



The *Flyline*

The Newsletter of the Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association

December 2023

FLY FISHING SHOW

FEBRUARY 16TH-18TH 2024

Hyatt Regency Hotel & Conference Center
300 E. 9th Street, Coralville, IA

6pm-9pm Friday, 8am-5pm Saturday, and 8am-12 pm Sunday



WHAT TO EXPECT:

- LOCAL & EXPERT PRESENTATIONS
- SIGNATURE FLY TYERS
- VENDORS FROM ACROSS THE MIDWEST
- AUCTION AND RAFFLE ITEMS
- CONSERVATION AND BIOLOGY EXHIBITS
- FOOD, DRINKS, AND A GOOD TIME!

FRIDAY IS FAMILY NIGHT!

- KIDS CASTING LESSONS
- VENDOR ROOM TOURS
- SCAVENGER HUNTS
- PRIZES
- PROGRAMS AND MORE!

FOR UPDATES

CHECK HAWKEYEFLYFISHING.COM OR USE THE CODE BELOW



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The President's Hatch

We are winding down the 2023 fishing season. I hope everyone had a chance to make it out for one last rendezvous before the cold weather hit. This fall was phenomenal for smallmouth bass, walleyes, and even yellow perch on the fly. I've received many reports from our members about great fishing up until the first cold snap of November. As we approach winter, it is time to prepare for our 2024 HFFA Annual Show.

The 2024 HFFA show will be hosted by our Iowa City members, February 16th-18th at the Hyatt Regency Coralville Hotel & Conference Center. Further details for the event will be listed throughout The FlyLine publication, so I won't get into specifics. A huge thank you to Ryan Maas and Ron Stahlberg for taking the reins in planning and coordinating our 2024 show. If you are interested in assisting with the show as a volunteer, please reach out to Ryan, Ron, or me. The last show needed all hands-on deck because of its sheer size and depth of planning. This show will be no different, so please volunteer if you can.

Speaking of volunteering, many of our members donated their time to a variety of events this fall. Casting for Recovery – Iowa hosted their 10th annual retreat in



Davis Horton

early October. Many of our devoted members were there to guide and support some incredible female anglers. Thank you to those that helped connect brave breast cancer survivors to each other and to nature through fly fishing. Stream clean ups and workdays were also arranged before the start of the brown trout and brook trout spawning seasons. As those projects kick off again in the spring, I do have one update on a potential project

members may be interested in assisting with.

There are some sensational plans in place to start reconstruction projects around the Manchester Fish Hatchery. I know Spring Branch is frequently visited by our members and those that fish it often have noticed some major issues over the last decade. Siltation from massive flood events in back-to-back years, heavy cattle usage, and loss of bank hide habitat have been the most obvious deteriorations. In the coming years, the Iowa DNR and many of our driftless area nonprofits are planning to remove silt from the stream where necessary, create an area for better cattle passage/usage, and add weirs and bank hides within the stream to improve fish habitat and control siltation issues. This project is truly in its infancy and as it progresses, we will need to assist with some of the larger undertakings. Keep it on your radar and continue to support the Iowa DNR, the Friends of the Manchester Fish Hatchery, and all other associated partners.

Davis



2023 Iowa CFR Helpers relax at Backbone State Park.
Dan Peterson, Meg Rose, Martin Acerbo,
Cheryl & John Channon plus Gracie
Photo by Lisa Davis (story on page 10)



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

Contacts & Meetings

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Conservation Chair - vacant

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Work Day Coordinator

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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+

Riverdale Town Hall
310 Manor Dr.

Riverdale, Iowa
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>January 2024</u></p> <p><u>February 2024</u></p> <p>February 16 - 18 HFFA Annual Fly Fishing Show Hyatt Regency Coralville 300 E. 9th Coralville, IA 52241 Information at Hawkeyeflyfishing.com</p> <p>February 24 & 25 Mid-Iowa Bass Masters Swap Meet & Boat Show 4-H building State fairgrounds Des Moines, IA www.midiowabassmasters.com</p> <p><u>March 2024</u></p> <p>March 15 - 17 Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo Hamline University St. Paul, MN info@greatwatersflyexpo.com</p> <p>March 23 Fly Tyers Rendezvous Spring Creeks TU Eagles Club, Monticello, IA Facebook.com/springcreekstu</p> <p>March 22 - 24 Sowbug Roundup North Arkansas Fly Fishers Mountain Home, AR www.sowbugroundup.org</p> <p>March 23 Cornhusker Fly Fishers Spring Fling Kiewit Lodge Mahoney State Park Ashland, NE Tom Rosenbauer Speaking cornhuskerflyfishing@blogspot.com</p>	<p><u>April 2024</u></p> <p><u>May 2024</u> May ? HFFA Bluegill Outing Lake Wapello Drakesville, IA Ronda Long rondalong67@yahoo.com</p> <p><u>June 2024</u></p> <p>Wisconsin Women's Fly Fishing Clinics June 12 - 14 Intermediate June 14 - 18 Beginner Need to preregister! Avalanche, WI wisconsinwomenflyfishing@gmail.com</p> <p><u>July 2024</u></p> <p><u>August 2024</u></p> <p><u>September 2024</u></p> <p>September ? Brule River Spey Day Lake Superior Steelhead Assn. Brule river@ McNeil House Brule, WI www.steelheaders.org</p>	<p><u>October 2024</u></p> <p>October ? 2024 Drifless Flyathon Decorah, Iowa flyathon@driftlessonthefly.com runingrivers.org April 15th Signup Limited</p> <p>October ? 2024 Casting for Recovery Camp Ewalu's Stone Retreat Center Strawberry Point, IA 52076 Must Register norrisl@ihaonline.org</p> <p>October 7 - 13 FFI - Women Connect 2024 Rendevous Whalen, MN Registration on line March 2024</p> <p><u>November 2024</u></p> <p><u>December 2024</u></p>
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The Flyline is the official publication of the Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association. It is published in April, June, September, and December. The HFFA is a chapter of the Fly Fishers International. Articles may be submitted as MS Word or as a text file. Typed, printed or clearly handwritten documents are also accepted. Photos can be submitted digitally. Send original jpeg. Deadline is one month before publication. Send all materials to:
 Don Otto, The Flyline Editor
 hawkeyeflyfisher@gmail.com
 641-230-1468

HFFA 2024 Annual Meeting & Show



Save the dates February 16 - 18 2024
Hyatt Regency Coralville Hotel and Conference Center
300 East 9th Street, Coralville, Iowa 52241
319-688-4000

The 2024 HFFA Annual Meeting and Show will be held on the banks of the Iowa River at the Hyatt Regency Coralville Hotel & Conference Center, just minutes from Iowa City. The hotel offers modern, newly renovated guest rooms at a show special rate of **\$124/night** (excl. taxes and fees) for a King or 2xQueens, which also includes overnight parking for 1 vehicle and basic internet access. Reservation deadline for this special rate is **JANUARY 26, 2024**, so don't delay! Reservations should be made via this link: <https://www.hyatt.com/group-booking/IOWRC/G-FFA2> (this is important) or otherwise by using code G-FFA2.

The Hyatt Regency has a heated pool, hot tub, fitness center, Starbucks coffee, and restaurant, outdoor boardwalk, and is located in Coralville's busy Iowa River Landing shopping and entertainment district, right off I-80 at the 1st Ave/XStream Arena exit (Exit 242). Coralville and Iowa City are a haven for travelers, with trails, parks, museums, galleries, retail shopping, fine dining, live concerts, sporting events, University and hospital all easily accessible.

That link again is: <https://www.hyatt.com/group-booking/IOWRC/G-FFA2> (code G-FFA2), be sure to reserve by January 26, 2024 to be assured of space.

Favorite Auction Item to Return at 2024 HFFA Show

Jeff Moore shown on the left below and Lance Zook on the right will once again combine their talents to produce a salmon fly in a lighted display box. This item has been popular on the live auction held at the banquet. The fly below is called the "Dusty Miller".

Laurie Zook, also on the right is a major contributor of time and food at many HFFA activities



HFFA 2024 Annual Meeting & Show Information

2024 HFFA Show Dates and Times (subj. to change):

Friday, Feb. 16, 5:30pm - 9:00pm, incl. Hospitality Room

Saturday, Feb. 17, 8:00am - 5:00pm, 12pm Business Meeting, 6pm Social with Banquet to follow

Sunday, Feb. 18, 8:00am - 12:00pm

1. Speakers and Presentations. Featured speakers at the 2024 Show include Matthew Supinski, of Gray Drake Fly Fishing and the Hallowed Waters Podcast, and Gunnar Brammer, of Brammer's Custom Flies. Regional experts Randy Richter, Connor Aasen, Caleb Corona and Kevin Hanson will all share valuable and relevant knowledge. Their bios are included in this issue. Fly tying demonstrations and other skills development activities are planned. There is rumor of a Tenkara intro and panel discussion. Friday night will be **Family Night**. Hospitality room pizza is included in your Friday night registration. The UHL aquatic organisms display will again be at the 2024 Show (thanks Mike Birmingham!).

2. Website. The most complete and up-to-date information, along with registration, will be on the HFFA website (<https://hawkeyeflyfishing.com/>) very soon. Be sure to check the website and HFFA on Facebook for details.

3. Rooms. We have a fantastic venue for this year's show. More info is included elsewhere in this issue. The important thing is we've negotiated an attractive rate (\$124/night) which is available by reserving through this link <https://www.hyatt.com/group-booking/IOWRC/G-FFA2> or otherwise using code G-FFA2. Reservation deadline for this special rate is JANUARY 26, 2024, so don't delay!

4. Open Fly Tying. The HFFA Annual Show is always the place to meet, chat and tie with some of the best fly tyers in the Midwest. This year, in addition to invited experts, we want to extend that invitation to the broader community and will have a special area set up for open tying. Everyone is encouraged to come and tie whatever flies you enjoy, and share your thoughts and techniques with others. **Experienced fly tyers:** become mentors and teach others what you know and share your wisdom and experience. **Newbies:** come and bring your fly tying stuff, if you have it, and tie alongside others. (If you don't have your own equipment, use some of the equipment that we provide). Learn from others. **The Philosophy:** Flytying is like cooking - everyone has their own opinions and their own preferences. Some like it complicated and others like it super simple. It all works. Share ideas, techniques, and thoughts. Meet others and establish friendships going forward. And have fun!

5. Banquet and food. Saturday night's banquet menu and speaker are still being finalized. We will have a vegetarian option. Final meal choices will be on the website and selected through registration. A note on costs - Saturday's business lunch will likely be \$27 and the banquet meal around \$42. We know this is a lot. The Bureau of Labor Statistics found prices for dining out are 24% higher in 2023 vs. 2019, and averaged 5.54% annual inflation in that period. This menu and pricing is the result of exhaustive comparison shopping and in line with other venues for 2023/24. We think the food will be delicious and thank you for understanding. To help with planning, all banquet tickets must be purchased by Friday, Feb. 5, 2024 for a guaranteed seat.

6. Registration. Like 2023, registration for the 2024 Show will be online at the HFFA website hawkeyeflyfishing.com. Registration will be a simple process. You can pay using your PayPal account or any credit or debit card. You do not need a PayPal account. A successful transaction will be followed by an online message you were successful followed by an email with an attached pdf thanking you for the registration. If you do not get those two things something interfered with a completed transaction. An outdated credit card has been responsible in the past. If you are frustrated please contact Don Otto at hawkeyeflyfisher@gmail.com

7. 2024 will offer the usual opportunities to win or buy items with games, bucket raffles, Grand Prize Raffle, silent and live auction. This event continues to be successful because of generous donations from our members and supporters. If you have donations of items for the live auction, silent auction or bucket raffles contact Ryan at maas_ryan@yahoo.com. Donations received before 12/31/2023 in excess of \$250 value will receive a written acknowledgment for tax purposes. (Donations received after 12/31 will too!)

8. The annual business meeting will be at noon on Saturday. Election of officers, other business, and decisions about future shows will be discussed. HFFA is your organization - your involvement is valuable and appreciated. Please plan to attend. Banquet will be held Saturday night. Awards, live auction, and entertainment with a great meal are all on the agenda. Please plan to attend and get your tickets in advance of the Show.

9. A premium Grand Prize Raffle rod package will be offered, details on the website when it is finalized.

10. Vendors and Exhibits. If you are interested in exhibiting at the 2024 HFFA Show, please contact Ron at flyfish@southslope.net. Spaces in our vendor room are \$75 per table (6' x 30") for the duration of the show. Salon D will be available for vendor setup Friday evening at 2:00PM and open to attendees at 6:00PM Friday evening. Vendor space reservations are on a first come, first served basis until space is full.

11. Sponsorships. Events like the HFFA Annual Show are becoming increasingly expensive to do, yet they are so important for building the community of fly fishers, advancing our common conservation goals, and enriching everyone's outdoor experiences. If you share these priorities, or know a business that does, please consider being a show sponsor. HFFA is a 501c3 charity and monetary support of the Show may offer tax benefits. Please contact either the co-chairs listed above to learn more. And thank you!

See YOU in Coralville, February 16-18, 2024!

HFFA 2024 Annual Meeting & Show

Featured Speakers



Matthew Supinski is a book author/editor/ fly fishing guide/outfitter/ hospitality hotel/restaurant consultant/DVD producer/ instructor, lodge owner and operator, free-lance writer and photographer, book author and culinary trained chef from Newaygo, Michigan. He has been fly fishing and cooking/foraging the wilds since the age of seven for 46 years, having been brought up in the Niagara Frontier of upstate New York and spending time as a boy in Poland.

His degrees are from the Ohio State University- B.A School of Business, and the Culinary Institute of America. Prior to being a full-time fly fishing guide/writer/author, he was in the international corporate hotel business working in Europe and the U.S. for several hotel chains- Sheraton, Omni, Renaissance and Westin hotels as a corporate food and beverage director overseeing multiple hotels throughout North America. His highest attained position was Assist. V.P. of Corporate Food and Beverage for Omni International Hotels and V.P. of Food and Beverage for the Amway Hotel Corporation at the Amway Grand Plaza. He is very familiar with Mobile/AAA/Michelin rating systems and food critics with various Hotel/Restaurant industry and national publications. He has written countless magazine articles in the 1980-early 90's/2000's for Hotel/ Restaurants/Resort and Culinary magazines.

In 1995, he opened his Gray Drake and Trout & Eagle Lodges

on Michigan's Muskegon River- one of the purest freshwater aquifer systems in North America (www.graydrake.com), which he and his wife Laurie have been operating for 20 years.

He guides clients for trout, steelhead and salmon 280 days a year on Michigan's Great Lakes Rivers like the Muskegon, Pere Marquette, Big Manistee and St. Joseph and for Atlantic salmon on upper Michigan Rivers and lakes. He has fished from Russia to all of Europe, the U.K., and Patagonia, Iceland and extensively throughout all of North America including Canada from the Atlantic Maritimes to British Columbia's Skeena system.

My name is Gunnar Brammer. I live in Duluth, MN where some of the greatest warmwater streams of the Midwest converge with the cold waters of Lake Superior. I first became interested in fishing by means of a summer trip to Canada with family friends. By the end of our second year, I was the sole member of our group who hadn't caught a Northern Pike. It was that very year that my father and his friend had chased Pike on the fly, and their stories of massive pike rolling over lily pads trying to chase down their frog imitations, captivated me to say the least. The year that followed was filled with hours of casting practice and time behind the vise. By next season I was caught up to speed having read Kelly Galloups Streamers for Modern Trout, and was armed with a 6wt and 200 grain full sinking line, and a box full of "unique" streamers. Many Pikes were landed, and fuel was added to the fire!

Years later, I found myself surrounded by mountain peaks and the Madison River just behind me as I started my first day at Galloup's Slide Inn. I fished 7 days a week, and likely tied flies even more often. Each night I would try to create the perfect streamer.

That following year I remained in the Midwest working as a Wildlife Field Technician, stationed a short distance away from Boulder Junction, WI. Pike and Musky became an obsession that I still have today and has greatly shaped my tying efforts over the past few years. Later that fall (2015) I started Brammer's Custom Flies and started down the path of becoming a commercial tier.

My obsession is foremost with baitfish patterns ranging from 3" smallmouth patterns all the way 14" BEAST styled musky flies and offshore Flies, with everything in between. Over the past few years of commercial tying I have thoroughly explored every avenue worthy of being considered a "streamer" from synthetics to naturals, tubes to shanks, and single hook to multi-articulated flies, and have shared everything worth sharing on my YouTube channel. With a young and growing family, I no longer have the time to operate in the capacity of a commercial tier but have truly been blessed to spend that time behind the vise perfecting my craft. Recently, I joined the RIO Flies signature tyer team and work to diligently provide them, and all of you, with the most successful patterns I can!

I now have the privilege of traveling the country to teach the art of Streamer Tying and Streamer Design. My flies have been featured in multiple magazines as well as a handful of books over the past few years. You can follow me on Instagram at [#gunnar_brammer](https://www.instagram.com/gunnar_brammer), Subscribe to my YouTube Channel (the URL is really long....just Google my name 😊), and Visit my Website at <https://www.streamersbygunnar.com/>

I am a RIO Flies Signature Tier and Ambassador for RIO Fly Lines, and member of the Pro Team for HMH Vises, Hedron Inc, and a friend of Ahrex Hooks.



HFFA 2024 Annual Meeting & Show

Regional Speakers



Connor Aasen grew up in Minnesota, where he fished with conventional tackle for various species in the famed lakes of the region before starting to fly-fish in high school for panfish, bass and pike. After graduating, he moved to Bozeman, MT to study Fish & Wildlife Management and Ecology at Montana State University. While in Montana, his passion for fly-fishing bloomed into an obsession. Through both his academic pursuits and personal interests, he developed a deep appreciation for native fishes while still enjoying the recreational opportunities provided by nonnative species. Upon moving to the Iowa City area in 2020, his interest in warm water fishing exploded and he began pursuing the variety of species available in local waters to the intrepid angler, with an especially fanatical pursuit of Common Carp and native non-game species. When time and money allow, he also likes to dip a toe into saltwater pursuits.

Randy Richter is an Iowa native, growing up in Independence, practically on the banks of the Wapsipinicon River, and now lives in Cedar Rapids. He bought his first fly rod at age twelve with the proceeds from his first job, walking beans (as many young Iowans have done). Since then, things have progressed a bit. Randy is a true multi-species enthusiast having landed 293 species of fish on a fly. These include a 300-pound tiger shark (one of a few people in the world to land a tiger shark on fly), a sawfish, and a red tail catfish. Randy began hosting trips to South America six years ago, introducing over 40 anglers to the joys of tangling with such fish as peacock bass, and golden dorado. There are plenty of places in the US that keep Randy busy and he is just as happy plying the waters around Cedar Rapids for carp, buffalo, and smallmouth bass. Randy often travels with his favorite fishing partner and lovely wife, Terri, who is an accomplished fly gal in her own right with over 120 species to her credit. Randy can't wait to see what 2024 brings!



Kevin Hanson is a 25-year-old semi-competent outdoorsman from Iowa City. He attended Loras College and majored in history while also being involved in the DuHawk football program. When not chasing pike and bass on a fly rod he can be found upland hunting, chasing waterfowl or deer hunting. He is an avid fan of local fly shops, Grain Belt premium beer and the Iowa Hawkeyes.

HFFA 2024 Essay & Photo Contest

Photo Contest Rules

1. All entries must be 8 x 10 prints.
2. Subject matter must clearly relate to some aspect of fly fishing and its environs. Only HFFA members may enter the contest.
3. All submissions become the property of the HFFA, and may be used for any purpose deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors.
4. Judging will be by popular vote of the membership in attendance on Saturday of the Annual Meeting. Each member will receive one ballot to vote for his or her favorite photo. The photo with the most ballots wins. Second and third place prizes will also be awarded. Prizes will be gift certificates: \$100 for first, \$75 for second and \$50 for third.
5. In the event of a tie, the winner will be drawn at random from the entries that were tied (e.g., if entry #1 and entry #2 tied for 2nd place, a drawing is held and the entry that is drawn gets 2nd place and the other would get 3rd place).
6. Winners will be announced during the Annual Meeting Banquet.
7. There is no limit to the number of entries, but each person may only win once (e.g., if Jane Roe submits 2 photos and each would have won a prize, the higher prize will be awarded to Jane and the lower prize will go to the photo that had the next highest number of votes).
8. Photos received before February 1, 2024, will be assured of having a frame for display. Depending on the number of entries, photos received after that date might not get framed.
9. If the source of the photo is digital, an email with the source file is preferred & greatly appreciated.
10. Send photos to the address listed below.

Essay Contest Rules

1. Entries must not exceed 2,000 words in length. Shorter essays are welcomed.
2. Subject matter must clearly relate to some aspect of fly fishing and its environs. Only HFFA members may enter the contest.
3. All submissions become the property of the HFFA and may be used for any purpose deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors.
4. Judging will be by popular vote of the membership in attendance Saturday at the Annual Meeting. Each member will receive one ballot to vote for his or her favorite essay. The essay with the most ballots wins. Second and third place prizes will also be awarded. Prizes will be gift certificates: \$100 for first, \$75 for second and \$50 for third.
5. In the event of a tie, the winner will be drawn at random from the entries that were tied (e.g., if entry #1 and entry #2 tied for 2nd place, a drawing is held and the entry that is drawn gets 2nd place and the other would get 3rd place).
6. Winners will be announced at the Annual Meeting Banquet.
7. There is no limit to the number of entries, but each person may only win once (e.g., if John Brown submits 2 essays and each would have won a prize, the higher prize will be awarded to John and the lower prize will go to the essay that had the next highest number of votes).
8. If the essay is available as a digital text document, an email with the source file is greatly appreciated.
9. To give due consideration, essay submissions must be sent by email or US Mail no later than February 1, 2024
10. Send essays (electronic copies encouraged) to:

HFFA PHOTO & ESSAY CONTESTS

Don Otto
730 Lucas St.
Knoxville, Iowa 50138
Or send via email to: hawkeyeflyfisher@gmail.com

Donations for 2024 HFFA Show
Items for live auction, silent auction, bucket raffles, or monetary
Ryan Maas
743 Kirkwood Ave.
Iowa City, IA 52240
319-621-6940 maas_ryan@yahoo.com

Fly Fishing Activities



Iowa's 10th annual Casting for Recovery retreat was held over a long weekend, culminating on Sunday, October 8th. Participants spent most of their time with volunteers at Ewalu Stone Retreat Center, Strawberry Point, Iowa, learning such things as tying knots, fly casting skills, and about the trout's diet in the stream environment.

On Sunday, each lady was paired up with a volunteer river guide, enjoying guided fly fishing for up to 1/2 day at Backbone State Park or the Maquoketa River. All participants and volunteers then returned to the center for lunch and a fun program. Each participant had the opportunity to speak about their river helper and their experience together on the water.

Casting for Recovery (CFR), is a national organization whose mission is to "enhance the lives of women with breast cancer by connecting them to each other and nature through the therapeutic sport of fly fishing." The retreat is available to women who have or who have had breast cancer and is available at no cost to them. Volunteers include medical and psychosocial professionals as well as fly fishing instructors.

Iowa CFR 2023 River Guides:

Martin Acerbo, Willa Campbell, Lisa Davis, Mike Jacobs, David Jones, David Kleme, Kate Lodge, Geri Meyer, Dan Peterson, Jonathan Schmidt, Liz Siepker, Ron Stahlberg, Ray Thys, and Lance Zook (Lisa, Mike and Ron have been guides all 10 years!!!)



Lisa Davis provided the text and the photos. She guided Emilie to several shiners and 3 trout!



Now is the time to "save the date" and make hotel reservations for the 27th Annual International Sowbug Roundup to be held March 21 to March 23, 2024, in Mountain Home, Arkansas. The theme of the show is "The Elegant Wet Fly." The Guest of Honor is Davy Wotton, the world's expert on tying and fishing traditional wet flies. The Sowbug Roundup includes more than 100 tyers from all over the USA, vendors selling the exotic and the useful, classes, and seminars. All of this and more for just \$10.00 for all three days. Adults with kids under 12 are admitted for free.

March in Arkansas is Spring! The dogwoods are blooming, the caddis are hatching, and the fish are biting. Join us in Mountain Home to enjoy Spring, the Sowbug Roundup, and catching trout on an elegant wet fly!

Go to our website Sowbug Roundup for the most up to date information on the Sowbug Roundup.

Mike Tipton

Searching for Coldwater Streams in Iowa

By Mike Siepker, IDNR

Streams in Iowa are currently classified thermally as warmwater or coldwater according to Chapter 61 of the Iowa Administrative Code. Basically, waters are considered warmwater unless their temperature and flow maintain a variety of coldwater species, including populations of trout and/or associated aquatic communities, as outlined in the Iowa Cold Water Use Designation Assessment Protocol. Maximum daily water temperatures not exceeding 75°F, presence of watercress, populations of sculpin, and self-sustaining populations of trout are just a few of the indicators that support the designation of stream segments as coldwater. Currently, about 475 miles of stream are classified as coldwater in Iowa; however, many stream segments supporting coldwater fish communities are not included in the original coldwater classification list. For example, Pine Spring Creek is a small stream on the Seed Savers Exchange Heritage Farm north of Decorah that is currently classified as warmwater. The stream is home to a successful Brook Trout reintroduction effort and supports watercress, making it a candidate for reclassification to coldwater. Since the initial classification of Iowa coldwater stream segments was supported by limited field data, extensive new data sets on Iowa streams provide the opportunity to update the list of streams supporting coldwater communities. If stream segments are currently classified as warmwater, but new data supports reclassification to coldwater, the available data can be reviewed by the State of Iowa and the classification updated where appropriate. The challenge, however, is figuring out how to locate the many miles of streams that meet the requirements to be classified as coldwater.

Recent advances in optical very high-resolution satellite imagery have made this challenge more manageable. Generally, surface waters that receive substantial groundwater inputs have less variable water temperatures compared to those that are not groundwater controlled. For example, groundwater entering streams in the winter is significantly warmer (approx. 52 °F) than the surrounding surface water temperatures, allowing the streams to remain mostly ice-free, even during the coldest Iowa winters. Streams without this groundwater input are colder and mostly ice-covered during winter. As a result, we can locate coldwater streams by examining high resolution imagery acquired during winter when snow cover is present and air temperatures remain below freezing before the imagery is captured. In most cases, coldwater streams are easily identifiable using winter imagery compared to spring or summer imagery. For example, Figure 1 shows Coldwater Creek spring (blue dot) during spring (a), winter (b), and summer (c). During the spring and summer, the entire stream shows up as open water and visible in the imagery, unless obscured by tree canopy cover. In the winter image, canopy cover is reduced and only the spring-influenced segment of the stream remains open water (dark line originating at the blue dot and angling towards the lower left corner of image b) whereas the stream segment upstream of the spring influence is ice and snow covered.

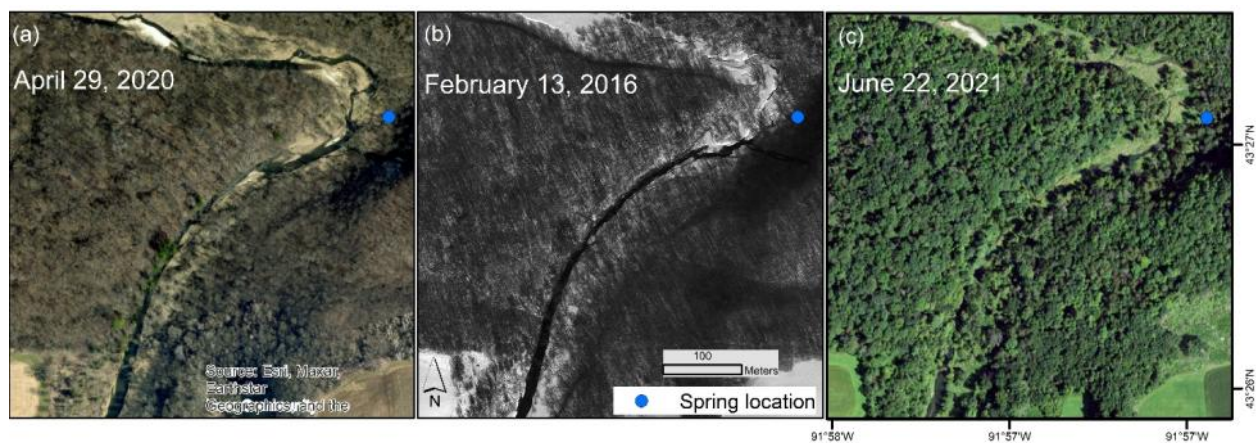


FIGURE 1. Satellite imagery of a northeast Iowa stream taken during spring (a), winter (b), and summer (c) showing the location of groundwater input into the stream.

To investigate the potential of winter imagery for locating coldwater stream segments in NE Iowa, the Iowa DNR and University of Wisconsin-La Crosse worked together on a project funded through a National Fish Habitat Partnership-Driftless Area Restoration Effort grant. The focus of our study was to use optical very high-resolution (VHR) imagery collected during winter seasons to manually delineate open water reaches of streams in the Canoe Creek watershed. Imagery was visually interpreted by three trained analysts to identify stretches of open water that suggested a high probability of being coldwater. Imagery from 2014 and 2016 was compared, revealing annual variability in stream conditions. For example, stream reaches that were ice-free for one winter period sometimes appeared completely ice-covered in another image year. Differences were likely a result of variation in stream flows and/or air temperatures prior to satellite image acquisition. Topography, stream size, stream incision, and vegetation along the stream corridor also impacted analyst's ability to interpret the imagery. Because of these challenges, a two-tiered rating system was developed to assist analysts in designating coldwater reaches.

Stream reaches assigned a Level 1 rating were interpreted as open water by all analysts in both panchromatic images and often represented optimal conditions for coldwater identification (e.g., little to no canopy cover, high sun angle with minimal shadows). Stream reaches assigned a Level 2 rating were only identified as coldwater in one image or were collected with suboptimal site conditions (e.g., presence of canopy, low sun angle and extensive shadows). In all cases, at least two of the analysts had to agree that the stream was ice-free for the reach to be classified as Level 2 coldwater.

We then validated coldwater stream status of both Level 1 and 2 reaches using water temperature data, fish community data, and instream habitat data collected by the Iowa DNR and our partners. The coldwater stream segments identified in this study were compared to the stream segments currently classified as coldwater allowing us to recommend updates to existing stream classification datasets.

Using VHR winter images, we were able to accurately detect high-quality coldwater habitat in the Canoe Creek watershed. In addition to the location, we were also able to determine the general extent of each coldwater reach. Using our approach, we were able to confirm the status of 14.3 miles of stream currently classified as coldwater while also discovering over 21 additional miles of stream that likely meet evaluation criteria for reclassification from warmwater to coldwater status (Figure 2). At nearly every location where we validated our imagery assessment using fish community and water temperature data, the data supported the imagery-based recommendation. When field data did not support the imagery-based recommendation, the imagery-based recommendations were always more conservative than those based on water temperature or fish community field data. For example, some segments of stream were ice-covered suggesting warmwater status, but water temperature or fish community data supported coldwater designation. In the end, our imagery-based assessment was a very reliable way to rapidly locate high quality coldwater stream segments in the Canoe Creek watershed.

Based on the results of our Canoe Creek watershed assessment, we are planning to apply this approach to the entire Iowa Driftless Region. So far, we have assessed imagery for the entire Upper Iowa River watershed and plan to develop recommendations this winter. Then, we'll move on to the Yellow and Turkey River watersheds before addressing watersheds further south. In the end, we hope to develop coldwater classification recommendations based on imagery that are also supported by field data that has been collected by the DNR and our partners. Recommendations would then be presented to the Iowa Environmental Protection Commission and the US EPA for final approvals.

Information presented here is from our recently published article in the journal *Remote Sensing*.

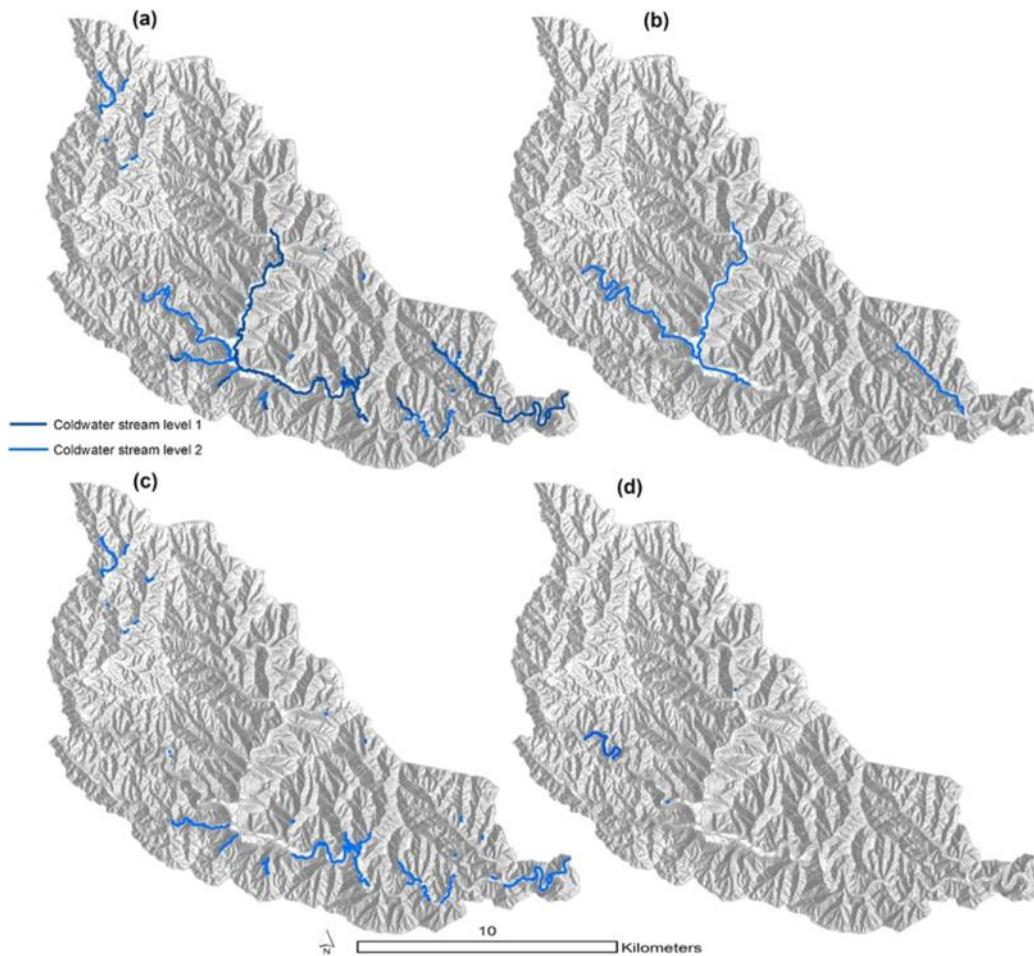


FIGURE 2: (a) Coldwater stream reaches in the Canoe Creek watershed identified by visual interpretation of VHR winter imagery validated with fish community and stream temperature data; (b) coldwater stream reaches currently classified by the Iowa DNR as coldwater; (c) stream reaches that are not currently classified as coldwater but were identified as coldwater in our analysis and (d) stream reaches currently classified as coldwater by the Iowa DNR but were not identified as coldwater in our analysis.

Mike

False Casting and Casting Off Shoulder

by Marty McVey

What is a false cast?

A false cast is an overhead cast that is not intended to deliver our fly to a target.

Why do we false cast?

We false cast for a number of reasons:

1. To gauge the accuracy of our cast,
2. To shorten or lengthen the amount of line we are carrying in the air,
3. To change the direction of our cast,
4. To dry a water-logged dry fly, and
5. Sometimes to stall for time to allow a fish to reset itself after a rise.

What are the mechanics of the false cast?

Assume we have 40' of line out - toes to fly – and we are practicing on grass.

Step 1: Begin with the rod tip on the ground and the fly line straight from rod tip to fly in front of us. Begin to raise the rod, slowly, freeing the fly line from the water. We want to lift the rod slow enough so we do not noisily rip the line off of the water and spook fish, but fast enough to not allow the line to sag, introducing slack into our cast.

Step 2: As we free the line from the water, begin to smoothly accelerate the rod into our back cast. Begin to accelerate when the rod is in the 10:30 o'clock position and continue to accelerate the rod until we execute a hard STOP with the rod at the 1:00 o'clock position. This will result in a narrow back loop with a straight top leg and a trajectory up and back behind us. It is important to not stop at 10:30 o'clock after step one, but rather continue smoothly into the acceleration of our back cast. If we stop between steps 1 and 2, our line will sag, again introducing slack into our line and our cast.

Step 3: After the hard STOP, PAUSE and watch the back cast loop unroll behind. At this point, we are watching for our fly line to straighten – the fly line, not the leader.

Step 4: Once the fly line has straightened behind us, we execute a forward cast by smoothly accelerating the rod forward from 1 o'clock to a hard STOP at 10:30.

Step 5: As the forward cast unrolls and straightens, execute the same back cast that we did in step 1.

Step 6: We repeat this series of back and forward casts, or false casts, with stops at 10:30 and 1:00 o'clock.

Step 7: We are ready to deliver our fly to the target. After the STOP at 10:30 o'clock on the final forward cast, as the fly line unrolls and begins to fall, follow the line down to the ground with the rod tip. Lower the rod tip at the same rate and time as the line falls.

Common Challenge for Beginners

One common issue beginners have when learning to fly cast is their leader landing in a pile upon delivery, falling short of the target. One cause is a rounded rod tip path during the casting stroke rather than straight rod tip path.¹ Recall that a rounded rod tip path results in a wide loop with a rounded top leg, which is more wind resistant than a loop with a straight top leg. Often, this wind resistance prevents our delivery cast from unrolling properly, ending with the leader (and possibly fly line) in a pile short of our target. To correct, work on keeping the rod tip traveling in a straight-line path during the casting stroke.

A second cause for the leader piling up upon delivery stems from the trajectory of our fly casts. Often when we discuss and teach the false cast, we describe the cast as being parallel to the ground, as in Figure 1. While we often do false cast with our straight-line rod tip path parallel to the ground, if we try to deliver our fly from this trajectory, we will wind up piling our leader and fly way short of our target.

Figure 1. False casting parallel to the ground.

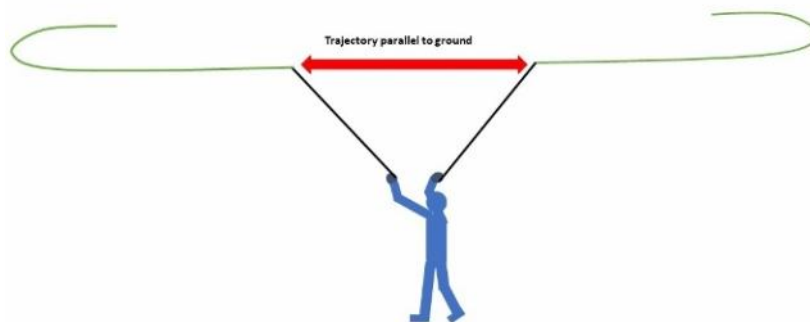
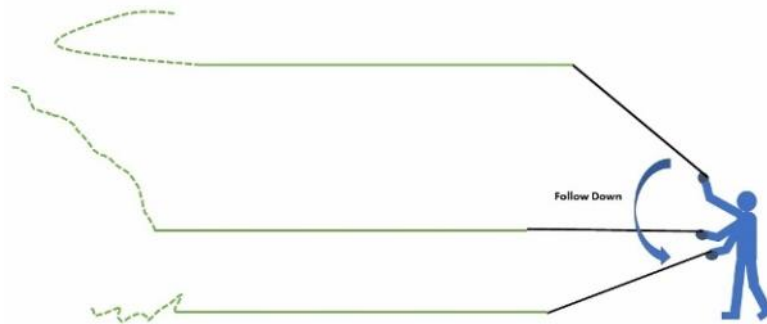


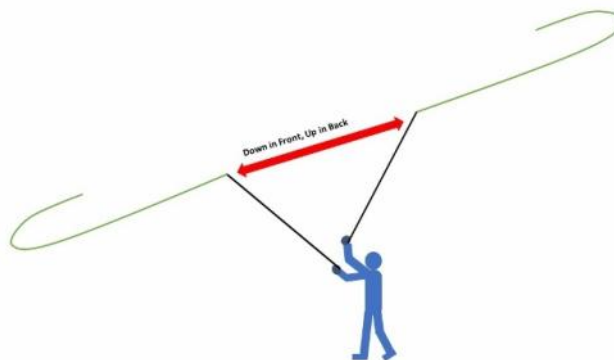
Figure 2 illustrates what happens when we deliver our fly to the target with a trajectory parallel to the ground. Note how our delivery cast unrolls parallel to the ground, approximately 13' above the ground. Moreover, the fly line in the bottom leg has been hanging in the air for a while as the leader/fly are still propagating, causing the line in the bottom leg to fall first. Our fly line is also denser than the leader and the fly, making it less wind resistant. Hence, when our fly line begins to fall to the ground, the fly line falls to the ground faster than the leader and the fly, pulling our leader and fly backwards as they fall to the ground. Once the fly line lands on the water, the leader and fly are still falling towards the end of the fly line landing in a pile, far short of our target.

Figure 2. Delivering a fly when our delivery cast uses a straight-line rod tip path parallel to the ground.



To correct, we need to change the trajectory of our false cast to allow our fly line, leader and fly to land on the water at approximately the same time and straight. This cannot be accomplished on our delivery cast alone. If we try to do so, we end up with a rounded rod tip path, a wide loop with a rounded top leg and a delivery that results with our leader and fly in a pile. There is nothing wrong with false casting with a rod tip path parallel to the ground. But, prior to the delivery cast, the trajectory of our rod tip path needs to change from parallel to the ground, to up and back and down in front. Assuming 40' of line, toes to fly, the 7-steps above will result in the desired trajectory in Figure 3.

Figure 3. False casts with a rod tip path trajectory in line with our target

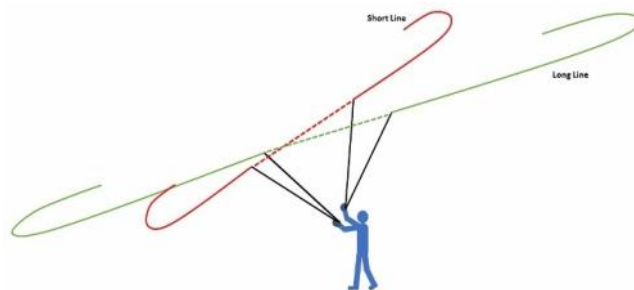


It is important to note, our casting arc did not change in the examples above. In both cases our casting arc is 75°. The only change is that our casting arc is now tipped forward to change the trajectory of our rod tip path, and consequently our false cast and delivery cast.

Practice Drills

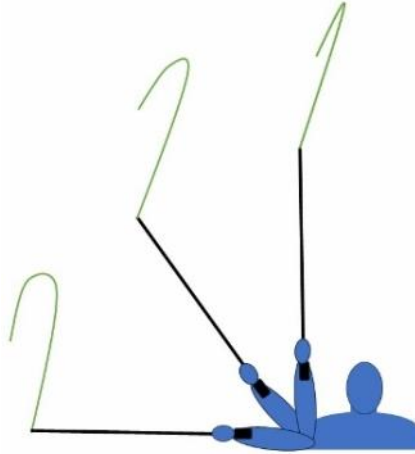
As discussed in, "The 5 Essentials of Fly Casting and the Pick Up and Laydown Cast²," in the September 2023 *Flyline*, practice false casting different lengths of fly line at different trajectories. As we add length to the amount of line being carried in our false casts, the trajectory of our casts will flatten. Figure 4 illustrates how our trajectory flattens as we go from casting a short length of line (red loops) to casting a longer length of line (green loops). And remember, the longer the line out past the tip, the more force will be required to cast it. More force combined with longer line will cause more rod bend, requiring a wider casting arc to maintain a straight-line rod tip path. And finally, assuming the same line speed, longer line requires a longer pause at the end of back and forward cast to allow the fly line to fully unroll prior to beginning the next forward or back cast, respectively. Finally, place targets at different distances and execute 3 or 4 false casts and try to deliver your fly on target.

Figure 4. Change in false cast trajectory when going from short line to long line.



Another casting drill is to learn to false cast in different casting planes, Figure 5. We can't always cast directly overhead, so it is worthwhile to learn to cast in the different planes going from vertical to horizontal. When casting in different planes, as we change from vertical to horizontal, gravity has a greater impact on our loops the more horizontal our casting plane becomes, pulling our loops down to the ground. This can be troublesome because as we go from vertical to horizontal, our loops are also closer to the ground. To compensate and keep our line from ticking the ground (or water), as our casting plane becomes more horizontal, we must increase our line speed by increasing the amount of force we apply. More applied force results in more rod bend. To keep our rod tip on the straight-line rod tip path, we must match our casting arc to the rod bend by widening our casting arc. Finally, as we increase line speed without increasing line length, our pauses will get shorter as we go from vertical to horizontal.

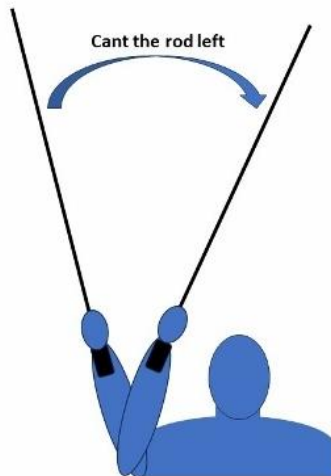
Figure 5. Casting in different planes



Off-shoulder casting

Conceptually, off-shoulder casting is simple to understand. Put simply, we are trying to place our rod tip on the off-shoulder side of our head and/or body when we are casting. Figure 6 illustrates the required change in our rod tip when casting off-shoulder.

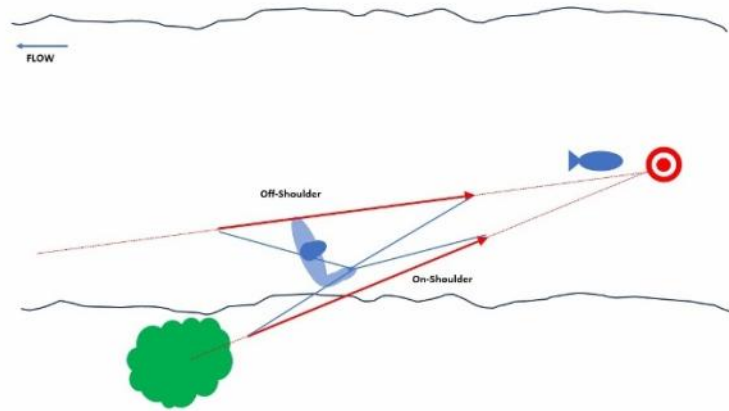
Figure 6. Rod tip placement for on and off shoulder casts.



While this cast is easy to visualize, it can be more challenging to execute. One reason is looking back to watch our back cast is physically awkward, making it more difficult to watch our back cast. One way to compensate, until you develop a feel for back cast, is to videotape yourself practicing. This will allow you to see quickly if you are maintaining a straight-line rod tip path during your back cast, generating a narrow loop with a straight top leg and allowing your back loop to unroll properly before executing your forward cast. Casting with a buddy can generate even quicker feedback.

The off-shoulder cast is a good cast to have in your tool box. One of the benefits of the off-shoulder cast is its ability to help you change your casting angles to the fish without having to change your position on the water. Figure 7 illustrates a situation with a fisherman fishing river left and casting to a target just upstream. If the fisherman makes an on-shoulder cast, his back cast is clearly going to go up and over the stream bank. If there are no obstructions on the stream bank, the fisherman has no issues. However, if there are trees, weeds or fences along the stream bank, the fisherman may not be able to make that back cast. If the fisherman is capable of making an off-shoulder cast, they have the ability to direct their back cast back over the water for a longer distance, gaining the opportunity to cast to the fish without having changed his or her position in the stream.

Figure 7. Ability of the off-shoulder cast to open up casting opportunities without changing position.



Another benefit of the off-shoulder cast deals with wind. With a wind blowing into our casting shoulder, our safety is potentially at risk as the wind may blow our fly line and/or fly into our rod or into our person, possibly resulting hooking our self. To avoid this risky situation, we can shift our rod tip from our casting shoulder to our off-shoulder, thereby placing the fly line and the fly on the downwind side of our body. Now, the wind will be blowing our fly line and fly away from our rod tip and our person.

Summary

These casts lay the foundation for a multitude of fly casts. Master these casts and we can begin to discuss extending and shortening line, pile casts, wiggle mends, over- and under-powered curve casts and reach mends, and others.

Improve your casting and catch more fish.

Acknowledgments

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

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Marty

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Photo and text by Kate Lodge

HFFA & IDNR Workday at Big Mill Creek

Ronda Long, HFFA workday coordinator and Dan Kirby, biologist with IDNR set up a combined effort to remove vegetation from a section of Big Mill Creek near Bellevue, Iowa that had major restoration several years ago.

On September 30, 2023 a persistent group of HFFA members and other volunteers armed with loppers and sturdy gloves, removed invasive multi-flora rose and other vegetation. Scott Kilgore, Rob Kundert, Joe Connelly, Ronda Long, Frank Potter, Michael Zelinskas, John Channon, Mike Stenzel, Lance Zook, Kate Lodge, Doug Edel, Gary Kruse, & Jeff Moore signed in but more participated.

Previous improvements included relocating extremely high banks of soil that had washed down from the hillsides to the stream below. Rock weirs were designed in the streambed to cleanse sediment that would have prevented trout from spawning. The high banks downstream give a view of how much erosion was removed from the restored area.

More projects are planned to return Big Mill to what it once was.

Besides the hard work a good time was had by all!

Thanks to all who came out to help!

Ronda