



The Flyline

The Newsletter of the Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association

June, 2018



"Spring Creek"

Second Place 2018 HFFA Photo Contest by Tom Polehna

Save the Dates
February 15-17, 2019
HFFA 45th Annual Fly Fishing Show
Little Amana - Williamsburg, Iowa



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The Presidents Hatch

As you read this "Hatch," the summer fishing season will be upon us. Of course, we have just finished the shortest Spring in my memory (memory being the operative word). It is also the season of the Banquet. I missed a few, most regrettably, the Pheasant's Forever banquet here in Dubuque. But, I made more than ever before. The HFFA Show and its banquet rank right up there among the best, but I have enjoyed all of them. This year was a first year that I have attended the Driftless Chapter of TU's banquet in Decorah, but it won't be the last. They have a really good group of members up there.

The Annual Harry and Laura Nohr Chapter of TU banquet was held at the Castle Rock Inn. This chapter of TU does an amazing amount of stream restoration work in that area, and their membership is about half made up of non-fishers. The seafood buffet was reason enough to go to this banquet, but to see how this chapter works is really an eye-opening experience. We met one of the two members of a Chicago TU chapter on the Blue River (one of the streams that the Nohr Chapter has worked on) a couple days after the banquet. They were at the banquet to present a check for \$ 4,000.00 to be used for stream restoration this coming summer. How great is that.

What always amazes me is how generous everyone is at these events. From the donors to the bidders, everyone seems genuinely interested in helping keep the clean water that we love in this Driftless Area. I like the program called "One Percent for the Planet" (<https://www.onepercentfortheplanet.org>) that Craig Mathews of Blue Ribbon Flies and Yvon Chouinard of Patagonia started. The member companies donate one percent of their gross sales back to the planet. What if everyone involved with this planet did that, or even those who engage in outdoor



John Carl Miller

activities, such as fly fishing. Many of us probably end up donating that much just through the organizations and donations that we make, but what if everyone did that. I always believe that there is hope for this planet, even when all the areas that we want to save seem to be threatened by various forces.

People can donate to the earth with their time as well. The hard working group that cleared brush at Spring Branch on April 28th was a great example of that. It was hard work (I ached for days), but it was one of the most rewarding experiences that I have had in quite some time. Almost everyone I talked to claimed to have had a good time even though the work was hard. Many in the HFFA donate time by working on our board and on committees. The HFFA still needs to get committees up and running, so if you have more time than money and want to help, let one of the board members know, or better yet, contact me to volunteer. We need an Education-events committee, a Work-day committee, a Membership committee, and most important, a Nourish-

ent committee (provide meals for work days, etc.). But, if you don't want a long term involvement, how about being on the annual HFFA show committee. Next year the show will be hosted by Cedar Rapids and will be held at Little Amana, on Interstate 80. Let Mike Jacobs know if you can help in any way. In two years, the show will be held in Dubuque. Let me know if you want to help with this show.

I guess I've been reading too many conservation magazines lately, but I am really fired up about what we can accomplish if we all work together. The Iowa Coldwater Conservancy is an example of an organization that grew out of the cooperation of many organizations, including HFFA and all three TU chapters in Iowa. The ICC has the potential to really make a difference in the water quality of the Driftless Area of Iowa. See the article in this Flyline.

If we really want this planet and especially this sport to continue, we need to get more people involved. I know that means more people on the streams, but to protect them, we have to have a ton of support. Every outdoor sport is crying about the drop in memberships and licenses being sold. Take a kid fishing, more than once. Take a neighbor, a member of another club that you both share, a member of your church, or someone who shows interest at one of your events. We have opportunities that most of us aren't taking advantage of. But the last word is: get out there and fish yourself. Its good for the soul.

John

Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association Membership Application		
<input type="checkbox"/> New	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	<input type="checkbox"/> Change of Address Information
Check Membership Category:		Conservation Contribution:
<input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Member	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10 (Class)	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Youth Member (18 and under)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20 (Graphite)	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Senior Member (65 or older)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30 (Boron)	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$45 Family Membership	<input type="checkbox"/> \$_____ (Cane, over \$50)	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$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		

The Flyline is the official publication of the Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association. It is published in March, 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:
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HFFA Webpage

<http://www.hawkeyeflyfishing.com>

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing

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

Quad Cities Chapter

Meets 1st & 3rd Sunday 6:00 PM
October to May
Meets 1st Sunday 6:00 PM June to
September
Riverdale Fire Station, 110 Manor
Drive, Riverdale, IA
Contact: Larry Thompson
larthompson@earthlink.net

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: Larry Murphy
lmurphy498@gmail.com

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.

Madhouse Brewing Company
501 Scott Ave, Des Moines, IA
Website: tu-northbear.org
Jim Kelehan-President
president@tu-northbear.org

TROUT UNLIMITED DRIFTLESS CHAPTER

Meets the first Thursday of the
month October through May @
7 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>June 2018</u></p> <p>June 20 - 22 Upper Midwest FFI Casting Certification Seminar Rochester Community & technical College 851 30th Ave Rochester, MN 55904 Todd Heggestad theggestad57@gmail.com</p> <p><u>July 2018</u></p> <p>July 9-13 Project Aware—River Cleanup Maquoketa River Delaware, Jones, & Jackson Counties www.iowadnr.gov/aware</p> <p>July 22 - 24 Upper Midwest FFI Fly Fishing School Rochester Community & Technical College 851 30th Ave Rochester, MN 55904 Todd Heggestad theggestad57@gmail.com</p> <p>July 31 Deadline for State Fair Tying Contest State Fair Admin P.O. Box 57130 Des Moines, IA 50317</p>	<p><u>August 2018</u></p> <p>August 6-11 FFI Annual Fly Fishing Fair Boise Center, Century Link Arena Boise, ID 83702</p> <p><u>September 2018</u></p> <p>September 8 4th Annual Brule River Spey Day Lake Superior Steelhead Assn. Brule River @ Mc Neil's House Brule, WI Www.steelheaders.org</p> <p><u>October 2018</u></p> <p>October 13 2018 Driftless Flyathon Decorah, Iowa 52101 flyathon@driftlessonthefly.com</p> <p>October 19-21 2018 Casting For Recovery IA Camp Ewalu's Stone Retreat Center Strawberry Point, IA 52076 norrisk@ihaonline.org</p> <p><u>November 2018</u></p> <p><u>December 2018</u></p> <p><u>January 2019</u></p>	<p><u>February 2019</u></p> <p>February 15-17 HFFA Annual Fly Fishing Show Little Amana Ramada Hotel 2211 U Ave Williamsburg, IA 52361 Mike Jacobs hawkeyeflytyer@yahoo.com</p> <p>Please Help Me Fill in the Spaces A Full Calendar is Nice to Have Thanks Don djottovet@gmail.com</p>
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**The 2018 Stream Stewardship Award
Presented by the Iowa Driftless Chapter of Trout Unlimited to Dean Elder
April 28, 2018 by Tom Murray**

Each year our Trout Unlimited chapter recognizes individuals and organizations that we believe have demonstrated a commitment to protecting and preserving the ecosystems that sustain our coldwater streams and rivers in northeast Iowa with the Stream Stewardship Award.

Tonight, we are pleased to add Dean Elder from Marshalltown, Iowa to this list of awardees. Dean and his wife Karen are here with us tonight. Welcome to Decorah and our 17th Annual Trout Stream Conservation Banquet!

Dean started fly fishing in the 1940's while working on a merit badge for his Eagle Scout award. In those days he fished the Iowa River for smallmouth bass and area farm ponds for crappies and bluegills.

As time went by, he met with friends to tie flies and eventually to meet with other fly fishermen in the Waterloo area to create in 1975 what has become known as the Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association-HFFA.

During the past 43 years with HFFA, Dean has demonstrated his passion for teaching others about fly fishing, fly tying, and working with others to protect and preserve our beautiful rivers and streams. In recent years, Dean has also served as a judge of the annual fly tying competition at the Iowa State Fair. He is also a generous contributor of auction items for HFFA and TU fundraising events. But what stands out for me and for anyone who meets Dean is his genuine interest in hearing about your recent trip to the stream, and what flies you used. If you listen carefully, you will come away with some new ideas to try. As Dean often says, "I have not met a fly fisherman that I do not like." Spoken like the true gentleman that he is!

Thank you Dean for your many years of service to the Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association, to Trout Unlimited and to countless individuals who have learned from you what it means to be a stream steward even when you live many miles from these trout streams we all enjoy. I look forward to our next conversation, knowing I will come away with a smile and new ideas. [Congratulations Dean!](#)

ICC Report by Dave Jones

Iowa's Coldwater Conservancy Update

Dave Jones, Treasurer for Iowa's Coldwater Conservancy

This article is the second in a series of update reports from Iowa's Coldwater Conservancy (ICC). Last quarter Tom Murray introduced the organization and provided an historical account of the formation of ICC. With this report, I'd like to share with you a progress report on three key initiatives; stream restoration, fundraising and communication.

Stream restoration: Since our initial meeting, Trout Unlimited Driftless Area Restoration Effort (TU DARE) has been instrumental in introducing ICC to organizations that can partner with ICC in order to achieve it's stream restoration objectives. This past spring, several ICC project committee members attended workshops to learn about current restoration methods and meet potential stream restoration contractors. Recent meetings with the Iowa DNR and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) have focused on reviewing improved stream restoration techniques and project management practices. In addition, the Iowa DNR has recently shared with the ICC board, a potential method for scoring and ranking potential properties for stream restoration.

Fundraising: To date, the ICC board has developed a diversified fundraising strategy that targets organizations and individuals that care about protecting and restoring the ecosystems that sustain Iowa's coldwater streams. Last December, TU DARE was successful in receiving an award from NRCS that provides \$750,000 of funding for stream restoration projects in Iowa. Usually NRCS funding covers 75% of typical stream restoration project cost. TU DARE applied for this award, with the understanding that ICC would commit to raise \$250,000 over the next 5 years. Combined, the NRCS award and ICC fundraising have the potential to provide up to \$1,000,000 for stream restoration projects in Iowa.

Communication: Unfortunately, while we have been busy on stream restoration and fundraising plans, ICC continues to be a well-kept secret. The ICC mission and purpose of protecting and restoring Iowa's coldwater streams appeals to many only after they learn more about the organization. The success of stream restoration and fundraising is dependent on creating a greater awareness of ICC. Therefore, the board has determined that a branding and marketing plan must be developed, to enable ICC to reach their full potential for stream restoration and fundraising. At the May meeting, the ICC board engaged Northeast Iowa Resource Conservation & Development (NE RC&D) to assist with brand development and marketing. In the short run, NE RC&D will focus on creating an ICC brand, marketing plans, communication materials and website development plans. The ICC board believes that creating brand awareness and developing a marketing plan will enhance efforts to identify stream restoration sites and complete fundraising goals.

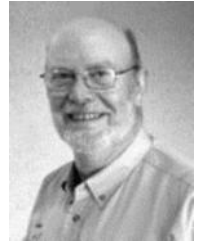
The ICC board and committees have accomplished quite a bit in just 18 months. We also believe that the initial NRCS award of \$750,000 provides the opportunity for an unprecedented level of coldwater stream restoration in Iowa. However, for ICC to succeed, we need your help. In particular, we need more volunteers to serve as members of the board or one of the following committees; finance, communications, fundraising and stream projects. Please take the opportunity to consider making a commitment to help the ICC organization achieve its goal of protecting and restoring Iowa's coldwater streams. Remember that improved trout fishing, will be your reward for helping ICC.

Please contact the following board members, if you are interested in serving or can recommend someone who can: Tom Murray (563-380-7458), Dave Jones (563-299-2759) or Ryan Maas (319-621-6940).

The Broken Finger

by Larry Niday

Second Place 2018 HFFA Show Essay Contest



One thing about Iowa weather is that it doesn't always do what you expect. When you expect cold, you get warm; rain, you get sun. That's what makes it interesting. A meteorologist on a local TV station claimed that he moved to this state because the weather was so interesting and challenging to predict.

I have long been known for my "Less-Than-Graceful" moments and perhaps one of my finest hours began with the six o'clock news one New Year's Eve. We were watching this same man give the weather and he said the New Year would come in with a bright sunny sixty degree day, unusual even for a state known for surprises. It is Iowa, you know. Nancy mentioned "You should get up early in the morning and go trout fishing". It was a nice offer, but I declined at first, thinking about all the things I should be doing instead. She countered them with one logical reason why I should go. "When do you think a day like this will happen again?" She made sense. I pride myself in the fact that I have learned when to quit arguing when it is one I don't really want to win anyway. So, the next morning, I hit the road two hours before sunrise driving the three hours to Ensign Hollow.

Coming over the top of a long hill, the road curves left down the north side into a valley the locals call the "Hollow". At the bottom, a bridge crosses a pristine stream that meanders out of the timbered pasture to the left. Turning west on the dirt road past the bridge and paralleling the stream to where the fence meets the road, leads to a small parking place that will hold two vehicles in good weather. That day, with six inches of fresh snow on the ground, had shrunk it to a single car parking spot. I stepped out of the truck and looked across the valley. It was a bright cloudless morning and beginning to warm as the sun rose above the trees. Stark brown weed stems bristled out of the snow which was taking on a certain brilliance, sparkling with the glitter of pixie dust on the powdery snow.

This is a small stream, meandering through the valley that carries fast deep water that doesn't freeze over. The course of the water could be mapped by following the line of trees that grew along the banks. Across the flat valley floor, scattered stretches of running water appeared where the stream turned in my direction momentarily in its course, and then it turned and disappeared behind the drifts of snow. The Department of Natural Resources recommends it as a winter fishery. It looked perfect.

I reached behind the seat of the truck and pulled out the case that held the fly rod, unzipped the case and laid the rod sections on the seat. I kept an eye on the valley floor, planning my approach while I assembled the three sections into one rod and strung the line through the guides. The top of the fly box contained a row of Hare's Ear Nymphs, my go-to searching fly when I have no clue where else to start. I ran my fingers across the flies, selecting one with a brass bead to take it down deep in the cold water. The sun was bright and the water was cold, and I knew that the fish would be a little lethargic, laying in the slower current on the bottom. My impatience was ruling my cold dry fingers; the knot finally held after the third tie.

I worked my way through the snow towards the nearest bend in the stream. Reaching the edge required a little caution, not knowing what was under the snow meant that each step could take me over a hidden bank and into an ice cold bath. Something like that could ruin a good day. To my right appeared to be a good piece of water just on the far side of a deadfall. It was a stretch where the stream, running north, made a wide turn east towards me as it spread out and slowed down in a pool.

The growing excitement was building, making me forget caution in my hurry to start fishing. As I neared the downed tree, a branch hidden beneath the snow grabbed my foot and the momentum threw me headlong into the mass of dry limbs. As I was crashing into the midst of the deadfall, the rod went airborne, rattling through the branches. The years spent hunting, fishing and falling in places infested with ticks, snakes, all the way up to grizzlies, had conditioned me to immediately scramble to my feet, sometimes even on my way down. So, as quickly as I could grab a hand hold, I fought to regain my feet. As soon as I was standing and thinking I had escaped harm, I looked around and spotted my rod in the brush just to my right. I bent down and carefully pulled it out of its nest, held it out in front of me and whipped it back and forth to see if it was still in one piece. To my relief, the rod wasn't broken, but there was something else I noticed that was a little disturbing. The little finger on my right hand was folded backward and pointing at my elbow. I didn't remember it looking like that before. This could be a problem. As soon as I saw the finger hanging loose, my brain realized I was hurt and the pain stabbed like the point of a knife. I reached across and gently took it between my thumb and forefinger, somehow expecting to put it back like it was. That wasn't a good idea.

But the rod was in one piece and I had just driven three hours to fish. Looking at the water, I knew my priority. "I've got to try it anyway. Here we go!"

Continued on the next page

I learned a fundamental truth in fishing. "If you scream in pain each time you cast, it tends to scare away the fish". As I raised my arm for the back cast, the dangling finger swung that direction, shooting a sharp pain down my arm. Then, on the forward cast, it swung like a pendulum with the motion of the rod, coming to an excruciating stop. I could see this wasn't going to work well at all. Somewhat dejected, I gave in to reason and took the rod and reel and the throbbing finger back to the truck where I stowed the rod behind the seat and laid my hand in my lap. I drove back through the valley, but the rutted dirt road was thawing and each bump and sideways lurch of the truck sent stabs of pain up my arm. I finally came to the main road and turned up the hill. As I drove over the crest, I gained enough bars on my phone to make a call, so I pulled over to the side and reluctantly punched in my home number.

Nancy answered and knowing I don't usually interrupt fishing to play on the phone, barely waited to hear my voice before asking what was wrong. A little embarrassed, I tried to avoid the answer and asked if she had the number of a friend that lived in the area. She said "Yes, but why do you need it?" I told her I needed her to call him and ask where the nearest hospital is. "What?!" I jerked my head away from the phone; it was like a gun going off in my ear. I could hear the stress in her voice when she recovered enough to ask, "What did you do now?" "Now?" *Do I do stuff like this that often? I'll have to think about that.* "I bent a finger a little bit and I need someone to straighten it out for me". At her suggestion, I related the minute details of my mishap, after which she generously let me hang up so she could make some calls. I drove towards the nearest town while I waited for her to call back. By the time Strawberry Point came into view, she had called with the location of a hospital about sixteen miles south in Manchester and made me promise to call as soon as I got my repairs.

A couple hours later, I walked out of the Hospital Emergency Room with my broken and formerly dislocated finger securely splinted and taped to the adjacent ring finger. I had to make a decision. "Do I want to try to continue my fishing quest with a painful casting hand, or should I just give up and head back home, defeated?" I really wanted to spend the day on a stream fishing and giving in to defeat just didn't seem to be an option. I headed south of town to Spring Branch Creek to try to salvage what was left of the day. It wasn't the stream I had wanted to spend the day on, but I had lost so much time by then that now I was just looking for close and easy.

I tried fishing for a while, I did get to cast a few times to some leftover rising fish, but by this time, the temperature was rapidly falling and if the fish had been interested, they were losing it now.

The day hadn't quite lived up to my hopes and my fishing time was uncomfortably cut short, but I did manage to enjoy the part of the day that I did get to use. It's not always about the fish, sometimes a balmy winter day with a snowy landscape is what you remember most. Of course, a broken finger does help keep it fresh.

Tales From The Vise by Scott Nordby



Bead Head McGinty

Hook: Mustad 3366 size 8

Thread: 6/0 Black

Bead: 1/8 Brass Bead

Lead Wire: .010-.015 lead wire (tuck under the bead to fill hole)

Tail: Red Antron Yarn

Body: Yellow and Black Medium Chenille

Hackle Collar: Yellow Hackle

Whether you tie flies or not, Fly Tying is an important part of Fly Fishing. Everyone has a different reason for tying flies. Whatever your motivation, and whatever level of tier that you think you are, there is always room for improvement and new techniques to learn. If you watched my presentation on "Learn to Watch" hopefully now you are picking up techniques and information that helps make you a better fly tier. Let's talk a little about thread control. I think this is the foundation of good fly tying. Thread tension is the primary thing that I see most people struggle with. Thread control is more than just being tight. It is knowing when to be tight, when to be loose and when to be in between. Your thread is a tool that you want to learn to use to your advantage. The bobbin is a tool to hold the thread and keep tension. Through the course of tying a fly you will need to vary the tension many times. If your tension comes solely from the bobbin you will be limited to the tension you use. You need to learn to control the tension with your hand. I have my bobbins set just beyond the point where the bobbin won't fall. I use the palm of my hand to control how much or how little tension to use. Having less tension on the bobbin also makes it easier to wind up excess thread or pull the bobbin to let out more thread without moving the material on the hook. Learning to control the thread tension will make you a better fly tyer.

The Bead Head McGinty is an old pattern that has been changed and manipulated through the years, but it is still one of the best Panfish flies (great for trout also). It is a fun fly to tie. It takes a little practice to get nice yellow, black, yellow lines with the chenille. I would not be without this fly on any of my fishing trips. For Panfish I cast it out and leave it sink to the depth I want to fish and the short jerk retrieve it in. For Trout just use your standard nymph techniques but don't forget the swing at the end. I can't say enough about this fly, fun to tie and fun to fish. Step by step at www.flychucker.blogspot.com

2018 HFFA Bluegill Outing

The 2018 HFFA Bluegill Outing was held at Lake Wapello State Park just Northwest of Drakesville, Iowa on May 18 - 20. The photos of Henry and Lance provided by John Channon the rest by Kate Lodge. Dan Peterson explained to me last year that the Bluegill Outing started as just a fishing trip with he and Steve Anderson. They invited a few HFFA friends and a tradition was born. It is my understanding that next years outing will again be at Lake Wapello on the same weekend. Stay tuned and check the calendar.

Don



Henry Moeller above and Steve Betsey below.



Lance Zook and a nice bass.



Upper right shows the amount of food available and three guys making the best of it. Lower left features Steve Veysey, Jack & Teri Werling, and Lance & Laurie Zook. Lower right features Cheryl & John Channon, Willa Campbell and camp dog Luka



2018 HFFA - DNR Workday

April 28, 2018 a stalwart crew from HFFA joined with Mark Winn from DNR to clear brush along Spring Branch near Manchester. Stan DeMay, Kate Lodge, Martin, Olga & Valerie Acerbo, James Weiss, Curtis Poetilein, Pete Ilija, Henry Moeller, Jim Moeller, John Channon, Cheryl Channon, John Carl Miller, Gary Woerderhoff, Ryan Maas, Jack Werling and Teri Werling. Kate Lodge provided the photos. These will show the start, the middle, and the finish of the project. Pete Ilija in a Face Book comment said that "this was the hardest working group of volunteers at any time in human history". Well said Pete.



Thanks to Teri & Jack for Hosting the Food!!

HFFA Members Sharing the Sport



Doug Nauman is everywhere. He is the guy at the annual meeting that fixes the IT if it goes bad. I saw him at Great Waters. He is in the food shot at the Blue-gill Outing. The essays by Mike Jacobs include him. Here he is teaching Alex Lampton from Minot, MN to tie flies at the Spring Creeks TU Rendezvous at Monticello, Iowa on March 24, 2018. Doug is spreading the word. Photo by Lisa Davis

Dubuque Fly Fishers annual picnic on May 14, 2018 at the Swiss Valley Nature Center was well attended. Here Brian Ramsey, casting instructor from Lacrosse, WI shows Trenton age 10 how it is done. Kate Lodge who supplied the photo reported that Trenton is also learning to tie flies at Mike Jacobs classes held during the winter in Dubuque. Once again spreading the word.



Who says one can not have fun, while either spreading the word or receiving the word. Here are several HFFA members attending the Fly Fishing Film Tour (F3T) at the Big Grove Brewery in Iowa City on April 8, 2018. Looks like they are having fun and putting a dent in either Guinness or a look alike. Photo by Lisa Davis.

Fly Tying Competition at 2018 Iowa State Fair

By Larry Murphy

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

This year's fair will be held from August 9th through the 19th. The fly tying display will be in the DNR Building on the Fairgrounds during the fair. The judging is tentatively scheduled for Friday, August 10th.

Fly entries need to be received at the Fair Administration post box by July 31, 2018.

There are three divisions

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

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

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

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

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

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

No flies smaller than size #18.

Flies must be sent to the Iowa State Fair Administration Office, P.O. Box 57130, Des Moines, IA 50317 and **received by July 31, 2018**. Each fly entered must have the **Fly Tiers name, address, telephone number, name of the fly, division to be entered and the category**.





HFFA

Member Profile

Bob Nejd

Getting to know your fellow HFFA member

How long have you been a HFFA member?

Forty Nine Years

Family?

I am married and we had one daughter, who has passed away.

Occupation?

I am retired.

Hometown?

Cedar Rapids is my hometown and I live in Ely

When did you begin to fly fish? 1970

When did you join HFFA? 1970

Why did you join HFFA?

The members were open to the public and helped me begin this hobby.

What is your home water?

Waterloo and French Creeks

What is your favorite species to fly fish for? Trout

What is your most memorable fly fishing experience?

Rockbridge, Missouri and the Big Horn in Montana

What are your other hobbies?

Hunting in Wisconsin, appreciating fine double shotguns, and friends gathering at my farm on Saturday afternoons for productive discussions and cigar smoking.

What fishing magazines do you subscribe to?

None at this time

What's your favorite fly? *The Soft Hackle*

What's your favorite fly fishing book?

"In the Ring of the Rise" by Vincent C. Marinaro

"The Soft Hackle Fly Addict" by Sylvester Nemes

"A River Runs Through It" by Norman McClean

What do you like about HFFA?

The members are open and friendly, they help novices and they make the fly fishing experience on the stream great with their contributions to stream improvements.

Bob

Editors Note : Tom Polhna helped get this interview with his friend Bob Nejd. He also supplied the photo of Bob above.



Editor Notes

Thanks to you that comment. I intend to make the Flyline better so it helps to get feedback.

There was no Board of Directors Meeting in May so there are no minutes in this issue.

There were several workdays. HFFA is reported in this issue. Driftless TU also had one. Many of our members hold dual memberships in HFFA and TU, so there was a lot of good work done this spring.

The DNR asked for comments for a license increase. HFFA was represented and supported that request. We will see how it goes. If we want a trout program we have to support it.

Hopefully I did not make too many spelling errors this time especially folk's names.

I am always looking for material and photos,. Please help me out and send some interesting stories and photos. Kate is taking so many photos she does not have time to fish. LOL

If you know someone in the club you think should be profiled please help me out and do an interview just like Tom did.

Waiting for a Tug

Don

That's A Load of Bull

by Mike Jacobs

Thick clouds and light drizzle greeted me as I took our dog, Beamer, outside to do his duties on our first morning in Sawtooth City. Just to the west I noticed that the Sawtooth Mountains were almost completely hidden from view, shrouded by the thick blanket of early morning clouds. I hoped that the old mountain adage "if it's in by 7, it's out by 11" would hold true and give us good weather for later in the morning.

A long day lay ahead of us so we were up early and on the road with the first good light of the day. We could have left even earlier but we were hesitant because of the winding roads and the potential for having animals on the roadways. Doug's car would not have looked good with an imprint of a mule deer or an elk on the hood.

Our destination for the day was Big Smoky Creek and the South Fork of the Boise River where our target fish would be Bull Trout. In addition to Bull Trout, both streams have a good population of Mountain Whitefish, Rainbow trout, and at this time of the year, the South Fork Boise has a run of Kokanee Salmon. I learned a great deal about this area from Dan Sprys, who is a fish crew leader for the U.S. Forest Service in this, the Fairfield district. He, along with the USFS fisheries supervisor who oversees the region provided some great information about the streams, and specific stretches along the streams that were most likely to hold Bull Trout.

Looking at my maps of the area it appeared that we had only a short 35 mile drive down to Ketchum from our lodge, and then about 80 miles cross country on Forest Service road FR 250 (Warm Springs Road). I figured that about a 2 ½ hour trip would get us to the river. I was off on my travel time estimate, short by about an hour.

The winding, washboard, dirt road made for slow travel. In several places, especially near the top of Dollarhide Pass, you hoped that there would be no oncoming traffic because there was room for only one vehicle. At several spots along the way we noticed where there had been trees down across the road in the days before we travelled on it. Fortunately, someone with foresight and a chain saw in the back of their vehicle had previously cleared the road of the fallen trees. The road finally took us past the turnoff for Little Smoky Dome Creek and I knew that we were only minutes away from the bridge where Big Smoky Creek and the South Fork Boise join.

Conveniently located just across this bridge we found a small parking area and a nice Forest Service privy. Soon after we arrived I was dressed for the brisk morning, my waders and wading shoes were on, and my rod was strung and ready for a day of fishing. Doug was still fussing with his tackle as I made the short hike over to the river.

The run and pool that is just downstream from the junction of the two streams is prime habitat for fish, especially Bull Trout. The water flows swiftly through the rocky run and has carved a nice pool in the middle that is about 5 feet deep. It is this pool that I wanted to pay special attention to.

I started fishing at the bottom end of the pool, casting a #6 Stimulator with a weighted nymph dropper, up and across stream. After working my way upstream through the length of the pool and the run above it, I had not had a strike or even seen a fish. I knew that this run and pool had to hold fish but I had not been able to prove it to this point.

By walking a short distance further upstream I was able to cross a swift but shallow run to get to the other side of the river. I wanted to fish through the same water using a down and across approach, similar to the way I fish for smallmouth bass in many of Iowa's rivers and streams. I also made a fly change because I didn't think my original nymph was getting deep enough as it drifted through the pool, suspended below the Stimulator. I switched from the dry fly/dropper rig and went with just a single fly. The fly that I switched to was my Lead Eyed Lite Brite Leech, the same fly that I use so successfully for smallmouth bass fishing. The fly is tied on a size 8 long shank hook and is weighted with size small lead eyes.

Doug got to the river just as I was starting to work my way down stream. I covered the water by casting across and downstream, allowing the fly to enticingly swing through the best water. Near the upper end of the run that emptied into the pool I got a strike and set the hook. The fly line and leader slicing through the water proved that I had not snagged something on the stream bottom, but what was it that I had hooked? A couple minutes into the battle a Bull Trout of around 19 inches first revealed itself.

My heart was pounding with excitement and I knew that I had to keep pressure on the fish so it wouldn't throw the barbless hook. As the fish tired I unclipped my landing net from the back of my fishing vest and I mentally compared the size of the fish to the size of my landing net. I knew that my net was out-gunned for this battle.

I did not want the fish to become completely exhausted so I kept up the pressure on him. When the Bull finally rolled to his side, in the foot deep water in front of me, I quickly scooped him head first into my net. A full eight inches of his pink and black spotted flanks extended beyond the confines of the landing net.

Continued on the next page

I kept the netted fish in the water as I extracted my camera from my shirt pocket. Doug, who had witnessed the spectacle from the other side of the river, crossed the stream and made his way up to me to take some pictures. I held the beautiful fish as Doug snapped three quick photos. After each shot, I got the fish back into the water to give him a fresh shot of life sustaining oxygen.

The fish did not seem tired at all as I gently held him facing upstream, into the slight current flowing along the edge of the river. I took one last good look at this magnificent fish before releasing my grip around his tail. He eased a bit further out into the current before stopping briefly to rest there. Before long he had disappeared back into the depths of the crystalline pool, out of my sight but permanently etched into my mind.

Doug and I both continued to fish this pool for the better part of an hour but we got no other strikes. We left this pool to search out other areas knowing that there had to be many more fish at other spots along this beautiful river.

As we were driving along the Forest Service Road that parallels much of the South Fork Boise River we came upon a great looking stretch that was right along the road. Just upstream from this section I noticed just a small pocket of darker water in the middle of the river which indicated some deeper water. We parked Doug's vehicle and I left him to fish through the long pool while I hiked a short distance up the road so I could access the small pocket I had spotted.

I got into position above the small pocket and fished it across and downstream. I cast my fly across the river and let it swing in front of, and through the deeper spot. On one of the drifts I got a jarring strike and the fish, feeling the sting of the barbless hook, thrashed wildly at the water's surface. The fish peeled out line from my reel and then suddenly, as quickly as the battle had begun, it was over. The tippet had broken and the line and leader slid limply back toward me. I saw the large Bull Trout only briefly but I estimated him to be around 5 pounds.

During the rest of the day we fished several other great stretches of both streams but the Bull Trout proved to be elusive. We caught whitefish, Rainbow Trout, and I even caught one beautiful Kokanee salmon. This salmon was colored much differently than the Kokanees we had caught in Colorado a few years before. The Kokanees in Colorado were a pretty burgundy color, while the Kokanees of the South Fork Boise River are a brilliant, fire engine red, much like the Sockeye Salmon found in Alaska.

As our fishing day neared its end we had a decision to make. Should we go back to the lodge via the same, slow route we had come over on or should we take a different route back to the lodge that looked much easier (more hard surface roads) but might take just as long? We opted for the hard surface roads and found that the route was indeed much easier, but it took just as long as our early morning "shortcut".

We arrived back at the lodge much later than what we had told Pat and Carol when we left earlier in the morning. Luckily, they have come to expect that from us and they plan an evening meal that can be heated up quickly when we do get back. As the girls were heating up our supper I had a chance to reflect back on the day of fishing we had. Fishing had not been fast and furious but I had been fortunate to catch my target fish, Bull Trout. Doug had not been so lucky, but with six more fishing days left on our trip, both of us would have many more chances to connect with these rare and beautiful fish.



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