

Glen Blackwood 1963-2025

The Lovells Township Historical Society is saddened to learn of the recent death of Glen Blackwood. Glen has been an important part of the fly fishing and wing shooting worlds in Michigan, and the United States at large, for more than three decades.

Glen was raised in central Pennsylvania where he learned to fly fish from his father on many of the region's freestone streams. After graduation from Ohio State University Glen went on to become a fly-fishing instructor, guide, and a national sales manager for Scott Fly Rods before becoming the owner of the Great Lakes Fly Fishing Company, a retailer based in Rockford, Michigan. He was introduced to the retail industry previously after taking advantage of an opportunity to work for Dick Pobst in Ada, Michigan.

Glen's passion for trout fishing was fueled by relationships with a variety of legendary and skilled fisherman and people whose work made significant contributions to the sport. George Harvey, Joe Humphries, Charlie Meck, Dick Pobst, Carl Richards, Ernest Schweibert, Gary LaFontaine, Mike Lawson, Kelly Galloup. These are just some of the names of people Glen knew and worked, taught or fished with. His reading list would be too expansive to begin to list.

Glen was known to say that there were three reason he lived in Michigan: Trout, woodcock, and grouse. His passion for wing shooting and working with shooting dogs was on par with his love of trout fishing. His work with, and support of, the Ruffed Grouse Society (RGS) was significant and his contributions to the sport cannot be overstated. Most recently, Glen was the regional director of development for RGS in Michigan, Indiana and Illinois.

Glen's work in the sporting literature arena, also, should not be ignored. Glen was a significant collector, dealer and appraiser of angling and shooting literature and a collector of sporting art. Glen maintained an inventory in his store of more than four thousand fly fishing and wing shooting books. His personal collection focused on first edition sporting books. He was a regular contributor of book reviews to RGS' Covers Magazine.

Glen's vast knowledge and passion for these sports combined with his character and vigorous personality to make him an outspoken proponent and advocate for both trout fishing and wing shooting. Glen was never shy to any conversation and always more than willing to tell you what he thought. "I am opinionated", he once said in an interview, and his knowledge and passion always made those opinions interesting. He was always happy to share his wisdom with any audience, as a teacher, as a speaker, as a writer, or as a dining companion.

Here in Lovells we have been fortunate to have Glen as a big supporter of the community, especially of the Trout Fishing History Museum and the North Branch Area Foundation. Glen was always happy to join the events produced by the Historical Society and most recently attended our annual Fall Upland Dinner where he shared some of his wisdom and opinions.

Losing Glen is a very sad occasion for all of us that love trout, woodcock, grouse, dogs, and the art and literature inspired by them. He knew the intimate and spiritual secrets of trout streams and woodland habitats. Glen was struck by lightning once, so maybe he knew some other things we don't. Now we'll never know. Our thoughts are with Glen's family, his dogs and his friends.