



The Flyline

The Newsletter of the Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association

June 2025



"Double on Carp"
Second Place in HFFA Show Photo Contest
By Dan Peterson

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



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The President's Hatch

Bear Creek project

An Iowa Natural Heritage project to conserve and provide fishing access to a beautiful stretch of Bear Creek is its initial stages. In partnership with other organizations like Trout Unlimited, Hawkeye Fly fishing is helping this effort. We have contributed \$15,000 to the funding for a project. The project will provide .35 miles of access to Bear Creek, a very high-quality trout stream as well as 21 acres of surrounding land. The stream section is just downstream of the confluence of North and South Bear Creeks. The property borders the downstream end of the existing 947-acre North Bear Creek WMA.

We will continue to monitor this project with excitement and look for other opportunities where our dollars and labor can have a big impact on conservation improvements and expanding fishing access.

Fisheries and Environmental news can be discouraging:

Environmental issues like fish kills, lost fishing access, and assault on natural resources in other various forms dot the news across the globe. It can be discouraging and the whole sum of it can lead to a sense of helplessness. I remind myself that news headlines only show bad stuff but that only goes so far. We can cut through the sense



Kirk Rosenow

of helplessness by continuing to position ourselves to support opportunities like the Bear Creek project when they come up, partner with other conservation organizations on these efforts, celebrate projects/improvements when they complete, and appreciate the fishing we have today.

Your support to Hawkeye Fly Fishing matters:

HFFA can help with projects like this because of the dedication of our members who volunteer in various capacities. Our education outreach volunteers, whether at shows or local level, help drive our mission to promote fly fishing in Iowa. Driving excitement around

fly fishing through outreach does matter. If the public doesn't care about recreation on our fisheries, then no one will care about public access. Our coordinator volunteers continue to be key as well to our funding efforts and consulting on projects and their expertise has been invaluable. If you have volunteered for HFFA recently as a coordinator or contributed to educational outreach and conservation efforts through HFFA or other organizations, give yourself a pat on the back and realize you do have an impact.

June Fishing report:

At this time of year, almost everything is biting. I hope you are rigging up and fishing. Whether it is a pond 10 minutes from your house or longer drive to the Driftless, get out there and fish. We have a lot of local fisheries to be grateful for in Iowa.

Kirk

2026 HFFA Show Information

Fellow HFFA Members & Guests,

The 50th annual HFFA show dates are Friday February 27, Saturday February 28, and Sunday March 1st, 2026. The show will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn Cedar Rapids. Hotel address is 4640 North River Blvd NE, Cedar Rapids, IA. 52411. Hotel phone number is 319-206-9167. Our guest speakers are Jeff Currier and Jason Randall, both are widely known and respected in the fly fishing community.

We have a block of rooms reserved for both Friday and Saturday nights. This will be a fantastic annual meeting and I expect the block rooms to sell out very quickly so take a minute now to reserve your room(s) for show weekend. Room cost is \$129/night. The availability will end on February 6, 2026, however they may allow us more rooms if they are available. When making a reservation be sure to say it is for HFFA, as we get credit for each room reserved. They do not offer free breakfast but they do have a restaurant on site. Back again in 2026 will be the hospitality room and the delicious treats provided by the Cedar Rapids/Marion area show committee.

New, for next year HFFA will be sponsoring the 2026 Fly Fishing Film Tour on Sunday afternoon, beginning at 1:30. We hope you will make your plans now to attend the show.

Tight lines!
Mike Jacobs
Mike

Contacts & Meetings

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Work Day Coordinator
Vacant

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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 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

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
Jay Leach - 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

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

Iowa's Coldwater Conservancy

Tom Murray
jandtmurray@gmail.com

Event Calendar

<p>June 2025 June 7 Fly Tying & Fly Casting Event Johnston Public Library Johnston, Iowa 2 to 4 pm Sponsored by HFFA, TU & Johnston Public Library Volunteers Needed kcrosenow@gmail.com</p> <p>Wisconsin Women's Fly Fishing Clinics June 11 - 13 Intermediate June 13 - 15 Beginner Need to preregister! Avalanche, WI wisconsinwomenflyfishing@gmail.com</p> <p>July 2025 July 9 HFFA Zoom Board Meeting kcrosenow@gmail.com</p> <p>July 31 Iowa State Fair Fly Tying Competition Deadline for Fly Submission PO Box 57130 Des Moines, Iowa, 50317</p> <p>August 2025 August 20 HFFA Zoom Board Meeting kcrosenow@gmail.com</p> <p>September 2025 September 6 Brule River Spey Day Lake Superior Steelhead Assn. Brule river@ McNeil House Brule, WI www.steelheaders.org</p> <p>September ? Iowa Driftless Classic Trout Fishing Tournament Decorah Fish Hatchery 8 am to 4 pm www.iowadriftlessclassic.com</p>	<p>September ? HFFA/IDNR Work Day Manchester Fish Hatchery 8 am to 12 noon</p> <p>September 18 - 20 Northern Rodmakers Gathering 8th Annual West Fork Sports Club Avalanche, Wisconsin northernrodmakers.com</p> <p>September 26 - 27 Fly Fishers International Fly Fest Grand Rapids, Michigan flyfishersinternational.org</p> <p>September 30 HFFA zoom Board Meeting kcrosenow@gmail.com</p> <p>October 2025 October 3 - 5 2025 Casting for Recovery Camp Ewalu's Stone Retreat Center Strawberry Point, IA 52076 Must Register norrisl@ihaonline.org</p> <p>October 6 - 12 FFI - Women Connect 2025 Rendezvous Whalen, MN Registration on line March 2025</p> <p>November 2025 November 1 HFFA Board Meeting Manchester Hatchery In person 1 pm kcrosenow@gmail.com</p> <p>December 2025 January 2026</p> <p>February 2026</p>	<p>February 20 - 22 Mid-Iowa Bass Masters Swap Meet & Boat Show 4-H Building State Fairgrounds Des Moines, IA www.midiowabassmasters.com</p> <p>February 27- 28, March 1 HFFA Annual Fly Fishing Show Hilton Garden Inn Cedar Rapids, Iowa Mike Jacobs hawkeyeflytyer@yahoo.com</p> <p>March 2026 March ? Fly Fishing Film Tour 10 am to 2 pm Varsity Cinema, Des Moines North Bear TU jjleach27@gmail.com</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 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

Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association Meeting Minutes (4/16/25)

Location: Zoom

Meeting called to order at 6:01pm

Those present included the following: Kirk Rosenow, Dale Tayloe, Ronda Long, Ron Stahlberg, Partick Burns, Rob Kunderdt, Martin Acerbo, Don Otto, Marty McVey, and Cameron Akers. Absent: Davis Horton.

New Business

Kirk discussed his intentions for using Zoom for board meetings, show prep, informational meetings, etc. He outlined and discussed Zoom products including Zoom Pro, which Kirk felt best met our needs. Discussion continued about using caution in selecting a new and unique email address associated with this application that will endure and easily transfer to future officers. **Motion by Kirk to purchase a license for Zoom Pro for \$13.33 per month to be set up with a generic account. Second by Ronda. Motion carried.**

Rhonda gave highlights of the Treasurers report. She is working to allow Dale and Ron to be set up on the Wells Fargo account. Rhonda discussed the need for accounting software which would allow for merging of old records of past years. **Motion by Rob for Ronda to purchase new accounting software for \$12/mo. Second by Martin. Motion carried.**

Kirk began a discussion of the INHF Bear Creek project acquiring 21 acres of land and .35 miles of Bear Creek near Quandahl for public access and eventual ownership by Iowa DNR. This project was outlined at the HFFA Annual Show by Brian Frankhauser of INHF and Mike Seipker of IA DNR. Discussion topics included how much HFFA should donate relative to funds available and INHF needs (\$100,000 in private funds by Labor Day 2025). **Motion by Kirk to donate \$15,000 to INHF for Bear Creek Access. Second by Rob. Motion carried.**

Other topics discussed at the board meeting were as follows:

- HFFA Bylaw changes to preclude the annual meeting date from coinciding with that of Bass Master's in Des Moines. No action was taken by the board. Kirk will have a follow-up discussion with Mike Schrader.
- Tentative future dates for board meetings were presented by Kirk.
 - July 9th, Wednesday 6 – 7/7:30 pm - Zoom
 - August 20th, Wednesday 6 – 7/7:30 pm – Zoom
 - September 30th, Tuesday 6 – 7/7:30 pm - Zoom
 - November 1st, Saturday noon – 1pm in person – tentative location Manchester Hatchery
- HFFA intent of various social media including hawkeyeflyfishing.com, FaceBook, and Instagram, who coordinates, who has access, how our publication, The Flyline, is/could be affected. Marty volunteered his son, a marketing strategist, to examine our situation and make recommendations.
- Phishing- Kirk discussed the recent emails that many have received asking board members to assist in making payments or assisting in business matters. We discussed the need for board members' email addresses appearing on the website and in The Flyline.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Dale at approximately 7:39pm. Second by Martin. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted- Dale Tayloe 4/20/25 3:59pm

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 6th 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.**



"The Easy Hike From Hell"

by Mike Jacobs

Second Place Essay at the 2025 HFFA Annual Meeting & Show

I have been a dedicated fly fisherman over 50 years. During that time I have walked, hiked, scrambled and climbed to many fishing spots. The vast majority of these efforts have rewarded me by allowing me to catch the targeted fish in beautiful surroundings.

Planning for the fishing trips has changed dramatically over the years. Many years ago my Western destination fishing plans were made based on a recommendation from friends or from information gleaned from reading fly fishing magazines and books.

These days, with the internet, we have the world at our fingertips. We can explore online maps, view satellite images and email fisheries personnel to learn more about our intended fishing destination. Plus, we can still do our destination research the old fashioned way. We can ask friends who have fished the area, make phone calls to fisheries personnel and pore over books or magazine articles.

Prior to our trip to the Snowy Range in Wyoming, September of last year, I did all the research I possibly could. I ordered a hard copy map of the Snowy Range from the Wyoming Game and Fish (this map is no longer available as a hard copy but you can download it from the internet). I talked to a friend who had fished the two specific lakes we wanted to target for Golden Trout. I called and talked to the Wyoming fisheries biologist for the area. And I ordered a book about hiking trails in the Medicine Bow Mountains. For hours I studied the satellite imagery from Google Earth and dreamed of our fishing success at several destinations in the Snowy's.

The information contained in the hard copy fishing map stated that Shelf Lakes 1 and 2 hold Golden Trout. My friend also confirmed that the two lakes do hold Golden Trout, and he has caught them from both lakes. Shelf #1 has a greater number of fish but Shelf #2 has more large fish. I asked him about the 2 mile hike in to the lakes and he described the trail as "not bad". After looking at the satellite image of the trail to the lakes, from 370 miles above, I identified 2 large boulder fields we would need to navigate. I asked him about hiking through the boulder fields. He described traversing the boulder fields the same way, "not too bad". During my phone call with the fisheries biologist I gained valuable fishing information including his favorite Golden Trout dry fly, the Wyoming Renegade. I also asked him about the two mile hike in to the lakes with specific reference to the boulder fields. He described the hike and the boulder fields as "not terrible". The hiking book I purchased described the 2 mile hike to Shelf Lakes and the 170 foot elevation gain as "easy". I viewed the hiking trail as a satellite image from 370 miles above. Based on that view, information from my friend, the fisheries biologist and the book, I was convinced that the winding trail would indeed be easy. After all, the trail appeared to be level based on the satellite view.

Armed with this information, I convinced my two fishing friends that this would be the shortest hike in, and easiest access to Golden Trout fishing they could possibly hope for. So, we planned to dedicate one day of our trip to the attempt for Golden Trout.

We arrived at the Gap Lakes trailhead around 8AM. Anticipation was in the air as we geared up for the hike in. A stiff breeze from the north, and intermittent clouds cutting off the warmth of the sun, reminded us of the need to dress in warm layers.

The hike began easily enough as we weaved our way through the scrub brush and watched our steps on the rocky trail. Before long we reached the end of Lewis Lake and headed toward South Gap Lake. Along the way we passed some small mountain ponds. One pond revealed some rising fish which only served to tease us. We ignored this distraction because we were expecting greater things at our Shelf Lakes destination. Upon reaching South Gap Lake our day suddenly changed. To this point on our hike we had been protected from the strong north wind by a hill. Now we faced the full force of the 30 mph gale. More trail challenges became evident. What had been a winding trail of dirt and small rock changed to a trail made up of bowling ball sized rock and much larger boulders. The trail had started off mostly flat with a few short ascents and descents, but now changed to a more imposing series of climbs and drops. As we crawled our way along the shoreline trail, whitecaps covered the surface of South Gap Lake. Once we reached the north end of the lake a hill again blocked the wind. The powerful wind we had been fighting was finally reduced but now we had a greater problem. The trail was barely visible as we began negotiating car sized boulders. Before taking a step you had to make sure you had a safe, stable landing spot for your foot. There were times we needed three points of contact to make sure we didn't suffer a slip and an ankle breaker. The going was very slow and then we began a zigzagging climb. All of the effort required to access these lakes is at nearly 11,000 feet so, we needed many rest stops to catch our breath. So far, the hike had only been a hint of the difficulties yet to come.

After descending the north side of the saddle between lakes, we arrived on the shoreline of North Gap. The trail became visible once more, just barely. Then came our most serious challenge so far. The "trail" skirted the very edge of North Gap Lake positioning us with 40° water at our backs, a jumble of massive boulders in front of us, and zero trail. Part of this section of the trail required us to have 4 points of contact with massive Granite boulders directly in front of our nose.

continued on next page

Once we got beyond this brutal section of our hike, we spotted the faint trail again. A quarter mile ahead of us I could see the trail leading up and away from North Gap. Just over this saddle would be our destination, the Shelf Lakes.

Shortly we arrived at the rocky shore of Shelf Lake #1 and it was very clear to us weather was not going to be our friend as storm clouds were building. With short hills behind us to the west and the looming Brown's Peak in front of us to the east, the uninterupted north wind pushed whitecaps down the length of the lake. We ate a quick lunch and geared up, all the while keeping an eye on the building storm clouds.

The three of us tried casting different flies and fly combinations unsuccessfully from several points along the bank. With the unrelenting wind we found it a challenge to reach out very far with our casts. Typical of many mountain lakes, the Shelf Lakes required us to cast out beyond the last visible underwater rocks to reach a steep drop off where we assumed the Golden's would be cruising. For all of our efforts, I hooked one small Golden but he came loose on a short release. We spotted two other small fish that came out to inspect our flies as they passed over rocks close to shore.

Before long we were experiencing some sprinkles which we took as a sign we'd better pack up our gear and make tracks back to the safety of the truck. Or, we could stick around and suffer even more.

Re-tracing the steps we had made only a couple hours before, we began heading back. We soon discovered that the trail in reverse had gotten no easier. In fact, it was more difficult because the light rain on the rocks had made questionable footing on the rocks even more sketchy.

The light rain and high wind that was pushing us along the trail soon turned to stinging snow pellets driven by the wind. For a short time we took shelter from the weather in a small cluster of mountain pine trees.

Before long, the weather eased enough that we could continue our retreat. We still needed to watch every step over the wet rocks and boulders. After what seemed like forever but had really only been about 50 minutes, we could see the truck off in the distance. The sun peeked out from the clouds on occasion giving us some much needed warmth after being pelted by the rain and snow.

Upon reaching the truck we gave a collective sigh of relief. Though we did not catch our targeted fish, we had survived the ordeal with no more than tired bodies, sore legs and aching feet. Plus we had a great story to tell our friends.

A good lesson from our story is that we should NEVER trust a satellite view to determine the difficulty of a trail. Another good lesson is that we need to consider the description of a trail from the perspective of that individual. Terms like "not bad" or "not too bad" coming from a 40 year old means one thing. Words like "not terrible" from a 30 year old mean something similar. A book that describes a 2 mile hike as "easy" should be believable but might not be.

For the well being of us adventurous old geezers, comments from a friend, fisheries personnel and book descriptions need to take into consideration the age and physical condition of the person who is inquiring. If we knew then, what we do know now, none of us would have ventured out on "The Easy Hike From Hell".

Mike



Prior to our trip to the Snowy Range last year I did a lot of research into popular fly patterns for the area. Information about a fly I have never heard of was given to me by the Wyoming fisheries biologist who covers most of the Snowy's. He is particularly fond of this fly as a searching pattern in the quest for Golden Trout. The fly is called the Wyoming Renegade(shown above). It's not difficult to tie and has a profile and visibility much like a Humpy. If you want detailed tying instructions they are readily available on the internet.

Mike



"The Responsible Angler"

by Theresa Shay, IDNR

As Spiderman says, "With great power, comes great responsibility." One may ask, "What's this got to do with fishing?" As anglers, we may not have Spiderman's super senses but when it comes to fishing, we do have a great many responsibilities and whether or not we choose to act on those greatly affects our future. As a public servant for many years, I have seen, heard, and felt the repercussions from the actions of quite a few individuals, groups, landowners, contractors, and the list goes on. However, the majority of these actions led to amazing experiences, a deep sense of pride, and many ac-

quaintances and friendships but there are those that left a mark. A mark that could've been avoided had a bit more care and attention been exercised.

One of the biggest responsibilities you can take as an angler is to know the current regulations for the state in which you are fishing. For instance, never assume a trout or access regulation is the same in Wisconsin or Minnesota as it is in Iowa. Periodically, regulations do change for a variety of reasons including cultural influences, changing climate, loss of habitat, landownership, lack of personnel, or because science-based data provided supporting information to warrant a change. Fisheries managers are constantly encountering new issues, situations, or technologies requiring frequent evaluation to make sure their goals and the goals of the public are being met. Change is inevitable and more often than not in a good way. Don't be afraid to contact your local friendly fishery professional if you have a question about a regulation change.

Buy a state license. When an Iowa angler or hunter purchases licenses, those dollars go to the Department of Natural Resources to fund the good people, resources, and programs working for you.

In Iowa trout country, anglers are able to fish on both public and private land. Anglers know they are fishing public land when they see signs with green "Public Hunting" or brown "Park". Angling on public land is only one of a multitude of activities taking place but it is the angler's responsibility to identify the activity allowable on that land. Not all public land is the same. For example, if an angler is fishing on a wildlife management area during turkey hunting season, they may want to wait to fish until mid-day when turkeys are not as active.

Fishing on private property in Iowa is an activity anglers should not take lightly. It is a privilege and honor fisheries professionals have worked hard to establish and keep with landowners. Anglers can identify these areas because they are marked with grey "Open for Public Fishing" or white "Public Fishing Only" signs. Accessing an area on private property is usually via a stile or gate. The ONLY activity allowed is fishing. All other activities such as mushroom hunting, camping, or metal detecting are prohibited.

Just as important as fishing is are the courtesies, kindness, and care anglers show toward the resource, professionals and landowners working in the resource, and land on which anglers occupy to perform their favorite activity. I love being outdoors and nothing beats a Northeast Iowa trout stream, right? What if you go to your favorite spot to fish but when you get there, you find the remnants of what you could only assume was the party of the century in the parking lot. Do you want your friendly fisheries or wildlife professional taking time away from more important work to clean-up this mess? What if this was on private property open to public fishing? Do you think the landowner would want continue having anglers here? Let's consider another example. What if the IADNR is stocking Rainbow Trout or a farmer needs to get their cattle and a car is parked in front of the gate they need to go through? How many times does this have to happen before this area is permanently closed to fishing? Similarly, what if an angler opens a gate on a private area open to fishing but doesn't close it immediately after going through it or leaves it the way they found it? Gates are opened or closed depending on what the land manager is doing. And one final example, what if an angler assumes an area is open to angling because they have always had access and confronts the landowner. The landowner asks them to leave but instead the angler argues with them or threatens them? I'm pretty sure access to this stream segment would be closed immediately and a call to law enforcement warranted. In Iowa, anglers should see themselves as guests of the landowner and should treat both land and landowner as you would want to be treated. Bottom line is it only takes one careless or insincere act to permanently close an area to fishing on private property, hurts agency relations, and future easement or access opportunities.

One last thought, as a responsible angler, you have the power to mentor new anglers to develop skills and set examples to inspire. Imagine how wide a web you could spin by introducing the next generation of anglers to places, a formidable number of fish species, resource professionals, technology, habitat and habitat work vital to the continuation of a species, and a network of like-minded individuals.

Theresa



“Fly Fishing with Dan for Carp”

“Our Best Day”

by Lisa Davis

It was July, so our second guided trip for carp on the fly was going to be hot and muggy. We ventured into Wisconsin to fish on a skiff with guide Lucas Annear of Freshwater Flats Guide Service. Dan and I both agree that this was the most fun that we've ever had during a day of fishing together!

We each caught between 7 - 10 common carp. While none were very large, we still experienced their power, and Dan belatedly understood my earlier suggestions to get finger protectors. White lines on his fingers were mementos to the friction and heat produced by fly line streaking between his digits when a hooked carp made its powerful run.

We started off the day by sight fishing - with Dan fishing until he boated his first carp, then I took my turn. The steps needed to catch a carp in this manner are, technically, simple to perform. However, coordinating all of the steps in a timely manner while putting the fly where it needs to go becomes pretty tricky: Cast past the carp and quickly drag the fly left, right, or straight back on the water - without letting the fly drop down in the water - until the fly is about 6 inches in front of the carp's nose, then let the fly quickly drop. It sounds so easy...

But before that, you have to locate the carp in murky, silty water. At times, the carp's fins are visible above the water and other times you are searching for a bubble trail on the water's surface and tracking the trail's direction to learn where the head versus the tail of the carp is located. For newbie carp anglers, having a guide is very helpful!

After sight fishing, we then began fishing below mulberry trees. As Luke said, "This is when carp start acting like regular fish!" Luke had enough witticisms to make a journalist drool, but they certainly held true. Luke tied on 2 flies that looked like mulberries, a point fly and a dropper, and in this case the point fly floated and the dropper (connected to the point fly) would sink below its mate.

We cast under a mulberry tree. After a short drift, a carp would frequently slam the dropper fly and the fight was on! We learned from Luke that when it appeared the carp was going for the fly on the surface, the greedy thing had actually taken the dropper but was also trying to get the point fly. The aggression and willingness to take these flies made me feel like we were fishing for smallies. I love SMB! At one point, Dan said he thought we could get doubles. Luke thought so, too. And we did! Dan and I and our carp posed for pictures - all of us making carp faces. Ö ö !

Next, Luke clipped off the dropper fly to see if we could entice carp strictly to a mulberry fly floating on the surface, giving us more of a dry fly experience. Like trout, Luke warned us that the carp, in order to be fooled, also require that we present a natural drift of the fly in the current.

And yes, we also caught carp on those floating mulberry flies. Then Luke quipped, "We are having so much fun fishing for a fish that nobody likes under trees that everyone hates!" I sure hope that we get to do it again soon.

Lisa

Photo by Larry Murphy



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