



MENDING LINES

Three Rivers Fly Fishers - April 2021 Newsletter

Upcoming Events

Club Meetings

Club Meeting – Open Night Fly Tying & Club Election Nominations
March 18 @ 6:00 - 9:00pm
at the Classic Cafe

Club Meeting – Open Night Fly Tying & Club Elections
April 15 @ 6:00 - 9:00pm
at the Classic Cafe

Club Meeting - Casting Clinic & Open Night Fly Tying
May 20 @ 6:00 - 9:00pm
at the Classic Cafe

Club Outings

Bixler Lake Outing & Carry-In
Lunch at Noon
June 12 @ 7:00 - 4:00pm
Bixler Lake Pavilion
Kendallville, IN

TBD & Carry-In Lunch at Noon
July 17 @ 7:00 - 4:00 pm
?

White River Outing
Camping is free
Main Club Meal @ 5:00 Sat
August 20-22
Canoe Country
Daleville, IN

POP-UP EVENTS
More to come

CURLY'S CREEL

I would like to welcome all of the new members who joined the Club last year or this year. We try to present to our Club Members as many opportunities to expand their knowledge of Fly Fishing, Fly Tying, Fly Casting, and to fellowship with other Fly Fishers at our Club Programs, Club Outings and Club Events such as representing our Club at various Fly Shows, DNR Outings, our Big Brothers/Big Sisters event, and other events. If, you have any questions or suggestions, please contact a Board Member. Volunteers are always welcome.

The Covid pandemic has disrupted our Club Meetings and Club Outings for over a year now and the Board is doing their best to get things back on track for 2021 while maintaining social distancing.

Hopefully, you have all of your fly rods, reels, and lines ready for this Spring Fishing because the weather is finally going to turn. Don't forget your Indiana Fishing license has probably expired.

The TRFF Board Members are planning some fantastic programs and outings for this year and next. I hope all of you come out and join us and have a great time at these programs and events. The Club can only be as good as the Members make it.

We also have plenty of opportunities to get together with other groups and their activities such as Saint Joe River Valley Fly Fishers, Little Elkhart Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Derby City Fly Fishers, Project Healing Waters, the Tie-A-Thon and others. I will keep you posted on their events.

Get out and Wet a Line,
President
Curly Hodson

CLUB OUTINGS

June:

Our June Club Outing is at Bixler Lake in Kendallville, IN.

Coming in on Hwy #6 from the east or west there are Bixler Lake signs and turn south at the Reilly Auto Parts store. Go south to Diamond St and turn left and the pavilion is on the left near to the parking lot off of Diamond St.

Coming in from the South West on Hwy 3, after you go thru the stop light at the inter section of #3/#8 turn right at the next stop light, main street which will curve around back north. Go to Diamond St and turn right and follow it east until you come to Bixler Lake Park. The pavilion is left near to the parking lot off of Diamond St. Maps are available.

July:

Our July Club Outing has yet to be determined. If you have any suggestions or would like to host an outing please contact a Board Member.

August:

Our August Club Outing at Canoe Country on the White River is officially August 20-22 (Friday thru Sunday). Canoe Country is just north of Daleville, IN. We will have some people showing up on Wednesday and/or leaving on Monday. We will be camping in the same area as we have in the past years. It is first come first served on the camping spots. This is primitive camping. If you want electric bring your own source. There are rest rooms at the office. There are fire rings at most of the campsites. There will be a main Club campfire as the previous years. The Club is picking up the tab again for all of the campsites and for all the firewood, which the Owner Robbie will supply. The back entrance into our camping is complete at this time for easier access to our camping area. Most campsites are good size so bring your tents, pop-up campers, campers, or whatever you prefer to stay in.

We will be fishing the White River from the mouth of the river east of Muncie to Anderson. Target fish will be Smallmouth Bass. If you have never fished the White contact Steve Harris because he has the most knowledge and info of the river and he might even be able to take you on a personal guided trip. There are also some bluegill lakes such as Summit Lake which is close by.

Dan Brophy and Dennis Plank have volunteered to set up The Double D Rusty Hook Cafe again this year with some new hours. Menu is still to be determined.

*The TRFF Club is picking up the tab for these meals so keep your money in your pockets, no donations. Just make sure you thank the cooks

**I will have my (2) 10x10's or my 10x20 shelter we can use for the kitchen and fine dining.

With the above information it is very important that you contact me as soon as you know what days and meals you are planning on attending so Dan and Denny can try to get a head count for each of the meals so they can plan ahead and to purchase food and prepare. *Make sure you contact me anytime of the day.

Derby City Fly Fishers usually send a large group to this outing but this year they have their annual Wyoming Trip planned for the same week so their numbers will be down.

I will be available to spot you up or down the river with your boats, kayaks, kick-boats, and float tubes. I can drive your vehicle to drop you off upstream and you can float back to camp, or you can put in at the camp site and float downstream where I can pick you up with your vehicle, or I can drop you off downstream and pick you up further downstream. I will be busy so don't wait until the last minute to contact me about spotting you. Other Club members will probably be available to help also. Maps of the River will be available, contact Steve Harris, Ron Dixon, or me.

Contact People:

Steve Harris: Phone (1-260-627-2829)

Curly Hodson: Phone (1-260-571-1951) Email (curly@curlslyflyshop.com)

Canoe Country Phone: (1-765-378-7358, (www.canoeindiana.com)

6660 South County Road 900W

Daleville, IN 47334



CURRENT CLUB NEWS

Elections:

The Election Ballot was closed at the end of the March Club meeting. You have until the April Club meeting to vote. There were no contested positions on the ballot. The new Officers and Board Members will become active May 1, 2021. Some have already taken over the responsibilities of their positions. I would like to welcome all of the newly elected Members to the Board.

Officers

President: Curly Hodson

Vice President: Brent Walchuk

Secretary: Curly Hodson (acting)

Treasurer: Ron Dixon

Board Members:

Kevin Curtis-Existing

Ken Schiefelbein-Existing

Warren Howell

Ed Rose

John Crothers

Mike Tackett

Membership & Liability Forms

The Board decided to have all Club Members fill out a new Membership Form and a new Liability Form to update our records to have your current information, address, phone number, and email address, etc. Our records also show that several members do not have a Liability Form on record, so we want to get that updated. We will have the forms available at all Club Meetings and Events.

LureCraft:

I would like to thank Kim and Tammy of LureCraft for inviting our Club to participate in their annual Customer Appreciation Days event March 12-13, 2021. I would also like to thank Brad Sherrick and Ron Dixon for tying flies Friday and Don Privett, Brent Walchuk, and Randy Chappell for tying Saturday. I was tying both days. Keith Loutzenhiser, another Club member was also tying both days representing his own business.

Kim fed us some delicious fish Friday for lunch and followed up on Saturday with some fantastic pulled pork.



Tie-A-Thon:

Tie-A-Thon #15 is in full swing. I have 2900 flies committed, 1700 flies in hand. If you want to be involved let me know. Last year we as a Club turned in 2800 flies. If you would like a sign-up form let me know and I will get you one or you can contact me and let me know what flies you are tying, hook size, and shirt size. Tim Scott likes for me to update him on our Clubs fly count, so try to keep me informed on your progress. This year all of the flies will be donated to the Trout Unlimited Youth Camps nationwide. If you want more information about the TU Youth Camps and/or are considering sending a child or grandchild let me know and I can get you info about the Camps, locations, costs, and dates.

Tim Scott has been posting Fly Tying Videos on Facebook for the Tie-a-Thon. Search Tie-A-Thon or Tim Scott to access the videos.

The Closing program is scheduled for May 15, 2021 at the Elkhart Conservation Club, 55515 Riviera Dr., Elkhart, IN 46514. Let me know if you are planning on attending so I can give Terry Wittorp a head count.



THREE RIVERS NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE THREE RIVERS FLYFISHERS

Chris Doyal · Editor
T.R.F.F.F. · P.O. Box 8548 · Fort Wayne, Indiana · 46898-8548

March 1995

MARCH MEETING

The organizational meeting of the **Three Rivers Fly Fishers** was a great success! Twenty two people took part despite the weather. This shows that Fort Wayne has needed a fly fishing club for too long. Five board positions were filled, but we still need three more volunteers to be directors. Our first meeting will be held at 6:00 on **March 16 at Hilger's on U.S. 30 West**. This location was chosen for two reasons: It has a buffet that will allow us to eat without giving them a specific number of people attending and also allows easy access from all areas via U.S.30, I-69, and I-469. Our speaker will be fisheries biologist **Jed Pearson** from the Tri-Lakes office of the **Indiana DNR**. Jed will let us know the status of the rivers in Fort Wayne and their potential for various conservation projects. Paul Raimen will tie our "Fly of the Month". This will be something we will do every month. One member will tie a personal favorite fly for us to learn and try next season. This month, Paul will tie a grey drake pattern he has found to be effective. We will also be collecting dues of \$10 for the club and \$25 for the FFF.

NEWSLETTER

I will be doing the newsletter until someone else volunteers to take over the responsibility. I will be glad to assist this person in any way possible. If the new editor has a macintosh, I have a lot of artwork on disc to help get them started. Until then, I sincerely hope you will help me be contributing articles, tying tips, and news, etc. My address is:

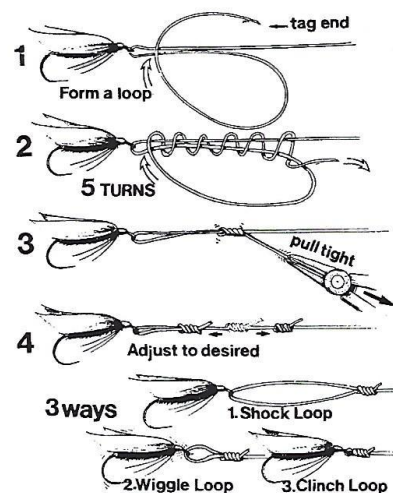
Chris Doyal
P.O. Box 1104
Mishawaka, Indiana 46546
Phone/Fax 219·258·4530
CompuServe #76152,2446

IN ORDER TO KEEP COSTS DOWN, THIS IS THE LAST MAILING YOU WILL RECEIVE UNLESS YOU ATTENDED THE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OR CALL ME. YOU CAN ALSO PICK UP A NEWSLETTER AT JORGENSEN'S.

DATES FOR MAJOR MICHIGAN HATCHES

SPECIES	DATE	PATTERN
Ephemera subvaria	April 25-June 16	Hendrickson, 12-14
Ephemera invaria	May 3-July 20	Red Quill, 12-14
Ephemera dorothea	May 12-July 3	Sulphur Dun, 14-16
Ephemerella simulans	June 2-July 14	Brown Drake, 8-10
Siphonurus rapidus uebecensis	May 26-June 19	Grey Drake
Hexagenia limbata	May 22-June 26	
Tricorythorodes	June 25-July 10	Michigan Caddis, 4-6
Leptophlebia cupida	July 26-Sept. 7	Black Midge, 20-24
Paraleptophlebia adoptiva	May 15-Aug. 31	Black Quill, 12-14
Ephemera lata	May 4-July 8	Blue-winged Dun, 16-18
Brachycentrus numerosis lateralis	June 25-Aug. 13	Blue-winged Olive, 18-20
Hydropsyche slossonae sparna	May 7-June 15	Grannom
Chimarra	May 1-June 7	
	May 15-Aug. 30	Brown Caddis, 14-16
	May 7-Sept. 15	
	May 1-Sept. 7	Black Caddis, 16-18

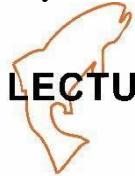
Duncan Loop (Uni-Knot)



AFFILIATED CLUB NEWS

LECTU:

Little Elkhart Chapter of Trout Unlimited is not having their Annual LECTU Spring Outing in May due to COVID. I talked to President Mike Beachy and he said it was a hard decision to cancel this year but plan to have it in 2022 at Riverbend Park, 511 East Warren St, Middlebury, IN. They always have a great program with raffles, auctions, guest speakers, and food. Mike also said they will be having work days on the Little Elkhart River in July and August if anybody wants to come up and help. LECTU has taken great care of the Little "E" for many years and it has become a tremendous fishery do to their work and planning.



SJRVFF:

The Saint Joe River Valley Fly Fishers have been having a lot of free ZOOM meetings do to the pandemic with programs by Mark Luttenton, PHD in Biology, talking about the Muskegon and AuSable Rivers, Geri Meyer and MattWagner (Driftless Angler), Kevin Feenstra (Feenstra Guide Service), Josh Greenburg (Gates AuSable Lodge owner and AuSable River Guide), and coming up in April, Bob Clouser will be tying flies and then have a program about whatever Bob wants to talk about. I will post the ZOOM address when it is available.



INDIANA DNR:

Don't forget your Indiana Fishing License expired March 31, unless you have a Lifetime License or an Old Fart License like I have.

I spoke with Tyler Delauder and he thinks they are going to have a Put-N-Take this spring in Columbia City and possibly this fall in Columbia City, Fort Wayne, and Huntington.



MICHIGAN DNR:

Muskegon River anglers should be on the lookout for Michigan Department of Natural Resources personnel collecting walleye eggs below Croton Dam this spring. Electrofishing boats will be on the water this week, starting Thursday, March 25, and work should conclude by April 16. People who want to avoid the walleye collection activities should fish downstream. The DNR asks the public to use caution when fishing near the electrofishing boats. Anyone, wading nearby when the boats approach, will be asked to exit the water to ensure everyone's safety. To maintain effective social distancing and allow fisheries staff to safely, efficiently collect eggs, the DNR also asks people not to gather at egg collection sites. The annual Muskegon River egg take is a critical operation for statewide walleye management, said Jim Dexter, DNR Fisheries Division chief. They are planning to collect about 32 million walleye eggs during this effort.



HELPFUL FLY TYING/FISHING RESOURCES

Brent Walchuk

I would like to take a few minutes and share some of the resources I have been using over the last few years both for tying and for fishing. I plan to include a pick from each of three areas books, online videos/tutorials, and websites that I have found helpful.

Library:

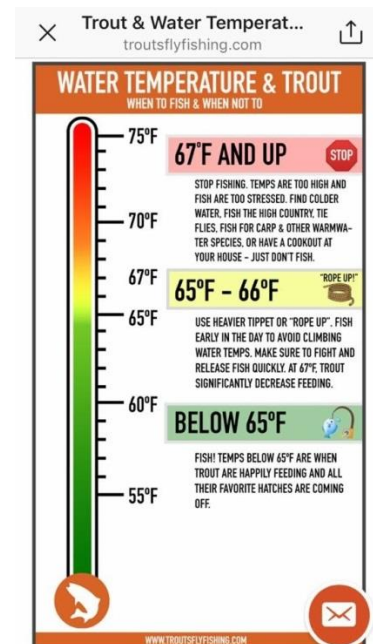
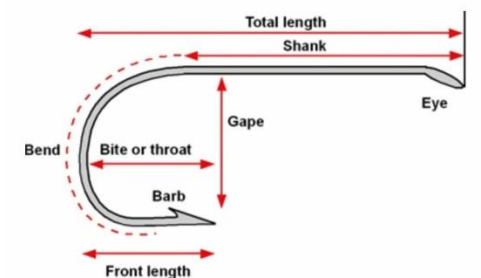
A.K. Best, Production Fly Tying – Whether you are just beginning or have been tying for years, you can probably pick up a new tip or trick from this book. I have enjoyed the attention to proportions and the tips for tying in all sorts of fly components from tails and wings to various hackles. His book has helped me improve my tying by improving my consistency whether I am tying a hundred flies for the Tie-a-thon or 3 flies for my next bluegill outing. Knowing that my 1st and last flies are going to be good also improves my confidence in the flies.

Online Tutorials:

This spring I wanted to learn to tie better streamers, as I looked around on the internet, videos from Gunnar Brammer kept showing up in my searches. Gunnar is an up and coming tier from Duluth, MN. He has a series of baitfish streamers based on a standard he calls “The Chosen One”. If you are interested in tying streamers and learning about proportions, shading, and functional designs, check him out at Youtube.com\Gunnar Brammer.

Websites:

Last but not least, www.panfishonthefly.com, is a great site full of tutorials, fly patterns, a fly fishing blog, and recently a shop providing some of the tools and materials to tie some of his featured patterns. The blog posts usually detail fishing trips with a particular fly, how he was fishing it, the pattern, and the steps to tie the fly. If you have a few minutes and can't make it to the water, check out this site and plan for your next trip.



Mississinewa River “Spring Fishing”

One of my favorite times of the year is upon us. The days are getting longer and the birds are once again singing their songs just before the break of daylight. I fished for walleye on the shores of the Maumee River between Maumee and Waterville, Ohio as the walleye had made their annual trek into the rivers and creeks that feed into Lake Erie to spawn. First the males and then the females make the journey. Then about this time of the season the females have spent their eggs and both male and female are beginning to head back to the Lake. When the marble-eyes have done their thing this sets in motion many events that are in the near future. The largemouth bass and smallmouth bass are on a feeding frenzy. The bluegills are readily available to take both on top water and subsurface flies, mostly subsurface until the water warms a little more. The crappies are on a good bite and then there is the “white bass” run. This is probably the closest link to the walleye movement, which could be set in motion with an egg timer. When the walleye move out the white bass move in. I am not talking only the Maumee River but the Mississinewa River, which is close to my home. I guess you could consider it my home river. I have fished this river for most of my life and some of my best memories of fishing it were with my two boys from the time they first held a pole in their hands to just last year, and now with my grandkids. When the water warms to between 45 and 55 degrees the white bass move from the Reservoir into the river to find a suitable spawning area. The fish will congregate in schools on shoals and shallow rock beds for a period of three to four weeks. During that period you are at the mercy of the spring weather due to the rainy conditions affecting the water height, clarity and the Mississinewa Dam downstream for flood control.

I am specifically talking about a stretch of river between, Four Mile Bridge north of Marion to Lafontaine, about a 12 mile stretch of water. This area is part of the Mississinewa SRA and is controlled by the DNR. In this area is where the Battle of Mississinewa took place and there are several historical Indian sites. There are several designated locations on the river to put in and take out kick boats, canoes, kayaks, or johnboats. There are numerous spots along the both sides; more access on the east side of the river to bank fish or areas to wade in and walk upstream and downstream. The current is usually not too fast so wading is fairly easy. Of course, I have my favorite spots. There are also regular boat ramps on the river and the Reservoir that you can trailer a boat and motor upstream to these locations. Remember these are schooling fish so if you catch a white bass while floating you may want to stop and get out and wade. You can fish from Matter Park to Four Mile Bridge, or from Troyers Bridge all the way to the LaFontaine ramp, or the Highway #13 Bridge. There is also good fishing all the way from the Dam down to Peru. When the white bass are “in” you can catch 40 to 50, 1lb–2lb bass within a half day. It is a blast! The White Bass move up river to spawn, a couple weeks later the Crappie will move up the river to spawn so they are both in there. After a couple weeks the White Bass move back to the lake and then the Crappie move back to lake. Then about this time the lakes are starting to warm up and the Bluegills are fanning the beds and the Bluegill bite will be on. With all this going on it creates a major problem, do I fish or do I go mushroom hunting or both? You can stoop to the lower level of spin fishing if you want to enjoy all the fish activity in the Mississinewa River and Lake year round. Ice fishing has its moments also. This river is not just a good fishery in the spring but through the summer and fall you can catch white or black crappie, bluegill, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass and some white bass that remain in the river and don’t move back out to the Lake. I have even caught rainbow trout back in August 2003, when they released trout in the tail waters of the Dam. These are not striped bass or hybrid striped bass that look similar. They aren’t too bad on the table if caught when the water is cold.

I have maps of the area if you would like one and if you decide to take this adventure you might want to give me a call about the water conditions and if I am available I could spot you or a group for a float trip since I do live nearby. You can also contact me anytime to see what the water conditions are. It won’t be long the White Bass will do their annual thing.



MEMBERS FAVORITE FLIES



Crawfish Fly.....By Steve Hutsell

Hook: #2

Thread: Ultra Thread, Orange, 6/0

Eyes: Dumbbell, Nickel, Red Iris

Claws: Zonker Strips, Rabbit, Rust, (2)

Body: Ice Chenille, Orange, Medium

Legs: Silicone, Orange Barred, (6)

Collar: Hen Saddle Hackle, Rust (3-4 turns)



Mel's Bug- Soft HackleBy Jamie Thompson

Hook: Mustad 94840, #12-#16

Thread: Brown, 8/0

Thorax: Bead, Gold or Bronze (hook size)

Tail: Antron Fibers, White (Sparse)

Body: Peacock Herl (3)

Rib: Tippet, 4X, clear mono

Hackle: Partridge (2-3 turns)

MEMBERS FAVORITE FLIES



Curlys Black Peacock Soft Hackle.....By Curly Hodson
Hook: Daiichi #300, Mustad # 94840 or #3906B #10-#14
Thread: Uni-Thread, Black, 6/0
Body: Uni-Thread, Black, 6/0 (Tapered)
Shellback: Diamond Braid, Midge, Peacock
Rib: Tippet, Fluorocarbon, 6X, 3lb, Clear
Hackle: Partridge (Sparse 2-3 wraps-Hook Length)
Head: Uni-Thread, Black, 6/0



Red Fox Squirrel Hair Nymph (Variant).....By Curly Hodson
Hook: Mustad 9671, Tiemco 5262, #6-#20
Thread: Uni-Thread, Camel, Rusty Brown or Orange, 6/0 or 8/0 (hook size)
Rib: Copper Wire, Small
Tail: Natural Red Fox Squirrel Back Hair or Natural Red Fox Squirrel Tail Hair, or Wapsi Natural Red Fox Squirrel Body Pieces (6-8 fibers)
Abdomen: Natural Red Fox Squirrel Belly Hair or Wapsi Natural Fur Red Fox Squirrel Belly Dubbing
Thorax: Natural Red Fox Squirrel Body Hair or Wapsi Natural Fur Red Fox Squirrel Body Dubbing
Head: Uni-Thread, Camel, Rusty Brown or Orange, 6/0 or 8/0 (hook size)

Officers

President: Curly Hodson
(acting)
Email: curly@curlysflyshop.com

Vice President: Brent Walchuk
(acting)
Email: walchukb@yahoo.com

Secretary: Curly Hodson
(acting)
Email: curly@curlysflyshop.com

Treasurer: Ron Dixon
(acting)
Email: grizznhi@frontier.com

Board of Directors

Ken Schiefelbein
Email: lschiefe2@embarqmail.com

Kevin Curtis
Email: kscurtis3@gmail.com

Warren Howell (acting)
Email: warrenhowell56@gmail.com

Ed Rose (acting)
Email: niol@aol.com

John Crothers (acting)
Email: bluegilljohn2@gmail.com

Mike Tackett (acting)
Email: mtackett@berrymarketing.com

Committee Chairman

Webmaster
Ken Schiefelbein

Facebook:
Curly Hodson
Jameson Olson
Monica McBride

Newsletter:
Curly Hodson

Audio/Visual:
Kyle Hammond
Jim Foote

Club Fly Show:
Steve Harris
Curly Hodson
Ron Dixon

Corporate Sponsors

Craig Ludwig
Indiana Policy Review
260-417-4094

Curly Hodson
CURLYS FLY SHOP
Email: curly@curlysflyshop.com
260-571-1951

Member Content

Mending Lines is looking for members content.

Some suggestions are:

*Pictures of fish caught by members, family, or friends.

*Members Favorite Flies & Recipes

*Pictures and clips from trips.

*Items for sale.

*Fishing related charts.

*Favorite websites or facebook pages.

*Short stories, fact or fiction.

*Other Fly Club info

Member Suggestions

The Board of Directors is always looking for suggestions for:

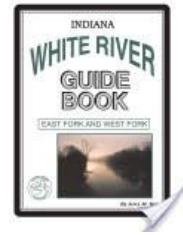
Guest speakers for Club programs

Locations for Club outings

Flash Events

For Sale

Curlys Fly Shop White River Guide Book \$24.50 tax included



Curlys Fly Shop
Pro-Lite FTL203
Book \$115.00 tax included



Curlys Fly Shop
Pheasant Tail Rump Patches
Sale: \$6.00 each

