

Mending Lines

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February 2013

2013 Water Levels

This new year is not improving water levels for Northern Indiana. NOAA's web site that provides drought data shows that the entire Northern part of Indiana is abnormally dry.

The web site shows that most of the Midwest is in severe drought. You may have heard that much of the Mississippi River is un-navigable.

The abnormally dry area extends into Michigan, close to prime Trout streams. We need a lot of precipitation to make up the difference. The area is designated "L" for long term, > 6 months.

Parts of the Southeast coastal states are not any better. North Carolina is also abnormally dry.

I provide this information so you may think ahead of how it may affect your fishing this year. Lake levels will be down if normal precipitation does not occur.

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

Rex's Reelings

By: Rex Lengacher, Club President

Is Spring going to spring, or are we in for more Winter? Hard to tell from our weather patterns lately. Frigid and snowy one day. Then it's temperate and rainy the next day. I guess that's what we love about Indiana, variety.

As I stated in my last Reelings, we will have several openings on the Board of Directors of the club this Spring. At the February meeting I will be announcing the positions that will be open at the elections in April and will open the floor for nominations. I sincerely hope that some of you will consider serving on the board. I think it is vital that we bring new ideas and visions to the future of our club in order to keep it thriving for years to come. In my years on the Board it seems as though a small core group of members has served on the Board year after year. I feel it is far too easy to become "stuck in a rut" and focus on sameness rather than looking to the future with fresh vision. Please consider making yourself available to serve our club in a new way. The commitment is only about 1½ hours per month on the first Wednesday of the month for the Board meeting. This time spent can be very rewarding in seeing the club function smoothly.

I have heard no fishing reports lately. Not even ice fishing reports. I did get out to a new pond a couple of weeks ago and had 4-5 inches of clear ice. A number of fish were caught, but all were quite small. I also had an unusual occurrence in that I caught two Shad. Both were about 7-8 inches long. I had never caught Shad in a private pond of less than 2 acres. I will be going back to that pond in the warm weather with fly rod in hand to see what else may be there.

I am also fortunate in that a friend is moving to a new property which has a pond of nearly 5 acres size. I look forward to spending some time on that pond this Spring. I very much enjoy exploring new water and one of my favorite places to explore is new private "farm ponds". I have spent years fishing these little slices of heaven and have found them to easily be the equal of most of the larger lakes in the area.

Most have been stocked over the years with Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, and Catfish. That seemed to be the staple of stocking for many decades and still is today. These are three species of fish that provide excellent sport and plentiful food to support the farm.

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“Rex’s Reelings” continued

If you haven’t fished any of this type of pond you really could be missing some great fun. Also some of the “retention ponds” in the neighborhoods around Fort Wayne are producing some great fishing. Access can be a little tricky if you don’t live in that particular neighborhood, but many times contacting a friend who lives in a neighborhood with a nice pond can end up in big rewards on the end of a fly line. Give it a try, you won’t be sorry.

Our speaker this month will be John Gouker. John is a guide out of Schmidt Outfitters near Baldwin, Michigan. John and another guide will be talking to us about Trout and Steelhead fishing in that area of Michigan. I’m sure it will be a great program and I hope to see you there.

Rex

Club Dues

It is that time of year again! Do not forget to pay your dues! See Derek Frederickson to get your dues paid!

Dues pay for speakers and the production of other activities that we like to enjoy. The dues are \$25 / year for individuals and \$35 / year for a family membership.



US Freshwater Fish going Extinct Faster

Freshwater fishes are going extinct at an alarming rate compared with other species. In the September 2012 issue of BioScience it was noted that at least 57 North American species and subspecies, and 3 unique populations, have gone extinct since 1898, about 3.2 percent of the total.

Extinctions in fishes are mostly caused by loss of habitat and the introduction of nonindigenous species. In North America, there are more freshwater fish species in a typical drainage to the east of the Rocky Mountains than to the west, where a greater number of species have gone extinct or are found nowhere else.

Estimations are based upon historical records and various state and territorial agencies fish counts. Estimates are complicated by the fact that, on average, 6.7 new species are discovered each year. Most of these new species devour other species or destroy habitats.

Efforts to stop Asian Carp, Snakehead and Sea Lamprey are falling short. Invasive plants are also leading to extinction of fish. Lake residents in Indiana spend an estimated \$800,000 per year in public waters to chemically control nuisance Eurasian watermilfoil, an exotic water plant that can shade out native species and interferes with boating and fishing.

The article concludes that between 53 and 86 species of North American freshwater fishes are likely to go extinct by 2050, and that the rate of extinction is now at least 877 times the background extinction rate over geological time record.

The bottom line is that we have an uphill battle with less money to spend. Someone will have to find funding to stop the extinction rate of climb.

The annual Midwest Fly Fishing Expo is set for March 9th and 10th! This year it is at the Macomb Community College Sports and Expo Center in Warren, Michigan.

If you have never checked this show out, you will miss a lot of information and items for sale. Over 120 exhibitors and 61000 square feet of space.

For more information, check this web site:
www.midwestflyfishingexpo.com



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

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Calendar Of Events

February 21 John Gouker Steelhead / Trout Program

March 21 Auction—Bring your items in!

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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