

Mending Lines

Page 1

April 2013

Michigan Fee Increase

There is a lot of turmoil surrounding the 2014 increase in Michigan Fishing License fee increase. What does the increase mean to you?

We'll consider that the fees for camping and other recreation that have increased this year. An \$11 Passport is required for vehicles entering Michigan's state parks, recreation areas and forest campgrounds.

The price for camping at Canoe Harbor went up too. So now add the price of the new license next year.

Do you see the real increase yet?

Some of us will pay it regardless of price because we enjoy the beauty and fishing in their areas. But will the money really be spent on what we fly fishers enjoy?

Time will tell.

Rex's Reelings

By: Rex Lengacher, Club President

A beautiful day today that really made me wish I was fishing somewhere. I did actually get to do a little trout fishing last month. I was unable to make it to the Club Auction this year as I was in Arkansas with my daughter over her spring break from college. Of course any trip to Arkansas for me MUST include at least a day trip over to the White River at Bull Shoals.

There was no generation going on that day and it was a chilly 44 degrees when I started fishing. I was able to raise a good number of fish but lost quite a few of them due to using size 22-18 flies. I caught fish on bead head nymphs, soft hackles, and even caught one on a #20 BWO parachute.

I also tossed a streamer for a few casts just to say I fished the Arkansas state fly (size 12 olive Woolly Bugger) and caught a couple on that fly too. All in all a great trip and a heck of a way to spend a day of vacation.

Speaking of the Auction, I would like to express my thanks to all the members who were there for making this one of our best auctions in recent years. It is through this auction that we raise nearly all of the money we use to bring speakers in for our programs. Thank You!!

I am sad to announce that this year we will not be having our annual outing with the Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Fort Wayne. This is due to the construction going on at the Parkview Family YMCA on Dupont rd. where we hold this event. We hope to be able to resume this event next year.

I am also very thankful for several of our members who have volunteered to join the Board of Directors of the club. Pending the outcome of the nominations and voting that will take place at the next club meeting, 4/18, new board members will include John Carlson, Dan Brophy, and Larry Wilson. I am really looking forward to working with these guys and the results of an influx of new blood into the leadership of the club. Thanks guys for volunteering your time.

One of the items the board has been discussing, and it has been mentioned at the club meetings, is ending our affiliate club standing with the Federation of Fly Fishers, (FFF). The club was set up as an affiliate member club because we

(continued page 3)

INDIANA AND QUALITY TROUT FISHING

“An impossible concept some would say.”

By: Lynn W, Burry

As I write this, a traditional right of passage known as the “Opening Day of Trout Season” is just a few days away. It is a tradition I have practiced for more years than I sometimes care to admit too. My children are now grown, creating their own lives in a way every parent can be proud of. The grandchildren are growing up far too fast. Yet they have remained tied to the tradition of Opening Day because of the noble Trout and the roll the Northeastern Indiana Trout Association has played into making all this possible. Opening Day in 2013 begins on Saturday, April 27th at 6:00 AM.

When I was six years old, I caught my first Trout in an old stone quarry east of my current home in Geneva, Indiana. It was caught using a stainless steel True Temper rod and reel of my dad’s. That first Trout’s beauty captivated my young mind then as much as one does today. By the way, I still have that rod and reel. Dad gave it to me shortly before his passing.

After leaving the US Navy and returning to Indiana in 1988, I rejoined NEITA. A couple of years later I became one of its Officers and now serve as its President. One of my duties includes being the curator of our historical documents. Knowing some anglers are not very familiar of its history and mission, it was suggested I bridge that gap.

“Trout fishing in Indiana waters? Impossible!” It was the accepted belief among most Hoosier fisherman. But, it is a tried and true axiom that is (sic) you want a thing bad enough, hard enough and long enough—and are willing to work and sacrifice for it—it WILL become a reality.

In 1944, such skepticism was not shared by a handful of men from Northern Indiana, They not only believed impossible but were willing to strive mightily for their goal—“Trout in the streams of Indiana.”

These two paragraphs are quoted from a NEITA document crafted in 1975 as part of their thirty-year anniversary celebration. That commitment holds true to this day. Here are some additional highlights from NEITA’s sixty-eight year history.

Incorporated in 1945, rearing pools were constructed in Rome City and later in Wolcottville. Rainbow, Brown and Brook Trout fingerlings were raised and stocked in various northeast Indiana streams and lakes. In 1950, at the urging of NEITA, a Trout Stamp bill was approved. Cost of that first stamp was \$1.00. In 1953 land was purchased on Curtis Creek and construction began for a modern rearing station. Paid membership peaked at 1780. In 1956, the first water flowed through the raceways beginning Curtis Creek’s contribution to Trout in Indiana. In the late fifties NEITA deeded the Curtis Creek Trout Rearing Station to the Indiana Department of Conservation. This coincided with the establishment of the Pigeon River Fish and Wildlife Area.

Through the years NEITA has continued their mission of stocking Trout. Releasing Brown Trout in Oliver Lake and the Pigeon River is their main focus. Advising the Indiana Department of Natural Resources on any issue related to Trout remains another. Current creel limit decreases to five trout per day, (it was 10), establishing a designated starting time of 6:00 AM and the one Brown Trout per day with an 18 inch minimum size limit at Oliver Lake were some of the changes NEITA recommended. Quality Trout fishing is indeed alive and well in Indiana. Thanks, in a large part, go to the efforts of the Northeastern Indiana Trout Association.

(continued page 3)

Rex's Reelings Continued

did not feel we would be able to retain all our members if we demanded membership in the FFF as a condition of membership in our club. Since we are not a 100% FFF membership club we pay the FFF an annual fee based on our membership numbers each year.

Last year that figure was something slightly over \$200. To be frank about it, we really have never seen any great benefit to our affiliate membership in the FFF. We were able to purchase 5 rod / reel combos at a pretty good discount to use in our educational activities, but we have paid a lot more in dues over the years than that savings.

While many of us will continue to be members of the FFF and the board would encourage any individual to join that organization we do not feel we are seeing any benefits for our club. If we do withdraw from the FFF as an affiliate club we will also rewrite the bylaws of the club which make membership in the FFF mandatory for anyone who becomes a board member.

If you have strong feeling about this issue please talk to one of the board members about it. We will be bringing this up at our next meeting also.

I hope you all get out to fish soon, and catch 'em 'till you're tired.

Rex

INDIANA AND QUALITY TROUT FISHING

Continued

Sadly, while revenues remained steady in 2012, only sixty-one members contributed dues or made an enhanced membership donation. And for this, we are greatly appreciative of that commitment. NEITA plans to operate as near as normal this year. But how long will the decline in membership numbers be sustainable?

You may ask, "So what is the problem?" The problem is not raising money. The problem is manpower. Like any organization, regardless of its size, only about 10% of the members do 100% of the work. The work gets done for the enjoyment of all, but the workers become tired.

New Board Members and Officers with fresh ideas and enthusiasm seem impossible to come by. 2014 is where this problem comes into play. Four of the elected officers have already stated they will not be running for re-election. The President, Secretary and Treasurer are among that group. If you have an in interest in the North-eastern Indiana Trout Association please visit our web page at indianatrout.com,

Until we meet again, "May the inside of your waders (or boats) always be dry!"

Lynn

FFF GLC Supports Michigan License Fee Hikes

The following is an excerpt from an email Don Privett wrote to the GLC.

I wrote Jim and Dorothy Schramm about the increase in fees for out of state license and this is the what I was sent back, they don't seem to care that the fee is \$75 a week for most of us:

Sorry to hear you and members of Three Rivers are unhappy with the proposed license increases. The Great Lakes Council supports the increases and I have attached a letter from the Council that was sent in support to the appropriate people. The Michigan DNR is in critical need of increased funding in order to protect our great resources.

Residents support Michigan fisheries through license fees and taxes. We feel it is only appropriate that non-residents share in supporting our great fishery also with an increased license fee. Those proposed fees are compatible with other state non-resident license fees that have good fisheries.



Come check out our new store! We are located in the Tredway Pools Plus strip mall on Lima Road.

You will like the expanded fly fishing section. We have a separate clothing room too.

We have all of your fly fishing needs. If you do not see something, ask and we will see if we can order it for you.



Pro Tackle Outfitters – 8309 Lima Road - Fort Wayne, IN - (260) 747-4883

Officers

President: Rex Lengacher
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Treasurer: Derek Frederickson
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Secretary: Curly Hodson
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Rick Hinton rhinton@3rff.org

Bob Lowden blowden@3rff.org

Kevin Macy kmacy2@gmail.com

Don Privett dprivett@3rff.org

Gary Sanders gsanders@3rff.org

Calendar Of Events

April 18 Club Meeting and Voting, Ron Dilbone
May 16 Casting Clinic
June 21-23 Ausable River Outing—Canoe Harbor
July 28 Mottville, MI Smallmouth
August 24-25 White River Outing, Muncie

Please visit www.3rff.org to review old club newsletters, fly patterns, and the club calendar. Our meetings are every third Thursday of the month including January, February, March, April, May, August, September, October and November.

Doors open: 6:30 PM Meeting Starts: 7:00 PM

Where:

Classic Café
 4832 Hillegas Rd, Fort Wayne, IN 46818
 (260) 458-2982
 (Right behind the American Legion)
<http://goo.gl/maps/rFZA0>

Join the FFF

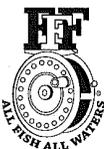
Did you know that the Three Fivers Fly Fishers is an affiliate Club of the Federation of Fly Fishers? The FFF is instrumental in promoting the sport of fly fishing and educating the public about conservation of our natural resources.

Complete the application form below. Bring your TRFF club dues and this form to our Club Treasurer Derek Frederickson at the next meeting. Derek will collect the membership fee and forward to the Federation.

Membership Categories

- Individual..... \$35
- Family..... \$45
- Youth under 18.....\$15
- Senior +65.....\$25
- Disabled Veterans are Free (Proof of 50% disability required)
- Life Individual.....\$500
- Life Couple.....\$750
- 3 Year Individual..... \$85
- 3 Year Family.....\$100
- Sustaining\$200 (Commercial & Mfg. business)
- Retail shops/Outfitter....\$75

Canadian Membership — add \$5 year postage
 International Membership — add \$10 year postage



Federation of Fly Fishers
 215 E. Lewis, Livingston, MT 59047
 Apply online www.fedflyfishers.org
 Join by phone 406-222-9369

Yes, I want to invest in the future of all fish, all waters!

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP/COUNTRY _____

HM PHONE _____ WK PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

BIRTHDATE (for identification) _____

CLUB AFFILIATION _____

REFERRED BY _____

CHECK ENCLOSED (checks payable to Federation of Fly Fishers - US funds)

Healing Waters Donation \$ _____ (write "Project Healing Waters" on check)

VISA MASTERCARD DISCOVER AMEX

CARD # _____

EXP DATE _____ / _____

Please do not share my information with organizations outside the FFF

MENDING LINES

THREE RIVERS FLY FISHERS

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PUBLISHER

Three Rivers Fly Fishers

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