



# The *Flyline*

The Newsletter of the Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association

April 2025



“Giving the Fish a Break at Ouzel Lake” Wild Basin, RMNP  
First Place in HFFA Show Photo contest  
By Dale Tayloe

**2026 HFFA 50th Anniversary Annual Meeting & Show**  
**Save the Dates February 27th, 28th & March 1st, 2026**



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# The President's Hatch

## Thank you to

Everyone who made the annual show a success. Special thanks to the 2025 show committee for all the hours, sweat, and ownership. The annual show was a great professionally produced product on many levels.

Show committee members: Ronda Long, Michael Stallsmith, Patrick Burns, John & Cheryl Channon, Dave Jones, John Miller, Kate Lodge, and Rob Kundert.

Members who also supported the show in background capacity: Ron Stahlberg, Keith Wunder, and Don Otto.

I also want to personally thank Davis Horton one more time for his leadership over the past few years. Davis's passion for fly-fishing, our fish, and fisheries in Iowa is contagious. Not only is he a dictionary of fishing knowledge, but anyone can tell he has genuine reverence for our fisheries in Iowa.

## Value of shows and club events

I believe shows and club events are undervalued in the general fishing public. Books and online content like Orvis Learning Center have their place, but being solely a digital or print consumer has limitations to in-person information at times. I can learn more on a technique by not only time on the water or on a vise, but also interaction and dialogue with other fly fishers on the topic, especially if I must demonstrate or debate it. Sometimes fishing is different, or gear adds more value where the online content was produced than the local waters. Aquatic insects or bait fish size, color, and behavior can differ greatly on different watersheds as well hence so does flies and approach.

The schedule of presentations at the annual show is a buffet of targeted information around fly fishing and fly tying, which has an impact on every experience level. Personally, not only do I learn something, but also each year the annual show and club events motivate me to do little things to improve my time on the water and try something new. Shows and club events have also given me countless contacts and friendships and a connection to a community. Without in-person gatherings with fly fishers, there is little to no local fly-fishing community.

## Improve time on water:

Get organized - George Daniels and Charlie Craven's fly boxes and packs



Kirk Rosenow

looked so organized. My fly-fishing packs and boxes look a little chaotic right now. Finding a half-eaten power bar in one fly pack from October is not a good sign. I started taming chaos last week.

Become a better caster - At shows and club events, presentations have reminded me I could improve my casting for certain techniques. Marty McVey, at a previous club event, gave us some drills to do and I have on my list to do them.

Plan trips to new streams - After each show I get new ideas for locations to try and motivation to block off time to fish them. This year John van Vliet had some beautiful photos in his Driftless presentation, which motivated me to pull out his book and bring up TroutRoutes. I took a virtual software road trip through the Driftless marking locations and creating cheat sheets for new streams to explore.

Challenge your assumptions and fly box - Looking through a guide's fly box at a club event last year, I remembered my dedicated wiper fly box had flies generally larger and solid white whereas the fly box in front me had more color and smaller patterns. The guide recommended observing the hues of a shad in the water next time you see a dead shad floating in the water. I added some color to the sea of white in my wiper fly box and downsized.

## Learn or try something new:

Tie new patterns - This year after seeing some creative fly patterns in the fly-tying room, I wrote a list of new patterns I want to try and placed next to my vice.

Try a new hatch - Last year I had a conversation started by a club member

that they were fishing the mulberry hatch for carp so decided to give it a try. I read an article online a while back on fishing the mulberry hatch for carp. The online content got me interested, but personal conversation got me out there for an enjoyable afternoon.

Try new water in your own backyard - Seeing some of the warm water presentations by local guides remind me you don't have to drive to a gold medal trout stream to have a good day of fly fishing. There are likely local fisheries you haven't tried or have ignored for the past decade. That semi-muddy "catfish" river in the metro does have some nice small-mouth, so find some rock and strip a crayfish fly thirty minutes from your house.

Try new techniques or techniques for new species - Try tight line nymphing for not only trout, but give it a try for walleye.

## Friends and fly fishing community in Iowa

Having a local fly-fishing community is worth the effort. - I can't count the number of acquaintances and friends I have picked up from going to shows and club events. In the past few years, I have run into members both in the Driftless as well as around the metro on streams and stopped for a chat. Not only did I pick up good information from the streamside talks but it also made the trip more enjoyable to see a friendly face. Without asking, I have had favorite flies given to me by other members when they heard I had a trip planned, location advice on good streams to try, and numerous unsponsored gear recommendations.

I hope our annual show and club events improve the quality of time on the water for you, create friendships, and get you to try new techniques and waters in 2025. If new to Iowa or HFFA, embrace the fly-fishing community and fisheries in Iowa. There are a lot of great people and water.

*Kirk*

# Contacts & Meetings

## 2025 Board of Directors

**Kirk Rosenow, President**  
Waukee, Iowa  
kcrosenow@gmail.com

**Ron Stahlberg, Vice President**  
Swisher, IA  
flyfish@southslope.net

**Dale Tayloe, Secretary**  
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**Ronda Long, Treasurer**  
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rondalong67@gmail.com

**Davis Horton, Past President**  
Colo, Iowa  
dhorton@hardincountyia.gov

**Patrick Burns, Director**  
Dubuque IA  
parickburns14@gmail.com

**Marty McVey, Director**  
Boone, IA  
martymcveyflyfishing@gmail.com

**Rob Kundert, Director**  
Dubuque, IA  
robbiek244@gmail.com

**Martin Acerbo, Director**  
Des Moines, IA  
macerbo@iastate.edu

**Quad Cities, Director**  
Vacant

**Cameron Aker  
Conservation Chair**  
Ames, IA  
cameronaker87@gmail.com

**Work Day Coordinator**  
Vacant

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

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### Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing

Meets 1st & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

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### Quad Cities Chapter

Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday Every Month  
6:00 pm to 8+  
Riverdale Town Hall  
310 Manor Dr.  
Riverdale, Iowa  
Contact: John Channon  
jc.channon@mchsi.com

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### Dubuque Fly Fishers

Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday 6:00 pm  
September to May  
Swiss Valley Nature Center  
13606 Swiss Valley Rd., Dubuque,  
IA  
Contact: Rob Kundert  
robbiek244@gmail.com  
facebook.com/dubuqueflyfishers

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### Central Iowa Fly Fishers

Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday 9:00 am  
September to May  
Our Lady's Immaculate Heart  
Church  
510 East 1<sup>st</sup> St., Ankeny, IA  
Contact: Kirk Rosenow  
kcrosenow@gmail.com

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### Iowa City Contact

Contact: Ryan Maas  
maas\_ryan@yahoo.com

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### Cedar Rapids Contact

Contact: Lance Zook  
l.a.zook@mchsi.com

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### 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  
Jay Leach - President  
president@tu-northbear.org

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### 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

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### 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

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### Trout Unlimited

**Spring Creeks Chapter**  
3rd Thursday September - May  
Location To Be Announced  
Ray Thys – President  
Check Their Facebook  
www.facebook.com/springcreekstu

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### Iowa's Coldwater

**Conservancy**  
Tom Murray  
jandtmurray@gmail.com

# Event Calendar

<p><b><u>April 2025</u></b></p> <p><b><u>May 2025</u></b></p> <p>May 16 - 18 <b>Bluegill Outing</b> Lake Wapello Drakesville, IA</p> <p>May 31 - June 1 <b>Fly Tying &amp; Fly Fishing Workshop</b> Story County Conservation &amp; Andy's Armory and Adventure Nevada, Iowa Registration at andysaa.com</p> <p><b><u>June 2025</u></b></p> <p><b>Wisconsin Women's Fly Fishing Clinics</b> June 11 - 13 Intermediate June 13 - 15 Beginner Need to preregister! Avalanche, WI Wisconsinwomenflyfishing@gmail.com</p> <p><b><u>July 2025</u></b></p> <p><b>Iowa State Fair Fly Tying Competition</b> Deadline for Fly Submission PO Box 57130 Des Moines, Iowa, 50317</p> <p><b><u>August 2025</u></b></p> <p><b><u>September 2025</u></b></p> <p>September 6 <b>Brule River Spey Day</b> Lake Superior Steelhead Assn. Brule river@ McNeil House Brule, WI www.steelheaders.org</p>	<p>September ? <b>Iowa Driftless Classic Trout Fishing Tournament</b> Decorah Fish Hatchery 8 am to 4 pm www.iowadriftlessclassic.com</p> <p>September ? <b>HFFA/IDNR Work Day</b> Manchester Fish Hatchery 8 am to 12 noon Ronda Long ronda67@yahoo.com</p> <p>September 18 - 20 <b>Northern Rodmakers Gathering 8th Annual</b> West Fork Sports Club Avalanche, Wisconsin northernrodmakers.com</p> <p>September 26 - 27 <b>Fly Fishers International Fly Fest</b> Grand Rapids, Michigan flyfishersinternational.org</p> <p><b><u>October 2025</u></b></p> <p>October 3 - 5 <b>2025 Casting for Recovery</b> Camp Ewalu's Stone Retreat Center Strawberry Point, IA 52076 <b>Must Register</b> norrisl@ihaonline.org</p> <p>October 6 - 12 <b>FFI - Women Connect 2025 Rendezvous</b> Whalen, MN Registration on line March 2025</p> <p><b><u>November 2025</u></b></p> <p><b><u>December 2025</u></b></p> <p><b><u>January 2026</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>February 2026</u></b></p> <p>February 20 - 22 <b>Mid-Iowa Bass Masters Swap Meet &amp; Boat Show</b> 4-H Building State Fairgrounds Des Moines, IA www.midiowabassmasters.com</p> <p>February 27 - 28, March 1 <b>HFFA Annual Fly Fishing Show</b> Hilton Garden Inn Cedar Rapids, Iowa Mike Jacobs hawkeyeflytyer@yahoo.com</p> <p><b><u>March 2026</u></b></p> <p>March ? <b>Fly Fishing Film Tour</b> 10 am to 2 pm Varsity Cinema, Des Moines North Bear TU jjleach27@gmail.com</p> <p>March ? <b>Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo</b> Hamline University St. Paul, MN info@greatwatersflyexpo.com</p> <p>March ? <b>Fly Tyers Rendezvous</b> Spring Creeks TU Eagles Club, Monticello, IA Facebook.com/springcreekstu</p> <p>March ? <b>Sowbug Roundup</b> North Arkansas Fly Fishers Mountain Home, AR www.sowbugroundup.org</p> <p>March ? <b>Cornhusker Fly Fishers Spring Fling</b> tlgoodwater@gmail.com</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 December 12, 2024 Virtual - Zoom**

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

Attendees: Davis Horton, John Miller, Dave Jones, Kate Lodge, Rob Kundert, Martin Acerbo, Kirk Rosenow, Keith Wunder, Dale Tayloe, Ronda Long, Don Otto

- Welcome from Davis Horton
- Treasurer report: Keith W. reported current balances for the checking account and CD. Club liability insurance is currently paid and FFI annual dues has been paid for 2025. Show registrations are starting to trickle in. A motion was made and unanimously approved to renew a CD that will mature in February.

- **Bur Oak Creek Project**

A funding request of \$1,000 was received from Cameron Acker, Trout Unlimited Iowa Driftless Outreach Coordinator, to assist with the land acquisition cost for Bur Oak Creek trout stream. After further discussion, a motion was made and unanimously approved to fund \$1,000 in support of the land acquisition near Bur Oak Creek.

- **Award Nominations**

Discussions were held regarding the President's, Outstanding Member and Conservation Awards to be presented at the 2025 show banquet.

- **2025 Show Report**

The show committee shared show plans regarding website content, registration, bucket raffles, grand prize rod & reel raffle, rod raffles, live auction, and signups for vendors and fly tyers.

**Director Elections for 2025**

- The following slate of officer and director positions were reviewed and will be nominated for election at the annual business meeting to be held at the 2025 show;

President – Kirk Rosenow

Past President – Davis Horton

Secretary – Dale Tayloe

Treasurer – Ronda Long

Vice President – Ron Stahlberg

Dubuque representative – Patrick Burns

Quad City representative – open

At large 1 – Rob Kundert

At large 2 – Open

- A motion to adjourn the meeting was unanimously approved at 1:20 PM

Meeting minutes submitted by Dave Jones, December 14, 2024

# HFFA Business Report

Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association Annual Meeting Minutes (2/22/25)  
Location: Hyatt Regency Coralville, IA

Meeting called to order at 12:29pm

- President Davis Horton welcomed everyone to the 2025 annual show and meeting.

- **Election of Officers:**

Officers for 2024-2025 are as follows:

President: Davis Horton  
Past President: John Miller  
Secretary: Dave Jones  
Treasurer: Keith Wunder  
Vice President: Ron Stahlberg  
Quad Cities Director: Kate Lodge  
Central Iowa Director: Martin Acerbo  
Dubuque Director: Rob Kundert  
Director at Large: Dale Tayloe  
Conservation Chair: Vacant

Nominees for 2025-2026 as follows:

President: Kirk Rosenow  
Past President: Davis Horton  
Secretary: Dale Tayloe  
Treasurer: Ronda Long  
Vice President: Ron Stahlberg  
Dubuque Representative: Patrick Burns  
At Large Representative: Rob Kundert  
Quad Cities Representative: Vacant  
At large Representative: Vacant  
Conservation Chair: Vacant

- The slate of new officer nominees for 2025-2026 was reviewed.
- Motion by Otto to add Marty McVey as At Large Representative. Second by Rosenow. Motion carried.
- Motion by Otto to install the group of nominees as amended. Second by Wunder. Motion carried.
- Newly elected President Kirk Rosenow addressed the members. Kirk thanked Davis for his service as president and for his leadership. Kirk also thanked the current show committee for a great show. Kirk discussed a desire to grow HFFA membership as well as the need for getting more youth in the organization.

- **Local Club Reports:**

For local club updates Kirk reviewed attendance and programs for regular meetings the past year for Central Iowa Fly Fishers and John Miller discussed the status of the Dubuque club. The Dubuque members are still meeting regularly.

- **New Business:**

A proposal was brought forward to amend the HFFA Bylaws or submit as HFFA policy not to schedule future Annual Meetings on the last full weekend of February since this conflicts with a regular recurring major outreach event in Central Iowa. The board will review the proposal at an upcoming board meeting and provide a recommendation.

Annual shows for the next two years were discussed. The 2026 show will be organized by the Cedar Rapids club. Mike Jacobs announced the location of the 2026 show as the Hilton Garden Inn in Cedar Rapids on 27-28 February with the possibility of it extending to include 1 March. The 2027 show will be organized by the Central Iowa Fly Fishers.

Other topics were discussed including reviewing the current members social media access and the intent with social media.

- **Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn by Wunder at approximately 1:15pm. Second by Maas. Motion carried.

Meeting minutes submitted by Dale Tayloe, February 27, 2025

# *Fly Tying Competition at 2025 Iowa State Fair*

*by James Barnhart*

**The Iowa State Fair will be held August 7 through August 17, 2025.** 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 6<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. in the DNR Building.

**Fly entries need to be received at the Fair Administration post box by July 31, 2025.**

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, 2025.** 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.**



# *“Pay Attention to What’s Going on Around You”*

*by Dale Tayloe*

*First Place Essay at the 2025 HFFA Annual Meeting & Show*

“Pay attention to what’s going on around you!” No matter what I did growing up, dad’s instruction was always the same. You see, whether he was working, driving, hunting, or fishing, Dad was all about 1) taking note of any trouble developing on the horizon or 2) seizing any opportunity that arose while doing whatever he was doing. In life, I have benefited from his training many times. When I miss seeing trouble developing or miss an opportunity, I am reminded of his words.

One day late last March, my friend George and I planned to go to one of our favorite NE Iowa trout streams. Just before leaving my house, I remembered I had not cleaned the dirt and bugs off the windshield. It was quite a mess after an early spring trip to Missouri a few days prior. I knew we would be looking for turkeys on our way north and a clear view would be appreciated. Cleaning the windshield made me late picking up George, but it was worth it. We enjoyed seeing several turkeys as we had hoped. A clean windshield was a good thing.

George started catching rising fish as soon as we arrived at the stream. I struggled, catching nothing.....no strikes; no near misses; no nibbles; no nothing. There was no interest in my caddis, blue wing olive, wooly bugger, pheasant tail nymph, or anything else I presented. George continued catching fish left and right. He was some distance away and I could barely hear over the babbling brook and through the stiff breeze when he called out. I thought he said, “black midge.....’bout a Size 22.” I looked in my fly box and found a fly meeting that description. I had carried that fly in the box a long time thinking I’d use it someday out west. I tied it on and immediately started landing fish. In the next 3 hours or so, I caught twenty-five browns and rainbows. George caught more than me but lost count. So many fish were rising at times, the water looked as if it was at a slow boil. Never had I caught as many fish in one day! Never had I caught so many fish within sight of the truck!

After more than sixty fish, we decided to head home. Arriving at the truck, dad’s words hit me like a brick.....What I cleaned off the windshield earlier that morning consisted of a little spring road grime and HUNDREDS OF LITTLE BLACK BUGS, REMARKABLY, ABOUT A SIZE 22! **Well, Hello!!** I should have known to try the black midge first. What was I thinking? I could not wait to tell dad my story. I knew what he would say. “Always, always, pay attention to what’s going on around you! How many times have I told you?”

As many an angler would do, I retired that little black midge. It hangs on the wall at home. It is there to forever remind me of an epic day of fishing and dad’s little instruction.

*Dale*

# 2025 HFFA Annual Meeting & Show

The 2025 HFFA Annual Meeting & Show is now history. I personally thought the committee put together an outstanding effort. The speakers covered virtually all aspects of fly fishing. In the following pages I am trying to give you a flavor of what went on, but it is just a taste. One really needs to attend to get the entire experience. That said, mark your calendars for February 27 to March 1st next year at the Hilton Garden Inn in Cedar Rapids for our 50th anniversary meeting & show.

*Don*

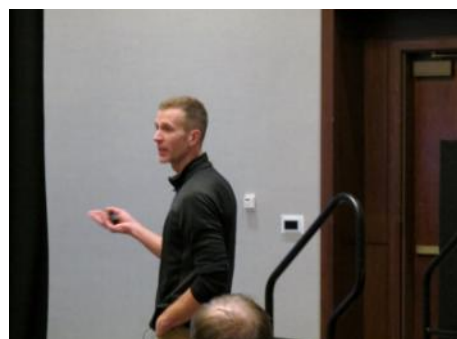


Rob Kundert on the left was a co-chair of the show and introduced all of the speakers. On the right is Dave Jones, the other co-chair, Ronda Long, the incoming treasurer, and Stacey Craig, registration assistant and good guy.



Friday night's program opened with Dre Fornasiero (above left) discussing the joys and methods of "Tenkara Fishing". Then Caleb Corona of Regal Beagle Fly Fishing teamed with Davis Horton to explain the similarities and differences of smallmouth tactics for the upper Mississippi River in Minnesota and Iowa streams. Caleb is shown above center seated with Mike Stallsmith in the vendor room. John van Vliet gave a fine overview of the entire driftless region. John is above right and also gave a great talk on Sunday discussing fishing the small streams of the driftless. Pizza and refreshments finished the evening in the hospitality room.

Saturday morning opened with Caleb Schnitzler (below left) explaining the history, the present, and the future of Brook Trout in Northeast Iowa. George Daniels (below center) gave the first of three presentations. The first was titled "Seductive Streamer Strategies", the afternoon was "Mono Rigs For Dries, Streamers, & Nymphs", and finished with the banquet presentation on the Penn State Fly Fishing Program.. Charlie Craven's presentations (below right) were well attended. His morning program was on terrestrial patterns and the afternoon session covered his signature patterns..



# 2025 HFFA Annual Meeting & Show



The HFFA business meeting and election of officers occurred at noon with Davis Horton (above center) conducting the election followed by Kirk Rosenow (above right), incoming president laying out his vision for the future. You can read the minutes of this meeting on page 6 of this newsletter, but you really should have been there! Cameron Aker (above left), Iowa Driftless Engagement Coordinator for Trout Unlimited started the afternoon session discussing the projects finished, started, and proposed to improve water quality in northeast Iowa. He was followed by George Daniels and Charlie Craven as mentioned above.



Fly tiers were in attendance demonstrating their skills and sharing their knowledge. At left above, Lisa Davis shows off some of the dressing for a musky fly. To the right above, are Jason Hochstetler and Lance Zook. In the middle, Josiah C. is getting some one on one with Charlie Craven. This is a memory Josiah will never forget. Sharing is what happens when you attend.

The three photos below capture some of the activities: rod bingo, bucket raffles, attending the business meeting (below left) or visiting the vendors (below right). The photo in the center captures the future of HFFA. Starting to the far left with Davis Horton and then clockwise, Jason Hochstetler, Caleb Corona, Mitch Albers, Cameron Aker, and Patrick Burns (new board member). I did not have time to sit down and listen to these guys, but I am sure they know where it is happening, and how to catch fish there!



# 2025 HFFA Annual Meeting & Show



The HFFA banquet was well attended. The meal was great! HFFA recognizes the following for their efforts: Tom Murray (below left) for Conservation Award, Ronda Long (below center) for the Outstanding Member award, and Dave Jones (below right ) for the President's Award. The photo and essay contest winners were announced and you will see them in order for the next three newsletters. The auctioneer did a great job. Since I bought the smallmouth print highlighted in the last newsletter, I am very happy! Georg Daniels as noted before gave a nice presentation on the Penn State Fly Fishing Program. This is the only program I know of you can get college credit for learning to fly fish. The evening ended with John Channon winning the grand prize raffle.



The photo to the right shows another view of the vendor room. Mick McVey is explaining the Casting for Recovery Program. Mick and Lisa McVey spend many hours supporting this very worthwhile cause. HFFA members help as stream mentors for the attendees each October.



The Sunday program started with life time HFFA member Mike Pierce and his wife Christine (below left and center) explaining the joys of pan fish fishing. John van Vliet covered fishing small streams of the driftless. Dale Tayloe gave a very informative presentation on the art of bamboo rod making.



# ODDS & ENDS



Shown above are two guys that received something at the show they did not expect. On the left above is Michael Birmingham receiving a 2025 HFFA Conservation Award. Michael is a fixture at our shows, with his very interesting display of aquatic insects. On the right above is John Channon (life member), who won the grand prize raffle. The prize was a 4 weight 8.5 foot Scott Session rod, a Lamson Liquid S reel, and a Rio gold line. The prize was sponsored by Diftless Angler from Viroqua, Wisconsin. John told me that this was the first time he won something!!

Shown below is a photo of and text by Mike Schrader about the Bassmasters Fisherman's Swap Meet.



The Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association had a vendor table at the Mid-Iowa Bassmasters Fisherman's Swap Meet & Boat Show this past February. It is always the last full weekend of February. For more than 20 years HFFA has had a vendor table at this event. This is the largest event for anglers in Iowa. Recent year's attendance has been around 4000 for the weekend. No other event gives HFFA a chance to have a presence in front of this many anglers. Most years the Central Iowa club mans the table, but in the past other clubs have helped out. Anything and everything for anglers is available there. We had more interest in fly fishing at our table this year than we have seen in the past. We had a stack of HFFA business cards most of which were picked up. Additionally, we had flyers for the Trout Unlimited Fly Fishing Film tour and all but one of those were picked up. They do have informative seminars both days. The Seminar Scheduler with the Bassmasters is to get with us next year for Fly Fishing Seminars, most likely both days. Many of the other vendors there often have members present at our annual meeting. Next year we will be able to advertise here the week before the Cedar Rapids Show. Attendees can buy, sell and trade new and used fishing, boat and outdoor related items. There are antique lures and fishing tackle for sale or trade, lure making demonstrations, product demonstrations, fishing guides and fishing vacation resort information available.

*Mike*

# *HFFA Photo & Essay 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 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 10, 2026, 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 (jpegs are encouraged) 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 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 10, 2026
10. Send essays (digital copies encouraged) to:

## **HFFA PHOTO & ESSAY CONTESTS**

Don Otto

730 Lucas St..

Knoxville, Iowa 50138

Or send via email to: [hawkeyeflyfisher@gmail.com](mailto:hawkeyeflyfisher@gmail.com)

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

## HFFA DVD Library

Tim Baker

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Stuart, Iowa 50250

515-250-8163

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

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