



Dubuque Fly Fishers

Newsletter

Calendar of Events

Sept. 11, 2017 7:00 P. M.

Swiss Valley Nature Center
Regular Meeting
Catch Magazine video
(season 6)

Sept. 25, 2017 7:00 P. M.

Fly tying with Mike Jacobs

Oct. 9, 2017 7:00 P. M.

Swiss Valley Nature Center
Regular meeting
Hunter Dorn owner/guide of
WI Fly Fishing Company.
"Streamer Fishing"
(Finding smallmouth during
colder temps)

Nov. 13, 2017 7:00 P. M.

Swiss Valley Nature Center
Regular Meeting
Gary Siegworth of the
IA DNR.
"Ecology of NE IA streams"

Dec. 11, 2017 7:00 P. M.

Swiss Valley Nature Center
Regular Meeting
Don Barrette of SW Badger
RC and D.
"Invasive Species of Concern
for the Driftless Area"

Jan 8, 2018 7:00 P. M.

Swiss Valley Nature Center
Mike Stallsmith
2016 Alaskan Adventure

THE PRESIDENT'S FLY BOX



Throughout my fishing life two species have been my favorites, trout and bass. Being a late comer to the fly fishing game that hasn't changed. My forays with the fly started out in the trout arena and it didn't take long to see the how similar smallmouth bass and trout were. Streams that they inhabit (check). Areas within the stream that they favor (check). Flies that they prefer, not so much. It's easier to cast the bigger flies that bass prefer with heavier weight rods, although it can be done with the lighter weight stuff, the seasoned pros can do this, but not being one, I prefer to take the easier approach.

I had the opportunity to fish with Hunter Dorn twice this year through his Wisconsin Fly Fishing Company, once with Kandi and once solo. Floating the rivers of Wisconsin for smallmouth in a drift boat or a raft is a blast. The fish are strong and the places you fish are beautiful (see above picture)! If you've never done it, try broadening your horizons, you might enjoy it as much as I do!

One of the things on my bucket list is to catch peacock bass on the fly rod. I agonized over this more than a few times about the expense of these trips thinking it probably wasn't going to happen. Although it would be an adventure I'm sure, Argentina or Brazil just weren't in the cards. Then one day while reading a magazine, I found out they have peacocks in the canals in Florida, things were looking up! Maybe the scenery wouldn't be as cool in the Miami area and the fish wouldn't be as big, but I'll bet they fight just as hard when hooked!

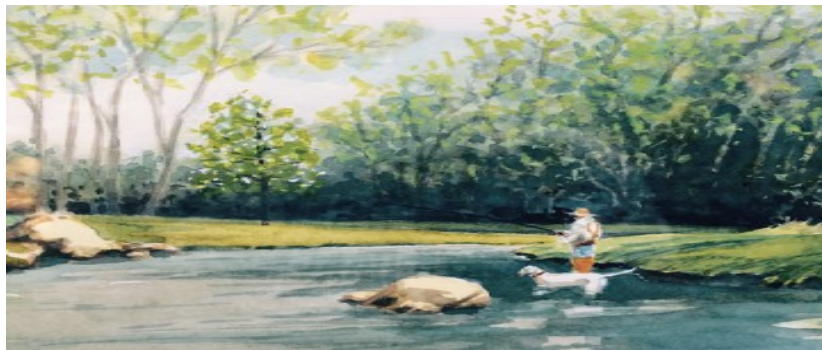
It just goes to show you that if you stay positive and believe it can

happen...it just might!!! So everyone get out there and enjoy the peace, serenity and beauty that the outdoors and our sport can give us. One of these days, Florida, here I come!

Tight lines,
Mike

Passion and Purpose

By Laura Nissen, Luther Manor Communities



(Dave Kemp and his beloved dog, Allie fully enjoying nature.)

It all started when he was a young boy growing up in North Dakota. Dave Kemp loved spending time with his grandfather fishing in the rivers of the northern plains. They spent hours together using traditional bait casting equipment. The rivers were just as magical as the time he spent with his grandfather. Little did he know those days would seed a passion that would bloom into a lifelong love relationship with fly fishing and everything about midwestern spring creeks & rivers.



Dave tells me that streams & rivers are similar to life, always on the move & changing, full of all kinds of interdependent life, all about relationships. "You never step into the same stream twice." When Dave moved to Dubuque and discovered our cold spring creeks, he learned that they were something extremely special. He told me that only 1-2% of our planet's fresh water are these glorious cold water streams. It was in the tri-state area that he fell in love with everything about fly fishing. When he had time away from his pediatric practice he found solace in these places.

(Dave Kemp fishing in Utah.)

In the winter he learned to tie his own flies. He told me that the challenge of imitating natural “fish food” was fascinating and rewarding when he caught fish using his homemade flies. He started building graphite flyrods from parts made commercially. Then he started making bamboo fly rods because he could customize each rod to his liking and to what most suited the streams he fished. Each rod requires 60-80 hours of work and so there is a ‘piece’ of the maker in each one. The rods are made from bamboo grown in a small forested area in China where the bamboo needs to sustain strong winds. This allows the rods to be as strong and flexible as they are beautiful and poetic. Dave made his first rod in 2008 and has since then has completed about 40 rods sharing his passion with so many. Dave tells me that making something with his hands is good for him at so many levels. He explains the whole experience can bring out the child in you as you continue to learn and make little discoveries, sometimes serendipitous! Each handmade rod is lovingly inscribed “G. P. Lawrence” to honor Dave’s grandfather.



When asked about the benefits of his sport, he tells me that the preparation of making his own flies and building his own rods is certainly enjoyable. However, it is the moment standing in the stream that is the pinnacle of all the preparation. Dave said that it is hard to put it into words but that he feels completely at home in that moment in that place.

(Form and function...a beautiful, finished piece of art!)

All concerns of the future or thoughts of the past fall away while he stands in the cool, crisp water with his beloved dog, Allie at his side. Dave chuckles, and tells me that in that moment he feels that he and his Grandpa Lawrence are still fishing together!

Dave Kemp will be leading a “Thrive” Workshop on his passion of Fly Fishing in November @ our Clubhouse. In the Spring of 2018, he will also be holding a casting clinic at our Pond. If you are interested in learning more about fly fishing, please call Laura @ 563-557-7662 to RSVP for these upcoming events.

Note: A special ‘Thank You’ to Laura Nissen, from Luther Manor Communities, for permission to reprint this article of fellow DFF member, Dave Kemp!

On The Fly...



Dave Felland and 3# blue cat
from Central Park Lake.



A 22" rainbow trout landed by
Gary Woerderhoff on the Blue.

Heritage Classic Youth Day

On Saturday, September 9, members of the Dubuque Fly Fishers participated in the annual Heritage Classic Youth Day held in Dubuque. Over 50 area youth, 10 - 16 years old, attended the event that included fly casting and tying, rifle and shotgun shooting, archery, dog training, trapping and taxidermy.

Members present were, Gary Kruse, Lou Meier, John Miller (and granddaughter Lilly), Mike Stallsmith, Dave Unsen and Gary Woerdehoff.

Fishing Quotes

The finest gift you can give to any fisherman is to put a good fish back, and who knows if the fish that you caught isn't someone else's gift to you?

Lee Wulff

The solution to any problem - work, love, money, whatever - is to go fishing, and the worse the problem, the longer the trip should be.

John Gierach