

Winter
2025



Photo courtesy Larry Olson

**UPPER MIDWEST COUNCIL PRESIDENT:
RAY MORRIS**

Hi to all Upper Midwest Council members of Fly Fishers International. Happy Holidays to our members and we hope that you had a good year of fly fishing and relaxation. I hope that you enjoy this season with your family and friends.

As this is the winter issue I'd like to take a few moments to reflect on the past year of 2025 and its impact on our sport and the conservation movement. These are trying times as many things dear to us are under fire from this new government. Water quality regulations and air pollution standards are under fire and there was an failed attempt to sell off Federally owned lands in sensitive areas. Federal agencies like the Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service and National Park Service were decimated by staffing and funding cuts. Government research into climate change was largely ended. It sounds bad and it is but there is a potential for change in 2026. Please read and follow on the challenges to conservation, water management, climate change and other potential adverse impacts on our sport and enjoyment. We all have the opportunity to change and challenge these threats to our sport and future.

In sad news, the Lew Jewett Charter Club in St. Paul had Bryan Croft, their President pass away unexpectedly. Mr. Croft in addition to his role as President also handled the social media of the club including the website and the communications software for the club. He was a jovial, upbeat and active member of the chapter and will be missed greatly.

Enjoy this time to travel to southern and distant fishing grounds. It is a great time to tie flies, look over your tackle and needs for 2026. With all the good things this time of the year brings please consider some of this challenges that we have before us.

Tight Lines,

Ray

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 BENEFIT THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE BUSZEK LIBRARY ON THE FFI WEBSITE.

**** It is now available for purchase 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.



COMING THIS OCTOBER '25
THE NEW
FLY OF THE MONTH

The Fly Tying Group has updated the “Fly of the Month”

Submissions will now be easy. Members from around the globe will be encouraged to share their favorite patterns.

You get better at tying flies by tying flies. Be a part of our community of tiers and send in your ideas and tie some flies.

Fish your creations or better yet, give them to a new fly fisher and have them catch their first fish on a fly you tied!

The first 12 months of submissions will have a chance to win (based on website traffic metrics) a new vise!

Here's what you need to do to submit a Fly:

Materials list

Numbered Step by Step instructions

Photo of each numbered step

Photo of completed fly

Your name and contact information

ALL SUBMISSIONS (AND QUESTIONS)
FOM.FTG@GMAIL.COM



Women Connect is planning Monthly zoom meeting through the winter months. The November 25 th, Is Tying For You, was a talk about getting into fly tying. The discussion resulted in organizing fly tying zooms starting the fourth Thursday of January. The first couple will be for anyone then followed by presentations for Women Connect members only. A great reason to extend your FFi Membership to include Women Connect for only \$20. The December 16th meeting will be the Annual Awards and Celebration. The topics for the Zoom meeting is advertised on the FFi Women Connect Facebook page. Keep an eye out for the January meeting.



Friends, Fun and Fishing sum up this year's Driftless Rendezvous. We got reacquainted with old friends and made new friends. We had a lot of fun fishing, talking fishing, cooking and eating together, playing a few games and doing yoga. Of course, each day centered around fishing. Some women fished in drift boats with guides, some in kayaks, but most walked and waded. We were lucky to have a very warm autumn. However, we were early for the usual peak of color.

Lyth's Random Thoughts

Happy Holidays everyone! If you live in the upper Midwest, you already know that winter has arrived with both snow and cold weather.

The Upper Midwest Council (UMC) is getting ready for the 2026 Great Waters Expo scheduled for March 13 – 15, 2026 at Hamlin University in St. Paul, MN. We are going to again have a booth along with the Lew Jewett Fly Fishers Club and we will be conducting free Casting Lessons for the attendees at the Expo for the entire weekend. It's a big deal for us and we hope to see as many of the UMC members at the Expo as possible.

The UMC has not found volunteers to organize the annual full weekend education program we offered before the pandemic. This was the Council's main source of income. We continue to have annual expenses such as insurance premiums, web site fees, booth fees for the Expo and fees associated with our membership communications activities and such. We are working to develop one day education classes to be held at a variety of locations within the UMC as membership building and fundraising activities.

I am asking the members of the UMC to consider providing us with a donation of funds to help us bridge the gap until we put this plan into action. Please consider joining me in providing a donation to the UMC. Donations can be made by a check mailed to:

Todd Heggstad, Treasurer

Upper Midwest Council

209 Snively Road

Duluth, MN 55803

These donations are tax deductible and will really help us at this time. Thanks for considering a donation and I hope you all have a wonderful Holiday season and a Happy New Year! I hope to see you in March at the Expo!

All the best,

Lyth Hartz

UMC Secretary

Lake Turnover: What Is It and Why Does It Happen?

Imagine that you're a fisherman who likes to spend his days on the lake. You've seen the turnover occur a few times and have been wondering if it's killed any fish in the area. You've also heard that it can have some pretty severe effects on fish populations, so you'd like to learn more about it.

In this article, we'll discuss what lake turnover is, why it happens, and what its effects are on fish populations.

What is Lake Turnover?



Lake turnover is an important process that happens in all bodies of water. It plays a crucial role in the health of aquatic ecosystems and can have a significant impact on fish populations. According to National Geographic, lake turnover is the process by which a body of water renews itself.

It occurs when the warmer, lighter water at the surface of the lake mixes with the colder, denser water at the bottom. This process is known as convection, and it happens in all lakes on a regular basis.

Why Does Lake Turnover Happen?

Lake turnover happens for a few reasons. The first is that it helps to oxygenate the water. As the warmer, lighter water at the surface mixes with the colder, denser water at the bottom, it brings oxygen down from the surface and circulates it throughout the entire lake.

This is important because it helps to keep the water clean and habitable for aquatic life. Another reason why lake turnover happens is that it helps to regulate the temperature of the water. As the colder, denser water from the bottom of the lake mixes with the warmer, lighter water at the surface, it helps to even out the temperature of the entire body of water.

This is important because it prevents the water from becoming too cold or too warm, which can be harmful to fish and other aquatic life. Finally, lake turnover helps to clean the sediment that has accumulated at the bottom of the lake. As the water mixes, it brings the sediment up from the bottom and circulates it throughout the entire body of water. This helps to keep the lake clean and clear.

What are the effects of lake turnover on fish populations?

The effects of lake turnover on fish populations can be both positive and negative. On the one hand, turnover helps to oxygenate the water and circulate nutrients, which is essential for the health of fish and other aquatic life. On the other hand, turnover can also be harmful to fish populations if it happens too frequently or if the water temperature changes too dramatically.

One of the most damaging effects of lake turnover is known as “thermal shock.” Thermal shock occurs when the water temperature changes too quickly and drastically. This can happen if the water temperature at the bottom of the lake is much colder than the water temperature at the surface.

When this happens, the fish can become stunned or even die. Another effect of lake turnover is known as “stratification.” Stratification occurs when the different layers of water in the lake do not mix completely.

This can happen if the water at the bottom of the lake is much colder than the water at the surface. When this happens, the fish can become stratified, which means that they are unable to move between the different layers of water. This can be harmful to fish because it prevents them from being able to access the oxygen and nutrients that they need to survive.

How can you tell if a lake has undergone turnover recently?

There are a few signs that can indicate that a lake has undergone turnover recently. The first is a change in the water temperature. If the water temperature at the surface of the lake is much colder than the water temperature at the bottom, it is likely that the lake has undergone turnover.

Another sign of recent turnover is a change in the water clarity. If the water is suddenly much clearer than it was before, it is likely that the lake has undergone turnover. Finally, a change in the fish population can also be a sign of recent turnover.

If there are suddenly fewer fish in the lake, it is likely that the lake has undergone turnover.

What are the signs that lake turnover has killed fish populations in the area?

The most obvious sign that lake turnover has killed fish populations in the area is a sudden and drastic decrease in the number of fish. If there are suddenly fewer fish in the lake, it is likely that the turnover has killed them. A change in the water clarity can also be a sign that lake turnover has killed fish populations.

If the water is suddenly much clearer than it was before, it is likely that the turnover has killed the algae and other aquatic life that was clouding the water.

What factors influence how often lake turnover occurs and how severe its effects are on fish populations?

There are a few factors that can influence how often lake turnover occurs and how severe its effects are on fish populations. One of these is the amount of rainfall in the area. If there is more rainfall, it can cause the water level in the lake to rise, which can trigger turnover.

Another factor that can influence turnover is the temperature of the air. If the air temperature is colder, it can cause the water at the bottom of the lake to cool down, which can trigger turnover. Finally, the size of the lake can also influence how often turnover occurs.

If the lake is small, it will turn over more frequently than if it is large. This is because the smaller the lake, the more quickly the water temperature can change. All of these factors can influence how often lake turnover occurs and how severe its effects are on fish populations.

Are there any measures that can be taken to mitigate the effects of lake turnover on fish populations?

There are a few measures that can be taken to mitigate the effects of lake turnover on fish populations. One of these is to add aeration to the lake. This can help to keep the water oxygenated and prevent fish from becoming disoriented.

Another measure that can be taken is to stock the lake with more fish. This can help to offset the loss of fish that may occur during a turnover. Finally, it is important to monitor the lake for signs of turnover.

This can help to ensure that measures are taken quickly to mitigate the effects of turnover on fish populations.

Conclusion

Lake turnover can be harmful to fish populations, but it is possible to take steps that will reduce the impact of turnover on local aquatic life. We hope this article has given you a better understanding of what causes lake turnover and how its effects may be mitigated in your own community. For more information about these topics or for help with mitigating the impacts of lake turnover, please contact your local extension office.

Article credit - Nature Nibble

Chris "Vinny" Vincent
FFI Board of Directors-
Conservation VP
Upper Midwest Council
[920.660.6834](tel:920.660.6834)
5grizzlys@reagan.com

Fly Fishing Women of Minnesota



www.flyfishingwomenmn.com

<https://www.facebook.com/flyfishingwomenofmn/>

Promoting Personal Enrichment for Women Through Fly Fishing

In November, the Fly Fishing Women of Minnesota club held its annual Fall Member Meeting, welcoming new and old members alike. It was a great evening to gather at the Urban Growler, a women-owned brewpub in St. Paul to celebrate the community we've built and honoring the club's roots. Our guest speaker Linda Radimecky spoke about the origins and history of our club as well as her work with the Minnesota DNR's Becoming an Outdoors Woman program. Her "historic" PowerPoint was a particular highlight soliciting a chuckle or two at our younger selves and fond memories of members who have passed.

The evening's agenda included a regular business update and a look back at the many events held in 2025 which included fly tying nights, casting and streamside clinics, our annual retreat to Viroqua, WI, bass and steelhead camps with our partners at Fly Fishing for All and a few social events as well. Our club's mission is Promoting Personal Enrichment for Women Through Fly Fishing which was facilitated for some of our newer members at the evening's gear swap. The gear swap is a one way for our new members to find essential gear for a great price, which benefits our club and gets beginners equipped and out on the water. Our annual Fall Member Meeting brings our members together to collectively celebrate the milestones and achievements of the year and inspires us with ideas for new trips and new fish in the coming season. To learn more about what we do at Fly Fishing Women of Minnesota, find us on Instagram!



UPPER MIDWEST COUNCIL CHAPTER AND AFFILIATE NEWS AND HAPPENINGS



The Lew Jewett Club's dinner meetings begin in the fall. Our first dinner meeting was on October 21st at Josephs Grill. It was great to see everyone and hear stories of their fishing and other news since April. Our guest speaker was Brad Parsons, Fisheries Chief of the Minnesota DNR. He gave general details about fisheries across Minnesota. He admitted he was more of a lake angler when he gets a chance. He mentioned that the state is looking into expanding the small mouth bass season to year-round. Many other states have done this. The department manages the fisheries for both catch and keep and catch and release. He pointed out if you catch a fish deep in a lake you should keep it because bringing it up to the surface can harm the fish.

The Chili Fest

We had a wonderful event this fall on October 26th in Monticello along the Mississippi River. The weather was beautiful for the Chili Fest. The chili was great, and the company was even better.



Our December 16th dinner meeting will feature our own Larry Olson. Larry will be speaking about the new FFI Fly Tying Group book, Fly Tying for All Fish All Waters. And the many conversations he had with some of the best fly tiers in the world while working on the book. He will expound on the resources and tools available for new and experienced tiers online at the FFI website and specifically the Fly-Tying Group.

[https://www.flyfishersinternational.org/Product/fly-tying-for-all-fish-all-waters.](https://www.flyfishersinternational.org/Product/fly-tying-for-all-fish-all-waters)

We are working with Mend Provisions to have a fly tying event at the store in late January.

Arrowhead Fly Fishers Club events

January, February and March 2026

All are welcome

January 20th: WI and MN DNR staff share the latest reports and studies for the Arrowhead region. Monthly meeting at Boomtown, starting at 6 PM.

February 1st: Annual IF4 Film Festival. See the details at <https://flyfilmfest.com/duluthmn/>

January 10th, February 14th and March 14th: Fly Tying Sessions at Harrison Center 11am-2pm

January 8th and 15th: Introduction to Beginning Fly Tying through Proctor Community Education program

March and April: Introduction to Fly Fishing through Proctor Community Education program

