

## The September Fly of the Month

By Todd A.Schotts

*“THE KING’S ARE HERE” – “THE KING’S ARE HERE...”* No, I am not talking about the 2014 Stanley Cup Champions, the Los Angeles Kings, but the migration of the King Salmon making their trek from the Great Lakes into our rivers to spawn and then finish their life cycle. If the anticipation of landing one or more of these on a fly rod is on your mind, and you are questioning what flies to use, the this pattern is for you.

There are a number of flies that work great, as in yarn eggs, PM Caddis, egg sucking leaches, just to name a few. However, the “Classic Michigan Pattern” that is still very deadly to this day, and is very effective for landing these huge creatures, would be none other than the famed “*PM Blonde.*”

The PM Blonde is meant to represent Ephemerella nymphs, which are probably one of the better known burrowing mayflies in the Great Lakes Region. This pattern may also represent the small minnows in the water system. If you have seen the video/DVD “*Pere Marquette Salmon by Jim & Kelly Watt,*” this fly is featured along with some great techniques. It is great fish porn - there is a copy of it in the MFFC library.

This pattern is a very productive pattern for other species of fish, such as Steelhead, Carp, Smallmouth, Trout, and Panfish. The best way to fish this pattern is to swing it, and then strip in slow, to medium-fast strips. There are two different rigs that can be used to fish this fly. The best known is the famed, deadly “Chuck & Duck” way of fishing this fly (or as I like calling it, Clunk and Dunk). Just remember if you do use this method, as it says, you chuck it, then you had better duck because of all the weight you have on your line. The other method is using a weighted sink tip or heavy grain line. Either way, you will be hearing “Fish On” with this fly pattern and feeling the burn that these King Salmon give your arms fighting these monsters from the Great Lakes. Until next month, Tight lines and snazzy flies.

### PM Blonde

**Hook:** *Nymph or Streamer Hook – Sizes 10 thru 6*

**Thread:** *Cream 6/0 or 140 Denier*

**Tail:** *Marabou and pull up for shell on back*

**Dubbing:** *Cream*

**Hackle:** *Cream*

**Eyes:** *Black Mono Eyes*

**Optional:** *Bead Head instead of Mono Eyes*

