



October Meeting Notes:

Trout Fishing in Iowa By Dick Dragiewicz

Mat Wagner, owner of the Driftless Angler fly shop in Viroqua, Wisconsin was the guest speaker at the MLSFF October 13, 2009 meeting. He shared lots of information with us on fishing Iowa's trout streams during the fall and winter seasons. Here are some of the things he told us about fishing in Iowa.

Iowa's trout season never closes; it's open 365 days a year.

Water access laws are significantly different in Iowa than in Wisconsin. Landowners own the stream bottom so the public doesn't have legal access to privately owned streams. This means we need to do more than keep our feet wet, we need to obtain permission to fish on privately owned streams. Check out the Iowa DNR website for information on streams with public access; <http://www.iowa.gov>

Some of Iowa's trout streams have natural reproducing trout. Others are stocked with hatchery raised fish. Look at the Iowa DNR website for details.

When fishing in cold weather make sure you are properly dressed. Dressing in layers is the best approach to a comfortable day of fishing during cold weather. Start with a base layer that wicks perspiration away from the body, add an insulating layer or two to keep you warm, then cover all this with a wind blocking shell/jacket. Cold weather clothing made from synthetic materials or wool will help keep you really warm. Avoid cotton materials e.g. jeans because cotton absorbs moisture and will chill you quickly. For help in learning how to dress in layers here are two websites that explain the process.

<http://www.rei.com/expertadvice/articles/dress+layers.html> and http://www.woolpower.se/en/asp/kladigratt_3.asp

Boot-foot waders are better at keeping your feet warm than stocking-foot waders. Breathable waders with proper layering will keep you warmer than neoprene or non-breathable waders (both of those collect moisture that will chill you).

Wading boots with felt soles are dangerous when there is snow or ice on the ground. The snow/ice sticks to felt soles and makes them slippery and dangerous. Rubber soles are better.

Don't forget your hat, gloves, and maybe disposable hand warmers (that have been activated before getting to the stream). Wear clothing with colors that blend into the background. Don't want to spook

the fish by wearing those bright gaudy outfits that most retailers show in their catalogs. For safety reasons during hunting season it would be wise to wear a bright orange vest or hat.

Don't get dehydrated...drink lots of water before and during the fishing trip.

Check weather conditions before going out. Warm weather for a couple of days is good. Fishing at the end of a constant weather pattern can be more productive than fishing during changing weather patterns. Best to fish when the air temperature is rising.

Fishing while it snows is more comfortable than fishing in the rain. Snow can be brushed off while rain may soak into your jacket/gear.

Bugs do hatch during the fall and winter fishing seasons. Look around to see what might be hatching and then match the hatch from your collection of nymphs, midges, BWO's, caddis, and the other patterns in your fly boxes. Snow cover lets us easily see the hatching insects. Bugs hatching during the fall/winter season are generally in dark shades of gray and tan; light colored bugs are more prevalent in the summer season.

Successful fly patterns include scuds (preferably with an orange or pink accent color) in sizes 16 to 24 or other heavily weighted nymph patterns. Scuds are sensitive to sunlight so it's best to use them on cloudy days or near sunrise/sunset. Midges and BWO's make up the majority of wintertime hatches. Blue Winged Olives in sizes 16 to 26 can be used when midges are hatching. Herb Oechler ties a great BWO that uses snowshoe rabbit foot fur for the wing/hackle. He uses medium dun colored fur for this pattern. Ask him to show it to you. It's really cool, especially in size 20. Bring your magnifying glass if you really want to see the details.

If you are going to fish in late January, February or March look for winter stoneflies that may be hatching. Use a dark or black caddis dry fly pattern in sizes 14 to 18 to imitate the stoneflies. Fish them in the riffles.

John Bethke's world famous Pink Squirrel and his lesser known, but equally productive, Turkey Leech pattern are good choices for Iowa trout streams.

Since the trout are most likely located near the bottom of deep holes Mat likes to weight his flies with tungsten beads rather than brass beads. The heavier tungsten beads will get your fly down to the level of the fish faster. Adding a split shot or two also helps.

Using slender body nymph patterns will assist in getting the fly down to the bottom, sort of like using skinny heavily weighted Czech nymph patterns or the more commonly known pheasant tail nymph. Twitching the nymph on your retrieve helps motivate the trout to strike your fly.

Bring your thermometer along and search for warmer water near springs and seepages that will probably be holding trout. Seepages frequently produce lighter colored stream bottoms so they are easier to find. Bugs seem to hatch when the water temperature is at 40 degrees or warmer.

In the summertime fishing is best when water temperatures are at 50+ degrees. At this temperature it's time to use minnow shaped streamers or crayfish patterns in sizes 8 to 12. Fish them in shallower water rather than the deep holes.

At this time of year its best to fish during the warmer and more comfortable times of the day...say, 11:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. This timing allows the water temperature to warm up from lower overnight temperatures and hopefully encourage the fish to actively feed. Sunny days are beneficial at this time of year because it helps warm the water and with the fish being in deeper water they aren't as spooky

on sunny days in the wintertime as they are in the summertime.

Mat suggests using eight foot, three to five weight fly rods/lines when fishing Driftless Area streams. Strikes are subtle....pay attention. Using a strike indicator will help you see and respond to more of those subtle strikes. Yarn indicators with floatant added to them work well unless it's really cold and they freeze up. If the yarn freezes switch to foam indicators.

Sometimes gently crawling a leech pattern along the bottom in shallow areas will produce bigger fish. Remember to slowly crawl the pattern, don't strip it. Black leeches and streamers are productive. John Bethke's turkey leech pattern is another good choice

Some of the streams Mat fishes include French, Waterloo, Bear (north and south branches), Bloody Run, Clear, Sny Magil, Paint, and Little Paint. Some of these streams are only 45 minutes from his shop in Viroqua. A list of Iowa trout streams is on the Iowa DNR website; <http://www.iowadnr.gov/>

A benefit of fishing during the fall and winter seasons is that there aren't any crowds, in fact, you may not see any other fishermen.

Fishing licenses can be obtained online at the Iowa DNR website or from local vendors.

An Iowa Gazetteer will help you find streams and the roads to get to them.

The book "Iowa Trout Streams" by Jene Hughes discusses fishing trout streams in northeast Iowa. Call or visit Mat Wagner at the Driftless Angler fly shop in Viroqua for more information on trout fishing in Iowa. An even better idea is to hire him as a guide for your next Iowa (or Wisconsin) trout fishing trip. Call Mat at 608-637-8779 or email him at "info@driftlessangler.com". Here is the link to his website: <http://www.driftlessangler.com>

To help get you motivated to fish Iowa during the winter season take a look at the Simms video on winter midge fishing....here is the link...you'll have to scroll through their selection of fishing videos until you get to the one on winter midge fishing.

http://www.simmsfishing.com/site/gallery/gallery_display.html?gallery_id=00003

The brown trout pictured to the right was caught on a northeast Iowa trout stream. The exact location was kept secret to us, but we believe it might be Waterloo Creek.

They DO have some nice fish over there...

Bring your Iowa trout fishing reports to the November 10th meeting.



Fly Fishing in Iowa



The center of the fly fishing world in N.E. Iowa, the Sportsmen Motel in Dorchester, IA



Above and below: French Creek upstream of the pasture area. The bottom picture shows a stretch that is mid-thigh deep. The problem is that late in the year the weeds are that deep, too!



Ron Wojack fishing a deep hole just below a tractor ford on Waterloo Creek.



Ron on a stretch of Waterloo Creek below the Catch & Release area.



Another shot of French Creek. The wooded area presents some challenges in casting, but there are some nice holes that hold trout throughout this stream.



French Creek — the brushy stretches are still pretty.



Another long run on Waterloo Creek



Iowa's Driftless streams are stocked regularly with rainbows, but they have great natural reproduction of brown trout! They're fun to catch — no matter what their size!

Holiday Brunch!!

Mark your calendar! Get out your checkbook! Our Holiday Brunch will again be held at the Seven Seas Restaurant in Hartland. The food is great and the socializing is always fun!

The event will be held on Sunday, December 13th. The cost is \$24.00 per person and includes tax and tip.

Our reservation is for 11:00 am, but many of us gather just a bit earlier to swap a few stories and start on a Mimosa or a Bloody Mary or two.

Space is limited so you must let Ken Zielinski know that you want to join us! Payment in advance is necessary — made payable to *Milwaukee Lake & Stream Flyfishers*.

Send your check — to Ken Zielinski at 10154 Whitnall Edge Dr. "G", Franklin, WI—53132

Directions — The Seven Seas is located on the east shore of Nagawicka Lake. It's located one mile north of I-94 on Hwy. 83. Take Nagawicka Rd. to the left and follow it down to the lake and the restaurant.

2010 Fly Fishing Shows:

December 5, 2009: **10th Annual Fly Tying Expo - Great Lakes Council of FFF**

Location: Holt High School, Holt, MI

Speakers: Fly tyers include Jeff "Bear" Andrews, Chris Helm, Dennis Potter, Rusty Gates, Ray Schmidt, Julie Nielsen, Chris Soule, and 50+ additional tyers, plus numerous vendors

<http://www.fffglc.org/pdfs/flylines/revisedflylineaug09.pdf>

January 9, 2010: **Indiana on the Fly Show**

Location: Indianapolis, IN (Indiana State Fairgrounds)

Speakers: Craig Matthews from Blue Ribbon Flies located in West Yellowstone, MT, Kevin Feenstra (Michigan Steelhead Guide), Greg Senyo (Orvis Outfitter from Ohio)

<http://reelwomen.webs.com/indianaflyfishingshow.htm>

January 16, 2010: **Ice Breaker – Southern Wisconsin Trout Unlimited**

Location: Promega Biotechnology Center, Fitchburg, WI

Speaker: Mike Heck, renowned guide, writer, fly designer, and contributor to Fly Fisherman, American Angler, and other publications.

http://www.swtu.org/pdfs/newsletters/September_2009.pdf

January 29 – 31, 2010: **Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo - Chicago**

Location: St. Charles, IL (suburban Chicago) at Pheasant Run Resort

Speakers: TBA

<http://www.greatwatersflyfishingexpo.com/index.html>

January 30, 2010: **Cabin Fever Day – Fox Valley Trout Unlimited**

Location: Waverly Beach, Menasha, WI

Speaker: Ross Mueller (author of Flies That Catch Trout and Fly Fishing Midwestern Spring Creeks)

http://www.foxvalleytu.org/html/cabin_fever.HTML and <http://www.wisconsintu.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=UY8%2btRAiBRg%3d&tabid=58&mid=381>

February 6, 2010: **Spring Opener – Badger Fly Fishers**

Location: Madison, WI at the Radisson Hotel (West)

Speaker: Mike Mercer from The Fly Shop in Redding, California

<http://www.badgerflyfishers.org/>

February 19-21, 2010: **Hawkeye Fly Fishing Association**

Location: Cedar Rapids, IA at the Clarion Inn

Speakers: Craig Matthews Blue Ribbon Flies West Yellowstone, MT, Kevin Feenstra (Michigan steel-head guide) and Tim Landwehr (Wisconsin smallmouth bass fishing guru)

<http://www.hawkeyeflyfishing.com/>

February 27, 2010: **Troutfest "10 – Central Wisconsin Trout Unlimited**

Location: Winneconne, WI at the Fin 'N Feather

Speakers: 10 mini-seminars, fly tying, raffles, vendors

<http://cwtu.org/events/index.html>

February 26 - 28, 2010: **Madison Fishing Expo**

Location: Madison, WI at the Alliant Energy Center

Speakers and Programs: TBA

<http://www.madfishexpo.com/>

November Meeting

"Early Season Trout Fishing in the Driftless Area"

At our November 10th meeting Ross Mueller will be our guest speaker. He is going to talk about "Early Season Trout Fishing in the Driftless Area".

If anyone is capable of helping us get ready for the 2010 trout fishing season, it's Ross.

Come early to talk with Ross and enjoy a great dinner at YesterYears. There is a group of us that arrives at 6:00 pm to start with a burger and a beer! The meeting will start at 7:00 p.m.

December Meeting!!

Annual Officer and Board Elections:

Due to our speaker for our November meeting and the anticipated number of guest attendees, we will postpone our Annual Club Officer and Board Member elections. The elections normally conducted at the November meeting, will be held at our DECEMBER meeting this year!

If you're interested in running for one of the Officer positions — President, Vice-President, Secretary or Treasury — or as one of the Board members at large, contact Peter Alba (Palba@Amfam.com) or Ron Wojack (Wojaxx@wi.rr.com).

Fly Tying & Knot Demonstrations:

For the remainder of our December meeting we will have some of our members demonstrating their favorite fish catching flies!

Do you tie your own flies? Have a special fly you're willing to share? Bring your vice, tools and materials and join in on the fun!

You've heard about the success some of our members have had with the Shop Vac out west, and other flies like it. Now you can learn how to tie it yourself! There are sure to be other patterns you'll want to know about so plan on attending on December 8th at Yester Years!

Help Wanted!

Program Chairman

The club position of Program Committee Chairman will soon be vacant. We are seeking a new volunteer for this position. The assignment includes planning and coordinating the monthly meetings.

There are eight indoor meetings and four outdoor meetings. The outdoor meetings include the May fly casting program at Greenfield Park and the other three generally take place at a fishing location. The indoor meetings may have guest speakers or presentations and demonstrations by club members.

Call Greg Schick or Dick Dragiewicz for more information on this position.



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MILWAUKEE LAKE & STREAM FLY FISHERS

2009 / 2010 CALENDAR

	November	December	January
Meeting	10th @ Yester Years Pub & Grill	8th @ Yester Years Pub & Grill	12th @ Yester Years Pub & Grill

Fly Tying	11th only	9th only	13th and 27th
Special Event		Holiday Brunch 13th	Paradise Springs Opener! Jan. 1st

Meeting:	September through April: 7 pm Yesteryears Pub & Grill 9427 W. Greenfield
Outing:	Meet at 6:30 am at Park & Rides lots. See Hatch for details.
Fly Tying:	Gander Mountain, 27th St. & Rawson Ave, from 6:00 - 8:30 pm.

The Hatch is the monthly newsletter of the Milwaukee Lake & Stream Fly Fishers, an incorporated nonprofit organization affiliated with the Federation of Fly Fishers.

Milwaukee Lake & Stream Fly Fishers meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at Yester-Years Pub & Grill, 9427 W. Greenfield Ave., West Allis, WI

Meetings May through August are on the water. Read **The Hatch** for locations or go to our website at: <http://www.mlsff.org>

Send correspondence to:
Milwaukee Lake & Stream Fly Fishers,
P.O. Box 370668
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Submit contributions for **The Hatch** by the 20th of the month to:
Greg Schick, Editor
at: gaschick@wi.rr.com

"There is certainly something in fishing that tends to produce a gentleness of spirit, a pure serenity of mind." ~by Washington Irving~ (*This from the same guy who brought you Ichabod Crane and the Headless Horseman, mind you.*)

"All the romance of trout fishing exists in the mind of the angler and is in no way shared by the fish."
~by Harold F. Blaisdell, The Philosophical Fisherman, 1969~