



# Arrowhead Fly Angler

August 2012

[www.arrowheadflyfishers.com](http://www.arrowheadflyfishers.com)



### Guess where!

Each newsletter there will be a photo from a club member. You try to guess where it was taken. There will be a prize for who guesses correctly first.

email to:

[Arrowheadflyfishers@aol.com](mailto:Arrowheadflyfishers@aol.com)

Didn't guess the photo location?  
You can still contribute by emailing

your photo for the contest. Congratulations to Todd Heggstad for guessing the last issue's photo. ST. Louis River near Thompson, (weeks before the BIG rain).

*submitted photos are available for use by the Arrowhead Fly Angler and Arrowhead Fly Fishers club*

### What's up? At a glance

#### August 11 and 12th, 2012

Bass Camp on the ST. Croix river near Grantsburg.

#### September 18, 2012

Monthly meeting. Presentation TBA.

#### September 30, 2012

Close of Minnesota inland trout season.

#### September 30, 2012

Close of Wisconsin inland trout season.

#### October 6, 2012

Fall Banquet at the Proctor Community Center. Elections to the board and a chili feed and/or wild game appetizers. Food prepared by Fred Broman.

#### November, 2012

Specific dates for the 7th Annual Brule River Steelhead Rendezvous to follow.

#### December 18, 2012

Holiday Banquet



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## AFF Women's Retreat in Brule

I rediscovered my love for fly fishing this summer on the AFF women's trip! Even though I bought my first fly rod when I was sixteen years old, I had not picked one up in several years. Someone had told me about the trip last year and what a fantastic time it was. I decided to take a chance and sign up, in spite of not knowing a single soul. Fortunately, the ladies got together for a planning day in early June to practice knots, tie a few flies, and brush up our casting skills preceding the Friday, June 29th – Sunday July 1st outing.

We had spectacular weather the entire weekend! Friday we spent the day fishing for trout from canoes while floating down the Brule River. I was soaking it all in: the sun, the company, and that feeling of having a fish on the line again. Later in the day, after catching a (minnow size) brown trout, I was informed that I had a "grand slam" for the day. Being unfamiliar with that term I learned it was because I had caught at least one of each species of trout: rainbow, brook, and brown. Needless to say, I caught many fish that day!

Saturday we again fished from canoes, but on a small inland lake called "XXXX XXXXX"(name removed by editor). I caught several bluegill and largemouth bass this day and went for a refreshing swim at lunchtime to cool down from the afternoon heat. Although I was tempted to bring a few fish back to fillet up for dinner, the ladies dissuaded me as it was a "catch and release" lake and many of the fish were tagged.

In the evening we enjoyed fantastic meals together, had enjoyable conversation around bon fires, and were entertained by rousing games of Bocce Ball. The group parted ways on Sunday morning and a handful of us went down to wade-fish in the Brule. It was a beautiful spot and a perfect way to cool off and wind down an overall outstanding weekend.

Joy Zasadny



## Chambers Grove Picnic

There were several AFF members that braved the weather on Tuesday, June 19, 2012 at the Chambers Grove Pavillion. Little did those in attendance know that the break in the clouds and rain for the evenings potluck and conversation was the lull before the storm. Later that evening and the next day the Arrowhead region sustained the worst flooding in history.



Fred Broman and his wife once again did a wonderful job preparing food for the grill. The potluck food included fruit, potato salads, and an assortment of cookies and bars. While the cool temps and wet conditions lead to the cancellation of the casting games, the fellowship and conversation was a winner.

## Board of Directors Update

The AFF Board of Directors is pursuing a change to the format of the Fall Banquet this year and would like to inform the membership. We will be moving the Fall Banquet to the Proctor Community Center to be held on Saturday October 6, 2012. This year's Fall Banquet will include the usual elections to the board but also include a chili feed and/or wild game appetizers. Fred Broman has agreed to prepare the food for the membership and will be making the food preparations the day before in the Proctor Community Center's spacious kitchen. Please also bring a potluck item. The cost of the Fall Banquet will be \$5.00 for members and \$15.00 for non members.

The Board of Directors wants to recognize and thank Joe Nowak for his years of service in coordinating the Fall Banquet. The Fall Banquet has been held at the Pine Valley Ski Chalet for years with Joe gathering numerous items for the raffle. Joe, as one of the founding members of the Arrowhead Fly Fishers, has indeed been an important member of the club. We hope that the spirit of the Fall Banquet that Joe has created can continue with new and, hopefully, expanded activities.

## New Council President

The Upper Midwest Federation of Fly Fishers Council has been revitalized. FFF president Philip Greenlee visited Minnesota this past spring during the Great Waters Expo. His mission was to reorganize the Upper Midwest Council. The council has sat vacant of board members for several years. The council was called the Great Rivers Council. A board of directors was put together and the Arrowhead Fly Fisher's very



own past president Todd Heggstad has taken on the role of President of the newly revitalized Upper Midwest Council. The Councils of the International Federation of Fly Fishers are vital to the local clubs they encompass. The councils fund education and development for the local clubs along with funding for conservation projects and regional conclaves and gatherings. We can expect new announcements as our council becomes active again. Our fellow states are: Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, North and South Dakota.

## Hex Camp, July 7-8 2012

The Hex camp Banquet was held this year in Grand Marais at the downtown public campground. People that were present were Karl and Joanne Kaufman, Gary and Ruthie (new members), Rueben Swenson, Mark Lund, Paul Anderson, Tom Hardell, Dave Asproth, John and Pat Connolly.

The participants fished on both sides of the Banquet date. It didn't seem to make a difference because this was really a down year for catching trout at this time of the year in the Gunflint area. The weather was very hot during the day with cool nights.



## From the Banks of the Midway ...

# Gone Fishin'

*catch ya next newsletter*

# 2012 Federation of Fly Fishers Fair

T o d d H e g g e s t a d

July 12-14  
Spokane, WA

I had the opportunity to travel to the 2012 International Federation of Fly Fishers Fair held in Spokane Washington this July. The fair headquarters was at the Red Lion Hotel for the first few days and then at the Spokane Convention Center. Casting events were held at Gonzaga University. All of these places were within easy walking distance.



For me, as a FFF member, a fly casting enthusiast, and a new council president, the fair proved to offer a full palate of events and activities. There were all sorts of classes and workshops, probably over 100 fly tiers and lots fly fishing vendors. One of the more interesting classes I took was how to plan your own trip to the Patagonia area of Chile. There were guided trips to local rivers near Spokane as well as to the Cour d'Alene area in nearby Idaho. There were raffles and an auction. The annual FFF Awards banquet was held with a steak dinner.

I actually arrived a few days prior to the fair to meet with several other council presidents. It offered me a chance to learn and talk with those that have had successful regional councils. It was interesting to me that some FFF councils have been going strong for 30 years, such as the Oregon Council. Others are in the development stage, like the Upper Midwest Council,

but a few years ahead. Some have to cover huge geographic areas, whereas others consist of one state. The bottom line message was that the FFF councils are there to help the individual clubs and to create a unity between clubs in their regions.

I attended several boards of directors meetings in order to learn as much as I could. I attended the full FFF Board of Directors meeting, the Fly Tiers BOD meeting, the Casting BOD meeting, the FFF Foundation BOD meeting and the Conservation BOD meeting. By the end of all those meetings I had had



enough of meetings, but it was a valuable experience to see the inner workings of the Federation. And, everyone I met was very cordial. It was like a reunion of friends who have become a large fly fishing family. The Minnesota connection was with my friends Lyth Hartz and Ivan Strief from the Lew Jewett club and a new friendship with Paul Beckman, a fly tier extraordinaire, also from the Lew Jewett club.

I did get to fish while at the fair. During those days prior to the fair I travelled to the Clark Fork River for a drift boat float and then wade fished the St Regis River. Both rivers were just wonderful.

I would encourage anyone with an interest to consider going to the FFF Fair next year. It will be held in West Yellowstone again, probably the third week of August (the exact dates yet to be confirmed). The FFF fair offers anything and everything that a fly fisher could want to see or do.



Todd Heggestad has been a certified casting instructor since 2010. Todd is the Treasurer of the AFF, and President of the Upper Midwest FFF Council. Todd can be reached at [thehgestad57@gmail.com](mailto:thehgestad57@gmail.com)

### Why are there so many fly lines?

So, I thought I would go fishing with a fly down at the river's edge one day. I gathered up my fly rod, my fly box full of hand tied flies, and my fly vest with all the gadgets and tools. Then I went to select a fly line that would be best suited to my quest. Do I use the double taper line or a weight forward line? Should I go for the weight forward line with a short taper or a long taper? Maybe it would be best to use a sinking line to get the fly down to the fish?

Actually, selecting a fly line can be as simple as fishing with what you have to immersing yourself into the hundreds of possible fly lines. There are fly lines that serve as general purpose lines that will work with multiple fishing situations. And then there are specialty lines for specific fish species, lines for different types of water, lines for accuracy vs distance. The fly fishing catalogs have pages and pages of fly lines to choice from.

To better understand fly lines lets first look at the anatomy of a fly line. A fly line has a tip, front taper, belly (or body), rear taper, and running line. The front taper, belly, and rear taper sections are referred to as the head of the fly line. Each of these sections can be of different lengths depending on how you want the line to perform. The tip section is a short section of 6 to 12 inches and serves the purpose of easing the energy of the cast to the leader. Note the word energy. The action of casting a fly line is all about energy. The energy of casting a weighted line (fly line), in part, is influenced by the characteristics of the fly line sections. The front taper determines how quickly the fly turns over when cast. A short taper of a few feet will tend to turn a fly over quickly as the casting energy will be concentrated and result in a more forceful presentation of the fly. A longer front taper will dissipate the casting energy and allow a more graceful landing of the fly on the water. As you can imagine a larger fly such as a bass bug might work best with the shorter front taper and a size 18 Adams dry fly would be best suited for a longer front taper.

The next section of the fly line is the belly. The belly can be a variety of lengths and basically carries the kinetic energy of the cast. Longer bellied fly lines will allow more line to be carried outside the rod tip. If you anticipate needing to do a lot of roll casting in your fishing a line with a longer belly will aid in better roll casts. The next section is the rear taper. The purpose of the rear taper is to allow a transition of the energy from the head section (front taper, belly, and rear taper) to the running line. And then the running line, which is usually a thinner section of line, allows you to shoot or cast the line for distance.

Head lengths vary based on the casting stroke, the rod flex, and the type of fishing. For long distance casting in which you need to present the fly over 50 feet, and longer

head length would be beneficial. In particular, a longer belly would "carry" the energy of the casting stroke allowing a longer distance cast. A fishing situation where the typical cast is 30 feet or less could do with a short head length. Slower action rods, which tend to lead to a longer casting stroke, are better suited to a line with a longer head. While fast action rods may be more suited to shorter fly line head sections. Personal preference is also is part of selection for your rod flex type.

The running line is just as important as the head sections. It is sometimes referred to as the shooting line depending on how it is connected to the weight forward head section. The running line is a smaller diameter line giving it less resistance and plays an important part in how the fly is presented. A longer head section allows the caster to present the fly through false casting. A shorter head section allows the caster to shoot the running line to the target. In both cases the same target is reached by a different casting method based on the construction of the line.

So, my fishing outing to the river's edge also includes a consideration for the type of fly line I have on my reel. When buying a new fly line it helps to write down on a slip of paper the lengths of the fly line sections and keep it with the spool. Knowing the fly lines profile when fishing helps me know how to make the most effective use of the fly line for the type of fly used and the casting stroke.



Todd Heggstad has been a certified casting instructor since 2010. Todd is the Treasurer of the AFF, and President of the Upper Midwest FFF Council. Todd can be reached at [theggstad57@gmail.com](mailto:theggstad57@gmail.com)

Remember the AFF has 5 and 6 wt. rods for members to check out for a 2 week period by placement of a deposit. Contact any board member for details.

If you have a casting question email it to:

[Arrowheadflyfishers@aol.com](mailto:Arrowheadflyfishers@aol.com)

# Who we are

The Arrowhead Fly Fishers is a group of men and women dedicated to promoting fly angling of all types and to preserving fisheries throughout the Arrowhead region.

## What we offer:

- Interesting meeting topics
- Formal casting instruction
- Stream improvement projects
- Group fishing adventures
- Fly tying sessions
- Fellowship and Fun



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## Board of Directors

President: Karl Kaufman 218-879-9492 [jkkaufman@mchsi.com](mailto:jkkaufman@mchsi.com)

Vice President: Larry Zelenz 507-382-7793  
[larry.zelenz@gmail.com](mailto:larry.zelenz@gmail.com)

Secretary: Phil Johnson 218-879-3206  
[discophil61@gmail.com](mailto:discophil61@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Todd Heggstad 218-310-9182 [Theggstad57@gmail.com](mailto:Theggstad57@gmail.com)

Banquet Director: OPEN

Publications Director: Paul Bartlam 218-390-0764 [pbartlam@aol.com](mailto:pbartlam@aol.com)

Membership Director: Kathy Lansing 218-310-0855 [naturegirl669@gmail.com](mailto:naturegirl669@gmail.com)

Conservation/Education Director: Laura Jensen 218-590-6249 [jens0619@gmail.com](mailto:jens0619@gmail.com)



“Rivers and the inhabitants of the watery elements are made for wise men  
to contemplate”

-Isaac Walton

# Arrowhead Fly Fishers Membership Form

Dues are payable in January

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Membership Type:

Individual—\$15

Family—\$20

New Member

Renewing Member

Return to: Arrowhead Fly Fishers  
209 Snively Rd.  
Duluth, MN. 55803



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Duluth, MN. 55803