as a child over 40 years ago. However, he feels he's still learning new things every day. Scott enjoys instructing others to perfect their skills and especially helping others overcome their tying problems.

Minnesota having so many lakes has given Scott an outstanding opportunity to create panfish and bass flies that really work. The vast array of rivers and creeks has made Minnesota trout a great target as well.

Scott loves realistic fly tying and now, over the last decade, tying with foam has become a passion.

Continued Next Page

2020 HFJA Show Speakers - continued

Kyle Zempel

Black Earth Angling
OWNER, GUIDE, PRO PHOTOGRAPHER

Kyle was introduced to the sport of fishing on the numerous lakes of Northern Wisconsin at a very young age by his grandfathers. He was educated on Southwest Colorado's rushing waters, having the unique opportunity to live on the Animas River for numerous summers.

Kyle currently resides in the rural bluffs of Black Earth, WI and in 2013, he created Black Earth Angling Co., a fly fishing guide outfit focused providing clients with one-of-a-kind fishing experiences. Kyle guides full time for Driftless trout and the diverse warm water opportunities of the Wisconsin River. Kyle has become well known for his guide work on the Wisconsin River, specifically "The Crash," and his work with a camera in the field as a fly fishing photographer.

His photo work has appeared in notable publications such as, The Flyfish Journal, Eastern Fly Fishing, The Drake, Fly Fisherman, Midcurrent.com, and Hatch.com.

Kyle has been lucky enough to fish in Mexico, Bahamas, Colombia, Argentina, Chile, and extensively throughout the United States.

Liz Siepker

Driftless Fishers, LLC
GUIDE, OWNER OF DRIFTLESS FISHERS, LLC

Liz Siepker has been fishing since she was 4 years old. Her passion for fishing has taken her to many places and provided her with the opportunity to network with amazing anglers! She loves to fly fish and currently owns and operates Driftless Fishers, LLC where she guides clients to experience the enjoyment of casting a fly and tricking weary fish.

Her true passion for fly fishing is sharing it with others! She is a 2007 graduate of Hubbard's Guide School and is an active member of the Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association, Trout Unlimited, and Fly Fishers International. Liz is also a Certified Casting Instructor (CCI) through Fly Fishers International and enjoys mentoring others to learn how to properly cast a fly rod.

Hunter Dorn

Wisconsin Fly Fishing Company
HEAD GUIDE, OWNER & INSTRUCTOR

Hunter grew up in Lodi, WI where he rode his bike to the local trout streams and out to Lake Wisconsin. At 12, he bought his first canoe and at age 19, he bought his first drift boat. After transplanting a couple times to Montana, Colorado and Michigan he found himself drawn back home to Wisconsin.

Now, after decades of fishing and guiding in Wisconsin, he can't imagine spending life any other way. In 2014 Hunter married his beautiful wife and fishing companion Laura Dorn, and they started Wisconsin Fly Fishing Company. Most recently, in October of 2016, they welcomed their amazing son and Wisconsin's next generation fly angler, Eddy Wilder.

At Wisconsin Fly Fishing Company, our primary goal is to show our customers as well as the angling community the outstanding fishing opportunities that Wisconsin has to offer.

Jim Romberg

Fisherman's Lair Guide Service
GUIDE EXTRAORDINAIRE

Hills and trout streams everywhere. Not a mosquito in sight.* Just natural beauty and good people . . . and lots of fish. Here you'll find Jim Romberg, fly-fishing guide extraordinaire. Jim has lived and fished in Driftless Wisconsin for more than 40 years. Don't ask how old he is. He's old enough to know every twist of every trout stream in the Driftless.

Jim runs an outfit called the Fly Fisherman's Lair Guide Service, which takes anglers like you to the sweetest little trout streams this side of heaven. He also caters to executives and leadership teams who need to get outdoors to clear their heads. And what better way to do that than with a rod and net?

*Why no mosquitoes? Because the aforementioned hills and valleys don't have lakes and ponds. (See for yourself. Search a Google map of the area. See? No lakes.)

Fly Fishing Naked

What I Learned While Fly Fishing Naked

For centuries fly fishers have been using the same basic techniques. It is time for a change - up. So one brisk autumn day Frank Larson and I headed for a high mountain lake to check out my new fly fishing system. I had tied two identical "Larson Ultimate" flies that I had originated several seasons ago and that has taken many hundreds of trout. One fly was tied on a number 12 hook and the other was tied "Naked", that is, without a hook. My vision was a large trout taking the Naked fly and holding it tightly to net.

Something entirely different happened. The Naked fly acted as "chum" attracting a school of trout that would mob the Naked fly and would hold it for a short time while totally ignoring the fly with a hook being fished through the school by Frank.

I learned that fish shy from hooks and adore the fly tiers efforts to be kind. Perhaps tiers should do a better job of hiding the hook if they want to catch more fish.

I will continue trying to net a trout on a 'Naked" fly. Wish me luck.

Secret Revealed

For you doubters I will tell you the secret of landing fish that have taken a hookless fly. Once the trout has lipped the Naked fly and the line is taut, snap the line with your finger. For whatever reason this stuns the fish and it cannot let loose of the fly until it touches the net or you touch it with your hand.(it must effect the fish's brain like electro shocking does)
On some days I catch as many fish this way as I do with flies tied on hooks.

Tom Jirsa

27 August 2019

(Member of the Dubuque Fly Fishers)

The "Ultimate" Stripper

"Fly fishing - the sexy sport"

It happened at a small, secluded lake hidden high in the Colorado Rockies - they called it the ultimate performance. Dressed in a feathered boa, a Chenille bodysuit and a flowing fluorescent yellow skirt the petite blond attracted a large group of admirers. They tugged at the boa until it broke loose, then they unraveled the bodysuit. All that remained was the flowing fluorescent skirt and a blond head.

I have determined that it is the flowing fluorescent skirt that "turns on" the trout. I designed the " Ultimate" trout fly two years ago and it has become the only trout fly used by several of my friends.

You may tie the dressed version or the stripped version with equal catching success.

The recipe for the "Ultimate" fly design is as follows.

Hook: 12-14
Head: 1/8 gold bead
Hackle: Feather of your choice tied as the boa
Body: Kreinik Micro Ice Chenille #17
Tail: Kreinik fluorescent yellow six strand thread,
tied 1/4 " beyond the hook bend as the skirt



Tom Jirsa

27 August 2019

(Member of the Dubuque Fly Fishers)

HFFA Members on the Road



Lisa Davis shown above following two of her passions musky fishing and helping with Casting for Recovery. Lisa is a frequent contributor to The Flyline and was the previous editor of The Flyline. She is shown with Steve Wisner of Eau Clair Anglers in the left photo and Jen in the right.



Hank Moeller - photo by M. Jacobs



HFFA - DNR Work Day in progress

HFFA DNR Work Day Report

On Monday, September 16, 2019 and Wednesday, September 18, 2019, volunteers from the Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association teamed up with the Iowa DNR to perform a stream shock survey of Spring Branch Creek. Twenty One volunteers and more than a dozen Iowa DNR employees from across the state surveyed four sites among the hatchery and the fishable areas on private landowner property upstream and downstream from the main hatchery area.

Each of the days, the volunteers would split into two separate groups. Safely working upstream, DNR members led each group with battery powered backpack generators, waving a pole emitting a current that attracts and temporarily stuns in range fish to be netted. The fish were then transferred in pails of water to the portable data collection stations. Teams worked together to collect and measure their length, weight, & species, as well as clipping half of one pectoral fin to notate the fish was already sampled if collected again. (Pectoral fins do grow back, but if you are fishing the area you may likely observe a strange shaped fin or two.) Official survey reports not available at this time.

This was a neat opportunity to volunteer, but also view the health and variety of species in the streams we enjoy. It provided more context to the types of habitat and structure that attract certain species or fish in different life stages. Brook, brown and rainbow were sampled while other species of sculpin, creek chub and redhorse were found as well. It wouldn't be a stretch to say the stream holds a few very special trout.

On behalf of the HFFA, thanks to all of the awesome volunteers who supported this event. It can be difficult to find volunteers during the week, but our fishing community supported in numbers while coming from all across the state. Huge thank you to the Werling family for providing a delicious lunch for all volunteers and staff each day. Stay tuned for upcoming volunteer dates April, 2020. Attending were ; David Marshall, John Miller, Mike Stallsmith, Gary Woerdehoff, Jeff Moore, Jacqueline & David Carmody, John Gillenwater, Spencer, River & Sophia Williams, Al Leemhuis, Toney Nolting, Jim Moeller, Dave Scheiding, Joe & Rich Wolf, and Andrew Hosmanek.

Hank

DNR Report

by Mike Siepker

Conservation Partners join forces to expand Bloody Run Creek WMA

Mike Siepker, Iowa DNR Fisheries, and Brian Fankhauser, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

Since 2016, the Iowa DNR has worked with conservation partners to permanently protect over 8 miles of coldwater streams through acquisitions or easements. That is an impressive number considering it all happened in less than 5 years. One of the major reasons for our success has been outstanding partner support. Each coldwater stream project requires a lot of work and in many cases, a lot of money, to make it a reality. Our partners realize how important it is to protect our coldwater streams of Northeast Iowa and they are willing to work to raise money to support these projects. Teamwork really does make the dream work, especially when conserving coldwater streams. A diverse group of partners willing to financially support conservation projects improves the likelihood that a project will turn from a dream into reality.

For example, the DNR recently pursued an opportunity to acquire 165 acres of land adjacent to Bloody Run WMA. The area includes 6/10th of a mile of Bloody Run Creek, one of Iowa's Outstanding Waters, that is home to a self-sustaining population of Brown Trout. The uplands consist of 105 acres of mature woodland and early successional woodland/grassland in addition to 60 acres of hay and corn cropland. The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF) worked with the private landowner to acquire the property in October 2019. The Iowa DNR will work with INHF to transfer the property into public ownership in 2020. To make this project a reality, \$10,000 in private support was needed to help meet the 25% nonfederal match for acquiring the property. After details of the opportunity were shared with 18 different groups, support was immediate. Eleven conservation groups, including HFFA, collectively pledged over \$10,000 in support towards the project. We are thankful to all groups that stepped up to the challenge and supported the project. We would like to thank HFFA for their support as we work to protect Bloody Run Creek!



As quickly as we wrap up existing projects, new projects develop. Looking ahead, we will need partner support as we work to acquire public access on Ten Mile Creek, a coldwater stream west of Decorah. The INHF plans to acquire a 32-acre property adjacent to Falcon Springs Wildlife Management Area that will eventually transfer to the Iowa DNR. This parcel contains about 1,000 feet of Ten Mile Creek. Ten Mile Creek contains wild Brown Trout and currently has no public access. The property contains diverse habitats including a native white pine stand, early successional woodland, and reconstructed prairie. This acquisition will also provide opportunities for possible expansion of public fishing access and stream protection in the future. A financial contribution to this project will be used by INHF to leverage a 2020 grant to help acquire the property and ensure its transfer to the Iowa DNR. The grant application requires a minimum of \$40,000 in private funds to be counted as match towards the project. We have already obtained \$20,000 in pledges towards this important project. We hope our conservation partners will consider helping us reach our goal of raising the remaining \$20,000 to protect Ten Mile Creek and provide expanded public fishing access. We ask that pledges for the Ten Mile Creek project be offered by March 1, 2020 with pledge payments due by November 1, 2020.



ICC Report

by Tom Murray



Iowa Coldwater Conservancy Update Report

11/22/2019

Tom Murray, President

As many members of HFFA may recall from past updates, Iowa's Coldwater Conservancy (ICC) evolved from a meeting in December of 2016 of dedicated conservationists representing HFFA, Trout Unlimited, Northeast Iowa Resource, Conservation & Development, private landowners, and the Iowa DNR Fisheries Bureau. I believe this may have been the first time that these non-profit groups had an opportunity to meet directly with the leadership of the DNR Fisheries Bureau to discuss ways to work together on cold-water stream habitat projects and on initiatives to add new permanent public fishing easements on these waters.

Many challenges to the future of our coldwater rivers and streams were also identified that day and in subsequent meetings. From those meetings it was determined that to address significant challenges like a rapidly warming climate, current land use practices, and declining budgets for conservation at the state and federal levels, angling groups like HFFA and TU would have to have many new partners to help fund habitat work in the riparian zones and watersheds of Iowa's coldwater rivers and streams and to gain new public fishing easements.

ICC was established as a 501(c)(3) non-profit in April of 2017 with the primary purpose of building those strategic alliances that include Iowa's angling groups as well as private land owners, other NGO's, public agencies, foundations, businesses, educational institutions, and like minded individuals. These alliances will work to obtain the necessary resources and to advocate for policies to protect and restore the ecosystems that sustain Iowa's coldwater rivers and streams, while expanding public access to these vital and unique natural resources.

Later that year and into 2018, ICC partnered with HFFA, three Iowa TU chapters, Upper Iowa Audubon, the Winneshiek County Conservation Board, and the IA DNR to add a new Wildlife Access Area in Winneshiek County at Casey Springs. This 17 acre property has a section of Casey Spring Creek, which has an established population of heritage brook trout from South Pine Creek. This section of Casey Spring is now permanently accessible to the public. ICC also worked with Trees Forever, the Iowa Driftless Chapter of TU, Friends of the Decorah Fish Hatchery, and the Iowa DNR on a unique stream habitat improvement project on Trout Run creating new habitats for trout and other aquatic species using tree root balls, native grasses and forbs and improved stream access for visitors.

At our recent Board Meeting on November 16th, a grant was approved to support the purchase of an important 165 acre parcel of land adjacent to the 909 acre Bloody Run Wildlife Management Area by the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF). This property in Clayton County contains 6/10 mile of Bloody Run Creek with a well established population of brown trout. It is strategically located so that the DNR and anglers will be able to access the stream and work on stream surveys/maintenance and habitat improvement projects.

A second grant was designated to support the purchase of 32 acres of land by INHF in Winneshiek County that is adjacent to the Falcon Spring Wildlife Management Area and has a section of Ten Mile Creek. This coldwater stream also has a healthy population of wild brown trout. It is my understanding that each of these purchases will lead to permanent public fishing easements and will eventually be owned by the state and managed by the Iowa DNR.

These two recent projects are great examples of how important it is to have a land trust like the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation and the Iowa DNR professionals working together and with other conservation partners like ICC, HFFA, TU and many others to make these important and timely projects possible.

We are looking forward to attending the Annual HFFA Show in Dubuque on March 6-8 and to adding more updates about our work at Iowa's Coldwater Conservancy. Thanks to the on-going support of HFFA and Iowa's three TU chapters, we have been able to bring in new partners and funding to build alliances to protect our coldwater streams and to provide greater public access to them for future generations to enjoy and experience.

Tom

North Fork of the Clearwater River

by Mike Jacobs

We left the Smiley Creek Lodge early in the morning, just as the sun was beginning to cast its golden glow behind the Sawtooth Mountains to the east of the lodge. A long day on the road lay ahead of us as we headed north to our destination at Lowell, Idaho. Along Idaho Highway 75 we followed the Salmon River for many miles as our day's journey took us first through Eastern Idaho, then through the Bitterroot Valley of Montana, and finally to Highway 12 which we followed to the west, over Lolo pass and back into Idaho.

After our arrival at the Three Rivers Resort in Lowell, my first order of business was to get checked in at the resort office. I was still operating on Iowa time and a glance at my watch indicated that it was 4:30 and would be getting dark around 7:00 PM. As I stood at the counter visiting with the resort manager I noticed that their clock indicated that it was 2:30. I was a bit puzzled until it finally registered with me that this part of Idaho was on Pacific Time. We still had lots of time left in the day to do some fishing so that is what Doug and I did.

We fished a stretch of the Selway River about 17 miles upstream from Lowell. While driving along the road that parallels the river I had spotted many rising fish. Nearby, we found a place to pull off the road and figured that this spot was as good as any to try our luck. As it turned out, most of the good fish were rising just beyond our casting reach and neither of us felt comfortable wading out any further into the swiftly flowing water. All we managed to catch during the evening were small rainbows.

Poring over maps back at our room that evening it appeared that we would have around a 3 hour drive the next day, from Lowell over to Kelly Forks. That meant we would have to get up at oh-dark-hundred again the next day to be able to be on the water around 9:30 in the morning. We turned in early that evening but it was to no avail for me. I had a restless night because I was excited about the fishing prospects for the following day.

Our route to Kelly Forks followed Highway 12, west out of Lowell along the Middle Fork of the Clearwater River, to the town of Greer. There we picked up highway 11 that took us to the town of Pierce where we branched off onto Forest Service road 250 leading to Kelly Forks. Between Greer and Pierce is a small town called Weippe that is along the Lolo Indian trail which the Lewis and Clark expedition followed in 1805. Two hundred and five years after the Lewis and Clark expedition explored this region, we were doing our own exploration of some beautiful trout streams in the area.

After the long drive we finally reached Kelly Forks Ranger Station where we got out of the car long enough to stretch and to get some information about the area. The ranger at the office informed us that the fishing reports recently had been good and that we should do well catching fish. I hoped she was right.

We decided to fish the North Fork of the Clearwater River the first day and we would come back to fish Kelly Creek the following day. The North Fork of the Clearwater is an artificials-only river and even though we were fishing on Friday of a Labor Day weekend, we found that we had vast reaches of the stream all to ourselves. There were other people around but they all appeared to be camping or four-wheeling on the network of trails in the Clearwater National Forest.

We drove along the North Fork of the Clearwater a short distance from Kelly Forks, looking for a good spot to fish that also had a place nearby to pull the car off the road. It didn't take long for us to locate the perfect pull off spot that was close to a beautiful run feeding into a deep, emerald pool.

While we were making our preparations for fishing the stream I happened to glance up to see an osprey riding the air currents over the river, searching for its next trout meal. I hoped that there were enough trout in the river to satisfy the fishing needs of the osprey as well as Doug and myself. As it turned out, I shouldn't have been concerned.

We crossed the swiftly flowing river on a shallow rock bar just upstream from the deep pool. Doug positioned himself at the upper end of the deep pool while I worked the lower end. There were a few fish rising so I tied a small Parachute Adams onto the end of my 5X tippet. At the upper end of the pool, Doug had also selected a dry fly to try to tempt the rising fish.

After forty five minutes of presentations and fly changes with nothing to show for the effort, I decided to change tactics. I tied on a Black Conehead Woolly Bugger, the same fly that had done so well for us on the Big Wood River. I positioned myself at the tail of the run, right where it emptied into the deep pool. Just like I had fished this fly on the Big Wood I cast it across the river, then let it tantalizingly work its way back across the river. The first few sweeps of the fly brought some curious "bumps" from the fish but no hookups. I knew that I was on to something and that it was just a matter of time before my effort would be rewarded.

(continued on next page)

As the fly swept through the pool the strike indicator on the end of my fly line stopped suddenly and I set the hook. My rod bucked as the nice fish fought hard, trying to regain his freedom. Constant pressure from the bend in the rod finally wore the fish down and he rolled to his side, revealing the scarlet throat slash of my first Westslope Cutthroat trout. I was able to lead him into some quiet water along the edge of the river where I eased him into my landing net. The foot long cutthroat was restrained only long enough to pose for a few pictures before I released him back into the depths of the emerald pool. Seeing the success that I'd had with the Conehead Bugger, Doug changed flies to the bugger also. Within minutes he had also hooked and landed his first Westslope Cutt.

Through the rest of the day on the North Fork we fished glassy pools, crystalline runs and sparkling riffles filled with trout. At every good looking section of the river that we fished we found rising fish. Frequently we would change over to dry flies in an attempt to catch these fish but our dry flies never matched what the fish were looking for. We did catch a lot of fish but they all came on a variety of sub-surface flies like the Black Cone Head Woolly Bugger, Pink Squirrel nymph and the Partridge and Olive Soft Hackle. Even though Westslope Cutts are widely considered to be pushovers for dry flies, our experience from this day on the North Fork of the Clearwater River had been just the opposite.

With a long drive still ahead of us to get back to the resort, we pulled the plug on our fishing day at 3:30. Excitement and relief filled the car (along with a great deal of hot air) as we relived our fishing experiences of the day. We had fished only a fraction of one of the premier rivers in Idaho for the first time, and both of us had caught our first Westslope Cutthroat Trout, plus many more of their relatives. All of the wild and beautiful trout that we caught were between 10" and 14" but we knew that there are larger Cutts up to 20", and big Bull trout in this river.

The North Fork of the Clearwater River is a blue-ribbon trout fishing opportunity that you cannot afford to miss if you come to fish this region. On our trip we were only able to fish the river for part of a day, but the North Fork is the type of fishery that one could easily embrace for a lifetime.

Mike



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