



## What's up? At a glance

### December 17th, 2013

AFF Holiday dinner.  
6pm social hour, 7pm dinner  
Blackwoods, Proctor

### January 1st-March 31st, 2014

Southeast Minnesota winter stream trout season.

### General Meeting January 21st, 2014

6pm Social Hour/Indoor Casting and 7pm Meeting at Clyde Iron Restaurant, 2920 West Michigan Street, Duluth MN.

### February 21-23th 2014

Great waters Expo. Blaine MN

### June, 2014

Fourth Annual AFF Women's Fly Fishing Retreat.

### 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](mailto:Arrowheadflyfishers@aol.com)

The previous picture was of the Roaring Fork river in Colorado.

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*



Remember the AFF has 5 and 6 wt. rods for members to check out by placement of a deposit.

The AFF also has fly tying vices and kits with tools to check out with placement of a deposit.

Contact any board member for details.

### AFF Library

Check out the material in the AFF library. Give us a review on the material you checked out.

Also, the library is a good place to donate your books and DVDs that you have made good use of. See the AFF webpage for details.

### Volume 24 Issue IV Email edition.

Guess where!.....1

AFF News.....2

A step back in time on the St. Croix river.....3

Who we are.....6

## **AFF annual business meeting**

The AFF annual business meeting was held November 19th, at the Proctor Community center. Though it was sparsely attended, there was quite a bit accomplished. The November meeting provided a great chili feed for the members. Jim and Laurie Arndt helped organize the chili feed. The chili was made by Duluth East high school students and the desert was made by students at Duluth Denfield.

The president, Larry Zelenz, offered a review of the club's 2013 activities to date, highlighting the social and educational events that club members took part in during the year. The treasurer, Jim Arndt, gave a synopsis of where the club stands financially and the assurance that the club is financially sound. Much of the remainder of the meeting was dedicated to acting on recommendations from the board of directors for changes to the club bylaws. Following is a summary of the recommendations that were approved:

- 1.) Eliminate the term served as Past President in the current presidential sequence.
- 2.) Take some membership duties from the Secretary position and add them to the Membership position.
- 3.) Add the current duties of the Director of Publications to those of the Secretary and eliminate the Director of Publications position.
- 4.) Eliminate the Banquet Director position and have the remaining Board members responsible for the Banquet.
- 5.) Establish an annual calendar of General membership meetings that cuts down the total by two meetings.

## **A message from the President of the Arrowhead Fly Fishers:**

By putting into place the first four items listed above we reduce the size of our board from its current nine positions to six. The intention is to streamline the leadership of the club and eliminate positions that had fewer duties to perform by combining those duties into other positions. Even so, the minutes from this November meeting reflect a sad reality. As was recorded by our secretary, Phil Johnson, during the elections held at the end of this meeting "No candidates stepped forward for the Vice President position. Possibly a person can be found and voted on at the December meeting."

Like many similar organizations, the AFF is dependent on a small group of individuals to steer it along at any given moment. The hope is that everyone in the club can, at some point, step up to spend a little time at the helm, so that the same people don't have to provide that leadership over and over again, burning them out and making the club stale. Without someone stepping up to take that Vice President position there will be no one in line to rise to the Presidency in 2015. Four of the current five board members' terms will be up at the end of the coming year and if we don't fill those positions next fall, we will have a one person board in 2015. That doesn't bode well for the club's future.

Take this as yet another request that you think about serving the club. We have the urgent need for the Vice President right now and in a year we will need fresh leadership in the positions of Treasurer, Education/Conservation, Membership Chair and, once again, Vice President.

Thanks for your consideration.

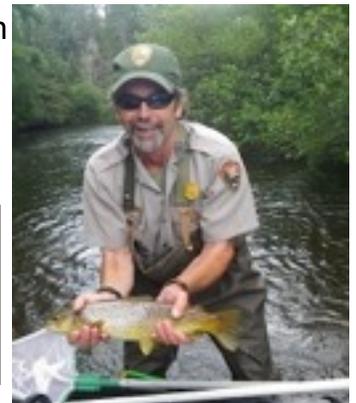
Larry

# A step back in time on the St. Croix river

As a Park Ranger for the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway working the Interpretation Department I get to meet and greet visitors everyday on our two river ways - The St. Croix and Namekagon. One of my favorite duties is working at the Visitor Center in Trego, WI on the Namekagon River. Our daily shift begins at 9:00am raising the American Flag and flipping the closed / open sign on Highway 63. We greet visitors as they walk through the door with a personal " Welcome to the Riverway, how can we help you today?". As we have learned with the thousands of visitors who enter that door you never know who you will meet. It could be retired Park Rangers, National Park Travelers, Jr. Rangers adding another badge to their collection or first time visitors asking about a paddling adventure. We have been trained to give them our best introduction and make it a National Park experience they will remember forever. For children, it could be their first Park Ranger encounter that may last a lifetime, perhaps impacting their future plans like " I want to be a Park Ranger when I grow up". In my short career with the Park Service I have met visitors from all over the world to include: Italy, Japan, Argentina, New Zealand and Clear Lake, Iowa. and yes they were home the music died ( Buddy Holly, Big Bopper and Ritchie Valens circa 1959).

As a fisherman who has spent over 30 years on both rivers I get very excited when I get to talk fishing with other River Rats or those going out for the first time. One such encounter happened last summer (2013) when this particular conversation shifted from smallmouth to catfish to sturgeon when the visitor said "when I get back home I will have to send you the sturgeon letter, I think you will enjoy it".

Several months later the letter arrived and eventually found me now that my season is over and the Visitor Center is closed. As an Interpretation Park Ranger and one who is always digging into historical anecdotes of the river, fishing legends, stories and lures from the past this letter immediately took me back 70 years to two fisherman swapping letters of their fishing stories. It also reminds me of my current fishing buddies, however we now use emails, facebook and blog posts --Enjoy!



St. Croix Park  
Ranger "River  
Rat" Jeff  
Butler

Winnipeg Manitoba,  
February 22nd, 1934

Dear Dave:

I was just going through my drawers and ran across the photograph you sent me for Christmas of the sturgeon you caught at St. Croix and which up to date I have not acknowledged. Many thanks Dave, I will have great pleasure in showing it to the "piscatorial unbelievers".

That is an episode that will only come to a man once in a lifetime. It is probably something you have dreamed of all your life. Every time you have cast a fly into the stream you have hoped to get a "whopper" and I wonder how many hundreds of thousands of times have you cast a fly into the St. Croix.

You have whipped every pool for miles up and down the river a hundred times - you have waded and rowed and sweated and struggled - through scorching sun and drizzling rain. You have been cold and miserable out at dawn and late at night. No hour of the day or night have you not fished that river.

Your face has been stung and your neck has been chewed. Flies and mosquitoes have had their fill. Your seat burned and sore.

***continued on page:***

You have dry-fished the river - you have wet-fished the river - you have still-fished the river - you have netted the river - you have dredged the river and you have even dynamited the river. You have fished at 100 degrees in the shade and at 40 below zero.

You have worked - you have toiled up-stream and down-stream - in shallow water and in deep - in smooth places and in rough - . You have smashed boats in the rapids - you have bruised your hands and feet on rocks. You have laughed in the river and you have filled the river with blasphemy.

You have changed but the river has remained the same. You have pitted your strength and skill against the river and have grown weak but the river flows on, unbeaten just the same.

And then one bright, beautiful Sunday morning - right at your own front porch - right on your very doorstep - a 200 hundred pound fish gives itself up to you. An offering from the river - an 8' 10" sturgeon is delivered into your hands. The river can stand it no longer. It says to you: - "In all my hundreds of years of life no bastard has ever worked so hard and relentlessly on me - Dave - and this is your reward - a peace-will offering - I donate it to you - right into your frying pan will I bring it; and by its size, I hope you will forever remember that in my pools are many big fish, so, for Christ's sake, in the future, throw back the 'non-keepers' ".

Yours very truly,



The cabin Dave owned

*F. Best*



Dave's own fort porch where the event happened 80 years ago

# 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



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## Board of Directors

President: Larry Zelenz 507-382-7793 [larry.zelenz@gmail.com](mailto:larry.zelenz@gmail.com)

Vice President: Kathy Lansing 218-310-0855 [naturegirl669@gmail.com](mailto:naturegirl669@gmail.com)

Past President: Karl Kaufman 218-879-9492 [jkaufman@mchsi.com](mailto:jkaufman@mchsi.com)

Secretary: Phil Johnson 218-879-3206 [discophil61@gmail.com](mailto:discophil61@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Jim Arndt [James.Arndt@duluth.k12.nm.us](mailto:James.Arndt@duluth.k12.nm.us)

Banquet Director: OPEN

Publications Director: Paul Bartlam 218-390-0764 [pbartlam@aol.com](mailto:pbartlam@aol.com)

Membership Director: Mary Shaw 218-393-5787 [mcsaw49@gmail.com](mailto:mcsaw49@gmail.com)

Conservation/Education Director: John Connolly

“Angling is extremely time consuming. That’s sort of the whole point.”  
– Thomas McGuane

# 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

Arrowhead Fly Fishers

5249 McQuade Rd.

Duluth, MN. 55804



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Duluth, MN. 55804