



Summer  
2026



MISSISSIPPI RIVER SUNSET

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## Lyth's Random Thoughts

### Consider using Golf Techniques to Improve your Fly Fishing and Fly Casting

Most fly fishers that I know, only fly fish, and while they will get better over time, there are techniques that golfers use that can shorten the learning curve for better casting and fishing.

Very few golfers only play golf. They also go to the driving range to work on various golf techniques like; driving, chipping and putting. As a result, they improve their game and when they are at the driving range, they will usually work on specific techniques they want to improve in their game. Some even hire a golf pro and take swing lessons.

Fly fishers should consider doing the same.

- Practice casting when you are not fishing. Fishing requires your focused attention on fishing while practicing casting also requires your attention, but on the casting.
- Practice at a park on grass if you can, which will make the other suggestions make sense to you.
- Set up targets and use a tape measure to set them out at various distances. That will let you know how far you are casting and how accurate you are.
- Practice different fishing scenarios like; casting in the wind, casting with obstructions behind you, casting slack line casts, curve your casts around your targets, casting accurately at different distances etc.
- Practice frequently but not for a long time at any one session. I suggest 20 to 40 minutes at a time, frequently.
- If you can, try to take videos of your casting. They will likely reveal issues that you cannot see from your vantage point.

- Consider hiring a Certified Casting Instructor to help you. They will be able to see things that are difficult for you to see.
- The FFI can be a tremendous resource: On the FFI Website ([flyfishersinternational.org](http://flyfishersinternational.org)) you can locate a Certified Casting Instructor and review the FFI casting program called “Fly Casting Skills Development” (FCSD). The FCSD is a well thought out progression of casting skills all related to actual fishing situations. A thorough review of the FCSD can help you with your practices.

Give these suggestions a try and I think you will enjoy your fishing more.

Lyth Hartz

FFI Certified Casting Instructor





**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**

## Drift Boat Buffalo Hunting

American Bison are not now roaming our rivers. These Buffalo are the native, Big Mouth Buffalo, you can seek out on the Mississippi right here in Minnesota.

It was the approaching summer solstice and with an amazingly long time to be on the water, fellow Lew Jewetter, Greg Winters and I headed out to the Mississippi to do a float with guide, Caleb Corona. It was a beautiful, partly cloudy day in the high 70's and with some recent rain the water levels were up.

Big Mouth Buffalo look like a carp but are actually part of the sucker family, grow quite large and even have life spans over 100 years. Caleb sought outside pools of flat water with lots of vegetation. These fish are filter feeders, and you look for their mouths breaking the surface. You then pick out a likely target and either hit it right where they are feeding or close enough to pull the fly to the right spot. In my opinion (I am not a guide) I don't think the actual pattern was the key. The fly had to float well, be visible, probably look tasty and have a very stout hook. Caleb had on a Hopper type pattern that did the trick.

You do have to be very stealthy and look for "happy" feeding fish. They can spook easily. Caleb caught a monster and I caught a 15lb brute that was one of the biggest fish I have ever taken on a fly rod. This was stellar fishing to a native species, on a beautiful watershed and we had the river to ourselves. We are all blessed to be able to fish in the Upper Midwest.

Larry Olson









## Iowa Driftless Rendezvous

Join the FFi Upper Midwest Council & FFi Women Connect this fall for our 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Women's Driftless Rendezvous! This event will be held in the heart of the Iowa Driftless. This area is known for its expansive trout habitat and beautiful, deeply carved river valleys with pristine spring creeks. This is an event hosted by women, for women! Registration includes food & lodging; all other travel/transportation, licensing, and guide trips are at your own expense.

**Monday Oct. 12 - Sunday Oct. 18, 2026**

Where: Bear Creek Cabins, Highlandville, Iowa

<https://www.bearcreekcabinsia.com/>

**To Register:**

Info & registration will be posted on: [umcffi.org/women-connect/](http://umcffi.org/women-connect/) and other regional women's fishing groups.

You can also contact [womenconnect.UMC.ffi@gmail.com](mailto:womenconnect.UMC.ffi@gmail.com).



Payment will be handled through Eventbrite.

This year's rendezvous is located in Highlandville, Iowa, just 4 miles south of the Minnesota border. We will provide fishing maps and will orient you to Iowa's nearly 100 cold-water trout streams, 40 of which are naturally producing. We have events planned throughout the week which could include: conservation, casting skills development, Driftless ecology & entomology, and of course, lots of fishing!!! Here's a YouTube channel to peak you interest. 70 videos of fishing the Iowa Driftless!!

<https://www.youtube.com/@FLYALLSZN/search?query=iowa%20Driftless>

**Getting there:** Flights into Des Moines (DSM), Minneapolis (MSP) or Rochester (RST) airports.

**What to bring:** 4-5wt rod/reel with floating line, rubber soled boots & waders, net, polarized sunglasses.

**Pricing & Package Info:**

**LODGING:** Bear Creek Cabins - We have reserved 2 large duplexes for the week that each sleep 7 people. The duplexes have a connecting door. Each duplex has a kitchen, 2 bathrooms, a living and family room, a large covered deck, and patio with firepit. We have also reserved a cabin for the weekend of Oct 16-18 that sleeps 4 people.

**PRICING** includes all food and lodging. Everyone will have their own bed. Participants will help with food prep & clean up throughout the week. Not included: guide fees, tips, licensing, transportation, alcohol. You will be responsible for bringing your own fishing gear (4-5 wt rods w/ floating line recommended). **Individual participant pricing for the 2026 trip is as follows:**

<b>PRICING: Includes Bed, all Meals, and Swag</b>				
People in the lofts share a bath with the Main or Lower Level. Towels & linens are provided.				
	<b>Main Level</b>	<b>Lofts</b>		<b>Lower Level</b>
North Bear	Private Room \$770	Full Bed \$520	Twins Bed (3) \$445	Private Room \$770
				Twin Roll-away \$445
	Shared Bath			Shared Bath
South Bear	Private Room \$770	1 Full Bed \$520	3 twins \$445	Private Room \$770
				Twin Roll-away \$445
	Shared Bath			Shared Bath
Highland View - F & Sat nights (10/16-17)	4 beds \$255			

# UPPER MIDWEST COUNCIL CHAPTER AND AFFILIATE



This summer Lew Jewett Fly Fishers is having their usual Informal Casting Lessons at Linwood Park on St. Claire Ave in St. Paul. We got off to a quick start with seven students on the first evening of casting, Wednesday June 10th. The weather had us a little worried, but the storms finished just before the class began. However, one of the instructors ran into hail on his way to the class. We invited a couple of new teachers. Mike Fisher of Mend Provisions and Tom Kalgren, a returning club member. Mike has helped to advertise the lessons through the store's social media account. Last year a few of those students joined our club. We have four regular Instructors who help teach at most of the casting evenings. They are Lyth Hartz (CI) Monta Hayner (CI), John McCain (MCI), and Ivan Steif (MCI). Sometime Bill Hinton (CI, MCI THCI) helps as well. We will be holding classes on the following dates as long as the weather is good: Tuesday June 16th, Wednesday June 24th, Wednesday July 15th, Tuesday July 21st and Wednesday July 29th.

For our next event I checked out the river level last week. The river looked good, though a little muddy but it was raining. I look forward to see everyone at the following event.

## **First Annual Bryan Croft Memorial Bass Fishing Picnic**

Friday, June 26, 2026

Cannon River Wilderness Area, 151St. E, Faribault, MN

9 am Casting Lesson for those who feel they need a touch up.

10:00 – 10:30 meet and Greet

10:30 – 11:00 am talk on Small Mouth Bass Techniques

11:00 – 1:00 Pair up to fish

Lunch 1:00 – 2:00

Can continue to fish if you wish. RSVP to [lew.jewett@gmail.com](mailto:lew.jewett@gmail.com) for Lunch by Tuesday June 23rd.



## Happenings with Arrowhead Fly Fishing Club

Join Todd Heggestad CASTING PRACTICE on Thursdays: June thru August 13, 2026

6:00-8:00 pm. Come for any or all of the time.

Field next to Homecroft Elementary School on Howard Gnesen Road.



**Fish for Bass Management and Science** from mid-July to mid-August. You fish for bass on the Upper Cloquet River downstream of Langlade River Rd to the top of Island Lake and take measurements and scales, log the location, etc. to help DNR make decisions on management of the resource. Currently, MN DNR gave Peder 200 envelopes which would mean catching 200 fish!. Fish on your own or join AFF. Get envelopes from Peder, contact at woollybugger@charter.net.

9 AM on July 11th at Indian Lake Campground for volunteers that are interested in fishing on the river as a group. Fish from canoes or wading. AFF will explain the sampling and provide shuttles. Peder will write up a page on what is involved with details on stretches of the river and where they can be accessed. Email Peder if coming on July 11th to fish for bass. woollybugger@charter.net

### **Temperature Loggers are in the rivers**

Volunteers put Temperature Loggers in the following rivers: Gooseberry River, French River, Civet Creek, Otter River, Red River, West Branch of the Cloquet River and the Uskabwanka. All of the loggers will be taken out in October. DNR uses the data for decisions based on temperature of the rivers for the summer.

**Paddle the Pads is back again this year!** Mark your calendars for Saturday, August 29th, 2026 at Chambers Grove 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 Gitche Gume Chapter of Trout Unlimited and the Arrowhead Fly Fishers. 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. So bring a fly rod and your kayak, canoe, drift boat, raft, kick boat, SUP, or anything else that floats 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 29th, 2026 - Tournament: 8am - 4pm

Check Arrowhead Website for more information \*\*