



The Flyline

The Newsletter of the Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association

September, 2021



Royal Wulff by Don Lund

This photo was borrowed from the HFFA Pattern Book

This was from the digitized version photographed by Don Lund and Edited by Steve Veysey



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The President's Hatch

I hope you have been able to get some good fishing in on the rare cool days of this summer. I haven't, but only because I choose to hibernate in the cool of the air conditioner during the heat and get lawn and other work done when it is cool enough. I did get to Minnesota (200 miles North of the twin cities), but it was too hot to fish there also. I did enjoy spending time with my three brothers and even managed to get cocktail hour in on most days. After 18 months, it was nice to get together and reminisce about the good old days.

Many of you will remember the fight that the HFFA and other environmental clubs had to protect French Creek from a hog confinement that was located on top of the hill above the headwaters of French Creek. Well, here we go again. HFFA is supporting the "Save Bloody Run" campaign. An 11,000 head cattle confinement is located above the headwaters of Bloody Run Creek, one of Iowa's best trout streams. It is in an area with many sink-holes that lead directly to the groundwater that supports Bloody Run, Spook Cave, and many local wells in that area. The HFFA board voted to contribute \$4,000.00 for water testing equipment. This will prove the quality of the stream and establish a base line should a spill or over spreading of manure occur. Check out their web site. Buy a tee shirt. Send a donation. But at least be aware and supportive.

I was hoping to have an in-person board meeting at the end of August, but with the new Covid variant, it will be a virtual meeting again. I don't really like virtual meetings because I don't hear well, and



John Carl Miller

can't tell who is talking. My computer is too old to do the Zoom-like version that Dave Jones has hooked us up with, so I sit in a fog trying to guess who is talking. It's hard for us "old folk" to adapt, but I am trying.

The 2022 HFFA Show is still on at this time. I have more items that have been donated than I have room to store. Some really good stuff, so start saving now. Details of the show will be coming soon, so keep an eye on our web site and Facebook.

Speaking of the web site and Facebook, we really need a volunteer to take over adding content to both of these. That could be one person or two people, or even a team. Ryan Maas has graciously volunteered to take on these two tasks for years. He is a young working stiff, busy with a family, and president of the Spring Creeks chapter of TU. He deserves a break (today). There has to be

someone out there that is willing to devote a little time to what I consider a great club.

Speaking of volunteerism, if you are in the Des Moines or Ankeny area and would like to get involved at a beginning level, contact Martin Acerbo and ask if there is any way you can help with the 2022 HFFA show. It's a great way to get involved at a non-threatening level, meet new fishers, and contribute to the success of the HFFA.

The HFFA show is a major fundraiser for our club and without it, we could not do the good things that we have done in the past. We do not solicit donations on a monthly basis. We do not go door to door to ask for contributions. We have a very volatile membership, in that it will vary from year to year depending upon where the HFFA show is held. If you do only one thing this year, remember to renew your membership even if you do not attend the show. Our voice is much stronger with a large membership behind us.

Remember: HFFA is a non-profit organization of anglers and conservationists;

- **dedicated to the promotion of fly fishing and associated activities,**
- **to the education of others in the art and joys of fly fishing,**
- **to the preservation and conservation of those natural resources that are important to fly fishing and**
- **to the enhancement of fellowship and camaraderie among fly fishers**

The HFFA show rings all of the bells listed above. Please help in any way that you can.

John



Casting for Recovery, a free fly fishing retreat for breast cancer survivors, is going to have an Iowa retreat this year in 2021. We will be fishing Backbone State Park Sunday October 3, 2021. We are very excited! The 14 participants have been chosen by the national office and letters have been sent. If you know of someone who might be interested in attending, we are always on the lookout for an alternate. Please have them fill out an application online at castingforrecovery.org

We are in need of flies for our retreat, any kind, size, or color. We use individual flies for prizes and raffles. We give each participant a complimentary fly box upon check in which includes flies. Thank you in advance for donating flies. You may mail them to Mick or Lisa McVey, 4936 Greystone Drive, Bettendorf, Iowa 52722. Your expertise is appreciated.

Many Hawkeye fly fishing members have volunteered their time & skills as river helpers this year. We appreciate them!

Mick & Lisa McVey



**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

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

Ron Stahlberg, Vice President

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Swisher, IA 52338
flyfish@southslope.net

Dave Jones, Secretary

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dave.jones@kentww.com

Brad Mullin, Treasurer

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Cedar Rapids, IA 52408
mullinb1427@yahoo.com

Kate Lodge, Past President

209 S. Vail
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katelodge25@gmail.com

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7701 Goodman Dr.
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willacamp@gmail.com

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582 Belmont Rd.
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jc.channon@mchsi.com

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decoydux@gmail.com

Martin Acerbo, Director

3114 34th Place
Des Moines, IA 50310
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

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 Facebook

www.facebook.com/springcreekstu

Iowa's Coldwater

Conservancy

Tom Murray

jandtmurray@gmail.com

Event Calendar

Check with local contact on events.
Things are getting better!

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 1 - 3

2021 Casting for Recovery IA

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

November 2021

November 5 - 7

Fly Fishing International Virtual Expo 2021

info@flyfishersinternational.org

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 - 13

HFFA Annual Fly Fishing Show

Martin Acerbo
macerbo@iastate.edu

March 18 - 20

Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo

Hamline University
St. Paul, MN
info@greatwatersflyexpo.com

March 24,25,26

Sowbug Roundup 2022

Baxter County Fairgrounds
Mountain Home , AR
tipton1064@gmail.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 August 30, 2021

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

Attendees: John Miller, Ron Stahlberg, Kate Lodge, Martin Acerbo, Ryan Maas and Dave Jones

1. Welcome from John Miller

2. 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. Speakers are arranged. Donation chair is Davis Horton. Publicity chair is vacant. Brad Mullin to take care of license for auction/raffle. Working on raffle items. Still searching for banquet speaker. Still seeking auctioneer.

3. Bloody Run Campaign. John reported a recent \$4,000 contribution to support water monitoring and legal support for the "Save the Bloody Run Fund".

4. Signage for Rissman Easement. John to contact Oelwein shop class about making a sign.

5. Elections. A brief discussion held about open officer roles and board positions that will be reviewed during the November board meeting.

6. Website/Social Media. A discussion held regarding the merits and needs for a third party provider to either refresh existing or create new website and social media sites. Decision tabled until further research is completed.

7. Next Board meeting. Tentatively scheduled for November 13, 2021 or an alternative weekday evening if necessary.

8. Meeting Adjourned

Submitted by Dave Jones, August 30, 2021

HFFA Activity from Annual Show 2020 to Aug 2021 John Carl Miller

December 10, 2020: Drove to Ames to pick up the donation of a fly tying vice, flies, and a fabric creel from Jim Black of near Marshalltown.

March 23, 2020: Assisted Liz Siepker with her application to FFI for a grant to get a youth fly fishing workshop series started.

March-April 2020: HFFA received an endowment from the David Meyer estate totaling \$31,014.00.

July 2020: Donated \$2,000.00 toward an easement on the Rissman property and the Yellow River.

October 2020: HFFA contributed \$1,250.00 to the Maquoketa River fencing project. This will provide rotational grazing and restrict most cattle access to the stream.

October 23, 2020: Contributed \$5,000.00 toward the acquisition of Ten Mile Creek, near Falcon Springs.

January 20, 2021: HFFA funds \$36,400.00 of the \$42,450.00 for a second easement on the Rissman property along the Yellow River and an angler access parking lot.

March 2021: At the HFFA board meeting, the board authorized \$440.00 for the 2020 port-a-potties at the confluence of North and South Bear Creeks. Also authorized up to \$500.00 for the 2021 year.

April 9, 2021: HFFA's liability insurance cancelled.

May 1, 2021: Steve Veysey represents the HFFA at a celebration of the removal of the low-head dam in Ames. (HFFA contributed money toward the removal of the dam)

May 3, 2021: HFFA mailbox locked. Problems with several who sent dues in through the mail. Multiple calls to Brad, and we finally got the matter straightened out.

May 15, 2021: Board approves \$2,150.00 for stream work in Little Paint Creek that lies within the Yellow River State Forest campground.

May 26, 2021: HFFA signs onto a letter requesting action on the Cattle Confinement operation near Bloody Run.

May 27, 2021: Insurance receipt from FFI. We are now insured through FFI, so we need to promote membership.

May 28, 2021: HFFA board declines to participate in a Fly Fishing Film Tour offer.

May 29, 2021: HFFA president, John Miller, participates in a NE Iowa stream tour with the DNR, TUDARE, and TU chapter representatives.

June 18, 2021: President, John Miller, stopped to pick up a ton of fly tying materials, fly tying equipment, and two large boxes of books donated by Jean Carlisle to be auctioned at the 2022 HFFA Show.

June 23, 2021: President, John Miller, met with Larry Stone, Steve Veysey, and Clay Masters (Iowa Public Radio host) to discuss the Bloody Run campaign.

June 23, 2021: Second NE Iowa Stream Tour. HFFA missed it due to the Bloody Run visit on the same day.

July 20, 2021: Payment made for \$450.00 to FFI for the 2021-2022 Insurance.

August 2021: DFF life member, Byron Bohnen, donated many framed fish prints to be auctioned at the 2022 HFFA Show.

June 29, 2021: Three DFF members represented the HFFA for an "Introduction to Fly Fishing" program for a group of teachers (for credit) at Central Lake Park (near Monticello) for Jones County Conservation.

August 24, 2021: HFFA board votes to contribute \$4,000.00 to the "Save the Bloody Run" campaign for water testing equipment.

DNR Report

By Mike Siepker

In early 2021, the Iowa DNR signed an Angler Access Easement agreement with Dianne Rissman to permanently protect public angling access along 0.69 miles of the Yellow River. The easement also provided permanent protection to approximately 15 acres of stream corridor at a total cost of \$42,450. What made this project unique is that the entire cost of the easement was paid for by our angling group partners including Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association, Driftless Chapter of Trout Unlimited, North Bear Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Spring Creeks Chapter of Trout Unlimited, and Iowa's Coldwater Conservancy. In June 2021, the Iowa DNR worked with Nick Jones Construction to develop a new angler parking area just off Forest Mills Road. The total cost to improve parking for this new angler easement was \$5,801, paid by the Iowa Trout Program.

Now when anglers visit the stream, there is a safe location to park along a busy county highway. In addition to a graveled parking area, the project also widened and raised the access drive, improving driver safety as they enter and leave the lot. Although anglers have about a 0.25-mile walk down a grassed access corridor from the parking area to the stream, it is well worth the walk. I'd encourage all anglers to check out the latest addition to our publicly-accessible trout waters next time they find themselves in Allamakee County. Just remember to stay within the access corridor and always remain within 50 ft of the stream bank since this is private property beyond the easement boundaries. Since it is private property, overnight camping is not allowed at the parking area.

This section of the Yellow River is stocked annually with fingerling Rainbow Trout and has a naturally reproducing population of Brown Trout. The stream is managed under statewide trout regulations of a daily bag limit of 5 trout per angler with no minimum length limit.



New angler parking area completed in June 2021

Map showing new parking area and angler access to Yellow River on Rissman Angler Access Easement



Fly Tying Contest Results 2021 Iowa State Fair

by Larry Murphy

The fly tying competition was held at the 2021 Iowa State Fair. This competition has been developed and sponsored by the Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association (HFFA) with support of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). There were 10 entrants with 31 flies entered into the competition from across the state. There were 2 in the junior division, 6 in the adult division, and 2 in the expert division. There are four categories; dry flies, wet/nymph flies, streamer flies, and open. There are 3 divisions (Expert, Adult and Junior). The flies were on display in the DNR building on the fairgrounds during the entire fair. This year's judges were Dave Rosset (Des Moines), Paul Domoto (Ames) and Keith Wunder (West Des Moines).

Junior Division

Wet Fly/Nymph Category

1st Place	Ethan Medina	Blue Copper John	Cedar Rapids
2nd Place	Cruz Coorough	Pheasant Tail Nymph	North Liberty

Open Category

1st Place	Ethan Medina	Musky Marabou Diver	Cedar Rapids
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Dry Fly Category

1st Place	Ethan Medina	Rubber Legged Foam Bug	Cedar Rapids
2nd Place	Cruz Coorough	Elk Hair Sedge	North Liberty

Streamer Category

1st Place	Ethan Medina	Black Rabbit Leech	Cedar Rapids
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Adult Division

Dry Fly Category

1st Place	Dave Zimmerman	Dragonfly	Clive
2nd Place	Mark McConnell	Mississippi Mayfly	Pella
3rd Place	Ray Corry	Hi-Vis Ant	North Liberty

Wet Fly/Nymph Category

1st Place	Mark McConnell	Quail Wing Copper John	Pella
2nd Place	Kevin McVey	Wet Variant	Ankeny
3rd Place	Richard Zieger	Half and Half	Lamoni

Open Category

1st Place	Mark McConnell	Sparkle Smelt	Pella
2nd Place	Kevin McVey	Sparkle Klinkenhammer	Ankeny
3rd Place	Mike Schrader	Brood X Cicada	Des Moines

Streamer Category

1st Place	Kevin McVey	Mini Gen-X Bunny	Ankeny
2nd Place	Ray Corry	Bronze Goddess	North Liberty
3rd Place	Mark McConnell	Mac's Moto Minnow	Pella

Expert Division

Dry Fly Category

1st Place	Mike Jacobs	Hi-Vis Hendrickson Parachute	Monticello
2nd Place	Larry Niday	Adams	Knoxville

Wet Fly/Nymph Category

1st Place	Larry Niday	Lord Baltimore	Knoxville
2nd Place	Mike Jacobs	Panfish Green Butt Skunk	Monticello

Open Category

1st Place	Mike Jacobs	Outhouse Mouse	Monticello
2nd Place	Larry Niday	Double Bunny	Knoxville

Streamer Category

1st Place	Mike Jacobs	Bass Turd	Monticello
2nd Place	Larry Niday	Purple Elver	Knoxville

Quad Cities Fly Fishers Group Tying Event

By Lisa Davis



Geneseo, IL Chamber of Commerce invited the Quad Cities Fly Fishers to tie at the Victory Center in conjunction with the Geneseo Music Fest. Those attending included: Larry Thompson, Gary Jantz, Pat Tray, John and Cheryl Channon, Rich Vincent, Kate Lodge, Lisa Davis, Mick and Lisa McVey, and Jim Cato.



Flies above - left to right black streamers by Kate Lodge, terrestrials by Gary Jantz, puss bugs by Jim Cato.
Flies below - left to right are egg pattern by Mick McVey, pink and brown by Lisa McVey, popper by Lisa Davis.
Lisa said she did not get photos of some other real nice flies.



When Good Luck Turns Bad

by Tony Humeston

December 2, 2018

Caleb Foster, flyrod in hand, steps across the ditch and stops at the fence line, his thoughts centering on last night's high school reunion. For at the reunion he met his old girl- friend, Julie Stewart. They discovered they were both single and the bright spark of youth seemed to rekindle. During some conversation with Julie and his fellow classmates, the subject of fly-fishing came up and Caleb modestly admitted to being one of the better fly fishermen in Iowa. Then after some dancing and more conversation, Julie promised to make fishcakes if Caleb could bring some filets by in the morning. Caleb agreed. So now in the dawn's half-light, Caleb straddles a barbed wire and squints at a path that points to the blue gill pond.

The hoof-pocked deer path leads to the pond's edge where the Iowa moon paints a hammered gold pattern on the water's surface and spotlights the dime-sized circles of feeding bluegills. In the ebbing moonlight Caleb Foster follows the path to the water and stops. The only place to fish is right here, he thinks. There's shoulder-high scrub willow to the water's edge on either side of him. Can't cast anywhere else. No place to fish on the south side of the pond even if it's only a stone's throw away. On the far bank of the pond, the edge is lined with cattails that stand at parade-rest like soldiers guarding an abandoned muskrat house and a half-submerged cottonwood that molders in the soupy-shallow water. Caleb pauses to study the tangled, swamp water with interest.

This soupy-looking water is the mother lode, the hatching ground for a myriad of microscopic creatures with strange sounding names such as diatoms and melodica, copepods, and rotifers. Caleb knows it's probably the most unfishable piece of water in the pond but vital for a healthy bluegill population. For when the summer's south wind stirs, it chases these weak swimming microbes across the water's surface. These microbes, properly called Phyto and zooplankton, are eaten by water bugs who in turn are scarfed up by minnows and frogs. This movement turns on the instinctive feeding of keeper-size panfish, bass, and catfish, who are all denizens of the pond. The bounty of the south breeze is like doling out free pizza to college students.

This same south breeze tickles Caleb's nostrils. He smells the 'gills; hears the slurping noise they make while feeding; imagines the dime-sized rings their mouths leave on the pond's surface. His anxious hands unhook a # 12 black popper from the five-weight's keeper while he smiles at his inner tremor of excitement. This morning should be memorable and Caleb stops to give a nod of appreciation to the Iowa Conservation Commission and their wise planning.

At one time, the Commission stocked Iowa farm ponds with a mixture of one hundred three to six-inch Largemouth Bass, three hundred three to five-inch Bluegills, and one hundred four to six-inch Channel Cats per acre. This combination of predators and prey yielded a long-term self-sustaining good fishing pond. Even with three years of schizophrenic Iowa weather the average one-acre pond should yield two hundred and fifty pounds of bluegill per acre, fifty to seventy-five pounds of bass, and twenty to fifty pounds of catfish. *And Caleb knew for a fact that this pond hadn't been fished in at least five years!* Look out big bluegills!

He remembers to turn on his headlamp. He keeps the lamp down to avoid spooking the fish and gasps at the countless smear of raccoon tracks. The damp mud under his boots resembles a wet-slick wall plastered with a hundred years of Chinese graffiti. Boyhood memories of running a trap line surface as his gun-deaf ears catch the faint stuttering chirp! chirp! of a nearby family of raccoons. He casts out and his popper lands in the middle of a flaxen streak of moonlit pond water. A big bluegill inhales it. Sprays of moon brightened aureate water sparkle as Caleb sets the hook. The five-weight rod bends in an almost impossible arc. Two, three loops of line run through his fingers. The flex from the fly rod slows the fish and minutes later he is Caleb's. He holds up a broad-shouldered ten-inch male sporting a scarlet-red breast and ebony-black spots for ears. He strings the fish and casts again. Another nice bluegill. Almost every cast yields a 'gill. Caleb can't think of another place he'd rather be. He remembers to test the handshake knot that joins his leader to the line, checks his leader for nicks and re-sharpens the hook on his battle-fatigued black popper. The morning sun peeks above the eastern horizon and paints a scuttle of cirrus clouds roseate-pink.

He false casts twice letting line out and casts to the deep edge of an island of surface moss. A largemouth bass slams his popper like a Mack Truck. Caleb sets the hook and a sow-bass explodes leaping clear out of the water, flashing red lined flared gills and a predator's fierce glare. They join in battle, the bass and the man. He gives line while she dives. Knowing he could lose her; he raises his five-weight and tightens his finger grip on the line. The bass shakes her head and makes another run into deeper water. Caleb fears for his leader, gives line. Then everything stops...the fly line lay in limp coils on the water. Fish gone...twisted off on a snag. Wow—what a rush.

Caleb does a few stretches while the adrenaline surge which charged his body ebbs. Silently, he thanks the bass for the memories and reels in. Better change my fishing spot, he thinks. Besides, that rampaging bass will have spooked the school of bluegills and the brightening light will chase them into deeper water. To his right stretches a ten-foot finger of land that curves out into the pond. At the end of the point sits a flat rock large enough to stand on. He traipses out on the point and scrapes a solid inch of raccoon scat off the rock and smiles. Time was, he remembers when he bought clothes and shoes with money from 'coon hides...wore a lot of shirts his mother made from chicken feed sacks.

Caleb changes reel spools, clipping on a spool spun with a slow sinking line. He ties on a #12 black and yellow McGinty that had always caught him fish. Three or four false casts later, he lets the fly drop in the deeper water. After a twelve second fall down the water column, Mister McGinty stops. Caleb sets the hook and the battle is engaged. Caleb soon lips an eight-inch golden breasted female 'gill. McGinty didn't let him down—every other cast was either a hit, a tear-off, or another big 'gill. Time to quit. By his count he has strung twenty nice bluegills. This will surely impress Julie, he thinks.

continued on next page

Caleb lays his stringer of fish on the flat rock. The colors are stupefying in the early morning light—ruby breasted males and golden breasted females. The fish’s sides glow subtle shades of grey and opal, the gills a delicate azure blue. Wow. This is work of the Grand Designer... he needs a picture of this, you know, a photo of the fish posed on the rock, his trusty five weight flanking them. The camera’s in the car... He arranges the bouquet of the beautiful fish on the flat rock and hurries up the path, thinking about the bluegills.

As he grips the cars’ door handle, Caleb visualizes a mental picture of his camera sitting on the dresser top at his motel room in Albia. Well, I still have the fish, he tells himself and starts back down the path. Halfway down the hill, Caleb stumbles over a root and feels his sciatic nerve stab a streak of scorching pain down his left leg. Takes two painful steps and stops, his mouth open in astonishment, his leg vibrating like a gigantic tuning fork. There, sitting on his rock is a mother raccoon and five, maybe six half-grown kits eating his bluegills! What the— ‘coons aren’t supposed to be out in broad daylight!

“Hey, you ##&* *&)%\$#@!, you’re eating my fish!” he yells. They don’t even look up. Then he remembers the poverty of his boyhood, all the raccoons he had trapped and the hides he had sold, and thinks maybe the score is even. He limps down to retrieve his fly rod and hobbles back up the hill to the car. Caleb drives back towards the motel and considers how quickly a man’s luck can change; that he cannot take himself too seriously; that he must find another way to impress Julie Stewart. He’ll have to call Julie and tell her to forget the fish patties--maybe take her out for breakfast... eat bacon and eggs with some members of his high school class...bound to get razzed. They’ll never believe this story.

Tony

Tony Humeston is a retired businessman living in southern Iowa and is the author of five books and numerous outdoor articles.



HFFA - Birth of the Organization III

by Mike Jacobs

Let's pick up where we left off in the last installment of the History of HFFA.

Club award winners announced at the 1990 Annual meeting were:

	Essay Contest	Photo Contest	Membership Drive
1 st place	Doug Midgett	Glenda Irvine	Gary McCaughey
2 nd Place	John Ketter	Bob and Sandra Primmer	John Heusinkveld
3 rd Place	Steve Corbin	Ken Arp	Rick Ransom
4 th Place	Ray Dutchik		Jim Irvine

In the early part of 1990, Jim Cato, the HFFA stream improvement coordinator, has been in contact with the DNR's new man at the Manchester hatchery, Bill Kalishek. The two of them have worked out the dates for the stream improvements for 1990. May 19th on Springbranch will be the first workday of the year, followed by a stream improvement/club outing weekend on September 8 & 9 at Ensign Hollow creek. The DNR has designated Ensign Hollow creek to become a catch and release stream in 1991, thanks to a joint effort by the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, HFFA and the Iowa DNR to purchase a large tract of property on the stream.

Speaking of catch and release, Upper Swiss Valley Creek, near Dubuque is now under catch and release regulations. The state will determine the success of this project by how much use the stream gets from catch and release fans.

The Central Iowa Fly Fishers will be holding a crappie outing on Big Creek Lake, North of Des Moines, on May 12. Everyone is welcome.

The sixth Annual Trout Outing is scheduled for the weekend of June 2-3, at the Pineview Campground in Dorchester, IA.

A scheduled trip for club members to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area is set for June 9-16, 1990. Cost for the entire seven day trip is \$200.00 per person.

According to the March/April issue of the Flyline, Constance and Sam Tuthill are attempting to organize a group of volunteers to form a water quality research team to study the newly acquired catch and release stream segments in Northeast Iowa.

Tim Harris, the HFFA Flyline editor, has created an information pamphlet to help club members promote the club. They are available from club President Craig Moorhead.

The stream workday scheduled for May 19th had to be cancelled due to heavy rain and high water. No one seemed too upset with the rain after nearly 2 years of drought in 1988 and 1989. The workday has been rescheduled for August 11 on Ensign Creek.

Trouting Outing #6 went as usual for a Mike Jacobs scheduled, outdoor event. It poured buckets! But rain was desperately needed in Northeast Iowa after 2 years of drought. Even the Spring of 1990 had been completely dry in this area. Until the Trouting Outing that is! Participants for the event were Mike "All Wet" Jacobs, Danny "H2O King" Peterson, Jeff "Moisture" Moore, Craig and Charlie Moorhead, Ken Arp and Bob Nejd. Many fish were caught and much fun was had by all.

The July/August issue of the Flyline shows the HFFA membership to be at 320 members, up nearly 80 members from March 1989. Also, the July/ August issue marks the last one for editor Tim Harris, who is moving to the Seattle, WA. area. Jim Cato takes over position of Flyline Editor, with Craig Moorhead as assistant editor, as of the September/October issue of the Flyline. For Jim, this adds to his job description as he is also the HFFA stream improvement coordinator.

In the September/October issue of Flyline, it was reported that a great deal of work had been accomplished on Ensign Hollow by HFFA volunteers and DNR personnel. Our club paid for the rental of a backhoe for the DNR and as a result, an all-time record amount of stream improvements were put in this year.

The club is again sponsoring an essay contest and photo contest for the 3rd straight year. A membership drive is also underway and will run until Feb. 10, 1991.

January 16, 1991 was the date chosen by a group of conspirators to pull another good one on Mr. McCaughey. I'll let his own written words speak for themselves.

"I've been had....again!!! My good friends (?) at Mike Jacobs Fly tying classes set me up.... Pus Bug Night—would I teach the Pus Bug? Sure I would! I'm passing out hooks, chartreuse chenille & hackle, bead chain eyes and trying to show Trout fly tyers how to do an intricate pattern and all of a sudden they all take off their outer shirts to display a black t-shirt complete with silkscreened chartreuse, four-eyed Pus Bug (Bass Pus bug), ten times actual size and the name of the fly in white letters, and my very own signature below it all. I turned beet red, we all had a good many laughs, and I think the club even got some donations for its' treasury. First the Chartreuse chicken and now the Pus Bug T-shirt. Thanks, guys! I'm sure glad we have fun with our sport."

The 1991 Annual meeting is now history and it has again been a great success. Muscatine was the site for this meeting. Lefty Kreh and Charles Reading were our featured speakers and did an outstanding job with their programs. Financially, this meeting was also a huge success. Auction income was reported to be \$4001.25. Total cash on hand as of March 1, 1991 is \$13,990.60, as reported by club treasurer Dick Pilipchuk.

Club contest winners, announced at the annual meeting were: Photo Contest 1st place- Denny Redmond, Essay contest 1st place Steve Duecker, and Membership drive 1st place – Gary McCaughey.

New officers and directors for 1991 are: President – Dick Pilipchuk, Vice President – Ken Arp, Treasurer – Tom Pounds, Secretary – Jeff Moore, 2 year Director Bob Bray, 2 year Director – Mike Pierce, 1 year Director – Gary McCaughey, 1 year Director – Tony Bever.

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Club awards presented at the annual meeting went to Bill Kalishek – Coldwater Conservation, Jim Cato received the President's award, Dick Pilipchuk received the Outstanding Member award, and nine HFFA members received special recognition President's Pins. These members are Ken Arp, Dean Elder, Frank Potter, John Channon, Mike Pierce, Tony Bever, Bob Bray, Charlie Moorhead and Denny Redmond. Verne Lunde of Lunde's Fly Fishing Chalet was the lucky recipient of the Chartreuse chicken for 1991.

Danny Peterson took over as our Stream Improvement Coordinator for 1991, replacing Jim Cato who has taken over as Editor of the Flyline. Danny and Bill Kalishek scheduled 3 workdays for 1991. On May 18th we were to build bank hides at Ensign Hollow, and the dates of August 3rd and 4th we were to install those bank hides into Ensign Creek.

A trip to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area in 1991 was offered to members by club excursion director, Gary McCaughey. The seven day trip was a total cost of \$225.00 per person. As of the March/April 1991 issue of the Flyline, 16 people had committed to the trip or were planning to.

The March /April issue of Flyline carried a request for club members to submit favorite fly patterns to be included in the upcoming HFFA Fly Pattern Book. Project director for this book is Nate Hopkins, with a great helping hand from Don Lund, both of Iowa City. In May, a fly pattern submission form was sent out with the Flyline.

Early in 1991, Bill Kalishek and Denny Redmond were able to secure a grant from the Fish America Foundation, totalling \$9,959.00! This grant was to be used for rip-rapping, purchasing a power nailer, backhoe rental, air compressor and generator. All of these things will be great aids in our stream improvement efforts. Thanks, guys!

Trouting outing #7 is planned for weekend of Friday, May 31 through June 2nd at the Pineview campground in Dorchester, IA.

The HFFA membership listing in the May 1991 Flyline showed 294 members.

The first stream improvement day on May 18 went well and much was accomplished – 29 lunger hides built before lunch. Twenty three club members assisted personnel from the DNR in construction of the lunger hides. These will be installed during the August stream improvement days.

An abbreviated Touting Outing went well for those 3 club members who participated. Mike Jacobs, Mike Vestle and Jeff Moore caught good numbers of rainbows and browns on Saturday before the downpours and flooding came in the late afternoon.

The Summer stream improvement weekend in August was a huge success with 30 people showing up to help build and install bank hides. In a little over a year, the HFFA and Iowa DNR have built and installed 98 bank hides in Ensign Creek.

On August 17, 1991, the HFFA was notified that our club had again won a Stanford Miller Club Conservation Award. This made HFFA a two time winner of this prestigious award, which is given by the Federation of Fly Fishers. This award comes with an \$800.00 cash grant for the club to put to our conservation cause. Our club should be proud of the fact that in the Federation there are over 200 clubs and our club is one of the few to be a two time winner.

Plans are in place for the 18th HFFA Annual Meeting, which will be held in Waverly, Iowa, on February 15 & 16, 1992. Craig and Jackie Matthews and Mike and Christine Fong will be our featured celebrities.

A stream survey done by the Iowa DNR in late 1991, on the catch and release section of the Maquoketa River, shows that catch and release is working. "We are seeing larger numbers of Smallmouth bass over 12 inches," Bill Kalishek, fisheries biologist said. This includes a larger number "up to 20 inches in length." The current catch and release regulations have been in effect for four years.

The January/February issue of the Flyline announced the Fourth Annual Essay and photo contests, sponsored by the HFFA. First place prize for the essay contest is a St. Croix Legend flyrod, 8'6" for a 5/6 weight line. Second prize is a Sage 108M flyreel, and third prize is an Air Cel Ultra III floating line of your choice. The prizes for the photo contest are a St. Croix Legend flyrod, 8' for a 4/5 line, second prize is a Sage 106M flyreel, and third prize received an Air Cel Ultra II floating line of your choice. These are again some great prizes and should attract many entries for both contests.

Waverly, Iowa was the site for our Annual meeting on the weekend of February 15 & 16, 1992, and was a great success, despite the freezing rain that members encountered on Friday evening and early Saturday morning as they traveled to the show. New officers and directors for 1992 were elected at the annual business meeting, and were as follows: President: Mike Jacobs, Vice President: Mike Pierce, Secretary: Gary McCaughey, Treasurer: Tom Pounds, and our Directors were Danny Peterson, Ken Arp, Dean Elder, and Bob Bray. Jeff Moore has agreed to take over as Stream Improvement coordinator, replacing Danny Peterson.

The winners of the Essay contest were: 1st place: Mike Jacobs, 2nd place: Ray Dutchik, 3rd place: Tim Baker. Photo contest winners were: 1st place: Denny Redmond, 2nd place: Jeff Moore, 3rd place: Jim Irvine. The membership drive was won by Dean Elder, with Gary McCaughey second and Mike Jacobs, third.

Special recognition was given at the Annual business meeting to Don Lund and Nate Hopkins for their fine work on the HFFA Fly Pattern book, and the fly display they had available for members to see.

The First Annual Flytyers Rendezvous is scheduled for Sunday, March 22nd, 9AM-3PM. Mike Jacobs is in charge and is looking for tyers to demonstrate their favorite flies.

Stream improvement dates are set for 1992, by our coordinator Jeff Moore, and fisheries biologist Bill Kalishek. July 25-26 we will be working on Ensign Hollow, and on September 12 we'll be at Springbranch.

Plans for the 1993 Annual meeting are in place. The meeting will be at the Five Seasons Hotel in downtown Cedar Rapids. Doug Swisher and John Betts are our featured speakers.

Groundwork for the 1992 (non) BWCA trip has been laid, and participants will go to the Sylvania Wilderness area in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, in hopes of landing some of this areas' big Largemouth and Smallmouth bass. This is the first time that Gary "well traveled" McCaughey has planned an outing outside the BWCA area for club members.

The first Annual Fly Tyers Rendezvous was a great success, with 12 flytyers and over 50 people total in attendance. We auctioned off the flies tied at the end of the day, and raised around \$250.00. This money was split between the HFFA and the Smallmouth Alliance.

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Trouting outing 1992 was a success in catching fish, but a failure in attracting numbers of HFFA members. Only seven members showed up to enjoy the weekend of Trout Fishing.

The July stream workdays proved to be a great success. Twenty-nine people showed up to build 25 lunger hides, and installed 32 hides in four different sites.

This year, the club has initiated some new fund raisers. We have purchased about 30 dozen Bass and Trout flies to sell at reduced prices, and we have also purchased 2 different sizes of ripple/foam fly boxes which are gold foil stamped with the HFFA logo. Proceeds from the sale of these items are to go into the general fund.

In early September, club Treasurer Tom Pounds resigned his position because of job commitments. Mike Vestle, of Cedar Rapids has graciously offered to step in and assume the duties of Treasurer. Mike's offer was placed before the board and officers at the November 22 board meeting. The issue was voted on and Mike was voted in as treasurer, assuming his duties as of November 22.

Our September stream workday was well attended and much was accomplished. In all, 34 people helped with the work done on Springbranch.

A very extensive study has been completed, and the "Report on the water Quality and Aquatic Insect life of Ensign Creek," appears in the January/February 1993 issue of the Flyline. This research was financially supported by the HFFA.

In 1993, the state of Iowa initiated its' Adopt-A-Stream program, and the HFFA officially adopted Springbranch creek. (Actually, the HFFA adopted Springbranch Creek many years before the state program was started.)

Annual Meeting 1993 was a great success, with reported net income for the meeting being \$4143.49. The newly elected slate of officers for 1993 are President: Mike Pierce, Vice President: Dean Elder, Secretary: Gary McCaughey, and Treasurer: Mike Vestle. Two year Directors are Danny Peterson and Jeff Moore; One year Directors are Shawn Harmon and Mark Andracki.

Club contest winners announced at the Annual Meeting were: Membership Drive 1st Place, Gary McCaughey, and a four-way tie for second place between Jeff Moore, Dean Elder, John Channon and Mike Jacobs. Essay Contest winners were: 1st Place – Glenn Leggett, 2nd Place- Gina Miller, and 3rd Place – Mike Hogue. Photo contest winners were: 1st Place – Craig Evans, 2nd Place- Jim Irvine, 3rd Place – Lance Zook.

The Second Annual Fly Tyer's Rendezvous was held on Sunday, March 23, 1993, at the Kirkwood New Business Center in Marion. The Rendezvous again was a great success and the auction at the end of the day netted \$300.00 to be split equally between the HFFA and Smallmouth Alliance.

Our Annual Meeting for 1994 is being planned for the Savery Hotel in Des Moines, with guest speakers being Jack Dennis, Mike Lawson and Gary LaFontaine.

Stream improvement dates for 1993 have been set. On May 22, and again on July 31, the club will be working on Springbranch. The Fall workday is planned for November 6. As reported in a later issue of the Flyline, the workday on May 22nd started off fine and then turned rainy. The 19 workday attendees accomplished much, removing PVC fencing and repairing other fences on Springbranch.

The First Annual Bluegill Outing was held at Lake Geode in Southeastern Iowa. Ten HFFA members and family travelled south for the inaugural (but unofficial) Bluegill Outing. Fishing was outstanding, and this looks to be an annual event for many years to come.

HFFA has pledged \$2500.00 to the Bear Creek Project. This money and some matching state funds, as well as federal money will be used to control soil erosion and improve habitat on the entire Bear Creek watershed. This specific project is to protect the Mestad Spring, and the club has scheduled a special workday at the Mestad Spring area on August 13.

On September 15, 1993, club president, Mike Pierce resigned his position for personal and work reasons. Vice President, Dean Elder took over the remainder of the president's term.

The HFFA was the recipient of the Iowa Wildlife Federation Water Conservation Award for 1993, in a presentation made on October 2. On hand in Iowa City to accept the award for our club were club members Tony Bever and Danny Peterson.

During much of 1993, efforts have been under way to protect South Pine Creek, in Northeastern Winneshiek county. This is the only stream in Iowa that supports a naturally reproducing population of Brook Trout.

The bank balance for HFFA as of November 21, 1993 was \$6358.93

Throughout much of 1993, Nate Hopkins and Don Lund were still working hard toward completion of the HFFA Fly Pattern Book. The goal date for completion of the book was the Annual Meeting 1994. Format of the book, and quantities to be printed are yet to be determined.

Beginning on January 1, 1994, the public owned portions of South Pine Creek were protected by a catch and release regulation for all trout (Brookies.) In May of 1994 a 3/8 mile segment of South Pine creek was sampled to determine the abundance and size structure of the Brook trout in the stream. This same segment is now on public property and will be sampled again in May 1999.

Our Annual meeting in 1994 was held at the Savery Hotel in downtown Des Moines, and it was a great success. For the first time, a youth clinic was held in conjunction with our meeting. All activities of the youth clinic were supervised by Drake University education students. The HFFA Fly Pattern book was available for purchase at the Annual Meeting. Copies of the book done in all black and white cost \$17.00, books with color photocopied Fly plates cost \$25.00, and books with color photo fly plates cost \$41.00.

Club awards were given at the Annual Meeting Banquet, and our Outstanding Member was Mike Brown, the Coldwater conservation Award was bestowed upon Dave DeGeus of the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, and the President's Award Co-winners were Don Lund and Nate Hopkins.

Officers and Directors of the club for 1994-95 were President- Nate Hopkins, Vice President – Shawn Harmon, Secretary – Mark Andracki, and Treasurer – Mike Vestle. Directors were Jeff Moore (2nd year of his two year term), Keith Wunder (2 year), and Nancy Dyke and Don Lund were elected as 1 year directors.

Our club contest winners announced at the meeting were: Membership Drive 1st place – Jene Hughes, 2nd place – Keith Wunder, and 3rd place went to Jim Cato. Winners of the Essay contest were: 1st Place – Jim Kubicek, 2nd place – Ray Dutchik, 3rd place – Mike Hooley, and 4th place went to Steve Perry. Our photo contest was won by Denny Redmond, with Jeff Moore in 2nd and Steve Krotz in 3rd.

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The third Annual Fly Tyers Rendezvous was held on March 20, 1994, at the Marion community Center. Turnout for the Rendezvous was again very good, and the funds raised during the fun auction at the end of the day was donated to the HFFA Conservation fund.

Stream Improvement coordinator Jeff Moore has scheduled workdays for 1994. On May 14 we will be at Big Mill Creek, on August 13 we'll work on North Bear and South Bear, and November 12 for a warmwater workday, site to be announced.

The first "official" Bluegill Outing was held on the weekend of May 20-21, 1994 at Lake Geode in Southeast Iowa. Over 20 people showed up to catch "mass quantities of bluegills", and enjoy a great potluck dinner with fried bluegills as the main fare. Self appointed "bluegill master" Gary McCaughey never showed up for the outing. Amazingly, not one Pus-Bug was used all weekend, yet "mass quantities of bluegill" were captured. Hmmm. That's a thought provoking concept.

In the Fall of 1994 the first segment of South Pine Creek came into public ownership, through the efforts of the Iowa Heritage Foundation. Nearly two miles of South Pine Creek and over two miles of upland tributaries have been acquired or legally protected through conservation easements. Most land that was acquired was then resold to the DNR and is now managed as public wildlife management area lands.

Our 1995 Annual Meeting at the Blackhawk Hotel in Davenport was a great success. Carl Richards and the duo of Terry and Roxanne Wilson were the featured guests, along with Joe Schuster.

Many awards were presented at the annual meeting banquet, to very deserving people. The Conservation Award was given to Steve Perry. Our outstanding member award went to Phil Riley, and the President's awards were given to Jim Cato, John Channon, and Dick Boyer.

Club contest winners were: Photo Contest, 1st Place – Larry Young, 2nd place – Bill Davis, 3rd place – Jeff Moore, 4th place – Mike Jacobs. Essay Contest Winners were: 1st place (3 way tie) Steve Perry, Mike Hogue, and Murray Adams, 2nd place – Dave Quackenbush, 3rd place – Tony Thelen. The membership drive was won by Gary McCaughey, with Dean Elder second, and third place was a tie between Mike Jacobs and Denny Redmond.

The Chartreuse Chicken was bestowed upon Pat Ehlers from Wisconsin for 1995. He was thrilled beyond words at this great honor.

Club officers and directors for 1995 are: President – Nate Hopkins, Vice President – Jeff Moore, Secretary – Don Lund, Treasurer – Denny Redmond. 2 year Director in the second year of his term – Keith Wunder, 2 year Director in his first year – Dick Boyer, and the 1 year directors were Nancy Dyke and Mike Hogue.

The Fourth Annual Fly Tyers Rendezvous was held on Sunday, April 2nd, on a perfectly gorgeous spring day. Thirteen flytyers demonstrated their art, and 35 people attended overall. The proceeds from the fun auction at the end of the day totaled \$362.00, all going to the HFFA conservation fund.

In 1994 HFFA published a fly pattern book edited by Nate Hopkins and Don Lund. The fly pattern book contains photos and recipes for HFFA member's favorite flies. Many great patterns are covered including pan fish, bass, and trout flies.

Early in 1995, the Iowa DNR enacted new special regulations on Springbranch creek. All trout under 14" on Springbranch must be released. Thank you Iowa DNR.

The Second Annual "Official" Bluegill Outing was held on May 19-21, 1995 at Lake Sugema, near the town of Keosauqua. Some thirty people attended the bluegill outing, and found great numbers of fish, but not a lot of great size. The weather was great, the fried fish, mushrooms, and potluck food was wonderful, and Tom Millers' wife sent caramel brownies that were out of this world. Everyone enjoyed themselves and are looking forward to coming back again next year.

Everything is going as planned for the 1996 Annual Meeting in Des Moines. The Savery Hotel will again be the headquarters for the show, and the Des Moines Convention Center will have the programs and exhibitors. Guest speakers for the show will be Mel Krieger, Skip Morris, and Dave Hughes.

As has been the custom for several years, the HFFA will again sponsor the membership drive, as well as photo and essay contests. Winners will be announced at the Annual Meeting.

On September 30, 1995, the HFFA has in excess of \$17,000 in its' coffers.

Our 1996 annual meeting in Des Moines proved to be a successful event. Our guest speakers, Mel Krieger, Dave Hughes, and Skip Morris, "worked hard to give the club its' money's worth, and they did a great job." Over 1200 people passed through the doors to participate in the largest HFFA show ever.

The new officers and board installed at the annual business meeting were: President – Dan Tubbs, Vice President – Keith Wunder, Secretary – Don Lund, and Treasurer – Denny Redmond (in his second year of the two year term.) Directors are: 2 year – Mike Hogue, 2 year (in second year of his term) Dick Boyer, and one year directors Gina Murphy and Ed Cocciola.

Contest winners announced at the meeting were as follows: Essay contest 1st place – Murray Adams, 2nd place – Mike Jacobs, 3rd place - Mike Pierce. Photo Contest 1st place winner was Mike Geraci, 2nd place Linda Lundberg, and 3rd place R. Kieth Riewerts.

Club award winners were Conservation Award – Dave Moeller, Outstanding Member – Jim Cato, and President's Award winners were Mike Brown, Jene Hughes, and Tony Bever.

The Chartreuse Chicken changed hands at the Annual Banquet with current caretaker, Pat Ehlers, presenting the green beast to Tom Andersen, who was thrilled beyond words to be the new caretaker.

We all hope you enjoy the chicken Tom, as you only get to keep it for one year.

Sunday, March 31, 1996 was the date for the 5th Annual Fly Tyers Rendezvous, and it was, at best, a mild success. We had a good turnout of tiers, but the poor weather limited the number of attendees. \$219.00 was raised on the auction of flies tied during the day, and will go into the HFFA stream improvement fund.

In mid April, 1996, club President, Dan Tubbs took over as editor of the Flyline from Jim Cato. Thank you Jim, for your years of great service to HFFA.

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On May 11, HFFA members conducted a Fly Fishing clinic for high school students. This clinic was held in conjunction with the annual state conference of the Iowa Student Environmental Coalition. In all, forty high school students from across Iowa were introduced to the arts and crafts of fly fishing. Club members who taught the fly tying sessions were Lance Zook and Mike Jacobs. Casting instruction was given by Dick Pilipchuk, Mark Andracki, Don Lund, Glen Sears, and Garylee Thurm. HFFA project coordinator was Dan Tubbs.

The weekend of May 17, 18, 19, 1996 was planned for the Northern HFFA members' invasion of Southern Iowa for the 3rd Annual Bluegill Outing. The outing was again headquartered at the campground of Lacey Keosauqua State Park, and we fished the waters of Lake Sugema and the surrounding area. Again this year, the water of the main lake and the two siltation ponds were off color from recent Spring rains. As usual though, we caught, filleted, dipped in batter, fried and devoured hundreds of panfish fillets at our potluck lunch on Saturday afternoon. Everyone left the outing raring to give it a go again next year. Thanks Danny Peterson and Steve Anderson, outing organizers.

Twenty two volunteers from 3 organizations worked together to improve Smallmouth bass habitat in Otter creek, south of Hazleton, on Saturday, August 3rd. This was HFFA's first ever warmwater stream workday, and something of an experiment for the Iowa DNR. The idea was to see if we can improve smallmouth bass habitat in our warmwater streams by installing in-stream structure, same as we do for trout in coldwater streams. The workday was considered a success, and now we'll let the smallies decide if they like our efforts.

The fall workday was held at Springbranch, on Saturday, September 21. Eighteen HFFA members showed up to help the DNR with an electro-shocking survey of the creek. Brown trout up to 19 inches, Rainbows up to 18 and Brookies to 14 inches were the largest noted during the survey.

Special regulations will go into effect on January 1, 1997, on French creek, in Allamakee county. Regulations are catch and release for Brown trout (wild, self sustaining Brown trout inhabit nearly the entire stream.) Artificial lures only will be allowed on both the upper and lower sections of the stream.

Two fly fishing superstars, Dave Whitlock and Dick Talleur, were the featured speakers for our 23rd Annual Meeting and Fly Fishing Show. The show was held February 14-16, 1997 at the Little Amana Holiday Inn. Despite the heavy snowstorm that arrived on Saturday evening, the show was a huge success both in attendance and financially for HFFA. Over 200 banquet tickets were sold, possibly a record for the Annual meeting banquet.

At the banquet, club awards were given. Denny Redmond received the President's Award, Lance Zook was our Outstanding member, and several members shared the Conservation awards for their efforts on behalf of HFFA, at the public meetings about proposed changes to regulations on French Creek. These members were Dean Elder, Nate Hopkins, Steve Matter, Marc Nichols, Steve Schuster, Jeff Skeate, Ron Uhlenhopp Steve Veysey, Wally Witt, and Keith Wunder. A big Thank-You to all award winners for your effort.

The photo contest was won by Mike Pierce, and second place ended up being a three-way tie between Jim Ford, Steve Perry, and Denny Redmond.

Ellen Clark, from Minnesota, was given the privilege of caring for our beloved "Chartreuse Chicken" for the 1997-98 club year.

The 1997 Annual Meeting was Dave Whitlock's third appearance for our club (also in Cedar Rapids, 1979 and Davenport, 1988), and he wants to come back again as soon as we'll have him. "I always enjoy coming to Iowa," he says. "Your winter weather is lousy, but the people here are just really great."

Dick Talleur was here for the first time, and he frankly wasn't sure what to expect in a state not famous for its' fly fishing. If he had any doubts, they were quickly put to rest when he stood in front of a large and appreciative audience on Saturday morning. By Sunday afternoon, he was thanking us for " a wonderful event – truly one of the best I've ever attended."

Club officers and directors for 1997-98 are: President – Dan Tubbs, Vice President – Keith Wunder, Secretary – Don Lund, and Treasurer – Nate Hopkins. Directors are Ed Cocciola, Mike Hogue, Gary Kruse, and Gina Murphy.

The stream improvement day scheduled for Indian Creek on March 29th, was redirected to Springbranch, because the flooding Cedar River was backed up into Indian creek, above the original project site. Our intrepid volunteers repaired lingering damage on Springbranch from an abnormal February flood.

Sunday, April 6, was the date for the 1997 Fly Tyers Rendezvous. This years event was again held at the Marion Community Center, and attracted tiers from many areas of Iowa. Thirteen of the clubs top tyers were on hand to demonstrate their favorite patterns. At the end of the day, our fun auction raised \$298.00. which was earmarked for stream improvements.

We held the 4th Annual Bluegill Outing on the weekend of Friday, May 16 through Sunday May 18, at Lake Sugema. Rain and lightning made things interesting for those who arrived and fished on Friday evening. Everyone did alright though, because we sure had a ton of fish to clean when we arrived back at camp Friday night. We cleaned fish by lamplight as the rain and lightning popped and crackled around us.

The potluck at noon on Saturday fed 45 of us and featured fried panfish, and many other great dishes that were shared by everyone. We all left the noon meal sufficiently stuffed.

All things considered, Bluegill Outing 1997 was again a huge success and everyone looks forward to a return engagement in 1998.

In late May 1997, the Iowa DNR began stocking French Creek strain, Brown Trout fingerlings into six different streams. After about four months in the streams, these populations were sampled to determine growth rates and survivability. The French Creek strain browns were doing extremely well and one more stream, Little Turkey, will also be stocked with French Creek strain browns in 1998.

July 19 was the date of our first summer stream improvement day. Work was directed to sites on the Maquoketa River, inside Backbone State Park. Bank hides were constructed, as well as doing some bank stabilization using a new technique borrowed from the Missouri DNR. In all, 20 HFFA members, 14 Boy scouts and 5 DNR personnel participated in the stream work effort.

The second stream workday of the summer was on August 9th, on Indian Creek, near the Nature Center in Cedar Rapids. During this work effort, volunteers stabilized an eroding bank by anchoring in 32 Cedar trees. Also, a number of deadfalls were anchored to the stream bottom to create pools and overhead cover for Smallmouth bass.

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DNR Fisheries workers, aided by members of HFFA, counted 146 Brown and rainbow trout in a 2/3 mile stretch of Ensign Hollow on September 6, the Fall stream workday. Trout from 3 inches long, up to 21 inches (4 pounds) were surveyed, and great numbers of fish were found between 12 inches and 16 inches. It looks like a lot of hard work by club volunteers and DNR personnel is really paying dividends. Good job everyone!

In August, HFFA member Susan Halblom, received the prestigious Woman of The Year award from the Federation of Fly Fishers, at the FFF national show and conclave in Grand Rapids, MI. Congratulations, Sue, from everyone in the HFFA!

In late 1997, longtime member Mac Passed away and will be missed by all of us "old timers."

The January 1998 issue of the Flyline is the last by Editor and Club President, Dan Tubbs. He will be moving to Michigan soon. Mike Pierce will be the new editor as of the March/April issue.

Dubuque hosted its' first ever HFFA Annual Meeting on the weekend of February 14 and 15, 1998. Many HFFA members and their families gathered at the Holiday Inn Five Flags, in historic Dubuque. Barry and Cathy Beck teamed with Rich Osthoff to make the 1998 Annual Meeting and Fly Fishing Show both informative and entertaining. The overall meeting proved to be a resounding success!!

New Officers and Directors elected at the annual meeting were: President – Gary Kruse, Vice President – Ed Cocciola, Secretary – Don Lund, and Treasurer – Nate Hopkins. Directors are Jim Kubichek, John Miller, Steve Veysey and Lance Zook.

Club award winners were: President's Award – Jeff Moore, Outstanding Member – Susan Halblom, and the Conservation Award went to Steve Veysey. The Izaak Walton League Conservation Award was bestowed upon Ed Powell during our awards presentation.

Photo contest winner was Jeff Moore, with Walt Stidwell taking second and Brad Yeuter, 3rd place.

Guardian of the Chartreuse Chicken for 1998-99 is Jeff Moore.

Club Treasurer, Nate Hopkins gave the treasurers report at the annual business meeting and the report showed that HFFA had net income in 1997 of \$5618.44

Some of the finest fly tiers that the HFFA has to offer gathered on Sunday, March 29, 1998 for the Annual Fly Tiers Rendezvous. During the day, over 40 persons shared fly tying techniques, learned new patterns, talked fly fishing and shot the bull. At the end of the day, the approximately 6 dozen flies tied during the day were auctioned off, and we raised \$350.00 for stream improvement projects.

In 1998 the HFFA officially adopted French creek (our second in the Adopt-a-stream program.) Litter pickup on the stream is our primary responsibility. " A little effort on everyone's part can make a big difference," says club President Gary Kruse.

The weekend of May 15, 16, 17 was set aside by many HFFA members, so that they could attend the 5th Annual Bluegill Outing. This years outing was again stationed at Lacey Keosauqua State Park, with easy access to all the fishing in nearby Lake Sugema. Many people came on Friday and were greeted with hurricane gale force winds to fish into. Saturday however, was a nice day and many members were out early to catch fish for the fish fry. Noon brought people in for the feast of fried panfish and the assorted pot-luck dishes brought by everyone. About 35-40 people enjoyed the noon potluck as well as the entire Bluegill Outing weekend.

The Ram Hollow creek workday, on June 13, was a great start to the stream improvement projects scheduled for 1998. Thirty-two volunteers from HFFA, the Iowa DNR, and Boy Scout Troop #207 pitched in to improve habitat for the South Pine strain of Brook trout that have been recently planted in Ram Hollow. Bank hides and log hides were installed, bank protection was put in place, and flows were increased or redirected as part of this workday.

Premiere performer at the workday was the Iowa DNR's new, gasoline powered portable jackhammer which HFFA partially funded (\$750.00.) If you weren't there, you missed a great time.

The Iowa Heritage Foundation is currently negotiating the acquisition of two trout stream parcels in Winneshiek county, on South Pine and Pine creeks. HFFA's recent contribution of \$5,000.00 will be used to help fund acquisition of 40 acres, on South Pine creek. The ongoing support of HFFA has been critical in making these trout stream projects "doable."

"The wild Brook Trout population in South Pine creek, is truly a unique genetic strain, possibly unlike any other Brook trout population in the world," writes Dave Moeller in the May/June 1998 issue of the Flyline." We do know this population has maintained itself via natural reproduction for decades and is currently thriving. Public acquisition of two properties on South Pine creek (thanks in large part to the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation and the financial assistance of the HFFA) will ensure these indescribably beautiful fish will always have a quality place to live in this remote stream."

On August 8, 1998, Founding member Vic Gibson passed away. Vic was our original HFFA club president, and the person who should be recognized for having the foresight to organize this club from the beginning. Thank you for all your efforts over the years Vic.

The weekend of September 25-27 was the Annual Trout Outing, held again this year after a 6 year hiatus. (The Trout outing was last held in 1992.) This year, nine members, five family members and one prospective member attended the outing in Lansing, Iowa. The weather co-operated (it rained, but not the usual Monsoon type rains experienced when Mike Jacobs used to schedule the outing), fishing was good, and the exchange of stories and information at the campfire each evening was interesting. Look for the Trout Outing again in September of next year.

The final stream workday for 1998 was held at the Indian Creek Nature Center, near Cedar Rapids, on September 12. Much was accomplished in this half-day effort as workers placed cedars along several banks of the stream to help curtail erosion. 25 HFFA members, DNR personnel and volunteers from the Nature center joined in the work.

In late 1998 it was learned that a large hog confinement facility was under construction near French Creek. If there is ever leakage from the lagoon, it will flow into lower French creek, near the lower parking lot. Worse yet, the owner has a considerable amount of property adjacent to the East Branch of Upper French Creek and will likely apply manure from the hog operation in this area. Incorrect application could be a disaster.

At the November 22nd board meeting, club president Gary Kruse reported that Jack Capps, the Iowa DNR Land Acquisition Agent, is in the process of purchasing 1700 acres of land along Waterloo creek, for approximately 1.5 million dollars. This land includes about 4 miles of Waterloo creek.

continued on next page

A new dues structure for HFFA was approved at this same board meeting. This is the first time in approximately ten years that the dues have increased slightly.

An article in the March/April Flyline, by Bill Kalishek, describes the catch and release areas on the Maquoketa river and the Upper Iowa river. The Maquoketa river catch and release section was initiated in 1988, and by 1991, the numbers of Smallmouth over 12 inches had increased four-fold. In 1998, 11 years into the catch and release regulations, Smallmouth Bass over 12 inches had increased almost 7 times the pre-regulation numbers.

The catch and release area on the Upper Iowa has only been in place since 1996, and after only 3 years, small increases are already being detected in this Smallmouth population. So far, these two Smallmouth bass fisheries have developed nicely.

The 1999 HFFA annual meeting was held in Waterloo on the weekend of March 6th and 7th, and was another great weekend that featured interesting speakers, a variety of vendors, helpful tying demonstrations, and a lot of great fellowship. Dave Hughes and Rick Hafele instructed and entertained HFFA members with "how to" and "where to go" programs that helped chase away the last of the Midwestern winter blues.

At the Annual Banquet, President Gary Kruse presented the President's Award to Mike Jacobs, the Conservation Award to Ed Cocciola, and the Outstanding Member Award to Mike Pierce. In the Photo contest, Chuck Haas took first place, Dave Quint received second place, and Robert David got third place.

The Sixth Annual Bluegill Outing was held on May 21-23 at Lake Wapello, which is south of Ottumwa and north of Bloomfield. Those members who arrived on Friday were greeted with nearly a full day of rain. By Saturday morning however, the sky was clear, and the sun was shining. Fishing was outstanding, and four – gallon sized bags of panfish fillets were cooked up and served, along with salads, vegetable dishes, and desserts. The twenty six people at the potluck devoured 3 ½ gallons of fish fillets as well as the other dishes brought to share. All in attendance agreed that Lake Wapello was a great site for the outing, and look forward to meeting there again in May 2000.

Abnormally heavy rains in May and June forced the June 12 stream improvement workday to be moved from Ram Hollow to a section of the Maquoketa River, just North of Backbone State Park. A good turnout of HFFA members helped DNR personnel repair flood damaged fences in that area. The next workday, planned for August 7, has been moved to Ram Hollow.

Mike

Editor's Note

This concludes the history of the club compiled by Mike Jacobs. To my knowledge this document was never published before. It takes a lot of time and effort to accomplish what Mike has provided and we owe him a big **Thank You**. There is another 20 plus years of history available for documentation. Mike has told me the digital issues are hard for him to deal with. There may be other technical issues as well. I am not aware that anyone is currently working on such a history. The pdf for all issues are available if there is interest. If someone is interested I would suggest they check with Mike first to avoid duplication of effort.

Don

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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
33. 3M - Fly fishing for Trout - G. Borger
34. 3M - Tying Trout Flies
35. Fly Rodders Guide to Pike - Smith & Reynolds
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37. HFFA 1985 Workday & Meeting
38. Hafele, R - Anatomy of a Stream
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87. KWWL - French Creek News Clip

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(Editors Note - Contact Tim to borrow and return DVD's)

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