

# THE LOOP



Andy Kitson, Editor



Wednesday,  
Sept. 21 at The Sixth  
Floor of the Ramada,  
Downtown South  
Bend.

## SJRFFF WELCOMES BRIAN PITSER

### Owner Of Northern Angler Fly Shop

Brian Pitser has been a fly fishing guide and instructor in Michigan since 1996. In May of 2010 he took over ownership of a fly shop in Traverse City, MI, The Northern Angler Fly Shop and Outfitters where his passion for fly fishing is apparent from the flies to the fly fishing gear for all types of fly fishing. His past experience as a fly fishing industry sales representative for such companies as Simms, Sage, Umpqua, Fishpond, Scientific Anglers and Redington has definitely come in handy for running a retail business and guide service. Brian enjoys all aspects of life in Northern Michigan from trout fishing, hiking, biking, upland bird hunting, winter sports and water sports.

Brian lives in Interlochen, MI with his wife, Deanna and children Logan and Lily.



Brian Pitser



**Welcome back.** It seems it was an unassuming summer. Nothing stood out as a defining moment to me about this fly fishing season. There were no record fish, nor any spectacular event or story just a quiet and nice summer. The hard, cold winter took its toll on the larger smallies in the river. It seems the big fish numbers are down...and smaller fish taking the fly – or it could be just me.

While unassuming, any time on the water is good. The highlight this year was hanging out with Bear Andrews and chasing Traverse Bay Carp with him. This is fast becoming my passion.

It seems it was an unassuming summer for the club as well; but as Jimmy Buffett would put it, “we were quietly making noise.” Each summer we continue to offer great events and educational programs to spread the message of fly fishing and club to the public. This summer members participated in Trout 101 and Smallie 101 classes; Wednesday night fishing all over Michiana; the much needed conservation work on the Dowagiac Creek, and the ever popular Smallmouth outing.

As a member of this club, spread the word, work to improve our environment, and quietly make your own noise.

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Tim Scott with an unassuming Golden Bone

## OCTOBER MEETING - JEFF "BEAR" ANDREWS

SJRVFF is pleased to bring back Jeff "Bear" Andrews. Michigan Native and one of the most inovative fly tyers of our time. Bear is always a wonderful speaker and club favorite. Be sure to mark your calander for October 19.



# HOT NEW S#!% (STUFF)

## the first of its kind. the reflect kanteen®



For years, we've put our heart and soul into creating healthy, sustainable alternatives to plastic. We're proud of our place in history as the maker of the first BPA-free metal bottle. Since then Klean Kanteen has been often imitated, but never duplicated.

**The first of its kind.** The Reflect is crafted using just sustainably harvested bamboo, food-grade silicone and stainless steel. Beautiful in its simplicity and deliberate in its design, what you don't see on the Reflect is as important as what you do. No paint. No plastic. Just three materials united to create the ultimate expression of our ongoing crusade to change the way people think and drink.



**RUMOR:**  
After Breaking  
Countless Rods, John  
Has Switched to  
Noodling.



Nikon has finally added a rugged point-and-shoot to its lineup. The Coolpix AW100 is a water-proof, shock-proof, freeze-proof shooter with 5x Zoom-NIKKOR ED glass lens and 16-MP CMOS sensor to record action photos and Full HD (1080p) movies. The AW100 also comes equipped with GPS and e-Compass so you can geo tag that secret spot. Suggested retail is \$379.

### MEETING INFO:

Wednesday September 21, 2011

Doors open at 6:30 PM meal at 7:00,  
Meeting starts about 7:30.

**Location:** Sixth floor of the Ramada in  
the Chase Building Downtown South  
Bend, 213 W. Washington Ave.

**BYOB:** Due to a temporary  
technicality with its liquor license, The  
Cellar Door can no longer serve  
alcoholic beverages until further notice.  
Members of SJRVFF may bring in their  
own alcohol to consume. The Cellar  
Door regrets this and will inform us  
when the license is reinstated. As  
always, please drink responsibly.

### MENU:

Menu not set at press time, but let's  
face it... The food is always  
outstanding!!

Bring a friend... Hope to see you there.

# DINK ENVY



## Local Guide:

Gear: a 7-1/2' to 8' 4 or 5 wt. with a medium action rod is perfect. Orvis, TFO, and Ross Worldwide are good affordable Options. Cabela's, Dan Bailey's and Simms all sell youth size waders. Where to Go: Dogwagaic Creek, Little Elkhart and Cobis are good local waters. The North Branch of the AuSable is an excellent choice.

# TEACH THE CHILDREN WELL...

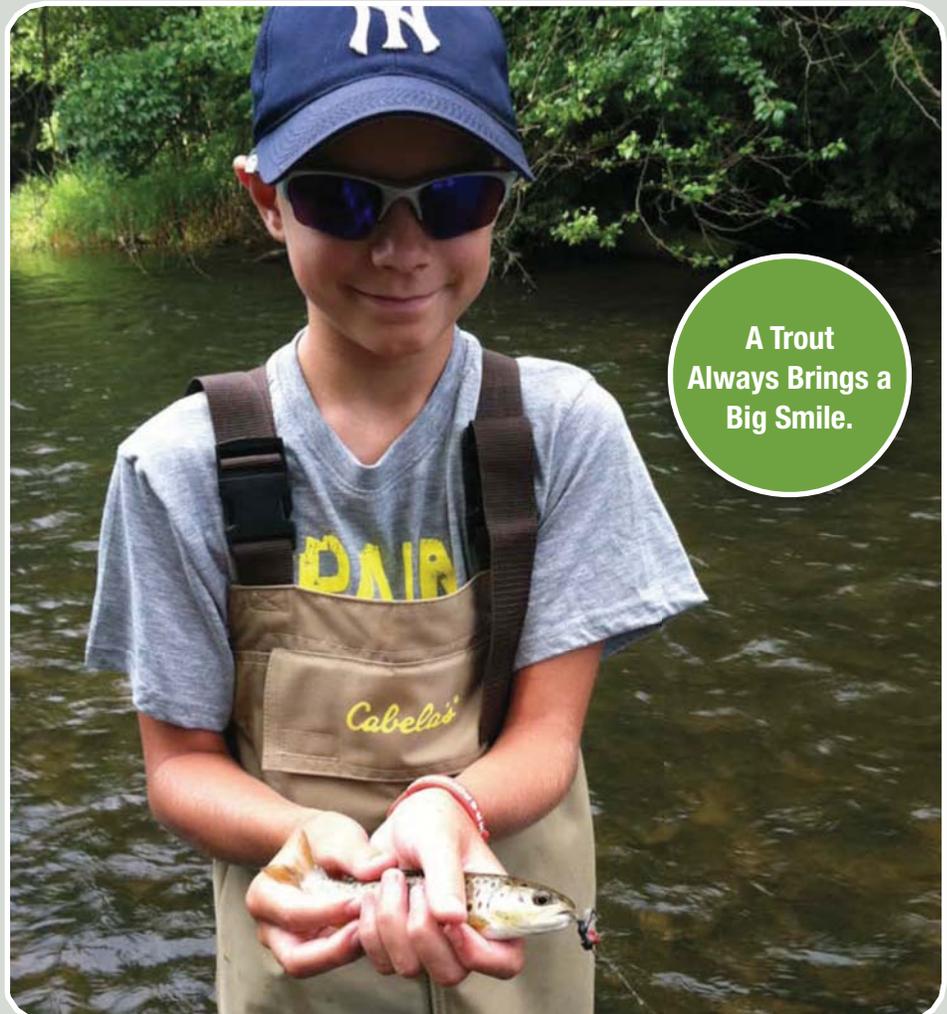
By A. Kitson

## Teaching Kids To Fish Is a Wonderful Experience That Will Make You a Better Fly Fisher.

Okay, I will admit that I was one of those dads who put a fly rod in my infant's hand and took a bunch of pictures for my office desk. That said, I have never pushed my kids to fish. Over the past few years they have floated in and out of "fishing fever", until this summer when my six year old became engrossed in all things fishing! And, has the summer moved on, the eight and ten year olds followed suit. I have learned a lot about all aspects of fishing through teaching them... And while I DO NOT pretend to be an expert on the subject of teaching kids to fish, I wanted to share a few things I've discovered along the way.

**Make it fun.** Obviously, It all starts with learning to cast. And the back yard is the perfect place. I was fortunate to teach elementary kids to cast with Jeff Stanifer the past few years picked up some really good techniques. The "hello?.....Goodbye!" method is very effective. Have them pretend the cork handle is a phone. Pick it up quickly to your ear and say "Hello?"... wait for the line to load, Say "Goodbye" and move the rod down as if you are hanging up. You have just performed a cast! Most beginners perform this motion way to quickly and extend the rod tip too far back. Hold their wrist and still and use their arm to cast until there muscle memory kicks in. After they have the basics down, give them targets to aim at. Tie a piece of yarn six foot leader and place a hula hoop 15 – 20 feet away. After they can consistently get the

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A Trout  
Always Brings a  
Big Smile.



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fly in the circle, add a second hoop. Challenge them to put the fly in one hoop then the other with only one false cast...or better yet, none! Making up games like these keeps them interested and will probably make them a better caster than you before you know it!

**Kids love to fish.** That is... kids like to “catch” fish by nature. After a few back yard sessions, the child will definitely be ready to catch something. This will take some pre planning on your part. I recommend keeping it simple. A small pond full of bluegill may be your best bet. Stay close by and wear your sunglasses! Expect them to wrap the line around your head on the first several strikes. Fishing dry flies on still water will get them used to the strike. Bluegill are great because they keep coming back... no matter how many times you miss them. Don't be afraid to hook a few for them and let them fight the fish and strip it in. Nothing you can do in your backyard can prepare them for “the bite”. Make sure they always “do the work” as I call it... Hook the line with your finger and keep tension on the fish. Always praise them on their catch... even if it's a lowly chub.

**Be patient, and set them up for success.** Now, they are ready to get serious! It's time to hit the stream. Moving water. First things first... most kids have never felt a current in their short lives. EXPLAIN TO THEM THE DANGERS OF WADING IN A RIVER! Not to scare them, but to help them respect the river. Stay close to them and don't start out on a roaring river that's going to have you fighting for your life all day. Small to

medium meandering streams are your best bet... at least until they get their sea legs. Use simple, sure fire techniques on short, even runs. I like to sweep soft hackles across broken water or fish hoppers (with a dropper sometimes) or beetles. Something that's easy for them to see, and that fish will just pounce on. Above all, keep your cool. The first time I took my oldest son trout fishing, I had scouted the perfect spot and knew it was full of fish. I tied on a size 10 Borcher's Special dry fly gave him specific instructions on where to cast and where to expect to get a strike. My heart was in my throat not once, not twice, but three times as I watched an 18” brown trout rise up and spit out his fly! Finally he stuck the pig and fought it for about 2 seconds before it shook it's head and spit out his fly, never to strike again. A few cast later, he stuck and landed a 12” brown... not bad for his first trout! He was thrilled... and so was I. Plan on losing lots of flies, untying lots of knots in their leader, and digging flies out of brush and snags. It's going to happen, so deal with it and DON'T LOOSE YOUR COOL!

**Don't sell the kid short.** You will be pleasantly surprised how quickly they will pick up techniques. I was shocked at how well my kids could mend after only a few simple tips. I am constantly talking to them throughout their drift... “Nice cast!!...mend, mend, mend...good!!! Now pick it up and put it back out there!...” is my usual cadence. By the end of their first day on the stream, they could mend (and better yet understood why and when to mend) and even perform a pretty respectable roll

cast. Show them how, and teach them why and when to perform a particular cast. When you change flies, let them know why you are choosing this one over another and get their input... They will think you are a genius!

**Know when to say when.** When you feel your patience start to slip, or see them start to disconnect, either take a break or call it a day. Especially if the bite is not on. I always carry plenty of water and a few snacks in my vest to ward off the “fish diva”. Nuts, beef jerky and snickers are my standbys. A break in the action is always a good time to teach them how to read the water and continue their education... It's also a great time to get them know them better and increase your bond. This is my favorite part of the trip more often than not.

**Teach them to give back.** Let's face it, we are teaching the future leaders and stewards of our precious waters and environment. Getting them involved in conservation and understanding how precious our natural resources are is key, and should be a big part of their continuing education. Get them involved with club functions and conservation projects.

So there it is. A few things my boys have taught me this summer. Teaching them has made me a much better fisherman... and has giving me fishing partners that I will share many adventures with for the rest of our lives! What more could I ask for?

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## A Great Day of Guiding And Teaching

By Bucky Goodyear

It says in scripture that if you give a man a fish, he'll eat for a day; but if you teach that man to fly-fish, he'll stand on the banks of a river and strip streamers forever. ( Well, something like that anyway. )

We had a chance to put that to the test at the Smallie-101 clinic recently hosted by SJRFF. This is only my second season with a fly rod in my hand so I was anxious for any guidance I could get.. Tim Scott was nice enough to have a dozen or so of us over to his house Saturday morning for some food, fun and education.

First we had a basic fly tying lesson, learning three or four patterns specific to small mouths. Not just learning how to tie them, but also getting some background on how to present them and why they work.

After some awesome burgers we were split up, two people to a guide, and it was off to the river to wet our line. What I found to be the most productive part of this exercise was the advice on how to read the water. Where the fish are likely to be, why they are there and where to place your cast in relation to that so as to get the best presentation

line back and forth and pretend that you are fishing. At worst you are assiduously practicing and reinforcing bad habits. Having a mentor at your shoulder makes all the difference.

We didn't catch a ton of fish, but we had a great day on the water and hopefully we learned something. Next time Ill have a better idea what to do on my own. If you haven't participated in one of these events I would heartily recommend it. It's a great way to meet new people and even if you have been fishing for a while, there's always something new to learn. If you did participate in the event, make sure you thank your guide and everybody else involved

Let's face it, the easiest thing in the world would have been for them to just call each other up, meet at their favorite spot and have a great day amongst themselves. Instead, they gave of their time so newbies like me could also u good time, learn something and grow in the sport. By comparison, this same kind of attention from a guide up north would run you about \$300/day.

I'll certainly be participating in the next clinic, whatever it is.

Thank you  
to all the  
Member  
Volunteers

COMING EVENTS	SEPT 21	OCTOBER	OCT. 19	DECEMBER
	<b>Club Meeting</b> Brian Pitser  Doors open at 6:30pm.	<b>Salmon Outing</b>  See Page 8 for more info.	<b>Club Meeting</b> Bear Andrews  Doors open at 6:30pm.	<b>Fly Tying Expo</b> Novi, Michigan  Stay tuned for more info.



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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 [akitson01@gmail.com](mailto:akitson01@gmail.com)

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# SALMON OUTING 2011

Hey all,

We are going to do something different this year with the Salmon/Steelhead Outing. Who's up for a road trip? This year's Salmon /Steelhead Outing will be held at the Thornapple Access on the Muskegon River. The date for the outing has not yet been decided, however, I am thinking sometime mid to late October depending on conditions. I will update everyone once the date is confirmed. The plan is to meet at a central location (time and place also to be determined) early in the morning and carpool to the Muskegon River for the day. As with all club outings, lunch and drinks will be provided. If you would like, meeting us there is always an option. It would be helpful if you are planning on attending to let me know so that I know how much food, drink, and supplies will be needed. I can be reached at 574-202-0255 or [m3plus2@hotmail.com](mailto:m3plus2@hotmail.com)

Thanks,  
Todd



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