

THE LOOP



Dustin New, Editor



Saturday
April 18
Juday Creek
Golf Course
Event Center

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU . . . AND US

For the first time we are having the auction on a **Saturday** and want to make it a special event. The annual auction pays for our speakers, conservation project, and general club expenses. There will be:

- raffles
- bucket drawings
- \$20 deck of card drawing that gives you a shot at any live auction item.

This years auction includes:

- a Cutthroat trout carving by Jim Lothary
- Custom fly rod by Mike Beachy
- art by Frank Fisher
- photography by Tim Scott
- a float trip with Jim Gibson
- G. Loomis, Sage, and TFO fly rods
- and much more.

Terry Wittorp

The annual auction is the one and only fundraiser that SJRVFF holds with all of the proceeds used to fund programs throughout the year such as conservation, education, outings, etc. Your participation is greatly appreciated and ensures that the SJRVFF continues to move forward. One way to help is to donate items that you may not use anymore but are still in good serviceable condition to be auctioned off. This would include items such as sponsored fishing trips, flies, fishing equipment, books, etc. If you have such items and would like to donate them please get in touch with me at 574-202-0255 or m3plus2@hotmail.com or Terry Wittorp at 269-424-5138 or terryflyfish@hotmail.com and we can make arrangements to pick up the items from you and get them into this years auction. Any and all donations are greatly appreciated.

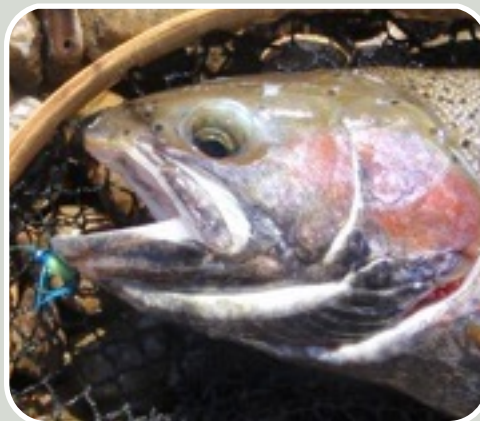
Thank You!
Todd Ezzell



Greeting fellow Club members, I hope you're enjoying the beginning of spring.

In my very first letter as Club president, I wrote about the importance of volunteerism. I talked about the health of any organization being determined by involvement of its members. There's no truer example of this than the Michiana Steelheaders. A once thriving anglers club is now facing the challenging decision to disband because none of the membership wanted to step forward to lead the organization. I don't want to be misunderstood, the SJRVFF club is not to that point, but we need your help to avoid finding ourselves in the same position. As I discussed in last month's newsletter we have three very important positions to fill within the organization; President, Vice-President and Treasure. Although the commitment for

these positions does not begin until 2016, we need to begin the search now. None of these positions require previous experience – just a desire to commit time and energy to the organization. If you're interested in stepping up your commitment to any of these positions, please contact our Nomination Chairman, Thomas Rondo at Thomas.Rondo@gmail.com. He will be happy to answer any questions you may have. We need your help.



Next, I want to congratulate Rex Lenegacher, Curley Hodson and the remainder of the leadership for the Three Rivers Fly Fishers Club for hosting their first Fly Fishing/ Fly Tying Show. Tim Pote and I represented our Club and Tim Scott was there as well representing the Tie-A-Thon. All three of us were impressed by how well run and organized the event was and look forward to participating again next year. Great job guys!

Lastly, please don't forget to mark your calendars for the Tie-A-Thon on April, 11th at the Elkhart Conservation Club, the Annual Club Auction on April 18th at Juday Creek Golf Course and the Opening Day Outing on April 25th at Bobbi Labar's farm.

I hope to see you at one of the great Club Events.

Don Reber



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**

- 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:

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

Parking is free.

Meal cost \$25.00/person
includes the meal and
your bid card

\$10 for bid card only

MENU

Buffet
Cash Bar



FROM THE MDNR'S SOUTHERN LAKE MICHIGAN MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER NEW TROUT FISHING ACCESS!!!

Funding to purchase two new trout fishing access sites were recently approved. A 56 acre parcel along Rice Creek just south of Partello between 19 and 20 mile road in Calhoun County. The site will provide secured access to a stocked brown trout stream. This property will be managed by Calhoun Conservation District and Kalamazoo Valley of Trout Unlimited is excited to conduct habitat enhancement projects in Rice Creek. The second purchase is a 120 acre parcel along Dowagiac Creek, which is also stocked with brown trout. This parcel will be managed by a Cass County entity and already has the St. Joseph River Valley Fly Fishers and Valparaiso University Biology Club working to enhance the creek and the University of Notre Dame studying the biodiversity of the surrounding land. There are still a few more hoops to jump through, and public access availability is expected by late summer of 2015.



THE PILGRIM AT THE SHOW

by Jim Lothary

After a winter that seemed thirteen months long I was more than ready to begin preparing for spring fishing. The first step in that process was to gear up and what better place than a fly fishing and tying show. After arriving early I consumed three hours of presentations. I learned how to do a double handed triple haul cast. Of course I'll need to buy the \$990 rod that the speaker from the equipment company sells. I heard a great presentation from a guide on fishing for the endangered pygmy trout in Botswana. The trip costs just \$11,000 based on double occupancy, with your last meal included!

Another guide named Vlad from Bucharest showed pictures of him catching huge trout somewhere in Russia. Although the pictures never showed anyone else he seemed trustworthy with his gold tooth and swarthy complexion. Just \$8,000 with 90% down in cash sent to his PO Box and I'm off to Russia.

Then it was time to tour the hundreds of tables selling stuff. My first purchase was a great gizmo that the Aussie salesman, Vince, assured me could tie a dozen different knots, tie your tippet to the leader and fly, sharpen the hook and repel mosquitoes! At the next booth a guy with a New York accent sold me a genuine Winston Boron III fly rod for just \$125. He said it was the hottest deal and made me an offer I couldn't refuse. At the next booth a guy from the Jack Beanstalk Fly Company sold me a dozen flies that he said are nearly guaranteed to catch 25" long brook trout.

It was late and I was returning to my car an old man in shabby cloths approached me. He asked if I had ever heard of Ponce De Leon's quest for the Coronado strain of the rare eastern golden trout. I was ashamed to admit that I hadn't but he smiled at me and told me how Ponce had heard of the golden trout while searching for the fountain of youth. He searched for years before finding the only stream that held the fabled fish and wrote out a map before he died. The old man said he needed \$20 for gas and in return would part with a copy of the map.

Well, I paid him the \$20 and the old man smiled kindly at me and gave me the map. Once home I fed the info on the map into my computer and there, lo and behold, between a McDonalds and a WalMart was a tiny stream. Next month you'll see me smiling and holding the first Eastern golden trout ever caught on the front of every fishing magazine! I've already got my trip planned to catch it in Hattiesburg, Mississippi!

If you're going to attend the Auction April 18th please email Terry at terryflyfish@hotmail.com or call and leave a message at 269-424-5138. We need to give the folks at the Juday Creek Golf Course Event Center a number for people coming. **Please respond by 9:00 pm on the Thursday if you plan to eat.**

UPCOMING EVENTS	APR 11	APR 18	APR 25	MAY 20
	Eighth Annual Tie-A-Thon Elkhart Conservation Club	Annual Club Auction Juday Creek Golf Course and Conference Center	Opening Day Outing Fish throughout Michigan but meet up at Labar's Farm	Club Meeting 6:30pm - The Elkhart Conservation Club, Little Bldg

NINTH ANNUAL TIE-A-THON APRIL 11TH



On April 11th members of SJRVFF, members of Kalamazoo Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited and many others, will come together to tie flies for Flyin' Heroes of Muskegon, MI. In nine years, fly tiers have donated over 65,000 flies to various good causes such as Flyin' Heroes who use fly fishing for education or therapy.

About the Recipient

Flyin' Heroes is a program that utilizes the sport of fly fishing to promote therapeutic growth and rehabilitation of US military veterans. The goal of Flyin' Heroes is to create memorable fly fishing experiences that unlock the healing power of the water and foster lasting relationships.

Participants of Flyin' Heroes will experience a unique guided float trip down the Pere Marquette River, Muskegon River and/or the White River located in West Michigan. Each participant will be instructed on the basic techniques of fly fishing and/or light tackle for trout and other game species.

Fishing is simply the tool that allows a connection with our local community of veterans. The focus is on the importance of creating lasting relationships and life long memories on the river.

Flyin' Heroes utilizes individualized personal trips, which are used to empower and inspire veterans to make positive gains towards mental health and living productive, fulfilling lives. Harnessing the power of the river, giving thanks to all who have served. For more information, check out www.flyinheroes.org.

Pick a pattern, tie it up and donate to the Tie-a-thon!

These are the flies you asked to tie: (tie 100 flies of one pattern)

Fly	Size
Adams	14
Ant	18 - 20
Beetles	18 - 14
Blue Wing Olive Emerger	18 - 22
Caddis Nymph	16 - 18
Clouser's Minnow	8
Cone-Head white rabbit leaches	4-6
Elk Hair Caddis	14 - 16
Griffith Gnat	20 - 22
Hare's Ear	12 - 14
Mickey Finn	8
Nuke Eggs	10 - 4
Pheasant Tail	14 - 16
Soft Hackle	14 - 16
Woolly Bugger	10
Zoo Cougar	4

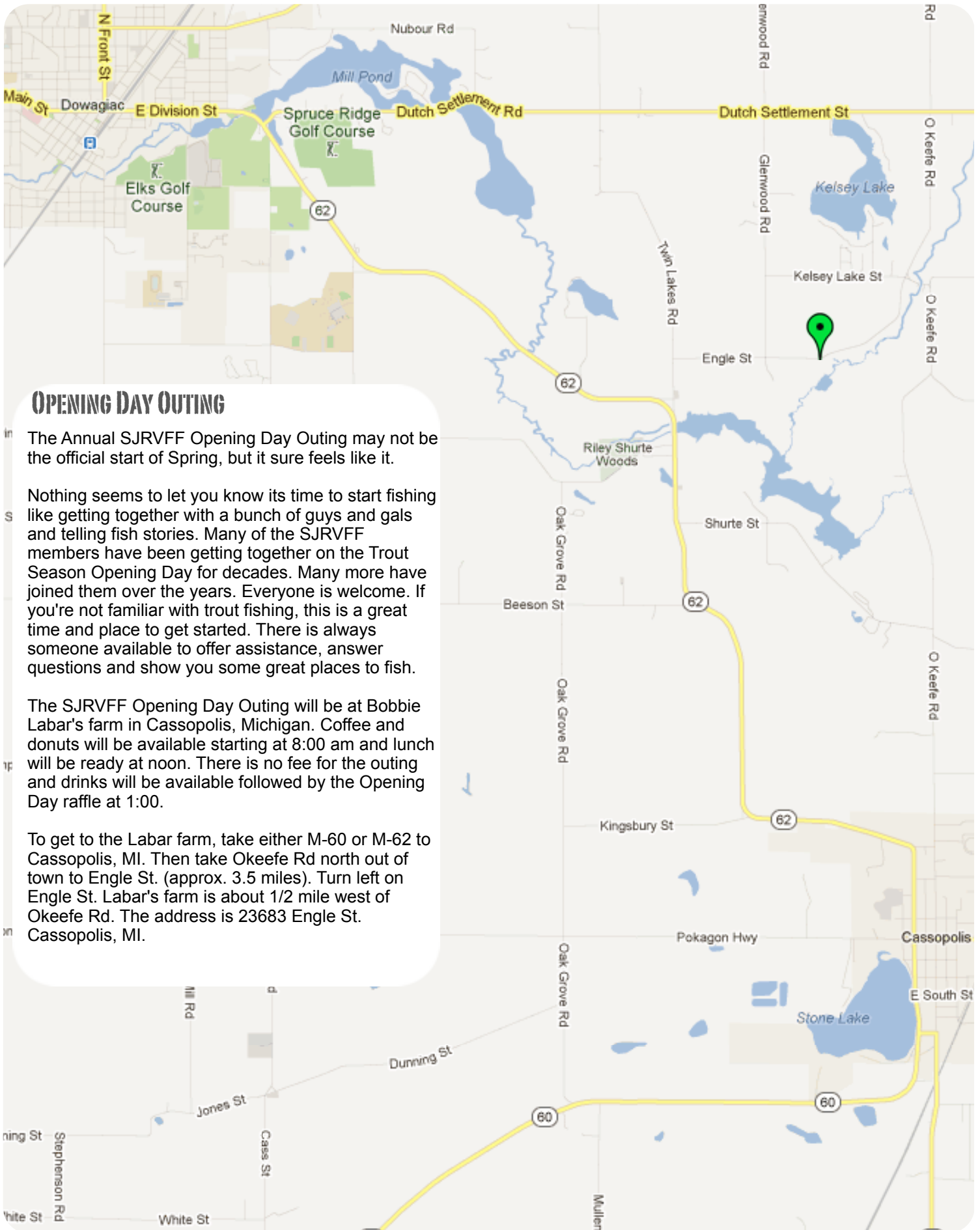


Any questions, contact:

Tim Scott
timelscott@gmail.com
574-538-1936
www.sjrvff.com

Terry Wittorp
terryflyfish@hotmail.com
269-424-5138
www.kvctu.org





OPENING DAY OUTING

The Annual SJRVFF Opening Day Outing 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 gals and telling fish stories. Many of the SJRVFF members have been getting together on the Trout Season Opening Day for decades. Many more have joined them over the years. Everyone is welcome. If you're not familiar with trout fishing, this is a great time and place to get started. There is always someone available to offer assistance, answer questions and show you some great places to fish.

The SJRVFF Opening Day Outing will be at Bobbie Labar's farm in Cassopolis, Michigan. Coffee and donuts will be available starting at 8:00 am and lunch will be ready at noon. There is no fee for the outing and drinks will be available followed by the Opening Day raffle at 1:00.

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

OPENING DAY RAFFLE



We are very lucky to be able to offer for this year's Opening Day Rod Raffle a Winston rod. Sounds vague? Well it is, but in a very good way. The winning ticket will have the opportunity for a rod of your choice. That's not just A Winston rod but THE Winston rod you've always wanted.

You should have received tickets in the mail and Craig Myers will be selling tickets at the upcoming meetings and on Opening Day. The drawing will be held at 1:00 pm at the Opening Day Outing, Saturday, April 25.

If you've thought about a Winston fly rod this is your opportunity to get exactly what you want.



You know you want to be like this guy. Buy a ticket and start your collection.

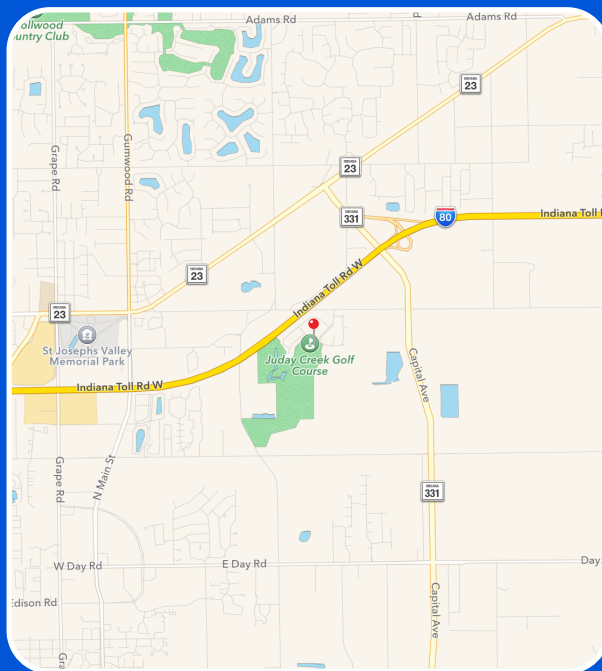
DIRECTORS

President: Don Reber
Vice-President: Terry Wittorp
Treasurer: Lee Troyer
Secretary: Jim Lothary
1 Year Director: Tim Pote
1 Year Director: Tom Coleman
2 Year Director: Tom Rondo
2 Year Director: Jeff Downing
3 Year Director: John Law
3 Year Director: Craig Myers

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Conservation: John Law
Event Coordinator: Todd Ezzell
Librarian: Blake Morris
Raffle 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 your chest, you contact me at: 574-286-6508 or dustinnew@sbcglobal.net



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