

Mending Lines

Oct
2019



CLUB MEETING
JOE JACKSON
October 17

CLUB MEETING
JUNIOR BURKE
November 21

CLUB MEETING
BRAD SHERRICK
January 16

Upcoming Events

- CLUB MEETING - OCTOBER 17
JOE JACKSON
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
- CLUB MEETING - NOVEMBER 21
JUNIOR BURKE
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
- CLUB MEETING - JANUARY 16
BRAD SHERRICK
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
- 3RFF FLY SHOW - FEBRUARY 15
9:00 AM - 4:30 PM
- CLUB MEETING - FEBRUARY 20
KEVIN FEENSTRA
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
- CLUB MEETING - MARCH 19
AUCTION
9:00 AM - 4:30 PM
- CLUB MEETING - APRIL 16
MEMBER'S FAVORITE FLIES
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

All club meetings are held at the Classic Cafe from 7:00 - 9:00 PM, unless otherwise noted. See www.3rff.org for more details.

BACKCASTS

A few words from your President,

By: Lynn W. Burry

Yea! Fall is finally here. Why all the excitement you ask? A simple one word answer should sum it up. Steelhead! Yes it is time to turn my attention

to Steelhead. And I am ready. The lines are cleaned, the fly boxes are filled and the boat is gassed up and ready to go. The only thing missing is the time to go. But even that is not too much of a factor. Weather and low water conditions are my only real concerns. Get both right and it turns a good day on the water into a great day. By the by, any day on the water is always a good day. After what seems like a few hundred casts you get that eye opening electric adrenalin rush, reel screaming, bent rod, line ripping acrobatic hook-up. It is quickly turning into a great day. As the excitement surges through your body you struggle to keep the fish out of the wood or from coming un-pinned while hoping you were not using those special hinged hook flies you tied up and gave to your fishing partner. Finally the fish comes to the net. A bright chrome beauty that is just hours into its annual migration is yours. It does not matter if it is a two pound Skipper or a seven-teen pound Buck. It is a Steelhead and the first Steelhead (and hopefully not the last) of the season. A quick Kodak moment, a special thank you to the fish is followed by a safe release and all is right with the world. (For the record, I go through this with every hook-up.)



A fresh spring-run Steelhead.

I have included a few pictures from past seasons. You will note the size of the fish has nothing to do with the size of the smile on my face. Please enjoy them as much as I had in making them.

So what kind of a year have you had so far? Mine was like this. The spring gave us super rains and cool weather until late June. Most of the waters I traditionally fished were blown out most of the year. Even the lakes were high but at least they were fishable. The heat-wave of July pushed the Trout deep. Thankfully the Smallies and even a couple giant carp made up for it. A few of

us made it to the Club's Outing at Whispering Oaks Camp Grounds in Baldwin, Michigan. Conditions were good and we managed a few fish. My only down-side was when I hit a rock at Pine Street and put a small hole in the bottom of my boat. This was thanks to all the tubers blocking the ramp forcing me to land just upstream from the ramp where all the rocks are.

August was a mix of weather, heat, fall like coolness and some quality fishing. The annual White River Outing was well attended. A special thanks to all our friends from Derby City that came up for a few days of fellowship. A good number of fish were caught, a couple or two beers were enjoyed and a fairly great Saturday evening meal of pulled pork, brisket and burnt tips along with some wonderful smoked baked beans were enjoyed by all. Even the late Saturday night thunder storm was one to remember.



My first Steelhead on a Spey Rod.

By September I had the crack in my boat's bottom fixed. I also decided the wood work and trim needed some maintenance. While I was at it, I cleaned and repainted the interior, buffed and waxed the freeboard and re-coated the bottom with Rhino-hide. The first full weekend of the month found me on the lake. The repairs were proofed and we caught a few fish. It was a good day.

So here we are in October already. Where has the year gone? The coming months for the Three Rivers Fly Fishers promises to be exciting. Our meeting on October 17th features Joe Jackson tying Deer hair flies. And the November 21st meeting will feature Junior Burk tying Muskie and Pike flies. We will also be assisting the IDNR with a Fly Fishing Workshop and Family Fishing Event. Both events are in October. Additional details were announced at the past September regular meeting.

The year 2020 marks the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the Three Rivers Fly Fishers. 25th Anniversary Commemorative T-shirts are still available. If you already have one, great! (You can never have too many T-shirts) If not, you can order one anytime. Steve Harris will be glad to take your order at any of our Club's meetings.

We are in the early stages of planning a special get-together dinner to celebrate this milestone year. The dinner will be for our members and your guests. The dinner will be sometime in March, 2020. Watch your web page as additional details become available.

The 3RFF Board of Directors spent a significant amount of time these past few months working on some necessary changes to our By-Laws. The approved By-Laws are available for your review on your web-page. I encourage you to check them out. One of the needed changes was the creation of the position of Vice-President. I am pleased to announce that Brandon Altimus has agreed to fill that position until our Annual Elections take place next April. Brandon was a Board Member prior to accepting this appointment.



Proof that even little Skippers can bring big smiles!

I am also pleased to announce two new 3RFF Board Members. Jim Lindhorst and Ken Schiefelbein will be joining us in that position. Please give them a big sign of appreciation and thanks when you see them.

In closing, I want to thank you, our members, for making the Three Rivers Fly Fishers the premier fly fishing organization it is. Keep up the great work.

So until the next time I see you, "May the inside of your waders (or boats) always be dry!"

Lynn



A nice 17 pound Buck

October Club Meeting Speaker

Joe Jackson Fly Tyer/Guide

Joe is an award winning fly tyer, obsessed fly fisherman, husband and a father. His mother put a fishing pole in his hand at age four, (drowning worms under a bobber) and it was an every weekend adventure if the weather allowed. He joined the Army in Sept of 2001 at the age of 17 as an Infantryman. He served in Afghanistan and Iraq before being medically discharged in 2014.

In 2015, he moved to Indianapolis and joined the local Project Healing Water Fly Fishing group. PHWFF taught him the basics of fly fishing and tying and his obsession was born. He currently lives with his family in Martinsville with a view of the West Fork of the White River where he guides.

Joe's favorite quote: "Teach a person to fly fish and you have just created a conservationist"
Lee Wulff.

He has a heavy focus on deer hair poppers and divers, streamers, and nymphs for bass and panfish. He ties novelty display flies such as hummingbirds, cardinals, woodpeckers, and turtles for art and decor. He was an award winner at the 5th Annual Fly Tying Competition.



Two Forks Guide Service

Sgt. Bassfisher joined Two Forks Guide Service in 2018, a Central Indiana fly fishing guide service, where he targets smallmouth bass on the White River.



Sgt. Bassfisher's
Fly Shop



November Club Meeting Speaker

John JR Burke

Founder/Owner,
Warmwater Chronicles

There really is not much to say about us at Warmwater Chronicles or about Warmwater Chronicles that is not self explanatory in the name. We are all about Warmwater Fly Fishing. Here are the nuts and bolts of WWC.



Not too long ago Cecil Guidry and John (Jr.) Burke were having a conversation about the lack of warmwater fly fishing information in the popular magazines and shows these day (or ever). There are a number of great magazines and regular periodicals as well as books and DVDs that are published but the vast majority of them are focused on trout. Second most popular would be steelhead and salmon. Next is Saltwater and last is warmwater species. However, here at WWC, we consider Saltwater fly fishing in the same class as warmwater due to the fact the water is generally warm.

So, Jr. and Cecil decide it would be nice if someone started a new magazine dedicated to warmwater fly fishing. They even thought of a great name; Smallmouth Chronicles.

As fate would have it, Jr. happened to stop by the shop on March 7th (2012) and through various conversations he mentioned Cecil and him talking about such a magazine/online publication. I agreed but suggested it encompass all warmwater species and the name would could be Warmwater Chronicles. Little did I know that was the start. The domain was secured, the plans were laid and the project was off the ground within a few days.

That is how Warmwater Chronicles got started. We are all about warmwater fly fishing, including saltwater. We have a little bit of attitude about trout fishing that comes from the historic focus on coldwater fish and the lack of attention to warmwater species. Not that we don't enjoy fishing for T—t occasionally but our heart belongs to the warmwater fish that we fish for most often.

NORTHERN MICHIGAN LANDMARK DESTROYED BY FIRE

By: Lynn W. Burry

Many of us that go north to fish the Big Manistee and other local rivers for Steelhead and Salmon are familiar with this landmark. A brief notice was posted on our face Book page.

On August 31st the Dublin, Michigan Store, referred to by many as "The Jerky Store," was totally destroyed by fire. A passer-by discovered the fire around 2:30 AM and immediately contacted the fire department. Numerous departments were called in to assist in fighting the fire.

This popular store was founded in 1935 and served the Dublin and Wellston communities continuously until now. It was widely known for its numerous styles of jerky made from many different meats and unique flavors. The "Store" was not only a full service grocery with fresh produce and home-made breads and savory cheeses. Its great deli was second to none. Many types of wine, beer and even liquors were available. Need a couple items to fix something at your cabin, forgot something for your camp or wanted some ammo for your hunt? It was there under the same roof. Just walk through the passage and you were in their nicely stocked hardware.

For over twenty years Joe and I shopped at that store on our many times on our trips to Michigan to fish the Big Manistee. There was no need to carry any food (except for some very special items we knew they didn't have) from home. They had it all or you really didn't need it.

As I am writing this, I did a follow-up to a couple of regional Michigan TV stations to see if there were any updates on how the fire started. Sadly the Manistee Sheriff's Office has released news that the fire is now being investigated as possible arson. This makes a sad story even worse.

On the bright side the owners have pledged to re-build. I know I am looking forward to that day. In the meantime I will continue to send special thoughts and prayers to the owners, their families and all their employees as they recover from this devastating event.

Here are a couple pictures I found on the internet from various news sources.



A drone view of the aftermath. Photos provided from the internet by regional Michigan news sources

Each Newsletter, members can provide their special photos. Please submit your favorite photos for the next newsletter!

Member's Photos

From Kyle Hammond

I caught these panfish off of the dock at Lake James. Caught them on a 2-weight and a clouser minnow. Sometimes keeping it simple is best!



This article is reprinted from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources news feed that I receive. While it is written for Michigan, it is also very applicable for Indiana and the surrounding states. Many of my friends and members of the 3RFF travel, camp or spend time enjoying our neighbors to the north and their vast natural resources. I encourage you to read this and more importantly take it to heart. Thanks, Lynn

Showcasing the DNR: How firewood became a hot topic:

By: Joanne Foreman

Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Years ago, most people wouldn't give a moment's thought to tossing an armload of firewood into the trunk before heading out on a weekend getaway. But nowadays, that bundle of wood from home might create an issue if your destination is a park or campground.

In Michigan and across the U.S., state and national parks and even private campgrounds are urging visitors to leave firewood at home and buy it locally – or better yet, buy U.S. Department of Agriculture-certified, heat-treated wood – due to concerns about invasive tree pests and diseases.

Invasive species are those that are not native to Michigan and whose introduction can cause harm to the environment, the economy or human health.

Two firewood producers from the Upper Peninsula, Mel Hittle of Michigan Fuelwood Products in Newberry and Chad Lemery of Beaver Creek Wood Products in Menominee, are under contract with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to provide firewood for some state park campgrounds. Their experiences help shed light on how and why the firewood industry is changing.

Why did firewood become such a problem?

Some would say the emerald ash borer, an invasive insect that destroyed tens of millions of ash trees in Michigan, raised the issue of firewood as a carrier of tree pests and diseases.

Lemery points to an earlier culprit – the gypsy moth – and the federal quarantine it inspired.

According to the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, invasive gypsy moths, in their caterpillar life stages, defoliate close to a million forested acres each year.

In the early 1980s, it became apparent that this species, introduced to Massachusetts in 1869, was spreading more rapidly than natural movement could account for. The moths and their fuzzy brown egg masses were hitching rides on forest products, nursery stock and even recreational equipment to establish new populations, sometimes hundreds of miles away.

To slow the spread of gypsy moths, the USDA expanded a quarantine to infested states, including Michigan, regulating the movement of items including Christmas trees, live plants and firewood.

Likewise, when the emerald ash borer was discovered in Michigan in 2002, its movement was linked to transporting firewood cut from ash trees killed by the invasive beetle. Live emerald ash borer larvae can survive



and hatch from under the bark of cut ash trees, emerging to infest new locations.

A federal external quarantine restricting ash wood movement from Michigan to other states, as well as a state internal quarantine regulating ash transportation between specific zones in Michigan, went into effect in 2002.

Both quarantines allowed the movement of firewood if it was USDA-certified.

To meet USDA standards for certification, firewood must be heat-treated to a core temperature of 140 degrees for 60 minutes. This effectively kills organisms including insects, larvae and fungal pathogens that cause tree diseases, reducing the risk of spreading invasive species.

Certified firewood that has met USDA heat treatment and inspection standards bears a compliance stamp along with the producer's name and address.

Opening a wood products business in Menominee, on the Michigan-Wisconsin border, in 2006 required Beaver Creek to navigate both federal and state quarantine regulations.

"It seemed likely that firewood quarantines would grow, so Beaver Creek set out to become USDA-certified right from the beginning," Lemery said. "This would allow us to cross state boundaries and quarantine zones."

Quarantines have not grown – in fact, though the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's internal emerald ash borer quarantine slowed the spread of the species to the U.P., it was rescinded in 2018, after the insect had been found in most counties in the U.P. as well as areas of neighboring Wisconsin. The USDA has proposed lifting the federal emerald ash borer quarantine to focus resources on managing the pest within the 35 infested states.

What has grown is the list of invasive insects and tree diseases that can be transported by firewood. Oak wilt and beech bark disease currently are spreading through Michigan. Asian long-horned beetle is present in Ohio, New York and Massachusetts. Spotted lanternfly is as close as Pennsylvania, and thousand cankers disease of walnut has been detected in Ohio, Indiana and Pennsylvania.


According to Heidi Frei, a DNR natural resources steward, many state parks throughout Michigan already are showing the effects of unchecked invasive species.

"Otsego Lake, South Higgins Lake, Interlochen, Warren Dunes, Hartwick Pines, Waterloo, Brighton and Island Lake are just a few of the Michigan state parks and recreation areas that have been hit hard by invasive forest pests," Frei said.

"For example, over the last six years, more than 1,000 trees in P.J. Hoffmaster State Park have been lost to oak wilt. The campground, which once was home to beautiful, mature red oaks, had to be almost entirely clear-cut because of infestation. That resulted in the loss of campsites surrounded by the forest canopy, important wildlife habitat and much-needed shade."

The potential to lose more tree species to invasive species has caused an increase in firewood restrictions.

Beginning in 2014, national parks, forests and lakeshores, including Isle Royale and Sleeping Bear Dunes in Michigan, adopted policies regulating firewood to limit the spread of tree-killing pests and diseases. Policies vary by park, ranging from complete bans to permitting only locally purchased wood.



In 2018, Michigan's state parks began requiring firewood vendors serving the parks to work toward attaining USDA certification for firewood. Vending contracts prioritized those who were certified or were, at minimum, heat-treating their firewood.

Mel Hittle started his business in 2008 with the purpose of providing kiln-dried wood because, he said, "I knew there was a market for wood that was dry."

Like Lemery, Hittle became USDA-certified to access markets beyond the U.P. quarantine zone, including the Lower Peninsula and other states.

Today, both Hittle and Lemery exceed USDA certification standards by treating their wood at higher temperatures for a much longer amount of time than required. This is less about invasive species and more about providing wood with a very low moisture content – what Hittle calls "beef jerky."

"People are buying kiln-dried wood because they prefer a quality product dried to a moisture content that doesn't create as much creosote," Lemery said. "People want a product they can easily light just by throwing a match into it."

Hittle's customers also are looking for high BTU (British thermal units, a measure of heat output) and a product that won't bring bugs into the house.

"Those with high-efficiency wood burners really need kiln-dried, low-moisture wood," he said.

Hittle staunchly supports a requirement for firewood certification, even though the emerald ash borer has already done its damage.

"The Asian long-horned beetle is not a problem here yet, but it will be if we don't heat-treat," he said. "Why wait until it gets here? Let's try to keep it out!"

He admits that even though he has competition from nearby gas stations, campers still are choosing his wood, "Because it burns!"

Beaver Creek has evolved into providing high-quality firewood with a higher price point.

"The product speaks for itself, with demonstrated sales," Lemery said. "We offer a more attractive product, so much so that people often pick up two bundles instead of one."

USDA-certified wood may have a higher cost on the open market than green or seasoned wood, but so far it hasn't affected the cost of a bundle of wood at state parks, according to Jason Fleming, resource protection and promotion chief in the DNR's Parks and Recreation Division.

"No matter what state park you visit, a bundle of wood sold by the park is \$5," Fleming said.

Outside of state parks, many large gas station chains and big box stores carry USDA-certified wood. "If certified wood is not available, aged or seasoned wood is not a good substitute," Fleming said. "Wood that looks clean and healthy can still have tiny insect eggs or microscopic fungi spores that will start a new and deadly infestation."

Buying firewood where you will burn it can help prevent the spread of invasive pests and diseases. A good

rule of thumb is only using wood that was cut within 50 miles of where you'll have your fire.

"It isn't just state parks that are losing trees due to invasive tree pests," said Sue Tangora, DNR forest health and cooperative programs section supervisor. "Moving wood between homes and recreational properties, taking wood up to the lake or home from the hunting cabin can jeopardize landscape trees and forests."

To find local firewood vendors where you are traveling, visit FirewoodScout.org. Since costs can vary, call ahead to find the best deal.

More information about invasive species and how to help prevent their spread is available at Michigan.gov/InvasiveSpecies.

Check out previous Showcasing the DNR stories in our archive at Michigan.gov/DNRStories. To subscribe to upcoming Showcasing articles, sign up for free email delivery at Michigan.gov/DNR.

3RFF GEAR AVAILABLE

The Three Rivers Fly Fishers has a number of great values on our Club Gear.

The year 2020 marks the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the Three Rivers Fly Fishers. Unique 25th Anniversary Commemorative T-shirts are available for purchase. If you already have one, great! If not, you can order one anytime. You can never have too many T-shirts. Both short and long sleeve shirts in two different fabrics and a number of colors are available.

Your first 25th Anniversary shirt will cost you just \$10.00. The Club picks up the remaining cost. Additional shirts are available for only \$18.00 or \$20.00 depending on the fabric you choose.. These are very high quality shirts and come in either a short or long sleeve. So order often. Examples are on display at our Club Meetings.

We also have a special deal available for your favorite fishing shirt. Bring in your shirt along with \$10.00 and we will get the 3RFF logo embroidered on your shirt for you.

Need a new ball cap? \$20.00 and it is yours in a variety of colors. Or you can bring your own clean cap and \$10.00 and we will fix you up.

How about a DVD of a past program? Again, \$10.00 and it is yours. The DVD's are available to Club Members only. A full list of the DVD's can be found on our webpage.

Steve Harris will be glad to take your order at any of our Club's meetings. The items will be ready for pick-up at the next regular meeting.

GEAR

Each Newsletter, favorite fly patterns from our members are highlighted. Please submit your favorite fly for the next newsletter!

Member's Favorite Flies

Deer Hair Caddis Olive

- HOOK: STANDARD DRY FLY, SIZE #14-#18
- THREAD: UTC, OLIVE, 70D
- SHUCK: ICE DUB FIBERS, BROWN
- BODY: RABBIT DUBBING, OLIVE
- WING: DEER HAIR, NATURAL



Lot Zen Stone

- HOOK: #6, 3X LONG (BEND IN MIDDLE OF SHANK LENGTH)
- WEIGHT: LEAD, .030, ROUND (FLATTEN FROM BEND TO HOOK EYE)
- THREAD: 3/0, (COLOR TO MATCH DUBBING)
- TAIL AND ANTENNA: TURKEY BIOTS (USE A SMALL DUBBING BALL TO SEPARATE AND FLAIR TAIL)
- EYES: MONO
- RIB: WIRE OR RIBBING MATERIAL (COMPLIMENTING COLOR)
- BACK: THIN SKIN, 3/16 WIDE (COMPLIMENTING COLOR)
- BODY: DUBBING (YOUR CHOICE)
- LEGS: SMALL WIRE



Please send your information to a board member to be listed in the next newsletter.

Member Content

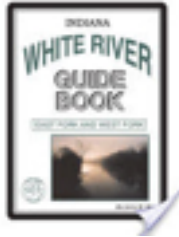
Mending Lines is looking for member content!

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. They can be turned in and reviewed for inclusion in Mending Lines.
- Items for sale.
- Fishing and casting lessons learned.
- Favorite websites or blogs.
- Short stories - fact or fiction!

For Sale

Curlys Fly Shop
White River Guide Book
\$24.50 tax included
(Qty 2 available)



For Sale

Curlys Fly Shop
Pro-Lite FTL230
\$105.00 tax included
(Qty 3 available)



Membership Rates

Dues are for one year beginning January 1 through December 31.

Individual Rate: \$25.00 per year

Family Rate: \$35.00 per year

Junior Rate: \$5.00 per year

Corporate Rate: \$50.00 per year

Corporate Sponser

Craig Ludwig - Indiana Policy Review
260-417-4094

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