



# *The Flyline*

The Newsletter of the Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association

September 2025



"Cold Day On a Small Urban Stream"  
Third Place in HFFA Show Photo Contest  
By Dave Cornelder

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



President's Hatch - page 2  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes - pages 5 & 6  
State Fair Fly Tying Contest Results - pages 6 & 7  
Ron Smith Essay - page 8  
Lisa Davis Essay - page 9  
HFFA Activities - pages 10 - 11  
HFFA DVD Library - page 12  
Classifieds - page 13

# The President's Hatch

## Thank you, State Fair volunteers:

A big thank you to our state fair volunteers for helping at events with our partnership with the Iowa DNR. James Barnhart coordinated the fly-tying competition. Paul Domoto, Joe Wedum, and Lee Schulteis were our judges for the event. This is a great outreach for us, and the fly-tying competition display is very popular with the public. I tried to get a picture of just the display and had to go back into the DNR building a half dozen times to find no one standing by it. Also, thanks to Ronda Long, Ron Dunek, and Mike Schrader for helping me present "introduction to fly fishing" at the DNR Courtyard at the fair. We had a lot of kids fly casting with us before the event, many questions, and a large crowd. It is great to see the leadership in volunteering with our long-time members at both state fair outreach events.

## September – Take out the trash month:

Please throw a bag in your fly pack and on the walk back to your vehicle pick up any plastic or paper trash. Many of our favorite streams and ponds get a lot of litter from summer traffic. It is a small insignificant step to pick up some trash but sometimes it makes a difference especially with the landowners with handshake agreements to fish. I know of a few cases where landowners have previously thanked fly anglers carrying out trash. Whether warranted or not we can be grouped in with all recreational us-



Kirk Rosenow

ers and blamed for trash being left on the fishing easements.

If you take a selfie with the trash or just photo of the trash, please email it to me and we may use it for a future issue of The Flyline: [kcrosenow@gmail.com](mailto:kcrosenow@gmail.com)

## Looking forward to fall fishing in Iowa:

I'll admit it. I have always been a little jealous of the eastern Iowa clubs being closer to trout water and more quality smallmouth water. Life got busy this summer and I have only been up to driftless for a few days with my weekends typically only having 6-hour time slots free. No one is going to feel sorry for me and my "first world" problem. I have some quality time booked in the driftless in the coming weeks and bags already half packed.

Most areas of driftless have come out of the long drought and the springs in north-east Iowa have gotten some much-needed refreshes. This should lead to some great fall fishing.

In central Iowa fishing will improve as the water levels drop. This time of year, historically some central Iowa members target white bass and wipers on the Des Moines River, Saylorville, Red Rock, and Big Creek Lake. There is something special about seeing a school of wipers slamming shad with violent explosions on the surface. Shad induced nervous water is its own form of a "hatch" and can be just as memorable as a mayfly or caddis hatch. Sometimes these events are obvious with seagulls hovering and rioting in a feeding frenzy or you will even see shad being pushed out of the water. Hope everyone can get out and fish this month!

*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

## 2025 Board of Directors

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

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

**Dale Tayloe, Secretary**  
Cedar Falls, IA  
tayloedb@gmail.com

**Ronda Long, Treasurer**  
Oskaloosa, IA  
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

---

### 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: Paul Wright  
blackwolfe47@yahoo.com

---

### 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@icloud.com

---

### 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

---

### 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

---

### 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.  
Johnston Public Library  
6700 Merle Hay Road  
Johnston, Iowa  
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  
Ronda Long – President  
Check Their Facebook  
www.facebook.com/springcreekstu

---

### Iowa's Coldwater Conservancy

Tom Murray  
jandtmurray@gmail.com

# Event Calendar

<p><b><u>September 2025</u></b>  September 6  <b>Brule River Spey Day</b>  Lake Superior Steelhead Assn.  Brule river@ McNeil House  Brule, WI  www.steelheaders.org</p> <p>September 20  <b>Iowa Driftless Classic Trout Fishing Tournament</b>  Impact Coffee  Decorah, Iowa  8 am to 4 pm  www.iowadriftlessclassic.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>September 30  <b>HFFA zoom Board Meeting</b>  kcrosenow@gmail.com</p> <p><b><u>October 2025</u></b>  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>  November 1  <b>HFFA Board Meeting</b>  Manchester Hatchery  In person 1 pm  kcrosenow@gmail.com</p> <p><b><u>December 2025</u></b>  <b><u>January 2026</u></b></p> <p><b><u>February 2026</u></b>  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>  March 7  <b>Fly Fishing Film Tour</b>  10 am to 2 pm  Varsity Cinema, Des Moines  North Bear TU  jjleach27@gmail.com</p> <p>March 13 - 15  <b>Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo</b>  Hamline University  St. Paul, MN  info@greatwatersflyexpo.com</p> <p>March 26  <b>Fly Tyers Rendezvous</b>  Spring Creeks TU  Eagles Club, Monticello, IA  Facebook.com/springcreekstu</p>	<p>March 26 - 28  <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> <p><b><u>June 2026</u></b>  June ?  <b>Fly Tying &amp; Fly Casting Event</b>  Johnston Public Library  Johnston, Iowa  2 to 4 pm  Sponsored by  HFFA, TU &amp; Johnston Public Library  <b>Volunteers Needed</b>  kcrosenow@gmail.com</p> <p><b>Wisconsin Women's Fly Fishing Clinics</b>  June ? Intermediate  June ? Beginner  Need to preregister!  Avalanche, WI  wisconsinwomenflyfishing@gmail.com</p> <p><b><u>July 2026</u></b>  July 31  <b>Iowa State Fair Fly Tying Competition</b>  Deadline for Fly Submission  PO Box 57130  Des Moines, Iowa, 50317</p> <p><b><u>August 2026</u></b></p>
---	---	---

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 (7/9/25)**

**Location: Zoom**

### **Meeting called to order at 6:00pm**

Those present were: Kirk Rosenow, Dale Tayloe, Rhonda Long, Ron Stahlberg, Partick Burns, Rob Kundert, Martin Acerbo, Don Otto, Marty McVey, Ryan Maas, and Cameron Akers. Absent: Davis Horton.

### **New Business**

- 1) Treasurer's report- Rhonda gave highlights of the Treasurer's report (outlined in her earlier 9Jul email). There was discussion regarding 2 signers of checks of \$1000 or more, a process with which Ronda will proceed.
- 2) Social Media- Kirk began a discussion on HFFA social media strategy. (i.e. What is our strategy? What should it be?) There is a survey going to board members via email by Marty. Please fill out and return to Marty for analysis and conclusions. Don Otto pointed out there is a basic need for information flow from members attending events or promoting causes somehow relating to fly fishing to persons who post on social media. This is fundamental to any HFFA social media strategy/policy.
- 3) Spring Branch Project- Cameron discussed scope and likely cost of the project. Cameron agreed to send email outlining the project with maps and diagrams to board members. Attachments include an invitation to the general membership which Don agreed to post on HFFA website. Ronda will seek completion and keep on file the completed financial request forms for this and other projects. Form is available on the website for anyone seeking financial help from HFFA.
- 4) Local Club Dynamics- Requests have come from the general membership for changes in how HFFA interacts with local chapters. The board notes that local chapter dynamics have changed in the last 20-30 years. Local chapters may be less formal and more social in nature but no less dedicated to the conservation, preservation, and the sport of fly fishing. At this time, the board chooses to take no action. The board does not wish to require reporting structure or place requirements on local clubs/chapters/groups in fostering participation, growth, and development for fly fishing, conservation, or the preservation of fisheries. The board realizes more effort must be made in the planning, arranging for, and the execution of the annual business meeting held during the annual show.
- 5) Fly Tying Contest at Iowa State Fair/Large flies- Currently entries for contest must be sizes 2-18 per contest rules. There is, however, apparent interest in tying larger streamers (including those large, colorful, articulating streamers) by our membership and by younger tyers in particular. Kirk will consult with those in charge of the contest about this as a possible additional category for next year's fair.
- 6) Upcoming Events-
  - a)Cameron- 19Aug....workday project (bank hides) at Manchester Fish Hatchery, 9am -12pm followed by stream cleanup.
  - b)Kirk- 14Aug...HFFA presentation at DNR courtyard, Iowa State Fair at 3pm. Fly tying contest results will be posted and displayed there; judges have been selected. If interested in helping out, contact Kirk.

### **Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn by Martin at approximately 7:25pm. Second by Ronda. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted- Dale Tayloe 7/15/25 2:19pm



# *HFFA Business Report* continued

## **Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association Meeting Minutes August 20, 2025** **Location: Zoom**

### **Meeting called to order at 6:00pm**

Those present: Kirk Rosenow, Dale Tayloe, Rhonda Long, Ron Stahlberg, Partick Burns, Martin Acerbo, Don Otto, and Cameron Akers. Absent: Davis Horton Marty McVey, Ryan Maas,

### **New Business**

1) Treasurer's report- Rhonda gave highlights of the Treasurer's report (emailed earlier this day, 20Aug). Motion by Dale to accept Treasurer's Report. Second by Kirk. Motion passed.

2) Annual Show update- Mike Jacobs sent a show status update to Kirk. Mike and the show committee are feeling good about preparations and status in general. Main speakers are Jason Randall and Jeff Currier. Hospitality room will be open and well provisioned both Friday and Saturday night. Fly Fishing Film Tour will be shown on Sunday afternoon and should boost Sunday attendance.

3) Spring Branch Project- Cameron discussed again the scope and likely cost of the project. The contractors for the project have been selected and some rock has been moved already. Total expected cost of project is \$10-12K. Cam has completed HFFA form asking for \$5K and Ronda has form on file. Remainder of funds will come for Iowa Coldwater Conservatory, the landowner, Buchanan County Conservation, and others. The project is expected to take 3 days of work with finishing touches by mid-September. This is a highly used stretch of stream and there is high confidence the planned changes will improve the stream as a fishery. Motion by Dale for HFFA to provide \$5K for the Tibbett Easement/Spring Branch Project as outlined by Cameron. Second by Martin. There was discussion of forthcoming projects and expected revenue in 2026. There was also discussion of what minimum amount cash HFFA should retain on hand for possible forthcoming projects. Cameron noted that he could install signage noting the organizations that donated to the project. Motion passed.

4) Miscellaneous- 17 people helped build 18 bank hides in 3 hours at Spring Branch workday; suggestion made to use Facebook to thank participants. Photos that "tell a story" taken at events such as the Spring Branch event, should be sent to The Fly Line editor at hawkeyeflyfisher.com or djottovet@gmail.com for possible inclusion in The Fly Line.

### **Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn by Dale at approximately 6:50pm. Second by Kirk. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted- Dale Tayloe August 26, 2025 9:43pm

*Dale*

## *2025 Iowa State Fair Fly Tying Competition Results* *by James Barnhart*

The fly-tying competition was held at the 2025 Iowa State Fair. This competition has been developed and sponsored by the Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association (HFFA) with support of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). There were 25 entrants with 73 flies entered into the competition from across the state. There were 7 in the junior division (ranging in age from 14 to 5), 16 in the adult division, and 2 in the expert division. There are four categories; dry flies, wet/nymph flies, streamer flies, and open. There are 3 divisions (Expert, Adult and Junior). The judging took place at the State Fair on Wednesday, August 6th.

This year's judges (shown in photo below left to right) were Lee Schulteis (Perry), Joe Wedum (Des Moines), and Paul Domo (Ames). James Barnhart is at far right in the photo. The flies were on display in the DNR building on the fairgrounds during the entire fair.

results on next page



## Junior Division

### Dry Fly Category

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Josiah Cornelder	Royal Wulff	Des Moines
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Sophia Casey	Deer Hair Ant	Des Moines
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Logan McVey	Harry Eyeball	Ankeny

### Wet Fly/Nymph Category

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Josiah Cornelder	Partridge and Orange	Des Moines
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Sophia Casey	Bully Bluegill	Des Moines
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Logan McVey	Carrot	Ankeny

### Open Category

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Josiah Cornelder	Whit Hopper	Des Moines
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Sophia Casey	Lefty's Red and White (tied tan/black)	Des Moines
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Mark Mendick III	Willie the Worm	Moulton

### Streamer Category

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Josiah Cornelder	Blue Charm	Des Moines
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Logan McVey	Eely Dragon	Ankeny
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Sophia Casey	Clouser Zonker Minnow	Des Moines

## Adult Division

### Dry Fly Category

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Tom Donnelly	Mosquito	Cedar Rapids
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	David Cornelder	Dry Pheasant Tail	Des Moines
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Donald A Bath	Extended Body Light Cahill Parachute	Urbandale

### Wet Fly/Nymph Category

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Andrew Robey	Royal Coachman	Pleasant Hill
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Brian Hill	Light Cahill Wet Fly	Granger
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Thomas Greene	Pheasant Tail Nymph	Norwalk

### Open Category

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Donald A Bath	Hellgrammite Larvae	Urbandale
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Kevin McVey	Parasol Midge	Ankeny
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Mark McConnell	Cone Head Thin Mint	Pella

### Streamer Category

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Donald A Bath	Rabbit Hair Crayfish	Urbandale
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Mike Schrader	Baby Brook Trout Streamer	Des Moines
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Mark McConnell	Pheasant Fin Sculpin	Pella

## Expert Division

### Dry Fly Category

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	C.J. Klenske	Rubber Leg Stimulator	Dubuque
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	No entry		

### Wet Fly/Nymph Category

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	C.J. Klenske	Craven 2-Bit Hooker	Dubuque
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Mike Jacobs	Flashback Pheasant Tail Variant	Monticello
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	No entry		

### Open Category

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	C.J. Klenske	No Name Crayfish	Dubuque
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Mike Jacobs	Tim's Beetle	Monticello
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	No entry		

### Streamer Category

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	C.J. Klenske	Double Bunny Variant	Dubuque
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Mike Jacobs	Single Fly Cray	Monticello
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	No entry		

# *“Facing Down the Skunk”*

*by Ron Smith*

Third Place HFFA Essay Contest 2025

I'm intrigued by how often the skunk appears in fly fishing literature. Fly fishing author Erik Helm penned an enjoyable essay about the skunk which recently piqued my interest again. The skunk always seems to be out there and frequently enjoys putting fishermen into a frazzle. Even a well known steelhead fly pattern, "the skunk", particularly the "green butt skunk", is part of our lexicon.

A fishing day may start by launching our boat, or taking the first step into the pond or stream, brimming with confidence, only to find that nothing in our fly box interests the fish. There is also the "first cast hooks a nice fish" phenomena that instructs all other fish that day to ignore your most skillful casting and beautifully constructed flies. "Hook a fish on your first cast and you may as well go home." as Kelly Galloup says, "or make your first cast into a tree." The skunk is unseen but giggling behind you somewhere.

We believe the clichés that our sport is "fishing versus catching" and even a "bad day fishing is better than a good day at work". How intriguing would our sport be if we caught a fish on every cast? Maybe a little skunk can be a good thing..... Still, we would like to bring a fish to net and even suffer catching a couple dinks rather than be completely shut out.

The skunk can cause fishless minutes often stretching into fishless hours (and even fishless days and months for some species). We try to make excuses for our lack of success. It was too windy, it was too still and hot, too cloudy, too much glare. The water was too low and clear, it was too high and muddy. You brought the wrong fly box, and they're eating only size 28 midges. Or I wore the wrong fishing cap because my Iowa State grad fishing partner forbids me to wear my Hawkeye camouflage cap on his boat.....

So how do we deal with the skunk? Number one: you don't end the skunk by staying home. "Ascertain the prevailing conditions" as Davy Wotton says. You have pounded the riffles, so fish the frog water. Take a break, have a sandwich and think it through. Watch the eagles. Change flies, a different color or pattern. Out-right challenge the critter by tying on a variation of the green butt skunk fly. Downsize the fly or put on that big articulated killer. Resort to superstitions. Attempt to banish the skunk by chanting voodoo phrases learned from a YouTube witch. Change to a different cap and hide your current lucky one until you catch a "good" fish. Promise your buddy you won't cuss any more on this trip. Consider just going bluegill fishing.

Lately the skunk has been a pernicious accompanist to the Angry Ames Anglers participation in the annual Musky Premier Flyfishing tournament near Hayward, Wisconsin. To sheepishly summarize, we have only caught one measurable musky in the nine years of the tourney. Richard caught it. One musky. Try to explain that to your wife..... We know it is the skunk. The skunk must have sneaked aboard the boat somewhere between Ames and Hayward, perhaps when we made a lunch stop near Spooner. He was not only with our team last fall, but he infected most of the other 49 teams because only 24 fish from 25" to 43" were caught by 14 of the 50 teams over two days. That is a lot of casting hours and points to 36 teams being completely shut down (i.e. "skunked") by the cunning varmint. The tourney was won by two brothers who caught two muskies, a 43 inch fish on Friday and a 38 inch fish on Saturday. Good for the Anderson brothers. They deserved to quash the skunk. Hopefully though, next year the Angry Ames Anglers can outflank the skunk and move up the leader board.

*Ron*



# *“With Love, to My Aunt Mary Joan”*

*by Lisa Davis*

Around 8 pm on June 14, 2024, the musky goes vertical, fully freeing itself from the water into an 80° day, yet the pink and white fly sticks like a tick in the right corner of it's mouth.

Two nights beforehand, my guide and friend, MG, called and said lightning was still flashing, with more rain expected. I could hear frogs in the background. I was told that it was my choice, but the conditions were still poor. Water was either going to be high and dirty (not good) or high and clear (worse). He was not optimistic- repeatedly saying it was a long way to go for one day of fishing, but he understood the itch...

The morning of June 13th, the water stats had changed very little on the USGS site. Previously, my June 10th trip had been canceled due to higher water and then illness in my family. I texted him. My only regret would be if I didn't go.

MG sees the fish strike; I simply see the water erupt, but I definitely feel it hit. I give 2 hard strip sets, make myself relax and keep line tension. Musky moves right, rod goes left. Let line out but give no slack during the run, then strip the fish back in. It's suddenly, vertically, and completely out of the water. Wow- she's big! Thinking, Don't throw the hook! Keep calm. Listen to my friend - my guide, while he is also rowing the boat out of the current. Give her line on another run, strip her back, rod tip left, now hammer down on the tension!, rod tip lower to control that big head. Lift the rod tip up, head goes up (she's heavy!), and he slips the net under and then around her. She is netted and can now rest in calm water.

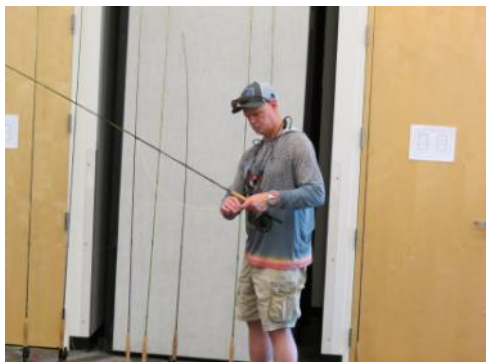
For a moment, we sit back in mutual relief and then our happiness comes rushing in. I'm a bit choked up. I said to MG that I'd hoped to catch a musky in honor of my aunt who'd died earlier that week. She grew up when it wasn't common for women to fish and hike. She'd often told me that she'd wished she'd been “brave” like me. I'd been able to see her that last time and tell her I loved her and didn't know anyone stronger than her. When I briefly feel the heft of that glorious musky in my hands during the photos taken that will forever remind me of this day, I quickly look up to the sky, give thanks, and softly say, “In honor of you, Aunt Mary Joan!”

A mid-30s musky bested me earlier that day. The water was high and dirty with slim opportunity for a second chance, but we surely got it. Before releasing her, MG and I hold her in the water, confirming my new PB by taping the musky out at 45 inches!

The musky is released. After a while, MG smokes a cigarette. We share (just a little) tequila, reliving the excitement. We like it high and dirty here, somewhere north of Illinois. It's the only respectable way, and also the finest way, to have a threesome.

*Lisa*

# HFFA Activities



The Fly Tying & Fly Casting Event sponsored by Johnston Public Library, North Bear Trout Unlimited, & Central Iowa Fly Fishers was held on June 7, 2025. There was a very good turnout of 18 participants and about 8 instructors. The session started with the librarian welcoming all to the library and wishing them good luck. Jay Leach, president of NBTU, then explained how fly casting and fly fishing differed from spin casting. Jay split the participants into two groups, one for casting and one for tying. Jay took the group for casting out to the yard behind the library. He demonstrated the roll cast and the basic pickup and lay down cast. After 30 to 40 minutes of practice Jay tied on some poppers and the group went to the pond. Several fish were actually caught! Inside the fly tying instructors were helping that group with the basics of fly tying. The two groups switched places after an hour. Several of the folks that tied first took their fly to the pond to try for some willing pan fish, after receiving the casting instruction. A good time was had by all. Fortunately the rain held off except for a few sprinkles.

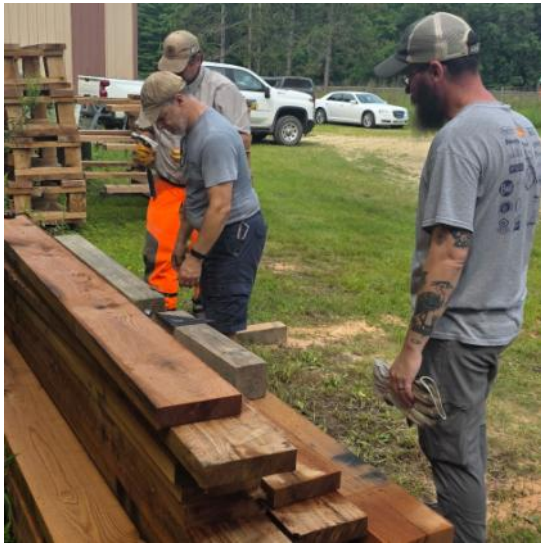
On the left above is Jay Leach prepping the rods, on the right is Paul Wright instructing, and in the center is a happy participant.



The photo (center above) shows Kirk Rosenow, Ronda Long, Ron Dunek and Mike Schrader answering questions at the end of the HFFA's "Learn About Fly Fishing" at the 2025 Iowa State Fair on Thursday August 14th. Kirk led off the presentation with an introduction and then a discussion of warm water fly fishing opportunities. Ronda described cold water fly fishing in NE Iowa. Ronda also pointed out all the various organizations in Iowa involved in fly fishing including: three Trout Unlimited chapters, local groups associated with HFFA, Casting for Recovery and Project Healing Waters. Ron's presentation pointed out all of the equipment one might use to fly fish. He made the point more than once, that one could start with a very few items at a low cost, but also said that hobbies sometimes lead to additional purchases. Mike went through the various forms of flies and their uses. There were fly rods set up for casting practice in the hour before the start of the presentation and quite a few folks gave it a try. The crowd had quite a few questions and several came up at the end to ask more questions and to take a closer look at the equipment and flies. Thanks to all that came and thanks for all the good questions!! See you next year!

continued on next page

# *HFFA Activities*



On Saturday, August 16th, Hawkeye Fly Fishers and Trout Unlimited partnered to assemble 18 bank hides that will be used on trout stream restoration projects in 2025 and 2026. A total of 17 volunteers participated in the event at the Iowa DNR Manchester Fish Hatchery. This group consisted of HFFA and TU members, as well as Dan Kirby and Caleb Schnitzler, DNR Fisheries Biologists. We completed the build in 3 hours. During the event, we had 3 stations. Station one consisted of a Biologist and two volunteers cutting lumber to length. Station 2 was assembling stringers, this is the portion that gives the bank hide its height fish to use, and the boards that stick into the bank. Lastly was main assembly. This is where the main boards are attached to the stringers. The bank hides, weighing in at over 300 lbs., are then stacked with a tractor and loader for storage. This project could not have been completed without the help of everyone who attended. The lumber was purchased through TU with funds that were leftover from a 2024 stream project, along with a generous donation from Grau Logs and Lumber, in Elkader, IA.

*Cameron Aker*



# HFFA DVD Library

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. Humphreys, J - Dry Fly Tactics in Tight Brush
43. Humphreys, 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

416 N. Fremont St.

Stuart, Iowa 50250

515-250-8163

coonriverdog69@gmail.com

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

# *Beg, Borrow, or Steal aka Classifieds*

---

## **FOR SALE**

Quality hand-crafted trout *nets* made by an HFFA member. Nets range in length from 21" - 29" and are available in various woods and hoop configurations. Contact me directly or visit my shop at [Etsy.com](http://Etsy.com) (HoskinsNets).

Tom Hoskins  
1519 14<sup>th</sup> St.  
Bettendorf, IA 52722  
563-370-6404  
[HoskinsNets@gmail.com](mailto:HoskinsNets@gmail.com)

---

## **GP Lawrence Rods**

### **Handcrafted Split Bamboo Fly Rods**

by HFFA member, Dave Kemp  
563-590-8622 [davemikek@aol.com](mailto:davemikek@aol.com)  
Will custom make per your preferences  
Located in the Dubuque area

---

## **Trout Fishing the Driftless Area**

By Bob Trevis, HFFA Member  
The first guidebook to Iowa, Wisconsin & Minnesota driftless trout streams published as one book.  
226 pages, spiral-bound and full-color, Troutchaser's Guide  
Available through  
[www.troutchasers.net](http://www.troutchasers.net)

---

## **Quality Fly Tying Materials**

Featuring Mustad, Tiemco and Umpqua U Series hooks. Whiting necks and saddles. Vises from Anvil, Griffin, and HMH. All Wapsi, Umpqua, Hareline, Dr. Slick, and Rumpf products available.  
Excellent service! Don't forget my free fly tying classes in Cedar Rapids held January and February.

Mike Jacobs  
Hawkeye Fly Tyer  
117 E. First St.  
Monticello, IA 52310  
319-465-4704  
Bus. 319-465-5574

### **Online Catalog:**

<http://sites.google.com/site/hawkeyeflytyer>

---

---

## **Looking for All the Good Stuff?**

We'll look no further! We carry a complete line of fly tying materials, tools, flies and fly fishing tackle from some of the best names in the industry. We stock all of your favorites from Regal, Dyna King, Wapsi, Nature's Spirit, Hareline, Hardy, TFO, RIO, Cortland, Daiichi, Whiting, Metz, Fishpond, Mustad, plus many unique and innovative materials. Sign up for our free e-newsletter and take 10% off your first order, recommend a friend and get free shipping.

Badger Creek Fly Tying  
Contact us at: 607-347-4946,  
[www.eflytyer.com](http://www.eflytyer.com) or [mike@eflytyer.com](mailto:mike@eflytyer.com)

---

## **For Sale**

Regal Medallion Rotary C clamp  
Regular Jaws Like New  
Regal Bobbin Holder  
Fly Tying LED Light, with extra batteries  
Selling these items as a package  
\$200

VINTAGE South Bend Hollow Glass fly rod.  
8 ft. 6 inch. 6 wt.  
comes in original tube with sock.  
Excellent Condition  
\$60

Pennington 7 1/2 4 wt. bamboo rod.  
Two tips Updated reel seat  
Wooden Case Excellent condition

South Bend 7 1/2 6 wt bamboo rod  
Two tips  
One Owner Very Good Condition  
In original tube.

Antique Pflueger reel  
With circle line guard

Call or email for prices

Dean Elder  
[karenanddean1967@gmail.com](mailto:karenanddean1967@gmail.com)  
641-752-4840

---

---

## **Sportsmen Motel**

2753 Hwy 76  
Dorchester, IA 52140  
Book On Line  
[sportsmenmotel.sirvoy.me](http://sportsmenmotel.sirvoy.me)  
319-404-2565

---

## **Front 20 Outfitters.LLC**

Guided Trips & Fly Shop  
Perham, Minnesota  
Doug & Roxanne Harthan  
218-640-3163 cell  
[www.front20outfitters.com](http://www.front20outfitters.com)

---

## **Shallow Water Angling**

Fly Fishing Guide Service  
Ames, Iowa  
Ash Burton  
515-598-6150  
[www.shallowwateranglingiowa.com](http://www.shallowwateranglingiowa.com)

---

## **Andy's Armory and Adventure**

Fly Fishing Supplies  
1316 6th St.  
Nevada, Iowa 50201  
Andy Frey  
515-361-2160  
[www.andysaa.com](http://www.andysaa.com)

---

## **Fly Rod Reduction Sale Downsizing**

Several split bamboo rods:  
South Bend 359 9ft 3 piece 5wt.  
Montague Sunbeam 9ft 6wt  
Horrick Ibbottson Princess 7ft 2pc 5 wt  
Heddon #10 9ft 3 piece 6 wt  
6 1/2 ft 3wt made by  
Sam Fox, Harpers Ferry  
Streamcraft 4A 9ft 3 piece 7 wt  
Also some nice ORVIS rods  
843 3 wt 8ft 4in 2 piece,  
HYDROS 4 piece 9ft 6wt  
CLEARWATER 2 piece 6wt like new,  
FENWICK World Class 9ft 9wt.  
Steve Perry Decorah  
641-583-1604  
[steve.perry12678@gmail.com](mailto:steve.perry12678@gmail.com)

---