



*The Evening*

# Hatch

The Newsletter of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club

May 2015

## Fly Tying With Julie Nielsen

Julie Nielsen, recipient of the 2002 Great Lakes Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers Artisan Award, was the MFFC guest speaker for April. With her obvious, yet subtle, working knowledge of her craft, she mesmerized those in attendance with her easy going, no-nonsense fly tying talent and wit, making it all seem like anyone could do it.

Julie has presented tying programs and demonstrations at numerous Federation National Conclaves and other venues. She is a commercial and custom order fly tier from Ada, Michigan with 28 years of experience. Her teaching style is practical and her skills result in repeatable, durable, fish catching flies. Her goal is to share techniques that will increase confidence in students of all skill levels. Julie's flies are known



throughout the fly fishing community.

The four patterns Julie shared are the Purple Patriot Fly; Mysis Shrimp Fly; Nick's Sunken Stone; and Robert's Yellow Drake Hendrickson Spinner.

When not teaching or filling custom orders, Julie fly-fishes out west and up north from her truck camper, with her dogs Tippet and One Putt.

## MFFC Calendar

**June 10, 2015**

**Speaker Meeting**

**Speaker:** Steve Sendek

**Topic:** Alaskan Hunting & Fishing  
William M. Costic Center  
Farmington Hills, 7:30 p.m.

**July 8, 2015**

**Speaker Meeting**

**Speaker:** TBD

**Topic:** TBD

William M. Costic Center  
Farmington Hills, 7:30 p.m.

**August 12, 2015**

**Speaker Meeting**

**Speaker:** Steve Bocks

**Topic:** Bighorn River, MT  
William M. Costic Center  
Farmington Hills, 7:30 p.m.

**September 2015 Dates**

**TBD**

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



“No-Nonsense fly tying talent.”

## Fly Tying With Julie Nielson



## MFFC Camaraderie Club Picnic

**August 29, 2015** come attend the **Michigan Fly Fishing Club Picnic** held at Multi-Lakes Conservation Association in Commerce Township, from noon to 5:00 p.m. There is always a plethora of foods to be enjoyed. Meats are provided, bring your favorite dish to share with your friends.

There is fishing, horse shoes, good company, cheap entertainment, and a casting contest - for accuracy, of course.

If you have any question, or want to volunteer to help out, please contact John Eriksson at [johneriksson5@aol.com](mailto:johneriksson5@aol.com).



“As usual, we were fishing with the first group of youth at the Boy Scout School holding our breath for a fish. Did we have the right fly? Are we using the right lines? This was the first year without Howard, and his unending enthusiasm to teach scouts how to catch fish. There were five leaders, at the pond with Scouts - nothing. No fish. Then I swear I heard Howard’s voice - “wiggle, wiggle...” I did - Fish on!!! I told each of the leaders, and in quick succession - Fish on!!! That was all it took. We had the perfect day and every single Scout caught a fish. What a legacy to the Scouts. Howard, thanks for teaching me how to teach others - your legacy will live on.” - Christopher Hunter

## Honoring Howard Gellar

“He was all about the kids.”  
- Mike Doyle



“You should have seen the boys Saturday! I dug up a pile of muck and pond weeds and plopped it at their feet. I said, ‘Anything that moves, nab it!’ Nothing like crawly critters to get young boys attention. I was channeling Howard Geller!”  
-Spencer Vanderhoof

Howard was the ultimate volunteer. If there were kids there, he was there.”  
- Scott Freeburg



# Terry Drinkwine

## Featured Columnist

### Two Cents Worth Thanks, Dave Hughes

A lot of us call ourselves fly tiers. The truth is, we're only that by definition. Take me for example, I'm a fly tier because I have all the stuff – in triplicate, actually – and on occasion, I sit and turn out a dozen or two of something I think I'm going to need on my next trip north.

On any given meeting night – business or activity – there will be a few who sit at a table and turn out several dozen flies, oblivious to most anything else going on around them. Dan Walker, for example, doesn't waste a minute, when he's in his egg pattern mode, well, I have to watch him tie at least six or seven before I catch on. But no matter how often I tie and egg, I always have to think about it before I can get it to look like an egg. Dan on the other hand, well, I couldn't even swear that he has his eyes open when he does his thing.

There are others who not only tie, but create. Take Todd Schotts. He has so many patterns, I think he uses the same system the National Weather Bureau uses to name hurricanes.

Jim Telinda and Jim Weakland take it to another level with their evolution to weaving flies from yarn. Telinda does it in sizes I can't see, let alone tie on the end of my tippet.

There are others of course, who share their expertise, like Jim

Montagne. Jim has been teaching the novice table for as long as I've been in the club. He makes it out to be just a simple pattern he chooses for his monthly effort, but it's only simple because he takes the time to prepare, everything is sorted and ready.

It might shock some to learn that not everyone ties. Some wait for the benevolence of others to share their creations. Some have even been known to beg a fly or two.

But, I suppose most of us, me included, are what I call opportunistic tiers; we tie out of time imposed necessity ...and, of course, because we're too cheap to buy them.

So, always looking for an edge, I stumbled on a section in Dave Hughes's book, "Handbook of Hatches" where he offers a section of "Axioms:" The first Axiom being: *"Within each of the three major orders, adults of each species have the same shape."* And the second Axiom: *"Within each important order of aquatic insects, all species can be matched with size and color variations of the same patterns."*

Think about that; with a different size hook, a different color thread and dubbing or fur or yarn, the same pattern can be used for all mayflies. Same thing goes for caddis and stones. A nip here and tuck there ...well, you get the idea.

I can just see the reactions of creators like Todd Schotts and others as they read this. And I don't mean to diminish their skill and contributions to the art (when they do it, it is an art) but of us piscators (emphasis on pis) who lose focus after the tenth tie, all I can say is ...thanks, Dave Hughes. TD



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# May Fly Of The Month

## Featured Fly

Giraffe approved!

## Gartside Gurgler

By Todd A. Schotts

This month I bring to you what was originally considered a saltwater fly, but has great success with warm water species like trout, steelhead, and even salmon. It is the Gartside Gurgler!

The Gurgler was designed in 1988 by the late, world renown fly tyer Jack Gartside. Jack also designed some of the most famous flies such as the Sparrow, The Soft Hackle Streamer, The Pheasant Hopper, the Gartside Leech, and the Fishhead. Jack was taught how to tie flies at the early age of 10 by the Hall of Fame Boston Outfielder Ted Williams, after he saw the baseball icon at a fishing show tying flies.

When you Google Jack, two things will pop up that he is known for, first being spotlighted in Sports Illustrated, back in 1982, for tying flies in his taxi while waiting for fares at Logan Airport (having his vise attached to his steering wheel), and second, Jack fishing from a blow-up giraffe for strippers.

I was fortunate enough, along with a few others from the metro Detroit area, to head out east to take classes with Mr. Gartside many moons ago. It was something I will never forget!

The Gurgler is successfully used coast to coast, on inland lakes, and rivers alike. The fly was originally tied for east coast striped bass and bluefish. It is an evolution of a beetle pattern. Tied in different sizes, this pattern works great for smallmouth and largemouth bass. The original Gurgler featured a sliver of bucktail and silver Flashabou, with a body of white sheet foam, palmered with white saddle hackle - which provided a segmented appearance. With the extra white foam pulled over for a shell and trimmed off over the eye to create a paddle shape, it causes the fly to gurgle when stripped across the water. To hungry predators below, this action suggests a wounded struggling baitfish or a weary frog.

When tying this pattern, remember 2xl and 4xl are the most common choices for length of hook shanks. If you use straight eye hooks when stripping these back in, they will strip more true. If you are going after pike or another toothy type of predator, remember it is best tied on a 4xl long hook shank. Do not tie the foam as far back on the hook as you would for bass or bluegills. With the multiple materials in tying now, you can tie this pattern with different tailing materials, flash, and body materials. Plus, from the surplus ways to tie this fly, came the Double Gurgler, they have two sheets of foam instead of one. To represent a wounded bait fish add a red beard to the fly.

For the width of the foam, always make sure it is the size of the hook gap, and always prepare the foam in lengths of 3" or longer. When finishing the fly, add some clear Sally Hanson's Hard as Nails to the tab (both sides) to make the tab more durable. If you tie the Classic Gurgler

or Double Gurgler, make sure to glue the thread wraps to ensure durability.

Fish this fly is on the surface, pushing water and making the famed gurgling noises as the fly is stripped in. You can also use the fly on an intermediate or sink line and have it under the surface tied in a dark color. It will appear different but work just as well. One good thing to remember, regarding the fly's action is it is not recommended to use a furled leader when fishing this pattern. That will tend to twist and knot your line up pretty fast, as I can attest.

So next time you are fishing this fly, just think of a guy fishing from a blow-up giraffe chasing stripped bass, using a foamed Gurgler. Until next month, Tight Lines & Snazzy Flies!!



**HOOK:** *Mustad S71S SS, S74S SS (#2/0-#8) or R52S (#6-#12) for smaller sized Gurgler's \*\*\**

**THREAD:** *6/0 or 3/0 Color to match*

**TAIL:** *Bucktail mixed with Flashabou. Calf tail makes an excellent substitute for smaller versions*

**BODY:** *Crystal Chenille, Polar Chenille, Tri-Lobal Hackle, palmered hackle or marabou*

**SHELLBACK:** *2MM or 3MM Sheet Foam, trim the excess so it protrudes forward over the hook eye*

*\*\* I tie these on Mustad 3366 or Allen B200 Hooks \*\**



# May Members Corner

## Featured Members

Featured Member Tyer

# Steve Isgrigg

By Todd A. Schotts

For the May Spotlight Featured Tyer, we are bringing someone that hasn't graced the Featured Member Tyer spotlight in real long time. This gentleman is a world fly fishing traveler. It is none other than Steve Isgrigg.

If you are not familiar with Steve, he is our current Liberian and avid raffle winner at the meetings. Steve has fly fished since he was nine years old, has tied for more than 30 years, and a member of the Michigan Fly Fishing Club for more than 15 years. He travels all over the world and fly fishes in unique places (*I think this is a prerequisite for becoming a librarian in our club*). Besides all of this, Steve enjoys our Montana Outing and our famed Youth School. In addition to those events you can usually see Steve working set-up and tear-down at the Midwest Fly Fishing Expo.

Steve will be tying the Squidro Fly (*no this fly has nothing to do with Sponge Bob Square Pants.*). If your not familiar with the Squidro, this fly is was designed by legendary steelhead guide Scott Howell, the self proclaimed "Skagit Master." The fly is an intruder

style fly designed and used for steelhead, but I know this series of flies are just as deadly for bass and pike. The term "intruder style" is what guides call flies that are a stripped down version of the original legendary salmon and steelhead flies, but still resemble the original pattern.

This fly is designed less bulky, with rubber legs instead of fur and feathers. In the water, the fly has a large silhouette profile, is more durable, is less bulky so it is very fast sinking, creates lots of action, and is easier to cast since rubber does not hold water like natural materials do. The color creations are endless once you start tying these unique flies.

So bring your vise, your tools, and tie along with a master tyer, global bound fly fisher, and get your Squidro on!



Tied with hook shaft in front.



Tied as a tube fly.

Squidro

# Isgrigg Version

- SHANK:** 35 – 55 mm
- STINGER LOOP:** 30# Fire Line or Coated Wire
- THREAD:** 8/0 or 6/0 or 140
- REAR DUBBING BUMP:** UV Ice Dub
- REAR LEGS:** Sili Legs ... one skein ... about 1/3 of the length
- REAR FLASH:** 3-4 strands ... on each side ... or on the top
- BODY:** Flash Over Head Cement or Super Glue
- FRONT LEGS:** Sili Legs ... The other part of the skein ... about 2/3 of the length ... Tied in Forward
- FRONG DUBBING BUMP:** UV Ice Dub ... behind the front Legs ... when done move thread to in front of legs
- FRONT FLASH:** 3-4 strands ... on each side ... or on the top
- EYES:** Lead Dumbbell Eyes ... black ... painted ... holographic
- FRONT HACKLE:** Strung Hackle and Pheasant Rump dyed to color ... the long iridescent ones
- HEAD DUBBING:** Figure 8 around eyes to form head



# Michigan Fly Fishing Club

## *Club Events*

Welcome New Members!

## New Members Outing



Speaker Meeting - Steve Bocks August 12, 2015

**Visitor Comments** - Mike Scott working on compiling club history. Needs info.



# Michigan Fly Fishing Club

## Club Events

“It was just AMAZING!”

## Boy Scout Merit Badge

With the mercury edging over 70 degrees and abundant sunshine, the Club introduced 37 Boy Scouts to the great sport of fly fishing. Scouts came from Dayton, Cleveland, Lansing and Clarkston! Independence Oaks proved a great venue once again. The fishing location to Crooked Lake (from the swimming pond). We helped every scout land a fish to complete their badge requirements!

A few new members stepped in for those who could not attend. We stayed with the proven plan developed over the last 18 years to deliver a great program for the boys. Chris Hunter did a great job instructing casting while Mel Spresney made everyone look good making reconnaissance trips to the lake and tying a good quantity of the perfect flies on which almost all the fish were caught. Todd Shotts, Terry Herron, Jim Weakland, Jack Keller, John Pattee, Tom Sewuk, Dale Luff and John Klobuchar outlasted six one hour fly tying sessions, sending scouts home with a number of flies to test out at summer camp. Dan Finstad led cleaning and cooking, along with Mike Duchin - stepping in at the last minute! Norm Tabaka did a great job, as

always, teaching knots. Dave Oakley taught conservation and rules. Entomology was tackled by two instructors with a passion for the topic. While Spence Vanderhoof donned waders, taking each expedition to the lake bottom, guest instructor Mike Zrnich helped scouts discover what they dredged up from the murky depths.

The team of instructors worked well to put on a tremendous program, as evidenced by an e-mail received by a scout days after the program:

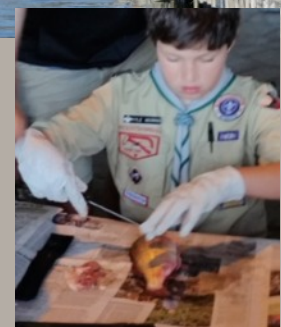
*I attended the Fly Fishing Merit Badge Workshop last weekend in Clarkston, and it was just AMAZING! I love t fish with a pole, but had never fly fished. The men running the day were so nice and pateint just never made me feel stupid or behind. It was a perfect day! I have a new hobby to work on this summer!*

*Please tell the others who helped "thank you", too!*

*YIS, Jack Phipps, Troop 38 South Lyon, MI*

BTW, YIS is short for “Yours in Scouting.” This is what the program is all about and makes all the effort and Club resources applied worth it! Thanks to those who help put this program together. If you have not been able to instruct in the past, please consider joining us next year.

Bob Niemi  
Boy Scout Merit Badge School Coordinator



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