



TROUT LINES



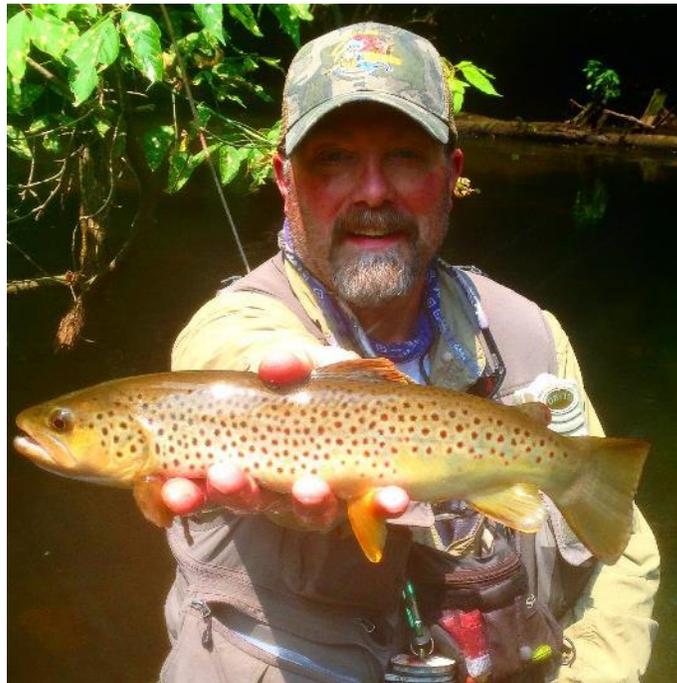
President's Message

by Mike Beachy

The 2015 fall season is upon us and soon it will be winter. It seems this year is going by in a flash. As of late October the Little Elkhart is still fishing well. The River has been low and clear most of the late summer and those conditions have continued into the fall. This makes trout fishing the Little Elkhart tough. Trout are weary and spook easy under these conditions. Nymphing still seems to produce the most trout but with the water temperatures getting colder, streamer fishing has picked up some. We could use some rain to raise the water levels and make it a little off color. I know it will happen because it always does. That is when streamers become king again.

In the fall the brown trout will spawn. In the Little Elkhart River this classically occurs in mid-November. I observed one nice brown trout already working a redd in the lower river this year which is somewhat unusual because of the low water levels. I guess the time is right for that fish. I also saw two of the largest brown trout I have ever seen in the Little E following each other around in the shallows like twins. I have never seen this before but I can only attribute it to them pairing up for the upcoming spawning ritual.

Ten years ago, if anyone would natural reproducing brown would have laughed at them. were brown trout successfully realize it. Spawning browns are common. LECTU has been long enough that we have a enabling this to occur. Every and catch more tiny natural amazes me but I guess it really into improving the habitat to trout survival. We plant brown enough concentration of reproduction. The water quality over the past ten years. We government in order to secure would be protected from is really beginning to show.



have told me there was going to be trout in the Little Elkhart River I The truth of it is there probably spawning back then I just didn't now not only successful but planting browns into the Little E population of mature browns year I observe more active redds reproduced brown trout. This still shouldn't. We put a lot of effort provide optimal conditions for trout in order to have a high mature browns in order for of the river has improved greatly successfully lobbied our state an area where these brown trout harvest. Now the fruit of our labors

I love to trout fish. It has always been a dream of mine to live close to a trout stream. A place where I could attain the solitude only offered by the beauty of clean water and the whisper of a fly rod any time I wanted it. The trout would be the bonus, the icing on the cake. My commitment to my profession and family never allowed me to venture to this place so through LECTU we created one here. In northern Indiana we now have such a place.

The Little Elkhart River is more than a muddy ditch. We may not have mountains and a lot of rock but it is still a nice quite place to visit. The beauty is in the eye of the beholder, I guess. The river is open to trout fishermen nearly all year round and there are trout there. You have a good chance of catching trout anytime you fish it. This is a direct result of what LECTU has created.

2016 will mark the tenth anniversary of the Little Elkhart Chapter of Trout Unlimited. It has been a great honor to be a part of this group. I am truly proud of what we have accomplished and of the support our membership has shown. That being said I can't help but see greater things in our future building on our past.

2016 Spring Outing Date Set

by Mike Beachy



The Annual Spring Outing will be held at Riverbend Park Saturday May 7th, 2016. This year will mark the ten year anniversary of the formation of the Little Elkhart Chapter of Trout Unlimited so the Outing is going to be somewhat different than those in the past. There will be more details on the Outing in the Winter and Spring Newsletters. The main information we want to give you is the date of the event so you can put it on your 2016 calendar.

Several years ago LECTU had a Trout Fishing the Little Elkhart River class. Five different techniques were discussed on how we locals catch trout on the Little E. Notes were given out at the end of each session describing the type of water to use the technique, time of year, fly selections and so on. These clinics were very informative and interactive. We have decided to run these clinics throughout the morning at the outing. Attendees can select the clinics they want to see or take part in all of them if they choose.

Advanced Fly Casting Class

by Mike Beachy

Every year LECTU offers fly casting instruction taught by our chapter's own casting instructor, Charlie Ray. Charlie is an outstanding fly casting instructor with a background in teaching. Every other year we alternate between the Beginning Fly Fishing and the Advanced Fly Casting Class. This year is the Advanced Fly Casting Course. The Class will be offered Saturday June 4, 2016 to any LECTU member for a nominal and very reasonable fee. Space will be limited and registration will be taken so watch for details in the future.

"The Advanced Fly Casting class is a really fantastic. I took the class the last time it was offered thinking I would humor myself. I have never had any formal training however I fly fish all the time and got along very well as it was. What I discovered is that I was doing several things wrong and with a little tweaking my fly casting has improved, my fly fishing is much more enjoyable and I have a better grasp on critiquing myself. I recommend it for everyone despite your skill level and experience. You may just learn something you didn't know you didn't know." -Mike Beachy



Fly Tying Jam Sessions

by Mike Beachy

The past couple years LECTU members have been getting together over the winter months to tie flies. Most of these gatherings have been informal in nature. Sharing patterns and teaching each other tying tricks. We are about to get more organized and are going to attempt to get some local experts to come and give us some more formal instruction. The fly tying sessions are open and free to all members. We meet at Keith Loutzenhiser's home in Middlebury and begin at 9:00 am and generally go until early afternoon. Keith's address is 10475 Cottage Grove Drive, Middlebury, In. Keith can be reached at (574) 524-5140 for text message or by e-mail at keithloutzenhiser@yahoo.com for an RSVP or if you have any questions. Attendees will need to bring a vise, tools, a selection of thread and a light if normal room lights are not sufficient. If you would like to share a favorite fly pattern please bring enough materials to share with the group (a dozen tiers or so) so you can demonstrate your fly and the group can then tie it with you.

These fly tying sessions are always informative and good fellowship. Please RSVP to Keith so he has an idea as to what kind of attendance he needs to plan for. The following Saturdays are planned for fly tying sessions: December 19, January 16, February 27, March 19, and April 16. On April 16 LECTU fly tying session will be dedicated to tying flies for our Annual Spring Outing Fundraising.

LECTU on the Road

by Mike Beachy

The Little Elkhart Chapter of Trout Unlimited will be taking to the road again this winter/ spring, appearing at two Fly Fishing Shows.

February 19-21, 2016: LECTU will be attending the Great American Fly Fishing Exposition in Indianapolis. The show will be held at the Indiana Farmers Coliseum at the Indiana State Fairgrounds. The hours are Friday Feb. 19 1 pm-8 pm, Saturday Feb. 20 10 am-8 pm and Sunday 10 am -5 pm. This show is under new management with Renfro Productions attempting to hold the largest Fly Fishing Show in the Mid-west. LECTU will have an information booth at the show and be promoting the Chapter and answering questions about our home waters.

April 2, 2016: LECTU will be attending the Three Rivers Fly Fishing Show in Fort Wayne. The show will be held at the Classic Café. This show features fly tier demonstrations and vendors. It will be the second year for this show that is building up to be a really nice event. LECTU will have a table booth at this show promoting our Chapter and answering questions about our home waters.

Both of these fly fishing shows are highly recommended despite our presence there. If you are in attendance please stop by our booth and say hello.

Stream Work Recap

by Mike Beachy



This year the weather played havoc with our efforts to improve the habitat on the Little Elkhart. High water and storms made stream work difficult. We did manage three very productive sessions. All three of the areas where the stream work was completed are in the Well Field and Riverbend Park areas of the Catch and Release section of the River. Over the summer LECTU logged in over 100 volunteer hours of service.

The wet summer and high water softened the soil along the river banks. When storms came through with high winds many leaning trees up rooted and fell into the river. The emerald ash bore has killed many ash trees that line the river as well. These trees are beginning to fall and or break off. Because of these two factors there were several areas that were a mess. LECTU volunteers went through these spots and cut up the trees to prevent bank erosion and re-channelization of the river. The logs were then secured to the banks to prevent erosion and provide habitat for trout. Several crib structures were

built with the scrap woody debris to constrict the river channel, deepen the runs and augment oxygenation. The end results were really nice and trout responded to their new habitat taking up residency in as little as 6 days after construction.

The river work crew is starting to take shape. We have had enough experience that several leaders have begun to emerge taking on certain tasks so that once the work begins we are like a well-oiled machine well maybe more like a beaver pack attacking the problem with vigor. It is really a fun experience that is rewarding in the end.

If you are a member and have not taken part in one of these work sessions you need to. It is the best way to gain knowledge as to how water hydraulics effect the course of the river. It will make you a better reader of the stream and a better fisherman as a result.



6th Annual Middlebury Riverfest

by Court Walker

On Saturday August 24, 2015, the 6th annual Middlebury Riverfest was held at Riverbend Park from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. An estimated crowd of over 400 people enjoyed an opportunity to celebrate the Little Elkhart River and learn more about the fish and wildlife that abound because of it.

LECTU members Mike Beachy, Leonard Gustin, Keith Loutzenhiser, Chris Miller and Court Walker manned our show booth again this year to share a little bit of information with the community on the various stream work and habitat improvement projects that the LECTU does throughout the year as well as talk fishing with many attendees who didn't even know trout existed in the Little Elkhart.

In addition to focusing on the stream, many other very interesting activities drew crowds of young and old alike, and gave them an opportunity to learn about some pretty cool things. These included a live raptor program featuring birds of prey, an "In The River" trail hike which allowed participants a chance to actually wade in the river and learn from their guides about water quality, habitat, flow patterns and aquatic life. Conservation officers from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources even conducted a SCUBA diving rescue demonstration in full gear at the park pond and then displayed and discussed the gear that they use to do this.

The largest crowds, however, were drawn to the fish shocking demonstration conducted by Daragh Deegan. Daragh is an aquatic biologist for the cities of Elkhart and South Bend, and is a good friend of the LECTU. In just about a 30 yard stretch of the river, just in front of the park, about 10 minutes of shocking yielded white suckers and northern hog suckers, brown trout, chubs, minnows and several 1-2" sculpin. Both the northern hog suckers and the sculpins are excellent indicators of a very healthy stream according to Deegan. Both require very clean water to thrive in, and the rainbow and brown trout that inhabit the Little Elkhart River feast on sculpins, as well as the many varieties of aquatic insects that are present as well. All in all, Daragh said that the Little Elkhart is a very healthy stream that will continue to make for great fishing opportunities thanks to the work of the LECTU.

The Riverfest, now preparing to celebrate its' 7th year in 2016, was started by Tom Enright to share his love of nature and the outdoors with the local community. Tom is the Park Superintendent for the town of Middlebury, and it is with his guidance that this year's event drew twice as many people as last year from Middlebury and the surrounding communities.

Middlebury Summer Festival Youth Fishing Derby

by Court Walker

On Saturday August 15, 2015, the Middlebury Summer Festival Youth Fishing Derby was held at the Essenhaus pond. This event, sponsored yearly by the LECTU, gives kids up to age 15 the chance to compete for various prizes, including the largest fish caught and the most fish caught in a designated age group and a grand prize for the most fish caught overall. The competition was fierce this year from all of the age groups with some great catches! This year's winners were:

0-5 Year Age Group	Bradley Miller Katie Troyer	50 fish total 9" largemouth bass
6-10 Year Age Group	Connor Lantz Alec Hershberger	30 fish total 10" largemouth bass
11-15 Year Age Group	Aaron Cripe Ethan Yoder	26 fish total 9" largemouth bass

This year's grand prize winner was 5 year old Bradley Miller. Bradley tore it up this year by landing 50 fish in 2 hours! He took home the tournament grand prize which was a rod and reel combo. Congratulations Bradley! A big thank you goes out to Tom Enright and Jim Cameron from the Middlebury Parks Department for their tireless effort and dedication in organizing and promoting this event! And many thanks too to LECTU volunteers Bill and Penny Myers and Keith Loutzenhiser for serving as honorary judges. We couldn't have done it without you!



Little Elkhart Emerger

by Mike Beachy

This summer I found myself standing on a bank several feet above the Little E. The river was a little high and running quick but was very clear so I had a great vantage point to peer into the river. The bottom of this particular run was strewn with sunken logs of various sizes. I was fishing the gravel runs with a heavy nymph that would plummet to the bottom and tick the gravel bottom. This was not a good area to run that fly if I wanted it to stay attached to my fly line.

I broke out one of my old fly boxes and started to look through it. I wanted a fly that would sink but also had a little bulk to it so it would not sink too fast and the currents would help to lift it over the logs on the bottom without getting hung up. I grabbed my old flies since I don't use them all that much anymore and if I lost it on a snag it was no big deal. I grabbed this little emerger pattern I tied long ago I think it was called a caddis something or other. It looked like it would fulfill my requirements. On the second drift a dandy brown lifted out of the logs and grabbed the fly. It was pretty neat because I got to see the entire thing happen right in front of me. This fly was responsible for catching nearly a dozen trout that day. I not only nymphed with it but allowed it to drag in several runs where the trout nearly took it off the surface like a soft hackle.

The original fly had a simple brown dubbing collar but I found that the Ice Dubbing really adds a lot of spark and flash. I have started to tie up some with a hot spot collar utilizing UV Ice Dubbing. In the Little E you cannot go wrong with olive but there are times when the hot spots really help motivate the trout. This is an easy tie and an effective fly. As always experiment with colors and sizes and make my fly your fly. Good luck!



Hook: Size 14 scud hook (TMC 2488H)
Thread: Veevus 10/0 black
Tail/Shuck: Z-lon dark olive
Abdomen: Olive dubbing
Rib: Small black wire
Wing: Yearling deer body hair
Collar: Olive Ice dubbing
Bead: Tungsten black 2.8mm

Step 1: Slide tungsten bead onto hook, start thread, attach about ½ of a Z-lon strand for the trailing shuck. You want the tips uneven and about a hook shank length. Wrap tail down ½ way around the hook bend. Attach the black wire ribbing to the top of the hook.



Step 2: Dub the abdomen with olive dubbing. I prefer dubbing with a little sparkle to it, like Hareline Hare's Ear Plus or Orvis Spectrablend. Dub the body in a uniform thickness like a worm as opposed to a tapering mayfly. Reverse wrap the wire ribbing with uniform spacing up to the bead.

Step 3: Tie in a small hank of yearling deer body hair or something similar. Attach deer hair wing to the top of the fly behind the bead head. Extend the hair tips to about where the bend of the hook starts. You do not need to stack the hair wing since it is a very small clump and some unevenness is good.



Step 4: Place a dubbing collar of Olive Ice dubbing in front of the wing and behind the bead. If you are into "Hot Spots" this lends itself for that. Use UV Ice Dubbing in pink, purple or red as a trout attractor. Tie off and cement to finish the fly as per usual.

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2016 Dates to Remember

December 9, 2015 Wed	LECTU Meeting, 7:00pm Middlebury Library
December 19, 2015 Sat	Fly Tying Session, 9:00 am Keith Loutzenhiser's
January 13, 2016 Wed	LECTU Meeting, 7:00 pm Middlebury Library
January 16, 2016 Sat	Fly Tying Session, 9:00 am Keith Loutzenhiser's
February 10, 2016 Wed	LECTU Meeting, 7:00 pm Middlebury Library
February 19-21, 2016 Fri-Sun	Great American Fly Fishing Expo, Indianapolis
February 27, 2016 Sat	Fly Tying Session, 9:00 am Keith Loutzenhiser's
March 9, 2016 Wed	LECTU Meeting, 7:00 pm Middlebury Library
March 12-13, 2016 Sat-Sun	Midwest Fly Fishing Expo, Warren, MI (non- LECTU event)
March 19, 2016 Sat	Fly Tying Session, 9:00 am Keith Loutzenhiser's
April 2, 2016 Sat	Three Rivers Fly Fishing Show, Ft Wayne, IN
April 13, 2016 Wed	LECTU Meeting, 7:00 pm Middlebury Library
April 16, 2016 Sat	Fly Tying Session, 9:00 am Keith Loutzenhiser's
April 30, 2016 Sat	OPENING DAY of Trout Season in Indiana
May 7, 2016 Sat	LECTU Annual Spring Outing, Riverbend Park Middlebury, IN
May 11, 2016 Wed	LECTU Meeting, 7:00 pm Middlebury Library
June 4, 2016 Sat	Advanced Fly Casting Class
June 8, 2016 Wed	LECTU Meeting, 7:00 pm Middlebury Library