



Arrowhead Fly Angler

April 2012

www.arrowheadflyfishers.com



What's up? At a glance

March 3, 2012 - April 29, 2012

Wisconsin inland early season catch and release trout season.

March 31, 2012

Opener: Brule River, downstream of Highway 2

April 14, 2012

Opener: Minnesota stream trout.

April 17, 2012 6:00 dinner 7:00 meeting
Arrowhead Fly Fishers meeting.

Clyde Iron Resteraunt

May 5, 2012- September 30, 2012

Wisconsin Inland stream trout season

May 5, 2012-March 3, 2013

Opener: Wisconsin general fishing.

May 12, 2012

Opener: Minnesota general fishing.

May 15, 2012 6:00 dinner 7:00 meeting
Arrowhead Fly Fishers meeting.

Clyde Iron Resteraunt

June 19, 2012

Arrowhead Fly Fishers Chambers Grove Picnic outing.

June 29, 2012-July 1, 2012

AFF Women's Fly Fishing Retreat in Brule

Guess where!

Each newsletter there will be a photo from a club member. You try to guess where it was taken. There will be a prize for who guesses correctly first. email to:

Arrowheadflyfishers@aol.com

Didn't guess the photo location? You can still contribute by emailing your photo for the contest.

submitted photos are available for use by the Arrowhead Fly Angler and Arrowhead Fly Fishers club



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You Choose

1



2



3



4



5



6



7



The Arrowhead Fly Fishers is considering a new logo for the club. We want to hear input from you. Above are seven logo designs that are being considered. Logo number one was the favored logo at the Spring Banquet this year.

Vote for your favorite by emailing: arrowheadflyfishers@aol.com

Casting

Rendezvous

In March the AFF held it's first annual casting event, Casting Rendezvous, at ST. Scholastica. The event attracted people from as far away as the Twin Cities and Grand Maris. Well over 50 people gathered to cast indoors at the beautiful Burns Wellness center. Instruction was available and challenges were set up for casting. The club provided rods and reels for people who did not have equipment.



Arrowhead Fly Fishers conservation Scholarship

The AFF has issued a scholarship to the University of Wisconsin Superior's, Fisheries Science Program for \$1,000. This program offers a focus in Ecology, Aquatic Biology and Fishery Science. This program is for students interested in careers in aquatic and marine biology, field biology, resource management or environmental education. Faculty expertise and the resources of the Lake Superior region and the University owned 140-acre MacQuarrie Wetlands and 77 acres along Dutchman's Creek contribute to the quality of this program, which emphasizes fieldwork and undergraduate research.

2012 AFF Women's Fly Fishing Retreat

AFF Women's Retreat in Brule will be the weekend of June 29-July 1. For more information or to register, contact Katherine Lansing at naturegirl669@gmail.com or 218-310-0855.



Bruce Nelson from the Lew Jewett Club in the cities asked if we could contact the AFF membership to see if anyone can help with the Casting for Recovery event coming up this summer. This event takes place June 1-3, and River Helpers will be needed on Sunday, June 3rd, to assist CfR participants while they fish Knapp Creek, near Lewis, Wisconsin (about a half hour from Taylors Falls, MN). River helpers are only needed for the Sunday fishing day.

To learn a bit more about this specific Retreat, please see the link below:

http://castingforrecovery.org/wordpress/?page_id=2814

From the Banks of the Midway ...

Phil Johnson

“Many men go fishing all of their lives without knowing it is not fish they are after.”

Henry David Thoreau

When I was young and the world, at least as I recall it, seemed to make more sense, trout season opened on the first Saturday of May. By then the buttercups were in bloom, the air no longer carried the dank smell of melting snow, and weeks of anticipation had given me a nearly terminal case of fishing fever.

Presently one can fish nearly year-round, even in the Northland where all of us are now confused as to what a typical winter should even look like. I suppose this is quite an improvement since it expands outdoor opportunities. Even I, cemented as I am in tradition, have found myself fishing on January 1, albeit on the Bighorn River in Montana. It was snowing that day, so as a Minnesotan I felt quite at home.

I do miss the traditional Minnesota May opener, however, and I still can vividly recall opening days of 40 to 50 years ago, which is odd since I can't remember what I did last Saturday unless I look on the calendar for written clues. Part of the appeal of the first Saturday of May was all my high school buddies fished as well, so I felt part of a strange group hysteria. By the time the first class started on Monday morning everyone knew who had bragging rights for the biggest trout.

In those days I wasn't paying much attention to Thoreau. If I had tossed out the above quote to the gang in the cafeteria I would have been forced to go sit by our English teacher at the faculty table. We fished to catch fish. Numbers and size counted.

But size and numbers don't mean that much anymore. I no longer measure the steelhead I'm lucky enough to land since I throw them all back, and some of the most memorable recent trips

include getting skunked. So maybe Thoreau is right, but if it really isn't fish I'm after, what is it? Why do I stand in ice cold water hours on end, hoping to land just one steelhead? Why do I spend hours mulling over fly patterns and tinkering with tackle? I have no idea what I've spent on fly rods over the years, a weakness exacerbated with my recent succumbing to the lure of bamboo. Why do I travel thousands of miles to land fish smaller than the musky lures my grandpa used to use?

Profound answers to those deep questions elude me, but recently I stumbled across an old picture labeled "Sand Lake 1952" which provided an answer: I fish simply because I was born to fish!

I believe that somewhere in my family tree there's a true hunter/fisherman dangling on a branch; someone living in Lapland who harvested fish and game to feed his family. Someone who would not understand closed seasons or light tackle or certainly catch and release. I think going out and harvesting game is in my genetic make-up. Not everyone has this. I have many friends who must be descended from generations of urban merchants. These friends work in offices, bowl for fun, and never need insect repellent.

My earliest memories are connected to fishing. My grandparents had a cabin on Sand Lake near Moose Lake and I spent hours on the dock with a cane pole waiting for the bobber to disappear. Occasionally I rode along with Dad in the old cedar boat. Trolling for walleyes, watching that old green Johnson outboard quietly vibrate on the transom, waving at cabin owners who waved back from their docks—it is as real and vivid in my mind's eye as it was nearly 60 years ago.



Phil Johnson, 1952, Sand Lake

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Fly Pattern

Federation of Fly Fishers Fly of the Month, April, 2012

ZUG BUG

By Bob Bates:

I mentioned before that many great fly tiers at TU and FFF shows are available to photograph for the FFF Fly of the Month. I just sit down in an empty chair in front of a tier. This is the second fly that Milt Jenkins of Taylorsville, Utah tied for me at the 2011 East Idaho Fly Tying Expo. He has only one hand. A prosthetic device served as the other hand. He still ties flies professionally, although he admits that he is a little slower than before when he turned out 500 dozen flies a year for Jack Dennis. Milt has been tying for 53 years.

In *Flies for Trout*, by Dick Stewart and Farrow Allen say credit for this pattern goes to Cliff Zug. Then they go on to say that any fly tied with peacock herl will catch fish. Just about everyone agrees with them on that. I use it in both streams and lakes. Just use your favorite wet fly technique and go for it.



Step 1. Put a thread base whole length of shank, and tie on a good clump of peacock sward fibers. Milt ties them long and then adjusts the length. Hold fibers and pull thread down so material doesn't move around the hook. If he wants lead, he puts it on now at mid shank and wraps it forward to within a couple of eye widths of the eye. If he had a bead on the hook he would take a few more wraps and shove them into the back of the bead.



Step 2. Tie in oval silver rib. He also uses gold tinsel. Pick a bunch of peacock herl. Milt doesn't count fibers, double wrap the peacock herl. He secures it with a half hitch so he can use a loose loop to put on beard.



Step 3: Reverse wrap rib so it isn't doesn't gets lost in the peacock herl.



Step 4: Tie the beard about two eye widths back from the eye.. It is easier to turn the hook over tie the fibers on loosely adjust the length, and then put on some tighter wraps. Trim excess. (He tied the beard in with the fly upside down, and I asked him to turn it over for the picture.)



Step 5: Use Mallard breast feather for the wing case. Strip off the real fuzzy stuff. Tie it on top of hook.



Step 6: Then cut it so it looks like wings are just starting to develop. Wind a small head, whip finish and put on a little head cement. (He makes his own glue with 50-50 Duco cement and acetone.)

Closing comments:

Hook; Daiichi 1180 10 -14 mostly 12
Thread: 6/0 black
Tail: Peacock sward fibers
Weight: Optional 0.015 lead wire
Rib: Oval silver tinsel
Body: Peacock herl
Beard: Pheasant tail fibers
Wing case: Mallard breast feather

I have had Zug Bugs in my Fly box for more years than I want to admit. If you are not using them, shame on you. Get busy, and tie a few for your fly box.

Pattern provided by, FFF
Website
You can direct any questions or comments to FOM at flyofthemonth@fedflyfishers.org

If you have a favorite pattern you would like to share email it to:

Arrowheadflyfishers@aol.com

Spey

The Spey river in Scotland is a wide deep river with steep rocky banks and trees up to the bank. The river's layout makes a backcast nearly impossible. The early Scotts used greenheart two-handed wood rods up to 20 feet long and developed a style of fly casting that suited fishing their rivers, such as the Spey river. Spey casting is a method of casting that suits long crosscurrent swings of the fly for Atlantic salmon. But, did you know you don't need two handed rods to cast Spey style? Spey casting can be done with single handed rods too. When casting single handed Spey we take advantage of the active roll cast, foundation of Spey, to change direction of the fly. So, there is two handed casting, which uses mostly Spey style casts and single handed casting that uses mostly conventional style casts. Here is where switch rods come in. Switch rods are rods that fit between two handed rods and single handed rods. You can cast them with one or two hands, you can "switch" methods. O.K. so then what is Skagit casting? Skagit casting is a method of specialized Spey type casts. In other words, if Spey and conventional casts are cousins, Skagit is Spey's younger brother. Skagit casting developed on the Skagit river in the Pacific Northwest for steelhead.

Now Americans are new to the Spey craze. We need to learn new moves to Spey cast, but the casting principles are the same as for conventional casting. The terms in conventional casting such as loop, pick-up, stop, backcast were once new to us. Spey has a language all it's own also. I am often asked if fly fishing is hard, I always say no, but you need to learn a new language. The English are credited for inventing fly fishing and they have a unique way of making the simple seem complicated. Such as "X" for diameter of tippet, hook size getting smaller while the hook number gets bigger, games like cribbage and cricket. But, the Scotts are even better at complicating things in Spey casting with terms like: point P, dangle, jump cast, white mouse, kiss and go, bloody L, and the expression "left hand to yer heart".

The Spey cast family in a sense can be thought of as advanced roll casts. These casts use an active D loop to load the rod. For the most part these cast are a change of direction cast. That is, the caster casts across the river current, the fly and line drift down stream of the angler. The caster then, through a series of one or more moves positions the next cast 45_90 degrees back upstream.

The exception to this is the forward spey which does not change direction and is often taught as a good foundation practice cast. When Spey casting with a 14 or 15 foot two handed rod it can be effortless to cast 70-100 feet. Spey casts with double handed rods of this length are made to cast over 100 feet routinely.

In our area Spey casting is finding a place for fishing the North Shore, where a long cast from the shore is beneficial. Also, with a shorter switch rod, Spey and Skagit casts are being used on the steelhead rivers, such as the Brule. The extra length of the switch rod helps also in drifting a nymph or egg pattern. Several of us are using the Spey technique to cover the pools below large power dams and to cover water in lakes. Spey casting with a single handed rod makes casting a nymph rig on tight rivers and creeks a breeze. No more overhead casts to tangle two fly rigs with split shot and an indicator. And no stick-fish on the back cast in small streams. I have even seen a youtube video of a gentleman in Northern Minnesota fishing walleye and pike on a large river with his two handed rod @ this link

www.youtube.com/watch?v=6VWCjBbdnz4

I am forming a group to practice and learn Spey casting in our area. If you are interested send me an email.



Paul Bartlam has been a certified casting instructor since 2010 and is the Editor of the Arrowhead Fly Angler. Paul can be reached at pbartlam@aol.com

Remember the AFF has 5 and 6 wt. rods for members to check out for a 2 week period by placement of a deposit. Contact any board member for details.

If you have a casting question email it to:

Arrowheadflyfishers@aol.com

18 Months with the AFF

Larry Zelenz

Three recent occurrences in my life provoked some thought regarding the nature of anglers and the angling community: Reading Howell Raines' book *Fly Fishing Through the Midlife Crisis*, personal reminiscence on the first eighteen months of my association with The Arrowhead Fly Fishers; Helping teach a January term class at Gustavus Adolphus College on Aquatic Stewardship.

In many of the essays in his book, Raines refers to the "Redneck Way" as part and parcel to the fishing culture he grew up with in the Deep South. Though some aspects of the concept were homey and humorous, the "Redneck Way" also touted a mind set of catch/harvest all that you can, regardless of "limits" and be tight lipped about your fishing holes, lest word get out and others take advantage. On one level this seems like a way to assure the quality of your own fishing experience. On another level maybe it's not. The "Redneck Way" certainly is not about sharing ones experience and passing on any kind of a legacy for the future.

I have also been thinking about my first year and a half with the Arrowhead Fly Fishers. In June of 2010 after concluding 24 years coaching soccer and athletic administration at Gustavus Adolphus College, I found myself in the midst of a move to Duluth. I would be leaving behind friends and memories in St. Peter but there was little trepidation regarding a move that would bring me closer to our cabin in Ely as well as the many angling opportunities for the fly fisher that this area affords. All I needed were new fishing buddies. Through the AFF, I found them... in droves.

Kathy Lansing was my first connection because her name and contact information was on the website. I met Kathy, Todd Heggstad and Paul Bartlam while helping out with a kid's fishing camp at the Hartley Nature Center before we even had a place in Duluth. When I moved in that fall, we worked together on our efforts towards Casting Instructor Certification, a path I had been on for a year or so while teaching fly-fishing at Gustavus. Later Paul would introduce me to Muskie fishing from a drift boat, a great new experience.



Prior to my knowledge of the club, I had actually been in touch with Damian Wilmot the previous spring anticipating that it would be good to learn something about the area, particularly steelhead fishing, something that was new to me. I didn't know at the time that he was AFF president. His suggestion to connect with the AFF to learn more about the local area was some of the best advice I could have received. The spring trip didn't work out and it wasn't until the following fall that I spent a day learning the ropes on the Brule from Damian.

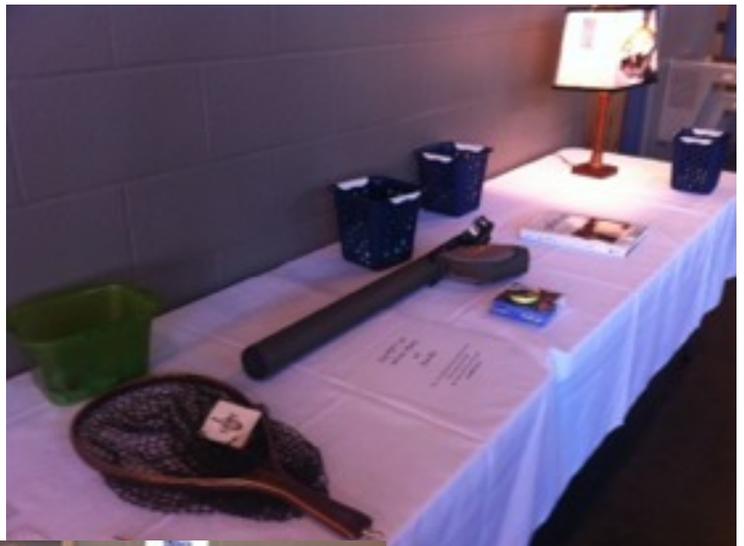
Then I hit the jackpot thanks to Randy Hicks and the Steelhead Rendezvous. At this, a crown jewel of club events, I had the great fortune to be paired up as a novice with Jim Pollock. He graciously shared his knowledge of the Brule and steelhead throughout this weekend and twice more on subsequent occasions. Doug Mroz, who I met at that first rendezvous, was kind enough to add to that knowledge the following fall, spending a day on the river with me sharing what he knew. Meeting Lloyd Hautajarvi at that first rendezvous had a positive impact on my first Christmas in Duluth as my wife took the hint and kindly gave me one of his beautiful Steelhead nets as a gift.

Since then I have learned a little more about tying flies from Phil Johnson at a club tying event. I learned about muskie flies and had the pleasure of sharing a float for the big toothy fish with Howard McCormick. Meetings with Tom Sabyan and Laura Jensen gave me some insight into the club's history in conservation and issues with local streams. Dewey Linski has helped me learn more about rod building. All these people and many others have made my first year and a half in Duluth so enjoyable.

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2012 Spring Banquet

The AFF Spring Banquet was held March 11th at the Clyde Iron Restaurant in Duluth. Over seventy five people participated in the event. Smoked salmon hors devours and a wonderful meal set the backdrop for a lively auction and prize drawings.



From the Banks of the Midway... *continued from page 4*

If we weren't at the cabin my dad would stow the outboard in the Studebaker's trunk and he, my Uncle Norman, Grandpa, and I would drive to Fish Lake, rent a boat, and troll for walleyes every Friday evening. The lure of choice was a strip-on spinner. My contribution was a minnow pail full of chubs which I carefully selected from the dozens swimming in the concrete cooling tank in the milk house. I can't recall ever catching a fish on those outings, but it never seemed to matter.

When I was about 10 I spotted a fish on a platter in my grandma's refrigerator. Its colors were faded but still more vivid than anything I had seen. Grandpa told me that the fish was a brook trout my aunt had caught below the farm on a bend in the Midway River. I can still drive by the spot and see the rock she used to sit on.

And so the twig was bent.

I became obsessed with this beautiful fish, but I had no idea on how to catch one. My tackle then included a telescoping steel rod with a hand-me-down level wind bait casting reel filled with black braided line. I tried to cast this monstrosity, but despite my best efforts I usually ended up with a massive backlash. I spent more time unsnarling line than fishing.

Then I saw a fly fisherman. We were driving down a country road and a man was standing on a river bank by a bridge waving something. My dad slowed down and my uncle explained that the man was fly fishing for trout. Believe it or not, as we passed, the man had a strike! I just knew that this was the way to trout fish.

Unfortunately, I was part of a musky / lake trout family and no one really paid much attention to my questions about fly fishing. Who ever heard of catching a musky or lake trout on a fly rod in the 1950s? Fortunately, Dad subscribed to *Outdoor Life* and while flipping through it one afternoon I came across an ad from a company called Orvis. I sent for a free catalog and a week later opened it and fainted when I saw the price for bamboo fly rods. In those days my summer job was mowing our lawn. Just before school started I received my pay: \$10; a good portion of that was to go for Christmas presents for the family. My folks did not believe in an allowance—why give a kid money for just breathing? My mother must have felt sorry for me, however, because she bought me a fly rod at Gambles Hardware in Cloquet when I entered junior high. The rod was solid fiberglass, seemed to weigh five pounds, and I simply could not duplicate the flowing cast of that man by the bridge we had seen three years earlier.

I finally caught my first trout when visiting a boyhood friend in Proctor. We walked down into the Kingsbury Creek canyon and managed to catch a couple of tiny brookies on nightcrawlers.

Things have steadily improved since then, and the thought of finally fishing on that first beautiful May evening still gets my blood flowing.

So, Mr. Thoreau, maybe what I'm after when I go fishing are connections – to my ancestor in Lapland who speared fish to feed his family, to my late Grandfather who never did catch that big musky, to that gang of boys who shared stories around the cafeteria table, and to that four year old who sat on the dock at Sand Lake waiting for the bobber to disappear.

Phil Johnson is the secretary of the Arrowhead Fly Fishers.

18 Months with the AFF... *continued from page 7*

During the past January, I returned to the campus of Gustavus Adolphus College to help teach a class I had taught with a biology professor on the faculty there during two previous January-terms. The class BIO 139, Aquatic Stewardship tries through science and fishing to engage students in the aquatic environment in the hopes of their growing to consider themselves stewards of those environments. Teaching this class was one of the most gratifying things I did during my career at Gustavus, even though it wasn't really part of my job description.

So how does the "Redneck Way", the generosity of AFF members with their time and knowledge and the Aquatic Stewardship course tie together? Though in the short term the notion of harvesting lots of fish and keeping your knowledge to yourself may help selfishly guarantee the preservation of one's own quality fishing experience, the real key to the future of our fishing experience is in sharing the knowledge and passion. The more people are engaged in the aquatic environments, the more they care about those environments. When those people care enough they become advocates. When they advocate hard enough those people become stewards. It's only with sound stewardship on the part of many, many fishermen and women that we can ensure great fishing resources survive the many threats that they face and are there in the future for ourselves, our friends and those that come after us to enjoy. Acting in that spirit of sharing, the AFF can go a long way toward that end. Thanks for a great year and a half of learning and fishing!

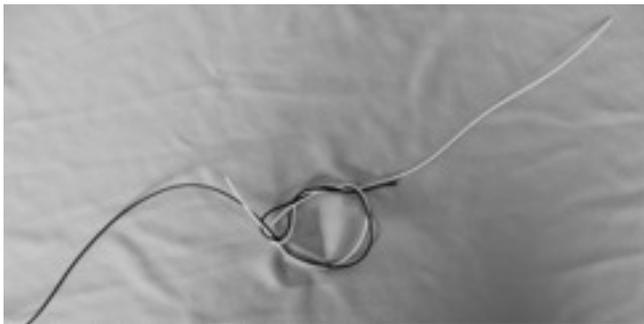
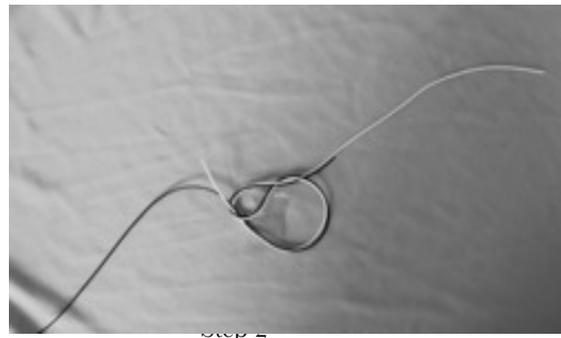
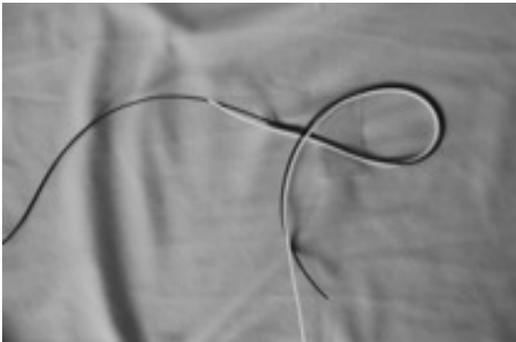


Larry Zeleny is Vice President of the Arrowhead Fly Fishers and an AFF Certified Casting Instructor.

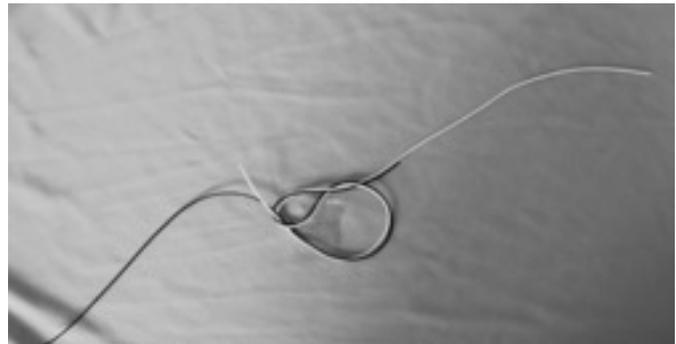
The Orvis tippet Knot

The Orvis CEO Perk Perkins developed this knot to join tippet together in lieu of the Surgeon's knot. The tippets can vary in size by .004" diameter. It has close to 100% break strength of the weaker of the two tippet pieces. It is a bit bulkier than the blood knot. A variation can be used with an end piece of tippet to attach a fly.

Dark line is leader, white line is tippet:



Step 3



Step 4

Here is a link to the Orvis tippet knot:

http://www.orvis.com/orvis_assets/files/index.html

If you have a knot to share email it to:

Arrowheadflyfishers@aol.com

Paul Bartlam is editor of
The Fly Angler and FFF
Certified Casting
instructor

Who we are

The Arrowhead Fly Fishers is a group of men and women dedicated to promoting fly angling of all types and to preserving fisheries throughout the Arrowhead region.

What we offer:

- Interesting meeting topics
- Formal casting instruction
- Stream improvement projects
- Group fishing adventures
- Fly tying sessions
- Fellowship and Fun



Board of Directors

President: Karl Kaufman 218-879-9492 jkkaufman@mchsi.com

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larry.zelenz@gmail.com

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Conservation/Education Director: Laura Jensen 218-590-6249 jens0619@gmail.com



“No angler watches nature in a passive way. He enters into its very existence”

-John Bailey

Arrowhead Fly Fishers Membership Form

Dues are payable in January

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____

Membership Type:

Individual—\$15

Family—\$20

New Member

Renewing Member

Return to: Arrowhead Fly Fishers
209 Snively Rd.
Duluth, MN. 55803



Arrowhead Fly Fishers
209 Snively Rd.
Duluth, MN. 55803