



Summer
2025



Photo courtesy Monta Hayner

UPPER MIDWEST COUNCIL PRESIDENT: RAY MORRIS

Greetings to everyone in the Upper Midwest Council of Fly Fishers International. I'm Ray Morris the new president of the council. I've been a lifelong fly fisher of more than 50 years, beginning in the Pocono Mountains in Pennsylvania at 12 years old. I've been a fly tyer, outdoor writer, rod builder, and National Park Ranger. I live outside St. Paul and have a cabin on the East Fork of the Chippewa River in Northern Wisconsin.

I'm excited about the coming 4 months ahead in the Upper Midwest with the in-person gathering at this year's FFI Fly Fest in Grand Rapids, Michigan on September 26 and 27. All the information is released at the FFI website and through our distribution networks.

I'm pleased to announce a special fly fisherman's factory tour of the St. Croix Rod Company held on Friday, August 1st from 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. in Park Falls, WI. As many of you know St. Croix is getting back into fly fishing in a big way and in addition to the in-depth tour we will have discussion time with the St. Croix rod designers and Fly Fishing Specialists. Park Falls, WI is in the region of Northern Wisconsin with some of the best Musky and Smallmouth fisheries in the nation. More information will be coming in the near future on how to register for this free event. The FFI website www.flyfishersinternational.org is going through an update to make it easier to access all the excellent resources contained on the site. Please use this as a great resource to your fly fishing education.

Right now is the best time to get out on the water and enjoy your sport. Let me know how the Upper Midwest Council of FFI can better serve your interests in fly fishing. Please reach out to me with any suggestions, my email is raywmorris@gmail.com.

Tight lines and good fishing!

Ray



A FLY FISHERS TOUR OF ST CROIX ROD COMPANY

WHEN

Friday, August 1st 2025

WHERE

St Croix Rod Company

856 4th avenue north
Park Falls, WI 54552

HIGHLIGHTS • Fly Rod Tour of the St Croix Factory
Group Discussion • Fly Rod construction and new technologies in fly rod design and manufacture
• And more to be announced

**THIS IS A HOLD THE DATE, MORE
INFORMATION IS COMING SOON!**

ALL AGES EVENT

**A CHANCE TO DISCUSS
FLY ROD CONSTRUCTION
AND NEW DIRECTIONS IN
FLY ROD DESIGN**

REGISTRATION

- Free event - registration with Eventbrite.
- Site is not open yet.

SPONSORS

- Fly Fishers International Upper Midwest Council
- St Croix Rod Company of Park Falls

**OPEN TO ALL FFI
MEMBERS,
FAMILY AND
FRIENDS**

CASTING DIRECTOR REPORT
KAYLN HOGGARD, CI



CALLING ALL PRO AND AM CASTERS

WANTED

“BEST IN THE DRIFTLESS”

CASTING COMPETITION



REWARD **REWARD**

WHEN **WHERE**

June 6th, 2025 Driftless Drive-In Fly Fishing Show



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
Kalyn Hoggard at kalyn@theflyroad.com
Marty McVey at martymcveyflyfishing@gmail.com

SUPPORT FROM



A Day on the Mississippi River for Smallmouth

Monta Hayner

The Lew Jewett Fly Fishers had a recent presentation from David Holmes about fishing the Mississippi River for small mouth bass. I enjoyed his presentation as I am still learning to fish for small mouth and learning to fish the Mississippi River. He mentioned moving up or down on the river depending on where the fish are biting. My friend and club member Peter Garretson hired David and invited Wendy Bennis and myself along. We met upstream from Little Falls. IT was one of those cold days of late spring. It was overcast, windy and only 40 degrees. On the way I crossed the Platte River which originates in Platte Lake where our family cabin is. I'm thinking I can come back and fish this area in the future.

David has a new jet boat with lots of flat surfaces to stand on. It made it easy for the three of us to fish from. The weather began at 40 degrees and was windy. It did not get much warmer. We brough our fly rods. David had spinning rods as well. Peter and I began with fly rods but between the wind and the trees we gave up on them early. Peter was the first to land a bass. It is not surprising since he is much more experienced than Wendy or I. We each caught before moving on to another location.

David's jet boat moved across shallow water quickly. We ran down the river to an area with many islands to fish around. With each new spot we all caught fish. Sometime two fish at once as evident by the photos. While getting the first fish ready for the photo Peter's line dropped into the water and another fish bite. Wendy Caught the biggest bass. Monta caught the most species: Bass, Rock bass, norther and a walleye. We brought our own lunches and had a pleasant lunch out of the wind. After we fished a little more constantly catching bass. It was a surprisingly good day with poor weather. I guess the company and quality of the guide can make all the difference. I must admitted I have not fished with a spinning rod in a long time and had to relearn how to cast.

Fly Tying for All Fish All Waters

Flies, Recipes and Tying Guidance

The FFI Fly Tying Group



THE FLY TYING
GROUP HAS A BOOK
THAT ALL TIERS WILL
WANT IN THEIR LIBRARY
COMING OUT THIS JUNE
OF 2025.

ALL PROCEEDS FROM THE
SALE OF THE BOOK BENE-
FIT THE FURTHER DEVEL-
OPMENT OF THE BUSZEK
LIBRARY ON THE FFI WEB-
SITE.

**** It is now available for pur-
chase on the FFI website!!!**

High quality photos and articles from some of the finest fly tiers in the U.S.

Features the work of the demonstration tiers from the 2024 Fly Fishers International Fly Tying Group's 2024 show as well as that of past masters Craig Mathews, Al and Gretchen Beatty, Scott Sanchez, Masao Sakaguchi, Dave Whitlock, and Bruce Staples. Special introduction from Will Godfrey.

Articles and photos that will help improve your tying are included from noted tiers Charlie Craven, Hans von Klinken, Skip Morris, Kelly Galloup, and Buszek award winners Al Ritt, Dutch Baughman, Eric Austin, Fred Hannie, Fred Dupré, Jerry Coviello, Jim Ferguson, and Wayne Luallen.

Chapter 1: Patterns and People Rendezvous 2024

Features the flies, tying instructions and materials list from the 30 tiers at the 2024 Dallas show.

Chapter 2: Looking Back (previous Rendezvous)

A nostalgic look at tiers and flies from previous FFI shows

Chapter 3: How to Become a Better Tier

Renown fly tiers show you how to improve your game.

Chapter 4: The Buszek Library

An in-depth look at Fly Fishers International's Buszek Library, including work from past Buszek Award recipients.

flyfishersinternational.org

Go to the Store.



June is Women Fly Fishing Month. Women Connect's June 3 rd. Zoom presentation topic is Best Summer Reading List. The panel includes Diane Wantz, Sue Daignault, Jackie Clouser, and Hunter Leavine. This will cover fly fishing books, fiction and non-fiction. Sign up through FFi Women Connect and they will send you a link to the Zoom meetings. Best Summer Reading List Women Connect provides monthly Zoom presentations. Find out more at [Events Overview](#)

Each council is sponsoring a women's event for Women's Fly-Fishing month. The Upper Midwest Council's event was Get Your Cast On, May 18th. We held the event early in preparation for the casting contest being held in Viroqua at the Driftless Angler Fly Fishing Show and IF4 Movie Night on June 6th. We had a beautiful day after a cold stretch with rain. There were four tasks to rotate through with an instructor guiding each task. The focus was on tasks that are useful when fishing. They were climbing the wall (casting in each plane), roll casting on the water, slipping or shooting line to lengthen your casting distance, and accuracy for multiple targets. We had as many participants as volunteers. The small number meant the instructors were able to spend more time with the participants. We enjoyed the small group and all got to know each other a little better.

3RD ANNUAL FFI WOMEN'S FLY FISHING PHOTO CONTEST

SPONSORED BY MISS MAYFLY

FFI Women Connect is partnering with Miss Mayfly for our annual Women's Flyfishing Photo Contest celebrating women anglers.

FFI Women Connect and participating FFI regional councils are hosting a flyfishing photo contest to celebrate women anglers for June, FFI Women Connect Fly Fishing month.

All entrants to this contest should be a woman angler, although anyone can take the photo. For Example: if you are a woman and your guide or fishing buddy (male or female) takes a photo of you, then you are welcome to enter the photo as your entry, since you or your fish are the subject of the photo. If you submit the photo and it wasn't taken by you, photo credit should be given whenever possible. As the contestant who paid the entry fees you will be eligible to receive a prize if your entry photo wins in your chosen category. FFIWC Photo Contest

You do not need to be an FFI member to participate in this contest.



WOMEN CONNECT CASTING EVENT PHOTOS

From Monta Hayner

Roll Casts and Slack Line Presentations

Most of you already know that you cannot make a cast well with slack in the line. The reason for this is that much of the casting stroke is used to remove the slack rather than moving the end of the fly line and the fly. At the same time, you probably also know that a slack line presentation will help you to have a drag free float of your fly when it is on the water. There are two things about the Roll Cast that can help you with both issues.

1) When you have slack line on the water and you want to make the next cast, you usually need to strip in the line to remove the slack. This wastes precious time, especially when the fish are actively rising. If you strip the in the line, thereby shortening the line needed to get back to the fish, you will need to shoot line or make a few false casts to get your fly back to the fish. My suggestion is that you will find that by simply setting up a roll cast you will remove all the slack thereby getting your fly back on the water quickly to the rising fish. You will find that moving the rod back to the roll cast set up will remove slack from the line on water and not shorten the line length needed to get back the fish you are fishing for. No waste of time.

2) Because the delivery portion of the roll cast is like every other overhead cast, you can make a slack line presentation to the fish using a roll cast. After your loop has formed on your delivery, you can wiggle your rod tip to put waves in your line on the water, impart an ariel mend or make a reach mend. This will put slack into your presentation and allow your fly to float drag free rather than being pulled by the fly line on the water.

Try these two features of the roll cast the next time you are fishing; I think you will enjoy the results.

Lyth Hartz

Certified Casting Instructor

UPPER MIDWEST COUNCIL CHAPTER AND AFFILIATE NEWS AND HAPPENINGS



Lew Jewett Fly Fishers Trout Fishing Event April 24

We had our annual trout outing on Thursday April 24th. Only three club members attended. I presume because of the predicted rain and it was a week day. We met at the Driftless Fly Fishing Company. It was a cool morning but there was no rain yet. From there we caravanned to a nearby trout stream. We warmed up our casting and began to fish. The fish were not cooperating. There were a few risers in a difficult stretch of the stream otherwise none were biting what we offered.

The forecast changed at the last minute to hold the rain off until 2 pm. We moved on to another stream. We ate our lunches and received a tour of Andre's camper van. Initially, we had a few bites but misses on nymphs at the end of our drifts. Occasionally a fish would break the surface but not take a dry fly. We decided to hike up the stream where there is a beautiful long run into a deep pool next to a cliff. We fished a few runs with small holes on the way up. The wildflowers were very beautiful on the hike and the birds were singing. At the deep hole I caught a fish at the start of the hole. Jim Thorsen was working the riffle and run above, and Andre was working the middle of the pool to the end. No other fish were taken from the pool. Next, we fished the ripples and runs below the pool. I caught another fish on a soft hackle. When I only catch three fish all day it is a tough day to catch fish. The weather held out with only a brief sprinkle. Any day on the stream after a cold winter is a joy especially with club members who enjoyed being there.

Monta Hayner



As we head into June, it's clear that the past few months have been a busy time for Lew Jewett Fly Fishers.

Things kicked off in March with the Great Waters Fly Fishing Expo, where we had a strong presence thanks to many dedicated volunteers. A big thank-you to all who helped staff our booth. Special recognition goes to Monta Hayner and Peter Garretson, who once again led a successful youth fly fishing class—so successful, in fact, that we had to print more youth activity passports! Several members also assisted with casting instruction, contributing to an impressive total of 211 casting lessons conducted in partnership with other volunteers and the Upper Midwest Council. Many thanks to all our Lew Jewett casting instructors who helped make this happen.

In April, we wrapped up the 2024–2025 off-season with our final dinner meeting. We ended on a high note with guest speaker Jennifer Biederman, Habitat Program Manager at Minnesota Trout Unlimited, and her presentation “Restoration Design That Improves Coldwater Ecosystems to Support Trout (and their Food)” talking about the grant process with the Lessard Sam’s Outdoor Heritage Fund and moving into how a location is selected and what improvement decisions are made to restore the habitat. There were many before and after photos and a lively question and answer period. The evening also featured our annual silent auction, which included standout items such as a signed Bob White book, casting lessons, handmade wooden fly boxes, and guided fishing trips. Thanks to generous member donations, this was one of our most successful auctions to date.

We also held our Board of Directors election during the meeting. While the board members remain the same, there has been a change in officers: Monta Hayner has stepped into the role of President, and I will continue to serve the club as Vice President. It has truly been an honor to serve as your President over the past year. This is an early callout. We are always looking for new board members to help steer our club and keep it healthy and active.

Looking ahead, we’re excited to plan more club activities this summer, including a bass outing near Faribault—hopefully with more cooperative weather this year—and a family/youth panfish event at a local park. We also intend to return to Linwood Park in Saint Paul for additional casting practice sessions.

We’ll resume our dinner meetings on October 21st, kicking off the 2025–2026 season with Brad Parsons, Chief of Fisheries at the Minnesota DNR, as our featured speaker.

Annual Stocking event with 3rd Graders into Divide Lake

Arrowhead Fly Fishers Club and DNR had a successful stocking event with the 3rd Graders from Silver Bay. Bucket by bucket the students deposited 200 Rainbow Trout into Divide Lake on May 14, 2025.



Paddle the Pads

- Paddle the Pads is back again this year! Mark your calendars for Saturday, August 16th, 2025, at Chambers Grove Park in Duluth on the St. Louis River from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. This is a great opportunity to get out on the water, fish with friends, and win some amazing prizes! This event is organized by the Gitchee Gumee Chapter of Trout Unlimited and the Arrowhead Fly Fishers (UMC-FFI affiliated).

- There will be a BBQ starting at 4 p.m. (after the tournament) that's **available to everyone!** so even if you aren't going to enter the tournament, we would love to see you after the event!

- This is a paddle-only **fly-fishing tournament**. Bring a fly rod and your kayak, canoe, drift boat, raft, kick boat, SUP, or anything else (waders) that you can fish from and join us for one of our favorite events of the year!

- **Tournament Details:**

- Entry Fee: \$30
- Date: Saturday, August 16th, 2025
- Tournament Time : 8am - 4pm
- BBQ and Prizes Time: 4pm - 8pm
- Location: [Chambers Grove pavillion](#)



1. **ENTRY FEE:** Entry fee for the Paddle The Pads event is \$30. Tickets may be purchased online at <https://gitchee-gumee-trout-unlimited.square.site/>, or in person at the event. There will be no refunds unless the event is canceled due to weather. The tournament will start at 8 am and end at 4 pm.
2. **PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY:** a. Participation is open to those 14 years of age or older. b. Participants in the Paddle the Pads event waive their legal right to hold the provider legally responsible for any injuries of damages resulting from risks inherent in the sport or recreation opportunity.
3. **SAFETY:** Safety is paramount, and anglers must recognize that; Fishing from an open boat is inherently dangerous. We seek to limit those hazards with reasonable safety rules. a. Safe boat conduct must always be observed by competitors. Anglers must realize that riding in an open boat is inherently dangerous, and all safety precautions must be followed. b. Tournament officials may delay, shorten, restrict tournament waters, or cancel the start of an official tournament day due to bad weather or other factors that would endanger the safety of the competitors. c. In an emergency, competitors should call 911 immediately and notify tournament officials.
4. **SPORTSMANSHIP/CODE OF CONDUCT:** Anglers participating in the Paddle the Pads event shall observe this code of conduct and the applicable rules for the specific event in which he/she is participating. Anglers shall always professionally conduct themselves. Competitors are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety, and conservation. Maximum courtesy must always be practiced, especially regarding boating and angling near non-competitors. a. Laws: All competitors are bound by the prevailing statutes and regulations of the state(s) within which the tournament is being held, which includes a valid fishing license.

5. **TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:** This is a fly-fishing tournament. Participants must use fly rods, fly reels, fly lines, and artificial flies. No "live bait" or "prepared bait" is permitted during the competition. Only one rod and reel combination may be used at one time. All bass must be caught live and in a conventional sporting manner. a. Exceptions: Anglers can use spinning gear, but will not be eligible for prizes.

6. **WATERCRAFT** No motors are allowed during the tournament. Acceptable watercraft include kayaks, canoes, rafts, drift boats, pack rafts, belly boats, or other non-motorized watercraft. a. Exceptions: Motors may be used by a participant (if approved by a tournament official) for any participant who prefers to use one. That participant will not be eligible for prizes. b. Participants with trailers may launch their watercraft at the Fond Du Lac Campground or at Boy Scout Landing. Fond Du Lac Campground has limited parking available and charges \$5 for access to their boat launch.

7. **SCORING:** This is the longest bass (smallmouth bass, largemouth bass) tournament. Anglers will receive a tape measure during the morning of the fishing tournament. Any bass caught must have a picture taken with the tape measure and a unique identifier that clearly shows the length of the fish. All fish must be immediately released after a picture is taken. Pictures can be texted to 406-390-4150 along with the participant's name or your fish pictures can be shown to the judge at the end of the tournament.

8. **PRIZES:** a. Tournament prizes will be provided to the top 3 anglers with the longest bass.

