

Mending Lines

October—December 2017

Page 1

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 28, 2017
Club Meeting
Classic Café
Lynn Burry

September 22—Oct 1, 2017
Trout Camp

October 4, 2017
Board Meeting
Kaysan's 5th Down
6:45 PM

October 19, 2017
Club Meeting
Classic Café
Paul Beel

November 1, 2017
Board Meeting
Kaysan's 5th Down
6:45 PM

November 16, 2017
Club Meeting
Classic Café
Brian Pitzer

December 6, 2017
Board Meeting
Kaysan's 5th Down
6:45 PM

February 10, 2018
2018 Fort Wayne Fly Fishing /
Fly Tying Show

Curly's Creel

Hopefully you were able to attend one or more of the Club Outings this summer. All three outings were well attended, lots of fish were caught, the food was delicious, and the fellowship was great. We had twenty five or more members attend each of the outings. I would like to thank Rick Hinton and Lynn Burry for hosting the Pigeon River outing and planning the meal. I would like to thank Rick Hinton and Don Privett for hosting the Elkhart River outing and for putting on the meal. I would like to thank Steve Harris and Curly Hodson for hosting the White River outing and Dan Brophy and Denny Plank for preparing the food for the Saturday evening meal and then fixing breakfast on Sunday morning. It was quite the spread for both meals.

Smallmouth Bass fishing was exceptional this year. The weather was cooler than normal and the Smallmouth turned on for a long period of time and the fishing was great in the rivers in Indiana and Michigan. If you don't fly fish for Smallmouth you need to add them to your targeted fish list. There are a lot of fairly local rivers, just a short drive away, which are tremendous Smallmouth rivers and readily accessible for wading or drifting in small crafts.

The Salmon moved in early this year in the Michigan rivers and although the numbers aren't abundant as in the past year's, there are a lot moving up the streams. There has been a lot of huge Salmon reported being caught. Several of our Club Members have already ventured north for the Salmon run. The Steelhead will be following shortly.

I just spent six days fishing the Cumberland River at the second annual Trout Camp hosted by our sister club the Derby City Fly Fishers out of Louisville, Kentucky. Several of our Club Members attended this year and it was amazing. Lots of Rainbows, Browns, and Brooks were caught, the weather was perfect-maybe a little warm, the food was tremendous, and the fellowship was amazing. The Derby Boys are a hoot and they go out of their way to host a perfect camp, make sure you are having a good time, and partnered in a boat to drift and catch fish. Hatchery Creek is also available to wade and catch a lot of Trout.

Again, I would like to welcome the many new Club Members who have joined the Club this year. I hope you enjoy the Club and if you have comments or suggestions please contact me or one of the Board members. We have a lot of good programs and outings planned for this year and I hope you and the rest of the members come out and join us at these programs and have a great time. The Club can only be as good as the Members make it.

Get out and Wet a Line,
Curly Hodson

Trout Fishing Derby

The Indiana DNR and Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation Department will host a free family trout fishing derby at Shoaff Park from 9 to 11 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 7.

DNR officials will release approximately 400 rainbow trout in a small pond at Shoaff Park before the event. The trout will measure about 13-14 inches long.

No fishing will be allowed before the event.

Registration of youth anglers will begin at 8 a.m.

DNR staff will be present to measure trout caught by youth anglers. Prizes supplied by Pro Tackle Outfitters will be awarded to the youth anglers who catch the largest trout. If a tie occurs, a drawing at 11 a.m. will determine the winners.

DNR staff will also make available bait and a limited supply of fishing poles to lend to youngsters new to fishing. Bait will be provided by Pro Tackle Outfitters.

Anglers under age 18 can participate without a license or trout stamp. Anyone age 18 or older who fishes must have a valid Indiana fishing license and trout stamp.

Lynn Burry will have more info at the Club Meeting Sept 28. We will have a Club table set up if you are interested in helping. The reason I want to get this out now is every year our members donate flies for this event. If you would like to donate tie up some flies and pass them on to Lynn at our show. They will be fishing for stocked Rainbow Trout and whatever else is on the bite so most flies will work.

Trout Camp 2017

The Derby City Fly Fishers just held their second annual Trout Camp on the Cumberland River. The DCFE is a sister Club to our Three Rivers Fly Fishers. If you are a member of TRFF you are automatically a member of the DCFE because we have been adopted.



This year's camp was held at Riverside Retreat which is located at Helms Landing on the Cumberland River from Sep 22-Oct 1, 2017. They have rooms available for \$35.00 per night and primitive camping for \$15.00 per night. Showers and restrooms are available. There is outside receptacles to plug into to charge your boat batteries. They do not have electricity available to plug your campers into so you will have to provide that power yourself.



Steve Harris, Ron Dixon, and I drove down Friday morning. Ken Schiefelbein pulled into camp Saturday afternoon. Ken was unfortunate enough to have flat tire on the way down and mentioned we need to have a Club t-shirt made mentioning blow-outs, referencing the one I had at our White River outing. He didn't know that Roy Been with DCFE had a blow-out on his way to camp also. Both of their blow-outs happened around the Elizabethtown exit. Steve and Ron shared a room and Ken and I shared a room. The rooms were furnished with two queen size beds, a sink, a stove, a kitchen table, a real small refrigerator, a bathroom with sink, shower, and toilet. There was also enough floor space in each cabin for a couple of camp cots. Larry and Trina Wilson pulled in Wednesday night with their new camper. They were going to stay at the Kendall Campground over by the Cumberland Dam which is a real nice facility with the Cumberland River flowing by and Hatchery Creek flowing through. There were several DCFE club members coming and going throughout the days of camp.

Evening meals were provided each night by different cooks who offered there specialty cuisines each night. The food was amazing each night. The TRFF group was in charge of the Sunday evening meal which Ron and Steve furnished and cooked bluegill (delicious), which I believe were actually caught in a Michigan secret lake. I fixed caribbean jerk shrimp and sweet & sour shrimp on the barbie. There was some specialty potato salad provided. There was also cold beer on tap all day and night and a continuous campfire for the entire outing. Several nights the cooking was done in Dutch ovens. Just a tremendous feed bag each evening was prepared. Breakfast and lunch you were on your own. There was always coffee available at the Honeymoon Suite.

And now we get to the important stuff. The fishing was tremendous. Each night George, the president of DCFF, made sure everybody was set up to go fishing in the morning. He had everybody accounted for to be pair up in a boat each morning. The boats ranged from johnboats, canoes, Arkansas style boats, deep- v, and small river boats. Some had their own kayaks and kick boats although the Cumberland runs pretty swift. In the morning for a few days they shut the generators down during the night so in the morning you could wade at Helms Landing and then around noon they turned on a couple turbines so by 1:00 the water rose 3-4 ft. and the current really picked up. Most got off the water by that time. Some fished on Cumberland Lake which holds 60-80 lb. stripers. Hatchery Creek, a man-made creek below the Dam was available to fish anytime day or night which some of us took advantage of that fine fishery. A tremendous amount of Rainbow Trout, Brown Trout, and Brook Trout were caught by everyone each day. The most popular fly was the chartreuse mop fly and the orange mop fly.

My first Cumberland River fish on Saturday was a 16" Rainbow, my second CR fish was a 16 1/2" Rainbow, and my third CR fish was a 19 1/4" Rainbow. Immediately I was in love with the CR. I had bragging rights until Monday when I fished Hatchery Creek and caught a 20" and an 18" Rainbow on my favorite double nymph rig with a tungsten bead head pheasant tail (16) and a pheasant tail (18) dropper. I saw a Rainbow at HC which was at least 24" long but all he gave my PT's was a slow look and eased on by. I believe I will be going back.

I would like to thank Steve & Ron for inviting me to attend Trout Camp this year. I would like to thank all the Derby City boys for putting on a tremendous Trout Camp and just being who they are, a great group of guys and gals. I would like to thank Ken, a new member of our Club, not only for attending Trout Camp, but for also attending the White River outing. I know he had a great time at both events. I will have pictures of fish porn and Trout Camp at a later date. One of my favorite picture is if Ken with first CR trout. I believe his wide smile is about as big as the Rainbow.

I urge you all to get involved in what the TRFF has to offer. It will bring you lasting memories. I am sure each of us that attended Trout Camp this year made plenty of them.

Thanks,
Curly Hodson



Another Mile In The Journey

Rex Lengacher

As I've traveled through this fly fishing life I've been fortunate enough to experience many things. Many "miles" if you will. This year has provided a couple more "miles" in the journey that is my life of fly fishing.

As many of you know I have a special love for the White River in Arkansas. The White, and it's tributary, the Norfolk, are both tail water rivers born of the Army Corps Of Engineers flood control projects of the late '40s and early 50's. The White, which emanates from Bull Shoals Lake, and the Norfolk, which emanates from Lake Norfolk are held back by 200 foot high hydroelectric dams. These are bottom discharge dams resulting in cold water rivers which make for ideal trout habitat. Combined with mild winter weather this results in a year round fishery that is the equal of any trout fishery in the country. I have been fortunate enough to make many trips to these two rivers since my first trip in 2004.

The one variable that is beyond the control of fishermen is the generation of electricity from these two dams. That is the exclusive domain of SouthWest Power, the electric company that operates both of these dams. Depending on the amount of generation which can be from 0-8 generators on the White, and 0-2 generators on the Norfolk, these rivers can vary up to 10 feet or more in depth. Knowing the current state of generation, lake levels, predicted generation, and weather patterns is essential to safe fishing. Only in times of low, predictable generation is wade fishing a real and safe option. Otherwise a boat is a necessity and a guide is worth their weight in gold.

There are several methods that are productive in catching trout on a fly on these waters. The first and foremost is the Nymph. A thread body nymph, size 14-22, fished on 5-6x tippet at the end of a long 10-12 foot leader with a strike indicator that allows the nymph to float very near the bottom is a very productive method of catching trout on both of these rivers regardless of flow rate. I have had several days of catching 30-40 trout from 10-18 inches, including Rainbow, Brown, Cutthroat, and even brook trout using this method.

Another productive way of fishing these rivers is with a small streamer. The Olive Woolybugger with a gold bead head in size 8-12 is a particular favorite and has earned it the title, "Arkansas State Fly".

As with many experiences in life, even catching 30 + trout in a day can become mundane and cause us to search for different trophies in the same place. That has been my journey on the rivers of Arkansas. One thing these two rivers are well known for is trophy size trout, especially Brown trout. Catching Browns of 20+ inches happens occasionally no matter what method of fishing you are practicing. But there are certain methods used in targeting these fish that have sort of drawn me in the last few trips. Large articulated streamers like the Double Deceiver cast tight to the bank in classic holding places can produce some great fish.

The Double Deceiver



This method is used day or night and has proven equally productive in either case. Casting these big flies requires a 7 or 8 weight rod, often with a sink tip line. While casts are not terribly long, with 40-50 ft. being the norm, it is a very physical way of fishing with many many casts thrown in a full day on the water. The retrieve is in long sharp rapid strips to really impart movement to the fly.

Another way of targeting these bigger Brown trout is fishing after dark casting a mouse pattern. When most of us hear “mouse pattern” we immediately call to mind the classic deer hair spun mouse shaped with a razor blade with a couple of barred hackle feathers for a tail. In actual practice the patterns being used are made of foam and synthetic materials that hold up a bit better over the long haul. These are big flies, with several patterns being articulated. That is tied with two hooks and flexible between them. The hooks are usually size 2 on the front end and size 4 on the back end. This is all cast with an 8 weight rod, close to the shore, and retrieved in long, slow strips. When a fish strikes your mouse there is NO DOUBT, no matter whether you can see your fly or not.

Mouse Pattern



With two fishermen in a drift boat casting opposite directions tangles are an ever present challenge. Communicating with the guide and the other fisherman can help keep these to a minimum, but they are going to happen. This is another place where a guide can prove to be of great worth. Their knowledge and experience in untangling a mess and rerigging if necessary is a tremendous help.

I was invited to go along with my friend Jim in late August this year to fish the White with guide John Holsten out of Cotter, Arkansas. Our plan was to fish big streamers and Hoppers during the day and then fish each night with the big streamer and mouse combo. We floated in John's drift boat each of the 4 days for anywhere from 4-7 hours. A nice break from dinner and rest, then back on the water just before dark for another 4-7 hour float.

19" Brown on a Hopper during the day.



This is not the way guides usually work. Especially in this area of Arkansas. With the resident crop of guides, some of whom are very good, a full day float will consist of starting at about 8:00 AM with a break for lunch at noon and an afternoon float of another 4 hours. Off the water and back at your lodgings by 5:00. John is one of the few guides around Cotter and Bull Shoals who understand that not all fishermen want the “cookie cutter” type of trip. He caters to the fishermen who want to hunt big fish and are willing to put in the hours it takes to be successful at it. John worked his tail off for us, staying out until 3:30 AM one night with us.

While we didn't land any real monsters this trip we were able to put several fish of 20 inches or longer in the net with a sort of skinny 23-24” Brown that Jim caught on our last night being the biggest. Certainly our average fish was several inches bigger than what I have caught on the generic streamer or nymph fishing trips I've done in the past.

Fishing in the dark adds another element to the fun and adventure. With a guide who knows the river so intimately your chances of success increase dramatically. When it's pitch black and a BIG fish blows up on your mouse it's an adrenaline rush on par with any I've ever had.

23” Brown on the Double Deceiver at night. 2:00AM



I have unabashedly been very complimentary of John Holsten. Very few guides will put in the kind of time at all hours of the day or night like John did. He is an interesting fellow who has been guiding in Arkansas for around 15 years and knows every bend, flat, and shoal in the river. He is full of interesting historical facts about the river and surrounding area and a very congenial host to his fishermen. I will include a couple of links at the end of this article that will give you an idea of what we're talking about when we say "hunting big browns". You can find John on Facebook by searching his name, John Holsten. You can also google Straight Outta Cotter, which is a marketing name John uses. For more information about John or other guides who "hunt big browns" talk to me at any meeting, or email me. Lance Wilt leads the pack in this area, but is only available to guide a few weeks of the year in Arkansas. He has been John's mentor for several years now. I'll be happy to share what knowledge I have. For some video confirmation of what hunting big browns is all about check out these links.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qwhGUokXRyg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A1wFxl0o2P4>

Don's been fishing too.



August 29, 16' Small Mouth with a Yellow Popper on Sugar Creek

August 4, 23' Carp on Estaz Bugger

New member Dean Tanner got this ,16" small mouth



Members Favorite Fly's

Saturday Afternoon Special
Lynn Burry



Hook: TMC 7999, #10

Thread: Black, 140 Denier

Tail: Turkey Biots, Black (Wapsi #TQP100)

Rib: Iridescent Veevus Thread, Gold (Veevus #104)

Body & Wingcase: Sparkle Braid, Pearl/Peacock (Wapsi #SB194)

Thorax: Pearl Chenille, Peacock, Medium, Peacock (Wapsi #CP2194)

Works very well for Steelhead and Brown Trout, on sunny days in lightly stained water. When fishing these conditions, it is a good substitute for Black Stone Fly Nymphs.

Club DVD's

DVD's of club presentations are available for \$10.00 each. Contact Steve Harris at club meetings.

Topic	Presenter
Forage Fish	Kevin Feenstra
Streamers	Josh Gouker
Kayak Fishing	Kyle Hammond
Foam Flies	Ron Dilbone
Bass Flies	Lynn Burry
Pike and Muskie	Derrick Filkins
Trout Flies	Jamie Thompson
Smallmouth	Kevin Feenstra
Central Wisconsin Rivers	Ian Anderson
Hackle and Thread	Chris Helms
Ausable river Flies	Jerry Regan
Soft Hackles	Dick Walle
	Bob Clouser
Deer Hair	Chris Helms
Warm water Flies	Jerry Drake
Members Favorite Flies #1	Various
Members Favorite Flies #2	Various
Members Favorite Flies #3	Various
DNR	Jed Pierson

Club Logo



Next Phase Graphics will print the club logo on your new shirt or hat for \$8.00. Give a new shirt or hat to Steve Harris along with \$8.00 at a club meeting or visit:

Next Phase Graphics

For Sale

Corporate Sponsor

Craig Ludwig—Indiana Policy Review
 260-417-4094
tcladwig@gmail.com

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 18 or younger and not part of a family membership
 Corporate Rate: \$50.00 per year

Mending Lines is looking for 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 ????

Officers

President: Curly Hodson
curly@curlsflyshop.com
 Treasurer: Ron Dixon
grizznhi@frontier.com
 Secretary: Jamie Thompson
jamiesflies@sbcglobal.net

Board of Directors

Lynn Burry lynnburry@ymail.com
 John Carlson jcarlsonjr15@frontier.com
 Kyle Hammond kphammond86@gmail.com
 Steve Harris sharris@3rff.org
 Rick Hinton hintonlr@yahoo.com
 Larry Wilson lwilson3rff@gmail.com

PUBLISHER
 Three Rivers Fly Fishers LLC.

The entire contents of *Mending Lines* are copyright 2006 and may not be reproduced in any manner either in whole or in part without written permission from the publishers. All rights reserved.
Mending Lines is not responsible for opinions expressed by its writers and contributors. Those opinions are not necessarily those of the publisher.

Three Rivers Fly Fishers does not assume any responsibility for unsolicited contributions.

MAILING ADDRESS

The Three Rivers Fly Fishers
 P.O. Box 8548
 Fort Wayne, IN 46898-8548