



WINTER
2024/2025



Northern Lights. Photo courtesy Monta Hayner

INSIDE EDITION:

LARRY OLSON fencelinepool@gmail.com

Communications Director, Upper Midwest Council

A great resolution for the new year would be to share your passion and knowledge of fly fishing with others by becoming involved in the varied opportunities in the Upper Midwest Council.

The Upper Midwest Council has committees in:

Conservation

Education

Membership

Communication

Casting

Fly Tying

Women's Connect

We'd love to hear back from you with your interest in being more involved in any of the above areas. Each of us has a unique set of skills and ideas that makes what we do better.

Contact Lyth Hartz at: lhartz@comcast.net

UPPER MIDWEST COUNCIL PRESIDENT: LYTH'S RANDOM THOUGHTS

Where I live, winter has arrived! It's cold and windy today as I write this!

With Thanksgiving just behind us, I want to let you all know how thankful I am for the work of the Board Members of the Upper Midwest Council. I'm not sure that I have ever introduced them to you. We meet monthly via Zoom meetings and these people are very diligent and cooperative about promoting the sport of Fly Fishing in our area of the country. The Board members are the following: Ray Morris, VP and Membership Chair; Todd Heggestad, Treasurer; Mike Martin, Secretary and Rock River Fly Anglers representative; Ralph Johnson, Past President; Chris "Vinny" Vincent, Conservation Chair and a leader with Veterans Anglers in Green Bay; Vaughn Snook, Fly Tying Chair; Larry Olson, Blue Lines Newsletter Editor; Kalyn Hoggard, Casting Chair; Monta Hayner, Women's Connect Chair; Laurie Arndt, Arrowhead Fly Fishers Rep.; Gerald Schwann, Green Bay; Bryan Croft, Lew Jewett Club Rep.; and Steve Miller a new member from LaCrosse. We have had a few members also resign this past year and I want to thank them for their contributions as well. They are Brad Eaton, Conservation and Paul Beckmann, Fly Tying. Thanks to all our Board Members for your contributions to the world of Fly Fishing!

I want to remind all of you about what I said in my Fall newsletter article about fly fishing related activities during the winter months. We are there now, and I hope you will take advantage of those opportunities. To review that article, please visit the UMC website and look for the Fall 2024 issue of Blue Lines. www.umcffi.org

What's on the horizon for the Upper Midwest Council? For one, we plan to hold an Annual Meeting in the January or February time frame. This meeting will be a Zoom meeting so that we don't have to travel during the winter. No date has been set yet, but I look forward to this meeting to more thoroughly introduce all of you to the UMC. I hope you will all attend; I promise to keep the meeting as short as possible, to not interfere with your other plans. Please look for an announcement and the agenda for this meeting that we will e-mail to all our members.

We also are registered for the Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo to be held March 21 – 23, 2025 at Hamline University in St. Paul, MN. This is a great time for all who attend, and we will have a booth along with the Lew Jewett Club to promote our sport and hopefully gain new members. We will also be conducting free Casting Lessons during the entire Expo. We will participate with the Lew Jewett Club in their Youth Fly Fishing Education program and many UMC members will be tying flies at the Expo.

Lastly, I want to make an appeal to all our UMC Members to consider joining me in making a year-end financial gift to the UMC. Ever since the pandemic, we have not had a reliable source of income for the UMC. We have struggled to revive our Fly-Fishing School which was a source of income for us. I know that you are all being asked to many worthy causes at this time of the year, but I think that the UMC is also a worthy cause. We have expenses that we need to cover with some income. If we can generate additional income, we can even do more in the way of promoting Fly Fishing in our council area. Please help us to do that by sending a check, of any amount, made out to Upper Midwest Council FFI to our Treasurer Todd at his address below:

Todd Heggstad

209 Snively Road

Duluth, MN 55803

Thank you for your consideration.

I want to wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season and we'll see you in the New Year!

Tight loops, lines and threads,

CASTING DIRECTOR REPORT

KAYLN HOGGARD, CI

FFI has rolled out a CI and THCI Certification Roadmap. “This roadmap is designed to help keep you on track during your journey to becoming a certified casting instructor. It is broken into three sections (1) frequently asked questions, (2) a notional timeline, and (3) recommended actions for each of the steps on the timeline.”

Along with the step-by-step guide of all the things you need to know before, during, and after becoming a certified casting instructor, there is also a handy timeline to guide you through the general idea of how long it takes to prepare for the exam, and what you need to be thinking about each step of the way. While generating this document, many other logistical components were created in order to make the process of learning about, trying to accomplish, and taking the certification exam easier.

If you haven't been on the path toward becoming a certified instructor, then you may not know the significance of this document and the work that was put into. It is difficult to put into words, but I will try to shed light on why we needed to do this:

In the past it was difficult for a candidate to know the intimate details of what it would really take to become a Certified Instructor. Many people didn't know the benefits of mentors, much less that there was a pool of mentors out there to work with. In the past it was easier for potential candidates to get lost in the website and never get into communication with the right people to help them along their journey. Due to this, it was difficult to know when you were ready to take the exam, what information you needed to know to pass it, that you needed to make sure that you completed the CI Workshop, how much everything was going to cost, when and where the exams were held, or even that private exams were an option. With the completion of this document and the ongoing efforts to improve the process, we hope that those troubles are a thing of the past.

The hope, I believe, is that the work we are doing now will continue to grow our community and continue to enrich the quality of our casting instructors, members, and the fly fishing community as a whole.

Kalyn Hoggard, CI

Casting Director

Upper Midwest Council

Link to the CI candidate Road Map https://www.flyfishersinternational.org/Portals/0/Documents/Casting/CICP_Candidate/Casting_Instructor_Candidate_Roadmap.pdf?ver=0e3KlpCGZ9UAxbaRyYhWlw%3d%3d



CONSERVATION REPORT

Chris “Vinny” Vincent

Conservation Director Upper Midwest Council

FFi Board of Directors—Conservation VP

Have you had your water today, was it safe to drink? The safety of our drinking water is often taken for granted, we turn on the tap and here it comes. Very few people ever wonder or worry about if their water contains PFAS or VOCs, they just drink it. I would be willing to bet that there are a lot of people out there that do not know about the Safe Water Drinking Act.

As fly anglers and stewards of all the waters we fish, the importance of clean water should be high on our list of concerns. Not only do we require clean drinking water but so do all the fish and wildlife in our watersheds and without clean water in our watersheds our sport would not be possible.

I have been part of many state and federal watershed projects through both my work and as a project lead on volunteer sampling projects. I encourage all of you to get out and volunteer on these projects that come up in your area as they are real eye openers into the health of your watershed. If there are no projects happening, then contact your local Department of Natural Resources and offer to start or help lead one, state agencies are always looking for help.

Below is a good article I came across and wanted to share with you written by Jonna Mayberry of the WDNR



The human body is comprised of up to 60% water. Whether you start the day by hydrating with water, coffee or tea, clean, safe water is fundamental to our lives.

This year marks a huge milestone in clean drinking water: the 50th anniversary of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).

The SDWA was passed by Congress in 1974 to protect public health by regulating the nation's public drinking water supply. It came soon after the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency, which was established on Dec. 2, 1970.

Amended with new regulations in 1986 and 1996, the Safe Drinking Water Act requires various actions to protect drinking water and its sources – rivers, lakes, reservoirs, springs and groundwater.

The SDWA allows the EPA to set national drinking water standards to protect against naturally occurring and human-made contaminants. The EPA, individual states and local water systems then work together to meet those standards.

The act regulates various contaminants, including lead, bacteria, arsenic, nitrate, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (known as PFAS), synthetic organic chemicals such as

pesticides and herbicides, radioactive parameters, and volatile organic compounds (or VOCs) like gasoline and formaldehyde.

Crisis Spotlights Safety

DNR water supply engineer Norm Hahn has worked in the agency's Drinking Water and Groundwater program for more than 40 years and has seen the evolution of drinking water regulations.

Hahn also knows first-hand how important monitoring can be in keeping water supplies safe – and what can happen when drinking water is unsafe.

In 1993, Milwaukee experienced a waterborne disease outbreak caused by the microscopic parasite cryptosporidium. The outbreak caused more than 400,000 illnesses and dozens of deaths.

“The press started calling and saying people were getting sick and some were dying from drinking water that had crypto in it,” Hahn said.

The situation emphasized the importance of safe water and put the issue in the national spotlight.

The effects of this outbreak were extreme and are still talked about in the Milwaukee area and beyond. Changes to the SDWA were made after the crisis, which is just one example of why safe drinking water is so important and how national policy on the topic has evolved over the years.

Know Your Water

The DNR requires annual contaminant testing for all public water systems across Wisconsin. In 2023, over 99% of these systems provided water that met all health-based contaminant standards set by the SDWA.

This achievement marked a significant improvement from 50 years ago, when more than 40% of the nation’s drinking water systems did not meet the most basic health standards.

The SDWA makes water data public, which means you can stay informed about the quality of the water you drink.

Watch your mail: Local municipalities often send water-quality information to residents. You can also contact your municipality to get current data or visit the DNR's website.

Keep in mind that private wells are not regulated under the SDWA and are not part of a public water system. It’s the owner’s responsibility to make sure their drinking water is safe.

Ensuring clean, safe drinking water is all about public health, Hahn said, so the time and costs involved in testing and publicizing results are considered crucial.

“You're not going to get a lot of backlash because the same people taking those samples also drink that water, right?” Hahn said. “You want to know the quality of your drinking water, which is part of what the Safe Drinking Water Act requires.”

For 50 years, the SDWA has offered the framework needed to make safe drinking water a reality. Implementing the legislation’s guidelines involves a variety of partners, said Steve Elmore, bureau director for the DNR’s Drinking Water and Groundwater program.

FLY TYING GROUP NEWS

I know lots of you are busy tying flies and enjoying the holidays. There are many exciting activities going on in the world of Fly Tying within Fly Fishers International.

- Check out the Buszek Library in the Learning Center. Great articles and videos.
- Skills Award Program. Great way to get to be a better tier and challenge yourself.
- On-line Fly Tying Technique Demonstrations. Every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the Month. Find out more on the next page of this newsletter.
- NEW BOOK coming in 2025 on Fly Tying!

Go to the website at flyfishersinternational.org

Scroll to the Learning Center and Fly Tying Group for all the great resources.

Larry Olson

Fly Tying Group Board of Governors

Whip Finish Journal Editor

fencelinepool@gmail.com

Fly tying can be one of the most relaxing hobbies you can get involved in, especially when you get to fool one of our water dwelling friends to think that fly you tied is a legitimate part of their diet.

So, I'm sure you are saying to yourself, "I tie flies now, what more could I learn?"

Good question as you could just tie some string and a feather to a hook, and might catch a fish, or not.

But what happens when we take your favorite style of flies and take a look under the hood to see what techniques you could use to increase and improve the quality of your flies and increase your opportunity to catch more fish.

That is what the Online Fly-Tying Techniques program is all about.

The FFI/ Fly Tying Group sponsors a Fly-Tying Techniques Program from first of October to the end of April on the first and third Tuesday evening of each month using the Zoom platform. The next class will be January 7th, 2025, featuring Fred DuPre`.

We have top fly tiers from FFI, Project Healing Waters and others like Son Tau, Gunner Brammer and more. teaching the fly-tying techniques they use to become tiers at the highest level. The class is open to all fly tiers whether they are members of FFI, or not.

If you are interested in attending one or all the classes, then please contact Rick Flink at mtgrizzly52@gmail.com, or call me at 406-407-6781. I will send you out the registration link for the class and an invitation if you include your email address.

Hope to see YOU there!

Driftless Rendezvous 2024

By Monta Hayner

The Driftless Rendezvous held at family-owned Cedar Valley Resort in Whalen, Minnesota was a huge success again this year. Women attended from primarily the Midwest, but some came from as far as Oregon, Wyoming and Texas. The group was made up of some women who knew each other before the Rendezvous, some who met at previous Rendezvous' and some new participants. Because of the structure of the event new attendees fit right in. The women fished in small groups, in several popular places around the area. They would report back on how the fishing was in the evening. The next morning, we would regroup into different small groups based on where anglers were interested in fishing. In addition, each day different pairs would be on a float trip which mixed the walk and wade fishing groups. This changing of the make-up of the groups and evening get-together and for meals and activities (campfire, yoga, watching northern lights) contributed to getting to know each other. Building deeper friendships with women we knew before, women we knew from previous Rendezvous' and women new to the event.





That was not the only learning going on at this event. Anglers shared their best flies and casting pointers. They shared what was effective each day at which streams and pointers on methods of fishing. The amount of knowledge these experience fly anglers had and shared was impressive. The best part was that we could then practice those ideas the next day. Though the water was low, and the fish were a little more finicky than usual we all caught fish and had a great time doing it with other women.

Many participants enjoyed returning to streams they fished in the past. Catching fish in holes they caught in years past. There is something so comforting to return to a hole and catch fish again. New adventures were had as well. Some took float trips for the first time. Two of us had an adventure in a canoe with the many rapids caused by the low water. Some explored new streams and new spots on streams they fished before. Having adventurous women get together gives each one confidence to adventure out and explore new areas. Come join us next year.

UPPER MIDWEST COUNCIL CHAPTER AND AFFILIATE NEWS AND HAPPENINGS



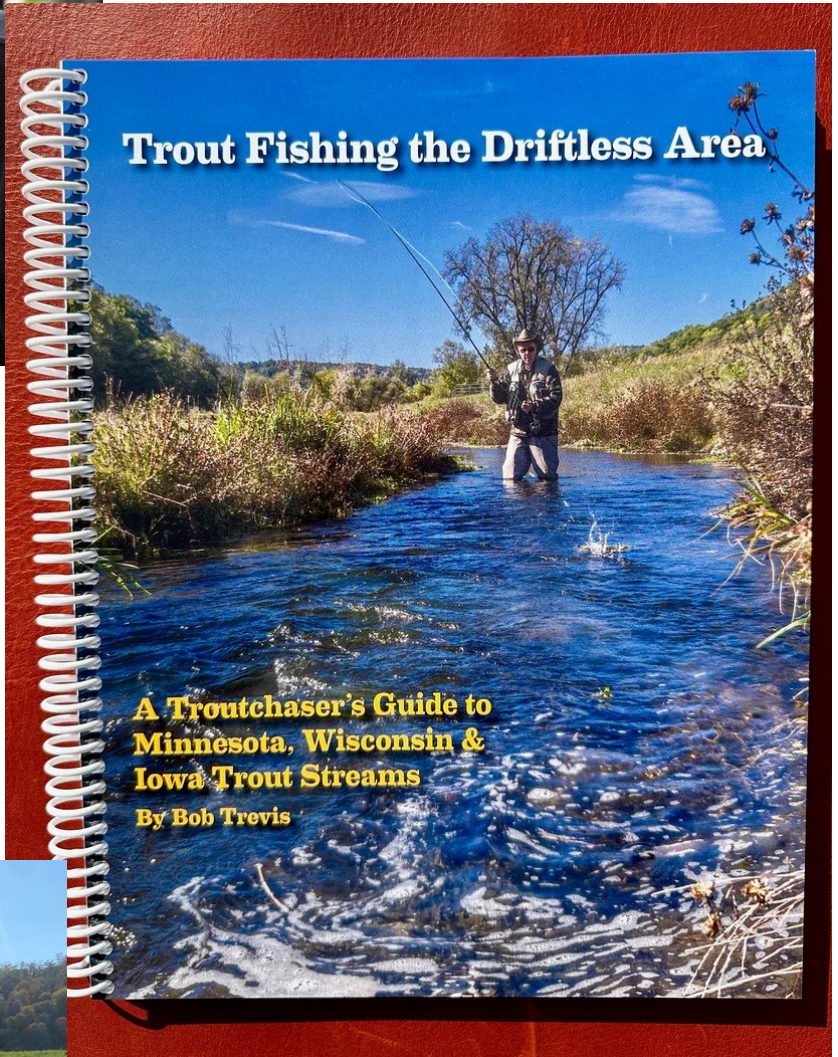
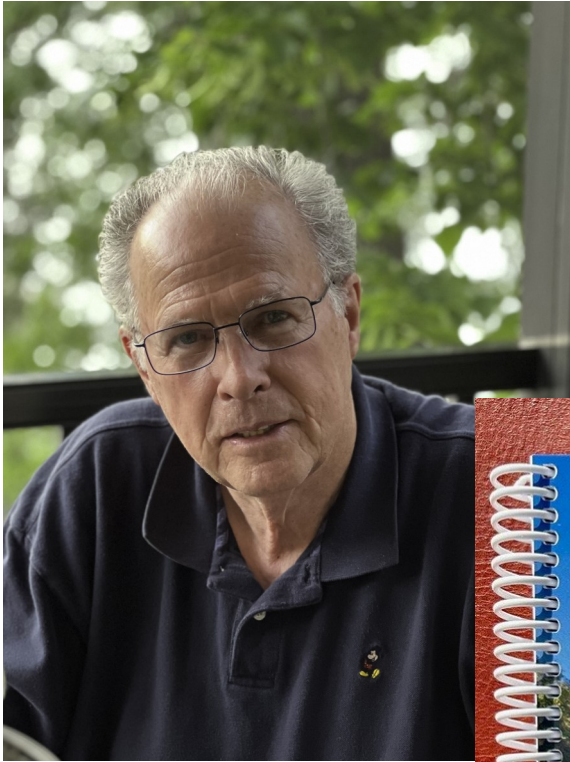
As summer transitions to fall and we approach winter, Lew Jewett Fly Fishers has begun our off-season dinner meetings. Before our first meeting on October 15th, we held a trout outing in the Preston area on October 3rd. Eight participants met at The Driftless Fly Fishing Company, took time to get acquainted, then paired up and headed out to fish. By the end of the day, everyone had caught at least one trout, with the largest measuring 16 inches.

On October 15th, we held our first dinner meeting of the season. Twenty-five members and guests attended as Grace Loppnow, Minnesota DNR Invasive Fish Coordinator, provided an update on efforts to control the spread of invasive carp, along with practical steps anglers can take to help.

We are looking forward to our upcoming meetings. On December 17th, author and member Bob Trevis will discuss his new book, “Trout Fishing the Driftless Area,” and share insights on discovering “Plan B” trout streams—hidden gems that can salvage a day when your usual spot is crowded. On February 17th, artist Bob White will present “The Intersection of Art and Fly Fishing: What I’ve Learned About One From the Other.”

We will wrap up our dinner meetings on April 15th with our annual club fundraiser, silent auction, and a presentation by Minnesota Trout Unlimited Habitat Program Director, Jennifer Biederman.

Unfortunately, inclement weather forced us to cancel November’s Chili Fest. However, we have other events on the calendar. On January 18th, we will host a fly tying gathering at The Fly Angler. From March 21–23, Lew Jewett Fly Fishers will assist the Upper Midwest Council with casting lessons, while Monta Hayner and Peter Garretson will lead the Youth Program “Get Into Fly Fishing.”



All Monthly club meetings are free and open to the public! All meetings held from

6-8 pm at BoomTown Woodfire Bar & Grill, Duluth

January 21st: WI & MN DNR staff will present information on projects with updates, future projects in the planning and results of recent studies. This is the annual meeting held with Gitche Gumee Trout Unlimited and AFF. We expect this meeting to end after 8 PM.

March 18th: Two handed rods, casting & fishing with Paul Sandstrom

Additional events in 2025

Fly tying events on January 11th, February 15th and March 15th. See Flier for details or follow on AFF's Facebook page or Website.

February 2nd: The International Fly-Fishing Film Festival (IF4), www.flyfilmfest.com, the world's leading fly-fishing film event, will be held at Clyde Iron, Duluth. The films are a curated collection of stunning world-wide stories. Tickets are sold in advance (\$18.00) and at the door (\$20.00). In addition to the films is an opportunity to win raffle items. For further details follow AFF's Facebook page or Website. This is a joint venture with Gitche Gumee Trout Unlimited.

Introduction to Fly Fishing Classes: April 8th, 22nd, 29th and May 6th at Proctor Community Center. These classes will be taught by AFF members from 6-7:30 PM. For further information and registration see Proctor Community Education website.

Written by: Laurie Arndt, AFF Past President



NW WISCONSIN

NE MINNESOTA



Learn to Tie Flies!

2025 Fly-tying Events

January 11 – February 15 – March 15

No experience needed, all are welcome

Come learn to tie flies! AFF will provide all of the tools and materials, along with instruction, to get you started in this exciting hobby. Let us show you how to craft classic fly patterns that will catch fish! These events are for new and experienced alike.



Harrison Community Center • 3002 W. Third St, Duluth

Join Us!

Free & Open to the Public

Soup, crackers, and cookies are provided.

No experience is needed, and everybody is welcome. And you don't even have to register, just show up and tie! Experienced tyers can pick up tips and techniques or share some of their own.

11:00 am – 2:00 pm • email: arrowheadflyfishers@outlook.com



PRESENTED BY ORVIS BAJÍO TROUT UNLIMITED *Abel*



INTERNATIONAL
FLY FISHING
FILM FESTIVAL

FLYFILMFEST.COM



01-05

WHEN: Sunday, February 2nd, 2025

WHERE: Clyde Iron Event Center, Duluth, MN

Doors open at 3:00 PM Films begin at 4:00PM

Tickets available on-line or at the door.

In advance \$18 At the door \$20

Door prizes, raffle buckets, items to bid on

Event is organized in partnership with Arrowhead Fly Fishers and the Gitche Gumee Trout Unlimited.

PROJECT HEALING WATERS

APPLETON WISCONSIN—FOX VALLEY

We deep into our tying season and working our way through a mix of patterns from the FFI Gold Fly Tying awards series and few others mixed in. We have 4 brand new tiers that we are working through the FFI Fundamental Beginners fly tying manual and they are progressing very well. In January we have Bart Landwehr coming in to give the group a presentation on smallmouth bass fishing, flies, tactics, and timelines. Bart is one of the best smallmouth guides in the country and works out of the Tightlines Fly Fishing Co. in DePere, Wi.

HOOAHWI [Www.hooahwi.org](http://www.hooahwi.org)

Program – Veterans Fishing University

We are all set to welcome our second class into VFU or Veterans Fishing University where will be introducing six novice participants into all things fishing to include fly fishing, fly tying, and casting. We will be starting our Fly Tying 101 class in February. The participants will also be introduced to ice fishing and conventional open water fishing. We have numerous outings planned for them to experience all aspects firsthand.

We are currently fundraising for future classes to help keep our veterans engaged in positive and healthy alternatives that aid greatly in their mental health. Please consider supporting this beneficial program at the link above and designate any help to the VFU program