



The Flyline

The Newsletter of the Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association

April 2024



Moose!!, Don't Move!!, Smile!!
First Place in 2024 HFFA Show Photo Contest
By Kate Lodge



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The President's Hatch

What a great start to 2024! We had an extremely well-attended show, and I would like to thank all our members and the public for making it such an outstanding event. An additional "thank you" should also be given to the team of Ryan Maas and Ron Stahlberg for their exceptional planning and commitment to making this annual show possible. For those that did not participate in this year's show, please stay updated on our social media sites and via the FlyLine publication for progress on next year's show. The Quad Cities chapter and members of the Dubuque Fly Fishers will be forming a cooperative team to plan the 2025 annual show and meeting. A decision on the venue will be made towards the end of March.

As we enter our spring season please be on the lookout for upcoming workdays and streamside cleanups. The organization has partnered with the Iowa DNR and various non-profits in the past to help improve stream segments that need the utmost care. Ronda Long, who serves as our current workday coordinator, will oversee those workdays. The first is coming up quickly on April 13th and will be hosted by the Spring Creeks chapter of Trout Unlimited. Backbone State Park and Richmond Springs will be the target sites for the cleanup. Please contact her directly if you'd like to participate. Sounds like there may even be lunch and drinks provided!



Davis Horton

The bluegill outing has also been finalized for May 17th and 18th at Lake Wapello State Park in Drakesville, Iowa. The pot-luck meal will be on Saturday at noon. This time frame will be perfect for the start of the bluegill spawning season in the southern portion of Iowa. Largemouth bass, black crappie, and red ear sunfish will also be abundant with warm, mid-May temperatures. Hopefully many of you can attend! This is a favorite of many HFFA members, and I hear rave reviews about it on a yearly basis. Lake Wapello was also one of the stops I made along my adventure of catching 99 fish in all 99 Iowa

counties. I can attest the red ear sunfish in the lake are fantastic, large, and hard fighting.

I hope everyone had the opportunity to get out and fish before and after our annual show. In the few times I've been out since the birth of my daughter, the fishing has been exceptional due to unseasonably warm weather. Brook trout fishing in the driftless was incredible towards the beginning of February. Small streamers that imitated leeches seemed to work the best. I've received some reports from other members that wet flies and larger nymphs have also been extremely productive for brookies. I've been on the Mississippi River on a few occasions to target shovelnose sturgeon and jumbo perch. Both species have been fired up during this early spring weather and have been more than willing to play ball. Admittedly, the shovelnose sturgeon have not been caught on fly tackle. Though that would be fun! Get out and enjoy this great weather. Tight lines!

Davis



Doug & Roxanne Harthan, Front 20 Outfitters, are HFFA members, a vendor, & donated a trip in 2023. Keith Wunder paid for two trips with Doug last year. Keith reports he got a sore arm from so many small mouths! Otter Tail River is home water, east of Fargo, ND



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

Contacts & Meetings

2024 Board of Directors

Davis Horton, President

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Conservation Chair - vacant

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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>April 2024</u></p> <p><u>May 2024</u></p> <p>May 17 - 19 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 4 - 6 2024 Drifless Flyathon Decorah, Iowa flyathon@driftlessonthefly.com runingrivers.org May 3rd Signup Limited</p> <p>October 4 - 6 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> <p><u>January 2025</u></p> <p><u>February 2025</u></p> <p>February ? HFFA Annual Fly Fishing Show Hyatt Regency Coralville 300 E. 9th Coralville, IA 52241 Information at Hawkeyeflyfishing.com</p> <p>February ? Mid-Iowa Bass Masters Swap Meet & boat Show 4-H building State fairgrounds Des Moines, IA www.midiowabassmasters.com</p>	<p><u>March 2025</u></p> <p>March ? Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo Hamline University St. Paul, MN info@greatwatersflyexpo.com</p> <p>March ? Fly Tyers 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>March ? Cornhusker Fly Fishers Spring Fling Kiewit Lodge Mahoney State Park Ashland, NE</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 Business Report

**HFFA Board Meeting Minutes
January 6, 2024
Manchester Fish Hatcher
Submitted by Dave Jones**

Meeting called to order by President Davis Horton at 12:00 PM

Attendees: Davis Horton, Ron Stahlberg, John Miller, Dave Jones, Kate Lodge, Rob Kundert, Martin Acerbo, Kirk Rosenow, and Ryan Maas

Welcome from Davis Horton

A motion was made and unanimously approved to accept minutes from the October 16, 2023 meeting.

Davis shared the treasurer's report which showed a current balance of \$72,238. After some discussion, a motion was made and unanimously approved to accept the financial report.

Old Business

1. Ryan Maas and Ron Stahlberg provided an update regarding 2024 show planning.
2. Show location will be the Hyatt Regency Hotel and Conference Center in Coralville on February 16-18, 2024.
3. Headline speakers will be Gunnar Brammer and Matthew Supinski. Regional speakers will be Connor Aassen, Randy Richter and Kevin Hanson.
4. A draft show schedule was shared and discussed. Friday evening will include family activities. Speakers, fly tying and vendor exhibits will fill the agenda Saturday and Sunday. The banquet will be held Saturday evening and the business meeting with lunch will be held noon on Saturday.
5. Plans call for 22 vendor tables. 8 non-profits are expected to exhibit in the vendor room.
6. This year's show will include games, raffles and silent/live auction
7. Fly tying room will include open fly tying sessions for novice tyers in addition to expert tying presentations.

New Business

1. Need for long-term storage for HFFA supplies was discussed and with a decision postponed until after the annual show.
2. Davis presented materials regarding a funding request for Casey Springs Creek Project Phase 2. The project sponsor, Winneshie County Conservation Board, is requesting \$6,000 of funding from HFFA for bank shaping, stabilization, vortex weirs and in stream habitat improvements. HFFA has already provided funding for Phase 1. A motion was made and unanimously approved to fund \$6,000 for Phase 2 of the Casey Springs Creek Project.
3. Davis reported that the 2024 Fly Fishing International dues have been paid by the treasurer.
4. Award recipients for the annual show were discussed and decided.

Other Business

1. A brief discussion regarding the status of the 2025 show was held. The board decided to resume discussions on this topic shortly after the annual show.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was unanimously approved at 1:30 PM

Dave

continued on next page

HFFA Business Report Continued

Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association Annual Meeting

February 17, 2024

Location: Hyatt Regency Coralville

Submitted by Dave Jones

Meeting started at 12:15 pm

Opening Business

Davis Horton, President welcomed the membership to the 2024 annual meeting.

Reports

Secretary's report

Dave Jones, Secretary reviewed the minutes to the January 6, 2024 board meeting. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved by the membership to accept the minutes from the last board meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Keith Wunder, Treasurer provided a summary of financial results. The checking account balance at the beginning of the year was \$78,063.43 and the year-end balance as of September 30, 2023 was \$72,414.27 of which \$27,500 was invested in a certificate of deposit. The 2023 annual show income was \$26,493, show expenses were \$21,496.43 and the show net profit was \$4,996.57. After Keith's remarks a motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved by the membership to accept the treasurer's report.

A request was received from membership asking the board to consider the merit of changing the club's year end from September 30 to December 31.

The President completed a review of financial contributions to the following projects during the last year:

1. Funding of \$2,000 to Upper Iowa University to purchase sampling equipment for 2024 17-Year Brood Hatch Cicada research.
2. Contribution of \$5,000 to the IA DNR and Trout Unlimited for stream habitat improvements on North Bear and Patterson Creeks.
3. Contribution of \$10,000 to fund an easement acquisition on Otter Creek for public access. This section of Otter Creek will be a wild brown trout fishery. Otter Creek participating landowners be honored at Saturday evening's banquet.
4. Contributed \$6,000 to Winneshiek County Conservation Board to assist with habitat improvements on Casey Springs.
5. Contributed \$600 to help funding for North Bear Creek port-o-potties.

Items for Discussion:

Long Term Storage

Club officers led a discussion regarding the need for a permanent storage location for HFFA club supplies and equipment. Possible storage locations and costs were discussed. After further discussion the club membership by a voice vote consent requested that the board consider and approve a permanent storage solution for supplies and equipment.

2025 Annual Show

The Quad City chapter is scheduled to host the 2025 show. However due to declining Quad City membership it was reported that they may join forces with Dubuque chapter to jointly plan and run the 2025 show. A final recommendation will be made at the next board meeting.

Officer and Director Elections

A nomination was made to elect the following officers for the next year and one director for a 2 year term: President Davis Horton, Treasurer Keith Wunder, Secretary Dave Jones and Director (Central Iowa) Martin Acerbo. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved by the membership to elect the nominated slate of officers.

Adjournment

Davis Horton adjourned the meeting at 12:40 pm.

Dave

2024 Iowa State Fair Fly Tying Competition

by Larry Murphy

The Iowa State Fair will be held August 8 through August 18, 2024. 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 7th at 1:00 p.m. in the DNR Building.

Fly entries need to be received at the Fair Administration post box by July 31, 2024.

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 tier's 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, 2024.** 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.**

Larry

On left Judges Paul Domoto, Dave Rosset, & Keith Wunder



HFFA 2024 Annual Meeting & Show

Here is a photo visit to the 2024 annual Meeting & Show. Photos were from Chip Hildebrand, Kate Giannini, Ronda Long, and myself. Hope you were there, but if not, this will give you a taste.

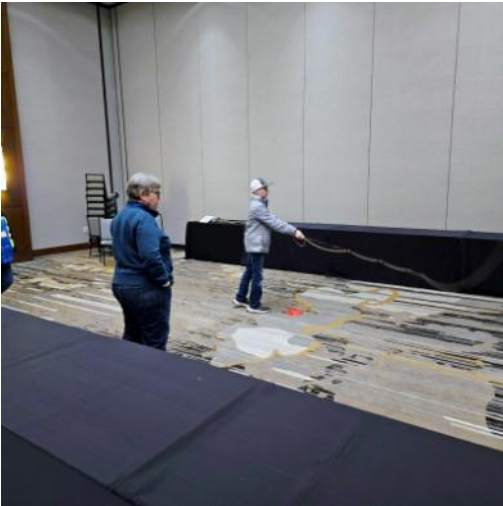
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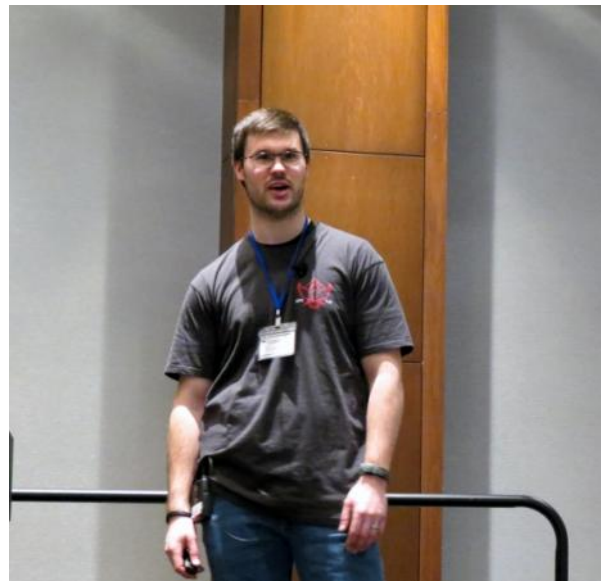
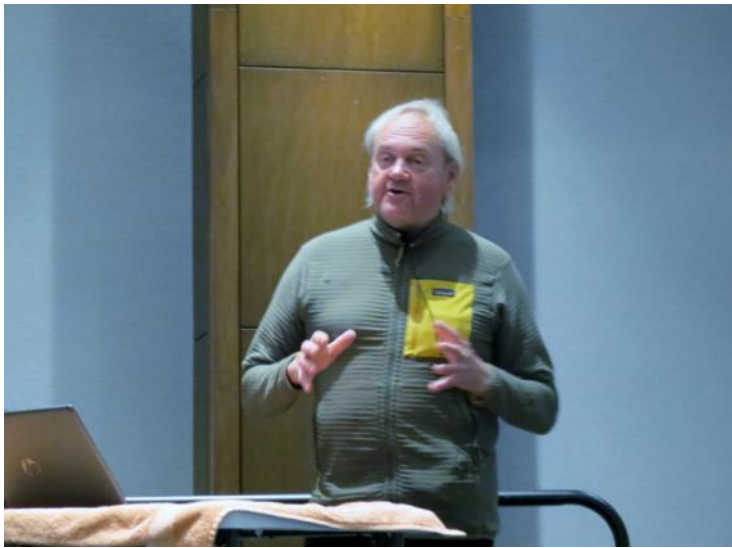
Friday night was busy. Ronda Long, Ryan Mass, Steve Austin, and several helpers kept the registration table organized.

Kid's activities included casting supervised by Willa Cambell, fly tying assisted by Josiah Cornelder on left, and knot tying, shown left to right in the next three photos. Deliveries of pizza kept the party going.

Adults were informed by the following speakers shown left to right below. Kevin Hanson on boundary waters, Caleb Corona on what fish eat, (Caleb's photo on next page) and Stephan Marais on beginning musky fishing with a fly rod. Ray Thys was the moderator for the Friday night session. The sessions were well attended and entertaining.



HFFA 2024 Annual Meeting & Show



Matt Supinski (above left) led discussions on selectivity, mastering spring creeks, and the mind of the brown trout. Gunnar Brammer (above right) discussed perfect streamer set up, natural vs synthetic materials, and gave tying demonstrations. Larry Gullet, HFFA member and Johnson County Conservation Director, told me "Half an hour with Gunnar saved me 5 years of trial and error on trying for lake trout on a fly rod." Matt and Gunnar gave talks on both Saturday and Sunday.



Caleb Corona (above left) gave tying demonstrations in the vendor room and followed his talk on Friday night with a discussion of low water small mouth on Sunday morning. Connor Aasen (above right) discussed under the radar Iowa fish on Saturday and successful carp strategies on Sunday. Randy Richter woke us up Saturday morning with destination fishing for peacock bass and other species. One must question the advisability of wet wading in piranha filled waters. LOL



HFFA 2024 Annual Meeting & Show

Kate Lodge and Jeff Moore (on left below) are always fun to visit with. Kate representing Iowa Women Fly Fishers and Jeff tying those impossible to see, beautiful small flies. Lee Schulteis on left and Phil Hayes of Wilderness Lite are in deep discussion for their next backpacking adventure.



Jackie Martin (left below) wrote a children's book "Creeking" about the restoration of Brook Creek. Dr. Mike Osterholm restored this former feeder creek to Waterloo Creek just north and west of Dorchester. Jackie gave a reading and discussion of this book at the show. Lora Friest (below right) was our banquet speaker. She gave a talk about getting the word out about the recreational opportunities in NE Iowa, especially trout streams. She is currently with IEDA Tourism Office. Her point was, if the value of these streams is better known then efforts to improve and preserve them will have a wider base of support.



Davis Horton, HFFA president gives Larry Stone the conservation award. (below left) Ryan Maas received the president's award. Keith Wunder (below right) received the outstanding member award. Editor's note: the photo of Ryan was too blurry due him moving too fast to move on with the program. LOL



HFFA 2024 Annual Meeting & Show Recap & Thank You

The 2024 Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association (HFFA) Annual Meeting & Show was a remarkable success, drawing fly fishing enthusiasts from across Iowa and beyond to the Hyatt Regency in Coralville from February 16-18. Even Mother Nature lent a hand with blue skies and clear roads.

The three-day event featured an outstanding lineup of expert presenters covering a wide range of cold and warm water fly fishing topics, along with fly tying demonstration and instruction. Highlights included Matt Supinski's sessions on trout selectivity, spring creeks, and understanding the mind of a brown trout; Gunnar Brammer's insights on streamer tactics and tying materials; Caleb Corona's talks on what fish eat and low water smallmouth fishing; and Connor Aasen's exploration of carp fishing strategies and native Iowa fish species. Destination trip planning (Randy Richter), musky (Stephan Marais), Boundary Waters (Kevin Hanson), and the Iowa DNR's community fishing program and Eastern Iowa update (Tyler Stubbs and Dan Kirby) rounded out the slate of informative presentations.

Attendees also enjoyed ample opportunities for skill building through open fly tying stations, demonstrations by invited guest tyers like Mike Hulsey, Scott Nordby, and Josiah Cornelder, and casting instruction. Additional tyers that shared their talent and enthusiasm with attendees were Lance Zook, Davis Horton, Lisa Davis, Kate Lodge, Jason Hochstetler, Jeff Moore, and Caleb Corona.

The vendor room buzzed with a great selection of fly shops, guides, non-profit organizations, and industry exhibitors. We especially want to recognize the work of Mike Birmingham and Lousie Biderman with the SHL Limnology Section (Coralville) that's necessary to set up and run the aquatic organism exhibit every year, as well as the enrichment activities and fish prints coordinated by IDNR Staff in the vendor room: Rose Danaher, Holly Schulte, and Jasmyn Edwards.

Fun social events included the Friday Family Night, with pizza for everyone, the HFFA business lunch, and Saturday's evening banquet featuring a fundraising auction and thought-provoking keynote by Lora Friest on sharing Iowa's natural resources and quality experiences with others. Thanks to auctioneer David Aeschliman for his energetic support in raising funds for HFFA's mission.

None of this would have been possible without the tireless work of the HFFA's dedicated volunteers, including:

Ron Stahlberg	Lance Zook	Austin Hulsey
Ryan Maas	Keith Wunder	Martin Acerbo
Doug Edel	Rob Kundert	John Channon
Ronda Long	Brian Cohen	Cheryl Channon
Steve Austin	Willa Campbell	Matt Danielson
Sally Rigler	Amanda Carey	Dan Mascal
Liz Maas	Dave Jones	Ray Thys
Sylvia Lewis	Kate Lodge	John Gillenwater
Andy Spencer	Phil Schubbe	

Along with support from Julie Ohde (web admin), Kirk Rosenow, Hannah Rigler, the fishing dept. team and management at Fin & Feather, Carol and Mike Jacobs, Bill Silverman, Don Otto, the crew at Hyatt Regency Coralville, Rowyn Maas, Jacqueline Bringgs Martin, and many others.

Our sincere appreciation goes out to the event's generous donors and sponsors including:

Rod & Rivet	Matthew Supinski	Ron Stahlberg
Fin & Feather	Ryan Maas	Caleb Corona
Jared Koenigsfeld	Mike Hulsey	Lance Zook
Stuart & Marian Maas	Maxxon Outfitters	Jeff Moore

Anonymous Angler (underwrote the speaker's fee for *Creek Finding* author)

The many individual tiers and presenters who contributed their time and talents.

Mark your calendars for next year as the HFFA looks to continue offering newcomers and longtime members the best in-person fly fishing festival experience in Iowa and beyond, bringing the fly fishing community together once again to share knowledge, network, and support the organization's conservation, education and recreation efforts in Iowa.

With appreciation,
Ryan Maas and Ron Stahlberg
2024 HFFA Show Co-Chairs

HFFA 2024 Annual Meeting & Show



2024 Hawkeye Fly Fishing Show Sponsors and Supporters



Fin & Feather
the great outdoors store



Along with:

Ron Stahlberg
Marian & Stuart Maas
Jared Koenigsfeld
Dean Elder
Mike Jacobs
Bud Chandler

Lance Zook
Jeff Moore
Anonymous Angler
Lisa Davis
Ryan Maas
Mike Hulsey

and many other individuals, through financial support,
donations, and giving generously of their time



With special thanks to David Aeschliman & Walnut Creek Auction College, LLC

A Friend, a Fly, and a Fish

By Dale Tayloe

First Place Essay in 2024 HFFA Show Essay Contest

We fished all day in three different places without much happening. It was almost 8pm on the last day of August. As we stood there in the stream I said, "Jim, it's going to be dark soon. As much as I don't want to, we have to go. It's going to be pretty late by the time we get back home." Then things came alive!

I met Jim about 3 years earlier on a Sunday morning at church. Right away we discovered we had a lot in common besides a love for Jesus. Our common interests included hunting and fishing although he had not fly fished for trout for years. Sadly, after that first meeting, Covid hit, and we didn't see each other again until more than a year later. When we finally reconnected, we made plans to fish and hunt together. Oh, Happy Day!

One day over coffee, Jim surprised me with a gift. I wanted to reciprocate and did so by buying him a trout stamp and tying some of my favorite patterns for him including an elk hair caddis. I told him I would take him fly fishing at my favorite places in northeast Iowa. He liked that idea.

Now we both lead busy lives with lots of priorities.... you know like family, yardwork, and deer, turkey, goose, and duck seasons. After many weeks, a day came when we both were free and good weather was predicted.

We drove to Waterloo Creek that morning and fished hard for hours. Nothing. Nada. Finally, after deciding to move on to the next location, Jim caught a fingerling. For Jim anyway, the skunk was off. After a late lunch we fished Bear Creek and there the skunk was shed for me too with a 13" rainbow.

We experienced that same northeast Iowa time warp that many a fly fisherman experience.....time went by faster than normal. We enjoyed each other's company despite fishing being lousy. Late in the day we moved on to a third venue.

Normally we would rather fish upstream but at this place, access and the quickly falling sun caused us to fish downstream. Many good casts produced nothing.

Standing few feet from each other with Jim taking the lead, we slowly moved downstream. Jim said, "There's one down here being pretty active feeding on something." As a good friend would offer, he continued, "Why don't you go ahead of me and see if you can catch him?" I replied, "No Jim, you stay with him. You get him!" Several minutes later, a few more feet downstream and after a few more casts, I told Jim, we were going to have to go. Our shadows ceased being long a long time ago. Darkness was upon us and in the dim light 'twas nearly impossible to see our flies on the water. Suddenly, Jim had a strike! Then another. Then another. The third time was charm! On the third strike the fish was hooked. Unbelievable the fish went after the fly three times before getting hooked! After a good fight, I netted the fish for Jim, a 16" brown on his last cast of the caddis that day. What a beautiful fish! What a beautiful day! It's great to have such moments with friends.

Jim says, "a new friendship is a blessing from God. What makes it even better is when new friends share the same interests." And I'll add this: Even better is when new friends with common interests experience memorable moments.

A friend loves at all times.....

Prov 17:17

Dale



Missouri - The Show Me State

By Frank Potter

If you are looking for a story of an accomplished fly fisher in an adventure moving through the mountains stealthily tracking, then catching a large rainbow or cutthroat you can skip this one. Rather this report is for the fisher who sometime might consider fishing in Missouri.

Instead of fishing for a week in Colorado this summer as I had done for several years before COVID, I tried a week solo in Missouri the second week of October. I will add that about six years back, I did have a day "fishing" at Montauk State Park in Missouri. Suffice it to say it is shoulder-to-shoulder fishing to large visible trout. To me, it was only a step better than fishing out of the planting truck. I only learned after that trip that the Current River that leaves Montauk Park is Blue Ribbon water.

The Ozarks is a beautiful country with tree-filled rolling hills interspersed with meadows. The Ozarks makes us think of who I would venture has been our most popular presenter at the Hawkeye Show, the late Dave Whitlock. The second week in October had perfect weather of 70 degrees nearly every day.

My resource was the book *Fly Fishing for Trout in Missouri* by Chuck and Sharon Tryon. The Tryon's also presented at the Hawkeye Show (in February 1986.) I met one Missourian fisher on this trip who said the Tryon book was his Bible in fly finishing. I looked the couple up and found Sharon died of cancer, and then Chuck died in 2011. He had been a hydrologist serving the Mark Twain National Forest in Missouri. He and Sharon wrote some other popular books on fly fishing. I found the Tryon book they signed for me to be helpful in spite of it being published in 1986. (I see they updated it in 1999.)

To enjoy fishing Missouri, it helps to know some things. First, the law is one cannot wear boots with felt soles since the goal is to avoid attracting invasive species. Therefore, rubber soles or soles with screws are in order. That presents no problem except the cost.

Over four days, I fished the Current River, Eleven Point River, Meramec River, and Lake Taneycomo (which is a river).

I decided to start at the Current River which goes south out of Montauk Park since it would give me a second chance fishing Missouri and it was a Blue Ribbon river. I soon realized that I had made the mistake of getting a motel in the small town of Eminence. It had looked like a good location because it was between the Current and Eleven Point trout rivers. However, on my first outing, driving from the motel north to the Current River turned out to be a scenic highway with so many turns it took much of the day to get to my destination. Plus, I found that the roads were not along the river and the access points were nearly impossible to find. The access signs were parallel to the highway and recessed into the trees. I found the same obstacle for my next river, the Eleven Point River, location.

As I was traveling amongst off roads, hunting for an access point I stopped at a one-room gas for a slice of pizza. I noted on a table a few feet from me tobacco leaves and a small chopping machine to make your own chew. I passed.

Finding one's way in the Ozark Hills, especially access points, was a great challenge. Indeed, if my car did not have a compass, I might still be trying to find my way out of there. They make movies about people lost in the ridge-runner country. Before I left home, I should have purchased an atlas with a topography.

As for fishing the Current River, I learned that the best entrance is to start by coming out of Montauk Park. Instead, I started at the Baptist Camp which took a long time to find. Then I found it very difficult to find places to wade not only there but thereafter. I even tore my 30-year-old waders going through a berry bush there trying to find a spot.

My next venture was on the Eleven Point River which is south of Montauk and the town of Eminence. After missing the access point and going back 10 miles, with the help of a local (who admitted they could do better with their signage), I finally found the access point of Greer's Spring. I fished near a bridge and within the first hour these events occurred: 1) I observed a large otter working in the area. A couple I had met a day before, said they spent an afternoon a while back on another river watching otter catching trout. I hoped there were some left in my area this afternoon. 2) A man with his dog found my spot. Fortunately, he did not jump in, the dog that is. 3) A woman dressed in MDOT (Missouri Dept of Transportation) uniform came by with a long rod and apologized saying she was checking the bridge for safety. 4) I was not seeing any fish activity nor any other fishers, so I moved down river and then decided to leave. 5) As I was leaving, another MDOT worker who was on the other side of the river was returning to the road with a machete walked by with a bloody hand saying he had injured himself. He said he had a first aid kit in their truck.

I was thinking surely there would be spots to wade. Nope. These spring fed rivers, such as the Current and Eleven Point, are wide but have little place to wade. As the Tryon's say in their book, "Much of the river is accessible only by canoe." How true that statement is. And I never saw anyone wading in the rivers. I did see boats with spin fishers enter the Eleven Point River at the access point as I was readying myself to fish. Interestingly, two state troopers launched their boat with a motor into the river. The trooper told me they assist the DNR.

The signs at the access points, when you find them, tell the rules of trout fishing (one can take one fish which would be a medium size) but it shows only a picture of a bass with a statement that they are trying to improve the size of their bass. Nothing else about trout. I concluded that the Missouri state DNR really is not interested in catering much to out of state fishers or that much even for trout fishing, at least away from Lake Taneycomo. I think they are missing the boat because they do have a lot of big trout.

One benefit of travel is learning about other cultures. One sees signs posted on trees which indicate many homeowners were not only gun owners but were gun dealers. As one drives the main drag in Branson a person will see a 12-foot diameter sculpture head of Ronald Reagan and a store that sells only Trump paraphernalia. There are more independent Baptist churches than one can count. Most of the radio stations are hosted by religious fundamentalists and one talk show fellow was imitating Rush Limbaugh. I did find a diversion of a Catholic station and the co hosts agreed that the Pope was not Catholic, let alone Christian. As I was waiting to be seated at a restaurant, the fellow standing next to me turned to me and said, "I probably shouldn't believe in conspiracy theories, but I do." Where that came from, I have no idea.

My last attempt to fish was at the Meramec River. It was as described in the Tryon book, beautiful with plenty of overhead room to cast. I started just out of Meramec Park near the hatchery, (I had learned my lesson on access points). The water was clear, cold, and knee high. However, after an hour of fishing I found there were no fishers and no fish. I pulled up four rocks in the stream and saw no insect life. I gave up. When I returned to Dubuque I found a retired guide online and emailed him about my lack of success.

Walt replied: "October can be a tough month on the Meramec because the water gets pretty darn warm, which causes the fish to spread out downstream. When I was still guiding, summer usually had me taking clients down below the Suicide Hill area to find the best concentrations and habitat -- that section is in shadow much of the day during late summer, so the water's cooler. The only other place you might find decent activity is immediately downstream from the trout park, but that section can see some heavy pressure, too. To get the trout to start moving back upstream in the fall, we need some cold nights and cold rains that swell the river a bit. Until that happens, it's a Suicide Hill river."

Walt agreed that the state needs to do a better job of marking its trout streams.

An addendum to the Meramec Park is that it has a lot of neat exhibits such as an early iron mining area.

I never saw others wading on any rivers except at Lake Taneycomo (pronounced tanny) below the Table Rock Dam. I did not take my pontoon boat on this trip since I only wanted to wade.

Lake Taneycomo was the one place I had planned not to fish. This was because I assumed it was like many other rivers below dams; even though big trout are caught there, I expected one would need a boat since the fish would be deep. The other problem was that the Tryon book reported that sirens go off nearly every day announcing the release of water from the dams, and then you have to get out of the water. Still, I wanted to see the fishing place at Table Rock Dam, and I also wanted to visit the resort city of Branson (pop 100K).

It turns out that Lake Taneycomo is not a lake at all; it is a wide river part of the White River flowage. The popular fishing spot is below the Table Rock Dam which abuts the town.

As I was saying, I was not planning to fish the water below the dam, but I changed my mind. This was because fishers were catching huge trout in knee-high water with a nice Midwest-type dirt bottom. Also, when the siren blew, I could see the water was very slow creeping up the riverbank. Therefore, I spent a couple afternoons on the river. Although there were many fly fishers, there was plenty of room.

There are two fly shops near the dam plus on the way out I found a Bass Pro Shop. At River Run Outfitters the common set up is a strike indicator (a floating ball), a scud dropper, a mini slit-weight (hard to grab to clamp on) and six inches from a terminal scud. The scuds were size 14/16 and looked like salmon egg balls of tan or cream polyester. They have no head nor any extra weight on them.

I must admit that even knowing the local setup, I still struggled. Actually, I started with what I have been into the last two years, Euro nymphing. I was not successful after an hour even after having reviewed the set up on YouTube before I left Dubuque. It was frustrating to look down to my boots and find about six to eight trout from 14 to 22 inches lined up behind me as I broke the current for them and my trudging released some scud meals for them. They realized those benefits combined with my lack of skills made the space behind me the safest place to be in the river. Unfortunately, when I went to the shore to change my rig to the setup others were using, the siren went off, and I learned that the generators would only stop the flow at 10 PM.

The Army Corps of Engineers sound the sirens when the generators need to supply electricity, which is almost every day. A fellow showed me how to use the Internet to view the generator schedule, but I found it too complex to learn when I was to fish for only a short time. He added that the Corps doesn't always follow their own schedule.

On the second day. I found that the fishers were catching huge trout about every half an hour while I was being skunked. It was not until twilight, when the water was placid, that I started catching trout using my Midwest technique of grasshoppers and fluttering caddis. The Rainbows I caught were 16 inches, and they put up great fights. These trout will always take you to the drag so you must set it correctly.

They were doing repairs on the hatchery there at the Table Rock dam. That is why the winding rocky chute from the river up the bank to the hatchery was devoid of water. One fisher told me that when it is filled with water, it is fun watching the trout swim up that chute to get to the hatchery where they think they can spawn.

There was a mystery to me. Huge trout sometimes jumped a foot out of the water. At first, I assumed they must be going after hatching caddis. However, since I never saw any caddis, I then expected it to be midges, no-see-ums. Still, I was trying to understand why a 22-inch trout would expend that much energy going after a midge. On the way out of Branson, I discovered a Bass Pro shop. I stopped to get a couple of items including a matching patch kit for my 30-year-old Red Ball light weight waders that I snagged on a thorn bush. (Not bad for a first tear.) In talking with a woman my age (very senior), she explained the mystery. She said they the trout were going after oxygen. Water released below a dam often lacks oxygen. The clerk said the Army Corps pumps oxygen into the water at the dam for the fish.

Also, on a side note, I drove by a fellow on a dirt road who had stopped and was leaning out of his car and looking up. I stopped to see if needed help. He said he was looking for black vultures. He said they kill small livestock. Sure enough, I noticed many signs stating that the state is attempting to eradicate them. I found online that the vultures are in the lower half of Missouri. Also, since they have poorer vision than turkey vultures, they fly above them and follow them to the ground to invite themselves when there is a meal. Looking at a climate change map we in Iowa won't need to worry about vultures for a decade or two. (You heard it here first.)

In conclusion: if you go then take a boat, consider a guide, and try Lake Taneycomo (and Branson) if you want to catch some huge trout. Also, you will feel at home if you are into country music (and it doesn't hurt if you are into conspiracy theories). Finally, Missouri, The Show Me State, could do more to show fishers how to find their rivers.

Frank

The Roll Cast and Roll Cast Pickup

by Marty McVey

In the last issue of the Flyline we discussed casting overhead, both on- and off-shoulder casting?¹ With both casts, we need a good back cast to set up our forward cast. However, there are times when fishing that we may not have room behind us to execute a proper back cast. For example, we may have trees, weeds, fences, high banks or any combination thereof behind us, restricting our back cast.

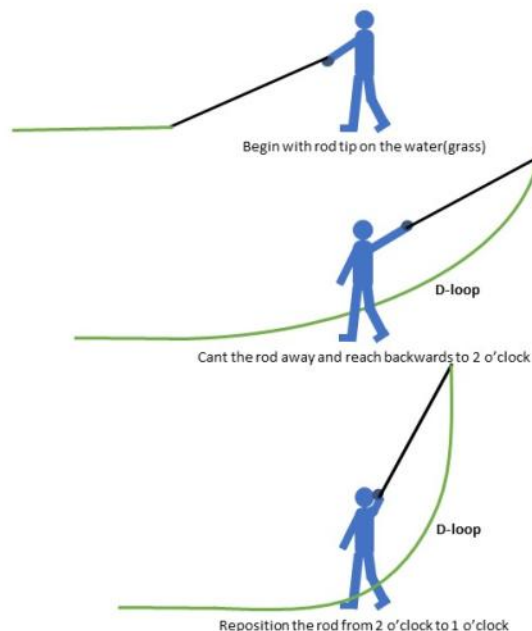
In those instances, we need to make some sort of adjustment to allow us to present our fly to the fish. In many cases, we can use a roll cast. A roll cast is a fly cast that does not require a back cast. The roll cast has other uses as well -- removing slack fly line that may have resulted from poor line management during the drift, and picking up a heavy fly or sinking line in order to recast.

Roll Cast Mechanics

For the purposes of this discussion, assume a right-handed caster making a 40' cast.

Step 1: Figure 1 illustrates the mechanics of Step 1. Whether you are on the water or using a roll cast tool on the grass, begin with the rod tip on the water. Cant your rod away from you a little to prevent the slack of the fly line from tangling with your rod tip. Then, slowly lift your rod up and back to create a D-loop on you casting side. The D-loop is the shape the rod makes with the fly line from the rod tip to the point where the fly line first touches the water. Stop the backward motion at 2 o'clock to make a nice big D-loop. Once you have created the D-loop, reposition your rod to 1:00 o'clock.

Figure 1. Setting up the D-loop for the Roll Cast.



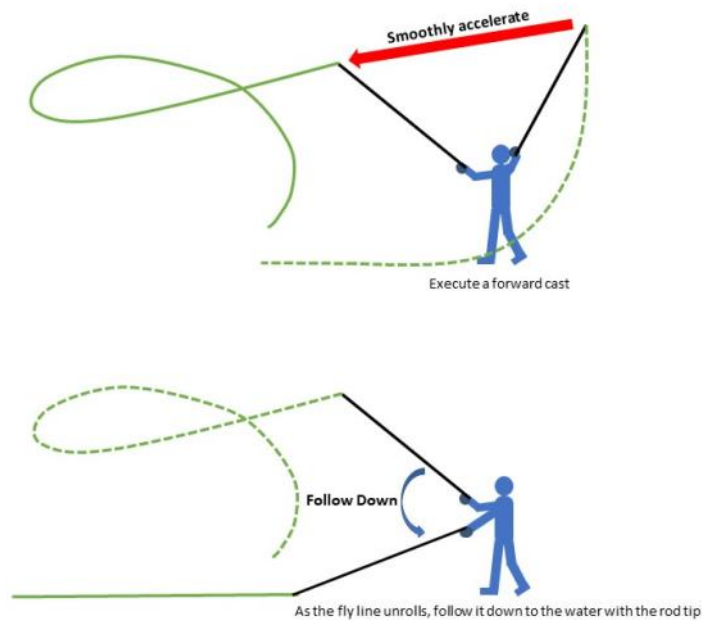
Step 2: Execute a forward cast from 1:00 o'clock to 10:30 o'clock – this is the same forward cast motion as we executed in the pickup and lay down and in our false cast. This is a slight downward trajectory which will deliver the fly towards your target on the water. The forward cast needs to be forceful, because the only fly line our cast is directly energizing is that of the D-loop. The energy we impart to the D-loop must be great enough to then propel the remainder of the line in our anchor (the anchor is the fly line on the water). As you execute the forward cast, direct your cast straight ahead or to the left. It must not be to the right of the anchor, because if you cast over the top of the anchor, the line will tangle when the loop is formed.

Step 3: As your fly line unrolls, follow it down to the water with your rod tip.

Figure 2 illustrates Steps 2 and 3 of the roll cast.

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Figure 2. Executing the forward cast of the Roll Cast.



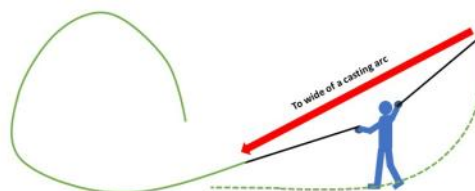
Common Mistakes when Roll Casting

When we execute the roll cast, we are looking for a narrow loop, very similar to our common overhead cast. Common faults on this cast are:

1. Not repositioning the rod from the 2 o'clock position to the 1 o'clock position during the D-loop formation step, and
2. Not stopping the forward cast at 10:30 o'clock. Many beginners don't stop until the rod is at 9 o'clock (or sometimes not until the rod tip touches the water).

In either case, the result is a widened casting arc and a rounded rod tip path. As the loop is formed and unrolls, it will be a large round loop that causes line and leader to pile up as it unrolls (See Figure 3).

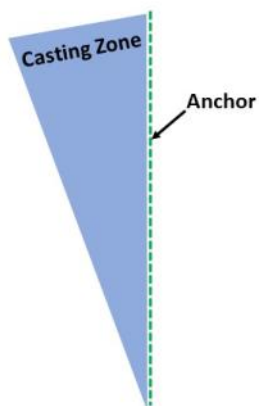
Figure 3. Too Wide of a Casting Arc and Wide Loop with a Rounded Top Leg.



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Another issue beginning casters have is crossing the anchor with the forward cast. For the most efficient roll cast, our rod tip path must travel parallel to our anchor and a foot or two on the inside (the caster's side) of the anchor (like a set of train tracks – the anchor is one track and our rod tip path is the other and they never cross). If we cast over our anchor, as the line is being picked up off of the water, it will tangle with the bottom leg of our loop, destroying the cast. Figure 4 shows the casting zone for a right handed roll cast.

Figure 4. Roll Cast Casting Zone Relative to the Anchor.



Moreover, when trying to cast to a target, our anchor needs to be lined up to our target in order to make an efficient cast to that target.

Roll Cast Pick Up

The roll cast pick up cast is an almost identical cast except we change the trajectory of our forward cast. With this cast we can make a roll cast and begin false casting before our line contacts the water. Note, this cast requires room for a back cast since we are transitioning into an overhead false cast. This cast is useful if you have not managed your line properly and have some slack on the water. You could simply strip all of the slack in and make a normal pick up and false cast shooting line until you can reach the target. Or, you could simply execute the Roll Cast Pick Up and pull all of the slack line out during the formation of the D-loop and begin false casting without stripping in all of the slack line.

Mechanics of the Roll Cast Pick Up Cast

Step 1: Whether you are on the water or using a roll cast tool on the grass, cant your rod away from you a little to prevent the slack of the D-loop from tangling with your rod tip. Then, slowly lift your rod up and back to create a D-loop on your casting side. Stop the backward motion at 2 o'clock. Once you have created the D-loop with the anchor at your feet, reposition your rod to 1:30 o'clock.

Step 2: Execute a forward cast from 1:30 o'clock to 11 o'clock. This is a slight upward trajectory which will cause the fly line to unroll forward and up rather than down to the water as in the normal roll cast. The forward cast needs to be forceful, since the only fly line our cast is directly impacting is that of the D-loop. The energy we impart to the D-loop will then propel the remainder of the line. Also, as you execute the forward cast, cast to the left of the fly line on the water (the anchor). If you cast over this fly line, the line will tangle.

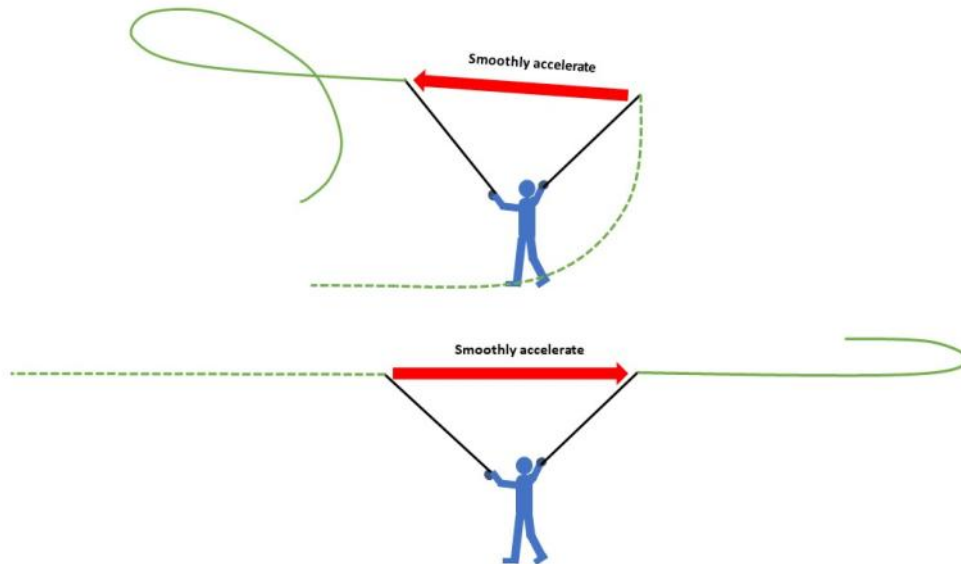
Step 3: As the fly line, not the leader, finishes unrolling, begin a normal back cast.

Step 4: Continue to false cast until you are ready to return your fly to water/grass. As your fly line unrolls, follow it down to the water with your rod tip.

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Figure 5 Illustrates the Roll Cast Pick Up.

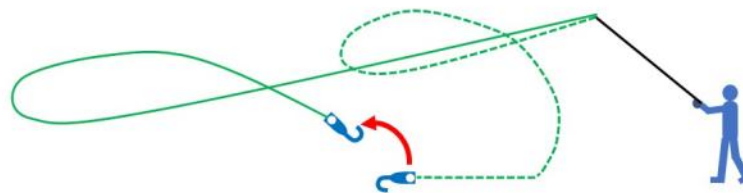
Figure 5. Roll Cast Pick Up



This cast is also very good at picking up our fly off of the water quietly. Ever notice sometimes when you try to pick up your dry fly, you sometimes hear a “pop” as it comes off of the water? Now exaggerate that to the loud “chug” of a large bass popper when you try to pick it off of the water. That large concave mouth of the popper the water not only makes a lot of noise but also creates quite a disturbance on top of the water.

With a roll cast pick up, the fly line peels these flies off of the water up and backwards, not allowing them to “pop” or “chug” like a normal pick up(see figure 6)

Figure 6. Popper Picked Up by the Roll Cast Pick Up



continued on next page

Summary

Add these two casts to your arsenal and open up new water for yourself -- water that some anglers will not be able to fish, because there's no room for a back cast. These casts will also make you more efficient at removing slack from your system and stealthier on the water by reducing the amount of noise you make.

Improve your casting and catch more fish.

Acknowledgments

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Marty



Editor's Note: Here is Marty at our 2023 HFFA Annual Meeting & Show in Ankeny.
Marty is a FFI certified casting instructor.

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