

THE

LOOP



Dustin New, Editor



Wednesday,
March 15 at
Juday Creek Golf
Course Event
Center

SJRVFF WELCOMES BLANE CHOCKLETT

Blane grew up fishing the small mountain streams near his home in Blue Ridge, Virginia. As a youngster, he started a guiding service and, in the late 90s, opened Blue Ridge Fly Fishers in Roanoke—one of the most respected full-service fly shops in the region. He quickly gained a huge following with his creative and extremely effective fly patterns. Blane has worked for years to create patterns that have all the intricate nuances of flies, with the strike-generating action of conventional lures. These new patterns serve to not only inspire fly fishers but also to compel new and conventional anglers to try fly fishing.

About a decade ago, Blane returned to his river roots where he now owns and operates the New Angle Fishing Company which specializes in float trips for everything from musky and smallmouth bass to stripers. Blane has served on the board of the American Fly Tackle Trade Association (AFFTA) and has worked as a consultant to several fly-fishing companies. Many of Blane's highly innovative fly patterns are produced through UMPQUA Feather Merchants. Blane is also an ambassador for TFO rods, where he has helped design a new big-fly rod called the ESIX. He also



is currently helping design new fly-tying products with Flymen Fishing Company and Harelina Dubbin. Blane is also on the Renzetti Legacy Advisory Staff. You can also see some of Blane's work in several of the industry's magazines, television shows and books.



I hope this month's issue of the Loop finds you on a local stream fishing what is supposed to be one of the best steelhead runs in recent memory. If it did - please put your phone down so it doesn't fall in the river – if you are reading this anywhere else, please read on but go fishing afterward.

Several months ago, I had the privilege of being asked by a Great Lakes lobbying group to accompany them to Washington D.C. representing the SJRVFF and talk to congress about continuing Great Lakes funding programs. Healing Our Waters (HOW) – Great Lakes Coalition, is an environmental, conservation, and outdoor recreation organization that maintains an active presence in D.C. to educate federal public officials about the importance of Great Lakes restoration funding and programs.

Each state bordering the Great Lakes will be sending two representatives and I was selected to represent Indiana through the SJRVFF. We will be asking Congress to support at least a \$300 million Great Lakes Restoration initiative as well as leading discussions on Comprehensive infrastructure spending, nutrients entering the Great Lakes, Asian carp, as well as supporting core environmental programs and laws.

For more information about the coalition and what you can do to help, please follow the link (address) below.

<http://www.healthylakes.org/about-the-how-coalition/>

While I was really looking forward to hearing Blain's talk on muskies, the dates of the trip will prevent me from being at this month's general meeting unfortunately, but Terry has

graciously agreed to host so I know you all will be in good hands.

Look for a full report of the trip next month.

Well, I guess I'm off to buy a suit and tie.

Fish on.

John



TIME IS RUNNING OUT!

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. We would like to get all the renewals processed before the end of March so a club rosters can be distributed in April.
- Anyone who joined the club after September 1st, 2016 is automatically covered for the year 2017.

Click here to
Email RSVP
terryflyfish@hotmail.com

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 \$16.00/
person

MENU

Buffet



MARCH RAFFLE

For the March meeting
Craig has lined us up
with an Orvis Superfine
glass rod.



It's a 7'6"
three piece 4#.
As always, there
will also be some other
assorted goodies.

APRIL IS FAST APPROACHING...

It's almost time for our Annual Fundraiser on April 19th. The doors open at 5:30 PM at the Juday Creek Golf Course Event Center. As usual, the general auction will be run by auctioneer Dave Goodrich. Dinner will be served at 6:30 PM and the bidding will begin immediately afterward.

Next week's meeting is the last one before the auction. In hopes of making the auction better for everyone, we are hoping to have as many items on hand before the auction so we can categorize them (live, silent or bucket) and have a program sheet for all upon arrival.

Please bring items to next weeks meeting. If you have any questions please contact Terry Wittorp at 269.424.5138 or email at terryflyfish@hotmail.com

-Terry

**CALL A FRIEND
AND BRING THEM TO
THE APRIL AUCTION**

Editor's Note - There will be several fly boxes full of flies tied by various club members. These are flies tied by guys that fish them in and around our area - they work!

TIME TO PLOT YOUR MOVES

So you're planning to attend next month's Auction. But do you have a plan? Some planning on your part is clearly in order. We are sure to have some special offers and items up for bid. So get your wallet in order. Get with a friend and figure out a game plan for some larger items.

The annual auction is the one and only fundraiser that SJRVFF holds with all 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 to be auctioned off that you may not use anymore but are still in good serviceable condition. 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 year's auction. Any and all donations are greatly appreciated.

- Todd

One activity I am thinking of taking up this summer is float fly fishing. I've had a float tube sitting in the basement for over 10 years and it's about time to take it out for a spin. I have a book somewhere on the proper method of fishing from a tube and it didn't look that hard. Of course, activities that don't look that hard are usually ones I try, discover that they really are hard and then get frustrated and quit.

What I vaguely recall from the book was something about mounting into the tube, using your fins to propel yourself and other boring legal and technical stuff. I do remember the pictures of smiling guys holding fish or sneaking up on unsuspecting fish. I remember a drawing in Sports Afield many years ago of Indians putting hollowed out pumpkins on their heads and then swimming up to unsuspecting ducks and grabbing them from below. If ducks can be fooled by floating pumpkin heads, I should be able to stealthily approach trout or bass and get within my limited casting range in my float tube.

When I was a kid I remember long summer days sitting in an inner tube on a warm water pond, soaking up rays and having bluegills peck on my behind. I envision Float tube fishing to be much the same, only with catching fish and drinking an adult beverage or two thrown in. Given my legendary grace and athletic abilities, what could possibly go wrong?



FLY TYING CLASS AND DEMONSTRATION WITH SPEAKER BLANE CHOCKLETT

Blane is going to spend the afternoon before our monthly meeting teaching and demonstrating some of his innovative and successful flies.

When: March 15, 12-5pm

Where: The Elkhart Conservation Club

- First 15 intermediate or above tyers
- All materials will be provided
- Non-tyers are welcome to come and watch the demonstration
- \$5 per person for drinks and snacks

Please RSVP to Terry Wittorp at terryflyfish@hotmail.com, 269.424.5138

A DAY WITH JEFF CURRIER

Save the date August 12. Jeff will be doing two of his power point programs AND a Fly Casting 101 workshop AND an advanced casting class in the wind and the double haul. Through out the day we will be having groups for beginners, intermediates, and advanced classes with club members. Jeff will go around and give pointers to all people in the classes. We will also have a group giving knot tying classes. This day will be limited to 40 people. Cost will be between \$40 and \$50, includes lunch and drinks. This is like getting to spend the day with Tiger Woods, Larry Bird, Peyton Manning or Lindsey Vonn. Should be a lot of fun. This is going to be sent out to Kalamazoo TU, Little Elkhart TU, FlyGirls, Duneland Flyfishers and others. To reserve your spot, send an email to terryflyfish@hotmail.com.

DIRECTORS

President: John Law
Vice-President: Terry Wittorp
Treasurer: Don Reber
Secretary: Jim Lothary
1 Year Director: Jeff Downing
1 Year Director: Tom Rondo
2 Year Director: John Barnhart
2 Year Director: Bob Hagin
3 Year Director: Micheal Kendzicky
3 Year Director: open

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 a story, article idea, photo, artwork, or need to get something off your chest, contact me at: 574-286-6508 or dustinnew@sbcglobal.net

SJRVFF

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SPRING OUTING

The spring outing will be held at D Loop Outfitters in Welston Mi, on May 5,6, and 7. Meals will include Friday night dinner, Saturday breakfast, Saturday dinner, and Sunday breakfast. You are on your own for lunch Saturday. This is a great place for our outing with nice rooms set in the woods. All rooms have refrigerators, kitchen sink and microwave along with a full bathroom and couch and chairs. The property includes a great casting pond, fire pits, a large great room area and a really nice fly shop. They have a great guide staff. If your interested in hiring a guide call as soon as possible to line one up. The cost is \$175.00 for the lodging and food. 12 to 14 spots available, money in full saves you a spot. Money due by April 6. If you cancel, price of food will be refunded, but lodging will only be refunded if we can fill your spot. This will be a great time and a great chance to get to know some of the club members. Send checks to SJRVFF PO box 933 South Bend ,In 46624

ELEVENTH ANNUAL TIE-A-THON

APRIL 22ND

On **April 22nd** fly tyers from various Federation of Fly Fishers and Trout Unlimited Clubs from around the Great Lakes region will come together for the 11th annual Tie-a-thon to tie and donate flies benefitting three Trout Unlimited Youth Camps. The camps include Illinois Council of Trout Unlimited Youth and Fly Fishing Camp, Kalamazoo Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited Youth Camp and the Trout Unlimited National Teen Summit which will be held in Michigan. The event is being held at the Elkhart, Ind. Conservation Club, which has donated their use of their facility again.



About the Recipients

The Illinois Council of Trout Unlimited - The annual Conservation and Fly Fishing Camp is held on the banks of the famous Au Sable River in Michigan from July 23 to July 28. Campers learn more about conservation and fly fishing in a week at camp than most of us learn in a lifetime. The camp accepts young men and women ages 13 through 18. Instruction is provided by Trout Unlimited volunteers, faculty from Midwestern Universities, and local professionals.

For more information on the Illinois Council of Trout Unlimited you can check out the Oak Brook Chapter web site: obtu.org/

The Kalamazoo Valley Chapter Trout Unlimited is hosting the Michigan Youth Trout Camp Tuesday June 25-June 29th at the Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center on Higgins Lake, in the heart of Northern Michigan trout country. The four-day Camp is designed to educate our 12-16 year old boys and girls about the importance of protecting our cold-water resources. Students will discover what trout need to survive, where they hide, and, with help from some of Michigan's leading conservationists and anglers, how to catch them. No previous fly fishing experience is necessary!

For more information on the Kalamazoo Valley TU Youth Camp, check out their website, kvctu.org

Trout Unlimited National Teen Summit – Every summer TU Teen leaders from across the country gather together to exchange ideas, learn about conservation and leadership, and shape the continually evolving TU Teens program. This year, the 6th annual Teen Summit will return to the birthplace of TU on the banks of the Au Sable June 21 – 25 at the Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center in Northern Michigan.

For more information on the TU Teen Summit and to watch a video about last year's Summit in Montana, check out the website www.tu.org/teens

If you are interested, pick one pattern to tie, buy a box of 100 hooks, the materials and get tying! If you are not a fast tyer and can't complete your 100 flies in one day, this is a good time to get a jump on your flies. We would certainly take more than 100 from anyone if they are ambitious and want to tie flies in advance. You don't have to be an expert tyer to donate flies.

Which patterns and sizes to tie? More information is available at www.sjrfff.com or visit Tie-a-Thon on Facebook. There are some excellent new tying videos on the Tie-a-Thon page in particular. Any specific questions, contact:

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

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

April

19th- SJRVFF Club Auction
22nd-Tie A Thon
29th- Opening Day Outing

May

17th- SJRVFF club meeting at the
Elkhart Conservation Club

June

Bugs, bugs and more bugs. Go Fish!!

July

Small Mouth Outing

October

Salmon Outing

COMING TO THE MEETING?

If you're going to attend the club meeting March 15th 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 Friday.**



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