

Mending Lines

Page 1

January - March, 2014

Rex's Reelings By: Rex Lengacher, Club President

UPCOMING EVENTS 2014

January 16
Club Meeting
Classic Cafe
7:00 PM
Dennis Potter

February 20
Club Meeting
Classic Cafe
7:00 PM
Rich Essegian

March 19
Club Meeting
Classic Cafe
7:00 PM
Annual Auction

Wow, the Holiday season is upon us already. Where did the year go? I hope all of you got to do some fishing this year and had success. I did and enjoyed every minute I spent on the water, even the ones spent with a whole boot full of water. What can I say, the fish didn't know my waders leaked and seemed to be hungry.

In reflecting on the past year for Three Rivers Fly Fishers I am happy. Not satisfied, but happy. I'm happy that we have had some wonderful meetings this fall that have involved our own members doing the programs, They were well received by all the members I talked to. I will be more satisfied when we become an even more member-involved club. I'd like to see more programs done by members. Subjects like favorite flies, places you fished, rods that you made, or anything else that sounds interesting. The board is here to help and wants to see all of you become involved in the club as much as you want to be. Approach any board member with your ideas, we'll be happy for them.

In looking back at this summer's outings I am pleased. I think we had some great participation from the club and some wonderful days spent fishing. I was especially pleased in the re-discovery of the White river as a very nice resource. It has become the favorite of several club members. One of the things that excites me is that I am certain there are more great places like that right here in our state. As the board begins planning the next year's meetings and outings we are eager for your input. Tell us about ideas for outings, or speakers you'd be interested in hearing.

Finally, I'd like to thank each of you for making Three Rivers Fly Fishers the great club that it is. What can be better than friends meeting together and doing something they love to do. I hope each of you has a wonderful year in 2014.

Rex

Don't Forget
Informal Tying Sesions,
6:30 pm
Jan 6 through end of
March,
at
Kaysans 5th Down,

RHYMES WITH ORANGE

Hilary B. Price





Jerry Drake describing his process for constructing bamboo fly rods at the October meeting.

VOLUNTEER PRESENTERS NEEDED FOR APRIL 17 MEETING

The TRFF board is committed to involving club members more in the monthly meetings. We want to tap into some of the knowledge and expertise of our members in various areas of fly fishing. For the April 17th club meeting we are seeking members who would be willing share some of that knowledge by giving a 15 to 20 minute presentation on local fishing spots, fishing trips they have taken or fishing techniques they have used successfully. The club has a projector as well as a laptop available with PowerPoint. All you need to do is organize your pictures and/or diagrams. We can also offer help to the speakers in setting up their presentation on PowerPoint. We are trying to line up a total of 4 to 5 speakers. Contact Jerry Hohla at hohlagn@gmail.com if you have a story to tell.

A FUN AFTERNOON ON SPEAR LAKE

By Dennis Plank

We got there in the early afternoon because everyone knows that bluegills bite best when the sun is high in the clear sky. I got to wondering about that as we pulled up to the launch ramp. I never did understand the type of people that get up at 4:00 in the morning and hit the lake before the sun is even up. You can't see your fly line in the dark, it's always cold and of course the morning coffee needs to be gotten rid of. Have you ever noticed that waders are not very coffee friendly? First you have to find a discreet place to unload, but Spear Lake isn't very populated so that isn't a problem. Then the layers of clothing come off. Finally it's time for the waders to come down but I always forget that stupid safety belt around my midsection and end up having to rearrange things to unsnap the belt. It's even worse in the dead of winter having all those extra layers of clothing on. Come on wader companies haven't you ever heard of zippers?

We waited a short time for two fishermen, who were on the way out, to clear the ramp area. They said they had a pretty good morning, and I agreed after looking at their ice chest full of tasty looking gills. Both guys, a father and son, were very friendly and pointed us to their favorite spot on the little lake.

I noticed they both were fly fishing out of canoes which were really decked out and looked very expensive. They were. About a grand a piece. I know, because I asked them. I saw Dan wince as I asked that inquiring question. College graduates are like that. They are trained in "tact". I'm not, since I'm just a tech school grad. I was out working and making money while he was still in school. It sounded good, at least when the tech school salesman said so. Now I don't know.

Back to fishing. We loaded up and set off for a boat load of good eatin. Dan was in his sleek little 14 ½ foot canoe and was in position in no time at all and I, in my wait-a-minute eight foot pontoon boat with rubber bladders, was still trying to get across the lake. Have you ever tried to row a rubber pontoon boat on flat water? It ain't easy. Each time you pull on the oars you move about one oar length and I figured I had about 6000 oar lengths to go. Sometime midafternoon I got close to Dan's fishing hole and started flinging a black gill getter into the water tight to the weed line. After a few casts a nice fat gill took the fly and I put him in my wire basket hanging from the right side of the 'toon. After a few more casts I decided to move into a little cove that was thick with vegetation. Of course I forgot the basket hanging down on the right pontoon and that made rowing pretty difficult. After struggling for a while I remembered the basket and it was a much easier rowing after I took it out of the water.

After a few more fish it was time to explore a different spot. I had to move out of the cove and try as I might, I just wasn't getting anywhere. Yep, the basket was again in the water, stuck in the weeds, but that isn't what concerned me. It felt like the boat was listing to the right and I finally determined that the right pontoon was really flat. I mean so flat that water was moving up on top of the pontoon and getting my gear bag wet. So, I pulled the basket out of the water and laid it on top of the useless right pontoon and proceeded to row back to the landing. You might imagine how hard it is to row a one pontoon boat on flat water. It kept wanting to go in circles. I also discovered that both oars were broken. The plastic piece around the oar that fits into the oar lock broke loose and was sliding up and down. At times I was rowing with a very short oar and other times they were too long. Not wanting to waste the bluegills I let both of them go because I wasn't sure how many hours it was going to take me to get back to the ramp. After a long strenuous round-about row, I finally made it to the ramp and pumped my 'toon back up until it was pretty level. Just in case, I put the pump on the little carrier I made in the area just behind the seat. Now, as I am writing this, I wonder; how I was going to pump up a pontoon while treading water?

Dan was pretty amused at all this and he quickly came in for a, too long, period of insults. I think he was taking a break from all the fish he caught. Dan doesn't keep fish so I don't know if he caught any or not. I don't think he tells stories... but he is a lawyer. We went back out on the water, staying close to shore and I caught four more nice bluegills and put them into the basket.

After a short while Dan was ready to leave and that was OK with me. We had spent about three whole hours on the lake catching a few nice bluegills that I will never get to fry up. I didn't want to get my new skinning knife dirty for just four 'gills so I gave them to a young family that was fishing in a nearby boat. I think I heard them giggle a little bit as I rowed away in my already deflating pontoon with two broken oars.

When I got home I put the boat on its shelf in the garage. As I sat in my easy chair that night, sipping two or more fingers of Scotch, I realized something. I never did like that pontoon boat. It was always a bother having to pump it up. It was heavy when I carried it loaded down with gear to the water. And it was certainly uncomfortable having to sit in the water the whole time. Sometimes, I didn't wear waders when it was warm out but after hearing about those people that were losing body parts after swimming in ponds and rivers, I always wore waders no matter how hot it was outside.

Then I had an epiphany! Anyone have a good canoe for sale?

Officers

President: Rex Lengacher
rex1222@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Jerry Hohla
hohlag@gmail.com

Secretary: Curly Hodson
curly@curlslyflyshop.com

Board of Directors

Dan Brophy brophy56@earthlink.net

Bob Lowden rlowden22@yahoo.com

Rick Hinton hintonlr@yahoo.com

John Carlson jcarlsonjr15@frontier.com

Larry Wilson lwilson3rff@gmail.com

Steve Harris sharris@3rff.org

Ron Dixon grizznhi@frontier.com

Spring Fly Fishing Shows**January 25**

Kentuckiana Fly Fishing Show
Louisville, KY
Kyflyshow.com

February 1

Greater Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show
Fairfield, OH
Buckeyeflyfishers.com

March 8 - 9

Midwest Fly Fishing Expo
Warren, MI
Midwestflyfishingexpo.com