



The *Flyline*

The Newsletter of the Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association

April 2023



"One More Cast"

Photo by David Cornelder

First Place Winner of 2023 HFFA Show Photo Contest



President's Hatch - page 2
HFFA Business Report - page 5
HFFA 2023 Show - pages 6 - 12
2023 Bluegill Outing - page 13
Dave Weesner Essay - page 14
State Fair Fly Tying Contest - page 15
Casting by Marty McVey - pages 17 - 20
HFFA DVD Library - page 21
Classifieds - page 22

The President's Hatch

I am excited to serve as the HFFA president over the next two years. John Carl Miller was an irreplaceable asset to our organization during his tenure, serving an astounding 6 years of his 2-year term. Someone had to give him a break so he could do some fishing! I'm extremely thankful for the support of our members and appreciate the advice from existing leaders to help me transition smoothly into this new role. It takes a team to make our organization function, so I will continue to lean on them as I learn the ropes.

With a change in presidency, we also saw changes in other roles throughout the organization. We added Keith Wunder as our treasurer, Kate Lodge has taken over as Director for the Quad Cities chapter, Dale Tayloe and Kirk Rosenow have settled in to our at-large Director seats, and Rob Kundert is the new Director of the Dubuque Chapter. I'd like to thank those individuals for stepping up to the plate as we pursue new projects within HFFA. Recruiting young fishermen and women, sizing up our volunteer base, and expanding our outreach programs will take a bunch of go-getters to get the ball rolling. I'm confident this is the right crew for the job.

Our annual meeting took place on March 11th at the 2023 HFFA Show in Ankeny, Iowa. The tireless work and dedication of our show committee was apparent during our yearly gathering. The speaker lineup was star studded and I received numerous compliments on the quality of those speakers. Walk in registration was incredibly high with over 300 individuals showing up as day-of registrants throughout the weekend. For family night, final tallies were around 120 for walk in registrants alone. Not too shabby for our first family focused evening ever! There were also numerous



Davis Horton

compliments aimed at the show committee and me regarding the quality of the venue. Just to name a few: "love the vendor room spacing," "this facility is so clean," "wow, the food was fantastic," "this is the best venue we've had in the last 20 years," etc.

I send my highest praise to our show committee staff for the depth of their planning, fast paced work throughout the event, and quick cleanup of the facility. This show was canceled multiple times due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you to the committee for gutting it out, sticking to your guns, and bringing us all together for a great event. I'm looking forward to seeing our organization host at this site again.

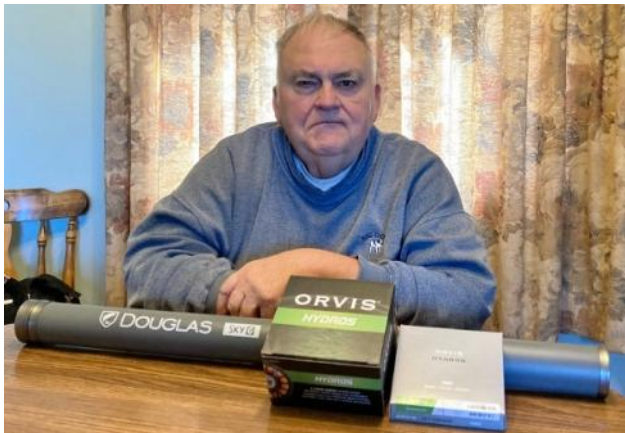
During the annual meeting I was able to listen in on upcoming projects happening within the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. We have some great opportunities on the horizon in Iowa's driftless region. Restoration projects are

occurring on many of our favorite driftless streams such as Patterson Creek, North Bear Creek, Yellow River, and more. We will continue to support the Iowa DNR, Trout Unlimited, ICC, and our other partners as they pursue projects in the heart of Iowa's best fishing locale.

In addition to cold water projects, the HFFA is also looking at expanding conservation efforts outside the driftless realm. Most of our anglers come from metropolitan areas where there are solely warm water fisheries. We, as an entity covering the entire state of Iowa, need to do our part in protecting highly visited, degraded warm water fisheries, particularly those in high density, populous regions. We look forward to connecting and partnering with additional organizations to make conserving warm water fisheries a reality for the HFFA. The many undertakings I've listed above will certainly keep our clubs busy for the foreseeable future, but I'm excited to see the progress we continue to make with the assistance of our board and HFFA members.

I hope everyone has been able to get out and fish this winter or spring. It has been a long, cold season and I know many of you are sick of being cooped up in the house. Now is the time to start venturing out as we approach some of the best spring fishing Iowa has to offer. Get out and enjoy the warming weather!

Davis



Dave Hebler, Winner of the Grand Prize Drawing 9 ft, 5wt Douglas Sky G and Orvis Hydros II Reel
Photo by Cheryl Channon



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

Contacts & Meetings

2022 Board of Directors

Davis Horton, President

Colo, Iowa
dhorton@hardincountyia.gov

Ron Stahlberg, Vice President

Swisher, IA
flyfish@southslope.net

Dave Jones, Secretary

Muscatine, IA
dave.jones@kentww.com

Keith Wunder, Treasurer

West Des Moines, IA
keithwunder72@gmail.com

John Miller, Past President

Dubuque, Iowa
dbqflyfisher@mchsi.com

Kirk Rosenow, Director

Waukee, IA
kcrosenow@gmail.com

Kate Lodge, Director

Geneseo, Illinois
katelodge25@gmail.com

Rob Kundert, Director

Dubuque, IA
robbiek244@gmail.com

Martin Acerbo, Director

Des Moines, IA
macerbo@iastate.edu

Dale Tayloe, Director

Cedar Falls, IA
tayloedb@gmail.com

Conservation Chair - vacant

Ronda Long

Work Day Coordinator

Center Point, IA
rondalong67@yahoo.com

Don Otto, HFFA Flyline Editor

Knoxville, IA
hawkeyeflyfisher@gmail.com

Project Healing Waters

Fly Fishing

Meets 1st & 3rd Tuesday of Month
7 to 9 pm

Paralyzed Veterans of America
Iowa Chapter

7025 Hickman Road Ste #1
Urbandale, IA

Contact: Dale Sanders
iaflyfisher@outlook.com

Quad Cities Chapter

Meets 3rd Thursday Every Month
6:00 pm to 8+

Riversdale Community Room
110 Manor Dr., Riverdale, IA

For April, May & June

Contact: John Channon
jc.channon@mchsi.com

Dubuque Fly Fishers

Meets 2nd & 4th Monday 6:00 pm
September to May

Swiss Valley Nature Center
13606 Swiss Valley Rd., Dubuque,
IA

Contact: Gary Kruse
garykruse97@gmail.com
facebook.com/dubuqueflyfishers

Central Iowa Fly Fishers

Meets 3rd Saturday 9:00 am
September to May

Our Lady's Immaculate Heart
Church

510 East 1st St., Ankeny, IA

Contact: Kirk Rosenow
kcrosenow@gmail.com

Iowa City Contact

Contact: Ryan Maas
maas_ryan@yahoo.com

Cedar Rapids Contact

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

David Klemme - 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

Join us for good fishing
and good company .

[https://www.facebook.com/
groups/170891783425206](https://www.facebook.com/groups/170891783425206)

katelodge25@gmail.com

willacamp@gmail.com

Trout Unlimited

Spring Creeks Chapter

Ray Thys – President

Check Their Facebook

www.facebook.com/springcreekstu

Iowa's Coldwater

Conservancy

Tom Murray

jandtmurray@gmail.com

Event Calendar

<p><u>April 2023</u></p> <p>April 8 North Bear TU F3T Film Event 4:30 pm Fox Brewing Company West Des Moines, IA Register online space limited president@tu-northbear.org</p> <p>April ? Driftless TU Work Day 9:00 AM to noon 1280 Quandahl Rd 1 mile East of Highlandville Steve Perry 641-583-1604</p> <p>April 29 Driftless TU F3T Film Event 6 pm Hotel Winneshiek 104 E. Water St. Decorah, Iowa</p> <p><u>May 2023</u> May 20 - 21 HFFA Bluegill Outing Lake Wapello Drakesville, IA Ronda Long rondalong67@yahoo.com</p> <p><u>June 2023</u></p> <p>Wisconsin Women's Fly Fishing Clinics June 14 - 16 Intermediate June 16 - 18 Beginner Need to preregister! Avalanche, WI wisconsinwomenflyfishing@gmail.com</p>	<p><u>July 2023</u></p> <p>July 31 Deadline for State fair Tying Contest</p> <p><u>August 2023</u></p> <p><u>September 2023</u></p> <p>September 9 Brule River Spey Day Lake Superior Steelhead Assn. Brule river@ McNeil House Brule, WI www.steelheaders.org</p> <p><u>October 2023</u></p> <p>October 6 - 8 2023 Driftless Flyathon Decorah, Iowa flyathon@driftlessonthefly.com runingrivers.org April 15th Signup Limited</p> <p>October 6 8 2023 Casting for Recovery Camp Ewalu's Stone Retreat Center Strawberry Point, IA 52076 Must Register by July 27th norrisl@ihaonline.org</p> <p>October ? Driftless TU Work Day 9:00 AM to noon 1280 Quandahl Rd 1 mile East of Highlandville Steve Perry 641-583-1604</p> <p><u>November 2023</u></p> <p><u>December 2023</u></p> <p><u>January 2024</u></p>	<p><u>February 2024</u></p> <p>February ? Mid-Iowa Bass Masters Swap Meet & Boat Show 4-H building State fairgrounds Des Moines, IA www.midiowabassmasters.com ?? HFFA Annual Fly Fishing Show Hawkeyeflyfishing.com</p> <p><u>March 2024</u></p> <p>March ? Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo Hamline University St. Paul, MN info@greatwatersflyexpo.com</p> <p>March ? Fly Tyer Rendezvous Spring Creeks TU Eagles Club, Monticello, IA Facebook.com/springcreekstu</p> <p>March ? Sowbug Roundup North Arkansas Fly Fishers Mountain Home, AR www.sowbugroundup.org</p> <p><u>April 2024</u></p> <p><u>May 2024j</u></p>
--	--	---

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

HFFA Business Report

Minutes of HFFA Business Meeting

March 11, 2023

FFA Center Ankeny, Iowa

Submitted by Dave Jones, Secretary

Meeting called to order by President John Miller at 12:30 PM

1. Welcome from John Miller
2. Recognition of show co-chairs Kirk Rosenow & Willa Campbell, show committee members Mike Schrader, Ben Olsen, Davis Horton, Paul Domoto, Chip Hildebrand, Martin Acerbo.
3. Introduction of current board members:
 - a. President: John Miller
 - b. Vice President: Ron Stahlberg
 - c. Past President: Kate Lodge
 - d. Secretary: Dave Jones
 - e. Treasurer: Brad Mullin
 - f. Director at Large: Willa Campbell
 - g. Director (Quad Cities): John Channon
 - h. Director (Dubuque): Mike Stallsmith
 - i. Director (Des Moines): Martin Acerbo
 - j. Director (Iowa City/Cedar Rapids): vacant
4. Introduction of non-voting members:
 - a. Work Day Coordinator: Hank Moeller
 - b. Web Site Administrator: Don Otto
 - c. Fly Line Editor: Don Otto
 - d. Coordinator of Fisheries & Environmental Protection: Steve Veysey
5. Approval of minutes: Minutes from August 6, 2022 board meeting were accepted by unanimous approval.
6. Financial Report: John Miller reported that the current checking account balance is \$76,654.22.
7. Elections: The following individuals were nominated and approved by unanimous consent for a two-year term for the following positions:
 - a. President: Davis Horton
 - b. Treasurer: Keith Wunder
 - c. Director (Quad Cities): Kate Lodge
 - d. Director (Dubuque): Rob Kundert
 - e. Director (at large): Kirk Rosenow
 - f. Director (at large): Dale Tayloe
8. Iowa Coldwater Conservancy Report: Dave Jones provided a report of activities and fundraising since the inception of ICC in April of 2017.
9. Membership Report: Don Otto reported that since the new website has been launched that current paid membership has increased from 18 to 120 and that lifetime membership has increased from 55 to 61.
10. Old Business:
 - a. NB/SB Porta Potties: motion was made and unanimously approved to fund a portion of the porta potties at the confluence of North Bear and South Bear at a dollar amount to be determined and recommended by the board president.
 - b. HFFA Merchandise: Don Otto reported that much progress has been made to sell the remaining HFFA merchandise inventory during this show.
 - c. HFFA Fly Line: Don Otto reported that the quarterly HFFA Fly Line Newsletter is being emailed to current and past members on the existing membership list. Don reported that the quarterly newsletter will also be available on the new HFFA website .
11. New Business: Dubuque Monastery project: Dave Jones provided a brief report on the planning to date on a potential watershed and stream restoration project on the headwaters of Catfish Creek just upstream of Swiss Valley Park in Dubuque.
12. Annual Meetings: Davis Horton reported that the board will be discussing and considering possible alternatives for locations and show format for future meetings.
13. Meeting Adjourned

Dave

2023 HFFA Fly Fishing Show

The 2023 HFFA Annual Meeting and Show is now history. It was by any measure a success and very good show to attend. I will attempt to document the proceedings, but quite frankly there was so much I am afraid I will leave something or someone out. That will be my fault and not of the show committee.

Don

See below to the left the hardest working person at the show, Clara Campbell. Clara is Willa Campbell's sister and did all of the data entry from the registration. She was aided by Barry Erickson and his wife Julie shown on the right.



Friday night was all about families and introducing the joys of fly fishing to newcomers. Fly tying, knot tying, casting lessons, and the entomology lab demonstration table provided the instruction. The scavenger hunt, the bingo board, and some games of chance provided more fun. Never have we seen so many children at a previous show. Many kids were accompanied by their grandfathers who were tickled to see the interest in the eyes of the kids..North Bear TU gave a talk on Fly Fishing 101 followed by Ryan Koch of Fly Fish Iowa on Urban Angling.

The photo below provided by Lisa Davis says it all. Drew Klein and son Harrison (5) of West Des Moines watch Kent Kleckner of Bear Creek Anglers tie a fly. I think we all wish we still had that much fascination and concentration!!! Harrison's younger brother Wyatt (3) was also there.



2023 HFFA Fly Fishing Show

Saturday was jam packed with talks, fly tying demonstrations, casting instruction, bucket raffles, silent auction, noon business meeting, and finishing with the annual banquet. Yes there was a little snow storm,. If you are from Iowa and it is State Basketball tournament weekend either girls or boys, one can expect the worst. It was bad, but at least it did not start until mid-day. This show featured the ability of vendors and non-profits to give a presentation of their wares or projects. Saturday morning found ;Casting for Recovery, Regal Beagle Flyfishing, Trout Routes, Front 20 Outfitters, Fresh Water Flats Guide Service, and Project Healing Waters,giving vast amounts of information.

In the main speaker's room, Matt Graesch shown below on the left reported on Geology of the Driftless. Larry Dostal told how to find and catch Carp, which are reported to be a blast on a fly rod and hard to catch. Mike Siepkner from the DNR shown on the right gave an update on conservation activities in the Driftless.



The annual business meeting was held and reported on page 5 of this document. The vendors and non-profit's speakers were as follows; Iowa Cold Water Conservancy, Black Earth Angling, Hayward Fly Fishing Company, Iowa Women's Fly Fishers, Project Aware, Driftless fly Fishing Company, and Wilderness Lite,

In the main speaker's room we started with Pat Dorsey shown on the left.below Pat was nice enough to fill in for Matt Supinski, who was unable to come due to a hockey injury. Pat discussed fishing tail waters in his home state of Colorado and the flies it takes to catch those finicky tail water trout. Kent Kleckner from Bear Creek Anglers discussed the skills needed for the new fly fisher. Davis Horton shown on the right below discussed targeting Iowa trophy pike. You will see Davis' name on many pages of the Flyline as he is the new President of HFFA.



2023 HFFA Fly Fishing Show

So you might ask what else was going on?? Marlene Huston, Liz Siepker and Marty McVey were giving casting instruction at the casting pool. Yes, we had a casting pool! Liz and Marlene have been featured before in *The Flyline* and you can find an article by Marty in this issue. All three are certified casting instructors and we are lucky to have them. We had fly tying demonstrations being given all day on Saturday and Sunday morning. Fly tiers featured were; Scott Norby, Larry Dostal, Pat Dorsey, Lance Zook, Matt Graesch, and Jeff Moore. There were several other tiers including Lisa Davis, James Barnhart, and Tammy Goodwater. (I know I have missed some, sorry)

See below top left Laurie and Lance Zook. Top right is Jeff Moore. Jeff ties the Salmon fly and Lance constructs the lighted box for the live auction see bottom left. Tammy Goodwater is a new member and represents a sister fly fishing association in Nebraska.



The silent auction and three bucket raffles gave plenty of items to look over. On left below, Dale Tayloe a new HFFA Board member studies the silent auction items. On the right below is Ron Stahlberg, Vice President HFFA in front, and Doug Nauman just behind trying their luck at the buckets.



2023 HFFA Fly Fishing Show

A visit to the Vendors and Non-Profit room is a benefit of a show of this size.
This year's show had a room that allowed everyone to spread out.
On left below is Kirby from Rod & Rivet and on right is Kent Kleckner of Bear Creek Anglers
"If they do not have it, you do not need it"



There is something for everyone in the "Vendors Room"
Randy Richter below left shows off trips for species with big teeth.
On the other hand Ray Thys Lifetime HFFA member below right
discusses the advantage of Spring Creeks TU to the conservation effort..



I always feel that the entomologists do not get enough credit.
They come to every show and have a real interesting exhibit.
They also have to keep them critters alive in freezing weather!
Here below is Mike Birmingham from the University of Iowa.



2023 HFFA Fly Fishing Show

The annual banquet was well attended even though we had a blizzard going on.

The award winning Rib Shack catered the meal.

Photo Contest winners were: 1st, David Cornelder, 2nd, Dan Peterson, & 3rd, Tom Polehna

Essay Contest winners are: 1st, Dave Weesner, 2nd, Mike Jacobs & 3rd, Ron Smith

John Carl Miller presided over his final HFFA Banquet as president after 6 years of a 2 year term.

John's photo is below center



The HFFA Board of Directors awarded the following: Steve Veysey, above left, Outstanding Member,

Don Otto, center, Presidents Award, and Steve Salsberry, above right, Conservation Award

The Landowner Award went to Diane Rissman for her generosity in granting two easements on her property along the Yellow River

John will deliver her award to her personally as she did not want to travel.

The live auction followed with spirited bidding on rods, guided trips and art work.

John Van Vliet presented "In a Corner of Iowa: Unraveling the Mystique of the Driftless" and included a very well done video.

John Van Vliet photo below



2023 HFFA Fly Fishing Show

The hardy souls that braved the aftermath of the storm were treated to a presentation by Zack Pope telling how to use Trout Routes to your advantage., Pat Dorsey named his favorite streams in Colorado and how to fish them including favorite flies. In the Non-Profit room Project Healing Waters explained their mission and Sierra Club of Iowa discussed the current issue facing Bloody Run Creek in Northeast Iowa.

That brought to a close a very successful 2023 HFFA Annual Meeting and Show. The winner of the Grand Prize Lottery was celebrated on page two of The Flyline. I hope this narrative makes you want to register for 2024.

Don

***** THANK YOU *****

Willa Campbell and Kirk Rosenow were co-chairs of the Hawkeye Fly Fishing Show this year, and we can't thank enough all the volunteers from Central Iowa Fly Fishers who made this last weekend possible. We thought Clif was well represented and by any measure, the show was a great success. It takes a great team to pull off an event like this.

Specific Thanks to Show Committee:

We want to specifically thank committee members for their efforts. When the opportunity arises, please thank them personally as well. Without any one of these members, the show fails or key pieces are not in place.

Ben Olson - Casting pond, knot tying stations, inside industry advice on a wide range of topics, excellent signage, great ideas and implementation on Family Night. Also thanks for allowing us to use his house for many meetings. Not many clubs have the luxury of such an insider expert in the fly fishing industry like Ben.

Mike Schrader - Mike was the point for getting the caterer (banquet food was amazing) and owning the fly tying piece of the show. Mike provided historical context on past shows, went above and beyond to gather items to add value to all the raffles and auctions, and consulted on everything. Mike's leadership was critical in every aspect of this show.

Chip Hildebrand - Chip helped with caterer (banquet food was amazing), help with bucket raffle, and was a general utility player for any show need or errand that came up. Chip jumped in whenever there was a need.

Martin Acerbo - Martin contacted the main speakers and was the chair for the COVID cancellation year, which set the stage for our eventual show. He also helped with venue selection work and many other items.

Davis Horton - Davis organized the volunteer effort from start to finish, did introductions, created media for promotion, consulted on a lot of the areas, and presented at the show, among many other things.

Special thanks to Paul Domoto for jumping in the last several months for silent auction help. Paul handled silent auction preparation, implementation, tracking, and advice. Without Paul's help, the silent auction wouldn't have happened. Paul also consulted on other parts of the show by sharing his past experience.

Ron Stahlberg drove from Swisher multiple times to meet and consult with the committee, including Zoom sessions. Ron also stepped in and got the credit card payment system up and running, which was critical.

Barry and Julie Ericson, Darrin Niday - Pre-registration and Registration

Jason Hochstetler - Presenting Family Night, set up, and closing down crew

Joe Wedum - Bucket Raffle

Mike Freel - Introductions

Marty McVey, Liz Siepker and Marlene Huston - Casting instruction all weekend

Keith Wunder - Transport, introductions, and Treasury help

Dave Jones - Introductions

Lee Schulteis - Built items for show

Ryan Koch - Presentation

James Barnhart - Help with tying

Dave Rosset - Fly tying instruction

Larry Murphy - Fly tying instruction

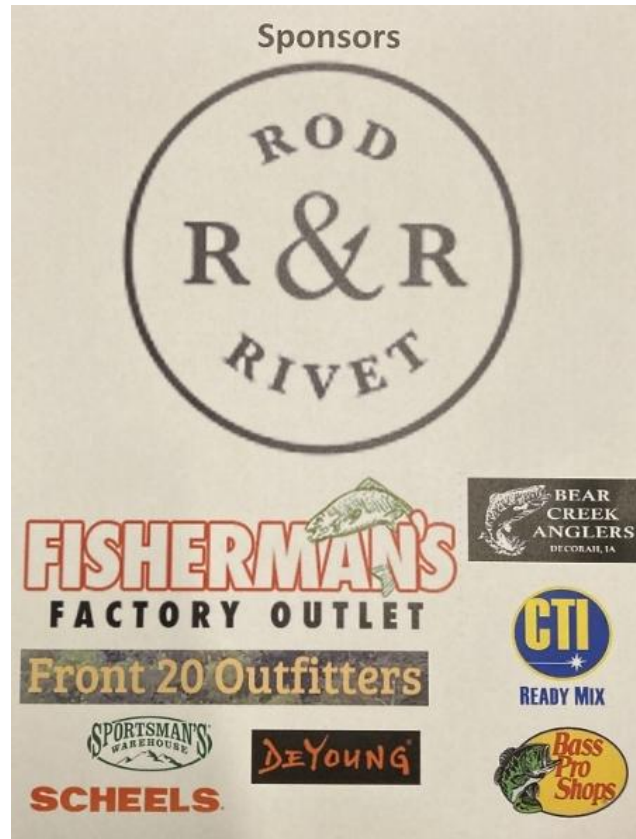
Dean Elder - Recommendations and built items for show

Don Otto - HFFA merchandise sales and membership help

Matt Graesch - Presentation

And a special shout out to all the other volunteers from across the HFFA membership for your help and support.

2023 HFFA Fly Fishing Show



Place Mats at the Banquet designed by Mike Schrader

Big Thank You to our Sponsors of the 2023 HFFA Annual Meeting/Show

Rod & Rivet, Des Moines, IA
Fisherman's Factory Outlet, Spirit Lake, IA
Front 20 Outfitters, Perham, MN
Bear Creek Anglers, Decorah, IA
CTI Ready Mix, Grimes, IA
Bass Pro Shop, Altoona, IA
Sportsman's Warehouse, Ankeny, IA
Derek DeYoung Studio, Traverse City, MI
David Aeschliman, Walnut Creek Auction Company, Sherrard, IL
Jeremiah Hall, 5H Auctions, Iowa Falls, IA
Pat Dorsey, Blue Quill Angler, Evergreen, CO
Scheels, West Des Moines, IA
Great Caterers of Iowa, Pleasant Hill, IA
David Kollmann, St. Cloud, MN 56301
Jeff Moore, Cedar Rapids, IA
Lance Zook, Cedar Rapids, IA
Lee Schulteis, Perry, IA
Jeff Green, Des Moines, IA
Carol Schutte, Clear Lake, IA
Dean Elder, Marshalltown, IA
Mike Jacobs, Monticello, IA
Dan Peterson, Mount Pleasant, IA
Joe Wedum, Des Moines, IA
John Miller, Dubuque, IA
Mike Schrader, Des Moines, IA
Tom Wolske, Ames, IA
Steve Veysey, Ames, IA

2023 HFFA Bluegill Outing



In 2017 as the new editor of the HFFA Flyline, I went to Drakesville, Iowa to cover the annual Bluegill Outing. Dan Peterson, at right in the photo above, explained to me the origin of the outing. He and Steve Anderson, on the left, were going fishing and invited friends to join them by announcing it in the HFFA Flyline. The outing grew in size and reputation. The photo on the right shows about half of the folks there on a cool day in May. A potluck and fish fry is held at noon on Saturday. They were nice enough to feed me and it was great! See below a letter Dan wrote earlier this year.

Bluegill Outing

After some thought, I have decided to step down from organizing the Bluegill outing and the Trout outing. I think it is time for some new blood as I have not been able to get people to come to these for the last few years. I don't know if it is my cooking or the lakes I pick. I know Covid took a big hit at it but even before that number were dwindling. Our first outing there were a handful of people and at its high point we had 60 people now we are back to a hand full of people even less for the Trout Outing. If you want to continue it, I will come and support it but I think it is time for a new leader. I have enjoyed doing this and have met some great friends because of it, some who are no longer with us. I will even share my long held secret recipe for the breading. 50% Corn meal, 50% Flour and a little salt and pepper.

So, someone please grab this by the horns and breath some life back into it.

Thanks

Daniel Peterson

Dan

Good News!!

Ronda Long, the new HFFA Work Day Coordinator, has agreed to head up the 2023 version of the Bluegill Outing. It will be held the weekend of May 20-21 at Lake Wapello near Drakesville, Iowa. Ronda is originally from SE Iowa. Moving around with her work she found herself in Montana. She has spent some quality time on the Yellowstone in Paradise Valley south of Livingston and also on the Madison near Ennis. I bet she has some stories about \$3 Bridge. She is back in Iowa at Center Point and is currently the Vice President of Spring Creeks TU. She tells me she will be attending Orvis Guide Training School in July. This is one busy lady! Watch the HFFA website for more details on the 2023 Bluegill Outing. hawkeyeflyfishing.com See Ronda's photo below.

Don



Moonlight Fishing

By Dave Weesner

First Place Essay in 2023 HFFA Show Essay Contest

He was an older gentleman. His grey hair, blue button-down long sleeved work shirt, and bib overalls were not particularly noticeable. And yet I was curious. I found him sitting on a bucket fishing by one of the ponds, just south of the Raccoon River in Water Works park minding his own business.

Having just finished a long difficult church meeting, I was killing time before heading to another which, by all accounts would be less friendly and even more acrimonious. I was the District Superintendent for the church, in which I was responsible for keeping about 100 churches happy and working smoothly. There were days that my heart longed to just go fishing. This was one of those days.

I was wearing a dark blue suit and driving a Prius, the company car. Pulling into the Park and quickly unloading my fly rod and sling pack, I know I must have looked a sight. But I did not care, I just needed to throw the line and feel the tug of a fish. Or as the next few minutes proved; I just threw the line. Casting a fly line, one of the most natural actions I have experienced, always calms my heart. I think it is feeling the flow and the pace of the line as it wonderfully circles and lands so gracefully on the water. I have always said, "Casting a fly line is what I thought golf was supposed to be."

After 30 minutes of cast and retrieve, with no tug at the other end of the line, I realized that I was not catching fish today. However, with just these simple casts I felt my tension and anxiety leaving my arms and shoulders. I broke down my rod and placed the tippet and flies back in the pack. All the while, still wearing the suit.

I glanced at the old man and he nodded to me. I walked over and asked the fisherman's question, "Having any luck?" He looked at me, smiled, and said, "No, not today." I mumbled something like, "me neither," and chuckled. Then he looked at me very seriously and said, "No, my grandpa in the delta outside of New Orleans taught me about days like this. He taught me that fish don't bite when the moon is out. When they have the moonlight, they can see to get their own food." He pointed to the sky, and I looked up and there it was, the moon hanging high in the sky on a sunny afternoon, just like it does some days.

I asked, "Does it really work, I mean do the fish only bite when there is no moon?" He pointed to the sky once again and just said, "Well, I don't have any fish, and you don't either." I thanked him for this insight and bid him a good day as I folded myself back into the Prius and left for my next meeting. All the while, and many days since, pondering. "Could it be, that the fish use the light of the moon to find their own food?" Perhaps the old man was talking to me about more than fishing; maybe he was talking to me about life itself and how we go about gathering our significant relationships. The truth is that casting a fly line is like asking a question and waiting on an answer, perhaps, even one we do not expect.

Dave

Editors Note - Below Dave Crow on Otter Creek with a nice trout, photo by Dave Weesner



2023 Iowa State Fair Fly Tying Competition

The Iowa State Fair will be held August 10 through August 20, 2023. We will be holding the Fly-Tying competition once again this year. I am sure everyone has practiced tying their favorite flies and are willing to enter them in the state contest.

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

The fly tying display will be in the DNR Building on the Fairgrounds during the fair. The judging is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, August 9th at 1:00 p.m. in the DNR Building.

Fly entries need to be received at the Fair Administration post office box by July 31, 2023.

There are three divisions

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

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

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

You may enter in each of the categories, but **only one fly for each category.** **No flies smaller than size #18. No flies larger than size #2.** **To enter, please provide the fly tiers name, the division to be entered, the category to be entered and the name of the fly.**

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

Flies must be sent to the Iowa State Fair Administration Office, P.O. Box 57130, Des Moines, IA 50317 and **received by July 31, 2023.** Each fly entered must have the **fly tier's name, address, telephone number, name of the fly, division to be entered and the category.** **Junior Division entries must state the age of the fly tier.**

See below 2022 judges Keith Wunder, Paul Domato, and Dave Rosset



Why Your Flies Don't Earn a Ribbon

by Dave Rossett

Ten years! That's how long HFFA and the Iowa DNR have been co-sponsors of the Iowa State Fair Fly Tying Competition. My involvement started at the beginning helping Larry Murphy set up the display in the DNR Building. I then became one of the three judges. During that time, I've look at and securitized dozens of flies, if not more. Along with Paul Domoto and Keith Wunder, we've seen great, good and not so good looking flies.

So, what separates a great looking fly (worthy of a ribbon consideration) from a not so good looking fly? In my humble opinion, it's not paying attention to details or carelessness on the part of the fly tier. Below are a few examples:

1. Materials not proportion to the size of the hook.
2. Materials not secured when transitioning from one material to another.
3. Uneven thread wraps behind the hook eye.
4. Not trimming the thread close when completing the head of the fly.
5. And probably the number one reason is that the fly arrives in crushed or poor condition!

Out of curiosity, I asked the Fly Tying Competition Coordinator, Larry Murphy, how were tiers sending him their entries? His answer set me back a bit! He told me that most of the Expert tier Division, mailed their flies in some type of box to protect the fly within an envelope. The majority of those entering as Adult or the Junior division, just put their flies in an envelope. An envelope? Really!!

Suggestions for mailing the flies would be the following examples:

1. Plastic container which fly hooks are purchased for each fly entered.
2. Prescription plastic containers for each fly entered.
3. Little plastic containers used when purchasing flies from a shop or store.

So why does the method of sending in your flies make a difference? Because the time that it leaves your bench and is presented to the judges, it has most likely been crushed and disheveled. Then once that envelope arrives at the State Fair Administration Building, that envelope is going to go into someone's desk drawer along with other entries, until the coordinator picks them up. So, in the end all your hard work has been crushed!! And, a crushed fly does not catch the judge's eye!

See below Judges: Paul Domato, Dave Rosset, and Keith Wunder



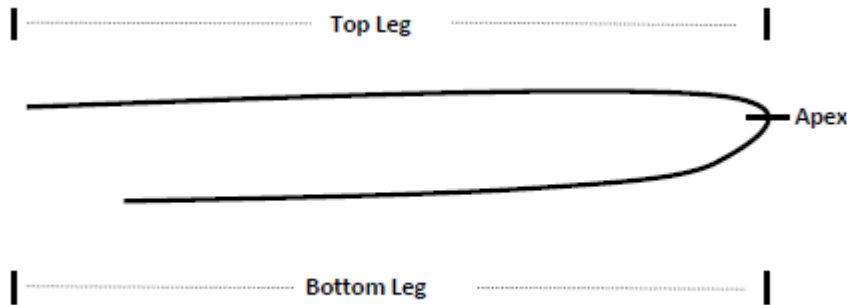
Control Your Loop Shape

by Marty McVey

As fly casters, when we make a fly cast, we are hoping to accomplish two things. First, we are hoping to place our fly directly in the fish's feeding lane. Second, we hope to place our fly line on the water such that our fly drifts as natural as possible. Things that often challenge us are wind resistance, obstructions and different current speeds between us and the fish. Overcoming these challenges requires having a toolbox full of different fly casts each suitable for different situations. Over the next few articles, we will discuss different fly casts, their uses and the casting mechanics required to execute them. In this first article, we begin by discussing how to control the shape of our fly-casting loops.

To begin, let's introduce a couple of definitions using figure 1. The shape that our fly line takes during a fly cast is called a loop. Figure 1 shows the 3 components of the fly loop. Loops have 2 parts, a top leg and a bottom leg, which meet the apex.

Figure 1. Loop components



Using these definitions, let's discuss three loops characterized by their top leg. To begin with let's start with a loop with a straight top leg. The loop in figure 1 is a loop with a straight top leg. This loop is characterized as being an efficient loop, meaning that this loop requires the least amount of effort to cast our fly to its target. This loop is also the least wind resistant of the 3 loops we will discuss, and has greater accuracy than the other two.

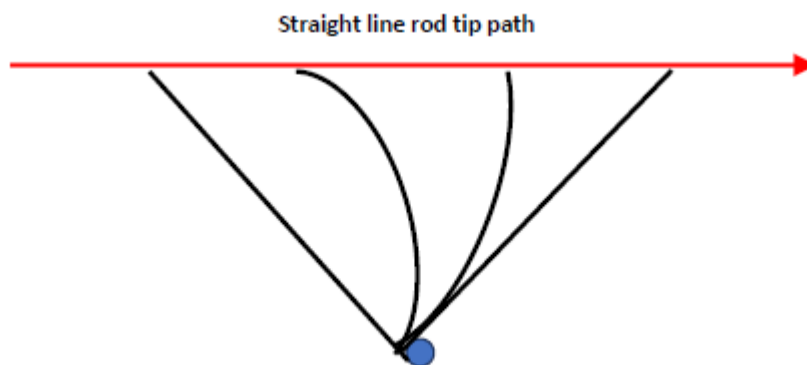
This loop has high line speed making it wind resistant, giving it greater ability to cut through the wind and deliver our fly to its target. Finally, this loop is characterized as being most accurate when delivering our fly to its target.

So, how do we make a cast that results in a loop with a very straight top leg? One very important mantra to remember is, "The shape of our loop's top leg is determined by the path of our rod tip during the casting stroke." Consequently, if we want to cast a loop with a straight top leg, then our rod tip path must also follow a straight-line path.

Figure 2 illustrates a casting stroke resulting in a straight-line rod tip path. Let's assume that we are casting 40' of fly line measured from toes to fly. Begin with the cast with the rod at 10:30 o'clock. Then smoothly accelerate (a constant rate of acceleration) the rod tip in the direction of the cast, stopping our rod at the 1:30 o'clock position. By accelerating smoothly through the casting stroke, our rod will bend causing our rod tip to stay on the straight-line rod tip path.

It is important to note that when we initiate the stop at the end of the casting stroke, our fly rod will still be bent. After the stop, the rod tip continues to accelerate until the rod is straight – at 1:30 o'clock. After the rod straightens, it will begin to decelerate, allowing the fly line to overtake the rod tip and form our loop with a straight top leg.

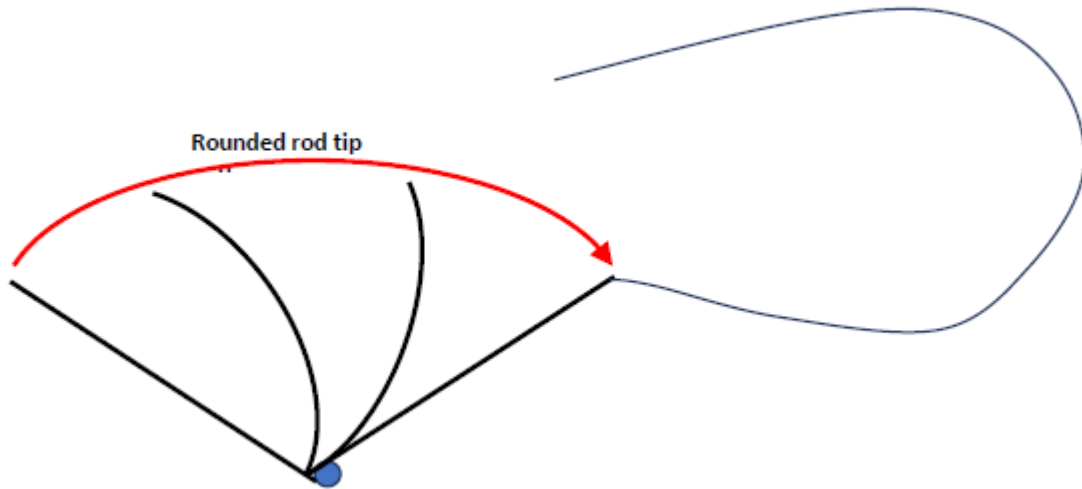
Figure 2. Straight line rod tip path.



continued on next page

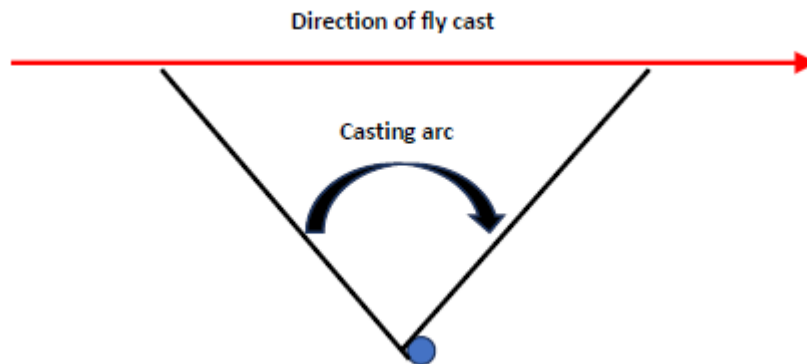
Another loop that that fly fishers may wish to throw is a loop with a rounded top leg. The larger the rainbow path, the more rounded the top leg becomes, making it less efficient and more wind resistant. This loop will also be less accurate than a loop with a straight top leg. This loop is, however, useful when throwing heavy flies, multiple fly rigs and some slack casts. Again, remember, "The shape of our loop's top leg is determined by the path of our rod tip during the casting stroke." So, to cast a loop with a rounded top leg requires that our rod tip path be rounded or dome shaped. Figure 3 below illustrates a rounded rod tip path.

Figure 3. Rounded rod tip path – rounded top leg.



In order to throw this type of loop, simply widen the casting arc. Casting arc is defined as the angle which our rod passes through during our fly cast (See Figure 4). This can be accomplished by beginning the cast with the rod in the 10 o'clock position and stopping the rod in the 2 o'clock position, rather than the 10:30 and 1:30 position for the straight line rod tip path. Assuming the same amount of rod bend as in straight top leg example (Figure 1), the resulting rod tip path will be rounded, resulting in a loop with a rounded top leg.

Figure 4. Casting arc.

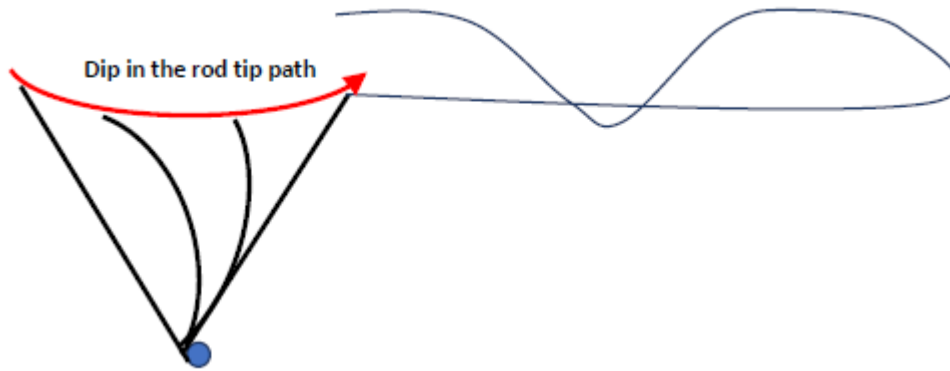


The third and final loop to discuss is the loop where the top leg dips down below our bottom leg, otherwise known as a tailing loop. Tailing loops are the culprits behind those dreaded "wind" knots we find throughout the day in our leader. Wind knots greatly reduce the breaking strength of our leader/tippet, reducing our fish fighting ability. That isn't to say we would NEVER want to throw a tailing loop, but its applications are quite specific.

Staying with the mantra, "The shape of our loop's top leg is determined by the path of our rod tip during the casting stroke," a dip in our loop's top leg is caused by a dip in our rod tip path. Figure 4 shows what a dip in our rod tip path looks like along and the corresponding tailing loop.

continued on next page

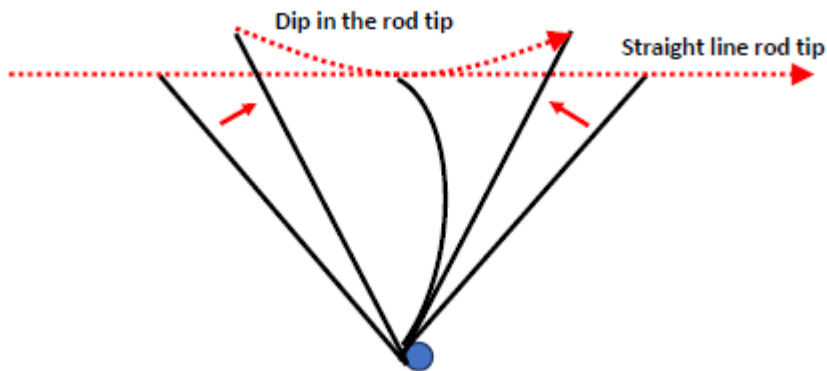
Figure 5. Dip in the rod tip path – dip in the top leg (tailing loop).



Three common causes for a dip in our rod tip path are: 1) Too narrow of a casting arc for the amount of fly line being cast; 2) Creep; and 3) Inappropriate application of power. Let's look at each of these individually.

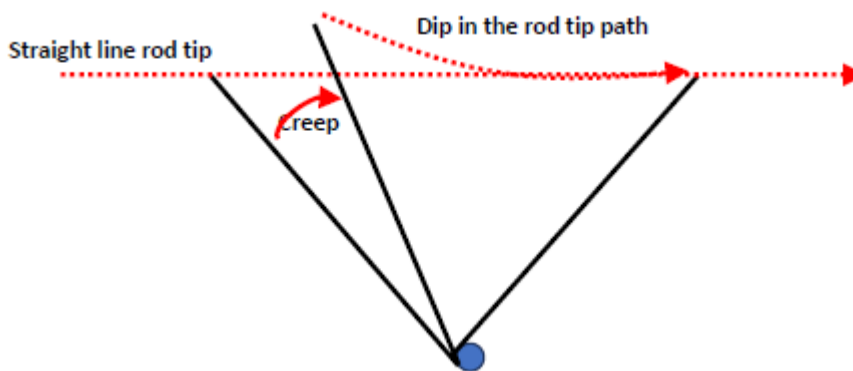
Figure 5 illustrates a fly cast using too narrow of a casting arc. Again, assume we are casting 40' of fly line from toes to fly. We have already shown that in order to cast a loop with a straight-line rod tip path for 40' of line requires a casting arc which begins at 10:30 and stops at 1:30 o'clock. Now, assume we narrow that casting arc to begin at 11 o'clock and end at 1 o'clock. In this case our rod tip will be starting and ending above our straight-line rod tip path. If we assume the same amount of rod bend as in the straight top leg example, our rod tip will start above the straight-line rod tip path, dip downwards towards the straight-line rod tip path and then finish back up and above the straight line rod tip path, creating a dip in our rod tip path and a tailing loop.

Figure 6. Too narrow of a casting arc



Creep, our second cause for a tailing loop, is caused by allowing our rod to rotate in the direction of our next cast during the pause in our fly cast where we wait for our fly loop to unroll before beginning our next cast. Figure 6 shows how creep results in too narrow of a casting arc for the amount of line being cast and a tailing loop. Creep most often occurs during our back cast pause. During the pause, sometimes we have a tendency to rotate our rod from the 10:30 o'clock stopping position to 11 o'clock. As you can see in Figure 7, the result of this creep is, once again, too narrow of a casting arc.

Figure 7. Creep



continued on next page

Our third common cause for a dip in our rod tip path is an inappropriate application of power for the amount of line being cast. How many times have we all been casting beautiful loops during our false cast, but when we go to deliver our fly, we wind up with a tailing loop. Often this is caused because we tried to “help” our fly get to its target or tried to shoot a little extra line to reach our target. In both cases, we gave our rod a little “punch” of power to “help” things. This little punch of power, however, creates a little more bend in our rod which causes our rod tip path to dip more than it did during our false casts. Unless we compensate by widening our casting arc to match the increased bend, we are going to wind up with a tailing loop.

Now that we have laid the groundwork for understanding the common loop types and how to make(control) them, we can move on to the discussions of using our fly casting to accurately present of our fly while at the same time manage our line before it lands on the water. In upcoming, articles we will discuss different types of casts, when to use them and how to make them.

Suggested Articles

How Loops Work. Bruce Richards. *The Loop*, Fall 2022.

Do Big Loops Matter? Bruce Richards. *The Loop*, Spring 2021.

More on Definitions . . . Casting Stroke. Bruce Richards. *The Loop*, Spring 2016.

Acknowledgments

Thank you to Bruce Richards (FFI CBOGE, CI, MCI L-2 Examiner) for reviewing this article and sharing his comments.

Marty

Marty McVey gives casting instruction at the casting pool.
2023 HFFA Show



HFFA DVD Library

1. Best, AK - Blue Wing Olives
2. Best, AK - Caddis & Midges
3. Best, AK - Callibaetis & Green Drakes
4. Best, AK - Nymphs
5. Best, AK - Freshwater Streamers
6. Best, AK - Terrestrials
7. Big Horn River Trout - Fly fishing Video Magazine Vol 26
8. Borger, G - Designing Flies with Hair Hackles
9. Borger, G - Designing Flies with Stiff Hackles
10. Borger, G - Designing flies with Soft Hackles
11. Borger, G - Designing flies with Feather Dubbing
12. Borger, G - Big Horn
13. Borger, G - FF Trout
14. Borger, G - Dry Fly Trout
15. Borger, G - Nymphing
16. Borger, G - Tying Trout Flies
17. Borger, G - Trout in Stillwater
18. Borger, G - The Midge
19. Borger, G - Crustaceans & Snails
20. Borger, G - Damsels & Dragons
21. Borger, G - Skills of Fly Fishing
22. Borger, G - Where The Trout Are
23. Carp On The Flats - Fly Fishing Video Mag Vol 57
24. Clemens, D - Building Your Own Rod
25. Dahlberg, L - Fly Fishing for Pike
26. Dahlberg, L - Panfish & Bass
27. Dennis, J - Fly Tying Basics
28. Dennis, J - Learning to Fly Fish
29. Dennis, J - Western Trout flies
30. Ellis, J - Trout Tactics for Panfish
31. 3M - fly Fishing Made Easy - Featuring Bass, Panfish & Trout
32. 3M - Fly Fishing for Pike
33. 3M - Fly fishing for Trout - G. Borger
34. 3M - Tying Trout Flies
35. Fly Rodders Guide to Pike - Smith & Reynolds
36. Gunnison River - Fly Fishing Mag Video Vol 31
37. HFFA 1985 Workday & Meeting
38. Hafele, R - Anatomy of a Stream
39. Harrop, J - Tying With Turkey
40. Helm, C - Hooked on Fly Tying - Spinning Deer Hair
41. Helm, C - Hair Trout Flies
42. Humphreyes, J - Dry Fly Tactics in Tight Brush
43. Humphreyes, J - Nymphing Strategies
44. Jorgenson, J On Fly Tying Vol 1
45. Jorgenson, J On Fly Tying Vol 2
46. Krieger, M - Essence of Casting Vol 1
47. Krieger, M - Essence of casting Vol 2
48. Kreh, L - Saltwater Fly Tying
49. Kreh, L - Flycasting
50. Kreh & Clouser Tying Techniques Vol 1
51. Kreh & Clouser Tying Techniques Vol 2
52. LaFontaine, G - Successful Fly Fishing Vol 1
53. LaFontaine, G - Successful Fly Fishing Vol 2
54. LaFontaine, G - Caddis Flies
55. LaFontaine, G - Originals Vol 1
56. LaFontaine, G - Originals vol 2
57. Lasha, P - Mastering the Midge
58. Marts, B - Lake Fishing; Techniques for Large Trout
59. Murray, H - Fly Fishing for Smallmouths
60. Sheep Minnow Series
61. Newman, B - Hooked on fly Tying : Effective Chironomid Patterns
62. Tying Saltwater Flies with J .Nix Vol 1
63. Tying Saltwater Flies with J. Nix Vol 2
64. Matuka Sculpin
65. Michigan Salmon & Steelhead Flies
66. Rosborough, Polly - Tying Fuzzy Nymphs
67. Sherer, B - Musky Fly Fishing
68. Sherer, B - Musky, Pike, & Bass Flies
69. Swisher, D - Advanced Fly Casting
70. Swisher, D - Strategies
71. Swisher, D - Advanced Strategies
72. Swisher, D - Hatch Stimulators
73. Swisher, D - Attractor Flies
74. Talleur, D - Hooked on Fly Tying Step 1
75. Talleur, D - Hooked on Fly Tying Step 2
76. Talleur, D - Atlantic Salmon Flies
77. Talleur, D - Classic Streamers
78. Talleur, D - Classic Wet Flies & Nymphs
79. Teeny, J - Basic Nymphing
80. TU - The Way of the Trout
81. Whitlock, D - LL Bean Introduction to Fly Fishing
82. Whitlock, D - Fly Fishing for Bass
83. Whitlock, D - Originals Vol 1
84. Whitlock, D - Originals Vol 2
85. Whitlock, D - Originals Vol 3
86. Whitlock, D - Originals Vol 4
87. KWWL - French Creek News Clip

HFFA DVD Library

Tim Baker

416 N. Fremont St.

Stuart, Iowa 50250

515-250-8163

coonriverdog69@gmail.com

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

Buy, Borrow, or Steal aka Classifieds

FOR SALE

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

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

GP Lawrence Rods

Handcrafted Split Bamboo Fly Rods

by HFFA member, Dave Kemp
563-590-8622 davemikek@aol.com
Will custom make per your preferences
Located in the Dubuque area

For Sale

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

Garylee Thurm
Jig and Fly Shop
319-279-3219
flytying4U@hotmail.com

Quality Fly Tying Materials

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

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

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

Online Catalog:

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

Looking for All the Good Stuff?

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

Badger Creek Fly Tying
Contact us at: 607-347-4946,
www.eflytyer.com or mike@eflytyer.com

Cabin for Sale

2550 Washington Rd. Dorchester, Iowa
Close to lots of great Iowa trout water.
Newer siding & windows mini-split for AC & heat. Sell turn key: appliances & furnishing stay. No well; camper type water system, Sleeps 5. See to appreciate!
Steve Perry
641-583-1604
steve.perry1267@gmail.com

For Sale

20 to 25 unique pins created by Pins Unlimited from 1960 on for Fly Shops and Shows. Pins and a catalog Oswalds' Original Book of Sporting Pins and Badges Volume 2. Dean would prefer to sell as a group or trade for flyrod.
Call or email
Dean Elder
karenandean1967@gmail.com
641-752-4840

For Sale

G. Loomis NRX Flyrod
9 ft. 6wt 4 piece
Like New, \$500
Lee Schulteis
515-480-4026

For Sale

Iowa Trout Stamp Prints
First 8 years
All framed, matted with the stamp
Signed & same number
(Limited editions.)
Sold as the set; very unique opportunity.
Starting at \$1,000
For more information and pictures
Contact Carol: 641-430-2540
or carolschutte@gmail.com

For Sale

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