



SUMMER

2023



Daniel looking for a rise on the Rush River in Wisconsin. Project Healing Waters Outing June 8th, 2023.

INSIDE EDITION:

LARRY OLSON fencelinepool@gmail.com

Communications Director

Welcome to Summer!

Thanks for reading the latest news from the Upper Midwest Council of FFI. I welcome contributions to the quarterly newsletter. Let me know what you are doing and thinking about.

This is from Jim Arndt AFF and FFI member.

FFI: What's in it for you?

Amazing, just amazing. I contacted FFI requesting any information on fly fishing in Cherokee, North Carolina. To my wife's and my amazement we were contacted by Gene B., an FFI and SEC member, living in the Atlanta, Georgia area. Gene drove up, met us for breakfast and spent a fantastic day showing us the area, observing bug activity and fishing. Time spent with a very friendly, knowledgeable guy, who shared his day with us. A "thank you" does not do justice for the time Gene spent with us. What a day and all because FFI is made up of members like Gene B.



**VISIT THE UPPER
MIDWEST COUNCIL @
umcffi.org**

**UPPER MIDWEST COUNCIL PRESIDENT:
LYTH'S RANDOM THOUGHTS**

I am excited to welcome a new FFI Affiliate Club to the Upper Midwest Council! Welcome to the Illinois Smallmouth Alliance Club located in Wheeling Illinois. They are a large club with the obvious focus on Smallmouth. As a FFI Affiliate I want to note that not all their many members are Fly Fishers, but many are. **The contact person for the club currently is Alan Sherman, the Treasurer of the club. His contact information is: phone: 847-902-8335 and his e-mail is: isalliance2@gmail.com. Welcome Alan to the UMC.**

It's now summertime and I hope everyone is getting out and fishing. There are not as many UMC activities currently as most members are fishing, and for good reason.

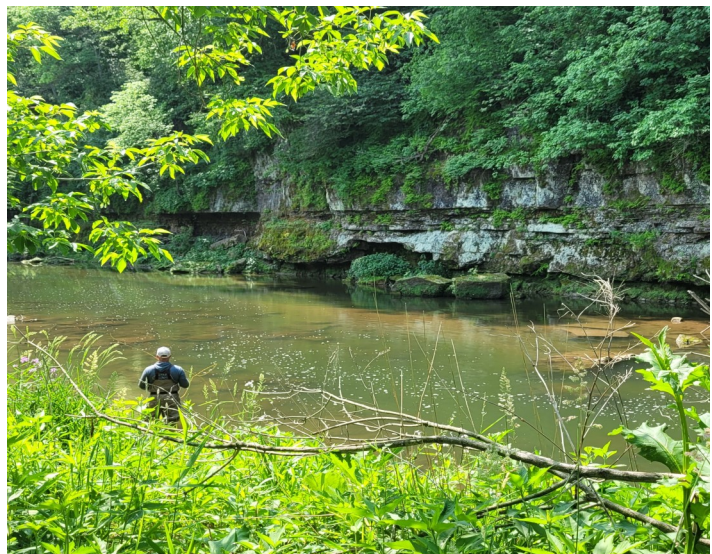
The multiple species available in our part of country is amazing from trout to bass to northern pike to muskies to carp and other "rough fish" and the list can go on and on. We live in a truly bountiful area of the country with all the fish we can target.

The Women's Connect group is planning another driftless rendezvous for October which will be a wonderful event for Council.

Look for more conservation, casting, and fly-tying learning opportunities throughout the next several months summer progresses.

Tight loops, lines, and threads,

Lyth Hartz,
President Upper Midwest Council



Lyth Hartz **lhartz@comcast.net**



Casting Director’s Report:

In the Upper Midwest Council, we have casual casting learning opportunities available on Thursday evenings in Duluth, MN. Todd Heggestad, who is a Certified Casting Instructor (CCI), is holding informal sessions at Homecroft Elementary School in Duluth starting at 6:30 p.m. and lasting until about 8:00 p.m. for fly casting development. For more information, please call Todd at 218-310-9182.

In the Twin Cities area: Lyth Hartz CI, John McCain CI, and Ivan Streif MCI, are holding informal sessions in the Twin Cities Area to help people with any casting issues that they want help with. These sessions are still in development so no details are available currently. For additional information please call Lyth Hartz at 651-491-6267.

Casting Improvement Tip:

Thankfully, we are now in the fishing season time of year! Many of you are getting out to fish and are most likely trying, at times, to increase your distance on some of your casts. One flaw that commonly occurs when trying to achieve more distance is to “punch the cast” on the delivery. This extra effort to cast farther often results in a “Tailing Loop” which is likely to ruin that cast’s presentation. That is because the extra punch at the end of the delivery cast causes the tip of the rod to dip down and bounce back up again making the line tail and can cause knots in your leader. It is better to trust that your cast will go well without that extra punch and deliver a clean cast without the tailing loop and all its problems.

CONSERVATION REPORT

Chris “Vinny” Vincent

Conservation Director Upper Midwest Council

FFi Board of Directors—Conservation VP

This is a short synopsis of some of the conservation issues the FFI and conservation committee have been working on. While this is just a small summary of all the important conservation issues, I encourage everyone to visit the FFI web-site to see the full menu of all the work being done. As you look through all the projects and courses of action you may find an area that interests you enough to volunteer in! Volunteers are the life blood for many projects and without this “boots on the groundwork” many efforts would not get done. Please consider helping where you can.

Public Lands and Waters Issues:

Conservation of the fishes and their habitats is fundamental to preserving our opportunities to fly fish. These landscapes collectively exist under ownership laws and public land policies. They provide essential homes to a vast variety of wildlife, plant and insect species. Many are threatened or endangered with extinction. What must not be forgotten is that these very landscapes of minerals, waters, and plants are vital to our own quality of life as human habitat. They provide our fresh air and clean water. They sequester the carbons we emit into the atmosphere.

Clearly, protection of these natural landscapes is significant in many regards. They serve as habitat for many species of fish and wildlife. **Critical Habitat** for some and contribute to our preservation of the “Fly Fishing Legacy”. Preservation of these millions of acres of diverse and healthy plant communities will assure that they will continue to do what only plants can do, capture and store carbon in their processing of clean air and water.

<https://flyfishersinternational.org/Conservation/Conservation-Actions/Conservation-Legislation>

Chris “Vinny” Vincent 5grizzlys@reagan.com

FFI's ACTIONS:

3/14/2023— Senate Leadership — Letter to Senators Schumer and McConnell urging opposition to Joint Resolutions 27 and 7 that would revise current definitions of Waters of the United States that would remove protection of small streams and wetlands under the provisions of the Clean Water Protection Act.

3/9/2023— Letter to Georgia Department of Natural Resources — Letter of “public comment” regarding an 8,000 acre sand mine operation near the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge and Wilderness in SE Georgia and NE Florida.

3/1/2023 — Bureau of Land Management — Public comments regarding development of a Programmatic EIS to evaluate Solar Energy Planning for an amended Resource Management Plan for Renewable Energy Development on BLM lands.

Vinny Upper Midwest Council Conservation VP

WELCOME TO THE UMC!

ILLINOIS SMALLMOUTH ALLIANCE

The Illinois Smallmouth Alliance is primarily a conservation club. Our mission is to protect, preserve and enhance smallmouth bass habitat and to educate the public regarding conservation and river preservation. The ISA has worked on many projects to rehabilitate and clean up rivers and streams, working with other local organizations.

Every Year, the ISA plants water willows in Illinois rivers. Over the years, the ISA has planted thousands of water willows. There are many places where water willows planted by the ISA have thrived and multiplied, providing excellent habitat for fish, insects and invertebrates.

The ISA is not just about conservation. Our members like to fish and have fun. The ISA holds picnics, fishing outings, and other events. The group has several fly-fishing related events. The Cast & Compare event allows members to test cast rods provided by local shops.

The ISA's fund raiser, the Blowout, is held the first weekend of March with speakers, raffles and auctions.

illinoissmallmouthalliance.net



UPPER MIDWEST COUNCIL CHAPTER AND AFFILIATE NEWS AND HAPPENINGS



LEW JEWETT FLY FISHERS

We had a good end to our club's year. Our annual meeting was held April 18th at Joseph's Grill. Our speaker was John (Duke) Welter of the Kinni Corridor Collaborative, updating the club on the dam removal on the Kinnickinnick River. Though the dam removal is moving along there is still financial need to support restoration of the river and land around it. Our club supported the Collaboration with a financial contribution. You can learn more about the project and contribute at [Development-KinniCorridorCollaborative \(kinnicc.org\)](http://Development-KinniCorridorCollaborative(kinnicc.org)). At this meeting we had our annual fund raiser, a silent auction, to help support activities the club sponsors. Also, the members attending voted for board members, for 2023-2024. Our new board of directors are President Monta Hayner, Vice President and Communications Bryan Croft, Secretary Lyth Hartz, Treasurer Jim Thorsen, Past President Chris Stjern and members at Large Glen Giaccolletto and Ray Morris.



On the afternoon of April 23rd, fifteen enthusiastic fly casters gathered at the Sports Expo Center in Blaine for the “Spring Warmup” Fly Casting Get Together. Participants included LJFF and FFW MN club members, relatives and friends. All enjoyed the chance to throw a fly line in a warm environment with no wind. A big “Thank You” goes out to FFI Certified Casting Instructors Lyth Hartz, John McCain and Ivan Streif for providing casting instruction to many of the fly casters. Two Bronze Level casting courses (FFI Casting Skills Development) were set up ahead of the event. Congratulations to members Monta Hayner and Glen Giacoletto as they both completed and passed the Bronze Level Course! Afterwards, at The Brick restaurant, we enjoyed drinks, hors d’oeuvres and fellowship. It was a very fun event for everyone.

After a busy March and April, we have a quiet spring. I hope everyone is getting out to fish like I have. We will resume club meetings on October 17th, 2023. Monta Hayner, President



ROCK RIVER FLYCASTERS

More information: mike@rockriverflycasters.club

The following outings are planned:

Starting time will be 5:30 till ?

6/14 Victoria lake S. Beloit, Il

6/21 Bauman Park Cherry Valley, Il

6/28 Victoria Lake S Beloit, Il

7/12 Bauman Park Cherry Valley, Il

7/19 4 Lakes, Winnebago County, Il

ARROWHEAD FLY FISHERS

AFF Happenings:

- May 20th, 7 members planted about 25 trees on the Uskab-wanka River. This involved relocating cages from previous tree plantings. Hard work and many smiles kept the crew busy.
- May 24th, 5 members, DNR and a class of 3rd Graders from Silver Bay, MN stocked Rainbows into Divide Lake. This annual event replenished the lake with over 200 healthy fish carried individually by students in their buckets, down the stairs and into the lake. DNR staff sent their allotment by a tube earlier. (I will send 3 pictures in another email)
- June 3rd, about 10 members in cooperation with Gitche Gumee Trout Unlimited, worked to clear a 6 foot wide path about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile from the road to the Blackhoof River. It was called a day with trail & ticks.

AFF Looking forward to Summer activities:

- CASTING THURSDAYS - Begins on Thursday evenings, from 6:30 to 8 pm, with Todd Heggestad at Homestead Soccer Field to help anyone who wants to practice their casting. Todd is an FFI (Fly Fishing International) certified fly casting instructor.

FISH LOCAL WITH A LOCAL continues for another summer. Last year AFF began a simple program to help people learn new fishing spots with members of the club who often fish those particular places. Contact AFF for more information. (arrowheadflyfishers@outlook.com)

Equipment Exchange. Become an AFF member and be a part of the selling and buying of used equipment.



PROJECT HEALING WATERS

APPLETON WISCONSIN—FOX VALLEY

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing has been getting after it hard this year with many nice fish caught on our local waters. A few of our participants have been trout fishing in the central sands area of the state and have caught native rainbow and brown trout in the 18 to 20 inch range. The participants truly enjoy getting out on different water and experiencing new species. Several others have been playing the warm water game on local rivers and have produced some huge smallmouth bass on the fly. There is a weeklong outing planned for our entire group to fish the Au Sable River and others in Michigan in the coming weeks. The participants will have the choice of several fishing options from trout to smallmouth bass to migratory lake run rainbows. This is a unique opportunity for them. They will be staying at a lodge that has been built just for them and will only host programs from the Midwest. We will also continue fishing our local ponds and rivers throughout the rest of the summer as well. We are continuing to grow as a program but are always looking to add more participants to our already amazing group.

Tightlines, Vinny Program Lead PHWFF Appleton



June is Women's Fly-Fishing Month!

FFI—Women's Connect has designated June as Women's Fly-Fishing Month. Each Tuesday in June Women Connect is sponsoring a Zoom presentation at 7 pm.

The first was a meet and greet June 6th with a panel of Women Connect Liaisons from around the country. Women from all over the United States and Canada joined the zoom meeting. We were honored by Joan Wulff attending. Many participants had been to her school. She had a few words for us. "You've come a long way. When I started in this business with only men. It has taken all of my life to finally have enough women to say I can die happy." Joan followed up with, "I have one regret in my life, I never, I didn't fish with enough women. I was always fishing with men. So, make sure you fish with women." Marlen Huston, an UMC member and CI, had the opportunity to let Joan know, "I took your class and your instructor's class, and you made me promise to teach women how to fly fish. And I want you to know that promise was kept." Marlene has truly kept that promise, volunteering with casting instruction at many women's events over the years. Joan's final thoughts to take with us were, "It's what's given me a wonderful life. And hope it can help all of you get a more wonderful life."

WHAT'S GOING ON IN JUNE FOR WOMEN ANGLERS?
Lots! Ask our FFIWC Liaisons ...

ANNE-MARIE BAKKER
NORTHERN CA COUNCIL

ANN BILL
SOUTHWEST COUNCIL

MONTA HAYNER
UPPER MIDWEST COUNCIL

DANI ROSE
TEXAS COUNCIL

FFI WOMEN CONNECT
3RD
ANNUAL WOMEN'S FLY FISHING MONTH
JUNE 2023

LEARN ABOUT OUR FLY FISHING PHOTO CONTEST!

Virtual Meet & Greet! Join us Tuesday, June 6th
5:00 PM PT | 6:00 PM MT | 7:00 PM CT | 8:00 PM ET

The presentation on June 20th will be about The Mayfly Project, Mentoring Children in Foster care with Fly Fishing. See below how to contact Women Connect and participate. These and many other presentations are available through FFI Women Connect Facebook Page. Women Connect is sponsoring a photo contest. Seeing photos of women fly fishing has really helped women to feel included in the fly-fishing community. Look through your photos or set out to take new photos for any of the many categories listed. There are many prizes including a halfday guided trip from Marlene Huston. The deadline for sub-



In order to celebrate Women's Fly Fishing Month in June, FFI Women Connect is hosting a

Fly Fishing Photo Contest



Deadline: JUNE 30, 2023 11:59 PM (Photos taken by during past year are eligible)

Choose a category (or 3 or 10) for your photo(s)

1. Warm water fish caught by a woman
2. Cold water fish caught by a woman
3. Saltwater fish caught by a woman
4. Photo of your best catch on a fly you tied
5. Photo most interesting fly you tied that caught a fish
6. Best group fly fishing photo featuring women
7. Best buddy photo featuring women
8. Best Underwater photo (may be partially over and under) of a fish
9. Release photo of a fish caught by a woman
10. Best casting photo of a woman angler



Prizes - Everyone Wins!

PROFESSIONAL FLY FISHING PHOTOGRAPHER BRIAN O'KEEFE has offered a Free Zoom Photography Seminar for all Contest Entrants.

INDIVIDUAL PRIZES will be awarded to winners in each category - educational 1:1 teaching sessions and/or angling gear will be offered. A full list of sponsors and prizes will be made available by end of May.

Scan QR code below for complete rules and to enter photos!



Locally in Minneapolis, Monta Hayner, our UMC Women Connect Liaison, is teaching an Orvis 101 beginner class Wednesday June 21st from 9-11 am at the Orvis Store at 5001 Excelsior Blvd, St. Louis Park, MN. There are a few spots available. Register here: FF101 Women's Only Wednesday June 21st 9am (constantcontact.com) June 28th from 5-7 pm FFi UMC Women Connect is having a women's social at the Minneapolis Orvis Store, 5001 Excelsior Blvd, St. Louis Park, MN. This will include a presentation Caring for Your Fly-Fishing Equipment. Learn how to care for all that expensive equipment to help it work well for a long time. Come join us and meet other women fly fishers. Join FFi Women Connect through Facebook FFi Women Connect or email to womenconnect@flyfishersinternational.org to be put on the email list.