

THE LOOP



Andy Kitson, Editor
Eric Wroblewski, Asst. Editor

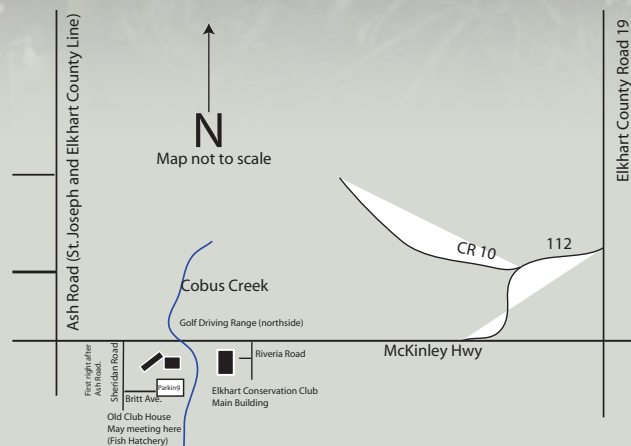


Wednesday, 6:00
PM May 18 at Elkhart
Conservation Club at
the Little Building

THE SPRING OUTING!

May Outing at the Little Building of the Elkhart Conservation Club.

This May's meeting will again be held at the Elkhart Conservation Club's small building. The club will provide food and there will be a FREE raffle. Make sure to bring a rod with you (3 wt.) if you would like to do some fishing on site at Cobus Creek. We will also have fly tying and casting demos, and of course, a guest speaker. Hope to see you there!





AMAZING APRIL

April was an excellent for the club. It started with a record-setting auction with a generous donation of \$6,634.00. Thanks to all who contributed to the success; those who donated items, those who purchased items and all those who worked the room. A special thanks to Jim Lothary for his hard work to top each year's goal. Many of you don't know, but Jim starts working vendors, guides and such by asking for donations several months before the actual auction. Thanks Jim. This success will keep the club going with great outings, educational programs and great speakers. Thanks all for the contributions.

April brought us the ongoing tradition of Opening Day of Trout Season; which the club celebrates at the LaBar Farm in Cassopolis on the beautiful Dowagiac Creek. It is a tradition like no other. For those new to the club it is a "must-see" event and tradition worth attending. I am glad to hear many new members were at Opening Day. For those who missed it, including me, plan on attending next year.

It is not so much about the fishing that day; it is about the celebration of Trout and excitement and expectation of what it brings during the warmer days of summer in the great state of Michigan and Northern Indiana. While the last day of September, the trout season closer, is a long way away it seems like the clock is ticking. For me, during next five months, time will be measured in mayfly hatches. Too many rivers, too little time...pictures to follow.

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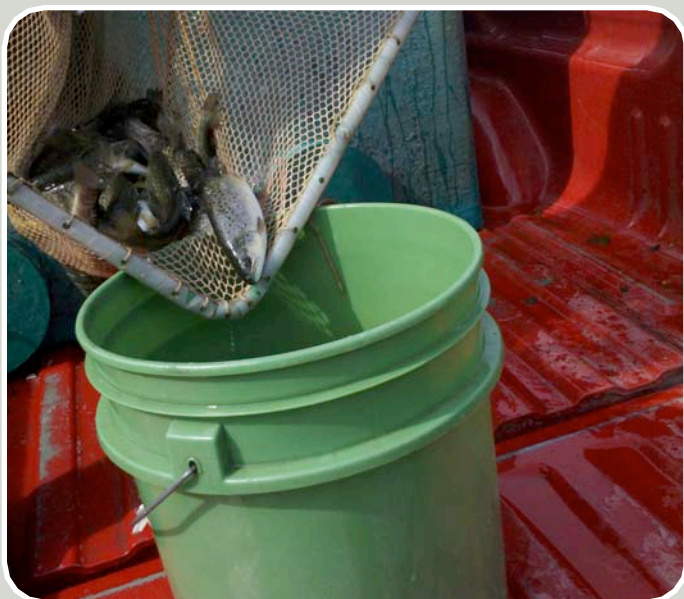


MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME!

Membership renewal dues can be paid at the club meetings or by mail to:

SJRVFF
P.O. Box 933
South Bend, IN 46624

- The dues are \$20.00 for individuals and \$35.00 for a family membership. We would like to get all the renewals processed before the end of January 2011 so that membership cards and club rosters can be distributed in March.
- Anyone who joined the club after September 1st, 2010 is automatically covered for the year 2011.



RELEASE THE BROWNS!!!

Over 500 brown trout were released into the Little Elkhart River System on May 9. The trout were spread throughout the Catch and Release stretch of the river, near Middlebury, IN, by members of Little Elkhart Chapter of Trout Unlimited. For more information on and where to fish for these feisty browns, visit <http://lectu.org/>

OPENING DAY OUTING



Opening Day NOT Dampened by Foul Weather

Well, another Opening Day Outing is record books.

I was glad to see everyone that came out. I had a great time and I believe everyone else did as well. Terry Jacobsen was our big winner this year for the opening day raffle.

Terry won a guided trip for two with Kevin Feenstra.

Congrats Terry! I would like to thank Bobbie Labar for once again allowing us to have our outing at her home. Bobbie's

Another
Outstanding
Opener!!

graciousness and hospitality are unmatched.

Thanks Bobbie! I would also like to thank Terry Wittorp for providing some awesome deep fried turkey and baked beans, Tim Pote for assisting with the opening day raffle, and Dick Koch for his help with the outing. Thanks Guys! Your help is what made the outing a success.

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CASTAPALOOZA 2011



Jerry Darkes, of Scott Rod, put on a great Spey casting clinic at the very rainy Castapalooza on April 16th.

Jerry will be back for a spey rod class later this year. More information to follow.

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timelscott@yahoo.com
janar3@sbcglobal.net
dustinnew@sbcglobal.net
waterbend@comcast.net
mhaley@dbacks.com
timpscrap@gmail.com
rasler@gmail.com
hdyman58@sbcglobal.net
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574-289-6392
 574-259-1615
 574-299-4914
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Committee Chairpersons

Conservation John Law
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jtlaw9@hotmail.com
bafortin@verizon.net
m3plus2@hotmail.com
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hawksglen2@earthlink.net
rasler@gmail.com

574-266-4354
 574-825-3623
 574-522-0735
 574-220-0763
 574-272-2101
 574-238-1186

SJRVFF

PO Box 933

South Bend, IN 46624-0933

sjrvff@yahoo.com

The Loop is published the 2nd Wednesday of the month, September through May. If you have story, article ideas, photo, artwork, fish envy, or need to get something off you chest, you contact me at:
 574-238-1186 or akitson@imagemill.net

30 DAYS OF TROUT

by A.Kitson

I was fortunate enough to do business with the late Rusty Gates. Over the years, Rusty gave me A LOT of advice on the art of fly fishing, and I regret not taking better notes.

I once asked Rusty when his favorite time of the year to fish, and without hesitation, he said that everyone should fish as much as possible from May 15 to June 15. Over the past several years, I have taken Rusty's advice...With great results!

If you like to fish for trout in small streams (and if you don't, why are you reading this rag??) do yourself a favor and get out and fish the local waters this late spring! The recent colder than usual weather is setting this "30 Days of Trout" up to be outstanding... And I can't wait.

One other piece of advice... Keep a journal. A detailed journal... Not just "I caught an 8" brown on a size 16 Adams" but what was the weather doing, what was the temperature, what was the water level and clarity? I even like to look at the plant life and make notes of what stages they are in.

One more thing, don't stop fishing when it get's dark. Some of the best hatches of the night occur just after dusk, and with our wonderful time change, you can easily fish until 10:30 or all night with a good moon!

Now... Get out there and fish... and drop me a line and let me know how you do!! Maybe it will make it into *The Loop*! Hope to see you out there!



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