

# THE LOOP



Dustin New, Editor



## SJRFF WELCOMES DON LYONS

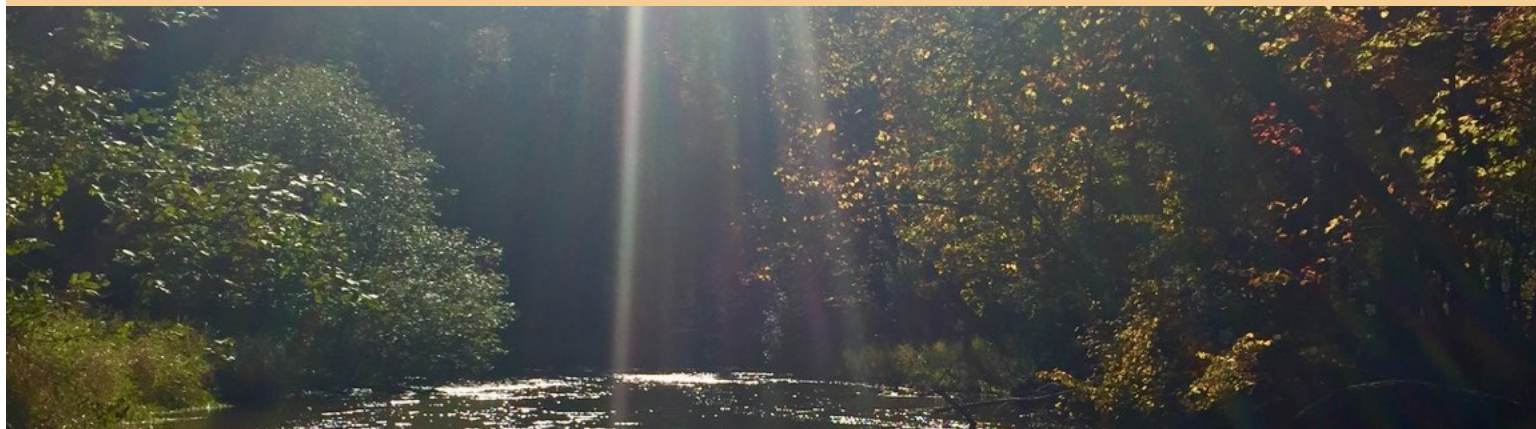
**Don** was born and raised in Dowagiac, Michigan. He was interested in fishing at an early age and, like many kids, enthusiasm was easier to come by than money. However, growing up in the same neighborhood as the Heddon factory meant that from them all sorts of discarded baits and hardware could be scavenged, and baits good enough to catch fish could be made. A summer lawn mowing route saw Homer Circle, who at the time was Heddon's Vice President and Director of Advertising, become Don's most valued customer because he paid in fishing tackle rather than cash. And yes, Don still has the personally inscribed fly rod he received from Mr. Circle. Always mindful of the quality that Heddon products represented, he also still has the Mark IV spinning rod and Mitchell 300 reel he purchased with the cash made from that lawn mowing route. By 1991 Don's business founded in Dowagiac in 1970, Lyons Industries,

needed to expand. The old Heddon factory had been vacant since 1984 and represented an opportunity to acquire and save a local landmark as well as provide room for their business to expand. In 1994 a family friend, who was a retired museum curator, suggested that they should set aside a portion of the old Heddon factory and acquire the items that Heddon's former general manager, Trig Lund, had saved. If they could do that, he offered to donate his time to help them set up and run a museum. When the new museum was opened in May of 1996, it was a relatively modest presentation of the Heddon artifacts that had been saved by Mr. Lund and also those baits that were in Don and Joan's own tackle boxes. In their own minds, they were simply trying to save some local history. What they were completely unprepared for was the worldwide collector interest in all things Heddon. The museum has since expanded fivefold and in the process



assembled the largest collection of Heddon artifacts in existence. They have both written books which are expected to be released in the next 6-12 months. They've also recently undertaken a complete reorganization of the museum in order to better tell the Heddon story through the artifacts. The museum is entirely self-funded and no admission is charged.

There is a web site [heddonmuseum.org](http://heddonmuseum.org) with museum pictures and contact information.



I just got back from several days of salmon fishing on the Pere Marquette river in Baldwin. As predicted this is an amazing run of fish this year in both numbers and size. If you have fished for these fish in the past then you know how challenging it is to hook a fish 25 lbs fish, swimming 10 feet in front of you, in what looks like 2 foot of water, just as you are wondering if there is even a hook at the end of your line, you are rewarded with multiple blistering, acrobatic runs and some very interesting conversations with your net handler.

Next time you are lucky enough to get one of these amazing fish to the net, I would challenge all of you to take a moment and just think. Really look at the fish you



are holding. It may not be as silvery or pretty as it was just a week earlier while swimming in Lake Michigan but just look into its eyes, look at the markings on the tail and adipose fin, think about its battle scars, its now dog like teeth that have just developed during this final week of its life and just think of the distance and obstacles it had to overcome just to get to the spot the two of you are sharing at that time.

Then while you are driving home or day dreaming at the office the next day just think back to the fish. Just think that fish you just spent 10 minutes with will be dead in a few days if not already.

Just think of it possibly being born at the very spot you just were holding that fish. Just think that your fish spent a year or more avoiding predators in the general area you just landed that fish. Just think it then swam downstream through all the dams and obstacles to get to the Great Lake. Just think it then had to find food and again avoid predators for another two or three years.

Just think just one day it's powerful instincts kicked in and that fish made the same journey from a few years ago but this



time upstream. Just think this final journey is just endured solely to reproduce and die. Just think about how that energy held in the fish from the Great Lake made it to the spot in the river you hooked the fish. Just think about how the river, insects, fish and terrestrial critters are now using that energy from the fish for their own life cycle.

Just think that how in several months everything starts over. Just think that when you are back in that very spot four years from now trying to hook the fish in the shallow run 10 feet from you, could very well be the offspring of the fish you took a little extra time to really look at this year. Just think.

Fish on.





### IT'S THAT TIME!

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

**Parking is free.**

Meal cost \$16.00/person

### MENU

Plated Dinner

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

### OCTOBER RAFFLE

For the October meeting Craig has lined us up with a steelie package, including a rod and some other exciting goodies.



## SALMON/STEELHEAD OUTING - OCTOBER 14

The always popular Salmon/ Steelhead Outing will be held October 14, 2017. We'll be meeting at the Thornapple Landing on the Muskegon River in Newaygo, MI. As before, lunch will be provided but with a new twist: Board member Jonathon Savoy has agreed to make his famous gumbo for lunch.

If you've not done any salmon fishing this is a great opportunity to get into some fish and have someone with experience helping out. 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.

This is a rather informal gathering with no start time or end time – just lunch around noon. According to all reports, this is one heck of a salmon run so come enjoy the day!



## DIRECTIONS TO THORNAPPLE LANDING

Take 131 north from Grand Rapids, MI. to M82 (about 30 mi). Take M82 west to Thornapple Ave. Go north on Thornapple Ave. to Thornapple landing. The group is usually in the Northwest part of lot closest to the river but you can look for the canopy and someone will be nearby.







## EINSTEIN HAD IT RIGHT

by Jim Lothary

You would have thought Albert Einstein had taken up fishing in his youth. His legendary formula,  $E=MC^2$  or Energy equals the product of Mass times the speed of light in a vacuum squared was perfect. Any angler knows the true measurement of energy can best be measured by the pulsating, driving, frenetic pull that we feel whenever we are lucky enough to hook a fish. The mass of the fish and the speed at which it moves are instantly conveyed to the angler and sometimes that speed seems to exceed the speed of light!



This summer I met a couple by a pool out west. She told me that she had just caught her first trout ever, her very first fish! I asked her, Did you feel it? Did you feel the energy through the line? She gave me a big smile and empathically said "yes." That day she not only caught her first fish but the sport of fishing caught her for life.

Don't get me wrong, I love the sight of a trout sipping in my fly, a smallie smashing my streamer or a bluegill grabbing my popper. I love their beautiful colors when they slide into my hand or net. I enjoy the grip and grin shots and the toasts at the end of the day. But what I keep going back for is that shot of adrenaline I get when the energy of a fish fighting for its life surges up that tippet, up that line and through the rod and right into my soul. That miraculous combination of the size of the fish, its wild runs, the river's current, the tiny tippet and the nimble rod tip perfectly convey that energy. No other sport gives the participant that direct connection to the wild, the primal edge of life. Tight lines.



# 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 set our leadership for 2017. That's a bit of a 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, president, vice-president and treasurer positions are available.

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.



## 2018 FLY TYING SEMINARS

Each January, February and March we invite an accomplished fly tier to spend a Saturday afternoon teaching us how to tie their favorite patterns or teaching us their secret techniques. We are currently putting together a list of tiers to contact and looking for suggestions. We've got a few ideas but would welcome your thoughts. For instance - Are you more interested in some basic techniques and instruction or more advanced? Please talk with a board member about your suggestions at the upcoming meeting. You are also welcome to contact Todd Ezzell [m3plus2@hotmail.com](mailto:m3plus2@hotmail.com).

## 2018 FLY TYING CLASSES

Next year being an odd numbered year, we will be doing the Intermediate Fly Tying Class. This will be a seven week class building on basic techniques, materials and tricks you need to continue your journey as a fly tier. You will tie proven fly patterns for the local area and beyond. Classes will be once a week for seven weeks starting the first Tuesday of February. The cost for nonmembers of SJRVFF is \$30.00 and \$5.00 for members with a limited of 30 people. SJRVFF will supply all the vises, tools and materials to tie during the class or you are welcome to bring your own vise and tools. For more information please contact Jeff Stanifer at [janar3@sbcglobal.net](mailto:janar3@sbcglobal.net) or Dustin New at [dustinnew@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dustinnew@sbcglobal.net).



## DIRECTORS

President: Don Reber  
Vice-President: Terry Witorp  
Treasurer: Lee Troyer  
Secretary: Jim Lothary  
1 Year Director: Jeff Downing  
1 Year Director: Tom Rondo  
2 Year Director: Craig Myers  
2 Year Director: John Law  
3 Year Director: John Barnhart  
3 Year Director: Bob Hagin

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

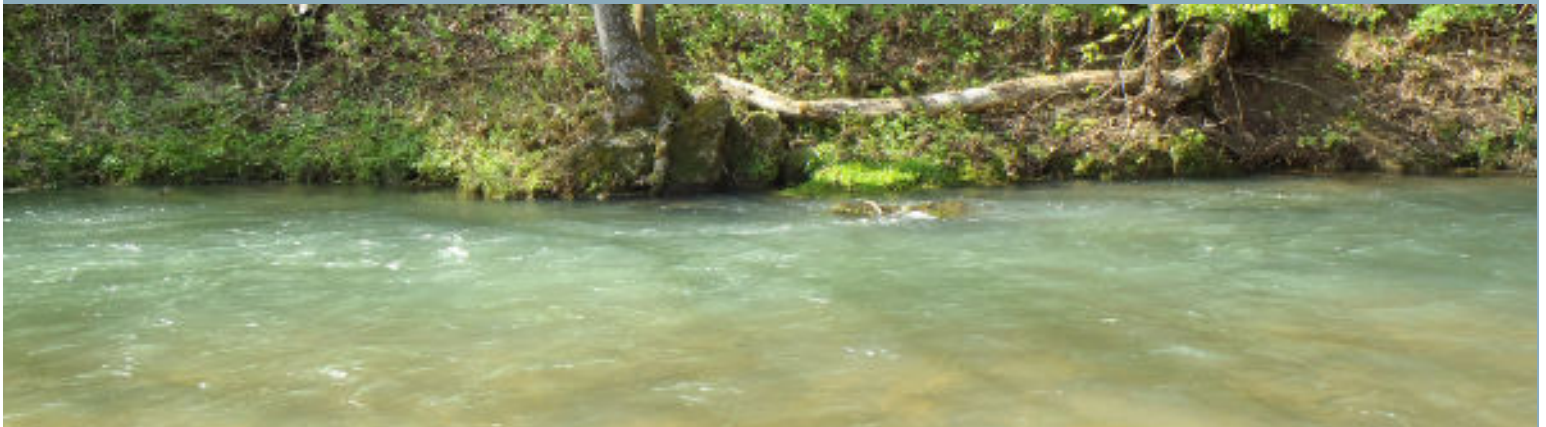


**SJRVEF**

PO Box 933

South Bend, IN 46624-0933

[sjrvef@yahoo.com](mailto:sjrvef@yahoo.com)



UPCOMING EVENTS	OCT 14	OCT 18	NOV 15	NOV 24
	<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>Club Meeting</b>  6:30pm - Juday Creek Golf Course Event Center	<b>THANKSGIVING</b>

**NOTE: You must RSVP to have dinner at the meeting.** Please be sure to RSVP by emailing 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.

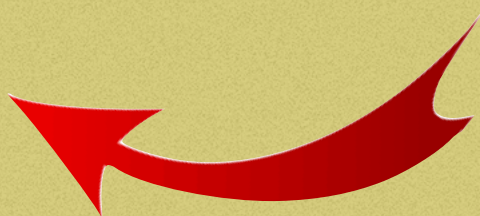
**NO RSVP, NO DINNER.**

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 October or November meetings, or go to the SJRVFF website under the awards section and make a nomination there.

**CLUB AWARDS AT DECEMBER MEETING!**



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**SJRVFF**

**PO Box 933**

**South Bend, IN 46624-0933**