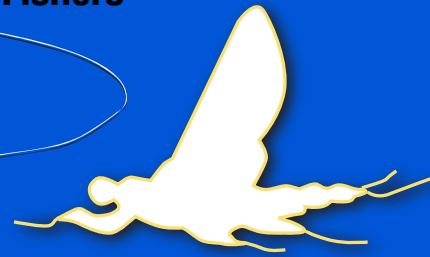


THE LOOP



Dustin New, Editor



April 17
Waterford
Estates Lodge
52890 SR 933
South Bend, IN

SUCH A DEAL I HAVE FOR YOU...

In case you haven't heard, our Annual Fundraiser is on April 17th, Wednesday night. **The doors will open at 5:30 PM at the Waterford Estates Lodge, 52890 State Road 933, South Bend, IN.** The Waterford is just north of the Cleveland Road/933 intersection. The event includes a grab bag raffle, silent auction, a chance to win a new Scott G2 8'8" 6 weight rod with a Galvan reel and a general auction run by professional auctioneer Dave Goodrich. Dinner will be served at 6:30 PM.

Admission is \$25 per person and includes dinner, a bid card and a special fly box. And if you find the lucky "Okie Drifter"

inside your box you win a cool basket of neat stuff. The auction is always amazing. Some of the items donated include fishing tackle, fly tying equipment and supplies, photographs, paintings, gear and hand crafted items, even a hand carved Greenback Cutthroat Trout.

Some last minute items include a guided Musky trip for two anglers in Wisconsin next fall with Jordan Carter, a carp fishing trip with guide Brian Pitser, and a chance to be an honorary assistant manager of the South Bend Silver Hawks for a day. Tim Scott will offer his legendary day of smallmouth bass fishing with lunch and 36 flies. We added another item to



the silent auction table, a discount certificate for Chota waders and boots. That brings the items on the silent auction table to 10, all great discounts on top quality items.

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Well, as I write this column the April showers have finally arrived and bringing some needed moisture to our area. So far this spring has been more of a normal one with gradual warming temperatures, instead of the fast warm-up that we had last year. It seems that the upcoming bug hatches will be on their normal schedule this year or even delayed; instead of being weeks early as they were last fishing season. The fishing reports from up north still talk of snow in the immediate forecast, so the Hendrickson hatch could still be a couple of weeks away. I hope to make it up to the AuSable this year and finally see what the fishing is like during this first major bug hatch of the season. I have re-read the chapters of Rusty Gates book "Seasons on the AuSable" for April and May and it seems like the bug hatches and trout fishing can be pretty spectacular! If you haven't read this great book and like to fish this river system then do yourself a favor and get his book. It is a wealth of information and a great read that you will turn to time and time again.

The club auction is fast approaching and this is a great time to pick up some great items you can use this fishing season. There will be new and used fly rods and reels, waders, boots, vests, and fly boxes. Artwork and flies tied by club members always bring in some good money. Jim has some great fishing adventures lined up that you can bid on as well. There will be silent auctions as well as the bucket raffle that always has plenty of great prizes that can be won. This auction is the big money maker for the club, so please be generous with your donations and your purchases. The money that is raised is used to keep the club running throughout the year. I look forward to seeing you all there April 17th at the Waterford Estates Lodge.

Don't forget that the Opening Day Outing is at the end of the month on Saturday, April 27th. It takes place at the LaBar farm on Dowagiac Creek. The location is a great place to celebrate the first day of trout season and we are very fortunate to be able to invade Bobbie's farm for the day. The turnout is always very good as well as the food. Terry's deep fried turkeys are like eating candy –

once you have a taste you can't stop!

Also, don't forget to buy your tickets for the beautiful bamboo fly rod that is being raffled off this month. Craig Myers will be selling tickets at the auction and at the Opening Day Outing where the drawing will take place at 1:00 p.m. This rod was made by our own Winston Binney and is the perfect fly rod for fishing our area streams. Buy lots of tickets!!!

Start getting your tackle together – there is only 17 days until Opening Day!!!!!!

EW



TIME'S UP!

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

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

**CALL A FRIEND
AND COME TO THE
APRIL AUCTION**

- **New this year**, you can pay your dues by credit card through the web site. Click on the "Join SJRVFF" tab and down toward the bottom you will see where you can pay via PayPal.
- The dues are still just \$20.00 for individuals and \$35.00 for a family membership. Membership cards will be available at the Auction but you can still do your part supporting the club and continuing to receive the LOOP.
- You can still get your name on the "good" list and keep your "member in good standing" status after this month, but you won't have the ability to whip out your membership card.



MEETING DETAILS:

Doors open at 5:30 PM
Meal at 6:30
Auction starts about 7:00

Location:
Waterford Estates Lodge,
52890 State Road 933,
South Bend, IN.

Parking is free.

Meal cost \$25.00/person includes the meal, a SJRVFF Fly box and your bid card

MENU

Garden Greens Salad & dressings

Chicken Parmesan

Sautéed Vegetable
Cornucopia with corn, green
beans, California veggies

Pudding Parfaits with
whipped cream and graham
cracker crumble

Coffee, Iced Tea,
Lemonade, Ice Water,
Cash Bar

New Location!!!

Waterford Estates Lodge

52890 SR 933

South Bend

(just north of Cleveland and 933)

SUCH A DEAL I HAVE FOR YOU...

(continued from cover page)

And don't forget the Incredible Deals we highlighted last month like the two for the price of one on an inclusive stay at Skeena Wilderness Charters in British Columbia for steelhead, the float trip on the PM with guide Tommy Lynch, \$100 off a trip with Captain Chris Abdo out of Naples, FL, 2 days for half price with guide John Holsten in Arkansas and finally a trip for two for trophy largemouth bass with guide Josh Lantz in LaPorte County.

You can support the fundraiser by coming out and bidding and bidding some more. You can donate that extra rod you don't use anymore, or maybe tie a dozen or two flies. Whatever good usable fishing related item will be appreciated. Remember the auction funds the club's activities, speakers and conservation work. Thanks for your help.

Jim Lothary

CHANGE TO THE BY LAWS

As Eric presented at the March meeting, the Board of Directors is proposing to make a change to the by laws. Specifically the change involves review of the financial records kept by the Treasurer. Originally the wording required an audit, by a Certified Public Accountant, at the end of the Treasurer's tenure. Since the by laws were written, the financial world has changed quite a bit, particularly for a CPA and their definition of an audit. Today, an audit by a CPA starts at about \$25,000 even for a small club like ours. Obviously this was not the level of review or cost intended. The following revised wording approved by the Board reflects the intent of the original wording while removing the financial burden.

Revised wording:

The Financial Review Committee shall annually examine the accounts of the Treasurer and the financial statements of the Club, and shall also review the internal controls on receipt and expenditure of funds, and shall render a written report to the Board of Directors by March 1 of each year with respect to the prior fiscal year of the Club. The Committee shall consist of at least two (2) active Members of the Club knowledgeable in accounting matters; provided, however, that no Member shall be eligible to serve on the Financial Review Committee while serving in any position involving the handling of Club funds or maintaining the Club's financial records or accounts.

Changes to the by laws require a membership vote. Before we begin the festivities on April 17th, we will have opportunity for discussion, if necessary, and a vote on the revised wording. If you have any questions before the meeting, please get in touch with a Board member.

UPCOMING EVENTS	APR 17	APR 27	MAY 15	MAY 16
	Annual Auction 5:30pm Waterford Estates Lodge 52890 SR 933 South Bend, IN	Opening Day Outing Fish throughout Michigan but meet up at Labar's Farm	Club Meeting 6:30pm - The Elkhart Conservation Club, Little Bldg John Richardson	If you haven't done it already, get out and fish. If you need a buddy, call a club member and get out there.

THE 7TH ANNUAL TIE-A-THON TO BENEFIT REEL RECOVERY IS IN THE BOOKS



Let's start with the Tie-a-thon totals. You all turned in 11,128 flies at the culmination event at the Elkhart Conservation Club. Tiers have committed to 12,500 flies in all for Reel Recovery. People are working or mailing in the remaining 1,400 flies. If you have not turned in your flies, you can still do so. Great job everyone! Thank you for all your efforts, once again! The day was another great one to officially wrap up the Tie-a-thon. About 40 people were in attendance and enjoyed a good time of conversation, tying and a great lunch prepared by Terry Wittorp and his staff. We had members from the following clubs and groups: St. Joseph River Valley Fly Fishers; Kalamazoo Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited; Little Elkhart Chapter of Trout Unlimited; Duneland Fly Fishers; Reel Women / Reel Men; Casting for Recovery, Indiana; Normal City Fly Fishing Club; Elliot Donnelley Trout Unlimited; the Grand Rapids Project Healing Waters and the Grand Rapids Veterans Association.

While we appreciate every single fly donated. I want to recognize a few special tyers. First Todd Ezzell tied 100 flies of each pattern to turn in 1,200 flies this year. Thanks Todd. Bob Stoyhoff is the Tie-a-thon marathon tyer; every year he turns in hundreds of flies. This year was no exception, Bob donated over 700 flies. These were not just any flies; they were mainly foam cut, almost real hoppers. Thanks Bob. Also, thanks Eric Beebe of Billings Montana for 900 flies for the Tie-a-thon. They were sent to us Rod Viator of Round Rock, TX and Fly Tying for Recovery. A few years back, Rod started a Tie-a-thon based upon ours to help Reel Recovery. Thanks Eric and Rod.

We want to thank Andy Kitson for the great logo art work every year. Thanks to SJRVFF and KVCTU for funding the T-shirts and food this year. Thanks to Todd Ezzell for helping with the set up, water and pop. Thanks to Mark Myers of Rector Communications for printing the T-Shirts. Thanks to Elkhart Conservation Club for the use of their building each year. Thank you, Eric Graham, Bart Roberts and Mary Smith for working club meetings and fly fishing events as sales people for the Tie-a-thon.

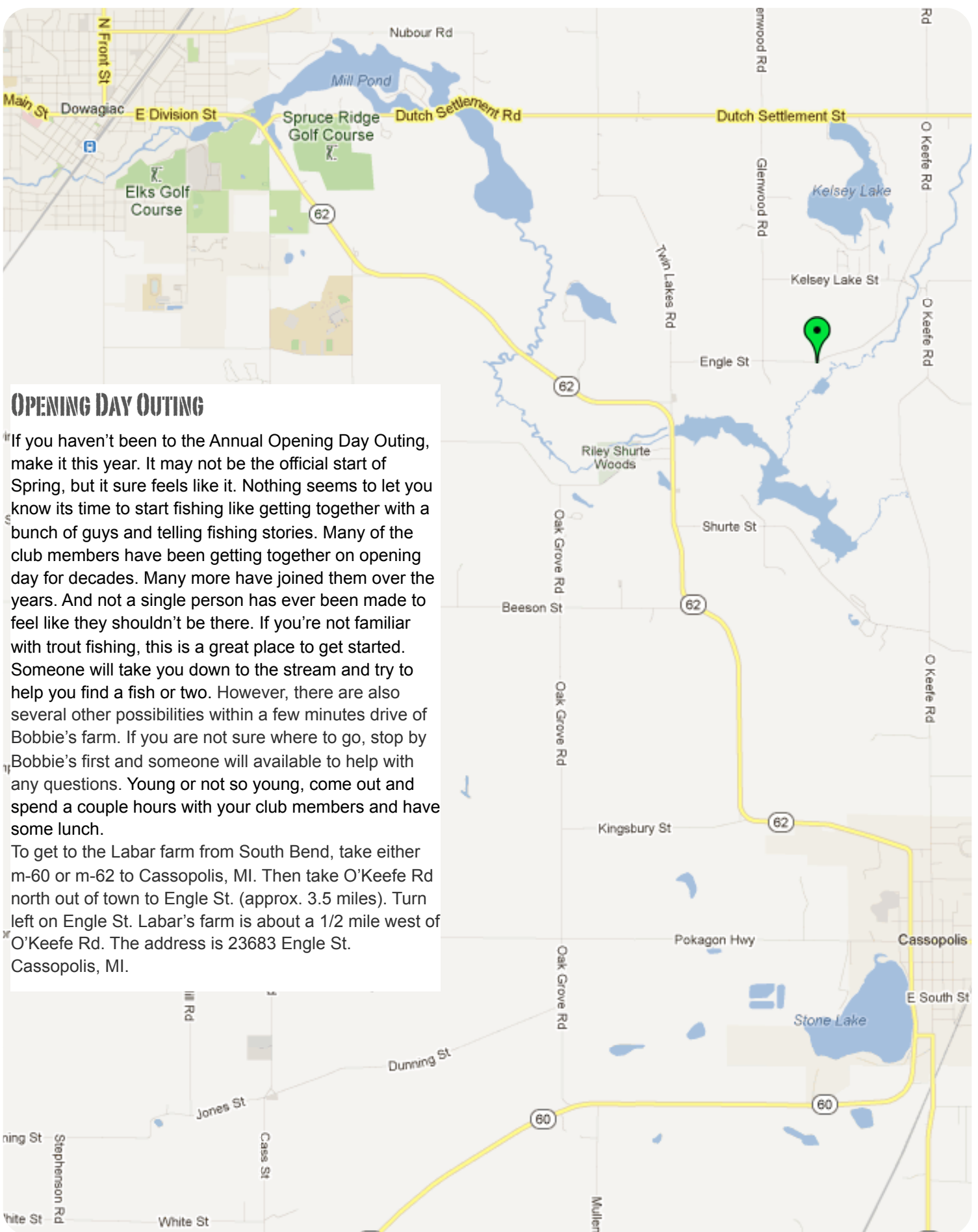
Thanks to the chef, Terry Wittorp and his fine crew cooking a great lunch; thanks Steve Birman, Billy Vail, Johnny Law, Tom Rondo and Mike Petrowski. While there were many in the kitchen claiming to help, most were just looking for samples and tastes before lunch was served!

Again we cannot say it enough, but thanks for the simple task of tying and donating flies. We want to recognize all those who have committed and donated; so we will try to name all, please forgive us if we missed you, it in no way was intended and you and your efforts are not diminished.

So thank you to the following for helping out: Gabe Avelos, George Batcha, Mike Beachy, Eric Beebe, Fred Beisel, Steve Birman, Bob Brissey, Ed Burns, Tom Carson, John Clements, John Dado, Rod Davis, Roger Depoy, Morris Eddy, Todd Ezzell, Chuck Ferczok, Geoff Fleanor, Bill Furkis, Jim Gibson, Erik Gilbert, Eric Graham, David Hamilton, Christine Hanan, Ira Hanan, Sheri Harris, Ted Headings, David Jackson, Steve Jones, Andy Kitson, Carter Kitson, David Kraklar, John Law, John Mangona, Tim May, Joe McAllister, Ann Miller, Doug Moore, Blake Morse, Jenn Nelson, Dustin New, Mike Petrowski, Tim Pote, Brandon Rasler, Christine Reese, Larry Roberts, Bart Roberts, Tom Rondo, Greg Sautter, Dick Schwarze, Bob Smith, Mary Smith, Joe Sprys, Don Squires, Jeff Stanifer, Phillip Stevens, Lonnie Stine, Bob Stoyhoff, Dan Suminski, Kevin Thomason, Lee Troyer, Ray Ward, Ed Winiski, John Woodling, Eric Wroblewski.

If you have not turned in your flies, you can still do so. Again thank you for all the flies. See you in the fall for the kick off.

Tim and Terry



OPENING DAY OUTING

If you haven't been to the Annual Opening Day Outing, make it this year. It may not be the official start of Spring, but it sure feels like it. Nothing seems to let you know its time to start fishing like getting together with a bunch of guys and telling fishing stories. Many of the club members have been getting together on opening day for decades. Many more have joined them over the years. And not a single person has ever been made to feel like they shouldn't be there. If you're not familiar with trout fishing, this is a great place to get started. Someone will take you down to the stream and try to help you find a fish or two. However, there are also several other possibilities within a few minutes drive of Bobbie's farm. If you are not sure where to go, stop by Bobbie's first and someone will be available to help with any questions. Young or not so young, come out and spend a couple hours with your club members and have some lunch.

To get to the Labar farm from South Bend, take either m-60 or m-62 to Cassopolis, MI. Then take O'Keefe Rd north out of town to Engle St. (approx. 3.5 miles). Turn left on Engle St. Labar's farm is about a 1/2 mile west of O'Keefe Rd. The address is 23683 Engle St. Cassopolis, MI.

OPENING DAY ROD RAFFLE

We are very lucky to be able to offer for this year's Opening Day Rod Raffle a 7 ft. 3 in, 2piece/2tip, 3 weight, bamboo fly rod crafted by club member Winston Binney. As many of you already know Winston builds a beautiful cane rod, and several club members are the proud owners of cane rods built by him. Eric Wroblewski was lucky enough to get Winston to make a rod in 2008, and it is his prized fly rod. This rod is a Para 3 taper, which is a taper Winston came up with. He described it as being his take on a Paul Young - Driggs taper which he lightened to a 3 weight. He said the action is parabolic. The rod is beautifully flamed, and has a mahogany reel seat.

Fly Fisher of the Year Craig Myers will be selling tickets at every meeting up to and on Opening Day. The drawing will be held at 1:00 pm at the Opening Day Outing, Saturday, April 27.

If you've thought about a fine bamboo fly rod to fish small streams, then this is the perfect rod.



Ticket prices:
One for \$5.00
Three for \$10.00
Seven for \$20.00

DIRECTORS

President: Eric Wroblewski (ewrobo2003@yahoo.com)

Vice-President: Mark Haley (mhaley@dbacks.com)

Treasurer: Lee Troyer (flyfish@maplenet.net)

Secretary: Jim Gibson (gibson72@earthlink.net)

1 Year Director: Larry Schmitt

1 Year Director: Erik Gilbert

2 Year Director: Billy Vail

2 Year Director: Mary Helen Znavor

3 Year Director: Doug Moore

3 Year Director: Tim Pote

COMMITTEE HEADS

Conservation: John Law

Event Coordinator:

Librarian: Deborah Mowery

Ghillie & Auction Director: Jim Lothary

Newsletter: Dustin New (dustinnew@sbcglobal.net)

Webmaster: Brandon Rasler



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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, or need to get something off your chest, you contact me at: 574-286-6508 or dustinnew@sbcglobal.net



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