

# THE LOOP



Dustin New, Editor



Wednesday,  
October 15 at  
Juday Creek Golf  
Course Event  
Center

## SJRVFF WELCOMES JEFF CURRIER

**Jeff Currier** resides in Victor, Idaho with his wife Yvonne where he bases his globe-trotting career in fly fishing. He is an active member of the R.L. Winston Rod Co Professional Advisory Team as well as Simms, Scientific Anglers, Ross Reels and Abel Reels. Jeff is also a "Fishing Ambassador" for Yellow Dog Flyfishing Adventures hosting exotic trips and exploring new destinations. Jeff is a fly fishing lecturer and well known fish artist. He has taught the skills of fly fishing, guided fly fishers throughout Wyoming and Yellowstone National Park and escorted fly fishers on six continents. Jeff has fished in over fifty countries and caught over 300 species of fish on the fly!

Jeff's articles, photographs and artwork have graced the pages of magazines, catalogs, brochures and books. He is also the acclaimed author of two excellent guide books. And a sought after expert for television, radio and numerous fly fishing films. Jeff has won numerous fly casting competitions and the Jackson Hole One Fly. He also led Team USA to its first ever top-ten finish in the World Fly Fishing Championships in Jaca, Spain. During the competition Jeff managed to fool fish on every venue and placed third in the individual standings, becoming the only American ever to take home a medal in the thirty year history of the Championships.



Jeff brings a sense of humor, enthusiasm, approachability and more than forty years of fly fishing. You can follow Jeff's fly fishing adventures, exploits, tips, advice, photography and storytelling on his expanding blog and informative web site. <http://www.jeffcurrier.com>

Jeff's presentation will be "**Fishing through Midlife Heaven**".



Let me start off this month's newsletter with a special thank you to John Law and the Conversation Committee as well as Joe Mitchell-River Tenders for their efforts organizing the Cobus Creek restoration project. I would also like say a big thank you to the members of the club who were able to attend along with representatives from Elkhart County, the Valparaiso students, and residents from Cobus Creek for their hard work and Todd Ezzell for making us yet another outstanding meal. This was an enjoyable and educational experience for all in attendance.

Next, I need your assistance. This time of the year the board has two responsibilities; the election of new officers and giving special recognition to

outstanding members of the club through your nominations.

The election of new officers is very important to the success of our club. We currently have three open board positions; one would be to serve as the board secretary. These need to be filled before the end of the year. If you or anyone you know is interested in stepping up their commitment by serving on the board this would be the perfect opportunity.

Our December meeting is dedicated to honoring the service of our own members and recognizing those that have gone above and beyond in their service to SJRVFF. The categories for nominations are *Fly Tier of the Year*, *Fly Fisher of the Year*, *Harry Hustle "Todd Ezzell" Award*, *Oakie Drifter* and the *Life Time Membership award*. A detailed description

for each of these awards can be found on our website. Please take the time to show your appreciation by nominating a fellow member for their extraordinary efforts by going to our website and clicking on the link—[Nominate an Angler for an Award](#).

Lastly, if you've not already done so please reserve your spot for the upcoming general membership meeting. Our guest speaker will be Jeff Currier who is known World Wide for his Fly Fishing abilities. Please don't miss the opportunity to hear him speak by reserving your seat on our website [www.sjrvff.com](http://www.sjrvff.com) NOW.

Thanks and I look forward to seeing you next Wednesday.

Don Reber



### IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!

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

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

- 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.



### MEETING DETAILS:

Doors open at 6:30  
Meal at 7:00  
Meeting starts at 7:30

#### Location:

Juday Creek Golf  
Course Event Center  
14770 Lindy Drive  
Granger, IN 46530

**Parking is free.**

Meal cost \$15.00/  
person

### MENU

Delicious buffet

### SEPTEMBER RAFFLE

For the September meeting Craig has lined us up with a **CHOICE** of Rods:

- A Winston VSL 590-4
- A St. Croix Bankrobber 9'- 6 wt.
- An 8 wt. Cabela's complete package (rod, reel, and line)
- Plus some other goodies

# ELECTION TIME IS COMING



Election time is right around the corner and this is your opportunity to be part of the leadership of the SJRVFF. We have several positions available on the slate this year and need your help.

## How it works

The Board will identify and present a slate to the membership at the November meeting. Additional nominations for the available positions can also be made at that time from the floor by a member in good standing. All members in good standing can then vote on the nominees and we will have our leadership for 2015 set. That's a bit of simplification but we will deal with the details per the by-laws at the meeting as necessary. If you are interested in giving a bit of your time and talents, please talk with Tom Rondo.

## Positions Available

Each year two of the six directors rotate off of the board and are replaced. Additionally, Eric and Mark, current president and vice-president, respectively, will not be returning for a second term. So the positions available are:

- Secretary
- 3-Year Director (2)

Come join us and become an active part of the organization that has provided you with many hours of entertainment and invaluable information over the years. There's nothing more satisfying than giving back.



## SALMON/STEELHEAD OUTING - OCTOBER '18

The always popular Salmon/Steelhead Outing will be October 18, 2014. We'll be meeting at the Thorn Apple Landing on the Muskegon River. We'll be sending out a reminder as we get a little closer and look for opportunities to share a ride. As always Todd will be providing some of his awesome chili. If you haven't done any salmon fishing this is a great opportunity to get into some fish and have someone with some experience help you out. Don't worry if your light on equipment - there will be some there for you to tryout as well. And if you've experienced the pull of a salmon before, come on up and spend the day hanging out, trading stories and maybe helping someone experience the thrill for the first time.



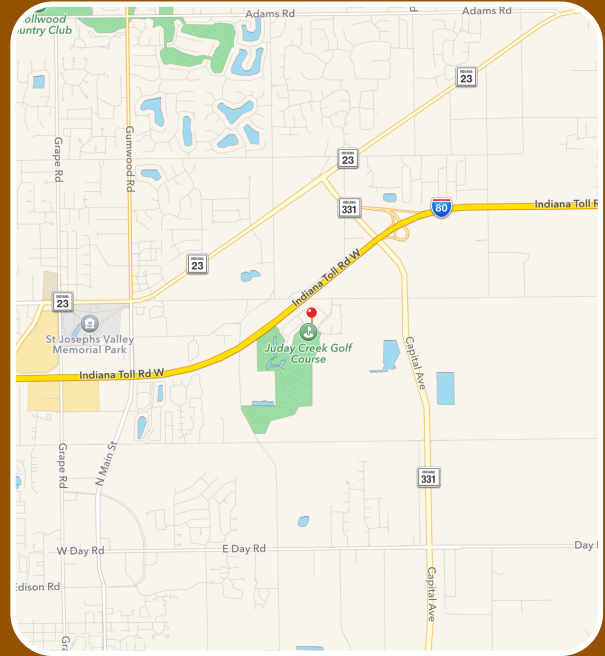
**DIRECTORS**

President: Don Reber  
 Vice-President: Terry Witorp  
 Treasurer: Lee Troyer  
 Secretary: Jim Gibson  
 1 Year Director: Billy Vail  
 1 Year Director: Mary Helen Znavor  
 2 Year Director: Tim Pote  
 2 Year Director: Tom Coleman  
 3 Year Director: Tom Rondo  
 3 Year Director: Jeff Downing

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Conservation: John Law  
 Event Coordinator: Todd Ezzell  
 Librarian: Blake Morris  
 Ghillie & Auction Director: Craig Myers  
 Newsletter: Dustin New  
 Webmaster: Brandon Rasler

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 you chest, contact me at: 574-286-6508 or [dustinnew@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dustinnew@sbcglobal.net)

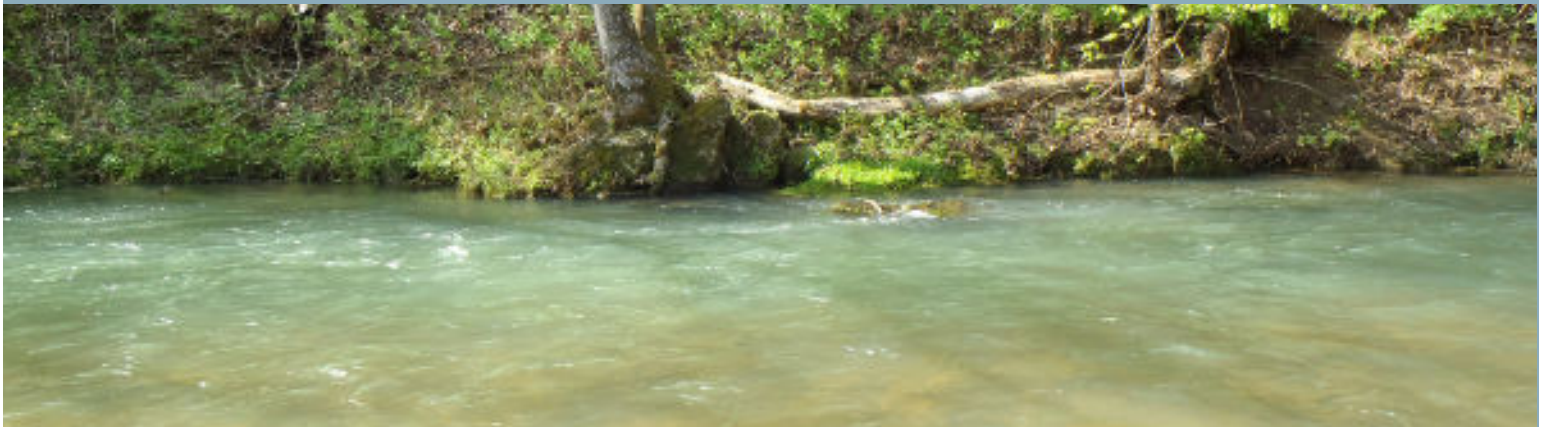


**SJRFFF**

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**South Bend, IN 46624-0933**

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UPCOMING EVENTS	OCT 18	NOV 19	NOV 27	DEC 17
	<b>Salmon/Steelhead Outing</b>  <b>Thorn Apple Landing on the Muskegon River</b>	<b>Club Meeting</b>  6:30pm - Juday Creek Golf Course Event Center	<b>Thanksgiving</b>	<b>Club Meeting</b>  6:30pm - Juday Creek Golf Course Event Center



## A FEN BY ANY OTHER NAME . . .

by Jim Lothary

When a senior member of your fly fishing club leans toward you and quietly tells you that the headwaters of the stream that you were just discussing is the only stream in the area that has a population of the mythic trout, well that is just about the same as Indiana Jones discovering a treasure map. It is a calling. It is a quest. It demands action!

We fly fishers have an explorer gene in our DNA. We have that urge to find the next great hole or tributary. We pour over maps, read magazines, pump guides and fly shop owners for informational to find that one spot that none of our fellow members have discovered. To find that solitary place that holds that species of trout rare to your area. To catch that rod buster over 20 inches long in a stream that shouldn't hold anything over 12 inches long. This is our quest and it is what separates us from golfers, that and those ridiculous outfits they wear.

So the next day I poured over the map of the area. I had fished the stream before but the farthest upstream I had fished had a barbwire fence covered with signs indicating that the property owner did not tolerate trespassers and would likely use them as targets for sighting in his rifle. Further upstream was another homeowner with similar passions but in between was a small industrial park. If the senior member of the club had fished the headwaters it must have been there.

That evening I drove to the park and noticed a small sign partially hidden by vines and branches. On closer inspection it read that the property was owned by the Nature Conservancy. I remembered that the Nature Conservancy was an organization that holds property donated to it and allows the flora, fauna and hopefully mythic trout to flourish. I knew they don't permit hunting on their properties. I wasn't sure about catch and release fishing but figured that asking for forgiveness might be easier than tracking down the right person to ask permission. The sign showed a small trail ending at a bridge over the stream and labeled the property as the Smalltown Fen.

Had I taken Geology instead of Introduction to Bowling as an elective in college I might have known what a fen is. But I needed an easy A. So, 4 weight rod in hand I plunged thru the initial 30 feet of vines, thorns and dead tree branches. On the other side lay a wide open area, just lumps of grass and an occasional dead tree. Four steps later I became instantly aware of what a fen is. A fen is the Midwest's version of a swamp or quicksand. But unlike a swamp it hides its water under a layer of turf. This thin layer varies in thickness so that walking across it is similar to traversing a mine field. A wrong step and you are oozing downward.

Good sense should have driven me back to the tree line but just 40 feet ahead the stream and the mythic trout called to me. So like a brave soldier I picked my way thru. Had I had a second burger for lunch or a size smaller wading boot I'm sure that I would have become a permanent resident of the fen. I considered using my wading staff but punching small holes in the fen didn't seem like a wise idea. Each step was met by either spongy firmness or a soft gurgle.

Somehow I managed to pick my way across to the stream bank to be greeted by a family of geese and the odor of their droppings. What should have been a rivulet of cool water coursing over gravel and rocks was a slow moving, foul smelling, muddy creek better suited for suckers than mythic trout. I cast my favorite fly to each likely spot to no avail. After an hour of futility it was time to cross the fen again.

Half way back I remembered a story in an old paperback I read as a youngster titled "Hell's Half Acre." In the story innocent men and children were suddenly swallowed up by the earth when they crossed a small plot of land never to be seen again. I began to wonder if I hadn't stumbled on Hell's Half Acre and that's why the owner had donated it to the Conservancy. As I neared the tree line I began to wonder if anyone would find his body if I through it in the fen. But then I realized the best plan. At the next meeting I will whisper to him that he was indeed correct, there are mythic trout there and big ones too.

2014

FIFTEENTH ANNUAL

*Great Lakes Council*



*FLY TYING*

**EXPO**

**INVITATIONAL**

*Lansing, Michigan*

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## CLUB AWARDS AT DECEMBER MEETING!

The club awards are given annually at the December meeting. We are looking for nominations for the following:

- Okie Drifter
- Fly Fisher of the Year
- Fly Tier of the Year
- Harry Hustle

There are several ways to make a nomination. Email any of the board members with your nomination, make a nomination to any of the board members in person at the November meetings, or go to the SJRVFF website under the awards section and make a nomination there. For a detailed explanation of each award please go to the SJRVFF Website under the awards section. We need nominations from you...Please help.

We need a good head count for dinner planning for our group. They charge us if we tell them too many so get your name in or you might go hungry!

RSVP by emailing Terry at [terryflyfish@hotmail.com](mailto:terryflyfish@hotmail.com) or call and leave a message at 269-424-5138. **Please respond by 9:00 pm on the Friday.**



**SJRVFF**

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**South Bend, IN 46624-0933**