

Mending Lines

April
2020



CLUB MEETING
MEMBERS FAVORITE FLIES
April 16

3RFF 25TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION BANQUET
May 16

CLUB MEETING
AUCTION
May 21

Upcoming Events

- CLUB MEETING - APRIL 16
MEMBERS FAVORITE FLIES
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
- 3RFF 25TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION BANQUET - MAY 16
5:00 PM - 10:00 PM
- CLUB MEETING - MAY 21
AUCTION
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
- BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OUTING
- MAY 30 @ PARKVIEW YMCA
12:00 PM - 3:00 PM
- CLUB OUTING - JUNE 14
BIXLER LAKE - KENDALLVILLE
SUNDAY
- CLUB OUTING - JULY 12
ST JOE RIVER, BRISTOL,
INDIANA'S CONGDON PARK
SUNDAY
- CLUB OUTING - AUGUST 13 - 16
WHITE RIVER OUTING,
CANOE COUNTRY.

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

Spring is finally upon us. Or at least that is what it feels like today. This has been one strange winter, at least as far as the weather was concerned. No below zero days, not much snow and not much lake ice for the hard water fishermen to enjoy. We even had a few warm sunny days through it all. I trust you have also done as I have with your equipment. I have all my reels and fly lines cleaned and I replaced the different leaders I use with new ones. I even re-organized a couple of fly boxes. Tying is still a little behind but that gets better each week. My 2020-2021 Fishing License is printed out and in my vest so for all intents and purposes, I am ready to go. All I need now is to find the time and a friendly river level. I actually think I spent more days on the water before I retired from my full-time job.

My tying bench saw a fair amount of action this winter. I have been working on some new skills that are much more technical than tying a simple nymph or soft hackle. I have always been fascinated by the Classic Atlantic Salmon patterns and the Carrie Stevens inspired streamers. Some of my creations took a couple hours to complete. It is beautiful art work in the form of hooks, fur and feathers. Check out the feature article and photos I wrote for this issue of your newsletter.

My personal favorite event happens on Saturday, April 25th at 6:00 AM with the "Traditional Opening Day of Trout Season" on our inland rivers and streams. This is always a festive weekend that follows many old traditions for some and the start of a new tradition for others. I can only hope the water conditions will be a lot friendlier than they were last year. For the first time in over thirty years I was unable to fish my beloved Pigeon River due to one thing or another. If you like to fish the Fawn River, you will notice some major changes to the stream at the Fawn River Fish Hatchery. Check out my article inside this edition and you will see what I mean.

The Three Rivers Fly Fishers has enjoyed a busy year thus far with the promise of that continuing throughout the year. I will be sending you timely updates as the year progresses either by Email or regular mail to try and keep you up-to-date.

In the meantime, "May the inside of your waders (or boats) always be dry!"

Lynn

P.S. I wrote this edition of "BACKCASTS" a couple weeks ago before all this COVID 19 issue became the subject it is in the daily news. I hope and pray all our Members are taking reasonable precautions to ensure the safety and well-being of themselves and their loved one. I can assure you your Board of Directors will continue to monitor this and keep you informed of any changes to our event schedules.

Thank you. Lynn

PAST QUARTER UPDATES AND A FEW THINGS TO COME

I just finished re-editing this article to reflect some changes that came about due to recent COVID 19 crisis we hear about daily in the news media.

The big changes are in two events that were to happen in March but have been re-scheduled to May. I know this will affect some of you to where you may not be able to attend. Don't worry about it as I understand. Details of these changes are provided below.

On February 15th we held our Annual Fly Fishing Show at the Classic Café. We enjoyed a great turn-out of vendors, skilled tyers demonstrating their skills and plenty of spectators to enjoy it all. My special thanks to the Show Committee and all the volunteers that helped make the show a big success. And speaking of fly shows, 3RFF members again made their presence know at a large number of shows in Indiana, Ohio and Michigan. Well done guys. Plans are already underway for our 2021 show.

March 30th saw our Monday Night Tying Group come to an end for another season. We enjoyed some nice turnouts each week. My special thanks to Dan Brophy and Ron Dixon for setting this up for us. I also want to thank the Aboite Branch of the Allen County Public Library and the New Haven Post of the American Legion for providing us a space for this program. I look forward to doing this again next year.

The 3RFF meeting on April 16th will again feature our very popular "Members Favorite Flies." Curly Hodson says he has some great tyers lined up for this event. This is also the night we conduct our Annual Elections. Nominations are still open for all four Officers positions and four Board of Directors positions. This is a great opportunity to step up and really help with how your Club functions.

April 18 marks the end of this year's Tie-A-Thon Program. As I write this we have 2600 flies ready to donate to the program. A very special thank you to all that donated their time and flies to this great event. There is a get together at the Elkhart Conservation Club celebrating the close. If you would like to attend please contact Curly Hodson.

Here is our current and revised schedule through June.

Our "Special 3RFF 25th Anniversary Banquet has be re-scheduled to Saturday May 15th. It will still be held at the Classic Café. All our current dinner plans for this event, including the Jerry Drake Rod Give-A-Way and door prizes haven't changed.

On Thursday, May 21st we will again conduct our Club Auction at the Classic Café. The Casting Clinic and Mini Fly Show that was to be held on this night, is postponed to a date yet to be determined.

May 30th will have us at the Parkview YMCA for our Big Brother-Big Sisters event. We will have sign-up sheets at the upcoming meetings if you can help mentor.

On Sunday, June 14th we will have our first "Summer Outing" at Bixler Lake in Kendallville. Bixler Lake is a great Bluegill water and easy to wade. They also have a nice boat ramp if want to bring your watercraft. 3RFF will be providing a Brat and Dog lunch at 12:00 Noon.

We will be posting additional information as these events near or of any changes that may be required. In the meantime enjoy life and take a kid fishing. It will be one of those great days in your memory book.

Lynn

Salt Side

By: Jim Lyndhurst

Those of us that live in northern climates understand the beauty of the seasons. When fall colors give way to fresh fallen snow, our recreational pursuits shift to the many sports and activities of winter.

For the fly fisherman, opportunities still exist with trout/steelhead on free flowing streams, fly tying, rod building, and the many great Midwestern fly shows. But when winter seems a little long, there is nothing like an escape to the Sunshine State, to fly fish the coastal waters of Florida.

Sarasota, Florida is one of those getaway spots that I have frequented over the years. The areas around Sarasota Bay, including the intra coastal waterway and key islands north and south, all provide great fly fishing opportunities.



If you go, I recommend making a stop at CB's Saltwater Outfitters on Siesta Key, and talking to any of their fly fishing staff. They have all the gear, flies, maps, tide tables and local knowledge that you will need for a fly-fishing trip in the area. They can provide a guided trip, or can rent a fishing or pontoon boat to explore on your own. Wade fishing is also good on both the gulf and bay sides of Siesta Key, Casey Key, Manassota Key and Longboat Key. Water temps in February will provide opportunities for Jack Crevalle and Lady Fish on the gulf side, and Snook, Redfish, Sea Trout and other species on the intra coastal and bay sides, where the sun warms things up a little earlier in the season. As water temps rise in March from the 60"s to the 70"s and above, the gulf side will see more species. The pic below is from a guided night Snook trip, in February 2018. This catch was on a shrimp fly with sink tip line, under a lighted dock, on a six-weight fly rod. How fun is that?

For more information, feel free to call or text me at 260-402-5283, email at Jim.lindhorst@gmail.com , or catch me at a club meeting.

Tight Lines! Jim

“RIFFLES”

The rambling thoughts and time tested techniques, along with some true fishing stories and other feats of magic by: Lynn W. Burry.

In this edition:

“FROM WHERE DO FLY NAMES ORIGINATE?”

Or put another way;

How the h*) did this fly get its name?

Having played around in the fascinating world of fly design and tying as I have, I often wondered what inspired a tyer to give “that” name to their fly. Some, actually many, seem to have nothing to do with the design or what it represents. Flies such as the Sir Francis, an Icelandic prawn pattern, or the Glen Fiddich, a classic Atlantic Salmon pattern (and a pretty good whisky too), has nothing to do with what the fly represents. Whereas the Woolly Buzzer, an Egg Sucking Leech, a Green Caddis Nymph, the San Juan Worm or a Deer Hair Mouse all have something to do with their design and what they are trying to replicate.

Another example of names having no clue as to what the fly looks like or imitates is the Classic Atlantic Salmon Fly. Before looking up the pattern, try to visualize what an Evangeline or a Gandy Eagle or a Snowballs Chance would look like. Seven will get you two you can’t do it. Don’t even get me started on the Carrie Stevens class of flies. That is a love story in and of its self.

Another class of flies I can’t figure out is the “Intruder” style flies. Basically created in the 1990’s by Pacific Northwest Salmon and Steelhead fisherman, it is more a style of fly that is tyed on a tandem hook or an articulated shank with a single stinger hook. Designed to be swung in big water with a two-handed rod, they are very effective fish catchers. Beauty, function and form all in one package. For the most part they have no names and usually referred to by the person that designed and tyed them. April Vokey is a famous tyer of this style.

Then there is the lazy person’s (could have said “lazy man’s” but trying to be politically correct here) approach of naming a fly to make it their own “new design.” In this class, a tyer will take a long established pattern and simply change or add a material or change the type hook it is tyed on. Then they put their own name in front of it. Suddenly we have a brand new “fish killer” that makes you wonder why it took so long to think of. While maybe using modern materials or other such change, it is actually nothing more than a variation to a time honored pattern. I don’t have a real issue with this practice as long as the tyer gives credit where it is due and call it the variation it is.

Even in my own tying of what I think of as a new design, I struggled with the process of creating a name appropriate to the fly. Then an epiphany. If I think the design is original enough, I will name the fly after the time, event or place that inspired my creation. As you would suspect. I immediately liked my profound idea and as such the “4 AM (Four A. M.)” or “The Sunday Morning” and even the “Too Many Whisky’s” came about simply because that was what was going on when I conceived them. The “Stop and Go” is an example of an event that suggested its name. The designs and names were limited only by my rotund imagination.

So I’m going to go into the bubble line here and suggest that a flies name came about from any, or all, of the reasons I have written about. It is a tribute to some famous or not so famous individual or place, a time

of day or even as simple as naming it for what it was trying to imitate. By no means am I an originator in this thought process. Rather, thru the ages, I am just one of many to experience this epiphany (there's that word again) of the invention of this obsession called fly tying. By doing so I may have found the answer to the question asked in the title of this article.

So having said all that, here is a suggestion. As you sit at your tying station, with a nice measure of single malt at your side (sorry bourbon and beer drinkers) or even a good dark brew coffee or tea (if that is your choice of working beverage) and you are working on a new fly or are just putting stuff on a hook that really looks good (at least in your mind), you decide you want to put a fitting name to your creation. I say just go Nike, steal their phrase "Just Do It." and put a name to it. This is where your "frankly Scarlet" attitude should kick in. In my mind as long as credit is given where it is do, no one should really care. If they do, they are just a pretentious @\$\$\$. Do not worry what someone might think or say about your creation. It is yours not theirs. Enjoy it and be proud of it.

Just remember one more important thing in the innovative world of fly tying. There are as many flies out there that are designed to catch fish as there are those designed to catch the fly fisherman. All are works of art created with a clear function. Some are made to fish. Others are made to admire for the beauty of the art form. Enjoy the majesty of them all. Do a Google search of the different style flies sometime and you will see what I mean. Your only limitation is your imagination.

Here are some examples of fly designs that have nothing to do with their name would suggest. Yet there is a reason just the same.



"Evangeline"



"Gandy Eagle"



"Snowballs Chance"

And here are some examples of flies that represent an event or time in the naming of them.



"4 A.M."



"Sunday Morning"



"Too Many Whisky's tyed on a broach/hat pin"

And then there is this fly. It had no name until after I took the picture. It is not photo shopped. The bright lights are actually the suns reflection off the opal mirage flashabou. Hence the name.



"Stop and Go"

This is a photo of the first Intruder fly I ever tyed. It has no name as do most flies of this class. Yet it does catch fish.



A no name Intruder that has managed to catch fish

Then there are the flies like this one with a proven purpose and a history of catching fish. This is my favorite all time fly. I created it over 15 years ago and probably fish it over 80% of the time I spend on the water. If I could only have one fly, this would be it.



"Lynn's Super Moto Minnow"

"May the inside of your waders (or boats) always be dry!"

Lynn

THE DAM THING IS GONE!

Big changes on the Fawn River

By: Lynn W. Burry

For years the Fawn River Fish Hatchery in Orland, Indiana used the water from the river to feed their rearing ponds. I can remember my first visit to the hatchery when I was 12 years old. I was attending a week long Conservation Camp on Oliver Lake. One of our field trips was to the Hatchery to observe their daily operations. It was quite impressive for a young angler and I have never forgotten the experience.

Through the years I would re-visit the Fawn to fish. Later when I was the President of the now inactive North Eastern Indiana Trout Association, I would visit to check on the new season's Trout rearing status and to talk to old friends about the coming year's Trout Stocking Program.

Zebra Mussels were just starting to show their ugly heads in Indiana's lakes and streams. Then in early 1998, there was a fish kill downstream from the Hatchery's Mill Pond. Workers needed to do some maintenance work on the dam. To safely complete this task required the pond level to be lowered. Shortly after the draw-down started it was noticed silt that had long settled behind the dam was being flushed out of the pond and into the stream. While it was quickly controlled, some damage was done to the health of the river. Fish and other aquatic life died as a result of the silt spill. While the IDNR took steps to correct this, a group of riparian land owners filed and won a multi-million dollar law suit against the IDNR.

Fast forward now a few years. Needing to become a Certified Zebra Mussel Free provider it was decided that the Hatchery could no longer draw water from the Fawn River to feed their ponds. Part of the plan required drilling new wells to feed the rearing ponds. It was also decided to remove the aging dam as it was no longer needed. Working with the riparian land owners, a specialty engineering company and IDNR staff, a plan was formulated to remove the dam and restore the stream bed.

The construction portion of the project is now done. Warn seasonal grasses and trees have been planted to stabilize the river banks and return it to a natural state. Stream work included construction of pinned logs, riffles, pools, runs and other such stream enhancements were created to make it a very fish friendly environment. I have looked at it and can't wait to get a line in the water. While talking to one of the Hatchery fish biologists last summer, I was informed that the Trout seemed to really love it and a number of fish were caught in the new stretch of the stream. A few had even migrated into the old stretch above the SR327 Bridge.

The big winner in all this is the Indiana angler. The Fawn River Fish Hatchery is now a Certified Zebra Mussel Free facility. This means that all the Trout, Musky and Walleye they raise can be released in any of Indiana's diverse waters. They can even trade with other states if there is a surplus of fish without worry.

As the seasons progress, the river is still making minor changes to itself as it seeks its own way. I think it can only get better. Give it a try this spring after Trout Season officially open on April 26. I think you will agree.

Here are some before and after pictures for you to enjoy.



This is a picture of the Mill Pond from 2008.



This picture was taken shortly after the dam was removed. Note the nice gravel bottom.



This picture was taken last summer. You are looking upstream from the old dam. It gives you a good idea of all the work that has been done on this restoration project.



Here you are looking downstream at the old Mill Pond. I am standing next to the Hatchery Office Building.



Here fishy – fishy! This is some great looking water. Notice the pinned log and pocket on the far side of the stream.



Here you can see the upper portion of the project.

Tie-a-thon Tyers & Flies 2020

Three Rivers Fly Fishers members tied and donated 2600 flies this year. Tim Scott, Terry Wittorp, and I would like to thank those that participated. Listed below are the Tyers and the Flies they tied.



Curly Hodson
Prince Pheasant Tail Bead Head
100 Size #14



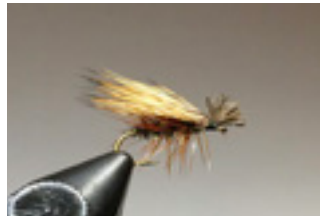
Tom Hitzeman
Wooly Buzzer
100 Size #4, 6, 8



Tom Kline
Elk Hair Caddis
100 Size #14



Jim Foote
Devil Bug
100 Size #10



Curly Hodson
Elk Hair Caddis Peacock
100 Size #14



Curly Hodson
Sow Bug Grey
100 Size #14



Steve Hutsell
Mickey Finn
Size #8



Brent Walchuk
Prince Nymph Bead Head
100 Size #16



Rick Hinton
Prince Nymph Bead Head
100 Size #14



Ken Schiefelbein
Griffith Gnat
100 Size #20



Curly Hodson
Elk Hair Caddis Tan
100 Size #14



Brent Walchuk
Pheasant Tail Nymph
100 Size #16



Don Privett
Hopper
100 Size #12



Dan Brophy
Foam Beetle
100 Size #12

Tie-a-thon Tyers & Flies 2020



Curly Hodson
Sow Bug Tan
100 Size #14



Dennis Plank
Jimmy Rubber Legs
100 Size #12



Larry Croninger
Soft Hackle
100 Size #14



Jamie Thompson
Gold Ribbed Hares Ear Nymph
200 Size #14



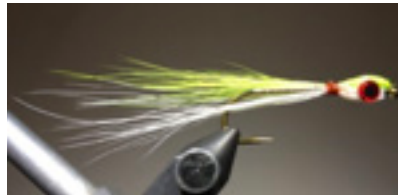
Larry Croninger
Foam Hopper
100 Size #12



Randy Chappell
Streamer
100 Size #Varies



Lynn Burry
Green Caddis Nymph
100 Size #14



Jim Foote
Thunder Creek
100 Size #4



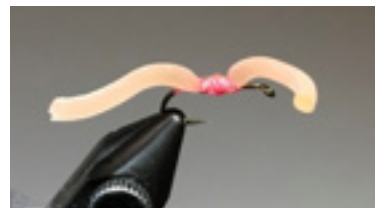
Ken Cochran
Mickey Finn
100 Size #8



Ron Dixon
F-C Crackleback
100 Size #12



Lynn Burry
Carrot Soft Hackle
100 Size #14



Steve Harris
Squirmy Worm
100 Size #14

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

Members Favorite Flies

Curly's Super Buzzer (Olive)

- HOOK: MUSTAD 3906B, #6-8
- THREAD: UNI-THREAD, OLIVE, 6/0
- EYES: DUMBELL, SMALL, LEAD, YELLOW/BLACK PUPIL
- TAIL: MARABOU, OLIVE GRIZZLY
- TAIL: KRYSTAL FLASH, FLORESCENT CHARTREUSE, (4-6 STRANDS)
- ABDOMEN: ANTRON DUBBING, MEDIUM OLIVE
- THORAX: ANTRON DUBBING, LIGHT OLIVE)
- HACKLE: SADDLE, OLIVE, PALMERED
- COLLAR: PHEASANT AFTER SHAFT, OLIVE (2-4)
- LEGS: SILI-LEGS, BARRED OLIVE/BLACK (4)
- HEAD: ANTRON DUBBING, LIGHT OLIVE



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)



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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