

January 2003



Flylines



The newsletter of the Black Hills Flyfishers

The Finest In Angling Literature

'Twas the Night Dues Were Due

'Twas the night before spawning, when all through the stream,
none of the fish were yawning, and none took time to dream;

The redds were created by the rocks with care,
In hopes that Big Daddy soon would be there;



The ladies were nestled all snug in those redds,
While visions of baby fish danced in their heads;
And Cindy in her Orvis, and I with my Filson,
Had just settled in to watch nature's action;

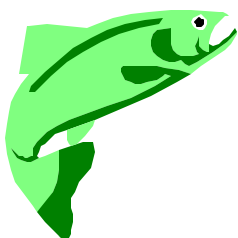


When out of the air there arose such a racket,
I sprang from my seat to see all about it;
Away to the sky I did cast my eyes,
Tore off my hat and threw it aside;

The sun on the tips of the screaming claws,
Shone brightly as stars just as they fall;
And what did I see there above the trees,
An impatient hawk with big hunger needs;

He dove and he screamed,
right toward the stream;
Intent on grasping,
without even asking;

A trout for his lunch was all he desired,
A simple short dive was all it required;
You see, it was easy for one so sly,
Because there was nowhere for the fish to hide;



The problem occurred because some anglers,
Refused to pay dues, no matter how we harangued them;
So pay up and see how the club can be;
And give the fish a chance, it's just small fee.



2002 -- The BHFF Year in Review

Well, what'd we get done? Maybe not a stellar year when it comes to shining examples of conservation excellence. But hey, sometimes the wheels turn slowly. We did accomplish a few things:

1. **Bies property.** Repair on one of the dams was completed. In addition, the large dam seemed to have lost all of its fish, so a re-stocking effort was completed.

2. **Big speaker.** For the second time, Bob Jacklin of West Yellowstone visited Rapid City, and put on a three-part program that included fly-tying, casting, and an entertaining evening slide show. The casting program in particular was first rate.

3. **Auction.** April brought an extremely successful auction, as our net proceeds were somewhere around \$10,000. A significant portion of this success was due to the efforts of Jim Hawke, who put a team of BHFF members together that were able to generate significant support from corporate sponsors.

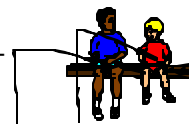


4. **Spring Creek.** Spring Creek basically dried up, and the fish died. The BHFF is currently involved in an effort to assure that this doesn't happen again.



5. **501c(3).** Can you believe it? We're an official non-profit in the eyes of the Internal Revenue Service. This has significant advantages, including low cost postage, as well as the opportunity for donors to write off their donations for tax purposes.

6. **Youth program.** Jim Phoenix instituted a youth program with cooperation of the YMCA, Boys' Club, and other organizations. This program has been well received, and hopefully it will continue to grow in future years.



6. **Dr. Kenner study of Upper Rapid Creek.** Work was essentially completed on a study the BHFF helped to fund in 2001. Although it does not appear that these sections of stream will ever be consistently productive, a great deal was learned in the process.

7. **Carp Tourney.** The first ever BHFF carp tourney/BBQ/outing was held at Angostura during the dog days of summer. Ace angler and all-around-good-guy Hans Stephenson enjoyed a cash bonanza by landing the lone carp. The food was excellent. You should have been there.



January Meeting the annual Tie-Fest

The Black Hills Flyfishers will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 9, at the Children's Science Center, 515 West Blvd. in Rapid City. The program? IT'S THE ANNUAL TIE-FEST!

During this amazing event, you will marvel, swoon, and shriek as ace threadmeisters whip out creations that you and I could only dream about!

The annual TIE-FEST is a smorgasbord of new patterns and new techniques! The catch? Of course there's a catch! Every other fly that's tied will be thrown into a kitty. Those flies will then be raffled and auctioned. Bring your checkbook. We've been receiving calls from Texas oilmen and Arab Sheiks - and you know how much they love to fly-fish.

This is very important -- bring your tying gear! Try a few new patterns! Show others the great patterns you've invented! Other than the auction, this promises to THE Social Event of the Year!

Polovich saves Vickers' Bacon

Traveling fisherman and Rapid City Journal photographer Don Polovich kept the first impeachment in the history of the BHFF Board of Directors from happening in December. He did so by agreeing to speak at the December meeting after being asked at the last moment. Board Secretary Mark Vickers used the excuse of a "business" trip to the Caribbean as the reason he did not line up a program sooner. The Board considered taking action against Vickers, but held its collective wrath because Polovich's program about fishing the Missouri River was so excellent.

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BHFF Wants You!

There is nothing more gratifying than helping out an organization such as the Black Hills Flyfishers. For example, there's no way to have more fun than working on Flylines on a sunny, 60-degree Sunday afternoon in December. Well, I could be fishing. Or pheasant hunting. Or chasing that four-point buck with my bow. Or training my dog. Or barbecuing and drinking a beer with my wife. Where do I hand in my resignation???

Honestly, working on BHFF projects is a joy because it gives you a chance to know you're giving back in a real way. Teaching a child to tie an Adam's or pounding a fence post into the ground to keep cows out of a stream makes you feel a lot better than just writing a check to make sure those things are possible. (That doesn't give you permission to not do the latter. We need the cash.)

The BHFF Board of Directors has created five committees that will work on specific areas of responsibility. The Board invites any club member interested in any of the committees to contact club President

Paul Stabile. The Board will name committee members at its next meeting, scheduled for 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 9, at the Children's Science Center.

The committees:

1. **Education:** Oversee the youth and women's program and look at other ways to educate folks about fishing, conservation, and other issues.
2. **Public Relations, Newsletter, and Membership:** Interested in helping grow the club, telling people about what we do, and helping with Flylines? If so, this is the group for you.
3. **Conservation:** Suggest, look at, and evaluate potential stream-improvement projects.
4. **Governmental Relations:** Be a lobbyist and not get paid for it!
5. **Programs:** Decide on and secure programming for the monthly meeting and for each year's Big Speaker.

Call Paul at 343-7864 or send him an email at pstable@bhws.com to ask questions or to volunteer your time.

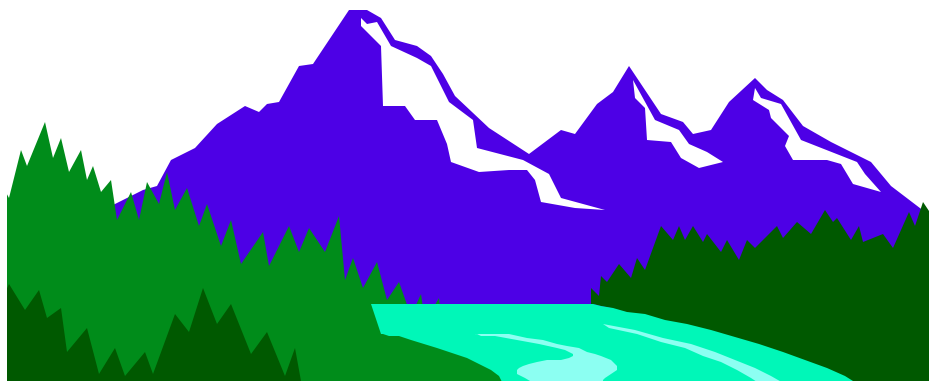
From The President's Desk By Paul Stabile

Last year, the members of the Black Hills Flyfishers saved the life of a kidnapped trout by paying all dues on time. While that rainbow trout is safe and secure in Rapid Creek, he still needs your help.

The BHFF operates with the dues you pay and with the proceeds from the annual auction. That money pays for this newsletter, the monthly speakers who won't work for free, and for all the projects and programs you read about on Page 2. Please do everyone a favor, and pay your dues as quickly as possible. We've included an envelope with this newsletter to make it as easy for us as possible. All you need to do

is drop a check in, stamp the envelope, and get it in the mail.

You have two membership options. Basic membership will cost you \$15, or just 4.1 cents a day. You can upgrade to a Contributor membership with a donation of \$35, or 9.5 cents a day. You can also give more, if you'd like. Both memberships get you nifty membership cards. The Contributor membership allows you to fish the newly stocked Bies ponds. Both memberships entitle you to this award-winning publication. And, after all, what better reason is there to join than that.



A Bunch of Flies To Tie

Trout Candy

Fished like a wet fly on a down stream swing, just under the surface, or a shallow streamer with a short strip, Trout Candy is irresistible to browns, bows, and brooks. Trout Candy was the results of two years of experimenting with a hump style nymph to find materials that would last more then 3 fish and still attract fish. The results not only lasts but it catches more fish then all the other designs I tried.

Materials

HOOK: #12 Streamer - TMC5263 or any #12 2x long

THREAD: Black

TAIL: Mallard Barred Flank Wood Duck

BODY: Super Fine Blue Dun or light Gray

WINGCASE: Mallard Barred Flank Wood Duck

HACKLE: Badger Saddle Hackle Palmered

HEAD: Thread Head Whip Finished

Tying Instructions

Lay down a layer of thread on the hook. Grab a hunk of mallard flank off the side of the feather and tie it on for a tail at the bend of the hook with about a hook length hanging out. Don't cut yet. The rest will form the back later. Tie in the hackle and dub the body stopping with room for the head. Palmer the hackle forwards and tie off. I usually trim the topside for the back. Fold the mallard flank left from making the tail, forward for a back and tie off. Tie in a thread head, a little glue and go fishing.



Bowman's Caddis Larvae

Used to catch fish that are actively feeding on caddis larvae and not dry flies or emergers.

Materials

HOOK: TMC 2488 size 18

THREAD: Danvilles Chartruese 6/0

UNDERBODY: Chartruese Thread or Floss

BODY: Clear Stretch Tubing and black hares ear

LEGS: black rabbit fur snipped to fine quality

HEAD: same as legs

Tying Instructions

Attach the chartruese thread. Then rap the hook shank with the thread so that the shank is green down to the curved section of the hook. Next, tie in the clear tubing and secure it. Then rap the tubing near the head.(leave room for the head) Tie it off. Next, dub the black hairs ear onto the thread and simply dub a black head and legs. Tie the thread off. Now take some cement and lay a thin layer over the clear tubing, next take some of the black hair from the rabbit and sprinkle it over the cemented body allowing it to stick and act as the little hairs that are all over the caddis larvae. Finished.

Red Midge Larva

This pattern imitates the larva stage in the midge life cycle. The red hook eliminates the need for a red body. The olive micro tubing gives body segmentation as well as a yellowish olive halo effect. Rick Takahashi is the originator of this pattern.

Materials

HOOK: Daiichi 1273, #20-24

THREAD: Danville 6/0 red

BODY: Olive Micro Tubing

Tying Instructions

Tie the micro tubing in firmly behind the eye of the hook. Pull all of the stretch out of the tubing and wrap back toward the bend in touching turns. When you get to the bend, reverse course and start wrapping forward in touching turns. Gradually decrease the tension on the tubing as the wraps are made forward. The decreasing tension will form a taper in the body as the tubing gets bigger with less tension. Stop wrapping about an outside eye-width from the eye. Tie the tubing down firmly and then build a head with the thread. Coat head with clear cement at least once.



From the Files of the Federation

The following material is reprinted with permission from the Federation of Flyfishers.

Endangered Fisheries Initiative Announcement 2003

From high mountain lakes to deep-water oceans, fisheries across the United States and Canada face new threats every day. Whether you enjoy bass fishing in Louisiana, steelhead fishing in British Columbia or striped bass fishing in Chesapeake Bay, you understand the true beauty and value of a healthy fishery. We are asking for your help in identifying fisheries that face serious threats so that we can all work to help preserve and restore these precious treasures.

Recognizing that many of our nations fisheries are in danger of decline the Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF) annually identifies our most endangered fisheries and advocates for their protection. Since 1999 the FFF's Endangered Fisheries Initiative (EFI) has listed a spectrum of endangered fisheries including rivers, streams, gulfs and lakes. We believe that by highlighting these waters and telling their story we can raise awareness of their plight and enlist others to help us make a difference.

The EFI program has been a great success and we are asking for your nominations for 2003. Local people know best the threats that their waters face and we need your help in identifying fisheries that face significant threats. If you know of a resource that deserves attention this is your opportunity to make a difference by submitting a nomination.

For a fishery to be eligible for consideration:

- It must be within or surrounding the United States and Canada.
- It must represent a significant resource to fly fishers.
- There needs to be a definite threat to the fishery that has caused or may cause it to decline or make it unavailable to fly fishers.

Preferential treatment will be given to fisheries that are facing significant decisions regarding their threat in the upcoming year.

To make a nomination for EFI designation please complete our EFI Application. If you have any ques-

tions or concerns please contact Kiza Gates at (406) 222-9369 or email your questions to conserve@fed-flyfishers.org. You can make a difference for the future, nominate a fishery in need of help.

Emergency Call For Action!

This year's most endangered fishery needs your help. Yellowstone Lake cutthroat trout are being driven to extinction by lake trout. The FFF named Yellowstone Lake as our nation's most endangered fishery this year because the Park Service was in danger of losing the funding needed to continue their effective lake trout removal program. The Senate Interior Appropriations Committee (who is handling Yellowstone Park's budget) has not included the money necessary to continue lake trout removal efforts in next year's budget.

You can help by faxing a letter of concern regarding the lack of funding for the lake trout control program in Yellowstone National Park to Senator Conrad Burns' office. The letter should be addressed as follows:

Attn: Chris Heggem
Honorable Sen. Conrad Burns
187 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington D.C., MD 20510

The letter needs to be faxed in order to be processed in time. The fax number for Burns' office is (202) 224-8594

Home to the largest inland population of cutthroat trout in the world, Yellowstone Lake is at dire risk of losing a native species that is responsible for sustaining many creatures, from grizzly bears to bald eagles.

"Non-native lake trout, that were introduced to Yellowstone Lake many years earlier have been decimating this unique cutthroat fishery," said spokesman Bob Molzahn, FFF's Endangered Fisheries Coordinator. "Federal funds for a gill netting program aimed at controlling the lake trout population have been eliminated from the budget. The loss of these funds put the cutthroat trout population in Yellowstone Lake at serious risk of extinction. These funds need to be restored to preserve this unique fishery."



Blame it on Milan by Bradee Beard

Milan Jacobs met my father when each was blessed with two years' incarceration in the United States Army in 1951. Both were assigned to armor - not the kind St. George wore, but tanks. Dad was the driver and Milan the gunner. I have never figured out how the Army could have made such a grave error in assigning Milan as a tank gunner. As with all armies, I am sure, the idea in the U.S. Army is to give a recruit a duty assignment as far removed from his civilian vocation and avocation as possible. Well, they made an enormous mistake with Milan, one I am sure they have not to this day repeated. You see, one of Milan's two favorite pastimes is hunting. He knows guns inside and out, forward and backward, upside down, right side up and sideways.

After their term of indentured servitude was completed, Dad and Milan returned to their respective homes - Dad to South Dakota and Milan to Oregon. And that was that for a quarter of a century. When my parents and I moved to Oregon 25 years later, we by chance happened to move to Eugene, the town Milan was from. Our second night in Eugene got Dad to wondering if Milan still lived there, so off to the phone book he went. An "M. Jacobs" was listed, and 30 seconds later the driver and the gunner were picking up right where they had left off. When Milan learned where we now lived, his first exclamation was "Well, get on your horse and get over to our place!" For Dad and Milan, it was like no time had elapsed between mustering out and sitting down that night to coffee. Dad and Mom had shared a tar paper shack with Milan and his wife Barbara while the guys had been stationed at Fort Hood, Texas, so Mom had a ready-made friend with whom to get re-acquainted, and I quickly made friends with Barb and Milan's three sons.

Soon thereafter, I learned that Milan's other great hobby/love/ lifestyle is fly fishing. My only experience with the sport had been watching Curt Gowdy catching grayling in black-and-white on The American Sportsman TV show in the late 60s, but I was completely enthralled with it. Seeing the opportunity to mold me into the fly fisher his sons showed little interest in becoming, Milan learned only later how much more than he could chew he had bitten off.

Oregon is influenced by monsoons, its winter one being like winter monsoons worldwide - WET. The mascot of the University of Oregon is the duck, and I think Milan would agree with this metaphor to

describe how I took to fly fishing. In fact, some years later, he confided to Dad that in me he had created a fly fishing monster. All was not beer and skittles, however, at least not for the first few years. My enthusiasm was never lacking, but at first my skill certainly was. Winter after winter, flies escaped my vise looking more like what the cat coughed up than anything a trout would eat; summer upon inter-minable summer, the wind knots I tied in my leaders (and lines!) deserved to have their own zip codes. Being an inordinately patient man, however, Milan came away from the teaching process, years later, with only slightly less hair than what he started with. I think, about two hat sizes' worth. It wasn't all one-sided, though. In return, I'm sure I taught Milan more than a few profanities he'd never heard before. Some, even I had never heard before!

In 1998, I finally had the chance to return the favor. Milan and Barb came to our home in South Dakota on vacation, and I got to squire them (and my folks) all over the Black Hills for a week and Yellowstone National Park for a four days. As he had been for my first rainbow in Oregon, I was there when Milan caught his first Yellowstone Cutthroat trout. I still don't know if it was a bigger treat for him or for me. That Christmas, Milan gifted me with a copy of a wonderful book by M. R. Montgomery, a combination of travel descriptions, philosophy and introspection entitled *Many Rivers To Cross*. Milan's inscription in the inside front cover reads: "Thanks again for the Yellowstone experience. May your days on the trout waters be filled with tight lines and screaming reels." Milan and Norman Maclean are kindred spirits for the belief that in thrift lies value, and in my mind they are equals, in brevity as well as in talent.

The title of this article was meant to reflect the original tone I had planned. But in the end, the word "blame" just doesn't fit at all. Milan, I hope that by my actions on-stream, I have demonstrated my appreciation for what you've taught me. It's long past the time when I should have actually said it in words, and I hope you know that the sincerity and depth of appreciation has only increased with the years. So, here goes - Thank you, Milan, for teaching me a sport, a philosophy, and for providing a great fishing example to follow.

The DDSJ&DC Cast

by the legendary Johnny D.

With all the fuss over the “Art of Fly Fishing” it’s understandable that Enquiring Minds would want to know the scoop regarding the finer points, and seek greater understanding at their earliest convenience. Unfortunately, there’s so much smoke in the air that it’s tough to stop and smell the roses, and when something smells fishy, I think I smell a rat. Like I gotta tell you.

For instance: All this introspection about fly casting. The roll cast, the false cast, the fore-cast, the all-that-malarkey-cast. What about the double-dip-slip-jerk-and-dive cast? Like the technicalities of this cast are some kind Top Secret. After faithfully attending a few dozen fly fishing seminars during the past several years, and paying a good price for admission, no one, not one single “expert” ever addressed the certain “particulars” of this complicated aerodynamic maneuver.

As with all difficult to master casts, the DDSJ&DC is best performed when mildly drunk or otherwise pleasantly incoherent. (You’d be a natural). This cast demands a lackadaisical, laid-back mental attitude at the very center of anxious anticipation, which explains why some continue to struggle with the exacting timing factor required to execute the perfect DDSJ&DC. To say nothing of managing the proper mix of spirit and fresh air.

Author’s Disclaimer: It is not the intention of this essay to glamorize or promote the use of mind-altering substances for increased athletic abilities in any sporting event. It is STILL against the law to operate a submarine in the state of SD without a “designated diver”. Swim at YOUR OWN RISK. ALWAYS go with the white wine-with fish. *Opinions set forth in this editorial do NOT represent the view of BHFF’s or Flylines. Proceed with CAUTION.

So, what is this mysterious cast, you must be dying to know. The cast that each and every single angler must one day endeavor to perform, yet receives no press-good or bad. Pay careful attention: We’re only going to cover this once.

During the course of my extensive personal and profession (Trout Bum) experience, I’ve noticed many minor variations to the specific technique, but

always the same rudimentaries comprise the basic cast. No matter

whether you’re right or left handed, tall or short, homely or handsome. In my research, the one common characteristic that does seem to make a difference is - a bizarre strong tendency towards mental drifting.

Some call it meditation. Like clouds drifting by, the angler’s mind wanders hopelessly aloof and entirely unpredictable. DDSJ&DC Masters concur. Less is always better, when it comes to DDSJ&DC line control. Vaguely out of control is better yet. DDSJ&DC Masters easily attain an enhanced mental and spiritual states without depending on substances foreign to the human body. They are consistently “high on life”, and can be overhead to “just say no” repeatedly, when encountering their many imaginary friends offering them intoxicating substances stream-side.

And so it seems, one’s success with the DDSJ&DC largely depends on his or her ability to reach this altered state - more than on years of repetitious practice. I can only anticipate your excitement, to learn that maybe even you can lay claim to developing the finer details of this cast, simply by raising your level of consciousness. So much easier than taking out the trash.

The cast begins with the typical fore and back, true and false casts, but when the fly touches the water, everything suddenly goes to pieces. You know this part. In actuality, you know all the parts, but have yet to waste this kind of time thinking about it. (Like that makes it any less important).

No sooner does the fly light upon the surface (stream or lake) and a fish (can be any fish) immediately mugs the bug, as though the whole thing were carefully planned in advance by some incredibly loving Universal Being. The angler instinctively reacts to



See Cast on the next page

Cast from previous page

the intrusion (didn't expect to actually catch anything), by yanking the rod with incredible force thus removing the hook, and consequently the fish, from the equation.

It is at this point that many anglers with they had reconsidered all those wasted hours spent working out at the gym, when it doesn't in the least help them with the rudimentaries of the DDSJ&DC. This is a place where the logically-challenged excel. A place where nothing else will do, but a hardy dose of chemical preservatives like those found in a couple packs of those little chocolate donuts. And a propensity for knee-jerk reaction and unbridled courage.

Plucked from hungry lips the fly whistles past your car speeding its way towards the upper branches of a very old oak tree behind you. The DDSJ&DC expert casually jerks the rod tip, reversing the entire process. (Novice DDSJ&DC casters usually disqualify themselves from the competition at this point and resolve to climb the tree, presenting another whole set of problems).

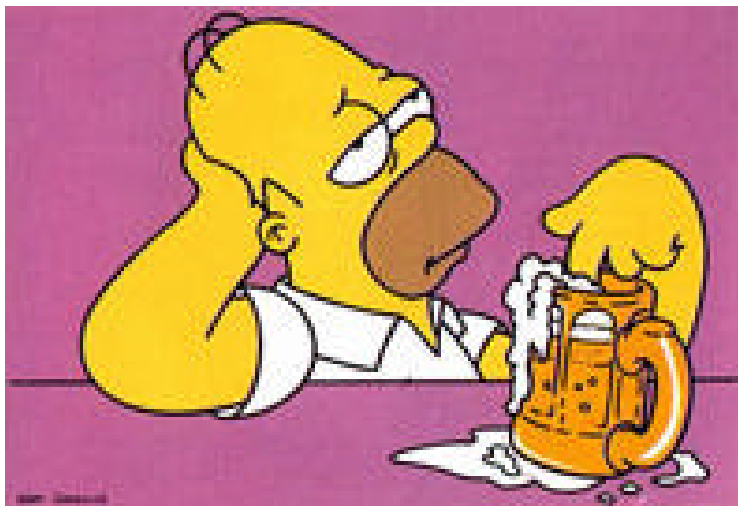
Seeing the fly spinning the leader around several small branches, the experienced DDSJ&DC caster, with a flip of the wrist sends the fly on its way back towards the water. Where it manages to first catch the cheek of an unsuspecting bystander, thus regaining

control before the need to reconstruct leader and tip-pet, and replace the fly.

Those few truly gifted DDSJ&DC Masters will snatch the bug away from the fish, snag the tree behind them, pull free, snag a bush on the opposite side of the stream, pull out, recover their backcast barely in time, to make their second presentation to the same fish at precisely the time the fish makes its next rise. (Talk about yer spirit-u-ality). Then, anglers who possess this level of skill have little business fishing, and could easily walk on water, stooping to select any fish of their choosing. (Used to be able to do this myself before gravity forced countless Little Debbie Products to accumulate at my "center").

Thankfully, it matters little which level of DDSJ&DC expertise you are able to demonstrate on any given outing. Rather, overall ability to perform such excellence on a relatively consistent basis is enough for the contentment of the DDSJ&DC caster. We strive for progress, not perfection. Diligently strive to improve your craft, that you might claim dominion over casting difficulties perplexing to the average angler. And don't forget Rule #62: Don't take yourself too seriously. (No one else does).

Voice over loudspeaker at Woodstock rock and roll concert: "Do NOT snort white powder on little white-powdered-donuts! It is NOT necessary to snort powder in order to achieve nirvana (or a decent DDSJ&DC cast, for that matter).



Editor no function beer well without

Flylines

Published infrequently at the editors' whim, *Flylines* is the voice of the Black Hills Flyfishers. Our editorial policy is to print the news, a portion of which will inevitably be true.

Opinions expressed in *Flylines* are those of the editors or contributors alone, and do not necessarily represent the views of the Black Hills Flyfishers. Opinions held by the Black Hills Flyfishers or its board will be clearly designated.

Comments or questions regarding this publication, or requests for additional information pertaining to the Black Hills Flyfishers can be directed to one of two newsletter lackeys:

- Mark Vickers, PO Box 8124, Rapid City, S.D. 57709. Call him at (605) 342-4769.
- Steve Buchholz, 10530 Nemo Road, Rapid City, S.D. 57702. Call him at (605) 355-9508.

The BHFF Board of Directors

Members of the the Black Hills Flyfishers Board of Directors serve three-year terms. The Board makes financial and policy decisions for the BHFF. Direct questions to any of the members. Most of them are good guys.

Paul Stabile, President, 343-7864

Bill Coburn, 642-7234 (home) / 642-7741 (office)

Mark Vickers, 342-4769 (home)/342-7676 (office)

Ev Hoyt, 343-2707 (home)/721-2397 (office)

Steve Buchholz, 355-9508 (home)/394-6082 (office)

Jim LaFreniere, 341-5813

Bill Potter, 348-0281

Bob DeMersseman, 721-6643(h) / 343-1880 (o)

Mike DeMersseman, 343-3130 (h) / 342-2814 (o)

Black Hills Flyfishers Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

BHFF annual dues are \$15 for a regular membership, and \$35 or more for a contributor level. Please make checks payable to Black Hills Flyfishers.

Our address:

Black Hills Flyfishers

PO Box 1621

Rapid City, S.D. 57709

[Black Hills Flylines](#)

The fish thank you

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