

The Flyline

The Newsletter of the Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association

September 2024



"West Virginia Rainbow.....Almost Heaven" Third Place in 2024 HFFA Show Photo Contest By Dale Tayloe

Save the Dates, February 21, 22, 23, 2025 HFFA Annual Meeting and Show Hyatt Regency Hotel, Coralville, Iowa



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The President's Hatch

The weather is finally cooling off and the fish are happy! We've had great fishing across the state, for both warm and cold-water anglers. Many of you have sent me photos of large trout, smallmouth bass, and odd ball species over the last few months. It is always great to see members out on the water. My fishing has been reduced thanks to an employment change, so I am living vicariously through you all. I've also been working to rebuild a 1960's Naden aluminum boat that belonged to my great grandfather. This project has further reduced fishing time, but it will be well worth the investment to see a family heirloom properly restored. Hopefully, it will be extra fishy once completed!

Congratulations to all the winners from this year's fly-tying contest at the lowa State Fair. The photos I received showed off some great patterns and highlighted exceptional tyers. Thanks to the CIFF chapter for coordinating the event once again. Extra thanks to Larry Murphy for his organization of the event plus HFFA members Paul Domoto, Keith Wunder, and Dave Rosset for judging the contest. I know there were many folks behind the scenes that also assisted. We appreciate you and thank you for your hard work.

As we further approach the 2025 spring show, please remember to volunteer in assisting with the event. Free time is difficult to come by and we understand that, but the Quad Cities Chapter cannot plan



Davis Horton

and execute the event solo. Dates for the show have been released well ahead of time, so everyone can have a clear schedule. We've had a difficult time acquiring volunteers at the last two shows. Please take the time to reach out to Kate Lodge or Dave Jones to sign up. This year's show is going to be better than ever! Now is also the time to reserve a table space if you'd like to be a vendor at the show. Tables sell quickly and space is limited. If you know of a group or company that may want to reserve a table, please have them reach out to the event organizers listed above. There will also be a need

for fly tyers, silent auction donations, and banquet raffle items. Contact organizers to also assist with these show essentials.

I've received a few requests from driftless residents to also pass along the fact that brown and brook trout spawning seasons are quickly approaching. Please be on the lookout for redds, or locations where female fish deposit their eggs. Redds will be easily identifiable by extremely clean gravel bottoms. The rocks often appear solid white because of how clean they are. Sometimes, the sorted gravel areas are small, but many of our healthier streams have redds that can be many yards long. It is important to not wade fish in areas where redds are present because foot traffic can destroy or improperly disperse eggs. This is detrimental to many of our driftless fisheries and extra precautions should be taken to improve wild trout survivability. All fall, anglers should be on the lookout for redds. Do your best to fish from the shore and don't cast to spawning fish. Let the females spawn out and finish egg laving before targeting the more obvious holding areas.

Davis

Judges for the Iowa State Fair Fly Tying Competition Left to Right: Paul Domoto, Dave Rosset & Keith Wunder





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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Ronda Long Work Day Coordinator Ollie, IA rondalong67@yahoo.com

Don Otto, HFFA Flyline Editor Knoxville, IA hawkeyeflyfisher@gmail.com

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing

Meets 1st & 3rd Tuesday of Month 7 to 9 pm Paralyzed Veterans of America Iowa Chapter 7025 Hickman Road Ste #1 Urbandale, IA Contact: Dale Sanders iaflyfisher@outlook.com

Quad Cities Chapter

Meets 3rd Thursday Every Month 6:00 pm to 8+ Riverdale Town Hall 310 Manor Dr. Riverdale, Iowa Contact: John Channon ic.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 I.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

katelodge25@gmail.com willacamp@gmail.com

Trout Unlimited Spring Creeks Chapter

3rd Thursday September - May Sally's in Springville, IA, 7 pm Ray Thys – President Check Their Facebook www.facebook.com/springcreekstu

> Iowa's Coldwater Conservancy

Tom Murray jandtmurray@gmail.com

Event Calendar

September 2024

September 7

Brule River Spey Day

Lake Superior Steelhead Assn. Brule river@ McNeil House Brule, WI www.steelheaders.org

September 9 - 14

Iowa Women Fly fishers

Spearfish, South Dakota Outing Kate Lodge katelodge25@gmail.com

September 14

Iowa Driftless Classic Trout Fishing tournament

Decorah Fish Hatchery 8 am to 4 pm www.iowadriftlessclassic.com

September 28

HFFA/IDNR Work Day

Manchester Fish Hatchery 8 am to 12 noon Ronda Long ronda67@yahoo.com

October 2024

October 4 - 6

2024 Drifless Flyathon

Decorah, Iowa flyathon@driftlessonthefly.com runingrivers.org May 3rd Signup Limited

October 4 - 6

2024 Casting for Recovery

Camp Ewalu's Stone Retreat Center Strawberry Point, IA 52076 **Must Register**

norrisl@ihaonline.org

October 7 - 13

FFI - Women Connect 2024 Rendevous

Whalen, MN Registration on line March 2024

November 2024

December 2024

January 2025

February 2025

February 21-23

HFFA Annual Fly Fishing Show

Hyatt Regency Coralville 300 E. 9th Coralville, IA 52241 Information at Hawkeyeflyfishing.com

February 21 - 23

Mid-Iowa Bass Masters Swap Meet & Boat Show

4-H Building State Fairgrounds Des Moines, IA www.midiowabassmasters.com

March 2025

March 21 - 23

Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo

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

March 29

Fly Tyers Rendezvous

Spring Creeks TU Eagles Club, Monticello, IA Facebook.com/springcreekstu March 27 - 29

Sowbug Roundup

North Arkansas Fly Fishers Mountain Home, AR www.sowbugroundup.org

March?

Cornhusker Fly Fishers Spring Fling

Kiewit Lodge Mahoney State Park Ashland, NE

April 2025

May 2025

Mav?

HFFA Bluegill Outing

Lake Wapello Drakesville, IA Ronda Long rondalong67@yahool.com

June 2025

Wisconsin Women's Fly Fishing Clinics
June ? Intermediate

June ? Beginner

Need to preregister! Avalanche, WI Wisconsinwomenflyfishing@gmail.com

July 2025

August 2025

September 2025

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

2024 Iowa State Fair Fly Tying Competition Results by Larry Murphy

Junior Division
Dry Fly Category

1st Place Maverick Mendick Tiger Shark Moulton

Wet Fly/Nymph

1st PlaceLeland David#14 Mallard FlankSioux City2nd PlaceCruz CooroughIn BlueNorth Liberty3rd PlaceJacob McVeySparkle NymphAnkeny

Open Category

1st PlaceLeland David#4 MinnowSioux City2nd PlaceJacob McVeyGold NymphAnkeny3rd PlaceMarky MendickSuper FlyMoulton

Streamer Category

Adult Division

Dry Fly Category

1st PlaceMike SchraderWally Wing SpinnerDes Moines2nd PlaceNick HayesAdams IrrirestableCedar Rapids3rd PlaceAndy HunsingerPiccary Dry FlyPella

Wet Fly/Nymph Category

1st PlaceMike SchraderWoven Caddis LarvaDes Moines2nd PlaceMark McConnellKris Kringle Copper JohnPella3rd PlaceAndy HunsingerMylar PrincePella

Open Category

1st PlaceNick HayesPheasant Back CrawCedar Rapids2nd PlaceTom PolehnaPeachyCedar Rapids3rd PlaceMark McConnellLittle Golden StoneflyPella

Streamer Category

1st PlaceNick HayesMurdich MinnowCedar Rapids2nd PlaceKevin McVeySmallmouth SpeyAnkeny3rd PlaceAndy HunsingerBaby BluesPella

Expert Division
Dry Fly Category

1st PlaceMike JacobsArrick's AntMonticello2nd PlaceJeff MooreRoyal HumpyCedar Rapids3rd PlaceMark SmothersMosquitoPeosta

Wet Fly/Nymph Category

1st PlaceJeff MooreAdam'sCedar Rapids2nd PlaceCJ KlenskeRed Neck Pleasant TailDubuque3rd PlaceMark Smothers10A MayPeosta

Open Category

1st Place Jeff Moore Whitlock's Gierbubble Bug Cedar Rapids
2nd Place CJ Klenske Kamikaze Sculpin Dubuque
3rd Place Mike Jacobs Downpressor Monticello

Streamer Category

1st PlaceJeff MooreGray GhostCedar Rapids2nd PlaceMark SmothersBig Hole DemonPeosta3rd PlaceMike Jacobs3M MinnowMonticello

A Treasure of Rainbows at 10,000 Feet

By Mike Jacobs

Third Place Essay in 2024 HFFA Show Essay Contest

Several years ago a friend told me about a lake in Colorado I needed to check out. Trap Lake is located in a neat little valley between the Comanche Peak Forest and the Neota Wilderness, not far from Cameron Pass. The lake itself sits at nearly 10,000 feet with several of the nearby mountain peaks touching the clouds at 11,000 feet.

I attempted to get to Trap Lake on 3 previous trips to the area but I'd been turned away each time. The first time I wasn't able to get to the lake because the long, winding forest service road that meanders back to the lake was closed for repairs. On another trip we were there as heavy rain pounded the Poudre Canyon and the surrounding area. Parts of Highway 14 were washed away in the flooding and didn't allow me a way back to the lake. Most recently the Cameron Peak forest fire closed off Long Draw road, the only forest service road into the area. This year the stars finally aligned and we were able to fish the lake.

Trap Lake is a shallow, natural lake, fed by Trap Creek. I have learned that the lake has a deep spot, nearly 16 feet deep, however most of the lake is shallow with abundant weed beds. The Rainbow trout cruise near the weed beds looking for an easy meal. We fished around the lake in many places, but the best spots are on the east side and the south side at the base of the Talus slope. The north side fishes well too but it's very difficult wading out in the silt bottom.

Each day that we fished Trap we had to cast through 30-50 mph wind out of the west. Even with the high winds we saw fish rising regularly.

We fished Trap on 3 occasions. When we fished there we tried different flies and fishing techniques. One of our favorite fishing techniques was to cast our visible dry fly out as far as we could and then just let it bob in the waves. We used the Tim's Beetle size 10, Hippie Stomper size 8, Parachute Adams #14, Humpies #14, and Stimulators #12. The small flies, though buoyant enough, were difficult to see because of the wind and waves.

Often, the fish would find the fly and slurp it in. On many occasions, if you were really fortunate, you'd notice a pod of 4 or 5 risers out in front of you. A quick cast to their general feeding area almost always brought a strike and hookup. We caught many fish subsurface too, using flies like the Champion and Larson Ultimate (a friends creation). Rigged about 2 feet below a strike indicator these flies were deadly. Another subsurface fly that worked well is a Trout jig (essentially a black or brown Wooly Bugger tied on a 1/80 oz. jig head. The jig head is painted white).

For this kind of lake fishing, a 9 foot 5 or 6 weight rod is ideal for slicing through the wind and reaching out farther. This weight of rod easily handles some of the bigger fish up to 16". Nine foot, 4X leaders are the ticket to hookups and easily turn over the bigger dry flies. Most of the fish you'll catch will be 10 to 14 inches, although we did see some bigger fish cruising the shallows but we couldn't entice them with our flies.

If you get the opportunity to fish in the area surrounding Walden, CO, Trap Lake is but one of many fishing spots not far away. Near Trap Lake you'll also want to check out Joe Wright Reservoir for Arctic Grayling, Zimmerman Lake for Greenback Cutthroat and the many rivers (upper North Platte, Michigan river) and smaller tributary streams teeming with trout.

Mike

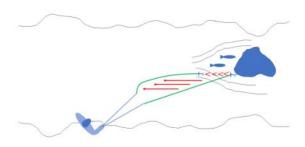


Six Slack Line Casts: The Pile Cast by Marty McVey

We have spent the first set of articles learning how to produce an efficient cast – a cast that delivers our fly to our target with the least amount of effort. These casts result in our fly line laying on the water in a straight line all the way from our rod tip to our fly. However, when fishing, it's not always desirable for our fly line to be straight to the fly.

Figure 1 shows a potentially difficult casting situation when fishing. In this situation, there is a boulder partially out of the water midstream that likely holds fish behind it. The current going around the boulder creates a soft spot in the water behind the boulder where fish can sit without exerting a lot of energy. Assume we make an efficient overhead cast into the soft spot with our fly line landing on the water straight from our rod tip to the fly. Almost immediately, the current between us and our fly, pulls our fly line downstream creating a belly in our line which pulls our fly out of the soft water behind the boulder, creating a small V-shaped wake behind our fly. To the fish, there is nothing natural about our fly being pulled down stream, and therefore, the fish ignore our fly, or worse, are put down for some period of time.

Figure 1. Using an efficient overhead cast to fish a pocket behind a boulder.



To effectively fish situations like the above, we need to cast our line in a way that incorporates some slack into our line and/or leader to compensate for differing currents, allowing our fly to drift drag free longer.

The Pile Cast

The pile cast, is a fly cast that delivers our fly to its target where the fly line and/or leader lands on the water in a series of wavy S-shapes rather than straight to the fly. The slack layout of our line and leader compensate for differing current speeds. This increases the time and/or length of our drag free drift, because the current must first pull most if not all of the S-shaped waves out of our fly line before impacting our fly. This is a great cast for differing stream currents, pocket water and feeding dry flies downstream.

There different ways to execute a pile cast. We will discuss the casting mechanics for two methods.

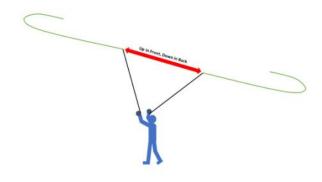
Pile cast with an upward trajectory forward cast

Set up: Fly line laid out straight out from rod tip to fly.

Step 1: Begin by false casting in a near vertical plane. Make sure that there is no slack in your line before the initial pick up.

Step 2: When ready, begin elevating your forward cast. Your casting trajectory should be UP on the forward cast and DOWN on the back cast (see figure 1). Do not elevate so much that you tick the ground/water on the back cast. Also, be careful not to elevate too quickly, narrowing your casting arc too much and creating a tailing loop.

Figure 2. Trajectory for executing a pile cast.

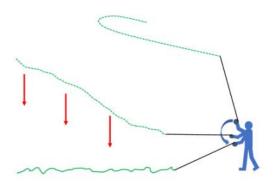


Step 3: Once you've reached the proper trajectory, execute a hard stop on the final delivery cast. At this point, the fly line will unroll upwards. As the fly line begins to fall, follow the fly line down w/ your rod tip. Because of your upward trajectory and air resistance, the fly line will "pile" on the ground as it falls. This introduces slack into the line as it lands on the water's surface in the form of numerous "S" shapes.

Step 4: Follow the line to the water(or ground) with your rod tip.

Figure 3 shows the final execution of the pile cast and the fly lines corresponding wavy layout.

Figure 3. Final phase of the pile cast as the line falls to the water.



Pile cast using a wide loop with a rounded top leg

Another way we can accomplish a similar result is by casting a wide loop.

Set up: Assume the same beginning set up as before.

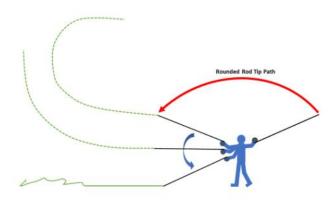
Step 1: Begin by false casting in the vertical plane. Make sure that there is no slack in your line for the initial pick up. Also, make sure the initial pick up has a nice tight loop with a straight top leg.

Step 3: When you are ready to deliver your fly and while the line is unrolling behind, use your wrist to rotate the rod tip from the 1 o'clock stop position back to the 2:00 o'clock position (rotational drift). This will widen you casting arc.

Step 4: Once the fly line straightens behind, execute a forward cast from 2:00 o'clock to 9:30 o'clock. Create a rainbow shaped rod tip path using a lot of wrist, resulting in a wide loop with a rounded top leg.

Step 6: As the fly line unrolls and begins to fall, follow the line down to the water(ground) with the rod tip. If executed properly, the line will not unroll straight, but wavy on the water (see Figure 4).

Figure 4. Final phase of a pile cast using a loop with a rounded top leg.



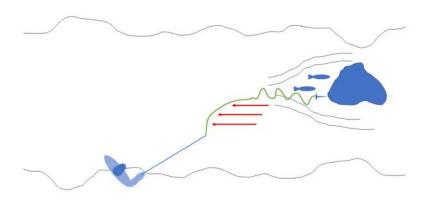
Both of these casts are useful in placing slack fly line on the water which allows the fly to drift naturally on the water's surface until the all of the slack line is pulled out and the line becomes tight.

The biggest challenge to executing these 2 casts is the wind. With the pile casts created by a forward cast with an upward trajectory, the delivery cast falls from over 13' to the ground. That is a long distance for the wind to blow your fly off target.

Similarly, the pile cast created by a wide loop with a rounded top leg is wind resistant, meaning that it will be blown easily off target again on delivery if it unrolls at all. Thus, both casts require very low wind conditions to be effective.

Figure 5 takes us back to our initial boulder discussion. In this scenario, rather than make an efficient overhead cast to soft water behind the boulder, we make a pile cast. Again, our fly lands in the soft water, but now our fly line and leader have slack built in. Now, as the current acts on our fly line, it must pull all of the slack line tight before pulling on our fly, buying our fly some precious time to drift naturally in the soft water behind the boulder. It may only be a couple seconds, but that may be all it takes to entice a strike.

Figure 5. Using pile cast to fish a pocket behind a boulder.



Summary

Casting across differing current speeds can make our fly drag almost instantly. Slack line casts, like the pile cast, are one way we can delay the impact of the river's current on our fly, increasing the amount of time our fly can drift drag free.

In the next article, we will discuss another slack line cast, the curve cast.

Improve your casting, catch more fish.

Acknowledgments

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

Marty

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- 22. Borger, G Where The Trout Are
- Carp On The Flats Fly Fishing Video Mag Vol 57
- 24. Clemens, D Building Your Own Rod
- 25. Dahlberg, L Fly Fishing for Pike
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- 27. Dennis, J Fly Tying Basics
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- 30. Ellis. J Trout Tactics for Panfish
- 31. 3M fly Fishing Made Easy Featuring Bass, Panfish & Trout
- 32. 3M Fly Fishing for Pike
- 33. 3M Fly fishing for Trout G. Borger
- 34. 3M Tying Trout Flies
- 35. Fly Rodders Guide to Pike Smith & Reynolds
- 36. Gunnison River Fly Fishing Mag Video Vol 31
- 37. HFFA 1985 Workday & Meeting
- 38. Hafele, R Anatomy of a Stream
- 39. Harrop, J Tying With Turkey
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- Tying Saltwater Flies with J .Nix Vol 1
- Tying Saltwater Flies with J. Nix Vol 2
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- 65. Michigan Salmon & Steelhead Flies
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- 80. TU The Way of the Trout
- 81. Whitlock, D LL Bean Introduction to Fly Fishing
- 82. Whitlock, D Fly Fishing for Bass
- 83. Whitlock, D Originals Vol 1
- 84. Whitlock, D Originals Vol 2
- 85. Whitlock, D Originals Vol 386. Whitlock, D Originals Vol 4
- 87. KWWL French Creek News Clip

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coonriverdog69@gmail.com (Editors Note - Contact Tim to borrow and return DVD's)

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