



The Evening

Hatch

The Newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

February 2017

Fishing After The Hex Hatch

By Sybil Hunter

Chris Lessway, Head Guide at the North Branch Outing Club, joined MFFC members in February to discuss fishing hatches after the Hex. He started with the Isonychia hatch.

"It's a long hatch," said Lessway. The hatch runs from mid-June through September. Lessway suggests size 10-14 flies for this hatch.

"Don't be afraid to fish to the sides of the river; nymphs crawl on the rocks. They are mostly found in swift water and riffles. They are good swimmers. Fishing nymphs through the riffles is a pretty effective way to fish."

It is best to nymph at dusk. As for Iso Spinners, "You usually see them in big numbers," said Lessway. "I've seen them hatching on nasty rainy days...I've seen them hatch on hot nights. Be ready at all times with the Isos."

Then Tricos run mid-July through September. Lessway suggests size 22-28 flies for this hatch. "We'll fish them tandem," said Lessway, "fish will hit Blue Wing Olives with 7x or 8x tippet."

"If you're a morning person, this hatch is for you," said Lessway. "Male Tricos hatch throughout the night; female Tricos hatch when the sun comes up. I suggest getting out there at



daybreak; you can fish them up to about 10 o'clock. You can get a lot of Brook Trout on them." They are found in gravel or gravel mix.

"Then when the spinners fall, the fish gorge," said Lessway, "...they chow down pretty good."

"I haven't had a whole lot of luck with doubles," said Lessway about the Trico hatch. "For some reason, during the Tricos, they get spooky." He advised, "Set your fly down gently. If you spook them, they will stop feeding for about 20 minutes. Be patient, take your time, sneak up on them from upstream...a boat will spook them. It is a frustrating hatch to fish at times."

Next, mousing goes from mid-July through September. Lessway suggests size 1 ought to size 10 flies. "Start with a 1 ought or go to a 2...a size 10 is really small." Fish them with an "explosive action. It's more like hunting, then fishing," said Lessway. "You are fishing by sound." *Continued Page 2*

MFFC Calendar



March 1, 2017

Activities Meeting

Clarenceville Middle School
Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

March 10 & 11 2017

MFFC Midwest Fly Fishing Expo

MCC Sports & Expo Center
14500 E. Twelve Mile
Warren, Sat 9a-6p & Sun 10a-4p

March 15, 2017

Speaker Meeting

Speaker: Roger Hinchcliff

Topic: Steelhead On The Swing

Clarenceville Middle School
Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

April 12, 2017

Speaker Meeting

Speaker: Kelly Neuman

Topic: Au Sable - Mio to Oscoda

Clarenceville Middle School
Livonia, 7:30 p.m.

April 26, 2017

Activities Meeting



Life long learning ->

Continued From Page 1

“If I had to use one fly...I’d choose the gurgler because it’s a little more versatile. Start dead drifting, then twitch it a little bit...get it bouncing, pause it... then twitch it a little bit more.”

“Anything with a big bushy head on it will work,” said Lessway. “When you are mousing, try to choose a dark night - the darker the better.” Lessway suggests watching the moon phase. If mousing is on, on it’s really on. If it’s not - it’s not.

“Do a strip set, not a dry fly hook set.” He pointed out that fish will cruise by a few times to check out the fly, before deciding to take it. “You can hear it - it sounds like a bowling ball drops on top of your fly.”

Lastly, is the White Fly (Ephron) hatch. The White Fly hatch runs from mid-August into some of September. Lessway suggests size 12 and 14 flies. White Flies hatch right before dark.

“If you see these bugs hatching, expect a spinner fall,” said Lessway. They have a short lifecycle. “It seems like there are a lot of dead spots with these flies.” Fish warmer parts of the river. Do cast downs, “rubbing the logs,

CHRIS LESSWAY
FLY FISHING GUIDE
 Dry Fly, Streamers, Spey casting

**Historic Fly Fishing Lodge,
 Fly Shop and Guide Service**

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 6122 County Road 612
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 www.FullersNBOC.com

fishing the trout looking areas...”

“The key to getting fish, is to get your fly out early. They eat quick, then are done,” said Lessway. “Swing the nymphs through the riffles. Use a soft hackle with a bead head nymph.

Is that all there is? Nope. Lessway says there are other hatches to look for, including: Light Cahills; Dark Hex (mid-July all the way into August - look after warm stretches, they hatch late in the afternoon); tiny Blue Winged Olives; flying ants, and of course, terrestrial fishing.

Members On The Fly

Traveling

Members invade Venchenso's

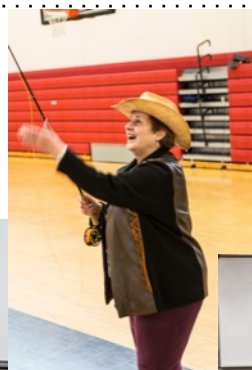


Happy Valentine's Day! Remember this?



Learning Good Things At

Member's School





MFFFC Business

Go to the Expo! ->



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January Fly Of The Month

The Fly of Vikings

Klinkhamer Special

By Todd A. Schotts

A number of flies were swooping around my mind when I was trying to decide on February's Featured Fly...but after cleaning out my fly boxes from the 2016 fishing season, there were these parachute beauties that just stood out from rest of my flies in their protective little abode. For these parachute beauties, we are heading across the big pond, to the land of the Vikings once again and the birth place of the "Klinkhamer Special."

This fly was created by Hans van Klinken in the Netherlands in the early summer of 1984 with its initial landing on Norway's mighty Glomma River. The fly was made to replicate the emerging caddis, originally named LT (light tan) Caddis. However, Hans wanted a fly to catch Grayling and Trout as it floated in the surface film. The original fly was designed after another famous fly from the same area called the "Rackelhanen," yet Hans wanted something more...so back to the vise, where the fly he was looking for was then created.

The idea of a parachute fly is for better visual contact with the fly fisher and to give it a better appearance imitating insects with its silhouette, looking delicious to the inhabitants in the water beneath. When tying in the wing

and wondering about the thickness of the wing, it really depends on the waters that you fish. Hans mentions for rugged streams and big flies he usually doubles the amount of yarn for the wing. If you decide to try a foam wing, cut the foam short, above the hackle. It will expand and will push the hackle fibers downwards, which will give the parachute a much better appearance. The original pattern was tied with a white wing, but I have experimented with using pink and orange for the wing. For myself, I can see the fly better on the water and color doesn't affect the fish. It gives you that chance to see your fly in those given times when it is hard to see your offering on the water.

When using the peacock herl for the thorax, Hans mentions the herl makes the fly a lot more effective. If you tie, you know the delicate properties of the peacock herl. There are two ways to overcome breaking the herl off when tying. One technique is to twist it around the thread and wrap it on. The other technique comes from the king of realistic flies, Olive Edwards. His technique is to tie in the tips for herl, then wrap the thorax.

One last thing when tying this pattern, Hans mentions in almost everything I have delved into for this article, that to make sure the hooks have wide gaps and are light wire scud hooks. He did this in the original pattern to make the fly work as intended - in the surface film as an emerging fly.

I hope you will enjoy this fly as much as I do when I am dead drifting it through my favorite waters, either by itself or as a tandem rig. Until next month, Tight Lines Snazzy Flies.



HOOK – Daiichi 1160, Daiichi 1167
Klinkhamer Hooks sizes 8-20

THREAD – 70 denier or 8/0 grey or tan

BODY – Fly Rite Poly Dubbing or Waspi Super fine waterproof dry fly dubbing for smaller patterns

WING – One to three strands of white poly-yarn – depending on the size and water to fish

THORAX – 3 strands peacock herl

HACKLE - Blue Dun, Dark Dun, Light Dun, all in good combination with the body

TYING TIPS - change the colors in the hackle and body to create Caddis and Mayfly emergers



Klinkhamer in the surface film

Something For Every Fly Angler At 2017's Midwest Fly Fishing Expo

If variety is the spice of life, the lineup for 2017's edition of the Midwest Fly Fishing Expo offers an intoxicating blend – from a native Michigander who made his name in Greater Yellowstone to a steelheader who chases chrome from the Great Lakes to the Pacific Northwest. The Expo is scheduled for Saturday, March 11, and Sunday, March 12.

“We’re pleased to have Craig Mathews, Rick Kustich, George Daniel and Landon Mayer headlining the Expo,” said Expo Chairman Jim Telinda. “We pride ourselves on bringing to Greater Detroit some of the sport’s most talented anglers. This year – our fortieth annual Expo - is no exception. We’re especially pleased because this year’s cast is so education focused. Each excels in his own way in helping their fellow anglers become better.”

This year’s Expo headliners offer something for everyone, he said, but the Expo is much more than the headliners.

“Are you interested in fly tiers who specialize in traditional Michigan patterns or those who create exceptionally realistic flies? We have them. Are you looking for tiers who are innovators or create flies for toothy species like pike and musky? We have them. Are you looking for a new venue to cast your flies? We’ve got travel specialists who will help get you to the destination of your dreams. If you’re a fan of angling literature or artwork, we’ve got specialists in those areas, too. If you only need to restock your supplies for the upcoming fly fishing season, we’ve got outfitters who’ll be happy to help you,” Telinda said.

The show will feature dozens of free seminars about fly fishing techniques, fly

tying and fly fishing locales and will bring together more than 100 exhibitors, including dozens of tiers, rod builders, artists, guides, outfitters and conservation organizations. “We’ve got exhibitors from every corner of the country,” Telinda said. “While many of our exhibitors hail from Michigan and Ohio, we’ve also got outfitters, guides, artisans and artists from places like Washington State, Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Texas, Colorado, Illinois, Connecticut and Maine, as well as several from Ontario,” he said.

The annual Expo is the oldest all-fly fishing show east of the Mississippi and is hosted by the Livonia-based Michigan Fly Fishing Club. The Macomb Community College Sports & Expo Center is located at 14500 E. 12 Mile Rd. in Warren. Show hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is \$10 per person; boys and girls age 16 and under are free. Two-day tickets are \$15. Parking is free.

See below for more information about the Expo’s featured presenters.

Craig Mathews, Montana: Native Michigander Craig Mathews is a Michigan State University criminal justice grad who moved from Grand Rapids to West Yellowstone, MT, in 1979. The rest is history. In West Yellowstone, where he served as the town’s police chief, he and wife Jackie opened Blue Ribbon Flies (BRF) in 1980. While the Mathews sold BRF to long-time employee Cam Coffin in 2014, Craig will continue working with the shop. An innovative and prolific fly tier, Craig still ties 750-1,000 dozen flies each year.

As proprietors of BRF, Craig and Jackie

have won numerous conservation awards for their environmental activities -- the “Protector of Yellowstone National Park Award,” presented by Yellowstone National Park; “Business Conservationist of the Year,” presented independently by The Nature Conservancy and the Greater Yellowstone Coalition; and the “Lee Wulff Award,” presented by the International Fly Fishing Federation (IFFF). Fly Rod & Reel Magazine named Craig its “World Angler of the Year” in 2005. The Madison River Foundation honored him as a “Guardian of the Madison” in 2009 and Trout Unlimited named him its “Stream Champion” in 2011.

Craig has authored or co-authored nine important books on fishing. His latest, “Simple Fly-Fishing for Tenkara and Rod and Reel,” co-authored with Patagonia Inc. founder Yvon Chouinard, was published in 2014. The book has won two prestigious awards, the Banff Mountain Guidebook of the Year and the National Outdoor Book Award for a guidebook and instructional quality.

Craig recently completed a book project with Yale University, “The Artist’s Guide to the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem,” which is scheduled to be released in December.

Craig co-founded 1% for the Planet an alliance of businesses donating 1% of their gross sales to researched and approved conservation causes. To date, 1% for the Planet has donated more than \$150 million to conservation and environmental programs.

Craig and Jackie both enjoy dry fly fishing for wild and native trout in Yellowstone country. Their favorite streams are the Madison and Firehole rivers. They have enjoyed winter fishing for bonefish and permit for more than 30 years in Belize,

Midwest Fly Fishing Expo

Something For Every Fly Angler At 2017's Midwest Fly Fishing Expo *(continued)*

Mexico and the Bahamas. They also enjoy fishing in Chile and Argentina for trout as well as British Columbia for steelhead.

"The best thing about living in Yellowstone country and Montana and being in the fly fishing business for over 38 years are the people we work with and those friends we meet daily in the shop, as well as the wild trout and wild place we live in. We have always felt that giving back to the public resources we use to make a good living is not only the right thing to do but necessary to protect, preserve and enhance wild trout, wildlife and wild places for future generations to enjoy. That is how we modeled the BRF business ethic," Craig said.

Rick Kustich, New York: Rick began fly fishing more than 40 years ago on the lakes and streams of upstate New York. Since then he has traveled extensively to experience the finest fly fishing throughout North America and beyond but continues to find that some of the best fishing often exists in his own backyard – western New York, where he currently lives.

Rick spends a significant amount of time on the water each year and has developed a special passion for trout, musky and steelhead fishing in the Great Lakes and Northwest.

His writings and photos have appeared in numerous national and regional publications, including Fly Fisherman magazine. He is the author of "Hunting Musky with a Fly," "Advanced Fly Fishing for Great Lakes Steelhead;" and "Reflections on the Water," a collection of essays. He is featured in the DVD "Tube Flies for Steelhead."

George Daniel, Pennsylvania: George Daniel has been a fly fishing student all his life. He began fly fishing at the age of six in Potter County, PA, a remote region filled with wilderness and beautiful brook trout. By age 14, George's family had relocated to Pennsylvania's limestone region, which was home to the state's best and best-known trout fisheries. By the age of 17, George was traveling throughout the state, seeking lessons from expert anglers. By age 21, George had learned from the best anglers in the region, including his mentor, Joe Humphreys.

Out of curiosity, George began entering local and national fly fishing competitions. Not long after, he earned a spot on Fly Fishing Team USA and remained on the team for seven seasons. Also during that time, George became a member of the coaching staff for US Youth Fly Fishing. He served two years as head coach.

As a member of the national fly fishing team, George won back-to-back US National Championships placing in the top five of the 2006 World Fly Fishing Championship.

Eventually, the competition circuit took its toll, and George retired at age 32 to spend more time traveling with his family and to focus on fly fishing education.

George is a former manager of the TCO State College Fly Shop in central Pennsylvania and now owns and operates Livin On The Fly LLC, a guide/educational service company located near State College. George remains involved with the US Youth Fly Fishing Team and writes and conducts fly fishing clinics and presentations across the country. He recently became a contributing editor for Fly Fisherman magazine. His first book, "Dynamic

Nymphing," has become a best seller, and his second book, "Strip-Set," was released in 2015. George lives along the banks of his favorite trout stream with his wife, Amidea, and their two children.

Landon Mayer, Colorado: Landon Mayer's angling career has been fueled by an addiction to pursuing large trout with small flies and lightweight fly fishing equipment. He enthusiastically teaches and demonstrates his techniques and on-river knowledge to fellow anglers and has developed innovative strategies for sighting, hooking, and landing selective trout.

He shares these tips and secrets in his books "101 Trout Tips: A Guide's Secrets, Tactics and Techniques," "Colorado's Best Fly Fishing," "Sight Fishing for Trout," and "How to Catch the Biggest Trout of Your Life." He also co-stars with noted fly tier John Barr in two DVDs: "Landing the Trout of Your Life" and "Weapons of Bass Production."

Mayer is a contributing writer for Fly Fisherman and High Country Angler magazines. He also has been featured in such magazines as Fly Rod & Reel, American Angler, Southwest Fly Fishing, Field & Stream, and Fish & Fly.

As an ambassador in the fly fishing industry, Mayer represents several lines including Simms Fly Fishing apparel and is a fly designer for Umpqua Feather Merchants. He is also an advisory team member for Simms, Ross, Abel, Scientific Angler, Smith Optics, Fish Pond, Yeti, Winston Fly Rods, and Casio Pro Trek watches.

Mayer guides in Colorado full time on the South Platte River. He resides with his wife, Michelle, and their four children in Florissant, CO.

Midwest Fly Fishing Expo

Expo Guest Tyers

Biographies

By Todd A. Schotts



Captain Anthony Mule, shop pro at Riverview Fly Shop in St. Clair, MI, started fly fishing in the canals behind his parent's cottage on the St. John's Marsh at the

age of 8. He taught himself how to tie flies with his father's vise and salt water materials at the age of 12. He brings a young, fresh perspective to the fly tying community. Self-taught in the art of fly tying, he is not afraid to try new material, combining traditional patterns to new, coming up with new patterns to expand the fly fisherman's repertoire. His goal is to become a licensed guide and as a guide, foster more awareness of the fly fisherman outside of traditional trout fishing and into the vast opportunities offered on the St. Clair waterways. In a step closer to his goal, he became a licensed captain in January 2017!



Chuck Furimsky visited the MFFC Midwest Fly Fishing Show about 28 years ago, in Southfield, MI. He enjoyed it so much, he returned to Seven Springs Mountain Resort, PA, where he owned a leather goods

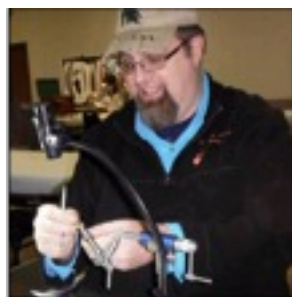
retail shop, spoke with the resort owner for permission to start his own fly show patterned after his experience in Southfield. It was an instant success, and the start of a long future of many shows from Denver, CO to Lancaster PA. The largest show is in Somerset, NJ. Another of Chuck's claims to fame is the International Fly Tying Symposium which is sponsored by *Fly Tyer* magazine. That takes place in Somerset, N.J., the weekend before Thanksgiving. His true passion was fly fishing as a student in George

Harvey's fly fishing credited class at Penn State. After 42 years in the leather industry he says, "I don't know anyone here and only one person I met in England that ties flies with leather," joked Chuck. Stop by his table to Trout, Bass, salt water fish, and the latest patterns he ties with his leather Turbo Tails which are great for Pike, Muskie, Bass, and Walleye.



John Satkowski resides in Toledo, OH, where he fishes for all fish that swim in the rivers and lakes of southeastern Michigan and northwest Ohio. An artist, fly tying demonstrator and fly tying instructor, John shares his love of fly tying

and fishing as often as he can. For the last fifteen years, he focused on unlocking the secrets of Smallmouth Bass, Carp, Trout and Northern Pike on the fly, chasing them in the rivers and lakes of the Wolverine state to the glory waters of Montana. John is also an accomplished realistic tier. He is always trying to add a realistic flare to his patterns. He is a pro tier for Flymen Fishing Company and a commercial tier for Rainy's flies. His patterns range from dry flies, nymphs, steelhead, streamers, and flies for the salt. John's patterns often use creative fly materials and unconventional tying styles.



Todd A. Schotts is a member of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club, who aside from volunteering for various club functions, chairs the club's Annual Smallmouth Outing, and contributes

various articles to the Club newsletter - including the "Fly of the Month" feature. He owns and operates a production fly tying company "Grizzly Flies by Schottsie" that he started 13 years ago. He is the founder of the "Michigan Bobbin Slings" (fly tyers) Facebook page. In 2015, two of his patterns were featured in *Eastern Fly Fishing* magazine. His passion is being a Bass Bum, chasing both Smallmouth and Largemouth Bass. He also enjoys chasing Trout, or whatever else will take a fly. Some of his patterns can be seen at the Painted Trout located in Dexter, MI, Brookhaven Lake Guide Service, and Esnagami Wildness Lodge in northern Ontario. Contact him at: GrizzlyFlies@yahoo.com.



Hunter Hayes is co-owner and guide at Wildwood Anglers in Ohio, and is one of the many prodigies of the late deer hair master, Chris Helm. Hunter started tying with Chris Helm

when he was seven years old. Chris died when Hunter was just 13. His deer hair creations are more masters of artwork than fishing flies. Besides deer hair, Hunter slings bobbins for all types of flies at his vise, from warm water, Trout, Steelhead, Salmon, and Maumee fly patterns. Contact Hunter at crowhunter79@gmail.com.



Steve Wascher caught his first Trout at the age of 3 1/2, on a DRY FLY!! Steve is a third generation tier from Greenhurst, NY. He received basic tying

instruction and guidance from his father and grandmother alike. Steve is a well rounded tier and enjoys all aspects of the art of fly tying, including creating a unique nymph, wet flies for Steelhead, or his famed deer hair bugs for those warm water surprises. In addition to tying, Steve guides during the summer months for a wide range of warm water species and enjoys writing articles as well. His articles have appeared along with his flies in *Hatches* magazine, *American Angler*, and *Mid-Atlantic Fly Fishing Guide*. Steve is also on the pro staff of Dyna King Vises.



Jerry Regan, a third generation fly tyer, is one of the true keepers of Michigan's Fly Fishing History and one of the best commercial fly tiers in the business. Jerry was born along the fabled Trout Waters of the Au Sable River near Grayling. As a kid, he

learned fly tying and fishing from Michigan's Genuine Legends like Earl Madsen and Ernie Borchert. Unique about Jerry's patterns is that he never uses synthetics, but sticks with original pattern materials.

Midwest Fly Fishing Expo

Expo Guest Tyers

Biographies (continued)



Alan "Al" Ritt grew up in Michigan where his passion for fishing was born. In the early '80's while living in Northern California, just after he started

tying flies, he started fly fishing. In 1989, he moved to Northern Front Range of Colorado (Longmont) where he and his wife Diana reside. He is currently on the Pro-staff of Whiting Farms, PEAK Fishing, Flymen Fishing Company, Performance Flies, Clear Goo Glue, Fishing for a Cause, Performance Flies, Pro Sportfisher, Diiachi Hooks and is a fly designer for Montana Fly Company. Al is on the board of IFFF Fly Tying Governors. He guides in Colorado on Sylvan Dale Ranch just outside of Loveland. He wrote various magazine articles and published the book, "25 Best Most Versatile Flies." His web site is: www.alrittflies.com.



Paul Beel is owner, writer and fly tyer of the fly tying business website Frankenfly www.frankenfly.com. His passion for fishing came from watching his grandfather create homemade lures as a kid. He felt he could

continue in his grandfather's footsteps as a fly tyer. Paul specializes in modern streamers and classic Michigan dry flies. He is a Commercial Fly Tyer for Gates Au Sable Lodge and Fly Shop, enjoys fishing for Bass and Trout, is on the Regal Vise Pro Staff, Partridge of Redditch Pro Team, Engrico Puglisi Pro Staff and Deer Creek Pro Staff. His Patterns are sold nationwide through Orvis. Contact Paul at his website.



Dennis Potter started tying over 30 years ago, before fishing the Ausable River in Northern Michigan. He spent four seasons at the Gates Ausable Lodge as a Fly Fishing Instructor

and still enjoys teaching fly tying. His fly designs are fished extensively and with great success throughout the U.S. Dennis has various Fly Tying Videos on the market. You can find him tying at the show with his well known high resolution video tying Demo Show. Dennis is owner of the Riverhouse Fly Company www.riverhouseflyco.com.



Mike Schmidt is owner & fly tyer for Angler's Choice Flies, based out of New Smyrna Beach, Florida. His business started out from his dad's encouragement and influence. His fly tying consists of winged wet, warmwater, coldwater, and saltwater patterns. Some of Mike's

accomplishment's are: Orvis Fly Designer, Contract and Fly Tying Instructor for Mad River Outfitters, Signature Tyer for JagFly Company/Steelhead Alley, and articles published in *Hatches* on-line magazine. Mike's web site is: www.anglerschoiceflies.com.



Eli Berant grew up, and lives, in Michigan. He has been surrounded by big water his entire life. After getting his first fly tying kit at the age of 15, fly

fishing and fly tying has been his passion ever since. Even though he really likes the "traditional" fly fishing experience, he has taken the concepts of the huge saltwater flies and applied them to his exploits here back in the big waters of Michigan. If you are interested in "Big Flies" for Lake Trout, Musky, Bass (or whatever else will consume them) come see Eli. His flies are available through Great Lakes Fly (www.greatlakesfly.com).

Recruit Sign Ups For

The MFFC Public School

It is time again for the MFFC Public School. The school is a part of our core purpose and one of the basis we rely on to maintain our 501(c)(3) non-profit status. This year's school will take place on April 8, 2017 at the MSU Tollgate Center from 9am -3:30 pm. (MSU Tollgate is in Novi on Meadowbrook Road just North of 12 Mile Road). The school is limited to 20 students, and we really excel at keeping a low student/instructor ratio. The cost is \$55 per adult and \$20 for a child under 18 attending with a paid adult. We are always looking for talented instructors who are enthusiastic about working with people who are new to the sport. But wait there's more - if someone signs up at the Expo and joins the club (\$35) and the cost of the school is merely \$20. If you know someone who is interested in attending the school please pass on the information or ask them to contact Chris Hunter by phone (734-233-8025) or email (chunter@bauerhunter.com). Space is limited!!! Operators are standing by!!!





January Tier Of The Month

Dan Walker's

Hook Up Gurgler

By Todd A. Schotts

For our February Spotlight Featured Tier we are going to turn things upside down with a pattern that is truly amazing! It is brought to us by none other than master tier and fly designer Dan Walker!

If you are not familiar with Dan, here are the tight lines on him...back in the late '60's while Dan was in junior high, he started in the world we call fly fishing and fly tying. From there, Dan got into commercially tying flies and has been doing this for 30 plus years. Since then he was part time self employed as "Eggman Flies" and was a vendor selling flies and fly tying materials at fly fishing shows and Steelheader shows for 25 plus years now. He mentioned that he mainly ties commercially for Steelhead Flies, but he also ties for Trout, Bass, Pike,



Musky, Carp, and saltwater fish. If you don't know Dan, he is the one that is usually tying in the back of the room during our meetings and he has been doing this in the Michigan Fly Fishing Club for roughly 20 years now.

As for the pattern he is bringing us, it is the famed Gurgler with a slight twist (or flip, you might say) from the original pattern. The "Hook Up Gurgler," just as the name says, points the hook up. The big square foam head that projects forward from the hook eye, deflects any floating weeds, helping the fly climb over them. Dan also mentions it is good for casting deep into the lily pad beds, where you can virtually skate your fly over the lily pads. He likes it for Bluegills because the hook is always in the roof of their mouths, never in the gills. When fishing this amazing pattern, try marching it along with a steady quick rhythm of sharp two inch twitches. I know one thing, I am a big fan of fishing the Gurgler - this will have to go into my fly boxes for sure.

So if you are interested in tying this unique, but truly amazing pattern, then bring your vise, tools, note taking materials, and be ready to tie the Bluegill version and a larger version for Bass with Dan Walker. Until next month, tight lines and snazzy flies.

Hook Up Gurgler



HOOK - straight eye dry fly #8 or #6, Teimco 101 #8, Saber #6 straight eye equivalent to Tiemco 899 #8 or larger

THREAD - 140 denier or 6/0 Fire Orange // 210 denier or 3/0 for large flies.

TAIL - Marabou tied a little past the start of the bend.

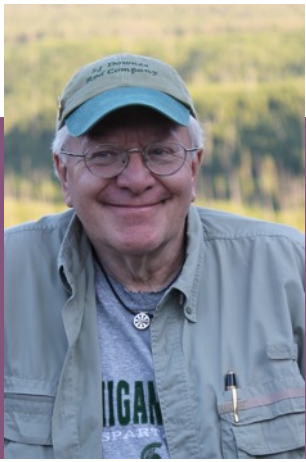
BODY - Plastic Chenille, Wrapped Marabou, anything really.

HACKLE - Palmered over body or as a collar over head thread wraps. Trim this flush on top of hook, (the bottom of the fly).

HEAD - 2mm or 3mm foam rectangle tied to project forward & back from the tie off wraps behind the hook eye. Flip over the hook in the vise to tie this onto the side of the head that is in the hook gap. Either match the bug color or go high visibility.

LEGS - Rubber Legs in X pattern tied in at tie off point.

BEST COLORS - Black, Chartreuse, Tan & Olive, Purple.



Meanderings of a Fly Fishing Sage

Al The Hackleman

Preparing For The Best Weekend

It's almost March. MARCH. The month of our show. The month before the trout season in Michigan opens. MARCH, a good month. And during March we all get to share in what I think is about the best darn weekend of the entire year. The weekend of The Midwest Fly Fishing Expo, OUR SHOW. That weekend is not only where we learn and share fun and meet new folks, but it's also the weekend where we help fund conservation issues all over our state and elsewhere. I have said it before and will say it again, on the show weekend, I feel sorry for small children because they only get one day of Christmas and we all get TWO days of Christmas during our show.

Joyce and I got back from the Fly Fishing Show in Somerset, NJ and started getting excited about our show right away. The show in Somerset is darn fun. I think this was about the twelfth time I attended that show; I always come away with new information and ideas. I also come away feeling lucky to have time there where all I do is look at fly fishing stuff, enjoy seminars and people watch. No work. But no real involvement either. So some good and some not so good. But it was fun, and the group that went enjoyed the time there together. The driving was about the best we have ever had, the roads being open and clear. The show itself was the big extravaganza that is

always is. There were a few new items that caught our attention and maybe some vendors that we spoke with that might come to our show in the future. The shared meals were fun with other MFFC members and we all spent more money than expected. But we had a lot of fun too.

Being at the Somerset show, and anticipating our show, really got me to thinking about this sport we share and enjoy. There is an old saying in fly fishing, "You never step into the same stream twice." Think about that for a moment. It is never the same stream. Water flows change, weather changes, fly hatches change. The number of people fishing a given stretch of river changes. We change. We evolve, and learn, and forget, and try new things.

For instance, I remember one show where I was working one of the seminar rooms. Now this is a pretty good gig in my opinion. You sit and watch seminars for a while and learn new ideas and thoughts from some of the best folks in our sport. Gary Borger was one of the speakers that year and I recall him mentioning that in his opinion the best fly rod was a 9' long 3wt rod. I got a chance to ask him about that thought. He replied that he had checked on rod dimensions and that a 9' 3wt rod has the same butt section as an 8' 6wt rod. So when you fish a rod 9' long in 3wt you have the flexibility of the 3 wt for soft presentations, but when you fight the fish and really torque down on it you are fighting that fish with a 6wt rod. What a concept. And what a learning experience for me. Over the next few years I not only built a 9' 3wt rod but also bought a couple more. And I can say I have caught some nice size fish with those rods and felt comfortable when fighting them. From that brief conversation with Gary I learned and evolved and got better at our sport.

During that past few years I was pleased and honored to actually introduce some of our guest speakers each year. I have to say that at every seminar with those speakers, and every seminar I attend as just an attendant, I learn something. After being in this sport for about 30 years I sometimes learn small ideas about little changes to make in my presentation. Sometimes it's just the idea that I should give things a try a bit differently. Maybe change my leader length. Maybe try a leader that is more, or less, flexible. Maybe try a new way of presenting two or more flies at once. But I must say, the learning goes on and that is one of the aspects of this sport that I enjoy the most. It is a sport of life long learning.

This year I get to introduce Mr. George Daniel and I am truly looking forward to this experience. George wrote a book I have enjoyed and learned from already, Dynamic Nymphing, and I am really excited about hearing him talk about new nymphing techniques and ideas. I enjoy fishing nymphs and soft hackle flies and am still learning ways to increase my hook up rate. George lives in Pennsylvania; streams there are similar to our trout streams, so many of his techniques transfer easily. I know I also get to watch him at the casting pond and at the fly tying bench, so I will be taking plenty of notes.

Our show, The Midwest Fly Fishing Expo, has so many opportunities to learn, to expand our thoughts, to find new ideas in fishing and fly tying. I always leave the show feeling fortunate to belong to our club. Fortunate to be able to attend this fun and educational weekend. Fortunate to be truly addicted to our sport of fly fishing.

So get to the meeting and sign up to help present the longest running fly fishing only show in the nation...and learn, and learn, and learn some more.

See you there.



Michigan Fly Fishing Club

Club Events

March Speaker

Roger Hinchcliff

Roger began fishing the banks of Southeast Michigan rivers 38 years ago and is considered an authority on Steelhead fishing. He is a featured speaker, a popular blogger, and a successful author of many published articles on Steelhead fishing. He also has several instructional videos on his You Tube channel "Steelhead Manifesto" which draws fans from around the world. His passion for Steelhead fishing finds him chasing amazing fish wherever they may be found. Roger is a pro staffer for several fishing companies and gives his time to many conservation projects. He loves to share his passion for Steelhead.

A Note Of

Recognition

A note of recognition goes out to Kevin Lipp, the new Name Badge Chair.



Go see Kevin if you need a name badge. They are available to order with pin or magnetic backs. If you already have a name badge, please feel free to harass him anyway.

Speaker Meeting: Kelly Neuman - Apr 12, 2017

Joe Satler's

Got The Goods

Joe says, "Come see us in the library, particularly for the rod bags. I want to get rid of them." Rod bags are \$5 and fit a 9 weight rod.

Joe says, "Buy your club pin. Remember at the show you have to have one." Pins are \$5 now, or they are \$5 with a \$5 fine if you do not have one on at the expo. "Just bring a ten," says Joe.

Plate holders are \$5. (Ditch your dealer plate frame now. The sooner the better.)

Joe says, "Decals are on special! 2 for \$3."

Visit the library. Or Joe will FIND you.



Jerry Deputat

A Special Note Of Thanks



Much thanks goes out to Jerry Deputat, a new member in 2016, who has volunteered his time to take Steve Isgrig's position as a MFFC Librarian. Thank you Jerry!

Caught Reading

The Evening Hatch



2017

1978 **** 40 Years **** 2017

Midwest Fly Fishing Expo

Presented by the Michigan Fly Fishing Club



FREE SEMINARS, CASTING & TYING DEMOS

March 11th and March 12th

SHOW HOURS: Saturday 9am to 6pm & Sunday 10am to 4pm

100+ FLY FISHING VENDORS IN ONE LOCATION

Featuring

ADMISSION ADULTS \$10

KIDS 16 & under FREE

2-DAY PASS \$15



Craig Mathews



George Daniel



Landon Mayer



Rick Kustich

**Macomb Community College Sports & Expo Center
14500 E. 12 Mile Rd, Warren, Michigan 48088**

Includes: Free Parking, Guest Fly Tyers, Fly Shops, Kids Korner, Come Cast a New Fly Rod on One of 2 Ponds, Fly Fishing 101 Presentations, Seminars, Guides and More!



FOR CLUB INFO: www.mffc.org FOR EXPO INFO www.midwestflyfishingexpo.com

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