

# *The Creel*

A Publication of Northern Kentucky Fly Fishers



April 2020



*The cover art was done by Wayne Noakes' 9 year old granddaughter. She is a creative child who is destined to become a fly fisher.*

**"Art is as natural as sunshine and as vital as nourishment."**

~ MaryAnn F. Kohl

## Sarah Tomke, University of Kentucky Ph.D. Candidate Wins Red Barrington Scholarship

Sarah Tomke is a first-year Ph.D. candidate at the University of Kentucky. She is studying North America's largest aquatic salamander, the Eastern Hellbender, and will be answering many questions that remain unknown for this species - including their current distribution in the state, if reproduction is occurring, how many individuals make it to adulthood, and how changes in water quality might affect their survival. Sarah will be helping refine a recently developed research tool, environmental DNA or eDNA, to answer many of her research questions.

Sarah is originally from Wisconsin and graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2013 with a Bachelor's degree in Wildlife Ecology and Genetics. She then completed her Master's degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Science at Arkansas Tech University in 2018.

Between degrees, Sarah worked as a wildlife technician on many research projects studying the breeding behavior and habitat use of owls, quail, pheasants, and her favorite - turtles. She is particularly interested in studying how human impacts on the landscape affect species biology and genetic structure and hopes to pursue these interests in her future career.

In her free time, Sarah spends her days outside gardening, hiking, hunting, fishing, and training her bird dog. According to John Branam, Chairman of NKFF's Red Barrington Scholarship Committee, Sarah is honored to receive the Red Barrington Scholarship and cannot wait to share what she finds from her research with the members of Northern Kentucky Fly Fishers, who are some of Kentucky's biggest advocates for stream health and aquatic biodiversity.

You can see a copy of Sarah's research proposal by clicking [HERE](#).





The coloring below was done by Bill Cook's 5 year old granddaughter. Bill wasn't able to see her do the coloring because of the Coronavirus lockdown and actually hasn't seen his 2 grandchildren in over a month. He can't wait to get her out fishing.





## Stan Hastings Sets a Great Example for All

NKFF member Stan Hastings set a great example for his grandkids and for all of us. He took grandson Kristopher and granddaughter Arabella fishing at Camp Ernst Lake in early March. Before they went fishing, they did a lakeside cleanup. Great job Stan, Kristopher & Arabella.



## A Message From The President

**By Sheila Meyer**

The Board of Directors has decided to cancel all club sponsored functions for the month of May. We want to continue to comply with recommendations that are made by public health officials at the local, state and national level. We do not want to do anything that would put any of you, your families or friends at risk, so our inclination is to err on the side of extra caution.

My first and foremost question is, "Are you and your families OK?". The next is, "Can any of us do anything for you?".

Please know that you can reach out to me or any member of the Board of Directors and we will try our best to meet your requests.

You can reach me at my email address, [sheila@nkff.org](mailto:sheila@nkff.org) or my cell phone number at (859) 866-4714.

You can also reach out to any member of the Board of Directors. Their email addresses may be found on our website at [nkff.org/about-us/2019-board-of-directors/](http://nkff.org/about-us/2019-board-of-directors/).

Even if it just to hear another voice that hasn't been living in the same space for however long you have been cooped up, please reach out to us and we will at least try our best to see what we can do.

I want to express our sincere thanks and well wishes to health care workers, first responders, our military, all other essential workers and charitable organizations that are try to keep those in need medically treated, clothed and fed. There are so many that are putting their lives at risk every day, we thank all of you very much.

So much of what we do as a club depends on face-to-face interaction. If you have ideas about what we might do as a club to fill the void until social interaction is permitted again, please contact me. I would love to hear your ideas.







## Banquet 2020 Update

Hello fellow NKFFers!

As I write this banquet update, the trees are blooming, the water temps are rising, and the fishing is getting ready to catch fire. However, like many of you, I'm not focused on any of those things with the Pandemic going on currently. I hope that all of you are doing well and are finding solitude in the things your able to do. Hang in there, we will get through this and hopefully get back to normalcy soon!

Since this is the banquet update section of the newsletter, I wanted to provide you with an update on the Banquet. We are starting to see donations arriving and the kitty getting bigger for the banquet committee. I have set a goal to raise \$10,000 prior to September so that we have plenty of time to procure the prizes. We are currently at \$500.00 thanks to your generous donations. If you have not donated yet, you can do so today by clicking this [link](#). Or you can send a check made payable to NKFF to: Josh Lillard: 2498 Hilliard Drive, Hebron, KY 41048

**Banquet Date:** Saturday November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**Offsite social hour:** 5:00pm – 6:00pm (TBD Location)

**Banquet Start Time:** 6:15 pm

**Banquet Location:** St. Barbara's Sterling Event Center  
4042 Turkeyfoot Rd, Erlanger, KY 41018

**Keynote Speaker:** Karen Waldrop, PhD,  
National Conservation Director  
Ducks Unlimited

**Prize Highlight:** 

Sincerely,

*Josh Lillard*

Banquet Committee Chair



**Yeti Hopper Flip 12**

# Karen Waldrop, PhD

## 2020 NKFF Banquet Keynote Speaker

Bill Cook sent out an email with a request for ideas for the 2020 Banquet keynote speaker and received 27 responses. Wow, that was great response!! Then began the work of the Banquet Speaker Committee that Bill put together. After several weeks of deliberation and checking the availability of the speakers, the choice was made. Karen Waldrop, Chief Conservation Officer with Ducks Unlimited, is well known in Kentucky and nationally for her work on conservation and restoration of our natural resources.

Why is Karen Waldrop an excellent choice for our banquet speaker?

Karen's credentials, both academic and work experience, are amazing. Second, her new role as Chief Conservation Officer for Ducks Unlimited puts her in charge of conserving, restoring and managing wetlands and associated habitats throughout the United States all of which have the benefit of helping to ensure clean water and bountiful fisheries. Karen is also an avid hunter and angler. Finally, Karen is an awe inspiring speaker. Anyone who has heard her in a public forum comes away



*Karen Waldrop, PhD, NKFF 2020 Banquet Speaker*

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## Karen Waldrop

### 2020 NKFF Banquet Keynote Speaker

*(Continued from page 7)*

truly elated.

Karen received her bachelors degree in biology and her masters degree in wildlife biology from the University of Georgia. She then went on to earn her doctorate at Clemson University.

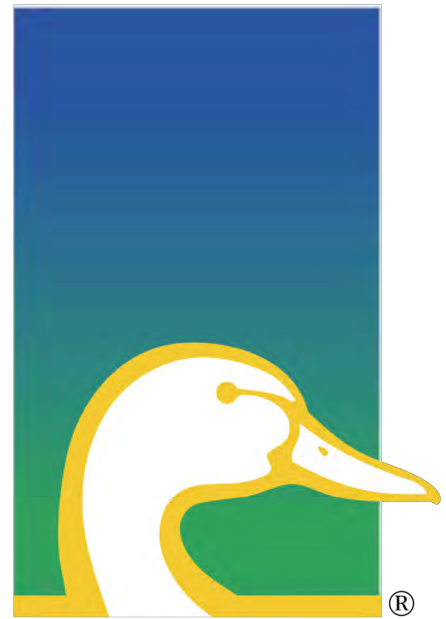
She began her association with the Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources in 1999 working on research associated with the elk restoration project. In 2000, the Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) funded a Clemson University study of Kentucky's elk restoration for which Karen was the lead researcher. That grew into a 2004 post-doctoral study with the University of Kentucky on elk restoration.

In 2005, Karen was hired by KDFWR as its Research Coordinator. In 2007, she became the Director of the Department's Wildlife Division. And in 2014, Karen was promoted to Deputy Director of the Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources.

Some of Karen's other accomplishments include:

- She played a key role in developing and implementing both the quail and roughed grouse restoration plans for Kentucky
- Wildlife Resources Chair of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies as well as their Annual Conference Chair
- A member of the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies Fish & Wildlife Health, Wildlife

*(Continued on page 9)*



# DUCKS UNLIMITED



## Karen Waldrop

### 2020 NKFF Banquet Keynote Speaker

*(Continued from page 8)*

Resource Policy and Science & Research Committees

- One of only 400 fellows of The National Conservation Leadership Institute
- She is on the Board of Directors of the Appalachian Mountains Joint Venture, one of 18 migratory bird joint ventures in the United States
- She is a Director with the Appalachian Landscape Conservation Cooperative one of 22 Landscape Cooperatives in the U.S.
- She has contributed to important research and enhanced surveillance for White-Nose Syndrome in Bats
- She has been a significant contributor to the Innovate to Learn Institute whose partners include the University of Kentucky and Google among many others in the area of Place-Based Investigations: Learning Science through Community Connections

**In September of 2014, Karen was awarded Clemson University's Dwight A. Holder Award for outstanding work and sustained achievement that fosters understanding, wise use, and conservation of natural and cultural resources.**

You are going to like Karen Waldrop. She speaks the language of NKFF.



## NKFF/Orvis 50/50 On The Water Film Tour

By Kerry Premec

**THIS EVENT HAS BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL WE ARE ABLE TO RESCHEDULE IT SAFELY. IF YOU HAVE PURCHASED TICKETS, WE HAVE A RECORD OF YOUR PURCHASE AND**

**YOU WILL BE ABLE TO USE THE TICKETS WHENEVER WE ARE ABLE TO RESCHEDULE. We thank you for your support !!**



Northern Kentucky Fly Fishers has been selected as 1 of only 100 sites for the Orvis 50/50 on the Water Film Tour. The Orvis 50/50 on the Water campaign is a family-friendly night of fly-fishing films.

You'll leave the event inspired and energized by the storytelling, which highlights anglers and fisheries from around the world.



Our sincere thanks to [Braxton Brewing Company](#) for their sponsorship of this event. We look forward to re-scheduling just as soon as possible.





# April Calendar Highlights



## April

**2 Thu** NKFF Meeting @ Florence Lions Clubhouse in Florence, KY - 5:30-9:30 – JEFF CROSBY of KDFWR on Great Fishing Destinations within 2 Hours of Northern Kentucky

**4 Sat** Kenton County Fly-Fishing Class @ Kenton County Library (Erlanger branch) 10:30am – 4:30pm (NKFF Educators)

**9 Thu** NKFF Markland Dam White Bass Run – 4:00pm – dark (J Lillard)

**14 Tue** NKFF Monthly Fly Tying at various locations TBD – 6:30pm – 8:30pm (R Arrowood)

**15 Wed** NKFF BOD Meeting - 6:30pm - Emerge ITS at 1895 Airport Exchange Blvd #170 in Erlanger, KY

**16 Thu** NKFF Zebco Outfit Refurbishing & Re-Lining - 6:30pm - HY-TEK Material Handling – 2200 Arbor Tech Dr, Hebron KY

**18 Sat** Boone County Fly-Fishing Class @ Boone County Library - 10:00am – 4:00pm (the Maplewood Gym near the Boone County Fairgrounds lake at the west end of Barneys Rd – GPS coordinates 39.033778, - 84.732723) (NKFF Educators)

**19 Sun** NKFF Local Fly-Fishing Introduction Day Trip to Alexandria Park Lake in Alexandria, KY – come out and learn to catch trout (left over from the March stocking) bluegill and bass

**22 Wed** NKFF White Bass Wading Trip to East Fork of Whitewater River near Liberty, IN – 8:00am-4:00pm J Cruse) – Meet at Jay's Dairy Bar parking lot in Liberty (7:00am)

**25 Sat** Woodford County Fly-Fishing Class @ Woodford County Library (Versailles, KY) 10:00am – 4:00pm (NKFF Educators)

**25 Sat** NKFF White Bass Wading Trip to East Fork of Whitewater River near Liberty, IN – 8:00am – 4:00pm – J Branam) – Meet at Jay's Dairy Bar parking lot in Liberty at 7:00am

**28 Tue** 5th District Federation Meeting – Gallatin County Fish & Game - Sparta Park in Sparta, KY- 6pm

**Cancelled**

# May Calendar Highlights



## May

**To be safe, we have decided to cancel the May 7th monthly meeting and all other club sponsored events for the month of May.**

**1-3 Fri-Sun** Signups for a NET-building Class in 2020 – working sessions to be finished by June 30

**2 Sat** NKFF White Bass Wading Trip to East Fork of Little liamsburg, OH – 8:00am 4:00pm – (J Branam) – Meet at the East-Castle parking lot off Glen Este-Withamsville Rd at 7:00am)

Miami River near Wilgate Mall's White

**6 Wed** NKFF Local Fly-Fishing Introduction Day Trip Tailwaters – learn to catch trout in a stream – Carp Fish-field Marina (west end of Brookville Causeway) will be ter backup

to Brookville ing at Fair-our high wa-

**7 Thu** NKFF meeting @ Florence Lions ence, KY – 5:00-9:00 – the World Famous – SUSAN THRASHER speaking on Trout ing & rolling out her new book.

Clubhouse in Flor-NKFF Chili Cook-Off Tactics and Book Sign-

**9 Sat** 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual 5th District Derby at Boone Lake in Walton, KY -

Handicapped Kids Fishing 8am-2pm (J Lillard/R Kilmer)

**8-9 Fri-Sat** Intermediate/ - Susan Thrasher at Beechridge

Advanced Co-Ed Fly Fishing Clinic Conference Center (K Premec)

**12 Tue** NKFF Monthly – 6:30pm – 8:30pm (R Ar-

Fly Tying at various locations TBD rowood)

**14 Thu** NKFF – 4:00pm – dark (J

Corinth Lake Boat/Canoe/Kayak Float & Fish Lillard)

**16 Sat** at England-Educators)

NKFF Members-Only Casting / Fishing Class Idlewild ponds in Burlington, KY 10am - 1pm (NKFF

**16 Sat** Idlewild Park –

Boone County Spring Fishing Derby @ England- 2pm – 5pm - (D Bottoni) - volunteers needed.

**17 Sun** NKFF Frisch's Restaurant in

Little Miami River – Yellow Springs, OH Wading Day Trip. Meet at Fort Wright at 6am to rideshare up. (R & K Premec)

**26 Tue** 5th District 6pm

Federation Meeting – Dutchman's Rod & Gun Club in Hebron, KY -

**30 Sat** Old Timbers Lake Float Trip in the Big Oaks Nat'l Wildlife Refuge (2 Mi. south of Hol-ton, IN) (Ron Francis & Ken Santo) – Launch your watercraft (boats, canoes, kayaks, pontoons and fish the lake)

**Cancelled**



# NKFF Dues were Due March 1st



**If you have already paid your dues,  
then we thank you very much !!**

We are thrilled to have you as a member of NKFF and appreciate your continued support by renewing your dues which were due on March 1st.

Dues are \$30 for an individual and \$35 for a family membership.

Since our monthly meetings for April and May have been cancelled, there are now 2 options available for you to pay your dues.

- ♦ Pay Online [HERE](#)
- ♦ Mail a check payable to NKFF to:

P.O. Box 17541

Lakeside Park, KY 41017

Questions? Contact [Mark LeSuer](#)

# Wha Da Ya Mean Catch n Release

**By Josh Lillard** *(Editors note: The views expressed in this article are those of the author and in no way reflect the opinion of this publication, its editor or NKFF's leadership.)*

The true sportsman loves and respects his quarry, whether fish, fowl, or game. During the act of harvesting, true sportsmen will be sure the kill is quick and humane. Hunters are taught not to take a shot if it's more likely to wound than kill the target. So why do fishermen catch and release?

I can't believe any club would endorse catch & release of fish. What's the point? To let the fish go so these pantywaists can play with a fish and let it go when they're done?

You don't see hunters in a tree stand with paint ball guns, do ya? There ain't no painted bucks released in Kentucky, are there? You don't call in a gobbler to stand up and shout "Fooled ya!" I bet you never met a vegetarian fishing catch and release for the sport of it, either.

The Cumberland River tail water is a put & take fishery, not put & take & put. The true sportsman harvests a fish and dispatches it quickly. It's only the namby-pamby that releases a fish just so it can get stuck on another hook.

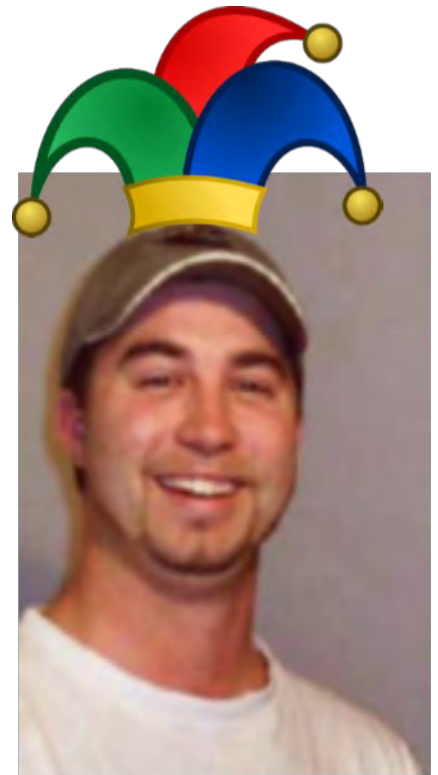
Y'all need to quit the hypocrisy and remember fishing for what it is, a blood sport, just like hunting and trapping.

You want better fishing? Put more trout in the dammed river. Don't tell me I can't



practice my brand of fishing, that I gotta do it your way. My granddaddy fished that river before that dam was there and raised his kids on fish he caught, not some Saran-wrapped supermarket filets. My daddy put fish on the table and so do I.

Pass the tartar sauce.





*From our friend and Smokey Mountain guide, Rob Fightmaster.... Words from Aesop's Fables to live by:*

To his sons, who fell out, father spake:  
“This Bundle of Sticks you can’t break;  
Take them singly, with ease.  
You may break as you please;  
So, dissension your strength will unmake.”

***Strength is in unity.***



**Photo by Rob Fightmaster**

Trillium cuneatum, the little sweet Betsy, also known as whip-poor-will flower, large toadshade, purple toadshade, and bloody butcher, is a species of flowering plant in the family Melanthiaceae.

It is native to the southeastern United States but is especially common in a region that extends from southern Kentucky through central Tennessee to northern Alabama. In its native habitat, this perennial plant flowers from early March to late April (depending on latitude).

## Board of Directors Announces Remedial Fly Fishing Classes

The NKFF Board of Directors announced a new policy mandating remedial fly fishing classes for club members that are skunked 3 times in a row.



Poor success jeopardizes the club's national and local status, said Mike Arnold, Director of Education for NKFF.

The need for change was brought to the attention of the Board for action by Dan Zambon who can't stand to see anyone skunked.

The remedial classes will stress the basics such as triple Hoeffmeyer knots and snaked wind casts. "We're going to break these folks down and then build 'em back up again," declared Arnold. He went on to say, "We aim to be tough but fair".

The policy requires strict confidentiality regarding members assigned to the classes. **But you know who you are.**





# The Wonderful World of Worms

*By Rob Fightmaster*

**T**he thought of fishing with a worm pattern makes many fly fishing purists cringe. I have to admit, I sometimes feel a little dirty about it but I'm not sure why. I think it's kind of like the disdain some fly fishers have for strike indicators, probably due to their similarity to bobbers. Bobbers and worms are the tools of bait fishermen and fly fishers don't like the thought of doing ANYTHING akin to bait fishing!

The thing is, fish eat worms – even the sophisticated trout. When we choose most fly patterns, we are doing so because they resemble something we think the fish is eating. Therefore, why should fly patterns that imitate worms be any different? Maybe it's just because the patterns for worms just don't have the same elegance and beauty as say, a traditional wet fly pattern.

Maybe it would help to verbally justify it when you tie on a worm pattern. That's what I do. In much the same way I acknowledge eating that piece of pie as a bad decision right before I eat the piece of pie, I always declare that I'm going to fish junk before I put on a worm. There's just something about that self-awareness that allows us to forgive ourselves and sleep at night. And when it comes to fishing the



## The Wonderful World of Worms

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worm, it doesn't hurt that they flat out catch fish!

### San Juan Worm

Just like any fly pattern, a worm imitation isn't magic. You're not going to instantly catch a bunch of fish because you're using a worm. You still have to do all of the other things right like [approach and presentation](#). And sometimes, even when everything is done correctly, the fish may just not be feeding and/or they may not be feeding on worms.

Fish that live in streams with rock bottoms and banks are simply not going to see as many worms as fish in streams with silt bottoms because it's not their habitat. In the mountains, I have the best success with worms after a good rain. But that's probably true about anywhere. We've all seen an abundance of worms on our sidewalk or driveway after a good rain because they are flooded out of their "holes." The same thing happens on a stream bank and many of those worms end up in the stream where fish are looking for them.

Under normal conditions, I don't have as much success with worm patterns, at least with wild trout, or even holdover stocked trout. But freshly stocked trout will often eat a worm pattern with reckless abandon simply because it's colorful. Fresh stockers tend to be suckers for anything bright or shiny. However, with wild trout, even when they don't eat the worm, I think it gets their attention.

I will routinely fish a pink or red worm as the top fly of a double nymph rig and for the bottom fly, I'll use a more subtle, maybe smaller pattern like a Pheasant Tail. Over the years, it's happened way too many times to be coincidence. I'll fish a fly



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## The Wonderful World of Worms

(Continued from page 18)

like a Pheasant Tail by itself or in tandem with another nymph with no success. When I re-rig and use that same Pheasant Tail below a worm, it suddenly begins catching fish! I don't think that's necessarily unique to worm patterns, though. I've had similar results using various bigger, brighter flies above smaller, subtler ones.

### Squirmy Worm

There are a lot of different worm patterns out there, but there's only so much artistic interpretation a fly tyer can have when it comes to worms! The San Juan Worm has long been the gold standard, but more recently, the [Squirmy Worm](#) has won favor with many anglers. They are essentially the same pattern but with different body materials. The traditional San Juan Worm has a body made of vernille or micro-chenille, which has less movement but is more durable. The Squirmy Worm uses a stretchy, silicone material, which offers a lot of movement but can come apart after several fish. Pick your poison.



In any case, there are a number of different colors available. Pink and red are the two best colors for me. However, colors like purple, orange and brown have all had their moments.

### Green Weenie

And it has certainly been well documented that a [Green Weenie](#) is a killer fly in the Smokies. While it fits a little

more loosely in the worm category, it still very much fits. Most commonly thought of as an inchworm imitation, it has a smaller, more robust profile than most worms and is most productive in a chartreuse color.





## Mississippi River Declared Catch & Release

In a major victory for fly anglers and proponents of catch and release fishing, portions of the Mississippi River will soon fall under new regulations mandating the use of single barbless hook flies, and requiring that all caught fish be immediately released.



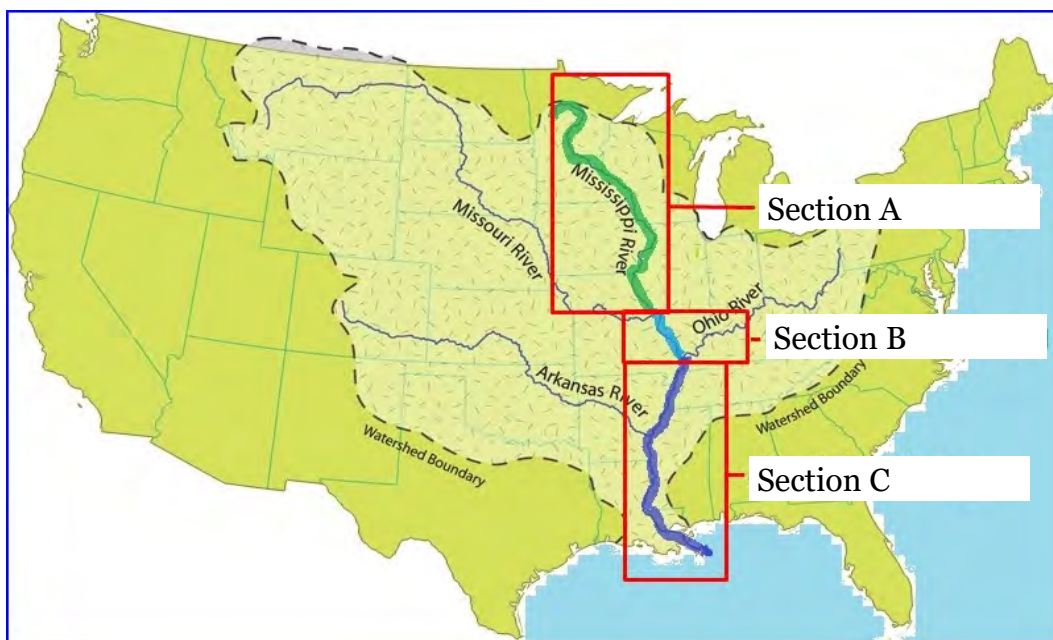
"Our industry is pretty flat, and we're not doing a stellar job of recruiting new participants to the sport, so we figured, what the heck... let's have the government intervene, that's what all the other struggling industries are doing these days!" said Merv Fossil, director of the Legion of American Angling Manufacturers and Enthusiasts (LAAME). "What better way to advance the cause our nation's largest river?"

Not all of the Mississippi is affected by the rules changes. Only "section A," from the river's headwaters in northern Minnesota to St. Louis, Missouri, and "section C" from Memphis to the Gulf of Mexico, will be covered by the new rules.

Noodling for catfish will still be allowed in all sections of the river and its tributaries.

Fossil said he expects that, given the anticipated popularity of the new regulations, his group will set its sights on Lake Erie for 2025.

"Because Erie is the shallowest of the Great Lakes, we think it's the logical place for single barbless hook flies," said Fossil. "We're working with our Canadian counterparts to start a grassroots initiative... 'Casting Flies Can Make You Weary, but It's So Much Fun Here on Lake Erie' is one of the campaign themes we're toying with now."



# The Beauty of Classic Wet Flies

**By Fred Klein**

My journey in pursuit of trout with the fly began over 40 years ago with a new fly rod and instructions to cast and drift a fly. What a gift that was. The woods and waters of Pennsylvania, the Appalachian Mountains and beyond have brought a life of admiration for the wilderness, forests, wildlife, and a thirst for “what lies beyond the next bend in the stream and over the mountain.”

The history of fly fishing is a rich and romantic culmination of woodsmen, artists and literature which lies at the heart of early American history. The flies from the 1800s and early 1900s tell a story of their originators: the men and women in pursuit of wild trout and salmon. Their names are recorded in various annals along with their flies and their stories. They fished the waters of Maine, New York, Vermont, Pennsylvania and Montana, to



*A brook trout fin wet fly that I designed and have fished with success. Trout fin flies are tied to mimic the fin of a brook trout, which are territorial and aggressive, biting one another's fins, especially during the spawn. These wet flies will work all through the year.*

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## The Beauty of Classic Wet Flies

(Continued from page 21)

name just a few places where these pioneers made their marks. Many of the patterns from the early years of fly fishing in the US (and elsewhere) were elaborate, colorful and artistically designed. They were flies tied on large hooks. Many were tied in hand with no vise, and often on the river banks where the authors fished.

Several exhaustive books were published with descriptions and painted plate illustrations of the most popular fly pat-



*Royal Coachman from Ray Bergman's Trout (1938)*



*Jay Silver, from Ray Bergman's Trout (1938)*

terns of their era, giving us a glimpse into the details of the flies and techniques used. The first was Charles F. Orvis's *Fishing with the Fly* in 1883, then Mary Orvis Marbury's *Favorite Flies and Their Histories* (1892). Ray Bergman, born in 1911, was an intelligent and passionate fisherman, publishing his most influential book, *Trout*, in 1938, just before World War II. He fished extensively throughout the United States and Canada, becoming the editor of *Outdoor Life* for three decades. A brilliant work of art and literature, *Trout* included painted col-

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## The Beauty of Classic Wet Flies

*(Continued from page 22)*

or plates of 440 wet flies, streamers and dry flies. It displays a remarkably extensive collection of flies, including many patterns dating back to early America and many originally from England, Scotland and Ireland.

There are a number of talented contemporary fly tiers who have pursued the classical tradition. Our endeavor is to continue the traditional methods and pass them on to the next generation. I hope you might tie a few old flies, and perhaps cast them downstream.



*Golden Pheasant, from Ray Bergman's Trout (1938)*

## Real Cause of Covid-19 Traced to Hot Tub

The NKFF 2006 North Carolina trip caused many club members to lose control of their senses and soak together in a cesspool of warm, bubbling water. Who knows what was lurking in those waters.



*We thought for sure they were going to get naked.*





## Real Cause of Covid-19 Traced to Hot Tub





## Is the World Ready for the Men of NKFF?

Back in 2006, NKFF member Bill Ballard noticed the conspicuous absence of calendars featuring men fishing. Quite by accident, he ran across calendar publications featuring scantily clad women fishing, women and cars, sexy women and motorcycles, power tools, chainsaws and well...you get the picture.



Bill thought surely there must be a market for such a calendar... men and fly fishing. What a great way to get more women involved in the sport. An untapped market and potentially the latest and greatest club fundraiser - a calendar featuring some of NKFF's own pot-bellied hunks.

Bill even put together the cover for the 2007 "Men of the NKFF" calendar. But alas, the idea never took hold. Surely just ahead of its time.

So now Bill Renner, are you ready for the next club fundraiser? Is it time to resurrect this cutting-edge idea? We'll need some new hunks though.

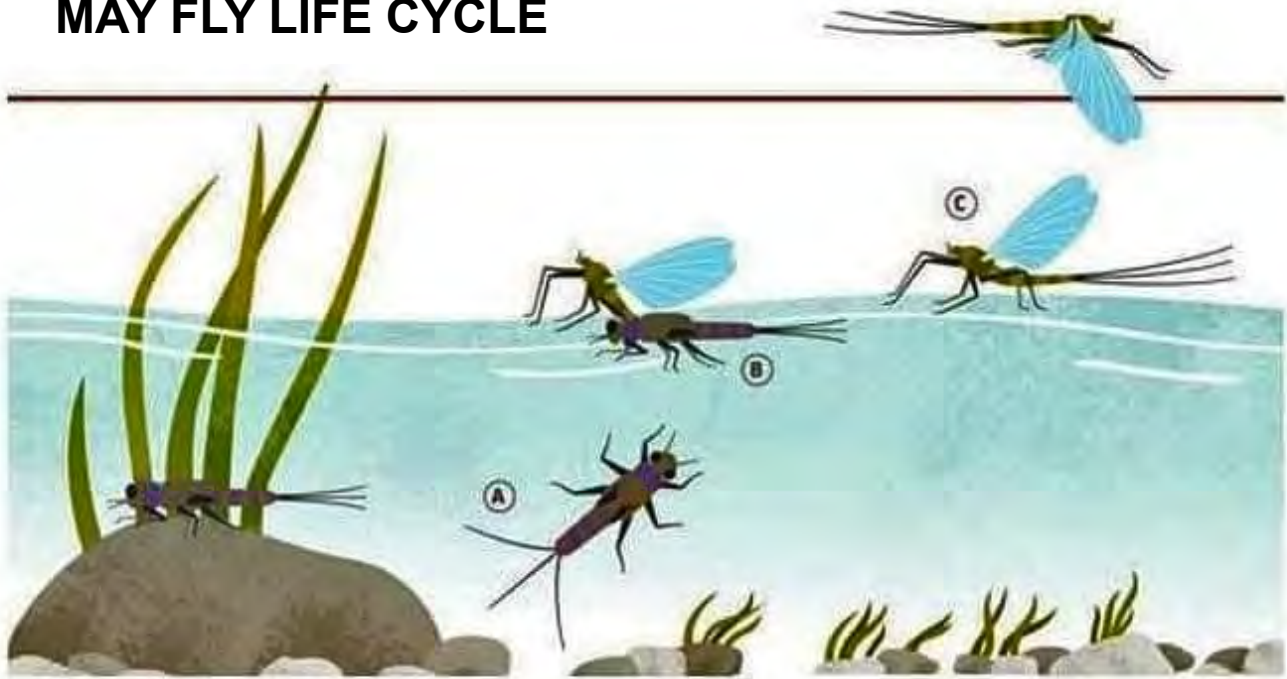


*From left to right: Ron Kilmer, Tim Guilfoile, Mike Arnold & Joe Jackman*

## From Joel Stansbury

**Mayflies** spend most of their lives in the water as nymphs and then emerge as adults for only a short while. Adults will live only a day or so, but the aquatic larvae or nymph lives for about a year. Their status is unknown. There are more than 600 species of **mayfly** in the United States and 3,000 worldwide.

### MAY FLY LIFE CYCLE



**A**



**NYMPH**

**B**



**EMERGER**

**C**



**ADULT**





## More About Mayflies: Getting the Most Out of Life

We hope that soon we can get out and experience the joys of fishing the various forms of the Mayfly. Until then, here are a few tidbits of trivia that may amuse.

### 1. Mayflies come out in May. Surprise!

The rumors are true. Mayflies start “hatching” from their water-larva state starting in May, and continue to do so throughout spring and summer.

### 2. Mayflies have an incredibly short lifespan.

After the larval stage, female mayflies usually live less than five minutes, while males can live a whopping two days. But they don’t waste a single minute, spending that short period of time mating and reproducing.

### 3. They go by many aliases.

In some parts of the United States, Mayflies are known as Canadian Soldiers, while in Canada they are called shadflies. And, of course, the British came up with the most creative name of all, the up-winged fly.

### 4. Mayflies have abs.

All mayflies have an abdomen consisting of 10 segments. Some of the segments actually have operculate gills. So, they are extremely cut and amphibious — kind of like the new Aquaman.



### 5. Flying food.

Often a fly fishers favorite fly is some variation of the Mayfly fly. There are more fly patterns for every stage of development for these little buggers than you can possibly count in a lifetime. They are an extremely popular entree for many species of fish, including trout. Humans also like consuming Mayflies for their high protein

*(Continued on page 29)*



## More About Mayflies: Getting the Most Out of Life

(Continued from page 28)

content. And in the country of Malawi, people even bake them into cakes.

### 6. They don't have mouths.

For adult mayflies, every minute is reserved for reproduction and feeding fish. They don't have time to eat, so they never develop functional mouths. Although, in the larval state, mayflies have fully developed mouths, and their diet is strictly algae.

### 7. Mayflies have lots of offspring.

And we mean LOTS. The average female Mayfly lays anywhere from 400 to 3,000 eggs. Typically, they are dropped on top of the water to develop into larvae.

### 8. Under threat.

Mayfly eggs are extremely sensitive to pollution. Even modest levels of water pollution can kill up to 80 percent of their eggs. Scientists sometimes use the presence of Mayfly eggs to quickly determine the purity of the water.

### 9. Mayflies are famous.

These prehistoric insects were born to live in the limelight. Aristotle mentions the mayfly in his "History of Animals." The poet George Crabbe used the mayfly as a symbol for the brevity of life. And many people gather to witness the swarms that occur during hatching season. In some regions, the number of insects is so expansive that they show up on the local weather radar.

### 10. They live life to the fullest.

Mayflies are said to have been around before dinosaurs. After more than 350 million years of evolution, they have perfected the art of life. They start as an egg, turn into a naiad, emerge from the water, fully mature into adults to reproduce, and then start a family of at least 400. And they do it all in less than two days. There is still much to be learned about these magnificent creatures, but they truly do exemplify the phrase, "live fast, die young."

Just like the mayfly, we are hopeful that we will soon be emerging from the depths of winter and the Coronavirus and move into the light. This spring, we can take a page from the Mayfly's book and live our best life.







## How to be Successful at Nymph Fishing

*If you didn't catch this in the last issue, it is well worth your time.*

It is often said that trout feed subsurface for 90% of their diet. This means if you don't have some basic nymph fishing in your arsenal of fly fishing skills, you're missing out on catching more fish. Dry fly purists and streamer junkies have their place, but fish are almost always more willing to take a nymph in most circumstances. We are going to teach you the essential information you need to start nymphing or take your skill to a successful level.

### Here's the good news

Basic nymphing with an indicator is the easiest way to present a fly in most rivers and beginners can learn it quickly and get success more often. Whether you are just starting out, or you are able to nymph fish with success but want to improve your game, it's all within your reach.

The other good news is nymphing produces a lot of fish when you are dialed in to the right presentation, flies, and location. It also produces some of the largest fish caught in nearly all rivers every year. Learning to nymph when fly fishing is an incredibly valuable skill.

### WHAT THIS MASTERY GUIDE TEACHES

We are going to take an incredibly simple and practical approach to teach you how to catch more fish anywhere you fly fish with nymphs. We will cover:

- How to set up your rod and flies for nymphing
- How to cast nymphs and manage your drift
- How to set the hook and land a fish

**Access the entire Mastery Guide at the link below:**

<https://midcurrent.fliesforsale.com/basic-guide-to-nymphing/?ffst=3eppd-dgqe>

## Up Late Reading *Birds of America* by Robert DeMott

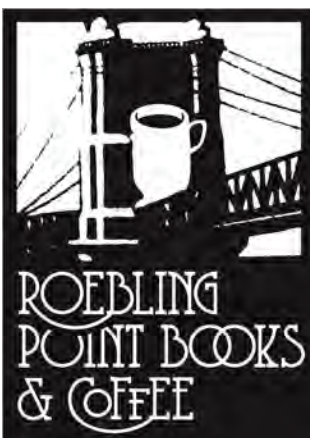
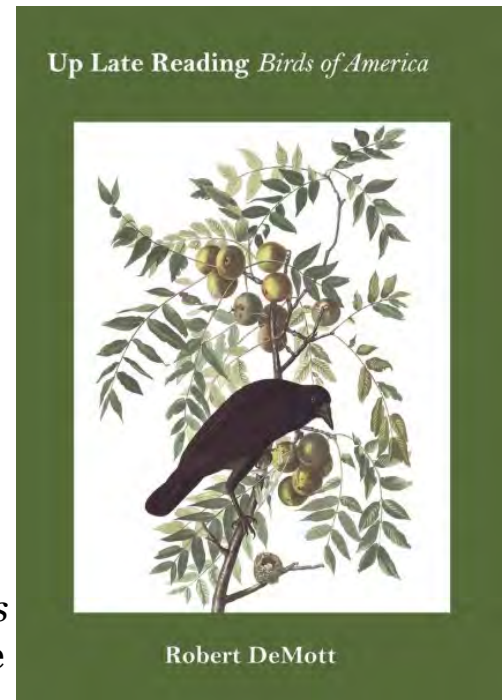
Robert (Bob) DeMott, a Life Member of Northern Kentucky Fly Fishers, has published a new book that was released in January of this year.

His other books include *Astream: American Writers on Fly Fishing*, *Afield: American Writers on Bird Dogs* and *Angling Days: A Fly Fisher's Journal*. He is also the author of *Conversations with Jim Harrison* (University Press of Mississippi, updated edition in 2019), a collection of interviews by the author and screenwriter, best known for the novella *Legends of the Fall*.

Bob has published numerous other books, collections of poetry and articles in magazines as diverse as *Gray's Sporting Journal* and the *Yale Angler's Journal* to the *Steinbeck Quarterly* and the *Southern Humanities Review*.

Chris Dombrowski fly fishing guide and author of *Body of Water* said of DeMott's new book, "With a generous formal genius, in a limpid voice that never bullies but rather accompanies the reader like a swath of light on the living room floor, Robert DeMott gifts us a gorgeous new collection of revelatory, time-traversing poems that transcend fad or trend."

A fly fisher for more than half a century, Bob DeMott is a Federation of Fly Fishers certified casting instructor, a life member of Trout Unlimited and a life member of NKFF. He lives in Athens, Ohio, with writer and editor Kate Fox.



You can order *Up Late Reading Birds of America* by Robert DeMott from NKFF's preferred book store, Roebeling Point Books & Coffee by emailing Richard Hunt (the owner) at [richard@roebelingpointbooks.com](mailto:richard@roebelingpointbooks.com) or calling him at (859) 815-7204.



# My Dog Ate My Homework

**By Tim Guilfoile**

I want to apologize for this newsletter being so late, but I've got a great excuse.

Since I fully intended to comply with the stayed at home order, I thought this might be a great time to get some yardwork done. So I had 20 cubic yards of mulch delivered and it came in a huge dump truck. The driver dumped it in my driveway but on his way out he didn't put the bed of the truck down and he ripped the electric line and the internet line off the roof of my house.

Well guess who else is short handed during this Coronavirus pandemic. Yep, Duke Energy and Spectrum. I learned that the pipe sticking out of the roof of my house into which the main electric line feeds is call the "masthead". It was bent in half and Duke wouldn't fix it until an electrician fixed the masthead and Spectrum wouldn't fix the internet line until the electrician and Duke fixed the electric line.

So I did get an electrician to get us temporary electric, but I have been without internet for well over a week, so nothing got done on the newsletter. I still don't have internet from Spectrum, so I got the mulch company's insurance company to pay for a WiFi hotspot. It is slow, but at least I can annoy you with my emails again.



The Creel

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Editor: Tim Guilfoile [tim@nkff.org](mailto:tim@nkff.org)

<https://nkff.org/>