

# Kentucky Fly Fisher

A Publication of Northern Kentucky Fly Fishers



June 2017

## Conservation Mission Alive and Well

Part of the mission of Northern Kentucky Fly Fishers is conservation, but we don't talk about what we are doing very often. But behind the scenes, there is a lot happening.

Discarded fishing line is a significant threat to wildlife and NKFF has partnered with Boone County Parks and established a fishing line recycling program. Wayne Noakes, NKFF's Director for Conservation, led the way in 2016 by having discussions with David Whitehouse, Director of Boone County Parks. In



late 2016, Boone County Parks installed 4 wood posts at various locations around Camp Ernst Lake. Wayne, then built and installed the recycling bins and just 2 weeks ago the signs were installed and the program is officially up and running. NKFF volunteers will monitor the recycling bins, collect the discarded line and then arrange for transport to one of many manufacturers who use the recycled line in their production facilities.

Look for additional recycling stations

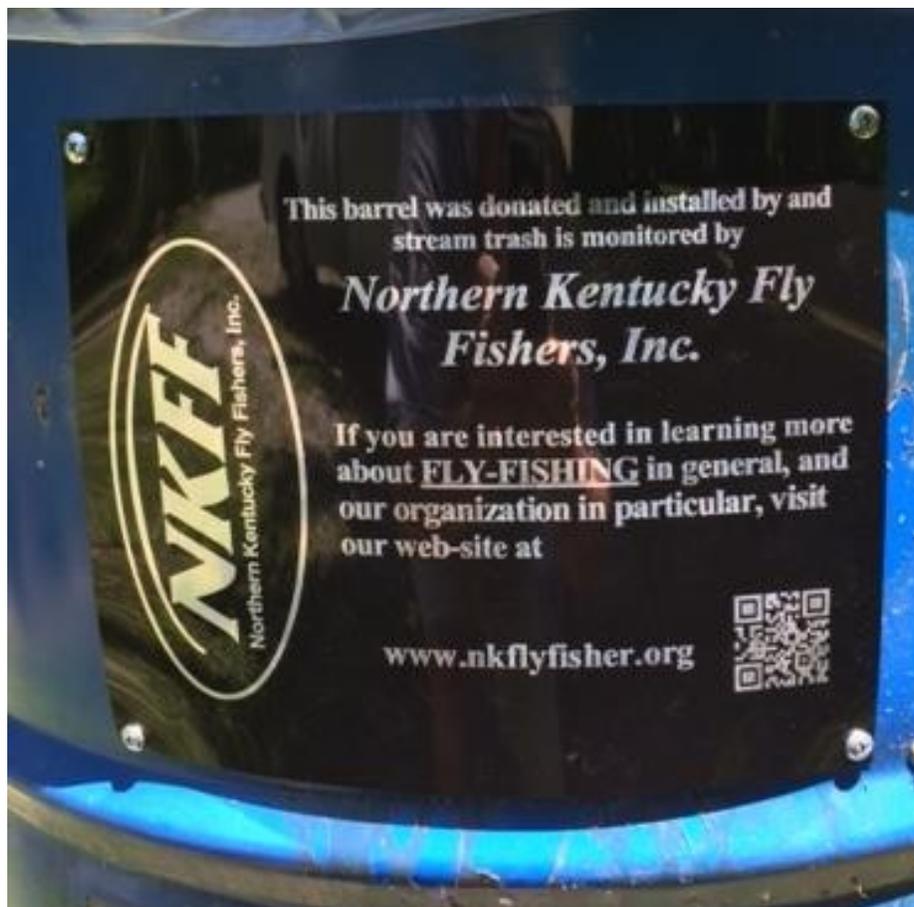
*(Continued on page 2)*

## Conservation Mission Alive and Well

to be built at England/Idlewild Park ponds and the Gunpowder Creek Nature Park (Sperti) in the coming months. Plans are underway for an expansion of the program into Campbell and Kenton Counties as well. Wayne is quick to point out that, “Not only is this good for the environment, but it also gets NKFF’s name out there as a leader in our communities”.

Second on the radar screen is NKFF’s work on Wolsing Creek at the Wolsing Trails Conservancy. For a number of years now NKFF has been cleaning up Wolsing Creek. Thousands of pounds of debris, from tires to mattresses, have been hauled out of the creek by NKFF volunteers. Today, the entire ecology of the stream has changed due to the work of NKFF. In addition to the yearly cleanups, NKFF also maintains a garbage can in the parking lot of Wolsing Trails.

Do you have ideas for a conservation project or do you want to help with an existing project? Contact Wayne Noakes at [waynen@fuse.net](mailto:waynen@fuse.net).



## NKFF Women Changing the World of Fly Fishing

### Sheila Meyer Will Be New Vice President of NKFF—11/2017

Sheila Meyer is a familiar face at all of NKFF's monthly meetings as she checks you in and collects your money. And now Sheila has agreed to accept the position of Vice-President when John Branam, our current Vice-President, assumes the role of President right after the Fall Banquet. A member since 2014, Sheila has made a significant mark on NKFF as a member of the Board of Directors. She is also a stalwart volunteer for nearly every event that presents itself. Sheila is also a frequent participant in our local and out of town trips.



We know that Sheila will provide great leadership to the club. Please thank and congratulate Sheila.

### Kerry Premec - Women's Outreach Coordinator

In an effort to attract more women to NKFF, the Board of Directors approved a new Director position—Women's Outreach Coordinator. Kerry Premec, a relative newcomer to the club has agreed to accept the position and has already started work.

Kerry and her husband Rich wasted no time in getting involved in NKFF when they joined in January of 2016. They both frequently volunteer at club events and are regulars at local and out of town club fishing trips.



Kerry has already tapped a corps of women who are already members of the club to begin planning. You will be hearing much more from Kerry directly as plans unfold. Please thank and congratulate Kerry.

## Women Who are Changing the World of Fly Fishing

*Part of our continuing series on women in fly fishing.*

### From Blue Ridge Outdoors

You may know Abbi Bagwell from her popular YouTube series, #somestreamerchick, where she demonstrates the finer points of fishing with streamers.

Abbi grew up fishing, but she didn't begin swinging a fly until later in life.

"It wasn't until I graduated from Berea College that I would find my passion and love for fly fishing," she said. She landed a job with Flymen Fishing Company, a company that manufactures fly tying materials.

Over the course of her tenure with Flymen, Abbi broadened her fly fishing knowledge and experience considerably.

"Quickly after joining the company, local fly shops and guides took me under their wings and taught me as much as they could about the sport," she said. "I received casting classes, 'work days' on the water, tying instruction and a crash course in the art of knots. It didn't take long for me to realize that this would be something I would enjoy for the rest of my life."

While she loves fly fishing and devotes much of her life to it, Abbi is well aware of the challenges female anglers face, particularly when breaking into the sport for the first time. She says her father was her biggest inspiration for overcoming these hurdles.

"In a male-dominated industry, it can be quite intimidating for a woman to go out on her own and fly fish, to walk into a fly shop and buy flies, and to go to fly fishing events and discuss experiences. If it weren't for him, I would not have had the confidence to do these things, and I wouldn't be the fly fisherwoman that I am today."

Today, Abbi is guiding for Headwaters Outfitters in Rosman, North Carolina.



## NKFF's 30th Anniversary Celebration

NKFF will celebrate its 30th Anniversary Celebration and Member Appreciation Dinner on **August 12, 2017**.

The celebration will have something for everyone. There will be games for children (and prizes galore), games for adults, fishing, nature hikes, a swap meet (bring gear to swap) and much, much more.



We're also having a pig roast. Yes, dinner will be preceded by a genuine pig roast. We'll also have burgers, dogs, brats, metts and all the fixings. Soft drinks, water and deserts will also be provided and all for free. **Yep, no charge for any of the food or festivities.** We are asking that everyone bring a potluck side to share.

Everyone is invited. Members and significant others, sons, daughters and their children as well. Can't leave out the grandkids.

You are not going to want to miss this celebration so mark your calendar now.

**When:** Saturday, August 12th; 3:00 pm until 7:00 pm

**Where:** Boone County Environmental & Nature Center  
9101 Camp Ernst Rd,  
Union, KY 41091 (Across from the Boone County Arboretum)

**Register on [Meetup](#) or send an email to:**

**[30thAnniversary@nkff.org](mailto:30thAnniversary@nkff.org)**

**Tell us how many adults and children will be coming. Let us know the ages of the kids.**





Annual Fall  
**Banquet**

**Register Now**

The 2017 NKFF Fall Banquet is  
Saturday, November 4th, 2017

**Make your reservations  
by clicking**

**HERE**

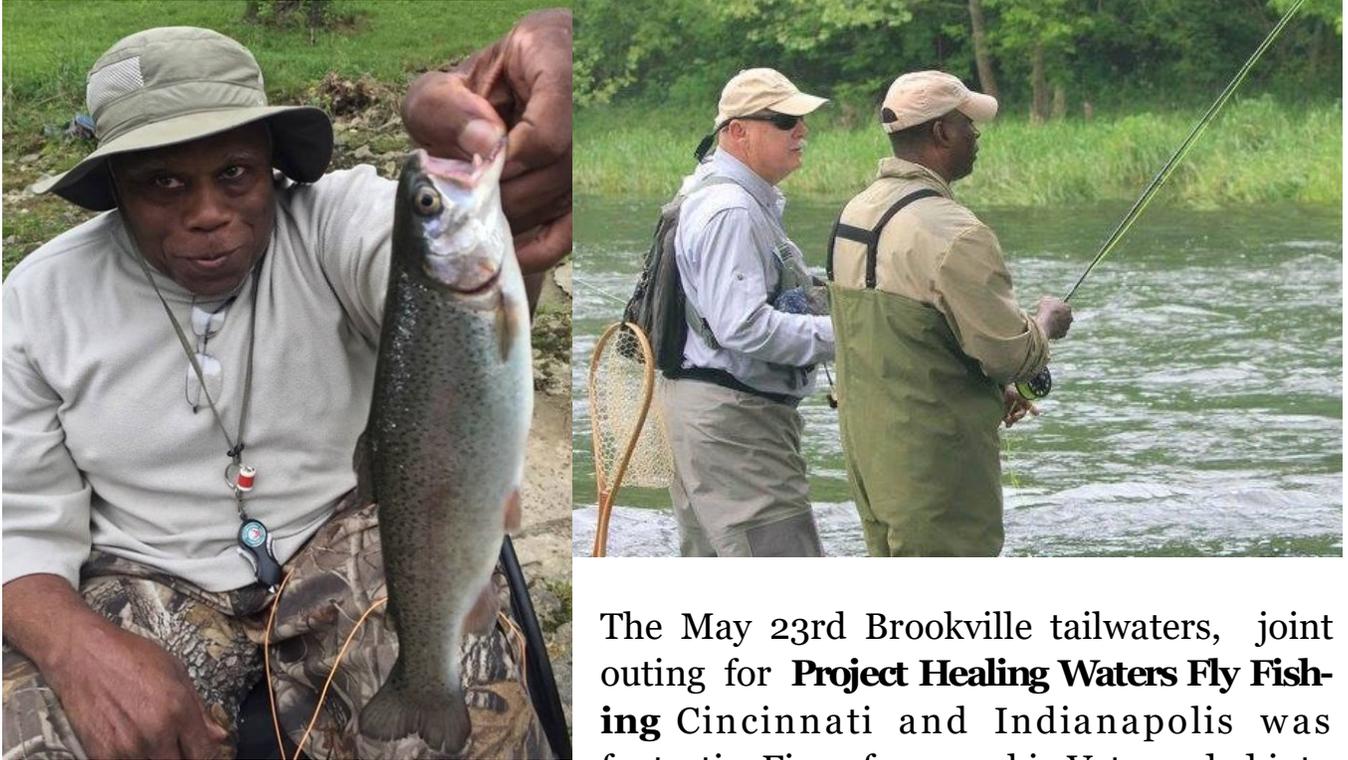
## Special Olympics Fishing Derby a Blast

The Annual 5th District Federation of Kentucky Sportsmen's Special Olympics Fishing Derby had over 60 participants plus all of their families and friends. It was a beautiful day and everyone caught fish, had a bountiful lunch and received some great prizes. NKFF was well represented with nearly 20 volunteers. Many thanks to Sheila Meyer for the great photos.



# 5th District Special Olympics Fishing Derby





The May 23rd Brookville tailwaters, joint outing for **Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing** Cincinnati and Indianapolis was fantastic. Five of our rookie Vets waded into the stream and had a blast. Central Indiana Trout Unlimited provided lunch and the Army Corps of Engineers and Indiana DNR staff joined us. A big thank you goes to all the Veterans and Volunteers for making this the best joint outing yet.



Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, Inc. is dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled active military service personnel and disabled veterans through fly fishing and associated activities including education and outings.

Northern Kentucky Fly Fishers and Buckeye United Fly Fishers partner to support Project Healing Waters in the Greater Cincinnati Area at both the Cincinnati and Ft. Thomas VA Hospitals. In the fall and winter there are fly tying classes and in the spring and summer there are fishing outings. For more information contact NKFF's representative Bill Cook: [wacbolter.bc@gmail.com](mailto:wacbolter.bc@gmail.com)

**TIPS & TRICKS**

# Micro Tippet Rings & Swivels

**By Wayne Noakes**

These tiny rings/swivels enable you to change broken or change the size of your tippet quickly thus giving you more actual fishing time.

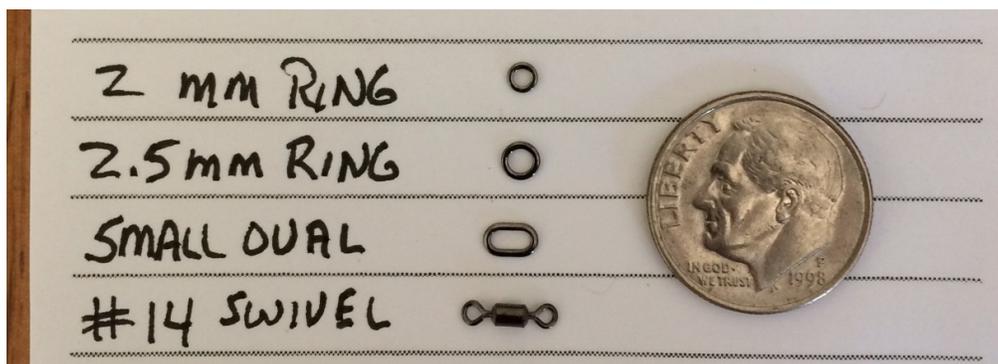
To use one on a new tapered leader just cut about two feet off the X part of the leader then tie a micro ring on using an improved clinch knot or your favorite knot. Test the knot to make sure it's a stable knot and your ready to add whatever X and length you want and attach your fly. Under most fishing circumstances the micro ring will also give you a reliable break off point if you get fouled on wood or rocks. If rigged properly the leader with the ring or swivel will last a long time and thus will save you money but also add to your quality fishing time.

The rings come in many sizes and chemistries but I find in most freshwater situations the 2.5 mm along with the #12 or #14 micro swivels will hold up to any fish in our region and beyond! They are rated at 25 to 30 pound test and come in several chemistries with nickel alloy and 304 stainless being popular.

The rings are very light and will not impend your fly when drifting a dry fly! I use the tiny swivels when fishing streamers as they keep tippet/leader twist to a minimum. I also have no issues with either having a impact with my flies turning over during backhand casting.

Orvis, Rio and other companies sell these rings and swivels but you can also buy them online from other vendors and save money. Just Google Micro Rings and Swivels!

PS I do recommend doing the rigging at home using good lighting!



# Aqua Bugs App - Great Tool for Anglers

## Tip Provided by Wayne Noakes

Developed by the Isaak Walton League, the Aqua Bugs phone app helps solve bug ID mysteries with a few simple questions. Clear directions paired with simple line drawings walk you through each choice. Like magic, the name of your bug will appear along with a gallery of photographs and brief description of its key features.

## Features

- Created for beginning and intermediate water quality monitors. Also great for anglers.
- Easy-to-use, step-by-step identification of the most common macroinvertebrates found in freshwater streams throughout the United States.
- Accurate descriptions, line drawings, and photographs illustrate each aquatic insect and crustacean.
- Simple, clear navigation.
- Not My Bug feature to help with the most common mistakes in aquatic bug ID.
- Free! The Izaak Walton League's goal in providing this app is to make it easy to explore local streams and monitor water quality in your neighborhood.



*Available for download at the [Apple Store](#) or the [Google Play Store](#).*

## Chili Cook-Off Queen Crowned

The competition was fierce and the campaign relentless. Up until the last minute Josh Rust was making the rounds selling his entry. But when the votes were counted, Bev Mackintosh won it hands down, fair and square. She now reigns queen for a year. Congratulations Bev !!

Many thanks to all those who gave their time, energy and culinary talent to bring entries to another spectacular NKFF Chili Cook-Off.



Many thanks to NKFF volunteers who helped get over 60 children and their families out fishing at the Boone County Kids Fishing Derby in May. NKFF supplied the gear, the bait and the volunteers.



Can you say worms?

## Nothing Like That First Fish on a Fly Rod

Nine new NKFF members took advantage of the members only fly casting clinic in May. Most had never caught a fish on a fly rod before. And although the fish were small, they non-the-less brought shouts of joy and smiles across faces to those who cast to the water for the first time.



## Recently Published on the NKFF Facebook Page



*Sheila Meyer's trout is color coordinated with her shirt, rod and reel.*

If you are not already a member of NKFF's Facebook page, you can join us [HERE](#).



Been Fishing? Send us your stories and pictures. Send to:  
[tim.guilfoile@gmail.com](mailto:tim.guilfoile@gmail.com)



## Bluegill Offer Great Late Spring Fishing

By Lee McClellan

Late spring bluegill fishing is fun and full of action and we are coming up on prime season.

“A lot of your bigger male bluegill are moving up into the shallows,” said David Baker, Central Fisheries District biologist for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources.

Bluegill in the shallows doing their reproductive dance brings some of the fastest fishing found. “Bluegill are close to spawning and definitely willing to strike hard,” Baker said. “I’ve been to several of our central Kentucky lakes recently and received good reports on the bluegill fishing. We manage the smaller state owned lakes in our district for good panfish populations. Boltz Lake, Corinth Lake, Beaver Lake, Elmer Davis Lake and McNeely Lake are all fishing really well for panfish right now.”



Two of those lakes are in Grant County, 92-acre Boltz Lake and 96-acre Corinth Lake, and both hold good bluegill populations. “Corinth rebounded from the shad eradication a while back and is doing well for bluegill,” Baker said. “We see them now up 8 ½ inches regularly. We are also seeing redear sunfish up to 10 inches in Corinth.” Redear sunfish are commonly called “shellcrackers” by anglers.

Elmer Davis Lake covers 149-acres in Owen County near Owenton. The lake is now refilling after a draw-down for repair work on the dam. Kentucky Fish

and Wildlife conducted a shad eradication on the lake over the winter that Baker said will improve the bluegill and the redear sunfish populations in the lake over the coming years.

In addition to these lakes, farm ponds and subdivision lakes often hold good populations of bluegill. To check the bluegill population at a lake near you, check the annual [Fishing Forecast](#).

The bluegill are in the shallows spawning. For those who want to catch fish after fish, there is no comparison.



## Members Only Dates to Remember



### October 21

WADING ONLY TRIP - CASTING / FISHING CLASS TO LOCATION TO BE DETERMINED

## Kids Fishing Derbies



### June 10th

NKFF PACK 727 CUB SCOUT FISHING DERBY – CAMP ERNST LAKE – 9AM-NOON

### June 17th

5TH DISTRICT YOUTH FEST FISHING DERBY AT LEARY LAKE IN LLOYD WMA

### July 24th

BOONE COUNTY T-BALLER'S FISHING DERBY @ CAMP ERNST LAKE (6PM-DARK)



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