



The Flyline

The Newsletter of the Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association

April, 2020



HFFA member George Deloff from Cedar Falls throws a nice loop!
"Ultimate Presentation - T Minus 1/2 Second & Counting"
First Place Winner HFFA Photo Contest by Dale Tayloe



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The President's Hatch

The 2020 HFFA show is over and we can now look forward to fishing some of the areas that were highlighted by the speakers. I learned a lot about new (to me) techniques that should make my fishing more enjoyable. A Huge thanks goes out to the Dubuque Fly Fishers for hosting the show. The local clubs are what really make these shows possible. The Central Iowa Fly Fishers are already gearing up for the 2021 show to be held at the FFA Enrichment Center, Ankeny, Iowa on the week-end of March 12 - 14.

For me, the most enjoyable part of the show is connecting with HFFA members that I haven't seen in a year. We have so many great people in this organization, and getting to know them better is always a good time. Keep an eye on our publications and social media for upcoming events. The next time will probably be a work day in April, although we don't have anything planned at this time. That will be followed by the Bluegill outing to be held at Lake Wapello near Drakesville, Iowa this coming May 8,9, and 10.



John Carl Miller

The above two paragraphs were written about two weeks ago, before social gatherings were banned the world over. It makes me appreciate the forethought of the founders of the HFFA when they included "the enhancement of fellowship and camaraderie among fly fishers" in the preamble of the by laws.

A "YouTube" video isn't the same as seeing a presentation in person. The vendors have actual products that you can touch and see how it fits you and your needs. I am hoping that this is all behind us by the time the 2021 show time rolls around.

Do not forget the other organizations that had their fundraisers cancelled. Send them a donation, maybe what you think the trip, food, and motel might have cost.

Finally, the best way to practice "social distancing" is to get out fishing. Find a stream that isn't frequented often and explore. Better yet float a river for smallmouth or trout in a one person conveyance (pontoon, canoe, or kayak).

*Practice Social Distancing
John*

**2021 HFFA Annual
Fly Fishing Show**
March 12 - 14, 2021
FFA Enrichment Center, Ankeny, Iowa
macerbo@iastate.edu



President John Carl Miller presents this year's Grand Prize Raffle Rod to Joe Connelly of Dubuque. The rod a Sage Trout LL 389-4, reel Sage Spectrum LT, Rio Gold Line, backing, tippet in 4x,5x,6x, and leaders. Joe just recently took up fly fishing.

This should give him a good start.



**Help Support
Port-a-Potties at N&S Bear Creeks
Go Fund Me**
<https://www.gofundme.com/port-a-potty>

Contacts & Meetings

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macerbo@iastate.edu

CR/IC, Director

Vacant

Hank Moeller, Work Day Contact

hankjmoe@gmail.com
319-389-1334

Davis Horton, Conservation Chair

dhorton@hardincountyia.gov
515-577-6619

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing

Meets 1st & 3rd Tuesday of Month
5:30 pm

VA Central Iowa Health System
Behavioral Health Bldg 6M RM204
Des Moines, IA
Contact: Dale Sanders
iaflyfisher@q.com

Quad Cities Chapter

Meets 1st & 3rd Sunday 6:00 pm
October to May

Meets 1st Sunday 6:00 pm June to
September

Riverdale Fire Station, 110 Manor
Drive, Riverdale, IA
Contact: John Channon
jc.channon@mchsi.com

Dubuque Fly Fishers

Meets 2nd & 4th Monday 7:00 pm
October to May

Swiss Valley Nature Center
13606 Swiss Valley Rd., Dubuque,
IA

Contact: Mike Stallsmith
president@dubuqueflyfishers.org

Central Iowa Fly Fishers

Meets 3rd Saturday 9:00 am Sep-
tember to May

Our Lady's Immaculate Heart
Church

510 East 1st St., Ankeny, IA

Contact: Martin Acerbo
macerbo@iastate.edu

Iowa City Chapter

Contact: Ryan Maas
maas_ryan@yahoo.com

Cedar Rapids Fly Fishers

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

Jason Hochstetler - 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

Beginner or Skilled

Meet other Women Fly Fishers

Des Moines or North Liberty

katelodge25@gmail.com

willacamp@gmail.com

Trout Unlimited Spring Creeks Chapter

Ryan Maas – President

Check Their Web Site

www.tu-springcreeks.org

Iowa's Coldwater

Conservancy

Tom Murray

jandtmurray@gmail.com

Event Calendar

**All Events Are In Doubt Or Cancelled
Due To Coronavirus**

April 2020

April 4 (Snow date April 11) 8:30 am
Driftless TU Spring Cleanup Day
9:00 am - noon
Meet at Campground 1280 Quandahl Rd
1 mile East of Highlandville
Steve Perry
641-583-1604

April ?
HFFA - Iowa DNR Work Day
9:00 am - noon
Manchester Trout Hatchery
22693 205th Ave., Manchester, IA
Hank Moeller
hankjmoe@gmail.com

April 25
Driftless TU Annual Fundraiser
Reception 5:00 pm, Buffet 6:00 pm
Danan Lansing Memorial Bld.
Winneshek County Fairgrounds
Decorah, Iowa
iadrifttufr@gmail.com

May 2020

May 1 - 3
IA DNR Becoming an Outdoor Woman
Westly Woods Camp and Retreat Center
Indianola, Iowa
Registration Required
Contact Rachel Alliss
Rachel.Alliss@dnr.iowa.gov
515-729-6037

May 8 - 10
HFFA Bluegill Outing
Lake Wapello, Drakesville, IA
Dan Peterson
319-931-2630

June 2020

Wisconsin Women's Fly Fishing Clinics

June 17 - 19
On The Water Skills Clinic 2020
West Fork Sportsman's Club
Avalanche, WI
wisconsinwomenflyfishing@gmail.com

June 19 - 21
Women's Fly Fishing Clinic Basics
West Fork Sportsman's Club
Avalanche, WI
wisconsinwomenflyfishing@gmail.com

July 2020

July 12 - 17
Project Aware - River Cleanup
Middle and South Raccoon Rivers
www/iowaprojectaware.org

July 20 - 25
FFI Fly Fishing Fair
Montana State University
Bozeman, MT
www.flyfishersinternational.org

July 31
Deadline for State Fair Tying Contest
State Fair Administration
P.O. Box 57130
Des Moines, Iowa 50317

August 2020

September 2020

September ?
6th Annual Brule River Spey Day
Lake superior Steelhead Assn.
Brule River @ McNeil House
Brule, WI
www.Steelheaders.org

September ?
HFFA - Iowa DNR Work Day
Manchester Trout Hatchery
22693 205th Ave., Manchester, IA
Hank Moeller
hankjmoe@gmail.com

October 2020

October 2 - 4
4th Annual Driftless Flyathon
Yellow river State Forest
Registration April 11th
65 positions available
flyathon@driftlessonthefly.com

October 2 - 4
2020 Casting for Recovery IA
Camp Ewalu's Stone Retreat Center
Strawberry Point, IA 52076
norrisk@ihanoline.org
Apply by July 24th

November 2020

December 2020

January 2021

February 2021

March 2021

March 12 - 14
HFFA Annual Fly Fishing Show
FFA Enrichment Center
1055 SW Prairie Trail Parkway
Ankeny, Iowa 50023
Martin Acerbo
macerbo@iastate.edu

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

Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association Membership Application

☐ New ☐ Renewal ☐ Change of Address Information

Check Membership Category:

- ☐ \$25 Member
- ☐ \$10 Youth Member (18 and under)
- ☐ \$15 Senior Member (65 or older)
- ☐ \$45 Family Membership
- ☐ \$300 Life Member

Conservation Contribution:

- ☐ \$10 (Glass)
- ☐ \$20 (Graphite)
- ☐ \$30 (Boron)
- ☐ \$_____ (Cane, over \$50)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

Make checks payable to & mail to:
Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association
P.O. Box 8145
Cedar Rapids, IA 52408

HFFA Business Report

Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association Membership Meeting March 7, 2020

Meeting called to order by President John Carl Miller at 12:30 PM

1. Welcome from John Carl Miller - John thanked the show committee for the great effort for this years show. He also thanked the attendees for making this show and the club the success that it is.

2. Brad Mullin, Treasurer, gave the financial report, that showed the club was in good shape.

3. Tom Murray gave a report from Iowa Coldwater Conservancy - see his article in this issue of The Flyline.

4. President Miller introduced Davis Horton, who has been appointed Conservation Chair for the club. Davis is the Interpretive Program Assistant for the Hardin County Conservation Board. His contact info is ph 515-577-6619, dhorton@hardincountyia.gov.

5. Membership Committee - Willa Campbell, Ron Stahlberg and Hank Moeller: Willa outlined their thoughts and suggestions for improving retention and attracting younger members.

6. 2021 Show Report - Martin Acerbo - Date March 12 -14, 2021, FFA Enrichment Center, 1055 SW Prairie Parkway, Ankeny, Iowa 50023. Brief discussions were held regarding 2021 show in Des Moines and 2022 show in Iowa City.

Old Business:

- Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation requests for \$750 for land acquisition on Bloody Run and \$5000 for land acquisition on 10 Mile Creek have been approved by the board and will provide more access to fishing.
- The board approved the purchase of a new projector for \$900 and it has been purchased. (Thanks to Doug Nauman and Brad Mullin for advising and purchasing)
- 2019 Iowa non-resident deer tag auction was successful and the club's share is \$7,635 - (Thanks to Ryan Maas)
- State Fair Fly Tying Contest - see article in this issue of The Flyline

New Business:

- Funding for North/South Bear Port-a-Potty @ \$385 for last year and continued support for 2020 - unanimous approval
- Funding for Maquoketa River Grazing Project @\$1250 - unanimous approval
- Suggestion that the club find someone to write the History of HFFA
- **HFFA merchandise valued at around \$10,000 will be sold at a discount between now and the end of the 2021 show. If anything is left it will be donated to a good cause. This was approved by voice vote of all attending.**
- Web site still needs someone to put up new material on a bi weekly basis.
- Election of Officers: John Carl Miller will serve as president for one more year, Ron Stahlberg will serve as vice president, and Martin Acerbo will take David Oliver's position as director representing CIFF. All ran unopposed and were approved by a voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM

Notes by Don Otto and verbal communication with John Carl Miller

2020 HFFA Show Speakers



Mat Wagner
Driftless Angler

GUIDE, CO-OWNER OF THE DRIFTLESS ANGLER

Mat rose to the challenge. Friday Night "Competition Style Nymphing in the Driftless" was his topic and we all learned some new ideas. Saturday he filled in for his significant other, Geri Meyer, on her topic "Underrated Driftless Flies and How to Present Them". Then at the banquet all restraints were off as he presented "How to Survive Fishing with Your Significant Other". Geri will have to present her rebuttal at a later date. LOL



Mel Hayner

Driftless Fly Fishing Company
ORVIS FLY SHOP OWNER AND GUIDE
Mel demonstrated the usefulness of a kayak and introduction to streams in his area. His topic "Kayak Fly Fishing the Rivers of Southeast Minnesota and Northern Iowa" gave us a new perspective.



Kevin Searock
AUTHOR & ANGLER

Kevin's topic "Tiger Hunting" left me with the thought that "Tigers" are close to my granddaughters in Madison! I am also enjoying reading his book *Troutsmith*.



Brian Ramsey

Brian Ramsey's Outdoor Sporting Life
GUIDE, TOURNAMENT CASTER & INSTRUCTOR
Brian gave us a wide ranging discussion of techniques and philosophy. He has really been there and done that!



Liz Siepker

Driftless Fishers, LLC
GUIDE, OWNER OF DRIFTLESS FISHERS, LLC
Liz's presentation "Fishes' Perspective" took us on a tour of NE Iowa trout streams seen only by fish and at least one brave soul.

2020 HFFA Show Speakers



Scott Nordby
ELITE FLY TIER

Scott's presentation "The Evolution of the Fly Tying Vise" was a trip down memory lane for some and valuable information for all. Scott also spent most of the weekend in the "Tying Room" sharing his knowledge. Not sure what was happening in the tying room you will just have to ask Scott. See photo on right.



Hunter Dorn

Wisconsin Fly Fishing Company
HEAD GUIDE, OWNER & INSTRUCTOR
I stole this photo from Hunter's Facebook page. Glad to see he has good help.
Hunter told us how to "Be a Better Minnow".



Jim Romberg

Fisherman's Lair Guide Service
GUIDE EXTRAORDINAIRE
Jim gave us a very detailed view of fishing in Grant County, Wisconsin.



Dan Kirby of Iowa DNR Manchester Hatchery (left) brought us up to date on the condition of Iowa streams and current projects. **Michael Birmingham** (right) from the Iowa Hygienic Lab gave us a view of Iowa's "Bugs" and how they populate our streams! These two guys really informed us about the status of the fragile ecology where we fish.

2020 HFFA Show



The annual show always starts with registration. It can not be an "official show" unless Brad Mullin is there to greet you assisted by the nice ladies from the Dubuque Flyfishers. (photo on left) The show always has other worthwhile organizations represented and none are more worthy than Casting for Recovery. Mic McVey was doing his part to spread the word. Mic and his wife were also nice enough to put up with me at the banquet and this is how you get your photo in The Flyline. LOL! (photo on right)



Vendors are always an important part of the annual show. They support us and hopefully we support them. In the photo on the left Dave Jones considers either a nice bamboo rod or one of the classic fly reels from Root River Rod Company. Phil Hayes from Wilderness Lite shows the portability of the lightest float tube around.



Even between speakers there is activity in the auditorium. (photo on left) Old friends say hello and new friends meet. In the photo on right Patty Lueken, who drove all the way from Mountain Home, Arkansas, shows how to tie a serious streamer. Patty is the Chair for FFI Women Connect. FFI, Fly Fishers International, is of course the national organization of which HFFA is an affiliate.

2020 HFFA Show



The annual show means it is time to party! Bluegrass on Friday night . The annual banquet in the photo on right.

Auction & Awards



The auctioneer on upper left and his partner the “Judge” kept the audience in stitches for a successful live auction. A still photo of the Judge was not possible. President John Carl Miller awarded the DNR Iowa Rivers Program the Conservation Award. Nate Hoogeveen coordinator accepted upper right. Martin Acerbo lower left accepts the Outstanding Member Award and Brad Mullin accepts the President’s Award lower right. A special President’s Award went to Dean Elder, who was not able to attend. As the president said “without guys like Dean there would be no HFFA”.



Fly Tying Competition at 2020 Iowa State Fair

by Larry Murphy

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.

This year's fair will be held from August 13th through the 23rd. The fly tying display will be in the DNR Building on the Fairgrounds during the fair. The judging is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, August 12th at 1:00 p.m. in the DNR Building.

Fly entries need to be received at the Fair Administration post box by July 31, 2020.

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**

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, 2020**. 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.**

Judging the 2019 competition; Keith Wunder, Paul Domoto, and Dave Rosset left to right in photo on left.
Fair goers enjoy the display in the photo on right.



Phones and Fly Rods Don't Mix

The Lost is Found

by Dale Tayloe

First Place HFFA 2020 Essay Contest

Grandma Lowe was 97 when she passed away the last Wednesday of September, 2015. Randy had a couple of hours on Friday afternoon before he needed to head to Waterloo where family and friends were to gather for Grandma's visitation. He had thoughts of going fishing and ultimately decided "Grandma would have wanted me to go fishing if I had the opportunity." She knew he loved to fish. Whenever she saw him, she wanted to know where he had fished recently and what he had caught. So Randy went fishing. This time he would fish in Grandma's honor.

Rock Creek was barely 15 minutes from where Randy lived. The creek is mostly open to public fishing but you know how it is..... nobody fishes there. Temperatures were in the 40's. The barometer was steady. It was fair to partly cloudy but windy; very windy. In the mid-afternoon, sustained winds were from the northeast at 18 mph and gusting as high as 28 mph. In Randy's mind it might be a perfect early October day fly fishing for small mouth bass.

And that it was. Randy made some fine casts. He worked with the wind to lay his line exactly where needed for the best presentation possible amongst hundreds of fallen leaves making their way downstream. Randy fished virtually tangle and snag free on that windy afternoon.....a perfect prelude to fall fishing yet to come. He landed a dozen nice small mouth in less than two hours.

The afternoon passed quickly and soon it was time for Randy to return home and get ready for the visitation. Although Grandma would have wanted him to go fishing, she would've wanted him to arrive at any event on time. After all Grandma had owned her own business for over 30 years and on-time deliveries and punctuality were two of her virtues. Randy would not let her down!

The winds were still fierce. On the trail back to the car, his phone reached the signal and started ringing. For the last couple hours, he hadn't missed it ringing and enjoyed the disconnected solitude. Reluctantly, he answered the phone. Randy is a realtor and a good one. His phone can ring at any time day or night with anxious clients or perspective buyers reaching out to him. This time the call was from a perspective client in Texas and he had spoken to her before. This call, like the previous calls with her, was a difficult conversation due to the demands she made and her unrealistic expectations for any realtor, even a good one. This call was more difficult than previous calls due to the wind howling. The continuous rattling of the dry leaves on the ground and still on the trees and the wind itself made hearing impossible.....it was like having a conversation at the base of the lower falls on Henry's Fork.

Randy carried very little gear that day as usual. He had a small box of flies with him which he carried in his shirt pocket. And he had his rod, a Loomis GL3 holding his favorite reel, a Tibor Everglades that he had used for 20 years. When he arrived back at his well-used Honda CRV, he quickly jumped inside to get out of the wind so at least a portion of the call quality might improve. His good friend, the CRV, offered refuge from the wind on the blustery day. After some long minutes the call ended leaving Randy a bit perplexed, a little angry given the caller's demands and expectations, and a little frustrated at her and himself for not handling portions of the conversation differently. The call had taken a little longer than it should have and now Randy needed to hurry it up a bit in order to get to Grandma's visitation on time.

Randy drove away from the parking spot there at Rock Creek. Once home he went to retrieve the fly rod from the back seat of the CRV. Only it wasn't there! Oh no! Obviously, he never put the fly rod in the CRV! In his haste to get out of the wind, he must have either leaned the fly rod against the car or laid the rod on top while carrying on with the phone conversation. What a tragedy! Realizing what he had done, Randy's heart sank.

Immediately he jumped back in the Honda and drove as fast as he could to the spot where he had been parked not even a half hour before. He kept his eyes peeled on the ground being careful not to drive over the rod that may have been laying somewhere in the car's path. Driving over the rod or reel and crushing either would have been a sad ending to an already sad story. He saw nothing; no rod, no reel, crushed or otherwise. It was as if nothing had happened there at the parking spot except the treasured rod and reel were not in the car! What had he done? What had happened? Had he laid it on top of the car and lost it down the road as he drove away? Randy's heart sank even further reaching a new low. He looked around the parking spot and in the tall grass and weeds of nearby road ditches hoping to see the rod but to no avail.



continued on next page

Now losing your favorite fly rod is not at all like losing your Grandma. Certainly, the emotions of each loss in such a short time span was going to weigh heavily on Randy. Unlike Grandma, the fly rod and reel could be replaced. Randy had things in the right perspective. Grandma was very very special. The Loomis GL3 and the Tibor Everglades were special too. The reel was one of those whose spool was machined from a single piece of aluminum. The Tibor reel had a lot of sentimental value. Tibor had attached a plate to the reel with Randy's name on it and together Randy and the reel had caught over 1000 steelhead in the last 20 years. Things had really fallen apart here and if he wasn't careful, he would be late for Grandma's visitation in Waterloo too.

Randy arrived at the funeral home in Waterloo. He was glad he decided to go fishing before the visitation and not before Grandma's funeral tomorrow! Being late for Grandma's funeral would be inexcusable! During the next few hours Randy, his aunts, uncles, cousins, other relatives, and friends shared memories of their wonderful mom, grandma, sister-in-law, and friend. She was a great lady to so many. During conversations that evening, Randy shared with several people what had happened to him earlier that day. Embarrassed but humble, Randy told the story of the wind, the fish, the phone call, the caller, and the silly thing he had done with the fly rod and reel. How could he have been so careless?



Days went by. Still mourning the loss of his beloved Grandma Lowe, his fly rod, and his reel, Randy began to think about how he would replace the fly rod and reel. He looked at his collection of gear for a temporary replacement and also various websites and catalogs for a more permanent solution. When fly fishing is as big a part of your life as it is for Randy, one can't go very long without a great fly rod and reel combo. He knew it was a long shot but he put the word out on Facebook that he had lost a fly rod and reel. Who, if anyone though, would admit to finding such a rod and reel? His name had probably already been scratched off that nameplate on the Tibor reel or the plate had been removed entirely. It was hard for Randy to think positively like a fly fisherman normally does.

Randy's cousin Craig is also an avid outdoorsman and lives near Spencer, IA. Craig, a fisherman himself, is also big into hunting waterfowl. Craig had attended the visitation in Waterloo and had heard the story from his cousin about losing the fly rod. One night about a week after Grandma's funeral, while perusing waterfowl websites, Craig saw a vague post on iowawaterfowlers.com that someone had found a fly rod. If anyone knew of someone who had lost one, they should contact this guy by using the website.

What is the likelihood that this guy, whoever he was and where ever he was from, had found Randy's rod? And instead of just trying to find and contact the guy whose name was on the reel, why did he post on the Iowa Waterfowler's website?

Craig told his dad, Max, about what he had seen. Uncle Max called Randy and told him about the post. Randy investigated. He had to register as an Iowa Waterfowler in order to leave a message on the site, which he did. Soon some additional info from the person who had found a fly rod appeared. Randy called the guy and described the rod and reel he had lost. It was a match! The man had indeed found Randy's rod and reel! Hallelujah! They shared their stories as to how the rod was lost and how it was found. Four years later, Randy cannot remember the guy's name but he was a waterfowler from Atkins, IA and he had little use for a good fly rod. Randy purchased a nice sized gift card for the gentleman. They met and exchanged the gift card for the treasured fly rod and reel. What a relief!

The afternoon of Grandma Lowe's visitation, the man who found the rod was pulling a trailer along Hwy 41. The man experienced some kind of trouble with the trailer and pulled off the road within minutes apparently of Randy leaving the same parking spot heading home. The trouble with the trailer was not serious and the man was back on the road in a just a few minutes. Just as he was leaving, he spotted the rod on the ground, picked it up and took it home with him. He wasn't a fly fisherman but thought it was a pretty nice fly rod and reel. Until their phone call, the man had not seen Randy's name on the side of the reel.

Randy continues fly fishing in the Midwest and has led a couple fly fishing trips to the Amazon. He uses the GL3 and his favorite reel often. Since that day on Rock Creek, he has lost a lot of flies and a few tippets along the way but not a fly rod and reel and especially not the Loomis and Tibor. Randy says "Hopefully, never again!"

~Randy Richter is an HFFA member and lives in Cedar Rapids. He is married to Terri and has two daughters. He works as a realtor and believes in helping people any way he can. He very much appreciates being his own boss and enjoys the flexibility which allows pursuit of several interests like fly fishing, one of the joys of his life. Randy fly fishes all over the U.S., especially in the Midwest and for the last two years has led fly fishing expeditions to the Amazon. The story above is true, but the names of the creek and highway have been changed to keep the location a secret.

Dale

A Fly Fisher's Winter Reading

by Frank Potter

I took the assignment to do a review of fly-fishing books for this coming January meeting of the Dubuque Fly Fishers. In our meeting we will do our annual program on our favorite gadgets and fly-fishing books we like. I read several years ago that there are more books written on fly fishing than any other sport, and, I read in preparing this essay, that they are considered the highest quality, at least by one English professor, of any sport. I venture that this is because the sport attracts people who appreciate a little more of the contemplative life.

I will start out to be sure to get my own licks in with two books that have the same name, *Trout*. Only one of these two made a best-books list of the eight sources I reviewed – the first published in 1938 was by Ray Bergman. I am partial to that book because it was one of the first fly fishing books I read and it was magical putting me on a stream with a wonderful narrator. A secondary reason, liking Bergman even more, was that I bought a first edition of his classic book for \$45 in 2001 at the Hawkeye Fly Fishing Show in Des Moines in 2001. Two years ago, in thumbing through it, I discovered that the two flies that came with it were actually tied by the author.

The other book also named *Trout* is by Ernest Schwiebert (1978) did not make the list at all and I expect it is because it is so daunting. Schwiebert was audacious using the same name of the classic by Bergman but the book more than justifies usurping the title. Schwiebert's four-page introduction is a tribute to Ray Bergman and the two-volume work, 1646 pages, itself has to be the most encyclopedic book about trout that has ever been or will be written. He offers a comprehensive history of the sport with stories about the famed anglers, as well as covering all the technical areas including equipment, casting, and insects. His illustration skills match Dave Whitlock's.

Schwiebert was the featured speaker at the Hawkeye Show in Waterloo 1981 - the first Hawkeye show that I attended. I was a novice then but had a clue that he might be important when Hawkeye member Vic Gibson shouted, "Attention! Ernie Schwiebert has entered the room." A book Schwiebert wrote in college, *Matching the Hatch*, (again a classic book which did not make our list) provided him early fame and he said the money he made from the sales allowed him to fish around the world.

We also must acknowledge the book *The Compleat Angler* by Izaak Walton which was published in 1653. It might be a little slower reading today. However, with 360 years in continuous print and according to the *Smithsonian*, the third most printed book in the English language after the Bible and Shakespeare's works, it deserves a look sometime in the angler's life.

Here are the findings of my combining eight random reviewers who picked their top ten and one their top five picks. (They did not include fly tying books.) The top group with the most books recommended: *The Longest Silence* by Thomas McGuane, *The River Why* by James Duncan, and *Trout Magic* by Robert Traver (real name is John Voelker).

The second tier group had two: *A River Runs Through It* by Norman Maclean (better than the movie some said) and *Trout Bum* by John Gierach. Gierach deserves special mention in that he had four more books recommended: *A View from Rat Lake*, *Sex, Death, and Fly Fishing*, *When Trout are as Long as Your Leg* and *Death Taxes and Leaky Waders*.

The others in third grouping (those with more than one vote) are: *The Old Man and the Sea* by Hemingway, *Trout from the Hills* by Niall, *Habit of Rivers* by Leeson, *Fifty Places to Fly Fish before you Die* by Santella, and *Curtis Creek Manifesto (for novices)*.

Other recommended books were *Trout Madness* by Traver, *The Feather Thief* by Johnson (a favorite by our Hawkeye Fly Fishers' president John Carl Miller), *River Music* by Babb, *I know a Good Place* by Gannon, *Fly Fishing the 41st* by Prosek, *The Secret Life of Carp* by Yates, *LL Bean Fly Fishing Handbook* by Whitlock, *Going Fishing* by Farson, *History of Fishing with 50 Flies* by Jan Whitelaw, *The Orvis Stream Guide to Approach and Presentation* by Tom Rosenbauer, *Lefty Kreh's Presenting the Fly*, *Gear Junkie* by Qualien, *Joan Wulf's New Fly Casting Techniques*, *Astream: America's Writers on Trout Fishing* edited by De Mott, *Light Years* by Schreiber, *Fishing Small Flies* by Engle, *Dynamic Nymphing* by Daniel, *The Little Red Book of Fly Fishing* by Deter and Meyers, *Trout Tactics* by Humphries, *Fishing Small Streams with a Fly Rod* by Meck, and *Caddisflies* by LaFontaine.

I realize that there will be an angler reading this perturbed that a favorite book of theirs did not make the list. I know since I have a couple myself. Also, there are several authors here like Gary LaFontaine, Lefty Kreh, and Dave Whitlock that Hawkeye members have personal reminiscences about from their presenting at our shows. Maybe that could be a special issue in *The Fly Line* someday, of their remembrances. In the meantime, this winter let us move next to the fireplace and/or to our favorite chair and get back on the streams with these authors.

Frank

Member of the Dubuque Fly Fishers, Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association and Fly Fishers International

ICC Report

by Tom Murray



Iowa Coldwater Conservancy Update Report

March 18, 2020

Tom Murray, President

Watersheds are the Key

The primary reason Iowa's Coldwater Conservancy (ICC) was established in April of 2017 by a group of conservation minded individuals, including members of HFFA and Iowa Trout Unlimited chapters, was to address a growing list of significant challenges to our coldwater rivers and streams. We realized we could not continue to address serious challenges like a rapidly warming climate, changing land use practices, and reduced state and federal budgets for conservation by doing business as usual. We had to "broaden the tent" to include landowners, other NGO's, businesses, public agencies, private foundations, educational institutions and like minded individuals.

While we are continuing our efforts to "broaden the tent of support" by building strategic alliances, we also know that challenges, like a rapidly warming climate and dramatic changes in land use practices, have already converged and are continuing to cause devastating results for wildlife and humans alike from Iowa to the Gulf of Mexico. (Trout River Flood 2017 see below.)



Given these realities, is there hope for a better tomorrow for our beloved coldwater rivers and streams and for the wildlife and humans that depend upon them? To answer that question I would like to share a recent story that strengthens my optimism.

Warren Shuros grew up on a farm on North Bear Creek a few miles from Highlandville in Winneshiek County. Whenever he could find time, he would hunt and fish throughout the hills and valleys of North Bear and South Bear Creeks. Wanting to preserve these beautiful places for future generations to enjoy, Warren and his wife Lois recently worked with Terry Gaumer at the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa and Barbara Schroeder, Executive Director of Winneshiek County Conservation Board (WCCB) to establish the *North and South Bear Creek Watershed Funds*. The stated purpose of these two funds is for the preservation and conservation of the water quality and wildlife habitat within the North and South Bear Creek Watersheds.

The WCCB will oversee the watershed projects and work closely with landowners, local professionals from IA DNR Fisheries and the NRCS and Winneshiek Soil & Water District as well as groups like HFFA, ICC, TU and individuals who may wish to support the project.

On February 15th, the ICC Board of Directors approved a grant of \$1,000 to one of these North and South Bear Creeks Watershed Funds. As I write this update, Warren Shuros is also contacting his friends and neighbors to encourage their support for these endowment funds. I believe there are other "stream stewards" like Warren and Lois Shuros in every county where coldwater rivers and streams flow. Who do you know who could become a "stream steward" for one of your favorite streams? To learn more about these funds, please contact the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa at (319) 287-9106 or info@cfnea.org.

Let's continue to work together with private land owners to encourage land use practices that will improve soil health, reduce soil erosion and water quality within the watersheds "upstream" from the riparian zones of our coldwater rivers and streams. If we can find ways to improve net results for land owners and retain this valuable soil where it belongs, I believe everyone benefits. It has the potential to truly be a "win-win" result for humans and wildlife.

Tom

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