

# Mending Lines

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April - June, 2014

## UPCOMING EVENTS 2014

**April 17**

Club Meeting

Classic Cafe

7:00 PM

*Members Favorite Fishing  
Spots*

**May 7**

Board meeting

6:45

*New Haven Moose Lodge  
1480*

**May 15**

Club Meeting  
Parkview YMCA

7:00 PM

Casting Clinic

**May 17**

Club Outing

*Big Brothers & Big Sisters Fly  
Fishing  
Parkview YMCA*

**June 22**

Club Outing

*Little Elkhart River, Riverbend  
Park,  
Middlebury, IN*

**July 27**

Club Outing

St. Joe River

Mottville, MI

**Aug 23-24**

Club Outing  
White River

## *Rex's Reelings*

Spring is finally upon us. The weather is finally beginning to break. As some of the old hands might tell you, "the fish are looking up". I hope it has been a productive winter season for all of you. All your fly boxes should be bristling full of old favorites and exciting new patterns you can't wait to try.

I'm excited. I have a fishing trip planned. May 18<sup>th</sup> I will be going to the Driftless area of Wisconsin. Curly Hodson and Larry Wilson are going along and I think a few more members might come up during the week. As of current plans, we will camp at one of the Vernon County parks near Viroqua, WI. If any of you want to explore this great trout fishery get hold of one of us and we'll share more information.

I'm also excited about the activities of our club. We had a very good auction in March and I am sure this April meeting will be a great one. This meeting will be a few of our members sharing some of their favorite fishing spots within a days drive. If it is anything like the meeting given by our members on their favorite flies last fall, you won't want to miss it.

We will be doing some research on our June outing to the Little Elkhart River. Several of the board members are going up to the LETCU spring gathering. I'm sure we will get some valuable tips on fishing this stream.

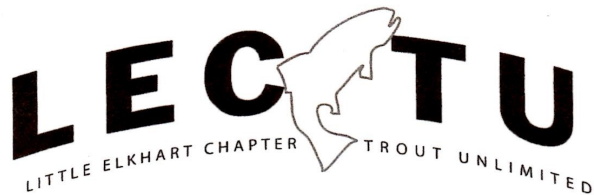
The other outings for this summer will be the July outing to Mottville, MI. and the Aug. Outing to the White River in the Muncie area. I hope all of you get to attend one of our club outings. Especially if you have never been to a club outing before. They really are a great time. We have some very seasoned fly fishermen who are always willing to share their knowledge and more than eager to learn something new.

I hope to see you all on the 17<sup>th</sup> of April for our next meeting with members sharing some favorite fishing honey holes. Then in May our annual casting clinic. More details to follow.

Keep his head up!!

*Rex*

The LECTU Spring Outing is a great opportunity to check out the Little Elkhart river in advance of the June 22 Club Outing.

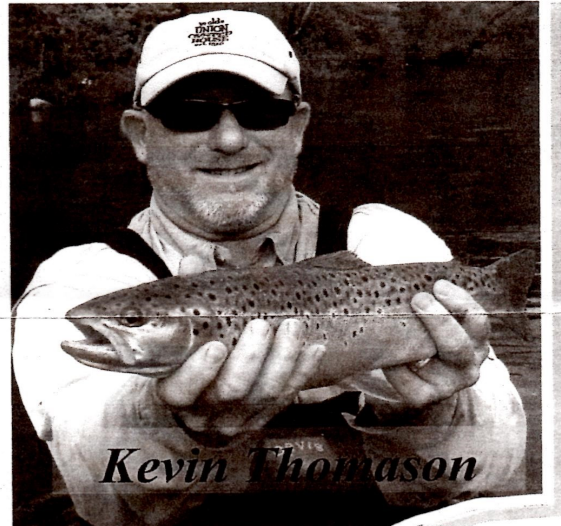


## 2014 Spring Outing

May 3, 9:00 AM - 1:00PM  
Riverbend Park Middlebury, IN

### Schedule of Events

8:30 am	Free Admission
9:00 am	River Access Tour
	Fly Tying Demonstrations by Kevin Thomason
	Fly Casting instruction with Charlie Ray
	Habitat Tours
10:30 am	President's Address
11:30 am	Featured Presentation with Kevin Thomason
	"Trout Nymphing Techniques"
Noon	Lunch is served: \$5 Donation Cookout Style Meal
1:00 pm	Table Raffle Drawing



*Kevin Thomason*

#### Adopt A Trout Raffle Tickets \$10 each

#### Support the LECTU Stocking Efforts

#### Grand Prize:

Winston Boron III 9ft. 5wt. and a Lamson Waterworks Vanquish reel or \$400 cash option

#### Silent Auction and Raffle

9 ft 4wt Temple Forks Outfitter fly rod, 9 ft 6wt Temple Forks Outfitter fly rod, 9 ft 9wt Temple Forks Outfitter fly rod, 7 ft 3wt Mike Beachy custom rod, Fly boxes, and many more items donated to support LECTU

Kevin recently marked his 50th year of fishing, 40 of those with a fly rod. Like many, he started with a bobber and worm and progressed toward fly fishing until a full blown addiction was diagnosed. Apparently, rehab is out of the question!

Kevin is a Life Member of Trout Unlimited (Kalamazoo Valley Chapter) and the Michigan Fly Fishing Club. He served as fly casting and fly tying instructor at The Benchmark in Farmington, MI for 15 years before moving to Kalamazoo.

Kevin began competitive fly fishing in 2005 and has served on the advisory board for Fly Fishing Team USA. He qualified and competed in 3 National Fly Fishing Championships in Colorado, Pennsylvania and North Carolina.

"Home waters" for Kevin are the Muskegon, Au Sable and Escanaba rivers in Michigan with Montana a favorite "home away from home". He is happy to fish for anything, anywhere and enjoys teaching others.

9th Annual Spring Outing

[www.LECTU.org](http://www.LECTU.org)

Thank you for Your Support

**Riverbend Park . 511 East Warren Street. Middlebury, IN**

## INDIANA DNR NEWS

**TROUT FISHING REGULATIONS  
(RAINBOW, BROWN AND BROOK TROUT)**

**STREAMS:**           **OPEN SEASON:** LAST SATURDAY IN APRIL, AFTER 6 a.m. LOCAL TIME, THROUGH DECEMBER 31.  
**CATCH AND RELEASE SEASON:** JANUARY 1 THROUGH APRIL 14, ALL STREAMS EXCEPT LAKE MICHIGAN TRIBUTARIES.  
**CLOSED SEASON:** APRIL 15 UNTIL 6 a.m. LOCAL TIME ON THE LAST SATURDAY IN APRIL.

CATCH LIMIT:       5, of which not more than one (1) may be a brown trout (brown trout restriction does not apply to Lake Michigan tributaries)

MINIMUM SIZE:     7 inches

**CATCH-AND-RELEASE AND ARTIFICIAL-LURE-ONLY STREAMS:**

LITTLE ELKHART RIVER: From CR 43 downstream to CR 16, except for waters along Riverbend Park from CR 16 upstream to the pedestrian footbridge.  
SOLOMON CREEK: From CR 33 downstream to the Elkhart River.  
COBUS CREEK: From Old U.S. 20 downstream to the St. Joseph River.

Only artificial lures or flies may be used to fish in these designated areas and all trout caught must be released. These small streams are stocked annually with brown trout by area conservation groups. These stockings coupled with the special regulations are intended to provide unique opportunities for anglers to catch more and larger trout.

**INLAND LAKES:**   **OPEN SEASON:** ALL YEAR\*

CATCH LIMIT       5, of which not more than one (1) may be a brown trout

MINIMUM SIZE:     7 inches

**Brown trout quality fishing regulations at Oliver, Olin and Martin lakes in LaGrange County and Brookville Lake tailwater in Franklin County.**

Anglers may not possess brown trout at Oliver, Olin and Martin lakes, LaGrange County, or Brookville Lake tailwater, Franklin County, unless the trout is 18 inches or longer. The daily bag limit is five trout but no more than one shall be a brown trout. These regulations are intended to increase the number of large trout available to anglers. The Oliver Lake Chain brown trout were purchased and stocked by the Northeastern Indiana Trout Association.

Please consult your fishing guide for additional information on regulations, or online at [www.fishing.IN.gov](http://www.fishing.IN.gov) .

Licenses can be purchased at your local retailer or online at [www.IndianaOutdoor.IN.gov](http://www.IndianaOutdoor.IN.gov) .

Some lesser known streams in the area that are stocked with trout

**Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Fish & Wildlife  
2014 INDIANA TROUT STREAM AND LAKE LOCATIONS**

**ALLEN COUNTY**

SPY RUN CREEK

LOCATION: Franke Park, northwest Fort Wayne.  
STOCKED: Portion of Spy Run Creek flowing through Franke Park

**CLARK COUNTY**

OAK LAKE 4 acres

LOCATION: Clark State Forest at Henryville

**ELKHART COUNTY**

COBUS CREEK

LOCATION: 2 miles west of Elkhart on Route 20  
STOCKED: 2.5 miles of stream from 1 mile north of Edison Road to junction with St. Joseph River.

LITTLE ELKHART RIVER

LOCATION: Vicinity Middlebury and Bristol.  
STOCKED: 16 miles of stream from Elkhart-LaGrange County Line to junction of St. Joseph River.

SOLOMON CREEK

LOCATION: 1.5 miles southeast of Benton on Route 313.  
STOCKED: 4 miles of stream from junction of Elkhart River upstream to U.S. 6.

**FRANKLIN COUNTY**

BROOKVILLE TAILWATER

STOCKED: From the Brookville Reservoir dam downstream 2 miles.

**FULTON COUNTY**

MILL CREEK

LOCATION: Within city limits of Rochester.  
STOCKED: One mile of stream below Lake Manitou dam downstream to Indiana Avenue

**GREENE COUNTY**

AIRLINE PIT 24.4 acres

LOCATION: Greene-Sullivan State Forest 5 miles south of Dugger on State Road 159.

MIDLAND LAKE: 21 acres

LOCATION: Midland Lake is located on the Hillenbrand Fish and Wildlife Area, 5 miles north of Linton, IN. ½ mile east of Hwy 59 on County Road 700N in Greene County

**HENRY COUNTY**

BIG BLUE RIVER

LOCATION: Wilbur Wright Fish & Wildlife Area; 2 miles north of New Castle on Hwy. 103, then ½ mile west on C.R. 200 N.  
STOCKED: Trout will be stocked in 8 fish pools along the 1.25 mile stretch of Wilbur Wright FWA.

**JEFFERSON COUNTY**

JOHNSON LAKE, 5 acres

LOCATION: Johnson Lake Park, Madison

**KOSCIUSKO COUNTY**

WYLAND LAKE 6 acres

LOCATION: Tri-County Fish & Wildlife Area; 5 miles N.E. of North Webster.

**MARION COUNTY**

DELAWARE LAKE 7 acres

LOCATION: Fort Benjamin Harrison State Park

**LaGRANGE COUNTY**

CURTIS CREEK

LOCATION: Curtis Creek Trout Rearing Station  
STOCKED: 0.2 mile of stream from the trout station to Pigeon River

LITTLE ELKHART RIVER

LOCATION: 3 miles west of Emma.  
STOCKED: 5.25 miles of stream from C.R. 300 S to LaGrange-Elkhart County Line.

PIGEON RIVER

LOCATION: Vicinity Mongo, IN to Howe, IN.  
STOCKED: 20 miles of stream from LaGrange-Steuben county line to State Road 9 at Howe

ROWE-EDEN DITCH

LOCATION: 4.75 miles west of Emma on C.R. 200 S.

STOCKED: 4.5 miles of stream from C.R. 43 in Elkhart County upstream to LaGrange C.R. 300 S.

TURKEY CREEK

LOCATION: 0.4 mile west of Brushy Prairie on Route 20.

STOCKED: 1.5 miles of stream from U.S. 20 to C.R. 150 N.

OLIVER LAKE CHAIN (OLIVER, OLIN, MARTIN)

500 acres  
LOCATION: 2.5 miles northwest of Wolcottville.

RAINBOW PIT 0.5 acre

LOCATION: Pigeon River Fish & Wildlife Area

**LAKE COUNTY**

FANCHER LAKE 10 acres

LOCATION: Crown Point at fairgrounds

**LAPORTE COUNTY**

LITTLE KANKAKEE RIVER

LOCATION: 2 miles east of Stillwell.  
STOCKED: 6 miles of stream from C.R. 500 E to C.R. 800 E.

**NOBLE COUNTY**

SAND LAKE 47 acres  
 LOCATION: Chain O'Lakes State Park

**PARKE COUNTY**

HARDEN RESERVOIR TAILWATER  
 LOCATION: State Road 59, three miles south of Bellmore, east 2 miles on C.R. 32.

**PORTER COUNTY**

CROOKED CREEK  
 LOCATION: 5.5 miles east of Valparaiso on Route 30.  
 STOCKED: 3 miles of stream from C.R. 200 N. to Division Road.

**RANDOLPH COUNTY**

MISSISSINEWA RIVER  
 LOCATION: S.R. 1 at Wildlife Management Area

**STEBEN COUNTY**

CLEAR LAKE 800 acres  
 LOCATION: 6 miles east of Fremont.

FAWN RIVER

LOCATION: Fawn River State Fish Hatchery.  
 STOCKED: 0.1 mile of stream at hatchery.

PIGEON RIVER

LOCATION: Flint  
 STOCKED: 5.5 miles of stream from Flint to Steuben-LaGrange county Line.

LAKE GAGE 327 acres

LOCATION: 3 miles southeast of Orland, IN.  
 PUBLIC FISHING SITE on adjacent Lime Lake.

**ST. JOSEPH COUNTY**

POTATO CREEK

LOCATION: North Liberty, IN.  
 STOCKED: 5 miles of stream from Worster Lake Dam (Potato Creek State Park) downstream to Smilax Road west of North Liberty, IN.

**TIPPECANOE COUNTY**

FAIRFIELD PARK (NORTHEAST PIT) 14.6 acres  
 LOCATION: From Dayton, IN go north 1 mile on C.R. 750 N. to 200 S. Go west ½ mile on 200 S. to the Park entrance.

**VANDEBURGH COUNTY**

GARVIN PARK LAKE, 5.5 acres  
 LOCATION: Garvin Park, Evansville

**VIGO COUNTY**

MAPLE AV. PARK LAKE, 11 acres  
 LOCATION: NW side of US 41 and Maple Av. intersection, Terre Haute

**WHITLEY COUNTY**

CEDAR LAKE 143 acres  
 LOCATION: 8 miles north of Columbia City, IN.

MORCHES PARK POND, 0.7 acres

LOCATION: Morsches Park entrance is located on S.R. 205 approximately 0.4 mile west of it intersection with US 30 in Columbia City.

## Notes

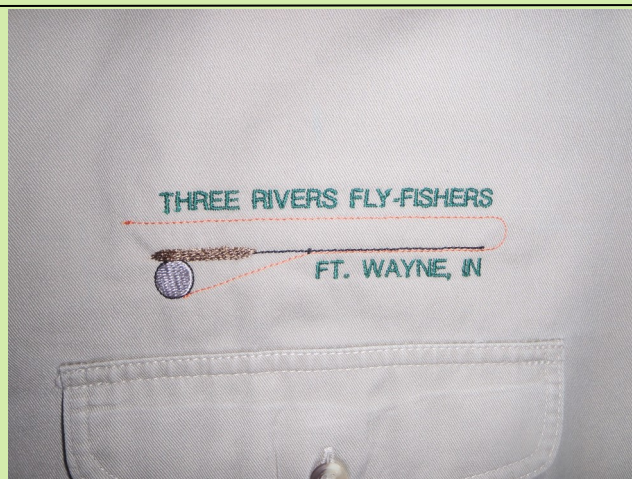
The Board is discussing sponsoring a Fly Show, possibly March or April 2015. Please contact a board member if you are interested in assisting with this exciting opportunity.

## 3RFF Logo Available

The new 3RFF Club Logo is available for embroidery on your shirt.

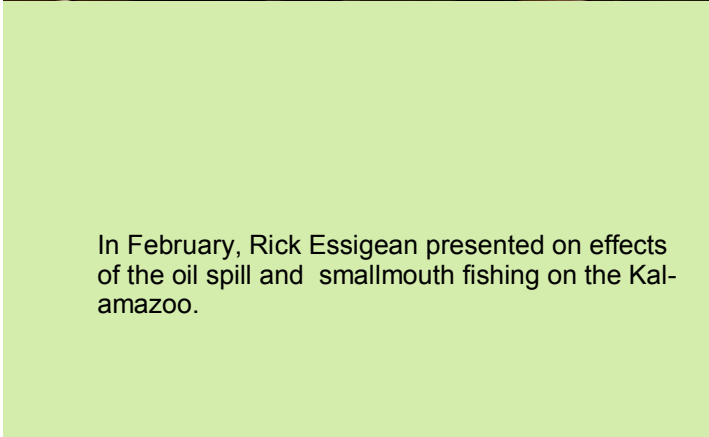
You provide a clean shirt and \$10.00 to have the logo embroidered.

See Steve Harris for more information.





Dennis Potter expounding on his Adams family flies at the January club meeting

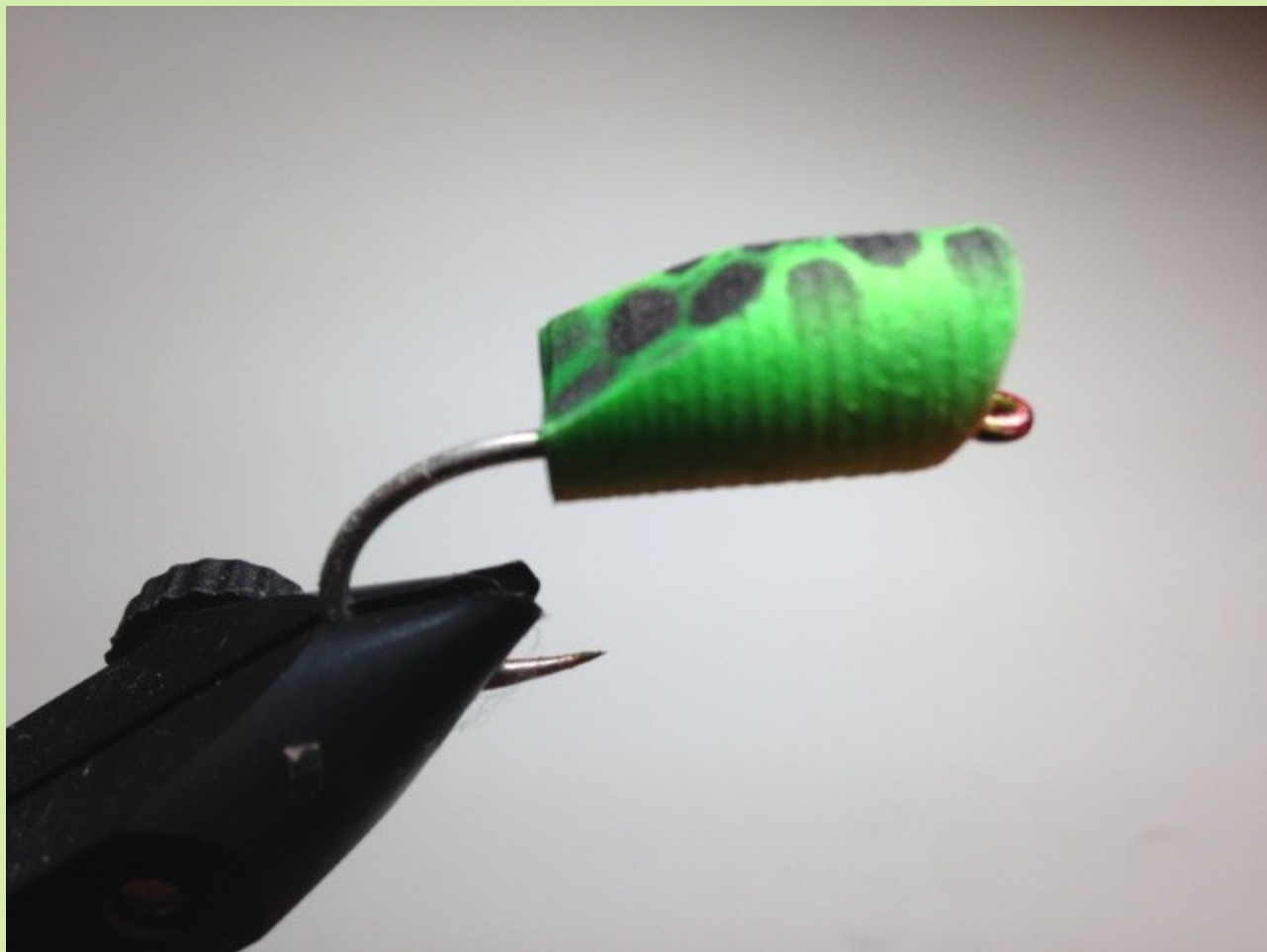


In February, Rick Essigean presented on effects of the oil spill and smallmouth fishing on the Kalamazoo.



Perusing some of the treasures available at the March club auction.

One of the members favorite flies presented at the November 2013 club meeting



### Popper Painting

.....By Larry Wilson

To paint my poppers/sliders/etc I use a Copic airbrush system. I have a mini air compressor to supply the air, but Copic also carries a couple sizes of compressed air cans. I bought a set which came with an air grip (the airbrush head), hose, adapters and an air canister. The ink is supplied by Copic Markers. Original or Sketch markers can be used. Just insert the broad end of the marker into the air grip and align with the nozzle and you are ready to go. To change colors simply pull out the marker and put in a different one. No cleaning is necessary (my favorite part). The pens aren't cheap. Anywhere from \$6 - \$8 or so. I haven't bought one in a while, but that's approximately what they were the last time I bought one. The pens last quite a while and don't dry out very easy. They are also refill-able. You can get a refill bottle and fill the pen up about 4 times; I think, for about the price of 1 or 2 pens. I know that FlyMasters in Indy carries these. Hobby Lobby and Michaels carry them as well. I'm not sure about Joannes. The system isn't as precise as a normal airbrush system, but I haven't been disappointed.

I have been coating my poppers with epoxy. Sometimes I add a little glitter to the epoxy. I have tried the clear cure goo, but I haven't been happy with it. Still experimenting.

## The Elite Fly Fisher

For reasons that are partly accurate, but mostly not, fly fishers have been labeled as elitists by many. I think some part of this is due to the perception that those who fly fish appear somewhat foreign in their approach to the sport as practiced by the masses. Few of the worm and bobber fishers use vests and waders, or have their selection of hooks lined up neatly in boxes. The bass fishers, while certainly the most gear intense of the fishers, tend to gather their plethora of lures, rods, and attractants at the corner bait shop, and few of those carry fly fishing gear anymore. We fly fishers have our own "bait shops" which are frequently called outfitters, which, in turn might be somewhat responsible for the impression of elitism.

From the historical perspective only those who were in the highest rankings of the cast societies of Europe were affluent enough to dare to release a fish back to the water. The poor masses fished for food, not sport, and anyone who could afford to fish purely for enjoyment was surely considered of the elite class. The practice of catch and release is still quite foreign to the great majority of fishermen and women, who harvest fish for the table and freezer without hesitation regardless of the impact on the fish population and size.

So are fly fishers truly elitist?? The short answer, in my experience, is no. Some qualifiers are necessary of course. There are those in any pursuit who believe that buying the most expensive or most prestigious brand equipment will make one better at their sport no matter their actual skill level. Fly fishers are certainly not immune to this phenomenon. Most of us have seen the guy step into the stream with the top name labels prominently displayed on every piece of clothing and equipment only to stand right in the middle of the most productive spot on the river and cast his fly, or more accurately attempt to cast his fly to the one spot in the river devoid of fish. Most often these casts are rainbow shaped efforts which leave the fly line stacked in coils floating around his knees.

Then there are those who, from outward appearances seem to be capable fishermen. They can cast reasonably well, are not playing the part of walking billboard, and actually catch some fish. The rub comes when a beginner or novice engages them in the kind of casual conversation that happens routinely on a river. Having any luck? What are they hitting for you? This is usually met with a longwinded, scientific name ridden explanation of which genus and what minute size of mayfly they have caught fish on that day. Quite often the flies are described in detail listing the recipe and technique which make this fisherman's fly just a little more special than anything the novice might have in his box. Sometimes they will even regale the beginner with descriptions of the type of cast, mend, or drift that has been so successful for them. All this to make them appear more elite than their fellow fly fisher?

So are the general population of fly fishers more elite than any other group of fishers anywhere in the world? Probably not an easily or accurately answered question by anyone. And in the end, does it really make any difference? Are people going to be drawn to fly fishing to be seen as elite? I'll bet not. Oh, maybe a few will. I think there will always be those who feel the need to dazzle a spectator with elaborate descriptions of everyday things. You find them in every segment of our society, why not fly fishing?

I can't really convince myself that elite is a good description of fly fishing. The one term that I find myself using to describe fly fishing is involved. It is, to me, a more involved way of fishing. When fly fishing you are more intimately involved in trying to figure out what the fish are eating. Midges, bait fish, hatching flies, spinners? Then comes the involvement of trying to find something in your fly box that imitates that food source closely enough to fool the fish into taking it. You are involved in an intricately more difficult form of casting, concerned not only with the cast, but the back-cast too. Then there is the matter of mending the line to control the drift of the fly on the currents, and all this has to be done before the fly reaches the point where you suspect there might be a fish holding so that the fly drifts to them without the slightest indication that it might be attached to a line, which in turn is attached to a fly fisher. This is surely a more involved way of fishing than slinging a half ounce spinner out along a weed line and cranking it back in, only to repeat the process ad nauseum.

I've heard the term relaxing used to describe fly fishing. I can certainly agree with that assessment sometimes, although it's hard to describe trying to manage a leader 12 feet long, ending in 6X tippet, tied to a fly with a tungsten bead head, and topped off with a strike indicator 6 or 7 feet up the leader as a really relaxing undertaking. I also find it difficult to relax when I'm standing in fast current, with but few inches of freeboard left on my waders trying to back my way out of an ever increasingly steep descent into hat floating water. Especially when every slight movement of your foot seems to squeeze a few more rocks from under them and bring the dreaded ice cold dunking that much closer to reality.



(cont)

Beautiful has been a standard description of fly fishing. Those scenes in movie and print of the lone fly fisher standing waist deep in a placid pool on a scenic river with the colors of autumn all around and maybe a bluebird or two sitting in the branches watching certainly are beautiful. On the other hand walking the banks of a river that has recently been through the assault of the masses of salmon and steelhead fishermen where the spawn bags, beer cans, and tremendously large balls of knotted monofilament abound can hardly be called beautiful.

And in the end we come back to the question of elitism in fly fishing. Are we fly fishers an elite bunch? If we are, should we be? What about us should be seen as elite? Is being labeled elite necessarily a bad thing? My guess is that fly fishing will be labeled as many things over time. Some deserved and some not. Some accurate, and some not. Much of this is beyond the control of the fly fisher, but some of it is not. The one label I'd like to see given fly fishers, and all fishermen and women for that matter, is "a good bunch of folks". To be labeled as a good bunch of folks takes a lot. A good bunch of folks are generally a bunch who treat people and each other right. Who show concern for the environs and participants of their sport or pastime. They are the ones who sort of take care of their pursuit, teach it to others, pass it on. A good bunch of folks presents the pursuit they are passionate about to the rest of the world as something to value, something people want to be associated with. They are the ones who leave their pastime better than they found it. To leave something better than one finds it might be a good description of elitist behavior. If it is, then I'm all for fly fishers being elite, and I truly hope that each one of us lives up to the billing.

By: Rex Lengacher

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Mending Lines needs additional member content!  
Some suggestions are:

- Pictures of fish caught by members, families, friends...Look at the fishing pictures in the local papers for ideas.
- Pictures and notes from trips. Your notes do not need to be a final article. Your notes can be tuned and reviewed before inclusion in Mending Lines.
- Items for sale
- Fishing and casting lessons learned.
- Favorite Web sites
- Short Stories, Fact, or ????
- Book reviews

Please email your ideas, suggestions and articles to John Carlson, Editor

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